

MEDIA INFORMATION

For Immediate Release

5th November 2014

FORMER BRITISH NUMBER ONE JOINS LOCAL CHILDREN TO LAUNCH “REBOlution” AT HACKNEY COMMUNITY CENTRE

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NGISZbKnZkY>

Images: <http://we.tl/WUnGO4ssmn>

On Tuesday 4th November, days before the start of the tennis season’s finals at The O2, former British number one and Andy Murray’s former coach, Mark Petchey, was joined by local children at an east London community centre to launch a tennis “REBOlution” and mark the start of REBOwall’s national campaign to make tennis more accessible for inner-city children.

REBOwall, which offers high quality, free-standing and adjustable rebound practice walls, was founded in 2013 by tennis coach Adrian Hutchins with the aim of taking tennis into non-traditional territories and changing the way children and adults learn to play the sport. As part of this campaign, REBOwall has installed a rebound wall at the Young Hackney Concorde Centre to provide tennis facilities to children who traditionally would only play football after school.



Mark and Adrian were joined on Tuesday afternoon by 8 children, aged 8-10 years old, from the local area to launch REBOwall’s national campaign to take tennis into non-traditional areas.

During the event Mark Petchey said,



"Most schools, councils and communities are struggling for space. A tennis court takes up an enormous amount of space where you can really only have four people playing at one time. With a REBOWall you can have a bigger group of kids playing together, having a good time. I do feel it's massively important to make tennis more accessible and it is great to see so many kids have the opportunity to play tennis, some for the very first time."

Adrian Hutchins, Founder of REBOWall, highlighted how REBOWall can help tennis to engage with new audiences,

"REBOWalls can be quickly and easily installed in any location and when compared to building full-sized tennis courts are a cost-effective option for community centres, schools and clubs. When people in the UK think of tennis they think of members-only clubs, high costs and a traditionally exclusive sport. REBOWall aims to change that and make tennis more accessible to people from all backgrounds. This is the start of a tennis revolution - a REBOlution - to get more kids playing tennis from non-traditional environments!"

The installation of a REBOWall at the Concorde Centre was the first opportunity that children in the local area were able to play tennis regularly, many for the very first time. The Concorde Centre, which is part of Hackney Council's £5 million investment to improve facilities for young people in the local area, offers sports and healthy living facilities and allows children to take part in sports such as tennis, basketball, trampoline and badminton 5 days a week.

-ENDS-

PR & MEDIA ENQUIRIES

For further information and high res images please contact Christopher Etchells at Henman Communications on +44 (0) 7795 255443 | chris@henmancom.com

Video News Release: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NGISZbKnZkY>

Images: <http://we.tl/WUnGO4ssmn>

Images courtesy of Matt Alexander.

Images available to download for 7 days from 5th November 2014. If images are required after this date please contact Christopher Etchells.

NOTES TO EDITORS

About REBOWall

REBOWall was founded in 2013 by tennis coach Adrian Hutchins and offers high quality, free-standing and adjustable angle-faced rebound practice walls. Manufactured in the UK, REBOWalls can be delivered and installed in a matter of hours and offer an innovative and more intimate way of coaching as well as being ideal an ideal, cost effective solution for communities that do not have access to, or space for, full size tennis courts. A REBOWall can be installed anywhere such as school playgrounds and community centres and even under a flyover or within railway arches.

A number of tennis greats grew up regularly practicing against a wall - whether it was simply their own garage wall or an actual purpose built practice wall at a tennis club. Using a rebound wall has been widely acknowledged as a key way to hone a player's skills by the likes of [Roger](#)



[Federer](#) (seen [here](#) returning to his old practice wall in Basel), Novak Djokovic, Bjorn Borg, Andre Agassi, Andy Roddick, Nick Bollettieri, John McEnroe, Serena and Venus Williams, [Caroline Wozniacki](#) and Martina Navratilova.

The unique angle-faced design of a REBOWall creates a realistic upward ball trajectory compared to traditional rebound walls and act as excellent coaching tools, with coaches able to demonstrate and educate a player whilst standing next to him or her, rather than from the other side of a net. When practicing with a ball machine a tennis player will typically make 500 shots per hour, however when using a REBOWall a player can make up to 2,000 shots per hour, whether that is on his/her own or with a partner.

REBOWall aims to change the way children and adults are coached and hone their skills, whilst also making tennis easily available for those who traditionally do not have access to the necessary facilities.

For more information please visit: www.rebowall.com

About Adrian Hutchins

As an adult Adrian fell in love with tennis, becoming a USPTR qualified coach and teaching students part-time. Like any good invention, REBOWall was borne out of necessity. He wanted a practice wall at his club and realised there wasn't a prefabricated, free-standing, easy to install, adjustable angled-faced wall - so he decided to invent one. Research started simply. Adrian looked online and saw just how many sporting legends had publicly spoken about how they had regularly practiced against a wall and he realised and imagined the simplicity of the design and functionality for REBOWall. Adrian's aim is for a future Grand Slam champion to have learnt the game practicing against a REBOWall and start a global "REBOLution", by taking tennis into non-traditional environments.

About Mark Petchey

Mark Petchey is a former British No. 1 tennis player, who turned professional in 1988. The right-hander won one doubles title (Nottingham, 1996) in his career, reached a career-high ATP singles ranking of world No. 80 in August 1994 and won three Challenger events. He spent 10 years as a professional player and competed at The Championships, Wimbledon from 1988-1998. His best Grand Slam performance was reaching the Third Round at Wimbledon in 1997 where he lost to Boris Becker. Petchey was also coach to Andy Murray, whom he coached to the top 50 in the world.

About Young Hackney Concorde Centre

The Young Hackney Concorde Centre is a young people's facility which is part of Hackney Council's plans to improve the lives of local young people through the Young Hackney initiative. Hackney Council has invested £5m in five new youth centres, one in each of the Borough's neighbourhoods, linked to a brand new iconic building at Forest Road. Each centre has a full range of activities and support services available and each has a nominated specialism, chosen by young people. The Concorde Centre is the facility for sports and healthy living and young people have the opportunity to take part in sports such as tennis, basketball, trampoline and badminton 5 days a week.

For more information please visit: <http://www.younghackney.org/>