



FIRSTS, LASTS
& ONLYS®

TENNIS

A TRULY WONDERFUL COLLECTION
OF TENNIS TRIVIA

PAUL DONNELLEY



TENNIS

A TRULY WONDERFUL COLLECTION
OF TENNIS TRIVIA

PAUL DONNELLEY



THE FIRSTS

First reference to the sport, 12th Century	17
First reference to indoor courts, 13th Century	17
First reference to a lady player, 1427	18
First reference to a serve, 1531	18
First known tennis book, 1555	19
First reference to a fine for bad language, 1599	19
First tennis ban, 1659	19
First mention of tennis in America, 1659	19
First lawn tennis club, 1872	20
First lawn tennis patent, 1874	21
First US lawn tennis club, 1875	21
First Wimbledon championship, 1877	22
First rules of tennis, 1877	22
First tennis tournament open to all-comers, 1877	22
First winner of the All-Comers' Gentlemen's Singles tournament, 1877	22
First French lawn tennis club, 1877	25
First club in Australia, 1878	26
First player to lob the ball, 1878	26
First Scottish Lawn Tennis Championships, 1878	27
First Irish Lawn Tennis Championships, 1879	28
First woman Tennis champion, 1879	28
First Wimbledon winner to retain his title, 1880	29
First tournament in Australia, 1880	32
First recorded death on a tennis court, 1880s	32
First United States National Championship, 1881	33
First winner of the United States National Championship men's singles, 1881	33
First winner of the United States National Championship men's doubles, 1881	33
First Scottish lawn tennis club, 1881	34
First floodlit lawn tennis court, 1881	34
First overseas players in the Gentlemen's Singles tournament, 1884	35
First winners of the Gentlemen's Doubles tournament, 1884	35
First twins to win the Gentlemen's Doubles tournament, 1884	35

First winners of the Ladies' Singles tournament, 1884.	35
First Ladies' Singles final between two sisters, 1884	35
First lawn tennis at Queen's Club, 1887.	38
First winner of United States National Championships women's singles, 1887	39
First "battle of the sexes", 1888	40
First player to win the United States National Championships women's singles in consecutive years, 1889	40
First French Championships, 1891	42
First Olympic men's singles tennis gold, 1896	43
First Olympic men's doubles tennis gold, 1896	45
First Davis Cup, 1900	45
First Davis Cup outside America, 1904	47
First Davis Cup to feature teams other than Britain and USA, 1904	47
First American woman to win Ladies' Singles at Wimbledon, 1905	48
First foreign woman to win Ladies' Singles at Wimbledon, 1905	48
First Davis Cup to feature Australasia, 1905	50
First Australasian Championships, 1905	50
First commercially sponsored Grand Slam event, 1905	50
First Grand Slam event to be played indoors, 1905	50
First foreign winner of Gentlemen's All-Comers' Singles at Wimbledon, 1907	52
First left-handed winner of Gentlemen's All-Comers' Singles at Wimbledon, 1907	52
First Australasian win in Davis Cup, 1907.	54
First player to win Ladies' Singles final at Wimbledon in three consecutive years, 1908	58
First non-Australian to win Australasian Championships men's singles, 1908.	61
First non-Australian to win Australasian Championships men's doubles, 1908.	61
First Briton to win Australasian Championships, 1913	62
First Australasian Championships with two British finalists, 1913	62
First American to win Gentlemen's Singles at Wimbledon, 1920	71
First ballot for tickets at Wimbledon, 1922	75
First match played on Centre Court, Wimbledon, 1922	77
First Ladies' Singles Winner at Wimbledon after Challenge Round abolished, 1922	77

First Gentlemen's Singles Winner at Wimbledon after Challenge Round abolished, 1922	79
First sisters to play in Ladies' Doubles Final at Wimbledon. 1922	80
First Wightman Cup, 1923	81
First player from outside Anglosphere to win Gentlemen's Singles at Wimbledon, 1924	82
First man to win Australian Championships two consecutive years, 1925	85
First professional tennis tour, 1926	86
First woman to appear at Wimbledon without stockings, 1927	87
First Davis Cup win by France, 1927	87
First Davis Cup entrance by Greece, 1927	87
First Davis Cup entrance by Yugoslavia, 1927	87
First seeding in US National Championships, 1927	89
First man to win Australian Championships three consecutive years, 1933	93
First man to wear shorts at Wimbledon, 1933	94
First Japanese players to reach a Wimbledon final, 1933	95
First non-Australian to win Australian Championships women's singles, 1935	98
First player to win a "Career Grand Slam", 1935	101
First professional match played by Fred Perry, 1937	103
First televised Wimbledon championship, 1937	104
First man to win a Grand Slam, 1938	105
First black person to play in United States National Championships, 1950	115
First Fred Perry fashion line, 1952	117
First woman to achieve a Grand Slam, 1953	118
First black person to win a Grand Slam tournament, 1956	122
First unseeded winner of United States National Championships Men's Singles title, 1957	123
First black woman to win Wimbledon Ladies' Singles title, 1957 .	123
First black woman to retain Wimbledon Ladies' Singles title, 1958	124
First black woman to win United States National Championships Women's Singles title in consecutive years, 1958	125
First Australian to win a Grand Slam tournament overseas, 1962	126
First Federation Cup, 1963	127
First Wimbledon tournament in which players had to wear white, 1963	127

