

Pictorial History of Tennis



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Front cover: The Renshaw Cup presented to Fred Perry in 1934 for winning the Wimbledon Men's Singles Championship and a pair of golden tennis balls won by Arthur Ashe after defeating Bjorn Borg in the WTC Championship.

© Geoff Caddick / National Pictures / TopFoto

Back cover: Anna Kournikova in a tight outfit at the Australian Open. 2000.

© Jon Buckle / EMPICS / TopFoto

Contents (Clockwise from top left):

Defeated Andy Roddick at the 2003 Australian Open.

©Tommy Hindley / ProSport / TopFoto

Fred Perry Wimbledon Champion in 1935.

The American Woman, complete with tennis racquet, 1922.

The Melbury Club Tournament, 13th April 1936. Miss P. Farmer, the umpire, wrapped in rugs and coats against the elements, chatting with Miss A. Hofer, wearing shorts.

Serena Williams in action at the 2003 Australian Open.

©Tommy Hindley / ProSport / TopFoto

A Cricklewood, London, factory turning out 5,000 tennis racquets a week. 1934.

Ball boy ambience at the 2002 Wimbledon Championships.

©Tommy Hindley / ProSport / TopFoto

Althea Gibson of America became the first coloured player to win the women's singles at Wimbledon when she beat Darlene Hard, 1957.



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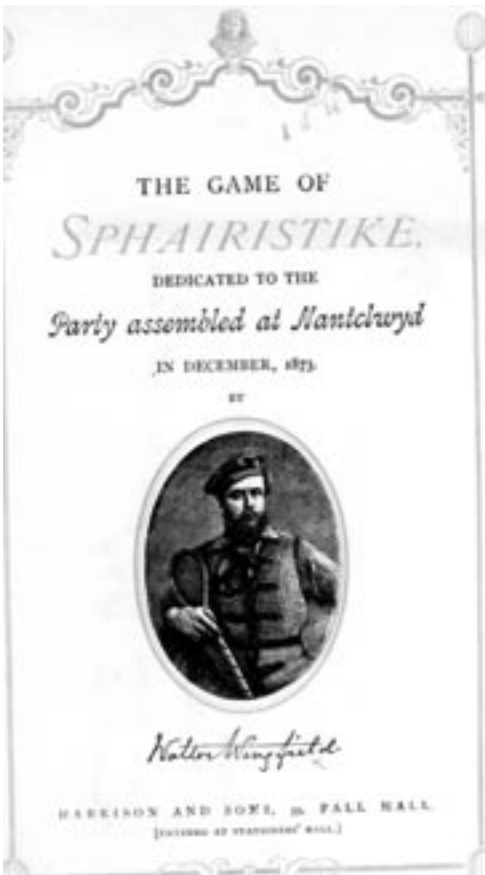
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Tennis Timeline

Today, the names Tim Henman, Andre Agassi and Venus and Serena Williams are famous around the world. But what about Major Walter Clopton Wingfield, the man who did more than any other to invent the game of modern tennis? Or Mary Ewing Outerbridge, the American who persuaded bemused customs officials to let her bring a net and rackets into her country and introduced the game to the United States? Then there are legendary but often forgotten players like Suzanne Lenglen, one of the first true personalities of the game; the “Bounding Basque”, Jean Borotra; and American Donald Budge, the first man to win all four Grand Slam championships in 1938.



Above: Major Walter Clopton Wingfield on the title page of his book, “The Game of Sphairistike”.

District of New York, Port of New York.

I, John McKenna, Master of the S.S. Canima, do solemnly, sincerely and truly certify that the following list of Passengers, subscribed by me to the Customs of the Collector of the Port of New York, is a full and perfect list of all the passengers taken on board of the said S.S. Canima, on the 2nd day of February 1874, which part with the said S.S. Canima, has now arrived; and that on said list is truly designated the age, sex, and the occupation of each of said passengers, the part of the vessel occupied by each during the passage, the country to which each belongs, and also the country to which it is intended by each to become an inhabitant; and that said list of Passengers truly sets forth the number of said passengers who have died on said voyage, and full names and ages of those who died.

