



Wimbledon 2026 Qualifying: Watson And Adeshina Shine As Brits Continue Strong Charge

Description

British tennis continued its encouraging start to Wimbledon 2026 qualifying on Tuesday as Heather Watson and Esther Adeshina both booked their places in the second round with confident victories at the All England Club. The pair joined six British men who had already progressed on [a strong opening day](#), setting up the prospect of a significant British presence when the main draw gets under way on Monday 29 June.

With the grass-court season in full swing and the sporting world's attention increasingly turning to SW19, the qualifying courts provided precisely the kind of compelling storylines that British tennis supporters have come to hope for in recent summers.

Watson Wins In Straight Sets



The Wimbledon Championship trophies – the ultimate prize awaiting the best players in the world at SW19 (Source: LTA)

Heather Watson, one of Britain’s most experienced grass-court competitors, delivered a polished performance against Egypt’s Mayar Sherif, claiming a comfortable 6-2, 6-2 victory. The Guernsey-

born player was sharp from the baseline, aggressive on second serves, and gave Sherif precious few opportunities to settle. It was the kind of professional, no-nonsense display that has become something of a Watson trademark in these early rounds of major tournaments.

Watson, who has been a fixture on the British tennis circuit for over a decade, will be looking to convert her qualifying progress into a main draw berth. She knows better than most the fine margins involved at Wimbledon, but her tennis on Tuesday suggested she is in good shape heading into a pivotal second-round encounter.

Adeshina Upsets Eighth Seed

The standout result of the day, however, came from the 24-year-old Esther Adeshina, who produced a genuine upset by defeating eighth seed Moyuka Uchijima of Japan 6-1, 3-6, 7-5 in a fiercely contested three-set battle. Adeshina dropped the second set after a dominant opening but recovered her composure superbly in the decider, holding her nerve through a tense final few games to seal a memorable victory.

The result will do wonders for Adeshina's confidence as she bids to reach the Wimbledon main draw for what would be a significant breakthrough moment in her career. Taking down a seeded opponent in qualifying is no small feat, and her display suggested she possesses both the game and, crucially, the temperament to compete at this level. She is a player to watch over the remaining qualifying days.



The Championships, Wimbledon – the world’s most prestigious tennis tournament gets under way on 29 June (Source: LTA)

Britain’s Encouraging Start

The women's results built on an excellent foundation laid on Monday, when [six British men advanced on day one](#). Dan Evans who has announced that this will be his final Wimbledon before retiring came through a tight first-set tie-break to beat Juan Carlos Prado Angelo 7-6(2), 6-3. Billy Harris, Henry Searle, Paul Jubb, Max Basing, and Oliver Tarvet also progressed in eye-catching fashion.

Evans's farewell campaign has captured the imagination of British tennis supporters. The 36-year-old Brummie has been one of the most reliable performers Britain has produced on the ATP circuit, and his final appearance at Wimbledon carries obvious emotional weight. He next faces Australian Tristan Schoolkate in the second round, with the hope that he can extend what may be his last deep run at SW19.

Searle, the former boys Wimbledon champion who arrived at qualifying fresh off winning the Dublin Challenger last weekend, looks to be in ominous form. Basing's comeback win over 10th seed Francesco Maestrelli fighting back from a set down was arguably the most impressive men's result on the opening day.

The Road To The Main Draw

The main draw at The Championships 2026 begins on Monday 29 June, running through to Sunday 12 July. With three rounds of qualifying to navigate, the British players who have made strong starts will need to win twice more over the coming days to earn their place alongside the world's elite.

With the sport enjoying something of a grassroots revival in Britain and with the domestic grass-court season having produced several notable performances the hope is that this qualifying fortnight can serve as a springboard for sustained success at SW19. Watson and Adeshina have done their part. The British challenge continues.

Date Created

24/06/2026

Author

jadeyeo