

Rothesay OPEN

NOTTINGHAM



**OFFICIAL
PROGRAMME**
8-16 JUNE 2024





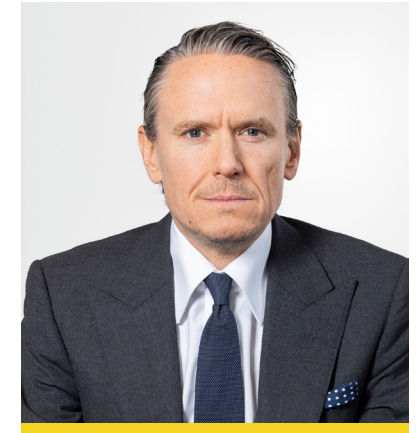
Securing the future. On and off the court.

At Rothesay, we're committed to securing the future of our 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.

Find out more at [Rothesay.com](https://www.thesay.com)

Rothesay
Protecting Pensions

WELCOME



Welcome to the Rothesay Open!

As the LTA's exclusive pensions partner since 2022, we are very excited to bring people together again 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 almost one million pension policyholders across the country. We've been delighted to team up with the LTA over the last three years to support them in their same commitment to the future of British tennis. Together, we share a 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 projects which help to secure the UK's long-term future, from housing, to infrastructure and achieving net zero.

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 also want to continue to open up tennis for older people, helping everyone to enjoy an active life at all ages.

I would like to thank the LTA, the players and the event staff for making all of our tournaments such a success and showcases for international tennis in Britain.

Thank you for joining us.

Tom Pearce
CEO, ROTHESAY

On behalf of the LTA, I am delighted to welcome you to the Rothesay Open Nottingham here at The Lexus Nottingham Tennis Centre.

We are continuing to develop the centre adding padel courts to diversify the offering for the local community, and the team at the centre are proud to operate one of the biggest youth tennis programmes in the country.

Last year's event delivered one of the moments of the summer, as Katie Boulter lifted her first WTA title, defeating Jodie Burrage in the first all-British final on the WTA tour for close to 50 years, while Andy Murray picked up his second ATP Challenger title in two weeks. We wish the best of luck to all the competitors here this week.

My thanks goes to the WTA, ATP and, in particular, a big thank you to Rothesay, who have been our partners for three years now.

Finally, to all the officials, volunteers, staff, and you, the fans who do so much to make events such as this so thrilling to be a part of, thank you.

If you enjoy today and want to guarantee your seat to more world-class tennis, the Davis Cup is returning to Manchester in September, and tickets are now available via the LTA website.

Best wishes

Scott Lloyd
CHIEF EXECUTIVE, LTA

ROTHESAY OPEN NOTTINGHAM

Rothesay OPEN



EVENT GUIDE



PLAYER LIST



SCORE CENTRE

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

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ALL LTA PROGRAMMES FOR THE SUMMER EVENT SEASON HAVE BEEN PRODUCED USING CARBON NEUTRAL PAPER.



Throughout June, we'll be celebrating LGBTQ+ communities in tennis as part of Pride Month, including once again holding 'Friday Pride Days' at our events and telling stories from these communities, showing that tennis is a sport where everyone is welcome, whatever their sexuality or gender identity.



GRASS COURT REVIEW:

2023

The 2023 grass court season was loaded with British success stories, star names rising to the top and some memories that will last a lifetime.

Here, we look back at the story of last year's LTA grass court events, with Andy Murray, Katie Boulter and Carlos Alcaraz among the star names taking centre stage.

SURBITON SUNSHINE

For only the second time in history, four British women made it through to the quarter-finals of last year's Lexus Surbiton Trophy.

Amongst them was 16-year-old Isabelle Lacy, who also recorded her first top 100 win in the opening round against Madison Brengle.

Lacy was also joined by 24-year-old Katie Swan, who would eventually go on to make the final after beating the top seed Tatjana Maria and then fellow Brit Lily Miyazaki. However, Swan finished runner-up to Yanina Wickmayer after losing 2-6, 6-4, 7-6(1).

On the men's side, the Brits took both the singles and doubles titles, with Andy Murray beating Jurij Rodionov 6-3, 6-2 to become the oldest player to win an ATP Challenger title on grass at 36.

Meanwhile, Liam Broady and Jonny O'Mara won the men's doubles.

BRITS DOMINATE IN NOTTINGHAM

British stars won three of the four titles at the Rothesay Open Nottingham.

Once again, there were four British players quarter-finalists, with Katie Boulter and Jodie Burrage contesting the final.

Newly crowned British No.1 Boulter prevailed 6-3, 6-3 to win her first WTA Tour title and set her on her way to the biggest 12 months of her career.

On the men's side, there were first-career ATP Challenger wins for Arthur Fery and quarter-finalist George Loffhagen, with Andy Murray clinching back-to-back titles with a 6-4, 6-4 win over Arthur Cazaux.

British wild cards Johannus Monday and Jacob Fearnley were the surprise package of the men's doubles – beating Broady and O'Mara in the final 6-3, 6-7(6), 10-7 – while Harriet Dart and Heather Watson finished as runners-up in the WTA event.

CLASSIC MATCHES IN BIRMINGHAM

Britain's Harriet Dart made it through to a quarter-final of a WTA Tour event for a second successive week, but it was the top two seeds who stole the show, with Barbora Krejčíková and Jelena Ostapenko meeting in the final for the right to hold the Maud Watson trophy.

No stranger to success on grass as a former Eastbourne champion, Ostapenko went on to life her second title on British soil with a 7-6(8), 6-4 win.

ALCARAZ LIGHTS UP QUEEN'S

British fans got to see British No. 1 Cam Norrie reach the quarter-finals at the Queen's Club, before Carlos Alcaraz stole all the headlines as he claimed his first grass court title.

The 20-year-old returned to the top of the world rankings after his win against Alex de Minaur in the final, with his win in the cinch Championships paving the way for his maiden Wimbledon title victory a few weeks later.

There was also British success to come at cinch Championships, as Alfie Hewett and Gordon Reid won their first doubles title together at the Queen's Club, with Hewett finishing runner-up in the singles to Joachim Gerard.



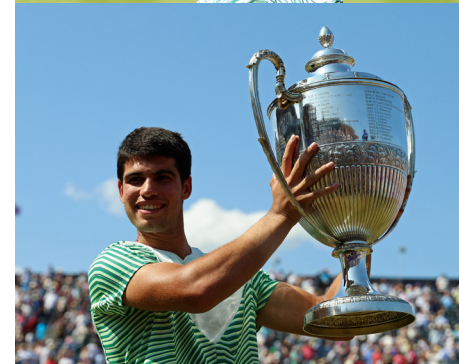
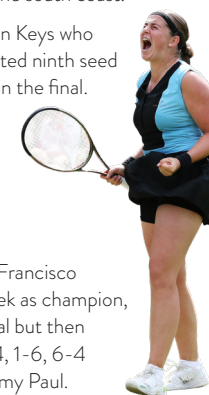
STARS COLLIDE IN EASTBOURNE

A strong lineup at the Rothesay International Eastbourne saw Ons Jabeur, Caroline Garcia and Coco Gauff make the trip to the south coast.

It was 2014 champion Madison Keys who came out on top, as she defeated ninth seed Daria Kasatkina 6-2, 7-6(13) in the final.

On the men's side, the tournament was thrown wide open with top seed and reigning champion Taylor Fritz exiting in the first round.

On finals day however, it was Francisco Cerundolo who ended the week as champion, not only finishing his semi-final but then closing out the title with a 6-4, 1-6, 6-4 victory over second seed Tommy Paul.



2024 GRASS COURT SEASON	
Lexus Surbiton Trophy 2-9 June	Lexus Ilkley Trophy 15-22 June
Rothesay Open Nottingham 8-16 June	Rothesay International Eastbourne 22-29 June
cinch Championships 15-23 June	Lexus British Open Roehampton 30 June – 5 July
Rothesay Classic Birmingham 15-23 June	Wimbledon 1-14 July

ROTHESAY OPEN PEN PORTRAITS 2024

The entry list for the first WTA event of the 2024 British grass court season confirmed a stellar line-up will be taking centre stage at the Rothesay Open Nottingham.

WOMEN



ONS JABEUR 🇹🇼

BORN: 28 AUGUST 1994

Won her first career title at the Birmingham Classic in June 2021 becoming the first Arab woman to win a WTA tour title.

Has won five WTA tour titles, including Mutua Madrid Open in 2022 and has reached three Grand Slam finals having made the Wimbledon final in 2022 and 2023.

Won the French Open junior title in 2011, just months after an operation on her left wrist.



EMMA RADUCANU 🇬🇧

BORN: 13 NOVEMBER 2002

Became the youngest British woman in the Open Era to reach the last 16 of Wimbledon in 2021.

Backed up that breakthrough performance by becoming the first player, woman or man, to come through qualifying and win a Grand Slam at the 2021 US Open.

Raducanu became the youngest Briton to win a Grand Slam title and youngest women's Slam champion since Maria Sharapova at Wimbledon in 2004.



BARBORA KREJČIKOVA 🇨🇪

BORN: 18 DECEMBER 1995

A former world No.2 and has won 7 WTA singles titles, winning the Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championships last year as well as French Open in 2021 for her first and only singles Grand Slam title

Krejčíková is a ten-time Grand Slam doubles champion, three of which have come in mixed doubles

Achieved her best grass court run last year at the Rothesay Classic Birmingham reaching the final.



KATIE BOULTER 🇬🇧

BORN: 1 AUGUST 1996

Claimed her first WTA-tour title last year at Rothesay Open Nottingham, defeating four Brits on the way to the crown.

Won her second WTA title and biggest of her career in March 2024 winning the San Diego Open, beating Beatriz Haddad Maia and Donna Vekic en-route to the title.

