

SOHO SQUARE  
**SQUASH**  
CHAMPIONSHIP  
**2009**

26<sup>TH</sup> Oct till 1<sup>ST</sup> Nov

SOHO SQUARE GLASS COURT  
(LOCATED IN FRONT OF SAVOY SHARM EL SHEIKH)



# Daily News

## Mon 26th Oct, Day ONE

### World Squash Stars here in Soho Square

The WISPA tour moves back to Egypt, with the inaugural **Soho Square Squash Championships** set for 26 Oct to 01 Nov in the Red Sea resort of Sharm El Sheikh.

Offering a \$41,000 prize fund, the matches will be played out on the **Soho Square Glass Court** in front of the Savoy Hotel, giving squash fans and holiday-makers alike the opportunity to see top quality squash in a fantastic setting.

Top seed is world number four **Rachael Grinham**, the Cairo-based Australian who recently won her fourth British Open title, with **Jenny Duncalf**, the reigning British National Champion and world number six, seeded to meet Grinham in the final.



Both face tough tests to reach the final though, with Grinham lined up for a semi-final meeting with top Egyptian **Omneya Abdel Kawy**, who won the Hurghada International, just across the Gulf of Suez, in April, and who reached her first major final last week in Hong Kong,

Duncalf, the world number six, is scheduled to meet Ireland's world number seven **Madeline Perry**, who is in a rich vein of form after reaching the British Open final.

Home interested is boosted by Egypt's world championship winning team members **Raneem El Weleily** and **Engy Kheirallah** in the main draw, while the entire lineup of Egypt's World Junior champions - **Nour El Sherbini**, **Heba** and **Nouran El Torky**, **Nour El Tayeb**, **Kanzy Defrawy** and **Salma Hany** - play in the qualifying competition.

First round of qualifying is at the **Laguna Beach club** before action moves to the **glass court from Tuesday**, with the **final on Sunday 1st November**.



SOHO SQUARE  
**SQUASH**  
CHAMPIONSHIP  
**2009**

26<sup>TH</sup> Oct till 1<sup>ST</sup> Nov

SOHO SQUARE GLASS COURT  
(LOCATED IN FRONT OF SAVOY SHARM EL SHEIKH)



# Daily News

## Tue 27th Oct, Day TWO

### Egyptians Excel in Qualifying round one

It will come as no surprise to hear that six of the seven matches played on the Laguna Vista courts were won by Egyptians, especially since four of the matches were exclusively Egyptian, but while some had it fairly easy, others were made to work hard for their places on the Soho Square Glass Court for today's qualifying finals.



First up were two of Egypt's all-conquering Junior squad, **Heba El Torky** and **Kanzy El Dafrawy**. Kanzy looked the part as she won comfortably enough, although Mehman Amr Mahmoud pushed her close in the second.

The second pair of matches saw Heba's younger sister **Nouran El Torky** join her in tomorrow's finals, while **Sara El Noamany**

finally subdued a spirited challenge from Salma Hany, powering ahead early in the fourth after three close games to set up a winning lead.

Nouran was having much less problem with her footing than her elder sister did, and was racing around court, harrying Lucie Fialova into mistakes. "I don't know what's wrong with my game at the moment," said Lucie afterwards.



**Nour El Tayeb** had too much experience for Yathreb Adel on the day – mind you, we're only talking of 16 versus 13 here – while the Greek pair of Eliza Kargioti and Nicoleta Pozidi found that **Irina Assal** and world junior champion **Nour El Sherbini** had too much in the tank. Sherbini goes on to meet New Zealand's **Kylie Lindsay**, who received a walkover.

#### Qualifying Round One Results:

- Heba El Torky (Egy) bt Farah Abdel Meguid (Egy)  
11/9, 8/11, 11/3, 10/12, 12/10 (52m)
- Kanzy El Dafrawy (Egy) bt Merman Amr Mahmoud (Egy)  
11/3, 11/9, 11/6 (25m)
- Nouran El Torky (Egy) bt Lucie Fialova (Cze)  
11/8, 11/7, 8/11, 11/4 (33m)
- Sara El Noamany (Egy) bt Salma Hany (Egy)  
11/8, 9/11, 11/8, 11/6 (50m)
- Irina Assal (Rus) bt Eliza Kargioti (Gre)  
11/2, 11/6, 11/3 (18m)
- Nour El Tayeb (Egy) bt Yathreb Adel (Egy)  
11/2, 11/9, 11/3 (26m)
- Nour El Sherbini (Egy) bt Nicoleta Pozidi (Gre)  
11/2, 11/1, 11/2 (14m)
- Kylie Lindsay (Nzl) bt Haidi Lala (Egy) w/o

