

LEXUS  
**SURBITON**  
— TROPHY —



**OFFICIAL  
PROGRAMME**

**3-9 JUNE 2024**





# WELCOME



I am thrilled to be welcoming you to the start of the exciting British grass court season, here at the Lexus Surbiton Trophy.

At Lexus Twickenham, we are committed to supporting the growth and enjoyment of British tennis, from grassroots initiatives to top-tier competitions. Our collaboration with the prestigious Surbiton Racket & Fitness Club marks the start of a new chapter, where we aim to elevate the tennis experience for players and fans alike. This partnership reflects our shared passion for excellence, innovation, and community engagement.

As we kick off this summer season, we eagerly anticipate the thrilling matches and memorable moments that lie ahead. On behalf of Lexus Twickenham, I extend my best wishes to all the participants and spectators for an unforgettable week and a fantastic summer of tennis.

**David Eagell**  
CENTRE PRINCIPAL OF  
LEXUS TWICKENHAM



On behalf of the LTA, I am delighted to welcome you to the Lexus Surbiton Trophy

The curtain raiser of the British grass court season put on a show for fans last year, with crowds treated to thrilling displays by home favourites including Andy Murray, and all four finals featuring British representation. Due to a re-organisation of the grass court tournament calendar this event will be moving to Birmingham from 2025. But I'd like to put on record my thanks to the Surbiton Racket and Fitness Club for staging the tournament and their hospitality over many years.

My thanks also goes to the ATP and ITF along with our commercial partners who make the event a reality. In particular, a big thank you to Lexus, whose sponsorship of this event enters its second year, and whose wider backing of British tennis is helping to take the sport to the next level.

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

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

Best wishes

**Scott Lloyd**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE | LTA



# WELCOME

FROM MIKE CARROLL

On behalf of Surbiton Racket and Fitness Club I am delighted to welcome all competitors, spectators and officials from the LTA, ATP, ITF and ABTO to our Club.

The tournament marks the start of the British grass court season, and we are looking forward to once again seeing some fantastic tennis. We've been lucky enough to have several Wimbledon Champions playing in the event in the past, with last year being particularly memorable for us, with Andy Murray winning the men's singles event.

This is the 20th Year of the club hosting a pre-Wimbledon event, since the reintroduction of a tournament here in the late 1990s. It's a brilliant week for the Club, and I would like to thank our members for all their support. Thank you also to our team of volunteers who give

up their time to help make this a very special event for everyone, and to our event sponsor, Lexus, for their continued support of the tournament and of Tennis in Britain as a whole.

Lastly, huge thanks go to the LTA tournament staff and Club team, who work extremely hard in the lead up to and throughout the event, as well as to our excellent ball crew from The Hollyfield School, who always do a great job during the week. I wish all our competitors the best of luck and hope you all enjoy the 2024 Lexus Surbiton Trophy.

Best wishes,

**Mike Carroll**  
PRESIDENT, SURBITON RACKET  
AND FITNESS CLUB



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

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

**SURBITON SUNSHINE**

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

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

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

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

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

**BRITS DOMINATE IN NOTTINGHAM**

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

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

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

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

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



**CLASSIC MATCHES IN BIRMINGHAM**

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

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

**ALCARAZ LIGHTS UP QUEEN'S**

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

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

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

**STARS COLLIDE IN EASTBOURNE**

A strong lineup at the Rothesay International Eastbourne saw Ons

Jabeur, Caroline Garcia and Coco Gauff make the trip to the south coast.

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

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

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

**2024 GRASS COURT SEASON**

**Lexus Surbiton Trophy**  
(2-9 June)

**Rothesay Open Nottingham**  
(8-16 June)

**cinch Championships**  
(15-23 June)

**Rothesay Classic Birmingham**  
(15-23 June)

**Lexus Ilkley Trophy**  
(15-22 June)

**Rothesay International Eastbourne**  
(22-29 June)

**Lexus British Open Roehampton**  
(30 June – 5 July)

**Wimbledon**  
(1-14 July)

# LEXUS SURBITON TROPHY PEN PORTRAITS 2024 | MEN



## CHRISTOPHER O'CONNELL



BORN: 3 JUN 1994

Won the Australian Under-14 National Championship and went on to win four ATP Tour Challenger titles as he made his way up the tennis ladder.

Confirmed he is comfortable on grass by winning two rounds at Wimbledon last year, including a win against the experienced Jiri Vesely.

Beat America's Frances Tiafoe at the Miami Open in March amid a run that saw him make the fourth round at an ATP Masters 1000 event for the first time.



## ALEX MICHELSEN



BORN: 25 AUG 1994

Lists Wimbledon as his favourite tournament and he is set to make his debut in the main draw at the All England Club next month.

Secured his first win against a top ten opponent in March when he beat Australia's Alex de Minaur at the Los Cabos Open in Mexico.

Mother, Sondra, is a retired teacher and played college tennis at San Diego State University, where she earned the prestigious Arthur Ashe Award for Leadership and Sportsmanship in 1989.



