



Statistics and Fact Sheet – Day 2

Notable results and upsets from Day 3 (1 May)

CHN (WR1) vs SGP (WR8) Women's Group A – China lost their first match of the championships with Wang Manyu (WR5) losing to Feng Tianwei (WR4) 11-4, 11-13, 12-14, 12-14. Following this loss China proceeded to win the next three matches in straight games.

TPE (WR1) vs ROU (WR8) Women's Group C – After Romania's loss to 12th seeds Netherlands on day 1 they were looking unlikely to qualify to the last 12. The first two matches saw Romanian players come back from 0-2 down to win 3-2. Elizabeta Samara (WR25) beat Cheng I-Ching (WR8) to break Cheng's winning streak. Cheng won 8 matches in the qualification stage, this was her only loss. Bernadette Szocs (WR29) beat Chen Szu-Yu (WR14). Samara and Szocs have not lost a match yet, they did not play against Netherlands when the team lost.

HKG (WR4) vs LUX (WR21) Women's Group D – Luxembourg was coming 5th in the group before this encounter, 54 year old Ni Xia Lian (WR51) won both her matches against Soo Wai Yam Minnie (WR36) and Ng Wing Nam (WR68), with Danielle Konsbruck (WR296) providing a surprise upset against Mak Tze Wing (WR134), her first win of the championships. The top two Hong Kong players did not play. Luxembourg still ended in 5th, and Hong Kong still qualifies to the main draw.

Men's Event Group Stage Analysis

To qualify to the main draw teams must earn points in the group. These are not world ranking points but simply determine which teams are leading the group. Every win counts for two points, while a loss gives the team one point. If a team beats all five opponents they can earn ten points in the group.

Group A

Germany are safely through to the main draw as they are leading the points table with 8pts from four wins. Sweden has 7pts from three wins and one loss, they are also safe because even if they lose to Egypt on Day 4 they'll have 8 points and only Hong Kong or Romania can equal that. Those two teams play one another on the last day of qualification to decide the 3rd team for the main draw.

Group B

China are safely through with 8pts already. Brazil beat Portugal on Day 2, they are now assured a place in the last 12. Portugal vs Czech Republic will determine the 3rd spot.

Group C

England have not yet lost in their group, they are guaranteed a place in the main draw. Japan is also safe. Chinese Taipei is only at risk if they lose to Belarus *and* Belgium beat England. If that happens then Belgium will be 3rd. Belarus can qualify if they beat TPE 3-0.

Group D

Republic of Korea is safe. If Croatia beat Korea *and* France beat Poland there will be a three-way tie between Croatia, France, and the winner of Austra vs India. The qualifiers from a tie are the teams with the best win-loss ratio.



Notable upcoming matches on Day 4 (2 May)

❖ China **WR2** vs DPR Korea **WR25** – Men's Group B – Table 1 at 10:00

DPR Korea made history in 2013 winning the mixed doubles in Paris WTTC. Their men's team has been consistently in the Championship Division since they won 2nd Division in 2008. This year they will not make a last 12 appearance and must fight for the two remaining spots directly below. The top 14 teams in the Championship division will remain in the division in 2020, this is why DPR Korea is ranked 25 but still in the Championship Division, they finished 9th in 2016. None of the Chinese team have lost to players from DPR Korea at the senior level, and in previous World Championships DPR Korea has never beaten China.

CHN bt. RUS 3-0

POR bt. PRK 3-0

CHN bt. CZE 3-0

RUS bt. PRK 3-2

CHN bt. BRA 3-0

CZE bt. PRK 3-0

CHN bt. POR 3-0

BRA bt. PRK 3-0

- ▶ **Fan Zhendong** (CHN) age 21, **WR1**, 2016 World Cup Champion, 2017 World Tour Grand Finals Champion, 2017 World Championships Runner Up, nine time World Tour titleholder including 2018 Hungarian Open and 2017 China Open where he beat Ma Long 4-0 in the final.
- ▶ **Xu Xin** (CHN) age 28, **WR4**, 2013 World Cup Champion, 2-time World Tour Grand Finals Champion, 4-time Asian Cup Champion, 3-time World Doubles Champion, 2014 Asian Games Champion, was ranked number one in the world for most of 2014.
- ▶ **Lin Gaoyuan** (CHN) age 23, **WR5**, 2017 Asian Cup Champion, 2017 Austrian Open Champion. Known for his loss to Timo Boll from 10-5 up in the 7th game at the 2017 World Cup, and for his losing the same lead against Xu Xin at the 2017 World Championships.
- ▶ **Ma Long** (CHN) age 29, **WR6**, first world title was 2004 World Junior Champion, since then he has won every world title available as well as the Asian Champs, Cup, and Games. Ma recently lost to Timo Boll at the 2017 World Cup. He will be 30 years old in October.
- ▶ **Wang Chuqin** (CHN) age 17, **WR145**, Runner Up at 2018 Hungarian Open, bronze medallist at 2017 World Junior Championships. At this age Ma Long and Fan Zhendong were already winning World Tour titles.
- ▶ **Choe Il** (PRK) age 24, **WR130**, made his first appearance at a WTTC in 2014 where DPR Korea beat Republic of Korea in the group stage, Choe Il beat Joo Se Hyuk in that match. He is also the 2015 Pyongyang Open Champion.
- ▶ **Kang Wi Hun** (PRK) age 28, **WR180**, 2016 Pyongyang Open Champion.
- ▶ **Pak Sin Hyok** (PRK) age 24, **WR87**, 2017 Pyongyang Open Champion.

Fun facts from Day 3

- Wang Manyu's loss against Feng Tianwei was the first match China has lost at a World Team Championships since 2012 when Hong Kong's Tie Yana beat Li Xiaoxia.
- The oldest female player on duty in Halmstad is Ni Xia Lian (**WR51**), 54 years old. She has won six matches and lost only twice in the group stage. Ni Xia Lian first appeared on the world rankings in 1983 and has been ranked as high as **WR6**.
- Ukraine's women's team lost in the first round of the main draw in 2014 and 2016. It is their best result in the WTTC. This year they have drawn Singapore in the first round.
- 10 of the top 12 seeds in the women's event have qualified to the last 12. 10th seeds Hungary and 12th seeds Netherlands have missed out.