

Nanaimo Pickleball Club President's Message

I would like to start by saying, "Thank you", for the opportunity to serve as your NPC President over the past year.

The NPC executive takes great pride in looking back over 2023, it was a year marked by many noteworthy achievements, as well as a number of milestones within the club. As an executive, we continue focusing on our club goals- excited to see new projects underway, and excited with our clubs' achievements over the past year. These accomplishments signify progress and share in the executive's commitment to the club's vision of maintaining and enhancing the quality and quantity of pickleball for all of our members. I want to recognize the invaluable contributions of our collective executive team, they have actively supported and collaborated on numerous projects and initiatives this year. This executive, is one of the most devoted group of volunteers, focused on creating and offering the best of pickleball to our membership. The successes we have shared were also made possible through the generous support of the membership that stepped forward and played a big part in turning our vision into reality. Our heartfelt gratitude is extended to all those that we have worked together with in this past year. Our club relies on the enthusiasm and endless work of volunteers, without your time and efforts in supporting our club and its programs, these events would never happen.

Thank you to those who continue to support the club, also to those members that have attended past AGM's and welcome to those who will attend their first NPC - AGM. Your participation and opinions are greatly appreciated, not only by the membership, but especially by the Executive who are expected and relied upon to make sound decisions and goals to continue to move our club forward.

The committee directors have provided an overview of their year - I would like to take this opportunity to highlight a few notable examples from our past year:

-With a massive growth in the membership, scheduling has been a challenge when offering sessions. By adding the use of school gyms we were able to tap our creativity and add a variety of play and additional sessions to our club schedule. Gary has been working hard with his amazing group of coordinators throughout the year.

-Quick glance at a few of our clubs sessions:

- drills n skills for all levels
- partner tournie practice
- recreational/social play
- ladders - league play
- 90 min. play - all levels
- Brackets play
- 4+ sessions
- Orientation Sessions
- Clinic Sessions for different levels
- Tournament play

-Special acknowledgement to Caron for hosting all of our tournaments - outstanding job to you and your committee for hosting some of the most organized and smoothly run sessions.

-The Youth program continues to grow - we have not only been in the public schools (supporting students and teachers), but also in the private schools.

Big shout out to Harvey and the membership for their donations of "experienced paddles" - to date we have delivered a number of class sets to a few schools and through the diligence of Harvey - grant funding has been pursued allowing the club to purchase paddles from Selkirk along with 4 nets for the youth program.

-Big thank-you to Monte for being our first in the line of communication for our membership and for those inquires that may be looking for connections.

-Kudos to John and Ruth for enhancing the liaison process for new members - always a challenge to navigate this beginning process - your personal touch is greatly appreciated!!

-In response to the community's needs we have been collaborating with the city on the needs of pickleball - looking at the possibility of new venues to support the growth and popularity of pickleball.

-Collecting of data - sending out surveys to membership with regards to and retention and what the club can do better for its members.

-Design of a new and updated logo for club. Followed by a new line of apparel - Note: the Spring collection will be coming out soon!!

-Coordinators and Relief Coordinators - our group of play support has grown, and the club is so grateful for your diligence and support in making our sessions run smoothly, consistently and adding that flavor of fun that keeps the members coming back. Thank-you!!!!

-Club policies established and shared with membership as well as placed onto our yearly updated website for the membership to refer to.

-Safety is so important and we have been moving forward on making sure our coordinators have access at the gym to first aid kits as well as having their own kits for emergencies. Each coordinator is to comply to our club mandate of reacting to any injury when made aware of concern and following up with paperwork that is sent in to the BC body for future coverage, if needed. In February we will be sending 20 NPC members to training for CPR/AED - hoping to get more members trained in future.

-Refereeing Clinic through Rick and Elizabeth Falk - 12 members received a 4-hour clinic - classroom and practical experience on the court.

-Forming of a Society - through much research and contact with lawyers - our club has moved to becoming a society. A big thank-you to Lyle for being the backbone of this task and ensuring the smooth operation for our club to move forward in this process. I would like to extend and recognize Lyle's efforts and his unwavering dedication to his service in this club. Lyle plays a crucial role in supporting most endeavors within the organization. Thank-you!

-Used Equipment - great idea suggested and supported by one of our members - Larry F. If you have a used piece of Pickleball equipment - here is a way to showcase your wares online to the membership.....

-Ball Machine - Still alive and well - can be rented at anytime - Thank-you Cecil for your support.

-Outdoor Court Maintenance - Thank-you to the club for their purchase of a leaf blower - Murray S has kept the courts well maintained of leaves and debris. Thank-you, Murray.

-Training and Development Programs - A continued thank-you to Lee, Pete and Anna for what you offer our members and those that are experiencing this addicting game for the first time. Successful programs for all levels all year around. Harvey and Caron have been offering great sessions for all levels in skills n drills, while Caron did an amazing job this summer, hosting a number of orientation sessions with amazing support from the membership.

What a year! I may have got carried away, but the examples that I have mentioned, are cause for elation. Looking ahead, the NPC Executive remain committed to building on these successes, by listening to you the membership and involving the community in their actions. I'd like to thank my co-Executives for their invaluable contributions to the club, and to those that have agreed to stay on for another year.

In mentioning that, we have an additional 2 members, who have agreed to put their names forward for election; If this interests you - please send in your name and a brief description of your experience and the direction you would like to see the club move towards. We will take names up until the day of the AGM when the vote of executive members for 2024 occurs.