

LONDON BANKS AND CIVIL SERVICE TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE BULLETIN 16

AS AT 9 FEBRUARY 2020

	P	W	D	F	A	B	P
CASTAWAYS	15	12	3	114	36	45	159
COMETS	14	11	1	110	30	42	152
MORPETH A	14	11	2	105	35	42	147
NAT WEST	15	10	3	91	59	42	133
EMPLOYMENT	15	9	0	87	63	45	132
MORPETH C	15	4	2	64	86	45	109
GOOD KARMA	14	4	1	62	78	42	104
SPARTA	14	3	1	45	95	42	87
PRO	14	3	0	37	103	42	79
TREASURY B	13	2	1	35	95	39	74
OUTCASTS	13	2	0	30	100	39	69

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
https://www.tabletennis365.com/LondonBanksAndCivilService/Fixtures/Season_2019-2020/Division_One

COMMENTARY

Week 19

First match of the week and something's got to give. It's Morpeth A versus Morpeth C and while the A team have Alex Luk, the C team have Anit Deb - both players unbeaten. Both teams were strong – Ji and Bekele making up the A team and Robertson and Alnak for the C team. Despite that, the A team quickly established a 5-0 lead with two wins each for Luk and Ji and one for Bekele. But at this point Anit Deb hadn't played, as he was late. His first set was against Bekele and he came through it with a comfortable three straight victory. Next was the big encounter – Deb against Luk. Alex took the first two ends but Anit took the third. I thought this was going all the way but it didn't, as it was Alex who came out on top, winning the fourth 11-8. A good win and winning streak maintained. Anit's last set was against Jane Ji and he won it three straight but what a fight Jane put up, losing by the narrowest of margins 8-11, 15-17, 14-16! Anit's two wins were all that the C team salvaged from the match. 8-2 to the A team and surprisingly only four sets went past the third end.

Nat West fielded a strong squad against Treasury B who unfortunately had neither Dight nor Guimichev available. In truth this made for a one-sided contest with Catt and Johnson each registering comfortable maximums. Gareth Jones found it a little harder, dropping ends to Okai and Gittens. Gareth's luck ran out in his third set when David Shore just managed to beat him in four ends, two of which ended at deuce. So, 9-1 to Nat West and time looks to be running out for Treasury B.

Outcasts have struggled this season and look destined for the drop. This week they faced Karma and a good match it proved to be. Outcasts started brightly winning the first two sets, Jameson beating Zhao and Roullier scraping home against Johansson in five close ends. Karma opened their account in the next set when Ben Link sailed through quite easily against Bob Coull. Set four and Terese Johansson could be forgiven for thinking it was not going to be her night as she lost a second set in the fifth end, this time against Simon Jameson 11-9 in the fifth! That made the score 3-1 to Outcasts. A win for Coull over Zhao took that to 4-1 and Outcasts were riding high. The remaining sets were hard fought but went in Outcasts' favour with the exception of two more wins for Ben Link. Outcasts started the doubles 6-3 up but for some reason got nowhere, losing by a wide margin. That was Outcasts' second win of the season and gives them a glimmer of hope of avoiding relegation.

The remaining two matches this week had an important bearing on the title. First up was Castaways against Employment and a 10-0 whitewash was the target. That got blown out of the water in the first set when Paul Baylis defeated Johnny Bispham, having lost the first two ends but coming back to take the next three. Nevertheless, Castaways pulled it back to 3-1, which included a narrow win for LeMilliere over Chris McKee 11-8 in the fifth. More bad news followed as Johnny Bispham lost again – a cruel loss by the narrowest of margins 13-11 in the fifth to McKee. The tide was turning against Castaways. Despite that, they took the score to 5-2 before the wheels well and truly came off the bus with LeMilliere losing three straight to Baylis and a disconsolate Bispham going down to Anita Jermyn in four ends. Every set counts in the quest for the title and a relieved Castaways managed to take the doubles for a 6-4 win. Three wins for Pete Harris, two for LeMilliere but none for Bispham – very strange as Johnny has been Player of the Match in his last two outings, including his memorable win over Yiji Zhao. Crucial sets dropped by Castaways!

If it was a bad night for Castaways, rivals Comets sailed through their match against PRO. A 10-0 outcome was achieved, PRO managing to win three ends all evening, all of them conceded by Ian Francis, while Fung and Persaud had easy nights.

Those results put Comets back in the driver's seat but keep an eye on Morpeth A who, with a match in hand, may yet turn this into a three horse race. It's equally interesting at the bottom. Treasury B have a match in hand over PRO and a handful of sets is all that's needed to open up the relegation battle. Next week Castaways have a bye week. Comets face Employment and will be aware of the damage that contest did to Castaways' chances. Morpeth A are up against Karma while PRO will be hoping to take sets off Morpeth C. Probably the most significant battle is Outcasts again Treasury B. The relegation positions might look different come the end of next week!

RICHARD CAMPBELL
DIVISIONAL SECRETARY

Issued: 09/02/2020

AVERAGES (Qualification: ≥15 sets played)

Player	Team	Sets Won	Sets Played	Average (%)
Fung	COMETS	23	23	100.0
Harris	CASTAWAYS	34	36	94.4
Penrose	NAT WEST	17	18	94.4
Deb	MORPETH C	14	15	93.3
Persaud	COMETS	24	27	88.9
Bekele	MORPETH A	20	23	87.0
Ji	MORPETH A	25	29	86.2
Killip	EMPLOYMENT	14	17	82.4
Chambers	MORPETH A	18	22	81.8
Catt	NAT WEST	14	18	77.8
Herbert	NAT WEST	23	30	76.7
Link	GOOD KARMA	11	15	73.3
LeMilliere	CASTAWAYS	30	42	71.4
Francis	COMETS	17	24	70.8
Bispham	CASTAWAYS	18	27	66.7
Brown	MORPETH A	10	16	62.5
Fagan	COMETS	10	16	62.5
Baylis	EMPLOYMENT	19	31	61.3
Jermyn	EMPLOYMENT	9	16	56.3
McKee	EMPLOYMENT	15	27	55.6

Loveder	SPARTA	11	20	55.0
Muller	NAT WEST	8	15	53.3
Greenberg	GOOD KARMA	9	17	52.9
Sanders	GOOD KARMA	10	19	52.6
Dight	TREASURY B	11	21	52.4
Alnak	MORPETH C	12	24	50.0
Evans	SPARTA	12	24	50.0
Coull	OUTCASTS	9	18	50.0
Robertson	MORPETH C	13	27	48.1
Crawford	PRO	15	32	46.9
Guimichev	TREASURY B	8	18	44.4
Shore	TREASURY B	6	15	40.0
Jameson	OUTCASTS	9	24	37.5
Nicholls	MORPETH C	10	27	37.0
Mak	EMPLOYMENT	8	22	36.4
Jones	NAT WEST	14	39	35.9
Tokely	SPARTA	13	39	33.3
Shilo	MORPETH C	7	24	29.2
Blyuss	MORPETH A	4	15	26.7
Roullier	OUTCASTS	5	24	20.8
Persaud	PRO	6	29	20.7
Buck	PRO	6	30	20.0
Bulvicius	MORPETH C	3	15	20.0
Buchanan	PRO	5	26	19.2
Hattrill	SPARTA	4	24	16.7
Zhao	GOOD KARMA	3	20	15.0
Macalister	OUTCASTS	2	24	8.3
Johansson	GOOD KARMA	1	17	5.9
Gittens	TREASURY B	1	18	5.6