



CASE STUDY

WIMBLEDON CHAMPIONSHIPS

SIS LIVE supports BBC Sport at Wimbledon Championships 2010

BBC Sport's extensive coverage of The Championships, Wimbledon 2010 was widely praised for its quality and professionalism. The entire event was captured again and available to broadcast in high definition. Backing BBC Sport all the way was SIS LIVE, Europe's largest outside broadcast (OB) and uplink supplier, which provided the technical facilities to both BBC Sport and the All England Club throughout the event.

Paul Davies, Executive Producer, Wimbledon, BBC Sport, said 2009 was the first year that BBC Sport, as the host broadcaster, offered all courts in full HD, allowing the BBC HD Channel to simulcast what was being transmitted on either BBC One or BBC Two. "This is clearly a huge technical challenge and much work has gone on behind the scenes with our partners at SIS LIVE to pull this project off," Davies said.

SIS LIVE provided all the HD facilities for BBC Sport to cover the tennis matches on the nine courts, so all games at The Championships were recorded in

HD. It meant a complete upgrade of all the vision equipment covering the Tournament.

SIS LIVE provided four OB units, including the new-generation OB 3 truck, launched last year, and the brand new OB 7, which was used for the first time at Wimbledon. Both new trucks offer the latest audio and video recording and routing technologies, giving clients complete flexibility and reliability in a comfortable, spacious and stylish environment.

SIS LIVE also provided a total of at least 70 fully-specified high definition cameras across the site, including 53 Sony HDC-1500 and HDC-950 cameras, 8 SuperMotion three-times slow-motion cameras, 6 HDC-950s working in "split head mode" and 2 HD radio cameras, one Steadicam and one hand-held. Adrian Kingston, Engineering Manager, SIS LIVE, said most of the cameras came from the company's own stock, with others hired in from outside facilities. "The





sheer number of HD cameras we needed was staggering,” Kingston said. “But SIS LIVE has strength in depth and we were able to supply BBC Sport with the best equipment. Wimbledon is one of the highlights of the summer every year and it is our job to make sure that an event of this calibre has all the right kit and that everything runs smoothly. On Centre Court, for example, we had at least 18 HD cameras for the final, including SuperMotion SloMo cameras, the high speed camera system, robotic cameras and radio-controlled cameras. Another 12 HD cameras were available on Court One, while most of the outside courts had four or five cameras each. It was a logistical feat to make sure everything worked as well as it did.”

All SIS LIVE’s camera feeds were relayed to the Wimbledon Broadcast Centre and into BBC Oscar (On Site Central Apparatus Room) which distributed all the host feeds for BBC Sport and other international broadcasters. All feeds were also relayed to the Slow Motion Operation, featuring EVS hard disk recorders. SIS LIVE supplied a total of 20 networked EVS recorders, allowing slow motion replays to be accessed by any user on the system.

A 47TB SAN server with four FCP editing positions plus ingest was also supplied, along with 31 HD

VTRs. In total, 80 kilometres – 50 miles – of HD capable cabling was laid across the site.

David Meynell, Managing Director, SIS LIVE, said: “Wimbledon is the world’s most prestigious tennis tournament and it was extremely important that the broadcast facilities matched the occasion. It was a landmark decision by BBC Sport and the All England Club to upgrade all courts to high definition and at SIS LIVE we worked incredibly hard with BBC Sport to make sure this year’s event was the best ever.”

SIS LIVE’s two new generation outside broadcast vehicles, OB 3 and OB 7 worked seamlessly side-by-side at the event. OB 7 and OB 3 are completely HD throughout and 3G capable. This means they

can both handle 1080i/50 pictures and the faster bit rate required for 1080p/50 or 3D. Because both vehicles have the same infrastructure design, they can share material seamlessly.

The internal router of the trucks is a powerful Evertz EQX matrix that distributes sound and vision using state-of-the-art 3G technology. This is in addition to a Sony MVS-8000G video switcher and Calrec Sigma Bluefin digital audio mixer, which delivers 5.1 surround sound. The vehicles can accommodate multiple Sony HDC-1500 multi-format cameras and up to three Sony SuperMotion slow-motion cameras. The flexible monitor wall in both trucks use less power and take up less space than a conventional monitor wall, making the interiors bigger and more flexible.

At Wimbledon, OB 3 was used as the production control for the domestic transmission for BBC One and BBC Two. OB 7 acted as the production vehicle for Court One. Unit 12, another top-of-the-range SIS LIVE vehicle, acted as the production vehicle for Centre Court. The fourth OB on site was the HD capable Unit 2.

Kingston said all four OB vehicles meant Wimbledon had the latest HD know-how. “The launch of our latest high definition truck, OB 7, to sit alongside OB 3, OB 12 and Unit 2 at Wimbledon,



demonstrates that SIS LIVE can offer clients the most sophisticated and reliable outside broadcast facilities in Europe,” he said. “SIS LIVE a world-class OB provider with huge experience in major events combined with a unrivalled approach to client care. With all the events we cover – from Formula One to Wimbledon – everyone at SIS LIVE is committed to providing the best service and support to our customers.”

SIS LIVE, which has unrivalled experience in mobile uplinking, also provided all the outgoing circuits from Wimbledon for BBC Sport. There were eight outgoing circuits from the site that were relayed to Television Centre in West London for the Domestic and Interactive operations, plus international circuits. For added security, SIS LIVE provided two completely separate paths for the transmissions, one using microwave links to the Crystal Palace transmitter, the other using a local fibre provider.

“Our absolute priority was to make sure BBC Sport was able to capture all the tennis at the best quality and deliver stunning HD pictures into people’s homes in the UK and throughout the world,” says Meynell.

