

ITTF TEAM
WORLD CUP
LONDON 2018

Programme

22-25 February 2018

Copper Box Arena



EVENT PARTNERS



MAYOR OF LONDON



#ITTFWorldCup

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Design & Print Bluegreen Design
www.bluegreendesign.co.uk

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A welcome from the ITTF

“It is a pleasure to host the Team World Cup in London, where the first World Championships was held”



Dear Friends of Table Tennis,

On behalf of the International Table Tennis Federation, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 2018 ITTF Team World Cup.

It is a pleasure to host the Team World Cup in London, England, where the ITTF was first founded in 1926, which is also where the first World Championships was held. Team England has shown an exceptional amount of potential on the international stage, winning the bronze medal at the World Championships in 2016.

The Team World Cup comprises a total of 12 men's and 12 women's teams who will compete for the highest honour of their country. You are in a prime position to watch the highest level of quality of table tennis live, whilst global audiences of millions are watching online, on TV and following on social media.

Thank you to all sponsors who have played their part in making the Team World Cup possible, and I wish all the athletes the best of luck in the tournament.

I hope that you enjoy the event and have a great time watching the world's best table tennis players competing for glory.

Thomas Weikert
President of the International Table Tennis Federation

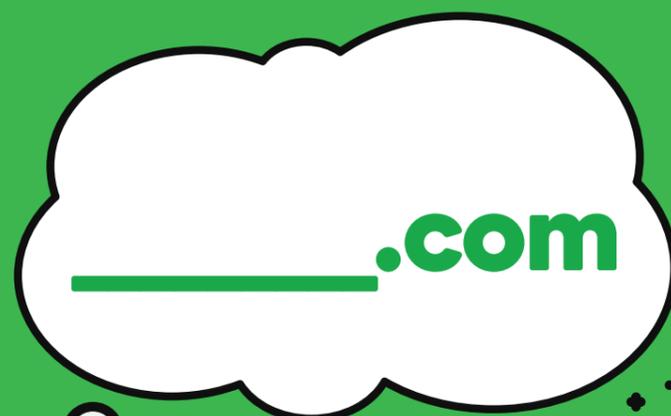


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“It is a wonderful opportunity for everyone associated with English table tennis to host this prestigious event”

A welcome from Table Tennis England

I am proud and honoured to extend a warm welcome to players, coaches, supporters, officials, guests, volunteers, sponsors and members of the ITTF to London for the 2018 World Team Cup.

It is a wonderful opportunity for everyone associated with English table tennis to host this prestigious event. The best players in the world will be here, alongside some rising international stars and, of course, our home players, who are increasingly making their mark on the international scene.

The Copper Box Arena will provide an iconic setting for this event, and I know that the spectators will appreciate the incredible standard of play we are privileged to witness. We are also delighted that such a demonstration of world-class sport will be brought to a wider audience through BBC television. I am sure this will encourage more and more people to follow or take up our sport.

The ITTF has been tremendously supportive in our ambition to bring world-class table tennis back to its place of birth. The ITTF was founded in London in 1926, and the first World Championships was held here in the same year.

It was 1954 when London last hosted a table tennis World Championship at Wembley. The roll of honour is

covered with legendary names from our past. I am sure many of you will enjoy recalling and learning about the history and exploits of past players and champions. But it is also about looking to the future and I am pleased that we will be working with schools and clubs to make sure we deliver some legacy projects for table tennis players of the future.

One issue we do have in common with those players, supporters and officials from 1954 is a passionate love of the sport.

For many of the players, appearing in this event will be the highlight to their careers and every one of them has earned their place to be among the best in the world. For the rest of us, we can enjoy their skill, dedication and talent.

For English table tennis – and for me personally as Chairman of Table Tennis England – it is the realisation of an ambition to bring top international table tennis events to home soil.

This could not have happened without the hard work of many people. I offer my sincere thanks to everyone who has helped make this happen – the ITTF President, Thomas Weikert, his colleagues, officials and

staff at the ITTF who had the trust and faith that we could and would deliver this prestigious event; the staff at Table Tennis England and the valued volunteers from our table tennis community, who have worked so hard to make that dream a reality; the sponsors and supporters who have helped to stage this event, including event partners 12BET, British Airways, Go Daddy and of course the Mayor of London's Office; and to everyone from our table tennis family at home and abroad who has come here to participate in or to support and enjoy this event.

Finally, I am honoured to be able to welcome you all here. We hope you enjoy the table tennis and return home with wonderful memories of the ITTF Team World Cup in London.

S. Deaton

Sandra Deaton
Chairman, Table Tennis England



A welcome from the Mayor of London

“I am delighted that London once again has the chance to showcase this exciting, fast-paced sport”



LONDON

EVERYONE WELCOME

Welcome to the Copper Box Arena at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. For the next four days, this iconic venue will play host to the International Table Tennis Federation Team World Cup 2018.

London is a city steeped in the history of table tennis, but this is the first major table tennis event to be staged here since the 1954 World Championships at Wembley. So, I am delighted that London once again has the chance to showcase this exciting, fast-paced sport. The competition is sure to be tough, and will provide a wonderful show for everyone who watches.

It is a real honour for London to welcome the best players from around the world to compete in the event. It is also a fantastic opportunity for our men's and women's teams to test themselves against the best in front of a home crowd.

This event is not just about world-class athletes. Table tennis is a sport for everyone. We have offered over 2,000 free tickets to schools across London. By coming along and enjoying the event, I hope young people are inspired to live healthier, more active lives.



Thanks to the Ping! Scheme run by Table Tennis England, more tables than ever have been appearing in public. It has never been easier to play. You will find them everywhere from shopping centres to railway stations, bars and workplaces. To find out more, visit: tabletennisengland.co.uk/programs/ping/.

In the meantime, I hope you enjoy the event and see why hundreds of millions of people around the world take part in this incredible sport.

Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London





DOUBLE FISH V40+ Balls For Team World Cup 2018-2019

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(ball with seam)**
Durability
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Although the initial meeting which led to the formation of the ITTF was held in Berlin in January 1926, it was here in London that the organisation formally came into being, and where its first major event was held.



Made in London

The first two singles champions, Maria Mednyanszky and Roland Jacobi (above), and London's Memorial Hall, where the first Worlds were held (inset below)

Table tennis returns to its spiritual home, the city where the ITTF was founded and which hosted the first World Championships in 1926



The Founding General Meeting was at the Stadium Club in Holborn on December 7th of that year, when England's Ivor Montagu was elected as the Federation's first Chairman at the age of just 22.

Five days later, representatives from Austria, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, England, Germany, Hungary, India, Sweden and Wales held the organisation's first congress, where a constitution and laws of the game were adopted.

The first World Championships were held at the Memorial Hall in Farringdon Street from December 6th to 11th, with the final of the men's team championships – at the time

and to this day played for the Swaythling Cup – held over until the 13th.

There were seven teams competing for the Swaythling Cup, 52 for the men's singles and 14 for the women's singles. There were also men's doubles and mixed doubles events.

Players from Hungary swept the board, with Roland Jacobi taking the men's singles, beating compatriot Zoltan Mechlovits in the final, and Maria Mednyanszky the women's singles by overcoming Doris Gubbins of Wales.

Jacobi & Daniel Pecsí won the men's doubles; Mechlovits & Mednyanszky the mixed doubles; and the Hungary men's team of Jacobi, Mechlovits, Pecsí and Bela von Kehrling the Swaythling Cup.

The World Championships returned to London in 1935, 1938, 1948 and 1954 and was held in Birmingham in 1977 and Manchester in 1997.

This event is the first time one of the 'big two' major table tennis-only tournaments has been hosted by London since 1954 – though the ITTF Pro Tour Grand Finals in 2011 were held at ExCeL as the test event for the 2012 Olympics.

* This article has drawn on extracts from the book The Story of Table Tennis – the First 100 Years by Ron Crayden.



DON'T BET ON LUCK THE WINNING 6



JOIN THE EVOLUTION JACKPOT.



