

Turkey v Portugal

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never had the soaring success of their colonial cousins in South America who have won a record four World Cup titles and come to be eliminated in the semi-finals of the 1966 World Cup when their star player Eusebio - the tournament's leading goalscorer - was the victim of brutal man-marking by Nobby Stiles - conduct that undoubtedly would have been clamped down on nowadays.

They also impressed in the 1984 European Championships going down 3-2 in the semi-finals to a Michel Platini-inspired France in what remains one of the classic matches in football history.

Portugal's under-20 world title wins in both 1989 and 1991, however, gave the impression a whole new batch of players would come through to the senior side and might just win at least one major trophy.

Players such as keeper Vitor Baia, defenders Feraudo Couto and Secretario, midfielders Paulo Sousa, Rui Costa, Luis Filgo and striker Joao Pinto will all be nearing or past 30 by the time the 2002 World Cup comes round and surely past their best.

A 3-2 fightback win over England, a 1-0 victory over Romania and then a rousing 3-0 thrashing of Germany, including a hat-trick from stand-in Sergio Conceicao, meant they jointly have the best attack and defence of the competition with Holland of seven goals scored and two conceded.

Luckily for coach Humberto Coelho, who made nine changes from the Romania game when they met Germany, only Porto right back Secretario is ruled out of the match.

Secretario, who has an injury to his right arm, will be replaced by Everton's Mozambique-born Abel Xavier.

In attacking midfield, Coelho has a multitude of options with superb stars like Luis Filgo, Rui Costa plus Conceicao at his disposal.

Bad news for Turkey is that striker Hakan Sukur picked up an injury in training on Thursday, the team's general manager Can Cobanoglu said.

"Hakan Sukur is slightly injured," said Cobanoglu. "We hope he can play (in the quarter-final with Portugal) but we do not know yet."

Sukur, who is leaving Galatasaray to join Inter Milan, scored both goals in the 2-0 victory over Belgium that helped Turkey reach the second phase of a major tournament for the first time.

It's been a while since Turkey were considered one of Europe's poorer footballing nations although they did lose all three group matches in Euro 96 in their major finals debut and were defeated in their first group B game against Italy.

A dull draw against Sweden had many thinking that they would be on their way home after their match against Belgium but Sukur's exploits rubbished the doubters.

Cross-examination ends

Double-dealing Cronje



CAPE TOWN, June 23 (AP/AF/Int) - A weary Hansie Cronje ended three days of cross-examination at the King Commission into corruption in tears on Friday, following a gruelling session in which he said he wanted to use money he took in bribes to redress the damage he had done to cricket.

The sacked 30-year-old skipper broke down as the panel of lawyers at the commission wrapped up their cross-examination and thanked the former captain for his cooperation.

He was helped out of the room by a minder and by his brother Frans after being warned that he might be recalled to the inquiry.

Also Friday, Cronje admitted he tried to cheat his own teammates when he enticed them into accepting money for a substandard performance.

Cronje said he told a gambler called Sanjay "Sanjay" Chawla that his teammates Herschelle Gibbs and Henry Williams wanted 25,000 dollars each to perform poorly in a one-day international against India at Nagpur on March 19. Cronje had offered them 15,000 dollars each to play badly.

State Prosecutor Shamiela Batohi grilled Cronje on why he had accepted 25,000 dollars per player and offered them only 15,000 each.

"I offered them 70,000 rands," said Cronje. "I converted the dollar at about 5 to one, but I told them I'd see if I could get more."

After a pause, during which he looked very tired, he added, "Maybe I was trying to cut something for myself."

Cronje was described earlier this week by his psychiatrist as being clinically depressed.

Next on the stand was Johannesburg gambler Marlon Aronstam, but he, too, started crying and the inquiry was briefly adjourned while he regained his composure.

Aronstam gave Cronje 50,000 rands (7,215 dollars) and a leather jacket after the captain manufactured a result in the rain-hit fifth Test against England at Centurion Park in January 2000.

Aronstam told the inquiry that he was "shocked" when within an hour of meeting Cronje for the first time the

South African captain had told him he could "throw a game".

