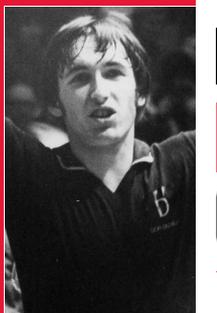
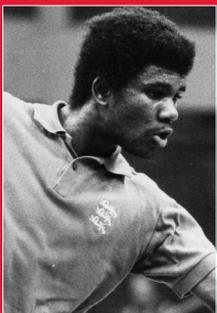
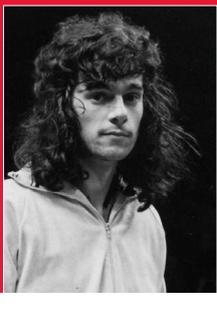
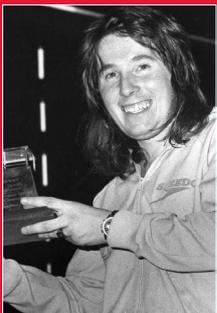
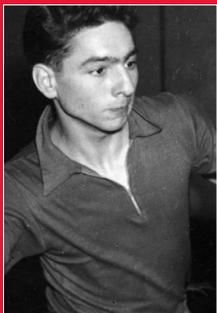
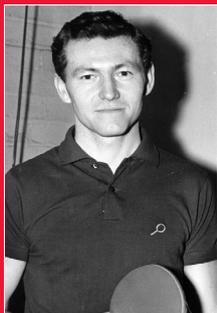
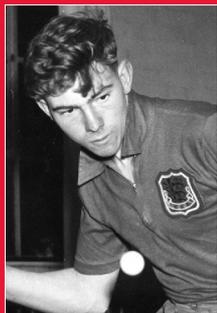
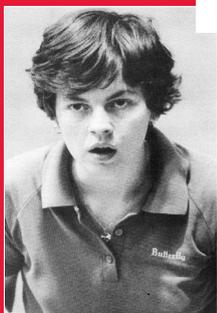




Mark Bates Ltd National Championships  
David Ross Sports Village, Nottingham  
February 28-March 1, 2020

# BUTTERFLY

Timo Boll



Seven times European Singles Champion. European Games Men's Singles Champion 2019. World ranked No.6 (June 2019). Plays with a Timo Boll ALC with Tenergy 05 Hard forehand and Dignics 05 backhand



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# Welcome from Table Tennis England



**Sandra Deaton**  
**Chairman,**  
**Table Tennis England**

## **I am delighted and honoured to welcome you to Table Tennis England's Mark Bates Ltd National Championships at the wonderful David Ross Sports Village at Nottingham University.**

We can look forward to three days of packed table tennis from our elite athletes as our top players battle it out in singles, doubles and Para events for the right to be called National Champion 2020.

As in previous years, there are those players who have earned their right to participate by virtue of their ranking – while we have continued with the exciting qualifying event to give those players who don't make the automatic selection a chance to compete as part of the best in the country.

As this year also brings the Olympics and Paralympics in Japan, I am delighted that we have a chance to see some of our top athletes competing on home soil as they prepare for the qualification events on the road to Tokyo. We wish them much success on that journey.

It is a wonderful opportunity for some of our younger players to take their first steps on their own journey to international representation, by taking on the best in their own country – and maybe to experience competing at this level in this showcase arena for the first time.

I also want to welcome and thank our new headline sponsor for this event, Mark Bates Ltd. Table Tennis England has signed a five-year deal with Mark Bates Ltd, who are a long established, family-run insurer specialising in niche and general insurance products.

Mark is no stranger to table tennis and will already be well-known to many of you. He has had personal experience of National Championships as two of his children, Emily and Michael, have both won national titles in their age groups.

We will use their investment wisely and are delighted that this ensures that we can continue to broadcast our National Finals to a wider audience. We have also been able to increase our prize fund across the board.

I would also like to thank Mike Perry and PG Mutual for their sponsorship of this event over the past four years.

Finally, I would like to thank the staff at Table Tennis England; our officials; our volunteers; our sponsors; our players; coaches and supporters. None of this could happen without your dedication.

I wish all our players good luck and hope they play to the best of their ability with determination, enthusiasm and good sportsmanship. I hope everyone enjoys the weekend.

## **Front cover**

**National singles champions since 1960 in order of winning the event. Top row, left to right:** Bryan Merrett, Diane Rowe, Ian Harrison, Bobby Stevens, Chester Barnes, Mary Shannon; **Second row:** Denis Neale, Judy Williams, Karenza Mathews, Trevor Taylor, Jill Hammersley, Des Douglas; **Third row:** Carole Knight, Paul Day, Karen Witt, Alison Gordon; **Fourth row:** Lisa Bellinger, Joy Grundy, Fiona Elliot, Alan Cooke, Carl Prean, Andrea Holt; **Fifth row:** Chen Xinhua, Matthew Syed, Nicola Deaton, Alex Perry, Andrew Baggaley, Helen Lower; **Sixth row:** Paul Drinkhall, Kelly Sibley, Joanna Parker, Liam Pitchford, Tin-Tin Ho, Maria Tsaptsinos.



TABLE TENNIS ENGLAND'S OFFICIAL BALL  
2018/19 & 2019/20

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## Welcome from our sponsor



**Mark Bates Ltd**  
Insurance you can trust

### Mark Bates Managing Director, Mark Bates Ltd

#### I would like to welcome you all to the 2020 Senior National Table Tennis Championships at the University of Nottingham.

I am delighted that my business “Mark Bates Ltd” are the title sponsors of this event for the first time.

I am very excited to be supporting the pinnacle event of the competition calendar, given my strong love and passion for Table Tennis. For years I travelled the circuit with my children, who were keen participants in the sport, with Emily going on to represent her country and win various National titles. During this time I was lucky to form good friendships and meet many of the hard-working volunteers.

My business specialises in insurance, offering

comprehensive and affordable policies for a range of products including Travel, Car, Caravan, Mobility Equipment, and Carer. We pride ourselves on putting the customer first, with a dedicated team based in Lincolnshire, committed to sorting things out when the worst happens. I’m particularly proud of our 5 Star rated Home Insurance, which offers complete protection at a great price.

Our support for this big event is just the start of a long-term partnership with Table Tennis England. In the coming years, we hope members from the table tennis community will benefit from some of the great policies we have to offer.

Most importantly, we hope our support will increase the profile and participation of this great game, getting a new generation involved.

## Welcome from our hosts



### Dan Tilley Director of Sport, University of Nottingham



**University of  
Nottingham Sport**

#### The University of Nottingham is incredibly excited to be hosting the 2020 Mark Bates Ltd National Championships here at our flagship £40 million venue.

Here at University of Nottingham Sport, we are very proud of our sector-leading table tennis performance programme and world-class competition facilities and it is an honour to be chosen once again as the 2020 venue by Table Tennis England.

For our students and coaching team competing over the weekend, the opportunity to compete in front of a home crowd is invaluable. For our aspiring players, the chance to watch the country’s top players in action at these Championships is hugely inspirational.

At Nottingham, our heritage of outstanding table tennis

alumni includes the legendary Olympic champion Deng Yaping, with whom we have a strong ongoing partnership that provides excellent programme opportunities for our students.

We are also excited to welcome back former student and reigning Women’s Singles champion Maria Tsapsinos. Her fellow Commonwealth Games 2018 bronze medallist and team-mate, Tin-Tin Ho, is a current University of Nottingham Sport student scholar.

We have a great partnership with Table Tennis England and are very grateful for their continued support. Moreover we’d like to express our thanks to Mark Bates Ltd, who are an integral part of making this event a success.

On behalf of the university, may I welcome all the players, coaches, support staff and spectators to the David Ross Sports Village and wish you all a successful tournament and visit to Nottingham.

## The officials

### Patron

HM The Queen

### Table Tennis England

President: Jill Parker MBE

Chairman: Sandra Deaton

Chief Executive: Sara Sutcliffe

Board members: Tony Catt (Elected Deputy Chairman), Charlie Childs (Elected Deputy Chairman), Susie Hughes (Elected Deputy Chairman), Simon Griew, Steve Kemish, Doug Livingstone, Dee Paterson, Tom Purcell, Mark Quartermaine, Priya Samuel

### Umpires

Mike Atkinson, David Edwards, Lyndon Griffiths, Harry Jutle, Peter May, Paul Nichols, Beate Nicol, Josh Reynolds, Jenny Sanders, Derek Sidaway, Lester Smith, Alan Thomas, Philip Ware, Gary Whyman

### Tournament Organisation

Tournament Director: Carol Miles

Referee: Stuart Sherlock

Deputy Referee: Cliff Bell

Assistant Referee: Kim Mudge

Umpire Manager: Karen Tonge MBE

Field of Play Manager: Jim Kenny

Assistant Field of Play Manager: Brian Jackson

Technical Operations Manager: Chris Newton

Volunteer Manager: Linda Savage

Event Workforce: Neil Rogers, Alex Mercer, Sirly Jurioja, Mick McKeown, Cheryl McKeown, Toby Oliver

Scoring and Results Manager: Dimosthenis Messinis

Digital Manager: Rebecca Hughes

Official Event Photographer: Alan Man

Programme Editor: Paul Stimpson

Contributor: Diane Webb; Photos: Alan Man, Ian Hebden, ITTF, Michael Loveder, Chris Rayner

- Anyone with safeguarding concerns during the event can contact our Safeguarding Manager, Judy Rogers, on 07507 860034

- By purchasing a ticket, spectators have agreed that they may appear in event photography and/or TV broadcasting. If anyone feels uncomfortable about this, or wishes to report any concerns, please speak to your nearest volunteer or staff member.

- Flash photography and live streaming are NOT permitted but please feel free to share your photos and short videos on Twitter - please tag @ TableTennisENG and use the hashtag #MarkBatesNationals



## Fanzone

Don't forget to visit our Fanzone! Come along and see if you can conquer the robot challenge and win a prize, including signed England kit! You can also browse our trade stands and have a knock on one of the free-play tables.

The Fanzone is located at the far end of the arena, to the right as you enter the venue.



# The schedule

## > Friday February 28

<b>9am-11am</b> Under-21 Women's Singles group stage; Under-21 Men's Singles group stage (Tables 1-6)	Women's Singles semi-finals (T2, T4) <b>1.45pm</b> Under-21 Women's Singles final (T1) <b>Followed by presentation</b>	<b>7pm-8pm</b> Mixed Doubles first round (T1-4) <b>8pm</b> Mixed Doubles quarter-finals (T1-4)
<b>11am</b> Under-21 Women's Singles quarter-finals (T1-4)	<b>2.20pm</b> Under-21 Men's Singles final (T1) <b>Followed by presentation</b>	<b>8.40pm</b> Mixed Doubles semi-finals (T1-2)
<b>11.45am</b> Under-21 Men's Singles quarter-finals (T1-4)	<b>3pm-7pm</b> Women's Singles group stage; Men's Singles group stage (Tables 1-6)	<b>9.15pm</b> Mixed Doubles final (T1) <b>Followed by presentation</b>
<b>12.30pm</b> Under-21 Men's Singles semi-finals (T1, T3); Under-21		

## > Saturday February 29

<b>9am</b> Men's Doubles first round (T1-2, T4); Para class 3-5 group stage (T3)	group stage (T3) <b>11.30am</b> Women's Doubles quarter-finals (T1-2, T5-6)	(T1-2, T5-6); Para class 3-5 semi-final 1 (T3)
<b>9.30am</b> Women's Doubles first round (T1-2); Men's Doubles first round (T4-5); Para class 3-5 group stage (T3)	<b>Noon</b> Para class 7-10 group stage (T1-2, T4, T6); Para class 3-5 group stage (T3)	<b>3.15pm</b> Men's Singles first round (T1-2, T4, T6); Para class 3-5 semi-final 2 (T3)
<b>10am</b> Women's Doubles first round (T6); Men's Doubles first round (T1-2);	<b>12.30pm</b> Women's Singles first round (T1-2, T5-6); Para class 3-5 group stage (T3)	<b>4pm</b> Women's Singles quarter-finals (T1-2, T4-T5); Para class 7-10 semi-final (T6)
<b>10.30am</b> Para class 7-10 group stage (T1-2, T5-6); Para class 3-5 group stage (T3)	<b>1.15pm</b> Women's Singles first round (T1-2, T4-5)	<b>4.45pm</b> Men's Singles quarter-finals (T1-2, T4, T6); Para class 7-10 semi-final (T5)
<b>11am</b> Men's Doubles quarter-finals (T1-2, T4, T6); Para class 3-5	<b>2pm</b> Para class 7-10 group stage (T1-2, T4, T6)	<b>5.30pm</b> Women's Doubles quarter-finals (T1-2)
	<b>2.30pm</b> Men's Singles first round	<b>6pm</b> Men's Doubles semi-finals (T1-2)

## > Sunday March 1

<b>9.30am</b> Women's Singles semi-final 1	<b>12.45pm</b> Para class 3-5 final <b>Followed by presentation</b>	<b>3pm</b> Men's Doubles final <b>Followed by presentation</b>
<b>10.15am</b> Men's Singles semi-final 1	<b>1.30pm</b> Women's Doubles final <b>Followed by presentation</b>	<b>4pm</b> Women's Singles final <b>Followed by presentation</b>
<b>11am</b> Women's Singles semi-final 2	<b>2.15pm</b> Para class 7-10 final <b>Followed by presentation</b>	<b>5pm</b> Men's Singles final <b>Followed by presentation</b>
<b>11.45pm</b> Men's Singles semi-final 2		

**All the draws and detailed schedule: Pages 22-31**

## > Event formats

### Men's Singles and Women's Singles

The top 22 players in the January 2020 ranking list were invited to compete, joining 10 players who had come through the Qualifying Competition, making a maximum of 32 in each competition. If any players in the top 22 decline their invitation, their places are offered to those who finished in 11th to 32nd positions at the Qualifying Tournament and, if there are still spaces available, to the highest ranked players who have not already got a place.