The current British No. 1, she achieved career-high ranking of No.27 in March 2024, 124 places higher than in March 2023.



DIANE PARRY 🇫🇷

BORN: 1 SEPTEMBER 2002

Has won two WTA 125 titles in her career both coming on clay in Paris and Montevideo.

Achieved career-high no.49 in April after reaching 4th round at Indian Wells and the third round at Australian Open in 2024

In her debut grass-court campaign, she reached the Gaiba WTA 125 semi-finals and the third round at Wimbledon in 2022.



KAROLINA PLISKOVA 🇨🇪

BORN: 21 MARCH 1992

Former world No.1 winning 17 WTA titles across her career – her first came in 2013 at Kuala Lumpur and most recent in Cluj-Napoca in February 2024.

Pliskova is a two-time Grand Slam finalist, making the Wimbledon final in 2021 and US Open final in 2016.

A three-time grass court champion at Nottingham in 2013 and at Eastbourne in 2017 and 2019.



ANASTASIA PAVLYUCHENKOVA

BORN: 3 JULY 1991

Reached the semi-finals at Upper Austria Ladies Linz and Qatar TotalEnergies Open this year.

12 WTA tour titles to her name, with the most recent coming in 2018 at Strasbourg.

Achieved career-high of No.11 after reaching her first Grand Slam final at the French Open in 2021.



SOFIA KENIN 🇺🇸

BORN: 14 NOVEMBER 1998

Won her maiden Grand Slam at 21-years-old, beating Coco Gauff and Ashleigh Barty on route to winning the 2020 Australian Open, achieving a career-high of No.4

In 2023 she reached the third round at Wimbledon as a qualifier, defeating Coco Gauff in the first round.

She is a five-time WTA title winner, including a grass-court crown at the 2019 Mallorca Championships.



CLARA BUREL 🇫🇷

BORN: 24 MARCH 2001

Reached a career-high ranking of No. 43 after quarter-final runs to Linz and Strasbourg in 2024.

She has reached two WTA finals in her career, both at Lausanne in 2023 and 2021.

Burel defeated world No.5 Jessica Pegula at 2024 Australian Open for her career-best win by ranking.



MAGDALENA FRECH 🇵🇱

BORN: DECEMBER 15 1997

Won her first WTA 125 title at the Concord Open in Massachusetts in August 2021.

Best performance in a Grand Slam came at this year's Australian Open as she reached the fourth round, beating No.16 seed Caroline Garcia in the second round for her first win against a top-20 opponent.

In 2023, she reached back-to-back quarter-finals on grass at the Rothesay Open Nottingham and the Rothesay Classic Birmingham.



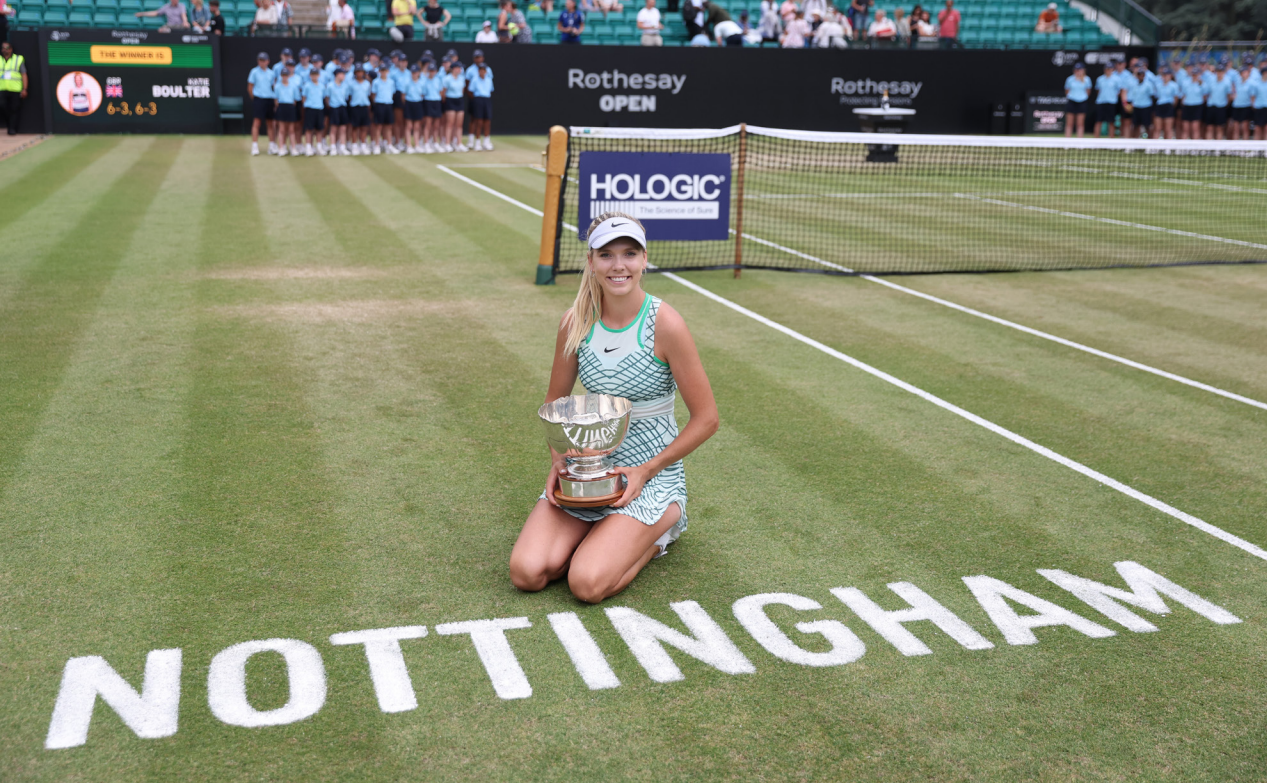
HARRIET DART 🇬🇧

BORN: JULY 28 1996

Best Grand Slam performance came with a run to the third round at Wimbledon in 2021.

Broke into the top 100 of the WTA Rankings for the first time after coming through qualifiers to make the fourth round at Indian Wells in 2022.

Reached back-to-back WTA Tour quarter-finals for the first time in her career at the Rothesay Open Nottingham and Rothesay Classic Birmingham tournaments last summer.



KATIE'S DREAM YEAR

As Katie Boulter stepped onto court for her first match at the Rothesay Open Nottingham last June, she could only dream about what lay in wait for her over the following 12 months.

Boulter's grass court season had already served up a notable milestone in her career, with her run to the semi-finals of the Lexus Surbiton Trophy a week before her trip to Nottingham securing her enough ranking points to become the British No.1 for the first time.

In doing so, she became the 23rd woman to top the domestic rankings since 1975 and the confidence that status brought inspired a series of impressive displays on the Nottingham grass courts.

Boulter beat British qualifier Emily Appleton 6-1, 6-3 in her opening match and backed that up with wins against Ukraine's Daria Snigur and an impressive victory against defending Nottingham champion Beatriz Haddad Maia.

Wins over fellow Brits Harriet Dart and Heather Watson secured her place in the final, where she beat another domestic friend and rival Jodie Burrage, in what was the first all-British WTA final for 46 years.

"I don't even know where to begin," she said after her 6-3, 6-3 win against Burrage. "I dreamt of this moment as a little girl when I was training here at four or five years old. Coming here as a fan and now as a player, this means more than everything to me.."

"We plug away behind-the-scenes and I'm so grateful to have my team by my side and I'm so appreciative to have them here with me."

"To have a home crowd and having played so many British players, it's been a massive privilege for me."

A run to the third round at Wimbledon cemented her rankings rise and gave Boulter opportunities to play in tournaments that were previously out of reach.

That gave a player who has been striving for this level of success for a decade to press the accelerator pedal in her career and she has done just that over the last year.



- BRITISH No.1 PLAYERS SINCE 1975**
- Virginia Wade
 - Sue Barker
 - Jo Durie
 - Annabel Croft
 - Anne Hobbs
 - Sara Gomer
 - Monique Javer
 - Sarah Loosemore
 - Clare Wood
 - Lizzie Jelfs
 - Rachel Viollet
 - Sam Smith
 - Louise Latimer
 - Julie Pullin
 - Lucie Ahl
 - Elena Baltacha
 - Anne Keothavong
 - Katie O'Brien
 - Heather Watson
 - Laura Robson
 - Johanna Konta
 - Emma Raducanu
 - Katie Boulter (since 12.06.23)

A third round appearance at the US Open last September was her best showing in New York and she carried her momentum forward in impressive fashion in 2024, winning her first WTA 500 title at the San Diego Open - defeating five top 50 players including a 5-7, 6-2, 6-2 victory over Marta Kostyuk in the final.

Boulter's break into the top 30 of the WTA Rankings has allowed her to be seeded in top level tour events for the first time in her career and she has adapted well to a level of success that is all the more rewarding given the number years that she has put in to make this breakthrough.

"Last year's grass court season was massive for me as I got a lot of wins and it gave me a chance to push on," said Boulter.

"I feel like I have grown a lot and I just want to consolidate my ranking and prove that I can get wins against these girls week in, week out."

"I didn't really do that when I got inside the top 100 the first time, but now is my moment to really push on."

"I feel like I've built a solid base now. It's taken me a long time, probably longer than a lot of people, but I feel like I'm in a position to springboard off this base."

"In every sport, it's going to take time to build something. I've played the long game and had to dig myself out of a few holes to get to where I am now."

Confidence and self-belief are commodities tennis players cannot acquire from hours practising and after a year that took Boulter's career to previously uncharted territory, she is back on grass and dreaming of more glory. ■



Mastering grass courts is one of the ultimate challenges in this sport, with the greatest names in the history of the sport cementing their legacy on a surface that has provided a stage for so many legends.

The last two decades have seen the tennis record books rewritten by icons of tennis such as Roger Federer, Serena Williams, Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic and here, we salute the greats who have reigned supreme on grass in the Open Era of the sport.



