

Will Bayley claims gold at German Open

Will Bayley led a string of impressive British performances at the German Open Table Tennis Championships, winning individual gold.

The nineteen-year-old beat Paralympic, world and European champion Daniel Arnold of Germany to claim the class 6 singles victory, having already also beaten world No.2 Peter Rosenmeier of Denmark and world No.4 Miroslaw Kowalski of Poland.

Will also teamed up with 17-year-old David Wetherill (Torpoint, Cornwall) at the championships to claim the class 6 team silver. The pair beat the current European champions Denmark for the third time this year to make the final before missing out to hosts Germany to finish second.

There were also medals in store for Paralympian Neil Robinson (Bridgend), who beat France's Yann Guilheim to win class 3 singles bronze, Cathy Mitton (York), who won bronze in the class 2 singles and British duo James Rawson (Nottingham) and Arnie Chan (Mansfield, Notts), who won class 3 team bronze.

There was also a top performance from Claire Robertson (Flintshire), who just missed out on a bronze medal in the class 4 singles, losing in the fifth set of the play-off to finish fourth.

Youngster Kim Daybell (Sheffield) also performed well on his GB debut. The 15-year-old only narrowly missed out on qualifying for the Class 10 singles knock-out stage after beating the World No.9 in his qualification group match.

These top performances put the team in good stead ahead of the IPC European Table Tennis Championships, which take place in Kranska Gora, Slovenia from October 10 to 21.

The German Open took place in Wuppertal, Germany from September 12 to 16 and was an opportunity for Britain's table tennis players to improve their world ranking scores in order to gain qualification points ahead of the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games.