



League report - 2024/25 season

This year's Essex League was one of the busiest yet, with 33 teams across seven divisions - and plenty of close calls to keep things interesting.

Chelmsford Casuals were in form, clinching all three titles for which they were in contention (OD 1, XD, Combi). Their OD Division 1 win was especially tight, just one point ahead of a **Stanway** side that actually won more matches overall.

The narrow margins didn't stop there:

- **Stanway B** grabbed promotion from OD 2 by a single point, edging out **Epping**
- **Battledore A** matched that in OD 3, pipping **Chelmsford Spartans**

Elsewhere, **East Royals** rose from Division 4, 5 points clear of **Smash Academy**.

In the WD Pairs league, **Danbury** prevailed, only dropping one set - with **Riverside** edging out **East Thurrock** for second place, by a single set.

There were unfortunately a couple of setbacks along the way - two teams had to withdraw mid-season, and there were several fixture hiccups in the league's newly formed Division 4. It's a reminder of the challenges in running such a packed schedule, and next year's entries will be curated to help things run more smoothly. We'll also be re-evaluating how many divisions to offer to strike the right balance between opportunity and manageability.

Unfortunately, the women's pairs league can't be offered next year due to limited interest. If you have any ideas that might help make it viable in the future, I'd love to hear them - please feel free to reach out.

All in all, it was a competitive and action-packed season, with plenty of drama right to the final point.

We're already looking forward to another great season ahead - and there's word of an exciting new format on the horizon. Stay tuned for more.

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[League Rules document](#)

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