



### Ace & Advantage

The record for the most Wimbledon titles in Ladies' Singles belongs to retired Czech and American player **Martina Navratilova** with **nine victories**. In Men's Singles, the record is shared by **William Renshaw, Pete Sampras and Roger Federer**, who won the event seven times each.

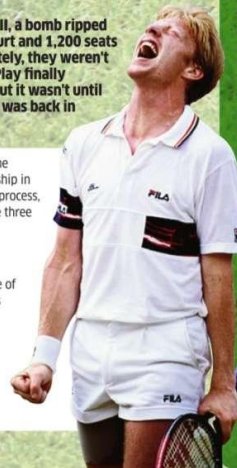


The longest ever professional tennis match played was in Wimbledon 2010 between John Isner (US) and Nicolas Mahut (France). The match lasted 183 games and went on for 11 hours and 5 minutes

The 1881 Wimbledon final saw **William Renshaw (US) defeat John Hartley (UK) in a match that lasted just 37 minutes**

The Ladies' winner is awarded a platter called **Venus Rosewater Dish** that was made in 1864. The Men's champion receives a golden cup that dates back to 1887. However, neither winner keeps the trophy. They remain on display at the All England Club's museum. But winners do go home with a 1/3-sized replica

During World War II, a bomb ripped through Centre Court and 1,200 seats were lost. Fortunately, they weren't filled at the time. Play finally resumed in 1946 but it wasn't until 1949 that the area was back in top shape



**Boris Becker** won the Wimbledon Championship in the year 1985. In that process, he managed to achieve three feats:

1. He became the **youngest male champion**, at the age of 17 years and 227 days
2. He was the **first German** to win Wimbledon
3. He was also the **first unseeded champion**

### Backhands

Some of the rows in Wimbledon's 130-year history:

**Peegate:** Down triple match point in their men's doubles third-round clash this year, Uruguayan **Pablo Cuevas and Marcel Granollers** of Spain staged a sit-in after one of them was accused of threatening to relieve himself in a ball can. Both players were hit with a code violation after the former was accused of taking matters into his own hands when he was denied a toilet break by umpire Aurelie Torte



Huge debates have rumbled on over the years regarding the discrepancies between men's and women's prize money. In 2012, **Gilles Simon** claimed that the men's game was much more attractive and the fact that men can spend longer time on court means that they should earn more. It drew a fierce backlash from numerous players



**Tim Henman** was the first person ever to be disqualified from Wimbledon. In 1995 he lost his temper and **smashed a ball straight into the face of a ball girl**. Henman apologised profusely to the girl but that didn't stop him from getting disqualified



Serena Williams claimed her seventh Wimbledon singles title and matched Steffi Graf's open-era record of 22 Grand Slam titles with a clinical 7-5, 6-3 win over Germany's Angelique Kerber. The Men's finals of the 130<sup>th</sup> edition of the tournament are scheduled for today, with Canada's Milos Raonic taking on Britain's Andy Murray.

On July 9, 1877, the All England Croquet and Lawn Tennis Club began its first lawn tennis tournament at Wimbledon. Almost 660 matches are played over the fortnight on the only traditional grass court major. As the oldest Slam reaches its finale, *ET Magazine* takes a look at some of the interesting facts and rows around Wimbledon over the years.

By Joysree Baruah

### Fashion Bobby

Here are a few fashion uproars that plagued Wimbledon:

The controversial breakout star of Wimbledon this year has turned out to be the **NikeCourt Premier Slam Dress** – a short, swingy piece of attire that has created a storm on the court. Nike reportedly had about 20 players return the dress for alterations before the tournament started, but early-round matches still showed the dress design not leaving much to the imagination



In 1985, US player **Anne White** turned up for a match against Pam Shriver, donning a white catsuit. While she abided by the strict all-white policy, her opponent requested that the outfit be changed when the match resumed the next day. Apparently, it was distracting. White obliged, but lost the match

**Eight-time Grand Slam champion Andre Agassi** refused to compete at Wimbledon between 1988 and 1990 due to the restrictions imposed on dress code, and called the atmosphere "stuffy"



In 1972, **Rosemary Casals** of the US wore a purple-and-white designer dress that was judged to be in violation of Wimbledon's dress code, and was forced to change into plain all-white attire

Former American player **Gertrude Moran** was known by the nickname "Gorgeous Gussie" due to the attire she wore at the 1849 Wimbledon. Gussie became the first player to wear a skirt so short that her knickers were clearly visible. The ruffled knickers were, however, designed to be exposed and this caused quite a bit of controversy. **Moran was accused of bringing "vulgarity and sin into tennis"** by the All England Club



### Wimbledon Whites

The tournament has long required players to wear outfits that are "predominantly in white". It is the only event where the umpires decide if the players meet the strict dress code and can even make them change. For instance, in 2013, Wimbledon champ **Roger Federer** was told to switch his shoes for his next match because they had orange soles

### Did You Know?

Britain's vote to leave the European Union has hit the tennis world, too. The referendum results, which sent the pound into a tailspin, **chopped the Wimbledon prize money by \$3,60,000**

Formula One driver **Lewis Hamilton** was refused entry to the Royal Box in 2013 because he wasn't wearing a jacket and tie



Every morning during the Championship, a **Harris hawk named Rufus** circles the sky above Wimbledon to deter the pigeons. Rufus is one of Britain's best-known birds, with 5,000 Twitter followers

Source: Wimbledon.com, espn.in, theguardian.com, telegraph.co.uk

### Serves

Wimbledon is the largest single annual sporting catering operation (1,800 staff) carried out in Europe. Average quantities supplied by Championships' caterers FMC:



3,50,000 cups of tea and coffee



1,50,000 bottles of water



2,30,000 glasses of Pimm's



2,07,000 meals served



1,42,000 portions of English strawberries



28,000 bottles of champagne



15,000 bananas (for players) at Centre Court



15,000 seats