

# LONDON BANKS AND CIVIL SERVICE TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE BULLETIN 13

AS AT 19 JANUARY 2020

	P	W	D	F	A	B	P
CASTAWAYS	12	9	3	92	28	36	128
COMETS	11	10	1	92	18	33	125
MORPETH A	11	9	1	82	28	33	115
EMPLOYMENT	12	7	0	69	51	36	105
NAT WEST	12	8	2	71	49	33	104
GOOD KARMA	12	4	1	54	66	36	90
MORPETH C	12	2	2	50	70	36	86
SPARTA	12	2	1	35	85	36	71
PRO	11	3	0	34	76	33	67
TREASURY B	11	2	1	31	79	33	64
OUTCASTS	10	1	0	20	80	30	50

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

## THINGS TO NOTE

- ✓ Individual match details can be found on the website  
[https://www.tabletennis365.com/LondonBanksAndCivilService/Fixtures/Season\\_2019-2020/Division\\_One](https://www.tabletennis365.com/LondonBanksAndCivilService/Fixtures/Season_2019-2020/Division_One)

## COMMENTARY

### Week 16

First match of the week and it's a good contest between Employment and Karma. The three opening exchanges all went in Employment's favour. The fourth set was close, Morris Greenberg coming back from two ends to one down to Chris McKee to pinch the fourth end 11-9. The deciding end was equally close and finished 11-9 to Chris. Tough luck on Morris and the score shows how close it was: he lost 9-11, 11-8, 11-9, 9-11, 11-9! The fifth set saw Employment riding their luck again. Ben Link got the better of the first three ends with Richard Mak. I thought he had the set won but Richard steamed back to take the fourth end 11-8 and the final end 11-9. The score reached 6-0 to Employment when something inexplicable happened. First, Greenberg opened Karma's account with a win over Mak. That was followed by Ben Link beating McKee in four ends by the narrowest of margins. And then, to cap it all, Terese Johannson beats Paul Baylis three straight. The score had gone from 6-0 to 6-3! Employment regained their composure to take the doubles for a 7-3 win – the first match this season where all six participants each won at least one set! Nat West seem to be struggling for players at the moment and once again had to depend on reserve Andrew Muller against Outcasts. Nat West's situation was worsened by Gareth Jones trying out a new bat and promptly losing all three. Outcasts are in with a chance here! The score moved to 4-3 in Outcasts' favour with Bob Coull winning two and Roullier and Macalister winning one each. All eyes on Andrew Muller as he takes on Eddie Roullier in set eight. Andrew starts well and wins the first two ends. Eddie rallies to take the third end but just falls short, losing the fourth end 11-5. The final singles set pitted Coull against Chris Penrose. Fifteen minutes later and we're on the verge of the season's biggest upset. Bob leads by two sets to love and is up 9-7 in the third! My memory goes back to last season when Sammy Bekele beat Ian Cranstone from 2-1 down and 4-10 in the fourth in the most extraordinary comeback I've ever seen! Well, it's déjà vu time! Somehow, Chris fights his way back to take the third end 12-10 and the fourth end 11-9. The fifth end was a test of mental strength and, you've guessed it, Penrose takes the deciding end 11-7. What a comeback! Your thoughts have to go out to Bob Coull for such a heart-breaking loss! Nat West went on to take doubles, and had come from 3-4 down to win the contest 6-4. Special mentions to Andrew Muller whose two wins were crucial to the victory. I can't imagine there was much joy and laughter in Sparta's match against Comets. Sparta felt the full force of the Comets' juggernaut in a 10-0 defeat, all three straight. Francis, Persaud and Fung would be a match for any team in this division and Sparta were simply outgunned. The record for the fewest points conceded in winning all three stands at 35 and that record was in some danger in this match! Morpeth C troubled Castaways in the first half and were probably looking forwards to doing the same in the reverse fixture. Their

first success came in set three when Adam Alnak pulled off a notable win over Terry McKee. They nearly added to that in the next set when Matt Robertson went two ends to one up on LeMilliere, only to tantalisingly lose the fourth end 12-10 and the final end 11-9. That jinx again! Morpeth weren't done yet and Alnak continued his run of form beating LeMilliere before Matt Robertson came up trumps again McKee. Castaways were 6-3 up but then managed to lose a very odd doubles. Morpeth were 2-0 in front after two fiercely competitive ends. Castaways then ran away with the next two ends 11-4 and 11-2. You have to fancy Castaways in the final end but they collapsed and lost it 11-5! A surprising loss in a fortnight that has probably seriously damaged Castaways chances of retaining the title. And so to the big one! PRO versus Treasury B in the battle to avoid relegation. There was an early heart sink moment for PRO as they saw the Treasury team: Wong, Dight and Guimichev. The best three players Treasury could have selected. The opening set saw John Crawford up against Winston Wong. Winston went two ends to one up but John battled back to take the fourth by a whisker – 14-12! Into the deciding end we go, Winston pulls away and PRO are 1-0 down. The second set mirrored the first. First two ends to Guimichev and next two ends to Ian Buchanan. In the deciding end, Petko pulls away and PRO are 2-0 down. Everything was going Treasury's way. 2-0 down became 4-0 down before Crawford got PRO off the mark defeating Tony Dight in four ends. That was followed by a titanic battle between Jai Persaud and Guimichev. The first four ends were shared but took 88 points to complete. Persaud held match point in the fourth but couldn't convert. The fifth end went on and on – Persaud held a second match point but again couldn't convert – and the end culminated at 14-12 to Petko. The set spanned 114 points. At this moment PRO might have concluded it just wasn't going to be their night and, as if to prove it, they suffered another cruel five-end loss in the next set, Buchanan losing to Dight 11-9 in the fifth. Four sets went the distance and PRO lost every one of them! Only three sets stopped at the third end, one of which was the doubles, which contained the longest end of the season finishing at 19-17. The 8-2 final score did not reflect how hard PRO battled.

