

AS AT 24 JANUARY 2016

	P	W	D	F	A	B	P
CREDEX	12	10	0	95	25	36	131
NAT WEST	11	8	1	81	29	33	114
CASTAWAYS	10	9	1	79	21	30	109
TREASURY A	12	8	0	67	52	36	103
JOOLA	12	6	1	60	60	36	96
PRO	12	5	2	58	62	36	94
COMETS	12	2	0	46	74	36	82
EMPLOYMENT	11	4	1	48	61	33	81
TREASURY B	12	1	2	24	96	36	60
OUTCASTS	12	0	2	21	99	36	57

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

THINGS TO NOTE

- ☑ From the middle of February, Rule 19 comes into force. The rule states that a player who has not played before the sixth-from-last scheduled match in the fixture list shall not be eligible to take part in that and subsequent matches without prior permission of the Divisional Secretary. In other words, from that point, you will need my agreement **in advance** to play a new player.

COMMENTARY

Week 15

Begins with Nat West whitewashing Treasury B for the second time. There was only one close set when Tony Dight almost ended Chris Herbert’s winning streak but just lost 11-9 in the fifth. Beyond that, Gittins took an end off Jones and Dight took an end off Samuels. In contrast, Outcasts versus PRO was a close contest, much closer than the first half fixture. Outcasts went 2-0 up with Jameson beating Turner and Roullier beating Buck. PRO got back to 3-3, then went up a gear, and won three of the last four sets. The set they didn’t win involved Alan Jones registering a notable win over Turner 11-6 in the fifth. Good hard fought match with only three of the singles sets ending three straight. Comets versus Treasury A was similarly close. Comets became the first team this season to extend their squad to eight players with the inclusion of Robert Kemp but he found it hard going, losing each of his sets in four ends. It was Steve Coddington’s performance that gave Comets a chance. Steve beat Jeremy Jones and Giovanni Giuffrida, both over four close ends. His match with Winston was a real ding-dong affair. Winston almost won it in the fourth but Steve somehow hung in there to take it to a fifth end. May be it was that big effort in the fourth but Steve never really got going in the fifth and went down 11-5. If that was close then Steve Fagan versus Wong was even closer. Steve got the better of the first three ends but then they played out a mammoth fourth end that Winston eventually won 16-14. The fifth end proceeded point for point but when it came to the climax it was Winston by a whisker, winning 11-9 after 106 hotly contested points. That put Treasury 5-4 up going into the doubles. Not for the first time that evening, Treasury were on the ropes but refused to go down. They levelled the set by winning the fourth end and then pulled out all the stops to take the final end 13-11. Very good match – credit to both teams! In the week’s final match, Credex visited Joola. Possibly worrying about finding John Payne in the opposition, Credex fielded Ade Adewale. In the event, there was no John Payne and the match played out predictably until the sixth set when Sammy Bekele upset the formbook beating Django Fung 11-7 in the fifth. One other close set – Duncan Brown going down in five ends to Django. Meanwhile, Castaways can just look on, as their second half doesn’t begin until Week 17. Not sure if that’s an advantage or a disadvantage.

Week 16

A strong Credex team defeated Comets 8-2. For Comets, Steve Fagan got one victory – a close set with Laikram Persaud – and the other victory was a very odd doubles. Credex were coasting, having taken the first two doubles

ends. They then fell foul of the curse of the third end, losing a marathon at 15-13. Comets take the fourth end too to level the set and in the deciding end, it's Comets that emerge victorious by 11-9. 105 points played in that set and an unexpected outcome that may yet harm Credex if the title race remains close. Treasury A showed their superiority over their B team with a 9-1 victory. The first four sets were uneventful. The pick of them was Giovanni Giuffrida hanging in against Tony Dight, winning by a hair's breadth three straight. The fifth set looked like the most inconsistent contest you're ever likely to see with the scores running 2-11, 11-4, 11-2, 6-11. Now we all know with a run of seesaw scores like that one thing is inevitable: the deciding end will go to deuce. So who's in this erratic contest? It's Jeremy Jones versus Tony Dight. And who managed to string enough good points together to win the day? That was Jeremy Jones at 14-12 in the fifth after 84 points (reversing the first half result between them incidentally). I'm used to highlighting sets that last five ends and involve huge numbers of points but I think we have a new record here: the set that required all five ends but involved the fewest points played! That 14-12 scoreline was due to recur four sets later but this time Jeremy was on the wrong end of it, losing in four ends to David Shore. Next up was Employment versus Outcasts. This match ended in a draw in the first half but this is Employment so anything can happen. In the event, one set went to five ends, four sets each involved four ends and five sets concluded three straight. Want to guess the outcome? It was 10-0 to Employment. I'll say no more! Joola and PRO sit next to each other in the table so a close contest was in prospect. However, that seemed unlikely at the halfway point in the match as PRO went 4-1 up, which included a good win for Ronnie Turner over Samson Bekele. Then something odd happened and suddenly Joola were winning set after set. The score moved from 4-1 to PRO to a 6-4 win for Joola as they picked up all of the last five sets. Truly a game of two halves. While the match result was close, the individual contests weren't and eight of the ten sets played finished three straight.

