

# King's Torch Relay dream broken

**Author:** Paul Stimpson

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Seventeen-year-old table tennis player Yolanda King's selection for the 2012 European Youth Championships in Austria has been a mixed blessing ahead of the Olympic Games.

Chosen to represent England in Schwechat, Austria from the 13<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> July it has meant she will now not be able to carry the Olympic Torch, which she had been designated to do through her hometown of Hastings on the 18<sup>th</sup> July.

It brings into question the 'Olympic Games Legacy' ideals, which are supposed to be the backbone of the 30<sup>th</sup> Olympiad.

While the Games will bring opportunities to many young and aspiring athletes, it's a sad story for King who will be unable to realise her dream after LOCOG's Torch Relay team told the youngster she will not be allowed to re-locate.

King said: "I am frustrated, disappointed and upset that I cannot carry the Torch from Hastings, as it would have been a once in a lifetime experience."

The 2011 School Games Table Tennis Champion is still hopeful of participating in the relay and hopes that owing to the circumstances of her absence, LOCOG will re-consider their position.

She explained: "The Relay organisers have told me that I have no choice where I might run as this was decided by postcode, but I don't think they understand that I am not trying to choose – I wanted to run in Hastings.

I know that all areas probably have reserves, but if someone somewhere drops out at short notice then I would be very pleased to fill in."

King is continuing to fight for her place and may create a Facebook group to widen the reach of her appeal.

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