

# *The Wimbledon Championships*



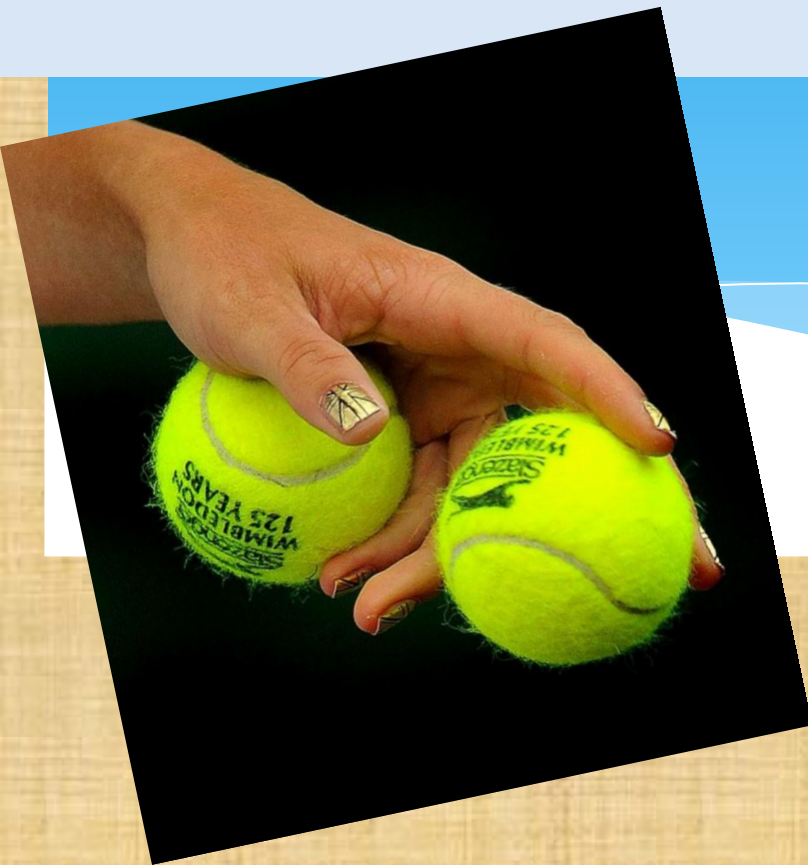
**The Wimbledon Championships or simply Wimbledon, is the oldest tennis tournament in the world, and widely considered the most prestigious. It has been held at the All England Club in Wimbledon, London since 1877. It is one of the four Grand Slam tennis tournaments (Majors), the others being the Australian Open, the French Open and the US Open. Since the Australian Open shifted to hard court in 1988, Wimbledon is the only Major still played on grass, the game's original surface, which gave the game its original name of "lawn tennis".**



**Wimbledon**



**Wimbledon traditions include a strict dress code for competitors, the eating of strawberries and cream by the spectators, and Royal patronage. The tournament is also notable for the absence of sponsor advertising around the courts. In 2009, Wimbledon's Centre Court was fitted with a retractable roof to lessen the loss of playing time due to rain.**



\* In 1876, lawn tennis, a game devised by Major Walter Clopton Wingfield a year or so earlier and originally given the name Sphairistikè was added to the activities of the club. In spring 1877, the club was renamed 'The All England Croquet and Lawn Tennis Club' and signaled its change of name by instituting the first Lawn Tennis Championship. The inaugural 1877 Wimbledon Championship opened on 9 July 1877. The Gentlemen's Singles was the only event held and was won by Spencer Gore, an old Harrovian rackets player, from a field of 22. About 200 spectators paid one shilling each to watch the final.



***Wimbledon is considered the world's premier tennis tournament and the priority of the Club is to maintain its leadership. To that end a long-term plan was unveiled in 1993, intended to improve the quality of the event for spectators, players, officials and neighbours.***



***Stage one (1994–1997) of the plan was completed for the 1997 championships and involved building the new No. 1 Court in Aorangi Park, a broadcast centre, two extra grass courts and a tunnel under the hill linking Church Road and Somerset Road.***





**Stage two (1997–2009) involved the removal of the old No. 1 Court complex to make way for the new Millennium Building, providing extensive facilities for players, press, officials and members, and the extension of the West Stand of the Centre Court with 728 extra seats.**

**Stage three (2000–2011) has been completed with the construction of an entrance building, club staff housing, museum, bank and ticket office.**



Murray was also involved in the latest completed match at Wimbledon, which ended at 11:02 pm in a victory over Marcos Baghdatis at Centre Court in the third round of the 2012 Championships. The 2012 Men's Singles Final on 8 July 2012, between Roger Federer and Murray, was the first final to be played under the roof, which was activated during the third set.

A close-up photograph of a Wimbledon scoreboard. The scoreboard is purple with white and yellow text. It displays the word "ORDER" at the top right. Below it, the word "COURT" is written above "CENTRE". The scoreboard lists four courts: No.1, No.2, No.3, and No.4. Each court has a match listed with the names of the players and the score. The matches are: No.1: Miss S. WILLIAMS v Miss T. GOLDVIN (6-2, 5-1); No.2: Miss N. PETROVA v Miss J. CAPRIATI (4-6, 4-6); No.3: Miss A. MAURESMO v Mrs S. FARINA ELIA (7-5, 6-3); No.4: Miss E. GAGLIARDI v Miss T. BAYKALOVA (6-3, 5-3) and Miss R. VINCI v Miss T. POUTCHEN (6-3, 5-3). At the bottom, J.B. FITZGERALD v W. MASUR is listed against G.W. CONNELL v S. ZVEJANOVIC.



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