

Wimbledon

Wimbledon is a global tennis tournament held annually in the UK. For the best players in the world, it is one they want to win.

Rich History



'The Championships, Wimbledon' is often simply known as Wimbledon. It is an event famous for serving strawberries and cream and is the oldest tennis tournament in the world. In fact, players have been serving and volleying on the grass courts of Wimbledon since 1877!

In that time, there have been many brilliant players who have lifted the celebrated Wimbledon trophies. The COVID-19 pandemic forced the cancellation of the tournament in 2020. The 2021 event is scheduled to go ahead with plans for greater social distancing between spectators.

Money, Money, Money

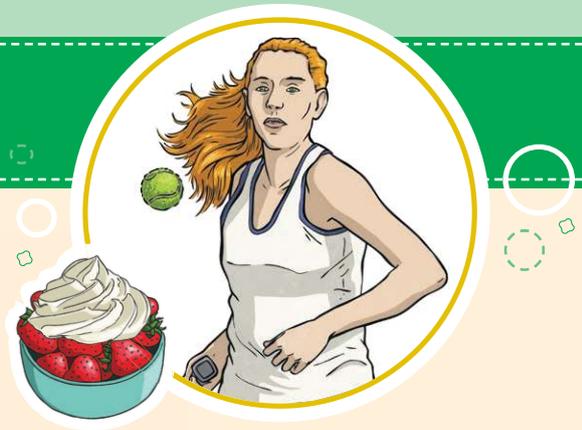


On top of receiving the title, which comes with being crowned Wimbledon champion, players also receive prize money. In recent years, the finalists of the men's and women's singles titles have received over £2 million.

When Does It All Start?

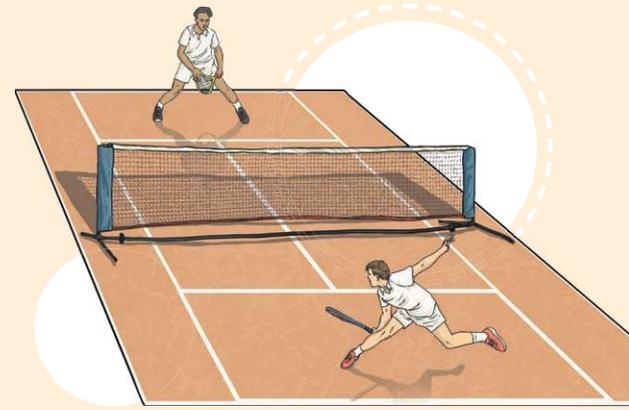
Qualifying starts in June but the top seeds (best players) begin the battle for the title in July, when The Championships, Wimbledon officially commences.

There are many tournaments and titles to be won in the two weeks that Wimbledon lasts. Along with the men's and women's singles matches, there are men's doubles, women's doubles and mixed doubles, alongside wheelchair and junior events.



Playing the Game

Wimbledon is very different to how tennis was when it was invented in France in the 12th century.



Originally, a ball was hit with the palm of the hand but now players strike the ball with a racquet. Sometimes, this can be incredibly fast.

The record speed for a serve at Wimbledon is 238 kilometres per hour, which is about the same speed as an average helicopter.

Here are five more fun facts about Wimbledon:

1. **Players must wear white.**

Wimbledon has a strict dress code. Umpires can ask a player to change if they're not happy with what they are wearing. In 2013, the Wimbledon champion was ordered to change his shoes because they had orange soles.

2. **The balls can't be white!**

Originally, Wimbledon matches were played with white balls but that all changed when TV viewers complained that they couldn't see them flying over the net! In 1986, the balls were changed to yellow.

3. **The tennis balls are kept in the fridge!**

Tennis balls are changed after every seven to nine games in a Wimbledon match. To make sure new ones are in perfect condition, they are stored in fridges! Over **54,000** balls are used during Wimbledon each year.

4. **It's not easy being a ballboy or ballgirl.**

Ballgirls and ballboys kneel at the side of the court and pounce on any loose tennis balls which come near them during a game. Ballboys and ballgirls often come from local London schools after being nominated by their headteachers. If chosen, nominees must pass written and fitness tests before being given the job.

5. **Matches aren't always quick.**

Usually, matches are finished within a few hours. However, in 2010, viewers witnessed a match that spanned over an incredible three days! The total time on court for the players was 11 hours and five minutes.

