

LTA Daily Player Media Notes

Lexus Birmingham Open – Friday, 5 June, 2026

3 qualifiers in the women's QF – equals the most qualifiers in a Birmingham QF (also 3 in 2010). Also equals most qualifiers in a WTA 125 in 2026 (also 3 at Canberra and at Austin).

Ann Jones Centre Court - Match 1

[6] Sho Shimabukuro (WR103 – JPN) v [2] Kamil Majchrzak (WR78 – POL)

Head to Head: Tied 1-1

2022	Tokyo	Hard	R32	Majchrzak 76(2) 62
2025	Ilkley (Challenger)	Grass	R32	Shimabukuro 64 64

SHO SHIMABUKURO

- Defeated compatriot Shintaro Mochizuki [76\(4\) 64](#) in R1 and qualifier Elias Ymer [63 63](#) in R2.
- In 27th ATP Challenger Tour QF, and his 4th of 2026.
- Reached his 4th ATP Challenger Tour QF on grass. Has lost all previous 3, at Nottingham and Ilkley in 2023, and at Ilkley last year.
- Bids to reach his 15th ATP Challenger Tour SF, his 2nd of 2026 (San Diego in January), and his 1st ever SF on grass at any level.
- Won 5 ATP Challenger Tour titles, including 2 last year.
- Best results on the ATP Tour are three R16 appearances, with his last two coming at ATP 500 level (on home soil at Tokyo last year and at Acapulco this year).
- Qualified for Wimbledon in 2023 to make his Grand Slam main draw debut, where he fell to Grigor Dimitrov in R1.
- Currently at a career-high of No. 103 and he is Japan's No. 1.
- Has an 11-14 win-loss record against top 100 players. The highest ranked player he has defeated is No. 22 Tomas Machac at Tokyo last year.
- ATP Tour biography [HERE](#)

KAMIL MAJCHRZAK

- Defeated qualifier James McCabe [76\(3\) 63](#) in R1 and British wild card Felix Gill [63 63](#) in R2.
- Reached his 44th ATP Challenger Tour QF, but his 1st of 2026.
- Reached his 4th ATP Challenger Tour QF on grass, but his 1st in 5 years.
- Won all of his previous 3 ATP Challenger Tour QF's on grass, at Ilkley in 2019, and at Nottingham-1 and Nottingham-2 in 2021.
- Bids to reach his 34th ATP Challenger Tour SF, and his 4th on grass.
- Best performance on grass is reaching the final of the Nottingham-2 Challenger in 2021, falling to Alex Bolt.
- Just his 2nd ATP Challenger Tour event of 2026, after Phoenix in March.
- Won 9 ATP Challenger Tour titles.
- Best results on the ATP Tour after two SF's, at Pune in 2022 and at Marrakech last year.
- Reached R4 at Wimbledon last year, falling to Karen Khachanov – his best performance in the Grand Slams. He became the 5th Polish man in the Open Era to reach the last 16 at Wimbledon.
- He also reached R3 at last year's US Open.
- Achieved a career-high ranking of No. 53 in March. Currently Poland's No. 1, ahead of Hubert Hurkacz.
- ATP Tour biography [HERE](#)

Ann Jones Centre Court - Match 2

Arthur Fery (WR154 – GBR) v [5] Rinky Hijikata (WR98 – AUS)

Head to Head: First meeting

ARTHUR FERY

- Defeated Tristan Schoolkate [64 36 63](#) in R1 and Alex Bolt [64 67\(5\) 63](#) in R2.
- 1st QF on grass at ATP Challenger Tour level or above. 1st British man in Birmingham QF.
- 15th ATP Challenger Tour QF. Won his last 2.
- Bids to reach his 5th ATP Challenger Tour SF, and 2nd this year (Zagreb on clay in May).
- Winner of one ATP Challenger Tour title, at Barranquilla, Colombia on hard last year.
- Won an ITF grass court tournament in Nottingham in 2022.
- 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 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. Currently Great Britain's No. 7.
- Has a 3-17 win-loss record against top 100 players. Two of those victories are mentioned above.
- ATP Tour biography [HERE](#)

RINKY HIJIKATA

- Defeated Brit Jacob Fearnley [6-1 7-6\(3\)](#) in R1 and Mackenzie McDonald [63 76\(5\)](#) in R2.
- 24th ATP Challenger Tour QF.
- 5th QF on grass, and 3rd at ATP Challenger Tour level (2023 Surbiton and 2025 Birmingham).
- Bids to reach 13th ATP Challenger Tour SF, and 1st in 2026.
- Reached SF at Birmingham last year, where he defeated Brit Billy Harris, Yosuke Watanuki and Alex Bolt before falling to Colton Smith.
- Won four ATP Challenger Tour titles – all on home soil – at 2022, 2024 and 2025 Playford, and at 2023 Burnie.
- 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 three QF's, at San Diego at Aix-en-Provence and here.
- Won the Australian Open doubles title in 2023 alongside compatriot Jason Kubler. Also reached the 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. Currently Australia's No. 6.
- Has a 4-0 win-loss record against British players on British soil (all on grass), defeating Billy Harris at Surbiton in 2023, Henry Searle in Queen's qualifying in 2024, Harris again at Birmingham last year and Fearnley in R1 here.
- ATP Tour biography [HERE](#)

Ann Jones Centre Court - Match 3

[WC] Mika Stojsavlejevic (WR288 – GBR) v Nikola Bartunckova (WR69 – CZE)

