

Campbell River Pickleball Association

NOVEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - Matt Mossman

I first want to say how excited I am to be working with the dedicated volunteers on the Board of Directors. Without their efforts and commitment, we as Campbell River Pickleball wouldn't have such a thriving and successful club. Their hard work truly makes all the difference.

As part of our ongoing efforts to improve and better serve our members, we conducted a survey at the end of summer. I'm pleased to report that approximately half of our membership participated, and I'd like to take a moment to thank everyone who took the time to complete it. Your feedback is invaluable, and it's guiding us in making thoughtful decisions to enhance the club experience for all of you.

I wanted to share some of the key areas we are addressing based on your responses:

- New Website for communications to members.
- Scheduled Skills and Drills for all levels.
- Securing additional indoor playtime for the club and alternative programming.
- Securing wind screen for Robron outdoor courts for next spring.
- Options to host CRPA tournament next summer.
- Options for CRPA club merchandise.

We're thrilled to be making progress and I look forward to continuing to grow and improve this amazing community. As always, your input and involvement are essential, so please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions, suggestions, or ideas.

Thank you for being a part of Campbell River Pickleball, and I can't wait to see what we will accomplish together in the coming months!

Warm regards,
Matt Mossman

PLAYER DEVELOPMENT - Vic Dix-Cooper



Beginner Lessons:

At the AGM in May I volunteered to take on the role of Player Development Director for CRPA, and boy has it been busy and fun. In addition to working with our club members, I continue to work with the City, the Regional District and the School District to introduce new players to the sport through offering beginner lessons. Since May CRPA has delivered four sets of ten-hour beginner lessons to new and enthusiastic pickleballers, some of whom have since joined CRPA.

Due to the increasing demand for pickleball coaching, I felt it would be worthwhile to support the development of more coaches who would be able to volunteer their time to help CRPA deliver lessons (which has been a good source of revenue for the club). I worked with Tennis Canada (through which pickleball coaching certification is offered) and the City to host the National Coaching Certification Program (NCCP) in Campbell River. Congratulations to our latest NCCP Level 1 qualified instructors:

- Rob Underhill
- Devon Hilsden
- Matt Mossman
- Chantal Rousseau
- Ed Wheeler
- Betsy Yu

Soon Dedet Fuentes will receive her certification once all of the course requirements have been completed. When this is done Campbell River will have ten NCCP certified coaches to help support the demand for coaching. Vida and I have also been volunteering our time to coach beginners through the City's beginner drop-in sessions. The demand for pickleball just keeps on growing.

Skills & Drills:

We continue to have high demand within CRPA for skills and drill sessions. To meet this appetite, from June through September we held regular Monday evening skills & drills sessions at Robron. Participation was great and the sessions offered a good variety of drills, including the use of the ball machine and other props to help enhance the practice sessions. As we've moved into the winter months and are now indoors, we continue to offer weekly skills & drills sessions at the Community Centre, and are working on increasing the number of sessions we're



able to offer. A big shout out to Vida, Greg, Matt, Rob and Devon for helping to lead these sessions. From June through October we have run 18 skills & drills sessions.



Equipment:

For anyone who is interested in using a ball machine for practice, the club has one that can be signed out by club members. As it is electric you will need to have somewhere with an electrical outlet to use it. Please email the club if you'd like more info on this.

MEMBERSHIP and PLAY COORDINATION - Vida Dix-Cooper

Our club is now 265 members strong with a number of whom have been members since inception in Jan 2022. For the 2024 membership year, the club registered 95 new members, some of whom joined after taking the beginner lessons. Each year we lose some members through attrition, but in subsequent years we have always gained back more than we lost. The club just keeps on growing!

180 of our members have joined our club's Facebook group. This is important to note as the signup for the weekly Skills & Drills is posted to Facebook only (not distributed via email). This means that the 85 members who are not on FB are at a disadvantage of not knowing when registration open for these sessions. We are working on a new CRPA website, and once up and running we expect that all signups will be made available there rather than via email and Facebook.

During the indoor season (Jan - May and Sep - Dec) we typically register 132 players for 11.5 hrs of play each week. For November we managed to secure an additional 8 hours of play time to add to the mix. These sessions are being used to augment the weekly Skills & Drills sessions, which have become very popular. We have also dedicated a 2-hour slot to trial a new offering, full courts booking so members who wish to do so, may pull together their own group of 4-6 players for a session (this is akin to how Strathcona Gardens runs their sessions during the summer months). If this proves to be a popular option, we will try to secure more time slots throughout the winter months for this purpose.

Pickleball seems to be exploding in Campbell River, now more than ever. This has created a frenzy when it comes to registering for sessions. We are doing our best to make this process as smooth as possible,

and we continue to do our best to find extra court availability to satisfy the growing demand. Please take time to register for the correct sessions, and if you run into system “glitches” while registering, please check your email to make sure you’re not already registered before attempting the signup again. With everyone hitting Signup Genius all at the same time, there have been a few hiccups.

When registering for sessions, please:

- consider not registering for a session if you know in advance you’ll miss multiple dates. There are likely many others who had hoped to get in but couldn’t.
- request to be added to the waitlist for sessions if you were not able to get a spot - we’re always looking for subs. For December I’m going to add a secondary “Waitlist” signup.
- email the club if you find you can’t make a session - better we try to find a sub for you than not have enough people show up to fill the session, and do give us enough lead time to find that sub.

