

Maple Leaf Pickleball Club
Annual General Meeting

March 22, 2022, 2:00 pm
CanAm Building

Present: Joe, Fred, Christine, Tom, Roy, Jay, Tony, Colette, members

I. Call to Order; Welcome

Joe welcomed everyone to our first AGM since 2019

II. Reading and approval of last AGM minutes

Christine McCooe moved to approve reading of the minutes; seconded by Joe Benolken, carried.

III. Business Arising

IV. President's Report: Joe Potter (see attached copy)

V. Treasurer's Report: Jay Zirolli (see attached copy). Joe Benolken moved to accept, seconded by Rob Kenton, carried. Jay explained that we must remove Chris Garner as a signee since he will no longer be a member, and add Mike Klatt's name. So moved by Ray Rudich, seconded by Ken Gove, carried

VI. Committee Reports

a. Membership: Tony Stam (see attached copy)

b. Training: Fred Cockburn (see attached copy)

c. Schedules: Roy Buchanan (see attached copy).

Lorraine Robins suggested perhaps starting the Ladies' and Men's Ladders in the morning when it's cooler. Joe replied that these groups had requested playing in the afternoon in order to socialize afterwards.

Christine McCooe commented that Ladders take up a lot of the playing time and doesn't leave time for others to play. Joe responded that with 4 courts that problem will hopefully be addressed... perhaps Ladders on 2 courts and regular play on other 2 courts. The Executive will reconsider the format.

Kathie Gove suggested setting up a committee to look at scheduling with Roy.

Jo-Anna Campbell suggested creating an Advanced (-) group in order to reduce the Intermediate (+) group and encourage some players to move up to Advanced. Roy acknowledged that the Int (+) group is rather large. He had suggested earlier that people whose skills seemed in between levels to attend the group that had fewer people. Four courts may allow us to create more categories. If you are winning all the time, move up. If you are losing all the time, move down. But for now, 4 categories is good.

Lorraine Robins suggested having a day or two where Adv. and Int(+) play together to allow players to try out another level without intimidation. Or Novice and Int(-). Roy

responded that he was always prepared to tweak the schedule in order to get maximum play time, so that everyone plays, and at their level.

Julie Jobgen asked who would be paying for the new courts. Joe explained that the Corporation pays for courts, everything from the fence and inside. The Club is responsible for everything outside the fence (shades, benches, platform...). He estimates the cost for these extras for courts 3 & 4 to be approximately \$10,000. In our 10 year plan we will be adding 2 more courts for a total of 6 courts. The Pickleball Club will be making a significant contribution towards the construction of courts 5 & 6, covering approximately 1/3 of the cost, as well as resurfacing courts 1 & 2.

d. Social: Christine Duren (see attached copy)

- VII. Presentation of trophies:** Joe Potter and Roy Buchanan presented trophies to the winners of the 2022 Club Championship (list of recipients may be found on the ML Pickleball website). Trophies were also awarded to Most Improved Players, Barb Moeller and Denis Paquette.
- VIII. Election of 2022-23 Executive Members:** Tom Kanigan presented the new Executive, all positions filled by acclamation.

President – Tony Stam

Past-President- Joe Potter

Vice-President- Mike Klatt

Treasurer – Jay Zirilli

Secretary - Colette Papineau

Director (Membership) – Mike Klatt

Director (Instruction/Player Development) – Kathie Gove

Director (Competition and Leagues/Court Scheduling/Website) – Roy Buchanan

Director (Social/Website) – Chris Duren

- IX. New Business – Joe passes the chair to Tony**

Tony speaks about court etiquette and behavior; emphasizes that along with competition it must, above all, be fun!

A newsletter will be created – a suggestion by Chris Duren who also volunteered to add this to her many responsibilities.

We are expecting more growth in Membership.

The new courts will be 31' x 64'. Currently the fence between these new courts is planned at 3' high. The committee finds that insufficient and will be renegotiating. Also a sidewalk around the court will be needed. Five people have volunteered to manage construction and all exterior appurtenances – Ed Hopkins, Mike Klatt, Larry Garnett, Fred Borden and Mike Risaliti.

