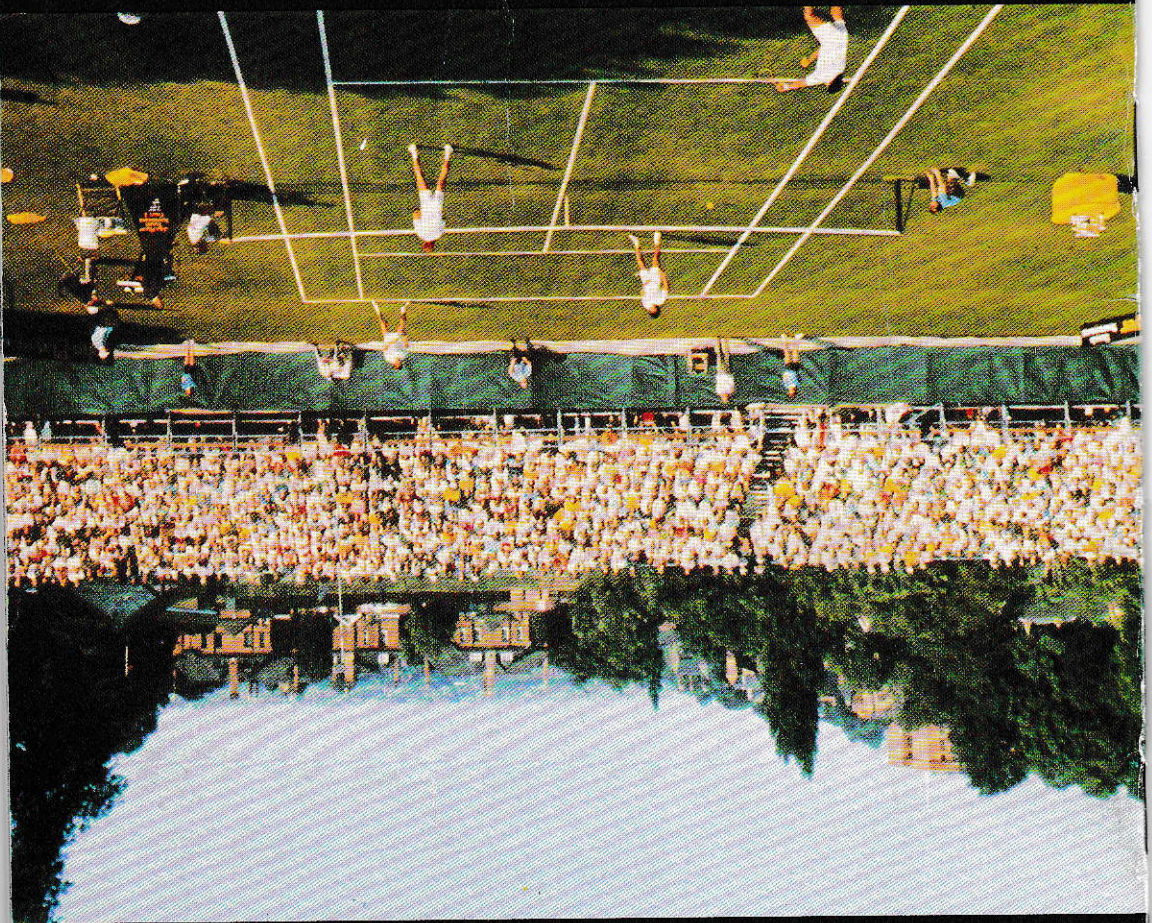


John Player Tennis Tournament



The Park Nottingham
16th - 21st June 1975

Britain's premier event outside Wimbledon

A Commercial Union Grand Prix Event

Programme 25p.

A Feast of International Tennis

Last year, John Player and Sons made tennis history by making a five-year agreement with the Association of Tennis Professionals to stage a Grade AA tournament during the week before the Wimbledon fortnight. ATP agreed not to support any other top-class competition anywhere in the world at the same time.

