

LONDON BANKS AND CIVIL SERVICE TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE BULLETIN 20

AS AT 3 MARCH 2019

	P	W	D	F	A	B	P
MORPETH	18	14	4	138	42	54	192
CASTAWAYS	17	13	3	139	31	51	190
NAT WEST	17	10	3	112	58	51	163
TREASURY A	16	10	2	112	48	48	160
COMETS	17	9	1	94	76	51	145
PRO	18	9	1	87	93	54	141
EMPLOYMENT	17	9	1	83	87	51	134
INSURANCE	17	3	2	56	114	51	107
SPARTA	17	5	1	57	113	48	105
DIT	17	1	1	32	138	51	83
BTB	17	1	1	30	140	51	81

Bonus points shown in penultimate column. Ultimate column shows total points from sets won and bonuses

THINGS TO NOTE

- ✓ Individual match scores can be found on the website
https://www.tabletennis365.com/londonbanksandcivilservice/Fixtures/Season_2018-2019/Division_One

COMMENTARY

Week 22

I commented a few weeks ago that this has been a good season for teams turning out three players. Since then a few instances of two-player teams have occurred and this week DIT found themselves in that position. This is the third successive week that DIT's match has not involved six players (not all their fault). The beneficiaries were Morpeth. The first set saw Simon Goodman putting up a real good effort against Oleg Blyuss. Oleg got the better of the first three ends but in each case the end was won by a narrow two-point margin. In the fourth end Simon squared the match – again by a two-point margin. In the final end, Oleg managed to open a gap on his opponent and came home by 11-5. An unfortunate near miss for Simon but a good performance. The five close ends comprised 102 points - one week after I bemoaned the lack of 100+ point sets! Simon went on to lose to Stuart Sweeney but got his revenge by beating Duncan Brown in four ends. A good win over someone well above Simon in the averages. Graham Miller was Simon's teammate and he lost in four ends to Brown and Blyuss and in three ends to Sweeney. The outcome was 9-1 to Morpeth but DIT acquitted themselves well. Comets suddenly seem to be in trouble for players and for the second week running turned out with a very unfamiliar looking team. Comets only had two players but, like the previous match, this was to be a close contest. For Comets, Greg Gargrupe won two, losing to Peter Tokely in four ends but beating Mandy John and Steve Hattrill also in four ends. Comets other player was reserve Tim Mason who beat Mandy John but lost his other two. Adding in the three sets by default and a comfortable doubles win gave Sparta a 7-3 victory but, of the six singles set that were contested, both teams won three. Peter Tokely was unbeaten for Sparta. BTB have put out a full team all season and did so again against Nat West. In the event, nine of the ten sets ended three straight with Geoff Waterhouse taking an end off Les Samuels but all the sets were won by Nat West. 10-0 to Nat West and BTB slip further behind DIT in the battle to avoid last place. Best match of the week proved to be Employment versus Treasury. The first two sets both ended in four ends with narrow wins for Paul Baylis over Petko Guimichev and Anita Jermyn edging out Dennis Robinson. Set three saw Jeremy Jones with match point against Lew Hodges only to see Lew pinch the third end 15-13 and then go on to take the next two ends to complete an unlikely victory. 105 points played in that set! With Employment leading 3-0, Dennis Robinson opened Treasury's account with a three-straight win over Baylis. The score quickly moved to 5-1 due to another "come from behind" win for Hodges over Guimichev by 11-9 in the fifth and Anita Jermyn beating Jeremy Jones in four ends. Treasury rallied and won the next two sets, which included an impressive win for Robinson over Hodges.

