



Pitchford retains top-15 place in rankings

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Liam Pitchford is at No 15 and Paul Drinkhall, Sam Walker and Tin-Tin Ho are in their respective top 100s as the new-style ITTF world ranking lists are published for the first time this week.

In the men's singles list, Pitchford leads the way, with Drinkhall at No 56 and Walker at 96. Tom Jarvis is inside the top 200 at 168.

Ho is at No 93 on the women's singles list – the same career-high position she first reached last April – with Maria Tsapsinos at 196 and Denise Payet at 355.

The other leading home nations players are Gavin Rumgay of Scotland, at 158 in the men's list, and Charlotte Carey of Wales at 151 on the women's.

The two respective No 1 players are Fan Zhendong and Chen Meng of China.

The rankings will now be published weekly on a Tuesday, rather than monthly. They reflect the launch of the World Table Tennis brand and associated events this year, with a number of changes to how points are awarded.

The ITTF said on its website: "The new ranking structure will create a fairer, progressive and more dynamic system that will contribute to greater fluctuation for players, while making it clearer for fans, media broadcasters and sponsors to understand where each event fits and allow WTT to tell the story of each season."

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