BILLIE JEAN KING CUP

2022 FINALS GLASGOW

BY **→ GAINBRIDGE**

Official Programme

8-13 November 2022

Emirates Arena, Glasgow



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Message from

David Haggerty

PRESIDENT, INTERNATIONAL TENNIS FEDERATION



t gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the 2022 Billie Jean King Cup by Gainbridge Finals, which are being staged by the ITF in partnership with the LTA. We are looking forward to sharing a fantastic six days of tennis with fans in Glasgow as well as a worldwide television and digital audience.

This is the second edition of the Billie Jean King Cup by Gainbridge Finals in the competition's new format and under its new name, after a successful first edition in Prague last year. We have reshaped our women's world cup of tennis so that here in Glasgow, the world's 12 best nations will seek to become world champions over one exciting week.

Formerly known as the Fed Cup, this historic competition was renamed in honour of Billie Jean King in 2020 – a fitting tribute to an individual who, in addition to being one of the game's all-time greats, has been a champion for equality and fought discrimination in all its forms throughout her life. It was the first time a major global team competition has been named after a woman, representing a landmark moment for sport.

After two challenging years, which saw the 2020 and 2021 Billie Jean King Cup competitions combined into one event due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it has been wonderful to see the event back to its best this year, with tennis fans able to return to the stadiums and get behind their teams, creating the unique atmosphere

unlike any other event during the tennis season.

We are particularly pleased to be at the Emirates Arena in Glasgow this week. The venue has played host to several outstanding Davis Cup ties over the years – including two during Great Britain's famous title-victory in 2015 – and we know that Scottish tennis fans will be delighted to have the opportunity to watch some of the world's best women players compete here.

However, Billie Jean King Cup by Gainbridge is about more than the Finals. It is also the story of the 127 nations who took part across six continents in this global tournament that spans three further levels of competition. Indeed, the Billie Jean King Cup Play-offs are also taking place this week, with 16 nations battling to reach next year's Qualifiers and get one step closer to competing for the famous trophy in 2023.

In every match, players take pride in playing for something bigger than themselves, representing their country with the dream of their nation progressing from regional level all the way to Finals. Billie Jean King Cup is a vital tool for developing

our sport in all these countries and delivering tennis for future generations.

I would like to pay tribute to all Billie Jean King Cup sponsors and partners. including our new title sponsor Gainbridge Insurance Agency. Through this partnership, women and men will be paid equivalent prize money for competing at the Billie Jean King Cup and Davis Cup Finals in 2022, which is an important step towards achieving our ambition of closing the gender pay gap at all levels of the competition. We would also like to recognise Microsoft, Tory Burch and Magellan, all of whom play an important role in helping our competition be the best it can be.

Finally, I would like to thank the LTA for their collaboration, and to acknowledge the work of everyone involved in organising this event. Thank you also to the players, captains and national tennis associations who give so much to making the Billie Jean King Cup such a special competition throughout the year.

Billie Jean King Cup by Gainbridge has a unique role in international tennis, and we hope you enjoy watching it as much as we do.

Enjoy the tennis!

David Haggerty

ITF PRESIDENT | IOC MEMBER



Message from Scott Lloyd CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER LITA

n behalf of the LTA, welcome to Glasgow for the 2022 Billie Jean King Cup by Gainbridge Finals.

We're proud to be able to host this event in Scotland and delighted to be working with the ITF on delivering such an important moment in the annual tennis calendar.

The recent growth in all women's sport and its increased visibility across the media has been very welcome, however it is worth remembering that tennis has one of the longest traditions of female participation.

Maud Watson won the first ever ladies singles event at the Championships in Wimbledon in 1884, whilst the first women to represent Great Britain at tennis was Charlotte Cooper in 1900, who won Gold in the women's singles and mixed doubles at the 1900 Olympics Games in Paris. In winning the women's tennis singles title, Charlotte became the first female athlete to win Olympic gold in an individual event.

No doubt these champions acted as role models to girls

at the time, and we hope all the players taking part this week will help inspire the next generation of players from across Scotland and Britain, many of whom may be just starting out on their tennis journey.

At the LTA we believe that women and girls should be at the heart of our sport, and whilst we have one of the most gender balanced sports there is still more to do. That is why earlier this year we launched our 'She Rallies' ambition to make sure tennis becomes even more relevant, accessible, welcoming and enjoyable for women and girls.

There are three areas we are focussing our work around:

Participation: Targeted activity to drive increased participation in tennis among women and girls, with a focus on key age groups

Workforce: Provide the support and opportunities needed for more women to join the tennis workforce, and supporting the whole workforce to better understand and cater for female needs

Visibility: Inspiring women and girls through increased and better female representation, driving greater visibility of women's tennis reflective of its status as a leading women's sport

You can read more about our activity elsewhere in the programme, but hosting events such as the Billie Jean King Cup Finals helps us promote women's tennis, bring new fans into the sport, and champion the female players, coaches, employees, and volunteers we have working in the sport right now.

If you'd like to find out more about how you can get involved in tennis, then just visit the LTA website for more information.

Finally I'd like to wish good luck to all the competing players and thank everyone who has worked so hard to make this event a reality over the past five months, particularly our partners at the ITF, Glasgow Life and Event Scotland.

I hope you enjoy your day

Scott Lloyd

CEO, LTA

Welcome to the Billie Jean King Cup by Gainbridge Finals

elcome to Glasgow and the 2022 Billie Jean King Cup by Gainbridge Finals. On behalf of Gainbridge, our parent company Group 1001, and our employees, we are honored to team up for this prestigious global event, bringing together the world's best tennis players.

Established in 1963 as the Federation Cup (then Fed Cup), the Billie Jean King Cup — the women's World Cup of Tennis — is the largest annual international women's team competition in sport.

Gainbridge is an online platform offering an innovative digital approach that gives access to trusted financial products wherever you are, whenever you want. Together, with the help of the International Tennis Federation, we continue our shared commitment to elevating and growing women's sports. In view of that goal, this year's prize money will parallel that of the men's World Cup of Tennis prize allotment.

Our partnership will also provide further support for the ITF's Advantage All program, which focuses on developing and maintaining tennis as an equal advantage sport for all.

Rooted in our business model is a fundamental responsibility to ignite transformative change in communities by aligning with organizations and causes that furnish opportunities for women and girls of all ages through education and sports.

As we kick off this year's Billie Jean King Cup Finals, we offer special congratulations to the teams who worked so hard to get here and for paving the way for the next generation of players.



Dan Towriss

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER &
PRESIDENT | GROUP 1001

Welcome

THE BIG WEEK IS HERE.

It is once again time for players from across the globe to wear their national team colours with pride as they play for the biggest prize at the Billie Jean King Cup by Gainbridge Finals, the women's World Cup of Tennis.

At the 2021 Finals in Prague, the first Finals under the competition's new name and format, we witnessed a global sports competition that was compelling and captivating.

It was a thrill to see the world's top-ranked players, major champions, Olympic medallists and emerging talent representing their nations.

Now comes the moment for the teams to gather in Glasgow, with their eyes on a place in the history books.

This tournament has provided many memories and career highs during its 59-year history, whether it be under the Billie Jean King Cup banner or Fed Cup and its previous incarnations.

It is an integral part of the annual tennis schedule and an important part of the qualifying process for the Olympics.

Some of the teams competing this week – Australia, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland and USA – competed at the 2021 Finals.

Meanwhile, it is a first appearance at the Finals for our hosts Great Britain, as well as Italy, Kazakhstan and Poland.

Thanks to the commitment of sponsors who invest in women's sports, we can continue to set the bar as the leader on what's possible when women's sports are given the same amount of financial, emotional, and time investment as men's sports.

This week is not just about the competition. It's about building relationships on and off the court.

I wish all the nations, athletes and their support teams the best.

Be bold, represent your nation with pride and passion but, above all, love it and go for it!

Here's to a great week at the World Cup of Tennis.

BILLIE JEAN KING

Born: 22 November 1943 Birthplace: Long Beach CA, USA

AUSTRALIAN OPEN:

1 singles (1968)

1 mixed doubles (1968)

ROLAND GARROS:

1 singles (1972)

1 doubles (1972)

2 mixed doubles (1967, 1970)

WIMBLEDON:

6 singles (1966, 1967, 1968, 1972, 1973, 1975) 10 doubles (1961, 1962, 1965, 1967, 1968, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1979)

4 mixed doubles (1967, 1971, 1973, 1974)

US OPEN:

4 singles (1967, 1971, 1972, 1974)

5 doubles (1964, 1967, 1974, 1978, 1980)

4 mixed doubles (1967, 1971, 1973, 1976)

BILLIE JEAN KING CUP RECORD:

Ties played: 36 (1963-1979)

Singles W/L: 26-3 Doubles W/L: 26-1

Overall W/L: 52-4

7 titles as a player

(1963, 1966, 1967, 1976*, 1977, 1978, 1979)

4 titles as captain

(1976*, 1996, 1999, 2000)

*as player-captain

CAREER ACCOLADES

1967: Named Associated Press Female Athlete of the Year (also 1973)

1970: Member of Original 9 that formed the Virginia Slims tour

1971: First female athlete to win \$100,000 prize money in a single season

1972: First woman, first tennis player named Sports Illustrated Sportsperson of the Year

1972: Wins singles, doubles and mixed doubles titles at Wimbledon

1973: Founded Women's Tennis Association

1973: Defeated Bobby Riggs in Battle of the Sexes

1976: Named Time Magazine Woman of the Year **1979:** Wins record 20th Wimbledon title (now shared with Martina Navratilova)

1980: Wins 39th and last Grand Slam title at US Open

1987: Inducted into International Tennis Hall of Fame

1990: Named in Life Magazine 100 Most Important Americans of the 20th Century

2003: Received ITF's Philippe Chatrier Award

2006: Dedication of USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center

2009: Awarded Presidential Medal of Freedom by Barack Obama

2019: Named Fed Cup Ambassador

2020: Fed Cup is renamed Billie Jean King Cup in her honour







BILLIE JEAN KING CUP BY GAINBRIDGE FINALS **2022 FORMAT**

The 12 teams at the Billie Jean King Cup by Gainbridge Finals are divided into four groups of three teams and will contest ties in a round-robin format from Tuesday to Friday.

