



TROPHIES

THE GENTLEMEN'S SINGLES TROPHY

The Trophy

- The Gentlemen's Singles Challenge Cup is inscribed with the words: The All England Lawn Tennis Club Single Handed Championship of the World.
- It is a silver-gilt trophy that is 17.5 inches (44.5cm) in height and 3.5kg (without its plinth) in weight.
- It was made by the firm Elkington & Co.; over the course of its history, the Elkington firm became very successful and was one of the prime producers of silver plating. The company's archive is now held in the Victoria & Albert Museum.
- The most notable part of the decoration for many people is the finial which takes the form of a pineapple. We do not currently know why this was used but pineapples were a symbol of luxury at the time.
- It was first presented in 1887, but was retrospectively engraved with the Champions' names from 1877.
- The trophy does not hold space for all Champions' names. It has the Champions' names from 1877 onwards engraved on it; from 2009 onwards, they are engraved on the plinth on which the trophy now sits.
- Champions do not get to keep the trophy - they receive a replica to keep which is $\frac{3}{4}$ size.

History

- Its hallmarks date it to 1883 and it was bought by the All England Club in 1887 for 100 guineas.
- With The Championships starting in 1877, the original silver trophy was called the Field Cup - donated by the Field newspaper. It is no longer in use, but can be found on display in Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Museum.
- It was agreed that anyone who won The Championship three years in a row should keep the trophy; William Renshaw managed this in 1881-83. The Field Cup was replaced with a new Challenge Cup but William Renshaw won again in 1884-86 and kept this too. The Club therefore decided to create a 'perpetual' trophy in 1887.



THE LADIES' SINGLES TROPHY

The Trophy

- The trophy's official title is the Ladies' Singles Challenge Plate but it is more commonly known as the 'Rosewater Dish' or the 'Venus Rosewater Dish'.
- It dates from 1884 and was bought by the All England Club in 1886 for 50 guineas.
- It is a silver parcel-gilt (i.e. part-gilded) salver - a method of manufacture that was the height of modernity at the time.
- It is 18¾ inches (47.5cm) in diameter and weighs 2.3kg (without its plinth).
- It was made by the firm Elkington & Co., evident from the diamond-shaped electrotype mark No.764 on its base. The company's archive is now held in the Victoria & Albert Museum.
- It was first presented in 1886, but was retrospectively engraved with the Champions' names from 1884.
- Champions from 1884-1957 are engraved on the front of the dish; from 1958 onwards, they were engraved on the reverse, and from 2016 the names are engraved on the plinth.
- The Champions do not get to keep the trophy - they receive a replica to keep which is ¾ size.

The Design

- The inspiration for the trophy was one of the most influential patterns of the late Renaissance (late 17th century), combining complex design, virtuoso craftsmanship and decoration infused with intellectual references.
- The original dish, which the trophy is based on, was probably made in the 16th Century and would have been used to decorate the buffet of a prince or a civic body such as a town guild.
- The central plaque depicts a figure of Temperance holding a wine-cup and ewer. Around the central boss, a broad ornamental frieze contains four plaques with figures representing AER (air), AQUA (water), TERRA (earth), and IGNIS (fire). On the rim there are oval panels depicting the Seven Liberal Arts and their patron Minerva: GRAMMATIC (Grammar), DIALECTICA (Dialectic), RHETORICA (rhetoric), MUSICA (music), ARITHMETIQUA (Arithmetic), GEOMETRIA (Geometry) and ASTROLOGIA (Astrology).



THE GENTLEMAN'S DOUBLES TROPHIES

The Trophies

- The original trophy was made by Elkington & Co. and is sterling silver.
- The companion trophy is identical except for the motif and inscription on the front of the bowl. Instead of the Oxford University Lawn Tennis Club emblem, the companion trophy bears the crossed rackets in a circle of the Club.



