



Press Release

Embargoed until 00:01am Wednesday

Wednesday 3rd October 2018

GREAT BRITAIN TO HOST 2019 FED CUP by BNP PARIBAS EUROPE/AFRICA ZONE GROUP I

Great Britain will be playing a Fed Cup tie at home for the first time in quarter of a century after the LTA today confirmed that it will co-host the Fed Cup by BNP Paribas Europe / Africa Zone Group I from 6 – 9 February 2019 at Bath University. The Zone Group event will be co-hosted with Poland and the fifteen nations in Group I in 2019 will be split across the two host locations.

Seven other nations will compete alongside Great Britain, playing in two groups of four. The winner of each group will play in Saturday's final to decide which country goes forward into the World Group II Play-Offs in April 2019. This will be a unique opportunity to see Great Britain battle it out over four days playing two singles matches followed by a doubles match with each nation in its group.

Scott Lloyd, LTA Chief Executive, said: "I'm thrilled that the International Tennis Federation has awarded us the opportunity to co-host the Europe/Africa Zone Group I stage of the 2019 Fed Cup by BNP Paribas. Staging this Fed Cup tie forms a key part of our new strategy to open up tennis by showcasing our women's team and bringing world-class tennis to new and existing British fans."

Anne Keothavong, Great Britain's Fed Cup Captain, added: "We are absolutely delighted at the prospect of playing at home for the first time in 26 years. This will give us a platform to show everyone what Fed Cup is all about and the passion the players have for the competition. I'm hoping we can replicate the support our Davis Cup team gets and that seeing our players perform up close will inspire the next generation of kids to get out there and pick up a racket."

The Fed Cup is the largest annual international team competition in women's sport. The pre-draw will be conducted later this week involving the following nations (in alphabetical order) to determine which seven will travel to Bath: Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Russia, Serbia, Slovenia, Sweden, Turkey and Ukraine.

The last time the GB Fed Cup team played at home was in May of 1993 at Nottingham Tennis Centre, winning their group against Luxembourg (3-0), Lithuania (3-0), Russia (3-0), Ukraine (3-0) and Turkey (3-0) to advance to the world group. The team included Jo Durie, Clare Wood, Monique Javer and Julie Salmon.

Ticket information will be released next month. For further information please go to www.lta.org.uk/FedCup.

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For media enquiries please contact:

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NOTES TO EDITORS

GB FED CUP PERFORMANCE:

- GB is currently ranked No.18 amongst 104 nations on the latest ITF Fed Cup rankings.
- In 2018, Great Britain advanced to a 4th World Group II Play Off in the last seven years, narrowly losing to Japan 3-2, in the last seven years after previously falling to Sweden in 2012, Argentina in 2013 and Romania in 2017 also at this stage.

ABOUT THE LTA:

The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) is the National Governing Body for tennis in Great Britain, responsible for developing and promoting the sport, with a mission to get more people playing tennis more often. It does this under the consumer brand of **British Tennis**, by working with a broad range of partners and over 25,000 volunteers, to grow the game in communities, clubs and schools. The LTA represents the interests of over 590,000 British Tennis Members, men and women, girls and boys across the country, playing on more than 23,000 courts. The LTA runs and supports a network of 11,500 approved tournaments for players of all ages, the corner-stones of which are the premier grass court events leading up to Wimbledon: the Nature Valley Open (at Nottingham), the Nature Valley Classic (at Birmingham), the Fever-Tree Championships (at Queen's Club-London) and the Nature Valley International (at Eastbourne). The LTA works with many delivery partners to grow the sport across the country. One of these is its charitable entity, the Tennis Foundation, to provide a tennis provision for more than 20,000 schools, disadvantaged youth as well as promoting tennis as an inclusive sport for anyone with a disability. For further information about the LTA and British Tennis, and to review the British Tennis strategy for 2015 – 2019 visit www.lta.org.uk or follow us on Twitter @BritishTennis.

ABOUT THE FED CUP by BNP PARIBAS:

Fed Cup by BNP Paribas is the World Cup of Tennis. It is the largest annual international team competition in women's sport, with 99 nations entered in 2018. The competition is 55 years old having been founded in 1963. The title sponsor is BNP Paribas (Official Bank of Fed Cup). Adecco (Official HR Sponsor) is an international sponsor, while beIN SPORTS is the Official Global Media Rights Partner. Follow all the action on www.fedcup.com, www.fedcup.com/es, [www.twitter.com/fedcup](https://twitter.com/fedcup), www.facebook.com/FedCup, www.instagram.com/fedcuptennis, www.Weibo.com/fedcupofficial, video.fedcup.com and live.fedcup.com.