

## A Gem of a Game: The Roots of Lawn Tennis in the West Midlands

**Locations** (Download map opposite), Edgbaston campus, The Barber Institute of Fine Arts

**Date(s)** Friday 27th May (10:00) - Monday 29th August 2011 (17:00)

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A Gem of a Game: The Roots of Lawn Tennis in the West Midlands

Lawn tennis has its historic roots just around the corner from the Barber Institute, where the first game was played in 1859 on a court at 8 Ampton Road, Edgbaston, between Major Harry Gem and his friend Jean Batista Perera.

***A Gem of a Game: The Roots of Lawn Tennis in the West Midlands*** (<http://www.barber.org.uk/gem.html>) explores the game's origins and many connections with the Birmingham area. Objects on display include Harry Gem's original set of rules, trophies, rackets, costumes and other memorabilia associated with famous British champions. These include Maud Watson's Flower Basket, presented to her when she won the first Wimbledon Ladies' Singles Championship in 1884, and the dress Ann Jones wore when she won the championship, 85 years later, in 1969.

A gallery of images of British stars from the early days to the present complement a fascinating selection of exhibits demonstrating changing fashions, social developments and racket and ball technology.

This exhibition is co-curated by postgraduate students from the University of Birmingham's Department of History of Art.

As ever, the exhibition will be accompanied by a variety of interesting associated events for all ages, including lectures, gallery talks and a study day. For more information, visit the Barber website: [www.barber.org.uk](http://www.barber.org.uk)

Admission FREE

*A Gem of a Game: The Roots of Lawn Tennis in the West Midlands* accompanies the Barber's blockbuster summer show ***Court on Canvas: Tennis in Art*** (<http://www.barber.org.uk/courtoncanvas.html>) – the first ever exhibition to explore the subject of lawntennis in art.

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