



## Squash

Another Squash season has come to an end with all teams having a good season. The 1<sup>st</sup> Team were runners up in Division One, only missing out by 4 points.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Teams both had good results and finished mid-table. The 4<sup>th</sup> Team were victorious and won Division 6 and will be promoted for the next season. A great result and congratulations to Lou Van Talligan and all his team players.

## Summer Squash

Summer Squash will be starting soon so if you are interested in playing summer team squash, please talk to the Team Captains.

## Squash Club Championships

Finals night is on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May. Please come down to see the clubs best players in action.

We will also be hosting the [British Open Masters Squash Championships](#) at the Club from the 5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> of June, featuring all of the top players aged between 35 and 85. Do come down to watch and support.

Thanks, Richard.

## SAC Racketball

The 2023/24 winter season was the first time for many years that SAC were able to field two teams in the Warwickshire leagues, with the 1<sup>st</sup> team finishing 6<sup>th</sup> out of 8 in their first season in division one. The 2<sup>nd</sup> team also finished 6<sup>th</sup> out of 8 starters.

A Big thank you to all who have represented the Club during the season and we all look forward to the season ahead. Please do contact me if you are interested in being involved in the 2024-2025 winter leagues which start in September.

Thanks, Gordon.



## Tennis

Tennis along with the rest of the club are thriving at the moment and as a result of our increased membership we have eventually managed to upgrade the lights on courts 1-3 and they are back to how good they were when they were new.

Team tennis is in good shape with 14 teams representing Arden in local leagues. These leagues start in April. If you are interested in playing team tennis just drop me a line and I will put you in touch with the relevant people.

Just a reminder to put the 7<sup>th</sup> September on your diary as that will be the club championships finals day. Entry forms will be put up during May.

## Tennis Coaching

Book our new TRY TENNIS session through the Solihull Arden Club app, Our TRY TENNIS session is designed for members new to the game of tennis to get a feel for the game and some pointers from our great club coaches. The session will be ran by our fantastic Coach Lucie Mellor. The session will run every Saturday 11:30-12:30pm on the training courts at the club, and will be ran on a first come, first served basis. Open to all members of the Solihull Arden Club who do not currently play Tennis at the club.

Take a free trial on a Junior Coaching programme, view our comprehensive Junior Coaching programme schedule using the link, we have sessions for all ages and abilities and you can book a trial online, simply click on the session you wish to book and click 'Book a free trial'. <https://astartennissac.classforkids.io>

Come and Join us for our Cardio Tennis session every Tuesday 6:30-7:30pm, Cardio Tennis is a high energy and fun Tennis session, players can expect to hit lots of balls though drill based and game based activity. Suitable for all ability levels, ages 16+. Even if you don't play tennis you will get a great work out and have loads of fun. We would love to recruit some new players to the session, to book a free trial please contact [info@astartennis.co.uk](mailto:info@astartennis.co.uk)

Thanks, Alex.

## Padel Developments

It has been extremely encouraging to observe the continued growth in the number of members playing Padel on a regular basis. In particular, the weekly Thursday evening and Saturday afternoon **social Padel sessions** are proving extremely popular.

Our **internal leagues** are flourishing with around 60 players involved in the current league programme.



## Padel Developments

We were delighted with the excellent turnout for the inaugural **Nick Hart Padel Tournament** last October with 16 pairs contesting each of the intermediate and advanced competitions.

The first **Mexicano Padel** tournament for intermediate level players took place in January. This was well contested and thoroughly enjoyed by all participants. The winner of the event was Andrew Parker with Charles Robinson finishing as runner-up.

### Padel Liaison Group

The padel liaison group was set up last September shortly after I was invited to take on the role of Padel Lead. The evolving group currently consists of 12 members (see below) who represent all sectors of the padel playing community at Solihull Arden. The group meets every six/seven weeks. A representative of the management team also attends our meetings. There is a formal agenda for each meeting and minutes are circulated to all members of the group.

The purpose and role of this group is to help strengthen communication channels and provide a beneficial forum for members to promote and consider various ideas and proposals to enhance the padel experience, support player development and extend the range of social and competitive play. We believe the liaison group is a valuable conduit to transmit members' views, opinions, and suggestions about a range of relevant matters to the club management.

#### Current members of this group are:

John Thomas (Padel lead) David Currie, Gaynor Dolby, Luke Friend, Michael Hearn, Charo Lacal, Dave Marklew, Megan McDonald, Ash Naik, Andy Robbins, Ian Thurman and Rachel Woolford. We will be welcoming two new members to the group, Kellie Homer and Sarah La Touche at our next meeting.

We would encourage all members to take the opportunity to contact or speak with any member of the group if they have a particular concern or suggestion as to how we might enhance further the Padel experience at Solihull Arden.

**Thanks, John**



## Forthcoming Events

### Spring Tournaments – entry forms will be available at reception

- Sunday 12 May – Intermediate/Improvers – 9.00-13.00 hours (fully booked)
- Sunday 19 May – Advanced – 9.00-13.00 hours

**Club Championships** – It is intended that entries for the club championships will be invited during May with initial rounds commencing in June. Finals will be scheduled to take place during the first week in September.