The final singles set was the best of the night as the winless Guimichev face the undefeated Jermyn. Petko led by two ends to one, one of which ended 20-18, equalling the longest end of the season. Anita won the fourth end to take it to a decider. When the last ball was struck it was Anita who came out on top 11-6. 108 points played in that set! The 5-1 scoreline had become 6-3 as we entered the doubles. I expected a great contest but it proved to be a damp squib as Treasury won it three straight with surprising ease. Anita Jermyn's maximum made her Player of the Match. Employment won the match 6-4 but that prompted another contest over the statistical bragging rights because, despite losing the match, Treasury won 21 ends to Employment's 18 and Treasury won substantially more points than Employment over the whole match. Treasury's wins were emphatic while Employment's wins were often narrow scrapes. Employment countered by pointing out they are only team to do the double over Treasury so far this season. They say you can prove anything with statistics but statistics don't win matches! Honours even?? Last match of the week is PRO against Castaways. The first set put Castaways under immediate pressure when John Crawford went two ends to one up on Pete Harris. Pete won the fourth end but the fifth end went point for point until it seemed deuce was inevitable. In the end, to a huge sigh of relief from Castaways, Pete managed to nudge ahead and win it 11-9. Soon Castaways turned that 1-0 lead into 3-0, including a good win for Phil Wroe over Ronnie Turner. In the fourth set, PRO were on their way with an emphatic three straight win for Crawford over Wroe. PRO added to that when Ronnie defeated Neil LeMilliere in four close ends. The match score was 4-2 in Castaways favour but that was the end of any Castaways slip-ups as they captured all the remaining singles sets. The closest of those sets was Crawford against LeMilliere, always a tight game, which went all the way to a deciding end before LeMilliere stole it 11-9. The doubles was always likely to be interesting as Castaways have one of the best doubles records in the division while PRO have this year's surprise package, the undefeated pairing of Crawford and Turner. That undefeated record looked under severe threat as Castaways won the first two ends. PRO fought back to take the third and fourth sets but were again in trouble in the fifth as they went 10-8 down. There are not many people who'd back a Castaways loss after holding two match points but that's exactly what happened as PRO, who've clearly forgotten how to lose the doubles, won it 13-11 in the fifth, albeit on a net chord!! A good match and a satisfactory result for Castaways while PRO were probably also happy with a 7-3 outcome.

That result meant Morpeth gained a bit more ground on Castaways but time is running out and Castaways remain favourites. Next week Morpeth should be fine against the luckless Insurance but Castaways face Comets and it depends entirely on whether Comets field the best team or their reserve team. If it's their reserve team, the title race is over. Time will tell!

**RICHARD CAMPBELL
DIVISIONAL SECRETARY**

AVERAGES (Qualification: ≥18 sets played)

Player	Team	Sets Won	Sets Played	Average (%)
Luk	MORPETH	21	21	100.0
Bekele	MORPETH	35	38	92.1
Harris	CASTAWAYS	34	38	89.5
Herbert	NAT WEST	36	42	85.7
McKee	EMPLOYMENT	17	21	81.0
LeMilliere	CASTAWAYS	40	50	80.0
Samuels	NAT WEST	14	18	77.8
Hodges	EMPLOYMENT	15	20	75.0
Blyuss	MORPETH	17	23	73.9
Wong	TREASURY A	21	29	72.4
Caunt	CASTAWAYS	13	18	72.2
Turner	PRO	30	42	71.4
Robinson	TREASURY A	17	24	70.8
Evans	SPARTA	23	33	69.7
Codrington	COMETS	24	36	66.7
Fagan	COMETS	24	36	66.7
Johnson	NAT WEST	12	18	66.7
Wroe	CASTAWAYS	12	18	66.7
Chambers	MORPETH	23	35	65.7
Francis	COMETS	28	45	62.2
Giuffrida	TREASURY A	14	24	58.3
Crawford	PRO	20	36	55.6
Jermyn	EMPLOYMENT	16	30	53.3
Baylis	EMPLOYMENT	23	44	52.3
Cranstone	INSURANCE	26	50	52.0
Jones	NAT WEST	20	39	51.3
Persaud	PRO	15	30	50.0
Brown	MORPETH	11	22	50.0
Jones	TREASURY A	9	18	50.0
Loveder	SPARTA	9	18	50.0
Buchanan	PRO	9	21	42.9
Francis	INSURANCE	16	44	36.4
Sinarain	BTB	11	36	30.6
Tokely	SPARTA	12	47	25.5
Miller	DIT	8	41	19.5
Goodman	DIT	8	46	17.4
Waterhouse	BTB	6	39	15.4
Gazheli	DIT	6	40	15.0
Velinor	INSURANCE	6	44	13.6
Xavier	BTB	5	39	12.8
Hattrill	SPARTA	3	26	11.5
Buck	PRO	3	27	11.1
Roberts	BTB	1	24	4.2
John	SPARTA	1	26	3.8