Before he left the inquiry, Cronje said he wanted the money he had accepted in bribes to be used to correct some of the damage he had caused.

"I hope that I can use this money in some way to repay and redress the hurt that I've caused to the game and my country in particular," Cronje said.

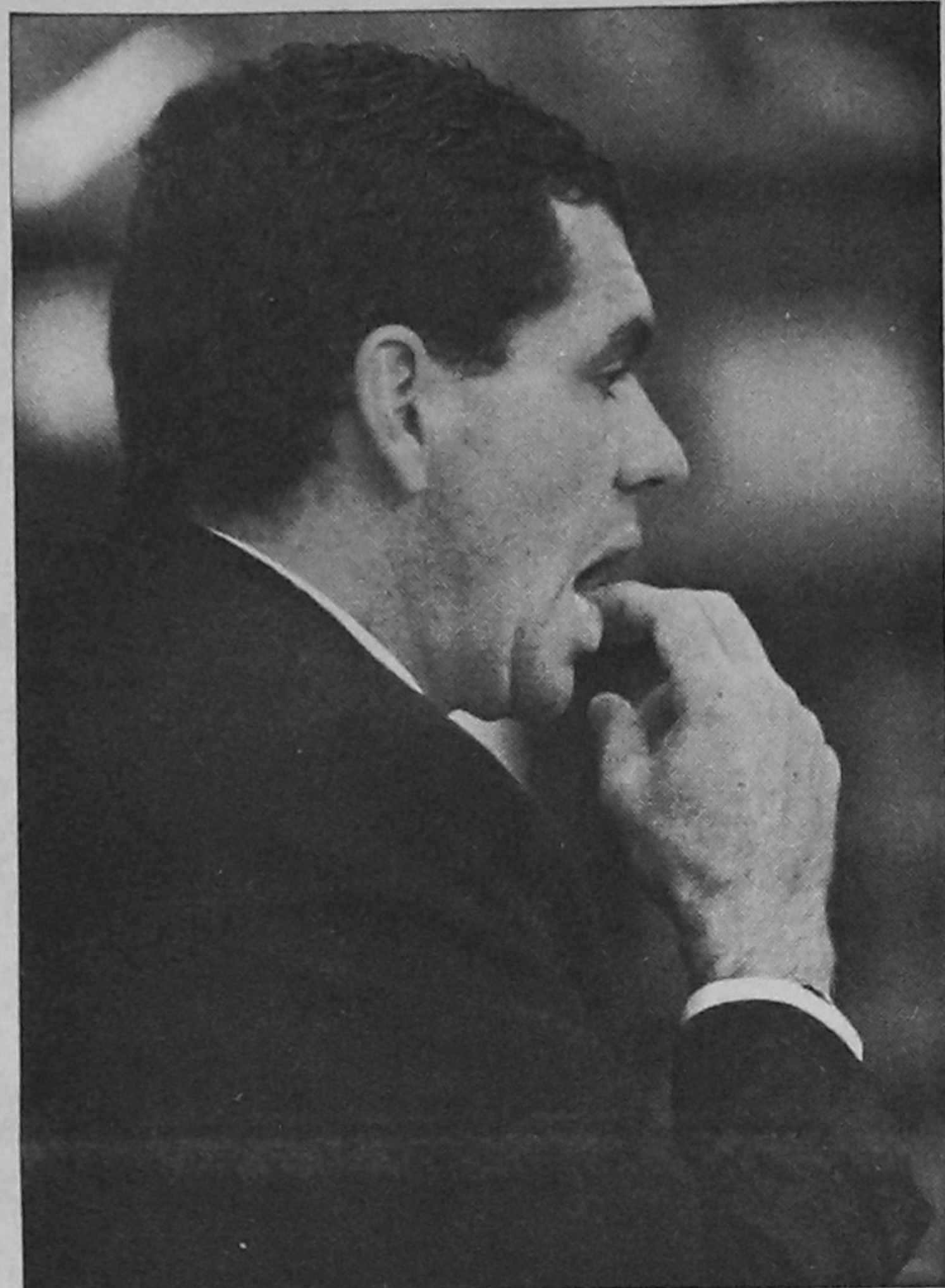
In his statement to the commission last week, Cronje admitted to accepting four bribes, worth about 140,000 dollars, from gamblers since 1996.