### Social Padel

The social Padel sessions on Thursdays (18.00-19.15 and 19.15-20.30) and Saturdays (14.15-15.30 and 15.30-16.45) continue to be very popular, with demand significantly outstripping available places. They can be booked on the Arden app from a week in advance. We ask members to book only one slot at a session to maximize participation by others. While not a hard and fast rule, the earlier time slot is aimed more at beginner/intermediate level and the later slot at intermediate/advanced level.

The transition to 75-minute slots has gone well with sessions now comprising 5 x 15 minute games. This ensures a good mix of playing partners and opponents with Zach doing an excellent job managing the arrangements and ensuring that the sessions run smoothly.

No shows' are particularly disruptive to the smooth running of the sessions. It would be appreciated if anyone unable to play would provide as much notice as possible when cancelling their booking, ideally at least 24 hours beforehand, to allow someone on the waiting list to take their place.

**Lunchtime Social Padel** (trial) – due to the demand for places on both Thursdays and Saturdays, we have recently been trialing lunchtime social sessions. The intention is to use these sessions, along with any feedback, to ascertain whether there is sufficient demand to arrange a weekday lunchtime session on a regular basis. The first session on Friday 12 April 13.00-14.15 was extremely popular with those attending, expressing a clear desire for these lunchtime sessions to be repeated. The second session takes place on Tuesday 23 April 13.00-14.15. Members should sign up for all social padel sessions on the Solihull Arden Club App.

**Social Padel Mexicano Competition** – following the success of the Nick Hart tournament and the more recent Mexicano event, it was suggested that we organise some social sessions as mini Mexicano tournaments. On Saturday 13 April, we ran each of the two social Padel sessions that day as mini tournaments. All those who participated enjoyed the events and we propose to arrange further dates in the future.

**Thanks Mike.**



## Ladies' Inter-Club Padel Fixtures

With an increasing number of Padel courts in the region, myself (Rachel Woolford) and the lead at Kenilworth (Ian Cochrane) got our heads together and set up the inaugural Midlands Padel league <https://www.ktscc.co.uk/midlands-padel-leagues/>

I would particularly like to thank Mark Carroll (Arden GM) and The Window Centre for supporting the club in this new venture. Your support is very much appreciated.

Our first fixture was against **Kenilworth** 1st team, which proved to be challenging as they included professional athletes in their ranks, namely SJ Perry (World #5 squash player) and Jenny Wright (a previous World top 70 squash player). Our 1st string went down fighting, only losing out by 1 service break in each set. Our 2nd string had an excellent match against their 2nd string, losing by the narrowest of margins in a championship tie-break.

**Market Harborough** were our next opponents and a very tight encounter ensued. We ended up even in rubbers, with our 1st string winning both of their matches and our 2nd string losing both theirs. We narrowly missed out on a win overall due to points countback.

**Sutton** travelled to Arden for our next fixture, and I am delighted to report that we recorded our first win, with both 1st and 2nd strings winning matches.

Our match against **Edgbaston Priory** gave us a new experience of playing on a temporary 'pop up' court. Not to be recommended!! We went down 1-3 in this fixture with both strings having a good match against their 2nd string. Unfortunately, their 1st string was altogether too strong for us and both our 1st & 2nd strings lost their matches to this pair.

Our final league match will take place at the end of the month against **Kenilworth** 2's. To end the season, we have organised a social tournament against the ladies at **Derby**. The majority of our squad will be travelling to compete in this tournament.

I am very aware that, whilst nine different ladies will have played in these fixtures, there may well be other members who are interested in playing. Together with the other clubs in the league we will review the success of our first season, and I am hoping all the teams will agree to build on what we have started. We are also looking to set up more ladies' practice sessions/friendly games and will share details of how to contact us and get involved once we have these finalised.

In the meantime, our club has agreed to support an internal ladies' league, which Charo Lacal is working actively to establish. We also hope to run a tournament over the summer months for ladies only. These initiatives will provide an opportunity to meet more lady players who may be interested in joining us. We look forward to getting to know you and help grow the ladies' Padel section at Solihull Arden.

**Thanks Rachel**



## Padel Court Bookings

We propose to introduce court booking rules for Padel. These booking rules are like those already in place for tennis and squash. The rules for Padel are intended to ensure equity of opportunity. They reflect the fact that there are only three Padel courts and the extremely heavy demand for access to these courts, particularly during peak times.

The proposed rules state that:

- Padel courts can be booked 14 days in advance
- All Padel courts become available to book at 7.00am
- Only **members** may book Padel courts 14 days in advance
- Please note: **pay and play guests** may book courts 7 days in advance
- **Peak times** are;
  - from 16.45-22.00 on Mondays to Fridays
  - all day on Saturdays and Sundays
- Members are not permitted to book more than one court during peak times each day
- Members may book a court during peak times and another during non-peak times on the same day
- All players must be listed on **MyCourts** prior to playing
- Players' names can be added at any time prior to commencing play
- Members are not permitted to play on more than one occasion during peak times each day other than in exceptional circumstances

In the meantime, we would like to emphasize that **all players must be listed on MyCourts prior to playing** and point out that players' names can be added at any time prior to commencing play to allow suitable time for the person booking the court to confirm the other players.