**Competition format:** Top 8 seeds have bye to last 16; group stage - best of 5, top player qualifies; knockout stage - best of 7.

### Para competitions

Players are invited based on British Para Table Tennis Domestic Points order.

**Competition format:** Group stage - best of 5, top 2 players qualify; knockout stage - best of 5.

### Under-21 singles competitions

Players are invited on the basis of their rankings on the January 2020 list, up to a maximum of 16 in each competition.

**Competition format:** Top 4 seeds have bye to quarter-finals; group stage - best of 5, top player qualifies; knockout stage - best of 7.

### Doubles competitions

A player who has secured a place in any singles competition can also enter any doubles competition for which they are eligible. Their partner does not have to have a singles place.

**Competition format:** Knockout stage - best of 5.

• *Tournament seedings are based on the February 2020 ranking list. All information correct at time of printing.*

# The players: Men's Singles

## Seeded



**Liam Pitchford**  
Age: 26  
From: Chesterfield  
Ranked: 1



**Paul Drinkhall**  
Age: 30  
From: Loftus  
Ranked: 2



**Sam Walker**  
Age: 24  
From: Worksop  
Ranked: 3



**Tom Jarvis**  
Age: 20  
From: Skegness  
Ranked: 4



**Chris Doran**  
Age: 28  
From: Cogenhoe  
Ranked: 5



**David McBeath**  
Age: 27  
From: Southampton  
Ranked: 6



**Helshan Weerasinghe**  
Age: 22  
From: Tonbridge  
Ranked: 8



**Michael O'Driscoll**  
Age: 48  
From: Shepreth  
Ranked: 10

**Sam Mabey**  
Age: 22  
From: Willoughby  
Waterleys  
Ranked: 11  
*Invited*

**Luke Savill**  
Age: 20  
From: Maidstone  
Ranked: 13  
*Invited*

**Sam Wilson**  
Age: 18  
From: Corby  
Ranked: 14  
*Invited*

**Josh Bennett**  
Age: 20  
From: Eastbourne  
Ranked: 16  
*Invited*

**Ethan Walsh**  
Age: 17  
From: Stevenage  
Ranked: 18  
*Qualified*

**James Smith**  
Age: 19  
From: Orpington  
Ranked: 19  
*Qualified*

**Shayan Siraj**  
Age: 18  
From: Leeds  
Ranked: 20  
*Invited*

**Israel Awolaja**  
Age: 19  
From: Kensal Green  
Ranked: 21  
*Qualified*

**Jack Bennett**  
Age: 22  
From: Eastbourne  
Ranked: 22  
*Qualified*

**James Hobson**  
Age: 20  
From: Wakefield  
Ranked: 23  
*Invited*

**Gabriel Achampong**  
Age: 22  
From: Edgware  
Ranked: 24  
*Qualified*

**Adam Nutland**  
Age: 26  
From: Kidderminster  
Ranked: 25  
*Invited*

**Alim Hirji**  
Age: 30  
From: Totteridge  
Ranked: 25  
*Invited*

**Louis Price**  
Age: 15  
From: Bristol  
Ranked: 27  
*Qualified*

**Lorestas Trumpauskas**  
Age: 50  
From: Bermondsey  
Ranked: 28  
*Invited*

**Shaquille Webb-Dixon**  
Age: 21  
From: Rotherhithe  
Ranked: 31  
*Qualified*

**Josh Weatherby**  
Age: 16  
From: Sunderland  
Ranked: 33  
*Qualified*

**Zak Cantor**  
Age: 20  
From: Manchester  
Ranked: 36  
*Qualified*

**Graeme Barella**  
Age: 26  
From: Newcastle  
Ranked: 39  
*Qualified*

**Liam McTiernan**  
Age: 24  
From: Reading  
Ranked: 40  
*Qualified*

**George Hazell**  
Age: 20  
From: Horsham  
Ranked: 43  
*Qualified*

**Umair Mauthoor**  
Age: 32  
From: Barking  
Ranked: 48  
*Qualified*

**Naphong Boonyaprapa**  
Age: 15  
From: Nottingham  
Ranked: 49  
*Qualified*

**Ben Piggott**  
Age: 14  
From: Stockton-on-Tees  
Ranked: 52  
*Qualified*

## U21 singles

**Luke Savill**  
20, Maidstone  
**Sam Wilson**  
18, Corby  
**Josh Bennett**  
20, Eastbourne  
**Ethan Walsh**  
17, Stevenage  
**James Smith**  
19, Orpington  
**Shayan Siraj**  
18, Leeds  
**Israel Awolaja**  
19, Kensal Green  
**James Hobson**  
20, Wakefield  
**Louis Price**  
15, Bristol  
**Joe Cope**  
18, Hartlepool  
**Josh Weatherby**  
16, Sunderland  
**Zak Cantor**  
20, Manchester  
**Naphat Boonyaprapa**  
18, Nottingham  
**Amirul Hussain**  
16, Oldham  
**George Hazell**  
20, Horsham  
**David Gofton**  
17, Middlesbrough

# The players: Women's Singles

## Seeded



**Tin-Tin Ho**  
Age: 21  
From: Paddington  
Ranked: 1



**Maria Tsaptsinos**  
Age: 22  
From: Reading  
Ranked: 2



**Denise Payet**  
Age: 18  
From: Enfield  
Ranked: 3



**Emily Bolton**  
Age: 21  
From: Askam-in-Furness  
Ranked: 4



**Mollie Patterson**  
Age: 17  
From: King's Lynn  
Ranked: 5



**Charlotte Bardsley**  
Age: 17  
From: Stourbridge  
Ranked: 6



**Lois Peake**  
Age: 23  
From: Chichester  
Ranked: 7



**Evie Collier**  
Age: 25  
From: Brentwood  
Ranked: 8

**Jasmin Wong**  
Age: 16  
From: Hull  
Ranked: 10  
*Invited*

**Mari Baldwin**  
Age: 15  
From: Okehampton  
Ranked: 11  
*Invited*

**Letitia McMullan**  
Age: 21  
From: Fareham  
Ranked: 14  
*Invited*

**Gemma Kerr**  
Age: 16  
From: Plymouth  
Ranked: 16  
*Invited*

**Tiana Dennison**  
Age: 18  
From: Leyton  
Ranked: 17  
*Invited*

**Anaya Patel**  
Age: 15  
From: Basingstoke  
Ranked: 18  
*Invited*

**Rachel Baker**  
Age: 27  
From: St Helens  
Ranked: 20  
*Invited*

**Millie Rogove**  
Age: 15  
From: Totteridge  
Ranked: 23  
*Invited*

**Amy Marriott**  
Age: 15  
From: Rotherham  
Ranked: 24  
*Qualified*

**Xiaoman Ji**  
Age: 50  
From: Beckenham  
Ranked: 25  
*Invited*

**Mya Sultan**  
Age: 19  
From: Neasden  
Ranked: 26  
*Qualified*

**Sara Williams**  
Age: 44  
From: Bedford  
Ranked: 27  
*Invited*

**Erin Green**  
Age: 15  
From: Nottingham  
Ranked: 28  
*Qualified*

**Lisa Rinnohofer**  
Age: 19  
From: Solihull  
Ranked: 36  
*Invited*

**Samadhi Udamulla**  
Age: 15  
From: Welwyn Garden City  
Ranked: 37  
*Qualified*

**Megan Jones**  
Age: 14  
From: Telford  
Ranked: 42  
*Qualified*

**Kirsty Maull**  
Age: 15  
From: Wednesbury  
Ranked: 50  
*Qualified*

**Emily Haskell**  
Age: 17  
From: Okehampton  
Ranked: 52  
*Qualified*

**Gracie Edwards**  
Age: 18  
From: Clacton-on-Sea  
Ranked: 53  
*Qualified*

**Rebecca Savage**  
Age: 14  
From: Northallerton  
Ranked: 58  
*Qualified*

**Anna Green**  
Age: 13  
From: Nottingham  
Ranked: 60  
*Qualified*

**Stefania Popa**  
Age: 15  
From: Grantham  
Ranked: 73  
*Qualified*

**Alice Hazell**  
Age: 18  
From: Horsham  
Ranked: 91  
*Qualified*

**Medha Verma**  
Age: 18  
From: Richmond  
Ranked: 118  
*Qualified*

## U21 singles

**Denise Payet**  
18, Enfield  
**Mollie Patterson**  
17, King's Lynn  
**Charlotte Bardsley**  
17, Stourbridge  
**Jasmin Wong**  
16, Hull  
**Mari Baldwin**  
15, Okehampton  
**Gemma Kerr**  
16, Plymouth  
**Tiana Dennison**  
18, Leyton  
**Anaya Patel**  
15, Basingstoke  
**Millie Rogove**  
15, Totteridge  
**Amy Marriott**  
15, Rotherham  
**Mya Sultan**  
19, Neasden  
**Erin Green**  
15, Nottingham  
**Lisa Rinnohofer**  
19, Solihull  
**Lois Perryman**  
17, Welling  
**Jodie Morris**  
16, Brighton  
**Emily Haskell**  
17, Okehampton

## The players: Para

### Standing class 7-10



**Ross Wilson (class 8)**  
Age: 24  
From: Minster



**Alex Bland (7)**  
Age: 20  
From: Rotherham



**Kim Daybell (10)**  
Age: 27  
From: Sheffield



**Ashley Facey-Thompson (9)**  
Age: 25  
From: Leytonstone



**Billy Shilton (8)**  
Age: 21  
From: Stonehouse



**Jack Stockdale (10)**  
Age: 19  
From: Hornchurch



**Shae Thakker (10)**  
Age: 16  
From: Denham



**Craig Allen (9)**  
Age: 25  
From: Bromsgrove

### Wheelchair class 3-5



**Jack Hunter-Spivey (5)**  
Age: 24  
From: Liverpool



**Sue Gilroy (4)**  
Age: 47  
From: Barnsley



**Megan Shackleton (4)**  
Age: 20  
From: Todmorden



**Daniel Bullen (5)**  
Age: 22  
From: St Neots



**Lee York (3)**  
Age: 31  
From: Ossett



**Romain Simon (4)**  
Age: 30  
From: South Woodford

#### Classifications

Classes 1-5 are for physical impairment (sitting), class 1 being the most severely affected and class 5 having the most physical functionality. Classes 6-10 are for physical impairment (standing), class 6 being the most severe and class 10 the least. Class 11 is for those with an intellectual disability. These are set by the International Paralympic Committee.

## The players: Doubles

### Men

Liam Pitchford & Paul Drinkhall  
Sam Walker & Tom Jarvis  
David McBeath & Michael O'Driscoll  
Sam Wilson & Chris Doran  
Luke Savill & Joe Cope  
Josh Bennett & Jack Bennett  
James Smith & Ethan Walsh  
James Hobson & Israel Awolaja  
Lorestan Trumpauskas & Alim Hirji  
Josh Weatherby & Louis Price  
Zak Cantor & Adam Jepson  
Naphong Boonyaprapa & Naphat Boonyaprapa  
Graeme Barella & Ben Piggott  
David Gofton & George Downing  
Shaquille Webb-Dixon & Connor Whitehead

### Women

Tin-Tin Ho & Evie Collier  
Denise Payet & Emily Bolton  
Jasmin Wong & Charlotte Bardsley  
Mollie Patterson & Lois Perryman  
Millie Rogove & Mari Baldwin  
Amy Marriott & Gemma Kerr  
Mya Sultan & Tiana Dennison  
Anaya Patel & Erin Green  
Anna Green & Megan Jones  
Kirsty Maull & Rebecca Savage

### Mixed

Sam Walker & Tin-Tin Ho  
Chris Doran & Charlotte Bardsley  
Josh Bennett & Denise Payet  
Alim Hirji & Emily Bolton  
Ethan Walsh & Mollie Patterson  
James Hobson & Evie Collier  
Jack Bennett & Gemma Kerr  
Louis Price & Anaya Patel  
George Hazell & Letitia McMullan  
Graeme Barella & Rachel Baker  
Naphat Boonyaprapa & Erin Green  
Naphong Boonyaprapa & Millie Rogove  
Josh Weatherby & Rebecca Savage  
James Smith & Alice Hazell  
Ben Piggott & Lois Perryman

**All the draws:  
Pages 22-31**



# Jack's on the Hunt for Paralympic glory

**Success in any sport is about small margins and although 24-year-old Jack Hunter-Spivey from Liverpool is still looking for his first major championship medal he has missed out by the narrowest of margins.**

Twice he has lost in the quarter-finals at the European Championships, in 2017 and 2019, and at the World Championships in 2018, on all three occasions to the current world champion Ali Ozturk, twice in five sets.

So near yet so far, but Hunter-Spivey has shown that he can beat the best players in the world and remains as determined as ever to prove it on the biggest stage of all – the Paralympic Games.

"I feel that I have proved to myself now that I can beat big players on the big stage," he said, "and I've got to take something from that. I'm not someone you want to play in a quarter-final because I'll always give everything.

"I'm getting more experience every time I play for a medal in a major championship and hopefully in Tokyo it will all click into place and I'll get that medal."

