

## National Player Development Programme & Home Nations 2017



From EPA President Martin Eggleton

You may be aware that the EPA Playing Commission is delivering a programme which seeks to develop our elite players and give them international playing opportunities to widen their experience.

Earlier this year, a group of our women made to a trip to Dunkirk, France to participate in an assessment with leading FFPJP Coaches. This August, the same weekend as the Home Nations Championship, we decided prior to our Home Nations Qualifier to take a group of 12 men to play in Maaseik, Belgium, at the Maaseiker Grand Prix 2017. As a result, a number of our male players did not seek to qualify for Home Nations. The Maaseik tournament involves international teams as well as Belgian teams and includes Singles, Doubles, Triples and Precision Shooting.

There is also a separate women's competition using the same format and the Playing Commission has decided recently to enter 8 women players in the Maaseik event to maximise the opportunity to gain experience with minimal additional resource requirements. This is considered to be an important playing opportunity prior to a final decision on our team to represent our Country at the World Championships in China later this year.

All players were chosen on the basis of performance in national competitions in 2016 (for the men) and the 2017 National Rankings (for the women).

The players who were available to travel and therefore will be taking part in the trip to Belgium from 10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> August are:

	<b>MEN</b>	<b>WOMEN</b>
Scott ASHBY	Rowland JONES	Sarah HUNTLEY
Nic BAXTER	Sofiane LACHANI	Karen LOMBARD K
Sam BLAKEY	Sean PRENDERGAST	Emma LONGSTAFF
Jack BLOWS	Monty QUAIA	Christina NORRIS
Rob DE HAAN	Dean SEVILLE	Sabrina SEVILLE
Ross JONES	Vince WILLS	Tracy SPILLETT
		Christine SPRAY
		Samantha THATCHER

The decision to take the women to the competition came after the Home Nations Qualifier had been held and therefore one player, Sarah Huntley, who had qualified for the Home Nations has been withdrawn from that event at the Playing Commission's request. Joe Sheffield will now take her place as it was felt that it would have been unfair to penalise her two Home Nations team mates by withdrawing the whole team.

To add to the busy schedule, our Espoirs Coaching Team will be also be taking 6 of our Espoirs to Saint-Omer over the weekend of 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> August to compete in a competition there. The players selected include three of our players competing in the European Championships next month, Aimee Colley, Vikki Amphlett and Adam Barclay as well as Sean Daisley, Alex Spillett and Luke Ashford.

I am sure you will join with me in wishing all our teams, playing in all of the events over this weekend, much success.

Good luck everyone.

Martin