



Swindon Pickleball Club

JULY 2024

A WARM WELCOME TO ALL MEMBERS

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all Pickleball players and particularly those that have recently joined the Club.

The interest in Pickleball continues to grow, in Swindon and across the UK. SPC has been leading the way in promoting the game locally, we see new clubs opening and Pickleball has been introduced at Delta

tennis centre, David Lloyd, Swindon and new clubs have started in Cricklade and Wootton Bassett.

Swindon Pickleball Club has not been standing still either, we have formed our first membership scheme and just announced a fabulous new outdoor venue at St Marks. There is also exciting news of Pickleball being played in schools later in the newsletter.

NEWSLETTER

Welcome to Swindon Pickleball Club's July newsletter where you can read about all of the latest happenings at the club.

We hope you enjoy the newsletter!

THE COMMITTEE

Dan O'Brien: Dan has decided to relinquish his involvement with the SPC committee due to his other commitments. Dan was vice chairman, a founding member of the committee and made many ground-breaking contributions including designing our logo and our website (due to be launched shortly) plus many other achievements.

Joanna Parman: Another founding member of the committee, Joanna has also stepped down due the challenges of combining family and work commitments with the demands of committee responsibilities. Both Dan and Joanna will continue to be active club members and we are indebted to them both.

INSIDE THE ISSUE

01 COMMITTEE MATTERS

Read who has joined and left the committee.

02 CLUB MEMBERSHIP

The launch of our new membership scheme.

03 A NEW PLAYING VENUE

Introducing our new venue at St Mark's.

04 PLAYING SESSIONS

We've introduced new sessions, giving you more opportunities to play.

05 CLUB NEWS

Other recent developments happening in the club.

06 TOURNAMENTS

Check out upcoming tournaments.

07 INTER-CLUB PLAY

Read about our inter-club matches.

08 MEMBERS' CONTRIBUTION

Sharon Marshman talks about playing pickleball afloat a cruise ship!

09 PICKLEBALL IN SCHOOLS

Ground-breaking work by SPC and local Swindon schools.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS WANTED!

As our Club membership expands and our playing sessions increase, so does the workload on our committee.

If you would like to volunteer to work on the Committee, please get in touch, we would really like to hear from you.

Email us at:
swindonpickleballclub@gmail.com

John Shephard We are delighted to announce that John has joined the committee with immediate effect. John's leadership of the Wednesday session and his passion for the game makes him an ideal candidate for the committee, as we continue to grow and develop. John will be rolling out a new concept for SPC, graded sessions, and will be communicating details shortly. Welcome John!

CLUB MEMBERSHIP

We recently launched the Swindon Pickleball Club membership scheme, which is effective from 1st July 2024. Hopefully, you will have seen the communications and have already joined, or you will be joining very soon. In summary, the cost of membership is £20 for the period until 31st December 2024.



This will bring multiple benefits with the most significant being a fantastic saving on the cost of playing. Members will now be able to play for just £5 per session whilst non-members will continue to pay £7.50.

These reduced charges for playing mean that members will experience savings after only 8 games! Indeed, if you play twice a week, you'll save over £100 between now and Christmas!

To become a member, please make a bank transfer of £20 to the following account:

Account name: Swindon Pickleball Club
Sort code: 08-92-99
Account number: 67332287
Reference: Please quote your full name

NEW VENUE

Welcome to St Marks!
We are thrilled to announce that National Tennis have agreed to convert their 4 outdoor touch tennis courts to pickleball courts at St Marks Tennis Centre.



SPC members will have exclusive access to their pickleball facilities and we will be hosting some additional club sessions (see below).

SPC are combining with National Tennis to apply for funding to pay for the cost of constructing new pickleball courts and in the interim, we have marked out 4 courts using tape.



PLAYING SESSIONS

With the addition of St Marks to our venues, we have a unique opportunity to introduce additional playing sessions and trial different formats, which we hope will please everyone ... beginners, social players, intermediate and advanced players. The following is an overview of the sessions we are planning to introduce - they will be bookable on Spond in the normal manner.

DAY	LOCATION	TIME	LEVEL
Tuesday	St Marks (or Delta)	10am - 12pm	Social Session (all levels)
Tuesday	St Marks	6.30pm - 9pm	Social session (all levels)
Wednesday	Commonweal (school term)	7pm - 9pm	Intermediate and Advanced
Thursday	St Marks	10am - 12pm	Social session (all levels)
Thursday	St Marks	6.30pm - 9pm	Advanced Players - by invitation
Friday	Delta	6pm - 8pm	Social session (all levels)
Saturday	Commonweal (school term)	12.30-2.20pm	Social session (all levels)
Saturday	St Marks	2pm - 5pm	Intermediate and Advanced
Sunday	St Marks	10am - 12pm	Social session (all levels)

COACHING AND DRILLS

Following feedback from members:

- We have introduced coaching and drills at some of our sessions. The Club is fortunate to have 3 coaches amongst their members (Dan, Lucy and Bryan) who will be happy to answer any questions or offer individual lessons.
- We will start most sessions with some coaching and practice drills for the first 15-20 minutes of each session, commencing over the next few weeks. Our coaches will be working with Club Ambassadors to help them deliver these each session.



