

The COURT REPORTER

APRIL 2023



Tulip Tussle Tournament

Our inaugural Tulip Tussle Tournament (TTT) is just around the corner and things are ramping up quickly! We have about 700 players registered to play in the TTT, which will be held at the Blackburn Pickleball Pavilion and the Armstrong Tennis Courts, both on the campus of Skagit Valley College. If you would like to volunteer at the TTT, please sign up on the Signup Genius website <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0945AAA922A5F8C25-skagit>.

There are still slots available so please sign up and help us put on a great tournament! To learn more about the TTT, please see the Competition Committee page.

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Upcoming Events

April - on PlayTime Scheduler

- Skills Clinics
- Game Critique Clinics

April 26 - Pavilion Closing @ 3pm

April 27-30 - Tulip Tussle

May - on PlayTime Scheduler

- Skills Clinics
- Game Critique Clinics

June 15 - Membership Meeting

Annual Membership Meeting

Skagit Valley Pickleball will hold its annual membership meeting at 6pm on June 15th at the Northwest Career & Technical Academy on the Skagit Valley College campus. This is the club's annual business meeting where members vote for By-Law changes and for open board positions. Appetizers will be provided by the college's culinary program. The board will review the activities and growth of the club during the past year along with our goals for the next 12 months.

Look for an email in May with more details and RSVP information.

President's Message By Larry Otos

Contact: theotosgroup@comcast.net

I sincerely hope you are enjoying the great game of pickleball in the Blackburn Pavilion and other locations throughout the Valley. Our board has made a lot of progress with the governance of our organization. SVP is officially a 501(c)3 non-profit incorporated organization. We received our certificate from the Secretary of State last month to make it official. Our new mailing address is: 1500 E College Way STE A, PMB 362, Mount Vernon, WA 98273. Along the lines of organizational management we are on our final read of our by-law revision. We cleaned up some language to make it more applicable to how the club is managed. These changes will be brought before the membership at our annual meeting on June 15. We are also on our last stages of our Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Skagit Valley College (SVC) and Skagit Valley College Foundation (SVCF). The MOU will solidify our operational use of Blackburn Pavilion. Both SVC and SVCF are great partners as we move forward to promote pickleball in the Valley.



As I write this article, we are in the midst of planning our Tulip Tussle Pickleball Tournament (sponsorships are still available). This will be the biggest pickleball tournament ever held in the state of Washington. We have over 700 players registered to come to our valley at the end of April to play in the Tulip Tussle!

I'd like to welcome our two newest committee chairs: Jay Kiesser has stepped up to chair the Competition Committee and Heather Carrigg will be chairing our new Social Activities Committee. Thank you both for your willingness to join the SVP board!

Our club is approaching 750 members and the board is working hard to provide services and opportunities to foster the game of pickleball. The club is run by volunteers and we are looking for new ideas and energy, so help us by sharing your thoughts and a few hours of spare time. I look forward to seeing you on the courts!

Recreational Play Committee By Mark Dixon

Contact: RecPlay.svpball@gmail.com

Partner Challenge Events

Partner Challenge events will resume in May after the Tulip Tussle. 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.

How Do You Sign-up

The Partner Challenge events will be listed on PlayTime Scheduler (PTS) at the beginning of the month in which they are held. When you and a partner decide to sign-up for a particular Partner Challenge, one of you will add your 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.

February Partner Challenge Winners

Women's 2.5-2.75 Cathy Echert & Debbie Berentson	Men's 3.0-3.25 not enough participants
Women's 3.0-3.25 Heather Carrigg & LaDawn Ramsey	Men's 3.5-3.75 KJ Babu & Derek Landis
Women's 3.5-3.75 Joani Pfeiffer & Sue Harbour	Men's 4.0+ Tony Decker & Sam Karwal
Mixed 2.5-2.75 Brooke & Kelly Howell	Mixed 3.0-3.25 LaDawn Ramsey & Joel Carrigg
Mixed 3.5-3.75 Teri Bordua & KJ Babu	Mixed 4.0+ Chris Bickford & Wendy Johnson

March Partner Challenge Winners

Women's 2.75-3.0 Marilyn Pinguoch & Lisa Pratt	Men's 2.75-3.0 not enough participants
Women's 3.25-3.5 Lynne Koyamatsu & Sue Harbour	Men's 3.25-3.5 not enough participants
Women's 3.75+ Anna Wright & Wendy Johnson	Men's 3.75+ Tony Decker & Sam Karwal
Mixed 2.75-3.0 not enough participants	Mixed 3.25-3.5 Janet Moore & Myron Egbers
Mixed 3.75+ Aimee Requa & Grant Udlock	

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Competition Committee by Jay Kiesser

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 our area.

