



PRESS RELEASE
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CATTANEO BEATS MEN'S EIGHTH SEED PEIFER AT BRITISH OPEN WHEELCHAIR TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

PART OF THE NEC WHEELCHAIR TENNIS TOUR - ITF SUPER SERIES STATUS - SANCTIONED BY THE ITF

Eighth seed Nicolas Peifer became the first seed to exit the 20th British Open Wheelchair Tennis Championships on Monday's opening day of play at the City of Nottingham Tennis Centre, after the Frenchman lost out in three sets to his compatriot Frederic Cattaneo.

Meanwhile, on what was largely a good day for British players in the main draw singles events, Nottinghamshire's David Phillipson was among the domestic successes, the Bingham British No 2 moving in to the second round of the men's main draw after a comfortable straight sets victory.

In the penultimate match of the day to finish, world No 8 Nicolas Peifer made a superb start against Cattaneo, but he was unable to sustain his level in the blustery conditions and world No 14 Cattaneo came back to edge to a 1-6, 6-3, 6-4 victory after an hour and 26 minutes.

Elsewhere, all the remaining men's main draw singles matches were won in straight sets, with top seed and world No 1 Shingo Kunieda (JPN) beginning the defence of his British Open title with a 6-0, 6-2 victory over Brazils' Carlos Santos. Meanwhile, the most comprehensive victory of the day belonged to second seed Stephane Houdet (FRA) and Satoshi Saida (JPN), who both began their challenges with 6-0, 6-0 wins over Sang-Ho Oh of Korea and Richard Engels of Australia.

Phillipson eased past Canada's Joel Dembe 6-2, 6-3 in 38 minutes and he will now play French world No 4 Michael Jeremiasz, who beat Phillipson in last year's first round of last year's British Open.

Scotland's 17-year-old British No 1 Gordon Reid registered one of the most impressive victories of his career to beat Japanese world No 15 Yoshino Fujimoto 6-2, 6-4. Reid goes on to play Swedish six seed Stefan Olsson in the last 16

In the women's singles, Warwickshire's British No 2 Jordanne Whiley won the only three set match of the day, beating one of the highest ranked opponents she has ever beaten. World No 18 Whiley defeated world No 11 Ju-Yeon Park 7-6(3), 3-6, 6-2 to earn a second round contest against Dutch world No 5 Jiske Griffioen.

British No 1 and world No 10 Lucy Shuker secured her second win in three weeks over Italian Marianna Lauro, Shuker edging to a 7-6(4), 6-4 victory that earns her a place in the last 16 against world No 1 and defending champion Esther Vergeer of the Netherlands, who was one of the eight women's seeds to have first round byes.

World No 8 Annick Sevenans also had a tough opening match, Sunday's Belgian Open runner-up eventually edging past Dana Mathewson of the United States 6-4, 7-5. Meanwhile, Australia's Janel Manns won two tie-breaks as she edged through her first round match against South Africa's Nancy Moremi 7-6(2) 7-6(5).

Middlesex's Andrew Laphorne was one of four players to win first round quad singles matches on Monday, the 18-year-old Briton overcoming Sweden's Anders Hard 6-2, 7-5 to set up a second round match against world No 4 Nick Taylor of the United States.

The other three matches came in the top half of the quad singles draw, with American Bryan Barten joining Italian duo Giuseppe Polidori and Antonio Raffaele in the second round, where Raffaele will be the first opponent for Hampshire's two-time Paralympic champion and defending British Open champion Peter Norfolk,

One of the world's leading wheelchair tennis tournaments and one of just three Super Series events on the 2009 NEC Wheelchair Tennis Tour, the 20th British Open has a bumper entry of 176 players and arguably the highest quality entry in the history of the event, which has been held in Nottingham for the past 17 years.

The 20th British Open is supported by Nottingham City Council, Slazenger, Grandstand Seating, Highland Spring, Owen Brown and Audi, as well as the Tennis Foundation and the National Wheelchair Tennis Association of Great Britain (NWTA).

The 20th British Open Wheelchair Tennis Championships continues until the weekend, with the finals on Friday 24th and Saturday, 25th July. Entry is FREE to all spectators throughout the tournament.

Following the British Open, the 25th Invacare World Team Cup, the Davis and Fed Cups of wheelchair tennis, begins at the City of Nottingham Tennis Centre on Monday, 27th July.

For all media enquiries about the 20th British Open Wheelchair Tennis Championships, please contact Marshall Thomas, Press Officer, on 0115 922 7850 or 07880 641 855 or email Marshall.Thomas@btinternet.com.

For any further enquiries about the British Open, please contact the Tournament Office, on 0115 922 8360 or Becky Drew, Tournament Director, on 07971 141 301 or email Becky.Drew@tennisfoundation.org.uk.

Website: <http://www.tennisfoundation.org.uk/disabilitytennis/British-Open-2009/>

NOTES FOR EDITORS

The NEC Wheelchair Tennis Tour originated in 1992 with 11 international tournaments. It has grown into a tour comprising of 150 events in approximately 30 countries around the world. The NEC Wheelchair Tennis Tour concludes with the most prestigious event, the NEC Wheelchair Tennis Masters, a year-end world championship for the top 8 men and top 8 women players. The NEC Wheelchair Tennis Tour is divided into Grand Slam, Super Series, ITF 1, 2 and 3 Series events and ITF Futures events.

With international rankings and prize money, the sport has clearly elevated itself to a more professional level. Tournaments offer various draws allowing all players a chance to compete at a competitive level. The No. 1 ranked male and female players at the end of the year are honoured as the Wheelchair Tennis World Champions during the ITF World Champions Dinner held at Roland Garros.

The primary goals of the **NEC Wheelchair Tennis Tour** are to:

- Provide opportunities for thousands of people with physical disabilities to compete in professionally organised sporting events.
- Offer high intensity competition and excitement for men, women, quad and junior players from recreational to professional levels.
- Give wheelchair tennis players rightful recognition as top sport athletes.
- Increase awareness about people with disabilities throughout the world.
- Create lifetime opportunities for athletes to enjoy and practice a sport with able-bodied and disabled opponents.

For more details about the NEC Wheelchair Tennis Tour, please refer to site:

<http://www.itftennis.com/wheelchair/tournaments/aboutnectour.asp>

For the latest world rankings (the NEC Wheelchair Tennis Ranking), please refer to:

<http://www.itftennis.com/wheelchair/rankings/index.asp>

