

Bloomfield's wildcard delight

Norfolk's Richard Bloomfield has vowed to make the most of his latest Wimbledon opportunity after being handed a wild-card entry at SW19.

The 24-year-old was one of nine Britons hand-picked by head of men's tennis Paul Hutchins to skip qualifying and be entered straight into the Wimbledon first round draw alongside the likes of Andy Murray and Roger Federer. And Bloomfield, who was dumped out of Monday's Artois Championship first round draw by American Robby Ginepri, is relishing the task of going head-to-head with the world's best at Wimbledon.

The British No 4, who qualified for a Challenger tour final in Wrexham back in January, will now head to the Nottingham Open qualifiers

By CRAIG CHISNALL

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this weekend as he looks to uncover some much-needed form and fitness.

"It is fantastic news for me and it was a great end to a bad day on Monday," said Bloomfield.

"Paul sent me a text message on Monday saying all the players he had proposed for wildcards had been successful. I have just got to make sure that I make the most of this wonderful opportunity and try to repay a bit of the faith shown in me by Paul. "I have got Nottingham qualifiers on Saturday now and hopefully I can win a couple of matches and head to Wimbledon full of confidence. "It was a real setback against

Robby Ginepri because I have been playing a lot better than that. I won't be fearing anyone in the first round at Wimbledon."

Bloomfield reserved special praise for his coach Pete Russell and the unlimited access he has been granted at the newly built National Tennis Centre in Roehampton to the LTA's vast array of coaching expertise.

"I have worked really hard at my game this year with Pete Russell," added Bloomfield. "But it has also been great to have some time with the big three coaches that the LTA have brought in. Peter Lundgren, Brad Gilbert and Paul Annacone have all helped me this year to improve my game and I feel as though I am a better player for it."