

LONDON BANKS AND CIVIL SERVICE TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE BULLETIN 13

AS AT 21 JANUARY 2018

	P	W	D	F	A	B	P
CASTAWAYS	12	10	1	96	24	36	132
TREASURY A	12	9	1	95	25	36	131
NAT WEST	12	9	2	84	36	36	120
MORPETH	12	7	2	67	53	36	103
EMPLOYMENT	12	5	3	58	62	36	94
PRO	12	4	2	57	63	36	93
INSURANCE	12	3	1	38	82	36	74
SPARTA	11	3	1	41	69	33	74
COMETS	10	3	1	41	59	30	71
OUTCASTS	11	3	1	38	72	33	71
TREASURY B	12	0	1	25	95	36	61

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_2017-2018/Division_One

COMMENTARY

Week 16

The week begins with the relegation battle between Sparta and Treasury B. For the third time this season, Sparta only had two players and I thought a draw was the most likely result. In fact, the match turned out to be a bit of a procession as Sparta won set after set. By the end of the night Sparta had won all seven sets contested. Bryan Gittens lost both his sets in four. David Shore took an end off Hatrill but that was all and, surprisingly, John Colgan lost both his sets three straight. For Sparta, you might have expected Dave Evans to win all three but hats off to Steve Hatrill who managed to do the same. A funny result that probably no one would have predicted. Morpeth were always favourites to beat Outcasts but the match was closer than you might have expected. For Morpeth, Stuart Sweeney began with an excellent three straight win over Eddie Roullier. Morpeth held a 3-0 lead before Andrew Macalister opened Outcasts' account with a win over Sweeney. After six sets, Outcasts trailed 1-5 but had high hopes of a second win when Macalister took the first two ends off Duncan Brown. But Duncan took the next two ends and a close finish was in prospect. At the end of the set, Brown had turned it round and took the win 11-8. Good comeback! This set up a titanic battle between Coull and Sweeney – two players I suspect know each other quite well! First blood to Sweeney as he led two ends to one but Coull wins the fourth and we're all square. The final end was close but it was Coull who emerged victorious by 11-9. 101 points played and the best set of the night. The final score was 8-2 to Morpeth. The luckless Insurance continues their horrible start to the half with a visit to highflying Treasury A. On paper, this was an odds-on 10-0 victory for Treasury A. That prospect receded a little when it became clear Treasury were not fielding any of their big guns but were depending on Mike Loveder and Jeremy Jones. The prospect receded completely when it emerged Treasury had no third player and Insurance were 3-0 up before a ball was hit. A Treasury victory was still the most likely outcome and they started well with Loveder and Jones beating Insurance's danger man, Albert Francis. With Treasury 4-3 up, we came to two huge sets that turned the match. First it was Cranstone against Loveder. Ian gets his nose in front but Mike levels at two ends each. The final end was point for point but it was Cranstone who just got to the finish line at 11-7. Jeremy Jones versus Jon Velinor was just as close and once again we find ourselves in the final end. In one of those "cometh the hour, cometh the man" moments, Jon Velinor covered himself in glory to steal the end 11-9. To their credit, Treasury pulled themselves together to win the doubles so the result was a highly unlikely draw. A good game and it's noticeable that, after the first two matches this half, both of Insurance's opponents have paid tribute to their improved standard and competitiveness. This brings us to the crunch match