Done on the 2nd day of Feb. 1874 at New York, N.Y. John McKenna Master of the S.S. Canima

Name	Age	Sex	Occupation	Country of Birth	Country to which intended	Part of vessel occupied	Number of passengers who have died on said voyage	Full names and ages of those who died
Mary E. Outerbridge	21	F		United States	United States			
Arthur G. Outerbridge	42	M		United States	United States			
Arthur H. G. Outerbridge	9	M	Student	United States	United States			
Amos G. Outerbridge	37	M	Student	United States	United States			
Geo. B. Outerbridge	40	M	Student	United States	United States			
H. A. Outerbridge	34	M	Student	United States	United States			
Almer G. Outerbridge	55	M		United States	United States			
W. G. Outerbridge	45	M		United States	United States			
J. L. Outerbridge	50	M		United States	United States			
Stephen Bryant	57	M		United States	United States			
John W. Outerbridge	24	M		United States	United States			
A. C. Outerbridge	29	M	Student	United States	United States			
W. Moore	35	M		United States	United States			
W. F. Outerbridge	40	M		United States	United States			

Right: Passenger list for the S.S Canima, 2nd February 1874, showing (top) Mary Ewing Outerbridge, who brought lawn tennis to the USA.

Below Left: Suzanne Lenglen, 1919.

Below Centre: Jean Borotra the ‘Bounding Basque’

Below Right: Donald Budge, 1937.



Did you know for instance, that at least two French kings died because of tennis, or that King Henry VIII was a keen tennis player; that the Duke of York (later King George VI) played in the 1926 Wimbledon Championships and was defeated in the first round of the men's doubles, or that King Gustaf V of Sweden once played doubles with Prince Chichibu, second son of the Emperor of Japan?

Lawn tennis is little more than 100 years old, but other forms of the game have been played for centuries. Monks in 12th century France played Jeu de Paume in which a ball was hit with a gloved hand against the cloister walls.

Eventually a simple racket replaced the glove and by the 16th century Real Tennis, a cross between lawn tennis and squash, was a popular game with royalty.

A simpler version of the game, which didn't require specially-built courts, was played by ordinary people too, but was eventually banned both in England and France so that military skills like archery were not neglected. Henry VIII was an enthusiast and the Real Tennis court he had built at Hampton Court Palace is still in regular use today.



Above: King Henry VIII, late 16th century. A tennis enthusiast who helped popularise the sport in England.

©The Royal Armouries/HIP/TopFoto



Left: Wimbledon, 1926 - the Duke of York (later King George VI) and Commander Greig leave the court after their doubles defeat in the first round.

Right: 16th century Tennis at Windsor.





Left: 1895 Advertisement for Feltham's Lawn Tennis Balls.

©The National Archives / HIP / TopFoto

The Stuart Kings of England played at Whitehall and St James's and the Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Museum has a bill from tennis coach John Webb, dated November 3 1623, in which he charged for teaching Prince Charles (Charles I) the finer points of the game.

The popularity of Real Tennis declined in the 18th century, but enjoyed a revival under Queen Victoria as owners of large country houses installed courts.

But a growing middle class, unable to afford the elaborate and expensive Real Tennis courts, began to devise ball games which could be played outdoors by men and women together.

Croquet, skilful and decorous, became the rage of the 1860s but lacked the excitement of more vigorous exercise.

Experiments in playing tennis on grass had failed because leather balls stuffed with cloth, twine or even hair would not bounce and it was hard to keep lawns neatly trimmed with a scythe.

But these difficulties were solved overnight with the invention of the rubber ball and the mowing machine and the hunt began in earnest for a new ball game to be played on grass.



Right: Victorian lawn tennis. A period which revived the game as social status demanded a privately owned tennis court.

©Fotomas Index UK / TopFoto

Birmingham solicitor Harry Gem was a keen sportsman who with a friend, Augurio Perera, devised Pelota or Lawn Rackets.

In 1872 the pair moved to Leamington Spa where they founded the world's first Lawn Tennis Club, which continued for many years. Meanwhile Major Walter Wingfield, an eccentric inventor of games and pastimes, was working on his own version of outdoors tennis.

It had to be substantially different from existing games to secure copyright, so he designed a court wider at the base-line than the net, and marketed it, at five guineas a time, as Sphairistike, the Greek for "ball-game".

