

LONDON BANKS AND CIVIL SERVICE TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE BULLETIN 13

AS AT 13 JANUARY 2019

	P	W	D	F	A	B	P
CASTAWAYS	12	9	2	97	23	36	133
MORPETH	11	9	2	83	27	33	116
TREASURY A	11	6	2	73	37	33	106
COMETS	10	6	1	59	41	30	89
PRO	11	6	0	56	54	33	89
NAT WEST	10	5	2	59	41	30	89
EMPLOYMENT	11	5	1	55	55	33	88
INSURANCE	11	3	1	42	68	33	75
SPARTA	11	3	1	38	72	30	68
BTB	11	1	1	23	87	33	56
DIT	11	0	1	15	95	33	48

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_2018-2019/Division_One

COMMENTARY

Week 15

First result in this week was Insurance against Sparta, a match that could influence the relegation battle. The first half result was a fairly comfortable 7-3 win for Insurance so they were hoping this match would take them further away from the relegation zone. Things started well for Insurance as Ian Cranstone beat Peter Tokely. That was immediately cancelled out when Dave Evans reversed his first half loss to Albert Francis in three incredibly close ends, each of which ended with a deuce scoreline. More close battles followed as Steve Hattrill came from behind to beat Jon Velinor 11-9 in the fifth. 104 points in that contest and no end was won by greater than a two-point margin. In the next set, Evans defeated Cranstone and suddenly a Sparta win looked on the cards. As the sets played out that proved to be the case with first Hattrill and then Tokely both beating Francis. Insurance redeemed themselves in the doubles set, winning it in five ends. A first half 7-3 win for Insurance was turned into a second half 7-3 win for Sparta and a big move towards safety. Perplexingly, Albert Francis won three in the first half but lost all three in the second half against the same opponents! Good team effort from Sparta! Second result of the week saw title chasers Morpeth taking on relegation candidates BTB. The match proved to be one sided with only two sets extending past a third end. Best set of the night saw Flavinda Xavier defeat Stuart Sweeney, nearly in four ends, but eventually in five ends, ending 11-4. Sinarain and Barry Ilett, on debut, could make no impression for BTB while Chambers and Blyuss had trouble free nights for Morpeth. 9-1 to Morpeth. Castaways played DIT and went one better than Morpeth, winning 10-0. All bar one of the sets ended in a three straight win for Castaways. The exception saw Pat Caunt nearly lose to Florian Gazheli. Pat survived three match points to come back from 10-7 down in the fourth, plus another two match points in the exchanges at deuce, to finally run out the 18-16 winner. Having survived that dice with death Pat took the fifth end 11-3. A 105 points marathon and the fifth 18-16 scoreline of the season. Nice to see Terry McKee back in that match after a couple of months' break. Best match-up of the week was between PRO and Employment. Before the first ball was hit, I fancied a draw as the outcome. The match featured two in-form players in Chris McKee and Ronnie Taylor. The first set – Crawford against McKee - was a real crowd pleaser. John seemed to have it won at two ends to one up and 9-5 up in the fourth end only to lose the next six points on the trot! More drama in the fifth as Crawford comes back from 10-5 down to level at 10-10, only to lose the end 12-10. The closeness of the contest is evident from the scoreline: 9-11, 11-9, 11-9, 9-11, 10-12! Good win for Chris and a great start for Employment. Then came the best set of the night – Crawford against the tenacious Anita Jermyn. Anita wins the first two ends and leads 8-3 in

