

PEM Pickleball
Group Membership Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 5, 2017

WELCOME

Co-chairs Doug Gibbs and Judy Graves welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Committee Chairs. Judy acknowledged all the committees; the organization runs because of all those people who help do what we do.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance (Anne Reynolds, Chair)

- We currently have \$5,522 in the checking account.
- Recent expenses include lights for old courts, balls, and tournament equipment.
- Doug acknowledged the volunteers who put in the lights at the old courts: Bill Heier and his son Jason, Peter McClean, Dan Dierken, Frank McIntosh, Michael Mollison, Gene Oltmann, Tom Fini, Ken Fiske and Doug Gibbs. In this group we have four electricians and one electrical inspector.
- Doug explained the Pickleball Club funding system: We make approximately \$5,000 from the Grand Canyon Game registrations and \$2,000 from the Snack Shack that is run by the "A Team." We made over \$2,500 from the Arizona Senior Games. Roberts Resorts lets us keep all the money when, in reality, they could use it for other activities or amenities in the resort. We need to thank Roberts Resorts for that, otherwise that wouldn't allow the money to flow through us. The Committee Chairs then determine where the money should be spent based on discussion and consensus. The Committee Chairs are selected by the members of their Committee. Any member of the Pickleball Club can volunteer to serve on a committee and get involved in this process.

Operations (Rich Baumann, Chair)

- Roberts Resorts purchased and assembled two bike racks for the courts.
- Roberts Resorts put in landscape gravel on the west side of the courts and around pavers at restroom.
- Volunteers installed lighting at old courts (see above).
- Working on installing a divider fence at the old courts. When the fence is installed, the old netting will be removed.
- Peggy Bradley suggested recycle containers for plastic bottles and cans. Cost is \$90 each. She suggested doing 3 of each. Discussion ensued regarding other options, like garbage can with hole in top. Peggy said the park would be responsible for emptying cans and the kids in the park like to collect the cans. It was suggested we start with four (two of each). Issue to be discussed further by Committee Chairs.
- We are now using a variety of pickleballs – Durofast (yellow plastic), Pure 2 (yellow rubber) and P7 (green). Please put the Pure 2 balls on the bottom of the ball holder so they are easy to get to. All balls are approved by USAPA. Different tournaments use different balls. Tournament Directors determine what ball will be used for their tournament. We can also test out balls and see what our players like to use and durability.
- Court water removal – No one should be playing on any courts while water is being removed and courts dried. We need everyone to help get ALL the courts clean for ALL players. Some courts retain water more than others. We have some options: 1) Everyone helps out, or 2) lock courts until all courts are dry. Court cleaning and drying falls on Rich and three or four other people. We need more people to help out. If it rains the night before, court drying starts at 8:00 AM.

Organized Play (Judy Graves, Chair)

- New 3.0 and 3.5+ mixed doubles social round robins – Saturdays at 11:00 AM. If you are a 3.0 and your partner is a 2.5, you play at 3.0. We will tweak along the way. Last week 18 signed up. There is no limit on sign-ups. Sign-up in advance at the bulletin board. Players will play eight 12-minute games. If you do not have a partner just put your name in the appropriate line and someone else can fill out the other side.
- The round robins are exploding.
- If you are in the 2.0 round robin and get 90% or above for 18 games or more, you will automatically be moved up to 2.5. (Note: for this skill level only.)
- There is a lot of paperwork with the round robins. We are testing Whoozin (email invite system) for some of the women's round robins.
- Audience member asked about the round robin scoring and why you have to reach a score of seven for the game to count, and that sometimes it's hard to get to that score. Judy clarified that games should be 15, not 12 minutes. If either team does not reach seven the game doesn't count, so it doesn't hurt you. Scoring method is to prevent skewing of results. If either team's score is seven or over, you would add the number of points for the winning team to reach to eleven and the same number of points to the opponent's score (i.e. final score is 9-7, add 2 points to each score so it would be 11-9).

