

Welcome to this newsletter, tasked with keeping you in the picture about events past, current, and yet to come. Celebrate and enjoy the game you love by joining in as much as you can.

Are you
In the
Picture?

Coming up

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Finals

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League Results

Congratulations to all division winners and to those teams who have guaranteed promotion next season. If your team was a runner up, we'll be asking if you wish to challenge for a spot in a higher division.

See full [report](#) and [results](#)

Cup Results

Congratulations to all the winners of the Cup Competitions.

Click [here](#) to see the list of results

Sharing is caring

Do you have an interest in

- Social Media Platforms
- Creating content for social media, newsletters, blog, email
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- Advertising
- Admin
- Online apps and or software
- Organising events and or people
- Finance and or fund raising

Can you spare a couple of hours? Whether it be per week or per month, we'd love to hear from you.

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US Open Part 1

One of the best slams ever. That's what it was called. It was in several ways.

The crowds were back. Well almost.

Firstly, the qualifying was played without crowds, then everyone was allowed to come in, provided they could prove they had received at least one dose of the covid vaccine. Inevitably it caused long queues in the first few days as local officials worked out the finer details of the airline style security measures. The irony of this measure is there is no such requirement for the players, more than 50% of whom are unvaccinated. This is a story that will surely run and run.

The most bizarre/interesting match of the first round was between Sloane Stephens and Madison Keys. As good and as close as their previous matches, it went to a third set tie-break that Stephens won 9-7. Just four years ago (2017) this encounter was the final. Since then both their rankings have slipped below the top 32 and thus neither player was seeded. An indication, if any were needed, that in today's women's game it is hard to maintain your ranking and even harder to repeat previous successes.

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View full blog post [here](#)

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Dear Diary, 2021

23 October Presentation Evening
To attend email [here](#)

23rd Oct - 1st Nov ARC Winter Open
Enter [here](#)

6/7 November Challenge Match weekend



US Open Part 1

From page 1

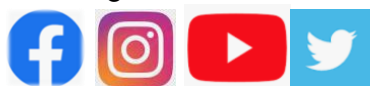
Whilst this latest chaotic fight for supremacy was playing out, an interesting side story was being told elsewhere. I say elsewhere, but what I really mean is what usually happens on the outside courts. The first week dramas where the smart spectators go to watch future players. The "I was there when..." moments. We are so used to these lights shining so brightly and then fizzing out shortly after that nobody, not even the most optimistic pundits, saw this coming. Yes, I am talking about Emma. [View Blog](#)

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WTN (World Tennis Number) Intro

Coming soon

Essentially this replaces the old ratings system with one that provides a separate measure of player ability for singles and doubles players. Players WTN number will be updated weekly and will accept results as short as a single set. Particularly useful when playing a match that is stopped due to bad light. Up to four years of results will contribute to your WTN. Another major difference is that 132 countries are adopting this system, so, if you take your racket with you on business or holiday, there is a chance, you'll be able to play someone with the same WTN as yourself.

NDT Report & Results

By Sue Doncaster

This was played at Tarka Tennis Centre during September.

Regrettably, numbers this year were down to half the entries for those in previous years – possibly because of the effect of covid and players' fear of playing inside, possibly because it was played in autumn, and not in spring, before the start of the League season, as it has been in the recent past, we will never know. We had to cancel the over 60's mixed doubles as there were insufficient entries, but all other events went ahead, and competitors had the opportunity to play several matches. Matt Johns and Teresa Poole, again partnering each other, retained the Open Mixed Doubles crown, and successfully defended their other respective titles.

We were once again grateful to the Tarka Centre for the use of their courts.

View [Results](#)

& Photos



US Open Part 2

There was so much excitement on the women's side that you could be excused for forgetting that one man, Novak Djokovic, was attempting to pull off the most difficult feat in our sport. A calendar grand slam. The last woman player to achieve this was Steffi Graf in 1988 and, in the men, it was Rod Laver, once in 1962 as an amateur and again in 1969 as a pro. Novak has proved himself, at 34, to be a survivor and a master of his craft, often spurred on by his greatest rivals. Prior to this year he had two great seasons in 2011 and 2016, but with the stars of Rafa, Roger and Andy waning plus the NexGen stars not yet fully established, 2021 has been regarded as his best chance, perhaps his last chance to achieve the holy grail of tennis.

2021 began steadily enough. In Australia Novak peaked to perfection seeing off Rafa, who had defeated Stefanos Tsitsipas in five sets, in straight sets, then Daniil Medvedev in straight after basically Daniil self-destructed after dropping the first set.

