

LONDON BANKS AND CIVIL SERVICE TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE BULLETIN 01

AS AT 16 OCTOBER 2024

	P	W	D	F	A	B	P
MORPETH A	1	1	0	10	0	3	13
CASTAWAYS	1	1	0	6	4	3	9
COMETS B	1	0	0	4	6	3	7
COMETS C	1	0	0	0	10	3	3
OUTCASTS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NAT WEST	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
COMETS A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PRO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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

- Check out the photos on the front page of the website under Featured Photos. Is your team there?

COMMENTARY

Week 01

First week of the new season sees Morpeth take on newly promoted Comets C. For Morpeth, we have regulars Toan “Scottie” To and Duncan Brown but joined by a new face Simon Holohan, who’s played a few times for Morpeth in the Central League. The Comets C team comprised Richard Hallinan, Adil Islam and Greg Gargrupe which was pretty much their team that came runners up in Division Two last season. The first set saw To take on Hallinan. This didn’t last long as Hallinan always seemed to be a few points behind To and lost three straight. If Comets are going to hold their own in this Division, they’ll need a big contribution from Adil Islam. His first opponent was Simon Holohan and he soon found himself two ends down. He managed to pull back an end but couldn’t get in front in the fourth and the set ended there. The last set in the first round of contests involved Duncan Brown and Greg Gargrupe. This went much like the first set when Greg seemed always to be a few points behind and duly lost three straight. Sets four and five continued the three straight theme, Holohan being too strong for Hallinan and To edging out Gargrupe. Suddenly Morpeth have a 5-0 lead in the match and are looking comfortable. Next up proved to be the closest set of the night. Islam started well against Brown, taking the first end 11-9. Duncan struck back in the second and third ends, winning both ends narrowly. It’s make or break time for Adil and, not for the first time this evening, he came up a frustratingly few points short. A narrow win for Duncan in four ends. The final three sets ended in Morpeth’s favour but once again Islam went to four ends before losing to To. So, a 10-0 loss for Comets C in their first match. That scoreline probably flattered Morpeth just a little. Islam lost all his sets in four but he was never out of contention. It will take a few matches for Comets C to get used to the standard of this Division.

Comets B and Castaways fought out a battle for second place last season with Comets just coming home in front. They met again in the first week of this season in a match that promised to be a mighty contest. Castaways looked familiar: LeMilliere, Bispham and Loveder. Comets B looked anything but familiar: Hejran Sultani, Eric Woo and no number three. Sultani is not a name I’m familiar with while Woo played in Division Two a few years back where he was clearly too strong for that Division. Hejran Sultani played first, against Bispham, and raised some eyebrows as he dismissed Johnny three straight. Comets have clearly got a good player here! Woo then faced Loveder in what proved to be a close contest. At one end each, the third end proved to be vital and Mike just won it 12-10. In the fourth, Mike held on to take the set 11-4. Narrow win! Sultani’s next two sets both

proved to be hard fought. He and LeMilliere posted an early candidate for longest end of the season reaching 17-15 to Hejran in their first end. Neil levelled the match at one end all but Hejran took the next two ends for his second win of the night. Sultani's set against Loveder followed a similar pattern – one end to Mike but three ends to Hejran. So, Hejran's debut in this League ends with a maximum. Three close wins against strong opposition. Meanwhile, Woo found Bispham a bit too hot to handle, losing three straight, each end concluding 11-8. But Woo came into his own against LeMilliere, coping with Neil's unusual style and reeling off three ends after losing the first. The doubles was the closest set of the night. Four ends were involved, three of which ended with just a two-point winning margin, before Castaways emerged victorious. That made the match score 6-4 to Castaways. Had Comets had a full team we were probably looking at a draw or even a Castaways loss. I imagine Castaways went home a little relieved at their good fortune!

**RICHARD CAMPBELL
DIVISIONAL SECRETARY**

Issued: 21/10/2024

AVERAGES (Qualification: ≥ 0 sets played)

Player	Team	Sets Won	Sets Played	Average (%)
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Will commence with the third bulletin