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## WELCOME

Welcome to the 2023 cinch Championships at The Queen's Club!

The cinch Championships really is one of the UK's best sporting events of the Summer; two-time cinch Championships winner Matteo Berrettini is back to defend his title plus 10 of our home-grown talent are here to thrill, with Cam Norrie, Andy Murray and Alfie Hewett to name a few.

The striking purple of the cinch Championships is a sight not to be missed, so be sure to share your snaps with us (@cinchuk across social channels – whether that be the cinch cars you see out and about providing a transport service for the players or here within the grounds at The Queen's Club.

Make sure you pop to the cinch stand too (outside the South Pavilion), where we're giving you the opportunity to be back here next year plus, we've got some great giveaways for you to use whilst you're with us this week. If you need to charge your phone, we can help with that too – our way of making your time at the cinch Championships as faff-free as possible.

Enjoy a great week of tennis and making memories with friends and family!



**Avril Palmer-Baunack**  
CHAIRMAN OF  
CONSTELLATION  
AUTOMOTIVE GROUP,  
OWNERS OF CINCH



On behalf of the LTA, I am delighted to welcome you to the 2023 cinch Championships at The Queen's Club.

Thank you to Ross Niland and his team at Queen's for all their help and support in hosting the event. The first Championships were held here 142 years ago and the enthusiasm for the tournament remains as strong as ever, with Centre Court tickets selling out at their fastest rate since the capacity was increased in 2017.

We have a very exciting field of players this year with strong representation from Britain and abroad. This will once again include a wheelchair tennis event – where there will be an opportunity to see the stars of the Great Britain team who captured the men's World Team Cup (the equivalent of the Davis Cup in wheelchair tennis) earlier this year.

I'd like to wish very good luck to all the players, from both Britain and overseas, who are playing here this week.

I'd also like to thank those we work with at the ATP and ITF along with our commercial partners who make the event a reality. I'd particularly like to thank cinch for their ongoing support of the event.

Finally, it's important to recognise the contribution of all the officials, volunteers, staff, and of course fans who do so much to make this a special event. If you're inspired by what you've seen today tickets are now on sale for the Davis Cup Group Stages in Manchester in September via the LTA website.

Best wishes

**Scott Lloyd**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE | LTA

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## WELCOME

### Dear Tennis Fans,

As Chairman of the ATP, I would like to welcome you to the 2023 cinch Championships. This week presents an opportunity to witness some of the world's greatest players competing in one of the most iconic atmospheres on Tour. We're excited that you've decided to join us for the action.

This event's heritage and world-class experience have made it a highlight of the grass court season, with the tournament being voted as ATP 500 of the Year for the fourth time in 2022. Between the return of five-time champion Andy Murray and the debut of Carlos Alcaraz, this year is set to deliver yet more compelling action and storylines.

With the summer season now in full swing, it is encouraging to reflect on the incredible entertainment that tennis offers. This season kicked off with the brand-new United Cup - an innovative mixed team event that saw the top male and female players join forces to compete for their countries. Over the course of 11 months, the ATP Tour will span 30 global markets and build toward an incredible climax at the Nitto ATP Finals in Turin. This prestigious event is an important part of that story.

We would like to thank Luiz Carvalho and his dedicated tournament team for their hard work ahead of this year's cinch Championships. We wish everyone involved a successful event as well as an exciting week of action on court.

I would also like to thank the fans, whose passion for tennis inspires the players on court and inspires us to continue driving the game forward. We thank you for your support and invite you to follow the ATP Tour at [www.ATPTour.com](http://www.ATPTour.com) and via social media.

Best wishes,

**Andrea Gaudenzi**  
ATP CHAIRMAN



On behalf of the ITF, I would like to welcome you to this event and what will be another exciting grass court season for international wheelchair tennis.

I am looking forward to seeing some of the world's top men's wheelchair players back at the cinch Championships in London, which always produces some exhilarating tennis. Meanwhile, the Rothsay International Eastbourne hosts some of the world's top women's and quad players at one venue for the first time this year and we are delighted that fans will have the opportunity to watch an array of top 10 players in action in both draws on the south coast.

The ITF Wheelchair Tennis Tour launched in 1992 and since then, we have been at the forefront of promoting and developing wheelchair tennis opportunities across the world. The UNIQLO Wheelchair Tennis Tour features 160 tournaments in more than 40 countries, showcasing a diverse array of wonderfully talented athletes, who continue to inspire fans and future players.

Behind these tournaments and players are dedicated and passionate organisational teams, sponsors and volunteers. Without their hard work, none of this would be possible, so I would like to thank them for their commitment to the continued growth and success of wheelchair tennis.

I am confident that the sport is very well placed to continue developing for years to come, and the ITF will do all it can to ensure that's the case. Please enjoy watching these incredible athletes compete during the British summer and beyond.

**David Haggerty**  
ITF PRESIDENT

# WELCOME



I am proud to welcome you to the 2023 cinch Championships at Queen's and delighted to be hosting the event for cinch, the title sponsor, and the Lawn Tennis Association.

Sport is at the heart of The Queen's Club with a rich sporting history. Initially a true multipurpose sports club, Queen's played host to rugby, football and cricket matches as well as athletics on our famous lawns. Over time those sports began to be played at nearby London stadiums and the Club developed into the rackets club we are known for today.

The summer Championships binds that history with an impressive roll call of Lawn Tennis champions who have lifted the iconic singles trophy on Finals Day - we can't wait

to see what the week brings and who will be our 2023 Champions!

I am also delighted this year that our Club's official charity, The Queen's Club Foundation (QCF), will be represented at the Championships. We are enormously proud of our charity which delivers local community tennis and squash programmes, improving the lives of children and adults in need across the Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham. To find out more about the valuable work of The QCF, please visit their website, [www.queensclubfoundation.co.uk](http://www.queensclubfoundation.co.uk) or make a donation.



I wish to thank Graham Kimpton, our Grounds Manager, and his team who have once again worked incredibly hard to prepare our grass courts so superbly. I hope you will also forgive me for taking the time to thank our Members for their forbearance; building the stadium and facilities for such an important event does disrupt their day-to-day use of the Club. But it is all worth it!

We hope that you enjoy your day at the cinch Championships at Queen's and wish you a great day of tennis.

**Simon Greenwell**  
CHAIRMAN  
THE QUEEN'S CLUB



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QUEEN'S CLUB

# cinch CHAMPIONSHIPS



LIVE SCORES AND ORDER OF PLAY



EVENT GUIDE FOR QUEEN'S



PLAYER ENTRY LIST

For all the latest scores, results, draws, the daily order of play and the updated player entry list from this year's cinch Championships at Queen's scan the QR codes above.

## CONTENTS

3	CINCH & LTA WELCOMES	45	PADEL
5	ATP & ITF WELCOMES	46	PARK LIFE
7	QUEEN'S CLUB WELCOME	51	CELEBRATING THE LTA TENNIS AWARDS
10	THE STORY OF THE CINCH CHAMPIONSHIPS	52	FACILITY INVESTMENT
12	PLAYER PROFILES LIST	55	PERFORMANCE MATTERS
19	NEAL SKUPSKI	56	GORDON REID INTERVIEW
20	MATTEO BERRETTINI	59	PLAY LIKE THE PROS
22	ANDY MURRAY: KING OF QUEEN'S	60	ANDREW CASTLE Q&A
27	FIGHTER: RYAN PENISTON	62	LTA COACHING PATHWAY REVAMPED
28	WHO IS THE GREATEST GRASS COURTS PLAYER IN THE MODERN ERA?	65	DAVIS CUP
31	LTA SERVES	66	THE WTA HITS 50
32	IN CONVERSATION WITH... CLARE BALDING	71	ENCOURAGING THE NEXT GENERATION
35	LTA PRIDE	72	TENNIS IN NUMBERS
36	LTA SUSTAINABILITY	75	MOMENT IN TIME: ANDY MURRAY
39	RISEING STARS	76	WALL OF CHAMPIONS CINCH CHAMPIONSHIPS QUEEN'S
40	PREPARING THE PERFECT GRASS COURT	80	THE QUEEN'S CLUB GROUNDS MAP
42	LTA TENNIS FOUNDATION		



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# THE STORY OF THE CINCH CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 2022 cinch Championships at The Queen's Club were a joyous celebration of grass court tennis, with Matteo Berrettini emerging as the champion for a second successive year.



Matteo Berrettini in Queen's Club changing rooms

Berrettini defeated world No.38 Filip Krajinovic 7-5 6-4 on finals Sunday at The Queen's Club.

His win ensured Berrettini became the first player in the Open Era to lift the trophy on his first two appearances at the tournament.

In addition, he was first player to win consecutive cinch Championships titles since Andy Murray between 2015 and 2016.

"This just didn't seem possible," said Berrettini. "This is why it felt so special to win twice at Queen's."

"I always knew that this is one of the most like historical tournaments that we have and just look at the list of winners here. I think most of them are being No.1 in the world. It makes me feel good, makes me feel proud that I have won here two times."



Nikola Mektic and Mate Pavic beat Lloyd Glasspool and his partner Harri Heliövaara in the doubles final

"When I come back to Queen's I get the special feelings that you have when you have won somewhere. Hopefully I get that again when I return."

Krajinovic's run to the final secured him a seeding at

Wimbledon and he was surprised to make progress on a surface that he had enjoyed limited success on.

"It was an amazing last 10 days, very emotional to be in my first final on grass," said the Serbian.



Alfie Hewitt partnered Frenchman Stephane Houdet won the wheelchair couples title

"Just before this tournament I never won a match on grass and I hated playing on grass. But I feel now I want to play more and more."

Nikola Mektic and Mate Pavic were crowned as doubles champions after defeating Briton Lloyd Glasspool and his partner Harri Heliövaara 3-6 7-6(3) 10-6.

The Croatian duo extended their winning record on grass to 14-1 adding to their Wimbledon and Eastbourne titles from 2021 with a close match tie-break victory.

In the wheelchair event at the cinch Championships, Belgium's Joachim Gerard claimed the men's singles title and Britain's Alfie Hewitt partnered Frenchman Stephane Houdet to a victory in the men's doubles as they beat 17-year-old Brit Andrew Penney and Gerard 6-2 6-2 in the final.

## HISTORY OF THE EVENT

The cinch Championships is one of the longest-running tennis tournaments on the ATP World Tour. With more than a century of history and a roll of honour that features the names Rod Laver, John McEnroe, Boris Becker, Rafael Nadal and Andy Murray, it is the jewel in the crown of the grass court season in the lead-up to Wimbledon.

## THE QUEEN'S CLUB

The Queen's Club is named after Queen Victoria, its first patron, and is regarded as one of the premier Lawn Tennis and Racquets clubs in the world.

The club opened for business in 1887 after the conversion of an 11-acre site that previously housed market gardens and a cricket pitch.

It is now associated primarily with tennis and other racquet

sports, but it was also London's first great multi-sport venue, hosting annual Oxford v Cambridge challenges at rugby, football and athletics.

In 1895, 20,000 people came to The Queen's Club to see England play a football international against Wales. It was also one of the main venues for the London Olympics in 1908.

The Queen's Club Championships has been staged at The Queen's Club since 1890. The tournament was initially held at Stamford Bridge, home of Chelsea football club, between 1884 and 1889 before moving to The Queen's Club in 1890.

Since 1979, John McEnroe, Jimmy Connors, Boris Becker, Pete Sampras, Lleyton Hewitt, Rafael Nadal and Andy Murray (twice) have all won both The Queen's Club Championships and The Championships, Wimbledon in the same year.

## THE WINNERS

Seven different players have completed The Queen's Club-Wimbledon title double in the same year, including John McEnroe (1981, '84), Jimmy Connors ('82), Boris Becker ('85), Pete Sampras ('95, '99), Lleyton Hewitt (2002), Rafael Nadal (2008) and Andy Murray (2013, '16).

In 2016, Murray became the first player to win five Queen's Club titles, separating himself from the elite group of players who have won four Queen's Club crowns, including McEnroe, Becker, Hewitt and Andy Roddick.

The cinch Championships was the ATP 500 Tournament of the Year in 2015-16, 2018 and 2022. ■

# cinch

## CHAMPIONSHIPS

# PLAYER PROFILES

The entry list for this ATP event in the 2023 British grass court season confirmed a stellar line-up will be taking centre stage at the cinch Championships at Queen's.



## CARLOS ALCAZAR

SPAIN | BORN: MAY 5 2003

- Youngest and first teenage world No.1 and year-end Pepperstone ATP rankings history (since 1973), making record rise from No. 32 at end of 2021 to No.1 at age 19 in September 2022.
- Won his first Grand Slam title at the US Open last September, beating Casper Ruud in the final.
- Became youngest ATP 500 champion at 2022 Rio de Janeiro (165 events since 2009) and 3rd-youngest ATP Masters 1000 champion at 2022 Miami (294 events since 1990).
- Youngest player to defeat both Nadal and Djokovic and the first to do so at same clay-court event, beating them on back-to-back days en route to a second ATP Masters 1000 title at 2022 Madrid.



## MATTEO BERRETTINI

ITALY | BORN: APR 12 1996

- Berrettini is back at Queen's Club to defend the cinch Championship title after winning here for the past two years.
- He achieved career-high ranking of No.6 after reaching 2022 Australian Open semi-final, becoming the second highest-ranked Italian in history of Pepperstone ATP rankings in 1973 (No.4 Panatta in 1976).
- At 2021 Wimbledon, he became the first Italian men's singles finalist (losing to Novak Djokovic) in tournament history and the first Italian Grand Slam men's singles finalist since Adriano Panatta at 1976 Roland Garros.



