

LONDON BANKS AND CIVIL SERVICE TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE BULLETIN 15

AS AT 19 MARCH 2023

	P	W	D	F	A	B	P
COMETS A	14	13	0	115	25	42	157
CASTAWAYS	14	8	3	88	52	42	130
NAT WEST	14	8	3	83	57	42	125
MORPETH A	14	5	3	74	66	42	116
COMETS B	13	8	1	69	61	39	108
PRO	14	2	3	48	92	42	90
OUTCASTS	13	3	0	42	88	39	81
GOOD KARMA	12	0	1	21	99	36	57

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 24

It's been a hard second half for Castaways, bedevilled by injuries and struggling to find three fit players. They had to fulfil their final match against Comets B to guarantee themselves second place. So, a reluctant Castaways, with just two players, LeMilliere and Loveder, faced Comets B. Both Castaways players had good personal reasons not to want to be there but the match nevertheless went ahead. Comets turned out Tai Luu and David Adesanya plus a very interesting newcomer Jamie Mullineaux. Jamie plays most of his table tennis in the Central League but I'd expect him to achieve 70%+ in this division. The first three sets suggest this is going to be a humdinger. LeMilliere was ahead of Luu after three ends. Luu dominates the fourth end and carries that momentum into the fifth to take the deciding end 11-6. Mike Loveder then took on Mullineaux and looked to have the set won, going 2-1 up and with every chance at deuce in the fourth. But Jamie managed to pinch the end 15-13 to keep the set alive. Very interesting final end and it's Loveder who emerges victorious 11-6 in the fifth. Good game and good win, involving 101 points. LeMilliere then took on Adesanya and was soon two ends up. Just like the previous set, Neil had chances to win it at deuce in the fourth but again Comets held out to win the end 16-14. The deciding end was very close but Adesanya kept going to win it 11-9. Another century of points involved – 102 points in this case. Loveder won a second set, beating Luu in four ends but, with the match running late, and both Castaways' players wanting to get away, the remaining sets all went Comets' way. A good 8-2 win for Comets and an unbeaten night for Adesanya with two good wins.

So, if you needed a stack of points to secure sixth place, which team wouldn't you want to play? How about a team you had only managed to take a total of four points from in the last seven attempts? That was the nightmare scenario PRO faced in their clash with Comets A. PRO fielded the usual: Crawford, Buck and Turner. Comets A put out a "weak" team: Laikram Persaud, Ian Francis and Winston Wong. When Crawford took the first end off Wong you couldn't help wonder if the impossible might be possible. But those hopes were quickly dashed as Winston ran off the next three ends to take the first set. Unfortunately, after that, 18 further ends were played before PRO won their second end. The hero was Ronnie Turner, taking the first end off Ian Francis. But the set went the same way as the earlier Crawford set as Ian took the next three ends, albeit two of them were very close. In that run of 18 lost ends there was one near miss, Turner holding points to take an end off Persaud before losing it 16-14. The match score was 9-0 as the doubles began. It has been a strange feature of this season that teams having won the great majority of the singles sets have often inexplicably lost the doubles. Well, that's exactly

what happened here! Crawford and Turner pitted their two out of six doubles record against Francis and “not lost a doubles all season” Persaud. The fact PRO won was stunning enough but when I tell you it was three straight and PRO dropped just 21 points you could be forgiven for calling for a drugs test! A 9-1 outcome but will that single point be sufficient to stop Outcasts pinching PRO’s sixth place finish?? We wait to see!

Two matches remain in order to complete the season. It will be a few weeks before that happens and so the next bulletin will not be before April.

RICHARD CAMPBELL
DIVISIONAL SECRETARY
Issued: 19/03/2023

AVERAGES (Qualification: ≥ 16 sets played)

Player	Team	Sets Won	Sets Played	Average (%)
Persaud	COMETS A	20	21	95.2
Penrose	NAT WEST	22	24	91.7
C Fagan	COMETS A	18	20	90.0
Wong	COMETS A	15	18	83.3
Francis	COMETS A	25	32	78.1
S Fagan	COMETS A	24	32	75.0
Adesanya	COMETS B	19	26	73.1
Loveder	CASTAWAYS	15	21	71.4
Miuccio	MORPETH A	11	16	68.8
Bispham	CASTAWAYS	18	27	66.7
McKee	CASTAWAYS	14	21	66.7
Luu	COMETS B	13	20	65.0
LeMilliere	CASTAWAYS	27	42	64.3
Chair	OUTCASTS	13	21	61.9
Herbert	NAT WEST	11	18	61.1
Crawford	PRO	20	36	55.6
Brown	MORPETH A	19	35	54.3
Coull	OUTCASTS	9	18	50.0
Turner	PRO	16	33	48.5
To	MORPETH A	11	25	44.0
Jones	NAT WEST	14	33	42.4
Bhangoo	COMETS B	11	27	40.7
Alexander	MORPETH A	6	17	35.3
Miller	GOOD KARMA	6	21	28.6
Persaud	PRO	7	30	23.3
Roullier	OUTCASTS	2	18	11.1
Buck	PRO	1	27	3.7