WEBSITE

We are putting the finishing touches to our new website which will provide important information about our club and will attract interest from players and newcomers seeking to play pickleball in Swindon. We will be announcing soon when the site goes live.

MARKETING

In December 2023, we were advised that we were one of 4 local community-based organisations to win £5,000 of free media support, thanks to the generosity of Gel Studios (<https://www.gelstudios.co.uk/>).

We have started to engage with the fabulous team at Gel and work will start in July to transform how we communicate internally and externally, in a more coordinated and professional way.

ROYAL WOOTTON BASSETT PICKLEBALL LAUNCH

Thanks to Alexa's influence, the Wootton Bassett Tennis Club launched pickleball to 40 people on Sat 11th May. SPC were requested to host the session so Bryan, Jo and Alexa outlined the rules and coached players throughout the 2-hour session.

The Chairman of RWB tennis club commented that they had never had such interest for any event previously and are exploring plans to introduce pickleball alongside tennis in the future.

Latest: RWBTC have just announced that pickleball has just been launched this week!



FORTHCOMING TOURNAMENTS

For a full list of tournaments, please check out the Pickleball England website [here](#). Upcoming events include:

- Bristol Pickleball Festival, 6-7th July
- [The English Open Warm Up Event, July 27-28th](#) (Abingdon)
- [The Norwich Open, July 26-28th](#)
- [English Open, 8-14th August](#) (Telford)

So far, the following players have entered the English Open from Swindon Pickleball Club:

Nicky Spice	Phil Spice	James Hurrell	Dan O'Brien
Mark Butler	Bob Nash	Tessa Martin	John Shephard
Alyson Shephard	Bryan Saunders	Tom Downes	Mark Titchener

[REGISTRATION IS STILL OPEN IF YOU WISH TO ENTER. FOR MORE DETAILS, CLICK ON THIS LINK.](#)

WISH TO PLAY IN CLUB MATCHES?

Read on to see what inter-club matches have taken place so far. We intend to have more matches against other clubs in the future and are keen to involve all members who wish to play against other players and teams. It doesn't matter what level you play, if you wish to compete, please let us know and we will try to ensure that you will play against opponents at a similar level to your own.

INTER-CLUB MATCHES

As pickleball grows, so is the opportunity to play around the country. There are more than 30 pickleball clubs within one hour of us and many are keen to have inter-club matches. These will be advertised on our Spond app and will vary in terms of gender and ability, dependent upon availability of SPC players to play in matches and the player profile of the neighbouring club. We hope that many of you will sign-up to take part in these friendly matches.

SPC V DAVID LLOYD, GLOUCESTER

RESULTS:

DL GLOS WIN 21 OUT OF 25 GAMES



Our first ever inter-club match was thoroughly enjoyable for everyone who participated, with David Lloyd, Gloucester being amazing hosts. They were more experienced than many of us and gave us quite a lesson, winning all but 4 games. Well done to Joanna and Dan, Jo and Bryan for winning 2 games each.

SPC V WINCHESTER

RESULTS:

SWINDON 3 WINS WINNING 5 GAMES AND TOTALLED 106 POINTS
WINCHESTER 3 WINS, WINNING 5 GAMES AND TOTALLED 92 POINTS



We hosted a team of 4 players from Winchester at Delta Tennis Centre. The match was incredibly close with very little to choose between the two sides. In the end, the team of Bryan, Dan, John Shephard and Paul Berry just came out ahead.

MEMBERS' CONTRIBUTIONS

We would like to feature member's experiences and stories related to pickleball. Thanks to Sharon for the first contribution!



PICKLEBALL ON THE OCEAN – BY SHARON MARSHMAN

I recently took a 15-day cruise and, determined to balance out some of the cocktails I would be drinking, I vowed to play pickleball each sea day! Each day, we would meet some pickleball buddies from Canada, Australia, Mexico and America and play early morning before it got too hot. The ship movement & wind onboard made for some really fun games, rules were adapted to suit the challenges of playing on ship and everyone really enjoyed it.



Neil (second left standing) and Sharon next to him.



Sharon and Neil Marshman on the left (above).

A couple of times play was interrupted to admire dolphins, turtles and sailing through the Panama Canal. As the only UK players, Neil & I definitely put Swindon Pickleball Club on the international stage. After one particularly good game it was stated that we had just delivered a "Swindon" masterclass.

PICKLEBALL IN SCHOOLS

We are proud to have supported Commonweal School, Swindon in introducing pickleball into the school curriculum replacing tennis for the summer term.

This is ground-breaking for both the school and for pickleball and SPC have been supporting the school with coaching at their after-school club every Monday. Last week, over 20 children attended the club session, a dramatic increase in numbers attending after-school compared to tennis last year.

SPC have been at the forefront of introducing pickleball across the area and had the opportunity to demonstrate the game at Commonweal to over 20 PE teachers from across 6 different schools in Swindon. They were introduced to the basics of the game followed by some intensely competitive games! The level of engagement and interest by all PE teachers was amazing, with many planning to introduce pickleball into their schools in the near future.

Jordan Shepherd, Head of PE was really enthusiastic "Last night was brilliant, teachers were genuinely engaging with pickleball and very positive towards it. I am confident that more schools will be introducing the sport next year into their curriculum, which will allow us to play competitive fixtures."

