

LONDON BANKS AND CIVIL SERVICE TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE BULLETIN 4

AS AT 27 OCTOBER 2019

	P	W	D	F	A	B	P
CASTAWAYS	4	3	1	33	7	12	45
COMETS	4	3	1	31	9	12	43
PRO	4	3	0	26	14	12	38
EMPLOYMENT	4	3	0	23	17	12	35
NAT WEST	3	3	0	22	8	9	31
MORPETH A	2	2	0	16	4	6	22
MORPETH C	4	0	0	10	30	12	22
GOOD KARMA	3	0	0	10	20	9	19
SPARTA	4	0	0	6	34	12	18
OUTCASTS	3	1	0	8	22	9	17
TREASURY B	3	0	0	5	25	9	14

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_2019-2020/Division_One

COMMENTARY

Week 4

Bad luck strikes Sparta as Dave Evans calls in sick on the day they're due to play Employment. This left Peter Tokely and Steve Hattrill with an uphill task, made even harder by the in-form Paul Baylis who rattled up a quick maximum, all three straight. That's two maximums in two weeks for Paul. Best set of the night saw Tokely beat Richard Mak over five ends, culminating at 12-10 in the fifth. Good battle that which could have gone either way! Employment ran out the winners by 7-3 – their third successive 7-3 win. Sparta's three came via two wins for Tokely and one for Hattrill. The Employment squad continues to grow – it's now eight different players in four matches. Next up, Outcasts visit Morpeth A. This proved to be hard going and Outcasts were 4-0 down before Bob Coull broke their duck with a win over Stuart Sweeney. Closest set of the night saw Outcasts' Alan Jones putting up stern resistance against Duncan Brown before eventually capitulating in the fifth and final end. A second win came Outcasts' way as Eddie Roullier beat Sweeney but that was where it ended. 8-2 in Morpeth's favour with maximums for Rob Chambers and Duncan Brown. Despite their big squad Nat West seem to be struggling to raise three players at the moment. Against Karma, they had two players: Chris Herbert and reserve Andrew Muller, who played with great success in Division 2 last season. In the opening set, Karma's Morris Greenberg got within an inch of taking Chris Herbert to a fifth end but fell just short losing 14-12 in the fourth. In the second set, Terese Johansson took the first end off Muller but then lost the next three ends. Terese then lost three straight to Hebert, every end finishing 11-7. With everything going Nat West's way, Karma's best chance of success fell to Xavier Zhao who took the first two ends off Andrew Muller and got to 9-9 in the fourth before losing that end and subsequently the fifth end too. Good effort from Xavier and dogged determination from Andrew not to lose. In the end, Nat West won all six singles sets and then in a perverse change of fortune managed to lose the doubles 11-6 in the fifth. It's a strange game! Best match of the week – and probably best of the season so far too – saw a titanic contest between Morpeth C and Comets. Four sets needed all five ends, three of which three ended at deuce. Laikram Persaud was making his debut for Comets and surprisingly found himself two ends down to Matt Robertson. Was this to be the first big upset win of the season? Laikram fought back to take the third and fourth ends but was down in the fifth and faced two match points. Was it all over? The answer was "no" as Laikram saved both points and came home the winner at 14-12 in the fifth! 108 points played in that marathon making it the longest set of the season thus far. Another hard fought battle was to follow with Ronnie Turner taking on Rytis Bulvicius. The set progressed: first end to Ronnie at deuce, second end to Rytis, also at

deuce, third end to Ronnie 11-9 and fourth end to Rytis – another deuce ending! It seemed inevitable the fifth end was also go to deuce, and so it was, with a 14-12 outcome in Ronnie’s favour. Five ends played, four of which ended at deuce – in total 124 points involved, taking the longest set of the season record. That took Morpeth C’s unbroken streak of sets lost in the final end to eight! Steve Fagan then came to the table to face Matt Robertson. Steve got the better of the first three ends but Matt wins the fourth and we’re in the fifth end again. Could Matt break Morpeth C’s final end hoodoo? Much to Morpeth’s joy, Matt held his nerve and took the end 11-8. The fifth-end jink was broken! So many close outcomes in this match but that proved to be Morpeth’s sole victory. They almost had another – Matt again, head to head with Ronnie Turner but going down 12-10 in the fifth! Long night for Matt Robertson! Three sets played, two end at deuce, fifteen ends and 296 points involved! 9-1 to Comets but for the second time this season a 7-3 loss or even 6-4 would have been a fairer reflection of Morpeth C’s efforts. We should give Ronnie Turner a mention for his hard-fought maximum. Final match of the week saw Castaways well and truly bring PRO’s run of successes to a close. The outcome was 9-1 to Castaways though it was not all one-way traffic with all three Castaways players dropping at least one end. PRO’s single win was by Ian Buchanan over Pat Caunt. Pat saved two match points, then held a match point himself only to lose the point, and finally went down 13-11 in the fifth.

That win takes Castaways back to the top of the table with a two point advantage over Comets. Next week they take on Employment. Whoever of Employment’s eight-person squad turns up, sets will be hard to come by. Comets are up against PRO – two tough fixtures on the trot for PRO. Outcasts take on Karma, which has the potential to be a close match. Morpeth A are up against their C team colleagues. Everything points to an easy win for the A team but you never know...

RICHARD CAMPBELL
DIVISIONAL SECRETARY

Issued: 27/10/2019

AVERAGES (Qualification: ≥4 sets played)

Player	Team	Sets Won	Sets Played	Average (%)
Fung	COMETS	5	5	100.0
LeMilliere	CASTAWAYS	11	12	91.7
Crawford	PRO	8	9	88.9
Harris	CASTAWAYS	8	9	88.9
Herbert	NAT WEST	8	9	88.9
Bispham	CASTAWAYS	5	6	83.3
Jones	NAT WEST	5	6	83.3
Codrington	COMETS	4	5	80.0
Turner	COMETS	4	5	80.0
Baylis	EMPLOYMENT	6	8	75.0
Fagan	COMETS	6	9	66.7
Guimichev	TREASURY B	4	6	66.7
Persaud	PRO	5	8	62.5
Buck	PRO	5	9	55.6
Caunt	CASTAWAYS	5	9	55.6
Buchanan	PRO	4	8	50.0
Coull	OUTCASTS	3	6	50.0
Francis	COMETS	3	6	50.0
Jameson	OUTCASTS	3	6	50.0
Tokely	SPARTA	4	9	44.4
Greenberg	GOOD KARMA	2	5	40.0
Mak	EMPLOYMENT	3	8	37.5
Robertson	MORPETH C	2	6	33.3

Gittens	TREASURY B	1	6	16.7
Roullier	OUTCASTS	1	6	16.7
Shilo	MORPETH C	1	6	16.7
Nicholls	MORPETH C	1	9	11.1
Hattrill	SPARTA	1	12	8.3