

## Performance Report – Simon Mills

19<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Paper: 9d



### Information/Activities - Last Period

1. Liam Pitchford and Tin-Tin Ho have qualified for the Olympic Games this summer. Tin-Tin becomes the first English female player to qualify since 1996  
<https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/archived/pitchford-and-ho-selected-for-tokyo-olympics/>
2. Gavin Evans has been selected on to the UK Sport High-Performance Coach Apprenticeship (HiCAP) programme;  
<https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/archived/england-coach-gavin-is-part-of-trailblazing-programme>
3. European Championship Players selected;  
<https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/archived/england-squad-announced-for-european-championships/>
4. Selection process is completed for the European Youth Championships;  
<https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/archived/quartet-earn-place-in-squad-for-europeans/>  
<https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/archived/six-come-through-junior-play-offs-to-join-squad/>  
<https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/archived/squad-complete-for-european-youth-championships/>
5. Connor Green, Jasmin Wong and other talent pathway players compete in the first tournaments to take place following the lifting of restrictions in May;
6. First cohort successfully complete their DiSE Programme:  
<https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/archived/dise-athletes-on-a-roll-after-completing-studies>  
<https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/archived/green-and-wong-on-top-at-first-competition/>
7. BPTT Players bid for qualification to Tokyo Olympics;  
<https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/archived/seven-athletes-bid-to-seal-tokyo-places>  
<https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/archived/positive-results-for-gb-para-athletes>



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<https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/archived/five-in-with-a-shot-of-booking-paralympic-spots/>

<https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/archived/paralympic-joy-for-gilroy-and-hunter-spivey/>

## Information/Activities – Current/Future

Both Liam Pitchford and Tin-Tin Ho have qualified for the Tokyo Olympics through the world ranking qualification. Paul Drinkhall is the European first reserve should a male player from Europe qualification or World Ranking pull out. Tin-Tin is the first female player to qualify since Lisa Lomas and Andrea Holt in 1996.

Disappointment for Paul Drinkhall to miss out on direct qualification, with injury and fatigue preventing him taking one of his two opportunities.

Charlotte Bardsley will be taking a place at the Team GB Ambition Programme for Tokyo. The programme will take place in London due to COVID restrictions.

British Table Tennis Federation have reached a governance agreement has been reached that will now enable selections to take place for the GB programmes funded by UK Sport. In addition, a coach apprenticeship programme is in development for launch in the autumn.

The selected senior players will travel Warsaw, Poland on the 18th June to compete in the European Championships which run from the 22nd to 27th June.

The European Team Championships qualification process has now been released. The Men's team have qualified directly, with the women's team competing in the Stage B qualification group from the 27th to 29th August in Belgrade, Serbia. The Women's team will face, Scotland, Ireland and Lithuania, with the group winner proceeding to the European Team Finals which take place at the end of September in Cluj, Romania on the 28th September to 3rd October.

The Commonwealth Games federation have confirmed the qualification route for Para, including classifications which will be included. Men's classes 3-5 & 8-10 and Women's classes 3-5 & 6-10 will be included in the Games.



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Following the selection for the European Youth Championships, preparation camps will begin from 28th June. This year's championships will be in Varazdin, Croatia and will operate on two separate weeks, with a split between Cadet & Junior age categories. The Junior event will take place on 18th to 24th July and the Cadet event takes place on the 27th July to 2nd August.

The final youth squad training camps take place this weekend. Details for next year's programme and application process will be released by the end of June.

Hopes & Aspire Training Camps resumed with a series of single training days and 2 day training camps where possible. These have also included some internal competition days to provide some form of match practice/play to support the players development.

All of the youth training squads are reaching their conclusion for the season, with summer training activities for all groups currently being confirmed. Details for next seasons programmes and application process is currently being finalised and will be released at the end of June / Beginning of July.

Our Aspire squad has been involved in a series of E-Home Nation Training camps with Scotland, Wales and Ireland which has been very successful and is helping garner a stronger working partnership with all parts of the UK.

Our first DiSE (Diploma in Sporting Excellence) cohort has reached the end of their 2 year programme. Whilst it has not been possible to deliver the programme in the way in which was intended due to the pandemic, the programme has been very well received, with all of the players successfully completing the qualification. For those looking to attend university, this qualification equates to 64 UCAS points which will support players' applications. Table Tennis England have been awarded a further 12 places for the next intake, with applications become available by the end of June / beginning of July.

The announcement of some national domestic competition has been very welcomed and will give vital competition in the build-up to the European Youth Championships. Whilst some WTT youth competitions have taken place, it has not been possible for our players to access due to travel restrictions that have been in place.

The performance team have made wildcard selections for the up and coming Junior National Cup, Junior & Cadet National Championships and u10-13 National Championships. This provides an opportunity for the team to give some players the chance to experience a higher standard of competition.



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## Challenges/Issues

The issues continue:

The continuing issues around international travel are limiting the opportunities to train and compete abroad, in particular the issue around extensive testing needed which add significant costs and logistical issues in order to be compliant with government regulation.

Whilst the opportunity to now run train camps for the players in the pathway, the lack of competition both domestically and internationally that England players have been able to access remains a concern especially leading into major championships.



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