

# LONDON BANKS AND CIVIL SERVICE TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE BULLETIN 17

AS AT 10 FEBRUARY 2019

	<b>P</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>P</b>
CASTAWAYS	15	11	3	122	28	45	167
MORPETH	15	12	3	115	35	45	160
TREASURY A	14	9	2	102	38	42	144
NAT WEST	14	9	2	93	47	42	135
COMETS	15	8	1	84	66	45	129
PRO	15	7	1	69	81	45	114
EMPLOYMENT	14	7	1	69	71	42	111
INSURANCE	15	3	2	50	100	45	95
SPARTA	14	4	1	46	94	39	85
DIT	15	0	1	24	126	45	69
BTB	14	1	1	26	114	42	68

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](https://www.tabletennis365.com/londonbanksandcivilservice/Fixtures/Season_2018-2019/Division_One)

## COMMENTARY

### Week 19

This has been a good season for teams turning out three players but oddly this week that didn't happen on two occasions. The first was DIT against Employment where the former only had two players. For Employment, Paul Baylis and Lew Hodges both won their sets three straight. Employment's other player was Frank Dos Santos and he had a much tougher night losing in four to Graham Miller and taking Simon Goodman all the way before losing 13-11 in the fifth. 107 points played in that set and, just to show how close it was, Simon won 54 of those points and Frank won 53. Can't get much closer than that! DIT put up a good fight in the doubles but luck was not on their side and they lost 11-6 in the fifth. Overall, 8-2 to Employment. Insurance drew with Nat West in the first half and I thought had every chance of repeating that, but that prospect rapidly disappeared. The difference was Gareth Jones turning his single victory in the first half into a maximum in the return. The first big turning point came when Gareth played Ian Cranstone. Ian storms through the first two ends, loses the third, but holds two match points in the fourth. Gareth saved both those match points and went on to win the end 16-14. As often happened in those circumstances, in the fifth end all the momentum is with Gareth and he comes home 11-6 in front. Ian is having a bad run, having suffered two "come from behind" losses last week and now another such loss this week (and who can forget the Bekele great escape against Ian in the first half). Gareth lost the first end to Albert Francis but came back to win the next three ends, to add to his win over four ends against Jon Velinor, thereby completing the hat trick. Cranstone and Francis both beat Mike Hughes and, at two ends to one up, it looked like Velinor would do the same when it became his turn to suffer a "come from behind" loss 11-2 in the fifth. For Nat West, Chris Herbert had a trouble-free night, winning three sets for the loss of one end. 8-2 to Nat West and Insurance just can't catch break at the moment. Castaways versus BTB might appear like a potential mismatch and, in the event, Castaways won the contest 10-0. Castaways dropped two ends all night – both by Pete Harris. Reflecting on the match, Neil LeMilliere commented that the aim of league table tennis was all about enjoying the game and not about grinding your opponent's face in the dirt. Wise words, and hopefully you can go home having had an enjoyable night even if you didn't win. PRO were the second team this week to field two players. John Crawford was injured the night before the match and couldn't get Ian Buchanan to stand in at short notice. Worse was to come as Treasury fielded their strongest regular side. George Buck lost all three but took an end of both Tony Egan and Petko Guimichev. Ronnie Turner could not get any traction against Winston Wong or Egan, losing three straight to both. Best set of the night was Ronnie versus Petko where Ronnie pulled

back from two ends to one down only to just miss out 11-8 in the fifth. That made it 10-0 to Treasury but I suspect a full strength PRO team would have made more of a game of it. Sometimes you look at a result card and think that result might well have been very different on another night. Such was Morpeth's 8-2 win over Comets. No Steve Fagan for Comets but they started well when Ian Francis beat Duncan Brown 11-5 in the fifth. In the next set Steve Codrington looked on course to make it 2-0 as he led Oleg Blyuss two ends to one and 10-10 in the fourth. Oleg took the next two points to level the set. The final end was nip and tuck but Oleg emerged the winner 12-10 in the fifth – a set he probably shouldn't have won. Steve got his revenge in his next set when he won a real nail-biter against Duncan Brown, 11-7 in the fifth. But that turned out to be Comets last win as set after set was won by Morpeth. The highlight was another escape by Oleg Blyuss, coming from behind to beat Ian Franklin 11-9 in the fifth. And, just to underline it wasn't Comets' night, they lost the doubles from a potentially winning position 11-9 in the fifth. The final score was 8-2 to Morpeth. Five sets went the full distance. Full credit to Morpeth but you could have been forgiven for thinking 7-3 or 6-4 would have been a fairer reflection of events. Three battling wins for Oleg Blyuss. Sammy Bekele continued his good form, dropping one end all night. He took the Player of the Match award and is now level with Ronnie Turner and Chris Hebert in that category.

