

# Victoria Regional Pickleball Association

## Minutes

Monday, April 14, 2025

At Rhea Athey's house

### In Attendance

Roger Graves, President

Tessa Graham, Vice-President

Cathy Wong, Treasurer

Damaris Brix, Secretary (via zoom)

Rhea Athey, Director

Trish Fougner, Director

Brian Harrigan (via phone)

The meeting was called to order at 3:08 p.m.

Welcome to Brian Harrigan who has joined the board from SPPA.

### President's Report

- Roger advised that a sub-committee consisting of himself, Brad Watson, Brian Harrigan and Cindy Barton has been formed to look at expanding pickleball on the Saanich Peninsula. The long-term plan is for more facilities. They are already in discussions with Central Saanich. With the dissolution of SPPA it is hoped that VRPA can offer programming on the peninsula. **Brian agreed to organize the next meeting and to draft up a document outlining the purpose, terms of reference and framework for the committee.**
- Rosemary Harrison is organizing a Pickleball Social at Wain Rd Park on May 31 from 10-2. It will be an opportunity for past SPPA members to come together to acknowledge the end of SPPA and enjoy the camaraderie they had before the closure of the courts. VRPA members are also welcome. VRPA will promote the event on Facebook and Instagram. **Roger has agreed to attend the event and promote membership in VRPA.**

### Vice-President's Report

#### Equipment Managers

Tessa reported that she has found two individuals to act as equipment managers. They have inventoried everything at the locker, and they are developing a sign-in/out procedure. The Board believed that coaches, facilitators and others who have been given access to the locker can sign out equipment on their own without an equipment manager being present.

Starting in the fall facilitators and instructors will each be given a supply of balls to store and use in their programs. If there is a lot of breakage, then can request more balls. This will be implemented on a trial basis.

Cathy suggested that we have stickers on the VRPA nets and other equipment to identify them as ours.

## **Berwick Highlights**

Tessa will be creating a debrief document from the tournament. A couple of issues included running out of supplies in the restrooms, and the glare from the windows which could have been reduced if a UVIC staff member was available to lower the curtains.

**Tessa will follow up with Jason about securing a date for next year.**

## **Scoring System at Tournaments**

A member had written in recommending that VRPA move to rally point scoring in our tournaments. The Board considered the pros and cons of rally point scoring but noted that all sanctioned events in Canada use regular scoring and as such we will continue to use the regular scoring format.

## **Activating Youth Pickleball**

Connie McMann had provided a written update on the Activating Youth Pickleball BC (AYPBC) project and other youth related activities which are part of VRPA.

AYPBC was initiated in September 2024 in response to a request by Pickleball BC for VRPA to be one of the 3 pilot regions for this program which had received funding from Viasport. VRPA approved this and in addition, approved a \$2000 addition to AYPBC which was transferred to PBC to administer. Other youth programs that VRPA is involved with include teaching the staff at Claremont High School, and PISE Family Day. Connie requested a total of \$725 expenditure for coaching and honorariums for these projects to come out of the Community & Youth Development budget. **The committee voted in favour of this expenditure.**

Roger advised that although Level II instructors are necessary to teach the teachers, volunteers are suitable for the elementary school program. The committee had previously discussed the importance of being strategic about where we spend our time and resources and if events such as PISE Family Day meet the criteria.

## **Partnership Opportunities at Victoria Pickleball Centre**

Tessa and Rhea will be meeting with Cayce at VPC about potential partnership opportunities for running programs. She will report back after their meeting.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Cathy had previously submitted the financial report for review. Brian commented on the magnitude of the programs we offer based on our revenues and expenses.

**Cathy will provide a format to Liam for submitting coaches' invoices.**

## **Membership Report**

872 members, 414 expired members. We have gained 130 members since last month.

**Damaris will pull together a data showing membership by postal code.**

## **Gmails**

VRPA is moving to using VRPA gmails for all board members rather than personal emails. The board is having some growing pains with Google drive, but recognizes the value in using it.

## **Programming**

Rhea advised that after speaking with Liam she is recommending that the Board purchase the premium package for Sign-Up Genius. It offers features that will enhance our registration data and offer efficiencies that will streamline tasks for our programmer. It is hoped it will allow for membership numbers to be added during registrations and allow for waitlists.

**The board was in favour of this expenditure of \$540 for the premium package of Sign-Up Genius which will take effect August 1. This will be paid out of the Accounting and Legal budget line.**

Rhea will be taking on the scheduling of the instructional programs and will create the coaching schedule. She and Liam will work on the non-instructional programs together.

Rhea has lot of ideas for new programs, including starting a "3 and me" class at 1<sup>st</sup> Met to make use of the 3<sup>rd</sup> court which we currently pay for but do not use during our instructional programs.

Tessa is considering running a competitive DUPR league perhaps thru UVIC if there is a timeslot available. There is no more court time at Pearkes.

Coaches salaries were discussed. As they were already raised in 2025, this will be considered as part of the 2026 budget deliberations. It was noted that Paul F is now a Level III coach.

## **2026 Tournaments**

Tournament dates for 2026 are June 12-14 and December 12-13 at Pearkes. **Rhea will confirm that these have been booked and Tessa will talk to Jason about a date for the Berwick event in April 2026.**

## **Communications**

Trish is working on messaging on the benefits of joining VRPA

Roger will be sending out a communication to members with an update on pickleball happenings and the Berwick event.

Trish has started an Instagram page and will be updating it, Facebook and the Website.

## **Sponsorship**

Tessa has mocked up a chart on sponsorship levels. This can be referenced for the Macdonald Realty and future events.

## **Charity Works Webinars**

At this point we will not be pursuing applying for any grants.

## **Event Coordinator Position**

Two coordinators are needed to fill the event coordinator position previously held by Cathy. Cathy will act as the Board liaison to the event coordinators.

## **Bursaries**

The Board has received an application for a bursary. Roger will reach out to the person who headed up the bursary committee last year and see if they are willing to continue. The Board has a budget of \$600 for bursaries which can be distributed as \$100 or \$50 bursaries.

**Future agenda**

Suggested that future agendas be sent out a week in advance.

**Next meeting**

Monday, May 12th at Roger's house.

Meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.