

LONDON BANKS AND CIVIL SERVICE TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE BULLETIN 9

AS AT 3 DECEMBER 2016

	P	W	D	F	A	B	P
CASTAWAYS	8	7	0	68	12	24	92
CREDEX	8	7	0	67	13	24	91
NAT WEST	8	6	1	55	25	24	79
TREASURY A	8	6	0	52	28	24	76
MORPETH	8	4	0	47	33	24	71
PRO	9	3	2	42	48	27	69
COMETS	9	5	0	44	46	24	68
EMPLOYMENT	8	2	1	30	50	24	54
TREASURY B	8	2	0	19	61	24	43
BTB	8	0	0	15	65	24	39
SEDCOPIANS	8	1	0	11	69	24	35

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

THINGS TO NOTE

- ☑ None

COMMENTARY

Week 10

First match of the week and what a cracker! Nat West field their strongest possible team against Morpeth but all sorts of twists and turns are about to unfold. First two sets go to form, Herbert beating Chambers and Samuels beating Blyuss. Set three proves to be a close encounter between Chris Penrose and Sammy Bekele. Now there are 100 positions between these two in the England rankings but, against the rankings, Samson took the first two ends - but so close - 12-10 and 11-9! Third end was equally close with Chris just pinching it at 12-10. The fourth end was a replay of the previous three with neither player achieving any great separation from the other. So close, right until the very last rally with Samson sneaking home by 11-9. Excellent win! I don't have a record for the most points played over four ends but I suspect at 84 points this would have been up there. If that was tense, more was to follow. Oleg Blyuss seemed suddenly to find the game to trouble Chris Herbert and got the better of the first three ends. The fourth end was close but it was Oleg who came out on top by 11-8. Big win and, unexpectedly, bang goes Chris's perfect record! In any other match I would describe Rob Chambers creditable narrow loss to Penrose at some length but there is greater drama to report. Set six sees Bekele face Samuels. And it's over in a blink of an eye. Who won? Bekele, conceding a stingy 16 points in a one-sided contest. Some surprise! Chris Herbert then redeemed himself in set eight with a three straight defeat of the in-form Bekele. Les Samuels' nightmare was not to end as, in set nine, he also lost in four to Rob Chambers. The match result was 6-4 to Nat West but I suspect Morpeth have registered a strong contender for team performance of the season. And the first match of the season to involve that rare phenomenon of all six players scoring at least one victory. Great match! Second match of the week was the "must win" relegation battle between BTB and Treasury B. First set is a win for Flavia Xavier beating Jeremy Okai and setting a season record in the process when the second end concluded at 21-19 (memories of 2001 when the scoring system changed)! BTB go 2-0 up when Geoff Waterhouse beats Bryan Gittens. At that point, fortunes reversed and Treasury B started to nudge ahead. Treasury B's hero was David Shore who won all three, three straight. BTB's other successes came against Gittens who had one of those "so near yet so far" nights, losing narrowly in all his visits to the table. Treasury B win 6-4. Comets were always going to pose the risk of dropped sets for Castaways and so it proved. For Comets, Gary Defroand took an end off LeMilliere but finished winless. Steve Codrington lost narrowly to LeMilliere in three, even more narrowly against Pete Harris in four and then went all the way with Andy Nash losing 11-9 in the fifth in a marathon 107 points encounter! Steve Fagan beat LeMilliere and Nash and was involved in the set of the night against Pete Harris. These two are evenly matched and if my memory serves me correctly, Steve won

last time and Pete won the time before that. This time, Pete won the first end easily but the next two ends were incredibly tight, both ending at deuce, with Pete winning the second from 10-5 down but then losing the third from 10-6 up! There was then some confusion in the fourth end when the players changed ends at 5, thinking they were playing the fifth end (I've never heard of that happening before). Not sure if that had any impact but in the end it was Pete emerged victorious at 11-9 to inflict Steve's second loss of the season. Good match! Final match of the week and Treasury A are up against Sedcopians. Only one set required more than three ends and that was Doug Lavis against Jeremy Jones. Jeremy went two ends to one up but Doug won the fourth comfortably. The final end went Jeremy's way in an 11-6 win. Guimichev and Wong were untroubled and the whitewash was complete.

So Castaways go into Week 11 with a one point advantage at the top of the table. The gap between those two and the rest of the pack is growing. At the bottom, Treasury B have put some daylight between themselves and their rivals and have the easiest run-in to the midway break. With all those perfect records falling in the last fortnight, only Winston Wong now remains undefeated (Adewale and Jakslund are undefeated but don't meet this week's qualifying standard).

Next week's tastiest fixture sees Morpeth visit Treasury A in the battle for fourth spot. And if you're looking for an long odds upset, might PRO take sets off Castaways??

RICHARD CAMPBELL
DIVISIONAL SECRETARY

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AVERAGES (Qualification: ≥ 10 sets played)

Player	Team	Sets Won	Sets Played	Average (%)
Wong	TREASURY A	12	12	100.0
Herbert	NAT WEST	11	12	91.7
Fagan	COMETS	18	20	90.0
P Fung	CREDEX	16	18	88.9
Harris	CASTAWAYS	15	17	88.2
LeMilliere	CASTAWAYS	15	17	88.2
Nash	CASTAWAYS	10	12	83.3
Guimichev	TREASURY A	12	15	80.0
Nelson	CREDEX	10	13	76.9
Crawford	PRO	19	26	73.1
Samuels	NAT WEST	17	24	70.8
Bekele	MORPETH	13	19	68.4
McKee	EMPLOYMENT	8	12	66.7
Jones	NAT WEST	9	15	60.0
Wu	CREDEX	7	12	58.3
Codrington	COMETS	12	21	57.1
Blyuss	MORPETH	9	16	56.3
Jones	TREASURY A	10	18	55.6
Jermyn	EMPLOYMENT	8	15	53.3
Giuffrida	TREASURY A	7	15	46.7
Turner	PRO	7	15	46.7
Dight	TREASURY B	5	12	41.7
Persaud	PRO	6	15	40.0
Mak	EMPLOYMENT	8	21	38.1
Shore	TREASURY B	8	21	38.1
Buck	PRO	6	18	33.3
Fitzgerald	SEDCOPIANS	4	15	26.7
Waterhouse	BTB	6	23	26.1
Sinarain	COMETS	3	12	25.0
Xavier	BTB	4	20	20.0
Mason	SEDCOPIANS	3	15	20.0
Lavis	SEDCOPIANS	2	15	13.3
Okai	TREASURY B	2	15	13.3
Gittens	TREASURY B	2	18	11.1
Roberts	BTB	2	20	10.0