

# LONDON BANKS AND CIVIL SERVICE TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE BULLETIN 13

AS AT 5 MARCH 2023

	P	W	D	F	A	B	P
COMETS A	12	11	0	99	21	36	135
CASTAWAYS	12	8	3	83	37	36	119
NAT WEST	13	7	3	73	57	39	112
MORPETH A	13	5	3	70	60	39	109
COMETS B	11	6	1	55	55	33	88
PRO	12	2	3	43	77	36	79
OUTCASTS	12	2	0	36	84	36	72
GOOD KARMA	11	0	1	21	89	33	54

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 22

It seems unlikely anything can stop Comets A taking the title but there's still plenty to play for to resolve the minor placings. Second place looks to be Castaways' but they met Nat West, their nearest rivals, this week. Nat West came with Tony Catt, Chris Penrose and Gareth Jones while Castaways were struggling for a team given the injuries to Bispham and McKee. With only LeMilliere and Loveder readily available they pulled in Wayne Matthews, new to this league, but one of the best players in the Medway Towns league. The first set saw LeMilliere against Catt. Neil started well, taking the first end 15-13. The next three ends were almost as close – each finishing 11-8 but all of them were won by Catt, to open the scoring for Nat West. Gareth Jones then took on Mike Loveder but, despite a fleeting hope after winning the second end, he went down in four ends. I thought the set of the night would be Penrose against Matthews but, far from going all the way, this ended three straight in a commanding performance by Penrose. Instead, the next set, between LeMilliere and Jones, was arguably the closest of the night. In the first half, these two fought it out through to the deciding end. Neil was ahead after three ends but Gareth won the fourth 11-8 and again we're into the deciding end. That end saw Neil get out in front and never look back winning it 11-6. So, Neil does the double over Gareth by a narrow margin! Tony Catt then took on Wayne Matthews but Wayne showed his class with a win in four close ends. That was followed by two three-end sets, Penrose beating Loveder (though two of the three ends finished at deuce) and Matthews beating Jones. The match score was 4-3 in Castaways' favour. Penrose beat LeMilliere to register his seventh maximum of the season and Catt proved too good for Loveder, winning in four ends. 4-3 to Castaways had become 5-4 to Nat West! The doubles saw Catt and Penrose against Matthews and LeMilliere. Hard to predict the outcome of this one! The Nat West pair got the better of the first three ends. The fourth end went to Castaways 11-8. The deciding end was won 11-6 and it proved to be a come-from-behind win for Castaways, thereby securing a draw in the match and a second place finish for the season as a whole. A good contest with a close finish yet only one singles set required five ends.

The champions-elect Comets A faced Morpeth in the next match. Comets A fielded Francis, Wong and Steve Fagan while Morpeth had Duncan Brown, Chris Alexander and a reserve from their B team, Howie Jaffe. Brown is on a run of six straight singles victories. If he can preserve that here it will be quite an achievement! He's up first against Steve Fagan. Duncan starts well, holding a two end to one lead. Steve fights back to take the fourth. Going into the fifth, and carrying all the momentum with him, I make Steve the strong favourite. How wrong I

was as Duncan storms home to win the end 11-3. An excellent surprise win and winning streak maintained! Comets soon found themselves 2-1 up as Francis beat Jaffe and Wong beat Alexander. That brings Brown back to the table, to face Ian Francis. Before you know it, Duncan is steaming through this set too, winning the first two ends. Can he keep this up? A setback for Duncan in the third end which Ian wins 11-8. At this point the bubble burst for Duncan and suddenly he couldn't win a point. Ian took the fourth end 11-3 and repeated that scoreline to win the fifth too. A strange change of fortune in that set, when the likely loser after two ends became the winner after five! Steve Fagan continued his frustrating night going behind to Chris Alexander and fighting for his life in the fourth end. Steve had to dig deep but in another "set of two halves" came back from a losing position to triumph 11-6 in the fifth! Two more wins for Comets followed. Wong was too strong for Jaffe and Francis had little difficulty with Alexander. That took us to the final singles set with Howie Jaffe against Steve Fagan. You feel Steve should be okay in this one and, sure enough, he's leading after three ends. Even after Howie wins the fourth end the odds still favour Steve. This is getting too close for comfort and we're heading to a surprising deuce finale! At 11-9, we have a winner! And it's reserve Howie Jaffe, achieving the surprise win of the season against a player in the top five of the averages! Quite a win! The doubles proved to be a much closer contest than you might imagine. Wong and Francia are surely too strong for Brown and Alexander but suddenly the Morpeth duo have won the first two ends. "Winner becomes loser" and "a set of two halves" have been the themes of this night's table tennis and once again that was what happened as Morpeth's challenge suddenly evaporated as Comets got stronger and stronger to pull off the win 11-2 in the fifth. An 8-2 victory for Comets in a night for Steve Fagan to forget. Five sets requiring a deciding made this a closer match than you might have predicted.

