

PICKLEBALL IS FOR EVERYBODY!

THE VANCITY PICKLER

October 2021 Newsletter



PRESIDENT'S GREETING

Greg
Feehan



Curling is a winter sport, beach volleyball a summer sport. Squash is an indoor sport, rugby an outdoor sport. Pickleball has none of these limits. We play in the winter and the summer, indoors and out. October is the month that many pack away their Franklin X balls for the season and drag out their Onix indoor balls. But pickleball never stops, it simply moves from asphalt to hardwood (except on the sunny days when the joy of wind and sun briefly can be briefly experienced). The same crowd, the same community, the same friends. Only the venue moves.

This issue of the newsletter explores this transition. Enjoy, and then make the effort to pass on this newsletter to someone you know who is not yet a member, perhaps not yet a player, only curious.



INDOOR ETIQUETTE

Jacqueline
Clarke



Whether playing indoor or outdoor pickleball there are general etiquette guidelines that should be followed (click [HERE](#)). But moving indoors brings a few changes that necessitate several additions to the general guidelines. Indoor pickleball means a limit to how long we can play for, having to pay to play, booking a time slot based on skill level, and a limit to the number of players that can be accommodated. Any (or all!) of these restrictions/conditions can add stress to what's usually a very fun activity. To reduce this stress, here are some recommended guidelines:

- If you can't use a confirmed booking at your community centre, call and cancel so others

- be confirmed off the waitlist (reduce their stress).
- Consider travelling a bit further: you may find less busy options at community centres outside of your immediate neighbourhood (reduces your stress).
- Be willing to play with others. It's great that you've got your group of 4 but others may have come on their own. This may be especially important in community centre locations that don't use whiteboards or other systems to rotate play.
- Respect others' skill level. If you're the weakest player on the court, don't take advantage of other players' graciousness by staying on the court for an indefinite period. With a limited time slot, they may wish to play a few games at their own level. More than a game or two may wear out your welcome (this week and next week!).
- "Ball in!" – Raise your paddle to indicate who the ball should be returned to. Take a minute to identify which player the ball should be returned to (reduces the time spent chasing a ball).
- Community centres are our hosts. Please treat their staff as you would any other host. They may also be open to (helpful) suggestions on managing their pickleball activities (to reduce your and their stress).

DO YOU HAVE AN ETIQUETTE QUESTION?

Click [HERE](#) to email us.

Questions will be answered in the November newsletter!

Upcoming Events

[2021 Margaritaville USA Pickleball National Championships](#), December 6-14, 2021 Indian Wells CA

2022 Pickleball Canada National Championship (the Nationals), June 20-26 2022, Kingston ON

[2022 Western Canadian Regional Championship](#), July 20-24, 2022, Regina SK



WHERE DO YOU PLAY INDOORS?

*Bill
Dorfmann*



We recently published an at-a-glance view of indoor pickleball schedules at community centres throughout Vancouver. (Click [here](#)).

Community centre Pickleball is fine, but the lack of drop-in opportunities can be a bit frustrating. And frankly there just aren't enough times to play given the number of Pickleball players in the Vancouver area. This is especially true outside of work hours, i.e. on evenings and weekends. So it's no wonder that Pickleball has developed a stigma as mainly for retirees!

Some of my favourite Pickleball has been at an indoor venue that I found and "developed" myself.

And I now realize that grassroots development of a new indoor Pickleball venue can significantly expand our community of players.

I learned to play indoors at the Kitsilano and Kerrisdale community centres in late 2018. But in early 2019 my wife and I were in New Zealand for a couple of months in a town called "Mount Maunganui" (colloquially known as "The Mount").

As an addict, my Pickleball-seeking behaviour had me frantically looking for a place to play, to no avail. I emailed the head of Pickleball New Zealand, and she knew of a couple who were at The Mount for the summer and would also want to play Pickleball. (That solved one problem - having at least two others to play with).

Being in a foreign country with barely a mastery of the language, I needed to find a net and a venue.



Amazingly, the organization responsible for public sports facilities had a gymnasium called "The Mount Sports Centre" just 2 KM from where we were staying that could be rented for \$18/hr. And it had four badminton courts with nets that could be lowered to the proper height for Pickleball. (Second problem solved!). I booked for two hours, sent the money via online banking, and simply had to pick up the key and return it when done.

My wife and the other couple played one day, and we quickly arranged to play a few days later. But this time our new Pickleball friends contacted some of their friends. And I advertised on "meetup.com". The second time we had 8 people, including some tourists who had read about it on meetup.com. From that point forward we never looked back. We would arrange two or three sessions each week and the number of players kept increasing. I ordered some paddles and balls for people to use. And one of the locals took over organizing things once my wife & I returned to Canada.