The four group winners will advance to the semifinals, to be played on Saturday, with the winning teams to progress to the Billie Jean King Cup Final on Sunday.

The 12 teams have qualified as follows:

- Switzerland (as 2021 runner-up)
- Australia
 Australia

(as highest-ranked 2021 semi-finalist they took the place of the suspended 2021 champions Russian Tennis Federation)

- Slovakia
 (received a bye in the Qualifiers as they were due to play Australia)
- Belgium (defeated Belarus by walkover after the Belarusian Tennis Federation was suspended from international team competitions)
- Canada, Czech Republic, Italy, Kazakhstan, Poland, Spain and USA (Qualifier winners)
- Great Britain (host nation)

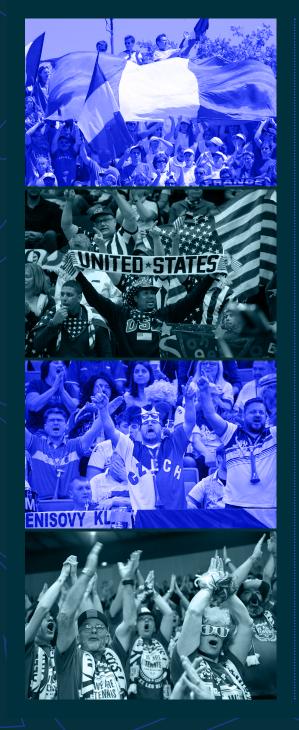
Four of the first five days sees ties in the morning session begin at 10:00 GMT with ties in the evening session not beginning before 16:00.

On Friday 11 November, Armistice Day, play will begin just over one hour later to accommodate the two-minute silence at 11:00 GMT.

The semi-finals will both be played on **Saturday 12 November** (reverting back to 10:00 and 16:00 GMT start times) with the **2022 Billie Jean King Cup** final to begin at **14:00 GMT** on **Sunday 13 November**.

All ties will feature two singles matches followed by a doubles match. Singles matches will be played as best-of-three tiebreak sets, with doubles matches played with no-ad scoring and with a match tiebreak played as the third set.





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BJK CUP NATIONS RANKING: No.1 CAPTAIN:



NOMINATED PLAYERS:

Ajla Tomljanovic Priscillia Hon Storm Sanders Ellen Perez Samantha Stosur





Australia



RECORD

Australia sit third on the all-time champions list having won the title seven times - in 1964, 1965, 1968, 1970, 1971, 1973 and 1974. They are one of only four nations to have competed in every year of the competition's history.

QUALIFYING

Australia advanced directly into the Billie Jean King Cup Finals following the suspension of the 2021 champions Russia and Belarus. The place was awarded to Australia as they were the highest-ranked team to exit in the 2021 edition - they fell to Switzerland in the semifinals.

TALKING POINT

Ajla Tomljanovic will lead Australia once again following the retirement of former world No.1 Ashleigh Barty in March 2022.

Team captain Alicia Molik has trust in her side to continue on from last year's performance, she said: "We had a fantastic result last year, reaching the semifinals, with some incredible victories and upsets from our Aussie team, and we hope we can take it another step this year and perform to our team's strength in Glasgow."

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The Aussies will have a blend of experience and youthful exuberance as stalwart Sam Stosur and 16-year-old Taylah Preston will both make the trip to Glasgow.

"Sam Stosur has been a reliable player representing Australia since 2003, and has had a few strong results this year," added Molik.

"We are also looking forward to welcoming Taylah Preston to experience the environment of Billie Jean King Cup."



BJK CUP NATIONS RANKING: No.14 CAPTAIN: Johan Van Herck



NOMINATED
PLAYERS:
Elise Mertens
Alison Van
Uytvanck
Maryna Zanevska
Ysaline
Bonaventure
Kirsten Flipkens





Belgium



RECORD

Led by Justine Henin and Kim Clijsters, Belgium won their first and only title to date in 2001 and last reached the final in 2006. They haven't made the semi-finals since 2011.

QUALIFYING

Due to the suspension of the Russia Tennis Federation (RTF) and Belarus Tennis Federation (BTF), Belgium received a walkover in their qualifier tie with Belarus and qualified for the 2022 Billie Jean King Cup.

TALKING POINT

Former world No.1 in doubles Elise Mertens will spearhead Belgium's charge for the second successive Finals. Mertens won her first title of the season in Monastir in October and will hope to deliver the same vein of form in Glasgow.

Team Belgium's longestserving player, Kirsten Flipkens, will represent her country for an 18th year having made her debut in 2003. The most successful player in Belgium's history is Sabine Applemans, who won 25 singles matches and 32 matches in total during her successful Billie Jean King Cup career.

Belgium made their debut in this competition in 1963 and will aim to cause a few upsets in Glasgow.





BJK CUP NATIONS RANKING: No.6

CAPTAIN: Sylvain Bruneau



NOMINATED PLAYERS:

Bianca Andreescu Leylah Fernandez Gabriela Dabrowski Rebecca Marino Carol Zhao





Canada



RECORD

Canada's best performances have been reaching the semifinals, in 1988, and the quarterfinals on three occasions, in 1964, 1967 and 1987.

QUALIFYING

Canada booked their place at the 2022 Billie Jean King Cup

by Gainbridge Finals with a rousing 4-0 victory over Latvia in April's Qualifier at the Pacific Coliseum in Vancouver.

2021 US Open runner-up Leylah Fernandez was the star of the show as the 20-year-old recorded two singles victories over Darja Semenistaja and Daniela Vismane to fire Canada into an unassailable lead.

TALKING POINT

2019 US Open champion Bianca Andreescu is set to play her first Billie Jean King Cup tie for Canada at the Finals in more than three-and-a-half years, having last featured against Netherlands in February 2019.

Allied to Leylah Fernandez's recovery from her troublesome foot injury, Andreescu's return to national service provides Canada with an intriguing one-two which has the potential to pack a mighty punch. The stage is set.

But whatever happens longer-term, a victory in the group stage would hand Canada a little bit of history. Drawn in Group A alongside top seeds Switzerland and Italy (the team finishing top will progress to the semifinals), Canada have not beaten either nation in Billie Jean King Cup this century.

That said, Canada have not faced Italy since 1995 when they won 3-2 in Ancona, although a win against Switzerland would end a two-tie losing streak dating back to 1994.

BJK CUP NATIONS RANKING:

No.4

CAPTAIN: Petr Pala



NOMINATED PLAYERS:

Barbora Krejcikova Karolina Pliskova Katerina Siniakova Marketa Vondrousova

Czech Republic



RECORD

The Czechs have won the title on 11 occasions - in 1975, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1988, 2011, 2012, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2018 - they occupy second place in the all-time winners list. Czech Republic have been the dominant force this century having won six titles, all of which came in an eight-year period (2011-2018). They also boast the best final record, having won 11 of the 12 finals they've played in.

OUALIFYING

The 11-time champions secured qualification over this year's hosts Great Britain as they conquered the Brits 3-2 on home soil. Marketa Vondrousova carried her country through, winning both of her singles matches, dropping just three games across both ties. A less-than full strenath Czech Republic won the decidina doubles encounter with Vondrousova and Karolina Muchova defeating the pairing of Harriet Dart and Katie Swan in straight sets.

TALKING POINT

Only the USA (12) have more players in the WTA top-100 than Czech Republic (8) as the deep talent pool in Eastern Europe continues to grow.

Such is the depth in the region, the country will be aiming to defend their junior Billie Jean King Cup title a week before the senior side compete in Glasgow.

Captain Petr Pala will no doubt have tossed and turned in his sleep over his selection, but his nominated four look ready to take on any and all comers. Not only does Pala's team possess quality on-court, but their ranks are bolstered by three

6671

former champions - Barbora Krejcikova, Karolina Pliskova and Katerina Siniakova.

The last time Czech Republic were crowned champions, then 22-year-old Siniakova stepped up and delivered her nation's first victory over USA in over 35 years - a feat they will hope to repeat in their group decider on Friday II November. Vondrousova's inclusion can be put down to her remarkable efforts in April to see off the challenge of Great Britain.

Under Pala's stewardship, he has overseen six titles across his 14 years in charge and remains a stalwart figure in Czech tennis.





BJK CUP NATIONS RANKING: No.17 CAPTAIN:



NOMINATED PLAYERS: Harriet Dart Heather Watson Katie Boulter Alicia Barnett Olivia Nicholls



Great Britain



RECORD

Great Britain has reached the final of the competition in 1967, 1970, 1972 and 1981, but the hosts have never won the trophy.

QUALIFYING

As hosts, Great Britain were assured of a place in the 12-team final line-up. They came close to

qualifying for the finals directly after a fine team performance against the Czech Republic in Prague last April. A win apiece for Emma Raducanu and Harriet Dart cancelled out two singles victories for Marketa Vondrousova, with Karolina Muchova and Vondrousova beating Dart and Katie Swan in the deciding doubles.

TALKING POINT

Great Britain team captain believes this week in Glasgow can be a great advert for women's tennis, as she is relishing the chance to play in front of a British crowd.

"This is a strong squad for the Billie Jean King Cup Finals and we are keen to finish the year on a high in front of the passionate crowds in Glasgow," said British captain, Keothavong. "All our players have experience in the competition and great memories of playing for GB.

"This is a fantastic opportunity to build the profile of women's tennis and focus attention on women's sport. The entire team are very excited about playing in front of a home crowd and

hearing some loud support across the whole week."

Harriet Dart stated: "It's an honour to be part of the first British team to compete in the Finals and even more so that it's going to be in front of a home crowd in Glasgow. I think we've got one of the strongest teams we've had in a long time, and we can't wait to show the fans what we're made of.

