

AS AT 6 DECEMBER 2015

	P	W	D	F	A	B	P
CREDEX	8	6	0	58	22	24	82
CASTAWAYS	7	7	0	56	14	21	77
NAT WEST	7	5	0	50	20	21	71
JOOLA	7	5	0	43	27	21	64
PRO	8	3	1	36	44	24	60
TREASURY A	7	4	0	34	35	21	55
EMPLOYMENT	8	2	1	29	50	24	53
COMETS	7	2	0	31	39	21	52
TREASURY B	8	0	2	17	63	24	41
OUTCASTS	7	0	2	15	55	21	36

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

THINGS TO NOTE

- ☑ You'll see below that one match – Treasury A versus Employment – ran out of time this period and couldn't be completed. Team captains playing at venues with fixed ending times need to be alert to this possibility. The Committee will be putting out a note explaining the situation with fixed ending times and what captains and players should do to avoid unfinished matches.
- ☑ Not only can you find results and the latest league positions on our website, you can also now revisit all the Divisional Secretary's commentaries for last season and the current season. This saves team captains having to pass on the commentaries to their teammates. The link is here: https://www.tabletennis365.com/LondonBanksAndCivilService/Pages/Season_2015-2016. New commentaries will be added as they become available.

PRE-CHRISTMAS DISTRACTION

We've all had teammates who always seem to go to five ends. Never seem to complete a set in three or four ends and always require a deciding end. You've played in the matches and read the commentaries, so who do think has played most five-enders in this Division to date? Answer at the end of the commentary.

COMMENTARY

Week 4 (late result)

Tony Dight had an extraordinary night for Treasury B against PRO. He began by beating Ronnie Turner in a seesaw set that ended at 18-16 in the fifth after 107 points. Next Tony faced John Crawford and found himself in another dogfight that went to the fifth end. Again, Tony emerged victorious, at 11-7. You could just predict what was going to happen in Tony's last set, against Jai Persaud, as evidenced by the first end that Tony won 19-17. Tony got to within two points of winning the set in the third end only to go down 10-12. That was probably the turning point and Jai fought back to take the next two ends and the win 11-9 and 11-8. Phew, some set! That first end tied for the longest single end of the season and, at 111 points in total, it was the second longest set of the season! But Tony did claim one record – for the most points anyone has played in a night, at 308 points – the equivalent of 15 ends finishing 11-9! The drama didn't end there as David Shore weighed in with two good wins – over Turner and Crawford. Treasury were 4-2 up and suddenly 4-5 down to PRO, and so we come to the doubles. The result - an easy win for Treasury B! It was probably fitting that Treasury chose this moment to score their first doubles win of the season and thereby salvage a draw! Now if only all matches were like that!

Week 8

Opens with a 9-1 win for Comets over Outcasts. Steve Fagan never broke sweat, losing 50 points in the nine ends played. Steve Codrington showed a bit of form in also winning three. He dropped an end to Eddie Roullier but

