

Scotland Students Team Manager Mark McCulloch assesses his squad

I'm really looking forward to this year's Student Home Internationals. It's great to be part of a tournament where all the nations will be finally competing together and I feel that we have as good a chance as any of winning. Granted, on paper we are not the favourites but, in pool, having the "best" individual players does not necessarily constitute the winning team. Being on home soil can only be in Scotland's favour.

Our team this year is a well-balanced, solid squad with a renowned team spirit. I'm very happy with the end product. Running through the team we have:

Michael Rodgers – Deservedly captain this year, Michael is playing in his 4th Home Nations. His experience will be paramount to newcomers in the team.

Bobby Hutchison – Making his debut last year, Bobby showed the calibre of his play. Having previously competed in the EUPKF World Championships, he is enviably familiar with playing on the big stage.

Craig Campbell – The trials posed little trouble for Craig. A newcomer to the representative pool scene, he will be looking to maintain his excellent form and to further establish his position at this level.

Phil Martin – A veteran campaigner with a strong, proven track record. Phil is a tough competitor who rarely plays the wrong shot.

Thomas Laycock – On the back of admirable form at the BUSA-UPC Championships (winning over 70% of his games), Thomas blew the field away at the trials winning all of his matches.

Gary Ferguson – A fearless player with arguably the best potting capacity in the team, I believe Gary will cause a few upsets this year.

Colin Simpson – Colin has both captained his university to victory in the BUSA-UPC Shield event and represented Scotland at U21 level in the European Championships.

Breck MacGregor – Cementing his position in the team again this year, Breck was typically unyielding at the trials. Never giving frames away easily, his opponents will have a burdensome match on their hands.