"We've shown earlier this year that we can compete with the best countries in the world, so we're ready to leave everything out there on the court, and we are all really excited to get started against Kazakhstan on the opening day."



BJK CUP NATIONS RANKING: No.12 CAPTAIN: Tathiana Garbin



NOMINATED PLAYERS:

Martina Trevisan Camila Giorgi Lucia Bronzetti Jasmine Paolini Elisabetta Cocciaretto





Italy



RECORD

The Italians are one of only four nations to compete in every edition of the Billie Jean King Cup and have been crowned champions four times (2006, 2009, 2010 and 2013). Since their title-winning reign, the Italians have made one semifinal berth in nine years. A victory in the 2022 edition would see them join Spain and Russia on five titles

QUALIFYING

Italy booked their place at the Billie Jean King Cup by Gainbridge Finals after seeing off 2019 champions France 3-1 in Sardinia. Camila Giorgi put the French side to the sword, dropping five games in her two singles matches to secure Italy's spot in the Finals. The Italians descend on Glasgow in fine form having won their last six ties.

TALKING POINT

Captain Tathiana Garbin's hopes are bolstered by the depth in her side, as Italy are the only team at the Finals with all five players ranked inside the top 100.

The Italians find themselves drawn into a difficult group with 2021 runners-up Switzerland and Canada, but their passion and belief has not wavered.

"I know they care about doing well and are always

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super motivated. For them taking the field with the blue shirt is something unique, they feel it a lot," said Garbin.

"I am proud of the path made by them in the last two years. Thanks to their commitment, we are back in the elite of the most important event for national teams in the world. It is a difficult group, but I am confident that my girls can find additional resources."

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BJK CUP NATIONS RANKING: No.9

CAPTAIN: Yaroslava Shvedova



NOMINATED PLAYERS:

Elena Rybakina Yulia Putintseva Zhibek Kulambayeva Anna Danilina





Kazakhstan



RECORD

Kazakhstan made their tournament debut in 1995. In their 27 years of competition history, joint-fewest tournament appearances alongside Slovakia, their best two performances came in 2013 and 2017 where they reached the World Group II play-offs.

QUALIFYING

Team Kazakhstan cemented their place at the 2022 Billie Jean King Cup finals after beating two-time champions Germany in Nur-Sultan. Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina beat Laura Siegemund and three-time Grand Slam champion Angelique Kerber in three sets to send Kazakhstan to the Finals.

TALKING POINT

Yaroslava Shvedova's team may not boast swathes of experience with 40 matches between them in the Billie Jean King Cup, but their singles and doubles line up will provide a formidable test for Spain and Great Britain in Group C.

Kazakhstan's hopes of a maiden Billie Jean King Cup crown will rest on the shoulders of Rybakina who became the first person to deliver a Grand Slam title to Kazakhstan and she will aim to bring more success to the country. 5591

The 23-year-old believes the support of her nation will buoy her on, she said: "We found each other, and at the end of the day I am very happy that my journey continues with Kazakhstan. The history is happening together thanks to Kazakhstan.

"I felt your support all throughout the tournaments," she told an adoring crowd in Astana following her Wimbledon triumph.



BJK CUP NATIONS RANKING: No.15

CAPTAIN: Dawid Celt



NOMINATED PLAYERS:

Magda Linette Magdalena Frech Katarzyna Kawa Martyna Kubka Alicja Rosolska





Poland



RECORD

Poland's first appearance came in 1966. In 1992, the nation reached the quarterfinals and in 2015 they competed in the World Group first round. The 2022 edition in Glasgow will mark Poland's Finals debut.

QUALIFYING

Poland cemented a maiden finals appearance after easing past Romania in a comprehensive 4-0 victory. Spurred on by the brilliance of Iga Swiatek, the threetime Grand Slam champion served up three bagels in her two singles contests to see Poland advance to their first-ever Finals.

TALKING POINT

Magda Linette will lead Poland in their debut appearance at the Billie Jean King Cup by Gainbridge Finals on 8-13 November.

Madgalena Frech, Katarzyna Kawa, Martyna Kubka and doubles expert Alicja Rosolska complete their line up for the finale of the women's world cup of tennis in Glasgow.

Though Dawid Celt's team will feel the notable absence of Iga Swiatek (due to scheduling concerns following the WTA Finals the previous week), his team will hope to rise to the occasion as heavy underdogs in Group C.

Polish tennis has been on the rise in recent years and there is big excitement back home ahead of their maiden appearance in the finals.





BJK CUP NATIONS RANKING: No.8 CAPTAIN: Matej Liptak



NOMINATED PLAYERS:
Anna Karolina

Anna Karolina Schmiedlova Viktoria Kuzmova Rebecca Sramkova Tereza Mihalikova Renata Jamrichova





Slovakia



RECORD

Slovakia were crowned champions in 2002 in their first and only final appearance after they defeated Spain 3-1 following an inspired performance by a thenemerging Daniela Hantuchova. Slovakia's best recent showing was a semifinal run in 2013.

QUALIFYING

Following the suspension of the Russian Tennis Federation and Belarussian Tennis Federation, Australia took the place of the RTF. The scheduled qualifiers tie which would have seen Slovakia face the Aussies was cancelled and subsequently Slovakia were placed directly into the Finals in Glasgow.

TALKING POINT

Slovakia's push for a second Billie Jean King Cup crown will be spearheaded by Viktoria Kuzmova who has delivered seven-straight singles wins for the Slovaks. Following a debut singles rubber defeat, the 24-yearold has beaten the likes of Aryna Sabalenka, Beatriz Haddad Maia and Shelby Rogers to cement the Slovaks as plucky underdogs.

Captain Matej Liptak handed Renata Jamrichova a golden 66YY

opportunity for her first taste of Billie Jean King Cup action. The 15-year-old has already delivered in her national colours, winning gold in the singles and mixed doubles at the European Youth Olympic Festival earlier this year.

If Liptak plays Jamrichova in Glasgow, she will become the youngest Slovakian to feature in the competition - surpassing Dominika Cibulkova who was aged 16 years and 65 days.



BJK CUP NATIONS RANKING: No.3

CAPTAIN: Anabel Medina Garrigues



NOMINATED PLAYERS:

Paula Badosa Nuria Parrizas-Diaz Cristina Bucsa Aliona Bolsova Rebeka Masarova





Spain



RECORD

Spain are fourth on the all-time winners list (tied with Russia) having won the title five times - in 1991, 1993, 1994, 1995 and 1998. All of Spain's title wins came during the 1990s where Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and Conchita Martinez dominated the Billie Jean King Cup landscape. Team Spain's last voyage to the final came in 2008 where they were swept aside on home soil (Russia 4-0).

QUALIFYING

Despite the absence of top-10 player Paula Badosa, team Spain routed the Netherlands 4-0 in their own backyard to progress to the Finals in Glasgow. Sara Sorribes Tormo won both of her singles contests in straight sets to book Spain's spot in the Finals, but she will not be there herself following a foot injury that will keep her sidelined until 2023.

TALKING POINT

When Anabel Medina Garrigues made her debut in the Billie Jean King Cup in 2003, Spain had already won five trophies.

Nineteen years later and her team is still chasing an elusive sixth title and they are heading to Glasgow with high hopes of success.

A consistent performer in the Billie Jean King Cup during her playing days, Garrigues believes that experience can help her guide the current Spain players in Glasgow.



"As captain I know what the players feel, what they like, what they don't," said Garrigues. "That helps me a lot when managing a group of players with their character and their personality; you have to know how to adapt to all of them.

"The fact that I have been a player helps me a lot to manage them in the best way. To feel the colours when you play for the team and that responsibility motivates you."





BJK CUP NATIONS RANKING: No.5

CAPTAIN: Heinz Guenthardt



NOMINATED PLAYERS:

Belinda Bencic Jil Teichmann Viktorija Golubic Simona Waltert





Switzerland



RECORD

Heinz Guenthardt's tight-knit team reached the final last year thanks to assured victories over Germany, Czech Republic and Australia, but Russian Tennis Federation ended their hopes of winning the competition for the first time.

It was a second runner-up finish for the Swiss in the Billie Jean King Cup, having fallen to Spain in the 1998 final (when the event was known as 'Federation Cup'). Martina Hingis experienced both finals having featured on court 23 years ago, and on the bench as a team coach last year.

QUALIFYING

Switzerland qualified automatically for the 2022 Billie Jean King Cup by Gainbridge Finals in Glasgow after finishing runner-up at last year's event in Prague and they arrive with high hopes with a solid record in the competition behind them.

TALKING POINT

As top seeds in this year's Billie Jean King Cup, there is great expectation around Heinz Guenthardt and his team.

Guenthardt, who was a quarter-finalists in the Wimbledon singles in 1985 and went on to enjoy a successful coaching partnership with Steffi Graf, is relishing the challenge of leading Switzerland in Glasgow.

"We are aiming to win the competition," he states. "I know that this team has the potential to secure the big victory we have been chasing. This is the Billie Jean King Cup finals and we are looking forward to playing well."

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BJK CUP NATIONS RANKING:

No.7

CAPTAIN: Kathy Rinaldi



NOMINATED PLAYERS:

Jessica Pegula Coco Gauff Madison Keys Danielle Collins Taylor Townsend





USA



RECORD

USA are the most successful nation in the history of the competition, being crowned champions 18 times. They have been the dominant force in Billie Jean King Cup history from their first title win in 1963 to their most recent conquest in 2017. Between 1976 and 1982 they won seven straight titles - a tournament record.

QUALIFYING

The USA's battle with Ukraine was a thriller that was won 3-2 by Kathy Rinaldi's side. Alison Riske and Jessica Pegula gave them a 2-0 advantage, until Ukraine battled back to force a doubles decider. Pegula, partnered with Asia Muhammad, secured passage to Glasgow following their straight sets doubles win.

TALKING POINT

Captain Kathy Rinaldi is excited by the progress made in American tennis over the course of 2022, with new stars emerging in both the singles and doubles arena.

