

NBPC

Minutes of the Nanoose Bay Pickleball Association season's wrap up meeting
October 4 2023 at Nanoose Place 3 pm.

In attendance:

Ken Collingwood, Garry Kaita, Teresa Sandiford, Wade Dawe, Patti Rogers, Linda Rann, Gail Batton, Rhonda Alexander, Brian Alexander, Steve Koehle, Ernie Jerome, Gary Connerton, Sue Connerton, Rhonda Buecking, Kelly Francis, Sandy Stirling, Ellen Freestone, Rita Parisotto, Virginia Hama, Roxanne Broadbent, Scott Perrin

Interim Executive: Ken Collingwood, Garry Kaita, Teresa Sandiford

Ken gave a recap of the club's year, mentioned some hiccups early on; feedback was listened to and changes implemented. The Wrap up Team Tournament was a great success. Thanks to all who made it happen.

Agenda for the meeting was introduced. (During the meeting committees were added and they are included in the list below.

Agenda

- Membership coordinator
- Tournament committee
- Social committee
- Communications Officer
- Maintenance and equipment Committee
- Group coordinators
- Fundraising Committee
- Court usage Committee

- Other

Ken gave a brief rundown of the duties and responsibilities for each of the positions detailed above. Garry and Teresa added information.

During the meeting, as each position was discussed, additional committees, information and duties were added.

Members volunteered for positions and committees. Their names have been added below.

Group coordinators were acknowledged for the important job they do, as their role was considered vital as a liaison to the acting executive. There were frustrations from some club members on the “group level” they were assigned to. The coordinators reported back to the executive and helped with suggestions.

Many thanks again to the Group Coordinators:

Group 1: Gail Batton, Sandy Stirling, Danielle Ligeti

Group 2: Roxanne Broadbent, Doug Johnson, Rita Parisotto, Colin Lucas

Group 3: Patti Rogers, Lyle Evans, Deb Collingwood, Gillian Redpath

Group 4: Ernie Jerome, Sandra Ozero, Brian Alexander

Early in the discussions it was suggested by Roxanne that perhaps the “groups” were not the best way to go, suggestions were for “social” and “competitive” play sign ups. A survey will be worked on by Roxanne and Court Usage Committee and sent out to the membership for input on what they want for court usage, sign up, level play, social play, competitive etc.

We currently have 224 registered members with approximately 30 on the waitlist. Half of those on the waitlist have been invited to join twice and have not responded.

Through the survey we hope to find out why so many members are not playing regularly in Nanoose. (Other commitments/ places to play, not happy with court times, not happy with group assignment, challenge up procedure.)

Patty asked about evening play time on courts. Garry warned that RDN are reluctant to have a community park booked predominantly by the club so they might ask us to give up some morning court time to have evening play. Wait for survey results.

Currently our club is “open” to any age group. Discussions on what our policy will be on children, youth, (accompanied? Waivers)

Membership Coordinating Committee

Volunteers: Virginia Hama. Rhonda Bueking

Mostly dealing with Pickleball Canada web site for club member registration. Some babysitting needed, tracking members, following up on renewals. The Pickleball Canada website can do a lot more according to Garry, reports, etc. to be investigated. Other duties would be answering queries about joining the club, implementing a cap on numbers, if necessary, and following up on people on the wait list. It was thought that some knowledge of spreadsheets would be helpful. Is a cap necessary? Why doesn't everyone who joined play?

Tournament committee

Volunteers: Wade Dawe. Patti Rogers. Roxanne Broadbent. Linda Rann

Throughout the meeting, the feedback on the fun team tournament that was held recently was unanimous in its praise. It was felt that this tournament contributed to a stronger sense of club and community than anything else.

Wade will head the committee and aim to organize three tournaments during next year's season of play. Ken suggested that we perhaps investigate the feasibility of running a conventional tournament, as well as the team format type.

Player development could be a sub-committee. Skills and Drills by Wade and Ernie were extremely popular (generally fully signed up) and will be run again perhaps twice weekly. Would be especially beneficial to any new pickleball players joining the club.

Level 3 players would be interested in classes too.

Group Coordinators

Volunteers: Patti Rogers

Keep the existing coordinators for the time being for continuity. Each group coordinator knows their group the best in terms of ability and participation, many members have expressed their preferences on play to coordinators.

