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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 1/10/2025 5:08:43 PM  
**To:** Council Northernbeaches Mailbox  
**Subject:** TRIMMED: Mod2025/0476  
**Attachments:** 'Like a bullet going right by you'\_ affluent English towns and suburbs rail against noisy, unstoppable rise of padel tennis \_ Tennis \_ The Guardian.pdf; is paddle tennis noisy - Google Search.pdf;

With regards to the proposal on the tennis centre for Padel ball at the tennis centre ....

Firstly, within the Manly Warringah war memorial park plan of management it prescribes the uses of all recreation areas. It clearly describes Tennis as an allowable sport. It does NOT include pickle ball or Padel Ball. It also states that it should not impact on the neighbours of the recreational area. The plan states that any changes should be discussed with the neighbours of the park – was this the case for pickle ball? Can you please forward me the planning application for this? I have only realised that this is being played (with no input from the neighbours having been asked) as I can hear them shouting across the reserve, and we can hear the noise over the TV! I clearly hear it in my bedroom too.

I also believe that Voyager want to run until 10pm – this is not acceptable. Pickle ball has been played during the day time and this has had little impact on us, but the playing at night is unacceptable because the participants shout and there is very loud music being played. Tennis players DON'T shout and don't need to play music. We deserve the right to live in our homes like all other members of the community without noise pollution.

Is there an amendment to this plan forthcoming to change the uses to Padel ball and indeed pickle ball? Tennis is a low impact sport with a low volume ball strike. Players don't generally shout at each other, and we have lived with tennis for the 17 years we have lived here with no issue.

Voyager are a commercial enterprise and are trying to alter the uses and indeed the times these noisy sports are played. This is a revenue seeking exercise. If you research padel tennis, its accepted as noisy and in most cases to accommodate the noise generated it is played indoors – this proposal is outdoors. The tennis centre is elevated from my property and the noise travels, especially at night. Voyager have already altered the lighting to LED, with no discussion with the neighbourhood as they should on the impact of the more imposing light that it throws out, and indeed it shines into our family room and is extremely irritating. The previous lighting was low impact – before Voyager took over we effectively did not know the tennis existed – we do NOW extra NOISE and LIGHT both!!!!

I strongly oppose this development plan. I strongly oppose anyone playing sports other than TENNIS until 10pm. For reference, I attach articles about the noise impact of padel ball. I am not willing to have my life affected by NOISE and it is noisy!!!! They need to stick to only what it has been approved for – TENNIS.

Regards,

Gareth Ratcliffe  
[REDACTED]

🕒 This article is more than **6 months** old

# ‘Like a bullet going right by you’: affluent English towns and suburbs rail against noisy, unstoppable rise of padel tennis

From Bath to Weybridge and Winchester to Lytham St Annes, padel’s ‘gunfire-like’ acoustics are making locals seethe

📷 Padel players at Hazelwood sports club in Enfield, north London. Photograph: Sophia Evans/The Observer



**Andrew Anthony**

Mon 24 Feb 2025 01.00 AEDT

**A**cross the affluent suburbs and well-heeled country towns and cities of England the sound of “gunfire” – or the fear of it – has been ringing out in recent months. From Bath to Weybridge and Winchester to Lytham St Annes a street battle of sorts has been waged as desirable neighbourhoods seek to repel what they see as a menacing new threat to the peace: the sport of padel.

“When the best players play, I can only describe it as like a bullet going right by you,” says Nick Christou, whose garden is a few yards from two padel courts at Hazelwood sports club in Enfield, north [London](#).

Invented in Mexico in 1969, and said to be the [fastest growing sport in the world](#), padel is a mashup of tennis and squash played within a mesh-and-glass caged court with what look like oversized table-tennis bats - the kind of rackets, according to offended ears, that make a racket.

The Lawn Tennis Association took over the running of the sport six years ago and [instituted a plan](#) to “integrate padel into the fabric of tennis in Britain”. After lockdown, when people were looking for new outdoor distractions, the novelty of padel, and its adaptability for all skill levels, helped propel its popularity.

As recently as 2011 there was just one padel court in the whole of the UK. Last year there were 450 and hundreds more are planned, though not without local resistance.

At the Landsown tennis club in Bath, for example, a planning application to replace a tennis court with two padel courts was [rejected](#) last year after local residents objected. They claimed that unlike the familiar summery thwack of a tennis ball on cow-gut, the hard stringless racket of padel produces an “intolerable” noise “like gunfire”.

Similar plans to build three padel courts at St George’s Hill lawn tennis club near Weybridge in Surrey were [shelved](#) last month because of complaints from locals about the potential disturbance. Instead the club will now build the courts within a soundproofed indoor structure.

Graham Taaffe runs [Padel Tennis London](#) and opened his first court 10 years ago at Hazelwood in Enfield, the tennis club from which he leases the land. Bookings slowly grew until he opened a second court in 2021 - and that’s when the complaints started.

“It was just one person,” he says. “The council gave us planning permission. They knew what to expect from the first court. Enfield says it wants to improve health and tackle obesity, but now it’s threatening to close the padel down.”

That one person - Christou - says that in general he is supportive of sport. “We’ve lived here for 30 years and the tennis has never been a problem,” says his wife, Janet. It was after lockdown, the couple say, that the padel courts became oppressively busy. “Now we literally cannot use our garden,” says Christou.

Following his complaints, Enfield council ordered a noise abatement notice, which they suspended when Taaffe agreed to install a sound barrier. When that was deemed ineffective, the order was reissued.