Jessica Pegula and Coco Gauff have enjoyed stellar years that have been highlighted by their impressive rise up the WTA rankings, with that success ensuring Rinaldi has an exciting team to work with in Glasgow for the Billie Jean King Cup Finals by Gainbridge. **669**£

"American women's tennis is thriving and doing well," said Rinaldi, who was a semi-finalist in the singles at Wimbledon in 1985 and has been a respected captain for the United States Billie Jean King Cup team since December 2016.

"We have so many great players, so many young junior players coming up the ranks as well, and even younger behind them. It's pretty exciting. It's an exciting time."





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he doors to tennis are open for all and the LTA is determined to highlight that message in a week when the world's best players will compete in the Billie Jean King Cup by Gainbridge Finals.

Tennis Opened Up is the LTA's vision to welcome everyone into the sport, no matter their background, whether they are disabled, or what their age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation or ethnicity.

SERVES is the LTA's programme that takes tennis into the heart of local communities and to children and young people who may have never picked up a racket or thought tennis was a sport for them.

To date, LTA SERVES has reached over 35,000 children and young people from some of the most deprived communities and has big ambitions to open tennis up to even more and activator Nari Sohal from SWAT Youth Club in Slough is one of those passionately delivering tennis to the masses.

"Our youth club was newly opened and tennis was something we might not have



thought about until the LTA approached us about SERVES," stated Nari. "It was free to get involved, which was amazing because many of the children and young people have never played before and can't afford to join tennis clubs.

"We were given rackets, pop-up mini nets, resources for social change activities, and access to Tennis Activator training.

"So many children are now playing tennis at our Youth Club, and they may have never got involved without the SERVES programme."

Tennis is a sport that can change lives for the better and the LTA's inclusion strategy aims to ensure the sport is welcoming and accessible to the widest possible audience

BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS

for underserved, lower socio economic groups

The LTA has announced a series of targeted actions to open up tennis to more children and young people from underserved communities the length and breadth of Britain. These are the key objectives:

Significantly scale LTA SERVES into more faith, youth and community centres to increase the number of non-traditional venues and ultimately, the children and young people playing.

Flex, collaborate and align with projects and programmes (such as the Holiday Activities & Food (HAF) programme), to provide support to more communities through tennis.

Create ambitious, sustainable and mainstream opportunities for more children and young people to enjoy and progress in tennis longer term.

Deliver targeted interventions to introduce more children and young people to tennis in schools.

Scale the number of adult community leaders deployed as Tennis Activators to deliver the LTA SERVES.

<u>CLICK HERE</u> for more information

Breaking Barriers

SPORT CAN BE ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL PLATFORMS FOR PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY. EMPOWERING WOMEN AND GIRLS. WHERE TENNIS HAS LED THE WAY FOR THAT.

From Britain's Charlotte Cooper winning the first-ever women's gold medal in any sport at the 1900 Paris Olympics, to the likes Billie Jean King, Martina Navratilova and the Williams sisters, there have been a host of women's tennis trailblazers and change makers - truly iconic names not just in tennis, but in the development of women's sport.

Their legacy is that tennis is now often regarded as the most genderequal sport and the benchmark many other women's sports are aiming for, while it is also one of the few sports that can attract more female fans than male - a position that's been almost 150 years in the making.





Suzanne Lenglen of France competes in the Women?s tennis event during the VII Olympic Games circa April of 1920

T Irish tennis

player Lena

the Wimbledon

Ladies' Singles

championship

Rice (1866 -1907), winner of

Ever since the late 1800's, women have been competing alongside men at tennis' major events, with Birmingham's Maud Watson claiming the first-ever Ladies' Singles title at Wimbledon in 1884, winning a silver rose bowl valued at 20 quineas.

That same trophy is now called the 'Maud Watson Trophy' and is the one held aloft by the winner of the LTA's Rothesay Classic event in Birmingham each year, having been donated to the Edgbaston Priory Club by Watson.

While things were not quite equal (the first men's event at Wimbledon had been seven years earlier, and the men's trophy was worth 30 quineas), the concept of women competing alongside men on the sport's biggest stages that was established back then has been integral to the development of tennis as arguably the leading women's sport on the planet that it is today.

It has helped to drive visibility, and in turn set tennis apart in terms of earning potential for leading sportswomen, and



is a concept that has been gradually adopted by other sports over the intervening decades, particularly more recently as efforts are made to close the women's sport visibility

Tennis is also the original mixed sport. The addition of mixed relav events in sports such as athletics. swimming and triathlon at Tokyo 2020 was much heralded, and rightly so as yet another step forward towards gender equality in sport.

Yet in tennis, men and women have been competing on the same side of the net now for well over a 100 years, with mixed doubles played from Grand Slams to the grassroots.

Despite the established presence of women alongside men in tennis, there remained inequality.



SerenaWilliams

Katie Swan

from Great

Jean King

CUp team

Britain's Billie

Harriet Dart, Sonay Kartal, Anne Keothavong, Emma Raducanu and

> norm at the game's four majors for many terms, yet there are many areas where further progress is needed, with one key being visibility.

to boost the visibility of women's sport by removing the inherent gender bias that exists within the results people see in search engine results about sport.

It follows a report commissioned by the LTA that starkly highlighted the extent to which male-focused content and information dominate results provided for generic search terms about tennis players.

So it is clear more progress needs to be made, but tennis can be proud of its contribution to ensure sporting equality can become a reality.

Barriers, after all, are there to be broken





In 1970, against the backdrop of the women's liberation movement, nine players, known as the 'Original Nine' and led by Billie Jean King,

who took a stand to create the first women's tennis circuit. They were concerned not just about disparate prize money, but also that fewer tournaments were available for women to play. It would eventually lead to the formation of the WTA, and was yet another pivotal moment in the history of women's sport. Equal prize money has been the Earlier this year, the LTA issued a call







■ Annabel Croft receieves her Colour Holder badge from LTA President David Rawlinson



☐ Britain BJK Cup

Colour Holders

s well as being a highlight of a player's career, Great Britain teams, enthuse and excite tennis fans in Britain like nothing else in our sport.

That is why in 2021, to mark 125 years since the first player stepped on court, we revived what was once a tennis tradition – the LTA Colour Holders programme.

Historically, in the same way a player might receive a 'cap' in football or rugby, when a player represented Great Britain in tennis, they received a Colour.

If players compete in the Davis Cup, Wheelchair World Team Cup, Billie Jean King Cup, Olympics or Paralympic Games, they become Colour Holders.

Colour Holder status was also achieved previously for players who competed for Great Britain in the Wightman Cup and Kings Cup, two competitions that have since ceased.



□ Charlotte was the first female Colour Holder and won Gold in the women's singles and mixed doubles at the 1900 Olympics Games in Paris



■ Virginia Wade has won more matches for Britain than any other player in the Billie Jean King Cup

From the early days of the programme, Colours have been awarded to both females and males who have represented Britain.

In addition, following the creation of wheelchair tennis and its subsequent growth to become a professional sport, World Team Cup representatives and Paralympians have been included as Colour Holders for the first time alongside Davis Cup, Billie Jean King Cup and Olympic players – all together on one list.

A sequential list has been created depicting when a player gained their Colour Holder status in relation to their peers, meaning each player to represent Great Britain will have their own unique number. Since 1896, 319 tennis players have become Colour Holders.

The list was started by John Boland, who became the first at the inaugural modern Olympic Games in Athens in 1896.

Doubles champion Joe
Salisbury, wheelchair tennis
players Greg Slade, Abbie
Breakwell and Ben Bartram
along with 2021 US Open
Champion Emma Raducanu
are among the most
recent players to achieve
this status having been
selected to play in the Billie
Jean King Cup and World
Team Cup competitions
respectively this year.



Katie Swan became the youngest player to play for Britain in the Billie Jean King Cup in 2016

Wheelchair tennis player Ruby Bishop is our most recent Colour Holder at number 319 and there will be plenty more joining this exclusive club in the years to come.

The ultimate achievement of representing your country should be recognised and the LTA's Colour Holder programme ensures each and every name on the list is reserved their own special place in British tennis folklore



THE BIGGEST SPACE ON A TENNIS COURT IS BETWEEN THE EARS.

It is a phrase used by mentors around the world as they look to train the mind of a player to same level of perfection as their forehand, backhand or first serve, with the mental strength of an elite performer often defining their success when pressure is applied.

Sports psychologists were once viewed with suspicion by England's elite athletes, vet times have changed to a point where they are now seen as an essential element of a backroom team, with the LTA ensuring Britain's elite tennis players have access to some of the best in the business working alongside the Changing Minds group to ensure they are as well prepared as possible for the battles that lie ahead.

In the opinion of Matt Thompson, who is one of the Changing Minds experts working with LTA players, the one-on-one nature of tennis ensures this sport serves up one of the more challenging mental battles in sport.

"The spotlight is on you as an individual and it doesn't switch off in this sport," begins Matt, who has extensive experience working with elite athletes. "So many aspects of tennis present a challenge and as an individual sport, the demands are raised.

"We take a person-first approach to where they are now. Everyone we deal with is physically fit and the level of coaching is at the highest level so the psychological side of the game can be the difference between winning and losing.



"The average point in a match lasts eight seconds and there are 20 seconds in between each point. How a player uses that time in between points can be crucial to their hopes of success.

"When you get on court, you are on your own. It is a very athletic, physical chess game and you are trying to figure out how you can get to the end successfully. Our brain drives everything and tennis is relentless.

"Unless you are the best player in the world, you lose a lot of the time. That is hard to accept when you are at such a high level in your sport."

Lena Kessler works alongside Matt and the LTA staff offering a comprehensive sports psychology service to players and she suggests outside pressures can play a big role in the stability of an athlete on court.

"There are common challenges in how all players manages the noise around them on a tennis court," says Lena. "Things move faster than many other sports. There is pressure from areas you might not think about.