FEDERER'S GENIUS

Serbia's Novak Djokovic will be attempting to join Roger Federer as the most successful Wimbledon champion of all-time next month, as he aims to win his eighth singles title at the All England Club.

Yet he will not get close to matching Federer's total haul of grass court titles, with his relentless success winning in the pre-Wimbledon event at Halle in Germany helping the Swiss maestro to win a total of 19 tournaments on grass courts over the course of his decorated career.

American Pete Sampras is the second most successful player on grass with 10 titles and America's Stan Smith is next on that list with nine.

Federer also holds the record for the best winning run on grass, as he claimed a remarkable 65 consecutive wins on the surface between 2003 and his defeat against Rafael Nadal in the 2008 Wimbledon final.

Finally, Federer has the most career wins on grass, with his 192 victories seven more than American great Jimmy Connors.



MARTINA THE GREAT

Nine-time Wimbledon champion Martina Navratilova dominates the record books in women's grass court tennis after her remarkable career that saw her collect a record 167 singles titles on all surfaces.

Grass was where she played some of her best tennis, with his dominance at Wimbledon matched by a magnificent 11 titles in Eastbourne.

In total, Navratilova won 309 and lost just 40 matches on grass, winning 32 titles on the surface.

Australian great Margaret Court holds the record for the most grass court title wins with 42, just ahead of her compatriot Evonne Goolagong, who won 38 at a time when there were a lot more grass court events on the tennis calendar.



THE BRITISH HEROES

British tennis fans waited 77 years for a homegrown men's singles champion at Wimbledon, with Andy Murray emerging as the hero the nation had been waiting for.

His 2013 Wimbledon win in the final against Novak Djokovic is one of the great moments in the nation's recent sporting folklore, with Murray backing up his win at the All England Club by lifting the trophy again three years later.

Murray also won Olympic gold on Wimbledon's Centre Court in 2012 and is a five-time winner of the cinch Championships at The Queen's Club, which is a record for that tournament.

Other British players who have won titles on grass include 1977 Wimbledon champion Virginia Wade, who claimed eight titles on grass, while Sue Barker won ten times on the surface.

MOST MATCH WINS ON GRASS - WOMEN

- 309** MARTINA NAVRATILOVA 🇸🇰
- 285** EVONNE GOOLAGONG 🇦🇺
- 264** MARGARET COURT 🇦🇺
- 212** VIRGINIA WADE + 🇬🇧
- 208** CHRIS EVERT 🇺🇸

MOST MATCH WINS ON GRASS - MEN

- 192** ROGER FEDERER + 🇨🇭
- 185** JIMMY CONNORS 🇺🇸
- 164** JOHN NEWCOMBE 🇬🇧
- 157** PHIL DENT 🇬🇧
- 157** JOHN ALEXANDER 🇬🇧

TOP TEN MATCH WIN PERCENTAGES ON GRASS

- 92.63%** MARGARET COURT 🇦🇺 (264-21)
- 90%** PETE SAMPRAS 🇺🇸 (63-7)
- 89.3%** NOVAK DJOKOVIC 🇷🇸 (92-11)
- 88.54%** MARTINA NAVRATILOVA 🇸🇰 (309-40)
- 88.2%** ROGER FEDERER + 🇨🇭 (105-14)
- 87.5%** BJORN BORG 🇸🇪 (56-8)
- 87.39%** CHRIS EVERT 🇺🇸 (208-30)
- 86.99%** SERENA WILLIAMS 🇺🇸 (107-16)
- 85.59%** BILLIE JEAN KING 🇺🇸 (190-32)
- 85%** STEFFI GRAF 🇩🇪 (85-15)





FIGHTING BACK

Emma Raducanu could not have been further away from the action as the grass court season unfolded a year ago.

After undergoing surgery on both wrists and her ankle, the 2021 US Open champion was fully aware of the scale of the challenge she would face to get back on court and in the kind of physical shape required to compete at the highest level.

Raducanu need to start from scratch after her surgeries, but the moment she had worked so hard for came in her opening match of this year in Auckland, with the victory she achieved against Elena-Gabriela Ruse one of the most precious in her short career.

Fluctuating fortunes in the months since has been a predictable narrative for a 21-year-old who has served up spells of brilliant tennis that has challenged the best players in the world, with some setbacks part of the story as Raducanu adapts to life back on the WTA Tour.

She pushed Australian Open champion Aryna Sabalenka all the way in a compelling match in Indian Wells and she then tested world No.1 Iga Swiatek in her first quarter-final match of the year in Stuttgart.

Raducanu's unprecedented achievement of coming through qualifying to win the US Open almost three years ago created levels of expectations that were hard to maintain, but former British No 1 Laura Robson believes we have seen positive signs from the 21-year-old this season.

"Emma has been playing more aggressively and getting closer to the baseline since her comeback and it has been great to see," said Robson in an interview with Tennis365.

"The fact that she has been getting closer to the baseline is great to see. She is playing a brand of tennis close to what we saw when she won the US Open and just needs time on court and consistency to get her to that level."

A highlight of Raducanu's season so far came as she won two matches for Great Britain as they secured a place in the Billie Jean King Cup finals in the tie against France, with the level of her performances against Caroline Garcia and Diane Parry highlighting the quality she possesses.

EMMA RADUCANU

BORN: NOVEMBER 13 2002

- First started playing tennis at the age of five at her local park courts in Bromley.
- Won her first senior title at the ITF \$15K event in Tiberias, Israel at the age of 15 in May 2018.
- Reached the quarter-finals of the 2018 girl's singles event at Junior Wimbledon – losing to eventual winner and future French Open champion, Iga Swiatek
- Became the youngest British woman in the Open Era to reach the last 16 of Wimbledon in 2021.
- Created history by becoming the first qualifier, man or woman, to win a Grand Slam title in the Open Era.
- Became British No.1 following her US Open win.
- Achieved a career-high ranking of No.10.



Displays of that quality will drive Raducanu back to the top of the game, with Sky Sports lead tennis commentator Jonathan Overend impressed by the level she has shown on court this year.

"You have to understand where she has come from over the last few months," said Overend.

"When you are out for eight months and have three different surgeries, that is tough. At one point last summer, three of her limbs were basically incapacitated. She was using a mobility scooter.

"She has already achieved more than 99.9 per cent of the population and that is an amazing thing to say. Whatever happens in Emma's career, she will always be a Grand Slam champion and not many players get a chance to say that.

"If she can match the positivity of her language with the positivity of her form on the court, she can get back to the top 20 and maybe even the top ten."

Raducanu has set her targets at realistic levels in the opening half of 2024 and she will be hoping the grass courts that provided her breakthrough moment three years ago can serve up something similar this year.

Raducanu's US Open win is often hailed as her breakthrough moment in tennis, yet her run to the fourth round at Wimbledon a few months earlier was the performance that alerted the sporting world to her potential.

The brief grass court season doesn't allow too many players to hone their skills on the surface, but Raducanu has proved she can shine at this time of the year.

The British fans will be hoping to see lots more of a sporting hero who has already inspired so many young players to get into tennis for the first time. ■



LTA TENNIS FOUNDATION



The LTA Tennis Foundation's mission is to improve lives through tennis. We want to ensure that every child, young person, and adult can access the unique and life-changing benefits that tennis offers.

Working throughout Great Britain, we focus on underserved communities and under-represented groups, ensuring we reach those who face the biggest barriers to sport and who can benefit the most.

We partner and work with experts who are embedded within communities, ensuring the biggest impact is achieved for beneficiaries.

How we make an impact

Supporting organisations

- Financially supporting and collaborating with charities and organisations embedded within their communities, who use tennis as a force for good.

Enabling communities and schools

- Funding expertise and equipment to make tennis accessible to all.

Developing facilities

- Improving access to tennis by developing, often neglected, facilities and courts.

Since its launch in 2022, over half a million people have been positively impacted by the LTA Tennis Foundation.

"The grant from the LTA Tennis Foundation will prove transformational for so many lives in our local area. We want to make sure everybody has access to quality tennis provision, and healthy meals during school holidays" Founder, Playpoint Sports, funded by the LTA Tennis Foundation

Join the LTA Tennis Foundation community to keep up with the life-changing work taking place.

Registered Charity Number: 1148421



"THE GRANT FROM THE LTA TENNIS FOUNDATION WILL PROVE TRANSFORMATIONAL FOR SO MANY LIVES IN OUR LOCAL AREA. WE WANT TO MAKE SURE EVERYBODY HAS ACCESS TO QUALITY TENNIS PROVISION, AND HEALTHY MEALS DURING SCHOOL HOLIDAYS"

FOUNDER, PLAYPOINT SPORTS, FUNDED BY THE LTA TENNIS FOUNDATION

PROGRAMME SPOTLIGHT:

RACKETS CUBED

The LTA Tennis Foundation awarded a grant to Rackets Cubed to deliver their community tennis programme which targets underserved communities, aiming to make children happier, healthier, and more confident. The programme draws upon a unique combination of racket sports, STEM education and nutrition.

They work with primary schools to target Key Stage 2 children who live in some of the country's most underserved areas, including Nottingham. The Lexus Nottingham Tennis Centre has been working with Dunkirk Primary school for this academic year, with year 5 & 6 cohorts taking part.

How Rackets Cubed works

Children attend a weekly after-school session and take part in a Rackets Sport coaching session and a STEM education lesson, all topped off with a nutritious meal! These sessions are entirely funded for the children so attendance is free of charge.

Rackets Cubed target children who are on free school meals, from low-income families or those who do not get extracurricular opportunities outside of school. A lot of children who attend are living in food poverty, suffer with low confidence and have low attendance and attainment at school.

What do the sessions look like?

