

# LONDON BANKS AND CIVIL SERVICE TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE BULLETIN 1

AS AT 7 OCTOBER 2018

	P	W	D	F	A	B	P
MORPETH	1	1	0	10	0	3	13
CASTAWAYS	1	1	0	9	1	3	12
NAT WEST	1	1	0	8	2	3	11
PRO	1	1	0	8	2	3	11
INSURANCE	1	1	0	7	3	3	10
SPARTA	1	0	0	3	7	3	6
COMETS	1	0	0	2	8	3	5
EMPLOYMENT	1	0	0	2	8	3	5
DIT	1	0	0	1	9	3	4
BTB	1	0	0	0	10	3	3
TREASURY A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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\\_2017-2018/Division\\_One](https://www.tabletennis365.com/LondonBanksAndCivilService/Fixtures/Season_2017-2018/Division_One)

## COMMENTARY

### Introduction

Welcome to the 2018-19 season! The Division is composed as expected having lost Treasury B and Outcasts through relegation and gained BTB (last year's Division 2 winners) and DIT (last year's Division 2 runners up) through promotion. You may remember BTB from the 2016-17 season and DIT from the 2014-15 season, when they were known as BIS.

### Week 1

First result of the 2018-19 season sees promoted DIT go up against last year's runners up, Castaways. A tough start and Castaways rattled off the first three sets with ease. Set four threatened to produce the first close finish of the season as Florian Gazheli and Terry McKee reached two ends each before Terry then ran away with the fifth by 11-2. There followed a seesaw set between Simon Goodman and Neil LeMilliere where Neil won the first two ends at a canter, only to lose the next two ends. Just like the previous set, it was Castaways that emerged victorious with a convincing 11-5 scoreline. So the match score is 5-0 to Castaways and the sixth set looks to a duplicate of the fifth set. Pat Caunt runs away with the first two ends against Graham Miller but then loses the next two. There's a sense of déjà vu about this but this time the win was DIT's as Graham held his nerve to take the final end 11-7. Good win for Graham! That was the end of the heroics and Castaways took all the remaining sets comfortably to make the match score 9-1. These included a candidate for longest end of the season as McKee took the first from Graham Miller by 18-16. The second result of the season also involved promotees, BTB against Morpeth. The outcome was a convincing 10-0 victory for Morpeth. No set went to a fifth end but four sets were decided in the fourth end. Looking at the set scores, it's hard to pick out a set where BTB were in with a good chance of a victory. Rishi Sinarain is BTB's best player on paper but he couldn't make much of an impression on Morpeth, winning two ends all night. For Morpeth, Rob Chambers conceded just 42 points in winning all three. Employment versus PRO was potentially the best clash of the first week. These teams are very well matched and always battle it out for fifth and sixth place in the final league positions. I thought a draw was on the cards. John Crawford opened well with a victory over Paul Baylis in four ends. The match score progressed as a potentially close match should: 1-0, 2-0, 2-1, 3-1, 3-2 but then something changed and Employment didn't manage to win another set! Over the whole match, no set went to five ends until the doubles

