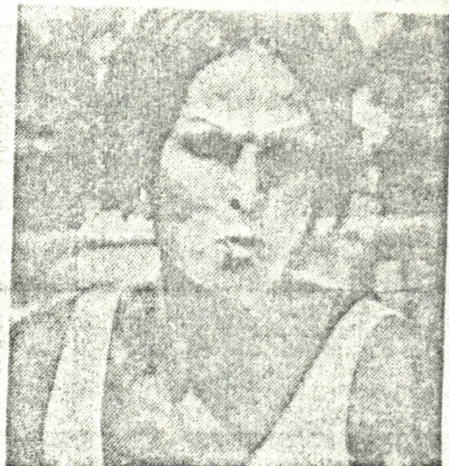


# Virginia Wade teams up with sex-change Renee

DAILY MAIL



Former Wimbledon queen Virginia Wade.



Former eye surgeon Renee Richards.

From JOHN PARSONS in Dallas

**VIRGINIA WADE** has formed a new doubles partnership — with sex-change American Renee Richards.

The former Wimbledon champion told me during the Avon championships here: 'I like to play with someone who has a big serve. I know then where I am at the net. We should make a good team.'

Miss Richards, 44, was eye surgeon Richard Raskind before a sex change operation in 1975.

When drawn against Miss Richards in the U.S. Open in 1977, Miss Wade said: 'I don't mind playing her . . . but it doesn't seem right to me that she should be playing.'

The new partnership will play the

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## Virginia and Renee

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next four tournaments together in the hope of qualifying for the Avon play-offs at Madison Square Garden.

Miss Wade, 34, will be returning to European tennis this summer, including Rome and Paris, but it is unlikely that Miss Richards will attempt to play in these—and certainly not Wimbledon.

Miss Wade revealed that she had turned to New York law lecturer Alex Mayer, father of last year's Wimbledon seed Sandy Mayer, to help prolong her career at the top.

She told me: 'At the end of 1974, I was going barmy because I was playing so much. I couldn't take it any more.'

'I spent four years in team tennis with Sandy Mayer, and always admired his approach to the game.'