

# Mac fumes at smokers

**LONDON:** John McEnroe yesterday appealed for a ban on smoking at the \$250,000 Benson and Hedges Tennis Championships at Wembley here.

McEnroe cruised through to the semi-finals by beating fellow American Steven Denton 6-3, 6-3 in yesterday's quarter-finals.

Several times he asked umpire Ian Stirk to order a no-smoking ban.

"At least get them to put out their cigars — they are worse than the cigarettes," he said.

In this afternoon's semi-finals McEnroe will play 22-year-old Swede Anders Jarryd, who put out the fifth seed, American Gene Mayer, 6-1, 6-2.

McEnroe wanted to enlist the help of both the referee and the Grand Prix supervisor in his attempts to cut down the blanket of smoke drifting across the court.

Denton backed him up, saying: "You can't breathe this side of the net. It's like playing in a London fog."

Twice during the match Denton said: "I can't even see him."

But afterwards he admitted: "I don't suppose we can say too much, for these cigarette sponsors are paying my prizemoney this week."

Despite the complaints there was no appeal to the audience — instead the best the Wembley

officials could do was to switch on extra extractor fans and open the doors.

McEnroe who had been the victim of a slanging outburst from Vince Van Patten on Friday night, stayed cool, calm and collected to win this match pretty much as he liked.

U.S. Open champion Jimmy Connors also reached the semi-finals yesterday by beating fellow American Vitas Gerulaitis

He will play Andres Gomez of Ecuador in today's semi-finals.

Quarter-final results: Jimmy Connors (U.S.) bt Vitas Gerulaitis (U.S.) 6-4, 6-2; Andres Gomez (Ecuador) bt Benrik Sundstrom (Sweden) 6-1, 7-5; John McEnroe (U.S.) bt Steve Denton (U.S.) 6-3, 6-3; Anders Jarryd (Sweden) bt Gene Mayer (U.S.) 6-1, 6-2.