



Statistics and Fact Sheet – Day 1

Notable results and upsets from Day 1 (29 Apr)

SGP vs SWE Women's Group A – Local hero Matilda Ekholm (WR37) won both her matches 3-2, beating Yu Mengyu (WR50) and coming back from 0-2 against Feng Tianwei (WR4). Feng has had some unexpected results lately, losing in the Commonwealth Games for the first time this year. SGP won the team contest 3-2.

EGY vs GER Men's Group A – Omar Assar (WR17) beat European superstar Timo Boll (WR2) 3-2. Assar formerly played in Halmstad, and will be joining Borussia Dusseldorf alongside Boll for the next season of the European Champions League. Germany won the team contest eventually 3 matches to 2, a testing opening match for the top seeds.

FRA vs IND Men's Group D – France narrowly beat India 3-2 in the men's first round. Sathiyar Gnanasekaran (WR46) had match points against Simon Gauzy (WR10) in the opening match and lost it 12-10 in the 5th game. Sharath Kamal Achanta (WR48) won both his matches against higher ranked players Lebossion (WR28) and Gauzy.

GER vs KOR Women's Group D – Petrissa Solja (WR59) beat Suh Hyowon (WR12) and Nina Mittelham (WR72) beat Yang Haeun (WR27) from 2-0 down, but Republic of Korea still won eventually 3-2 despite Suh Hyowon almost losing 3-0 to Sabine Winter in the last match.

THA vs HKG Women's Group D – Suthasini Sawettabut (WR55) from Thailand beat Lee Ho Ching (WR16) from Hong Kong 3-0, although Hong Kong won the next three matches.

TPE vs PRK Women's Group C – The biggest upset of the day was 19th seeds DPR Korea beating 3rd seeds Chinese Taipei 3-2 in a full distance 3 hour contest.

Notable upcoming matches on Day 2 (30 Apr)

❖ Hong Kong WR7 vs Sweden WR9 – Men's Group A – Table 1 at 10:00

Hong Kong won their fixture on day 1 against Slovenia 3-0, although the matches were close. Likewise Sweden had close matches against Romania on the first day and came through 3-0.

- ▶ **Ho Kwan Kit** (HKG) age 21, WR35, winner of 2014 Philippines Open, and runner up at 2014 Australian Open.
- ▶ **Jiang Tianyi** (HKG) age 30, WR59, has never lost to Kristian Karlsson.
- ▶ **Lam Siu Hang** (HKG) age 21, WR68, beat Truls Moregard at 2017 Polish Open.
- ▶ **Ng Pak Nam** (HKG) age 19, WR58, bronze medallist in men's doubles at 2015 World Junior Championships.
- ▶ **Wong Chun Ting** (HKG) age 26, WR7, Bronze at 2016 World Cup and 2016 Asian Cup, Winner at 2015 Czech Open. The last time Wong lost to a Swedish player was in 2012 to Jorgen Persson.
- ▶ **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.



- › **Kristian Karlsson** (SWE) age 26, **WR19**, 4th place at 2016 World Cup, 4th place at 2016 Europe Top 16 Cup. Plays for Borussia Dusseldorf.
- › **Jon Persson** (SWE) age 31, **WR63**, currently at his highest ever world ranking. Runner-up at the 2017 Challenge Series Slovenia Open. Beat Ho Kwan Kit 4-0 at the Qatar Open in March. Beat Jiang Tianyi at 2017 German Open.
- › **Anton Kallberg** (SWE) age 20, **WR62**, was a wildcard entry at the 2015 World Cup in Halmstad. Beat Lam Siu Hang at Qatar Open last month.
- › **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.

❖ Japan **WR2** vs England **WR12** – Men's Group C – Table 3 at 17:00

England won their opening encounter against Belarus, while Japan dominated Belgium 3-0 taking just one hour from start to finish. England and Japan played in the 2016 semifinal in Kuala Lumpur, where Japan won 3-1. England also claimed bronze at the World Team Cup in February 2018.

- › **Paul Drinkhall** (ENG) age 28, **WR52**, 2008 winner at European Youth Championships, 2014 Spanish Open Champion, 4th place at 2015 European Games. Has recorded notable wins over Dimitrij Ovtcharov and Marcos Freitas.
- › **Tom Jarvis** (ENG) age 18, **WR279**, 2017 Europe U21 Championships Quarterfinal.
- › **Liam Pitchford** (ENG) age 24, **WR65**, beat Kenta Matsudaira, Ueda Jin, and Tomokazu Harimoto in recent times. Has also beaten Timo Boll, Vladimir Samsonov.
- › **Samuel Walker** (ENG) age 22, **WR96**, 4th place at 2018 Commonwealth Games. Beat Yuya Oshima at the 2016 team semifinal.
- › **Tomokazu Harimoto** (JPN) age 14, **WR13**, youngest player in history to reach a WTTC quarterfinal (2017 in Dusseldorf, at 13 years old!). Recently at the 2018 Asian Cup Harimoto beat Fan Zhendong in the group stage.
- › **Kenta Matsudaira** (JPN) age 27, **WR14**, 2006 World Junior Champion, 2013 Asian Championships Bronze medallist (beating Fan Zhendong), 2016 Austrian Open Champion, 2013 WTTC quarterfinal.
- › **Jun Mizutani** (JPN) age 28, **WR11**, 2016 Olympic Games Bronze medallist, has never lost to a player from England despite being 0-2 down against Pitchford in the 2016 semifinal.
- › **Koki Niwa** (JPN) age 23, **WR9**, 2011 World Junior Champion, 2010 Youth Olympic Champion, beat Ma Long at Olympic Qualification event in 2008.
- › **Yuya Oshima** (JPN) age 24, **WR29**, 2016 Swedish Open Champion, 2015 Philippines Open Champion.

Fun facts from Day 1

- Team China did not lose a single *game* on day 1 in both the men's and women's events.
- Feng Tianwei, Simon Gauzy and Timo Boll are the only top 10 players who lost on day 1.
- In the contest between Austria and Hungary in women's group B Sofia Polcanova beat Dora Madarasz 21-19 in the 5th game!
- The longest match of the day was between Britt Eerland (NED) and Irina Ciobanu (ROU), Eerland bt. Ciobanu 11-7, 19-17, 8-11, 9-11, 13-11 (117 points)