

# Victoria Regional Pickleball Association

Minutes  
Monday, April 20, 2026

At Denise Wheeldon's House

In Attendance

Roger Graves, President

Tessa Graham, Vice-President

Cathy Wong, Treasurer

Damaris Brix, Secretary

Denise Wheeldon, Program Director

James Nielsen, Communications Director (regrets)

Amy Woermke, Sponsorship Director

Brian Harrigan, Peninsula/Legal Director

The meeting was called to order at 2:04 p.m.

## **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of March 16, 2026 were approved and will be posted to the website.

## **President's Report**

### **First Aid Training**

The board agreed that VRPA coaches could apply for a \$50 bursary upon the successful completion of a first aid course. Amy pointed out that coaches can also write off the cost of the course as an expense. The next course being offered in Victoria is on May 25<sup>th</sup>.

### **Activating Youth Pickleball**

AYP has received a Jumpstart Grant for \$7,815. This money will flow through VRPA to expand youth programs in the schools. With increased programming more volunteers will be needed, and they will require a vulnerable sector criminal records check.

### **VRPA Mission Statement**

The Board is continuing to edit VRPA's Mission statement. Roger asked the Board to review the goals section prior to the next meeting.

### **Berwick RC / UVIC Women's Tournament**

Another successful tournament was run with 230+ participants, 13 referees, and dozens of volunteers. Special thanks to our sponsors: Berwick RC, UVIC Vikes, Amplifon, Raymond James, Chemainus Family Dental, Dentist in Sidney, Dan Diachuk and Gearbox, Shangri-Law Pickleball, VPC and Courtside Sports.

The board discussed the possibility of limiting the event to 3.5 and lower next year. A tournament committee has been formed and will be meeting to define roles and responsibilities and reporting structure with the TD and Board. The tournament committee is made up of: Board Liaison (chair), Event Coordinator, Volunteer Coordinator, Sponsorship Coordinator, Tournament Director and Head Referee.

### **Court Crushers Agreement**

VRPA has entered into a partnership with Court Crushers to support the application for and operation of Pickleball Canada-sanctioned tournaments on Vancouver Island. Pickleball Canada requires sanctioning for insurance and liability consistency.

Sanctioning applications must be submitted by an affiliated club and must include a letter of approval from Pickleball BC. As a private company, Court Crushers cannot apply independently; VRPA has expressed interest in supporting sanctioned events and providing opportunities for referees and players. The Vice-President will handle the administrative paperwork required with PBC for tournaments. PBC provides grants for sanctioned events which will flow back to VRPA.

### **Head Referee Honorarium**

Tessa advised that Court Crushers pays their tournament Head Referee \$50/day. To be consistent with Court Crushers and other tournaments run by PBC,

**it was moved that**

**The Head Referee for VRPA tournaments be paid \$50/day.**

**Carried**

### **Oak Bay Bubble Visit**

Tessa has approached Simon at Oak Bay Rec about the possibility of holding next year's Macdonald Realty Victoria Classic in the Oak Bay Bubble. There are 11 courts and the cost of renting is significantly cheaper than at Pearkes Rec Centre. The Board was interested and will explore it further. Tessa would like to see next year's tournament have cash prizes at the higher events, be sanctioned and be expanded to include 50-59 and 60+ events.

The Rumble in the Bubble in memory of Howard Haugom will take place at Oak Bay June 7 and provide opportunity for Board members to visit and check out venue for 2027.

### **Pickleball Festival and Clipper Cup**

Clipper Vacations is hosting the Clipper Cup Pickleball Tournament in late August at Topaz Park. They have applied for a Destination Victoria grant. There is also the possibility of a separate Pickleball Festival being held the same weekend elsewhere. It was suggested that VRPA could have a booth and use it as an opportunity to have people advance register for fall course offerings.

### **Treasurer Report**

Reports have been posted. All sponsorship money from the tournament has been received.

Damaris noted that the bank account balance has grown significantly since she first joined the board 5 years ago. As a non-profit society, she felt that the Board should be using the funds now, for the current membership, who have contributed to the growth.

There was a discussion on when an instructor's rate of pay would change should they get a new level of certification. There is no process in place to make a change to the rate mid-contract. Roger and Cathy will draft a process to accommodate this and bring it back to the Board. The instructors are scheduled for a pay increase in September to the following:

Level 1: \$40/hr

Level 2: \$45/hr

Level 3: \$50/hr

### **First Met**

VRPA was going to discontinue programs at First Met as the building was slated for demolition. However, we have been advised this will not be happening as soon as planned. Although we want to move instructional programming elsewhere, a

suggestion was made to offer Open Play at First Met. Amy wondered if they would be willing to have us contribute towards the installation of brighter lightbulbs in their fixtures.

### **Membership**

Membership is currently at 814. Damaris reported there was a flurry of higher-level players who joined just prior to registration for the Provincials. It was confirmed that the Macdonald Realty tournament will have early registration for VRPA members.

### **Programs**

- Fall Programs will be offered at CARSA, Centennial Sport Box, Cedar Hill School, and Pearkes. The programs team is looking into block bookings at Topaz.
- The Program team is looking at moving registration to Play by Point. This app is tied to DUPR which will ensure that participants sign up at the appropriate level.
- Becca's a la carte lessons are popular and may be offered again
- DUPR is here to stay. It is a gatekeeper. For people who don't have a DUPR there are various ways to get one: play tournaments, get an assessment by Shanna or Becca, arrange a series of games with a cohort to be entered in DUPR. The Communications Director will post an article on DUPR to the website.

### **Sponsorship**

The sponsorship committee has some ideas on how to move forward for next year. More visibility of our sponsors on Social Media and the website would be good.

### **Peninsula/Insurance**

Malcolm and Brian met with the chief administrator of Saanich who has agreed to change problematic wording to the Facility Rental contract language. The requirement for groups to have their own insurance is still in place. Brian asked to review any new contracts.

### **Centennial Courts**

Brian confirmed that Central Saanich will be converting the single tennis court at Centennial Park, which is currently lined with two Pickleball courts, into four. This is fully funded by the municipality and they gratefully declined a contribution from VRPA. The CRD manages the Multisport box. VRPA has access to booking availability ahead of private groups.

The town of Sidney will be altering the line configuration to expand to 2 or 3 pickleball courts from the current single court at Iroquois park. A suggestion was made to contribute to the Town to help pay for the repair of the tennis court net which has been damaged by Pickleball players.

### **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 4:08 p.m

Next Meeting on May 11<sup>th</sup> at the home of Amy.

