

BRITISH INTER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS PREMIER DIVISION

WARWICKSHIRE vs ESSEX

Essex travelled to the Bishopsgate Club in Coventry for the penultimate BICC fixture of the season with the view to secure 3rd spot in the overall table from opponents Warwickshire.

The **Ladies 'B'**'s fortunes were much improved following last month's disappointment winning the opening two-sets with wins from Chelmsford's Pauline Donat (15.49) and Kelvedon's Lynn Kelly (19.78); Warwickshire took the next 2-sets before Carol Pinfold (22.10) lay claim to the match award winning 3-0; Chelmsford's Wendy Reader was unlucky to lose the last set to Warwickshire's lady of the match, Angela Jones.

The **Men's 'B'** won their 11th game in-a-row and it's now 20 games since they were last beaten. Southend's Ritchie Edhouse (28.63) won the opening set; Lennie Holmes and debutant Jamie Peetoom both lost out; then Essex took the next 4-sets with wins from Brightlingsea's Scott Lawrie (26.03), Riverside's Barry Adlam (25.32), Tilbury's Michael McCombe (26.47) and Clacton's Wayne Bloomfield (26.54). Warwickshire took the next 3-sets to draw level, before Chelmsford's Andrew Kateley (25.29) and Southend's man of the match, Barry Lynn (29.06), secured the 7-5 victory to keep Essex 2-points clear at the top of the league.

This gave Essex a 10-8 lead going into Sunday.

The **Ladies 'A'** won the opening 4-sets with wins from Braintree's Nicky Mynard (17.42), Chelmsford's Sue Baker (19.31) and Braintree's pair of Stacy Ellis (18.56) and Lauren Bloomfield (21.78) who took the match award. Southend's Donna Gleed drew world champion, Trina Gulliver and lost out 3-0, but played well, and Steph Hewson lost out in the final set for a ladies 'A' 4-2 victory.

The **Men's 'A'** lost the opening set, however Springfield's Darren Peetoom (25.51) and Southend's Paul Marsh (28.08) won the next two-sets. Alan Collins on his 125th appearance, Darren O'Neill on his 25th appearance, Paul Barham and Mick Peel missed vital doubles and lost out. Essex won the next 3-sets the draw level, with victories from Brentwood's man of the match Steve Johnson (31.25), Basildon's Phil Halls (23.70) and Southend's Stephen Hardy (29.51). Essex lost the last 2-sets for a 5-7 defeat, however a 22-17 win cements 3rd place with the final game against Lincolnshire at Chelmsford to complete a mixed season.