

The COURT REPORTER

DECEMBER 2022

Reports in this Issue

<i>President's Message</i>	2
<i>Rec Play Committee</i>	3
<i>Competition Committee</i>	4
<i>Ref's Corner</i>	5
<i>Other News</i>	6
<i>Leadership & Coaches</i>	7

Upcoming Events

Jan/Feb—PlayTime Scheduler

- Skills Clinics
- Game Critique Clinics
- Singles Tactics Clinic

Mar - Spring Leagues

Apr - Tulip Tussle Tournament

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

SVP volunteers, lead by Don Wold, recently partnered with the Special Olympics to coach the first Special Olympics Pickleball Team in the State of Washington. For 10 Thursday evenings, club members provided instruction and encouragement to 12 local Special Olympics athletes at Skagit Valley YMCA. During the 9th session, the coaches were presented with a token of appreciation from each of the athletes. It has been a wonderful experience for all and the board would like to thank Don and each of his volunteers for the time and dedication that they have put into coaching these athletes. The members who volunteered to coach are Nancy Hansen, Christine Suter, Doug Robinson, Janice Martin, Eloise "E" Borbe, Mel Foley, Mark Reilly, Bob Leber, and Rick Rosen.



President's Message

By Larry Otos

Contact: president.svpball@gmail.com

As 2022 comes to a close, I want to thank you for supporting our club and highlight some of what we have accomplished this year. In just a short amount of time we have come together to strengthen our club and provide quality recreational and tournament play opportunities to the membership.

As of the writing of this message, we are working on an operating agreement with both the Skagit Valley College and Skagit Valley College Foundation to create a working partnership and secure operating protocols for use and agreements for revenue and expenditures for maintenance and capital costs.

During the first six months, club members eagerly awaited the completion and opening of the Blackburn Pickleball Pavilion on the Skagit Valley College campus, and on June 30, the hard work paid off. As part of the opening, our club sponsored the Lindsey and Riley Newman Clinic at the pavilion in early July. Later that month, we held our first club members only tournament at the facility.

With the six courts at Hillcrest Park (open for play daily from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm, weather permitting) combined with the ten covered courts at the Blackburn Pickleball Pavilion (open for play from 6:00 am to 10:00 pm daily), through the efforts of Skagit Valley College, philanthropist Claude Blackburn, and members of our club, SVP's two venues for play allow for over 200 hours of court time per week.

**SVP's two venues
for play allow for
over 200 hours of
court time per week**

In the fall, club volunteers stepped up and took on leadership roles. The board looked at board governance and focused on projects to support the membership and offering more organized recreational play opportunities, addressing glare and site improvements at the pavilion, securing a 501 (c)(3) status, providing an operating budget and audit, researching a player rating system and many other objectives.

In October, SVP chose Playtime Scheduler to help members arrange matches, set up a number of initial sessions to help our members find players of similar skill levels to connect and created six different leagues. We also started offering free clinics to members, focused heavily on players at the 2.0 to 3.0 skill levels, but with several clinics for higher skill levels as well. These factors greatly increased camaraderie within the club, opportunities for players to connect, and significantly increased the amount of play taking place each day, especially at the Pavilion. We closed out the month by partnering with SVC to hold the inaugural Skagit Valley Harvest Tournament with 288 participants from the Skagit Valley and beyond. Profits were shared equally between SVP and the SVC Athletic Department to support student athletes.

In November, members donated their extra paddles to an SVC PE class and their time to help teach Special Olympians pickleball and help them improve their skills. With more courts and priority play access offered to SVP members, our membership grew from 230 members in January to about 560 as we approach the end of the year.

In closing, I want to thank all of our volunteers and especially our board members for stepping up to help SVP to be successful. We need all of you to make this club a thriving part of our community.

If you ever have any questions or concerns please let me know. We are all volunteers here to promote a great Pickleball experience for our members and Skagit Valley.

Recreational Play Committee By Mark Dixon

Contact: RecPlay.svpball@gmail.com

The Recreational Play Committee was very busy in its first three months of existence, holding numerous round robin matches, over 30 skills clinics, and 6 leagues. We also had one social mixer which was attended by 16 members at the Blackburn Pavilion.