## ALEKSANDAR VUKIC



BORN: 6 APR 1996

Won his first match on the grass at Wimbledon last year, beating Germany's Daniel Altmaier in the first round.

Reached his first ATP Tour final in July 2023, losing against America's Taylor Fritz in the Atlanta Open.

Family emigrated to Australia from Montenegro, fleeing the war in the 1990s. Mother and brother left and father joined them later.



## EMIL RUUSUVUORI



BORN: 2 APR 1999

Reached a career-high ranking of No.37 in April 2023 after a run to the quarter-finals at the Indian Wells Masters.

Played a key role in Finland's run to last year's Davis Cup semi-finals.

Started 2024 with a strong run in the ATP 250 event in Hong Kong, losing against Andrey Rublev in the final.

Has wins on his record against Carlos Alcaraz, Alexander Zverev and Jannik Sinner.



## BRANDON NAKASHIMA



BORN: 3 AUG 2001

Reached a career-high ranking of No.43 in October 2022 after a year that saw him reach the fourth round at Wimbledon, losing narrowly against Nick Kyrgios in his last-16 match.

Won his first ATP Tour title at the 2022 San Diego Open, beating compatriot Marcos Giron in the final.

Mother grew up in Vietnam and moved to America at age five and his father is of Japanese ancestry and was born in California.



## ARTHUR RINDERKNECH



BORN: 23 JUL 1995

Reached the third round at last year's US Open, his best performance in a Grand Slam.

Achieved a career-high singles ranking of No.42 in October 2022.

Obtained a degree in business at Texas A&M and has said he may move into a business career when his tennis career comes to an end.



## ANDY MURRAY



BORN: 15 MAY 1987

Two-time Wimbledon champion Murray won the singles title at the All England Club in 2013 and 2016.

Murray is a two-time Olympic gold medalist in singles from his wins at the 2012 and 2016 Games and he was also a part of Great Britain's winning the 2015 Davis Cup team.

Reigning Lexus Surbiton Trophy champion, Murray also won the 2023 Rothesay Open Nottingham.



## THANASI KOKKINAKIS



BORN: 10 APR 1996

Won the 2022 Australian Open doubles title alongside compatriot Nick Kyrgios. The duo also won the 2013 Junior Wimbledon doubles championship.

Claimed his first ATP Tour title when he won the tournament on home soil in Adelaide, beating France's Arthur Rinderknech in the final.



## CRISTIAN GARIN



BORN: 30 MAY 1996

Achieved his best performance in a Grand Slam event when he reached the quarter-finals at Wimbledon in 2022, beating Alex de Minaur during that run.

Has won five ATP Tour finals, all on clay courts, with the most recent victory coming in the Chile Open in March 2021.

Reached the quarter finals of three ATP Tour Masters 1000 events, including Paris in 2019, Madrid in 2021 and Rome in 2022.



## MAX PURCELL



BORN: 3 APR 1998

Won the 2022 Wimbledon doubles title with compatriot Matthew Eben.

Made it through to the quarter-finals of last year's Cincinnati Masters, his best run in an ATP 1000 tournament.

That performance on US hard courts allowed him to achieve his best year-end ranking of No.45.



## JAMES DUCKWORTH



BORN: 21 JAN 1992

Duckworth has overcome plenty of hurdles to keep his career on track and has undergone nine surgeries: right elbow in late-2012, early-2014 and February 2018; right foot in February 2017, August 2017 and January 2018; right shoulder in March 2017 and March 2020; and hip in January 2022.

Reached a career-high ATP Ranking of 46 in January 2022.

He is a big rugby fan and says that if he wasn't a tennis player, he would want to play for Australian team Newcastle Knights.



## JOAO FONSECA



BORN: 21 AUG 2006

One of the most talked about young players in tennis, he won last year's US Open junior title.

Reached the quarter-finals of Junior Wimbledon last year, where he was beaten by eventual champion, Great Britain's Henry Searle.

Became the first player born in 2006 to win an ATP Tour match when he won his first round against Arthur Fils at the Rio Open in February and he went on to reach his first ATP Challenger final in Paraguay the following month.

# LEXUS SURBITON TROPHY PEN PORTRAITS 2024 | WOMEN



**MAGDALENA  
FRECH**

**BORN: 15 DEC 1997**

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

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

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



**ZHU  
LIN**

**BORN: 28 JAN 1994**

Achieved her best performance in a Grand Slam at the 2023 Australian Open, reaching the fourth round. That run included a win against world No.6 Maria Sakkari.

Backed that run up by winning her first WTA Tour title with a victory in the Hua Hin Championships in Thailand.

Reached the final of the WTA 250 Thailand Open in February, losing against Diana Shnaider in Hua Hin.



**TATJANA  
MARIA**

**BORN: 8 AUG 1997**

Best performance in a Grand Slam came as she reached the semi-finals at Wimbledon in 2022, beating seeded players Maria Sakkari and Jelena Ostapenko in that run at the All England Club.

Has won three WTA Tour titles, with her most recent coming in April 2023 with a win against Peyton Stearns in Copa Colsanitas, Colombia.

