

behindtheglass

PSL Cup 2022



University of
Nottingham Sport

PSL
PREMIER SQUASH LEAGUE



University of Nottingham
vs Loughborough
9 May 2022
David Ross Sports Village

Welcome

Welcome to David Ross Sports Village for the return of Premier Squash League action at the University of Nottingham

The University is delighted to once again be working in partnership with Nottingham Squash Rackets club to host Premier Squash League in Nottingham. The University has a rich and proud heritage in squash with players such as Gawain Briars, Emma Beddoes and Peter Marshall graduating from the University.

The 2016 investment in the David Ross Sports Village has helped the development of our squash programme

following the creation of one of only a handful of permanent all glass courts in the UK.

The University helps to provide a significant opportunity for young people to secure a world class education, alongside one of the most comprehensive higher education performance squash programmes in the country. We hope our continued involvement with the PSL will further embed our status as one of the leading Univer-



Dan Tilley
Director of Sport
University of Nottingham

sities for squash in the UK.

We are delighted to welcome our friends from Loughborough this evening and hope that they enjoy the experience of playing here at David Ross Sports Village.

I hope you all enjoy the action with us this evening.

Standings

Premier Squash League 2021/22

The Premier Squash League has initially returned in a revised format for the 2021/22 season after the break over the last 18 months. Upon returning in late March 2022, the competition will see an abbreviated cup format with five rounds of fixtures comprising the league format. Following the completion of the league fixtures, there is a proposed final that will then see this years PSL Cup champions crowned.

Previously, the Premier Squash League format saw the competition split into two divisions, based on Northern and Southern geography, with the top two teams from each division then moved onto the semi final and final. Following this PSL Cup, England Squash hopes to return to the previous format. The University of Nottingham has a good pedigree in this competition and won the PSL title in 2016/17.

PSL Cup 2022	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Alba Storm	3	2	1	0	27	12	31
Crawley	2	1	1	0	19	9	23
Pontefract	2	1	0	1	19	10	21
University of Nottingham	2	1	0	1	14	16	16
Loughborough	3	0	0	3	3	36	1

Premier League Squash returned to Nottingham in the previous round of the PSL Cup as our University of Nottingham side took to the court at Nottingham Squash Rackets Club against Alba Storm. Having won their initial fixture in the tournament against Pontefract 3-1, the University of Nottingham side went into the match with confidence but it would be Alba Storm who would take the victory on the night. Despite a victory from Tinne Gilis, close games in the evening's three other matches went the way of the Scottish side.

This victory has seen Storm lead the current PSL standings and they will be watching on with interest at tonight's fixtures as they are the team not to play this week.

Tonight's opposition Loughborough are a new entrant to the PSL this year and have found things tough, losing all three of their matches so far. This evening's other PSL fixture sees a huge battle in the race for second place with Crawley travelling to Pontefract with only two points separating the two teams before play gets underway.

Tonight's fixtures

ROUND 5

 **University of Nottingham vs Loughborough**
9 May, 7pm

 **Pontefract vs Crawley**
9 May, 7pm



 **NEXT UP - ROUND 6**
University of Nottingham vs Crawley
24 May, Away to Crawley

Interview

with Gina Kennedy

It has been a quite remarkable year for Gina Kennedy. The University of Nottingham sport scholar has rapidly risen up the world rankings, moving from number 185 to 9th in the world within just 12 months.

The last year has seen an unprecedented amount of success for Gina Kennedy who has been studying MSc Health Psychology at the University, whilst making her meteoric climb up the world rankings.

Now recognised as one of the brightest talents on the PSA World Tour, Gina's upward progress began with her returning to the tour in June 2021. She would win seven of her first nine tournaments on her return, including three Challenger 10 level tournaments, which saw her move into the top 50 for the first time.

This was followed up with an appearance in a PSA World Tour Final at the DAC Pro Squash Classic in October 2021, and a month later Gina won the 2021 London Open for her eighth tournament win of the year.

Continuing to defy expectations, Gina reached the semi-finals of the CIB Open Black Ball to move into the world top 20, before winning the Cleveland Classic to begin her 2022. Since then, the London born phenom has continued her fine form and is now ranked in the top 10 in the world.

