

LONDON BANKS AND CIVIL SERVICE TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE BULLETIN 6

AS AT 10 NOVEMBER 2019

COMETS	6	5	1	48	12	18	66
CASTAWAYS	5	4	1	39	11	15	54
NAT WEST	5	5	0	37	13	15	52
EMPLOYMENT	6	3	0	30	30	18	48
PRO	6	3	0	28	32	18	46
MORPETH A	4	4	0	31	9	12	43
MORPETH C	6	1	0	21	39	18	39
GOOD KARMA	5	1	0	20	30	15	35
TREASURY B	5	1	0	16	34	15	31
OUTCASTS	5	1	0	11	39	15	26
SPARTA	5	0	0	9	41	15	24

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

COMMENTARY

Week 6

Winless Sparta got a lot closer to Nat West than I had predicted in the week's first match. Nat West were building a good lead when Michael Loveder beat Gareth Jones in four ends. Two sets later Dave Evans did the same, again in four ends. There then followed two sets that determined the match outcome. First, Peter Tokely really upset the formbook leading unbeaten Tony Catt by two ends to one. Peter so nearly completed the upset in the fourth end only to lose it 11-9. The final end was again close and there proved to be just two points in it – an 11-9 victory for Tony Catt. Very unlucky Peter! Next up Michael Loveder faced Chris Herbert. This is always a close contest – I believe Michael won it last time. The set reached the fifth end and Chris just managed to win it 11-9 in the fifth. Those two consecutive 9 in the fifth losses took Nat West to 7-2 up whereas it might have been 5-4 and all to play for. The significance of those two narrow losses was reinforced when, against the odds, Sparta won the doubles! A 7-3 outcome that could nearly have been 5-5! Morpeth A proved to be too strong for Karma. An 8-2 victory was built on a comfortable maximum from Jane Ji who dropped just one end, to George Sanders. Samson Bekele also won three but was made to fight hard by Morris Greenberg, who got the better of the first three ends only to lose the fourth 11-9 and the fifth 11-8! That was really the only close set of the match and Morpeth ran out the winners by 8-2, Greenberg and Sanders both defeating Oleg Blyuss, who's having an unusually hard time this season. A key match at the bottom of the division as Outcasts take on Treasury B. Treasury were taking no chances as they fielded their strongest team for the first time this season: Wong, Dight and Shore. The outcome was a runaway 9-1 win for Treasury though it was closer than that score suggests. Outcasts lone success was Simon Jameson beat David Shore in four. Simon also took an end off both Dight and Wong. Eddie Roullier took an end off Dight and Shore. In fact, seven of the ten sets played went past the third end so, if it's not a contradiction in terms, this was a close 9-1 result! Biggest cheer of the week came when winless Morpeth C beat PRO 8-2. Things started on a high note for Morpeth when Matt "no luck" Robertson beat John Crawford over four ends. Ian Buchanan then won the first two ends off Rytis Bulvicius and looked to be well on his way to victory when something changed and Rytis took the next three ends surprisingly comfortably. 2-0 to Morpeth but PRO got off the mark in the next set when George Buck overcame Adam Alnak 11-6 in the fifth in a come-from-behind win. Unfortunately that was pretty much it for PRO as Morpeth rattled off the next five sets to lead 7-1. In the final singles set John Crawford started brightly against Rytis, winning the first two ends, the second being heavily influenced by a key net chord at deuce. Rytis went 10-8 up in the third only for John to take four points on the trot and register PRO's second victory. 8-2 was the final score – a good day for

Morpeth C and a bad day for PRO. A big hand for Matt Robertson who won all three! The fixtures have worked against Morpeth as they've played almost all the best teams first and things should get easier for them up to Christmas. Strange goings on in the Comets / Employment match as Ronnie Turner gets stuck in traffic leaving Steve Codrington to be drafted in, playing injured and in a suit! Steve Fagan had a ding-dong battle with Chris McKee, which he just managed to win 12-10 in the fifth after 104 points. Steve went on against Richard Mak, appeared to throw the first end and called it a night, conceding two sets to Employment! It was lucky that Ian Francis was rock solid and won all three, each three straight. Despite the suit, Steve Codrington beat both McKee and Mak but lost to Anita Jermyn. Ian and he combined to win the doubles and the match finished 7-3 to Comets. Not too bad a result for Comets on a night that could have gone seriously against them.

Comets extend their lead at the top as Castaways had no fixture this week. Treasury B climb out of the relegation zone due to that heavy win over Outcasts. Next week sees a clash that will have a big influence on the title race as Castaways face Nat West. There's a key fixture in the relegation zone as Sparta visit Outcasts in another must-win contest. Morpeth C must fancy their chances against Karma, as must Morpeth A against Treasury. And finally, Employment face PRO. These two teams have had some great battles over the years but so far this season it looks like Employment are the likely winners.

RICHARD CAMPBELL
DIVISIONAL SECRETARY

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AVERAGES (Qualification: ≥6 sets played)

Player	Team	Sets Won	Sets Played	Average (%)
Bekele	MORPETH A	9	9	100.0
Fung	COMETS	8	8	100.0
Chambers	MORPETH A	6	6	100.0
Ji	MORPETH A	6	6	100.0
Persaud	COMETS	6	6	100.0
Herbert	NAT WEST	14	15	93.3
Harris	CASTAWAYS	11	12	91.7
Catt	NAT WEST	8	9	88.9
Killip	EMPLOYMENT	5	6	83.3
LeMilliere	CASTAWAYS	12	15	80.0
Bispham	CASTAWAYS	7	9	77.8
Francis	COMETS	9	12	75.0
Codrington	COMETS	6	8	75.0
Fagan	COMETS	7	10	70.0
Alnak	MORPETH C	4	6	66.7
Dight	TREASURY B	4	6	66.7
Baylis	EMPLOYMENT	7	11	63.6
Crawford	PRO	9	15	60.0
Jones	NAT WEST	7	12	58.3
Caunt	CASTAWAYS	5	9	55.6
Guimichev	TREASURY B	5	9	55.6
Greenberg	GOOD KARMA	6	11	54.5
Robertson	MORPETH C	6	12	50.0
Persaud	PRO	5	11	45.5
Coull	OUTCASTS	4	9	44.4
Sanders	GOOD KARMA	3	7	42.9
Jameson	OUTCASTS	5	12	41.7
Buck	PRO	6	15	40.0

Buchanan	PRO	4	11	36.4
Tokely	SPARTA	4	12	33.3
Evans	SPARTA	2	6	33.3
Mak	EMPLOYMENT	3	10	30.0
Blyuss	MORPETH A	2	9	22.2
Bulvicius	MORPETH C	2	9	22.2
Shilo	MORPETH C	2	9	22.2
Nicholls	MORPETH C	2	12	16.7
Gittens	TREASURY B	1	6	16.7
Loveder	SPARTA	1	6	16.7
McKee	EMPLOYMENT	1	9	11.1
Roullier	OUTCASTS	1	9	11.1
Hattrill	SPARTA	1	12	8.3