Head to Head: First meeting

MIKA STOJSAVLEJVIC

- Defeated World No. 136 Emerson Jones [36 61 75](#) in R1, her 1st every victory at WTA 125 level, and World No. 135 Elvina Kalieva [64 67\(2\) 62](#) in R2.
- 1st QF on grass, and 1st ever QF at WTA 125 level.
- 3rd British woman to reach a WTA 125 QF in 2026, after Francesca Jones (Istanbul) and Heather Watson (Jiujiang).
- Bids to become the 4th British woman to reach the SF at Birmingham, after Hobbs (1984), Durie (1992) and Watson (2021). Event was a higher-ranking WTA Tour event in all of those years.
- Bids to become the 1st British woman to reach a WTA 125 SF since Dart, Tampico, October 2025.
- Won the girls' singles at the 2024 US Open, becoming the first British woman to win the event since 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 one match against a player ranked as high as No. 69 Bartunkova, against No. 56 Gibson in the Billie Jean King Cup match mentioned above.
- WTA Tour biography [HERE](#)

NIKOLA BARTUNKOVA

- Defeated Brit Harriet Dart [36 63 75](#) in R1 and lucky loser Gabriela Knuston [64 76\(4\)](#) in R2.
- 1st ever tournament on grass.
- Bids to emulate compatriot Petra Kvitova – the only Czech woman to win the Birmingham title (2017, 2018 when it was a higher ranking WTA Tour event).
- Reached her 2nd WTA 125 QF (Samsun, Turkey last year on hard, where she reached the final, falling to Kaja Juvan).
- Reached her maiden WTA Tour SF at the WTA 500 at Guadalajara last year as a wild card and ranked at No. 228.
- Reached R3 at this year's Australian Open as a qualifier, defeating World No. 43 Daria Kasatkina and World No. 10 Belinda Bencic.
- As a lucky loser reached the R16 at the WTA 1000 in Rome in May, defeating World No. 19 Madison Keys.
- Achieved a career-high ranking of No. 65 in May. This time last year she was ranked outside the top 200.
- WTA Tour biography [HERE](#)

Ann Jones Centre Court - Match 4

[1] Alexandra Eala (WR37 – PHI) v [Q] Mananchaya Sawangkaew (WR173 – THA)

Head to Head: Sawangkaew leads 1-0

2024 Takasaki, Japan (ITF)

Hard

QF

Sawangkaew 46 61 62

ALEXANDRA EALA

- Defeated Priscilla Hon [60 62](#) in R1 and Alina Charaeva [62 75](#) in R2.
- 4th QF on grass, and 3rd in England, after Ilkley and Eastbourne last year.
- Top seed won 13 of the previous 43 Birmingham Open women's singles titles, but hasn't won any of the last 10 editions, since Ana Ivanovic in 2014.
- Top seed has failed to win any of last 32 WTA 125 events. The last to do so was Sara Bejlek at Queretaro in October 2025.
- Bids to reach 4th WTA 125 SF, and 1st of 2026.
- Made debut at Birmingham last year, where as the No. 3 seed fell to Linda Fruhvirtova in R1.
- At Eastbourne last year, she reached the final, where she lost to Maya Joint despite having four match points. It was just her second WTA Tour main draw appearance on grass, and she came into that week with a 0-1 WTA Tour main draw win-loss record on the surface. It remains her only WTA Tour final to date, and she became the first ever Filipino to appear in a WTA Tour final.
- Won one WTA 125 title, at Guadalajara last year.
- Second appearance in a WTA 125 this year – reached QF in her home country, at Manila.
- Came to prominence at Miami last year, when as a wild card ranked at No. 140 she defeated World No. 2 Iga Swiatek and World No. 5 Madison Keys to make the SF. She defeated three Grand Slam champions in all (also Jelena Ostapenko).
- Best performance on WTA Tour this year is a SF at Auckland.
- Girls' singles champion at the 2022 US Open.
- Achieved a career-high ranking of No. 29 in March – highest ranked Filipino woman in history.
- Won 11 of her last 12 matches against players ranked as low as No. 173 Sawangkaew, but lost her last one, against No. 305 Claire Liu at Guangzhou last year.
- WTA Tour biography [HERE](#)

MANANCHAYA SAWANGKAEW

- Defeated Linda Klimovicova [64 75](#) in R1 and Kayla Day [64 61](#) in R2.
- Reached 3rd WTA 125 QF, and 2nd of 2026.
- Won both previous WTA 125 QF's – both at Mumbai, in 2025 and in 2026.
- Bids to reach 3rd WTA 125 SF in her first 1st ever QF on grass.
- Won one WTA 125 event, at Mumbai in February.
- 3rd Thai woman to reach QF at Birmingham, after Tamarine Tanasugarn (2000, 2003, 2004, 2005) and Hsieh Su-Wei (2012).
- One of 3 women's qualifiers in QF.
- Bids to become 9th women's qualifier to reach SF at Birmingham, and 1st since Coco Vandeweghe in 2021 (note: Krueger and Masarova also in QF, all at a time when the event was a higher level WTA Tour tournament).
- Made her Grand Slam main draw debut at the Australian Open this year, falling to Emma Raducanu.
- Achieved a career-high ranking of No. 100 in June 2025. Thailand's No. 2, behind Lanlana Tararudee.
- Has a 1-4 win-loss record against top 50 players – only win against No. 44 Yue Yuan, Guangzhou 2024.
- WTA Tour biography [HERE](#)