

LONDON BANKS AND CIVIL SERVICE TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE BULLETIN 15

AS AT 2 FEBRUARY 2020

	P	W	D	F	A	B	P
CASTAWAYS	14	11	3	108	32	42	150
COMETS	13	10	1	100	30	39	139
MORPETH A	13	10	2	97	33	39	136
EMPLOYMENT	14	9	0	83	57	42	125
NAT WEST	14	9	3	82	58	39	121
MORPETH C	14	4	2	62	78	42	104
GOOD KARMA	13	4	1	58	72	39	97
SPARTA	14	3	1	45	95	42	87
PRO	13	3	0	37	93	39	76
TREASURY B	12	2	1	34	86	36	70
OUTCASTS	12	1	0	24	96	36	60

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

THINGS TO NOTE

- ✓ Individual match details can be found on the website
https://www.tabletennis365.com/LondonBanksAndCivilService/Fixtures/Season_2019-2020/Division_One

COMMENTARY

Week 18

First result of the week and it's a shock! Don't underestimate Morpeth C was my warning to Comets last week and how true that proved to be. The night began with an "edge of your seats" set between Matt Robertson and Steve Fagan. Steve had his nose in front after three ends had been played but Matt took the fourth. The final end was close but, against the formbook, it was Matt who claimed the win by 11-7! A good win by any standards. In set three Morpeth played their ace of trumps as Anit Deb walked out to face Ronnie Turner. The set didn't last long – Anit winning three straight. That was a sign of things to come as Anit went on to beat Fagan three straight and Laikram Persaud in four. Laikram put up stern resistance in the first two ends, winning one of them, but then Anit seemed to raise his game and ran away with the next two ends. Matt Robertson played his part contributing a comfortable win over Turner. The score was 5-4 to Morpeth when the doubles began and they turned that into 6-4, dropping just one end to the Comets pairing. For Morpeth, Max Shilo was left winless and Robertson lost to Persaud. So, the title chasers lose for a second week having not lost a match before that! Next up is a rather unusual looking Employment team against struggling Sparta. Employment put out Jason Killip, Lew Hodges and Anita Jermyn none of whom have played much this season. They started well taking a 3-1 lead, Killip beating Loveder, Jermyn beating Evans and Hodges beating Loveder but losing to Tokely. Then came a real surprise as Dave Evans got the better of Killip in four ends. That's a win over a player 30 percentage points above him in the averages! The strangeness of that win was underlined two sets later as Evans lost to Hodges! Things certainly weren't going as might have been predicted yet the net result was another 7-3 outcome in Employment's favour – Employment's eighth 7-3 result of the season. And, for the second time this season all six players won at least one set each! Strange match! Karma take on Nat West and in true Karma tradition fielded their tenth different player of the season in Frederic Fremion. You never know who's going to turn out for Karma! Frederic faced Chris Herbert in his first set and was doing surprisingly well finding himself all square with Herbert going into a deciding end. A shock win looked on the cards, as suddenly Frederic is 10-4 up! At this point Chris decides he's not going to lose and comes back 5-10, 6-10 and finally 10-10! Six match points saved. But table tennis can be a cruel game and at deuce Frederic gets an edge! Now it was Frederic's turn to decide not to lose and, taking advantage of his good luck, smashed the next ball past Chris to win the set! A good battle and an impressive win on his debut. Karma shot into a 3-1 lead but then the momentum shifted and Nat West pulled back to 3-3. Set seven saw Gareth Jones against Morris Greenberg and Morris romped home in a comfortable three straight victory. Then came the set that turned the match. Andrew Muller for Nat West against Greenberg. It soon

