

James Meyers Deaf Table Tennis Player

“My name is James Meyers, and I am 31 years old. I contracted meningitis as a 10-month-old and consequently became profoundly deaf. When I was three years old, I was fitted with a cochlear implant. I am a British Sign Language (BSL), Sign Supported English (SSE) and International Sign Language user.

My sporting passion is table tennis, and I am currently ranked the no.1 British Deaf Men's Table Tennis player.

Self-funding in pursuit of my goals has not been easy; I have limited personal income and being deaf creates difficulties when approaching individuals, businesses, and companies for financial support. This has negatively impacted on my advancement within the sport, because I struggle to afford training camps and one-on-one coaching sessions to aid my improvement. It already costs me a lot of money to travel around the UK and further afield to play high-level table tennis competitions. Most of the time I can't attend these competitions because I do not have the funds to pay for transport, accommodation, tournament fees, sports massage, subsistence and more.

Naturally, my potential for growth within the sport is limited by these factors. Currently, I am trying to find financial sponsors to help with my table tennis journey.



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I believe there is considerable potential for improvement within my game and through advancement for me to become something of a role model to deaf people.

However, funding issues are holding me back. Table tennis is a sport that demands extensive travel to play at the highest level.

Financial sponsorship is critical to the growth I need to achieve and then I will be able to focus on completing my table tennis journey and inspiring deaf people to play the game.

My ultimate goal is to become a full-time table tennis player and to coach as a career.”



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