

With so little of the season gone, it is surprising how few players in the first division of the Braintree Table Tennis League have an individual average of more than two thirds.

Wins have been evenly spread around so that only five players, apart from those who have played only one match, have managed to register above that figure.

Men's singles champion Peter Hayden leads the way followed by Dean Andrews and the Netts trio of Nikki Kennard, Paul Davison and Kevin Gowlett.

Hayden made it 12 out of 12 last week when he reigned supreme for Black Notley A against Rayne C.

Ian Hayden and Trevor Carter were also unbeaten, not a straightforward matter with Jon Hill among the opposition.

Hill and Vicki Stredder spoiled the evening for Notley by pinching the doubles at 11-9 in the fifth game.

Kennard and Gowlett also won all they could in Netts A's win over Sible Hedingham, but with neither Davison nor John Cleasby available, they were forced to concede three sets.

Notley A lead Netts at the top by four points with Notley B sandwiched in between after their 7-3 win over Rayne D. Steve Buer, in only his second match in the league, took his three singles but the surprise of the evening was an excellent win for Simon Fleming over Graham Farmer.

Brian Riedling, promoted to Rayne A after a number of seasons in the B team, found his old teammates in good form when he faced them for the first time. Both Brian Cook and Peter Hance got the better of him in the A team's 8-2 win.

Nomads lead a tightly packed second division after their 10-0 win over White Lions, but Notley C and Netts B are well placed with matches in hand.

Notley C beat White Lions 8-2 while Netts had a 7-3 win over Notley E and Rayne G had a 10-0 win over their own F team.

Both Notley H and their leading player Warren Baines suffered their first defeats of the season in division three. After 12 consecutive wins, Baines fell to the wiles of the experienced Charles Wilkinson 11-7 in the fifth.

Wilkinson took the other two as well to lead Rayne G to a 6-4 victory.

Notley F bettered Rayne J by 7-3 while Rayne H beat their own I team by the same score. The latter match was a milestone for Roger Hasler whose win over Geoff Long was his first in the league after a season and a bit of trying.

Braintree veterans' B team got off to a good start in division two of the Essex League with a 6-3 win over West Essex A.

Jon Hill won both his singles.