"Dealing with the media and pressure over whether they will get funding all adds to the pressure of match situations, as does what it means to players and how desperate they are to win.

"It's all about finding ways to cope with the pressures to cope with what they can control to give them their best chance of performing. We help all players manage the stresses that come with performing and give them strategies to cope.

"The hardest bit is trying to understand the person," he added. "We don't really have the answers. If someone approaches us with a problem such as lack of confidence we don't say 'here you go, here's the answer'. It's not like that.

"Each person is a jigsaw puzzle. They've got all the pieces, but we don't know where they go. So we need to understand them, speak to their coach or parent, and that information allows us to see what the full picture is and where the gaps in the puzzle might be.

"You have to gain their trust. No one cares what you know until they know that you care. It is an important message for anyone working with athletes."

The players hoping to shine at this year's Billie Jean King Cup by Gainbridge Finals will need every weapon in their armoury to be firing on all cylinders, with the battle of the mind likely to play a huge role deciding the ultimate champions



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Unsung Heroes

olunteers are the unsung heroes of tennis in Great Britain and they play an invaluable role in steering the dreams of our future stars throughout their journey on court.

All the star players competing in Billie Jean King Cup in Glasgow this week will have received the support of a tennis volunteer at the start of their tennis journey, with the input and inspiration provided by the first faces they see on court leaving a lasting impression.

The annual Tennis Scotland Awards celebrate the unsung heroes of Scottish tennis, with numerous notable contributions recognised in the 2022 list.

Tennis Scotland's prestigious Lifetime Achievement award, reserved for individuals who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to the sport over a prolonged period, has been awarded to Mike Aitken.

As an advocate for participation in the Fife community, Mike served as Head Coach at St Andrews Tennis Club for 17 years, in





addition to operating as Director of Tennis at the University of St Andrews between 2010-2021.

Montrose Tennis Club earned the coveted Club of the Year title, with Coach Graeme Walker collecting the Development Coach of the Year award for his services to the club, while Michael Goldie collected the Volunteer of the Year award, having spent a substantial amount of time increasing participation opportunities through coaching and running competitions at Dumfries Tennis Club on a voluntary basis.

Like so many across Britain, these volunteers provide a platform for the game to thrive, with Alex Beaumont, the LTA's Volunteering Manager, suggesting those working at the grassroots level of the game provide the foundation for the sport's success.

"Volunteers are vital to making tennis happen in Britain, and ensure that Tennis is Opened Up across venues, competitions and events," stated Alex. "Over 25,000 people volunteer within clubs and communities year-round, dedicating countless hours and bringing their boundless energy and passion for the game.

"Everyone who plays tennis will have benefitted from the efforts of a volunteer on their journey to the court – whether that's enabling the facilities to play tennis, guiding them into coaching, or perhaps making things happen "behind the scenes". They are the unsung heroes of tennis and add so much to the culture of our sport, bringing communities together."

If you are already a member of a tennis club, the best way to start volunteering is to ask the club volunteer coordinator, secretary or other committee members how you can help out - CLICK HERE for more information.

Nominations for next year's LTA Tennis Awards opened on October 1st on, so please nominate worthy recipients here: www.lta.org.uk/awards

2022 Women's Tennis

IT WAS A YEAR THAT STARTED WITH ASHLEIGH BARTY REIGNING SUPREME OVER THE WOMEN'S GAME, YET SO MUCH HAS CHANGED IN THE MONTHS SINCE.

Ashleigh Barty's emotional win in front of her home fans at the Australian Open proved to be the final chapter of her tennis career, with her surprise retirement announcement coming soon after.

That propelled Poland's Iga Swiatek to the top of the WTA rankings and kick-started a story that has had plenty of unexpected twists.

SWIATEK RULES

Iga Swiatek admitted she need time to adjust to her status as the world's No.1 player following Barty's exit from the game, but her results did not show it...

A thrilling run of form saw her go on a 37-match winning run that included wins at the Indian Wells and Miami Masters, before she went on to claim the French Open crown for a second time in Paris.

A defeat at Wimbledon was a setback, but the 21-year-old was back on top form to win the US Open in September.

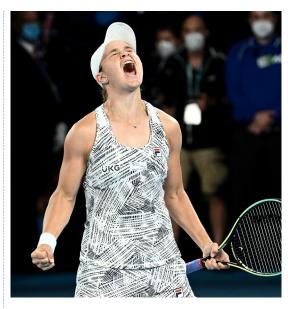
BREAKTHROUGH STORIES

Kazakstan's Elena Rybakina and America's Coco Gauff have created some of the best stories in the women's game this year.

Rybakina's Wimbledon triumph was a moment to cherish for this elegant 23-year-old, who emerged from a classy field to take the biggest prize in tennis on only her second appearance in the main draw at the All England Club.

Gauff has also enjoyed something of a breakthrough year, climbing into the top five of the WTA singles rankings and rising to No.1 in the doubles list.

At the age of just 18, there is so much to look forward to for Gauff in 2023.



SO CLOSE

It was a year of near misses for Ons Jabeur.

The Tunisian star rose to No.2 in the WTA rankings after runs to the finals at Wimbledon and the US Open, but that first major victory has yet to be claimed by the first Arab player to win titles on the WTA Tour.

Jabeur took some consolation by claiming the Madrid Masters title in thrilling fashion with a three-set win against Jessica Pegula in the Spanish captain and there is more to come from this inspirational player next year.

American star Pegula, 28, is another player who will be looking to continue her fine form of recent months, which included her win in the Guadalajara Open title last month.

■ Ashleigh Barty











MOVING FORWARD

Some big talents are lurking outside of the top 20 of the WTA rankings as the next tennis year dawns in Australia a few weeks from now.

Japan's Naomi Osaka will be aiming to win a third Australian Open title when she returns to Melbourne in January, while France's Caroline Garcia will be pushing to build on a year that saw her reach the semi-finals of the US Open and win the Cincinnati Open.

Britain's Emma Raducanu showed flashes of brilliance in recent months and will be keen to rise back up the WTA rankings, while her 2021 US Open final opponent Leylah Fernandez (Canada) will be eager to add experience to her development after some promising results over the last 12 months.

SAYING FAREWELL

It was a year of emotional farewells on the WTA Tour, with Ashleigh Barty's exit followed by the possible retirement of the legendary Serena Williams after the US Open.

Serena's statement that she is 'evolving' away from tennis leaves the door open for a possible return, but we may well have seen the last of the 23-time major champion.

Kim Clijsters called time on her latest comeback attempt, while Britain's Laura Robson confirmed her days as a professional were over last summer.



F

Brighton Declaration

ennis has been a driving force in the push for equality in sport and now the LTA and International Tennis Federation (ITF) have joined 600 global organisations as signatories of the International Working Group on Women and Sport's Brighton plus Helsinki Declaration.

The official signing took place on Sunday 6th November at the welcome reception for the Billie Jean King Cup by Gainsbridge Finals in Glasgow.

Established by the International Working Group (IWG) on Women and Sport in 1994, the Brighton plus Helsinki Declaration is an international treaty that has become a road map to support the ongoing development of a more fair and equitable system of sport and physical activity, fully inclusive of women and girls.

As signatories, the LTA and ITF commit to upholding the 10 principles that enable women and girls to freely and safely participate, compete and build careers in sport and physical activity. Building on their existing work to further gender equality in tennis.

An LTA spokesperson said: "We have been delighted to work alongside the ITF to bring the women's world cup of tennis to Britain this year and look forward to a powerful celebration of women's sport ahead of us in Glasgow this week.





"Signing the Brighton plus Helsinki Declaration alongside the ITF, further strengthens our commitment to opening up tennis on a national and international scale. We all believe in the power of sport as a platform to make meaningful change in society, and tennis has a legacy of being at the forefront of that change."

Through their respective gender equality strategies, She Rallies and Advantage All, the LTA and ITF have already set clear goals and actions to build on tennis' tradition as a global leader for equal advantage in sport and society, and further strengthen that commitment and collaboration with this declaration.

The 8th International Working Group on Women and Sport World Conference will be taking place in New Zealand immediately after the Billie Jean King Cup

Finals on 14th November, with the event marking the end of the IWG's time in New Zealand before they pass the IWG baton to the UK as host for the next four years



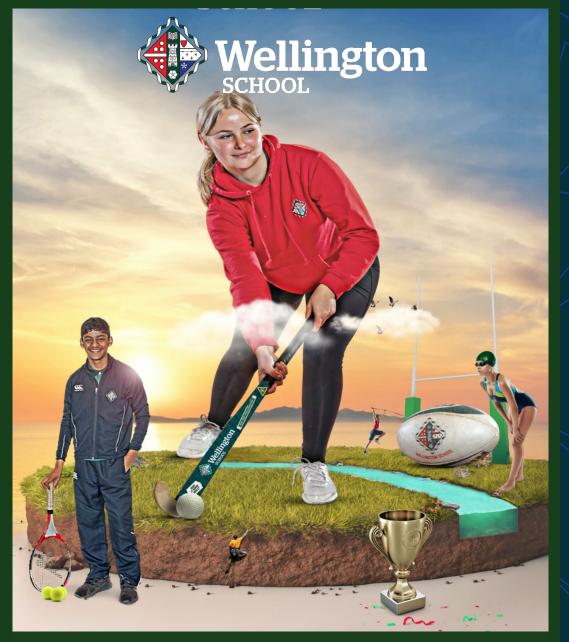
THE BRIGHTON PLUS HELSINKI DECLARATION

The Brighton plus Helsinki Declaration comprises ten principles designed to help organisations develop a culture that enables and values the full involvement of women at all levels and in all capacities. Over 600 organisations globally have signed up to the principles, a road map to help achieve change.

Founded in 1994 to encourage collaboration and share knowledge globally, the International Working Group on Women and Sport (IWG) is the world's largest network dedicated to advancing gender equality in sport and physical activity.

Collaborating with others, sharing knowledge on what works as we seek to ensure we have a sports system that is open and welcoming to everyone. Where the voices of women and girls of all backgrounds and abilities are valued and heard.

