

AS AT 12 JANUARY 2025

	P	W	D	F	A	B	P
COMETS A	6	6	0	54	6	18	72
MORPETH A	7	6	0	45	25	21	66
CASTAWAYS	7	3	2	40	30	18	58
NAT WEST	7	3	2	33	37	21	54
PRO	7	1	2	26	41	21	47
COMETS B	6	1	1	26	34	18	44
COMETS C	7	1	0	16	54	21	37
OUTCASTS	5	1	1	17	33	12	29

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 website under the “Div Sec Reports” heading

COMMENTARY**Week 14**

Interesting first match with a potentially close contest between PRO and Comets C. PRO field Crawford and Turner and, for the first time this season, George Buck. Comets C's team comprised Eric Woo, Adil Islam and Anoop Sharma. The first three sets went by in double-quick time. First, Woo made light work of Crawford, winning three straight, of which only one end looked close. Islam had no trouble with Buck, another three straight outcome. It was then PRO's turn to claim an easy victory as John Crawford rushed through the first two ends against Sharma before being taken to deuce in winning the third end. Next set and Comets are back on winning ways with Woo conceding just eight points in a dominant win over Buck. Woo stayed on to face Turner and collected his maximum for the night keeping Turner at bay in each of three ends. Impressive night for Woo losing an average of just five points in each end he played. Set six involved Turner against Islam and for the first time that night the outcome wasn't three straight. First end goes to Turner, just, 11-9. The second end was equally close, a narrow 13-11 success for Islam. Turner goes in front by winning the third with an 11-8 scoreline. It seemed that Islam's challenge faded away at that point and he managed just five points in the fourth end to give Turner his first win of the night. The match score is 4-2 to Comets. PRO needed some wins and they got one in the next set. Their hero was George Buck who managed to edge past Anoop Sharma in three touch-and-go ends, two of which ended with a deuce scoreline. A good win for George! It's 4-3 to Comets, can Crawford bring the score back to a draw in the next set, against Islam? The first end is very close and the score reached 11-10 to Islam before he won the next point to give him the first end. The next end also went his way, this time more comfortably, 11-5. Time for John to mount a massive effort to get back in the set. This end proves to be closer but it's Islam who maintains a narrow lead to come home in front 11-8. That was unexpected in the light of his loss to Turner a couple of sets ago. It's 5-3 to Comets and time is running out for PRO. The last singles set sees Sharma face Turner. The first two ends are shared. After the third end Turner is in front winning it 11-7. The fourth end is key. Ronnie has every chance to win it but just falls short 12-10. So, for the first time, we need a fifth end to resolve this. The final end could have gone either way, it was close, but Sharma comes home the winner by 11-8. That's a good win for Adil and means PRO are going to lose this match. Those last two sets

have really cost PRO. The doubles combinations were unexpected. Comets left out Woo and PRO left out Crawford. A real scrap resulted. Two marathon deuce ends were followed by two further shared ends and we're into a deciding end. Impossible to confidently pick a winner at this point! It needed 103 points to find that winner and it proved to be Comets in an 11-7 outcome. *(Editors Note: The PRO Doubles team was wrongly recorded on the scorecard and in fact was Crawford and Turner. Perhaps an even more impressive doubles victory for Comets (GAM)).*

A hard-fought battle and enough to give Comets a convincing 7-3 win. A good team performance and a better result than they might have expected. It felt really close yet eight sets finished three straight, only one set went to four and one set needed all five ends. That said, for the second time this season all six players contributed at least one win.

The second match this week sees Comets A take on their B team. Last season the B team pushed the A team hard. Can they do it again in this fixture? Comets A put out Steve Fagan, Winston Wong and Laikram Persaud. Comets C have Haj Sultani, Arunn Sathasivam and, with David Adesanya missing for the second time this season, reserve Richard Hallinan. Don't think that's strong enough to trouble the A team. The first set – Sultani against Fagan – was a nail biting beginning. Sultani started fast and was soon two ends up. The third end went to Steve to fend off the three-straight loss and the fourth end went the same way - 11-8 to Steve. Does Steve now have the momentum or can Sultani recapture the initiative? As the points played out, Sultani gained a tighter and tighter grip on proceedings and reached the finish line with a score of 11-7. A good win for Haj and just the start the C team needed! Next up its Sathasivam against Wong. First blood to Arunn but Winston fights back to win the next two ends. The fourth end was close but Arunn edged it 11-9. Arunn's putting up a good fight here in a set where he's not favourite! The final end moves towards a conclusion and both players are in with a chance. At the finish there were just two points in it – an 11-9 in the fifth win – and it's Winston who claims the victory. Tough luck on Arunn, Comets C could have done with that set.! Laikram Persaud then inflicted a crushing defeat on Hallinan to give Comets A a 2-1 lead. The fourth set brought back the unlucky Sathasivam to face Fagan. The first two ends are shared. This looks like another potential five-ender! In the third, Arunn opens up some daylight and wins it 11-5. Make or break in the fourth end but Arunn gets out in front and stays there to win the set 11-8 in the fourth. Another fine win to take the score to 2-2 and Comets C are putting up a good fight! Next came a real crunch contest – can Sultani make any sort of impression on Persaud? Well, we don't have long to wait for the answer as Persaud delivers a scarily good performance, conceding just 15 points in brushing aside Sultani's challenge. Perhaps that knocked the wind out of Comets C's sails because after that it was one way traffic. Wong had no trouble with Hallinan and Persaud completed his maximum with another demolition job, on Sathasivam. That's three three-straight wins for Laikram, averaging less than four points conceded each end he played! Fagan managed his first win of the night, overcoming stout resistance from Hallinan. And to complete a miserable sequence for the C team, Wong had little trouble easing past Sultani in four. A competitive fixture at 2-2 had quickly become a 7-2 walkover for the A team! They duly added the doubles to their tally to end the night 8-2 winners. That takes Comets A to the top of the table for the first time this season. And a full house at the top of the averages. Suspect they're going to stay there!

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AVERAGES (Qualification: ≥ 8 sets played)

Player	Team	Sets Won	Sets Played	Average (%)
Persaud	COMETS A	16	17	94.1
Wong	COMETS A	8	9	88.9
Francis	COMETS A	7	8	87.5
To	MORPETH A	12	15	80.0
Johnson	NAT WEST	9	12	75.0
S Fagan	COMETS A	9	12	75.0

Sultani	COMETS B	11	15	73.3
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
LeMilliere	CASTAWAYS	10	19	52.6
Crawford	PRO	9	18	50.0
Loveder	CASTAWAYS	7	14	50.0
Nash	CASTAWAYS	4	8	50.0
Coull	OUTCASTS	3	9	33.3
Woo	COMETS C	4	12	33.3
Turner	PRO	5	18	27.8
Bispham	CASTAWAYS	3	11	27.3
Islam	COMETS C	4	15	26.7
Morley	COMETS B	2	9	22.2
Persaud	PRO	2	9	22.2
Sharma	COMETS C	2	12	16.7
Jones	NAT WEST	2	21	9.5