

Overview - Aegon International

Formerly the sole domain of the WTA Tour, this year Eastbourne took the place of Nottingham as the final warm-up event before Wimbledon. A new venue but no great change in terms of the assembled field, moderate at best.

In fact, four seeds were lost in R1 as Igor Andreev (No.1) belied top billing to fall to the Canadian, Frank Dancevic, and he was to be joined on the practice courts by each of Paul-Henri Mathieu (No.3), Mikhail Youzhny (No.5) and Andreas Seppi (No.7). In fairness, all four players lost out to decent opposition - Dancevic, Tipsarevic, Benneteau and Ljubicic are all considered more than capable performers on this surface - but that proved little comfort as vital match practice the week before a Grand Slam was lost.

Another shock came in R2 as Sam Querrey (No.6) was knocked out by the Uzbekistani player, Denis Istomin, in three sets and there was a real scare for Dmitry Tursunov (No.2) who was taken all the way by Alex Bogdanovic in their 2'34" battle which the Russian eventually sneaked 7-6 in the third set.

Dancevic, Ljubicic and Tipsarevic all backed up good R1 wins with further victories to each make the QF's where they were joined by the Frenchman Fabrice Santoro (No.4) and Guillermo Garcia-Lopez (No.8). Another one to note was Leonardo Mayer, the Argentine proving a versatile player with a comfortable 6-4 6-4 win over the more experienced Julien Benneteau.

The QF matches proved close run affairs with only the Santoro/Ljubicic match offering little in terms of drama as the Croat retired during the second set with an ankle injury. The three other ties were all settled by narrow margins as Dancevic squeezed past Mayer 7-5 in the deciding set and the Spaniard, Guillermo Garcia-Lopez, also had to go the distance to see off Janko Tipsarevic. Tursunov's victory over Denis Istomin might well have come in straight sets but the favourite only edged it by winning the key points.

By contrast both the SF's were settled in straight sets with both winners gaining their success with a little in hand. Dmitry Tursunov brushed aside Garcia-Lopez for the loss of just four games in 71 minutes and Dancevic took just 13 minutes longer to see off the veteran, Santoro, in another two-setter.

In the final Tursunov proved too good and too experienced for his Canadian opponent. A routine win landed him the title (6:2 in career finals) about which he was rightly pleased - *'winning is always better than losing ... so it's great to get through a week like this and claim the trophy'* he said later. Dancevic beat some good players during the week but this loss meant that he was now 0:2 in ATP Tour finals with both losses coming at the hands of Tursunov!



Aegon International

June 14-20, 2009

Outdoor, Grass - ATP World Tour 250

R32	Igor Andreev [1]	62	R16	Frank Dancevic	76
R32	q-Frank Dancevic	76	R16	James Ward	64
R32	wc-James Ward	66	R16	Leonardo Mayer	66
R32	Victor Crivoi	13	R16	Julien Benneteau	44
R32	Leonardo Mayer	66	R16	Fabrice Santoro	466
R32	Eduardo Schwank	42	R16	Robby Ginepri	641
R32	Julien Benneteau	466	R16	Joshua Goodall	35
R32	Mikhail Youzhny [5]	644	R16	Ivan Ljubicic	67
R32	Fabrice Santoro [4]	66	R16	Guillermo Garcia-Lopez	667
R32	Robert Kendrick	32	R16	Yen-Hsun Lu	476
R32	Andrey Golubev	34	R16	Brydan Klein	61
R32	Robby Ginepri	66	R16	Janko Tipsarevic	76
R32	q-Tatsuma Ito	41	R16	Sam Querrey	664
R32	wc-Joshua Goodall	66	R16	Denis Istomin	376
R32	Ivan Ljubicic	77	R16	Alex Bogdanovic	746
R32	Andreas Seppi [7]	65	R16	Dmitry Tursunov	667
R32	Guillermo Garcia Lopez [8]	666	QF	Frank Dancevic	667
R32	Evgeny Korolev	272	QF	Leonardo Mayer	745
R32	wc-Colin Fleming	663	QF	Fabrice Santoro	34
R32	Yen-Hsun Lu	716	QF	Ivan Ljubicic	retd. 62
R32	q-Brydan Klein	656	QF	Guillermo Garcia-Lopez	636
R32	Teimuraz Gabashvili	371	QF	Janko Tipsarevic	463
R32	Janko Tipsarevic	66	QF	Denis Istomin	64
R32	Paul-Henri Mathieu [3]	42	QF	Dmitry Tursunov	76
R32	Sam Querrey [6]	67			
R32	Paul Capdeville	25	SF	Frank Dancevic	66
R32	Denis Istomin	77	SF	Fabrice Santoro	44
R32	Kevin Kim	65	SF	Guillermo Garcia-Lopez	22
R32	q-Alex Bogdanovic	67	SF	Dmitry Tursunov	66
R32	Ivo Minar	46			
R32	Fabio Fognini	364	RU	Frank Dancevic	36
R32	Dmitry Tursunov [2]	646	W	Dmitry Tursunov	67

