

LONDON BANKS AND CIVIL SERVICE TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE BULLETIN 21

AS AT 10 MARCH 2019

	P	W	D	F	A	B	P
MORPETH	19	15	4	145	45	57	202
CASTAWAYS	18	14	3	147	33	54	201
NAT WEST	19	12	3	126	64	57	183
TREASURY A	17	11	2	122	48	51	173
COMETS	18	9	1	96	84	54	150
PRO	19	9	1	90	100	57	147
EMPLOYMENT	18	10	1	91	89	54	145
INSURANCE	18	3	2	59	121	54	113
SPARTA	18	5	1	60	120	51	111
BTB	18	1	1	32	148	54	86
DIT	18	1	1	32	148	54	86

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_2018-2019/Division_One

COMMENTARY

Week 23

Treasury have been shown to have strength in depth this season and proved it again by whitewashing DIT. Not sure this team – Robinson, Fung and Guimichev – had ever previously played together but they made quick work of DIT. Perry Fung didn't drop an end while Robinson dropped ends to both Miller and Gazheli. Guimichev dropped one end, to Gazheli. Nat West versus Sparta is next and the home side are looking for a big win. That aim looks a little shaky after two sets, both of which were won by Sparta. First set saw Mike Loveder take on Chris Herbert. Now, Chris is playing well and has the superior average by far but I suspect, given their history over the years, Mike fancies his chances here. First end to Mike 14-12. Second end to Chris by the same score. Get the feeling this is going to be close? Third end and we really do have drama as Mike has five opportunities to win the end and Chris saves them all, before finally succumbing 15-13. The fourth end followed the pattern of the others. Mike's ahead 10-6 – four set points. Chris makes it 10-7, then 10-8 and finally 10-9. Nerves must have been jangling! Who will hold their nerve for the next point... it's Mike, to achieve an 11-9 win. Four ends played, totalling 110 points (I don't have a record for the longest four-ender but I suspect that might be it) and a win against the formbook. The next set was almost as long, though not so dramatic, as the formbook is torn up again as Peter Tokely beats Gareth Jones 11-8 in the fifth. In set four, Mike Loveder again covers himself in glory, coming from two ends to one down, to beat Gareth Jones 11-4 in the fifth. It's 3-1 to Sparta, is an upset in sight? It didn't take long to find the answer as Nat West won the remaining six sets with surprising ease. The exception was Mike Loveder giving his all against Les Samuels but coming up short, 11-8 in the fifth. So a 7-3 win for Nat West with Les Samuels their unbeaten hero. BTB faced a strong Employment team and the possibility of a whitewash. Chris McKee has not played much for Employment but when he does he has been very successful – hence his high average. He took on Flavinda Xavier in what proved to be an odd topsy-turvy encounter. Flavinda unexpectedly cruised through the first two ends and looked on course for a win. Yet just a few minutes later Chris had levelled the match with emphatic 11-1 and 11-2 scorelines. The fifth and final end finished 11-4 and while Chris appeared the favourite it was Flavinda who scored an impressive win! 73 points played in that set, just three points more than the all-time divisional record for the fewest points played in a five-ender. Employment then steadied the ship and took all bar one of the remaining sets. That exception was a good win for Geoff Waterhouse over Sam Burrows in five close ends. A good couple of wins for BTB but the match goes to Employment 8-2. The next match was Insurance versus Morpeth and the result card showed an

