

Overview - Chennai Open

Compared to the week's other tournaments, this event was by far weakest in terms of strength in depth. That said, the assembled field still produced a fiercely competitive event which provided a number of good matches and noteworthy performances.

Foremost of these was the impressive victory of the Italian, Flavio Cipolla, over Stanislas Wawrinka (No.2) in R1, an excellent win for the Italian.

That was the only major shock of the opening round which saw every other seed advance in straight sets bar Rainer Schuettler (No.5), as the German was taken to a decider by Prakash Amritraj.

R2 provided several shocks, firstly when Nikolay Davydenko (No.1) retired with a heel injury - which was to rule him out of the Australian Open - prior to his match with Lukas Dlouhy. The second surprise came when wild-card Somdev Devvarman despatched Carlos Moya (No.6). The twice former champion was beaten fair and square in straight sets.

Elsewhere, Marin Cilic (No.3), Ivo Karlovic (No.4) and Rainer Schuettler all advanced without dropping a set along with Janko Tipsarevic (No.7) and Marcel Granollers (No.8).

The QF's produced a couple of fine matches as Devvarman recorded another excellent win to oust Ivo Karlovic in straight sets - just one break of serve settling the match. Marin Cilic then recovered from a horror second set against Tipsarevic (when his serve was broken three times) to sneak into the SF's - despite winning 3 points less than his opponent, 82 to 85.

The other two matches went to form as Rainer Schuettler defeated his fellow German, Bjorn Phau, in straight sets and Marcel Granollers overcame the doubles specialist, Luckas Dlouhy, in a close three-setter.

The SF's, by contrast, provided little drama as Cilic eased past Granollers and Devvarman made a first career final, in his native India, as Schuettler pulled out of their match with a wrist injury.

The final was close, Devvarman had chances, however Marin Cilic just had enough composure on the big points to land his second ATP title. The Croat was now 2:0 in finals (Devvarman 0:1). After his victory Cilic said, *'I've been working very hard during the off-season and I'm glad that the work has paid off so fast.'* In winning the 20 year old confirmed the impression that he'll be a player with a very bright future in the game.



Chennai Open

January 5-11, 2009

Outdoor, Hard - ATP Tour World 250

| | | | | | |
|------------|-------------------------------|-------|------------|-------------------|-------|
| R32 | Nikolay Davydenko [1] | 6 6 | R16 | Nikolay Davydenko | |
| R32 | Daniel Koellerer | 2 3 | R16 | Lukas Dlouhy | w/o |
| R32 | wc-Lukas Dlouhy | 3 6 6 | R16 | Andreas Beck | 4 1 |
| R32 | Go Soeda | 6 2 4 | R16 | Marcel Granollers | 6 6 |
| R32 | Roko Karanusic | 1 0 | R16 | Marin Cilic | 6 6 |
| R32 | Andreas Beck | 6 6 | R16 | Denis Istomin | 0 4 |
| R32 | Hyung-Taik Lee | 4 5 | R16 | Dudi Sela | 6 4 |
| R32 | Marcel Granollers [8] | 6 7 | R16 | Janko Tipsarevic | 7 6 |
| R32 | Marin Cilic [3] | 6 6 | R16 | Carlos Moya | 6 5 4 |
| R32 | Alberto Martin | 4 4 | R16 | Somdev Devvarman | 4 7 6 |
| R32 | Denis Istomin | 6 7 | R16 | Ivo Minar | 1 4 |
| R32 | q-Rohan Bopanna | 4 6 | R16 | Ivo Karlovic | 6 6 |
| R32 | Ruben Ramirez Hidalgo | 6 6 1 | R16 | Rainer Schuettler | 6 6 |
| R32 | Dudi Sela | 4 7 6 | R16 | Simon Greul | 4 2 |
| R32 | Pablo Andujar | 3 2 | R16 | Bjorn Phau | 6 6 |
| R32 | Janko Tipsarevic [7] | 6 6 | R16 | Flavio Cipolla | 1 2 |
| R32 | Carlos Moya [6] | 6 7 | QF | Lukas Dlouhy | 5 6 4 |
| R32 | q-Danai Udomchoke | 3 6 | QF | Marcel Granollers | 7 2 6 |
| R32 | wc-Somdev Devvarman | 6 6 | QF | Marin Cilic | 6 0 6 |
| R32 | Kevin Kim | 3 3 | QF | Janko Tipsarevic | 4 6 4 |
| R32 | Wayne Odesnik | 3 0 | QF | Somdev Devvarman | 7 6 |
| R32 | Ivo Minar | 6 6 | QF | Ivo Karlovic | 6 4 |
| R32 | q-Rajeev Ram | 4 3 | QF | Rainer Schuettler | 6 7 |
| R32 | Ivo Karlovic [4] | 6 6 | QF | Bjorn Phau | 2 5 |
| R32 | Rainer Schuettler [5] | 6 4 6 | | | |
| R32 | wc-Prakash Amritraj | 2 6 1 | SF | Marcel Granollers | 4 3 |
| R32 | Daniel Gimeno-Traver | 3 4 | SF | Marin Cilic | 6 6 |
| R32 | Simon Greul | 6 6 | SF | Somdev Devvarman | w/o |
| R32 | Bjorn Phau | 6 7 | SF | Rainer Schuettler | |
| R32 | Santiago Ventura | 2 5 | | | |
| R32 | q-Flavio Cipolla | 6 6 | RU | Somdev Devvarman | 4 6 |
| R32 | Stanislas Wawrinka [2] | 4 1 | W | Marin Cilic | 6 7 |

