

LONDON BANKS AND CIVIL SERVICE TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE BULLETIN 7

AS AT 18 NOVEMBER 2018

	P	W	D	F	A	B	P
CASTAWAYS	6	4	2	49	11	18	67
MORPETH	6	5	1	41	19	18	59
NAT WEST	6	3	1	38	22	18	56
PRO	5	4	0	35	15	15	50
COMETS	6	3	1	31	29	18	49
EMPLOYMENT	6	3	0	29	31	18	47
TREASURY A	5	2	1	30	20	15	45
INSURANCE	6	2	1	26	34	18	44
DIT	6	0	1	9	51	18	27
SPARTA	4	1	0	14	26	12	26
BTB	6	0	0	8	52	18	26

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
- ✓ Sparta postponed against PRO this week.

COMMENTARY

Week 7

Begins with Morpeth bringing to an end Employment's winning streak. The match started well for Employment with Anita Jermyn beating Stuart Sweeney over four ends. After that, it all got a bit one-sided with Morpeth rattling off the next three sets all three straight. Those wins included Samson Bekele removing Lew Hodges perfect record. In set five, Lew had a real tussle with Stuart Sweeney that went to five ends before Stuart edged it 11-7. The score was 5-1 to Morpeth before Hodges came up against Oleg Blyuss. Having lost two, was this the moment for Lew to redeem himself? Lew took the first two ends and almost won the third before losing it 11-13. Mighty close again in the fourth end and once again Oleg kept his hopes alive with a narrow 12-10 scoreline. Can Oleg snatch victory from the jaws of defeat? The fifth end was just as close and, almost inevitably, the score reached 10-10. When the dust settled it was Lew who came away with the victory 12-10 in the fifth after 106 points! Couldn't have been closer. After that, the match fell away a bit with Morpeth taking all the remaining sets, the highlight of which was a really long end in which Bekele overcame stubborn resistance from Anita Jermyn 18-16. So, Employment lose 2-8 and Morpeth keep up pressure on the leaders with a run of three straight wins, underpinned by 12 victories on the trot from Samson Bekele. Sometimes I get a result and look at it, then look at it again, and think there must be more to this than meets the eye. Such was the BTB versus Comets result when Comets put out their best team but only won 7-3. Before a ball was hit this match result was probably 50-1 on to be a 10-0 whitewash. The first two sets proceeded as expected with comfortable wins for Codrington over Ross Roberts and Ian Francis over Geoff Waterhouse. Flavinda Xavier faced Steve Fagan and, against all the odds, beat him three straight!! If that wasn't enough, Ross Roberts did the same, though he took four ends to do it!! But finally, it seemed normality had returned when Steve was two ends to one up on Waterhouse ...only to lose the fourth end. One last push is needed and Steve jumps out to a 5-0 lead in the final end. It's surely all over! But slowly Geoff hauls him back and extraordinarily we find ourselves at 10-10! We've all been in games like this and the mental pressures are immense. Steve had three match points and Geoff saved them all! By now Steve must be thinking he just wasn't destined to win this set and so it proved as Geoff came home 15-13! The longest set of the season to date – 110 points. Three each for Codrington and Francis, none for Steve Fagan. I have no further explanation to offer – you'll need to talk to someone who played in the match to understand more. Insurance did themselves a power of good with a 8-2 victory over DIT. Ian Cranstone and Albert Francis both won three with scores that look quite comfortable. Jon Velinor beat Graham Miller and lost to Florian Gazheli.

