

Wimbledon celebrates 100 years of Centre Court

Wimbledon's iconic Centre Court first witnessed play 100 years ago after the Championships, contested since 1877, moved from their original location to meet growing public demand



TIMELINE OF A BRITISH INSTITUTION

■ **1922:** Defending Ladies' champion **Suzanne Lenglen** (right) of France and Australian **Gerald Patterson** claim first titles on new Centre Court

■ **1924-29:** France's "Four Musketeers" – **René Lacoste**, **Jean Borotra**, **Henri Cochet** and **Jacques Brugnon** – dominate court

■ **1934-36:** Britain's **Fred Perry** (right) wins three consecutive singles titles

■ **1937:** First television coverage by BBC

■ **1940:** Centre Court is bombed during World War II – damage not repaired until 1947

■ **1950s:** U.S. teenager **Maureen Connolly** wins three successive trophies. **Althea Gibson** of U.S. becomes first black champion

■ **1968:** Open Era begins as professional players return to Centre Court action – Australian **Rod Laver** and American **Billie Jean King** take titles

■ **1975:** **Arthur Ashe** (right) of U.S. becomes first black player to win men's singles

■ **1976-80:** Swedish heartthrob **Bjorn Borg** wins five consecutive titles. Britain's **Virginia Wade** triumphs in 1977, Queen's Silver Jubilee year

■ **1980s:** Fan favourites **John McEnroe**, **Boris Becker** and **Martina Navratilova** are centre stage

■ **1990s:** **Pete Sampras** and **Steffi Graf** dominate proceedings

■ **2000s:** Sisters **Venus** and **Serena Williams** become Queens of Centre Court – winning 12 titles between them

■ **2003:** **Roger Federer** wins first of eight trophies

■ **2008:** **Rafael Nadal** beats **Federer** in arguably greatest Wimbledon final

■ **2009:** Retractable roof used for first time

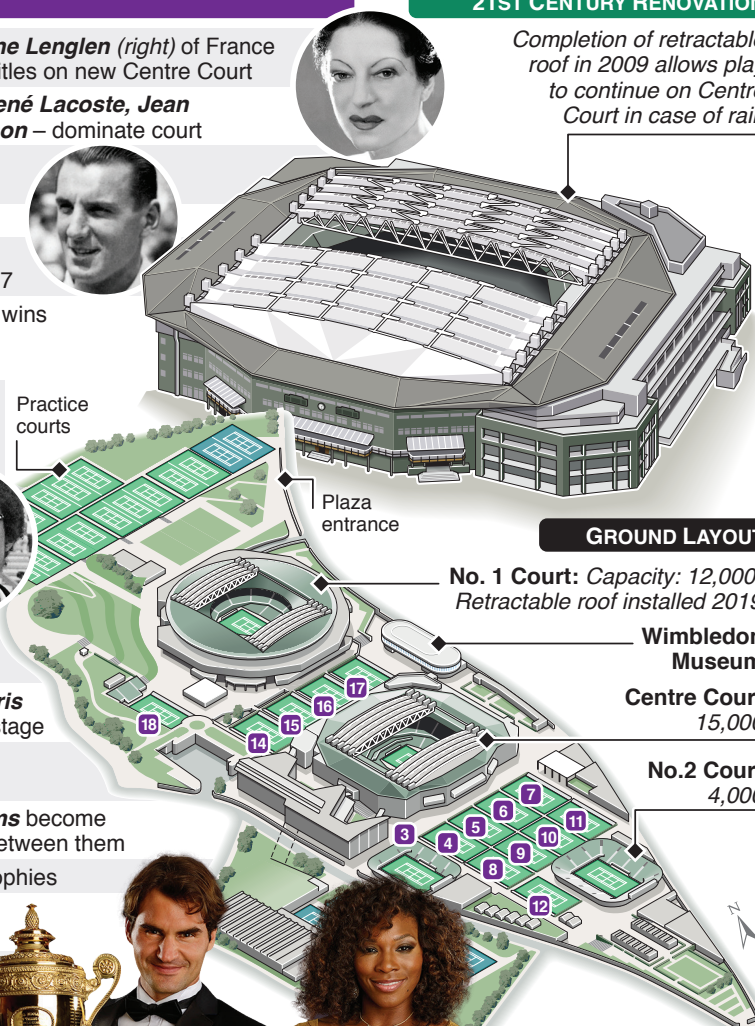
■ **2012:** Centre Court hosts **Olympic Games**, with **Andy Murray** and **Serena Williams** winning singles gold medals

■ **2013:** Crowd erupts as **Murray** becomes first British Wimbledon men's champion for 77 years

■ **2019:** **Novak Djokovic** beats **Federer** in longest Wimbledon final – 4 hours, 57 minutes

21ST CENTURY RENOVATION

Completion of retractable roof in 2009 allows play to continue on Centre Court in case of rain



GROUND LAYOUT

No. 1 Court: Capacity: 12,000.
Retractable roof installed 2019

Wimbledon Museum

Centre Court
15,000

No.2 Court
4,000



Roger Federer and Serena Williams
Most successful champions of this century

CENTRE COURT LEGENDS: Most Championships (Open Era)

2003-07, 09, 12, 17	Roger Federer SUI	8 9	Martina Navratilova USA	1978, 79, 82-87, 90
1993-95, 1997-2000	Pete Sampras USA	7 7	Steffi Graf GER	1988, 89, 91, 92, 93, 95, 96
2011, 14, 15, 18, 19, 21	Novak Djokovic SRB	6 7	Serena Williams USA	2002, 03, 09, 10, 12, 15, 16
1976, 77, 78, 79, 80	Bjorn Borg SWE	5 5	Venus Williams USA	2000, 01, 05, 07, 08
1981, 83, 84	John McEnroe USA	3 4	Billie Jean King USA	1968, 72, 73, 75
1985, 86, 89	Boris Becker GER	3 3	Chris Evert USA	1974, 76, 81