



Kent Premier receive a surprise defeat in key home match versus Essex.

Final Score: Kent 18 points Essex 22.



Played in the Kent venue NLL Boughton Monchelsea - 7th October 2017

This was the Premier side's third game and second home game of the season. It was a key match in that the group that Kent have drawn has 2 qualification places at stake with 3 potential qualifiers. This was a key match as Essex beat Kent in their venue 2 weeks prior. Essex obviously felt the need to make a few tactical changes and moved a few players around into different positions in an effort to take the advantage!

Session 1

The first session of the day saw the Kent singles continue their strong start to the season; with Michael Doorey winning 13-11 and Tim Rycraft also winning 13 - 12. Kent were hoping for a return in strength from their pairs and the first seasons was split with Rob Berry and Nicky Bartlett losing out 9 - 16 and with Linda Wynn and Richard Southby taking a very credible 18 - 10 victory. This meant that the Kent side took the early points and held a key advantage:

Session 1 finished

Bonus points (Kent perspective)

Kent 6 points 53 shots Essex 2 points 49 shots
Singles + 3 shots
Pairs +3 shots

Session 2

This session started with Kent seeking to consolidate their position on the back of a good first session and Essex seeking to reverse the first set of results to neutralise the initial points gap. The Essex triples started this set of matches as they finished two weeks ago taking some key shots off the Kent teams and surprising Michelle Fitzgerald, Tim Harwood and Gary Allard with a 9 - 18 shots defeat. The second Kent triple of Dave Alder, Danny Hogben and Jeff Vanns never quite got out of the starting blocks and fell short losing 7 - 15. The Kent fours were caught napping and left wanting as Andrew Player, Malcolm Nelmes, Jason Smith and Thomas Coles lost 6 - 16 whilst Ray Sedge, Bob Deane, Derek Ford and Chris Bull also lost with a 11 - 17 defeat.

Session 2 finished

Bonus points (Kent perspective)

Kent 6 points 86 shots Essex 10 points 115 shots
Triples -18 shots and
Fours -16 shots

Session 3

Kent were now very aware that the day had the potential to run away from them again and rallied themselves for a chase at the points and bonus points. Unusually the Kent singles were caught out and Michael Doorey took a lot of damage early on going 10 nil down after 5 ends.....however, after a really spirited fight back he managed to hold the game to a 10 - 16 defeat. This meant that Tim still had a chance for the bonus points and a potential 8 points for Kent in the Singles discipline.....for whatever reason Tim was caught in the last two ends dropping 7 shots and losing his game and the important bonus points. In parallel the pairs were fighting hard to turn around the first Essex result and fought like Trojans, Rob Berry and Nicky Bartlett scored an excellent 14 - 13 win whilst Linda Wynn and Richard Southby found their form and secured a 19 - 13 shots victory. This meant the all important bonus shots went to Kent.

Session 3 finished

Bonus points (Kent perspective)

Kent 12 points 188 shots
Essex 16 points 182 shots
Singles -6 shots
Pairs +10 shots

Session 4

Now the heat rose as Kent and Essex saw light at the end of the tunnel; Essex held the advantage in that their triples and fours had significant shots advantage meaning that barring an absolute disaster they would hold both bonus points adding a likely 4 points to their 16 point tally....in reality this meant that Kent were going to battle for a 20-20 draw.....again the Kent triples struggled to get into gear with Jeff Vanns's triple always near but never in front finally losing 9 - 12, however, Gary Allard's triple was determined to take the fight to Essex and were finding the form they sought in the morning. At the end of their game they ran out 16 - 8 winners... this was not enough to secure the bonus points which meant that Essex again took 8 points from their triples discipline on the day however, Kent took a vital 2 points. Meanwhile the Fours continued their fight and again like last week were reversing their morning results. Despite being 16 shots behind the two Kent Fours were seeking those elusive bonus points. Thomas Cole's four finished with an excellent 10 - 9 victory. On the face of it this would mean that the other Kent four was only playing for their 2 points, however, Chris Bull (skip) and his 3 team mates were having none of it as they secured 12 shots in 3 ends during the middle of their match....in the end they fell short of the +16 shots required but put up an excellent and very credible 18 shots to 8 victory. This sequence of results meant that again Essex had beaten Kent and won with a 22 - 18 points victory.

Session 4 finished

Kent 18 points 196 shots

Essex 22 points 211 shots

Bonus points (Kent perspective)

Triples -11 shots

Fours -5 shots

Final Score: Kent 18 and Essex 22 Points

Conclusion

In the end Kent were disappointed at their day but with all the changes in the teams due to various players being away have to be satisfied with the result, with three games played the table stands as follows:

1	Norfolk	88 points
2	Kent	69 points
3	Essex	57 points
4	Surrey	26 points

Kent visit Norfolk on the 22nd October in their venue in Hingham , this is going to be a difficult match for Kent as they have not played Norfolk for many years; Norfolk were Inter County Champions in 2015/16 and remain a first class side. Kent has the talent to win and will have to bowl well all day and fight for every point.

The Kent A side next play away to Surrey on Saturday 21st October whilst the B team take on West Sussex on 28th October.