

LONDON BANKS AND CIVIL SERVICE TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE BULLETIN 14

AS AT 20 JANUARY 2019

	P	W	D	F	A	B	P
CASTAWAYS	13	10	2	107	23	39	146
MORPETH	12	10	2	93	27	36	129
TREASURY A	12	7	2	83	37	36	119
COMETS	12	6	1	66	54	36	102
PRO	12	7	0	63	57	36	99
NAT WEST	11	6	2	66	44	33	99
EMPLOYMENT	12	6	1	61	59	36	97
INSURANCE	12	3	1	42	78	36	78
SPARTA	12	3	1	38	82	33	71
BTB	12	1	1	23	97	36	59
DIT	12	0	1	18	102	36	54

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

COMMENTARY

Week 15 (late result)

Comets take on Nat West and with Steve Codrington unavailable, Greg Gargrupe had to step in for Comets for this fixture. The match began with a hugely contested set between Steve Fagan and Chris Herbert. Chris got the better of the first three ends but Steve took the fourth 11-9. There was nothing between the two players but it was Chris who came home with a narrow 11-9 win in the fifth. A few sets later, Chris found himself in the same position against Ian Francis. At two ends each, we're again in the fifth end and once again Chris steals it by 11-5. He repeats again in his last set, going two ends down to Greg Gargrupe but somehow levelling the set at 2-2 and, for the third time, ran out the winner 11-9. Three sets, 15 ends and more than 270 points played in achieving his three wins. Does anyone play more five-enders than Chris Herbert? Les Samuels provided Chris with good back up, losing in four to Fagan but otherwise not dropping an end. The outcome was 7-3 to Nat West but it was a well-contested match with five sets going further than the third end.

Week 16

After last week's good win over Insurance, Sparta came up against Morpeth, a tough fixture but made more difficult because no Dave Evans in their team. Morpeth fielded Chambers, Blyuss and Bekele. It proved to be a very forgettable night for Sparta as Morpeth raced through the match to achieve a 10-0 outcome. Nine sets were completed three straight and the other – Oleg Blyuss against Steve Hattrill – was finished in four ends. So, an early night for Morpeth and the Bekele unbroken winning streak extends to 23 victories. PRO versus DIT proved to be a good contest with six singles sets going past the third end. For DIT, all of Simon Goodman's sets involved four ends and he emerged with two losses, to Ronnie Turner and Jai Persaud. Graham Miller's sets followed the same pattern and he too lost to Turner and Persaud. It was a frustrating night for Florian Gazheli as he lost to Turner but was in with a shout against Persaud and Buck but just couldn't convert. A better end to the night for DIT as they won their second doubles of the season to make the score 7-3 to PRO. Ronnie Turner picked up his sixth Player of the Match award and now is the division's outright leader in that category. Another early night at Treasury as they completed a whitewash double over BTB. Very little to say about this fixture. All the singles sets were won three straight and it was the third end of the doubles before BTB picked up its first end. A convincing win for Treasury. Yet another 10-0 result ensued as Insurance faced Castaways. Two things

conspired against Insurance. First, Albert Francis forgot the match was on which left Insurance with two players. Second, Castaways put out their strongest team. Despite losing all three, it was a good night for Ian Cranstone who took Terry McKee to five, only to fall away in the last two ends, and was in with a shout against Pete Harris but just losing 11-7 in the fifth. Good efforts! Albert's oversight brought to an end his record for playing in the most consecutive matches. His name goes into the record books as the holder of the divisional record for the longest unbroken run of appearances, at 31 matches. In a pretty one-sided week, at last we come to a highly competitive match. It's Comets versus Employment. Comets had reserve Tim Mason standing in for Steve Codrington and, try as he might, he could make no impression on his First Division opponents. Steve Fagan got Comets off to a good start with a convincing win over Paul Baylis. That was countered in set three when Chris McKee beat Ian Francis in four close ends. In set five, McKee faced Fagan in what promised to be the best set of the night. Although it was a close contest, Chris couldn't get in front of his opponent and went down 12-10 in the fourth. Had he won that end, who knows what the outcome would have been. Francis against Anita Jermyn followed that set. Ian got the best of the first three ends only for Anita to level the set in the fourth end. The final end went point for point but it was Ian who got his nose in front to steal it at 11-9. A few sets later Ian found himself on the wrong end of another close finish as Paul Baylis staged a come-from-behind charge to beat Ian 11-6 in the fifth. The final singles saw Anita Jermyn pull off her second defeat of Steve Fagan this season, in four ends with almost identical scores to those when she beat him in the first half. Well done Anita – Player of the Match! The final score was 6-4 to Employment. Two sets went to five and a further four sets required four ends. A good contest and one that demonstrated the unpredictability of this sport. Four players – Fagan, Francis, Baylis and Jermyn – played in both the first and second half fixtures and, of the four sets they contested between each other, in three cases the first half winner became the loser in the second half match! It's a funny old game!

So, if this week was somewhat predictable, next week it's the big one: Castaways against Morpeth. Morpeth have Luk and Bekele unbeaten, and Bekele's unbroken streak to protect. If both teams are at full strength, it will be close. I'm making no predictions but if by some chance one team scores a runaway victory that might be the end of the title chase. In the relegation zone, a gap has opened between DIT, BTB and the rest. BTB are on a bye week and DIT face Comets where there's a sneaking chance of points to be gained. All of the other matches next week involve chances for unforeseen star performances and unexpected wins. There's not an obvious 10-0 outcome among them. Should be interesting!

RICHARD CAMPBELL
DIVISIONAL SECRETARY

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AVERAGES (Qualification: ≥13 sets played)

Player	Team	Sets Won	Sets Played	Average (%)
Bekele	MORPETH	23	23	100.0
Luk	MORPETH	15	15	100.0
Harris	CASTAWAYS	24	26	92.3
McKee	CASTAWAYS	15	17	88.2
McKee	EMPLOYMENT	17	21	81.0
Herbert	NAT WEST	19	24	79.2
LeMilliere	CASTAWAYS	30	38	78.9
Turner	PRO	23	30	76.7
Evans	SPARTA	18	24	75.0
Caunt	CASTAWAYS	13	18	72.2
Robinson	TREASURY A	13	18	72.2
Wong	TREASURY A	17	24	70.8
Chambers	MORPETH	16	23	69.6
Codrington	COMETS	20	30	66.7

Blyuss	MORPETH	10	15	66.7
Baylis	EMPLOYMENT	19	30	63.3
Fagan	COMETS	18	30	60.0
Catt	NAT WEST	9	15	60.0
Francis	COMETS	19	33	57.6
Brown	MORPETH	8	14	57.1
Crawford	PRO	13	24	54.2
Persaud	PRO	13	24	54.2
Jones	TREASURY A	8	15	53.3
Giuffrida	TREASURY A	11	21	52.4
Jermyn	EMPLOYMENT	11	21	52.4
Cranstone	INSURANCE	17	36	47.2
Francis	INSURANCE	14	33	42.4
Jones	NAT WEST	11	27	40.7
Buchanan	PRO	6	15	40.0
Sinarain	BTB	8	27	29.6
Velinor	INSURANCE	6	30	20.0
Miller	DIT	5	27	18.5
Waterhouse	BTB	5	27	18.5
Tokely	SPARTA	6	33	18.2
Xavier	BTB	4	30	13.3
Buck	PRO	2	15	13.3
Goodman	DIT	4	32	12.5
Hattrill	SPARTA	2	21	9.5
Gazheli	DIT	3	32	9.4
Mehta	DIT	1	14	7.1
Roberts	BTB	1	15	6.7
John	SPARTA	1	18	5.6