



## England trio out of Qatar Open

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Liam Pitchford, Sam Walker and Paul Drinkhall were all knocked out of the Qatar Open today when they suffered defeats in their second qualifying group matches.

Pitchford could not repeat [yesterday's heroics against Xue Fei](#) when he faced German's world No 21 Bastian Steger. All the games were close, not least the fourth, which the German took 19-17 to open up a 3-1 lead. He then closed out the match in the next game.

It meant a three-way countback in the group, Xue having defeated Steger 4-2 yesterday, and it was Steger who advanced on games difference, with the unfortunate Pitchford in third.

Walker had a titanic battle against South Korea's Jang Woojin, ranked at No 39. Three times, Walker levelled the match, including winning two deuce games, to take it to a decider, but his opponent prevailed at the end and went through to the knockout stages.

Drinkhall took a 2-0 lead over Abdel-Kader Salifou of France but saw his opponent battle back to win the next four and top the group, both players having already defeated David McBeath.

## Today's results

### Men's Singles

#### Qualifying Group 13

Bastian Steger (GER) bt Pitchford 4-1 (12-10, 7-11, 11-9, 19-17, 11-8)

#### Group 15

Abdel-Kader Salifou (FRA) bt Drinkhall 4-2 (6-11, 8-11, 11-8, 11-4, 11-8, 11-6)

**Group 17**

Jang Woojin (KOR) bt Walker 4-3 (12-10, 7-11, 11-5, 10-12, 11-5, 12-14, 11-6)

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