



- HOME
- TODAY
- DRAWS
- INFO
- GALLERY
- EN FRANCAIS
- HISTORY



[ [Qualifying Day](#) ] [ [Preview12](#) ]



## TODAY in Edinburgh: Day One, Fri 27th Jan 2012

Steve at ESC

### Women's Round One:

- [1] Lauren Briggs (Eng) bt Nada Elkalaawy (Egy)  
11/7, 11/3, 11/5 (34m)
- [5] Laura Pomportes (Fra) bt [Q] Melissa Alves (Fra)  
11/7, 11/4, 4/11, 8/11, 12/10 (38m)
- [3] Birgit Coufal (Aut) bt [Q] Victoria Bell (Eng)  
11/9, 11/5, 10/12, 11/7 (31m)
- Julia Lecoq (Fra) bt [8] Dominika Witkowska (Pol)  
11/2, 11/8, 11/13, 11/2 (34m)
- [6] Zephaniae Curgenven (Eng) bt Anna Jurkun (Pol)  
11/7, 11/5, 11/3 (17m)
- [4] Maud Duplomb (Fra) bt [Q] Cigany Sillevs (Ned)  
11/13, 11/5, 11/2, 11/2 (25m)
- [Q] Frania Gillen-Buchert (Sco) bt [7] Sally Skaarenborg (Den)  
8/11, 5/11, 11/4, 11/6, 11/8 (45m)
- [2] Orla Noom (Ned) bt Bine Malund Lind (Den)  
11/5, 11/5, 11/3 (24m)

### Morning Session Results & Reports



#### Quote of the day:

"First game, pffffffftt. After that, better!"

#### Maud Duplomb

### Frانيا comeback delights locals at ESC

The first round of the WSA Women's event produced a couple of upsets, but the one the home fans loved was **Frانيا Gillen-Buchert's** remarkable comeback from 2-0 and 8-3 in the decider to beat Denmark's seventh seed Sally Skaarenborg.

"That was an emotional rollercoaster," said Frانيا, "but it was good, it feels good to be back playing tough matches like that after so long."

"She's very quick, gets lots back and was catching me offguard with her counter drops, I just had to dig in again. I scraped through in the end, but I made it so hard for myself, especially at 8/3 down in the fifth!"

Frانيا now meets **Orla Noom**, last year's finalist who ended Scandinavian interest with a straight games win over Bine Malund Lind. "I felt a bit nervy at the start," admitted the Dutch second seed, "but I'm always like that, a bit tentative, but it's one down and my aim it to go one better than last year."



There will be three French players in Saturday's quarter-finals - **Maud Duplomb** came from a game down to beat qualifier Cigaly Sivellis, **Julia Lecoq** eventually stopped hitting the tin - "I found a better length at the end" - to cruise through her first and fourth games against eighth seed Dominika Witkowska, and **Laura Pomportes**, seeded five, beat fellow-French qualifier Melissa Alves 12/10 in the fifth after being two games up but saving a match ball in the decider.

"It's the first time we've played for 4 or 5 years," said Laura, "I played well at the start but then was hitting too many crosscourts and I was lucky to get through in the end."

Maud meets **Zephaniae Curgenven**, a convincing enough winner in her first tournament of the year. "It's been weird watching all the results," she said, "it feels like I'm the last one to start playing so it's good to be back in action."

Julia faces third seed **Birgit Coufal**, the Austrian champion who stopped qualifier Victoria Bell's run in four games. "I was gutted to lose the third after having two match balls," said Birgit, "but I came through in the end. She's a good player, it's always difficult



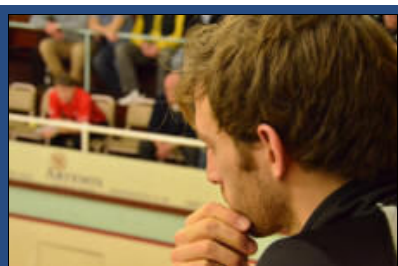
against qualifiers, you get to face some good up and coming players.

Laura moves on to face top seed **Lauren Briggs**, who looked in good form, after going 6/1 down in the first against Nada Elkalaawy. "She just came out firing, anything I gave her she put away," said Briggs. "But I got better and better as the match went on so I'm happy enough with that as a starter for my first tournament in over two months.



