

# Rothesay OPEN

NOTTINGHAM



## OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

12-18 JUNE 2023





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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.

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**Rothesay**  
Protecting Pensions

# WELCOME



## Dear Tennis Fans,

On behalf of the WTA, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the Rothesay Open 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 Open, from established global superstars to emerging new talent eager to make their mark on the sport.

The Rothesay Open 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 CHIEF

CAMILA GIORGI



FOR THE FANS

FOR THE TITLE

FOR THE GAME



AJLA TOMILJANOVIĆ



LIN ZHU



# WELCOME



## Welcome to the Rothesay Open!

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 Open 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 Rothesay Open Nottingham here at Nottingham Tennis Centre.

The LTA took over the long-term lease and operation of the centre last year and we've been making improvements across the site - including installing a new air bubble to provide 4 more indoor courts. We're committed to continuing to develop and upgrade the centre, whilst keeping its community provision at the heart of what we do.

At last year's event Britain's Dan Evans took home the ATP Challenger title and Jonny O'Mara and Ken Skupski the men's doubles title and we hope that there will be more home success to cheer this year. I'd like to wish very good luck to all the players, from both Britain and overseas, who are playing here this week.

I'd also like to thank those we work with at the WTA and ATP 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 Birmingham and Eastbourne.

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

# Rothesay OPEN



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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# TOASTING THE REIGNING CHAMPIONS



A thrilling week of tennis at the 2022 Rothesay Open Nottingham reached a crescendo with a British winner and thrilling final in the WTA 250 tournament.

## HIGH CLASS WOMEN'S FINAL

Beatriz Haddad Maia claimed the women's singles title at the Rothesay Open Nottingham after defeating sixth seed Alison Riske-Amritraj 6-4 1-6 6-3 in a finals day thriller on Centre Court.

The win marked her first WTA Tour level title in only her 10th match on grass throughout her career.

After a high octane start, which saw Haddad Maia power past Riske in the opening set, the Brazilian lost eight of the next 10 games to find herself a break down in the decider.

With a tense exchange in the middle of the third set, Haddad Maia appeared to get fired up from a line call that went against her and once again found her rhythm.

When she found her consistency, there was little Riske could do to prevent the Brazilian taking the win in two hours and 21 minutes.

"I never thought in my life that my first title would come on grass," she said in her on court interview.

"I think because of that I didn't create any expectation, every single point I was giving my 100%. I'm very happy to win my first title here – Nottingham will forever be in my heart."

It was heartbreak for Riske, who finished as the runner-up in Nottingham for the second time in her career.

Haddad Maia also enjoyed doubles success at Nottingham last year, as she teamed up with China's Zhang Shuai to beat Caroline Dolehide and Monica Niculescu in the final.



Beatriz Haddad Maia was women's champion

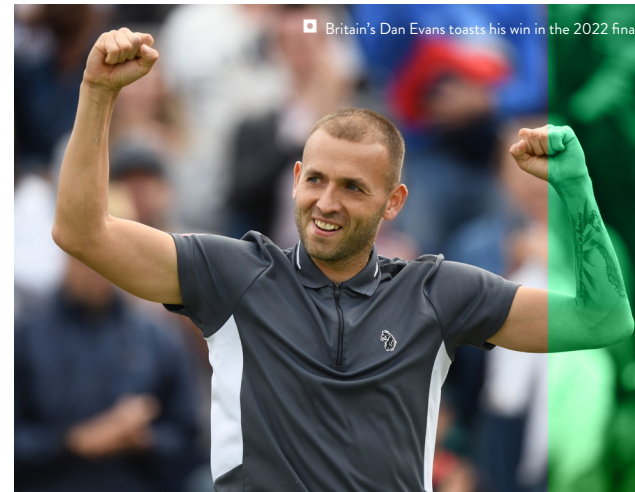
## DAN EVANS IS CROWNED

Britain's Dan Evans was the toast of midlands fans as he secured a home success at the Rothesay Open Nottingham.

Evans etched his name in the history books as only the seventh man to win the singles title twice - joining Greg Rusedski, Ivo Karlovic, Richard Gasquet, Dudi Sela, Jonas Bjorkman and Stan Smith.

The British No.2 is also the first player to win three Challenger titles on grass since 1996 and equalled Alex Bogdanovic's record for Challenger titles won by a Brit with nine.

Both sets in the final followed similar patterns, with a run of three consecutive breaks in the middle as Thompson failed to hold on both occasions before he managed to crack the Brit's serve.



Britain's Dan Evans toasts his win in the 2022 final



In the end, Evans's quality shone through and he completed his winning record for the week as the third seed sent a backhand wide of the tramlines.

"It was a great match – Thommo's had a great two weeks so I knew it was going to be a tough one and it's never easy playing a friend either," he said after his record setting triumph.

"It was nice to see him in the final but I couldn't let him take back-to-backs – I'd hear too much about it!

"I love it here. It's a great Challenger event here – it feels more like a tour event – and hopefully I can come back again.

"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.

"The quality of players here is always very high, it's very tough and that's why a lot of the guys choose to come and play here. It's an amazing tournament and it does make me feel good to win."



Jonny O'Mara and Ken Skupski

## DOUBLES GLORY

There was also British success in the men's doubles event at last year's Rothesay Open Nottingham.

Jonny O'Mara and Ken Skupski were crowned as Rothesay Open Nottingham men's doubles champions after defeating Julian Cash and Henry Patten 3-6, 6-2, 16-14.

The third seeds saved three match points in a tense match tie-break to seal a hard-earned victory over Cash and Patten in an hour and 18 minutes.

