

PEM Pickleball - Group Membership Meeting Minutes

February 2, 2017

WELCOME

Doug Gibbs, Co-Chair, welcomed everyone and introduced the Committee Chairs. There are currently 460 pickleball members, with 310 in the park in the last month.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance (Anne Reynolds, Chair)

- There is currently \$5,865 in account. This does not include recent membership dues.
- Recent expenditures include completed lights at old courts, balls and recycling trash cans.
- PEM Pickleball shirts are on the way (not paid for yet). The cost per shirt is \$15 and comes in blue or red, men's and women's, sleeves and sleeveless. Peter and Shannon McClean are handling shirt sales.

Operations (Rich Baumann, Chair)

- We will be hiring a company to install the new divider fence at the old courts as the cost is close to doing it ourselves. This will be better than the current netting that separates the courts.
- The rented bleachers for the Grand Canyon Games will arrive on Monday, February 20.
- We will be unloading chairs and tables for Grand Canyon Games on Tuesday 10:00 AM, February 21.
- Court cleaning will be on Thursday, February 16 at 1:30 PM and Friday, February 17 at 1:00 PM.
- We will be installing two more outlets at the new courts to accommodate electrical needs at Grand Canyon Games.
- We have three types of balls in the ball holders – Pure 2 (yellow rubber), Paddle-tek P7 (green) and Durofast (yellow plastic). Rich checks ball selection in each ball holder every morning. The reason we are using different balls is because they are all being used in different tournaments throughout the region. All are USAPA approved.
- Charleen Hutton commented that our courts at PEM are the cleanest and best maintained by far and thanked Rich for all the work he does.
- The resort is purchasing more umbrellas for the missing ones. New umbrellas will be interspersed with the old ones before Grand Canyon Games.

Organized Play (Peggy Bradley, Co-Chair)

- Revision to 3.5+ round robins – we will not have 3.5 round robin on Saturday. We will continue to have 3.5+ round robins on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Saturday's round robin will be replaced with drop-in open play in order to afford players the option of also playing in the new mixed doubles round robin. Playing in two round robins may be too much for some players.
- The mixed doubles round robin is for 2.5 and higher players. Groups will be divided into groups of 2.5, 3.0 and 3.5. You can sign up as partners or as a single. If you are signing up as a single, match your name up with another person looking for a partner. Partners with different skill levels sign-up for the group of the higher level. The purpose of this round robin is to provide players an opportunity to play together throughout the round robin as a mixed doubles team. This will also help those wanting to practice for tournaments to play together. So far it's been lots of fun.

Training (Becky Gibbs, Chair)

- We are slammed with people participating in beginner lessons and skills classes at the 1.5-2.0 and 2.5 levels. We are trying to get more instructors. Right now we have 40 plus players in 2.5 and only 20 slots. Charleen is having similar issues with the 1.5-2.0 group.
- Becky polled the 2.5 group and they were all willing to start using Whoozin (email invite system) to sign-up for 2.5 skills class each week. Players who have been participating in 2.5 skills the last couple weeks have received an invite. Those who want to sign-up to get on Whoozin can sign-up at the bulletin board; just need name and email address. Players who sign-up and have to cancel last minute need to go back into Whoozin and change their RSVP to "out" so it opens up another spot for someone else. You can do Whoozin from your phone or comfort of your own home. If you do not have a computer you can use one in the library or computer lab. We're going to give this a try and Charleen may also do it for the 1.5-2.0 skills class. The reason we are going to Whoozin is because the sign-up sheet was getting overloaded and there is no way to tell who signed up first because names get scratched out and replaced.
- Players participating in skills classes need to check in at least 15 minutes prior.
- Players who cannot attend skills classes on Tuesday have the option of working with a mentor. The mentor list is on the bulletin board. You can work in small groups or one-on-one. Just contact a mentor and set up a mutually-acceptable time. Another option is to participate in the 1.5-1.9 mentoring round robin on Wednesdays at 9:00 AM where trainers provide feedback and help players work to develop skills. There is no advance sign-up required; just show up at least 15 minutes before hand to sign up. Recommended only for players who desire feedback and extra help.
- Players who cannot attend beginner lessons can also use the mentor program to learn how to play. We have a couple mentors who also teach beginner lessons. Anyone interested in being a mentor, please contact Becky.
- Our program has evolved from a grass roots effort with the idea of growing the sport, immersing people into the game of Pickleball and developing their skills. We provide training for almost all skill levels every week. This wouldn't be possible without all the time our trainers dedicate to doing lessons and working behind the scenes on program development.
- Anne Reynolds coordinates the referee training program. She conducted a training class about two months ago. She still needs score sheets and referees to take the on-line test. Most people want to ref in-house, but those who are interested can work to be certified to referee in outside tournaments. Anne has recruited Debbie Ricke and Peggy Friesner, both certified referees, to hold another referee class before the Karl Kunz Memorial Tournament. Those who are interested can use our on-line contact form on our website and we can forward. Laurie Earles commented on how great it was to have referees for the in-house tournament.

