

LONDON BANKS AND CIVIL SERVICE TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE BULLETIN 1

AS AT 7 OCTOBER 2017

	P	W	D	F	A	B	P
CASTAWAYS	1	1	0	10	0	3	13
OUTCASTS	1	1	0	9	1	3	12
MORPETH	1	1	0	6	4	3	9
NAT WEST	1	0	1	5	5	3	8
PRO	1	0	1	5	5	3	8
TREASURY A	1	0	0	4	6	3	7
TREASURY B	1	0	0	1	9	3	4
INSURANCE	1	0	0	0	10	3	3
COMETS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
EMPLOYMENT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SPARTA	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 scores can be found on the website
- ✓ Employment versus Comets was postponed this week. Sparta had a bye week.
- ✓ I'll add individual playing averages after a few matches when they settle down.

COMMENTARY

Week 1

Having spent one season in Division 2, Outcasts bounce back into the top flight. And they start with a bang, hammering Treasury B 9-1. Good team performance this, with maximums for Macalister and Roullier plus two from Alan Jones. Five sets ended three straight, four sets went to four ends and the doubles proved to be the closest set of the night with Treasury leading two ends to one before Outcasts upped the pace to win it in five. Treasury had to wait until set nine for their first success, David Shore getting the better of Alan Jones. Treasury have stayed up in the last few seasons by virtue of beating the promoted teams. The loss to Outcasts suggests avoiding relegation might be even harder this year. Pick of the first week's matches was Treasury A versus Morpeth. Treasury finished a very creditable third last season and Morpeth were not far behind. Treasury's prospects were enhanced by the presence of new signing Perry Fung. In the event it was not Perry but Morpeth's Sam Do who was Player of the Match. Sam won all three, dropping one end all night – to Perry Fung. Sammy Bekele had a good season for Morpeth last year and started well here, winning two sets and losing only to Fung. Long first game in Wong versus Bekele that ended at 17-15 to Winston but the next three games all went to Bekele. A rare unproductive night for Winston Wong who won one, something that happened just twice in the 2016-17 season. Just like the previous match, the doubles proved to be the closest set. Morpeth won the first two ends while Treasury won the next two. Very close in the final end but Morpeth sneaked it 11-9 in the fifth to win the match 6-4. Title favorites Castaways began with a routine 10-0 victory over promotees Insurance. This was an unusual Castaways line up - only LeMilliere from their regular team – but it proved more than enough to win this match. Insurance won three ends all night. Insurance's Ian Cranstone was arguably the best player in Division Two last season but even he found it hard going. Consolation for Insurance is that they probably couldn't have been faced with a harder first fixture. Nat West and PRO often produce some close contests and so it proved again in their opening fixture. Nat West's Chris Herbert was double booked and was allowed to play three off and leave. Chris wasn't messing around and posted three three-straight wins in double quick time. That left PRO with a mountain to climb but slowly they worked their way back into the match. Nat West were fielding a reserve in Andrew Muller but he proved to be no pushover, taking ends off all the PRO players and narrowly losing to Jai Persaud 11-7 in the fifth after 117 points had been played (that's almost the equivalent of all five

ends ending 13-11). That is an all-time Divisional record for the most points played in a single set! PRO came from 3-0 down to lead 5-4 going in to the doubles. Crawford and Turner versus Jones and Muller and I'm giving Nat West little chance of securing the draw. But, just to confirm it's a funny old game, Nat West win the first two ends. PRO win the third end but, in the fourth, it's Nat West who come out ahead, taking the end 11-7 and thereby the draw. Hats off to the Jones/Muller combination for pulling off a really good win against the odds!

Next week's fixtures include the first crunch match of the season as Nat West host Castaways. Last season they finished with honours even, Nat West won the first half match and Castaways won the return.

This season we lost Credex, the current champions and a founder member of this League, with history stretching back into the Civil Service League before that. I suspect there has been a Credex team in this League and before it the Civil Service League for more than 35 years. A sad loss!

RICHARD CAMPBELL
DIVISIONAL SECRETARY

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