

# Victoria Regional Pickleball Association

## Minutes

Monday, May 13, 2025

At Roger Graves' house

### In Attendance

Roger Graves, President  
Tessa Graham, Vice-President  
Cathy Wong, Treasurer  
Damaris Brix, Secretary  
Rhea Athey, Director  
Trish Fougner, Director  
Brian Harrigan (via zoom)

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

### **Minutes of Previous Meetings and Agendas**

The minutes of the March and April meetings were approved and will be posted on our website. It was agreed that Damaris would initiate and send out the agenda for future meetings with the understanding that Board members will add their own agenda items.

### **President's Report**

- Roger recommended the use of Google Meet rather than Zoom when needed. The advantage is that there is no time limit on the meeting length and the platform is free, but only one participant can join in per account. Trish will investigate Zoom account options for comparison.
- Roger received a proposal from Courtside Sports for VRPA members to get store discounts ranging from 5-10%. The proposal came with several conditions including a request for the VRPA membership list for the purpose of CS and VPC newsletters. The committee was against providing such a list but rather members could sign up for emails in store. The membership card can be found on one's PCO profile. Trish will speak with her contacts at Frontrunners to see what kind of discounts they offer in comparison before we agree to the proposal. Brian pointed out that we should not be tied to any one organization as the sole partner.

### **Vice-President's Report**

#### **CARSA Christmas Tournament**

Jason at UVIC has approached Tessa about having VRPA run a Christmas Charity Tournament on Dec 20 or 21 at CARSA. As this would be only a week after our own event at Pearkes Tessa is not recommending we do this. However, she would be willing to put out a call for volunteers to help Jason and UVIC students run the event. Tessa will follow up with Jason.

### **UVIC Leagues**

Tessa and Rhea met with Joni the intramural person at UVIC. She is planning to run 50+ leagues for Men, Women, Mixed Doubles and MLP starting in the fall. Joni has developed a survey to get programming ideas. These programs would be registered through UVIC and run by student supervisors. Tessa would help to set up the DUPR account and teach them how to manage it.

## **Berwick**

The Berwick tournament was a resounding success. Tessa would like the event to be a fulsome tournament experience perhaps with complete matches being played. She is not in favour of having the family event again. Tessa will speak to the TD about these ideas and will find out about window coverings. Tables at the event are for paid sponsorships either in cash or kind.

Next year's event will be April 10, 2026.

## **Food at Tournaments**

Starting next year Tessa would like to see food provided for the players at our tournaments. We make a fair profit and it would be nice to give something back. Neither tournament facility allows food to be consumed in the fieldhouse so an extra room would have to be booked. The Board was in favour of this suggestion.

## **Sanctioned Events**

Tessa proposed that we consider offering a sanctioned event. Advantages are that it would help players get their Cdn Pickleball Rating, attracts higher level players, and could be promoted to Tourism Victoria. Both the Berwick and Macdonald Realty could be sanctioned as there are different tiers of sanctioning. Tessa will bring a proposal back to the Board

## **Referee Training Update**

The latest cohort started with 12 individuals and is down to 5. Only one person is being assessed from that group. Four previously trained refs are going for their Level II. Al Thomson and Rick Folk will be assessing them. Tessa advised that referee fees are set by PCO.

## **Treasurer**

Cathy had previously submitted the financial reports for review. She advised that the Berwick Tournament overpaid the Stripe payment system \$1,400 due to the configuration of the settings. Unfortunately, there is no way for that to be refunded.

The Programmer contract is for 650 hours. Cathy will report back on how many hours Liam has actually used.

## **Event Coordinator**

We are still searching for an Event Coordinator. We have two individuals who have stepped forward to assist but do not want the responsibility of the lead position. Trish and Cathy will draft up job descriptions for the Event Coordinator and Sponsorship position.

## **Membership Report**

915 active members. 43 new since last month, eight of those being late renewals. The expired members will be kept in the system until the fall.

Correspondence –

- Becca reported that the men's and women's mini tournaments at 1<sup>st</sup> Met were very successful and offered to run more of them.

- The City has implemented a ball recycling program at Beacon Hill Park as a pilot project
- Membership in VRPA is required to get the discounted rate at Uptown Courts. Damaris wondered if we should verify that Uptown's list has only our current members. The Board did not think this was necessary – the Courts will be likely gone in a year due to new construction.

### Facilities Report

Rhea reviewed the facilities we will be using for fall programs. At any given time, we have 15 instructional and 16 non-instructional programs underway.

- Pearkes will be used for higher level programs only
- Programs at Christ Church Cathedral and Shoreline School will be discontinued
- VPC is being added to our list of facilities
- 1<sup>st</sup> Met will be used for another year. Brighter balls would be helpful there
- Cedar Hill is getting a new gym. The non-instructional program there will be rebranded as 3-3.5.
- A concern about CARSA for some facilitators is the pay parking.

Tessa pointed out that this is an opportunity for us to refresh our programs. She plans to run a Super DUPR Day in the fall at VPC. Our program costs are determined by the level of the instructor, facility cost, balls, and our admin costs.

VRPA's Program policy states that membership is not required for beginner lessons. The Board may change this policy in the future.

### Communications

Trish now has access to update the Website and has set up an Instagram account. A problem has been identified that our mass emails are often going into Junk or Spam folders. It is a PCO email platform so there is not much we can do. Trish will be putting out a news release for the Slamboree youth event and the Macdonald Realty Classic the week of the events.

### Sponsorship

Rally40 is sending us some sample balls.

There is a lot of interest in sponsorship for the Macdonald Realty Classic. New sponsors that have recently come onboard include Rebalance (massage tables), Seafirst Insurance, Amplifon, Shark Club, Courtside Sports, National Bank. Major sponsors should be posted to the tournament website. It needs to be clarified if a court sponsor automatically gets a table at the event as well.

### Peninsula Update

Brian advised that a committee consisting of himself, Roger Graves, Cindy Barton and Brad Watson will be focusing on finding more and better places to play on the Peninsula. They have terms of reference and a package of information so they can provide a consistent message. One of the main features of Wain Park was the ability to drop-in without prearranged games. This would be difficult to replicate in a paid facility as we need to be assured of revenue. Rhea advised that once a facility is identified on the peninsula she can set up programming. However, she would need the location/times by mid-July for a fall start-up.

**Bursary Report**

Trish will see if Kerry is willing to review the bursary applications as she did last year.

Meeting adjourned at 5:08 pm

**Next meeting**

Monday, June 23rd at Damaris' house.