

LTA Daily Brit Player Media Notes

Lexus Birmingham Open – Monday, 2 June, 2025

Ann Jones Centre Court - Match 1

[1] Alycia Parks (WR52 – USA) v [WC] Mingge Xu (WR410 – GBR)

Head to Head: First meeting

ALYCIA PARKS highlights:

- Won her maiden WTA Tour singles title at 2023 Lyon, defeating Caroline Garcia in the final.
- Won the doubles title at WTA 1000 Cincinnati in 2023 alongside partner Taylor Townsend. Also won the doubles title at 2022 Ostrava alongside partner Caty McNally.
- Won 5 WTA 125 titles, including three in 2024. She won the last WTA 125 event on grass, at Gaiba, Italy, in June 2024.
- Best Grand Slam result is reaching round 3 at the 2024 Australian Open, falling to Coco Gauff.
- Achieved a career-high ranking of No. 40 in August 2023.
- Played in one WTA 125 event this year, falling to Anna Bondar in round one at Parma last month.
- First time she has been No. 1 seed at a WTA Tour event.
- Americans have a glorious past at Birmingham when it was a WTA Tour event – the likes of Martina Navratilova, Billie Jean King, Madison Keys and Pam Shriver have all won the title at the Edgbaston Priory Club.
- Played just once against a British player on grass, defeating Hannah Klugman 63 63 in the final round of Wimbledon qualifying last year.
- WTA Tour biography [HERE](#)

MINGGE XU highlights:

- Won the Under-18 singles title at the LTA Junior National Championships in 2022 (as a 14-year-old) and again in 2024, defeating Hannah Klugman in the final. Also won the Under-16 title in 2022.
- Reached the girls' doubles final at 2024 Wimbledon alongside partner Mika Stojsavljevic.
- Reached the girls' singles semi-finals at the 2024 US Open, falling to Wakana Sonobe.
- Won one ITF singles title, at Aldershot last year.
- Yet to play a main draw match at WTA Tour level.
- Handed a wild card in Wimbledon qualifying last year, but lost in round one.
- Achieved a career-high ranking of No. 409 last month.
- Supported by the LTA's elite Pro Scholarship Programme.
- Playing in the main draw of a WTA 125 event for the first time.
- This is the first occasion she's playing a Top 100 player. Before today the highest ranked player she had faced was No. 102 Sonay Kartal at an ITF event at Shrewsbury last year, where she lost 7-6 6-2.
- The highest ranked players she has defeated are No. 179 Gabriela Andrea Knutson and No. 179 Kyoka Okamura and ITF events in 2023 Glasgow and in Kyoto, Japan in March.

Ann Jones Centre Court - Match 2

[WC] Heather Watson (WR163 – GBR) v [8] Olivia Gadecki (WR91 – AUS)

Head to Head: First meeting

HEATHER WATSON highlights:

- Won 4 WTA Tour singles titles – 2012 Osaka, 2015 Hobart, 2016 Monterrey, 2020 Acapulco.
- One of just 4 British women to win 4 or more WTA Tour singles titles in the Open Era, following Wade (55 titles), Barker (15) and Konta (4).
- Won the mixed doubles title at 2016 Wimbledon alongside partner Henri Kontinen.
- Won the girls' singles title at the 2009 US Open, defeating Yana Buchina in the final.
- Won 8 ITF singles titles, most recently at Nottingham last year on a hard court.
- Achieved a career-high ranking of No. 38 in January 2015.
- Best result in the Grand Slams was reaching the round of 16 at 2022 Wimbledon. It was her 43rd Grand Slam appearance at the time, breaking the record for the most Grand Slam appearances before making the round of 16 for the first time.
- Best result at WTA 125 level is a semi-final, at Puerto Vallarta this year and at 2023 Andorra (both on hard). Puerto Vallarta is her only appearance at a WTA 125 event this year.
- Played one WTA Tour main draw match in 2025, falling to Iryna Shymanovich as a wild card at Charleston.
- A semi-finalist at Birmingham when it was a WTA Tour event in 2021, falling to Ons Jabeur.
- Best result on grass is 4 semi-finals, at 2014 and 2017 Eastbourne, 2021 Birmingham and 2023 Nottingham, falling to compatriot Boulter.
- Lost 10 of her last 11 matches against Top 100 players, but won her last one, against WR-87 Sara Sorribes Tormo at the WTA 125 event at Puerto Vallarta in March.
- Last victory over a Top 100 player on grass was against WR-53 Yulia Putintseva at 2023 Eastbourne. She has lost her last 6 such matches since then.
- **Won an ITF doubles title with Gadecki at Quinta do Lago, Portugal in 2023.**
- LTA biography [HERE](#)
- WTA Tour biography [HERE](#)

OLIVIA GADECKI highlights:

- Reached one WTA Tour singles final, falling to Magdalena Frech at WTA 500 Guadalajara last year as a qualifier.
- Won the Australian Open mixed doubles title earlier this year alongside partner John Peers.
- Best results at WTA 125 level are two quarter-finals, at Contrexeville, France, in 2022 and at Guadalajara in 2024.
- Best result on grass is reaching the semi-finals of the ITF event at Surbiton last year, defeating 3 British players along the way.
- Achieved a career-high ranking of No. 83 in October 2024.
- Last match against a British player ended in defeat, to Katie Boulter at the United Cup at the start of the year.
- Won 7 doubles titles at various levels alongside British players – two at WTA 125 level – with Jodie Burrage at 2023 Golden Gate and with Olivia Nicholls at 2024 Charleston. Also won the WTA Tour doubles title with Nicholls at Austin last year. Also won one with Watson (mentioned above).
- WTA Tour biography [HERE](#)

Ann Jones Centre Court - Match 3

[WC] Jay Clarke (WR187 – GBR) v [PR] Lloyd Harris (WR227 – RSA)

Head to Head: Harris leads 1-0

2016 ITF Futures Tour, Stellenbosch, South Africa

SF

Harris 63 10 ret.