was otherwise untroubled. Rich Sinarain's games were the night's good contests. Roullier took the first end off him, collapsed a bit in the second and third ends and Eddie ended up losing 11-8 in the fourth. In contrast, when Rich played Simon Jameson the set was over in the blink of an eye, Simon conceding 11 points in three ends. Best set of the night was Rich against Mike O'Leary where Mike pinched the third end but couldn't avoid losing 11-8 in the fourth. PRO versus Credex began optimistically with a hotly contested set between John Crawford and Django Fung. John got the better of three first three ends but eventually lost 11-8 in the fifth. Good effort! Whether the match would have been different had John won that set we'll never know but those proved to be only ends PRO won all night as Credex rattled off eight consecutive three-straight wins. Credex also took the doubles in four ends and posted another whitewash. In contrast, Treasury A versus Employment was a long and close match. I find Employment hard to predict but I expected them to lose this. First set of the night and Paul Baylis comes from behind to beat Giuffrida 11-5 in the fifth. Second set of the night and this time Jeremy Jones came from behind to beat Chris McKee 11-6 in the fifth. Next, Winston Wong brushes aside Mak three straight. All going to form so far. Next up, Chris McKee beats Giuffrida in four and we're all square at 2-2. Wong comes on and beats Baylis easily in set five. Now we start going off piste. Richard Mak puts in a gritty performance to narrowly beat Jones 11-8 in the fifth. Then came the set that turned the match as Wong, who had previously been in commanding form, inexplicably loses to McKee 11-9 in the fifth. Things are moving Employment's way and they've come from 2-3 down to 4-3 up. Mak made short work of Giuffrida and Baylis and Jones fought out a real nail biter before Paul comes home in the fifth end. Five sets going the distance meant time ran out before the match could be completed and the doubles was declared void (see Things to Note above) leaving Employment the winners by 6-3. The week's final match saw Castaways take on Nat West. This is always a close match and so it proved. For Castaways, Andy Nash had to play three and go. He got nowhere against Tony Catt, beat Gareth Jones, and had a marathon 103 points set against Les Samuels, emerging the winner 13-11 in the fifth. I foresaw two key sets: LeMilliere against Samuels and Harris against Catt and both sets went to five ends. Harris was looking good against Catt, taking the first two ends narrowly. Tony takes the third end and the fourth end reaches deuce. Pete just can't get his nose in front and Tony wins the fourth 12-10. In the final end the pendulum swings increasingly in Tony's direction and he completes a great win at 11-6 in the fifth. In the other set, Samuels jumps out to a two end lead on LeMilliere only to lose the third end (what is it about the third end in this Division?). LeMilliere dices with death in the fourth end but wins that too, 11-9. It's touch and go in the final end. LeMilliere is 9-5 down but puts together a string of points and edges home at 11-9. Nat West then won the doubles – Castaways first doubles loss of the season – but the match was lost 6-4. Pats on the back for Tony Catt's hard-fought maximum.

Week 9

I'll say it again, I can't figure out Employment. This week they played Credex and I'm thinking 10-0 or 9-1. First set of the night and Paul Baylis beats Stefan Berkenkamp in four. That's not supposed to happen! Things then return to normality with a string of Credex victories. Up next it's Baylis versus Django Fung. Baylis takes a two ends to one lead when Django goes up a gear in the fourth end and puts an emphatic 11-0 on Paul. That can't be good for morale and the bookmakers move Django out to a long odds-on favourite. The fifth end and, lo and behold, against the odds Baylis nicks it at 11-8! Some win! Just to show Paul's not the only one capable of heroics, Richard Mak then went on to beat Berkenkamp in four and the match concluded at a very creditable 3-7 loss for Employment rather than the 1-9 I predicted. Treasury A went down to Castaways 8-2 in an odd match where sets seemed only to end three-straight or in five. Winston Wong versus Andy Nash was a good set that went all the way. If you could have a draw in table tennis that would probably have been the fairest result, but you can't, and it was Winston who squeaked home at 13-11 in the fifth. Jeremy Jones then nearly upset the formbook by pushing Pete Harris all the way only to lose narrowly 11-9 in the fifth. The other five-ender was Mike Loveder against Keld Jakstrand and, after four ends, I'm not sure anyone could spot the winner with confidence – it was anybody's game. In fact it was Keld who emerged victorious by 11-7. Set of the night should have been Harris against Wong but Pete clearly had the edge on the night and won comfortably in four ends. Treasury B and Outcasts fought out an honourable draw. For Outcasts, Bob Coull was in good form and emerged with a maximum (though troubled by David Shore). Jameson and Roullier both beat Jeremy Okai and those were Outcasts five wins. David Shore got his money's worth with long five end wins over Roullier (by 12-10) and Jameson (by 11-8). Last match of the week saw Comets take on Joola. The result was an impressive 9-1 victory for the visitors. High quality first set as Steve Fagan faced John Payne. Steve took the first end but after that it was all uphill and Payne eventually won in four. If losing that set couldn't be called a surprise, Steve then losing to Samson Bekele certainly was an upset. Steve lost the first two ends but levelled the set at two ends each. The

stage was set for a tense final end but it wasn't to be as Samson romped home 11-4. That has to go down as one of the upset wins of the first half! Joola are potentially better than their league position suggests.

