

April 28, 2019: Cornwall Planning Meeting (and potluck)

2829 Lynn St @ Gail & Pat's Birdhouse Studio

bellinghampickle@gmail.com / www.bellinghampickleball.org

Present: Barbara G, Rick A, Terri, Catharine, Bernadette, Maggi, Ron H, Pete, Loretta, Karen S. Pat, Gail, Lola, Mary G, Gaby G, Claude, Ed, David M, Carol L, Margen, Judy, Paul, Amy, Melinda, Carol H, Jimmy, Polly, Paula, Jim H.

Next Cornwall Meeting Date: Sunday May 19; 5pm Potluck; 6pm Meeting @ 2829 Lynn St. (Gail & Pat's).

Volunteer of the Month

David May: For being the Cornwall Park facility champion. Thank you for going above & beyond the call of duty!

Important (Non-Cornwall) Notes:

- First annual BPC membership & renewal drive is May/June 2019, (membership good through June 2020). This will greatly simplify bookkeeping, & help keep our Treasurer sane. Thank you, Terri! Online payment is now available @ www.bellinghampickleball.org. Member forms also @ Cornwall kiosk, or online.
- First BPC Annual General Meeting w/ board elections will be in mid-August.
- There will be a mini PickleFest @ Birch Bay Activity Center (BBAC) on Saturday September 14th. This will be a fun social event for all levels, with food & activities, co-hosted by BBAC & BPC. (Might you want to volunteer to help?)

Current Cornwall Status & Timeline Projections

- Pressure-washing on "tennis" area will be done in May after the fir tree pollen drops. Pressure washing of the new pickleball "courts" might be postponed until just prior to resurfacing, depending on severity of pollen drop.
- Fencing donation total (including match) is \$19,450! That comes to almost \$19,000 when admin fees are subtracted. That's enough for all 6 fences & safety padding, with some left over for other court improvements. Installation of fence posts will happen within the next few weeks, and the pball area will be closed for 4+ days." A question was raised about whether there is sufficient spacing between courts & fences. All spacing meets or exceeds basic USAPA requirements for standard play & tournaments.
- Court resurfacing & completion will not happen until we have a string of dry warm days, & nights with temps 65+. The courts are not just being painted, but being resurfaced too.
- BPC has a positive relationship with the Bham Parks & Rec Dept, & has entered into multiple agreements w/them. As such, BPC has been delegated as the authority to make court scheduling decisions, as long as they are in compliance with Park Dept expectations. BPC has been asked by the Park Department to remind people to please comply with park regulations. Additionally, the Department requested that ONE person be the direct channel for direct BPC communication. Maggi Kriger is serving in that role.

Transition Steps for Cornwall Until Courts are Completed

- Spray chalk striping of all six "new" courts is in progress, but might be on hold until after fence posts are installed.
- Extension line striping (w/ marking paint) for portable nets on tennis courts will follow pressure washing.
- Morning drop-in play system: a decision was made that in addition to using the paddle stacking method, there will be a 2-week trial having two courts available for 4.0+, w/ one of those courts for 4.5+ (when present). If there is less than a full court, other players will be invited in. Feedback welcome on how you think it's working. Modifications, or other systems, will subsequently be trialed. Suggestions welcome.
- Court maintenance: sweeping/ blowing (as needed after rain or wind), chalking, and other tasks as needed. Volunteers who assist with court maintenance are asked to submit Volunteer Liability Waivers. BPC will distribute the waivers to volunteers.
- Net Adjustments: For accountability, it is important that only a few people be responsible for net adjustments. If you think that the nets need to be adjusted, please talk with David M, Rick, Barbara or Maggi. Or email BPC.
- Storage until court completion will continue to be the Horseshoe shed. It's less than ideal, but what we have.

