

LTA Daily Brit Player Media Notes

Lexus Birmingham Open – Friday, 6 June, 2025

Ann Jones Centre Court - Match 1

[WC] Mingge Xu (WR410 – GBR) v Jessika Ponchet (WR140 – FRA)

Head to Head: First meeting

MINGGE XU highlights:

- Defeated No. 1 seed Alycia Parks [62 76\(6\)](#) and Katarzyna Kawa [46 75 62](#).
- Playing in main draw of WTA 125 event for first time.
- Reached first ever quarter-final above ITF level.
- Bids to become 4th British woman to reach WTA 125 semi-final in 2025, after Jones (Cancun), Watson (Puerto Vallarta) and Boulter (Paris).
- British women are 3-0 in WTA 125 quarter-finals in 2025.
- Bids to become 4th wild card to reach WTA 125 semi-final in 2025 – most recent was Naomi Osaka, St Malo.
- Won 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 Under-16 title in 2022.
- Reached girls' doubles final at 2024 Wimbledon alongside partner Mika Stojsavljevic.
- Reached girls' singles semi-finals at the 2024 US Open, falling to Wakana Sonobe.
- Won one ITF singles title, at Aldershot last year.
- Handed a wild card in Wimbledon qualifying last year, but lost in round one.
- Achieved a career-high ranking of No. 409 last month. Currently at a career-high of No. 369 in the live rankings.
- Supported by the LTA's elite Pro Scholarship Programme.

JESSIKA PONCHET highlights:

- Defeated Vitalia Diatchenko [63 62](#) and Brit Heather Watson [64 57 75](#), where she saved three match points.
- Reached 6th WTA 125 quarter-final - lost 4 of her previous 5 quarter-finals at this level.
- Bids to reach just 2nd WTA 125 semi-final, after 2022 Angers.
- Bids to become 5th French woman to reach WTA 125 semi-final in 2025, after Burel, Gracheva, Jeanjean and Paquet.
- Won 10 ITF singles titles, most recently in 2023.
- Reached final of the ITF event at Ilkley last year, falling to Rebecca Marino.
- Achieved best performance on the WTA Tour this year, reaching quarter-finals at Rouen on clay in April, falling to Elena Gabriela Ruse.
- Best performance at Grand Slams was reaching round 3 at the US Open last year as a qualifier.
- Best performance at WTA 125 level is reaching semi-finals at 2022 Angers.
- Second appearance in a WTA 125 event this year and this week is first time she's won some matches – she fell in round one at St Malo in April.
- WTA Tour biography [HERE](#)

Ann Jones Centre Court - Match 2

[LL] Sijia Wei (WR130 – CHN) v [2] Kimberly Birrell (WR66 – AUS)

Head to Head: Birrell leads 1-0

2023 Nanchang

Hard

R32

Birrell 75 75

The match above was Wei's debut in the WTA Tour main draw.

SIJIA WEI highlights:

- Lost to Lizette Cabrera in final round of qualifying earlier this week.
- Defeated Sayaka Ishii [6-4 6-4](#) in round one.
- Bids to reach just 2nd quarter-final at this level - reached one WTA 125 final, in Canberra, Australia at start of this year, falling to Aoi Ito.
- Won 10 ITF singles titles.
- Achieved a career-high ranking of No. 114 in March.
- Best performance on WTA Tour is reaching the round of 16 on two occasions (both in China).
- Made Grand Slam main draw debut at Australian Open this year, falling to Jasmine Paolini.
- Owns 2-9 win-loss record against top 100 players – wins have come against WR-51 Rebecca Sramkova at 2024 Guangzhou and WR-93 Elena Gabriela Ruse at 2024 Beijing.
- Played in five WTA 125 events this year with a win-loss record of 5-5.
- Bids to become 4th lucky loser to reach a WTA 125 quarter-final in 2025.
- WTA Tour biography [HERE](#)

KIMBERLY BIRRELL highlights:

