

SLPC Newsletter

August 2024

Advancing Pickleball For All, For Life!



Dear SLPC Members,

Wow - we cannot believe how incredibly successful our club has become in less than a year being established! In such a short amount of time, our membership has grown to 395 members! This is a testament to the dedicated people in our community that share a love of pickleball!

HOW IT BEGAN...



It all started with a Learn to Play Pickleball program in late 2016 at the Strangway Community Centre. Then, groups played at Corunna, Linden Park and Lambton College. With the persistence of many hard-working people, the city resurfaced the existing Blackwell tennis courts and turned them into 6 new pickleball courts. A Trillium Grant provided the sun shelter located on the south side of the courts. Voila, “the hub” was formed and Sarnia Bluewater Pickleball began. We decided to

change the name to give our club an identity related to our city/county. The Sarnia Lambton Pickleball Club was born! Here is the SLPC website where you can find all the information you need about our club: [Sarnia Lambton Pickleball Club](https://www.sarnialambtonpickleballclub.ca)



OUR BOARD

A fond farewell..... to our “father in pickleball”, Mike Van Hemmen. Thank you for your hard work and dedication to getting the SLPC organized and where it is today!

Interim Executive

Interim President: Dr. David J. Matheson

Interim Vice President: John Boomsma

Interim Directors: Aldo Adamo, Ron Mombourquette, Mike Barron, Dave Mitton



Membership

Membership renewals will begin in September (update to follow). The link to renew your membership online is one click away: [Membership Renewal Form](#). Please help our club grow by encouraging friends and family to join one of the “freshest” clubs in Sarnia!

COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS



We would like to remind our members that our Program Coordinators are volunteers who are also club members and our friends. Let's all make an effort to support them and make their jobs easier, ensuring a pleasant and enjoyable experience for everyone.

Nominations and Elections (Larry Green)

Nominations and Elections are coming up in the Fall. Consider running for an executive position. Elections give our members an opportunity to share and put into practice their ideas as well as giving members a voice in the building of our club.

Finance (Kathryn Poole)

Please send Electronic Fund Transfers to sarnialambtonpickleball@gmail.com as required for program sign up or guest/substitute payment as per the policies. Inclusion of player's name and date of play in the comments would be helpful as well.

Social (Allison Lloyd)

The SLPC Social Committee would like to invite all SLPC members and non-members to join us at the Blackwell Hub to celebrate National Pickleball Day! There will be "open play" and a social gathering to celebrate our love of the sport. To make it more fun and celebratory, we invite you to bring a snack tray to share, beverages and a lawn chair. This is also a great opportunity to mingle with other pickleball players and make new connections within the community.

No RSVP is necessary, but we hope that we get a great turnout!

WHERE: Blackwell Hub

DATE: August 10, 2024

TIME: 1pm - 4pm



Facilities (Aldo Adamo)

Efforts are still being made to find SLPC a permanent home in Sarnia or the surrounding area. Negotiations have begun with DeGroot's Nurseries and the SLPC has been given a verbal approval that Indoor Pickleball will be offered again this year!. Our goal is to start play in the month of December and to include evening/Sunday play. More news to come.

Program Policies (Bill Lindsay)

There are 2 new policies which went into effect on August 1, 2024. All members are asked to read the short, but important documents that were attached to the email that was sent to everyone. Both policies address people playing in paid Programs for which they were not previously registered and thus had not paid for the Program rental.



If that person is a Club member, they will be deemed a “Substitute” for one of the regular Program spots. There will be a fee of \$6 for each time they fill in. The new Substitute Policy provides information on how this is to be accomplished.

The other new Policy is the “Guest” Policy, which outlines the process for a non-member to play with the Club during scheduled Programming. This may be helpful if someone has a relative in town for a day and wishes to have them play with us. In short, the Policy involves a waiver to be signed and a \$10 guest fee which a current member must sponsor.

Implementation of the new Guest and Substitution Policies has gone well, with several people already making use of the opportunity to sub, and we have already had a couple guests being able to fill in. Great news for those with relatives or friends that occasionally visit. Thanks to all for your cooperation in understanding and following these new policies.

Programs/Club Play/Tournaments (Bill Lindsay)

Thanks to all for making it a great Summer for our first Club Rentals out at Blackwell Park!

Here’s some statistics:

Different Rental Programs Offered: 34

Number of Unique Members Participating in rentals: 202

Number of 2-hour play spots filled by members: 384

The initial Summer Programming for Blackwell will end on Sep 1st. We are currently considering adding a less intense Program schedule at Blackwell for dates into September and maybe early October. If possible, we will experiment with using the on-line Salix Reservation System with auto-payment implemented. If that proves successful, we will continue with auto-payment for Winter play at DeGroot’s. As you may have heard, we are anticipating some improvements at DeGroot’s this year, including extended hours and more courts than we had last year.

We are also beginning plans for a Club Championship Tournament for our members at Blackwell at the end of September.