Group Coordinators are the spokespersons for the club, ambassadors whilst on the courts and off. For example, if members of the public ask about joining or playing, they can give correct information. They should assist with mentoring players in their group and deciding when it's safe or not safe to play due to weather conditions, etc. the link between membership and the executive.

Social committee

Volunteers: Ellen Freestone. Gail Brown

A fantastic job was done for the Team Tournament, lunches were individual and hand made and well received. Lots of scope for this fun committee.

Communications committee

Volunteers: Lyle Evans. Teresa Sandiford. Gill Redpath. Kelly Francis

This committee may have to be split as its scope is vast. Currently Ken mostly drafts email communications to members. Teresa and Garry also send out the sign up genius notifications and other information.

Web site development, we have Nanoose Bay Pickleball Club site. Lyle has experience and has offered to head this up.

Facebook page - this might help for “rain” day notifications which have proved very onerous for just one person although a web cam for the court which would show current weather was also suggested. An opportunity to post photos of play etc.

Sign Up Genius. Currently by Teresa. Group coordinators know how to send out to their groups too. Difficulty in using it for targeting only groups playing on a “rain” day cancelation and maintaining the statistics of numbers of active players. Teresa will train Gill and Kelly for back up.

Gail’s husband, Ron, has offered his services as club photographer.

Court Maintenance and Equipment

Volunteers: Gary Connerton. Sue Connerton. Bill Rogers Tim Rann

We will have a lockable storage room in the new facility for nets, balls, serving target circles, ball machine, broom, leaf blower etc.

Wind screens will be paid for by RDN, Bill has collected quotes and submitted them to Manager of Recreation. Bill will help to erect them. They may have to be taken down at the end of the season to prevent wind damage to the screens and the fencing.

Fund Raising

Volunteers: Deb Collingwood. Rhonda Alexander. Ellen Freestone. Clara Sabina

Deb Collingwood has already been busy on this front. She applied for a Building Communities grant with the Coastal Community Credit Union and we have been granted \$2,500. A ball machine will be purchased and will be available to club members for a small fee to cover balls.

Deb has also applied for an RDN grant to cover the cost of a defibrillator, balls etc.

We will be working with the local school to bring pickleball to the students. The school is very enthusiastic about this, it’s good public relations for our club and helps with obtaining grants.

To get enough paddles to run some classes for the kids we will ask people to donate any old paddles they have.

Court Usage

Volunteers: Ernie Jerome. Roxanne Broadbent. Steve Koehle. Sandy Sterling. Rhonda Alexander. Scott Perrin

Each person at the meeting was given the opportunity to say a few words.

Challenge up. This topic came up numerous times during the meeting.

Some of the points raised:

- dissatisfied over the process and opportunities available.
- difficult to be the Challenger and perform well on that day or fail in your attempt.
- difficult to organize, to have enough players in the group above that were willing to give up their morning's play to be part of the challenge. For each Challenger there needs to be 3 of the group above.
- a lot of players signed up for the Challenge Up, and some were perhaps not ready to be in that position.
- Currently players have been asked to keep track of their scores to rank them as ready for challenge up. It was felt important that we followed through with the opportunity for them early in next year 's season.
- make it possible for someone considering challenging up to join with that higher group casually for a week and see for themselves whether they were ready.
- "lower the bar" and make transitions between levels easier but to also consider it should not just be moving up but perhaps some players moving down a level - avoid being sticky!
- perhaps not grandfather in the self-evaluation levels from 2023 to 2024.

- Consider ladder play for natural evaluation - early morning sessions.
- Wade could monitor players in Skills and Drills and recommend up or down movement. Round Robin play with top 2 players being able to Challenge Up at the next opportunity.
- Mentorship with group coordinators, able to suggest players above or below average play.

Overwhelming feeling for the upcoming year is one of hope and all that were present were willing to work towards being proactive rather than just having to react to complaints.

Open play and Skill and Drills were very popular amongst groups 1 & 2. Group 3 had good turnout numbers at least 2 days a week. Some top end Group 4s didn't play at all.

Scott Perrin volunteered as Secretary and with legal issues.

AGM needs to be held in the future, all executive need to be voted in by the membership.

To be ready for next season, all committees need to get together soon and report on progress at the next meeting.

Next meeting will be November 6, 3pm at Nanoose Place with Zoom capabilities for those already on their winter escapes!

Meeting was adjourned 5.15pm