

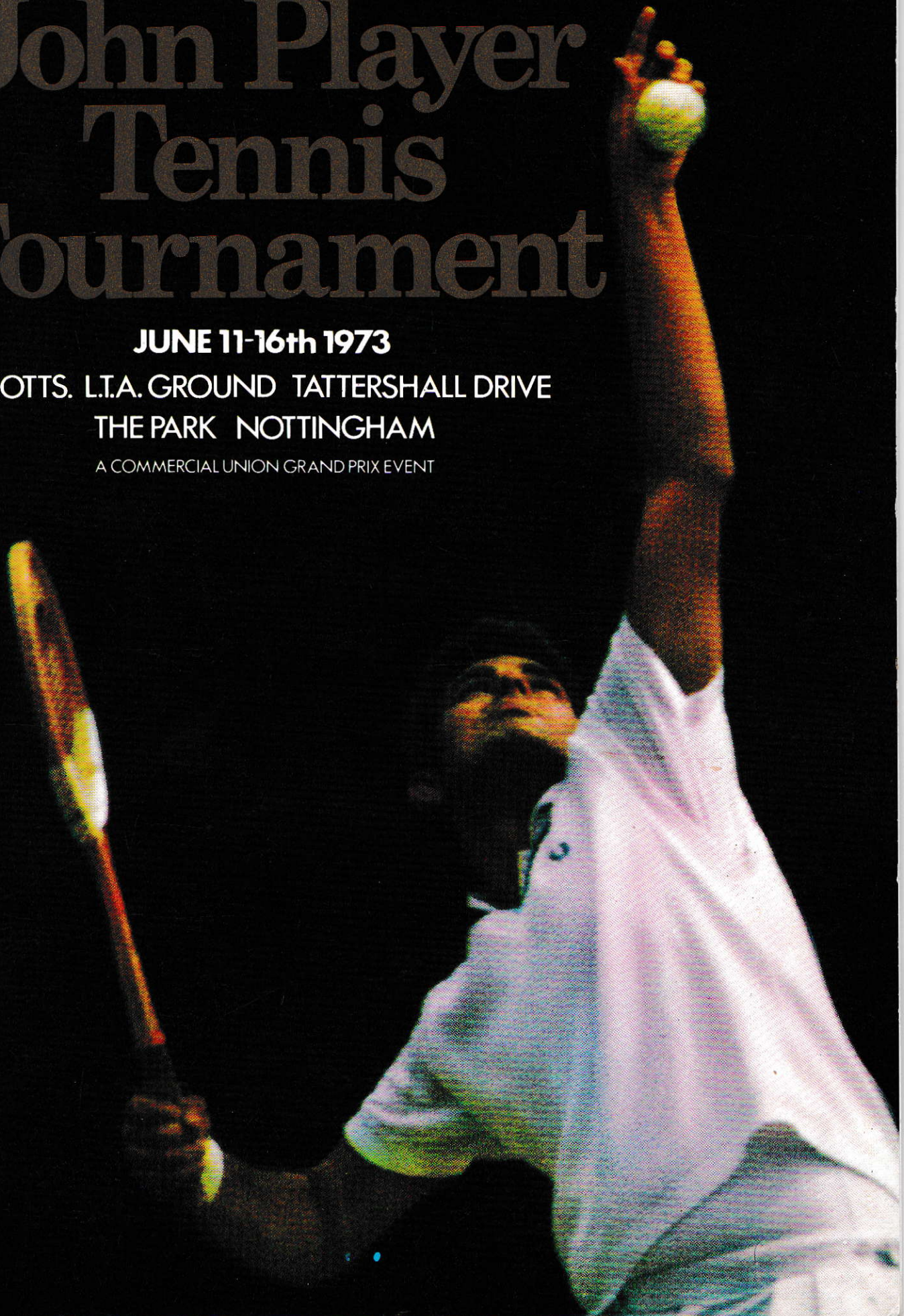
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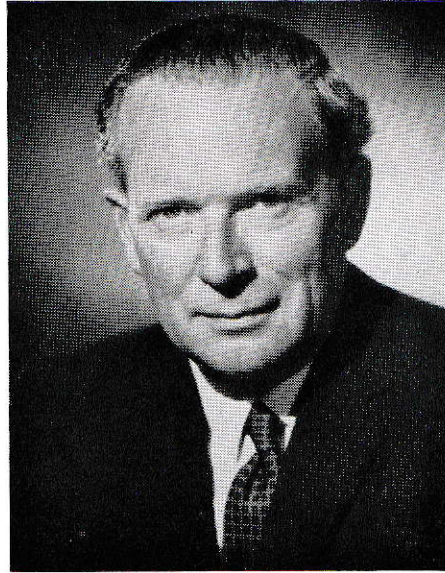
The John Player Tennis Tournament

JUNE 11-16th 1973

**NOTTS. L.T.A. GROUND TATTERSHALL DRIVE
THE PARK NOTTINGHAM**

A COMMERCIAL UNION GRAND PRIX EVENT





Message from the Chairman and Managing Director of John Player and Sons

John Player and Sons are closely associated with bringing the best in sport to the British public. John Player Special racing cars, the John Player Classic golf tournament and the John Player Norton motor cycling team already enjoy an international reputation. We are confident that the 1973 John Player Tennis Tournament will be of comparable standing, whilst bringing top-class tennis to Nottingham.

