

# PADEL NEWS JANUARY 2023

New Year, new start! Welcome to the first edition of Padel News for 2023. Please share this newsletter with venues in your County and encourage them to circulate amongst the wider rackets' community.

## PADEL DASHBOARD

### January 2022

Total courts	217
Outdoor	130
Indoor	87
Total clubs	90

A further 39 courts await completion with another 290 in the pipeline.

How to find courts [near me](#).

## 2022 ROUND UP FROM LTA'S HEAD OF PADEL, TOM MURRAY

[Read](#) how the LTA is getting ready to take padel to the next level in the UK

## MIDDX LTA HIGHLIGHTS SWLONDONER PADEL ROUND UP

Middx LTA's latest newsletter features an excellent summary of padel written by Olivia Christie for the Southwest Londoner website. Counties across the UK are encouraged to include [this link](#) in their newsletters and on their websites.

## NEW VENUES – PADEL'S LARGEST PAY AND PLAY PADEL VENUE OPENS IN OXFORDSHIRE



On 4th December MVP Padel opened the first and largest Oxfordshire pay and play padel venue, now available for bookings at <http://www.matchi.com/facilities/mvpoxford>

The 3 panoramic outdoor padel court venue was delivered in partnership with Oxford Sports LTC, regional club of the year 2022, it has plans to add canopies in the near future. The MVP Padel venue is part of a broader strategic Oxfordshire sports destination including 8 tennis courts, 400+ members and the very active Oxford RFC.

In the lead up to opening, more than 250 people had registered interest in joining the club on MVP booking system and ca. 1,000 people followed MVP media channels. The successful open day supported by MVP lead brand partners Babolat and Decathlon, saw approximately 100 people of all ages and levels withstand the cold to get a taste for padel over 4 hours. MVP coaches Manuel and Jared (UK #10 player) supported by seasoned coach Berj set up drills and practice sessions which were extremely well received. The enthusiasm was there from the start and people couldn't get off the courts; more than 10% of people joined the membership programme on the day and several enquiries were made for large student groups bookings, group training and social padel.



MVP is already working closely with neighbouring private padel clubs such as Jet Padel and David Lloyd Bicester to develop leagues and competitive team events and will be hosting several tournaments next year.

MVP embarked in the journey to develop padel in the UK in February 2020. It is privately funded and focusses on supporting tennis clubs, sports venue and commercial proprietors from planning to delivery and brings funding as well as its expertise to activate and operate the facilities providing high quality coaching, events and players experience.

The Oxford padel project is a tale of how the reality of growing a new sport like padel in the UK is much more challenging and involved than what spreadsheets will say. It requires real diligence, resources and dedication from specialist operators.

1. Finance: it will always cost more than you think. 3 quality outdoor courts requiring groundworks will cost more than £200k (it is not £20k/court as some people may say). This is excluding inflation, legal, insurance and other ancillaries such as security, IT, furniture and equipment.
2. Time: it will take more time than you think. Unless one uses temporary courts under a license and has a flat concrete land plot available far from dwellings you could be looking at 12 months from start to finish. You will need to design the project and run adequate surveys (ca. 3 months), secure planning (3 to 9 months incorporating considerations such as noise, greenbelt, environmental issues, traffic and access, power, flood risk, grounds investigation). Add canopies and you are onto another timeframe. Build time: anywhere from 6 weeks to 6 months. All comes down to your suppliers and any impact of unforeseen events on labour, supplies, manufacturing defects.
3. Suppliers: diligence, diligence, diligence. On the courts side you can chose (i) direct from one of the dozens of foreign companies now supplying the UK market, (ii) through one of the handful of UK intermediaries usually with an exclusive agreement with an external supplier or (iii) direct from a UK manufacturer. All have their advantages and drawbacks, and clearly products will vary in quality. Regarding the groundworks, it is again not as straightforward as one would let it sound. The ring beam quality is critical (comes down to depth, density of reinforced steel, concrete quality) but also drainage, surface levels, roots protection. Very few contractors have the depth of team and expertise for such projects.

