

Wind, drama and a vibrant crowd as the Open Menorca Challenger 100 gets underway

- Gale-force winds of up to 90 km/h force the suspension of half the scheduled qualifying matches.
- Confident wins for Mérida, Topo, Campana Lee, Alcalá Gurri and Oberleitner.
- Barroso Campos stuns Molleker under the lights of Centre Court in a thrilling finale.

Menorca, 30 March 2025 – The opening day of the **Open Menorca Challenger 100**, held this Sunday at **Club Tennis Ciutadella**, was shaped as much by the weather as it was by the quality on court and an enthusiastic crowd.

Only six of the twelve scheduled qualifying matches were completed due to extreme wind conditions, but the tennis that did go ahead – backed by solid support from the stands – marked a promising start to the tournament.

A blustery day, but the fans turned out in forcé

The **Open Menorca Challenger 100** got off to a gusty start. Winds reaching up to 90 km/h disrupted the schedule, forcing the postponement of half the day's matches. These will now be played on Monday, alongside the full second qualifying round.

Despite the conditions, the venue was alive with energy. Fans gathered in large numbers around Courts 2 and 3, and the temporary grandstand on Centre Court was impressively full throughout the day. The red clay of Ciutadella played host to intense rallies, early upsets, and some dominant performances from the top seeds.

Solid starts from the favourites, and a showstopper to close

Among the seeds, **Daniel Mérida [5]** made a confident debut, seeing off fellow Spaniard **Carlos López Montagud** 6-1, 6-4 with assured baseline play.

Germany's **Marko Topo [6]** also advanced, defeating **Sergio Martos Gornes** 6-3, 6-4 in a match where the wildcard managed to break serve twice but couldn't maintain the momentum.

Over on Court 3, **Max Alcalá Gurri [10]** came through a gruelling encounter against Dutchman **Michiel De Krom**. After more than two and a half hours of physically demanding play, the Spaniard edged the win 6-4, 7-6. Meanwhile, on Court 2, Austria's **Neil Oberleitner [11]** was clinical, dispatching wildcard **Iván López Martos** with a commanding 6-2, 6-0 victory.

Gerard Campana Lee [7] also made his way through to the next round, recovering from a set down to beat Germany's **Daniel Masur** 7-5, 6-3, showing growing control and precision as the match progressed.

Barroso Campos lights up the night with a stunning comeback

The day ended with fireworks on Centre Court, fully lit with 5,760 watts of lighting and packed with spectators. Spanish player **Alberto Barroso Campos** took on second seed **Rudolf Molleker** (GER) in what turned out to be the most electrifying match of the day.

The pace was high from the first ball. Barroso broke early, Molleker hit straight back, but the Spaniard struck again in the fourth game to go up 3-1. He held firm and took the opening set 6-3.

The second set was tighter. At 3-3, Molleker increased the pressure and broke serve in the eighth game, levelling the match with a 6-3 set of his own. With the wind still swirling, it all came down to a decider.

Both players showed signs of fatigue and tension. Barroso was broken early and trailed 1-3, but he refused to back down. He broke back in the sixth game, pulling it level at 3-all, and the contest grew more intense with each point. Trading breaks once more, they reached a tie-break.

That's when Barroso showed real grit. Taking control of the breaker, he edged ahead and closed out the match 3-6, 6-3, 6-7 (4), earning his place in the second qualifying round to rapturous applause from a crowd that stayed until the final point.

With its blend of unpredictable weather, standout performances and a lively crowd, the Open Menorca Challenger 100 made an unforgettable start. If this first day is anything to go by, fans in Ciutadella can look forward to a thrilling week of high-calibre tennis on the island's red clay.

For full match schedules and information: www.openmenorca.com