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WELCOME FROM CINCH



I'm delighted to offer you a faff-free welcome to the cinch Championships at The Queen's Club. It is great that we can be reunited with friends and family at one of Tennis's most exciting tournaments.

This is our first year as title sponsor of this prestigious and storied event. Firsts are important to us at cinch, and the one we hold dearest is putting Britain's drivers first.

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This year's cinch Championships looks set to be a very exciting one with some of the world's best tennis players in attendance. We are excited to see Andy Murray and Feliciano Lopez return to the grass alongside some of the brightest young talent in the world. For British fans it is fantastic to have home crowd favourites to cheer for in the singles, doubles and wheelchair events.

Be sure to share your cinch Championships snaps with us @cinchuk across social channels – whether that be the cinch cars you see out and about providing a transport service for the players or here within the grounds at The Queen's Club – we'd love to see you out and about enjoying the first of many cinch Championships.

It's wonderful to see action return to the immaculate grass courts of The Queen's Club. We hope you enjoy watching along with us and we look forward to the years ahead where we will see fuller stands and many memories made.

Avril Palmer-Baunack

Chairman of Constellation Automotive Group,
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WELCOME

I am delighted to welcome you to the 2021 cinch Championships at the Queen's Club, the first under our new title sponsor. cinch is only the fourth sponsor in the Tournament's rich history.

After the cancellation of last year's Championships, we are very excited to be able to hold this year's tournament. Clearly, we are having to operate under very constrained conditions, without our usual level and breadth of hospitality, so I would ask all ticket holders to bear with us this year.

As for players, the tournament has once again attracted a very exciting field, including many "Next Generation" players. This confirms the cinch Championships as the pre-eminent men's grass court championship leading up to Wimbledon, on some of the finest grass courts in the world. I must congratulate Graham Kimpton, our Grounds Manager, and his staff for all the outstanding work they do in preparing our grass courts so superbly.

In partnership with the LTA, I do hope that you really enjoy your time at The Queen's Club, despite the limitations of this year's spectator experience. I also hope you will forgive me for taking time to thank our members for their forbearance; building the stadium and facilities - particularly this year - for such an important event does disrupt their day-to-day use of the Club.

We are so pleased that you have come to the cinch Championships at Queen's and wish you a great day of tennis.

Andrew Lowenthal
Chairman
The Queen's Club





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2021 EVENT PREVIEW



When is the cinch Championships 2021?

This cinch Championships will feature two events: a men's ATP 500 level tournament and a men's ITF2 wheelchair tournament.

Qualifying for the ATP 500 level event will begin on **Saturday 12 June**, with the main draw starting on **Monday 14 June**.

The men's wheelchair tournament will start on **Friday 18 June**.

The final of both tournaments will take place on **Sunday 20 June** – singles and doubles will feature.

Where is the cinch Championships 2021 being held?

The Queen's Club, in London, has hosted the event since 1979.

It has been attracting the world's best players for more than 40 years, with previous champions including John McEnroe, Lleyton Hewitt, Rafael Nadal, Andy Murray and Feliciano Lopez – among others.

Which players are competing in the cinch Championships 2021?

Five-time champion **Andy Murray** and defending champion Feliciano Lopez are two of the star names set for The Queen's Club.

The world-class field also includes World No.9 **Matteo Berrettini**, rising teenage star **Jannik Sinner**, top 10 player **Diego Schwartzman**, **Denis Shapovalov**, 2016 runner-up **Milos Raonic**, and British stars **Dan Evans**, **Cam Norrie** and **Liam Broady**.

Leading the doubles entry list are **Nikola Pietrangeli** and **Mate Pavic** who have dominated the men's doubles game this year, winning six titles already, including Masters 1000 tournaments in Miami, Monte Carlo and Rome.

They are joined by the major title-winning **Jamie Murray** and **Bruno Soares**, who have been reunited this year, fellow cinch Championships winners **Pierre Hugues Herbert** and **Nicolas Mahut**, as well as **Rajeev Ram** and **Joe Salisbury**, and **Juan Sebastian Cabal** and **Robert Farah**.

Britain's Grand Slam champions and Paralympic medallists **Alfie Hewett** and **Gordon Reid** are among a star-studded cast of players for the wheelchair tennis event.

