

# Rothesay INTERNATIONAL

EASTBOURNE



**OFFICIAL  
PROGRAMME**

**24<sup>TH</sup> JUNE – 1<sup>ST</sup> JULY 2023**





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## WELCOME



### Welcome to the Rothesay International!

We are very excited to bring people together to enjoy the Rothesay Summer Series: the Rothesay Open Nottingham, Rothesay Classic Birmingham and Rothesay International Eastbourne.

At Rothesay, we're committed to securing the future of our 825,000 pension policyholders across the country. Which is why we've teamed up with the LTA, who show the same commitment to the future of British tennis. We share the LTA's passion for innovation and excellence, values which have led us to become the UK's largest specialist pensions insurer and a significant investor in important assets such as social housing, infrastructure and real estate.

The grass court tennis season is one of the great traditions of the British summer, providing a fantastic opportunity for British players to compete at home against some of the best talent in the world. As the LTA's exclusive pensions partner, we want to open up tennis to older people, helping everyone to enjoy tennis at all ages.

Finally, I would like to thank the LTA, the players and the event staff for making the Rothesay International such a success and a showcase for international tennis in Britain.

Thank you for joining us, have a great time!

**Tom Pearce**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, ROTHESAY



On behalf of the LTA, I am delighted to welcome you to the 2023 Rothesay International Eastbourne at Devonshire Park.

This is always a special event with strong playing fields, and I know the players enjoy the atmosphere here and the unique surroundings. We're pleased to once again be hosting a wheelchair tennis event this week including both women's and quad events.

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 WTA, ATP and ITF along with our commercial partners who make the event a reality. I'd particularly like to thank Rothesay for their ongoing support of our events here, as well as in Nottingham and Birmingham.

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 such a welcoming 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



# FOR THE PASSION FOR THE GLORY FOR THE GAME



JELENA OSTAPENKO



PETRA KVI TOVA



MADISON KEYS



DARIA KASATKINA



WTATENNIS.COM

## WELCOME



### Dear Tennis Fans,

On behalf of the WTA, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the Rothesay International for another exciting edition of this long-standing and celebrated tournament.

This year the WTA will mark its 50th anniversary as the Tour celebrates its history of pioneers, spectacular athletes, rivalries, historical sporting endeavors, along with the founding principle and strive for equality. We have many exciting celebrations planned across 2023 as we honor the past, enjoy the present, and look to the future.

The WTA boasts an incredibly diverse array of players and personalities, many of which you will see here at the Rothesay International, from established global superstars to emerging new talent eager to make their mark on the sport.

The Rothesay International is well-known for the excellence of their staff and organization, their passionate fans and their wider dedication to the sport and the athletes of WTA, and we're excited to write another chapter this year.

I would like to thank our partners who will be with us during the 2023 season and who play a huge part in our mission of championing women.

Finally, I would like to thank you, our loyal fans, for all you do in making the WTA the leading global sports organization for women. Whether you've followed and supported women's tennis for the last 50 years, or are joining us for the first time this season, welcome to the Hologic WTA Tour. We're just getting started.

All the best,

STEVE SIMON | WTA CHAIRMAN AND CEO



### Dear Tennis Fans,

As Chairman of the ATP, I would like to welcome you to the 2023 Rothesay International. This week presents an opportunity to witness some of the world's greatest players from both Tours competing on the same stage. We're excited that you've decided to join us for the action.

This ATP 250 event plays a key part in the grass court season, a historic and unique part of our calendar. Having a strong men's and women's game is one of the biggest pulls of our sport, and it's always special to bring that shared storytelling together in Eastbourne.

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 event is an important part of that story.

I would like to thank Tournament Director Rebecca James and her dedicated team for their hard work and tireless preparation ahead of this year's Rothesay International. We wish everyone involved a successful tournament and an entertaining 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,

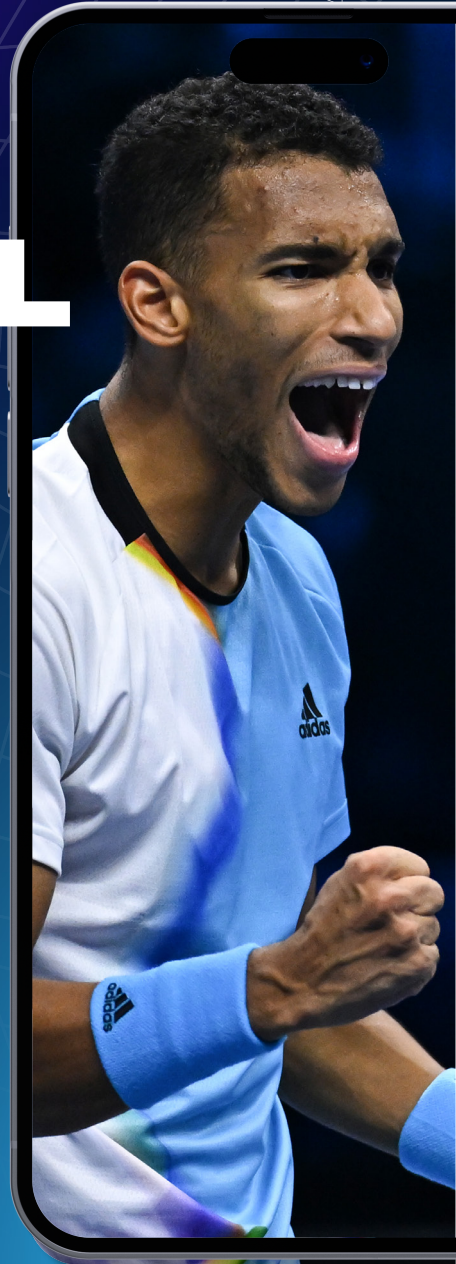
Andrea Gaudenzi  
ATP CHAIRMAN



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# WELCOME



**Hello,**

It is such a privilege to welcome you to the 2023 Rothestay International Eastbourne tennis tournament here at Devonshire Park where the pre-Wimbledon tournament has been taking place since the 1970s.

We are immensely proud to have hosted some of the world's greatest tennis players on our courts over the years and love welcoming thousands of spectators every year to enjoy our world class facilities and witness some incredible tennis talent.

We highly value the partnership we have with the Lawn Tennis Association, and this year we are pleased to welcome Rebecca James as our new Tournament Director. To put on such a significant event takes incredible team work, and I would also like to mention our remarkable Events and Grounds Teams at Eastbourne Borough Council who have worked so hard to make the event a roaring success.

I do hope the sun shines and that you have a wonderful and memorable day with us in Devonshire Park!

**Robert Cottrill**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
EASTBOURNE BOROUGH COUNCIL

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# Rothestay INTERNATIONAL EASTBOURNE

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ORDER OF PLAY AND LIVE SCORING



TOURNAMENT GUIDE



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 Rothestay International scan the QR codes above.



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ALL LTA PROGRAMMES FOR THE SUMMER EVENT SEASON HAVE BEEN

# POSTCARDS FROM 2022

## REMEMBERING 2022

Set in Devonshire Park, the Rothesay Eastbourne International is one of the highlights of the tennis season and as a WTA 500 and ATP 250 event, you know that the best of the best are coming to play.



