



December 2023 Newsletter

We wish everyone a happy and healthy holiday season!

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Happy Winter Pickleball! As some of you know, BCPA is a “die hard” bunch and we continue playing all of our regular Monday, Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday sessions as long as the courts conditions permit. Temperature is no barrier. Please sign up with Playtime Scheduler to let us know you are coming but whether you signup or not...come on out! We typically see 12-15 players even on cold evenings, and lots more for daytime sessions.



President's Corner - Jon Weber



I frequently receive requests from members regarding the Court Conversion project. The BOT asked us to scale our proposal back in view of their limited budget. The BCPA Board considered this issue and decided that the most important element in the project is perimeter lighting for evening play which is critical especially during the fall/winter season. We have sufficient portable nets to continue playing until we get permanent ones. As of this writing, I am awaiting news from Stephanie Martin in the BCC office of the bid proposals. I have met with and will continue to meet with her and the BOT to keep us in their minds. Work on the lighting is expected to take about one month once it commences.

Board elections are scheduled for February. If you are thinking that you want to be more involved in running BCPA, please consider becoming a Board member. The current Board members have agreed to stay on if no one else steps up. This may be a good time to add a

Board member whose role might be co-Tournament & League Director in support of Andy Forsyth.

A big thanks goes to Tina Rowlett for designing a new BCC resident Welcome Packet flier advertising the availability of pickleball with BCPA. BCC Admin, Jeannie Winslow, approved it wholeheartedly and requested permission (granted) to post it on the BCC website.

The ongoing saga of the choice of balls to use continues. Durability, especially in the colder months, is important. We will continue to experiment with balls for trial periods to determine their resistance to cracking and roundness retention - durability and playability. Towards that end we expect to begin using a trial buy of Selkirk S1 balls as soon as we receive them. Please help us get an accurate assessment of how long they last by making sure that all BCPA balls stay on the court and don't go home in bags or pockets.

Because of Conservancy changes in the Precepts for Chartered groups, we must submit our Charter renewal request and annual report by 15 Jan. These require a report on our membership. Consequently, next year's dues solicitation will be sent later this month. Your Board Officers have put together the much-revised Charter request and report, but we want to see paid membership numbers before submitting it.

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Membership Renewals



Watch your email for pay links for renewing your membership with BCPA. Due to increasing costs, usage, and equipment replacement, we are slightly increasing fees for non-Burke Centre residents. You may have seen the new nets we deployed earlier in the year. You also have noted that we began using the PCKL balls on November 1 since they don't break in the cold as often as the Franklins we used in the summer. Many of you participated in the Burke Festival and got the BCPA Tee-shirts.

Quite a number of you participated in the Bandito's Social event. Did you know that BCPA is required to carry liability insurance to protect the Burke Conservancy so they will allow us to operate on their courts (and to protect our reservation times)? Your fees support all this and more. Also, in order to play on HOA courts BCPA is required to have BCC members with court keys present. Costs and usage are both increasing faster than membership.

Hold the costs down. Just like we require all players at BCPA sessions to be paid members, if you play during non BCPA times all players (both Burke Centre residents and non-residents) who are invited and regularly use BCPA equipment must be **registered, pay dues, and sign the waiver of liability.** Everyone who regularly uses BCPA equipment needs to be contributing to the cost of replacements. BCPA spent over \$1200 on balls last year and expects to spend double that in 2024 due to increased usage and higher cost of balls. Only you can help us keep the costs reasonable for everyone. Do not share our combination with anyone. BCPA is not a free service to the community. It is a member supported association and everyone using BCPA funded equipment is required to participate. Thanks.

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TIPS for SAVVY BCPA PLAYERS!

***Rules Changing for 2024:** Most of the rules changes affect mostly tournament players but 2 or 3 are of interest to BCPA players:

7.L. A fault will be declared for the following: A player carrying or catching the ball on the paddle while performing the serve or during a rally.

