

The Southend and District badminton league season kicked off with several close games in the Mixed Divisions. The first came between two sides that had only won one match each last season in Westcliff Thirds and Hawkwell. Barbara Childs and Matt Tonge and Vicki Russell and John Hall both won two rubbers each with a single one from Hazel Keeble and Tom Kirby to secure a 5-4 win in the Mixed Second division. Sophie Pearson and Andrew Strutt won all three of their rubbers with Farnaz Siddiq and Keith Wood winning the other for the visitors.

In the division above, Eastwood Seconds, who flirted with relegation last season, began with a narrow 5-4 victory away at B & BP. Peter Brumwell and Clare Roberts and David Virgo and Debbie Moon both won two rubbers each with Gary Webb and Lorene Roberts getting the other. Daniel Potter and Emma Clark and Adam Cooper and Tamsin Collinge both picked up a brace for the home side.

The Masters Premier division kicked off with Phoenix Flames, who have changed name from Greensward last year, facing newly promoted Eastwood Seconds. Tim Baskett recorded a perfect hat-trick while Mandie Breed and Tracey Haylett won the other to gain a 4-2 win for Phoenix. Gary Webb helped Eastwood to their two points.

Finally, Phoenix faced Eastwood Seconds again in the Ladies First division and triumphed 6-0 in the opening match. Mandie Breed, Tracey Haylett, Sara Thompson and Carly Horsler made up the winning team for Phoenix. Dawn Muggleton and Nicole Goodale did best for Eastwood.