

# The COURT REPORTER

FEBRUARY 2023



## Membership Renewal

The annual membership renewal period ends on January 31st this year. Any 2022 member that has not renewed by that date will be removed from the membership roster and will lose access to the members area of our website. Additionally, those that haven't renewed should no longer play on courts 4-10 during SVP priority hours (8-11am and 4-8pm) at the Blackburn Pavilion. Lastly, only current members may attend club events such as clinics, partner challenges, and leagues.

### Reports in this Issue

<i>President's Message</i>	2
<i>Rec Play Committee</i>	3
<i>Competition Committee</i>	5
<i>Leadership</i>	6

## New Sign-ups in January Set SVP Record

SVP is very happy to welcome the **166** brand new members who joined the club for the first time in January, 2023. This is far and away the largest group of new members that the club has ever had in a single month! We look forward to meeting you and seeing you on the courts.

### Upcoming Events

#### February—PlayTime Scheduler

- Skills Clinics
- Game Critique Clinics
- Singles Tactics Clinic
- Partner Challenges
- Start of Spring Leagues
- New Member Mixer

Apr - Tulip Tussle Tournament



# President's Message By Larry Otos

Contact: [theotosgroup@comcast.net](mailto:theotosgroup@comcast.net)

The new year is off to a fast start with new memberships in January far surpassing our previous best month. Your Board continues to work on numerous issues to improve the club. A long term operating agreement for use and maintenance of the Blackburn Pavilion is still being negotiated with Skagit Valley College and the Skagit Valley College Foundation. We continue to research permanent wind/glare screening options on the east and west sides of the Pavilion, but for now, the temporary screening is holding up with occasional repairs, thanks to the efforts of Mike Thompson, Bill Rasmussen, and Steve Heathers. We've approved the first ever annual budget for the club. We are spearheading an effort to start a coalition between SVP, the Bellingham Pickleball Club, the Camano-Stanwood Pickleball Club, and the Marysville Pickleball Club, with the first meeting happening hopefully in February. The goal of forming this coalition is to share best practices, success stories, efforts that weren't so successful, and ways to improve all four clubs for our respective members.

I would like to thank John Ballenger for his service to the club as Secretary. His guidance and support has been influential over the past few years of rapid change. I would also like to welcome LaDawn Ramsey to the board as the new Secretary. LaDawn brings a new perspective to the board, along with the wisdom gained from owning her own small business. Thank you, LaDawn, for stepping into this key position!

**LaDawn Ramsey has stepped up into the Secretary position on the SVP Board**

As we grow, we continue to offer more opportunities for our members. With this comes the need for more volunteers. We have several key positions open now, and will also need volunteers for the April Tulip Tussle tournament. Please let us know if you are interested or would like more information.

## Blackburn Pavilion Rules Reminder



We'd like to remind all members of the rules for court usage at the Blackburn Pavilion. Membership badges are to be displayed near the court number sign for the court you are playing on during the SVP priority times (8am-11am & 4pm-8pm; seven days per week). During the priority times, non-members should play on courts 1-3. When waiting members have put their paddles up on the rack for the court you are playing on, you must rotate out after you complete the current game (not match). **If you are in the middle of a round robin, you still must rotate out if waiting members have put their paddles up on your court.** See page 6 of this newsletter for the proper use of the paddle racks and player rotation.

# Recreational Play Committee By Mark Dixon

Contact: [RecPlay.svpball@gmail.com](mailto:RecPlay.svpball@gmail.com)

## *SPRING LEAGUES*

Skagit Valley Pickleball will hold leagues for club members starting the week of February 19th. Leagues will be organized by self-rated skill level and are open to both women and men. There is no cost to play in SVP leagues. Sign up using on [PlayTime Scheduler](#) starting on [February 2nd](#). Each league will show up on the starting date as listed below. If more than 20 members sign up for a league, we will draw 20 names from those that entered. Sign-up must be completed by 7pm on February 12th. Any league that does not have at least 12 participants will be canceled. You may only sign up for one league.

Each league is scheduled on a specific day and time at the Blackburn Pavilion. Each league will run for 6-8 weeks. Each league requires a minimum of 12 members with a maximum of 20. This is an individual league, so your results each week will determine if you move up or down within the league. The exact format will be determined based upon the number of members signing up. Substitutes will be allowed but can't improve your position for the following week. The afternoon leagues do not have priority on the courts so league matches might need to rotate in and out if all courts are full (which is rare). The evening leagues do have priority on the courts, so no rotation will be necessary. We are adding a new league this time, the 70+ league for any skill level (must be 70 or older on the start date of the league, minimum of 8 players).

2.75-3.0 Tuesday Afternoon League 1-3pm	(starts on February 21st)
2.75-3.0 Thursday Evening League 6-8pm	(starts on February 23rd)
3.25-3.5 Tuesday Noon League 11am-1pm	(starts on February 21st)
3.25-3.5 Tuesday Evening League 6-8pm	(starts on February 21st)
3.5-4.0 Wednesday Afternoon League 1-3pm	(starts on February 22nd)
3.75+ Monday Evening League 6-8pm	(starts on February 20th)
70+ Friday Morning League 9-11am	(starts on February 24th)

If you still have questions, email [RecPlay.svpball@gmail.com](mailto:RecPlay.svpball@gmail.com) and try to be as specific as possible.

# Recreational Play Committee (continued)

## Partner Challenge Events

SVP is offering a new event – the Partner Challenge. The Partner Challenge will be offered periodically for various skill level ranges. In a nutshell, each Partner Challenge is a 2-3 hour event for 6 to 8 doubles teams at the Blackburn Pavilion. Interested SVP members will sign-up for the appropriate skill level Partner Challenge with a doubles partner (who must also be an SVP member and in the same skill level range). In order to make the event competitive, we are using narrow skill ranges that will shift each month.

