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London Marathon 2023: Just Stop Oil 'will continue disrupting sporting events'

🕒 20 April 2023 | [Athletics](#) |



Just Stop Oil previously held a protest around the day of the London Marathon in 2022

Just Stop Oil says it will "continue disrupting cultural and sporting events" amid concerns protestors will target the London Marathon on Sunday.

London Marathon race director Hugh Brasher said that he has received "unique" assurances from Extinction Rebellion over their planned protest.

But, in an interview with the BBC, a Just Stop Oil spokesperson would not rule out disrupting the event.

Indigo Rumbelow said London Marathon runners "want what Just Stop Oil want".

She added the climate activism group's disruption would continue "until the institutions of this country pick a side".

A protester wearing a T-shirt in support of Just Stop Oil halted play at the World Snooker Championship on Monday after climbing on to a table and covering it in orange powder.

More than 45,000 runners are expected to take part in Sunday's race around London, which raised more than £58m for charities in 2022.

"What marathon runners want is clean air, a healthy family and dinner on the table. I want to be clear that that is what Just Stop Oil wants too," Rumbelow said.

Speaking at a press conference on Thursday, British distance running great Mo Farah, who will compete in Sunday's event, said he "trusts" the London Marathon to handle any disruption.

"On Sunday people want to see the best athletes go out there and put on a show," Farah said.

"For us as athletes, we just have to go out there and concentrate on what we're doing. I trust in the London Marathon and the officials to do, as they always do, a great job."

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Premiership final: Protesters force stoppage of Twickenham showpiece between Saracens and Sale

🕒 27 May 2023 | [Rugby Union](#) |



A Just Stop Oil protestor is escorted off the pitch after disrupting the Gallagher Premiership final between Saracens and Sale at Twickenham

Just Stop Oil protesters caused a stoppage to rugby's Gallagher Premiership final by running on to the pitch and throwing orange paint powder.

The match between Sale and Saracens at Twickenham was briefly delayed when two men ran from the stands.

Stewards escorted the protesters away to cheers from the crowd, and the men were later arrested.

It was the latest sporting event to be affected after play was halted at the World Snooker Championship in April.

A man climbed on to a table at Sheffield's Crucible Theatre and **covered it in orange powder** as another protester tried to glue herself to the second table. A 25-year-old man and 52-year-old woman were arrested on suspicion of causing criminal damage.

A statement from Twickenham stadium said it was a "police matter", adding: "We would like to thank our stewarding team who acted decisively and swiftly."

Just Stop Oil said the protesters at Twickenham were a doctor and a construction worker.

A statement read: "Today's action occurs against a back-drop of more extreme weather events, as increasingly greater carbon concentrations in the atmosphere push us closer to irreversible tipping points, threatening to spin the balance of humanities' life supports systems out of control."

Saracens won 35-25 to secure their sixth Premiership title and first in four years.

- **Just Stop Oil: What is it and what does it want?**


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Ashes: Just Stop Oil protesters briefly disrupt opening morning of England v Australia Test at Lord's

By Stephan Shemilt
 Chief cricket writer at Lord's

 28 June 2023 | [Cricket](#) |



01:46 / 00:46

Protestors disrupt Ashes Test at Lord's

Just Stop Oil protesters briefly disrupted the first morning of the second Ashes Test, with one carried off the Lord's ground by England wicketkeeper Jonny Bairstow.

Two people entered the field attempting to spread orange powder.

As the players guarded the pitch, one was picked up by Bairstow and another stopped by England captain Ben Stokes.

The powder did land on the square, but was cleared by groundstaff and the game resumed after a short delay.

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The Metropolitan Police said three arrests were made after the protest.

Guy Lavender, chief executive of Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) which owns Lord's, said he condemned the protest "in the strongest possible terms".

"Their actions not only endanger themselves and those who work at the ground, but they have consistently shown complete disregard for the people who pay to attend events, not just here at Lord's but around the country at other sporting venues," he said.

A Just Stop Oil spokesperson said: "Cricket is an important part of our national heritage, but how can we enjoy the Ashes when much of the cricketing world is becoming unfit for humans to live in?"

"We can no longer afford to distract ourselves when the sports we play, the food we eat, and the culture we cherish is at risk.

"It's time for cricket lovers and all those who understand the severity of this situation to get onto the streets and demand action."

