

# PADEL NEWS JANUARY 2022

Wishing you all a happy and healthy 2022. Welcome to January'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 1/12/2021)	142
No of covered courts	49
No of outdoor courts	93
No of venues	66

How to find courts [near me](#) – and a breakdown of the courts:

Tennis Clubs	28	42%
Local authorities/parks	7	11%
Schools & Universities	1	2%
Leisure centres/CITC's	5	8%
Golf/Spa/Resort	6	9%
Squash clubs	6	9%
Padel only	13	20%

## PADEL IN 2021

Read an interview with the LTA's Head of Padel, Tom Murray [here](#)

## NEW VENUES

### Garon Park, Southend



Padel4all opened its second venue on 22 November, boasting 3 covered courts and one open-air show court. Over 120 people attended their opening on a cold but bright December day, with the Lord Lieutenant of Essex, Jennifer Tolhurst and the local MP, James Duddridge present to support this exciting new addition to the City of Southend. Sandy Farquharson and other members of the GB team were on hand to play in an exhibition match. Next door to a new FA facility, the padel courts form part of Southend's redevelopment strategy.



Christopher Wilkinson, former investment banker, set up Padel4all in April 2019 and thanks to his perseverance and enthusiasm for padel, opened courts in Basset Down, Swindon in September 2021. Within 3 months, the Basset Downs courts are enjoying 40% occupancy, meeting their first-year target. Their successful outreach programme to local schools in Swindon has filled their afternoon slots. They welcome children with Down's syndrome on a Saturday morning and wheelchair padel is also popular at this venue. Their coaches are either from tennis or squash coaching backgrounds, coaches who have caught the padel bug.

Christopher is hoping to set up a network of 20 venues in the next 3 years, and he is confident that the combination of investment in technology, high quality facilities and long leases will produce a winning business formula. He hopes to establish his next padel venue in Bristol, this time with support from the LTA's Quick Access Loan. If you would like to learn more about Padel4all, you can visit their website [here](#).

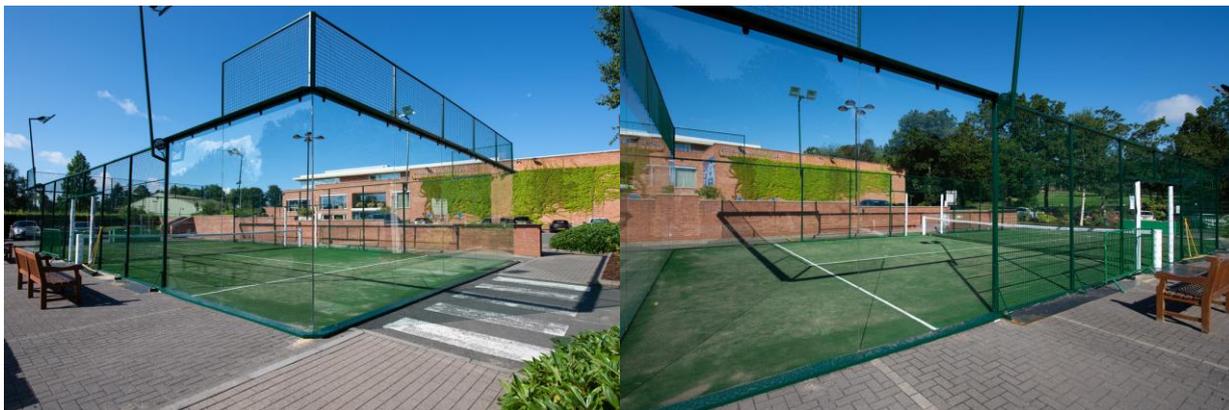
### **The Edgbaston Priory Club, Birmingham**

This month we spoke to Robert Saffery at the Edgbaston Priory Club, a private members' squash, tennis and leisure club in Birmingham. In July 2021 they installed a temporary Padel court in their car park as a trial to see if padel might be a viable option at their club.

They successfully partnered with Steve Riley from SR Sports Services, the man behind Will to Win Padel courts in Regents Park and Hyde Park in London ([steveriley@srsportsservices.com](mailto:steveriley@srsportsservices.com)) to hire a panoramic padel court, initially for 6 months. This avoided the need for significant civil engineering investment on a court base or the need for a ring beam.

