

Tennis is a great game for all abilities and all ages. It is a great social game and is played all over the world.

The game of Tennis was first played in the 12th century, although no rackets were involved at that time. Players hit the ball with their hand. Rackets were first introduced in the 16th century.

Balls have evolved substantially over the years with a huge amount of money spent on development and new technology.

These are the leading manufacturers of Tennis Balls:-

- Slazenger
- Dunlop
- Head
- Wilson
- Treton
- Babolat
- Penn
- Ransomme

Plus many, many more. Tennis balls were manufactured mainly in Europe and the USA, however, the majority of balls are now manufactured in the Philippines, Thailand and Indonesia, due to lower labour costs.

Tennis is also played on different surfaces, grass, clay, hard court being the main ones. Tennis can also be played on carpet, asphalt, concrete and astro turf. Different balls are made to suit the different surfaces.

There are two types of cloth used in the manufacture of Tennis Balls, Melton cloth, which has a high wool content and Needle cloth, which has a high content of synthetic fibres.

Some manufacturers like Slazenger have ranges that use a water repellent on the cloth to dispel water, they call this Hydroguard.

There are 3 types of ball, Type 1, Type 2 and Type 3. Type 1 is used on slower courts surfaces, Type 2 is used for standard speed courts and Type 3 which is used on faster courts.

Each ball must weigh between 56.7g and 58.7g. Most balls are pressurized. Early on compressed air was used but now they use safer gases. The colour of the ball was always black or white, depending on the colour of the background. In 1972, the International Tennis Federation allowed the introduction of yellow coloured Tennis Balls. This yellow ball was introduced to improve the visibility for players and spectators. It is now the standard colour throughout the world.

Tennis balls are sold in tins of 3 or 4 balls and are also available in buckets of 60 balls up to 96 balls. This option is the preferred one for coaches and clubs.

The biggest selling ball in the UK is the Slazenger Wimbledon Hydroguard Ultra Vis Tennis Ball. During the Wimbledon tournament over 36000 balls are used.