

BRITISH INTER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS PREMIER DIVISION

DEVON vs ESSEX

In the second BICC Premier fixture of the season, Essex travelled to Exeter to play Devon and a close fought battle ensued with Essex suffering a 22-17 defeat.

The **Ladies 'B'** lost out 4-2 with Charlotte Halls and lady of the match Lynn Kelly (16.70) the victors.

The **Men's 'B'** is finding it hard to protect their title and had to come back from 6-4 to earn a draw. Essex started well with a man of the match performance from Chelmsford's Andrew Kateley (28.23); Springfield's Jamie Peetoom (22.89) won the 3rd set and debutant Matt Garrett (Chelmsford) won the 5th set; Rayleigh Rascals Lennie Holmes won the 7th set 4-3 before Devon rattled off 3-straight victories. Brightlingsea's Bryan Margerison and Southend's Steve Haggerty won the final two set to extend the 'B's' unbeaten record to 23 games.

Going into Sunday two-sets down, the **Ladies 'A'** soon found themselves 5-0 down from a very strong Devon Lady's team, with Stacey Ellis (20.33) winning the 6th set to save the whitewash.

The **Men's 'A'** had to win 9 games for Essex to avoid their first ever defeat by Devon. Springfield's Craig Vickers (25.08) and Brentwood's Steve Johnson (30.36) got Essex off to a great start; rare losses by Southend's Barry Lynn and Paul Marsh meant Essex couldn't afford another loss to win the weekend. Clacton's Wayne Bloomfield and Springfield's Robbie Turner (25.84) put Essex two ahead once again; however Devon two the next two sets to win the weekend. Essex rattled off the final 4-sets with Southend's Daniel Day (32.85) winning 4-0 and the £700 premier top average; the other winners were Southend's Paul Barham (25.45), Brightlingsea's Alan Collins (28.10) and Canvey Starr's Phil Halls (26.47).