Tournament officials

Competition Manager

Karl Jindrak

Head of Media

Matt Pound

Technical Operations Manager

Chris Newton

Volunteer Managers

Alice Robinson
Gail Johns

Technical officials

Referee

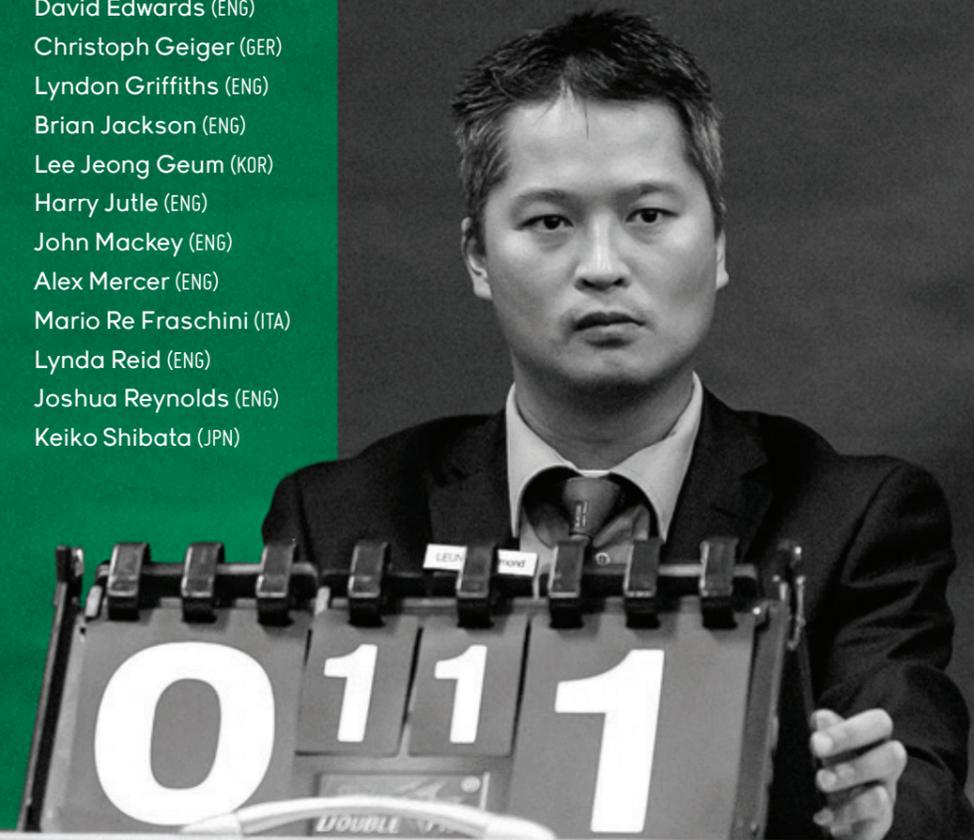
Zhang Ying Qui (CHN)

Deputy Referee

Stuart Sherlock (ENG)

Umpires

Celeste Araujo (POR)
Mark Beckmann (DEN)
Isabelle Beumier (BEL)
Ingrid Bogren (SWE)
David Edwards (ENG)
Christoph Geiger (GER)
Lyndon Griffiths (ENG)
Brian Jackson (ENG)
Lee Jeong Geum (KOR)
Harry Jutle (ENG)
John Mackey (ENG)
Alex Mercer (ENG)
Mario Re Fraschini (ITA)
Lynda Reid (ENG)
Joshua Reynolds (ENG)
Keiko Shibata (JPN)



The teams

Who is competing and how they qualified

MEN

- CHINA**
Asian champions | Seeded: **1**
- JAPAN**
WTTTC silver medallists | Seeded: **2**
- GERMANY**
European champions | Seeded: **3**
- HONG KONG-CHINA**
WTTTC 5th place | Seeded: **4**
- KOREA REPUBLIC**
WTTTC bronze medallists | Seeded: **5**
- SWEDEN**
WTTTC 5th place | Seeded: **6**
- FRANCE**
WTTTC 5th place | Seeded: **7**
- BRAZIL**
Pan Am champions | Seeded: **8**
- ENGLAND**
WTTTC bronze medallists | Seeded: **9**
- EGYPT**
African champions | Seeded: **10**
- USA**
Pan Am runners-up | Seeded: **11**
- AUSTRALIA**
Oceania champions | Seeded: **12**

WOMEN

- JAPAN**
WTTTC silver medallists | Seeded: **1**
- CHINA**
Asian champions | Seeded: **2**
- HONG KONG-CHINA**
WTTTC 5th place | Seeded: **3**
- CHINESE TAIPEI**
WTTTC bronze medallists | Seeded: **4**
- ROMANIA**
European champions | Seeded: **5**
- SINGAPORE**
WTTTC 5th place | Seeded: **6**
- BRAZIL**
Pan Am champions | Seeded: **7**
- EGYPT**
African champions | Seeded: **8**
- DPR KOREA**
WTTTC bronze medallists | Seeded: **9**
- USA**
Pan Am runners-up | Seeded: **10**
- AUSTRALIA**
Oceania champions | Seeded: **11**
- ENGLAND**
Host nation | Seeded: **12**

The schedule

Thursday February 22

TIME		TABLE 1	TABLE 2	TABLE 3	TABLE 4
10am-12pm	SESSION ONE	Women's Group A R1	Women's Group B R1	Women's Group C R1	Women's Group D R1
12pm-3pm		Men's Group A R1	Men's Group B R1	Men's Group C R1	Men's Group D R1
BREAK					
5pm-7pm	SESSION TWO	Women's Group A R2	Women's Group B R2	Women's Group C R2	Women's Group D R2
7pm-10pm		Men's Group A R2	Men's Group B R2	Men's Group C R2	Men's Group D R2

Friday February 23

TIME		TABLE 1	TABLE 2	TABLE 3	TABLE 4
10am-12pm	SESSION ONE	Women's Group A R3	Women's Group B R3	Women's Group C R3	Women's Group D R3
12pm-3pm		Men's Group A R3	Men's Group B R3	Men's Group C R3	Men's Group D R3
BREAK (inc QUARTER-FINAL DRAW)					
5pm-7pm	SESSION TWO	Women's Quarter-final	Women's Quarter-final	Women's Quarter-final	Women's Quarter-final
7pm-10pm		Men's Quarter-final	Men's Quarter-final	Men's Quarter-final	Men's Quarter-final

Saturday February 24

TIME		TABLE 1
10am-12pm	SESSION ONE	Women's Semi-final 1
12pm-3pm		Men's Semi-final 1
BREAK		
5pm-7pm	SESSION TWO	Women's Semi-final 2
7pm-10pm		Men's Semi-final 2

Sunday February 25

TIME	TABLE 1
11am-2pm	Women's final
BREAK	
3pm-6pm	Men's final

In group fixtures, Round 1 is Team 1 vs Team 3; Round 2 is T1 vs T2; Round 3 is T2 vs T3
Match and session finishing times may vary.



The format

- > In every fixture, there are three players on each side – A, B and C on one team and X, Y and Z on the other
- > Each fixture is made up of five matches – four singles and one doubles – as follows:
 - Doubles (B & C vs Y & Z)
 - Singles (A vs X)
 - Singles (C vs Z)
 - Singles (A vs Y)
 - Singles (B vs X)
- > Each player is therefore allowed to compete in a maximum of two matches per fixture
- > All matches are the best of five games (sets)
- > First nation to three matches wins – ‘dead rubbers’ are not played (ie the fixture ends if one nation goes 3-0 or 3-1 up)



The draw

The draw for the group stage took place on Wednesday February 21st – use this page to write in the team names and follow the competition! The top two teams qualify from each group and the quarter-final draw takes place at the completion of the group stage.

