The sound of winning gallery cow bells rang out at the Tennis & Racquet Club on Sunday, as play in the U.S. Open Singles Championship progressed to the “elite eight,” quarterfinal round.

The breakfast match provided spectators with a battle of “Number 1's,” as Camden Riviere (*Aiken*), the World #1 professional, met Kieran Booth (*Melbourne*), the World #1 amateur. Cam treated the packed dedans to a near flawless performance, pressuring Kieran with an onslaught of efficient strokes. Kieran responded strongly as he sped and powered his way around the court, striking spectacular shot after spectacular shot. In the end, it was Cam’s relentless accuracy that tipped the scales.

The second match of the day featured the World Champion, Rob Fahey (*London*), against Chris Chapman (*Royal Tennis Court - UK*), the hard-hitting pro from Hampton Court Palace. The game started in splendid fashion, with Rob and Chris pushing each other to their playing limits. The crowd’s excitement peaked as Chris matched Rob shot for shot, and squared the match at five-all in the first set. The deciding game of the set, however, proved sobering for the Tennis & Racquet Club faithful. At set point, Chapman was feeling the pressure of defending Rob’s set point of Chase 3. After making an incredible get in the forehand corner, Rob fizzed one into the backhand corner that Chris ran full steam to defend. He realized too late just how close to the wall he had gotten and crashed *head first* into the wall with a sickening thud. The blow sent Chris to the floor and Rob and marker Matt Ronaldson to his side. The crowd was left stunned and concerned. Thankfully, Dr. Anders Cohen, a spectator at the match, was able to provide immediate care, and Chris’s injuries were later determined not to be too serious. He was diagnosed with a concussion. Although forced to retire from the match and the tournament, all in attendance were grateful that Chris finished the day in good health.

The matches continued with an epic four set, three-hour battle between Tim Chisholm (*Tuxedo Club - Tuxedo Park*) and Ben Matthews (*Leamington Tennis Court Club - UK*). These two have faced off several times in the past few years. A chess match, played with a hammer - Tim and Ben evenly exchanged strategic cuts and heavy straight forces. The second last game of the third set warrants particular mention. It went on seemingly forever with something just short of a dozen deuces. Both players gave it their all, but Ben eked it out. The final game of the set couldn’t have been more different, with Tim returning the first three serves straight into the dedans! Ben looked flummoxed. Tim closed it out on a chase and then took the fourth set with relative ease in what most considered the match of the tournament thus far.

The final match of the day pitted Steve Virgona (*Chicago Racquet Club* - *Chicago*) against James Stout (*Racquet & Tennis Club - New York*). Although James electrified the crowd with impossible shot after impossible shot, it was Steve’s steady return game and court coverage that earned him a victory in straight sets. When Steve is on, there is little that can stop him.

Many thanks to Holland & Knight LLP for sponsoring a brunch to go along with our steady diet of excellent tennis.

Now, on to the semi-finals!