

LONDON BANKS AND CIVIL SERVICE TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE BULLETIN 16

AS AT 11 FEBRUARY 2018

	P	W	D	F	A	B	P
TREASURY A	15	12	1	124	26	45	169
CASTAWAYS	15	13	1	120	30	45	165
NAT WEST	15	11	2	102	48	45	147
MORPETH	14	9	2	83	57	42	125
EMPLOYMENT	15	6	3	68	82	45	113
PRO	14	4	2	62	78	42	104
INSURANCE	15	5	1	56	94	45	101
SPARTA	14	4	1	54	86	42	96
COMETS	13	4	1	49	81	39	88
OUTCASTS	14	3	1	45	95	42	87
TREASURY B	14	0	1	27	113	42	69

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 19

And the first result received this week involves Castaways and PRO. A glance at the team sheet shows no John Crawford for PRO and no Pete Harris for Castaways. You still have to favour a 10-0. Well, that prospect disappeared as early as the second set as Ronnie Turner scored a fairly easy win over Keld Jaksland. The sets began to flow Castaways' way but Jaksland was in trouble again in set six, going two ends to one down to George Buck. Keld just managed to avoid defeat in the fourth end, taking it 11-9. Not sure where I'd put my money at that point and the outcome was made no clearer by the early points in the final end. Eventually, Keld held on to his nerve and edged it 11-8. That set was not for the faint hearted! Castaways took a 7-1 lead when Jaksland faced Ian Buchanan. A routine win looked on the cards as Keld takes the first end 11-1. The second end saw a reversal of fortunes, going to Buchanan 11-8. The third end is a replay of the first, Keld taking it 11-4. Keld is on the verge of a win in the fourth end but Ian won't give in and pinches it 11-9. I can imagine the final end was a nervy affair but it was Ian who got his nose in front to win the end 11-8. Great victory! So, three each from McKee and LeMilliere plus one from Jaksland and the doubles gives Castaways an 8-2 win. Not really good enough if ground is to be made up on Treasury A. Jaksland's yo-yoing form is hard to understand. He is ranked around 15 in the averages but three weeks ago he lost to the 21st ranked player in the averages, two weeks ago he beat the 8th ranked player and this week he lost to the 33rd ranked player. Hard to explain! Insurance took a big step out of the relegation zone with a 9-1 defeat of Treasury B. For Insurance, Cranstone and Francis were undefeated, and pretty much unchallenged. Jon Velinor had a good win over John Colgan but fell to Jeremy Okai 11-3 in the fourth. That's the second successive week Jeremy has been Treasury's most effective player. Once again the doubles was the best set of the night – I seem to have said that a lot this season – with Treasury taking the first two ends and Insurance taking the next two. The final end was point for point and they were still inseparable at 10-10. The score mounted 11-11, 12-12 when Insurance just scraped home 14-12. A good contest and one of the longest of the season involving 109 points. As predicted last week, no Steve Fagan for Comets against Treasury A and a routine 10-0 victory for the title chasers. Steve Codrington took an end off Persaud and so nearly beat Giuffrida, losing 12-10 in the fifth on the 100th point of the match. Sparta was always going to find Nat West an uphill struggle and only one end was not three straight in their 8-2 loss. That end involved Dave Evans coming from two ends down to beat Les Samuels 11-7 in the fifth. Good win! Dave also beat Gareth Jones but couldn't make much headway against Chris Herbert. Dave has impressed and surprised me this season. In

Division Two, his end-season average was similar to Cranstone, Tokely and Macalister's averages yet in the much tougher First Division his average is way above his Division Two peers. The final match of the week involved a close battle between Employment and Outcasts. Employment made a sprint start and were soon 5-0 up, all of which were won three straight. Outcasts opened their account in set six with Bob Coull getting the better of Anita Jermyn in four. That signalled an Outcasts mini-revival with Macalister beating Jermyn in four and Bob Coull scoring a good victory over Richard Mak, also in four. Richard Oppenheim won his three with ease and Employment led 6-3 going into the doubles. These two teams have among the worst doubles records in the Division so the result was highly unpredictable. Again, this was the best set of the night. Outcasts led two ends to one, Employment levelled the score and it all depends on the fifth end. Finally, it was Outcasts that broke the deadlock and came home with a 11-5 score. A 4-6 outcome from 0-5 down was probably far better for Outcasts than they might have expected!

Was this the week the pendulum finally started swinging against Castaways? Five matches remain and the gap has opened to four points. And the big clash between the top two contenders comes up in a fortnight. Treasury B, Sparta and Outcasts all play the top two teams in the remaining fixtures. Might they cause an upset? At the bottom, Outcasts are looking like the second relegation team but Comets are leaving it late to extricate themselves from the relegation dogfight. Pete Harris remains top of the averages but it's mighty close after him. One feature of this season is that no one has built up much of a winning streak. Current holder of the longest unbeaten streak is Perry Fung with 19 successive victories. That's a record Castaways will want to see broken in the weeks ahead!

RICHARD CAMPBELL
DIVISIONAL SECRETARY

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AVERAGES (Qualification: ≥ 17 sets played)

Player	Team	Sets Won	Sets Played	Average (%)
Harris	CASTAWAYS	25	27	92.6
Persaud	TREASURY A	29	33	87.9
McKee	CASTAWAYS	21	24	87.5
Fung	TREASURY A	26	30	86.7
Herbert	NAT WEST	25	30	83.3
Wong	TREASURY A	25	31	80.6
Catt	NAT WEST	19	24	79.2
Fagan	COMETS	27	35	77.1
LeMilliere	CASTAWAYS	33	44	75.0
Bekele	MORPETH	17	24	70.8
Oppenheim	EMPLOYMENT	17	24	70.8
Evans	SPARTA	22	32	68.8
Brown	MORPETH	13	20	65.0
Chambers	MORPETH	13	20	65.0
Jaksland	CASTAWAYS	11	17	64.7
Blyuss	MORPETH	11	18	61.1
Crawford	PRO	17	29	58.6
Mak	EMPLOYMENT	16	28	57.1
Jameson	OUTCASTS	10	18	55.6
Jones	NAT WEST	19	36	52.8
Baylis	EMPLOYMENT	15	29	51.7
Turner	PRO	19	37	51.4
Hattrill	SPARTA	10	20	50.0
Coull	OUTCASTS	9	21	42.9

Francis	INSURANCE	18	43	41.9
Macalister	OUTCASTS	8	21	38.1
Cranstone	INSURANCE	15	40	37.5
Shore	TREASURY B	12	32	37.5
Roullier	OUTCASTS	11	30	36.7
Tokely	SPARTA	12	36	33.3
Velinor	INSURANCE	11	40	27.5
Codrington	COMETS	7	26	26.9
Buchanan	PRO	9	34	26.5
Colgan	TREASURY B	4	23	17.4
Gargrupe	COMETS	5	38	13.2
Okai	TREASURY B	3	27	11.1
Gittens	TREASURY B	3	29	10.3