In an effort to placate Christou, Taaffe asked the expert from Enfield council what sound reduction was required to reach the acceptable decibel level. “He said, ‘Oh no, there’s no level. It’s subject to our opinion whether it’s a noise nuisance.’ So it’s entirely subjective,” says Taaffe.

Christou points out that three different experts have measured the sound. “They all agree it’s too noisy.”

Taaffe acknowledges that padel is louder than tennis but says that at root it’s an argument about the sound of a sports game emerging from a sports club. “If you live next to a railway line, you’re going to hear trains,” he says. The dispute now transfers to a different kind of court - an appeals tribunal - in April, where Taaffe will seek to have the notice withdrawn. If he fails, padel may come to an end in Enfield.

A few miles south in Hampstead Garden Suburb, in north London, is Northway lawn tennis club. It nestles in the corner of a charming sliver of parkland with a creek running through the middle. It features four rather worn courts and an old-fashioned wooden pavilion, where last week a group of women in their seventies had just completed a game of doubles.

“We’ve been playing here *for ever*,” said one them, who did not want to give her name. They were upset that the club was seeking council permission to turn itself into a padel club. “We don’t want padel here,” said another. “It’s too noisy. And the panels will block the view of the willows.”



📍 Nick and Janet Christou say they cannot live with the noise from the Hazelwood sports club.  
Photograph: Sophia Evans/The Observer

Nevertheless, everyone agreed that the club has seen better days. They recalled the halcyon era when it was run by Angela Buxton, the 1956 Wimbledon ladies doubles champion. Membership has declined over the years, and now there are five pristine tennis courts on the other side of the creek built by the local council.

Vince Ranson, who runs Northway, admits that he can’t compete with these gleaming courts. He sees padel as a lifeline. “It would be good for the community,” he says. A young couple who rent a house bordering the club suggest that anyone who wants to play could make the short drive to the

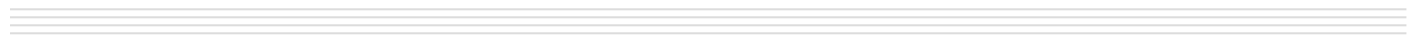
padel court at Brent Cross. the huge urban no-man's where the M1 and the North Circular meet.

A few doors along Steve Leapman is of the same mind. "I've heard padel. It's a loud, loud noise," he says. "I think it will affect the wildlife."

As the game continues to grow, many tennis clubs will be tempted to turn underused courts into glass cages. For some it could even be a matter of survival. Either the new sport is going to become part of the contemporary soundscape - fitting in somewhere between leaf blowers and police helicopters - or it will have to seek refuge in more acoustically suitable settings like, say, firing ranges.

But if the gathering armies of protesters have their way, Northway won't be the only club that finds itself up a creek without padel.

This is the archive of The Observer up until 21/04/2025. The Observer is now owned and operated by Tortoise Media.



Including results for [is \*\*padel\*\* tennis noisy](#)

Search only for [is paddle tennis noisy](#)

## 🌟 AI Overview



Yes, paddle tennis (padel) is considered noisy, with noise levels potentially reaching 70-90 dB, comparable to a lawnmower or passing motorcycle. The sound comes from the ball hitting the glass walls and grilles, the racket, and player shouts, and can be a significant issue for nearby residents, especially on indoor courts or without proper soundproofing.

## Sources of Noise

- **Ball/Racket Impact:** The primary sound comes from the ball hitting the racket, the glass walls, and the metal grilles of the enclosed court.
- **Ball Bounce:** The ball's bounce off the glass walls also contributes to the noise.
- **Low-Frequency Sound:** Padel generates lower-frequency sounds that travel further and are more irritating than traditional tennis sounds.

## Comparison to Other Sports

- **Louder than Tennis:** Padel is generally considered significantly louder than tennis, by as much as 20 decibels.

## Factors Affecting Noise Levels

- **Enclosed Courts:** The enclosed nature of a padel court, with glass and mesh walls, creates a semi-reverberant environment that traps and amplifies sound, increasing noise levels escaping the court.
- **Proximity to Neighbors:** The orientation and proximity of the courts to residential areas is a critical factor.
- **Indoor vs. Outdoor:** Indoor courts can trap noise, requiring specific acoustic solutions, while outdoor courts need to be carefully located and potentially feature sound barriers to prevent disturbance to neighbors.

## Mitigation and Solutions

- **Soundproofing:** Walls can be soundproofed to prevent noise from escaping.



- **Sound Barriers:** Acoustic screens can be installed around the courts to absorb and block sound waves. 🗣️
- **Site Design:** Orienting courts away from sensitive areas and considering the court's position relative to neighbours can help. 🗣️

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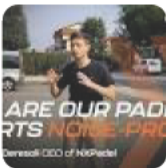
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## Discussions and forums

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### Has anyone measured the decibels of the Padel racket hitting



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## Noise Emission in Padel: Regulations and Effective Solutions

**Padel Sports can reach noise levels of 68 – 70 dB** during busy times (for example, a facility with 7 indoor Padel Courts and 1 outdoor Court).



Reddit · r/padel

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## My club has to shut down padel courts because of neighbors

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**Noise of outdoor Padel vs Pickleball - Reddit** 3 posts 27 July 2024

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20 Mar 2025 — The 52-year-old says the "wretched" **noise** created by **padel** can be as **loud** as "gunshots", but the club insists the proposals are an exciting ...



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## Why Padel Tennis is a Movement | Mark Tomlinson posted ...

Yes, **padel makes some noise**—but so does tennis, often even more. And let's not forget, tennis matches can last hours. Padel, on the other hand, ...



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