Petra Kvitová in action at Eastbourne



Petra Kvitová of Czech Republic celebrates with the trophy after winning the Rothesay International Eastbourne women's singles final against Jelena Ostapenko of Latvia

The 2022 Rothesay International Eastbourne was a celebration of all that is glorious about tennis, with worthy champions etching their names into the folklore of this great event.

Two-time former Wimbledon champions Petra Kvitová was crowned as women's singles champion for the first time, a little over a decade after she lost her first Eastbourne final against Marion Bartoli in 2011.

After a faultless start from Kvitová, the elegant Czech star charged ahead as she immediately broke her Latvian opponent to take the early initiative.

Mirroring styles she showcased prior to snatching two Grand Slam titles, Kvitová took charge of the proceedings with her lefty swing crunching the forehand side of Ostapenko.

Kvitová remained rock solid behind her serve and the world No.31 found herself with the match on her racket, just inches away from closing out the opening set in timely fashion.

Kvitová's unplayable shots left the former Roland Garros champion unable to respond and she got over the line to win 6-3 6-2 in just an hour and 17 minutes.

"I had already experienced losing in a final (in 2011), so I guess I am lucky. It was a tough match," said Kvitová.

"Playing on the grass is very special for me, especially when you step onto a beautiful court such as here.

"It's beautiful to have a title. It means something big is coming. It's great preparation having five matches in a row. This is unbelievable for me. This whole year I didn't have that. Hopefully, this is a boost of confidence and good feelings with myself."

In the men's ATP250 tournament, reigning Indian Wells champion Taylor Fritz added his second title of the season to his list of accolades after defeating Maxime Cressy 6-2 6-7(4) 7-6(4) in an all-American battle.

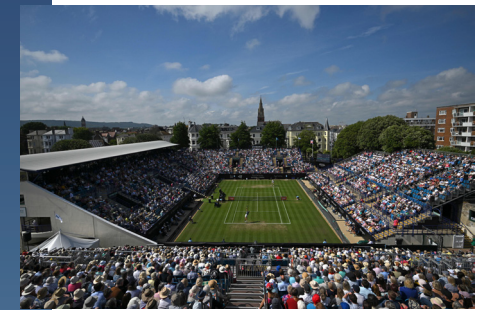
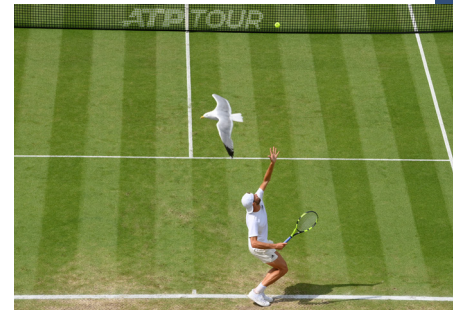
World No.14 Taylor Fritz claimed the honours in the all-American clash to win a thrilling final that threatened to swing in several directions before the winners was crowned.

Eastbourne was the stage for Fritz's maiden ATP Tour title in 2019 and it is clearly a venue that he loves to visit.

"There's something about this place, it's where I won my first title," Fritz said on court.

"When I got here, I already felt like I was playing so much better than I was before just being here, so this place always has a really special spot in my heart.

"My grass-court season wasn't going great before I came here. It feels great to have this



confidence and the courts here are always amazing to play on."

More champions were crowned in 2022 as world No.1 Diede de Groot won the inaugural Rothesay International women's wheelchair singles title after beating Japan's world No.2 Yui Kamiji 6-3 6-2 in the first ever meeting between the two players on grass.

The Dutch top seed fended off multiple break points in a marathon sixth game and then gained the first break of the match to edge 4-3 ahead before wrapping up the opening set in 44 minutes.

De Groot didn't have to wait so long for her breakthrough in the second set, the three-time Wimbledon champion building on a 3-1 lead and comfortably getting over the winning line.

In the doubles, Britain's Lucy Shuker's hopes of ending the Rothesay International on a high were thwarted by top seeds Kamiji and Zhenzhen Zhu after the Japanese-Chinese partnership took the women's doubles title 6-1 6-1.

Shuker and Montjane, who were contesting their eighth successive doubles final together, took their opponents to deuce on multiple occasions in a highly competitive match, but Kamiji and Zhu won all the big points to make a winning tournament debut together.

Seagulls are never far away in Eastbourne

The perfect scene at the Rothesay International Eastbourne

Taylor Fritz in fine form on the Eastbourne grass courts

## HISTORY OF ROTHESAY EASTBOURNE INTERNATIONAL

Held since 1974, Rothesay International Eastbourne is classified as a WTA 500 series and an ATP 250 series.

Played at Devonshire Park, Eastbourne is an event steeped in history and has welcomed some of the world's greatest tennis talent onto its courts, watched on by thousands of tennis fans and spectators every year.

Devonshire Park first opened its doors to the public as early as 1874, when it was intended as a cricket ground but tennis was gaining in popularity and won the rights to be claimed as a tennis ground.

The first courts were laid in 1879 while the first stands were built in 1921 and the tennis centre as a whole was completed in 1998.

The first professional Lawn Tennis Championships of Great Britain commenced in 1919 and the first Women's International Tennis Tournament was hosted here in 1974, sponsored by the LTA.

This tournament also holds important historical significance to the sport and continues to grow and develop each year, showcasing some of the best global tennis talent on its courts.

# ROTHESAY INTERNATIONAL EASTBOURNE PLAYER PROFILES 2023

A high-quality line-up of WTA Tour stars are taking to the courts at Eastbourne for this year's Rothestay International Eastbourne.



## JESSICA PEGULA

USA | BORN: FEBRUARY 24 1994

- Secured career-high world No.3 in October 2022.
- Reached the quarterfinals at every Grand Slam except Wimbledon.
- Won her maiden WTA 1000 title at the Guadalajara Open in 2022.
- Has been American No.1 across ATP and WTA tours since July 18 2022.



## PETRA KVIŤOVÁ

CZECH REPUBLIC | BORN: MARCH 8 1990

- Defending Rothestay International Eastbourne champions and two-time former Grand Slam champion, winning Wimbledon in 2011 and 2014.
- Has the second most WTA singles titles of any active player with 30, her most recent coming in Eastbourne last summer.
- Since January 2011, she has spent only nine weeks outside of the top-30.
- Representing her country, she won bronze at the 2016 Olympics and is a six-time Fed Cup winner.



## BARBORA KREJČÍKOVÁ

CZECH REPUBLIC | BORN: DECEMBER 18 1995

- Claimed her first singles Grand Slam title at the 2021 French Open
- Achieved career-high singles ranking at world No.2 in February 2022
- Won 10 Grand Slam doubles titles, including the career Grand Slam and Olympic gold.
- Lifted her maiden Masters trophy this year at the Dubai Tennis Championships, defeating world No.1, No.2 and No.3 en route to the title.



