



MEDIA RELEASE

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LE GRUYERE EUROPEAN CURLING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2009, Aberdeen, Scotland

9 DECEMBER 2009 – DAY 5 – RESUME & STANDINGS

Men – End of Round Robin Wrap

With a seven-end 10-3 win over nearest rivals Sweden, Norway, led by Thomas Ulsrud, finished top of the ranking at the end of the round-robin stage of the Le Gruyère European Curling Championships in Aberdeen.

This victory over Niklas Edin followed up a 9-3 win by the Norwegians over the Czech Republic's Jiri Snitel, and gave Norway a final won eight, lost one record, just ahead of Sweden who finished second in the rankings with one less win. As a result, these two teams now face each other in the Page Play-off one versus two game, with the winner going straight to Saturday afternoon's final, and the loser having a second chance in the semi-final on Friday.

Behind them France's Thomas Dufour, who beat the Czechs by 10-4; Switzerland's Ralph Stöckli (7-3 over Denmark's Ulrik Schmidt); and defending champions Scotland, led by David Murdoch (9-4 over Italy's Stefano Ferronato) tied for third. With an identical win/loss record among these three teams, the draw shot challenge comes into play to determine the tie-break line-up. This dictates that Switzerland, with the best draw shot performance, are allocated third place and France will play Scotland for the fourth qualifying slot at noon on Thursday.

Denmark finished seventh on a 3-6 record. Because this season's Italy host the World Championship, Denmark now face the eventual winners of the "B" divisions to determine a place in this season's World Championship line-up.

Finland and the Czech Republic, who both finished on two wins and seven losses, now face each other in a play-off for eighth place that will see the loser relegated to the "B" division, while winless Italy - despite being hosts at this season's World Championship - are now relegated to next year's "B" division, as they finished tenth.

Men's final rankings after the Round Robin:

Norway won 8, lost 1
Sweden 7-2
Switzerland, Scotland, France 6-3
Germany 5-4
Denmark 3-6
Czech Republic, Finland 2-7
Italy 0-9



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Women A - Round Robin 8:

In the women's event, defending champion Mirjam Ott of Switzerland guaranteed herself top place in the round-robin rankings and thereby a place in the Page one versus two play-off game, with a 7-6 win over Denmark's Angelina Jensen in the eighth round of round-robin play. This gave her seven wins, one loss record, two ahead of the chasing pack with only one round-robin game to go.

Behind her, five teams - Denmark, Eve Muirhead's Scotland, Anette Norberg of Sweden, Liudmila Privivkova from Russia and Germany's Andrea Schöpp – all share a won five, lost three record, and the results of the final round-robin games will determine the rest of the Page Play-off line-up.

To reach this stage, Denmark lost to Switzerland by 6-7, Scotland beat Norway's Marianne Rørvik by 7-5, Sweden beat Russia by 5-4, and Germany had an 8-7 win over England's Kirsty Balfour. Elsewhere in the final round, Finland's Ellen Vogt beat Italy's Giorgia Apollonio by 10-9 to sit eighth on the table behind seventh-placed Germany. Italy are currently placed ninth with England in tenth place.

Women's standings after eight games:

Switzerland won 7, lost 1.

Denmark, Germany, Russia, Scotland, Sweden 5-3

Norway 4-4

Finland 3-5

Italy 1-7

England 0-8

B Divisions

In the men's "B" divisions, Russia lead "B1" with nine wins and no losses while Hungary, at 7-1, leading "B2".

The Netherlands lead the women's "B1" section on five wins and no losses, while Austria, on four wins and no losses, lead 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](#)