

PADEL NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2021

Welcome to December'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 15/11/2021)	135
No of covered courts	92
No of outdoor courts	43
No of venues	64

How to find courts [near me](#)

NEW VENUES

Oxshott Village Sports Club, Surrey

This month we spoke to Rod Stevens, Chairman of tennis and padel at Oxshott Village Sports Club. Conversations about padel courts started more than five years ago at Oxshott, with club members advocating strongly for courts. Just over a year ago, consensus was achieved, and the green light given for two courts.

Their journey through planning permission required an acoustic report, which they successfully navigated. They also won the support of their many neighbours. Ultimately planning permission was secured and Oxshott selected The Padel Court Company, to purchase and install galvanised courts from Italy, chosen for their suitability to English weather conditions and rainfall. Rod spoke highly of The Padel Court Company, a family run firm, who met every deadline and managed the full project from planning through to ground works and installation.

Once the padel courts were in transit, The Padel Court Company was able to produce a clear road map leading up to a grand opening on 14 August 2021 which featured exhibition matches with strong padel players, including their own Andrew Castle, an Oxshott member



As for the business model, to generate interest, the club offered peppercorn padel annual membership to existing members of £25 and £50 to new members. Court bookings run on the half hour and a 90-minute booking will cost £24, so that's £6 per player. In the three months since opening they are enjoying 80% court occupancy during peak hours and anticipate recouping their costs within two years. Rod pointed out that their costs included marketing, advertising, ground works, acoustic reports etc. Such is the initial success that they are already contemplating further courts.

Oxshott have two qualified padel coaches and run popular evening sessions for groups, catering for all levels of ability. Almost 400 members have joined the padel section, more than 150 are ladies. Rod has yet to meet anyone who hasn't enjoyed their padel experience and more than a few, initially sceptical, members are now padel enthusiasts.

They have established a friendly padel league with men's, ladies and mixed teams playing against other padel clubs in the region.

Rod is happy to discuss Oxshott's padel journey with anyone considering a padel project. He is happy to discuss the hurdles and pinch points and how Oxshott overcame these. He can be reached on 07966 464942.



Coming soon – Padel at Surbiton Racket & Fitness Club, Surrey

Surbiton took delivery of its new padel courts on 8th November! We will bring a full report in future editions.



SPOTLIGHT ON THE CHANNEL ISLANDS

Guernsey sweep the board at the inaugural Corcuera Cup sponsored by ROCQ CAPITAL

Sara Woolland reports from Guernsey



Padel in the Channel Islands continues to gather momentum with the completion of the first inter-insular event between Guernsey and Jersey held in October. Both islands enjoy thriving padel communities, and so 2021 seemed like the perfect opportunity to follow in the footsteps of other sports and create a tie between the two islands.

The Guernsey Padel Club was developed four years ago as part of the Guernsey Tennis Club facility and the rapid uptake of memberships and pay and play has allowed the club to cover all three of its courts, leaving Guernsey in the ideal position to host the inaugural Corcuera Cup. Guernsey first entertained a tennis team from Jersey in 1875 and inter-insular tennis events can be traced back to the 1890s. Similar events exist in both football (The Muratti Vase) and rugby (The Siam Cup), as well as many other sports, and the rivalry between the islands make the inter-insulars showpieces of the sporting calendar. It is therefore exciting to have a padel equivalent which will be contested annually.

A team of 24 players travelled to Guernsey from Jersey for the weekend to compete in Men's, Men's Vets and Ladies' Events. Each team event saw four pairings from each island play all the other four pairings with each match contributing one point to the total of the winning team. With the addition of three mixed doubles matches on Saturday night, the total points available over the weekend was 51, with the magic number of 26 points required for one island to lift the trophy. Trophies were contested in all three categories as well as for the overall Corcuera Cup.

The Guernsey Padel Team put on a strong display with the Sarnians overcoming Jersey with a final score of 35 points to 16. Three of Guernsey's pairings were undefeated over the weekend, with Patrick Ogier and Nico Robinson beating all four pairs in the Men's Open. Pierre Blampied and Ian Robinson and the Radford brothers, Richard, and Phil, mirrored this feat in the Men's Vets event.



The final totals saw the Men's team win 10-6, The Ladies' team 11-5 and the Men's' Vets 13-3. Guernsey won the three mixed doubles matches by 2 to 1, and the overall Corcuera Cup was secured for the greens.