## COCO GAUFF

USA | BORN: MARCH 13 2004

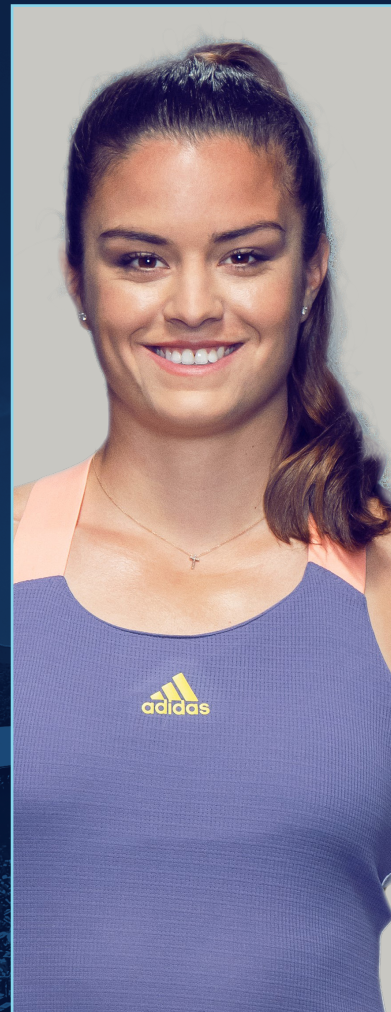
- Advanced to the fourth round of Wimbledon as a 15-year-old in 2019.
- Became junior world No.1 after winning the junior French Open singles title in 2018.
- Reached her first Grand Slam final at Roland Garros last year, losing to Iga Świątek.
- Has three WTA tour singles titles and eight doubles titles.



## ONS JABEUR

TUNISIA | BORN: AUGUST 28 1994

- She is the highest-ranked African and Arab tennis player in WTA and ATP rankings history, having earned a career-high ranking of world No.2 in June 2022.
- Runner-up at Wimbledon and US Open last year, the first Muslim and Arab player to reach a Grand Slam final.
- Won four WTA singles titles that include WTA 1000-event Madrid last year and Rothesay Classic Birmingham in 2021.



## MARIA SAKKARI

GREECE | BORN: JULY 25 1995

- Sakkari has reached four WTA singles semi-finals in 2023, totalling to 29 in her career.
- She hasn't dropped out of the WTA top-10 since first entering in September 2021.
- Alongside Stefanos Tsitsipas, she is the highest-ranked Greek player in history after becoming world No.3 in March 2022.
- Won her first and only WTA title in Rabat in 2019.



## JELENA OSTAPENKO

LATVIA | BORN: JUNE 8 1997

- Clinched the 2017 French Open singles title, becoming the first unseeded player to win the Grand Slam since 1933.
- Reached the semi-finals of Wimbledon in 2018 and the quarter-finals of the Australian Open earlier this year.
- Lifted the Eastbourne title in 2021 and nearly defended her crown, losing to Petra Kvitova in last year's final.
- Became the world No.5 in March 2018 aged 20 after reaching the Miami Masters final.



## KAROLINA PLISKOVA

CZECH REPUBLIC | BORN: MARCH 21 1992

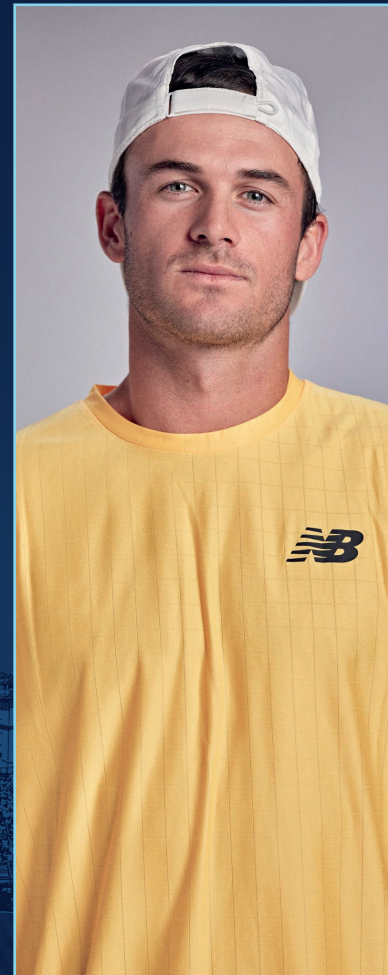
- Two-time champion at the Rothesay International Eastbourne, winning in 2017 and 2019.
- Reached the semi-finals of all four Grand Slams, most recently at Wimbledon in 2021.
- Amassed 16 WTA singles titles during her career that include twice in Eastbourne and once in Nottingham.
- From 2016 to 2021, she ended each year ranked inside the WTA top-10.



## TAYLOR FRITZ

USA | BORN: OCTOBER 28 1997

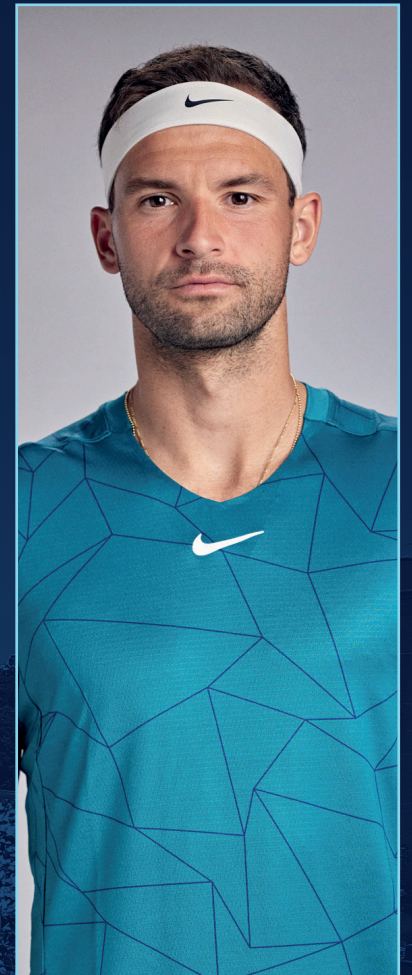
- Defending champion returns to Eastbourne after winning last year's final against Maxime Cressy.
- The biggest win of Fritz's career came at the 2022 Indian Wells Masters, where he beat Rafael Nadal in the final.
- He broke into the top ten of the ATP rankings for the first time in October 2022 and reached a career high of No.5 in February 2023.
- Fritz enjoyed his best run at a Grand Slam tournament when he reached the quarter-finals at Wimbledon last summer.



## TOMMY PAUL

USA | BORN: MAY 17 1997

- Secured career-high ranking of world No.16 in June 2023.
- In 2015 he reached two Grand Slam junior finals, winning the French Open boys' singles title.
- Started 2023 by making the semi-finals at Australian Open – his best run at a Grand Slam – and reached the final at Acapulco.
- Won his first and only ATP title to date at the 2021 Stockholm Open.



