

PADEL NEWS DECEMBER 2022

Welcome to our final edition of Padel News for 2022. Please share this newsletter with venues in your County and encourage them to circulate amongst the wider rackets' community.

PADEL DASHBOARD

Next update January 2023

Court booking providers [Matchi](#) and [Play Tomic](#) have both recently launched detailed padel reports that highlight the growth of the sport.

How to find courts [near me](#).

LTA PADEL PERFORMANCE MANAGER APPOINTED

This week the LTA announced the appointment of Matt Stanforth as its new Padel Performance Manager, starting in January 2023. Matt joins the LTA following 14 years at Table Tennis England. Matt will oversee three key areas: managing performance players and the support they receive from the LTA, developing a player pathway for the sport and finally managing national teams creating opportunities in a variety of categories. Read the full article [here](#).

NEW VENUES

Graham Sutherland continues his vision to open-up tennis by adding a padel Court to Wye Tennis Club

Anna Wilson reports from Kent

Graham is well known in Kent Tennis having revitalised Wye Tennis Club from a 2-court club in 2008 with a new clubhouse and increasing capacity to 5 floodlit tennis courts and membership from 140 to over 500 members.

Graham was inspired by playing padel on holiday last December in Mauritius enjoying games with a wide range of players and different levels of fitness. In less than a year he overcame initial concerns from his local parish Council, secured £22,000 of grant funding from 3 sources and an LTA interest free loan of £80,000 to become the second club in Kent to offer padel. He enjoyed the first game on the court on the 8 November.



Graham Sutherland - far left

For over 17 years Graham has been committed to making tennis accessible for the local community and sharing his success to help other local villages succeed in developing their

club to be a focal point of village life. In the village of Wye 10% of the population are members of the club and they are looking forward to meeting many new people coming to play padel.

COMPETITION NEWS



GM Men finish 14th in the World Padel Championships

The GB Men's team faced tough opposition in their group matches in Dubai. They finished 14th in the 17-nation tournament. A fantastic experience and one to build upon for the future. Read the full tournament report [here](#).

WESTFIELD SHOPPING CENTRE HOSTS FESTIVAL OF PADEL

The Unstoppable Padel Party!



We have to highlight Game4Padel's Festival of Padel which took place in London at the beginning of November, with the company transforming the central Atrium at Westfield London retail centre in Shepherds Bush, to promote padel to the UK's largest live audience to date.

Close to 250,000 people visited Westfield (the largest shopping centre in Europe) over the three days of the event and visitor reaction to the game was hugely positive.

Building a pop-up padel court in a shopping centre is not without its complications but was made possible by the unique design of [Instantpadel's](#) court and by great teamwork – the court being erected overnight in just 6 hours. Game4Padel's coaching partner [Padel MBA](#), and [Adidas AFP](#) also helped with the staging and running of the festival.

There followed a long weekend schedule, jam packed with exhibition matches and pro-am/celebrity matches, demos, kids' sessions and Come & Try and Beat the Coach sessions. Game4Padel's charity partner for the event, tennis charity Give It Your Max, brought children to meet some of their idols and get the chance to hit a few padel balls with the Murray brothers.

Game4Padel ambassadors who took to the court during the festival included Andy and Jamie Murray, Andrew Castle, Annabel Croft, and UK women's No. 1 player Tia Norton, and guests included Laura Robson, Sir Andrew Strauss, Sam Billings and Jamie Theakson. Padel royalty graced the event in the form of Manu Martin who flew from Madrid specially.



Shoppers were stunned to see the activity on court – many filming it on their phones from the balcony above and as they descended the escalator – and some getting on court to try it for themselves. The most common questions, 'What is this? What is padel? Wow it looks like fun, can I have a go?' and of course, 'Where can I play?' Because as Tia Norton commented, 'Padel is for everyone – so easy to pick up and enjoy from the first try.'

The event was covered by TV crews from BBC, ITV, CNN, Channel 5 and Sky News, and in press articles by The Times, Evening Standard, Hello Magazine and Vogue.

Commenting for Game4Padel, Director Vincent Hivert told us, 'It was a high-energy weekend of smiles and laughter and huge fun – the engagement from the audience, and from kids especially, was fantastic. If we learned anything from the event, we proved that there is a huge appetite for padel in the UK and that it has a great future.'

For more info: www.game4padel.com

WPT MALMÖ

Katherine Montague reports from Malmö



The 6.30am Ryan Air flight from Stansted felt very early; my journey had started at 3am. As we approached Copenhagen, my neighbour woke up and announced he was returning to Copenhagen having spent a wonderful time there when travelling as a student. He had lived in Spain for a few years – I asked if he played padel and it turned out he played regularly in Spain and now at East Gloucester. He was thrilled to hear the tour was in Malmö and set about buying tickets for the session that day!