First Australian to win Wimbledon Ladies' Singles, 1963	128
First black man to play in the Davis Cup for the United States, 1963	139
First player to win a tournament with a metal racquet, 1967	131
First Open tournament, 1968	132
First US Open, 1968	132
First televised US Open, 1968	132
First left-handed player to win Wimbledon Ladies' Singles, 1969 .	134
First tiebreak in Grand Slam tennis, 1970	140
First female athlete to earn more than \$100,000 in a year, 1971	141
First modern "battle of the sexes", 1973	141
First ATP World No 1 ranked player, 1973	144
First Grand Slam tournament with equal money for men and women, 1973	144
First black player to win Gentlemen's Singles at Wimbledon, 1975	146
First night play in Grand Slam tennis, 1975	150
First tennis player to win BBC Overseas Sports Personality of the Year, 1975	151
First ball girls at Wimbledon, 1977	153
First transsexual player in the US Open, 1977	155
First "retirement" by Chris Evert, 1980	162
First use of Cyclops at Wimbledon, 1980	162
First player to get a public warning at Wimbledon, 1980	165
First brother and sister to win Mixed Doubles at Wimbledon, 1980	166
First female Wimbledon champion to come out as gay, 1981	167
First Wimbledon champion sued for palimony, 1981	167
First time John McEnroe shouted "You cannot be serious", 1981	169
French unseeded man to win the French Open, 1982	173
First female athlete to earn more than \$1,000,000 in a year, 1982.	174
First woman umpire officiating a Wimbledon final, 1983	176
First unseeded player to win Wimbledon Gentlemen's Singles title	177
First German to win Wimbledon Gentlemen's Singles title, 1985	177
First Wimbledon championship to use yellow balls, 1986	181
First senior final competed for by two black women, 1986	183
First Australian Open men's final to end in retirement, 1990	187
First all-German Wimbledon Gentlemen's Singles final, 1991	188
First time tennis played indoors on grass, 1994	192
First players disqualified for hitting a ball girl, 1995	193

First professional match for the Williams sisters	197
First tennis player email virus, 2001	199
First black woman ranked No 1 player in Open Era, 2002	201
First major title win by Amélie Mauresmo, 2006.	202
First major women's Open Era title to end in retirement, 2006	203
First use of Hawk-Eye, 2006	203
First use of Hawk-Eye at Wimbledon, 2007	205
First match played entirely "indoors" at Wimbledon, 2009	205

THE LASTS

Last Gentlemen's Singles Challenge Round Winner at Wimbledon, 1921	71
Last Wimbledon Championships held at Worple Road, 1921	71
Last Ladies' Singles Challenge Round Winner at Wimbledon, 1921.	73
Last Englishman to win Wimbledon Gentlemen's Singles, 1936	98
Last Englishman to win Wimbledon Gentlemen's Singles three times in a row, 1936	98
Last Frenchman to win Wimbledon Gentlemen's Singles title, 1946	114
Last Wimbledon Gentlemen's Singles title winner to wear long trousers on court, 1946.	114
Last amateur US National Championships, 1967	131
Last Grand Slam singles tournament for Ann Jones, 1969	134
Last Australian to win Australian Open, 1976.	152
Last English player to win Wimbledon Ladies' Singles, 1977.	155
Last US Open at Forest Hills, 1977.	157
Last time both finalists in Gentlemen's Singles at Wimbledon used a wooden racquet, 1981	170
Last Wimbledon match for Björn Borg, 1981	170
Last Frenchman to win the French Open, 1983	175
Last Grand Slam title won by a player with a wooden racquet, 1983	175
Last time a wooden racquet used at Wimbledon, 1987	184
Last time Chris Evert appeared in a major final, 1988	184
Last Wightman Cup, 1989	186
Last year spectators could stand on Centre Court, Wimbledon, 1990	188

Last Wimbledon commentary by Dan Maskell, 1991	188
Last Wimbledon match for Boris Becker, 1999.	197
Last year at Wimbledon players had to bow or curtsy to the Royal Box, 2003.	202
Last year Wimbledon scoreboards used the honorific for female players, 2008.	204