When London won the Olympic and Paralympic bid in 2005, the then 10-year-old Hunter-Spivey was playing table tennis in a youth club in Widnes and decided that he wanted to play in the Paralympic Games in London. Although he just missed out on selection for London, he experienced the

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**Paralympic year is always massively more exciting. It's the biggest show on earth and why we all started playing table tennis.**

atmosphere of the Games through the Paralympic Inspiration Programme and went on to achieve his dream of representing ParalympicsGB in Rio 2016.

"Competing in Rio meant absolutely everything to me, he said. "To become a Paralympian was what drove me from the age of 10 but my goals have changed – it is a massive honour to be a Paralympian but now I want a Paralympic medal. I want to show what I can do on the biggest stage and bring home a medal for GB.

"The experience of Rio has helped massively as I don't feel that it is an unknown quantity any more. I've done well to get into a qualifying position (for Tokyo) but I need to use my experience from Rio and the way I handled the Games and the preparation.

"Paralympic year is always massively more exciting. It's the biggest show on earth and why we all started playing table tennis. We have a major championship every year but this is the biggest one."

In the meantime Hunter-Spivey, who has been national wheelchair champion for the last six years, is looking forward to competing in front of a home crowd at these Mark Bates Ltd National Championships.

"One thing we are not used to in Para table tennis is playing in front of big crowds at home and I think it will be amazing," he said. "I'm really looking forward to showcasing Paralympic table tennis as best we can."

FRANCESCA BULLOCK

Feature: Olympic qualifying

# Athletes fight to keep Olympic Aspiration alive



Left: Liam Pitchford in action against Ma Long at the Rio 2016 Olympics

Top right: Paul Drinkhall celebrates a victory in Rio

Bottom right: Tin-Tin Ho in Team GB colours at the European Games

**Great Britain may have missed out on clinching a team place at Tokyo 2020, but the door is still open for individual players to join the Olympics party.**

Both the GB men's and women's squads failed to claim one of the qualifying spots at the Olympic Team Qualifying Tournament in Portugal in January, meaning they will not be among the 16 nations competing in the Japanese capital this summer.

But while the road ended there for the teams, English athletes Liam Pitchford, Paul Drinkhall, Tin-Tin Ho and – potentially – Sam Walker are still all in the mix to qualify for the singles.

The first opportunity will come at the European Qualification Tournament in Moscow in April, where Pitchford, Drinkhall and Ho have met the criteria to compete.

If they do not come through that route, they can go on to the final World Qualification Tournament in Qatar in May.

Beyond that, a number of places at Tokyo 2020 may be

based on world rankings, meaning Walker could enter the reckoning if he is in the top two British athletes in June – only the top two in any nation can win a place at the Olympics.

The men's qualification process is underpinned by the Aspiration Fund, a UK Sport fund which supports athletes attempting to qualify for Tokyo 2020.

For now, Pitchford, Drinkhall and Ho are happy to still have the opportunity, particularly the two men, for whom the team disappointment was particularly keenly felt, such are their own expectations of success these days.

The seventh-seeded GB squad, which also featured Walker and Tom Jarvis, started well enough at the qualifying tournament in Portugal, defeating Argentina 3-0.

That earned them a tough match against ninth seeds Croatia, in which the winner would confirm their place at the Olympics. All the matches were close – three tight games in the opening doubles, while GB led 2-1 in both singles – but Croatia took it 3-0.

That meant GB had to win three additional matches to finish top of the second stage of qualifying. They were



drawn against 17th-ranked Hungary in the first of those and surprisingly went down 3-1, despite Pitchford defeating Bence Majoros 3-0.

Pitchford said: "We can't beat around the bush – it just wasn't good enough from any of us, really."

"I think we knew the doubles is a weak point which we need to focus on – something we all need to come together and work on."

"Against Croatia, me and Paul had chances in our singles. It felt like we were in control of our matches but maybe we put a bit too much pressure on ourselves and it didn't work out."

"I thought I played okay, but not allowing ourselves to play how we can – that's disappointing. I felt in control and let it slip and Paul I'm sure would agree about his match."

"They are a good team and they were better than us on the day. After that match it was always going to be tough to come back after a tough loss and have to go again."

Drinkhall agreed, saying: "We put in a strong performance against Argentina and, to be fair, we took a lot of that form into the Croatia match. Losing 3-0 isn't good, but they

played a really good match. There were a few little things that could have changed the outcome, but there wasn't much wrong. Credit to them because they did the same and came out on top."

"Against Hungary, we weren't as good as we were in the other two matches and as soon as you give anyone a chance at this level, they have the right to take that chance."

"I got myself in a winning position in games and felt on top, but I didn't manage to close them out. I got to the point where I was in control, but let it go – or my opponent got control back. That's something I'm working on."

"It's disappointing that we're not going to have a team in Tokyo, because we truly believe that on our day we are one of the best teams in the world. We've got to ensure it's our day more often."

So it is now on to Moscow in April and Pitchford said: "I'm quite relieved that I'm getting another chance in the singles qualifiers. There's an opportunity for us to go there and if we play the way we can, there's definitely a chance."

"We can't rely on rankings – when it comes down to it, we've got to go out and perform. We've done it before but that's in the past and we've got to do it here and now."

"We've got the World Championships as well as the Olympic qualifiers and that's another chance to prove we can perform."

"That's the beauty of sport that you get another chance to prove yourself. One week you can have a bad week but the next you can play well."

Drinkhall added: "It's going to be hard. We've got a bit of time to train and put things right for the individual qualifiers."

"I've got to focus on myself and get to the point where I am the best I can be when the tournament comes, and perform as I have been over the last year or 18 months."

Ho's expectations of team qualification alongside Maria Tsapsinos and Wales' Charlotte Carey were not as high as the men's squad, with the 25th-ranked GB losing 3-0 to 14th-ranked Spain in the first round.

And as she pursues her first Olympic experience – though she has featured for Team GB at the European Games – she is also realistic that, on paper at least, her ranking suggests singles qualification is a big ask.

In order to focus on the challenge of qualifying, Ho has taken a gap year from her medical studies at the University of Nottingham to move back to Austria, where she spent a year training and competing after her A-levels.

Ho said: "It's every athlete's dream to compete at the Olympics. That's the reason I took the gap year this year, to see what I could do and try to qualify."

"It was quite an easy decision – it doesn't make any difference to my university studies and I knew it was a really good opportunity."

"I took a year out after A-levels and came to Austria and I really liked it here, so that's why I came back."

"I've been training hard and trying to figure out a few things mentally and in my game. I'm in a good place. I know I must play really, really well to qualify – but it is possible."

"I haven't really thought too much about Moscow yet. There's not much I can do now except prepare the best that I can."

Ho is playing for Linz in the ETTU Cup as well as the Austrian league. The club includes England colleague Denise Payet and Austrian Karoline Mischek, with whom Ho won the European under-21 women's doubles gold medal last year.

"It helps having a team-mate and a friend there, but I've got a lot of other friends there, it's a good group and we always encourage each other," said Ho.

"Karoline my doubles partner is there and she's improving a lot, so it's good to play with her."

**PAUL STIMPSON**

# The Nationals at 60 Why words of merit eluded first champion Merrett . . .

**“To Bryan ‘Stonewall’ Merrett goes the distinction of being the first home-born men’s national table tennis champion since Percy Bromfield won the Open in 1923-24.**

“He gained this somewhat dubious honour when the ETTA, obviously fed up with the overseas monopoly of our titles, introduced the first English ‘closed’ championships at Greenwich Baths from January 8 to 10.”

So begins the report by Harrison Edwards in the February 1960 edition of the *Table Tennis* magazine, covering the first edition of what has evolved 60 years later into the Mark Bates Ltd National Championships.

The reporting of that first men’s singles final by *Table Tennis* is interesting in that it took a rather dim view of the quality of the match between Merrett and Ian Harrison.

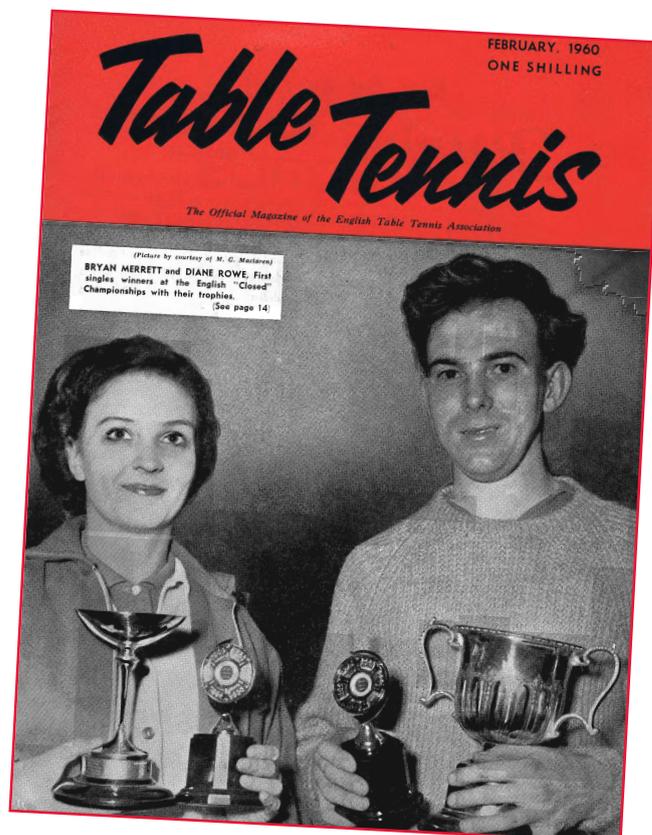
Edwards’ report continued: “Merrett upset the National Ranking when he beat his Gloucestershire colleague Ian Harrison 16-21, 21-19, 21-16, 21-18 after 59 minutes of tedious “pushing”. This may have been all very well for the student of table tennis, but it was a final calculated to do immeasurable harm as far as spectator appeal is concerned.

“It was so slow and uninspiring that there was continuous shuffling and murmuring among the crowd, many of whom took the opportunity to slip out for a cup of tea, then returned to find the game had progressed by only a few points.”

Meanwhile, Johnny Leach’s column in the same edition labelled Merrett’s tactics as “dour and unenterprising” – though in making him his player of the month, the 1951 world champion Leach acknowledged that it is results that count and noted: “Believe me, it takes the patience of a saint to stay the course with Bryan Merrett.”

As well as Merrett, the inaugural champions included Diane Rowe, who completed the ‘triple crown’ by winning the singles as well as the women’s doubles with Jill Rook and the mixed doubles with Leach, who in turn won the men’s doubles alongside Michael Thornhill.

That first championships had been some time in the creation, with resistance from those for whom the English



**Above: The front cover of the February 1960 magazine featuring the two inaugural singles champions. Below: the draw sheets from the original competitions**

The image shows two hand-drawn draw sheets for the 1960 English 'Closed' Championships. The top sheet is for 'EVENT 1—Men's Singles' and the bottom sheet is for 'EVENT 2—Women's Singles'. Both sheets are filled with handwritten names and scores, showing the progression of players through various rounds. The top sheet shows Bryan Merrett as the winner, and the bottom sheet shows Diane Rowe as the winner. The sheets are written on a grid and include names of other players and their scores in various rounds.

Open – regarded at the time as second in importance to the World Championships – took precedence.

Among the opponents was ETTA President Ivor Montagu, who nevertheless wrote in his programme welcome that he was “very glad” the event was taking place, despite having been against it for 20 years.

He went on to explain: “My opposition was based on sentiment. Not since 1924 has an English-born player won the men’s singles in the English Open Championships, one of the most respected, as the most ancient, of Open titles in the table tennis world. Indeed, it has proved easier for English-born men players to win the world title than the English Open.

“Forgive me, then, for feeling so long, perhaps too long, that we ought first to show ourselves capable of winning our own Open once again and wishing to avoid the gibe, coming if only from a small inner voice ‘you only started a Closed because you can’t win your Open’.

“But sentiment becomes a debilitating luxury if persisted in to the extent of refusing to face the times . . . will a Closed be good for English table tennis now, in present-day conditions? I am sure it will. And that the decision is a wise one.”

He also concluded that: “The title of CHAMPION OF ENGLAND, even if it be a closed one, is no trivial matter.”

Among the other noteworthy names involved in organising the first event was Colin Clemett, who was responsible for the umpires and remains to this day, in his 90s, the doyen of officialdom at home and overseas.

Since 1960, a roll call has developed of national champions. Currently, a total 84 players have at least one title to their name in men’s or women’s singles, men’s or women’s doubles or mixed doubles.

The following pages take a look at the Nationals through the years.