## WOMEN IN PADEL

### Women's padel surges in Yorkshire

Nicky Horn is well known to the women padel community in Yorkshire. Previously a squash and padel coach at Harrogate Sports & Fitness, she now works indoors at Surge Harrogate and outdoors at Rawdon Tennis Club. She specialises in teaching padel to beginners, juniors and women.

When asked how she has gone about developing women padel participation at her venues, she explains that Surge have been very active on social media which has generated a lot of interest in padel. Nicky also contacted women tennis captains at the tennis clubs in her area and asked if they had anyone who might be interested in trying padel. Both social media and Nicky's proactive approach led to a good number of women coming to her venues.



She has enjoyed introducing women to padel, helping them understand the rules, positioning, hitting off the glass etc. Once they walk through the door, she sees her role as a matchmaker who helps connect women with others, so they are playing at the level according to their ability.

She tells me that Harrogate Surge has a 50:50 male to female gender balance which is great to hear. Harrogate offer family and junior padel sessions, American tournaments and leagues for men, women and mixed, all on their Playtomic app. The Surge reception area has no traditional barrier to enter, which helps create an open and welcoming culture. Nicky sees her role as an ambassador, who welcomes new faces and makes sure they have a positive first experience playing padel.

Rawdon is a members' club but very much open to all in the West Yorkshire area. Here she runs regular female only sessions and next month has arranged a Christmas match. 20 women from Rawdon will play 20 women from Harrogate, fun and friendly rivalry amongst players of a similar ability.

Based on her experience, Nicky highlights the key points to help women feel comfortable on court:

- Make sure women play with friends and players of a similar ability. The same applies for encouraging women to enter padel tournaments. They will be more likely to sign up if they know a few others or know their partner.
- It's unlikely women will agree to play matches spread over several days, as they typically prioritise family or others. So, any tournament needs to be for a given period of time i.e., Saturday 10am for 3 hours.

There is now a group of Rawdon and Harrogate ladies involved in the GB Squad and its Radar group (for strong players who are on the fringe of the GB Squad). She credits this to a call from Sally Fisher, who asked if there are performance players in the Harrogate area. Following a session at Surge, Harrogate and Rawdon padel players from ages 28-70 have gone on to join GB Seniors training in Spain and other areas of the UK.



## COMPETITION NEWS

### 2022 review in numbers:

- 100 LTA Padel graded competitions completed (compared to 47 in 2021)
- 3104 entries into LTA graded competitions (1300 in 2021)
- Number of officials qualified for padel rose from 65 to 97

LTA PADEL BRITISH TOUR		
VENUE	DATES	CODE
SURGE PADEL (HOP)	17-2-2023 - 19-2-2023	YOR-23-0141
WE ARE PADEL DERBY	10-3-2023 - 12-3-2023	DER-23-0013
WEST OF SCOTLAND PADEL	21-4-2023 - 23-4-2023	WSC-23-0046
GUERNSEY PADEL CLUB	26-5-2023 - 28-5-2023	C.I-23-0001
STRATFORD PADEL CLUB	9-6-2023 - 11-6-2023	ESS-23-0054
ROCKS LANE CHISWICK	21-7-2023 - 23-7-2023	MID-23-0145
ISLAND PADEL, JERSEY	9-9-2023 - 10-9-2023	C.I-23-0002

All event information and entry can be found at [www.competitions.lta.org.uk](http://www.competitions.lta.org.uk)

\*\* This calendar is subject to change at any time. A tournament is confirmed once the tournament takes entries on the Competitions Portal (7 weeks before the start date)