> Men's

GROUP A	GROUP B	GROUP C	GROUP D

Quarter-finals

Semi-finals

Finals

> Women's

GROUP A	GROUP B	GROUP C	GROUP D

Quarter-finals

Semi-finals

Finals

Squads — Men

 **GERMANY** World Ranking: 1

Dimitrij Ovtcharov 

World Ranking: 1
Age: 29
Right-handed style: attacker
Grip: shakehand

Ruwen Filus 

World Ranking: 20
Age: 30
Right-handed style: defender
Grip: shakehand

Bastian Steger 

World Ranking: 33
Age: 36
Right-handed style: attacker
Grip: shakehand

Patrick Franziska 

World Ranking: 38
Age: 25
Right-handed style: attacker
Grip: shakehand

Benedikt Duda 

World Ranking: 49
Age: 23
Left-handed style: attacker
Grip: shakehand

 **CHINA** World Ranking: 2

Fan Zhendong 

World Ranking: 2
Age: 21
Right-handed style: attacker
Grip: shakehand

Lin Gaoyuan 

World Ranking: 4
Age: 22
Left-handed style: attacker
Grip: shakehand

Xu Xin 

World Ranking: 5
Age: 28
Left-handed style: attacker
Grip: penhold

Ma Long 

World Ranking: 7
Age: 29
Right-handed style: attacker
Grip: shakehand

Yu Ziyang 

World Ranking: 380
Age: 19
Left-handed style: attacker
Grip: shakehand

 **JAPAN** World Ranking: 3

Koki Niwa 

World Ranking: 6
Age: 23
Left-handed style: attacker
Grip: shakehand

Tomokazu Harimoto 

World Ranking: 11
Age: 14
Right-handed style: attacker
Grip: shakehand

Yuya Oshima 

World Ranking: 18
Age: 23
Right-handed style: attacker
Grip: shakehand

Jin Ueda 

World Ranking: 27
Age: 26
Right-handed style: attacker
Grip: shakehand

 **FRANCE** World Ranking: 4

Simon Gauzy 

World Ranking: 9
Age: 23
Right-handed style: attacker
Grip: shakehand

Emmanuel Lebesson 

World Ranking: 24
Age: 29
Left-handed style: attacker
Grip: shakehand

Quentin Robinot 

World Ranking: 76
Age: 25
Right-handed style: attacker
Grip: shakehand

Alexandre Robinot 

World Ranking: 133
Age: 22
Right-handed style: attacker
Grip: shakehand

Alexandre Cassin 

World Ranking: 205
Age: 19
Right-handed style: attacker
Grip: shakehand

Squads — Men

 **KOREA REPUBLIC** | World Ranking: 6

Lee Sangsu
 World Ranking: 15
 Age: 27
 Right-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand



Jeong Sangeun
 World Ranking: 31
 Age: 27
 Right-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand



Lim Jonghoon
 World Ranking: 51
 Age: 20
 Left-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand



Jeong Youngsik
 World Ranking: 102
 Age: 26
 Right-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand



 **HONG KONG-CHINA** | World Ranking: 7

Wong Chun Ting
 World Ranking: 7
 Age: 26
 Right-handed style: attacker
 Grip: penhold



Ho Kwan Kit
 World Ranking: 41
 Age: 20
 Left-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand



Jiang Tianyi
 World Ranking: 46
 Age: 28
 Left-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand



Lam Siu Hang
 World Ranking: 58
 Age: 21
 Right-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand



Ng Pak Nam
 World Ranking: 63
 Age: 19
 Right-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand



 **SWEDEN** | World Ranking: 9

Kristian Karlsson
 World Ranking: 19
 Age: 26
 Left-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand



Mattias Karlsson
 World Ranking: 36
 Age: 26
 Right-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand



Anton Källberg
 World Ranking: 57
 Age: 20
 Right-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand



Pär Gerell
 World Ranking: 96
 Age: 35
 Left-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand



 **BRAZIL** | World Ranking: 12

Hugo Calderano
 World Ranking: 16
 Age: 21
 Right-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand



Gustavo Tsuboi
 World Ranking: 66
 Age: 32
 Left-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand



Eric Jouti
 World Ranking: 92
 Age: 23
 Right-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand



Squads — Men

 ENGLAND World Ranking: 13

Paul Drinkhall
 World Ranking: 31
 Age: 28
 Right-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand



Sam Walker
 World Ranking: 81
 Age: 22
 Right-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand



Liam Pitchford
 World Ranking: 85
 Age: 24
 Right-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand



David McBeath
 World Ranking: 165
 Age: 26
 Right-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand



Tom Jarvis
 World Ranking: 266
 Age: 18
 Right-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand



 EGYPT World Ranking: 18

Omar Assar
 World Ranking: 17
 Age: 26
 Right-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand



Mohamed El-Beiali
 World Ranking: 116
 Age: 29
 Right-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand



Ahmed Saleh
 World Ranking: 151
 Age: 38
 Right-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand



El-Sayed Lashin
 World Ranking: 236
 Age: 38
 Right-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand

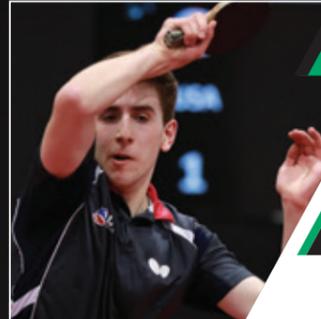


 USA World Ranking: 38

Kanak Jha
 World Ranking: 88
 Age: 17
 Right-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand



Adar Alguetti
 World Ranking: 359
 Age: 19
 Right-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand



Feng Yijun
 World Ranking: 399
 Age: 21
 Right-handed style: attacker
 Grip: penhold




 AUSTRALIA World Ranking: 41

David Powell
 World Ranking: 117
 Age: 26
 Right-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand



Kane Townsend
 World Ranking: 185
 Age: 24
 Left-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand



Heming Hu
 World Ranking: 514
 Age: 23
 Right-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand



Squads — Women

 CHINA World Ranking: 1

Zhu Yuling
 World Ranking: 2
 Age: 23
 Right-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand



Wang Manyu
 World Ranking: 5
 Age: 19
 Right-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand



Chen Xingtong
 World Ranking: 12
 Age: 20
 Right-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand



Ding Ning
 World Ranking: 21
 Age: 27
 Left-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand



Liu Shiwen
 World Ranking: 23
 Age: 26
 Right-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand



 JAPAN World Ranking: 2

Kasumi Ishikawa
 World Ranking: 4
 Age: 24
 Left-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand



Mima Ito
 World Ranking: 6
 Age: 17
 Right-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand



Miu Hirano
 World Ranking: 7
 Age: 17
 Right-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand



Hina Hayata
 World Ranking: 14
 Age: 17
 Left-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand



 CHINESE TAIPEI World Ranking: 3

Cheng I-Ching
 World Ranking: 8
 Age: 26
 Right-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand



Chen Szu-Yu
 World Ranking: 11
 Age: 24
 Right-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand



Cheng Hsien-Tzu
 World Ranking: 45
 Age: 24
 Right-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand



Liu Hsing-Yin
 World Ranking: 100
 Age: 30
 Right-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand



Lin Chia-Hui
 World Ranking: 399
 Age: 30
 Right-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand



 HONG KONG-CHINA World Ranking: 4

Doo Hoi Kem
 World Ranking: 9
 Age: 21
 Right-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand



Lee Ho Ching
 World Ranking: 13
 Age: 25
 Right-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand



Soo Wai Yam Minnie
 World Ranking: 25
 Age: 19
 Right-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand



Ng Wing Nam
 World Ranking: 48
 Age: 25
 Right-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand



Mak Tze Wing
 World Ranking: 92
 Age: 19
 Right-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand



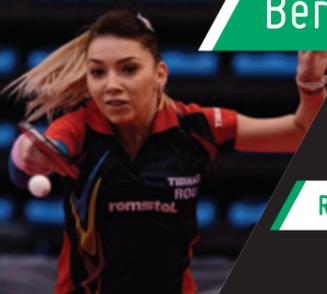
Squads — Women

ROMANIA World Ranking: 7

Elizabeta Samara
 World Ranking: 24
 Age: 28
 Left-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand



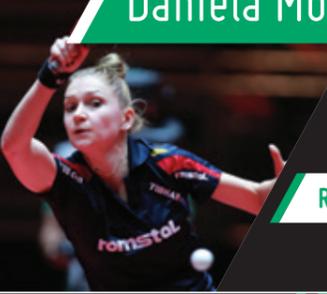
Bernadette Szocs
 World Ranking: 40
 Age: 22
 Right-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand



Adina Diaconu
 World Ranking: 84
 Age: 18
 Right-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand



Daniela Monteiro Dodean
 World Ranking: 89
 Age: 30
 Right-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand



SINGAPORE World Ranking: 8

Feng Tianwei
 World Ranking: 3
 Age: 31
 Right-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand



