

Nanaimo Pickleball Club President's Report

For the 2025 AGM – Deb Marshall

I would be amiss if I did not mention the most important people of this Club at the start of the meeting. The Nanaimo Pickleball Club is the assemblage of many contributors. Without the combination of these different groups and individuals working in a united front we would not, nor could not, function in such an efficient and productive fashion. Our volunteers' contributions make the club what it is and each individual needs to be acknowledged for their service and commitment that allows our Club to flourish. We personally thank each and every one of you! The Executive and Committees have been very productive and creative throughout the year and again this commitment and use of time by busy people is appreciated and acknowledged. As President, I am continually moved by how much we are indebted as an Executive and Club to the generous and considerable contributions of members and their friends for their time and passion.

It is the Executive that moves the ideas that float into action. Our 2024 achievements flow from the open communication within Committees, and from the feedback we receive from you, our membership. NPC maintains and aspires that for an organization to stay connected, the channels of communication must be flowing and constant between all members of the Club through the sharing and acceptance of ideas and the ability to make adaptations. This, in the end, will ensure success in delivering desired programs to our membership.

We have had a busy year and feel we have offered a very full program with limited resources. Our regular calendar events plus new initiatives have demanded a lot from the Executive and volunteers. All organizations need support to sustain this energy and we look to our members to respond when and where they can. Please continue making suggestions and putting yourselves out there to improve our club. Programs are generated from discussions, ideas, and moments of sharing from you.

One of our key focus areas in the past year has been Club Liaison. This sport would not be in the strong position it is without the volunteers at Club level, and we continue to be grateful for their commitment and passion and their work in increasing membership.

Below are some highlights for the year; more detailed committee reports (attached) will help you gain an understanding of all that we have achieved this year.

2024 Nanaimo Pickleball Club Highlights

Providing and Supporting the Members, Community and Youth

-Paddles for High Schools: The NPC have donated over 80 paddles to five high schools this year. Well done! We are still accepting slightly used/experienced paddles for this project.

-Summer Camps for youth in the months of July/August: By offering these programs for the District in the summer we built a relationship with the School District giving the Club greater access to the rental of school gymnasiums and opening up more useable space for the Club. Thank you to all the volunteers that helped with sessions throughout the year.

-Protective Eye Wear: I would like to thank everyone, from the Executive for endorsing this policy, to the coordinators who were so diligent in sharing and advocating for the policy within

their sessions and for the membership that saw the importance of being proactive within our Club. The standard has been set by Nanaimo and is being looked at very closely by not only other clubs in British Columbia but throughout Canada. Thank-you.

-Ratings Committee : A big thank-you to this group of members for the time they have spent creating the criteria for a “Challenge Up” process. We have hosted a number of these sessions allowing novice members to challenge their levels of play. This task would be impossible without the support of the other members playing against them during this time. Thank you to all for making this happen. Congratulations to those of you that were successful and to those of you that continue to work hard at improving your game.

-AED Training: A CPR/AED Training Session was held Feb. 1/24 at Beban Park with 20 Club members attending. The session leader was Kalvin Beuerlein. Three hours of information, dialogue and practical experience using the dolls and AED machine took place. It was a great session! Please watch for another opportunity this year that will allow more members to get trained on the use of the AED machine as well as a bit of first aid training.

-Instruction: Big shout out to Lee MacDonald , Anna Edgar and Pete Korvin for all the training and lessons they have provided not only for Club members but the pickleball community in general. We thank you for your wisdom, skill and support with the Club and players.

Grants and Funding Proposals

Kim took on the task of pursuing Provincial and Municipal opportunities for funding in 2024. The Provincial application for funding of equipment for school programs was denied as it did not fit the criteria for the specific grant that was being sought. The Municipal funding proposal for an AED for the new outdoor courts was adopted by the City who decided to purchase the equipment directly rather than fund our Club to do so. Harvey was successful in his funding applications that included an application to Pickleball BC resulting in equipment purchases for local school Pickleball programs that our Club supports.

Spending funds on courts, tents, equipment, paddles, nets, etc.

-This includes:

- bleachers that will soon be placed at the new outdoor courts at Beban Park; and
- two new tents that will soon be available for use in outdoor tournament play. Thank you to those in the Club that have offered to sponsor these tents for Club use; and
- a banner for the NPC; thanks again to a local member/sponsor.

