

Table tennis group report for August by Nicky Grace

The group has continued to meet every week throughout the summer. Numbers have varied but everyone has always been enthusiastic. As well as an opportunity for exercise and testing hand eye co-ordination the session creates laughter and moments of hilarity. This month one player returning a stray ball from the adjoining table managed to bounce it off the top of another player's head! We also discovered a way of getting a rest between points – hit the ball into the adjoining equipment cupboard and wait (quite a while) for a fellow player to find it.

At the last meeting there were just three players and we played the old fashioned way ie up to a score of 21 with the server playing 5 serves before changing. The modern format is up to 11 and 2 serves. Once you reach 10 all the service rotates with each player. My personal highest score, so far, is 18 but I still lost!

We have welcomed a new player who is left handed so that adds an additional element of challenge. For me, every time is about learning. I bought my bat from Bribar and recently received a catalogue. My eyes lit up at discovering a robot – unfortunately not to replace you as a player but to act as an opponent and chuck balls at you. In the description of bat rubbers I learn about ones that suit high-speed attacking shots, spin powered forehand loops, offensive topspin, catapult reaction, chops and blocks, float and reverse spin. I think I shall just keep trying to get the ball back somehow but they are something to aspire to.

If you would like to have a go at taking up the sport or refreshing long forgotten skills do contact Peter Singer pandjsinger@btinternet.com 07508 663998