

## 9 betcom

&lt;p&gt;Origin and early years&lt;/p&gt;

&lt;p&gt;There has been much dispute over the invention of modern tennis, but the officially recognized centennial of the game in 1973 commemorated its introduction by Major Walter Clopton Wingfield in 1873.&lt;/p&gt;  
&lt;p&gt;He published the first book of rules that year and took out a patent on his game in 1874, although historians have concluded that similar games were played earlier and that the first tennis club was established by the Englishman Harry Gem and several associates in Leamington in 1872.&lt;/p&gt;

&lt;p&gt;Wingfield's court was of the hourglass shape and may have developed from badminton.&lt;/p&gt;

&lt;p&gt;The hourglass shape, stipulated by Wingfield in his booklet "Sphairistik&#233;, or Lawn Tennis," may have been adopted for patent reasons since it distinguished the court from ordinary rectangular courts.&lt;/p&gt;

&lt;p&gt;At the time, the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) was the governing body of real tennis, whose rules it had recently revised.&lt;/p&gt;

&lt;p&gt;Heathcote, a distinguished real tennis player, developed a better tennis ball of rubber covered with white flannel, the MCC in 1875 established a new, standardized set of rules for tennis.&lt;/p&gt;

&lt;p&gt;Meanwhile, the game had spread to the United States in the 1870s.&lt;/p&gt;

&lt;p&gt;Mary Outerbridge of New York has been credited with bringing a set of rackets and balls to her brother, a director of the Staten Island Cricket and Baseball Club.&lt;/p&gt;

&lt;p&gt;But research has shown that William Appleton of Nahant, Massachusetts, may have owned the first lawn tennis set and that his friends James Dwight and Fred R.&lt;/p&gt;

&lt;p&gt;Sears popularized the game.&lt;/p&gt;

&lt;p&gt;An important milestone in the history of tennis was the decision of the All England Croquet Club to set aside one of its lawns at Wimbledon for tennis, which soon proved so popular that the club changed its name to the All England Croquet and Lawn Tennis Club.&lt;/p&gt;

&lt;p&gt;In 1877 the club decided to hold a tennis championship, and a championship subcommittee of three was appointed.&lt;/p&gt;

&lt;p&gt;It decided on a rectangular court 78 feet (23.7 m) by 27 feet (8.2 m).

&lt;p&gt;They adapted the real tennis method of scoring-15, 30, 40, game-and allowed the server one fault (i.e., one let).&lt;/p&gt;

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&lt;p&gt;These major decisions remain part of the modern rules.&lt;/p&gt;