Wimbledon 1922: brollies, queues ... and fur coats

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LONG queues of spectators and a stadium full of umbrellas - these historic and previously unseen photographs of the Wimbledon Championships show not much has changed.

The black and white images, from 1922, show fans prepared to stand in line for hours for the chance to glimpse the sporting heroes of the day. Of course, Centre Court fans now have a multi-million-pound retractable roof to shelter under - but elsewhere on the grounds they must suffer London's inclement weather just as they did all these years ago.

The rare photographs are published in a new book chronicling the early years of tennis and the life of George Hillyard, one of the game's most influential figures and the man responsible for moving the Championships to its present venue. More than 200 photographs appear in the book, by professional tennis coach Bruce Tarran. One shows Suzanne Lenglen of France turning up for the final against Molla Mallory wearing a fur coat.

The book describes how in 1887 Hillyard, aged 23, married Wimbledon Ladies champion Blanche Bingley and influenced the world of tennis for the next 40 years. He won Olympic doubles gold at the London Games in 1908 and helped found the Lawn Tennis Association, wresting power over the game from The All England Club.

George Hillyard – The Man Who Moved Wimbledon is out now, published by Troubador.