

LONDON BANKS AND CIVIL SERVICE TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE BULLETIN 11

AS AT 21 DECEMBER 2016

	P	W	D	F	A	B	P
CASTAWAYS	10	9	0	84	16	30	114
CREDEX	10	8	0	80	20	30	110
TREASURY A	10	7	0	66	34	30	96
MORPETH	10	6	0	61	39	30	91
NAT WEST	9	7	1	63	27	27	90
COMETS	10	6	0	53	47	27	80
PRO	10	3	2	43	57	30	73
EMPLOYMENT	8	2	1	30	50	24	54
TREASURY B	9	2	0	20	70	27	47
BTB	10	0	0	17	83	30	47
SEDCOPIANS	10	1	0	13	87	30	43

Bonus points shown in penultimate column. Ultimate column shows total points from sets won and bonuses

THINGS TO NOTE

- ☑ Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all!
- ☑ We start again on 11 January in a week of fascinating contests. Can Morpeth damage Credex's title hopes? Might Comets pull off an upset win against Nat West? And at the bottom there's a "must win" match between BTB and Old Seds!

COMMENTARY

Week 12

Well, it's the clash of the titans as the top two teams fight it out to decide who will finish the first half on top. Team selections: Nelson, Wu and P. Fung versus Harris, LeMilliere and Jaksland. My prediction was a draw. The night started well for Castaways with Harris in good form, seeing off Nelson three straight (albeit the first end extended to 17-15). Set two sees LeMilliere take on Wu. That doesn't last long either as Wu triumphs three straight, taking the third end from 9-4 down. Set three and the unbeaten Keld Jaksland faces Perry Fung. Perry got the better of the first three ends but Keld came back to narrowly take the fourth. The final end is also close but it's Perry who emerges the winner, taking it 11-9 in the fifth. Jaksland's defeat means no one qualifying for the averages now holds a perfect record. Set four and Harris's good form continues, coasting past Wu three straight. The match is nicely poised at 2-2. In set five, Jaksland came out on top of Nelson, winning in three ends. At that point the match took a highly unexpected turn in that Castaways somehow managed to win all the remaining four singles sets?!?! The first was an epic battle between LeMilliere and Fung, Neil coming from behind to win it 11-8 in the fifth with 96 points played. The next set was another nail biter with Wu finding some form against Jaksland. Wu was two sets to one up, only for Jaksland to level the set and take it into the fifth end. I think that broke the momentum and Jaksland raced away with the final end by 11-4. Pete Harris continued his good run of form beating Fung three straight. Set nine and the final nail in the coffin as LeMilliere sneaked past Nelson, winning 11-9 in the fifth in the longest set of the night – 99 points. Against all the odds, with the final twist, Credex won the doubles to take the match score to 7-3! You'd have to single out Pete Harris's maximum as the match's high spot but an inspired all round team performance by Castaways. Next up was BTB versus Treasury A. This had the potential to be a whitewash and so it proved. In the first set, Ross Roberts took an end off Jeremy Jones but after that it was a procession of three straights until the doubles. Treasury rattled off the first two ends but BTB leveled the set at two ends all. That was enough to give Treasury increased motivation and they raced through the final end to win 11-2. For Treasury, Winston Wong was clinical, conceding 43 points all evening. Morpeth against Old Seds was another potential whitewash, but not so. First three sets were routine and went to Morpeth. In set four, Rod Fitzgerald beats Therese Johansson three straight. In set five, Doug Lavis

triumphed over Duncan Brown in four ends and suddenly the match score was 3-2. However, things stopped there for Seds as Morpeth took all the remaining sets (including a nice win for Johansson over Lavis). Treasury B turned out with two players against Comets. David Shore took an end off both Steves and beat Sinarain. Closest set of the night was Sinarain against John Colgan. Colgan got the better of the first three ends but Sinarain came from behind to take the remaining two ends fairly comfortably, making Comets the winners by 9-1.

End half review

So it's Castaways by four points at the halfway break thanks to that extraordinary 7-3 win over their rivals. Those with long memories will recall at the halfway point last season Castaways led by two points but Credex turned that round with ease in the second half to win the title by 12 points. Déjà vu? It's all going to come down to the reverse fixture in the final week of the season. Treasury A have nudged ahead of Morpeth in the battle for fourth place. Nat West have a postponed match to fulfil but unless they win that by a mile it's mighty close for third to fifth places. It's been a funny half for Nat West. Some very high "highs" and they've only lost once yet they're far adrift of the top two. Comets and PRO might end up having their own battle for sixth and seventh spot with Comet currently holding the edge. Employment have two postponed matches so it'd hard to know if their current league position is a true representation. And, finally, a really interesting scrap between Treasury B, Old Seds and BTB for the relegation places. This is too close to call. Perhaps the odds marginally favour Treasury B to stay up but it only needs one inspirational performance by their rivals!

