



An E-Newsletter for Canadian Pickleball Players

Olympic Edition

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Featured Player and Pickleball Leader

By Shirley Shepherd



Grant Brittain, 39, has been a host of Pickleball at Abbotsford Recreation Centre since October, 2008. He introduces and teaches pickleball to new players.

Grant is married with three young sons. He is a youth pastor at Abbotsford Christ the King Community Church.

He is an excellent pickleball player and all the members of our group enjoy playing with him. Because of the efforts of Grant, an increasing number of players are now playing at ARC and more courts and more playing times are needed.

He started the social snack time and potluck dinners to encourage players to socialize and communicate with each other. He also started a social meeting time for juniors to learn from the seniors at ARC.

Grant plans to add more Pickleball times during the week and evenings, he will give Pickleball lessons at ARC and local schools. He is planning an annual Abbotsford Pickleball tournament in April, 2010. He also plans to open up more Pickleball sites in Abbotsford.

Grant is involved in a drop in program at the University of the Fraser Valley on Thursday from 4.00 pm to 5.00 pm. For more information on this program go to <http://www.ufv.ca/search/search.htm?cx=004026034678438143748%3Aicmjbj-slgc&cof=FORID%3A11&q=pickleball+time#147> .

Grant is to be congratulated on his introduction of Pickleball to seniors, and most important, for his work with youth at the recreation centre and at university. Grant is a true example of our Pickleball Canada motto, "a game for all".

Pickleball across the Pond

By Roger Birtwistle

Editor's Note:

Pickleball Canada continues to touch base with pickleball players internationally. This time the story comes from our friends across the pond. After Roger contacted Chuck Lefaive and Frank Wu about equipment, I contacted him to get his story. Here it is.



"Sorry it has taken so long to reply to your email and hope our story is of some interest to your readers. I have enclosed a photo (I am 6th from the left in shorts)

I first heard about Pickleball from my plumber of all people. I play tennis at a local club and he started to tell me about

Pickleball, which I had never heard of and thought was a strange name.

My name is Roger Birtwistle aged just about 60 years old and I live in Gorleston-on-Sea, Norfolk, UK (if you put my Post Code NR31 7PW in Google Earth you will see exactly where I live) which is about 130 miles north of London on the east coast in so called East Anglia.

My plumber Roger Wells is a friend of Tom Tucker who lives ten miles down the road in Lowestoft but also has a holiday home in 'The Villages' where he got to like the game so much that he brought some paddles back and got his friends and family enthused and they now play every Wednesday evening in a local school sports hall.

Rogers's enthusiasm rubbed off on me and that night I was playing Pickleball with him and his friends. I subsequently took some of my friends along and pretty soon organized my own sessions at a school in Gorleston with some paddles obtained from Tom when he returned from the Villages.

We regularly have 12 people coming, even in poor weather, and no one so far has dropped out. I only have 8 paddles plus 1 spare but people seem happy to sit out for 10 minutes to cool down and have a rest. I will be ordering more paddles in the near future as I have 4 badminton courts available to me.

I have a full time job but I would like to try and promote the game in the UK because I am sure many people would enjoy it if only they got to know and try it. We have quite breezy weather in the UK so I see it as more of an indoor winter sport but I am sure there are opportunities for outdoor play as well.

Locally we have a Five Star holiday resort called Potters Holiday & Leisure Centre, which has great facilities and attracts active retired people, especially those interested in bowling (not Ten Pin). Tom Tucker who is an Ambassador for US Pickleball did a demo there a couple of years ago and got some interest but with Paddles being unavailable in this country they did not pursue it. I thought I might arrange another demo there and try and fire it up again. If the sports staff can organize and coach Pickleball each week for a new intake, hopefully the residents will enjoy it and get small groups of friends playing all over the country where they come from.

I have had email contact with Chuck Lefaive & Frank Wu (Apik Paddles) and they have such enthusiasm for the game that I do feel encouraged to spread the word and who knows, we might find ourselves a budding champion and come over to Canada and show you boys and girls how to play, but even if we fail, we British are good losers.

Scarborough's Milliken Park Pickleball Club Celebrates



The Milliken Park Pickleball Club in Scarborough celebrated its ninth anniversary with its first ever tournament.

Tony Sequeira, the founder of the pickleball club was approached by some members of the club and asked about doing something special to celebrate their long history as the first pickleball club in Scarborough.

Tony with the help of club members, Ivy, Donna, Yolande and Lily decided to have a Fun Day for Pickleball. The idea was to pick partners from a hat, form teams and divide the teams into three groups Red, Blue and Green. Each team in the group would play round robin matches. The winners of the groups would play against each other in the semi-finals and finals. The partners and placement in the groups were done by random draw ahead of time. The winners of each group then played for the opportunity to have bragging rights for a day. There was also a prize table filled with prizes for everyone and of course plenty of food.

