

Men's Challenge Division:

Romania 3-0 England

Hunor Szocs (240) bt Liam Pitchford (126) 3-1 (11-4, 11-9, 9-11, 11-5)

Ovidiu Ionescu (174) bt Daniel Reed (228) 3-1 (11-6, 9-11, 11-8, 11-6)

Constantin Cioti (158) bt Andrew Baggaley (153) 3-1 (11-6, 8-11, 11-9, 11-4)

- England's Men endured a painful defeat against Romania as they missed out on promotion to the Championships Division of the European Championships.

A victory would have taken them into a promotion play-off match with either Ukraine or Hungary but the defeat to Romania ensured there was to be no victorious ending to the team event.

Just like on Friday, both Liam Pitchford and Daniel Reed lost their opening encounters with Hunor Szocs and Ovidiu Ionescu respectively. However, this time there was to be no great comeback as Andrew Baggaley also fell to defeat to Constantin Cioti to resign the team to remaining in the Challenge Division for the time being.

Women's Challenge Division:

England 3-2 Italy

Nikoleta Stefanova (119) bt Joanna Drinkhall (163) 3-2 (11-7, 11-9, 9-11, 8-11, 11-5)

Kelly Sibley (212) bt Lisa Ridolfi (356) 3-0 (11-7, 11-2, 11-7)

Debora Vivarelli (293) bt Hannah Hicks (556) 3-0 (16-14, 11-9, 11-7)

Kelly Sibley (212) bt Nikoleta Stefanova (119) 3-2 (11-8, 7-11, 7-11, 11-9, 11-4)

Joanna Drinkhall (163) bt Lisa Ridolfi (356) 3-1 (11-1, 9-11, 11-6, 11-6)

- England's Women reached the semi-finals of the Challenge Division after coming from 2-1 behind to defeat Italy in a dramatic encounter.

The two number 1s met in the opening match where Joanna Drinkhall (nee Parker) recovered from 2-0 down to Nikoleta Stefanova, only to lose the deciding game 11-5 as the Italians took the lead. Soon afterwards Kelly Sibley levelled the scores with a comfortable 3-0 victory over Lisa Ridolfi, but this was as a result of Italy dropping their no. 2 to position three, which eventually saw Debora Vivarelli beat Hannah Hicks 3-0.

The English women, like the men yesterday, found themselves needing a win every match, but it was a task they accomplished with style. Sibley took the plaudits after an excellent 3-2 upset over Stefanova, while Drinkhall ensured the win by beating Ridolfi 3-1 in the final fixture.

The girls will now meet Sweden in the next round after the Swedes beat Serbia 3-1.