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## FIP European Padel Championships, Phillips and Tordoff: "In Great Britain, courts are popping up everywhere and top coaches are arriving..."

The kingdom of football is now also one of the most dynamic for the growth of padel, with a 600% increase in courts from 2020 to 2023, according to data from the **FIP Research & Data Analysis Department**. **Great Britain** is emerging among the new entrants in the discipline, and on the courts at FIP European Padel Championships, it is showing that the future will be full of satisfaction. *"It's growing massively and it's still a relatively young sport"*, explains **Lisa Phillips**, who was part of a fiercely contested "tie" lost against the Netherlands on Tuesday. *"From a professional and competition standpoint, it needs a few more years of experience. In the meantime, indoor courts are popping up everywhere, and many top-level coaches are moving there to teach the sport. There's still so much we can do"*. Lisa knows what she's talking about since her passion for padel was born in Spain. *"I was living there to learn Spanish, then I started attending a gym where they also had padel courts, and I fell in love. When I returned home, I continued playing."*

**Abigail Tordoff's** story, one of the group's veterans, began during the lockdown in 2020. *"There wasn't much to do, but by playing, I realized that I missed competitions"*, explains Abigail, a former professional tennis player. *"I realized that I really liked padel and that I wanted to play it more seriously"*. Both Abigail and Lisa have the same role models: *"Bea González, then Alejandra Salazar"*. As for the European Championships, they both bet on **Spain**, both in the men's and women's categories, but with different podiums: *"For the women, we say France and Portugal, for the men, Italy, and then we want Great Britain"*.

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