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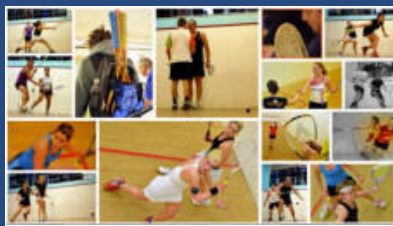
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HISTORY

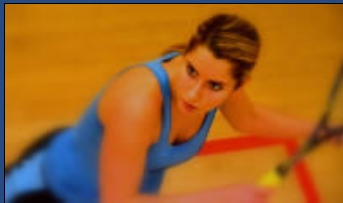


## TODAY in Edinburgh: Day Two, Sat 28th Jan 2012

Steve at ESC



### Photo Galleries



## Down to the last eight at ESC

Not quite so hectic today, but there's still two rounds to play in both the women's and men's events. There's home interest in both, and although Frania and Greg will start as the underdogs, there will be no shortage of home support.

### Women's Quarters:

- [1] **Lauren Briggs** (Eng) bt [5] Laura Pomportes (Fra)  
11/7, 11/7, 12/10 (31m)
- [3] **Birgit Coufal** (Aut) bt Julia Lecoq (Fra)  
11/5, 11/7, 12/10 (27m)
- [6] **Zephanie Curgenven** (Eng) bt [4] Maud Duplomb (Fra)  
6/11, 12/10, 11/3, 11/6 (30m)
- [2] **Orla Noom** (Ned) bt [Q] Frania Gillen-Buchert (Sco)  
8/11, 11/6, 12/10, 11/8 (43m)

### Men's Quarters:

- [3/4] **Shaun Le Roux** (Rsa) bt [5/8] Eddie Charlton (Eng)  
11/6, 4/11, 11/4, 11/7 (54m)
- [1] **Joel Hinds** (Eng) bt [5/8] Simon Parke (Eng)  
11/5, 14/12, 11/6 (42m)
- [2] **Andy Whipp** (Eng) bt Greg Lobban (Sco)  
7/11, 11/5, 11/5, 11/8 (43m)
- [3/4] **Kashif Shuja** (Nzl) bt Paul Rawden (Eng)  
11/9, 11/4, 11/4 (25m)



## French thwarted as Frania bows out in quarters

Quarter-finals of the women's event saw all three French players fall, but there was no good news for the home contingent either as lone Scot Frania Gillen-Buchert also exited.



Top seed **Lauren Briggs** was first through, pulling away from 5-4 in each of the opening two games against Laura Pomportes to lead 11/7, 11/7. The third looked like being a similar story, but the French girl hung in well this time, earning a solitary game ball before Briggs closed it out 12/10.

"The last one became a bit of a battle," admitted Briggs, "I think I stopped volleying so much and she played better, she found a good length on her forehand and put me under a lot of pressure."

"There were some really tough rallies, I was very glad to win one really long one towards the end [to go 9-7 up]. She played well, but it's nice to get another one under the belt."

In the semis Briggs will meet **Birgit Coufal**, after the third-seeded Austrian beat Julia Lecoq in a similar scoreline, 11/5, 11/7, 12/10, although she had to come from 9/3 down in the third, also saving a game ball before taking it, helped by numerous unforced errors from Lecoq.

"I was taking the pace off the ball and lobbing well in the first two games," revealed Coufal, "but in the third she was getting used to it and was waiting for it. It took me a little time to work it out, but it all came good in the end."



*"It's good to finish it in three, especially with another match coming up tonight."*

The third French to fall was Maud Duplomb, the fourth seed, although after she had taken the first 11/6 against **Zephanie Curgenv**, seeded two places lower, and upset didn't look on the cards.

The Englishwoman stormed back though, taking a tough and ultimately crucial second game 12/10, after which in the words of one seasoned observer, Maud's game "just fell apart". Curgenv's improvement had a lot to do with it too of course as she took the last two games 11/3 11/6, but you get the idea.

*"I had trouble finding my feet in the first, I was taking it in short too early, going for cheap winners," said Zephanie. "I needed to change my game plan and make the rallies longer. The second was pretty brutal, and after I won that I think it took something out of her, the third was pretty comfortable and I was able to build a big enough lead in the fourth too."*

*"I'm pleased to make the quarters, it's good to be back in tournament action again, and I don't mind who I play as I'm friends with Frania and Orla!"*

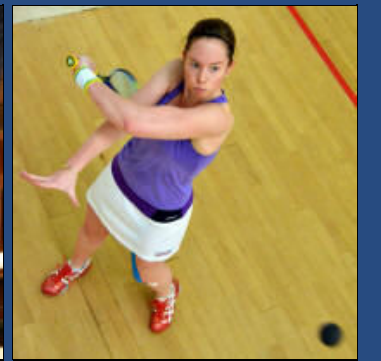


In the semis it will be **Orla Noom** who she faces, the second seed ended home interest with a 3/1 win over Frania, but it was at no point easy as the Scot battled every minute of the 43-minute 8/11, 11/6, 12/10, 11/8 scoreline.

"I didn't know what to expect," said the Dutchwoman, "but she really took me by surprise in the first with her lob serves and I found it difficult to get involved in rallies. Once I managed to get some going I felt more comfortable, but I still thought I was getting dragged into playing her type of game too much rather than my own."

*"She stuck in well though, and I'm glad it didn't go to five, especially as we were running late on that court anyway."*

*The ladies have a few hours - not many - to prepare for the semis which start at 17.00.*



## **Top seeds through to men's semis**

No upsets to report in the men's quarter-finals, and no gruelling marathons either which should lead to some comparatively fresh legs in tonight's semi-finals.

**Shaun Le Roux** was first through, beating Eddie Charlton 11/6, 4/11, 11/4, 11/7 in the longest of the four matches at 54m. To be fair I only saw the last game, which seemed to be pretty even in the rallies, but Eddie suffered from a few too many errors, much to his own frustration.

*"I wasn't patient enough," said the Nottingham man, "plus I'm usually pretty good at using height to break up and slow down the play, but with the low roof on this court you can't do that, I must have hit it at least seven times."*





"He played well and didn't give me a lot, but I'm still really disappointed," concluded Charlton.

"He made a few errors which helped me," admitted Le Roux. "We play a similar sort of game and we've both been playing well and getting some good results so it was always going to be tight, the scoreline doesn't really reflect that.

"But he beat me 3/0 last time out so I'm happy to get the win and looking forward to the semis."

His opponent there will be top seed **Joel Hinds** who overcame former Artemis champion Simon Parke in straight games 11/5, 14/12, 11/6, although the middle one was a real tussle.

"It's great to be able to play against someone of Simon's experience," said Hinds, who lost out in last year's 89-minute final. "He had a lot of support just like Darren did yesterday, I'm not sure they like me up here," he quipped.

In the other half of the draw Mr BSPA **Andy Whipp** shrugged off losing the first game against young Scot Greg Lobban to record a 7/11, 11/5, 11/5, 11/8 win.

"It wasn't too tough physically, but he's quite awkward to play and he came out firing in the first," admitted Whipp. "I wasn't too worried about losing the first and felt pretty comfortable for two games although he made the fourth quite tough."

The record BSPA title holder faces a BSPA baby in the semis as **Kashif Shuja** continued to enjoy himself in his first event, beating surprise quarter-finalist Paul Rawden with increasing authority, 11/9, 11/4, 11/4 in the shortest of all the quarter-finals.



## TODAY in Edinburgh: Day One, Fri 27th Jan 2012

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