

CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME



On behalf of the Committee of Management, it is my pleasure to welcome you to Wimbledon and to the 126th Championships.

Once again the athleticism, grace, power and finesse of the world's finest tennis players will be on display on the lawns of the All England Club as they compete for the coveted crowns of Wimbledon Champions.

Wimbledon is celebrated for its long history and traditions, including our grass tennis courts, white tennis clothing, strawberries and cream and the Queue. Another of our traditions is that each year several former Champions are invited to attend The Championships as 'Chairman's Special Guests,' and we are delighted that Frank Sedgman, Rod Laver, Andre Agassi and Stefanie Graf will be our guests in 2012. Sedgman is celebrating 60 years since completing the trio of titles in 1952, for Laver it is 50 years since his first Grand Slam in 1962 and for Agassi and Graf it is 20 years since their singles' wins in 1992.

Those of you who attend The Championships regularly will have seen the many changes that have taken place within the Grounds. Over the past 15 years our 'Long Term Plan,' which came to an end in the summer of 2011, has delivered a new No.1 Court, No.2 Court and No.3 Court, a retractable roof on Centre Court, the Millennium Building and a new Wimbledon Museum, not to mention the enhanced landscaping and the Hill. We are currently developing a new masterplan, 'Wimbledon 2020', intended to improve our Grounds further over the next 10 to 15 years and secure Wimbledon's position as the world's premier tennis tournament.

Before then we have the hugely exciting prospect of 2012. Just 20 days following The Championships, the world's top tennis players will return to SW19 to compete in the Olympic tennis event and all the indications from the players are that this will be something special.

The All England Club was delighted to have played its part in helping to bring the Olympic Games to London and we are proud that the battle for Olympic tennis medals will be decided on our lawns.

In the meantime, I wish you a very enjoyable and entertaining time here at Wimbledon.

**PHILIP BROOK
CHAIRMAN**



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