## HOLGER RUNE

DENMARK | BORN: APR 29 2003

- A former world No.1 junior who broke into the top 100 in January 2022.
- He is the highest-ranked Dane in Pepperstone ATP rankings history (since 1973), reaching career-high No. 6 in May 2023.
- Captured 2022 ATP Masters 1000 Paris title, beating Novak Djokovic in a high-quality final.
- Reached the quarter-finals at Roland Garros earlier this month.



## TAYLOR FRITZ

USA | BORN: OCT 28 1997

- A former world No.1 junior who won his fifth ATP Tour title at 2023 Delray Beach to achieve a career-high No.5 and become first American in top 5 since Roddick in September 2009.
- Achieved his best run in a Grand Slam event when he reached the quarter-finals at Wimbledon last summer, before losing against Rafael Nadal.
- Beat Rafael Nadal in 2022 ATP Masters 1000 Indian Wells final to become that event's first American men's champion since Agassi in 2001.
- He is a two-time champion at the LTA's Rothesay International Eastbourne and won the title in that event last year.



## FRANCES TIAFOE

USA | BORN: JAN 20 1998

- A former world No.2 junior who achieved a career-high ranking of No.11 in April 2023 after capturing a second career ATP Tour title in Houston.
- He reached the semi-finals at the 2023 Indian Wells Masters, losing to Daniil Medvedev.
- Beat Rafael Nadal en-route to 2022 US Open semi-final, becoming that event's first American men's semi-finalist since Andy Roddick in 2006.
- Won his first ATP Tour title as 20-year-old at 2018 Delray Beach.



## CAMERON NORRIE

BRITAIN | BORN: AUG 23 1995

- Reached the semi-finals of Wimbledon last year and was a runner-up in the cinch Championship at Queen's Club in 2021.
- Broke into top 10 in April 2022 and achieved a career-high No. 8 in September 2022, joining Tim Henman, Andy Murray and Greg Rusedski as fourth top-10 British man in ATP Rankings history (since 1973).
- Advanced to 13 ATP Tour finals from May 2021-February 2023, including the 2021 ATP Masters 1000 Indian Wells title to become first British champion in 46-year tournament history.



## LORENZO MUSETTI

ITALY | BORN: MAR 3 2002

- A former world No.1 junior who broke into top 20 of the ATP rankings and achieved a career-high No.18 in January 2023 after recording 4-1 singles record at the inaugural United Cup in Australia.
- He beat 19-year-old Carlos Alcaraz in 2022 Hamburg final at age 20, marking the youngest ATP Tour final since 2005 Bastad (when 19-year-old Rafael Nadal beat 19-year-old Thomas Berdych).
- Beat Novak Djokovic at the 2023 Monte Carlo Masters event to record his first win against a world No.1.



## MIOMIR KECCMANOVIC

SERBIA | BORN: AUG 31 1999

- He broke into the top 40 of the rankings after winning his first ATP Tour title at 2020 Kitzbuhel and achieved a career-high No.27 in January 2023.
- His best run at Wimbledon came last summer, as he reached the third round.
- Kecmanovic earned personal-best 38 wins in 2022, reaching Australian Open fourth round, the third round at Roland Garros and Wimbledon 3R. He also finished year-end best No.29.
- He has reached two ATP Tour finals in 2023, in Delray Beach and Estoril.



## MARIN CILIC

CROATIA | BORN: SEP 28 1998

- A two-time former champion at The Queen's Club, winning this event in 2012 and 2018. He was a runner-up here in 2013 and 2017.
- A former world No.1 junior who broke into top 10 of the ATP rankings after reaching 2010 Australian Open semi-finals and achieved a career-high No.3 following a run to the 2018 Australian Open final.
- He won the 2014 US Open, beating Roger Federer in the semi-finals and Kei Nishikori in the final.



## DAN EVANS

BRITAIN | BORN: MAY 23 1990

- Former top-10 junior was unranked in April 2018 before becoming British No.1 for first time in October 2019 and achieving a career-high No.22 in September 2021.
- Did not drop a set en route to first ATP Tour title as a 30-year-old in 2021 in Melbourne.
- Reached ATP Masters 1000 semi-finals at 2021 Monte Carlo and 2022 Montreal.
- Since making his debut against Poland in 2009, Evans has become an established member of Great Britain's Davis Cup team - representing his country in 22 ties and being a part of the winning Davis Cup team in 2015.



## ANDY MURRAY

BRITAIN | BORN: MAY 15 1987

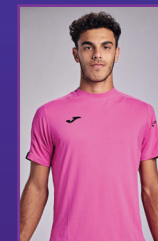
- A five-time former champion at The Queen's Club, more than any player in the history of this tournament.
- Murray is also a two-time former Wimbledon champion (2013 and 2016) and he also won the 2012 US Open.
- He claimed two Olympic gold medals for Great Britain (2012 and 2016) and helped his nation win the 2015 Davis Cup
- Recipient of a Knighthood for his services to tennis and charity.



## BOTIC VAN DE ZANDSCHULP

NETHERLANDS | BORN: OCT 4 1995

- He achieved career-high ranking 14 times in 2022, peaking at No. 22 in August and ending his second straight season as No.1 Dutchman.
- At the 2021 US Open, he became the third men's qualifier to reach the US Open quarter-final and was the only player to take a set off eventual champion, Daniil Medvedev.
- He was a semi-finalist at the 2022 cinch Championships, losing to eventual champion Matteo Berrettini.



## FRANCISCO CERUNDOLO

ARGENTINA | BORN: AUG 13 1998

- Broke into top 100 of the ATP rankings and achieved a new career-high ranking 11 times in 2022. He then reached career-high No. 23 on 29 May 2023 after finishing a runner-up in a tournament in Lyon.
- As world No.103 at 2022 Miami, he became the lowest-ranked semi-finalist in 37-year tournament history and the first player to reach the last four in his ATP Masters 1000 main draw debut since Jerzy Janowicz at 2012 Paris.
- His father, Alejandro, also played pro tennis; his younger brother, Juan Manuel, won 2021 Cordoba title; his sister, Constanza, played for the Argentine field hockey team that won a gold medal at the 2018 Youth Olympics.



## ALEX DE MINAUR

AUSTRALIA | BORN: FEB 17 1999

- A two-time Next Gen ATP Finals runner-up who achieved a career-high ranking of No. 15 in June 2021.
- He reached his first Grand Slam quarter-final at the 2020 US Open and made it through to the last-16 at Wimbledon last summer.
- De Minaur was a runner-up at the 2016 Junior Wimbledon Championships, losing to Denis Shapovalov in the final.



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## WHEELCHAIR PROFILES



### ALFIE HEWETT

BRITAIN | BORN: 6 DECEMBER 1997.

- Three-time Paralympic silver medallist.
- 24-time Grand Slam champion.
- 2022 Wimbledon singles finalist.

### GORDON REID

BRITAIN | BORN: 2 OCTOBER 1991.

- Rio 2016 singles gold medallist.
- 2021 cinch Championships singles champion.
- 23-time Grand Slam champion.

### JOACHIM GERARD

BELGIUM | BORN: 15 OCTOBER 1988.

- Rio 2016 men's singles bronze medallist.
- 2022 cinch Championships singles champion.
- 4-time Singles Masters champion.

### MARTIN DE LA PUENTE

SPAIN | BORN: 22 JUNE 1999.

- 2022 year-end doubles No.1.
- 2022 US Open doubles champion.
- 2022 British Open singles finalist.

### STEPHANE HOUDET

FRANCE | BORN: 20 NOVEMBER 1970.

- Three-time Paralympic doubles gold medallist.
- 23-time Grand Slam champion.
- 2022 cinch Championships doubles champion.

### DERMOT BAILEY

BRITAIN | BORN: 18 FEBRUARY 1994.

- Tokyo 2020 Paralympian.
- 2029 Queen's Club semi-finalist.
- Combines tennis with his accountancy job.



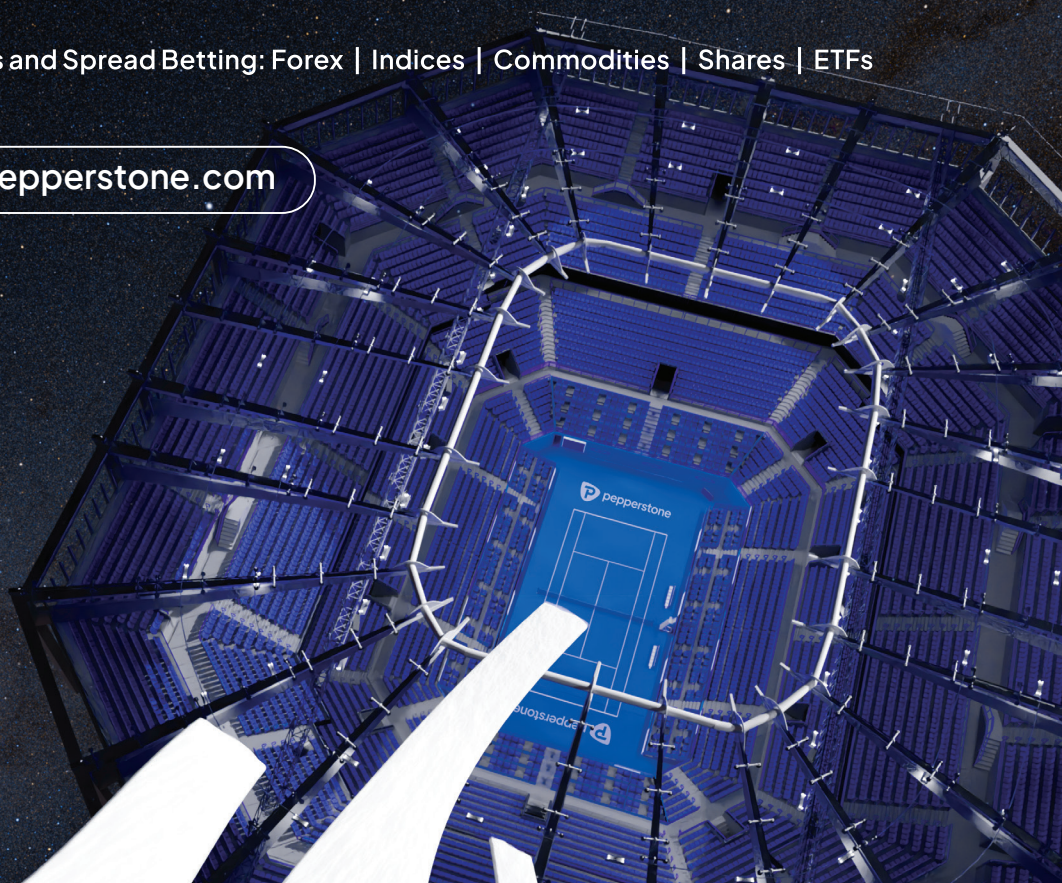


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# NEAL SKUPSKI'S RISE TO THE TOP

The doubles competition at the 2023 cinch Championships is certain to be one of the big attractions at The Queen's Club, with some star names on the entry list.

Britain's Neal Skupski and partner Wesley Koolhof are joined by Britain's Joe Salisbury and his partner Rajeev Ram.

The British duo of Andy Murray and Cameron Norrie also confirmed their intention to team up on the grass courts, while Taylor Fritz (USA) & Jiri Lehecka (CZE) was another intriguing double act.

Here, Skupski gives us his take on what has been a thrilling year that saw him rise to the top of the ATP rankings.

## How has the partnership with Wesley Koolhof developed?

It gelled right away. We won our first two tournaments in Australia of 2022 and managed to win seven tournaments last year and finish as the No.1 doubles team. He is very easygoing, just like myself. We spend a lot of time together and talk a lot about Fantasy Football, as he is massively into that. Sadly he is a Chelsea fan and I'm a Liverpool fan, but we can work on that!

## What is the big target for 2023?

I would take any men's doubles Grand Slam. We made a final of the US Open and last year at Wimbledon last summer, we lost to the pair who went on to win the title. We will try and do better than last year and hopefully the British crowds can get behind me and Wesley and take us to the title.

## How did it feel to become world No.1?

Being No.1 is an incredible feeling. It's quite surreal. I didn't quite believe it myself. It's something I'm sure I will look back on when I'm finished playing tennis with a big smile on my face.



## Do you enjoy playing on grass courts?

It's always fun to play in front of the British crowds. We are on the road so much over the course of the year and it is nice to be at home and playing with crowds cheering us on. The Queen's Club tournament is always a fantastic week and then, of course, Wimbledon is a very special place to play tennis.

## Is winning Wimbledon the ultimate dream?

I have been fortunate enough to win the Wimbledon mixed doubles over the last couple of years and that was fantastic, but Wesley and I would love to win the men's doubles. It is the pinnacle of our sport and it is a massive target for me. ▣



QUEEN'S CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS



FACT: Matteo Berrettini joined John McEnroe, Jimmy Connors, Boris Becker, Ivan Lendl, Lleyton Hewitt, Andy Roddick and Andy Murray as the only players in the open era to successfully retain The Queen's Club crown.

**Emotions were close to the surface for Matteo Berrettini as he retained the cinch Championships title last year.**

Just a few weeks before his second triumph at The Queen's Club, this affable Italian didn't know if he would be fit to take to the court to to defend the title he won with a victory against Britain's Cameron Norrie in the 2021 Final.