## GRIGOR DIMITROV

BULGARIA | BORN: MAY 16 1991

- Achieved career-high ranking of world No.3 after winning ATP Finals crown in 2017.
- Won eight ATP singles title in his career which include Queen's and the Cincinnati Masters.
- The first Bulgarian man to win an ATP tour singles title as well as highest-ranked Bulgarian player in history.
- Holds the record for the most consecutive Grand Slam appearances by a male player.
- Holds the longest active streak of consecutive Grand Slam appearances by an active male player with 49 – starting at the 2011 Australian Open.

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## CINCINNATI



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



## SHANGHAI

ATP MASTERS 1000 ROLEX SHANGHAI MASTERS CHINA OCT 04 - 15 HARD

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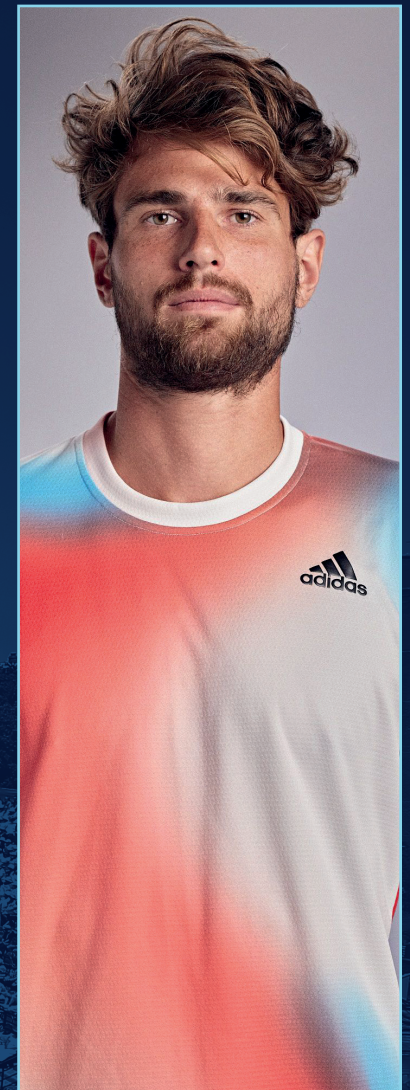
ROTHESAY INTERNATIONAL EASTBOURNE



### YOSHIHITO NISHIOKA

JAPAN | BORN: SEPTEMBER 27 1995

- Won two ATP tour singles title at Shenzhen in 2018 and Seoul in 2022/
- Secured career-high ranking of world No.27 in June 2023.
- This year he has reached the fourth round at Australian Open and French Open – his best run at a Grand Slam.
- Has two top-5 victories in his career over Casper Ruud and Kei Nishikori.



### MAXIME CRESSY

(USA | BORN: MAY 8 1997

- Won his only ATP tour title at the 2022 Hall of Fame Open in Newport.
- Claimed two top-10 victories in his career with wins over Holger Rune and Felix Auger-Aliassime.
- Secured career-high ranking of world No.31 in August 2022.
- Reached the second final of his career at the Rothesay International Eastbourne last summer.

# GETTING TO KNOW DEFENDING CHAMPION: PETRA KVITOVA

- She achieved a career-high ranking of world No. 2 in 2011.
- Won her first WTA Tour title in Hobart, Australia in 2009.
- Lost in the 2011 Eastbourne final before going on to win Wimbledon for the first time in 2011.
- Won Wimbledon again three years later, beating Eugene Bouchard in the final.
- Kvitova's career was halted after she was attacked in her home by an intruder, resulting in wounds to her left hand.
- She returned to action five months later and won the LTA Rothesay Classic Birmingham in 2017 and 2018.
- Kvitova beat Jelena Ostapenko 6-3 6-2 in last year's Rothesay International Eastbourne Final.
- Her win at the 2023 Miami Open confirmed she is still one of the best players on the women's tour at the age of 33.

**Petra on her grass court prowess:** "I feel very well on the grass. It is a surface I have always enjoyed playing on. When you win an event or Eastbourne and Wimbledon, it shows you have a game that works on grass."

**Petra on her return to Eastbourne:** "I'm really excited to be heading back to the Rothesay International Eastbourne, winning there last year was one of the most special titles of my career. I always really enjoy playing the grass court events in Britain and look forward to returning again this summer. The trophy at Eastbourne is so beautiful and it is amazing to see my name on it." ■





# TAYLOR FRITZ: THE NATURAL

**Only a handful of players feel comfortable on grass courts the moment they set foot on them and Taylor Fritz is in that select band.**

The Rothesay International Eastbourne defending champion claimed his second title in this event last year, after claiming the first ATP Tour title of his career here in 2019.

Those successes have ensured Eastbourne's grass courts will always hold a special place in Fritz's heart and he is relishing the chance to return to a venue that revives so many special memories.

"I think the grass is great for my game, but certain things need to be clicking to win on this surface," said Fritz.

"I need to be serving well, I need to be playing the big points well. I think a lot of the grass courts as well are so different, it's almost like playing on different surfaces.

"I've always felt really good on the courts at Eastbourne and Wimbledon and on paper, I have a game that should be good on this surface.

"I'm a huge confidence player and winning events like Eastbourne have been massive for my career.

"When you get in those tight moments, you remember when you came through in the past and that is what I have learned in the last couple of years. Also, you have to just play the person in front of you and zone out if you are playing someone you watched growing up like (Novak) Djokovic or (Rafael) Nadal."

Fritz has already ticked off so many of the targets he would have dreamed about when he started his career.

He is America's No.1, he has broken into the top ten, he won an ATP Masters 1000 event by beating Rafael Nadal in the Final of the 2022 Indian Wells tournament and he has made the line-up at the end-of-season ATP Finals.

"It shows that hard work pays off," stated Fritz in an interview with Tennis365.com. "I've put so much time and effort into being a top player and a top 10 player. It's amazing and very satisfying to see all that hard work, pain, struggle, and determination turn into something so positive.

"There are always a lot of highs and lows and moments that test your motivation and your belief. I always thought I was capable and had the game but the rest you never really know."

Fritz and his partner Morgan Riddle have been among of the star names appearing in the Netflix show Break Point and he believes the exposure of that series could provide a massive boost as tennis looks to reach out to a new audience.

"When I think back to tennis players and sports stars that I admired or paid attention to it was always because firstly I valued their abilities on the court or on the field, and secondly because I connected with their story and the stories of those around them," he added.

"Tennis could do a better job in tennis of telling those stories. If you look at F1 now for example, people are captivated by F1 because "Drive to Survive" did an amazing job of letting people into that world and told the stories of the drivers.