Qualifying Finals start at 17.30 tonight



SOHO SQUARE  
SQUASH  
CHAMPIONSHIP  
2009

26<sup>TH</sup> Oct till 1<sup>ST</sup> Nov

SOHO SQUARE GLASS COURT  
(LOCATED IN FRONT OF SAVOY SHARM EL SHEIKH)



# Daily News

## Wed 28th Oct, Day Three

### Egyptian Clean Sweep in Qualifying ...

Day two, and the action moved to the spectacular Soho Square Glass Court, with two Egyptian youngsters guaranteed to make the main draw, and a clean sweep of four a definite possibility.

Heba El Torcky is Egypt's top junior, and top seed for qualifying, but she was pushed to extra points in the fifth last night, and the ever-improving **Kanzy El Dafrawy** pushed her all the way again, but this time Heba couldn't escape as Kanzy won a tough, tense encounter.



Heba's younger sister **Nouran El Torcky** recorded a fine upset win yesterday, and did the same again against Sara El Noamany.

World junior finalist **Nour El Tayeb** took on WISPA's only Russian member Irina Assal, who only took up the game in her twenties and despite a spited challenge had her hands full with 'never say die' Nour.



After all that, Egypt still had World Junior Champion **Nour El Sherbini** to call on, and she faced Kiwi Kylie Lindsay, the qualifying second seed.

Kylie stayed in touch for much of the match, but in the end errors cost her as Sherbini went through to complete a clean sweep for



#### Qualifying Finals Results:

- Nouran El Torcky (Egy) bt Sara El Noamany (Egy)  
11/5, 11/5, 15/13 (37m)
- Kanzy El Dafrawy (Egy) bt Heba El Torcky (Egy)  
12/14, 11/4, 11/7, 8/11, 14/12 (73m)
- Nour El Tayeb (Egy) bt Irina Assal (Rus)  
11/5, 11/8, 11/7 (21m)
- Nour El Sherbini (Egy) bt Kylie Lindsay (Nzl)  
11/6, 11/9, 11/7 (26m)

#### Tonight's Matches (Top half of draw)

- 18.00 [5] Jaclyn Hawkes (Nzl) v [Q] Nouran Le Torcky
- 18.45 [8] Engy Kheirallah (Egy) v Sharon Wee (Mas)
- 19.30 [3] Omneya Abdel Kawy (Egy) v Aisling Blake (Irl)
- 20.15 [1] Rachael Grinham (Aus) v Suzie Pierrepont (Eng)



SOHO SQUARE  
SQUASH  
CHAMPIONSHIP  
2009

26<sup>TH</sup> Oct till 1<sup>ST</sup> Nov

SOHO SQUARE GLASS COURT  
(LOCATED IN FRONT OF SAVOY SHARM EL SHEIKH)



# Daily News

## Thu 29th Oct, Day Four

### Egyptians Excel Again

It was never going to be another clean sweep like the qualifying finals, but Egyptian fans were expecting at least two of their own to make the quarter-finals on the first day of main draw action, and that's exactly what they got.

Two upset wins had taken Nouran El Torky into the main draw, and although she made a



good start against **Jaelyn Hawkes**, the Kiwi proved too strong in the end. **Engy Kheirallah** started favourite against Sharon Wee and didn't disappoint as she won through in three quick games.

**Omneya Abdel Kawy** knows this court, she won on it a few months ago in Hurghada, and that experience told over Aisling Blake, the Irishwoman was unlucky not to take the first but Kawy was well on top after that.

Top seed **Rachael Grinham** is almost an adopted Egyptian, having lived here for several years, so her win over Suzie Pierrepoint probably counts as half an Egyptian win ...



