



PickleBlast

October 2018 PickleBlast

It's fall in Green Valley, with warm (but not hot) days and nights that are cooling off. That makes for great weather to play pickleball and we're beginning to see many familiar faces returning to the courts. Here's the absolute latest news from our club.

What's in this Pickleblast?

- Board Meeting Highlights
- New GVR Pickleball Courts update
- Welcome New Members
- Volunteers of the Month
- Our Club Skill Ratings Process
- We Need Your Help!
- Policy Update
- Observations
- Upcoming Events

October Board Meeting Highlights

- Conduct Expectations Policy approved and will be posted on our club website
- Ratings Process discussed and Club Policy Manual revisions to be made
- Operations Agreement between GVR, GVR Foundation, and GVR Pickleball Club to be formulated by committee
- Round Robins to be restricted to club members from September through April
- Club shirts to be ordered this year

New GVR Pickleball Courts update

The numbers below have changed! GVRF has received the \$50,000 grant from Freeport McMoRan for the new courts. The design advisory group is continuing to meet with GVR and the architects. We anticipate a finalized plan within the next couple of weeks and plan to hold a session for club members to review and comment on the design plan. We will provide more details as we receive them. The East Center court expansion project is also scheduled to begin near the end of October and we'll have much more information on how that will impact court schedules and what we've been working on to provide temporary courts for the two months that some of the East Center courts will be closed.

**GVR Foundation
Statement of Revenue and Expense
PICKLEBALL
Year-to-Date: 1/1/2018 - 9/30/2018
Acct is In (4100, 4102, 9030)**

| | | Current Year | Prior Year | Totals |
|--|--|---------------------|-------------------|---------------|
|--|--|---------------------|-------------------|---------------|

| | | Year-to-Date | Year-to-Date | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Revenue | | | | |
| | Pickleball Contributions | \$50,620.00 | \$6,240.00 | |
| | Pickleball Golf Receipts | \$15,808.00 | \$0.00 | |
| Revenue | | \$66,428.00 | \$6,240.00 | \$73,168.00 |
| Expenses | | | | |
| | Pickleball Expenses | \$4,080.15 | \$0.00 | |
| Expenses | | \$4,080.15 | \$0.00 | \$4,080.15 |
| Excess or (Deficiency) of | Revenue Over Expenses | \$62,347.85 | \$6,240.00 | \$69,087.85 |

Pickleball Club Reserve for New Courts (Club) \$54,266.90
Pickleball Club Reserve for New Courts (Foundation) \$69,087.85
TOTAL \$123,354.75

Welcome New Members! (September)

| | | | |
|---------------------|-------------|------------|--|
| Cindy and Wes Elder | Lisa Healea | Elke Wolfe | |
|---------------------|-------------|------------|--|

Volunteer of the Month

This month's volunteers are **Suzanne Nordhagen, Lee Nordhagen, Bev Cote, and Howard Schroeder**. These are our volunteers for the Ratings Committee and they work very hard to provide evaluations for those of you wanting to advance to the next level in pickleball. Not only is this a significant time commitment, but they also manage those situations when a candidate is not successful by providing feedback on where the candidate needs to improve. These guys coordinate and observe the evaluation matches to produce the best experience for the largest number of club members possible. Thanks for all you do to help our club.

Club Skill Ratings

There has been a lot of discussion lately regarding our club skill levels, the ratings process, and how we can improve what our club offers. This month we are dedicating our monthly interview space to explain the whats and whys of skill ratings and how you can request an evaluation, should you want to advance to the next level.

Why are there club skill ratings? Most of us enjoy playing pickleball with others of similar skill and ability. So, we have designed a club skill rating system to group each of us by skills and abilities. We provide daily blocks of time called Focus Play when those of the same rating can play. As new players most of us start at the 2.0 or 2.5 level and as we improve we advance to the next level. For those who learned the game elsewhere and then join our club, they may start at a higher level when they provide documentation of their progress. When we begin at any level we will usually be a weaker

player at that level and as we gain skills and experience, we'll become a stronger player at that level. Once we advance, the cycle begins anew.

For those of us who enjoy tournament play, there are official ratings derived from tournament history and experience. While someone's tournament rating is often identical to their club skill rating, it can be different in some situations. The USA Pickleball Association (USAPA) has maintained these ratings for several years and is now revising the process to improve the accuracy and frequency of updates to these ratings. You can read the details [here](#).

How does our club set skill ratings? As new players to the game, we participate in GVR classes, Developing Skills sessions, and/or Orientation. We are introduced to the rules, terminology, and techniques of the game and given the opportunity to play with other beginners. Our instructors who have years of experience with the game are quickly able to identify those new players who have less of a learning curve and adopt the game quickly. So, these instructors are able to recommend that some new players advance more quickly to a higher level - again to group those with similar skills and abilities.

Once a player has advanced to an intermediate level (3.0 or 3.5), a group of club volunteers called the Ratings Committee takes the responsibility for evaluating and recommending advancement to higher levels, based upon club policies. This service is provided at no cost to club members and is primarily available October through April. SignUp Genius has a place for you to request an evaluation up to the 3.5 level. For those wishing to be evaluated at a level higher than 3.5, please contact a member of the Ratings Committee or GVRPC Board to schedule. During the summer months, club members have the option of using the ratings system provided by the International Pickleball Teaching Professional Association (IPTPA), which is described below. Our club recognizes IPTPA ratings and the club member needs only to successfully complete the evaluation and provide documentation to have their club skill rating updated.

