

Elmer Haya

Philippine pool fans have yet another legend to cheer on at next week's world 8 ball championships in Fujairah, 35 year old Elmer Haya from Molave in the Philippines booked his place in the final stages of this \$240,000 event. This will not be his first appearance at this stage, 6 years ago he faced, a very much in form, Mika Immonen, who took until the 17th rack to dispose of him. No doubt his wife Maryann P.Haya and his 5 children aged between 1 and 9 will be just a few of the many people cheering him on. His previous successes include a win at the Dubai festival which earned him a sponsorship from billiards hot bed, the Champions club in Ras Al Khaimah. His favourite player is Ronnie Alcano and he hopes to emulate his idol and win the title next week.

Shaw

31 year old So Shaw was the 4th qualifier from this week's events in Ras Al Khaimah's masters club. Hailing from London, England but of Iranian descent he qualified through the first West Asian event of the week, coming through a strong field and eventually defeating fellow Iranian Mohammed Ali in the final 5-2. He is now spending a couple of days enjoying the ladies and the food before travelling to Fujairah to compete in stage two which commences on 12th February. His progress through the tournament was not without incident, when the free willing Londoner was asked to produce proof of his identity, specifically his nationality. Cockingly waltzing in, passport in hand, the documents were scrutinised by tournament officials, the final went ahead and So continued to produce to goods.