

LONDON BANKS AND CIVIL SERVICE TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE BULLETIN 2

AS AT 21 OCTOBER 2017

	P	W	D	F	A	B	P
CASTAWAYS	3	2	0	22	8	9	31
TREASURY A	3	2	0	21	9	9	30
MORPETH	3	2	1	19	11	9	28
NAT WEST	3	1	1	15	15	9	24
OUTCASTS	3	1	0	12	18	9	21
INSURANCE	3	1	0	9	21	9	18
SPARTA	2	1	1	11	9	6	17
EMPLOYMENT	2	1	0	8	12	6	14
PRO	2	0	1	8	12	6	14
TREASURY B	2	0	0	5	15	6	11
COMETS	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_2017-2018/Division_One

COMMENTARY

Week 2 (late result)

Sparta start their campaign with a success, beating Treasury B 6-4. For Sparta, Tokely and Evans were impressive and didn't drop a single end. Sparta's number three was Bob Clark, the League's past Chairman. It was a frustrating night for him, losing in five ends to Okai and four ends to Gittens and Shore. Treasury went down 6-4, their second successive loss to a promoted team.

Week 3

First result in and a huge sigh of relief from Insurance. Having been whitewashed in their first two fixtures against tough opposition, Insurance find themselves up against fellow promotees, Outcasts. First set of the night and Ian Cranstone opens Insurance's 2017-18 account with a three straight win over Mike O'Leary. Set two, and the match score is even as Simon Jameson beats Jon Velinor. After that, everything went Insurance's way as they ran off the next eight sets to canter home in a 9-1 win. Best of those sets was O'Leary versus Velinor where Jon had to come from two ends to one down to win the set in a five-end thriller involving 92 points. Next result was unexpected as Sparta stepped up to draw with Morpeth. It didn't look to be a draw after two sets as Morpeth go 2-0 up with wins for Bekele over Tokely and Duncan Brown over Dave Evans. The match scored reached 3-1 to Morpeth with Bekele fighting off a tough challenge from Evans in four ends. The pendulum then starts to swing Sparta's way: 2-3, 3-3, 4-3 before Bekele completed his maximum with a win over Hatrill to make the match score 4-4. Set 9 saw Sparta edge in front going into the doubles as Tokely beats Brown. Morpeth are always strong in doubles and so it proved again here as they won the set in four ends to salvage a draw. I have to give a pat on the back to Sparta for a great team performance. They have no star player but they're all about the same standard, which is the bedrock of their success. The "match of the week" – Treasury A versus Nat West - turned out unexpectedly to be a little one sided, in Treasury's favour. I did a double take at the result card as the Treasury team looked more like title holders Credex, including both Perry Fung and Laikram Persaud. No Catt or Penrose for Nat West but they brought in Adam Daley, on debut. Adam plays in the top Division of the Central League and weirdly was playing alongside Chris Herbert in this match, having played against Chris two days previously in the Central League. Treasury took the first two sets. Perry Fung beat Herbert in four and Winston Wong beat Gareth Jones in three. Nat West leveled the match with Adam defeating Persaud and Chris Herbert coming out on top against Wong, in a real ding-dong battle that required 100 points to reach a conclusion. That proved to be the turning point as Treasury then went on to win set after set, only interrupted by Adam Daley

beating Wong in four. The result was 7-3 to Treasury – a result that dare I say it seemed to flatter Treasury a little. This was a hard match! Employment did Castaways a favour fielding a makeshift team that lost 9-1. No real highlights here – Richard Mak scored Employment's lone win beating Norman Grant in four ends. Eight sets ended three straight in what looked like one-way traffic.

We're only on Week 3 but Nat West and Morpeth have already used seven different players, and Treasury have used six. What happened to the days when teams turned out the same three players week after week? This week's results have caused the bookmakers to rethink the odds of winning the title. Treasury's odds have shortened considerably while Castaways' odds have lengthened. But it's all very close with no clear favourite yet. For five seasons, Treasury B have been dodging demotion. The opening two matches suggest they're edging towards odds-on to go down this season. Which team will take the second relegation spot is far from clear as yet.

The coming week's fixtures look fairly predictable with the possible exception of Castaways versus Comets, which it's hard to assess, as I've seen no result from Comets so far this season. Insurance versus Sparta might be close but last season Sparta won the first half fixture 10-0 and Insurance won the reverse fixture 8-2! Team selection again!

RICHARD CAMPBELL
DIVISIONAL SECRETARY

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