

	P	W	D	F	A	B	P
CREDEX	22	21	0	196	24	66	262
STEPNEY GREEN A	22	17	2	166	54	66	232
CASTAWAYS	22	18	0	163	57	63	226
TREASURY A	22	17	2	155	65	66	221
NAT WEST	22	12	3	130	90	60	190
PRO	22	11	1	107	113	66	173
STEPNEY GREEN B	22	8	0	99	121	63	162
EMPLOYMENT	22	4	4	77	143	60	137
TREASURY B	22	6	1	73	147	63	136
OUTCASTS	22	7	0	72	148	63	135
BTB	22	4	1	54	166	66	120
BIS	22	0	0	28	192	66	94

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

THINGS TO NOTE

- End of season review
- AGM on Friday 22 May at the Civil Service Club.

COMMENTARY

The season ends as expected with Credex crowned champions. No one could deny they were the best team in the Division and only Stepney A could have given them a run for their money by fielding their best players every week. As it was, Stepney inflicted the single defeat on Credex, back in November. Otherwise it was a string of 10-0 and 9-1 victories. Such was their dominance that out of 22 matches played, in only three matches did the opposition win more than one set. And which club gets the distinction of taking most sets off Credex? That's PRO and strangely enough they did it in a match when they fielded just two players in a 7-3 loss! In Adeoye Adewale they had the best regular played in the Division, contesting 24 sets without defeat. Only two players took him to a fifth end: Nat West's Chris Herbert (losing 11-7 in the fifth) and, closest of all, Castaways' Colin Pellowe (losing 11-9 in the fifth after 103 points!). The team had strength in depth. Lukasz Lewandowski posted 18 wins and no losses. Laikram Persaud put in his usual consistent performance to take third spot in the averages. Alongside Laikram, Anton Wu forms the backbone of the team (finishing fourth in the averages). Perhaps the best news of the season is that Perry Fung is back playing again after a serious illness. In Credex's 8-2 defeat of Castaways, Adewale was untouchable, dropping a single end (to Pete Harris). Lewandowski looked more vulnerable but still scored a maximum after Harris had taken him to 11-9 in the fifth. Fung lost in five to Harris, in four to LeMilliere, but hung in against Andy Nash for an 11-8 in the fifth win (101 points in that set). Well done Credex!

Stepney A just edged out Castaways for second place. That's been an intriguing rivalry all season with Stepney having the edge of late but only in the last two matches did they put some daylight between themselves and Castaways. Stepney have a big squad. The cornerstone is Ian Buchanan, appearing in 16 matches this season. If you discount their "stars", then the big success of the season was Petko Guimichev finishing top of the averages with just three losses in 12 outings. Close behind was Carsten Hovestadt who went 12 straight singles without defeat before losing to Wong and Ruzbeh Bacha, who was awarded "Player of the Match" more times than any other Stepney player. Nat West lost 9-1 to Stepney in a match that was closer than it looked. Chris Herbert beat Bacha in a four set thriller when there were never more than a couple of points between the two players. Next set, Mike Hughes pushed Guimichev all the way to an 11-7 in the fifth loss. Set of the match was Guimichev against Herbert that Petko won 11-8 in the fifth. Stepney A versus their B team proved to be interesting when the B team's Reuben Albert beat both Hovestadt (!) and Miah before losing in a 103 point nail-biter to Bacha, finishing at 13-11 in the fifth.

Castaways might have fancied themselves for second spot at the start of the season but have had more than their fair share of injuries and player availability issues. I must pay tribute to Pete Harris for another stellar season. He's a player that rarely loses a match that he should win on paper. One slight chink in the armour this season: the 11-9 in the fifth loss to Nat West's Adam Johnson reported in the last Bulletin. Nine "Player of the Match" awards this season, the highest of any player in the Division. Neil LeMilliere also had a strong season and improved his average slightly over last year. He also accomplished something rarely seen nowadays – he played in every possible fixture, all 22 matches! Behind Pete and Neil was a variety of number threes, but getting Andy Nash back towards the end of the season really helped. Fifteen sets played and 13 sets won shows Andy's ability. Nice win over Paul Baylis this period to add to earlier wins over Wong and Johnson. In one of those weird statistical quirks, Castaways scored exactly the same number of points in the current season as they did in the previous season!

