



## 2022 WIMBLEDON THE CHAMPIONSHIPS

### Wheelchair Tournament Preview

In 2016, the first wheelchair singles events were held at Wimbledon, with men's and women's singles tournaments both taking place for the first time. A men's wheelchair doubles event had been held at Wimbledon since 2005, and a women's wheelchair doubles event had been added in 2009. The quad singles and doubles tournaments began in 2019. This is the 6th edition of the Wimbledon men's and women's wheelchair singles events and the 3rd edition of the Wimbledon quad wheelchair singles event. 2022 Wimbledon is the 135th staging of the Championships overall.

This will be the first edition of the Championships to feature a tiebreak to 10 points when the score reaches 6-6 in the final set. Previously, the wheelchair singles events here have been played as best-of-3-tiebreak sets, with a tiebreak to 7 points in the final set.

The quad wheelchair singles events have been expanded for the 2022 tournament, with 8 players competing in the quad singles – up from 4 players in 2019 and 2021. The men's and women's wheelchair singles events also have draws of 8 players.

#### **KUNIEDA AIMS TO COMPLETE CAREER GOLDEN SLAM**

Shingo Kunieda will aim to capture the one Grand Slam title to have so far eluded him – he has won 11 singles titles at the Australian Open, and 8 singles titles at both Roland Garros and the US Open, but will bid for his first Wimbledon singles title this week. He has reached one singles final here – in 2019, when he fell to Gustavo Fernandez in 3 sets.

With 3 Paralympic singles gold medals to his name – including at Tokyo 2020 last year, where he defeated Tom Egberink in the final – Kunieda would become the first player in history to win a 'career Golden Slam' in men's wheelchair singles. He would become the 3rd player to win a career Golden Slam in wheelchair singles – after Diede de Groot and Dylan Alcott.

Having won the singles titles at the 2021 US Open, where he defeated Alfie Hewett in the final, and at both the Australian Open and Roland Garros this year, defeating Hewett and Fernandez respectively, Kunieda will also bid to become the first player to hold all 4 Grand Slam men's wheelchair singles titles simultaneously.

#### **DE GROOT BIDS FOR SEVENTH STRAIGHT SLAM TITLE**

Netherlands' Diede de Groot backed-up her Grand Slam-winning season in 2021 by winning the opening 2 Grand Slam tournaments of the 2022 season – defeating Aniek van Koot in the final at the Australian Open before defeating Yui Kamiji in the final at Roland Garros

De Groot is bidding to win a 7th consecutive Grand Slam title here, which would equal the 3rd-longest Grand Slam singles title winning streak, currently held by Esther Vergeer. She would also become the first player to record 7 consecutive Grand Slam titles in seasons when all 4 Grand Slam tournaments have hosted wheelchair singles events. (see table overleaf)

### Longest Grand Slam wheelchair singles title-winning streaks

| Player                | Length of streak | Years          |
|-----------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Shingo Kunieda        | 12               | 2007-11        |
| Esther Vergeer        | 11               | 2005-10        |
| <b>Diede de Groot</b> | <b>7??</b>       | <b>2021-22</b> |
| Esther Vergeer        | 7                | 2010-12        |
| Shingo Kunieda        | 6                | 2014-15        |
| Dylan Alcott          | 5                | 2018-19        |
| Dylan Alcott          | 5                | 2020-21        |
| Peter Norfolk         | 5                | 2007-10        |

Note: 2017 was the first season when all four Grand Slam tournaments held men's and women's wheelchair singles events. The quad wheelchair singles events have been held at all four Grand Slam tournaments since 2019.

## NEW CHAMPION GUARANTEED IN QUAD SINGLES

Since the introduction of the quad wheelchair singles tournament at Wimbledon in 2019, Dylan Alcott has won the titles in both years that the Championships has been contested – but Alcott's retirement earlier this year means that a new champion will be crowned in the quad singles event this year.

The leading contender for the quad title is world No. 1 Niels Vink, who won his first Grand Slam title at Roland Garros last month, while Sam Schroder, Andy Lapthorne and David Wagner will all be keen to add to their tally of Grand Slam singles titles with a first triumph at Wimbledon.