The tournament will be held on April 27th-30th. We have over 700 players registered to play, including over 100 of our Canadian friends! We are fortunate that the college is allowing us to use the Armstrong Tennis Courts in addition to the Blackburn Pickleball Pavilion.

Between the two facilities, we plan on having 28 covered pickleball courts. This will be the largest pickleball tournament ever held in the state of Washington!

The events are scheduled as follows (start times will be determined by 4/18):

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

We are offering the opportunity to assist in hosting these participants in a variety of roles; registration check in, court runners, photography and much more. Food will be provided for volunteers and a dedicated volunteer tent will provide a communal space for all of our members to use.

We look forward to hosting an amazing tournament to showcase the Skagit Valley Pickleball club! Funds raised from this tournament will go toward court maintenance and upkeep, replacement of temporary screening, and Skagit Valley College athletic scholarships. Your time and efforts are greatly appreciated! Sign up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0945AAA922A5F8C25-skagit>

The Ref's Corner by Gary Danilson

More and more club members are enjoying traveling to play in tournaments. This month we don't have to travel far as our club hosts the inaugural Tulip Tussle at the Blackburn Pavilion. Tournaments that use referees for the medal matches also often have them officiate the earlier round-robin matches. Here are some tips of what to expect if you end up in a refereed match:

- the referee will call out the score before each rally. Once the referee begins calling the score, you can't serve before the score is completely called or you will be called for a service fault. If you happen to forget and serve before the ref starts calling the score, you're OK and can re-serve. That's because the ball doesn't become live until the first number of the score is called and faults can't be called when the ball is dead (with one important exception that I'll get to later).

- any time before the ball is served (the paddle contacting the ball) any player can ask "Am I good?" or "Are we okay?". The referee will stop play, tell you if you and your partner are positioned correctly and if you have the right server/receiver. Did you know that you have 10 seconds to serve the ball after the ref calls the score? So, what happens if you drop the ball or it hits your foot and starts rolling away? Well, just say "Ref, am I good?" or "Ref, what's my score?". The referee will stop the 10 second count, answer your question and then re-call the score which gives you another 10 seconds to serve.

- a 2023 rule change states that "players aren't required to use a regular time-out for equipment adjustments or changes necessary for fair and safe continuation of the match". If you break your paddle, lose a contact lens, break a shoelace etc., the referee will call an equipment time-out "of a reasonable duration" so that you can get squared away. You'll still have your 2 regular time-outs that are available for each game. Also, referees are instructed to allow players to get a drink of water, towel off, get their sunglasses, remove a piece of clothing etc. between rallies without it being necessary to call a time-out. Just don't take so much time that in the judgement of the referee you excessively delay the game.

So, what's the one fault that can be called when the ball is dead? Yes, it's the dreaded momentum fault at the Non-Volley-Zone (the kitchen). The ball can be laying dead on the ground and if your momentum from volleying the ball (hitting it in the air) carries you into the Non-Volley-Zone (the kitchen), it's a fault. There's no time limit on a momentum fault.

Board & Committees

Current Board

President	Larry Otos
Vice President	Mark Dixon
Treasurer	Pam Barnes
Secretary	LaDawn Ramsey
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	Jay Kiesser
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
Pickleball Central 5%	CRSkagit
Club Rewards Code	

Volunteers Needed

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

Website Content and Design
Newsletter Editor
Membership Chair
Recreational Play Chair

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

Recreational Play (continued)

Winter/Spring Leagues

We just finished up the Winter/Spring Leagues this week. Play started in mid-February and ran for 8 weeks. In the Monday evening 3.75+ league, Tony Decker finished in the #1 position. This is quite an accomplishment as Tony has only been playing pickleball for about a year and the 20 players in this league are all very competitive. Grant Udlock finished in second place.

In the Tuesday evening 3.5-4.0 league, we had 12 players. Eron Macartney took the top spot, with Mike Perry finishing in second.

The Wednesday afternoon 3.5-4.0 league was also hotly contested, with Kurt Schonberg taking 1st place and Mel Foley in 2nd. This league had 16 participants with a lot of movement up and down the ladder over the 8 weeks of play.

The Rec Play Committee hoped to have leagues running for the beginner and intermediate players but we didn't have enough members sign up to go forward this time around. We will have summer leagues starting in either May or June.



Monday evening league with Aimee, Wendy, Jon, and James