

PADEL NEWS FEBRUARY 2022

Wishing you all a happy and healthy 2022. Welcome to February's edition of Padel News, where we share padel updates from around the country. Please share this newsletter with venues in your County and encourage them to circulate amongst the rackets' community.

PADEL DASHBOARD

No of courts in the UK (at 31/12/2021)	150
No of covered courts	52
No of outdoor courts	98
No of venues	68

How to find courts [near me](#)

NEW VENUES

Holmer Green Padel, Bucks



Despite the challenges of Covid, Neil Percival and Nick Baker of UK Padel have succeeded in setting up two padel courts in less than a year in Holmer Green, close to High Wycombe. Both keen padel players, with a history of squash and real tennis between them, they started playing 18 months ago and experienced frustration with a lack of courts and difficulty getting time on the courts available.

They identified long-disused tennis courts, sat amongst football, squash and cricket facilities and leased land from the local sports association for 15 years then set about finding partners to install two courts. They partnered with Chiltern Sports, a SAPCA recognised UK construction firm. You might enjoy watching how they built their courts in a short video here.

Just two months old, they have already signed up 55 new members, so are well on the way to exceeding their target of 75 members in the first year. They have three coaches offering sessions from beginners to advanced/team level and offer lots of taster sessions to introduce new players to the game. Nick commented 'with just 45 minutes coaching, players can experience an immediate improvement, it is such an accessible game'.



Neil and Nick have set up social sessions which have proved a great way for players to connect and find players of their ability. Their membership is approximately 60:40 male to female and they have seen mixed games are very popular. As a registered venue they will be entering a team into this year's LTA Padel National League.

They hope to set up more courts in the Southeast of England. So, if you live in the High Wycombe area and would like to try padel, visit their site and book your taster session or sign up for membership before their special offer is full -<https://www.ukpadel.org/holmer-green-padel/>

Any clubs looking to start their padel journey, can find out more information below:

<https://www.lta.org.uk/globalassets/venue/support-your-venue/documents/lta-padel-guidance-note.pdf>

<https://www.lta.org.uk/workforce-venues/tennis-venue-support/club-forum-webinars/>

[Why build more than one padel court?](#)

Why not contact the NTC and arrange a padel taster session for your County office? Consider inviting representatives from registered venues in your County who may be contemplating padel courts and want to try it for themselves. The NTC is more than happy to facilitate padel taster sessions, led by a padel coach ntc.enquiries@lta.org.uk or call on 0208 4877298.

SPOTLIGHT ON SWEDEN



Sweden has experienced an explosion in the popularity of padel in the last three years. Like the golf obsession in the 1980s, padel has become the latest craze in Sweden. In less than three years, the number of courts has grown to more than 2,000 courts, many indoors or covered. Well known sports professionals are ambassadors or investors, including Zlatan Ibrahimovic, Robin Soderling and Jonas Bjorkman. Padel has attracted enormous investment, it's big business in the Nordics. I'm reliably told that more than a fifth of the Swedish population has tried padel.

My partner is Swedish, he lives in the southern-most part of Sweden, close to a town called Ystad in the Skåne region. Previously best known for its film and tv studios, creating the likes of *Wallander* and other Skandi noirs, Ystad is now a padel hotspot. I estimate there are 80 courts within a 30-mile radius of Ystad.



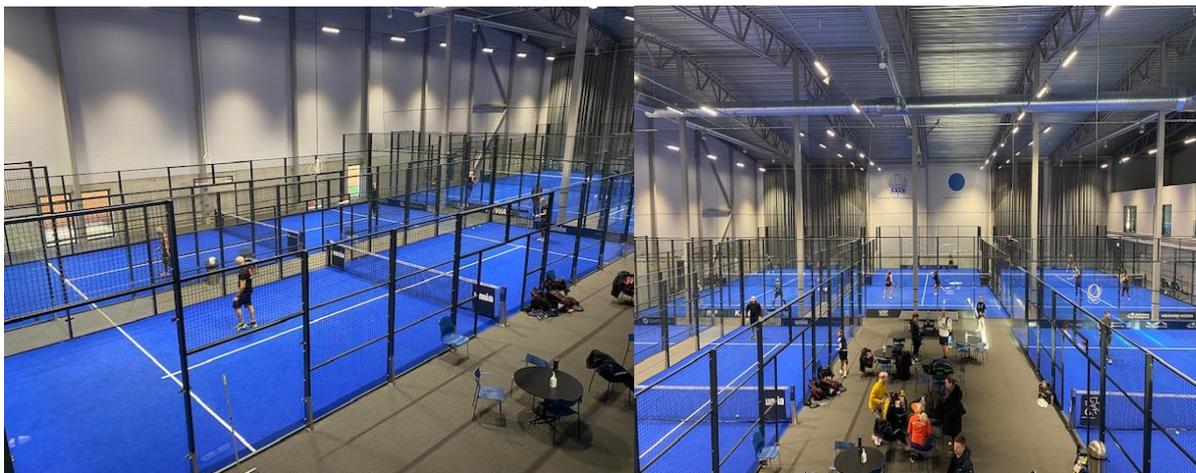
I was introduced to padel in late summer 2019 and played my first game at a local outdoor court in Nybrostrand. An enterprising local had converted a disused tennis hitting wall into a padel court with floodlights. Very quickly my partner had signed up for the weekly league and shortly afterwards, started weekly group lessons at the We Are Padel's 15-court hall in Skurup. We Are Padel now has 80 venues in Sweden <https://www.wearepadel.se/>

