

# LONDON BANKS AND CIVIL SERVICE TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE BULLETIN 07

AS AT 22 JANUARY 2023

	<b>P</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>P</b>
COMETS A	7	6	0	55	15	21	76
CASTAWAYS	7	4	2	51	19	21	72
NAT WEST	7	5	1	46	24	21	67
MORPETH A	7	2	3	36	34	21	57
OUTCASTS	7	2	0	24	46	21	45
PRO	7	2	1	24	46	21	45
COMETS B	6	2	1	25	35	18	43
GOOD KARMA	6	0	0	9	51	18	27

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](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 16

[Comets B versus Karma was postponed.]

The second half begins with Castaways against PRO. No surprises in the team selections: LeMilliere, Bispham and McKee take on Crawford, Turner and Persaud. The opening set brought McKee and Crawford to the table. The first two ends are mighty close, going to John 14-12 and 12-10 respectively. A few minutes later the third end also concluded at deuce but it was Terry ahead this time 12-10. That's a lot of points played already. Heading for the longest set of the season?? The fourth end proved to be conclusive – John opened a narrow gap and maintained it to come home an 11-7 winner. A good win and an excellent start for PRO. The next set had all the makings of a close finish – Bispham against Turner. Both had an excellent first half, with Turner holding the superior average. Yet it didn't look to be close after the first two ends which Ronnie motored through quite comfortably. Johnny gets an end back in the third, winning 11-8. And continues that progress into the fourth but then found himself dicing with death at 10-10. Luck was on his side and Johnny hangs in there taking the next two points. A nail-biting deciding end was in prospect and it didn't disappoint. The players traded points all the way to 10-10. This is going to be a heart-break loss for someone! No track record to guide us as these two have not met each other before. We didn't have long to wait for the outcome as Bispham took the next two points to pull out an impressive come-from-behind victory. Close contest! This match involves a lot of old rivalries and the next set – LeMilliere against Persaud – is a good example. Over the years, the balance is in Neil's favour but somehow Jai always gives him more trouble than you'd expect. Indeed, last season, Jai did the double over Neil! Another fast start by PRO as Jai takes the first two ends comfortably. Neil digs in and wins the third 11-8 and the fourth 11-7. Everybody's gearing up for a closely fought final end but it's over in no time at all. The Persaud challenge collapses and Neil comes home 11-3 in the fifth. PRO had just lost two sets they might have won. Things calmed a little in the next two sets, Bispham beating Crawford, and McKee beating Persaud, both in four ends. LeMilliere returns to the table for another potentially close battle, against Turner. The first three ends each finished 11-8: two went to Ronnie and one to Neil. Ronnie's knocking on the door in the fourth and holds a match point. Neil saves that match point with a fortuitous net cord and suddenly we're into the fifth. Who will emerge victorious? The answer is Neil, his second fifth-end win of the night! That five-end contest means Turner overtakes Bob Coull as the player who's gone to five most often so far this season. Bispham then beat Persaud

and Castaways lead 6-1, yet strangely PRO had won the first end in every one of those seven singles! Good start, bad finish! The one-way traffic continued through the remainder of the night. Crawford put up strong resistance against LeMilliere but with no joy. McKee completed a luckless night for Turner, beating him in four and the doubles went comfortably to Castaways. In the match, PRO began 1-0 up and lost 9-1! In their defence, not much went their way and on another it might have ended 6-3 or even closer.

Next match is all-conquering Comets A against Nat West. Comets field Steve Fagan, Francis and Wong. Nat West turn out Penrose, Muller and Herbert. No Laikram Persaud or Cain Fagan (playing elsewhere) for Comets. Immediately that looks a risk to me. If Nat West are on form this will be close. Penrose opens with a commanding three straight win over Wong. That's followed by Ian Francis against Andrew Muller. The first two ends were shared. Andrew takes the third and then takes the fourth to claim an excellent win. Things are going Nat West's way! The third set looks to me like a "must win" for Comets: Fagan against Herbert. Again, the first two ends were shared. The vital third end was close but just goes Steve's way 11-9. Having got his nose in front, Steve stayed there to win the fourth end comfortably. Comets are in the match! Next set and Nat West increase their lead as, despite a strong showing from Ian Francis, Penrose comes home three straight. That brings up Wong against Herbert. When they played each other last season, Winston crushed Chris in the first half, losing just 12 points. But Chris got revenge in the second half, outlasting Winston for a 11-6 in the fifth win. Should be interesting! The first two ends both go Chris's way. Winston fights back to take the third end. It's now or never for Winston but the challenge proves too much for him and Chris wins it 11-7. Nat West are an emphatic 4-1 up. Might this be Comets first loss? There's still another Penrose set to count on! Comets stage a revival with Fagan beating Muller, followed by a crucial win for Francis over Herbert. It's 4-3 to Nat West. This is the moment for Steve Fagan to cover himself in glory, or not, as he faces Penrose. Well, if you've settled in to watch a close contest, you'd have been disappointed. Chris just blew him away, winning three straight, dropping a mere 13 points! Nat West get to five! Winston Wong then keeps Comets in the match with a vital win over Muller. 5-4 to Nat West and it's all on the doubles. Fagan and Francis take on Penrose and Muller. Once again, a potentially close set just evaporated as the Nat West pair romped home three straight. 6-4 to Nat West and Comets' unbeaten run comes to an end. That blows the title race wide open. Good team performance by Nat West and by Chris Penrose in particular. The close result came about in an unusual way that didn't involve many close sets. Only four sets continued beyond the third end and, for the second time this season, all six participants won at least one set.

**RICHARD CAMPBELL**  
**DIVISIONAL SECRETARY**  
Issued: 22/01/2023

**AVERAGES (Qualification: ≥ 8 sets played)**

<b>Player</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>Sets Won</b>	<b>Sets Played</b>	<b>Average (%)</b>
Penrose	NAT WEST	15	15	100.0
McKee	CASTAWAYS	8	9	88.9
Persaud	COMETS A	8	9	88.9
C Fagan	COMETS A	7	8	87.5
Loveder	CASTAWAYS	7	9	77.8
Wong	COMETS A	7	9	77.8
S Fagan	COMETS A	13	17	76.5
LeMilliere	CASTAWAYS	16	21	76.2
Bispham	CASTAWAYS	13	18	72.2
Francis	COMETS A	12	17	70.6
Turner	PRO	12	18	66.7

Alnak	MORPETH A	6	9	66.7
Miuccio	MORPETH A	5	8	62.5
Jones	NAT WEST	9	15	60.0
Herbert	NAT WEST	7	12	58.3
Crawford	PRO	8	15	53.3
Brown	MORPETH A	10	20	50.0
Coull	OUTCASTS	6	12	50.0
Guimichev	OUTCASTS	4	9	44.4
Luu	COMETS B	4	9	44.4
To	MORPETH A	5	14	35.7
Bhangoo	COMETS B	4	12	33.3
Muller	NAT WEST	3	9	33.3
Jameson	OUTCASTS	2	9	22.2
Roullier	OUTCASTS	2	9	22.2
Zhao	GOOD KARMA	2	12	16.7
Persaud	PRO	2	15	13.3
Jones	OUTCASTS	1	9	11.1
Link	GOOD KARMA	1	9	11.1
Buck	PRO	1	15	6.7