

# LONDON BANKS AND CIVIL SERVICE TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE BULLETIN 01

AS AT 24 OCTOBER 2021

	<b>P</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>P</b>
COMETS	1	1	0	10	0	3	13
MORPETH	1	1	0	8	2	3	11
PRO	1	0	0	2	8	3	5
OUTCASTS	1	0	0	0	10	3	3
CASTAWAYS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GOOD KARMA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NAT WEST	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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\\_21-22/Division\\_One](https://www.tabletennis365.com/LondonBanksAndCivilService/Fixtures/Active_Season_21-22/Division_One)

## COMMENTARY

### Week 1

And so, after an 19 month break, league table tennis begins again! Seven teams return to the top Division, down from 11 teams last time we met. The four strongest teams have returned plus PRO and Outcasts who found this division hard going last time and Good Karma, still relatively new to the league but with a huge squad in 2019-20 that could cause upsets. It will be interesting to see how team compositions have changed. First result in this week saw PRO face a difficult opening fixture against Morpeth. The Morpeth team – Bekele, Blyuss Brown - looked much as 2019-20 but PRO bring back Ronnie Turner after a year's break. Ronnie is a long serving member of PRO and of the league and is one of the few players still around from the League's creation in 1993. The first match-up of the new season pitted John Crawford against Duncan Brown. History suggests John will win this one but it will be close, and indeed it was, John coming home after four hard-fought ends. The finale was dramatic – John fighting back from 6-10 down in the fourth to claim the victory. George Buck then took a two ends to one lead over Oleg Blyuss and found himself 6-2 up in the fourth. A good win in prospect? Unfortunately not for George as Oleg re-grouped, stole the fourth end 11-9 and the fifth end 11-5 to run out the winner. So, after two sets, honours even. Samson Bekele was up next, taking on Ronnie Turner. You have to favour Samson given his sixth place in the averages last season. This turned out to be a see saw set, with Ronnie out in front after three ends. But, as in the preceding set, things then turned Morpeth's way with Samson winning the next two ends to take the set. Good contest! The next four sets all went Morpeth's way, all fairly comfortably. Bekele versus Crawford had the potential to be close but Samson dominated, winning three straight. Set eight saw history repeat itself as Ronnie Turner went two ends to one up on Blyuss, only to lose the next two ends. The outcome was an 8-2 win for Morpeth, PRO's two successes coming from John Crawford. PRO might feel a bit hard done by, being in front going into the fourth end on three occasions and coming away with nothing.

The week's second match involved Comets and Outcasts: last time's title winners against last time's relegation candidates. For Comets, Laikram Persaud and Perry Fung were joined by Winston Wong from last season's Treasury B team. Outcasts have picked up another of the Treasury B squad: Petko Guimichev. Petko was joined by Simon Jameson and Alan Jones for this encounter. The match began with two victories in four ends, both going to Comets. Jameson took an end off Wong and Guimichev did the same against Persaud. Comets showed their dominance in the next six sets, winning them all without dropping an end. In the final singles set Guimichev took Outcasts' third end of the night and a marathon it was with Petko edging out Winston Wong 18-16. An early candidate for the longest end of the season! But it was not enough, and Winston cruised home. A 10-0 win for Comets who looked ominously strong. Perry Fung was the Player of the Match, not dropping an end all evening.

It's going to be interesting to see how the season unfolds. Team compositions may have altered. Some players might take a long time to recover from the 19 month break while others will quickly pick up from where they left off. I wonder if these factors might disturb the natural order and predictability of the division. It will be a few weeks before we know!

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

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**AVERAGES (Qualification:  $\geq 3$  sets played)**

<b>Player</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>Sets Won</b>	<b>Sets Played</b>	<b>Average (%)</b>
Bekele	MORPETH A	3	3	100.0
Fung	COMETS	3	3	100.0
Persaud	COMETS	3	3	100.0
Wong	COMETS	3	3	100.0
Blyuss	MORPETH A	2	3	66.7
Brown	MORPETH A	2	3	66.7
Crawford	PRO	2	3	66.7
Buck	PRO	0	3	0.0
Guimichev	OUTCASTS	0	3	0.0
Jameson	OUTCASTS	0	3	0.0
Jones	OUTCASTS	0	3	0.0
Turner	PRO	0	3	0.0