#### Round One (top half)

- [5] Jaelyn Hawkes (Nzl) bt [Q] Nouran El Torky (Egy) 9/11, 11/6, 11/1, 11/2 (39m)
- [8] Engy Kheirallah (Egy) bt Sharon Wee (Mas) 11/5, 11/1, 11/3 (24m)
- [3] Omneya Abdel Kawy (Egy) bt Aisling Blake (Irl) 14/12, 11/4, 11/6 (34m)
- [1] Rachael Grinham (Aus) bt Suzie Pierrepoint (Eng) 11/6, 11/5, 11/9 (24m)

#### Tonight's Matches (Bottom half of draw)

- 18.00 [7] Lauren Briggs (Eng) v Sarah Kippax (Eng)
- 18.45 [4] Madeline Perry (Irl) v [Q] Kanzy El Dafrawy
- 19.30 [2] Jenny Duncalf (Eng) v [Q] Nour El Sherbini
- 20.15 [6] Raneem El Weleily v [Q] Nour El Tayeb



"Today I tried to keep the pace very high from the start, I was pretty alert out there. I like the court, the venue is fantastic, and I'm looking forward to the quarter-finals!"

*Engy Kheirallah*

"By the end of the third the ball was dead and it suited my game much better. "It's a rest day tomorrow, then we'll look forward to the quarter-finals against Jackie ..."



*Omneya Abdel Kawy*

SOHO SQUARE  
SQUASH  
CHAMPIONSHIP  
2009

26<sup>TH</sup> Oct till 1<sup>ST</sup> Nov

SOHO SQUARE GLASS COURT  
(LOCATED IN FRONT OF SAVOY SHARM EL SHEIKH)



# Daily News

## Fri 30th Oct, Day Five

### Top Eight through to the Quarters



With two and a half Egyptians already through to the last eight (Rachael Grinham is the half), tonight saw one more join them. Before that happened though, two English and one Irish made it through.

**Lauren Briggs** and Sarah Kippax matched each other for five

games, and extra points in the decider looked a certainty until Sarah fluffed her lines on Lauren's first match ball.



**Madeline Perry** and **Jenny Duncalf**

both took on young Egyptians, and while it probably won't be long before Kanzy El Dafrawy and Nour El Sherbini will be taking the world's best to task, tonight showed that they're not ready for that yet - but they have time, a lot of time, on their side.



Which left it to **Raneem El Weleily** to score one for the slightly-older Egyptian brigade as she ended the run of Nour El Tayeb.

So, it's the top eight seeds who will contest the quarter-finals, with one Englishwoman guaranteed progress and Egyptian interest in each of the other three matches ...



#### Round One (bottom half)

- [7] Lauren Briggs (Eng) bt Sarah Kippax (Eng) 6/11, 11/6, 3/11, 11/7, 11/9 (65m)
- [4] Madeline Perry (Irl) bt [Q] Kanzy El Dafrawy (Egy) 11/6, 11/6, 11/4 (29m)
- [2] Jenny Duncalf (Eng) bt [Q] Nour El Sherbini (Egy) 11/5, 11/1, 11/6 (26m)
- [6] Raneem El Weleily (Egy) bt [Q] Nour El Tayeb (Egy) 11/7, 4/11, 11/6, 11/8 (35m)

#### Tonight's Quarter-Finals:

- 18.00 [2] Jenny Duncalf v [7] Lauren Briggs
- 18.45 [1] Rachael Grinham v [8] Engy Kheirallah
- 19.30 [3] Omneya Abdel Kawy v [5] Jaclyn Hawkes
- 20.15 [4] Madeline Perry v [6] Raneem El Weleily

"I spent most of the first four games getting used to the court, and most of the fifth getting my legs to work!"

*Lauren Briggs*

"I play another Egyptian next round, so it was good to get some practice against their style of play!"

*Madeline Perry*

"She's a good up and coming player, but you've got to try to keep the youngsters down for as long as you can."

*Jenny Duncalf*

"I felt a little slow today, not really on my toes enough. In the second I was trying to hit the ball too hard, and that just doesn't work on this court."

*Raneem El Weleily*

SOHO SQUARE  
SQUASH  
CHAMPIONSHIP  
2009

26<sup>TH</sup> Oct till 1<sup>ST</sup> Nov

SOHO SQUARE GLASS COURT  
(LOCATED IN FRONT OF SAVOY SHARM EL SHEIKH)



# Daily News

## Sat 31st Oct, Day Six



### Top Four into the Semis

Hardly a stirring headline, it's true, but we had some stirring matches tonight, as the top seeds - of four different nationalities - won through to the semi-finals.



