

LONDON BANKS AND CIVIL SERVICE TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE BULLETIN 18

AS AT 25 FEBRUARY 2018

	P	W	D	F	A	B	P
TREASURY A	17	14	1	142	28	51	193
CASTAWAYS	16	13	1	122	38	48	170
NAT WEST	17	12	2	114	56	51	165
MORPETH	16	11	2	98	62	48	146
EMPLOYMENT	17	8	3	83	87	51	134
PRO	16	5	2	70	90	48	118
SPARTA	16	4	1	60	100	48	108
COMETS	15	6	1	62	88	45	107
INSURANCE	16	5	1	58	102	48	106
OUTCASTS	16	3	1	51	109	48	99
TREASURY B	16	0	1	30	130	48	78

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

COMMENTARY

Week 20

First result received this week was Nat West versus Morpeth. Nat West won 7-3 in the first half but the reverse fixture proved to be very different. A good start for Nat West as Chris Herbert beat Bekele 11-9 in the fifth. Chris nearly lost it in the fourth end but just managed to hang on for the victory. Good contest! Oleg Blyuss beat Gareth Jones but Nat West were back on track with Adam Johnson edging out Rob Chambers at 11-7 in the fifth. Rob soon got his own back with an outstanding win over Chris Herbert in four ends in a contest that looked surprisingly one-sided. After that the wheels came off for Nat West as Morpeth reeled off the remaining four sets. Most eye-catching among those sets was a real marathon in which Bekele was two ends to one up against Johnson. The fourth end couldn't be closer but Adam just managed to stay in the match with heart-stopping 13-11 victory. The final end was equally close but it was Bekele who emerged triumphant with a 11-9 scoreline. This set began with an end that finished 17-15 and ended after 113 points had been played. Not far behind that set was a real surprise win for Oleg Blyuss over Chris Herbert three straight, continuing Oleg's good form from the previous week. This match had everything - 40 ends were played with Bekele being involved in 17 of them, winning one of his sets 11-9 in the fifth and also losing one set 11-9 in the fifth. A 7-3 revenge for Morpeth and a really good team performance, each player scoring two wins. No player won three in that match - you'd be surprised how rare that is, it's only the third time this season it has happened. After all that excitement any fixture was going to suffer by comparison and Employment versus Treasury B looked a bit of a procession. Eight sets were won three straight, one went to four ends and the highlight was a 11-7 in the fifth near miss by Frank Dos Santos against David Shore. For Employment, Richard Oppenheim was just too good and Paul Baylis also took a maximum but in the first end against David Shore he came back from 4-9 down to 9-10 down only to level the score with an edge! Treasury B's other win was by Bryan Gittens over Dos Santos. So, an 8-2 victory for Employment. Comets against Sparta was the first time this season both teams only had two players. It was probably inevitably going to involve those two teams as between them Comets and Sparta have conceded 28 points this season through no-shows and lead the league in that department. For Comets, Steve Fagan won his two, Greg Gargrupe won one but Comets took both doubles for a convincing 7-3 win. Outcasts are having a terrible run and have lost their last five matches. They had high hopes of taking points from PRO but couldn't manage to deliver on the night. Best set of the night was Eddie Roullier's battle with John Crawford that went to five ends, John claiming a come-from-behind win at 12-10 in the fifth. Second best set of the night also involved