PLANNING FOR COURT COMPLETION

- **Target Date:** we are setting June 15th as our target date to have systems in place, just in case the courts are done by then, (though it's not likely). The date is flexible, and can be extended if warranted.
- **See [April Survey Summary Results](#)** here . Based on self-rating of only 92 respondents, the skill-levels are: Intermediate (3.0-3.9) =63%; Beginners/novice (1.0-2.9) =20%; Advanced (4.0+) =17%. Many respondents are interested in volunteering to help out. See proposed schedule below of skill-level sessions. Only sessions with "Skill-level Hosts" will be put on the calendar & have designated courts.
- **Scheduling:** Though this wasn't clear on the survey, during weekday morning drop-in play, efforts will be made to incorporate skill level play as much as possible. While there will be some skill-level play during these times, there aren't enough courts to consistently meet everyone's needs. Additionally, people who work during the day want some designated skill-level times. For both these reasons, we are looking at specific other scheduled times for skill-level sessions on 2-4 designated courts if there are skill-level court "hosts". We are required by the Park Dept to always leave at least two pickleball courts unscheduled. *See the potential skill-level times below, based on survey results. Please let us know what would work for you.*
- **Morning group drop-in play:** It was decided that when courts are done, if not before, to try: The Gold/Silver system for the intermediate players; Beginners/ novices will have priority on 1-2 of the tennis/pball courts, with assistance as relevant; The other 2 tennis/pball courts will be available as free courts for rotating play (if not being used by tennis players). Subject to change as needed.
- Every weekday morning will have a BPC "Court Host" (or two), to assist with flow, questions, beginners, etc.
- **Protocols** need to be developed for drop-in play, and other situations. Do you want to help?
- **Etiquette guidelines** for signage need to be developed. Do you want to help?
- **Ball choice:** Leaning toward Onix Fuse G2 for basic recreational ball. Those who want to play with a Dura or Franklin X-40 are welcome to bring their own ball, as long as all four players agree to use it. This decision is based on the Onix being more user friendly for developing players, and much longer lasting.
- **Signage & kiosk use:** BPC can use the kiosk to share information with members & the general public. If there is something you'd like posted, please let us know. All postings must be approved by BPC or Park Dept.
- See link here to [BPC Self Rating Skill-level Assessment Guidelines](#). Paper copies are available at the kiosk, and are on BPC website as a pdf @ [BPC Website Skill PDF](#) . They're written to be a practical guide to measure proficiency for skill-level placement & steps to improve. A simpler summary is also in progress. Thank you, Peter & team!!!
- **Secure storage boxes** will be onsite after the new courts are completed. We are researching best options. We'd hoped Parks might let us use a 20' shipping container, or stand-up "shed", but it's not looking likely.
- **Mentoring/ Drill Coaching/ Instructing:** We are hoping to schedule some of these activities to start in June (or July?).
- **Court maintenance-** sweeping/ blowing etc: Thank you to those who do this for the benefit of all.
- **Trouble-shooting:** For issues of concern, please email bellinghampickle@gmail.com, or talk w/ a board member.
- **"Soft" opening** for BPC members & friends will happen soon after courts are done (with ribbon cutting, etc).
- **"Grand Opening"**, with fanfare and events, will be scheduled for the first half of August, or might end up waiting until 2020 if we can't sufficiently project when the courts are going to be done.

Please let us know which of these skill-level times YOU'D be likely to attend regularly during summer, if any...

(Proposed times are based on the April survey results. We will only choose some of those sessions to start with!)

Beginner/Novice <3.0: Weekday 1-3pm; Weekday 3-5pm; Saturday afternoon.

Low to Mid Intermediate (3.0-3.5): Weekday: 1-3pm; 3-5pm; 5-7pm (or 5:30-7:30pm); Saturday morning.

Mid-Intermediate (3.5): Weekday 3-5pm; Weekday 5-7pm (or 5:30-7:30pm); Saturday morning.

Mid to Upper Intermediate (3.5-4.0): Weekday 1-3pm; Weekday 3-5pm; Saturday morning; Sunday afternoon.

Lower Advanced (4.0-4.5): Weekday 7-9pm; Saturday morning; Sunday morning.

Upper Advanced (4.5+): Weekday 1-3pm; Sunday afternoon.

If you'd like to volunteer for any of these activities, please let us know if you haven't done so.

Cornwall court "protocols" for once the new courts are completed

Help develop the following for when new courts open:

Cornwall Drop-in Rotation/ Levels of Play/ ("self-rating?)/ Etiquette/ Protocols/ Support for beginners/ Schedule/ Court "host" responsibilities/ Relevant "signage" messaging/ "lost & found" system. Paddle labelling. Bell? Etc.

Instructing/ Coaching/ Mentoring; all levels

We'd like to have folks available for informal coaching/mentoring, as well as scheduled clinic or lesson times to address needs across the spectrum of levels. BPC will NOT currently be charging a fee @ Cornwall.

Cornwall Court "Hosts" (*board coordinates*).

Committed folks to take turns at Cornwall drop-in times. As new systems are experimented with they will diplomatically help with questions, court flow, new folks, beginners, etc. This is a serious responsibility. There will be some type of vest or sash to identify court hosts, and potentially name tags.

Skill Level Court "Hosts"

Commit to attending regularly (or find a sub) for a scheduled skill-level session. Sessions will only be put on the calendar, with 2-4 designated courts for specific skill-levels, if there is someone committed to being there.

Mini PickleFest @ Birch Bay Activity Center (BBAC) on Saturday September 14th.

This will be a fun social event for all levels, with food & activities, co-hosted by BBAC & BPC. Looking for volunteers to help with planning or implementation.

Thank you!

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