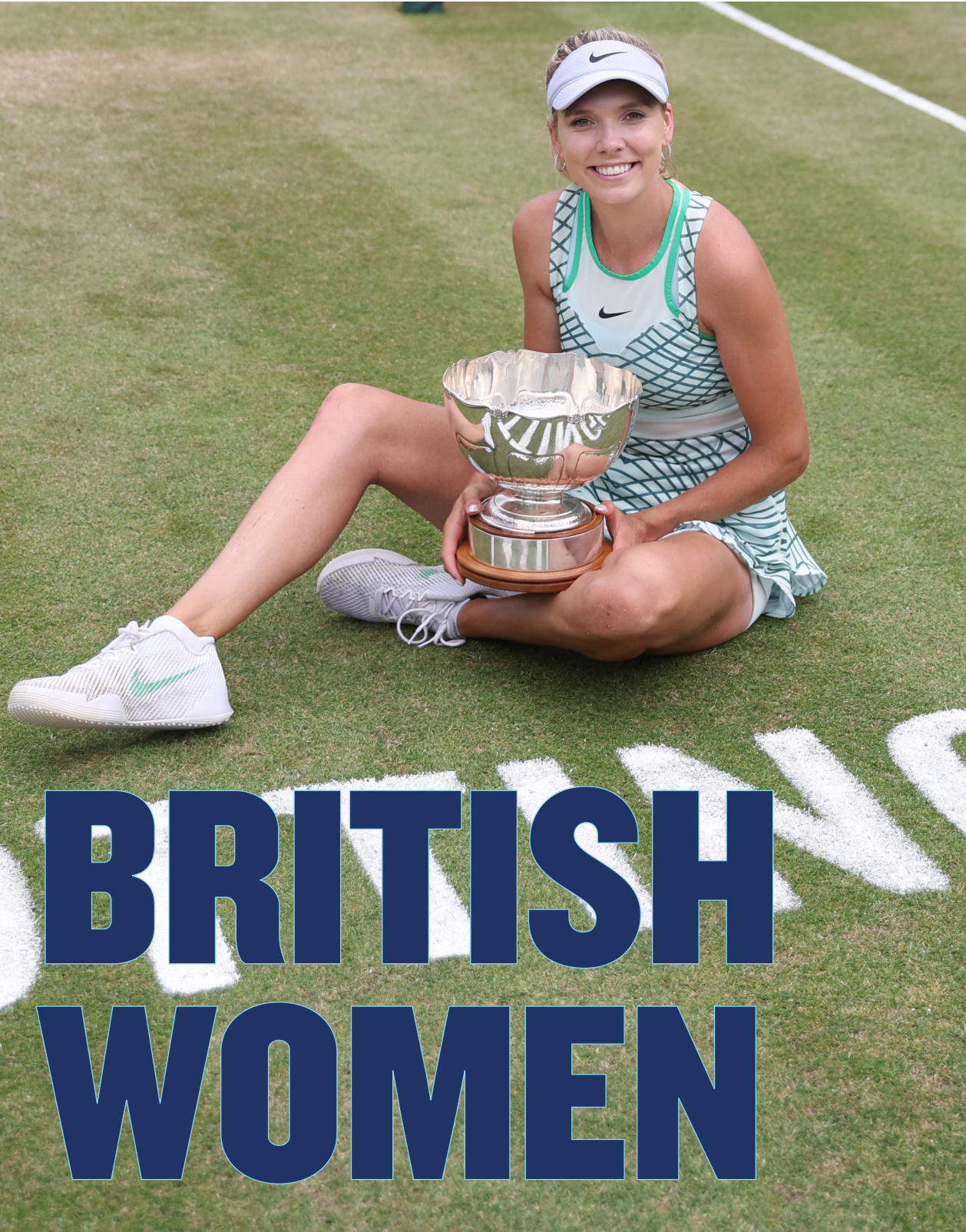
"Now the fans feel more connected than ever because they know the man under the helmet and because of that they feel more invested.

"It's been a great experience to be part of the Netflix show. They didn't interfere really at all, thankfully.

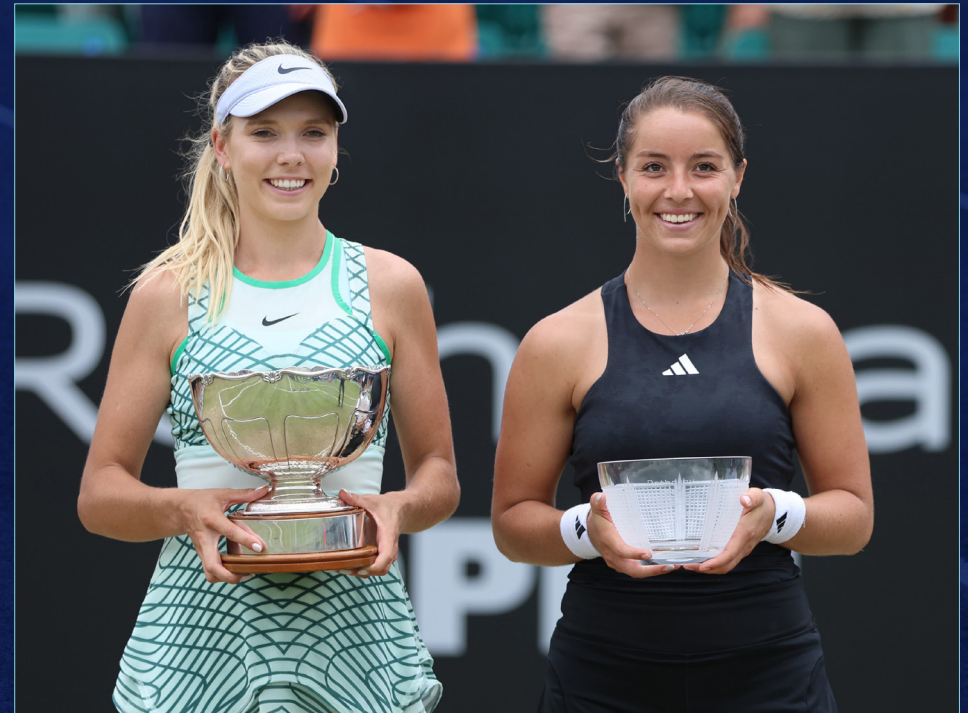
"Almost everything, outside of a few sit-down interviews, was them following us around and capturing all the things we were already doing anyway.

"It's just nice to see the final product and we hope it will grow the game and bring new fans into the sport."

Success on and off the court has been flowing for Fritz since his breakthrough win at Eastbourne four years ago and he will be aiming for more this week.



Katie Boulter and Jodie Burrage



**THE British grass court season got off to a flying start as British women took centre stage at Surbiton and Nottingham.**

In the first grass court event of the summer, Katie Swan was narrowly beaten at ITF World Tennis Tour W100 event by former world No.12 Yanina Wickmayer, with Katie Boulter and Lily Miyazaki appearing in the semi-finals.

Then history was made in Nottingham, as three British women made it through to the semi-finals of the WTA 250 event, with Boulter and Jodie Burrage contesting the final.

It was the first time since 1977 that a WTA Tour event featured an all-British final, with Boulter claiming a 6-3 6-3 victory.

Boulter's first WTA Tour title was a stunning moment of success for the 26-year-old, who toasted the highlight of her career so far.

"I dreamed of this moment, to win this tournament, as a little girl when I was four years old," said Leicester-born Boulter.

"Having come here as a fan and now as a player and somehow find a way to win it means more than everything to me.

