



Walnut Creek Pickleball Club January 2021 Newsletter

What a wild start to the New Year! Have we ever seen a beginning like this? The elections are over and we are off to another year. The Corvid Virus is still playing havoc with our lives here in California and elsewhere but vaccinations have begun. I look forward to mine as I look forward to doubles again in pickleball.

The shortest day has passed, and whatever nastiness of weather we may look forward to in January and February, at least we notice that the days are now getting longer. The name given to the month of January is derived from the ancient Roman name, "Janus" who presided over the gate to the new year. He was known as the God of Gateways, of Doorways and of the Journey. January brings the start of a new year which brings new opportunities. Cast out the old and welcome the new. Reflect on the past year and resolve to improve some aspect of our daily life.

Play more pickleball!!

Some Good News

The **Danville** Parks and Rec Commissioners had a Zoom meeting about adding four dedicated pickleball courts to either Diablo Vista Park or Osage Park. **Ben Crockett** and **Stuart Proctor** have helped push this along as part of, "For the Good of the Town". They discussed the issues again and asked for the public to comment. Many of our members chimed in with their thoughtful comments about the positives of pickleball. **Kathy Sostaric** and **Milo Harris**, both spoke with enthusiasm and knowledge about pickleball in Walnut Creek and other locations and all the many benefits. Other members **Whallen Fong**, who has spoken before and **Brett Collier** and **Denny Erardi** watched and listened as they live in Danville, as did **Ron Fong**. **Monica**

Williams, who is the President of the **Palo Alto Pickleball Club**, spoke about their 15 courts and 600 members there. **Steve Sutton** who is a past District Ambassador and is now a **West Regional Director**, who runs tournaments numbering 1500, spoke also. We have known Steve for years as he ran the BASG back in 2012. He answered many questions for them. **Kris Hunter** from the **WCPC** threw her two cents worth in about the growing number of players at Rudgear Park. I told them we started with temporary lines and portable nets put up everyday by the Board and some very dedicated members. We asked for dedicated courts for many years, **Bill Dougherty, Dick Hildebrand and Addie Mattox** led those meetings. Eventually the club decided to raise money and help pay for four dedicated courts which opened in 2015, splitting the cost with Lifetime Tennis. Then we had four dedicated and four temporary nets on the Multi-Use Court and players all wanted to wait and play on the first dedicated pickleball courts in the area. In 2018 the WCPC offered to raise all the money to get the four temporary courts converted to dedicated courts and the City agreed. So today, we have eight dedicated pickleball courts and we still need to add more for all the new players taking up the sport. I then invited the Danville PROS to Rudgear to see the success our club has built.. Many other pro pickleball folks spoke up, with families, that travel to Walnut Creek or Concord in order to play.

One other person to talk was **Alexander Fleming** from **Crow Canyon Country Club**. He is one of the Tennis and Pickleball Teaching Pros there. **Steve Ward** is the Director of Tennis and Pickleball and teaches Pickleball 101 to their members. Our club members **Thom Macpherson, Stacy Spell, Duff Danilovich, Rusty Lent, Brett Collier, Grant Wyborny** and others, gave many demos of pickleball there over two or three years and now they have a good pickleball program with leagues and instruction.

The Danville Commissioners suddenly realized, Danville needs pickleball courts! They were impressed and persuaded by the strong showing and collective enthusiasm about this family friendly, suitable for all ages sport. These other cities are way ahead of us and know the ins and outs and we need to get this done as soon as possible. They will make a positive recommendation to the Town Council and are hoping to have some dedicated courts by summer, if things can be worked. out.

Good job to everyone that participated!

To all those members who live in Danville, keep an eye on your Town Council agendas and help make these courts a reality.

On a side note, it was nice to hear **Kathy's and Milo's** voices. It has been months and months to long!

Crow Canyon Country Club

Stuart Proctor was telling me they have 8 pickleball courts there with the heavy duty roll away nets made by Douglas, which are great and were used at Nationals. He thought we would be amused to know that the growing number of pickleball players at Crow Canyon Country Club are collectively known as the "**Pickled Crows**"! It is a take off inspired by the Club's Retired

Men's Service club, the "Old Crows". They are working on a snappy logo so they can get t-shirts printed.