where McKee and Baylis lost narrowly to Crawford and Turner by 11-8 in the fifth, after 93 points played. Best set of the night! So PRO win their first doubles, something they had to wait until Week 6 for last season. Ronnie Turner was PRO's hero, dropping one end all night. A disappointing night for Baylis and McKee. The remaining two of this week's fixtures proved to be the most interesting. First, Insurance versus Sparta. Both these teams made their debut in the top division last season and both acquitted themselves well, finishing in eighth and ninth positions. Sparta won both their contests last season. First set of the night saw Steve Hattrill face Albert Francis. A close set that went to five ends after Steve was two ends to one in front. The last two ends proved to be a bit of a nightmare for Steve, going down 3-11 and 4-11. Insurance's good start continued as Ian Cranstone brushed aside Peter Tokely, three straight. Dave Evans was up next, against Jon Velinor. The formbook prevailed and Dave won it in four ends, but three of them ended at deuce. Good effort by Jon! That proved to be the start of a long night for Jon as he went to five in both his other sets. He was definitely in with a shout against Tokely but was edged out 11-7 in the fifth. Jon came mighty close to losing three straight to Steve Hattrill but a true fighting performance took the set into the fifth end. This was mighty close but Jon held his nerve to win the end 11-9. A pat on the back deserved! Two other notable sets both involved Dave Evans. First, he was pushed all the way by Cranstone but secured the win at 11-7 in the fifth. Dave and Albert Francis both had good seasons last year, Dave in particular ending high in the averages and beating Albert twice. When they met on this occasion the set was over quickly, three straight (though the third end went to 18-16), and it was Albert who emerged a fairly comfortable winner. Unexpected and a very good victory! The match outcome was 7-3 to Insurance, the first match of the season to produce an upset result. The final match of the week involved Nat West and Comets. Chris Penrose, who arguably might be the best player in this Division, began with a real tussle with Steve Codrington but just got home in front 11-5 in the fifth. Tony Catt then faced Comets' newcomer, Ian Francis. This proved to a titanic contest where Ian got the better of the first three ends, Tony levelled the match and then accelerated to a win 11-6 in the fifth. Close contest involving 99 points! That theme of narrow wins continued as Chris Herbert beat Steve Fagan in four ends, two of which culminated at deuce. The best set of the night was Francis versus Herbert, which proved to be a real seesaw battle and it was inevitable that deciding end would be required. In the end, it was Ian who claimed a narrow victory by 11-7 in the fifth. Ian also put up a good show against Chris Penrose before going down 11-3 in the fifth. So, three for Penrose and two each for Catt and Herbert saw Nat West home by 7-3. A close match with four sets ending in five and only one singles set finishing in three ends. Impressive debut for Comets from Ian Francis, winning one but going to five ends in all his sets. If this is the Ian Francis who also plays in the North Middlesex league he'll be a strong addition to Comets squad.

Looking at Week 2's fixtures it's hard to see where an upset result could come from. There might be some good individual clashes though. Can Dave Evans take sets off Morpeth? Might Albert Francis surprise Castaways? PRO should be too strong for DIT and Comets must be favourites against Employment. Finally, the Treasury A juggernaut opens its campaign to retain the title with a clash with BTB.

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

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**AVERAGES (Qualification: ≥2 sets played)**

<b>Player</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>Sets Won</b>	<b>Sets Played</b>	<b>Average (%)</b>
Brown	MORPETH	3	3	100.0
Chambers	MORPETH	3	3	100.0
Crawford	PRO	3	3	100.0
Francis	INSURANCE	3	3	100.0
LeMilliere	CASTAWAYS	3	3	100.0
McKee	CASTAWAYS	3	3	100.0
Penrose	NAT WEST	3	3	100.0
Sweeney	MORPETH	3	3	100.0
Turner	PRO	3	3	100.0
Catt	NAT WEST	2	3	66.7
Caunt	CASTAWAYS	2	3	66.7

Cranstone	INSURANCE	2	3	66.7
Evans	SPARTA	2	3	66.7
Herbert	NAT WEST	2	3	66.7
Baylis	EMPLOYMENT	1	3	33.3
Fagan	COMETS	1	3	33.3
Francis	COMETS	1	3	33.3
McKee	EMPLOYMENT	1	3	33.3
Miller	DIT	1	3	33.3
Persaud	PRO	1	3	33.3
Tokely	SPARTA	1	3	33.3
Velinor	INSURANCE	1	3	33.3
Codrington	COMETS	0	3	0.0
Gazheli	DIT	0	3	0.0
Goodman	DIT	0	3	0.0
Hattrill	SPARTA	0	3	0.0
Hawkes	EMPLOYMENT	0	3	0.0
Roberts	BTB	0	3	0.0
Sinarain	BTB	0	3	0.0
Xavier	BTB	0	3	0.0