



2022 WIMBLEDON MEN'S WHEELCHAIR SINGLES FINAL NOTES Sunday 10 July

NO. 1 SHINGO KUNIEDA (JPN) v NO. 2 ALFIE HEWETT (GBR)

Head-to-head: Kunieda leads 14-12

Kunieda and Hewett meet for the 27th time – but for the first time since the Australian Open final this year, which Kunieda won 75 36 62. Kunieda has won just 2 of the pair's last 7 meetings – but both of those victories have come in Grand Slam finals, at the 2021 US Open and at the Australian Open this year.

This is Kunieda and Hewett's first meeting at Wimbledon – but their 11th at the Grand Slams. Hewett leads the overall head-to-head at the Grand Slams 6-4.

This is the pair's 6th meeting in a Grand Slam final. Kunieda leads the pair's head-to-head in Grand Slam finals 3-2 in previous meetings, recorded Grand Slam final victories against Hewett at the US Open in both 2020 and 2021 and at the Australian Open this year. Hewett won Grand Slam finals against Kunieda at the 2018 US Open and 2021 Roland Garros. By both reaching the final here, Kunieda and Hewett will have contested at least one singles final at all 4 Grand Slam tournaments.

The winner of today's match will claim his first Wimbledon title and become the 5th player to win the Wimbledon men's wheelchair singles title – after Gordon Reid (2016), Stefan Olsson (2017-18), Gustavo Fernandez (2019) and Joachim Gerard (2021).

The winner of both today's men's wheelchair singles final and today's quad wheelchair singles final (between Niels Vink and Sam Schroder) will become the 9th and 10th players to win a Wimbledon wheelchair singles title.

Hewett is also bidding to win his 6th Grand Slam title and claim sole ownership of 2nd place on the list for most Grand Slam men's wheelchair singles titles, ahead of Fernandez. Kunieda is at the top of the list and is bidding to win his 28th major singles title.

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 |

Hewett and Kunieda also contested the men's wheelchair doubles final here on Saturday, with Kunieda and partner Fernandez defeating Hewett and partner Reid 63 61. The victory ended Hewett and Reid's streak of 10 consecutive doubles titles – the last 3 of which had been won with wins against Kunieda and Fernandez in the final – and was Kunieda's first Grand Slam doubles title since 2019 Roland Garros.

Road to the final

| KUNIEDA | Time | | Time | HEWETT |
|-----------------------------|------|------------|------|----------------------------------|
| d. Tom Egberink 61 67(5) 61 | 2:45 | 1st round | 2:31 | d. Gordon Reid 62 36 64 |
| d. Joachim Gerard 62 61 | 1:11 | Semifinals | 3:03 | d. Gustavo Fernandez 26 76(3) 64 |
| total time on court | 3:56 | IBM time | 5:34 | total time on court |

| KUNIEDA | v | HEWETT |
|---------|----------------------------------|---------|
| 38 | Age | 28 |
| 1 | Ranking | 2 |
| 27 | Grand Slam Singles Titles | 5 |
| 117 | Singles Titles | 48 |
| 87-19 | Grand Slam Record | 32-17 |
| 5-4 | Wimbledon Record | 4-5 |
| 688-104 | Career Record | 409-136 |
| 28-3 | 2022 Record | 26-4 |

- **KUNIEDA** is bidding to win his first Wimbledon title and become the first player to complete a career Grand Slam in men's wheelchair singles.
- Kunieda is also bidding to win his 4th consecutive Grand Slam singles title and become the **first player to hold all 4 Grand Slam men's wheelchair singles titles simultaneously**. He defeated Hewett in the finals at the 2021 US Open and at the Australian Open this year, before defeating Gustavo Fernandez in the final at Roland Garros last month. It would be the first time he has won 4 consecutive Grand Slam titles since he won 6 straight major titles in 2014-15.
- Kunieda is bidding to win his **28th Grand Slam singles title**. He has won 11 singles titles at the Australian Open, 8 singles titles at Roland Garros and 8 singles titles at the US Open.
- Kunieda is bidding to win his 50th Grand Slam title, in singles and doubles, and extend his **record for most total Grand Slam wheelchair titles**. He claimed sole ownership of the record, ahead of Esther Vergeer, by winning in singles at the 2020 US Open.
- Kunieda is through to his **33rd Grand Slam singles final**. In addition to his 27 Grand Slam titles, he has also finished runner-up on 6 occasions – including once at Wimbledon. His only previous appearance in the final here came in 2019, when he fell to Gustavo Fernandez 46 63 62.
- Kunieda is making his **5th appearance at Wimbledon** and his 47th appearance at a Grand Slam overall. Last year here, he fell to Gordon Reid in the 1st round.
- Kunieda is bidding to win his **118th singles title** – and his 6th title of 2022. In addition to his titles at the Australian Open and Roland Garros, he has won the titles at the Victorian Wheelchair Open (d. Reid), the Georgia Open (d. Fernandez) and the French Riveira Open (d. Fernandez).
- Kunieda has **won 84 doubles titles** – including 22 Grand Slam doubles titles. He has won 4 doubles titles here – with his doubles title-victory alongside Fernandez this year being his first Wimbledon doubles title-victory since 2014 (when he won the title alongside Houdet) and his first Grand Slam doubles title-victory since 2019 Roland Garros (when he won the title alongside Fernandez).
- Kunieda reached the **world No. 1 ranking** for the first time in October 2006. He dropped to No. 2 for the first time since January 2020 in March this year but regained the No. 1 ranking last month and plays here at the same ranking.
- Kunieda is a **4-time Paralympic gold medallist**. He won gold in singles at the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Tennis Event (d. Robin Ammerlaan), the London 2012 Paralympic Tennis Event (d. Houdet) and the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Tennis Event (d. Tom Egberink). He also won gold in doubles alongside Satoshi Saida at Athens 2004 and a bronze in doubles alongside Saida at both Beijing 2008 and Rio 2016.
- Kunieda is coached by Tasuku Iwami.

