

PADEL NEWS MARCH 2022

Welcome to the March 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

The dashboard will feature quarterly going forwards.

How to find courts [near me](#)

NEW VENUES

Surge Padel, Harrogate, Yorkshire

Surge Padel opened its doors in February, with six luxury Adidas courts at their indoor venue. Courts are bookable via PlayTomic app, for more information visit their [website](#)

Spotlight on Edinburgh



Edinburgh Sports Club <https://www.edinburghsportsclub.co.uk> 'one of Edinburgh's best kept secrets' built its first padel court in 2014. Whilst they considered what to do with some unused land, a hand full of committee members and their chairperson were invited to play padel on a pop-up court in a barn. They decided to abandon plans for indoor tennis courts as the cost of one padel court was more affordable and they had all enjoyed their padel taster session in the barn!

Back then the club had experienced a collapse in membership numbers and reduced income, so a new revenue stream was much needed. Such was its popularity, within 12 months plans for a second court were under way. Inclement weather, which sometimes meant snow might be on the ground for weeks, led to their first canopy in 2017 over one of the two courts.

JJ Tait, club manager, explained that although members were keen to play under the sunshine, quite quickly it became clear that the covered court was the court of choice to provide certainty of playing. Padel was highly addictive amongst their members, many who initially were doubtful about padel were now playing multiple times daily.

JJ admits that in hindsight their slightly cautious approach at the start has meant that costs and complexity of installing a third court have been high. Had they known just how successful padel would be, they would have started off with three covered courts. JJ acknowledged that the pandemic accelerated the popularity of padel, especially as squash courts were closed for 18 months in Scotland. A squash centric club, renowned for its squash, national league winners, Edinburgh Sports Club lost a third of its income during the pandemic. Many squash players took up padel, but many left the club too. Despite the popularity of padel and tennis, this income was only partially recovered.



During the pandemic, the padel courts saw two free hours daily between the hours of 8am to 10pm, such was the demand for play. Their booking system felt the pressure but coped with the high demand. Courts becoming available to book at 1pm were all taken within 10 minutes. Edinburgh Sports Club opted to use a third-party booking software that they were able to brand as their own, although they do use Club Spark for players to book coaching.

In August 2020 they broke ground to build a super canopy to cover courts 1 and 2 with a standalone cover over court three. Between November 2021 until this month, two courts were out of action whilst the super canopy was installed. This proved to be a massive undertaking for their partner Padel Tech, as Scottish engineering standards, higher than English, along with rising prices of concrete and steel, escalated the costs of the project.

Two of their courts are panoramic, which is a wall of glass, whilst the third is court-posted and slightly cheaper but not considered a 'viewing court.'

JJ pointed out that given there are just a small number of experienced padel installation providers in the UK, clubs looking to install one court may find themselves facing lengthy delays as sites looking to install multiple courts will be at the top of the installation provider's list.

Edinburgh Sports Club's project was partially financed by the LTA's Quick Access Loan. Following the necessary checks and balances undertaken by the LTA, they secured a significant loan which they are due to repay over 5 years.

To secure this loan they needed to offer pay and play and an online booking system. Whilst they do offer pay and play, theirs is a membership model whereby members pay £430 per year (padel only) or £40 per month with no court booking fee. Members on the monthly plan must agree to a minimum joining period of 3 months.

Their booking system allows one hour court bookings on two of their courts and one hour and 20 minutes on the third. Their many coaching programmes fill up quickly and they have a full time Spanish coach helping players improve their game. They are committed to a strong junior programme across the club, knowing how important this is to the future sustainability of the club.

JJ also highlighted the social benefits that padel has brought to their club, not least the additional bar/restaurant/shop revenue thanks to the off court social side of padel. Padel has brought a real buzz to the club.