-Liaison with the City: Successful discussions with the City of Nanaimo resulted in the expenditure of \$550k for the development of new outdoor courts at Beban Park in 2024. New surface and lines were put in place at the courts in Harewood, and there is a possibility of wind screens at Departure Bay and at Bennett Park. Work is also in place for signage and possible conversion of courts at Pioneer Park (at least one court is likely to be converted in the Spring). Discussion is also occurring regarding outdoor lighting at the new courts in Beban Park.

-Senior 55+ Games in Nanaimo: Huge thank you to Dave Eaton who has volunteered as the Sport Chair for Pickleball in the BC Senior 55+ Games happening in Nanaimo in Sept., 2025. I understand he has already been to a number of meetings. Pickleball events will need over 200 volunteers to run successfully, so please show your support and give Dave a call or drop him an

email. Volunteers come in all different sizes, and any support you can give to Pickleball, or even to the games in general, will help this event be the best ever.

-Hearing Impaired Group: A three-week orientation and skill development session was held for the hearing impaired and friends group in September. Since these sessions, we have had a number of new members join our Club. I am excited to see our membership not only working on their Pickleball skills but also learning how to use sign language.

Events

-Pickleball Training Sessions: Sessions were held with Greg Frady which were hosted at Oliver Woods. Harvey has put on a number of sessions as well including the skills and drill sessions hosted every Friday.

-Fundraiser for Pacific Assistance Dogs (PADS): This was a Fun Day at Oliver Woods; PADS brought support dogs/puppies into OW for educational purposes.

-MLP: A 5-week session was offered to 32 players to compete to the end via round robin play moving straight into a playoff format; watch for more of these.

-Volunteer Appreciation Night: Volunteers were invited to a thank-you session in December which was very well attended. Once again, thank-you to all volunteers for your support.

-Reindeer games: The Holiday season was celebrated by a large group of merry elves at OW this year. Big thank you to all volunteers but a big shout out to Sally for her organizational skills extraordinaire. A fun time was had by all, and your donations to the Food Bank were greatly appreciated.

-Buy 'n Sell: Many thanks to Larry Frieson for starting up the Buy 'n Sell page on our website (which can be found under the "More" tab on the Club's Home Page). If you have anything that you would like to list or have any questions please contact Larry at: nanaimopickleball@gmail.com.

The Future

For future endeavors we hope to get more gym time at Oliver Woods; we are always checking and asking for more time for our membership. We will also continue to pursue other potential spaces for play opportunities; such as Apengrove School, Trinity Church, and possibly taking a better look at the Lacrosse box in Harewood.

Pursuing better court surfaces for pickleball use is also a priority. We understand the courts at Beban will be fixed in the spring, which may leave them unusable for a length of time, so please be prepared.

The City has been looking at the Annex at Beban as a possible facility for Pickleball use. We will continue to offer a variety of programs for the membership in hopes of bringing a few instructors to the City for skill development.

Steve Skinner of Cross Court Pickleball contacted the Club to explore an opportunity to build some indoor, year round, PPA level courts close to Nanaimo. We understand that the location will be announced this January and completed by August. Stay tuned.

There is the possibility of an App for Club messaging. We know we send a lot of emails as they are an effective way to communicate. But after a while, even I don't even look at the emails!! We are hoping that by utilizing an App, we will be able to offer a more efficient way to provide short messages for the day of play allowing people to more effectively access play opportunities. Remember to keep checking the calendar for upcoming sessions; they are forever changing

We have come a long way since the last time we were all together. The membership has grown considerably, and we know more growth will come, with the popularity of Pickleball. We hope we have clarified any questions or queries that you may have had before today and that we have given you a bit of insight as to what your Executive does on a daily basis. As for next year, we will keep plugging away at gym space, listening to your ideas and thoughts, and hopefully make this one of the best clubs in BC, if not in Canada. I have no doubt that the people in this room are the right people to make the effort successful. Thank you, as always, for your continued support and dedication to Pickleball and the Nanaimo Club. Anyone needing more information can reach out to any of the Executive or just email the Club and your questions will be answered in the best way possible. We truly appreciate working for you and cannot wait to see where we go together in 2025.