

AS AT 10 NOVEMBER 2024

	P	W	D	F	A	B	P
MORPETH A	4	4	0	31	9	12	43
COMETS A	3	3	0	29	1	9	38
CASTAWAYS	4	2	2	26	14	12	38
COMETS B	3	1	0	15	15	9	24
NAT WEST	3	1	1	12	18	9	21
COMETS C	4	0	0	5	35	12	17
PRO	3	0	1	8	22	9	17
OUTCASTS	2	0	0	4	16	6	10

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\\_24-25/Division\\_One](https://www.tabletennis365.com/LondonBanksAndCivilService/Fixtures/Active_Season_24-25/Division_One)

- Check out the photos on the front page of the website under Featured Photos. Is your team there?
- Want a trip down memory lane? Every weekly bulletin issued since the 2014-15 season can be found on the website under the “Div Sec Reports” heading

## COMMENTARY

### Week 05

I like what Morpeth are doing in this division. They are a big club, well capable of cruising undefeated through the division but instead they are fielding players that always give others teams a chance. This week they faced PRO and strengthened their team, with Duncan Brown, Jens Marott and Simon Holohan. PRO put out Crawford, Turner and last year’s debutant for PRO, Oliver Pink. Opening contest looks to be close with Crawford facing Marott. We don’t yet have a gauge on how strong Jens is. He did beat Adesanya, on the basis of which he ought to be the winner here. First end goes to John. As does the second – both ends concluding at 11-8. Time’s running out for Jens. He needs this end. But, for the third time, it’s John who comes home in front with an untroubled scoreline 11-6. A surprisingly run-of-the-mill victory for PRO and they lead 1-0. The next set involved Duncan Brown and Oliver Pink. The first two ends were shared. The next two ends were close but also shared. We’re in the fifth and it’s Duncan who inches in front. And that’s how it finished. A win for Brown, 11-5 in the fifth. Ronnie Turner then takes on the Morpeth number one, Simon Holohan. The first two ends are shared and show all the signs of a close set. The third end goes to Simon, a comfortable 11-5. That doesn’t trouble Ronnie as he counters with an 11-3 fourth end win. No idea who has the upper hand here. The answer is Simon, easing away to 11-6 victory. Unlucky Ronnie! John Crawford then made the match score 2-2 with a four-end defeat of Duncan Brown. So far, we’ve not seen a one-sided set but we’re about to! All over in a handful of minutes, just 11 points won by the loser. The two players concerned are Jens Marott and Ronnie Turner. So who’s the player in a hurry? It was Jens, registering this emphatic win. Don’t think I’ve ever seen Ronnie beaten that badly before! Having lost his first set in five, Oliver Pink returns to the table to see if he can go one better. But his opponent is Simon Holohan so this won’t be easy. Oliver is giving it all he’s got and he’s in front after three ends. Simon stages a comeback to win the fourth. Will the decisive end go Oliver’s way? Unfortunately not, and by the narrowest of margins, it’s Simon who registers his second win, 11-9 in the fifth! PRO are falling behind! On a night of narrow victories, the next set proved to be the narrowest of all. Turner takes the first end off Brown 12-10. The next two ends are shared so Duncan has to win the fourth. This really could go either way. The winner of the end, by 13-11, is Duncan! And so the set continues. It took five ends and 102 points to find the

winner – the longest set of the season thus far. The winner was Ronnie Turner! Well played to both participants! In the next set Holohan won his third set of the night, beating Crawford in a seesaw four ends. Finally, Oliver Pink completed a luckless night – 13 ends played but nothing to show for it – losing to Marott. Good effort though! Which takes us to the doubles and, as might be expected, it needed all five ends before Morpeth emerged the winners. A 7-3 win for Morpeth in a match where they always seemed to have a small advantage. Six sets went the distance in a highly competitive match!