He also testified that one gambler, Indian Jeweller Mukesh Gupta, had been introduced to him by former Indian captain Mohammad Azharuddin in 1996.

Lawyers for the United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA) on Friday quizzed Cronje on this introduction, but the ex-captain was reluctant to say Azharuddin was himself involved in corruption.

"Didn't you think it was strange that a person that Mohammad Azharuddin had introduced you to had just handed you 30,000 dollars and asked you to fix a match?" asked UCBSA lawyer Brendan Manca.

Gupta later gave Cronje another 80,000 dollars.



Sacked South Africa cricket captain Hansie Cronje during the cross-examination by King Commission in Cape Town yesterday.

Cronje replied: "He could have been involved with Gupta but I didn't for any reason think he was doing business with Gupta at all."

He conceded later, "If he's the one who has introduced me, then he can also do business with Gupta."

Cronje said it was not likely that he was the only international player to have been approached by bookmakers but said he did not know who else had been.

"If they could get to me, they could get to anyone," he said.

Cronje admitted for the first time that he had been offered 100,000 dollars by Sanjay to "throw" a match during a one-day series in India in March.

The offer had been made when he was given money in a mobile telephone box as a deposit when the pair met for the first time in Durban before the tour.

Cronje was sacked in April after admitting to accepting money for fixing matches.

He has insisted, however, that he never threw a game and always played cricket to the best of his ability.

On the transcript of a taped telephone recording, Cronje asked Sanjay for "25" for each player and "140" as a total amount for himself. He admitted the amounts referred to thousands of dollars.

Tragic

BANGKOK, June 23: Slovak footballer Peter Dubovsky, 28, a striker for Spain's Real Oviedo, died Friday after falling off a waterfall in the southern Thai resort of Koh Samui, doctors said, reports AFP.

Dubovsky died at 10:40 am (0340 GMT) local time Friday because of heavy losses of blood and severe brain injuries," Choomchoke Janwimalung, director of Ban Don Hospital in the southern town of Surat Thani, told AFP.

Dubovsky fell from a waterfall Thursday on the southern island resort of Koh Samui, 644 kilometers (386 miles) from Bangkok, and was transported to the Surat Thani provincial hospital for treatment.



Choomchoke added that Dubovsky's chances of survival had been constrained by the delay in getting him from the waterfall to the hospital.

Dubovsky had been on holiday with his girlfriend, brother and sister-in-law.

Italy v Romania

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goals in three games at Euro 96 and eight goals in five at France 98. Italy have surprised many by scoring twice in each match at Euro 2000.

Totti and Del Piero, who are rivals for a place in Zoff's starting line-up alongside erratic centre-forward Filippo Inzaghi, have both found the target in their last matches.

Italy qualified for the last eight thanks to Totti and Fiore's goals against Belgium, enabling Zoff to give Del Piero his first start against Sweden - an act of faith repaid with the Juventus striker making one goal and scoring the other.

Their prowess has inevitably given Zoff a headache - and the Italian press a field day - over team selection for Saturday's match.

On the night, both men should make an appearance. Zoff will probably start with Totti and then replace him with Del Piero midway through the second half - as he did in both their opening matches.

Inzaghi hasn't scored once in open play at Euro 2000, having only converted a penalty that he dubiously earned against Turkey.

However, his poor form is uncharacteristic for one of the Serie A's top strikers of the last four years and he may yet sparkle against Romania.

In fact, Zoff will probably field the starting line-up used against Turkey, with Inzaghi and Totti supported by the creative skills of Fiore and the hard work of two other central midfielders - Demetrio Albertini and Antonio Conte.

Juventus pair Gianluca Pesotto and Gianluca Zambrotta will occupy the left and right flanks, moving up to supply crosses and falling back to help out a three-man defence with Fabio Cannavaro, Alessandro Nesta and captain Paolo Maldini.