He also let me know that Crow Canyon actually has a family pickleball membership available to club members and others that live near by. The membership costs \$113 a month for two associate members. I knew that day would come years ago, but this is the first one I know of.

Welcome New Members

Please welcome these new members, **Spencer Brog, Karen Davis, Claire Humphrey, Paul Krueger, Mike Lippitt, Susan Vardikis**. Happy to see Mike Lippitt join us. I've known him for years from Club Sport San Ramon and our days of playing racquetball! Welcome everyone!

News from Yountville

Tricia Murray who was one of our past Board members, moved to New York City a couple of years with her husband, **Angus**. She has kept in touch with us through our newsletters and website. She let us know that they have moved back to the Bay Area and settled in Yountville. She wrote in late December that doubles play was still ok but you had to wear a mask. She said they have a gorgeous facility and that some of our WCPC members were coming up to play. They have 4 dedicated outdoor courts at Vineyard Park and you can check out Yountvillepickleball.com for more information. So nice to hear you are back Tricia!! We have missed you.

Darlene Vendegna

Apologies for misspelling your name last month!! Thank you for all your hard work promoting our favorite sport.

Southgate Pickleball Park

Southgate Pickleball Park in Hayward is now open for play. It is located at 267740 Chipley Ave., off Sleepy Hollow. It is open 8am to 9pm. They have six new dedicated pickleball courts with lights. Three ambassadors helped make this happen **Diane Palia, Betty Soo Hoo and Danny Borden**. More outdoor courts are coming, four at Stony Brook tennis courts, at the end of Industrial Blvd., are in the works and Memorial Park is being considered for four courts. Congratulations to **Betty Soo Hoo** for receiving the HARD (Hayward Area Recreation District) award for Volunteer of the Year!

Danny Borden is the District Ambassador for our Bay Area. Congratulations on all these courts **Dannyboy!**

Review of the New Drop Serve by Jon Rego

The Pickleball Drop Serve **Understand the basics**

The first thing to remember is that this is a test phase. The rule might not be here in 2022, but we get to try it out this year. Will this new rule be good for the sport and will players like it? There is only one **NEW** rule that you absolutely have to know in order to try the new drop serve.

The **RULE? You must DROP the ball properly.**

You must release the ball from your hand or let it roll off your paddle with absolutely no upward or downward push of the ball. Gravity has to do all the work to get the ball to drop. You can drop it from as high or low as you want.

After you drop it, it can bounce on the ground once before you hit it, or it can bounce twice on the ground before you hit it, or heck, you can even let it bounce three or more times before you strike it (of course it will be ankle high by then).

After the ball bounces, you can hit it any way you want. Backspin, topspin, sidespin, no spin.

The paddle can take any path and be in any position of contact. **NOBODY CARES!** There are no rules after you drop the ball properly.

If you drop it and decide you want to hit it on the way down, before it bounces, then **ALL** the rules of the traditional, standard serve apply.

Jon Rego, the Vice President of our Club, is also a **National champion** in table tennis player besides being a medal winning pickleball player. He has been out of the game for a while with a hip surgery and has given us this great review of the Drop Serve while he is waiting to get back in action.. Thanks so much Jon!

New Pickleball Rules for 2021

Our member **Brett Collier** has been trying out that new drop serve. Remember now, they don't call him "**Blaster**" for nothing!! Let's wait and see what serve he's got the next time you play him!!

Selling Balls and Donation

The club is still selling Franklin Balls and we have a few dozen left. They are \$20 a dozen. **Mary Parodi** bought some the other day and made an **extra donation** of \$20 to the club. Thanks so much Mary, that was very thoughtful! We have the best members!

Laurie Savage has ordered more Dura Fast 40 balls and should have them in a couple of weeks. Contact **Kris Hunter** at shywyo@aol.com or **Laurie Savage** at laurithia@gmail.com

Injured or Returning someday soon

Mark Litzau let us know the other day that he is now taking walks and hiking even jogging a little. His injury has taken a long time for recovery Happy you are getting out there Mark. Hope to see you back on the courts after Covid gets controlled. We miss you.

