

# LONDON BANKS AND CIVIL SERVICE TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE BULLETIN 10

AS AT 16 JANUARY 2022

	P	W	D	F	A	B	P
COMETS	7	7	0	60	10	21	81
NAT WEST	7	4	2	41	29	21	62
MORPETH A	7	4	1	37	33	21	58
PRO	7	1	1	26	41	21	47
CASTAWAYS	5	2	1	25	25	15	40
GOOD KARMA	6	0	1	17	43	18	35
OUTCASTS	5	1	0	11	39	15	26

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 13

Morpeth's match against PRO was claimed by PRO after they were unable to get access to the venue due to an unfortunate combination of circumstances.

The first match of the year saw a two-person Outcasts team face up to league-leaders Comets. The Outcasts pair was Eddie Roullier and Nabil Chair. The was Nabil's first match. He usually plays for Gainsford in Division 2 of the Central League where his average suggests he should be successful in this Division. But he's up against Comets – Persaud, Francis and Fagan – who've only lost six sets between them this season. It proved to be a hard night for Eddie Roullier who made no headway against Persaud and Francis but did manage to take an end off Steve Fagan. Nabil started with a narrow loss to Fagan. The set stood at one end each before Steve took the third 11-7 and a really hard fought fourth end 15-13. Nabil's set against Ian Francis was closer still. Nabil got the better of the first three ends before Ian took the fourth end 11-5. The stage was set for a classic deciding end. If you looked to the formbook to predict the winner, you'd see there's not much between these two players. Nabil did however beat Ian in 2019 in the Central League. So, this is just going to be about who plays the next twenty or so points the better. The outcome was as close as you might have predicted and it was Ian who emerged triumphant by 11-7. Good contest. Nabil's set against Laikram Persaud looked to be a damp squib as Laikram ran away with the first two ends 11-6 and 11-4. Nabil fought back in the third end and won it 11-9. He dived with death in the fourth end but managed to take it 12-10. After a slow start suddenly we've got a match on our hands! Consult the formbook again and it backs Laikram. So what do we know about Nabil Chair? There's a rumour he represented Algeria at table tennis some years ago. He doesn't play much in this division but in one of his rare appearances, in 2016 he posted a win over Perry Fung! He is clearly no pushover. The deciding end went point for point but after twenty points had been played it was Laikram who took the set 11-9 in the fifth. Bad luck Nabil! Very few have got that close to Laikram over the years! The match outcome was 10-0 to Comets but Nabil had certainly made it feel a lot closer than that!

The other match of the week involved Nat West against Karma. Nat West put out Tony Catt, Gareth Jones and Andrew Muller. Karma fielded familiar names in Ben Link and Xavier Zhao but added newcomer Dan Shoop who plays regularly for Karma B in Division 2. Catt is unbeaten this season and this is not the sort of opposition where that achievement is likely to be in danger. As predicted, Tony came through the night untroubled – three three-straight wins conceding an average of six points per end. Andrew Muller began with a win over Zhao, dropping just one end. He successfully negotiated past Dan Shoop three straight but then lost out to Ben Link in three close ends. Gareth Jones also began well with a victory over Shoop but then faced Ben Link. In the first half this proved to be one of the longer contests, reaching the 100 points mark and ending 12-10 in the fifth. It

looked like we're in for a repeat of that as Gareth won the first two ends only for Ben to take the next two. Into the deciding end and will history repeat itself? The answer was "yes" in one way but "no" in another. Which way round was it? We didn't repeat the deuce in the fifth outcome, as on this occasion the winning margin was 11-6. But Ben did repeat his first half win, easing past Gareth in a tense final end. The best set of the night proved to be Jones against Xavier Zhao. The first two ends were very close but Gareth won them both narrowly. Xavier regained the initiative in the third and fourth ends, winning both to level the set. The deciding end went on and on. Past 10-10 and all the way to 15-15 before someone cracked. Who was the winner? It was Gareth, 17-15 in the fifth. The joint second longest end of the season and, at 110 points, the second longest set of the season. Some contest – pity someone has to lose, commiserations to Xavier! When the dust settled it revealed a 8-2 win for Nat West with Ben Link scoring both of Karma's successes.

Comets are pulling away from the field and have opened a 19 point gap at the top. Some potentially interesting clashes next week. One of those weeks when you look at the fixtures' list and you can see the possibility of some unexpected outcomes to keep things interesting!

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

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**AVERAGES (Qualification: ≥8 sets played)**

<b>Player</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>Sets Won</b>	<b>Sets Played</b>	<b>Average (%)</b>
Catt	NAT WEST	12	12	100.0
Persaud	COMETS	13	14	92.9
Fung	COMETS	10	11	90.9
Wong	COMETS	8	9	88.9
Francis	COMETS	8	10	80.0
Fagan	COMETS	10	13	76.9
Bekele	MORPETH A	12	16	75.0
Blyuss	MORPETH A	5	8	62.5
Herbert	NAT WEST	7	12	58.3
Robertson	MORPETH A	7	13	53.8
LeMilliere	CASTAWAYS	7	14	50.0
Sanders	GOOD KARMA	6	12	50.0
Muller	NAT WEST	7	15	46.7
Crawford	PRO	8	18	44.4
Link	GOOD KARMA	5	12	41.7
Turner	PRO	7	18	38.9
Jones	NAT WEST	6	21	28.6
Alnak	MORPETH A	2	8	25.0
Roullier	OUTCASTS	2	12	16.7
Zhao	GOOD KARMA	1	12	8.3