During this period of success, Gina has also represented the University, most notably as part of the University of Nottingham's championship winning women's squad at the prestigious BUCS Big Wednesday.

The University of Nottingham Women's Squash team faced Birmingham in the final of the team championships in March, and Gina played a pivotal role on the all-glass at David Ross, helping turn the tide as the University came from behind to be crowned national champions. A comfortable 3-0 win began the side's resurgence which culminated in a 3-2 match win, sealed by a fifth set win in the final match by one of tonight's University of Nottingham players Madina Zafar.

Gina is unfortunately unable to take to the all-glass at David Ross again tonight due to her commitment's on the PSA Tour, currently travelling to Egypt in preparation for the PSA World Championships. We wish Gina the best of luck at this prestigious tournament. Before the tournament we spoke to Gina about her fantastic journey so far, and her future ambitions.



"I am really proud of the way I have been playing this year. The support from the University of Nottingham has been integral in helping me get to the level I am at today."

How have you achieved your recent success?

Firstly, I am really proud of the way that I have been playing this year and I am thrilled to be ranked top 10 in the world. I have an amazing network around me with my coach Ben Ford that helps me to achieve. The support from the University of Nottingham has been integral in helping me get to the level I am today. I have been able to have access to world class facilities and training partners, as well as being supported with finances and coaching.

What are your key aims in the future?

Over the next 6 to 12 months I want to continue to climb the world rankings and I would love to win more PSA events. Specifically I want to be in the world's top five players over the next year, and I would love to win another bronze level event or higher. Now that I have been confirmed for the Commonwealth Games, I'm also aiming to come home with a medal this summer! Aside from my squash I really want to complete my masters and achieve a high grade.

Have you enjoyed being a part of the PSL?

I have loved being a part of the University of Nottingham PSL squad! Firstly, I am proud to have been selected to play alongside the calibre of players we have, especially with our women's talent. I can't wait to get behind my team mates and hopefully help us bring home the PSL Cup title. I really believe that we have a good chance of going all the way this year and I would love to be a part of the team that wins this PSL event for the first time!

What are your expectations for tonight?

PSL matches always attract such a big crowd who create a fantastic atmosphere, and I believe this is especially true when played here at the University of Nottingham. I expect there will be a few students in support as we take on a rival university! The University of Nottingham always go above and beyond to make sure our players are looked after, and to make sure the crowd get behind their team!

THE VISITORS

Loughborough

Tonight's opponents are making the short trip north up the M1 to face the University of Nottingham here at David Ross, and are looking to improve upon their opening displays in the competition.

Loughborough are a new entrant to the PSL competition in 2022 and have played three matches so far. It has been a baptism of fire for the club as they have ended up on the losing side in all three.

In their debut match in the competition, Loughborough hosted Pontefract on the 22nd March before travelling to Alba Storm two days later. Both of these matches saw Loughborough succumb to a 4-0 defeat, and it was a similar feeling for the team as they were beaten by Crawley in their third match by the same scoreline.

Amongst the players in the Loughborough ranks is a familiar face to us here at the University of Nottingham in Millie Tomlinson (pictured). Millie has previously represented the University of Nottingham in this very competition and was part of our 2016/17 team that captured the PSL title that year. A PSA Tour veteran, we are looking forward to welcoming Millie back to Nottingham for tonight's match.

Alongside Millie in the visitor's ranks is Simon Herbert. Simon is currently ranked 110 in the world and played in Loughborough's loss to Alba Storm, taking on Alan Clyne in a losing effort. However, Simon has tasted individual success

this year having won a PSA Challenger Tour 5 Event in February, with three epic five set matches en-route to victory.

Tonight's second male player in the Loughborough line-up is Mohamed El Shamy. Mohamed has tasted plenty of PSL action this year in Loughborough's fixtures against Alba Storm and Pontefract. El Shamy is an Egyptian player who has a world ranking high in his career of 242.

Making up the quartet of players for Loughborough this evening will be Maia Pannell. Pannell has been an ever present for this Loughborough team during the PSL Cup and will be looking to claim a first win in the competition tonight. A relative newcomer to the PSA Tour having only joined in 2021, Pannell will be looking to build her experience with tonight's fixture and over the coming months will be looking to improve on her current world ranking of 331.



