

**Name: Erin Green**

**Background:**

I work as an assistant coach at a local tennis holiday club during the school holidays. I enjoy teaching U11 children ball skills and playing fun games. I keep fit and during lockdown joined Impact Fitness Online sessions.

I play table tennis at Draycott and Long Eaton TTC and started playing when I was 8 years old. Both my parents play and coach table tennis so I have been watching them play and attending competitions when I was younger. I found out about table tennis from them.

Outside of table tennis, I enjoy playing guitar and going out with my friends. I used to do lots of sports before I committed to table tennis fully. I used to do swimming, play tennis and I also used to love to dance. Now, I focus my energy on table tennis.

**What are your goals?**

I want to be the best player I can be but also enjoy the training, competitions and make friends. I also want to pass on my enthusiasm and knowledge of the sport. I wanted to become a female ambassador because I wanted to encourage and show other women and girls how enjoyable the sport can be. I also wanted to encourage more younger girls to start playing and develop a genuine love for the sport. Within the programme I can raise awareness and help others to play especially within my club and the Nottingham area.

It's important to promote the female game because there is a significant difference in the number of boys and girls that play. This probably leads to a domino effect and means that more girls are less likely to get involved. Also, an increase in girls playing table tennis will improve the standard of table tennis amongst girls in England, meaning that more opportunities will arise for English table tennis and the players.

I plan to make a difference by encouraging girls to get into the sport at a young age and show them how enjoyable it can be. It is important that they love the sport so they continue to play for many years.

**What are your achievements?**

I achieved my table tennis goals by working hard and having excellent female role models with my club and have always looked up to the top women players in England

Time is a big challenge. I have to fit in studying, training and seeing friends and sometimes it's difficult to manage it all. To overcome this, I just remind myself of my table tennis goals, and effectively plan out my day so I have time for everything.

I have friends all over the country and across Europe because of table tennis. I have travelled and competed in many countries and played in lots of teams. This will help me in the future whatever I end up doing.

There are many roles to get involved with within table tennis. The table tennis community is always in need of volunteers to give something back and as the membership is very low on female members it is very important for women and girls to be visible and encouraging so that people try the sport and enjoy the game.

In my journey next is to achieve my highest junior ranking and to compete across Europe. I have nearly completed my GCSE year and will strive for more table tennis successes in the next 2 years.