

LONDON BANKS AND CIVIL SERVICE TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE BULLETIN 10

AS AT 17 DECEMBER 2017

	P	W	D	F	A	B	P
CASTAWAYS	10	9	0	81	19	30	111
NAT WEST	10	8	1	72	28	30	102
MORPETH	10	6	2	59	41	30	89
TREASURY A	8	6	0	61	19	24	85
PRO	9	4	1	49	41	27	76
INSURANCE	10	3	0	33	67	30	63
COMETS	8	3	1	35	45	24	59
EMPLOYMENT	8	2	2	33	47	24	57
OUTCASTS	9	2	1	30	60	27	57
SPARTA	8	2	1	29	51	24	53
TREASURY B	10	0	1	18	82	30	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_2017-2018/Division_One

COMMENTARY

Week 11

Morpeth versus Castaways and in the last bulletin I said a Morpeth team of Do, Bekele and Chambers would prove a handful for Castaways. The actual team on the night was Do, Chambers and Blyuss – still a real challenge. This match was played out of order with Sam Do and Neil LeMilliere both arriving late. I won't review this set by set, building to a crescendo, because much to my astonishment the result was a runaway 9-1 victory for Castaways. Pat Caunt won two, losing to Chambers. Pete Harris won all three, in four sets against Chambers and Blyuss and a mighty battle with Sam Do, coming home 11-4 in the fifth. But the man of the match was Neil LeMilliere who also won three, in three sets against Blyuss, four sets against Chambers and in five sets against Do, coming from 8-4 down in the fifth to win it 11-9. Extraordinary team performance by Castaways and to keep a player of Do's calibre winless is some achievement. That's a huge boost to Castaway's title chances. Sparta versus Outcasts – a relegation battle – was always going to be close but Sparta's chances were much increased with the return of Steve Willmott, a name from the past and a 70% man in this Division. Despite being out of touch, Steve won all three, dropping two ends all evening. Unfortunately for Sparta it ended there with Tokely and Hatrill having a barren night. For Outcasts, Eddie Roullier defied the averages to win two, including a close five-ender with Tokely that he won 11-7 in the fifth. I should name the other two Outcasts' players – Coull and Jameson – as all three get a pat on the back for a good team win. The doubles went Sparta's way – their first doubles win of the season – finishing 11-9 in the fifth to make the match score 6-4. Treasury A were in a mean mood against their B team and emerged 9-1 victors. Winston Wong and Laikram Persaud both won three, conceding 38 and 39 points respectively all evening. John Colgan scored the B team's single success edging out Jeremy Jones 11-8 in the fifth. Commiserations to Bryan Gittens, who fought back from two ends down to Jones, levelled the match, only for the wheels to come off spectacularly in the final end which Jeremy won 11-2. After last week's heroics it was back down to earth with a bang for Insurance against PRO. PRO won 8-2 although there were lots of long close ends. Of the 37 ends played in the evening, an astonishing 11 ended at deuce. Highlights included a near miss for Albert Francis against John Crawford in four ends, three of which were deuce ends. A good win in five ends for Francis over Ian Buchanan. A near miss for Ian Cranstone against Ronnie Turner 11-5 in the fifth. And Crawford and Jon Velinor equalling the longest single end of the season record at 19-17. Insurance won the doubles to make the match result 2-8. I feel that was a little disappointing for Insurance (my prediction was 6-4 to PRO). Nat West versus Comets proved to be the closest match of the week despite

ending 8-2 to Nat West. Four sets required all five ends and there was only one three straight victory. Tony Catt showed his good form winning all three, beating both Fagan and Codrington in four close ends. Chris Herbert also won three but by the narrowest of margins. Highlight of the evening was Chris's comeback from 8-1 down in the fifth against Steve Codrington to win 15-13 in a set that involved 100 points. His set against Steve Fagan was almost as close. It went to the fifth end before Chris won it 11-5. Other close sets include a near miss for Gareth Jones against Fagan 11-8 in the fifth and the night ended with a see-saw doubles where Nat West came from behind to take it 11-8 in the fifth. A very good match that was closer than the outcome suggests.

So Castaways end the first half on top but the gap between them and Treasury A would disappear if Treasury whitewash their last two games. Nat West are not out of it and have won their last seven games, a winning streak only bettered by Castaways. Morpeth's big loss this week probably puts the title out of their reach. A big gap opens up beneath the top four. In the relegation zone there's not much between the bottom six teams. I think the relegation battle will go right to the very end of the season.

Five matches outstanding. I'm hoping they'll get played before the second half.

RICHARD CAMPBELL
DIVISIONAL SECRETARY

Issued: 17/12/2017

AVERAGES (Qualification: ≥ 11 sets played)

Player	Team	Sets Won	Sets Played	Average (%)
Catt	NAT WEST	17	18	94.4
Harris	CASTAWAYS	14	15	93.3
McKee	CASTAWAYS	14	15	93.3
Herbert	NAT WEST	13	15	86.7
Persaud	TREASURY A	14	17	82.4
Bekele	MORPETH	14	18	77.8
Fagan	COMETS	17	23	73.9
Grant	CASTAWAYS	8	11	72.7
LeMilliere	CASTAWAYS	21	29	72.4
Fung	TREASURY A	10	14	71.4
Wong	TREASURY A	12	17	70.6
Crawford	PRO	14	20	70.0
Giuffrida	TREASURY A	8	12	66.7
Turner	PRO	15	23	65.2
Chambers	MORPETH	11	18	61.1
Baylis	EMPLOYMENT	9	15	60.0
Evans	SPARTA	10	17	58.8
Mak	EMPLOYMENT	8	14	57.1
Jones	NAT WEST	13	24	54.2
Blyuss	MORPETH	8	15	53.3
Codrington	COMETS	7	14	50.0
Brown	MORPETH	6	12	50.0
Coull	OUTCASTS	6	12	50.0
Jameson	OUTCASTS	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	13	30	43.3
Roullier	OUTCASTS	7	18	38.9

Tokely	SPARTA	8	21	38.1
Hattrill	SPARTA	4	11	36.4
Buchanan	PRO	8	23	34.8
Cranstone	INSURANCE	9	27	33.3
Velinor	INSURANCE	7	27	25.9
Jones	OUTCASTS	3	12	25.0
Colgan	TREASURY B	2	12	16.7
Gargrupe	COMETS	2	23	8.7
Gittens	TREASURY B	2	24	8.3
Okai	TREASURY B	1	21	4.8