the third, surely it's all over. Yet, in what is becoming the "great escapes" season, somehow John wins eight of the next nine points and steals the end 11-9. In the fourth end, John saves two match points and wins the end in the most extraordinary style as Anita serves off at 14-15! In the final end, John takes a 9-5 lead but Anita hauls him back point after point until, you couldn't make this stuff up, she holds her third match point at 10-9. At this juncture, any fair-minded person would have declared a draw and spared both competitors any more nerve-jangling moments. But you can't have draws in table tennis and so the drama must be played out to the very end. In one last twist, John comes from 10-9 down to take the next three points and win the set 12-10!! You have to feel sorry for Anita. 117 points involved, the third longest match in the division's history, but the numbers don't do justice to the emotion and drama involved. Ronnie Turner just beats Paul Baylis in five ends. Ian Buchanan beats Jermyn 11-9 in the fifth after the luckless Anita held a match point. And, building to a crescendo, Ronnie Turner wins the battle of the in-form players, beating Chris McKee 11-9 in the fifth. The outcome was 6-4 to PRO. Five sets went the full distance. Thirty-eight ends were played and 22 of them were won by a two-point margin! By far the closest match of the season thus far.

Week 18 (match brought forward)

Treasury and Castaways agreed to bring forward this fixture. In a most extraordinary contest, Treasury won 8-2 and thereby blew open the title race. It was always going to be hard for Castaways with unbeaten Tony Egan playing for Treasury but they had another card up their sleeve in YiJi Zhao, playing for the first time in this league. Yiji proved to be head and shoulders above her Castaways' opponents and handed out three crushing defeats. I will not replay this match in detail as Neil LeMilliere has posted a blow-by-blow account [here](#). I would make two comments. First, we should not let the margin of Treasury's win obscure a magnificent three straight win for Pete Harris over the unbeaten Tony Egan, currently ranked 234 in England. Second, Yiji beat Pete Harris 11-4, 11-8 and 11-5, which I am sure will cause eyebrows to be raised around the league. I wonder if we'll see her again. If we do, we must add Treasury to the list of likely title contenders.

RICHARD CAMPBELL
DIVISIONAL SECRETARY

Issued: 13/01/2019

AVERAGES (Qualification: ≥11 sets played)

Player	Team	Sets Won	Sets Played	Average (%)
Bekele	MORPETH	20	20	100.0
Luk	MORPETH	15	15	100.0
Harris	CASTAWAYS	22	24	91.7
McKee	CASTAWAYS	13	15	86.7
McKee	EMPLOYMENT	15	18	83.3
LeMilliere	CASTAWAYS	28	36	77.8
Herbert	NAT WEST	16	21	76.2
Evans	SPARTA	18	24	75.0
Sweeney	MORPETH	9	12	75.0
Turner	PRO	20	27	74.1
Caunt	CASTAWAYS	13	18	72.2
Wong	TREASURY A	17	24	70.8
Codrington	COMETS	20	30	66.7
Robinson	TREASURY A	10	15	66.7
Chambers	MORPETH	13	20	65.0
Baylis	EMPLOYMENT	17	27	63.0
Francis	COMETS	17	27	63.0
Catt	NAT WEST	9	15	60.0
Fagan	COMETS	14	24	58.3

Blyuss	MORPETH	7	12	58.3
Loveder	SPARTA	7	12	58.3
Brown	MORPETH	8	14	57.1
Crawford	PRO	13	24	54.2
Jones / Zhao	TREASURY A	8	15	53.3
Cranstone	INSURANCE	17	33	51.5
Jermyn	EMPLOYMENT	9	18	50.0
Persaud	PRO	10	21	47.6
Giuffrida	TREASURY A	8	18	44.4
Francis	INSURANCE	14	33	42.4
Jones	NAT WEST	10	24	41.7
Buchanan	PRO	6	15	40.0
Sinarain	BTB	8	24	33.3
Velinor	INSURANCE	6	27	22.2
Waterhouse	BTB	5	24	20.8
Tokely	SPARTA	6	30	20.0
Miller	DIT	4	24	16.7
Xavier	BTB	4	27	14.8
Hattrill	SPARTA	2	18	11.1
Gazheli	DIT	3	29	10.3
Goodman	DIT	3	29	10.3
Buck	PRO	1	12	8.3
Burrows	EMPLOYMENT	1	12	8.3
Mehta	DIT	1	14	7.1
John	SPARTA	1	15	6.7
Roberts	BTB	1	15	6.7