

# LONDON BANKS AND CIVIL SERVICE TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE BULLETIN 10

AS AT 15 DECEMBER 2024

MORPETH A	7	6	0	45	25	21	66
COMETS A	5	5	0	46	4	15	61
CASTAWAYS	7	3	2	40	30	18	58
NAT WEST	7	3	2	33	37	21	54
PRO	6	1	2	23	34	18	41
COMETS B	5	1	1	24	26	15	39
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 10

PRO faced Nat West this week and had the misfortune to bump into Chris Penrose, arguably the best player in the division and appearing for the first time this season. Chris was joined by Gareth Jones and Adam Johnson. PRO had Crawford and Turner plus their newcomer Oliver Pink. Penrose immediately showed his class, crushing John Crawford in their first two ends. The third end was much closer and John had chances but Chris came through 13-11 for a three-straight win. The next set was pretty similar as Adam Johnson had little trouble from Pink – another three-straight win. In set three PRO got off the mark as Crawford put in a dominant performance against the hapless Gareth Jones who’s having a miserable season. Nat West continued their progression towards a win with two more quick victories – Penrose was too strong for Pink and Adam Johnson was consistency itself beating Turner 6, 6, and 6. That was followed by the closest set of the night: Jones against Pink. First blood to Oliver but Gareth levelled the set with an 11-9 second end win. The third end could have gone either way, reaching 12-10, with Pink finishing in front. The fourth end was as hard fought as the third, ending at 11-9. In close situations like this you really need some good fortune to go your way but that’s been in short supply for Gareth just recently and once again he came out second best, narrowly losing the set to Oliver. PRO advance the match score to 2-4. Turner is the next to try his hand against Penrose. It’s a repeat of the Crawford set as Chris takes the first two ends for the loss of eight points. Again, the third end was closer but Penrose edged it 12-10. This match is running away from PRO. Can Crawford stop the rot against Adam Johnson? Big cheer from the PRO bench as John takes the first end! But the euphoria doesn’t last long as Adam rattles off the next three ends to claim the victory. The last singles set is Jones against Turner. A good first end for Gareth but he narrowly loses it 11-9. That was pretty much the story of the next two ends too. Jones is in the match but he just can’t make that breakthrough. Another three straight loss. PRO choose to deploy Pink in the doubles with Crawford and not their usual Turner / Crawford combination, while Nat West line up Penrose and Johnson. Really good first two ends, which were shared, and couldn’t have been closer 13-11, 10-12. After that, PRO unfortunately fell away and Nat West captured the next two ends with ease. So, a 7-3 result in Nat West’s favour. Penrose was head and shoulders above the opposition, winning all three without dropping an end. Seven of the nine singles sets finished in three ends. Twenty-nine ends contested and just four reached deuce. In truth, for much of the night it was one-way traffic.

The other match this week was the top of the table clash between Comets A and Castaways. Winston Wong produced a detailed commentary on this key match which I reproduce below:

- “1. The match was originally scheduled to be played on 14<sup>th</sup> November but Castaways was unable to field a team, so they decided to postpone it in order to have a better chance to field a full team at a later date.
- 2. However, Neil was still struggling to get a full team out, due to the fact that most of his players were either injured or unavailable. Only Mike Loveder and Neil were available. At the end, Andy Nash agreed to play, even though he was only half fit, because he was still suffering from back pain.
- 3. As for the Comets A team, Cain Fagan cried off at the last minute due to suffering from a bad cold. Fortunately, Steve Fagan stepped in to take his son’s place, so the team was: Winston, Laikram, and Steve.
- 4. The match started with Steve vs Neil, which resulted 3-1 in Steve’s favour. Steve showed no mercy and he did not give Neil time to think. Before he knew what to do, it was too late.
- 5. Then came Winston vs Mike. This was an interesting match between the two who used to play together at the Treasury, but that was a long time ago. By the way, Mike’s forehand has improved dramatically since the last time that they played against each other. Furthermore, with his long-pimples on the backhand, it totally bewildered Winston’s rhythm. In the end, Mike won 3-1, with a big smile on his face!
- 6. Next match was Laikram vs Andy, where Andy beat Laikram 3-0 without breaking a sweat! He also destroyed Laikram’s unbeaten record.
- 7. Then came Winston vs Neil. It was an exciting match between the two captains. Who could hold the nerves and who would come out as a winner? Well, it was so close that it had to go to a 5-setter to decide. In the end, Winston was victorious winning 11-9 in the fifth leg.
- 8. Next match was Steve vs Andy, with Steve winning 3-0. However, the third leg was probably one of the longest in record, which went to 19-17.
- 9. Laikram took the next one against Mike, winning 3-1, but he did lose the third leg 11-8.
- 10. Another 5-setter match was between Winston and Andy. Andy took the first one 13-11, Winston came back strong winning 11-5 and 11-8. However, Andy took the 4<sup>th</sup> one 13-11. Then came the decider with Winston winning 11-9. What a match!
- 11. The next match was Laikram vs Neil. Laikram was again in a hurry winning 3-0.
- 12. The 3<sup>rd</sup> 5-setter match was between Steve and Mike, which appeared to be one of the most entertaining match of the evening. Steve took the 1<sup>st</sup> one 11-8, but Mike took the next two 11-5 and 11-8. Steve regained his composure and took the next two 11-3 and 11-8. However, it was not easy and he had to dig deep, especially at the fifth leg when it was 8-8, which could have gone either way.
- 13. The doubles went to the Comets team winning 3-0. However, the opposition could have stopped the match, because we were running out of time, but Neil agreed to let us finish the match, which was very sporting of him. We are forever grateful.”

A few observations from me. This resounding result shows how far Comets are in advance of the rest of the Division this season. Hard to explain as all the top teams have pretty much the same standard squads as last year. Just four sets lost in total so far by Comets from 50 sets contested – and they’ve played both the other title contenders! The 19-17 end between Fagan and Nash is the longest of the season so far. Persaud’s loss to Nash means there are no unbeaten players left qualifying for the averages (below).

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

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

Player	Team	Sets Won	Sets Played	Average (%)
Persaud	COMETS A	13	14	92.9
S Fagan	COMETS A	8	9	88.9

Francis	COMETS A	7	8	87.5
Sultani	COMETS C	10	12	83.3
To	MORPETH A	12	15	80.0
Johnson	NAT WEST	9	12	75.0
Adesanya	COMETS B	8	12	66.7
Holohan	MORPETH A	6	9	66.7
Marott	MORPETH A	6	9	66.7
Samuels	NAT WEST	6	9	66.7
Brown	MORPETH A	11	18	61.1
Crawford	PRO	8	15	53.3
LeMilliere	CASTAWAYS	10	19	52.6
Loveder	CASTAWAYS	7	14	50.0
Nash	CASTAWAYS	4	8	50.0
Coull	OUTCASTS	3	9	33.3
Bispham	CASTAWAYS	3	11	27.3
Turner	PRO	4	15	26.7
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	2	21	9.5