

# PEM Pickleball Club Membership Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 8, 2016 4:00 PM

## WELCOME

Co-chairs Doug Gibbs and Judy Graves welcomed everyone to the meeting. Currently there are 192 dues-paying members in the park out of 460 that will be here during the season.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Finance (Doug Gibbs for Anne Reynolds)

- Currently we have \$7,500 in the account, excluding lights and fence material for old courts. We have received \$1,890 in dues and \$850 in intercommunity (league) play.
- Major expenditures include:
  - Lighting for old courts - thank you to the work crew who dug trenches, laid line and are putting up the lights, including Bill Heiar, Mike Mollison, Frank McIntosh, Peter McClean, Gene Oltmann, Doug Gibbs, Len Mitchell, Tom Fini, Scott Bethke, Dan Dierken and Ken Fiske.
  - Divider fence at old courts – estimate price to install 4' divider fence is out of range, \$1,500 installed, with \$500 just for cost of materials. Exploring other options for supplies and will do the work ourselves.
  - Computers, TV monitor, TV stand, printers and other equipment for tournament operations for Grand Canyon Games. We will also use for our internal tournaments and train some of our own people to work the desk at the Grand Canyon Games. (Note: Last year Arizona Sports Commission rented the equipment from USAPA, which was problematic. This year they will pay us the rental fee.)
- More shirts were ordered. Shannon and Peter McClean, along with Fran Beatty and John Owens will take over coordination and sales.
- Roberts Resorts changed their system and will no longer hold funds for each activity group in the resort. Pickleball funds which have been deposited into our PEM Pickleball Club account.

### Capital Improvements (Doug Gibbs and Committee Chairs)

- Getting a bid for the possibility of installing a sun shade in the center common area at the courts.
- Don Williams will be working on male Kokopelli in January.
- Roberts Resorts will be putting in nice landscape gravel on the west side of the courts in the parking area.
- Roberts Resorts is purchasing two more bike racks.
- Roberts Resorts is purchasing more umbrellas to replace the broken ones. Will likely be tan as the original color cannot be matched.
- We are purchasing a couple more benches.
- Lighting old courts – discussed above.
- Divider fence old courts – discussed above.

An audience member asked: 1) Why the park doesn't contribute; 2) If we could change one of the tennis courts to pickleball; 3) Why we don't have a paved parking lot like other resorts; and 4) what's the dollar amount before people have to vote?

Much discussion ensued regarding PEM Pickleball Club paying for capital improvement items Vs. the Resort. Concerns were expressed that if the pickleball Club continues to fund projects, Roberts Resorts will not feel

compelled to make improvements. Opinions fell on both sides of the issue. Co-chairs, Doug and Judy, are the liaisons between the PEM Pickleball Club and resort management and are engaged in on-going discussions on how we can work together towards making improvements. In the interim, some of the projects we're doing would not get done in the short term unless we do them ourselves.

Changing one of the tennis courts to pickleball courts is not an option as they use both courts.

The parking area at the new courts is not paved because there is a larger development plan and it wouldn't be cost effective to put in asphalt, and then have to tear it all out later.

To go before the general membership for approval of expenditures over a certain dollar amount would be problematic because not everyone is here at the resort at the same time and the turnout at meetings is typically low. Some members are only here for one or two weeks vs members that are here for months or the entire year. Decisions on capital improvements are made at the Committee level and then through consensus by the Committee Chairs at their monthly meeting. (Please see information at the end of the meeting notes for more information on how this process works.)

### **Operations (Rich Baumann and Ken Fiske, Co-Chairs)**

- Rich – the squeegees are not designed to take all the water off the courts, just to push the water off. The rollers remove the water. If the squeegee makes a noise when pushing it, you are pushing it too hard and possibly damaging the court.
- Rich – will be washing courts on February 16 and 17, before Grand Canyon Games. Will need help.
- Rich – after it rains we need more than the same four people to come and dry off the courts. If it has been raining, just show up in the morning at 8:00 AM to help out.
- Rich – Will be doing crack filling starting this Sunday. Will be closing courts 13-17 for 24 hours in order for it to dry.
- Rich – Repaired the seven broken posts at the new courts.
- Anne ordered six dozen balls each – Pure 2 and Paddletek P7S. These balls are being used at different tournaments. Will be adding to the DuraFast balls we are already using. By trying the different balls we can tell which ones will work best for us.