**PAUL STIMPSON**



Men's or Women's Singles + Men's or Women's  
Doubles + Mixed Doubles =

# Total National Titles

**30**

Desmond Douglas

**22**

Paul Drinkhall

**18**

Alan Cooke  
Denis Neale

**17**

Helen Lower  
Jill Shirley (Hammersley/Parker)

**16**

Nicola Deaton (Perry)

**15**

Fiona Elliot (Mommessin)  
Mary Shannon (Wright)  
Kelly Sibley  
Karenza Smith (Mathews)

**14**

Skylet Andrew  
Joanna Parker (Drinkhall)  
Alex Perry

**13**

Lisa Bellinger (Lomas)  
Liam Pitchford  
Diane Rowe (Scholer)

**12**

Chester Barnes  
Tin-Tin Ho  
Linda Howard (Jarvis)

**10**

Andrea Holt

**9**

Paul Day

**8**

Ian Harrison

**7**

Alison Gordon (Broe)  
Carole Knight (Moore)  
Darius Knight

**6**

Nicky Mason  
Maria Tsaptsinos

**5**

Alan Hydes  
Carl Prean

**4**

Andrew Baggaley  
Johnny Leach  
Matthew Syed  
Trevor Taylor

**3**

Joy Grundy (Dean)  
Gareth Herbert  
Bobby Stevens  
Sam Walker  
Karen Witt  
Chen Xinhua

**2**

Andy Barden, Natalie Bawden (Green), Jackie Bellinger (Worrell),  
Bradley Billington, Nigel Eckersley, Katherine Goodall (Maxwell),  
Nicky Jarvis, Bryan Merrett, Kubrat Owolabi, Bobby Raybould,  
Danny Reed, Jill Rook (Mills), Anita Stevenson, Georgina Walker,  
Elsie Weaver (Carrington), Brian Wright, Terry Young

**1**

Emily Bates (Leeson), Josh Bennett, Julie Billington, Jackie Canham (Billington), David Creamer, Chris Doran, Gavin Evans,  
Mary Fuller, Stuart Gibbs, Judy Heaps (Miller), John Hilton, Damien Holland, John Holland, Melody Ludi (Hill),  
Michael Maclaren, David McBeath, Jean Page (McCree), Jean Parker (Stokes), Pauline Piddock (Hemmings), Marguerite 'Peggy'  
Piper, Linda Radford (March), Mandy Sainsbury (Smith), Graham Sandley, Beverley Sayer (Godfrey), Michael Thornhill,  
Jimmy Walker, Judy Williams

*\* Female players listed by their maiden names; married names in brackets*

# The Nationals at 60: Men's Singles champions

1960: Bryan Merrett

1961: Ian Harrison

1962: Bobby Stevens

1963: Chester Barnes

1964: Chester Barnes

1965: Chester Barnes

1966: Denis Neale

1967: Ian Harrison

1968: Denis Neale

1969: Denis Neale

1970: Denis Neale

1971: Chester Barnes

1972: Trevor Taylor

1973: Trevor Taylor

1974: Chester Barnes

1975: Denis Neale

1976: Des Douglas

1977: Denis Neale

1978: Paul Day

1979: Des Douglas

1980: Des Douglas

1981: Des Douglas

1982: Des Douglas

1983: Des Douglas

1984: Des Douglas

1985: Des Douglas

1986: Des Douglas

1987: Des Douglas

1988: Alan Cooke

1989: Alan Cooke

1990: Des Douglas

1991: Carl Prean

1992: Chen Xinhua

1993: Carl Prean

1994: Chen Xinhua

1995: Carl Prean

1996: Alan Cooke

1997: Matthew Syed

1998: Matthew Syed

1999: Alex Perry

2000: Matthew Syed

2001: Matthew Syed

2002: Andrew Baggaley

2003: Alan Cooke

2004: Alan Cooke

2005: Alan Cooke

2006: Alex Perry

2007: Paul Drinkhall

2008: Andrew Baggaley

2009: Paul Drinkhall

2010: Andrew Baggaley

2011: Paul Drinkhall

2012: Paul Drinkhall

2013: Liam Pitchford

2014: Liam Pitchford

2015: Liam Pitchford

2016: Paul Drinkhall

2017: Paul Drinkhall

2018: Liam Pitchford

2019: Liam Pitchford



“ Until 1960 the focus in England had been on the English Open, which, other than 1936 when Fred Perry was the champion, had always been won by foreign born players. The Closed was introduced, in part, to give us Brits something of our own.

I lost to Bryan Merrett in the final of the first (1960), but won the second, in which season I also became English Open champion. At that time the Closed was always regarded as the poor relation to the Open, which carried far more prestige - after all, the standards were much higher. I felt much the same, although, of course, delighted to have won. I have more pride in holding both the Open and Closed titles in the same year.

“ I remember my dad taking me to the English Championships in 1963, Manor Place Baths, London. I was only 11 but I can still recall watching the legendary Stan Jacobson, originator of the loop playing Kevin Forshaw in the early rounds. Stan reached the final of the singles in 1962. In later life he took up tennis and became British Number 1 in the over-60s age group.

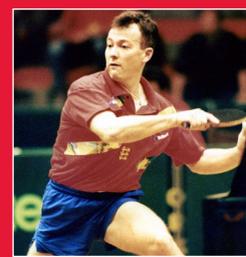


“ It's a dream to be national senior champion and I wasn't long out of the Juniors the first time I won it by beating Nicky Jarvis, so it was quite early in my career.

I was happy with one, I wouldn't believe I would go on to win 11, with Denis Neale, Trevor Taylor and Nicky around. Once I went to play in Germany after the 1977 Worlds, that put me on another level. I felt I had a bit of an aura after that and that people had to move up to the next level to play me because I was

playing a higher standard. I didn't expect to be there so long. Not being beaten for so long, it all adds up and there was enormous pressure that year when I lost to Cookie. Will anyone win 11 or more titles? It depends how hungry Liam and Paul are and how hungry the youngsters are coming up, and there are so many other goals they all have as well.

“ As a young player, you are desperate to be English champion, it's a big landmark. As well as that, there was the landmark of beating Des. You used to hope someone else would beat him and open up the competition, but that year I had the mindset of wanting to play him. I'd beaten him in the Top 12, and at another event, but the Top 12 was 11-up so people were saying it didn't count! The pressure was building in that sense to convince people by becoming national champion. It was a special moment but it probably wouldn't have been the same without beating Des.



“ I beat Alex Perry in my first final and it felt like a great achievement. I knew a couple of years before that I was in the running but I lost to Alex in the quarter-finals. I think my physical game was ready a couple of years earlier but maybe I wasn't ready mentally. Each one is a great achievement - there's players every year who are hungry and want to win it.

“ I would say it was a relief when I won it because I'd lost a couple of finals before and there's always that doubt whether you are going to win one. After that, it lifted the weight off my shoulders and I managed to win it three times in a row - the first one gave me that winning mentality. Now I have an expectation of myself every year because I know I can do it.



# The Nationals at 60: Women's Singles champions

- 1960: Diane Rowe
- 1961: Diane Rowe
- 1962: Diane Rowe
- 1963: **Mary Shannon**
- 1964: Diane Rowe
- 1965: Mary Shannon
- 1966: Mary Wright
- 1967: Mary Wright
- 1968: Mary Wright
- 1969: Judy Williams
- 1970: Mary Wright
- 1971: Karenza Mathews
- 1972: Karenza Mathews
- 1973: **Jill Hammersley**
- 1974: Jill Hammersley
- 1975: Jill Hammersley
- 1976: Jill Hammersley
- 1977: Carole Knight
- 1978: Jill Hammersley
- 1979: Jill Hammersley
- 1980: Carole Knight
- 1981: Jill Hammersley
- 1982: Carole Knight
- 1983: Karen Witt
- 1984: Alison Gordon
- 1985: Lisa Bellinger
- 1986: Joy Grundy
- 1987: **Fiona Elliot**
- 1988: Alison Gordon
- 1989: Lisa Lomas
- 1990: Fiona Elliot
- 1991: Andrea Holt
- 1992: Alison Gordon
- 1993: Andrea Holt
- 1994: Lisa Lomas
- 1995: Andrea Holt
- 1996: Alison Broe
- 1997: Nicola Deaton
- 1998: Lisa Lomas
- 1999: Nicola Deaton
- 2000: Nicola Deaton
- 2001: Nicola Deaton
- 2002: Nicola Deaton
- 2003: Andrea Holt
- 2004: Andrea Holt
- 2005: **Helen Lower**
- 2006: Helen Lower
- 2007: Helen Lower
- 2008: Kelly Sibley
- 2009: Joanna Parker
- 2010: Joanna Parker
- 2011: Kelly Sibley
- 2012: Kelly Sibley
- 2013: Kelly Sibley
- 2014: Joanna Drinkhall
- 2015: Kelly Sibley
- 2016: **Tin-Tin Ho**
- 2017: Tin-Tin Ho
- 2018: Tin-Tin Ho
- 2019: **Maria Tsaptsinos**

“ My main memory of my first English Closed title in January 1963 was one of surprise as it was the first time I had ever beaten Diane Rowe, the defending champion and England No 1 - not only beating her but three straight games as well. This was a great tournament for me as Di and I won the ladies' doubles and I also won the mixed doubles with my now husband Brian Wright. It was also the start of a long and successful partnership in ladies' doubles with Diane Rowe which saw us win several national titles and the European titles in 1962 and 1964. This tournament was also the start of the career of Chester Barnes as he won the men's singles at the tender age of 15. The papers were full of it the next day with two teenage champions (I was 18), and both of us having been coached by Harry Venner.



“ As a player it was the most prestigious tournament for me to play in, featuring all the top players in England and well spectated by table tennis fans from around the country. It was a great feeling to be the national champion and all the titles were special in their own way. I'm obviously very proud to achieve the successes I did at the Nationals. Hopefully I have set a high standard for the current and future players to aim at. Will somebody win the women's singles eight times? I hope so and time will tell!



“ The nationals was always a big date in my planning, it was the one to win. There was always that extra buzz in the hall during this competition. When I won my first title it was unexpected, so it took a while for it to sink in and then I was on cloud nine. I was proud but mainly for my family and my coach as they had sacrificed and given as much time to my preparation as I had.



“ I lost seven finals before I won one, so it was actually a relief to finally win it, having been so close. When you look at the names on the trophy afterwards, it's an honour to win it.



“ Becoming National Champion has been a special dream since my first ever National Championships. After losing lots of semi-finals and finals, to win it was one of the best feelings of my table tennis career. Despite the many the setbacks, tears and challenges I have faced throughout the years, every year I would be so excited for weeks in advance to see my friends and to compete. It's also one of the rare times I get to have my dad in my corner. He really enjoys watching me play as he doesn't get the chance when I'm abroad, so I'm really thankful for that (although I think he gets twice as nervous as me, so I'm not sure he would agree!)



“ The memories I will take away from 2019 are extra special to me. Winning the singles event for the first time was an overwhelming experience and exceeded my expectations. After only being professional for one year I felt the tough grind and hard work prior to the event shine through. The feeling after winning was one of enormous happiness and I hope to relive similar enjoyable moments again.



# The Nationals at 60: Doubles champions

## Men's

1960: Johnny Leach & Michael Thornhill  
1961: Ian Harrison & Bryan Merrett  
1962: Bobby Raybould & Bobby Stevens  
1963: Bobby Raybould & Bobby Stevens  
1964: David Creamer & Johnny Leach



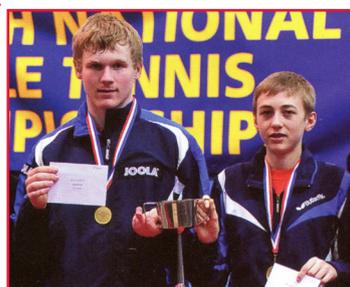
1965: **Chester Barnes & Ian Harrison**  
1966: Chester Barnes & Ian Harrison  
1967: Chester Barnes & Ian Harrison  
1968: Chester Barnes & Ian Harrison  
1969: Alan Hydes & Denis Neale  
1970: Alan Hydes & Denis Neale  
1971: Chester Barnes & Trevor Taylor  
1972: Alan Hydes & Denis Neale  
1973: Denis Neale & Trevor Taylor  
1974: Alan Hydes & Denis Neale  
1975: Andy Barden & Paul Day  
1976: Des Douglas & Denis Neale  
1977: Des Douglas & Denis Neale



1978: **Andy Barden & Paul Day**  
1979: Des Douglas & Jimmy Walker  
1980: Paul Day & Nicky Jarvis  
1981: Paul Day & Des Douglas  
1982: Paul Day & Des Douglas  
1983: Paul Day & Des Douglas  
1984: Paul Day & Des Douglas  
1985: Des Douglas & Carl Prean  
1986: Des Douglas & Carl Prean  
1987: Skylet Andrew & Nicky Mason  
1988: Skylet Andrew & Nicky Mason  
1989: Skylet Andrew & Nicky Mason  
1990: Alan Cooke & Des Douglas  
1991: Skylet Andrew & Nicky Mason  
1992: Alan Cooke & Des Douglas  
1993: Skylet Andrew & Nicky Mason  
1994: Skylet Andrew & Nicky Mason  
1995: Alan Cooke & Des Douglas  
1996: Alan Cooke & Des Douglas  
1997: Alan Cooke & Des Douglas  
1998: Alan Cooke & Des Douglas



1999: **Gareth Herbert & Alex Perry**  
2000: Gareth Herbert & Alex Perry  
2001: Bradley Billington & Alan Cooke  
2002: Andrew Baggaley & Gareth Herbert  
2003: Alex Perry & Terry Young  
2004: Bradley Billington & Alan Cooke  
2005: Alex Perry & Terry Young  
2006: Alan Cooke & Paul Drinkhall  
2007: Paul Drinkhall & Darius Knight  
2008: Paul Drinkhall & Darius Knight  
2009: Paul Drinkhall & Darius Knight  
2010: **Gavin Evans & Liam Pitchford**  
2011: Chris Doran & Danny Reed  
2012: **Darius Knight & Danny Reed**  
2013: Paul Drinkhall & Liam Pitchford  
2014: Paul Drinkhall & Liam Pitchford  
2015: Paul Drinkhall & Liam Pitchford  
2016: Paul Drinkhall & Liam Pitchford  
2017: Paul Drinkhall & Liam Pitchford  
2018: Paul Drinkhall & David McBeath  
2019: Liam Pitchford & Paul Drinkhall



