

Victoria Regional Pickleball Association

Minutes

Monday, February 26, 2024 at 3:15 p.m.

At Judy Langford's House

In Attendance

Connie McCann, President
Tessa Graham VP, Director
Damaris Brix, Secretary (via Zoom)
Joanne Rykers, Treasurer
Judy Langford, Director
Lindsey Stene, Director (via Zoom)
Trish Fougner, Director

Welcome was extended to Trish and Tessa who were elected to the Board at the AGM in January.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the January 2024 board meeting were approved as presented. It was agreed that the minutes of the 2022 AGM would be posted on our website. In order to have the subsequent AGM more closely follow the end of our fiscal year, there was no AGM in 2023, but rather it was held in the first month of 2024. This was in accordance with the BC Societies Act.

Appointment of Table Officers

President	Connie McCann
VP	Tessa Graham
Secretary	Damaris Brix
Treasurer	Joanne Rykers

Other Board responsibilities not listed in the constitution are:

Facilities Manager – (Judy Langford), Ref Program (Tessa Graham), Youth Program (Kathy Sarton), Webmaster (Damaris Brix)

Financial Report

Joanne reviewed the financial report. Following up on Joanne's recommendation that we establish a budget and accounting system, Connie has secured the services of Debbie Davis. Her role will be to recommend a software system and train Joanne in its use. The board will need to approve a budget for the software and Debbie's remuneration.

Joanne has set up a Revenue/Expense spreadsheet. The committee recommended that the following additional items be added: a separate entry for each tournament, Worksafe BC premiums, Communications, Community Support (such as sound panels), Referee Program, and Bursary Program.

Program Report

Currently all instructors are paid the same rate of pay (\$30/hr) regardless of their certification. After some discussion it was agreed that effective September 2024 the rates of pay would be increased as follows:

Level I instructors \$35/hr

Level II Instructors \$40/hr

Community instructors \$30/hr

A community instructor is someone who isn't yet certified but perhaps has a teaching background and is willing to go into schools, PISE etc. This new pay scale will be a good incentive for people to get their Level II certification. However, to be eligible individuals need to be a solid 3.5 level player first.

Referee Training Program

In response to Via Sport's recommendation that we improve our referee and coaching training opportunities Tessa has started a referee training program. Fifteen people signed up for the course. They have attended three 2-hr zoom sessions with Al Thomson, and 2 practical sessions, to be followed by further practice and mentoring by a Level II ref. Tessa is attempting to line up assessments by Level II refs through the Western Canada Training Coordinator.

Tessa and Lyneth are hoping to get their Level II certification.

The goal is to have new refs in training by the April tournament.

The pay structure for refs is:

Level II \$10 per game

Level I \$7 per game

Trainees \$5 per game

There is a \$300 budget for the women's tournament for refs.

At the June tournament we paid \$1048 for refs.

Youth Program

Kathy Sarton has volunteered to head up a VRPA youth program. Potential places for this would be in schools, the PISE Family Day, Victoria Market, and the Cordova Bay 55+ multi-generational program. Trish is the board liaison for this.

It was agreed we need dedicated youth equipment, including paddles with smaller grips, to be kept at the locker. Kathy will put together a budget and look into the PBC Youth Grant Program. Hopefully the pilot can be trialed in Apr-June. It was

suggested that a co-op student might be interested in assisting. Trish Fougner is the Board director taking the lead/liaison to the Youth Program.

Bursary Program

Trish will be updating our Bursary Program documentation. Once finalized, a budget will be drawn up.

Membership Report

Damaris advised that we have 792 members (296 male, and 495 female). In early February Connie emailed 261 people who had let their membership lapse and as a result of that email 35 people immediately renewed. Those that have not yet renewed have now been removed from our database.

Damaris explained that for members to get VRPA listed as their primary club in Pickleball Brackets, they need to log into PB and under 'my profile' scroll down to Association Numbers and insert their Pickleball Canada number in that field. The PCO number is the same as the VRPA number.

Website

Damaris advised that a shortcut URL to our website is victoriapickleball.org.

President's Report

Connie has not yet followed up with Virginia Jacklin, past board member, about her proposal to install pop-up courts at Queen Alexandra parking lot and hold small weekend tournaments in the summer as a fundraiser for the Children's Health Foundation of Vancouver Island.

Strategic Plan

Connie recommended that Kerry Pridmore be brought onto the Board for one year pursuant to our constitution. Kerry ran for a Director position and has expertise in Strategic Planning. The Board was in agreement.

Provincials

Connie advised that Pickleball BC approached VRPA to put in a bid for hosting the provincials. Unfortunately we are not in a position to do it this year due to the number of indoor courts required and the lead time needed to secure them. However, we could put in a bid for the 2025 provincials potentially using the following facilities:

10 courts – Oak Bay Tennis Bubble

8-10 courts – Pearkes

4 courts – Esquimalt

4-6 courts – Save on Foods Arena
Provincials are typically held in May.

April tournament

Registration is open for the April Women's tournament. There are already 100+ signed up and some events are waitlisted.

Berwick has offered to have a social evening at their facility.

June Tournament

Krista Jocelyn has volunteered to be the tournament director for the June tournament.

Esquimalt Summer Indoor Pickleball

Esquimalt Curling Club will be transformed into 4 Pickleball Courts from April – September. VRPA will be offering up to 14 hrs of programming 7 days a week. Connie will be advertising this by email shortly.

Club Ratings

The Board received a complaint from a member that some registrants are not at the appropriate level for given programs. If an individual is deemed not strong enough for a particular group, there may not be room in an alternate program. As such the Board has begun looking at ways to rate members. One option is using DUPR which could be trialed this summer at the Esquimalt Ladder play. There are two ways DUPR can be set up: the facilitator enters the results, or individuals enter their scores, which then need to be verified by their opponent. It can take up to 30 games for a person's DUPR to stabilize. A key is to have good communication so that participants understand the implications of overrating themselves, and how DUPR works. Trish will work with Tessa on how this should be communicated and Connie will send it out to members.

Time Away

Connie is looking ahead to when Board members will be away. Judy will make up a schedule.

The next meeting will be held March 18, 2024 at Judy's house.

Meeting adjourned at 5:25 pm