

Yukon Pickleball Monthly Meeting Minutes, April 23, 2025, 6:00 -7:45 pm

Northwestel HQ, Whitehorse

The Yukon Pickleball Association respectfully acknowledge that their members live, work and play within the traditional territories of the Kwanlin Dun First Nation and the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council.

Attending: Jim Gilpin, Peter Idoko, Brenda Dion, Jayme Curtis, Mike Sparks, Erik Hoenisch, Manon Carriere, Sean Booth, Jessica Coulomb

Regrets: Walter Brennan

Call to Order: Jim called meeting to order at 6:00 pm

Adoption of Agenda: Moved by Mike, 2nd Peter

Minutes of last meeting: Moved by Mike, 2nd Peter

New Business:

1. Treasurer's Report:

We have more than \$20K in our bank account. Jim transferred \$4,960 from our PCO account to our local account on April 3. However, only 4,637.79 was received. Jim sent a note to PCO on April 14, asking for an explanation of the discrepancy. There was no response to date. Jim will follow up for clarification before transferring the \$9,600 of registration fees for the July Renneson camps.

2. Appointment of Officers:

The officers for 2025 are: Jim Gilpin, President; Sean Booth, Vice President; Manon Carriere, Secretary, Erik Hoenisch, Treasurer

3. Sport Foundation Grant Funding Report:

Erik submitted the report on our expenditure of the 2024 grant of \$13,000. He has also submitted, on behalf of the board, a request for \$13,000 for 2025. The breakdown: \$4K for training camp, \$1K for instructor development, and \$8K for web page development.

4. Ladder League Update:

We will have two sessions this summer on the outdoor courts. Session 3 will be on Wednesday mornings. Session 4 will be on Saturday mornings. We will have one ladder with

8 levels for each session. However, since we only have 4 courts, we will create two tiers; and upper tier that will play from 9-11 am, and a lower tier that will play from 11 am – 1 pm. We will do our best to place the top ranked players in the upper tier. So, for example, if 80 register to play in the summer ladder leagues, 40 would be placed in tier 1 and 40 in tier 2. The tiers however are linked. The player with the lowest rank at the end of a game day in tier 1 (who played that day) would be placed at rank 1 in tier 2 for a subsequent game day. Similarly, the player ranked first in tier 2 at the end of a game day would be positioned at rank 40 in tier 1, assuming there are 40 players in tier 1. We will continue to rely on games won and lost and points for and against, to determine changes in ranking. Hopefully by the end of the summer we will have sufficient data to use DUPR values for the fall ladder league. Players can choose to play in either the weekday session, the weekend session, or both. Starting dates have not been set. However, we hope to start by the end of May and run the summer sessions until the end of August (perhaps 13 weeks)

5. Outdoor Schedule

The summer schedule will likely start the week of May 11. We need to wait until the courts have been washed. Tennis Yukon has announced a work party for May 10 to erect the windscreens. Pickleball players have made significant contribution to this in past years. Jim will check regarding details of the work party. The following schedule shows times dedicated to the ladder leagues. However, until ladder league starts the morning schedule is the same each day.

	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
9-11 am	Group	Group	Group	LL	Group	Group	LL
11-1 pm	Open RR	Open RR	Open RR	LL	Open RR	Open RR	LL
5-7 pm	Open RR					Open RR	Open RR*
7-9 pm	Group					Group	Open RR*

Notes: With four courts we can accommodate four groups during group play. And we can accommodate up to 20 players in the open round robins, providing an opportunity to rest 1 game in 5. On Saturday evenings we have, for now, permission to use the two westerly courts (by the side fence). Thus, we can accommodate 10 players in each of time slots on Saturday evening.

6. Renneson Camp Dates - Update:

Camp is a go from July 7-11 with a short get together on Sunday evening to meet Mark and a social on Friday night after the Camp. Tennis Yukon has agreed to let us use the courts during the afternoons on that week for RR play within the groups.

Registration for 32 opened on April 1 and was full within 12 hours. After 15 were on the waitlist, registration was closed. Cost of the Camp is \$300, non-refundable if we cannot fill the spot vacated. There will be an additional instructor with Mark giving us the ability to have 16 players per session.

Brenda will request time at the CGC on Thursday, July 10 for an extra clinic.

7. Takhini Clinics:

Brenda reported that the four clinics offered from 4-6 pm on Saturdays in March and April, focusing on serves and returns were quite popular. Three additional clinics will be offered in May, on a different topic- third shots. Dates could be May 10, 17 and 24. However, since May 17 falls on a long weekend, we may need to select May 10, 24, and 31.

8. Level 1, 2 Instructors Compensation:

We now have 16 certified instructors who have taken a level 1 or level 2 NCCP approved instructors' course. However about 8 of these instructors are active. The board wishes to acknowledge the contribution made by the active instructors who volunteer their time to teach courses and consequently generate revenue for the YPA. Brenda will provide a list of the active instructors. These members will have their season passes paid for by the YPA.

9. 2025 Courses for Adults

Brenda provided a list of courses offered through the CGC, our 2- hour Introduction to Pickleball course, and 6-hour Pickleball Fundamentals course. These courses always are full. Many "graduates" continue to play and many join the YPA after having been initiated to pickleball through these courses. Sheila Senger led three other instructors who taught 4 sessions with 20 children at Elijah Smith School. Contract courses were arranged with the YG's ECO department, and with the Chinese-Canadian Association. Each group paid \$200.

10. Tennis Yukon Summer Camps, Update:

We will also participate in two summer camps this June and July organized by tennis Yukon. These camps offer a variety of activities, to a maximum of 10 children, ages 9-13. We will contribute three one-hour sessions from 9:15 to 10:15 on June 23, 24, and 26 for camp 1, and on July 14, 15, and 17 for camp 2. We will be reimbursed \$360 for our instruction.

11. Recreation Expo, May 4

Mike Sparks provided an update. We have an 8' long table and 2 chairs. Brenda has provided posters and "props", such as paddles and balls. The Expo is in the ATCO hockey arena at the CGC and is open from 10 am to 2 pm. Brenda has prepared name tags for several of our board members. Some who are playing in the ladder league on May 4 will come to the Expo when time permits. Jessica Coulombe and Rosanne Periera have offered to assist Mike in setting up.

12. Pickleball Awareness Committee

Brenda asked members (via our last newsletter) for members to contact her if they were interested in sitting on a Pickleball Awareness Committee. She had one response, from Carmen Komish. Brenda also has provided sample letters to send to various VIPs, such as MLA's and local business owners.

13. Outdoor Courts Update

Kim Schlosser, from City Parks said that they have received \$15K funding from Canada Community Building Fund to look at feasibility of locations. She has it “on her work plan” but did not know what the next steps were.

I sent a note to Jacob Heigers (CEO of the business arm of KDFN) on March 24, with sketches of a potential 8 court layout and a 72-vehicle parking lot on a portion of Lot A in their industrial subdivision near the intersection of the Alaska Highway and Robert Service Way. There has been no response.

14. Doubles Tournament

We hope to offer a team tournament in either late May or early June. The concept. Players will sign up as a pair. There will be three levels of play. Jayme will propose a more detailed description.

Meeting adjourned 7:45 pm

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 21, 6:00 pm, at Sean’s boardroom