- **HEWETT** is bidding to win his first Wimbledon title and become the 2nd British player to win a wheelchair singles title here – after Gordon Reid, who won the men’s wheelchair singles title here in 2016.
- Hewett is bidding to win his **6th Grand Slam title**. He has won 3 titles at Roland Garros – in 2017 (d. Gustavo Fernandez), 2020 (d. Joachim Gerard) and 2021 (d. Kunieda) – and also won back-to-back titles at the US Open in 2018 (d. Kunieda) and 2019 (d. Stephane Houdet).
- Hewett is through to his **11th Grand Slam final**. In addition to his 5 title victories, he also reached the final at the US Open in 2017 (l. Houdet), 2020 (l. Kunieda) and 2021 (l. Kunieda), and at the Australian Open in 2021 (l. Joachim Gerard) and this year (l. Kunieda).
- **Elsewhere in Grand Slam play this year**, Hewett reached the semifinals at Roland Garros. He defeated Tom Egberink in his opening match before falling to Gustavo Fernandez in the last 4.
- By reaching the final here, Hewett has recorded his **best Wimbledon performance**. His previous best result here was reaching the semifinals on 2 occasions – in 2017 (d. Nicolas Peifer, l. Fernandez) and 2018 (d. Houdet, l. Stefan Olsson).
- Hewett is making his **6th appearance at Wimbledon** and his 23rd appearance at a Grand Slam overall. His victories here this year were his first singles match-wins at Wimbledon since 2018. He lost in the 1st round here in both 2019 (l. Fernandez) and 2021 (l. Gerard).
- **Prior to Wimbledon** Hewett competed at the British Grass Court Wheelchair Tennis Tournament at Queen’s, but lost his opening match to Gerard.
- Hewett is bidding to win his **49th singles title** – and his 4th title of 2022. He won the titles at the Melbourne Wheelchair Open (d. Kunieda), Rotterdam (d. Fernandez) and the Cajun Classic (d. Fernandez) this season.
- Hewett has also **won 66 doubles titles** – including 15 Grand Slam doubles titles. He has won 4 doubles titles at Wimbledon, alongside Reid in 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2021.
- Hewett and Reid’s **10-title winning streak in Grand Slam men’s wheelchair doubles ended on Saturday** after they lost the doubles final to Fernandez/Kunieda. They had previously defeated Fernandez/Kunieda in the final at the last 3 Grand Slam tournaments. It was the pair’s first defeat in a Grand Slam doubles match since the 2019 Wimbledon final, when they fell to Gerard/Olsson.
- Hewett reached the **world No. 1 ranking** in January 2018 and remained at No. 1 until June that year. He is the youngest player in history to hold the men’s No. 1 ranking. He has been ranked inside the Top 10 since September 2016 and plays here at No. 2.
- Hewett is a **3-time Paralympic silver medallist**. He won silver medals at the Rio 2016 Paralympic Tennis Event – falling to Reid in the men’s singles gold medal match, and partnering Reid in defeat to Houdet/Peifer in the men’s doubles gold medal match. Hewett and Reid also fell to Houdet/Peifer in the men’s doubles gold medal match at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Tennis Event last year. In singles at Tokyo 2020, Hewett finished in 4th place, falling to Egberink in the semifinals and to Reid in the bronze medal match.
- Hewett is coached by Donna Andrews and Ben Collingwood.