

LONDON BANKS AND CIVIL SERVICE TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE BULLETIN 16

AS AT 13 MARCH 2022

	P	W	D	F	A	B	P
COMETS	11	10	0	90	20	33	123
NAT WEST	12	7	2	68	52	36	104
CASTAWAYS	10	7	1	60	40	30	90
MORPETH A	10	5	1	54	46	30	84
PRO	11	1	2	39	68	33	72
GOOD KARMA	10	2	1	34	66	30	64
OUTCASTS	10	1	1	22	78	30	52

Bonus points shown in penultimate column. Ultimate column shows total points from sets won and bonuses

THINGS TO NOTE

Individual match details can be found on the website at:

https://www.tabletennis365.com/LondonBanksAndCivilService/Fixtures/Active_Season_21-22/Division_One

COMMENTARY

Week 20

Outcasts haven't had much luck this season and Karma did them no favours by fielding arguably their best team against them. For Karma we had Jason Killip, George Sanders and Frederic Fremion. Outcasts put out Bob Coull, Eddie Roullier and Alan Jones. First set of the night saw the teams' best players face each other. Jason Killip started at pace and took the first end 11-3. Bob Coull then made more of a fight of it but couldn't pose a serious threat, losing the next two ends 11-8. Fremion against Roullier saw both players struggling to maintain a consistent standard of performance. Roullier won the first end by a mile, then lost the second, and could only amass three points in the third end. It seemed odds-on that Fremion would close out the fourth end to win the set but, no, Roullier comes back to pinch the end at deuce. Can't predict the winner! As it turned out, in the final end Fremion got his nose in front to come home 11-8. I'm not keeping count but I doubt anyone in this division has lost more five-enders than Eddie! George Sanders played the first four matches for Karma but then disappeared. His reappearance in this match saw him score a convincing three straight win over Alan Jones. That brought Fremion and Coull to the table. First end to Bob, 14-12, this could be close! Second end to Bob too, this time 11-7. Time for Frederic to up his game. And so he did, winning the third end 11-8. Frederic is still behind and under pressure in a "must win" fourth end. Frederic gave it his best but couldn't get ahead of Coull, eventually losing 11-8. Good win for Bob and Outcasts open their account, but are still 3-1 down. Unfortunately, that proved to be Outcasts lone success as Karma rattled off the next five singles sets, all three straight. Karma took the doubles too, leading to a 9-1 scoreline in their favour. Maximums for Killip and Sanders who were both largely untroubled throughout the night.

Next, the clash of the titans – Comets versus Castaways! Their first half clash was a bit of a damp squib as Castaways only had two players and Comets won 8-2. The team sheets say this should be much closer: Persaud, Fung and Wong against Harris, Bispham, and LeMilliere. I think the odds favour Comets. The way I see it, for Castaways to win Harris has to take three (which is far from certain), Bispham and LeMilliere have to take at least one each, which leaves the doubles as the deciding factor. Harris opens against Wong. This proves to be a really close contest which Harris wins three straight by the narrowest of margins: 13-11, 11-9, 12-10! Perry Fung then takes on LeMilliere. I suspect Comets would see this as a banker win although Neil has beaten Perry in the past. The set didn't last long as Perry eased through it three straight. The next set proved to have a huge influence on the match result. There is nothing in Johnny Bispham's record to suggest he can crush Laikram Persaud three straight – but that's what happened. It wasn't even close! The next set was equally influential. LeMilliere against Wong. This is the one Neil must win if Castaways are to triumph. It proved to be the first set of the night to go beyond the third end. Neil gets the best possible start, winning the first two ends. Winston strikes back in the third end, posting an 11-8 scoreline. Is this going all the way? Not if Neil can help it, as he keeps his head to

come home in front 11-7. The fifth set replays one of the divisions greatest rivalries. Harris takes on Persaud. If history is anything to go by, we might as well begin the set at two ends each. Harris's start looks to defy history as he takes the first two ends! Then something changes as Laikram dominates the third and fourth ends to bring us back to where history says we would get to. Another instance of "win two, lose two". The final end was as close as expected but it was Harris who edged home 11-8. In fairness, Castaways conceded that the luck went Pete's way in that end. Castaways have just won three sets in succession where, on another night, they might have won one! They're 4-1 up! But now the order swings back in Comets' favour. First, Fung beats hero Bispham, followed by Persaud beating LeMilliere. 4-3 to Castaways. Another key set followed as hero Bispham takes on Winston Wong. So far as I know these two have not played each other before. Bispham is having a good night whereas Winston is struggling. Perhaps it was that which influenced the result – a three straight win for Bispham. The final singles set brings together the night's two unbeaten players: Harris and Fung. This is another longstanding rivalry. To my surprise, this was over and done with pretty quickly with Fung storming home three straight. That is only the second time in the last four seasons anyone has beaten Pete three straight (the other was Alex Luk of Morpeth). That means Castaways take a 5-4 lead going into the doubles. Comets win the first two ends, Castaways take the next two. Castaways reach match point at 10-4, only for Comets to haul it back to 10-9. Pressure! At that moment the table tennis Gods made another intervention and granted Castaways a cruel net chord to give them the 6-4 win! Comets first loss of the season! Extraordinary team performance from Castaways. Perry Fung's unbeaten streak extends to 17 straight wins. No one has taken Perry to five ends this season except for his unexpected loss to John Crawford. All in all, a very good match.

Five matches left to play but only one scheduled for next week.

RICHARD CAMPBELL
DIVISIONAL SECRETARY

Issued: 13/03/2022

AVERAGES (Qualification: ≥13 sets played)

Player	Team	Sets Won	Sets Played	Average (%)
Fung	COMETS	22	23	95.7
Catt	NAT WEST	20	21	95.2
Harris	CASTAWAYS	16	18	88.9
Persaud	COMETS	20	23	87.0
Fagan	COMETS	13	16	81.3
Bekele	MORPETH A	17	22	77.3
Wong	COMETS	13	18	72.2
Francis	COMETS	9	13	69.2
Bispham	CASTAWAYS	9	15	60.0
Sanders	GOOD KARMA	9	15	60.0
LeMilliere	CASTAWAYS	17	30	56.7
Muller	NAT WEST	13	24	54.2
Robertson	MORPETH A	10	19	52.6
Herbert	NAT WEST	12	24	50.0
Coull	OUTCASTS	7	15	46.7
Turner	PRO	12	27	44.4
Crawford	PRO	13	30	43.3
Alnak	MORPETH A	6	14	42.9
Link	GOOD KARMA	6	21	28.6
Persaud	PRO	4	15	26.7
Jones	NAT WEST	9	36	25.0

Zhao	GOOD KARMA	3	21	14.3
Roullier	OUTCASTS	2	18	11.1