



PADEL NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2023



BRISTOL ALL SET TO BE A MAJOR PADEL HUB IN THE UK

Good news for Bristolians, coming soon to Bristol are not one, not two, but three new padel venues. These new venues will add to the existing padel infrastructure in Bristol following **Padel4all**'s successful opening in summer 2022.

Sweden's **Rocket Padel** is set to open the UK's largest indoor venue with **14 courts** in late spring 2023. Their courts are located on St Anne's Road, minutes from the M32. Follow their progress on Insta <https://www.instagram.com/rocketpadel/?hl=en@rocketpadel>

We Are Padel, currently operating in Derby, opens its second indoor padel venue at 1 Barrow Rd, Bristol BS5 0HU. The venue will have **7 courts** (all panoramic) with a bar and break out area. We Are Padel tells us that they are currently looking for a Marketing Co-ordinator to join their team, ideally someone local to Bristol who can work on site. Any marketing experts should contact Geri at g.charakchieva@wearepadel.com

Surge Harrogate opens its sister site in Fishponds just two miles outside Bristol on 31 March. Stuart Perrin their CEO tells us they are opening an indoor centre with **8 courts**, two of which will be show courts. Using a pay and play model, where players can bulk buy court time to get a cheaper price.

Stuart told us the Bristol project was a year-long in the making and there are more projects currently in development, backed by Dubai's Select Group. Stuart's experience in the gym and fitness world has seen him transpose high end operating systems from his gym facilities to the new Surge padel venues. This includes a fully staffed venue, with coaches, managers, cleaning teams all on site, offering a welcoming experience to players. Tech led; they have partnered with Playtomic as their booking system.

Pre-booking for Surge Bristol is now available, ahead of their 31 March opening date, and founder members can currently purchase court time at a cheaper rate <https://www.surgepadel.co.uk/bristol>



UPDATE FROM PADEL FOR ALL, LOCKLEAZE, BRISTOL

“ Christopher Wilkinson, Founder and CEO of Padel4all reports:

“Our Padel4all site in Lockleaze, Bristol has been a great success from Day 1 in August 2022; the support we have had from the Lockleaze Sports Centre has been superb; we are the first padel venue in Bristol and we learnt a lot from opening our two other centres near Swindon and in Southend in 2021. We engaged marketing consultants several months prior to opening to ensure we had a strong launch; this attracted national TV coverage, local radio and other media channels so we were able to create a strong awareness of the sport and our venue from the start.”

“Our membership has grown steadily over the last six months and we now have over 270 members; membership benefits include reduced court prices, up to two weeks court booking time and discounts on retail/hire of padel rackets, balls etc... but we are available for members of the local community on a ‘pay & play’ basis too.”

“Padel4all Lockleaze has set up a programme of regular sessions and coaching courses as well as tournaments and box leagues; all are proving highly popular. We have created a great club atmosphere at the centre thanks to the enthusiasm of our members and the commitment of our staff. We celebrated the Football World Cup with a full day for 32 pairs, with players all dressed up in their respective team colours; with flags festooned around the courts and music & refreshments throughout the day it all added to the buzz with Germany beating Argentina in the final at 9pm that night!”



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“We have been delighted with our increasing court usage at Bristol over the winter months; we are very aware that there are going to be several new indoor venues in Bristol opening later this year; we welcome more operators coming to Bristol, helping to grow this fantastic inclusive sport; we think our canopy covered venue will come into its own in the summer months, with the courts protected from the elements but with an open, airy outdoor feel.”



“At Padel4all, adding everyday value to the local communities, is one of our core values. Padel4all Lockleaze has a community use agreement working with Bristol City Council and local community and neighbourhood groups on a number of initiatives aimed at promoting the sport to a new audience. We have created partnerships with a wide variety of community groups, commercial companies and sports organisations; we’ve seen lots of new people take to padel from cub scout groups to the Gloucestershire County Cricket Team. We are also working closely with the University of Bristol and the neighbouring UWE.”



“At Padel4all, we work with local primary and secondary schools and well over 1000 children have received our coaching programmes since we launched less than 18 months ago; providing opportunities for vulnerable groups and people with disabilities is important too. Our ‘All Active’ programme welcomes children, teenagers and young adults with Downs Syndrome and offers them weekly dedicated coaching sessions. Our work locally to improve ethnic diversity also plays a fundamental role within our social responsibility commitment. We recently invited a local middle eastern community down to our Swindon centre. Over 70 people took part in this padel festival.”