LOUGHBOROUGH
SPORT





Meet our PSL Squad

The University of Nottingham squad features some of the world's top squash players including former world number 1, Nick Matthew and University of Nottingham student's Gina Kennedy, world number 9, and Madina Zafar.

The return of the professional squash tour over the last 18 months has seen many achievements for many of the University of Nottingham squad, including Tinne Gilis winning her last two PSA Challenger Tour events.

Here's a quick overview of some of the players who make up the University of Nottingham Premier Squash League team.

GEORGINA KENNEDY

Current world number 9 and University of Nottingham student Georgina Kennedy has taken the squash world by storm over the last 12 months. A key part of the recent England Squash Euro Teams 2022 winning team, Gina will be heading to the Commonwealth Games this summer in full confidence that she can contend for medals. Her performances this year have earned Gina the Neil Desai Women's Sporting Excellence Award at the University of Nottingham's end of year awards, and we look forward to continuing to follow the upward trajectory of Gina's squash career.

ADAM AUCKLAND

Having a career high world ranking of 105 and winning team gold at the World University Championships in 2018, Adam has been an integral component of University of Nottingham squash having completed a degree in Physiotherapy and then becoming a physio at our Sports Injury Clinic.

TINNE GILIS

Recently named PSA Challenger Tour player of the month for her fantastic displays in April where she won both of her tour events, Tinne Gilis has been a permanent fixture in the world's top 25 over recent years. Turning professional in 2014 at the age of 17, Tinne had her breakthrough year in 2017, winning her first two titles on the PSA tour.

NICK MATTHEW OBE

Otherwise known as 'The Wolf', Nick Matthew OBE first drew the squash world's attention when, in 2006, when he became the first English player to win the British Open men's title since 1939. From then on his career rocketed, seeing him reach World No.1 in June 2010 and winning both the British Open and the World Open three times. The British No. 1 has enjoyed an illustrious career which was crowned by an honour from Her Majesty the Queen of England who awarded Matthew an OBE in her birthday honours list in 2015.

DECLAN JAMES

Declan, who is originally from Nottingham, rapidly climbed his way up the world rankings to reach the top 20 in 2018. A year later, Declan was a key part of the England side that won the WSF Men's World Team Championships. James is currently ranked inside the top 50 in the world and is a consistent performer in the PSL for his hometown University of Nottingham.

COLINE AUMARD

Coline is one of the best French players on the world PSA Tour, making her name with a huge year in 2014, lifting three tour titles. Coline went on to break into the top 30 in 2016 and has maintained her position as one of the world's top players. Coline is a University of Nottingham alumn, and since completing her degree has been a key part of the squash coaching set-up at the university.

MADINA ZAFAR

Madina is no stranger to huge moments on the all-glass having played the winning match and point in the university's BUCS Big Wednesday contest. Currently studying an MSc in International Business, Madina has made her mark in Nottingham.

OWAIN TAYLOR

Owain is a University of Nottingham graduate and is currently ranked 163rd in the world. After completing his degree in Sustainable Building Technology, Owain is now an assistant coach with the university squash programme.

CURRENT PSA RANKINGS

- #N/A Nick Matthew
- #44 Declan James
- #163 Owain Taylor

- #9 Georgina Kennedy
- #13 Tinne Gilis
- #39 Coline Aumard
- #63 Lucy Beecroft

HIGHLIGHTS FROM TODAY'S PSL GAMES AT DAVID ROSS SPORTS VILLAGE

You can catch all the action live tonight on our YouTube page as well as view all the action from our previous PSL match.

