

Ron Fosker

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table tennis

Just as in division two, it is last year's runners-up who are making the running in the third division of the Braintree Table Tennis League.

Pillar House B have won their first three matches, as have Rayne G, but the former Cressing C team lead at this stage by one point.

After a 10-0 win in their first match, they dealt with Black Notley F and White Lions B 6-4 and 7-3 respectively.

Adam Clift was unbeaten in both matches.

Steve Clift marked his return to action with two wins over Notley F but was unable to get past Mike Pitt.

Rayne G have opened their programme with matches against three Notley teams and recorded their best win, 9-1, against the highest ranked of them, although Notley F only had two players.

But the match was more notable for setting a new benchmark for the tightest set of the season.

Just a couple of weeks after Paul Wellington and Lorraine Burgess had finished at 20-18 in the fifth game, Barry Mouser pushed the mark two points forward by beating Andy Thompson 22-20 in the final end.

Two of Notley's teams played each other - E getting the better of H 9-1 – while the G team suffered 8-2 at the hands of Rayne H where Matt Millbank joined Tom Elder in the unbeaten enclosure.

In division one, Philip Lawson illustrated the improvement in his game since he last played in the league 18 months ago by winning all his singles against Pillar House A while his father Larte was beaten twice.

Chris Ciniglio and Ryan Pitt were the players Lawson senior foundered against as Netts A racked up an 8-2 win.

Rayne A's healthy start to the season – two 9-1 wins – came to an abrupt halt against champions Bocking.

The result was 9-1 the other way this time although not before Ian Whiteside had recorded an excellent win over veterans' singles champion Nigel Hodder 12-10, 9-11, 6-11, 11-7, 11-6.

Liberal A took on a Rayne C side consisting of two reserves and a blank space. Not surprisingly they took all the sets available.

Lorraine Burgess was in excellent form for Nomads in division two. She won all three singles in straight games against Notley C.

Two from Kevin Saunders and one from Arthur Wilson gave the Great Cornard team a 6-4 win.