

LONDON BANKS AND CIVIL SERVICE TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE BULLETIN 5

AS AT 3 NOVEMBER 2019

	P	W	D	F	A	B	P
COMETS	5	4	1	41	9	15	56
CASTAWAYS	5	4	1	39	11	15	54
NAT WEST	4	4	0	30	10	12	42
EMPLOYMENT	5	3	0	27	23	15	42
PRO	5	3	0	26	24	15	41
MORPETH A	3	3	0	23	7	9	32
GOOD KARMA	4	1	0	18	22	12	30
MORPETH C	5	0	0	13	37	15	28
OUTCASTS	4	1	0	10	30	12	22
TREASURY B	4	0	0	7	33	12	19
SPARTA	4	0	0	6	34	12	18

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_2019-2020/Division_One

COMMENTARY

Week 5

Morpeth C gave their A team colleagues a good run for their money in the first match of the week. Things began with Clark Nicholls against Oleg Blyuss. Oleg got his nose in front, taking two of the first three ends. Events changed dramatically in the fourth end as Clark stormed to an 11-3 scoreline. Could he do the same in the final end? The scores moved point for point and inevitably reached deuce. The winner turned out to be Clark at 13-11 in the fifth. A long hard set, 107 points and a pity someone had to lose. Matthew Robertson then faced Rob Chalmers. This proved to be a repeat of the first set. First two ends to Rob, next two ends to Matthew. The final end was again close but this time it was Rob, for the A team, who was the victor by 11-8. Matthew got some revenge in his next visit to the table as he beat Blyuss in four. The match score was 2-2 and the C team were putting up a good fight. The score then moved to 4-2 in the A team's favour with three-straight wins for Bekele and Chambers over Nicholls and Shilo respectively. Set seven was looking to be an upset as Robertson took the first two ends from Bekele but Samson came back, winning the next two ends. The deciding end went on and on, culminating at 14-12 to Samson. Upset avoided! Set eight also went the distance and Blyuss lost his third set of the match, to Max Shilo, 11-8 in the fifth. The A team had won the match 7-3 due to maximums from Chambers and Bekele. The score flattered the A team a bit. Four sets went the distance and the C team's fifth-end jinx continued as they lost three of them. They've now seen 14 sets go to five this season, winning two and losing 12 of them. And if there was an award for the unluckiest player in the division it would have to go to Matthew Robertson who has now played nine sets, six of which have needed the fifth end, and he has lost at deuce in four of them! Last week I suggested Employment would find sets hard to come by against Castaway. I looked to be right as the first three sets went Castaways' way. But that conceals two of the narrowest of victories for Johnny Bispham beating Paul Baylis 11-8 in the fifth in a come-from-behind win and Neil LeMilliere edging past Chris McKee 11-9 in the fifth. Castaways third win was an impressive three straight win for Pete Harris over Jason Killip. Castaways went 5-0 up before Jason beat LeMilliere three straight and promptly did the same to Bispham. The mini-revival was complete when Paul Baylis beat LeMilliere by a whisker, 12-10 in the fifth. Castaways were 6-3 up going into the doubles but much to my surprise Employment won it comfortably. Castaways' first doubles loss of the season but the match was won 6-4. Unexpectedly close but Castaways unbeaten streak extends to 13 matches. Karma gave Oskar Mencer his debut against Outcasts and very promising it proved to be. He opened with a win over Simon Jameson and followed it up by defeating Andrew Macalister. Luck deserted

him in this third singles and he lost to Bob Coull 11-9 in the fifth, having won the first two ends. Morris Greenberg was Karma's star, winning all three. He had a good tussle with Bob Coull but came out on top 11-8 in the fifth. Add in two wins from George Sanders and Karma had won 8-2, their first win of the season. An unrewarding night for Treasury B against Nat West. In set three, Tony Dight was pushing Chris Herbert hard but fell away to lose 11-4 in the fifth. Tony opened Treasury's account with a four-end win over Gareth Jones. Petko Guimichev doubled their score when he too beat Jones in four. Beyond that, everything went Nat West's way. The outcome was a comfortable 8-2 win for Nat West. Tony Catt looked untroubled for Nat West, dropping one end all night. Comets were taking no chances against PRO, fielding a team that could potentially win the title: Persaud, Fung and Francis. This was just too strong for PRO and they went down 10-0, winning just four ends. Looking down the individual set scores suggests PRO weren't really in with a chance in any of them. Second successive loss for PRO, after winning their first three matches.

Points dropped by Castaways mean Comets go to the top of the table with a two point advantage. This is turning into an interesting season with the top two plus Morpeth A and Nat West all in with a chance. Treasury and Sparta are in the relegation positions and together with Outcasts are in danger of getting cast adrift from the remaining teams. Four players still left unbeaten and you can see the strength of the Comets squad as they occupy six positions in the top 15 in the averages. Castaways are on a bye week next week so chances for Comets to pull away. They have a slightly tricky fixture against Employment where there's no way they'll lose but sets could be dropped depending on team selections. Nat West looks to have the easiest fixture of the top four – a visit to Sparta – while Morpeth A are up against Karma who will be hoping to build on this week's success. Most evenly balanced contest of the week appears to be PRO versus Morpeth C. Finally, a key clash at the bottom where Treasury face Outcasts in a match neither can afford to lose.

RICHARD CAMPBELL
DIVISIONAL SECRETARY

Issued: 03/11/2019

AVERAGES (Qualification: ≥5 sets played)

Player	Team	Sets Won	Sets Played	Average (%)
Fung	COMETS	8	8	100.0
Bekele	MORPETH A	6	6	100.0
Chambers	MORPETH A	6	6	100.0
Persaud	COMETS	6	6	100.0
Harris	CASTAWAYS	11	12	91.7
Herbert	NAT WEST	11	12	91.7
Catt	NAT WEST	5	6	83.3
Killip	EMPLOYMENT	5	6	83.3
LeMilliere	CASTAWAYS	12	15	80.0
Codrington	COMETS	4	5	80.0
Turner	COMETS	4	5	80.0
Bispham	CASTAWAYS	7	9	77.8
Crawford	PRO	8	12	66.7
Fagan	COMETS	6	9	66.7
Francis	COMETS	6	9	66.7
Jones	NAT WEST	6	9	66.7
Baylis	EMPLOYMENT	7	11	63.6
Greenberg	GOOD KARMA	5	8	62.5
Caunt	CASTAWAYS	5	9	55.6
Guimichev	TREASURY B	5	9	55.6
Buchanan	PRO	4	8	50.0
Persaud	PRO	5	11	45.5
Coull	OUTCASTS	4	9	44.4

Jameson	OUTCASTS	4	9	44.4
Tokely	SPARTA	4	9	44.4
Buck	PRO	5	12	41.7
Mak	EMPLOYMENT	3	8	37.5
Robertson	MORPETH C	3	9	33.3
Shilo	MORPETH C	2	9	22.2
Nicholls	MORPETH C	2	12	16.7
Blyuss	MORPETH A	1	6	16.7
Gittens	TREASURY B	1	6	16.7
McKee	EMPLOYMENT	1	6	16.7
Roullier	OUTCASTS	1	6	16.7
Hattrill	SPARTA	1	12	8.3