



Drinkhall double on day one in Portugal

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Paul Drinkhall started with a double victory and Sam Walker, Charlotte Carey and Tin-Tin Ho also picked up wins as the European Singles Qualification Tournament got under way in Portugal today.

With places at the Tokyo Olympics at stake, Welsh No 1 Carey got the Team GB contingent off to the perfect start as she fought back from 2-0 down to defeat Italy's Debora Vivarelli 4-2 – a big win against an opponent 80 places above her at No 71 on the world rankings.

A mostly close match turned on the fourth game, which Carey won 12-10 to pull level, and she kicked on to take the next emphatically.

A run from 3-6 down to 9-6 up proved pivotal in the sixth, but Carey took her time-out at 10-9 after seeing her first two match points disappear – the third, though, was taken and Carey next faces world No 139 Tatiana Kukulikova of Slovakia tomorrow.

[Click here to watch Carey v Vivarelli](#)



Charlotte Carey on her way to defeating Debora Vivarelli (ETTU picture)

Ho took a game to get to grips with Slovenia's Ana Tofant, finally taking a fifth game point to seal it 13-11, but it was pretty plain sailing after that as Tofant (WR 242) took only 13 points across the next three games.

[Click here to watch Ho v Tofant](#)

Ho's next match was a tougher prospect against Serbia's Sabina Surjan (WR 137) and though the English No 1 fought back from losing the first game to lead 2-1, Surjan stepped it up to take the next three for a 4-2 victory. Ho finishes the group stage against Polina Trifonova of Bulgaria (WR 408) tomorrow.

[Click here to watch Ho v Surjan](#)

Drinkhall was the first of the two British men on court and enjoyed a routine win over Turkey's Ibrahim Gunduz (WR 166) in four straight.

[Click here to watch Drinkhall v Gunduz](#)

He then took control of Group B with a 4-1 win over Romania's world No 149 Rares Sipos, who had also won his first match. It was comfortable most of the way, though Sipos did level at 1-1 despite Drinkhall saving five game points from 5-10.

Once he took the next to get himself back in front, it was straightforward for Drinkhall, who finishes against Daniels Kogans of Latvia tomorrow.

[Click here to watch Drinkhall v Sipos](#)

There was an opening defeat for Sam Walker, understandably rusty as he returns from an ankle injury, as he went down in five against Eric Glod (WR 210) of Luxembourg.

[Click here to watch Walker v Glod](#)

His second match against world No 104 Florent Lambiet of Belgium saw him put in an aggressive performance and win 4-2 to keep his qualification hopes alive.

[Click here to watch Walker v Lambiet](#)

Walker's final group match is against Alex Naumi of Finland (WR 265) tomorrow.

Results

Women's Singles

Group B

Charlotte Carey bt Debora Vivarelli (ITA) 4-2 (8-11, 9-11, 11-8, 12-10, 11-4, 11-9)

Group H

Tin-Tin Ho bt Ana Tofant (SLO) 4-0 (13-11, 11-4, 11-2, 11-7)

Sabina Surjan (SRB) bt Ho 4-2 (11-6, 11-13, 6-11, 11-6, 11-3, 11-9)

Men's Singles

Group B

Paul Drinkhall bt Ibrahim Gunduz (TUR) 4-0 (11-9, 11-4, 11-4, 11-7)

Drinkhall bt Rares Sipos (ROU) 4-1 (11-8, 10-12, 11-8, 11-1, 11-6)

Group F

Eric Glod (LUX) bt Sam Walker 4-1 (9-11, 11-6, 11-5, 11-9, 11-4)

Walker bt Florent Lambiet (BEL) 4-2 (11-9, 11-7, 11-6, 10-12, 9-11, 11-8)

How to watch tomorrow

The event is being streamed live on [ETTU TV](#). The second-day matches involving Team GB players are:

11am: Charlotte Carey v Tatiana Kukulikova (Table 2)

12.40pm: Tin-Tin Ho v Polina Trifonova (T2)

1.30pm: Paul Drinkhall v Daniels Kogans (T5, not streamed)

3.10pm: Sam Walker v Alex Naumi (T3)

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