Yu Mengyu
 World Ranking: 51
 Age: 28
 Right-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand



Zhang Wanling
 World Ranking: 263
 Age: 18
 Right-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand



Yee Heng Hwee
 World Ranking: 364
 Age: 20
 Left-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand



BRAZIL World Ranking: 17

Caroline Kumahara
 World Ranking: 95
 Age: 22
 Right-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand



Bruna Takahashi
 World Ranking: 97
 Age: 17
 Right-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand



Gui Lin
 World Ranking: 115
 Age: 24
 Right-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand




EGYPT World Ranking: 18

Dina Meshref
 World Ranking: 41
 Age: 23
 Left-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand



Yousra Helmy
 World Ranking: 118
 Age: 22
 Right-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand



Farah Abdel-Aziz
 World Ranking: 145
 Age: 25
 Right-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand



Galila Nasser
 World Ranking: -
 Age: 24
 Left-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand



Squads — Women

 DPR KOREA World Ranking: 19

Kim Song I
 World Ranking: 52
 Age: 23
 Right-handed style: defender
 Grip: shakehand



Choe Hyon Hwa
 World Ranking: 162
 Age: 25
 Left-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand



Cha Hyo Sim
 World Ranking: 181
 Age: 23
 Left-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand



Kim Nam Hae
 World Ranking: 320
 Age: 21
 Right-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand



 USA World Ranking: 25

Lily Zhang
 World Ranking: 60
 Age: 21
 Right-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand



Wu Yue
 World Ranking: 129
 Age: 28
 Right-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand



Amy Wang
 World Ranking: 627
 Age: 15
 Right-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand



 ENGLAND World Ranking: 36

Tin-Tin Ho
 World Ranking: 144
 Age: 19
 Right-handed style: attacker
 Grip: penhold



Kelly Sibley
 World Ranking: 188
 Age: 29
 Right-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand



Maria Tsaptsinos
 World Ranking: 360
 Age: 20
 Right-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand



Denise Payet
 World Ranking: 639
 Age: 16
 Right-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand



Charlotte Bardsley
 World Ranking: -
 Age: 15
 Right-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand



 AUSTRALIA World Ranking: 37

Jian Fang Lay
 World Ranking: 67
 Age: 44
 Right-handed style: attacker
 Grip: penhold



Melissa Tapper
 World Ranking: 189
 Age: 27
 Left-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand



Parleen Kaur
 World Ranking: -
 Age: 14
 Right-handed style: attacker
 Grip: shakehand



KELLY'S EYE ON HELPING THE NEXT GENERATION

Look at almost any senior England women's squad from the last 14 or 15 years and Kelly Sibley will be there.

From European and World Championships to Commonwealth Games via a host of other tournaments, the Leamington Spa player has worn the Three Leopards with pride in a distinguished career.

Add her Team GB appearances at the London 2012 Olympics and at the European Games in Baku in 2015 and her CV looks even more impressive.

To that CV is now added a Team World Cup in her home country, something the 29-year-old is relishing.

"Obviously it's fantastic to be playing in such a huge event as the Team World Cup on home soil," said the five-time national women's singles champion.

"It brings back memories of the London 2012 Olympics, even more so because it's being held at the Copper Box on the Olympic Park. It's an amazing opportunity for us."

While most of the previous squads Sibley has been part of contained experienced players, the England line-up here in London is youthful by comparison.



Kelly Sibley in action for England alongside Jo Drinkhall in 2009 (above) and celebrating a victory against Slovenia in 2016 (left).

With 20-year-old Maria Tsapsinos the next oldest after Sibley and the other three players still in their teens, it is something of a changing of the guard in the England ranks.

It's something Sibley is well aware of: "Tell me about it," she laughs, "it sometimes feels like I'm on baby-sitting duty!"

"No one can say I'm not the most experienced, but even for me this is a great opportunity. And it certainly is for the younger players."

"For them coming into the England team, it will be good to be part of such a big event and everything that goes with it, like being around the practice hall – we'll be practising at the same time as China and it will be great for our younger players to see how they go about things."



Teenagers Denise Payet (left) and Charlotte Bardsley are benefitting from Kelly Sibley's experience.

For the younger players, they are grateful to have Sibley around. As 16-year-old Denise Payet says: "Kelly has a lot of wisdom – everything she says, I take it on, because she's done it all."

"She passes on a lot of advice and she doesn't do it in an irritating way, she does it because she wants us all to improve and be the best we can."

Beyond the Team World Cup, there is another Commonwealth Games on the horizon in Gold Coast, Australia, in April.

It will be Sibley's fourth Commonwealths and she will be aiming to repeat the emotion of Glasgow 2014, where she won mixed doubles bronze alongside Danny Reed, one of her career highlights which also ensured England completed a clean sweep of the podium places.

"Putting the World Cup in the bigger picture, it's great preparation for the Commonwealth Games," she said.

"It's a great opportunity to see where we are and to see what we need to tweak ahead of all the challenges ahead. We've got the England match in the Copper Box on the Tuesday after the World Cup, then the Nationals and then the Commonwealth Games, which will only be a month away."

With one eye on the future, Sibley now works as head coach at the University of Nottingham. But she will be hoping to rack up more career highlights in an England shirt in the weeks ahead.

PAUL STIMPSON

England coaches

Head coach: Alan Cooke



Men's coach: Marcus Sjöberg



Ladies' coach: Marcus Gustafson





The squad on the podium with coach Alan Cooke

WORLD CLASS

England's men have certainly made the rest of the table tennis world sit up and take notice in the last couple of years. The squad earned their place here at the Copper Box by virtue of their brilliant bronze medal at the World Team Championships in Kuala Lumpur in 2016.

It's fair to say their achievement was unexpected at the outset of the tournament, with England newly promoted to the top division of the world game (for the first time since 1997) and seeded 18th.

They made a slow start, with group defeats to Sweden and France, but that was forgotten as the squad of Liam Pitchford, Paul Drinkhall and Sam Walker, spectacularly found form and began to carve their way through the field.

They beat Denmark, second seeds Germany and Malaysia to advance to the second stage, where they added Poland to their list of scalps in the last 16.

It set up another clash with France and this time England prevailed 3-2 as Pitchford won both his matches and Drinkhall sealed it by taking his fifth match point against Emmanuel Lebesson – who missed a match point of his own.

And so the Leopards were into the semi-finals and on the podium for the first time since 1983. And although they lost 3-1 to third seeds Japan in a match in which they had their chances, they became the first promoted side in history to win a medal.

When the same trio, in Team GB colours, reached the Rio Olympics quarter-finals – beating France in another spellbinding tie in which every match went to a deciding set, and then

losing to eventual gold medallists China – it confirmed the status of the English players as a line-up worthy of respect on the world stage.

Pitchford, who is based in Sweden but plays for French club Hennebont, says the squad are still drawing on the belief that those performances instilled in them as they come into a home World Cup.

Pitchford, 24, said: "Anything is possible after the World Championships bronze medal. That was kind of a shock, but we proved on our day we can compete with any country in the world.

"It's not going to be easy, the countries at the World Cup are very strong, but we are in good shape and prepared well.

"Getting out of the group would be a good start. We can definitely get to the quarter-finals – and then we'll see."

Pitchford already has experience of competing in front of a packed home crowd, during the London 2012 Olympics, and he said: "London 2012 was amazing even though I only got to play in the one team match.

"The whole atmosphere around it spurred me on to qualify in my own right for Rio. It's fair to say London inspired me to push on even more.

"The World Cup is big opportunity to play in front of a home crowd and against the best players in the world. I'm really looking forward to it.

"It's going to be a good atmosphere and a new experience for some of us but you can't get anything better than playing in front of a home crowd. It's going to be exciting."

PAUL STIMPSON



**Beware
of the Leopard!**

So, how did England get their nickname?

The story of the Leopards dates back to the early days of the English Table Tennis Association (ETTA).

When the King agreed to become Patron of the Association in 1937/38, the ETTA crest, which previously featured a rose, was changed to three lions in a passant guardant position – that is to say walking, with heads turned to face out of the crest.

This is a familiar symbol of England, but not many people know that in British and French heraldry, a lion passant guardant was historically referred to as a leopard – so the ETTA crest became known as the Three Leopards.

