

LONDON BANKS AND CIVIL SERVICE TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE BULLETIN 9

AS AT 1 DECEMBER 2019

	P	W	D	F	A	B	P
COMETS	8	7	1	67	13	24	91
CASTAWAYS	8	5	3	58	22	24	82
MORPETH A	7	6	1	54	16	21	75
NAT WEST	8	6	1	51	29	24	75
EMPLOYMENT	8	5	0	48	32	24	72
GOOD KARMA	8	3	1	39	41	24	63
MORPETH C	9	2	0	36	54	27	63
PRO	8	3	0	31	49	24	55
TREASURY B	8	1	1	22	58	24	46
SPARTA	8	1	0	19	61	24	43
OUTCASTS	8	1	0	15	65	24	39

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

COMMENTARY

Week 9

Morpeth C scored a big victory over Treasury B in a result that takes them well out of the relegation zone. There were only two sets that didn't end three straight and both of them went to five ends. First, Clark Nicholls went two ends to one down to Jeremy Okai before taking the next two ends to win 11-5 in the fifth. Second, Adam Alnak won the first two ends from Tony Dight only for Tony to win the next two. Adam then came back strongly in the fifth to take the set 11-5. Morpeth C improve their win/lose ratio for five-enders! I admit to being surprised at the margin of the win – 10-0 – as I thought at least Tony Dight would take sets. Next up is the week's big match as Morpeth A host Castaways. Pete Harris gave Castaways the best of starts by beating Duncan Brown in four. That saw Jane Ji up against Jonny Bispham and the set didn't last long, Jane winning three straight. Next came a hotly contested set that, it transpired, had a big influence on who was to win this match. Unbeaten Rob Chambers lost the first and third ends to Neil LeMilliere but staged a major recovery in the fourth to win it 11-4. The final end was a coin toss and could have gone either way but it was to be Rob's night as he pinched it 12-10, his unbeaten record maintained. That put Morpeth 2-1 up after the first round of matches. Set four saw Jane Ji's unbeaten record at stake in a contest with Pete Harris. Jane came out of the blocks at pace and took the first two ends. Pete came back to win the third end and went on to win the fourth too. The fifth was also close but it was Pete who won it 11-7 and thereby robbed Jane of her unbeaten record. The next set also went to Castaways as LeMilliere beat Brown three straight. Castaways go 3-2 up in the match but their lead didn't last long as Morpeth won the next two sets. Chambers proved too strong for Bispham and Ji overcame LeMilliere in fourth. Pete Harris then had his chance to take away the second unbeaten record of the night as he faced Chambers. This set was finished in four ends, none of which were close, and it was Pete who emerged the victor. The match score moves to 4-4. Duncan Brown then went 2-1 down to Bispham after three ends but levelled it in the fourth only to lose 11-9 in the fifth. A valiant effort from Duncan but frustratingly no reward. Morpeth went on to take the doubles and secure the draw. A good match – only two sets ended three straight, five sets required four ends and three sets went the distance. Probably the fairest result – on another night LeMilliere might have beaten Chambers but equally Brown might have come out best against Bispham. Pete Harris was Player of the Match for the fifth time this season with a brilliant maximum, including beating two previously unbeaten players. His unbeaten streak extends to 15 sets and Castaways' have now not lost in their last 16 matches. After last week's hammering from Comets, Nat West were looking for an easier time against PRO. The early sets were very even.

