

## **Winter semi final report B team – 2019.**

The semi-final of the North East Winter league group 8 has taken place against Barnard Castle B team and Riding Mill from Northumberland, played at the Bowes Museum in Barnard Castle.

With a mixture of weather, rain, sleet and the odd appearance of the sun during the first match our ladies Karen Tomlinson and Barbara Willis came out the starting blocks and were soon 4-0 in front they drop one game in both sets to take the match 6-1, 6-1, while the men Gordon Duffy-McGhie and Stephen Brookes were having a similar set taking the first set 6-1 but fought valiantly to take the second set 6-4.

This gave Barnard Castle a 4-0 lead at the turn round. Could they keep this winning streak up?

We started the mixed doubles as the rain started again but not for long. Barbara and Gordon playing as the first pair were 4-1 up when the opponents started to rally. The score line got to 5-3 in Barnard Castle's favour, then 5-4 just one more game to take the set which they did 6-4. Their next set, played in blustery sunshine, was a cat and mouse affair in a very close set which went to 4 all, 5 all before Riding Mill lost their serve game giving Barnard Castle a chance and with Barbara to take the serve, served it out to take the set and match 7-5.

Our second pair Karen and Stephen had a nip and tuck first set that went to a tie break which they eventually won 7-6 (8-6) but although they put up a valiant effort, could not keep the momentum going through the next set giving Riding Mill one win 6-4.

In the early afternoon with the wind picking up in strength and the sun shining the outcome of the morning was a win for the home team 7-1.