

By Oli Dickson Jefford, Sportsbeat

Katie Boulter and Heather Watson will face off in the semi-finals of the LTA's Rothesay Open Nottingham after battling through their quarter-final encounters on Friday.

Leicester player Boulter, a graduate of the LTA's Pro Scholarship Programme, overcame a late fightback from Harriet Dart in another all-British clash to prevail 6-3 7-5 and progress to her first WTA semi-final.

Later in the day, Watson - who had started the tournament in the qualifying draw - reached her first semi-final in Nottingham by edging past good friend Viktorija Golubic 7-6(2) 7-5, ensuring at least one Brit will make the final.

Watson is in fact the first qualifier to make the semi-final in Nottingham since the tournament returned to Nottingham back in 2015.

Meanwhile, Jodie Burrage also reached her first WTA semi-final as she saw off Poland's Magdalena Frech in the opening match of the day on Centre Court.

After beating third seed Magda Linette on Thursday, the 24-year-old backed up that victory as she fought past Frech 6-2 3-6 7-5 to also break new ground.

It is the first time in 48 years that three Brits are in the semi-final of the same WTA tournament, with Sue Barker, Virginia Wade and Glynis Coles having reached the last four of the Paris Indoors in 1975.

Elsewhere, there was British success to celebrate in the women's doubles as Alica Barnett and Olivia Nicholls beat second seeds Asia Muhammad and Giuliana Olmos 6-3 6-2 to set up an all-British semi-final versus Dart and Watson.

Liam Broady and Jonny O'Mara prevailed in an all-British men's doubles semi-final, defeating Toby Samuel and Connor Thomson 6-7(9) 7-5 [10-3] to reach the final.

And it will be an-all British final this weekend, after wildcard pairing Jacob Fearnley and Johannus Monday stunned third seeds Robert Galloway and John-Patrick Smith, securing a 2-6 6-4 [10-8] triumph.

Andy Murray extended his winning run to eight matches, with the three-time Grand Slam champion defeating Dominic Stricker 7-6(2) 7-5 to reach the last four, where he will face Nuno Borges.

Meanwhile, George Loffhagen's campaign came to a close as he fell 7-5 4-6 6-3 to fifth seed Dominik Koepfer in a hard-fought contest on Court 1.