- Defeated Maddison Inglis [6-1 6-4](#) in round one.
- Bids to reach 1st ever quarter-final at this level - reached last 8 at two WTA Tour events in 2025, in Brisbane and Singapore.
- Reached maiden WTA Tour final at Osaka in October last year, falling to Suzan Lamens.
- Reached semi-finals at Ilkley last year when it was an ITF event, falling to Rebecca Marino.
- Won 5 ITF singles titles, most recently at Brisbane in February.
- Reached mixed doubles final at this year's Australian Open alongside compatriot John-Patrick Smith - they lost to fellow Aussies Olivia Gadecki and John Peers.
- Currently Australian No. 3 behind Daria Kasatkina and Maya Joint. Achieved a career-high ranking of No. 60 in May.
- Played in three WTA 125 events this year with a win-loss record of 2-2. Defeated Bianca Andreescu at Vic, Spain in April.
- Born in Dusseldorf, Germany.
- WTA Tour biography [HERE](#)

Ann Jones Centre Court - Match 3

[3] Rinky Hijikata (WR77 – AUS) v [Q] Alex Bolt (WR197 – AUS)

Head to Head: Hijikata leads 1-0

2023 Wimbledon

Grass

Q1

Hijikata 76(2) 76(9)

RINKY HIJIKATA highlights:

- Defeated Billy Harris [61 36 64](#) and Yosuke Watanuki [61 63](#).
- Reached 18th ATP Challenger Tour quarter-final, 2nd of 2025, and 2nd on grass (2023 Surbiton).
- Bids to reach 11th ATP Challenger Tour semi-final, and 1st on grass.
- Won doubles title at 2023 Australian Open alongside compatriot Jason Kubler.
- Won 3 ATP Challenger Tour singles titles - all on home soil – at 2022 & 2024 Playford, and at 2023 Burnie.
- Best ATP Tour singles result has come on grass – as lucky loser made 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 best result coming at Bordeaux on clay last month, where he fell to Giovanni Mpetshi Perricard in semi-finals. Owns 7-3 win-loss record in ATP Challenger Tour events this year.
- ATP Tour biography [HERE](#)

ALEX BOLT highlights:

- Defeated Mackenzie McDonald [64 76\(3\)](#) and Li Tu [62 63](#).
- Reached 37th ATP Challenger Tour quarter-final, and 4th of 2025.
- 3rd ATP Challenger Tour quarter-final on grass, after 2017 Ilkley and 2021 Nottingham - won both of those previous quarter-finals.
- Bids to reach 18th ATP Challenger Tour semi-final, and 2nd of 2025.
- Won 3 ATP Challenger titles, most recently at 2021 Nottingham on grass.
- Best ATP Tour result is reaching three quarter-finals, most recently on grass at Newport last year.
- Achieved a career-high ranking of No. 125 in March 2019.
- Played in 7 ATP Challenger Tour events in 2025 with a win-loss record of 11-6. Best performance is reaching final at Wuxi, China, last month.
- Owns 23-42 record against top 100 players. Highest ranked player defeated is WR-30 Gilles Simon at 2019 Australian Open. Defeated WR-98 McDonald in round one this week.
- ATP Tour biography [HERE](#)

Ann Jones Centre Court - Match 4

LLOYD HARRIS highlights:

- Defeated Jay Clarke [64 36 64](#) and Martin Landaluce [6-4 6-2](#).
- Reached 32nd ATP Challenger Tour quarter-final, and 1st at any level since Ilkley last year.
- Bids to reach 17th ATP Challenger Tour semi-final, and 1st at any level since Surbiton last year.
- 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 title at Surbiton last year, defeating Brit and namesake Billy in the semi-finals. Also reached 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 - last South African player, man or woman, to reach the last 8 at a Grand Slam.
- Best ATP Tour performance on grass was reaching 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. Playing here on a protected ranking of No. 227.
- Played in 3 ATP Tour Challenger events in 2025 with a win-loss record of 3-2.
- ATP Tour biography [HERE](#)