

The unsung Pillar House B side have been setting the pace in division three of the Braintree Table Tennis League, but they came up against their biggest challenge last week.

They faced their closest rivals Rayne G, and had to do so with only two players.

Adam Clift has been in excellent form this season and duly won his three singles, but it was Ash White who produced the form of his life to equal his captain's performance and bring his side an excellent win.

White has been somewhat in the shadow of Clift and Matt Shelley over the years but his form has gradually improved and against Rayne he showed his grit and determination as he won all three singles in five games.

In each case he had to come back from two games to one down but in the end he had final game wins of 11-7 over Geoff Long and 11-4 over both Tim Gowers and Charles Wilkinson, the first time he has ever got the better of the consistent Wilkinson.

The only blot on the team's landscape was that they managed to lose the doubles.

Ron Celiz will not lose many in division three and led his Notley E team to a 6-4 win over Notley F.

Celiz's main test could come at the end of this month when his team are due to meet Rayne H, led by the so far all-conquering Tom Elder.

Elder's side drew with Notley F for whom Andy Thompson and Alan Cook took two singles each.

Bocking moved to the top of division one with a 7-3 win over Liberal A.

With neither Gary Young nor Nigel Hodder in their ranks, it is a result they will be comfortable with.

Kevin Gowlett won his three singles, Richard Jennings two and David Edwards one.

Barry Pritchard won twice for Liberal.

Liberal's B team are looking good in division two. Their 9-1 win over Black Notley D was their third out of three.

Trevor Laird and Diane Garner were unbeaten and Dave Hardy marked his return to the league with two wins, narrowly missing out on a clean sheet when Keith Flowers just got the better of him at 11-9 in the third game.

Notley D also suffered at the hands of their own C team who triumphed 8-2. Tim Huxtable was unbeaten.

The young Netts B team found the experienced hands of Rayne D too much for them. The visitors took all ten sets.

In the first round of the team knock out cup, Pillar House A were only able to field two players against Rayne D.

Wins for Paul Wellington over Sean Clift and Wellington and Tony Hammond in the doubles were enough to take Rayne through.

Rayne A had too much firepower for their own E team and did not drop a set.

The tightest match in the restricted knock out cup was Notley D's 6-3 win over Rayne G.

Rayne's Tim Gowers beat Bruce Wickham and they took two doubles. Peter Foster and Keith Flowers were unbeaten for Notley.

Pillar House B were unable to take their league success into the cup. They were found wanting against second division Rayne F who won 9-0.

Adam Clift came closest to breaking the duck with a 14-12-in-the-fifth defeat by Peter Taylor.

White Lions B dropped only one set in coming past Notley F, Alan Cook beating Steve Ascott. Stuart Ascott and Adam Purslow were unbeaten.