

LONDON BANKS AND CIVIL SERVICE TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE BULLETIN 03

AS AT 5 NOVEMBER 2021

	P	W	D	F	A	B	P
COMETS	3	3	0	25	5	9	34
MORPETH A	2	2	0	14	6	6	20
OUTCASTS	2	1	0	6	14	6	12
PRO	2	0	0	6	14	6	12
CASTAWAYS	1	0	0	4	6	3	7
NAT WEST	1	0	0	3	7	3	6
GOOD KARMA	1	0	0	2	8	3	5

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 3

Just one match to report on this week - Good Karma's first match of the season, against Comets. Looking at the team selections – Wong, Francis Persaud against George Sanders, Ben Link and Xavier Zhao – you'd have to think Karma would do well to take even one set. That prospect appeared to be a reality as Comets raced out to a 7-0 lead. In those seven sets, Karma won two ends. Ben Link took an end off Ian Francis, as did George Sanders. Francis's wins in both those sets were by no means easy. His scores were 11-7, 9-11, 11-9, 11-9 against Link and even closer against Sanders: 12-10, 13-11, 11-13, 11-4. Set eight saw Sanders take on Laikram Persaud. Laikram was having one of those nights when he seems to crush everything before him. At that point he was conceding an average of five point an end. He took the first end comfortably by 11-6. The second end went to Sanders by 11-7. At this point we're expecting Laikram to raise his game but surprisingly it was George who won the third end 11-8. Sanders leads by two ends to one but the formbook says a Sanders' win still remains a huge long shot. We're in the vital fourth end and, hard to believe, Laikram's not pulling away! A few minutes later those who always support the underdog were whooping with joy! George had pulled off a stunning win 11-6 in the fourth! That clearly ranks as the win of the season thus far and it will take some beating. Up stepped Ben Link to take on Winston Wong. The first end goes to Ben by 11-8. We're not going to get another upset are we? Two ends later – both won by Winston – normal service appeared to have resumed. In the fourth end Ben squared the match and we're going to a deciding end. Again, the formbook says you must bet on Winston. But, for the second time, the formbook was proved wrong and it's Ben who emerges victorious! A good contest involving 97 points and an impressive success for Ben. He has form against Comets having posted a standout win over Steve Fagan last season. Those two successes were all Karma could salvage from the match - an 8-2 win for Comets who are building a lead at the top of the table. That match saw the end of Persaud's and Wong's 100 per cent records. That leaves just three players with a perfect record. I know it's early days, and statistics can be odd when there's just seven teams, but it's highly unusual to be down to just three players this early in a season.

Next week is scheduled as a free week but we've got one postponed match pencilled in. PRO are due to take on Nat West. What does the formbook say about that fixture? It says it all depends on team selection. If Nat West field their star players – Tony Catt, Adam Johnson or Chris Penrose – it could be one-way traffic. If not, PRO should take sets. Either way it's hard to foresee any outcome beyond a Nat West win. But, as we've seen this week, the formbook is far from infallible!

RICHARD CAMPBELL

AVERAGES (Qualification: ≥ 3 sets played)

Player	Team	Sets Won	Sets Played	Average (%)
Coull	OUTCASTS	3	3	100.0
Fung	COMETS	3	3	100.0
Harris	CASTAWAYS	3	3	100.0
Wong	COMETS	8	9	88.9
Francis	COMETS	5	6	83.3
Persaud	COMETS	5	6	83.3
Bekele	MORPETH A	4	5	80.0
Blyuss	MORPETH A	2	3	66.7
Brown	MORPETH A	2	3	66.7
Fagan	COMETS	2	3	66.7
Crawford	PRO	3	6	50.0
Alnak	MORPETH A	1	2	50.0
Robertson	MORPETH A	1	2	50.0
Guimichev	OUTCASTS	2	6	33.3
Herbert	NAT WEST	1	3	33.3
Link	GOOD KARMA	1	3	33.3
Muller	NAT WEST	1	3	33.3
Persaud	PRO	1	3	33.3
Roullier	OUTCASTS	1	3	33.3
Sanders	GOOD KARMA	1	3	33.3
Turner	PRO	1	6	16.7