The tournament has grown steadily in importance in recent years, aided by financial support from John Player. This year it has graduated to Grand Prix status, becoming the richest grass-court tournament in the United Kingdom after Wimbledon. This virtually guarantees that world-class players will come to Nottingham, not only to win the John Player Tennis Tournament, but also to secure valuable points in this season's Commercial Union Grand Prix.

Sponsors alone do not make a successful tournament, and I would like to pay tribute to the Notts L.T.A. for their help and hard work in staging this event. I wish all the players the best of luck, in the expectation that this will prove a tournament worth remembering.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'G. A. Iden'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

G. A. Iden
Chairman & Managing Director
John Player & Sons

Events in the 1973 John Player Tennis Tournament

1. Gentlemen's Singles PRIZE MONEY

Winner	£3,750
Runner-up	£1,850
Losing semi-finalists.....	£1,000 each
Losing quarter-finalists.....	£550 each
Second round losers.....	£275
First round losers	£150 each

The winner also receives the John Player Tennis Trophy, and the 'Notts LTA' Challenge Cup for the Championship of Nottinghamshire.

2. Ladies Singles PRIZE MONEY

Winner	£1,500
Runner-up	£750
Losing semi-finalists.....	£300 each
Play-off between 3rd & 4th winner to receive a further	£100
Losing quarter-finalists.....	£150 each
First round losers	£75 each

The winner also receives the John Player Tennis Trophy, and the 'Alderman E. G. Underwood' Challenge Cup for the Championship of Nottinghamshire.

3. Gentlemen's Doubles PRIZE MONEY

Winners	£1,000 per pair
Runners-up	£600 per pair
Losing semi-finalists.....	£350 per pair
Losing quarter-finalists.....	£175 per pair
First round losers	£50 per pair

The winners also receive the 'Col. C. W. Birkin and H. D. Snook' Challenge Cups for the Championship of Nottinghamshire.

4. Ladies Doubles PRIZE MONEY

Winners	£480 per pair
Runners-up	£280 per pair
Losing semi-finalists.....	£140 per pair

The winners also receive the J. E. Wilson Challenge Cups for the Championship of Nottinghamshire.

Commercial Union Grand Prix

The Grand Prix, now in its fourth year, is sponsored by the Commercial Union Assurance Company and organised by the International Lawn Tennis Federation. There are separate competitions for men and ladies, and the winners are the players who have been most consistent in their play in the major tennis tournaments held throughout the world during the Grand Prix year. This stretches from the Australian Championships in Melbourne (which ended early in January) to Paris, Wimbledon and other European events, then to Forest Hills and the American circuit, back to Europe and then to the final tournaments which will be held in South America and South Africa at the end of November. In short, the Grand Prix is the individual league table of the tennis world.

As will be seen from the table below, tournaments are placed in one of four grades – the winner of a tournament receives maximum points; the runner-up and the losers in other rounds gain proportionately lower points.

	GROUP "AA"	GROUP "A"	GROUP "B"	GROUP "C"
Winner	100	60	40	20
Runner-up	75	45	30	15
Losing semi-finalists	50	30	20	10
Losers in round of 8	25	15	10	5
Losers in round of 16	12	7	5	3
Losers in round of 32	6	3	2	1
Losers in round of 64	3	1	–	–

As a principal, bonus points are not awarded to a player who loses in the first round.

For the men Bonus points are also awarded to players who are nominated to play in certain Davis Cup Ties. These are the final, where the points are based on a Group "A" Grand Prix, the Inter Zone final (Group "B") and the zone final and the semi finals of the European Zone (Group "C").

The top thirty men and the top fifteen ladies in their respective points tables share in the bonus pool at the end of the year. The bonus pool is made up of contributions from each participating tournament and a fixed amount paid by the sponsors of the Grand Prix, Commercial Union Assurance. The winner of the men's competition in 1970 was Cliff Richey and the winner in 1971 Stan Smith. Each player received £10,000. In 1972 the winner was Ilie Nastase who received £21,000.



Men's Grand Prix Winner 1970
CLIFF RICHEY



Men's Grand Prix Winner 1971
STAN SMITH



Men's Grand Prix Winner 1972
ILIE NASTASE

In the ladies Grand Prix the winner in 1971 (the inaugural year for the ladies Grand Prix) was Billie-Jean King who won £4,000. She won the Grand Prix again in 1972, but this time won £9,000.



