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NEWS RELEASE

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BLUE PLAQUE FOR WIMBLEDON CHAMPION, DOROTHEA LAMBERT CHAMBERS

Lawn tennis champion, Dorothea Lambert Chambers (1878 to 1960), will be commemorated with an English Heritage Blue Plaque on 27 July at 11.30am at 7 North Common Road, London, W5, where she lived from 1887 until 1907. It was during the time she lived at this address that Dorothea first learnt how to play tennis, and won three of her seven Wimbledon Championships. The Blue Plaque will be unveiled by Mr David Sills, Honorary President of Ealing Lawn Tennis Club.

Dorothea Katherine Douglass displayed an early love of lawn tennis. She joined the Ealing Lawn Tennis Club, and by the age of 11 had already been marked out as a considerable talent. At the age of 17, Dorothea entered her first tournament and competed in three meetings in 1898. Her play was at a very high standard, she had a superb command of the ball, tactical skills and remarkable accuracy.

In 1900, Dorothea made her debut at Wimbledon. Only a few years later, she was dominating the sport, so much so that she went on to win the Championships at Wimbledon seven times; in 1903, 1904, 1906, 1910, 1911, 1913 and 1914. Amazingly, Dorothea competed at Wimbledon on 15 occasions and, other than her first venture in 1900, either won the crown or lost to the eventual winner. Her 1919 battle against Suzanne Lenglen, though Dorothea lost, has been called one of the finest ladies' singles matches of all times. In addition to her single title victories,

Dorothea also won the Wimbledon women's doubles in 1903 and 1907, and the mixed doubles in 1906, 1908, the year she also won the Gold Medal in the Ladies Singles at the London Olympic Games, and 1910. Dorothea also found time amongst her sporting achievements to write "Lawn Tennis for Ladies" (1910), which contains advice on tournament play and club management.

Despite retiring from singles play in 1921, Dorothea continued to compete in doubles at the Championships until 1927. From 1924 to 1926, she was Captain of Britain's successful Wightman Cup team and became a professional coach in 1928. Even in her retirement, Dorothea regularly attended the Wimbledon Championships.

Dorothea Lambert Chambers was the most outstanding female player of her generation. Even today, she remains the only British woman to have won the Wimbledon Championships as many as seven times, her record only surpassed by American, Helen Willis in 1838 (eight times Champion), and Martina Navratilova in 1990 (nine times Champion). Beyond Wimbledon, Lambert was equally dominating, winning over 200 career titles.

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