THE ONLYS

Only king to die after playing tennis, 1316	17
Only heir to a throne killed by a tennis ball, 1751	20
Only Grand Slam tournament played on grass, 1877	24
Only Wimbledon champion to not have lost a singles set, 1878	26
Only Wimbledon champion to own a coffee plantation, 1878. . . .	26
Only clergyman to win Wimbledon Gentlemen's All- Comers' Singles Championship, 1880	30
Only Irishman to reach Wimbledon Gentlemen's All- Comers' Singles final, 1880	30
Only Irishwoman to win Wimbledon Ladies' Singles final, 1890 . . .	41
Only Wimbledon Gentlemen's All-Comers' Singles finalist convicted of murder, 1907.	55
Only Grand Slam winner and Women's Amateur Golf champion, 1908	58
Only Grand Slam winner to win Olympic archery medal, 1908 . . .	58
Only Titanic survivor to win a Grand Slam tournament, 1912 . . .	63
Only Wimbledon player who drank champagne during a match, 1921 .	69
Only man to make a century at Lord's, win Olympic gold medal, captain Davis Cup team, win Doubles at Wimbledon, win Mixed Doubles at Wimbledon, and captain the England football team, 1922.	74
Only member of the British Royal Family to play at Wimbledon, 1926	84
Only married couple to win Mixed Doubles at Wimbledon, 1926	85
Only British player to beat Bill Tilden, 1930	90
Only Gentlemen's Singles player at Wimbledon who won without hitting a final stroke, 1931	92
Only American man to win a Grand Slam, 1938	105

Only player to win Gentlemen's Singles, Gentlemen's Doubles and Mixed Doubles titles on only visit to Wimbledon, 1939	109
Only winner of Wimbledon Gentlemen's Singles championship sent to a concentration camp, 1942	112
Only winner of Wimbledon Gentlemen's Singles championship and a professional golf tournament, 1945	113
Only Wimbledon official sacked for designing a player's dress, 1949	114
Only tennis player banned for life by USLTA, 1951	116
Only Grand Slam winner to win an Olympic ice hockey medal, 1954	120
Only African to win Gentlemen's Singles, 1954	120
Only Egyptian citizen to win a Grand Slam tournament, 1954	121
Only player to win Gentlemen's Singles while wearing glasses, 1954	121
Only Grand Slam winner and Women's Professional Golf Tour player, 1964	129
Only player to appear at Ladies' Singles tournament with her phone number on her knickers, 1964	130
Only black man to win US Open, 1968	132
Only player to win Grand Slam twice, 1968	135
Only Soviet player to win a Grand Slam final, 1974	145
Only Soviet player to reach a Wimbledon final, 1974	145
Only player to win amateur and open national championships in the same year, 1974	146
Only black player to win singles title at Wimbledon, US Open and Australian Open, 1975	146
Only US Open won by Arthur Ashe, 1975	146
Only major final that took three months to complete, 1976	152
Only player to have competed in both the men's and women's singles at Grand Slam level, 1977	155
Only player to win US Open on three different surfaces, 1978	158
Only Grand Slam winner to marry a <i>Playboy</i> Playmate, 1979	159
Only player at Wimbledon to show her nipples on Centre Court, 1979	161
Only man to win Wimbledon and the French Open championships in three consecutive years, 1980	163
Only year at Wimbledon Ladies' Singles winner earned more than Gentlemen's Singles winner, 1981	173
Only Singles tournament won by Annabel Croft, 1985	179
Only player at Wimbledon to wear an all-in-one bodysuit, 1985	180

Only year since the Second World War a member of the Royal Family has not presented the trophy to the Wimbledon Singles champions, 1986.	181
Only Grand Slam winner to marry an Academy Award winner, 1986	182
Only player to win a Golden Slam, 1988	185
Only Wimbledon champion to die of Aids, 1993	190
Only Grand Slam winner stabbed on court, 1993	190
Only Grand Slam finalist to cry on a Royal shoulder, 1993	192
Only time Sir Cliff Richard sang at Wimbledon, 1996	195
Only streaker at Gentlemen's Singles Final at Wimbledon, 1996	196
Only Wimbledon champion to father a child on a restaurant staircase, 1999	199
Only wild card to win a Singles title at Wimbledon, 2001.	200

FIRST

REFERENCE TO THE SPORT

France. 12th century



Like many sports, the origins of tennis are obscure, with many theories posited. Sporting historians believe the game originated in France and Italy and was played by monks in cloistered monasteries. The monks struck the ball with the palm of their hand giving rise to the name “jeu de paume” (“game of the palm”).



FIRST

REFERENCE TO INDOOR COURTS

FRANCE. 13TH CENTURY



King Louis X of France was an enthusiastic practitioner of “jeu de paume” but did not like having to play outside, especially on cold winter days, so he had indoor courts built in Paris.



ONLY

KING TO DIE AFTER PLAYING TENNIS

Louis X of France, Vincennes, Val-de-Marne, France.

Saturday, 5 June 1316



Louis X came to the throne of France on 29 November 1314 following the death of King Philip the Fair. A keen tennis player, he arranged for

the first indoor courts to be built. On 5 June 1316, he played a fast game of tennis at Château de Vincennes, Val-de-Marne and downed a large amount of cold wine. He then died of either pleurisy or pneumonia, although there are suspicions of poison.

FIRST

REFERENCE TO A LADY PLAYER

LADY MARGOT, FRANCE. 1427

Lady Margot was an early player of “jeu de paume” and is mentioned in records in 1427. It was said that she could beat most male players (see 1888, 1973).

