New Activity Centre in Kelowna - just opened
Owen sound now a pickleball city
21 more paddles approved and for sale
President Dave Shepherd's message
IFP One rating system for Canada
South Shore N.S. now has Pickleball too
Bev's Rules Corner is back full of advice.

KELOWNA’S NEW SENIORS CENTRE - PARKINSON ACTIVITY CENTRE

It didn’t open officially until Nov. 22nd but it started being used Nov. 12th with the first Pickleball games Nov. 15th. This is a brand new addition to Parkinson Recreation Centre on Highway 97 in Kelowna. It was built to replace the old Seniors Centre on Water Street.

A wonderful turnout for PICKLEBALL with well over 40 people attending and using the two brand new courts. The photo above only has 33 players shown as others were just arriving & some also arrived a little late. You can see the organizers, Bill Franzman & Brian Stovel front & centre.

We were greeted with beautiful new wood floors (also great for dancing of course) and very bright lights that actually had to be adjusted down for play as they were just too bright. We are using portable nets for now as the proper posts are being made and will be installed soon.

It was so busy we had to lower the scores to 7 in order to speed up the games. That helped but many were new players, some were there checking us out for the first time which is wonderful. The charges are very low, $10.00 for a annual membership and a drop in fee of only 50 cents. Pickleball days are: Monday 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Thursday 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. and a beginners class on Sunday 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. We are hoping to extend these times by an extra hour each day.

2012 TOP 18 CANADIAN PLAYERS WITH THE MOST TOURNAMENT POINTS

We are very proud to announce the 18 top Pickleball Canada players for 2012, these points were well earned at tournaments in Abbotsford, B.C. and Oshawa, Ontario at the two largest SANCTIONED tournaments in Canada. As more tournaments join our ranks, this list will grow and so will the points of course. You can only earn points if you are playing in a PCO sanctioned tournament and are a PCO member (membership has its privileges).

3200 Points - John Kusch, Diane Hill, Vera Loskot, Wayne Kennedy, Mike Schwartz, Laura Schwartz
2400 Points - Luba Zhekhovskaya, Denis Zhekhovskiy, Carol Haworth, Randy Bourne, Peter Darvill, Milda Postler
2000 Points - John Jetelina, Olga Jetelina, Pat Fosbery, Sue Fosbery, Bill Furse, Linda Furse

Benefits of Tournament Points:
- Tournament Points are awarded as recognition of achievement in Sanctioned Tournaments.
- Tournament Points will be used to publish a list of the top point winners at the end of each calendar year.
- Tournament Points may be used by Tournament Directors to determine seeding in tournament brackets.
- Tournament Points may be used by the Ratings Committee to determine a player’s rating at the end of each year.
The fastest growing sport in North America.

OWEN SOUND - NEW CENTRE - GREAT HISTORY

On September 18th Pickleball was played for the first time at the newly opened Julie McArthur Regional Recreation Centre in Owen Sound. Partly thanks to the full-height glass windows fronting onto other fitness equipment and public areas the Pickleball gym is attracting a growing and diverse age range of players as can be seen from the photograph taken above at a Saturday's afternoon session. Presently the arrangement is drop-in/pick-up for Y-members or day-pass holders, but as more people start to play we anticipate pressure building for more structured coaching and playing arrangements. Fortunately several ex-squash and racquetball players (the racquet club closed in Owen Sound about 10-years ago) have played pickleball as snowbirds in Arizona and are learning the rules and playing strategies easier for novice players.

Presently three Pickleball courts are made available in the gym, Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:00 to 3:00pm, and Saturdays 3:00pm to 4:00pm. We are hoping to add a 2-hour mid-week evening session early in December and also extend the Saturday session to 2 hours.

Owen Sound is a port city of approximately 21,000 on the south-west shore of Georgian Bay about 100-miles NNW of Toronto. Famous Owen Sounders include WW1 fighter ace Billy Bishop VC and 'Group of Seven' artist Tom Thomson. Cultural amenities include the Tom Thomson Art Gallery, the Roxy Theatre, the Billy Bishop Museum, a Marine and Railway Museum, and The Grey Roots Museum. Local sports teams include the OHL's Owen Sound Attack. Photo and Article supplied by Al Woodford of Owen Sound Pickleball Group. Very educational, Al.

