

# LONDON BANKS AND CIVIL SERVICE TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE BULLETIN 05

AS AT 20 NOVEMBER 2021

	<b>P</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>P</b>
COMETS	3	3	0	25	5	9	34
MORPETH A	3	3	0	23	7	9	32
PRO	4	0	1	14	26	12	26
NAT WEST	3	1	1	15	15	9	24
OUTCASTS	3	1	0	7	23	9	16
CASTAWAYS	2	0	1	9	11	6	15
GOOD KARMA	2	0	1	7	13	6	13

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](https://www.tabletennis365.com/LondonBanksAndCivilService/Fixtures/Active_Season_21-22/Division_One)

## COMMENTARY

### Week 5

[In what follows mention is made of Outcasts' Tony Jennison. His details were not available to add to the website so, for the time being, Brian Lees' name has been used instead i.e. on the website, read "Tony Jennison" for "Brian Lees". The website will be corrected when Tony's details are obtained.]

Outcasts versus Morpeth begins this week's round of matches and we welcome back Tony Jennison, playing for Outcasts. Tony plays most of his table tennis for Ashford in the Staines League (where, incidentally, Winston Wong plays too). Tony last appeared in our League in 2004. Guess how many players Tony might have met in 2004 who are still playing in the league today? Answer below. For the second time this season Morpeth got a head start as Outcasts could only field two players: Tony and Eddie Roullier. Morpeth were represented by Bekele, Blyuss and Matt Robertson who began the night with a three-straight defeat of Roullier. In the next set Jennison went down to Oleg Blyuss, again three straight. Outcasts picked up their first end of the night as Roullier stretched Bekele to four ends. Then came the closest set of the night as Jennison went two ends to one up on Robertson before Matt squared the set with an 11-5 fourth end win. Into the deciding end and this is going to be close. The score reached 10-9 to Jennison and the next point went his way too to secure the win. Five ends and 88 points. Morpeth rattled off the remaining sets for a 9-1 victory. That keeps the pressure up on Comets at the top of the division.

Karma surprised me in their match against PRO. This is a team that had a huge squad last year – ten players – and was constantly bringing in newcomers. Yet in their second match this year they picked exactly the same players as appeared in their first match! More surprise in the first set as George Sanders eased by John Crawford in a comfortable three straight win. George lost the corresponding match last season! Ben Link then made it 2-0 to Karma with a similar three straight defeat of George Buck. The match continued out of order as Ron Turner had not arrived. Crawford took on Xavier Zhou and the three-straight trend continued as he quickly dispatched Xavier. Next up George Buck took the first end against Sanders, a long, hard-fought end that ended at 13-11. But that marked end of close competition as Sanders ran off the next three ends for the loss of 13 points. Enter Ron Turner for his first set – against Ben Link. These two were involved in a good contest last year when Ron was playing for Comets. Ben was the winner on that occasion. Ron makes the perfect start winning the first two ends. The third end went point for point all the way to deuce before Ben stayed in the match with a 12-10 win. The fourth end held more surprises as suddenly point after point went Ron's way and in a blink of an eye, he sat down the 11-2 winner! The match score was 3-2 in Karma's favour. Sets six and seven were arguably the high spots of the night. Both sets went the full distance. First, Zhou and Buck were involved in a real ding-dong in which Buck came back from two ends down to level the set only to fall at the last hurdle, going down 11-8. Karma edge

towards the winning line. Set seven brought together the two players thus far unbeaten on the night: Sanders against Turner. Ron gets the better of the first three ends. Sanders takes the fourth and we're in the deciding end and it's hard to pick a winner. When the dust settled it was Turner who took the honours, 11-7 in the fifth after 95 points! PRO then went in front for the first time in the match as Turner beat Zhou. The final singles set started out really close – first end to Link 13-11 and the second end to Crawford 12-10. At that point the contest took an unpredicted turn with two runaway ends – 11-2 to Crawford followed by 11-4 to Link. I've no idea who's going to win this! The answer proved to be John Crawford in another runaway end 11-5! Table tennis at its most unpredictable! PRO had come from 2-4 down to 5-4 up. The doubles was the fourth set of the night to require all five ends to resolve. This was the closest match of the season so far, ending fittingly in a draw as Karma staged a come-from-behind win to take the doubles 11-6 in the fifth. All in all a really good match, notable for the extreme changes of fortune from one end to the next. Special mention for Turner's maximum that spearheaded the PRO effort.