They will be joined by World No.2 **Gustavo Fernandez** who is the highest ranked of the eight entries, which features seven of the world's top 10 ranked players.

How to watch the cinch Championships

The cinch Championships will be available on both the BBC and Prime Video. The BBC and Prime Video will also carry coverage of the ITF2 Wheelchair Event at The Queen's Club.



BETTER NEVER STOPS



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BEST OF BRITISH

The three direct British entrants into the singles draw of the cinch Championships in 2021 could not be more different in terms of background, experience, success, and stage of career.

Dan Evans

Evans is the British No.1, a ranking earned with blood, sweat and tears over the last few years. He's had his wayward spells and been punished for them, but the way he has rebuilt his career since then has been remarkable, and admirable.

This year, the breakthroughs have been notable. He started in the Australia 'bubble', winning his first ATP tournament with victory over Felix Auger-Aliassime in the final. Later in the year, he had his first big run at a clay court tournament, reaching the semifinals of the prestigious Monte Carlo Rolex Masters. Along the way, he made major headlines by defeating the World No.1 Novak Djokovic, his unusual slice and dice game causing the Serbian problems. In an indicator of his mindset, Evans was just as happy with the way he won his next match against David Goffin as he was with the triumph over Djokovic.

"Beating Djokovic was quite draining, with all the messages on my phone and the media attention," said Evans. "I didn't really get the chance to enjoy it, so it was really nice to come back the next day and play another good match. It's easy to think 'that was a good win, and today's not my day' and I was a set down against Goffin, but I managed to come back and beat him. So I'd definitely group those two wins together as one."

What hasn't happened for Evans so far is success at the Grand Slam tournaments - he has lost in the first round of the last three he has contested, against Kei Nishikori in Paris last year, Cameron Norrie in Australia and Miomir Kecmanovic at this year's French Open.

He is determined to put that right, and in theory, his serve-volley game should be suited to the grass at the cinch Championships and Wimbledon. There's a bit more to it than that though.

"Naturally I'm not so aggressive on grass - I don't like to give the point away, and I feel like because I understand grass I can beat them from the back. But if you do serve and volley, you can get through matches pretty quickly at times. My goal this year is to take it to them a bit more, to play like I did on the clay."

It will be fascinating to watch.



BEST OF BRITISH

Andy Murray

One of the greatest sports people ever to hail from these shores could have hung up his racquet years ago and still been assured of a place in the hearts and minds of those that have followed his journey.

But retirement was never going to happen for Andy Murray while the fires burned within and there were still stones left unturned. We all saw what happened when he had hip resurfacing surgery two years ago. He joined forces with Feliciano Lopez to win the doubles title amidst memorable scenes here at The Queen's Club.

And here he is, two years, several other injuries and a pandemic later, still trying to wring out the last drops of a career that none of us will ever forget.

It began here in 2005, when, aged 18 and ranked No.357 he defeated Santiago Ventura 6-1, 6-2 to register his first ATP match win. That year, he would back it up with victory over Taylor Dent and a stunning three-set battle with Thomas Johansson, the 2002 Australian Open champion. Johansson predicted afterwards that Murray would reach a 'minimum Top 20 ranking'.

We now know that the Swede spectacularly underestimated what Murray would go on to achieve, with five cinch Championships titles, three Grand Slam singles titles including two Wimbledon crowns, a World Number One ranking, a Davis Cup triumph and two Olympic gold medals to his name.

The last few years have been challenging, but even with his metal hip he has managed to win an ATP title - in Antwerp - beat a Top 10 player (Alexander Zverev) and inspire us all like only he can.

Whatever happens next, it has been a privilege and a pleasure to follow Andy Murray's career to-date, and here's hoping there is plenty more to come.



BEST OF BRITISH

Cameron Norrie

He might not get the headlines at the start of tournaments, but Cameron Norrie is making a habit of creating them at the end, either for reaching ATP finals or being the last remaining British singles player in Grand Slam tournaments.

The 25-year-old, who was born in South Africa to a Welsh mother and Scottish father, grew up in New Zealand before moving to and representing Great Britain. He was a prodigiously successful college player at the University of Texas before turning professional, and made swift progress up the rankings, breaking into the Top 100, and now the Top 50.

