



11 November 2016

## WORLD'S BEST GATHER AT LONDON LANDMARK TO LAUNCH BARCLAYS ATP WORLD TOUR FINALS

*LONDON* – The world's eight best singles players and doubles teams gathered at London's historic Cutty Sark Thursday night for the Barclays ATP World Tour Finals Official Launch presented by Moët and Chandon. Cutty Sark is the legendary 19th century sailing ship, the fastest of her time, and now an award-winning tourist attraction.

Andy Murray and Novak Djokovic, who will battle at the season-ending tournament to become year-end No. 1 in the Emirates ATP Rankings, were joined by Stan Wawrinka, Milos Raonic, Kei Nishikori, Gael Monfils, Marin Cilic and Dominic Thiem.

Also attending were the world's top eight doubles teams, including Frenchmen Pierre-Hugues Herbert and Nicolas Mahut, and Jamie Murray and Bruno Soares, who will fight for the year-end No. 1 doubles ranking.

During the evening, Andy Murray was presented with a trophy commemorating his rise last Monday to No. 1 in the Emirates ATP Rankings, when he became just the 26th player (since 1973) to hold that mantle.

"It's the end of a long season and all the players that are here have had great years, all deserve to be here, and everyone enjoys the event," he said.

The evening featured a performance by loop pedal beatbox artist THEPETEBOX, best known for his 'Future Loops' work. The musician enlisted the help of all eight singles players, who contributed their voices to a new loop pedal. THEPETEBOX has also written a bespoke track for the ATP – 'Fly Like Aces' - that will be used as the players walk out onto the court at The O2.

Guests were also briefed on a new partnership between the ATP and UNICEF, the launch of the Super 8, in which the world's best eight players come together at the season-ending finale on a mission to help UNICEF raise awareness and vital funds to protect children from danger.

Cilic was among a number of winners of the 2016 ATP World Tour Awards presented by Moët & Chandon to be recognised during the event. Cilic was presented with the Arthur Ashe Humanitarian Award for his work with the Marin Cilic Foundation, established this year to support educational projects around the world. The foundation has a special emphasis on giving youth in Croatia improved access to school and university education.

Other players to receive awards were Lucas Pouille (Most Improved Player of the Year), Taylor Fritz (ATP Star of Tomorrow presented by Emirates) and Bob and Mike Bryan (ATPWorldTour.com Fans' Favourite presented by Moët & Chandon).

"It means a lot to be named the Fan Favourite," said Mike Bryan. "One of the reasons why we love playing the game is to play in front of these fans around the world, and we really appreciate the support. We want to thank them for voting for us. It's going to be fun to step out on the court at The

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O2 and finish the year strong in front of a hopefully packed house out there.”

Roger Federer (ATPWorldTour.com Fans' Favourite presented by Moët & Chandon and Stefan Edberg Sportsmanship Award) and Juan Martin del Potro (Comeback Player of the Year) did not attend but sent video messages.

Magnus Norman, coach of tournament third seed Stan Wawrinka, accepted the inaugural ATP Coach of the Year award.

The Barclays ATP World Tour Finals begin Sunday at The O2 in London. Djokovic, the four-time defending champion, is chasing a record-equalling sixth season finale title. Murray is looking to reach the final for the first time and is guaranteed to finish the year No. 1 if he wins the title.

The tournament has welcomed more than 1.8 million fans to The O2 arena over the past seven years, establishing itself as the biggest indoor tennis tournament in the world since moving to London in 2009. Tickets can be purchased at: [www.BarclaysATPWorldTourFinals.com](http://www.BarclaysATPWorldTourFinals.com).

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#### **About the Barclays ATP World Tour Finals**

The Barclays ATP World Tour Finals is the year-end climax to the men's professional tennis season, featuring only the world's best eight qualified singles players and doubles teams as they battle it out for the last title of the season. Players compete for Emirates ATP Rankings points throughout the season in a bid to earn one of the eight coveted berths and a chance to win the biggest indoor tennis tournament in the world. Played using a round-robin format, each player plays three matches as they compete for a berth in the knockout semi-finals and beyond. The prestigious tournament has been contested in major cities around the world with a rich history dating back to the birth of The Masters in 1970 in Tokyo. Since 2000 the event has taken place in cities such as Lisbon, Sydney, and Shanghai. In 2009 the tournament was moved to London, where it will be played through 2018. For more information, please visit [www.BarclaysATPWorldTourFinals.com](http://www.BarclaysATPWorldTourFinals.com)

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