

## **Padel – AGM Report November 2024**

Padel continues to be an enormous success at Broxbourne since the courts were opened in July 2022. The accounts for 23/24 show that the section's financial contribution has more than doubled to over £22k. The club earns income from taking a share of court hire, social and coaching sessions and G4P memberships for BSC members. In addition, BSC takes 100% of the income from padel social memberships, racket hire and ball sales. We entered year 3 of the agreement with Game 4 Padel in July when our share of income increased from 20% to 25%, so this income should continue to show positive growth.

There are now over 350 Broxbourne players with a G4P membership, including 78 who are members of other BSC sections and 80 who have a padel social membership. There are nearly 5,000 players registered! It's proving to be a very accessible sport with new players coming on board continually. In the last few months, we have had numerous occasions when both courts have been fully booked from 8am until 10pm, especially at weekends.

We have had mixed success in generating internal and external padel competitions. Each week there are Americano tournaments on Mondays and Fridays which are very popular. In July 2023 G4P staged an LTA Grade3/4 tournament at Broxbourne, and we were very pleased with the success of our first club tournament held in September 2024. However, the box leagues which have now become ladder leagues have been slow to generate interest. And Broxbourne has yet to get involved in inter-club leagues.

Game 4 Padel eventually resolved the drainage issue with the courts and have undertaken maintenance on our site this autumn. Unfortunately, we have had on-going intermittent problems with the lights – and we would all like to thank James Shand, Dave Barnes and Mark Blake for regularly being on hand to reset them and enable play to continue. But in general, the courts are holding up well and the quality of the build is much better than local alternatives at Waltham Abbey and the temporary courts at Gosling.

Finally, I would like to thank the following people for helping to make padel such a success here:

- Sara Childe for her detailed admin support and for providing such a good welcome to new players and members
- The coaches Davide Sorcinelli, Owen Watkins and Al Beesley
- The grounds team for their day-to-day maintenance
- Jill and the bar team for managing the racket hire service
- Nick Emery for the initial idea to get padel to Broxbourne and for his help with the tournaments

Sarah Elliott