

LONDON BANKS AND CIVIL SERVICE TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE BULLETIN 21

AS AT 30 MARCH 2025

	P	W	D	F	A	B	P
COMETS A	14	13	1	120	20	42	162
MORPETH A	14	10	3	95	45	42	137
CASTAWAYS	13	7	3	83	47	36	119
NAT WEST	13	7	2	67	63	39	106
PRO	14	2	4	51	86	42	93
COMETS B	12	2	1	39	81	36	75
COMETS C	13	1	2	33	97	39	72
OUTCASTS	11	1	2	29	81	24	53

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_24-25/Division_One

- Check out the photos on the front page of the website under Featured Photos. Is your team there?
- Want a trip down memory lane? Every weekly bulletin issued since the 2014-15 season can be found on the first page of the website under the “Div Sec Reports” heading

COMMENTARY

Week 23

We're entering the period for catching up matches and postponements. Two matches to report on this week. That leaves four matches remaining to complete the season.

First up this week is Comets A against Comets C. For the C team, it's Richard Hallinan, Greg Gargrupe and Anoop Sharma. The A team, doing no favours, put out arguably their strongest team: Steve Fagan, Laikram Persaud and Ian Francis. Looks like a hard night for the C team! Looking at the scores after the event, this was a procession of convincing three straight wins. The C team won a single end – Gargrupe taking an end off Francis – but otherwise this was a one-sided battle. Over nine ends, Fagan conceded 37 points while Persaud conceded 34. Over ten ends, Francis conceded 51 points. It was the A team's sixth whitewash of the season. Player of the Match was Laikram Persaud, his eighth PotM award in 12 appearances – way ahead of any other player. So, Comets A finish their season on a high note. Just one draw on their otherwise unblemished season and just 20 sets conceded in 14 matches. They really were too strong this season!

Castaways finish their season wanting to secure third place ahead of Nat West. Their opponents are PRO. Remember the first half match? It finished in a draw, so a potential banana skin to deny Castaways' ambitions! Their team was Neil LeMilliere, Pete Harris and Johnny Bispham. No John Crawford again for PRO, instead it's Jai Persaud, Ronnie Turner and George Buck. Castaways breezed through the first two sets. Bispham beat Persaud and LeMilliere beat Buck – both sets finishing three straight. Playing out of order, Pete Harris then took on Persaud. If you scan the results of this league over its lifetime, you'll find Pete is one of the strongest and most consistent players that's ever appeared. Circumstances have meant he hasn't played much in the last couple of seasons and he's not back to playing at his usual level. Against Persaud, Pete started well but, in the face of a hitting onslaught from Jai, soon found himself behind after three ends. Pete got back in the match, winning the fourth end 11-8. The deciding end was mighty close but Pete looked the favourite, taking a 9-7 lead. Against the odds, Jai then took the next four points to end the contest the winner! Hard to pin down what happened. Was it inspired play by Jai? Or may be Pete's lack of matches? That's the first time Jai has beaten Pete in what I suspect

must be dozens of attempts over the years! With Castaways 2-1 up, Bispham then faced Ronnie Turner. This proved to be a hard-fought set where neither player could achieve dominance. Inevitably it seemed we reached the fifth and final end. For the first time, more than a chink of light appeared between the two players as Bispham build a lead. That proved to be decisive as Ronnie could not claw back the initiative and went down 11-7 in the fifth. A good contest which really could have gone either way! Next, Harris beat Buck three straight. Turner then took on LeMilliere and at the outset it's hard to be certain of the winner. Ronnie wins the first end at deuce. Neil wins the second end, also at deuce. From there on, Neil gained control of the set and won the next two ends, both 11-8. Jai Persaud is another player who's given Neil trouble in the past. On this occasion, Neil settled quickly into the contest and won the first two ends comfortably. On the brink of defeat, Jai stole the third end narrowly, 11-9. Not to be deflected, Neil held his nerve to clinch the win, 11-6 in the fourth. Two good wins that were by no means certainties. The final singles set was potentially another awkward one for Castaways as Ronnie Turner had beaten Pete Harris last season. In the event, the set didn't last long with Pete putting in an imperious performance to seal the win three straight. Another three straight win in the doubles brought the evening to a close. A 9-1 win for Castaways that ensures them third place with one match remaining. Banana skin avoided! A good team performance by Castaways!

RICHARD CAMPBELL
DIVISIONAL SECRETARY

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AVERAGES (Qualification: ≥ 16 sets played)

Player	Team	Sets Won	Sets Played	Average (%)
Persaud	COMETS A	32	34	94.1
Wong	COMETS A	22	24	91.7
Johnson	NAT WEST	18	21	85.7
To	MORPETH A	21	26	80.8
Samuels	NAT WEST	14	18	77.8
Francis	COMETS A	24	31	77.4
Sultani	COMETS B	24	18	75.0
S Fagan	COMETS A	19	26	73.1
Holohan	MORPETH A	16	24	66.7
Brown	MORPETH A	19	29	65.5
LeMilliere	CASTAWAYS	21	34	61.8
Bispham	CASTAWAYS	15	26	57.7
Marott	MORPETH A	13	24	54.2
Loveder	CASTAWAYS	14	26	53.8
Crawford	PRO	17	33	51.5
Woo	COMETS B	12	27	44.4
Guimichev	OUTCASTS	9	21	42.9
Islam	COMETS C	10	24	41.7
Turner	PRO	11	30	36.7
Siah	OUTCASTS	8	24	33.3
Coull	OUTCASTS	6	18	33.3
Persaud	PRO	7	24	29.2
Jones	NAT WEST	7	39	17.9
Buck	PRO	3	21	14.3
Sharma	COMETS C	3	27	11.1