

LONDON BANKS AND CIVIL SERVICE TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE BULLETIN 15

AS AT 27 JANUARY 2019

	P	W	D	F	A	B	P
CASTAWAYS	14	10	3	112	28	42	154
MORPETH	13	10	3	98	32	39	137
TREASURY A	13	8	2	92	38	39	131
COMETS	13	7	1	73	57	39	112
NAT WEST	12	7	2	76	44	36	112
PRO	13	7	1	68	62	39	107
EMPLOYMENT	13	6	1	61	69	39	100
INSURANCE	13	3	2	47	83	39	86
SPARTA	13	3	1	39	91	36	75
DIT	13	0	1	21	109	39	60
BTB	12	1	1	23	97	36	59

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_2018-2019/Division_One

COMMENTARY

Week 17

First match of the week sees Sparta take on Treasury. The result was 9-1 to Treasury but there were some good games. For Sparta, Mike Loveder stood out, winning their single set, over Dennis Robinson, in four ends. Mike's other two sets also went to four but he lost out on both occasions. Best two sets of the night were Peter Tokely's near miss against Giovanni Giuffrida, where he was 2-1 up on ends only to lose the next two ends. And, the doubles, where Mike and Mandy John narrowly lost to Robinson and Giuffrida 11-7 in the fifth. Treasury's Tony Egan was untroubled throughout, dropping one end all night. Next result in and Comets have a fairly comfortable 7-3 win over DIT. Ian Francis scored a maximum, dropping two ends in doing so. Steve Fagan did exactly the same: three sets won with two ends dropped. Comets unlucky third player was Greg Gargrupe who lost all three but took Gazheli all the way to a fifth end. PRO beat Insurance comfortably in the first half but problems with player availability meant they only had two players on show for the return fixture. Man of the match turned out to be Insurance's Ian Cranstone who saw off Ronnie Turner with unexpected ease, three straight. Ian's set against John Crawford was very close – with two points being the winning margin in each of the first three ends – but it was Ian who emerged the winner 11-8 in the fourth. Three sets conceded to them plus Ian's two wins meant Insurance were guaranteed at least a draw. At that point, PRO staged a comeback and fought back to 4-5, with Albert Francis and Jon Velinor both left winless. Who would you fancy to win the doubles? Crawford and Turner have proved to be a winning doubles combination for PRO so far and are unbeaten this season. In this final set they maintained their unbeaten record, winning three straight. The outcome – a 5-5 draw but two good wins for Ian Cranstone. I remember Employment beating Nat West 6-4 as one of the best team performances of the first half. For the return fixture, Nat West fielded their strongest regular team and Employment were without Chris McKee, who was unbeaten in the first half result. That sounded ominous for Employment! Nat West began with Les Samuels beating Paul Baylis, Chris Herbert beating Anita Jermyn and Adam Johnson beating Sam Burrows. Unfortunately for Employment that trend didn't trend there and when the dust had settled Nat West had gained revenge in the most emphatic fashion, 10-0, only dropping two ends all evening! Looking over the result card, there wasn't a single set where Employment were with a good chance. Most unusual for a team that can usually be depended on to win sets on every occasion (this was their only whitewash of the season to date). Well played Nat West! Which brings us to the clash of the titans: Castaways against Morpeth. Both teams were at full strength. The outcome was a draw in the first half. Unbeaten Alex Luk

