



LTA Daily Player Media Notes

Lexus Birmingham Open – Wednesday, 3 June, 2026

Ann Jones Centre Court - Match 1

[WC] Mika Stojsavlejvic (WR288 – GBR) v Elvina Kalieva (WR135 – USA)

Head to Head: First meeting

MIKA STOJSAVLEJVIC

- Defeated World No. 136 Emerson Jones [36 61 75](#) in R1 – her first victory at WTA 125 level. Kalieva is ranked one place higher.
- Bids to reach her first QF on grass.
- Bids to become the 8th British woman to reach the QF at Birmingham, after Katie Boulter, Harriet Dart, Jo Durie, Anne Hobbs, Melanie South, Heather Watson, and, most recently, Mimi Xu, who was also 17 at the time, last year.
- Bids to become the youngest woman to reach the QF at Birmingham since Donna Vekic, who was 16 when she reached the final in 2013.
- Won the girls' singles at the 2024 US Open, becoming the first British woman to win the event since Heather Watson in 2009.
- Won two ITF singles titles, both in Great Britain, at Nottingham in 2024 and at Birmingham last year (both on hard).
- Defeated World No. 56 Talia Gibson on her Billie Jean King Cup debut in April. She was 219 places below the Australian in the rankings. Great Britain won the tie 3-1 in Melbourne to qualify for the finals in Shenzhen in September.
- Awarded a wild card at Wimbledon last year, falling to Ashlyn Krueger in R1.
- Achieved a career-high ranking of No. 274 in February.
- Won three matches against players ranked as high as No. 135 Kalieva, with her best result by ranking coming against No. 56 Gibson in the Billie Jean King Cup match mentioned above.
- WTA Tour biography [HERE](#)

ELVINA KALIEVA

- Defeated No. 4 seed Talia Gibson [75 26 64](#) in R1.
- American women to win this event include Martina Navratilova, Billie Jean King, Madison Keys and Pam Shriver.
- Bids to reach her first QF on grass.
- Best results on the WTA 125 Tour in 2026 are two QF's, at Midland, USA (hard) in February and at Madrid (clay) in April. Has never got past a QF at this level.
- Won one WTA Tour main draw match in her entire career, against Dalma Galfi at Miami this year. Qualified for the main draw at Charleston and at Madrid this year, but lost in R1 on both occasions.
- Won one main draw match on grass at this level or above, at Newport in a WTA 125 last year.
- Never played a Grand Slam main draw match.
- Achieved a career-high ranking of No. 134 in April.
- WTA Tour biography [HERE](#)

Ann Jones Centre Court - Match 2

[3] Tatjana Maria (WR54 – GER) v Linda Fruhvirtova (WR149 – CZE)

Head to Head: Maria leads 2-0

2024	Rome (WTA 1000)	Clay	R128	Maria 76(5) 36 62
2025	Bengaluru (ITF)	Hard	SF	Maria 62 16 64

TATJANA MARIA

- Three German women have won the Birmingham title – Claudia Kohde-Kilsch in 1988, Sabine Lisicki in 2011 and Angelique Kerber in 2015.
- Won one WTA 125 title, at Bengaluru, India, last year, defeating Fruhvirtova in the SF.
- Created a sensation last year, where as a qualifier aged 37 she won the title at Queen's, defeating five top 30 players along the way (Leylah Fernandez, Karolina Muchova, Elena Rybakina, Madison Keys and Amanda Anisimova in the final).
- She has lost her two matches on grass since that victory in London last year, at Bad Homburg and at Wimbledon.
- Won four WTA Tour titles (2018 Mallorca on grass, 2022 & 2023 Bogota on clay, 2025 Queen's on grass).
- 3rd in the list of most matches played in WTA Tour history (1,254) – only Martina Navratilova (1,661) and Chris Evert (1,455) played more. Played first match on Tour in 2005.
- Best result at the Grand Slams is reaching the SF at Wimbledon in 2022, falling to Ons Jabeur.
- Best result on the WTA Tour in 2026 is reaching the SF at Rouen on clay.
- Just her second WTA 125 event of the year – she reached the R16 at Manila, Philippines in January.
- Achieved a career-high ranking of No. 36 in July 2025.
- WTA Tour biography [HERE](#)