As a result the world's best men players came to Nottingham in force and produced some of the finest tennis ever seen in the Midlands. Their performances give us every confidence that this year's event will be as good if not better.

The John Player Tennis Tournament is an important complement to Wimbledon. It provides the toughest possible grass court competition, and the first of three weeks of the very best tennis for the British public.

Once again we are indebted to the Notts. L.T.A., the tournament organisers, who have been running our sponsored events for the past nine years.

It has again been possible to increase the seating at The Park. This year capacity is nearly 3,500, over 1,000 more than two years ago. I think this indicates quite clearly that the John Player Tournament has grown in stature with East Midlands spectators.

Weather permitting, I am sure we are in for some exceptional tennis.



Geoffrey Kent
Chairman and Managing Director
John Player and Sons

John Player Tennis Tournament Prize Money 1975

Men's Singles

Winner	£7,500
Runner-up	£3,700
Losing semi-finalists	£1,850 each
Losing quarter-finalists	£950 each
3rd round losers	£500 each
2nd round losers	£250 each
1st round losers	£150 each

Men's Doubles

Winners	£1,400 per pair
Runners-up	£700 per pair
Losing semi-finalists	£350 per pair
Losing quarter-finalists	£200 per pair
2nd round losers	£100 per pair
1st round losers	£50 per pair

Commercial Union Grand Prix Points 1975

The John Player Tennis Tournament is an AA Tournament.

GROUP	TRIPLE CROWN	AA	A	B
Minimum Prize Money	\$150,000 £ 60,000 approx.	\$100,000 £ 40,000 approx.	\$75,000 £30,000 approx.	\$50,000 £20,000 approx.
Points allocated for Men's Singles				
Winner	120	80	60	40
Runner Up	90	60	45	30
Losing Semi Finalists	60	40	30	20
Losing Quarter Finalists	30	20	15	10
Losers in Round of 16	15	10	7	5
Losers in Round of 32	7	5	3	—
Losers in Round of 64	3	—	—	—

The above points will count only towards the Singles Bonus Pool.

Points allocated for Men's Doubles to each
player in a Doubles team.

	TRIPLE CROWN	AA	A	B
Winner	24	16	12	8
Runners Up	18	12	9	6
Losing Semi Finalists	12	8	6	4
Losing Quarter Finalists	6	4	3	2
Losers in Round of 16	3	2	1	—
Losers in Round of 32	1	—	—	—

The above points will count only towards the Doubles Bonus Pool.

John Player Tennis - the icing on the cake

by Gerry Williams

To cast a cursory glance at the Lawn Tennis Association's 1975 tournament calendar and then diagnose the state of the British game as unhealthy, simply because there has palpably been a decline in the number of tournaments through the years, would be not only to over-simplify the situation. It would also be to take no account of the changing scene of British tennis.

Of course, it is true that many excellent tournaments have dropped out at the so-called lower end of the ladder; tournaments like Lowther (Barnes), Droitwich and Roehampton. It is also true that there has been considerable pressure on established international events like Manchester, Newport and Queen's Club (London).

What the game's detractors seem to overlook are two major factors. The first is that, while fewer part time players are taking part in week-long tournaments, the number of those enthusiastically involved in league tennis up and down the country has increased in vast quantities. Almost every county association reports annually of the growth in league tennis. So the first truth to be digested is that what has happened is not a terminal condition but a switch in the nature of the game as played by those who have daytime occupations.

The second essential truth is that the serious decline in the number of prestigious international British tournaments is not because commercial sponsors no longer see great value in lawn tennis. It is because the game's global growth has been so dramatic that Britain can no longer enjoy the luxury of several weeks' ration of tournaments graced by the great names of the circuit. They are in demand from every continent, they have to be shared out.