Francesco Toldo stays between the posts.

By contrast, Romanian coach Emerich Jenei is facing all sorts of problems as he picks his team.

Three of his men who so heroically beat England 3-2 - Adrian Ilie, Cosmin Contra and Chelsea's Dan Petrescu - are suspended.

Another six-times Romanian Footballer of the Year Gheorghe Popescu ripped a calf muscle in a collision with David Beckham and - barring divine intervention - will be unavailable.

And there are some who would even see the return from suspension of Romania's greatest player ever, 35-year-old playmaker Gheorghe Hagi, as a mixed blessing.

Hagi, with his world-class ball skills and vision, is capable of turning a match at any level with just one shot or a single defence-splitting pass.

However, his overwhelming presence also means that he is the focal point of the team and of its distribution of the ball. Short on mobility, he draws his teammates passes like an irresistible magnet and in so doing, tends to slow down their attacking manoeuvre and make it more predictable.

Against England, that reference point was forcibly removed by disciplinary officials - and the team won their first ever match at a European championships.

Romania were faster on their feet and were able to attack Kevin Keegan's men from all sides, patiently moving the ball around up front or simply running straight at the England defence from deep positions.

Against Italy, Inter Milan's Adrian Mutu will start with Viorel Moldovan up front. Zoff's men would also be well-advised to keep an eye on midfielders Cristian Chivu and Dorinel Munteanu, who both scored in England.

Saturday's quarter-final here should certainly see a lot of neat, elegant football - despite the risk of it becoming bogged down in the middle.

There will probably be few chances for either side to finish the match off - but in Del Piero and Totti, Italy have two natural born killers.



Participants of the Millennium Olympic Day Run yesterday morning.

'Mission cross-Channel'



LONDON, June 23 (AFP) - Having proved herself in front of the Parisian fans who once were so disdainful towards her French Open winner Mary Pierce has nothing to prove to anyone other than herself as she bids to keep surfing her wave by tasting success on the other side of the Channel at Wimbledon.

Canadian-born Frenchwoman Pierce infuriated the Roland Garros fans for years with her eyelash-tweaking and hair re-arranging between points - there was also the little matter of a 1994 final defeat - as each year she flattered only to deceive on 'home' ground.

That was before she settled into a long-term relationship with Major League Baseball star Roberto Alomar and re-embraced Catholicism.

Thus galvanised, she promptly became the first French winner of the Roland Garros singles crown since Francoise Durr in 1967 and having accomplished her life-long dream 25-year-old Pierce can now take a more relaxed view as she contemplates how best to transfer that form to Wimbledon.

Pierce is not by any means an instinctive serve-and-volley merchant and her best finish in five trips to Wimbledon remains a quarterfinal loss in 1996.

Last year she bowed out in the fourth round to Aussie teen star and qualifier Jelena Dokic, who had humiliated Martina Hingis in the opening round, but Pierce says she has no problem with the grass court game.

"I feel every year I enjoy grass more and more and I'm playing better on it. But I only play three weeks a year on it - it's not like you get a lot of practice," says Pierce, who begins her challenge against Nicole Pietrangeli on grass against

anybody is a really tough match - bad bounces every time the ball hits the ground," she added warily prior to arriving in England, where on Wednesday she echoed recent criticisms of Wimbledon made in Paris by Andrei Medvedev.

Medvedev blasted the organisers for, as he saw it, treating the top stars better than the rest and Pierce weighed in with an attack of her own.

"Wimbledon is not very player-friendly. They don't want to pick you up at the airport," she sniped.

"It is the most prestigious tournament but not so enjoyable as the others."

That aside, Pierce, who won her first Grand Slam title at the 1995 Australian Open, hopes to take advantage of her superlative form and the confidence which accompanies it to give herself - and French tennis - another huge shot in the arm.

To date 'La Grande Nation' has only had one women's singles champion here - the legendary Suzanne Lenglen, who won the last of her six titles back in 1925.

With Pierce, the French scent a long-overdue addition to the record books.

She, meanwhile, is content for fate to bring with it what it may.

