

LONDON BANKS AND CIVIL SERVICE TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE BULLETIN 2

AS AT 14 OCTOBER 2018

| | P | W | D | F | A | B | P |
|------------|---|---|---|----|----|---|----|
| CASTAWAYS | 2 | 2 | 0 | 19 | 1 | 6 | 25 |
| PRO | 2 | 2 | 0 | 18 | 2 | 6 | 24 |
| MORPETH | 2 | 2 | 0 | 16 | 4 | 6 | 22 |
| COMETS | 2 | 1 | 0 | 9 | 11 | 6 | 15 |
| INSURANCE | 2 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 13 | 6 | 13 |
| TREASURY A | 1 | 1 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 3 | 13 |
| SPARTA | 2 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 13 | 6 | 13 |
| NAT WEST | 1 | 1 | 0 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 11 |
| EMPLOYMENT | 2 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 15 | 6 | 11 |
| DIT | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 19 | 6 | 7 |
| BTB | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 20 | 6 | 6 |

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_2018-2019/Division_One

COMMENTARY

Week 2

Sparta versus Morpeth is the first result of the week. Morpeth continue their policy of previous years of using a large squad. Just Duncan Brown was common to their opening two fixtures. This week Sammy Bekele and Oleg Blyuss join Duncan. Last season Sparta struggled to field three players at times so it's a wise move to bolster their squad. This week saw Michael Loveder on debut for Sparta. The old hands of this Division will remember Michael played most recently for Treasury A but it's hard to command a full time place in that team, such is its strength. My money's on Morpeth but that prediction didn't look too good as Sparta went 2-1 up with Loveder scoring a key win against Oleg Blyuss. Morpeth pulled the match score back to 3-3 but then came the match-changing set between Dave Evans and Blyuss. After three ends – two of which finished at deuce – Evans led by two ends to one. Evans has chances to win the set in the fourth end but Oleg comes home 11-9. So, it's all on the final end. If you believe match results usually follow the averages, the win should be Dave's (I don't believe they've played each other before but Dave had the superior average last year). However, Oleg proved to have no respect for averages and took the set by 11-4. That proved crucial as Sparta lost the next two sets and, from 3-3, went into the doubles 6-3 down. To end on a high note, and much against expectations, Sparta pulled off a comfortable doubles win, three straight. Very well done! Morpeth's 6-4 success owed much to Sammy Bekele who strolled through the night, dropping one end in winning all three. Sometimes you look at a result card and say: "now how did that happen?". That's how I felt when I saw the Employment versus Comets outcome. It wasn't the result that surprised – it was 7-3 to Comets – it was how it came about. First set of the night and we're already off-script as Paul Baylis beats Steve Fagan in four. That's not what the formbook says! Second set of the night and Employment newcomer Sam Burrows loses a close contest to Steve Codrington in four. Third set of the night and we're way off script as Anita Jermyn defeats Ian Francis, also in four ends. Anita's a solid 50%-ish player in this Division, but here she's beaten someone likely to achieve more than a 66% average! Set six and Anita's up two ends to one against Codrington, but they've played many times before, and Steve uses his experience to extricate himself 11-6 in the fifth. Francis then defeats Baylis in four and we're getting back to normal. Set eight pits Anita against Steve Fagan and Anita surpasses all her previous highs by winning in four. You'll need to catch Paul Baylis in the pub for a blow-by-blow account of an astonishing set – there isn't sufficient room here. So a 7-3 win for Comets with Fagan getting one, Francis getting two and Codrington getting three. The odds on that outcome must have exceeded 1000-1! Biggest news of the week is that Laikram Persaud and Perry Fung are