Treasury have laid claim to fourth spot and that's where they finish again. If anything, they edged a bit closer to Castaways this season. Winston Wong remains their star and rises to second place in the averages. That takes some doing when you're exposed almost every week, playing 18 out of 22 possible matches. Whereas last season Winston's back-up came from Mike Loveder and Trevor Campbell, this year it was Jeremy Jones and new name Robin Huguenot-Noel who appeared most often. Both ended with creditable 60%+ averages. In this last period, Mike Loveder had a ding-dong battle with Treasury B's David Shore – a clash of old rivals – emerging the victor at 13-11 in the fifth. Treasury A had an interesting contest with Nat West that ended with honours even. Treasury were 5-3 down but clawed back to draw. Loveder opened the night with a spectacular win over Tony Catt (82% average last season!). Later it was a three-straight defeat for Chris Herbert (usually a much closer game). But sandwiched between that, somewhat inexplicably, Mike lost to Gareth Jones for the first time ever. It's a funny old game!

That a draw ensued in that match reflects the fact the two clubs are quite closely matched, Nat West finishing just behind Treasury in fifth spot. Nat West probably had a better first half than second half. Ninety-nine points at Xmas became 190 points at season end. Gareth Jones played every match bar one. Last season's nightmares with fielding a full team went away this year with Jones, Herbert and Hughes being the regular threesome. Gareth scored a maximum in the 8-2 defeat of PRO. The night was not without upsets. Jai Persaud beat Catt in a massive 113 points game that ended 14-12 in the fifth. Gareth dismissed John Crawford with surprising ease yet John put up stern resistance against Catt before being edged out 15-13 in the fifth (having had match points). Chris Herbert managed to play much more this season and ended with a 72% average. Chris is one of those players I feel is always capable of a surprise win. The Loveder loss mentioned in the previous paragraph and a loss to John Crawford in the previous bulletin are Chris's only losses to players beneath him in the averages. Mike Hughes posted a solid 50% average – exactly the same as in 2013-14 – but had some eye-catching near misses with fifth-end losses to Dight, Nash, LeMilliere, Coull and Guimichev.

PRO come next (as usual). Again, a slightly better first half than second half. PEO were this year's team with player availability problems and rarely fielded three players in January and February. Despite being injured, John Crawford turned his 43% average from last season to an impressive 66% this season. Jai Persaud and Ronnie Turner were close behind him with averages of around 60%. Ronnie ended the season strongly winning 12 of his last 15 singles. Almost like the old days! It was probably a reflection of their whole season that in their last match once again they had just two players. Fortunately that was more than enough for BIS who went down 7-3. Crawford strolled through the night but Jai Persaud was taken to a deciding end by both Okonweze and Jevons. I think that, player availability problems aside, PRO can be content with this season.

Stepney B started slowly and by Week 4 I thought they might struggle to stay up. Instead it was the classic season of two halves. Sixty six points from 10 matches at Xmas and ninety-six points from 12 matches thereafter. Some improvement! This is a team where everyone is of similar standard. Hell and Giuffrida played almost every match with a rotating number three. They ended with almost identical averages of 50%. Perhaps their most interesting player was Reuben Albert who suddenly became unplayable against Treasury A and Stepney A and, from humble beginnings, ended with a 57% average but just not quite playing enough to qualify for the averages. I suppose Stepney could say it was a season in which they won every match they should have won and lost every match they should have lost.

The next three teams – Employment, Treasury B and Outcasts – finished neck and neck with just three points separating them. In another strange quirk, the team that finished highest among them (Employment) won the fewest matches and the team that finished lowest (Outcasts) won the most matches! The explanation is that Employment are the Division's draw specialists. For Employment, Baylis and Mak finished with about the same averages as last season but Anita Jermyn's average definitely improved (remember that two out of three against PRO?). Paul Baylis is their match winner. He always seems to start the season strongly but then fades a bit as it progresses. Paul didn't play against BTB but Richard Mak stepped up with a strong maximum, dropping one end all night. Jermyn contributed a key win over Waterhouse but it wasn't enough to stop BTB running out winners by 6-4.