Mother to two daughters, Charlotte and Cecilia.



**HARRIET  
DART**

**BORN: 28 JUL 1996**

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

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

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



**ARINA  
RODIONOVA**

**BORN: 15 DEC 1999**

Confirmed she enjoys playing on the grass as she was runner-up in the 2022 Surbiton Trophy, losing to Belgium's Alison Van Uytvanck.

Broke into the top 100 of the WTA Rankings for the first time in her career in February 2024, becoming the oldest woman to make a top 100 debut at 34.

Reach the final of an ITF 100 tournament in Japan in May, losing against Japan's Moyuka Uchijima.



**KAYLA  
DAY**

**BORN: 28 SEP 1999**

Made her breakthrough on the WTA Tour in 2017 as she reached the third round at Indian Wells.

In July 2023 made her top 100 debut in the WTA Rankings and she broke into the top-80 for the first time in April of this year.

Best run at a Grand Slam came at last year's French Open, where she reached the third round.



**VIKTORIJA  
GOLUBIC**

**BORN: 16 OCT 1992**

Claimed her first WTA Tour title on home soil when she beat Kiki Bertens in the final of the Swiss Open in July 2016.

Won a silver medal in doubles at the 2020 Olympics alongside partner Belinda Bencic. The Czechia duo of Barbora Krejčíková and Katerina Siniakova took the gold medal in the final.

Best run at a Grand Slam came on grass, as she reached the quarter-finals of Wimbledon three years ago, beating seeded players Sofia Kenin and Madison Keys during that run.



**GREET  
MINNEN**

**BORN: 14 AUG 1997**

Best performance at a Grand Slam is reaching the third round at the US Open in 2021 and 2023.

Reached the semi-finals of the WTA Charleston 125 tournament in March and achieved her best result at a WTA 1000 tournament by reaching the third round of the Miami Open in the same month.

Favourite shots are her serve and forehand and the surface she enjoys playing on most is grass.



**BAI  
ZHUOXUAN**

**BORN: 16 NOV 2002**

A top junior player, she won 15 titles on the ITF World Tennis Tour between OCT 2021 and NOV 2023.

Won her first Grand Slam match at Wimbledon last year, beating Belgium's Ysaline Bonaventure.

Lists grass and hard courts as her favourite surfaces and her tennis idols are Rafael Nadal and Li Na.



**ALEKSANDRA  
KRUNIC**

**BORN: 13 MAR 1993**

Best performance at a Grand Slam came at the 2014 US Open, where she reached the fourth round.

Reached a career-high WTA Ranking of No.38 in June 2018, after winning her first WTA Tour title on grass at the Rosmalen Open in the Netherlands.

Has achieved four wins over players ranked in the top 10 of the WTA Rankings, including a victory against Great Britain's Johanna Konta at the 2017 US Open.



**LILY  
MIYAZAKI**

**BORN: 11 NOV 1995**

Enjoying a breakthrough year in 2023, Lily broke into the top 200 for the first time

Began her rise with a strong showing here at Surbiton last year, reaching the semi finals with wins over fellow Brits Burrage, Silva and Lacy

Reached her maiden grand slam main draw at the US Open, coming through qualifying to reach the second round before bowing out to 15th seed Belinda Bencic



**JULE  
NIEMEIER**

**BORN: 12 AUG 1999**

Jule's best run of 2023 came in Hamburg where she reached the quarter finals on home soil at the European Open.

2023 also saw her defeat defending champion Ons Jabeur in Berlin, who she defeated as a qualifier in the first round; this win also marked her third career top-ten win

She has enjoyed success at grand slams, advancing to the quarter finals at Wimbledon and thr last 16 at the US Open in 2022.

# GRASS COURT RECORDS

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

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

## FEDERER'S GENIUS

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

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

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

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

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



## MARTINA THE GREAT

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

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

In total, Navratilova won 307 and lost just 40 matches on grass, winning 32 titles on the surface.

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

## THE BRITISH HEROES

British tennis fans waited 77 years to serve up a homegrown men's singles Wimbledon champion and **Andy Murray** would be the hero the nation has been waiting for.

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

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

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



## MOST MATCH WINS ON GRASS WOMEN

	Martina Navratilova	309
	Evonne Goolagong	285
	Margaret Court	264
	Virginia Wade	212
	Chris Evert	208



## MOST MATCH WINS ON GRASS MEN

	Roger Federer	192
	Jimmy Connors	185
	John Newcombe	164
	Phil Dent	157
	John Alexander	157

## TOP TEN MATCH WIN PERCENTAGES ON GRASS

	92.63%	Margaret Court	264-21
	90%	Pete Sampras	63-7
	89.3%	Novak Djokovic	92-11
	88.54%	Martina Navratilova	309-40
	88.2%	Roger Federer	105-14
	87.5%	Bjorn Borg	56-8
	87.39%	Chris Evert	208-30
	86.99%	Serena Williams	107-16
	85.59%	Billie Jean King	190-32
	85.00%	Steffi Graf	85-15





# ROGER FEDERER: FROM YOUNG HOPEFUL TO TENNIS LEGEND

As a young Swiss hopeful set foot on grass courts for the first time at the Surbiton Racket & Fitness Club back on May 31 1999, the spectators circling the court could have imagined they were witnessing the start of what would be a record-breaking career.

