



Drinkhall goes out after brilliant win

Author: Paul Stimpson

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Paul Drinkhall picked up a superb seventh-set victory over world No 31 Masataka Morizono at the Hong Kong Open this morning, before exiting in the final preliminary round.

Drinkhall saved a handful of match points before prevailing 15-13 in the decider in their second preliminary round clash, a match which both players led.

He faced China's world No 62 Zheng Peifeng in the next round, the final one before the main draw, and had his chances in a 4-0 defeat which was not as one-sided as the score suggests.

Drinkhall led the first game 9-5 before losing it 11-9 and had chances in the second, which was a 14-12 reverse. Zheng took four points in a row to take the third and clinched it 12-10 on his third match point in the fourth.

[Click here to watch Drinkhall v Peifeng](#) (registration required).

Sam Walker also went out as he was beaten in four straight by Romania's world No 50 Ovidiu Ionescu in the previous round.

[Click here to watch Walker v Ionescu](#) (registration required).

Liam Pitchford, seeded 10 for the event, comes in for tomorrow's last 32 against Ma Te, the Chinese defender who beat him at last year's Bulgaria Open.

Drinkhall & Walker teamed up to beat Russian pair Vildan Gadiev & Kirill Skachkov in the second preliminary round of the men's doubles and will play Chinese pair Liang Jingkun & Lin Gaoyuan in tomorrow's last 16.

Results

Men's Singles

Preliminary round 2

Ovidiu Ionescu (ROU) bt Sam Walker 4-0 (11-6, 11-8, 11-1, 11-9)

Paul Drinkhall bt Masataka Morizono (JPN) 4-3 (11-6, 9-11, 9-11, 11-7, 13-11, 8-11, 15-13)

Preliminary round 3

Zheng Paifeng (CHN) bt Drinkhall 4-0 (11-9, 14-12, 11-7, 12-10)

Men's Doubles

Preliminary round 2

Drinkhall & Walker bt Vildan Gadiev & Kirill Skachkov (RUS) 3-1 (11-7, 11-7, 6-11, 12-10)

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