FIRST

REFERENCE TO A SERVE

HAMPTON COURT PALACE, HAMPTON COURT WAY, EAST
MOLESEY KT8 9AU, SURREY. 1531

King Henry VIII was a keen player of real tennis and had courts built at Hampton Court Palace but as the years went by, he became too fat to bend down to pick up the ball. The accounts for Hampton Court in 1531 reveal an entry for five shillings for “one that served on the King’s side at Tennes”.

FIRST
KNOWN TENNIS BOOK

Trattato del Giuoco della Palla, Venice, Italy. 1555

The first known book about tennis, *Trattato del Giuoco*, was written by an Italian priest, Antonio Scaino da Salothe, and published at Venice in 1555. In the book he writes about racquets, then known as battoirs, which were arranged to suit the individual players and came in various shapes and sizes.

FIRST
**REFERENCE TO A FINE
 FOR BAD LANGUAGE**

France. 1599

Hundreds of years before Superbrat John McEnroe upset umpires with his petulance, the French authorities instigated a fine of five sous for swearing on court.

FIRST
TENNIS BAN
 FIRST
MENTION OF TENNIS IN AMERICA

New Netherlands, America. Friday, 30 September 1659

In 1659, Peter Stuyvesant, the last Dutch director-general of the colony of New Netherlands (1647–1664), signed a proclamation that banned the playing of tennis during time set aside for church services. Tennis had become so popular that church congregations had sunk.

ONLY
**HEIR TO A THRONE KILLED
BY A TENNIS BALL**

FREDERICK LOUIS, PRINCE OF WALES, LEICESTER HOUSE, LEICESTER
SQUARE, MIDDLESEX, ENGLAND. WEDNESDAY, 20 MARCH 1751

The unloved and unlovely Frederick Louis, Prince of Wales, died aged 44 leaving his son George – later Mad King George III – as heir to the throne. Frederick disliked and was disliked by his own father George II whom he continually pestered for money. The prince was a keen cricketer, captaining sides for Surrey and London. An abscess in his lung, burst by a blow from a real tennis ball, is said to have brought about his death. A rhyme of the time summed up the public feeling:

“Here lies poor Fred who was alive and is dead,
Had it been his father I had much rather,
Had it been his sister nobody would have missed her,
Had it been his brother, still better than another,
Had it been the whole generation, so much better for the nation,
But since it is Fred who was alive and is dead,
There is no more to be said!”

FIRST

LAWN TENNIS CLUB

LEAMINGTON LAWN TENNIS CLUB, MANOR
HOUSE HOTEL, AVENUE ROAD, LEAMINGTON SPA,
WARWICKSHIRE CV31 3NJ ENGLAND. 1872

The first tennis club was founded by Major Harry Gem, his Spanish friend Augurio Perera, Doctor Arthur Wellesley Tomkins and Doctor Frederic Haynes. Gem and Perera had been enthusiastic rackets players and devised a variation called pelota in a nod to Perera’s origins, which became “lawn rackets”. The winner was the first player to score 15 points. In 1872, Gem and Perera joined forces with two young doctors from the Warneford Hospital to form a club in the grounds of the Manor House Hotel, Leamington Spa. The club is no longer in existence.

FIRST
LAWN TENNIS PATENT

SPHAIRISTIKE, MAJOR WALTER CLOPTON WINGFIELD, ENGLAND.

MONDAY, 23 FEBRUARY 1874

The first tennis patent was awarded to Major Walter Clopton Wingfield (retired) of Belgrave Road, Pimlico, Middlesex, for a “New and Improved Court for Playing the Ancient Game of Tennis”. In March, he publicised the game as “Sphairistike” (from the Greek word for ball games), offering the term “lawn tennis” as an explanation. Wingfield sold Sphairistike sets for five guineas – the box included two net posts, a net, rackets, and India rubber balls, plus instructions about how to lay out the court and play the game. Two brothers, Clarence and Joseph Clark, took one of Wingfield’s boxes to America, leading to **the first lawn tennis tournament in USA** later that year.

FIRST

**US LAWN
 TENNIS CLUB**

Staten Island Cricket and Baseball Club, Camp Washington, Staten Island, New York, United States of America. Summer 1875

The Staten Island Cricket and Baseball Club was founded on 22 March 1872. It is believed the first tennis played in America was at this club. Mary Ewing Outerbridge spent the winter of 1873 in Bermuda where she saw tennis played by the British Army officers stationed there. When she returned to America aboard SS *Canima* on 2 February 1874, she brought a tennis set with her. The directors of the Staten Island Cricket Club gave permission for a net to be erected and soon tennis became very popular with members. **The first American National tournament** was played on 1 September 1880 at the Staten Island Cricket and Baseball Club. Twenty-three men entered the competition, which was won by

an Englishman named Otway Woodhouse who received a silver cup worth about \$100. It was inscribed "The Champion Lawn Tennis Player of America". In 1906, the name of the club was changed to the Staten Island Cricket and Tennis Club, but changed again in 1931 to the Staten Island Cricket Club.