Week 10:

Begins with Nat West keeping the pressure on the leaders with a 9-1 defeat of Outcasts. Nat West were largely untroubled but it wasn't a "three and out" procession. Interesting quirk for the statisticians among you: nine of the 35 ends played ended 11-3 or 11-4. For Outcasts, Simon Jameson got closest, taking an end off both Samuels and Herbert to add to his victory over Gareth Jones. The doubles was also a closeish set that Nat West took 17-15 in the fourth. Next comes a match that may have great bearing on the title destination: Castaways v. Credex. Keld Jakslund opened for Castaways against Django Fung and wins surprisingly comfortably, three straight. Next comes Pete Harris against Berkenkamp, to my mind one of Castaways banker wins. A long set ensued that went the full distance. Pete has two match points and surely it's all over! Typically, given how off-target my predictions have been this period, it wasn't and Berkenkamp wins at 13-11 after 109 points – the third longest set of the season. Next set Perry Fung beat Andy Nash with apparent ease but that heralded a run of four successive victories for Castaways. Harris beats Django in five, Jackslund beats Perry Fung in four extremely close ends, Nash beats Berkenkamp in three, and Harris beats Perry Fung in four. What a team performance! None of those wins were easy and together they turned the match Castaways' way. The outcome – a 7-3 win for Castaways to keep their title hopes alive. For the second time this season, all six participants won at least one set. I have to single out Keld Jackslund as Man of the Match for his three wins. Looking back on it, if there was a defining moment in this match it might well have been the second end of the first set of the match when Jackslund came back from 3-9 down to Django Fung to take the end 15-13 and never looked back! PRO end the period with a convincing 7-3 win over Employment. Second set of the night and we're off piste again with Alan Kelleher coming from two ends to one down to beat Jay Persaud in five! The significance of that win was underlined later when Persaud beat Chris McKee who looked odds-on for a maximum. The remaining sets were uneventful – basically each PRO player won two sets plus the doubles. Last match of the period saw Treasury B visit Joola. Joola is impressing me and this was a resounding win for them by 8-2. Key set early on saw Bekele beat Tony Dight in four. Bekele went on to win all three. Best of the rest was Bryan Gittens coming up frustratingly short against Oleg Blyuss. Bryan was in the set until the last few points, losing 11-8 in the fifth after 110 points. Small consolation: that became the third longest set of the season. Somehow I suspect Bryan would have preferred the win to the record!

So who is the player who most often goes to five? Who's responsible for those late finishes and missed drinks in the pub? The current five-ender king is Comets' Steve Fagan who's had seven of his 21 sets set go to five ends. Four other players have played in six sets that went the distance: Jeremy Jones, John Crawford, Paul Baylis and Tony Dight.

RICHARD CAMPBELL
DIVISIONAL SECRETARY

Issued: 07/12/2015

AVERAGES (Qualification: ≥ 9 sets played)

Player	Team	Sets Won	Sets Played	Average (%)
Jacksland	CASTAWAYS	8	9	88.9
Soullier	CREDEX	8	9	88.9
Harris	CASTAWAYS	15	18	83.3
Herbert	NAT WEST	10	12	83.3
Fagan	COMETS	17	21	81.0
Coull	OUTCASTS	7	9	77.8
P. Fung	CREDEX	16	21	76.2
Samuels	NAT WEST	16	21	76.2
Catt	NAT WEST	9	12	75.0
LeMilliere	CASTAWAYS	9	12	75.0
D. Fung	CREDEX	11	15	73.3
Bekele	JOOLA	10	14	71.4
Berkenkamp	CREDEX	12	18	66.7
Wong	TREASURY A	12	18	66.7
Nash	CASTAWAYS	10	15	66.7
Persaud	PRO	8	12	66.7
Persaud	CREDEX	6	9	66.7
Blyuss	JOOLA	7	12	58.3
Crawford	PRO	13	24	54.2
Baylis	EMPLOYMENT	8	15	53.3
McKee	EMPLOYMENT	8	15	53.3
Jones	NAT WEST	9	18	50.0
Shore	TREASURY B	6	12	50.0
Turner	PRO	10	21	47.6
Chambers	JOOLA	7	15	46.7
Jones	TREASURY A	8	18	44.4
Mak	EMPLOYMENT	8	18	44.4
Codrington	COMETS	4	9	44.4
Dight	TREASURY B	8	24	33.3
Giuffrida	TREASURY A	4	12	33.3
Gargrupe	COMETS	3	9	33.3
Kelleher	EMPLOYMENT	3	9	33.3
Loveder	TREASURY A	3	9	33.3
Roulier	OUTCASTS	5	21	23.8
Lopes	COMETS	2	9	22.2
Sinarain	COMETS	2	9	22.2
Jameson	OUTCASTS	3	15	20.0