

DPA Newsletter #3

December 18, 2024



Board Update – Seasons Greetings to all of our members of the DPA. This message is coming to you from the other side of the world in Warrnambool, Australia. While I am taking a sabbatical, the rest of the Board is not. This newsletter will outline some of the amazing things that have been going on and inform you of some exciting things to come.

Registration and Dues – It is that time again to register for your 2025 membership. Our registration is open and the documents that are important for you to be familiar with are up to date on the website. Please take some time to review these updated documents including the Player Code of Conduct and Player Etiquette statements. You can also find our Mission, Vision and Purpose statement up on the website. A bonus for those that register before the end of the year is that you get to avoid the Pickleball BC increase in their fees of \$2.50. All you need to do is to go to our website and register before Dec 31, 2024.

Cromie Park Update – As an outcome from our membership’s great participation in the letter writing campaign in the Winter, 2023, Parks and Recreation was instructed to work with DPA on court solutions at Cromie Park that would maintain our current court complement while at the same time making them noise compliant.

After some good initial work by our previous Board, the new Board had some ideas that would **increase** the capacity at the Cromie courts. After some good discussion with the City staff, we have

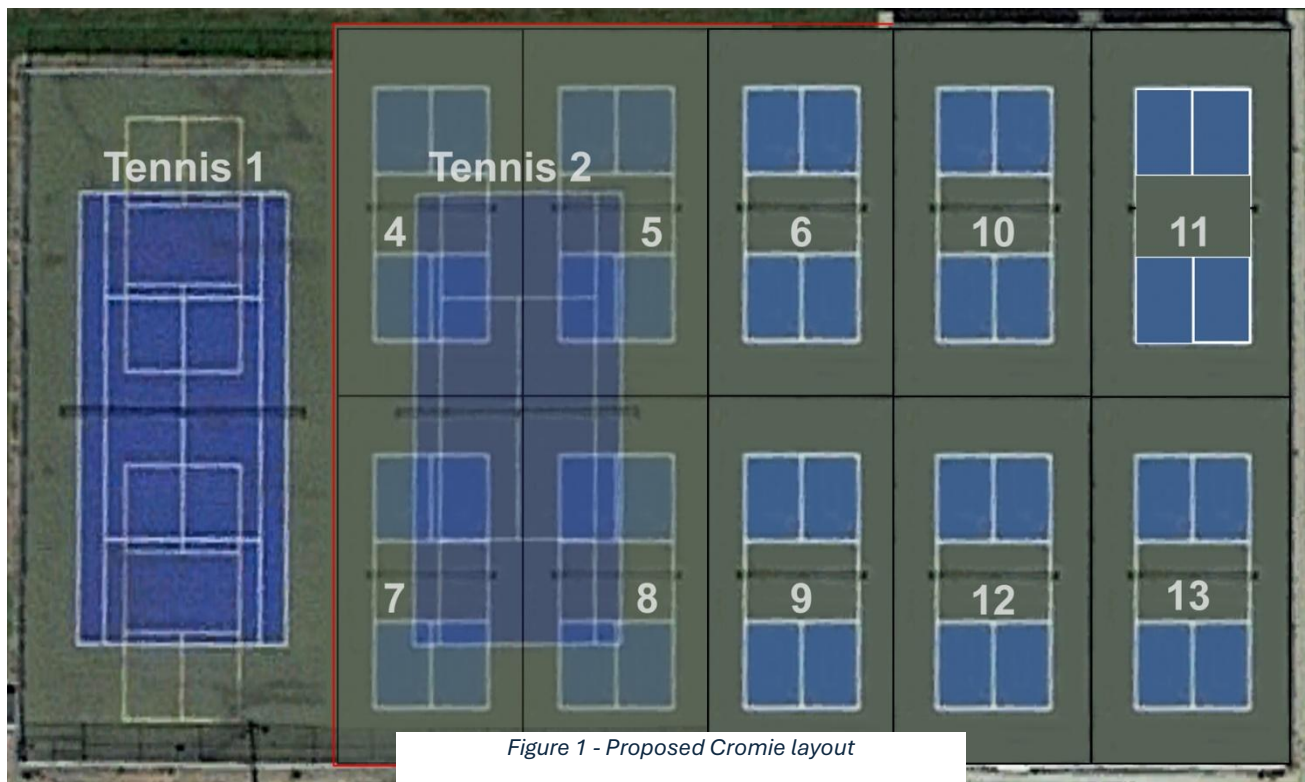


Figure 1 - Proposed Cromie layout

created a solution that would result in a sound barrier (marked in red) around two of the three tennis courts. Our suggestion will create two additional permanent courts (numbered 6 & 9) and four temporary courts (numbers 4,5,7, & 8) all of which would now be noise compliant with Delta's standards. We were also able to get proper fencing around the two new permanent courts.