"Everything is in God's hands. I no longer want to torture myself on court. Just offer up a prayer and things will be fine."



MARY PIERCE

Eastbourne sans top four



EASTBOURNE, England, June 23: Dominique Van Roost blew Wimbledon winner Lindsay Davenport out of the Eastbourne grass-court tournament 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 Thursday, an upset which provoked a chain reaction and left the event without its top four seeds, reports AFP.

The wind-swept match between the pair was the second in succession won by the smiling Belgian, ranked 16th in the world and seeded fifth here.

Van Roost beat Davenport in the first round of the French Open when the American was suffering from a back problem picked up in Rome last month.

The victory in just over two hours came in blustery conditions.

"It was terrible, a nightmare," admitted Van Roost, who next plays Anne Kremer of Luxembourg, a winner over third-seeded South African Amanda Coetzer a 3-6, 6-0, 6-4.

"You just have to play and enjoy the weather," she added.

Second-seeded Frenchwoman Nathalie Tauziat, last year's finalist, joined the exit queue, losing 6-4, 6-4 to compatriot Julie Halard-Decugis.

Tauziat said that while she

has not made a final decision, there is a "70 per cent chance" that this is her last season.

"I've been playing 17 years and I feel it," said the 32-year-old.

"It's the travelling, the not being home, everything. Physically, it's also getting harder."

"My last goal is to win Wimbledon," said the 1998 finalist beaten by Jana Novotna.

Glamour-girl Anna Kournikova completed the day's draw-card disappointment as she went out 7-5, 0-6, 6-3 to American Chanda Rubin.

After two three-set struggles in as many days here, Davenport could at least draw satisfaction that her back problems appear to be well on the road to recovery.

"My fitness is good," said the American, playing her first event since losing to Van Roost in Paris.

"If there's one thing to take away, I've played two long, close matches and my back feels fine."

"It's nice to have that off my mind," she added.

The American worked hard in the trying conditions, but fell victim to repeated unforced errors brought on by the strong wind coming in off the English channel.

Davenport said she turned

around mentally while down 0-5 in the second, which she lost. A late break in the third set for 5-4 proved to be the key for Van Roost, who served out the victory in the next game.

"It was such a fight in the wind," said Davenport.

"At 0-5 I started turning it around. In the third, I had a break point for 4-3 but she took her opportunities and closed it out."

There was not much time to react, the points on grass go by so fast," she added.

Van Roost said that in contrast to her previous win over the world Number two, she felt no nerves in this contest.

"I feel much better on grass than clay," said the Belgian.

"Lindsay has the same strokes as I do, she will stay on the baseline."

"But I knew she had played a long match yesterday and might be tired. I was confident and ready to win," she insisted.

Davenport was making plans to head straight to London for training at Wimbledon, which she has not visited since her trophy triumph a year ago.

In Friday's semifinals, Van Roost plays Kremer while Rubin faces Halard-Decugis.

Wimbledon 1877-1999

(Continued from yesterday's issue)

1902: Muriel Robb wins the women's title - but only after playing four sets. Heavy rain halted the final at one set-all and the match was entirely replayed next day with Robb scoring a 7-5, 6-1 victory over Charlotte Sterry.

1905: May Sutton of the United States becomes the first overseas champion by winning the women's singles.

1907: Australian Norman Brookes becomes the first non-British player to win the men's singles.

1908: Charlotte Sterry becomes the oldest player ever to win the women's singles at the age of 37 years 9 months.

1909: Arthur Gore becomes the oldest winner of the men's singles at the age of 41 years 6 months.

1921: The Championships are held for the last time at Worple Road before the Club moves to its current Church Road location. Suzanne Lenglen strikes the last ball on centre-court.

1927: All events are seeded for the first time and South African Ruth Tapscott causes a stir by becoming the first woman to play without wearing stockings.

1933: Australian Vivian McGrath is the first player to hit double-fisted backhands at the Championships, while Britain's Bunny Austin becomes the first man to wear shorts on centre-court.

1934: Fred Perry and Dorothy Round win the singles titles - the first British 'double' since 1909.

