

Paul Davison made it five wins in five final appearances when he won the men's singles at the Braintree Table Tennis League individual tournament on Sunday.

Like his last two wins, success in the final came against old rival Peter Hayden, who has also won the event five times.

But this was the toughest yet.

He had beaten Hayden in four games four years ago and in 2012, although he started hesitantly, he stormed through the final two games 11-2, 11-2.

This time Hayden stretched him all the way to 11-9 in the final game before succumbing.

At the start an entirely different outcome looked possible.

Hayden set out to deny his more nimble opponent the opportunities to play his natural attacking game and subdued him to the extent that he found himself two games up.

But Davison, whose form had fluctuated during the day, finally found the form that has brought him the trophy in the past as he visibly moved up a gear, pounced on everything and drove Hayden back to win the next two games.

The final had one more twist as Hayden moved into a 3-0 lead in the final game. But Davison took the next three points and then edged ahead to take the title by two points.

Earlier Davison had struggled to overcome a dogged Keith Martin before surging through Scott Dowsett in the quarter final.

In the semi final it was his own teammate Kevin Gowlett, unbeaten in the league this season, whose resistance subsided after two close games, Davison winning 14-12, 11-13, 11-3, 11-5.

Hayden had overcome another old rival Steve Kerns in the other semi final after losing the first game, and then repeated the dose in the final of the veterans' singles which he won in three straight games.

Davison and Gowlett teamed up to win the men's doubles for the fifth time in six years – a sixth in a row for Gowlett, who won with Patrick Gilbert in Davison's absence last year.

They faced Hayden and Scott Dowsett, whose father Terry had won the title with Hayden twice in the 1990s.

The younger Dowsett was not overawed by the company but their opponents had just that little bit extra and won 11-8, 11-9, 11-8.

It was a tournament of very few unexpected results – Steve Pennell's win over No. 5 seed John Cleasby was the only unscheduled result in the men's singles – but unseeded players made their mark in the over 50s singles and the restricted singles.

In the over 50s, it was No. 2 seed Pennell's turn to be on the other side of a seeding failure, when he lost out to Mike Johnston. Johnston, whose unusual penholder style offered rare variety to finals night, found the brick wall that is Ian Whiteside one hurdle too far in the final.

Kevin Saunders came from an unseeded berth to reach the final of the restricted singles. He knocked out No. 2 seed Guy McKenzie in the semi final, but found McKenzie's teammate Andrew Huckson a different proposition in the final.

Both players favoured a patient waiting game but it was Huckson's quick whippy loop that was the telling factor.

Whiteside also took home the division one singles trophy that he had won four times previously.

League newcomer Hector Rogers was the latest to founder on his clubmate's solid defence. Although he utilised a solid probing game on both wings and stretched the final to four games, he did not quite have enough to find a way through.

The handicap singles made a rare appearance on finals night and produced an absorbing encounter between first division player Roy Hooper and Victor Chan, from division two, who had eight start up to 21.

In a best-of-three, the two players took one game each, but all seemed lost for Chan when Hooper won the first eight points of the third game to level the scores.

But Chan got going at this point and stretched out a lead of 16-12. Hooper then had to be at his most patient to claw back the points and finally crawled over the line with much relief at 21-19.

The junior events were all played before finals night and, encouragingly, produced one of the highest entries for many years, almost exclusively made up of players who attend league coaching sessions but have not yet made their debuts in the league.

Patrick Gilbert, an established first division player, had no difficulty regaining the junior boys' singles that he won in 2012, but it was the runner-up in that event, William Bettley, who took home most of the trophies.

In addition to that runners-up medal, he won both the cadet boys and the under-11 singles and joined his younger brother Alex to win the junior doubles.

Alex was the runner-up in the under-11 event while Jamie Brooks took second place in the cadets event.

Brooks and Ollie Ledwith were runners-up in the doubles.

The girls' singles, included for the first time since 2005, went to Mia Charles, whose mother, Sarah Davison, had won the title in 1991 and 1995, the year she also won the ladies' singles.

Her final opponent Lydia Jackson turned the tables when the two faced each other in the cadet girls' singles.

Although Charles won the junior singles 11-8, 11-7, 11-3, Jackson triumphed 13-11, 9-11, 2-11, 11-8, 11-5 in the cadet event.

Dave Parker retained his division two singles title with a win over teammate Victor Chan in the final, while Helen Barnett was successful in the division three singles, a round-robin event in which Andy Laws finished second.

The handicap doubles, with partners drawn on the day, went to Chris High, winner two years ago, and league newcomer Matt Brooks. They beat Mark Brown and Keith Martin in the final.

Finals night results: men's singles: Paul Davison beat Peter Hayden 8-11, 5-11, 11-6, 11-7, 11-9. Semi finals: Davison beat Kevin Gowlett 14-12, 11-13, 11-3, 11-5; Hayden beat Steve Kerns 10-12, 11-9, 11-5, 12-10.

Men's doubles: Davison and Gowlett beat Hayden and Scott Dowsett 11-8, 11-9, 11-8.

Veterans' singles: Hayden beat Kerns 14-12, 11-7, 11-6

Over 50s singles: Ian Whiteside beat Mike Johnston 11-9, 11-6, 8-11, 11-9.

Division one singles: Whiteside beat Hector Rogers 11-6, 11-9, 7-11, 11-6.

Handicap singles: Roy Hooper beat Victor Chan (+8) 21-19, 15-21, 21-19.

Restricted singles: Andrew Huckson beat Kevin Saunders 11-5, 11-7, 17-15.

Umpires were Arthur Clark and Lyndon Griffiths, the former league secretary who returned to pastures old after moving to Kent last year.