

Restricted Cup Final Report – Ron Fosker

In the other cup competition, for teams in divisions three and four, the tightness of the final was even less expected.

The match featured the top two teams in division three, Pillar House A and Rayne E, who had met in the league only a couple of weeks earlier when Pillar House had stormed to a 10-0 victory.

With the same six players on view, a similar outcome might have been expected in the cup final. But the 'magic of the cup' is not reserved for football. Rayne E almost brought off a stunning victory.

The match followed an almost identical path to the main final. The favourites, Pillar House, looked like sealing victory early on as they moved into a 3-0 lead. But then they hit the buffers.

Rayne took the next four - they won the middle doubles, Phil Wade beat Sean Clift, and Simon Fleming and Richard Whiteside both got the better of Chris Ciniglio - to put themselves into a conceivable applecart-upsetting position.

Duncan Elloy then beat Fleming to level proceedings but Rayne refused to lie down.

They took the first game of the final doubles, levelled again after Pillar House had taken the next two, and finally succumbed at 11-9 in the fifth.

So the trophies ended up when they were expected to go, but not in the way they were expected to get there.