

AS AT SEASON END 2017/18

	P	W	D	F	A	B	P
TREASURY A	20	17	1	170	30	60	230
CASTAWAYS	20	16	2	154	46	57	211
NAT WEST	20	14	3	132	68	60	192
MORPETH	20	14	3	123	77	60	183
EMPLOYMENT	20	9	3	99	101	60	159
PRO	20	8	2	97	103	60	157
COMETS	20	8	1	89	111	60	149
SPARTA	20	5	1	72	128	60	132
INSURANCE	20	5	2	68	132	60	128
OUTCASTS	20	3	1	58	142	60	118
TREASURY B	20	1	1	38	162	60	98

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

COMMENTARY**Outstanding matches**

Comets end the season with a convincing win over Outcasts by 9-1. Steve Fagan was clearly in a hurry and conceded just 35 points in achieving his maximum. Steve Codrington also won three but he was pushed mightily close by Andrew Macalister, who just lost 11-9 in the fifth after 101 points had been played. Two good wins from Greg Gargrupe – he lost to Macalister – completed a very successful night for Comets.

Outcasts had one more match to complete their season and that was against Castaways. The result was the same as the Comets' fixture – a 9-1 loss. Only three sets went beyond the third end. Closest contest of the night was a noble effort from Alan Jones against Norman Grant that Alan lost 11-5 in the fifth. Outcasts' sole success was a three straight win for Macalister over Grant.

Sparta's last match, against PRO, proved to be an absorbing contest that ended 6-4 in PRO's favour. Best battle of the night was John Crawford against Dave Evans. These two have almost identical averages this season. Dave was two ends to one up and came within a whisker of taking the set in the fourth but Crawford somehow edged it 14-12. Into the fifth and it's point for point, reaching 9-9 before Crawford sneaked home 11-9. Steve Hattrill versus Jai Persaud was another five ender. Jai has barely played this season and this was his first appearance in the second half. Jai was two ends to one up but Steve took the fourth end 11-9. That score was repeated in the final end but the other way round with a 11-9 victory for Jai. It was an uncharacteristically unproductive night for Ronnie Turner who won just one. However, Sparta had the last laugh when Steve combined with Mandy John to beat the Turner/Persaud combination at doubles. A good match!

The very last match of the season saw Employment losing 7-3 to Morpeth but thereby securing enough points to push PRO down to sixth place in the final table. For Morpeth, Samson Bekele was untroubled, dropping one end on his way to a maximum. Rob Chambers looked well on his way to a maximum but inexplicably came to grief against Anita Jermyn in four ends. Closest set of the night was a real tussle between Blyuss and Jermyn that went into the fifth end with Oleg just coming home first by 11-8. That one win for Oleg meant for the third time this season a match ended with all six participants having won at least one set! Employment looked to have the

doubles won, leading two ends to one going into the fourth end but Morpeth suddenly found another gear and ran away with the fourth and fifth ends 11-4 and 11-6. A close contest that saw the curtain fall on the 2017/18 season.