So, the gap between the top two teams extends to seven points. Is it all over? Not quite, I suspect, as both contenders have difficult fixtures left. Next week Morpeth play Nat West and it will be hard to avoid dropping points there. Castaways take on Sparta and will be hoping for another whitewash. Looking further ahead, among the remaining fixtures Castaways face Nat West and Comets, while Morpeth take on Treasury in a "worst night mare" fixture in the final week of the season. Apart from that there are other banana skin fixtures to be negotiated for both teams where points could be lost. "No slip ups" is the mantra for the next six weeks!

**RICHARD CAMPBELL**  
**DIVISIONAL SECRETARY**

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**AVERAGES (Qualification: ≥15 sets played)**

<b>Player</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>Sets Won</b>	<b>Sets Played</b>	<b>Average (%)</b>	
Luk	MORPETH	21	21	100.0	100.0
Bekele	MORPETH	31	32	96.9	96.9
McKee	CASTAWAYS	15	17	88.2	88.2
Harris	CASTAWAYS	28	32	87.5	87.5
Herbert	NAT WEST	28	33	84.8	84.8
McKee	EMPLOYMENT	17	21	81.0	81.0
LeMilliere	CASTAWAYS	35	44	79.5	79.5
Evans	SPARTA	21	27	77.8	77.8
Turner	PRO	25	33	75.8	75.8
Johnson	NAT WEST	11	15	73.3	73.3
Wong	TREASURY A	19	26	73.1	73.1
Blyuss	MORPETH	13	18	72.2	72.2
Caunt	CASTAWAYS	13	18	72.2	72.2
Robinson	TREASURY A	15	21	71.4	71.4
Codrington	COMETS	24	36	66.7	66.7
Fagan	COMETS	24	36	66.7	66.7
Chambers	MORPETH	18	29	62.1	62.1
Baylis	EMPLOYMENT	21	35	60.0	60.0
Catt	NAT WEST	9	15	60.0	60.0
Francis	COMETS	25	42	59.5	59.5
Giuffrida	TREASURY A	14	24	58.3	58.3
Crawford	PRO	16	30	53.3	53.3
Jones	TREASURY A	8	15	53.3	53.3

Loveder	SPARTA	8	15	53.3	53.3
Brown	MORPETH	9	17	52.9	52.9
Jones	NAT WEST	16	33	48.5	48.5
Persaud	PRO	13	27	48.1	48.1
Cranstone	INSURANCE	21	44	47.7	47.7
Jermyn	EMPLOYMENT	11	24	45.8	45.8
Francis	INSURANCE	15	41	36.6	36.6
Buchanan	PRO	6	18	33.3	33.3
Sinarain	BTB	9	33	27.3	27.3
Tokely	SPARTA	9	39	23.1	23.1
Miller	DIT	7	36	19.4	19.4
Waterhouse	BTB	6	33	18.2	18.2
Velinor	INSURANCE	6	38	15.8	15.8
Goodman	DIT	6	41	14.6	14.6
Gazheli	DIT	5	38	13.2	13.2
Xavier	BTB	4	33	12.1	12.1
Buck	PRO	2	21	9.5	9.5
Hattrill	SPARTA	2	21	9.5	9.5
Burrows	EMPLOYMENT	1	15	6.7	6.7
Roberts	BTB	1	15	6.7	6.7
John	SPARTA	1	24	4.2	4.2