

Happy St Patrick's Day

March 2023

President's Corner

As this will be my last newsletter, I want to start by thanking Felechia Justice who, for almost two years, has made this letter look very professional. She has taken all of our articles and made them into an extremely high-level newsletter. Along with my articles, the newsletter usually has several other writers (their names are associated with the article) and then Felechia takes all of the articles and arranges them and adds the remarkable artwork. Along with the newsletter, Felechia reworked our entire website and for the past year made our Club flyers. Please be sure to thank Felechia when you see her.

I would also like to thank Janelle Watts, who has helped proofread my newsletter articles these last two years!

Ladder Missing

We need help locating the Club ladder. In putting up the banners before the USA Pickleball Tournament, we lost one fiberglass ladder that was replaced with an aluminum ladder. We would really like to exchange the ladders back. Please check your garage to be sure you do not have our heavier-weighted ladder instead of the lightweight aluminum.

LAST CHANCE TO BUY YOUR PERSONALIZED BRICKS - PURCHASE BY APRIL 1

Now that the above-ground work for the new courts is beginning, we are going to finalize our fundraising order of personalized bricks that will outline the walkways of the new courts. The Club is selling bricks and the purchaser will be able to personalize their brick. Bricks will be placed next to the courts lining the middle concrete walkway. We are not asking for the personalized message yet as that will be the next step.

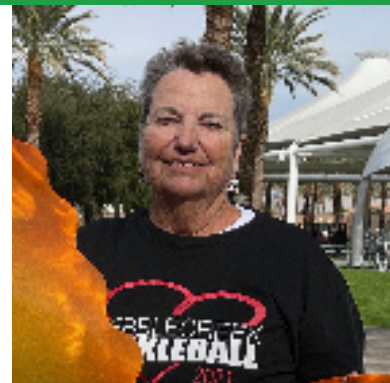
To order your bricks, go to <https://www.pcpickleball.org/buy-your-own-brick-byob>

Each 8x8 paver costs \$150 with a second one from the same household at \$125 each. Go to the website address above to order your brick! On-line bricks may be charged through Pay Pal or credit card.

Cards for Courts

Love to play cards 5 Crowns, Poker, Mahjong, Hand, Knee & Foot, Samba and any other card game you like! Kathy Aalto is hosting her famous Cards 4 Courts Fundraiser, (please check out the flyer at the end of the newsletter) on March 29 from 5:30-9:30 pm

Thanks to all of you who have contributed to our New Court Fund in so many ways!



New Officers

The pickleball club is lucky to have five talented individuals step up to take the lead of our Club this next year. Voting should currently be open, so please take time to support the candidates by voting. Thank you to Sharon Hadley, returning for a 3rd year, and Marty Braden for a 2nd year. Bob Chester has volunteered to once again be our president, with newcomers Jeff Gauvin, VP and Pam Cagle, secretary.





First Aid Box

The Ice Room has been rearranged to accommodate the Club's new sound system. Specifically, the First Aid Box has been moved to the wall next to the ice machine. This new location is not as visible so please take time to locate the first aid box the next time you are at the courts.

CPR and AED Classes

Thank you to Dennis Carter for teaching two non-certified classes on CPR and AED usage. We had almost 40 members participate, which is a huge benefit to all of us in the Club. For those who missed the class, here are quick 4-minute videos explaining how to perform emergency CPR and AED. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1lwRQTGzKcw> and What is a defibrillator? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8A0kljQU48U>

Even though the fire department is located at the front entrance of PebbleCreek, it takes an average of six minutes for a 911 call for help to reach our courts. The 911 emergency call goes to a central call center and is then relayed to our fire department. We know that six minutes is a very long time when it comes to cardiopulmonary needs.

Ball Machine and Practice Times

Thank you to Carol Knapp and Eddie Cortez for taking many of our members through proper use of our new ball machines. There are still spots available this Thursday and Friday, if you are interested in learning the proper usage of our new Lobster ball machines. Registrations are open on Court Reserve.

Players may use any court to practice, either for drills or ball machine, when there are empty courts available. Player's practicing should not be asked to move courts when other courts are available. Only when all courts are filled must the practicing stop (unless it is on the identified practice court and time).

The rules (found on the pcpickball.org website) state:

Practice Courts: PCPB Club considers practice as drilling, ball machines, and coaching. There are two different ways players can practice on the pickleball courts. First and most common, players may practice during off-peak times, when courts are readily available. During these times, players are welcome to practice. However, once ALL the courts fill, all practice must end courts revert to either Open Play or Drop-In courts. Secondly, there are identified times when players use a court specifically for practicing for one hour. During this hour, players do not need to share the court and may drill, play singles, use ball machine or receive coaching. Practice time starts and ends at the top of each hour.