Just Stop Oil protesters have disrupted other sporting events this year, including the **rugby union Premiership final** and the **World Snooker Championship**.

The environmental protest group is calling for the government to halt all new oil, gas and coal projects.

- **Just Stop Oil: What is it and what does it want?**



Jonny Bairstow carried one of the protesters all the way to the boundary of the field

Security has been heightened around major cricket matches. With the pitch and conditions more important to the outcome in cricket than most sports, the potential for damage and disruption is greater if protesters are able to reach the middle.

England's team bus was briefly held up by protesters before the Test against Ireland at Lord's earlier this month.

At the World Test Championship final at The Oval, the International Cricket Council took the unusual step of preparing a reserve pitch in case the original one was damaged.

Wednesday's match was only one over old when the protesters entered the field from the Lord's Grandstand.

Initially confronted by the players, they were also tackled by security staff from the venue and the England and Wales Cricket Board.

Bairstow was cheered by the crowd as he carried one protester from the middle to the boundary edge. The other, who got closer to the pitch, was blocked by Stokes and Australia batter David Warner.

Bairstow then left the field to apparently change his shirt and wicketkeeping gloves as the orange powder on the square and outfield had found its way onto his kit.

A spokesperson for Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said: "The Prime Minister is pleased play was able to resume quickly and thanks security staff, the swift hands of Jonny Bairstow and other England players who stepped in."



One protester was blocked by David Warner and Ben Stokes



Initially confronted by the players, the protesters were also tackled by security staff



The orange powder was quickly cleared by groundstaff

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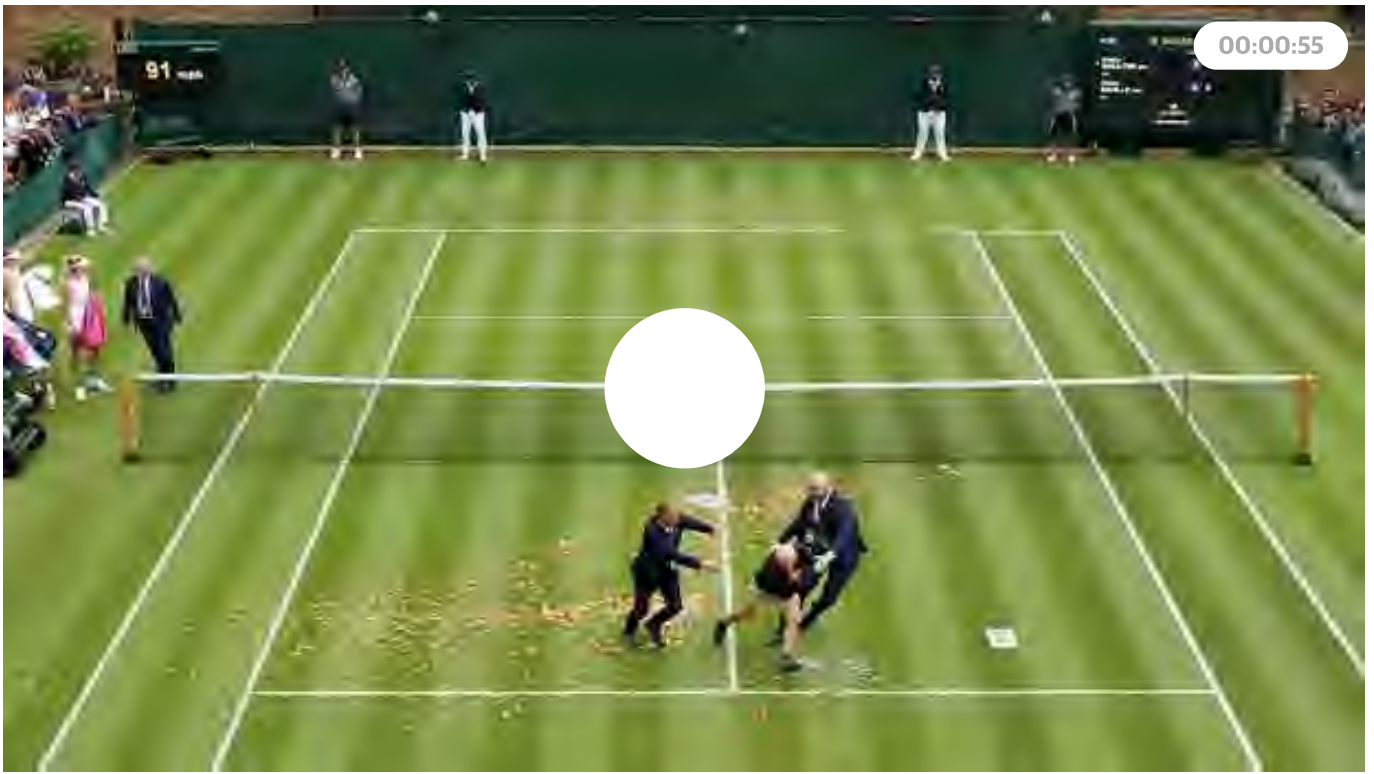
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Just Stop Oil protesters disrupt two Wimbledon matches on Court 18 in one day - video

