

## "Ping Pong", by Hugh & Anson Hartford

Screened on 5 February 2013

Runtime: 80'



Set in the cut-throat world of international table tennis, Ping Pong is a documentary that features skilled competitors, fierce rivalry and intense performances in the fight to become world champion. There are medals, tears and twitchy nerves. The action criss-crosses the globe from England to Inner Mongolia, where the world championships are held in a stadium full of supporters no less ecstatic than at an international football match. Again and again you are amazed by the mental strength – not to mention fitness – that drives its devotees. And like all great documentaries it lifts the lid on a world you never knew existed. These gladiators of the ping-pong table in their 80s and 90s put the rest of us to shame.

*"It is about ageing, mortality, friendship, ambition and love. The stories stay with you for hours, weeks, after the credits have rolled."* - Matthew Syed - The Times


The film was followed by a Q/A, with:

- Mr. **Hugh Hartford** (Director),
- Ms. **Anne-Sophie Parent** (Secretary General of AGE Platform Europe),
- Mr. **Ralf Jacob** (Head of Active Ageing Unit - DG for Employment, Social Affairs and Integration).



Handout:

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