THE NEWSLETTER OF GRASS TENNIS CLUB

Grass Tennis Club News

November 2026
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Kooyong, Melbourne: twenty-six grass courts for members

THE SEASON TURNS SOUTH

The grass moves to Australia and New Zealand

The northern courts are put to bed under winter covers; in Victoria, Western Australia and Canterbury the grass season is about to begin.

From the Victorian Seniors Grasscourt Championships at Yarrawonga at the end of this month to the Christchurch championships at Te Kura Hagley Park in January, the southern summer is played on lawns. Our **Grass Court Calendar** lists every event we can confirm, and the full list for the next ten weeks is on page 4.

This month we also go to Kooyong, the old home of the Australian Open, meet Ken Rosewall, who was born this month in 1934, and introduce the new GTC rosette for the clubs and players in our rankings. And there are four free printables for members, from the A3 tournament calendar to a planner for your club's own season.

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Four Wimbledon finals in twenty years

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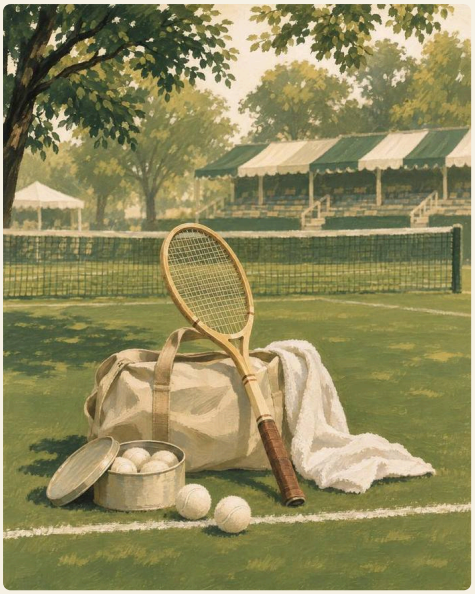
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Your newsletter, your ideas



PLAYER OF THE MONTH · BORN 2 NOVEMBER 1934

Ken Rosewall

Rosewall reached the Wimbledon final at 19 and at 21, missed eleven Championships as a professional, then came back to reach two more finals at 35 and 39. The singles title is the only major he never won. He stood 1.70 metres, played on placement and timing, and his one-handed backhand was the shot he was known for.

4	2	37
Wimbledon singles finals, 1954 to 1974	Wimbledon doubles titles with Lew Hoad	Age at his 1972 Australian title

> *"I was lucky, because the game didn't change a great deal from the start of my career to the end."*
>
> Ken Rosewall, quoted by the International Tennis Hall of Fame

At Wimbledon in 1974, aged 39, he came from two sets down to beat Stan Smith in the semi-final. **Read his full grass record and stories.**

ON THIS DAY IN NOVEMBER

2 — **1934**
Ken Rosewall is born in Sydney.

14 — **1877**
Norman Brookes, Australia's first Wimbledon champion, is born in St Kilda.

21 — **1905**
The first Australasian Championships begin on grass in Melbourne.

27 — **1908**
The Davis Cup final begins on grass at the Albert Ground, Melbourne.

CLUB OF THE MONTH · MELBOURNE, VICTORIA

Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club

Formed in 1892 as the Lawn Tennis Association of Victoria, Kooyong opened its stadium in 1927 and was the permanent home of the Australian Open from 1972 to 1987. After the Second World War it staged seven Davis Cup Challenge Rounds; in 1953 the teenagers Lew Hoad and Ken Rosewall won both final-day singles to keep the Cup for Australia.

Grass courts	26 for members, couch grass in six banks
On the grass	National championships from 1927; Australian Open 1972 to 1987
Since	The stadium is a hard court now, but a portable grass court returned for the 2016 Davis Cup tie with the United States

Visit Kooyong in the Club Atlas

ROSEWALL'S FOUR WIMBLEDON FINALS

1954 — **Aged 19**
Lost to Jaroslav Drobný, 13-11, 4-6, 6-2, 9-7.

1956 — **Aged 21**
Lost to Lew Hoad, 6-2, 4-6, 7-5, 6-4.

