

May 19, 2019 BPC & Cornwall Planning Meeting (@ Gail & Pat's)

Barbara G., Peter H, Terri V, Catharine V, John W., Cheryl O, Gail M, Pa Mt, Lola H, Cathy C, David M, Mary G., Gaby G., Jim H, Jean L, Karen S., Byrd P, Rick, A, Maggi K, Michael K.

Next Meeting (& potluck): Sunday June 23rd. Meeting @ 5:45pm; Potluck 5pm. 2829 Lynn St Bham (near Yeagers).

Volunteer of the Month: PETER HOMANN

Thank you for taking the initiative & collaborating to create a fantastic BPC Skill-rating Self-Assessment Guide. And for stepping up to be an integral part of the facilities team & court-lining crew. You are a true treasure!

For Cornwall & BPC Updates, see info below "Input Requested" sections

All attendees responded to the following questions, including some from email:

1) What's GOING WELL with BPC & Cornwall?

Welcoming & accepting for new people;
Good organization;
Good communication;
Positive leadership;
More people are playing;
Lots of people volunteering;
Website is super;
Adaptability of members & players during these challenging transition times.

Paddle Stacking;
Ball barrier fences - even the temporary ones are better than none;
Large number of volunteers for clean-ups;
Minimal conflicts at the courts;
Court hosts doing a great job in friendly enforcing;
Board staying on top of the Parks Dept. to minimize the impact of the mess-ups, so progress continues...

(Specifically from email responses...)

The court host program is great, especially for new people showing up. It really made me feel welcome.

From my perspective, this is a very organized and committed group of people. Obviously, some do a lot more of the work than others, but mostly it looks like people are ready to get involved and there is a lot of momentum.

You guys have excellent communication!

You guys are doing a great job of listening to people's suggestions & making thoughtful decisions based on majority preferences. I am happy with everything.

A long list. It's great that the physical project is moving forward. Wonderful so many people are playing, finding competitive games at their levels, and having opportunities to mix it up as well. The paddle system is great and love the Court Hosts. They are what make the experience more than individualistic anarchy.

(From a snowbird) You should be proud of your efforts. I am sorry to have missed being a part of your group when all the hard work was underway. Wow, what a difference a few years make. Very impressed with your website, etc. My husband and I drove by Cornwall and we saw the progress you have made there. Right away I joined and I intend on playing as soon as the weather decides to shape up.

What would YOU like to see prioritized in the very near future for Cornwall, or for BPC development?

2a) TOP PRIORITIES (# at meeting who voted these as their top 3 priorities)

- > **Create skill-level calendar (most)**
- > **Clear communication of court rotations (10)**
- > **Develop & publish “Etiquette Policy” (10)**
- > More rating education so you know what your level is (7)
- > Round Robins (6)
- > Evening play at Cornwall (5)
- > Skill classes & clinics (4)
 - Offer special courts (challenge, mixed Pickle-in) (2)
 - More winter options, including Ferndale Y (with level structure) (2)
 - Develop governance - job descriptions, constitution (1)
 - Creative ways to hear from club members (1) – (doesn't take the Board to do, just email good suggestions.)

2b) Listed as priorities, but nobody's top 3

- Add additional court hosts – (more added within the next week);
- Lost & found;
- Mark more than 6 courts on the tennis court area – (However, Parks Dept not open to that at this time.)
- Good signs at kiosk, (and on fences if permitted).
- Weather notification for Cornwall (Jeff K. checking feasibility of webcam. If feasible, BPC will propose to Parks.)
- Evening session for beginner / novice – (We need someone committed to showing up for that to make it happen.)
- Add the descriptive level names with the numbers on Rating Sheets and Paddle Stacking info.
- Suggested drills list for the first 1/2 hour of scheduled skill-level play, or for one's own drill time.
- Scheduling a big tournament for 2020. (But NOT considered a priority until we get our own court plans established.)

(From email responses)

- How to address disruption of folks walking through courts?
- Benches?
- Challenge court would be cool.
- Court diagram on kiosk, and signage on courts (numbers or ...?)
- Communication tree for days when Cornwall might not work.
- Would like to learn singles.
- Level-based round-robins & low-key tournaments.
- Down the road: a regional tournament; maybe challenge matches with nearby counties etc.
- Times set for drills & skills; especially for novices.
- Skill clinics for a fee (possible club fundraiser)?
- Storage for portable nets at Fairhaven?
- We already need more courts!