After surgery on his hand in March of last year, Berrettini was unsure whether he would recover in time to defend his cinch Championship title.

Yet after beating Britain's Andy Murray in the final of a tournament in Stuttgart the week before his return to The Queen's Club, Berrettini went on to embark on a thrillingly impressive run on a court that has been a stage for the biggest wins of his career.

"For a long time, I didn't know if I could play at Queen's and defend the title and that is why this win was so emotional for me," reflected Berrettini, as he looked back on his success that concluded with a 7-5 6-4 win against Serbia's Filip Krajinovic in last year's Final.

"The weeks after my surgery, my hand was sore and I was not hitting many balls in practice.

"My team gave me the confidence to go ahead, to push through the moment. Then I arrived in Stuttgart, I played just one set of practice, so I thought maybe I would play a couple of rounds if I was lucky.

"Then I won that tournament and also won Queen's again, which was amazing. I'm impressed by what I achieved in those two tournaments because me and my team didn't know what was possible after so little practice.

"When I was out, I actually thought what if my technique has now changed because I had surgery on my hand? What if my service will not work as well as it used to?

"When you dream about something that feels a long way in the distance, it is amazing when it happens."

It is not just on the court that Berrettini's status has been transformed over the last couple of years.

His run to the 2021 Wimbledon final against Novak Djokovic elevated Berrettini's global

status beyond the tennis stage, with the media spotlight turned on a player whose dashing appearance ensured he attracted a huge fanbase on his social media platform.

Berrettini's prominent appearance in the Netflix series 'Break Point', which gave fans a glimpse behind the scenes of the ATP Tour, added to his popularity beyond the court, with his appearance at the glamorous Met Gala in New York last month highlighting his celebrity status.

Dealing with outside pressures and elevated expectations has added to the melting pot for Berrettini and as he returned to The Queen's Club this summer, he is facing similar questions that were in front of him a year ago.

"I don't think too much about the hype that may be around me," he insists. "Maybe people expect more of me now, but my focus has always been on the court and trying to be the best I can be.

"I don't feel too much pressure, even if the media are saying I am one of the favourites to win Wimbledon. I know there are a lot of players out there who can be challengers."

A year on from his second cinch



Championships triumph, Berrettini is trying to deal with some similar concerns.

Once again, injuries have disrupted his ambitions in the first half of a tennis year, but this big-hitter has confirmed he has the firepower to challenge the best in the game on grass.

"There are reasons why I am pretty good on grass," believes Berrettini.

"I think obviously my weapons, like the style, my game, serve, forehand, slice, the fact that you really had to be mentally really strong.

"I figured that I could play good on grass in 2019 when I played the Davis Cup against India and I was feeling really good.

"I thought it was a good surface for me, and then I lost the match against Roger (Federer) at Wimbledon and I learned so much from that. After that it was just great memories so I like the grass court swing.

"Also, I just love The Queen's Club. Every time I walk in the hallways here and see all the names of the champions from the past, and now knowing it's me, twice, on the same wall gives me goosebumps."

Berrettini's hopes of backing up his cinch Championship win last summer with an extended run at Wimbledon was ended when he tested positive for Covid on the eve of The Championships.

Now a player who has become a firm favourite of The Queen's Club crowds will be looking to navigate a path through the next month that he hopes will end in the ultimate glory at Wimbledon. □





# ANDY MURRAY: KING OF QUEEN'S



**The tag of sporting legend is bestowed with a little too much haste in the modern world, yet Andy Murray ticks every qualifying box.**

His two Wimbledon singles titles, two Olympic gold medals, US Open triumph and Davis Cup success provide Murray with a legacy that ensures he will forever hold a unique place in British tennis folklore.

Now this final phase of his career has the potential to add to his legacy.

As the five-time singles champion of this event at The Queen's Club returns to a court that has been the stage for so many of his greatest triumphs, he does so with question marks hovering over how many more times he will return and yet at the age of 36, the passion to succeed continues to burn brightly for Murray.

"I don't have anything to prove to anyone, but I want to play at the highest level and competing on the tour is what I want to do," said Murray, who started his 2023 grass court season by winning the LTA's Lexus Surbiton Trophy.

"Grass is a surface I feel comfortable on and a lot of the guys on the tour don't play on it too often so I have to try and take advantage of that. I would fancy myself against a lot of them.

"This is the surface that I adjust to quickest and feel most natural on. It is the one that suits my game the best.

Within a couple of days I feel good on grass and the results show that.

"Last year I won against (Nick) Kyrgios who made the final of Wimbledon and I won against (Stefanos) Tsitsipas, who is one of the best players in the world.

"I was a set all with (Matteo) Berrettini in the final in Stuttgart – who is quite clearly in the top few grass-court players – before I hurt my abs.

"Now this year I'm feeling positive. I have played a lot more matches this year and that is what I wanted to do, so I went into the grass court season optimistic about what I could do.

"There are still opportunities out there. We have a great team in the Davis Cup, the Olympics are coming up next year and that is a target and I still want to aim for.

"With the operations I had, some doctors told me I would never play again, but I want to see how far I can go."

It was back in 2005 that Murray first stepped on court here at The Queen's Club as a raw 18-year-old and he still treasures his first win at ATP Tour level as he beat Spain's Santiago Ventura.

Murray's first title here came in 2009 as he beat James Blake in the final and between 2011 and 2016, the Scot went on an incredible run in winning four out of six Queen's singles tournaments to become the all-time leading champion. »



## ANDY MURRAY'S QUICK STATS

- 2** 2013 and 2016 Wimbledon champion
- 5** 5-time winner at Queen's Club
- 2** 2012 and 2016 Olympic Gold medalist
- 41** 41 weeks as world No.1 (between November 7 2016 and August 20 2017)
- 14** Murray has won 14 ATP Masters 1000 titles, putting him in fifth place on the all-time list.
- 2015** Davis Cup winner with Great Britain

In 2011, he made up for his injury withdrawal against Andy Roddick in 2008 by defeating the American 6-3, 6-1 to reach his second final where he faced a familiar rival in Jo Wilfried Tsonga.

With rain delays throughout the Sunday, this would be only the third final to be played on a Monday in the history of the event.

After going a set down, Murray showed nerves of steel to edge a second set tie-break and eventually round off a 3-6, 7-6(2), 6-4 win over the Frenchman.

Murray was dealt a shock defeat at the hands of Nicolas Mahut in the second round in 2012 before going on to reach his first Wimbledon final, but in 2013 everything came together for the British star.

He once again battled past Tsonga in three-sets to reach his third Queen's final, where he took down Marin Cilic in yet another Queen's classic. An inspired Murray fought back from a set down to win 5-7, 7-5, 6-3 in two hours and 33 minutes.

It was just weeks later that Murray took the final step in lifting the Wimbledon trophy – breaking more records in becoming the

first Brit to do so since Fred Perry in 1936 after defeating Novak Djokovic in straight sets.

Then 2016 marked a year of dominance for Murray. He became world No.1 for the first time, won an astonishing 78 matches and claimed nine ATP titles – including Queen's.

Murray beat fellow Brit Kyle Edmund and Cilic again in three-sets to progress to the final and keen to keep his 100 per-cent record in Queen's finals alive, he battled from a set down to beat Canada's Milos Raonic 6-7(5), 6-4, 6-3 to become the most successful player in the tournament's history.

A few weeks later, Murray would seal his second Wimbledon title, beating Raonic once again.

Injury problems then halted his progress and now at the age of 36, the greatest Queen's champion of them all is back for another shot at the title.

When Murray looks back on his greatest moment at The Queen's Club, his five singles titles are placed alongside his memorable week winning the doubles title alongside Feliciano Lopez in 2019.

"The Queen's Club is obviously a great place to play," he added. "I have many great memories with the singles titles and winning the doubles with Feli was also a really special week.

"That was my first tournament back after not playing for a long period and having the hip operation, so I didn't know if I could play again. I got to share it with someone who I have been good friends with on the tour, so that was pretty cool.

"Obviously the singles titles are all special for different reasons and it is always great to come back to the club and have a chance to play on these amazing courts."

One of the ultimate winners in British sport is back at The Queen's Club and every time he takes the court at this venue, he expects to finish as a winner. ▣



## WHAT THEY SAY... ABOUT ANDY MURRAY

**John McEnroe, former world No.1:** "If he didn't believe he could still win there would be no point in him carrying on and he has that belief. No player wants to go out with an injury ending a career and you have to admire Andy's determination and desire to fight on after hip surgery. It's amazing what he is doing and that shows me the love of the game that he has. That and maybe wanting to get some sleep sometimes. He has four kids and I know that can be a little distracting when you spend too much time at home!"

**Tim Henman, former British No.1:** "No one will enjoy playing Andy Murray on grass for as long as he is in the draw. He will be dangerous at Queen's and then when he gets to Wimbledon, he will believe he has a chance. Being a professional tennis player is the best job in the world and while you are still enjoying it and the challenges that go with it, you should play for as long as you want. Andy has been an incredible ambassador for our sport and we want to see him out on court for as long as possible." ▣

**Novak Djokovic, world No.1:** "He is a great champion. Every season counts when you come to the last stage of your career and you start appreciating and valuing every tournament more because you know you might not have too many more in the tank. I love competing and I know Andy is the same. We had some great battles on court and I hope we can have more. He is an inspiration."

**Alex Corretja, Murray's former coach and former world No.2:** "Whatever Andy decides to do with his career now will be a gift. I don't think he needs to focus on results or setting his goals high. Knowing Andy as I do, he won't be able to set his targets low as he will want to win and as long as he plays, he will believe that. I remember being with him at home and he wanted to beat me at PlayStation FIFA. I had no idea how to play this game, but he told me to choose Barca and he was screaming every time he scored a goal, even though I didn't know how to play! He beat me 15-0 and was so happy about it. That shows how competitive he is in whatever he does." ▣

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# FIGHTER

Ryan Peniston had to overcome more than most to realise his dreams.

At the age of just one, he was diagnosed with rhabdomyosarcoma cancer, plunging his parents Penny and Paul into a nightmare they feared would never end.

Yet in the summer of 2022, the little boy who was so terribly sick before he knew what was happening to him proved that even the most challenging hurdles can be overcome.

Peniston's run to the quarter-finals of the LTA's cinch Championships at The Queen's Club included a famous victory over world No.5 Casper Ruud.

And he went on to back that up with a victory against rising star Holger Rune in the grass court event at Eastbourne before he won his first singles match in the main draw at Wimbledon.

Peniston's story captured the imagination of a global audience and he admits it was the fairy tale he had always believed could happen.

"It was an amazing summer and when you have had moments like that, it inspires you to push for more," he reflects.

"I had to deal with a lot of press at Queen's, Eastbourne and then Wimbledon, so it was different. But it was cool and I enjoyed it."

Peniston's press briefings often featured questions about his childhood illness and he was proud to direct a spotlight on a subject that is so close to his heart.

"It was obvious that they would ask me about my illness when I was a child and I was fine with it," he continued.

"Some people might not want to talk about something like that, but if I open up and talk about it, then other people going through the same thing might believe it is possible to come out the other side and to still chase your dreams.



"One of the best parts of my success in the grass court season last summer was the opportunity it gave me to speak about my story and this great charity.

"Hopefully that had a positive impact on people who are in the battle with cancer now.

"I'm an ambassador for the Young Lives vs Cancer charity. They work with families and kids that have been affected by cancer from the age of zero to 25. Being diagnosed with cancer is probably one of the worst days of your life and this charity helps people on so many levels."

Sporting stars are often hailed as heroes for overcoming adversity, but Peniston's story takes that to the next level. ▣

# WHO IS THE GREATEST GRASS COURT PLAYER OF THE MODERN ERA IN TENNIS?

It is a question that may never have a definitive answer, yet the discussion around how a verdict can be delivered makes for a compelling talking point.

**Do you come down on the side of eight-time Wimbledon champion Roger Federer, whose elegant brand of tennis enchanted the sporting world for two decades?**

Maybe you will always see Martina Navratilova as the ultimate grass court champion, with her record nine Wimbledon singles titles complemented by seven more in the women's doubles event at the All England Club.

Novak Djokovic will look to join Federer by winning his eighth Wimbledon titles this summer, while Bjorn Borg, Steffi Graf, Pete Sampras, John McEnroe and Serena Williams all proved to be unbeatable on grass when they were at their best.

## TITLE LEADERS

If title triumphs are the definition of greatness, Navratilova and Federer are in a league of their own.

Navratilova changed the women's game with her brand of athletic majesty on court, winning her first Wimbledon title in 1978 and her ninth and final title in 1990.

In total, Navratilova won a stunning 32 career titles on grass courts, with her 11 titles at the LTA event

in Eastbourne further evidence of her grass court mastery.

Federer's eight Wimbledon titles are complemented by a remarkable overall record on grass courts, as he won 105 matches and lost just 14 on his favourite surface.

Only Jimmy Connors has more career wins on grass than Federer (107) in the open era, but the Swiss maestro trumps the American with his dominance at Wimbledon and his unrivalled haul of singles' titles on his beloved Centre Court.

## SEVEN TIME KINGS

Novak Djokovic will be closing in on history when he arrives at Wimbledon this summer defending a stunning unbeaten record on grass courts.

The Serbian is currently in the midst of a 28-match winning run on grass courts, with his Wimbledon win last July adding to his legacy on the surface.

He is a long way short of Federer's remarkable 65-match unbeaten run on grass that started in 2003, while Bjorn Borg won 41 consecutive matches on the surface from 1976.