Although the practice of lions passant guardant being referred to as leopards has now disappeared from British heraldry (hence the England football team being known as the Three Lions), table tennis has always stuck with the tradition.



Name a country that will always challenge for honours in Europe, name a country that will be at the vanguard of European hopes on the wider international scene, name Romania.



Guiding lights: Angelica Rozeanu (above) became Romania's first ever world champion, starting a table tennis dynasty which continues to this day, under the watchful eye of coach Viorel Filimon (below).

Romania

home in on success

Especially name Romania when success and longevity in women's events are the topics under discussion. Ever since the achievements of the late Angelica Rozeanu who, when she won the Women's Singles title at the 1950 World Championships in Budapest, became the first female Romanian world champion in any sport, there has been a continual stream of talented and highly successful players.

Ella Zeller and many other illustrious names were to follow; those of Maria Alexandru, Olga Nemes, Otilia Badescu and Mihaela Steff come immediately to mind. Now in the modern era it is Elizabeta Samara, Daniela Monteiro-Dodean, Bernadette Szocs and Adina Diaconu who form the front line.

There are many more who can be named, pivotal to the country's success. The team ethic has always been strong, time and again there is a resilient squad of players from whom to choose. There is always someone sitting on the bench worthy of selection.

Furthermore, there is a deep sense of pride in any Romanian team and one of the major reasons can surely be attributed to the fact that their players are born and bred in Romania. They have a system in place that is successful, a development programme and talent identification scheme that clearly works – it is not just good luck that for more than 60 years they have produced a string of world-class players.

Each to their own views with regards to players moving to new countries and gaining a new nationality, but that is not the Romanian way.

In fact for Romania, it is the opposite; several-high quality players left their ranks in the 1990s owing the country's political instability. Notably, for the women, Olga Nemes, winner of the Europe Top 12 in 1983 when only 14 years old, moved to Germany before, when more stable times were assured, she returning to her homeland. Equally, Cornelia Vaida, crowned European Youth champion in 2000, later represented Croatia.



The fact that the national team is home grown adds the ingredient of stability, a quality further underlined by the lord and master, Viorel Filimon, the Women's Team national coach who is the rock of the team.

He is most knowledgeable, of that there is no doubt, but above all else the players have great confidence in him. There is so much a coach can do but what a player needs when all else is against them is that they can look to the bench and know there is someone who wants to win.

For Samara and company the name is Viorel Filimon, the epitome of the team in London and, just like Rozeanu who sparked the dynasty, born and bred in Romania.

IAN MARSHALL



Above: Romania celebrate semi-final victory at the 2015 European Championships



Wild about Hari

Table tennis world abuzz as records tumble to 14-year-old Japanese phenomenon Tomokazu Harimoto

On Wednesday 7th December 2016, Tomokazu Harimoto, at 13 years and 163 days old, became the youngest ever player to win the Boys' Singles title at a World Junior Championships.

It was an outstanding performance in Cape Town, consistently beating players several years his senior. However, to select the teenager for the Men's Singles event at the subsequent Liebherr 2017 World Championships, was it just a little too soon?

Any doubts were dispelled, the decision of those responsible for the selection of the Japanese team to compete in Dusseldorf was vindicated as Harimoto exceeded all expectations and delivered the goods.

Alongside Koki Niwa, he emerged as his country's most successful player in the Men's Singles event, both reaching the quarter-finals and losing to celebrated Chinese stars – Niwa beaten by Fan Zhendong and Harimoto by Xu Xin.

The defeat meant that Harimoto fell just one step short of becoming the youngest ever Men's Singles medalist at a World Championships. That record remains in the hands of Richard Bergmann, who was 16 years old when, representing Austria, he reached the semi-finals in 1936 in Prague.

Very soon after the Dusseldorf excursion, Harimoto once again defied his tender years to establish

yet another record as on the afternoon of Sunday 27th August, in the Czech town of Olomouc, he became the youngest ever player to win an ITTF World Tour Men's Singles title. At the time he was only 14 years and 61 days old.

So, what are the qualities that enable the young man to achieve such remarkable feats? There is no questioning his technical skills but to win at the highest level you need more than sublime talent.

First, he relishes the big stage. Many players need time to adjust to the international arena, they need two or three international appearances to really focus on what they have to do

He does not understand the word passive. Mentally, he asserts himself over his opponent, he exudes enthusiasm, there is no sign of trepidation.

and not be looking around, overawed by the Olympic champion on the adjacent table. Harimoto is not affected one iota by who is playing in the same hall. In fact, it's quite the reverse as he takes the attention away from big names.

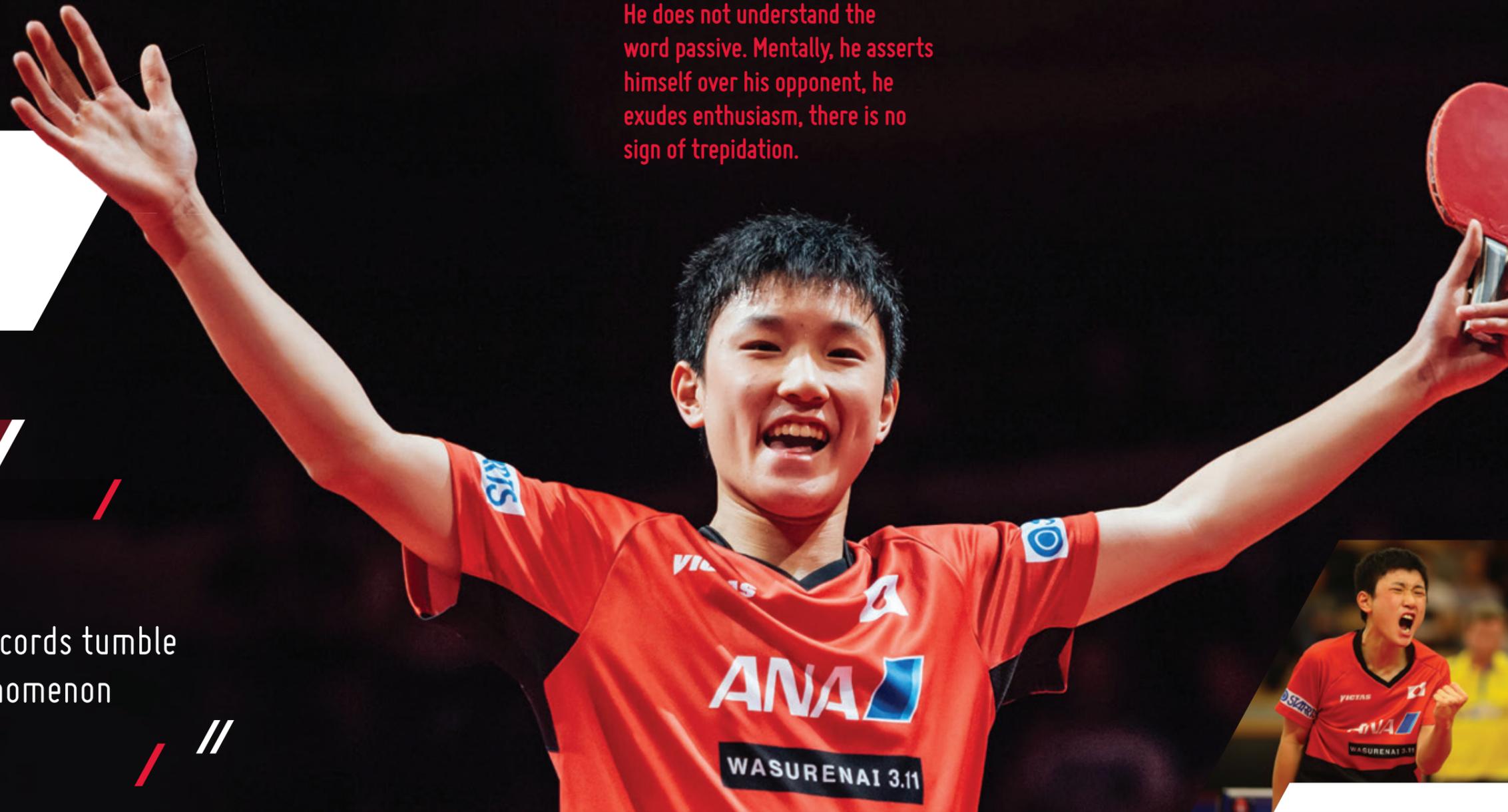
Furthermore, he follows the policy of the "ball is round", meaning to him every opponent is a player, whether it be Joe Soap from the Land of Nod Table Tennis League or the 10-times world champion. Simply put, he follows the policy of demonstrating how well he can play, seemingly almost oblivious to the strengths of his adversary; it shows in the vocal cries that greet each success.

