

TABLE TENNIS GROUP

Report by Peter Singer



As Shakespeare might have put it:

*“We few, we happy few, we band of brothers (and sisters – ed).
For he today that plays ping pong with us
Shall be my brother (or sister – ed)”*

Our numbers have indeed been few over the last couple of weeks, owing to holidays, family gatherings, catching up after Covid and other commitments in our busy, retired lives, but those who have played have certainly been a happy band. The upside is that we play more singles as well as doubles, which increases the variety and tempo of the game and encourages some different shots. The downside is that it requires more stamina to play more games and there is sometimes competition over who may sit out a game or two to recover from their exertions. Fortunately, we have all survived so far, more or less intact and may even have improved our technique a little.

In the wider table tennis world, it was pleasing to learn that our “local” league club, Ormesby TTC in Middlesbrough, have been crowned SBL Premier Division Champions for 2022. They dropped just two sets on their way to a 7-0 victory over Ormeau, from Northern Ireland. The trio of Ryan Jenkins, Sam Mabey and Joshua Wetherby were unbeaten, having dominated the league all season and the victory came as Ormesby celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of winning the European Club Cup Championship. Well done Ormesby, flying the flag for the North East!

Elsewhere, the London Grand Prix took place over the final weekend in May and was the largest Table Tennis England tournament for over a decade, with 241 entries, including two Olympians. Chris Doran won the men’s singles final and Tin-Tin Ho (one of those Olympians) won the women’s singles final. Table tennis will, of course, also feature in the forthcoming Commonwealth Games being held in Birmingham, which will run from 28 July to 8 August. A home games doesn’t come round often, so excitement levels are building – even though none of our group is likely to feature, as it is so difficult to fit into our busy schedules.

If you would like to join our group to take out your frustrations on a small, white, round piece of plastic or perhaps calmly steer the ball over the net with meditation on your mind, please contact Peter Singer (pandjsinger@btinternet.com 07508 663998). All are welcome, whether or not you have played before or not for a long time.