

After failing to win any of their first six matches in division one of the Braintree Table Tennis League, Black Notley B have sprung to life and won two in a row.

As a result they have more than doubled their points tally and jumped up from eighth to joint sixth.

Graham Farmer and James Hicks were the men behind the victories, both remaining unbeaten in the matches against Liberal A and Rayne C.

Rob Stannard picked up the scalp of Robin Armstrong in the Liberal match to give his team a 7-3 win while against Rayne C, Keith Martin's victory over Laurie Sapiano was the only blemish.

Pillar House A also had a substantial win over Rayne C, Ryan Pitt taking his three singles in the 8-2 victory.

Rayne A could muster only two players but that was just enough for a 6-4 win over their own B team.

Jon Hill was unbeaten and Dean Andrews took two, losing out in four games to Brian Riedling.

The week belonged to Ben Page in division two.

The 13-year-old Netts B player had won only twice in his first 15 sets but abruptly moved on to a new plane in his matches against Rayne F and Black Notley C where he won six out of six.

There was a second win of the season too for his teammate Patrick Gilbert against Rayne F while Luke Tarrant, Netts' star up to now, was put in the shade somewhat with only three wins out of six.

As a result, Netts beat Rayne F 7-3 and drew with Notley C.

In the match between the teams in second and third place, it was Rayne D who triumphed with a convincing 8-2 win over Sible Hedingham.

Roy Hooper won the two for Hedingham but Paul Wellington commanded the evening for Rayne.

All three Notley C players won twice in their 7-3 victory over Liberal B. Tim Huxtable and Gordon Fairchild lost to Trevor Laird but it was Dave Hardy who got the better of Lyndon Griffiths.

Black Notley D ended a run of five consecutive defeats with a fighting draw at Nomads.

They had to come back from 5-1 with the tight finishes that had denied them at the beginning going their way in the final run-in.

They had lost three games close in the fifth game at the start of the evening but finished with wins in the final game of 14-12, 11-6 and 14-12 again.

Lorraine Burgess and Arthur Wilson won two singles for Nomads while Keith Flowers did likewise for Notley.

Wilson was made to work the hardest. He played a total of 296 points – only four points short of an average of every game finishing 11-9.

Black Notley F's performances in division three have mirrored their B team in division one.

They followed up their first win of the season the previous week by winning again last week, this time 6-4 over their own H team.

John Breen took his three singles for the H team.

Will Jackson did likewise for Notley E in their draw with White Lions A.

HOLDERS Sible Hedingham have won through to the semi final of the restricted knockout cup after overcoming Rayne F 8-1.

It was not quite so overwhelming as the score suggests. Four sets went the full distance but Hedingham won them all.

Rayne's consolation was a Peter Taylor win over Mark Brown.

Their semi final opponents will be Notley G who beat their own H team 6-3. Ian Wallace won his two singles for the G team and Keir Hughes followed suit for the H team.

In what was almost a repeat of their league match, Nomads knocked out Notley D 5-3.

This again was the tightest of tight matches, no fewer than six of the eight sets going to five games.

Notley came back from 4-1 down to 4-3 but Lorraine Burgess's win over Bruce Wickham at 11-7 in the fifth took them through.

They will play White Lions B who beat Notley E 5-3.

Keith Perrins was unbeaten for Lions.