A familiar face in the Nottingham final, this was Skupski's fourth title at the ATP Challenger event, while O'Mara will hope his first win will be the first of many on grass courts.

It proved to be Skupski's final title, as he called time on his career following an appearance at Wimbledon last July.

# ROTHESAY OPEN ENTRY LIST 2023

The entry list for the first WTA event of the 2023 British grass court season confirmed a stellar line-up will be taking centre stage at the Rothesay Open Nottingham.



## MAGDA LINETTE

**POLAND | BORN: FEB 12 1992**

- Reached the semi-finals at this year's Australian Open.
- Defeated world No.4 Caroline Garcia in fourth round at the Australian Open in 2023
- Earned career-high ranking of world No.19 in March 2023.
- Won two tour titles: Bronx Open in 2019 and Hua Hin Championships in 2020

## DONNA VEKIC

**CROATIA | BORN: JUN 28 1996**

- 2017 Nottingham Open amongst her four WTA-tour titles.
- Achieved career-high ranking of world No.19 in November 2019.
- Made the quarter-finals at the 2019 US Open and 2023 Australian Open.
- Has reached three grass-court finals in her career (Nottingham 2017 and 2019, Birmingham 2013).



## SHUAI ZHANG

**CHINA | BORN: JAN 21 1989**

- Has won two Grand Slam doubles titles at 2019 Australian Open and 2021 US Open.
- Reached the quarter-finals of the Australian Open in 2016 and Wimbledon in 2019.
- Won her fourth WTA title and first outside of China in March 2022 at the Lyon Open.
- Turned pro in 2003 and has won over 500 singles matches

## BERNARDA PERA

**USA | BORN: DEC 3 1994**

- Reached four WTA finals last year, winning back-to-back clay-court titles
- Defeated world No.2 Anett Kontaveit in the 2022 Hamburg final
- Achieved career-high ranking at No.32 in April 2023

## CAMILA GIORGI

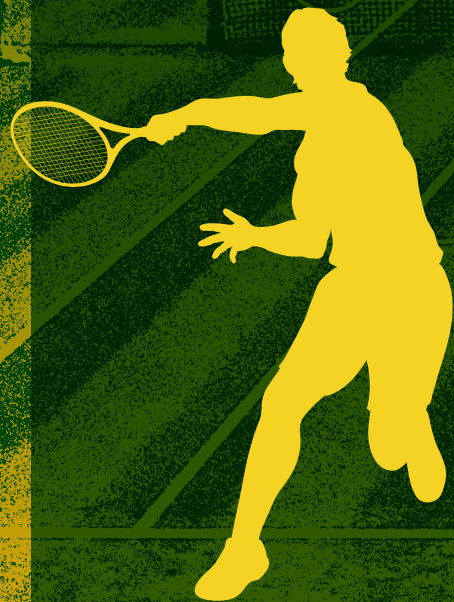
**ITALY | BORN: DEC 30 1991**

- Won the Montreal Masters title in August 2021 defeating Coco Gauff, Jessica Pegula and Karoline Pliskova en route to the final.
- Reached the quarter-finals of Wimbledon in 2018.
- Has made three grass-court semi-finals, including winning 's-Hertogenbosch in 2015.
- Claimed her fourth WTA title this year, winning the Merida Open in February.

## AJLA TOMLJANOVIC

**AUSTRALIA | BORN: MAY 7 1993**

- Achieved consecutive Wimbledon quarter-finals appearances in 2021 and 2022, losing to the eventual champion on both occasions.
- Made the US Open quarter-finals last year.
- Represented Australia in two Billie Jean King Cup finals (2019 and 2022).
- Reached six WTA quarter-finals last year as she secured a career-high ranking of world No.32.





# EVERYONE SAYS YES TO A GREAT FRUIT



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ROTHESAY OPEN NOTTINGHAM

## ATP CHALLENGER ENTRIES



### CONSTANT LESTIENNE

FRANCE | BORN: MAY 30 1992

- Earned his career-high ranking at world No.48 in February 2023 having won his first ranking point in February 2012 at 19 years old.
- Won his Grand Slam main draw debut at this year's Australian Open after failing to qualify for a major in his first 20 attempts.
- Reached his first ATP semi-final at Tel Aviv in September 2022.

### NUNO BORGES

PORTUGAL | BORN: FEB 19 1997

- No.1 ranked Portuguese player across ATP and WTA tours.
- Claimed two ATP Challenger titles this year.
- Defeated Ben Shelton in the first round at last year's US Open to win his first main draw Grand Slam match.

### JIRI VESELY

CZECHIA | BORN: JUL 10 1993

- Career high ranking of No.35 in April 2015.
- Reached the fourth round at Wimbledon in 2016 and 2018.
- Beat Alexander Zverev in the first round of Wimbledon in 2019.
- Vesely has beaten Novak Djokovic in both matches he has played against the reigning Wimbledon champion.

### ALEKSANDAR VUKIC

AUSTRALIA | BORN: APR 6 1996

- Broke into the ATP top-100 for the first time in May 2023 after back-to-back ATP Challenger finals.
- Won his first main draw Grand Slam match defeating Lloyd Harris at the 2022 Australian Open.
- Earned his first and only grass-court win at the Nottingham Open in 2021.

