

Bellingham Pickleball Club: Accomplishments June 2018 – August 8th 2019

Club Organization

- Started club membership in June 2018, after incorporating as a non-profit in May 2018. There were 155 members during the first year, including 10 from outside of Whatcom County. BPC currently has approximately 180 local members.
- Established full BPC Board: President Barbara Goebel; Vice President Rick Anderson; Secretary Maggi Kriger; Treasurer Ellen Howard >Terri Vossbeck; At-large: Catharine Vader, Bernadette Ryan, & Gabe Drury.
- Held 6+ Club Development Meetings: solicited input & recommendations from members, and kept them informed.
- Developed BPC bylaws.
- Planned for 1st Annual General Meeting & Elections on August 18th. 2019.

Communication

- Developed professional website including: BPC crafted documents for ratings, and etiquette; links to places to play, discounts, calendar, meeting notes, & other pickleball resources; payment portal for club membership & donations.
- Provided regular emails, Facebook posts, and website updates to inform members & public of opportunities. Responded in a timely manner to inquiries directly to the club, or via the website.
- Gathered information about needs and interests through numerous surveys:
 - In fall 2018, to learn about: snowbirds; frequency & timing of desired play in summer and winter; make-up of the community; & market research for pricing of indoor courts.
 - In winter, to learn about: member pricing preferences; Cornwall court utilization preference; interest in evening indoor play; & volunteer inclinations.
 - In spring 2019, to learn about: interest of players & potential hosts for scheduled skill-level sessions.

Bellingham Parks Department & Cornwall Park

- Provided needed support during 11-month transition to pickleball courts, including nets, temporary lines, and use of Elizabeth Park.
- Developed an agreement for the use of Cornwall Horseshoe Shed for storage of portable nets & other equipment.
- Set up portable nets daily as needed on tennis courts for morning drop-in sessions.
- Advocated for an information kiosk at Cornwall, and regularly post to it.
- Finalized plans for Cornwall Park conversion of 2 tennis courts to 6 dedicated pickleball courts.
- Supported completion of the dedicated pickleball courts which were completed the first week of August 2019.
- Developed a “Memorandum of Agreement” and a “Letter of Agreement” with Bellingham Parks & Recreation Department on rights & responsibilities for use and maintenance of Cornwall courts.
- Held work parties to keep Cornwall courts cleaned-up throughout the year, and playable in early spring, (instead of being unplayable while waiting for Parks Dept pressure washing).
- Obtained permission to fundraise for ball barrier fences. In coordination with Whatcom Parks and Recreation Foundation (501c3), BPC raised \$19,000 in 3 weeks. Enough for fencing, safety capping, and lock box!
- Obtained approval @ Cornwall for: morning “hosted” Drop-in Sessions 6 days a week; 1 “No-host” drop-in session evening; and multiple “Skill-level Sessions”. (6 well-utilized weekly sessions including 3 for beginners & novices; Two for intermediate; and one “Ladder/ Shoot-out” night.)
- Provided “Court Hosts” for morning drop-in sessions 6 days a week.
- Purchased four portable nets for use on the Cornwall tennis courts.
- Implemented a refined paddle grouping method to allow for “open” any-level and/or skill-level Groupings during drop-in.
- Met with Parks & Rec Staff re: sharing of tennis courts after some issues arose.
- Developed a facilities committee to oversee improvements & maintenance at courts.
- Spray-chalked &/or painted pickleball lines on tennis courts @ Cornwall & Elizabeth Parks, (w/ Park Dept approval.)

- Obtained approval to purchase a secure locking storage box at Cornwall Park, with installation by the Park Department. Thank you Players Pickleball for sponsoring the lock box.
- Purchased and installed “PolyCap” fence safety capping.
- Obtained approval to paint other courts, but that is now on hold pending resolution of tennis court sharing issues.
- Advocated for painting permanent pball lines on Birchwood basketball courts for use w/ portable nets. They’re done.
- Initiated positive conversations & momentum with the Parks Dept for seeking park property on which BPC can build additional courts (by doing all the fundraising & contracting ourselves).

Club Ratings

- Formed ratings committee to research rating, and subsequently created 2-page document combining the USAPA and IPTPA guidelines to have quantified descriptions for 1.0 through 5.0.
- Created simpler 1-page document with glossary of terms for 2.5 through 4.0.

Partnerships

- Player’s Pickleball: sponsorship with discounts on paddles; PP provided financial support for Meridian events , demo paddles, and secure lock-box for Cornwall.
- Whatcom Family YMCA: including “Healthy Kids Day” introduction of pickleball; increased playing time at Ferndale. Advocacy for correct location of NVZ “kitchen” lines @ downtown Y, which we hope will be done by the end of 08/19.
- Birch Bay Activity Center: Co-hosting PicklersPalooza (09/14/19); hosted Tuesday evening play; provided club membership donation for February Exhibition with clinic & play-in with pros.
- Family Partnership Program: BPC volunteers built a pickleball court at the former Larrabee Elementary School lot, for use by Family Partnership Program, neighborhood families, and special needs populations.

Indoor Venues

Responded to expressed desire for additional indoor playing venues:

- Obtained liability insurance to rent school gyms. (This liability coverage now covers members at all BPC hosted events.)
- Rented Meridian High gym 5 times, including: round robin, novice skills, women’s day, & outreach to nearby counties.
- Rented Bellingham elementary schools (either Happy Valley or Larrabee) for weekly play from January through May.
- 57% of members used the rented gyms (89 out of 155)
- Expanded Birch Bay Activity Center by hosting Tuesday nights, and successfully advocating for additional pball sessions.
- Coordinating w/ Bellingham Fitness to provide discounted membership pricing for BPC for upcoming 3 new indoor courts. Conducted market research in order to help advise on price setting.

