



An E-Newsletter for Canadian Pickleball Players

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Meet the "First Lady" of Pickleball - Beverley Butt

By Beverley Butt



Beverley began her career as a teacher, psychologist and Consultant for the Toronto School Board. After serving two summers teaching African teachers in Tanzania, Bev, and architect husband Dave quit their jobs and hitch-hiked around the world for 8 years, offering free services where needed. Bev comments, "We used up 10 years of our savings for this amazing experience. Our son was born in Lusaka, Zambia and is now a computer programmer in California."

On return, they moved to Saskatchewan where Bev became the Director of Special Education in Prince Albert. When they moved to Regina, Bev set up a Centre to help persons with learning disabilities. Bev tells a remarkable story of a new focus for her teaching endeavours. “In 1988, I watched 60 Minutes, went to USA and brought back an amazing method to help students with Irlen Syndrome, a visual perceptual sensitivity not identified in schools. (See www.irlen.ca). This became the most rewarding work of my teaching career. For this, our work internationally and my role as President of the first ladies’ Lions Club in SK, I was honoured to receive the Saskatchewan Woman of Distinction Award.”

Bev says, “Then pickleball came along—and need I say more?” Bev learned to play at Venture Out Resort in Mesa, AZ in 2003 and agreed to be a USAPA Ambassador. Winning gold medals in singles and mixed doubles that year at the AZ Sr. Olympics, ‘hooked me forever!’ remarks Bev. Newspaper articles and demos in schools and community centres increased players in SK.

“Now I am excited to be working hard as a member of the Pickleball Canada Founding Committee to spread pickleball into every crook and cranny of Canada--- no pay but the neat title of First Lady! One of my roles is to maintain the membership database, so keep me busy adding new members!” jokes Bev.

Bev cycles, plays tennis, badminton, piano, cards, swims, reads and enjoys life. Dave and Bev have a beautiful cottage in Muskoka, ON where they live in June and Sept. Then escape the SK winter to the warm AZ desert.

“My dream?? That the time will come when no one in Canada will ask, ‘what the h___ is pickleball?’” says Bev.

Editor’s Note.

Beverley and Dave have been doing their part to promote Pickleball here in Ontario as well. They were part of the demonstration of Pickleball at the Dome in Collingwood and on Saturday, September 5, 2009, they ran a demo workshop for players in Muskoka to learn the game of Pickleball at the Bala Recreation Centre.

Pickleball on the Island – Manitoulin Island



By Dave Hall

Members of the Little Current Pickleball Club

Pickleball was introduced to Little Current, Ontario (Manitoulin Island) in May 2009 by snowbirds Helen and Dave Hall who spent two months this past winter in The Villages, Florida where the sport is a huge hit with retirees. The Villages have over 100 courts dedicated solely to pickleball.

Little Current now has an active pickleball group which plays Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 10:00 am in the Curling Rink. Since Little Current only has 1500 permanent residents we are fortunate to have 5 badminton courts in the curling facility and 2 outdoor tennis courts which have now added pickleball lines. Thanks go to Rec Director Greg Wright and his crew at the community complex who were very receptive to our new sport. Without their cooperation and help we would never have been able to get the ball rolling (or flying).

Our group started with two paddles purchased in Florida and 10 homemade wooden paddles. We recently added 15 new composite paddles. Currently we have about 15 active players with more joining soon. This fall we plan to provide evening playing time at the local school gymnasium. The goal is to promote the sport to adults and active seniors first and then expand to the youth level.

The first annual Manitoulin Island Sportsman's Show is planned for the weekend of May 1, 2010 at the community complex and we are hoping to have a court set up for attendees to see demos and have the opportunity to hit a few balls.

Anyone interested in playing in Little Current can contact Helen or Dave at 368-2803 or e-mail us at twoboomers@yahoo.ca.

Editor's Note



Dave sent me a further update that the club has painted both the outside courts (see photo on left). They are planning to repaint the faded lines on the badminton courts in the curling rink. This is just another example of what a small group can do when everyone pitches in and gets their "hands dirty". With leadership such as Helen's and Dave's, Pickleball can be a success in all communities both large and small.