Cost to the Club for courts 5 & 6 would be approximately \$30,000, hopefully in 2 or 3 years. The Executive will be looking for contributions, brainstorming for capital fundraisers. There will be a price increase in Club Memberships in the Fall.

- X. **Closing Remarks-** Fred made a presentation to Joe and Muriel, recognizing them for their contribution, time and devotion to the Club during the last 5 years. He especially emphasized Joe's great quality, as the fairest of people, looking after the interest of all, from Novice to Advanced. The Club presented a plaque "2017 – 2022 Thanks, Joe. Great job!", a gift of a bottle of wine and a gift certificate, as well as a small wall frame with the ML longitude and latitude coordinates. As Roy so aptly put it "You set high standards for us to try to live up to"

Meeting adjourned at 3:20

PRESIDENT'S REPORT. 2022.

In 2014, Tom Howat hammered in the first few nails at the Can Am courts to mark out some Pickleball courts and the taping of the first courts began. Pickleball became a fixture here in Maple Leaf. A number of us got together and formed the Maple Leaf Pickleball Club, although we had no dedicated facilities, played only a few times a week yet still attracted 70 members. That lasted three years, and in 2017, the year I became President of the club, we finally had two lovely Pickleball courts constructed. We were up to 180 members, and we were starting from scratch. The club was fortunate to have a wonderful executive who came up with many great ideas to launch the club. Chris Garner was sidelined with an injury and used the down time to develop a web site, which has been a wonderful tool to communicate with our members. So many others have contributed so much over time to help make this club what it is today, one of the best ones in the Park.

This year felt almost normal again. We had registration, fun tournaments, socials, training, ladders, club championships and an overwhelming number of members wanting to play on the courts. We did have to make a number of adjustments to the schedule, and I thank Roy for doing it, but we did so to accommodate the needs of the members. We want to give you maximum playing time on the limited resources we have, and I feel we were able to do so with some tweaks. I know it was frustrating for everyone to have to wait so long to play a game. COVID made us angry, and the lack of additional courts made us angrier. However, you felt frustrated because you have a passion for playing Pickleball, and that passion will drive the club in the coming years.

The club championship was a tremendous success, with almost 100 members participating, the largest ever. A great video of the final day, put together by Dennis Paquette, is available on our web site. Winners will be recognized later in the agenda.

There are far too many people to thank for all they do for the club, both on and off the executive. A club does not get this successful without a great deal of help, like making court repairs at 6am, designing and making trophies for the club, putting up and taking down windscreens and I sincerely thank each one of you for your contribution.

I had hoped to limit my time as President to a few short years, and see more courts built, but COVID got in the way and we have not had an AGM for two years, so you have been stuck with me until now. However, it is time to move on and let fresh ideas take over to move the club even further along. I am very confident we have an executive in place that will continue to do great things for the club, and also I am confident we will get more courts.

In closing, thank you everyone for your support over the years. The dream we had in 2014 to see Pickleball established here in MLE has indeed come true and it will only continue to grow under the new executive.

2021-2022

TREASURER'S REPORT

First off I want to thank Jim Judge for again agreeing to perform our financial review this year.

Because of COVID we got off to a very slow start regarding any activity both on the PB courts and financially. It wasn't until this past November when folks returned that we saw any major activity.

This year we saw our checking account balance close at a healthy \$ 18,385.82 from a starting balance of \$13,124.47. However this does not include a \$500.00 donation given to Maple Leaf Golf & Country Club at this March home owners meeting.

Our savings account has increased by \$ 2,134.00. This amount and an additional \$40.00 this month is designated for the Wilma Ball Memorial and will only be used for that project.

I would like to recognize Nancy Bower for spearheading the Wilma Ball Memorial. She has done an outstanding job on this memorial drive and I am sure once our new courts are built a fitting memorial will be in place.

Anyone is welcome to contact me regarding our finances. There are some copies here if anyone would like one. In closing I look forward to another great year on and off the courts.

