

## SUMMARY RESULTS for June 2020 PREPARING FOR PHASE 3 Pickleball Survey

The Bellingham Pickleball Club surveyed the local pickleball population, focusing on: How Phase 2 is going; Input for Phase 3 at Cornwall Park; Volunteer opportunities; and Board nominations.

Last summer, scheduled Morning Open Drop-in Sessions @ Cornwall were so busy we would never consider scheduling Skill-Level Sessions in the morning. At this time however, only a minority said they prefer for there to be scheduled Morning Open Drop-in sessions on ALL courts. 23% doubt they'll even attend Morning Open Drop-In Sessions, plus 29% aren't sure whether they want to due to COVID-19. On the other hand, there is very strong support for having 4 pickleball courts dedicated to Skill-Level Sessions, alongside Morning Open Drop-in times limited to the remaining pickleball and "multi-use"/ tennis/pickleball courts.

A large percentage of people weren't able to predict what level of involvement or commitment they could make due to uncertainty surrounding COVID-19.

At the end of this report, for those interested, is a summary of comments from all sections.

### Who Responded to the Survey?

<p><b>133 Respondents</b> (130 for the September 2019 survey)</p> <p><b>77% are renewed or new BPC members;</b> Another 17% had memberships that were expiring 6/30/20. 6% have not been members,</p> <p><b>56% have some interest in volunteering</b> (14% "Yes"/ 42% "Maybe"), whereas last year 57% had interest with 33% "Yes" / 24% "Maybe".</p> <p><b>There was a big decrease</b> in willingness to commit, from 33% to 14%, due to COVID-19 . This makes planning more challenging.</p> <p>Only <b>4 respondents</b> said they can commit to any schedule as <b>Lockbox Guardian</b>, while <b>28</b> offered to help if already there.</p>	Play during Phase 2?	#
	Yes I have played.	94
	I've played at Cornwall Park	58
	Yes, I've played but I've not as often as I want	53
	Yes, I've played as often as I want	41
	No, I've not been ready to play.	38

Why People Haven't Played as Often as They Want during Phase 2	
(Check all that apply, so percentages add up to more than 100%)	#
Challenging to find suitable groups	31
Life has been too busy	18
I don't want to pre-arrange groups and session times	16
Weather hasn't matched my schedule	12
Not ready to be around so many people	7
Health / injury issues	4

# Skill Level Self-Rating

98% provided a "self-rated" skill-level.

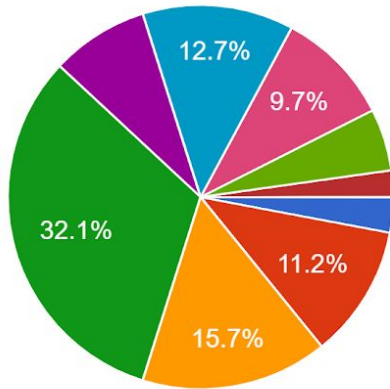
Skill-level percentages were consistent with September 2019 survey results.

30% (1.0- 2.5+) Beginners through Upper Novice

53% (3.0 - 4.0) Lower Intermediate through Upper Intermediate

13% (4.0 - 5.0) Lower Advanced through Upper Advanced

Some players aren't sure of their level, but it appears that the self-rating of skill-level has been improving in accuracy over the past year.



Skill Level Self-Rating	June 2020 Responses	
	#	%
1.0 - 1.5 Beginner	4	3%
Lower Novice (2.0+)	15	11%
Upper Novice (2.5+)	21	16%
Low to Mid-intermediate (3.0-3.5)	43	32%
Mid- Intermediate (3.5)	11	8%
Upper Intermediate (3.5 - 4.0)	17	13%
Lower Advanced (4.0+)	13	10%
Upper Advanced (4.5+)	7	5%
Don't know	3	2%

## Planning for Phase 3 @ Cornwall

The September 2019 survey showed 93% played on Cornwall Pickleball Courts during summer, (with 6% more planning to do so in 2020). Currently 25% are unsure whether they will even play at Cornwall at all this summer. 53% of respondents want to participate in Skill-Level Sessions this season.