Played on vicarage lawns and in the gardens of the gentry, the game was an instant success. The Prince of Wales bought a set of "Sticky" as it was popularly known, as did the Crown Princess of Prussia.

The success of "Sticky" encouraged other manufacturers to bring out their own versions of the game, all with slightly differing rules, and the new sport all but replaced its rival croquet as a genteel summer pastime.



A.D. 1874, 23rd FEBRUARY. N° 685.

A Portable Court for Playing Tennis.

LETTERS PATENT to Walter Clopton Wingfield, of Belgrave Road, Pimlico, in the County of Middlesex, for the Invention of "A NEW AND IMPROVED PORTABLE COURT FOR PLAYING THE ANCIENT GAME OF TENNIS."

Sealed the 24th July 1874, and dated the 23rd February 1874.

PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION left by the said Walter Clopton Wingfield at the Office of the Commissioners of Patents, with his Petition, on the 23rd February 1874.

I, WALTER CLOPTON WINGFIELD, of Belgrave Road, Pimlico, in the County of Middlesex, do hereby declare the nature of the said Invention for "A NEW AND IMPROVED PORTABLE COURT FOR PLAYING THE ANCIENT GAME OF TENNIS," to be as follows:—

The object and intention of this Invention consists in constructing a portable court by means of which the ancient game of tennis is much simplified, can be played in the open air, and dispenses with the necessity of having special courts erected for that purpose.

Above: Major Walter Clopton Wingfield took out this patent for the game of lawn tennis in 1874.

Left: Lawn Tennis, 1876.

Below: The Prince of Wales (later King Edward VII) in 1863.

© Museum of London / HIP / TopFoto



In 1875, the finances of the All England Croquet Club in Worple Road, Wimbledon, had declined to such a low that drastic steps had to be taken to save it.

Henry Jones, a founder member, suggested Lawn Tennis should be added to the club's activities.

Two years later "Lawn Tennis" was included in the Club's official title, and by 1882 the word "croquet" was quietly, and finally, dropped.

The rules for Lawn Tennis were eventually codified by members of the All England Lawn Tennis Club and the Marylebone Cricket Club in 1878 and have remained largely unchanged to this day.

The first singles champion at the all-male 1877

Wimbledon championship was Spencer Gore. He paid a guinea to enter the competition and beat William Marshall in the final.

