

Champagne and strawberries vs pints and pies: Psychologist explores Wimbledon and sporting preferences

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As the world gears up for another thrilling Wimbledon tournament, Dr. Elisabeth Blagrove, a psychologist at The University of Warwick,

ponders why Wimbledon has long been considered posh and what it might mean if you prefer tennis over football, particularly during overlapping events like the Wimbledon Championships and the Euros.

Dr. Blagrove said, "Wimbledon is often associated with prestige and tradition, largely due to its rich history and the unique elements that set it apart from other sporting events—so whether your preference makes you posh or not is an interesting question.

"The tournament's strict dress code for players, the Royal Box's presence, and the Centre Court tickets' exclusivity all contribute to its upper-class image. Additionally, the event's location in the affluent suburb of Wimbledon could enhance this perception."

Dr. Blagrove notes that the allure of Wimbledon also lies in its unique blend of tradition and pageantry. She explained, "From the pristine grass courts to the strawberries and cream, Wimbledon exudes a sense of elegance and timelessness that could appeal to those who value heritage and sophistication."

For those choosing to watch Wimbledon over the Euros, Dr. Blagrove suggests that this preference may reflect other psychological and social tendencies. She said, "Preferring Wimbledon over the Euros could simply indicate a preference for individual sports over team sports, a desire for a more refined viewing experience, or greater appreciation of the cultural and historical aspects of the event.

"It might also suggest a tendency to value elements of tennis, for example, precision, strategy, and the sartorial elegance associated with tennis."

Dr. Blagrove emphasizes that these preferences are neither inherently good nor bad but could provide interesting insights into individual

personality traits, social influences or your sense of identity. "Whether you're captivated by the drama of a [football](#) match or the finesse of a [tennis](#) rally, your sports preference could say something about what you find engaging and enjoyable," she said.

As Wimbledon commences, Dr. Blagrove encourages sports enthusiasts to embrace their preferences and enjoy each event's unique experiences. She concluded, "Ultimately, both Wimbledon and the Euros bring people together, create memorable moments, and celebrate the spirit of competition."

Provided by University of Warwick

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