

Robert Pelc Interview (By Chris Andrews, 26/8/16)

Hello Robert Pelc

You recently went in for the Table Tennis Trials for the England Youth Development Squad.

1. Did you enjoy the day?

Yes, it was very demanding making it a difficult challenge, pushing me to do my best. That is why it was such a good day. It was also good to see the standard of players outside my region, who I haven't played with.

2. At the trials who impressed you the most?

It was very nice to have a high level of coaches, especially Alan Cooke. Also, players from the midlands who had amazing fitness as well as table skills was impressive because players I'm used to are either outstanding in one and not the other.

3. Matthew Syed and Paul Drinkhall, like you both had older brothers who are very good at table tennis. Has your own sibling rivalry helped improve your game?

Yes, this is the whole reason I have improved in a short amount of time. I am very competitive and this strived me to compete against my brother and improve. I would like to thank my brother as he has inspired me to be the best I can. He has been so supportive. Without him, I wouldn't be anywhere near the level I am (he is a great coach).

4. At what age do you think you will be when you can beat your brother at table tennis on a consistent basis?

Maybe, in a year and a bit (15/16) because he is going to university so won't improve as much as before (he wouldn't agree with me). However, I will hopefully continue to improve the way I have been doing.

5. Do you think playing for Surrey helped you get a trial for the England Youth Development squad?

Yes, I feel proud to perform well for Surrey. I want to get better every time I play for the county. This was why I wanted to improve and maybe even to perform for the nation.

6. Out of all the coaches in Surrey who would you say has helped your table tennis career the most?

Ever since I have started playing my brother has helped me the greatest. Also, recently Kim Mudge and Johnston have supported me and coached greatly. My friend Isabelle Joubely has helped me as well.

7. What advice would you give any player younger than yourself who is considering trying to get into the Surrey County Cadet team?

To try your best every time you play no matter what is happening in your personal life. Also, impress anyone who can give you the slimnest chances of getting you into the team. Never give up no matter what. I have had setbacks but it made me want to do better. Focus on your goals.