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ANYONE FOR TENNIS?

By Andy Black, our Sports Writer.

The Wimbledon tennis competition starts tomorrow. Every year, lots of fans come to watch.

The competition is held every year here in South London. The All England Tennis Club in Wimbledon is the place to be for the next two weeks. The competition is the oldest tennis competition in the world.

The world's best players are coming to play. Andy Murray will be trying to win the competition for the third time. He won the men's competition last year.

The women's competition will not have the winner from last year. Top player Serena Williams is pregnant and so cannot play.

With no Serena to worry about, Angelique Kerber might win for the first time. The German lost in the final to Serena last year but is now World Number 1. She is very good at hitting the ball back into difficult places. Look for the left-hander to go a long way in the competition.

In the men's games, Andy Murray will probably have a tough time. Murray is World Number 1, but right behind him is Novak Djokovic. Djokovic has won Wimbledon three times. He was World Number 1 for 223 weeks! That is over four years!

The finals will be played on Centre Court at the All England Tennis Club, on the 15th and 16th July.



Djokovic lost at another big competition just a few weeks ago. He will want to win Wimbledon even more now!

“Andy Murray will need to be very, very good,” said tennis expert, Jonathan Jennings. “Djokovic will want to make a new memory for this year. A pleasant one to get rid of his loss last month.”

“Angelique Kerber will have an easier way to the final now Serena Williams is out. However, there will also be a lot of pressure on her. Will she be okay, or will she fall apart? We will have to wait and see!”

One thing we always have to ‘wait and see’ about at Wimbledon, is the weather. Will games be halted because of rain? Or will we have sun every day? For one person who works at the All England Tennis Club, these are very important questions.

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“We have to keep an eye on the weather,” said Fatema Begum, who helps to look after the grass at the club. “The courts have to be covered up when it rains. We have practised dragging the covers over. We are ready. I hope we will have sun for the whole competition!”

The good news is that Centre Court now has a roof. The biggest court at the club will be the place where the finals are played. If rain is going to come, the court will have its roof closed. That means we are certain to get the finals at the right time.

The roof also means that people who come to watch the finals will stay dry if it rains. On other courts, people will get wet!

People who come to watch the games on the big hill at the club will also have to wear coats! ‘Henman Hill’ (as it was called after British tennis player Tim Henman) has now been named ‘Murray Mount’ after Andy Murray. Every year, people who do not get tickets to watch the games, sit on the hill and cheer

the players on. They watch the games on a huge screen. The hill is next to Court Number 1.

“We heard the cheers from Henman Hill when we were here last year,” said Molly Curtis. Molly is a tennis fan, who comes to the competition every year. She goes to school a mile down the road from the All England Tennis Club.

“It is an amazing place to be. So many people and such good tennis! I want to play here one day!”

It is an exciting event for all the people who live near the club. It is an exciting event for all of London, and the rest of the country! It all begins tomorrow!

The Wimbledon Tennis Competition will happen from 3rd – 16th July 2017, at the All England Tennis Club. For more info, find our FREE poster about the competition in the Sports section of London News.