



CATHAY PACIFIC DAILY NEWS #5, Fri 9th Nov HONG KONG SQUASH OPEN 2007

二〇〇七國泰航空香港壁球公開賽



Round Two:

End of the line for Rebecca

In the first quartet of yesterday's matches there was disappointment for the Hong Kong crowd as England's Vicky Botwright maintained her unbeaten record against Hong Kong's own Rebecca Chiu, winning in straight games.



World Champion Rachael Grinham found her self in a real third-game battle with Laura Lengthorn-Massaró, saving a game ball before closing it out 10/8, but no such troubles for sister Natalie, who beat Engy Kheirallah in three, or top seed Nicol David, who beat her Dutch stablemate Annelize Naude, also in straight games.

Alison Waters raced to a straight-game win over qualifier Tenille Swartz and Jenny Duncalf made it an English hat-trick as she came from a game down to upset eighth seed Vanessa Atkinson.

There were two five-setters in the women's draw as Natalie Grainger came through an up-and-down encounter with Shelley Kitchen, twice behind but winning the last two game 9/2, 9/2, and last to reach the quarters was Omneya Abdel Kawy, who with Kasey Brown treated the crowd to a real ding-dong battle, the Egyptian running out a relieved winner - "I really can't explain what happened there," she said, "I just thank God I won!"

Top Eight men all through

In the men's draw the top eight seeds all made it through to the quarters, but it was easier for some than others.

World champion David Palmer, Egypt's Karim Darwish, France's Thierry Lincou and England's Lee Beachill all won comfortably, and although Nick Matthew also won in straight games, it took him 80 minutes to subdue fellow-Englishman Adrian Grant



Defending champion Amr Shabana looked in ominous form as he haded out - in his opponent's words - "a spanking" to Ong Beng Hee. The world number one now meets his room-mate Wael El Hindi who needed 96 minutes to face down his training partner Joey Barrington.

Second seed Gregory Gaultier took three comfortable games off Stewart Boswell, but the Frenchman also dropped two in the tie-break.

Men's Quarter-Finals

16.30 [1] Amr Shabana (Egy) [8] Wael El Hindi
15.30 [3] David Palmer (Aus) v [5] Karim Darwish (Egy)

19.00 [4] Thierry Lincou (Fra) v [7] Lee Beachill (Eng)
20.00 [2] Gregory Gaultier (Fra) v [6] Nick Matthew (Eng)

Women's Quarter-Finals:

17.30 [1] Nicol David (Mas) v [11] Jenny Duncalf (Eng)
14.00 [3] Rachael Grinham (Aus) v [6] Vicky Botwright (Eng)

14.45 [5] Natalie Grainger (Usa) v [13] Alison Waters (Eng)
18.15 [2] Natalie Grinham (Aus) v [7] Omneya A/Kawy (Egy)



"From the word go the crowd were on her side, but they were a good crowd, applauding good rallies and my good shots too. Overall I'm pleased with my performance tonight, and looking forward to the quarters now ..."

Vicky Botwright

"I had game ball and match ball in the two games I lost, so I'm disappointed that it went to five, but I don't really care as long as I won, that's the important thing."

Gregory Gaultier