# Kate Middleton recalls mortifying Wimbledon gaffe by her father Michael



The Princess of Wales, Kate Middleton, recently shared a lighthearted and personal story from one of her visits to the iconic Wimbledon tennis tournament, offering a rare glimpse into her family life and sense of humour. Speaking in a 2017 BBC documentary, Kate recounted how her father, Michael Middleton, accidentally caused her some embarrassment during an encounter with a famous British tennis player.

Kate opened up about the memorable moment, explaining that while passing Tim Henman, a well-known British player, her father coolly greeted him with a mistaken "Hi Pete," apparently confusing Henman with another tennis star, Pete Sampras. The Princess admitted she was "mortified" by the mix-up, a sentiment that many royal fans found endearing due to its relatability. Despite this amusing faux pas, Kate’s affection and respect for her father remain undiminished, and Michael Middleton continues to be a steadfast supporter, frequently attending Wimbledon with her. In 2021, the pair were spotted enjoying the tournament together, sharing laughs and a Mexican wave in the Royal Box.

Wimbledon holds a special place in the Middleton family’s heart, with a long tradition of attending matches that dates back to the Princess’s youth. The event is often a family affair, with Kate’s parents, Carole and Michael, making regular appearances alongside her. Her sister, Pippa Middleton, is also known to join these outings, showing that the love for tennis spans generations within the family. Kate herself has a personal passion for the sport, which she has nurtured since childhood and which now flourishes in her official role as a royal patron of the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club.

Looking ahead, Kate is expected to attend Wimbledon once again this year, continuing her visible presence at this prestigious event. While it remains unconfirmed whether Prince William or their children will accompany her, the tournament continues to be a highlight in the royal calendar. Prince George and Princess Charlotte have already made their public appearances at Wimbledon, while their youngest son, Prince Louis, patiently awaits his debut. The Princess has shared that Louis is a keen tennis fan at home, often imitating a ball boy.

Despite the minor slip-up with her father, Kate’s commitment to British tennis is evident not just in her attendance but also in her efforts to promote the sport at grassroots levels. She has formed close ties with players and officials alike and enthusiastically encourages young people to take up the game. Her candid sharing of personal stories and her approachable nature have made her one of the most adored members of the royal family, embodying both tradition and modern relatability.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.hellomagazine.com/royalty/840972/kate-middleton-mortifying-wimbledon-story-dad-gaffe/), [[2]](https://www.hellomagazine.com/royalty/840972/kate-middleton-mortifying-wimbledon-story-dad-gaffe/), [[3]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/royal/1919665/princess-kate-michael-middleton-wimbledon-blunder), [[4]](https://www.walesonline.co.uk/sport/other-sport/tennis/wimbledon-royal-family-faux-pas-27303715), [[5]](https://www.thelist.com/1619818/michael-middleton-embarrassed-princess-kate-at-wimbledon/), [[6]](https://www.goodto.com/entertainment/royal-news/the-moment-kate-middletons-dad-mortified-her-at-wimbledon), [[7]](https://www.suggest.com/kate-middleton-mortified-dad-embarrassing-behavior-tennis-match/2662188/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.hellomagazine.com/royalty/840972/kate-middleton-mortifying-wimbledon-story-dad-gaffe/), [[2]](https://www.hellomagazine.com/royalty/840972/kate-middleton-mortifying-wimbledon-story-dad-gaffe/), [[5]](https://www.thelist.com/1619818/michael-middleton-embarrassed-princess-kate-at-wimbledon/), [[6]](https://www.goodto.com/entertainment/royal-news/the-moment-kate-middletons-dad-mortified-her-at-wimbledon), [[7]](https://www.suggest.com/kate-middleton-mortified-dad-embarrassing-behavior-tennis-match/2662188/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.hellomagazine.com/royalty/840972/kate-middleton-mortifying-wimbledon-story-dad-gaffe/), [[3]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/royal/1919665/princess-kate-michael-middleton-wimbledon-blunder), [[4]](https://www.walesonline.co.uk/sport/other-sport/tennis/wimbledon-royal-family-faux-pas-27303715), [[6]](https://www.goodto.com/entertainment/royal-news/the-moment-kate-middletons-dad-mortified-her-at-wimbledon)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.hellomagazine.com/royalty/840972/kate-middleton-mortifying-wimbledon-story-dad-gaffe/), [[3]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/royal/1919665/princess-kate-michael-middleton-wimbledon-blunder), [[6]](https://www.goodto.com/entertainment/royal-news/the-moment-kate-middletons-dad-mortified-her-at-wimbledon)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.hellomagazine.com/royalty/840972/kate-middleton-mortifying-wimbledon-story-dad-gaffe/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.hellomagazine.com/royalty/840972/kate-middleton-mortifying-wimbledon-story-dad-gaffe/> - In a 2017 BBC documentary, Kate Middleton recounted a humorous incident where her father, Michael Middleton, mistook British tennis player Tim Henman for American player Pete Sampras during a Wimbledon visit, leading to Kate feeling 'mortified'. Despite this, their bond remains strong, with Michael continuing to support Kate at major events, including attending Wimbledon matches together in 2021.
3. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/royal/1919665/princess-kate-michael-middleton-wimbledon-blunder> - Princess Kate's parents, Carole and Michael Middleton, are avid tennis fans and frequent visitors to Wimbledon. In a 2017 BBC documentary, Kate shared an amusing story where her father, Michael, mistakenly addressed British tennis player Tim Henman as 'Pete', leading to Kate feeling 'mortified'. Despite this, the Middleton family continues to enjoy attending Wimbledon together.
4. <https://www.walesonline.co.uk/sport/other-sport/tennis/wimbledon-royal-family-faux-pas-27303715> - Kate Middleton revealed in a 2017 BBC documentary that her father, Michael Middleton, once embarrassed her by mistaking British tennis player Tim Henman for American player Pete Sampras during a Wimbledon visit. Despite this incident, the Middleton family remains closely involved with Wimbledon, with Carole and Pippa Middleton also attending matches together.
5. <https://www.thelist.com/1619818/michael-middleton-embarrassed-princess-kate-at-wimbledon/> - In a 2017 BBC documentary, Kate Middleton recounted a humorous incident where her father, Michael Middleton, mistook British tennis player Tim Henman for American player Pete Sampras during a Wimbledon visit, leading to Kate feeling 'mortified'. Despite this, their bond remains strong, with Michael continuing to support Kate at major events, including attending Wimbledon matches together in 2021.
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7. <https://www.suggest.com/kate-middleton-mortified-dad-embarrassing-behavior-tennis-match/2662188/> - In a 2017 BBC documentary, Kate Middleton recounted a humorous incident where her father, Michael Middleton, mistook British tennis player Tim Henman for American player Pete Sampras during a Wimbledon visit, leading to Kate feeling 'mortified'. Despite this, their bond remains strong, with Michael continuing to support Kate at major events, including attending Wimbledon matches together in 2021.