**Jenny Duncalf** started the ball rolling with a comfortable enough win over compatriot Lauren Briggs, but after that we had three genuine "could have gone either way" matches.

**Omneya Abdel Kawy** was Egypt's only victor on the night, and she had to work hard to subdue Jaclyn

Hawkes, who looked likely to create an upset before she tired.

Top seed **Rachael Grinham** won three out of four delicately poised games against Engy Kheirallah, and **Madeline Perry** played very well to dominate most of her match with Raneem El Weleily, but it still went to five games....



#### Quarter-Finals

- [1] Rachael Grinham (Aus) bt [8] Engy Kheirallah (Egy) 11/9, 11/9, 9/11, 14/12 (51m)
- [3] Omneya Abdel Kawy (Egy) bt [5] Jaclyn Hawkes (Nzl) 15/13, 11/13, 11/8, 11/5 (68m)
- [2] Jenny Duncalf (Eng) bt [7] Lauren Briggs (Eng) 11/3, 11/7, 11/6 (29m)
- [4] Madeline Perry (Irl) bt [6] Raneem El Weleily (Egy) 11/13, 11/3, 11/7, 6/11, 11/3 (64m)

#### Tonight's Semi-Finals:

- 19.00 [2] Jenny Duncalf v [4] Madeline Perry  
*Jenny leads head-to-head 8-4, has won last 7*
- 20.00 [1] Rachael Grinham v [3] Omneya Abdel Kawy  
*Rachael leads 16-6, 4-3 since 2008*

"Thank God I got out of it, I didn't play my best, my head wasn't really there today, so hopefully I can put it all together tomorrow."

*Omneya Abdel Kawy*

"The weird thing is I thought I played pretty well, and I felt in control for most of the match, but it ended up being 3-2!"

*Madeline Perry*



"I thought I played ok, I just had to make sure I stayed focused, stay on top and try to get off in three."

*Jenny Duncalf*

"All four games could have gone either way, I'm just grateful that I managed to win three of them!"

*Rachael Grinham*

SOHO SQUARE  
**SQUASH**  
CHAMPIONSHIP  
**2009**

26<sup>TH</sup> Oct till 1<sup>ST</sup> Nov

SOHO SQUARE GLASS COURT  
(LOCATED IN FRONT OF SAVOY SHARM EL SHEIKH)



# Daily News

## Sun 1st Nov, Finals Day



## And so there were two

It was down to the last four on Saturday, with four of the world's top ten still in contention for the inaugural Soho Square title.



First up was an all-British affair with British Champion Jenny Duncalf taking on her Northern Irish rival Madeline Perry. Duncalf has had the better of their recent exchanges, winning seven on the trot, and continued that run tonight, winning 3/1 although it was never easy.

Then it was time for Rachael Grinham and Omneya Abdel Kawy to resume their duel.

They traditionally meet in Hurgada, more often than not in the final, and back in April it was Omneya who prevailed to take that title. She also beat Rachael a couple of weeks ago in the Hong Kong semi-finals, and today repeated that effort in convincing fashion.



### Semi-Finals

- [2] Jenny Duncalf (Eng) bt [4] Madeline Perry (Irl)  
11/8, 11/8, 8/11, 11/7 (49m)  
[3] Omneya Abdel Kawy bt [1] Rachael Grinham (Aus)  
11/7, 13/11, 11/5 (32m)

### Tonight's Final:

19.00 [2] Jenny Duncalf v [3] Omneya Abdel Kawy

*World #6 v World #8, but Omneya has beaten Jenny 10 times, compared to just one win for the Englishwoman, including six consecutive wins since Feb 2008 ...*



"Getting to the final in Hong Kong gave me confidence, but Rachael didn't play then,. Tonight I played the ball deep and volleyed her lobs, stopping her from getting control of the T and playing her drops and boasts.

"My brain was in place tonight, I was able to play the right shots at the right time. I'm pleased with how I played, I hope I can do as well in the final."

*Omneya Abdel Kawy*

"It was a tough match, like it always is with Madeline, I managed to win a few crucial points at the right time which made the difference.

"It will be difficult playing Omneya with the crowd behind her, I'll just look to play as well as I can and see what happens."

*Jenny Duncalf*