Tournaments (Rich Baumann and Don Williams, Co-Chairs)

- Our February in-house tournament was the easiest tournament in a long time. We had 47 teams, 94 players. The cost per player to use the tournament software was \$2.00 and worth every cent. We had additional costs of such as hot spot to run the TV. We only had to wait five minutes for a referee one time. Comment by Rich Baumann (tournament director) was that his load went from 100% to 10% this year.
- The next in-house tournament is Karl Kunz, the original founder who brought Pickleball here to El Mirage.
 - The format is mixed doubles for 2.0, 2.5 and 3.0. Teams with different skill levels play up to the highest skill level.
 - The 3.5+ group will be an open bracket. The 4.0 and 4.5 players will be teamed up with a 3.5 player through a draw that will be done on March 3. All players need to be registered by March 2. Just register as not having a partner; we will connect everyone up after the draw. 3.5 players who want to play with another 3.5 can go ahead and register as a team. Those 3.5 players remaining can then match up to play together.
 - Cost is \$10. Bring your own food. Player snacks provided.
 - You need to register online by going to www.pickleballtournaments.com. For those who have already created a user account, you can go ahead and register (when the site is up). If you have not used this system before you will need to create a user account. We will send you information on how to do

that and will be available at the computer room on certain Thursdays from 2-4 to help you out. More info forthcoming via email.

- Once you register on line, you do not have to print your registration. Just use the form provided at the courts (in the plastic container), fill out the info, enclose your money, and send to Rich via intra-park mail or give it to him directly. It's best if teams can use the same form and enclose both fees.
- The tournament information and registration page should be set up early next week. We will send out an email with all the information and links. Information will also be available on our pempickleball.com site.
- We select our in-house tournament dates based around other tournaments going on in the area. Wednesdays seem to be the best day to avoid conflicts.
- Don Williams gave credit to other Tournament Committee members Phyllis Foreman, Larry Hyatt, Bob Hayes who worked for over an hour grappling with the tournament format for 3.5s.

Rating Committee (John and Peggy Friesner, Co-Chairs)

- The next rating day is February 14. The next rating day after that is March 7.
- We will be sending out an email to confirm those scheduled for February 14.
- We have a format change. Instead of playing with three other players being rated, we will have two players wanting to be rated playing with two who are already club or USAPA rated for the level they want to be rated at. There will be a three-game format so players will play with and against one another. Score is irrelevant; it's how you play the game and the skills that will be reviewed.
- Only players in the 2.0 scored round robins can move up to 2.5 if they are in the 90% for at least 18 games.
- On a case-by-case basis, players may be moved up through tournament play. The tournament director will meet with the Rating Chair and Organized Play Chair to determine if a move-up is appropriate. Not everyone who wins a medal will automatically be moved up.
- The new rating lists are posted every Wednesday morning at the bulletin board.
- If players wanting to be rated cannot make a pre-scheduled rating session, we can put together another session on a non-official rating day.
- Charleen and trainers for her group will also be doing ratings sessions for the 1.5-2.0 group on February 14 and March 7. This will give players an opportunity to go through a more formal review process.
- Players at 2.5 or higher must go before the Rating Committee to be evaluated for move-up.
- Charleen recommended players look at the Skills Rating Descriptions on the bulletin board. Players can also go to our website at www.pempickleball.com and look under "Rating Committee and Review" tab to download the actual forms that the raters use.
- Robin Bromley inquired about how the Rating Committee goes about making move-ups through tournament play (i.e. spying?). John indicated it depends on the situation, but confirmed "yes" players may be moved based on observation and tournament outcome.
- Mike Boyd asked if it was better to get rated first and then sign up for the tournament? It was suggested that players can always play up, but not down.