An hour of Racket Sports

This session is led by qualified coaches who deliver fun, engaging, and active sessions for the children to enjoy. This is often a child's first experience of a Rackets Sport and we work with the schools & teachers to understand the needs of the children.

An hour of education

Children also take part in a STEM session focused on science, technology, engineering,



or maths. This lesson is delivered by teachers from the attending school, and it is a great opportunity for teachers to get creative with their STEM delivery.

A nutritious meal

Every child receives a healthy, nutritious meal at the end of their session, where all the children come together and socialise over their meal.

Impact

90% of children said they felt happier after participating in Rackets Cubed

One year five child who takes part in the programme said: "I always come to school on Rackets Cubed day, it's the best thing in the week"

Mental wellbeing improved across all schools, in all areas that we assessed between October 2023 and February 2024

If you want to support the LTA Tennis Foundation's life-changing work, scan the QR code to donate.



SERVE THE PERFECT SLICE



PROUD TO PARTNER WITH TOP BRITISH WOMEN'S TENNIS PLAYER JODIE BURRAGE



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

WHO CAN GET INVOLVED?

LTA SERVES encourages any community venue, local regional or national organisation to get involved.

Kiran Matharu is the LTA's EDI Programme Manager – Underserved Communities and leads on LTA SERVES. She said: "Tennis is for everyone, no matter who you are or where you're from."

"We want to support many local communities to engage in tennis for the longer term and support all individuals to reap the benefits and development of being active, mentally and physically healthy."

If you look after a youth venue, are a community group, or even if you're a parent or guardian of someone attending a local venue and want to find out more about the programme and how you can run LTA SERVES, visit www.lta.org.uk/roles-and-venues/community-tennis/serves/ or scan the QR code



LTA SERVES is our industry leading sport for development programme. It takes tennis into the heart of local communities and to those who may have never picked up a racket or thought that tennis was a sport for them.

Through our Game, Set Empower Toolkit we aim to increase self-confidence, health and wellbeing and bring communities together. It's all about having fun with friends, keeping mentally and physically fit, all the while learning new skills beyond the tennis court.

We empower and equip over 2,000 community leaders trained as Tennis Activators in 600 venues around the country. We provide all the resources that are needed to engage underserved communities

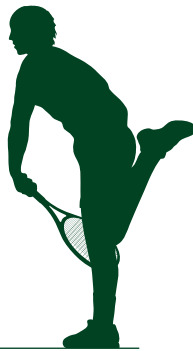


to play and enjoy tennis for the longer-term for **FREE**.

LTA SERVES is delivered in a variety of places ranging from youth clubs, faith venues, to community centres and housing estates. ■



RISING STARS



Tennis has lived through a glorious two decades dominated by a handful of legendary champions and now we are stepping into an exciting new era that will serve up a fresh set of champions.

Roger Federer, Serena Williams, Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic became sporting giants who transcended tennis, with the longevity of their success adding to their auras.

Their enduring presence in the final stages of Grand Slam events allowed them to build a global presence that will be hard to match, but tennis is fortunate to fresh batch of players ready to take centre stage.

Carlos Alcaraz, Iga Swiatek, Coco Gauff and Jannik Sinner have painted enchanting stories on tennis courts around the world in the last year, with the inspiration that has inspired more to follow in their footsteps.

A golden era in tennis may have reached a natural conclusion, but what comes next could be even more thrilling.



Emma Raducanu, 2021 US Open winner

CLASS OF THE 2000's

"I feel like the new generation is definitely dominating. It's a strong generation. We knew the group in 2002 was strong, and I think part of it helped us push each other growing up in juniors. We all had to compete with each other and strive on."

The words of Britain's Emma Raducanu highlighted the impressive collection of young stars making their mark in the women's game, with her iconic victory at the 2021 US Open one of many moments that symbolised a changing of the guard in the women's game.

Raducanu's 2021 US Open final against fellow teenager Leylah Fernandez captured huge global television audiences, with the emergence of two young superstars of tennis a story that enchanted and fascinated sports fans in equal measure.

Injuries have hampered Raducanu's progress over the last year, when world No.1 Iga Swiatek from Poland has grown into her role as the leading player in the women's game.

Still only 22, the player who has topped the WTA Rankings with impressive consistency since Ashleigh Barty's retirement in March 2022, Swiatek took on the mantle of becoming world No.1 and her success at the top level of the game confirms she has embraced the challenge.

It has also been a breakthrough 12 months for America's Coco Gauff, who has got used to dealing with the glare of the spotlight since she beat her idol Venus Williams on Wimbledon's Centre Court at the age of 15.

Gauff's US Open win last September had an impact that revived memories of Raducanu's success in the same tournament two years earlier, with the 20-year-old American one to watch during this summer's British grass court season.



ALCARAZ AND SINNER MAKE THEIR MARK

"I was never worried about what would happen when the 'Big 3' went. People said the same things before Roger Federer came along and then we had Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic soon after. There is always a new champion. Carlos Alcaraz and Jannik Sinner are so exciting to watch. They seem to enjoy playing as much as we enjoy watching them."

The views of former British No.1 Laura Robson's are echoed by tennis fans around the world who have witnessed some sensational sporting moments from the two most talked about young players in the men's game over the last 12 months.

Alcaraz arrived at The Queen's Club in London last June admitting his expectations on grass courts were limited, yet he finished the summer as a winner of the LTA's cinch Championships and, famously, as Wimbledon champion after a thrilling win against Novak Djokovic in the final.

Alcaraz has backed up that success with some thrilling performances in 2024, including a hugely impressive win at the ATP 1000 tournament at Indian Wells in March.

Sinner's rise has been even more meteoric, as his pivotal contribution to Italy's Davis Cup win last November was backed up by his first Grand Slam triumph at the Australian Open in January.

"A new generation is here already," believes Djokovic. "We've been saying this for years that we can expect that moment to come when you have a kind of shift of generations and it is happening now."



YOUNG GUNS FIRING

Teenage stars have created some of the most captivating stories in tennis over the last year, with Mirra Andreeva leading the way as she made it through to the last-16 of last year's Wimbledon Championship with some dynamic performances.

Czech teenager Linda Noskova has also caught the eye in 2024, with her memorable win against world No.1 Swiatek at the Australian Open in January highlighting her potential.

In the men's game, Ben Shelton's emergence was amplified when he became America's No.1 player earlier this year, while Brazil's Joao Fonseca and France's Arthur Fils are being tipped to be champions of the future.

Britain also has high hopes of new stars emerging, with Jack Draper eager to make up for his absence from last year's grass court season due to injury and 2023 Wimbledon Boys' Singles champion Henry Searle striving to make his mark after impressive performances at junior level.



TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES AND INSPIRING FUTURES: THE HEART OF TENNIS IN NOTTINGHAM

With the Rothesay Open in Nottingham swinging into action, and a growing demand for access to tennis courts, communities across Britain are witnessing a transformation of their local park tennis courts.

What were once overlooked spaces are being revitalised and providing opportunities for people to pick up a racket and play, with many situated in Nottingham.

The Park Tennis Project, a landmark £30million investment supported by the LTA Tennis Foundation, delivered by the LTA, is making a significant impact by rejuvenating public tennis courts and supporting a renewed passion for tennis within communities. With a substantial investment, 3,000 courts will be transformed, ensuring welcoming and accessible facilities for people to play, no matter their age, gender, background, or ability.

A primary focus of the project is to engage young people and give them the opportunity to pick up a racket and embrace tennis as a fun and active lifestyle choice. Prior to this investment, 45% of park courts across Britain were in a very poor or unplayable condition.

This unprecedented investment is ensuring the courts in the worst condition are refurbished to bring them back to life, with introduction of gate access technology and online booking to make it easier for everyone to pick up a racket and get on court. This helps to tackle one of the main barriers to people playing tennis, which is finding and booking somewhere to play.

Huge progress has been made. Over 2000 courts have been transformed, bringing them back to a high standard for the enjoyment of local communities up and down the country.



The LTA is on track to complete the project by the end of the summer, working with local authorities from Eastbourne to Inverness to help provide opportunities for many more people to pick up a racket. The aim is to get over 500,000 more people playing tennis in their local park every year.

This is a key way in which the LTA is delivering its vision of 'Tennis Opened Up', transforming communities through tennis by making the sport welcoming, enjoyable and inspiring to everyone – regardless of their age, background, or ability.



In Nottingham alone, four parks have received a total investment of £115,159 bringing them back to life and making tennis more accessible to the community, including Bulwell Forest Recreation Ground, Lenton Abbey Park, Strelley Recreation Ground and Clifton Playing Fields. Meanwhile, across Nottinghamshire more broadly, 23 courts have been transformed, bringing them back into long-term sustainable use, and providing more opportunities for children and adults to be active.

These refurbished courts provide the local residents of Nottingham the opportunity to pick up a racket and access tennis and there is no better time to get on court than during the sunshine months of summer.

Included as part of the project is Barclays Free Park Tennis, a free, weekly session in parks led by local volunteers, giving you the chance to meet new people and practice your skills. For competitive players who would like to be challenged, there is Barclays Local Tennis Leagues, whether you are a beginner or advanced, you can meet new people, power up your game and compete in a park court nearby.



As the Rothesay Open in Nottingham gets going, local park Clifton Playing Fields, which has eight refurbished park courts, will welcome children and young players from the local area to celebrate the impact the Park Tennis Project has on the community, make social connections, and keep active.

The refurbished courts in Nottingham symbolise opportunity, and community engagement, embodying the transformative power of tennis. ■

Scan the QR code to book your local court.

BOOK A COURT



COMING HOME

The positive vibes will come rushing back for Dan Evans as he steps back onto the main stage at the Lexus Nottingham Tennis Centre this week.

This is as close as Birmingham-born Evans gets to playing home tournaments and his success here is due, in part, to the stellar backing of the British fans.

