

March 2025 Newsletter



- 1. Membership Numbers:** The popularity of pickleball continues to explode. As of March 8, we have 170 members, up 10 in the last month. Of those 170, 119 have purchased a 2025 winter pass, and 97 have joined the Whitehorse Pickleball Club in pickleball.com. The club has three leagues: tier 1 with 20 players, tier 2 with 32, and tier 3 with 23.
- 2. Note to new members:** Rather than repeating a message sent last month to new members, please read the February 2025 newsletter. This can be found by going to the YPA webpage <https://secure.pickleballcanada.org/club/yukon-pickleball-association/14/> and clicking on “newsletters” on the left margin.
- 3. Expanded indoor court options:** We have access to the following school gyms:
 - Tuesdays, Hidden Valley (6-8 pm)
 - Tuesdays, University (8-10 pm) **ends April 1**
 - Thursdays, Golden Horn (6:30-8:30 pm)
 - Thursdays, Christ the King (8-10 pm)
 - Fridays, Elijah Smith (5-9 pm)
 - Saturdays, Hidden Valley (10 am-noon)
 - Saturdays, Takhini (2-10 pm)
 - Sundays, Takhini (8:30 am -4:30 pm) reserved for ladder league
 - Monday, Golden Horn (6:30-8:30 pm) **starts March 24**

Not all gyms are available each week. Check the weekly “indoor events signup” on our webpage and the monthly calendar. Bookings for the following week start each week at 7 pm on Sunday. You are asked to make a maximum of 2 bookings, prior to 7 pm on Tuesday. If there are still vacant spaces then you are welcome to book additional times. We ask players to respect this protocol, to allow as many of our members as possible to play at least once a week.

- 4. Spring Break court options.** Our regular schedule is postponed during the school spring break. The alternate schedule is limited to 4 hours on Saturday (noon to 4 pm) March 8, 15, 22 and 4 hours on Friday evenings (5-9 pm) on March 14, and 21) at Ecole Emilie Tremblay in Copper Ridge. Yukon University times continue through spring break.

- 5. Dedicated Outdoor Courts.** We met with the manager of Whitehorse Parks. They are applying for “outside” funding sources. However, no funds have yet to be secured.

6. AGM Reminder: The date for the AGM is March 26, at 6:30 pm in the lobby of Sport Yukon. As mentioned at our January 9 meeting (at the same venue) we need more of our members to step up and join the board. Several of the board members have been on the board for many years and, frankly, are burning out. It is time for others to get involved.

7. Ladder League: As mentioned in the last newsletter, DUPR (Dynamic Universal Player Rating) was a fiasco on our first league day. Consequently, we created a new session which started the following week. We now realize that DUPR was not designed for reliably ranking players in a new club with almost nobody having an existing DUPR. Also, most of the players with DUPR have few games recorded in DUPR. The consequence is: most players have a low “reliability rating” in DUPR. And thus, DUPR ratings shift wildly week by week. So, until our club matures, in other words until more players have enough games registered in DUPR to have reasonable reliability ratings (60?) we have opted to use wins/losses and points for/against as a more accurate and reliable means to adjust rankings week by week. In the meantime, all ladder league data is being collected by DUPR. We plan to revert to using DUPR as a ranking method at some point. Just when is to be determined.

Waitlist Reminder: If you are on a waitlist, check your junk mail folder. Or, even better, check the “game day” on pickleball.com to see if you have been promoted to the active list.

8. DUPR Games not in Ladder League: Players in the Ladder League may choose to play others with DUPR ratings at other times and have the results submitted as long as all agree beforehand that the game results will be submitted to DUPR.

9. NEW Skills & Drills + the ball machine

Starting on Saturday, March 29, YPA Instructors will be hosting weekly Skills & Drills sessions at Takhini from 4 pm to 6 pm! Each week, one court will feature the ball machine, while the other two courts will have drills and modified games. The sessions are broken down by skill level, so there’s something for everyone:

- March 29: 3.5 (Advanced)
- April 5: 3.0+ (Strong Intermediate)
- April 12: 3.0 (Intermediate)
- April 19: 2.5 (Novice)

Come join us and improve your game! Spots will be limited to 10!

10. Instructor 2 Coaching Course

We currently have 15 certified “*Instructor 1: Introducing Pickleball*” coaches, who have successfully completed a nationally recognized course created by Tennis Canada that meets the NCCP (National Coaching Certification Program) standards. Four of our more experienced level 1 instructors, Brenda Dion, Bryan Craven, Hector Campbell, and Jim Gilpin recently attended an “*Instructor 2: Developing Recreational Players*” course in Richmond, B.C. Financial support for this course was provided by a grant from the Yukon Government.



11. 📣 Help Us Spread the Word About Pickleball in Yukon! 🗣️

Pickleball is one of the fastest-growing sports, and we want more Yukoners to experience the fun, fitness, and community it offers! We’re also working toward **permanent courts—both indoor and outdoor**—and need to spread the word about the exciting developments happening right here in Yukon.

That’s why we’re forming a **Pickleball Awareness Committee** to develop a communication package that will help **raise awareness and keep people informed**.

We’re looking for **volunteer members** who love pickleball and want to get involved! If you have skills in **communication, marketing, or community outreach, that’s a bonus—but not required**. All you need is enthusiasm and ideas!

If you’d like to be part of this exciting initiative, please reach out to **Jim at Jgilpin@northwestel.net OR Brenda at brendadion1@gmail.com ASAP—before March 20th**.

Our first brainstorming meeting will be scheduled soon!

Let’s work together to grow pickleball and get **more courts in Yukon!** 🤝🗣️