WAFENINGTON WAFENINGTON WAFENINGTON THE AMSUNG OPEN



## DENIS KUDLA

(USA) | BORN: AUG 17 1992

- Former World No. 3 junior earned 1st ranking point at age 15 in 2008, he broke into the top 100 of the ATP Rankings at age 20 in 2013 and achieved a career-high No. 53 at age 23 in 2016.
- Won 13 straight matches overall during two-week stretch in March 2022, sweeping singles and doubles titles at Phoenix Challenger before reaching ATP Masters 1000 Miami 3R after coming through qualifying.
- Beat two-time former Wimbledon champion Andy Murray at the LTA's Lexus Surbiton Trophy last year.

## GABRIEL DIALLO

CANADA | BORN: SEPT 24 2001

- Made his ATP debut in the qualifying competition in August 2022 as a wildcard at the National Bank Open in Montreal, where he defeated James Duckworth in the first round
- After reaching the semifinals at the Challenger in Busan, South Korea where he lost to top seed Max Purcell, he made his top 150 debut at world No. 146 on 22 May 2023.

## HYEON CHUNG

SOUTH KOREA | BORN: MAY 19 1996

- Runner-up in the 2013 Wimbledon Boys' Singles, beating Nick Kyrgios during his run to the final.
- Won 70+ percent of matches on ATP Challenger Tour (84-27) and ITF Junior Circuit (84-32).
- Won the 2017 ATP Next Gen Finals, beating Andrey Rublev in the final. • Enjoyed a breakthrough 2018 Australian Open, beating Alexander Zverev and Novak Djokovic en-route to the semi-finals.
- Achieved career-high No.19 on 2 April 2018.
- Did not compete on the ATP Tour in 2021 or 2022 due to injury.
- Made his return to action on the ATP Challenger Tour last month in Seoul.

## DOMINIK KOEPFER

GERMANY | BORN: APR 29 1994

- Secured a career-high ranking of world No.50 in May 2021.
- Reached the third round at Roland Garros, Wimbledon and Olympics in 2021, also defeated Cam Norrie, Andy Murray and Felix Auger-Aliassime in the same year.
- Progressed into four ATP challenger finals since March of this year.

## THANASI KOKKINAKIS

AUSTRALIA | BORN: APR 10 1996

- Career high ATP ranking of No.69 in June 2015.
- Beat Roger Federer in the 2018 Miami Open.
- Lifted the title at the ATP 250 event in Adelaide in January 2022.
- Won the 2022 Australian Open doubles title with compatriot Nick Kyrgios.

## LIAM BROADY

GREAT BRITAIN | BORN: JAN 4 1994

- Reached the Junior Wimbledon and US Open finals and claimed No.2 in the junior rankings.
- Beat world No.12 Hubert Hurkacz en route to the third round at the Tokyo Olympics.
- Made the third round at last year's Wimbledon, defeating world No.15 Diego Schwartzman in the second round.

## JAN CHOINSKI

GREAT BRITAIN | BORN: JUN 10 1996

- Secured career-high ranking of world No.177 in May 2023, climbing 425 places since the beginning of 2022.
- Won his maiden ATP Challenger title in Brazil in October 2022.
- Beat world No. 88 Chun Hsin Tseng at the Szczecin Challenger I.

ATP TOUR

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SCAN ME

COMING IN 2023

## LONDON



ATP 500 CINCINCH CHAMPIONSHIPS GREAT BRITAIN JUN 19 - 25 GRASS



## HALLE

ATP 500 TERRA WORTMANN OPEN GERMANY JUN 19 - 25 GRASS

## 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

## PARIS



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

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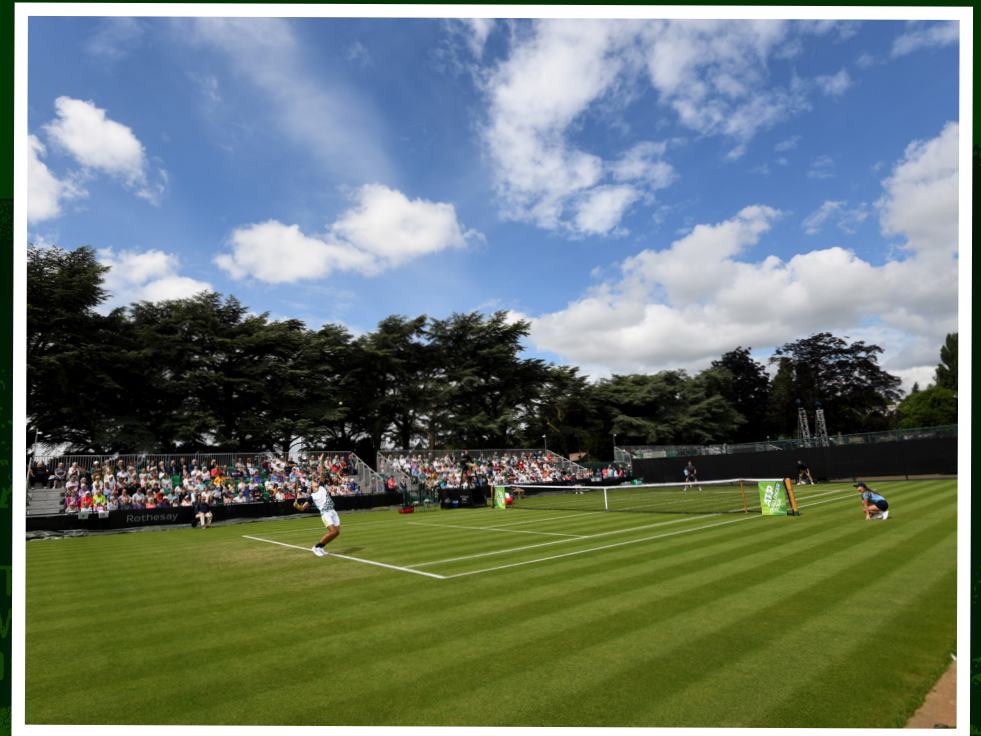
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### MATTIA BELLUCCI

ITALY | BORN: JUN 1 2000

- Bellucci has a career-high ATP singles ranking of 142 achieved on 30 January 2023. He also has a career high doubles ranking of 407 achieved on 8 August 2022.
- Played in his first Grand Slam tournament at the Australian Open in 2023.
- He has won two ATP Challengers events and six tournaments on the ITF World Tennis Tour.

