

LONDON BANKS AND CIVIL SERVICE TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE BULLETIN 9

AS AT 14 JANUARY 2024

	P	W	D	F	A	B	P
COMETS A	7	4	3	53	17	21	74
CASTAWAYS	7	4	3	48	22	21	69
COMETS B	6	4	2	41	19	15	56
NAT WEST	7	2	1	31	39	21	52
PRO	7	2	2	31	39	21	52
MORPETH A	6	3	1	33	27	18	51
NORDWEST	7	1	0	17	53	21	38
GOOD KARMA	7	1	0	16	54	21	37

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_23-24/Division_One

- Check out the photos on the front page of the website under Featured Photos. Is your team there?

COMMENTARY

Week 13

To complete their first half fixtures, Northwest have to take on Comets B. So, it's the usual Northwest trio – Stair, Nelson, Francis – against Arunn Sathasivam, Adil Islam and David Adesanya. First up is Nelson against Sathasivam. I fancy Rhyan for this and he starts well, winning the first end. Arunn levels, winning the second and also captures the vital third end by the closest of margins 12-10. That puts him in front and he never looked back, winning the fourth end 11-7. Good win! Next came one of the closest sets of the night. Grace Stair was looking good against Adil Islam, leading by two ends to one. The fourth end then went to Adil, which proved to be a turning point, as Adil kept up the momentum to steal the fifth end too. Good contest and bad luck for Grace. Comets B maintained this trend for “come from behind wins” as Adesanya lost the first end but won the next three against Francis. Things continued to go Comets B's way with Sathasivam beating Stair in four. Nelson against Adesanya came next – the best set of the night. David wins the first two ends but Nelson counters, winning the next two. Who will come out in front? It was Adesanya, with a winning score of 11-6 in the fifth. Five close sets so far, each going beyond the third end, but Comets are leading 5-0! It was down to Albert Francis to get Northwest on the board and that he did winning surprisingly comfortably against Islam. The last three singles sets all went to Comets. Again, they were all quite close but Comets always seemed to have the edge. Perhaps the most surprising was Islam's three straight defeat of Nelson – I expected that to be closer. A doubles win for Comets made them the victors by 9-1. The match was closer than the score suggests, just two sets ended three straight, six sets went to four ends and two sets went the distance. Rhyan Nelson came out winless for the first time this season. All the Comets' players had success but Arunn Sathasivam took his first Player of the Match Award.

The second match this week involved Comets A and Karma. Comets have had a few wobbles recently and will be keen to get back to winning ways. Karma have posted a single victory so far this season and will have to produce a superhuman performance to improve on that here. Team selection gave little hope to Karma as Comets came with Persaud, Cain Fagan and Ian Francis. The Karma team was Michael Miller, George Sanders and Peter Schmidt. The first two sets didn't last long. Laikram Persaud was just too strong for Michael Miller and Cain Fagan had little trouble against Sanders. Both those wins were three straight. Peter Schmidt has picked up most wins for Karma so far and after two ends he was level with Ian Francis. The result turned on a third end that could have gone either way but went to Ian 13-11. That proved decisive and Ian kept in front to take the fourth

end and claim the victory. Things might have been different if Peter had won that third end! Persaud then produced another steamroller performance to brush aside George Sanders. 4-0 to Comets and things are not looking good for Karma. Things got worse in the next three sets as each went to Comets three straight. Schmidt had a glimmer of hope against Fagan but again was done down by a vital deuce loss in the third end to conclude the set. Set eight saw Schmidt face Laikram Persaud who had conceded just 31 points in winning his other two sets. First blood to Laikram taking the first end 11-5. The second end was close but, for the third time that night, Schmidt suffered another deuce loss, 15-13 in the second end. To his credit, Peter's head never dropped and he rallied with a third victory 11-8. So, it's two ends to one but Laikram's in front. At this point it was as though Laikram decided he couldn't risk giving this man a chance and he went into unbeatable mode, running away with fourth end 11-3. Just too good! Comets captured all the remaining sets for a 10-0 victory. In contrast to the first match this week, only two sets went past the third end! It was Karma's first whitewash and, for the first time this season, saw Comets go to the top of the table. You wouldn't bet against Comets A for the title but keep your eye on Comets B who may yet make this a three-way contest. Intriguing splits in the table: first three, next three, and final two. I predict much chopping and changing before the season ends!

RICHARD CAMPBELL
DIVISIONAL SECRETARY
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AVERAGES (Qualification: ≥ 8 sets played)

Player	Team	Sets Won	Sets Played	Average (%)
Yi	MORPETH A	12	12	100.0
Johnson	NAT WEST	11	12	91.7
Fang	COMETS B	8	9	88.9
Adesanya	COMETS B	13	15	86.7
Francis	COMETS A	13	15	86.7
Persaud	COMETS A	13	15	86.7
Bispham	CASTAWAYS	15	18	83.3
Luu	COMETS B	7	9	77.8
McKee	CASTAWAYS	7	9	77.8
LeMilliere	CASTAWAYS	14	21	66.7
C Fagan	COMETS A	12	18	66.7
Crawford	PRO	12	18	66.7
S Fagan	COMETS A	8	12	66.7
Turner	PRO	12	21	57.1
To	MORPETH A	6	12	50.0
Alnak	MORPETH A	5	12	41.7
Samuels	NAT WEST	5	12	41.7
Nelson	NORDWEST	8	21	38.1
Francis	NORDWEST	7	21	33.3
Schmidt	GOOD KARMA	6	18	33.3
Herbert	NAT WEST	5	15	33.3
Brown	MORPETH A	4	12	33.3
Persaud	PRO	3	9	33.3
Sanders	GOOD KARMA	3	9	33.3
Link	GOOD KARMA	2	9	22.2
Miller	GOOD KARMA	2	12	16.7
Zhao	GOOD KARMA	1	9	11.1
Jones	NAT WEST	1	15	6.7
Stair	NORDWEST	1	18	5.6

