

LTA Daily Brit Player Media Notes

Lexus Birmingham Open – Wednesday, 4 June, 2025

Ann Jones Centre Court - Match 1

Jessika Ponchet (WR140 – FRA) v [WC] Heather Watson (WR163 – GBR)

Head to Head: Watson leads 1-0

2023 Calvi, France (ITF event) Hard SF Watson 61 57 62

Watson was also handed a walkover in the quarter-finals of the WTA 125 event in Andorra in 2023.

JESSIKA PONCHET highlights:

- Won 10 ITF singles titles, most recently in 2023.
- Reached the final of the ITF event at Ilkley last year, falling to Rebecca Marino.
- Achieved her best performance on the WTA Tour this year, reaching the quarter-finals at Rouen on clay in April, falling to Elena Gabriela Ruse.
- Best performance at the Grand Slams was reaching round 3 at the US Open last year as a qualifier.
- Best performance at WTA 125 level is reaching the semi-finals at Angers in 2022.
- This is her second appearance in a WTA 125 event this year and Monday was the first time she's won a match – she fell in round one at St Malo in April.
- Defeated Vitalia Diatchenko [63 62](#) in round one.
- WTA Tour biography [HERE](#)

HEATHER WATSON highlights:

- Bids to reach her 3rd quarter-final at this level, after Andorra in 2023 and Puerto Vallarta this year.
- Reached 4 WTA Tour quarter-finals on grass – at 2014 & 2017 Eastbourne, 2021 Birmingham and 2023 Nottingham.
- 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). Before this week, Puerto Vallarta was 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.
- Her first match against a French player on grass since she lost to Alize Cornet at 2019 Eastbourne.
- Defeated Olivia Gadecki [60 63](#) in round one.
- LTA biography [HERE](#)
- WTA Tour biography [HERE](#)

Ann Jones Centre Court - Match 2

Linda Fruhvirtova (WR152 - CZE) v [WC] Jodie Burrage (WR165 – GBR)

Head to Head: First meeting

LINDA FRUHVIRTOVA highlights:

- Won her maiden WTA Tour title as a 17-year-old at 2022 Chennai, defeating Magda Linette in the final.
- Came to prominence when as a 16-year-old she reached the last 16 at WTA 1000 Miami in 2022, becoming the youngest to reach that stage of the tournament since Tatiana Golovin in 2004.
- A former quarter-finalist at Birmingham. In 2023, when it was a WTA Tour event, she defeated recent Roland Garros quarter-finalist Elina Svitolina and then Bernarda Pera before falling to Barbora Krejickova.
- Achieved a career-high ranking of No. 49 in June 2023.
- Best performance at WTA 125 level is a runner-up at Puerto Vallarta, Mexico in March, where she fell to Jaqueline Cristian in the final.
- First match against a British player since she defeated Heather Watson in the semi-finals at that Puerto Vallarta event mentioned above. She also defeated Lily Miyazaki at Nottingham last year.
- Defeated No. 3 seed Alexandra Eala [75 67\(5\) 61](#) in round one.
- WTA Tour biography [HERE](#)

JODIE BURRAGE highlights:

- Bids to reach her first quarter-final on grass since 2023 Nottingham. Also bids to reach her first quarter-final at this level in two years.
- Reached her maiden WTA Tour final at Nottingham in 2023, falling to compatriot Katie Boulter, first all-British WTA singles final since 1977.
- Won the biggest title of her career at W100 Dubai last December.
- Also reached the final at ITF Ilkley in 2022 and the quarter-finals at the WTA 500 event in Linz last year.
- Achieved a career-high ranking of No. 85 in September 2023.
- Her best result at the Grand Slams is reaching R2, at Wimbledon 2023, at the 2023 US Open and at this year's Australian Open.
- Won the WTA Tour doubles title at Cluj Napoca in 2023 alongside partner Jil Teichmann.
- Defeated WR-4 Paula Badosa at Eastbourne in 2022 – best win by a British woman other than Konta since 2013.
- Partnered Katie Boulter in Great Britain's decisive doubles win over the Netherlands in the Billie Jean King Cup qualifiers in April.
- Reached the quarter-finals of the ITF event at Birmingham on a hard court in 2022, but lost her only previous main draw match at Birmingham on grass, to Harriet Dart in 2023.
- Injury plagued 2024 season, missing almost seven months, from February to September 2024, with a wrist injury that required surgery, followed by an ankle injury.
- Played in one WTA 125 this year, falling to Tatjana Maria in round two at Puerto Vallarta.
- Defeated Jana Fett [63 64](#) in round one.
- LTA biography [HERE](#)
- WTA Tour biography [HERE](#)

