



Roehampton Club National Padel League

The Padel courts at Roehampton Club have been open for over three weeks now and it seemed like a fun idea while we were planning the offer for Members during lockdown to include entering two teams into the Padel National League competition.

Nothing like trying run before you can walk and having high ambitions – we have won both the National Tennis and Squash equivalent over the last few years!

We were entered into the regional divisions, held at Harbour Club Chelsea, over the weekend of 29th and 30th May. Team A (purely alphabetical not ability) were drawn to play on the 29th and Team B on the 30th.

Saturday 29 May

Team A, of Jack Hazlewood, Simon Kempton, Darren Boner, Eusebio Morales, Jo Cochrane and Tom Bailey, organised by the non-playing Captain (Me) all arrived on time at Harbour Club for our warmup court practice and to gage the opposition standard.

Fair to say there was a mix of levels on display and the draw had not been kind. Our first match was against Rocks Lane B who all looked rather experienced, but we remained optimistic.

Sadly the warmup did not have pairs 2 and 3 fully up to speed as Rocks Lane took full advantage with both our pairs going a set down quickly. The first string match was of high quality and had the hallmarks of an epic ... which turned out to be the case. And while pairs 2 and 3 tried valiantly to battle back the experience of the Rocks Lane pairs was just too much. Things were looking brighter as Jack and Simon took the first set and had an early break in the second. Not wishing to relive the detail too much the 2 net cords for Rocks Lane when we had match points a 5-3 in the second set saved them and turned the tie. The Rocks Lane pair managed to steel the second set and then go on to win the Championship tie break third set to take the match 3-0 to Rocks Lane. Jack and Simon may have a few sleepless nights about net cords this summer!



v Rocks Lane B:

3. Jo and Tom lost 6-1, 6-1.
2. Eusebio and Darren lost 6-0, 6-4
1. Jack and Simon lost 6-4, 6-7(5-7), 5-10.

The team regrouped and went straight back on court against Esher B.

With the mornings match providing some needed court time it was easy to recognise our pairs were more settled for this match and the level of opposition was not the same level as before. The score line suggests a very one-sided match, but the games were entertaining and quality was high but this time our patience and ability saw Roehampton Club win 3-0. A good way to finish the day and gave the players some confidence to want to return for more next year.



v Esher B:

3. Jo and Tom won 6-1, 6-3.
2. Eusebio and Darren won 6-2, 6-3.
1. Jack and Simon 6-1, 6-0.

Sunday 30 May

Team B, of Nik Snapes, Oli Golding, Bojan Jelovac, Josh Miller, Tim Webb, Jorge Alcover and Gary O'Brien came into the day's matches knowing Team A had not progressed, but the standard was not too daunting for our first venture into the National Padel League.

In a reverse of the day before the team had a nice match to start with some great rallies getting the players confidence up and the required win against Epsom took the team to the final where they would play the experienced team of Weybridge.

v Epsom A:

- Nik and Oli won 6-1, 6-2
Bojan and Josh won 6-4, 6-3
Gary and Jorge won 6-2, 6-2



The Weybridge team, with strong pairs throughout their line-up, were keen to win and certainly thought they would. It came as a surprise to them when our first pair took the first set to put a 'cat among the pigeons. While all three pairs battled with every effort sadly the experience and guile of the Weybridge pairs was just too much as they won the match 3-0.

v Weybridge:

Nik and Oli lost 6-4, 1-6, 2-6

Bojan and Tim lost 4-6, 3-6

Gary and Jorge lost 2-6, 2-6

On both days all the players represented the Club wonderfully and showed the future is bright for Padel at all levels at Roehampton Club

We will be back next year ...