Ladies Grand Prix Winner 1971-1972
BILLIE-JEAN KING

At the end of the year, the top men in the points table play off in a round robin for the title of "Master". The 1970 Master was Stan Smith, with Rod Laver as runner-up – this was the first "Masters" Tournament and was played in Tokyo. In 1971 the Master was Ilie Nastase, with Stan Smith as runner-up, and the tournament was played in Paris. Last year Ilie Nastase repeated his success, again over Stan Smith, and became the 1972 Master in Barcelona. What about 1973? This year is a most fascinating prospect, both for the men and the ladies. The world's finest players will be competing for the men's title. Can the players who in 1972 were unable to compete because they were contract professionals take the crown that Ilie Nastase has worn for two years? Will the lead that Chris Evert, Evonne Goolagong and Virginia Wade have built up during the U.S. Ladies Indoor circuit be sufficient to hold off all challengers? It seems likely that both Grand Prix trophies will find new homes in 1973.

Catch up on the present position by looking at the special Grand Prix score boards in the grounds.

A Brief History of the Tournament

By FRANK EGGINS

Although the seven years which have passed since John Player & Sons first sponsored Notts. tennis can hardly be called lean ones, the sheer size of their involvement this year dwarfs all previous figures. In those brief years, this venerable tournament has not only been rejuvenated, but has also left behind all the more out-dated attributes of a lazy garden-party saunter, to leap now to the forefront of the English tennis scene, second only, and inevitably, to Wimbledon.

Sponsorship seems now so much a part of the sporting scene that it is not always remembered that The L.T.A. allowed it in tennis only as recently as 1964. Player's first became involved in 1966. The scale of their support, both financial and otherwise – such, for instance, as the production of this programme – has increased annually ever since.

The milestones stand out. In 1968 came the advent of truly 'open' tennis with the abolition of the old categories of professional and amateur. In 1970 the Notts tournament staged, virtually for the first time in this country, a Round Robin event with four invited men tennis players competing for a first prize of £1,000. The success of this innovation caused it to be repeated, this time with ladies, in 1971. The popularity of the event in spite of what was (until 1972) the worst tournament weather for many years led to the following year's development – a Round Robin for both men and ladies, with the same top prizes in both events.

And now in 1973 the Notts tournament takes its place in the Commercial Union Grand Prix circuit, and John Player has spared no expense and the Committee have shirked no task which might help to ensure its success. It all seems a far cry from that first Notts Tennis Tournament held in 1887 at Trent Bridge, which continued to stage the event for the next twelve years, although the adjoining Notts Castle C.C. ground was also used. Then in 1899 it moved to its present home in The Park in the centre of the City of Nottingham, where it has continued each year uninterrupted except by the two World Wars.

In those years there have been many notable local winners, beginning with the two members of the redoubtable Snook family who took the Singles titles in that opening year. Then there was C. P. Dixon, considered by many to have been the finest English Doubles player of all time, twice Doubles Champion (with H. Roper Barrett) at Wimbledon, twice a Singles finalist there, and a member of

continued

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continued the team which beat Australasia to regain the Davis Cup for the British Isles in 1912. The current President of Notts L.T.A., Eric Attewell, won in 1932. In 1956 it was the turn of former Davis Cup player Tony Pickard, now Great Britain' Davis Cup captain and a member of the Notts tournament Committee.

Among the ladies the outstanding name is surely that of Miss Freda James, later Mrs. Hammersley, certainly the finest Notts woman player ever, twice Wimbledon Doubles Champion (with Kay Stammers) and a regular member of the Wightman Cup team of her day. More recently, in 1969, came another familiar British name, Mrs. Janes – still perhaps better known to us as Christine Truman. In 1963, the last year before sponsorship, Miss Darlene Hard of the United States beat Brazil's Miss Maria Bueno before what was then a record Saturday crowd. Another popular winner among the ladies was Miss Judy Tegart (now Mrs. Dalton) in 1968, the same year that she was runner-up at Wimbledon.

But then the Tournament has always attracted more than just local interest, building up to the international best of players who are here this year. In 1966, when Ion Tiriac of Rumania won the title, he was accompanied to Nottingham by a little-known young man on his first overseas tour – his compatriot and long-time Doubles partner, Ilie Nastase. And for those with long tennis memories, the famous names stretch right back into the past – A. W. Gore, three times Wimbledon Champion, H. L. Doherty, who held that title for five successive years and, in the increasingly international atmosphere of recent years, a host of Davis Cup players, including that most recent Wimbledon Champion of all, Stan Smith of the United States.

So it has gone on over the years, with many others who contributed to a valuable degree – our first sponsors, Mansfield Brewery Co.; the Civic patrons and those others listed elsewhere in this programme who provide financial help; the willing voluntary helpers; the citizens of Nottingham and surrounding districts, who support tennis both indoors and out in increasing numbers.

Not least, of course, do we welcome the competitors themselves, from many parts of the world, old friends and new, whom it is a pleasure to meet and watch for a few brief days every year.