

Delta Pickleball Association

DPA Newsletter #6

October 2, 2025

This past weekend the Delta Pickleball Association (DPA) held our 2025 Annual General Meeting (AGM) at Cromie Park in accordance with our society bylaws. I would like to summarize a few things that were discussed at the meeting.

Club Summary

Overall, 2025 was a very productive year for the club. Some of the highlights and notable items were as follows:

- We had 930 members at year end of which 82.6% were Delta residents. The distribution of Delta residents was 33.2% from Ladner, 23% from North Delta and 43.8% from Tsawwassen;
- We held development sessions with Chalmers Elementary School in North Delta for four classes;
- We held mentoring sessions for levels 3.0-3.5;
- We offered skill development sessions for levels 3.0-3.75;
- We held new member sessions for players 2.0-2.5 with lessons and instructions on how to use PTS and get access to courts and playing sessions;
- We held club socials in February and June and raised more than \$5,000 for our capital fund;
- We held our 3rd annual Dash 'N Smash sanctioned tournament with more than 230 participants. Feedback from players was that it was the best tournament they had been a part of. Our charitable organization was the South Delta Foodbank for which we donated a lot of non-perishable food and more than \$400 in cash. As tournament is our biggest fundraiser of the year for our capital fund, we were able to add more than \$14,000 to that fund;
- We held our first annual National Pickleball Day Dream Maker fun round robin event. It was the biggest event of its kind in Canada! The 138 participants contributed \$1,260 to the Delta Community Animal Shelter who were present to receive the donation;
- We worked with the City to complete the upgrade of Cromie Park moving from 4 permanent courts and 6 temporary courts (on three tennis courts) to 6 permanent courts and 4 temporary courts (re-surfaced and painted on two tennis courts). Just as importantly, this facility is now compliant with the City established noise bylaws. The availability of courts at the "new Cromie Park"

made a big difference this season which took pressure off Dennison Park and Memorial Park;

- We worked with the City and Council to get a motion passed with unanimous Council support for 4 additional courts and lighting at Dennison Park in Tsawwassen. This is a very significant step for our club as 43.8% of our members are from Tsawwassen where we currently have the fewest courts;

I would like to thank all the volunteers and court hosts who helped make all of this possible. At the AGM we announced that for sessions in the South next year at Dennison, Memorial and Cromie, we will need court hosts for these sessions to be scheduled. We will be going out to previous court hosts but will also need many members in the South to step up to these roles.

I would like to thank our outgoing Board of Henry Lyszczyk, Brad Nelson, Jim Park, George Pierce, Bruce Robertson, Danny Sran, and Nancy Tait for their tireless leadership this year.

Finally, I would like to introduce your new Board with myself and Nancy Tait returning and adding Penny Alexander, Geoff Barlow, Jun Jer, Julie Jones, Jan Peace, Doug Pope, Darren Schrader, and Anurag Walia. Welcome to the Board of DPA.

Election Year

This upcoming year is an election year in the City of Delta. We will elect a new Mayor and Council. For the past year and upcoming this year, your Board will be working hard to continue and improve connections with Mayor and Council. This is important but not enough. We have had good support for the most part from Council supporting the growth of pickleball in Delta. We have also had situations where we weren't supported.

Through our continued discussions, we will be trying to determine the candidates who are most supportive of our game, club, and continued infrastructure development. We will continue to share information with you as we move close to the election in the fall of 2026. Please remember this work that Delta Pickleball undertakes on behalf of our club and all pickleball players in our communities. When membership re-opens later this year (not open yet), **it is important that Delta Pickleball members renew their memberships so that your Board can speak with a strong voice.**

City Planning Process – We Need Your Help!

The City is currently undergoing initial steps for collecting information for the future of Parks and Recreation in Delta. Historically as a club we have not emphasized this process enough. We have come to learn that it is **one of the single most important**

data sources used for decision making in Parks. Just as important as your vote in a City election, regarding parks and recreation, **this is the most important opportunity to voice your wants and needs to the City.**

The limited data and support for pickleball in the past has resulted in our club not being a significant part of the Parks and Recreation planning process. We have somewhat corrected this as we are now involved in the planning process. **The survey results collected here will be used to plan for this year and create the new 5 year plan.** With many of you voicing your support for pickleball (and whatever else you deem important), your Board can speak with a larger voice in the planning process taking place this Fall and for the next 5 years.

We need your help to make sure that you express your thoughts on pickleball by **taking this survey TODAY.** The campaign is called “What Moves You” so you can also google this for more information.

To find the survey, follow this link for more information:

<https://www.delta.ca/community-culture/happening-delta/news/news-release-delta-launches-city-wide-engagement-learn-what>

You can also take the survey at: <https://letstalk.delta.ca/prcplan>

User Fees 2026

At the AGM, I updated our members on our discussions with the City regarding their plans to charge fees for permits that we have historically not paid for. Of course, there will be many different views regarding this with some saying we should be paying nothing and some saying we should be paying more. Here is the history of our discussions to date.

Initially the City proposed a permit fee of \$5 per court per hour for our club. We were a bit shocked at this as the result of this level of fee would result in an annual charge of \$111,540 per year. Our operating budget for last year was about \$18,000. Based upon our membership, this would have resulted in an increase in membership fees of \$122 per member per year. Clearly this was intolerable.

After weeks of data gathering about permit fees for other Delta organizations as well as from other pickleball clubs within the GVRD, we had in-depth discussions with City staff, most recently in the last two weeks. As a result of our discussions, City staff recommended a fee structure adjustment that would see Delta Pickleball pay about \$22,308 per year in 2026 for the same level of permits as this past year. Included in

their proposal was a graduated increase of about \$11,500 per year each year until our fees for the current level of permits reached about \$77,585 per year.

It is not clear what the outcome of our discussions will be but we will be continuing to work with City staff on this. Each year we budget stringently to ensure that we provide good value for our club membership and to date we have been able to maintain our fee structure for many years. This coming year we have no choice but to increase fees next year to cover the increase.

Our fee structure will go from **\$35 per member per year to \$55 per member per year**. We are not sure what the fees for Pickleball BC and Pickleball Canada will be but historically they have been \$17.50 per year. This would make our total annual membership fees \$72.50 per year. While it is an increase, we believe it is still very good value for our members for one year of organized play and support for pickleball in our community. I am hoping that most of you will understand and feel the same about our club being good value. It is important to continue to show Delta the size and strength of our pickleball community.

We will continue to have discussions with the City regarding fees. Our goal is to ensure that our club is treated fairly and reasonably in these discussions. As always, I am happy to receive feedback at president@deltapickleball.org.

Regards,

Landon Kitagawa

President, Delta Pickleball Association