



SLPC Newsletter



August 2025

Advancing Pickleball For All, For Life!

Dear SLPC Members,

We are thrilled to offer another newsletter to our members to keep them informed and aware of the exciting and wonderful experiences and opportunities being offered by our very own Sarnia Lambton Pickleball Club.

OUR EXECUTIVE

Board of Directors and Officers

President: Ron Mombourquette

Vice President: Aldo Adamo

Secretary: Leslie Dugas

Treasurer: Kathryn Poole

Directors: Bill Lindsay, Heather Moran, Wendy Harris-Warner, Carrie Cicchelli, Dom Rae



Board of Directors Nominations



With our Annual General Meeting (AGM) coming up, we anticipate a call will go out in the coming months for **nominations** for Board of Directors elections. We will have a few spots that will be up for election and welcome any nominations of individuals who are willing to provide their time and talents. Last year we only had enough nominations for positions so an election was not necessary, but perhaps this year we will have more. Keep your eyes and ears open for further information on the nomination process.

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday August 9 - National Pickleball Day - celebrate this wonderful sport playing pickleball with friends, socializing with members and enjoying everyone's company. Details listed below in the social committee update.

Weekend of September 12-14 - Club Championship Tournament - more info to follow

Tuesday December 9 - AGM

PRAISES / SUGGESTIONS / CONCERNS

A Message to Our Club Members

We'd like to take a moment to acknowledge and thank our volunteers and executive team who generously donate their time to help the club run smoothly. These individuals work hard behind the scenes to ensure the club remains inclusive, fair, and enjoyable for all members.

We always welcome feedback, concerns, or suggestions. We simply ask that when raising concerns or sharing feedback, it be done in a respectful and constructive manner. Open dialogue helps our club grow stronger, and we are always willing to listen and improve. We kindly ask that you please be considerate of our executive and committee members' time on the courts as this is their personal time to enjoy the game and connect with friends—just like all members. Of course questions are always welcome and everyone is happy to answer them. If there is a concern or suggestion for the club, we encourage you to send an email to our club email sarnialambtonpickleball@gmail.com. This gives us the opportunity to consider your input thoughtfully, consult with the appropriate people if needed, and respond in a timely and respectful way.

Let's continue working together to maintain a positive, respectful, and enjoyable environment for all. Thank you for being a valued part of our community.

— The Executive Team

COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Finance Update

To all those who purchased membership packages for the proposed facility, thank you for your support and patience while negotiations took place and then upon receiving news of the disappointing outcome. All monies have now been refunded.

With respect to the BAC3 project, to whom we paid \$40,000, we are expecting regular reporting of their efforts, operations and spending. In turn, we will provide information to you on where our dollars are being spent.

With respect to our current financial position, we are in a healthy position, particularly with the generous contributions by our many sponsors. Any profits on sale of clothing, hats, balls and other merchandise, while not large, goes directly to our bottom line to support our future operation and endeavours.

Facilities

Thank you to all our members who quickly supported our proposal for a year-round facility with both your votes and financial contributions. Your enthusiasm meant a lot. Unfortunately, the deal we were pursuing fell through. That said, we're still actively watching the market for the right property to become the future year-round home of the Sarnia-Lambton Pickleball Club.

We're looking for a space around 9,000–10,000 square feet with 18-foot ceilings, washrooms, and parking. If you hear of a potential rental space or know a property owner who may be interested, please reach out to Aldo Adamo - adamoaldo29@gmail.com

As before, if a promising opportunity comes up, we'll move quickly to present a new proposal to members. A fast response — both in voting and financial support — will be essential again to secure a lease.

In the meantime, we're already making plans to play indoors at DeGroot's again this winter. Programming will go ahead no matter what happens with the search for a permanent home. Thank you again for your continued support — and stay tuned!

Programs/Club Play

Don't forget that SLPC offers a varied training program, from Learn to Play which teaches the basics, to progressively more advanced skills and drill or mentoring sessions. We now have a team of dedicated volunteer facilitators that have been working hard to help many members. All this comes at a very reasonable price for Club members since we want to help members improve their game.

To take advantage, sign up for a session in Salix. If we don't have what you're looking for, put a post in the Drilling/Training/Mentoring thread (wall) in Salix or email sarnialambtonpickleball@gmail.com. We can usually work something out to suit your needs.