Working together to accelerate progress towards gender equality.



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LTA Tennis Foundation

The LTA Tennis
Foundation is the
new tennis charity
that partners with
brilliant people
and organisations
to improve lives
through tennis.

This new charity shares the LTA's vision of 'Tennis Opened Up', with the aim of using tennis to make a real difference to people across the whole country.

The LTA Tennis
Foundation will aim
to do this by inspiring
more people from
all backgrounds to
discover the joy of tennis,
challenge the status
quo to open the sport
up, work collaboratively
with charities and
partners, and invest in
people, programmes
and places to play.

In short, the aim is to embrace as many people as possible to share in the enjoyment and benefits of taking part in tennis.

"We are a loan and grant-giving charity, and whilst we don't deliver programmes ourselves we will work with partners who can deliver projects that match our objectives," explained Tim Lawler MBE. Chair of Trustees, LTA Tennis Foundation. "We will give loans or grants to help our partners deliver new projects or to scale up existing work so they can reach a larger number of individuals.



The funding provided is solely for the grassroots of the game, and as the LTA's charity, there is a commitment to working in all parts of Great Britain with a particular focus on diverse and disadvantaged communities where the game is less accessible.

and coaching."

"Our intention is to build strong relationships with these charities over the coming year," continued Tim Lawler.

"We are already investing in some key projects. As well as supporting facility developments at clubs and local authority sites to help open them up to many more people, using our existing reserves, we are committing significant funding into the LTA and Government's parks project, which will see hundreds of run-down tennis courts in local parks refurbished and fitted with new gate access systems to allow them to be booked and used more easily.

"We are also supporting the delivery of tennis in schools by providing £250 worth of vouchers for coaching or tennis equipment to any school that signs up for LTA Youth – the LTA's new and innovative junior programme created to help more children enjoy the benefits of playing and staying in tennis."



information on the LTA Tennis Foundation, CLICK HERE

For more





gettyimages

She Rallies

Women's Tennis in Focus is a public photo exhibition in partnership with the LTA and Getty Images bringing iconic images of women's tennis to the centre of Glasgow during the Billie Jean King Cup by Gainbridge Finals.

The exhibition, with the support of Glasgow City Council, will run on Argyle Street from 1st to 13th November 2022, providing a visual journey through the history of the women's game.

From black and white photos of the early days of the sport, to icons of the present day, there is also be a focus on the importance of female role models within tennis as officials, coaches, journalists, broadcasters, and fans of the sport.

Combining the LTA's vision to open up the sport and Getty Images' commitment to raising the profile of authentic and inclusive representation of women in sport, the exhibition has been curated to explore the LTA's ambition for tennis to lead the way towards becoming a truly gender balanced sport, and their new push to build on tennis' pioneering legacy for women and girls in sport.

Amongst those featured are Billie Jean King, Judy Murray, the Williams sisters, Emma Raducanu, Naomi Osaka, Sue Barker, and the Great Britain Billie Jean King Cup Team.

Here are some of the images currently being displayed in an exhibition in Argyle Street that has created huge interest since it was opened at the start of this month



□ Portrait of American tennis players and sisters Venus Williams (left), 11, and Serena Williams, 9, as they hang onto the fence at the Compton tennis courts, South Central Los Angeles, California, April 20 1991. They had just complete a training session with their father and coach, Richard Williams.



Great Britain women's tennis coach Judy Murray watches during the practice session ahead of the 2012 London Olympic Games at the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club in Wimbledon on July 26, 2012.



■ Serena Williams of the United States in action against Julia Goerges of Germany in the evening light on Court Suzanne Lenglen in the Women's Singles Competition at the 2018 French Open Tennis Tournament at Roland Garros on June 2nd 2018 in Paris, France.



■ Helen Wills (1905 - 1998) of the United States reaches to play a forehand return as compatriot partner Hazel Wightman (1886 - 1974) looks on during their Women's Doubles Final match against Phyllis Covell and Kathleen McKane of Great Britain at the VIII Olympic Summer Games on 19th July 1924 at the Stade Olympique Yves-du-Manoir in Colombes, France. Wills and Wightman won the match and Gold medal.





☐ Spectators watch Sue Barker on the screen as they shield from the rain during day seven of the Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Championships at the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club on July 2, 2007.



□ Naomi Osaka of Japan wears a protective face mask with the name, Ahmaud Arbery stenciled on it after winning her Women's Singles third round match against Marta Kostyuk of the Ukraine on Day Five of the 2020 US Open at USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center on September 04, 2020 in the Queens borough of New York City. Ahmaud Arbery, an unarmed 25-year-old African-American man, was pursued and fatally shot while jogging in Glynn County, Georgia.



Check out the full gallery and the stories behind tennis's most inspiring female leaders

CLICK HERE

Heather Watson, Harriet Dart, Katie Swan, Johanna Konta, Katie Boulter and Captain Anne Keothavong celebrates the teams win and qualification during the Fed Cup World Group II Play-Off match between Great Britain and Kazakhstan at Copper Box Arena on April 21, 2019.

Junior Tennis

There will be plenty of voung eves looking in on the action in the Billie Jean King Cup by Gainbridge Finals and it could be that this week's tournament in Glasgow provides the inspirational spark for champions of the future.

The presence of 15-yearold Renata Jamrichova in the Slovakia squad for this year's Finals in Glasgow highlights how quickly a young player can reach the top in tennis.

Jamrichova's progress is replicated by a host of young players making their mark in the women's game, with the Czech Republic's Linda and Brenda Fruhvirtova a sister act to watch in the coming years.

Linda, 17, was part of the Czech Republic team that beat Great Britain in the Billie Jean King Cup in April and she went on to win her first WTA title at the Chennai Open in September.

Her younger sister Brenda. 15. has also enjoyed a great year of success, with the 15-year-old winning 27 consecutive matches on the ITF World Tennis Tour and collecting eight W25 titles over the course of 2022.

The rich flow of talent in the juniors ranks is also in evident in Britain, with this year's Junior National Championships





at the National Tennis Centre in London highlighting the quality of players bursting through the ranks.

Two weeks of competition offered up a showcase for the quality of the junior talent emerging through the ranks in Britain and for Bridgend-born Mimi Xu, who was 14 at the time, the two events proved to be a showcase for her promise.

Xu, who is training at the LTA's National Academy at Loughborough, went on to win two matches in the Junior Wimbledon event last summer, with Oxfordshire's Jasmine Conway going one better as she reach the quarter-



Mingge Xu and Hannah Klugman



finals of the junior event at the All England Club.

British teenagers Talia Neilson-Gatenby, Isabelle Lacy and Hannah Klugman are also showing real progress, with Katie O'Brien, the former British No.1 who is now LTA Women's National Coach, encouraged by the talent coming through the British ranks.

"We have got a crop of young talent coming through, it's not just one and the spotlight isn't just on that one person," she said.

"We had 11 junior girls in the main draw and they were all competitive, so they're all going to be pushing each other on for weeks, months and years to come.

"Our team's had a great summer and some great opportunities as well as playing amongst their peers in the junior game, just giving them that extra belief that they're competitive and if they want to have a career in tennis they probably can.

"The experiences that they're going through on the court will probably stand them in good stead for life, not just for tennis."

Emma Raducanu's US Open triumph in 2021 was the ultimate moment for inspiration for young British players and the crop of talent coming through suggests more success stories will be just around the corner











ominations for the LTA Tennis Awards 2023, which highlight, acknowledge and reward the incredible achievements and contributions to tennis of people across Britain over the last year, are now open.

Launched in 2015 with the help of former LTA president Cathie Sabin OBE, the Awards recognise the many thousands of inspirational individuals involved in tennis, dedicating their precious time and energy to the continual development and growth of the sport. Over the past seven years, the Awards have illustrated the depth of service and talent within the tennis community across the UK and served as an inspiration to others to volunteer, coach, officiate or to play tennis.

The Awards highlight the talent across the tennis community in Britain, which includes 25,000 volunteers, 4,672 coaches and 975 officials. They also highlight the incredible achievements of some 22,000 schools, 2,768 clubs and over 9,270 LTA approved tournaments. The contribution of these individuals and venues helps to bring fans and players closer to the game we all love.

Last year, winners were iudged from over 2.600 public nominations, and this year we are hoping to break the 3,000 barrier.

There are 13 award categories to choose from, covering both individual and collective recognition.

Criteria for each category has been set to give those nominating clear guidance to follow. Nominees will be judged at a county level, with winners going through to the regional finals. The regional winners make up the LTA Tennis Awards National finalists



The full list of categories is below:

CLUB OF THE YEAR DEVELOPMENT COACH OF THE YEAR

PERFORMANCE **COACH OF THE YEAR**

CONNECTING **COMMUNITIES AWARD**

PARK VENUE OF THE YEAR

COMPETITION OF THE YEAR

TENNIS FOR ALL AWARD

SCHOOL OF THE YEAR

UNIVERSITY OF THE YEAR

OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR

LIFETIME **ACHIEVEMENT**

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

RISING STAR

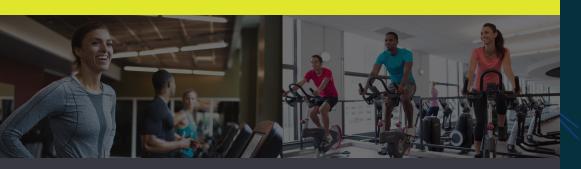
PRESIDENT'S AWARD

until Wednesday 30 November and can be submitted online, to access voting





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PERFORMANCE COMPETITIONS CALENDAR

The final shots of the 2022 tennis season will be played in the next few weeks, with the last year changing the landscape of tournament action across Britain.

The enhanced LTA Performance Competitions Calendar was introduced to provide more opportunities for players to compete regularly at a higher level and make progressive ranking gains at the formative stages of their careers.

The increased calendar means that there have been over 40 weeks of either international ranking point or prize moneyearning opportunities in Britain this year.

