

AS AT 14 MARCH 2016

	P	W	D	F	A	B	P
CREDEX	16	14	0	131	29	48	179
NAT WEST	16	12	1	120	40	48	168
CASTAWAYS	16	13	1	116	44	48	164
JOOLA	16	9	1	83	77	48	131
TREASURY A	16	10	0	82	77	48	130
PRO	16	6	2	70	90	48	118
EMPLOYMENT	16	4	1	63	96	48	111
COMETS	16	3	1	62	98	48	110
TREASURY B	16	2	2	36	124	48	84
OUTCASTS	16	1	3	36	124	48	84

Bonus points shown in penultimate column. Ultimate column shows total points from sets won and bonuses

THINGS TO NOTE

- ☑ More live table tennis on TV next week. The English National Championship is on ITV4 next Sunday, 20 March, between 15:00 to 18:00 hours.
- ☑ Final weeks of the season approaching and there are a couple of postponements to catch up on. Could all matches be completed by 1 April please.

COMMENTARY

Week 23

Outcasts' first win of the season! The victims were Treasury B who, having fielded a weaker team, had the ill fortune to come up against Outcasts strongest team. First set of the night saw Simon Jameson dicing with death, down 2-1 on ends against Jeremy Okai. Perhaps that gave the stimulus Simon needed because he romped through the fourth and fifth ends to win comfortably. Outcasts reeled off a succession of victories until set 6, when Alan Jones was beaten three straight by David Shore. David triumphed again in set 9, going two ends up against Jameson but eventually needing all five ends to win the set. Neither of these two clubs has a strong doubles record but this time it was Treasury B who emerged victorious but still lost the match 7-3. The win takes Outcasts off the bottom of the table for the first time. Next result received was Castaways versus Treasury A. Castaways need every set and this was a fixture where sets could be dropped. First crunch set was Andy Nash versus Winston Wong. The set unfolded 1-0, 1-1, 2-1, 2-2 to the deciding end. With Winston 9-2 up in the fifth end the set looked over but Andy pulled it back point by point to level the set at deuce. We've all been there – seeing a big lead whittled away and suddenly the set is lost. And so it was, Andy sneaking home 12-10 in the fifth. Winston got his own back two sets later, playing really well to defeat Keld Jacksland. Finally, Winston pushed Pete Harris all the way, leading 2-1 on ends before Pete came back to win in five. Castaways' rivals, Credex, faced the unpredictable Employment. If ever there was a result to demonstrate how strong Credex are, this was it. The end result was 10-0 to Credex, every set bar one ending three straight. A mark of Credex's dominance was that only five of the 28 ends played all night ended closer than 11-7. Everyone was home by 10pm! Final result of the week and Comets visit Joola. Comets have unfortunately struggled to field three players in the second half and this was another fixture when they had just two. They opened brightly with Rob Kemp beating Terese Johansson. Steve Codrington kept Comets' hopes alive beating Oleg Blyuss in four and Terese in five after a titanic struggle that could have gone either way. Comets also pinched the doubles against the run of play. Comets might have come away with a draw but Joola's number three was Sam Do and he just isn't going to lose against the top teams let alone against the Comets of this world. The end result was 6-4 to Joola.

Week 24

If the bookies have Credex odds-on for the title, they're much less certain about second place. Nat West are still in the running and, like Castaways, need every set they can muster. This week they faced Outcasts who made life easier for them by fielding two players. The outcome was a rather one-sided procession of wins for Nat West and a 10-0 score line. The nine singles sets concluded three straight and the only fight was the doubles that Nat West eventually won 11-8 in the fifth. For comparison with Credex's show of dominance in Week 23, in this match, just six sets out of the 23 sets played ended closer than 11-7. Next result involves Treasury B entertaining Joola. Rob Chambers was Joola's star, winning three but having to fight off a huge challenge from David Shore that ended 13-11 to Rob in the fifth. Rob got good back-up from Duncan Brown and Terese Johansson, both winning two. The result – 8-2 to Joola - pushes them into fourth position in the Division. Credex versus Castaways followed that – probably the most significant match of the season. The first half match ended 7-3 to Castaways – it was Keld Jacksland finest hour, winning all three. In the second half fixture, for Castaways, LeMilliere replaced Andy Nash while Credex brought in Adewale and Persaud. The result was 10-0 to Credex! I couldn't see Castaways winning the match given the players involved but 10-0?!? And, even more surprising was the manner of the win, Credex won six singles sets three straight, one went to four ends and, to be honest, there were only two close contests: Perry Fung having his usual dual with LeMilliere but winning 11-8 in the fifth and Pete Harris losing 11-5 in the fifth to Laikram Persaud. I don't know what happened but on the night Credex were far superior. You have to feel sorry for Castaways. In three weeks, they've gone from title contenders to may be not even finishing second. It's a funny old game! But hats off to Credex who, beyond any doubt, proved they are strongest team in the Division. Finally, PRO play host to Employment. These teams sit next to each other in the table so a close match was in prospect. PRO started well, taking the first two sets. The third set saw Jai Persaud facing Chris McKee and with Jai winning the first two ends the set seemed to be moving to the inevitable conclusion. Chris takes the third end and we get to deuce in the fourth end before Chris edges it 12-10. We've seen so many "come from behind" wins this season and here was another – Chris taking the final end comfortably by 11-5. That marked a comeback by Employment and the match score quickly moved from 3-1 to PRO to 4-3 to Employment. In that revival Chris had a good win over John Crawford. Unfortunately, things stopped there for Employment as PRO won the remaining three sets to record a 6-4 victory. Chris winning all three and Richard Mak beating Persaud were Employment's four successes. Good match!

RICHARD CAMPBELL
DIVISIONAL SECRETARY

Issued: 14/03/2016

AVERAGES (Qualification: ≥ 19 sets played)

Player	Team	Sets Won	Sets Played	Average (%)
P. Fung	CREDEX	36	42	85.7
Samuels	NAT WEST	37	44	84.1
Persaud	CREDEX	27	33	81.8
Harris	CASTAWAYS	34	42	81.0
Herbert	NAT WEST	23	29	79.3
Catt	NAT WEST	23	30	76.7
D. Fung	CREDEX	16	21	76.2
Fagan	COMETS	33	45	73.3
Nash	CASTAWAYS	22	30	73.3
Wong	TREASURY A	26	36	72.2
Bekele	JOOLA	19	28	67.9
LeMilliere	CASTAWAYS	18	27	66.7
Persaud	PRO	16	24	66.7
Jakslund	CASTAWAYS	15	24	62.5
Jones	NAT WEST	17	29	58.6
Blyuss	JOOLA	12	22	54.5
McKee	EMPLOYMENT	19	35	54.3
Chambers	JOOLA	13	24	54.2
Crawford	PRO	21	39	53.8
Baylis	EMPLOYMENT	18	35	51.4
Turner	PRO	21	42	50.0
Giuffrida	TREASURY A	16	33	48.5
Shore	TREASURY B	15	32	46.9
Codrington	COMETS	12	27	44.4
Jones	TREASURY A	19	45	42.2
Mak	EMPLOYMENT	15	39	38.5
Loveder	TREASURY A	8	21	38.1
Dight	TREASURY B	11	37	29.7
Jameson	OUTCASTS	10	38	26.3
Roulier	OUTCASTS	7	30	23.3
Johansson	JOOLA	3	23	13.0
Buck	PRO	1	27	3.7