Thank you

Here is my report for Membership for the AGM

March 22, 2022 Membership Report

As most of you know, my name is Tony Stam. I am standing here before all of you after being appointed as Vice President/Membership by the current board. The position was offered to me because Paul Fanning was resigning from the position as he was moving outside of Maple Leaf. Before accepting the position I did speak with several pickleball club members confirming their support for me.

This season, I am happy to report that our membership rose to a count of 268 paid members! Of those members there are approximately 200 full season members at a cost of \$30 each including a ball and black tag. We have approximately 65 short term members who received a red tag at a cost of \$10/month or \$20 for up to 2 months.

Submitted by Tony Stam

Court Scheduling and Management:

When we left the park last year, we all thought that we would have 2 new courts by the time we returned in the Fall of 2021.

The wheels of the regulatory bureaucracy have been moving slowly in getting approval.

In the minutes of the February 23 board of directors' special general meeting Mitch Kratch reported:

a) Rampart projects – Charlotte Country has approved the utility plan; SWFWMD (Southwest Florida Water Management Department) has until March 15 to reply.

I contacted Mitch Krach a few days ago. He advised that SWFWMD had not replied at that time. He also advised that when the site plan is approved, construction will begin within 2 weeks. I asked him to let me know if he heard anything before our AGM. I have not heard anything more from him.

The fact that we operated this season with well over 200 members and only two courts was a scheduling challenge. We did our best to provide equal opportunities for court time for the four categories (Novice, Int-, Int+, and Advanced), while providing time for the mixed ladder, Women's ladder, men's ladder, training, and special events like fun days and Championship, which were very successful and popular. Modifications were made periodically as the season progressed and circumstances changed.

This season, Christine Duren has provided invaluable assistance with her knowledge with Excel and other computer software in keeping the schedule up to date and relevant, especially with the acquisition of Bob White providing several weeks of training on Thursdays. She has much more experience and knowledge with Weebly (the web site provider) than I have. She has kept the site very dynamic with the addition of the Christmas and Championship videos (Thanks also to Denis Paquet for being the photographer, videographer, and editor in creating the Championship video). Christine has taught me a few things regarding the web site. She and I have access to modify the web site and share the updating responsibilities.

Credit also has be given to Chris Garner for getting the web site started a few years ago. He created and posted the schedule, as well as running the mixed ladder for 3 years before I started helping him out.

The ladders have run reasonably well through the season. There have been a few hiccups here and there with the ranking, but it can be a somewhat complicated process with players moving in and out from week to week. Thank you to Ed Hopkins for his service with the men's ladder from its inception, and to Fred Borden for taking it over.

Thanks also to Katie Gove, Gail Benolken, Laura White, and Christine Duran for their service with the women's ladder.

In discussions with Fred Borden, we are considering a couple of rule changes for next year. Currently the top and bottom boxes switch 2 players between boxes. We are considering changing that to 1 player switching as is the case in all of the other boxes. In consulting with Chris Garner, the original logic was switching 2 players would help a faster progression to a player's natural slot in the ladder and promote movement in the top box. We will switch to moving only one player and see how it goes.

The rule that games will end after 45 minutes and counting the score as it stands at that time has never been enforced. In the mixed ladder, most 3 game sets have finished within the 45 minutes. On one occasion the top box went nearly 45 minutes with only 2 games played. I asked the players if they would agree to "rally scoring", meaning every rally would count as a point for the team winning the rally whether they served or not. They agreed and that game only lasted about 5 minutes. I think it would be a good idea to eliminate the 45 minute end game rule and replace it with rally scoring if the third game starts after 40 minutes into the time frame.

We are still looking for a volunteer for the women's ladder for next year. I will be happy to assist using the same excel file and process used in the mixed ladder if necessary. Again, this was originally designed by Chris Garner.

We look forward to next year, when hopefully with 4 courts, opportunities to play and run the ladders and special events will be more plentiful for all members.

I have had the privilege of being part of the ML Pickleball Board for the past five years in the role as Training and Player Development. In that time I am proud to say that we put approximately 250 players through the Introduction To Pickleball.

We also ran several skills and drills training sections as well as ball machine drills.