History

- In 1884, seven years after the inauguration of the Gentlemen's Singles Championship, The All England Lawn Tennis Club added a Gentlemen's Doubles Championship to the programme. Earlier in that year the Oxford University Lawn Tennis Club had decided to discontinue their championship, which had been instituted in 1879, and offered to transfer their Challenge Cup to The All England Lawn Tennis Club.
- The companion trophy was introduced in 1937.
- The Club presented the Cup to Sir Herbert Wilberforce upon his resignation from the Chairmanship of the Club and he in turn gave the Trophy back to the Club to be held as a companion trophy to the Oxford University Cup.

THE LADIES' DOUBLES TROPHIES

The Trophies

- The current Ladies' Doubles Championship Trophy is an elegant silver Challenge Cup, presented to The All England Lawn Tennis Club by H.R.H. The Duchess of Kent in 1949. The hallmark indicates it was manufactured in 1913.
- A companion trophy was presented in 2001 by The All England Lawn Tennis Club. It is made of sterling silver by Wakely & Wheeler of London.
- The trophies are 17 inches (43cm) high, with a base diameter of 4 1/2 inches (12cm) and a bowl diameter of 6 inches (15cm).



History

- Following the creation of the International Lawn Tennis Federation in 1913, the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) accepted, on behalf of the British Isles, the "World Championships on Grass". The All England Lawn Tennis Club agreed to merge these Championships with the three existing Championship events and to extend the programme to include Ladies' Doubles and Mixed Doubles Championships.
- The LTA decided to present two silver Challenge Trophies to the winners of each new event. With the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939, the LTA withdrew the trophies for safe keeping but in 1941, the trophies were lost when the building where they were lodged in was destroyed by enemy action. Details of these original trophies are unknown.

THE MIXED DOUBLES TROPHIES

The Trophies

- The Cup was made by Barnard & Sons with Robert Dubock of London, and its hallmark indicates a date of manufacture of 1901.
- A companion trophy was presented in 2001 by The All England Lawn Tennis Club. It is made of sterling silver by Wakely & Wheeler of London.
- The trophies are 17 inches (43cm) high, with a base diameter of 5 1/2 inches (14cm) and a bowl diameter of 6 1/4 inches (16cm).

History

- The original Mixed Doubles Trophy awarded from 1913-1939 was destroyed along with the Ladies' Doubles Trophy in 1941. See details above.
- The current Mixed Doubles Championship Trophy was presented to The All England Lawn Tennis Club by the family of the late Sidney Smith, who was Wimbledon Gentlemen's Doubles Champion in 1902 and 1906.
- Originally, Sidney Smith won the cup outright after winning the singles three times in succession at the Northern Championships in 1904.



WHEELCHAIR EVENT TROPHIES

History

- Wheelchair tennis was invented in America in 1976 by Brad Parks and Jedd Minnebraker.
- In 1990, the first British Open Wheelchair Tennis Championships was held.
- In 2005, the first wheelchair tennis event was held at Wimbledon.



Gentlemen Wheelchair Singles

- The trophy was made in 1909 and is thought to have been repurposed from another event. It was chosen as the trophy for the Gentlemen's Wheelchair Singles event when it was introduced in 2016.
- The original engraving was erased from the trophy and a new inscription engraved on the cup. A satin ebonised hardwood plinth with a silver inscription band was created to accompany the trophy.



Ladies' Wheelchair Singles

- The trophy dates from 1915 and was chosen for the Ladies' Wheelchair Singles event when it was introduced in 2016.
- The trophy is of a neoclassical design known as 'Adam style', after 18th century Scottish architect William Adam and his sons.
- It is made of silver and consists of an elegant urn-shaped cup with long sweeping handles and a cover decorated with a flute and bead pattern finial.



Gentlemen's Wheelchair Doubles

- Possibly made by Charles Rawlings in 1893.
- Believed to be a repurposed trophy from another event.



Ladies' Wheelchair Doubles

- Created by Wakely & Wheeler in 1990.
- Thought to be a repurposed trophy from another event.



Quad Wheelchair Singles and Doubles

- Commissioned by the AELTC for the inaugural Quad events in 2019.
- Designed and created by Fox Silver, the singles trophy features a tennis ball motif.