1936: Fred Perry wins third consecutive singles crown.

1938: Helen Moody wins the women's singles for an eighth time and Americans take all five Championship titles. Competitors are given a free tea for the first time.

1946: Despite problems caused by rationing, players from 23 nations compete in the first post-war Championships.

1949: Record attendances (25,000) came through the gates on opening day. American Louise Brough plays 117 games and spends over five hours on court when competing in three matches on the final day.

1961: Two English players contest the women's singles final for the first time since 1914 - Angela Mortimer beating Christine Truman 4-6, 6-4, 7-5.

1963: Regulations are laid

down that players must be dressed predominantly in white.

1968: For the first time the Championships are 'open', enabling professionals to compete with the amateurs. Prize money totals 26,150 pounds. Rod Laver beats fellow-Australian Tony Roche in the men's final and American Billie-Jean King defeats Australia's Judy Tegart for the women's title.

1969: Rod Laver wins the men's title for a fourth time. Pancho Gonzalez beats fellow-American Charles Pasarell 22-24, 1-6, 16-14, 6-3, 11-9 in the longest-ever Championship match played in the days when the only chair on court is the umpire's.

1971: Six new court covers are provided to ensure all outside courts can be protected. A tie-break system is adopted whenever the score reaches 8-8 in any set except the decisive final set. Evonne Goolagong beats fellow-Australian Margaret Court in the women's final.

1972: A dispute between the International Lawn Tennis Federation (ILTF) and World Championship Tennis (WCT) leads to several 'contract' players being banned. Stan Smith of the United States beats Ilie Nastase of Romania in the men's final.

1973: The suspension of Yugoslav's Nikkili Pilić by the ILTF leads to 80 top men players boycotting the event after being ordered not to play by the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP). Jan Kodeš of Czechoslovakia beats Alex Metreveli of the Soviet Union in the men's final.

1976: One of the hottest-ever Championships with no rain all fortnight. Sweden's Bjorn Borg wins the first of five consecutive men's titles by defeating Ilie Nastase.

1977: Centenary Wimbledon. On the opening day 41 surviving singles champions parade on centre-court. Britain's Virginia Wade wins the women's title by beating Betty Stove of the Netherlands in three sets.

1979: The tie-break regulations are changed to operate at 6-6 instead of 8-8. Umpires are issued with stop-watches for the first time to ensure players do not exceed the time limit during a change of ends. Billie-Jean King of the United States wins the women's doubles to bring her tally of Wimbledon titles to 20 - an all-time record.

1980: Electronic service-line

monitors are introduced. Borg loses a fourth set tie-break 16-18 but comes back to beat American John McEnroe in a 233-minute men's final. It is the Swede's fifth straight title win.

1982: One of the wettest Wimbledon. Play is disrupted on ten of 13 days and a rain strike prevents many people from reaching the ground. The All England 'Plate' - a competition for first round losers - is discontinued, and a '35-and-over' men's doubles is inaugurated.

1984: Centenary of the women's singles, which is won by Martina Navratilova, who beats Chris Evert in straight-sets in the final.

1985: Boris Becker becomes the youngest-ever men's champion at the age of 17 years 7 months. He beats Kevin Curren of South Africa in the final.

1986: Yellow balls replace the traditional white ones for the first time. Becker retains his title.

1989: Rain forces the men's and women's finals to be played on the same day for the first time in the open era.

1990: Following tragedies at Bradford and Hillsborough football grounds, a new Act of Parliament rules that the centre-court standing section become a seating area. Ground capacity is fixed at 28,000. A bomb scare stops play on centre-court on the first Saturday. Martina Navratilova wins her ninth women's singles title - an all-time record.

1991: After the wettest-ever first week in which only 52 out of 240 scheduled matches are played, it is decided to play on the first Sunday, traditionally a rest day.

1992: Andre Agassi wins the men's title beating Croatia's big-serving Goran Ivanisevic in five sets in the final. On the third Monday more than 7,000 spectators come through the gates to watch the end of the men's doubles final stopped by bad light in the fifth set. John McEnroe and Michael Stich eventually beat Americans Jim Grabb and Richey Reneberg 5-7, 7-6 (7/5), 3-6, 7-6 (7/5), 19-17 in 301 minutes - the longest-ever men's doubles final.