Norrie first came to prominence in Britain when the nation faced Spain on clay in a Davis Cup World Group match in Marbella in 2018. Without the injured Andy Murray to call on, Norrie made the tie surprisingly competitive by beating Roberto Bautista Agut from two sets down, and then pushed Albert Ramos Vinolas to four sets. His captain, Leon Smith, called his performance 'utterly fantastic', and BBC commentator John Lloyd said it was 'one of the most impressive debuts of all time'.

This year, he has moved to another level on the ATP Tour, reaching finals in Estoril, Portugal, and Lyon, France, and being the last remaining singles player from Britain at both the Australian Open and Roland Garros.

Certain players have thrived after the resumption of tennis following the period of lockdown, and Norrie is one of them.

His approach was to start road-running and to build on his already impressive stamina.

"I've always been a good runner, my Mum and my grandfather were runners," Norrie told the Daily Mail. "My mum has always done a lot of marathons, so I have some good genes. I did a lot of cross country at school."

On-court, it's been a case of marginal gains.

"I'm doing everything a little better. I'm being more aggressive and my feet have been pretty electric. The biggest thing is consistency and playing better on the big points."

Next step, bringing that winning combination on to the grass at the cinch Championships.



FREE TICKETS

FOR KEY WORKERS

AT OUR EVENTS THIS SUMMER



This summer we're offering free tickets to key workers for our summer major events – in recognition of their ongoing contribution to tackling the COVID-19 pandemic.

More than 1,000 tickets will be made available across our four major summer grass court events, all of which were canceled last year due to the pandemic.

Our events will operate at approximately 25% capacity this year – a number that is subject to UK government and Public Health England guidance to ensure sporting events are socially distanced and safe for anyone attending.

Tickets are being offered to key workers local to each event venue from the NHS, local police force and fire service, local transport workers and other local authority workers.

The number of tickets made available varies depending on the seating capacity of each venue, with for example 50 tickets available per day at the cinch Championships at The Queen's Club and 30 per day at the Viking International Eastbourne.

Scott Lloyd, LTA Chief Executive, said:

"We are delighted to be able to make these tickets available to key workers to thank them for their incredible efforts over the past 14 months. Everyone at the LTA is very grateful for the sacrifices they have made in what has been an exceptionally difficult time for the whole country and we sincerely hope that they will enjoy our events. Sport isn't the same without spectators and, even though our events this year will operate with reduced capacity crowds, I can't wait to see supporters back in the stands – with key workers among them."

Chris Pollard, LTA Digital & Events Director, said: "Our events have always been rooted in their local communities and we're pleased to be able to recognise the efforts of our incredible key workers with this offer to enjoy free world class tennis at their local venues this summer. Even though they will look different, we are looking forward to bringing our events back this summer and it will be a great pleasure to welcome so many of those who continue to lead our fight against the pandemic."

RAJEEV RAM & JOE SALISBURY
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PLAYER PROFILES

Matteo Berrettini

This may be Matteo Berrettini's debut at the cinch Championships, but his status within the sport, and pedigree on grass have already been proven.

The Italian 25-year-old arrives in London in the form of his life having broken into the World's Top 10, reached the final of the big ATP Masters 1000 event in Madrid, and been a threat on every surface on which he's played.

He showed the strength of his grass court game in 2019 when he beat Nick Kyrgios, Karen Khachanov and Felix Auger-Aliassime on his way to the Stuttgart title, and backed it up with a Halle semifinal and a run to the last 16 at Wimbledon.

After that, he reached the semifinals of the US Open and made it into the illustrious company of the Top 8 players in the world at The O2 in London.

So what's his secret? Aside from supreme physical fitness and plenty of self belief, he has a forehand that could take your front door off its hinges.

He's also a student of the game and determined to improve. During lockdown last year, he appeared in an Instagram Live chat with the great Chris Evert, and Berrettini revealed how determined he is to progress, and not rest on the game that got him to where he is. Focus on his backhand would be the priority, and judging by the way he came out in 2021, it seems to have paid off. He toggles between a power-blunting chipped backhand and a power-deflecting bunt. So far, so good.



