

# LONDON BANKS AND CIVIL SERVICE TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE BULLETIN 09

AS AT 8 DECEMBER 2024

	P	W	D	F	A	B	P
MORPETH A	7	6	0	45	25	21	66
CASTAWAYS	6	3	2	38	22	18	56
COMETS A	4	4	0	38	2	12	50
NAT WEST	6	2	2	26	34	18	44
COMETS B	5	1	1	24	26	15	39
PRO	5	1	2	20	27	15	35
OUTCASTS	5	1	1	17	33	12	29
COMETS C	6	0	0	9	51	18	27

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](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 website under the “Div Sec Reports” heading

## COMMENTARY

### Week 09

A potentially interesting match-up begins the week – top of the table Morpeth and their likely rivals for second place, Castaways. Morpeth have the upper hand at the moment so this is a fixture Castaways have to do well in. Morpeth put out a strong team – Scottie To, Derrick Wang and Duncan Brown. In contrast, Castaways are struggling with injuries and availability and so put out Neil LeMilliere, Johnny Bispham and Andy Nash, with both Johnny and Andy nursing back problems. Perhaps it's me but I feel I'm hearing a lot about injuries this season! We begin with Scottie To against LeMilliere. Now Scottie's having a good season and is unbeaten bar the nightmare match against Comets A. His good form continued into this set as he beat LeMilliere three straight without appearing to be pushed hard. That's Castaways one down and desperately needing both the other two sets in the first round of three sets. Derrick Wang then took on Bispham. This should be close. The first two ends are shared. There's a real tussle in the third end that Derrick just wins 12-10. Bispham's under pressure and that pressure grew as the score reached 9-9. It's now or never for Johnny who keeps his nerve and steals the end 11-9. The decisive end is also close but it's Derrick who gets out in front and stays in front to take the set 11-7. 98 points played to reach a conclusion. Castaways needed that one! The third set saw Duncan Brown against Andy Nash. Hard to call this one. A fully fit Nash would have the edge but Duncan's doing well this season and I expect him to make this a close fight. Strangely, it didn't turn out that way with Nash cruising through three straight, only one end being close. 2-1 to Morpeth whereas Castaways were hoping for at least 2-1 in their favour. Set four and it's LeMilliere's turn to keep Castaways' hopes alive. He's up against Derrick Wang. Now these guys have never faced each other before and in those circumstances, I always think Neil has a head start. And so it proves to be, as Neil wins it three straight, largely untroubled except for a hard fought third end that Neil was probably pleased not to be extended to a fourth end. Next came the closest contest of the night. Nash and To were even after four ends with neither looking the obvious winner. Decisive ends are always cruel for one player and this time it was To who emerged with a smile on his face, winning a marathon 13-11 in the fifth after 100 points. Tough luck Andy! Morpeth are now looking good for a narrow win. That looked all the more likely as Morpeth won two sets I thought they'd lose. First, Duncan Brown made surprisingly light work of Bispham –

two comfortable ends and one 16-14 finish. And Derrick Wang did the same to Nash – three straight with only one end close. Scottie To was far too strong for Bispham as another set goes Morpeth’s way. Can they rub it in? Brown and LeMilliere shared the first two ends before Neil sneaked the third end 11-9. A good fight back by Duncan saw him take the fourth end 11-5. A fifth end is needed. Neil has a long run of wins over Duncan and it’s rarely this close. In the fifth, Neil managed to continue his winning run, coming out in front 11-6. A good fight from Duncan but not quite enough. That leaves Morpeth 6-3 up and conceding the doubles for a 6-4 outcome. A good night’s table tennis and kudos to Morpeth for an excellent team performance and an important win. Just wasn’t Castaways’ night and they register their first loss this season.

Our second match this week involves Outcasts and Nat West. Outcasts’ team includes well known faces in Eddie Roullier and Bob Coull plus a new name, Ben Towers. This is Ben’s debut in this league, he usually plays in the Central League where he’s beaten Scottie To and Derrick Wang this season! He might be a thorn in Nat West’s flesh. Nat West are fielding Tony Catt, Les Samuels and Gareth Jones. Catt begins with a straightforward win over Roullier. That’s followed by Towers against Samuels. Ben starts well, taking both the first two ends. Les wins the third end but the fourth becomes a one-sided affair with Towers cruising home 11-3. A good win! Bob Coull was then in front of Gareth Jones after three ends. The fourth end went on and on and reached deuce. Finally, it was Bob who edged two points in front to secure the set. Catt then showed his class, bringing the match score back to all square with a four-end win over Towers. In what’s developing into a close battle, next came a vital set that neither team could afford to lose – Eddie Roullier against Gareth Jones. Eddie wins the first end but Gareth levels in the second 12-10. The third end belonged to Gareth to put him in pole position. But we’re not done yet as Eddie gets on top in the fourth to force a decider. This could go either way but just when I was expecting a close finish Gareth accelerates to run away with the final end 11-4. Important win for Nat West. Nat West now lead 3-2. Outcasts come right back as Bob Coull has the better of Samuels after three ends. It’s 11-10 in the fourth before Les wins the next point to prompt a fifth end. Then, just like the previous set, one player runs away with it. Who is it dominating the final end? It’s Bob Coull, with an 11-5 victory. A crucial win for Outcasts and we’re back level again. Still stalemate after two more sets in which Towers beats Jones in four and Catt beats Coull by the same margin. After the next set, Nat West are in front 5-4 with Samuels having no trouble with Roullier. Outcasts’ Coull and Towers come out for the doubles but no Catt for Nat West, it’s Jones and Samuels. They take the first end but that spurs Outcasts into action and they run off the second and third ends. The fourth is close but it’s Outcasts who secure the win 11-9 to give them the draw. A good match that ebbed and flowed and a draw was a fair result. Outcasts have the squad to stay up this season. Their issue is player availability.

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

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**AVERAGES (Qualification: ≥ 7 sets played)**

Player	Team	Sets Won	Sets Played	Average (%)
Persaud	COMETS A	11	11	100.0
Francis	COMETS A	7	8	87.5
Sultani	COMETS C	10	12	83.3
To	MORPETH A	12	15	80.0
Adesanya	COMETS B	8	12	66.7
Holohan	MORPETH A	6	9	66.7
Johnson	NAT WEST	6	9	66.7
Marott	MORPETH A	6	9	66.7
Samuels	NAT WEST	6	9	66.7
LeMilliere	CASTAWAYS	10	16	62.5

Brown	MORPETH A	11	18	61.1
Crawford	PRO	7	12	58.3
Loveder	CASTAWAYS	6	11	54.5
Coull	OUTCASTS	3	9	33.3
Bispham	CASTAWAYS	3	11	27.3
Turner	PRO	3	12	25.0
Morley	COMETS B	2	9	22.2
Persaud	PRO	2	9	22.2
Islam	COMETS C	2	12	16.7
Sharma	COMETS C	1	9	11.1
Jones	NAT WEST	1	18	5.6