

Parker and Sibley on course for final

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Joanna Parker and Kelly Sibley remained on course to meet in the women's singles final after both finishing victorious in their respective quarter-finals at Ponds Forge.

Parker faced Karina Le Fevre in the last eight whom she had met in a previous final and just like on that occasion, the England number one was triumphant by a straight sets scoreline.

It was tight throughout as Parker's defensive play meant Le Fevre was always searching for the winners but the top seed's consistency in the end came through as she won two close first games 11-8 and 11-9. By that time Le Fevre was questioning herself and this led to an 11-4 third game.

Parker sealed the win with an 11-9 fourth game following a flowing backhand drive down the line which meant she will now face Lauren Spink in the semi-final.

Spink defeated Jessica Dawson 4-2 in the pick of the quarter-final ties earlier. Dawson had led 8-3 in the first game before Spink pulled back to 8-8. However, Dawson held her nerve to win the first 11-9 and take a 1-0 lead. That was soon erased by Spink who followed up an 11-4 second game with another tight third game when she saved a game point at 9-10 to win 13-11.

Dawson recovered again to level 2-2 with an 11-9 game but Spink had the strength in the end to reach the semis with the final two games going to her 11-7 and 11-3.

In the other half of the draw Kelly Sibley beat Emma Vickers 4-0 (11-9, 11-6, 12-10, 11-8) in an entertaining match with both players attacking from close in to the table but with Sibley using her extra power and experience to take the match. She did well to save the third game after trailing 8-3 to maintain her current status of having not dropped a game in the tournament.

She will play defender Hannah Hicks who comfortably saw off youngster Yolanda King. King was attacking from the outset but with every point returned from Hicks you could see the energy draining from the junior star. In the end Hicks was comfortable in her 4-0 (11-6, 11-3, 11-6, 11-3) win.

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