3) Anything else you think is important for us to know or keep in mind?

(From email responses)

Thanks so much for all that the organizers & volunteers are doing to build a wonderful pickleball community!

BPC & Cornwall Updates

- **May/June Member Drive Update, and Treasurer's Report** (Terri);
We already have 50 new or renewing members! (*Note: by 6/2 we have 80!*)
BPC has \$1935 in general funds, and \$3227 in the reserved account for Cornwall capital improvements.
If you haven't yet renewed or joined this spring, please do so today @ www.bellinghampickleball.org.
- **Sunday August 18th is the First Annual General BPC Meeting & Board Elections** @ Fairhaven Park Pavilion, (late afternoon-early evening; exact time TBD). Please also consider if you might want to run for a board seat. Rick is not returning as VP, so at least that position needs a new person. All positions are eligible for candidates.
- **New club balls**: Onix Fuse G2. (Others can bring Dura or Franklin & use it, if all four players agree.)
All folks joining or renewing in May are eligible to receive balls (which BPC got with our Pickleball Central rebate.)
- Wheeler is ordering magnetic name tags for \$10; let him know if you want one: wheeler225@gmail.com
- **The group decided unanimously to postpone the Grand Opening until 2020**. This is due to the unknown nature of when the courts will be finished, and that it feels like too much in addition to all of the other transition activities. We need to focus on getting our own house in order before being ready to share it with the public. We still plan to have a "Soft" opening & ribbon cutting for BPC members & friends.
- **Next Meeting (& potluck)**: Sunday June 23rd. Meeting @ 5:45pm; Potluck 5pm. 2829 Lynn St Bham (near Yeagers).
- **Morning Drop-in Session Protocol**:
 - > Continue "Paddle Stacking" in order to provide flexibility of choosing skill level-based play, or mixed-level play. If major issues or problems arise, we might shift to a different system, but we hope to continue to refine this concept, (so it meets the same goals but becomes less cumbersome).
 - > Paddle stacks will now be grouped along the row marked A, B, C, D, E in order to determine which group gets the next open court.
 - > A new trial option is to put the board that says "Any Level" with your paddle to indicate your group is open to any & all. When using the "Any Level" board, still place it on top or adjacent to that pile, but the paddle orientation doesn't matter. This choice is also great for folks who don't even want to think about levels at all. If successful, we might need more than one "Any Level" indicator.
 - > When game is done, all players come off court to paddle area, EVEN IF there is are empty courts. This allows anyone waiting an opportunity to join in, and those playing to switch courts if they wish.
 - > *Novices welcome. Newbie beginners encouraged to come at other times (TBD).*
 - > Court hosts identifiable by bright orange "sash". (Thank you, Gail!)
- **Court Hosting**: we will be incorporating some new court hosts next week. Let us know if you'd like to help...
- **Evening Drop-in Session** will be scheduled one night a week on Wednesdays (start date TBD)
- **Net adjustments**: Anyone who measures, can adjust straps. We need accountability however for other adjustments.
- **BPC will soon have a Cornwall calender**, in coordination with the Bellingham Parks & Recreation Dept, posted on the kiosk, and on the website. If you have a session that you'd like to get on the calendar, please let us know!
- **"Beginner/Novice"** sessions will start by mid-June on both a weekday afternoon, and Saturday afternoon. Everyone welcome! We'd also love to offer one evening session, but to do that we need volunteers step up. If you'd like to help with any of these, please let us know.
- **BPC will start to have some scheduled weekly skill-level sessions**, by mid-June & open to the public. We'll only put sessions that have "hosts" on the calender, so we know for sure that someone will be there if new folks show up. To get your skill level on the calender, let us know if you can volunteer to be a session "host".
- **Pickleball Social**, co-hosted by BPC & Birch Bay Activity Center (BBAC), will be on Saturday, Sept. 14th @ BBAC. Family friendly & everyone welcome!
- New draft 1-page version of BPC Skill-rating Self-Assessment Guidelines is being refined; feedback welcome. The full version is available at Cornwall Kiosk, or @ <https://bellinghampickleball.org/flyers-documents/>
- Volunteer Liability Waivers need to be signed by all who help at Cornwall. Maggi has them.
- Maggi is out of town 6/8 – 6/16. Will have internet access, but might not be as quick to respond as usual.