Roger Federer was the reigning Wimbledon Boys' Singles champion when he played his first senior grass court tournament at Surbiton, with a victory in his opening match against Venezuela's Maurice Ruah setting up a second round clash against No.2 seed and the vastly more experienced John van Lottum.

Yet Federer highlighted his potential with a victory in a tight three-set match against Van Lottum and he backed that up with a 6-1 6-4 win against America's Alex O'Brien.

Armenia's Sargis Sargsian proved to be a hurdle too far for Federer as he lost in three sets in the semi-finals as he recorded a win on his way to the title that year, but the teenager who was already being talked about as a future champion had made his mark.

He went on to make his debut at the LTA's Queen's Club Championships a couple of weeks later and was then given a wild card into the main draw at Wimbledon for the first time, with his nerves in evidence as he took on Jiri Novak.

Federer went on to compile the greatest grass court record of all-time, winning 192 times on grass and losing just 29 matches on the surface.

His record of eight Wimbledon Singles' titles makes him the most successful player at The All England Club and his 19 grass court titles (8 Wimbledon, 10 Halle, and 1 Stuttgart Open) is also a record.

Federer's name does not appear on the list of winners here at Surbiton, the roll of honour for this tournament includes some stellar names.

Three-time Grand Slam champion Andy Murray added his name to the winners' list here after his win in last year's tournament.



Murray put in an impressive performance to beat Austria's Jurij Rodionov 6-3, 6-2 to become the oldest player to win an ATP Challenger on grass at the age of 36.

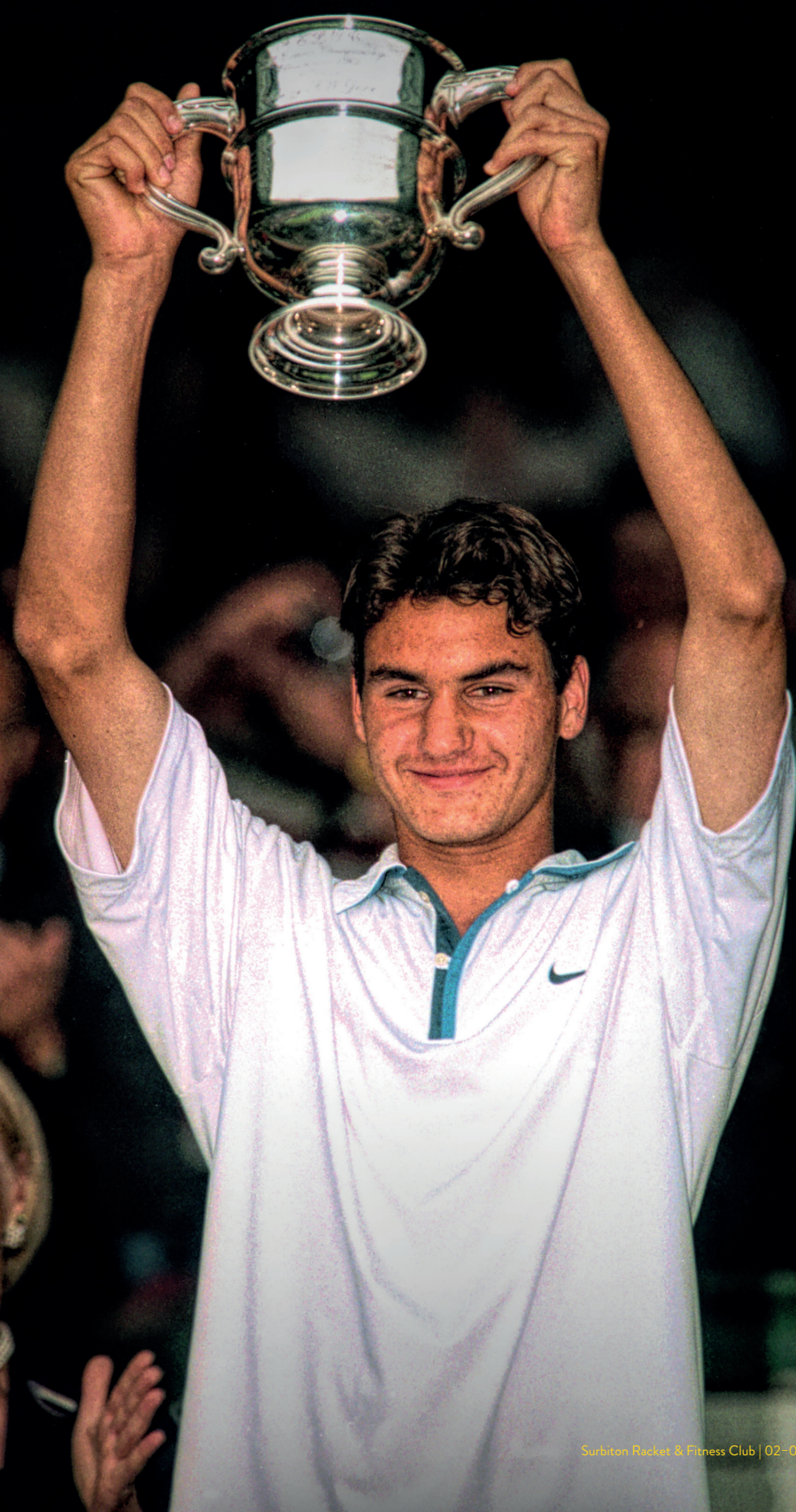
Dan Evans was another British winner in this tournament in 2019, while David Lloyd (1978), Peter Lawlor (1977) and Roger Taylor (1963 and 1967) are among the British players who have triumphed in this tournament.