So Treasury A emerge as champions. Their success is due to having a relatively small squad of very strong players with Laikram Persaud and Perry Fung at its nucleus. They won with 230 points – a few less than the Division is usually won by. They certainly weren't invincible - only seven of their 20 fixtures ended 10-0 – but almost always they were just too strong for the opposition. Castaways finish second and once again saw their lead at the halfway mark whittled away in the second half. I sense player unavailability became more of an issue this season and stopped them fielding their best team on all occasions. Pete Harris again had a stellar season losing on just three outings. They got the better of Treasury A in the first half but Treasury's 8-2 win over them in the second half saw an end to their title hopes. Nat West end in third place. Arguably, they have the strongest squad in the Division but you never know who will turn out for them. I remember their 7-3 surprise win over Castaways in the first half but it was Nat West's 0-10 loss to Treasury A in the second half that blew the title race wide open. Chris Herbert and Tony Catt both had good seasons (though Tony hardly played in the second half). Morpeth are in fourth place again. This is another team that can confound the front-runners. They had a profound influence on the title destination by beating Treasury A in the first half but I think the tipping point of the whole season came when uncharacteristically they fielded two players against Treasury A in the second half and lost 10-0. Samson Bekele and Rob Chambers both had some fine wins this season. Employment just edged out PRO to claim fifth place. Richard Oppenheim has been a strong addition to their squad and finished with an impressive average. Each of their squad had some bright spots but it's notable that their best trio – Oppenheim, Baylis and McKee – only appeared together three times this season. It felt a bit of an uphill struggle for PRO this year and they had two bad runs – losing four matches in a row in the first half and not winning a match between 15 December and 21 February. At least their season ended on a high note as they won four of their last five games. John Crawford remains their lynchpin and kept up his record of posting a 60%+ average. Comets and Sparta follow in seventh and eighth places respectively. Both struggled to field a full team this year. For Comets, Steve Fagan remains one of the best players in this divisional but he had more slip-ups than usual this season. Steve Codrington did not play enough to provide the solid back-up to his namesake that he did in the previous season. They have a handy reserve in Robert Kemp but he appears mostly in Division 2. Sparta kept themselves out of the relegation zone despite their player availability problems. One of the bright spots of the season was Dave Evans' transition from Division 2 to finish with a 66% average in the top division. An impressive performance! Steve Hatrill too showed he is not outgunned in this company. Next comes Insurance with one of the smallest squads. I suspect they found it tough at the start with a run of very difficult matches but they maintained morale and drew quite a few favourable comments from opponents about how much they improved as time went on. Turning Albert Frances from a part time player last season to a "play every match" player this season served them very well. Their highspots were the 6-4 win over Comets which included a superb maximum from Ian Cranstone and their draw with Treasury A. All that put Outcasts into the relegation zone. Strange that, as they came up from Division 2 with the best record of the promoted teams and a largely unchanged squad. Simon Jameson played a bit less than normal but I expected more than just three matches won. And finally, Treasury B who won just one match in a long hard season. They have dived with relegation for many seasons but the loss of Tony Dight – their best player in the previous season – reduced their strength still further. David Shore had a good season but that wasn't enough to keep them up. If they go down, life should be easier for them in Division 2.

All in all, this has been an interesting season with some good contests and fewer runaway victories. Here is how the matches finished:

Match result	10-0	9-1	8-2	7-3	6-4	5-5
% of all results	14%	22%	18%	20%	17%	9%

This is a much more even distribution than last season with fewer 10-0 outcomes and more draws.

The 2017-18 season in facts and figures

Champions: Treasury A

Runners up: Castaways

Relegation positions: Treasury B and Outcasts

Top of the averages: Pete Harris

Longest unbeaten streak: Laikram Persaud was unbeaten between November and January racking up 17 successive wins

Best doubles team: Treasury A (18 wins from 20), Castaways (16 from 19) and Morpeth (16 from 20)

Players involved: 65 different players appeared this season from the 11 teams involved. Somewhat lower than the 71 players of last season.

Most Player of the Match awards: Steve Fagan with 11 awards. The second successive year he has won most awards.

Played in every match: Greg Gargrupe and Albert Francis. Congratulations, it's some years since anyone has achieved that!

Biggest squad: Nat West with nine players

Smallest squad: Comets with four players

Sets conceded: In 20% of the matches played, one or more sets was conceded (mainly because of two-man teams). That's up from 18% last season. Comets conceded 20 sets while Treasury A benefitted from 12 sets conceded to them. Outcasts were the only team to concede no sets and have no sets conceded to them.

All time divisional records set this season:

+ Set involving most points and most ends finishing at deuce: When Greg Gargrupe played David Shore all five ends concluded with a deuce scoreline and 130 points were played (ie on average each end concluded 14-12!!).

+ Fewest points played in a five-ender: Chris Herbert beat Terry McKee in a 70 point match (ie on average each end concluded 11-3!)

Other records and highspots:

Longest single end: Insurance reserve Paul Brady lost 20-18 to Richard Oppenheim.

