

The badminton league season returns next week but the usual curtain raiser saw the Reg Harris Shield tournament take place at Greensward school.

There were fourteen pairs in the men's draw divided into two groups of seven and seven pairs in the ladies draw. Each pair had a combined handicap and the group stage consisted of one game to 21 points.

In the first men's group were the pair with the biggest handicap of -38, Adam Sibley and David Wenn, but they had no issue in turning that round as they won all their group games. The pair who gave them the toughest test, Jay Crewe and Greg Roffey, managed to secure second spot only losing the one game with their -5 handicap.

The second group was a much tighter affair with no fewer than seven matches finishing 21-20. Toby Moon and James Allpress, playing off a -29 handicap, won all their group games but triumphed three times with that narrow scoreline. Michael Clark and Alex Cheung, last year's champions, finished tied on four wins with Tim Baskett and Conor Atay in second place. However, Michael and Alex went through on points for as they gained two more points overall than Tim and Alex.

The ladies event saw four pairs advance from the seven in the group to a semi-final. Mandie Breed and Sara Thompson and Vikki Walker and Jo Howard-Simpson finished tied on 5 wins each and the same amount of points as well. Mandie and Sara's 21-20 win over Vikki and Jo gave them top spot. Liz Cullen and Dawn Muggleton and Sarah Hall and Ashleigh Smith both triumphed four times in the group to claim third and fourth respectively.

Adam and David met reigning champions Michael and Alex in the first men's semi-final. Both sets were extremely tight, 21-19, 21-19, but Adam and David just edged it. The other match was just as tight with the first set finishing 21-20 in James and Toby's favour. Jay and Greg couldn't turn it round in the second as they lost out 21-16.

The ladies semi-finals were just one set but still just as close. Sarah and Ashleigh managed to save two match points to make the score 20 all and then sealed their place in the final as they beat group winners Mandie and Sara 21-20. There was no such shock in the second semi-final as Jo and Vikki beat Liz and Dawn 21-15.

Both finals showcased some terrific badminton and both went to a deciding set. In the ladies final, Sarah and Ashleigh faced an uphill battle with their -9 handicap against Jo and Vikki's +10 and in the end it proved too much as they lost 21-10, 16-21, 21-9. In the men's final, there was much less to separate between the pairs in handicaps and so it proved as Adam and Dave won the first set 21-17 but Toby and James took the second 21-16. In the third though, one pairs quality showed as Adam and Dave triumphed 21-10 to lift the shield.