

LTA Daily Player Media Notes

Lexus Ilkley Open – Saturday, June 13, 2026

Centre Court – Match 1

Darwin Blanch (WR219 – USA) v [5] Jacob Fearnley (WR145 – GBR)

Head to Head: First meeting

DARWIN BLANCH

- Defeated Christopher O'Connell [76\(4\) 46 63](#) in R1 and No. 1 seed Henrique Rocha [76\(4\) 16 63](#) in R2.
- Yet to win an ATP Challenger Tour title. His best result is reaching the final at Knoxville, USA, last year.
- 1st tournament on grass at ATP Challenger Tour level or above.
- 7th ATP Challenger Tour QF, and 5th of 2026. Has equalled the most ATP Challenger Tour QF's made by an American player this year (Dali Blanch, his brother, also reached 5). His other brother, Ulises, is also a professional, as is his sister Krystal.
- American men to reach the QF here include Taylor Fritz (2017) and Jack Sock (2022). Denis Kudla is the only American man to win the title here, doing so in the first year of the event in 2015.
- Youngest man to reach Ilkley QF since Shang Juncheng in 2023.
- Bids to reach 4th ATP Challenger Tour SF, and 3rd of 2026.
- Bids to become 5th American man to reach Ilkley SF, after Kudla, Michael Mmoh, Sock and Zachary Svajda (twice).
- Bids to become youngest man to reach Ilkley SF. American Iva Jovic, then 17, won women's title here last year.
- Played in 5 events on the ATP Tour with a 2-5 win-loss record. Made his Grand Slam main draw debut at the US Open last year as a wild card, falling to Martin Damm in R1.
- Won his maiden ATP Masters 1000 match at Miami this year, defeating Jan Lennard Struff. Fell to Arthur Fils in R2.
- Currently at a career-high ranking of No. 219. Guaranteed to be at a new career-high once rankings come out on Monday (currently at No. 215 in live rankings).
- ATP Tour biography [HERE](#)

JACOB FEARNLEY

- Defeated Luca Nardi [46 60 63](#) in R1 and qualifier Keegan Smith [46 75 64](#) in R2. Went into this week having lost his last 6 ATP Challenger Tour matches.
- Making debut at Ilkley.
- Won 4 ATP Challenger Tour titles, all in 2024, at Nottingham on grass (as a qualifier), Lincoln (USA), Rennes (France) and Orleans (France).
- 11th ATP Challenger Tour QF, 2nd of 2026, and 2nd on grass (Nottingham 2024). Lost 4 of last 5 QF's at this level.
- 9th British man to reach Ilkley QF, and 3rd this year, alongside Samuel and Tarvet.
- Bids to reach 7th ATP Challenger Tour SF, and 1st since the start of 2025.
- Bids to become 3rd British man to reach Ilkley SF, after Brydan Klein (2016) and Jack Pinnington Jones (2025). Note: Samuel and Tarvet can also reach SF.
- At Nottingham in 2024, became 4th British man to win the trophy after Murray (2023), Evans (2019 & 2022) and Rusedski (1997 & 2003). His title victory there joined Katie Boulter meaning it was the second time in history (after Nottingham 2023: Murray and Boulter) that an all-British sweep was achieved on home soil.
- Won first ATP Tour main draw match at Wimbledon as a wildcard in 2024, before falling to Novak Djokovic in R2.
- Won just two ATP Tour main draw matches in 2026, defeating Nicolai Budkov Kjaer in the Davis Cup and Damir Dzumhur at Indian Wells. Great Britain face Ecuador in R2 of Davis Cup qualifying in London in September.
- Reached maiden QF on the ATP Tour at Queen's last year, defeating Alex Bolt and Corentin Moutet before falling to eventual runner-up Jiri Lehecka.
- Achieved a career-high ranking of No. 49 in June 2025 (this time last year).
- ATP Tour biography [HERE](#)

Court One – Match 1

[7] Dane Sweeny (WR132 – AUS) v Toby Samuel (WR150 – GBR)

Head to Head: First meeting

DANE SWEENEY

- Defeated two Brits so far – qualifier Oliver Okonkwo [64 64](#) in R1 and Billy Harris [64 76\(5\)](#) in R2 .
- Making debut at Ilkley. Australians Jason Kubler (2023) and Tristan Schoolkate (2025) won Ilkley title.
- Won maiden ATP Challenger Tour title this year, in his home country (Brisbane), defeating compatriot Tristan Schoolkate in the final.
- 14th ATP Challenger Tour QF, and 4th this year (only Tristan Schoolkate has reached more QF's in 2026 amongst Australian men).
- Bids to reach 8th ATP Challenger Tour SF, and 2nd this year.
- Bids to become 7th Australian man to reach Ilkley QF.
- Qualified for the main draw at this year's Australian Open and claimed his first main draw victory at a major, defeating Gael Monfils.
- Won an ITF event on grass before, at Swan Hill, Australia last year.
- Won 5 of his last 6 matches against British players.
- Achieved a career-high ranking of No. 131 in March. Guaranteed to be at a new career-high once rankings come out on Monday (currently at No. 129 in live rankings).
- ATP biography [HERE](#)