Monday Nights: The SLPC has introduced our King /Queen Mixed Slide programming on Monday evenings and it is quickly becoming a very popular format. It's a great way to get to play with your partner of choice for an exciting night of all-inclusive mixed play with a fun competitive twist on the courts. Most nights we follow the King/Queen Slide format which moves each team up or down the courts based on the results of the game. On some nights we have even played using a Round Robin format to mix it up. The real fun lies in just getting to play pickleball with your favourite partner against all our great members!

Sign up with your partner/spouse and give it a test run!

Tuesday Nights: Men's Ladder League: We're well into the schedule and the Men's Ladder League has been a lot of fun, while providing competitive play for all involved. Every night, our registrants and/or substitutes have filled all courts! It's actually an inspiring sight! For the first half of the league, we used a points for/against calculation to determine court assignments - congrats to Rob Tully who won the first half! For the remainder of the season, we've moved to a different format where the top two on each court move up and the bottom two move down. Both formats should provide variety, while still challenging all players. Best of luck to everyone as we wrap up the season at the end of August.

Wednesday Nights: Queen of the Court: Despite some weather challenges, a great group of ladies have been working hard and having fun competing to move towards the coveted queen court each week. We warm up for 15 minutes, are randomly placed on a starting court and then the games begin. The winners move towards the queen court and split, while the losers move the other direction and split. This format allows for us to meet and play with many different players. Our goal is always to have a competitive, supportive and fun night!

Thursday Nights: MLP: Lots of members are having fun in our Thursday night MLP League. MLP stands for Major League Pickleball. While we are certainly not Major league, we are simply using their play format, where teams are created at the start of the season. Those teams stay together and play the various other teams each week, rotating players. You would play with each of the other members of your team during the evening against varying partners on the other team. Wins are totalled over the whole season and standings kept to see which team will emerge victorious! If you haven't considered signing up for this format, we are likely to run it again in future. Sign up and have a blast!

Communications

Here is the link to the SLPC website where you can find all the information you need about our club: [Sarnia Lambton Pickleball Club](#) Facebook and Instagram, along with our website is fully active for members to join and follow. Here are the links to follow:

[FACEBOOK page](#)



[INSTAGRAM page.](#)



Social

SLPC Social Committee wants all members to Come Celebrate National Pickleball Day Who: SLPC Members When: Sat Aug 9, 2025 Where: Blackwell Pickleball Hub Time: 11-1 pm Mix and Mingle Play Bring a shareable snack and chair for socializing! Wear Our Club shirts or the colour blue. Merch available to buy.

CLUB MERCHANDISE

HEY members! We still have SLPC club merchandise left to sell! If you are looking for a great birthday, anniversary, early Christmas present, or just want to support the club and look amazing on the courts. We have the following available:

- sage green t-shirts \$25
- grey sweatshirts \$55
- white NIKE hat \$28
- navy NIKE hat \$28





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THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Sarnia Lambton Pickleball Club is extremely proud to welcome **Canadian Homestay Network (CHN)** as a **BRONZE SPONSOR** to our PB club and family.



The Canada Homestay Network is a non-profit society founded by the Wilson family in 1995. Over the years they've served tens of thousands of students from more than 70 countries, individually and in groups, aged 10 to 75, with programs in over 40 communities across Canada from Halifax to Victoria.

In any successful and growing organization, people make the difference. Their team is composed of individuals dedicated to supporting one another. When you work with CHN, you work with a network of homestay professionals. Their combined experience of matching tens of thousands of students over the last 25+ years lends their whole team the credibility and expertise that has earned them a reputation for excellence and professionalism that is unmatched in their industry. THANK you for supporting our club, CHN, and welcome to the SLPC community!

BLUEWATER POWER for their monetary donation

SANDRIN SERVICES for their monetary donation

Progressive Auto Sales for their monetary donation

BMW Sarnia for their monetary donation

CI Assante Wealth Management: Justine Vanos - for her monetary donation

TOURNAMENT SPONSORS

We would also like to thank our tournament sponsors who contributed financially or with their goods and services to make our Sarnia Smash tournament a huge hit!

