

## Essex ICC 2<sup>nd</sup> Team Report 2012-13

Division 2 is split into four regional sections. This year the Essex 2<sup>nd</sup> team were allocated to the East group, along with Norfolk and Kent 1<sup>st</sup> teams and 2<sup>nd</sup> teams from Hertfordshire and Middlesex. Matches were played both home and away on various Sundays from October through to March.

The first three matches of the season all ended in unlucky 7-8 losses. At the Middlesex away match Eddy Chow was unable to get to the venue in time to play singles having progressed to a semi-final of the Wimbledon Gold tournament. He made up for his absence by winning both level doubles with Daniel Chipperfield after a fast drive across London but Essex still went into the mixed 7-5 down. Lynne Swan and Daniel Plant were victorious at one and Karina Bye joined Chipperfield to defeat their counterparts at two. The match tied at 7 all could not have been closer and Chow, paired with the experience of Viv Gillard, had an exciting 3 setter to decide the overall result. On this occasion it was not meant to be and the deciding game ended 21-19 to Middlesex.

Similar stories followed away to Herts 2 and home to Norfolk 1. There were many more close 22-20 third end losses but there were some inspiring individual performances too. Emma Skingsley was on fire at first singles and continued to impress winning 4 out of her first 5 matches. Kamrun Robinson showed his potential winning 4 out of 6 games. John Masheter, Sang Tu and Dave Wood all played well in their doubles and mixed.

It wasn't all doom and gloom and the team managed to win both home matches against Herts 2 and Kent 1. Nicola Waller 'enjoyed' her return to the singles court with a 21-19, 21-16 win against Herts.

Unfortunately more losses would follow as nominated team members were unavailable or tied to the 1<sup>st</sup> team. Special thanks must go to all who travelled and particularly those who stood in at the last minute to play the Norfolk away match. The team were brilliant and although it was a 15-0 defeat on paper the figures did not reflect the standard of play as many of the games could have gone either way.

Overall, it was a disappointing season with inconsistencies in team availability resulting in demotion, but games were played as usual in fine spirits and good sportsmanship. Danny Plant stood out as the player whose percentage of wins over losses was particularly high. With any luck we'll follow in the footsteps of the first team and spring straight back up next season.

The final table for the 2012/13 season can be viewed below:

POSITION	COUNTY	SECTION POINTS
1	Middlesex 2	17
2	Norfolk 1	15
3	Herts 2	11
4	Kent 1	10
5	Essex 2	7