

What is “Ping Pong” or “Sandpaper Table Tennis”?



"Ping Pong", otherwise known as "sandpaper table tennis" or sometimes "hardbat table tennis" returns to old fashioned equipment, using sandpaper instead of a soft, flexible, grippy rubber on bats. The scoring system can also be slightly different - sets may be played to 15 points with a potential "sudden death" point at 14-all. It's also slightly slower than standard Table Tennis, and is a great spectator sport.

Ping Pong is great fun for all levels of player, including beginners. Rallies tend to be longer and the reduced spin can be a great leveller - especially during service. So don't think it's a sport for the elite Table Tennis player - give it a try and find out for yourself.

There has been a recent increase in the popularity of Ping Pong due to Sky Sport's coverage of the World Championships of Ping Pong. Scotland has had two representatives at this annual event (held at London's Alexandra Palace) every year since 2015.



Who can play?

Anyone and everyone.



Why should I try it?

Because it's fun! There's no better reason than that.

It takes the sport we know and love and adds an old fashioned twist, it's a nice variation to add even more enjoyment to your game, taking out the spin (but not all of it, look at the videos) and perhaps levelling the field a bit.

Will it affect my Table Tennis?

Many Table Tennis players ask whether playing Ping Pong will harm their Table Tennis game. This is an important question, as the fear that it could has prevented some players from trying Ping Pong. However, John Hannah's victory in the Edinburgh Table Tennis Championships (held the day after he played in the Scottish WCPP qualifier) suggests that they can be combined. England's Andrew Rushton played both high-level Table Tennis and Ping Pong (and hardbat) and believes it's possible to switch between them. He says the change is essentially just a different bat angle – the fundamentals of good strokes are common to both.



Scottish Men's top Table Tennis player, Gavin Rungay, believes that the younger players can learn a lot about Table Tennis tactics and placement by playing Ping Pong. He feels that it's 'a myth' that Ping Pong interferes with your Table Tennis technique - 'they are basically the same game requiring the same fundamental skills... you just need to think a little bit differently'. He feels that more Table Tennis players should give Ping Pong a go.

Many players believe that, since Ping Pong forces you to play actively rather than passively, it will help your Table Tennis strokes. Also, given the small 'sweetspot' on a sandpaper bat, it possibly promotes 'purer' stroke making.

Where can I try Ping Pong?

Ping Pong in Scotland is mainly played as a fun variation of standard Table Tennis. A number of clubs around Scotland have some sandpaper bats, including Murrayfield Memorial TTC and St Andrews TTC. Some Clubs hold annual Ping Pong competitions for their members.

As well as these local events, an annual Scottish Tournament – the Ronnie Turnbull Quai ch - brings together Scottish players from home and further afield. All are welcome, be it for fun, for a challenge, or simply for the opportunity to watch the top Scottish Ping Pongers vying for a place at the World Championships of Ping Pong in London in January each year. The top players from previous and local competitions in Scotland are guaranteed places at the annual Tournament, while all other entries will be treated on a first-come, first-served basis.

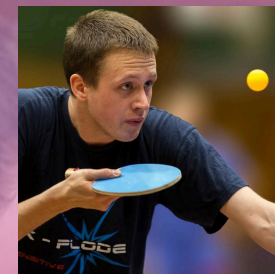
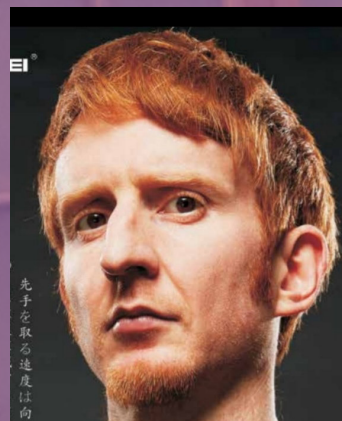
If you would like help in organising a local or Club sandpaper come-and-play session or other event, please contact Juliet at pingpong@johnstonfamily.me.uk. We can lend you bats, or help you obtain your own. If you hold a tournament, the top 4 players will be guaranteed entry to the next Scottish Ping Pong Tournament.

How can I find out more?

For more information about Ping Pong in general, or about the next Scottish Tournament, or for help with organising a local session or event, please check out our Website, or contact us directly by e-mail:

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Scottish Sandpaper Table Tennis

RONNIE
TURNBULL
QUAICH

