

# LONDON BANKS AND CIVIL SERVICE TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE BULLETIN 8

AS AT 24 NOVEMBER 2019

|            | <b>P</b> | <b>W</b> | <b>D</b> | <b>F</b> | <b>A</b> | <b>B</b> | <b>P</b> |
|------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| COMETS     | 7        | 6        | 1        | 57       | 13       | 21       | 78       |
| CASTAWAYS  | 7        | 5        | 2        | 53       | 17       | 21       | 74       |
| EMPLOYMENT | 8        | 5        | 0        | 48       | 32       | 24       | 72       |
| MORPETH A  | 6        | 6        | 0        | 49       | 11       | 18       | 67       |
| NAT WEST   | 7        | 5        | 1        | 43       | 27       | 21       | 64       |
| GOOD KARMA | 7        | 2        | 1        | 31       | 39       | 21       | 52       |
| PRO        | 7        | 3        | 0        | 29       | 41       | 21       | 50       |
| MORPETH C  | 8        | 1        | 0        | 26       | 54       | 24       | 50       |
| TREASURY B | 7        | 1        | 1        | 22       | 48       | 21       | 43       |
| SPARTA     | 7        | 1        | 0        | 17       | 53       | 21       | 38       |
| OUTCASTS   | 7        | 1        | 0        | 15       | 55       | 21       | 36       |

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](https://www.tabletennis365.com/LondonBanksAndCivilService/Fixtures/Season_2019-2020/Division_One)

## COMMENTARY

### Week 8

First match of the week involves Treasury and Karma and quite a match it was too. David Shore set Treasury off on the right foot by taking the first two ends from Xavier Zhao. The set was quickly levelled by Zhao to take it into the final end. Neither player could achieve dominance and they were still locked together as deuce approached. When the final shot was hit, it was David Shore who stole the set at 11-9 in the fifth. Set three was also close and again it went Treasury's way as Tony Dight defeated Campbell McKellar over four hard fought ends. The match score reached 4-4, with Oskar Mencer beating Tony Dight 11-7 in the fifth. In the final singles set Oskar faced David Shore. David led by two ends to one before Oskar upped his game and won the next two ends comfortably. The ends won by David were by 12-10 and 13-11 while Oskar's ends were won by 2, 4 and 4! Odd! That meant Karma led 5-4 going into the doubles. The doubles didn't last long and Treasury had the upper hand from the outset and won it in four ends. So, a draw was the final result. Treasury's Shore and Dight both won two each. Oskar Mencer was Player of the Match, winning all three for Karma. Next up was Employment against Morpeth C. Employment won the match 9-1 but it was another "close" outcome with five sets going the distance. The Morpeth fifth-end jinx arose again as they lost four of them. This jinx is quite extraordinary – Morpeth have now had 25 sets go the distance this season and they've lost 19 of them! Morpeth's lone success against Employment was in the first set of the evening when Matt Robertson came from behind to beat Richard Mak 11-8 in the fifth. Matt subsequently put up a very good fight against unbeaten Jason Killip but lost it 11-8 in the fifth. Chris McKee posted his first maximum of the season, which included a come from behind win 11-9 in the fifth over Adam Alnak and an 11-6 in the fifth win over Max Shilo. Max had a frustrating night also losing 11-9 in the fifth to Richard Mak. Morpeth were more competitive than the outcome suggests. Morpeth A took no pity on Sparta, fielding one of their strongest teams. First set was Peter Tokely against Oleg Blyuss and it really set the scene for the whole match. Peter fought hard to get the set back to level pegging after four ends but slipped away to lose in five ends. Did that near miss have a bearing on the final outcome? I don't know but after that loss Sparta went further and further behind. In fact there were only three close sets after that. Kudos to Steve Hattrill for a real effort against Blyuss but he just couldn't make it and lost 11-7 in the fifth. And Sparta battled hard but in vain in the doubles, losing a dispiriting 11-9 in the fifth. So far in this Division Jane Ji has looked invincible. I thought Dave Evans might give her a game considering his strong performance in previous seasons but, no, she brushed him aside three straight losing just a dozen points. That underlines how significant it

was when Peter Tokely went two ends up against Ji. Big upset coming?? Sorry for those that love the underdog but Jane accelerated and won the next three ends with ease. Despite an unproductive night, Sparta fought really hard in the doubles and led after three ends but Morpeth came back to take the last two ends and the match by 9-1. Tough on Sparta. Must mention Morpeth's Rob Chambers who seems to be drifting through this season with minimal difficulty and dropped one end all night to remain unbeaten. This week's big match was Nat West versus Comets. Comets were taking no chances, coupling Persaud and Fung with the formidable Yiji Zhao, playing her first match of the season. Nat West brought in Adam Johnson for his first outing this season. The outcome was that a totally dominant Comets team won 9-1. Only two singles sets didn't end three straight: Johnson taking an end off Fung and Persaud. Yiji Zhao sailed though the night winning all three without dropping an end. In a strange twist, Nat West finished the night by winning the doubles! An emphatic performance. I sense we might be inscribing a new name on the Divisional trophy this season. Meanwhile Castaways were facing Outcasts. For Castaways, Pete Harris and Norman Grant lined up with Andy Nash, his first match of the season. Simon Jameson was joined by two Outcasts' names we've not seen since the opening weeks of the season: Alan Jones and Mike O'Leary. Set three was the night's highlight as the in-form Jameson took the first two ends from Norman Grant. Norman pulled back the next two ends but just missed out, losing 13-11 in the fifth. I suspect Norman might think that was one he should have won. That proved to be Outcasts only success but Jameson continued his progress, taking an end of both Harris and Nash. It was a tough night for Jones and O'Leary who found it hard to get anything going against this strong team. It finished 9-1 to Castaways. Neil LeMilliere couldn't play in that match because of attendance at a funeral. That brings to an end his run of playing in 27 consecutive matches that stretches back to the season before last. Some record!