## BSPA Round Two

[full results on the DRAWS](#)



### Big guns firing on most cylinders

Well, covering the women, processing the photos, and getting mentally prepared for my match (not!) took its toll and I haven't actually been able to see much of the men's second round.

So far all is going to plan, with the seeds still progressing nicely, albeit with some weird scorelines, like **Eddie Charlton's** 12/10, 11/0, 11/2. Local rules state that if you suffer a 'bagel' you have to go and immerse yourself in the river that runs alongside the club which, apparently, **Alex Phillips** did.

"Full immersion," mean Eddie beamed. I didn't know that was what would happen, but I'd happily inflict that on anyone."

**Sunil Seth** was correct in his premise that second seed **Andy Whipp** would enjoy the Aussie's fast, hard-hitting game, although he did manage to surprise the Lancastrian with a couple of outrageous nicks early in the first game.

Whipp wasn't fazed though, took the first two games 11/6, 11/9 and reeling his tiring opponent in as he took seven points in a row to win the third 11/9.

We were guaranteed a Scottish quarter-finalist as **Greg Lobban** met **Ali Gorrie**, but would it be Aberdeen's Gorrie, or Inverness now Edinburgh-based Lobban ... in the event it was the younger Lobban who prevailed 3/1, and he was quite pleased:





"It was a complete contrast to this morning's match [against another Scot, Stuart Crawford], where I felt so much in control. Tonight I think I was feeling the pressure of trying to get through to the quarters.

"I'm really pleased to get through, I certainly didn't expect that at the start of the event, so the pressure's off now and hopefully I can have a good game with Andy Whipp tomorrow.

Lobban will be the only Scot in the quarters, Kiwi 3/4 seed **Kashif Shuja** continued to enjoy his inaugural BSPA outing, beating Chris Ferguson in three.

His opponent will be **Paul Rawden**, the

only one to beat a seed today as he saw off Chris Truswell 10/12, 11/4, 9/11, 11/9.

"Very pleased with that," declared Rawden, who has been playing BSPA since 2004 - with a six-year university gap - and is starting to make inroads on the PSA circuit too.

"I'd only played Chris once before, in a University match," said Paul. "He beat me 27-0 then so I think I must have improved a bit!"



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Welcome to Edinburgh,

### Busy, Busy, Busy

There's no rest days at BSPA events, in fact it's worse than that, you get to play twice a day for two days before you get a sniff of the final.

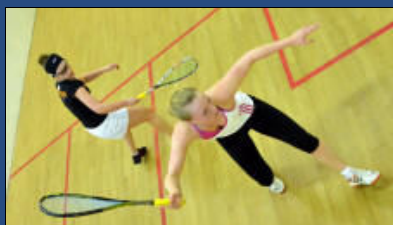
So today sees two rounds for the men, plus the start of the graded events (I'm playing the #2 seed in the D event at an ungodly 21.30, what sort of draw is that, Simon?), plus qualifying finals and round one in the women's WSA event (I like the logo, and a three-letter acronym is clearly better than five, but 'WIS-PA' does roll off the tongue better than "W-S-A", or do we say "WUSSAH"?).

Anyway, you get the idea that it's a trifle busy, so as ever we'll keep you up to speed with the results and whatever snippets we can .... what's the Scottish for "stay tuned" ???



**BSPA Preliminary Round:**

half historic, half building site!



**Chris Shinnie** bt Dan Busby 11/4, 11/4, 11/4 (20m)

**WSA Qualifying Finals:**

**Frania Gillen-Buchert** (Sco) bt Rachel Willmott (Eng)  
11/6, 11/6, 4/11, 11/7 (37m)

**Melissa Alves** (Fra) bt Senga Macfie (Sco)  
11/7, 11/9, 11/7 (22m)

**Victoria Bell** (Eng) bt Catherine Finlayson (Sco)  
11/8, 11/3, 11/6 (23m)

**Cigany Sillevs** (Ned) bt Eva Fertekova (Cze)  
11/5, 11/4, 11/4 (19m)

**BSPA Round One** [check the DRAWS page for results](#)

***One out of three for the Scots***

There was mixed success for the hosts in the first two WSA qualifying finals as Scottish stalwarts **Frania Gillen-Buchert** and **Senga Macfie** took to the court.

