

## 2019 - 2020 President's Report

### People, Highlights and Challenges

Speaking of 2019, what a busy and successful year it was for pickleball players on the North Shore! There is much to celebrate.

#### Volunteers

One of the things that we confirmed this year is that it takes everyone in our pickleball community to support the activities and programs of NSPC. Let me start by acknowledging and thanking our Directors who each played an important role:

Allan Gauthier – for stepping in as vice-president when Bruce Foskett resigned, also our historian, stats man and registrar, Anne Watson – our minutes producer, rock and memory, Estha Parg Murenbeeld – our creative and talented communicator and website manager, Dale Harvey – our keeper of finances, Larry Harper– our comeback star and Ron Precious – Mr. Equipment.

Next, I wish to thank the leadership teams at each pickleball site.

A huge thank you to the group at 29<sup>th</sup> and Marine ably led by Ed and Lily Orlovsky for the last number of years, including Loretta Foskett, Jake Coetzer, Maureen Jarman, Lorinda Rawlings, Paulette Coutier and Susan Holton.

At Littles Cates, many thanks to Kerry Strongman, Ann Hale, John Tailford, Glenn Greenfield, Sue Anderson, Karen Wilson, Howard Ageson for enabling Little Cates participation levels to double over 2018 numbers.

At Murdo Frazer, many thanks to Allan Gauthier and Bruce Foskett for their years of leadership and the many hosts of Mike Moir, Salma Mitha, Erin Pope, Peter Westwood, Jill Andersson, Marilyn Hicks, Sharon Vaage., Jane Hurlburt, Justin Campbell, Dave Bissell, Dave and Cyndy Power, Shashi Shrivastava and others that resulted in expanded hosted play options and more evening/afternoon play.

#### Highlights

##### 1. Our Club has Grown!

In 2017 we had 240 manual registrations. In 2018 we upgraded to an on-line system and recorded 290 registered members. In 2019 our membership reached 483 members, double the members we had just two years ago.

##### 2. Official Openings of Two Permanent Pickleball Sites:

In June, the club celebrated the opening at West Vancouver 29<sup>th</sup> and Marine of 3 new permanent pickleball courts. All present acknowledged Ed and Lily's amazing and diligent work

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of creating this first designated Pickleball Facility on the North Shore. Maureen Jarman and her West Vancouver team hosted the celebration which was documented by the North Shore News.

In September, we celebrated the opening of 5 permanent courts at Murdo Frazer Park. Mayor Mike Little officiated and Allan, Bruce and the Social Committee hosted. Photos of Mayor Little and Diane Materi playing on these new courts were featured in the North Shore News.

Attendance recording at the three permanent courts at Marine and 29th in West Van began in June 2019. From June through September, 1160 morning players were in attendance.

Recorded attendance at Murdo Frazer from late April until the end of September exceeded 5000 players. There was a noticeable uptick in attendance at MF when the permanent courts were completed.

### 3. Social Committee:

Court-side potluck events and monthly pub nights held throughout the summer season and into the fall and winter were enjoyed by many. Thanks to the Social Committee of Shashi Shrivastava, Estha Parg Murenbeeld, Linda Stojcic, Ron Precious and Nicole Toporowski. The Social Committee also designed our new vertical banner which will enhance our visibility in the community and promote NSPC activities.

### 4. School Program:

Using a \$1000 grant from Vancouver Coastal Health to purchase equipment, we were able to offer an *Introduction to Pickleball* to over 300 Grade 8 and 9 students at two North Vancouver secondary schools. Many thanks to Walter Knecht, Joanne Manson, John Tailford, Ann Hale, Pat Crawford, Gill and Peter Hanson, Ron Precious, Allan Gauthier, Helen Martin, Chris Minions, Silvia Simpson and other volunteer coaches who offered many hours of coaching and support. Promoting pickleball to all ages is a foundational part of our mandate.

### 5. Free Introduction to Pickleball

Volunteers from the Little Cates pickleball community offered two free Introduction to Pickleball sessions which were much appreciated. There were 17 in attendance on July 27 and 25 newbies on August 24.