The idea behind the tournament was to make this a fun recreational tournament where all players could participate and receive a prize and a copy of a DVD just for participating. Most important, the club was recognizing the fact those nine years ago, Tony Sequeira along with Supervisor Marie James, worked hard to bring this game to Scarborough's, Milliken Park Recreation Centre.

Everyone seemed to have enjoyed themselves and judging by the comments and feedback a great time was had by all. Hopefully it will become an annual event.

Milliken Park Recreation Centre is also preparing to host the Pickleball Event for Scarborough Senior Games on Wednesday, May 26, 2010. Again, it's the first time for this type of tournament in Scarborough.

A Perspective on the Olympics from the Pickleball Courts

By Jenice Lewandowski

We are all excited about the Olympics in our very own Vancouver. Many have been lucky enough to see the torch, some even to carry or touch the torch. Each torch bearer had a special story to pass on.



These athletes have given up so much to arrive at this excellent level. Participation in the Olympics is an unreachable dream for most. Some of the attributes to attain this goal include athleticism, perseverance, much anxiety, and the constant worry of injury. The list goes on. To wake up every day to train, train, and train some more!

Even after all the preparation for an event, the result is not predictable. We have seen this with these winter games. Mother Nature does not always cooperate, but the events do go on! The athletes perform the best they can with the given conditions.

As we watch all of this, we have to admire the lone athlete from an obscure nation, with a name we can't pronounce or recognize. These are the ones we cheer for very loudly! Of course we know the

names of the top competitors.

Many of us, in our younger years, were competitive in one sport or another. Maybe we even harboured Olympic dreams. There is a saying, "The older we get the better we were."

Although not participating in the games, we can cheer these dedicated competitors along. Should any of us be lucky enough to attend an event, or be a volunteer, think of this as a fabulous life experience.

Welcome visitors to our Vancouver.

Hey...maybe there is hope yet for pickleball players to make it to the big time! Not in the snow though! Train, train, train, then do it again!! Just a thought. Meanwhile, happy Pickleballing....when you can tear yourself away from watching these amazing Olympics.

By George Brewer

Editor's Comments

For those of you who have never heard the name George Brewer, he is known as Mr. Pickleball in The Villages, Florida. I had the privilege of taking beginning lessons from George back in 2005 while renting at The Villages. I remember him telling spouses they could not play together because he would not be responsible for domestic violence.

George writes for a local newspaper and he forwarded this recent article to Chuck Lefaive. He relates, "I received more comments on this article than any other I have written."

I have taken editorial liberty in adding the title.

I Don't Give a "Toot" About Playing Pickleball the Way I Used To

I don't know if I'm finally catching up with how most Villagers play and enjoy Pickleball or if I just got old. But, all of a sudden, I don't give a "toot" about playing Pickleball the way I used to. I have no interest in Tournament play. I promised Jesus if he'd let me live thru the last time I did League play I'd never do that again. The Senior Games are O.K. for watching but Lord knows I'd never sign up and do that to myself again. Maybe it's the "bump in the road" I hit that woke me up when I turned 70. Thank God all that testosterone I've been totting around since I was 12 is now at a controllable level and I no longer think of myself as a Pickleball warrior.

I enjoy the fellowship of players I've known for years. I look forward to the daily banter, fussing at each other, name calling, finger pointing and one ups man ship with players that daily forgive each other over a cup of coffee as we brag about our grandchildren. I still smile at hearing the early morning greetings given to each other in jest. "How did you get out?" "Did the "Home" forget to lock the back door again?" Or, "Do you dress yourself?"

I don't play Pickleball with these guys because of their skill level. I play with them for the experience, fun and camaraderie. Although I don't want them to know it, I take no offense to their verbal assault, awful line calls or telling me (of all people) how to play the game. I do, however, take a great deal of comfort in knowing The Villages does not allow these guys to bring guns on the court. After a long rally, I get a big laugh out of my opponent asking me, "What's the score?" So they'll know if they are winning or losing, before they make up their mind if the ball is in or out. I get a second wind by challenging an out call I really knew all along was properly made so I can get some rest during the debate. I accept they are going to do the same thing to me and I know all will

be forgiven (probably because it is forgotten) by the time we fellowship later that morning.

It is a scientific proven fact that the game of Pickleball improves the hearing of the older player. Many times my senior opponent will look me straight in the eye and admit that they didn't see if the ball was in or out but without hesitation make an out call saying, "It 'sounded out' to me".

Pickleball is a game that matures along with you and doesn't leave you behind like so many other sports. It's a game that remains easy to play even as your level of health, energy, desire or competitive spirit changes. Right now my level is on "ENJOY" and I think the worse thing about Pickleball, is "wonderful". Hot dang, I can hardly wait to get to be 80 years old knowing this game called Pickleball has something waiting for me to still discover, and learn to enjoy, at the level I chose to play.

