

WORLD OPEN

November 25 - December 1

Issue Eight, Sat 1st Dec



It's Greg and Shabana ...

It will be the top two seeds who meet for the right to be declared World Champion, after semi-finals which saw Amr Shabana depose reigning champion David Palmer, and Gregory Gaultier turn in a stunning performance against Nick Matthew.

Take out an error-strewn second game and this was a commanding performance from Shabana against an opponent who had looked very strong in previous rounds.



Gaultier was no less impressive, outplaying Matthew for large parts of the match before claiming a victory which left Matthew in despair and Gaultier in utter delight.



"It can't get any tougher than that, even though the scores weren't 12/10 every game, every rally was hard, every shot he plays is difficult to get back. Against the top guys your concentration level has to be so much higher.



"In the second I was trying too hard to go for it, I was just enjoying it too much and got carried away playing shots. You have to feel ok when you're in the world open final, it gives you such a rush ..."

Amr Shabana

"I played very well. I had to be at my best to beat Nick, I knew I had to give 100%. "He doesn't give anything up, even if I'm far ahead, he's a great fighter and I had to really fight to stay ahead.



"It's a good performance, I'll enjoy it now but not too much, there's still one match to go. It's a great feeling to be in the final two years in a row. Last year I missed it so bad, but I don't think I'll miss it this year ..."

Gregory Gaultier

SEMI-FINALS:

[1] Amr Shabana (Egy) bt [3] David Palmer (Aus)
11/6, 3/11, 11/5, 11/5 (67m)

[2] Gregory Gaultier (Fra) bt [7] Nick Matthew (Eng)
11/6, 11/4, 11/8 (58m)

FINAL SCHEDULE:

18.30 Ladies Exhibition
Denise Sommers v Leah Bishop

19.30 Endurance World Open Final
[1] Amr Shabana (Egy) v [2] Gregory Gaultier (Fra)