| | No. Matches | 2 sets-3 sets | Ave. Sets/Match | Ave. Games/Match |
|------------|-------------|---------------|-----------------|------------------|
| R32 | 16 matches | 13-3 | 2.18 | 20.25 |
| R16 | 7 matches | 6-1 | 2.14 | 19.71 |
| QF | 4 matches | 2-2 | 2.50 | 24.75 |
| SF | 1 matches | 1-0 | 2.00 | 19.00 |
| F | 1 match | 1-0 | 2.00 | 23.00 |

Chennai Open - Facts & Figures

| Market Leaders | Odds |
|------------------------|-------|
| Nikolay Davydenko [1] | 15/8 |
| Stanislas Wawrinka [2] | 5/1 |
| Marin Cilic [3] | 13/2 |
| Ivo Karlovic [4] | 6/1 |
| Carlos Moya [6] | 10/1 |
| Janko Tipsarevic [7] | 14/1 |
| Dudi Sela | 28/1 |
| Rainer Schuettler [5] | 33/1 |
| Hyung-Taik Lee | 40/1 |
| Marcel Granollers [8] | 40/1 |
| Andreas Beck | 80/1 |
| Denis Istomin | 80/1 |
| Wayne Odesnik | 80/1 |
| Bjorn Phau | 100/1 |
| Ivo Minar | 100/1 |

Performance Of The Seeded Players

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|-------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 2009 | R2 | R1 | W | QF | SF | R2 | QF | SF |
| 2008 | RU | R1 | SF | W | R2 | R2 | R2 | R1 |
| 2007 | SF | R1 | W | QF | SF | QF | R2 | R2 |
| 2006 | W | QF | R1 | R1 | R1 | R1 | RU | R2 |
| 2005 | W | RU | R1 | R2 | R2 | R2 | R1 | R2 |
| 2004 | W | RU | SF | SF | QF | R1 | R2 | R2 |

Recent Winners/Leading Performers

| | Winner | Runner-Up | Losing SF's |
|-------------|------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 2009 | Marin Cilic (13/2) | Somdev Devvarman (250/1) | Granollers-Schuettler |
| 2008 | Mikhail Youzhny (13/2) | Rafael Nadal (4/5) | Cilic-Moya |
| 2007 | Xavier Malisse (12/1) | Stefan Koubek (80/1) | Nadal-Moya |
| 2006 | Ivan Ljubicic (2/1) | Carlos Moya (11/2) | Vliegen-Stepanek |
| 2005 | Carlos Moya (5/4) | Paradorn Srichaphan (11/4) | Garcia Lopez-Zib |
| 2004 | Carlos Moya (7/2) | Paradorn Srichaphan (11/4) | Schalken-Robredo |

Betting - Chennai Open

Pre-Tournament Briefing :-

Davydenko was the best player in the field but odds of 15/8 implied that the Russian was bordering on a 'cert' to win - and this early in the season it was hard to view him as such.

For sure, he should have cruised through to the SF's but a possible match against Cilic or Tipsarevic, followed by a final against Wawrinka, Moya or Karlovic made those pre-tournament odds appear a tad skinny.

Cilic (13/2) as a recent tour winner (New Haven), previous SF-ist here and a real emerging talent looked a better option. Tipsarevic (14/1) was tempting but as a career maiden - the Serb was yet to win an ATP event - he was slightly less appealing.

In the bottom half, Wawrinka (5/1) with just one career win was another who didn't scream value - the guy simply doesn't win enough events to justify a short price - so the options ultimately rested with either Carlos Moya (10/1) or Ivo Karlovic (6/1). Both were set to meet in the QF's but the winner of that potential match-up would stand a strong chance of making the final.

Post-Tournament Review :-

Doubts about Davydenko proved spot-on, albeit for the wrong reasons. Cilic, however, proved the form students correct as a player with winning ability, previous tournament form and a progressive profile.

The bottom half revolved around the exploits of Devvarman - another example of a native player over-achieving in a domestic event (always watch out for these players). His wins over Moya and Karlovic were hard to knock but maybe suggested that both opponents were flawed, by age (Moya) and a lack of a true all-round game (Karlovic). Would he have beaten a fit Schuettler in the SF's? We'll never know ...

Pointers for 2010 :-

Seeds tend to do well here - in the last 12 years, only Michel Tabara '01 has won as a non-seed. Added to this, the sub-continent conditions tend to appeal to certain players more than others and produce repeat winners and finalists more often than other tournaments. Falling this early in the schedule don't expect too many clay-courtiers to make much of an impression. The view would be to look for players such as Ivo Karlovic, Xavier Malisse or Rainer Schuettler who appear to play here with some degree of regularity and Cilic should he chose to return and defend his title.