Their online and physical shop stocks Dunlop and Head padel brands <https://www.escshop.co.uk/>

Anyone who would like to learn more about Edinburgh Sports Club's padel journey is welcome to contact JJ at manager@edinburghsportsclub.co.uk



COMPETITION

The first stage of this year's competition calendar is now available [here](#)

Equipped with a new format, teams can now enter the 2022 edition of the LTA Padel National League [here](#)

SENIORS PADEL

Our ladies have a direct place in the Vegas World finals in March whilst our men still need to secure one of the four 'Worlds' places at the European qualifications event in Dublin between 25-27 February. Patrick Ogier and Rob West featured in the Guernsey press recently; they will make their debut representing GB in the O35 age group. Good luck to all team GB players in Dublin!

Anyone wishing to be considered for our senior's squads, should contact Sally Fisher sallyfisher@me.com or Peter Vann peter.vann@padelgb.org.

Success for Middlesbrough pairs in Barcelona



Libby Fletcher and Claire Smith from Middlesbrough Padel Club and both current members of the GB Senior Ladies Padel Team, enjoyed international success recently when competing at the Royal Padel Cup European Finals in Barcelona. They qualified for the final by beating all other competing pairs in the UK's Royal Padel tournament held at Middlesbrough Padel Club.

Tournaments were held by Royal Padel throughout Europe during the Summer of 2021 and the winning pair from each country then qualified to compete in the European Cup finals in Barcelona.

Six pairs competed in the final, with players from Great Britain, Spain, Germany, Belgium, Italy and Sweden. Libby and Claire played the Italians in the first round of the group matches and lost 6-7, 6-7 in a hotly contested match. They then went on to beat Spain 6-1, 6-2 in their other group match. This meant they finished second in the group and so went on to play the winners from the other group, Sweden, in the Semi-Finals. They beat Sweden 6-3, 6-4 to make the finals where they played the pair from Italy the next day.

Italy got off to a strong start, taking the first set 6-3. But Libby and Claire fought back hard and won the next two sets, to win the European Royal Padel Cup title 3-6. 6-3, 6-2. Many congratulations to Claire and Libby!

Richard Love and Theo Garton, also from Middlesbrough Padel Club won the Men's Royal padel European Cup. In the group stages they beat Italy 6-3 6-1 and Spain 6-4 7-5. In the Semis they beat Germany 6-3 7-6 and in the Final, they beat Sweden 6-7 6-4 6-2. What a fantastic result! Both pairs enjoyed the coaching support of Middlesbrough's Nigel Garton during the tournament.

GB PERFORMANCE PLAYERS COMPETING AROUND THE WORLD

Meet **Tia Norton**, GB Ladies No 1



Originally from Leamington Spa and a keen junior tennis player, Tia started padel aged twelve in Birmingham and was selected to play for the GB Junior Team competing in the Junior World Championships in Mexico. She has since represented the Ladies GB Team in two World Championships and three European Championships, coming third in the 2019 European Championship. Last year she turned pro and became the first British lady to compete on the World Padel Tour, partnering top Swedish player Amanda Girdo.

Currently she is training with a new coach, Juan Alday, based in Barcelona. Juan coached former World No.1, Marta Marrero that was also a professional tennis player, and her partner Lucia Sainz. Tia also regularly trains with Alix Colombon who is currently ranked 20th on the World Padel Tour rankings.

Tia partnered Spanish player, Ares Llobera last week at a FIP tournament in Burriana, Spain. She trains with Carlo Fito and hopes to partner Carla in both FIP and World Padel Tour events this year, starting in Reus. Tia is sponsored by NOX and wears their clothing and plays with a NOX MJ10 racket.

Meet **Louie Harris**, 19, originally from Cardiff in Wales; Louie started playing padel in Marbella 6 years ago and is now training in Madrid.



Louie has represented team GB many times, securing third place in the 2019 European Championships in Rome. Most recently he represented the GB Men's team in the 2021 World Championship in Qatar. Sponsored by Dunlop for clothing and rackets, Louie is currently playing with the Dunlop Aerostar Pro racket.

FIP PADEL TOUR 2022

<https://www.padelfip.com>

WORLD PADEL TOUR 2022

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

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 in April 2022 and anyone interested can register their interest [here](#). We know there is a huge demand for a padel coaching qualification, please be patient, it's coming!

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