I'm surprised Treasury B didn't finish a bit higher. In Tony Dight they have another of the Division's "upset" players. Tony's 37% average in 2013-14 became an impressive 68% in 2014-15. That was from 16 matches played and so therefore no fluke. Another big scalp for Tony in this period as he beat Baylis three straight in the draw with Employment. David Shore had a battle royal with Jermyn and squeaked home at 11 in the fifth. Treasury went 3-2 down when David pulled off an excellent three-straight win over Mak. That was followed by another titanic clash as Anita Jermyn beat Colgan 12-10 in the fifth. Next set, Shore found himself two ends up on Baylis. Another upset on the cards? Unfortunately that proved a huge wake-up call for Paul who won the next three ends conceding just 11 points. Employment went 5-3 up but that was pulled back to leave the doubles to decide the match. What a set it was! Neither pair could open any daylight on their opponents and a deciding end was needed. That set just went on and on and concluded at 16-14 in the fifth. After 110 points – one of the longest sets of the season – Embanked emerged victorious and claimed the draw. Good match!

Outcasts scored more points this season than last but ended one place lower in the table. In Bob Coull they too have an "upset" player, registering 76% from seven appearances. Against BIS, he breezed to a maximum dropping a single end. With Roullier and Jameson as back up, this was Outcasts' strongest team and they took the match 8-2. BIS's Dan Jevons had a topsy-turvy night losing 13-11 in the fifth to Jameson but beating Roullier by exactly the same score. Long end in that match between Jameson and Gazheli that ended 18-16 in Simon's favour. Outcast's final match against BTB was a bit of an anti-climax when BTB's Ross Roberts retired hurt for the night in the first set. Outcasts took full advantage and dispatched BTB 9-1.

Finally, BIS and BTB were demoted. BIS, in particular, had a tough season and ended without a win. It's a clear indication of the difference in strength between the Divisions. It's hard losing matches most weeks so I take my hat off to both of them for fulfilling every fixture and, in BIS's case, always with three players. I say well done!

Another season over. Thanks to all those who make compiling these bulletins easier by drawing my attention to match highlights. Every season it just seems to get harder for the League to continue. Let's hope we can find a way to continue into 2015-16!

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AVERAGES (Qualification: ≥ 26 sets played)

Player	Club	Sets Won	Sets Played	Average (%)
Guimichev	STEPNEY GREEN A	30	33	90.9
Wong	TREASURY A	47	53	88.7
Persaud	CREDEX	37	42	88.1
Wu	CREDEX	41	49	83.7
Harris	CASTAWAYS	40	49	81.6
Hovestadt	STEPNEY GREEN A	22	27	81.5
Fung	CREDEX	21	27	77.8
LeMilliere	CASTAWAYS	48	63	76.2
Bacha	STEPNEY GREEN A	19	26	73.1
Herbert	NAT WEST	32	44	72.7
Huguenot-Noel	TREASURY A	30	43	69.8
Baylis	EMPLOYMENT	33	48	68.8
Dight	TREASURY B	32	47	68.1
Crawford	PRO	26	39	66.7
Jones	TREASURY A	22	35	62.9
Miah	STEPNEY GREEN A	18	29	62.1
Buchanan	STEPNEY GREEN A	27	44	61.4
Turner	PRO	24	41	58.5
Persaud	PRO	28	48	58.3
Loveder	TREASURY A	18	32	56.3
Jones	NAT WEST	33	62	53.2
Jameson	OUTCASTS	20	40	50.0
Hughes	NAT WEST	15	30	50.0
Hell	STEPNEY GREEN B	25	51	49.0
Giuffrida	STEPNEY GREEN B	27	58	46.6
Ilett	BTB	11	26	42.3
Mak	EMPLOYMENT	23	57	40.4
Jermyn	EMPLOYMENT	10	27	37.0
Colgan	TREASURY B	9	26	34.6
Shore	TREASURY B	12	38	31.6
Roulier	OUTCASTS	12	43	27.9
Buck	PRO	9	38	23.7
Roberts	BTB	8	42	19.0
Waterhouse	BTB	8	44	18.2
Jevons	BIS	8	46	17.4
Miller	BIS	5	30	16.7
Xavier	BTB	6	42	14.3
Jones	OUTCASTS	4	29	13.8
O'Leary	OUTCASTS	6	47	12.8
Okai	TREASURY B	4	44	9.1
Gittens	TREASURY B	3	37	8.1
Goodman	BIS	3	47	6.4
Dos Santos	EMPLOYMENT	2	36	5.6
Gazheli	BIS	1	46	2.2