You might need to invest in a pair of ear plugs when he plays but his active tonsils combined with his body language show that he is determined to assert his will on the contest.

He does not understand the word passive. Mentally, he asserts himself over his opponent, he exudes enthusiasm, there is no sign of trepidation.

He fears no-one – but many fear him!

IAN MARSHALL





Dimitrij Ovtcharov preparing for one of his trademark backhand serves.

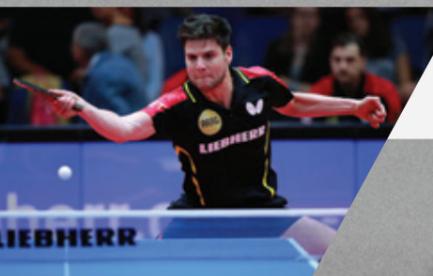
Dimitrij Ovtcharov, who became world No 1 in January, poses with the Men's World Cup which he won in October 2017.

I did it

FORTITUDE... BRAVERY... INNOVATION...

HOW OVTCHAROV GOT TO THE TOP OF THE WORLD

my way



Whatever happens this year and beyond, 2017 will always be special for Dimitrij Ovtcharov, leading as it did to him starting this year in the top spot of the Men's World rankings.

So what makes Ovtcharov, who leads a talented and highly-ranked German team here in London, special?

Is it not that he is different? The differences have been encouraged by open-minded advisors and promoted. Furthermore, has he developed a style of play that is perfect for the era in which he plies his skills?

It was not until the first ever World Junior Championships, staged in 2003 in the Chilean capital of Santiago, that the international table tennis community really became aware of the name of Dimitrij Ovtcharov.

It was a time when the countries which had succeeded over the years by developing penhold grip players, powerful forehands being potent, were ceasing to promote that style. Even when a penholder emerged, the backhand was effective. China persevered, Wang Hao was the supreme example, but for Japan, Korea and Chinese Taipei, with a history of success utilising that grip, the technique was abandoned.

Coaches worldwide were increasingly of the opinion that a strong backhand was needed as the speed of play increased. Enter Ovtcharov, whose forte is his backhand. Not to suggest that by any means his forehand is weak – it is stronger than most but perhaps not the lethal weapon.

The style of play fits the era but, most importantly, Ovtcharov has been his own man and has developed his own style of play.

In previous eras, the likes of Hungary's Tibor Klampar and later Croatia's Zoran Primorac both favoured serving with the backhand, the argument propounded being that under pressure they could control the ball better. Ovtcharov has followed their example, time and again when the pressure mounts at the crucial stages he will serve with the backhand, just as did the two legendary names of earlier eras.

However, this is where he is different. He developed his own crouched

style, one which several young players now copy, furthermore he moved across to his forehand to serve with the backhand. In the age prior to his appearance, such a tactic may well have resulted in the coach suggesting the young player might be better advised to find another hobby.

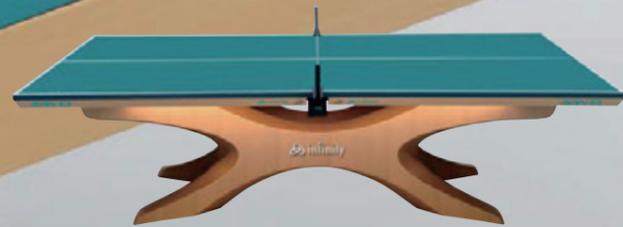
Now, the fact that Ovtcharov dared to be different, not trying to copy anyone, developing his own trademark serving techniques while also being innovative from the forehand, underlines the mental attributes essential to be a top athlete.

He believed in himself, he had confidence in his own ability; the effect is that during a tense contest when the pressure mounts, Ovtcharov responds.

Technical strengths essential in the present day – innovation, the bravery to be different, the mental fortitude to have confidence in your own ability – whatever the sport, those elements add up to a world-class performer.

They add up to the name of Ovtcharov, the player who perhaps cannot sing like Frank Sinatra but can always say: I did it my way.

IAN MARSHALL



introduces
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WORLD'S GREATEST

Previous winners of the Team World Cup



The two victorious Chinese squads at the 2015 ITTF Team World Cup.



1990 (JAPAN)

MEN
Champions: Sweden
Runners-up: China

WOMEN
Champions: China
Runners-up: DPR Korea

1991 (BARCELONA, SPAIN)

MEN
Champions: China
Runners-up: Sweden

WOMEN
Champions: China
Runners-up: Korea Republic

1994 (NIMES, FRANCE)

MEN
Champions: China
Runners-up: Sweden

WOMEN
Champions: Russia
Runners-up: Germany

1995 (ATLANTA, USA)

MEN
Champions: Korea Republic
Runners-up: Germany

WOMEN
Champions: China
Runners-up: Romania

2007 (MAGDEBURG, GERMANY)

MEN
Champions: China
Runners-up: Hong Kong-China

WOMEN
Champions: China
Runners-up: Korea Republic

2009 (LINZ, AUSTRIA)

MEN
Champions: China
Runners-up: Korea Republic

WOMEN
Champions: China
Runners-up: Singapore

2010 (DUBAI, UAE)

MEN
Champions: China
Runners-up: Korea Republic

WOMEN
Champions: China
Runners-up: Singapore

2011 (MAGDEBURG, GERMANY)

MEN
Champions: China
Runners-up: Korea Republic

WOMEN
Champions: China
Runners-up: Japan

2013 (GUANGZHOU, CHINA)

MEN
Champions: China
Runners-up: Chinese Taipei

WOMEN
Champions: China
Runners-up: Japan

2015 (DUBAI, UAE)

MEN
Champions: China
Runners-up: Austria

WOMEN
Champions: China
Runners-up: DPR Korea



Been there... done that... got the medals

Des Douglas and Alan Cooke remember England's bronze at the inaugural Team World Cup in 1990.

Raise the subject of the 1990 World Cup and many will remember England's fourth-place finish in the football version in Italy.

But there was another England team in red-hot World Cup form that year – and without a penalty shootout defeat against Germany to darken the mood!

1990 was the year of the first Team World Cup in table tennis, and the England line-up of Des Douglas, Alan Cooke, Chen Xinhua and Skylet Andrew turned in some superb performances to bag bronze medals.

The event was held in several cities in Japan and England began with 3-0 victories over Chinese Taipei and Canada in the group stage, before a 3-1 defeat to world champions Sweden saw them confirmed as group runners-up. Unusually, that earned them silver medal mementoes.

The quarter-final stage saw hosts Japan defeated 3-1, before Sweden were again the opponents in the semis and this time it was 3-0 to the Swedes and England had to settle for bronze.

Spearheaded by Jan-Ove Waldner who would go on to win singles gold at the Barcelona 1992 Olympics, Sweden took the title by beating China in the final, with North Korea the other bronze medallists.

Des and Alan are still big names in table tennis – Alan is the England Leopards' head coach, while Des needs little introduction as a legend of the English game, reaching a high of No 7 in the world and winning a stack of honours, including a record 11 national men's singles titles.

We asked them to bring along their World Cup medals and share with us some of their memories of that first Team World Cup.

So, tell us your memories of winning those medals back in 1990.

Des: *Very little – it shows because I brought the wrong medal! (Des brought with him the silver group-stage medal).*

All I can remember is getting on an Aeroflot flight out there. I can't remember too much about the matches. I know we played in different places in Japan but, nearly 30 years ago, it's a long time for me to remember!

It was a new venture, but any sort of World Cup was going to be really hard to play, whether it's singles or team. We had Chen Xinhua, myself, Alan and Skylet Andrew. Carl Prean (another outstanding player who went on to feature at three Olympics) didn't play but if he did we were thinking that would be the dream team. You've got four players with

different styles, who could cause the opposition a lot of problems.