1993: The 100th women's singles final is won by Steffi Graf, who comes back to beat Czech Jana Novotna 7-6 (8/6), 1-6, 6-4 after trailing badly in the third set.

1994: Canadian-born French player Mary Pierce is

forced to withdraw before the Championships start because of pressure from British tabloid newspapers threatening to smother him and his wife and estranged father Jim into the grounds. Steffi Graf is beaten in the first round and Conchita Martinez is the surprise men's champion after she beats Martina Navratilova in the final.

1995: Pete Sampras chalks up third consecutive men's singles victory by beating Boris Becker in four sets. Graf wins her second Grand Slam title of the year after her Roland Garros triumph by beating her old rival Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario of Spain.

1996: Towering Dutch player Richard Krajicek beats American MaliVai Washington for the men's title after a tournament of upsets during which Wimbledon experiences its first centre-court 'streaker' shortly before the men's final. Steffi Graf defeats Spain's Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario again to take the second of her three 1996 Grand Slam singles titles. Martina Hingis becomes the youngest-ever Wimbledon title winner at the age of 15 years 282 days when she triumphs in the women's doubles alongside Helena Sukova of the Czech Republic.

1997: Another wet Wimbledon with the new number-one show court being unveiled. Hingis takes the women's singles title for the first time after beating Jana Novotna in the final while Sampras adds a fourth singles crown by defeating Frenchman Cedric Pioline.

1998: Soccer's World Cup in France provides a distraction but not to Sampras, who cleaned up his fifth singles title to equal Swedish legend Bjorn Borg's tally with victory in five sets over Croat Goran Ivanisevic. After two disappointments Novotna cries for the right reasons this time as she defeats Frenchwoman Nathalie Tauziat to lift the women's crown.

1999: Sampras makes it six titles with a 6-3, 6-4, 7-5 win over US rival and French Open champion Andre Agassi.

The win gives him a record-equalling 12th Grand Slam singles title to emulate Australian Roy Emerson.

Lindsay Davenport makes it a US double as she wins the women's crown for the first time, ousting Steffi Graf 6-4, 7-5. Graf then announces she will not be back as she retired later in the year.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Chum 4 Collapsus 8 Applaud 12 Exploit 13 Neighbor-hood 14 Vagrant 15 Narrow passages for walking 17 Assist a prankster 18 Haunted house dwellers 19 "Blue?" 21 Hardly humorous 22 India's sacred river 26 Affixes one's X 29 Inseparable 30 Downsize 31 Commotions 32 Through 33 Imperfection 34 Formerly called 35 Web abbr. 36 NEA foe 37 Awa-wardly talk and thin

DOWN 1 Boxers 2 Monio 23 Chutzpah 24 Pre-diploma acronym 3 Carson's successor 4 1605 Gunpowder Plot leader 5 Wipe out 6 Old 7 Garfield's favorite food 8 Group of franchises 9 Tennis tactic 10 White House nickname 11 Caution 16 Evening wear 17 Solution time: 24 mins.

20 West of Hollywood 23 Chutzpah 24 Pre-diploma acronym 25 Males like Betsy Ross 26 Crooked 27 Mother of invention 28 Hart co-host 29 Spindletop output 32 Spacecraft to Jupiter 33 Ro the unborn 35 Height for Heidi 36 Where's Shaul? 38 Brave 39 Craze 42 Gratitudes 43 Croquet wicket 44 Marberry 45 Lustrous black 46 Pseudo-psychic Geller 47 Divot material 49 Exalt

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CRYPTOQUIP
GFW YWOABWKK YPWG
DPPMABT BJDWOGWM "QFJG
JCW DT QPCMK QPCGF?"
Yesterday's Cryptquip: WHEN ASTRONAUTS GET DIRTY, DO YOU THINK THEY MIGHT TAKE METEOR SHOWERS?
Today's Cryptquip Clue: B equals L
The Cryptquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.