

<https://www.lta.org.uk/major-tennis-events/british-major-events/progress-womens-tour-championships/news/2020/katie-boulter-beats-jodie-burrage-to-claim-the-title-on-her-first-tournament-back-since-lock-down/>

Katie Boulter beats Jodie Burrage to claim the title on her first tournament back since lock-down

-  18/07/2020
-  News



Two worthy champions were crowned in the singles at the Progress Tour Women's Championships. Katie Boulter outlasted Jodie Burrage to claim the title on her first tournament back since lock-down, but she was made to work for it, having to come from a set down.

Boulter said, after the match: "I felt like I was struggling a little bit body-wise but I was trying to push myself through and just keep getting the ball in the court and it felt like I got a little but lucky."

Burrage has lost just three of her last 17 matches since starting back on the British Tour events, and if she keeps up this consistency, Boulter feels she could do well.

"If she keeps playing that she's going to go very far. I've always thought Jodie's a very good player."

“If she keeps playing that she's going to go very far. I've always thought Jodie's a very good player. She's starting to put it altogether and it's really nice to see.”

Despite injury withdrawals at the start of the week, this event also got the thumbs up from Boulter, who feels it could have a more permanent place in the calendar.

She continued: “I'd like to see it be back next year or another time and hopefully we can get all the girls playing.”

Having been spoiled by the return of players to elite competition, it is worth remembering that this is a stepping stone to the eventual return of the tours. This includes the ITF level events and none more so than the junior events – and there is still much to be decided, as Amelia Bissett told us, after her Division One title run.

The 17-year-old was itching to get matches behind her, and that continues to be the plan given the uncertainty of when or if the ITF junior events will be restarting.

She said: “I think it's all up in the air. We don't know when we could be coming back. It always changes, I always hear different things. If I'm fully ready when it does start, then that's an extra bonus and hopefully I can go far in those tournaments because I've had the match-play here. You can practice all you like but you have to put that practice into the match court at the end of the day.”

<https://www.lta.org.uk/major-tennis-events/british-major-events/progress-womens-tour-championships/news/2020/safety-first-for-burrage-as-she-prepares-for-boulter-showdown-bissett-looks-to-emulate-top-brits/>

Safety first for Burrage as she prepares for Boulter showdown, Bissett looks to emulate top Brits



17/07/2020



News



Jodie Burrage is arguably Britain's most consistent female tennis player since the return to elite competition began, and she is starting to take that seriously. With three operations to her name already in a young career, the combination of singles, doubles and the Tie Break Tens was just a little too much after three weeks of competition.

She said: With my shoulder and back, I just had to be careful with it. I literally hate pulling out of anything to be honest with you. But my team and I just made that decision.

She will face Katie Boulter once more in the final, who came through some spirited resistance from Freya Christie in her semi-final.

Burrage continued: "It was a really good game [against Boulter] yesterday and I actually really enjoyed it so I just basically want to do the same, try and keep the points on my racquet and get the first hit in. I feel that's what I did well the

other day. I made a few errors and she played better on a few of the crucial points as well.

“I'm looking forward to it and again obviously she's feeling tired as well, it's her first tournament back, she's played five matches, so I think we're in a similar position really. Hopefully, it will be high level like it was yesterday.”

Division One teen sensation Amelia Bissett kept up her flawless record and has yet to drop a set as she reached Sunday's final. A late call up into the field, she has made the most of the opportunity to be around more established Brits and it has been making a difference.

She said: “I think the biggest thing is their composure on the court and how they hold themselves, no matter what the score is. Today I put that into my game well because I needed that a lot in the second set.”

<https://www.lta.org.uk/major-tennis-events/british-major-events/progress-womens-tour-championships/news/2020/katie-boulter-maintains-unbeaten-run-at-progress-tour-womens-championships/>

Katie Boulter maintains unbeaten run at Progress Tour Women's Championships

-  16/07/2020
-  News



It was all to play for on the final day of group stage matches at the Progress Tour Women's Championships.

Katie Boulter powered through the gears and raised her level in just her first tournament back since March, pre-lockdown. She met some stiff resistance from Jodie Burrage, who has been on an incredible run of matches over the past few weeks.

