



## Annual Report of 2021

Presented at the

## Annual General Meeting

February 16, 2022

President	Eileen McClean
Vice President	vacant
Secretary	Douwe Spriensma
Treasurer	Ray Keroack
Director Membership	Carol Mah
Director at Large	Tamas Virag
Director Communications	Roger Hutlet

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## Introduction

This year was a short year due to the change in our business year. Despite the continued restrictions and requirements relating to the Pandemic, the club has continued to operate and even managed to thrive. The willingness of many members to step up and volunteer, even in these ever changing circumstances, has made it all possible. The board continues to strive to make the club a welcoming place for all levels of play, and not forgetting about the social aspect of belonging to a club.

## President's Message

Years ago as a teacher I received an evaluation which stated “ Consider continuing to do what you do on a daily basis for children in the classroom”. This was a good summary to receive.

I believe that despite the challenges of COVID the club has continued to work diligently ,doing what we do on a daily basis, which involves offering a variety of organised play, mentoring sessions, beginner lessons to the public and rating clinics so I would suggest we continue as a Board and a club to keep doing what we are doing.

We continue to plan for the future and the Facilities task committee is working for our future.

Our club is so lucky to have the indoor venues, the volunteers and the members who work together to be the best club we can be. We continue to have excellent relationships with the venues, which is essential to our continued success.

The last two years have provided quite some challenges and yet we have persevered. We cannot underestimate the value of our volunteers! Thank you everyone for continuing on a daily basis to work for the betterment of the club.

## Key Accomplishments

- This was another challenging year as waves of pandemic and public safety rules limited some play opportunities, but the situation was not nearly as drastic as last year when the pandemic resulted in no indoor play from Friday Nov 13 to the end of the indoor season. Play resumed informally, outdoors in May, and club-organized outdoor play commenced in July.
- Two venues, North Pointe Community Church Gym and the Sturgeon Heights School Gym remained unavailable for the club for the entire year, but thankfully we had nearly a season full of outdoor play, we gained additional indoor play at Red Willow Community Church and the new Joseph Demko school, and we kept most of our other indoor school play venues. This indoor play had some limitations, as members had to produce proof of vaccination, in compliance with the government's Restrictions Exemption Program.
- Rising rental costs and limitations to the number of players allowed in a facility at one time required the club to implement play by reservation-only at Red Willow Community Church gym, and it required the club to start charging two stickers for this play. Most available spaces filled up within minutes of reservations being opened each week, and lots of fun ensued for those lucky or timely enough to get a spot.
- Our Club offers the most indoor courts to our members compared to our neighbouring clubs, and at a very reasonable cost.
- Play continued on a non-reserved, drop-in basis at other indoor venues, and demand seemed to match availability for the fall and early winter of 2021.
- Players readily accepted club and captain's direction to mask whenever off the court and prove vaccination status to enter, so play was kept relatively safe for those addicted to our sport.
- Dialog with the City of St. Albert administration regarding its plans for indoor and outdoor facilities was started. The City welcomes our input, and recognises the Club's professional approach in planning for its future.

## Financial Highlights

- SAPC successfully converted its membership and financial year from May-to-Apr to Jan-to-Dec, complying with Pickleball Canada's new standard membership year. This meant that for 2021 we'd have a short 8-month transition year, running from May 2021 to Dec 2021.
- Total Income \$34,573
  - Top four income sources
    - i. Indoor play \$15,465
    - ii. Membership sales \$13,345
    - iii. Rating clinic fees \$3,291
    - iv. Tournament revenue \$2,038
- Total expenses \$24,321
  - Top four expenses
    - i. Indoor play venue rental \$9,150
    - ii. Pickleball Alberta/PCO memberships \$4,325
    - iii. Rating clinic services \$2,057
    - iv. Equipment and play supplies \$2,027
- Overall surplus \$10,252
- Top liability: Prepaid indoor play (sold, unused stickers) \$34,939
- Net assets (club equity), Dec 31, 2021 \$68,315
- Still the lowest membership fees of any Pickleball Alberta-affiliated club in the region

