

Former men's singles champion Steve Kerns has been awarded life membership of the Braintree Table Tennis League.

Kerns, 46, who was given the award at the league's AGM on Thursday, has been honoured more for his work off the table than his prowess on it.

He served on the league's management committee for 21 years, for nine years as inter league secretary, nine years as general secretary – the two posts overlapping for five years – and six years as vice chairman.

He was praised in the citation not only for his length of service but for his efficiency and dedication in all roles.

He becomes only the sixth person in the league's history to receive the honour.

As well as his work in Braintree, Kerns is also press officer for the British League, the Essex county association and the Chelmsford League as well as a former general secretary of Essex.

The league AGM rejected a proposal to return to the former scoring system of four points for a win, but agreed to a new system of collecting fees in view of the English Table Tennis Association's new individual registration scheme.

Officers elected at the AGM were: President, Len Woolmer; chairman, Ron Fosker; general secretary, Lyndon Griffiths; treasurer, Kevin Saunders; fixtures secretary, Ian Whiteside; competition secretary, Tim Huxtable; development officer, Brian Davison; coaching secretary, Robin Armstrong; inter-league secretary, Peter Hayden; press officer, Ron Fosker; child protection officer, Clare Johnson; committee, Steve Ascott, Roy Hooper, Keith Martin, Alan McEwan.

The new White Lions club have landed their third trophy of the season after their two teams faced each other in the final of the handicap cup.

The club's teams won division three and the consolation trophy between them and faced each other in the final of the cup.

And it was the team of Clare Johnson, Adam Purslow and Steve Willis, runners-up for the past two years in Black Notley's colours, who were successful.

They were at one stage 2-1 behind and went into the final phase of sets at 3-3, but victories for Johnson over Steve Ascott and Purslow over Keith Perrins were enough to give them victory.

It was Willis who was the star. He won both the singles he played: 11-4, 11-6, 11-6 over Perrins and 11-7, 11-9, 9-11, 11-7 off scratch against Steve Ascott.

Stuart Ascott won the two singles he played for the opposition.