

PRESS RELEASE

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Norfolk heads Great Britain squad for 25th Anniversary Invacare World Team Cup

Two-time Paralympic quad singles champion Peter Norfolk OBE heads a squad of 13 players selected to represent Great Britain in the 25th Anniversary Invacare World Team Cup, the International Tennis Federation's annual flagship wheelchair tennis team event, which begins at the City of Nottingham Tennis Centre on Monday, 27 August.

Current world No 1 Norfolk is joined in the Great Britain team for the quad event in Nottingham by his Beijing Paralympic quad doubles bronze medal-winning partner Jamie Burdekin and Andrew Lapthorne. The trio are all ranked inside the world's top 12 in the quad singles rankings and, like Norfolk, Burdekin and Lapthorne also have winning form against world top 10 opponents this season. Norfolk has already tasted Invacare World Team Cup success, having helped Great Britain to back-to-back Invacare World Team Cup quad titles in 2001 and 2002.

Norfolk is one of two world No 1 ranked players in the Great Britain squad for this year's Invacare World Team Cup, an event often referred to as the Davis and Fed Cups of wheelchair tennis. Jordanne Whiley has also been ranked No 1 in the junior girls' singles rankings since January. A member of the Great Britain team that won the Invacare World Team Cup junior title in Sweden in 2007, 17-year-old Whiley made her senior women's debut for Great Britain at the 2008 Invacare World Team Cup in Italy and joins British No 1 and recent Wimbledon women's wheelchair doubles finalist Lucy Shuker and 18-year-old Louise Hunt in this year's women's team as they bid to put Great Britain in the semi-finals for a sixth time, the best previous Great Britain women's result being third place in 2000. Hunt represents Great Britain's women's team for the second time in three years after being part of the Great Britain junior team that finished as runners-up last year.

As well as Whiley, the 2007 Great Britain team that won the junior title also included Gordon Reid and David Phillipson. Reid and Phillipson went on to help steer Great Britain to the Men's World Group 2 title in 2008, as both players made their Great Britain senior men's debuts. In doing so, Great Britain earned promotion back to World Group 1 for this year's event, regaining a place among the elite group of 16 nations for the first time since 2006. Currently British men's No 1, 17-year-old Reid has spent most of 2009 as the world No 1 ranked junior boys' singles player before recently slipping to No 2.

Reid's fellow Scot Kevin Simpson was also a member of last year's World Group 2 winning team and joins Reid and Phillipson again, while Invacare World Team Cup debutant Marc McCarroll completes a talented four-strong men's team.

After winning the Invacare World Team Cup junior title in 2007, Great Britain finished runners-up in last year's event. Fifteen-year-old Philip Cochrane, currently the world No 4 ranked junior, returns to lead the Great Britain junior team again this year and is joined by team mates and Invacare World Team Cup debutants Dermot Bailey and Joshua Steels.

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Dawn Newbery, Great Britain Team Manager for the 25th Invacare World Team Cup, said: "The Invacare World Team Cup is the biggest wheelchair tennis event in Britain this side of the London 2012 Paralympics and therefore the most important opportunity our players have to compete for their country on home soil this side of 2012.

"Building on the successes of Athens and Beijing and some excellent British successes on the wheelchair tennis circuit, we have a strong squad this year and after winning World Group 2 last year our men's team are aiming for a top eight finish in World Group 1. Meanwhile, both our women's and quad teams will be looking for top four finishes amid some strong opposition."

A total of 187 players from 33 nations are set to contest the 25th Invacare World Team Cup, which includes men's World Group 1, men's World Group 2, women's, quad and junior events.

The 25th Invacare World Team Cup is the climax to a two week festival of international wheelchair tennis at the City of Nottingham Tennis Centre, which begins on Monday, 20 July when the 20th British Open Wheelchair Tennis Championships gets underway.

Great Britain Squad, 25th Invacare World Team Cup, City of Nottingham Tennis Centre:

Men

Gordon Reid (Helensburgh, Scotland)
David Phillipson (Bingham, Nottinghamshire)
Marc McCarroll (Ickenham, Middlesex)
Kevin Simpson (Linlithgow, Scotland)
Coach: Martyn Whait

Women

Lucy Shuker (Ash Priors, Somerset)
Jordanne Whiley (Halesowen, Warwickshire)
Louise Hunt (Wanborough, Wiltshire)
Coach: Geraint Richards

Quads

Peter Norfolk (Alton, Hampshire)
Jamie Burdekin (Crosby, Merseyside)
Andrew Laphorne (Pinner, Middlesex)
Coach: Steph Trill

Juniors

Philip Cochrane (Newport, South Wales)
Dermot Bailey (Kettering, Northants)
Josh Steels (Plymouth, Devon)
Coach: Kevin Plowman

Team Manager: Dawn Newbery

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