Comets retain their four-point buffer at the top of the Division. Employment occupy third spot, the highest position I ever remember them having, but have played one match more. At the bottom, Treasury B have put a little daylight between themselves and Outcasts and Sparta. Many interesting matches next week, the spotlight being on Morpeth A against Castaways. Lots at stake in that match. Not just valuable league point but potentially three 100% averages and Pete Harris's longest unbeaten streak record of 12 sets. There are key matches at the bottom where Morpeth C take on Treasury B and Sparta face Karma. PRO will find it tough going against Nat West but next week's hardest fixtures looks to be Outcasts hosting the title chasing Comets.

**RICHARD CAMPBELL**  
**DIVISIONAL SECRETARY**

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**AVERAGES (Qualification: ≥7 sets played)**

| <b>Player</b> | <b>Team</b> | <b>Sets Won</b> | <b>Sets Played</b> | <b>Average (%)</b> |
|---------------|-------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Chambers      | MORPETH A   | 12              | 12                 | 100.0              |
| Ji            | MORPETH A   | 12              | 12                 | 100.0              |
| Fung          | COMETS      | 11              | 11                 | 100.0              |
| Bekele        | MORPETH A   | 9               | 9                  | 100.0              |
| Persaud       | COMETS      | 9               | 9                  | 100.0              |
| Harris        | CASTAWAYS   | 17              | 18                 | 94.4               |
| Killip        | EMPLOYMENT  | 10              | 11                 | 90.9               |
| Catt          | NAT WEST    | 8               | 9                  | 88.9               |
| Bispham       | CASTAWAYS   | 7               | 9                  | 77.8               |
| Mencer        | GOOD KARMA  | 7               | 9                  | 77.8               |
| Herbert       | NAT WEST    | 16              | 21                 | 76.2               |
| Francis       | COMETS      | 9               | 12                 | 75.0               |
| Codrington    | COMETS      | 6               | 8                  | 75.0               |
| LeMilliere    | CASTAWAYS   | 13              | 18                 | 72.2               |
| Fagan         | COMETS      | 7               | 10                 | 70.0               |
| Baylis        | EMPLOYMENT  | 9               | 13                 | 69.2               |
| Dight         | TREASURY B  | 6               | 9                  | 66.7               |
| Jermyn        | EMPLOYMENT  | 4               | 7                  | 57.1               |

|            |            |    |    |      |
|------------|------------|----|----|------|
| Crawford   | PRO        | 10 | 18 | 55.6 |
| Caunt      | CASTAWAYS  | 5  | 9  | 55.6 |
| Greenberg  | GOOD KARMA | 6  | 11 | 54.5 |
| Guimichev  | TREASURY B | 6  | 12 | 50.0 |
| Sanders    | GOOD KARMA | 5  | 10 | 50.0 |
| Robertson  | MORPETH C  | 7  | 15 | 46.7 |
| Persaud    | PRO        | 5  | 11 | 45.5 |
| Alnak      | MORPETH C  | 4  | 9  | 44.4 |
| Coull      | OUTCASTS   | 4  | 9  | 44.4 |
| Jameson    | OUTCASTS   | 6  | 15 | 40.0 |
| Jones      | NAT WEST   | 7  | 18 | 38.9 |
| Tokely     | SPARTA     | 7  | 18 | 38.9 |
| Mak        | EMPLOYMENT | 5  | 13 | 38.5 |
| Buchanan   | PRO        | 4  | 11 | 36.4 |
| Buck       | PRO        | 6  | 18 | 33.3 |
| Blyuss     | MORPETH A  | 4  | 12 | 33.3 |
| McKee      | EMPLOYMENT | 4  | 12 | 33.3 |
| Evans      | SPARTA     | 3  | 9  | 33.3 |
| Hattrill   | SPARTA     | 4  | 18 | 22.2 |
| Nicholls   | MORPETH C  | 3  | 15 | 20.0 |
| Bulvicius  | MORPETH C  | 2  | 12 | 16.7 |
| Roullier   | OUTCASTS   | 2  | 12 | 16.7 |
| Shilo      | MORPETH C  | 2  | 12 | 16.7 |
| Zhao       | GOOD KARMA | 1  | 8  | 12.5 |
| Gittens    | TREASURY B | 1  | 9  | 11.1 |
| Macalister | OUTCASTS   | 1  | 12 | 8.3  |