Alan: *I remember being excited about going to Japan to play in a World Cup and genuinely feeling we had a chance. We were looking forward to playing against any team. I think the only team we felt were going to be the team to beat were Sweden so we were hoping if we did get through, we wanted to meet them but we wanted to meet them as late as possible. I think we even preferred to play China at one stage. We certainly didn't fear any team, it was more excitement than anything.*

It was a very different format then with several cities hosting – England played in Aomori and Osaka – what was it like travelling around different cities?

Alan: *It was very much trying to copy the model that the football world cup looked like. We were drawn into groups, as far as I can remember it was four groups of four played in different cities and the top two from each city would go through to play the finals.*

When we set out we didn't know whether we would be there for three or four weeks or we'd just be there for the week and then on the plane back.

Continued on page 44

Been there, done that, got the medals

Remembering Team World Cup 1990

From page 43



Des Douglas

We were optimistic and as it turned out, we ended up being there for the duration.

Des: But you get used to travelling and playing in different cities and just performing the best you can.

How does it differ preparing for a team event?

Des: In my day it was different because at most events, you had singles and team and that made it very difficult. If it was just team, that would be considerably easier to prepare because you just focus on that, but when you have singles and team and also doubles, it's a different ball game.

Alan: One of the reasons many people say the greatest British player of all time, sat next to me here, probably didn't win quite as much as he might have been capable of was that in team events he had to play every match and it did drain a lot of your energy.

The advantage Sweden had was a huge squad of players, whereas we played with the same three players match after match after match so although we were reasonably fit athletes, you were struggling with the energy levels compared with the Swedes because they were able to constantly swap their teams around. But it is what it is and you've got to do what you can do.

What's nice in this era, we're starting to get a slightly bigger squad of players who can all contribute to the team.

The other big difference is we had one major competition a year that we knew we had to be peaking for, generally in April or May, whereas now it's a merry-go-round of high-level competitions and the players have just got to make sure they know what their goals are, when they want to peak and then make the preparation appropriate to that.

Did you ever get the chance to play in something of that sort of scale, in your home country, and what will it mean to today's athletes to have that sort of chance?

Des: Apart from the World Championships in 1977, not on that sort of scale. But it's fantastic. It's almost like an Olympics, it only comes around every so often, so it's like a dream. If you are around and get selected, you've just got to grab it because you might never get another chance.

Alan: I'm coming from a slightly different angle, with my coaching role. I'm really excited because I think we've got a really special group of young players. They've already shown that on their day they are capable of competing at the highest level.

It's something really special for everybody to be involved in a World Cup, let alone a World Cup when you're hosting it. I'm excited and I guarantee the England teams are.

Where does the World Cup medal fit in to all the things you achieved in your career?

Des: It's important because I only played in one. The Olympics came in in 1988 and that was prestige, to play in the first one in Seoul.

But I would still think for me, the Europeans, Worlds, Top 12s, foreign Opens, those were the most important ones because we weren't sure at that stage how the World Cup was going to shape up.

Alan: I think there's more satisfaction winning as a team than as an individual. Des had a lot of success for sure, but I think sharing success with team-mates and going through the journey you go through, the ups and downs you have as a team, is amazing. If at the other end you've produced your best performances and hopefully come out with some medals it's amazing to share the experience as a team as opposed to doing that as an individual.

For me, it's a huge event and a huge opportunity for our young players. Hopefully this will be something they will be talking about in 30 years' time, like we're sat here talking about it now.

PAUL STIMPSON



Alan Cooke

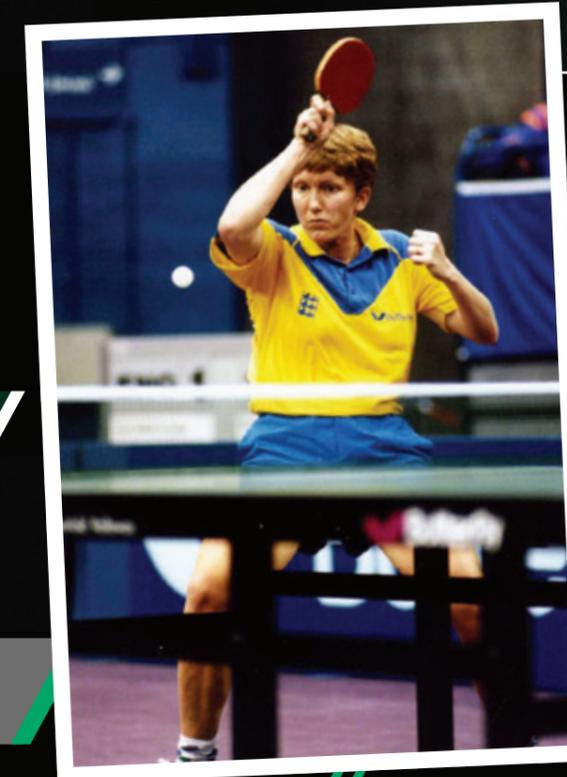
Taking on the world...

Previous England appearances

Below: England men's squad in both 1991 and 1994, from left: Carl Pream, Matthew Syed, Chen Xinhua, Alan Cooke.



Below: Alison Gordon was part of the 1991 England women's team.



Host | Japan

1990

England finishing position

3rd

Squad

Chen Xinhua
Alan Cooke
Desmond Douglas
Skylet Andrew

Host | Barcelona, Spain

1991

England finishing positions

Men 5th

Men's squad

Chen Xinhua
Alan Cooke
Carl Pream
Matthew Syed

Women 9th

Women's squad

Fiona Elliot
Alison Gordon
Andrea Holt
Lisa Lomas

Host | Nimes, France

1994

England finishing position

5th

Squad

Chen Xinhua
Alan Cooke
Carl Pream
Matthew Syed

Inspired by the Team World Cup?

Here's how to get involved...

> CLUBS

If watching the World's best table tennis players at the Copper Box Arena has inspired you to get involved in playing more regularly, a table tennis club could be just what you are looking for.

You can be sure that if you join one of our affiliated clubs, you will receive a warm welcome and help to get involved in the sport in whatever way you want.

Whatever age or gender you are, whether you are a complete beginner or have played before and whether you are seeking to play competitively or socially, there are a variety of clubs looking for new players just like you!

Table Tennis England is committed to providing opportunities for anyone and everyone to play the sport and therefore works with clubs at all levels. Our Club Affiliation programme allows all clubs to tap into Table Tennis England's expertise and resources. There are free and paid-for versions, ensuring that all clubs can forge a relationship with us at whatever level they wish to.



We also help clubs to become accessible and open to all disabled people, providing training and guidance to support an inclusive environment.

And it's not just playing – we also help clubs to get more people into coaching, umpiring and volunteering.

As well as growing participation, our PremierClubs are committed to improving your experience of table tennis as a player or volunteer.

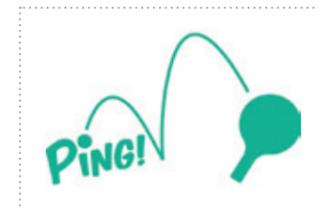
Table Tennis England has recently launched a new Table Tennis Finder to make it even easier for you to find a great playing opportunity. Visit our website to search for opportunities by club name, postcode or current location and to find contact details for clubs so that you can get in touch and discuss how they can help you..

www.tabletennisengland.co.uk/compete/where-to-play/table-finder/

If you are a club and you do not currently appear on the Table Tennis Finder, please contact help@tabletennisengland.co.uk to find out how to get your club on the map.

> SOCIAL SCHEMES

Table Tennis England are striving to support the development of happy, healthy communities, workplaces and groups through various social table tennis initiatives. These projects, which include Loop, Ping! and Ping Pong Parlours, are built around the simple concept of taking table tennis to the places the public already spend time, removing all barriers to participation and making the game more visible, accessible and relevant than ever before.



Ping!

Ping! brings summer outdoor fun and activity to public spaces all over England. In its eighth year of delivery, an unprecedented 24 towns and cities welcomed the table tennis tables during 2017, providing free to use equipment and encouraging everyone to grab a bat and ball and get playing!

The tables take people by surprise, popping up as they do in shopping centres, parks, railway stations and iconic locations; creating a delightfully informal, fun and unique experience.

