

LONDON BANKS AND CIVIL SERVICE TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE BULLETIN 20

AS AT 8 MARCH 2020

	P	W	D	F	A	B	P
MORPETH A	18	14	3	139	41	54	193
CASTAWAYS	18	14	4	134	46	54	188
COMETS	17	14	1	137	33	51	188
NAT WEST	19	12	3	114	76	54	168
EMPLOYMENT	18	10	0	98	82	54	152
MORPETH C	19	7	3	93	97	57	150
GOOD KARMA	18	5	2	80	100	54	134
SPARTA	18	4	2	56	124	54	110
PRO	17	3	0	44	126	51	95
TREASURY B	17	3	1	44	126	51	95
OUTCASTS	17	2	1	41	129	51	92

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

THINGS TO NOTE

- ✓ Individual match details can be found on the website
https://www.tabletennis365.com/LondonBanksAndCivilService/Fixtures/Season_2019-2020/Division_One

COMMENTARY

Week 23

First result this week involves Sparta versus Karma – a match Karma won 8-2 in the first half. Things looked to repeat in the first set as Ben Link took the first two ends off Steve Hattrill. Steve fought back to force the set into a deciding end, winning the third and fourth ends 11-8. Looking at the huge disparity between the players' averages you'd have to put your money on Ben but it was Steve who came home first, winning by another 11-8 scoreline. Brilliant start for Sparta! Dave Evans won the next set to give Sparta a 2-0 lead but Karma struck back with newcomer John Faldo defeating Peter Tokely. The next set pitted Evans against Ben Link and what a ding-dong it turned out to be! Evans is ahead after three ends and probably should have won it in the fourth but Ben held on to take the end 14-12. Final end and it's close but it's Evans who sneaks home in front 11-8 after 101 points. Hattrill went on to beat George Sanders and Faldo to register his second maximum of the season. Dave Evans also clocked up his second maximum to take the score to 6-3 to Sparta. Karma had the last laugh winning the doubles easily but a 4-6 loss made quite a contrast with the first half win. Well played Sparta!

Treasury played Morpeth C in what turned out to be a one-sided affair. It ended 9-1 to Morpeth. Treasury fielded Tony Dight who narrowly lost to Max Shilo 11-6 in the fifth but logged up Treasury's sole victory, beating Clark Nicholls 11-8 in the fifth. For Morpeth, Shilo and Bulvicius won all three. Treasury are running out of time to avoid the drop while Morpeth are going from strength to strength. That's four games on the trot undefeated – 63 points had been gained by this stage in the first half while 79 points have come from the same fixtures in the second half.

After last week's slip-up by Castaways against Outcasts would the same thing happen in this week's match with Comets? The short answer is a resounding "no" as Comets crushed Outcasts 10-0. There were some glimmers of hope for Outcasts. Alan Jones took the first two ends off Ronnie Turner but hopes were quickly dashed as Ronnie won the next three ends with ease. Ronnie was also in trouble against Simon Jameson. He led after three ends but Simon played an inspirational fourth end for a runaway 11-3 win. Might that momentum carry through to the fifth? It was close but Ronnie managed to edge ahead for a 11-7 in the fifth victory. For Comets, Laikram Persaud looked invincible conceding 35 points all night.

The big match of the week was Castaways against Morpeth A. This was a see-saw match that first went Morpeth's way only for Castaways to claw it back. You can read Neil LeMilliere's account [here](#). The outcome was an honourable draw. Morpeth's five wins came from a maximum by Alex Luk, Bekele beating LeMilliere and Chambers defeating Bispham 12-10 in the fifth. Chambers also had a narrow near-miss against Harris, losing 11-9 in the fifth. Alex Luk's unbeaten streak extends to 39 wins and Castaways remain unbeaten in their last 26 matches. This became the fifth match this season where all six players won at least one set. From memory, I think that's an usually high number. A good match but a result that probably benefitted Comets more than either of the other title contenders.

Last match of the week sees struggling PRO play Nat West. There have not been many nights this season when PRO players could go home with a smile on their faces but I think they could this night. The result was 7-3 to Nat West so, first triumph for PRO, they improved on their first half result. This was a match much affected by styles and order. Adam Johnson appeared for Nat West having not played much this season but he's usually capable of walking through three wins. Well, he lived up to that but had to struggle against Crawford (four ends) and Jai Persaud (11-6 in the fifth). Andrew Muller is having a good season and he beat Crawford and Persaud but lost to the style that is Ian Buchanan. Les Samuels is not having the best of seasons – I'll never forget his heroics of the 2015-16 season – and he won one, losing to Crawford and Persaud (11-9 in the fifth, good win Jai). PRO lost a hotly contested doubles 11-7 in the fifth. A good effort! For the seventh time this season all three players won at least one set. Odd how this is happening so frequently this season. PRO may yet escape relegation.

Biggest match of the season next week as Morpeth A go up against Comets. A win for Comets probably spells the end of the title race. A win for Morpeth leaves the race open but only a huge win will be enough to make them favourites. I'm making no predictions. It all depends on who's available to play.

The relegation situation should also become clearer as Treasury B face Sparta and PRO are against Outcasts. Things are coming to a head!

RICHARD CAMPBELL
DIVISIONAL SECRETARY

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AVERAGES (Qualification: ≥19 sets played)

Player	Team	Sets Won	Sets Played	Average (%)
Fung	COMETS	31	32	96.9
Harris	CASTAWAYS	42	45	93.3
Persaud	COMETS	33	36	91.7
Ji	MORPETH A	31	35	88.6
Penrose	NAT WEST	20	23	87.0
Bekele	MORPETH A	27	32	84.4
Chambers	MORPETH A	27	34	79.4
Francis	COMETS	21	30	70.0
Herbert	NAT WEST	25	36	69.4
LeMilliere	CASTAWAYS	35	51	68.6
Link	GOOD KARMA	14	21	66.7
Catt	NAT WEST	16	24	66.7
Bispham	CASTAWAYS	21	33	63.6
Greenberg	GOOD KARMA	13	22	59.1
McKee	EMPLOYMENT	19	33	57.6
Baylis	EMPLOYMENT	23	40	57.5
Evans	SPARTA	17	30	56.7
Muller	NAT WEST	13	23	56.5

Coull	OUTCASTS	13	24	54.2
Robertson	MORPETH C	16	30	53.3
Alnak	MORPETH C	15	30	50.0
Dight	TREASURY B	12	24	50.0
Sanders	GOOD KARMA	13	27	48.1
Jermyn	EMPLOYMENT	9	19	47.4
Crawford	PRO	19	41	46.3
Guimichev	TREASURY B	11	24	45.8
Shilo	MORPETH C	15	33	45.5
Bulvicius	MORPETH C	12	27	44.4
Nicholls	MORPETH C	14	33	42.4
Loveder	SPARTA	11	26	42.3
Mak	EMPLOYMENT	10	25	40.0
Jameson	OUTCASTS	12	33	36.4
Jones	NAT WEST	14	39	35.9
Tokely	SPARTA	15	51	29.4
Hattrill	SPARTA	8	33	24.2
Roullier	OUTCASTS	5	24	20.8
Persaud	PRO	7	35	20.0
Buck	PRO	6	33	18.2
Buchanan	PRO	6	35	17.1
Zhao	GOOD KARMA	4	25	16.0
Macalister	OUTCASTS	4	30	13.3
Johansson	GOOD KARMA	1	20	5.0
Gittens	TREASURY B	1	27	3.7
Shavila	TREASURY B	1	33	3.0