



Full-strength squad for Team World Cup

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England have announced a full-strength team as they once again go for glory at the ZEN-NOH ITTF Team World Cup.

Liam Pitchford, Paul Drinkhall, Sam Walker and Tom Jarvis will travel to 2020 Olympics host city Tokyo for the event from November 6 to 10.

The competition is the test event for the Olympic table tennis tournament and will be in the same venue as will be used in 2020, the Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium.

The draw will take place the day before the competition, but England are sure to face some tough matches, with five continental champions and several other top nations involved, including hosts Japan.

England will be hoping to match their brilliant performance on home soil in last year's competition, when, backed by a vocal crowd at the Copper Box Arena on London's Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, they clinched bronze medals.

They were beaten in the semi-finals by Japan, who went on to be defeated in the final by all-conquering China – who won both men's and women's competitions in London.

China will again be overwhelming favourites, but England, who qualified thanks to their quarter-final finish at the 2018 World Team Championships, have beaten many of the other competing nations in recent years and will go in knowing anything is possible.

The full line-up of qualifying nations is:

Men: China (Asia champions), Nigeria (Africa champions), Germany (Europe champions), Brazil (Pan Am champions), Australia (Oceania champions), Japan (hosts), USA (Pan Am runners-up), South Korea (WTTC 2018), Sweden (WTTC 2018), England (WTTC 2018), Austria (WTTC 2018), Chinese Taipei (WTTC 2018).

Women: China (Asia champions), Egypt (Africa champions), Romania (Europe champions), Brazil (Pan Am champions), Vanuatu (Oceania runners-up, replacing Australia in the event), Japan (hosts), USA (Pan Am runners-up), Hong Kong (WTTC 2018), South Korea (WTTC 2018), Austria (WTTC 2018), Ukraine (WTTC 2018), Chinese Taipei (WTTC 2018).

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