

TABLE TENNIS GROUP - Report by Peter Singer



It is widely predicted that there will be a surge of interest in table tennis in 2026. The reason is the release of the film "Marty Supreme", starring the charismatic, American-French actor Timothee Chalamet, fresh from playing Bob Dylan in his previous film. It is loosely based on the true story of Marty "The Needle" Reisman, a small-time hustler and natty dresser, known for his panama hat, who used his table tennis skills and quick wits to escape from his dead-end job in a shoe store. He went on to win over 20 major titles and become US Men's Singles champion in 1958 and 1960, always preferring a hardbat rather than the sponge bats we use today. Incredibly, in preparation for the role, Chalamet spent seven years learning to play table tennis and would clearly be much too good to join our group (I know, he'll be so disappointed). Critics of the film have focused on the likeability of the character played by Chalamet, who has been described as a "nogoodnik" and a "sociopath-screwball nightmare". In real life, Reisman certainly became involved in some nefarious activities, including bending the rules, illicit gambling and smuggling contraband gold, so you probably wouldn't invite him home to tea. This may or may not make you want to see the film, although the promise of a glimpse of Chalamet's naked buttocks might sway you one way or the other. In any event, we await a possible and welcome tsunami of new members to our table tennis group, although we might have to persuade DCC to buy more tables to supplement the two that we play on presently.

On a personal note, very sadly we recently lost my lovely wife Jan, who really enjoyed playing and having a good old chat with everyone at our sessions. Jan played with a style all her own, mixing a hard, fast serve with delicate returns, some eccentric mis-hits (with accompanying groans) and occasional flashes of pure brilliance. Jan will be greatly missed by me and everyone who knew her. 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.