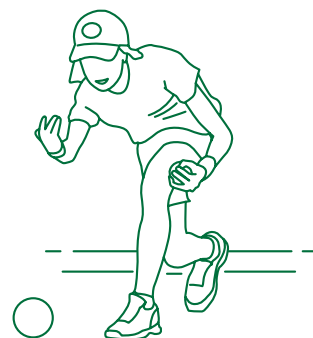




BALLBOYS & BALLGIRLS 2023

- Wimbledon training is directed by Sarah Goldson, who has held the role since 2012.
- Approximately 280 ball boys/girls (BBGs) are selected from around 1500 applicants, with 170 from Years 9 and 10 and 110 from recall applications (i.e. BBGs who have been accepted at one of the last two Championships).
- Approximate ratio of boys/girls is 50/50.



BALL BOYS AND BALL GIRLS ARE CHOSEN FROM THE FOLLOWING SCHOOLS:

The Beacon School, Banstead

Burntwood School, Wandsworth

Glyn School, Ewell

Graveney School, Wandsworth

Grey Court School, Richmond

Harris Academy, Merton

Holy Cross Convent School, New Malden

John Fisher School, Purley

Overton Grange School, Sutton

Putney High School, Wandsworth

Raynes Park High School, Raynes Park

Ricards Lodge High School, Wimbledon

Rutlish School, Merton

Saint Cecilia's School, Wandsworth

Southborough, Kingston

Sunbury Manor School, Sunbury

Surbiton High School, Kingston

Sutton Grammar School, Sutton

Sutton High School, Sutton

Teddington School, Teddington

Tiffin School, Kingston

The Tiffin Girls' School, Kingston

Tolworth Girls' School, Surbiton

Ursuline High School, Wimbledon

Wallington County Grammar School, Sutton

Wilson's School, Wallington

Wimbledon College, Wimbledon

Wimbledon High, Merton



HISTORY

1920s & 30s

Ball boys were provided by Shaftesbury Homes

1977

Ball girls were introduced

1986

Ball girls on Centre Court for the first time

From 1946

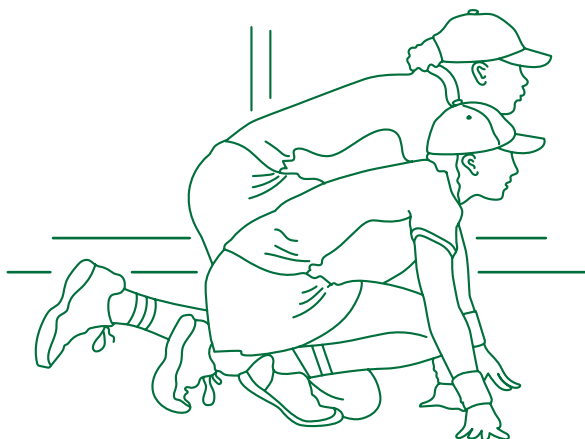
They were provided by volunteers from institutions/schools

1980

First mixed teams of ball boys and girls

SELECTION

- Participating schools make the initial nominations of the ball boys/girls.
- No specific weight or height is required.



Schools are asked to send candidates who meet the following requirements:

- Completed the first eight modules of the online training programme and registered their details online.
- Are in Year 9 or 10.
- Have no exams during The Championships.
- Can give priority to training between February and June and are available from 16.00.
- Are physically fit.
- Have a good knowledge of the rules of tennis.
- Understand that absence for any reason (including illness and injury) lasting two weeks or longer may result in failure to qualify for further training.
- Are sure that work experience/school trips will not result in missed sessions.

ENTRY INTO THE TRAINING PROGRAMME

To qualify for full training, students need to gain sufficient points across four areas of assessment at the January trials:

01

Fitness

Complete the warm-up consisting of jogging, running and dynamic exercises followed by standing still for several minutes. Candidates are then assessed in a series of speed endurance tests.

02

Knowledge

Assessed through a written test on the rules and scoring of tennis.

03

Court work

Demonstrate a basic understanding of the game and the ability to perform the core skills, when adopting one of the key positions i.e. base or centre.

04

Skills

Demonstrate competency in feeding, rolling and receiving over a variety of distances.

Competition for places is extremely high at selection and the margin between success and failure can be a matter of one to two points.

TRAINING

The information below relates to training in a usual year:

In a usual year, training would begin in February at the AELTC Community Sports Ground Raynes Park.

Each prospective ball boy/girl will train once a week.

Weekly training sessions last between 2 - 2.5 hours with 40-80 children per session.

There is no training during the school holidays.

Training sessions involve general fitness and movement exercises, circuits, core skills (rolling, feeding, receiving, working on knowledge of the game), scoring (e.g. knowing from the score at which end the balls should be), and set pieces (marching, start and end of match, tie break, ball change, suspended play etc.).

Throughout training, each candidate is constantly assessed by the Instructor team and are also expected to analyse their own performance and record any key aspects to work on.

After May half term, in the run up to The Championships, training will move to the Indoor Tennis Centre, Somerset Road.

Training on grass itself only happens towards the end of the programme, and includes a grass court week on both The Championships courts and at Aorangi during the wild card playoffs.

In 2022, the BBGs took part in the Qualifying Competition for the first time; providing BBGs for between 10-12 courts across the four days. This is now a permanent part of the BBG calendar.



DURING THE CHAMPIONSHIPS

- Six teams of six selected by Sarah Goldson to be responsible for Centre and No.1 Courts.
- Six teams of six rotate around the other Show Courts.
- Remainder in teams of six rotate around the rest of the courts.
- Usually arrive at 10.00am and leave as soon as possible after the last court is closed.
- Usual routine is one hour on, one hour off.
- The age range of BBGs now spans from 14 to 19, with the older recalls covering late-night play on the Show Courts where they have the required experience.