## Women's

1960: Jill Rook & Diane Rowe  
1961: Elsie Carrington & Jean McCree  
1962: Jill Mills & Rosalind Rowe  
1963: **Diane Rowe & Mary Shannon**  
1964: Diane Rowe & Mary Shannon  
1965: Diane Rowe & Mary Shannon  
1966: Karenza Smith & Mary Wright  
1967: Karenza Smith & Mary Wright  
1968: Jackie Billington & Elsie Carrington  
1969: Judy Heaps & Pauline Piddock  
1970: Karenza Mathews & Mary Wright  
1971: Karenza Mathews & Jill Shirley  
1972: Jill Hammersley & Karenza Mathews  
1973: Linda Howard & Karenza Mathews  
1974: Linda Howard & Karenza Mathews  
1975: Carole Knight & Karenza Mathews  
1976: **Jill Hammersley & Linda Howard**  
1977: Jill Hammersley & Linda Howard  
1978: Jill Hammersley & Linda Howard  
1979: Jill Hammersley & Linda Howard  
1980: Carole Knight & Anita Stevenson  
1981: Jill Hammersley & Linda Jarvis  
1982: Carole Knight & Anita Stevenson  
1983: Jill Hammersley & Karen Witt  
1984: Alison Gordon & Mandy Sainsbury  
1985: Jackie Bellinger & Lisa Bellinger  
1986: Joy Grundy & Jean Parker

1987: **Jackie Bellinger & Lisa Bellinger**  
1988: Fiona Elliot & Lisa Lomas  
1989: Fiona Elliot & Lisa Lomas  
1990: Fiona Elliot & Lisa Lomas  
1991: Fiona Elliot & Lisa Lomas  
1992: Fiona Elliot & Lisa Lomas  
1993: Katherine Goodall & Andrea Holt  
1994: Lisa Lomas & Fiona Mommessin  
1995: Katherine Goodall & Andrea Holt  
1996: Alison Broe & Nicola Deaton  
1997: Andrea Holt & Kubrat Owolabi  
1998: Andrea Holt & Lisa Lomas  
1999: Nicola Deaton & Helen Lower  
2000: Nicola Deaton & Helen Lower  
2001: Nicola Deaton & Helen Lower  
2002: Nicola Deaton & Helen Lower  
2003: Nicola Deaton & Kubrat Owolabi  
2004: Helen Lower & Georgina Walker  
2005: Natalie Bawden & Helen Lower  
2006: Helen Lower & Georgina Walker  
2007: Natalie Bawden & Helen Lower  
2008: Joanna Parker & Kelly Sibley  
2009: Emily Bates & Mary Fuller  
2010: Joanna Parker & Kelly Sibley  
2011: **Joanna Parker & Kelly Sibley**  
2012: Joanna Parker & Kelly Sibley  
2013: Joanna Parker & Kelly Sibley  
2014: Joanna Drinkhall & Kelly Sibley  
2015: **Tin-Tin Ho & Maria Tsaptsinos**  
2016: Tin-Tin Ho & Maria Tsaptsinos  
2017: Tin-Tin Ho & Maria Tsaptsinos  
2018: Kelly Sibley & Maria Tsaptsinos  
2019: Tin-Tin Ho & Maria Tsaptsinos



## Mixed

- 1960: Johnny Leach & Diane Rowe
- 1961: Michael Maclaren & Peggy Piper
- 1962: Johnny Leach & Diane Rowe
- 1963: Brian Wright & Mary Shannon
- 1964: Ian Harrison & Diane Rowe
- 1965: Chester Barnes & Diane Rowe
- 1966: Brian Wright & Mary Wright
- 1967: Stuart Gibbs & Beverley Sayer
- 1968: Denis Neale & Karenza Smith
- 1969: Denis Neale & Karenza Smith
- 1970: Denis Neale & Mary Wright
- 1971: Chester Barnes & Karenza Smith
- 1972: Denis Neale & Karenza Mathews
- 1973: Alan Hydes & Linda Howard
- 1974: Denis Neale & Karenza Mathews
- 1975: Nicky Jarvis & Jill Hammersley
- 1976: Des Douglas & Linda Howard
- 1977: Paul Day & Melody Ludi
- 1978: Nigel Eckersley & Karen Witt
- 1979: Des Douglas & Linda Howard
- 1980: John Hilton & Jill Hammersley
- 1981: Des Douglas & Linda Jarvis
- 1982: Des Douglas & Linda Jarvis
- 1983: Nigel Eckersley & Joy Grundy
- 1984: Skylet Andrew & Carole Moore
- 1985: Graham Sandley & Alison Gordon
- 1986: Skylet Andrew & Fiona Elliot
- 1987: Skylet Andrew & Fiona Elliot
- 1988: Skylet Andrew & Fiona Elliot
- 1989: John Holland & Julie Billington
- 1990: Skylet Andrew & Fiona Elliot
- 1991: Chen Xinhua & Nicola Deaton
- 1992: Skylet Andrew & Fiona Elliot
- 1993: Skylet Andrew & Fiona Mommessin
- 1994: Skylet Andrew & Fiona Mommessin
- 1995: Damien Holland & Linda Radford
- 1996: Alan Cooke & Nicola Deaton
- 1997: Alex Perry & Andrea Holt
- 1998: Alan Cooke & Nicola Deaton
- 1999: Alex Perry & Nicola Deaton
- 2000: Alex Perry & Helen Lower
- 2001: Alan Cooke & Nicola Deaton
- 2002: Alex Perry & Helen Lower
- 2003: Alex Perry & Helen Lower
- 2004: Alex Perry & Helen Lower
- 2005: Alex Perry & Helen Lower
- 2006: Alex Perry & Helen Lower
- 2007: Darius Knight & Kelly Sibley
- 2008: Paul Drinkhall & Joanna Parker
- 2009: Paul Drinkhall & Joanna Parker
- 2010: Paul Drinkhall & Joanna Parker
- 2011: Paul Drinkhall & Joanna Parker
- 2012: Darius Knight & Kelly Sibley
- 2013: Darius Knight & Kelly Sibley
- 2014: Sam Walker & Tin-Tin Ho
- 2015: Sam Walker & Tin-Tin Ho
- 2016: Sam Walker & Tin-Tin Ho
- 2017: Paul Drinkhall & Joanna Drinkhall
- 2018: Liam Pitchford & Tin-Tin Ho
- 2019: Josh Bennett & Tin-Tin Ho



# Peerless Rowe w home and on w

**One of our most decorated female players at the National Championships was also a star on the international stage.**

Diane Rowe won the triple crown at the first English Closed Championships in January 1960, triumphing in the Women's Singles, the Women's Doubles with Jill Rook and the Mixed Doubles with Johnny Leach.

Diane was No 1 seed in all her events and so achieved the expected results but she had to play brilliantly for her successes, defeating four England internationals on her way to victory in the singles: Margaret Fry, Jean Harrower, Shelagh Hession and, in the final, Jean McCree 3-1 (21-16, 21-15, 19-21, 21-19).

The Mixed Doubles final, although won in three straight games, had a final score of 15, 10, 28. The losing finalists were Ian Harrison & Yvonne Baker. The Women's Doubles was a more straightforward affair, a victory by 15, 14, 18 over Betty Bird & Jean Harrower.

During the 1959/60 season Diane was unbeaten in singles matches, having many successes in Open tournaments, she was also the only unbeaten player in the series of matches against the Chinese People's Republic. Her position at the Championships looked unassailable and so it proved despite the plethora of stars and internationals who were there.

Diane would no doubt have won more National titles but fate intervened when she married German international, Eberhard Scholer, in 1966 and so moved to Germany, where she also won several of the German national titles.

It started for left-handed Diane when she was 14 years old who, with her twin sister, Rosalind, were hoping for bikes for their birthday. Instead their present was a table tennis set. It wasn't long before both sisters were making an impact on the domestic front and in 1951, only four years later, Diane and Rosalind were standing at the top of the podium at the World Championships having won their first Women's Doubles world title. In 1954 at Wembley the pair again became world champions – on their 21st birthday. What a way to celebrate!

Further medals for the twins came in 1952, 1953 and 1955 when they received silver medals. In 1957 and 1963 Diane earned two



more silver medals with Ann Haydon and Mary Wright, having to change partners as Ros by this time had married Dr John Cornett who she had met on a ship on the way to New Zealand and Australia on tour.

It wasn't just in the Women's Doubles that Diane achieved success. In the Women's Team event she received two silver and five bronze, plus one bronze in the Women's Singles and a silver and bronze with Johnny Leach in the Mixed Doubles. A total of two gold medals, eight silvers and seven bronzes. It is unlikely any English players will be able to emulate this tremendous record.

The first European Championships were played in 1958 and again success came the way of Diane with a gold in the Women's Team event and another gold in 1964 – in between, the ladies' team won two silver medals.

Another couple of gold medals were won with Mary Shannon (Wright) in 1962 and 1964 and a singles silver in 1962. The English Open saw more gold medals as she won 17 titles.

In her earlier years, Diane was initially coached by Ken Craigie at the renowned West Ealing Club, before the legendary Victor Barna took the two sisters under his wing.

When Diane stopped playing competitively

she too turned to coaching before following in the footsteps of her mentor and friend, Victor Barna, as the President of the Swaythling Club International (SCI).

The SCI was Victor's brainchild and was a way for former World Championship players to be able to meet up and chat about old times as well as having the philanthropic element of helping those members who had fallen on hard times. Throughout her life Diane had been a superb role model and when she became the SCI President it was most important to her to carry on Victor's legacy and stay loyal to his principles of fair play and sportsmanship, something she has continued to do throughout her life.

It is over 70 years since Diane first held a bat in her hand; a player, a coach, an officer, an official, a World, European, English Open and National champion many times over. A lifetime devoted to table tennis and one in which Diane has given back so much to the game she has loved and along the way delighted, entertained and helped so many.

A remarkable lady, a remarkable life. Thank goodness the twins never received those bikes back in 1947!

**DIANE WEBB**

# was No 1 at world stage

## Nationals Quiz

See how you get on with these 12 questions about the Nationals. It's just for fun and the answers are below!

- 1) Who has the most senior national titles among the men?
- 2) And who has the most senior national titles among the women – two answers?
- 3) Who has the most senior national titles without winning a singles?
- 4) How many senior National titles were won by European champion and world no 5 John Hilton?
- 5) Who became the latest name to join the list of senior National champions in Nottingham last year?
- 6) How many married couples have won the mixed doubles title?
- 7) Current England coach Gavin Evans won the Men's Doubles in 2010 – who was his partner?
- 8) Who had 17 years between his first men's singles title and his last?
- 9) Where were the first Nationals held in 1960?
- 10) Three women have won the women's singles title four years in a row – Jill Hammersley (Parker) is one, but who are the other two?
- 11) How old were the respective men's and women's singles winners in 1963?
- 12) Which two pairs won the Women's Doubles five times in a row?

## Answers

1) Des Douglas (30 – 11MS, 15MD, 4XD), & Kelly Sibley.  
 2) Jill Parker 17 (7WS, 8WD, 2XD) and Helen Lower 17 (3WS, 8WD, 6XD). 3) Skylet Andrew 14 (6MD, 8XD). 4) Only one - in the Mixed Doubles in 1980 with Jill Hammersley; 5) Josh Bennett (won the Mixed Doubles with Tin-Tin Ho); 6) 2 - Brian & Mary Wright and Paul & Jo Drinkhall (Nicky and Linda Jarvis won it on separate occasions); 7) Liam Pitchford; 8) Alan Cooke (1988 to 2005); 9) Greenwith Baths; 10) Mary Shannon (Wright) and Nicola Deaton; 11) Chester Barnes (15) and Mary Shannon (18); 12) Fiona Elliot & Lisa Lomas and Joanna Parker (Drinkhall).



