

Wimbledon shorten men's doubles to three sets



Matthew Ebden (L) and Max Purcell (R) celebrate winning Wimbledon men's doubles final
AFP | London

Wimbledon will shorten men's doubles matches from best-of-five sets to best of three from this year's championships, the All England Club announced yesterday.

The traditional five-set format had been criticised in the past for discouraging more singles specialists from entering the doubles.

Wimbledon was the only grand slam tournament to stage five-set doubles matches, but will now move into line with the Australian Open, French Open and US Open.

"The decision was made following a wide-ranging consultation and the change brings Wimbledon into line with the other grand slams which stage the gentlemen's doubles in a best-of-three format," the AELTC said in a statement.

Modric, Kroos key despite Madrid 'transition' - Ancelotti

Carlo Ancelotti says Luka Modric and Toni Kroos understand the need to refresh Real Madrid's midfield

● **Modric and Kroos found themselves on the bench for last week's win at Athletic Bilbao**

AFP | Madrid

Carlo Ancelotti said yesterday veteran midfielders Luka Modric and Toni Kroos are still key for Real Madrid even though he dropped the pair last weekend.

Los Blancos won 2-0 at Athletic Bilbao on Sunday and the duo appeared from the bench, with Eduardo Camavinga and Dani Ceballos starting ahead of them.

Modric, 37, and Kroos, 33 -- both out of contract at the end of the season -- face stiff internal competition this season, with Ancelotti highlighting that Madrid are in a period of transition.

"They are professionals and understand what this club means," Ancelotti told reporters ahead of Thursday's Copa del Rey quarter-final with Atletico



Luka Modric and Toni Kroos of Real Madrid warm up during a training session

Madrid.

"They know the quality this squad has and I don't think I have to explain anything."

"We've been speaking from the start of the season about this topic, it's a moment of transition and everyone has to understand it, the young players and the veterans."

Modric joined Real Madrid in 2012 while Kroos arrived in 2014

and together they have formed an essential part of the team's success.

They have won three La Liga titles and four Champions Leagues together, among other silverware.

Until this season they had Casemiro behind them too, but the Brazilian moved to Manchester United last summer, with Aurelien Tchouameni taking that role

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CARLO ANCELOTTI

this season.

Ancelotti said despite being dropped against Athletic, the duo will still play an essential role for Madrid.

"Of course they can play together, they are performing this season and have been key, and they will keep on being so," added the coach.

Ancelotti admitted that Fede Valverde, another midfield option, has not hit his best form again after the World Cup.

The Uruguayan was spectac-

BETTER YOU KNOW

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ular in the first half of the campaign but is struggling to return to those heights.

"He's not at his best level, he's progressing, he's performing -- not like in the first half of the season, I consider that normal given the World Cup," said Ancelotti.

"We have to be patient. We're not asking him to score goals, we're asking him to deliver defensively and in attack, and when he's back to his best he will score again."

Union Press claim Verminex La Liga Inter-kulay title

TDT | Manama

Union Press (UP) downed Zenjex 87-63 in their winner-take-all Game 3 best-of-three series to bag the title in the Verminex La Liga 2022 Inter-kulay Division of Filipino Club Basketball Group (FCBG).

The victors relied heavily on finals Most Valuable Player (MVP) Jasper Melano and their backcourts Quinto, Sangalang and Bandoja to seal the win.

Union Press took advantage of



Union Press celebrate with their trophy

the absence of Zenjex's center UP's big men Tiqui, Liwanag and Santosidad highlighted their

inside presence in the game.

Olet Mariano came off the bench to score 10 points, grab four rebounds, and issue two assists, as Union Press completely dominated the Exchange Masters.

Union Press, perennial title contenders in the FCBG's basketball league, claimed their fourth championship throughout the history of Bahrain's premier Filipino basketball league. FCBG is registered under the Filipino Club Bahrain.

Ten Hag urges Rashford to fulfil his ambitions with Man Utd



Manchester United's manager Erik ten Hag (R) congratulates striker Marcus Rashford (L) after a match (file photo)

AFP | London

Erik ten Hag has told Marcus Rashford to stay at Manchester United because he wants to transform them into the world's best team.

United have failed to win the Premier League since Sir Alex Ferguson retired in 2013 and their last major trophy was the Europa League in 2017.

It is their worst trophy drought in 40 years, but United boss Ten Hag is showing signs of being able to rebuild the club after a positive start to his reign this season.

England forward Rashford

“He's improving and that's about him because he's working on the good things. He's giving 100 per cent energy, he has a good plan and I think he can bring in his qualities”

ERIK TEN HAG

has emerged as a key figure in United's climb to fourth in the Premier League.

After two years of poor form, the 25-year-old has been revitalised by Ten Hag and United hope he will extend a contract that has 18 months to run.

French giants Paris Saint Germain were linked with Rashford last season but, on the eve of United's League Cup semi-final first leg at Nottingham Forest yesterday, Ten Hag made a confident pitch to the forward to remain at Old Trafford.

Opener Gill's maturity impresses India captain Rohit

Reuters | New Delhi

It might be premature to say Shubman Gill has nailed down the India opener's slot for the Cricket World Cup on home soil later this year but skipper Rohit Sharma has been impressed by the 23-year-old's understanding of the role.

With veteran Shikhar Dhawan's patchy form effectively taking him out of the running for a place at the tournament, India have zeroed in on Gill and Ishan Kishan as Rohit's potential opening partners.

Gill has grabbed the opportunity with both hands and his 112 against New Zealand on Tuesday was his third hundred in four innings, which include a double hundred in the series opener in Hyderabad.

Gill and fellow centurion Rohit forged a 212-run stand on Tuesday to set up a 3-0 series sweep as India dethroned New Zealand as the top-ranked one-day team.

"He understands his batting, he paces his innings well," Rohit



Rohit Sharma applauds Shubman Gill on his century

said after their victory in Indore. "That is what you want in one-day cricket. You want to go big, you want to go deep in your innings. He has shown that. He has got big hundreds."

Gill smashed a career-best 208 against New Zealand on a flat track in Hyderabad and was adjudged Player of the Series for his aggregate of 360 from three innings.

"No matter how flat the pitch is, to get a double hundred is not easy. In that game, the next best score (by a team mate) was 34,"

YOU KNOW WHAT

Gill smashed a career-best 208 against New Zealand on a flat track in Hyderabad and was adjudged Player of the Series for his aggregate of 360 from three innings

Rohit said.

"It shows that he was calculative and he knows that he needs to bat deep.

"A set batsman needs to bat for as long as possible... He has got great maturity in the way he thinks about his game, the way he approaches the game."

Rohit's 101 off 85 balls was his 30th ODI hundred, bringing him level with Australian Ricky Ponting.

17 goals have been scored by Rashford in all competitions for United this season