

Black Notley D's squad of Lyndon Griffiths, Simon Churchman, Bill Facey and Stuart Ascott have become the third team from the club to lift the Braintree Table Tennis League's handicap cup in successive years.

It is Ascott's second success. He was in the H team alongside his father Steve and Simon Pohl that won the cup in 2005. Last year the trophy went to the F team of Steve Willis, Clare Johnson and Karan Baxi.

The D team triumphed in the final this year over their own C team, the second time in the three years that there has been an all-Notley final.

Churchman, Facey and Ascott were completely dominant in the final, taking the five sets necessary without reply.

It was tougher in the semi final where they faced new league champions Cressing.

With Griffiths in for Facey, they won the first three sets but were taken to five games in two of them.

The last of those, Ascott's encounter with Ian Hayden, was a curious affair. After four tight sets (9-11, 11-4, 10-12, 11-5), Hayden completely ran out of steam. Starting on minus 7 against Ascott's plus 5, he failed to get out of the minus figures and lost 11- minus 1.

Peter Hayden (off -6) then pulled one back for Cressing after a momentous struggle with Griffiths (+4). The scoreline of 7-11, 9-11, 15-13, 13-11, 11-8 says much for his staying power.

Trevor Carter followed with a three-straight victory over Ascott but Churchman put Notley back on track with a comfortable victory over Ian Hayden.

Ascott (+5) clinched victory with a five-game win over Peter Hayden (-7) but they carried on to play the two 'dead' sets, both of which also went to five games, making it six in all that went the full distance.

Notley C had a more straightforward semi final win, 5-0 over Rayne C.