"I've played so many British players, we appreciate an all-British final and what an incredible achievement it is.

"There is great depth in British women's tennis right now and we are all pushing each other. We are not too worried about who is going to be the British No.1, but we all want to do well.

"For me, my consistency is getting better and better. That has been a problem for me in the past and you have to be ready to play week after week in this grass court season.

"I'm going to cherish each week I play and try to build up some momentum ahead of Wimbledon. "This is always great chance for British players to collect ranking points and get some big wins and we have to take the opportunities that come our way."

It was also a great week for Burrage, who appeared in her first WTA Tour final.

"It's been such a positive week," he said. "I've beaten some really good players and proven to myself a lot of things so I'm only going to take the positives.

"Hopefully I will be back next year. I will take positives and confidence from this and hopefully I will play some good tennis in the coming months."

The success in Nottingham put British women's tennis into the spotlight ahead of this week at Eastbourne and with Harriet Dart, Lily Miyazaki, Sonay Kartal and Heather Watson among those also vying for success over this month, there will be plenty of British players for the big crowds to support during this week and heading into Wimbledon. ▣

# BRITISH WOMEN

# 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

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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# LUCY SHUKER HONOURRED

This year's Rothesay International Eastbourne coincides with the conclusion of Pride Month and the second day of this year's women's and quad wheelchair tennis tournaments falls on the last LTA 'Friday Pride Day' for this summer's grass court tournaments.

Lucy Shuker arrives in Eastbourne newly honoured with a British Empire Medal in the King's Birthday Honours list, richly deserved recognition for a stellar career that saw the 43-year-old complete her 20th season on the ITF Wheelchair Tennis Tour in 2022.

"I am incredibly grateful to my family, friends, and the world of wheelchair tennis who have never made me feel like I can not be myself," she said.

"I am Lucy. I have a female partner, that's it for me. I haven't faced any discrimination as a result of my having a female partner in my life but I am well aware that others have, including some of my friends.

"It is therefore so important to speak up and stand up for the LGBTQ+ community and keep striving for a world where we all feel comfortable and are loved for exactly who we are.

"My performances on the court are not because of my sexuality. People who know me, know me as Lucy and the fact that my partner's a female is just how it is. I think everyone who gets to know me just accepts me for who I am.

"I've never received any negative comments. There are a few LGBTQ+ players on the Tour, but everyone just accepts us for who we are. I think everyone is just respectful to each other."

"If you feel confident, if you feel happy, then us as athletes, we can perform better," Lucy added. "I think it makes a huge difference on court as you can be your authentic self. Yet,



if we're subject to any discrimination, hate, or treated in an unfair way, then it makes life difficult and, in turn, impacts our careers.

"I also think it's important that people feel comfortable to be a role model across all sports. Some sports may be more intense or visible than others, but the fact remains that it's always important to support each other and the community in any way we can as that will only further the progress of inclusivity in sport."

Having turned professional more than a decade ago and achieved over 110 career titles across singles and doubles, Lucy has witnessed the sports industry evolve and better itself to become a more LGBTQ+ inclusive space, but the former Doubles Masters Champion maintains the journey isn't over yet.

"For me personally, I don't think there is any difference in how I've been treated," she added. "I've been aware of how other people have been treated and I feel nowadays it's more understood and accepted but there is still some hate towards this community. So, I still feel there is a fair way to go, and I'd love to be in a position where we don't have to have this conversation because it's just the norm.

"Tennis is a widely regarded sport. So many people play it regardless of their age, background, or ethnicity. So, if tennis can be a leading sport in championing diversity and inclusion for the LGBTQ+ community, then we'll be laying the groundwork for other sports to follow." ■

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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. 

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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. □

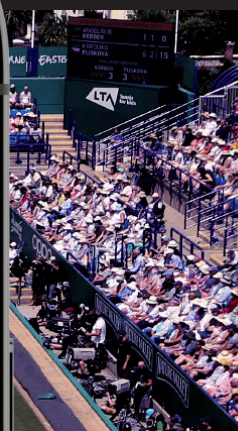


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## LTA PRIDE



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



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/)



Liam Broady wearing rainbow laces



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

**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.

**LTA Pledgeball League**

Did you know, that if everyone who plays tennis each year switched to using a reusable water bottle it would save the same amount of emissions as taking over 10,000 cars off the road.

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

Already established and active in football, Pledgeball encourages those involved in sport to take individual actions in their everyday lives that will have a positive climate impact.

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.

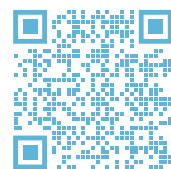
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16U Boys' Finalists



## BRINGING STARS RISING STARS RISING 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 tournament 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.

"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 British weather also plays a role in the grass court preparation and Graham admits that is the one element that is out of his hands.

"The one thing we can't control is the weather and it plays a big part in what we are all aiming to do with our grass courts," adds Graham.



Grounds Manager Graham Kimpton

"We can get balmy, damp, and overcast days at this time of the year. This can cause the courts to become quite slick and your heart is in your mouth as a groundsman because you want the tournament to go smoothly.

"Then a few days later, you can be looking at the same grass court with the sun shining down on it and it would be hard to improve on.

"Grass court tennis lends itself to great drama and the way you play on a court on the opening couple of days is very different to how you will play if you get to a final."

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 on play a huge role in this story. □



# 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

Action For Children

Everyone 4 Sport CIC

Hinckley Town Tennis Club

Living Well UK

Birkenhead Wellbeing Camps

Pride in Tennis

Sundridge Park Tennis and Squash Ltd

The Change Foundation

The Sport Legacy Foundation

Hertfordshire Association for the Care and Rehabilitation of Offenders

Bright Ideas for Tennis

Everton in the Community

Give It Your Max

Greenhouse Sports Ltd

Rackets Cubed

Sport in Mind

Tennis For Free

The Dan Maskell Tennis Trust

The Queen's Club Foundation

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.

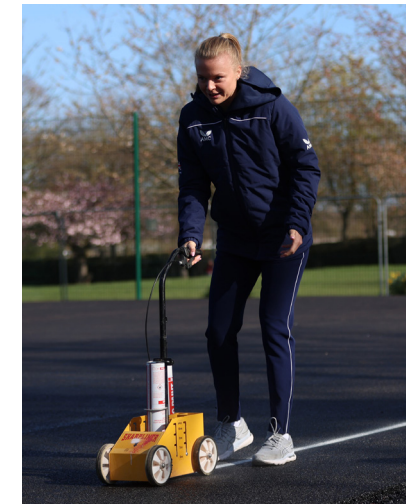
"We also want to create more innovative ways for people to play and are working with local authorities and tennis providers to ensure that each area receiving investment delivers a weekly free park tennis session where equipment is provided.

"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."



Scan the QR code to see LTA Award Winners 2023



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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





# GRASS COURT READY

When Greg Slade pushes out on to the courts at the Rothesay International Eastbourne, it will be a special occasion for the 21-year-old for several reasons.