Evans is the joint record holder for men's singles Nottingham titles, alongside fellow Brit Greg Rusedski, Ivo Karlovic, Richard Gasquet, Dudi Sela, Jonas Bjorkman and Stan Smith and when he looks back on his matches here, he does so with warm memories.

"Whenever I play in Nottingham, it's nice to have those home comforts around you," says Evans,

"I love playing on the grass, every time I get to play on this court I appreciate it, I've done many hours training here and down the road in Loughborough, it's close to home and I do feel the love from the crowd.

"You often see people who were involved in the junior tournament I played in doing the lines, so it's a nice experience.

"This is always a great tournament. The guys and girls who run it always do a great job and they look after the players so well.

"They do such a good job and make this feel like a full ATP Tour event. It is a WTA250 for the women, but the men always get the same treatment here, making it even more enjoyable.

"The tournaments at Surbiton and Nottingham are always some of the toughest ATP Challengers of the year. The players know how well run these tournaments are and that's one of the reasons why you always see so many great players playing."

Evans has enjoyed some of his best moments on grass courts here in Nottingham, with his semi-final win against America's Jack Sock two years ago highlighting the range of his abilities on grass.

His use of slice allows him to contain big-hitting rivals and his aggressive play also reaps rewards on this surface, with Evans hoping to find some form after a



challenging first half of this year where he has found wins hard to come by.

"You want to go into Wimbledon with some matches under your belt and the wins I've had in Nottingham over the years have been great for my preparations," he added.

"We don't get a lot of practice on grass courts as this part of the season is short, so any matches you can get on the surface are massive.

"Playing on grass is all about taking your chances and winning the big points. You get a lot of big servers and it's about taking the chances when they come.

"Winning matches gives you confidence and that's what we all want when the grass court season comes around." ●



The Brits have been drawn in Group D, which will once again return to Manchester's AO Arena later this year.

The team will compete across the week in a round-robin group with Canada, Finland and Argentina. The top two nations in the group will progress to the final 8 in Malaga between 19-24 November.

Lexus GB Davis Cup captain and Head of Men's Tennis at the LTA Leon Smith said: "We were expecting a tough challenge whatever group we were drawn in. With Canada as 2022 champs, Finland made semis last year and Argentina won the title in 2016 and have good depth in their team. But we also have very good players and have proven time and again we can deliver as a team. So it's a fairly even group on paper.

"Our team are really excited to be going back to Manchester where we had such amazing support and this makes a massive difference when it comes to getting GB over the line."

Last year, the Brits defeated Australia, Switzerland and France to finish top of

Group B but eventually lost out in the quarter-finals to Serbia.

The Lexus GB Davis Cup team are one of two wild card teams to gain automatic qualification for the Finals Group Stage.

Canada were crowned Davis Cup champions for the first time back in 2022 and come into this year's event as the third seeded nation. They reached the Final 8 again last season but narrowly lost to Finland 2-1 in the quarter-finals. The Canadian side defeated Korea Republic 3-1 in their qualifying tie earlier this year to secure a spot in the Finals.

Finland head to Manchester off the back of its best Davis Cup performance in 2023 after reaching the semi-finals for the first time. They beat former champions Croatia, USA and Canada en route to the semis, where they lost to Australia. Off the back of a 3-1 win over Portugal in their Qualifier, the Finnish side will be ones to watch again.

Four-time champions Argentina complete Group D having missed out on a place in the Finals last year. In February, they clinched a 3-2 victory over Kazakhstan to reestablish themselves among the top sides in the world. Argentina and Great Britain last faced each other in the semi-finals back in 2016 where the South Americans won 3-2 in Glasgow. 



Tickets and hospitality packages on sale now: scan the QR code



The Lexus Great Britain Billie Jean King Cup team will take on two-time former champions Germany in the opening round of the 2024 Finals, with captain Anne Keothavong relishing the chance to lead her team at La Cartuja Stadium in Seville, Spain, from Tuesday 12 to Wednesday 20 November.

Great Britain secured their place in the Finals after a thrilling win against France in April, as Emma Raducanu won two singles matches and Katie Boulter added the other win to seal a memorable 3-1 victory at Le Chaudron in Le Portel.

"It's going to take a lot of work to try and wipe this smile off my face," said captain Anne Keothavong after the win in France. "The atmosphere was just rocking, but Katie and Emma came to play and put in some fantastic performances against tough opposition.

"I'm just so chuffed for the team. We came here and we knew it was going to be difficult. But we came, we performed, and we're all leaving with a big smile.

"It's incredible because two years ago we were the host nation of the Finals. We were the wildcard entry but we still made the semifinals and that was a fantastic week for the team, but on this occasion, we've qualified ourselves.

"The players have done it, the team have worked together really well, and we deserve our spot there.


"That's where I believe this team belongs. The girls are all hungry to go out there and perform. They've got a lot of things to do before then, but why not, it's all to play for."

A straight knock-out format will be in place for the finals, with a match against top seeds and defending champions Canada awaiting

in the quarter-finals for Great Britain if they can get past Germany.

"Germany are an experienced team with players we're all familiar with and who our British players have had matches and wins against," added Keothavong. "No matches will be straightforward but we're excited as a team to be involved in the Finals and we'll give it our all as always."

Great Britain and Germany have faced each other six times in the competition, with the Brits leading the head-to-head 4-2.

Their last meeting was in 1985 where Great Britain ran out 3-0 winners thanks to victories from Jo Durie, Annabelle Croft and Anne Hobbs. 

For information on how you can cheer on the Great Britain team in Seville in November, visit www.lta.org.uk/fan-zone/gb-teams/billie-jean-king-cup/match-centre/ or scan the QR code here:





PERFORMANCE MATTERS

WITH MICHAEL BOURNE

Over the last year, performances from British players at the highest levels of the sport – professional and junior, tennis and wheelchair tennis - have been among the strongest we have seen for a long time.

As a national governing body, there are two ongoing aims for our performance programme:

Firstly, we're always trying to support more players to go on the performance journey towards playing elite level tennis. We want as many young people as we can, from all corners of the country, enjoying the game and aspiring to reach the elite end of tour tennis and representing their country.

Second, for players already at the elite end of the professional game, we want to continually improve the support we offer to enable them to occupy that elite level for as long as possible.

For our first goal, we've taken the time to examine our junior pathway from the national academies right down to looking at the 10 and under level. How we support those players to progress from county and 10U programme engagement through to our Regional Player Development Centres and onto the International Junior stage is something we're continually focused on making annual improvements, as we look bring through the next generation of pro players.

What's promising is we're starting to see more and more British junior success. In 2023, Henry Searle won the boys' singles at Wimbledon, the first winner in more than 50 years; Mark Ceban won the prestigious Les Petits As event in Tarbes; and Hannah Klugman won the 18U girls' singles at the Orange Bowl in Florida. We've also had real success in junior team competitions, including winning two Tennis Europe Winter Cups at Boys U14 and Girls U12 level and finishing third at the Junior Billie Jean King Cup. Great Britain also won the junior title at the Wheelchair Tennis World Team Cup, and Dahnon Ward won

the US Open wheelchair junior boys title, the second British player to do so in succession.

For our second goal, we continue to identify how we can add value to the programmes of our existing elite players.

We have further developed our female athlete support offer to include pre-season female athlete health-specific screening opportunities such as breast and bone health, sports gynaecology and we are introducing sports bra fitting. In 2024 we will also be communicating our first performance player pregnancy policy.

We are investing further in the Lexus National Tennis Centre in Roehampton. Working with Hawkeye for the past year, we are developing a game insights support service for coaches and players and are in the process of installing a full Hawkeye system, optimising our technical development service offer to players and coaches including the ability to compare between training and match performances. This will be one of only three permanent Hawkeye installations in the world.

Not to forget the basics, we are going to be adding a new Red Plus clay court to the centre this summer to complement the four clay surfaces already in place and provide more capacity to our players in a year when the Olympics and Paralympics are on clay. This will also give us the opportunity to further stress test the new court technology and its suitability for optimal clay court practice in Great Britain.

Whatever we do behind the scenes, our primary focus is to support British players to maximise their potential and be as well prepared as they can be on the match courts. ■



PERFORMANCE COMPETITIONS CALENDAR: A CHANCE TO SHINE

Across Britain, rising stars of British tennis have once again had the opportunity to progress on both the domestic and international stage thanks to the LTA Performance Competitions Calendar.

Designed to give players of all ages more opportunities to progress, the calendar features a total of 40 weeks of ranking competition, from 10U junior tournaments to an expanded Lexus LTA British Tour all the way up to ITF World Tour events, staged across the country.

Among these events, the biggest women's tennis tournament in Britain outside of the grass court season will be staged in October, with the Lexus GB Pro Series returning to Shrewsbury.

The tournament, an ITF W100 event, has featured a host of established and burgeoning British players and some of the biggest names in the game over the last two years.

Last year alone, teenager Hannah Klugman became the youngest player to come through qualifying at an event of this level - taking that record off Coco Gauff - before going on to reach the quarter-finals, and Amarni Banks went on a captivating run to the final. While Billie Jean King Cup winner and an Olympic silver medallist Viktorija Golubic pipped Amarni Banks to the title in front of a sell-out crowd, and Marketa Vondrousova won the title in 2022 before going on to lift the singles' title at Wimbledon last summer.

Dave Courteen, The Shrewsbury Club's managing director, said: "It's fantastic for the town and the county that the LTA and ITF want to continue to bring an event of this stature to a relatively small town compared to others that host this level of event on the worldwide tennis circuit.

"The DMOS People Arena was sold out for Finals Day and it was the biggest crowd we've ever had, so it was wonderful to see so many people here. The support proves there is a real demand in Shropshire from people wanting to watch high-quality tennis."