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

Matches in which all six players registered at least one victory: Happened three times – Sparta versus Outcasts, Employment versus Morpeth and Sparta versus Comets.

Man in a hurry: Steve Fagan conceded just 35 points in achieving his maximum against Outcasts

Long nights: John Crawford played 15 ends and 270 points against Castaways. Greg Gargrupe played 15 ends and 282 points but lost all three against Treasury B.

Memorable team performances:

Nat West beating Castaways 7-3

Sparta's draw with Morpeth

Nat West beating Morpeth 7-3

Insurance's upset win 6-4 over Comets which included an Ian Cranstone maximum and Steve Fagan being held to a single victory

Insurance's shock draw with Treasury A, which included a Jon Velinor win over Jeremy Jones

Treasury A beating Nat West and Morpeth – both 10-0.

Treasury A's 8-2 defeat of Castaways

Outstanding individual performances:

Morpeth's Sam Do's maximum against Treasury A.

Peter Tokely's near miss, losing to Nat West's Chris Penrose in five.

Morpeth's Terese Johansson beating Employment's Chris McKee

Dave Evans' win over Winston Wong and his near miss in four ends to Perry Fung

So near yet so far. Ronnie Turner loses 11-5 in the fifth to Perry Fung

Chris Herbert's brilliant maximum in Nat West's draw with Castaways

Richard Oppenheim bringing Laikram Persaud's winning streak to an end

Ronnie Turner and Ian Buchanan both beating Keld Jakslund

Ian Cranstone's eye catching defeat of Rob Chambers

Anita Jermyn's wins over Dave Evans and Rob Chambers

Rob Chambers and Oleg Blyuss both beating Chris Herbert

Eddie Roullier defying the averages in beating Dave Evans

RICHARD CAMPBELL
DIVISIONAL SECRETARY

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AVERAGES (Qualification: ≥ 20 sets played)

Player	Team	Sets Won	Sets Played	Average (%)
Harris	CASTAWAYS	36	39	92.3
Persaud	TREASURY A	43	47	91.5
Fung	TREASURY A	39	44	88.6
Fagan	COMETS	45	55	81.8
McKee	CASTAWAYS	27	33	81.8
Wong	TREASURY A	30	37	81.1
Herbert	NAT WEST	34	42	81.0
Oppenheim	EMPLOYMENT	29	36	80.6
Catt	NAT WEST	19	24	79.2
Bekele	MORPETH	24	33	72.7
Chambers	MORPETH	26	37	70.3
Grant	CASTAWAYS	14	20	70.0
LeMilliere	CASTAWAYS	37	53	69.8
Crawford	PRO	31	47	66.0
Evans	SPARTA	27	41	65.9
Jakslund	CASTAWAYS	15	23	65.2
Brown	MORPETH	13	20	65.0
Baylis	EMPLOYMENT	21	35	60.0
Blyuss	MORPETH	19	33	57.6
Jones	NAT WEST	27	51	52.9
Turner	PRO	29	55	52.7
Mak	EMPLOYMENT	17	34	50.0
Jameson	OUTCASTS	13	27	48.1
Johansson	MORPETH	9	20	45.0
Hattrill	SPARTA	15	34	44.1
Coull	OUTCASTS	10	24	41.7
Francis	INSURANCE	23	57	40.4
Cranstone	INSURANCE	18	48	37.5
Codrington	COMETS	12	32	37.5
Macalister	OUTCASTS	13	36	36.1
Shore	TREASURY B	17	49	34.7
Tokely	SPARTA	16	47	34.0
Roullier	OUTCASTS	14	42	33.3
Buchanan	PRO	9	40	22.5
Gargrupe	COMETS	12	58	20.7
Velinor	INSURANCE	11	54	20.4
Jones	OUTCASTS	4	21	19.0
Colgan	TREASURY B	4	23	17.4
Gittens	TREASURY B	5	46	10.9
Okai	TREASURY B	4	44	9.1
Dos Santos	EMPLOYMENT	1	20	5.0