Perhaps our most gratifying accomplishment was in helping implement PlayTime Scheduler, the tool that helps pickleball players set up matches and find other players. Members who 3 months ago didn't know what a round robin was are now setting up their own round robins on a weekly basis! And members who didn't know each other 3 months ago are now partnering up regularly to play. In our leagues, we had players from Anacortes, Bellingham, Burlington, Mount Vernon, Sedro Woolley, Camano Island, Stanwood, and probably a few other places all coming together to share their love of pickleball.

The Rec Play Committee intends to keep its focus on player development and leagues in 2023. Below are the Fall league 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners. Of course, we consider everyone who played in our leagues to be winners! The Self-Scheduled Partner 3.0-3.5 League isn't quite done yet with their playoffs.

Monday Evening 3.5+ League

1st—Chris Bickford 2nd—Nelson Garcia-Jones 3rd—Mike Perry

Participants—Dani Cooper, Andy Culver, Barb Haddox, Carol Hagen, Courtney Jenkins
Wendy Johnson, Dora Keating, Russ Kelly, Viktor Lawryniuk, Sean McCauley, Carolann Mickels
Susan Pfau, Joani Pfeiffer, Ryan Watkin, Helga Wissenbach, Helene Zaslow, Amy Zimmerman

Tuesday Evening 3.0-3.5 League

1st—Shelby Langston 2nd—Scott Mickels 3rd—Steph McCarthy

Participants—Graeme Blake, Brenda Brynildsen, Bob Carr, Sylvia Domoto, Mark McCann

Wednesday Afternoon 3.5+ League

1st—Tony Decker 2nd (tied) — Steve Heathers & Chris Johnson

Participants—Andy Culver, Jill Garcia, Debbie Johnson, Lynne Koyamatsu, John Olson

Friday Afternoon 3.0-3.5 League

1st—Pam Barnes 2nd—John Webb 3rd—Nancy Gruel

Participants—Melissa Ballenger, Patrick Dylan, Marianne Honeycutt, Lisa Hopkins, Lea Njos, Larry Otos,
Patti Stormont

Self-Scheduled Partner 3.5+ League

1st—Tony Decker/Sam Karwal 2nd—Paul Grenier/Grant Udlock 3rd—Chris Bickford/Wendy Johnson

Participants—James Sanders/Robert Slabodnik, Barb Haddox/Trent Morgan, Aimee Requa/Dustin Willetts,
E Borbe/Chris Kinsland

Competition Committee

Skagit Valley Harvest Tournament

Skagit Valley Pickleball and Skagit Valley College hosted the inaugural Skagit Valley Harvest Tournament on October 28th-30th. We had 288 players from all over western Washington participate in a very successful event. A huge thank-you goes out to all of our volunteers, and particularly to our Tournament Director, Don Wold, and our Event Manager, Diane O'Neill.

Photos of the medal winners can be viewed at: <https://www.svpball.com/tournament-photos>



Men's 3.5 Medalists



Women's 3.5 Medalists

Photos of tournament action can be viewed at: <https://us.zonerama.com/HarvestTournament2022/Album/1000038890>



We are also continuing to work on our spring **Skagit Valley Tulip Tussle** tournament! This tournament will be the anchor event for the last week of the Tulip Festival and we are very proud to establish ties with the largest event in Skagit County. The tournament will run for four days, April 27-30th and is expected to draw participants from all over the Pacific Northwest. From beginners to the professional levels, pickleball is exploding in popularity and we are stepping up our game with more tournaments, clinics, and recreational play opportunities for our members.

2023 RULE CHANGES

Happy Holidays to all of our club members. A number of new rules take effect on **January 1st**, so I thought I'd briefly mention some of the ones that most pertain to us.

These rules are expected to be self-officiated during rec play and during non-officiated tournament play. These rules will be enforced by referees in officiated matches.

Spin Serve – Intentionally manipulating the ball with your hand to add spin during the release of the ball is no longer allowed. Some natural rotation of the ball that occurs during release is allowed. This applies to both the volley serve (the traditional serve) and the newer drop serve. Spin can still be applied with your paddle as long as the server doesn't violate the 3 rules that apply to a volley serve (upward motion of paddle, ball not struck above waist and paddle head not above the highest part of the wrist at ball contact). If a server in a rec game violates this rule, the receiver should catch the ball before returning it and ask for a replay.