## Membership and Play Statistics

- Membership and Play Stats for this 8-month period (last year's 12-month stats in brackets)
- Peak number of members 531 (523)
- Indoor Play sessions 253 (95)
- Number of indoor plays 2,822 (1,279)
- Indoor Venue (Sticker) Cards
  - cards sold 306 (149)
  - cards used for play 242 (47)
  - outstanding cards sold and not-yet used 549 (486)

## Looking to the Future

- We hope to have more, and larger tournaments, if Covid-19 permits.
- With sufficient volunteers, we will pursue use of rated shootouts or other equivalent rated play as a means of rating player skills, particularly for the higher skill levels, complementing the rating services now provided by the club.
- The club will seek to develop Coaching and Refereeing as part of an integrated approach.
- The board is in negotiations to reach an agreement with the City of St. Albert that would result in SAPC having more organized play time at Alpine Courts, now that the City has alternative play space for the public at Larose Courts.
- One issue looms large, insufficient pickleball facilities to support the continued growth of the sport. We know that, unless we are ready to seize the opportunities that may present themselves, we will be short facilities in the not too distant future. The board, with help from the Facilities Task Force, is actively exploring options and developing plans to keep up with the demand for pickleball facilities.
- With this in mind, and with the membership's continued support, the club will continue to build its capital reserve to be used for future facilities. This reserve will help secure a down-

payment, qualification for matching grants, capital improvements to a leased facility, or funds for some other facility development.

- In the meantime, we will pursue new short term facility options and make optimum use of our current facilities.

## **Overview of Team and Committee Work**

- A lot of behind-the-scenes work has been done by our dedicated volunteers.
- The board thanks Gary Marcellus for having served on the board for many years, and thanks Gary Spencer for his service as Communications Director. The board welcomed Roger Hutlet who stepped into the role of Communications Director.

### **Facilities Task Force**

- Determined the top three priorities for new play facilities in St. Albert, and prepared a plan to commence the pursuit of these priorities. The priorities are:
  - A 24 court outdoor play facility, expandable to 36 courts in future, ideally located on land adjacent to St. Albert's second Sportsplex
  - 12 indoor courts in St. Albert's second Sportsplex
- A draft version of these priorities and plan was provided to SAPC members and is available on the club's website. Member responses to the plan were all positive. By yearend, a draft of the plan was also provided to the City of St. Alberta Recreation and Parks department, and an initial meeting was held with the City. SAPC learned that the City was currently conducting an assessment of the City's future recreational needs, and it would be some time before the City was in a position to accept community input on needs for specific sports. This means the design of a second Sportsplex and the possibility of a large City-sponsored outdoor pickleball facility are still many years away.
- Thanks to members Douwe Spriensma, Eileen McClean, Ray Keroack, Stephanie Macdonald, and welcome to our newest member Laura Spencer.

### **Program and Venue Manager and Team**

- Thanks Eileen McClean for your brilliant relationship skills and persistent work as our Venue Manager to keep us supplied with play opportunities and for organizing venue coordinators.
- Thanks also to all our venue coordinators, James Porter (Sturgeon school), Nicole Currie (Red Willow and Northpointe), Kevin McClean (Sister Alphonse and Bertha Kennedy), Cassey Campbell Vital Grandin) and Gary Marcellus (J. J. Nearing), and their many captains who kept the play organized and running smoothly.
- Sturgeon school was not available for play and we lost Northpointe, but gained two sessions at Joseph Demko school, another new venue.
- We offered Indoor play at Red Willow church on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday ( 2 sessions )and Saturdays ( 4 sessions).
- We offered a play session at Red Willow for the public on the third and fourth Sundays .It is important to note that we offer a free lesson to the public twice a month at Red Willow also which demonstrates our willingness to grow the game of pickleball.
- A variety of programs were offered in our second season at Alpine. Due to Covid and city requirements we did not start organised play until July.
  - In July 1153 members played
  - In August 1184 members played
  - In September. 1419 members played
  - In October 482 members played635 participants joined in ladders.  
460 at 3.5+ level

175 at. 3.0 level

(Note that every time a member played is counted as a participant)

- We offered over 267 sessions at Alpine where captains took on the responsibility to captain for the club. Thank you to our captains!