became clear that this was going to be close, Morris coming from behind to take it into the fifth end. Things went point for point but in the end it was Andrew who claimed the win 11-9. That put Nat West in the driving seat and they won the next two sets to post a 6-4 result in their favour. Three sets needed all five ends to reach a conclusion and only three sets ended three straight. Looking back, the standout must be the Fremion win over Herbert but Andrew Muller's two victories deserve a mention too. Outcasts only had two players against Morpeth A and were never in with a chance. All the singles sets ended three straight to Morpeth who also won the doubles but in four ends. Morpeth win 10-0. Not really much I can say except perhaps to comment it will be a miracle if Outcasts can avoid the drop now. Comets' loss earlier in the week increased the pressure on Castaways not to drop a set against PRO. They duly rattled of the first four sets, each three straight. John Crawford then played Pete Harris and held up Castaways' progress for a while, taking an end before losing in four. The score reached 8-0 before we had the only really competitive set of the night. Neil LeMilliere was two ends to one up on Crawford and 10-4 up in the fourth. Six match points. Slowly John pulled it back and completed the great escape to level the score at 10-10 and go on to win the end 12-10! In the final end, nerves must be jangling as Neil goes 9-5 up only for John again to claw it back to 10-10. This could have gone either way but it was Neil who took the next two points and gained the win. 99 points played in a hotly contested set and if I had a record for the most match points saved I suspect John would now hold it! Mission accomplished for Castaways and a 10-0 scoreline. Johnny Bispham took the Player of the Match award for the second week running.

The pressure's now back on Comets. They have a match in hand that they'd have to win 9-1 or better to go ahead of Castaways. And there are still a handful of matches to go where points could easily be dropped. Next week Castaways would appear to have the tougher fixture, against Employment, while Comets take on PRO. Both matches are on Thursday at the Abbey so they can follow each other's progress!

RICHARD CAMPBELL
DIVISIONAL SECRETARY

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AVERAGES (Qualification: ≥14 sets played)

Player	Team	Sets Won	Sets Played	Average (%)
Fung	COMETS	20	20	100.0
Penrose	NAT WEST	17	18	94.4
Harris	CASTAWAYS	31	33	93.9
Bekele	MORPETH A	18	20	90.0
Ji	MORPETH A	23	26	88.5
Persaud	COMETS	21	24	87.5
Killip	EMPLOYMENT	14	17	82.4
Chambers	MORPETH A	18	22	81.8
Herbert	NAT WEST	23	30	76.7
Bispham	CASTAWAYS	18	24	75.0
Catt	NAT WEST	11	15	73.3
LeMilliere	CASTAWAYS	28	39	71.8
Francis	COMETS	14	21	66.7
Turner	COMETS	9	14	64.3
Brown	MORPETH A	10	16	62.5
Fagan	COMETS	10	16	62.5
Baylis	EMPLOYMENT	17	28	60.7
McKee	EMPLOYMENT	14	24	58.3
Alnak	MORPETH C	12	21	57.1
Loveder	SPARTA	11	20	55.0
Robertson	MORPETH C	13	24	54.2

Muller	NAT WEST	8	15	53.3
Greenberg	GOOD KARMA	9	17	52.9
Sanders	GOOD KARMA	10	19	52.6
Dight	TREASURY B	11	21	52.4
Evans	SPARTA	12	24	50.0
Crawford	PRO	15	32	46.9
Coull	OUTCASTS	7	15	46.7
Guimichev	TREASURY B	8	18	44.4
Nicholls	MORPETH C	10	27	37.0
Mak	EMPLOYMENT	8	22	36.4
Tokely	SPARTA	13	39	33.3
Jones	NAT WEST	12	36	33.3
Jameson	OUTCASTS	7	21	33.3
Shilo	MORPETH C	7	24	29.2
Blyuss	MORPETH A	4	15	26.7
Persaud	PRO	6	26	23.1
Buck	PRO	6	27	22.2
Buchanan	PRO	5	23	21.7
Bulvicius	MORPETH C	3	15	20.0
Zhao	GOOD KARMA	3	17	17.6
Hattrill	SPARTA	4	24	16.7
Roullier	OUTCASTS	3	21	14.3
Macalister	OUTCASTS	2	24	8.3
Johansson	GOOD KARMA	1	14	7.1
Gittens	TREASURY B	1	15	6.7