"This will be my first grass court event and so obviously I'm looking forward to having that different challenge," says British No.2 Slade ahead of quad wheelchair tennis making its debut in Eastbourne.

"Having the WTA event alongside our wheelchair event will also be great because it brings such great exposure for wheelchair tennis and the quality of the tournament will be up there with the best. I'm expecting big things."

Slade had his first proper training session on grass at the National Tennis Centre just a fortnight ago, but he's also drawn on the experience of his peers after men's, women's and quad wheelchair events were all part of the LTA's roster of premier summer grass court tournament for the first time in 2022.

"I've picked the brains of the likes of Ruby Bishop, Abbie Breakwell, Lucy Shuker and Andy Lapthorne, they all played in these events a year ago," he adds. "Although last year Andy was in Birmingham (at the Rothesay Classic), I got some really useful insight into what is different, the tactics, that sort of thing. So I'm not coming into it blind."

Supported by the LTA's Wheelchair Pro Potential Programme, Slade trains at the National Tennis Centre each week, but when it comes to competing in world ranking events, Eastbourne will be the nearest tournament the Dorking world No.15 has played to his home.

"I've got cousins and grandparents that live locally to me and it would be really nice to capitalise on the opportunity to have a tournament so close to home. It would be lovely to have as many members of my family there as I can, really, just for that extra support," he says.

However, living close by does not always guarantee being able to visit.

"I love tennis, I watch as much as I can, especially if it's a British tournament or if there's a live stream, but even though I live no more than 30 to 45 minutes from Surbiton, I've never been to the Surbiton Trophy," continues Slade, currently the winner of three international singles titles and seven international doubles titles.

"I've been to the Surbiton club, just never to the tournament and that's largely due to the fact that I'm so busy with my own tournaments at this time of year. It's one of those choices you have to make as an elite athlete. I've also been to Eastbourne before, just never to the tournament."

Missing the 21st birthday celebrations of some of his closest friends also comes with the

Britain's Andy Lapthorne is also set to play in Eastbourne



territory, but those sorts of sacrifices are most certainly paying dividends. Slade looks set to arrive in Eastbourne at his career-best singles ranking of No.15, a marker he first achieved in April this year.

"I really feel that, especially in the last six months to a year, I've found my feet a bit more on the tour and my results at the start of this year have reflected that," continues Slade, who secured his second victory over a top 10 player at February's Bolton Indoor to set up an all-British singles final against British No.1, three-time Paralympic medallist and two-time Wimbledon doubles champion Lapthorne.

"Obviously, I've played Andy before. It's all part of the natural progression of being an elite player," he reflects. "At first the top 10 players seem untouchable, but eventually you keep tapping away at them and you get a couple of points, a couple of games and as I've improved the players I'm beating, in terms of their ranking, have become better and better quality."

Born with cerebral palsy, Slade began playing wheelchair tennis when he was 14. However, tennis is in the blood, and he initially played on his feet as a young child.

"I come from a very sporty family, specifically tennis," he recalls. "Grandparents on either side became tennis players. My grandmother on my dad's side was a tennis coach. And so, as a family, we hit on our feet over a makeshift net in our garden. So I knew how to hit a ball, but obviously getting around the courts was quite tough – until I discovered wheelchair tennis. It made sense that I looked for a hobby that involved sport because I've always been a big sports fan."

"Tennis was the natural selection. Of course, I never went into it anticipating I would be doing what I'm doing now. It was just something I did as a hobby. It was something I did once a fortnight, at first, just for an hour. Now, it's only a matter of time until I'm knocking on the door of the very top players and that's exciting."



Greg Slade

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## PLAY LIKE THE PROS

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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?

Advantage is our membership for tennis fans and players – giving you everything you need to play, follow and compete in tennis.

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- Get exclusive discounts with LTA partners
- Manage your court and course bookings
- Enter competitions to win unique experiences

Find out more about Advantage, how you can make the most of your exclusive benefits and watch the latest episodes of 'Inspired by' – visit [www.lta.org.uk/advantage/](http://www.lta.org.uk/advantage/)



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-

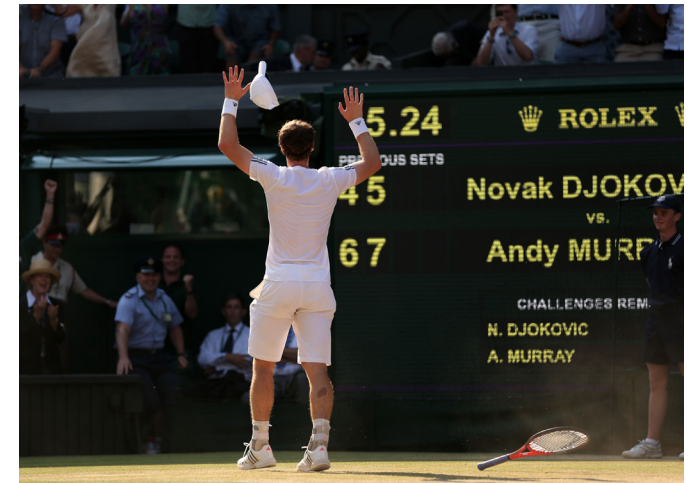
like atmosphere. It takes a lot to believe you deserve to be there and even more to believe you can win. That is why players like Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic are so special.

**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 and 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 I don't know if anyone can walk on Centre Court with Djokovic, go toe to toe with him and win 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](#).





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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



**MOMENT IN TIME**  
Novak Djokovic meets the fans at Eastbourne in 2017



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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.

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.



**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.

1921



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

JESSICA PEGULA



FOR THE FANS

FOR THE TITLE

FOR THE GAME

ELENA RYBAKINA



ONIS JABEUR



# BILLIE JEAN KING CUP 60

1963 60 YEARS 2023

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Great Britain will take on Sweden at home at the 2023 Billie Jean King Cup by Gainbridge Play-offs in November.

Following their 3-1 defeat to France at the Billie Jean King Cup Qualifiers in April, Great Britain missed out on the chance to qualify for the 2023 Billie Jean King Cup Finals and will instead, head to the Play-offs.

Play-off matches will take place on either 10-11 or 11-12 November, with home nations having the choice of which dates to play. The winning nations will then advance to the Billie Jean King Cup Qualifiers in 2024, while losing nations will compete in regional Group I events.

The Play-offs will follow the same format as the Qualifiers, with each tie consisting of five rubbers – two singles matches on the first day and two singles match and a doubles match on the second.

Sweden are four-time

Billie Jean King Cup quarter-finalists, having reached the last eight of the competition in 1970, 1977, 1980 and 1988.

The two nations have gone head-to-head six times, with the tie currently being level at 3-3. Their most recent meeting at the 2012 Billie Jean King Cup Play-offs saw Sweden storm to a 4-1 victory over a British team that comprised of Laura Robson, Heather Watson, Elena Baltacha and current Great Britain Billie Jean King Cup Captain, Anne Keothavong.

The Brits were defeated by the narrowest of margins, having lost four of five tie-break sets in six hours of play on the opening day and then two more three-set epics to see out the win for France.