Do you think you'll play in any capacity this summer at Cornwall Park during Phase 3?			Are you interested in coming to Morning Open Drop-in?			Do you want to participate in Skill-Level Sessions?		
	#	%		#	%		#	%
Yes	90	68%	Yes	41	31%	As Host	9	7%
No	10	8%	No	39	29%	As Helper, and/or Substitute Host	14	11%
Unsure	33	25%	Maybe	36	40%	Attend regularly	47	35%
			Don't know enough	17	13%	No, can't commit to regular time	63	47%

Should there be **Skill-Level Sessions on 4 dedicated pickleball courts** at Cornwall Park for designated levels during **weekday mornings**?

	#	% of all respondents	% of all potential Cornwall attendees
<b>YES. Use 4 dedicated pickleball courts for a designated skill-level range M-F, and the remaining 2-6 courts for Open Drop-in</b> (with and/or without challenge courts)	<b>60</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>49%</b>
<b>I don't know enough to answer</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>24%</b>
<b>NO. Use all 6 - 10 courts for Open Drop-in</b> (with and/or without challenge courts)	<b>23</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>19%</b>

Last summer, BPC scheduled Open Drop-in Sessions (with skill-level tags) on all courts Monday-Saturday mornings, and it was super popular. Players also overwhelmingly loved the Skill-Level Sessions and wanted more, but we wouldn't have considered scheduling them in the morning.

This year we floated the idea of holding some Skill-Level Sessions in the morning, wondering if many players might not be as comfortable with Open Drop-in due to COVID-19.

It was by far the most popular option chosen, with a few strongly objecting to the concept.

**How comfortable do you think you'll be mixing** with other people as you play pickleball in PHASE 3?

While a majority are comfortable with more mixing than during Level 2, though many still prefer to limit mixing.

*(Choose all that apply, so percentages add up to more than 100%)*

	Percent
<b>I want to play with a pre-arranged group with some mixing between groups</b>	<b>26%</b>
<b>I'm comfortable mixing with anyone who comes</b>	<b>26%</b>
<b>I want to play in Skill-Level Sessions, but NOT general Open Drop-In</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>I want to play in Skill-Level Sessions, and ALSO general Open Drop-In</b>	<b>24%</b>
<b>I only want to play with a pre-arranged group like in Phase 2</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>I don't know enough to answer</b>	<b>11%</b>
<b>I want to show up without a pre-arranged group, but play with the same small group for entire session</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>I want to show up without a pre-arranged group, but play singles or with the same partner the</b>	<b>6%</b>

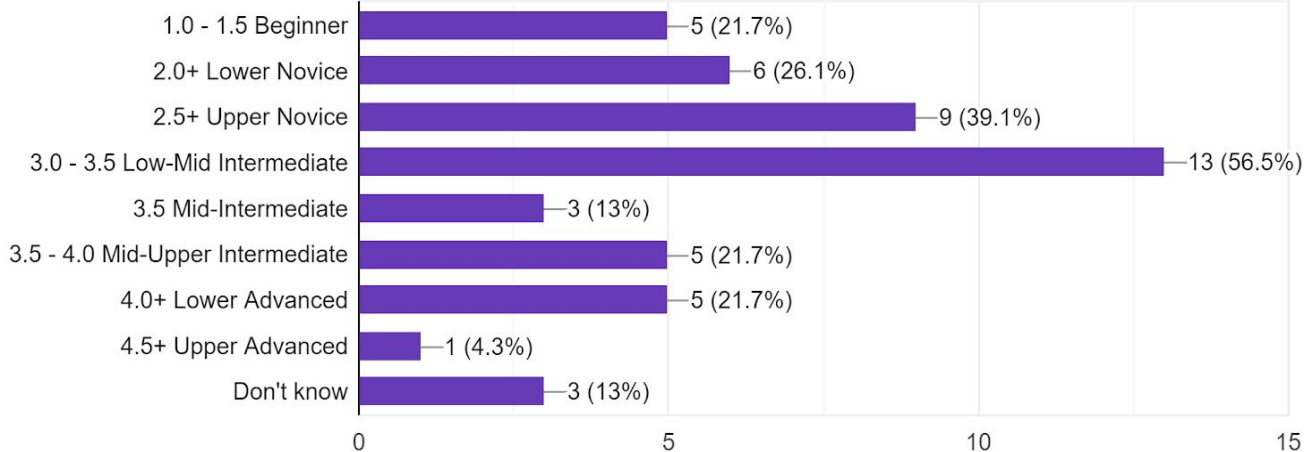
## What other options would you want in the morning?

