

Ron Fosker

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table tennis

The natural order was in evidence in the second week of the Braintree Table Tennis League division one programme.

The teams expected to form the top four all registered comfortable wins.

Both Bocking and Black Notley A returned unblemished accounts, while Netts A and Rayne A dropped only one set each.

Only two sets were stretched to four games in Bocking's win over Rayne B while Notley A won six of theirs in straight games. Terry Dowsett's win over Duncan Elloy was the only one that went the full distance.

Rayne A also had six 3-0 scorelines against their C team but Steve Pennell twice went the full distance, scraping home 14-12 in the fifth against Dave Moles but losing out 12-10 in the decider against Keith Martin.

The doubles was the one to elude Netts, Barry Pritchard and Mike Johnston surprisingly beating Nikki Kennard and Larte Lawson in three straight. The singles, on the other hand, were a different matter.

An 8-2 win for Liberal B over Nomads in division two does not look a surprising score on paper, but Nomads' two wins came from an unexpected source.

Not Kevin Saunders, as one might expect, but Arthur Wilson, not their most prolific scorer in the past but on top form here with wins over both Trevor Laird and Diane Garner. Only Paul Lombardi got the better of him.

Fourteen-year-old Luke Tarrant started his league career in excellent style with three straight-game wins in Netts B's 6-4 defeat at Notley D. Bruce Wickham and Keith Flowers won two each for Notley.

Notley H's John Breen was another player to make an encouraging debut. He won two singles in his team's 6-4 defeat to Rayne G but, like his teammates, was unable to find a way past Barry Mouser.

Steve Ascott and Adam Purslow won two each for newcomers White Lions A against Rayne H but it was not enough to prevent Rayne taking a 6-4 win.