

Padel and skateboarding facilities set to transform Derby's former Eagle Market space



Derbion is significantly expanding its leisure offering as community sports operators Social Sports Society and Flo Skatepark are set to arrive at the centre this autumn.

Founded in London to unite communities through sport, Social Sports Society will open one of the UK's largest indoor padel centres at Derby this autumn, marking its third location outside London following successful venues in Birmingham and Manchester.

Padel is now one of the UK's most rapidly expanding sports, known for its simple rules, fast-paced play and inclusive appeal. Played in doubles on an enclosed court about a third the size of a tennis court, the sport is as social as it is active.

At Derby, the new 54,773 sq ft venue will bring padel right into the city centre, with Sports Social Society committed to offering free or low-cost sessions for schools and local groups to help grow the game at a grassroots level.

Flo Skatepark will join Social Sports Society, taking on a 20,828 sq ft space to create a world-class skateboarding hub for the East Midlands.

Supported by Sport England and accredited by Skateboard GB, Flo Skatepark will offer lessons for all ages and abilities, host regular events and lead creative programmes designed to get people active and involved. The space will also serve as a venue for exhibitions, community gatherings and collaborations with brands such as Vans.

Both these exciting openings will coincide with the completion of Derby's Eastern Gateway development, which will transform this area of the city as well as create a new feature façade and urban garden for Derby.

Beth McDonald, Managing Director at Derby, said: "The arrival of Social Sports Society and Flo Skatepark will perfectly align with the completion of our new Eastern Gateway, as we create a destination where more people want to spend their free time.

"The amazing new padel courts and skatepark, together with the upcoming new urban garden and the nearby Derby Theatre, will further boost footfall and dwell time as we continue transforming this area of Derby.

"Social Sports Society and Flo Skatepark will allow locals of all ages and abilities to enjoy these fantastic sports and try something new. The arrivals will also significantly expand our leisure offering, ensuring Derby remains the go-to day out destination for people across the region."

PRESS RELEASE

Tuesday 29 July, 2025

Tom Rooney, CEO of Social Sports Society, commented: “This new venue at Derbion will allow us to continue our efforts to help unlock new community spaces across UK urban areas.

“We are proud of our reputation as ‘the good padel people’, so to ensure we live up to this, we will be giving away over 250,000 free or discounted hours to schools and community groups over the next five years. Through this, we can bring padel to a new audience and help to grow the game across the East Midlands.”

Mark Deans, Chair of Flo Skatepark, added: “We can’t wait to open this fantastic new skateboarding hub for the East Midlands at Derbion.

“This new space will allow us to bring a high-quality skateboarding experience to both new and established skaters across the East Midlands. Skateboarding is synonymous with urban environments, and we look forward to using this space to unite sport, culture, and retail as we bring the community closer together.”

Social Sports Society and Flo Skatepark will open at Derbion this autumn. For further information, visit www.derbion.com.

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Press Enquiries

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Notes to Editors

About Derbion:

Derbion is the East Midlands’ premier retail and leisure destination, offering a full family-day out within a contemporary and safe environment.

The centre has an attractive lineup of famous brands with over 200 household names, including Next, Zara, Mango, H&M, M&S, Pandora, Hugo Boss, Tommy Hilfiger and JD, with new additions in the last 12 months including Victoria’s Secret, Sea Salt and Castore. We’re proud to also be home to a 127,000 sq. ft department store for Frasers, Sports Direct, USC and GAME..

With Showcase Cinema de Lux, Paradise Island Adventure Golf, Hollywood Bowl and the 640 seat Derby Theatre, Derbion has an extensive leisure offer for visitors to enjoy. The venue’s Food Terrace offers a wide variety of grab and go options for visitors to choose from, with seven further standalone restaurants and many more cafes and eateries throughout the centre.

The scheme is supported by an integrated, secure car park facility, offering 2,700 spaces in the heart of Derby city centre.

Find out more at <http://www.derbion.com>.