FIRST

WIMBLEDON CHAMPIONSHIPS

FIRST

RULES OF TENNIS

FIRST

TENNIS TOURNAMENT OPEN TO ALL-COMERS

FIRST

WINNER OF THE ALL-COMERS' GENTLEMEN'S SINGLES TOURNAMENT

All England Croquet and Lawn Tennis Club, The
Championships, Worple Road, Wimbledon, Surrey SW,
England. Monday, 9 July – Thursday, 19 July 1877

The All England Croquet Club was founded on 23 July 1868 in the offices of *The Field* magazine at 346 Strand in central London, with the editor John H. Walsh being the first chairman. On 24 September 1869, the committee agreed to rent from Alfred Dixon a four-acre site – in what is now Nursery Road, Wimbledon – between Worple Road and the London and South Western Railway. The rent would cost £50, rising

to £75 in the second year and £100 in the third. An annual subscription for a lady or gentleman cost a guinea while £1 11s 6d would get a subscription for a couple. A lifetime subscription would be ten guineas for an individual or 15 guineas for a married couple.

A pavilion was built in 1870 and the first croquet tournament was held that year, in June. On 25 February 1875, one of the croquet lawns was set aside for tennis and badminton. On 24 June 1875, the MCC's Laws of Lawn Tennis were officially adopted, although with some modifications – the scoring would be 15, 30, 40, deuce, advantage and only the serving player could add to his score. On 14 April 1877, the club's name was changed to the All England Croquet and Lawn Tennis Club. On 2 June of the same year, the committee approved John Walsh's motion (which was seconded by B. C. Eveleigh) "that a public meeting be held on July 10th and following days to compete for The Championships in lawn tennis and that a sub-committee composed of Messrs J. Marshall, H. Jones and C. G. Heathcote be appointed to draw up rules for its management". A week later, *The Field* published a slightly amended advertisement for the competition: "All England Croquet And Lawn Tennis Club, Wimbledon, propose to hold a lawn tennis meeting, open to all amateurs, on Monday, July 9th and following days. Entrance fee £1 1s 0d. Two prizes will be given – one gold champion prize to the winner and one silver to the second player."

Walsh had donated a pony roller for the lawns in return for his daughter being elected to membership of the club, but by 1877, it had broken and so Walsh had come up with the idea of holding the tennis tournament to raise funds to repair it. Julian Marshall, Henry Jones and Charles Gilbert Heathcote decided to adopt the Real Tennis rule that there would be sudden death at five games all and at the end of each set the players changed ends. The net was five feet high at the posts dropping to three feet three inches at the centre.

And so, in the same year that the first cricket Test match was played, the Wimbledon Championships began. The tournament commenced on the second Monday in July with just one competition – the Gentlemen's Singles and there were twenty-two participants each paying a guinea entry fee. Dr Henry Jones, 46, was the tournament referee and even built a bathroom which he charged patrons to use. No one had figured out how

to arrange a tournament with 22 players so there were 11 players in the second round and three semi-finalists. To resolve the problem, William C. Marshall was given a bye into the final. Despite it being held in July, the weather for the final was poor.

After the semi-finals on Thursday, 12 July, the tournament was postponed on 13 and 14 July so that crowds could go to watch the Eton v Harrow cricket match at Lord's and return for the final the following Monday, 16 July. However, the Monday was a washout and the game was postponed until the following Thursday. W. Spencer Gore, a 27-year-old surveyor, an Old Harrovian and a keen cricketer, won the first championships and with it a prize of 12 guineas and a silver cup worth 25 guineas. In a match, delayed an hour by rain, Gore beat Cambridge real tennis Blue William C. Marshall 6-1, 6-2, 6-4 in just 48 minutes.

The following year, Gore lost 5-7, 1-6, 7-9 to Frank Hadow in the Challenge Round – the final match contested by the reigning champion and the winner of the all-comers' tournament, until 1922 – and never went back to Wimbledon. He was to write, "That anyone who has really played well at cricket, tennis or even rackets, will ever give his attention seriously to lawn tennis beyond showing himself to be a promising player, is extremely doubtful, for in all probability the monotony of the game as compared with others would choke him off before he had time to excel in it."

DID YOU KNOW?

The All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club's colours – introduced in 1909 – are dark green and purple, although no one seems to know why.

ONLY

**GRAND SLAM
TOURNAMENT
PLAYED ON GRASS**

THE CHAMPIONSHIPS, WORPLE ROAD, WIMBLEDON, SURREY

SW, ENGLAND. 1877–1921; THE CHAMPIONSHIPS, CHURCH ROAD, WIMBLEDON, SURREY SW, ENGLAND. 1922–1965; THE CHAMPIONSHIPS, CHURCH ROAD, WIMBLEDON, LONDON SW19 5AE, ENGLAND. 1965–PRESENT DAY



Of the four Grand Slam tournaments, Wimbledon is the only one played on a natural surface. The Australian Open was played on grass until 1988 before moving to Rebound Ace and then Plexicushion. The French Open is **the only Grand Slam tournament to use clay courts**. The US Open is **the only major to have been played on three surfaces**; it was played on grass from its inception until 1974, clay from 1975 until 1977 and hard courts since it moved from the West Side Tennis Club to the United States National Tennis Center in 1978.

