



Golden Perry reigns in Spain

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Martin Perry teamed up with Raimondo Alecci from Italy to win gold in the men's class 6 team event at the PTT Spanish Open in Alicante.

Perry earlier took bronze in the men's class 6 singles, and there were also medals for teenagers Billy Shilton and Megan Shackleton.

Perry progressed from his group in the singles with two wins from three matches and defeated the Croatian Vjekoslav Gregorovic 3-1 in the quarter-final, but the 23-year-old had to be content with bronze after to a 3-0 loss to Huang Jiaxin from China in the semi-final.

In the round-robin men's class 6 team event Perry and Alecci defeated Sweden and a combined team from Croatia and Japan before clinching gold with a 2-1 defeat of China.

"I feel that I played well," said Perry. "It was a great test to play against the Chinese and unfortunately I lost my semi-final to Huang but another bronze medal is definitely a proud moment.

"In the team event it was certainly a new experience playing alongside Raimondo as we've only ever been on opposing ends of the table but it was fun and we enjoyed it. I feel our styles of play complimented each other well and we were able to get a really good win over China in the doubles after being 2-1 down.

"Also it was even more special because that doubles win was crucial and ensured that we won the final and the gold so it was a great match to be part of."

Shilton took silver in the men's class 8 team event with the Italian Samuel De Chiara having earlier taken bronze in the men's class 8 singles.

The 19-year-old topped his group in the singles and reached the semi-finals with a 3-1 win against the Russian Konstantin Kislitsin. Chinese former world champion Ye Chao Qun proved just too strong in a 3-1 semi-final win and went on to take the gold.

In the round-robin men's class 8 team event Shilton and De Chiara defeated Ecuador and a combined team from Russia/Spain but a 2-0 defeat to the powerful Chinese team in their final match left them with silver and China took the gold.

"I'm very pleased to have come away with two medals and moved a step closer to qualifying for the World Championships," said Shilton. "I feel that my performance in the singles could have been better but overall I am pleased with how I played."

Shackleton took bronze in the women's class 4 singles against strong opposition from China.

The 18-year-old progressed from her group with two wins from three and led Gu Xiaodan 2-0 in their semi-final before the Chinese player came back to take the match 3-2 and went on to win the gold.

"I feel that I've had a really good competition," said Shackleton, "and to compete so well against Chinese opposition and get a medal gives me great confidence going into the 2018 season."

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