Training (Becky Gibbs, Co-Chair)

- Robin Bromley is lead for beginner lessons. Classes are full, often with a wait list.
- Charleen Hutton is lead for 1.5-2.0 skills. Classes are always full, with a wait list. Trainers review and update player's skill ratings weekly, up to 2.5. This is the quickest way to be evaluated for move-up to 2.5.
- Becky Gibbs is lead for 2.5 skills. Classes are usually full, with wait list.
- Bruce Kimmell is lead for 3.0 skills. This class is for 3.0 and above skill levels. Space is limited.
- Judy Graves is lead for 3.0+ women's tournament mentoring. You must play in outside tournaments to participate. Space is limited.
- Steve Ricke is lead for 3.0+ men's skills. You must be a 3.0 player who plays in outside tournaments, or a 3.5+ player (no tournament requirement).
- No training on Tuesday, January 17, as most of our trainers will be in the Happy Trails tournament. Players are encouraged to attend event to see what tournaments are all about and support PEM players.
- Anne reminded those training to be an in-house referee to make sure they get their 10 games in with their mentor. Not sure if we will be offering another referee class before the end of the year.
- The mentor program is available for players who cannot participate in training and/or want a little extra help. Players can contact a mentor and set up a time that is mutually-agreed upon. Information is on our bulletin board and on the website.

Tournaments (Rich Baumann, Chair)

- The January 25 in-house tournament will start at 8:30 AM. The format is skill men's doubles and women's doubles. You must be a resident in the resort for at least 30 days (or more) within the last year or around the time of the tournament.
- Sign-up will be on www.pickleballtournaments.com. Players will need to create an account in order to register. Players who already have an account can use that to sign-up. Becky Gibbs will help players through this process. Cost is \$5.00 per player. Players must sign-up on line, print their registration, enclose it in the envelope (available at the bulletin board) along with \$5.00 and send through the intra-park mail to Rich Baumann. Using Pickleball Tournaments will help to train our folks to help with the desk at the Grand Canyon Games. Becky Gibbs and others will be available in the computer room on Thursday between 2-4:00 PM to help players get registered.

Rating Committee (Becky Gibbs, Committee Member)

- We have rated 30 players since November.
- We are moving “Rating Day” to the second Tuesday of the month (subject to change). Becky will contact everyone already signed up for February 7 to reschedule.
- New! You must already be a 2.5 rated player to request review by the Rating Committee. This is the only option available to players who are 2.5 or higher, while those at 1.5-2.0 skill levels have multiple options.
- Ratings for 1.5 up to 2.5 are done through skills training. If players cannot attend skills training, they can do it by participating in the 2.0 round robin. Players maintaining a 90% or above for at least 18 games can be moved to 2.5.

Grand Canyon Games (Doug Gibbs and Anne Reynolds)

- Grand Canyon Games is February 22-26 (Wednesday through Sunday).
- 638 players are registered with 100 people on wait lists.
- End of day schedule as of today:
 - Wednesday – 7:45 PM
 - Thursday – 7:15 PM
 - Friday – 6:30 PM
 - Saturday – 8:30 PM
 - Sunday – 7:45 PM
- Bronze medal matches have been changed from three game matches to one 1-15 game.
- Volunteer opportunities – please contact one or more of the following leads if you want to volunteer:
 - Food Group – Adele Mathers
 - Parking – Rich Baumann
 - Operations – Rich Baumann
 - Line Judging – Peggy Bradley
 - First Aid – Donna Baumann
 - Tournament Desk Operations – Becky Gibbs
 - Shirts – Peter and Shannon McClean
- You can contact leads in person or use the on-line “Contact” form on our website: www.pempickleball.com.

OTHER

Audience Comments/Questions/Suggestions

Mowing hazards - Jeff Tomlinson said a player was injured by projectiles from the lawn mower. Player burst a blood vessel in the leg and the mower is also throws rocks.

Pet Policy – It’s a resort policy that pets must be on a leash. Players who bring dogs to the courts must have them on a leash and they must be in control. No dogs are allowed during the Grand Canyon Games.

Drop-in Play – We are being inundated with complaints about people playing in the wrong courts for their skill level (during scheduled drop-in play). People need to ask first rather than just going onto the courts of a skill level that is higher than theirs. The courts are divided into skill level for a reason and it creates animosity. Be thoughtful about where you play. The best time to ask to play a game with better players is at the end of the session. Higher level players can also help out if they see a threesome from a lower skill level that needs one more person. (Note: this does not apply to games you set up on your own and played on “open” courts when available. Scheduled organized play, included morning drop-in play, round robins and training take precedence.)

NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Thursday, February 2 at 4:00 PM, Recreation Hall