Mark Bryant has had some on going issues with his right shoulder and is taking care not to over do the play these days. Very smart Mark.

Steve Bagot has had an on going shoulder issue too. His left shoulder is ok after three surgeries, and now he rests up between game days.

Steve Martin and **Leslie Holt** were at Rudgear this week.. Leslie had been MIA for a long time. She said it was her second day back out playing and was going home to watch the football playoffs and relax. She looked great as always!!

Pete Sciarretta was back on the courts with **Ed Oncena** finally! He had that sling for to long! He took it easy but said he needed a mental health day to just get out on the courts! Boy! I sure understand that statement. No one thought we would be locked down for sooo many months! His PT runs about another month. Good to see you both!

Congratulations to our new IFP World Ambassador

Liam Krauss just received this new appointment from **Ron Ponder** who is the Director, IFP World Ambassador. This just took place on January 17, 2021. Liam has played tournaments internationally and has helped many groups learn about pickleball. He has a creative job in a scientific industry and I am sure these skills will serve him very well. Remember, Liam was the lead singer in the band, **Remedy**, we hired for our parties at Christmas 2019 and our Summer Party at Steve Martin's and Leslie Holts home. Great News Liam!!

Livermore Players

I recently got to play some pickleball with our members, **Cherie Leines** and **Kathy Woolcock** and some others from Livermore, including **KIrby Wong** who is an Ambassador for that area, and helped get pickleball courts down there a while ago. How many months or has it been a year? It was so much fun to catch up with all of you and meet some new players too.

Carmen Sanz

Carmen is one of our **Certified Teaching Pros** and a highly rated tournament player. She teaches at the Lafayette Tennis Club. She has been telling me that there is a new ball we should all be checking out called **Nexxed**. She said it is a fast ball and plays like the Dura Fast 40 and much stronger. We can use her member discount code to try them out, the **code is Carmenexxed20**. Check them out on the web. Thank you for the information Carmen and the discount code!

Newport Beach 2020 Winter Open

This tournament was held in early December. The Men's Pro division was won by **Ben Johns and brother Colin Johns**. The Pro Mixed Doubles was won by **Simon Jardin and Ben Johns**. Great tournament to see the Pros play.

In the Mixed Doubles, 4.5, 50+ our member **Carolyn Wei** and partner Mitch Ahtje won the **Gold** Medal. In Women's Doubles 4.5, 50+ **Carolyn Wei and Pam Cook**, our members won **Gold!**

In Mixed Doubles 5.0, 35+ **Carmen Sanz** won **Gold** with Mehdi Khazaeli.
Carmen Sanz also won **Gold** in Women's Doubles 5.0, 35+, with Stacy Zelenski.

All the Ladies of our club are the "Golden Girls" and have the medals to prove it! Congratulations to all! Wow!

Reminder from our member neighbor Roger Stone

Roger wanted us to remember, don't park across the crosswalk on the North side of the courts. It blocks the biking/walking path that leads to Mt. Diablo. He said they were giving tickets. Roger lives very close to the courts on that side. He also, appreciates when the early players use the courts on the other side early in the morning, as the courts are very close to his home. He has been off the courts now for almost a year, after surgery and rehab delayed from Covid. Miss seeing you Roger.

Saying Good Bye

One of our best gals is leaving for Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi, **Cheri Kirschenheuter** and her husband, **Todd** are building their beach home down there. They loaded up and moved on last Saturday. They have lived here for 26 years. She got to play with **Laurie and Alan Savage** and **Stuart Mangini**, her last day in town. We hope you get back to visit once in a while Cheri and stay in touch!! You will be missed by many!! Safe travels!

No Membership Drive in January 2021

Back in October, the WCPC Board met and voted to not collect any dues for the coming year from our **current 2020** members. Your 2020 membership rolls over to 2021. Covid has limited all we can do as a club. We are all hoping by summer, we can get back on track.

USA Pickleball Association

Don't forget to continue your membership, so you are ready for any tournaments that might be held. Not just for tournament players, this organization still sends the best information, six on-line newsletters, yearly, to keep you updated with all things pickleball. You also get more access to their website, checking ratings, looking for players, etc. And you can send your thoughts about all the new rules!