Macfie couldn't get the better of French junior **Melissa Alves**, but it wasn't for the lack of trying as she led in all three games. "I haven't been on good for for a while," admitted the host club's top player, "and nothing would go right today. She's a good little player but I should have been able to slow in down and mess her game up."

Alves, returning to action after being injured at the BJO earlier in the month, was pleased to get through, but admitted that her first meeting with Senga was "a bit different!".

Frania, also back in action but in her case after a somewhat longer deliberate break, delighted the home fans with a hard-fought four-game win over qualifying top seed Rachel Willmott.

"She hits the ball really well and was putting me under a lot of pressure," admitted Frania. "I just had to hang in there, extend the rallies and wait for the right time.

"I'm really pleased to qualify, I'd better go and look at the draw to see who I might play next!"

As it happens, Frania gets to play Sally Skaarenborg while Melissa meets compatriot Laura Pomportes, the fifth seed.

The two remaining qualifying places were taken by England's **Victoria Bell** and Dutchwoman **Cigany Sillevs**, who also had injury tales to tell ...

"I had surgery on my knee so hadn't played for a bout a year, then was just about to start playing on the circuit when I hurt my ankle, which kept me out for another three month," explained Bell, who beat local Catherine Finlayson in straight games.

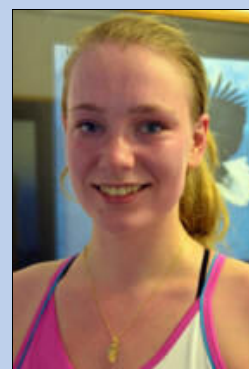
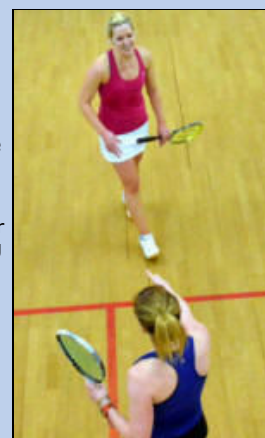
"I've been back playing for about three weeks, so it's really good to qualify here," added Bell, whose next tournament will be in Finland.

Sivellis, 21, is one of Liz Irving's proteges in Amsterdam, and she beat Eva Fertekova, as she had done in London in December.

"It was strange to play Eva again," said Cigany, "but it was a good match, fun and very fair, I enjoyed it.

"I was out injured for 18 months and started playing again in July. I've been working with Liz for almost two years now, it's amazing being able to train with all those players, I'm very happy that Liz gave me this opportunity."

Cigany plays Maud Duplomb while Victoria meets Birgit Coufal.





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## Men's Round One

### Seeds safely through

We must have written that headline a few times, but as you would expect there were no real surprises in the men's first round, although there were a couple of momentous encounters as **Sunil Seth** and **Ali Gorri** both won on extra points in the fifth.

That was tough, "admitted Seth," the Australian who has been in the UK for six months now and is looking to play as many events as he can. "I've got Andy Whipp next though, he's very fast, very accurate and he'll probably love my fast game!".

While Gorrie kept the Aberdeen flag flying - he now meets **Greg Lobban** in an all-Scottish encounter - **James "Farmer" Jacobsen** found **Alex Phillips** too hot to handle, but he did come up with the quote of the day as he put a simple drop into the tin to go match ball down:



"JUST SPANK IT" was the (loud) advice to himself. "Well, that's what always does anyway," joked a knowledgeable spectator.



As well as local boy **Chris Ferguson**, another Scot through is **Lobban**, who got the better of his erstwhile coach and former Scottish champion **Stuart Crawford** in straight games.

"We haven't played competitively much at all," shared Crawford, "but that's twice in two weeks.

"I managed to sneak home 3-2 in a regional event last week but I knew I'd have to improve on that performance, Greg was certainly much

better today.

"Still, if that gets me in at number four for the Europeans I'll be happy," added Crawford cheekily.

**Round two commences at 18.30 ...**





[ [Qualifying Day](#) ] [ [Preview12](#) ]

[Today12](#)

[ [Home](#) ] [ [Today12](#) ] [ [Today11](#) ] [ [Draws](#) ] [ [Gallery](#) ] [ [Enfrançais](#) ] [ [History](#) ] [ [Info](#) ]

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