

LONDON BANKS AND CIVIL SERVICE TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE BULLETIN 1

AS AT 6 OCTOBER 2019

	P	W	D	F	A	B	P
CASTAWAYS	1	1	0	10	0	3	13
COMETS	1	1	0	8	2	3	11
MORPETH A	1	1	0	8	2	3	11
PRO	1	1	0	7	3	3	10
NAT WEST	1	1	0	6	4	3	9
MORPETH C	1	0	0	4	6	3	7
GOOD KARMA	1	0	0	3	7	3	6
EMPLOYMENT	1	0	0	2	8	3	5
TREASURY B	1	0	0	2	8	3	5
SPARTA	1	0	0	0	10	3	3
OUTCASTS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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
- ✓ Treasury A have withdrawn.
- ✓ Good Karma's captain is: [George Sanders](mailto:georgesanders@outlook.com); 07792 013211 (m); georgesanders@outlook.com
- ✓ Live streaks carried over from 2018-19 season:
 - Morpeth's Alex Luk has won his last 21 sets on the trot. Outcasts' Andrew Macalister comes up from Division 2 with an unbeaten run of 28 sets without loss
 - Neil LeMilliere has played in 21 consecutive matches
 - Castaways have not lost in their last eight matches

COMMENTARY

Week 1

First result of the new season involves Employment against Morpeth. Last season Morpeth introduced Alex Luk who ended up top of the averages and this season Jane Ji makes her debut in this Division. Now Jane is a class act and will be more than a match for most players in this Division. She rattled through the Employment team winning all her sets without dropping a single end. Samson Bekele continued his good form from last season also winning three but dropping one end on each occasion. For Employment, Chris McKee and Paul Baylis both beat Oleg Blyuss – wins I think they will be content with as they're all about the same standard. The doubles proved to be the best set of the night. Employment led by two ends to one before Morpeth moved up a gear and took the fourth and fifth ends with ease. An 8-2 victory to Morpeth. Next result involves newly promoted Morpeth C against Nat West. Another new name appears here – Anit Deb. I have come across that name before – but playing at high standard in a German league. There might be a connection as Anit won all three, in four ends against Tony Catt and three straight against Chris Herbert and Gareth Jones. Notable wins! Beyond Anit's sets, Morpeth's best chance saw Clark Nicholls lead Chris Herbert two ends to one before falling away to lose in five. Good effort! Like the previous match, the doubles was close. The first two ends went to Morpeth while the next two ends went to Nat West. It seemed Nat West had the momentum going into the final end but Morpeth accelerated to win it 11-5 leaving Nat West the match winners 6-4. Castaways entertained Sparta in the next match. The Castaways team included Johnny Bispham, playing his first match in this Division. Jonny has plenty of table tennis under his belt and his addition certainly strengthens the champions. Sparta put out a reasonable

team and it seemed there were chances for some upsets. Castaways won all the first round of matches, in four ends in every case. Set four was the best of the night. Sparta's Mike Loveder took the first two ends off Pat Caunt and was looking good for an upset win. Pat dug in to take the third end, which triggered a fourth end marathon that reached 10-10, 11-11 and on to 15-13 before a conclusion emerged. Mike had chances but it was Pat that took the vital end. As so often happens in come-from-behind victories, if you can grab the fourth end you must be favourite in the fifth end. And so it was, as Pat came home 11-5 in the fifth. After that, Castaways took all the remaining sets comfortably to notch up a 10-0 scoreline. Looking at the team compositions, I suspect Castaways went home very pleased with such an emphatic outcome. Next came PRO against another team making its debut in this Division, Good Karma. PRO are the great constant of the Division – there from the start, small squad, same players – but this season a big change. After six seasons with PRO, Ronnie Turner has decided to move on. Last year Ronnie was their mainstay so this move pushes PRO nearer the relegation zone. The match started badly for Karma as George Sanders picked up an injury in his first set playing John Crawford and took no further part in the match. Best win of the night was Jai Persaud beating Morris Greenberg – who was highly ranked twenty years ago - in a real seesaw set that saw Maurice level the set from two ends down. The final end was point for point until it reached 8-8 when Jai played three inspired points to pinch the win. Morris had another nail biter, against John Crawford, where neither player could establish a lead and it inevitably came to a final end. If luck was against Morris in the Persaud encounter it was with him on this occasion as he took the set 11-5 in the fifth. 101 points played in that set, the first of the season to go over the 100 point mark. For the third time this week, the doubles went the full distance but it was Karma, coming from two sets to one down, which took the honours 11-4 in the fifth. The outcome was 7-3 to PRO. Final match of the week sees promotees Treasury B take on Comets. Comets might be the spoilers of this Division as they have picked up some of the players from the defunct Treasury A team. For Treasury, Petko Guimichev beat Ian Francis and Steve Codrington in four ends. Good wins! The set against Francis was really tight with three of the four ends finishing at deuce. Comets' Steve Fagan looked just too good on the night winning his three sets without dropping an end and posting a contender for the "man in a hurry" award losing just 55 points all night. In truth, this match looked one side in Comets favour and they cantered home 8-2.

An interesting first week with lots of new names appearing. Next week's fixtures sees the clash of the titans as potentially the best two teams in the Division – Castaways and Morpeth – go head to head. Castaways have a good record in this fixture but Morpeth could select a team that would do serious damage to Castaways. We await the outcome with interest. Outcasts open their account with a really tough fixture – a visit from Nat West. Hard to see Outcasts getting much out of that. Beyond that, I'd expect Comets to be too strong for Sparta and Employment to have the edge on Good Karma. Treasury B take on PRO – two teams whose goal is to avoid the drop. Hard to call the result. May be the first draw of the season?!?

RICHARD CAMPBELL
DIVISIONAL SECRETARY

Issued: 06/10/2019

AVERAGES (Qualification: ≥xx sets played)

Player	Team	Sets Won	Sets Played	Average (%)
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I will let things settle down a little and produce averages starting in Week Three.