BC Senior Games in Richmond, British Columbia

FROM THE OLYMPIC OVAL AND THE THOMPSON REC CENTER RICHMOND
By Chuck Lefaive

Chuck makes the following report on the first ever Pickleball event in any provincial senior games from Richmond, BC.



front of the oval.

Our first senior games in Canada are over. We are all exhausted after six single games yesterday and nine doubles today – we have all been tested. The opening ceremonies in the Olympic Oval was a real treat and the diner dance for 4-6000 people yesterday was also a marvelous experience with people finding places to eat inside or outside along the Fraser River in

The results are posted on the BC Senior games website. Due to the regulated nature of the games, and low numbers due to technical communications, we awarded a lot of medals with 40 players there. We hope next year to double this number with more zones getting on board sooner.

The Thompson Recreation Center was very hospitable - even letting us double mark the outdoor courts adjacent to their spacious indoor courts. Some made use of the outdoor facility to learn to play right on the spot.



June Parsons, President of the games and her staff were there to overview games from the balcony and indicated to me and a player from Victoria that she will be learning to play this winter in Brentwood Bay on Vancouver Island.

We wish to especially thank Ralph and Nettie Jonker who volunteered to coordinate this whole provincial first effort. This was a big job. Also, major thanks to the Ambassadors who moved in to help in their respective areas on short notice given by the organizers.

Our heartfelt thanks go to Fred and Sandra Hubbick, Ron and Marilyn Moore, Doug and Kathy Stanley, Len and Anna Marie Taals, Brian and Sue Stovel, Earl Thompson, and Brian Sugiyama for volunteering to coordinate the various zones.

Last, but not least, our thanks go to Mike Orpen, our official Pickleball Canada photographer who covered what he could afford the time to do, gratis. He also covered our tournament last week at South Surrey.



The Tasmanian Devil, mascot, was auctioned off to Bruce Haworth. Bruce helped teach Pickleball to interested visitors on the line courts outside the centre.

A complete slide show of the BC Senior Games can be viewed by going to the following link,

<http://picasaweb.google.ca/wayneroswell/BCSeniorGamesSeptember2009#slideshow/538464202978426061>

Editor's Note

This was the first every Pickleball event in a provincial Senior Games in Canada. This shows the growth in the popularity of the sport of Pickleball among seniors and the recognition governments are giving the game for its health benefits.

Esquimalt Recreation Centre Picklers or simply Pickleball Esquimalt

By Len Taal

Our Centre - just west over the Blue Bridge linking it with Victoria's famous downtown - is home to a cohort of about 25 picklers, of which anywhere from eight to twelve show up every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon for some lobbing and dinking.

Just today, one of our seasoned participants mentioned that she tried to play some tennis over on the mainland this weekend and found that she "struggled" even though she had played that sport for years. She said she really missed the skill and strategy of a good game of PB!



Like the rest of us she is a Pickle Addict. Our Centre welcomes beginners and the more experienced players are very gracious about spending time with newbies. We enjoy introducing the game to those unfamiliar with its lure.

PB came to Victoria several years ago. We at ERC started in February of 2007 and now pickleball is being played around the Victoria region at the Saanich Commonwealth Pool (not in the pool but the gym of course) at Pearkes Arena (not on the rink but within their state-of-the-art former indoor tennis facilities) and at other places that some may recognize: Brentwood Bay Community Hall and Oak Bay's Henderson Centre. Oh yes I almost forgot, the outdoorsy types like McMinn Park near the Lochside Trail.

On the other side of the MALAHAT mountain folks are playing in Honeymoon Bay and other exotic places. Picklers are everywhere on the Island! But no, there is no place like home and for us, Esquimalt has the most fun as those who come to play also love sharing the finer points of the game with others - rookies and rascals alike.

Ballantrae Golf and Country Senior Games – August 23 – 30, 2009

By Art Woodruff
(picture below)



Every 2 years the 1400+ residents from the Ballantrae Golf & Country Club compete against each other in a variety of games. Within our gated community, there are 4 separate condominiums with a 5th one now in the works.

The planning for this, larger than life, event takes months of planning and co-ordination. The GAMES committee includes games and a sports chairman, condo captains, games co-coordinators, social director, treasurer, advertiser, computer listing/tabulator, sound

engineer & lastly tons of volunteers.

