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WORLD OPEN SAUDI ARABIA 2010

بطولة العالم للإسكواش فردي (رجال) ٢٠١٠

Thu 9th Dec: Semi-Finals

- [1] Nick Matthew (Eng) bt [3] Amr Shabana (Egy)
11/6, 12/10, 12/10 (59m)
- [6] James Willstrop (Eng) bt [8] Peter Barker (Eng)
8/11, 14/12, 11/4, 11/8 (87m)

Fri 10th Dec, 19.30 WORLD OPEN FINAL:

- [1] Nick Matthew (Eng) v [6] James Willstrop (Eng)



Matthew and Willstrop set up all-Yorkshire final in Saudi ...

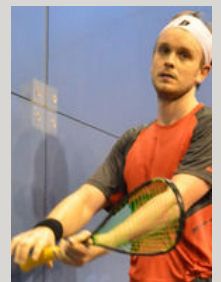
Two dramatic semi-finals at Sunset Beach saw the defending champion go out and a first English World Open champion assured.

Top seed Nick Matthew ended Amr Shabana's hopes of a fifth title, but the 3/0 scoreline belied the closeness of the match.

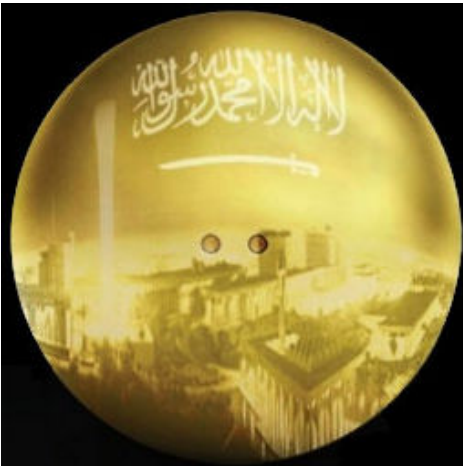


"I just got the belief from being one up, then two up, I just kept pushing and pushing, there was absolutely nothing in it," said Matthew. "So proud to have two English boys in the final, but it's not done yet."

James Willstrop has long held the upper hand over England team-mate Peter Barker, but the Essex man came within a point of going two games up before Willstrop claimed a hard-earned four game victory.



"World Open final, it's what you dream about lying in bed as a ten-year-old," admitted Willstrop. "And for it to be against another Englishman too ... The pressure's all on Nick tomorrow, he's favourite, I'll just try to do my best ..."



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بطولة العالم للإسكواش فردي (رجال) ٢٠١٠

Wed 8th Dec: Quarter-Finals

- [1] Nick Matthew (Eng) bt [7] Thierry Lincou (Fra)
11/3, 11/5, 11/2 (38m)
- [3] Amr Shabana (Egy) bt [5] Gregory Gaultier (Fra)
6/11, 13/11, 4/0 rtd (57m)
- [8] Peter Barker (Eng) bt [4] Karim Darwish (Egy)
11/7, 6/11, 6/7 rtd (45m)
- [6] James Willstrop (Eng) bt [13] Mohamed El Shorbagy (Egy)
11/9, 11/8, 11/8 (50m)

Thu 9th Dec, from 18.00, SEMI-FINALS:

- [1] Nick Matthew (Eng) v [3] Amr Shabana (Egy)
- [6] James Willstrop (Eng) v [8] Peter Barker (Eng)



Three Englishmen and Defending Champion in World Open Semis

The semi-finals of the Saudi PSA World Open will be contested by Egypt's defending champion **Amr Shabana** and, for the first time ever, three Englishmen after a dramatic night at Sunset Beach.

First up, top seed **Nick Matthew** cruised to victory over an out of sorts **Thierry Lincou**. He'll meet Shabana for a place in the final after **Gregory Gaultier** was forced to retire injured early in his third game against the 'Prince of Cairo'.

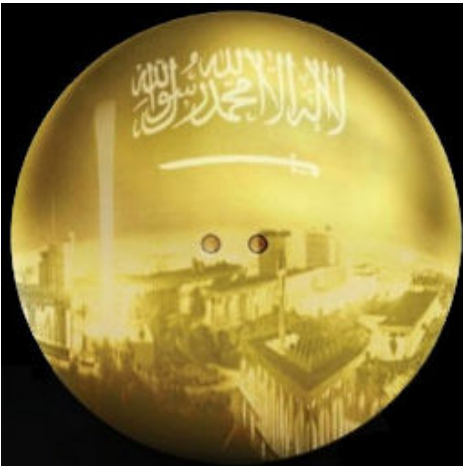
An English finalist - the first since **Lee Beachill** in 2004 - is guaranteed in the bottom half of the draw after **Peter Barker** benefitted from another injury, third seeded Egyptian **Karim Darwish** being forced to concede in the middle of their third game.

His opponent will be **James Willstrop** who overcame Egypt's third representative in the quarters **Mohamed El Shorbagy** in a close three games.