Sport

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Just Stop Oil funder warns more high-profile sports will be on group's hit list

**Dale Vince says environmental group will continue protests
Comments come as campaigners target cricket and Wimbledon**

Exclusive by **Sean Ingle**

 **@seaningle**

Thu 6 Jul 2023 12.15 BST

Just Stop Oil's lead funder Dale Vince has warned that more high-profile sport is on the organisation's target list as it seeks to jolt more people out of "sleepwalking" amid a worsening climate crisis.

On Wednesday Wimbledon became the latest event to be [disrupted by activists](#), who twice ran on to Court 18 to delay play by throwing confetti and jigsaw pieces across the grass.

It followed similar interventions from protesters at the [World Snooker Championship](#), the [rugby union Premiership final](#) and last week's Ashes Test [at Lord's](#).

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However, Vince has told the Guardian that the group would continue its sporting protests - even if, like [Wimbledon](#), sports did more to stress their environmental credentials.

“I don’t think the premise for choosing where to protest is based on that kind of criteria,” he said. “Is cricket good or bad? I don’t think that’s the question. It’s about how much disruption can we cause, how many headlines can we grab. It’s about high-profile stuff.

“So if you’re a high-profile sport, I would say that probably you might be on the target list. That’s my reading of it.”

Vince, who is also chairman of Forest Green Rovers, stressed that he was not privy to Just Stop Oil’s future plans when he spoke before the protests at Wimbledon. But he urged sports fans to accept that a small disruption in play was nothing compared to the havoc being reaped by climate change.

“You’re going to upset people when you disrupt things, that’s for sure,” he said. “But look, the cricket was disrupted for three or four minutes. The UN says four million people have lost their lives in the climate crisis so far. Other data shows that 20 million people globally are made homeless every year. Compared to that, a few minutes’ delay at a sporting event really is nothing.”

Vince accepted that many people might be sympathetic to Just Stop Oil’s views, but not their methods. However he said he strongly disagreed with a softly-softly approach.

“The most effective protest is a disruptive one,” he said. “It is not one where you stand at the side of the road and everything’s going on as normal, while you chant and wave placards. That’s less effective than when you disrupt everyday life, business as usual.

“The point we are trying to make is that there’s a big harm happening in the world that is pushed to the background. And if we don’t deal with it properly, the global temperature will disrupt life beyond all measures that we have.”

Vince insisted that without significant change in global approach - and a change in the UK government - the crisis would only grow.

“If you look at the disruption of the Covid lockdowns you can square it or cube it if the climate crisis that’s coming if we don’t avoid a rise of three degrees,” he said. “So it is about shaking people out of sleepwalking, to say that something has to be done about this.”

“Of course, the real target is the government, who are hellbent on drilling for more fossil fuels in the face of all of the science.”

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Rishi Sunak told Conservative party members on Wednesday: “The environment is important to all of us. But policy should be decided by your elected MPs and councillors, not by a paint-wielding or road-blocking, noisy minority.”

The prime minister went on to state: “While Labour rely on the finances of eco-fanatics like Dale Vince, we rely on the support of ordinary people like yourself.” “We are taking tough action against Just Stop Oil’s campaign to block roads, glue themselves to petrol stations, disrupt sporting events and destroy priceless works of art.”

On Thursday the policing minister, Chris Philp, told Times Radio: “We’d like to see those sporting organisations like Wimbledon increase the number of marshals and stewards. They have to be more careful about checking people coming into sporting events and react really quickly when something happens.”

He added that ministers “strongly encourage” the use of the courts to seek orders banning particular actions during sporting events.

