

TABLE TENNIS GROUP

Report by Peter Singer

Something of a seismic shock reverberated through the table tennis group last week, as our convenor Celia Chapple has handed over her role organising our activities. We owe a huge thank you to Celia for all her efforts in looking after bookings, subscriptions and equipment, as well as for her enthusiasm and energy and making new members feel welcome. This report writer has (with some trepidation) taken over as convenor, keeper of ping pong balls and spare net and hopes to be able to carry on the good work.

The group continues to thrive, with sufficient numbers to ensure a mixture of singles and two doubles games most weeks and we enjoy both the exercise and the social side. We take the game seriously and try to improve, but there are a plenty of laughs as well - some of our shots would make even a sphinx smile. That's not to say we don't play to win and we manage some reasonable rallies and an occasional outright winner, which sometimes comes as a surprise but is always very satisfying. Maybe consistency is the holy grail we all seek.

In November last year, Table Tennis England celebrated the 100th anniversary since the game came under a national governing body, first as the Ping Pong Association in 1921, then as the Table Tennis Association in 1922 and the English Table Tennis Association between 1927 and 2014, when it became Table Tennis England.



The Ping Pong Association had been revived after becoming defunct in 1904, but the name had to be changed because Ping Pong was a registered trade name. Astonishingly, we haven't received an invitation to the Centenary Gala Dinner in March (one of those inexplicable oversights), but we haven't taken offence and will carry on enjoying the game regardless

Please contact Peter on 07508 663998 if you would like to join the group, whether you have played before or not. We play at Teesdale Leisure Centre every Friday afternoon between 3pm and 4pm.