

CrossTalk

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter, June 2010

wimbledon

Why is Wimbledon, which begins again this month, the tournament every tennis player wants to win above all others? The answer may be summed up in one word: tradition. The oldest tennis event in the world, it has run continuously (except for a break during the war years) since 1877. It is the only one of the 'big four' tournaments (the French, U.S. and Australian Opens are the others) to retain grass as the playing surface. The All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, who runs the event, is private and not affiliated to any organization or sponsor. There are no advertising hoardings on the courts or throughout the grounds. For this reason, Wimbledon has a certain mystique, even purity, untainted by commercial associations.

There is almost a religious atmosphere at Wimbledon. Its cathedral is the Centre Court where the most important matches are played. With its intimate atmosphere and hushed acoustics, its uniformed ushers (serving personnel in the Royal Airforce, Army and Royal Navy), ball boys and girls, blazered umpire perched on a pulpit-like high chair, hierarchical seating (with the best seat in the house reserved for the Queen in the Royal Box) and – for the most part – well-behaved and restrained spectators, it could be seen as an extension of the Church of England. And for the English, whose players rarely, if ever, do well, Wimbledon allows them to put aside feelings of patriotism and escape the herd mentality that govern the earthbound spectators of football matches, for example, and bestow their love and admiration on a deserving individual, without regard to nationality, colour or race.

However, the favourites of the English tend to be more English than the English themselves. Chrissie Evert and Bjorn Borg - two champions from the 1970s - were both controlled, undemonstrative individuals and, on the rare occasions when they lost, gracious in defeat. The English like losers but it is important to them how you lose. Do your best, even if defeat is inevitable. Congratulate the victor and - even better - take pleasure in his victory (for this, the English will adore you). Anger and bad humour are taboo. Tears, formerly unacceptable, are now tolerated, even welcomed (but not generally men's). Jana Novotna, from the former Czechoslovakia, lost in a close final in 1997 and burst into tears as she was presented with the runner-up's trophy by the Duchess of Kent. 'You will win' predicted the Duchess, and the following year she did, much to the delight of the English crowd for whom victory without struggle is meaningless.

Article by Jonathan



Wimbledon's covered Men's and Woman's trophies



Net News

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NET SITE OF THE MONTH:

The official Wimbledon web page is here:

http://www.wimbledon.org/en_GB/about/history/index.html

NET NOTEBOOK: Don't forget to take a look at the Internet activity notebook in our open-house. You'll find games, news and English learning sites.

Some Thoughts for the Month



Joshua Says: I'm very pleased to see the interest some of you are showing in our new "Poet's Corner". This was started last month by Jonathan's S(b)1 group and it looks like it may be catching on. So, if you feel like it, join in! Write a poem and give it to your teacher and we'll publish it! We are also hoping for some articles for the front page. Any ideas!?

Junko Says: The Okaido Saturday night market is coming up again soon. We have some space available for any of you who might like to display your handy-crafts, or other suitable items, show off your hobbies, or sell any items you have to offer. It starts next month, and if you are interested in participating, please let me know and I will arrange it for you.



Jonathan Says: It seems strange to many native English speakers the almost total absence of Kanji in Japanese shop signs. The names of these shops are more often than not displayed in romaji and English words are extremely common. I'm afraid many pay little regard to the meaning of the words (it seems the visual element is all that matters). Two of my favourites, both for clothes shops: *Zero Style* (= no style) and *Double Standard* (one rule for you; another for me) *Clothing*.

Greg Says: Apart from it being the month midway through the year heralding the summer, June brings with it the traditional bride as well as the not so traditional Junebug. It is also a stressful time for many as it is the only month without any public holidays (August has Obon, although this is not deemed a public holiday). But there is something June has to ease the stress on us all: many fun nights at the beer gardens! Cheers!!



Kevin Dit: Nous voici en juin ! Le temps passe décidément trop vite ! Le temps est vraiment éphémère, tout comme le sont les Hommes d'ailleurs. Il faut donc profiter de chaque instant autant que possible, même s'il n'est pas toujours facile de garder cela en tête. Mais l'arrivée de l'été promet de belles et longues journées, la bonne humeur y est donc souvent de mise. En France, l'arrivée de l'été annonce également la dernière ligne droite avant les vacances, qu'en est-il pour vous ? Un petit voyage en France peut-être ?

NOTICE BOARD

ENGLISH Poet's Corner



Here are three more poems, in haiku, for all our poetry lovers to help you celebrate this "rainy season" with.

From the ladies in S(b)1: Yukiko Yagi:



*Returning Swallows
I want to fly to somewhere
I have never been*

And, Mami Kido:



*My baby follows
The swallows fly by, singing
"Everybody grow"*



And..., a joint effort from Yoko Tanimoto and Noriko Azuma in A1 gives us this little ditty:

*A Little green frog
Under the hydrangea bush
Listens to raindrops*



* If you would like to add your poem (any style) to the "Poet's Corner", just write it out and give it to your teacher.



The OKAIDO Saturday Night Market

It starts next month again!
And if any of you would like to sell or display something in the market, just check in with Junko and we will arrange something for you



Don't forget next month's "End-of-Term Performance-Night Party"

It will be held on **Saturday, the 31st July** and starts at **8:00pm**. All the usual fun: Plays, Karaoke, good food and wine, and most of all, good company. Everyone's invited, to join in and you can bring your friends too! So, don't miss it!!

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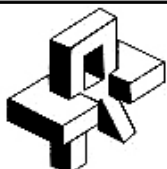
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MOTHER & CHILD

(マザー&チャイルド)

グループOR プライベート



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