During Covid, Sweden controversially didn't lock down, but local authority-run sports centres were closed. This assisted the rapid take up of padel, because mostly privately owned padel courts were not obliged to close. Most Swedish employers offer their staff between £200-500 annually towards wellbeing, so lots of Swedes are using their allowance to subsidise their padel habit.

Two indoor courts popped up at the local golf club in Tomelilla, then five more (two covered) in a field in Öja, the 'field of dreams', followed by another two indoor venues with six courts and four full size and two single courts respectively. Interestingly the golf club made use of a special fund in Sweden, consisting of unclaimed inheritance money, to finance their courts. I have also noticed that most venues have space for one or more single padel courts, which are very popular for those who might struggle to find four players or who simply want to train or play a singles match.



The most recent addition is Ystad Racket Club, which has added new indoor courts (full size and single courts) alongside its indoor tennis facility, with viewing gallery, conference space, gym, poke bowl restaurant etc. It is sure to be popular venue and social hang out.



Ystad Racket Club

Over the festive break, in the space of 10 days, I have participated in a ladies-only Mexicana tournament (which I very unexpectedly won) featuring 24 ladies, another Queen of the Court and a mixed tournament (we finished 7th, so I bumped back down to reality). I have played every day in the last three weeks. I have been pleasantly surprised by the number of ladies playing and children. I have also observed a wide range of ages on court. Over Christmas one venue included a popular over 60s tournaments, so there are clearly plenty of mature players enjoying friendly competition.

For any enthusiastic padel players who are interested in exploring this part of Sweden, you can fly to Copenhagen, pick up a hire car and then make the short trip across the Bridge into Sweden. It's a 40-minute drive south to Ystad, and you will pass the Skurup padel centre en route.

There is a stunning hotel just outside Ystad, right by the white sandy beach that offers amazing fixed-price lunches www.ysb.se and a spa to treat aching post-padel muscles! If your budget doesn't allow for this, there are plenty of affordable hotels in town or cabins in the woods adjacent to the beach. Weather permitting, you can swim in the Baltic Sea or the open-air pool in Nybrostrand (open May to September). You could reasonably play at six different padel venues in one stay.



Tomelilla golf and padel club

Courts for most venues in the area can be pre-booked via either Matchi or Playtomic apps. Similarly, you can sign up for tournaments or coaching with these apps. In my experience the coaches speak good English.

Whilst Spain remains a popular padel holiday destination, thanks to the guaranteed warm weather and affordable court and coaching prices (especially in Torre Vieja, but I'll save that for another time), you might want to consider your next padel holiday in Southern Sweden!

Katherine Montague, January 2022

COMPETITION

Graded Tournaments:

The 2022 tournament calendar is being finalised and will soon be available on the LTA Padel webpage www.lta.org.uk/padel

National League:

Registered venues with padel courts can now sign up to this year's National League. This year's edition has a new format (less players required to complete a team) and there's a separate division for Ladies. Entries close on March 7th. For more information and to sign up click [here](#).

SENIORS PADEL

The GB Seniors Padel Tour will launch its new edition this year – All events will be included within the LTA tournament calendar as above.

The FIP Veterans World Padel Championships will take place in Las Vegas, USA from March 28th to April 2nd. Anyone who would like to be considered for team selection should contact either Peter Vann at peter.vann@padelgb.org (men's team) or Sally Fisher at sallyfisher@me.com (ladies team).

For more information visit the FIP website: www.padelfip.com

Friendly Padel Nations Cup

An enthusiastic group of German organisers have once again issued an invitation to a friendly international against Germany, Spain and Denmark to be held in Majorca – Postponed from March 2020, now from 28th April to 1st May 2022. This is not an official FIP event. Anyone who would like to be considered for the ladies team should contact Rowena Tott at rowena.tott@btinternet.com or Paul Lansley pjlans@gmail.com for the men's team.

WORLD PADEL TOUR 2022

<https://www.worldpadeltour.com/en/tournaments/>

COACHING UPDATE



Existing racket sport coaches, who would like to sign up for LTA Introduction to Padel Coaching CPD can now do so via the LTA website.

The LTA Coach Development & Support team are working with Sandy Farquharson to produce the new Padel Coaching Qualifications, which are expected to launch Quarter 1 in 2022 and anyone interested can register their interest [here](#). We know there is a huge demand for a padel coaching qualification, please be patient, it's coming!

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