Wrong Score Called – If the server calls out the wrong score, any player can stop play before the return of serve to correct the score. So, if the wrong score is called, correct it fast or wait until the end of the rally. If any player stops play and the score is actually correct, then that player will have committed a fault.

Player Questions About Correct Server, Receive or Position – Players may ask the referee a generic question such as "Am I Good?" to check if their team has the correct server in the correct position. This must be done before the serve is hit. In recreational play, players may ask their opponents the same question and the opponent must respond with the appropriate information. A team that serves with the wrong server or with the correct server out of position will be called for a fault.

Did you know that any USA Pickleball member can submit a suggested rule change? This needs to be done before June 30 each year. Further details are available on the USA Pickleball website.

Other News

Super Volunteer—Bill Rasmussen

We want to recognize Bill for his many volunteer activities in support of Skagit Valley Pickleball. When not playing pickleball, Bill can often be found repairing the fencing at both Hillcrest Park and the Blackburn Pavilion. He also checks and adjusts the nets for proper height, cleans off the courts and repairs damage to the screening hardware at the Pavilion. Bill also spent many hours over 3 days helping run the Harvest Tournament, though he hadn't even signed up as a volunteer. Bill never asks for recognition for his many good deeds, but rather sees something that needs attention and takes care of it, setting a good example for the rest of us. We appreciate all that you do for our club!

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 reserved times (8am-11am & 4pm-8pm; seven days per week). During the reserved times, non-members should be playing on courts 1-3. When waiting players 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). All liquids should be in a container with a spill-proof lid. If you do spill, there are towels in the storage box near the SE corner of the Pavilion, so please clean up your mess.

BLACKBURN
Pickleball Pavilion

Pickleball Etiquette:

- This pavilion is for pickleball play only
- Use pickleball courts at your own risk
- Keep courts and walkway free from trash
- Only court shoes are to be worn while playing
- No bikes, skateboards or pets allowed on the courts
- Nets can be damaged; do not hit, lean on, or sit on nets
- No chairs or personal items allowed into fenced courts
- Alcohol, food, gum, and glass containers prohibited on courts

When players are waiting:

- After playing one game, rotate out
- Limit drills to 30 minutes and rotate out
- Games are played to 11 points, win by two
- For pickleball game rules and tips go to www.USAPA.com

SVC | Skagit Valley College 

BLACKBURN
Pickleball Pavilion

Court Access

Unless reserved for college or tournament play, courts are available as follows:

- Pavilion Hours: 6:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Courts 1-3 open to the public (non-members)
- Courts 4-10 reserved for Skagit Valley Pickleball Club: 8:00-11:00 AM and 4:00-8:00 PM

All courts open to everyone outside these times.


Learn more about Skagit Valley Pickleball (www.svpball.com)



SVC | Skagit Valley College

Board & Committees

Current Board

President	Larry Otos
Vice President	Mark Dixon
Treasurer	Pam Barnes
Secretary	John Ballenger
Member at Large 1	Chris Kinsland
Member at Large 2	James Sanders
Member at Large 3	Anna Wright
Past President	Dan Budzynski

Committee Chairs

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

Other

Newsletter Editor	Mark Dixon
Website	www.SVPball.com

Find A Coach

Mark Livingston

- Level 2 Certified Teaching Professional (IPTPA)
- Certified Rating Specialist (IPTPA)
- Certified Pro (Professional Pickleball Registry)
- Certified Coach (Pickleball Coaching International)
- Rated as a 4.5 player

Coach Mark works with players who are serious about learning pickleball, improving skills and gameplay performance, and obtaining a higher skill level rating. He uses IPTPA's rating system to customize training and development plans for dedicated improvers.

Coach Mark LLC
252-451-0367
mdllivingston@gmail.com
www.coach-mark.com

Volunteers Needed

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

Competition Committee
Website Content and Design
Newsletter Editor
Board Secretary

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