DID YOU KNOW?

In 1913, as part of their violent campaign to get votes for women, suffragettes tried to burn down the Centre Court stand at Worple Road, Wimbledon.

FIRST FRENCH LAWN TENNIS CLUB

**Decimal Lawn Tennis and Boating Society,
Neuilly-sur-Seine, France. 1877**



The first French lawn tennis club was founded in the same year as the first Wimbledon Championships. The club, unlike the tournament, has not survived. It is certain that tennis had been played in France before the club was formed. Indeed, French people were banned from joining the Decimal and it closed in 1895.

FIRST
CLUB IN AUSTRALIA

ASSOCIATION GROUND LAWN TENNIS CLUB, SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA. 1878

Lawn tennis was first played on asphalt at Warehouseman's Cricket Ground on St Kilda Road in Melbourne. Such was the popularity that a grass court was added in 1879. The first tennis club in Australia was the Association Ground Lawn Tennis Club founded in Sydney, New South Wales in 1878.

FIRST
**PLAYER TO
LOB THE BALL**

ONLY
**WIMBLEDON CHAMPION
TO NOT HAVE LOST A SINGLES SET**

ONLY
**WIMBLEDON CHAMPION TO
OWN A COFFEE PLANTATION**

FRANK HADOW, GENTLEMEN'S SINGLES, THE CHAMPIONSHIPS, WORPLE ROAD, WIMBLEDON, SURREY SW, ENGLAND. SATURDAY, 20 JULY 1878

Frank Hadow was born on 2 January 1855 at Regent's Park and was educated at Harrow. In the summer of 1878, he was on holiday from the coffee plantation that he owned in Ceylon when he decided to enter

the Gentlemen's Singles competition at Wimbledon. He got through to the All-Comers' final without losing a set and proceeded to beat Robert Erskine 6-4, 6-4, 6-4. Hadow was the first player to win games by lobbing the ball. In the Challenge Round, he beat the defending champion Spencer Gore 7-5, 6-1, 9-7 to take the title, but that was his only appearance at The Championships. When asked if he would defend his title, Hadow is said to have replied, "No sir. It's a sissy's game played with a soft ball." He died on 29 June 1946 at Bridgwater, Somerset.

FIRST

SCOTTISH LAWN TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

SCOTTISH CHAMPIONSHIPS, DYVOURS CLUB,
RAEBURN PLACE, EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND.

MONDAY, 12 – MONDAY, 19 AUGUST 1878

The Scottish Championships were first held in August 1878 and, after 106 competitions, last held in 1994. From its inauguration, the tournament was held in Edinburgh at the Dyvours Club before moving in 1893 to St Andrews, the home of golf. The first six men's finals were played indoors at Dyvours in "a pavilion of metal construction" known as "the Tin Temple" which "housed two courts, two cramped dressing rooms and a gallery with six rows of seats". **The first Men's Singles winner** was James Patten MacDougall although who he beat and by what score is lost in the mists of time. In 1879, the second tournament was won by Leslie Balfour-Melville, who then lost the 1880 final to James Patten MacDougall. **The first foreign winner** was Anthony Wilding from New Zealand on 13 August 1904. He beat Charles Glenny 6-1, 6-1, 6-2. Donald MacPhail won both the last tournament before the Second World War and the first one (20 July 1946) after the cessation of hostilities. **The first Women's Singles** was held in 1886 and won by Mabel Boulton who beat Julia MacKenzie 3-6, 6-0, 6-2, 4-6, 6-2.

In the Open Era, Britain's Jeremy Bates won the Men's Singles twice (1980 and 1985). In 1989, John McEnroe beat Jimmy Connors 7-6, 7-6. **The last winner of the Men's Singles** was Briton Ken Wood in July 1994 and he beat fellow Briton Malcolm Watt 7-6, 6-2. **The last winner of the Women's Singles** was Heather Lockhart in July 1994 and she beat Alison Reid 6-0, 4-6, 6-4. On 7 August 1994, another Scottish tennis tournament came to an end. The **last finals of the Scottish Hard Court Tennis Championships** were held. The first competition was held from 20 to 25 August 1923 at the St Andrews Lawn Tennis Club, Kinburn Park St Andrews, Fife on clay courts. It stayed there until 1981 when it moved to Fort Hill Tennis Club, Broughty Ferry, Dundee until its end. Ken Wood, 24, added to his trophy tally by beating defending champion Jason Barnett 2-6, 7-6, 6-4. Nineteen-year-old Aberdonian Barnett, a clay-court specialist, was the firm favourite and when he went into a 6-2, 4-2 lead, it looked as though he was set to add the hard-court crown to the indoor title he had won in February, but Wood was determined and he fought back to take the match and championship. In 1992, his sister Allison Wood won the Women's Singles. In 1983, Alison Reid won the title and in **the last Women's Singles final** Reid beat 26-year-old Wood 6-1, 6-2.

