



PickleBlast

May 2017 PickleBlast

Hi all and welcome to the latest **PickleBlast**. Summer (hot!) is just around the corner and while many of you have returned to your summer homes, there's still a lot going on with Green Valley pickleball. Here's what's happening this month.

What's in this Pickleblast?

May Board Meeting highlights

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May Board Meeting Highlights

- East Center shade request approved by GVR and work is scheduled to start in May
- Inter-Community Play is approved by GVR and tentatively scheduled to begin in early June, pending approval by Quail Creek management.
- Summer schedule to be published near the end of May. East Center courts to be split 4/3 to host two focus level groups simultaneously in the mornings. Court reservations will move to one court at Canoa Ranch during the morning.
- Education Committee reviewed all instructional efforts for the past year and has created a roadmap for our instructional classes going forward. More information coming on this.
- The search has begun for temporary courts for next season to host some of our instructional classes and open up more court time at the centers for play.
- Court Management Committee - This is a new committee headed by Paul Serra and will be responsible for court maintenance, supplies inventory, and player assistance.
- Referee Coordinator - Paul May has agreed to take this position to lead our efforts to develop and provide referee training for our tournaments, and will be busy over the summer developing training materials and scheduling sessions.

Website Updates

- Play the Pros! We hosted exhibition matches on Friday, May 12. 5.0 players Gary Beatty and Sean Rickard demonstrated their skills and gave a short clinic. Read about it [here](#).
- Want to improve your game or learn about new equipment? We have a page dedicated to those topics and more [here](#).

Welcome New Members! (April)

Susan Bilinski-Harper	Thomas Halbleib	Bruce Lambert	Dorothy and Stephen North
Chuck Bixler	Jeff and Pat Holland	Cyndi and Thomas Lane	Allan Roe
Vaughn Forsberg	Margot Julinn		

Members with New Ratings (April/May)

Moved to 3.0:

Thora Bausch	Michael Glaser	Frank Stemper	David Williams
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Moved to 3.5:

Roy Dashen	Bob Epstein	Charlotte Jorgenson	Tim Liddle
Hal McCallen	Mike McCarry	Margaret McCarry	Luci Paz
Stephanie Velsmid			

Interview with Mark Robertson

We are joined today in the PickleBlast studios by our new club vice president - Mark Robertson. Many of you already know Mark but for those of you who do not, read on and find out about one of our newest members of club royalty.

[PickleBlast]: Thanks for taking some time to talk to us today Mark. For our members who may not know you, tell us about your background, how you came to Green Valley, and how you discovered the game of pickleball.

[Mark Robertson]: My family emigrated to the USA in 1975, while I stayed behind in the UK hoping to get drafted to a soccer team. Well that didn't happen, and I got married and had two children in the UK. Ten years later I decided to move to the US and pursue a corporate career. The family home was in Wisconsin. I worked in Chicago and then was moved to the West Coast. At the age of 50 I decided to retire from corporate life and started a business back in the UK, which allowed me to travel back and forwards to the US. I sold the business three years ago and my wife June said she wanted to snowbird from WI to AZ. She found Green Valley and we purchased a home here in 2015 and have never gone back.

I have always been a keen sportsman with squash and tennis being the main sports. On arrival in Green Valley I thought I would give racquetball a try. Well I picked up injury after injury. Somebody mentioned pickleball as being a simple sport to play...ha ha!! The rest is history, as I started playing with the 3.0s and then the 3.5s, then was rated last year as a 4.0 and just recently a 4.5. You could say that I am addicted to getting better and enjoying this fantastic game. Some people I would like to thank for putting up with me are: Gary Smith, Bob Mee, Garry Beadtt, Rich Pokorski, Clete Liedl. These

people worked hard with me in practice and competition and put up with my many bad habits.

[PB]: As you agreed to become our club vice-president, you must have some ideas about how we can improve and expand on what our club offers. Would you describe some of your ideas on how we can make our club better?

[MR]: We have a fantastic club here and as the game grows we will become one of the larger clubs here in southern Arizona. We have a challenge to keep up with the growth and playing styles seen in more cosmopolitan areas. My desire is to offer at our club the opportunities to improve for players who want to be more competitive. Whilst doing that, still encourage a strong base for social players who just want the exercise and to have fun. Hopefully, we can bring in some of the game's best players to GV. We have several to call on in the Tucson area. I would like to see a ladder organized along with skills and drills for the better players once or twice a week.

[PB]: You are one of our higher rated players in Green Valley. Any quick tips for those of us wanting to improve and make our play more enjoyable?

[MR]: Well I guess this is a million dollar question. The one thing all players could practice is patience and learn to slow down. Enjoy the rallies and set your winning points up. How you win is more important than just winning and is easier to replicate. That is all a little over simplified but will help everybody enjoy and improve their game. The game is so much fun played a little slower, using the techniques our instructors teach. Get to the kitchen, learn to play a third shot and of course, that dreaded dink.

One last thought...we have players from all levels. Each player is important to the club and is entitled to share our game. I hope we can all be tolerant and help players to improve and get the full enjoyment that I have found playing. Thank you.

[PB]: Mark, thanks for your thoughts today and especially for joining us as we lead our club through the changes on the horizon. We are excited about what you bring to our board!

Observations

- The Tucson USAPA Ambassadors are exploring the possibility of building an outdoor pickleball complex in the Tucson area. They would love to get your thoughts on this effort and have developed a survey for all area players, which you can find [here](#).
- Best wishes to Doug Cook for recovery from gall bladder surgery.
- A final thank you for our volunteer coaches who ran the Pickleball Orientation this season. Well done! See their picture [here](#).

Upcoming Events

Summer! For those of you traveling, please do so safely. And, if you're staying to take advantage of all that court time that will be available, play smart and keep hydrated.

Member Directory

The Member Directory button on the home page of our website will take you to a password protected list of current members. We receive a lot of requests for that password, which is "1965". As the directory information recording used to say, "Please make a note of it."

In Closing

If you have a suggestion, comment, or a question, let us know – preferably by email – as discussions on the court sometimes (actually quite frequently) get lost or forgotten. And let us know if you find this newsletter helpful. Use the GVR Pickleball Club website (<http://www.gvrpickleball.org>) to contact us.

That's all for now folks....stay positive, keep smiling, and enjoy playing!!!!



Jeff Harrell

President, GVR Pickleball