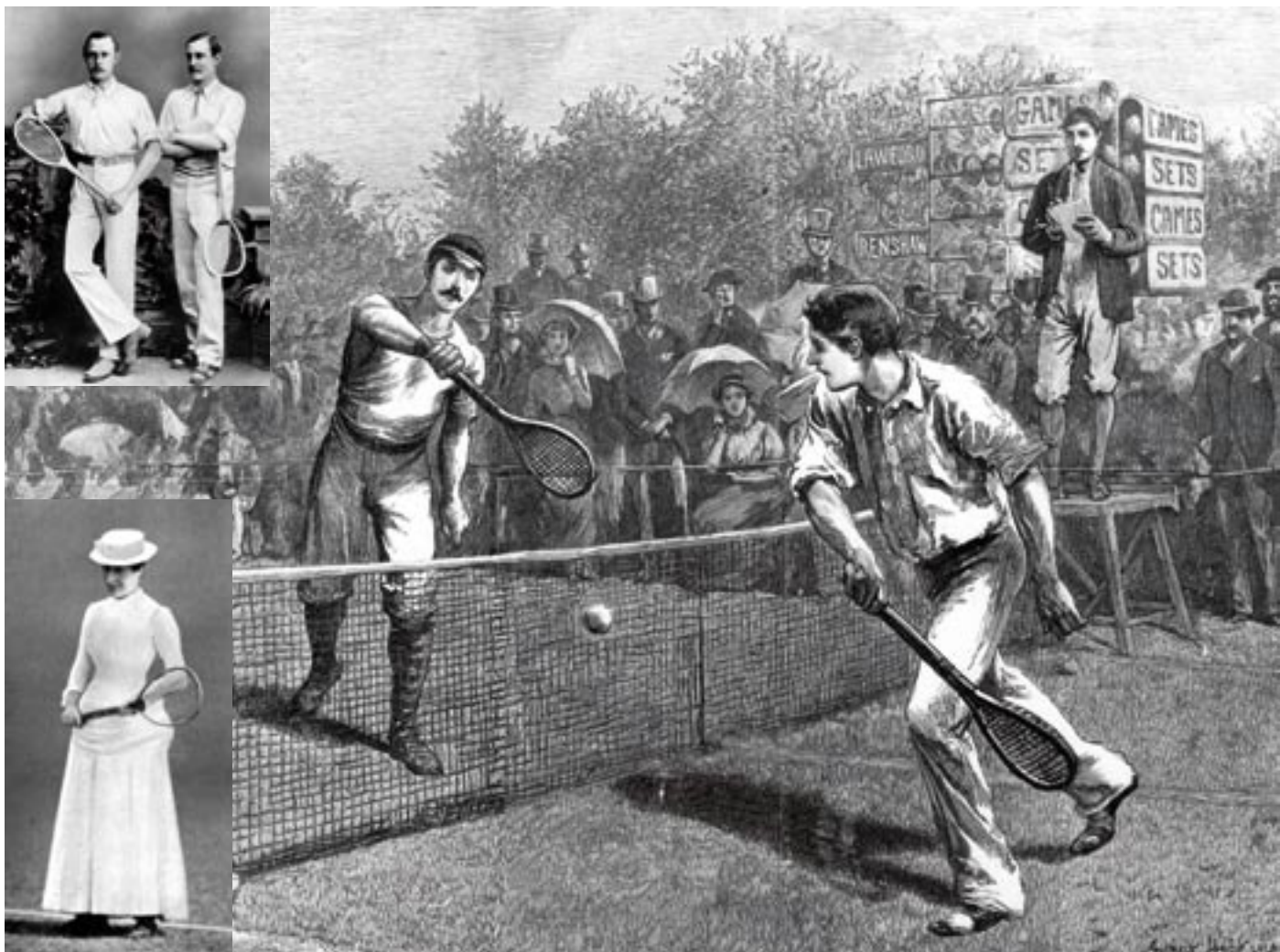
Marshall, unimpressed with the new game, and smarting from defeat, said it would never catch on.



Above: Henry Jones, a senior member of the All England Club, who proposed that the first Championships at Wimbledon should be held.

Below: The scene at the very first Wimbledon Championships at Worple Road, 1877.





Above (top insert): William (l) and Ernest Renshaw (r)

Above (Bottom insert): Miss Maud Watson the first woman Wimbledon champion 1884

Above (Main): The fifth round of the All Comers Match at Wimbledon 1881. W Renshaw beat Lawford Note the abacus scoreboard.

Right: William Taten Tilden (r) and Rene Lacoste (l).

Maud Watson became the first female champion in 1884. The daughter of a rector, she was one of 13 competitors paying 10/6d, and beat her sister Lilian in the final, 6-8, 6-3, 6-3.

But those early championships were play-it-safe affairs and it took the Renshaw twins, William and Ernest, to turn tennis from a game of pat-ball into a skilled and exciting sport throughout the 1880s. Women champions came into their own with the French player Suzanne Lenglen in the 1920s.

Her calf-length cotton frocks were described as “shocking and indecent”, worn as they were without corsets or petticoats, but her speed and grace about the court made her a heroine with women keen to throw off the shackles of decorum.

And with American champion “Big” Bill Tilden, she became one of the first tennis professionals, giving exhibition matches at a time when the competition scene was strictly amateur.





Left: Rod the Rocket Laver beat Mark Cox on the centre court at Wimbledon.
1st July 1968.



Right: Mrs Billie-Jean King of America the ladies' champion at the first "open" Wimbledon Tennis Championships. 1968.

Wimbledon remained "amateur" until accusations of "shamateurism" in the 1960s led to British tennis turning professional. The first Wimbledon Open Championships was held in 1968. In 1980 Swede Bjorn Borg won an unprecedented fifth consecutive Wimbledon. Since then, names like John McEnroe, Boris Becker, Pat Cash, Stefan Edberg and, of course, Pete Sampras, have appeared on the Men's Singles Trophy. Roger Federer from Switzerland beat Mark Philippoussis to win the 2003 championship. Stars of the Ladies' Singles over the last two decades have included Martina Navratilova and Steffi Graf. From 2000 – 2003, however, honours have been shared between two spectacular players, American sisters Venus and Serena Williams, each of whom has won the trophy twice. The pace gets faster, the players get stronger, the prize money gets higher. Tennis is truly a game for champions.



