

LONDON BANKS AND CIVIL SERVICE TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE BULLETIN 9

AS AT 10 DECEMBER 2017

	P	W	D	F	A	B	P
CASTAWAYS	9	8	0	72	18	27	99
NAT WEST	9	7	1	64	26	27	91
MORPETH	9	6	2	58	32	27	85
TREASURY A	7	5	0	52	18	21	73
PRO	8	3	1	41	39	24	65
INSURANCE	9	3	0	31	59	27	58
EMPLOYMENT	8	2	2	33	47	24	57
COMETS	7	3	1	33	37	21	54
OUTCASTS	8	1	1	24	56	24	48
SPARTA	7	2	1	25	45	21	46
TREASURY B	9	0	1	17	73	27	44

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
- ✓ Sparta versus Treasury A was postponed this week

COMMENTARY

Week 9 (late result)

Treasury B take on PRO and start with a glimmer of hope as John Colgan just edges out Ian Buchanan at 11-8 in the fifth in a come-from-behind win. That hope faded a bit as David Shore immediately went down three straight to Jai Persaud. That's a set I suspect Treasury had high hopes for. After that it was all PRO. Ronnie Turner cantered to a maximum. Persaud did the same though he was hard pressed by John Colgan before coming through in four ends. In amongst those sets, David Shore defeated Buchanan three straight to make the match result an 8-2 win for PRO. Having not won any of their first four matches PRO now have a bit of a winning streak going, winning their last three.

Week 10

Begins with an interesting clash between Nat West and Employment. Last week I drew your attention to Employment's new signing, Richard Oppenheim, who I suspect considerably strengthens Employment. This was a chance to test that theory as Nat West have a strong team. In the opening sets, Tony Catt beat Baylis in four and Adam Johnson did the same to Chris McKee. Sandwiched between those sets, Oppenheim had little difficulty with Gareth Jones. Set four and Tony Catt showed his calibre beating Oppenheim three straight. To win that convincingly indicates a man in form and Tony is arguably the player to beat in this Division. Oppenheim went on to beat Adam Johnson over four ends but his two wins were all Employment had to show for a night's hard work. A quiet mention for Gareth Jones as I think his sets against McKee and Baylis each looked at best 50:50 on paper but he won both three straight. So, in the last bulletin, I predicted no upsets this week and everything likely to follow the formbook. Well, Insurance decided to prove me wrong in their match with Comets! I had this match down as 6-4 or 7-3 to Comets. The result was 6-4 to Insurance! Must have been team selection, I hear you say, but both teams were at full strength. Presumably Steve Fagan got three but, no, he got one (yes, 1). He arrived late and had to play two sets back to back. Perhaps he wasn't in the right frame of mind, or not warmed up, but he lost to Cranstone and Francis. Ian Cranstone became unplayable for a night and won all three, including wins in the fifth over Steve Codrington and Greg Gargrupe. Albert Francis provided great back up, winning two, losing only to Codrington. The night ended with a real see-saw doubles where Comets won the first two ends, Insurance

won the next two, but it was Comets who came home first at 11-8 in the fifth. Good match, in which just three sets ended three straight and Ian Cranstone lays claim to the win (and performance) of the season award. PRO versus Morpeth did conform to the formbook with Morpeth the 7-3 victors. Bekele and Chambers were dominant for Morpeth each winning three, with Rob not dropping an end and Sammy dropping one each against Turner and Crawford. Best set of the night was Ian Buchanan versus Stuart Sweeney. Otherwise winless, Stuart had a real chance here. The ends went in rhythm: 1-0, 1-1, 2-1, 2-2 and into the fifth where, close as it was, Ian got home 11-9. A big phew from PRO! Might PRO have expected better than a 7-3 loss? Realistically, I don't think so given the players involved. Treasury B were always going to be the underdogs against Castaways and it was set eight before they won an end when David Shore took an end off Keld Jakslund. That set a trend as Jeremy Okai took an end off McKee. The same followed in the doubles, Castaways winning in four and logging their third whitewash of the season.

All of a sudden Castaways have opened up a gap on their nearest rivals. Treasury A have two games in hand but they'd need to win both 10-0 to match Castaways. Morpeth cement their position in third place – a place they've held for the last four weeks. Despite breaking their winning streak this week, PRO maintain fifth position (up from ninth in Week Four). The fortunes of the newly promoted teams have waned in the last few weeks but Insurance are comfortably mid-table, their cause mightily helped by the upset win this week. I'm not going to dismiss Treasury B's chances of staying up just yet but they'll a much better second half than first half. Who will fill the other relegation spot is very interesting. I can't see it being Sparta providing they can get their best team out. That would put Outcasts in the frame but there's still a long way to go. Tony Catt heads the average with just one loss. Terry McKee is up their with him and is having an excellent season.

Next week's fixtures will potentially have a bearing on both the top and bottom of the table. The cream of the crop is Morpeth against Castaways. Surprisingly, Morpeth don't have a good record against Castaways but it's down to team selection. A trio of Do, Bekele and Chambers would prove to be a handful but I doubt we'll see that team. Bearing in mind what I said about relegation we have another "must win" game as Outcasts visit Sparta. A big win for either team would seriously damage the chances of the loser staying up. Insurance take on PRO where you must fancy PRO unless Insurance pull another rabbit out of the hat. Should be a good game though. Treasury A and Sparta both play twice next week. Treasury have a squad big enough not to be troubled by that but it will stretch Sparta's resources. All to play for!

RICHARD CAMPBELL
DIVISIONAL SECRETARY

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AVERAGES (Qualification: ≥ 10 sets played)

Player	Team	Sets Won	Sets Played	Average (%)
Catt	NAT WEST	14	15	93.3
McKee	CASTAWAYS	14	15	93.3
Harris	CASTAWAYS	11	12	91.7
Herbert	NAT WEST	10	12	83.3
Fagan	COMETS	16	20	80.0
Persaud	TREASURY A	11	14	78.6
Bekele	MORPETH	14	18	77.8
Grant	CASTAWAYS	8	11	72.7
Fung	TREASURY A	10	14	71.4
LeMilliere	CASTAWAYS	18	26	69.2
Chambers	MORPETH	10	15	66.7
Blyuss	MORPETH	8	12	66.7
Giuffrida	TREASURY A	8	12	66.7
Crawford	PRO	11	17	64.7
Wong	TREASURY A	9	14	64.3
Turner	PRO	12	20	60.0

Baylis	EMPLOYMENT	9	15	60.0
Evans	SPARTA	10	17	58.8
Jones	NAT WEST	12	21	57.1
Mak	EMPLOYMENT	8	14	57.1
Codrington	COMETS	6	11	54.5
Brown	MORPETH	6	12	50.0
Macalister	OUTCASTS	6	12	50.0
Persaud	PRO	6	12	50.0
Shore	TREASURY B	11	24	45.8
Francis	INSURANCE	12	27	44.4
Tokely	SPARTA	8	18	44.4
Cranstone	INSURANCE	9	24	37.5
Roullier	OUTCASTS	5	15	33.3
Buchanan	PRO	6	20	30.0
Velinor	INSURANCE	7	24	29.2
Jones	OUTCASTS	3	12	25.0
Gargrupe	COMETS	2	20	10.0
Gittens	TREASURY B	2	21	9.5
Okai	TREASURY B	1	18	5.6