



18<sup>th</sup> June, 2007

## **Home Let and Match**

### **- Wimbledon residents court extra income from tennis fans -**

Homeowners in Wimbledon are cashing-in on the nation's tennis fever by renting out their homes to fans during Wimbledon fortnight. Some are even staying in cheap hotel rooms while making a profit from letting their own property.

Gumtree.com, the UK's busiest letting site, has seen a surge in short term lets in the Wimbledon area this June with many rooms being offered solely to tennis fans. Rents in the area have also soared, with home owners charging up to £1,000 a week for their properties <http://www.gumtree.com/london/41/10328441.html> as flats are priced at hotel rates rather than regular 'room to let' prices for the fortnight.

Commenting on the trend, Sophy Silver of Gumtree says: "Tennis fans love to be near the action for the entire fortnight. Enterprising homeowners in Wimbledon are offering an alternative to impersonal hotel rooms by renting out their homes which are full of creature comforts. It's also a great way to meet local people, or share a house and the excitement with other tennis fans"

One homeowner making the most of Wimbledon's seasonal crowds is Alistair Grant, 30. He will spend Wimbledon fortnight staying with friends while renting out his own two-bedroom flat minutes from the All England Club. Alistair says: "Staying in a hotel for two weeks can get boring for tennis fans so many prefer to rent a flat and enjoy a real local experience. It's also a great way to make some money towards paying off my mortgage while I visit some friends."

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**For more information or case studies please contact the Gumtree press office at Lexis Public Relations on 020 7908 6589 or email [gumtree@lexispr.com](mailto:gumtree@lexispr.com)**

### **About Gumtree.com**

- Gumtree.com was created in London in March 2000 and now covers 70 cities across 7 countries - the UK, Ireland, Poland, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa and Asia!
- It is the UK's biggest website for local community classifieds including flat share, flat rentals and jobs
- Some Fast Facts
  - Gumtree UK now has more than 140,000 live job ads
  - 1 million live ads at any one time!
  - 20,000 new ads in a day
  - 100,000 new ads in a week
  - Half a million new ads in a month
  - 150 million page impressions every month
  - Around 3 million visitors a month
  - Gumtree.com users spend 5,360,000 minutes on the website each month
  - 100,000 jobs live at any one time, making Gumtree the UK's largest jobs site
  - Over 10 million ads on Gumtree since it launched!
- Gumtree is your local community online. Home to all the things you'd expect from your local community; a place to find and advertise rooms, flats and houses, a notice board for selling and buying stuff, somewhere to find job or a date even just to chat with friends