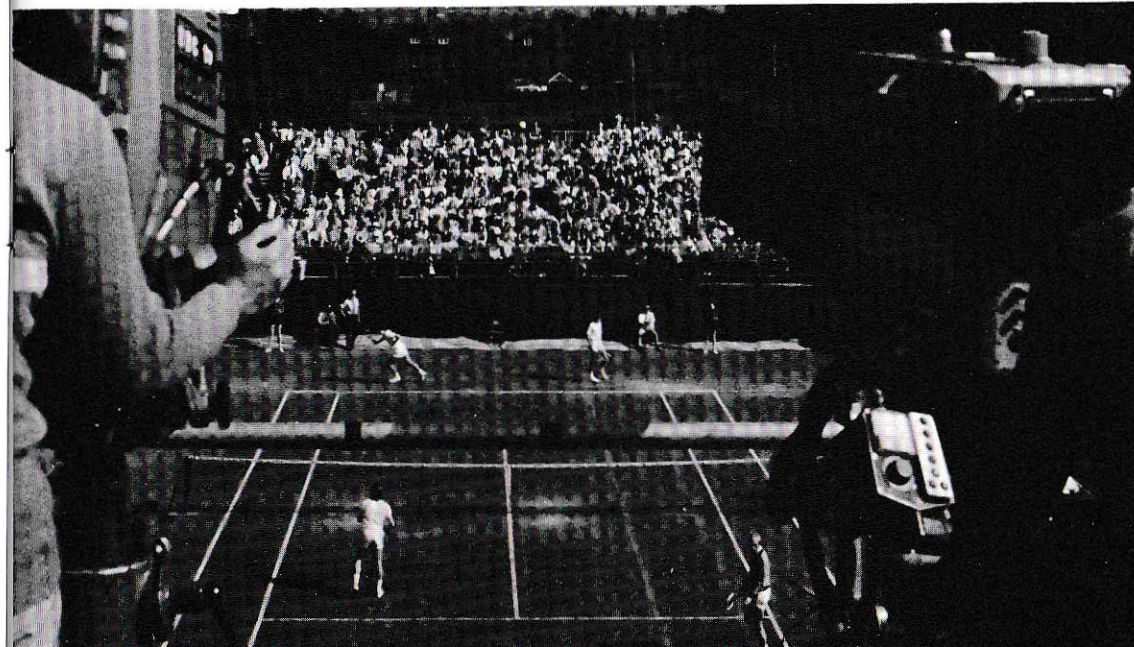
So this year Britain's share of Commercial Union Grand Prix tournaments is a mere four: the Coca Cola British Hard Court Championships at Bournemouth, the John Player Tournament here at Nottingham, the Wimbledon Championships and, indoors in the autumn, the Dewar Cup. I have no doubt Britain would like, and could support, three or four more. Manchester ought to be allowed to stage a major event, certainly; so ought the West Country, presumably Bristol, the South Coast, as well, and there is no finer grass court stadium than Eastbourne. But there it is, the Professional Tennis Council have handed us our ration. Of course, the Wimbledon Championships and the John

Player Tournament are the icing on a most tasty cake and provide glamour the game needs to attract mass interest. British tournament tennis, though, cannot exist on glamour alone, the Seafords and the Budleighs with their handful of holiday spectators, are the broad base of the calendar, a diary of events that begins in chill spring with brave outdoor promotions like Cumberland (Hampstead) and Southport and continues through warmer days right through to Torbay and Havant in August.

Those March and April days can test the most fanatical tennis aficionado. Their great value is that they provide early tournament competition for aspirants, largely, who have not been able to afford to chase the sun but want to get their game in working order by the time Bournemouth comes.

There is a growing feeling, all the same, that the British hard court season is at the wrong end of the year, that there would be greater enthusiasm, and certainly more enjoyment for the paying customer if some of these events could take place at the late end of the summer.

It is a thought on which the Lawn Tennis Association, I believe, is pondering. The sporting goods companies, too. Today, at least, windy spring is far away, and the superstars are here in Britain again to delight us with their vivid personalities and their effortless skill. It is the good fortune of the game over here that we are assured, they will perform this week, and throughout the next fortnight, in events of style and thoroughly professional organisation. Let's make the most of it.