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PLAYER PROFILES

Jannik Sinner

With his red curly mop of hair and freckled face, 19-year-old Jannik Sinner doesn't look menacing, until you see and hear him hit a tennis ball. The violence with which he lays into forehands and backhands makes you shudder, and he looks destined to reach the absolute top of the men's game.

Not that Sinner is leaving anything to chance. Born in San Candido and growing up in the German-speaking region of Italy, he has had a ferocious work ethic since a very young age. He was a champion skier from the age of 8 to 12, but thankfully chose tennis as his main sport when he was 13.

You can see the influence of his skiing background in the way he moves. Moving out wide to the ball, he will set himself incredibly low to the ground, and then bound back into the centre of the court to await the next shot from his opponent.

He was the 2019 ATP Newcomer of the Year, won the Next Gen Finals at the end of that year, and in 2020 became the first debutant to reach the French Open quarterfinals since Rafael Nadal in 2005. Earlier this year, he reached the final of the big ATP Masters 1000 event in Miami.

We can't tell you much about his ability on grass, because he has yet to play a main draw professional match on it! He attempted to qualify for Wimbledon in 2019, but lost an absolute classic against Alex Bolt of Australia 6-2, 5-7, 10-12. It will be fascinating to watch his journey.

Off the court, he is clearly a good egg, launching a mental health initiative called What's Kept You Moving during the lockdown period. In it, he interviewed several famous people about their mental health challenges, with the intention of creating a sense of community and pointing to a light at the end of the tunnel for young people. Good on him.





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2019 REVIEW:

ANDY & FELICIANO

Feliciano Lopez was 37 years old, ranked outside of the world's Top 100, and expecting 2019 to be the final year of his professional tennis career. He had lost his four most recent tennis matches, was ranked too low enter a tournament he had won two years earlier, but as a firm favourite of the crowds at The Queen's Club he was given a wild card invitation to compete one last time. What would happen over the next week was beyond even his wildest dreams, especially after an inauspicious start.

"I was so grateful for the wild card at Queen's, but also sad because ahead of my first match I had been told I wasn't on the first list of wild cards for Wimbledon," said Lopez. "I then went out for my first match against Martin Fucsovics at Queen's and went a set and a break down. It wasn't looking good. I just tried to concentrate on the moment, try to find a way back, and I did. There are moments in your career when you win one match and it changes everything. This was one of those matches. Everything felt better after that. I won a really close match 7-6 in the third against Milos Raonic to reach the semifinals, and the next day, Tim Henman called me from Wimbledon to say that everything was fine and I was going to get a wild card."

2019 REVIEW:

ANDY & FELICIANO

Lopez made it all the way through the draw to both singles and doubles finals, amidst extraordinary scenes alongside a man playing with a metal joint in his hip.

Catherine Whitaker, who was presenting live TV coverage of the event on Amazon Prime Video, could barely believe her luck.

"For me as a presenter, the dream is a story," she said. "Something that makes you care, something that people at home can latch onto and engage with on a sporting and a human level. At the start of the tournament, I only expected to be mentioning Feliciano Lopez in the footnotes, and only ever in the same breath as Andy Murray now that they were playing doubles together. By the last couple of days, we were all in, and I could feel the script writing itself. Lopez was somehow turning this wonderful dream into reality."

Rain had meant Lopez would need to win five matches (three doubles, two singles) in two days in order to lift both trophies. He found a way past Felix Auger-Aliassime in the semis and met Gilles Simon in the singles final, winning 6-2, 6-7(4), 7-6(2).

"When I won the final point I really couldn't believe it," said Lopez. "The things that had happened to get to that point. I was so happy. I thought nothing could beat winning in 2017, but this was better. The best moment of my career. In the speech, I spoke to my wife, who had only ever known me losing! I said that it was really nice for me to finally show her that I was a decent tennis player! Then I left my bag on the court, and ran up to the locker room to get ready for the doubles."

Murray was waiting for him. He had been through his own torturous journey. Six months earlier, as he wept in an Australian Open press conference, his career looked over. But this was Andy Murray. He underwent hip resurfacing surgery, and worked his way back to fitness.



In the doubles final, Lopez and Murray went toe-to-toe with the excellent pairing of Joe Salisbury and Rajeev Ram until the Spanish/British duo finally came out on top. The winning scenes were joyous, and led to a new celebration for Murray.

