



SPRING IS COMING!

Are you ready for outdoor Pickleball? I'm sure the winter players think spring can't come quick enough, although I know there were several places the members were able to play within Red Deer. Thanks to those who helped with places to play.

We've got a busy summer ahead of us although not as busy as we were in 2021 hosting the Pickleball Canada Nationals. That honor goes to Kingston, Ontario June 20-26 2022. On the subject of tournaments there will many opportunities to attend tournaments in Western Canada. I would like to highlight the following;

Alberta Provincials July 8-10 Medicine Hat Alberta
Western Canadians July 22-24 Regina Sask.
Red Deer Open August 11-14 Red Deer

Search out all the tournaments in [Pickleball Brackets](#). There are many provincial and national options!

Speaking of tournaments, we want to help our club members to be ready to play and to develop their pickleball skills. For the coming 2022 season we will be offering coaching with our in-house coaching team organized by **Rich Thul and Trina Murias**--they have some tremendous programs ready to go. They are also organizing **GUEST COACHES** to come and help all players get to the next level. As well there will be **clinics for all skill levels** so watch for future notices to come from our coaching crew! Thank you to the members who responded to the lessons survey- it helped!

Finally, we are planning on incorporating [Pickleball Brackets](#) to help organize league play this year. [Pickleball Brackets](#) has a great program that assists clubs in organizing league play based on skill level and uses the same algorithms for club ratings that are used for tournaments. Leagues will help members establish their club rating and play with similarly skilled players on league nights to develop their game or just have fun. Understanding club ratings will also allow players to enter tournaments at their level and

advance in club events. If you're interested in knowing your club rating and playing in structured group play, we encourage you to get involved in these leagues. After seeing the high interest that **Rob White** created late last season it shows the desire of members to play in organized play. More information will be coming on the how the various leagues/round robins will work and how to set up a profile in conjunction with *Pickleball Brackets*.

As Pickleball develops and matures, younger players are being introduced to the game and we as a club will want to be able to have a place for them to play and develop.

I want to emphasize that **PICKLEBALL** is game for all, it's the game that brings out all ages, skills, genders together in a **fun competitive** environment. My first impression of Pickleball was that the "**OLD FOLKS**" were having fun, well I'm there now and I'm still having fun but now we are seeing a dramatic increase in the younger generation coming on board and professional pickleball leagues forming. We will want to help develop this group as they advance, but we will always have a place for **recreational pickleball** and our casual **drop in courts** as we always have had.

Just a reminder we will be holding our **annual general meeting** virtually again this year. The date and procedures will be sent out soon!

Lastly, don't forget that membership renewals and new memberships for 2022 are now being accepted! See attachment for the steps to follow.

I look forward to seeing you back on the courts in less than two months!

Bob Philip

President

Red Deer Pickleball Club

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