Sonay Kartal is one of the British players who has gained real momentum in her career after a run of wins in ITF tournaments on the LTA's Performance Competitions Calendar, paving the way for her rise from the low 800s at the start of the year to a breakthrough into the top 200 of the WTA rankings last month.

"This time last year, the idea that I might be playing at the majors was not even in my thoughts. It didn't feel possible," said a 20-year-old Brighton-based player.

"To be honest, a few months ago, I didn't think I'd have any chance of playing at Wimbledon, but that happened. So to have played in two Slams at the age of 20 is something to be pretty proud about.

"Even though I always felt like I had the tennis in me to get to this level, I was never sure when it was going to happen and the extra tournaments put on by the LTA in the UK were vital in giving me a platform to do that."

It is not just rising stars who have shone in LTA Performance Competitions Calendar events, with Lily Miyazaki's win against former British No.1 Heather Watson in the W60 event in Glasgow last month confirming players at all stages of their careers are reaping the rewards of additional competition.

The last event of the year saw a high-quality field gather for the W100 event at The Shrewsbury Club in the final week of October, as many members of Britain's Billie Jean King Cup team playing in Glasgow this week gathered for the biggest indoor women's tennis tournament in the UK since the 1990s.

After the success of the LTA's Performance Competitions Calendar across the last year, more high-quality competitions will be staged across Britain in 2023

Game Changers

THROUGHOUT HISTORY, FEMALE TENNIS LEADERS HAVE HAD TO FIGHT FOR VISIBILITY IN THEIR SPORT.

Relentlessly breaking through gender barriers, activism continues to sit at the heart of women's tennis.

Female tennis players, umpires, support staff and organisational leaders are leading on a more equitable and inclusive culture, driving conversations on gender pay equality, parenthood, body empowerment, mental health, participation, and many accessibility issues.

Yet, the visibility gap remains.

This is a slow process and after Billie Jean King led the way in the fight for prize money to match the men's game in the 1970s, key moments have cracked so many glass ceilings in tennis.

One such occasion came in 1984, as Chris Evert and Martina Navratilova went head-to-head in the Wimbledon Final and Britain's Georgina Clark was sitting in the umpire's chair on Centre Court.

The first woman to officiate a women's singles final at the All-England Club, this was just one of many contributions to tennis for the respected figure who also held roles as the WTA's Vice President for European Operations and Worldwide Tour Director.

Since Clark's breakthrough moment 38 years ago, female umpires have taken charge of some of the game's biggest matches, with Britain's Allison Hughes one of only two people to have chair umpired the singles finals at each of the four Grand Slam events.

The success story for female umpires had another moment to cherish in 2021, with Croatia's Marija Cicak becoming the first woman to be appointed as umpire for a Men's Singles' Final at Wimbledon.



Umpire Georgina Clark

"I was just working events on lines or in the chair, and would play low-level tournaments for myself, just for fun, and I really enjoyed it," Cicak told the WTA, as she looked back on her life in tennis.

"When I was 18, I decided to quit playing tennis to go to university. I decided to stop because here, it's not so easy to pursue a sports career and university at the same time. It's a



U.S. President Barack Obama (R) embraces tennis champion Billie Jean King after presenting her with the Medal of Freedom in 2009



Serbia's Novak Djokovic remonstrates with umpire Marija Cicak after a point against Italy's Matteo Berrettini during their men's singles final at Wimbledon in 2021





different system than what it is in, say, the United States, and to be honest, I just wanted to focus on other things rather than play tennis. I wanted to just go to school and enjoy officiating.

"Through all these years, it's been great working for the organization that has always promoted women's sport in an excellent way," she continued.

"To me, it's very important to work with people with whom I share the same values and the same principles. It's no coincidence that tennis is the leading women's sport in the world — and I consider myself very fortunate, because in our small way, we try to make the world a better place."

It is not just in the umpiring that women have continued to break down barriers in all areas of the game, with Judy Murray a prominent voice for the women's game in Britain and around the world, driving the push to get more women onto the coaching pathway and into the tennis workforce.

Amelie Mauresmo's appointment as Tournament Director at the French Open was another significant moment in the story of women's tennis, with former British No.1 Laura Robson recently filling a similar role for an ITF World Tennis Tour event at Loughborough as she starts a new phase of her own tennis story.

Tennis has led the way in opening doors for women to reach the top of the sport and the momentum behind that drive continues to gather pace





BILLIE JEAN KING CUP

IN NUMBERS

37

The United States dominated the competition between 1976 and 1982, triumphing for seven straight years and winning 37 CONSECUTIVE TIES.





BILLIE JEAN KING and ROSIE CASALS won more doubles matches for the United States than any other duo.



PETR PÁLA is the most successful captain in history, guiding the Czech Republic to six wins (2011, 2012, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2018).



CHRIS EVERT (United States) was undefeated in 29 singles matches from her debut against Austria in the first round of the competition in 1977 until losing to Italy's Sandra Cecchini in the first rubber of the 1986 quarter-final in Prague.

12 HOURS, 27 MINUTES

The LONGEST TIE EVER RECORDED, as France defeated Slovakia in the 2009 World Group play-off.



Current Great Britain Billie Jean King Cup captain ANNE KEAOTHAVONG won 22 matches during her career in this competition.



The UNITED STATES have lifted the trophy more than any other nation, with their last 18th and most recent triumph coming in 2017.

16

The NUMBER OF NATIONS that competed in the first edition of the competition in 1963. A total of 127 nations played in this year's competition.



The number of matches the late ELENA BALTACHA won for Great Britain in her stellar career in the competition.



The NUMBER OF NATIONS that have been crowned champion since the United States won the inaugural competition in 1963.



The MOST GAMES played in a single tie as France beat Japan 4-1 in 1997 World Group I first round.



ANNE KREMER from Luxembourg holds the record for playing the most ties in the competition.



VIRGINIA WADE has won more matches for Great Britain than any other player in this competition.



Virginia Wade holds the record for the MOST APPEARANCES in a Great Britain team, playing 57 ties.



Spain's ARANTXA SANCHEZ VICARIO heads the all-time lists for total wins and total singles and doubles wins. She also played the most rubbers (100).

12 YEARS, 360 DAYS

Greece's **DENISE PANAGOPOULOU** became the youngest player to compete in the competition when she made her debut against Portugal in 1997.

Gamet Set and Andred Matched

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ITF WORLD TENNIS NUMBER

he tennis rating system in Britain has been given a huge revamp following an extensive review of the competition landscape, with the LTA playing a leading role in the development of the ITF World Tennis Number (WTN).

The WTN has been designed to drive recreational play supporting more people to play tennis more often and in a model similar to a golf handicap, players of all ages and standards have been given a rating that will be recognised around the world and will make it easier to find an evenly matched opponent, removing one of the main barriers to participation.

So far, 142 nations have signed up, supporting approximately 85 per-cent of the tennis playing population around the world to engage with WTN and the growth is continuing at a pace.

The rating covers all age groups for adults and juniors from 10 years of age, with your World Tennis Number will be calculated by a sophisticated algorithm that has been specifically designed for tennis using the world-leading expertise of Imperial College London and ITF Data Scientists.

There is a separate Doubles World Tennis Number and as is the case with the rankings on the ATP and WTA professional circuits, the World Tennis Number updates each week and provide an accurate rating that can be trusted and relied upon and allowing players to better track their progress.

"This is a project we have been working on for quite a while and a lot of the thinking behind the World Tennis Number is based on work we

ITF WORLD TENNIS NUMBER KEY POINTS:

A world-wide rating system that ranges from 40 (recreational players) to 1 (pro players) - players with an ATP/WTA ranking will be listed as PRO.

Separate ratings for singles and doubles players.

An algorithm has been developed that counts sets and matches played, which means the more you compete, the more accurate your rating will be.

A personalised digital 'Game zONe' feature, which will help you identify opponents with a similar rating.

You can enter your own results from any friendly matches and influence your own WTN.

have done at the LTA, so it's exciting to see it rolled out all over the world in partnership with the ITF," said LTA's Head of Competition, Keith Carder.

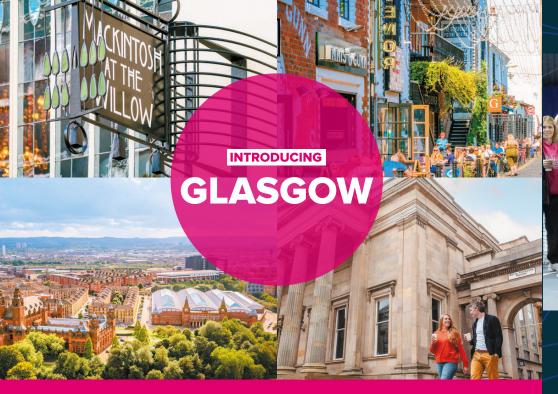
"If you go to your club, school or park for a game, people can talk about their World Tennis Number and it is very much a product designed to encourage participation."





LTA.org.uk/WorldTennisNumber

To get your own World Tennis Number, sign up for LTA Advantage membership <u>CLICK HERE</u>



'THE WORLD'S FRIENDLIEST CITY 2022'

TIME OUT

PEOPLE MAKE GLASGOW

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The drive to bolster the female coaching pool is gathering momentum, with new pathways opening for women to begin a new career on court.

Judy Murray, the mother of Scotland's major champions Andy and Jamie, has long been a vocal supporter of getting more female voices onto courts to work, with the opportunity for young female tennis players to take on a career in coaching never more appealing.

The LTA are eager to open the door to players of all ages to start the coaching journey, with former British Ladies Champion Jo Ward overseeing a revamped coaching programme that included initiatives to bring female talent into the workforce and keeping them involved beyond the early coaching levels.

"We are looking at a variety of ways to ensure female players who enjoy tennis and want to work in the sport have a chance to start on the coaching pathway," begins Ward, who is Head of Coach Education and Qualifications.

"Our coaching courses have been updated and improved to ensure they are ready for the modern game and we want to see as many women considering tennis as a career option.