LTA PADEL		NATIONAL GRADE 2			
VENUE	DATES	CODE	MEN	WOMEN	MIXED
Rocks Lane Padel	11-2-2023 to 12-2-2023	MID-23-0142	☐	☐	
Middlesbrough Padel Club	12-3-2023	DUR-23-0029			☐
Stratford Padel Club	17-3-2023 to 19-3-2023	ESS-23-0048	☐	☐	
Chelsea Harbour Club (HOP)	1-4-2023 to 2-4-2023	MID-23-0146	☐	☐	
National Tennis Centre	28-4-2023 to 30-4-2023	SUR-23-0228	☐	☐	
David Lloyd Club Bushey	20-5-2023 to 21-5-2023		☐	☐	
West of Scotland Padel	16-6-2023 to 18-6-2023	WSC-23-0045	☐	☐	
HOP South (TBC)	24-6-2023 to 25-6-2023		☐	☐	
Middlesbrough Padel Club	8-7-2023 to 9-7-2023	DUR-23-0036	☐	☐	

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## PADEL TASTER SESSIONS

For rackets venues considering padel, remember you can book the National Tennis Centre padel courts on a pay-and-play basis. Find out more details [here](#).

## COMPETITION

2023 competition calendar is available [here](#).

## SENIORS PADEL



**Calling Welsh Senior Women – your country needs you!**

If you are over 40, have a Welsh parent, grandparent or a 3 years' residency visa, you are eligible to play for Wales. If you would like to be considered ahead of the Seniors All-Nations tournament in March 2023, please contact team coordinator and all round padel enthusiast Paul Jenkins [jenko52@yahoo.com](mailto:jenko52@yahoo.com)

LTA PADEL		SENIORS TOUR				
VENUE	DATES	CODE	MEN		WOMEN	
			40+	50+	40+	50+
Stratford Padel Club	24-2-2023 to 26-2-2023	ESS-23-0047	☐	☐	☐	☐
Guernsey Padel Club	18-3-2023 to 19-3-2023	C.1-23-0004	☐	☐	☐	
Middlesbrough Padel Club	1-4-2023 to 2-4-2023	DUR-23-0025	☐	☐	☐	☐
David Lloyd Club Bushey	22-4-2023 to 23-4-2024		☐	☐	☐	
West of Scotland Padel	19-5-2023 to 21-5-2023	WSC-23-0044	☐	☐	☐	☐
Guernsey Padel Club	26-5-2023 to 28-5-2023	C.1-23-0001	☐	☐	☐	
East Gloucestershire Club	11-6-2023	GLO-23-0104		☐		
Middlesbrough Padel Club	1-7-2023 to 2-7-2023	DUR-23-0026	☐	☐	☐	☐
Rocks Lane Padel	21-7-2023 to 23-7-2024	MID-23-0145	☐	☐	☐	☐
Middlesbrough Padel Club	2-9-2023 to 3-9-2023	DUR-23-0027	☐	☐	☐	☐

All event information and entry can be found at [www.competitions.lta.org.uk](http://www.competitions.lta.org.uk)  
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## THE PROFESSIONAL GAME

Read about our top padel players and follow their progress [here](#)

## FIP

[www.padelfip.com](http://www.padelfip.com)

## WORLD PADEL TOUR

[www.worldpadeltour.com](http://www.worldpadeltour.com)

## COACHING UPDATE

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 early 2023 for delivery by 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 will be how to Coach the Double Glass and How to Coach Kids' Padel. Both will also be open to non-qualification coaches wishing to do the courses as CPD. 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 conducted 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.

Existing racket sport coaches, who would like to sign up for the one day LTA Introduction to Padel Coaching CPD can now do so via [the LTA website](#). Completion of the one-day course provides 3 points towards the LTA tennis coaching license.

## PADEL PUBLICATIONS

As padel gains momentum in the UK, so have the communications supporting the game. Recently launched by journalist Emma Kimber and beautifully produced is [www.thebandeja.com](http://www.thebandeja.com)

Another great source of up to the minute padel news is the Padel Paper [www.thepadelpaper.com](http://www.thepadelpaper.com) Be sure to register for free to get up to the minute padel news.

## 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)