“These weeks are always tough and you win some,



you lose some – but I am so proud of this team,” said Great Britain’s captain, Anne Keothavong.

“They left it all out there on the court. It’s great to finish on a positive and to get one rubber on the board, because this team deserves it, but ultimately the better team won and I’d like to congratulate France.

“I want to finish up by thanking everyone who came out today and yesterday to support. This competition isn’t what it is without the fans and it means so much to us that you come out and support and our players, so thank you so much.”





SVETLANA KUZNETSOVA | 2004



KAROLINA PLISKOVA | 2017



KIM CLIJSTERS | 2005



NOVAK DJOKOVIC | 2017



PETRA KVI TOVA | 2022



ALEX DE MINAUR | 2021



ANDY RODDICK | 2012



CAROLINE WOZNIACKI | 2009



FELICIANO LOPEZ | 2014



TAMIRA PASZEK | 2012



JUSTINE HENIN-HARDENNE | 2006

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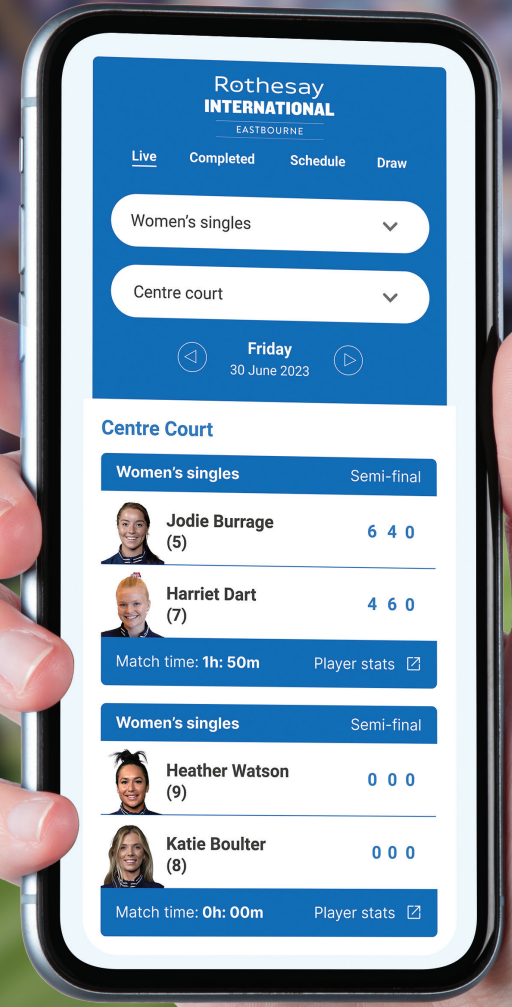


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**Rothesay INTERNATIONAL**  
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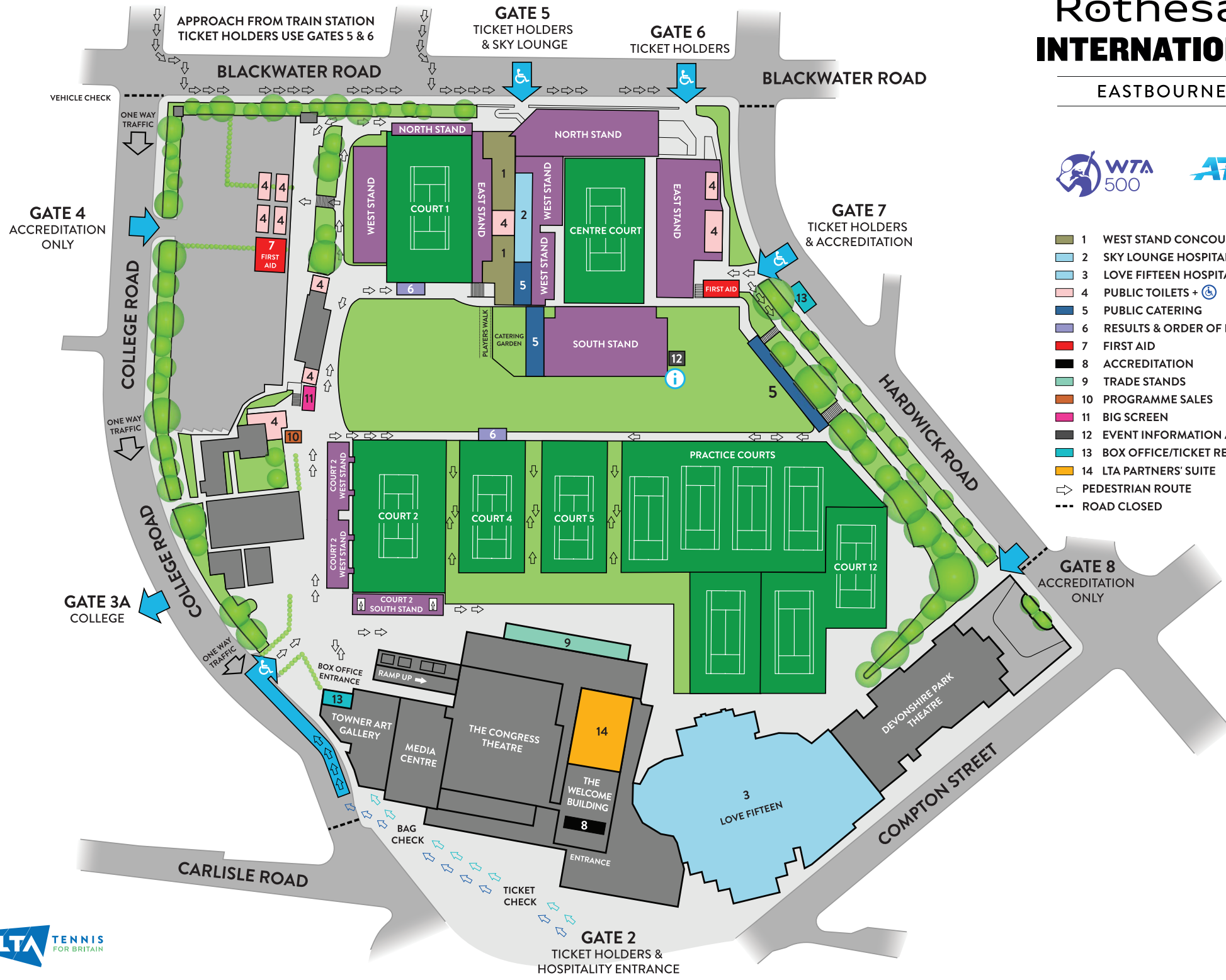


# Rothesay INTERNATIONAL

EASTBOURNE



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- 2 SKY LOUNGE HOSPITALITY
- 3 LOVE FIFTEEN HOSPITALITY
- 4 PUBLIC TOILETS + ♿
- 5 PUBLIC CATERING
- 6 RESULTS & ORDER OF PLAY BOARDS
- 7 FIRST AID
- 8 ACCREDITATION
- 9 TRADE STANDS
- 10 PROGRAMME SALES
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