SLPC Newsletter

February 2026

Advancing Pickleball For All, For Life!

🎉 Rally House News

🚙 **Parking:** **Please note the following:** We have lined the parking lot where it is safe for cars to park.

- Do NOT park on the far north wall as we do not want cars that close to our main entrance
- Do NOT park in the fire lane - this is clearly marked with signage, yet many are parking on the curved area on the north side of the building
- Do NOT block other vehicles in by parking in unmarked areas

🏓 **Bookings:** In fairness to our members and organizers, we ask that you have a booking or board permission before playing on the courts.

Our goal isn't to police the courts — it's simply to keep things organized and equitable for all members.

💡 **Lights:** If you notice that there are no bookings after yours and you don't mind, please turn off the lights. The court light switches are in the hallway to the larger washrooms. Please also turn off the lights in the reception area and lounge.

🗑️ ♻️ **Garbage and Recycling:** Thank you to everyone for helping us to maintain a clean and environmental-friendly facility by taking your garbage and recycling home.

📢 Committee Announcements 📢

Finance

We continue to closely monitor our finances. Many members have been very active. For those without unlimited packages, we are counting on continued play once the prepaid amount is exhausted, even though we are not certain of the anticipated level of attendance. We hope the quality of the courts and play itself will guarantee everyone's continued support.

We would also like to remind members that when you are bringing a guest, it is the member's responsibility to ensure the guest completes their payment profile in Court Reserve with a **valid credit card** to ensure payment occurs.

Health and Safety

SLPC Health/Safety reminds all members that it is highly recommended to wear safety glasses to **protect** your eyes.

A free AED info session will be available to all SLPC members provided by SLPC Health and Safety. If interested, sign up on Court Reserve under Training. See all health and safety information on the board beside the office.

Membership

We are pleased to continue welcoming new members to the Club. All SLPC members have full access to all programming and court reservations and we encourage you to promote the Club to your friends and family.

Following our February 2 email, a limited number of “Off-Peak Tier 1” packages are still available. This package provides a discounted rate for play after 4:00 p.m. each day and is available to members who do not currently hold a Rally House package. If you are interested, please contact us at sarnialambtonpickleball@gmail.com

Social

You may have noticed that the Rally House Lounge has a growing variety of conversation spaces for our club members. We encourage you to use this space to meet up for a coffee or snack before or after your games. It is a wonderful opportunity to build your pickleball friendships and plan your game strategies.

The social committee would also like to extend their gratitude to all of the members that have so generously donated food, hygiene items and warm outerwear for our community in need. Your donations are being delivered periodically to River City Vineyard and The Inn of The Good Shepherd. They are greatly appreciated and needed. Moving forward, we will deliver all donations to River City Vineyard. They also have a kitchen and distribute food at their shelter. We would like this to remain an ongoing mission for our club. So please keep this in mind when you are cleaning out a closet , pantry or shopping locally.

Facilities/Operations

Our vision for the Rally House is really starting to take shape — and we’re not finished yet! Here are just a few of the exciting projects currently in the works, and where we could use your support:

- ☐ The club has pivoted on the training room and are now looking at creating a full wellness centre. With the help of Rob Cicchelli, we are in the process of applying for a grant in order to move forward in this direction if successful. We are looking at securing a full matted floor, cardio equipment, weights, mats and other strengthening and stretching items. Let's keep our fingers crossed that our grant request gets approved. Final sponsorship for the training/wellness room is in the process of being finalized as well.

- ☐ The players lounge is starting to look like a players lounge, a great social area for everyone. One of our members has been using their frugal Facebook marketplace purchasing skills to find us 46 indestructible chairs that will outlast all of us, as well as a few dining room tables. We have had some amazing donations from some of our members that have added to the welcoming environment...thank you to all those members! We are still looking for 4 accent chairs and an area rug for a casual conversation section. We will be mounting the TV and looking to acquire one more black dining room table.

- ☐ Tabletop advertising is on-going, we have secured one group, working on 2 more and have another showing strong interest. Looking for advertisers that we can enter into a mutually beneficial relationship. We are able to pivot on this should anyone know of someone who owns a local business that would be a good fit.

Volunteer Opportunity – Rally House Facilities Team
Maintaining the Rally House is no small task, and we're looking for volunteers to form a Facilities Management Team to help with the day-to-day upkeep of our space.