Tournaments such as that held in Shrewsbury, that not only take world class tennis to new locations but also give players more opportunities to play more often on home soil outside of the British summer, are vital for helping to bring through the next generation of British talent. 2023 saw 134 British players lift titles across pro and junior level events held as part of the Performance Competitions Calendar, and with Brits already lifting silverware so far in 2024, players are taking the opportunity when given the chance to shine. ■



To find out more and to secure your seats at this year's Lexus GB Pro Series Shrewsbury, scan the QR code or visit worldtennistourshrewsbury.com

KIDS ON COURT: SO FAR, THE LTA YOUTH SCHOOLS PROGRAMME HAS HAD A MAJOR IMPACT



Every player that graces the courts this summer, from the Lexus Surbiton Trophy all the way through to The Championships, Wimbledon, started their journey as a young boy or girl picking up a racket for the first time. Given the opportunity, those children have gone on to star on the biggest stage in the sport and inspire millions of others.

It is our job to ensure that every child across Britain, no matter their background, has the opportunity to get on court and experience everything our sport has to offer. That is where LTA Youth comes in.

LTA Youth is our flagship junior programme, bringing together all of our expertise and drive to help children get involved in tennis, whether they want to try it in school or want to push themselves in competition. It connects all tennis activity for juniors so that the offer looks and feels the same, whether a child is playing in a school, park or club, helping create a simple and clear route into tennis for players and their parents.

LTA Youth Schools is our programme to help more schools deliver more tennis to more children, designed to be as impactful as possible both for students and their

teachers. The programme offers free teacher training, PE activities and content specifically created to develop traits like perseverance, resilience and respect which complement the PSHE curriculum, whilst helping to deal with the challenge of how to boost physical activity among children and young people. Thanks to the LTA Tennis Foundation,



each school that completes training receives a £250 voucher, which can be used either for 10 hours of LTA accredited coaching or tennis equipment.

LTA Youth Schools is just one of several success stories from the wider LTA Youth programme.

March this year marked one year since we teamed up with Prime Video to launch Prime Video LTA Youth Girls, a new coaching programme to inspire thousands of girls to pick up a racket and start playing tennis. To date, the programme has seen over 6000 girls start to play tennis, and we've also trained 500 coaches to deliver Prime Video LTA Youth Girls sessions – addressing some of the barriers girls face when coming into sport and creating the best environments to help girls thrive on the tennis court.

Across the country there are now 20 clubs and venues that have achieved LTA Youth 'Recognised Venue' status. These venues have demonstrated that they are committed to delivering an excellent junior programme that offers high quality coaching and regular competitive opportunities for young players. The recognition is not only a reward for all their efforts, but can be used as a key tool to promote their venue, attract more players and grow even further.

For those young players looking for competition, 2023 was a bumper yearore than 71,000 children across 841 venues taking part in our LTA Youth Team Challenge, our fun competition designed for junior tennis players.

SO FAR, OUR SCHOOLS PROGRAMME HAS HAD A MAJOR IMPACT:

- 13,566** SCHOOLS REGISTERED
- 23,122** REGISTERED TEACHERS
- 21,048** TEACHERS HAVE COMPLETED TRAINING
- 8,103** SCHOOLS HAVE RECEIVED A £250 VOUCHER FROM THE LTA TENNIS FOUNDATION

More widely, there were more events than ever for juniors to get involved in, with more than 6,000 LTA Youth Local Tour events in 2023, and over 4000 teams entered in LTA Youth leagues for summer 2023.

Taken together, the impact of LTA Youth has been huge for junior participation in Britain. Weekly participation among four to 15-year-olds is at its highest level since we began recording in 2020, with just over 600,000 taking to Britain's courts every week, while insight from teachers registered to our schools programme tells us that almost 90,000 pupils are playing more tennis than they would otherwise.

Jo-Anne Downing, Product and Programme Manager at the LTA, is excited not just about the success LTA Youth has already seen, but about what the programme could achieve in the near future. "Over the last 12 months, we've seen fantastic growth

in the number of children playing tennis. Whether they're picking up a racket for the first time or becoming more competitive, there are more opportunities than ever for kids to get on court. We're hopeful that this summer and beyond, even more kids can enjoy the benefits of playing and staying in tennis, whatever their age, gender, ability, disability or background."

Not every child that picks up a racket will go on to become a tennis champion, but through LTA Youth we can make sure that any child can enjoy their journey in the sport, and we can ensure that children from across the country can develop life skills, get active and most importantly, have fun. ■

Find an LTA Youth course near you on the LTA website:



PLAYER, COACH AND MEDIA EXTRAORDINAIRE

East Midlands local Yasmin Clarke's tennis journey is one unlike many others.

Having progressed from a bright young star on court, through to coaching her brother Jay on the pro tour, and now commentating on coverage of the Grand Slams, Yasmin has been at the forefront of the game throughout her career.

Like many, Yasmin's first introduction to tennis came from her family – with a helping hand from two role models who were taking the world by storm.

"I was really lucky – I started playing tennis with my Dad and my sister when I was young," Yasmin said. "We lived about 60 metres away from a tennis club and at the time Serena

and Venus Williams were just coming on the scene. I was the younger sister and a bit shorter so I was always Serena and she was older and taller so she was Venus. We'd play on the driveway or down at the club and that was where it all started for me."

Following her playing career where she was British junior No. 1, Yasmin decided to move into coaching, becoming a Level 5 Master Coach and eventually working alongside her other brother Curtis to support Jay on tour.

"I had too many injuries so I decided to get into coaching and I found I really enjoyed it... I've loved working with my family.



I'm a bit older than they are, so being able to share my knowledge with them and have them take it on and run with it themselves was great. For me, your family always want what's best for you, not that other coaches don't, but family are always willing to go above and beyond, and I felt we did that."

FROM COURT TO COMMENTARY

At the inaugural Tennis Black List that took place last June, Yasmin received an award for her work in media – a new career path that she's seizing with both hands.

"I'd always been interested in the media – it's seemed like a dream job. I was lucky that the LTA helped me get an opportunity to do some commentary at the Battle of the Brits and then it progressed to doing a bit for Eurosport and some Grand Slams in 2023.

"Having this recognition and celebration of black people within tennis is fantastic. When I was younger there weren't many other black people involved in the sport in any way and now, I'm seeing a lot more representation and we should be highlighting that.

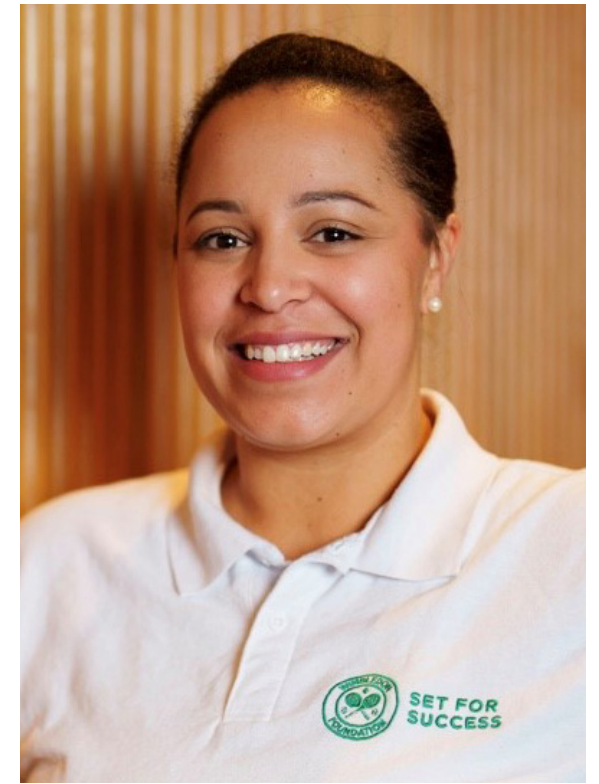
"Increasing diversity in media is a bit like how tennis started for me – Serena and Venus were the trailblazers and that's paved the way for people like myself, my brother and so many other players, who all site them as their inspiration. I think it will be the same in the media – if you can see it, you can believe it, you can be it. It's important that we have that representation and there are diverse voices in the media."

DRIVING DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Alongside her continued work as a coach, media broadcaster and mentor, in 2021, Yasmin became an LTA Councillor to help drive forward diversity and inclusion in Britain – something that she's incredibly passionate about.

"The LTA's vision is to open tennis up to people from backgrounds who wouldn't normally play and what they've done over the past few years is work really hard to get people involved who haven't been before. That's where my role has come in.

"I've worked on the coaching side to help develop a diversity and inclusion bursary. If you want to have a diverse workforce then you need to invest in them so that's very important and they've also set up a mentoring scheme, which I'm a part of as well.



"I'VE WORKED ON THE COACHING SIDE TO HELP DEVELOP A DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION BURSARY. IF YOU WANT TO HAVE A DIVERSE WORKFORCE THEN YOU NEED TO INVEST IN THEM SO THAT'S VERY IMPORTANT"

YASMIN CLARKE ON HER WORK AS AN LTA COUNCILLOR

"It's a brilliant job. It's something that I wasn't sure I'd be the right fit for but I have a lot of experience in a lot of different areas, so I just want to share my knowledge and experience with other people."

It's thanks to the support and contributions of role models like Yasmin, that we're able to take our sport to people and places it's never been before. With an infectious enthusiasm and passion for the sport, as well as a career that has spanned almost every area of the game already, it's safe to say that Yasmin is helping to shape a more diverse and inclusive sport for the future. ▣

WATCHING COURTSIDE TO COACHING ON COURT



After seeing her son thrive after discovering tennis, Clair Byrne has gone on a journey from watching courtside to delivering tennis in the Nottingham community.

Tennis can be life changing on so many levels and that has certainly been the story for Clair Byrne.

The Lexus Nottingham Tennis Centre has become a second home for her son, Asher, with the sport giving him the kind of lift in confidence that seemed out of reach until he picked up a racket for the first time.