## DE GROOT BIDS FOR FOURTH WIMBLEDON CROWN

Just 8 players have won a Wimbledon wheelchair singles title, with De Groot leading the way with 3 previous victories here. De Groot is also the only active player to have won multiple Wimbledon titles, following the retirements of Alcott and Stefan Olsson.

With no Alcott in the quad singles draw, there will be at least one new Wimbledon singles champion this year. Meanwhile, Fernandez, Joachim Gerard, Jiske Griffioen, Gordon Reid and Van Koot are all bidding to become 2-time Wimbledon singles champions.

### Most Wimbledon wheelchair singles titles (all categories)

| Player            | Roland Garros singles titles |
|-------------------|------------------------------|
| Diede de Groot    | 3                            |
| Dylan Alcott      | 2                            |
| Stefan Olsson     | 2                            |
| Gustavo Fernandez | 1                            |
| Joachim Gerard    | 1                            |
| Jiske Griffioen   | 1                            |
| Gordon Reid       | 1                            |
| Aniek van Koot    | 1                            |

## GERARD MOUNTS TITLE DEFENCE

Gerard became the first Belgian man to win a Grand Slam singles title following his victory at the 2021 Australian Open, and backed up that success with his first Wimbledon title last year. He ended his 2021 season after the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Tennis Event due to health problems – but has been competing on the Tour again this year and enters Wimbledon this year on a 6-match grass court winning streak.

## KAMIJI AIM FOR CAREER SLAM

Women's world No. 2 Kamiji has won singles titles at the other 3 Grand Slam tournaments – but has so far been unable to claim victory at Wimbledon. Kamiji has never reached the final here, but is a 3-time Wimbledon semifinalist, having reaching the last 4 here in 2017, 2018 and 2019.

## HEWETT BIDS FOR GLORY ON HOME SOIL

Men's world No. 2 Hewett is also bidding to taste victory at Wimbledon for the first time. The Brit has won the title at Roland Garros 3 times, won the title at the US Open twice and finished runner-up at the Australian Open twice, but is still yet to reach the final at Wimbledon. He would become the 2nd British player to win a Wimbledon wheelchair singles title, after Gordon Reid, who won the inaugural men's wheelchair singles title here in 2016.

## CHASING THE GRAND SLAM

Kunieda and De Groot are bidding to win their 3rd Grand Slam titles of the season and move one step closer to winning the Grand Slam. Should Kunieda win the singles title at all 4 Grand Slam tournaments this year, he would become the first player to win a Grand Slam in men's wheelchair singles, and the 3rd wheelchair player to achieve the feat overall – after De Groot and Alcott, who both won a Grand Slam in 2021. De Groot would become the first player to win the Grand Slam on multiple occasions if she wins all 4 Grand Slam tournaments this year.

## KUNIEDA BIDS TO EXTEND ALL-TIME RECORD

Kunieda enjoys a healthy lead at the top of the all-time list for most Grand Slam wheelchair singles titles (in any category) and is aiming to capture his 28th major singles title here this week, having added his 26th and 27th Grand Slam singles titles at the Australian Open and Roland Garros, respectively, this year.

Among the other men's entrants here, Gustavo Fernandez and Hewett are both aiming to win their 6th Grand Slam titles and claim sole ownership of 2nd place on the list for most Grand Slam men's wheelchair singles titles, while defending champion Joachim Gerard would enter the Top 5 on the list if he wins his 3rd Grand Slam title here this week.

| Most Grand Slam men's wheelchair singles titles |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| Player  | Grand Slam singles titles |
| Shingo Kunieda                                  | 27                        |
| Gustavo Fernandez                               | 5                         |
| Alfie Hewett                                    | 5                         |
| Stephane Houdet                                 | 4                         |
| Robin Ammerlaan                                 | 3                         |
| David Hall                                      | 3                         |

## DE GROOT BIDS TO CLOSE GAP ON VERGEER

De Groot's streak of 6 consecutive Grand Slam singles titles has seen her move well clear of Kamiji in 2nd place on the all-time list for most Grand Slam women's wheelchair singles titles – she is now two-thirds of the way to catching Esther Vergeer at the top of the list, and aims for her 15th major singles title here this week.

