**Wildcard Willis sets up dream Federer tussle**

ROSS MCLEAN AT WIMBLEDON
@rossmcleanRMAC

WIDE-EYED British qualifier Marcus Willis was left pinching himself after the world No772 stunned Lithuania’s Ricardas Berankis on his Wimbledon debut to set up a fairytale second-round clash with seven-time champion Roger Federer.

Willis took time out from his coaching job at Warwick Boat Club to enter pre-qualifying and after navigating six rounds his remarkable story continued with a 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 victory over world No164 Berankis yesterday.

Victory guarantees Willis £50,000 in prize money, having previously won £20,000, after the world No772 stunned James Ward on Centre Court.

“I was younger. I’m going to go in straight sets, in match likely to be played on Centre Court.

“It’s an amazing dream come true,” said Willis. “I get to play on a stadium court. This is what I dreamed of when I was younger. I’m going to go out there and try to win the tennis match. I probably won’t, but I’m going to give everything.”

Willis is ranked No772 in the world rankings.

On a day when eight championships as Kyle Edmund, Alex Ward, Brydan Klein and Naomi Broady all lost.

Former British No1 Laura Robson crashed out of Wimbledon after suffering a first-round defeat as form slump goes on yesterday. Robson, who has not gone beyond the first round of a grand slam since 2014, lost to 2012 US Open champion Emma Raducanu in straight sets, 6-2, 6-4.

Chukkas to champagne: get ready for City Polo Championships

**INTERVIEW**

THIJS POVEL, FOUNDER OF THE ALUMNI POLO CLUB, INVESTMENT MANAGER AT HOLTZBRINCK DIGITAL

2012, Thijs Povel founded the Alumni Polo Club, to bridge the gap between university and patron polo by organizing weekly group training sessions and trips. The club now boasts well over 300 international young professionals who mainly live and work in London, forming a natural partnership with City Championships. This summer launches

The City Polo Championships at Alumni Polo’s ‘The Inner Circle Summer Polo Cup’, on 13 August at HPC, The London Polo Club. “With four teams playing, we can do the play-offs and final all on the same day,” he says. “There will be roughly 500 guests watching the polo. Last year the musical talents of Chris Sharp and DJ Per Pedersen ensured a fantastic transition from polo games to a party which was helped by the sponsorship of Rothschild Champagne!”

Tickets at £35 each can be purchased through The Inner Circle – theinnercircle.co – an app that connects young professionals in London and across the world. Teams and players can get in touch with Povel through the City Championships website.

For those who know how to ride a horse well but haven’t played much polo, there is still time to get involved and, if they train well, participate next year’s tournament – something the APC can help with. “The great thing about polo is that it is a team sport and you can balance a team. If you have a pro with you, then you can still participate in this 2-goal tournament,” says Povel. And for those who need a little more help: “We know a lot of pros who love it find a way to play it.

Chukkas to champagne: get ready for City Polo Championships

**PICTURES**

In Partnership with City A.M.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CITY A.M.

Four teams playing, with play-offs and final all on the same day, and a party in the evening.

Tickets for spectators are £35 each available from theinnercircle.co

Hem Polo Club, Petersham Road, Richmond, Surrey, TW10 7AH

The Nearest Tube and Train Station to the Polo Club is Richmond.

**R OC K**

The City Polo Championships

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The London Polo Club

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THIRD WOMEN’S ONE INTERNATIONAL – England v Pakistan (Tunbridge Wells, Eng); 3-1 (103 overs; JH Tait 77* (27), PA Pope 70 (48), P Carreno-Busta 3-101, S Zhang 3-42)

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**FOOTBALL**

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS ROUNDEON 16

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