



World Cup hero Pitchford gets rankings lift

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Liam Pitchford's exploits at the Team World Cup have launched him back up the world rankings.

Pitchford had dropped to No 85, below team-mate Sam Walker, in February, but four singles wins at the Copper Box Arena have moved him back up to 53rd.

Among his victories were 3-0 margins against Japan's world No 11 Tomokazu Harimoto and No 16 Hugo Calderano of Brazil.

Paul Drinkhall remains England No 1, but falls from 35 to 46, while Walker drops from 81 to 90.

The men's list is headed by Germany's Timo Boll, who has climbed from No 3 and swaps places with compatriot Dimitrij Ovtcharov. Fan Zhendong, who beat Pitchford in a thrilling semi-final match at the Team World Cup, remains No 2. Boll, at 36, is the oldest player to rise to No 1 in the world, a position he last held in 2011.

Tin-Tin Ho is up to a career-best 127 in the women's list, with Kelly Sibley up slightly from 188 to 185.

Zhu Yuling, part of the Team World Cup-winning Chinese squad, climbs to No 1 above Chen Meng, who was not part of the squad.

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