

MEDIA RELEASE

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LE GRUYERE EUROPEAN CURLING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2009, Aberdeen, Scotland

5 DECEMBER 2009 - DAY 1 - RESUME & STANDINGS

Men & Women: Round Robin 1

Both defending champions opened their campaigns with wins at the Le Gruyère European Curling Championships in Aberdeen, but there were some upsets in other games.

Scotland's David Murdoch was always in control against Sweden's Niklas Edin and eventually, after blanking five ends, delivered a hack-weight tap-out of a Swedish counter to leave another of his stones lying shot for a 3-2 win.

Later Switzerland's Mirjam Ott edged out Norway's Marianne Rørvik to start her campaign with a 6-4 win.

Elsewhere in the men's opening session, Germany's Andy Kapp had an 8-5 win over Ulrik Schmidt's Danish team, thanks largely to a score of three in the second end, while Thomas Dufour led France to a 6-5 win over Italy's Stefano Ferronato.

The other two games in the men's opening round both went to extra ends, with Finland's Toni Rantamäki taking the single needed to beat Jiri Snítel of the Czech Republic by 9-8, as did Thomas Ulsrud of Norway against Switzerland's Ralph Stöckli for his 8-7 win.

In the women's games, Germany's Andrea Schöpp took an early three against Sweden's reigning Olympic champion Anette Norberg and held off the second-half Swedish pressure to win by 7-4. Beside them, Russia, skipped by Liudmila Privivkova beat England, led by Kirsty Balfour, by 8-5, while Denmark's Angelina Jensen beat Finland's Ellen Vogt by 9-4.

The main surprise result of the women's opening round came in the Scotland/Italy encounter. Scotlish skip Eve Muirhead gave up a five in the fifth end when her last stone wrecked and then had her last stone in the sixth end removed for a hog-line offence to hand Italy's Giorgia Apollonio a steal of three in a game that Italy eventually won by 11-6.

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Men: Round Robin 2

After two games, three of the men's teams share the same undefeated record at the top of the "A" division in the Le Gruyère European Curling Championships in Aberdeen.

Defending champions Scotland, skipped by David Murdoch beat France's Thomas Dufour by 5-2 while Finland's Tomi Rantamäki beat Italy's Stefano Ferronato by 9-7. The third undefeated skip is Norway's Thomas Ulsrud, who beat Denmark's Ulrik Schmidt by 8-5 in his second game.

Germany's Andy Kapp lost out by 4-10 to Sweden's Niklas Edin and both of these teams now share a won one, lost one record with France and Switzerland's Ralph Stöckli who beat the Czech Republic's Jiri Snítel by 9-6.

Czech Republic, Denmark and Italy have yet to record a win.

Men's Standings after Day 1 (2 round-robin games):

Finland won 2 - lost 0
Norway 2-0
Scotland 2-0
France 1-1
Germany 1-1
Sweden 1-1
Switzerland 1-1
Czech Republic 0-2
Denmark 0-2
Italy 0-2

Women: Round Robin 2

Following the women's "A" division's second round-robin session, defending champion Mirjam Ott from Switzerland remains undefeated, thanks to her 10-2 win over Germany's Andrea Schöpp.

Joining the Swiss as unbeaten are Russia's Liudmila Privivkova, who beat Denmark's Angelina Jensen by 10-1 in just six ends.

Denmark now share a won one, lost one record with Germany, Scotland's Eve Muirhead, who beat England's Kirsty Balfour by 7-4, Sweden's reigning Olympic champion Anette Norberg, who bounced back with a 9-2 victory over Finland's Ellen Vogt, Italy's Giorgia Apollonio and Norway's Marianne Rørvik, who fought all the way to an extra end before Norway beat Italy by 7-6.

England and Norway are still to record a win.

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Women's Standings after Day 1 (2 round-robin games):

Russia won 2 - lost 0

Switzerland 2-0

Denmark 1-1

Germany 1-1

Italy won 1-1

Norway 1-1

Scotland 1-1

Sweden 1-1

England 0-2

Finland 0-2

In the "B" divisions, Estonia, Netherlands and Russia are tied at the top of the men's B1 section while Wales stand alone at the top of B2.

Latvia, Netherlands and Poland are tied at the top of the women's B1 section, while Austria and Hungary share the lead in women's B2.

Event website and live scoring, statistics and results:

www.ecc2009.co.uk

Extensive coverage on Eurosport TV and Eurosport Player CLICK HERE

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