### **Organized Play (Judy Graves, Chair)**

- Started all round robins. Bert Sealing and Karen Gleiss are handling women's 2.0 and 2.5 round robins; Doug Gibbs and Robin Bromley are doing 1.5-1.9 mixed mentoring round robin; Charleen Hutton and Peggy Bradley are doing women's 3.0+ mentoring round robin, Don Williams is doing 3.5+ mixed round robin with Frenchy Relyea filling in during his absence; Rich Bauman doing 2.0, 2.5 and 3.0 mixed round robins and 2.0, 2.5 and 3.0 men's round robins; and Jay Hennies doing men's 3.5+ men's round robin.
- On the scoring round robins it looks like some of the players are not playing in the proper skill area. This may be due to confusion at sign-up. Please sign-up for round robins in advance so the captains can better group players. If it looks like there isn't enough for one skill level, they may be combined instead of separated into separate skill groups. This week players who were not signed up showed up right before start time and the groups could have been broken in two instead of combined.
- We are adding a "mixed doubles" round robin for 2.5 and 3.0+ on Saturdays from 10:00 AM to noon. Will start on January 8. This will be a social round robin with 12-minute games. Can sign up as a mixed doubles team or put your name on a list of singles to be matched up.

## **Training (Becky Gibbs, Co-Chair)**

- We currently have 19 trainers who volunteer numerous hours every week to the program. Leads are Robin Bromley-Beginner Lessons, Charleen Hutton-1.5 and 2.0 skills, Becky Gibbs 2.5 skills, Bruce Kimmell 3.0 skills and Judy Graves 3.0+ Women's Tournament mentoring.
- We added a NEW men's skills training for 3.0 tournament players and 3.5+ (club or USAPA rated) players. Instructor is Steve Ricke. Class is on Mondays at 10:30 AM. Advance sign-up required.
- Reminder – must be current in dues and sign up for proper skill level.
- Anne Reynolds did recent referee class. Refs may ask you if they can practice and ref your game. Please help them out; it's good experience for players as well.

## **Tournaments (Rich Baumann, Chair)**

- The first in-house tournament is January 25. Registration forms will be available January 2 at the bulletin board. Players will also need to go on line to register through [www.pickleballtournaments.com](http://www.pickleballtournaments.com). We are in the process of setting that site up. This will be an opportunity to train our own members on computer desk operations so they can help at the Grand Canyon Games rather than using outside people.
- Format will be men's doubles and women's doubles, except for 3.5 level, which is open mixed.
- You must be a resident to participate (no outside guests or guests staying with you).

## **Rating Committee (John Friesner, Co-Chair)**

- Our rating sources include USAPA, PEM Club Rating, Self Rating and Training Rating. Those participating in tournaments will eventually get a USAPA Rating. The PEM Club rating is done by going through the rating committee and follows the USAPA guidelines. The self rating is the least official rating. Players participating in skills training from 1.0 up to 2.5 are rated by trainers.
- The best way for players rated lower than 2.5 is by going through skills training. Those not participating in skills training can request to be reviewed by the Rating Committee, but first priority will be given to 2.5s and higher because that is their only option to be rated.
- Judy Graves shared that we just rated four players who were moved from 2.5 to 3.0 and 3.5. She was shocked by the high skill level, which she attributed to our training program.
- We have rated 12 players so far this season and trying to schedule another four this week. Eight are signed up for rating days after the first of the year.
- Rating days are on the first Tuesday of the month - Jan 3, Feb 7, March 7 and April (if needed). Sign up in advance at the bulletin board or by going on line at [www.pempickleball.com](http://www.pempickleball.com) ("Skills Rating..." under the "Training" tab). If players are unable to attend rating day or want to do before then, use on-line form to request to be rated.
- We have 14 raters right now; some are shadowing or in training.