began for Morpeth and beat Phil Wroe three straight but with a narrow two point margin on every occasion. The next set saw Pete Harris against Rob Chambers, where Pete proved to be just too strong. Neil LeMilliere then faced Samson Bekele and quickly found himself two ends to one up. Is an upset on the cards? Don't speak too soon as Bekele runs away with the fourth end 11-2. The final end looks very open but, against the odds, it's Neil that comes home first with an 11-8 scoreline. A great win that brings to an end Bekele's unbeaten streak of 23 straight wins! To put it in perspective, the last time they faced each other Bekele won three straight and LeMilliere amassed just 20 points! Castaways' celebrations were quickly brought to an end in the next set as Alex Luk beat Pete Harris three straight (Alex won deuce in the fifth in the first half). The score moved to 3-3 with Bekele beating Wroe and LeMilliere beating Chambers. Set seven pitted Harris against Bekele. Now this rivalry is usually close-ish but Bekele has never beaten him. Harris takes the first end 11-8. The next two ends go to Bekele by the same score: 13-11. This is where Pete needs to accelerate but, no, it's Bekele who's in front and takes the fourth end and the win by 11-8! Unexpected and suddenly the odds favour a Morpeth win. But there was one more twist. In set nine, Morpeth get to within a whisker of the win as Rob Chambers is tied at two ends all with Phil Wroe and 10-7 up in the fifth. I said last week this was the season of great escapes and it happened again! 10-7 became 10-10, and finally 10-12! Wroe had won five points on the trot and snatched victory from the jaws of defeat. Buoyed up by that victory, Castaways ran away with the doubles and earned a hard-fought draw. Good match. I must mention Player of the Match Alex Luk who won all three for Morpeth with scores that looked a class above on the night. Alex also now holds the longest unbeaten streak title with 18 straight wins.

So, the clash of the titans leaves the 17 point gap at the top of the division unaltered. Morpeth have a match in hand and they catch that up next week with a contest against PRO. A 10-0 win narrows the gap to four points! Morpeth won the first half fixture by exactly that score but no Ronnie Turner for PRO, which might be significant. This could go all the way to the last week where Morpeth face a possible nightmare fixture against Treasury!

RICHARD CAMPBELL
DIVISIONAL SECRETARY

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AVERAGES (Qualification: ≥14 sets played)

Player	Team	Sets Won	Sets Played	Average (%)
Luk	MORPETH	18	18	100.0
Bekele	MORPETH	25	26	96.2
McKee	CASTAWAYS	15	17	88.2
Harris	CASTAWAYS	25	29	86.2
Herbert	NAT WEST	22	27	81.5
McKee	EMPLOYMENT	17	21	81.0
LeMilliere	CASTAWAYS	32	41	78.0
Turner	PRO	25	33	75.8
Evans	SPARTA	18	24	75.0
Caunt	CASTAWAYS	13	18	72.2
Robinson	TREASURY A	15	21	71.4
Wong	TREASURY A	17	24	70.8
Codrington	COMETS	20	30	66.7
Blyuss	MORPETH	10	15	66.7
Fagan	COMETS	21	33	63.6
Chambers	MORPETH	16	26	61.5
Francis	COMETS	22	36	61.1
Catt	NAT WEST	9	15	60.0
Giuffrida	TREASURY A	14	24	58.3
Baylis	EMPLOYMENT	19	33	57.6
Brown	MORPETH	8	14	57.1

Crawford	PRO	15	27	55.6
Persaud	PRO	13	24	54.2
Jones	TREASURY A	8	15	53.3
Loveder	SPARTA	8	15	53.3
Cranstone	INSURANCE	19	38	50.0
Jermyn	EMPLOYMENT	11	24	45.8
Jones	NAT WEST	11	27	40.7
Francis	INSURANCE	14	35	40.0
Buchanan	PRO	6	15	40.0
Sinarain	BTB	8	27	29.6
Miller	DIT	6	30	20.0
Velinor	INSURANCE	6	32	18.8
Waterhouse	BTB	5	27	18.5
Tokely	SPARTA	6	36	16.7
Goodman	DIT	5	35	14.3
Xavier	BTB	4	30	13.3
Buck	PRO	2	15	13.3
Gazheli	DIT	4	35	11.4
Hattrill	SPARTA	2	21	9.5
Mehta	DIT	1	14	7.1
Burrows	EMPLOYMENT	1	15	6.7
Roberts	BTB	1	15	6.7
John	SPARTA	1	21	4.8