↳ Martina Navratilova



↳ Roger Federer



↳ Pete Sampras



↳ Serena Williams



↳ Novak Djokovic

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Yet Djokovic has a better win percentage on grass than Federer and Swedish great Borg and will look to cement his grass court credentials with another Wimbledon win this summer.

Big-serving American Pete Sampras also has to be in the debate over the greatest grass court players, with his seven Wimbledon titles between 1993 and 2000 a record that was eclipsed by Federer.

Sampras also has the best win percentage on grass of any player in the open era, emerging victorious in 90 per cent of his 63 grass court matches.

## SERENA AND STEFFI'S STORY

At their best, Serena Williams and Steffi Graf appeared to be unbeatable on a grass court.

German great Graf has seven Wimbledon titles on her record and a 91 per cent win rate in her 74 matches at the All England Club.

With her rasping forehand and cutting backhand slice so tough for her opponent to manage on court, Graf won five of the six Wimbledon singles' titles between 1991 and 1996.

If Steffi was the dominant grass court player of the 1990s, Serena Williams was her successor as queen of the surface.

Williams boasts an 87 per cent win rate on grass court in a career that included seven Wimbledon titles, as well as a victory on the All England Club grass at the 2012 Olympics.

## GREAT RIVALS

The rivalry shared by Borg and McEnroe in the late 1970s and early 80s brought tennis to a new audience around the world.

With the fiery American threatening the dominance of his elegant Swedish rival, matches between these two giants of the game were watched by audiences beyond tennis lovers.



↳ Andy Murray



↳ Steffi Graf



↳ John McEnroe



↳ Bjorn Borg



↳ Chris Evert

Their 1980 Wimbledon Final is considered to be one of the greatest games of all-time, with the fourth set tie break won 18-16 by McEnroe the stuff of legend.

These two great players only played against each other 14 times and shared seven wins each, with Borg's five successive Wimbledon titles from 1976 pushing him ahead of three-time Wimbledon champion McEnroe on grass courts.

## FAN FAVOURITES

British fans will always cherish Andy Murray's great moments on grass courts.

His two Wimbledon titles are complemented by a record five titles at the Queen's Club and an Olympic gold medal won on the All England Club's Centre Court in 2012.

If Murray was operating in an era that did not include rivals of the calibre of Federer, Djokovic and Rafael Nadal, he would almost have certainly won more Wimbledon titles.

Chris Evert has a similar story to Murray, as she won three Wimbledon titles (1974, 1976 and 1981), with her grace on the court diluted only by the brilliance of Navratilova as she emerged as the finest grass court player of her era. ■

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Helping young people in underserved communities across Great Britain get active and experience the physical, social and mental benefits of tennis – this is the LTA SERVES programme.

The industry leading sport for development programme aimed at children and young people aged 4-18 takes tennis into the heart of local communities to those who may never have had the opportunity to play before, or thought the sport was for them. It's all about having fun with friends, keeping mentally and physically fit all the while learning new skills beyond the tennis court. Through the power of tennis, we want to help more children and young people build their self-confidence, community cohesion and knowledge around health and wellbeing.

The LTA empower and equip over 1500 Tennis Activators throughout Britain, offering volunteers, leaders and youth workers the training and skills they need to run fun and engaging tennis sessions for children and young people in their communities.

No court, no problem – the LTA SERVES programme has been created so sessions can be delivered in community centres, youth clubs, faith venues and other places!

**Who can get involved?**

LTA SERVES encourages any community venue, local, regional and national organisations to get involved in the programme and bring the benefits of tennis to their community.

It doesn't matter if you've never picked up a racket before – if you have a passion for tennis and want to help more young people get active playing our sport, then you could become an Activator.

You don't need any equipment or any tennis courts – just bring your enthusiasm and the LTA will help you with the rest.

**Want to find out more about LTA SERVES and the LTA's Breaking Down Barriers or Underserved Lower Socio Economic Groups Plan?**

If you look after a venue, a community group, or even if you're a parent/guardian of someone



attending a local venue and want to find out how you can run LTA SERVES or become an Activator – contact us via the QR code.

The LTA get in touch to chat through next steps and get you on your way to running tennis sessions in your community. ■



BRITAIN'S NEWEST TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

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# IN CONVERSATION WITH CLARE BALDING

Sue Barker waved an emotional farewell to her role as lead presenter of the BBC's tennis coverage last summer and now Clare Balding is relishing the honour of succeeding a true broadcasting great in the prestigious role.

Here, Clare looks back on her own tennis broadcasting journey and ahead to a summer that will reach a crescendo as she interviews the newly crowned champions on the Centre Court at Wimbledon in mid-July.

**We have to start with a reflection of Sue Barker's incredible contribution. How proud are you to be filling her seat this summer?**

Sue's career was just outstanding. It was really one of the first examples of someone in Britain going from a professional sporting career into a highly professional broadcasting career. Her sporting knowledge was so impressive. She would always know the most random of sporting facts and it was just such an honour to work alongside her and to observe how much she contributes to the coverage. It is a huge privilege to fill that role, but no one individual replaces Sue. It is very much a team effort and I won't be able to do the things Sue has done as she played tennis at the highest level. I'm really looking forward to it.

**Do you feel pressure taking over as BBC host for this tennis summer?**

Not pressure, more pride. It is an amazing role and comes with a huge amount of responsibility. You have a responsibility to the audience and the players to fairly represent what they do and share with the audience greater insight and to tell stories that make people care about players. I have always wanted to do that across any sport, whether it is horse racing, swimming or cycling at the Olympics or the Boat Race. I want to try and to make sure the audience know more about the technicalities of what they are watching and that will be down to the experts like John McEnroe, Tim Henman, Martina Navratilova



and the rest working around me. I just never thought this would happen and I'm delighted and very proud and honoured. I will try to do the role justice.

**What are your earliest tennis memories?**

Watching Wimbledon as a teenager in the late 1980s, I will always remember Stefan Edberg and Boris Becker meeting in their finals. The career of Martina Navratilova is another shining memory. Just watching her tactical brilliance as well as her talent and commitment, was fantastic to watch on grass. I loved seeing Jana Novotna come back and win after her heartache in the first final and it summed up what a special place Wimbledon is.

**How do you reflect on your time working as a broadcaster in tennis?**

I started at Wimbledon as a junior reporter in 1995 for BBC Radio 5Live and have done all of the jobs on the outside courts. I remember Tim Henman's early days and interviewing him after his four semi-finals, trying to ask sensitive questions. I always try and avoid the "how do you feel" question because in that moment of triumph or loss, they are not feeling an awful lot. You can't compute your emotions, but you can talk about what it means to you and who has helped you to get to this point.

**What are you most looking forward to in this grass court season?**

It would be great to see Jodie Burrage's good form continue and it will be great to be back working with the tennis legends like John McEnroe, Martina Navratilova and I love working with Tracey Austin. I always enjoy working with Tim Henman, who is so cheeky and supportive, as well as John Lloyd. Annabel Croft is so professional and comes with tonnes of notes, so she offers great insight into the game. My job is to make sure we get the best from these fantastic analysts and I need to ask the questions to give the audience what they want to know.

**What makes tennis special?**

I've always felt tennis is the sport the British public care about more than any other because there is so much great broadcast



Sue Barker with Andy Murray in 2013

and print coverage that they feel like they know these individuals. When you look at the longevity of Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic as the audience have seen them develop and grow, we've lived through it with them over decades.

**What are your best memories of the LTA's pre-wimbledon grass court events?**

The absolute highlight is Andy Murray winning the Queen's title five times and also coming back and winning the Doubles in 2019 with Feliciano Lopez. The players that win Queen's and go on to win Wimbledon, I love seeing that story... McEnroe, Connors, Becker, Sampras and Lleyton Hewett, with Andy Murray doing that twice. That gives the audience a continuity and they are on the journey with them. It's a great sign of form, fitness and touch to win at Queen's and it's often been a great pointer to a good run at Wimbledon.

**Finally, what are your outstanding Wimbledon memories?**

Watching it as a teenager in the late 1980s, I will always remember Stefan Edberg and Boris Becker meeting in those finals. The career of Martina Navratilova is another shining memory. Just watching her tactical brilliance as well as her talent and commitment. Just watching her tactical brilliance as well as her talent and commitment - she really was fantastic on grass. I loved seeing Jana Novotna come back and win after her heartache in the first final and it summed up what a special place Wimbledon is. □



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# LTA PRIDE



After making a successful debut at the LTA's major summer events last year, 'Friday Pride Days' will be a key component of the summer grass court tournaments once again this month.

After making a successful debut at the LTA's major summer events last year, 'Friday Pride Days' will be a key component of the summer grass court tournaments once again this month.

With June marking Pride Month, tennis is eager to encourage all those who attend our major events to join in those celebrations.

Tennis has a proud record of leading the way on LGBTQ+ inclusion and advocacy and through a partnership with the UK LGBTQ+ tennis network, Pride in Tennis, Friday Pride Days will help to further build relations with LGBTQ+ communities across the country and show that tennis is a safe space for all.

As part of the days, on-court furniture will receive a splash of colour, Pride and Progress flags will fly proudly above the stands of all major events

Fans, coaches, volunteers, players and officials are all invited to show support for the Pride movement, by dressing as brightly and colourfully as possible.

Rainbow laces and sweatbands will be available from Pride in Tennis volunteers at the events, and we'd love as many people as possible to post themselves showing support for Pride on social media, with British tennis stars Liam Broady and Lucy Shuker among those supporting the campaign. Last year, Liam Broady helped put Pride in the spotlight by wearing rainbow laces at the Australian Open and he is keen to ensure all players feel comfortable in tennis.

"I've seen questions before about why there aren't any openly gay men on the tour, and I just wanted to kind of voice my support in that general area," said Broady.

"I have had a lot of support from the the LGBTQ community throughout my career and have been there since day one, so I kind of wanted to give a thank you in my own sort of way." □



The LTA's 'Friday Pride Days' form a key component of our broader LGBTQ+ inclusion work, formed of three key objectives:

- Enhance Tennis and the LTA's reputations as being proudly LGBTQ+ inclusive.
- Ensure venues and the wider tennis workforce are well educated in running safe spaces for LGBTQ+ players and have the tools to do so
- Improve our understanding of the wants and needs of the LGBTQ+ community looking to build opportunities to learn from and support each other through the sharing of lived experience



Liam Broady wearing rainbow laces



For more information on Pride in Tennis visit [www.lta.org.uk/news/lgbt-history-month-celebrating-one-year-of-pride-in-tennis/](http://www.lta.org.uk/news/lgbt-history-month-celebrating-one-year-of-pride-in-tennis/)

# LTA SUSTAINABILITY

The climate crisis and changes to the environment are global issues that will impact everyone, and tennis is no different.

As a national governing body and organiser of major sporting events we know we have a responsibility to reduce our own impact, but we also have an important role to play in encouraging and empowering all those involved in our sport to make positive changes that can have a big collective impact.

Not only is it the right thing to do, but we must all be increasingly aware of the threats our sport is and will face in the future from climate change.

The summer events that we are all currently enjoying remain one of our strongest assets for celebrating tennis in this country and attracting more people to embrace the sport as a spectator, fan or player. The impact of rising temperatures in the summer will present increasing challenges to the operation of our grass courts events and facilities and the cultural and financial impact of this cannot be overstated.

The thousands of tennis venues across the country that provide people with places to play our sport will also be impacted by more severe weather conditions at increased risk of flooding and damage to facilities.

In 2022, the LTA published our first ever Environmental Sustainability Plan, and we are taking action to play our part in contributing to a healthier and more sustainable society, ensuring we grow tennis in

Britain in a responsible way, protecting and supporting the environment, and tackling our climate impacts.

We've put in place a number of measures across our own operations and at the National Tennis Centre and Nottingham Tennis Centre, to improve our energy efficiency and reduce emissions, remove single-use products and support biodiversity locally. There are also a number of changes across this summer's events, including around catering, power, water and waste.

To support those involved in our sport more widely, a range of resources are available for tennis venues to embed environmental sustainability within their operations. This includes a template policy statement and action plan, which is packed full of practical ideas to be implemented, as well as guidance on reducing energy usage are also available, and additional support through the LTA Buying Group and our Quick Access Loan Scheme.

Find out more about the LTA's Environmental Sustainability work

Below are some of the specific initiatives in place at the cinch Championships this year.

## Player focused water solution

This year, we are piloting an increased number of water dispensers in player areas, including two courtside dispensers on Centre Court, providing purified water.

This will provide players with the opportunity to refill their own bottles, helping reduce our single use plastic waste.

Each player will be provided with refillable bottles on arrival, to use for the duration of the tournament.

Working with Green Goblet and building on our reusable cup initiative in 2022 for cold drinks, reusable hot cups will now be introduced in public retail, hospitality, media and player areas in 2023. This will further reduce the number of single-use items across our catering operations.

## Repurposing of used event materials

Working with CSM Live and Event Cycle, we have used our grandstand banners and other branding from last year to create reusable bottle holders for our ball crew.

They will be distributed at the start of the tournament and collected at the end so that they can be used again next year.

Along with players receiving reusable bottles, ball crew, stewards and onsite media will all be provided with reusable bottles for this year, in a further step to reduce single-use plastic.



## What can you do?

Millions of people play and watch tennis in Britain every year. Collectively, we can have a big impact and help protect and support the environment.