Chris Penrose beat John Crawford while Chris Herbert struggled a bit to overcome Ian Buchanan in four close-ish ends. Those victories were balanced by Jai Persaud and Crawford both beating Gareth Jones. That took the match score to 2-2. But from that point on it was all Nat West. Three of the remaining sets went to four ends but all went Nat West's way, including a consolation win for Gareth Jones over Ian Buchanan. The match finished with two three-end wins for Nat West, taking the match score to 8-2 to Nat West. Although the result looks one sided, five sets went to four ends and the individual scores contain a good number of 12-10s and 13-11s. You have to fear for Outcasts as they go up against the league leaders, Comets. The match didn't take long and Comets won it 10-0. One set went past the third end and it involved the luckless Simon Jameson losing to Ronnie Turner 13-11 in the fifth after 100 points had been played. For Comets, Perry Fung and Laikram Persaud were untroubled, each conceding around 50 points all evening. Last match of the week involved Karma and Sparta. These teams have very different squad sizes, Sparta depending on five players while Karma just get bigger and bigger. This week Karma's squad rose to nine with the introduction of Guy Fernback. This was another strange match that at one point looked all square but ended with a runaway result. Michael Lever opened or Sparta against George Sanders and got the best of the first three ends but just couldn't close in the fourth end which he lost 11-9. The fifth end was a real battle but Mike managed to pull it off 11-9 in the fifth. To illustrate how close it was, the scores were 11-9, 9-11, 8-11, 11-9, and 9-11. Not much in it and bad luck George! Karma went 2-1 up but Loveder levelled the match with a comfortable win over Xavier Zhao. But at that point everything went wrong for Sparta and set after set went Karma's way. The most notable of those sets was a win in four ends for Guy Fernback over Mike Loveder, giving Guy maximum return on his debut. So, 8-2 to Karma. Like the Nat West / PRO game, six sets went past third end but Sparta won just one of those sets and Karma post a convincing win.

Comets lead at the top grows to nine points. That's a lot to make up but it is still possible. Morpeth are handily placed in third spot with a match in hand. That makes next week's clash between Morpeth A and Comets of key importance in deciding the title destination. I note Morpeth have yet to bring out Alex Luk this season – his 21 straight victories is still the longest live unbeaten streak. Might this be the moment? Castaways face Karma and should be okay but I doubt it will be all one-way traffic. Employment are having a surprisingly successful season but will be pushed by Nat West in what might be one of the closer matches next week. Finally, Sparta plays Treasury B. A win in that match will ease relegation fears. Sparta has a fairly settled squad but Treasury can field a variety of players – some much stronger than others. I wonder which Treasury team will walk through the door at BIS on Monday night?

RICHARD CAMPBELL
DIVISIONAL SECRETARY

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AVERAGES (Qualification: ≥8 sets played)

Player	Team	Sets Won	Sets Played	Average (%)
Fung	COMETS	14	14	100.0
Persaud	COMETS	12	12	100.0
Bekele	MORPETH A	9	9	100.0
Harris	CASTAWAYS	20	21	95.2
Chambers	MORPETH A	14	15	93.3
Ji	MORPETH A	14	15	93.3
Killip	EMPLOYMENT	10	11	90.9
Catt	NAT WEST	8	9	88.9
Penrose	NAT WEST	8	9	88.9
Turner	COMETS	7	8	87.5
Herbert	NAT WEST	19	24	79.2
Mencer	GOOD KARMA	7	9	77.8
Francis	COMETS	9	12	75.0
Codrington	COMETS	6	8	75.0
Fagan	COMETS	7	10	70.0
Baylis	EMPLOYMENT	9	13	69.2

LeMilliere	CASTAWAYS	14	21	66.7
Bispham	CASTAWAYS	8	12	66.7
Alnak	MORPETH C	7	12	58.3
Brown	MORPETH A	5	9	55.6
Caunt	CASTAWAYS	5	9	55.6
Greenberg	GOOD KARMA	6	11	54.5
Sanders	GOOD KARMA	7	13	53.8
Crawford	PRO	11	21	52.4
Dight	TREASURY B	6	12	50.0
Guimichev	TREASURY B	6	12	50.0
Robertson	MORPETH C	7	15	46.7
Coull	OUTCASTS	4	9	44.4
Persaud	PRO	6	14	42.9
Mak	EMPLOYMENT	5	13	38.5
Jones	NAT WEST	8	21	38.1
Tokely	SPARTA	7	21	33.3
Buck	PRO	6	18	33.3
Jameson	OUTCASTS	6	18	33.3
Nicholls	MORPETH C	6	18	33.3
Shilo	MORPETH C	5	15	33.3
Blyuss	MORPETH A	4	12	33.3
McKee	EMPLOYMENT	4	12	33.3
Evans	SPARTA	3	9	33.3
Loveder	SPARTA	3	9	33.3
Buchanan	PRO	4	14	28.6
Zhao	GOOD KARMA	3	11	27.3
Hattrill	SPARTA	4	18	22.2
Bulvicius	MORPETH C	2	12	16.7
Roullier	OUTCASTS	2	15	13.3
Gittens	TREASURY B	1	12	8.3
Macalister	OUTCASTS	1	15	6.7