### BU YUNCHAOKETE

CHINA | BORN: JAN 19 2002

- Closing in on a place in the top 150 of the ATP rankings for the first time in his career.
- Won his first ATP Challenger title in Seoul, South Korea in April.
- A right-handed player with a strong double-handed backhand.

### LEANDRO RIEDI

SWITZERLAND | BORN: JAN 27 2002

- Won his first ATP Challenger title in March 2002 in Lugano, Switzerland.
- Lifted two more ATP Challenger titles in Finland and Italy last year.
- Jack to Britain's Jack Draper at the Indian Wells Masters event in March.





**MOMENT IN TIME**  
Greg Rusedski of Great Britain kisses the trophy after beating Mardy Fish of the USA in the men's final of the Nottingham Open on June 21, 2003



# LAURA ROBSON

There is a familiar face returning to the Nottingham Tennis Centre to make her debut in a new role at this year's Rothesay Open Nottingham.

At the back end of 2022, the LTA announced that former British No.1 and Olympic silver medallist Laura Robson as the new Tournament Director at the Rothesay Open Nottingham.

Just weeks out from the start of qualifying in Nottingham, we spoke to Robson about her memories of competing at the event, how she's enjoying her latest challenge and what fans should look forward to this summer.

"It was so nice just to be able to pack up your stuff at home and just drive to a tournament – it's the little things like that," Robson said, reflecting on her years playing at the WTA event in Nottingham.

"I made the final in the doubles one year with Joss Rae, who's a really good friend of mine, which was a really nice experience, but as a whole Nottingham was always one of the events I looked forward to.

"You're excited for grass season, you want to get going and as it's such a quick transition from the clay, you want to get out there as much as possible.

"I always used to love it because you can get into a routine at an event like Nottingham. Players go to the same spot to get coffees,

you've got the town centre, there's loads of gym space, loads of courts and other facilities, so it's just an easy week as a player."

Post-retirement, the 28-year-old is carving out an impressive career in different areas of the game. Not only is she the Tournament Director at the Rothesay Open Nottingham, but she's also received huge plaudits for her TV presenting role and she's also taken on a job in player relations at Wimbledon.

"I genuinely do enjoy all of my roles because they are very different and they all enhance one another," she said.

"I feel I'm able to bring more to my TV role because I know what goes into creating a tournament and making it successful and vice versa, I can add more to my role in player relations at Wimbledon because I'm already speaking to them at events TV side. Even though it's busy, I feel really positive about all three."

Having played and competed at Nottingham for many years, the Rothesay Open Nottingham is an event that Robson is already very familiar with – but as a Tournament Director, the former British No.1 is finding that there's a whole different side to the game.



"Coming from being a player, there are definitely things you notice more being on the other side," Robson explained.

"It's little things like car park passes and massage tables and things like that where, as a player, they're just there and ready for you. I appreciate the work these tournaments put together, not just on the week but in the months leading up to it as well.

"It has a real family feel to it – people keep coming back and working there year after year and everyone who is a part of it enjoys the whole week. There are a lot of the same drivers who were here when I first started playing!

"I can't wait to get started. I learnt that I got this role in November and there's been so much work that has gone into it since. Everyone is just raring to go at this point and that day one is just going to be a big relief to have almost the easiest part of the whole thing underway."

From the British challenge for the title, to the many fun activities on site at the Nottingham Tennis Centre this year.

"For a WTA 250, there's loads to do," she said. "We have our Pride Day, and there's something different going on nearly every day, which is very exciting.

"There's amazing tennis across five courts – the biggest matches will be on Centre Court, but I think the outdoor courts are very underrated. A lot of the Brits will be playing out there, a lot of the ATP Challenger matches will be there and we'll have lots of the younger rising stars competing as well.

"There's always been strong British performances at Nottingham. I think Johanna Konta is the most successful Brit on the WTA side and won the title in 2021, and then Dan Evans obviously took the men's title last year.

"There's a bunch of Brits on the entry list – Jodie Burrage is just outside the main draw but has been busy practising already at the moment, as is Katie Boulter who is obviously a tournament local coming from Leicester, so it's going to be a really exciting week."

Top players like Katie Boulter relish the chance to meet the fans at the Rothesay Open



Jodie Burrage is chasing a big prize as she looks to build momentum during this grass court season.

# MATCHING THE BEST



**The 23-year old from Kingston Upon Thames is closing in on the British No.1 spot for the first time in her career and winning performances on home soil could see her break into the top 100 of the WTA Rankings.**

Burrage, who is supported by the LTA's Pro Scholarship Programme, showed she can match the best on grass courts last summer when she beat Spanish top seed Paula Badosa at the Rothesay International Eastbourne last year.

Badosa was ranked at No.4 in the world when she was beaten 6-4 6-3 by Burrage, who admitted she didn't think about the opponent she was up against in that match and just focused on each point.

"To be honest I took her name and who I was playing out of the equation," said Burrage. "I just played the ball, I didn't play anything else, and that's what I've been doing the last few matches, that's how I got through those tight moments."