What other options are there to club skill ratings? Our club recognizes ratings from IPTPA, USAPA/UTPR, and other organized clubs when the club member provides documentation for the ratings change. The IPTPA process is a paid service and is available nationwide. You can get all of the details [here](#). The USAPA/UTPR ratings are generated by tournament results for USAPA members and our club secretary verifies the member's current rating when requested by a club member. Many of us are only in Green Valley for a portion of the year and may receive an evaluation or rating outside of our club. If the member provides documentation for a ratings change, our club is happy to accept the new rating.

When is a club skill rating mandatory? There are currently two instances when you must have a club rating and play at that skill level. The first is the Southern Arizona Senior Games, which uses the club skill rating for tournament grouping. You can register and play at a higher level than your club skill level, but not lower. As we get closer to next year's games, the tournament directors will share more detail on how skill ratings will be used for the tournament. The second instance is our club-sponsored Round Robin weekly events. Because of the popularity of these events, participants can only register for the event scheduled for their club skill level. If space permits, a member may play at a higher level event. The [club policy manual](#) details how this process works.

Do you anticipate any changes to how our club manages skill ratings? This topic is one of the most challenging that we face as a club. Our club has been providing this service for three years and we have made adjustments each year to improve the quality and accuracy of the process. Is it perfect? No, but we believe it's important to provide a way for our non-tournament players to have a skill rating that helps to group these players by similar skills and abilities. It would definitely be easier to make it a requirement that we all use the IPTPA paid rating service and avoid the disagreements and criticism that our Ratings Committee receives. But, our club leadership believes that would be a disservice and a hardship to those who don't aspire to play in tournaments, would not be willing to pay for an evaluation and rating, and are content playing at GVR courts with fellow GVR members.

Hopefully this article has shed some light for you on the ratings process our club has adopted and what it means for you. If you have additional questions, please review the information in the [club policy manual](#), or let a Board member know and we'll get the answers to your questions.

We Need Your Help!

Our club is ready to begin the process of defining the agreement we will have between GVR, our club, and the GVR Foundation regarding operations at the new pickleball center. We want to make sure that we have a strong voice in how these courts are managed and maintained to provide the maximum benefit to our club. The GVR Pickleball Club has been tasked with raising approximately 1/3 of the total cost of court construction, which has never been done in GVR history. So, we believe we should have a significant say in how the courts are managed. If you are interested, please reply to this email or contact us through our website [here](#) and we'll pass along your contact information to the committee chair.

And....the Green Valley News regularly reports results from softball, golf, and bowling events for our community. We think that our club members who participate in pickleball tournaments and medal should receive the same recognition. If you are interested in working to gather these tournament results and submit for publication by the GV News, let us know. It would be a great way to spread the word that our club is just chock-full of winners.

Policy Update

Our club Board has adopted a number of policies over the past two years to help standardize how and when we play and how club events are conducted. The entire [club policy manual](#) is posted on our website here, but we're also featuring a portion of the manual each month to remind all of us about our responsibilities as club members. If you have any questions or suggestions to improve our policies, send us an email or contact any Board member.

Conduct

- a. ***All members and guests shall abide by the published GVR Rules, including the GVR Code of Conduct.***

- b. ***All members deserve the right to enjoy play without the fear of any type of harassment or intimidation. GVRPC pledges to help to resolve any reported incidents whereby a member or members believe they are subject to harassment or intimidation.***

Observations

- Our courts are quickly becoming crowded as many of us return to Green Valley. The upcoming East Center court expansion will place further strain on our courts and we'll need to adapt to temporary courts and a bit of inconvenience. Please be patient during the construction phase, which should end about the first of the year.
- Oh behave! If you have a disagreement with another player, relax and take it up with them privately. Don't let your behavior ruin someone else's time on the courts.
- And please observe the published court schedules. If it isn't your time to play, show some respect for those who are playing. Don't show up early and start playing or stay late and infringe on the next group's time.
- ***My wife and I will be in the Philippines for over three months. We would like to promote pickleball while we are there. If possible, we would need some used equipment donations. (balls,paddles, and portable pickleball net or two) Could you spread the information? We will leave Oct 30th. Contact Tess or me. tcamp1920@gmail.com or rgcamp232@gmail.com Richard and Tess Camp***

Upcoming Events

- Our Pickleball Olympics and dinner have been postponed due to a potential conflict between the event date and the start of construction at the East Center courts. Once we have a firm construction schedule, we'll reschedule the event.
- Upcoming GVR Board meetings are scheduled for October 30 and December 4 . The discussion about approving the center design plans and funding the project are beginning and your support for the club is greatly appreciated. And, don't forget about the GVR Committee meetings scheduled monthly. The calendar for all of these meetings is [here](#).
- Our club will host a presentation by Rif Rifkind of the International Pickleball Teaching Professional Association (IPTPA) on the ratings system his organization provides in the East Center auditorium at 6 pm on December 1. Recently the Quail Creek PB Club adopted this ratings model and this is our chance to hear from the founder of IPTPA about the benefits and details regarding this rating system.

In Closing??If you have a suggestion, comment, or a question, let us know – preferably by email – as discussions on the court sometimes (actually quite frequently) get lost or forgotten. And let us know if you find this newsletter helpful. Use the GVR Pickleball Club website (<http://www.gvrpickleball.org>) to contact us.

That's all for now folks.....stay positive, keep smiling, and enjoy playing!!!!



Jeff Harrell, President