Ping! will be returning this summer to a town or city near you! Visit www.pingengland.co.uk for more information.



Table Tennis England President Jill Parker MBE enjoys one of the Ping! tables.



Loop

The Loop range of table tennis table packages include everything required to introduce the game into workplaces or community spaces.

Loop at work

'Beat the Boss' packages help workplaces create a better work/play balance, provide an injection of energy to the office and encourage staff to interact and be more active.

Packages include tables, bats, balls, trophies, organiser/pioneer resources and support, links to competition and more, everything required to get colleagues around the table.

www.keepintheLOOP.uk/work/

Loop in the community

Designed for religious centres, village halls, youth clubs, minority groups etc., Loop helps get communities more active and brings members closer together.

Loop's subsidised 'Join In' packages include everything you need to kick-start social table tennis in community venues; with table, bats, balls, organiser/pioneer booklet and support, lots of printed resources, signposting and advice to get the most out of the sessions.

www.keepintheLOOP.uk/community/

PING PONG PARLOUR

Ping Pong Parlours

'Pop-up' Ping Pong Parlours usually occupy empty retail space, filled with table tennis tables to provide spontaneous drop in opportunities for passers-by to play for free. They provide a fun, accessible venue and a welcome diversion from shopping; as well as brightening up empty retail space and providing a hook to bring the local community into the shopping centre.

The parlour initiative has proven very popular, with parlours in locations such as Northampton, London, Maidenhead, Chatham, Weston-Super-Mare and Norwich, with many more in the pipeline.

www.keepintheLOOP.uk/ppp/

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income that could cover all your outgoings, helping you plan for
the unexpected and avoid any slip-ups in the future.

In celebration of the Team World Cup, we are giving away a
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Get free or half-price entry
to top-class table tennis at the
Copper Box next week!



The ITTF Team World Cup is the first of THREE major table tennis
events at the Copper Box Arena in the next few days.

England's men and women are
back in action here two days after
the World Cup finishes, with a double-
header European Championships
fixture when the men face Bosnia-
Herzegovina and the women take on
Norway. The action gets under way
at 6pm on Tuesday, February 27.

And just two days after that, the four-
day pinnacle of the domestic game
takes place when the PG Mutual
National Championships are staged.

All the top English players will be
there, with Paul Drinkhall and Tin-Tin
Ho defending their singles titles.
Alongside this, there will also be three
doubles titles to decide and a range

of para events featuring a host of
Paralympians.

The four-day event kicks off with the
Under-21 men's and women's singles
on Thursday March 1 and builds up
to the showpiece finals on Sunday
March 4.

Entry to the first day is free and
under-fives go free every day.

Team World Cup ticket-holders can
enjoy a 50% discount on tickets
for Friday, Saturday and Sunday,
meaning you could watch the action
on Friday for just £2.50, on Saturday
for £4 and on Sunday's Finals Day
for an amazing £5!



Defending champions: Paul Drinkhall and Tin-Tin Ho won their respective singles titles at last year's PG Mutual National Championships. They will be going for glory again here in the Copper Box Arena from Thursday March 1 — and before that there is a chance to see England men (below) and women in action here on the evening of Tuesday February 27.

To buy tickets to the PG Mutual Nationals, visit our Box Office in the venue
today, or buy online at: www.tabletennisengland.co.uk/nationals-tickets/

Just enter your discount code **TTNC50** when you buy tickets online.

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Dressed to impress!

England Leopards are taking to the field of play here in London sporting their brand new kit for the first time.

Table Tennis England recently signed a new four-year agreement with their Official Clothing Supplier, Butterfly.

The deal will see the manufacturer continue to supply bespoke kit for the England squad, as well as the England Youth Squad and National Centre for Excellence.

There are red and black 'home and away' versions of the kit, which features a new England Table Tennis Team logo designed around the traditional three leopards badge, as well as the logos of Butterfly and Tees Sport, the Butterfly partner for specialist equipment in the British Isles.

Show your support for England by buying your own England kit - on sale at the Tees Sport stand here at the Copper Box or via www.teessport.com

Butterfly was keen to extend its relationship with the England team in the wake of the men's squad winning bronze medals at the World Team Championships in Malaysia in 2016.

Taisei Imamura, President of Tamasu Butterfly Europe, said: "We are delighted to continue our long-standing support for Table Tennis England and the English team. The new kit that we are supplying takes advantage of the latest materials

which are the most comfortable to play in and wear.

"I wish England every success in the Team World Cup and the other important competitions coming up in the near future."

Table Tennis England Chief Executive Sara Sutcliffe said: "We are proud to have extended our relationship with Butterfly and hope our players can continue to deliver world-class performances while wearing a world-class brand.

"We are particularly pleased that our men's and women's squads will wear the new kit designs for the first time at the Team World Cup - I'm sure the home crowds at the Copper Box will really get behind them."



THE WOW FACTOR

Long after the last serve has been made, the last spectator has left, and the lights have gone out at the Copper Box Arena, the work of the ITTF Team World Cup continues.

Table Tennis England will be keeping the ball rolling as its sets about creating a legacy in London communities.

Thanks to a grant from the Mayor of London's office, Table Tennis England has launched its legacy project aimed at getting people to try table tennis and to continue playing long after the tournament ends.

This work started in schools, with free tickets offered to 2,000 children to allow them to watch world-class athletes in a world-class venue - with the aim of inspiring them to get active themselves.

One of those schools attending is Bickley Primary School.

Sarah Lloyd, Year 6 teacher and PE Coordinator, commented: "Our Year 6 children and staff are so excited about attending the Table Tennis World Cup. It is not every day that you get a chance to see world-class athletes perform!

"Next term the children will be participating in a unit of table tennis for PE, we're hoping the competition will be the perfect opportunity to inspire the children in the sport and help them to understand the rules."

As well as offering free tickets, Table Tennis England has also provided

How the ITTF Team World Cup can inspire the next generation

teacher training and donated a number of tables to primary schools to enable the children to continue to enjoy the sport for the long term.

Work is also under way in the wider community of East London with plans to inspire 12,000 locals to take up table tennis, with a particular focus on people who are the least likely to be active at present.

This work will pick up pace in late spring and summer as Table Tennis England encourages people to get active and make use of the 40 free-to-use public tables across its key legacy boroughs: Tower Hamlets, Hackney, Newham, Barking & Dagenham and Waltham Forest. A further five new tables will also be installed.

Sara Sutcliffe, Chief Executive of Table Tennis England, said: "The Team World Cup isn't just a four-day event for Table Tennis England and the sport. The work continues well beyond Sunday's medals ceremony.

"Not only are we aiming to keep those 2,000 schoolchildren participating in the sport for the long-term, we're also offering more opportunities to the wider community by increasing the number of free-to-access table tennis tables throughout East London.

"These major sporting events are never just about the world-class athletes coming to London and having a great experience - they're also an opportunity for us to work with the local community to help impact people's lives for the greater good."

Commenting on the project, the Deputy Mayor of London, Matthew Ryder, said: "I am honoured to be working with Table Tennis England by supporting their Team World Cup Community Legacy programme.

"It's giving Londoners of all ages and backgrounds a chance to try table tennis for themselves at home, at work and in their communities.

"As Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, Social Mobility and Community Cohesion, I believe table tennis is most special. It really is a sport for everyone with the power to bring people together.

"I hope this event encourages those watching to pick up a paddle and play ping-pong."

REBECCA HUGHES

...and don't forget your TWC merchandise!

Pick up your souvenir of the ITTF Team World Cup 2018 at our merchandise stall in the venue today!

From T-shirts and hoodies to bags, water bottles and key rings, we have a range of goods to suit all tastes and budgets.

Here's what you can buy:

- Hoodie: £28
- Polo shirt: £18
- Limited edition adult's or kid's event T-shirt (black or white): £12
- Bag: £9.50
- Water Bottle: £3.50
- Keyring: £3.50
- Fan Horn: £3
- Scarf: £12
- V neck jumper: £25



The ITTF Team World Cup would not be possible without our team of more than 120 volunteers, who have given their time and enthusiasm to fill a number of essential roles, from spectator services to media and athlete support. Our volunteer team is managed by Alice Robinson and Gail Johns.

“Thank you!”



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