

LONDON BANKS AND CIVIL SERVICE TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE BULLETIN 7

AS AT 17 DECEMBER 2023

	P	W	D	F	A	B	P
CASTAWAYS	7	4	3	48	22	21	69
COMETS A	5	3	2	38	12	15	53
MORPETH A	6	3	1	33	27	18	51
NAT WEST	6	2	0	26	34	18	44
PRO	6	2	1	26	34	18	44
COMETS B	4	3	1	27	13	12	39
GOOD KARMA	5	1	0	13	37	15	28
NORDWEST	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_23-24/Division_One

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

COMMENTARY

Week 8

Nat West are on a bad run. They've surprisingly lost their last four matches so are looking to get back to winning ways with the visit of Karma. Gareth Jones, Les Samuels and Adam Johnson step up for Nat West. Their opposition is Xavier Zhao, Michel Miller and the man who always goes to five, Peter Schmidt. First contest sees Jones face Schmidt. Those expecting another Schmidt marathon were quickly disappointed as the set was over in no time. Three straight to Peter and just 17 points conceded. Good start for Karma! The second and thirds sets went equally quickly, both going to Nat West with three straight wins for Samuels over Zhao and Johnson over Miller. That brought Samuels and Schmidt to the table and yet another three straight victory. I thought Les had a good chance to win this but it was Peter who triumphed with a convincing win, dropping just 14 points. The three-straight pattern was broken in the next set. Miller wins the first game against Jones. Gareth then levelled the score, narrowly winning the second end 11-9. Unfortunately, Gareth just couldn't keep up the winning streak and collapsed in the third and fourth games 11-7 and 11-6. That Miller win takes the match score to 3-2 in Karma's favour. Might this be Karma's second win of the season? That prospect didn't last long as Nat West took the next two sets, both three straight again, Johnson defeating Zhao and Samuels getting the better of Miller. The night's two unbeaten players then faced each other as Adam Johnson took on Peter Schmidt. Adam won the first two games and we reached a crunch point in the third end as the scored moved to 10-10. Peter needs to win this game to stay in the set. Unfortunately it wasn't to be, as Adam captured the necessary two points to give him the win. That was the seventh three-straight outcome of the evening! Nat West now hold a winning 5-3 lead. The final singles set was the only one of the night to go the distance. Gareth Jones started well against Zhao, leading two games to love. In the third end the score reached 10-10. It's make or break for Xavier. 10-10 became 12-12 and still no winner. In needed just two more points to finish the game and both went to Xavier. Game on and into the fourth end! That turned out to be a repeat of the third end as once again the score reached 10-10. And once again the next two vital points went to Xavier and, comeback complete, at two games all. Has Gareth blown it? We've all been in situations where you're facing a player who it seems refuses to lose. Gareth has had so many chances to win and yet here we stand at the start of the fifth end and Xavier is still in the set. Psychologically, everything was in Xavier's favour and so it proved as he hung on to take the deciding end 11-8! 106 points needed to reach the conclusion. Nat West lead 5-4 with the doubles to come. I thought Nat West would win this comfortably. Karma led after three ends before Nat West staged a revival to take the fourth and fifth ends and a 6-4 victory. Lots of note in this match: seven three-straight sets (unusual in a close 6-4

result), Johnson wins all three while Jones just seems to have lost the winning habit, Schmidt fails to go to five for the first time this season, plus Zhao's extraordinary come back. A good night's table tennis!

Week 9

PRO take on Northwest with hopes of an emphatic win. They put out Crawford, Persaud and Turner to face Nelson, Stair and Francis. This looks like one of those contests where several sets might go one way or the other. The first set is one such example. A Rhyan Nelson on top form has chances of upsetting John Crawford. But it's Crawford who makes the pace, winning the first two games. Rhyan fights back to take the third end comfortably. The fourth end is very even and the players were still locked together at 10-10. The next two points go to Nelson and we have a deciding end on our hands. In the final end it all goes Crawford's way and he takes an 11-5 victory. More heartbreak for Northwest in set two as Jai Persaud manages to overhaul Grace Stair, looking out of it after three ends but rallying to scrape home in five. 2-0 to PRO when it might have been 2-0 to Northwest. Playing out of order, Crawford then took on Albert Francis. Just like his first set, Crawford set the pace winning the first two games. But Francis then won the next two ends and it's all-square. Déjà vu? Indeed it was, as Crawford came home in the fifth 11-6. Very frustrating for Northwest because they're 3-0 down when they might have been 3-0 up. Ronnie Tuner then beat Nelson in four before Francis opened Northwest's account, holding on to beat Jai Persaud. Turner ensured no slip-ups against Stair with a three-straight victory, though the second end went all the way to 19-17 equalling the longest end of the season. Northwest's second success followed as Rhyan Nelson got the better of Persaud, three straight but all close ends. The final two singles sets both went to PRO. First, John Crawford got the better of Grace Stair in three ends and then Ronnie Turner put up some impressive numbers in a comfortable win over Albert Francis. Finally, the doubles. The longstanding doubles partnership of Crawford and Turner is having a good season and they came together again to make light work of their opponents, Nelson and Francis. That makes four doubles wins out of five for the PRO duo. Altogether a convincing win for PRO though probably a little flattering as Northwest had good chances in three of the sets they lost.

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AVERAGES (Qualification: ≥ 7 sets played)

Player	Team	Sets Won	Sets Played	Average (%)
Yi	MORPETH A	12	12	100.0
Johnson	NAT WEST	11	12	91.7
Persaud	COMETS A	8	9	88.9
Bispham	CASTAWAYS	15	18	83.3
Adesanya	COMETS B	10	12	83.3
Francis	COMETS A	10	12	83.3
Luu	COMETS B	7	9	77.8
McKee	CASTAWAYS	7	9	77.8
S Fagan	COMETS A	7	9	77.8
LeMilliere	CASTAWAYS	14	21	66.7
C Fagan	COMETS A	8	12	66.7
Crawford	PRO	9	15	60.0
Turner	PRO	10	18	55.6
To	MORPETH A	6	12	50.0
Samuels	NAT WEST	4	9	44.4
Alnak	MORPETH A	5	12	41.7
Schmidt	GOOD KARMA	6	15	40.0
Nelson	NORDWEST	5	15	33.3

Brown	MORPETH A	4	12	33.3
Persaud	PRO	3	9	33.3
Herbert	NAT WEST	3	12	25.0
Francis	NORDWEST	3	15	20.0
Zhao	GOOD KARMA	1	9	11.1
Stair	NORDWEST	1	12	8.3