



Newsletter – March 2023

Here's the latest update about what's been happening over the past month.

SOCIAL AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

We are planning a fun day at Wain Road Park on Saturday, June 24th. The day will combine an opportunity to play and socialize together with the Annual General Meeting (AGM). The plan is to have open, drop-in play in the morning followed by the AGM. Subsequent to the meeting, we'll have a pot luck picnic. In the afternoon we've planned a tournament (more details on this to follow). The primary purpose is to catch up with old friends, meet some new ones, and enjoy a post-Covid get together.

There are some exciting plans which we'll be sharing at the meeting and we'll be introducing members that have put their names forward as candidates for the executive. If you are interested in volunteering to be on the executive, or in any other capacity, please let us know. For SPPA to continue to be a success and hold the kinds of events everyone likes to participate in we need help from our membership.

PENINSULA COMMUNITY PICKLEBALL CLUB

Many of you may have heard of, or belong to, the Peninsula Community Pickleball Club (PCPC). This relatively new club focuses on providing inclusive playing opportunities on the Peninsula for all skill levels. If you are looking to play with an enthusiastic group check them out on Facebook. You'll see below, that we are looking for opportunities where we can work together.

PLAYING OPPORTUNITIES

Outdoor Venues

- **Wain Road Park:** Now that the weather is improving drop-in play will be starting up again. Typically, this runs from 8:30 (ish) and lasts 2-3 hours most mornings through the spring and summer. Groups often also arrange games in the afternoons and evenings. Please remember to observe the hours posted near the entrance.
- **Centennial Park:** Court 1 (in the tennis area) is available for pickleball play and can book up fast during the spring and summer months. We have been told that it will be divided into two courts sometime this spring. The Lacrosse box courts are also now open with the nets being located in the box at the entrance.

Indoor Venues

- For those who prefer indoor play, check the **Greenglade** website for a variety of morning and evening times. You can book through the website for drop-in on Fridays at 7.30 a.m. As the

weather improves the pressure for indoor courts should be easing up so it won't be as hard to get in. If you haven't used the reservation site before here's a link to a PDF file that details the steps to make a booking: https://www.crd.bc.ca/docs/default-source/panorama-pdf/how-to-reserve-pickleball-online.pdf?sfvrsn=ef0c8dca_0

- The PCPC have rented some school halls and other venues. Check out what's available on Facebook.
- SPPA and Victoria Regional Pickleball Association (VRPA) websites also provide details concerning the full range of venues around Victoria and the Peninsula.

FACILITY INFORMATION

- We recently met with Hannah Nawroth the new person in charge of racket sports at Panorama. She is well aware of the demand for pickleball courts and over the coming months she will be:
 - Examining the opportunities for more play at various schools.
 - Preparing a survey to more accurately determine pickleball needs among the local community.
 - Investigating the logistics associated with allowing the gym at North Saanich Middle School to be available for pickleball play on the weekends.
- **Blue Heron Park Update:** We are planning to meet with the Memorial Society, the Peninsula Soccer Association and North Saanich to confirm details about constructing courts at Blue Heron Park. The proposal we submitted back in the fall will be updated to reflect the results of these discussions. The key issues involve the placement of the courts and integrating their location with an expansion of the existing parking lot.
- **Wain Road Park:** After seeing how well the noise abatement fencing works at Carnarvon Park, we have put forward a suggestion to the District of North Saanich to investigate this as an option to help mitigate the perceived noise issues at the Wain Road Park courts. We have not heard anything official about changes happening at the courts however, we are aware that some of the local residents are continuing to complain about the noise. Please remember to abide by the posted hours:

Day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Open	8:00 am	8:00 am	8:00 am	8:00 am	8:00 am	8:00 am	9:00 am
Close	6:00 pm	8:00 pm	8:00 pm	8:00 pm	6:00 pm	6:00 pm	4:00 pm

- **Anacortes Ferry Terminal:** With the recent announcement that Washington State is delaying restarting its ferry service from Sidney to Anacortes until at least 2030, we have submitted a letter to the Town of Sidney asking that they consider the location of temporary pickleball courts in the parking area. We have been told that there are various groups that have requested the land and that options will be evaluated over the coming months. The PCPC has also submitted a proposal, in the name of both groups, detailing how the land meets the current zoning requirements related to our request.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

If you haven't got to it yet, we wanted to remind you that it's time to renew your membership for the upcoming year. The process is straight forward and you can register by going to Pickleball Canada website.

<https://pickleballcanada.org/participate/individual-membership/join-renew/>

Your questions, concerns and suggestions are always welcome.

The SPPA Executive

Ann Blyth, June Curtis, Rod Ellis, Sid Greenner and Corine Reid