Thanks again to all who support the Club by registering for Programs. Please keep an eye out for future communications about Fall play opportunities using Salix and more news about the Fall Tournament.

Safety (Ron Mombourquette)

As you all know, the Club has insurance through Pickleball Canada. Along with covering liability for the club, there is a Sports Accident Policy that may apply if a member gets injured on the court. Please remember to report any injuries to the Program Coordinator, who will work with you to fill out the appropriate form. Without the incident form, we may not be covered.



The Safety Committee would like to thank our Program Coordinators for leading our play and always prioritizing the safety of each player. During our outdoor season, managing the weather and ensuring safe playing conditions is their main concern. We are reminded to take frequent breaks and stay hydrated in hot weather. If the weather has been wet, we must ensure the courts are completely dry before beginning play. By checking in with your Program Coordinator, you help us ensure everyone's safety. Let's work together to avoid injuries, maximizing our enjoyment of the game without impacting our family life outside of Pickleball.

If you have any questions about your safety or ideas to ensure the safety of others please speak to one of the members of the safety committee.

Public Relations (Mike Barron)

SLPC and the City of Sarnia have had some very positive meetings where we see a good relationship growing for the greater good of pickleball in our community. Our next meeting is scheduled for this Fall.



LATEST / UPCOMING NEWS

National Pickleball Day is Saturday August 10!!

This is a great opportunity to get your friends and family out on the court and share your love of the game with your community!



SLPC Club Championship: Stay tuned for more information about our tournament scheduled for the weekend of September 27-29th.

Sneak Peak:

Friday-Fun Day of Play with a teams event
Sat & Sun-We will be crowning SLPC Club Champions in Men's, Women's and Mixed Doubles

Ball Machine Rental Rates: \$20 per hour
Please contact Dr. David J. Matheson directly at davidjmdc@gmail.com

Paddle-up System

The Paddle-up System is used when a significant number of players are waiting to play.

When you are ready to play, place your paddle in the rack, working left to right. The first four paddles from the left are the next group up to play. If you leave to go to the restroom, or if you need a rest, please do not put your paddle up until you are ready to play. For mixed play, women should place their paddles on the left and men on the right. Please keep games and rotations moving smoothly and efficiently. See our website or your Program Coordinator for further details.



Open Play



Mixed Play

MISSION

SLPC Mission

To promote and develop the sport of Pickleball in Sarnia Lambton with an emphasis on increasing the opportunity to play for all ages, resulting in a social, fun, and healthy physical activity for all members.

- Be more visible in the community
- Introduce the game to our youth (school program)
- Obtain facilities: Indoor & Outdoor

IN MEMORIAM

Our SLPC club's sincerest condolences go out to the family and friends of two of our members, Roy Mauti and Walter Czekurlon, who passed away recently.



IN LOVING
Memory

SLPC SMASH

The Inaugural SLPC SARNIA SMASH

Our first SLPC tournament, the **Sarnia Smash**, was a huge success! With sponsors from a variety of businesses in the Sarnia Lambton area, along with a tremendous amount of work from our executive and volunteers from our club, we were able to host not only our members, but many other players from all over Ontario! SLPC would like to thank Lambton College for a premier indoor facility and amenities. To the players, we captured 18 category winners, held over 283 games throughout the weekend, had no injuries and ran on time.



MEMBER NEWS

WELCOME

Welcome to our newest members in the past three months: Teraze Gray, Louise Menheere, Luc Vallee, Tiana Vallee, Nazem Lubus, Rick Guindon, Angela Peck, Ben Reid, Mary Hobin, Terry Lamberton, Shaun Benoit, Ryan Hare, Greg Mentley, Sharon Lawson, Marinka Molson, Brandon Roach, Brandy Robinson

Tournament Results

Congratulations to all of our members who competed at the Iron Horse Open last weekend in St. Thomas! Here's a list of our medal winners:

- Angele Lines and Joanne Rebryk Gold in Women's Doubles 3.5+
- Gabriel Torres and Joe DiBattista Silver in Men's Doubles Split Age 4.0+
- Joe DiBattista and partner Silver in Mixed Doubles 4.0
- Diana Doornbosch and Heather Moran Bronze in Women's Doubles 3.0
- Angele Lines and Dan Thorner Bronze in Mixed Doubles 3.5



PICKLEBALL TIPS AND RESOURCES



Being a part of the SLPC is like being a part of a huge family. Families are like branches on a tree: We grow in different directions, yet our roots remain as one. As individual members in our club, we all have different perspectives; however, we all want the best for our club. Having a successful club means treating one another with respect, kindness and grace. Let's all remember that on and off the court as we try our best to continue growing and advancing our Sarnia Lambton Pickleball Club! As the quote says, If it wasn't for this exciting sport we all love, we would never have met one another!



We look forward to many more exciting games and tournaments as well as opportunities to learn and grow as a club. As always, thank you for your continued support in your SLPC!



Submit club photos and stories for inclusion in upcoming newsletters to sarnialambtonpickleball@gmail.com.