Lambton College The SLPC wants to send out a big thank you to **Rob Kardas** of Lambton College for hosting our Spring Smash for the second consecutive year. They have been so generous and kind to play host to our pickleball community for the entire weekend, all at no charge to the SLPC. Their support has given us the ability to raise the funds that allows us to foster growth in the sport locally, now and in the future.

Giresi's Pizza The SLPC's Spring Smash Tournament Social was a great evening with well over 100 members and participants coming out to Imperial City Brewery. Everyone enjoyed delicious pizza that was generously donated by **Mike Giresi** from Giresi's Pizza Factory. Mike has been kind enough to support our club's Spring Smash tournament for the second consecutive year and has been providing pizza to the club at a discounted rate for the last 2 years. We want to thank Mike and his team for that delicious pizza and welcome them as an official **In-Kind Sponsor** of the SLPC.

Black Knight The SLPC is grateful for the relationship it has established with Black Knight. A great Canadian company that has given so much to our club over the past year. They have provided our members with demo paddles, paddle racks, free indoor balls and an open discount for all Pickleball products on their website **playbk.com**

When it came to our Spring Smash 2025, our rep at Black Knight, **Rob Cooley** secured two free Black Knight paddles and an awesome backpack as door prizes at the Friday Night Social. In addition to that, they provided indoor balls for the tournament along with Smell Well shoe inserts at a largely discounted price. So, thank you to Rob Cooley and Black Knight for all their support to our pickleball community, much appreciated!

Sarnia Produce Our SLPC Spring Smash 2025 Tournament Social was a great success and we continue to receive positive feedback from many of the participants. One thing they all mentioned was how much they appreciated the perks while playing. In particular, the fact that we offered players instant energy with a fruit table filled with bananas, apples and oranges. We have our **In-Kind Sponsor** Sarnia Produce to thank for that. **Dean and Mark Troiani** have kindly supported our club since its inception and their second year contributing to our tournament.

Dean, Mark and his staff have built a beautiful facility in Point Edward which includes a brick oven pizza that creates an outstanding pizza, so if you haven't been to Sarnia Produce's new store, you've been missing out.

Kern Water Hydrate, hydrate, hydrate...we all know it's important when playing pickleball and so does Kern Water. We want to thank **Katie** at Kern Water for providing bottled water and ice for our weekend Tournament which ensured that our participants were indeed hydrated! Katie has

provided our club with water for both Spring Smash tournaments so a special thank you to Kern Water.

Gourmet Cafe Another great Spring Smash Tournament and another great post tournament Social was enjoyed by over 100 members and participants at Imperial City Brewery. Once a few beers and pizza were shared, our guests enjoyed some great desserts provided by **Jeff & Jenn Kondrat** of The Gourmet Café. They have been the club's **In-kind Sponsor** for the past two years. It's small community businesses like the Gourmet Café that make a difference to groups like ours. We want to thank Jeff & Jenn and their team at Gourmet Café.

The Water Bug What makes a great tournament even greater, well the swag bag of course. Our Spring Smash Tournament participants received a great swag bag filled with various gifts but in particular we have The Water Bug to thank for their generous donation of a granola bar, Magnesium, Daily Greens and Electrolytes powders and an anti-inflammatory healing book that all Pickleball Players need to read to improve our post-game healing enhancement. They provided over 100 packs that went into each swag bag, so thank you to **Germaine Bettridge** and her team at The Water Bug.

A Special Thank You to the following Companies

The SLPC has many other sponsors that helped to make the tournament a success and we want to thank them as well.

Homecourt Pickleball...Maria Rocca & Maria Varsava for providing a gift certificate as a door prize at our social

Iron Works Health & Wellness...Jordy Bettridge for providing a \$5 discount coupon in each swag bag

Tourism Sarnia...for providing over 150 bags with travel guides and a koozie

City of Sarnia...for providing a City pin for each swag bag

McFarlan Rowlands...Kyla Myers for providing a pen that went into each swag bag

Sidelines Sports...Christina Davies for providing Franklin Balls at a discounted special rate for our club only and for providing 3 ball packs as door prizes at our Social.

We extend our sincere thanks to our sponsors for your generous support of our club. Your commitment helps us grow, thrive, and achieve our goals.

