

## Padel Newsletter October 2021

Welcome to October's edition of Padel News, where we share padel updates from around Britain. Please share this newsletter with rackets clubs in your county and encourage them to circulate amongst the rackets' community.

### Padel dashboard

No of courts in the UK (at 7/9/21)	114
No of covered courts	37
No of outdoor courts	77

How to find courts [near me](#)

### Call to action!

Please make sure you have a padel page on your county website and encourage venues with padel courts to do likewise.

### Recent installation progress reports

You may remember that **Sundridge Park in Kent** launched their new padel courts in May 2021. Sundridge Park is a thriving rackets club with 17 tennis courts and 4 squash courts. Following a tender process, they installed 2 padel courts jointly funded by the LTA and the club. In their latest update, Anna Wilson [annawilsonhq@gmail.com](mailto:annawilsonhq@gmail.com) shares very positive news:

*Padel at Sundridge Park continues to do well with good bookings throughout the summer period and as we have floodlighting restrictions, we are delighted that from September the courts will be open until 10 pm rather than cope with the summer planning restrictions of play until it's dark, which has been far too early in August! Evening and weekend bookings are particularly busy.*

*Two new community initiatives have started, Bromley Prime time adults (over 60's) and Bromley Mencap. Both groups have loved fun sessions led by our coach Jonas and we have had great feedback from this. The first couple of sessions for Bromley Mencap were funded by the charity and we are now looking to offer free to participants for next term partly through some local disability funds and, if necessary, the club will subsidise the remainder. I can honestly say it's been my proudest moment as a volunteer involved with padel to see the enjoyment this has given to a group of people who had no previous experience of racket sport.*



*Bromley Mencap padel sessions*

*We have also held our first corporate event with Tokio Marine Insurance, they really enjoyed padel coaching and had a very social day with a mini tournament and a BBQ. Excellent feedback by the participants, it's already being booked for next year.*

*As Kent Club of the year and National runner up we hosted an open day in September with free padel and tennis lessons, padel was extremely popular with more interest than we could accommodate and a great way to encourage players from the community to play as membership is not required to book a court.*

*Anna added that the courts are performing well financially, beyond expectations, with a net income of £4,000 per month. Keep in mind they have a dedicated padel coach and very active social media.*

### **Spotlight on ladies padel in Yorkshire**

This month we spoke to Nicky Horton, formerly PE teacher at Ampleforth College and more recently rackets coach at both the Harrogate Squash and Fitness Centre and Rawdon Lawn Tennis and Golf club.

A holiday padel player for many years, Nicky started a ladies padel group in Harrogate 2 years ago and now has 61 ladies, aging from 16-80, playing throughout the week in her popular sessions. Such was the demand for padel, Harrogate put in a second court a year ago and now boast one covered and one uncovered court.

Nicky spoke of her ladies being hardy to the elements, dashing off court to put on rain hats and jackets rather than cancel the session. None of her sessions are rained off, such is the enthusiasm to play padel by her ladies.

Nicky highlighted a couple of moving stories of ladies in her group for whom padel has helped through illness and the death of loved ones. One lady aged 80 started padel shortly before her husband died and is now playing 3-4 times each week at a competitive level. No longer able to play tennis, it has been a great outlet for her since losing her husband of 57 years.



*Nicky's Harrogate ladies*

Nicky has noticed how padel has increased the confidence of her lady players and commented that the courts are full of laughter and chat. In her view, it is the perfect sport for females.

Nicky has adapted tennis and squash drills and used the Padel School videos along with input from Spanish coaches to create engaging and fun drills for her sessions. She has 4 players in each session and her busy What's App group allows the ladies to arrange their own games each week.

Rawdon Lawn Tennis and Golf club, with 3 hard and 2 grass courts, now has a padel court – one of the first in the Leeds and Bradford area. The Head Coach Jonathan Sowden is promoting padel alongside tennis and Nicky hopes to repeat her success with ladies padel at this newer padel venue.



*Nicky's Harrogate ladies*

## Competition

Surrey is establishing a social padel league, with each team consisting of 3 pairs playing other (reachable) clubs in the Sussex, Kent and Middlesex area. For more information visit their Facebook page here.

## Huge demand for competition in the West Midlands

Sutton Coldfield Tennis & Squash club installed one padel court in 2017 and, thanks to its success, is now planning 3 more courts. On the 10<sup>th</sup> of September club coach Ryan Preston, organised a tournament which attracted 40 players. To make it work on one court, Ryan arranged matches in 4 separate round-robin groups, playing 8-minute timed sessions with group winners competing in the semis and finals at the end of the day. A high standard, the tournament attracted good players in the area, including a healthy dose of Spaniards! Paul Coeulle and Darryl Grayston were the eventual victors.



*Sutton Coldfield Padel Competition*

## Coaching update

Sandy Farquharson, founder of the Padel School, has been engaged by the LTA to deliver its pilot padel training course for coaches in September.



Sandy is currently leading a course designed in partnership with the LTA Training Team for the benefit of 16 coaches. Sandy is also lending his expertise to 5 experienced coaches who are shadowing him and will in turn deliver 1-day Padel Activator courses and 4-day Padel Trainer courses in the coming months across the country. The LTA has received more than 500 expressions of interest from people wishing to coach padel and will be working through this list, focusing first and foremost on regions with padel courts but lacking in coaching provision. Existing racket sport coaches with padel experience interested in these courses should indicate 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](#).

If you have any padel news, please share with [katherinemontague22@gmail.com](mailto:katherinemontague22@gmail.com) or [stephtrill@gmail.com](mailto:stephtrill@gmail.com)