

Press Release

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For immediate release

LUCY SHUKER TO PLAY RUBY BISHOP AS LEADING WHEELCHAIR TENNIS STARS PREPARE FOR ROTHESAY INTERNATIONAL EASTBOURNE

British No.1 and world No.10 Lucy Shuker will play fellow Brit Ruby Bishop on Thursday's opening day of wheelchair tennis action at the Rothesay International Eastbourne, the second of two of the LTA's premier grass court tournaments to feature world ranking wheelchair draws in the lead up to The Championships, Wimbledon.

Abbie Breakwell contests the other of Thursday's two women's quarter-finals against China's Zhenzhen Zhu, while Dutch top seeds Diede de Groot and Jiske Griffioen both have byes through to Friday's semi-finals.

Shuker, who finished runner-up in the women's doubles in Eastbourne last year, when Zhu was on the opposite side of the net in the final, will partner the Chinese player this year. She said:

"To have the opportunity to play on the grass in Eastbourne is vital preparation for us ahead of Wimbledon and something that all us players are grateful to the LTA for providing. It's always special to play at a tournament integrated into an ATP and WTA event because of the added exposure for wheelchair tennis, especially in front of a home crowd. There was a great buzz around Devonshire Park last year and after finishing runner-up in the doubles 12 month ago it would be great to win the title and also go deep in the singles draw this year and I'll be doing my utmost to make that happen."

The tournament also features three of Britain's leading players from the quad division, for players whose disability affects three or more limbs.

British No.2 Greg Slade will play Gary Cox on the first of three days of quad singles round-robin matches. Slade will join British No.1 and world No.7 Andy Lapthorne among the entries for The Championships, Wimbledon, next month and Lapthorne, winner of the quad singles draw hosted at the Rothesay Classic Birmingham last year, will play Cox and Slade in the remaining matches on Friday and Saturday.

For further news and Rothesay International Eastbourne updates, head to lta.org.uk or keep up to date with all the action on Twitter @the_LTA or @WChairTennisGB. The doubles draw takes place on Thursday.

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Please credit attached photos to Getty Images for the LTA.

ABOUT THE LTA:

The LTA is the National Governing Body of tennis for Great Britain. We are here to govern and grow tennis, from grassroots participation through to the professional game. Our vision is “Tennis Opened Up” and we’re on a mission to grow tennis by making it relevant, accessible, welcoming and enjoyable. We work with schools, with volunteers, with coaches and with venues across the whole country. We also represent the interests of over 1,000,000 Members, men and women, girls and boys, playing on more than 23,000 courts. The LTA runs and supports a network of 11,500 approved tournaments for players of all ages, the four corner-stones of which are the premier grass-court events leading up to The Championships, Wimbledon: the Rothesay Open Nottingham, the Rothesay Classic Birmingham, the cinch Championships (at The Queen’s Club, London) and the Rothesay International Eastbourne. For further information about the LTA and tennis in Britain, visit www.lta.org.uk or follow us on Twitter @the_LTA.