

The Wimbledon Championships

Wimbledon is the world's oldest tennis tournament and is also thought to be the most prestigious. Since 1877 it has been held at the All England Club in Wimbledon, London. It is one of the four Grand Slam tennis tournaments (majors), the others being the French Open, the Australian Open and the US Open. Wimbledon is the only major still played on traditional grass, the game's original surface, which gave the game its original name of 'lawn tennis'.



Events

The five main events are the gentlemen's singles, ladies' singles, gentlemen's doubles, ladies' doubles and mixed doubles.

There are also four junior events and invitation events where some former professionals return to compete. In addition to this, there are wheelchair singles and doubles matches.

Tickets

The majority of centre court tickets are made available by a public ballot where applicants are selected at random by a computer. Fans without tickets can queue up overnight to get seats on match day.

Schedule

In 2017, the championships began and ended in July, making the gap between the tournament and the French Open a little longer. Usually, there is no play on the 'Middle Sunday', however bad weather has sometimes meant that matches are played on this day.

The Courts

The main court, Centre Court, was opened in 1922. In 2009, a moving roof was added to this court which can be automatically closed.

The main courts, Centre Court and No. 1 Court, are normally only used for two weeks every year during the championships. The other 17 courts are used for other events hosted by the club.

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Trophies and Prize Money

The gentlemen's singles champion receives a silver gilt cup and the women's singles champion wins a sterling silver salver which is decorated with figures from mythology. The prize money for the winners of the singles titles runs into the millions!

A Few Famous Champions

Serena Williams, and her sister Venus, have won Wimbledon several times. They have even competed against each other in the singles final.

Roger Federer won Wimbledon five times in a row between 2003 and 2007, a period where he totally dominated grass court tennis.

In 2013, Sir Andy Murray won the men's singles title. He was the first British singles winner since 1977 and the first male winner since 1936!

Did You Know?

- Tennis players' clothing must be all-white, or at least almost all-white.
- Players must bow or curtsy if HRH The Prince of Wales or Her Majesty the Queen is present in the Royal Box at Centre Court.
- An average of 86,000 ice creams are sold during the championships and 28,000kg of strawberries are consumed.