The current identified practice times are:

Monday, Wed: 6-8 am, Court 4; Thursdays, most Fridays, Saturday: 4:30-6:30 pm, Court 9; Tuesday, Sunday 8-10 pm, Court 9. It is encouraged, but not mandatory, that practice during off-peak hours be done on courts, which have shade and shadows, as game play may be less desirable on those courts.

Ramada Shade

There were plans to put up temporary shade over the new stadium seating between the Ramada and court 1 during tournaments. However, once the project got underway, several safety concerns became evident. First, if wind should catch the temporary shading, the wires could snap and hit those observers in the chairs. Also, the HOA had additional concerns that by hooking the sunscreens directly to the fence, a gust of wind could snap the fence poles. The Club will suspend this project until a later date when sun structures can be installed safely.



Shading Court 2

As can be seen, poles for additional shading have been installed outside of court 2; we continue to wait for the sunscreens.

New Sound System

For several years the Club has struggled with a sound system that can be heard around the courts. Sarah Marsh (with the help of Bob Oswald and others) used to spend multiple hours setting up and taking down speakers and a control box that never worked correctly. For the past two years Sarah has worked with UpStage to design an affordable speaker system (membership approved the expenditure in November) and NOW the hard-working group pictured below are installing speakers. Thanks to Kerry's expertise and these volunteers, they are saving the Club several thousands of dollars by doing the work for us. UpStage has also been extremely helpful in advising the Club.



Bob Armstrong, Tom Skinner, Sarah Marsh, Steve Urbin, Scotty Johnson, Kerry Krueger, Bob Weldon and Tony Wells

Rules Review

By Linda Krueger

Line Calls:

- While the ball is in the air, if a player yells "out", "no", "bounce it", or any other words to communicate to their partner that the ball may be out, it shall be considered player communication only and not considered a line call.
- An "out" call made AFTER the ball bounces is a line call. The ball is dead and play shall stop. For example, if one partner calls the ball "out" after the ball bounces and the other partner continues to play the ball, the ball is DEAD. All players should stop play. The point is over.
- All "out" calls must be made prior to the ball being hit by the opponent or before the ball becomes dead. In other words, if a player plays a ball, then decides the ball was out, the subsequent "out" call must be made before their opponent hits the ball.

Most of this information is in the 2023 USA Pickleball Official Rulebook under Section 6 - Line Call Rules. You can find the Rulebook here. <https://usapickleball.org/docs/USA-Pickleball-Official-Rulebook-2023-v2.pdf>

Etiquette is if the team cannot decide if the ball was in or out, the advantage will go to the opponent and the ball will be called in. For recreational play, here at PC and most recreational centers, it is also permissible to replay the point.





Ladder Guidelines

As announced in the Board Briefs the guidelines for ladder were updated. Most of the changes were updating and clarifying existing guidelines. However, please note:

- The cut-off registration for men, moving to Tuesday at noon.
- Simplifying those players who miss six consecutive weeks of play, without notifying the captain will be removed from ladder play. (players are welcome to return).
- Clarifying the process of frozen
- Clarifying where new members will be placed when first joining ladder.

The complete guidelines can be found on the website, pcpickleball.org.

First Friday Social

This Friday is the first Friday of March, so that means our No-Host Social Play is happening with music and fun. Everyone is welcome to come to courts 9-12 and play with a variety of players; bring your beverage and snacks to share and join in the fun! Sheri Sears continues to do a wonderful job as the MC.

It's Almost Time For a Spring Fling!

By Bill Wood

The annual Pebble Creek Pickleball Club Spring Fling is back! Breakfast, music, Drop-In, Open Play and Novice play will all be happening as we welcome a new season. Saturday, March 25 from 9AM through 12 noon. Sign up on Court Reserve so that we can ensure that everyone eats well.

Volunteers make these events successful – if you can help with setup, food prep, music or teardown, please contact Bill Wood at vp@pcpickleball.org.

2023 Pickleball Event Sets New Record

By Mary Jo Wagner

PebbleCreek's biggest pickleball tournament of the year was a huge success.

The seventh annual USAPA tournament hosted by your PCPB club, held on February 8th through the 10th, had the largest number of players in its history (549), and awarded 348 medals to the top three teams in each bracket (58) of women's, men's, and mixed doubles teams.

Under the direction of Tournament Director, Mike Crabtree, and PCPB Officer at Large, Marty Braden, the tournament committee was able find 55 Sponsors, 18 vendors, and 272 gracious volunteers filled the requirements of 362 positions which helped to make this year's event one to remember.

The valuation of sponsor banners, vendor booths, donated items for SWAG bags and items for the silent auction was estimated at well over \$20,000 to support the club. Silent auction donations included balls, towels, hats, hoodies, bags, paddles, and even an African Safari Photo Tour.



