

# LONDON BANKS AND CIVIL SERVICE TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE BULLETIN 08

AS AT 29 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	8	7	0	63	17	24	87
CASTAWAYS	8	5	2	57	23	24	81
NAT WEST	8	5	2	51	29	24	75
MORPETH A	8	2	3	40	40	24	64
COMETS B	7	3	1	32	38	21	53
PRO	8	2	2	29	51	24	53
OUTCASTS	8	2	0	27	53	24	51
GOOD KARMA	7	0	0	11	59	21	32

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 17

This week we begin the second half as each team plays the other for the second time. Immediately, Castaways are faced with a banana skin fixture against Morpeth. This match was a surprising draw in the first half when Morpeth's Ettore Miuccio won Player of the Match for his hard-fought maximum. It's not many years ago Ettore was playing for Morpeth's thirteenth team in division seven of the Central League so this is a player on the up. Castaways strengthen up with the inclusion of Mike Loveder alongside LeMilliere and Bispham while Morpeth keep their faith in Miuccio, Brown and Alnak. Some key sets here and we start with one – Miuccio against LeMilliere. This was a real nail biter in the first half which Ettore won in five. This time it was over much more quickly with Ettore storming home three straight. Next up is Loveder against Alnak. These two should know each other's game as they played in the same Central League team last year. Adam has the advantage after the first three ends and nearly achieves the win before losing the fourth 11-9. Into the final end and who will come home in front? The answer is Mike Loveder by 11-7. An important win for Castaways. Set three and Duncan Brown faces Johnny Bispham. This should be a banker win for Castaways but after the first two ends were shared Duncan took a grip on the contest with a massive 18-16 capture of the third end, equalling the record for the longest end of the season. Bispham fights back in the fourth end and just pinches it 11-8. Still could go either way. The final end proved to be a marathon. After the set reached the 100 points watershed there was still no winner. On they went past 109 points – the longest set of the season thus far – and the winner was finally found after the 117<sup>th</sup> point was played. And that winner was Duncan Brown, against all the odds, 12-10 in the fifth! That really is a remarkable win and bad news for Castaways. Worse was to come in the next two sets as Alnak beat LeMilliere and Miuccio beat Bispham. Morpeth are 4-1 up and the match is slipping away from Castaways! That seemed to wake Castaways up as Loveder got the better of Brown followed by Bispham getting past Alnak. In the next set LeMilliere got himself on the scoresheet with a win over Brown. That makes the score 4-4 and the result hangs on Miuccio against Loveder, both unbeaten thus far. Mike wins the first two ends. Change of fortune in the third as Ettore dominates Loveder 11-3. The fourth end was much closer and heading towards deuce when Loveder accelerated and got home 11-8. Crucial win! That put Castaways ahead and they made no mistake in the doubles winning three straight. So, in a strange match that certainly didn't follow the anticipated pattern, Castaways had come from 1-4 down to take the honours 6-4, mainly due to Loveder's maximum. A good comeback but Castaways needed more if they're to catch Comets A. I'm not sure if Morpeth were satisfied with

the outcome but Duncan Brown should be very pleased with his epic win over Bispham. And, for the third time this season, all six players won at least one set!

PRO beat Nat West in the first half in a match that was probably Nat West's worst performance of the half. When the teams met again, PRO fielded the same team as in the first half while Nat West made one change – Adam Johnson replaced Andrew Muller – alongside Jones and Samuels. Crawford puts PRO 1-0 up with a clinical three straight defeat of Gareth Jones. The score moved to 1-2 with Les Samuels beating Jai Persaud and Adam Johnson defeating Ronnie Turner in four. They were important wins for Nat West as they both bettered the equivalent first half results. PRO immediately fought back, John Crawford getting the better of Samuels and Turner edging past Jones. Adam Johnson then made short work of Persaud to be followed by the only singles set of the night to go to five: Samuels versus Turner. This was a “must win” for both players if their team were to get a good result. Les started well, taking the first end. The second and third ends were mighty close but crucially both went to Turner. Les evened the set in the fourth and it's all down to the last end. The set ended with the 100<sup>th</sup> point played and that point was won by Ronnie, completing an 11-6 in the fifth victory. That kept PRO in the match, 4-3 up. That became 4-4 after the next set when the in-form Johnson eased passed Crawford three straight. If PRO were going to win this match Persaud had to beat Jones, something he failed to do in the first half. In the event, the set concluded after three ends – all won by Jai, and at 5-4 up, a win for PRO was in sight. The doubles pairings were interesting – Johnson and Samuels - who'd not played together this season – against Crawford with Turner – who've had one victory in two outings this season. Who's your money on? After three ends, PRO held the advantage. That advantage soon disappeared as Nat West won the next end. So, it all depends on the final end of the final set of the night. And that end was won 11-5 by Nat West, thereby securing a draw! A good match where a strong all round team performance from PRO was thwarted by Adam Johnson's maximum, culminating in honours even.

