

# PickleBlast April 2020

As I write, the world continues to experience unprecedented fallout from COVID-19, GVR has furloughed many of its employees with all of the facilities remaining closed, and a good percentage of our members are realizing just how “addicted” they are to this wonderful game! While this unexpected sabbatical has not been “fun,” it’s heartening to see how so many are making the best of it. If you haven’t joined our members only [Green Valley Recreation Pickleball Club Facebook page](#), you’re invited! Toward the goal of making the best of the situation and not being idle, your GVR Pickleball Club Board and its many committed volunteers continue to work during this time on areas that will improve our offerings. Because of the efforts of so many over the last decade (thank you all involved!), we now have amazing physical resources with 36 courts. With our new reality, the club’s energy and attention can turn to other priorities that center around building programs to fill the courts, attracting new members, and improving our communication and engagement with existing members. Until we can come together, please do all you can to stay well and take care of yourself so we can return to play and enjoy this life changing sport when our courts open. The Southern Arizona Senior Games will be held in March 2021 and the cancelled clinic with Helle Sparre has been rescheduled for October 24 & 25, 2020.

## **What's in this PickleBlast?**

GVRPC Board Meeting Highlights

GVR Pickleball Center Update

Welcome New Members

Member Rating Changes

Interview with Mike Clemens

Board and Committee Activity

Observations

## **GVRPC Board Meeting Highlights**

- Met via ZOOM 04/08/2020 - see full minutes on <https://www.gvrpickleball.org/>

- Adopted Consent Agenda & Reporting Plan for Board/Committee/Work Areas
- Ratings Guidelines for 3.5 and 4.0 Volunteer Raters
- Donations to Respond to COVID-19

### **GVR Pickleball Center Update**

The shade structures between the courts have been installed. We are awaiting a response from GVR about the remaining amenities.

### **Welcome New Members!**

*February* - Diana Cantwell, Randy Powell, Michael Carlson, Richard Farland, Kay (Kathryn) Farland, Hana Hanleigh, Joel Knoepfler, Dana Ocshner, Sheri Shaw, Tony Spencer, Jim Elliott, Paul Wolford, Frank Henefield, Nancy Bonewitz, Michael Bonewitz, Lynn Janklow, David Fenner, Sandra Conard, Michelle Lippirt, Barbara Patterson, April Willi, Nan Ladehoff, Robb Robison, Denise Bundgaard, Cindy Kidd, Dennis Swoboda, David Burpee, Trishk Burpee, Paul Bonacorsi, David Taylor, Sherri Taylor

*March* - George Ackre, Susan Ackre, Joseph Bevington, Keith Edwards, Thomas Large, Patricia Large, Barbara Nelson, Randi Nelson, John Schmelke, Charlie Wikber, Nancy Williams, Henning Borchert, Carl Johnson

### **Congrats to Members with New Ratings!**

#### **Moved to 2.5:**

*February* - Lori Coleman, Mike Coleman, Marcella Lundmark, Alfie Mason, Joyce Peppel, Danielle Priore, Dave Keown, Vivian Shafer, Vickie Stephenson, Karna Nelson, Gigi Weixler, David Fenner, Nancy Lerew, Robb Robison

*March* - None

#### **Moved to 3.0:**

*February* - Donna Higgons, Maria LeRoy, Rob Owens, Dave Phillips, Lynda Magill, Sue Nelson, Mark Hess, Fiona Gentle

*March* - Nellie Johnson, Cathey Wallace

### **Moved to 3.5:**

*February* - John Ouellette

*March* - John Beers

### **Moved to 4.0:**

*February* - Sue Toeniskoetter, Mick Davis, Kevin Pasula

*March* - None

### **Moved to 4.5:**

*February* - None

*March* - None

## **Interview with Mike Clemens**

Today in the PickleBlast studios, we have our newly elected Vice President - Mike Clemens.

[PB]: Thanks for taking some time to talk to us today, Mike. For our members who may not know you, tell us about your background, how you came to Green Valley, and how you discovered the game of pickleball.

[MC]: I have five children and two grandchildren. I was born in Minnesota and grew up in Wheaton, IL. I have two degrees in Aeronautical Engineering and have lived in California, Michigan, Illinois and Arizona. We learned about GV through mutually independent friends in Illinois. After investigating several areas in the west we settled on GV in 2012. I started playing pickleball by invitation from my wife's friend three days after retiring in Jan, 2011, and I have been playing it ever since. Pickleball and I just get along so well.

[PB]: You have been elected to serve as our club Vice President for the next year. What are some things you would like to explore and implement during your tenure?

[MC]: I want to help the PB club to continue its good work in being a productive and fun club. I will help the club to investigate our needs and options for insurance to

comply with the GVR policies and our protection. I want to help discover additional ways of making PB fun for players at all skill levels.

[PB]: What ideas do you have on how we can encourage pickleball players in Green Valley who are not currently club members to join us?

[MC]: We need more fun! More fun events inside the club so every PB player will want to be a club member to experience the heightened level of enjoyment.

[PB]: What do you see our club doing well and where can we improve?

[MC]: Our club is well organized, and has great volunteers in diverse areas. We can improve on keeping our club vibrant using all of our courts to maximize our enjoyment and experience with the PB game.

### **Board and Committee Activity**

The Board has adopted a work and reporting structure that will streamline information flow and provide clear paths for club members wishing to become involved in specific areas. See the 04/08/2020 board meeting minutes for details. Beginning with next month's Pickleblast, reports for each area will be included.

### **Observations**

*Pickleball Ps & Qs* - Ever hear that phrase "mind your Ps & Qs?" There are different explanations as to its origin, but the following are common interpretations: "mind your manners," "mind your language," "be on your best behavior," and "watch what you're doing." In mid-March and also in April, the pickleball club was contacted by one of our local USAPA Ambassadors regarding troubling behavior displayed by individuals who were believed to be GVR and/or GVRPBC members. They felt the situation warranted this notice and hoped we would make the information known to club members so that future incidents could be avoided. The Ambassador reported these players attempted to play at private courts (uninvited) at three separate locations: Esperanza Estates, Tubac and Whitehouse Canyon. When the players were informed they were not invited guests and needed to vacate, they were argumentative and insisted they had a right to play. The Ambassador mentioned

there was concern about them playing doubles which makes it nearly impossible to maintain the recommended social distancing guidelines. Each location was advised to call the police if they returned. We have not heard if this measure was necessary and hope everyone is now dinking responsibly.

If you want to become involved, have a suggestion, comment, or a question please use the Contact Us feature on the GVR Pickleball Club website <http://www.gvrpickleball.org>.

Carpe Dinkum!



Gina Rowsam, President