

Carey wins at first attempt as Kitchens dusts off racket to reach semi's

Tracey Carey won her first ever tournament and lifted the Masters Mixed trophy with partner Tim Baskett at the weekend.

The tournament took place at Chalkwell Badminton Centre and was a handicap event, with the nine pairings split into two groups where they each played each other in two games up to twenty one points.

In Group A, Tim Baskett and Tracey Carey won six of their eight games to top the group and advance to the semi-final but there was a tie for second spot between Jo Howard-Simpson and Gary Rose and Dawn Muggleton and Martin Rainbow, who had both won five games.

The latter advanced because they had picked up more points over the group stage, leaving Gary and Jo in third, Sandra and Roger Bellows came fourth winning two games ahead on points from Ady Munro and Adrian Watling who also won two games.

In Group B, Mark King and Mandie Breed won six games out of six in the smaller group and were joined in the semi by Dave Kitchens and Sara Thompson who triumphed in three games.

Debbie Moon and Dave Virgo missed out in third as they only picked up two games and last year's champions Liz Cullen and Peter Lewin couldn't replicate their success as they won just one game.

The first semi-final saw a clash between the two pairs from Greensward as Dave Kitchens and Sara Thompson faced Tim Baskett and Tracey Carey.

There was little to separate them in the handicaps, -3 and -4 respectively, and so it proved in the match as it went the distance to three sets, but it was just a step too far for Dave who has returned to the sport, and Tim and Tracey won 21-16 in the third set to reach the final.

The other semi final was a much more straight forward affair as despite having a -13 handicap, Mark King and Mandie Breed won 21-15, 21-18 against the +1 handicap of Dawn Muggleton and Martin Rainbow.

Mark and Mandie looked the favourites going into the final having not dropped a set, but Tim and Tracey soon altered that as they won the first set 21-6.

They couldn't quite take the second as Mark and Mandie won it 21-18, but in the end Tim and Tracey's lower handicap proved to be the difference as they won the third 21-8 to lift the shield.