

ROTHESAY OPEN: JUNE 13 MATCH NOTES

Nottingham Tennis Centre | Nottingham, U.K. | 12-18 June 2023
Category: ATP Challenger 125 | Surface: Grass

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MURRAY KICKS OFF NOTTINGHAM CAMPAIGN

The grass-court season continues at the Rothestay Open, with Nottingham Tennis Centre playing host to the 18th edition of the prestigious ATP Challenger Tour event.

• CENTRE COURT

- A trio of ATP Challenger Tour matches follow two WTA matches on Centre Court. **Steve Johnson** [age: 33; rank: 203] leads his rain-delayed encounter against home hope **Arthur Fery** [age: 20, rank: 409] by a score of 6-4, 3-6, 2-1. The American is a former World No. 21 and two-time champion in Nottingham. In 2013, he won the Challenger event at the Nottingham Tennis Centre and in 2016 he defeated Pablo Cuevas for his maiden ATP Tour title here. Fery, a native of Wimbledon, just completed his junior season at Stanford University, where he earned All-American honours for the second straight year.
- **Andy Murray** [age: 36, rank: 44] looks to continue his strong start on grass, when he battles Belgian qualifier **Joris de Loore** [age: 30, rank: 194]. On Sunday, the former World No. 1 lifted the trophy in Surbiton, becoming the oldest grass-court winner in Challenger history. He dropped just one set all week, culminating in a straight-set rout of Jurij Rodionov for the title. It was his first victory on home soil since Wimbledon 2016. Now, Murray is making his third appearance in Nottingham and first since 2004. De Loore defeated Luke Saville and Abdullah Shelbayh, both in third-set tie-breaks, to qualify for the main draw. He won his maiden Challenger title in Oeiras, Portugal, in January, at the age of 29.
- It will be an Aussie-American battle next up, as **Thanasi Kokkinakis** [age: 27, rank: 88] meets **Zachary Svajda** [age: 20, rank: 215]. Kokkinakis is coming off a third-round finish at Roland Garros, where he defeated past champion Stan Wawrinka in five thrilling sets. The 2022 Australian Open doubles champion (with Nick Kyrgios) reached a career-high in singles of No. 69 in 2015. Earlier this year, the Aussie won his fifth Challenger title, prevailing on the hard courts of Manama, Bahrain. On the other side of the net, Svajda, a qualifier, defeated rising Japanese star Shintaro Mochizuki to punch his ticket to the main draw. The San Diego native made his grass-court debut last week in Surbiton, reaching the second round.

• IN OTHER ACTION

- Murray and Fery are two of six British men opening their main draw campaigns on Tuesday. On Court 1, **Jan Choinski** seeks his first match win on grass since 2015. On Court 3, **Liam Broady** is looking to rediscover the magic that saw him reach the third round at Wimbledon last year. Southend native **Ryan Peniston** also enjoyed a stunning 2022 run on the grass, upsetting current Top 10 stars Casper Ruud and Holger Ruud at the ATP Tour stops in Queen's Club and Eastbourne. Meanwhile, 22-year-old wild card **George Loffhagen** seeks his first career match victory on the ATP Challenger Tour, concluding play on Court 4.
- Murray is also one of five Top 100 stars competing in Nottingham. Second seed **Constant Lestienne** battles talented Chinese teenager **Shang Juncheng**, while third seed **Nuno Borges** faces former Next Gen ATP Finals champion and World No. 19 **Hyeon Chung**, who is back in action after a three-year hiatus due to a chronic back ailment. Fourth seed and World No. 91 **Aleksandar Vukic** faces American qualifier **Alex Michelsen**. The 18-year-old Michelsen won the 2022 Wimbledon junior doubles title with countryman Sebastian Gorzny.

WHAT IS THE ATP CHALLENGER TOUR?

The ATP Challenger Tour is the second-highest level of men's professional tennis in the world. Since its inception in 1978, competition on the tour has been intense, with players fighting for critical ATP Rankings points and prize money. These tournaments (more than 180 events in 40 countries) give fans the excitement of watching world class tennis in a smaller, more intimate setting.

The purpose of the ATP Challenger Tour is to provide opportunities for players to develop their talents and skills from a young age, while gaining valuable experience against strong competition. The circuit has been the first step for the sport's most accomplished stars, including Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal. Regardless of talent and potential, every player must work their way up the ATP Rankings, as they strive to reach the Top 100 and compete on the ATP Tour and in Grand Slam tournaments.

TOURNAMENT LEVEL		WINNER	FINALIST
Grand Slam		2000	1200
ATP Masters 1000		1000	600
ATP 500		500	300
ATP 250		250	150
Challenger 175		175	100
Challenger 125		125	75
Challenger 100		100	60
Challenger 75		75	50
Challenger 50		50	30