

Essex Open topple leaders after memorable fightback

Netball news

Essex Open A 39

New Cambell Green 38

Essex Open emerged triumphant by a solitary goal after a thrilling game against previously unbeaten table toppers New Cambell.

They struggled to contain a strong Cambell team in the first two quarters and saw their rivals build a healthy lead.

Early in the third quarter Essex trailed 30-19 and their main hope appeared to be to keep the deficit respectable.

They slowly battled their way back into the game, but were still 11 goals down at the final break.

Two quick goals at the start of the final quarter gave Essex hope, only for New Cambell to come back with two goals of their own.

Best spell

Then, with probably their best spell of netball this season, Essex netted 10 goals without reply to cut the gap to just one.

Inspired by captain Zoie Humphries and ably supported by shooter Rebecca Wilks, the Essex squad kept Cambell's opportunities to a minimum.

The Essex defence led by Michelle Stewart and Kim Tynan held firm but a late strike from Cambell took the score to 37-36 in their favour.

The mid-court trio of Sara Biss, Sarah Campbell and Vicky Fox dominated for Essex, though, and they

scored three goals in less than a minute to edge in front for the first time.

And although Cambell had one more chance, Essex survived for a memorable victory.

Essex: M Stewart, K Tynan, V Fox, S Biss, S Campbell, Z Humphries, R Wilks.

Essex Open B were beaten 48-30 by Aeonians, who raced into an early lead and never looked back.

Essex Open C were beaten 44-34 by Pettits C, after a topsy-turvy contest.

Trailling 11-10 at the end of the first quarter, some excellent play in the early part of the second quarter saw Essex claw their way back into the game and turn the deficit into a 15-11 lead.

But Pettits responded strongly to lead 22-18 at half-time and Essex were unable to make inroads in the second half.

Essex Open D had a much tighter game against Unity, but were beaten 27-25.

The news was better for Essex Open E, who were comfortable 56-15 victors over Salisbury which leaves them needing just a single point from two games to guarantee the Division 11 title.

Both Essex Open junior teams enjoyed excellent wins, with the under-12s beating New Cambell 30-5 to maintain their hold on top spot.

The under-13s had a resounding 45-6 win over Woodford Chicks in the under-14 division.