LINDA FRUHVIRTOVA

- Bids to emulate compatriot Petra Kvitova – the only Czech woman to win the Birmingham title (2017, 2018).
- Runner-up at Birmingham last year, falling to Greet Minnen in the final.
- Also reached the QF at Birmingham in 2023 when it was a WTA Tour event. She defeated Elina Svitolina and Bernarda Pera before falling to Barbora Krejčíková.
- 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 R16 at WTA 1000 Miami in 2022, becoming the youngest to reach that stage of the tournament since Tatiana Golovin in 2004.
- Best result at the Grand Slams is reaching the R16 at the Australian Open in 2023.
- Best performances at WTA 125 level are runner-up finishes at Puerto Vallarta, Mexico and at Birmingham – both last year.
- Achieved a career-high ranking of No. 49 in June 2023.
- Her last victory against a player ranked as high as No. 54 Maria was defeating No. 18 Beatriz Haddad Maia at Miami last year.
- WTA Tour biography [HERE](#)

Ann Jones Centre Court - Match 3

[Q] Zhizhen Zhang (WR224 – CHN) v Otto Virtanen (WR134 – FIN)

Head to Head: Virtanen leads 2-0

2022	Bergamo, Italy (Challenger)	Hard	R16	Virtanen 64 76(7)
2026	Manama, Bahrain (Challenger)	Hard	R32	Virtanen 46 76(12) 76(5)

In their last meeting in Manama, Virtanen saved four match points in the second set tie-breaker, and won the match on his 8th match point.

ZHIZHEN ZHANG

- Saved two match points in qualifying against Marc-Andrea Huesler.
- Won four ATP Challenger titles, most recently at Brisbane 2 in February – his first title at this level in four years.
- Best performance on the ATP Tour is reaching the final at Hangzhou in 2024, falling to Marin Cilic, who at No. 777 became the lowest ever ranked player to win an ATP Tour title.
- Also reached two ATP Tour SF's, at Hamburg on clay in 2023 and at Halle on grass in 2024, where he fell to Jannik Sinner (both ATP 500 events).
- Also reached the QF at Eastbourne in 2023, where he recorded his first ATP Tour main draw victory on grass.
- First came to prominence in 2021 when he became the first Chinese man in the Open Era to play in the main draw at Wimbledon.
- In Madrid in 2023, he became the first Chinese man to reach the QF of an ATP 1000 event, and he also reached the last eight at Rome the following year.
- Reached the men's doubles SF at the 2024 Australian Open alongside Tomas Machac, and also won the silver medal in mixed doubles at the 2024 Olympic Games.
- Achieved a career-high ranking of No. 31 in July 2024, becoming the highest ranked Chinese man. In March last year, he was still ranked at No. 51, but has since fallen down the rankings.
- ATP Tour biography [HERE](#)

OTTO VIRTANEN

- Won the title here last year, defeating Aleksandar Vukic, Marc-Andrea Husler, Brandon Holt and Colton Smith. It was his 7th ATP Tour Challenger title at the time. He became just the second Finnish man to win a grass-court title, and the first in 25 years, since Tuomas Ketola, who won a pair of titles on Indian soil at 1999 Lucknow and 2000 Calcutta.
- Won 8 ATP Challenger Tour titles in all (also won in Roanne, France, in October last year).
- Won just two matches on the ATP Tour this year – both in the Davis Cup against Hong Kong as Finland won the tie 3-1 in the World Group 1 play-offs.
- His best result on grass on the ATP Tour is reaching the R16 at s'Hertogenbosch last year.
- Won the 2018 Wimbledon boys' doubles title with partner Yanki Erel.
- Appeared in three ATP Challenger Tour events this year, with two SF's, at Manama and at Thionville, France.
- Was a good junior – won the 2018 Orange Bowl.
- Achieved a career-high ranking of No. 91 in November 2024. He is Finland's No. 1.
- ATP Tour biography [HERE](#)

Ann Jones Centre Court - Match 4

Mackenzie McDonald (WR126 – USA) v [5] Rinky Hijikata (WR98 – AUS)

Head to Head: McDonald leads 2-1

2023	s'Hertogenbosch	Grass	QF	Hijikata 57 63 6-
2024	Newport	Grass	R32	McDonald 46 76(4) 62
2024	Hangzhou (Challenger)	Hard	QF	McDonald 62 61

MACKENZIE McDONALD

- Defeated Nicolai Budkov Kjaer [63 76\(3\)](#) in R1.
- Bids to reach 7th QF on grass, and 3rd in England (Nottingham 2 Challenger in 2021 and Eastbourne in 2023).
- Played at Birmingham last year, falling to Alex Bolt in R1.
- Won four ATP Challenger Tour titles, most recently at Shenzhen in 2024.
- Best results on grass are reaching the SF at the Nottingham 2 Challenger in 2021 and at Eastbourne in 2023, where defeated World No. 9 and No. 1 seed Taylor Fritz in R2.
- Best result on the ATP Tour is reaching the final at Washington in 2021, where he fell to Jannik Sinner.
- Best results at the Grand Slams is reaching the R16 at Wimbledon in 2018 (on his main draw debut at SW19) and at the Australian Open in 2021.
- As a qualifier he reached the R16 on the grass at s'Hertogenbosch and at Queen's last year.
- Won just two ATP Tour main draw matches in 2026, at Indian Wells and at Houston.
- Playing in his 5th ATP Challenger Tour event of 2026, with his best result being a QF at Quimper, France in January.
- Achieved a career-high ranking of No. 37 in October 2023.
- ATP Tour biography [HERE](#)