Get well soon, Guys ...





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بطولة العالم للإسكواش فردي (رجال) ٢٠١٠

Tue 7th Dec: Round Three Bottom

- [[8] Peter Barker (Eng) bt [18] Stewart Boswell (Aus)
11/6, 11/6, 11/9 (56m)
[4] Karim Darwish (Egy) bt [11] Wael El Hindi (Egy)
11/4, 11/3, 11/3 (38m)
[6] James Willstrop (Eng) bt [9] Daryl Selby (Eng)
11/8, 7/11, 11/9, 11/7 (80m)
[13] Mohd El Shorbagy (Egy) bt [23] Aamir Atlas Khan (Pak)
11/8, 11/6, 11/8 (33m)

Wed 8th Dec, from 17.00, QUARTER-FINALS:

- [1] Nick Matthew (Eng) v [7] Thierry Lincou (Fra)
[3] Amr Shabana (Egy) v [5] Gregory Gaultier (Fra)
[4] Karim Darwish (Egy) v [8] Peter Barker (Eng)
[6] James Willstrop (Eng) v [13] Mohamed El Shorbagy (Egy)



Barmy Army meets its match?



The calm before the Storm ...

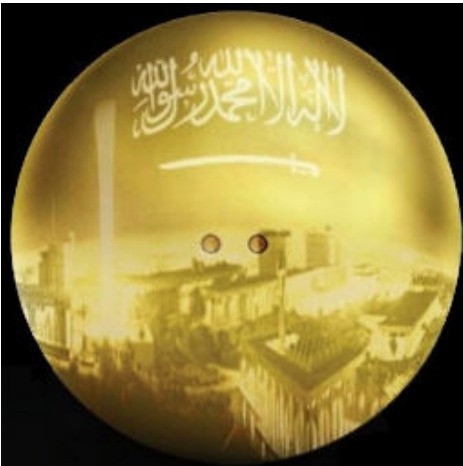
Final eight for the World Title ...

No upsets in the bottom half of the draw last night as **Karim Darwish** - "these are the four most important days of my life" - **Peter Barker** - "I'm in the quarter-finals of the World Open, I don't care who I play" - **James Willstrop** - "I don't think I've ever played anyone as accurate as Daryl was" - and **Mohamed El Shorbagy** - "I've never played in front of a crowd like that" all booked their quarter-final places.

There's a lot of familiar faces in tonight's quarters. Top seed **Nick Matthew** faces **Thierry Lincou** in the Frenchman's 12th consecutive World Open, and there's French interest in the second match too as defending champion and four-time **Amr Shabana** meets **Gregory Gaultier** in a repeat of their 2007 Bermuda final.

The victors of last night's matches meet for a place in the semis in two Egypt v England clashes. In-form Darwish meets Barker while Willstrop faces Shorbagy.

It all starts at 17.00, and then there will be four ...



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بطولة العالم للإسكواش فردي (رجال) ٢٠١٠

Mon 6th Dec: Round Three Top

- [1] Nick Matthew (Eng) bt [24] Hisham Ashour (Egy)
11/8, 11/6, 13/11 (49m)
[7] Thierry Lincou (Fra) bt [16] Alister Walker (Eng)
11/5, 11/9, 7/11, 11/9 (61m)
[3] Amr Shabana (Egy) bt [14] Azlan Iskandar (Mas)
11/4, 11/8, 10/12, 7/11, 11/5 (67m)
[5] Grégory Gaultier (Fra) bt [10] David Palmer (Aus)
9/11, 11/7, 11/8, 11/2 (93m)

Tue 7th Dec, from 17.00, Round Three Bottom:

- [8] Peter Barker (Eng) v [18] Stewart Boswell (Aus)
[4] Karim Darwish (Egy) v [11] Wael El Hindi (Egy)
[6] James Willstrop (Eng) v [9] Daryl Selby (Eng)
[13] Mohamed El Shorbagy (Egy) v [23] Aamir Atlas Khan (Pak)



Quarter-final lineups decided tonight

Day one of the third round saw the four higher-seeded players progress to the quarter-finals, with the matches getting progressively longer as the night went on.

Top seed **Nick Matthew** beat Hisham Ashour - "I just had to ride his good patches and not get frustrated" - and will meet **Thierry Lincou**, who continues to impress in his 12th consecutive World Open - "you can't predict what will happen but trust me I'll be giving everything I can".

Defending champion **Amr Shabana** looked to be on the verge of a comfortable win at 2/0 and 10/6 but Azlan Iskandar fought back to take it the full distance before falling short. Shabana now meets **Gregory Gaultier**, who took 93 minutes to see off two-time champion David Palmer - "I can't believe how fit he is at 34, it just got tougher and tougher!"

Tonight's matches feature three Egyptians and three Englishmen, but there's an Aussie and a Pakistani aiming to spoil their parties ...



Ziggy dives, Ziggy plays guitar ...