

WORLD OPEN

November 25 - December 1

Issue Nine, Sun 2nd Dec



[1] Amr Shabana (Egy) bt [2] Gregory Gaultier (Fra)
11/7, 11/4, 11/6 (42m)

Shabana makes it three

If Gregory Gaultier turned in a masterclass last night in the semi-finals, tonight it was Amr Shabana's turn as the Egyptian world number one claimed his third world title with a performance he himself acclaimed as "the best I've ever played." Gaultier led 4/1 in the first, but that was as good as it got for the Frenchman. Shabana levelled, then swept ahead, displaying his full arsenal of shots.

The match ended as Shabana followed up some fantastic retrieving by despatching the ball to die in the back right corner. There was no great show of emotion, just raised arms and then an emotional hug with his opponent.

He won Saudi, he won Qatar, he won Hong Kong, he won the Arab Championships. Now, just six weeks after Saudi he's won the World Open for the third time, only the fourth player ever to do so.



"He surprised me at the start, he got into the lead so I had to get back to basics, hitting it straight and cutting out his angles. I got back to 4-all and he got a bit nervous and made a few errors.

"In the second I played like a dream, you only play like that once or twice in your life and thank God I was able to do that tonight.

Amr Shabana



"He played well tonight, I tried to stay with the pace but it just wasn't my day. Even if I wasn't feeling the best I still tried my hardest.

"I felt a lot of pressure on the match, I don't think I should have lost it last year in Cairo so maybe I put too much pressure on myself to win this one.

"But I have, like, eight years, so I hope I can get my hands on at least one ..."

Gregory Gaultier