The next year my wife & I returned to "The Mount", and a regular group of (now hardcore) Pickleball players were playing two or three times a week at The Mount Sports Centre.

Of course, now they had organized things right: tea was available for people to drink while waiting for their next game. There was one woman who played barefoot, which seemed a bit problematic to me. But the next day I saw her hiking, barefoot, up on the mountain (Mount Maunganui), and realized that barefoot is how she does things. (Kiwis go barefoot in places that mere mortals wouldn't consider doing so!)

Now "The Mount Pickleball Club" is thriving. See [HERE](#). It appears that they've expanded their footprint to include other venues in the area - and this year they held their first tournament at a larger venue in nearby Tauranga.

At the end of the day, I'm proud of my Pickleball-seeking behaviour. Not only is there a place to play whenever my wife & I go to New Zealand, but it really feels good to see the game taking off so dramatically due to a small amount of effort on my part.

CONTEST: INDOOR LOCATIONS

We are looking for possible indoor Pickleball venues, e.g., schools, churches, warehouses, etc. If you know of a venue that you think might work, email us (Click [HERE](#)) VPA will make contact, provide nets, etc. All submissions will be entered for a \$50 gift certificate draw from [Rackets and Runners](#).

Pros and Cons: Indoor vs. Outdoor

CoVID forced many of us to play A LOT more outdoor than usual. Maybe it wasn't as bad as we thought it would be?!? We asked VPA members which they prefer and why.



Preference: Outdoor.
Why: The fresh air!
Cheryl, Member for 2 years



Preference: Outdoor.
Why: More space!
Cat, Member for 3 years



Preference: Outdoor.
Why: Designated lines!
Lillian, Member for a few weeks

HAVE YOUR SAY:

Which do you prefer and why? Tell us what you think by posting on our Facebook page. Click [HERE](#).

SPONSOR SHOUT-OUT

Thanks to our (committed sponsors), [Racquets and Runners](#), the 2021 End of Summer Party was a resounding success. We hope to make this an annual event! Click [HERE](#) to see more event photos.



MEMBER NEWS

Congrats to all the VPA members who won medals at this year's Whistler Fall Classic! The tournament was held at the Whistler Racquet Club's indoor facility on 15-17th October. Check out the names [HERE](#) (and then ask to see their medals 😊).



Photo credit: Jacqueline Clarke

LGBTQ DROP-IN EVENT

Unfortunately the event was cancelled due to rain. But several keen folks "saved the day" with an impromptu play at QEP.



Keep an eye out for a new date/time/ location for this event!

CALLOUT FOR INTEL

Share your indoor pickleball expertise with our newer members. Which colour ball works best for indoor? Which community centre has the best indoor courts (fewest lines!)? Email your suggestions to us for publication in the November newsletter (click [HERE](#)).

MAJOR VPA MILESTONE

We welcomed our 500th member on September 17th, 2021. We look forward to seeing you on the court, Karsten S.!

Reminder: New memberships for the remainder of the year expire December 2022 (2 free months!)

BREWER'S PARK: NEW LOCATION WITH NETS

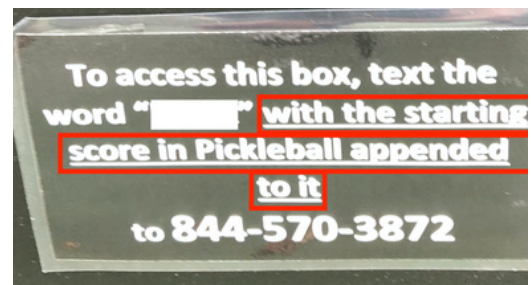
And if you're not ready to give up on outdoor play just yet, a storage box has been installed at Brewers Park on the south-east corner of the courts.

The box contains Pickleball nets for anyone's use. The key for the storage box is in a lockbox attached to the side of the storage box. Instructions are printed on the storage box for access: send a text message to the number provided with the password (also provided) plus Pickleball's starting score.

You'll receive a text with the combination for the key lockbox. (The combination will be changed periodically).

The storage box with nets has been a big hit over at Pandora Park, and we're hoping that the one at Brewers Park also gets lots of use.

Location: [4175 Victoria Dr.](#)



The VanCity Pickler is the Vancouver Pickleball Association's monthly newsletter publication:

Building and keeping our community connected

Have an idea for a future edition? Have a question?

Email: info@vancouverpickleball.ca