



## Walnut Creek Pickleball Club 2021 February/March Newsletter

February seemed to be the month consumed with vaccine information and the hunt to find the place to receive it, then passing the information along to our friends. It was a rough start that seems to be getting better.

How many pickleball courts have I dried this month? We need all the rain we can get but there must be a better way to dry a court! Blowers, rollers, squeegees and towels!

Did you cover your plants that can't stand the very cold freezing temperatures we have been having? All my cactus want to move to Arizona! They want me to move there too! Burr!

I have a new nick name, Can't Get Warm Kris. Thank you **Gina Burford!**

We are in the Purple Tier and heading quickly to the Red Tier, which means Doubles Pickleball will be allowed again at Rudgear Park and Willow Pass Park. Doubles Tennis is allowed now but only singles Pickleball in Contra Costa County.

Many other counties have allowed doubles play all along. San Francisco has been playing doubles pickleball for 3 or 4 months per **Freddie Nadarisay** who teaches over there. Walnut Creek Arts and Rec is well aware of the current health orders and does not need any member of the club calling them to complain. Let's not make Rudgear Park a target, right?

And Sacramento County has allowed doubles all along at Sunrise Park in Citrus Heights. They have 12 courts all individually fenced with lights and are getting ready to add another 6! What a great club, **Sunrise Pickleball Club**. Check out their website and all they have accomplished in a few short years! The City works with them and they have a cap on 750 members, all good.

I don't think any of us thought we would be locked down for a year, but here we are. Spring is on its way, sign ups for tournaments are happening. We will wait to see if they hold the tournaments.

March is starting off like Spring. The courts are busy all day long. Lots of pickleball tournaments are being planned for the coming months. Many of our members are signing up. If you haven't ever played a tournament, try one of the local ones first. It can be a lot of fun and you meet more folks to play.

### **New Bounce Serve**

Have you been trying the new bounce serve yet? I see many players trying it. **Shari Crane** uses it very well. Try it out. It is always good to have a new different serve that your opponents haven't seen yet. Keep them on their toes!

### **Old Friends/Members Return**

**Kim Bouffard** drove up to play in Yountville and played with **Trisha Murray**. She and her husband **Angus**, our past members and Board member, have moved back from New York City and landed in Yountville. Kim said she had fun and that it was a nice group to play with. I've seen Kim on the court with **Pete Sciarretta** playing together, like old times. Pete is almost through with his rehab on his shoulder. It was really nice to see them playing together again!

### **New Ambassador**

**Darlene Drapkin** is the new Ambassador in Richmond CA. She is preparing a grant proposal for pickleball courts there. She is a good new player and has enthusiasm that will get the job done. If you would like to get in touch with her she is at [darlenedrapkin@gmail.com](mailto:darlenedrapkin@gmail.com). I am sure she would love getting some other support for those courts from those living in the area. She is also forming an East Bay Pickleball Association.

### **More Donations!**

**Rusty Lent**, "**The Nail**", gave us another \$100 donation. Amazing and so kind! He also gave out boxes of valentine chocolate to all the special "girls" in the club, if you happened to see him around Valentine's Day! Years ago, when Rusty taught a weekly, on Wednesday, for members only, pickleball for beginners class that took at least four courts, (He is very popular!), he always gave out stickers and candy kisses for awards for doing his drills. He makes it fun! Thank you so much, Rusty, you are very generous!!

**Tom Caldwell** donated his dues, \$20, this past week. Thank you Tom, you've been a great supporter of WCPC!

The WCPC received a donation of **Dura Fast 40 Neon balls** from one of our members this week! Sort of a secret donation by one of our very best members!! Thank you so much!

### **Welcome New Member**

**Mark Joseph** signed up last week. Welcome Mark! Hope to see you on the courts soon!

### **Member Instructor News**

Our member and local instructor, **Carmen Sanz**, who many of you know, fell and cut her knee. Somehow it became infected and she spent five days in the hospital. We are thinking of you Carmen and hope you are feeling better, very soon.

### **For The Good Of The Town**

It happened two weeks ago! Danville approved two dedicated pickleball courts at **Osage Park**. The tennis court layout, did not allow for four courts. The City is excited about pickleball and expects to get the courts open by summer! Woo Hoo! More pickleball courts! Thank you to all our Danville members for zooming in and helping encourage the City Fathers to pursue new pickleball courts! Your comments and emails really made a difference!

### **Golden Gate Park**

The new \$27 million complex with all lighted, 16 tennis courts, 4 "mini courts" for family tennis play or pickleball and one pickleball court will be opening on March 3rd. There is also a new clubhouse, 7800 sq feet of space with glass windows floor to ceiling. They also have a sunken tennis court with 200 seats built in for viewing play and a terrace too. Google the pictures. It is a fabulous new facility for all of those past tennis players that played there years ago. I think they actually have five pickleball courts and am not sure why it is listed as above.

Lifetime Tennis will be managing this facility and all the reservations. The fundraising in San Francisco is amazing. Wow!!

### **Community Service Day in April?? What?? April 17th**

The City of Walnut Creek and **Cindy Silva**, past Mayor and current Counsel member are asking for our help once again with another Community Service Day. Help is needed to fill the Food Bank again! There is a huge on going need.

The date is Saturday, April 17th. We will be collecting food at the pickleball courts from **9 Am to Noon**. We will also be taking monetary donations by checks or cash also. Thank you all for you past donations!

So put the date on your calendar, **April 17th** and lets fill all the boxes we can with food for those that are so much in need. See you at the courts!

### **A Sign at Rudgear**

One of the small signs the City of Walnut Creek posts at Rudgear Park, states the hours:

"No play before 8 AM and play stops one half hour after **Sunset**." What does that mean, what time is Sunset? I looked it up.

