

# Facility Management

## TENNIS ENTERTAINMENT

### Movie Night

What should you show in your facility's lounge? A tennis and movie enthusiast lists his top five films about the sport.

By **MICHAEL RENOUF**

#### 5 / Break Point

This 2014 gentle comedy stars Jeremy Sisto as Jimmy Price, an underachieving, reckless man-child clinging to his fading tennis career. He wants to make a run at the US Open, but needs a doubles partner, and everyone he knows would rather double-fault on match point than partner with him.

His only hope is to convince his far more conservative brother Darren (David Walton). The brothers had played together as youngsters, but had a falling out after Jimmy left Darren high and dry while pursuing his dreams. Darren eventually comes around and the two team up, and we see how a player's game can reflect their personality.

#### 4 / Strokes of Genius

By 2008, Roger Federer had won five

consecutive Wimbledon titles and for the second year in a row faced Rafael Nadal in the final. Everything was in place for a classic, and the two champions did not disappoint—they served up the longest Wimbledon singles final in history, in what many describe as the best match ever played.

This documentary, based on the book *Strokes of Genius: Federer, Nadal, and the Greatest Match Ever Played*, by Sports Illustrated's Jon Wertheim, highlights the different approaches the two players take, through footage from the final and interviews with the two champions themselves, along with some of the biggest names in the game.

#### 3 / Battle of the Sexes

Set in 1973, this movie captures some of the seminal moments in tennis history

as it leads toward the famous showdown at the Houston Astrodome between the 55-year-old former world No. 1 Bobby Riggs (played by Steve Carell, who superbly captures his character's larger-than-life personality) and the female star of the day, Billie Jean King (Emma Stone, in a fine performance).

Amid the personal issues both champions struggle with, we see King's role in helping form the Women's Tennis Association, along with the 1970s attitude toward women's tennis, and women in general—which stoked King's fire far more than any of Riggs's antics.

#### 2 / Borg vs. McEnroe

The 1980 Wimbledon final between Bjorn Borg and John McEnroe is one of tennis' most memorable matches. The cool Swede came into the match having won the four previous titles, while the hot-headed American was contesting his first. The film, which stars Sverrir Gudnason as Borg and Shia LaBeouf as McEnroe, has plenty of on-court action, as we follow the players through the tournament and via flashbacks to their childhoods (Borg's son Leo plays him as a youngster). It's an enjoyable film not only for tennis fans, but also those interested in human drama.

#### 1 / Wimbledon

This entertaining rom-com follows English player Peter Colt (played by Paul Bettany), who was once ranked just outside the Top 10, but has slipped to 119 and is feeling old, weary and unmotivated. In fact, Colt is planning to retire after Wimbledon, which he is only playing thanks to a wild card. But everything changes after a chance meeting with rising star Lizzie Bradbury (Kirsten Dunst). The two fall for each other, and we follow their tennis and their relationship through the tournament. Will their romance help or hurt their games?

*Michael Renouf is a freelance writer and movie critic originally from the south of England. He specializes in sports, movies and Mexico, where he now lives and is the resident film reviewer for The New Mazatlan Messenger.*



Emma Stone plays Billie Jean King and Steve Carell plays Bobby Riggs in *Battle of the Sexes*.