“At the meeting yesterday we had with sporting leaders, we encouraged the use of injunctions,” he said. “Because that allows for a much more severe criminal penalty if the injunction gets breached.”

An Animal Rising activist who ran on to the track at the Derby, “endangering” police who dragged him away just before the horses galloped past, was spared jail after pleading guilty at Guildford Crown Court on Thursday to causing public nuisance.

Ben Newman, 32, was criticised by the judge for risking the safety of police and security guards who dragged him to one side with a minute to spare. Judge Mark Ockelton sentenced him to an 18-week prison sentence suspended for two years and fined him a total of £1,356.

Judge Ockelton said: “Despite your claim [of being well-intentioned], there was a clear danger to the police and security staff. There you were on the track, the horses were coming, and they had to get rid of you. You couldn’t predict how long that would take.

“There was no disruption but that was up to their competence, not your planning.”



The Open

🕒 This article is more than 5 months old

Just Stop Oil protest disrupts play on day two of Open Championship

Woman escorted off 17th green by Billy Horschel
Latest in series of incursions at sporting events this year

Michael Butler at *Royal Liverpool*

🐦 @michaelbutler18

Fri 21 Jul 2023 13.01 BST

The Open Championship is the latest sporting event to be interrupted by Just Stop Oil after the activist group took responsibility for invading the 17th green at Hoylake on Friday, with the American golfer Billy Horschel helping to escort a woman into police custody.

The woman was one of four protesters who were arrested after spreading orange powder over the 17th green before Horschel and nearby marshals intervened, despite [a previous instruction by the Royal & Ancient](#) for players and caddies not to take action if any protest occurred.

“We can confirm four people have been arrested following an incident at the Open,” read a police statement. “A small amount of powder was discarded on to the playing surface and it was reported that one person had a smoke pyrotechnic. Two males and two females were quickly detained by both stewards

and officers, and they were arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to commit criminal damage and public nuisance. They will be taken into police custody to be questioned.

“Merseyside police respects the right to protest and expression of views but antisocial, criminal behaviour or disorder will not be tolerated and will be dealt with robustly.”

The campaigners were largely booed by the watching crowd, and Horschel was roundly cheered for his part in apprehending one of them. British television coverage did not broadcast any of the protests, with commentators mentioning only “a break in the golf” and how Horschel was “going to tackle” [the challenge of the 17th hole](#).

Police were seen taking a sample of the powder before greenkeepers used leaf blowers to clear the putting surface. Play was able to resume shortly afterwards.

A statement from Just Stop Oil read: “Supporters have disrupted the British Open - they demand that the UK government halts all new oil and gas projects. There will be no more holes in one when our society collapses. We must stop our government’s 100 new oil and gas licenses before they go on to cause more harm.”

Two of the protesters were identified as Noah Crane, 18, a community coordinator, and 19-year-old student Hailey Birch.

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“I’m disrupting the Open today, not because I want to, but as a young person, I feel I have no other choice,” said Crane. “This government is knowingly taking action that will kill hundreds of millions of people and destroy my future. They have made it clear that they value the profits of the few over the lives of the many. So now we must make it clear that we will not stand for that; that we will not roll over and allow them to sell our lives to line their pockets.”

Sporting events have increasingly been targeted by Just Stop Oil. This month three people [made it on to Court 18 at Wimbledon](#), showering the grass with orange confetti and pieces of a jigsaw puzzle. During the men’s Ashes Test at Lord’s, a protester was [removed from the field of play by the England wicketkeeper Jonny Bairstow](#). In April, play at [the World Snooker Championship was delayed](#) after a man released powdered orange paint into the Crucible and sat kneeling on a baize table.



📷 A member of the groundstaff clears the orange powder from the 17th green. Photograph: Phil Noble/Reuters

It is not the first time Hoylake has been hit by protests. In 2006, Fathers 4 Justice campaigners threw dye on the 18th green as Tiger Woods approached.

Martin Slumbers, the chief executive of the R&A which hosts the Open, had said before this year's tournament there were "significant security procedures" in place with police to stop protesters - including plainclothes officers and stringent security checks on arrival - in light of a ["very credible threat"](#) being made at last year's Open by environmental protesters.

Regarding Friday's incident, the R&A released a brief statement: "Play was not disrupted and we would like to thank the marshals, players and other spectators for their vigilance and understanding as the protesters were removed."
