

= 2004 British Open (snooker) =

The 2004 British Open was the 2004 edition of the British Open snooker tournament , held from 8 to 14 November 2004 at Brighton Centre , Brighton , England . John Higgins won the tournament , defeating Stephen Maguire nine frames to six in the all @-@ Scottish final to lift his first ranking @-@ event title since the 2001 edition of this event . In the semi @-@ finals , Higgins defeated Shaun Murphy 6 ? 0 and Maguire defeated Ronnie O 'Sullivan 6 ? 1 . The defending champion Stephen Hendry lost in the quarter @-@ finals . Higgins made the highest tournament break with his two breaks of 144 . The tournament , which has not been held since , was the second of eight WPBSA ranking events in the 2004 / 2005 snooker season , following the Grand Prix in October , which was won by O 'Sullivan . It preceded the third ranking event of the season , the UK Championship .

= = Tournament summary = =

The 2004 British Open was the second ranking event of the 2004 / 2005 snooker season , after the Grand Prix in October , which was won by world number one Ronnie O 'Sullivan ? the 2004 and two @-@ time world champion ? who defeated Ian McCulloch 9 ? 5 in the final . It preceded the UK Championship .

The defending champion was seven @-@ time world champion Stephen Hendry who defeated O 'Sullivan 9 ? 6 in last year 's final . Hendry was still angry at his loss at the Grand Prix to McCulloch , explaining , " The way I felt at the Grand Prix was down to the fact that I know what I ? m still capable of " . The total prize fund was £ 200 @, @ 000 and the host broadcaster was Eurosport . O 'Sullivan was considered the favourite , with his mentor Ray Reardon saying " Ronnie is in the form of his life and looks very close to being unstoppable at the moment " . Although few top players reached the final eight in the Grand Prix , O 'Sullivan said he would not be surprised if they performed well in this tournament .

= = = Qualifying = = =

The qualifying rounds were played between players ranked lower than 32 for one of 16 places in the final stage , at Pontin 's Snooker Centre , Prestatyn , Wales . The matches were best @-@ of @-@ 9 frames until the semi @-@ finals . Highly regarded 17 @-@ year @-@ old Chinese player Ding Junhui , in his professional first season , won his sixth consecutive match when he beat Robin Hull 5 ? 2 . The other successful qualifiers included the likes of Shaun Murphy , Mark Selby , Neil Robertson , and Ryan Day .

= = = Round 1 = = =

The 16 first @-@ round matches were between players ranked 17 ? 32 and those who had made it through the qualifying stage . In this round , Ding took 63 minutes to whitewash 5 ? 0 Malta 's Tony Drago ? who turned professional before Ding was born ? outscoring Drago 463 ? 73 , for his first appearance in the last 32 of a ranking tournament . European Open winner Stephen Maguire defeated Australian Robertson 5 ? 3 , while world number 48 Murphy beat McCulloch 5 ? 2 . Michael Holt , in his first season in the top 32 , beat Dave Harold 5 ? 2 , and Mark King defeated Selby by the same scoreline . Ali Carter whitewashed Belgian 's number one Bjorn Haneveer 5 ? 0 in 76 minutes , while Barry Hawkins prevailed 5 ? 4 over Joe Perry , despite the latter making the highest break so far with a 133 . John Parrott made a century break in his 5 ? 3 victory over Jamie Burnett , while Joe Jogia won four consecutive frames to overcome Joe Swail 5 ? 4 .

= = = Round 2 = = =

The winners of round 1 went through to face members of the top 16 . Ding continued his run ,

defeating Jimmy White 5 ? 1 to make the last 16 of a ranking event for the first time . Ding called the win his most satisfying to date and White commended his opponent 's performance , saying , " He ? s dangerous and he ? s improved a hell of a lot this year " . Elsewhere , Maguire whitewashed UK champion Matthew Stevens 5 ? 0 , outscoring him 427 ? 68 . O 'Sullivan extended his unbeaten run to 12 matches when he defeated Parrott 5 ? 2 , in a match that lasted two hours and 28 minutes and which featured a lot of tactical , disjointed exchanges . He was not satisfied with his performance , however : " I was awful ? if I keep playing like that they 'll have to call the nuthouse to come and collect me " . 1997 world champion Ken Doherty , who was ranked seventh but had slipped to fifteenth in the provisional rankings , defeated Quinten Hann 5 ? 1 , after Hann had smashed the red balls from his break @-@ off shot at 0 ? 4 down , from which he fluked a red and made an 89 break . John Higgins , a three @-@ time champion who first won in 1995 , beat Drew Henry 5 ? 1 , and said he would withdraw from the tournament if his pregnant wife went into labour . Hendry beat Robert Milkins 5 ? 1 , and dismissed suggestions that the loss at the Grand Prix had inspired him to play better at this tournament . Murphy defeated world number four Paul Hunter 5 ? 3 for his second last @-@ 16 appearance in a ranking event , and attributed the win to his happiness off the table ; Murphy ? a Christian since the age of 17 ? said , " My girlfriend Claire is a wonderful woman . We 've become engaged and we 're involved with a tremendous church in Rotherham " . Two @-@ time world champion and world number two Mark Williams ? who became a father in May and had slipped to eighth in the provisional rankings ? claimed a 5 ? 1 victory over Joggia in 89 minutes . In a hard @-@ fought contest , Stephen Lee defeated King 5 ? 4 . The other winners were Carter , Andy Hicks , Anthony Hamilton , Hawkins , Barry Pinches , Holt , and Stuart Bingham .

