

TABLE TENNIS GROUP

Report by Peter Singer



We have now settled into our new home in Mickleton Village Hall, to which we have re-located during the refurbishment of Teesdale Leisure Centre. This is obviously a longer journey for members based in Barnard Castle, but much more convenient for those lucky ones based in Mickleton, Eggleston or further up the Dale. It is, however, a very pleasant drive for we urbanites, despite having to negotiate the standing water on various sections of the road. The views of the majestic, albeit waterlogged, fells are wonderful and remind us how fortunate we are to live where we do. We look forward to better weather now that Spring is upon us (table tennis players are ever optimistic – we have to be or we would just give up) and to the return of much-loved friends, including curlew, lapwing, oystercatchers and others. What they would make of table tennis is another matter. That long, downward-curving bill of the curlew would cause problems on the backhand side, although the lapwing would be pretty agile around the table and oystercatchers have a stout enough beak to give the ball a fair old whack. But they won't be bothered with such mundane pursuits as the breeding season gets under way – unlike our happy band of third-agers!

The village hall itself is a splendid venue, with two good tables and is smaller than the rather cavernous main hall of the leisure centre, so less chasing after stray balls. It is also warmer and altogether more cosy, which is important for those of us who have to coax our stiffening limbs into action. Hopefully, it will be quieter than the leisure centre, where the rain drumming on the roof can make communication difficult (“yours, no yours”, “how did I miss that”, “oops”, “not again”, “you cannot be serious” etc.). Anyway, we will see how we go and at least we are sure of a welcoming place to continue playing for the duration of our exile.

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.