Fellow Dutch players Griffioen and Van Koot – both former Wimbledon singles champions – are also bidding to add to their tallies, while Kamiji – the only non-Dutch player in the Top 5 of the list, is aiming for her 9th Grand Slam title. Van Koot is the only player to have defeated De Groot on grass, in the 2019 Wimbledon final.

| Most Grand Slam women's wheelchair singles titles |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| Player  | Grand Slam singles titles |
| Esther Vergeer                                    | 21                        |
| Diede de Groot                                    | 14                        |
| Yui Kamiji  | 8                         |
| Jiske Griffioen                                   | 4                         |
| Aniek van Koot                                    | 3                         |

## THE RACE TO CATCH ALCOTT

Alcott retired having won a total of 15 Grand Slam quad wheelchair singles titles – comfortably ahead of Peter Norfolk and Wagner's tallies of 6 major titles each. Wagner will bid to win a 7th Grand Slam title, and claim sole ownership of 2nd place on the list, while Lapthorne and Schroder are both aiming for a 3rd major title, which would see them claim sole ownership of 4th place.

Should Vink win back-to-back Grand Slam titles, he will become the 6th quad player to win multiple Grand Slam singles titles.

| Most Grand Slam quad wheelchair singles titles |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| Player   | Grand Slam singles titles |
| Dylan Alcott                                   | 15                        |
| Peter Norfolk                                  | 6                         |
| David Wagner                                   | 6                         |
| Andy Lapthorne                                 | 2                         |
| Sam Schroder                                   | 2                         |

## HOME FAVOURITES

Just one British player has won a Wimbledon singles title – Reid won the inaugural Wimbledon men's wheelchair

singles title in 2016. Wimbledon has had the 3rd-longest wait for a home wheelchair singles champion among the 4 Grand Slam tournaments, with only Roland Garros having gone longer without a home player winning a wheelchair singles title.

| <b>Most-recent home wheelchair singles champions</b> |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Grand Slam</b>                                    | <b>Most-recent home wheelchair' singles champion</b> |
| Australian Open                                      | Dylan Alcott (2021)                                  |
| Roland Garros  | Stephane Houdet (2013)                               |
| Wimbledon  | Gordon Reid (2016)                                   |
| US Open  | David Wagner (2017)                                  |

There are 4 British players competing in the wheelchair tournament here this year – Hewett and Reid in the men's singles, Lucy Shuker in the women's singles and Laphorne in the quad singles.

## GRAND SLAM PREPARATION

Many of the field competing at Wimbledon this week played at the British Grass Court Wheelchair Tennis Tournaments last month – with the men's tournament played in London, the women's tournament played in Eastbourne and the quad tournament played in Birmingham across a two-week period.

### British Grass Court Wheelchair Tennis Tournament (17-25 Jun) – final results

| <b>Event</b>    | <b>Champion</b> | <b>Runner-up</b> |
|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Men's singles   | Joachim Gerard  | Stephane Houdet* |
| Women's singles | Diede de Groot  | Yui Kamiji       |
| Quad singles    | Andy Laphorne   | James Shaw*      |

\*not competing at Wimbledon

## 2022 LEADERS

World No. 1s Kunieda, De Groot and Vink are at the top of the lists in their respective categories for most match-wins during the 2022 season.

### 2022 men's wheelchair singles win-loss (ITF 2 Series and above)

| <b>Rank</b> | <b>Player</b>        | <b>2022 win-loss</b> |
|-------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1.          | Shingo Kunieda       | 30-3                 |
| 2.          | Gustavo Fernandez    | 27-8                 |
| 3=          | Martin de la Puente* | 24-13                |
|             | Alfie Hewett         | 24-4                 |
|             | Ruben Spaargaren*    | 24-8                 |

\*not competing at Wimbledon

### 2022 women's wheelchair singles win-loss (ITF 2 Series and above)

| <b>Rank</b> | <b>Player</b>   | <b>2022 win-loss</b> |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| 1.          | Diede de Groot  | 22-0                 |
| 2.          | Yui Kamiji      | 21-5                 |
| 3.          | Jiske Griffioen | 19-6                 |
| 4=          | Aniek van Koot  | 16-8                 |
|             | Zhu Zhenzhen*   | 16-10                |

