

# LONDON BANKS AND CIVIL SERVICE TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE BULLETIN 17

AS AT 27 MARCH 2022

	<b>P</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>P</b>
COMETS	12	11	0	100	20	36	136
NAT WEST	12	7	2	68	52	36	104
CASTAWAYS	11	8	1	66	44	33	99
MORPETH A	12	6	1	63	57	36	99
PRO	12	1	2	43	74	36	79
GOOD KARMA	12	3	1	41	79	36	77
OUTCASTS	11	1	1	26	84	33	59

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 20

Morpeth take on Karma in both their second-to-last matches of the season. Morpeth won the first half fixture comfortably. Might Karma be able to turn that round? No Bekele for Morpeth who fielded Robertson, Alnak and Brown. Karma came with Killip and Sanders and, for the second time this season, reserve Dan Shoop. The first set was Robertson against Killip and ended surprisingly quickly. It ended in a three straight win for Matt Robertson, conceding just 20 points. Now, I know Matt is one of those players capable of pulling off the shock result but I didn't see that coming. That is some win! The second set was also a three-ender. Again, it was a win for Morpeth, Adam Alnak defeating George Sanders. The third set broke the rhythm by going to five ends but that too went Morpeth's way with Duncan Brown fighting off a strong challenge from Dan Shoop. Morpeth off to a flying start! That momentum grew and grew as set after set went in Morpeth's favour. Among them was another shock win for Adam Alnak over Jason Killip. Jason came back to beat Duncan Brown but that was Karma's sole success. You'd have got long odds on a 9-1 win at the start of the match. A puzzling match where Karma never really got going. Holding Jason Killip to a single victory was some achievement! Some good rallies and hotly contested points in that match. That was Matt Robertson's last match for Morpeth and he bows out with his first maximum of the season. We wish him well!

Morpeth's final match of the season was against Comets. Oleg Blyuss came in for Matt Robertson and Comets fielded their "second team" of Fagan, Francis and Wong. The outcome was a 10-0 win for Comets. It's odd how some 10-0s feel like a runaway victory but are actually hard fought matches and this was a good example. Only two sets ended three straight. Closest set of the night was a near miss by Duncan Brown, winning the first two ends against Ian Francis only to lose the next three! He had good chances in that set! Ian also had an odd battle with Oleg Blyuss that ended 11-9, 11-1, 1-11, 11-5. Funny how there can be such huge swings in fortune from one end to the next. 39 ends played over the whole night and Morpeth might look ruefully at the scoresheet wondering how they didn't come away with a single victory. An emphatic scoreline for Comets in their last fixture of the season. Has to be said, they were just too consistently strong for the opposition this year.

Licking their wounds after that mauling against Morpeth, Karma completed their programme with a visit to Outcasts. They included Killip and Sanders again but this time it was Campbell McKellar who completed the team. Outcasts fielded Guimichev, Coull, and Macalister. I think this could be close despite Karma winning the reverse fixture 9-1! The match began with a three straight win for Guimichev over George Sanders. Killip then levelled the match, losing the first end to Bob Coull but winning the next three. Outcasts went ahead again via a fighting win for Andrew Macalister over McKellar in four ends. Next set was the best of the night. George Sanders took the first two ends from Coull but Coull fought back to take the next two. The final end was close

but it was Sanders who just pinched it 11-9 in the fifth. 94 points played, the longest set for some weeks, in a season where 100+ points contests have been rare. Markedly different from their first half clash which Sanders won at a canter, dropping just 21 points. The sets were moving with a repeating pattern: Outcasts win one, Karma levels; Outcasts win one, Karma levels, which took us to 4-4. The final singles set saw Guimichev take on Killip. If our repeating pattern is to be preserved Guimichev should win this. Not looking likely after Killip takes the first two ends. The third end gives Guimichev hope as he steals it 11-9. Those hopes were dashed in the next end as Killip wins it 11-8 to take the set. The pattern is destroyed and Karma go ahead 5-4. One last chance for Outcasts to level the score but Killip and Sanders proved to be a dominant partnership winning the doubles by a comfortable margin. A 6-4 win for Karma. A maximum for Jason Killip, back to winning ways. A good second half from Karma turning 35 points after six fixtures into 77 points after 12. I still think Outcasts are better than their points tally suggests.

