

To the wonderful and delightful people who I may call my Twitter friends,

Thank you. Thank you for the sincere and profound relationships I've had with you. You guys are awesome, and by awesome, I genuinely mean it in the true sense of the word. You guys are not only awe-inspiring, but are wonderfully unique and charismatic people which have made my experience of Twitter unbelievably eye-opening and remarkable, in a way which I cannot describe in words. You have put up with all my terrible jokes, my fangirling of Golden Flowers and even some of the deeply offensive things I've spewed, unthinkingly. Again, thank you.

With all the incredible things Twitter has brought me, there will always be the nauseating hatred which I'm sure you've all experienced at some point. Twitter can be a place where the antagonism is revolting, and vitriol bitterest. I have decided that it would be best for me to no longer continue with my personal Twitter account as it would be unhealthy to exist in such an environment where there is such intense hatred coming my way. I admit that much of this hatred towards me is due to the offensive of the things I've said, and the way in which I've conducted myself in general, online. Even I have learnt from these experiences and am open to mending relationships which I have broken, but relationships, especially online ones, are some of the most difficult to heal and rebuild, and there are some relationships which I have damaged beyond repair.

Blocking people doesn't end the problem. The hostility will continue, beyond what I can see, and this is far more damaging to my personal health than if it were directed at me outright. I am human, and ignoring these issues is almost impossible. I have great respect and veneration for people who are able to genuinely look past this, but personally, I can't.

This is why I've decided to delete my personal account.

I would also like to take this time to apologise to you, my friend, if I have ever caused you any kind of offense, whether intentional or not. I unreservedly apologise and please, tell me if I have ever hurt you. I have probably caused you all some kind of hurt in the past, and as an ignorant and insensitive individual, I am always irritating and exasperating others, and I humbly seek for repentance. You are all incredible people, and do not deserve any of the abhorrent bitterness that I've directed at you.

I first joined Twitter because I wanted to join a community of like-minded 'tennis nerds' with whom I'd be able to gossip and chat, and overall, it has been a magnificent experience. Whilst you are all technically strangers, to me, you are all friends and people who I appreciate greatly for being in my life, even if just online. The #TennisTwitter community is a wonderful thing. But it is not for me. The hiatus of my personal account may be indefinite, or it may be permanent – but whatever happens, I will always be on Twitter, and hope we can still be friends. Twitter is too much of an addiction anyway.

If circumstances permit, I hope we can meet someday – I am forever indebted to you all for the wonderful experiences I've had. Again, I cannot thank you guys enough.

A lot of happy tears were shed writing this letter, with this, I express my deepest gratitude to you all.

- Ivan Xie