

LONDON BANKS AND CIVIL SERVICE TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE BULLETIN 11

AS AT 4 JANUARY 2020

	P	W	D	F	A	B	P
COMETS	10	9	1	82	18	30	112
CASTAWAYS	10	7	3	78	22	30	108
MORPETH A	9	7	1	66	24	27	93
EMPLOYMENT	10	6	0	60	40	30	90
NAT WEST	9	7	1	58	32	27	85
GOOD KARMA	10	3	1	42	58	30	72
MORPETH C	10	2	1	41	59	30	71
SPARTA	10	2	1	33	67	30	63
PRO	9	3	0	31	59	27	58
TREASURY B	10	1	1	23	77	30	53
OUTCASTS	9	1	0	16	74	27	43

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_2019-2020/Division_One

COMMENTARY

Week 11

First match up is Castaways' visit to Treasury B. This had a familiar feel to it as Castaways cruised through the night taking all the sets on offer. Castaways introduced Phil Wroe for the first time this season and Treasury had a glimmer of hope in each of his sets. Phil duly won three but dropped an end on each occasion. LeMilliere dropped one end – to Petko Guimichev – but otherwise took a comfortable maximum. Johnny Bispham was Player of the Match winning all three for the loss of just 42 points. So, Castaways' half ends as it began, with a 10-0 scoreline. Treasury just looked outgunned and it will take a big improvement in form to keep them out of the relegation placings. Next match was looking to be a close encounter as Morpeth C take on Sparta. Sparta opened well with Mike Loveder beating Clark Nichols. That 1-0 scoreline quickly became 1-2 as, first, Adam Alnak had a comfortable win over Peter Tokely and, second, Anit Deb had little difficulty in beating Dave Evans. The next two sets were the closest of the night. Mike Loveder had no trouble taking the first two ends against Alnak but then ran into huge resistance in the third and fourth ends, Alnak winning both. With all the momentum behind him Adam looked the favourite but Mike managed to raise his game and ran away with the final end, 11-3. Good set! Dave Evans found himself two ends to one down against Nicholls and had to fight hard to square the set with a 11-9 fourth end score. My money was on Evans but Clark put in an impressive deciding end performance to win the set 11-6. A good win against the run of form. Meanwhile Anit Deb was crushing all before him and ended the night with a comfortable maximum. Anit finishes the half unbeaten but he's not really been tested in this Division thus far. Nevertheless there's talk he might be the best player in the Division (Yiji Zhao excepted). Through a good team effort Morpeth were 5-3 up but Tokely then scored a high-pressure win over Nicholls to take the score to 5-4 before the doubles. Not sure if Sparta were kicking themselves for being in this position but they looked highly motivated to secure the draw and took the doubles by storm: -2, -6, and -3!! PRO's challenge against Morpeth A was always going to be a hard one but having only two players made it impossible. For Morpeth, Jane Ji looked a class of her own though she did drop an end to awkward Ian Buchanan. As he has done most of the first half, Rob Chambers provided Jane with strong support in winning both his sets. The only really close set involved John Crawford and Duncan Brown. John won the first end but Duncan bounced back to take the next two. The next two ends were full of good rallies and entertaining table tennis. John took the fourth end to level the match but it was Duncan who finished the winner 11-6 in the fifth. Good contest! Although these guys are both regulars they don't play each other much. Their last contest was almost five years ago when John won emphatically -0, -8, -4!! It's a strange old game! A comfortable 10-0

victory for Morpeth. PRO won their first three matches this season but have now lost their last six! Outcasts put up a good fight against Employment but came away with a single victory. Just four sets ended three straight and the closest set of the night saw Bob Coull claw his way back into a set with Anita Jermyn and just have enough momentum to win the set 12-10 in the fifth. One other set went to five – the doubles – where Outcasts proved to be stubborn opponents but finally fell away 11-2 in the fifth. A 9-1 win for Employment and a good ending to a satisfactory first half for them. The final match of the half was Karma against Comets. I think Karma have been involved in some of the first half's more interesting matches and their fixture against Comets was no exception. The match started predictably enough with Comets winning all the first round matches with ease. Then came an upset as Ben Link came from behind to beat Steve Fagan 11-9 in the fifth after 100 points had been played. More success for Karma in the next set as Guy Fernback played well against Ronnie Turner, beating him in four ends. Then Ben Link chipped in with another win – over Ronnie Turner – and the match score was 4-3 in Comets favour. Karma's stumbling block was Perry Fung who was determined not to let anyone beat him and came home with three good victories. From 4-3 up, Comets took all the remaining sets and avert a surprise result. Ronnie Turner had a battling 11-7 in the fifth win over George Sanders, and Karma were in the doubles right until the last half a dozen points. Good effort from the Karma team but sets dropped by title-chasing Comets.

We reach the halfway point and Comets lead by four points. That's not a commanding lead so things could definitely shift in the second half. Castaways are Comets' closest rivals but Morpeth are hanging in there, though any significant loss of points will put an end to any title hopes. At the bottom, Sparta are looking more comfortable and their success has dragged PRO into the relegation battle. Just a hint of a gap opening up between Outcasts and Treasury and the other relegation candidates. Only one person left undefeated in the averages – Perry Fung (though there are others undefeated who've not played enough to qualify). Time to shake off the Xmas cobwebs and begin the second half! Comets will be expecting full points from Treasury and Castaways will hope to do the same against Sparta. PRO will approach their match against Karma knowing this is the sort of match they must win if relegation is to be avoided. Elsewhere, Nat West should be too strong for Morpeth C (providing Anit Deb doesn't play) and Employment will be hoping they can make more of their fixture with Morpeth A than they did in the first half.

