

LONDON BANKS AND CIVIL SERVICE TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE BULLETIN 6

AS AT 5 NOVEMBER 2016

	P	W	D	F	A	B	P
CASTAWAYS	5	4	0	40	10	15	55
CREDEX	5	4	0	39	11	15	54
MORPETH	6	3	0	34	26	18	52
PRO	6	3	1	33	27	18	51
NAT WEST	5	4	1	35	15	15	50
TREASURY A	5	4	0	35	15	15	50
EMPLOYMENT	6	2	0	25	35	18	43
COMETS	5	3	0	27	23	15	42
BTB	6	0	0	11	49	18	29
SEDCOPIANS	4	1	0	7	33	12	19
TREASURY B	5	0	0	4	46	15	19

Bonus points shown in penultimate column. Ultimate column shows total points from sets won and bonuses

THINGS TO NOTE

- None

COMMENTARY

Week 6

Week 6 begins with struggling Treasury B having the daunting challenge of facing its A team. The outcome was Treasury B's third 10-0 loss of the season. I believe this Treasury team is better than that but when the chips are down things just don't seem to go your way. In this match, examples included Tony Dight – who seems to feature in many noteworthy matches – losing 14-12 in the fifth to Giovanni Giuffrida after 97 points, and David Shore edging in front of Winston Wong only to lose in the fifth after 99 points. Just not their night! The next match this week takes me back a year to 19 October 2015 when Les Samuels' extraordinary maximum brought to an end Credex's long-running winning streak. Who would have imagined it could happen again! Well, it did, and when they met this week, at the end of the night it was Nat West that went home 6-4 winners. How did that happen? This time it was Chris Penrose's selection for Nat West that tipped the scales. Chris opened with a clinical three straight defeat of Rhyan Nelson. The second set was similarly clinical with Perry Fung losing just 15 points in beating Les Samuels. Then came two key sets with Samuels beating Nelson in a closeish set followed by a titanic battle between Penrose and Laikram Persaud that went all the way to a fifth end before Penrose just won out. Les Samuels then also beat Persaud, which led to another five ender, between Penrose and Fung. This swung one way and then the other but when it reached the final straight it was Penrose who edged home 11-7 in the fifth. That put Nat West 5-4 up with the doubles to come. Credex got the better of the first three ends but one final push by Nat West took them over the line 11-5 in the fifth. So, the Penrose maximum plus two from Samuels and the doubles gave Nat West the win, bringing to an end Credex's 14 match winning streak and throwing the title race wide open. Now that result should have really motivated Castaways in their potentially difficult fixture against Morpeth, where a big win would see them sitting pretty in the title hunt. In the opening set, Pete Harris beat Blyuss in four ends. Morpeth struck a blow in the second set with Samson Bekele beating Pat Caunt in four to level the match. We were back level again at 2-2 after Andy Nash beat Johansson and Blyuss inflicted a second defeat on Caunt. Pete Harris ran away with the first end against Johansson but then found himself down by two ends to one and fighting to stay alive at 5-1 down in the fourth set. However, the big upset was not to happen and Harris eventually scraped home 11-6 in the fifth. I'm not sure if that spurred on Castaways or deflated Morpeth but after that it was plain sailing for Castaways who rattled off the next four singles sets to lead 7-2 going into the doubles. Castaways' Harris/Nash combination looked favourites against Blyuss/Bekele but just to underline that things often don't go to form, the Morpeth duo ran out the winners by 12-10 in the fourth. So, a 7-3 win for Castaways who left hoping they wouldn't regret dropping that doubles set. Last minute

work pressures meant PRO faced BTB with just two players. That didn't seem to trouble PRO as they rattled off all nine singles sets, three straight in each case. BTB's Geoff Waterhouse had set points in three close ends with George Buck but lost each of them narrowly. Ross Roberts was 8-2 and 10-7 up in the second end against John Crawford but just couldn't convert that to a win. BTB won their first ends of the night in the doubles and led by two ends to one but it wasn't to be and PRO eventually triumphed 11-6 in the fifth. The "two Steves" combination is working well for Comets and they've won every match when the two have played together. Against Employment, Steve Fagan blasted through his three singles sets in no time at all. Steve Codrington dropped an end to Richard Mak and Chris McKee but came through relatively untroubled. The end dropped to McKee was the longest single end of the season so far culminating at 19-17. A bit like last week, most interest centered on Rishi Sinarain's sets, who beat Dos Santos but lost in four to Mak and McKee. An 8-2 victory for Comets.