*(Choose all that apply, so percentages add up to more than 100%)*

	#
<b>For Open Drop-In: play one game, then rotate off the court for the next group to play to play doubles or singles.</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>I don't know enough to answer</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Play 2-3 games in a row with the same group before rotating off the court.</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Split session: People come either from 8:30 - 10:30, OR 10:30 - 12:30 (and can only play earlier or later, if courts are available). This will allow more people the opportunity to play in the morning.</b>	<b>30</b>

## What range of levels are you willing to host (or help/ substitute host) for Skill-Level Sessions?

**Hosts = 9, Helpers/ Substitutes = 14** *(Check all that apply, so percentages add up to more than 100%)*



## What elements do you want during the Skill-Level Sessions that you host (or assist/ substitute host)?

*(Check all that apply, so percentages add up to more than 100%)*

	# (out of 23)	Percent
<b>Drills for 20-30 minutes, followed by games</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>78%</b>
<b>Organized play (Shoot-out, Ladder, Challenge Court, Round Robin, etc.)</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>35%</b>
<b>Drill up to 45 minutes, followed by games that incorporate the drill skills</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>26%</b>

Games only	6	26%
I don't know	4	17%

## Volunteering to Help Out

*(Due to COVID-19, those committing to help out is way down from last year.)*

15% said they want to help out for sure.

43% said they might want to help out depending on the task and their availability.

There is quite a bit of interest in blowing/ sweeping the courts, as well as helping with a potential small tournament (within COVID-19 guidelines), if we can manage to pull that off.

17 people might want to help beginners/novices, with a mix of those who definitely want to help out or aren't sure.

18 people may be interested in being a "Pickleball Ambassador", with a mix of commitment levels.

"Net Steward" 11/ "Coaching/Mentoring" 7 / "Volunteer Coordination" 7 / (with a wide range of levels of commitment)

Re "Hosting Skill-level Sessions" as previously stated: 9 said they'd host, plus 14 would assist and/or substitute.

Re "Lockbox" as previously stated: 4 said they'd commit to a schedule, plus 28 would do it if they happen to be there.

## BPC Board Nomination Suggestions (for August elections)

Quite a few names were suggested, along with the 6 current board members who are willing to be on the ballot.

A good handful of people were suggested multiple times.

Follow-up inquiries will be made by the nominating committee regarding interest.

Comments for reference in the following section.

## **Below are summarized comments, plus some observations & commentary**

### **Key to Comments:**

- > indicates comment from one person.
- >> Indicates similar comments from two people.
- >>> Three or four.
- >>>>> Many!

### **What can BPC do to help you get out on the courts?**

*(53 people had said that they've been playing, but not as much as they want to.)*

(31 respondents selected "It's challenging to find suitable groups to play with" as the most common reason they've played less than they wish.)

