

LONDON BANKS AND CIVIL SERVICE TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE BULLETIN 17

AS AT 16 FEBRUARY 2020

	P	W	D	F	A	B	P
COMETS	15	12	1	120	30	45	165
MORPETH A	15	12	2	115	35	45	160
CASTAWAYS	15	12	3	114	36	45	159
NAT WEST	16	11	3	101	59	45	146
EMPLOYMENT	16	9	0	87	73	48	135
MORPETH C	16	5	2	73	87	48	121
GOOD KARMA	15	4	1	62	88	45	107
SPARTA	15	3	1	45	105	45	90
PRO	15	3	0	38	112	45	83
TREASURY B	14	3	1	41	99	42	83
OUTCASTS	14	2	0	34	106	42	76

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

COMMENTARY

Week 20

Morpeth A picked a team that meant business for their fixture with Karma: Chambers, Bekele and Luk who between them had only lost seven sets all season. Their opponents – Sanders, Zhao and Johannson – were in for a tough night. Best set of the night proved to be Bekele against Sanders where George took the first two ends and seemed on the verge of a big upset. Bekele took the third, and the fourth, to set up a tense final end. Sanders clearly wasn't going to go down easily and the score reached deadlock at 10-10. Alas, it was not going to be for George and the next two points went to Bekele and with them the victory. Good effort but just not quite. That was the only highspot for Karma and Morpeth rattled off all the other sets for a 10-0 outcome.

PRO just can't win a match at the moment and couldn't have been optimistic against Morpeth C having lost the first half fixture 8-2. Those hoping for a PRO revival had their hopes dashed in the first three sets as each went comfortably to Morpeth – a good win for Max Shilo over John Crawford in that trio. Set four and Clark Nicholls goes 2-1 up on Crawford only for John to take the fourth end and the fifth too. Morpeth 3 PRO 1 and PRO are on the board. Unfortunately that proved to be a blip and at the end of the night it was 9-1 to Morpeth with maximums for Shilo and Bulvicius. The doubles was the most contested set of the night where PRO pulled it back to two ends each but then cruelly lost the final end 13-11. That's PRO's 12th loss on the trot in a truly disastrous run of form. To think, they were top of the table at week three!!

Two runaway victories so far this week and a third is in prospect as Employment face all-conquering Comets. In the second set of the evening, following a three straight win for Persaud over Baylis, Anita Jermyn managed to take an end of Ian Francis and was in with a chance in the fourth end only to lose it 14-12. It was that sort of night where successes were measured by the odd end pinched here and there. Anita pinched another end, off Laikram Persaud and nearly took an end off Perry Fung losing it 13-11 having been 10-6 up. All in all, a night for Employment to forget and another 10-0 win for Comets.

The next match was the relegation clash between Outcasts and Treasury. It would be a surprise if this ended as a runaway victory for either team. With Outcasts 1-0 up, there came a set that significantly influenced the match outcome. Mark Green got the better of the first three ends against Petko Guimichev and nearly won the set in the fourth only to just miss out at 9-11. The final end was close and Mark held match point but couldn't convert.

When the last ball was hit it was Petko who had stolen the win from the jaws of defeat, 12-10 in the fifth. By rights that should have gone Outcasts' way. The problem for Outcasts was that every time they seemed about to get their nose in front Winston Wong, playing 3,5,7, won another set for Treasury, always keeping them slightly ahead. With three sets to go, Treasury were 5-2 ahead but wins for Bob Coull over Shore, and Jameson having an excellent win over Guimichev brought it back to 5-4 in Treasury's favour. The doubles was over more quickly than I imagined and it went to Treasury, denying Outcasts the draw. A good effort from Treasury that keeps alive their hopes of avoiding relegation.

The final match of the week returned to the "runaway victory" theme as Nat West took on Sparta. Sparta didn't really give themselves a chance, fielding only two players. The night included just two hard fought sets. First, Peter Tokely almost pulled off a surprise win over Les Samuels but lost 12-10 in the fifth. Second, the doubles presented Sparta with a good chance of winning a set as they led after three ends. Unfortunately it wasn't to be and Nat West took the next two ends, both 11-9, to complete the whitewash. A bad night for Sparta but, barring a huge upset, they should have enough points to avoid relegation. Andrew Muller was unbeaten for Nat West and boosted his average to a creditable 60%.

Castaways being on a bye week meant Comets have now played the same number of matches as them. Morpeth A have pushed Castaways into third place and this has turned into the three-horse race I predicted. Six points span the top three with five matches to go. PRO and Treasury B are now locked together in the relegation battle.

Next week it's Comets that sit it out while Castaways chances of retaining the title crucially depend on a good performance against Nat West. Treasury B are up against title-chasing Morpeth A, which is exactly the sort of fixture you don't want if you're trying to avoid relegation. PRO take on Employment which, although easier than playing Morpeth A, is still a tough fixture in which to gather the points you badly need. So, interest at both the top and bottom of the table and all to play for!

RICHARD CAMPBELL
DIVISIONAL SECRETARY

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AVERAGES (Qualification: ≥16 sets played)

Player	Team	Sets Won	Sets Played	Average (%)
Fung	COMETS	26	26	100.0
Penrose	NAT WEST	19	20	95.0
Harris	CASTAWAYS	34	36	94.4
Persaud	COMETS	27	30	90.0
Bekele	MORPETH A	23	26	88.5
Ji	MORPETH A	25	29	86.2
Chambers	MORPETH A	21	25	84.0
Killip	EMPLOYMENT	14	17	82.4
Catt	NAT WEST	14	18	77.8
Herbert	NAT WEST	23	30	76.7
Francis	COMETS	20	27	74.1
LeMilliere	CASTAWAYS	30	42	71.4
Bispham	CASTAWAYS	18	27	66.7
Brown	MORPETH A	10	16	62.5
Fagan	COMETS	10	16	62.5
Muller	NAT WEST	10	17	58.8
Baylis	EMPLOYMENT	19	34	55.9
McKee	EMPLOYMENT	15	27	55.6

Greenberg	GOOD KARMA	9	17	52.9
Dight	TREASURY B	11	21	52.4
Alnak	MORPETH C	12	24	50.0
Evans	SPARTA	12	24	50.0
Robertson	MORPETH C	13	27	48.1
Loveder	SPARTA	11	23	47.8
Coull	OUTCASTS	10	21	47.6
Guimichev	TREASURY B	10	21	47.6
Jermyn	EMPLOYMENT	9	19	47.4
Crawford	PRO	16	35	45.7
Sanders	GOOD KARMA	10	22	45.5
Jameson	OUTCASTS	11	27	40.7
Nicholls	MORPETH C	12	30	40.0
Shilo	MORPETH C	10	27	37.0
Mak	EMPLOYMENT	8	22	36.4
Jones	NAT WEST	14	39	35.9
Bulvicius	MORPETH C	6	18	33.3
Shore	TREASURY B	6	18	33.3
Tokely	SPARTA	13	42	31.0
Roullier	OUTCASTS	5	24	20.8
Persaud	PRO	6	29	20.7
Buck	PRO	6	33	18.2
Buchanan	PRO	5	29	17.2
Hattrill	SPARTA	4	24	16.7
Zhao	GOOD KARMA	3	23	13.0
Macalister	OUTCASTS	2	24	8.3
Gittens	TREASURY B	1	18	5.6
Johansson	GOOD KARMA	1	20	5.0