



## PREVIEW NOTES: NATURE VALLEY CLASSIC BIRMINGHAM

BIRMINGHAM, GBR | JUNE 17-23, 2019 | USD \$871,028 PREMIER EVENT

**WTA Website:** [www.wtatennis.com](http://www.wtatennis.com) | @WTA | [facebook.com/wta](https://facebook.com/wta)  
**Tournament Website:** [www.lta.org.uk/major-events/nature-valley-classic](http://www.lta.org.uk/major-events/nature-valley-classic)  
**WTA Communications:** Estelle Laporte ([elaporte@wtatennis.com](mailto:elaporte@wtatennis.com)), Catherine Sneddon ([csneddon@wtatennis.com](mailto:csneddon@wtatennis.com))

*SAP Tennis Analytics for Media is an online portal that provides real-time data and insights to media during every WTA event and across all devices. Please email [sapanalyticsmedia@wtatennis.com](mailto:sapanalyticsmedia@wtatennis.com) to request your individual login to grant access to SAP Tennis Analytics for Media.*

## NATURE VALLEY CLASSIC – QUICK FACTS

**Main draw dates:** Monday - Sunday, June 17 - 23, 2019  
**Singles Final:** Sunday, June 23, NB 13:30 pm  
**Doubles Final:** Sunday, June 23, after singles final  
**Venue:** Edgbaston Priory Club  
**Status:** WTA Premier event  
**Staging:** Tournament's 38th year  
**Draw sizes:** 32 singles / 16 doubles teams / 32 singles qualifying  
**Surface:** Grass / Outdoors  
**Tennis Ball:** Slazenger Wimbledon (Ultra Vis Hydroguard)  
**2018 Singles Final:** [4] Petra Kvitova (CZE) d. Magdalena Rybarikova (SVK) 4-6 6-1 6-2  
**2018 Doubles Final:** [1] Timea Babos/Kristina Mladenovic (HUN/FRA) d. Elise Mertens/Demi Schuurs (BEL/NED) 4-6 6-3 10-8

SINGLES	USD \$	RANK POINTS
Winner	163,085	470
Runner-Up	86,840	305
Semifinalist	46,345	185
Quarterfinalist	24,880	100
Round of 16	13,311	55
Round of 32	6,398	1

DOUBLES	USD \$	RANK POINTS
Winner	50,876	470
Runner-Up	27,155	305
Semifinalist	14,845	185
Quarterfinalist	7,562	100
Round of 16	4,098	1

## MAIN DRAW QUICK-HITS

**Singles wildcards:** Harriet Dart (GBR), Karolina Pliskova (CZE), Heather Watson (GBR), Venus Williams (USA)

**Youngest singles player:** Dayana Yastremska, 19 years old (May 15, 2000)

**Oldest singles player:** Venus Williams, 38 years old (June 17, 1980)

**Singles withdrawals:** Bianca Andreescu (right shoulder), Danielle Collins (foot injury), Madison Keys (knee), Petra Kvitova (left arm), Garbiñe Muguruza (left leg), Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova (left ankle), Carla Suárez Navarro (back)

**Main draw debutantes:** Ekaterina Alexandrova (RUS), Harriet Dart (GBR), Margarita Gasparyan (RUS), Anett Kontaveit (EST), Aryna Sabalenka (BLR), Aliaksandra Sasnovich (BLR), Wang Qiang (CHN), Venus Williams (USA), Diana Yastremska (UKR)



## TOURNAMENT TALKING POINTS

- For the first time in its history, the Nature Valley Classic will feature the World No.1, No.2 and No.3: **Naomi Osaka, Ashleigh Barty** and **Karolina Pliskova**
- Top seed at the Edgbaston Priory Club is **Osaka**, whose World No.1 ranking is under threat from **Barty** this week. The Australian will claim top spot if she lifts the Maud Watson Trophy and Osaka fails to make the final. No.1 ranking could also change hands if Barty reaches the final and Osaka loses her first-round match to Maria Sakkari
- **Pliskova**, who missed out on the title here on a final set tie-break to Kerber in 2015, is No.3 seed and begins her challenge against one of last year's semifinalists Mihaela Buzarnescu
- Three players will be competing on home soil this week, recent Roland Garros semifinalist **Johanna Konta** and wildcards **Harriet Dart** and **Heather Watson**. **Konta**, back inside the Top 20 after her Paris run, has never been beyond the second round here, falling at that stage on five of her six visits
- *One To Watch* – **Donna Vekic**. The draw's dangerous floater is Vekic, who has enjoyed some of her best career memories on grass and arrives fresh from a final appearance at Nottingham. In addition to this, the Croatian – who faces Barty in the first round – made the Birmingham final in 2013, won the Nottingham title in 2017 and advanced to the round of 16 at last year's Wimbledon