Padel has been growing rapidly on both islands with more and more players taking up the sport and the quality of play and depth of talent has improved greatly in the past 18 months, since the first inter-island match was played. Guernsey's excellent facilities of three floodlit, indoor courts allowing year-round play, was perhaps one of the key factors in the home island's success. However, with plans for more covered courts in Jersey, it is expected that the event will become much closer in the years to come.

The two-day tie was well supported with many spectators enjoying the October sunshine and the social and inclusive nature of padel as a sport was on display throughout with excellent camaraderie and spirit between the teams both on and off the courts. On Saturday night, both teams enjoyed a Thai feast hosted at the Guernsey Padel Club which allowed time to relax and get to know players from the other island. The spirit of competitive friendship on show leads organisers to be excited at the prospect of creating a Channel Island's team who will be able to compete in county level events in the UK as is the case with tennis.

Scott Clayton, who reached a career high of world 107 in doubles tennis, has switched sports to spearhead the development of padel in Jersey, is excited about the future of the sport "Guernsey are a bit more developed than us at the moment with the facilities and playing a bit more, but I think it would be really exciting if we could, like we do in tennis, join forces in the future and have a Channel Islands team."

Guernsey team captain Omar Pitarch said "I am so proud of our team. Everyone has trained hard for the event and see them convert that effort in such a decisive way is positive for us going forward. The overall standard of play has been really good, and it has definitely helped us to have a great facility here, but we are aware that it will get tighter and tighter over the years, and we are already looking forward to travelling to Jersey next year."

Stuart Perfitt, Managing Director of event sponsor Rocq Capital said "The quality of the matches and commitment of both teams were fitting of this inaugural event. The magnificent Corcuera Cup, presented by Rocq Capital, is set to be battled over annually for many years. The growth of the sport globally has been reflected locally in both islands and facilities and playing standards are improving all the time. Well done Guernsey for the victory but Jersey will only get stronger and will be certain to look to make amends next year."

The success of this event and the large media coverage across the island means the Guernsey Padel Club has seen an explosion of interest in the sport, with membership enquiries growing so that **the courts are now operating at over 90% capacity during peak times** (evenings and weekends). This success has spurred the club to approach the LTA for funding to build a further two courts next year and plans are in place to host a series of local and international tournaments in 2022. The Club is also working with the Guernsey Sports Commission to the launch of a school's development programme to encourage more younger players to take up the sport. Five schools already attending the Club for PE lessons each week. With plans to build links with UK and European clubs to create wider team play and matches, the future of padel certainly looks bright in Guernsey.



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 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 or call on 0208 4877298.

COMPETITION

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

WORLD PADEL CHAMPIONSHIP 2021

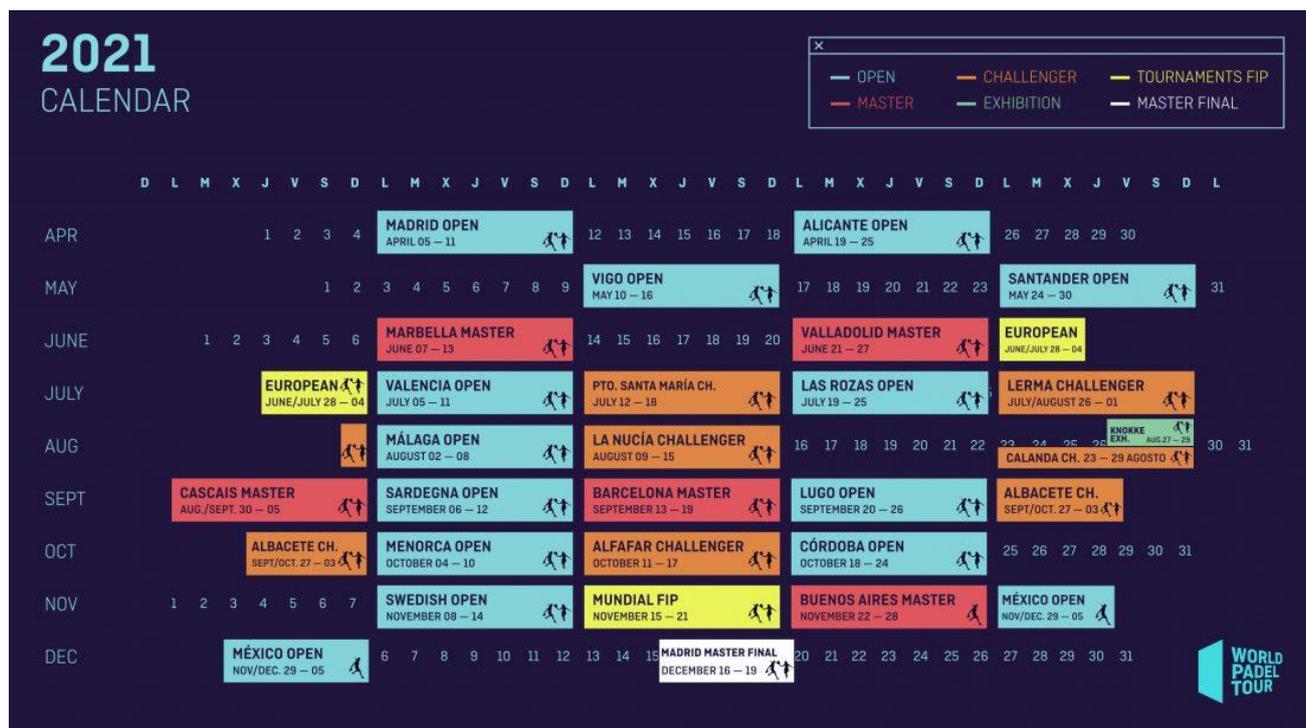
The biggest team event in the World Padel calendar gets underway this month, with teams from across the globe travel to Qatar for the World Padel Championships 2021.