There has also been plenty of British success in the women's tournament, with Sue Barker claiming the Ladies' Singles title here in 1974, as she followed in the footsteps of fellow Brits Joyce Barclay (1972) and Ann Jones (1970), Christine Truman (1965) and Angela Mortimer (1960) among a long list of homegrown winners.

The most recent British winner of the women's event at Surbiton was Louise Latimer in 2000.

Other notable winners of the tournament here include Althea Gibson in 1956 and Helen Wills Moody in 1938, with both of those American stars also winning the Wimbledon title on numerous occasions. ▣

Check out the full Surbiton Roll of Honour here





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LEXUS SURBITON TROPHY

## CELEBRATING THE LTA TENNIS AWARD WINNERS PRESENTED BY LEXUS

The greats of British tennis share the stage with the grassroots heroes of our game in the annual LTA tennis Awards, presented by Lexus.

Nine British tennis and padel stars have triumphed in the elite player categories in this year's awards. Women's Singles Player of the Year Katie Boulter became British No.1 for the first time in her career and also lifted her first career WTA title at the Rothesay Open Nottingham. Cameron Norrie was named as Men's Singles Player of the Year, while Doubles Player of the Year was Joe Salisbury. Joe won the US Open doubles title for the third time. Alfie Hewett took the honours in the Wheelchair category.

Padel Men's Padel Player of the Year Award was Sam Jones while the Women's Padel Player of the Year Award winner was Aimee Gibson

While the professional players may grab the headlines and the glory, it is the volunteers at our network of clubs and venues across the country who are the lifeblood of the game and support and drive participation.

This year's winners, selected from 2,200 nominations across 12 different categories, have been honoured for their outstanding contributions to tennis in 2023.

Now in their ninth year, the LTA Tennis Awards, presented by Lexus, celebrate the thousands of individuals – volunteers, coaches and officials – involved in the game.

They also highlight the incredible achievements of some 17,000 LTA registered venues and more than 9,000 LTA-approved tournaments.

The nominees are judged at county, regional and finally national level. The ultimate winners will be revealed at a ceremony at the National Tennis Centre in Roehampton in July, alongside presentations to the elite players too.

Scott Lloyd, Chief Executive of the LTA, said: "The LTA Tennis Awards acknowledge the extraordinary contribution of the individuals and venues that help deliver our vision of 'tennis opened up.'"



LTA TENNIS AWARDS  
PRESENTED BY LEXUS

"The contributions the nominees have made are incredible and we are delighted to celebrate their amazing dedication to tennis and acknowledge all that they do for their communities."

Sandi Procter as President of the LTA has overseen the awards, and she believes that recognising champions at all levels of the game is so important for the sport.

"I'm passionate about grassroots tennis and am always very keen to support and recognise the huge contribution of volunteers."

"The LTA Tennis Awards are a wonderful celebration of the people that make our sport what it is. They are all vital in helping us to encourage people to pick up a racket regardless of their ability or who they are, or where they come from." □



Read more about LTA Tennis Awards



# KIDS ON COURT: THE IMPACT OF LTA YOUTH

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

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

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

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

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



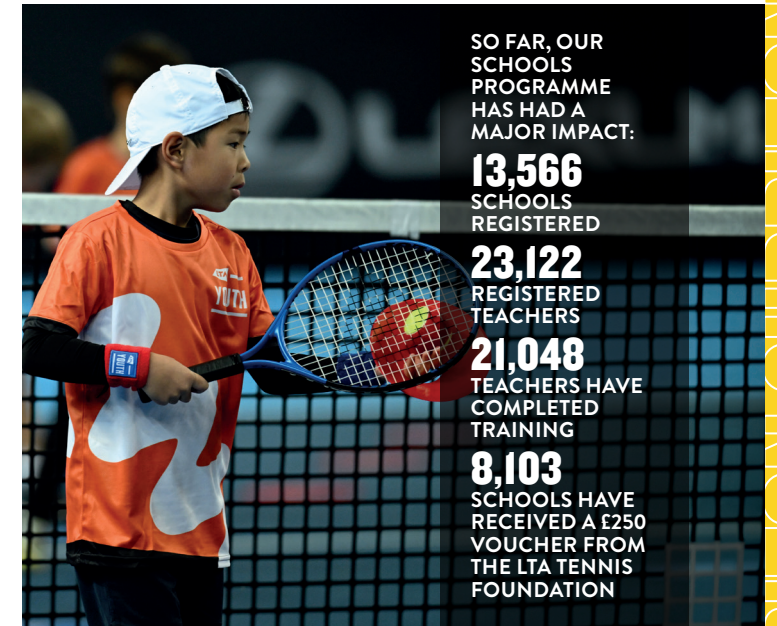
each school that completes training receives a £250 voucher, which can be used either for 10 hours of LTA accredited coaching or tennis equipment.