Diane Rowe (main picture) on the table and (far left and above) with her twin sister Rosalind during the 1954 Worlds; Left: With her husband Eberhard presenting the Swaythling Club International Fair Play Award to Tin-Tin Ho at the 2017 Nationals

# The draws: Men's and Women's Singles groups

## Men's Singles

Group 1			Group 2			Group 3		
A	Sam Mabey (Np)		A	Luke Savill (K)		A	Sam Wilson (Np)	
B	Lorestas Trumpauskas (K)		B	Shaquille Webb-Dixon (Sy)		B	Louis Price (Av)	
C	Josh Weatherby (Du)		C	Zak Cantor (La)		C	Graeme Barella (Nd)	
<b>Playing order</b> 3pm: B vs C (T5) 4.30pm: A vs C (T6) 5.30pm: A vs B (T1)			<b>Playing order</b> 3pm: B vs C (T6) 4.30pm: A vs C (T5) 5.30pm: A vs B (T2)			<b>Playing order</b> 3.30pm: B vs C (T1) 4.30pm: A vs C (T4) 5.30pm: A vs B (T3)		
Group 4			Group 5			Group 6		
A	Josh Bennett (Sx)		A	Ethan Walsh (He)		A	James Smith (K)	
B	Alim Hirji (Mi)		B	Adam Nutland (Wo)		B	James Hobson (Y)	
C	Liam McTiernan (Bk)		C	Umair Mauthoor E		C	George Hazell (Sx)	
<b>Playing order</b> 3.30pm: B vs C (T2) 4.30pm: A vs C (T3) 5.30pm: A vs B (T4)			<b>Playing order</b> 4pm: B vs C (T4) 5pm: A vs C (T1) 6pm: A vs B (T3)			<b>Playing order</b> 4pm: B vs C (T3) 5pm: A vs C (T2) 6pm: A vs B (T4)		
Group 7			Group 8					
A	Shayan Siraj (Y)		A	Israel Awolaja (Mi)				
B	Gabriel Achampong (Mi)		B	Jack Bennett (Sx)				
C	Naphong Boonyaprapa (Ng)		C	Ben Piggott (Cv)				
<b>Playing order</b> 4pm: B vs C (T2) 5pm: A vs C (T3) 6pm: A vs B (T1)			<b>Playing order</b> 4pm: B vs C (T1) 5pm: A vs C (T4) 6pm: A vs B (T2)					

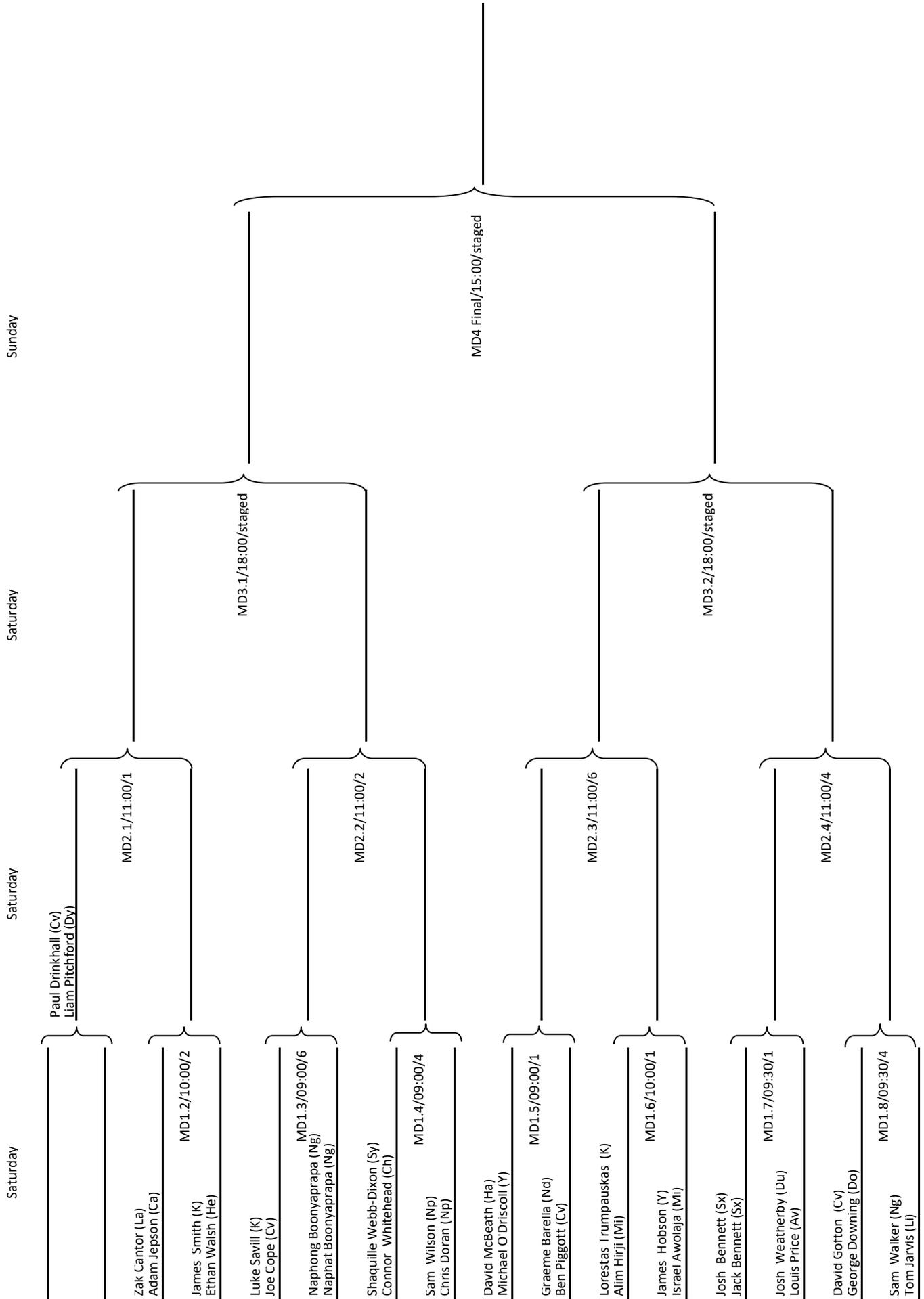
## Women's Singles

Group 1			Group 2			Group 3		
A	Jasmin Wong (Y)		A	Mari Baldwin (Dv)		A	Letitia McMullan (Ha)	
B	Megan Jones (Sp)		B	Samadhi Udamura (He)		B	Lisa Rinnhofer (Wa)	
C	Kirsty Maull (St)		C	Gracie Edwards E		C	Emily Haskell (Dv)	
<b>Playing order</b> 3pm: B vs C (T1) 4.30pm: A vs C (T2) 6.30pm: A vs B (T5)			<b>Playing order</b> 3pm: B vs C (T2) 4.30pm: A vs C (T1) 6.30pm: A vs B (T6)			<b>Playing order</b> 3pm: B vs C (T3) 4pm: A vs C (T6) 6pm: A vs B (T6)		
Group 4			Group 5			Group 6		
A	Gemma Kerr (Dv)		A	Tiana Dennison E		A	Anaya Patel (Bk)	
B	Erin Green (Ng)		B	Sara Williams (He)		B	Mya Sultan (Mi)	
C	Rebecca Savage (Du)		C	Anna Green (Ng)		C	Stefania Popa (Li)	
<b>Playing order</b> 3pm: B vs C (T4) 4pm: A vs C (T5) 6pm: A vs B (T5)			<b>Playing order</b> 3.30pm: B vs C (T4) 5pm: A vs C (T5) 6.30pm: A vs B (T3)			<b>Playing order</b> 3.30pm: B vs C (T3) 5pm: A vs C (T6) 6.30pm: A vs B (T4)		
Group 7			Group 8					
A	Rachel Baker (Ch)		A	Millie Rogove (He)				
B	Xiaoman Ji (K)		B	Amy Marriott (Ys)				
C	Alice Hazell (Sx)		C	Medha Verma (Sy)				
<b>Playing order</b> 3.30pm: B vs C (T5) 5.30pm: A vs C (T6) 6.30pm: A vs B (T1)			<b>Playing order</b> 3.30pm: B vs C (T6) 5.30pm: A vs C (T5) 6.30pm: A vs B (T2)					