"It was the biggest win of my career and you can get confidence when you play a lot of matches in a row, as I did last summer."

Burrage's 2022 grass court campaign started in impressive fashion as she reached the semi-finals at the LTA's Surbiton Trophy, losing to eventual champion Alison Van Uytvanck.

She went on to finish as runner-up at the LTA's Ilkley Trophy, yet the highest profile moment of her summer came at Wimbledon, as she captured the headlines thanks to a moment of compassion.

Burrage may have lost 6-2 6-3 to Ukrainian Lesia Tsurenko, but she won praise for her eagerness to help a ballboy who became unwell during the match.

"He just said he was feeling really faint. He couldn't actually really talk. It was quite distressing to see," she reflected.

"I just tried to get him some sugar and gave him a drink. They managed to find some Percy Pigs somewhere along the line in the crowd, which he got down and then started to feel better.

"I've fainted a few times. I actually had a panic attack once in juniors here, so I've been where he is. I kind of know a little bit how he was feeling. I just tried to help as much as I could."

Burrage lifted the biggest title of her career at the W60 Croissy-Beaubourg event last April, defeating Italian Lucia Bronzetti 3-6 6-4 6-0 in the final to secure her fifth ITF World Tennis Tour singles title.

It was further evidence that her career is moving in an upward trajectory and she will be hoping to continue that forward momentum on grass courts this summer. ▣

# HISTORY MAKER

Dan Evans made history at the Rothesay Open Nottingham last summer when he defeated Jordan Thompson 6-4 6-4 in an hour and 47 minutes to win his second title at the Nottingham Tennis Centre and now he is eyeing up more success on grass courts.

**Evans became the first player since 1999 to have won three ATP Challenger titles on grass – having lifted two trophies in Nottingham (2022 and 2019) and one in Surbiton (2019).**

The Birmingham-born player became 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.

He also now holds the joint record for the most Challenger titles won by a Brit – equalling Alex Bogdanovic's record of nine.

Evans is back at Nottingham to defend his title and he admits the challenge of playing on grass is one that he relishes.

"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 you guys (the crowd)."

British players get wonderful support from the home fans during this period of the season and Evans insists he doesn't worry about the weight of expectations from the fans when he is on home soil.

"I don't see it as any extra pressure for me when I'm playing at home and the support is always fantastic," he added.

"Having home comforts is nice and playing on a favoured surface is always welcome.

"You also get to see all the people who ran the junior tournaments when I was coming through in the game doing the lines and I love to play in England.

"The guys and girls who run these grass court events over this month always do a great job and we are lucky to have these tournaments in our own country every summer.

"The British players always get treated so well during this part of the season and when I think about the grass, the tradition comes to mind.

"It's an amazing surface to play on. Some of the most iconic matches have been on the grass and I've had some success on the surface, especially at Nottingham.

"A lot of players don't play too much on grass so that might give some of the British guys a bit of an advantage and we have to make the most of that."

Evans has been to the third round at Wimbledon on three occasions and he will be keen to improve on that story when he gets to the All England Club at the start of July.

For now, his focus is on the LTA events that will provide the perfect preparation for the third Grand Slam of the tennis year and history suggests this is a period of the season when Evans shines. ■



# 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 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 across any sport wanted to do that, 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?**

I'm looking forward to seeing how Jack Draper does on grass. 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 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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## ENCOURAGING THE NEXT GENERATION

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.



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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,



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

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

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

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

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

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



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# LTA AWARD WINNERS 2023

## CENTRAL AND EAST

Club of the Year  
**East Bergholt Tennis Club**  
 Competition of the Year  
**Framlingham Tennis Tournament**  
 Connecting Communities Award  
**Hacro**  
 Development Coach of the Year  
**Ian Haigs**  
 Performance Coach of the Year  
**Neil Plaskett**  
 Lifetime Achievement Award  
**Les Mellor**  
 Official of the Year  
**Selena Coburn**  
 Park Venue of the Year Award  
**Premier Tennis at Florence Park**  
 Rising Star  
**Lily Butwright**  
 School of the Year  
**Bradfield College**  
 University of the Year  
**Oxford University LTC**  
 Tennis For All Award  
**Tennis Able**  
 The Cathie Sabin Volunteer of the Year Award  
**Simon Spalter**

## LONDON AND SOUTH EAST

Club of the Year  
**Uxbridge**  
 Competition of the Year  
**BJK Festival Team Challenge**  
 Connecting Communities Award  
**Tennis For All (Finsbury Park)**  
 Development Coach of the Year  
**Zane Cheeseman**  
 Performance Coach of the Year  
**Ben Reeves**  
 Lifetime Achievement Award  
**Valerie Willoughby**  
 Official of the Year  
**Emily McGuinness**  
 Park Venue of the Year Award  
**Tennis In Elmbridge**  
 Rising Star  
**Lola-Juliet Omran**  
 School of the Year  
**The North School**  
 University of the Year  
**King's College London**  
 Tennis For All Award  
**Whitstable LTC**  
 The Cathie Sabin Volunteer of the Year Award  
**Paula White**

## MIDLANDS

Club of the Year  
**The Park Tennis Club**  
 Competition of the Year  
**ITF World Tour**  
 Connecting Communities Award  
**Henry Broadhurst**  
 Development Coach of the Year  
**Phil Harris**  
 Performance Coach of the Year  
**Thomas Kisiel**  
 Lifetime Achievement Award  
**Lesley Paris**  
 Official of the Year  
**Kelly Thomson**  
 Park Venue of the Year Award  
**Lido Park Tennis**  
 Rising Star  
**Amy Dannatt**  
 School of the Year  
**John of Rolleston**  
 University of the Year  
**Loughborough University**  
 Tennis For All Award  
**Carolle and Iman Tennis**  
 The Cathie Sabin Volunteer of the Year Award  
**Emma Mastin**

