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Focus on...United Kingdom If padel is a 'Big Boom'

Picking and choosing which European nations will have the highest growth rate in padel in the coming years, the **UK** is surely in this group. Growth has already been remarkable in recent years: according to data from the **FIP Research & Data Analysis Department**, at the beginning of 2020 there were just over **60** courts, rising to **130** in 2021, over **250** in 2022 and over **400** in 2023 (an increase of over 600% in three years). There are currently estimated to be more than 170 clubs (the majority of which are affiliated with the **Lawn Tennis Association**, the federation that governs padel in the UK), 470 courts and around 120,000 amateur padel players. Although padel is booming in recent years, the sport already has a history in the UK. In 1992, the first federation called 'The Padel Federation Great Britain' was created as a non-profit organisation dedicated to the development and promotion of padel. In 2013, it became the **British Padel Association**, before merging with the Lawn Tennis Association in 2019.

At the level of national competitions, UK has also achieved good results such as a double third place (men's and women's) in the 2019 **FIP European Padel Championships** in **Rome** and the bronze medal in Boys' competition in the 2015 **FIP Juniors World Padel Championships** in Mexico City. The British federation's membership is around 15,000 and 97 British players are currently listed in the FIP world rankings (37 women and 60 men).

The **FIP Rise Rocks Lane** scheduled for the weekend will be the fifth tournament in both women's and men's **CUPRA FIP Tour history** (all **FIP Rise** category) to be played in England and always in London. Tournament winners on this circuit include three British players: **Tia Louisa Norton** (No. 137 in the world ranking, born in 2003), who won the **FIP Rise London** in 2022 and the one in **Al Alamein** (Egypt) in 2023, **Aimee Gibson** (No. 180 in the FIP ranking) who just triumphed in early March 2024 in the **FIP Promotion Cairo** and is the entry list in **Rocks Lane**, and **Christian Medina Murphy** (currently No. 132 in the FIP ranking and the best British player), who won the **FIP Promotion Elche** in 2023.

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