RINKY HIJIKATA

- Defeated Jacob Fearnley [61 76\(3\)](#) in R1.
- Bids to reach 5th QF on grass, and 3rd at ATP Challenger Tour level (2023 Surbiton and 2025 Birmingham).
- Won four ATP Challenger Tour titles – all on home soil – at 2022, 2024 and 2025 Playford, and at 2023 Burnie.
- Reached the SF at Birmingham last year, where he defeated Brit Billy Harris, Yosuke Watanuki and Alex Bolt before falling to Colton Smith.
- Best ATP Tour singles results have come on grass – as a lucky loser he made the last four at s'Hertogenbosch in 2023. He also made the QF at Queen's in 2024 as a qualifier.
- So, both of his two ATP Tour QF's have come on grass.
- Best result on the ATP Tour in 2026 is reaching the R16 at Indian Wells where, as a qualifier, he fell to Brit Cameron Norrie.
- Best Grand Slam result was reaching the R16 at the 2023 US Open where, as a wild card, he fell to Frances Tiafoe.
- Playing in his 4th ATP Challenger Tour event of 2026, where his best results are two QF's, at San Diego and at Aix-en-Provence.
- Won the Australian Open doubles title in 2023 alongside compatriot Jason Kubler. Also reached final of the doubles at Wimbledon last year alongside partner David Pel, falling to Brits Julian Cash and Lloyd Glasspool.
- Achieved a career-high ranking of No. 62 in August 2024.
- ATP Tour biography [HERE](#)

Ann Jones Centre Court - Match 5

Alex Bolt (WR152 – AUS) v Arthur Fery (WR154 – GBR)

Head to Head: Fery leads 1-0

2025 Bloomfield Hills (USA) Challenger Hard R32 Fery 64 46 62

Just 2 places between them in the rankings.

ALEX BOLT

- Defeated No. 1 seed Mattia Bellucci [63 60](#) in R1.
- Reached the QF at Birmingham last year as a qualifier, falling to Rinky Hijikata. Also played at Lexus Ilkley Open last year, and qualified for the main draws at Queen's (fell to Jacob Fearnley in R1) and at Wimbledon (fell to Ben Shelton in R1).
- Won four ATP Challenger Tour titles, including one on grass, at Nottingham 2 in 2021.
- Best results on the ATP Tour are three QF's, at Adelaide in 2020, at Los Cabos in 2021 and at Newport on grass in 2024.
- Played in 8 ATP Challenger Tour events in 2026, with his best performance reaching the final at Brisbane 2 in February, falling to Zhizhen Zhang. Also reached two SF's.
- Has a 13-8 win-loss record on the ATP Challenger Tour this year.
- Played two main draw matches on the ATP Tour in 2026, reaching R2 at Houston on clay.
- Achieved a career-high ranking of No. 125 in March 2019.
- Won 7 of his last 8 matches against British players on grass, but lost his last one, against Jacob Fearnley at Queen's last year. However, has won his last 3 such matches on grass at this level.
- ATP Tour biography [HERE](#)

ARTHUR FERY

- Defeated Tristan Schoolkate [64 36 63](#) in R1.
- Won one ATP Challenger Tour title, at Barranquilla, Colombia on hard last year.
- Reached the R16 at the Nottingham 2 Challenger as a qualifier last July – his best performance on grass.
- Won his first Grand Slam main draw match at Wimbledon last year, where as a wild card and ranked at No. 461 he defeated World No. 20 Alexei Popyrin before falling to Luciano Darderi.
- Backed that up by reaching R2 at the Australian Open this year, where as a qualifier he defeated World No. 22 Flavio Cobolli before falling to Tomas Martin Etcheverry.
- Played in 3 ATP Tour main draw matches this year (2 at the Australian Open). He also qualified at Miami in March to make his ATP 1000 main draw debut, falling to Stefanos Tsitsipas in R1.
- Played in 5 ATP Challenger Tour events in 2026, with his best result reaching the SF at Zagreb on clay in May, falling to compatriot Jan Choinski.
- Achieved a career-high ranking of No. 152 in February.
- ATP Tour biography [HERE](#)