

LONDON BANKS AND CIVIL SERVICE TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE BULLETIN 09

AS AT 5 FEBRUARY 2023

	P	W	D	F	A	B	P
COMETS A	8	7	0	63	17	24	87
NAT WEST	9	6	2	58	32	27	85
CASTAWAYS	8	5	2	57	23	24	81
MORPETH A	9	3	3	48	42	27	75
OUTCASTS	9	2	0	30	60	27	57
COMETS B	7	3	1	32	38	21	53
PRO	8	2	2	29	51	24	53
GOOD KARMA	8	0	0	13	67	24	37

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_22-23/Division_One
- Check out the photos on the front page of the website under Featured Photos. Is your team there?

COMMENTARY

Week 18

Not a full week of fixtures with matches postponed because of the train strike etc. All that remained were two “top versus bottom” fixtures where Karma and Outcasts sought to take points off teams which, on paper, look to have the advantage on them. First up is Karma versus Morpeth. Morpeth are going through a nice little run of form at the moment and won the first half match at a canter. Alnak, Brown and, this week, Chris Alexander for Morpeth. Karma have Sanders, Miller and, for the second time this season, Dan Shoop. The first round of sets all went Morpeth’s way, each of them in four ends. In none of them did Karma look outclassed but Morpeth always seemed to have the edge. The fourth set – Sanders against Alnak – looked to be going the same way when Adam won the first end 11-7. But that signalled a complete change of fortune as George took the next three ends, in each case by just a couple of points, to claim Karma’s first victory. Unfortunately, success was short lived as Morpeth rolled off the next five sets comfortably, dropping one end in total. That brought up the best singles set of the night as Michael Miller and Duncan Brown fought out a really close contest. After three ends Brown had his nose in front. The fourth end went the other way with Michael winning 11-8. Hard to pick the winner at this point. The fifth end was close all the way and culminated at deuce. Now Michael’s having a very successful season in Division 2 of the North Middlesex league but is finding it harder to win sets in this league. And that’s how it worked out, with Brown taking the last two points for a narrow win. Tough luck Michael! I’m always perplexed when a team registers a runaway victory and then loses the doubles but that’s what happened here. Brown and Alnak seemed to be running away with the doubles and might well have won it in four ends but suddenly Sanders and Miller started to win all the rallies and pulled off an unlikely victory 11-7 in the fifth. 8-2 to Morpeth but not for the first time this season I thought Karma deserved more.

The other match this week saw Outcasts entertain Nat West. Outcasts fielded one of their stronger teams with Bob Coull, Simon Jameson and the unbeaten Nabil Chair. Groans from Outcasts as they find their opponents Nat West also have a strong team out too -Adam Johnson, Simon Jameson and the unbeaten Chris Penrose. Something’s got to give here! First set and it’s the clash of the two unbeaten players! The first end suggests just how close this is going to be as Chris just edges it 13-11. Hard to know quite what happened after that but Chris got better and better and won more and more points to emerge a three-straight winner, holding Nabil to just ten points in the last two ends! The second set underlined that Nat West are not just a one-man team as Adam Johnson brushed off Bob Coull’s challenge in four ends. The third end started in the same vein, a 11-9 win for

Nat West's Gareth Jones over Simon Jameson. But, just like the first set, everything then changed and Simon walked away with the next three ends for a comfortable win that didn't look likely in the first end. 2-1 to Nat West. From then on, Nat West pulled further and further away. Penrose had no trouble with Coull or Jameson. Johnson gave a dominant performance over Jameson and sandwiched between those wins Chair got the better of Jones, though it needed four ends. Jones's best chances came against Coull in a close set where, after three narrowly won ends, Bob came out the winner. The final singles set – Chair against Johnson - was the best of the night. It required all five ends, including three deuce ends, to find a winner. It also required 102 points. It was evenly poised after the first two ends were completed. Nabil takes the lead after the third end, winning it 12-10. The fourth end was even closer as Adam comes perilously close to defeat before winning the end 13-11. In the fifth end the players could still not be separated. If a draw was a legitimate ending in table tennis that might have been the fairest result. But an outright winner has to be found and at 12-10 in the fifth the winner emerged. And that winner was Adam! Well done to Adam and very bad luck for Nabil. The night ended with a one-sided doubles victory for Nat West which took the final match score to 7-3 in Nat West's favour. Maximums for Penrose and Johnson offsetting three losses for Jones, who's going through a barren patch at the moment.

With that win, Nat West move into second place albeit with one more match played than their rivals. Karma are adrift at the bottom but above them PRO, Comets B and Outcasts are all within a few points of each other. In the averages, Chris Penrose is now the only player with a perfect record intact. Next week, Castaways have a chance to narrow the gap on Comets A while Nat West face the unpredictable but potentially dangerous Comets B.

RICHARD CAMPBELL
DIVISIONAL SECRETARY

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AVERAGES (Qualification: ≥ 10 sets played)

Player	Team	Sets Won	Sets Played	Average (%)
Penrose	NAT WEST	18	18	100.0
Persaud	COMETS A	11	12	91.7
Chair	OUTCASTS	10	12	83.3
Loveder	CASTAWAYS	10	12	83.3
S Fagan	COMETS A	15	20	75.0
Wong	COMETS A	9	12	75.0
LeMilliere	CASTAWAYS	17	24	70.8
Francis	COMETS A	12	17	70.6
Bispham	CASTAWAYS	14	21	66.7
Turner	PRO	14	21	66.7
Miuccio	MORPETH A	7	11	63.6
Alnak	MORPETH A	9	15	60.0
Herbert	NAT WEST	7	12	58.3
Crawford	PRO	10	18	55.6
Brown	MORPETH A	14	26	53.8
Coull	OUTCASTS	7	15	46.7
Jones	NAT WEST	9	21	42.9
To	MORPETH A	5	14	35.7
Bhangoo	COMETS B	4	12	33.3
Jameson	OUTCASTS	3	12	25.0
Persaud	PRO	3	18	16.7
Roullier	OUTCASTS	2	12	16.7
Zhao	GOOD KARMA	2	12	16.7
Buck	PRO	1	15	6.7

