

LONDON BANKS AND CIVIL SERVICE TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE BULLETIN 15

AS AT 9 FEBRUARY 2025

	P	W	D	F	A	B	P
MORPETH A	10	8	1	68	32	30	98
COMETS A	8	8	0	71	9	24	95
CASTAWAYS	9	5	2	57	33	24	81
NAT WEST	10	5	2	51	49	30	81
PRO	9	1	2	30	57	27	57
COMETS B	8	1	1	27	53	24	51
COMETS C	9	1	1	22	68	27	49
OUTCASTS	7	1	1	21	49	18	39

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 18

Only one match this week. It's an interesting rematch between Morpeth and Outcasts. Why interesting? Because in the first half Outcasts suffered a narrow 6-4 loss at Morpeth's hands which, looking at Morpeth's subsequent high-flying progress, was a surprisingly good result from Outcasts. The return match is all going to depend on the players selected. For Outcasts, out goes Petko Guimichev from the first half team and in comes Simon Jameson, alongside Bob Coull and Bing Siah. For Morpeth, it's a more radical change. Only Scottie To is retained from the first half team, joined by Derrick Wang and Jens Marott. In sum, I suspect that means Outcasts are weaker and Morpeth are stronger than in the first half fixture. In the Central League, Wang is outscoring To and has eye-catching wins over Wong, Steve Fagan and Catt. He begins with a contest against Bob Coull. A good start from Bob gives him the first end. That prompted a strong response from Derrick with an 11-6 reversal. And that was it. From then on Derrick took full control of the set, winning the next two ends 6 and 5. Set two looked more optimistic for Outcasts. It involved Jameson against Marott. Simon breezed through the first end and held his nerve to capture the second end too, but only just, 15-13. Recovering from his slow start, Jens came back to win the third and went to take the fourth. They're locked at two ends all. In the deciding end it was Jens who broke the deadlock, accelerating away to come home 11-4. Long set, 97 points to reach a conclusion. That brings Scottie To and Bing Siah to the table. Bing has been a bit of a salvation for Outcasts this season being their only regular player. Scottie looked untroubled in the first end with an 11-6 victory. That really set the tone of the whole contest as Scottie came back with another 11-6 in the second and yet a further 11-6 in the third. No letting up – a three straight win! It's 3-0 to Morpeth. In set four Coull began well against Marott taking the first end 11-7. Bob's looking good in the second end too but Jens sneaks up to steal the end 15-13. The third end also goes to Jens 11-8. It's the crucial fourth end and, having salvaged the second and third ends, I make Marott a slight favourite. It wasn't as simple as that! The players were inseparable at 10-10. The next point goes Jens' way 11-10. As does the following point that ends the contest 12-10 in Jens' favour. That was close! Not so the next set as Wang makes light work of Siah, three straight. Not to be outdone, To also posts a three straight win, over Jameson. Three singles' sets remain and Outcasts are 6-0 down. Can Siah put their first win on the board, against Marott? They split the opening two ends. Then, Jens plays a dominating end and crushes Bing 11-3. But it's not

going to be that easy! Bing comes back with a strong response to take the fourth 11-7. The final end could go either way - neither player could establish a big lead. In the final stages Jens just manages to get his nose in front to claim the win 11-9. 89 points played – it's a long night for Jens! A surprise start to set eight as Coull beats To 11-5. Scottie responds with an 11-8 end. The third end proved to be crucial. To wins it 13-11 and goes on to complete the win 11-8 in the fourth. If only Bob had won the third end! Wang then achieves an impressive maximum with his third three-straight win which gains him the Player of the Match award! It's 9-0 and no one would predict a close doubles but that's what happened. Will Morpeth get complacent? Could Outcasts mount one last challenge? It was a fascinating contest. Against the odds, Outcasts won the first two ends comfortably. They should have completed the victory three straight but somehow lost the third 13-11. Back in contention, but with no margin for error, Morpeth then delivered its most emphatic end of the night, brushing Outcasts aside 11-2. How much has that damaged Outcasts' morale? Are the underdogs about to run out of steam? Well, at 9-9, Outcasts are still in it. And, to their credit, they push on to take the next two points for a hugely unexpected win!! It's been a disheartening 1-9 night for Outcasts but that win allows them to go home with a spring in their step! The match result was heavily influenced by Jens Marott's sets. He survived two full-distance encounters plus one narrow four-end win. Had he lost those sets, who knows what the result might have been!!

Morpeth are top of the table but Comets A have matches in hand. The division has split in two. Four teams with multiple wins and four teams with a single victory. Comets A players continue to dominate the averages but Winston Wong, Les Samuels and Duncan Brown have notably better averages this year than last.

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DIVISIONAL SECRETARY

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AVERAGES (Qualification: ≥ 11 sets played)

Player	Team	Sets Won	Sets Played	Average (%)
Persaud	COMETS A	19	20	95.0
Wong	COMETS A	14	15	93.3
To	MORPETH A	18	21	85.7
Johnson	NAT WEST	15	18	83.3
Francis	COMETS A	11	14	78.6
S Fagan	COMETS A	11	15	73.3
Samuels	NAT WEST	11	15	73.3
Sultani	COMETS C	13	18	72.2
Brown	MORPETH A	14	21	66.7
Holohan	MORPETH A	10	15	66.7
Marott	MORPETH A	11	18	61.1
Loveder	CASTAWAYS	10	17	58.8
LeMilliere	CASTAWAYS	14	25	56.0
Adesanya	COMETS B	8	15	53.3
Siah	OUTCASTS	6	12	50.0
Bispham	CASTAWAYS	8	17	47.1
Crawford	PRO	11	24	45.8
Woo	COMETS C	7	18	38.9
Islam	COMETS C	7	21	33.3
Turner	PRO	5	18	27.8
Coull	OUTCASTS	3	12	25.0
Sathasivam	COMETS B	3	12	25.0

Jones	NAT WEST	6	30	20.0
Persaud	PRO	2	12	16.7
Sharma	COMETS C	2	15	13.3