

TABLE TENNIS GROUP - Report by Peter Singer



One of the attractions of table tennis as sport/hobby/pastime/social event is that the costs of the necessary equipment do not have to be prohibitive (although, of course, they can be, if you are particularly fashion-conscious or just have no control at all). For example, in our group, the tables, nets and little white, plastic balls are provided through our relatively modest subscriptions, either £1 or £2 per session, depending on numbers attending and the current health of the kitty. We have a spare bat for general use and the Leisure Centre has some too, although they are very basic, hard bats, of which Marty Reisman (see January report) would approve, but are unforgiving for a beginner. Most of us have gone mad and invested in a bat of our own, priced from a few pounds to perhaps £30 for a half-decent one. As for footwear and clothing, a pair of ordinary, indoor, gym shoes or similar suffices and are probably already owned for other purposes, whilst everyday, casual clothing seems to be de rigeur. It's certainly possible to buy dedicated, technical jackets, shirts, shorts, socks, t-shirts and tracksuits and spend a fortune, but you would rather stand out in our company and it could be embarrassing – although yours truly's splendid Hadrian's Wall t-shirt (only £15 from the shop at Chesters Roman Fort, reduced as there are a couple of spelling mistakes on it) gets an outing when the weather (or the body) warms up and I'm more comfortable in common-or-garden Ron Hill trackster trousers than jeans – but we all have our pécadilloes). So, if you're thinking of joining us, a taster session is free and you can probably get started easily enough for under a tenner – and there's not many events you can say that about!

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.