Left: Roger Federer kisses the trophy after his Wimbledon win over Mark Philippoussis 2003.

©Stephen Wake/ProSport/TopFoto



Right: Serena Williams holds the trophy aloft after her Wimbledon victory over her sister Venus. 2003

©Tommy Hindley/ProSport/TopFoto

History



Above left: Real Tennis 1658

Above right: Slazenger Demon Tennis Racquet, 1900.

©The National Archives/HIP/TopFoto



Left: View of the yard at King's Bench Prison, Southwark, London, c1825; showing figures playing with rackets and balls, whilst spectators watch from the windows above.

©Corporation of London/HIP/TopFoto

Below: Lawn Tennis in Prospect Park Brooklyn New York in 1886



Fans



Above: 'Genuine Enthusiasts', 1884.
© HIP / TopFoto



Top Right: Tennis fans sit in the drizzling rain on Centre Court at Wimbledon, 5 July 2002.
©PA / TopFoto

Right: Wimbledon, 1953, looking from the clubhouse towards No 2 Court.



Bottom Right: A Wimbledon tennis fan wearing a topical hat, 2001.
©PA / TopFoto

Bottom: Lawn tennis championships at Wimbledon, showing a messenger boy taking a place to order in the queue.
19th June 1928

Below: Henman fans at Wimbledon, 2001.
©Jeff Moore / National Pictures / TopFoto



Fashion



Clockwise from top left:
Three early American tennis players (left to right): Bertha Townsend (champion 1888-9), Margie Ballard, Louise Allerdice, Ellen Hansell.

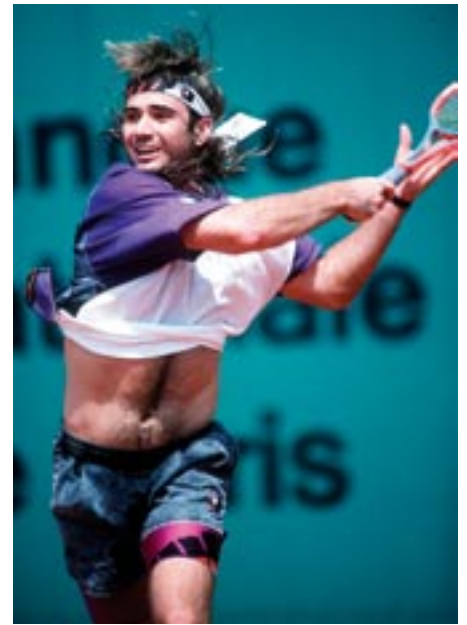
S.B Wood. Fifteen year old American tennis player at Wimbledon, 1927.

Andre Agassi, French Open, 1991.
©Tommy Hindley / ProSport / TopFoto

Mlle Suzanne Lenglen playing in the singles of the French championships.

Venus Williams, Australian Open, 1999.
©Tommy Hindley / ProSport / TopFoto

"Gorgeous" Gussy Moran, the girl who made such an impact on the Centre Court at Wimbledon with her 'New Look' tennis fashions.



Heroes



Top left: Bjorn Borg kisses the trophy following his Wimbledon final win, 1980.
©Tommy Hindley / ProSport / TopFoto



Top right: John McEnroe, Wimbledon, 1992.
©Tommy Hindley / ProSport / TopFoto

Right: Arthur Ashe, Wimbledon, 1978.

Bottom right: Fred Perry at Wimbledon in 1934.

Bottom left: Pete Sampras at the Wimbledon Championships, 1999.
©Tommy Hindley / ProSport / TopFoto



Heroines



Top left: Serena Williams and Venus Williams lift the women's doubles finals trophy of the Australian Open, 2001.

© Jon Buckle / EMPICS / TopFoto

Top right: Maureen Connolly (Little Mo). Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Championships, 1953.

Right: Martina Navratilova and Chris Evert-Lloyd, Wimbledon 1979.

©Tommy Hindley / ProSport / TopFoto

Bottom right: Helen Wills Moody at Wimbledon.

Bottom left: Steffi Graf wins the French Open, 1999.

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