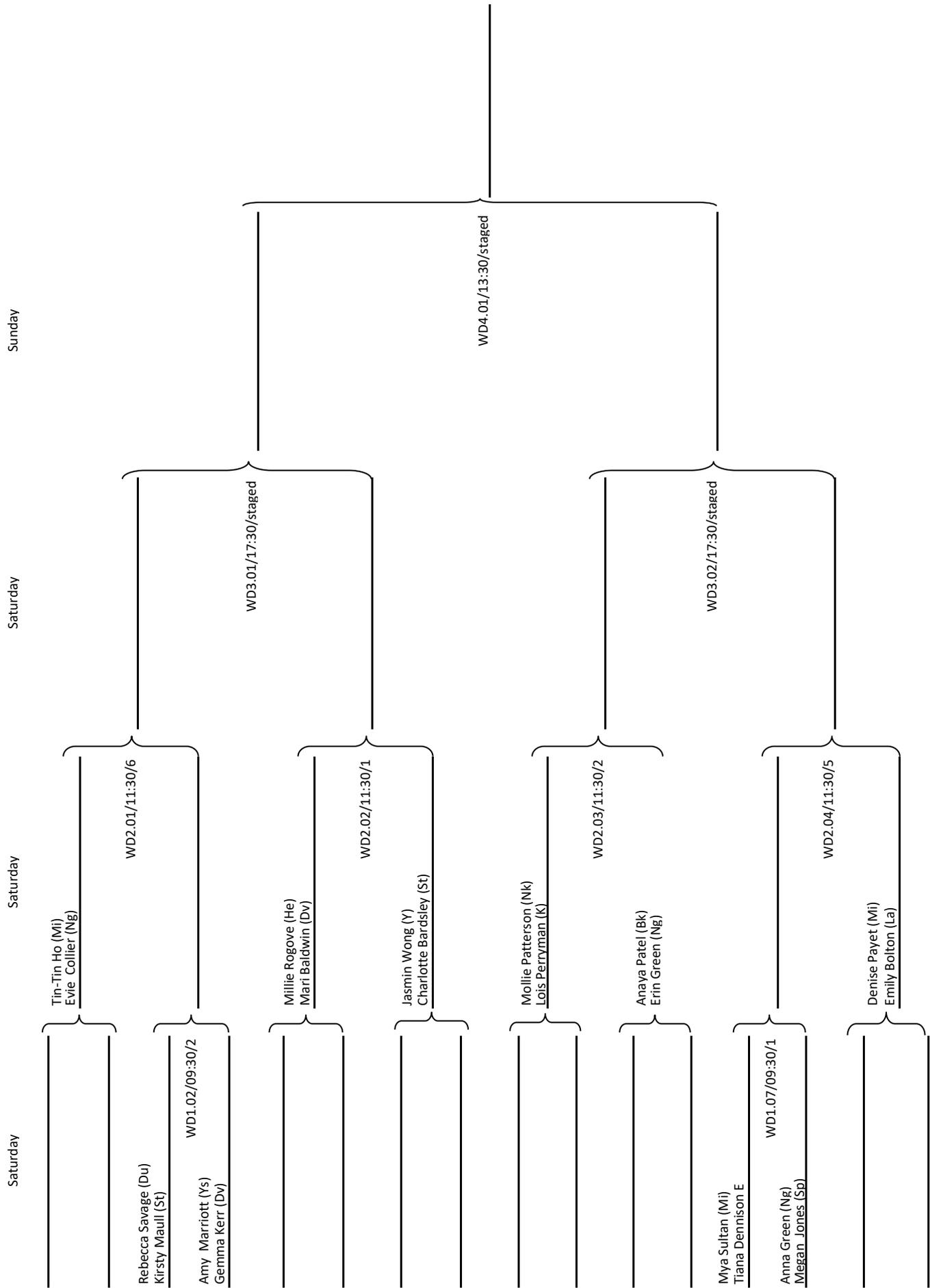
# The draws: **Men's Singles**

## The draws: **Women's Singles**

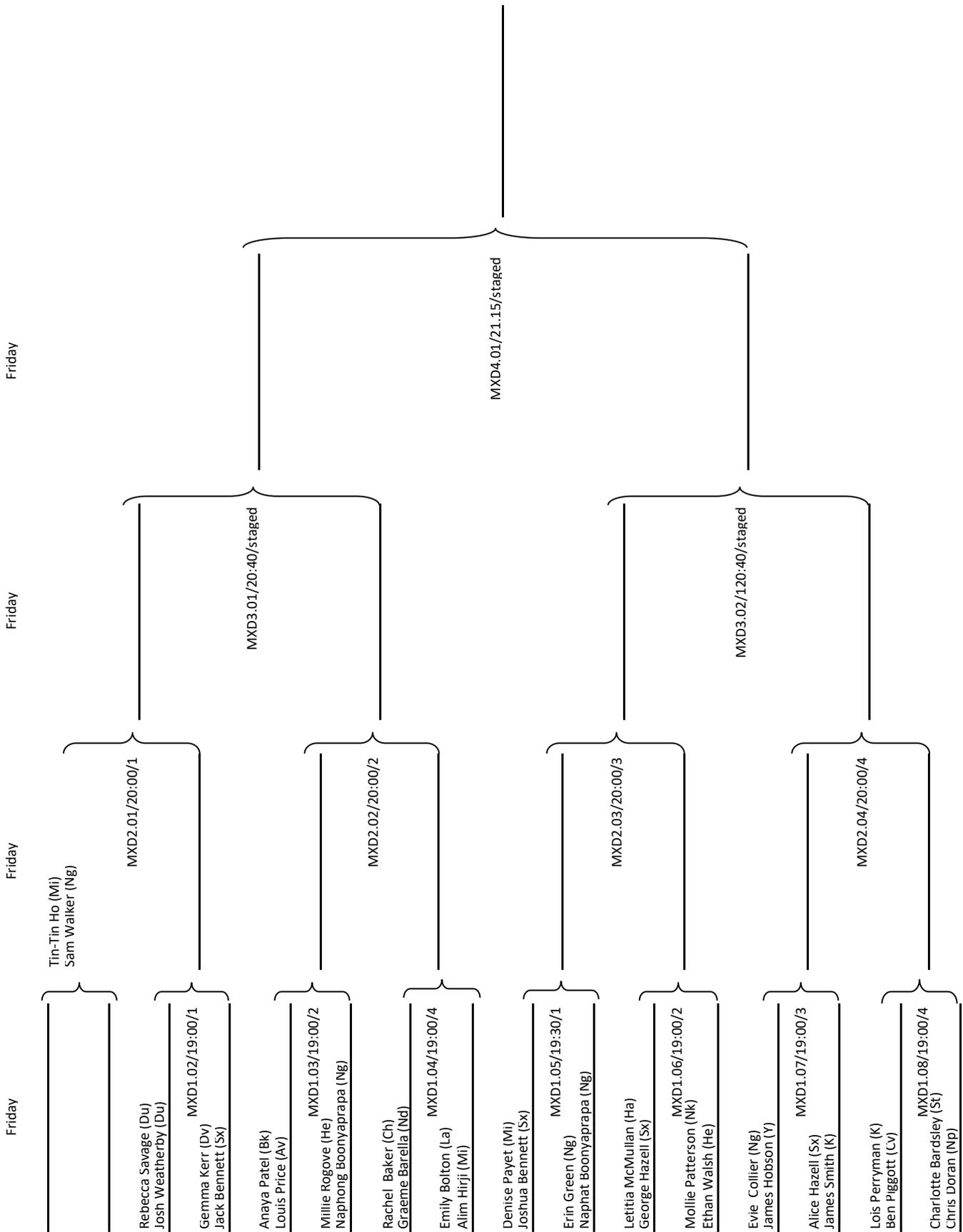
# The draws: Men's Doubles



# The draws: Women's Doubles

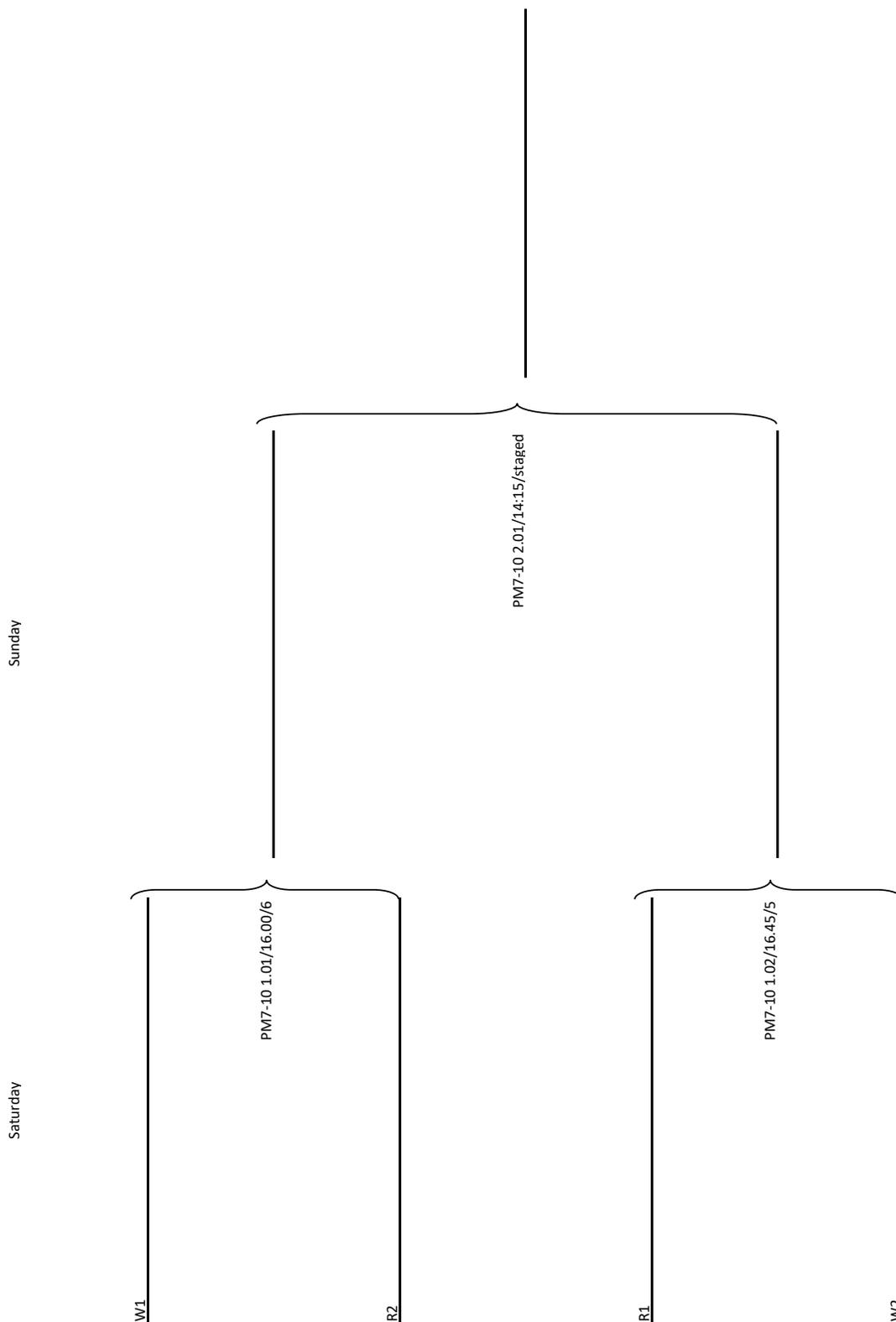


# The draws: Mixed Doubles



# The draws: Para Class 7-10

Group 1			Group 2		
A	Ross Wilson		A	Kim Daybell	
B	Billy Shilton		B	Ashley Facey-Thompson	
C	Jack Stockdale		C	Craig Allen	
D	Alex Bland		D	Shae Thakkar	
<b>Playing order</b> 10.30am: B vs D (T2) & A vs C (T6) Noon: A vs B (T4) & C vs D (T6) 2pm: B vs C (T2) & A vs D (T6)			<b>Playing order</b> 10.30am: B vs D (T1) & A vs C (T5) Noon: A vs B (T1) & C vs D (T2) 2pm: B vs C (T1) & A vs D (T4)		



# The draws: Para Class 3-5

Group 1			Group 2		
A	Jack Hunter-Spivey (Ch)	Ch	A	Sue Gilroy (Y)	Y
B	Daniel Bullen (Ca)	Ca	B	Megan Shackleton (Y)	Y
C	Lee York (Y)	Y	C	Romain Simon (Mi)	Mi
<b>Playing order</b> 9.30am: A vs C (T3) 11am: A vs B (T3) 12.30pm: B vs C (T3)			<b>Playing order</b> 9am: A vs C (T3) 10.30am: A vs B (T3) Noon: B vs C (T3)		

Sunday

PM3-5 2.01/12:45/staged

Saturday

PM3-5 1.01/14:30/3

PM3-5 1.02/15:15/3

W1

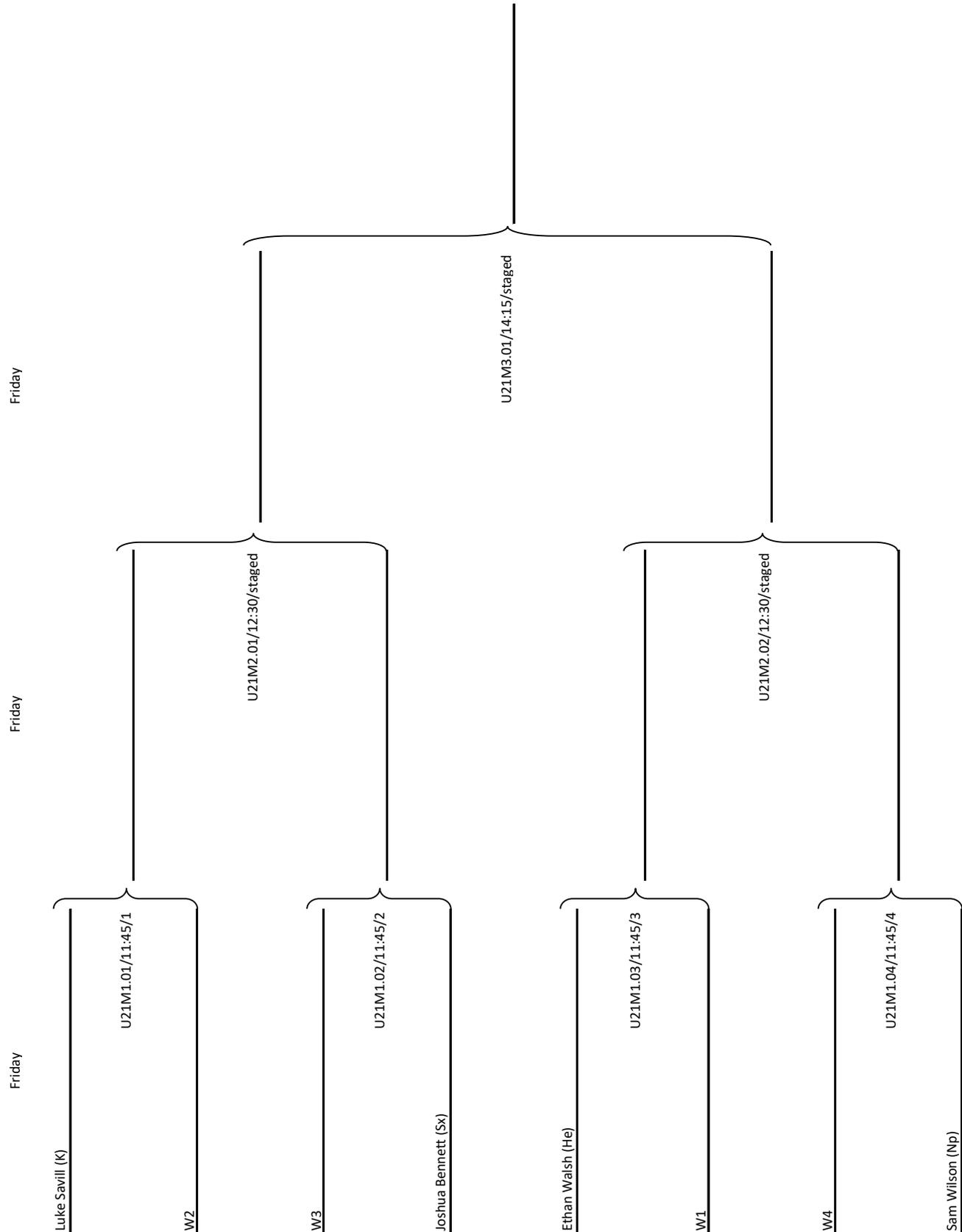
R2

R1

W2

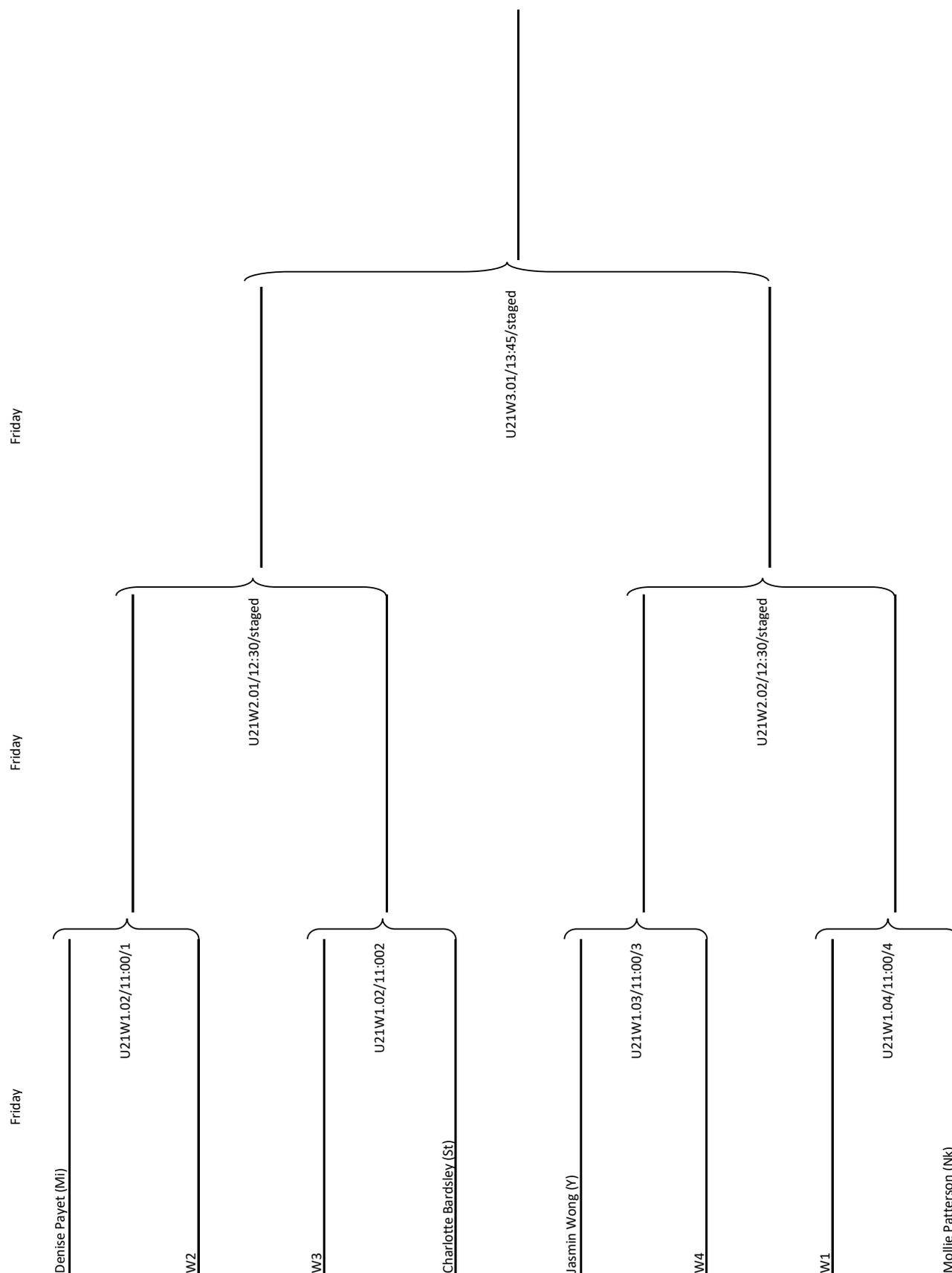
# The draws: Under-21 Men

Group 1		Group 2		Group 3		Group 4	
A	James Smith (K)	A	Shayan Siraj (Y)	A	Israel Awolaja (Mi)	A	James Hobson (Y)
B	Zak Cantor (La)	B	Joshua Weatherby (Du)	B	Joe Cope (Cv)	B	Louis Price (Av)
C	Naphat Boonyaprapa (Ng)	C	Amirul Hussain (La)	C	George Hazell (Sx)	C	David Gofton (Cv)
<b>Playing order</b>		<b>Playing order</b>		<b>Playing order</b>		<b>Playing order</b>	
9am: B vs C (T5)		9am: B vs C (T6)		9.30am: B vs C (T1)		9.30am: B vs C (T2)	
10am: A vs C (T4)		10am: A vs C (T3)		10am: A vs C (T2)		10am: A vs C (T1)	
10.30am: A vs B (T4)		10.30am: A vs B (T3)		10.30am: A vs B (T6)		10.30am: A vs B (T5)	