Covid put a speed bump in our training and many club activities for a couple of seasons but we hit the courts running this season with 8 Introduction sessions and several more intermediate sessions on positioning and shot selection.

We were limited with lack of court time to do more with the ball machine but hopefully that will change with two new courts.

We were fortunate to be able to obtain the services of Bob White a ranked Pickleball Pro to give lessons to 36 Intermediate players over the last two months. It has been well received and hopefully we can continue this next season.

I would like to thank Joe Potter, Chris Garner and Rob Kenton for assisting with the training over the last few years.

I would like to thank Kate Gove for taking on this very rewarding position and will be around to offer her any assistance she might need.

Fred Cockburn

2022 AGM

ML Pickleball Annual General Meeting

Events/Social Activities Committee Report – March 22, 2022

Winter Registration Day – Sunday January 2, 2022 2-4pm

Attendance estimated at 100.

The committee volunteers:

1. Donna Karg
2. Pam Sides
3. Karen Garnett
4. Kathy Beebe
5. Gail Manzelli
6. Julie Nault
7. Dorothy Klatt
8. Tom Karg
9. Harry Sides
10. Larry Garnett

...went above and beyond to set-up and breakdown the hospitality area at the Courts. They also provided all food & beverage, prepped food, baked & decorated cookies, and served attendees all with great dedication & enthusiasm. Wine, beer, soda, & water plus assorted appetizers & dessert was served. COVID cautions were in place such as having masks & sanitizers available. Servers wore gloves and used tongs for serving.

Music was provided by Mike Klatt.

Club Championship Finals – Sunday February 27, 2022

Attendance estimated at 175.

The committee volunteers:

1. Donna Karg
2. Pam Sides
3. Karen Garnett
4. Kathy Beebe
5. Gail Manzelli
6. Bernadette Gowland
7. Becky Risaliti
8. Tom Karg
9. Harry Sides
10. Larry Garnett
11. Ron Miles

...once again went above & beyond making sure every detail was taken care of.

Thank you to our friends at the Tennis Club for the use of extra shade canopies. And to the Arts & Crafts Club for the use of their tables & chairs.

Thank you to Denis Paquette Jr. for his fabulous video!

Lunch was provided by Jimmy and his Clubhouse kitchen crew. Lunch which consisted of assorted sandwiches, antipasto skewers, chips, dessert, and a beverage was opened at 12noon, and sold out by 12:45pm. 141 meal tickets were sold for \$5 per person to great reviews.

Over 125 attendees took advantage of the opportunity to take home one of twelve prizes! Thank you to those who donated a prize: Bernadette Gowland, Sue Brown, Wendy Muzyka, and Pro Shop!!

Vendor Premium Pickleball was onsite Saturday Feb 26, and a new vendor Graphiti Customs was onsite Sunday Feb 27th.

Additional information:

- Storage for event supplies is now on the 2nd floor of the maintenance building under lock & key.
- Two new sandwich signs have been purchased and utilized to spread the word about certain events, and certainly stands out among all the other signs in the Park.
- Space & date requisition for next year's AGM has been submitted.
- A fun Pickleball Rocks video was produced to give everyone a chuckle over the holidays.
 - Thank you Lorraine, Mike Klatt, Bill Croft, Hal Robins for their support!
- Dates for Fall & Winter registration days, fun tournaments, and Club Championship are being finalized and will be published soon.
- Changes/updates to our website has begun and continues to be refined & modernized
- Several MLPC Newsletters have been emailed to all MLPC members and is continuing to be refined.
- A MLPC Facebook page is active. Look for an invite to join.
- The ability for members to sign-up online for membership and/ or RSVP for events & training classes is in the beginning stages and has worked out well so far. A software program is in testing now.

Show of hands, Rounders

Thank Joe, and fellow board members.

1. Kathy Beebe
2. Ann Pitre
3. Tony Pitre
4. Gail Benolken
5. Joe Benolken
6. Karen Garnett
7. Larry Garnett
8. Dorothy Klatt
9. Mike Klatt
10. Gail Manzelli
11. Julie Nault
12. Rocky Nault