## **OTHER**

### **GRAND CANYON GAMES**

- Per Anne, 600 players are registered and all events are closed except for Women's Doubles-Skill. Events closed out in three weeks. When registration opened at midnight over 100 people were signed up by 6:00 AM, and 300 people were signed up in the first week.
- Arizona Sports Commission and Roberts Resort are going to rent a larger set of bleachers. Roberts Resorts may purchase next year.
- We received approval for a beer garden near the food area.
- The Snack Shack will be open from 11:30 AM to 3:00 PM (a little longer than last year).

- Traffic will be routed via Cactus (except northbound El Mirage traffic).
- Roberts Resorts will be cleaning up the court area and perimeter along roadways.
- We need volunteers for Operations (Lead - to be determined), Parking (Lead-Rich Baumann), Food Group (Lead-Adele Mathers), First Aid (Lead-Donna Baumann), Registration/Event/Court Desk (Lead-Becky Gibbs), Line Judges (Leads-Peggy Bradley, Judy Graves and Doug Moore). We will also need help with selling shirts and preparing and handing out player bags. If interested in volunteering, contact the appropriate lead or use our general on-line "contact" form on our website.
- Judy said we were the first club to provide line judges. Our line judges did a terrific job last year. It was also reported that the refs really appreciated it because they didn't have to round up line judges.

## NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, January 5 at 4:00 PM, Recreation Hall

## AUDIENCE COMMENTS/QUESTIONS/SUGGESTIONS

- Charleen Hutton said when they go home they realize and appreciate the work people do here and the ability to play with others in the same group (skill level).
- Robin Bromley said "action speaks louder than words" and encouraged people to get involved and help out.

## SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

During the meeting there was a lot of discussion about how we operate as a group or club and some other questions or concerns. We hope this will help to better outline what we do and how we operate, especially for those of you who are new to PEM.

### **ORGANIZATION**

We operate using a committee structure. We have seven committees including:

- Finance – collect dues, manage revenues and expenditures, and general accounting.
- Operations – routine court maintenance, capital improvement projects, support for Grand Canyon Games.
- Organized Play – develop/coordinate organized scheduled play (such as round robins) for all skill levels.
- Training – develop training curriculum and provide beginner lessons and on-going skills training.
- Tournaments – organize in-house tournaments.
- Rating Committee – evaluate players who want a PEM Club Rating.
- Communications – maintain player roster, develop and update website, update Pueblo Post, and communicate important information to players via email.

These are working committees, meaning all the members contribute their time and expertise towards operations and developing and maintaining our programs. Each committee selects their own leader(s), otherwise known as Chairs or Co-Chairs. The Chairs get together to meet once a month (or more often if needed) to discuss what each Committee is doing and address any concerns or issues, review requests for major expenditures (usually \$100 or more), overall scheduling coordination, policies, financial oversight, etc. Capital improvements or requests for major expenditures are discussed and approved (or not) by the group through consensus. These volunteers are constantly engaged in day-to-day operations and activities and have a pulse on what the issues are and what benefits the pickleball Club as a whole. Anyone who would like to be involved and volunteer on a committee is welcome and encouraged to do so.

We recognize that not all decisions will be popular with everyone. We work hard to look at the big picture and make decisions that benefit the group as a whole. Consideration is given to providing opportunities for all players at every level of play. This sometimes requires some tweaking. We are always open to new ideas and suggestions. There are many factors to consider, but we do our best to try to keep everyone happy.

## **FUNDING**

We raise funds through player dues, intercommunity (league) guest fees, and tournaments such as the Grand Canyon Games and Arizona Senior Games. The majority of our funds come from the Grand Canyon Games. All proceeds from this event go directly to us, not the resort. This includes a substantial percentage of the profits from the "Snack Shack" coordinated and staffed by Activities. In addition to the venue provided by Roberts Resorts, they support these tournaments by providing rental lighting, staff, tables, chairs, etc. The revenue generated from this joint effort is put back directly into minor capital improvements that improve our amenities and enhance the pickleball program.

The Co-chairs are considering using a questionnaire format to query the membership and get input on high expense items. Information collected would be advisory in nature so we can get a feel for what the general membership wants.