

Ron Fosker

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table tennis

New club Felsted RBL have made a storming start to their Braintree Table Tennis League career.

They notched up their third win out of three when they travelled to Rayne I.

Captain Ian Butler won his three singles to make it eight out of eight for him, while Andy Laws added two and Keith Dicker one.

Their 7-3 win puts them top of division three, equal with Black Notley F, who won the battle with their own I team 8-2. Ian Wallace and Chris Parr were unbeaten.

Parr is returning to the league after many years' absence as is Netts C's Jean Thompson. She had an unbeaten evening in her team's 7-3 win over Stebbing.

Notley's G and H teams remain unbeaten but slipped back when they drew with each other. Notley H had earlier beaten Rayne I 7-3.

Warren Baines remained undefeated in both matches.

Rayne H came home 9-1 better off against Rayne J. Tim Townsend ensured the J team's evening was not entirely unrewarded by defeating Ian Rubens.

The division two fixtures brought together two potential title challengers, Rayne's E and G teams, and it was Rayne G who emerged the stronger by 6-4.

After a number of years being unstretched in division three, Tom Elder opened his account at the higher level with his three singles.

Ryan Sanderson almost joined him. He racked up excellent wins over Mo Hardy and Paul Wellington but just missed out at 14-12 in the fifth game against Tony Hammond, almost 60 years his senior.

It was the first time Rayne G had turned out a full team. With a reserve in against Notley E, they came through by 6-4.

Dawn Baldry was undefeated and reserve Tim Gowers played his part with a good win over Jenny Thomson.

Notley E were on the wrong end of the same scoreline in their next match against Notley D. Adam Pitt was unbeaten for the D team.

Nomads have yet to win, but after two 6-4 defeats, they went one better and drew with Rayne F. Kevin Saunders was unbeaten.

In division one, champions Netts A brought in John Cleasby for his first match of the season, but he was found wanting by Liberal A's Barry Pritchard.

It was a deserved success for Pritchard who had stretched both Paul Davison and Nikki Kennard to five games. In fact, he won the first two against Davison, the three times men's singles champion, and almost sneaked a win in the fourth game when Davison got home 12-10.

The Rayne A-Rayne C fixture produced a collection of the unexpected: Jon Hill playing against the team he played for for many years, Steve Elmes failing to win a single set, and an 8-2 victory for the C team.

Hill won all three and Ryan Pitt and new signing Richard Storey two each with Steve Pennell getting the A team's two sets.

As well as the A and C teams facing each other, the B and D sides were also paired up, but this time the alphabet ruled as the B team won 8-2. Dean Andrews and Peter Hance were unbeaten.

Sible Hedingham continue to find it tough after their step-up to division one. They went down 9-1 to Black Notley B. Roy Hooper broke the duck with a win in the final singles of the evening over Duncan Elloy.