

Ron Fosker

6.12.09

table tennis

New signing Nikki Kennard was the star of last week's action in the Braintree Table Tennis League.

The England No.59 went through a high-class Rayne A line-up of Steve Pennell, Jon Hill and Ian Whiteside, respectively men's singles winner, runner-up and semi-finalist in recent years.

All perished in four games.

Larte Lawson added a win over Pennell but with Philip Lawson out of sorts – he had won nine out of nine up to that point – Netts A could get no further and a 6-4 defeat put a large dent in their challenge for the title.

Instead Bocking strengthened their position with an 8-2 win over Pillar House A.

They now lead Netts by 12 points and also have a seven-point advantage on Black Notley A who have played a match more.

Garry Fryatt turned out for the first time this season and did not let the side down. He won twice, as did Richard Jennings while Kevin Gowlett took all his singles.

Ryan Pitt won the two for Pillar House.

Liberal A picked up a useful 6-4 win at Rayne B. Mike Johnston won three and Barry Pritchard two, but in tandem they managed to lose out in the doubles to Brian Riedling and Peter Hance. Hance won two for Rayne.

Rayne F have recorded their first win in division two. And there were no half measures – a 10-0 thumping of Notley D.

Ted Sims, Malcolm Wehmeyer and Brian How were the men involved.

Liberal B and Sible Hedingham were entangled in a close encounter before Hedingham came through 6-4 to the good.

No one remained unbeaten but Paul Lombardi and Dave Hardy for Liberal and Graham Cannon and Roy Hooper for Hedingham won two. The surprise, perhaps, was that the normally reliable Trevor Laird missed out altogether.

Pillar House B returned to the top of division three when they played their match in hand to take over from Rayne G.

Their 9-1 demolition of Notley G all came via the singles, the doubles somehow eluding them in three straight games.

Adam Clift remains unbeaten but he was given his closest shave yet by Ian Wallace who stretched him to 12-10 in the fifth game.

White Lions B moved to within one point of Rayne G with a match in hand after a 9-1 win over Notley H.

John Breen took Notley's one with a five-game win over Steve Ascott but Stuart Ascott and Keith Perrins were untroubled.