

LONDON BANKS AND CIVIL SERVICE TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE BULLETIN 04

AS AT 20 NOVEMBER 2022

	P	W	D	F	A	B	P
COMETS A	4	4	0	35	5	12	47
CASTAWAYS	4	3	1	34	6	12	46
MORPETH A	5	2	2	30	20	15	45
NAT WEST	4	3	0	25	15	12	37
OUTCASTS	6	1	0	17	43	18	35
PRO	4	2	1	18	22	12	30
COMETS B	4	1	0	12	28	12	24
GOOD KARMA	5	0	0	9	41	15	24

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

COMMENTARY

Week 6

Only one match to report on this week as all the others were postponed. The one fixture was Outcasts versus Morpeth but even that was affected by player availability. Outcasts had two players – Nabil Chair and, for the first time this season, Andrew Macalister. Morpeth fielded Duncan Brown and Toan To plus Ettore Miuccio who scored that unexpected maximum against Castaways in Week One and is doing well in Central League Division 2 this season. It was an uphill battle for Macalister, losing three straight to To and Miuccio and in four to Duncan Brown. In contrast, Nabil Chair had good contests with each of the Morpeth team. Nabil started slowly against Brown, losing the first end but then winning the next three ends comfortably. Against To, Nabil took the first two ends, dropped the third end 7-11 but then came back to win 11-7 in the fourth. The set against Miuccio was much closer. They shared the first two ends. Nabil stormed through the third end, dropping just four points. A big push was needed from Ettore and that's what we got from him, winning the fourth 11-8. Both these players are unbeaten this season so something had to give. The final end was won 11-5 and it was Nabil who retained his unblemished record! A good contest! Morpeth took the doubles for a comfortable 7-3 victory. Morpeth have yet to be beaten this season.

Week 7

Having started with a drawn match against Morpeth, Castaways have thereafter steamrollered everything before them. Things were therefore not looking good for Outcasts' Roullier, Jones and Guimichev as they faced LeMilliere, McKee and Bispham. That was quickly confirmed as Castaways rolled off set after set. In fact, it was set seven before Outcasts won an end. That honour went to Petko Guimichev who took the first end off Bispham 13-11. Petko put up a good fight but the next three ends all went Bispham's way. In set nine, Eddie Roullier also won the first end – against LeMilliere – but then faded away, losing in four ends. A 10-0 outcome means Castaways have won 29 of the last 30 sets they've contested.

Morpeth went into their match against Nat West unbeaten but that record looked at high risk when they found Tony Catt and Chris Penrose playing for Nat West, alongside Gareth Jones. You may remember Catt was the joint winner of the Merit Award last season. The Morpeth side to take on this strong Nat West team was Duncan Brown, Toan To and Adam Alnak. Chris Penrose began with an impressively easy win over Adam Alnak but that

was countered with a Duncan Brown defeat of Gareth Jones. Tony Catt's first set proved to be a three straight win over To but the scores were encouragingly close for To, losing 11-9, 11-9, 10-12, 11-8. Far from one sided! Next came Jones against Alnak. Gareth won the first two ends and held two match points in the third. History says this set ought to be close as they have both beaten the other in the past and a result in three ends seemed unlikely. Well, that's exactly what happened as Adam staged a heroic comeback, coming from 8-10 down to win the end 12-10! Adam went on to take the fourth end and we're into the decider. More drama in the fifth as Adam leads 10-7 but Gareth wins the next four points to reach match point at 11-10 up. Once again, the pendulum swings in Adam's direction as he wins the next three points to take the set 13-11 in the fifth. A topsy turvey set in which both players had good chances to win. 102 points needed to reach the outcome! From that point, Nat West took over and led the match 5-2. Set 8 sees Alnak up against Tony Catt. Predictable win for Tony? After two ends it was looking far from that! Adam won both of them! Still time for a comeback. But suddenly it's 10-10 in the third and Adam is two points away from a surprise victory. Crisis averted as Tony wins the next two points to take it into the fourth. Who's your money on? The answer is Adam, winning 11-7 in the fourth and posting a strong candidate for upset win of the season. Good win! Chris Penrose beat Duncan Brown in set nine and the doubles followed in the same way. 7-3 to Nat West. Only one set went the distance but plenty of interest nevertheless.