== Round 3 ==

In the last 16 , O 'Sullivan compiled two century breaks to whitewash Lee 5 ? 0 for his 13th consecutive win and his 9th consecutive quarter @-@ final . Regarding comments he made about his retirement after his previous match , O 'Sullivan said , " There 's no point quoting me because what I say from one day to the next will be different " . Maguire made a total clearance of 140 in his 5 ? 2 win over Ding , while Hamilton defeated Williams 5 ? 3 for his fourth consecutive win over the world number two . Hendry , whose last tournament victory was this event last year , made four breaks over 60 in his 5 ? 2 win over Carter to set up a match with Higgins , who made the highest break so far with a 141 in his 5 ? 3 win over Pinches . Doherty became the fifth member of the top eight to lose when he was defeated 4 ? 5 by Hicks , while Hawkins defeated Bingham 5 ? 4 and Murphy beat Holt 5 ? 3 .

== Quarter @-@ finals ==

In the quarter @-@ finals , O 'Sullivan defeated Hicks 5 ? 1 in a match in which Hicks made a few errors . After the match , O 'Sullivan attributed his success to his mentor Reardon . Maguire made three consecutive century breaks from 2 ? 0 up to whitewash Hamilton 5 ? 0 , setting up a semi @-@ final clash with O 'Sullivan . Maguire won the first two frames on the black , the second after trailing 0 ? 74 and requiring two snookers . Maguire said that he played brilliant , like in practice , and Hamilton said his opponent was a " proper talent " . Higgins defeated Hendry 5 ? 2 in a low @-@ quality match in which Higgins won the first three frames with a high break of 30 . Hendry won the next two with breaks of 66 and 58 , but Higgins closed the match with breaks of 85 and 79 . Higgins said he was willing to risk a possible fine by attending to his wife if she gave birth . Murphy beat fellow qualifier Hawkins 5 ? 3 to reach his first ranking semi @-@ final , with Higgins as the opponent .

== Semi @-@ finals ==

In the semi @-@ finals , now best @-@ of @-@ 11 , Higgins took 73 minutes to whitewash Murphy 6 ? 0 , scoring breaks of 58 , 114 , 57 , 89 , and completing the victory with a total clearance of 144 ,

the highest break so far . The time of 73 minutes was only two minutes slower than the quickest best @-@ of @-@ 11 match ? the semi @-@ finals of the 1993 International Open between Hendry and Dave Harold ? and Higgins outscored Murphy 566 ? 72 . In the first three frames , Murphy managed to score a total of 10 points . In the fourth , Murphy broke down on a break of 50 before Higgins fluked a yellow , enabling him to make a 57 break . He then fortuitously snooked Murphy on the pink , which Higgins potted to make it 4 ? 0 . An 89 break extended Higgins ' lead , before he finished the match with a 144 break . Higgins attributed his performance to a shortening of his cue .

In the other semi @-@ final , Maguire ended O 'Sullivan 's 14 @-@ match unbeaten run with a 6 ? 1 victory to earn a place in the final against Higgins . Maguire made century breaks in the first two frames , becoming the first player to make five consecutive century breaks (including the three made in his previous match) . Maguire won the third on the pink after O 'Sullivan missed the yellow . O 'Sullivan won the next with a break of 51 , before Maguire made a break of 71 in each of the final two frames . After the match , O 'Sullivan ? who had won all three previous encounters against Maguire ? said , " I ? ve never seen anything like that on a snooker table before ... He 's a great player , probably the best in the world at the moment " , and even before the match , O 'Sullivan had described Maguire as " of the young ones , definitely the best " . The defeat meant that Reardon lost the £ 100 bet he placed at 150 ? 1 that O 'Sullivan would win all eight of the season 's ranking events .

= = = Final = = =

In the all @-@ Scottish best @-@ of @-@ 17 final , Higgins defeated Maguire 9 ? 6 for a record @-@ equalling fourth title . Of the victory , Higgins said it was the most important of his career . He had not won a ranking title since his 2001 victory at this event and had lost his previous six finals . It was his 25th major title and his 16th ranking title , and it earned him £ 30 @, @ 000 in prize money .

In the afternoon session , Maguire took the first frame , but Higgins won the next three , compiling a 100 break in the third . Breaks of 72 , 55 , and 76 allowed Maguire to regain the lead , before Higgins took the eighth after Maguire missed a straightforward red to leave it 4 ? 4 at the end of the first session . In the evening session , Higgins took the ninth , before Maguire made two breaks over 50 in the 10th . Higgins then made two consecutive century breaks , including a 144 in the 11th , which equalled his own highest break . He continued his run with a break of 68 in the 13th , before Maguire pulled one back in the next . A 97 break gave Higgins the victory .

All tournament , Higgins had been anticipating the birth of his child and on 24 November , Higgins became a father for the second time when his wife gave birth to a son , Oliver , shortly after his loss at the UK Championship .

= = Main draw = =

= = Final = =

= = Qualifying = =

Qualifying for the tournament took place between 2 and 4 November 2004 at Pontins in Prestatyn , Wales .

= = Century breaks = =

= = = Qualifying stage centuries = = =

= = = Televised stage centuries = = =