

Table Tennis Group Report

January 2023 Table Tennis Group Report by Celia Chapple

We have a steady and motley crew at our table tennis sessions on Friday afternoons. Since we returned post-lockdowns, the ranks have swelled to an extent that group membership is well into double figures. When I think back to the standard of our play before 2019, it is obvious that we have all improved, and gratifying that our newer members quickly master the game. Their shots spin and zing across the table as you scamper after the ball with that awful sinking feeling that you have lost the point.

Peter, our Convenor, discovered that the Teesdale Leisure Centre has the equipment for 'short tennis.' What does that phrase capture for you? For me, I envisage short-handled tennis rackets and short trousers or cropped leggings. What's short is the court, the racket head and handle, and shorter sets (4 games instead of 6 to win) with a simpler scoring system and lower nets. It is reportedly played 'on half the court for twice the fun.' The yellow foam/felt balls are in fact larger than ordinary tennis balls and travel 75% slower with a lower bounce. There is rumour that short- or mini- tennis was developed for children with a simple single point awarded instead of the traditional 15-30-40 of the 'long game.' I think we can manage that!

Some group members tried it quite successfully with play that resembled a tennis game, and we agreed to try it as an additional activity for another week or so.

If you would like to join our group to learn the table tennis game, improve your skills or just have fun, please contact Peter Singer (pandjsinger@btinternet.com 07508 663998). All are welcome, whether you play regularly, have not played for some time or have never played before.