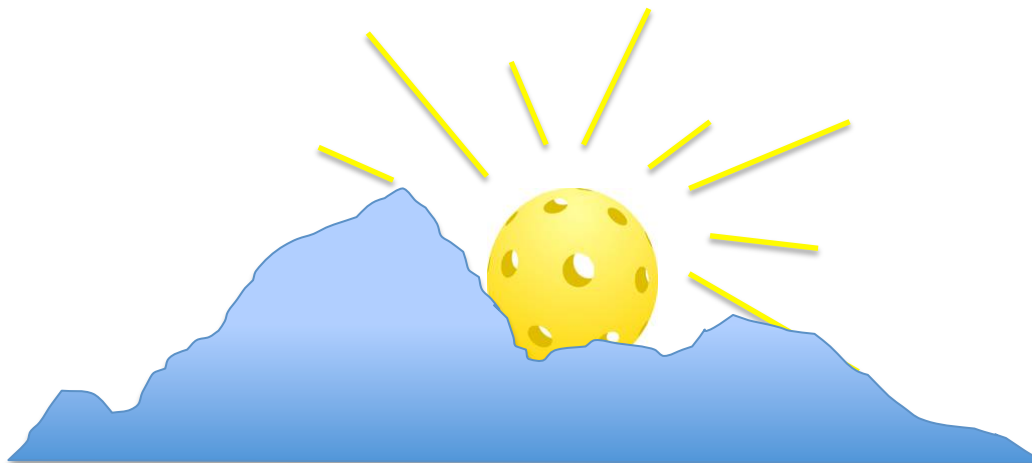


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# CRANBROOK PICKLEBALL CLUB



## SPRING NEWSLETTER

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Welcome to another season of Pickleball in Cranbrook!  
We are excited to report that there are now 64 Annual Members including 8 Lifetime Members in our club after only a few weeks of Spring Season play!

As expected, our membership consists of players all along the spectrum of this fun, challenging and at times “addicting” game. We have “brand new” players who are just learning the rules, scoring and basic strokes, as well as more “seasoned” players who play nearly year-round bringing many ideas from their “Snowbird” and/or indoor experiences.

The Club executive is working hard to provide scheduling and play opportunities that will meet the needs and goals of our members while keeping in mind the Cranbrook Pickleball Club Mission Statement ... Section 2 - Subsection a)

**To facilitate the growth of Pickleball in the Cranbrook area for the enjoyment, health and social engagement of all players by offering organized recreational and competitive play, by insuring opportunities for the continued development of all players in a collegial and sportsmanlike environment.**

The following is the schedule that will be used for the rest of May. At the end of May, the executive will review this schedule and perhaps implement changes for June. Suggestions or ideas from Club Members are always welcome and will be accepted during the week of May 26th. (Watch for the Suggestion Box that will be out during Club Play May 26 - May 30)

Please remember, as with all things... it WON'T be perfect and it requires a "Let's give it a try" attitude.

## **May Club Schedule**

### **Monday/Wednesday**

6:00 pm - 7:30 pm - Lessons/Mentorship/Supported Play - Beginners\*

7:30 pm - dusk - Open Play - Beginners

\*The CPC will provide 2 free lessons during these sessions, after which we request that you join the club to receive more lessons & mentored play.

### **Tuesday/Thursday - Starting May 14th**

6:00 pm - 7:30 pm - Open Play - Intermediate/Advanced

7:30pm - dusk -\* Challenge Play - Intermediate/Advanced - 2 or 3 courts,  
- Open Play 1 or 2 courts

### **Saturday/Sunday - Starting May 18th**

8:00 am - 10:30 am - Open Play - All Members

10:30 am - 12:00 pm - \*Challenge Play on 2 or 3 courts  
- \*Open Play - continues on 1 or 2 courts

\* Court allotment for Challenge Play and Open Play will be determined by the members in attendance.

If you would like more time for Open Play during the week, here's an idea that may work for you. Often members are arriving at the courts before 5:00 pm to warm up, stretch etc. It is often possible to get in a few games before the courts are in full swing at 6:00 pm.

Special thanks to those members offering their help and teaching skills for the Beginner evenings. If you would like to help out, please see Lisa Stechly as she is the coordinator for these sessions.