Comets A were doing Karma no favours, putting out a strong team against them. Their three was Wong, Steve Fagan and Persaud. Things looked bleaker still for Karma when it became clear they only had two players – Jason Killip and Michael Miller. That's a pity as they make a strong pairing and coupled with, say, George Sanders might have pulled off a few surprises. The outcome was an 8-2 win for Comets but that was not without incident. Michael Miller was all at sea against Persaud and lost three straight against Wong. But against Steve Fagan it soon became evident we have a contest on our hands. The first two ends were shared. Michael won a very close third end 13-11. Steve staged a comeback to win the fourth end and there's all to play for. Into the fifth, and it's nip and tuck. There's not much in it but Michael comes out ahead 11-8. That's a good win in a long set. All Jason Killip's sets were close. I thought he'd beat Fagan but despite winning one end he just couldn't get ahead of Steve and lost in four. His set with Laikram Persaud was a classic. Jason loses the first two ends but it looks like he's mounting a great escape by winning the third and fourth ends both by 12-10! Can he convert that to a fifth end win? Well, Laikram is Mr Dependable and well used to grinding out a close win. And that's exactly what happened as Laikram takes the decider 11-6! Good fight! Jason's third set was another marathon. He was one end all with Winston Wong before stealing the third end 14-12. The momentum then shifted violently as everything Winston touched went his way in the fourth end, cruising home 11-2! The odds must favour Winston now. But, in another twist, Jason went ahead in the fifth and just made it home 11-7. Another good fight but this time concluding in Jason's favour. Sometimes when a team is a player short the match becomes a damp squib but not so in this case. Six singles sets contested on the night and only two finished three straight. If only Karma had had a third player!

The last match of the week involves Comets B against Outcasts. I think Comets B could easily finish in the top half of the table if they had a settled team. This week they fielded David Adesanya and Cheung (John) Yi, who we've seen before, and newcomer Kimmy Lai-Brown who has previously played for their C team. Outcasts have Nabil Chair and Eddie Roullier, coupled with another newcomer Ben Towers. Chair opened for Outcasts against Adesanya. This went to four but the scores suggest Nabil won the set comfortably. That was followed by two successes for Comets. First, Yi beat Eddie Roullier three straight and Lai-Brown came through against Ben Towers in five ends, which went one way and then the other. Towers was in front after three ends but won just six points after that!! Yi against Chair followed and was the closest set of the night. Two very evenly matched players here. Yi held the advantage after three ends but Chair hung in to take the next two ends 11-9 and 11-5. Nabil had inflicted their second losses of the season on both Adesanya and Yi! The pattern emerging was Chair winning his sets but all the other sets were going to Comets. Only Lai-Brown stood between Chair and his maximum and quite a battle it proved to be. As with the set against Yi, Chair was behind after three ends but again staged a revival to win the fourth and fifth ends 11-6 and 11-4 respectively. A great night's table tennis

from Nabil and three wins against strong opponents. He remains unbeaten this season. A 7-3 win for Comets B and a sign of what Comets can achieve if they put out their strongest players.

A lot of good competitive table tennis on show this week. Thirty-three sets contested, ten of which required five ends, equalling the most five-enders in a week this season. And take a look at the averages – a few new names are appearing! At the top, Comets A extend their lead but the title race is by no means over and done.

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**DIVISIONAL SECRETARY**  
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**AVERAGES (Qualification:  $\geq 9$  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
Chair	OUTCASTS	9	9	100.0
Persaud	COMETS A	11	12	91.7
McKee	CASTAWAYS	8	9	88.9
Loveder	CASTAWAYS	10	12	83.3
Adesanya	COMETS B	7	9	77.8
Yi	COMETS B	7	9	77.8
S Fagan	COMETS A	15	20	75.0
Wong	COMETS A	9	12	75.0
LeMilliere	CASTAWAYS	17	24	70.8
Francis	COMETS A	12	17	70.6
Bispham	CASTAWAYS	14	21	66.7
Turner	PRO	14	21	66.7
Miuccio	MORPETH A	7	11	63.6
Alnak	MORPETH A	7	12	58.3
Herbert	NAT WEST	7	12	58.3
Crawford	PRO	10	18	55.6
Jones	NAT WEST	9	18	50.0
Coull	OUTCASTS	6	12	50.0
Brown	MORPETH A	11	23	47.8
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
Samuels	NAT WEST	3	9	33.3
Jameson	OUTCASTS	2	9	22.2
Persaud	PRO	3	18	16.7
Roullier	OUTCASTS	2	12	16.7
Zhao	GOOD KARMA	2	12	16.7
Jones	OUTCASTS	1	9	11.1
Link	GOOD KARMA	1	9	11.1
Buck	PRO	1	15	6.7