— — — — —
FIRST

IRISH LAWN TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

FIRST

WOMAN TENNIS CHAMPION

Irish Lawn Tennis Championships, Pembroke Place, Dublin, Ireland.

Monday, 2 June – Tuesday, 10 June 1879

— — — — —

Two years after Wimbledon, the first Irish Lawn Tennis Championships (later the Irish Open) were held in Dublin. The first competition was held in Pembroke Place, Dublin and the men's title won by Vere St

Leger Goold, the only Irishman to reach a Wimbledon final. The Championships had the distinction of being the first event to feature men's and women's singles and doubles tournaments as well as a mixed doubles competition. The first woman to win a championship was May Langrishe, who triumphed in a field of seven. She beat Miss D. Meldon 6-2, 0-6, 8-6 in the final when she was just 14 years, 161 days old. The winners of the first Men's Doubles were J. Elliot and H. Kellie but no record exists of their opponents or winning margin. The inaugural Mixed Doubles was won by J. Elliot and Miss Costello. The first Women's Doubles were not held until 1884 when Beatrice Langrishe beat her sister, May.

Before the International Lawn Tennis Federation was founded in 1913, the Irish competition was regarded as one of the big four, along with Wimbledon, the US National Championships and the Northern Championships. In 1880, the competition moved to Wilton Place where it stayed till 1902. In 1903, the tournament moved again, this time to Fitzwilliam Square. The tournament changed its name to the Irish Open in 1972 and again it moved location to Appian Way, Dublin, where it stayed until it ended in 1979 for the men and in 1983 for the ladies.

For the first two tournaments, the players competed on hard courts before playing on grass from 1881 until 1939. From 1946 until 1965 it was played on clay and then grass again from 1966 until 1979 (1983). The last Irishman to win the competition was 6ft 7in George Lyttleton Rogers in 1937.

FIRST

WIMBLEDON WINNER TO RETAIN HIS TITLE

ONLY

CLERGYMAN TO WIN WIMBLEDON GENTLEMEN'S ALL-COMERS' SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS

ONLY

IRISHMAN TO REACH WIMBLEDON GENTLEMEN'S ALL-COMERS' SINGLES FINAL

REVEREND JOHN HARTLEY, GENTLEMEN'S ALL-COMERS'
SINGLES, THE CHAMPIONSHIPS, WORPLE ROAD, WIMBLEDON,
SURREY SW, ENGLAND. TUESDAY, 15 JULY 1879;
GENTLEMEN'S ALL-COMERS' SINGLES, THE CHAMPIONSHIPS,
WORPLE ROAD, WIMBLEDON, SURREY SW, ENGLAND.
WEDNESDAY, 15 JULY 1880



Born at Tong, Shropshire, on 9 January 1849, John Thorneycroft Hartley was the grandson of the first Mayor of Wolverhampton, who had made his fortune with the Shrubbery Ironworks in Horseley Fields. Hartley went to Harrow and then Oxford, where he won the university Rackets and Real Tennis Championship. He took holy orders and was appointed vicar of Burneston, Bedale in North Yorkshire. He began courting Alice Margaret Lascelles, the granddaughter of the 3rd Earl of Harwood. To see her, he would ride to a river and swim across it before she collected him in a carriage.

In 1879 and 1880, Hartley won the third and fourth All England Lawn Tennis Championships and in 1881 he was the runner-up. At the 1879 tournament, when Hartley was 30 years old, all 45 competitors were British and 36 of them had never taken part in Wimbledon before. In the first round, Hartley saw off Charles Cole 6-0, 6-0, 6-3. In the second round, his opponent was Scotsman Lestocq Erskine, who had played at the first Wimbledon two years earlier and who took Hartley to five sets. The clergyman finally won 6-4, 6-5, 5-6, 0-6, 6-5. His next opponent

was William Marshall in the third round and Hartley won 6-1, 6-3, 4-6, 6-1. His quarter-final on Saturday, 12 July 1879 was against barrister Charles Gilbert Heathcote, one of the founders of the All England Club who had played in the first Wimbledon Championships in 1877. After he had seen off Heathcote 6-4, 6-3, 6-3, Hartley caught the train back up to Yorkshire where he took services the next day. Hartley had not expected to get very far in the tournament and so had not arranged cover for his clerical duties. "I had to come home on Saturday, breakfast very early on Monday morning, drive ten miles to a station, get to London at two and get to Wimbledon just in time to play – rather tired by my journey and in want of a meal," he recalled. "I nearly lost that game, the semi-final against Parr, but fortunately it came on to rain. We stopped, I got some tea, felt much refreshed and finished off all right."