Comments:

- >>> Just wait; it's important not to push people or set unsafe expectations.
- >>> It would be better if everyone wore a face covering, at least when not playing.
- I'll be on the courts as long as I don't have to wear a mask or participate in contact tracing.
- >> Could we do reservations or signups? (The answer is not yet, but could be considered for the future.)
- >> Organize "meet-ups" or "modified drop-in" for designated levels? (Same as above.)
- Open up the middle courts to allow for more play groups at one time. When I was there there were multiple groups waiting.
- It's frustrating that the BPC Member Contact Directory doesn't allow for filtering or sorting.

### **Comments about Phase 2 @ Cornwall**

- >>>>>> Cornwall Phase 2 protocols seem to be working well. I feel safe and there are no significant problems with waiting.
- >>> Would like the middle courts opened up as that wouldn't pose more of a risk than people waiting for a court.
- >> It's greatly appreciated that the two middle courts are closed off.
- >> Would like more encouragement for mask wearing and social distancing
- >> There are a few people not complying with the "no drop-in" policy.
- >> Look forward to safe small group mentoring for beginners & lower novices.

### **"Hosting" for Skill-level Sessions**

- Skill level sessions are generally 2 hours, except for beginners/ lower novices who usually have 1.5 hour sessions.
- Some are willing to be a host, but don't want responsibility to lead drills or "instruct", while others are fine with both.
- Rick A. wants to provide "Beginner Basic Skills" for 3-4 required sessions, with games incorporated in final sessions.

## Weekday Morning Inclinations

A higher percentage of 4.0-5.0 players want open drop-in on ALL courts in the mornings. Hard to know why there is a discrepancy on this.

One person requested that the dedicated pickleball courts be used for open drop-in, and the "multi-use" courts be used with portable nets for skill-level sessions. (*While this has some merit, a problem is that all 4 courts can't be guaranteed if there are tennis players on those courts.*)

A number of people can't or don't wish to participate in the mornings at Cornwall.

## Other Morning Options

Comments:

>> Best would be systems that have limited groups during Phase 3. Large Open Drop-in Sessions with lots of partner mixing and socializing will be potential set-up for contagion. Doesn't seem safe.

>> Skill-level Sessions should only be during afternoons and evenings.

>> Can't play weekday mornings

Skill-building is good, but leave lots of time for playing games.

Open the middle courts.

Face coverings should be worn when off the courts.

Fix it so people don't jump into levels that are higher than their own.

## Volunteering to Help Out

Comments:

>>>>> Unpredictable schedule and availability for a variety of reasons

>>> I'm too new to the club and/or Cornwall to know enough.

>>> I have very limited availability, but I'm happy to help out when I can.

>> It would be good for more higher level players to be more active participants in helping out. Perhaps they could be actively recruited.

I don't want to commit to a schedule.

I want to help teach, but then I don't want everyone asking me all the time to play because I was helpful and nice.

I'm committed to my grandchild for the next month, but happy to help after that.

I'm brand new to the club, and live close by so it might be convenient for me to help with various tasks, but I don't know enough yet.

## Miscellaneous Comments

>>>>> Many statements of appreciation in various ways for the people who nurture, tend, & grow the pickleball community.  
*Much thanks!*

>>>>> Concerns stated that it isn't going to be safe to play with such relaxed guidelines during Phase 3, and/or people not following guidelines.

Don't try to please everyone all the time. If people aren't comfortable with what is happening at certain times, they can come at other times.

The club could and should consider the group as a whole, along with the percentages at various skill-levels so that court assignments and time are provided accordingly

The club doesn't have the responsibility to ensure that everyone is social distancing all the time because much of that is up to individuals, as is their choice to come or not.

Unfortunately I'm not even going to make it to Bellingham this summer due to the virus!

*Thank you for participating in the survey and for helping to implement these great ideas. For more comments, info, or to offer to help, contact us at [Bellinghampickle@gmail.com](mailto:Bellinghampickle@gmail.com), or checkout BPC website [www.bellinghampickleball.org](http://www.bellinghampickleball.org).*