Week 17

And Castaways return from their extended Xmas break to beat Outcasts 9-1. This match was a bit closer than you might have thought, with six sets needing four ends to resolve and one set needing all five. That five-ender was Outcasts sole success when Bob Coull beat Patrick Caunt 11-8 in the fifth. Nat West and Treasury A are near rivals but this season Nat West are playing a blinder and they won this match by an impressive 8-2. Les Samuels struck an early blow beating Winston Wong 12-10 in the fifth in a really close set. If that was a good performance, Chris Herbert then topped it by beating Wong comfortably, three straight. Chris has now extended his winning streak to 15 successive victories and sits top of the averages. Carsten Hovestadt, on debut for Treasury, took the first two ends off Les Samuels but then hit the third set curse and lost the end 12-10. After that, Les never looked back and came home 11-2 in the fifth. With the score at 8-0 to Nat West, Winston Wong pulled out a really good win over Tony Catt in four ends. That led to a fascinating doubles that looked to be going Nat West's way until Treasury pinched the fourth end 13-11 to take the set into a deciding end. Oddly, that proved to be the most one-sided end of the whole contest with Treasury winning 11-5. Credex demolished Treasury B 10-0 in record time. Every singles set was won three straight except Giles Soulier against David Shore where Giles won the first two ends comfortably, got badly beaten in the (cursed) third end and suddenly found himself taken to a deciding end. At that point reality clicked back in and Giles ran away with the decider by 11-2. PRO versus Comets rapidly turned into PRO versus Steve Fagan. Steve came out on top winning all three but dropping an end to both Crawford and Persaud. All the other singles sets ended three straight except Turner against Sinarain that went to four. The doubles looked the most interesting set of the night – a close contest that PRO eventually won in four. Last match of the period featured Joola and Employment. Looking at the league positions you'd have to fancy Joola to win this but not so. Employment put in another solid team performance to take the match 8-2. Employment won the first five sets without too much drama, though Terese Johansson gave Paul Baylis a scare, only losing in five. Best set was Chris McKee beating Oleg Blyuss in four ends. Oleg went on to beat Richard Mak and Paul Baylis to end a very satisfactory personal evening. A good start for Employment, turning a draw and a loss in the first half into two emphatic wins in the second half. That little burst of success leaves Treasury B and Outcasts detached at the foot of the table.

RICHARD CAMPBELL
DIVISIONAL SECRETARY

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AVERAGES (Qualification: ≥ 14 sets played)

Player	Team	Sets Won	Sets Played	Average (%)
Herbert	NAT WEST	19	21	90.5
Harris	CASTAWAYS	24	27	88.9
P. Fung	CREDEX	25	30	83.3
Persaud	CREDEX	17	21	81.0
Samuels	NAT WEST	26	33	78.8
Fagan	COMETS	28	36	77.8
D. Fung	CREDEX	16	21	76.2
Wong	TREASURY A	22	30	73.3
Catt	NAT WEST	13	18	72.2
Nash	CASTAWAYS	13	18	72.2
Persaud	PRO	15	21	71.4
McKee	EMPLOYMENT	14	21	66.7
Berkenkamp	CREDEX	12	18	66.7
LeMilliere	CASTAWAYS	10	15	66.7
Bekele	JOOLA	17	26	65.4
Blyuss	JOOLA	9	15	60.0
Baylis	EMPLOYMENT	14	24	58.3
Crawford	PRO	17	30	56.7
Jones	NAT WEST	15	27	55.6
Turner	PRO	18	33	54.5
Giuffrida	TREASURY A	13	24	54.2
Coull	OUTCASTS	8	15	53.3
Chambers	JOOLA	9	18	50.0
Mak	EMPLOYMENT	13	27	48.1
Jones	TREASURY A	15	33	45.5
Shore	TREASURY B	9	21	42.9
Codrington	COMETS	6	18	33.3
Dight	TREASURY B	9	32	28.1
Roulier	OUTCASTS	7	30	23.3
Jameson	OUTCASTS	5	27	18.5