

BRITISH INTER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS  
PREMIER DIVISION  
ESSEX vs WARWICKSHIRE

Next game Essex travelled to Coventry and hoping to build on the previous result.

The **Ladies 'B'** didn't disappoint, winning the opening two sets 3-2, Lynn Kelly (16.06) and recording her first win was team manager Sandra McElroy (11.97). Sharon Wakeling lost out before Leanne Peetoom (20.59) won the 4<sup>th</sup>-set and lady of the match award; Nicky Bewick (16.53) won the 5<sup>th</sup>-set giving the 'B' team the win, with Dawn Kennedy unlucky to lose the final set 3-2.

The **Men's 'B'** still looking for a result were better and battled out a 6-all draw. They won two-sets from the opening six, with wins from Bryan Margerison (27.86) 4-2 and Allan Mathieson (27.70) 4-3. Essex then put a 3-set winning sequence from Tony Osborne (23.53) 4-3; Richie Howson (30.38) 4-3 and Danny McIntyre (26.49) 4-2. Wayne Gleed (32.85) won 4-0 and claimed the match award and put Essex 6-5 up, unfortunately losing the final set for the draw.

However, this is the first fixture this season that Essex have gone into the Sunday fixture leading and the **Ladies 'A'** fought out a draw with all sets going with the throw. Pauline Donat (18.07) won 3-2, Sue Baker (16.99) won 3-2 and Karen Breen (15.67) also winning 3-2.

The **Men's 'A'** lost the opening two sets, John Costigan (27.67) won 4-3 before Southend team-mates Paul March (24.89) and Steve Haggerty (27.26) won 4-1. Essex lost the next 4-sets before Andrew Kateley (27.85) won 4-1 leaving Essex needing both sets for a 'A' team draw and an overall weekend victory; however, Dan Day was unlucky to lose out 4-3 in the 11<sup>th</sup> set; Wayne Bloomfield (28.64) won the final set 4-3 and claimed the man of the match for the second match in succession.

Result Warwickshire 19 Essex 19, therefore in summary a hard-fought draw. Essex have climbed out of the relegation zone and currently have 98-points a 3-point advantage over both Cheshire and West Midlands and 2-points behind Northamptonshire; Essex next game is home to Hampshire.