"We all went out for dinner after the final," he said. "Normally if I won something, I'd celebrate with my team, but not with another player and his team. It was really nice. His team were so happy and it was the first time I'd ever celebrated with somebody else outside of our Davis Cup team. We've kept in touch a lot since. It's really nice. That week I had the joy back in playing, and competing, and smiling."

So did we, Andy, so did we.





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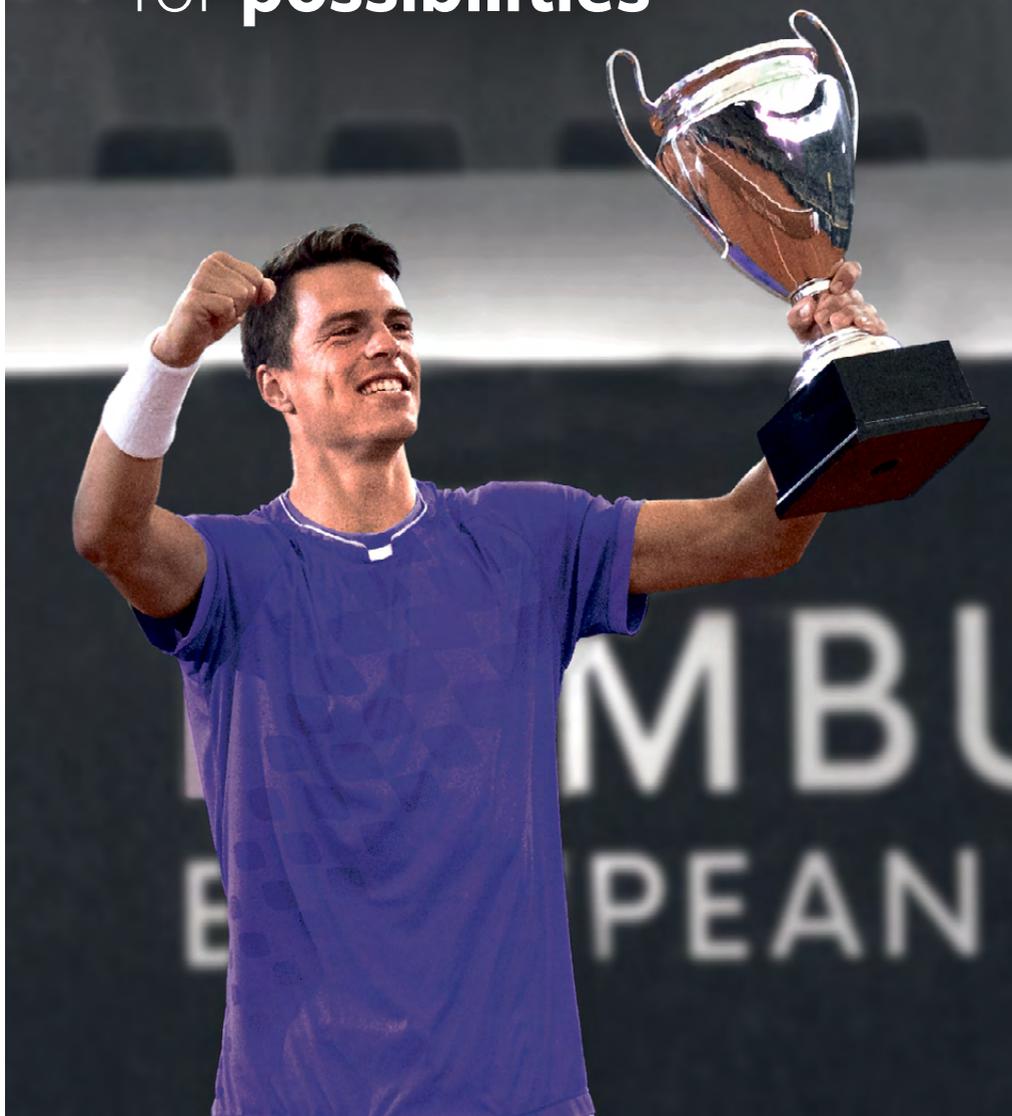


EVENT GUIDE

For all the latest information to ensure you have a great day at the cinch Championships