The LTA is leading the way for tennis in Britain, but everyone can play their part, however big or small. As a fan attending one of our events, you can help by:

- Using public transport to travel to events where possible
- Putting your waste in the right bin
- Choosing a low carbon "eco" option to eat
- Returning your reusable cup after you've had a drink
- Bringing your reusable bottle – there are refill points around our event sites

## What's happening at our events this year?



30,000 litres of fossil-free HVO (Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil) fuel is being used across our temporary generators, which generates 90% less greenhouse gases, reducing carbon emissions significantly.



45 hybrid vehicles are being used across our player transport fleets.



Across our events, plastics, aluminium cans, paper and cardboard are recycled.

Where discarded food is collected, this is sent for anaerobic digestion.



200,000 single use cups have been saved through our reusable cup scheme.

Food is sourced locally where possible, with sustainable eco options shown on our menus.

Leftover food is donated to local charities.



Free drinking water refill stations are located around event sites to reduce single-use plastic.

23,000 single use plastic bottles have been removed from our events by switching to boxed water.



2,000 plastic bags have been saved from stringing of all player rackets.

Used tennis balls from the event will be re-sold with proceeds to the LTA Tennis Foundation.



## Reducing waste and single-use items

- Building on our reusable cup initiative in 2022 for cold drinks, reusable hot cups will now be introduced in public retail, hospitality, media and player areas in 2023. This will further reduce the number of single-use items across our catering operations
- In 2022, over 7,500 single-use still and sparkling glass water bottles were used in hospitality areas. Instead, a reusable glass bottle initiative will be in operation this year which will see further reduction in glass waste
- We are also switching printed menus for QR codes in hospitality areas too.
- Along with players receiving reusable bottles, ball crew, stewards and onsite media will all be provided with reusable bottles too for this year, in a further step to reduce single-use plastic
- We work closely with our floral provider, to repurpose and donate floral arrangements to one of several hospices, care homes, schools or floral arranging classes for wellbeing.

## LTA Pledgeball League

The LTA has recently partnered with Pledgeball, a charity that rallies the sports community to drive change that tackles climate change.

Tennis players connected to an LTA registered venue can make a pledge to make small changes in their everyday life which they record on the Pledgeball platform, contributing to their venue's position in the LTA Pledgeball League.

By making small changes, we can collectively have a big impact, and help to protect the places we play our sport.



If you play at an LTA registered venue, find your venue's page and make a pledge today.



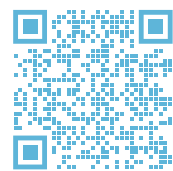
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16U Boys' Finalists



## RIISING STARS

The rising stars of British tennis will be looking in on this grass court season with an eye on the future.

Katie O'Brien with Hannah Klugman



Isabelle Lacy



This is always the most exciting phase of the season for our homegrown players and the 2023 LTA Junior National champions will be dreaming of continuing their success on the biggest stages of them all.

Surrey's Isabelle Lacy and Warwickshire's Luca Pow secured wild cards into qualifying for this summer's Wimbledon Championships after winning the 18U Junior National Championships at the National Tennis Centre in Roehampton.

There was also success for Surrey's Hannah Klugman and Kent's Benjamin Gusic-Wan, as they won the 16U LTA Junior National titles.

"I'm delighted to see the depth we have in the Junior game in Britain and it bodes well for the future," said former British No.1 Katie O'Brien, who is now a Women's National coach.

"It was so impressive to see their mentality and professionalism. I have been in that position and while this is a development phase of a career, every player wants to win. That adds to the pressure and the Girls in the two Junior National competitions dealt with that so well."

Gusic-Wan beat Surrey's Oliver Bonding in the 16U Boys' Final, with both players being helped in their careers as they are supported by the LTA's 16 and under NAGP programme.

Pow, who won the 18U title for a second year in succession, trains at the LTA's National Academy in Loughborough, where he benefits from a high-intensity daily training environment with world-class science and medicine support, working in partnership with a local school, to help them successfully develop into emerging tour professionals.

"The level in the Junior National finals were extremely high," said Martin Weston, National Coach to the LTA Men's Team. "If any country had that as their Boys' under-16 Final they would be very optimistic about the talent coming through the ranks.

"Then in the 18U tournament, the quality was so high and we had a great final between Luca and Oliver. They all have a great chance to have strong careers in the game."

Making the step up from the Junior ranks to senior level is always a challenging task, yet the young British players striving to follow in the footsteps of the likes of Andy Murray, Dan Evans, Emma Raducanu and Jack Draper are showing signs of real promise. ▣



# PREPARING THE PERFECT GRASS COURT

It starts the moment the final ball is struck.

Preparing the perfect grass court is an art perfected by those who develop their knowledge over many years and as soon as the iconic moment when a new champion is crowned, the grounds team are already thinking about the first day of next year's event.

That is the story told by Grounds Manager Graham Kimpton, who works throughout the year to ensure his team provide the best playing surface possible for the cinch Championships at London's prestigious Queen's Club.

"The moment our tournament ends after final days on Sunday and the stands start

being dismantled, we begin the process for the following year," begins Graham, who has been involved on the Queen's Club grounds team since 1984.

"It is a seven week build ahead of the event with the stands and marquees being constructed. Then the tournament week commences and once the it is completed, we have three weeks to return the club back to its normal state.

"Everyone may think our work is done when the Finals are played and we have our Queen's Club champions, but that is not the case.

"It is just amazing to see how the venue changes. Most people who come to Queen's

Club for that week in June would not believe how it looks for the weeks around the event and it is always so exciting to be part of that transformation."

Graham's father was Queen's Club Grounds Manager before him after starting his own career at Queen's Club in 1966 and his son Sam is now on a team that includes deputy Adam Kasperski and five other decorated members whose hard work is on display for a solitary week as the world's top players compete in the ATP 500 event in West London.

Technology and innovations have changed the landscape for Graham and his team since his formative days working on the preparation of grass courts, but he insists the basic principles remain unchanged.

"Certain things have evolved," reflected Graham. "Machinery has advanced and a lot of research has gone into the products we use, but the basic processes that my father worked on remain.

"We are aiming to get the best grass courts possible for the players to perform on and that is the target for all of us working hard to make sure the courts used for the LTA tournaments this summer are of the highest standard.

"Improvements in turf-care products to improve the quality of the grass is a factor, however, the basic processes involved in renovating the courts such as scarification, aeration, feeding and mowing have not changed to a large extent.



Grounds Manager Graham Kimpton

"Thanks to the modern equipment and materials it is now possible take the whole court up every few years and start afresh and that would not have been feasible without the developments in grass breeding for example. We need to ensure that we keep up with all new technologies and developments.

"Sustainability is also a massive factor now. We are moving on to battery-powered mowers and all our equipment will eventually be electric."

The first sight of a grass court on our TV screens is one of the most joyous sights of an English sporting summer and the heroes who provide the stage for the stars to shine play a huge role in this story. ■



Sam Kimpton is a member of the Grounds Team at Queen's and son of Grounds Manager, Graham Kimpton. When he is not behind a mower, Sam is one of The Queen's Club Foundation's Community Club coaches.

The vision of The QCF (which is The Queen's Club Official Charity) is to improve lives through racket sports. The QCF delivers free tennis to children in the local community, particularly to those from lower income backgrounds and those with disabilities. Sam is so supportive of the work of the Club's charity that so far, he has raised in excess of £3,500 by running a half-marathon last year and then a full marathon earlier this year. Sam is about to start his LTA Instructor qualification and gives up his early Sunday mornings to assist on the regular QCF Community Club Sessions.

To find out more about the work of The QCF and find out how you can get involved, visit: [www.queensclubfoundation.co.uk](http://www.queensclubfoundation.co.uk)

# LTA TENNIS FOUNDATION



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

The Foundation shares the LTA's wider vision of 'tennis opened up', and was formed when two existing charities, the Tennis Foundation and The LTA Trust, merged.

The Foundation is a grant and loan making charity and opened its first application window at the end of last year. In total, 29 applications were submitted from an incredibly diverse range of organisations and projects including other tennis charities.

Following a rigorous assessment process developed using external expertise and industry best practice, a total of £1.5m in grants was approved across three years.

Both the organisation and the projects proposed were evaluated against key themes of eligibility, assurance, capability, relevance, benefits and value. There will be a second window for grant applications later this year, which will close in September.

"By collaborating with other charities and third sector organisations the Foundation is challenging the status quo, looking for opportunities to invest in new and innovative projects that will make a real difference through tennis," said LTA Tennis Foundation Chair, Tim Lawler MBE.

Some examples of grant recipients in this window include:

The Living Well UK's "Tennis Got Served" project which will receive funding to support children living in temporary accommodation in developing their physical health, and mental well-being as well as increasing their confidence, reducing social isolation, and bringing together people from different backgrounds.



An innovative project from Greenhouse Sports Ltd, to scale up their Greenhouse Gamechangers project so that thousands more young people aged 9 to 16 from communities facing poverty will discover the joy of tennis, is also receiving funding. Over the next three years they will scale up their established tennis coaching and mentoring activities working with partner schools and with expansion outside London in key regional hubs such as Portsmouth and Leicester.

"We are delighted that in the spirit of the partnership this new funding from the LTA Tennis Foundation supports the expansion of Greenhouse's coaching into primary schools so we can work with younger age groups and now provide Greenhouse support through a child's entire school career," enthused Béatrice Butsana-Sita, CEO of Greenhouse Sports.




The Hertfordshire Association for the Care and Rehabilitation of Offenders (HACRO) was awarded a grant to introduce a tennis element to their TurnAround project which launched on 1 January 2023 to provide timely support to ex-offenders in their journey to becoming productive members of their communities. The programme provides participants with an individual mentor, formal training in life skills, literacy support and a range of activities designed to enhance their skills and physical and mental well-being.

Birkenhead Wellbeing Camps - aiming to tackle the issue of children going hungry during school holidays around the area of Bidston - will use their funding to operate drop-in tennis sessions during the school holidays at Wirral Tennis Centre for primary school aged children. As well as tennis, participants will be able to enjoy a meal and snacks throughout the afternoon as well as receiving a toiletry bag and access to use the facilities. All sessions will be run by a team of LTA qualified coaches, but they will also be supported by wider youth workers.

Access Sport will create and launch a new disability inclusive tennis offer for children and young people. They will equip and support clubs and venues to embed this offer, building knowledge and confidence through Access Sport's disability inclusion expertise. Initially launching in three target locations across 10 clubs, this one-year test and learn project will enable Access Sport to shape the offer and create a national programme with new resources that will enable them to scale the project nationally.

Access Sport Chief Executive, Helen Rowbotham said, "This is a positive step forward for disabled children and young people looking to get into tennis and we'd be delighted to hear more from those

interested in finding out about the project."  For more information please scan the QR code.



## FULL LIST OF GRANTEES

Access Sport CIO	Living Well UK	The Change Foundation	Bright Ideas for Tennis	Sport in Mind
Action For Children	Birkenhead Wellbeing Camps	The Sport Legacy Foundation	Everton in the Community	Tennis For Free
Everyone 4 Sport CIC	Pride in Tennis	Hertfordshire Association for the Care and Rehabilitation of Offenders	Give It Your Max	The Dan Maskell Tennis Trust
Hinckley Town Tennis Club	Sundridge Park Tennis and Squash Ltd		Greenhouse Sports Ltd	The Queen's Club Foundation
			Rackets Cubed	The Tim Henman Foundation

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Padel is continuing to grow at a thrilling rate, with over 100 venues now thriving across Britain.

The LTA took over governance of padel in 2019 and has focused on the development on facilities the length and breadth of the country – making sure infrastructure is in place to meet the ever-growing demand.

Padel is a sport for anyone and everyone and in case you don't know how it all works, here is a quick guide:

- A padel court has walls, so your shots can be played off them – like in squash – to find wicked angles and creative shots to beat your opponents.
- There's a reason why it's one of the fastest-growing sports in the world – it's easy to pick up and much more difficult to put down.
- No matter your age or ability, everyone is welcome on the padel court.
- You don't have to have played tennis – or any other sport before – just grab a bat, a doubles partner, and away you go!

Now your choices of venues are increasing at a rapid pace, with the governing body helping to grow the sport under the guidance of Tom Murray, LTA Head of Padel.

"Padel in Britain continues to go from strength to strength, hitting new milestones and gaining in popularity and profile," says Tom.

"The awareness of the sport has risen hugely and it's great that we now have over 100 venues in Britain where the increasing number of people who want to try padel are able to get on court and give it a go.

"We're also at a really exciting stage at the elite level of the game. The Great Britain Men's team qualified for the World Championships last year and in 2023 we're hosting more international competitions to give our top players the opportunity to gain ranking points and really start to establish themselves in the international ranks alongside players from nations where padel is a lot more established."

Recent openings of padel courts in Bristol, Aberdeen and The Wirral mean there are now 108 venues in Britain, bringing the number of courts to just under 300.

There is also a growing awareness of the sport with junior players and British No.1 Tia Norton is a leading



figure in spreading the message of the sport.

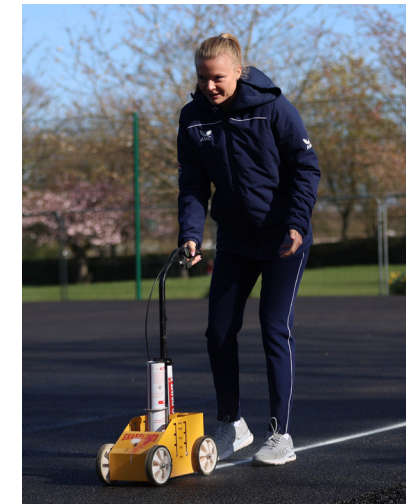
"Padel so accessible to everyone and that is one of the main reasons why people love it so much," said Tia.

