

LONDON BANKS AND CIVIL SERVICE TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE BULLETIN 10

AS AT 10 DECEMBER 2016

	P	W	D	F	A	B	P
CASTAWAYS	9	8	0	77	13	27	104
CREDEX	9	8	0	77	13	27	104
NAT WEST	9	7	1	63	27	27	90
TREASURY A	9	6	0	56	34	27	83
MORPETH	9	5	0	53	37	27	80
PRO	10	3	2	43	57	30	73
COMETS	9	5	0	44	46	24	68
EMPLOYMENT	8	2	1	30	50	24	54
BTB	9	0	0	17	73	27	44
TREASURY B	8	2	0	19	61	24	43
SEDCOPIANS	9	1	0	11	79	27	38

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

THINGS TO NOTE

- None

COMMENTARY

Week 11

Opening match of the week and it's Nat West versus BTB and the first time this season that we have a two players versus two players game. In the event, Nat West won all the singles sets but Gareth Jones came up against strong resistance from Ross Roberts before winning in four. Best sets of the night were the two doubles, which were carbon copies of each other, both going to four ends and both ending with Nat West victorious. Despite fielding only two players Nat West emerged with the best result possible. If I had to pick the team in this Division with the most interesting matches I'd choose Morpeth. They followed up last week's cracker of a game against Nat West with another nail biter – this time against their rivals for fourth place, Treasury A. The tone of the night was evident from the first set when Giovanni Giuffrida and Oleg Blyus played 94 points over five close ends before Oleg emerged the victor. Two sets later and Winston Wong – still suffering from the previous night's Xmas party – found himself locked in a titanic struggle against Rob Chambers. This time it needed 101 points to find a winner and that winner was Rob, putting a big dent in Winston's perfect record. Good win! Set four and Jeremy Jones races away with the first two ends against Blyuss. Oleg then fought his way back into the set, winning the third and fourth ends. It was nip and tuck in the final end but it was Oleg who came out on top, winning 11-9 and making the match score 4-0 to Morpeth. Set five was another five-ender and another come from behind win. This time it was Rob Chambers winning the first two ends only to go down in five to Giuffrida, Rob having come within a whisker of winning the set in a fourth end marathon that concluded at 13-11. At this point we had played five sets and four of them required all five ends. We still had the potential set of the night to enjoy as Wong faced Bekele. Winston takes the first end but more drama is to come as Samson, playing with an injured shoulder, is in too much pain to carry on and takes no further part in the night's events. Shame! The next two sets also went to five ends, Jones losing to Chambers and Wong narrowly beating Blyuss. That set was the longest of the night at 104 points after Oleg had nearly won it three straight. Treasury A had pulled the match back to 4-5 going into the doubles and the first three ends suggested another close contest was in prospect. Yet inexplicably, at two ends to one down, the wheels well and truly came off the Giuffrida/Wong bus and they lost the fourth end and the set 11-2. Six of the seven singles sets contested that night went to a deciding end. Morpeth win it 6-4 and that with Bekele completing just one set. Some contest and another great team performance! Could PRO pinch sets off Castaways in the next match of this week? Castaways are at full strength but no John Crawford for PRO and the prospect of sets being pinched diminishes. First set sees Ronnie Turner take on Neil LeMilliere. Now Neil's playing average is some 40 percentage points better than Ronnie's but, remember, two weeks ago, it was Ronnie

who removed Steve Fagan's 100% record. Ronnie wins the first end but Neil wins the next two. "Come from behind" has been a theme of this week and it was to be repeated here as Ronnie took the fourth end 11-8 and the final end 11-7. One set pinched! Things were not looking good for Castaways as, in set two, Pete Harris had his hands full against Jai Persaud, Jai coming from two ends down to level the contest at two ends each. We're in the fifth end and is another upset on the cards? Pete Harris decides "no" and runs away with the final end 11-4. After that it was one-way traffic with Castaways winning all the subsequent sets to give a match result of 9-1. Final match of the week is Credex against Old Seds. The outcome was as expected – 10-0 to Credex. For Seds, Rod Fitzgerald stretched Perry Fung to four ends and Dave Moles, making his first appearance of the season, also took an end off Nelson but it was an uphill struggle for Seds.

So we go into the last week of the half with the top two teams inseparable, having identical playing records. Both have lost just one match – to Nat West in both cases. Both are coming off long winning streaks so something is going to have to give. I've never known the title race so close at this stage. It's all on Wednesday's match at Treasury between the top two. At the bottom, all three relegation candidates face difficult fixtures but Old Seds will be hoping to make up ground on their rivals. With Winston Wong's defeat by Rob Chambers, no one qualifying for the averages has a 100% perfect record. It's very close at the top of the averages with nine players posting averages in excess of 80% but everyone is beating everyone and no single player is on a long unbeaten streak.

RICHARD CAMPBELL
DIVISIONAL SECRETARY

Issued: 11/12/2016

AVERAGES (Qualification: ≥ 11 sets played)

Player	Team	Sets Won	Sets Played	Average (%)
Wong	TREASURY A	13	14	92.9
Herbert	NAT WEST	11	12	91.7
P Fung	CREDEX	19	21	90.5
Fagan	COMETS	18	20	90.0
Harris	CASTAWAYS	18	20	90.0
Nash	CASTAWAYS	13	15	86.7
LeMilliere	CASTAWAYS	17	20	85.0
Nelson	CREDEX	13	16	81.3
Guimichev	TREASURY A	12	15	80.0
Crawford	PRO	19	26	73.1
Samuels	NAT WEST	17	24	70.8
Bekele	MORPETH	14	20	70.0
Chambers	MORPETH	8	12	66.7
McKee	EMPLOYMENT	8	12	66.7
Jones	NAT WEST	11	17	64.7
Wu	CREDEX	7	12	58.3
Blyuss	MORPETH	11	19	57.9
Codrington	COMETS	12	21	57.1
Jermyn	EMPLOYMENT	8	15	53.3
Jones	TREASURY A	10	21	47.6
Giuffrida	TREASURY A	8	17	47.1
Turner	PRO	8	18	44.4
Dight	TREASURY B	5	12	41.7
Mak	EMPLOYMENT	8	21	38.1
Shore	TREASURY B	8	21	38.1
Persaud	PRO	6	18	33.3
Buck	PRO	6	21	28.6
Waterhouse	BTB	6	23	26.1
Sinarain	COMETS	3	12	25.0
Fitzgerald	SEDCOPIANS	4	18	22.2
Mason	SEDCOPIANS	3	15	20.0
Xavier	BTB	4	22	18.2
Lavis	SEDCOPIANS	2	15	13.3
Okai	TREASURY B	2	15	13.3
Gittens	TREASURY B	2	18	11.1
Roberts	BTB	2	22	9.1