

DPA Newsletter #4

January 30, 2025

Board Update – Happy New Year from your Board of DPA! We hope that all of you enjoyed a restful and peaceful holiday season with loved ones. Despite it being the “off season” for DPA, your Board continues to work on your behalf. Our goal is to make our club the best club in the lower mainland by providing opportunities to enjoy play, learn and improve and socialize for the benefit of our members.



Cromie Park Update

The contracts for Cromie have been awarded and work has started! Construction fencing is complete on the site, the tennis court nets and north fence have been removed. Construction will continue through the spring in anticipation of better weather that is needed to properly surface and line the courts.

This means that the number of courts at Cromie will be reduced for the winter. We have removed the wind barriers on the south side which ensures that the four permanent courts at Cromie are available. This short term pain will yield significant benefits for our club in the Spring.



Figure 1-From North End of Courts looking West. Fence removed and trench dug for

Membership Renewals

With the turning of the calendar year to 2025, it is time to renew memberships. We hope to seek additional permits this year to provide even more opportunities for member play. Besides the increased capacity at Cromie, we also have plans to provide more professional development opportunities, increase the number of social events, host our annual Dash N Smash sanctioned tournament and create more play opportunities for working members.

Remember that DPA is also the primary advocate for pickleball in our community. We regularly meet with politicians to discuss our needs for facilities both now and in the future. We meet with Parks and Recreation to maintain and improve the playing environments around our courts. DPA represents the most important lobby for increased facilities in Delta. While the upgrades to Cromie are indicative of this good work, the pickleball community needs continued growth to match the growth of our sport. DPA will continue to work towards these goals.

With a strong membership, DPA can speak with a strong voice. Regardless of what benefits that you enjoy from DPA, please remember that ***a strong, growing membership*** is a signal to Delta of how important pickleball is to its citizens. Please renew your membership today and join us in this cause! As well, encourage your friends and neighbours to join us as well!

Social Event and Fundraiser

We will be holding our first social event and fundraiser of the year on February 23, 2025 from 5-8 pm at The Landing Pub and Grill at 5449 Ladner Trunk Road in Ladner. For \$25 (\$10 of which will go to support DPA) you will get a burger and a beer. We will also be having a meat draw and 50/50. There will be entertainment by our own Rachael Chatoor. Come mingle with your friends and fellow pickl'ers as well as meet the board of DPA. Proceeds of the fundraiser will go towards the club's future needs for new facilities. Tickets are available at The Landing Pub or by texting Claire at 604-603-4250. If you have donations that would be appropriate for baskets or silent auctions including gift cards, event tickets, etc, please contact Claire.

Court Hosts needed in the South

We are currently applying for permits for the upcoming season. Our goal is to increase the amount of sessions available to members to meet the increasing demand. We need court hosts in the south (Ladner and Tsawwassen). When we get to converting our permits into sessions and a court schedule, the current lack of court hosts will impact what we can offer. If you are able to help us, please respond to info@deltapickleball.org or contact South Operations Director Brad Nelson at southdelta@deltapickleball.org or any Board member to indicate your willingness to help out.

Player Ratings Editorial

Whether some of you know this or not, player ratings can be and often are the most controversial subject in pickleball clubs. After scouring the internet, Reddit, Facebook, and many other sources for hours, I was unable to find the “magic bullet” that other clubs have used to deal with this issue. Clubs report that members report “self rated” ratings that are not corroborated with recent and relevant tournament play that are .25 - .75 higher than their actual ability. Our club is no exception.

On one hand the issue is simple (the actual ratings part) and on another, quite complex (who we all want to play with and more importantly, socialize with and enjoy each other’s company). Why are ratings relatively simple? The USPA has established guidelines for different levels that outline the skills that you need to be able to do while on the pickleball court (not just in drill or practice sessions). They are also relatively simple in that we have a competitive process in tournaments that give you real world feedback on how you compete at your chosen level of play.

What is more complex is the most important part, which is who we choose to want to play with. As a club, we value this decision as it supports the most important reasons that we all play pickleball and that is to have fun and socialize with others. If someone is at a lower or higher rating level but we like playing together, then that is ok, in fact it is good! If someone is growing older and struggling to play at their historical level do we “uninvite them”? I think not. Pickleball ratings do not have “adjustments” for age, gender or both so how does this factor into how we set rules on suitability of sessions. At the end of the day, my belief is that we need to first focus on having fun at pickleball and then seek the level of competitiveness we desire.

As a Board, we have committed to coming up with some ideas that we intend to try during the season regarding ratings and competitiveness. We don’t expect to come up with a “one size” fits all approach that works and as such we will be looking to try a few different things. As we develop more clarity to this approach, we will be announcing these initiatives to you. In the meantime, I would ask all of our members to reflect upon your stated rating and ensure that you are comfortable with it.

Summary – It has been amazing so far this winter with the weather cooperating so well for pickleball. While it has been cold, the sun has been shining and the courts have been full. Please remember to be patient and gracious to each other with our courts at full capacity.

For those that have not done so yet, please renew your membership and encourage others to join as well. Please join us at our social fundraiser on February 23, 2025 at The Landing! See you all out on the courts!

Regards,

Landon Kitagawa

President, Delta Pickleball Association

PS: the newsletter is not longer. Upon member request I increased the font size for you “young at hearts”!