His other set – against Simon Goodman - was a close run thing, which reached two ends all. The final end could have been anyone’s and, not for the first time this week, we had a set that ended at deuce in the fifth. Who was the winner? That was Simon with a 13-11 scoreline. Good contest! The doubles was another of those “don’t know what happened” sets where DIT took the first two ends and then lost the next three -1, -2, and -5!! Strange! And, finally, to the match of the week: Treasury versus Nat West. Neither team was at maximum strength but, on paper, you’d have to fancy Nat West. Jeremy Jones was first up for Treasury, against Tony Catt. Jeremy took an end but Tony was too good, coming home in four. Giovanni Giuffrida then faced Chris Herbert and took the first two ends. In the third end he led 10-7 and surely the win was his. Not so, as Chris won point after point to steal the end 13-11. From there on, everything changed and Chris won the fourth end to level the match. The fifth end went on and on, through 10-10 and 14-14 and on to 16-16. At that point, Giovanni’s resistance gave way and Chris took the end 18-16. Some set and 113 points played, by some margin the longest of the season. Treasury got on the board in the next set as Winston Wong eased past Gareth Jones three straight. 2-1 to Nat West. The next two sets also went to Nat West and they were beginning to run away with it. It looks good for Treasury in the next set as Wong leads Herbert by two ends to one. But again, Chris who is expert at these “come from behind” wins rattled off the next three ends and turned defeat into victory. The next three sets all went to five ends. The first was an absolute epic as Giuffrida faced Gareth Jones. The first three ends finished 10-12, 12-10, 13-11 in Gareth’s favour. Giovanni takes the fourth end and we’re in another never ending deuce battle. 10-10, 12-12, and on to 14-14 before Gareth won two successive points to win the set. 115 points played and a new longest set of the season record! Well done Gareth but just not Giovanni’s night. Next set was another close contest, between Wong and Catt. The score reached two ends each when suddenly all the points were going Tony’s way and he took the end 11-2 in the fifth. In the last singles set, Jeremy Jones fought all the way against Chris Herbert but frustratingly fell at the final hurdle, losing 10-12 in the fifth. The score was 8-1 to Nat West but, completely against the run of play, Treasury took the doubles for an 8-2 finish. A great match. Five sets went the full distance. Chris Herbert played 309 points in the evening, won all three, two at deuce in the fifth. That is an all-time divisional record for the most points played in one night, beating the previous record of 308 points set by Tony Dight (Treasury B) in 2015-16. Giovanni Giuffrida played 290 points in the evening but lost all three. Tough luck! That defeat, and last week’s loss to Comets, have severely dented Treasury’s chances of rivalling Castaways.

Castaways are pulling away at the top of the league table but it’s still early days. Morpeth, Nat West and PRO are all still within touching distance. At the bottom, a gap has suddenly appeared and Sparta, DIT and BTB are becoming detached. Sparta have matches in hand but need to pick up points quickly.

Next week we have a bonus fixture as Sparta are playing their postponed game against Treasury. Treasury also play Employment and two big wins next week could put them right back in contention. Beyond that, it looks like a week when the chances of upset wins are low. Castaways play PRO and recently PRO have never taken more than two sets in that encounter. John Crawford is a keen student of the records and will no doubt remind his team of 10 December 2015 when out of nowhere PRO managed a 5-5 draw. Could they do that again?

**RICHARD CAMPBELL
DIVISIONAL SECRETARY**

Issued: 18/11/2018

AVERAGES (Qualification: ≥6 sets played)

Player	Team	Sets Won	Sets Played	Average (%)
Bekele	MORPETH	12	12	100.0
Egan	TREASURY A	6	6	100.0
Luk	MORPETH	6	6	100.0
Turner	PRO	11	12	91.7
LeMilliere	CASTAWAYS	16	18	88.9
Harris	CASTAWAYS	8	9	88.9
Sweeney	MORPETH	5	6	83.3
Herbert	NAT WEST	12	15	80.0

Hodges	EMPLOYMENT	7	9	77.8
McKee	CASTAWAYS	7	9	77.8
McKee	EMPLOYMENT	7	9	77.8
Penrose	NAT WEST	7	9	77.8
Persaud	PRO	7	9	77.8
Crawford	PRO	9	12	75.0
Codrington	COMETS	12	18	66.7
Francis	COMETS	10	15	66.7
Brown	MORPETH	6	9	66.7
Catt	NAT WEST	6	9	66.7
Evans	SPARTA	6	9	66.7
Jermyn	EMPLOYMENT	6	9	66.7
Robinson	TREASURY A	6	9	66.7
Wroe	CASTAWAYS	6	9	66.7
Blyuss	MORPETH	4	6	66.7
Wong	TREASURY A	9	15	60.0
Baylis	EMPLOYMENT	7	12	58.3
Cranstone	INSURANCE	10	18	55.6
Francis	INSURANCE	9	18	50.0
Jones	NAT WEST	6	12	50.0
Buchanan	PRO	3	6	50.0
Jones	TREASURY A	3	6	50.0
Chambers	MORPETH	5	12	41.7
Tokely	SPARTA	3	9	33.3
Fagan	COMETS	3	12	25.0
Velinor	INSURANCE	4	18	22.2
Giuffrida	TREASURY A	2	9	22.2
Sinarain	BTB	3	15	20.0
Buck	PRO	1	6	16.7
John	SPARTA	1	6	16.7
Gazheli	DIT	2	14	14.3
Waterhouse	BTB	2	15	13.3
Xavier	BTB	2	15	13.3
Roberts	BTB	1	9	11.1
Mehta	DIT	1	11	9.1
Miller	DIT	1	12	8.3
Goodman	DIT	1	14	7.1