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

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

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

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



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

**13,566**  
SCHOOLS REGISTERED

**23,122**  
REGISTERED TEACHERS

**21,048**  
TEACHERS HAVE COMPLETED TRAINING

**8,103**  
SCHOOLS HAVE RECEIVED A £250 VOUCHER FROM THE LTA TENNIS FOUNDATION

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

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

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

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

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

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





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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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





# LTA ADVANTAGE: YOUR TICKET TO THE 2025 GRASS COURT SEASON

An LTA Advantage membership is your key to the 2025 British grass court season.

With an Advantage Fan+ or Compete membership you will get exclusive entry to the LTA Advantage Wimbledon Ballot as well as priority ticket access to all the biggest tournaments taking place in Great Britain as part of our new calendar for 2025.

Ever dreamt of seats on Centre Court? Soaking up the atmosphere on Henman Hill? Or being a part of history at The Championships, Wimbledon? Fan+ and Compete members can opt in to the LTA Advantage Wimbledon Ballot for a chance to buy tickets for Wimbledon 2025.

You can also secure the best seats to The LTA Championships at The Queens Club, Rothesay International Eastbourne, Rothesay Classic Birmingham, Rothesay Open Nottingham, Lexus Ikley Trophy, Lexus British Open Wheelchair Championships and even home ties at the Davis Cup and Billie Jean King Cup. Your membership will give you the chance to purchase tickets to all LTA tournaments before they go on general sale. 



Upgrade your Advantage membership to find out more about the LTA Advantage Wimbledon Ballot and priority ticket access.



## UNLOCK MORE ADVANTAGE BENEFITS

Advantage is the LTA's membership for tennis and padel fans and players – giving you everything you need to follow, play and compete.

As an Advantage member, you get access to a whole host of benefits in addition to the LTA Advantage Wimbledon Ballot and priority ticket access to LTA tournaments – including:

- Exclusive player interviews, behind-the-scenes videos and match analysis
- Book and view your court and course bookings
- Share and track all your match stats with My Game technology
- Exclusive discounts on LTA partners, including Dunlop and Castore
- Enter prize draws and giveaways to win money-can't-buy experiences

Find out more about Advantage, the different types of membership and how you can make the most of the exclusive benefits – visit [www.lta.org.uk/advantage/](http://www.lta.org.uk/advantage/) or scan the QR code



# FACILITY INVESTMENT

Tennis venues offer more than just a place to practice, they are a community, a place to catch up with friends, and get on court. The LTA's Quick Access Loan scheme, funded by the LTA Tennis Foundation provides interest free loans. They help deliver projects that will grow the number of people playing tennis and padel, ensuring long term sustainability for the venue and its members.

The loan scheme supports the LTA's and the LTA Tennis Foundation's vision of 'tennis opened up' by ensuring every approved application includes a community element to their proposal, enabling more people to access tennis.

**The Venue:** Esher Tennis & Padel (right) is a friendly community tennis and padel club offering courts and coaching for players of all ages and abilities.

### The Project:

- Converting three grass courts to three floodlit tennis courts
- Converting one macadam court and practice wall area to two floodlit Padel courts

### The Impact:


- This investment allowed the club to retain a high-class coaching team and connect with a number of schools in the local area
- The members feel the club has since been transformed resulting in a runner up award in the LTA Club of the Year competition
- The membership of the club increased to around 1,100 members



Scan the QR code to find out more



Susannah Stevenson, Club Manager for Esher said: "The addition of Padel has been a huge success for the club and, combined with the three new hard courts, has contributed to an almost three-fold increase in the number of members. This in turn enabled us to further invest in the club including a complete refurbishment of the clubhouse. Having more court space has meant that we are able to run holiday camps every week of the school holidays and offer free taster sessions to local schools, as well as running more competitions and events for members".

Since the Quick Access Loan scheme was launched in 2019, 99 loan applications have been approved across Great Britain, which equates to an investment of £10.2 million. 

# LTA SUSTAINABILITY

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

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


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

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

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

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

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

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

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



The padel boom is continuing to gather momentum across Great Britain, with up to 150,000 active players now playing the sport regularly.

**Padel is a sport that is easy to learn and very sociable, allowing players of all ages and skill levels to play together on an enclosed court that is roughly one-third the size of a tennis court.**

You don't need any prior experience playing tennis or any other sport; all you need is a bat and a doubles partner to get started!

