

Overview - Ordina Open

Like its Eastbourne counterpart, this event suffered the fate of falling the week before a Grand Slam - as such, the field was modest by tour standards.

However, despite a lack of strength in depth Tommy Robredo (No.2) still managed to pick the short straw in R1, facing Marcos Baghdatis in a tough opener - the Cypriot won in straight sets. Mischa Zverev (No.8) also bowed out, this caused by a groin strain sustained early in his match with a former champion, Michael Llodra. All the other seeds progressed with relative ease in a round which saw 14 of the 16 matches won in straight sets.

R2 was to be a different matter. Fernando Verdasco (No.1) was defeated by Benjamin Becker (celebrating his 28th birthday in style) and there were also surprise losses for Igor Kunitsyn (No.5) and Marc Gicquel (No.6) who went out to the Israeli, Dudi Sela, and Spain's Ivan Navarro respectively.

Baghdatis then had the tables turned on him when falling to the Dutchman, Raemon Sluiter - ranked No.866 in the world - after a knee injury forced him to retire early in the first set of their match.

Elsewhere, defending champion David Ferrer (No.3) moved into the QF's with a routine win and was joined there by Rainer Schuettler (No.4) and Jeremy Chardy (No.7) who both beat home players in the process - the talented youngster, Thiemo De Bakker, and the veteran, Dick Norman.

The first shock in those QF matches came as Ivan Navarro dispatched the 2008 winner, David Ferrer, in straight sets. It was a fully deserved victory in just 80 minutes. The next three matches all went against the formbook as well with another former winner here, Michael Llodra, going out to the German, Benjamin Becker, in a tight match before Rainer Schuettler set up an all_german Sf by accounting for Jeremy Chardy. Sluiter's dream run also continued as he saw off Dudi Sela in a hard fought 2'05" battle.

Two close SF's saw Benjamin Becker and Raemon Sluiter progress to the final - the Dutchman becoming the lowest ranked player ever to make a tour final as he fought back to defeat Ivan Navarro.

Becker became the first qualifier to win on the ATP Tour in 2009 with a clear cut 75 minute victory. A first career title (1:1 in finals) for the German - *'I really played well ... served well, hit my forehand aggressively and I felt confident right from the start'* said Becker about the match. As for Sluiter, he was now 0:4 in tour finals with every loss coming on home soil - now 31 years old his chances of landing a first tour title are fast slipping away.



Ordina Open

June 14-20, 2009

Outdoor, Grass - ATP World Tour 250

R32	Fernando Verdasco [1]	67	R16	Fernando Verdasco	56
R32	Pablo Andujar	35	R16	Benjamin Becker	77
R32	Florent Serra	34	R16	Kristof Vliegen	23
R32	q-Benjamin Becker	66	R16	Michael Llodra	66
R32	q-Kristof Vliegen	276	R16	Rainer Schuettler	67
R32	Jan Hernych	652	R16	Thiemo De Bakker	36
R32	Michael Llodra	4	R16	Dick Norman	633
R32	Mischa Zverev [8]	ret'd. 1	R16	Jeremy Chardy	366
R32	Rainer Schuettler [4]	67	R16	Marc Gicquel	465
R32	Niolas Devilder	46	R16	Ivan Navarro	637
R32	q-Thiemo De Bakker	726	R16	Oscar Hernandez	43
R32	Bjorn Phau	663	R16	David Ferrer	66
R32	q-Dick Norman	66	R16	Igor Kunitsyn	43
R32	wc-Daniel Berta	33	R16	Dudi Sela	66
R32	Philipp Petzschner	13	R16	Raemon Sluiter	4
R32	Jeremy Chardy [7]	66	R16	Marcos Baghdatis	ret'd. 3
R32	Marc Gicquel [6]	66	QF	Benjamin Becker	77
R32	Steve Darcis	23	QF	Michael Llodra	65
R32	Gilles Muller	55	QF	Rainer Schuettler	737
R32	Ivan Navarro	77	QF	Jeremy Chardy	666
R32	Oscar Hernandez	66	QF	Ivan Navarro	66
R32	Daniel Koellerer	32	QF	David Ferrer	42
R32	wc-Jesse Huta Galung	25	QF	Dudi Sela	644
R32	David Ferrer [3]	67	QF	Raemon Sluiter	466
R32	Igor Kunitsyn [5]	66			
R32	Arnaud Clement	23	SF	Benjamin Becker	376
R32	Christophe Rochus	24	SF	Rainer Schuettler	651
R32	Dudi Sela	66	SF	Ivan Navarro	723
R32	Daniel Gimeno-Traver	25	SF	Raemon Sluiter	666
R32	wc-Raemon Sluiter	67			
R32	Marcos Baghdatis	76	RU	Raemon Sluiter	53
R32	Tommy Robredo [2]	52	W	Benjamin Becker	76