“The wonderful thing about padel is that it appeals to all ages and all abilities; as well as children from the age of 7, we have regular groups of over 70-year-olds at all our centres and at Swindon a group of over 80s play every Thursday!”

“We are very proud of what we have created so far at Padel4all, but our pipeline is even more exciting; we plan to open at least 4 multi court centres this year and more in 2024. Planning has been a frustration since Covid, with many councils losing experienced staff which has meant the planning process is taking even longer; but we will get there. Watch this space!”

LTA PADEL BRITISH TOUR

Brits crowned champions at first LTA Padel British Tour event of the season in Harrogate.

For our event summary, including draws and results go to the padel hub on the LTA website.



For more information on graded competitions and to view the 2023 calendar click [here](#)

BRITISH PLAYERS IN DOHA

British no.1 Christian Medina-Murphy and British ranked no.2 Sam Jones competed in the first Premier Padel Major Event of the year.

To follow their progress along with other top British players, visit their player profiles on the LTA website.



SENIORS PADEL

Our GB Women's team headed to Amsterdam to compete in the Nations Cup.

Jo Ward, Head of Coach Education and Qualifications for the LTA reports from Amsterdam.

“Having not competed internationally since the year 2000, I had no idea what to expect from our GB Seniors trip to Amsterdam for the Nations' Cup. Whilst there were many similarities with my pro tennis days (only with a smaller racket bag!), my compatriots and I had very little idea what to expect of our opposing nations in terms of their level of play, fitness, fight, etc. They had, after all, embraced their padel addictions several years before us so we knew we were playing catch up, but didn't know how much.”



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“On arrival in Amsterdam, I first had the pleasure of a day working with the Dutch tennis and padel federation, the KNLTB, to collaborate on coach education, and it was great to see where they’re at with their qualifications, given that we are so imminently about to launch our first offering: LTA Padel Instructor. The next day was tournament day, and even before it all began I was totally inspired to be amongst so many incredible senior female athletes and padel devotees; a very rare occurrence in the world of sport where women are always outnumbered by men. Our team, ably captained by my old friend Libby Fletcher, faced favourites Sweden on day one, which was a very tough entry into the tournament. We eventually lost the tie 0-4, but we made them work very hard for the win, and two of our matches were lost 8-10 in the championship tie breaks. We were much closer in practice than we were on paper! Spoiler alert: not only did the Swedes go on to win the competition, they did so without losing a single championship tie break.”

“The rest of the competition flew by in a blur of ferociously fought matches, amiable socialising within our own team and with the other nations, and a lot of padel talk, planning, and analysis. We eventually finished fourth, but I think I can speak on behalf of all my teammates that we all played well, competed well, and left inspired and with lots to work on. Our team spirit was of course what made the few days so enjoyable. Sarah Lochrie, Elspeth Edwards, Libby Fletcher, Abi Tordoff, Helen Crook, Victoria Davies, Dawn Foxhall, Sally Fisher, and Anthea Hunt and I all got on so well that the banter was just as fun as the bandejas and we can’t wait to get together again soon.”

“As always, I must pause to thank and congratulate our leader Sally Fisher, whose tireless dedication to driving seniors ladies’ padel is how these events happen and why we’re all enjoying so many opportunities to train, compete, and create new friendships. From speaking with the girls on the other teams, it transpires that every nation has their own Sally, but the ‘Sally Cup’ is definitely one we’d win!”



COACHING PADEL

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 Q2 2023 - Delivery will be via 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, also available as CPD are as follows:

1. **Coaching the Double Glass**
2. **Coaching Kids' Padel**



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.

For more information on padel coaching, visit **[this page](#)**.



PADEL EXPERIENCE AT THE NTC

Experience Padel at the National Tennis Centre!

This package includes 4-hours of on-court coaching, a tour around Wimbledon, a meal at a local restaurant serving authentic Spanish cuisine and an overnight stay at the NTC.

Need more information?

Email: ntc.padel@lta.org.uk

Tel: 0208 487 7296



For those venues considering padel, the NTC can offer personalised group sessions.

There's also regular sessions for anyone wanting to try padel. Players can also book the padel courts on a pay-and-play basis.

Booking details [here](#)

LTA WEBSITE

Explore padel through our online hub and find out how you can start playing

- Find a padel court
- Latest news articles
- Padel competitions & rankings
- Coaching courses
- FAQs



www.lta.org.uk/padel





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If you feel your club should be featured within the newsletter, or if you have any padel news, please contact Katherine by [email](#).

For general advice and support on padel, please contact your local LTA representative.