# The draws: Under-21 Women

Group 1		Group 2		Group 3		Group 4	
A	Mari Baldwin (Dv)	A	Gemma Kerr (Dv)	A	Tiana Dennison E	A	Anaya Patel (Bk)
B	Erin Green (Ng)	B	Amy Marriott (Ys)	B	Mya Sultan (Mi)	B	Millie Rogove (He)
C	Lisa Rinnhofer (Wa)	C	Lois Perryman (K)	C	Jodie Morris (Sx)	C	Emily Haskell (Dv)
<b>Playing order</b> 9am: B vs C (T1) 9.30am: A vs C (T6) 10.30am: A vs B (T2)		<b>Playing order</b> 9am: B vs C (T2) 9.30am: A vs C (T5) 10.30am: A vs B (T1)		<b>Playing order</b> 9.30am: B vs C (T3) 9.30am: A vs C (T4) 10am: A vs B (T6)		<b>Playing order</b> 9.30am: B vs C (T4) 9.30am: A vs C (T3) 10am: A vs B (T5)	



## Pride of Table Tennis Awards



Last year's Volunteer of the Year Anne Borrowdale (above left, with Table Tennis England President Jill Parker MBE and Development Officer Gemma Parry) and Young Volunteer of the Year Jordan Abbott (above right, with Table Tennis England Board member Simon Griew) - who will succeed them this year?

# Giving volunteers Pride of place

**The Mark Bates Ltd National Championships will be especially memorable for a group of volunteers who will share centre stage with the nation's best players.**

The shortlisted candidates in this year's Pride of Table Tennis Awards are attending these championships, and the winners will be named on the field of play during Finals Day.

Our flagship event is a fitting location for the Volunteer of the Year and Young Volunteer of the Year to receive their accolades. Table Tennis England recognises the immense contribution made to our sport by volunteers who give their time, enthusiasm and expertise to ensure those playing the sport can enjoy and get the most out of it, at whichever level they play.

We asked clubs and leagues all over the country to present their own Club or League Volunteer of the Year and their Young Volunteer of the Year awards to someone who has gone 'above and beyond' in the past 12 months.

Everyone honoured at local level has received a certificate from Table Tennis England and was put forward for the national awards – and the shortlisted candidates are here this weekend as we reveal the overall winners.

“ Table Tennis England recognises the immense contribution made to our sport by volunteers who give their time, enthusiasm and expertise to ensure those playing the sport can enjoy and get the most out of it.

We will also be surprising some of the local winners by choosing them at random to receive special 'table tennis experiences' or prizes, such as the chance to train with England coaches or players, or a spa break.

This is the first year of the new-look Pride awards, which will run on a two-year cycle coinciding with National Conferences.

In the second year of the cycle, starting in the 2020/21 season, local clubs and leagues will again honour their volunteers and young volunteers.

There will also be a regional stage of the awards, into which all local nominees will be forwarded, alongside nominations in other key categories.

The national stage of the awards will then feature the full range of Pride of Table Tennis Awards, including those for coaches, officials, clubs, leagues and inclusivity – and of course featuring the Blue Riband Volunteer of the Year and Young Volunteer of the Year.

These will be presented at a gala dinner to be held at the National Conference in the first half of the year.

For more information on the Pride of Table Tennis Awards, please visit [tabletennisengland.co.uk/prideoftabletennis](http://tabletennisengland.co.uk/prideoftabletennis)

# Pride of Table Tennis Awards: The candidates

## Volunteer of the Year

Bob Edwards (nominated by Mark Maloney)  
**Bob is 73 and has played table tennis for more than 50 years. He is a well known member of the table tennis community and is respected throughout all the Wigan leagues.**

**Bob has dedicated his spare time to teach table tennis at all levels, sharing his knowledge of the sport for no fee, just the love of the sport. Lathom entered the Wigan table tennis league in the third division this year and are at the top of the league in our first season, this achievement is all down to the training Bob gives us twice a week.**

**He accompanies the team on home and away matches to give support and advice and he even missed his beloved Liverpool playing rivals Everton in the latest football derby to give his support to the Lathom team!**

**Colin Gower (nominated by Mark Nicholls)**

Colin has been an inspiration to coaching in the Dudley area during the last four years, contributing to a growth of players participating in the sport across a variety of age groups.

Over the last 12 months, as well as club sessions every Saturday, Colin has helped establish weekly coaching sessions in a local school whilst also supporting monthly veteran coaching sessions at Bromley Table Tennis club.

Additionally he has been the driving force for our club to secure access to a new venue for the club's 1-2-1 coaching sessions, working to collaborate between multiple parties to make things happen.

Colin also organised a local inter-schools competition at our venue again engaging across multiple stakeholders to provide a fun, well organised and safe event for school students to participate.

Without him, our club would simply not exist and our local league (Dudley) would not be growing with new members.

**Pat Johnson (nominated by Matt Porter)**

**Pat is a integral part of Bishop Auckland table tennis club, having recently returned to the sport for her own mental health. Pat spent hours each day volunteering at our local ping pong parlour, playing with everyone and anyone teaching them basics and how good the sport is for your physical and mental health.**

**Pat runs a weekly girls-only session in the club which she has built up from nothing to now having over 20 regular attendees, of all ages and all abilities. Pat also helps out at our bat and chat sessions, over-50 sessions and disability sessions, clocking up over 15 hours each week for the club and makes everyone feel welcomed and included.**

**She has been selected to be a Female Ambassador for Table Tennis England and has just passed her UKCC level 1 coaching award.**

## Young Volunteer of the Year

**Ed Horton, Kelsey Fordham and Ella Barnard (nominated by Mark Dare)**

In 2019 I stopped coaching at Wensum TTC after 18 years and as a result coaching role was split into two. While Sam Rock (UKCC Level 3 Coach) took over the more advanced sessions, the beginner sessions are now run by three people, Ed Horton aged 17 (passed his Level 1 award in April 2019) Kelsey Fordham aged 17 (passed her Level 1 course in November 2019) and Ella Barnard (aged 15 so too young to take a level 1 course).

All three have been volunteering throughout 2019 and all three have been instrumental in keeping the sessions going at the club, with very limited support. I have popped in to see them from time to time and have been so impressed with the job they have been doing.

In addition to the necessary coaching skills, all three have demonstrated very competent communication skills with the club, players and parents and all have a very positive manner with the young players. Without their commitment, there would be no beginner sessions at the club, which would have serious implications.

It would be unfair to single out any one of them. For this reason I am submitting a joint nomination for all three.

**Vishaal Sharda (nominated by Mike Smith)**

**Vishaal started playing at 14 and at 18 is now a Division One player in the strong Leicester & District League. He is an active member of Knighton Park Table Tennis Club and has become a qualified licensed coach at Level One and is working towards his Level Two. He coaches on Tuesdays and at the weekends, helping beginners through to high standard players. He does one to ones outside these sessions and goes into schools.**

**He volunteered for our Club Committee and provides new ideas and initiatives, and acts as a Duty Officer, helping to keep the Club open every day including offering to be on duty on the last day we were open before Christmas.**

**He offered to be our first Young Ambassador and is now on this Table Tennis England programme. A further step recently was to help with schools competitions - never an easy task!**

**Vishaal was chosen by the League as its young person who contributed most to local table tennis and this year was awarded Club Young Volunteer of the Year, leading on to this nomination.**

**Sophie Storey (nominated by Neil Hardisty)**

Sophie started playing table tennis when she moved to secondary school in September 2015. She quickly became very interested in the sport and has since played in the Weymouth & District League, and represented Budmouth Academy in the National Schools Team competition, both Weymouth and Dorset in the National Cadet and Junior Leagues, and the South West at the Inter Regional competition.

Sophie quickly realised that she wanted to give something back to the sport and so she has embraced many opportunities locally, including helping at two after-school clubs, teaching and encouraging younger pupils to improve their game. This has led to her becoming an assistant coach at the league coaching sessions twice a week. In January, she enrolled on the Table Tennis England Young Ambassadors programme and should reach the 50-hour mark by the end of the year.

Sophie has been a very valuable member of the team running the This Girl Can sessions, resulting in a significant increase in female participation locally, playing both for fun and competitively. She also organised a youth presentation event to recognise the contribution of local youth players representing their schools, town or county in national competitions.

At last year's National Championships, she volunteered as a ball girl for the women's singles final. She was also co-opted, after offering her services, to serve on the committee of the Weymouth & District League.



## TT Kidz: Getting new players into the sport



**TT Kidz is an eight-week programme developed by Table Tennis England to get more young people active and provide youngsters with an inspiring, engaging and fun first experience in the game.**

Children learn all the basic skills necessary to enjoy a great game of table tennis, as well as all the benefits that an active life brings, including fitness, hand/eye co-ordination, building social relationships and generally having a great time!

Hundreds of children participated in the first round of sessions, organised by clubs across the country. In total 29 table tennis clubs signed up to deliver the programme and almost half of the programmes sold out, with some increasing capacity to accommodate the high levels of interest.

The second round of sessions got under way in February, with hundreds more youngsters enrolled.

The TT Kidz programme provides clubs with specially researched and designed sessions to

help them introduce a whole new generation of children to our great game, and giving them the skills necessary to enjoy a great game of table tennis for themselves.

Clubs that are part of the programme receive support from Table Tennis England, including resources, training and marketing assistance.

Schools can now also get involved with TT Kidz and can purchase their own kit bags and access to online training and resources to show how to deliver TT Kidz activities. Schools can buy this from the schools section at [ttkidz.co.uk](http://ttkidz.co.uk)

TT Kidz has even had international interest, with Table Tennis England signing a licensing agreement with its Australian counterparts which will see Table Tennis Australia deliver the initiative across the country. The name will change to Spinaroos, but the TT Kidz programme structure,

content, lesson plans, activity videos and some of the marketing material will be used to inspire young players in Australia to take up the sport.



The central aims of TT Kidz are:

- To provide young people with an inspiring, engaging and fun first experience in the sport
- To enable us to build national partnerships with organisations that can help take the sport to more young people
- To provide clubs and coaches with a more attractive programme to take into schools and community groups to enhance a table tennis offer
- To engage new young coaches/activators in the sport

To find out more, visit [ttkidz.co.uk](http://ttkidz.co.uk)

# Social and Recreational Table Tennis projects



By introducing the game into places people already spend time in their everyday lives, Table Tennis England have been able to create an exciting range of projects to bring table tennis opportunities to a much wider audience.

To find out what indoor and outdoor recreational table tennis provision there is in your area, including Ping Pong Parlours, visit

[PINGENGLAND.CO.UK](http://PINGENGLAND.CO.UK)

For subsidised table tennis packages designed specifically for community groups visit

[PINGINTHECOMMUNITY.CO.UK](http://PINGINTHECOMMUNITY.CO.UK)

To introduce table tennis into your workplace visit

[loopatwork.co.uk](http://loopatwork.co.uk)



**PING PONG  
PARLOUR**

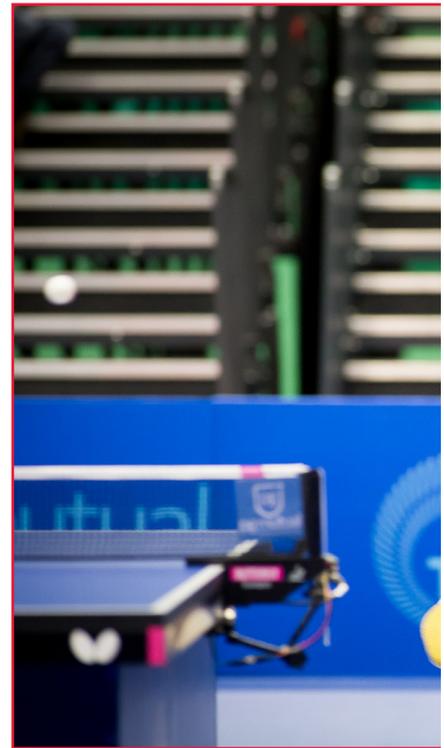


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# Caught on camera: The 2019 Nationals





Clockwise from top left: Adam Nutland; Para champion Ashley Facey-Thompson; Under-21 Men's Singles winner and runner-up Tom Jarvis and Luke Savill; Under-21 Women's Singles medallists Jasmin Wong, Denise Payet, Emily Bolton and Tin-Tin Ho; Women's Singles champion Maria Tsaptsinos; Kate Hughes; Jack Bennett; Men's Singles champion Liam Pitchford; David McBeath warms up; Paul Drinkhall is watched by his family; players check their schedules. All photos by Alan Man



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