### **Training and Mentoring**

- We did not resume training sessions till August due to Covid. There was a high number of request, but alpine was very busy with club play. Also, Larose Courts were not available due to construction. This resulted in no courts made available for beginner training. As a result, we did not do follow up lessons like we used to either. The indoor training sessions were also highly sought after. Registrations were capped at 12 which is quite high. 8 is ideal. We were able to have Bertha Kennedy for mentoring in November and December.
- Nicole Currie and her team of trainers ran 107 training sessions for beginners, many of whom went on to join our club as new members.
- They also provided mentoring sessions for 58 developing players.

### **Ratings**

- Karen Cabot and Gerry Gartner were very active, organizing the rating clinics.
- 18 rating clinics were completed, 2 more than last year, despite Covid and despite the shorter membership year!
- The total number of members club-rated this year was 144. (At the beginning of the year, with Covid playing havoc with our court availability, we didn't think we'd be able to have any clinics!)
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### **Membership and Volunteers**

- Behind the scenes this team, led by Carol Mah, keeps our membership administration working, updating ratings in the database, tracking PCO and PA memberships and taking care of many other details.

### **Information Technology Team**

- Maintained website and Wild Apricot membership management (Thanks Dragan Radovic and Carol Mah)
- Commenced use of the Pickleball Canada National System for the collection of PCO and Pickleball Alberta fees, in compliance with PCO and PA affiliation requirements.

### **Communications Team**

- Coordinated production of our web-posted newsletters.

### **Health Coordinator and Team**

- The team kept our first aid supplies for each venue stocked (members?)

### **Social Coordinator and Team**

- No social activities were undertaken, due to the pandemic restrictions.

### **Tournament Coordinator and Team**

- Thanks to Ken Dentzien and this team of tournament volunteers, we had the largest tournament in our club history with 104 players competing. For this tournament, under the stewardship of James Porter We piloted use of Pickleball Brackets, an automated tournament management system. Thanks to both these accomplishments, we have now positioned our club to consider running a sanctioned tournament in the future -- that's a tournament meeting all the rules of Pickleball Canada for such tournaments. In a sanctioned tournament, players have their play

results considered toward their CTPR - Canadian Tournament Player Rating. Also, the use of Pickleball Brackets enables us to consider the use of this software for some club ratings in the future.

- Ken Dentzien with help from his dedicated volunteers also organized a mixed couples tournament on July 30th with 24 couples followed by a barbecue after play was finished.

### **Coaching**

- The club supported coaches training taken by Nicole Currie and Ken Dentzien and paid by Pickleball Alberta.

### **Refereeing**

- No major progress was made due to the continued Covid-19 restrictions.

### **Junior Play**

- Implemented policies allowing junior memberships for 12 to 17 year-olds, and welcomed our first two youth members.

### **Auditor**

- Lawrence Taylor, our experienced auditor was again re-elected at our last AGM, and as directed by the membership has conducted a financial and records review. The review report is being presented by Lawrence to the membership at the February 16, 2022 AGM.

### **Nominating Committee**

- The Nominating Committee, comprised of Scott Henderson, Kevin McClean and Gerry Gartner has served the membership well, providing nominees for the various board positions and the other positions that need to be elected at the AGM.

### **Special thanks also to:**

- Registered play coordinator Carol Peabody.
- Rating clinic coordinators Gerry Gartner and Karen Cabot
- Rating specialists, In A Pickle: Sean and Leslie.
- Equipment coordinator Mark Nadeau.
- Web coordinator Dragan Radovic.
- Facebook coordinator Tara Tchir.
- Sales coordinator Elsi Lowe.
- Sticker card sales coordinator Marion Spriensma.
- And our shoot out leads, captains, and other behind-the-scenes
- All other volunteers. We could not have had any organised play indoors or outdoors without them!