

Ron Fosker

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table tennis

Black Notley F chalked up their first win in division three of the Braintree Table Tennis League last week.

Their H team meanwhile scored their second win but remain at the bottom of the table.

It is the point-per-set scoring system, now in its third season, that anchors Notley H to the bottom. Under the previous 4-3-2-1 system, or indeed if two points were awarded for a win and one for a draw, they would be two places higher.

As it is they trail their G team by one point and the F team by two.

Their win came over the G team by 6-4. John Breen won his three singles and Keir Hughes won two, just missing out on the hat-trick at 11-9 in the fifth game against Steve Baines.

The F team have been kept afloat by a draw and two 6-4 defeats but they too got the better of the G team to record their first win.

Andy Thompson, Mike Smith and Mike Pitt all won twice in their 7-3 victory. Ian Wallace was the hurdle they could not overcome.

Notley E are one place above the F team, a position they enhanced with a 7-3 win over third-placed White Lions B. Will Jackson and Ron Celiz were unbeaten.

But without Celiz, they tumbled to a 9-1 defeat against leaders Pillar House B. Jackson's last-gasp win at 11-9 in the fifth against Matt Shelley prevented the whitewash but neither he nor his teammates could find a way to deal with Steve and Adam Clift.

White Lions B stay above their A team after a 9-1 win over Rayne H.

Rayne D remain in second place in division two, but were held to a draw by Notley C.

In fact the visitors were unlucky not to snatch a win after losing three sets by two points in the final game.

Paul Wellington was on the right side of two of those cliff-hangers but won his other set in straight games (albeit with two deuces) to register his third unbeaten evening of the season.

At the other end of the table, Rayne's F team avoided defeat for the first time and rise up a place as a result.

They drew with Nomads after an excellent team performance in which Peter Taylor won two singles while Brian How and Ted Sims won one each. But Sims and How teamed up to take the doubles.

Black Notley A maintained their challenge at the top of division one with an 8-2 win over Liberal A but Liberal were on the right side of a 9-1 scoreline against Pillar House A. Robin Armstrong and Barry Pritchard were unbeaten.

Rayne A racked up the same scoreline against Pillar House, Duncan Elloy blotting their copybook as he had Liberal's.

Brian Riedling won his three singles for the second successive match for Rayne B in their 8-2 win over Notley B.

He was the only one to get the better of James Hicks.