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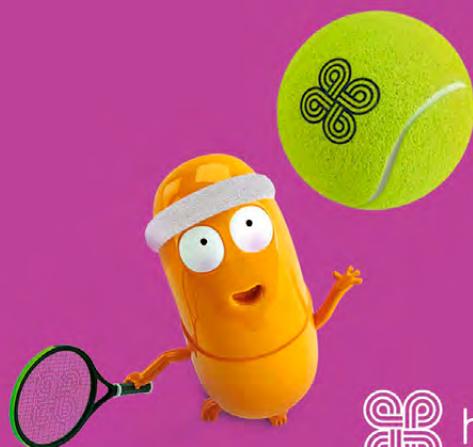
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THE WORLD TENNIS NUMBER

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW

The LTA is introducing the ITF World Tennis Number this year, which is going to change the way tennis is played in Britain.

What is it? Well, it's a new rating system for all tennis players across the world. It will make it easier for everyone who plays tennis in Britain to organise and play against evenly-matched opponents.

Whether you're playing at Wimbledon (we can dream), or just meeting a friend to play matches

at your local court (much more likely), everyone's welcome – and everyone will have their own Number.

In short, the ITF World Tennis Number has:

- **A universal rating system that ranges from 40 (recreational players) to 1 (pro players)**
- **Separate ratings for singles and doubles players – a world first**
- **A sophisticated algorithm that produces a real-time rating**
- **An algorithm that counts sets and matches played, which means the more you compete, the more accurate your rating will be**
- **A personalised digital 'Game zONe' feature, which will help players identify opponents with a similar rating online**

We are trying to make it as simple as possible for tennis players in Britain to organise and play more matches.

And we know how hard it can be to find someone of a similar level to play against. That's why we're adopting the ITF World Tennis Number – to make life easier for all tennis players.

The good news is you won't have to wait long – we're bringing in the ITF World Tennis Number in 2021. Britain will be one of the first countries in the world to adopt it (exciting times ahead!)

If you're an Advantage member, who wants to play or compete at any level, you'll be able to get your own ITF World Tennis Number for free.

The new rating system will cover everyone over the age of 10, and having an ITF World Tennis Number will be required for acceptance into certain competitions (this'll be made clear when you enter).

To find out more about the ITF World Tennis Number visit www.LTA.org.uk/WorldTennisNumber



10 THINGS YOU (PROBABLY) DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT PADEL



Loved by famous sporting figures and played across the globe, find out more about one of the world's fastest-growing sports.

1 PADEL WAS INVENTED IN MEXICO IN THE 1960S

Although a similar sport was played on British cruise ships and in Washington and New York in the 1910s – a game appropriately named platform tennis – it was in 1969 when padel, as it is played today, was created. Mexican businessman **Enrique Corcuera set up the first-ever padel court** at his holiday home in Acapulco – and the rest is history.

2 PADEL IS PLAYED IN DOUBLES

Padel courts are designed for four players and **are roughly 25% smaller than the size of a tennis court**. The speed of the game, combined with the smaller size of a padel court, makes singles play difficult, and most padel matches feature two pairs of players.

Some padel courts are designed especially for singles, but around **90% of all padel courts in the world are doubles specific**. At a professional level only doubles is played on the World Padel Tour, the leading competition for elite players.



3 PADEL RULES ARE SIMILAR TO TENNIS – BUT YOU SERVE UNDERARM

In padel scoring is the same as tennis – but there are many differences between the sports. A padel court has walls, so shots can be played off them, like in squash.

Also, unlike tennis, when a ball is served it must bounce once on the floor then hit from below, or at, waist height. When serving, players have two attempts to hit into an opponent's box.

Like tennis, a set is won when a team wins six games and there is at least two games difference – failing that the set is decided by a tie-break. Matches are best of three sets.

4 LIONEL MESSI HAS A PADEL COURT IN HIS GARDEN

Arguably the world's best footballer, Lionel Messi, is known to be a huge fan of padel. The sport – which is **played by around two million people in his native Argentina** – is popular with many footballers, with the likes of Zlatan Ibrahimovic, Gerard Pique and Francesco Totti also known to be regular players.

