

Wimbledon

Wimbledon is an international, **professional** tennis tournament that occurs every year around the end of June and through the first few weeks of July.

History

Wimbledon is considered by many to be the oldest tennis tournament worldwide. The first championship was held in 1877 at the All England Croquet and Lawn Tennis Club in Wimbledon, London. During this first competition, 22 men competed. In 1884, the first women's championship took place. Currently, 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.

Did You Know...?

Wimbledon is one of four world-famous tennis competitions called the Grand Slams.

Prize Money

In 1968, Wimbledon began awarding its winners prize money. Before that, only **amateur** players were allowed to play at Wimbledon. The players who win at Wimbledon are sometimes given an award that can be worth millions of pounds!

Glossary

amateur: In sport, an athlete who participates as a hobby and not as a career.

doubles: When two tennis players compete as a team.

professional: Doing something as a paid job and not just a hobby.

singles: When a tennis player competes against another tennis player by themselves.



Fun Facts About Wimbledon

1. Clothing Requirements

Players must wear mostly white clothing. Referees can ask players to change their clothes if they are not wearing enough white.

2. Yellow Balls

Wimbledon matches used to be played with white tennis balls. However, that was changed when TV viewers couldn't see them! In 1986, the balls were changed to yellow.

3. Refrigerated Tennis Balls

Tennis balls are stored in fridges to ensure they are in perfect condition. Over 54,000 balls are used during Wimbledon.

4. Ball Boys and Girls (BBGs)

BBGs kneel at the side of the court and grab any loose tennis balls that come near them during a game. BBGs must pass many tests and take part in a difficult training programme to be selected.

5. The Longest Match

In 2010, a match spanned over an incredible three days! The players spent 11 hours and 5 minutes hitting balls to one another.

Questions

1. What are BBGs? Tick one.

- ☐ referees
- ☐ fans
- ☐ players
- ☐ ball boys and girls

2. Where does Wimbledon take place? Tick one.

- ☐ Edinburgh
- ☐ London
- ☐ Australia
- ☐ France

3. What colour clothing are players expected to mostly wear? Tick one.

- ☐ white
- ☐ yellow
- ☐ green
- ☐ blue

4. Where are balls kept to keep them in perfect condition? Tick one.

- ☐ in bins near the courts
- ☐ on benches near the courts
- ☐ in fridges
- ☐ with the referees

5. Look at the section called **Prize Money**.

Find and copy one word that is similar in meaning to 'every once in a while'.

6. Fill in the missing words.

Wimbledon is _____ by many to be the oldest tennis
_____ worldwide.

7. What have you learnt about Wimbledon that you didn't know before? Explain your answer.