## NORTH

Club of the Year  
**Rawdon Golf & Ltc**  
 Competition of the Year  
**Northumberland & Durham League Youth Fun Festivals**  
 Connecting Communities Award  
**Doncaster Community Tennis Programme**  
 Development Coach of the Year  
**Allan Morton**  
 Performance Coach of the Year  
**Joshua Gledden**  
 Lifetime Achievement Award  
**Pam Dodds**  
 Official of the Year  
**David Paterson**  
 Park Venue of the Year Award  
**Upton by Chester Pavillion**  
 Rising Star  
**Lydia Maud**  
 School of the Year  
**Ashville College**  
 University of the Year  
**Leeds Beckett University Tennis**  
 Tennis For All Award  
**Tony Knappett**  
 The Cathie Sabin Volunteer of the Year Award  
**Jamie Blake**

## SOUTH AND SOUTH WEST

Club of the Year  
**Tavistock Tennis Club**  
 Competition of the Year  
**Devon County Wheelchair Open**  
 Connecting Communities Award  
**Somer Valley Tennis**  
 Development Coach of the Year  
**James Aburrow**  
 Performance Coach of the Year  
**Martin Bray**  
 Lifetime Achievement Award  
**Helen Abbott**  
 Official of the Year  
**Kris Dymond**  
 Park Venue of the Year Award  
**Branksome Park**  
 Rising Star  
**Isaac Robinson**  
 School of the Year  
**St Nicholas C of E Primary**  
 University of the Year  
**University of Exeter**  
 Tennis For All Award  
**Jonny Fenner**  
 The Cathie Sabin Volunteer of the Year Award  
**Claire Nutt**

## SCOTLAND

Volunteer of the Year:  
**Teresa Tait**  
 Rising Star:  
**Euan Donegan**  
 Development Coach of the Year:  
**Alessia Palmieri**  
 Performance Coach of the Year:  
**Joe Gill**  
 Communities and Park:  
**Promoting Inclusion Through Sport**  
 University of the Year:  
**University of St Andrews**  
 School of the Year:  
**Dollar Academy**  
 Tennis For All:  
**Accessible Tennis Cic**  
 Official of the Year:  
**Lucy Davies**  
 Competition of the Year:  
**East Lothian Open**  
 Team of the Year:  
**Prestwick Academy Girls' Team**  
 Club of the Year:  
**Abercorn LTC**  
 Senior Veteran Player of the Year:  
**Sarah McFadyen**

Junior Player of the Year:  
**Charlie Robertson**  
 Senior Player of the Year:  
**Jacob Fearnley**  
 International Player of the Year:  
**Ali Collins**  
 Lifetime Achievement Award:  
**Ken Revie**

## WALES

Adult Player of the Year  
**James Story**  
 Junior Player of the Year  
**Mimi Xu**  
 Performance Coach of the Year  
**Luke Simeone**  
 Team of the Year  
**South Wales Boys Under-14'S**  
 Club Team of the Year  
**Cardiff Ltc Men's 1st**  
 Club of the Year  
**Bangor Tennis Club**  
 Official of the Year  
**Ben Coates**  
 Dragon Signs Development Coach of the Year  
**Mark Thomas**  
 Competition of the Year:  
**Newport Tennis Centre Regional Disability Competitions**  
 Volunteer of the Year Award:  
**John Denton**  
 Rising Star Award  
**Gethin Williams**  
 Tennis For All Award  
**Caerphilly Tennis Club**  
 School of the Year Award  
**Croyton Primary School**  
 Connecting Communities Award  
**Urdd Gobaith Cymru**  
 Lifetime Achievement  
**Rosie Adams From Penallt Tennis Club**  
 President's Award  
**David Stillman MBE**





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.



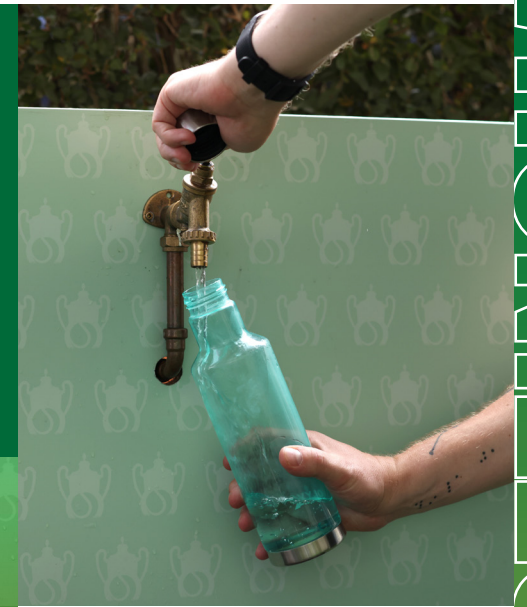
Find out more about the LTA's Environmental Sustainability work

**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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# 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 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



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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.

## ROTHESAY OPEN NOTTINGHAM

**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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16U Boys' Finalists



## 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. ▣

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The inaugural British Open Wheelchair Tennis Championships was held in 1990 at Bishops Park in Fulham, London, where the tournament remained for two years before moving to Sheffield in 1992. In 1993, the British Open moved to the Nottingham Tennis Centre, which has been its home ever since.

