

BRITISH INTER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS PREMIER DIVISION

ESSEX vs YORKSHIRE

Chelmsford Social Club hosted the latest British Inter Counties Premier weekend which saw Essex take-on league leaders Yorkshire which turned out to be a cracking game of darts.

The **Ladies 'B'** lost out 2-4 that saw Chelmsford's Julie Vickers (17.48) win 3-0 and the lady of the match award; the debut of Chelmsford's Pauline Donat who was unfortunate to lose 1-3; and the sooner than expected return of Sue Waterman winning 3-1.

The **Men's 'B'** match will probably go down as one of the best ever witnessed at Chelmsford. Yorkshire raced into a 3-0 lead before Brightlingsea's Tony Osborne (25.20) stopped the onslaught with a 4-1 triumph, followed by Southend's George Cressey (25.65) winning 4-3; Yorkshire taking the sixth set. Returning to the team after 15 months out, Walton's Scott Lawrie (27.55) won 4-3, as did Micky Peel (25.79) to pull the men level at four apiece. Yorkshire took the next two sets, but Essex's final two were superb with victories from Basildon's Craig Vickers (26.62) and Springfield's Shaun Walsh (27.79) on his first game back and claiming the man of the match, giving Essex a well-earned draw, a team average of 25.37 and keeping the weekend alive by only being down by two points going into Sunday's game.

The **Ladies 'A'** fought hard and played well, but lost out 2-4 with Donna Gleed, Lynn Kelly and Amanda Dodd all losing out with 20+ averages. Chelmsford's Sue Baker (22.23) claimed the lady of the match with brilliant 3-2 victory, and Stacey Ellis (18.72) remains unbeaten this season with a 4th win.

The quality within the **Mens 'A'** match was there for all to see as 13 maximums and 11 Ton+ checkouts were scored. Essex found themselves un-deservingly 1-6 down as Essex missing vital doubles and was punished by a rampant Yorkshire; with Southend's Paul Barham, Riverside's Barry Adlam and Colchester's Lee Woods all going down 4-3; Brightlingsea's Darren O'Neill losing out 1-4; Brentwood's Steve Johnson with a 27+ average losing to fellow England team-mate Martin Atkins (31.12) 1-4 also; and the match of the day saw Colchester's Wayne Bloomfield with a 31+ average lose out 1-4 to James Wilson (33.68). Amongst all that, Micky Peel (25.86) played again and won 4-1. However Essex's never say die attitude they've had this season took charge and rattled off the final five-sets with Lakeside hopeful Rhys Hayden (27.47) won 4-1; Springfield's Alan Collins (25.74) fought out a 4-3 tussle; Basildon's Phil Halls (25.37) was clinical in a 4-0 win; Colchester's Eddie Gosling continued his recent good-form winning 4-1; and Captain Darren Peetoom (31.73) claimed the man of the match award and ensured the men's comeback to draw the match.

A superb advert for county darts between two of the best sides in the country; Yorkshire winning 23-16 over the weekend leaving them 2nd in the table, and Essex 3rd.