

APA President's 2024 Year End Report – April 2, 2025

Thank you to all for allowing me personally to serve as the APA President.

Because there have been no previous year end reports, we will start with some APA history.

2022

October 16: Meeting minutes to form the Abbotsford Pickleball Association show those participating at that time were Stanley Katz, Grant Brittain, Roger Melnychuk, Janet Munro, David Booth, Lisa Schlagentweit, Jamie Loughlin, Ann-Marie Reimer, Braley Kraemer, and Binu Brar.

December: Roger Melnychuk was our first President and was largely responsible for the writing of our APA Bylaws. Grant Brittain started the application process to legally incorporate Abbotsford Pickleball Association as a registered society and also started talks with the City of Abbotsford about pickleball facilities.

2023

Spring and summer: the Wix website and Abbotsford Pickleball DUPR Club were set up, thank you to Mark Trousdell for all his work on this.

August: we added Abbotsford Pickleball Association to the Pickleball Canada National System. Gina Spencer signed up August 28 to be the first member in this system.

September 30 to October 1, our first sessions at AgRec was a fun tournament.

November 5, Grant became President when Roger resigned. Ann-Marie Reimer, Mae Michielsen, Gene Latray, Bob MacMillan, Mark Trousdell were on the board at this time.

December 31 our membership count was 315 members. 49% males, 51% females.

2024

February Langley joined us in Club vs Club tournament.

March 16, we held our first Annual General Meeting. Membership dues were raised to \$42 per year.

April 15 at the next board meeting, Bob MacMillan became President, Shawn Wilson Vice President, Gina Spencer Secretary, Dave Booth Treasurer, Randy Stuppard Member at Large. Lisa Schlagentweit, Jon Peters, and Raghbir Badhan joined the board later in the year.

September 28, last fall, we switched to Pickleball Sign Up Hub as our booking software. This switch was a lot of work but worth it as we migrated away from Wix.

December 13 to 15 our first Abbotsford Fall Classic was immensely successful thanks to the work of all the volunteers, some were there for a few four hour sessions, some were there for the full three days. Tournaments are one of our best opportunities to raise funds. These funds will be used in the future for a dedicated pickleball facility. Many thanks to all those who volunteered.

December 31, membership had grown by 223% to 702 members, 46% males, 54% females.

2025

As of April 26, we have 652 paid up members , 46% male average age 56 years, 54% females average age 57 years.

Those on the board today include Gina Spencer, David Booth, Lisa Schlagintweit, Bob MacMillan, Shawn Wilson, Dennis Regnier, and Jon Peters. At this AGM there will be more members joining the board, and we are quite happy about that.

Looking ahead, work to do

Sponsors: I'm feeling we have not paid enough attention to our sponsors and as a result too many have left. It would be helpful if someone would step forward to promote our sponsors and the sponsorship opportunities. This person does not have to be a board member.

Our booking software, SUH, allows for easy signup and sign out. The waitlist works great. This easy signup and sign out has caused problems. Many of us book all the sessions we can. This is giving new members the impression that there are very few sessions they can book into, and we hear about it, questions like: “Why did I purchase the annual membership if I can’t play?”.

One of the things we have done is to not allow signup until the 15th of the month for the following month. We could change that to not allowing signup until 30 days before each session, but that would mean members would have to go onto SUH almost everyday to book sessions a month out, however it would make it more equitable for new members when they first join.

Play Facilities

We are incredibly lucky to have AgRec and the twelve indoor courts, even with the leaky roof, net set up and take down. There are challenges that come with AgRec that we would like all members to understand.

- The City of Abbotsford requires booking requests at AgRec to be submitted in February for the following September to August. Yes, look ahead from six months to 18 months. Once the City has these booking requests, they are supposed to let us know by the end of March. They still see fit to cancel our confirmed sessions when they deem it necessary.

Upcoming Plans (some changes made already):

- AgRec management has now, after 18 months of leniency, decided to enforce our contract to the letter, i.e. do not enter the building before our start time, be sure the building is vacated by the end time. Therefore, we increased the session play time to 2.5 hours for sessions where scheduling allows. We feel this will make for more relaxed setup and take down in addition to more actual play time. We will increase Play Credit pricing to \$6, effective April 15th 7 PM, to cover the extra rental cost. These changes will be monitored over time and adjusted if required.

- The Program Advisory Committee (PAC) continually monitors play sessions for different session types and skill levels of those signing up. They make adjustments to keep session availability as equal as possible.
- Through the good weather months there will be fewer sessions. Last year there were so many cancellations; it was way too much work for our PAC and Ann-Marie to monitor player count and cancel sessions.
- We have extended the cancellation time before most sessions to 24 hours.
- We may shorten the signup time to one hour for those sessions that require less pre-planning by the hosts.
- We are charging the Play Credit on sign up rather than on FOB in for most sessions. The result of this change is you will have to have enough Play Credits in your account to cover your bookings. The cancellation time prior to each session will be different based on session type. You will receive a refund of the Play Credit as long as you cancel before the required time. If you miss the 24 hour cancellation period, sign out anyway, if you don't sign out and you don't show up you will be charged two Play Credits as a penalty. There have been times when members have had to cancel within the last two hours for good reason. We have assisted by removing them from the session so they don't get penalized for being a no-show.
- DUPR sessions, those who are late arriving will not be allowed to play, period. The DUPR hosts start the court assignment work at the start of the session based on who has checked in. Expecting them to make changes to include latecomers is unrealistic.
- Book Your Own Court: Our Host Coordinator sends out requests to those who book the court in order to be informed of who the other players are that will be on the court. SUH now allows you to inform us of who is playing on your court, then we can inform the host if a non-member needs to sign our waiver, and they know who to not FOB in so you are not charged twice. The person who booked the court still needs to FOB in.

- Memberships annual cost will remain at \$42 and will be reviewed again in 2026.
- Tournaments – we have confirmed dates for tournaments, November 21 to 23, 2025 and April 10 to 12, 2026. Our tournament committee will continue to work and give us updates.

APA is managed and run by volunteers. Everything that happens at AgRec is the result of volunteer's hard work. Our membership is growing, our play sessions have been increased, but the number of hosts has not. And of the hosts we do have, some are doing way more than their share.

Too often we are hearing about a certain few members making comments that make other members or volunteers feel unwelcome or unworthy. Before you dis other members or hosts, consider that they are here to help and have fun. Having a member leave the play session in tears is not what you thought would happen, but it has happened, more than once. If you have a complaint or suggestion, please bring it to a board member. Or better yet, bring it up during the AGM, time has been set aside for questions and discussion.

We also hear lots of positive comments and thankyou's. We appreciate those. It's the most valuable payment we can receive.

Let's keep the fun in pickleball.

Respectfully submitted by Bob MacMillan