It was the only time Cecil Parr entered Wimbledon and he took the first set 6-2, but Hartley regained his form and won the next three sets comprehensively 6-0, 6-1, 6-1. The next day, Hartley was up against Irishman "Mr St Leger" (later revealed to be Vere St Leger Gould, see 1907) who had had a bye in his semi-final. Hartley won the All-Comers' final 6-2, 6-4, 6-3 before 1,100 spectators and received a walkover to take the title because the previous year's winner Frank Hadow did not return to contest the Challenge Round. A year later, Hartley became the first champion to retain his title. As the holder, he did not have to trouble himself with actually winning through to the final, only with playing the Challenge Round. He beat H. F. Lawford 6-3, 6-2, 2-6, 6-3 before 1,300 spectators. Herbert Lawford, 29, had a reputation for a fearsome, topspin forehand but he was not able to bring it to bear against Hartley. For this match, the height of the net was reduced from 4ft 9in at the posts to 4ft.

As reigning champion, Hartley also had a free pass into the 1881 final but this time he lost 6-0, 6-1, 6-1 in just 37 minutes to Willie Renshaw, one of twins, who would go on to become **the first player to win the trophy for six consecutive years**. This was the shortest final on record and it was said that Hartley was suffering from an attack of "English cholera". Hartley did not compete in 1882 and in 1883 he lost in the second round to Herbert Wilberforce 6-4, 5-6, 2-6, 4-6 after which he retired from competitive tennis and returned to tend

his flock. He was appointed Rural Dean of East Catterick in 1891 and Honorary Canon of Ripon in 1906. He died at Knaresborough on 21 August 1935, aged 86.

DID YOU KNOW?

In 1926, at the Golden Jubilee championships, HM Queen Mary presented the 34 surviving champions – including John Hartley – with a silver medal.

**FIRST
TOURNAMENT
IN AUSTRALIA**

Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. 1880

The first tennis tournament in Australia was the Victorian Championships, held in Melbourne in 1880. The winner was A.F. Robinson.

**FIRST
RECORDED DEATH ON A TENNIS COURT
COLONEL OSBORNE, HYDE PARK TENNIS
CLUB, HYDE PARK, LONDON W. 1880S**

The death of Colonel Osborne who had been playing at the Hyde Park Tennis Club was the first death recorded on a tennis court.

DID YOU KNOW?

Members of The All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club can use the courts at Wimbledon all year round except for the Centre and No 1 courts – and while The Championships are being played.

FIRST
**UNITED STATES
 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

FIRST
**WINNER OF THE UNITED STATES
 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS MEN'S SINGLES**

FIRST
**WINNERS OF THE
 UNITED STATES NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS
 MEN'S DOUBLES**

**United States National Championships, Newport
 Casino, 186-202 Bellevue Avenue, Newport, Rhode
 Island 02840 United States of America. Wednesday,
 31 August – Saturday, 3 September 1881**

The United States National Lawn Tennis Association (USNLTA) was founded on 21 May 1881 in Room F at the Fifth Avenue Hotel, New York and comprised 34 clubs. The first president was Robert Shaw Oliver of the Albany Tennis Club. That same year, on 31 August, the USNLTA held its first National Championships, which would evolve into the US Open. There were two competitions in the first tournament which was held at Newport Casino – Men's Singles and Men's Doubles. The first winner of the Men's Singles title was Dick Sears, a 19-year-old student at Harvard, who had only begun playing tennis two years earlier. He became **the first player to win the singles competition seven years in a row**. In his first three championships, Sears did not lose a single set. As with Wimbledon, however, the champion only had to beat the winner of the All-Comers' competition to retain their title. He was also **the first**

player to win the doubles title six times in a row, from 1882 to 1887 and then retired from competitive tennis. Sears was the first US No 1 in the USNLTA rankings, when they started in 1885 and held the ranking in 1886 and 1887.

Apart from the final, each match was decided on the best of three sets and the first to six games won. Only members of United States National Lawn Tennis Association were allowed to enter so all 24 entrants were American. In the first round Sears beat H.W. Powell 6-0, 6-2. In the second round he beat a player known only as Anderson 6-1, 6-2. He despatched his quarter-final opponent C. A. Nightingale 6-3, 6-5 and then beat Edward Gray in the semi-final 6-3, 6-0. In the final he beat William Glyn 6-0, 6-3, 6-2. Glyn was actually English, being born at Wycliffe, County Durham, but played for the Staten Island Cricket and B. B. Club. The Doubles Championship was won by Clarence Clark and Frederick Winslow Taylor who beat Arthur Newbold and Alexander Van Rensselaer 6-5, 6-4, 6-5. The Newport Casino staged the US National Championships until 1914.

— — — — —
FIRST

SCOTTISH LAWN TENNIS CLUB

**PERTH LAWN TENNIS CLUB, BALHOUSIE STREET,
PERTH, SCOTLAND. 1881**

— — — — —
The Perth Lawn Tennis Club was the first to be founded in Scotland. Members of the Perth Curling Club secured some ground in Balhousie Street where the original club was established.

— — — — —
FIRST

FLOODLIT LAWN TENNIS COURT

CHELTENHAM, GLOUCESTERSHIRE, ENGLAND. 1881

— — — — —
The first game to be lit by floodlights took place in Cheltenham.