

Davies and Bayley head Para mission to China

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Will Bayley

World No 1 Rob Davies and Paralympic silver medalist Will Bayley head a squad of nine players who will represent GB in the World Para Table Tennis Championships in China next month (September 6-15).

Davies, a former rugby player from Brecon who was crowned European champion last year, will be one of the favourites for gold in the men's class one singles, while 26 year old Bayley will be bidding for a first World Championship medal after taking men's class 7 European gold in 2011, Paralympic silver in London 2012 and European silver in 2013.

Jane Campbell and Sara Head, Paralympic bronze medalists in the women's class 1-3 team event in London, took team bronze in the World Championships four years ago and have medal prospects again in both team and women's class 3 singles. Head took singles bronze in the European Championships last year and the pair were European champions in 2011.

"This will be the biggest test for the GB players since London 2012," said GB Performance Director Gorazd Vecko. "A World Championships in China is one of the greatest challenges in table tennis and the competition is going to be very tough.

"We had a very successful European Championships last year but this will show us where we stand against all the top nations in the world and the work we have to do over the next two years as we build up to Rio in 2016."

The full GB squad is: Will Bayley (class 7), Jane Campbell (class 3), Rob Davies (class 1), Kim Daybell (class 10), Sue Gilroy (class 4), Sara Head (class 3), Jack Hunter-Spivey (class 5), Paul Karabardak (class 7), Aaron McKibbin (class 8)

By Fran Bullock (August 20th, 2014)

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