Other

- Created a community where players of all ages can expand their social connections, and make new friends.
- Designed club logo, incorporating the Bellingham flag.
- Surveyed pickleball community to assess the members make-up and needs: Most want to play as much in winter as summer (2-4 times), but lack as much opportunity due to limited indoor venues. 27% were snowbirds, (some gone October - May).
- Offered name badges with club logo.
- Purchased four additional portable nets for use at Elizabeth Park, and other venues as needed. They are available as “loaners” to BPC members.
- Coordinated & implemented a “Travelling Clinic” with Peter Hudachko from Pickleball Station.
- Held a BPC Social Potluck & Pickleball event at Fairhaven Park in September 2018.
- Bought drill “aides” for use during skill-building sessions
- Increased awareness of pickleball and BPC locally and beyond, including drop-in players from Canada and across the United States.

BPC VOLUNTEERS of the MONTH and the YEAR:
Thank you to all listed, and to the many others who help out!

Month	Volunteers	Accomplishments of Note
9/13/18	Don Wheeler	Coordination with the Horseshoe Club for storage at Cornwall Park
	Mike Burin	Transporting / setting up / taking down nets; and court chalking
10/24/18	Ellen Howard	Treasurer launching BPC
	Chuck & Karen Hoelscher	Ambassadors connecting with folks of all levels
12/4/18	Erica Kulm	Meridian HS Gym pickleball concept and support
	"Painter Dave" Schmalz	Painting extension lines @ Fairhaven; with Chuck, Dan, Jim D., Ed, Catharine, Maggi, & Rick A
2/1/19	Techies: Tammy Findley; Rick Hill & Keith Turley	Logo design Website design
	Rick Anderson + 18	Cornwall Clean-Up Crew
4/2/19	Carsten Kroon	Winter weeknight play in Bellingham
	Dotti Berry	Feb exhibition, ambassador, BBAC liaison, Tuesday nights @ BBAC
4/28/19	David May	Facilities' Champion
5/19/19	Peter H & Rating Comm.	Developing BPC rating guidelines (with diligence & dedication)
6/23/19	Gaby Gaiz	Dedicated, cheerful, and thoughtful "Court Host".
	Gail McDonald	Court & session hosting; drafting etiquette guidelines; sashes
7/21/19	Steve Nelson	Time & expertise to guide BPC bylaws devt; Superlative court host
	Eileen Nelson	Support & leadership of Beginner/Novice Sessions
	Jeff Kerr	Novelty "Handyman"; Assisting w/ beg/novice sessions; ball machine
8/18/19	ALL the Skill-Session Hosts & Helpers	THANK YOU to ALL! <i>We couldn't do it without you!</i> Melinda, Carol Lo, Carsten, Rick A., Ed, Polly, Amy, Eileen, Bobbie Jo, Claude, Dotty M, Marv M, Mary G, Angie, Marv B, Dave M, Jeff., Carol H, Brad, Steve Nelson, Steve Nakato, Cheryl, Kim, Gail, & anyone we forgot!
	ALL Drop-in Session Court Hosts & Helpers	THANK YOU to ALL! <i>We couldn't do it without you!</i> Gail, Gaby, Rick A, Neal, Steve Nelson, Polly, Marv B, Carol, Barbara G, Maggi, David M, Polly, Mike B., Pat M, Helene, & anyone we forgot!
	"Soft Opening" Committee	Lola Barb for taking initiative to plan & organize the 8/7 event. And to Judy N, Mary G, and Catharine for assisting!
	Facilities Crew	Peter H, Pat M, John W, Jeff K, and David M. Bless you all!

THANK YOU for the CORNWALL PICKLEBALL COURTS!

(From the Bellingham Pickleball Club)



- City of Bellingham; Parks & Recreation Department
- The Blackburn Family
- Players Pickleball; Local paddle manufacturer & BPC Sponsor (*code bpc10*)
- Whatcom Parks and Recreation Foundation
- Imagine Design Studio; Lithtex NW
- Misty Meadows; Byrd Penney
- **56 Total Generous Donors:** (individuals, couples, & businesses)

- 1 Top Pickle @ \$5,000+
- 3 Dill Pickles @ \$1000+
- 4 Grandma's Pickles @ \$500+
- 10 Sweet Pickles @ \$250+
- 21 Bread & Butter Pickles @ \$100+
- 8 Refrigerator Pickles @ \$50+
- 9 Gherkins @ \$20+

➤ **AND all the others who contributed time & energy to making this happen. We couldn't have done it without all of you!**

Marv B
Wendy J
Bob W
Harriet
Karen & Chuck
Neal
David M
Bob & Kim H
Helene
John
Gabe
Polly
Paula
Maggi & Jim H
Terri
Gail & Pat M
Steven H
Cathy A
Wheeler

Melinda
Dotti
Jean
Rick H
Cheryl
Carol
Tom A
Jim D
Lynne
Andy Day & Connie C
Rick A & Denisa A
Gaby & Mary
Orcas Island Community Foundation
Harbinger Enterprises
Tammy & Fred C
Ellen
Eileen & Steve N
Barbara & Ed Goebel
Blackburn Family

Phil H
Kamal
Ron & Mary Ann Y
NW Database Solutions (Carsten)
Christine K
Angie & Steve Z
Lola
Catharine
Misty Meadows Farm (Melissa & Mark M.)
Lorrie & Mark F
Barb Francis
Margen
D'Linda
Leslie D
Sharon
Dirk
Players Pickleball

Our apologies if we got names wrong, omitted anyone, (or included someone who wished to remain anonymous)!