Having started its life as a satellite tournament on the ITF Wheelchair Tennis Tour, by 1995 the esteem in which the tournament was regarded was rewarded when the British Open became a Super Series tournament – one of just two tournaments in the world to have Super Series status, the highest tier of event on the ITF Wheelchair Tennis Tour in the days before wheelchair tennis became a part of the four majors, at that time.

In two of its first four years in Nottingham (1994 and 1997) the British Open week preceded the World Team Cup, the ITF's flagship wheelchair tennis team event.

The British Open and the World Team Cup were both staged in successive weeks at Nottingham Tennis Centre for a third time in 2009.

Now the event is coming back to the Nottingham Tennis Centre from August 1-6, with Alfie Hewett relishing the chance to entertain the home fans.

"The powerful thing about sport is everyone has a reason to get involved and in Paralympic sports, the stories are always so compelling," says the British No.1

"For me, it was about improving my well-being, getting the best out of myself and being active.

"The smiles you see on a wheelchair tennis court say it all about our sport. You make great friends in tennis and that is why I have always loved the sport.

"There is also a great community around the wheelchair game and I'm proud to have played a part in helping to raise the profile of our sports in recent years.

"The British Open is always such a fantastic event to be involved with and hopefully we see lots of fans coming out to support us again in August."

Hewett won the men's title in 2021 at the British Open and he will be eager to add to his trophy haul in what will be a high-quality draw at the Nottingham Tennis Centre in August. 🟩



Tickets on sale now [www.lta.org.uk/fan-zone/international/british-open-wheelchair-tennis-championships/tickets/](http://www.lta.org.uk/fan-zone/international/british-open-wheelchair-tennis-championships/tickets/)



# 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,



**Ladies day at Flitwick & Ampthill Tennis Club**  
**Getting the best tennis experience**

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.



**SNAP SHOT** 

Ken Skupski and Jonny O'Mara of Great Britain won the men's doubles title at the 2022 Rothesay Open Nottingham



# 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



# 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. □





# PLAY LIKE THE PROS



## WATCH THE LATEST SERIES OF 'INSPIRED BY...' ON ADVANTAGE

Want to find out how your favourite player clinched the win on the final point? What doubles tactics the champions used to lift the title? Or how you can practice skills like the pros?

Go behind-the-scenes with leading experts in the game to analyse the best British performances throughout the summer, with our latest series – Inspired by...

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.

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

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

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

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/)



# 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

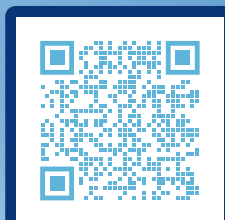
# LTA TENNISABLES

WE'RE HERE TO HELP KIDS CRUSH IT AT TENNIS!



LTA YOUTH

Scan the QR code or visit [lta.org.uk/Tennisables](https://lta.org.uk/Tennisables) for ideas and fun ways to learn new skills at the park or at home.



SCAN HERE



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 form below.

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





# 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

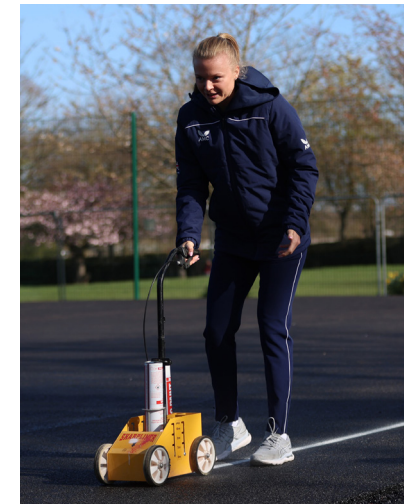


For more information about the LTA's Performance Competitions Calendar, visit [www.lta.org.uk/compete/performance/competitions-calendar/](http://www.lta.org.uk/compete/performance/competitions-calendar/)





**HOMEGROWN WINNER**  
Britain's Johanna Konta won the last tournament of her career in Nottingham in 2021



# PARK LIFE

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** of Great Britain visits Stanley Park in Coventry, where courts have been revived

**Harriet Dart** of Great Britain players visit 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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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



Liam Broady wearing rainbow laces

# 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/)



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



Great Britain will take on Sweden at home at the 2023 Billie Jean King Cup 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." ■





**SNAP SHOT** 

Ashleigh Barty of Australia was a champion in Nottingham in 2018

# 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. ▶

# TENNIS IN NUMBERS

8,771

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



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



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



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

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

**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.


**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.

**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.



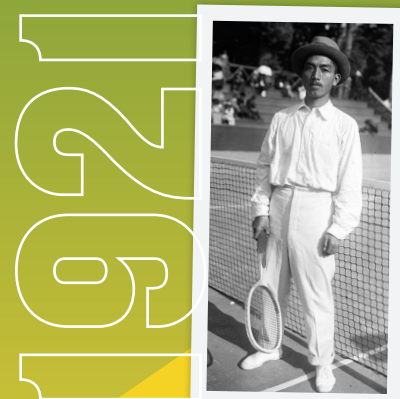
**13**  
**Martina Navratilova** reached 13 Eastbourne International finals, winning 11 of them in a 16-year period.