**Sunset** is simply the point that the sun disappears over the horizon.

**Twilight** is the period between Sunset and Dusk. During Twilight there is still light in the sky.

**Dusk** is the point when the sky is at 18 degrees below the horizon and there is no longer any sunlight in the sky.

Now you know! Me too!

### **Balls For Sale Again**

**Laurie Savage** has ordered more Dura Fast 40 Balls in Neon and Yellow Colors. The cost is \$28 a dozen. If you need balls you can contact her at [laurithia@gmail.com](mailto:laurithia@gmail.com) It is so nice of Laurie to do this for all of our members and the price is right!! Thank you again and again Laurie!!

### **Questions About Play At Rudgear -Then**

**New Members** might not know how we used to run play at Rudgear Park, so here is what we did before Covid.

Every morning was Drop In from 9 AM to Noon or 1 PM. Members of the Club or Board Members would put out the White Board and hang it on the fence. It is sectioned off so you can sign up with a group, four to a court or sign up alone and play with other members. Just write your name on the board and wait your turn until the next court opens for play. One game to 11 points.

If the group coming off, was on the far side from the gate, the group playing by the gate would move over to the far side so the new group coming on would not disrupt play, and would go on the court closest to the gate.

Your name can not be on the White Board more than once and no erasing any ones name.

This is the Court Etiquette, our club has adopted. It allows better players to play together or new players can find other "newbies" too. It is a great way to mix up play.

We have tracked play for years using Sign In Sheets, which helped us get to know our members by name or the General Public as well. We would have our Membership Directories sitting on the table with the Sign In sheets. Recently, we had hand sanitizer on the same table.

Use of all the picnic tables was encouraged and all were used, all the time. Everyone brought snacks to share with others, fresh from the garden tomatoes, cookies, pasties, cakes, pies, you name it, we all ate it! I'm sure everyone misses those days!

### **Play At Rudgegear - Now**

Now players are simply putting paddles on the fence by group, two for singles, four for doubles, in a vertical line down the fence, left to right. Players with paddles on the Left are the next to go on a court when it opens for play. It is still one game to 11, or 20 minutes, when others are waiting to play. Always check the fence for paddles, when you finish. Come off and the next group goes on. Put your paddles back on the fence on the right side of the other paddles and wait your next turn to play.

Players need to bring chairs to help social distance and only family members can share the picnic tables. The neighbors seem to watch everyone closely.

And masks need to be worn while waiting for a court. You don't need to play with a mask, but put it on before you leave the court after play.

There are no snacks being shared, unfortunately.

Let's hope we can get back to THEN as soon as possible!!

Everyone has been very understanding of the County Health Rules and tried to do what is right. We applaud all of you for trying to do the right things to keep everyone healthy!

### **Another Tip**

It is recommended to put your name on your paddle. It is easy to use those free address stickers they send everyone in the mail. Add your phone number also. Put it near the handle. Or use a white marker and put it on the edge of the paddle. If lost, it will be given back to you. Many paddles on the fence look alike, best to have your name on it.

### **The Pickleball Guru's Ratings Finder**

- 2.0 - 1. I know where to stand at the beginning of each point.
- 2. I usually get my serves in.
- 3. I usually let the return of serve bounce.
- 4. I am getting the hang of keeping score.
- 5. I can often keep the ball in play.
- 6. I know what a dink shot is.
- 2.5 - 1. I have the basic rules down 100%.
- 2. I am working on getting my serves & returns of serves deeper.

- 3. I am working on getting my dinks shallower/lower.
  - 4. I am capable of hitting a few dinks in a row.
  - 5. I can usually hit backhand shots when I need to.
  - 6. I'm trying to add more power or softness to my game.
- 3.0 -
- 1. I know almost all of the "special case" rules.
  - 2. My serves and returns are almost always deep.
  - 3. I sometimes try to hit a 3rd shot drop shot.
  - 4. I try to be strategic about how and where I hit the ball.
  - 5. I have a wide variety of shots in my arsenal.
  - 6. I actively work with my partner to win the point.
- 3.5 -
- 1. I can often anticipate my opponents shots.
  - 2. I often finish the point when my opponent gives me an opening.
  - 3. I am usually consistent with drop shots and dink shots.
  - 4. I almost always play at the non-volley line.
  - 5. With a good partner I can cover almost any shot.
  - 6. I try to be patient & wait for the opening.
- 4.0 -
- 1. I can consistently convert a hard shot to a soft shot.
  - 2. I am almost always patient & wait for the opening.
  - 3. I rarely make unforced errors.
  - 4. I consistently use power & finesse to my advantage.
  - 5. I can easily sustain a rally of 40 or more shots.
  - 6. I have competed in tournaments at the 4.5 level or higher.

If you can say YES to 5 or More Statements move down the list.  
 If you say NO to 2 or More Statement, you stay at that level.

Prem Carnot, (pronounced Prame) Pickleball Guru, came up with this chart to help everyone find the skill level.. It is a very helpful self rating system.  
 Many of us went out to Discovery Bay in the heat of the summer, years ago, to get lessons from Prem and buy his very small paddles, he sold then. Great memories!

## **Happy Retirement!**

**Brian Kuritsubo** just retired from EBMUD! Hopefully we will see him on the courts more often. He is a good tennis player too! Congratulations! Enjoy it all Brian!!

## **Thank You**

A big thank you to **Tosh Kuritsubo** for ordering and replacing the foam on the worn out rollers for drying the courts. One has been repaired and the second will be done later this week. Your help is always appreciated!

Don't forget to shop at Pickleball Central for all your paddles and other pickleball needs. Use our WCPC Club Code, CRRPC for a 5%.

**Join the USA Pickleball Association**