So how has their padel court been received by members? It's proved to be very popular, especially for members who wanted to stay outside as they returned from lockdowns.

Robert explained that the court is available to book at no cost to members from 8am to 10pm daily, during the trial, and they have experienced over 60% occupancy throughout the day.



Club coaches, Leyla Ogan and Mike Edwards, are both qualified padel trainers and offer popular courses to teach members the basics and run social padel sessions which are always fully booked.

It's location in the car park makes it hard to miss and has piqued interest from members not already familiar with the sport. He commented that padel has connected squash and tennis players who play together in the ladders. It has also enabled families to spend more time together - all ages and abilities can be seen playing on the padel court.

Robert summarised that the trial has been a success and they hope to extend their lease through 2022, with padel development set to feature in the long-term, future planning at the club.

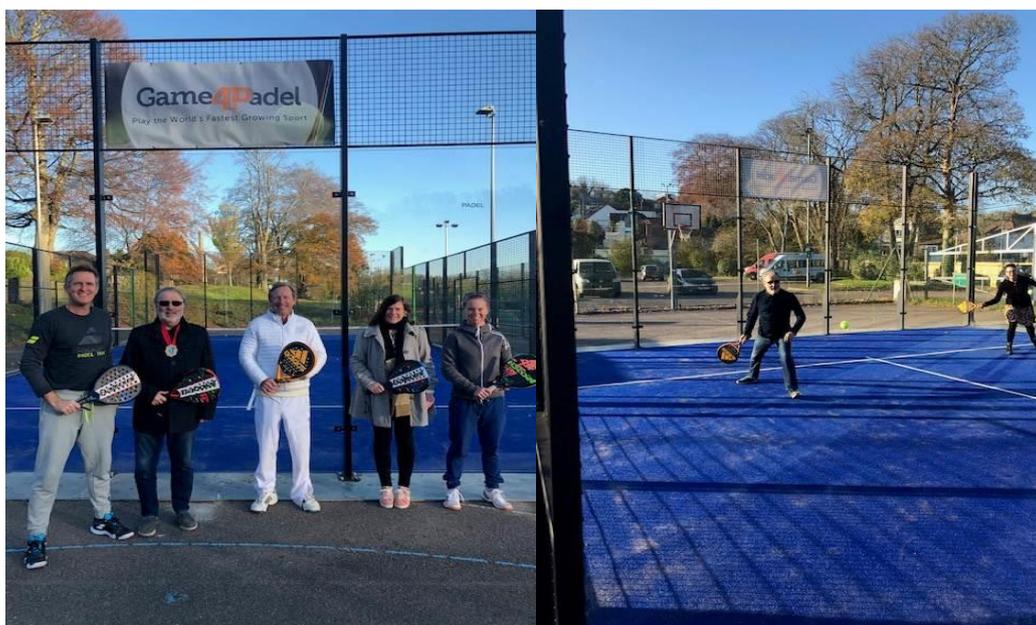
Anyone interested in picking Rob's brains in relation to a padel project, can reach him on [robert.saffery@edgbastonpriory.com](mailto:robert.saffery@edgbastonpriory.com).