\*not competing at Wimbledon

### 2022 quad wheelchair singles win-loss (ITF 2 Series and above)

| <b>Rank</b> | <b>Player</b>   | <b>2022 win-loss</b> |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| 1.          | Niels Vink      | 25-2                 |
| 2.          | Sam Schroder    | 22-5                 |
| 3.          | David Wagner    | 18-12                |
| 4.          | Ymanitu Silva   | 15-8                 |
| 5.          | Donald Ramphadi | 11-10                |
|             | Robert Shaw*    | 11-5                 |

\*not competing at Wimbledon

## YOUNGEST AND OLDEST

At just 16 years 66 days, Oda is the youngest player to compete in the wheelchair event here this year – he is more than 32 years younger than the oldest player, David Wagner (48 years 128 days). At Roland Garros last month Oda became the youngest wheelchair player to have ever contested a Grand Slam.

### Youngest and oldest players in Wimbledon wheelchair events

| Event           | Youngest player (age)              | Oldest player (age)                |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Men's singles   | Tokito Oda (16 years 66 days)      | Shingo Kunieda (38 years 139 days) |
| Women's singles | Diede de Groot (25 years 203 days) | Lucy Shuker (42 years 43 days)     |
| Quad singles    | Niels Vink (19 years 216 days)     | David Wagner (48 years 128 days)   |

NB ages calculated on final day of the tournament

### LEFTHANDERS

There are 8 lefthanders in the wheelchair singles draws at Wimbledon this year – 2 in the men's event (Oda and Reid), 3 in the women's event (Kamiji, Kgothatso Montjane and Van Koot) and 3 in the quad event (Lapthorne, Schroder and Koji Sugeno). Reid and Van Koot are the only lefthanded players to have won a Wimbledon singles title.

### WILD CARDS

Japanese players received 2 of the 3 available wild cards – Oda in the men's event and Momoko Ohtani in the women's event. The wild card in the quad event went to Ymanitu Silva of Brazil.

### COUNTRY COUNTDOWN

A total of 10 nations are represented in the wheelchair singles draws at 2022 Wimbledon, with Netherlands having the most players competing across the 3 events overall. Netherlands, Great Britain and Japan are the only 3 nations with representatives in each of the men's, women's and quad wheelchair events here.

| Nation        | Men's singles | Women's singles | Quad singles | Total |
|---------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|-------|
| Netherlands   | 1             | 3               | 2            | 6     |
| Japan         | 2             | 2               | 1            | 5     |
| Great Britain | 2             | 1               | 1            | 4     |
| South Africa  | 0             | 1               | 1            | 2     |
| USA           | 0             | 1               | 1            | 2     |
| Argentina     | 1             | 0               | 0            | 1     |
| Australia     | 0             | 0               | 1            | 1     |
| Belgium       | 1             | 0               | 0            | 1     |
| Brazil        | 0             | 0               | 1            | 1     |
| France        | 1             | 0               | 0            | 1     |

### WIMBLEDON HONOUR ROLL

There have been 4 Wimbledon men's wheelchair singles champions and 3 Wimbledon women's wheelchair singles champions since those tournaments were established in 2016. Alcott is the only player to have won the quad wheelchair singles title here since the tournament's introduction in 2019. Of the 8 players to have won a wheelchair singles title here, 3 have won the title on multiple occasions.

| Year | Honour roll            |                          |                       |
|------|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
|      | Men's singles champion | Women's singles champion | Quad singles champion |
| 2016 | Gordon Reid            | Jiske Griffioen          | no tournament         |
| 2017 | Stefan Olsson          | Diede de Groot           | no tournament         |
| 2018 | Stefan Olsson          | Diede de Groot           | no tournament         |
| 2019 | Gustavo Fernandez      | Aniek van Koot           | Dylan Alcott          |
| 2020 | no tournament          | no tournament            | no tournament         |
| 2021 | Joachim Gerard         | Diede de Groot           | Dylan Alcott          |
| 2022 | ???                    | ???                      | ???                   |