The LTA took over governance of padel in 2019 and has since then embarked on a journey to integrate build, grow and upscale the sport across Great Britain.

In that time the LTA has invested £6million to develop infrastructure and increase participation in this country.

Over the past five years, we have seen a surge in new padel courts around the country with the 50 courts that were in place in 2019 now boosted to over 350, with participation growing from 6,000 players up to 150,000 in 2024.

In addition, the LTA hosted a record number of competitions in 2023, with over 200 events being delivered across Great Britain.

As the sport has continued to grow in Britain and infrastructure continues to improve, heads are starting to turn to the elite level of the game and the British stars competing on the world stage.

The top male and female players from Great Britain, including number one players Tia Norton and Christian Medina Murphy, will be vying for the title at the


FIP European Padel Championships, which will take place in Italy later this summer.

In October, the World Championships will be played, which is a great opportunity for our GB teams to compete against the top teams in the world.

Tom Murray, LTA Head of Padel said "It's great to see padel continue to grow in this country. British players are winning titles both domestically at events sanctioned by the LTA across Great Britain, as well as internationally."

"It's an exciting time for the sport as its set to grow to new heights over the coming years, with even greater infrastructure investment, a growing workforce and a major boost in participation. We'll do all we can to drive this change and drive the sport to the next level."

Over the next three years, the LTA maintain its focus on facilitating the growth of places to play, actions to grow and diversify the padel coaching workforce, and implementing a performance pathway that supports current players and paves the way for the next generation.

The LTA will also look to invest in increasing the visibility of padel, driving greater awareness of the sport and explore opportunities for professional events in Great Britain. 

**To find your nearest court, check out our court directory, or to get involved in one of the fastest growing sports in the world, scan the QR code.**





# LTA TENNIS FOUNDATION



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

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

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

**How we make an impact**

**Supporting organisations**

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

**Enabling communities and schools**

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

**Developing facilities**

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

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

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

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



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



**FOUNDER, PLAYPOINT SPORTS, FUNDED BY THE LTA TENNIS FOUNDATION**

**PROGRAMME SPOTLIGHT:**

# TIM HENMAN FOUNDATION

The LTA Tennis Foundation awarded a grant to the Tim Henman Foundation to deliver their Community Tennis Programme in local schools.

The programme is delivered in multiple locations, one of which is Raynes Park. The sessions are free to schools, who are chosen based on the percentage of students accessing free school meals, and the level of deprivation

in the area, ensuring the delivery is in the highest area of need, and therefore having the biggest impact.

Did you know, there are currently 4.3m children are growing up into poverty in the UK, that's 9 children (30%) in a classroom of 30.

**What do the sessions look like?**

Each year group in the school takes part in a session every week for 6 weeks, delivered by an LTA Accredited Tennis Coach. They start with the basics, as many of the students will never have picked up a tennis racket and ball before, and slowly progress to mini rallies. At the end of the 6 weeks, the students are then offered subsidised/funded holidays camps at a local club and get to experience what it is like in a real tennis venue.

The impact of these sessions reaches far beyond the tennis skills. Students develop essential life skills through the sessions such as confidence, teamwork and problem solving. Elsie, from Year 3 said "I felt a bit nervous at the start, and then I got a lot of confidence and got better".

And Penny, from year 2 said: "I have not played tennis before. I really like it. I like that I get to play with a racket, I have not played with a racket before. I had not seen one of these (tennis) balls before and I am really interested in that. It makes me feel happy inside and excited when I am playing".

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



**TIM HENMAN FOUNDATION**





# RISING STARS



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

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

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

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

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

Emma Raducanu, 2021 US Open winner



## CLASS OF THE 2000s

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

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

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

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

Still only 22, Swiatek has topped the WTA Rankings with impressive consistency since Ashleigh Barty's retirement in March 2022 and taken on the mantle of becoming world No.1, with her title-winning form confirming she has embraced the challenge.

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

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

## ALCARAZ AND SINNER MAKE THEIR MARK

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

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

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

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

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

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



## YOUNG GUNS FIRING

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

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

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

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



# GRASS COURT TENNIS IN NUMBERS



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

13

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



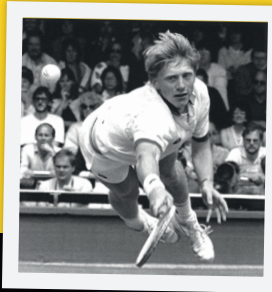
3 British men have won three of the last four titles at the Nottingham Open, with Dan Evans winning in 2019 and 2022 and Andy Murray taking the title last year.