Message from Stan Smith, winner of the 1974 John Player Tournament

"It was a great privilege for me to win the first John Player ATP Tournament at Nottingham last year. It was a very well run tournament and the players are already looking forward to it this year. The tournament has quickly become one of the world's great grass court events and because it is a £45,000 tournament, it is a very significant Commercial Union Grand Prix event. In addition, because it immediately precedes Wimbledon, players consider the tournament very important and point towards it as they train for Wimbledon. "I look forward to returning to Nottingham not only to defend my title, but also to see the many friends I made at the tournament last year. Those of us who enjoy competing on grass are already looking forward to June 16th."



Stan Smith

Stan is a graduate of the University of Southern California and served in the U.S. Army. He is a former U.S. junior and Inter-collegiate champion. He has won 20 U.S. titles—only Tilden and Trabert have won more.

He has won both Wimbledon (1972) and Forest Hills (1971) but has yet to progress past the quarter finals of the major clay court events. In 1973 he won the WCT Dallas finals and led the U.S. to the final of the Davis Cup.

He was Masters champion in 1970, and won the Grand Prix in 1971.

Last year was the first in which he failed to qualify for the Masters, but he still finished tenth in the Grand Prix, even though he rested for the last four months of the year. With Bob Lutz he has won the Australian championships (1970), the U.S. Open (1968) and the WCT World Doubles (1973). Last year he married Marjorie Gengler. He is 28 years old.

A Green Oasis

by Rex Bellamy

Rome, Nottingham and Boston have something in common. All three cities promote tennis tournaments that are important on two counts. First, they are richly distinguished in their own right, carrying the highest possible status in the Commercial Union Grand Prix. Second, they immediately precede the three "Triple Crown" events of the Grand Prix—the French, Wimbledon, and United States Championships. This means that Rome, Nottingham and Boston are particularly nerve-twanging tournaments for the competitors, who have one big incentive under their noses and another at the back of their minds.

Except for Wimbledon, the John Player Tournament is Britain's most highly graded Grand Prix event. In its pre-Wimbledon significance it has replaced and surpassed the old tournament at Queen's Club. That occasion was overwhelmed by the geographical proximity of Wimbledon. Nottingham stands much more firmly on its own feet, partly because of its huge prizes and partly because it is far enough away from Wimbledon to avoid being dominated by it. Yet it retains other characteristics of "Queen's": as a rendezvous for the tennis set (the men, anyway); as a gossip shop in which the Wimbledon seedings and draw are prominent topics; and as a crucial opportunity to make the difficult but necessary adjustment to grass.

Tennis originated on grass and the greatest tournament is still played on it. This has obscured the fact that the leading players seldom compete on grass. This year, even the United States Championships move from grass to clay. The ideal court has a consistent bounce and a reliable foothold. Grass, especially when damp, satisfies neither requirement. It is also difficult and expensive to maintain and in any case does not produce the most attractive tennis.

But grass remains important. Not just because of Wimbledon, tradition, and all that. But also because uniformity of court surfaces could take much of the variety out of the game and the people who play it—and breed a race of tennis-playing robots. Grass court tennis is inimitable in its powerful and swift cut and thrust, its explosively short rallies, its continual insistence on improvisation. The pace is fast, the bounce low,

though neither factor is consistent. In many different ways, the quick adjustment to grass is a testing challenge, it can also be hazardous—and no player wants to risk injury while preparing for Wimbledon. But no man can afford to coast through Nottingham. The competition is too tough, the prize money too high, the need for severe match play on grass too urgent. In particular, the men who come straight from the slow clay of Paris, or from carpeted indoor courts, want all the work they can get.

Already this year, the players have been tested on indoor circuits and the clay of mainland Europe. Ahead of them the outdoor season stretches through the Americas, Europe, and the Far East. But for the moment the circuit is briefly poised on a green oasis dominated by Wimbledon and Nottingham—a modern, professional tournament that, nevertheless, manages to retain much of the charm of the game's deeper traditions.

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