

May 2020 PickleBlast

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GVRPC Board Meeting Highlights

- Met via ZOOM 05/13/2020 – [click here for Minutes](#)
- [Read Board and Committee Reports](#)
- Approved the purchase of Directors & Officers Liability Insurance Coverage
- Heard discussion regarding the re-opening of the Pickleball Center on 05/16/2020

GVR Pickleball Center Re-Opening

Our re-opening day on 05/16/2020 was a success as over 120 picklers came out to play the game we love. As we all made adjustments to the new routines, physical distancing, each person bringing their own chair and playing with their own ball, extra sanitizing, rearranged court assignments, playing in different levels, it was so good to hear the laughter and occasional shouts for a really good or really bad shot. We made it through the day with no injuries, but several folks did say the next day that they could tell their muscles were waking up again! As of this writing, 05/21/2020, GVR does not anticipate opening Canoa Ranch or East Center pickleball courts for at least two more weeks. The PB Board has assessed the demand demonstrated over the past five days at the Pickleball Center and believe there is room to add morning reservations to the court schedule. Details forthcoming. Our paddle queuing has been a bit loose and we will work on tightening that up as necessary.

GVR Pickleball Center Update

The shade structures running along the East/West corridors are simply amazing! And, based on the information shared at the 05/20/2020 GVR Board Meeting, it looks like we will be on track to get many of the remaining amenities initially envisioned. I have asked Past President, Jeff Harrell, and Vice President, Mike Clemens, to team up and work with GVR to bring these things to completion. GVR is finalizing outstanding accounting for work done to date. It was reported that based on the figures available today there will be just under \$50,000 available. This amount will be allocated toward the \$1.25 million GVR approved for the project. It is possible there will be some remaining monies in the escrow account. If so, I hope we can develop the permanent donor recognition element to acknowledge the amazing generosity so many, including many non-pickleball players, demonstrated to make this new center possible.

Welcome New Members! (April)

Duane Cocking

New Ratings

No new ratings in April as play was completely cancelled due to COVID-19. We hope to resume this member benefit in June. Connie Griffin and Mark McIntosh will serve as the coordinators for summer ratings and have received training from Suzanne and Lee Nordhagen. We appreciate this service they make possible as it is an important benefit to club members. Some clubs actually charge a fee for ratings sessions. Ours are included in our annual membership dues. Watch for updates when this will begin again.

Interview with Mike Harrington

[PB]: Thanks for taking some time to talk to us today, Mike. 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.

[MH]: I have been in Green Valley since August 2015 am a 'full timer'. I love GV, and plan to spend the rest of my life here. I discovered Pickleball through word of mouth by a few Pickleball players that were part of a foursome that got together to play cards and other games a few years ago. It only took a few classes of PB101 and I was hooked.

I grew up on the East Coast. 10 years in Springfield, MA and the rest in Saratoga, NY. I went to college for Computer Science and spent nearly 40 years as a Computer Professional (Sysprog, Programmer, DBA, Manager, etc) working for Xerox Corporation in Rochester NY, QANTAS Airways in Sydney Australia (I spent most of the 90's in OZ), Compuware in Phoenix for a few years as a consultant, 3 years with IBM as a DBA for Federal Express and AVIS, and my longest tenure at ADOT (Arizona Department of Transportation) as a DBA supporting their Driver License, Title & Registration and the Data Warehouse applications.

[PB]: You have been elected to serve as our club Treasurer for the next year. What are some things you would like to explore and implement during your tenure?

[MH]: I would like to work with our web team/guy to automate payments via PayPal or other means. I believe our club members would 'eat' the fee of \$1.50 to enable paying their membership dues online and address suggestions from many members who do not use physical checks anymore. This would also include using an online membership application/renewal form for our yearly chores between me and the Secretary. Otherwise we can hum that one in our head...Flintstones, meet the Flintstones...

The other major thing I am working on is working with the folk at CHASE to move our current accounts to be more 'generic' instead of being tied to the board members personal information (a 'grandfathered' thing for the club that was set up years ago). I understand that this is possible, and we will pursue this once the COVID stuff eases up since I cannot do anything now. Perhaps by 2021!

[PB]: What ideas do you have on how we can encourage pickleball players in Green Valley who are not currently club members to join us?

[MH]: I would like to advertise more about what we offer club members that our 'non club' members would not have access to. In particular, this would be all the free lessons we offer (Developing Skills) as well as all the classes and clinics our club pulls in from Pickleball pros like Helle Sparre. I would also like to push the Round Robin program, which is not available to non-club members. With our experience because of the pandemic I would like to explore continuing the practice of each individual using their own ball during a game. This could result in our ability to reduce dues, but will take some analysis. I believe this is how the Tennis Club operates.

[PB]: What do you see our club doing well and where can we improve?

Our club is very in touch with most if not all of our members and what they want. We have tried to implement club members' suggestions and have done so through a representative/democratic process. I am very proud of all the things our club has done to work with GVR in opening up our courts during these very tough times of COVID-19. The feedback to date from our members has been stellar! Lots of courts, lots of people, and no major issues. This had the potential to be a disaster, and it was NOT – it was a major success. As far as other things we can improve on, please see my previous responses on exploring/improving. Baby steps, but that is where change begins and happens.

Observations

They say that someone's true nature is revealed when under pressure. This past week our club was under pressure to execute on a plan and process to get our courts open given many restrictions. Many of you volunteered to be court monitors and that was key. It was something none of us had ever done and that brought pressure. On the whole, our re-opening has been a success based on solicited and unsolicited feedback received. Based on this, GVR is allowing us to make adjustments to some of the restrictions and scheduling and these will be communicated in a separate email, so watch for that. But, in the meantime, on behalf of your PB Board (and I'd just like to say this board is awesome and responsive and I love working with them), we hope everyone who felt comfortable coming out during this first week will accept our heartfelt thanks for a job well done in how you responded to the pressure of the new restrictions. The overall collective true nature of our members can be described as accepting, cheerful, enthusiastic, flexible, honoring, obedient, orderly, patient, resilient, resourceful, responsible, self-controlled, and tolerant. We realize there are some who did not believe the timing or circumstances were right for them to engage in play. We are working to implement adjustments to the schedule to accommodate these players. Again, watch for a separate email outlining these. I am proud to be affiliated with such a great club. Thank you for providing me the opportunity to serve.

If you want to become involved, have a suggestion, comment, or a question please use the Contact Us feature on the GVR Pickleball Club website <http://www.gvrpickleball.org>.

Carpe Dinkum!



Gina Rowsam, President
GVR Pickleball Club