

Edmonton Pickleball Club – President’s Report for 2017

Welcome to all Members

It has been my pleasure to have served these past two years as your President and I’m pleased to report on the the major initiatives we started last year and completed this year. First a bit of background for the benefit of newer members and to remind us all of our progress:

- After a somewhat rocky start as being a part of SWESA (South West Edmonton Seniors Association) for about 8 months in 2015; we became independent and registered our Club as a Not For Profit Society in the Province of Alberta as of November 30, 2015
- Important to Note: The objects of the Society are:
 - To promote the playing of Pickleball to all people living in metro Edmonton, with a focus on active older adults, in order for them to achieve the health and wellness benefits associated with the sport. Activities would include the provision of playing locations with scheduled times, lessons and tournaments.
- Your Club is dedicated to promoting and help organize play year-round ... both Indoors and Outdoors!

The Club was established with a Board of Directors and although we have had some turnover, the new people joined to help us grow and achieve our objectives. Although I have been the name on most of the emails ... it took the work and dedication of TEN directors. IN THE PAST WE HAD AS DIRECTORS:

1. Linda Dane – the Prophet
2. Ron Strank – still a valuable contributor and skilled player
3. Rose Bateman – active supporter
4. Michel Lamoureux – planted the seed to start our group
5. Doug Thomson – with us at the start as an invaluable organizer and Treasurer

Currently we have:

1. Bruce Duncan - Secretary
2. Carolyn O’Brien – Vice-President
3. Doug Fogg – Director at Large

4. Glenn Vickers - Director at Large ... currently in Mesa, Arizona
5. And yours truly ... President Ken Hurshowy

We are located here in the facilities of the Royal Gardens Community League ... and I must acknowledge the support and work of their Past President ... Nadir Bellahmer. The Edmonton Pickleball Club and Royal Gardens are partners in this project and their community members can also now enjoy the best Outdoor Pickleball courts in Edmonton close to home.

WHAT HAVE WE ACCOMPLISHED THIS PAST YEAR?

- Built new Outdoor courts with a budget of \$140,000 financed by the support of the Albert Government Lottery Funds, Royal Gardens Community League; our own Founders Club Members plus other Financial Supporters – both members and business support.
- We also had additional volunteer support from members constructing the Boardwalk along the south fence line of 107 feet by 6 feet headed up by Larry Wizniuk and Ron Strank.
- We are the only organized Pickleball Club in Edmonton active with newly dedicated and outstanding Outdoor courts plus we support Indoor play for a schedule of year-round activities.
- Today we have 257 Paid Memberships ... 102 are already registered for 2018 (WE HAVE Membership forms available today for you folks that have not yet renewed.) At the opening of our courts on September 25 we had 230 Members ... BUILD IT AND THEY WILL COME !!!
- We designed a new Logo for the Edmonton Pickleball Club.
- We started a NEW web site – with lots of features and information plus it acts as our news center. We have 6 thousand 7 hundred hits since spring.
- We have a Facebook page ... but we need some help in keeping it current.
- We held our second Winter Classic Indoor Tournament last January and a summer Outdoor Tournament.
- All Club members were enrolled in Pickleball Canada and Pickleball Alberta ... \$5 from your fee for each organization.
- We hired for a second year a Summer Student to assist our club.

- Two Pot Luck Play and Party Social events were organized here at Royal Gardens indoors plus new “POP UP” events were very popular, and some were “under the lights” outdoors late in the season.
- We provided several Lesson sessions for both Beginners and Intermediate Players.
- We conducted Shootout/Ladder events for all levels of play.
- We helped Westridge Wolf Willow Country Club start a Pickleball Program and of course they allowed our Club to have a temporary home during the construction period at Royal Gardens.

The EDMONTON PICKLEBALL CLUB has helped to open the eyes of the City of Edmonton to the fact that Pickleball is now a mainstream sport and will grow and grow and grow over the next several years. What you see here will be repeated by other community leagues and the EPC will assist many to get organized ... but we all still need to find time to play the game we all enjoy!

I personally would like to thank the Directors who assisted me in achieving the end result you see here today. Also, the unnamed volunteers that have come forward to help with our Outdoor operations and work parties.

IN CLOSING ... please consider how you can help the Edmonton Pickleball Club operate ... it is your club folks. A Membership fee of only \$40 does not go very far in operating our Club ... we need more volunteers and new Directors to take us forward with new ideas and new energy. We need a Treasurer; we need a Winter Classic Tournament Director for 2019. Join a committee, become a Director, Volunteer your services. Think about it! Next year do we add a patio to our Boardwalk with a shade structure, maybe a few tables and umbrellas, barbeque, fire pit, refrigerator, add a practice board, install wind screens, and other possible improvements.

We need 5-6 NEW Directors to join with our only returning Director Glenn Vickers. The heavy lifting has been done folks ... we built it now you can run it ... PLEASE!

With the help of all our Club members we can all enjoy this great sport as it blossoms and blooms in the years ahead.

THANK YOU ... KEN HURSHOWY