RICHARD CAMPBELL
DIVISIONAL SECRETARY

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First half facts and figures:

All-time divisional records set this half: None but Neil LeMilliere's streak of playing in 27 consecutive matches was broken just four matches short of the all-time record held by Albert Frances (Insurance)

Longest live unbeaten streak (individual): Peter Harris on 18 sets

Longest live unbeaten streak (team): Castaways on 16 matches

Best doubles team: Morpeth with eight wins from nine contests

Most Player of the Match awards: Perry Fung and Peter Harris tied on five PoMs

Played in every match: No one

Biggest squad: Karma fielded nine different players in the first half

Smallest squad: PRO with four players

Longest single end: 17-15 when Chris McKee played Tony Catt

Longest set: 124 points when Ronnie Turner took on Rytis Bulvicius – the second longest set in the Division's history (the record is 130 points)

Matches in which all six players won at least one set: Didn't happen

Man in a hurry: Johnny Bispham conceding just 42 points in winning three against Treasury

When Outcasts played Comets seven of the ten sets went passed the third end

Other highlights:

Chris McKee's win over Tony Catt in five ends

Paul Baylis beating Neil LeMilliere

Peter Tokely's near miss against Tony Catt losing 11-9 in the fifth

No luck! Matt Robertson losing 14-12 in the fifth to Laikram Persaud. Matt also had match points against Neil LeMilliere but lost in the fifth end. And also lost to Sammy Bekele 14-12 in the fifth

Ian Buchanan's win over Pat Caunt
 Anit Deb's demolition job on Nat West
 Jai Persaud beating Morris Greenberg
 Petko Guimichev had a good night against Comets beating Ian Francis and Steve Codrington in four ends.
 Max Shilo holding match points over Pete Harris but losing 14-12 in the fifth
 Neil LeMilliere's good wins over Steve Fagan and Ian Francis
 Perry Fung in unstoppable form taking three wins from Castaways
 Matt Robertson's fifth-end win over Steve Fagan. That was a long night for Matt. Three sets played, two ended at deuce, fifteen ends and 296 points involved (the all-time record is 308 points played in a single night)!
 Morris Greenberg's narrow loss to Bekele
 Steve Hattrill's first ever maximum in this division
 Pete Harris's three wins at Nat West
 The Morpeth C fifth end jinx which saw them involved in 29 sets that went the distance in the first half and they lost 20 of them!
 Good team effort from Karma to beat Morpeth C
 Pete Harris removing Jane Ji and Rob Chambers unbeaten records in the same match
 Ian Francis' fine win over Rob Chambers in a long set involving 116 points
 And, finally, Jane Ji's tremendous effort to defeat Laikram Persaud

AVERAGES (Qualification: ≥10 sets played)

Player	Team	Sets Won	Sets Played	Average (%)
Fung	COMETS	17	17	100.0
Harris	CASTAWAYS	23	24	95.8
Persaud	COMETS	14	15	93.3
Penrose	NAT WEST	11	12	91.7
Killip	EMPLOYMENT	10	11	90.9
Ji	MORPETH A	18	20	90.0
Catt	NAT WEST	10	12	83.3
Chambers	MORPETH A	16	20	80.0
Herbert	NAT WEST	19	24	79.2
LeMilliere	CASTAWAYS	20	27	74.1
Bispham	CASTAWAYS	11	15	73.3
Francis	COMETS	11	15	73.3
Turner	COMETS	8	11	72.7
Fagan	COMETS	9	13	69.2
Baylis	EMPLOYMENT	13	19	68.4
Brown	MORPETH A	7	11	63.6
Jermyn	EMPLOYMENT	6	10	60.0
Greenberg	GOOD KARMA	6	11	54.5
Alnak	MORPETH C	8	15	53.3
Loveder	SPARTA	8	15	53.3
McKee	EMPLOYMENT	9	18	50.0
Dight	TREASURY B	7	15	46.7
Evans	SPARTA	7	15	46.7
Robertson	MORPETH C	7	15	46.7
Crawford	PRO	11	24	45.8
Sanders	GOOD KARMA	7	16	43.8
Persaud	PRO	6	14	42.9
Coull	OUTCASTS	5	12	41.7
Guimichev	TREASURY B	6	15	40.0
Mak	EMPLOYMENT	5	13	38.5

Jones	NAT WEST	9	24	37.5
Tokely	SPARTA	10	27	37.0
Nicholls	MORPETH C	7	21	33.3
Buck	PRO	6	18	33.3
Jameson	OUTCASTS	6	18	33.3
Shilo	MORPETH C	5	15	33.3
Blyuss	MORPETH A	4	15	26.7
Buchanan	PRO	4	17	23.5
Hattrill	SPARTA	4	18	22.2
Zhao	GOOD KARMA	3	14	21.4
Bulvicius	MORPETH C	2	12	16.7
Roullier	OUTCASTS	2	15	13.3
Gittens	TREASURY B	1	15	6.7
Macalister	OUTCASTS	1	18	5.6