Grand Canyon Games (Doug Gibbs and Anne Reynolds)

- The Grand Canyon Games are February 22-26, five days. 638 players from all over the United States are participating. Registration closed a month ago. There is a wait list of 100 people. Anne receives at least 20 emails a day from players trying to get in. This is a very popular event and all the great players participate.
- We still need volunteers. Contact the following leads for the area you are interested in:
 - Food Group – Adele Mathers - mather1@sasktel.net
 - Parking/Transportation – Rich Baumann – rich-baumann@hotmail.com
 - Line Judges – Judy Graves and Peggy Bradley – bradleypeg@gmail.com & punch106@gmail.com
 - Operations – Peter McClean and Dan Dierken - pmcclean@shaw.ca & dierken@msn.com
 - First Aid – Donna Baumann (emergency service experience required) donna-baumann@hotmail.com
 - Tournament Desk – Becky Gibbs (need volunteers to post scores) – beckyblt@aol.com
 - Shirt Sales/Info Desk/Player Bags – Shannon McClean (need volunteers to staff shirt sales and help put together player bags) - dierken@msn.com

- Photographers – Doug and Becky Gibbs – drgibbs40@aol.com

Note: If you want to volunteer, you can contact the folks listed above by using the “Contact” form on our website and Doug will forward to the appropriate person.

- No PEM members, organized play or training on the courts on Tuesday, February 21. The courts are reserved for registered GCSG player practice. Plus, we need as many volunteers as possible to come up and help unload tables, chairs and set up. Report to courts at 10:00 AM.
- The two old courts will be available only to our players and residents throughout the tournament.
- Food will be on sale during the tournament.
- Come watch. Lots of vendors selling clothing, accessories, paddles, etc.
- The funds raised by the Grand Canyon Games go to support youth programs throughout the area, so it’s a great cause. We get \$10 per player that goes directly to our Pickleball club for pickleball enhancements.

OTHER

Audience Comments/Questions/Suggestions

Recreation Play – Doug Gibbs mentioned that out of the 460 PEM players that we have, there is always a percentage of those who could care less about rating and training and just want to play socially. The neat thing about this park is that we can do both. The main reason that we use skill levels is to try to match people up with players of like skill and ability so everyone can have fun.

New Recycle Containers at the Courts – Please use them. Separate containers are for plastic bottles.

Name Tags – Please wear name tag when at the courts. Not only is it a resort rule, but it helps others to know who you are. In addition, people are appearing from outside the resort so it will help us to know who belongs here and who doesn’t. The star on your badge shows you support all we have here at PEM – balls, court cleaning equipment, etc. Charleen Hutton suggested that PEM should provide signs saying “Residents and their guests only.”

Etiquette Old Courts – The old courts are busy again. We use to line up paddles and four players would rotate in and out. When people are waiting, please rotate out once your game is through. There are two methods of rotating players onto the court – 4 new players in and 4 players out – OR - 2 players in and the winners split. If players are drilling they have 15 minutes (about the same time as a game) to rotate out to let other players on the court. Please be respectful to allow everyone equal opportunity to share the courts, especially during peak times.

Being an Ambassador – Don Williams was happy to see so many people at the meeting (about 45). He encouraged everyone to be ambassadors and that we all have the unique opportunity to help new players get involved and feel welcome. If you see someone at the courts looking for information, please take the time to help them. He also reminded players to have fun, even during competitive play. Be an ambassador of fun.

Pickleball Draw to PEM – There was discussion on how to measure the number of people who come to PEM and stay here because of Pickleball, other than anecdotal accounts. The best way to let Roberts Resorts know they are here because of Pickleball is to fill out a comment card that goes directly to the Roberts family in Scottsdale. We will provide comment cards at the courts and at our monthly meeting. We could also survey our members to get more conclusive data.

Capital Improvements - Roberts have a lot of resorts and businesses, all pulling for resources. Arizona Sports Commission recently sent a letter to Roberts Resorts regarding the growth of the tournament that may affect their ability to have it at our venue in the future. There is a feeling we will get there with court improvements. Right now their focus is on day-to-day rather than the big picture. We are in the process of negotiating improvements to the courts and recently received permission to get bids for new court lighting so that we would have an idea of how much it may cost.

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