35 NEW PADDLES THAT MEET IFP MATERIAL SPECIFICATIONS

There are many new paddles in the marketplace that have recently been tested and approved for tournament play (here are 21 more of them with approval dates).

- Coach Mo The Sweet Spot (9-12-2012) The Sweet Spot Lite (9-12-2012)
- PAC Pickleball Paddles XP300HF (10-20-2012)
- Paddletek Sweet Spot R1/R2 Thick (9-3-2012) Sweet Spot R1/R2 Thin (9-3-2012)
- Warp 9 R1/R2 Thick (9-3-2012) Warp 9 R1/R2 Thin (9-3-2012)
- Performance One Paddles (POP) 5.0 Dual Core Touch (9-12-2012)
- 7.5 Dual Core Touch (9-12-2012) AXL HC (aluminum extra long honeycomb) (9-12-2012)
- AMHC (aluminum magnesium - honeycomb core) (model name corrected) (10-24-2012)
- ATHC (aluminum-tear-honeycomb) (9-12-2012)
- GMHC (graphite magnesium honeycomb core)4.0 Touch (9-12-2012)
- Pickleball Central Classic Graphite (10-23-2012)
- Pro-Lite Sports Pro-Lite Graphite Impact (10-20-2012)
- S-Type Sports Core-2 (11-1-12) Core-2 Graphite (11-1-2012)
- Onix Sports Wood (11-1-2012)
- Singleton Big Boy (9-3-2012) Lightning (9-3-2012)
- T-Bolt (10-20-12)

So do not believe one company controls the market and disapproves others paddles.

WELCOME TO THE FUTURE - QR = Quick Response

What are they? QR stands for Quick Response codes. You need a smart phone to read them but believe me THEY ARE THE FUTURE. All you do is scan and it takes you to the website, product, specials etc., you can then even make a purchase. Try these two out for starters.

- Singleton Big Boy (9-3-2012) Lightning (9-3-2012)
- T-Bolt (10-20-12)
MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT DAVE SHEPHERD

We are very pleased to announce that the 2nd Annual Pickleball Canada National Open Championship will be held in Abbotsford on July 6 - 7, 2013. The City of Abbotsford will again be hosting this National Tournament at Abbotsford Recreation Centre (ARC) and Yale Secondary School with 14 indoor courts. There will be 20 events of Open, Age 55+, 60+, 65+, 70+, Under 55 and a Junior event. We had 163 players in 2012, we expect to have about 200 players in 2013. There will be a limit on the number of players, so please register early. Registration forms will be available at ARC and on Pickleball Canada, USAPA and other websites. Registrations will start on December 1, 2012.

This National Tournament will be sanctioned by Pickleball Canada. Pickleball Canada gives Tournament Points to the winners and publishes the names of the winners with their tournament points in our newsletters and websites. In our December newsletter, we have published the names of the top 18 pickleball players with the most Tournament points in Canada. Pickleball Canada National Open Championship July 6 - 7, 2013

ELIGIBILITY: Open to all players

EVENTS:

OPEN: - Men's & Women's Singles, Doubles & Mixed Doubles
AGE BRACKETS -55+, 60+, 65+, 70+ Men's and Women's Doubles and Mixed Doubles
UNDER 55 - Men's and Women's Doubles and Mixed Doubles
JUNIOR - (18 years and under) - Singles

All events in all divisions will follow a round-robin or double elimination format.
Awards will go to the top 3 teams in each event. A player may play in a maximum of 2 events.
The tournament ball will be the green Jugs ball. Current IFP Rules will apply. Format and events are subject to change.

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF PICKLEBALL (IFP) PLAYER RATINGS - THE BENEFITS

In a perfect world with perfect people, we would rate ourselves honestly so as to play fairly with all players. But we all know that does not happen.

It is with great pleasure that we can now happily announce that after much discussion and agreement, we will have ONE RATINGS SYSTEM for Canada and the U.S.A. which will then be offered and set for the world through IFP. An IFP Rating means a player will have the same rating in Canada and the U.S.A. Right now there are approx. 50 Canadians who are already rated and play in USAPA Sanctioned tournaments, 25 from BC, 13 from Ontario plus others from Alberta, Sask., & Manitoba.

