



Unlucky Sibley out of Euros

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Kelly Sibley has had to withdraw from the European Championships through injury as the draw has revealed who the rest of the squad will face.

England's No 1 has picked up a hip injury and will not be fit to compete at the tournament, which begins in Budapest tomorrow.

As the deadline for replacements has passed, it leaves Tin-Tin Ho as the only English representative in the Women's Singles. It also means no representation in the Women's Doubles, while Paul Drinkhall is left without a Mixed Doubles partner.

Ho and Sam Walker begin their respective singles campaigns in the qualifying groups tomorrow. Ho (WR #214) is in Group 11 and will start against Kubra Tan (TUR, #485) at 8.45am UK time. She then plays Sarah De Nutte (LUX, #125) at 3.15pm Tuesday, followed by Simeng Deng (AZE, #338) at 10.20am on Wednesday.

Walker, ranked No 118, is the top seed in Group 18 and faces Alfredas Udra (LTU, #349) at 11.45am tomorrow, followed by Pavel Platonov (BLR, #159) at 7pm on Tuesday and Lars Ronneberg (NOR, #468) at 2.40pm on Wednesday.

Drinkhall and Pitchford are seeded 13th and 22nd respectively and go straight into the last 64, which is on Thursday. Drinkhall is in the bottom quadrant of the draw, throwing up the possibility of another last-16 clash against Vladimir Samsonov – the pair met at the same stage at the Rio Olympics.

The Men's Doubles draw has thrown up an interesting potential meeting, with Walker and partner Hunor Szocs of Hungary seeded into the second preliminary round, where they will face the winners of Scotland's Craig Howieson & Calum Main versus Giorgos Konstantinopoulos & Ioannis Sgouropoulos of Greece – the latter could face Walker in next month's European Team Qualifying tie in Stoke.

Drinkhall & Pitchford are seeded 13th and go straight into the main draw.

In the Mixed Doubles, Pitchford & Ho are seeded into the second preliminary round, where they will play the winners of Tomas Polansky & Renata Strbikova (CZE) versus Rajko Gommers (NED) & Jennifer Jonsson (SWE).

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