1970 — **Aged 35**
Lost to John Newcombe in five sets.

1974 — **Aged 39**
Lost to Jimmy Connors, 6-1, 6-1, 6-4.

THE RANKINGS

A rosette for the top 50

Every club and player in the top 50 of a Grass Tennis Club ranking now carries the GTC rosette, and every ranking is written the same way: "No. 16, World's Greatest Grass Clubs". Our ranking of the clubs doing most for the future of grass, formerly the GTC Top 50, is now called Innovative Grass Clubs.



Bonmont Golf & Country Club

Switzerland's first grass court, in a twelfth-century abbey near Geneva. No. 16 in the World's Greatest Grass Clubs and No. 2 in Innovative Grass Clubs.

Who leads each ranking

WORLD'S GREATEST GRASS CLUBS

1. All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club
2. The Queen's Club
3. Longwood Cricket Club

INNOVATIVE GRASS CLUBS

1. All England Lawn Tennis Club
2. Bonmont
3. International Tennis Hall of Fame

See all the rankings, including All-time Players, Players at Wimbledon and the 2026 grass ratings.



COURT CARE THIS MONTH

Two hemispheres, two jobs lists

Northern clubs: into winter

Mowing: winter height of about 12 to 18 mm, cut only when conditions allow.

- Pencil or solid tine when the soil is suitable.
- Apply an iron-based product to harden the sward and hold colour.
- Keep traffic off frozen or waterlogged turf.
- Clean all machinery and book winter servicing.

Watch for: Microdochium patch in mild, damp weather.

Southern clubs: season opening

Mowing: reach playing height, 6 to 10 mm at club level; three cuts a week.

- Complete the first marking out with string lines.
- Erect nets and posts and set up court furniture.
- Keep rolling to build firmness; open only when the courts are firm and even.

Watch for: red thread in cool, wet weather on slow-growing turf.

The full month-by-month programme for temperate, hot and tropical climates is **on the site**, and members can **download it as an A3 wall chart**.

COMING UP ON GRASS

Mid-November to January

27 to 30 Nov	**Victorian Seniors Grasscourt Championships** Yarrawonga Lawn Tennis Club, Victoria · seniors
9 to 13 Dec	**J500 Victorian Junior Grasscourt Championships** Victoria, venue to be confirmed · juniors
14 to 19 Dec	**J1000 12U and 14U Australian Grasscourt Championships** Shepparton Lawn Tennis Club, Victoria · juniors
18 to 21 Dec	**World Tennis Masters MT200** Corinthian Park Tennis Club, Perth · seniors
Late Dec*	**Warrnambool Grasscourt Classic** Warrnambool Lawn Tennis Club, Victoria · club open
Early Jan*	**Goulburn Valley Open and Junior Open** Shepparton Lawn Tennis Club, Victoria
Mid Jan*	**Margaret Court Cup** Albury, New South Wales
Jan*	**Martinborough Over the Hill Tournament** Martinborough Lawn Tennis Club, New Zealand · club open
Mid Jan*	**Christchurch Lawn Tennis Championships** Te Kura Hagley Park Tennis Club, Christchurch

* Usual timing; dates not yet confirmed by the organiser. Always check with the club before you travel or enter. The full season is in our **Grass Court Calendar**.

FREE FOR MEMBERS

Print it, pin it up

Membership is free. Join once and download every printable, now and as we add more.

The A3 Grass Court Calendar 2026-27
Every grass tournament of the season

The Grass Court Maintenance Calendar
Twelve months of court care, three climates

The Grass Season Planner
Plan your club's own season, day by day

On This Day in Grass Court Tennis
Forty-eight anniversaries, four a month

Join free **Get the newsletter every month**

What would you like in the next edition?

Your club's season, a player you would like us to profile, a question about your courts, or a story from the archives: reply to this email or write to **info@grasstennisclub.com**. If your club runs a grass event, send us the dates and we will add it to the calendar.

Enjoyed this issue? Subscribe free and get the next one on 15 December. Know someone who plays on grass? Send them to **grasstennisclub.com/newsletter**.