Roullier, this time successful in his own come-from-behind win against George Buck 11-7 in the fifth. Most surprising result was Alan Jones defying the averages to beat Ronnie Turner in four. An 8-2 outcome in PRO's favour in a match Outcasts were hoping would ease their relegation fears. And so to the match that has probably determined the outcome of this season's title race: Treasury A versus Castaways. There was all to play for and I was expecting a cracking contest but as early as four sets into the match it looked like things weren't going to go Castaways way. First set of the night and Perry Fung brushed LeMilliere aside in a convincing three straight contest. As has so often been the case this season Pete Harris stepped up to the plate and levelled the match score, beating Winston Wong in four. The third set went Treasury's way and probably turned the match. Terry McKee put up a strong fight against Laikram Persaud and managed to get himself in front before falling away 11-8 in the fifth. Set four and Pete Harris took away Perry Fung's longest unbeaten streak record with a convincing win in four ends. The match score was tied at 2-2 but to overtake Treasury A's points' haul someone on the Castaways' team was going to have to pull off some great wins. That didn't happen in set five as Persaud beat LeMilliere in four ends. Set six was probably Castaways' best chance as McKee faced Winston Wong. Winston got the better of the first three ends but Terry appeared to have every chance in the fourth only for luck to elude him in a heart-breaking 12-10 loss. If that was a blow to Castaways' morale it got worse in set seven as Laikram Persaud overturned the first half result between them by beating Pete Harris in four. The match was running away from Castaways. The remaining sets underlined how it was just not Castaways' night. McKee lost to Fung 11-9 in the fifth and LeMilliere lost to Wong 12-10 in the fifth!! The same six players contested the first half fixture and Castaways won 6-4 but this time the outcome was 8-2 to Treasury A. You have to conclude that Treasury were the better team on the night. Congratulations to them for a really effective team performance at just the right moment!

So, four fixtures left for Castaways and three left for Treasury A. To win the title now, Castaways need to be flawless in their remaining matches but, even then, Treasury A have to slip up in theirs. Looking at the forthcoming opponents it's hard to see that happening but anything's possible. Next week Castaways face Outcasts and Treasury A have a bye week. Outcasts are running out of time to save themselves from the second relegation spot but Sparta, Comets and Insurance must be looking nervously over their shoulders. Pete Harris remains top of the averages with all three Treasury A players snapping at his heels. Pete has been top of the averages for all but a couple of weeks this season. Can he hold that position for the remainder of the matches? Only time will tell.

RICHARD CAMPBELL
DIVISIONAL SECRETARY

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AVERAGES (Qualification: ≥ 19 sets played)

Player	Team	Sets Won	Sets Played	Average (%)
Harris	CASTAWAYS	27	30	90.0
Persaud	TREASURY A	35	39	89.7
Fung	TREASURY A	31	36	86.1
Wong	TREASURY A	30	37	81.1
Herbert	NAT WEST	29	36	80.6
Fagan	COMETS	32	40	80.0
Catt	NAT WEST	19	24	79.2
McKee	CASTAWAYS	21	27	77.8
Oppenheim	EMPLOYMENT	23	30	76.7
Bekele	MORPETH	19	27	70.4
LeMilliere	CASTAWAYS	33	47	70.2
Blyuss	MORPETH	16	24	66.7
Evans	SPARTA	23	35	65.7
Chambers	MORPETH	17	26	65.4
Brown	MORPETH	13	20	65.0

Crawford	PRO	20	35	57.1
Mak	EMPLOYMENT	16	28	57.1
Jameson	OUTCASTS	12	21	57.1
Baylis	EMPLOYMENT	18	32	56.3
Jones	NAT WEST	21	42	50.0
Turner	PRO	21	43	48.8
Hattrill	SPARTA	12	25	48.0
Coull	OUTCASTS	10	24	41.7
Francis	INSURANCE	19	46	41.3
Macalister	OUTCASTS	9	24	37.5
Cranstone	INSURANCE	16	43	37.2
Shore	TREASURY B	14	38	36.8
Roullier	OUTCASTS	12	33	36.4
Tokely	SPARTA	13	38	34.2
Codrington	COMETS	7	26	26.9
Velinor	INSURANCE	11	43	25.6
Buchanan	PRO	9	37	24.3
Colgan	TREASURY B	4	23	17.4
Gargrupe	COMETS	7	43	16.3
Gittens	TREASURY B	4	35	11.4
Okai	TREASURY B	3	33	9.1