## TOP 4 SEEDS' TOURNAMENT HISTORY\*

PLAYER	TOURNAMENT HISTORY	W/L	WIN %
[1] Naomi Osaka (JPN)	2r (2): 2017 (l. Safarova), 2018 (ret. vs. Jakupovic)	2-2	.500
[2] Ashleigh Barty (AUS)	R-Up (1): 2017 (l. Kvitova) 2r (1): 2018 (l. Goerges)	5-2	.714
[3] Karolina Pliskova (CZE)	R-Up (1): 2015 (l. Kerber) 1r (4): 2013 (l. Lucic-Baroni), 2014 (l. Razzano), 2016 (l. Strycova), 2018 (l. Rybarikova)	4-5	.444
[4] Elina Svitolina (UKR)	QF (1): 2018 (l. Buzarnescu) 2r (1): 2017 (l. Giorgi) 1r (2): 2013 (l. Erakovic), 2016 (l. Suárez Navarro)	3-4	.429

\*Main draw matches only

## PREVIOUS CHAMPIONS & RUNNERS-UP

YEAR	CHAMPION	RUNNER-UP	SCORE
2018	[4] Petra Kvitova (CZE)	Magdalena Rybarikova (SVK)	4-6 6-1 6-2
2017	[7] Petra Kvitova (CZE)	Ashleigh Barty (AUS)	4-6 6-3 6-2
2016	[7] Madison Keys (USA)	Barbora Strycova (CZE)	6-3 6-4
2015	[4] Angelique Kerber (GER)	[6] Karolina Pliskova (CZE)	6-7(5) 6-3 7-6(4)
2014	[1] Ana Ivanovic (SRB)	Barbora Strycova (CZE)	6-3 6-2
2013	Daniela Hantuchova (SVK)	Donna Vekic (CRO)	7-6(5) 6-4
2012	Melanie Oudin (USA)	[5] Jelena Jankovic (SRB)	6-4 6-2
2011	Sabine Lisicki (GER)	[4] Daniela Hantuchova (SVK)	6-3 6-2
2010	[1] Na Li (CHN)	[2] Maria Sharapova (RUS)	7-5 6-1

If highlighted denotes competing in 2019 Birmingham main draw



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### COUNTRY BREAKDOWN

A total of 17 countries are represented in the main draw (not including qualifiers), led by Great Britain, Russian and Ukraine with three players each:

<b>Australia (1)</b>	Ashleigh Barty
<b>Belarus (2)</b>	Aryna Sabalenka, Aliaksandra Sasnovich
<b>China (1)</b>	Wang Qiang
<b>Chinese Taipei (1)</b>	Hsieh Su-Wei
<b>Croatia (1)</b>	Petra Martic, Donna Vekic
<b>Czech Republic (2)</b>	Karolina Pliskova, Barbora Strycova
<b>Estonia (1)</b>	Anett Kontaveit
<b>France (1)</b>	Kristina Mladenovic
<b>Greece (1)</b>	Maria Sakkari
<b>Germany (1)</b>	Julia Goerges
<b>Great Britain (3)</b>	Harriet Dart, Johanna Konta, Heather Watson
<b>Kazakhstan (1)</b>	Yulia Putintseva
<b>Latvia (1)</b>	Jelena Ostapenko
<b>Romania (1)</b>	Mihaela Buzarnescu
<b>Russia (3)</b>	Ekaterina Alexandrova, Margarita Gasparyan, Evgeniya Rodina
<b>Ukraine (3)</b>	Elina Svitolina, Lesia Tsurenko, Dayana Yastremska
<b>United States (2)</b>	Jennifer Brady, Venus Williams