## Types of Play

### What is Open Play?

Open Play is when players of varying skill levels mix together for social or "fun" games. Players may have a very skilled or a less skilled partner. This is an opportunity to learn, offer tips (only if requested, please) and try playing with different people.

Please be thoughtful. Open Play is not designed to be a game of "Keep Away". In other words, make it your goal to include **both** opposing players in the rallies. Always returning the ball to the weaker player is a valuable skill for tournament play but during this format... Social and Inclusive for All is the focus!!

### How does Open Play work?

Members arrive and join in rotation

- When all courts are full we use the "Paddle System" ( ask for an explanation if you are not sure where to put your paddle in the paddle holders)
- When a game ends there are two possible scenarios depending on the number of people waiting to play.
  - Scenario #1 If **6 or more** people are waiting to play, all 4 players leave the court "4 off 4 on"
  - Scenario #2 If **less than 6** people are waiting, the 2 winners stay on and split, 2 players come in "2 off 2 on"

**Open play meets many of the social, recreational and health goals outlined in the Mission Statement.**

## **What is Challenge Play and Why have it?**

The goal of Challenge Play is to provide opportunities for more competitive games. That does NOT mean it is for advanced players only. All players are welcome. If you partner up with a player of a similar skill level and “challenge in” where you think there are similarly levelled players, there is a good chance of having a competitive game. If you are having consistent success on one court, you may be ready to “challenge in” on a different court against more skilled players.

It is important for our Club to offer Challenge Play opportunities in the weekly schedule as some of our members are thinking about tournament play and forming partnerships for the 55+ games (registration due at the end of June). The executive is aware that many club members want to play “for fun”. Similarly there are many club members that want to play “competitively”. Different types of play are included in the weekly schedule in an attempt to meet the needs of as many members as possible.

## **Want to give “Challenge Play” a try?**

- 1) Find a partner. A player of similar skill level is the best arrangement
- 2) Together, decide if you want to play on one of the intermediate challenge courts or the advanced challenge court and put your paddles in the corresponding paddle holder.
- 3) At the start of Challenge play, the first 4 paddles in the holder go in and play. At the conclusion of the game, the winners stay and Do NOT split. Switch sides. Play the next set of challengers. Repeat.
- 4) If a team has 3 consecutive wins, they must go off. The losing team can stay if there is only one partnership waiting to challenge. If there are 4 or more paddles waiting, both teams must go off and the winners can re-enter ahead of the losers, if they choose.

## **Challenge Play meets Mission Statement goals by offering competitive play and continued skill development for any interested members.**

If Challenge Play isn't your thing, please remember there is always a court available for the continuation of Open Play!

## **Fundraising for Kinsmen Courts:**

We would like to give a big thank-you to Andi Eady for her hard work on the many grant applications she has submitted on our behalf, and especially for the in-depth application to Columbia Basin Trust. And a thank-you goes out to Jim Barber who helped Andi by doing the verbal presentation to Columbia Basin Trust. For their good work, we received \$45,000. Thanks so much!!

We currently have \$11,450 in donations at the City, \$7,000 of which is Lifetime Club Memberships. Many thanks to those who have helped our fundraising efforts by buying the lifetime memberships. If you are interested in a lifetime membership, you can make either a \$1,000 donation or 2 - \$500 donations before December 31/19. Make the donation to the Club at the City of Cranbrook office and you will be given an official tax receipt for your donation, and you will be exempt from club membership dues for the rest of your life!

Thanks to the 23 registered volunteers and many drop-in volunteers who helped with our booth and demonstration court at the Kinsmen Outdoor Show. Although the Kinsmen did not get the attendance they expected, our booth drew lots of interest and the court play was very popular. We made \$568 on our raffle and filled 2 sheets of interested names, all of whom have been contacted and many are already in lessons. Thanks to Lisa Stechly for looking after the beginners!

We are in the final stages of working out an agreement with the City on the construction and management of the Kinsmen courts. The club will be getting credit towards our debt to the City by doing as much labour ourselves, so please consider joining in some of the work parties that will be scheduled soon! Also, we will need to continue with fundraising so please share any ideas you have with the Executive.

## **Things Coming Up in June:**

- 1. T-Shirts:** Watch for Club T-shirt ordering opportunities.
- 2. Annual General Meeting:** Watch for date near end of June.

Until next month... Happy pickling!

Cranbrook Pickleball Club Executive