Comets B have come from an "anyone plays" start to the season to a settled team built around Tai Luu, Allam Bhangoo and David Adesanya. They've benefitted from it. They are now vying with Morpeth for a fourth place finish. This week's opponents are PRO who field Crawford, Buck and Persaud. Tai Luu has had a pretty good season and he confirmed that with a defeat of John Crawford in the first set. Bhangoo made it 2-0 beating George Buck before Adesanya made it a hat trick of wins beating Persaud in three. PRO then staged a mini-comeback as Crawford achieving a three straight victory over Bhangoo and Jai Persaud playing very well to see off Tai Luu. Adesanya continued his untroubled night against Buck before we came to the only set to go to five: Bhangoo against Persaud. The set went backward and forward as neither player could gain a significant advantage. As seemed inevitable we reached the deciding end and still no daylight between the players. The score reached 10-10-10 and finally concluded at 14-12 with the narrowest of wins for Jai Persaud. A really good win! 101 points in that set – the first time a set has reached the 100 points milestone for some weeks. In the next set Adesanya picked up his maximum and Player of the Match with his third three straight defeat of Crawford. That put Comets 5-3 up and Luu made it 6-3 beating Buck. The doubles went to PRO, perhaps surprisingly easily, in three ends. A good 6-4 victory for Comets B but two hard fought wins for Jai Persaud. The first time he's outscored all of his teammates since October 2018!

**RICHARD CAMPBELL  
DIVISIONAL SECRETARY**

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

Player	Team	Sets Won	Sets Played	Average (%)
Persaud	COMETS A	17	18	94.4
Penrose	NAT WEST	22	24	91.7
C Fagan	COMETS A	15	17	88.2
Wong	COMETS A	12	15	80.0
Francis	COMETS A	20	26	76.9
S Fagan	COMETS A	22	29	75.9
LeMilliere	CASTAWAYS	26	36	72.2
Loveder	CASTAWAYS	13	18	72.2

McKee	CASTAWAYS	13	18	72.2
Adesanya	COMETS B	15	21	71.4
Miuccio	MORPETH A	11	16	68.8
Bispham	CASTAWAYS	18	27	66.7
Luu	COMETS B	12	18	66.7
Chair	OUTCASTS	11	18	61.1
Herbert	NAT WEST	11	18	61.1
Alnak	MORPETH A	9	15	60.0
Crawford	PRO	17	30	56.7
Brown	MORPETH A	18	32	56.3
Turner	PRO	15	27	55.6
Coull	OUTCASTS	9	18	50.0
Killip / Kanwar	GOOD KARMA	7	15	46.7
To	MORPETH A	10	22	45.5
Bhangoo	COMETS B	9	24	37.5
Jones	NAT WEST	11	30	36.7
Alexander Miller / Shreeram	MORPETH A	6	17	35.3
Jameson	GOOD KARMA	6	21	28.6
Persaud	OUTCASTS	4	15	26.7
Sanders / bagiya	PRO	7	30	23.3
Zhao	GOOD KARMA	3	15	20.0
Roullier	GOOD KARMA	2	15	13.3
Jones	OUTCASTS	2	18	11.1
Buck	OUTCASTS	1	15	6.7
	PRO	1	21	4.8