Tim Bits

You will recall an article I published in last month's newsletter by Michael Hachey on the intramural pickleball program at Laurentian University. Just after I published the story, I received some additional information from Michael about the program, his assignment, and most important the impact this program will have on the future of Pickleball among our younger players.



Michael forwarded a picture of himself, on the left, and he goes on to say, "I am in the Sports and Physical Education Program within the School of Human Kinetics at Laurentian University."

As part of a second year course "Program Organization in Physical and Health Education", the professor, Dr. Amanda N.Schweinbenz, (aschweinbenz@laurentian.ca), gives the students the major assignment of choosing an intramural activity and doing all the teaching and running a final event/ tournament. This includes seeking sponsorship, scheduling, hospitality, budgeting, and advertising.

The final point that Michael made and I would like to emphasize, "Many students in our program go on to be teachers and are involved in sport within the community. Judging by the enjoyment of the participants, I would like to believe that they would enjoy teaching others about the game."

As a follow up to stories on pickleball in India, okpickleball.com, our official supplies website, has sent Sunil, 20 Dura and Jugs balls for his program. If anyone knows of anyone who travels to Mumbai on a regular basis, please contact Chuck Lefave, as we

would like to continue to help them, but the cost of shipping is very costly and this could save money to provide more equipment.

Also, if anyone has dented, unloved and unwanted paddles, Chuck would be pleased to send them to Sunil in the same manner at no cost to the donator.

Chuck can be contacted at clefaive@shaw.ca, www.pickleballcanada.org or 604 536-9602

Upcoming Senior Games - Pickleball in Ontario

Windsor/Essex Senior Games - play downs are on Tuesday, April 27, finals April 29th. Registration is 9:00 a.m., start 10:00 a.m. They will be held at Riverside Minor Baseball Club, 5865 Ontario St. Windsor

Durham Senior Games, Friday, May 10, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. McLean Recreation Centre, 95 Magill Drive, Ajax. (note: the date and location are tentative at this time)

Scarborough Senior Games, May 26, 2010 at Milliken Park Recreation Centre

York Region Senior Games, Friday, May 14, 8:00 A.M. at the Magna Centre, 800 Mulock Drive, Newmarket.

To check to see if Pickleball is offered in your district go to <http://www.ontarioseniorgames.ca/complete-list-of-40-districts-listed-by-district-name/> and check for registration information or contact the president. There still may be time to have Pickleball added if you act quickly and offer to organize it.

Editor's Note:

I would appreciate all conveners of Pickleball events at any senior games to contact me at rwroswell@gmail.com with details of their event so I can add them here. I apologize to any conveners or districts I missed but I will be sure to correct that. I am also posting the tournaments on Pickleball Ontario, <http://pickleballontario.blogspot.com> so please look for updates there.

Editors Comments



This picture of the Olympic rings on the floating barge with the city of Vancouver will always be a symbol of the fantastic job British Columbia and Canada did in hosting the 2010 Winter Olympics.

All Canadians should be proud of what happened in our most western province. We do have a quiet patriotic way of showing it, but we are all proud Canadians.

Congratulations to all our athletes who represented Canada proudly.

One thing that always amazes me about Olympic athletes is the fact that they train together, they compete together at the highest level, they spend a great part of their lives together and they care immensely about each other. They share the joy and grief of their fellow athletes. Victory is often snatched from them by a split second but they continue to compete.

I would just like to remind pickleball players that, “in the next pickleball tournament you play in, forget bad line calls, the fact that the opponent served the ball a bit high, the draw did not favour you or whatever, and just have fun.” You are not competing for gold in the Olympics, we are way past that. It is great to still have that competitive spirit but let’s keep things in perspective and remember our age. As George reminds us, “the worst thing about pickleball is wonderful.”

Let’s hope that pickleball does become an Olympic sport sometime down the road and then, “let the serious competition begin.”

Urgent

I need your articles, stories, humour, events, pictures and anything pickleball related. To continue to produce a monthly newsletter, I need the help of every pickleball player in Canada.

I thank those clubs that have given me articles on their events. We enjoy reading about them; we get ideas for our own clubs. No matter how big or small the event is we want to hear about it. Please tell us about a member of your club that has made the club that much better.

Many clubs and districts will be holding tournaments. Please, please take some pictures and let us know.

I know there are some very experienced players out there that have ways they have improved their game. Share those with us and help us all become better players. We have top pickleball players here in Canada. Even in our modest Canadian way, share your tips with us. We need our own Canadian style. Arizona is dominating with the "soft or dink game." What is the Canadian style game?

I would like to continue to generate a monthly edition of this newsletter but I can only do that if I hear from you at rwroswell@gmail.com