"We have seen the progress the sport has made in the last year and now we have more British tournaments on the schedule that is really helping our players to develop.

"Also, it would be great to get more girls and young people playing padel and if I can help to spread the message in any way, then I'd be delighted." □



To get involved with padel, click the QR code



A revolution is underway across Britain as the LTA spearheads the Park Tennis Project aimed at breathing fresh life into tennis courts.

**With demand for courts rising at a rapid pace, multi-million pound investment from the UK Government and LTA Tennis Foundation is set to transform park courts in need of renovation.**

This is an unprecedented investment that will transform tennis facilities for people from the South Coast to the North of Scotland and it couldn't be taking place at a better time.

Adult participation soared from 3.3 million in 2021 to 4.7 million last year, highlighting the appetite to play tennis and the opportunity in front of us to open up our sport to even more people.

At the core of the project are the insights and research undertaken to understand barriers to participation and how they can be overcome.

Many of us pick up a racket for the first time at our local park courts, so it's vital to ensure that quality facilities are available across the country.

Park courts are the most popular venue for women to play after they have left education and are particularly important for engaging people from lower socio-economic communities in tennis.

So in association with local councils, the LTA has identified the park courts that are most in need of renovation, ensuring the locations selected will have the biggest impact on participation.

With work well underway to renovate tennis courts in parks across the country, LTA Chief Operating Officer Julie Porter explains how the project will transform grassroots tennis.

"For too long, many park tennis courts across Britain have been in a state of disrepair, limiting opportunities to pick up a racket and get on court," said Julie. "People want the ability to find and book a court before they leave the house.

"Since funding for the project was announced in 2021, our team have been working with hundreds of local authorities to create and implement bespoke plans for each area, engaging and working with councils to develop a pipeline of projects.

"Alongside renovating courts, our online booking system is making it easier than ever to book a court, find someone to play with, or register for a tennis session led by a coach or volunteer, whatever their age

**Alicia Barnett and Harriet Dart of Great Britain visits Stanley Park in Coventry, where courts have been renovated**

or ability. At parks where booking systems have been in place for 12 months, we have seen a 47% increase in participation.

"We also want to create more innovative ways for people to play and are working with local authorities and tennis providers to ensure that each area receiving investment delivers a weekly free park tennis session where equipment is provided.

"It's our vision that Free Park Tennis will be our sport's equivalent to Park Run - free community-run sessions for players of any age or ability delivered by local volunteers on weekends.

"This will be great for players who don't have a partner or want to play for the first time or those who want to hit a ball after some time out of the game."

The LTA's Local Tennis Leagues project has fuelled the demand for park tennis facilities and the aim of the renovation programme is to increase annual participation in parks by over 500,000 players in the coming years.

"We know that this 500,000 target is ambitious, but we are confident that we can achieve this uplift," added Julie.

"None of this would have been possible without the support of the UK Government and LTA Tennis Foundation, as well as the tireless work of the LTA's Parks Investment Delivery Team and counterparts at local authorities.

"Alongside this, a public procurement process has taken place to appoint contractors to deliver works, ensuring that we meet the requirements of spending public money and achieving best value.

"Whilst there is still much to do, everyone at the LTA is very excited about the transformation of parks tennis that is underway, which will help many more people pick up a racket, get active, and enjoy all the physical and mental health benefits that our sport provides."



**For more information please scan the QR code**



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# CELEBRATING THE LTA TENNIS AWARD WINNERS

The greats of British tennis share the stage with the grassroots heroes of our game in the annual LTA Tennis Awards and worthy winners have been crowned this year.

Eleven British tennis and padel stars claimed the honours in the elite player categories, with Harriet Dart claiming the Women's Player of the Year Award and Cameron Norrie named as Men's Player of the Year.

Doubles Player of the Year was Joe Salisbury, with Alfie Hewett taking the honours in the Wheelchair tennis category.

The four elite players won their respective category following a vote by tennis fans (LTA Advantage members), Colour Holders and Coaches based on their performances in the 2022 calendar year.

While the elite players may grab the headlines in British tennis, it is the workforce at our network of clubs across the country who are the lifeblood of the game.

This year's winners, selected from more than 2,200 nominations across 13 different categories, have been acknowledged for their outstanding contribution to tennis in 2022.

Now in their eighth year, the LTA Tennis Awards celebrate the thousands of individuals involved in tennis – from volunteers to the coaches and officials.

They also highlight the incredible achievements of some 22,000 schools, 13,000 LTA registered venues and more than 9,000 LTA-approved tournaments in helping to grow tennis around the country.

The ultimate winners will be revealed at a ceremony on 4 July at the National Tennis Centre in Roehampton, which will also mark the achievements of the elite players.

"The LTA Tennis Awards acknowledge the extraordinary contribution of the individuals and venues that help us open tennis up,



Alfie Hewett

bringing new fans and players to the game," said Scott Lloyd, Chief Executive of the LTA.

"The contributions the nominees have made to the sport are tremendously positive. We are delighted to celebrate their amazing dedication to the game and all they do for their communities.

"I'd like to congratulate all of this year's regional winners and extend my thanks to each and every one of them for all that they do for tennis around the country."

Sandi Procter has overseen the awards in her first year as President of the LTA and she believes recognising tennis heroes at all levels of the game is vital for the sport.

"I've always loved my involvement in grassroots tennis, and I am passionate about supporting and recognising the vast community of volunteers and coaches.

"The LTA Tennis Awards are a real celebration of the people that make our sport thrive." □



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Ladies day at Flitwick & Ampthill Tennis Club

# FACILITY INVESTMENT

A thriving local tennis club is the heartbeat of a healthy sporting community and with the help of the LTA Quick Access Loan scheme, local communities across the country are enjoying improved facilities.

The LTA Quick Access Loan Scheme provides interest-free loans to help venues deliver projects that will grow the number of people playing tennis and padel.

The scheme is a part of the LTA's mission to grow tennis and padel by making it accessible, welcoming, and enjoyable to all.

To attract new players within local communities, it is critical to have access to quality all year round facilities and given the inclement British weather, the LTA has been prioritising the installation and construction of covered courts.

Flitwick and Ampthill Tennis Club in Bedfordshire is a club that has benefited from this investment, with an air dome now in place above two of their eight courts during the winter months.



As Bedfordshire is a county lacking indoor tennis facilities, the air dome at Flitwick has helped to ensure club social nights and winter tennis events proceeded unhindered, with chairperson Barbara Mabbitt suggesting the investment was a long-term goal for the club.

Drone view of air dome at Flitwick and Ampthill Tennis Club (above)  
Air Dome view from club house

"The Committee at Flitwick & Ampthill Lawn Tennis Club has always strived to improve the club's facilities and to enhance the experience for members and the local community alike, with their ultimate long-term ambition to provide indoor facilities," said Barbara.

"Our plans have now come to fruition with a single skin air dome which covers two of our eight courts and offers floodlighting to ensure that play can take place throughout the winter months regardless of the weather conditions.

"For some of our members, playing in an air dome was a first and one that they really enjoyed. In fact, the general feedback we received from our members has been really positive and encouraging, which makes all of the hard work worth while!

"Of course, none of this would have been possible without the support of Central Bedfordshire Council and the LTA and huge thanks must go to them as well as our contractors who did an amazing job and our club members for their fantastic efforts in helping us achieve our goal.

"With our membership at an all-time high, we are looking forward to building on this with even more people playing tennis by increasing the profile of Flitwick & Ampthill Lawn Tennis Club within the area."

Clubs across Britain have benefited from investment in facilities and since 2019,



there has been £8.9m in loan funding awarded across 87 projects. This figure rises to £9,605,945 when investments in Scotland are taken into account.

This has included 23 indoor tennis courts, 21 covered padel courts, 23 floodlit padel courts, 106 sets of floodlights and 105 new or upgraded outdoor courts.

Over the same period, the LTA has recovered over £6m in capital investment repayments from existing LTA facility venue loans.



For more information please scan the QR code.

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## PERFORMANCE MATTERS

WITH MICHAEL BOURNE

We caught up with Michael Bourne, the LTA's Performance Director, to find out more about how young British players are being supported.

"We always want more progress and that is what we are striving for, but we are seeing some really positive signs," said Bourne.

"There has been great progress with our Junior players on the international stage and we are on course to see a lot more gaining direct entry to major events through their ranking. In recent months, we have had 11 players in the top 100 of the junior rankings and that is another sign of progress in our junior programme. The goal now is to build sustainable success and a depth to that talent pool."

To continue making strides in the development of junior players, the LTA worked with Loughborough University to appoint two experienced coaches in Morgan Phillips and Mark Taylor into new gender head roles at the Loughborough University National Tennis Academy (LUNTA). The Loughborough Academy gives a pro-style training environment to some of the countries most promising young players aged 13-18

"By moving to a gender head coaching model it is anticipated the academy team will be able to enhance the level of support to emerging players and cater better to the different development trajectories of female and male junior players.

The LTA's commitment to providing British players with the best opportunity to compete at the highest level is highlighted by the Performance Competitions Calendar, which ensures ranking points are available on home soil throughout the year.

"We are in the second year of our Performance Competition Calendar and it is helping British players to gain match wins and increase their rankings, so we are happy that initiative is allowing our players to have top level competition," added Bourne.

Behind the scenes, the performance team continue to look at how they can maximise the impact of performance support services on the development of performance players.

"We have made some changes to our performance team, with Mark Taylor coming in as Head of Performance, Science and Medicine. Mark previously worked with the LTA and also Tennis Australia and he was also Ash Barty's Strength and Conditioning coach, so he is a great addition and brings a lot of knowledge regarding how performance science and medicine best integrates with coaching to impact what takes place on the match court.

"Another key part of our performance support and inclusion strategies is supporting more female coaches to navigate their way into performance roles.

"So we have introduced female specific performance coach development programmes that include on-court skills development and mentoring from more experienced female coaches who have been on that journey before and can help them to find their path towards achieving their coaching goals in performance tennis." ■

For more information about the LTA's Performance Competitions Calendar, scan the QR code or visit [www.lta.org.uk/compete/performance/competitions-calendar/](http://www.lta.org.uk/compete/performance/competitions-calendar/)

■ Loughborough Academy player Luca Pow won the LTA 18U Junior National title for a second year in succession



WOMEN'S CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS



# GORDON THE GREAT

## Life after tennis came into view for Gordon Reid during a troubled 2022.

With medical experts struggling to find a solution to a persistent wrist injury, the Scottish champion who had claimed 21 major titles by the close of last year feared his roll of honour may have had its final winning entry.

Yet the corner has been turned for the 31-year-old from West Dunbartonshire in Scotland, with his victory in the Australian Open and French Open doubles alongside Alfie Hewett ensuring 2023 started on a high for the prolific duo.

As Reid reflected on the last 12 months, it became evident that his most recent

successes are all the more special given the hurdles he has overcome.

“At times last year, I was thinking about what comes next in my tennis story and I thought my playing career might be coming an end,” began Reid, who has thrived wheelchair tennis despite contracting the rare spinal condition transverse myelitis in 2004.

“It was looking a little bit difficult because I was doing a lot of rest and recovery to find a solution, but nothing was really working.

“It was a bit frustrating and eventually I ruptured the tendon in my wrist. That is not a good injury for a tennis player, so it was a bit of a scare.

“Thankfully, things are much better now. The medical guys have been great and got me back to this point. Hopefully I still have a few more years left on the court, but if not, I would love to stay involved in tennis.”

The wheelchair tennis landscape has been transformed since Reid set out on his career, with his first major singles title at the Australian Open in 2016 opening the door to a career that has seen him break records aplenty after forming a dominant doubles partnership alongside Hewett.

The duo won their first Wimbledon doubles title back in 2016 and as Reid reflects on the wheelchair tennis scene now, he is proud to have played a part in the rise of the game.

“When I first started playing, I quickly appreciated how lucky we were to have the support of the LTA,” he continues. “That funding enabled us to travel and dedicate the time you need to make the most of your career and we are all grateful for that support.

“Compared to competitors in other countries, they still needed to work to fund their tennis career, so British players did have an advantage when I started.

“Now things have changed in our game. We have bigger draw sizes in the major championships, good prize money and younger players can look at this as a career and not just a bit of fun as a hobby.

“The whole Tour is much more professional than when I started playing. Young players all do the proper warm-ups now, they benefit from the analysis the top players enjoy and it is so much more professional. It also means there will be more competition to get to the top, but that can only be a good thing.

“Seeing Alfie playing his match (against



Gustavo Fernandez) on No.1 Court at Wimbledon last summer was fantastic and it has been great to see Jamie Baker (Tournament Director at Wimbledon) showing so much support to wheelchair tennis. Hopefully it is a sign of things to come when it comes to having a bigger draw.

“The strength in depth is there now and the more we can get money trickling down to players at a lower level the more the sport will grow.

“Any opportunity Alfie and I have got to raise the profile of tennis from the grassroots level up, we have to try and take that.

“From where I was when I started playing, we now have opportunities to watch wheelchair tennis on TV in more places, the standards are rising and if Alfie and I have been a little part of that, then that’s great.”

After relentless success alongside Hewett on a doubles court, Reid is targeting singles success in the coming months and his ambitions have been rebooted after his injury concerns last year.

