

TABLE TENNIS GROUP

Report by Peter Singer



The table tennis group continues to ping and pong regularly on a Friday afternoon - jousting, jeering and jabbering in equal measure and with great vigour (well, a bit of vigour occasionally, but mostly rather gently). During the main part of the holiday season, our numbers are inevitably reduced and some weeks we have had only two members turning out. This is great for practice at playing singles, but can be exhausting and exerts some strain on the finances as well as on the players. Now we are into Autumn, numbers are increasing again and last week we had two tables of doubles and two players sitting out on rotation, which worked very well all round. This included two players trying the group out for the first time, which was great.

Three of our members recently took advantage of an invitation from the Barnard Castle table tennis club to attend a free taster session at their regular Wednesday evening club night. How brave (or foolhardy) was that? BCTTC currently have two teams in Division 1 of the Darlington Table Tennis League, which is a highly commendable achievement for a relatively small club in a relatively small market town like Barney.

We were made very welcome by John Heaviside, the club organiser and the members who were there. Apparently, a number of their league players were on holiday, but those that we met were of a very high standard and it was fascinating to watch how they played. Not surprisingly, they were way better than us, so we mostly played between ourselves, but the couple of games we had with some of their players showed how important spin is in the game – all we have to do is work out how to return a serve that is shooting off the table at right angles (any geometry experts out there who might be able to advise?). It was, however, great to have several buckets full of table tennis balls available, so we could just carry on playing without having repeatedly to run the length of the hall to find our ball. Overall, it was enjoyable and instructive and we shall go along again to see if we can pick up a few pointers to improving our own games. Watch this space!

If you would like to join our group to learn the game, improve your skills or just enjoy playing and socialising, 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.