While the timeframe is not determined, the City has tendered Requests for Proposals for this work to be completed in the Spring of 2025. Stay tuned for more exciting news on these developments!

Player's Code of Conduct and Etiquette Statements – Did you know that these existed? The previous Board created these two documents to clarify what they believed fair play and court etiquette to be. While the original documents were a great start, we felt it important to update them to be more current with our playing environment today.

The good news is that we have a great membership that conduct themselves around the courts with high integrity. The goals that are behind these documents outline the expectations for all members that will create a positive, fair and fun environment. Should there be misunderstandings about how to be good "pickleball citizens", these documents can help all of us stay positive. You will find these documents on our website. Please take the time to read and digest this content.

Court Signage and Paddle Play – The information about play that is currently displayed at our courts is outdated and has in some instances caused confusion. As there are many of you that have seen examples of court rules and practices around court rotation in your travels around Canada, the USA and other jurisdictions, we knew that we could draw on these examples to improve our signage in Delta.

We are undertaking a project with the City to update our signage to include the best practices from multiple jurisdictions and clarify the court rotation practices in order to maximize the playable time for all players on our courts. We are hoping that the results of this are:

1. A clearer understanding of fair court rotation at all of our courts;
2. A clearer and thus less intimidating environment for public play and those unfamiliar with these procedures;
3. Guidelines that will result in more court time for game play for all of our members;
4. Clarification of the use of ball machines and practice on our courts.

These guidelines that have been suggested are well tested and utilized in many of the jurisdictions that I mentioned above and we feel that they will work well for us in Delta too.

Dash and Smash 2025 – From June 6-8, 2025, DPA will be holding its 3rd annual sanctioned Dash and Smash tournament at Chalmers Park. This tournament has been well received and as a result of the rules regarding registration, provide opportunities for our DPA members to get early registration in some of the coveted categories. We are excited to be able to offer this tournament again! Please consider how you can help us and volunteer at the tournament! In addition, if you or your friends have financial sponsorships they can make or prize donations they can make to support our silent auctions and draws, please get them to contact us at info@deltapickleball.org or contact one of your board members.

Volunteers needed – As we prepare for our 2025 season and how to make it the best possible, there are many needs for you to volunteer to help us. Here is a list of a few of them:

1. Court hosts – we need court hosts to help us run sessions and ensure that communication is clear and up to date. Please consider helping us in this important area.
2. Court facility managers – we need people to volunteer at each court and ensure that periodically our equipment boxes are maintained, our nets are checked for height and any other deficiencies are reported into our Facilities Management Director, Bruce Robertson. While this is not a high commitment role it is vital to ensure that our courts and our equipment are properly maintained for all of our members.
3. Dash and Smash volunteers – we need many volunteers including court runners, registration assistants, referees, parking attendants, set up and take down crews, etc.
4. Coaches and mentors – our Player Development Director Jim Park will be recruiting people to create some development opportunities within our club.

At the end of the day, we need your help. Please contact any Board member or send your ideas to help to info@deltapickleball.org.

New Court Rollers – We have purchased some new court rollers to help dry courts. Rollers are currently available at Dennison and Chalmers and are on order for Cromie. With our limited trials, these rollers seem to work very well and it is possible for one person to dry a court in around 10-12 minutes. In order to fit the rollers in our equipment boxes, there is a little bit of assembly required. We will be posting instructions for use and handling of the rollers on the website as well as an instructional video that outlines their use.

Summary – We are getting on through the winter and some of you will be returning from Pickleball and holiday vacations in warmer climates. Welcome back! There will also be some of you that will be planning further vacations in the new year.

We will continue to work with the City to move the implementation of the Cromie project forward in a timely manner. In addition, we always want to hear feedback directly. While we prefer to hear from you in person, you can also provide information for us through our email at info@deltapickleball.org. Our next big task is the creation of a court schedule in order to solicit permits from the City. From your Board, we would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year. We are excited for our 2025 season. See you out on the courts!

Landon Kitagawa

President, Delta Pickleball Association