This team would assist with things like:
- Toilet maintenance
- Court surface cleaning
- Lighting maintenance
- Minor touch-ups and general repairs
- Other routine issues that arise

You won't be on your own — guidance and support will be provided by me (Aldo) and the Board. If we can build a small team, the workload will be shared and very manageable for everyone.
If you're handy, practical, or simply willing to help keep our facility in great shape for all members, we'd love to hear from you.

Please reach out if you're interested in being part of the team.

<u>Court Play and Development</u>

We have had significant interest in player development opportunities and this has kept the Player Development Committee quite busy!. We've also had several new volunteers that we'll be working into our scheduling. Please note the following:

- ➢ There is a nominal fee of $5 for each training session (this fee goes to the club and not the facilitators)
- ➢ When we open a session, we will also email the potential audience to make members aware of the opportunity. If however, you have taken a similar session within 4 weeks, we ask that you let others register first.

- We will continue to offer Mentor Sessions by level, but we will also introduce skill-based sessions
- The Ball Machine is available to book at a fee of $20 for a 2-hour block (Thank you to Ron Mombourquette and David Mathieson for doing the orientation session). The Ball Machine needs to be booked separate from your court reservation. One person must book the Ball Machine first under Reservations ($20/2 hr) and then book the court for the same time slot. The 2 hour court times occur on the even hours so be sure to pick the same day and time slot for both.

If you have questions/suggestions about Player Development, please email a message to the following SLPCPlayerDevelopment@gmail.com

Club Levels

Our Assessment Committee is a group of volunteers at various levels who are actively involved in play and spectating at the Rally House. We accept requests for Club Level Changes monthly and process them using our Ratings Procedure which is posted on our SLPC website

Please note the following:

When you ask for a club level change, you are to include reasons why you feel you have reached that level (ex. Lessons, tournament performance, Ladder League performance, private reservations performance, etc).
The reason for the level change request should not solely be because you want to "play with players at a higher level." This can be done in private bookings or leagues.

Currently, we use the following Club Levels:
2.0 and 2.5 for players new to the sport
3.0 and 3.25 for Intermediate Players
3.5 and 3.75 for Intermediate Elevated Players
4.0 - 4.5 for Advanced Players

Level Change requests should generally be for just one increment; an increase larger than one step would need to be backed by significant evidence (ex. a DUPR rating with high reliability and/or results in large sanctioned tournaments).

Finally, we encourage players who receive an increment to continue to play with their previous level. For example, when a player moves up to 3.25, we want them to continue to participate in 3.0 play. Whereas a 3.25/3.5 event will provide you with challenges and more advanced strategies, you'll be able to work on new shot types and consistency while playing in the 3.0/3.25 events.

At the end of the day, we have to remember that it's fun playing pickleball regardless of what our ratings are!

Tournaments
Tentative Date: June 10-14, 2026
Dates and details coming soon.

👕 SLPC Merchandise 🧢

We're offering SLPC merchandise at affordable prices so members can proudly wear our club swag, show their support, and represent SLPC wherever they go. Merchandise will be sold at various times - watch for specific emails regarding this information. Purchases will be charged to your credit card on file with Court Reserve. Please add HST to all items.

Sweatshirt = $55

T-Shirt = $25

SLPC Baseball Cap = $28

Also available are Smell Well Fresheners for your shoes (2 pack for $20) as well as packages of 6 Franklin balls (also $20)

➡️ Looking Ahead

- **FREE** AED information session March 9 from 4-5pm in the Rally House Lounge
- **REMINDER:** Food and Drink - We kindly ask that there is no food or drinks other than sports drinks on the court or runway areas. Please use the lounge or reception area to have a snack and enjoy the company of your fellow members.
- "**OPEN HOUSE"** date to be determined.

😀Courtesy for Fellow Members 🧍

We kindly ask that members to be courteous to each other:

- Use the Players Lounge to meet and socialize prior to their scheduled play time. This will help us minimize noise level in the court area and ensure that those who are still finishing their games can do so without distraction. (Note: The lounge should not be used as a storage area; personal belongings should be stored in the Bluewater Power Entry Room, or hung on the hooks in the Court Room).
- We recognize that sometimes we cheer after an exciting point, but let's keep it reasonable as others are playing as well.
- Thank you for your cooperation and for helping us create a positive playing environment for everyone.

📬 Stay Connected

🌐 Website: Sarnia Lambton Pickleball Club

📧 Email: sarnialambtonpickleball@gmail.com

📱 Social Media: FACEBOOK page INSTAGRAM page.