As a tournament director, you can go to: http://ipickleball.org/rating_IFP_ratings_description.html to find how to set your players’ ratings. You can also go to:

http://ipickleball.org/ratings/ratings_doc.html to see that we now have a "common system" for both the USAPA, PCO & other countries.
You can view your ratings on the USAPA Rating Page which is titled "IFP Player Ratings - for players in the U.S. and Canada". Many local clubs are already rating their players, like COPA in the Okanagan and will welcome this benefit for PCO members. As this system moves forward we can look forward to "rated" events on both sides of our borders using the same IFP rules.

This is simply another benefit of being a member of a truly National Pickleball Association. Pickleball Canada spent considerable time in discussion with the USAPA to arrive at this agreement. Our president Dave Shepherd, with the help of Bill Franzman (Kelowna), Bev Butt, Shirley Shepherd and of course Bill Booth (USAPA) came to a quick & fair agreement that will enhance our sport for many years to come.

This is the fastest growing sport in North America, and PCO, working in cooperation with USAPA, the largest Pickleball Association in the world, has provided a benefit for us all. This is the natural next step to take on the road to National and Worldwide recognition of our sport. Another good reason to join PCO today and at $12.00 a year, it is a bargain.

PICKLEBALL ARRIVES ON THE SOUTH SHORE OF NOVA SCOTIA

In the month of August 2011 Jerome Tanner, a resident of Bridgewater, NS approached the local Parks and Rec. Department about introducing Pickleball to the residents of the area through their program offerings. They agreed to do this and purchased the recreational paddles and balls. The program began in January 2012 at a local gym where three badminton courts were transformed into Pickleball courts. They offered 2 days a week with instructions given by Mr. Tanner and local resident Greg Crouse.

The game has been well received by the local residents & operates on a pay as you go play and has now expanded to 3 times a week. Monday evenings, Tuesday mornings & Thursday afternoons and most recently with the local “Y” on Saturday afternoons.

Presently they have over 30 players involved with up to 29 playing on any given day. Membership is on the rise with plans to partner with the local Tennis Club next summer for outdoor play. In centre of photo with glasses is NS newest Area Ambassador, Jim Kelley.
TOURNAMENTS THIS YEAR FOLLOWING IFP RULES

2ND ANNUAL PICKLEBALL CANADA NATIONAL OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP, ABBOTSFORD, B.C.
CANADA’S LARGEST TOURNEY - JULY 6TH & 7TH. 20 EVENTS, 14 COURTS. MARK YOUR CALENDARS.
WE ANTICIPATE OVER 200 PLAYERS FROM ALL OVER NORTH AMERICA.

IF YOU HAVE A TOURNAMENT YOU WOULD LIKE OUR MEMBERS TO KNOW ABOUT LET US KNOW AND
WE’LL POST IT HERE. ONLY REQUIREMENT IS IT MUST FOLLOW IFP RULES AND SACTIONING IS
AVAILABLE (INCLUDING INSURANCE) FOR APPROXIMATELY $2.00 PER PLAYER (MINIMUM $50.)

Please re-new or join PICKLEBALL CANADA

Your support is needed to help us grow & meet our commitments to communities across Canada.
If you have questions, we'll try to answer them quickly.
If you are already a member, please share your information with us.
Membership is a Privilege - We want your participation in all decisions.
Help us grow - With your input and support we’ll have so much more to offer all members.
There is strength in numbers. Contact us below or go to: www.pickleballcanada.org

MEMBERSHIP RATES FOR PICKLEBALL CANADA

New/re-new membership rates are:
One year $12.00
Three years $32.00
Five years $50.00

LESS KNOWN RULES - SHOTS AROUND NET POST

A situation arose this week. Most players were unaware of Rule 12.K- Shots Around Net Post.
If a ball hit at an angle bounces in the court and travels beyond the sidelines, a player may return ball around outside of net post. Ball does not need to return over net and there is no restriction on height of return. Try it when situation arises! Watch the shocked expressions!

Some other less known Rules:
12.A. Carry and Double Hits. Balls can unintentionally be hit twice or “carried”, but this must be during a continuous, single-direction stroke without a definite second push. (rev. 2011)
12.D. Broken/Cracked Ball. Play continues until end of rally and ball is replaced. In a tournament, if referee determines broken/cracked ball affected outcome of rally, referee shall call for a replay.
12.E. Injury During Game. Rally continues to its end despite injury to any player.
12.F. Player Equipment Problem. Rally shall not be stopped if a player loses/breaks paddle or personal item.

In cases of debate, see Section 12 of IFP Rules. Comments/questions, contact: bbutt@sasktel.net