### Week 3 (postponed match)

Nat West and Morpeth A fulfilled their outstanding fixture, postponed from the first half. Les Samuels played his first match for Nat West this season, partnering Gareth Jones and Andrew Muller. Morpeth had a good team out: Ji, Bekele and Brown. Morpeth quickly went into a 3-0 lead, all fairly comfortable wins. Gareth Jones beat Duncan Brown in set four to get Nat West on the board. After that, Morpeth won set after set, again fairly comfortably. Set eight was the best of the night, Les Samuels leading Duncan Brown by two ends to one, only for Duncan to steal the fourth end 14-12. This proved to be another long five-ender and, after 114 points, Samuels emerged the winner taking the deciding end 11-5. Good contest! The outcome was 8-2 to Morpeth. Ji and Bekele looked a class above in what was a fairly easy win for Morpeth A.

We're coming to that point in the season when, if anyone is going to beat Comets in the race to the title, they need to be reeling them in. In fact the opposite is happening and Comets position now looks stronger than it did at the halfway point. Next week might be the defining point of the season as Castaways take on Comets and a loss would surely spell the end of Castaways title hopes. At the other end of the table, having beaten PRO Treasury B will be hoping to wrinkle some points out of Employment. PRO face another must win match against Sparta. If PRO lose they'll be perilously close to relegation. Outcasts too are running out of time to overhaul their rivals. They face Morpeth C, a contest that should bring them some points. And, finally, Nat West take on Morpeth A again in the second half fixture and need to put on a better showing than they did this week if they're to get anything out of this contest.

**RICHARD CAMPBELL**  
**DIVISIONAL SECRETARY**

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### AVERAGES (Qualification: ≥12 sets played)

Player	Team	Sets Won	Sets Played	Average (%)
Fung	COMETS	20	20	100.0
Harris	CASTAWAYS	26	27	96.3

Penrose	NAT WEST	17	18	94.4
Persaud	COMETS	17	18	94.4
Bekele	MORPETH A	14	15	93.3
Ji	MORPETH A	23	26	88.5
Killip	EMPLOYMENT	12	14	85.7
Catt	NAT WEST	10	12	83.3
Chambers	MORPETH A	16	20	80.0
Herbert	NAT WEST	19	24	79.2
Francis	COMETS	14	18	77.8
LeMilliere	CASTAWAYS	24	33	72.7
Bispham	CASTAWAYS	13	18	72.2
Fagan	COMETS	9	13	69.2
Baylis	EMPLOYMENT	15	25	60.0
Brown	MORPETH A	8	14	57.1
Alnak	MORPETH C	10	18	55.6
Loveder	SPARTA	8	15	53.3
Sanders	GOOD KARMA	10	19	52.6
McKee	EMPLOYMENT	11	21	52.4
Dight	TREASURY B	9	18	50.0
Evans	SPARTA	9	18	50.0
Greenberg	GOOD KARMA	7	14	50.0
Muller	NAT WEST	6	12	50.0
Crawford	PRO	13	27	48.1
Coull	OUTCASTS	7	15	46.7
Guimichev	TREASURY B	8	18	44.4
Robertson	MORPETH C	8	18	44.4
Nicholls	MORPETH C	9	24	37.5
Mak	EMPLOYMENT	7	19	36.8
Jones	NAT WEST	10	30	33.3
Shilo	MORPETH C	7	21	33.3
Jameson	OUTCASTS	6	18	33.3
Tokely	SPARTA	10	33	30.3
Persaud	PRO	6	20	30.0
Buck	PRO	6	21	28.6
Blyuss	MORPETH A	4	15	26.7
Buchanan	PRO	5	23	21.7
Zhao	GOOD KARMA	3	14	21.4
Bulvicius	MORPETH C	3	15	20.0
Hattrill	SPARTA	4	24	16.7
Roullier	OUTCASTS	3	18	16.7
Macalister	OUTCASTS	2	21	9.5
Johansson	GOOD KARMA	1	14	7.1
Gittens	TREASURY B	1	15	6.7