Messi is such a fan that he has a court at his home in Barcelona, Spain, and has been seen playing there against former team mate Luis Suarez.

5 IT'S THE SECOND-MOST-POPULAR SPORT IN SPAIN

Not only is padel wildly popular in Argentina, but its most commonly played in Spain. **The European country has more than 20,000 padel courts**, with an estimated four million active players. Behind football, it's the country's second-most-popular sport.

6 JAMIE MURRAY HAS PLAYED IN A PROFESSIONAL PADEL TOURNAMENT

Another well-known padel advocate is seven-time Grand Slam champion Jamie Murray. The former doubles World No.1 tennis player has described padel as **'a social sport I play with my friends'** and even took part in a British Padel Tour event in 2015.

7 PADEL BALLS ARE SMALLER THAN TENNIS BALLS

On first glance padel and tennis balls are almost identical – but there's a big difference. Padel balls have less pressure so do not bounce as much as tennis balls, and they're slightly smaller.

Padel is also played with 'bats' instead of 'rackets'. Padel bats are stringless and are shorter than tennis rackets.



8 LIVERPOOL MANAGER JURGEN KLOPP PLAYS PADEL WITH HIS COACHES

In an interview with the [Daily Mirror](#) it was revealed that football manager Jurgen Klopp is a regular on the padel court – and he uses the game as a place to discuss ideas with his coaches. His assistant manager, Pep Lijnders, said:

“The game has been a nice distraction from our daily routine. And yet, sometimes we come up with the best ideas to solve issues during these games.

“We sit down on a bench in between two sets and we discuss solutions for football problems. In fact, we do that a lot. When you are constantly playing matches or doing top-level training sessions every day, there is no time to wind down.

“So these games are the perfect moments to relax.”



9 THERE ARE MORE THAN 6,000 PADEL PLAYERS IN THE UK

As of November 2020 there are around 6,000 active padel players across the UK. **There are also currently 97 padel courts in Britain** a number that is set to grow substantially over the coming years.



10 PADEL IS NOT AN OLYMPIC SPORT (YET)

While padel is not an Olympic sport there have been many calls for it to become one, as it continues to grow worldwide.

Currently padel is played in 57 countries across the world – in order to qualify as an Olympic sport, the sport must be played in at least 75 countries.

As it continues to go global, let's watch this space padel fans!





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WHAT ARE LOCAL TENNIS LEAGUES?

Recently moved to a new area and want to make some new friends? Or maybe you're looking for a different challenge?

Either way, a Local Tennis League could be for you – here's everything you need to know about the UK-wide recreational tennis competition.



**LOCAL TENNIS
LEAGUES**

SO, WHAT IS IT?

Simply put, Local Tennis Leagues are tennis competitions held on public courts for anyone over the age of 18.

First set up in 2005 in Highbury, London, there are now more than 8,000 people competing in more than 140 Leagues across Britain.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

In each Local League, players are divided into groups of 6 to 8 players – who are all of a similar standard. Groups are open to both men and women, who will face one another in singles matches. Doubles and women-only leagues are available in some areas, too.

Each player attempts to complete a match against everyone else in their group over an eight-week period, or 'Round', as it's known.

A point is awarded for each set won, and the player with the most points at the end of the Round wins the group. It's as easy as that!

- Two bonus points and a free tube of tennis balls are awarded to players who complete three matches before the 'mid-point' of a Round (get those matches in early, we reckon).
- Group winners are also awarded a £20 voucher to spend in the **Local Tennis League online shop** – happy days!

IS THERE A LEAGUE NEAR ME?

Most likely. There are more than 140 Local Tennis Leagues across Britain – from Exeter to Inverness.

I HAVEN'T REALLY PLAYED TENNIS, DO I NEED TO HAVE LESSONS FIRST?

Not. At. All. Local Tennis Leagues aren't only for experienced players – every League has players of varying standards, so there's a place for you.

Whether you're there to push yourself, or just burn off enough calories for the post-match drinks, you'll find people with the same goals as you.

HOW DO I SIGN UP?

You can join by visiting www.localtennisleagues.com and creating your own profile by filling out a **questionnaire** about your tennis experience – we can then match you to other players.

Once you have a profile, you can sign-up and pay for your upcoming Round, for £18.





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