	No. Matches	2 sets-3 sets	Ave. Sets/Match	Ave. Games/Match
R32	16 matches	14-2	2.12	19.56
R16	8 matches	5-3	2.37	23.75
QF	4 matches	2-2	2.50	27.00
SF	2 matches	0-2	3.00	29.00
F	1 match	1-0	2.00	21.00

Ordina Open - Facts & Figures

Market Leaders	Odds
Fernando Verdasco [1]	7/4
David Ferrer [3]	5/1
Marcos Baghdatis	7/1
Jeremy Chardy [7]	10/1
Tommy Robredo [2]	12/1
Benjamin Becker	20/1
Mischa Zverev [8]	25/1
Marc Gicquel [6]	25/1
Igor Kunitsyn	25/1
Rainer Schuettler [8]	33/1
Michael Llodra	40/1
Philipp Petzschner	40/1
Steve Darcis	50/1
Dudi Sela [7]	50/1
Florent Serra	50/1

Performance Of The Seeded Players

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2009	R2	R1	QF	SF	R2	R2	QF	R1
2008	W	R2	-	R2	R2	QF	SF	R1
2007	QF	W	R2	-	R1	R1	R1	R1
2006	R1	R2	W	-	R1	SF	QF	R2
2005	R2	R2	W	-	R2	R1	R1	R2
2004	RU	R1	R1	SF	R1	R2	QF	QF

Recent Winners/Leading Performers

	Winner	Runner-Up	Losing SF's
2009	Benjamin Becker (20/1)	Raemon Sluiter (150/1)	Schuettler-Navarro
2008	David Ferrer (14/1)	Marc Gicquel (20/1)	Del Potro-Canas
2007	Ivan Ljubicic (13/2)	Peter Wessels (250/1)	Benneteau-Dupuis
2006	Mario Ancic (15/8)	Jan Hernych (66/1)	Baghdatis-Serra
2005	Mario Ancic (11/4)	Michael Llodra (20/1)	Hernych-Philippoussis
2004	Michael Llodra (25/1)	Guillermo Coria (20/1)	Robredo-Ancic

Betting - Ordina Open

Pre-Tournament Briefing :-

The problem with Verdasco was his win/tournament ratio. Just 3 career wins made odds of 7/4 look skinny, especially away from his more natural surface of clay and even allowing for a fair looking draw to the SF's.

Trouble was the other the top half seeds were unappealing as Chardy (10/1) was an unknown on grass, Zverev (25/1) had no winning form and the best days of Schuettler (33/1) were quite clearly behind him. Past winner Llodra (40/1) had appeal by this token and as for Becker (20/1) he had always had ability but aged 28, with no titles to his name, was he a value price even in a modest event such as this ...

The bottom section featured Ferrer (5/1) and Robredo (12/1) - the former had won here before and the latter had reached the SF's. Both had claims but Robredo's tough R1 was duly noted.

Marc Gicquel (25/1) had made a previous final here but had no winning pedigree, Kunitsyn (25/1) had even less to recommend him and the eventual runner-up, Sluiter (250/1), was barely on the radar pre-tournament.

Post-Tournament Review :-

Becker beat the No.1 seed, a former champion and the hometown hero en route to the title - his win was deserved and probably overdue for one of the tour's better journeyman players. Sluiter, once again, proved the value of watching native players (another Dutchman, Wessels in 20007, was ranked below 500 when he made the final) and also noting that in the week before, or just after, a Grand Slam the formbook can often be turned upside down.

Navarro made an impact with his win over Ferrer, Dudi Sela is capable of making a tour final and Jeremy Chardy continues to progress.

Verdasco and Robredo were the chief under-achievers - Verdasco again letting down favourite backers when on offer at a short price.

Pointers for 2010 :-

You need a certain ability to win on grass but few players have it. As such, outsiders at big prices can make their mark (Hernych, Wessels, Sluiter) but the winners still tend to be players of higher rankings - top 50 as a rule. The best bets are players from mainland Europe - David Ferrer, Jeremy Chardy, Philipp Kohlschreiber and Marcos Baghdatis being names to consider with Robin Haase being a Dutchman capable of upholding the home tradition.