

LONDON BANKS AND CIVIL SERVICE TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE BULLETIN 6

AS AT 19 NOVEMBER 2017

	P	W	D	F	A	B	P
NAT WEST	7	5	1	46	24	21	67
CASTAWAYS	6	5	0	43	17	18	61
TREASURY A	6	4	0	43	17	18	61
MORPETH	5	3	1	32	18	15	47
OUTCASTS	6	1	1	23	37	18	41
SPARTA	5	2	1	23	27	15	38
INSURANCE	5	2	0	21	29	15	36
PRO	5	1	1	21	29	15	36
EMPLOYMENT	5	1	2	19	31	15	34
TREASURY B	6	0	1	13	47	18	31
COMETS	4	2	0	16	24	12	28

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_2017-2018/Division_One

COMMENTARY

Week 6

Just one of the scheduled matches was played this week because of the issue at the Abbey Centre. It pitched Nat West against Treasury B. Nat West have a huge squad and almost any team they selected was going to prove a handful for Treasury B. It was a tough night for Okai and Gittens but David Shore put up a good fight in all his sets. He pushed Adam Johnson all the way before losing 11-3 in the fifth. That was followed by taking an end off Tony Catt and the closest set of the night against Gareth Jones. Gareth won the first two ends and David won the next two. That took us to a nail biting final end where Gareth held two match points but couldn't convert either and that let David in to sneak the win 12-10 in the fifth. The result: 9-1 to Nat West.

Week 7

Normal service resumes. First match of the week and it's a cracker – Morpeth against Nat West with both teams fielding strong sides. First set of the night sets the tone as Rob Chambers loses by the narrowest of margins to Tony Catt 11-9 in the fifth. Rob was two ends to one up before Tony hauled him back to win after 104 points played! Set two and Adam Daley beats Bekele in four, to be followed by Sam Do beating Samuels, also in four. From there on in, things moved in Nat West's favour, slightly delayed by Bekele defeating Samuels and Sam Do pulling off a notable win over Tony Catt. The set I would like to have seen was Do against Daley where Sam got the better of the first three ends, the set was leveled at two ends each, with Adam triumphing at 11-8 in the fifth! Really high quality competitive set! The result was 7-3 to Nat West but it was closer than that with Morpeth only just losing out in several ends. Adam Daley was Man of the Match for his maximum. The next result sees PRO breath a sigh of relief as they notch up their first win of the season beating Outcasts 7-3. This was another match that contained some really close contests. Only two sets all night concluded in three ends. Eddie Roullier lost to John Crawford 11-5 in the fifth. Bob Coull had a real ding-dong battle with Ronnie Turner which saw Bob come out on top 11-9 in the fifth. Andy Macalister against Ian Buchanan was even closer. Ian came within two points of winning it in the fourth but it was Andrew that emerged the victor 11-7 in the fifth. A good maximum from John Crawford made him the Man of the Match. Sparta versus Comets was an interesting game. Steve Codrington played his first match for Comets this season and opened well, taking the first two ends off Steve Hattrill before surprisingly collapsing in the next three ends to lose 11-8 in the fifth. Steve later redeemed himself beating Tokely three straight. There were a few sets that potentially turned the match but I'd pick out Greg

Gargrue's win over Hattrill in four ends. The match ended 6-4 to Comets with Steve Fagan taking the expected maximum. All six players scored at least one win in that match – the first time that's happened in this Division since the 2015-16 season. Treasury B fielded only two players against Employment but paradoxically achieved their best result of the season so far. Bryan Gittens took an end off Mak, lost 11-7 in the fifth to Kevin Hawkes and beat Frank Dos Santos 11-6 in the fifth. Treasury's hero was David Shore who won all three, including a good win over Richard Mak in four ends. The outcome was a draw. Final match of the week and it's a clash between title-chasers Castaways and Treasury A. When I saw the team selections, I thought a draw or 6-4 to Treasury would be the outcome. The result of set one would have caused me to revise my forecast as Terry McKee come from two ends to one down to beat Perry Fung 11-6 in the fifth. If that was a good start for Castaways, things got even better after set two as Pete Harris beat Winston Wong 11-6 in the fifth. The scales then swung back in Treasury's direction with wins for Persaud and Fung over LeMilliere and a game-changing win for Wong over McKee. 3-2 to Treasury! Strangely enough, things ground to a halt for Treasury at that point and they only won one more set. Pete Harris fought out a battle royal with Laikram Persaud that ended with an 11-8 in the fifth win for Pete, after 103 points. The in-form McKee beat Persaud in four and Pete Harris beat Fung in four. An erratic doubles was won by Castaways 11-8 in the fifth to complete the 6-4 win. I think that was a great team effort by Castaways and Pete Harris deserves to be carried shoulder high for his three wins. This was the closest match of the season so far with six sets requiring all five ends.

Nat West open a gap at the top but they have played one more match than their rivals. Treasury A and Castaways are locked together in what is now looking like a three horse race. The bookies make Nat West the odds on favourites because they have the greatest strength in depth but, as we've seen many times before, this is going to come down to player availability and selection. A quick pat on the back for all three promoted teams who are holding their own in mid table. It's close at the bottom of the table too and I admit to having no idea yet on who will end up in the two relegation positions.

No obvious banana skins for the title contenders in next week's fixtures. Morpeth are playing two matches in a week to catch up a postponement while Treasury A have a bye week. Best potential contests would seem to be PRO against Sparta and whether Treasury B can keep up momentum in their visit to Comets.

RICHARD CAMPBELL
DIVISIONAL SECRETARY

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AVERAGES (Qualification: ≥ 6 sets played)

Player	Team	Sets Won	Sets Played	Average (%)
Johnson	NAT WEST	6	6	100.0
Catt	NAT WEST	8	9	88.9
Harris	CASTAWAYS	8	9	88.9
McKee	CASTAWAYS	8	9	88.9
Fagan	COMETS	10	12	83.3
Daley	NAT WEST	6	5	83.3
Herbert	NAT WEST	7	9	77.8
Grant	CASTAWAYS	6	8	75.0
Persaud	TREASURY A	8	11	72.7
Baylis	EMPLOYMENT	6	9	66.7
Bekele	MORPETH	6	9	66.7
Chambers	MORPETH	6	9	66.7
Giuffrida	TREASURY A	6	9	66.7
Evans	SPARTA	9	14	64.3
Wong	TREASURY A	9	14	64.3
Fung	TREASURY A	7	11	63.6
Crawford	PRO	9	15	60.0
Tokely	SPARTA	7	12	58.3

Turner	PRO	7	12	58.3
Mak	EMPLOYMENT	6	11	54.5
Francis	INSURANCE	8	15	53.3
Shore	TREASURY B	8	15	53.3
LeMilliere	CASTAWAYS	9	17	52.9
Macalister	OUTCASTS	6	12	50.0
Hattrill	SPARTA	4	8	50.0
Jones	NAT WEST	7	15	46.7
Jameson	OUTCASTS	4	9	44.4
Cranstone	INSURANCE	5	12	41.7
Roulier	OUTCASTS	5	12	41.7
Velinor	INSURANCE	5	12	41.7
Jones	OUTCASTS	3	9	33.3
Buchanan	PRO	2	12	16.7
Hawkes	EMPLOYMENT	1	8	12.5
Gittens	TREASURY B	2	18	11.1
Gargrupe	COMETS	1	12	8.3
Okai	TREASURY B	1	12	8.3