Working with his inspirational tennis coach Luke Castle, Asher has not just thrived on court as he has also built confidence in other areas of his life.

“My son Asher is autistic and has a PDA profile. This means for Asher that demands of all types, including lots of things that you might not think as a demand, can trigger an automatic threat resulting in a fight or flight response,” begins Clair.

“As a result, Asher has not been in formal education for the last six years and has had a bespoke package of education, with sport and tennis a big part of that.



“WE ARE LOOKING TO MOVE THIS PROJECT FORWARD QUICKLY AND GET MORE AND MORE PARKS PROGRAMMES MOVING AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.”
DAVE EVERINGTON



“The banter and fun he has on a tennis court with his coach Luke has helped him so much, with the movement of tennis fabulous for his sensory regulation.

“Tennis has also opened up lots of avenues for him to explore things socially which he wouldn’t normally do. He used to prefer to be in a one-on-one environment, but tennis has changed that in so many ways.

“We went to the Rothesay Open Nottingham last year and also attended the Davis Cup in Manchester last September. He would never have gone to such a huge venue in the past with all the noise and the bright lights, but he does it for tennis and it has helped him so much.”

With Asher spending much of his time at the Lexus Nottingham Tennis Centre, Clair also got the tennis bug. Also being neurodivergent and diagnosed with autism and ADHD, Clair has taken her own tennis path that is now seeing her begin a career of her own.

“I was around the tennis centre so much myself that I started on the coaching programme myself,” she added.

“Last year, the LTA did a female assistant coaching starter course, so I got involved in that and now I’ve progressed to the Level 2 Instructor course.

Clair’s role has expanded in recent months, as she is now playing a key role in the LTA Parks Tennis Project in the Nottingham area.

The project is a landmark £30million investment supported by the LTA Tennis Foundation, delivered by the LTA, to refurbish public tennis courts and open the sport to many more people.

Dave Everington, Tennis Manager at the Lexus Nottingham Tennis Centre, is leading the team in the Nottingham area and he is looking for more activators to take the project to the next level.

“The Clifton Playing Fields are the first park courts in this region and Clair was the perfect person to launch this with me,” said Dave.

“Clair is the lead activator for our parks programme and we are looking to get more people involved in helping to get this exciting project moving.”

“With the Barclays Free Park Tennis programme and Adult Social tennis, and as soon as we have Clifton playing fields up and running, we will look to get more activators involved for future parks projects in Nottingham and the surrounding area.

“We are looking to move this project forward quickly and get more and more parks programmes moving as quickly as possible.”


Clair hopes to take her tennis journey even further, with her goal eventually to set up therapeutic provision to support children and their families who are in similar positions to herself and Asher. For the moment, however, she is simply grateful for the journey she and her family have been on.

“Tennis is just great. It has been life-changing for us as a family and I just want to share how amazing it could be for you with everyone who is coming to the Rothesay Open Nottingham this year.”

For more information about how you can become a Barclays Free Park Tennis Activator like Clair, scan the QR code or head to the LTA website and search ‘Barclays Free Park Tennis’.



SHE RALLIES



2023 saw a record number of women and girls picking up a racket and getting on court.

With tennis participation overall in good health, 5.6 million adults were reported to have played tennis in 2023, 42% of which were female – more women than we’ve ever recorded playing in a year, making tennis one of the most gender balanced sports in the country.

Similar positive trends were recorded amongst the 4-15 age group with girls representing 49% of the 3.6 million children picking up a racket in 2023, many of them on the LTA Youth Schools programme.

As many sports experience a boom in female participation and investment into the women’s game, it’s important to remember that tennis has long led the way at both the grassroots and elite level. Women have been competing on the highest stage in tennis for well over 100 years, female tennis players have been pioneers on and off-court for social change and have been the most visible and marketable female athletes in sports for decades.

It is equally important however to remain alert to the areas where the sport can still make progress towards true gender balance. In June 2022, the LTA launched our She Rallies ambition to ensure that we are challenging ourselves and looking deeper into the areas where we can effect positive change.

Despite significant growth in female participation in recent years, there is still work to do to get an equal number of men and women playing the sport, and in particular getting more women playing more frequently.

Understanding women’s playing habits allows us to make targeted interventions that we believe will have the most positive impact, raising the number of women and girls picking up a racket and encouraging more frequent play.



Success is being seen in programmes being rolled out across venues nationwide that provide different options for players who are time poor, want to improve their basic skills, or who don’t have anyone to play with. This includes Tennis Xpress, an adults beginners programme, our Prime Video LTA Youth Girls programme to inspire thousands of young girls, and Walking Tennis, for those with fitness, injury or health concerns.

Crucially, we are also investing in facilities which we know are popular venues for women to play – most notably through the Park Tennis Project, a £30 million investment by the UK Government and LTA Tennis Foundation, which has already seen nearly 1,800 public courts refurbished and counting.

Our aim is to substantially increase annual participation in parks by over 500,000, and through a programme of free, social sessions at weekends suitable for all abilities with equipment provided, address a number of the barriers that prevent women in particular from playing more regularly.

Find out more about the LTA’s women and girls work here: [She Rallies \(lta.org.uk\)](https://lta.org.uk)



LTA SUSTAINABILITY

To deliver our vision of ‘Tennis Opened Up’, we have an important role to play in contributing to a healthier and a more sustainable society.

The climate crisis, and the way our environment is being altered, has the potential to inflict significant and irreversible damage on tennis in this country, with flooding threatening hundreds of venues and all sizes, and increasing temperatures presenting a challenge for participating in tennis and maintaining grass surfaces.

Through our Environmental Sustainability Plan, we want to use the power of tennis to change attitudes towards sustainability and bring about positive changes.

In terms of facilities, we have been helping clubs and venues to make changes to their sites, whether that’s through providing guidance, or providing loans for work such as solar panel installation. Meanwhile at our own sites at the Lexus Nottingham Tennis Centre and the Lexus National Tennis Centre in Roehampton, we have carried out work to ensure we use only green energy suppliers and can reduce our own carbon emissions. At Nottingham Tennis Centre, last year solar panels contributed 21% to the facility’s overall electricity use, while efficiency measures at the National Tennis Centre have reduced electricity usage by 20% and gas usage by 33%.

At our events, we introduced new measures in 2023 including partnerships with local charity food partners to reduce food waste,

donating over two tonnes of leftover food. To reduce our carbon emissions, we use Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) fuel in all our temporary power generators on-site, which results in 90% less emissions than standard fossil fuels.

In 2024, we’re going even further, as we are proud to partner with Brita to reduce the presence of single-use plastic at our events. Building on the reusable cup scheme we’ve had at our events for the last two years, across our events in Nottingham, Birmingham, Eastbourne and the Queen’s Club in London, Brita are providing water refill stations for spectators, players and officials to fill their water bottles for free, eliminating the need to buy bottled water and removing more than 100,000 single-use bottles from this year’s tournaments.

With support and work including the LTA Pledgeball League, guidance for venues and facility investment thanks to the LTA Tennis Foundation, significant strides have already been made, recognising that without action, the sport we love so dearly would be at risk of irrevocable harm. Through the positive steps being taken, we are all ensuring a lasting future for tennis in Britain.

Find out more about the LTA’s ongoing work to secure a lasting future for tennis in Britain scan the QR code



ANDY
MURRAY
2023 ROTHESAY OPEN NOTTINGHAM CHAMPION



EMERGING TALENT

It has been a stellar year for British juniors around the world, with the 2024 Lexus Junior National Championships at the National Tennis Centre in April providing a stage to showcase an impressive array of talent emerging through the domestic tennis system.

Mimi Xu from South Wales was crowned as British champion in the 18U Girls event and Surrey's Oliver Bonding backed up his solid 12 months of success by becoming national champion in the 18U Boys tournament, with both players now set to play in Wimbledon Qualifying later this month.

The quality of the tennis on show highlighted the depth of talent among our young players, with ten British players making their mark in the top 100 of the ITF's Junior rankings and many of our hopefuls achieving notable achievements on the global stage.

The victory for Staffordshire's Henry Searle in last summer's Junior Wimbledon Boys' Singles Championship was a headline-grabbing moment that has been complemented by some notable results for British junior players over the last 12 months.

Searle, who won the 2022 16U Junior National Championships title and is a graduate of our National Tennis Academy at Loughborough University, is one of five British boys in the top 100 of the ITF

junior rankings, with his triumph on the All England Club's grass courts last July inspiring others to follow in his footsteps.

"What Henry did definitely created a positive mentality amongst our boys," said Martin Weston, LTA Men's National Coach.

"His success at Wimbledon would have been very relatable to our other junior players and they would be looking to match it or better it.

"Hopefully that has a knock-on effect on the younger players because they feel they are in touching distance with a player who has achieved something extraordinary.

"With the competition structure we now have in place in Britain, these players have opportunities to compete in high-level competitions regularly.

"We are constantly looking for depth of talent because when you have that depth, the top players grow. When they need to fight hard in their domestic matches, that helps when they play in the big wide world."



Bonding's success at the Junior National Championships added to his growing collection of titles after he achieved a notable victory when he won the J500 Blumenau title – also known as the Banana Bowl – in March.

Welshman Viktor Frydrych and Kent's Benjamin Gusic-Wan, who won last year's 16U Junior National Championships with a win against Bonding in the Final, are also prominent in the ITF Junior Rankings, with so many of our players are benefitting from the access to high-level competitive tournaments being staged in Britain as part of our Performance Competitions Calendar (PCC).

The PCC is designed to support the LTA Performance strategy, with several British juniors gaining valuable experience at the pro level following promising junior results.

Welsh No.1 and two-time 18U Junior National champion Xu reached the semi-finals at W60 Glasgow, while Surrey's Hannah Klugman reached the quarter-finals at W60 Glasgow and W100 Shrewsbury.

