

BRITISH INTER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS PREMIER DIVISION

ESSEX vs WEST MIDLANDS

Essex travelled to Gilberts Bar in Willenhall, for the fourth fixture of the season; this also being the fourth meeting between the counties, the last being September 1991.

The **Ladies 'B'** started well with Nicky Bewick (Kelvedon) winning the opening set 3-2 with a match award winning 17.54 average. Tracey Newman (Kelvedon) lost out 3-2 before Eastwood's Sharon Wakeling won set three with a 3-1 victory. The net three sets all went West Midlands' way with Leanne Peetoom (Springfield), Sandra McElroy (Chelmsford) and Ann Farmer (Braintree) all losing out. The

Men's 'B' continue to struggle with Gidea Park's Joe Russell (26.65) the only winner in the first seven-sets. Simon Monk (Chelmsford), Matthew Garrett (Chelmsford), Steve Woodside (Southend) and Tony Osborne (Brightlingsea) all beaten 4-3; Michael McCombe (Tilbury) on his 75th appearance lost 4-2 and Mike Hancock (Brightlingsea) lost the opener 4-1. Brightlingsea's Bryan Margerison (26.39) won 4-2, but the match was lost as Danny McIntyre (Kelvedon) was beaten 4-2. Essex won the final three-sets to make the score-line 5-7 with wins from Tilbury's man of the match, Richie Howson (27.66); Brightlingsea's Alan Collins (26.63) and Gidea Park's Robbie Turner.

So Essex found themselves down once again going into Sunday's 'A' games, however, the **Ladies 'A'** produced their first win of the season, winning 5-1 and pulling the weekend level at 12 apiece. Springfield's Donna Glead (15.24), Chelmsford's Wendy Reader (16.42) and Pauline Donat (18.56) all won 3-2. Clacton's Karen Breen lost out 3-2, having 15-darts to win 3-2, before lady of the match, Chelmsford's Sue Baker (21.17) and Kelvedon's Stacey Ellis (19.88) won 3-0 and 3-1 respectively.

Essex **Men's 'A'** fought hard but just couldn't get over the line losing out 7-5. The 'A' started off poorly by winning only one of the opening four-sets; Tilbury's Wayne Glead lost 4-0, Chelmsford's Craig Vickers lost 4-2 before Andrew Kateley (27.95) won 4-1; then Southend's John Costigan was beaten 4-2. Essex took four of the next five sets to put Essex in-front for the first time since the 3rd set of the Ladies 'B', 17-16. There was wins from Southend's Wayne Bloomfield (25.92); Brentwood's Steve Johnson (28.45); Gidea Park's Daniel Day (29.47) and Canvey Starr's Phil Halls (24.14) which was split by a 4-0 defeat by Southend's Paul Marsh. Unfortunately Essex lost the final three-sets from Gidea Park's Jamie Peetoom (1-4), Darren Peetoom (2-4) and Kelvedon's Phil Brewster (2-4).

This 22-17 defeat leaves Essex in the relegation zone after 4-fixtures; and the manager's & players will be hoping the 2019 will fare better than the end of 2018; and January's fixture is at home against our fellow promoted team from division 1, Northamptonshire.

Good luck to Daniel Day in the Lakeside World Championships.