### Who Should Enter

Any club member who would like to play in an organized, relatively short doubles event paired up with a partner of their choosing. This includes members who normally play individual round robins but would like to try playing with the same person for several matches. This might also be good practice for teams planning on playing in tournaments. This is a good opportunity for those that are league or tournament curious and want to try a short event to see if they like it. Lastly, we believe this will be a good way to meet club members outside your normal playing circle in a fun yet competitive event.

### How Do You Sign-up

The Partner Challenge events will be listed on PlayTime Scheduler (PTS) on February 1st. Please do not change your PTS rating solely to play in a Partner Challenge that is other than your normal rating. When you and a partner decide to sign-up for a particular Partner Challenge, one of you will add their name to the event in the same way that you sign-up for anything else on PTS. Follow the instructions in the event note on PTS to add your partner as a guest.

Sat 2/11 12-3pm Women's 2.5-2.75

Sun 2/12 12-3pm Women's 3.0-3.25

Sat 2/18 12-3pm Mixed 3.0-3.25

Sun 2/19 12-3pm Mixed 2.5-2.75

Sat 2/25 12-3pm Men's 3.0-3.25

Sun 2/26 12-3pm Men's 3.5-3.75

Sat 2/11 3-6pm Women's 4.0+

Sun 2/12 3-6pm Women's 3.5-3.75

Sat 2/18 3-6pm Mixed 3.5-3.75

Sun 2/19 3-6pm Mixed 4.0+

Sun 2/26 3-6pm Men's 4.0+

## January Partner Challenge Winners

**Women's 2.75-3.0** Marilyn Pinguoch & Lisa Pratt

**Women's 3.25-3.5** Joani Pfeiffer & Dana Good

**Women's 3.75+** not enough participants

**Mixed 2.75-3.0** Letty Alvarez & Nick Gubitosi

**Mixed 3.75+** Barb Haddox & Grant Udlock

**Men's 2.75-3.0** not enough participants

**Men's 3.25-3.5** Fred Peterson & Khoa Nguyen

**Men's 3.75+** scheduled for Jan 31st

**Mixed 3.25-3.5** Saturday Jay Kiesser & LeAnne Swan

**Mixed 3.25-3.5** Sunday Joani Pfeiffer & Russ Kelly

# Competition Committee (chair is open)

## Skagit Valley Tulip Tussle Tournament



The inaugural Tulip Tussle Tournament (TTT) is rapidly approaching. The TTT is the anchor event for the month long Skagit Valley Tulip Festival. SVP is proud to partner with the Festival organizers, along with Skagit Valley College, the Skagit Valley College Foundation, and Pickleball Is Great (PIG) to bring this tournament to the Blackburn Pavilion.

The tournament will be held on April 27th-30th. We currently anticipate the age brackets to be 16-34, 35-49, 50-59, 60-69, and 70+. Events will be for Women's Doubles, Men's Doubles, and Mixed Doubles in skill levels of 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, and 4.5+.



Tentatively, the events are scheduled as follows:

Thursday (4/27) - Mixed Doubles for 50-59, 60-69, 70+ all skill level brackets

Friday (4/28) - Senior Women's Doubles & Senior Men's Doubles 50-59, 60-69, 70+ all skill brackets

Saturday (4/29) - Women's & Men's Doubles 16-34, 35-49 all skill brackets

Sunday (4/30) - Mixed Doubles 16-34, 35-49 all skill brackets

Registration opens on Wednesday, February 1st, at noon. To register or to find out additional information about the Tulip Tussle Tournament, please visit [pickleballbrackets.com](http://pickleballbrackets.com) and search for Tulip Tussle.



## Board & Committees

### Current Board

<b>President</b>	Larry Otos
<b>Vice President</b>	Mark Dixon
<b>Treasurer</b>	Pam Barnes
<b>Secretary</b>	LaDawn Ramsey
<b>Member at Large 1</b>	Chris Kinsland
<b>Member at Large 2</b>	James Sanders
<b>Member at Large 3</b>	Anna Wright
<b>Past President</b>	Dan Budzynski

### Committee Chairs

<b>Communications</b>	Jeff Brandenburg
<b>Competition</b>	Open
<b>Court &amp; Grounds</b>	Mike Thompson
<b>Membership</b>	JuLee Rudolf
<b>Outreach &amp; Educ.</b>	Kay Quall
<b>Recreational Play</b>	Mark Dixon (Interim)

### Other

<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Mark Dixon
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.SVPball.com">www.SVPball.com</a>

## Volunteers Needed

We can always use more help to run our club. Currently we can use help in these areas:

Volunteer Coordinator  
Competition Committee  
Website Content and Design  
Newsletter Editor  
Membership Chair

Please contact any board member if you are interested or would like more information.

## President's Message (continued)

### *Pavilion Paddles Waiting Example*

The example below shows 4 members on the courts playing (denoted by their tags clipped to the fence) with the next 4 members ready to go on the top rack. The lower rack has 2 members and 2 non-members, who may be able to play, depending on court availability. If all courts are busy, the two non-members may only play on courts 1-3. In this example, when the players on the court finish their game, they rotate off, even if in the middle of a round robin. The 4 players on the top rack take the court, and the lower paddles move up to the upper rack. If not all paddles are up (2 for singles, 4 for doubles), the players on the court may continue to play until all of the next group are present with paddles up. At that point, the group playing may finish their game (or if doing drills, you may only use the court for 30 minutes if players have put paddles up on your court) and then rotate out. Members may use or put their paddles up on any of the ten courts at the Pavilion. Member priority hours are 8-11am and 4-8pm, seven days per week.