It's not just Xu and Klugman who are showing real promise among British junior girls, with Katie O'Brien, LTA Women's National Coach, optimistic about what lies ahead.

"We have really good depth of talent amongst our junior girls," said O'Brien. "Our girls all get along so well and it feels like they are driving each other on, while also inspiring the generation just behind them.

"These players are still very much at a developmental stage, but they are progressing quickly as they have played in some high profile and also have Junior Grand Slam experience.



"Our domestic Competitions Calendar has been so important as we have been able to give our players a chance to test themselves against some of the best players in the world, which has helped to ensure our junior game is in a healthy state."

The transition from the junior ranks to the senior tour is always challenging, yet our brightest young starlets are being given every opportunity to go to the next level. ●

Haier

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GRASS COURT TENNIS IN NUMBERS



1 Virginia Wade is the only British woman to win the Eastbourne title in its 50-year history.

13

Martina Navratilova reached 13 Eastbourne International finals, winning 11 of them over 16 year period.



3 British men have won three of the last four titles at the Nottingham Open, with Dan Evans winning in 2019 and 2022 and Andy Murray taking the title last year.



6 Britain's Andy Murray holds the record for most wins at The Queen's Club, winning five singles titles and one doubles title.

17

Germany's Boris Becker is the youngest winner of The Queen's Club Championship after winning the title in 1985 aged 17 years 207 days.



10 Katie Boulter was the latest British player to win the Rothesay Open Nottingham last year, as she lifted the trophy 10 years after Elena Baltacha won her third title at the tournament.



19 Roger Federer holds the record for winning the most titles on grass courts, with his haul of 19 including a record eight Wimbledon titles.



33 The number of American players to win The Queen's Club Championship, with the most recent being Sam Querrey in 2010.

28



Novak Djokovic went on a 28-match unbeaten run on grass courts between 2018 and last year's Wimbledon final, when he lost to Carlos Alcaraz.

153



American Andy Roddick recorded the fastest serve at The Queen's Club Championships, with his 153mph serve against Thailand's Paradorn Srichaphan delivered in a 2003 quarter-final.

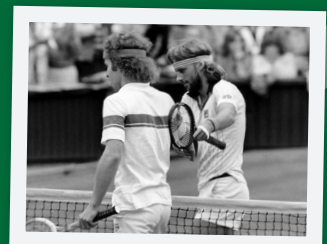


134 From June 1982 to June 1991, Martina Navratilova boasted a record of 134-3 on British grass courts – during the eight-year run in Britain, she won 70-straight matches and amassed 18 titles.



1982 Billie Jean King won the first Birmingham Classic in 1982

41



Bjorn Borg went on a 41-match unbeaten run on grass courts from 1976 to 1981, with his run ended by John McEnroe in the Wimbledon final.

113



Spain's Feliciano Lopez was the lowest-ranked player to win The Queen's Club tournament when he lifted the title in 2019 at No.113 in the ATP rankings.



Dan Evans posing with the trophy in 2022

BRITISH EDITION

WALL OF CHAMPIONS



Greg Rusedski in 2003



Johanna Konta in 2021



Ken Skupski and Jonny O'Mara of Great Britain pose with the Men's Doubles Trophy in 2022



Katie Boulter and Andy Murray holders of the 2023 Women's and Men's Singles Rothesay Open Trophies



Elena Baltacha was a winner at Nottingham in 2010



Katie Boulter takes a selfie with a fan after winning the 2023 Women's Singles Rothesay Open Trophy



Dan Evans in 2019



2023 Doubles Final winners Johannus Monday and Jacob Fearnley

ADVANTAGE FANS

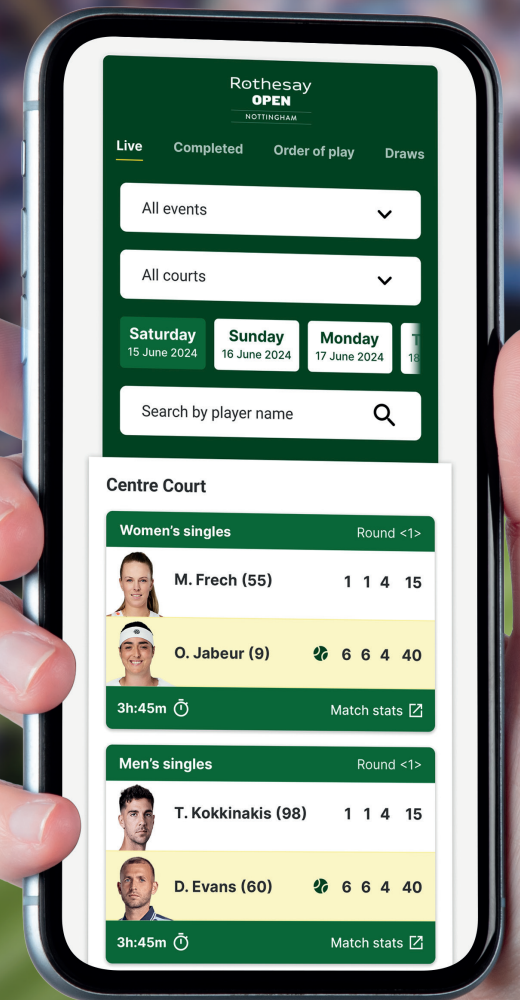
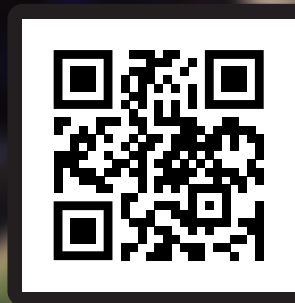


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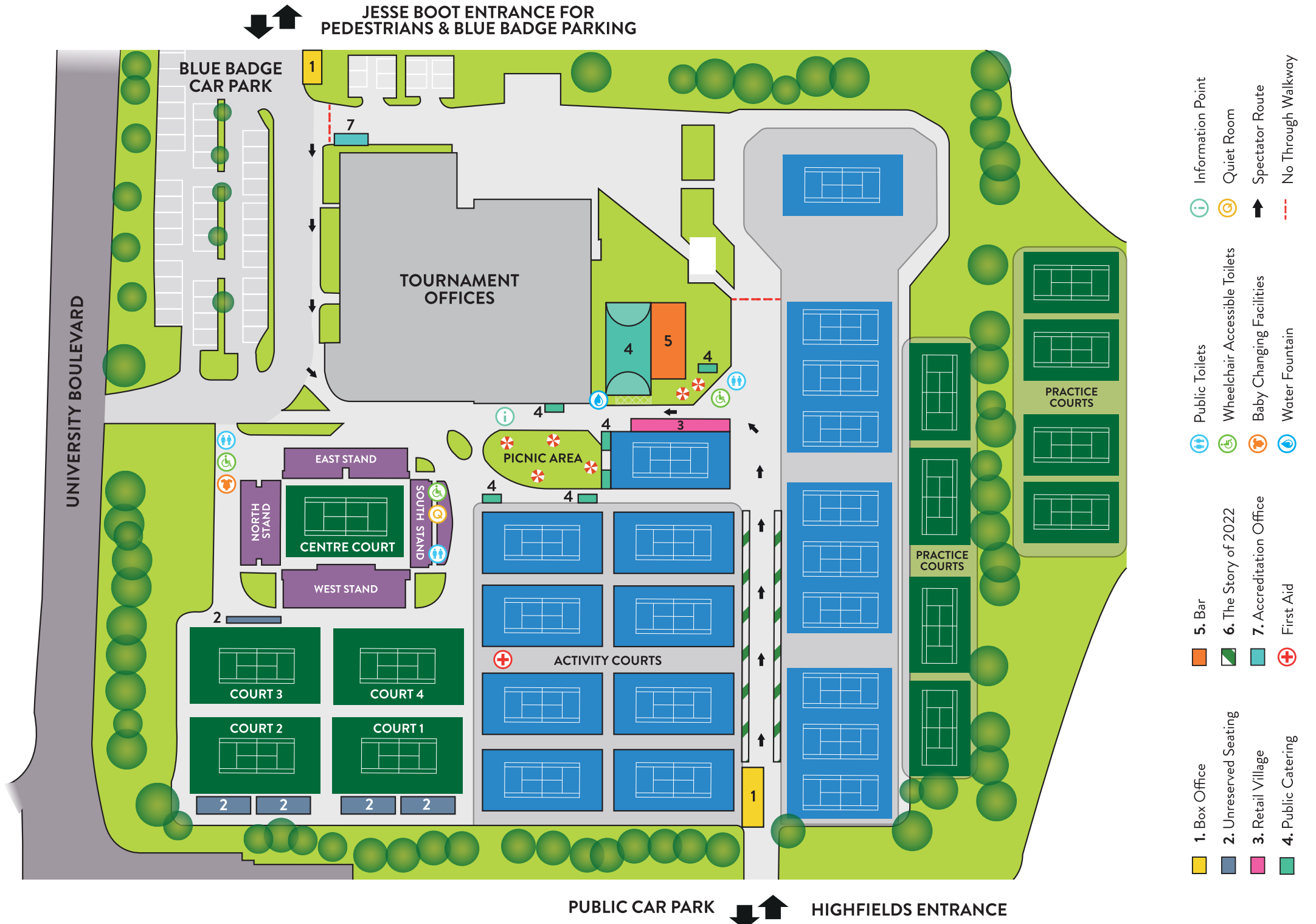


Track all the latest scores, results, stats, draws and order of play.

Matches shown are for illustrative purposes only

Rothesay
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- 1. Box Office
- 2. Unreserved Seating
- 3. Retail Village
- 4. Public Catering
- 5. Bar
- 6. The Story of 2022
- 7. Accreditation Office
- First Aid
- Public Toilets
- Wheelchair Accessible Toilets
- Baby Changing Facilities
- Water Fountain
- Information Point
- Quiet Room
- Spectator Route
- No Through Walkway

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