“I am full of motivation for what is to come in 2023,” he added. “I pretty much missed a year of tennis with my wrist problem and that is the first time I’ve had that in my career.

“I was raring to go at the start of the year playing out in Australia and it gave me another taste of what I have been missing.

“The doubles has been going very well, but I’m still trying to build myself up in singles and I’m excited to see what comes next.

“The big target for 2023 is to stay healthy, build up my fitness and confidence and from there, anything is possible.”

Alfie Hewett and Gordon Reid of Great Britain pose with a trophy after winning in the Men’s Wheelchair Doubles Final against Maikel Scheffers and Ruben Spaargaren

Bronze medalist Gordon Reid of Team Great Britain at the 2020 Tokyo Paralympic Games



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Each week through the grass court season, Sports Presenter Kate Mason will be joined by the top analysts from the LTA Performance team to break down the best moments from the Brits at each event. Whether it's a deep dive on forehand placement or insight into their positioning on the return – the team will show you tennis as you've never seen it before.

Then it's time to put all that analysis into action with the help of our pro-level coaches. They take Kate through a series of tips and drills that you can practice on court – improving your game in no time.

All the previous episodes – including Davis Cup and Billie Jean King Cup specials – are available to watch now, exclusively for members on LTA Advantage. 

### WHAT IS ADVANTAGE?

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As a ticket-purchaser for one of our events, you are already an Advantage member.

Our membership gives you access to a range of benefits – including:

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- Get priority ticket access to LTA events
- Exclusive behind-the-scenes content
- Share and track all your match stats
- Get exclusive discounts with LTA partners
- Manage your court and course bookings
- Enter competitions to win unique experiences

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BRITISH TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

He has commentated on the last 20 Wimbledon Men's Singles' finals for the BBC now former British No.1 Andrew Castle has given us the story from behind the microphone.

## Q&A WITH... ANDREW CASTLE

### Is there a Wimbledon final that stands out for you from the last 20 years?

So many. It is a great privilege to sit in that commentary box and to have done 20 Wimbledon Men's Singles finals is an honour. My first final was Roger Federer v Mark Philippoussis in 2003 and I have been so lucky to see some amazing moments. The 2008 Final between Federer and Nadal is often mentioned as the best of all-time and Andy Murray's first title in 2013 was special for so many reasons.

### Is it hard to keep track of everything that is going on during this hectic grass court season?

There are stories everywhere, on and off



Andrew Castle's first men's final commentary for the BBC was Roger Federer's first triumph in 2003

the court. It tends to heat up around the time of the Queen's Club tournament and every day brings a new development. Someone might say something in a press conference and you need to be aware of that, there may be a confrontation between a player and an

umpire and that needs to be on your radar and it is especially hectic in the first week when there are so many matches during the first week of Wimbledon. Then you ease into the second week and things tend to calm down a little, but the flow of news and stories doesn't stop. I am also presenting the champions' dinner on the evening of the final Sunday of The Championships this year, so that will finish me off nicely. I will be cooked but very happy!

### What are the key ingredients required to be a Wimbledon champion?

Not everyone can deal with the pressure of playing on Centre Court in the biggest matches of them all. Whatever their physical gifts, some people just struggle to perform in that cathedral-

like atmosphere. It takes a lot to believe you deserve to be there and even more to believe you can win. That is why players like Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic are so special.

### Does the novelty of the grass court season ever wane for you?

Not for a second. Every time I walk into the grounds is a special moment and the place is just magical. Anyone who loves tennis would say the same. The novelty of walking through the gates at the All England Club will never wear off.

### What is the best moment you have commentated on at Wimbledon?

It's only when I look back now and reflect on the last 20 years that I fully appreciate how lucky I have been to commentate on Federer's eight Wimbledon titles, Djokovic's seven wins and as a Brit, seeing Andy Murray win the title twice was very special. It is work, it is a job, but it is an incredible job.



Andy Murray celebrates in front of the commentary box after winning Wimbledon in 2013

### Tell us about the day Andy Murray won Wimbledon for the first time in 2013. What is your best memory of that moment?

Well, not what you would expect. I was trying to deliver a few words to reflect on this remarkable moment in British sporting history. I knew this commentary would forever be embossed onto this wonderful moment for tennis in our country but I had Tim Henman next to me and he was a little excited. Amid that joy, he jumped up to celebrate the moment and elbowed me in the head! Despite that, I still had to come up with something moderately sensible and hopefully I got it right.

### Is there a line from your commentary that day that stands out in your mind?

The last game of the match does, for sure. Andy went 40-0 up, it was all done a dusted. I was in the commentary box with Tim Henman and Boris Becker and what seemed like a crowning moment all turned around. Suddenly, these two

great players are in a real ding dong battle and we were looking into Andy's eyes and you could see what he was going through. I remember saying: sporting immortality doesn't come easily. It was a line that I was pleased to have said. You know you are in a big moment as a broadcaster and you just want to do it justice.

### Going into Wimbledon this year, do you feel Novak Djokovic is still the best player in the world?

He utterly feels he belongs on the Wimbledon stage and has complete conviction that he will win when he is fit and at his best. There is a good reason why he has that belief because history tells us he is right to have that belief. I expect him to be the player to beat again this year because here is a player who has it all. What we see on court is not just a guy who is incredibly gifted because he has worked on this. He is so professional and when you walk out on Centre Court next to him, you struggle to believe you can beat him over five sets. ■



# LTA COACHING PATHWAY REVAMPED

The coaching pathway has been revamped and modernised by the LTA in recent years and it is now serving up candidates that are raising standards of instruction on courts across Britain.

Former British Ladies' tennis champion Jo Ward (Head of Coach Education & Qualifications) and Merlin Van de Braam (LTA's Head of Coach Development and Support) have spearheaded some exciting evolutions within formal LTA Qualifications over the last two years, with an ambition to drive up standards at all levels of coaching.

This work sits as part of the LTA's Coach Development Plan, which aims to create inspirational coaches who can grow the game and the first two levels have attracted growing numbers signing up for the courses, with 3,395 new candidates signing up for courses last year.

The LTA Assistant Course (Level 1) is ideal for tennis parents, enthusiasts or keen players looking for the knowledge and skills to support group coaching sessions, alongside a lead coach.

The next phase of the coaching pathway, the LTA Instructor (Level 2) course, is a five-day qualification (split into four core and one elective day), with enhanced online learning that is directly relevant to your coaching career.

Here, Jo Ward and Merlin Van de Braam outline the vision for the LTA Instructor course, which continues to evolve in this exciting period in LTA coach education.

## Why was there a need to revamp the LTA coaching courses?

MVB: We conducted an independent external review to look at what was good, where we could improve and what were the key challenges moving forward within coach education. We listened to head coaches and asked them what they needed from those working with them on court, and we spoke to employers of coaches to ensure we develop courses and products that serve the needs of the industry. That insight told us that we needed the equivalent of a group exercise instructor for tennis. We also saw that 68 per-cent of employers said



it was too easy to pass Levels 1 and 2 and the standard of coach entering the industry was simply not good enough. There was a real perception that you could just turn up to the course, fill in the forms and you would get through fine. The course did not prepare you for the demands of the role in the industry, so we needed to change that.

## There is a big focus on the digital element of this course. Why is that important for a modern coach?

JW: There are two reasons for including a strong digital element. Firstly, digital skills are key tools that modern coaches will use in their coaching, promotions, programme planning and management. These skills

are learned and augmented across the many tasks that learners will do on the course. Secondly, by housing a lot of the knowledge-building activities online, the course can prioritise the skill-building work for the face-to-face days. Both are equally important for coaches, and by splitting the content in this way a significant proportion of the course can be done at home, without travel, and in the learners' own time. This makes the course as accessible as possible, whilst still driving up quality. The final part of the triad, to complement knowledge and skills, is the practical application gained through the eight hours of qualification experience built into the course.

## What are the primary targets for the revamped coaching courses?

MVB: Our overall ambition is to develop inspirational coaches that can grow the game. A more rigorous LTA Instructor (Level 2) is a great opportunity to drive up standards in our coaching pool but also be more relevant to the demands of the industry. The team has introduced a readiness test that is crucial to the process. We are now hearing consistent feedback that this is the best thing we could have done because it results in skillful, trained professionals who have a sound grasp of the game from a technical and tactical perspective. This is critical if we are to have a respected coaching profession.

## Are you hoping to attract more female coaching talent into the system in 2023?

JW: We have strategic grant funding, distributed through our Coach Development Centre (CDC) network, with the specific aim of increasing the numbers of female coaches entering the pathway at Assistant. CDCs have agreed objectives to increase female learner numbers, and they have the flexibility to decide how to utilise the grant funding across their jurisdictions. For example, some have concentrated on marketing and promotion directly to potential female candidates, whilst others have underwritten courses to provide discounts. 2022 saw an uplift in female coach numbers at Assistant, and we are continuing with this drive in 2023. □

Are you interested in getting into tennis coaching? Check out the options [HERE](#).





# EVERYONE SAYS YES TO A GREAT FRUIT



Great Britain will take on Australia, France and Switzerland in Group B at the 2023 Davis Cup Finals Group Stages, with the AO Arena in Manchester providing the stage for some compelling ties later this year.

The event, widely regarded as the men's 'World Cup of Tennis', will give fans the chance to see some of the world's best players in action, with Britain to take on three other nations from 12-17 September 2023.

Britain secured their place in the prestigious Davis Cup Finals Group Stages with a battling win against Colombia at the Pueblo Viejo Country Club in Bogota in February.

Two victories for British No.1 Norrie over Nicolas Mejia and Nicolas Barrientos, accompanied by an all-important doubles win for Dan Evans and Neal Skupski against a former world No.1 duo, secured Britain's place in the Group Stages.

"The feelings are one of immense pride for what the boys have done and the support team as well," said Great Britain Davis Cup captain, Leon Smith.

"There's a lot of work the players have done to adapt in a short period of time and they went out and fought really hard.

It never had to be the highest quality of tennis because the conditions don't allow for that but it needed a lot of grit and determination. The important thing is we got the win and it gives us the chance to keep being successful this year.


"Now we can look forward to playing at home in the Finals Group Stages. It's a really

competitive group with four big nations that all have strength in depth. We've got great belief in our team, the players are hungry and can't wait to make the most of playing at home in Manchester."

Great Britain last took on France in 2021, where they came out on top in a 2-1 win after Dan Evans and Cameron Norrie clinched victories against Adrian Mannarino and Arthur Rinderknech respectively.

Australia will be looking to go one step further in this year's Davis Cup after missing out on the title to Canada in the 2022 final. The last time Great Britain faced Australia was at the 2015 semi-finals - a tie which saw the Brits claim a 3-2 victory and later go on to lift their first Davis Cup trophy in 79 years.

Last year, Britain was chosen as one of four nations to host the Group Stages of the Finals. Each nation will play three times over the six-day competition.

The top two nations from each of the four groups will advance to a quarter-final 'Final 8' knock-out competition held in Malaga between 21-26 November. 



Tickets on sale now [www.lta.org.uk/fan-zone/gb-teams/davis-cup/tickets/](http://www.lta.org.uk/fan-zone/gb-teams/davis-cup/tickets/) or scan the QR code





# THE WTA HITS 50

The Women's Tennis Association (WTA) was founded at a meeting of players called by Billie Jean King on June 21, 1973, on the eve of the Wimbledon Championships.

**Frustrated by entrenched sexism in the sport's establishment, which ultimately resulted in competing circuits and a divided talent pool, King recognized the need for the women to formally join forces to take control of their destiny.**

With Dutch player Betty Stöve standing guard at the door of a packed conference room at London's Gloucester Hotel, King – who had won nine of her 12 Grand Slam singles titles by that time – was determined no-one would leave until definitive agreement had been reached.

She emerged from the meeting triumphant, having been elected President of the new Association, with Britain's Virginia Wade as Vice President.

What started as a player union is now a world-leading member association between athletes and the 50-plus tournaments on six continents that make up the Hologic WTA Tour calendar each year.

Heading into 2023, 32 countries were represented in the Top 100 of the WTA Rankings and they will entertain a worldwide audience of more than 900 million.

Alongside compelling tales of victory and defeat, the WTA's five-decade history is punctuated by a string of notable breakthroughs for women's sports.

"When we gathered at the Gloucester Hotel, we were at a point in our history that we needed one strong, unified voice among the players,"

said King, who also managed to capture the triple crown of singles, doubles and mixed doubles titles at Wimbledon, two weeks after founding the WTA. "As women athletes, we needed to create a future based on equality of opportunity, and we could only do that if we presented a united front.

"When we formed the WTA in 1973, we came together and found promoters and sponsors and fans who wanted to be part of the journey – inspired by champions who led by example, on and off court.

"We have come a long way, but there is more to be done and when I look at the current generation of game changers, I feel proud and excited for what's to come."

As part of commemorations, the WTA's logo has been adapted to draw attention to five decades of captivating athleticism on the world stage.



The WTA 50 brand mark will be fully integrated throughout the WTA in 2023, including on-court signage, in television graphics, print materials, tournament branding, advertising, promotion, and digital and social media. ■



■ Gathering of champions after 40 years of the WTA  
■ Billie Jean King with Serena Williams

■ Billie Jean King in talks over equal pay in tennis



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The enduring impact of Emma Raducanu's remarkable 2021 US Open win is continuing after Amazon Prime Video and the LTA launched a multi-year programme to inspire thousands of girls to pick up a racket and play tennis.