Membership:

- If you have not already done so, you can start renewing your membership for 2025 now - it will be valid through Dec 31, 2025. The registration link is under CRPA under Pickleball Canada. You can also access it directly through crpba.ca and click **JOIN-RENEW**.
- If you renewed your membership or joined the club anytime after Sep 1st of this year, your membership is already good through Dec 31st of next year.
- Effective Jan 1st, if your membership has not been renewed for 2025, you will NOT be allowed to participate in club sessions. *Please note that this is due to the liability insurance coverage provided through Pickleball Canada.*
- **If you plan to register for any sessions in the new year, please ensure your membership is valid for 2025 before you register.** I recommend that you to do so before we open registration for January sessions in mid Dec.
- By Feb 28th, if you still have not renewed your membership for 2025, you will be removed from all club accounts (email lists, Facebook group, DUPR, etc.).

Questions may be directed to cr-pickleball@outlook.com

Have fun out there!

Vida

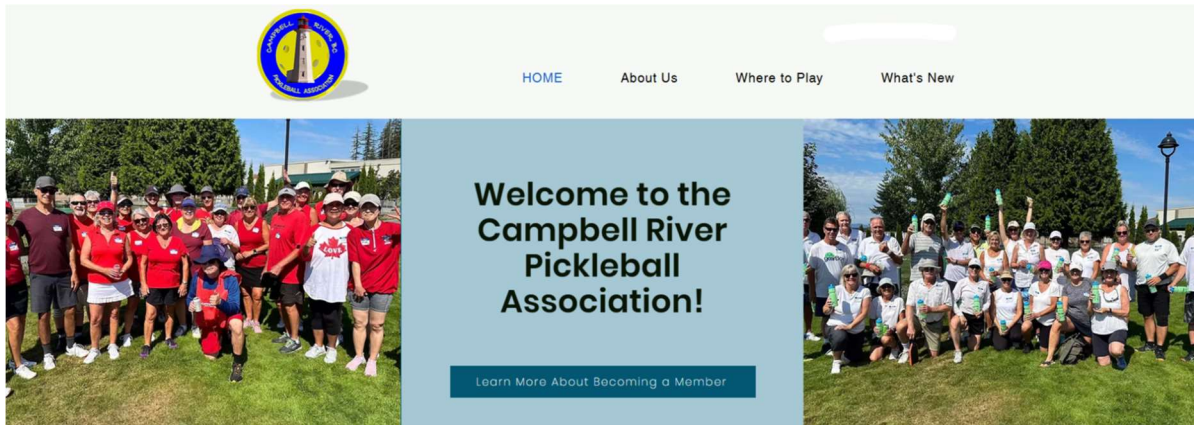
CLUB MERCHANDISE

The survey from this past summer indicated that several members are interested in purchasing club merchandise. Mareta will be looking into some possibilities as to what we could get for next season. Possibilities include t-shirts, hats or visors, sweatshirts, jackets etc. More detail will be sent to you via email in January.



CRPA WEBSITE

Many thanks to Andrea Pellerin who has been busy developing our new CRPA website. Once it is up and running it will be the main location for club news and other information including play locations and schedules, links to Pickleball BC and Pickleball Canada, lesson info, tournament info, Sign up Genius registration, pickleball educational videos and more. Please stay tuned for a note as to when it goes "LIVE".



CHRISTMAS PARTY



Many thanks to Annette for organizing our Christmas party this year. Looks like it will be a fun festive event with lots of activities. It will be held at the Sportsplex on **SATURDAY NOVEMBER 30TH from 12-3:30.**

Note that there is a maximum of 60 participants (members only) permitted for this event.

Registration will be through Sign Up Genius.



This year's party will include:

1. **Potluck** - Please bring an appetizer or dessert - we want to keep hot food hot and cold food cold so please bring items in a Crock Pot with extension cord or on ice/ cooler gel pack under their serving dish. Non alcoholic beverages will be provided.
2. **Trivia contest**
3. Prize for best **Christmas pickleball costume**. For all those that love to dress up this is your time to get "festive creative"!
4. **Gym time** 12-1:30 : Bring your paddle and running shoes for some fun activities. We have the activity room for schmoozing and eating for 3.5 hours (noon til 330)
5. **Door Prizes** - We are forgoing asking businesses to donate swag and instead would like to ask each participant to donate a door prize. The idea is to get to know each other on a different level outside of pickleball and hence are asking that members bring something to reflect the other parts of their lives, specifically their hobbies or interests. The retail value of the item should be less than 25 dollars. Examples: Annette could provide a quilted item, Rick could provide a set of fly fishing flies, Graham could

donate a small bonsai plant, Martha could bring a batch of shortbread cookies, Fred could bring a pack of his hot smoked salmon - you get the picture. If you are unable to think of anything, you could donate a gift card for a business unique to Campbell River such as a local bakery or restaurant so that we can support our local businesses.

Volunteers: It would be appreciated if there could be some volunteers to help with set up and take down. Please email Annette by Nov 21st if you are interested: anderwald.annette@gmail.com

AND LASTLY... A FEW TIPS FOR YOU

15 Pickleball Tips to Help You Rack Up More Wins

- #1. Talk, talk, talk!
- #2. Get up to the kitchen line
- #3. Practice your dink
- #4. Mix up your shots
- #5. Pay attention to the wind
- #6. Hit to your opponent's backhand
- #7. Improve your footwork
- #8. Master the third shot drop
- #9. Use your partner to your advantage
- #10. Get your serves in
- #11. Keep your opponents back
- #12. Know if you're on offense or defense
- #13. Know if you're on offense or defense
- #14. Be prepared at all times
- #15. Don't overthink it!

 PICKLEHEADS™

Wishing you all a wonderful joyous holiday season!



SEE YOU ONE THE COURTS!