There are less than a handful of players in this division who have ever beaten Pete Harris but Pete came up against one of them – Tony Catt - in Castaways' match against Nat West. This is the sort of match either team must win if they are to challenge for the title. The contest started uneventfully with Harris beating Andrew Muller, Gareth Jones getting the better of Norman Grant in four (important win that), and Catt a bit too good for Neil LeMilliere. 2-1 to Nat West after the first round of sets. Set four saw Jones put up a good display against Harris, losing in four but closer than I'd anticipated. Andrew Muller then lost three straight to LeMilliere, but this was closer than the last time they played, and Catt beat Grant by the same scoreline (though this too was by no means one sided). The match score moves to 3-3 after the second round of sets. This match is heading for a draw, albeit there are many permutations of results that might take us there. A hero needs to emerge! The first chance to be that hero falls to Gareth Jones who is facing his Central League teammate, Neil LeMilliere. I think Neil must be the odds-on favourite here if past performances are anything to go by. After three ends it was indeed Neil who took the win but there was only a couple of points in it in each end. This takes us to the highlight of the show – Catt versus Harris. This really is a 50:50 set. Harris is first out of the blocks taking the first two ends. It surely can't be this easy! And so it proves to be, as the third end goes to Catt 11-8. In the fourth end, Catt is dicing with death as he successfully negotiates two match points held by Harris. Heart in the mouth time as the score reaches 12-12 when, against the odds, Catt takes the next two points and we're all square! The final end was again close but it's Tony Catt who takes it 11-9 in the fifth. Excellent win! 102 hard fought points – pity there has to be a loser! Another chance for a hero to emerge in the next set as Muller is up against Grant – both winless at this point. Muller takes the first end but more see-saw drama as Grant takes the next two. Muller levels the match in the fourth end 11-9 but this is nail biting close. In the fifth end daylight starts to appear between the two players as Grant accelerates ahead. Suddenly he's up 10-7 and it looks all over. 10-7 becomes 10-8, then 10-9 and unbelievably 10-10! But it didn't stop there as 10-10 became 11-10 to Muller and finally 12-10. We have our hero! Andrew saves three match points and steals the win. To illustrate how close it was, Andrew won 48 points over the five ends and Norman won 50 points yet lost the set! Nat West lead the match 5-4. Perhaps it was inevitable after all that drama that the doubles set proved to be a quiet affair which Castaways won three straight thereby salvaging a draw. A good match that really came alive in the last few sets. Lots to talk about in the pub! Probably not the result either team wanted if they are to stay close to Comets and Morpeth.

All in all, a highly competitive week's table tennis resulting in two drawn matches. The last time that happened was three years' ago!

Answer to the Tony Jennison question above:

There are 11 players still playing in the league who were also playing in 2004. They are:

George Buck, Chris Herbert, Pete Harris, Ken Mowatt, Winston Wong, Neil LeMilliere, Gareth Jones, Andrew Macalister, John Crawford, Ronnie Turner and Jai Persaud. Long service award to PRO whose team today is virtually the same as it was in 2004!

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

**AVERAGES (Qualification: ≥3 sets played)**

<b>Player</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>Sets Won</b>	<b>Sets Played</b>	<b>Average (%)</b>
Catt	NAT WEST	6	6	100.0
Coull	OUTCASTS	3	3	100.0
Fung	COMETS	3	3	100.0
Wong	COMETS	8	9	88.9
Bekele	MORPETH A	6	7	85.7
Francis	COMETS	5	6	83.3
Harris	CASTAWAYS	5	6	83.3
Persaud	COMETS	5	6	83.3
Blyuss	MORPETH A	4	5	80.0
Brown	MORPETH A	2	3	66.7
Fagan	COMETS	2	3	66.7
Crawford	PRO	7	12	58.3
Sanders	GOOD KARMA	3	6	50.0
Robertson	MORPETH A	2	4	50.0
Muller	NAT WEST	4	9	44.4
Turner	PRO	5	12	41.7
LeMilliere	CASTAWAYS	2	5	40.0
Guimichev	OUTCASTS	2	6	33.3
Link	GOOD KARMA	2	6	33.3
Herbert	NAT WEST	1	3	33.3
Jennison	OUTCASTS	1	3	33.3
Persaud	PRO	1	3	33.3
Jones	NAT WEST	2	9	22.2
Roullier	OUTCASTS	1	6	16.7
Zhao	GOOD KARMA	1	6	16.7