

# LONDON BANKS AND CIVIL SERVICE TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE BULLETIN 19

AS AT 23 FEBRUARY 2020

	<b>P</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>P</b>
MORPETH A	16	13	2	124	36	48	172
CASTAWAYS	16	13	3	121	39	48	169
COMETS	15	12	1	120	30	45	165
NAT WEST	17	11	3	104	66	48	152
EMPLOYMENT	17	10	0	94	76	51	145
MORPETH C	17	5	3	78	92	51	129
GOOD KARMA	16	4	2	67	93	48	115
SPARTA	16	3	2	50	110	48	98
PRO	16	3	0	41	119	48	89
TREASURY B	15	3	1	42	108	45	87
OUTCASTS	15	2	1	39	111	45	84

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

## COMMENTARY

### Week 21

Begins with the relegation battle between Outcasts and Sparta. Bob Coull faced Steve Hattrill in the opening set. Both the first two ends ended at deuce, one to each player. Steve sneaked ahead to take the third but then fell away dramatically to collapse in the fourth and fifth ends, which Bob won comfortably. By the end of the night Bob was crowned Outcasts' hero as he won all three. His best win was over Dave Evans which was won by the narrowest of margins 14-12 in the fifth after 107 points – the longest set for several weeks. Andrew Macalister contributed a key win over Hattrill and with Alan Jones left winless Sparta led 5-4 going into the doubles. Outcasts managed to salvage a draw, winning the doubles three straight.

Treasury B, also in the relegation zone, had a much harder task against Morpeth A. Despite that, they managed to go 1-0 up as Petko Guimichev had an excellent win over Rob Chambers in four close ends. Pity the night couldn't have stopped there for Treasury because after that it was all one-way traffic going in Morpeth's direction. Samson Bekele dropped an end to Guimichev but otherwise was untroubled all evening. Jane Ji did exactly the same, dropping 47 points in total including an end lost to Guimichev. A 9-1 win for Morpeth to keep their title challenge on track.

Best match of the week turned out to be Karma versus Morpeth C. Karma struck the first blow as Ben Link beat Max Shilo in four ends, two of which finished at deuce. Adam Alnak levelled the score, getting the better of Fred Fermion, again in four. The match score moved to 2-2 before Karma pushed in front, with a nail-biting five end win for Link over Rytis Bulvicius culminating at 14-12, and a surprisingly comfortable win for Morris Greenberg over Alnak. Morpeth upped their game and turned the 2-4 scoreline into 5-4, the best of those wins being Greenberg beating Shilo in a five-end marathon spanning 103 points, and Alnak notably inflicting Benn Link's only defeat of the evening. Karma went on to win the doubles, bringing about a draw and probably the fairest result. A close match: two sets went all the way and four other sets finished in four ends.

Castaways took on Nat West in a fixture that could end their title hopes. Nat West have the potential to take sets off Castaways, the question was how many. After two sets it was not looking good for Castaways, Neil LeMilliere lost to Chris Herbert and Andrew Muller had an outstanding win over Johnny Bispham. That brought Pete Harris and Tony Catt to the table in a set that could go either way but a loss for Harris would surely spell the

end of Castaways' hopes. Pete gets in front after the first three ends but Tony fights back to take the fourth. Everything riding on the deciding end and much to Castaways' relief it's their man who takes it 11-7. That win no doubt inspired Johnny Bispham who promptly made light of Chris Herbert's defensive game in an impressive three-straight win. Castaways had turned 0-2 into 2-2 and the match was on. Catt beat LeMilliere to put Nat West 3-2 up but Castaways then ran off five straight wins to take the match 7-3. Pete Harris's three wins gives him Player of the Match but all six participants deserve a pat on the back for playing their part. The third match this season when all six players won at least one set. Looking at the team compositions I think Castaways should be pleased with the 7-3 outcome – it's points dropped but on a bad night that's a match they might have lost.

PRO are in the middle of a dreadful run of form but started brightly with John Crawford scoring a good three-straight victory over Paul Baylis, coming from 6-10 down in the third end to win it 12-10. Chris McKee has turned his average from 33% in mid-November to 60% today and saw off Crawford in four ends, albeit with the help of successive edges towards the end of the fourth. Employment were winning set after set and it was Crawford again who stopped the rot with a battling five-end win over Richard Mak. The match ended with a rare event – PRO winning the doubles, their first doubles win since the third week of the season. Another 7-3 outcome for Employment – their ninth of the season!

Morpeth A are top of the pile three points ahead of Castaways. Comets drop to third but have a match in hand. PRO, Treasury B and Outcasts are locked in a scrap to avoid relegation. The pick of next week's matches is Comets versus Nat West. Can Nat West get more sets off Comets than they did against Castaways? Morpeth A and Castaways face teams at the bottom of the division and will be looking to take maximum points. Karma should be too strong for Treasury B while the closest match of next week might be Morpeth C against Employment. Employment must be favourites but I suspect Morpeth will put up a good fight.

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

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**AVERAGES (Qualification: ≥17 sets played)**

<b>Player</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>Sets Won</b>	<b>Sets Played</b>	<b>Average (%)</b>
Fung	COMETS	26	26	100.0
Penrose	NAT WEST	19	20	95.0
Harris	CASTAWAYS	37	39	94.9
Persaud	COMETS	27	30	90.0
Bekele	MORPETH A	26	29	89.7
Ji	MORPETH A	28	32	87.5
Killip	EMPLOYMENT	14	17	82.4
Chambers	MORPETH A	23	28	82.1
Francis	COMETS	20	27	74.1
Herbert	NAT WEST	24	33	72.7
Link	GOOD KARMA	13	18	72.2
Catt	NAT WEST	15	21	71.4
LeMilliere	CASTAWAYS	31	45	68.9
Bispham	CASTAWAYS	20	30	66.7
McKee	EMPLOYMENT	18	30	60.0
Baylis	EMPLOYMENT	21	37	56.8
Greenberg	GOOD KARMA	11	20	55.0
Muller	NAT WEST	11	20	55.0
Coull	OUTCASTS	13	24	54.2

Dight	TREASURY B	11	21	52.4
Alnak	MORPETH C	14	27	51.9
Evans	SPARTA	14	27	51.9
Robertson	MORPETH C	13	27	48.1
Loveder	SPARTA	11	23	47.8
Crawford	PRO	18	38	47.4
Jermyn	EMPLOYMENT	9	19	47.4
Guimichev	TREASURY B	11	24	45.8
Sanders	GOOD KARMA	10	22	45.5
Jameson	OUTCASTS	11	27	40.7
Nicholls	MORPETH C	12	30	40.0
Shilo	MORPETH C	12	30	40.0
Mak	EMPLOYMENT	10	25	40.0
Jones	NAT WEST	14	39	35.9
Tokely	SPARTA	15	45	33.3
Bulvicius	MORPETH C	7	21	33.3
Shore	TREASURY B	6	18	33.3
Roullier	OUTCASTS	5	24	20.8
Persaud	PRO	6	32	18.8
Hattrill	SPARTA	5	27	18.5
Buck	PRO	6	33	18.2
Buchanan	PRO	5	32	15.6
Zhao	GOOD KARMA	3	23	13.0
Macalister	OUTCASTS	3	27	11.1
Johansson	GOOD KARMA	1	20	5.0
Gittens	TREASURY B	1	21	4.8