For this year's event we had over 400+ participants. The sports included Bocce, Cycling, Field Games, Golf, Horseshoes, Ladder Golf, Lawn Bowling, Slo Pitch, Swimming, Tennis, Walking/Running, Water Volleyball & for the first time Pickleball headed up by yours truly.



We had a total of 44 participants involved in either mixed, men's or ladies doubles. The round robin format was held at the Magna Centre in Newmarket, Ontario. Thanks to referees Karen Pottie, Rudy Niessink, and Wayne Roswell for making this event such a great success.

Editor's Note

I want to compliment the Community of Ballantrae, just north of Markham and Stouffville, ON, for the efforts of the volunteers who organize these events every two years. Ballantrae is an active community and staging a senior games event like this goes a long way to promoting this active lifestyle. It was great to have Pickleball included in this year's games.

Keeping "Pickle Ball" going at the West Richmond Community Centre!



We are Sid & Irene and we are volunteers that are working very hard to keep the wonderful sport of Pickle Ball alive at the West Richmond Community Centre located at 9180 No.1 Road.

It is a great sport for everyone. It is an easy sport to play and we will take the time to teach you. It is wonderful for seniors. Everyone is welcome!

We have offered it at the West Richmond Community Centre since September 2007, and although we have a few faithful members we would love to have more people come out and join us in this fun activity.

We truly love this sport and would love to share it with many others. Please come and join us in October and see what Pickle Ball is all about.



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Editor's Note

I ran this article in last month's E-Newsletter but due to a download error on my part, the pictures were lost. When couples such as Irene and Sid, dedicate so much time and effort to Pickleball, I feel that it is incumbent on me to recognize them in the fashion they deserve and that includes publishing their photographs.

Thanks to the efforts of couples like Irene and Sid, this great game expands. I hope the people who live in the area come out and support the club and the members of West Richmond. I want to give Sid a paddle shake and Irene a pickleball hug for all your efforts. I am nominating Sid and Irene Kalnins as the Pickleball couple of the month for their dedication to Pickleball in Richmond.

3rd Annual 50+ South Surrey Pickleball Tournament

By Chuck Lefaive

A truly great Pickleball event occurred on Saturday, September 13 – a one day gathering of some of the best picklers in Western Canada – 90 players from Saskatchewan to Bowser, BC and from Seattle and Squim to Bellingham, WA. They came to showcase their sport and to participate in men's, women's and mixed doubles.



The action was fast and furious all day.

Participants ended the day with a delicious catered meal. 43 medals were awarded to winners as they stood against the back drop of a beautifully decorated gym 3

Lots of volunteers participate to help in the many functions needed to keep the courts moving smoothly to get in all the games in one day. The addition of timers allowed courts to finish their games without interference.



Chuck comments, "There was a feeling that this was a made-in-Surrey tourney with our own touch to rules and protocols. Perhaps we are moving toward a made in Canada type of tournament in preparation for larger venues like the Oval or Langley Event Centre in 2011."

All present seemed to enjoy the comraderie of seeing old friends and testing their skills against their peers. Thanks to all the South Surrey staff for their efforts in putting this great tournament together.

A slide show of the 3rd Annual South Surrey tournament can be found at the link, <http://picasaweb.google.ca/wayneroswell/ThirdAnnualSurreyTournament#slideshow>

Editor's Note

Chuck was very proud of the medal he won. The first since high school he says. Congratulations Chuck.

Our Website in Action

By Bill Furse

Here is a good example of why our Pickleball Canada website is so important and a reminder to all individuals that are starting a new club or changing the location of a present club to send the club information to Pickleball Canada. Here is what Bill wrote,



“Yesterday I received a phone call from Dave Hill, an ambassador for the usapa, who lives in Ocala Florida. He was staying at the Cranberry resort, here in Collingwood, for a few days and was looking for a pickleball game.

I was able to get my wife Linda and friend, Walt, and we had a great time. This was the first International pickleball game in Collingwood.

When asked how he got my name and number Dave said that it came from our National Pickleball website. So it looks like this site is useful for people who are travelling and looking for people to play pickleball.”

Editors Note

I encourage all of you to check the Pickleball Canada website on a frequent basis at www.pickleballcanada.org. Christopher Luft of Beloud Web Services has done a great job of designing the site. I have started to take over some of the tasks of posting articles to the site, Chris lives dangerously. I have been adding articles to the home page and also to the forums section.