Malmö is a very popular WPT destination for the players, thanks to the easy transport link from Copenhagen airport across the Øresundsbron, famous to fans of the popular TV series 'The Bridge'. There are modern hotels next door to the arena in Hyllie, which is one stop from Malmö central, and just 15 minutes from Copenhagen airport. No need to hire a car, travel costs are minimal.

We watched several lively quarter final matches, which featured some of the world's best players, who demonstrated their consistency and talent with long, often dramatic, points. The matches were well attended, the atmosphere enhanced by the DJ's beats at the changeovers. At less than £40 per ticket, it was very affordable for the many Swedish and Danish padel enthusiasts.

Along with burgers, sausages and beer, spectators could shop at the leading padel brands' pop-up stands – both equipment and clothing. A fantastic day and one I can recommend for anyone interested in watching live padel of an exceptionally high standard.

PADEL TASTER SESSIONS

For rackets venues considering padel, remember you can book the National Tennis Centre padel courts on a pay-and-play basis. Find out more details [here](#).

COMPETITION

This year's competition calendar is available [here](#).

SENIORS PADEL



GB Senior Women's Squad Train Hard and Play Hard at their November National Training Camp

The GB Seniors Women's squad continued their programme of training and international fixtures, with a weekend national training camp attended by 24 squad members ranging in age from 39 to 70, at the We Are Padel Derby facility, with their National Coach Nigel Garton and Squad Captain and Coach Libby Fletcher. The squad is kindly sponsored by www.padelshack.com

Sally Fisher, the Squad Manager said "We Are Padel Derby was a fantastic venue for the squad training, with easy access for all the squad and great hotels and restaurants just a walk away. We were glad to welcome Dawn Foxhall to her first GB seniors squad training, having flown in from her base in Austria especially for the event. Dawn has experience playing on the World Padel Tour and so brings a valuable extra dimension to our squad. It was inspiring to look across the six courts that we were playing on and to see such a high level of padel being played on all the courts. Everyone is developing and enhancing their padel skills and game at a great pace, thanks to the skilful coaching we receive from Libby and Nigel and also the intensity with which everyone is training and competing at home, in between our national camps. We are living our motto - helping each other be the best we can be and having fun in pursuit of excellence!"

THE PROFESSIONAL GAME

FIP

www.padelfip.com

WORLD PADEL TOUR

www.worldpadeltour.com

COACHING UPDATE

The LTA have undertaken 3 successful pilots of the forthcoming **LTA Padel Instructor** qualification. As a result, final tweaks are being made to the course before it launches in early 2023 for delivery by Coach Development Centres. This means that there will be a proliferation of courses across the UK and throughout the year.

The LTA Instructor qualification entails 4 days' core training, face to face with the Tutor plus one further five-hour Elective workshop, from a choice of two. The Electives will be how to Coach the Double Glass and How to Coach Kids' Padel. Both will also be open to non-qualification coaches wishing to do the courses as CPD. Coaches wishing to prepare for the Padel Instructor qualification will need to do a [Padel Instructor Readiness Test](#), which can be booked via the LTA Course Search Tool. The test costs £36 and is carried out remotely/video based. All assessments are now centralised, which means that upon successful completion of the Padel Instructor: Core Training, coaches will need to book and successfully complete their Padel Instructor Summative Assessment as the final step.

Existing racket sport coaches, who would like to sign up for the one day LTA Introduction to Padel Coaching CPD can now do so via [the LTA website](#). Completion of the one-day course provides 3 points towards the LTA tennis coaching license.

PADEL PUBLICATIONS

As padel gains momentum in the UK, so have the communications supporting the game. Recently launched by journalist Emma Kimber and beautifully produced is www.thebandeja.com

Another great source of up to the minute padel news is the Padel Paper www.thepadelpaper.com Be sure to register for free to get up to the minute padel news.

OFFICIATING NEWS

Remember existing tennis referees can do the free one-hour LTA Padel Referee Conversion Course. If you are an LTA Licensed Official and would like to upskill yourself and learn more about Padel Officiating, you can complete the LTA Padel Referee Conversion Course [here](#).

Call to action!

Similarly, to the LTA website please make sure you have a padel page on your County Website and promote the opportunities padel can offer to venues. For more information or if you have any padel news, please share with katherinemontague22@gmail.com or stephtrill@gmail.com