Halfway through the first half and time to review the season so far. The League table shows just a five point gap between the top six teams. Even if you discount Morpeth and PRO who have both played one more match this is much closer than I'd imagined. First half bragging rights go to Nat West who have already beaten Castaways and Credex and have the easiest programme of fixtures up to Christmas. Nat West are also the only team in the Division not to have lost a doubles set. Castaways and Credex are locked together and their fixture on 14 December, which always looked huge, now looks massive. At the other end of the table, BTB, Sedcopians and Treasury B are already detached and the two teams to be relegated seem certain to come from those three. BTB look in the best shape but Treasury B have the easier fixtures remaining in this half. It's early days for positions in the averages to shake out but we still have five players unbeaten. Most of the names at the top of the averages are to be expected but Petko Guimichev, John Crawford and Steve Codrington are all having a good first half. Crawford and Fagan each have four Player of the Match awards. Adewale holds the longest unbeaten steak with 24 straight wins but if he's discounted not far behind are Steve Fagan with 18 wins and Chris Herbert with 16. One interesting fact to leave you with. Some 50% of all the matches so far have ended either 10-0 or 9-1 and there is only one club that has not been involved in a 10-0 or 9-1 result and that is Morpeth.

A free week next week. We're back in action on 16 November when there are four matches with Treasury A versus Nat West and Comets versus Credex looking to be the pick of the bunch.

**RICHARD CAMPBELL
DIVISIONAL SECRETARY**

Issued: 06/11/2016

AVERAGES (Qualification: ≥ 6 sets played)

Player	Team	Sets Won	Sets Played	Average (%)
Fagan	COMETS	12	12	100.0
Herbert	NAT WEST	9	9	100.0
Adewale	CREDEX	6	6	100.0
Jaksland	CASTAWAYS	6	6	100.0
Wong	TREASURY A	6	6	100.0
P Fung	CREDEX	9	10	90.0
Guimichev	TREASURY A	8	9	88.9
LeMilliere	CASTAWAYS	8	9	88.9
Nash	CASTAWAYS	8	9	88.9
Crawford	PRO	15	18	83.3
Harris	CASTAWAYS	10	12	83.3
Codrington	COMETS	9	12	75.0
Samuels	NAT WEST	11	15	73.3
Nelson	CREDEX	7	10	70.0
Bekele	MORPETH	11	16	68.8
McKee	EMPLOYMENT	8	12	66.7
Giuffrida	TREASURY A	6	9	66.7
Baylis	EMPLOYMENT	4	6	66.7
Caunt	CASTAWAYS	4	6	66.7
Jones	TREASURY A	7	12	58.3
Jermyn	EMPLOYMENT	5	9	55.6
Jones	NAT WEST	5	9	55.6
Persaud	PRO	5	9	55.6
Blyuss	MORPETH	5	10	50.0
Turner	PRO	4	9	44.4
Wu	CREDEX	3	7	42.9
Buck	PRO	6	15	40.0
Mak	EMPLOYMENT	6	15	40.0
Fitzgerald	SEDCOPIANS	3	9	33.3
Sinarain	COMETS	3	9	33.3
Loveder	TREASURY A	2	6	33.3
Mason	SEDCOPIANS	2	6	33.3
Waterhouse	BTB	5	17	29.4
Dight	TREASURY B	2	9	22.2
Hughes	NAT WEST	1	6	16.7