

WORLD OPEN

November 25 - December 1

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WORLD CHAMPIONS UPSTAGED

Round Two, Day One Roundup ...

Between them Amr Shabana, David Palmer and Thierry Lincou - the only previous champions in the draw - have five World Open titles and last night saw all three in action and all three winning through to the quarter-finals.

First up was Shabana, who didn't look his best at the start against Stewart Boswell, and although he recovered well another lapse in the fourth forced to pull out the stops in a decider.

Lincou had to save a couple of game balls in the first against qualifier Jonathan Kemp but from then on was in control, and while Palmer emulated that 3/0 scoreline, Peter Barker posed him many questions in their hour on court.

Those three are joined in the quarters by 36-year-old Alex Gough, who pulled off a second successive upset, this time against Wael El Hindi, and boy was he delighted ...

"So many seeds fell in the first round, it just proves that there's no easy matches now, you have to be focused and careful for every match.



Thierry Lincou

"My shots felt crisp today, much better than last match. I played 5 times better today than last time and after a day off I'll play 5 times better again next time."



Amr Shabana



David Palmer

"Peter's physically good and has lots of attacking ability. I felt a little bit flat at first - he put me under pressure, but after the first game I was pretty much on top.



Alex Gough

Round Two, Top Half:

[1] Amr Shabana (Egy) bt [12] Stewart Boswell (Aus)
8/11, 11/4, 11/2, 9/11, 11/4 (65m)

[6] Thierry Lincou (Fra) bt [Q] Jonathan Kemp (Eng)
12/10, 11/5, 11/5 (32m)

[3] David Palmer (Aus) bt [11] Peter Barker (Eng)
12/10, 11/7, 11/9 (59m)

Alex Gough (Wal) bt [9] Wael El Hindi (Egy)
11/1, 7/11, 11/4, 11/7 (73m)

Round Two, Day Two:

From 18.00, Fairmont Southampton

[7] Nick Matthew (Eng) v [Q] Omar Mosaad (Egy)

[4] James Willstrop (Eng) v [12] Mohammed Abbas (Egy)

[6] John White (Sco) v [13] Azlan Iskandar (Mas)

[2] Gregory Gaultier (Fra) v Hisham Ashour (Egy)