	No. Matches	2 sets-3 sets	Ave. Sets/Match	Ave. Games/Match
R32	16 matches	11-5	2.31	22.75
R16	8 matches	4-4	2.50	26.87
QF	4 matches	2-2	2.50	25.25
SF	2 matches	2-0	2.00	18.00
F	1 match	1-0	2.00	22.00

Aegon International - Facts & Figures

Market Leaders	Odds
Mikhail Youzhny [5]	11/2
Janko Tipsarevic[2]	13/2
Sam Querrey [6]	7/1
Dmitry Tursunov [2]	8/1
Ivan Ljubicic [5]	10/1
Igor Andreev [1]	12/1
Paul-Henri Mathieu [3]	20/1
Robby Ginepri	20/1
Guillermo Garcia Lopez [8]	25/1
Fabrice Santoro	28/1
Denis Istomin	28/1
Julien Benneteau	33/1
Evgeny Korolev	33/1
Andreas Seppi [7]	40/1
Robert Kendrick	40/1

Performance Of The Seeded Players

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2009	-	RU	R1	R2	R2	R2	QF	R2
2008	No event held							
2007	No event held							
2006	No event held							
2005	No event held							
2004	No event held							

Recent Winners/Leading Performers

	Winner	Runner-Up	Losing SF's
2009	Dmitry Tursunov (8/1)	Frank Dancevic (50/1)	Garcia-Lopez - Santoro
2008	No event held		
2007	No event held		
2006	No event held		
2005	No event held		
2004	No event held		

Betting - Aegon International

Pre-Tournament Briefing :-

The grass court talent on show this week was solid as opposed to spectacular making Youzhny (11/2) a far from convincing favourite. His place at the head of the market was understandable, in some respects, but there was any number of dangers to him in the top section.

Each of Ivan Ljubicic (10/1), Robby Ginepri (20/1) and Fabrice Santoro (28/1) had scraps of form on this surface and were all viable alternatives, whilst Andreev (12/1) and Seppi (40/1) also merited more than a second glance.

The bottom section was just as difficult to call as Janko Tipsarevic (13/2), Sam Querrey (7/1), Dmitry Tursunov (8/1) and Paul-Henri Mathieu (20/1) were all respected with two of them (Tipsarevic/Mathieu) due to meet in R1.

Overall, a very tough tournament to unravel. Given the draw, past grass court form and general winning ability the best options looked to be Youzhny, Santoro, Querrey or Tursunov ... but such a scattergun approach tends to win more by accident than design.

Post-Tournament Review :-

Tursunov ultimately won with something to spare. However, his eventual route to the title (Fognini - Bogdanovic - Istomin - Garcia-Lopez and Dancevic) was as easy a draw as any winner, of any event, could ever wish for. Given this list of moderate opponents, the useful Russian really *had* to win.

More so as many of the fancied players underperformed during the week, notably Youzhny, Querrey and Paul-Henri Mathieu.

Being a modest event, lesser players were always likely to fare better than usual and Dancevic, especially, along with Garcia-Lopez, Istomin and Mayer all took their opportunity and caught the eye.

Pointers for 2010 :-

When held at Nottingham this event was traditionally won by players ranked outside the top 10, but in the top 50, of the world standings. The most recent examples being Karlovic, Gasquet, Rusedski, Srichaphan and Bjorkman who all had form on the surface or a game well-suited to its demands - as did Tursunov, who had made the SF's at both Nottingham and Queen's before winning here this year. Players to note would be past winners Ivo Karlovic and Richard Gasquet along with John Isner (should the big American play here) and the defending champion, Tursunov.