Boulter said: "I knew it was going to be tough. she's come in with confidence. They're probably the hardest matches to play when you know someone's coming in and they're playing some of their best tennis. I thought I had to bring out my A game today and hang on even though the match doesn't make a difference to semi's really.

We're both through obviously so I still wanted to get the win, but I think it was a really good level for both of us."

With the WTA restart just around the corner now, Boulter knows this is vital preparation for returning to the rigours of the tour.

“It's just a question of my body getting used to playing these matches day in, day out because that's what I'm going to have to do when I'm back on tour. A match like today is very important.”

Meanwhile Group Sam Smith came down to a nail-biting finish with Olivia Nicholls, Erin Richardson and Victoria Allen all finishing on two wins each with three matches played. In the end Richardson topped the group on set count-back with Olivia Nicholls finishing second.

<https://www.lta.org.uk/major-tennis-events/british-major-events/progress-womens-tour-championships/news/2020/success-for-burrage-christie-boulter-and-barnett-but-sadness-for-swan-with-injury-woes/>

Great Expectations – How Boulter is managing her expectations, and how being around top Brits is helping Bissett



15/07/2020



News



After a commanding performance in her second group stage match, Katie Boulter admitted that it will be interesting to see just how everyone else comes back, as the main tours edge ever closer to a restart.

Boulter said: “It's definitely a leveller. Everyone is in the same boat. It's going to be interesting to see what people look like when everyone comes back on tour and what kind of shape they're all in, and did they put the work in. That part of it is going to be very interesting. I think everyone will definitely be appreciative to be back out there and just playing tennis and back in a competitive environment.”

Meanwhile down in Division One, despite being hit with injury withdrawals, none of that has deterred 17-year-old Amelia Bissett. She has rocked through her group stages, for the loss of just three games so far, topping Group Annabel Croft.

She has not seemed fazed at all despite being the youngest person in the draw. For her, it is all about the experience of being with top British players.

She said: "Having the top players around and seeing their level, just watching them and getting as much information from them as possible, I feel like I'm gaining a lot of experience. Just being around them and seeing them on court - it helps me a lot."

Joining Boulter and Jodie Burrage in the semi-finals is tournament co-organiser Alicia Barnett who battled past Maia Lumsden and with two wins, in a depleted Group Elena Baltacha, Lumsden's second loss sees her eliminated.

<https://www.lta.org.uk/major-tennis-events/british-major-events/progress-womens-tour-championships/news/2020/success-for-burrage-christie-boulter-and-barnett-but-sadness-for-swan-with-injury-woes/>

Success for Burrage, Christie, Boulter and Barnett but sadness for Swan with injury woes

-  14/07/2020
-  News



Despite grumpy looking clouds, Day 1 of the Progress Tour Women's Championship closed out with some strong and competitive performances.

In the Premier Division the virtually all-conquering Jodie-Anna Burrage was victorious again and has recently notched up 11 wins in 12 matches, including today's tight encounter with Emily Arbuthnott that involved a marathon game where Burrage had seven break points.

The frustration was real, as Burrage explained after the match: "I remember that game, I honestly just wanted to get out of that game. I actually got to the stage where I didn't care if I won or lost [laughing] because it was just repeating itself."



There was a thriller in store as Freya Christie had to come from behind in the decider to clinch her opening win. Christie had been in control of the first set before plenty of breaks in the second set as Lumsden levelled the match.

However, Christie tapped into a competitive spirit that has seen her challenge Lumsden to Nintendo battles, as she edged out her friend to get her first win of the group stages.

Sadly things did not go so well for Katie Swan, who had returned from the States for the Progress Tour Women's Championships but perhaps it was a little too soon as she was forced to retire after taking the first set, with a right hip injury, giving Alicia Barnett the win in the first round robin match.

Barnett said: "I felt like I started to play the way I wanted in the second set. It's unfortunate and I feel really bad for Katie. I think it was a bit too much too soon for her."

She, along with fellow tournament collaborator Olivia Nicholls closed out the day's play with a win in the doubles.



Rounding out the Premier singles action, Katie Boulter closed out a confident win. Boulter has, like many, spent her time focussing on her fitness ahead of the return, but also found time to volunteer for Age UK during the lockdown.

“I tried to make the best of the situation; it’s not been ideal for all of us, but I have to keep some perspective – there are bigger things going on in the world. I think it’s just important to give back and that’s what I’ve been trying to do.”