[University of Nottingham YouTube Channel](#)

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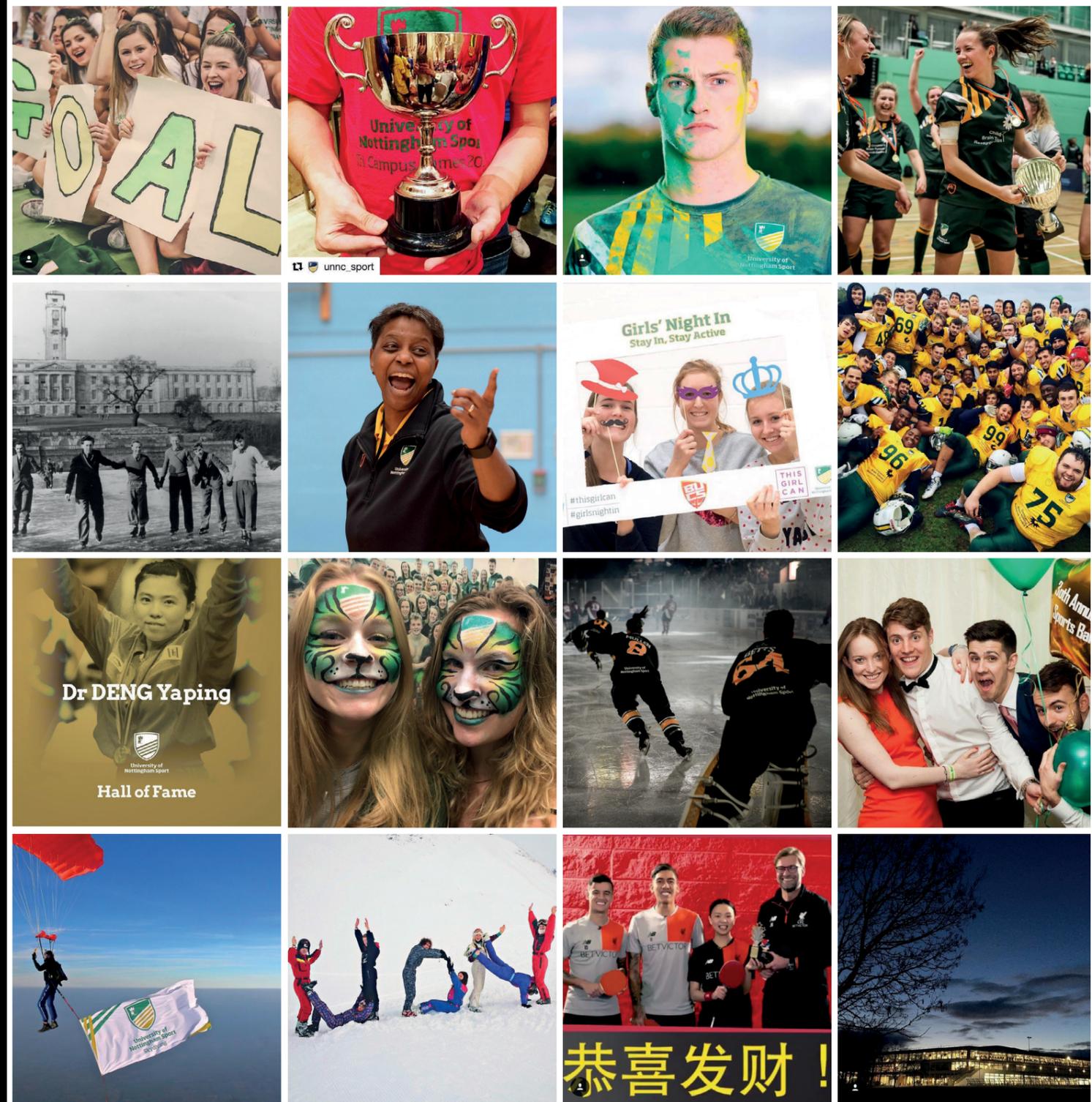
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Tonight's Teams

University of Nottingham

Owain **Taylor**

Tinne **Gilis**

Adam **Auckland**

Madina **Zafar**

Loughborough

Simon **Herbert**

Millie **Tomlinson**

Mohamed **El Shamy**

Maia **Pannell**

David Ross Sports Village

Beeston Lane, Nottingham NG7 2RD

If you are interested in supporting our University of Nottingham Premier Squash League team then please call 0115 748 7000 or email christine.bailey@nottingham.ac.uk

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Sponsors

We would like to thank our sponsors for their fantastic support during our participation in the PSL Cup.



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