

AS AT 24 DECEMBER 2015

	P	W	D	F	A	B	P
CASTAWAYS	9	8	1	70	20	27	97
CREDEX	9	7	0	68	22	27	95
NAT WEST	9	6	1	63	27	27	90
JOOLA	9	5	1	51	39	27	78
TREASURY A	9	6	0	50	39	27	77
PRO	9	3	2	41	49	27	68
COMETS	9	2	0	37	53	27	64
EMPLOYMENT	9	2	1	30	59	27	57
TREASURY B	9	1	2	23	67	27	50
OUTCASTS	9	0	2	16	74	27	43

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

THINGS TO NOTE

- Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Second half starts w/c 4 January.

COMMENTARY

Week 11

Treasury A have been sliding down the table of late but found welcome relief in an easy match against Outcasts. Oddly, Treasury dropped the first set of the night and then reeled off nine straight wins. Outcasts lone success was Eddie Roullier beating Jeremy Jones 11-8 in the fifth. There was only one other close set, Giovanni Giuffrida just edging out Eddie 11-9 in the fifth. Treasury B registered their first win of the season beating Comets 6-4. Comets were unlucky, as Don Lopes had to retire injured after losing his first set, to David Shore, which gave Treasury two uncontested sets. For Comets, Steve Fagan lost just 53 points in nine ends to win all three. Chris Chamberlin had a frustrating night losing 11-4 in the fifth to Shore and 11-2 in the fifth to Colgan (a set that contained a 19-17 first end). Frustration was probably also Nat West's mood as they saw a 5-1 lead melt into a draw against Joola. Les Samuels and Tony Catt both beat Bekele and Gareth Jones only lost narrowly to him. The sets were played out of order and, at 5-1 down, in walked Joola's third player, Sam Do who plays his table tennis in Division 2 of the British League, who rattled of three wins, dropping a single end in the process. You have to sympathise with Nat West! The final match of the week saw title-chasing Castaways face PRO. Castaways were without Jacksland and Nash, and Neil LeMilliere was coming back from injury. If I told you eight of the singles sets ended three straight and one went to four ends what would you have predicted as the outcome? That feels one sided so, going with the formbook, my guess was 7-2 to Castaways. In fact, the result was a narrow 5-4 to Castaways, still leaving them to close out the doubles for the victory. Castaways' doubles average is 86% while PRO's is 37% yet it was PRO that won the set and secured the draw. What a strange match! I'm not going to try to better Neil LeMilliere's blow-by-blow account of the match proceedings that you can find [here](#). Despite the disappointing draw, the result was enough to move Castaways to the top of the Division, a position Credex have held since week one.

Week 12

Credex make no mistake against Outcasts in their final match of the first half. It wasn't all one-way traffic and Bob Coull took ends of Persaud and Perry Fung while Simon Jameson took an end off Django Fung but the result was a 10-0 victory for Credex. That puts Credex back at the top of the table with the Castaways result to come. Next result featured Comets versus Nat West. This is NatWest's best season for a long while and they coasted home by 8-2. The night began with Chris Herbert doing an impressive demolition job on Steve Fagan three straight, conceding a miserly 16 points in so doing. A good win! There were a few close sets. The doubles went to five ends, Les Samuels took Fagan to four ends, Lopes was in with a shout against Herbert and Jones, and Codrington took an end off Jones. Having slipped up against PRO the previous week, Castaways took no chances

in their final match of the half, against Employment, fielding arguably their strongest team. Castaways took the first three sets, the best of which was Jacksland beating Baylis in four. Set four brought Baylis back to the table against the undefeated Pat Caunt. This looked like it could have gone either way but Baylis took the honours in four close ends. After that it was one-way traffic and Castaways came home 9-1 winners. That put Castaways back at the top of the table going into the Xmas break. Final match of 2015 was the mid-table clash between Joola and Treasury A. Joola's fortunes depend on team availability as we've seen a couple of times in the first half. On this occasion it proved to be Sammy Bekele's night, scoring a maximum. All of his wins happened in four ends but none of them were easy. Outside of that, Treasury A were untroubled and won all the remaining sets for a 7-3 victory.