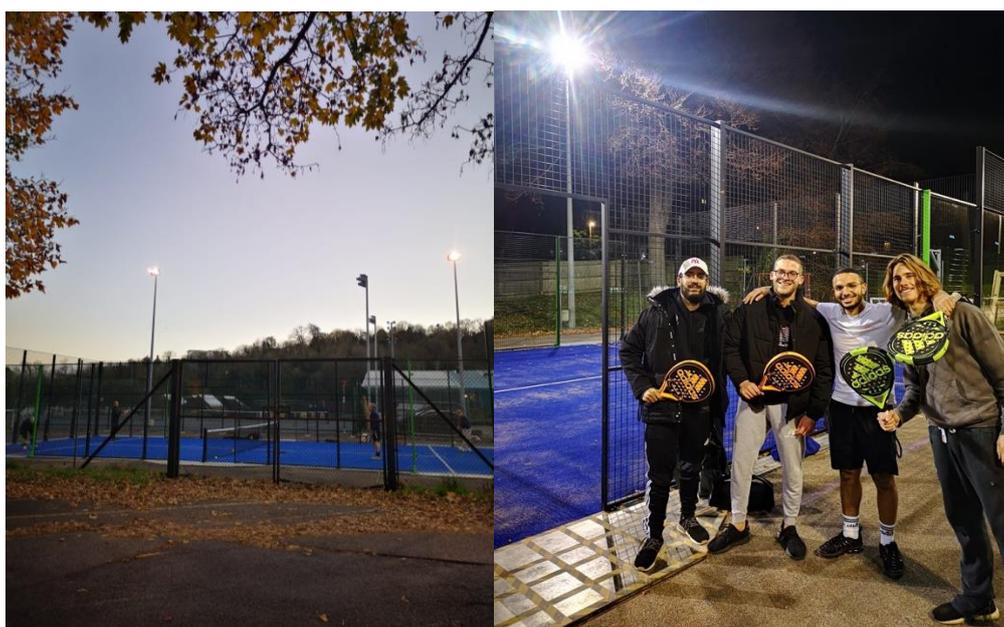
### **Withdean Leisure Centre, Brighton, West Sussex**

November 2021 saw the opening of Brighton and Hove's first padel court at Withdean Leisure Centre. In partnership with Game4Padel, Withdean have leased a padel court to assess appetite for the game whilst planning permission is in train. Withdean launched with the offer of a free taster session in the first two weeks of opening. Despite the cold weather, 90 people have enjoyed the free taster with several signing up as members.

Alan Robins, Mayor of Brighton & Hove, visited the new court, picked up a racket, had a game and gave his seal of approval! Here he is in action.



Prices for the court range from £16-24 per hour depending on quiet and peak periods. With plenty of club evenings and junior and adult events, Withdean hopes to develop a thriving padel community. Brighton locals should book courts [here](#)



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?](#)



Sundridge Park have set a Facebook page to share padel insights – practical support for clubs looking to build padel courts and those looking for ideas on how to increase padel engagement.

You can join here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/321123822797908>

Why not contact the NTC and arrange a padel taster session for your county office? Consider inviting representatives from clubs 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](mailto:ntc.enquiries@lta.org.uk) or call on 0208 4877298.

## COMPETITION

For information on upcoming tournaments click [here](#)

### **Ladies padel in Yorkshire – possibly the largest ladies padel match in the UK**

This month HSFC played host to, what might be, the largest female padel match in the UK. Despite the icy conditions over 32 ladies turned up to play in a friendly match of two local clubs – HSFC and Rawdon.

Cathy Thomas and Janet Devlin opened the event with Sandra Wiggins and Hayley Meynell – it was so tight in games – and after half an hour one game ended in a draw. The matches continued like this all evening. As we approached the penultimate round the teams were level pegging. Libby Horn and Jane Barrett, Kirsty Hollingworth and Lisa Robinson went on court and brought Harrogate ahead.

It all came down to the last point and the strict rules of counting only completed games at the end of the half hour. After 4 hours and 16 games the result was a draw!

Debbie Naylor organised the communications and finances, recruiting Sue Couture as pizza woman. Thank you to Ben Moghtader at Pizza Pan in Starbeck for sponsoring the pizzas – they were delicious. Libby brought home made mince pies for everyone and the phrase “Move over Mary Berry” was coined after eating them.

Huge thanks to the supporters and timekeepers who braved the temperatures to support the event – Lynne Creswick, Shirley Bush, Louanna Bracht, Anneliese Robinson, Ted Bracht and Trevor Bush. Thanks to Joe Norcross for providing blankets and support, as well as Jamie at the bar providing hot drinks and alcohol later.

After Shirley has had her knee operation, we hope for a re match with more ladies from HSFC representing our club.

What a fantastic night for the club, for padel and for female sport. And what a credit to coach Nicky Horn, without whose tireless efforts encouraging ladies’ padel at both clubs this would never have been possible.

## 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](#).

## 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](mailto:katherinemontague22@gmail.com) or [stephtrill@gmail.com](mailto:stephtrill@gmail.com)