For more information and to see how Team GB got on at this year's event follow this link.



WORLD PADEL TOUR 2021

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



LADIES SENIORS PADEL TRAINING CALENDAR

GB Seniors Padel - Ladies Players' Pathway & Training Schedule



Event Details and Dates (Jan - April 2022)	Development Squad	GB Team Squad
• Development Squad Training 1/2 Day 8th January - Bushey David Lloyd Club with coach (Open event for 12 players - contact Rowena Tott)	Y	Y
• GB Team Training weekend in Sotogrande, Spain 28-30th January		Y
• Development Squad Training Weekend in Sotogrande 11-13th February (Open event for 8 players - contact Sally Fisher) FULL	Y	Y
• Development Squad Training 1/2 Day in April (TBC) - Middlesborough Tennis World Club with coaches Nigel Garton and Libby Fletcher (Open event for 8 players - contact Libby Fletcher)	Y	Y
• Development Squad Training 1/2 Day 27th February - Bushey David Lloyd Club with coach Miguel Mas (Open event for 12 players - contact Rowena Tott)	Y	Y
• GB Team Training Weekend in Sotogrande and/or London, Spain 4-6th March (date tbc)		Y
• FIP II Seniors Padel World Championship 28th March - 6th April 2022 in Las Vegas		Y

Our Development Squad is open to all ladies aged 35 and over who enjoy competitive sport and have already established a strong and competitive padel game. The purpose of this squad is to give ladies who play padel to a high level or have the potential to do so, the opportunity to find other ladies of a similar high standard and to support them to develop their game further. There is self-selection into this squad - sign-up with the contact name given for the event you want to join and give it a go...and tell your friends about it too!

Our GB Team Squad is made up of those ladies aged 35+ who have been selected to be in the team or as a Reserve for an upcoming international competition. The composition of this squad will evolve over time and selection days will be held each year to give new players the opportunity to be considered to be a part of the GB Seniors Padel team squad. The criteria used for Team Squad selection are: Padel technical skill, Matchplay strategy, Team Spirit, Fitness, LTA GB Seniors Padel Tour and other tournament history/competition experience, Mental strength and Injury risk. Senior competitions are run for 35+ 40+ and 45+ pairs. We hope to extend this to 50+

We run both squads with a culture of inclusiveness, mutual support, a passion for excellence and a strong team spirit - **helping each other to be the best that we can be and having a lot of fun along the way!**

To sign up for any of the LTA GB Seniors Padel Tour tournaments, go to www.competitions.lta.org.uk If you need a partner, put a request out on the Development Squad What's App chat.

Contact details: Sally Fisher: +44 (0)7798776108 Rowena Tott: +44 (0)7796 677968 Libby Fletcher: +44 (0)7764222383



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 early next year 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 or stephtrill@gmail.com