**The "Prime Video LTA Youth Girls" programme will train coaches across Great Britain to deliver lessons and guidance specifically designed for girls.**

The programme will focus on creating an environment that motivates girls and young women to play and stay in tennis. LTA research identified that girls want to play with friends in a fun and pressure-free setting, with relatable coaches who can build confidence and drive enjoyment.

The initiative fulfils Prime Video's promise to reinvest the funds from sharing the broadcast of the 2021 US Open Final with Channel 4, into British women's tennis.

The programme runs for two years through to 2024 and will be open to LTA accredited tennis coaches across Great Britain, with a drive to achieve a high

number of female coaches to help inspire these new girls to pick up a racket.

Tennis coaches will be able to apply in the autumn, with successful applicants receiving bespoke training and support from the LTA to help them launch their local sessions within the programme.

Prime Video's seven-figure investment will fund this training for coaches, as well as rewards and training kits, support for hosting school roadshows, promotional events and more. Also included in Prime Video's investment is rackets, balls and t-shirts for all girls who sign-up to the programme, to ensure that equipment is not a barrier to participation for families across the UK.

Prime Video LTA Youth Girls is an important part of the LTA's support for women and girls within

tennis, which has focused on driving participation, growing the female workforce and greater visibility for women. Earlier this year the LTA launched its 'She Rallies' ambition to encourage more female involvement within the sport at all levels.

"I'm extremely pleased to see the funds generated from the US Open Final go towards this new programme, which is a step in the right direction to bring more young girls into the sport and will continue to support a bright future for women's tennis in this country, said Raducanu.

"As an ambassador of LTA Youth, it's great to see a complimentary program take shape and hopefully bring some more success." □



For more information on the Prime Video LTA Youth Girls programme, scan the QR code.

# TENNIS IN NUMBERS



8,771  
The days between **Serena Williams** making her first and final Eastbourne appearance last year.



1  
**Virginia Wade** is the only British woman to win the Eastbourne title in its 49-year history.

37 In May 1975 on the Surbiton grass courts, **Anthony Fawcett** and **Keith Glass** played out the longest single game in history with 37 deuces.

6  
No player has won more titles at the Queen's Club than **Andy Murray**, five singles and a doubles title.



5  
**Martina Navratilova** owns the longest title-winning streak held by a man or woman in any British grass court event outside of Wimbledon.

10  
The **Rothesay Classic** has been won ten times by Wimbledon singles champions.

134  
From June 1982 to June 1991, **Martina Navratilova** boasted a record of 134-3 on British grass courts – during the eight-year run in Britain, she won 70-straight matches and amassed 18 titles.



2018  
The Queen's Club Championship introduced a wheelchair event for the first time five years ago.

1879  
The first courts were laid at Eastbourne's Devonshire Park venue in 1879 and the first stands were built in 1921.

23 Queen's Club had a British champion for the first 23 years of the tournament's existence until 1905 where American **Holcombe Ward** won.



13  
**Martina Navratilova** reached 13 Eastbourne International finals, winning 11 of them in a 16-year period.



192  
**Roger Federer** holds the record for most grass court singles wins on the men's tour, winning 192 matches and lifting the title at Wimbledon on eight occasions.

40 For the last 40 years, winners of the **Rothesay Classic** in Birmingham have held aloft **Maud Watson's Wimbledon trophy** that she won in 1885.



4  
**Pam Shriver** holds the record for the most singles titles in at the **Birmingham Classic**, winning on four consecutive years starting in 1984.



1921  
Japan's **Zenzo Shimizu** became the first and only East Asian player to win the Queen's Club Championships.

1890  
The first time the Queen's Club Championships were held at the Queen's Club having been hosted at Stamford Bridge, the home of Chelsea Football Club, since 1884.



71  
In 2009, **Andy Murray** became the first male British champion at the Queen's Club in 71 years.



58  
**Beatriz Haddad Maia's** Nottingham and Birmingham double last year meant she became the first Brazilian female to win a title in Britain in 58 years since **Maria Bueno's Wimbledon title** in 1964.



3  
**Tim Henman** played in three finals at the Queen's Club, losing to **Pete Sampras** in 1999 and to **Lleyton Hewett** in 2001 and 2002.



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## MOMENT IN TIME

Andy Murray speaks with Romeo Beckham, the son of former footballer David Beckham in 2016

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IVAN LENDL | 1989



GRIGOR DIMITROV | 2014



ANDY MURRAY & IVAN LENDL | 2015



LLEYTON HEWITT | 2001



FELICIANO LOPEZ | 2017

# WALL OF CHAMPIONS



ANDY RODDICK | 2003



RAFAEL NADAL | 2008



ANDY MURRAY & FELICIANO LOPEZ | 2019



MARIN CILIC | 2018



NOVAK DJOKOVIC & JONATHAN ERLICH | 2010



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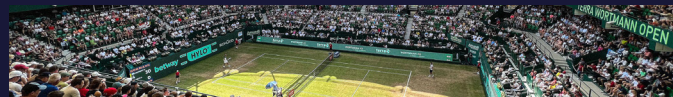


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## HALLE

ATP 500 TERRA WORTMANN OPEN GERMANY JUN 19 - 25 GRASS

## CINCINNATI



ATP 1000 WESTERN & SOUTHERN OPEN UNITED STATES AUG 13 - 20 HARD



## SHANGHAI

ATP 1000 ROLEX SHANGHAI MASTERS CHINA OCT 04 - 15 HARD

## PARIS



ATP 1000 ROLEX PARIS MASTERS FRANCE OCT 30 - NOV 05 HARD

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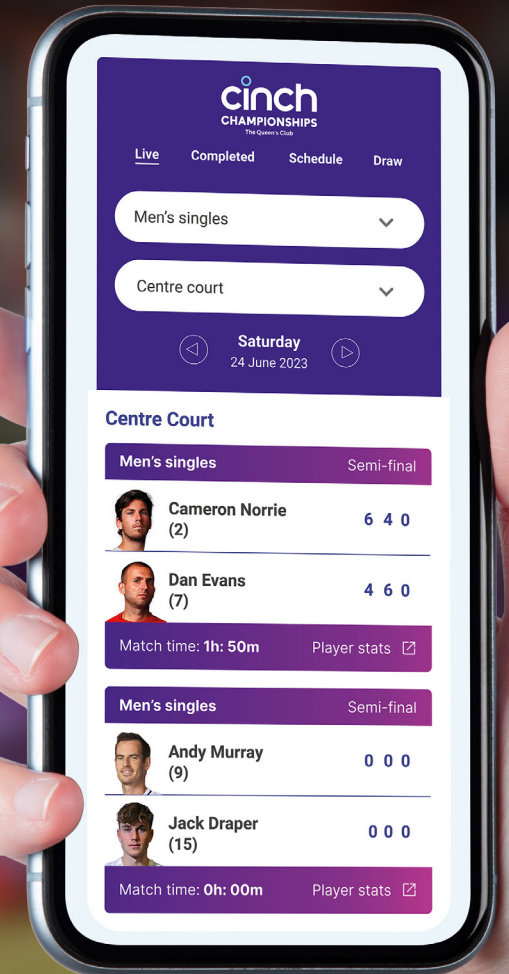
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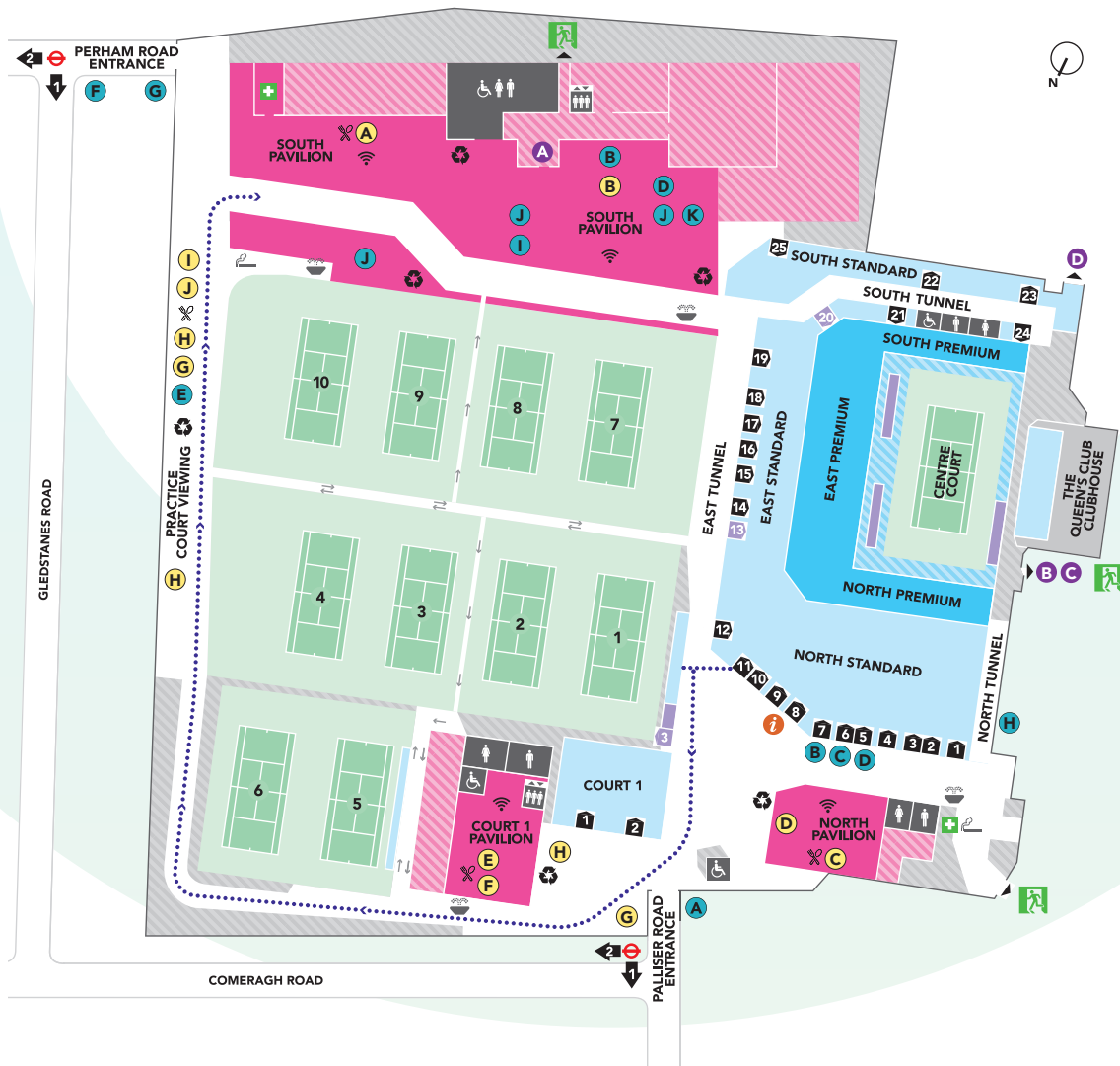
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## CHAMPIONSHIPS

# EVENT INFORMATION



### FACILITIES

- Seating Premium
- Seating Standard
- Court Block Number
- Court Block Number - wheelchair accessible
- Accessible Seating
- Pavilions
- + First Aid
- i Information, Lost Property & Wheelchair Storage
- Courts

- Ladies Toilets
- Gentlemens Toilets
- Accessible Toilets
- Drinking Water
- Free WiFi Hotspots
- Lift
- Recycling Station
- Smoking Area

- A QC Members & Ticket Resolution
- B Video Screen
- C Cushion Hire
- D Official Merchandise
- E Ticket Resales
- F VIP & Ticket Resolution
- G Accreditation Collection
- H The Queen's Club Shop
- I Scores & Draws
- J Official Partner Showcases
- K Quiet Room

### FOOD & DRINK

- A South Pavilion Café
- B South Pavilion Courtyard
- C North Pavilion Café
- D The Nyetimber Garden
- E Court 1 Pavilion Café (Ground Floor)
- F The Terrace @ Court 1 Pavilion & Eden Mill Bar (First Floor - wheelchair accessible)
- G Coffee
- H Outdoor Seating Area
- I Ice Cream
- J Crêpes

### HOSPITALITY

- A Hospitality Reception (Ground Floor)
- B The President's Room (Second Floor - wheelchair accessible)
- C The Real Tennis Museum & Dedans
- D Members' Enclosure

### TRANSPORT

- To Barons Court Underground Station
- To West Kensington Underground Station
- Emergency Exit
- Alternative walking route when East Tunnel is exit only (peak times)
- Not open to public

## THE GROUNDS

### SOUTH PAVILION

Our largest Pavilion has it all, catch the action on the Courtyard screen, enjoy a tasty lunch in the South Pavilion Café including dishes from Asian Fusion and Thyme Kitchen, purchase Official Merchandise and discover what the Official Partner Showcases have to offer. Our exquisite Hospitality lounges are also located here.

### NORTH PAVILION

At the heart of the Grounds, you will find the North Pavilion Café with an excellent offering of grab and go food and drinks, combined with The Nyetimber Garden, a beautifully curated space with lounge seating and views of the big screen.

### COURT 1 PAVILION

The Terrace @ Court 1 Pavilion is an exciting new offer for 2023 located on the first floor, where better to sip Eden Mill cocktails and enjoy delicious sharing boards than overlooking the Courts. The ground floor offers a wide selection of drinks, sandwiches, salads and snacks and an abundance of indoor and outdoor seating.

### PRACTICE COURT VIEWING

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