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

17

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



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



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



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

28



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

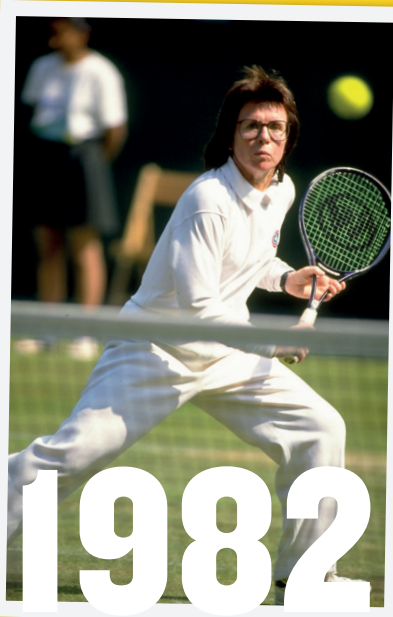
153



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



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



1982 Billie Jean King won the first Birmingham Classic in 1982

41



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

113



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

## MOMENT IN TIME

American tennis player Helen Wills-Moody poses with the winner's trophy after defeating Margaret Lumb during the Women's Surrey Lawn Tennis Championships finals at Surbiton, on 21st May 1938

(Photo by - / INTERCONTINENTALE / AFP)

## MOMENT IN TIME

Picture taken on June 2, 1956 at Surbiton showing American tennis player **Althea Gibson** after winning the Surrey Lawn Tennis Championships.

(Photo by - / INTERCONTINENTALE / AFP)

# PARK TENNIS PROJECT: TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES AND INSPIRING FUTURES

With the Lexus Surbiton Trophy swinging into action, and a growing demand for access to tennis courts, communities across Britain are witnessing a transformation of their local park tennis courts.

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

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



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

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

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

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

This is a key way in which the LTA is delivering its vision of 'Tennis Opened Up', transforming communities through tennis by making the



sport welcoming, enjoyable and inspiring to everyone – regardless of their age, background, or ability.

In nearby Sutton, six parks have received a total investment of £308,861, bringing them back to life and making tennis more accessible to the community. The refurbished parks include Beddington Park, Corrigan Avenue Recreation Ground, Stanley Park, Sutton Common Park, Cuddington Recreation Ground and Mellows Park.

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

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

As the Lexus Surbiton Trophy gets going, Cuddington Recreation Ground in nearby Sutton, which has five refurbished park courts, will welcome a host of local players of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds, to celebrate the impact the Park Tennis Project has on the community, make social connections, and keep active.

The refurbished courts in Sutton, and across Britain, symbolise opportunity and community engagement, embodying the transformative power of tennis.

Scan the QR codes below to find out more about the Park Tennis Project and find and book your local court.



Parks Project



Book a court



# PERFORMANCE MATTERS

WITH MICHAEL BOURNE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



## PERFORMANCE COMPETITIONS CALENDAR: A CHANCE TO SHINE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

# SMILES ALL ROUND PADEL AT SRFC WITH TOLWORTH SCHOOL

For many school children across the country, Thursday afternoons tend to be a drag as they look forward to the weekend. However, for pupils in years 4,5 and 6 at Tolworth Junior School, Thursdays are the highlight of their week, thanks to the introduction of padel. Not only has it had a great impact on confidence and active participation it has also increased the attendance of certain individuals who previously struggled in this area.

Through the charity Rackets Cubed (a recipient of grant funding from the LTA Tennis Foundation), specifically selected pupils at Tolworth School come to Surbiton Racket and Fitness Club each week and receive coaching in padel tennis, followed by a fun maths lesson and a hot meal altogether.

Each week's session has between 25 and 30 children getting on court, and since the programme started last year, over 100 children have been involved. The school have selected children who would not easily be able to access opportunities like this, so the chance to play padel and access



regular physical and social activity has been extremely positive for their development.

With mobile phones, social media and a multitude of other distractions making it easy for children and young people to forego sport and physical activity, the sessions at Surbiton have proven to be a huge success not just with pupils, but with staff and parents as well.

With growing evidence that active children have higher school achievement and improved mental well-being, one parent has noticed the positive change in her son:

“My son was anxious about attending initially but after only one session he loves it... He is always so happy when we pick him up and chats away about what a great time he has. This is such a fantastic opportunity to build confidence, physical and social skills. I am so happy that my son is part of this, and it has been such a positive experience for him.”

“As the sessions have gone on, the confidence of the children in the group has clearly increased”, says class teacher Dan Trump, both in their maths skills and in the willingness to give a new sport a go. Alongside

the wider group, Dan credits the padel and maths sessions for helping one pupil he teaches, who has been selective mute for a number of years, come out of their shell.

“Since [starting the sessions], he communicates with children in the group and his teachers. He speaks confidently about [the sessions] to members of staff. The smile on his face is heartwarming. It really is making a difference.”

Tom Crisp, Operations Manager and Head of Tennis at Surbiton Racket and Fitness Club says: “The children love having this opportunity to get on the padel courts and have made great progress during their sessions! Everyone at the club looks forward to seeing them each week with their enthusiasm and smiley faces brightening up everyone's afternoon!”

It is clear to see that the program has had, and is continuing to have, a positive impact for all involved, from the pupils at Tolworth School to members of the club. It highlights that not only does competing at the highest levels of sport bring joy to people, but also that simply having a go and being active with friends can make all the difference in the world. ●







 LEXUS  
**SURBITON**  
— TROPHY —