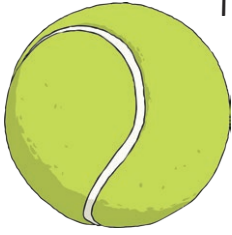


Wimbledon



The Championships, Wimbledon, which is also known as Wimbledon or The All England Lawn Tennis Championships, is the oldest tennis tournament in the world, which was first held in 1877 at the All England Club in Wimbledon, London.

Wimbledon is one of the four grand slam tennis tournaments; the others being the Australian Open, the French Open and the US Open.

Summer is a busy time for tennis players with all the grand slams taking place. Traditionally, Wimbledon took place over two weeks in late June and early July but has recently been moved to begin in early July. This is to allow players more rest time between tournaments.

During the tournament, the main events are for Gentlemen's Singles, Ladies' Singles, Gentlemen's Doubles, Ladies' Doubles and Mixed Doubles.

Both the Gentlemen's and Ladies' Singles consist of 128 players in total, who are made up of those players with the highest international rankings, qualifiers and wild cards. Wimbledon is a single-elimination tournament, meaning that the player who can win seven times in a row wins the tournament because other players are 'knocked-out'.

Did You Know...?

Since the Australian Open changed to using hardcourts in 1988, Wimbledon is the only major tournament still played on grass courts.

The History of Wimbledon

During the first Wimbledon Championship, the only event held was the Gentlemen's Singles, which was won by Englishman, Spencer Gore. About 200 spectators watched the final – they paid one shilling (about 20p in modern money) each.

In 1884, the club added Gentlemen's Doubles and Ladies' Singles competitions. Ladies' Doubles and Mixed Doubles were added in 1913.

The Championship was first televised in 1937 and is now a major event, with finals watched by over 10 million people!

Wimbledon is considered the world's top tennis tournament.



In recent years, many improvements have been made to ensure that this title is kept. One of the main alterations was the addition of a retractable roof on Centre Court in 2009. This means that matches can continue even during rain.

Wimbledon Traditions

Ballboys and Ballgirls

The job of ballboys and ballgirls (BBGs), who are provided by local schools, is to collect any balls that go out of play during a game. To become a BBG, children must pass a number of tests and complete a training phase to ensure that they are able to 'blend into the background and get on with their jobs quietly'.

Colours and Uniforms

The traditional colours of Wimbledon are dark green and purple. However, all players in the tournament are expected to wear white tennis clothes.

Did You Know...?

Traditionally, there is no play on the middle Sunday of the tournament, which is a rest day. However, excessive rain during the first week has forced play on the middle Sunday four times, in 1991, 1997, 2004 and 2016.



Did You Know...?

In 2017, fans ate 34,000kg of English strawberries and 10,000 litres of cream.



Royal Family

Members of the Royal Family often watch Wimbledon matches from the Royal Box. If HRH The Prince of Wales or Her Majesty The Queen are present, players are expected to bow or curtsy as they enter Centre Court.

Trophies

The Gentlemen's Singles champion is presented with a silver gilt (silver covered with gold leaf) cup. It is 47cm tall and 19cm in diameter. The actual trophy is the property of the All England Club so the champion is given a three-quarter sized replica (copy) of the cup, which has the names of all past Champions engraved on it.

The Ladies' Singles champion is presented with a sterling silver salver or tray. It is 48cm in diameter and is decorated with figures from mythology. Similarly to the silver gilt cup, the champion is given a three-quarter sized replica of the salver.

The winners of the Gentlemen's Doubles, Ladies' Doubles, and Mixed Doubles events each receive silver cups.

Questions

1. Which of these is **not** another grand slam tennis tournament? Tick **one**.

- Australian Open
- London Open
- French Open
- US Open

2. Match the tennis grand slam to the correct fact.

1884

A retractable roof was added to Centre Court.

1937

The club added Gentlemen's Doubles and Ladies' Singles competitions.

2009

The Championship was first televised.

3. Give **three** facts about the first Wimbledon tournament.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

4. Fill in the missing words from this sentence:

The job of ballboys and ballgirls (_____) who are provided by _____, is to collect any _____ that go out of play during a game.

5. **Find** and **copy** a word or phrase from the text which shows that the second Monday of the tournament is hectic.

6. Describe the Ladies' Singles trophy in less than 30 words.

7. Why do you think that there is no play on the middle Sunday of the tournament?
Give two reasons.

8. Why do you think that Wimbledon is **considered the world's top tennis tournament**?
Give two reasons.

9. Would you like to watch a Wimbledon match? Give two reasons to support your choice.