The final match this week sees the latest episode in what might be the division's oldest rivalry: PRO against Castaways. These teams have been battling it out for decades! PRO were without John Crawford so their team was Turner, Buck and Persaud. Castaways fielded Harris and LeMilliere, adding Mike Loveder in place of Johnny Bispham. The match began with Turner against Harris. They shared the first two ends and then shared the next two ends to take us to a decider. It's been a good few years since these two played each other but the formbook says Pete should win. That certainly didn't look likely as Ronnie was still level with him as they reached deuce in the fifth. Little did they know the end was not yet in sight! 10-10 became 12-12, then 14-14 and on to 16-16. At this moment Ronnie Turner won two successive points to end the marathon! 113 points played – the second longest set of the season. An excellent win for Ronnie and an unexpected loss for Pete who rarely loses to anyone outside the top five in the averages. Mike Loveder then beat George Buck before Jai Persaud faced Neil LeMilliere. There's something about this pairing as over the years Jai has given Neil more trouble than you might expect from looking at their respective averages. Indeed, Jai won their first half meeting. At one end all, Jai took the third end by a narrow 12-10 scoreline. Neil fought back to win the fourth end and take it to a decider. There just seemed to be something inevitable about the final end as Jai accelerated away to take it 11-7 thereby completing the double over Neil. PRO were 2-1 in front. Things continued not to go Castaways' way as George Buck came within a whisker of going two ends up on Harris. Pete had to dig deep but he revived to win three ends on the trot for a harder-than-expected victory. That really turned the match as LeMilliere beat Turner and Buck, Loveder beat Persaud and Castaways had suddenly opened up a 5-2 lead. In the next set, Harris struggled to shake off Persaud but managed to inch home 11-8 in the fifth. The final singles set saw Turner notch up a good win over Loveder in four ends to make the match score 6-3. To complete a difficult night for Castaways, in the doubles they came from two ends down to level the set only to lose 11-8 in the fifth. A 6-4 win means mission accomplished by Castaways but not any easy win by any means.

That leaves us with one match to play: Castaways against Outcasts, the target for Castaways being a second place finish!

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

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**AVERAGES (Qualification: ≥14 sets played)**

<b>Player</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>Sets Won</b>	<b>Sets Played</b>	<b>Average (%)</b>
Fung	COMETS	22	23	95.7
Catt	NAT WEST	20	21	95.2
Persaud	COMETS	20	23	87.0
Harris	CASTAWAYS	18	21	85.7
Fagan	COMETS	16	19	84.2
Bekele	MORPETH A	17	22	77.3

Wong	COMETS	16	21	76.2
Francis	COMETS	12	16	75.0
Bispham	CASTAWAYS	9	15	60.0
Robertson	MORPETH A	13	22	59.1
LeMilliere	CASTAWAYS	19	33	57.6
Muller	NAT WEST	13	24	54.2
Brown	MORPETH A	8	15	53.3
Loveder	CASTAWAYS	8	15	53.3
Sanders	GOOD KARMA	11	21	52.4
Herbert	NAT WEST	12	24	50.0
Turner	PRO	14	30	46.7
Alnak	MORPETH A	9	20	45.0
Coull	OUTCASTS	8	18	44.4
Crawford	PRO	13	30	43.3
Guimichev	OUTCASTS	6	15	40.0
Blyuss	MORPETH A	5	14	35.7
Link	GOOD KARMA	6	21	28.6
Persaud	PRO	5	18	27.8
Jones	NAT WEST	9	36	25.0
Zhao	GOOD KARMA	3	21	14.3
Roullier	OUTCASTS	2	18	11.1