JAY CLARKE highlights:

- Won his 4th ATP Challenger Tour singles title last month at Skopje, Macedonia on clay, defeating Bosnia's Nerman Fatic in the final. It was the first time a British player has won an ATP Challenger Tour title this year.
- Also won 8 ITF singles titles, most recently at Santa Margherita, Spain on clay in April.
- Won two ATP Tour main draw matches - both on grass - against Ryan Harrison as a lucky loser at 2018 Eastbourne and against Noah Rubin at 2019 Wimbledon.
- Also played in the main draw at Wimbledon in 2018, 2021 and 2022, falling in round one all on three occasions.
- Reached the semi-finals of the mixed doubles alongside Harriet Dart at 2018 Wimbledon.
- Achieved a career-high ranking of No. 153 in July 2019.
- Played in 7 ATP Challenger Tour events in 2025, with a win-loss record of 8-6. 5 of his wins came at Skopje last month.
- LTA biography [HERE](#)
- ATP Tour biography [HERE](#)

LLOYD HARRIS highlights:

- Reached two ATP Tour singles finals - fell to Andrey Rublev at 2020 Adelaide and to Aslan Karatsev at 2021 Dubai, where he became the first qualifier to reach the final in the tournament's 30-year history.
- Won the title at Surbiton last year, defeating Brit and namesake Billy in the semi-finals. He also reached the last 8 at Ilkley last year.
- Best Grand Slam result was reaching the quarter-finals at the 2021 US Open, where he fell to Alexander Zverev. He's the last South African player, man or woman, to reach the last 8 at a Grand Slam.
- Best ATP Tour performance on grass was reaching the semi-finals at 2023 Mallorca, where he fell to Christopher Eubanks.
- Won 6 ATP Challenger Tour titles, most recently at Surbiton last year.
- Defeated Rafal Nadal at 2021 Washington.
- Achieved a career-high ranking of No. 31 in September 2021.
- Missed 7 months from July 2024 to February 2025 with a back injury that required surgery. He also had surgery on his wrist in 2022.
- His last ATP Tour main draw match came at Wimbledon last year. He is playing here on a protected ranking of No. 227.
- Played in 4 ATP Tour Challenger events in 2025, with a win-loss record of 1-3. His last competitive match came against another Brit, Dan Evans, losing 6-1 7-5 in Prague last month.
- ATP Tour biography [HERE](#)

Ann Jones Centre Court - Match 4

[3] Rinky Hijikata (WR77 – AUS) v Billy Harris (WR106 – GBR)

Head to Head: Hijikata leads 1-0

2023 Surbiton

Grass

R32

Hijikata 63 75

RINKY HIJIKATA highlights:

- Won the doubles title at the 2023 Australian Open alongside compatriot Jason Kubler.
- Won 3 ATP Tour Challenger singles titles - all on home soil – at 2022 & 2024 Playford, and at 2023 Burnie.
- Best ATP Tour singles result has come on grass - as a lucky loser he made the last 4 at 2023 s'Hertogenbosch.
- Best Grand Slam result was reaching the round of 16 at the 2023 US Open as a wild card, where he fell to Frances Tiafoe.
- Achieved a career-high ranking of No. 62 in August 2024.
- Played in 3 ATP Challenger Tour events in 2025, with his best result coming at Bordeaux on clay last month, where he fell to Giovanni Mpetshi Perricard in the semi-finals. He has a 5-3 win-loss record in ATP Challenger Tour events this year.
- Won both of his previous two matches on grass against British players, defeating Harris at 2023 Surbiton and Henry Searle in Queen's qualifying last year.
- ATP Tour biography [HERE](#)

BILLY HARRIS highlights:

- Reached three singles semi-finals on British grass last year, at Surbiton, Nottingham and Eastbourne. Also reached the quarter-finals at Queen's.
- Two-time ATP Challenger Tour singles finalist, at Les Franqueses Del Valles (Spain - hard) in 2023 and at New Delhi (India - hard) this year, where he lost to Kyrian Jacquet in the final.
- Won 5 ITF singles events, most recently at Nottingham on a hard court in 2022.
- Made his Grand Slam main draw debut at Wimbledon in 2024 as a wild card, falling to Jaume Munar in the first round.
- Achieved a career-high ranking of No. 101 in September 2024.
- Played 7 ATP Tour main draw matches in 2025, losing all 7. Helped Great Britain reach the quarter-finals of the United Cup. Lost in round One at both Miami and at Munich. Represented Great Britain in their Davis Cup defeat to Japan in January.
- 6 of his 8 ATP Tour main draw wins have been achieved on grass, and 5 of those wins came in Great Britain on grass last year.
- His last victory against a player ranked as high as No. 77 Hijikata was against No. 49 Flavio Cobolli at Eastbourne last year.
- Played in 9 ATP Challenger Tour events in 2025, with his best performance reaching the final at New Delhi. He has also reached two semi-finals (Chennai, Bangalore).
- ATP Challenger Tour win-loss record in 2025 is 13-8.
- LTA biography [HERE](#)
- ATP Tour biography [HERE](#)