

LONDON BANKS AND CIVIL SERVICE TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE BULLETIN 2

AS AT 13 OCTOBER 2019

	P	W	D	F	A	B	P
CASTAWAYS	2	2	0	19	1	6	25
COMETS	2	2	0	17	3	6	23
PRO	2	2	0	17	3	6	23
NAT WEST	2	2	0	16	4	6	22
EMPLOYMENT	2	1	0	9	11	6	15
GOOD KARMA	2	0	0	6	14	6	12
MORPETH A	1	1	0	8	2	3	11
MORPETH C	2	0	0	5	15	6	11
TREASURY B	2	0	0	2	18	6	8
SPARTA	2	0	0	1	19	6	7
OUTCASTS	1	0	0	0	10	3	3

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_2019-2020/Division_One

COMMENTARY

Week 2

Begins with champions Castaways taking on new boys Morpeth C. The first surprise was that Morpeth's team contained no one who played in their Week One team! None of Morpeth's team were familiar to me but the first round of sets showed they are a force to be reckoned with. Up first was Max Shilo against Peter Harris. Max rattled off the first two ends and Harris looked in all sorts of trouble. Peter pulled out all his experience to level at two ends all but found himself down again in the final end. Peter faced a hatful of match points but saved them all before taking the set 14-12 in the fifth. Some very relieved Castaways faces! Set two involved Johnny Bispham and Morpeth's Mo Abou-Rayyah. This proved to be an even closer contest than the first set. The ends went 1-0 to Mo, then 1-1, then 2-1 to Mo and then 2-2. Mo eased in front in the fifth but Johnny hauled him back and edged in front to win the set 11-8. If that wasn't enough drama set three saw Morpeth's Matthew Robinson hold a match point against Neil LeMilliere only to be denied, losing 12-10 in the fifth. Morpeth could have been 3-0 up but found themselves 3-0 down. Cruel world! Perhaps that took the sting out of Morpeth because most of the subsequent sets proved to be comfortable wins for Castaways. The exceptions were Robertson beating Bispham three straight and Shilo also almost beating Bispham but losing 11-5 in the fifth. The final match score was 9-1 to Castaways who generously conceded that a 6-4 win would have been a fairer result. Four sets went to five ends and Morpeth lost all of them! Impressive dogged performance from Castaways – the stuff of champions! Sparta don't have a big squad but they can be counted on always to field three players. I was surprised therefore to see they only had two players against Comets. Comets had their new look team out – Fung, Codrington and Ronnie Turner. They faced Dave Evans and Steve Hattrill. Perry Fung looked a class above winning his two sets three straight. Steve Hattrill took an end off Codrington and Turner but they were both too strong. The averages say Dave Evans ought to win two but Turner and Codrington don't go down easily. The set against Turner started like a close contest was in prospect but at one end all something changed and Dave won the next two ends comfortably, conceding just ten points. The final singles set saw Steve ahead by two ends to one only for Dave to level the match. I thought we were heading for a deuce final end but Steve found another gear and took the end 11-6. That's a good win for Steve. It doesn't qualify as an upset win but it's a good scalp to take this early in the season. That made it 9-1 to Comets, their second win and Sparta's second loss. Next comes PRO versus Treasury B, a match I predicted would end in a draw. How wrong I was! PRO ran away with it, winning

10-0. Jai Persaud kept up his early form winning all his sets three straight. John Crawford dropped one end in gaining his maximum, to Bryan Gittens. The closest sets involved George Buck, who beat Gittens and Okai in five ends and Joe Shavilla in four. The confounding factor is that Treasury B had three players with averages in excess of 80% in gaining promotion from Division Two but none of those players have appeared so far this season!! Life's tough for promoted teams as evidenced by Outcasts' opening match in the top Division. The opponents were Nat West – one of the four strongest teams in this division – so an uphill task for the promotees. The match began with a straightforward three straight win for Chris Herbert over Eddie Roullier. Next up was Andrew Macalister against Chris Penrose. Now Andrew is on a 28 set winning streak carried over from last season but Chris is among the best five players in this Division. The set ended three straight in Chris's favour but to Andrew's credit two of those three ends were mighty close. Set three was the best of the night and things were looking good for Outcasts' Simon Jameson as he gets the better of the first three ends played against Gareth Jones. The fourth end was nip and tuck but Gareth stole the set with a narrow 11-9 victory. The final end and there's nothing between the two players but it's Gareth that comes home in front, again by 11-9. A long set in which four of the five ends played finished 11-9! It was one of those nights for Simon as he also got close to Chris Herbert but suffered another heart-breaking loss, 11-6 in the fifth. The doubles went the distance but it was noticeable that every end Outcasts won was close while every end Nat West won was one sided. 10-0 to Nat West but not without some glimmers of hope for Outcasts. Last match of the week sees Employment visit Good Karma. No one who played in this fixture played in Week One – I've never known that happen before. First set of the night was a real cracker! Employment's Lew Hodges went two ends to one up on Ben Link only for Link to take the fourth end and, narrowly, the fifth end too. Ninety points played, concluded at 11-9 in the fifth. Next up for Employment was Jason Killip, an old teammate of mine from decades ago. Jason faced Benjit Dhesi and made quick work of it, three straight. The next set saw Employment's Anita Jermyn take on Terese Johansson who played for Morpeth last season. This was a real battle. Jermyn won the first two ends, both at deuce. Johansson won the next two ends and the set is level. The fifth end went on and on, and it was Anita Jermyn who came out on top 12-10 in the fifth. Bad luck Terese! 106 points played, the longest set of the season to date. If that was close, the next set was even closer. Lew Hodges and Benjit Dhesi shared the first four ends before embarking on the longest end of the season so far, finishing at 16-14 to Lew. A modest 105 points played in that set! After the drama of the first four sets, things settled down and Employment took four of the next five singles sets, the exception was a three straight win for Ben Link over Jermyn. It was a late night when the doubles also went to five ends and the victors were Karma in a good against-the-odds performance. The final score was 7-3 to Employment: three for Killip and two each for Hodges and Jermyn against two wins for Ben Link plus the doubles for Karma.

An odd week where team compositions varied significantly from Week One. We have had ten fixtures so far and an extraordinary 48 different players have appeared. Gone are the days when you picked the same team every week! It's early days but Castaways have started strongly in their attempt to retain the title. Morpeth C and Karma are proving to be interesting new additions, capable of upsetting the best. Next week it gets interesting as Castaways face Comets and Morpeth A face Nat West. Lots of scope for things to go wrong there! Employment and Morpeth C start favourites against Treasury B and Outcasts respectively. And can PRO maintain their perfect record against winless Sparta?!

**RICHARD CAMPBELL
DIVISIONAL SECRETARY**

Issued: 13/10/2019

AVERAGES (Qualification: ≥xx sets played)

Player	Team	Sets Won	Sets Played	Average (%)
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I will let things settle down a little and produce averages starting in Week Three.