

## **Broxbourne Padel – report for BSC AGM**

The launch of our 2 padel courts in July 2023 was very successful with a good level of interest from members of other BSC sections and also from outside the club. We reached 100 members by mid August 2022 and 200 by the 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary in July 2023. The current membership stands at over 240 and is still building.

Unlike other sections, non members can book courts and play, but pay a higher fee and shorter advance booking. We now have more than 800 individuals registered on the MATCHi booking system for Broxbourne – with the number who have actually played here being considerably higher than this.

Interestingly, the majority of those playing padel here are new to Broxbourne Sports Club. Over 60% of G4P members are not members of any of our sections, and the vast majority of non members playing are not BSC members.

When we launched the membership scheme, we introduced a Broxbourne Padel Social membership to try and encourage the regular padel players to feel part of BSC. This has been well received and there are currently over 50 of these new social members. They pay £5 per month which is 100% retained by BSC. Most other G4P venues do not offer this.

Broxbourne Padel runs a full programme of social sessions, box leagues and other competitive opportunities. We have a coach, Davide Sorcinelli providing group and private coaching on Mondays and Fridays. In the future we aim to establish teams to play in external leagues. These have proved difficult to get off the ground, but as the number of padel clubs grows within a feasible travel area, hopefully this will succeed.

Alongside the general success of the sport for the club, there have been some challenges getting the facilities working properly. We hope that the issue with the lighting has now been fixed, but we are still waiting for G4P to deal with the poor drainage.

Padel is now one of the fastest growing sports worldwide and it is great that Broxbourne has been an early adopter in Hertfordshire. We are fully aware that some players are travelling long distances to play here so as other courts get built we will lose them. Hence the need to keep growing our local playing community.

Finally, I would like to thank all those who have helped to make this new section work effectively:

- Sara Childe for all her administration and player assistance
- James, Shand, Dave Barnes, Mark Blake and others for turning out on numerous occasions to re-set the lights
- Nick Emery for running tournaments
- The bar staff for providing the racket hire service
- The ground staff for routine maintenance

Sarah Elliott