

AS AT 6 NOVEMBER 2022

| | P | W | D | F | A | B | P |
|------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| COMETS A | 3 | 3 | 0 | 28 | 2 | 9 | 37 |
| CASTAWAYS | 3 | 2 | 1 | 24 | 6 | 9 | 33 |
| MORPETH A | 3 | 1 | 2 | 20 | 10 | 9 | 29 |
| NAT WEST | 3 | 2 | 0 | 18 | 12 | 9 | 27 |
| OUTCASTS | 4 | 1 | 0 | 14 | 26 | 12 | 26 |
| PRO | 3 | 1 | 1 | 12 | 18 | 9 | 21 |
| COMETS B | 3 | 1 | 0 | 9 | 21 | 9 | 18 |
| GOOD KARMA | 4 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 35 | 12 | 17 |

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

COMMENTARY**Week 5**

We begin the week with Karma versus Castaways – a match disrupted by a last-minute withdrawal due to illness plus late running that meant sets had to be played out of order. Castaways fielded LeMilliere and Wroe plus, for the first time this season, Terry McKee. Karma had Ben Link, Johnny Faldo and Ravi Hemant Bagiya, who was also playing for Karma B in their match. Perhaps it was no surprise that a makeshift Karma team were no match for the strong Castaways side. Nine of the ten sets went to Castaways, all three straight. The set that didn't – Link against Wroe – proved to be a good come from behind win for Ben. Wroe had the better of the first three ends but then something changed and Ben ran away with the next two ends. A 9-1 win for Castaways to add to their 10-0 win last week. Not much else to note about that match except one of the ends in the doubles ended at 16-14, the longest end of the season so far.

Outcasts against Comets A was another match affected by illness as Petko Guimichev dropped out through sickness. Simon Jameson and Bob Coull's tall order thereby got even taller. If that wasn't enough, they found Cain Fagan on debut for Comets. Now he's a good player – often found in the Central and Wandsworth leagues. He joined up with Ian Francis and Steve Fagan. The outcome suggests this was a one-sided contest but Outcasts' two players put up a really good fight. Cain and Steve Fagan were both untroubled but Bob Coull got very close to Cain Fagan, losing 6-11, 12-14, 14-16, and 11-13! The best sets of the night involved Ian Francis. Simon Jameson went two ends to one down but won the fourth 13-11. He couldn't keep it up however, losing 11-6 in the fifth after 101 points. Bob Coull's set against Ian followed a similar pattern. Bob goes two ends to one down, but then wins the fourth 11-9. Things fell apart in the fifth as Ian came home an 11-3 winner. Unlucky Bob – no one's played more five enders than him this season so far. At 9-0 down the doubles should be a foregone conclusion but Outcasts won it 11-9 in the fifth. That's the third time this season that a team 9-0 down has won the doubles!

Chris Penrose appeared for Nat West for the first time this season, joining Les Samuels and Gareth Jones against Comets B. Comets fielded Richard Hallinan and Allam Bhangoo plus newcomer Robert Kemp. Now this guy's been a dominant force for Comets B in Division Two for some years but we haven't seen him in this division since 2017-18. The match didn't last long as all ten sets ended three straight. But Comets B did get on the board with Kemp registering wins over Jones and Samuels. The second end in the set between Samuels and Kemp

ended 18-16 – extending the longest end of the season record set in the first match above. 8-2 to Nat West in a comfortable night for them.

The best match of the week comes up next – PRO versus Morpeth. PRO are the great constants of this division having fielded the same few players for decades. The new trend is the Karma way, where you've no idea who'll turn up from week to week. Morpeth appear to be following the Karma trend and giving everyone in the club a game. Bear in mind Morpeth have enough teams in the Central League to fill a whole division on their own! This week it was Chris Alexander's turn to debut, joining Toan To and Duncan Brown. The match was played out of order. First up was John Crawford against To. Now To is an explosive player and John caught him on a good day. The first two ends were shared but To then narrowly won the next two ends to register good win over John. Duncan Brown then faced George Buck and proved to be too strong, winning three straight. Playing out of order, that was followed by another three straight as Crawford beat Chris Alexander. Set four turned out to be one of the best of the night – To against Buck. The first end went 12-10 to Toan. Toan was 10-6 up in the second end and managed to lose it 13-11. George then went ahead, winning the third end 12-10. Predictably, Toan levelled the set but found himself 7-9 down in the fifth. A net and an edge took it to 9-9. With nerves jangling, George pinched the next two points for a notable win! The season's longest set at 109 points! Enter Ronnie Turner and things calmed down as he beat Duncan Brown in four ends. It's back on the edge of our seats in the next set as George Buck is on for a win over Alexander, leading after three ends. In a dramatic change of fortune, George was destined to win only seven more points as Chris cruised through the remaining ends for the win. How's the match score going? It's 3-3 and all to play for! Sets that go the distance usually involve huge numbers of points but every year we get one or two sets that go to five but involve few points. The record dates back to 2017 when one five-ender comprised just 70 points. The next set – Turner against To – looked to rival that record, the first four ends going 9-11, 4-11, 11-6, 11-2. The final end bucked the trend, going on and on, to finish 14-12 in Ronnie's favour! That was To's second loss of the night at deuce. Tough luck! The match then produced another long set with Crawford and Brown indivisible right until the last two points were played. Duncan was the winner – 11-9 in the fifth. Ronnie Turner returned to table to take on Alexander. This was another good contest but Ronnie edged ahead to win in four. Not much between the two players in that encounter. Four very close ends. That gave Ronnie his maximum and PRO were leading 5-4. The match had run for three hours and ten minutes and the doubles had to be conceded to Morpeth making the outcome a draw. Seven singles lasted past the third end, of which four went the full distance. And, the first match of the season where all six players won at least one set! Closest match of the season to date!

RICHARD CAMPBELL
DIVISIONAL SECRETARY
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AVERAGES (Qualification: ≥ 4 sets played)

| Player | Team | Sets Won | Sets Played | Average (%) |
|---------------|-------------|---------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Francis | COMETS A | 8 | 8 | 100.0 |
| Turner | PRO | 6 | 6 | 100.0 |
| LeMilliere | CASTAWAYS | 8 | 9 | 88.9 |
| S Fagan | COMETS A | 7 | 8 | 87.5 |
| Bispham | CASTAWAYS | 5 | 6 | 83.3 |
| Brown | MORPETH A | 6 | 9 | 66.7 |
| Alnak | MORPETH A | 4 | 6 | 66.7 |
| To | MORPETH A | 4 | 6 | 66.7 |
| Jones | NAT WEST | 5 | 9 | 55.6 |
| Luu | COMETS B | 3 | 6 | 50.0 |
| Crawford | PRO | 4 | 9 | 44.4 |
| Coull | OUTCASTS | 3 | 9 | 33.3 |
| Bhangoo | COMETS B | 2 | 6 | 33.3 |
| Muller | NAT WEST | 2 | 6 | 33.3 |
| Samuels | NAT WEST | 2 | 6 | 33.3 |
| Wroe | CASTAWAYS | 2 | 6 | 33.3 |
| Jameson | OUTCASTS | 2 | 9 | 22.2 |
| Buck | PRO | 1 | 6 | 16.7 |
| Gargrupe | COMETS B | 1 | 6 | 16.7 |
| Jones | OUTCASTS | 1 | 6 | 16.7 |
| Persaud | PRO | 1 | 6 | 16.7 |
| Zhao | GOOD KARMA | 1 | 6 | 16.7 |
| Link | GOOD KARMA | 1 | 9 | 11.1 |