no longer playing for champions Treasury A. Losing players of that ability strikes a big blow to Treasury's hopes of retaining the title. But it didn't stop them whitewashing BTB this week. Three sets went into a fourth end: each of the Treasury players dropping one end. Most competitive set of the night was Treasury's newcomer Dennis Robinson against Rishi Sinarain, which Dennis won over four close ends. The opening fixtures have been cruel to BTB. Castaways now have their eyes on the title but to succeed in that you need convincing wins against the "difficult" teams – teams that on a good night might steal sets from you. Castaways came through the first of such fixtures with flying colours, beating Insurance 10-0. Ian Cranstone took an end off LeMilliere and lost 11-3 in the fifth to Phil Wroe (remember him? Last played for Castaways in November 2016). Albert Francis plugged away but taking an end off Terry McKee was all he had to show for it. Castaways starting well! Finally, PRO against DIT, which PRO won 10-0. This was closer than the score suggests with just three ends ending three straight. All three DIT players won ends but no one could get over the finishing line first. The best chance fell to Gaurav Mehta – a new name to me – who went down 13-11 in the fifth to Ian Buchanan in a long and frustrating set that required 102 points – the longest of the season thus far. Life's tough for the promoted teams in this Division.

As I suggested last week, no upset match results but plenty of unexpected individual wins. Pride of place goes to Employment's valiant efforts against Comets and Anita Jermyn's giant killing exploits. Some potentially close contests next week and none more intriguing than Castaways versus Morpeth. As I have said many times in previous seasons, this is down to whom Morpeth field on the night. If Morpeth pick their strongest team there's trouble ahead for Castaways. Unlike last season, PRO have started well but their first real test comes next week when they visit Insurance. Treasury A should be too good for Sparta but who will they be using to replace Persaud and Fung? That needs to be resolved before they face Castaways in a crunch match on 25 October.

RICHARD CAMPBELL
DIVISIONAL SECRETARY

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AVERAGES (Qualification: ≥2 sets played)

| Player | Team | Sets Won | Sets Played | Average (%) |
|---------------|-------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| LeMilliere | CASTAWAYS | 6 | 6 | 100.0 |
| McKee | CASTAWAYS | 6 | 6 | 100.0 |
| Turner | PRO | 6 | 6 | 100.0 |
| Bekele | MORPETH | 3 | 3 | 100.0 |
| Buchanan | PRO | 3 | 3 | 100.0 |
| Chambers | MORPETH | 3 | 3 | 100.0 |
| Crawford | PRO | 3 | 3 | 100.0 |
| Jones | TREASURY A | 3 | 3 | 100.0 |
| Penrose | NAT WEST | 3 | 3 | 100.0 |
| Robinson | TREASURY A | 3 | 3 | 100.0 |
| Sweeney | MORPETH | 3 | 3 | 100.0 |
| Wong | TREASURY A | 3 | 3 | 100.0 |
| Wroe | CASTAWAYS | 3 | 3 | 100.0 |
| Brown | MORPETH | 4 | 6 | 66.7 |
| Persaud | PRO | 4 | 6 | 66.7 |
| Blyuss | MORPETH | 2 | 3 | 66.7 |
| Catt | NAT WEST | 2 | 3 | 66.7 |
| Caunt | CASTAWAYS | 2 | 3 | 66.7 |
| Herbert | NAT WEST | 2 | 3 | 66.7 |
| Jermyn | EMPLOYMENT | 2 | 3 | 66.7 |
| Loveder | SPARTA | 2 | 3 | 66.7 |
| Codrington | COMETS | 3 | 6 | 50.0 |
| Evans | SPARTA | 3 | 6 | 50.0 |

| | | | | |
|-----------|------------|---|---|------|
| Francis | INSURANCE | 3 | 6 | 50.0 |
| Francis | COMETS | 3 | 6 | 50.0 |
| Baylis | EMPLOYMENT | 2 | 6 | 33.3 |
| Cranstone | INSURANCE | 2 | 6 | 33.3 |
| Fagan | COMETS | 2 | 6 | 33.3 |
| McKee | EMPLOYMENT | 1 | 3 | 33.3 |
| Miller | DIT | 1 | 3 | 33.3 |
| Tokely | SPARTA | 1 | 3 | 33.3 |
| Velinor | INSURANCE | 1 | 6 | 16.7 |