At the French Novak beat Rafa on his favourite surface, for the second time, in one of the most intense matches ever seen on clay. In the final Novak only just saw off Stefanos Tsitsipas in five sets from two sets down. I don't think either player had much left in the tank (See previous reports).

At Wimbledon the field had an appearance of being less strong and the NexGen players did not perform as their rankings suggested. Nevertheless, you still must win the matches and whilst Matteo Berrettini on paper seemed like a surprise finalist, he had found his grass court form early in Queens and was definitely on a roll. After Matteo had overcome his nerves, he suddenly played a lot better and recovered a deficit to take the first set.

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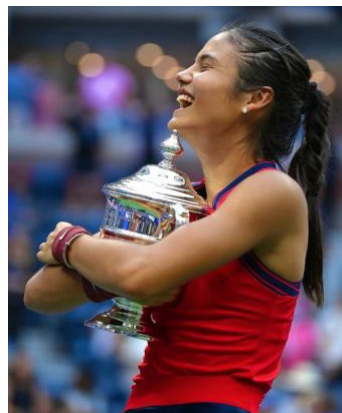
..... After this though, Novak used his most reliable strategy of wearing down his opponents into mistakes by not making any himself. So, three slams in the bag. One to go, easy right? Well, that's what Novak wanted his rivals to think.

Before we go into the why's and wherefores of Daniil Medvedev's victory it is worth noting a nagging story that's been attached to Novak's coat tails pretty much the entirety of his career. Why do people love Roger and Rafa more than 'him'? Maybe it's a case of always having to catch up so to speak and of course a good story always needs a bad guy. Whilst it's too strong to use the 'bad' label, spending a lot of energy trying to be something else in the public's mind is surely distracting. Public affection seems to be a funny old thing as Andy Murray found out in 2012. When they witnessed his fragility and emotional side, suddenly there was a connection. Somehow it became easier for him afterwards.

Jonny Mac made an entertaining video at Wimbledon called "It ain't a popularity contest". When I saw Novak trying not to cry in the US Open final, we knew other things are important too.

Sorry Commissioner McEnroe, we all need a little love and adulation.

View full blog [here](#)



Other notable US Open stories

Dylan Alcott Golden Slam

A story that didn't get much airtime was Australia's Dylan Alcott who, in winning the US Open Quad singles, won all four grand slams plus the gold medal at the Tokyo Paralympic Games. A very energetic character who celebrated by drinking the quickest beer ever, out of the US Open Cup! C'mon you Aussie.

Joe Salisbury Double success

Partnered with Rajeev Ram in Men's and Desirae Krawczyk in Mixed, won two doubles events at US Open. He was the first to do so since Bob Bryan in 2010.

Quiz

Word Spiral						
1		2				
			7			3
	11		12		8	
6						
				13		4
	10				9	
		5				

1. Baby's Bed
2. Bicycle mad for two
3. Bangers & _ _ _ _
4. Environment
5. Game usually played with yellow balls!
6. Leisurely walk
7. Noisy
8. Information
9. Loft
10. Hello/Goodbye in Italian
11. Not on
12. Fish have them
13. Stick me on an envelope

Quizmaster: Simon Trapnell

WTA Finals

Gasping for air as we do after a grand slam, the tournament calendar keeps on going. Seven events in September and six in October prior to WTA Finals taking place in Guadalajara, a city west of Mexico City, from 8 November. The final WTA 1000 event takes place at Indian Wells from 4 October. After Emma Raducanu's run in New York, she is currently at 14 in the race. The points are so close that a similar run in Indian Wells could see her as high as 5 and then a trip to Mexico would beckon.

ATP Finals (Turin)

Similar number of events for the men with their finals in mid-November in Turin for the first time. The top six of Djokovic, Medvedev, Tsitsipas, Zverev, Rublev and Berrettini look safely in. Only Nadal and Ruud can realistically be caught by Hurkacz, Auger-Aliassime and Sinner.

Cameron Norrie is number 15 and is having best career season.

Last 1000 events at Indian Wells & Paris, so we should watch out for last minute place changes. Interestingly Djokovic and Nadal have only played half the number of events as everyone else this season.

The Laver Cup has recently been played with Team Europe beating the rest of the world 14-1. The 2022 event is relocating to the O2 in London.

Word Spiral

Starting from number 1, fill in the grid clockwise. The last letter of each word becomes the first letter of the next to reveal the key word in the shaded boxes

Clue: He has won 14 tennis grand slam singles titles