TOBY SAMUEL

- Defeated Kyrian Jacquet [16 76\(10\) 64](#) in R1, saving 3 matches in the 2nd set tie-breaker, and beat August Holmgren [63 63](#) in R2.
- Making 2nd main draw appearance at Ilkley – fell to Alex Bolt in R1 in 2023.
- Won 4 ATP Challenger Tour titles, at Soma Bay and at Manama last year, then at Hersonissos-1 (defeated compatriot Harry Wendelken in final) and at Hersonissos-2 in back-to-back events this year. Only British player to win multiple ATP Challenger Tour titles in 2026.
- Went on an 11-match win streak on the ATP Challenger Tour in March this year.
- 9th ATP Challenger Tour QF, and 1st on grass.
- 5th ATP Challenger Tour QF of 2026, which is the joint most amongst British players this year (Liam Broady also on 5 QF's).
- 9th British man to reach Ilkley QF, and 3rd this year, alongside Fearnley and Tarvet.
- Bids to reach 8th ATP Challenger Tour SF, and 5th of 2026, which would be the most amongst British players this year (Harry Wendelken is also on 4 SF's at the moment).
- Last British players to reach 5 ATP Challenger SF's in a season were Jay Clarke and Billy Harris last year.
- Bids to become 3rd British man to reach Ilkley SF, after Brydan Klein (2016) and Jack Pinnington Jones (2025). Note: Fearnley and Tarvet can also reach SF.
- Won 2 ITF titles on grass, at Roehampton in 2022 and at Nottingham in 2023.
- Qualified for Roland Garros this year to make his Grand Slam (and ATP Tour) main draw debut, falling to No. 8 seed Alex De Minaur in R1. Defeated former WR-7 David Goffin in the qualifiers. Was the 1st British man to qualify for Roland Garros since Liam Broady in 2020.
- Was a good footballer – was at AFC Bournemouth's Academy.
- Reached SF of the boys' doubles at Wimbledon in 2019 alongside Arthur Fery.
- Currently at a career-high ranking of No. 150.
- ATP Tour biography [HERE](#)

Court Two – Match 1

[Q] Filippo Romano (WR355 – ITA) v [WC] Oliver Tarvet (WR342 – GBR)

Head to Head: First meeting

FILIPPO ROMANO

- Defeated Michael Mmoh and Brit Alastair Gray in qualifying, then beat another Brit, Felix Gill, [76\(4\) 46 61](#) in R1, and another, Jack Pinnington Jones [75 57 63](#) in R2.
- Reached maiden ATP Challenger Tour final at Cherbourg in March, falling to Peter Kotov.
- 4th ATP Challenger QF (all this year), and in back-to-back weeks, having reached the final eight at Birmingham, also as a qualifier, falling to eventual finalist Otto Virtanen. It was his 1st ever tournament on grass.
- 3rd Italian man to reach the QF at Ilkley, after Thomas Fabbiano in 2018 and Andreas Seppi in 2022 (both lost).
- 11th men's qualifier to reach the QF here.
- Bids to reach 3rd ATP Challenger SF (all this year).
- Bids to become 1st Italian player, man or woman, to reach Ilkley SF.
- Bids to become 5th men's qualifier to reach the SF here, and for the 3rd year running, after Benjamin Bonzi (2024) and Zachary Svajda (2025).
- Yet to play a main draw match on the ATP Tour.
- Currently at a career-high ranking of No. 355. Will move to a another new career-high after this week (currently at No. 341 in live rankings).
- Won his last 6 matches against British players, and has won all 4 on grass – all in the last two weeks (once at Birmingham and 3 times here).
- ATP biography [HERE](#)

OLIVER TARVET

- Defeated Ugo Blanchet [63 63](#) in R1 and defending champion Tristan Schookate [63 62](#) in R2 – his best win by ranking (Schookate is No. 123).
- Making debut at Ilkley.
- 2nd ATP Challenger Tour QF (Charlottesville, USA last year – fell to Mats Rosenkranz). He's the 20th different British player to reach an ATP Challenger Tour QF this year.
- Bids to reach 1st ATP Challenger Tour SF. Bids to become 16th different British player to reach an ATP Challenger Tour SF this year.
- 9th British man to reach Ilkley QF, and 3rd this year, alongside Fearnley and Samuel.
- Bids to become 3rd British man to reach Ilkley SF, after Brydan Klein (2016) and Jack Pinnington Jones (2025). Note: Fearnley and Samuel can also reach SF.
- Qualified for Wimbledon last year, where he defeated Leandro Riedi in R1 to record his first ever main draw victory on the ATP Tour, before falling to defending champion Carlos Alcaraz in R1. Was the 1st British man to come through qualifying at Wimbledon since Alexander Ward in 2017.
- Won 6 ITF singles titles, including one on British soil, at Roehampton on hard last year, defeating fellow Brit Paul Jubb in the final.
- Achieved a career-high ranking of No. 324 in February.
- ATP Tour biography [HERE](#)

Additional Notes:

Brits doing well so far....

3 British men in QF – most ever British men to reach QF at Ilkley.

First time 3 British men in an ATP Challenger Tour QF since at New Delhi this year (Jay Clarke, Oliver Crawford, Felix Gill).

There have been 7 instances where 2 British men have been in an ATP Challenger Tour SF in 2026.

Last time there were 3 British men in an ATP Challenger Tour SF was at Soma Bay last year (Jay Clarke, Charlie Robertson, Toby Samuel).

Never been multiple British men in an Ilkley SF.

All 8 men are first-time Ilkley quarter-finalists – 1st time that's happened here since 2024.

3 of the 4 women are first-time Ilkley semi-finalists. The only one who isn't is qualifier Celine Naef, who made the SF as a qualifier here last year.