"We have female learner grants for Coach Development Centres and Female-only Assistant taster courses for our Assistant (Level 1) qualification for those who want to see if it is for them.

"The aim is to see more female coaches in prominent positions because there may have been a perception that it is more of a career for men to look at. We are keen to change that perception."

Andy Murray's decision to hire former Wimbledon champion Amelie Mauresmo as his coach in 2013 sparked a big debate in the game, with Ward suggesting that story highlighted stereotypes that need to be removed.

"It certainly made people think and talk when Andy started to work with a female coach," added Ward.

"There were some interesting discussions in the bar in my old club, which were like going back in time, and so were their views!

"I think the move bolstered more female coaches to have such a prominent ally in the men's game. Andy has raised his head above the parapet in the name of equality a few times and it helps to change the notion that things can't change."

If you are interested in a career in tennis coaching, CLICK HERE for more information.



THE COACHING PATHWAY

LTA ASSISTANT (LEVEL 1)

This two-day qualification is ideal for tennis parents, enthusiasts, or keen players looking for the knowledge and skills to support group coaching sessions, alongside a lead coach.

Learning outcomes include:

- Communication, organisation and differentiation skills for group coaching
- Basic tactical, technical, physical and mental development frameworks
- Other key assistant skills; from safeguarding to LTA Youth delivery

LTA INSTRUCTOR (LEVEL 2)

This five-day qualification (split into four core and one elective day), is ideal for those looking to build on the coaching foundations of LTA Assistant (Level 1), enabling you to lead in the delivery of group coaching. This the equivalent of a group exercise instructor for tennis.

Learning outcomes include:

- Develop more advanced skills in communication and organisation
- Have introductory knowledge of 'observation and analysis' of players
- Be able to provide general coaching advice across physical, mental, tactical, and technical domains
- Plan and deliver structured lessons from official LTA Adult and Junior coaching products e.g., Cardio Tennis, Tennis Xpress, LTA Youth
- Understand basic principles of skill acquisition, safeguarding and player development



COACH QUALIFICATION (LEVEL 3)

The level 3 coach qualification course is for people who want to work full time within the tennis coaching profession. On successful completion of the coach qualification candidates will be trained to:

- Coach beginners and improvers in groups and as individuals
- Gain an expert understanding and ability to apply the coaching process in tennis
- Understand the basics of business management
- Manage the work of level 1 and 2 coaching Assistants and Instructors

SENIOR COACH AND SENIOR PERFORMANCE COACH QUALIFICATIONS (LEVEL 4)

The LTA Senior Coach and Senior Performance Coach (SPC) qualifications (Level 4) are for coaches committed to developing their on and off court coaching skills beyond Level 3 Coach competencies across technical, tactical, physical and mental development frameworks. Business management, leadership and communication become a key focus to enable graduates to navigate the industry and their career with success

MASTER COACH QUALIFICATION (LEVEL 5)

The master coach qualification is for coaches who are or who aspire to work at the very highest level of grass-roots and dayelopment coaching

On completion of the course, a master coach will be trained to:

- Deliver on court sessions of the highest quality and expertise
- Design, implement and evaluate the process and outcome of club programmes
- Display leadership skills to create and manage change in dynamic club environments
- Mentor a team of coaches to ensure delivery of a quality programme

Coaching is exciting, active, flexible and rewarding. If you are interested in getting involved in delivering tennis coaching, you can find more information on LTA coaching courses, **CLICK HERE**

Previous Winners

In total, 11 nations have been crowned as champions in the Billie Jean King Cup since USA won the inaugural competition in 1963.

2021

Russian Tennis Federation 2 Switzerland 0 O2 Arena, Prague

2019

France 3-2 Australia RAC Arena, Perth, Australia

2018

Czech Republic 3 USA 0 O2 Arena, Prague, Czech Republic

2017

USA 3-2 Belarus Chizhovka Arena, Minsk, Belarus

2016

Czech Republic 3 France 2 Rhenus Sport, Strasbourg, France

2015

Czech Republic 3 Russia 2 O2 Arena, Prague, Czech Republic

2014

Czech Republic 3 Germany 1 O2 Arena, Prague, Czech Republic

2013

Italy 4-0 Russia Tennis Club Cagliari, Cagliari, Sardinia, Italy

2012

Czech Republic 3 Serbia 1 O2 Arena, Prague, Czech Republic

2011

Czech Republic 3 Russia 2 Olympic Stadium, Moscow. Russia

2010

Italy 3-1 USA San Diego Sports Arena, San Diego, CA, USA

2009

Italy 4-0 USA Circolo del Tennis, Reggio Calabria, Italy

2008

Russia 4-0 Spain Club de Campo, Villa de Madrid, Madrid, Spain

2007

Russia 4-0 Italy Small Sports Arena, Moscow, Russia

2006 Italy 3-2 Belgium Spiroudome, Charleroi, Belgium

2005 Russia 3-2 France Roland Garros. Paris, France

2004

Russia 3-2 France Ice Stadium Krylatskoe, Moscow, Russia

2003

France 4-1 USA Olympic Stadium, Moscow, Russia

2002

Slovakia 3-1 Spain Palacio de Congresos de Maspalomas, Gran Canaria, Spain

2001

Belgium 2-1 Russia Parque Ferial Juan Carlos 1, Madrid, Spain

2000 USA 5-0 Spain Las Vegas, NV, USA

1999

USA 4-1 Russia Taube Tennis Stadium, Stanford, CA, USA

1998

Spain 3-2 Switzerland Palexpo Hall, Geneva, Switzerland

1997

France 4 Netherlands 1 Brabant Hall's-Hertogenbosch. Netherlands



1996

USA 5-0 Spain Convention Centre. Atlantic City, USA

1995

Spain 3-2 USA Valencia T.C., Valencia, Spain

1994

Spain 3-0 USA Waldstadion T.C., Frankfurt, Germany

1993

Spain 3-0 Australia Waldstadion T.C., Frankfurt, Germany

1992 Germany 2-1 Spain Waldstadion T.C., Frankfurt, Germany

1991

Spain 2-1 USA City of Nottingham Tennis Centre, Great Britain

1990

USA 2-1 USSR Peachtree W.O.T., Atlanta, GA, USA

1989

USA 3-0 Spain Ariake Forest Park Centre, Tokyo, Japan

1988

Czechoslovakia 2 USSR 1 Flinders Park Melbourne, Australia

1987

Germany F.R. 2-1 USA Hollyburn C.C., Vancouver, Canada

1986

USA 3-0 Czechoslovakia Stvanice Stadium. Prague, Czechoslovakia

1985

Czechoslovakia 2 USA 1 Nagoya Green T.C., Nagoya, Japan

1984

Czechoslovakia 2 Australia 1 Pinheiros Sports Club, Sao Paulo, Brazil

1983

Czechoslovakia 2 Germany F.R. 1 Albisguetli T.C., Zurich, Switzerland

1982

USA 3-0 Germany F.R. Decathlon Club, Santa Clara, CA, USA

1981

USA 3-0 Great Britain Tamaaawa-en Racauet Club, Tokyo, Japan

1980

USA 3-0 Australia Rot-Weiss T.C., Berlin. West Germany

1979

USA 3-0 Australia RSHE Club Campo. Madrid, Spain

1978

USA 2-1 Australia Koovona Club. Melbourne, Australia

1977

USA 2-1 Australia Devonshire Park, Eastbourne, Great Britain

1976

USA 2-1 Australia Spectrum Stadium, Philadelphia, PA, USA



Czechoslovakia 3 USA 2-1 Australia Australia 0 Athens T.C.. Aixoise C.C., Aix-en-Athens, Greece Provence, France

1968

Australia 3 Netherlands 0 Stade Roland Garros. Paris, France

1967

USA 2-0 Great Britain Blau-Weiss T.C., Berlin, West Germany

1966

USA 3-0 Germany F.R. Turin Press Sporting Ellis Park, Johannesburg, Club, Turin, Italy

1965

Australia 3 Great Britain 0 Royal King's Park T.C., 1964 Perth, Australia

1970

1975

1974

1973

Africa

1972

1971

Australia 2-1 USA

Naples T.C., Naples, Italy

Australia 3-0 South

Bad Hombura T.C.

South Africa 2

Great Britain 1

South Africa

West Germany

Australia 3 Germany F.R. 0 Freiburg T.C., Freiburg, West Germany

Australia 2-1 USA Kooyong Club, Melbourne, Australia

Australia 2-1 USA Germantown Cricket Club, Philadelphia, PA, USA

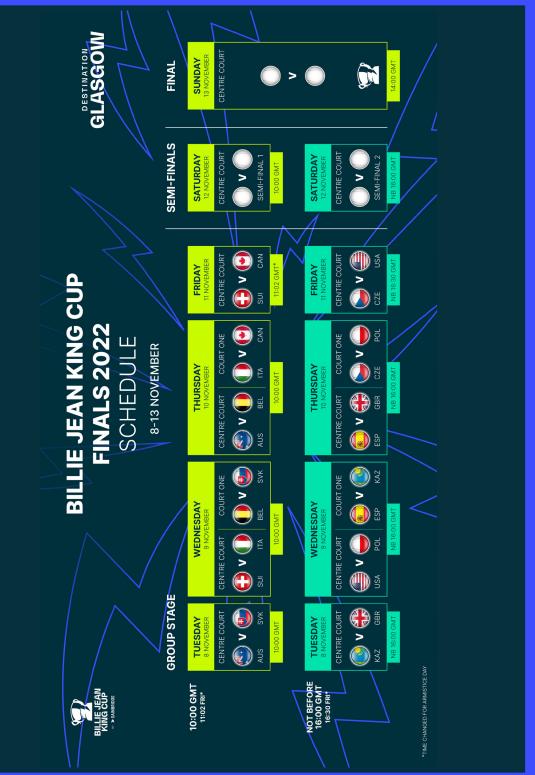
1963

USA 2-1 Australia The Oueen's Club. London, Great Britain













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