

St. Albert Pickleball Club Connecting Online

“We’d all rather be out playing pickleball, of course,” says Gary Spencer, Communications Director of the St. Albert Pickleball Club (SAPC). “Or socializing with friends between games,” adds Ray Keroack, SAPC Treasurer, “but getting connected online helps bridge some of that social gap.”

To help its 600+ members learn about getting connected online and to facilitate its annual general meeting (AGM), SAPC will be conducting two online sessions in the coming weeks.

- The first will be a practice or “pre-AGM” session where members can follow along with some tips provided by the club to get connected via computer video conferencing.
- The second session will be the online AGM itself, which should go smoothly if everyone takes advantage of the pre-AGM practice session.

The club has also lined up some of its volunteers, including James Porter and Tamas Virag, to help anyone who has difficulty connecting or using the video conferencing software. This help will be available to members in the two weeks between the pre-AGM and the AGM.

“This video conferencing is a boon to families and groups of friends who want to stay connected in these days of physical distancing,” says Douwe Spriensma, SAPC Secretary. “We’ll even be able to connect with members still stranded in other countries if they wish to join in,” adds SAPC President Eileen McClean. “We could get an even larger turnout online than we have had with previous in-person AGMs.”

In preparing for this event and for this opportunity to show members how to meet online, the club has done a fair amount of research into how to host very economical on-line sessions. They’ve looked at security risks, software settings, and meeting registration practices; they are scripting the AGM in some detail; they have practiced online voting; and they have practiced using video conferencing for board meetings over the last two years.

If you represent a St. Albert non-profit organization and are interested in learning more about SAPC’s readiness, email Communications@pickleballstalbert.ca or Treasurer@pickleballstalbert.ca.