PRO against Karma had proved to be a difficult match to arrange. To their credit, the match got played on time with both sides having a full team, which didn't look likely at one time. Crawford, Buck and Turner against George Sanders, Bing Siah and Xavier Zhao. Crawford opened against Sanders. These two are evenly matched though George won last time. First end to George but John takes the next two. His good run continued into the fourth where he found himself holding two match points at 10-8. George fought back to 10-10 but then faced another match point. Lady Luck then entered the proceedings giving John an unplayable net chord and with it the victory. The next three sets were less dramatic. Wins for Siah and Sanders over Buck plus a win for Turner against Zhao. Crawford then faced another player he lost to last time in Xavier Zhao. Xavier raced ahead taking the two opening ends and leading 9-6 in the third. Crawford faced match point at 11-10, but saved that and went on to win the third 13-11. That proved to be the turning point and John took the next two ends with ease. Turner then beat Siah and Zhao beat Buck to take the match score to 4-3 in PRO's favour. Turner against Sanders promised to be a close set of but it looked anything but that as George swept through the first two ends and looked on course to take third. But Ronnie fights back and wins that end 12-10. And, once again, the player looking odds on favourite to win was destined to lose as Ronnie won both the fourth and fifth ends. A surprisingly easy Crawford win over Siah took PRO to 5-4 up. A truly seesaw doubles followed with Karma ahead after three ends but once again losing from a winning position, PRO coming home 11-8 in the fifth. A 6-4 win for PRO – the first match to end 6-4 this season - and an excellent match which remained interesting to the very end. Unlucky for Karma who might easily have won a couple more sets. It reminded me of a period last season when winning the first two ends but losing the third always seemed to spell the death knell of the player who started well.

Comets A versus Comets B. The A team should have no trouble continuing their winning ways. For the A team it's Francis, Steve Fagan and Wong. The B team have not such a familiar look about them: Al Bhangoo, Tai Luu and, a name I've not come across before, John Yi (also known as Cheung Yi). After the first round of matches, it's business as usual, the A team are 3-0 up, all won three straight. Set four produces the first real contest. After three ends Ian Francis is in front of Tai Luu. Tai is one of several players combining matches here with matches in the Central League. In the fourth end, Luu goes ahead and manages to keep it that way, winning the fifth end too. A good win, may be Tai's best win of the season so far. Up next, it's Bhangoo against Wong. The first two ends are shared. The third end is close but Bhangoo pulls off a surprise winning it 12-10. Another upset in prospect? Winston quickly quashed that prospect, reeling off the next two ends to win in five. The A team are up 4-1 but the B team are putting up a fight. That was even more evident in the next set as Yi won both the opening ends against Fagan. Steve comes back to win the third end – is that the death knell sounding for John? – and the fourth end. Momentum shifts are weird things in table tennis. After that sequence of scores who would predict John would win the last end by a mile - 11-4! Just Steve's second loss of the season. The B team's resurgence continued into set seven as Tai Luu takes the first two ends off Wong. Winston fights back and takes the third end narrowly. The fourth end could have gone either way but it goes to Winston 12-10. The fifth end then repeats the fourth end and Winston again emerges the winner by 12-10. Unfortunate loss for Bhangoo who definitely had chances. A long set – 97 points! John Yi's last set was against Francis and again could have gone either way. Yi was ahead after three ends. Ian levels the set in the fourth. But John clings on to take the final end 11-9. Bhangoo's final set concluded a frustrating night for him as he lost to Fagan in four close ends. A good night's table tennis but nothing to show for it! No one was leaving early as the doubles went on and on before the

A team won the set in five, coming from behind, ending 13-11 in the fifth. A 7-3 win for the A team but an impressive effort and pats on the back for the B team. Six of the ten sets went the distance. The closest match of the season to date!

RICHARD CAMPBELL
DIVISIONAL SECRETARY

Issued: 20/11/2022

AVERAGES (Qualification: ≥ 5 sets played)

Player	Team	Sets Won	Sets Played	Average (%)
Chair	OUTCASTS	6	6	100.0
McKee	CASTAWAYS	6	6	100.0
Penrose	NAT WEST	6	6	100.0
Wong	COMETS A	6	6	100.0
LeMilliere	CASTAWAYS	11	12	91.7
Bispham	CASTAWAYS	8	9	88.9
Turner	PRO	8	9	88.9
Francis	COMETS A	9	11	81.8
S Fagan	COMETS A	9	11	81.8
Miuccio	MORPETH A	4	5	80.0
Alnak	MORPETH A	6	9	66.7
Crawford	PRO	7	12	58.3
Brown	MORPETH A	8	14	57.1
Jones	NAT WEST	6	12	50.0
To	MORPETH A	5	11	45.5
Luu	COMETS B	4	9	44.4
Coull	OUTCASTS	3	9	33.3
Guimichev	OUTCASTS	2	6	33.3
Muller	NAT WEST	2	6	33.3
Samuels	NAT WEST	2	6	33.3
Wroe	CASTAWAYS	2	6	33.3
Bhangoo	COMETS B	2	9	22.2
Jameson	OUTCASTS	2	9	22.2
Zhao	GOOD KARMA	2	9	22.2
Gargrupe	COMETS B	1	6	16.7
Persaud	PRO	1	6	16.7
Roullier	OUTCASTS	1	6	16.7
Buck	PRO	1	9	11.1
Jones	OUTCASTS	1	9	11.1
Link	GOOD KARMA	1	9	11.1