Player Development

By Kevin Hillstrom

I spent a lot of time watching the pros play at Desert Ridge and at Bell Bank Park in February. Not only did I get a chance to watch amazing pickleball (the crowds were likely double the size they were last year as well), but when you are standing three feet away from pros during a match, you get to hear their in-game strategies.

Four trends became apparent after watching/listening to the pros.

Trend #1 = Backspin on Returns of Serve: Pros cut the ball on returns of serve, in an effort to make a third shot drop as hard as possible. In your round robins or when playing with friends, try to cut through the ball on a return of serve (especially backhanded) on a 9:00 to 3:00 plane with your paddle tilted back slightly. Backspin makes it difficult to hit a drop shot on a third shot.

Trend #2 = Third Shot Roll: We dedicated one-and-a-half classes this winter to hitting third shot drives and third shot drops, and for good reason! The third shot is a critical shot in the pickleball point sequence. Believe it or not, the pros have added a new third shot, called a “third shot roll”. Instead of the scooping/dink-style motion of a drop shot from an underhanded position, the roll requires the player to brush the ball from 5:00pm to 11:00pm, similar to the groundstroke motion, but at maybe 40% pace. As explained in a broadcast last weekend, this causes the ball to dive down and not bounce high. We’ve all been in situations where we think our drop shot is good, only to see it bounce high and be attacked. The pros are hitting a lot of third-shot rolls now to avoid high bounces prior to the fourth shot.

Trend #3 = Third Shots Hit At The Player Returning The Serve: Listening to player communication on the courts, it was clear teams wanted most returns of serve to go to the player who returned the serve if there wasn’t a clear player worth targeting. Why? Because this player was in motion hustling to the kitchen to get in position for a fourth shot. The goal was to hit the ball to a moving player to force a mistake. Try this tactic in your round robins, I’m confident there are many easy points to be had by hitting third shots to the player running up to the kitchen.

Trend #4 = Keep The Poacher Busy: Players were constantly reminding each other to hit balls near the sideline to the backhand of the poaching player. Why do this? As one pro said in a match against Lucy Kovalova and Callie Smith ... “Go to Callie’s backhand, keep her out of the middle.” By keeping the poaching player away from the middle of the court, the poaching player cannot poach! I heard multiple teams communicate the strategy of keeping Callie out of the middle of the court. One player said “Keep Callie busy with nonsense.” In other words, by dinking to her backhand or by hitting returns of serve down the line, Callie was forced to hit shots with her backhand and could not take over a point by poaching into the middle of the court. We all know somebody where this tactic would be helpful, correct?!! Pickleball continues to evolve. Much of the pro game trickles down to our courts in time. Why not get a head start practicing some of the ideas listed above? Use your games with friends as “Research and Development” sessions to try different ideas. Communicate to your partner what you are working on. Practice does not have to be focused on drills. We need to take advantage of Research and Development opportunities.



Mark Your Calendar for these Upcoming Dates:

- March 1-4, Election of new PCPBC officers
- March 3, 1st Friday Social (4:30pm)
- March 9, Women's Club Championship Tournament (all day)
- March 10, Men's Club Championship Tournament (all day)
- March 12, Mixed Club Championship Tournament (all day)
- March 15, PCPBC Board of Directors Meeting (3:00 pm) Milan Room TF
- March 25, Spring Fling Social (9:00am-12:00pm)
- April 1, New Board of Directors takes office!



Your PebbleCreek Pickleball Board of Directors
Marty Braden, Teri Kelly, Nancy Popenhagen,
Sharon Hadley, Bill Wood



MARCH

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Don't forget to wear your green!

All PebbleCreek Resident's Welcome

Cards 4 Courts



New Pickleball Courts Fundraiser • Tuscany Ballroom

What's your game going to be?

Poker, 5 Crowns, Poker, Mahjong, Hand & Foot, Hand, Knee & Foot, Samba, or any other card game you would like to play. Come solo and be assigned a table or reserve a table of four for you and your friends.

- **DATE:** Wednesday, March 29
- **TIME:** 5:30 - 9:30 PM
- **COST:** \$20 per person / couples, singles, men and women invited
- By RSVP only
- Doors open at 5:30 / Games start at 6
- No-Host Open Bar and Snacks provided

RSVP

- Email Kathy Aalto at kathyaalto67@gmail.com.
- Write in Subject Line: Cards 4 Courts.
- If reserving a table of 4: List the names of each of your players with one check for \$80.
- List your name(s) and game of choice if you want to be added to a table.
- Checks made out to Kathy Aalto mailed or dropped off at Kathy's 3546 N 162nd Lane