between Castaways and Nat West. I will not report this match in full detail as a blow-by-blow account by Neil LeMilliere has been posted on the website [here](#). The outcome was a draw but a couple of observations from me. Nat West were fielding a reserve so the bragging rights must go to them for securing a draw. Chris Herbert takes Man of the Match for winning all three. This was by no means easy and required a fifth end to defeat Harris and McKee and four ends to beat LeMilliere. Tony Catt lost one - to Harris – and triumphed in a 105 points endurance test against Neil LeMilliere. It was fitting that the doubles too went all the way before Treasury won it to secure the draw 11-8 in the fifth. Good match. A very unusual all-time Divisional record was smashed in that match. I'm usually highlighting the huge numbers of points played in five enders but there is a little known record for the fewest points played in a five ender which was set in the 2015-16 season when Jeremy Jones beat Tony Dight in five, playing just 84 points. That record was smashed this week when Chris Herbert beat Terry McKee 11-3, 4-11, 3-11, 11-2, 11-3 or just 70 points in total! Can't see that record being beaten! I predicted a close match between PRO and Employment and so it was. PRO allowed Richard Oppenheimer to play out of order because he wanted to get away. Employment really are a different team with Oppenheim playing and he breezed through the night without conceding an end. Some good sets followed. Ronnie Turner had a fine win over Richard Mak in four ends, three of which ended 12-10. John Crawford won his two remaining sets, both in four ends. Employment led 5-4 going into the doubles but PRO have suddenly found out how to play doubles and won the set three straight for their second doubles win in consecutive weeks. These are two evenly matched teams.

An interesting set of results this week that surprisingly makes no difference at the top. Castaways still hold their one point advantage over Treasury A. Insurance's heroics take them out of the relegation zone but it now looks likely it will be one of the promoted teams that fills the second relegation slot alongside Treasury B. Treasury B are detached and it will take a miracle to keep them up. Top of the averages is now a three-way tie between Herbert, Harris and Catt. Thirty-six players are listed in the averages and 22 of them have an average of 50% or greater. I wonder what the statisticians would make of that!

Some good fixtures coming up next week! Nat West face Treasury A and Castaways face Employment. At face value, that means Castaways should open the gap at the top a little but things have hardly gone predictably these last few weeks. The Nat West/Treasury A match looks to turn on player availability and, depending on that, you could probably argue for any score between 8-2 and 2-8 being the outcome. Will Richard Oppenheimer play for Employment against Castaways and is he good enough to cause them some damage? Richard lost to both Catt and Fagan, which suggests he'll need to be in peak form to take sets from Castaways. There's a relegation contest between Outcasts and Insurance. Insurance won the first half fixture 9-1 – one of their best results in the first half. Can they repeat that? If they do, it will be an enormous boost to their chances of avoiding relegation.

RICHARD CAMPBELL
DIVISIONAL SECRETARY

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AVERAGES (Qualification: ≥ 14 sets played)

Player	Team	Sets Won	Sets Played	Average (%)
Catt	NAT WEST	19	21	90.5
Harris	CASTAWAYS	19	21	90.5
Herbert	NAT WEST	19	21	90.5
Persaud	TREASURY A	22	25	88.0
McKee	CASTAWAYS	18	21	85.7
Fung	TREASURY A	18	22	81.8
Oppenheim	EMPLOYMENT	12	15	80.0
Fagan	COMETS	23	29	79.3
Wong	TREASURY A	19	25	76.0
LeMilliere	CASTAWAYS	25	35	71.4
Bekele	MORPETH	14	21	66.7
Evans	SPARTA	17	26	65.4

Blyuss	MORPETH	11	18	61.1
Chambers	MORPETH	11	18	61.1
Baylis	EMPLOYMENT	14	23	60.9
Brown	MORPETH	9	15	60.0
Jameson	OUTCASTS	9	15	60.0
Crawford	PRO	17	29	58.6
Turner	PRO	18	32	56.3
Mak	EMPLOYMENT	14	25	56.0
Jones	NAT WEST	14	27	51.9
Hattrill	SPARTA	7	14	50.0
Coull	OUTCASTS	7	15	46.7
Macalister	OUTCASTS	7	15	46.7
Shore	TREASURY B	12	29	41.4
Roullier	OUTCASTS	9	24	37.5
Francis	INSURANCE	13	35	37.1
Codrington	COMETS	7	20	35.0
Cranstone	INSURANCE	10	32	31.3
Tokely	SPARTA	8	27	29.6
Buchanan	PRO	8	29	27.6
Velinor	INSURANCE	8	32	25.0
Colgan	TREASURY B	4	17	23.5
Gittens	TREASURY B	3	29	10.3
Gargrupe	COMETS	2	29	6.9
Okai	TREASURY B	1	21	4.8