

BRITISH INTER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

FIRST DIVISION

ESSEX vs SURREY

Chelmsford Social Club hosted Essex's final fixture of the season in the rearranged match against Surrey.

Essex needing 14-points to win promotion back to the Premier and got off to a flyer with the **Ladies 'B'** winning only their second game of the season 4-2. Although Ann Farmer (Braintree) and Sharon Wakeling (Eastwood) were early losers, there was wins from Kelvedon's Lynn Kelly (15.66) and Nicky Bewick (15.62); Clacton's Karen Breen (15.82) and lady of the match, Chelmsford's Wendy Reader (16.52).

The **Men's 'B'** were again on top form as they won 10-2 with Chelmsford's Matt Garrett (27.33), Southend's John Costigan (23.48) and Springfield's Phil Brewster (26.37) putting Essex 3-0 up and securing the 'B' title. A small blip followed, losing the next two-sets from Lennie Holmes (Rayleigh Rascals) and Mike Hancocks (Brightlingsea), before taking the final 7-sets; with wins from Tilbury's Matthew Barnard (21.78) and joint man of the match Michael McCombe (27.83), Brightlingsea's Bryan Margerison (26.86), Rayleigh Rascal's Micky Peel (22.25), Springfield's Joe Russell (24.45), Colchester Town's Eddie Gosling (27.83) who shared the man of the match award, and Springfield's Robbie Turner (24.64).

Leading 14-4 going into Sunday's fixture and promoted, but at this stage not knowing they'd secured enough point to win the overall title; as they put Surrey to the sword with the **Ladies 'A'** winning 5-1 with wins from Canvey's Steph Hewson (15.82) and Donna Gleed (17.56) 3-0 and 3-2 respectively; Chelmsford's Pauline Donat (17.24) 3-2 and Sue Baker (21.47) 3-0; and winning the 5th set and securing the 'A' title was Kelvedon' lady of the match (24.64) 3-0; Leanne Peetoom (Canvey) losing the final set 3-1.

The **Men's 'A'** were in fine form needing 5-points to win their section; however, started slowly with both Tilbury's Wayne Gleed and Brightlingsea's Alan Collins being beaten 4-1; Southend's Paul Barham (27.29) split these defeats with a 4-1 win. Essex then took the next six-sets with wins from Canvey Starr's Phil Halls (27.67), Southend's Wayne Bloomfield (28.12) 4-1 and Steve Haggerty (26.06) 4-3, Brentwood's Steve Johnson (27.87) 4-2, Springfield's Craig Vickers (25.21) 4-1 and Darren Peetoom (28.55) 4-1. Jamie Peetoom (Springfield) and Tony Osborne (Brightlingsea) lost out 4-0 and 4-3 respectively before Southend's Paul Marsh (29.28) won 4-1 and claimed the man of the match award.

Essex return to the Premier after only one season in division 1; and will open next season with a home game against Lincolnshire, who happened to be their last opponents back in 2017.