New all-time records set this half:

Fewest points played in a five-ender: Treasury A won the doubles against Comets and set a new Divisional record for the fewest points played in a five ender – just 77 points.

Longest individual set: Flavia Xavier beating Jeremy Okai when the second end concluded at 21-19.

The first half in numbers

Players involved: 66 different players have so far appeared (more than at the end of last season)

Played in every match: No one, but Crawford, Samuels, Roberts, Waterhouse, Xavier, Mak, Shore and Fung missed just one.

Most "Player of the Match" awards": Steve Fagan with six.

Longest unbeaten streak: Pete Harris with 17 consecutive wins

Best doubles team: Credex and Nat West, each with nine wins out of ten

Biggest squad: Castaways, with eight players

Smallest squad: PRO, with four players

Longest set of the half: Anton Wu narrowly losing to Samson Bekele after 110 points.

Match involving most five-enders: Six sets went to five when Morpeth played Treasury A

Matches in which all six players registered at least one victory: Happened once – Morpeth versus Nat West

Memorable team performances: PRO drawing with Nat West. Nat West beating both Castaways and Credex. Morpeth getting so close to NatWest. Morpeth beating Treasury A despite an injured Sammy Bekele. Treasury A beating Nat West 6-4. And hard not to include Castaways 7-3 win over Credex.

Outstanding individual performances:

John Crawford beating Les Samuels

Adam Johnson and Chris Herbert beating Pete Harris

Richard Mak beating Anton Wu in five

Rob Chambers removing Winston Wong's perfect record.
Ronnie Turner beating Steve Fagan and Neil LeMilliere
Les Samuels defeating Persaud and Nelson from Credex and Chris Penrose's maximum in the same match
Giovanni Giuffrida's win over Tony Catt
Anita Jermyn's maximum at PRO
Nabil Chair's defeat of Perry Fung
Sammy Bekele's wins over Chris Penrose and Les Samuels
Oleg Blyuss denting Chris Herbert's perfect record

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AVERAGES (Qualification: ≥ 12 sets played)

Player	Team	Sets Won	Sets Played	Average (%)
Wong	TREASURY A	16	17	94.1
Herbert	NAT WEST	11	12	91.7
Jaksland	CASTAWAYS	11	12	91.7
Harris	CASTAWAYS	21	23	91.3
Fagan	COMETS	20	22	90.9
Nash	CASTAWAYS	13	15	86.7
P Fung	CREDEX	20	24	83.3
LeMilliere	CASTAWAYS	19	23	82.6
Guimichev	TREASURY A	12	15	80.0
Crawford	PRO	19	26	73.1
Samuels	NAT WEST	17	24	70.8
Bekele	MORPETH	14	20	70.0
Nelson	CREDEX	13	19	68.4
Chambers	MORPETH	8	12	66.7
McKee	EMPLOYMENT	8	12	66.7
Jones	NAT WEST	11	17	64.7
Blyuss	MORPETH	14	22	63.6
Codrington	COMETS	14	23	60.9
Jones	TREASURY A	13	24	54.2
Jermyn	EMPLOYMENT	8	15	53.3
Wu	CREDEX	8	15	53.3
Giuffrida	TREASURY A	8	17	47.1
Turner	PRO	8	18	44.4
Dight	TREASURY B	5	12	41.7
Mak	EMPLOYMENT	8	21	38.1
Shore	TREASURY B	9	24	37.5
Persaud	PRO	6	18	33.3
Buck	PRO	6	21	28.6
Sinarain	COMETS	4	14	28.6
Fitzgerald	SEDCOPIANS	5	21	23.8
Waterhouse	BTB	6	26	23.1
Mason	SEDCOPIANS	3	15	20.0
Lavis	SEDCOPIANS	3	18	16.7
Xavier	BTB	4	25	16.0
Okai	TREASURY B	2	15	13.3
Gittens	TREASURY B	2	18	11.1
Roberts	BTB	2	25	8.0