

Men's singles champion Paul Davison has suffered his first defeat of the season, just weeks before the annual individual championships begin in the Braintree Table Tennis League.

Davison was downed by old rival Kevin Gowlett after a seesawing set in the match between Netts A and champions Bocking.

Davison won the first two games, but Gowlett hit back to take the third fairly comfortably 11-6 before winning the next two by a whisker 11-9, 11-9.

It helped Bocking, who turned out their recognised first team for the first time this season, to a 7-3 win.

Davison won his other two singles and Nikki Kennard had a good win over Gary Young.

Nigel Hodder won two for Bocking and narrowly lost to Davison in five games.

Black Notley moved one set closer at the top after an 8-2 win over Liberal A.

Notley's B team avenged an earlier 8-2 defeat at the hands of Rayne B by winning the return 6-4. They are now one point ahead of their opponents as a result. Graham Farmer was unbeaten for Notley.

Ryan Pitt scored an excellent win over former men's singles finalist Jon Hill in Pillar House A's 7-3 defeat by Rayne A. Steve Pennell was unbeaten for Rayne.

After a slow start to the season, Notley C have begun to run up some points in division two.

After scoring 19 points in their first five matches, they have accumulated 36 from the return fixtures, the latest a 10-0 thrashing of Nomads who beat them 6-4 first time round.

And they had the same set of players on duty. This time Gordon Fairchild, Lyndon Griffiths and Adam Pitt could do little wrong.

Notley also repeated the first half's 8-2 win over their own D team. Griffiths was again unbeaten but there were wins for Peter Foster over Pitt and Helen Barnett over Fairchild.

Notley D fared less well against Sible Hedingham where they lost all ten sets while Nomads and Netts B fought out the first 2 v 2 match of the season.

Netts B won three of the five sets available – Luke Tarrant won both his singles – and so emerged with a 5-4 win.

After their soaraway start to the season in which they won their first eight matches, Pillar House B continue to stumble in division three.

They drew with both Rayne G and Notley E and have now gone four matches without a win.

Barry Mouser was unbeaten for Rayne G while Adam Clift held Pillar House together in the encounter with Notley E.

Leaders White Lions B also caught the bug and drew their match with Rayne H. Tom Elder won his inevitable three for Rayne and new signing John Sanderson joined in with two. Surprisingly the two of them lost the doubles.

It ended a run of nine consecutive wins for Lions B.

Lions' A team have now overtaken Pillar House and moved into second place, two points ahead from the same number of matches.

They beat Notley G 10-0 and Rayne G 8-2. Steve Ascott, playing up from the B team, was the only one to beat Charles Wilkinson in the Rayne encounter.

Fourteen-year-old Warren Baines won his first sets in his second match in league table tennis when he took two for Notley H against their own G team. And one of those wins was against his father, Steve.