

Ron Fosker

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table tennis

Divisional runners-up last season, Rayne E are the only team to have won three out of three in the Braintree Table Tennis League division two this year.

They followed their opening 10-0 win over their own F team with victories of 9-1 over Black Notley D and 7-3 over Netts B.

Dave Moles, only an occasional player last season, has played all three so far and won eight out of nine. Netts B's Luke Tarrant was the only one to better him.

Rayne's D team are on the heels of their clubmates. They drew their first match but two wins since then have put them in second place.

They beat their own F team 6-4 and Notley D 8-2.

Paul Wellington was unbeaten against Notley D and won two against Rayne F.

The one in which he failed was a replay of the 1973 junior boys' singles final against Malcolm Wehmeyer. Wellington won 36 years ago. Wehmeyer got his revenge this time.

Fourteen-year-old Tarrant remains unbeaten after nine sets, but he had his work cut out against Sible Hedingham. He needed five games to dispose of both Mark Brown and Roy Hooper, his success against Hooper coming only at 13-11 in the decider.

Larte Lawson, returning to the league after a year's absence, was also unbeaten as Netts registered a 6-4 victory.

Diane Garner was unbeaten as Liberal B clocked up a 6-4 win over Rayne F.

The set of the evening was between Ted Sims and Trevor Laird, two players who had a lengthy break from the game and took it up again when they joined the league last year. They battled all the way to deuce in the fifth before Sims got the vital last two points.

Worryingly, White Lions B have so far only managed to turn out two players on both their appearances in division three. Maybe it was doubts over the third berth that led them to rank themselves below their A team but they proved the masters when the two came into contact.

Stuart Ascott won his three singles and father Steve two, then the two combined to take the doubles and ensure a 6-4 victory.

Black Notley G's new signing Ian Wallace maintained his unbeaten record in his team's 6-4 win against the club's E team.

The E team only had two players but wins over Will Jackson and Mike Smith do not come easily.

Philip Lawson is ranked at ten in the Essex junior ranking list published this week. Notley A's Scott Dowsett is at 13 and at No.6 in the under 15 list.

Notley C's Stevie Pell is at No.7 on the girls' list.

Among the under 15s, Luke Tarrant is ranked at 14 with his Netts B teammates Ben Page at 18 and Patrick Gilbert at 21.

Notley's Warren Baines is at 23 and Matthew Wallace 24 while on the under 13 list Oliver Hicks is at 11 and George Wallace at 12.

Netts' Rebecca Lockwood is at 21 in the under 18 section and 14 at under 15 level.