

SCPA AGM Oct. 5, 2023

President's Report

With pleasure I report that 2023 has been a year of considerable progress for SCPA. At the initiative of SCPA Directors new programs have been successfully introduced. Previously offered events have been renewed and reenergised. The following simply summarizes each event – details for each can be found in the respective reports from the committee chairs and on our website.

New Programs and Initiatives

- *New Committee Structure of SCPA* - instrumental in more effectively sharing the workload and broadening our programs. Credit to our Vice President, Brian Chipman, for taking the lead on this. Our Secretary, Diane Lamb and Treasurer, Carolyne Oughton have done terrific work in their respective portfolios.

- *New Logo and Mascot* – thanks to the initiative of Diane Lamb and volunteer contribution of graphic designer, Zoe Quinn, we have a great new logo and retained the “pickle person” Dyl as our mascot.



- *Player Development* – directors Brian Chipman, Jacques Carrier and Rick Semel introduced well subscribed player development programs at the schools. Member, Tom Pinfeld, also provided a much appreciated player orientation and development at Kinnikinnick and Roberts Creek elementary schools. Our player ratings program was reactivated and new ratings fields were introduced on our Pickleball Canada registration site.
- *Participation in Sunshine Coast Volunteer Fair* – Directors Jo-Anne Bentley, Rick Chipman, Diane Lamb and Rick Semel enjoyed meeting folks from the Coast and extolling the benefits of SCPA and pickleball.
- *Participation in Vancouver Wellness Show* – with an invitation from Pickleball BC, Brian Chipman, Tom Pinfeld and Gillian Foster represented SCPA at this show.

Renewed Programs and Events

- *Festive Dinner December 8* – great member turnout, excellent dinner provided by Blue Ocean Golf Club and enjoyable entertainment led by Jo-Anne Bentley and Peter Fisher – especially the rollicking version of the 12 Days of Christmas.
- *Arena Bowl Tournament June 24 & 25* – 105 members competed in our 8th annual Arena Bowl. The tournament was very successful thanks to the efforts of many volunteers and donations from local grocery stores. Special thanks to member Terry Akiyama for co-chairing the tournament with myself.
- *Canada Day* – again this year we had very strong community participation at the two dedicated pickleball courts at Hackett Park. Special thanks to our Community Relations Director, Jo-Anne Bentley for her organizational efforts and to Brian Chipman for his outstanding performance as the pickleball “dunkee” in the Rotary fund-raising dunk tank. Jared Hurdman shared his talent and patience introducing the game to a never-ending stream of young prospective players.

- *Dinks and Drinks Sept. 9 – 10* teams of 5 each competed in this fun year-end “tournament”. The social following the “tournament” at Joe’s was well attended and Joe’s did a fine job serving drinks and appies. Thanks to organizers, Carol Mollerup and Carolyne Oughton for their dedication in organizing this “tournament” and social.

- *School Play*

Even with its frustrations and limitations our school play program has again paid its way and has been enjoyed by a sizable number of members. SCPA membership hit a record high this year - 313 members - a 14% increase from the previous record of 274 in 2022 due in large part to school play, the Arena Bowl Tournament and our increased profile on the Coast. Carol Mollerup deserves huge credit for organizing play at Kinnikinnick and Roberts Creek elementary schools. On the Gibson’s side special thanks to members Judy Rother and Wendy Skeath for their help in the school program at Elphinstone Secondary. More generally, I thank all of the member volunteers who dutifully set up the nets, assisted with the sign-in and collection of the money. While Elphinstone Secondary did have 6 courts the lines were confusing and baseline distance to the walls far too short and potentially hazardous. Fortunately, in Fall 2023 we have been successful in returning to Gibsons Elementary – only 3 courts but far better line markings and baseline distance. Thanks to director Jacques Carrier we are now setting up a Spond group to better manage our school play.

- *Arena Play*

Technically drop-in play at the arenas is not a member event – rather it is a SCR D program. However, we coordinated as much as possible with the SCR D to make their program successful. The response at Gibsons Arena (GACC) was solid although the expanded number of sessions per week decreased the individual session attendance. Further the dryfloor season at GACC was very short and may be eliminated completely if the proposed Junior B hockey program takes hold. Sechelt Arena (SCA) attendance was weak due in large part to other pickleball venues being available and the sessions were subsequently cancelled by the SCR D. SCR D’s unwillingness to allow SCPA to hold orientation or player development during the drop-in sessions at the arenas undoubtedly hurt attendance.

- *New Pickleball Facility*

Our presentation to Sechelt Council on May 17, 2023 for a land lease beside the Suncoast Racquet Club for a dedicated, year-round pickleball facility was well received. We are hopeful that our efforts since then and our presentation to Council on Oct 4, 2023 will be successful in finally securing a lease. If so, we will need strong member support over the next two years in realizing the goal of our own facility.

In closing I wish to thank all the members of SCPA and the Directors for their contributions in making this a very successful year and apologize for any missed acknowledgements. Although the president’s role can be challenging and time consuming at times, it has been a privilege representing the Sunshine Coast Pickleball Association.

Submitted by

Ted Bentley, SCPA President