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

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



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




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

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



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



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

  
**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.



DAN EVANS | 2022



THOMAS JOHANSSON | 2000



ELENA BALTACHA | 2010

# WALL OF CHAMPIONS

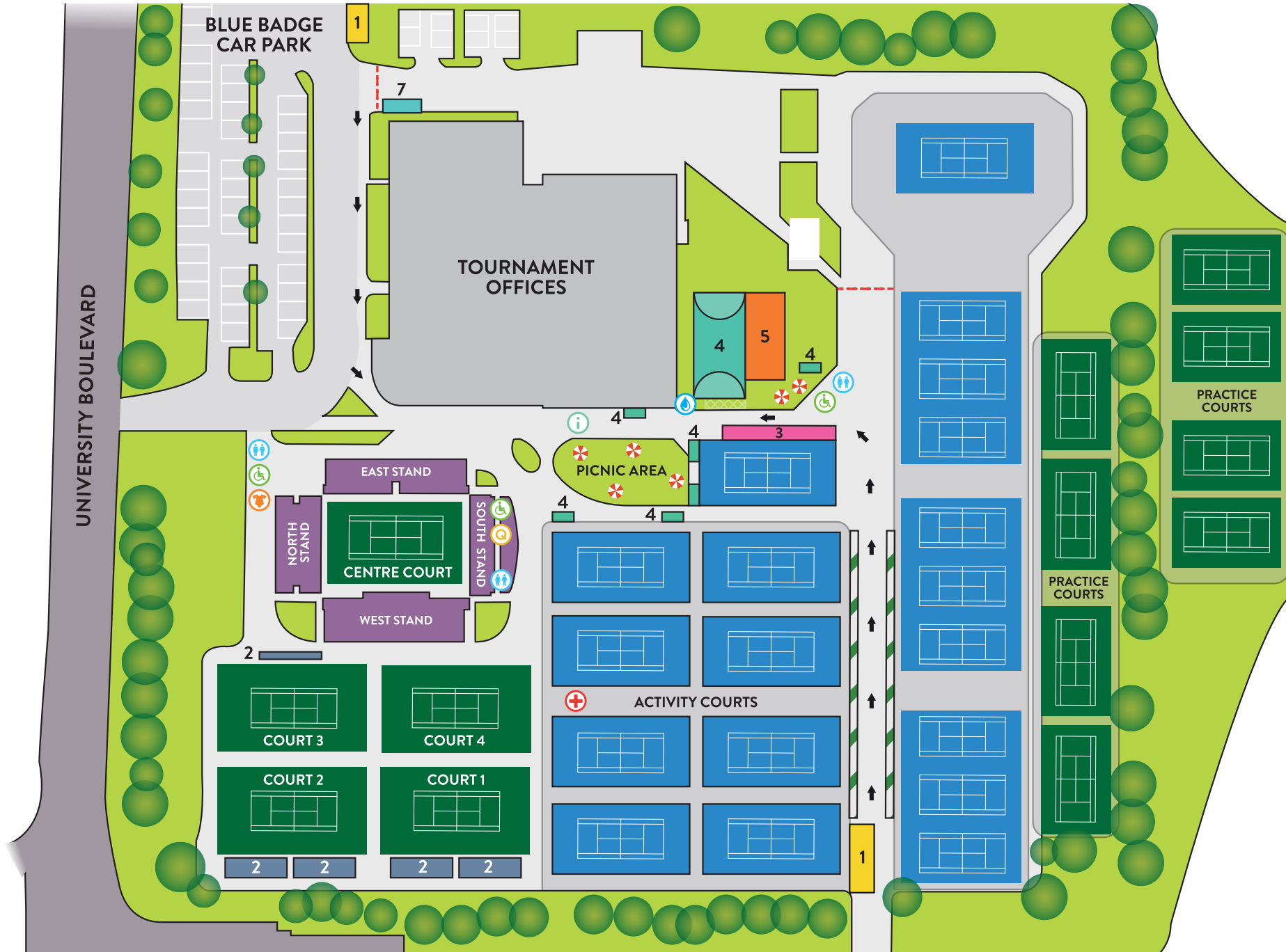


DONNA VEKIC | 2017



CAROLINE GARCIA | 2019

JESSE BOOT ENTRANCE FOR PEDESTRIANS & BLUE BADGE PARKING



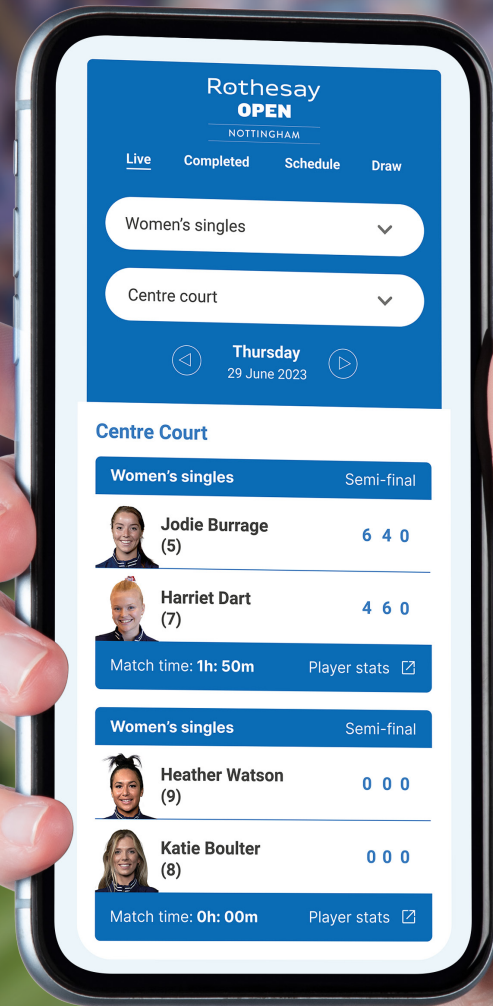
PUBLIC CAR PARK HIGHFIELDS ENTRANCE

- 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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