

LONDON BANKS AND CIVIL SERVICE TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE BULLETIN 22

AS AT 17 MARCH 2019

	P	W	D	F	A	B	P
CASTAWAYS	19	15	3	156	34	57	213
MORPETH	19	15	4	145	45	57	202
NAT WEST	20	12	3	127	73	60	187
TREASURY A	18	12	2	130	50	54	184
EMPLOYMENT	19	10	2	96	94	57	153
COMETS	18	9	1	96	84	54	150
PRO	19	9	1	90	100	57	147
SPARTA	19	5	2	65	125	54	119
INSURANCE	19	3	2	61	129	57	118
DIT	19	2	1	38	152	57	95
BTB	19	1	1	36	154	57	93

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 24

The Employment team bears a striking resemblance to the Lambeth team in the Central League this year. It seems to be working for them in the Central League but how about here? Well, Sparta were brushed away 10-0 in the first half, could Employment repeat that? Team compositions were different but surely not enough to set aside a 10-0 result. First set, and a good no frills win for Anita Jermyn over Peter Tokely in four ends. Second set is a big one as Chris McKee takes on Dave Evans. Evans is in front after three ends, almost wins it in the fourth but Chris rallies to a 13-11 steal and we're into the deciding end. So far as I know these guys have no head-to-head form and the averages suggest it's a coin toss. We get to 9-9 and nothing between them. Two more points played and Dave takes both of them for a hard fought win in the fifth. Good win! The match is all square. Lew Hodges is next up for Employment, against Mike Loveder and it was a win for Mike when they met in the Central League before Xmas. You just sense this might be a match where history counts for nothing and, so it is, as Lew comes home in front after four ends. Next set, Anita Jermyn is up against Dave Evans. Now Anita probably plays more table tennis than most people in this league but I'm thinking this may be a bridge too far. Dave jumps out in front after three ends and is just about to win it in the fourth when, like the Chris McKee set, Anita steals the fourth end 13-11. Deciding end, and it's Dave who squeaks home again, this time 11-8 in the fifth. Lew Hodges then played Peter Tokely and must be odds-on favourite. But, no, it's Peter who scores a very good win 14-12 in the fifth. After that, Loveder beat Jermyn comfortably but then lost to McKee in five hard-fought ends. Evans completed his maximum with a straightforward win over Hodges and McKee proved too strong for Tokely. All that gave Sparta a 5-4 lead before the doubles but the Jermyn / McKee combination came out on top in four ends. A good match, a close 5-5 result and for the third time this season, all six players won at least one set each. Dave Evans justifiably takes Player of the Match for his three wins that turned a 10-0 first half loss into a creditable second half draw for Sparta. Second match of the week and lowly Insurance take on fourth place Treasury. Perhaps it's my imagination but Ian Cranstone usually seems to get Insurance off to a good start and he did so here. He was two ends up on Denis Robertson, before letting the third end slip 13-11, but recovered to take the fourth 11-7. Unfortunately, things went downhill from there, as when Fung and Wong were at the table it was one-way traffic. Both scored maximums for the loss of one end – Wong to Cranstone. One good piece of news for Insurance was Albert Francis triumphing in a real dog fight with Dennis Robinson, in which Dennis levelled the set from two ends down but just fell away 11-8 in the fifth. The result was 8-2 to Treasury. We'll look back at the season in the

final bulletin but Insurance, while in no danger of relegation, have struggled to emulate last season's achievements. While all the attention has been on the title, there's been an equally close battle going on between BTB and DIT to avoid finishing in last place. This week they met, and a crucial match it was. BTB won the first half fixture but DIT started well with a three straight win for Gazheli over Barry Illett and Simon Goodman achieving the same over Geoff Waterhouse, albeit narrowly. Rishi Sinarain got one back with a defeat of Graham Miller in four ends. In what followed, there were two crucial sets. Florian Gazheli came from behind to beat Geoff Waterhouse 11-7 in the fifth. With things going DIT's way, it was vital that Sinarain did not lose to Gazheli. Rishi went two end up but Florian held on to win the third end 14-12. As the fourth end unravelled, Florian started to pull ahead and suddenly the set was all-square. Now Rishi won the first half encounter 13-11 in the fifth. Are we heading to deuce again? The answer was "no" as Rishi held on to take the set 11-7 in the fifth. Good close contest. Geoff Waterhouse chipped in a win over Graham Miller but that, plus Rishi's maximum, was all BTB could achieve. The final nail in the coffin was BTB losing the doubles (they won in the first half) and thereby ceding the win to DIT by 6-4. The battle for the title fizzled out as Nat West could only turn out two players against Castaways. The result was a pretty easy 9-1 to Castaways. It just seems extraordinary that a team as good as Nat West - currently in third place - took just one set (yes, one) from Castaways in two fixtures this season. Nat West's one victory was Chris Herbert over Neil LeMilliere but Gareth Jones took Phil Wroe to 11-7 in the fifth and the doubles went to five too. I doubt this is the way anyone - particularly Castaways - would have wanted it to end but I suppose *c'est la vie* and a win's a win however it's secured.

Last week of the season and while the title race must be over there's still scope for jostling for the minor positions. Might Treasury steal second place from Morpeth? How's that Employment, Comet, PRO grouping going to shake out? Can Insurance pip Sparta to the post? And, finally, who will triumph in BTB and DIT's personal battle? Still lots of interest right until the last ball is struck.

RICHARD CAMPBELL
DIVISIONAL SECRETARY

Issued: 17/03/2019

AVERAGES (Qualification: ≥20 sets played)

Player	Team	Sets Won	Sets Played	Average (%)
Luk	MORPETH	21	21	100.0
Bekele	MORPETH	38	41	92.7
Harris	CASTAWAYS	39	43	90.7
Samuels	NAT WEST	20	24	83.3
Herbert	NAT WEST	39	48	81.3
LeMilliere	CASTAWAYS	43	55	78.2
McKee	EMPLOYMENT	21	27	77.8
Wong	TREASURY A	24	32	75.0
Blyuss	MORPETH	17	23	73.9
Evans	SPARTA	26	36	72.2
Johnson	NAT WEST	15	21	71.4
Robinson	TREASURY A	21	30	70.0
Hodges	EMPLOYMENT	16	23	69.6
Wroe	CASTAWAYS	16	23	69.6
Turner	PRO	31	45	68.9
Chambers	MORPETH	26	38	68.4
Fagan	COMETS	24	36	66.7
Francis	COMETS	30	48	62.5
Codrington	COMETS	24	39	61.5
Giuffrida	TREASURY A	14	24	58.3
Baylis	EMPLOYMENT	26	47	55.3

Crawford	PRO	21	39	53.8
Jermyn	EMPLOYMENT	17	33	51.5
Cranstone	INSURANCE	28	56	50.0
Persaud	PRO	15	30	50.0
Loveder	SPARTA	12	24	50.0
Brown	MORPETH	11	22	50.0
Jones	NAT WEST	21	48	43.8
Buchanan	PRO	10	24	41.7
Francis	INSURANCE	18	50	36.0
Sinarain	BTB	14	39	35.9
Tokely	SPARTA	14	53	26.4
Gargrupe	COMETS	5	24	20.8
Goodman	DIT	10	52	19.2
Miller	DIT	9	47	19.1
Waterhouse	BTB	8	45	17.8
Gazheli	DIT	8	46	17.4
Xavier	BTB	6	42	14.3
Velinor	INSURANCE	7	50	14.0
Hattrill	SPARTA	3	26	11.5
Buck	PRO	3	27	11.1
Roberts	BTB	1	27	3.7
John	SPARTA	1	29	3.4