

BRITISH INTER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS
PREMIER DIVISION
YORKSHIRE VS ESSEX

Essex travelled to the Glasshoughton Working Men's Club, and came out of Saturday in the lead against league leaders Yorkshire.

The **Ladies 'B'** produced their sixth consecutive draw, the fourth of this season; Chelmsford's Wendy Reader (15.76) got Essex off to a winning start, only to be pulled back level by the talented 11-year old, Beau Greaves. Chelmsford's Pauline Donat (16.70) won 3-0 and Braintree's Nicky Mynard (18.84) claimed the lady of the match award coming from two down to win 3-2. Carol Pinfold (Braintree) was unlucky, losing out 3-2.

The **Men's 'B'** 15 match unbeaten run was to be tested against a Yorkshire 'B' team that hadn't lost for 3-seasons, says Peter Senior; and Essex were out to repeat the 2011 victory and avenge the 2013 loss. Yorkshire took the opening set 4-2 against the unlucky Mick Peel (Rayleigh Rascals); Southend's Barry Lynn (29.04) lay claim to the man of the match award winning 4-0, and Lennie Holmes (Rayleigh Rascals) followed up his debut win in Cornwall with another victory. Southend Ekco's Michael McCombe will be kicking himself after losing out 4-3 before Brightlingsea's Scott Lawrie (28.64) and Clacton's Wayne Bloomfield (27.46) recorded 4-3 victories. Phillip Brewster (Springfield) had double trouble losing out 4-0; then Springfield's Robbie Turner won a close fought contest 4-2 and Southend's Paul Marsh got Essex's 6th set with another close battle, 4-3. England youth star Chris Gower (Tilbury) lost the next set, and Southend Ekco's Shaun Walsh led 2-0 before going down 4-2; therefore it was left to Brightlingsea's Tony Osborne (25.31) to secure a 7-5 well deserved victory.

The **Ladies 'A'** fought-out a well-deserved draw; and Steph Hewson must be wondering how she lost the opening set 3-2; Kelvedon's Stacey Ellis (24.24) was in superb form winning 3-0 and lady of the match award; Donna Gleed played really well but came up against Rachel Brooks who missed nothing. Lauren Bloomfield (17.68) and Sue Baker (19.99) won the next two sets to secure the draw, before Sue Waterman, again playing superb, but lost out to Yorkshire's Lorraine Winstanley.

The quality within the **Men's 'A'** match was there for all to see as 20 maximums were scored in the 12 sets, unfortunately 13 came from Yorkshire. A cagy opening set went to Yorkshire 4-2 against Darren O'Neill (Brightlingsea); Riverside's Rhys Hayden (28.18) bought Essex level with a great performance against Scott Waites, winning 4-3 and Southend's Ritchie Edhouse (30.62) claimed the man of the match award winning 4-1. Essex lost the next 4-sets as Yorkshire turned the screw, with Phil Halls (Basildon) losing 4-2, Captain Darren Peetoom (Springfield) lost out 4-1, Steve Johnson (Brentwood) was unlucky to lose out 4-3, and Paul Barham (Southend) lost 4-2. Springfield's Wayne Gleed (29.22) gave Essex a boost with a brilliant 4-2 triumph which included a 167 checkout. However, Alan Collins (Brightlingsea), Eddie Gosling (Colchester) and Barry Adlam (Riverside) all failed to trouble the scoreboard; Springfield's Craig Vickers (28.08) won the final set for an 8-4 defeat. Therefore Essex lost the weekend 22-17 but can go into their next match against Cheshire in good shape and spirit.