### 6. Women's Only Tournament

Thank you again to Silvia Simpson and the team for organizing a Women's Only Tournament at John Braithwaite Community Center. Participants very much enjoyed this event.

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### 7. Expanded Pickleball Indoor Gym Time

We continue to advocate for more access to pickleball indoors as well as outdoors in our ongoing discussions with North and West Vancouver Recreation and Parks. As a result, we were rewarded this winter with more indoor gym time at Parkgate, John Braithwaite and Gleneagles Community Centers and more pop-up times at Gleneagles.

### 8. Member Survey

In August the membership was surveyed to better understand who we are and what our goals will be moving forward. We have used this information in advocating to the Parks Departments for court access and for permits to play at Murdo Frazer park.

### 9. New Courts Coming to Mahon Park

As a result of our input to their survey, North Vancouver City is constructing 4 permanent pickleball courts at Mahon Park, opening in 2020. Thanks to everyone who took time to complete the survey.

### 10. New Director's Handbook

This new 30+ page compendium of club knowledge will help to quickly orient new club directors for everything from what we own to how we purchase insurance.

### 11. Emails, Website and Facebook

We've endeavored to keep you informed of upcoming events and developments using these communication tools. We try to keep your emails to a monthly newsletter. If you think you are missing anything, check the web or Facebook pages. Members are also able to review monthly Board minutes on the website. Club Directors can be reached at [northshorepickleballclub@gmail.com](mailto:northshorepickleballclub@gmail.com).

## Challenges

We continue to press the District of North Vancouver for painted pickleball lines that will allow for the formation of 4 to 6 pickleball courts on the southwest corner of Little Cates court area as an interim measure until 4 to 6 dedicated/permanent pickleball courts are built at this location. To this end, we have made submissions to the District, held talks with Parks representatives

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and engaged in discussions with the North Vancouver Tennis Society (NVTs). At this time, we still lack support from NVTs.

### 2020

John F. Kennedy has been credited as saying: "When written in Chinese, the word *crisis* is composed of two characters. One represents danger, and the other represents opportunity." In our upcoming season, NSPC will experience both.

These are the goals we are working towards and have communicated to the North Vancouver Sports Council:

1. 4 to 6 pickleball courts at Little Cates.
2. Mesh screens on courts.
3. Benches at the courts.
4. Lighting on courts for evening pickleball play.
5. A canopy or cover to allow outdoor pickleball play in wet weather.
6. Create a North Vancouver pickleball tournament centre.

### New Board of Directors

Retiring from the Board are Anne Watson, Ron Precious and Larry Harper. Allan Gauthier has offered to continue as Registrar until a replacement is found. These folks deserve our thanks for their service. Offering to continue are myself, Estha Parg Murenbeeld and Dale Harvey.

We are a geographically large area and so, representation from each of three areas will ensure that we advocate on behalf of everyone. To that end, we have created a new designation of *Area Leader*. This person will represent the issues of their court on the Board and also coordinate hosts for club play.

At this time, we have six members have stepped forward to offer service:

Karen Wilson/Kerry Strongman for East of Seymour, Betty Eisenhower for Mahon Park, Shashi Shrivastava for Murdo Frazer, Maureen Jarman for West Vancouver and Oleh Ilnycky as director-at-large.

Please consider how you might contribute to the club, perhaps as a court host facilitating play time. Many hands ..., as they say!

### In Conclusion

When our lives and pickleball play resume we will be ever keener to nurture friendships, extend kindness and build support through the game of Pickleball. It's still all about people! We see

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many positive future opportunities emerging for NSPC and as a club, we will also continue to respond to the pickleball needs of NSPC members.

Again, thank you to everyone who has contributed to the success and growth of NSPC, whether named here or not.

Stay safe and be well! Hope to see you playing pickleball again soon!

Sincerely,

Heather Fleming, President  
on behalf of the 2019-2020 NSPC Board of Directors