

COUNTY SENIOR 1st TEAM 2023/24 – 2nd WEEKEND

The second weekend of 4 matches in the Senior County Premier Division was held at Draycott TTC 3rd / 4th February 2024. Leicestershire's team was: Chris Rogers, Luke Greenfield, Abhishek Sudhakar, Karen Smith and Erin Thompson.

Lancashire were first up and a disappointing start as Leicestershire went down 7-3, with 1 win each for Abishek, Karen and Erin. Luke was unlucky to lose both his matches in 5, and Erin also lost a close one at deuce in the 4th, so with a bit of luck it could have been a draw.

Final Score: Leicestershire 3 Lancashire 7

A strong Essex team were next and Leicestershire had a good start with Chris and Abishek both winning for a 2-0 lead. Erin nearly made it 3-0, being 2-0 up and 9-9 in the 3rd, but her opponent sneaked the 3rd and got stronger as the match went on to win in 5. Essex then took control winning the next 4 matches for a 5-2 lead. Leicestershire kept battling but were really unlucky to lose the last 3 matches all in the 5th. Another defeat which could again have been a draw.

Final Score: Essex 8 Leicestershire 2

The 2 losses on Saturday had left Leicestershire in the relegation zone, so a win against Kent, also at the bottom, on Sunday morning was vital. Chris and Abishek again gave Leicestershire a 2-0 lead, before the first 2 ladies singles were shared, Erin losing another close one, but Karen winning. Leicestershire extended the lead to 5-2 with wins for Abishek Erin, but defeats for Karen in 4 and Chris in 5 left the result in the balance. Luke lost the first game 11-9, but stayed in control to win the next 3, and give Leicestershire a much needed win.

Final Score: Kent 4 Leicestershire 6

The final match of the weekend was against Nottinghamshire, with the result being decisive as to which county would be relegated with Kent. Leicestershire needed a draw to stay up, Notts needed to win.

Luke gave Leicestershire the perfect start with a convincing 3-0 win over Fred Jones, and Abhishek quickly made it 2-0. Karen won a crucial 3rd match against Zarita Lo coming from 2 games to 1 down and then 10-8 down in the 5th to win 12-10, and although Erin lost to highly rated Anna Green, Chris and Luke won the next 2 singles to get Leicestershire to the 5 sets they needed. Further wins for Chris and Abhishek gave Leicestershire the victory they deserved, a 5th place finish, and a place in the Premier Division next season.

Final Score: Leicestershire 7 Nottinghamshire 3

FINAL TABLE

Team	P	W	D	L	SF	SA	Pts
Middlesex 1	7	6	0	1	46	24	12
Surrey 1	7	6	0	1	45	25	12
Sussex 1	7	4	1	2	41	29	9
Essex 1	7	4	0	3	41	29	8
Leicestershire 1	7	3	0	4	28	42	6
Lancashire 1	7	2	1	4	26	44	5
Nottinghamshire 1	7	1	1	5	28	42	3
Kent 1	7	0	1	6	25	45	1