End half summary

The top three teams are beginning to pull away from the bunch. An interesting second half in prospect with nothing between Castaways and Credex, and Nat West breathing down their necks. Below that, Joola and Treasury A have opened a small gap on PRO and Comets. That leaves Employment, Treasury B and Outcasts in the bottom three, fighting to avoid the two relegation positions. The top three teams dominate the top ten positions in the averages, with only Steve Fagan and Winston Wong representing the rest of the Division. There is no one dominant player playing regularly in this Division as evidenced by the fact the current longest unbeaten streak is a modest nine consecutive wins without a loss, held by Chris Herbert. The doubles champs are Castaways and Nat West who each won seven out of nine in the first half.

Memories of the first half:

- ✓ Nat West beating Credex 6-4, breaking their 20 match winning streak, due to that extraordinary Les Samuels maximum
- ✓ Those never-ending ends finishing 19-17 (Caunt over Chambers, Dight over Jai Persaud, Colgan over Chamberlin)
- ✓ Rob Chambers losing so narrowly to Pat Caunt in a set that involved 112 points (that's equivalent to five ends each finishing 12-10!)
- ✓ Steve Fagan's hard-fought maximum against Castaways – three sets, 15 ends and 291 points played for the maximum!
- ✓ Tony Dight's long night against PRO, playing a record breaking 308 points in one evening
- ✓ That unfinished 6-3 match between Employment and Treasury A where very little followed the form book and Employment won by a stellar team effort
- ✓ Tony Catt's three wins against Castaways in one of the closest matches in the first half
- ✓ Paul Baylis ignoring the averages with two wins against Credex
- ✓ Castaways 7-3 defeat of Credex, which gave them the top spot at halfway, coming back from that unexpected draw with PRO (credit to PRO!)
- ✓ Bob Coull's good first half
- ✓ And, finally, Employment's unpredictability, which makes every scorecard interesting reading!

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DIVISIONAL SECRETARY

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AVERAGES (Qualification: ≥ 11 sets played)

Player	Team	Sets Won	Sets Played	Average (%)
Jacksland	CASTAWAYS	11	12	91.7
Harris	CASTAWAYS	21	24	87.5
Herbert	NAT WEST	13	15	86.7
Fagan	COMETS	22	27	81.5
P. Fung	CREDEX	19	24	79.2
D. Fung	CREDEX	14	18	77.8
Persaud	CREDEX	9	12	75.0
Samuels	NAT WEST	20	27	74.1
Catt	NAT WEST	11	15	73.3
Wong	TREASURY A	15	21	71.4
Bekele	JOOLA	14	20	70.0
Berkenkamp	CREDEX	12	18	66.7
LeMilliere	CASTAWAYS	10	15	66.7
Nash	CASTAWAYS	10	15	66.7
Persaud	PRO	8	12	66.7
Blyuss	JOOLA	7	12	58.3
Coull	OUTCASTS	7	12	58.3
Crawford	PRO	15	27	55.6
McKee	EMPLOYMENT	8	15	53.3
Shore	TREASURY B	8	15	53.3
Jones	NAT WEST	12	24	50.0
Jones	TREASURY A	12	24	50.0
Turner	PRO	12	24	50.0
Baylis	EMPLOYMENT	9	18	50.0
Giuffrida	TREASURY A	9	18	50.0
Chambers	JOOLA	7	15	46.7
Loveder	TREASURY A	5	12	41.7
Mak	EMPLOYMENT	8	21	38.1
Dight	TREASURY B	9	26	34.6
Codrington	COMETS	4	12	33.3
Roullier	OUTCASTS	6	24	25.0
Jameson	OUTCASTS	3	18	16.7
Lopes	COMETS	2	13	15.4
Johansson	JOOLA	1	12	8.3