extraordinary 7-3 win for Insurance! Just as I was polishing my superlatives, on closer inspection the individual set scores showed it was 7-3 to Morpeth!! Ian Cranstone lost narrowly to Rob Chambers in five ends, 11-5 in the last end. He lost to Samson Bekele in four ends and no repeat of the drama from their first half encounter. Finally, after a slow start, he dispatched Stuart Sweeney. By the end of the night all Ian's teammates had each chalked up one win, against the luckless Stuart Sweeney. His two losses were close. Albert Francis beat him 11-5 in the fifth and Jon Velinor won 11-8 in the fifth. For Morpeth, Chambers and Bekele won all three. I said last week that player availability would mean everything to the Castaways versus Comets contest. So it proved, with Castaways at full strength but Comets with no Steve Fagan. Greg Gargrupe and Steve Codrington tried their best but didn't win an end between them. It was left to Ian Francis to inflict damage on Castaways' title chances and put up stubborn resistance. He beat Phil Wroe three straight and Neil LeMilliere in four. In the first half, Ian gave Pete Harris a good game but not this time, losing three straight. Best set was the doubles when Castaways looked down and out after two ends, came back to level the set and then just edged in front to win the deciding end 13-11. The outcome was an 8-2 win for Castaways who now have at least one hand on the title.

Week 25 – match brought forward

The opening sets of Nat West versus PRO suggested a close finish was likely. John Crawford was 2-1 up on Les Samuels but promptly lost the next two ends and the set, 11-8 in the fifth. Strangely, exactly the same happened to Ronnie Turner in set two. He was in front after three ends, lost the fourth end and then got edged out 13-11 in the deciding end by Adam Johnson. 106 points played in that marathon. The closeness of the first two sets was never replicated in the rest of the match. Seven of the eight remaining sets ended three straight and one set went to four. Tallying up who won what shows three wins for Samuels and Adam Johnson while all three PRO players beat Gareth Jones. Most notable in those sets was the end of an era for the unbeaten Crawford / Turner doubles pairing who found Samuels and Johnson just too good for them and went down three straight. 7-3 to Nat West.

RICHARD CAMPBELL
DIVISIONAL SECRETARY

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AVERAGES (Qualification: ≥19 sets played)

Player	Team	Sets Won	Sets Played	Average (%)
Luk	MORPETH	21	21	100.0
Bekele	MORPETH	38	41	92.7
Harris	CASTAWAYS	37	41	90.2
Herbert	NAT WEST	38	45	84.4
Samuels	NAT WEST	20	24	83.3
LeMilliere	CASTAWAYS	42	53	79.2
McKee	EMPLOYMENT	19	24	79.2
Hodges	EMPLOYMENT	15	20	75.0
Robinson	TREASURY A	20	27	74.1
Blyuss	MORPETH	17	23	73.9
Wong	TREASURY A	21	29	72.4
Johnson	NAT WEST	15	21	71.4
Evans	SPARTA	23	33	69.7
Turner	PRO	31	45	68.9
Chambers	MORPETH	26	38	68.4
Fagan	COMETS	24	36	66.7
Wroe	CASTAWAYS	14	21	66.7
Francis	COMETS	30	48	62.5
Codrington	COMETS	24	39	61.5

Giuffrida	TREASURY A	14	24	58.3
Baylis	EMPLOYMENT	26	47	55.3
Crawford	PRO	21	39	53.8
Jermyn	EMPLOYMENT	16	30	53.3
Loveder	SPARTA	11	21	52.4
Cranstone	INSURANCE	27	53	50.9
Persaud	PRO	15	30	50.0
Brown	MORPETH	11	22	50.0
Jones	NAT WEST	21	45	46.7
Buchanan	PRO	10	24	41.7
Francis	INSURANCE	17	47	36.2
Sinarain	BTB	11	36	30.6
Tokely	SPARTA	13	50	26.0
Gargrupe	COMETS	5	24	20.8
Miller	DIT	8	44	18.2
Waterhouse	BTB	7	42	16.7
Goodman	DIT	8	49	16.3
Velinor	INSURANCE	7	47	14.9
Xavier	BTB	6	42	14.3
Gazheli	DIT	6	43	14.0
Hattrill	SPARTA	3	26	11.5
Buck	PRO	3	27	11.1
Roberts	BTB	1	27	3.7
John	SPARTA	1	29	3.4