

English National Championship 2017

In an all family affair Paul and Jo Drinkhall storm to the National Mixed Doubles title, winning the Mixed Double title for a now fifth time on their return to Competition for the first time since the Glasgow 2014. The Commonwealth Games Gold medallists produced some dazzling displays. The Drinkhalls beat England teammates and three times Mixed Doubles reigning National Champions Sam Walker and Tin-Tin Ho 3-0 (12-10, 14-12,11-6) in the final in Nottingham in Jo's first event since the birth of her second child. As well as this Jo Drinkhall reached the final of the Women's Doubles with Kelly Sibley losing to Tin-Tin Ho and Maria Tsaptsinos the reigning Women's Doubles National Champions. All in all Jo Drinkhall had a great tournament and she didn't even enter the Women's Singles. Husband Paul now based in Surrey won the Men's Singles title and the Men's Doubles title with Liam Pitchford.

Elsewhere Darius Knight had a good win over the experienced veteran Michael O'Driscoll a serial Men's Doubles Runner-up in the last 16 of the Men's Singles event. However Darius was beaten 4-0 in the Quarter-Finals by Runner-up Sam Walker although 3 of the sets were extremely close. A young Danielle Kelly was in action in the Women's group stages and although she was beaten, the experience should stand her in good stead. Shaquille Webb-Dixon played in the Men's under-21's group three and beat Wing Cheong Kwan but lost to Matthew Leete 3-1, which wasn't such a bad result as Matthew went on to beat two higher seeds than him and reach the semi-finals of the under-21 event. In the Women's under-21's group stage Danielle Kelly was very unlucky to go down 11-8 in the fifth. In the Men's Doubles with partner Daniel Reed, Darius reached the semi-final, where they lost to the winners Paul Drinkhall and Liam Pitchford 3-1, which was the only set Paul and Liam lost all tournament. In round 1 of the main draw of the Mixed Doubles Shaquille Webb-Dixon lost 3-1 with Emily Bolton against David McBeath and Emma Vickers. Aaron McKibbin won the Men's Para Singles Class 6-8 beating Will Bayley, Billy Shilton and David Wetherill

All in all Surrey had a great tournament with many fine displays.