One new link has been added to the right sidebar called “Training Material”. Bill Furse, Beverley Butt, Bill Pineau, and I looked at the material out there and decided we needed a “Train the Trainer Package” that would help ambassadors, volunteers and anyone else willing to instruct others to teach Pickleball. The package is based on a model developed in The Villages, Florida where they have a central committee that has taken their best teaching practices and formalized them.

The concept is to have all instructors teaching the same things and insuring the information is up-to-date and correct. The package is comprehensive and may appear overwhelming at first but we wanted to make sure everything was covered. As Bill Furse says, “not all players will be able to execute all the strokes or strategies at a high level but they will at least be aware of them.”

The "Train the Trainer" package is a work in process and we welcome your constructive feedback. We would ask that all members have a look at the package and share this link with recreation departments and anyone else teaching Pickleball.

I try to search the web for articles on Canadian Pickleball. If there is something published online in your region, please forward the link to me so I can get it posted.

Upcoming Tournaments

The South Okanagan pickleball players will be hosting a tournament on Sunday October 25th at the Penticton Recreation Centre. The format is yet to be decided but there will be lots of pickleball played as we have the use of a large gym that has 6 courts. We have some pretty competitive players in the area so there is a good variety in the level of play with some very challenging teams. Lunch will be included. Cost will be determined once we find out how much the rec centre is charging us for the gym. To get your name on the list of participants, contact me, Dawna den Otter at ddotter@shaw.ca or 250-494-3372.

Players are asked to check the tournament link on the Pickleball Canada Website at <http://pickleballcanada.org/node/21> .

Editors Comments

September has been a busy month for Pickleball on the West coast with the 3rd Annual 50+ tournament in South Surrey and the British Columbia Senior Games in Richmond B.C. Congratulations to all the players, volunteers and organizers who were instrumental in making these games a great success.

I had the privilege of making a presentation to the committee organizing the Ontario Senior Games, Actifest, 2010 to be held in Oshawa, Ontario. The committee unanimously agreed to include Pickleball as a demonstration sport for the first time next year. The Pickleball event will be held at the University of Oshawa Institute of Technology/Durham College, August 11, 12 and 13, 2010. Hopefully, we can work with more regions in Ontario to have Pickleball included in more senior games going forward.



I also had the opportunity to work with Carolyn Stiff of the Stittsville Recreation Department and staff from Kanata - Barrhaven in Ottawa West. I did a train the trainer session with the staff so they

can now introduce Pickleball in their various centres.

Tony Sequeira and I did a session with the Markham Recreation Department to demonstrate the game. This session was held before 40 staff and volunteers. I am pleased that so many Recreation Centres are putting Pickleball into their programs because this means the game will be introduced to the young adults in after school and weekend drop in programs and to adults in day time drop in centres. The more awareness of the game we can get out there the better.

I am calling October, "Pickle a friend month." How do you pickle a friend? Here are two ways.

First, you invite a friend or spouse to come out and try the game at your local club or go with you to a new club that is just starting to try the game out. Get them "pickling".

Second, you mention to a friend that he or she should consider joining Pickleball Canada. Our pickle is at 225. If each of us added or pickled one more player, well you can do the math. We are not asking anyone to twist arms or use strong arm tactics, just mention it or hand them an application form. The one-on-one approach is the most effective way to encourage someone to try the game or join Pickleball Canada.

This week was the highlight of my Pickleball career to date. I introduced Pickleball to my home town of Port Perry, Ontario on Thursday, September 24, 2009. Thanks to great coverage by the press, the promotion of the Port Perry Seniors' Club, and an article in the Parks, Recreation, and Culture guide, 35 individuals showed up to observe and participate. To say I was overwhelmed would be an understatement. We were also joined by a few members of the Community Service Centre to try out the game. It was touching to see people with disabilities try the game. I can truly say it is, "a game for all."

I would like all clubs to send me a write up about their club with a few pictures. Thanks to Dave, Len, Irene and Sid for their reports this month. Please send me a write up and pictures on your club to rwroswell@gmail.com.



Have a happy Thanksgiving!