Castaways versus Nat West. Now here's a match that looks destined to be a draw. LeMilliere, Bispham and Loveder against Adam Johnston, Gareth Jones and Les Samuels. Johnson opens for Nat West facing LeMilliere. H2H record suggests Adam wins this but not by a mile. He's ahead after three ends but Neil comes back to win the fourth. Closer than I expected! At that point things shifted and suddenly every point was going to Adam. What looked like being a close finish ended up as a runaway win for Adam, 11-2 in the fifth. Two routine wins followed: Bispham proved too good for Jones and Loveder made light work of Samuels three straight. Next comes a "hard to predict" set – Bispham against Johnson. The score reached one end all before Johnson won a game-changing third end 12-10. After that, Adam never looked back, taking the fourth end comfortably and with it, the set. Les Samuels continued Nat West's good run of form with a dominant win over LeMilliere. But the run stopped there as Loveder overcame stiff resistance from Gareth Jones to beat him 11-4 in the fifth in a come-from-behind win. Five more ends were needed before a winner could be found between Bispham and Samuels. It didn't look that way initially as Samuels won the first two ends and looked well on his way to a straightforward victory. Bispham came back to take the third and fourth ends before Samuels regained his composure to close out the set 11-8 in the fifth. Nat West are leading 5-3. LeMilliere against Jones in set eight. If this goes to form it should be a LeMilliere win. The first two ends go LeMilliere's way but with only a couple of points in it. The third end also went to LeMilliere by a more comfortable 11-4 margin and Castaways need the doubles for a draw. This should be close; the pairings are very even. You'd think this could easily go to five ends but it didn't. It collapsed into a one-sided three straight loss. The winner was Castaways, securing the draw. Although the match result was in doubt until the very end it wasn't a night packed with close sets and narrow finishes.

Final match sees Comets B take on Comets C. It's been a fairly slow start for both these teams. The B team put out Sultani, Bhangoo and Adesanya. The C team comprises Greg Gargrupe, Anoop Sharma and Eric Woo. First set sees Gargrupe take on Sultani. Sultani is another player where we don't yet have an accurate gauge on his strength. He did raise eyebrows after his maximum against Castaways. He's clearly in a hurry tonight conceding a meagre 12 points in winning his first set. Next up is Sharma against Bhangoo. After three ends, Bhangoo was in front. In the fourth end things got very tight. The score reached 10-10 and then 11-11. After that things ground to a halt at 13-11, as Bhangoo took the next two points to pull off the win in four. Adesanya then completed the first round of sets with a comfortable win over Woo. The next four sets all finished three straight. Sharma lost to Sultani but two of the ends finished 12-10. Eric Woo then opened the C team's account with a convincing win over Bhangoo while Adesanya polished off Sharma in double quick time. The score is 6-1 to the B team. Eric Woo against Hejran Sultani came next and was the most interesting set of the night. A marathon first end finished at 13-11 in Woo's favour. Eric took the second end too, 11-8. Is Sultani's perfect record about to go? In the third end the momentum started to change as Sultani won it 11-7. The fourth end was very close but Sultani managed to thwart Woo's push for a win, coming home 11-9. This is as close a set as I've seen for a while – there's very little between the players! The final end was equally tense. The score reached 9-9 before Sultani won the next two points and the set. 100 points played in a really competitive tussle. Final singles set saw Bhangoo beat Gargrupe in three mighty close ends. In a way, that set told the story of this match. The outcome was 9-1 to the B team but it was a lot closer than that. I think these two teams might pull off some surprise results over the weeks ahead.

**RICHARD CAMPBELL**  
**DIVISIONAL SECRETARY**

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**AVERAGES (Qualification:  $\geq 4$  sets played)**

<b>Player</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>Sets Won</b>	<b>Sets Played</b>	<b>Average (%)</b>
To	MORPETH A	9	9	100.0
Persaud	COMETS A	8	8	100.0
Holohan	MORPETH A	6	6	100.0
Sultani	COMETS B	6	6	100.0
C Fagan	COMETS A	5	5	100.0
Marott	MORPETH A	5	6	83.3
Francis	COMETS A	4	5	80.0
Brown	MORPETH A	6	9	66.7
Adesanya	COMETS B	4	6	66.7
Johnson	NAT WEST	4	6	66.7
Crawford	PRO	5	9	55.6
LeMilliere	CASTAWAYS	5	10	50.0
Loveder	CASTAWAYS	4	8	50.0
Bhangoo	COMETS B	3	6	50.0
Bispham	CASTAWAYS	3	8	37.5
Turner	PRO	3	9	33.3
Alexander	MORPETH A	1	6	16.7
Coull	OUTCASTS	1	6	16.7
Sharma	COMETS C	1	6	16.7
Islam	COMETS C	1	9	11.1