



Winners of Tie Break Tens Challenger Series 2019 crowned at the National Tennis Centre

LONDON, September 23rd, 2019 – Following months of highly competitive tennis tournaments across the UK, Tie Break Tens (TB10) LTA and WTA have crowned the winners of the TB10 Challenger Series 2019.

The action culminated in the UK final at the LTA's National Tennis Centre in London last Saturday 21 September with 24 girls battling it out to win the trophy and prizes.

In the 16U Final, Rosie Sterk from Scotland North beat Alexandra Kepa from Nottinghamshire 10-5 in a match featuring big hitting from both players. The 14U saw Roisin Boyd from Leicestershire defeat Giulia Lesa from Surrey 10-5.

As part of their fantastic prize package, WTA awarded an incredible opportunity - an expense-paid trip to Shenzhen to compete at the WTA Future Stars tournament alongside the top young Asian female players of their age category. The trip will coincide with the Shiseido WTA Finals Shenzhen where the girls will get the chance to meet the top eight WTA singles players and doubles teams in the world, have mentoring opportunities from the stars of the WTA and live like professional tennis players.

Rosie and Roisin were awarded their TB10 Challenger trophy's plus products from TB10 partners, adidas & Babolat on Saturday afternoon at the National Tennis Centre in Roehampton following a fierce Round Robin competition and final.

With the shared objective of encouraging participation in tennis amongst the younger demographic, the TB10 Challenger focused solely on girls aged 13-16 years old by encouraging them to not only play tennis but try a different type of competition through the innovative and engaging TB10 format.

Launched as a tennis format in 2015, Tie Break Tens is a quick-fire version of tennis comprised entirely of tie breaks – no games, no sets, just exhilarating ten-point breakers in which every point counts, allowing more court time for players and offering a fun way to get into the sport.

The TB10 Challenger 2019 consisted of nationwide tournaments run throughout the summer at tennis clubs which have registered to play via the TB10 website. The winner and runner-up from each club progressed to a regional final, with those winners making it to the TB10 Challenger final on Saturday.

LTA officials including referees and umpires were present at all Regional Finals and the UK Final, making it a highly professional experience for all the girls involved.

“Saturday was a fantastic day not just for girls’ tennis but for girls’ sport in the UK,” said Felicity Barnard, CEO of Tie Break Tens. “Our ambition with this partnership has been to drive participation in tennis in the female market, at an age where many secondary school children drop out of sport altogether. Since we launched in July, we have seen hundreds of girls from across the UK take part in TB10 tournaments and enjoy trying our fast-paced and fresh format. We look forward to seeing how this partnership will develop and how our UK winners get on in Shenzhen.”

Keith Carder, Head of Competition at the LTA commented: “The LTA is working to open tennis up by making it relevant, accessible, welcoming and enjoyable. Our partnership with Tie Break 10s is a great example of this and it’s been fantastic to work with them and the WTA to stage this competition. Congratulations to all the winners.”

Melissa Pine, VP of Global Programs at the WTA said: “We are excited to expand the global footprint of the WTA Future Stars through our partnership with Tie Break Tens and the LTA. Our goal is to use tennis as a platform to inspire and encourage more young girls around the world to progress in the sport, to learn the importance of living a healthy lifestyle, and to build strong character that will help them on and off the tennis court. We look forward to welcoming the very first qualifiers from the UK to the WTA Future Stars Shenzhen in October.”

About Tie Break Tens:

Tie Break Tens launched in 2015 with the first tournament in the Royal Albert Hall, London featuring top players including Andy Murray, David Ferrer and Kyle Edmund. Since then we have taken the format to Madrid, Vienna Melbourne, New York City and Indian Wells with a host of top players including Rafael Nadal, Novak Djokovic, Serena & Venus Williams, Stan Wawrinka, Dominic Thiem and Simona Halep. This is high octane tennis which breaks the mould and challenges the perception of traditional tennis.

TB10 launched their grassroots strategy, TB10 Challenger & TB10 Play in 2018, with the aim of driving participation levels in tennis by encouraging people to get out there and play.

For more information, please visit www.tiebreaktens.com

About LTA:

The LTA is the National Governing Body of tennis for Great Britain. We are here to govern and grow tennis, from grassroots participation through to the professional game. Our vision is “Tennis Opened Up” and we’re on a mission to grow tennis by making it relevant, accessible, welcoming and enjoyable. We work with schools, with volunteers, with coaches and with venues across the whole country. We also represent the interests of over 630,000 Members, men and women, girls and boys, playing on more than 23,000 courts. The LTA runs and supports a network of 11,500 approved tournaments for players of all ages, the four corner-stones of which are the premier grass-court events leading up to The Championships, Wimbledon: the Nature Valley Open (at Nottingham), the Nature Valley Classic (at Birmingham), the Fever-Tree Championships (at The Queen’s Club, London) and the Nature Valley International (at Eastbourne). For further information about the LTA and tennis in Britain, visit www.lta.org.uk or follow us on Twitter [@the_LTA](https://twitter.com/the_LTA)

About WTA:

Founded by Billie Jean King in 1973 on the principle of equal opportunity for women in sports, the WTA is the global leader in women’s professional sport with more than 1,800 players representing 85 nations competing for a record \$164 million in prize money. In 2018, the WTA was watched by a record breaking global audience of 600 million. The 2019 WTA competitive season includes 55 events and four Grand Slams in 29 countries, culminating with the Shiseido WTA Finals Shenzhen, offering an unprecedented \$14 million total prize purse and honoring the season’s top singles and doubles players. Further information on the WTA can be found at www.wtatennis.com.