But to confuse things a little:

11.A Double hits. Balls can be hit twice, but this must occur during a continuous, single-direction stroke by one player. If the stroke made while performing the serve or during a rally is not continuous, or not in a single direction, or the ball is struck by a second player, it is a fault.

★ **Please remember this is a friendly game so if it you windup slinging or carrying the ball please be a good sport and call the fault on yourself!**

***Current Rules on Kitchen and Foot Faults:** It is a friendly game at BCPA but Players are expected to call themselves if possible on these violations.

Service Foot Faults

4.L. Service Foot Faults. During the serve, when the ball is struck, the server's feet shall:

4.L.1. Not touch the area outside the imaginary extension of the sideline.

4.L.2. Not touch the area on the wrong side of the imaginary extension of the centerline.

4.L.3. Not touch the court, including the baseline.

***Finally: Making Line calls:** Players are expected to call balls on their side of the court. There are a number of interpretations and explanations in the rule book but two of the most important and most frequently violated in BCPA play are:

6.D.3. The opponent gets the benefit of the doubt on line calls made. Any ball that cannot be called "out" will be considered "in." A player cannot claim a replay because the ball was not seen or there is uncertainty.

6.D.6. Players shall not call a ball "out" unless they can clearly see a space between the line and the ball as it hits the ground.

In other words: you may "know" the ball was out because you are an experienced player but you must call it "in" unless you can see space between the ball and the line.

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BCPA WINTER LEAGUE

League play is underway! If you still want to join in, Registration will remain open until 1 January 2024. See <http://burkepickleball.net/league.html> for full details. Please note that we are not playing league matches during the Monday and Wednesday BCPA sessions due to limited court space and attendance. However, you are free to arrange matches any non BCPA playtime during which you have access to courts and 3 other League players. See the reference for reporting scores. As stated on the website, you may direct questions by emailing [Andy Forsyth](mailto:Andy.Forsyth).

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BCPA WINTER SOCIAL

As many of you know, on November 13, 2023, BCPA sponsored a Happy Hour at Bandito's, <https://banditostnt.com> in Fairfax. We had an excellent turnout of BCPA members, friends and relatives, and everyone enjoyed the event. The event was so successful that we are planning other social events. These events may include another happy hour at Banditos in the late winter, and then a picnic or potluck at a Burke Centre Community Center during the warm weather months. Stay tuned for more information on the upcoming gatherings.

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Security Note! **Keep our Equipment Safe**



REMINDER: Please continue to lock up all BCPA equipment. If you are one of the final 8 players or if you are independently playing using BCPA equipment it is vital that you check with the other players before leaving and make sure everything is put away. When you open the two locks on an equipment box, as soon as the lock opens, spin all 4 dials on each lock. You can close these locks even after spinning the dials. If you lock up, spin the dials again to be sure. We haven't had any more recent security incidents reported but if you see an issue, please let one of the [Board Members](#) know.

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Playtime Scheduler and Court Access

BCPA uses Playtime Scheduler to invite members to play events and to get out quick updates on items of interest affecting our club. It works best when you use it. **Burke Centre Key Holders** are strongly encouraged to use Playtime Scheduler and sign up to arrive at (or slightly prior to) the scheduled start time. Also the notes may include any late breaking changes or alerts about parking, location so a glance at those may prevent a surprise. We have a few regular openers but if they are not available people may wind up waiting at the gate until a key holder can arrive. Using Playtime Scheduler on a consistent basis really helps set expectations for the club. Instructions for signing up and using Scheduler can be downloaded from BCPA's [News](#) page.

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Get a Discount on Merchandise with Pickleball Central Club Rewards Program

BCPA's participation in Pickleball Central's Club Rewards program gives you a 5% discount and provides a donation to our "Club Fund " that can be used when we buy balls, nets, or loaner paddles for example. The code to get the discount and donation is **CRBURKE** in case you have lost or never received the code. We saved a ton of \$\$ on our replacement nets and balls due to the credits we had built up, so please use the code if you order from Pickleball Central.