



## Statistics and Fact Sheet – Day 0

Notable upcoming matches on Day 1 (29 Apr)

❖ Sweden **WR9** vs Romania **WR17** – Men's Group A – Table 1 at 13:00

Romania finished 17<sup>th</sup> in 2016, while Sweden lost in the quarterfinal to China, Sweden's best result since 2004. Both teams are fielding relatively young players alongside

- ▶ **Mattias Karlsson** (SWE) age 26, **WR20**, runner-up at 2016 Swedish Open beating Koki Niwa, Jonathan Groth, and Dimitrij Ovtcharov before losing to Yuya Oshima in the final. Quarterfinalist at 2018 German Open beating Hugo Calderano and Koki Niwa again. Beat Adrian Crisan 4-0 at the 2015 European Championships.
- ▶ **Kristian Karlsson** (SWE) age 26, **WR19**, 4<sup>th</sup> place at 2016 World Cup, 4<sup>th</sup> place at 2016 Europe Top 16 Cup
- ▶ **Jon Persson** (SWE) age 31, **WR63**, currently at his highest ever world ranking. Runner-up at the 2017 Challenge Series Slovenia Open.
- ▶ **Anton Kallberg** (SWE) age 20, **WR62**, was a wildcard entry at the 2015 World Cup in Halmstad. Once played doubles with Ovidiu Ionescu at the 2017 Korea Open where they lost in the round of 16.
- ▶ **Truls Moregard** (SWE) age 16, **WR319**, runner-up at 2017 World Junior Championships, beating two Chinese players on the way. Winner at 2018 ITTF WJC Swedish Junior Open. Beat Ovidiu Ionescu 4-2 in the first round of 2018 Hungarian Open.
- ▶ **Cristian Pletea** (ROU) age 17, **WR250**, runner-up at 2017 European Youth Championships. Played at Dusseldorf 2017 WTTC in doubles only, reached rnd of 16 with Hunor Szocs.
- ▶ **Rares Sipos** (ROU) age 17, **WR335**, winner at 2017 ITTF WJC Hungarian Junior Open
- ▶ **Adrian Crisan** (ROU) age 37, **WR173**, representing Romania at his **18<sup>th</sup> WTTC**.
- ▶ **Hunor Szocs** (ROU) age 26, **WR66**, present on the World Tour since 2010 he is most successful in doubles, reaching the last 16 at 2017 WTTC with Cristian Pletea. Szocs beat Kristian Karlsson 4-3 at the 2016 German Open, but Karlsson won 4-0 later that year at the Swedish Open.
- ▶ **Ovidiu Ionescu** (ROU) age 28, **WR57**, currently at his highest ever world ranking. In 2016 WTTC he won two matches against Republic of Korea (bt. Lee Sangsu 3-0, and Jung Youngsik 3-1).

❖ France **WR4** vs India **WR13** – Men's Group D – Table 2 at 17:00

India won 2<sup>nd</sup> Division in 2016 (men & women), while France lost narrowly to England in the quarterfinal. Two years prior in 2014 England won the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division, will India be the stars of Halmstad? They are already the stars of Commonwealth Games, winning eight medals (more than any other country) including both men's and women's team titles.

- ▶ **Can Akkuzu** (FRA) age 20, **WR90**, had strong results in junior and U21 events but yet to make his mark at the senior stage. This is his first WTTC. Beat Achanta in group at 2017 German Open but lost to him at 2017 Indian Open.
- ▶ **Abdel Kader Salifou** (FRA) age 28, **WR106**, won three titles in 2013, in Morocco, Croatia, and Egypt, also reached the quarterfinal of World Tour Grand Finals that year.



- ▶ **Simon Gauzy** (FRA) age 23, **WR10**, runner-up at 2016 European Championships. Gauzy is one of very few European players with a winning record against Timo Boll, he has beaten Boll three times!
- ▶ **Emmanuel Lebesson** (FRA) age 30, **WR28**, winner at 2016 European Championships. First WTTC was in Zagreb 2007.
- ▶ **Quentin Robinot** (FRA), age 25, **WR99**, although still young he has competed at 55 World Tour events. Robinot was runner up in the 2016 Bulgaria Open.
- ▶ **Sharath Kamal Achanta** (IND), age 35, **WR48**, beat Simon Gauzy 4-1 at 2015 WTTC while injured, lost next two encounters to Gauzy 4-3 (2016 Japan Open, 2017 Australia Open).
- ▶ **Amalraj Anthony** (IND), age 32, **WR83**, beat Salifou 4-2 in group at 2018 German Open.
- ▶ **Harmeet Desai** (IND), age 24, **WR74**, gold medallist in 2018 Commonwealth Games team event and bronze in men's doubles with Sanil Shetty.
- ▶ **Sathiyar Gnanasekaran** (IND), age 25, **WR46**, currently on highest ever world ranking. Winner at 2017 Challenge Series Spanish Open, gold medallist in Commonwealth Games team event, silver in men's doubles, and bronze in mixed doubles.
- ▶ **Sanil Shetty**, (IND), age 28, **WR84**, gold medallist in 2018 Commonwealth Games team event and bronze in men's doubles with Harmeet Desai.

❖ Republic of Korea **WR5** vs Germany **WR11** – Women's Group D – Table 4 at 20:00

Germany beat Republic of Korea 3-0 in the first round of the main draw in 2016 after also taking down Japan in the group stage.

- ▶ **Jeon Jihee** (KOR), age 25, **WR35**, four times World Tour winner: 2011 Morocco Open, 2015 Argentina Open, 2015 Chile Open, 2015 Spanish Open.
- ▶ **Kim Jiho** (KOR), age 18, **WR291**, youngest member of the Korean team, Kim was also on the team in Kuala Lumpur 2016.
- ▶ **Suh Hyowon** (KOR), age 30, **WR12**, three time World Tour winner: 2013 Polish Open, 2013 Korea Open, 2015 Belgium Open.
- ▶ **Yang Haeun** (KOR), age 24, **WR27**, Mixed doubles world champion in 2015 with Xu Xin. On the World Tour she has won 8 doubles titles but never won a singles title.
- ▶ **Yoo Eunchoong** (KOR), age 24, **WR74**, first WTTC was in Paris 2013.
- ▶ **Kristin Lang** (GER), age 33, **WR168**, winner of women's doubles at 2016 European Championships with Sabine Winter.
- ▶ **Chantal Mantz** (GER), age 21, **WR239**, winner at 2017 European U21 Championships, Halmstad is her first WTTC.
- ▶ **Nina Mittelham** (GER), age 21, **WR72**, hasn't played against any of the other team before.
- ▶ **Petrissa Solja** (GER), age 24, **WR59**, 2015 World Cup bronze medallist, 2017 Europe Cup runner-up. Known for her incredible run at 2015 German Open where she began in the qualification rounds and lost to Mima Ito in the final after beating two Chinese and two Japanese players including 4-0 against Kasumi Ishikawa.
- ▶ **Sabine Winter** (GER), age 25, **WR57**, winner of women's doubles at 2016 European Championships with Kristin Lang, bronze medallist at 2017 Europe Cup, winner at 2013 Belarus Open. Has lost five times to Yang Haeun but won the last two encounters. Won the last two matches against Suh Hyowon, including at 2016 WTTC.