Ann Jones Centre Court - Match 3

Nicolas Jarry (WR149 - CHI) v Adrian Mannarino (WR130 – FRA)

Head to Head: Jarry leads 1-0

2023

Basel

Hard (Indoor)

R32

Jarry 76(6) 67(2) 64

NICOLAS JARRY highlights:

- Won 3 ATP Tour titles – all on clay – 2019 Bastad, 2023 Santiago and 2023 Geneva.
- In addition reached four other ATP Tour finals, including at the ATP Masters 1000 in Rome last year, where he fell to Alexander Zverev.
- Achieved a career-high ranking of No. 16 in May 2024.
- Slipped out of the top 100 in May after being knocked out in round two in Rome.
- 4-time ATP Challenger Tour winner, most recently at Lima, Peru in 2021.
- Played his first ATP Challenger Tour event in over 2 years at Estoril in April, falling in the quarter-finals.
- Just 8 out of his 119 ATP Tour main draw wins have come on grass, with 72 coming on clay.
- Best performance on grass is reaching the quarter-finals at 2019 s'Hertogenbosch and 2023 Halle.
- Best performance at Wimbledon is reaching round three in 2023. That same year he achieved his best performance at the Grand Slams, reaching the last 16 at Roland Garros.
- This is his second ATP Challenger Tour event on grass – in 2017 he lost in qualifying at Ilkley.
- Was Chile's flag bearer at the 2024 Olympic Games.
- Defeated Tristan Schoolkate [67\(8\) 64 64](#) in round one.
- ATP Tour biography [HERE](#)

ADRIAN MANNARINO highlights:

- Won 5 ATP Tour titles – including two on grass, at 2019 s'Hertogenbosch and 2023 Newport. Also won the title at 2022 Winston-Salem, 2023 Astana and 2023 Sofia.
- Made his ATP main draw debut 17 years ago at Roland Garros as a wild card. Has since amassed over 300 wins on the ATP Tour.
- Best performance at the Grand Slams is reaching the round of 16 on 5 occasions, including 3 times at Wimbledon (2013, 2017, 2018).
- Achieved a career-high ranking of No. 17 in January 2024.
- Won 14 ATP Challenger Tour events, most recently at 2020 Monterrey.
- Played in 7 ATP Challenger Tour events in 2025 with a win-loss record of 4-7. Best performance was reaching the semi-finals at Mexico City in April.
- Defeated No. 2 seed Yoshihito Nishioka [76\(1\) 32 ret.](#) in round one.
- ATP Tour biography [HERE](#)

Ann Jones Centre Court - Match 4

[3] Rinky Hijikata (WR77 – AUS) v [Q] Yosuke Watanuke (WR183 – JPN)

Head to Head: Hijikata leads 1-0

2023 Ilkley (CH)

Grass

R32

Hijikata 76(8) 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.
- Defeated Billy Harris [61 36 64](#) in round one.
- ATP Tour biography [HERE](#)

YOSUKE WATANUKE highlights:

- Won 4 ATP Challenger titles – all in his home country – most recently at Yokohama in 2023.
- Won a silver medal at the 2022 Asian Games, losing to Zhang Zhizhen in the final.
- Best result on the ATP Tour is reaching the quarter-finals at 2022 Lyon on clay.
- At Indian Wells earlier this year he reached the round of 16 at an ATP Masters 1000 event for the first time, where as a qualifier and WR-349 he defeated WR-82 Alexander Bublik, WR-20 Tomas Machac and WR-17 Frances Tiafoe before falling to Tallon Griekspoor. He was the lowest ranked man to reach the round of 16 at Indian Wells in 21 years.
- Best performance on grass is reaching the round of 16 at 2023 Stuttgart.
- Played in 5 ATP Challenger Tour events in 2025 with a win-loss record of 8-4. Best performance was a semi-final at Gwangju, South Korea in April.
- Defeated Alexander Blockx [64 64](#) in round one.
- ATP Tour biography [HERE](#)