



Letter from the Editor

Joanne Griesser

Getting your serve “in” is primary. Once you have mastered the getting and keeping your serve “in” than its time to work on a few variations, just to keep the receiver guessing what you will do next. Here are three examples.

Soft Angle Serve

Drops near the kitchen
Slow and soft
Hit to the receiver’s backhand
Pushes the receiver to the outside

Power Serve

Low
Powerful and fast
Lands deep in the court
Keeps receiver back

High Soft Serve

Universal, good for all levels
High slow arc
Lands deep, near the baseline
Keeps receiver back

If you have a story about your vacation, a helpful tip, pictures, travel information, an event or you just want to have your voice heard. Send your article to Joanne.Griesser@verizon.net.

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From the President's Desk

Finally, the weather is starting to get warmer and we are starting to play pickle ball outside on a regular basis. Due to the nice weather, we are fortunate to be able to utilize the Owen Brown Tennis Club in the afternoons during the week so that we don't need for volunteers to setup nets. Eventually, once it starts to get warmer we will likely switch back to the mornings and then we will need to solicit volunteers for the setups on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. The Saturday Ladder League is now going strong at Locust Pool Park while the drop-in is going on at the Oakland Mills Ice Rink courts. Once the Ladder League is over after June 8th, we will return to having the intermediate/advanced players at Locust Pool Park and the beginners/intermediate or less competitive players at the OM ice rink courts. Please remember to bring some balls with you for the open sessions. Our association was losing too many balls, so we have moved to have players bringing them. Be sure to mark your balls with your name or initials with permanent marker and periodically check to see it hasn't worn off.

Our indoor PB sessions that ran on Saturday mornings at the Lake Elkhorn Middle School and the weekday evenings at Folly Quarter Middle School and Burleigh Manor Middle School were a big success. Thanks to all the volunteers to helped with the setup. Luckily, we were able to offer weekday evenings through April to help avoid some of the April showers.

Thanks to Joe Beitz and his team of volunteers, Dorothy Boulton, Daryl Tuck, Ira Frankel, Steve Orr, Joanne Griesser and Rob Schmidt for doing such a great job with our first set of tournaments for 2019. We have finished with the Men and Women's doubles and the Mixed doubles. The tournaments were well organized and lots of fun.

Barry Leech will be leading our introduction PB lessons on Saturday mornings just after our open play sessions. Share this information with your friends who would like to learn to play PB. Duane StClair will be organizing some intermediate PB lessons in the near future so stay tuned for that.

Our association will be participating in the Howard County Wellness Day on Sunday morning, June 2nd at Centennial Park. This should be a good way to introduce PB to our community. We will be looking for some volunteers to help man our booth and possibly setup a demonstration game at one of the nearby courts. We are in the beginning planning stage so stay tuned for more information.

We have a new shipment of our association car magnets. If you haven't received yours, just ask one of our association board members.

Finally, one theme seems to run through most of my messages and that's "Volunteers". The board of directors for the association can help to organize and communicate various activities but it is your participation as volunteers that really keep these activities going. ***Thank You*** for all the work you do to help! Please keep up the good work!

Duane's Court

On May 11th at the Pip Moyer Gym in Annapolis the 13 pickle ball ambassadors from Maryland for the United States Pickleball Association will be holding the first Maryland Ambassador Open with 104 players from 13 jurisdictions around Maryland. The intent of the Open is to bring together players from around Maryland to have a chance to get to know each other and have a fun time playing in a non-competitive manner. The hope is that this will lead to more intrastate playing opportunities and more pickle ball courts in Maryland. More information to follow the May 11th Open.

Interview with HCPB Member, Veronica Buzby

You have a lovely accent, where were you born?

I was born in Durban, South Africa and only left as an adult. Durban is on the East Coast of South Africa and we were only minutes from the ocean! I lived in London for 3.5 years before moving to the US.

How long have you been in the states?

I moved here in 1996 – 23 years ago. I literally knew not a single person when I moved here!

Will you tell us a little about your family?

I have a son, Gavin who is 14 years old and is a freshman at Mt Hebron HS and a step-daughter, Olivia, who is 24 and lives in NJ. My husband, Tim, is from Rochester NY.

Besides Pickleball, do you play any other sports?

Currently I play tennis as well. I am playing on 3 teams at the moment, 2 in Howard County (CA teams) and 1 in Baltimore County (40 West). I'm not ready to hang up my racquet yet! It's great to see some of the tennis players also enjoying Pickleball. It is interesting to try mingling strategies of the two games!

Where did you learn to play PB, and How long have you been playing?

I had heard about it from my mother-in-law in Rochester, NY – she was telling me it was HUGE there, but I had not heard of it. Then one day I was at the YMCA for my son's swim practice and I saw Charlie Brown carrying a paddle in the passageway (I didn't know who he was at that time!) and asked him about it. He invited me to join the sessions at the YMCA and they taught me the basics of the game...I was hooked...even with the wooden paddle they lent me! That was Dec 2017...then I found the indoor play at HCC in Jan 2018, the rest is history! The community of pickleball players were so welcoming and I love to pay that forward to newer members.

You have won many of the HoCo tournaments. Have you played tournaments in other areas? Do the players from other places have a similar style of play?

I am super competitive and really enjoy the challenge of the tournaments. I do find the play similar in the different tournaments. I have played in tournaments in MD, DE and NJ. I am registered to play in the National Senior Olympics in Albuquerque, NM in June, the Gamma Pickleball classic in Pittsburgh in July, and of course, The Howard County Parks & Rec Pickleball tournament in August. I can't wait!

Do you like playing singles or doubles, mixed or women's? Why?

I love to play them all! Singles really brings together a mix of individual skill, mental and physical conditioning! You have only yourself to rely on to keep that ball in play and win shots!

I really enjoy playing doubles with Rob. Our games are very complimentary. We are both very athletic and have the same mad attitude about never giving up and playing until we literally drop! We have been very successful as a mixed doubles partnership.

Where is the best place that you have played PB? Can you describe it for us?

Last year I was on vacation in CA and was able to play at the Pismo Beach, CA Racquet Club. The dedicated courts were very nice and being right on the ocean was amazing! The beautiful weather was the cherry on top!

Can you tell us about one or two of your more memorable moments on the court? One good, one not so good.

Memorable – At the Veteran's Classic in Nov 2018 – Rob and I played Mixed and we were playing against 2 players who were highly skilled. We just wanted to be able to compete and make them earn their points rather than kill us!! We really took it to them – it went to 3 very tight games. We really were able to step up our game and produce some high-quality pickleball. We finished with the silver medal and literally limped away at the end of the day (after both playing singles) feeling very proud of how we had acquitted ourselves.

Memorable – recently I played 4.0 women's singles at the NJ open. Most of the field were in their 20's and 30's! The games were very tough, and I had to work very hard for most of my points, but the comradery amongst all the ladies was wonderful. We played almost non-stop for 3 hours, with only 3 minutes between each round – it was very rewarding to be able to keep up and come away with a silver medal!

Not so good – Ughh, there are too many to mention! (hitting the game point out!) As you know, Pickleball is a very humbling sport – one game you are the cat's meow and the next you cannot keep the ball in play! Every week I work hard to not only improve my skills and agility, but also to work on being a better partner.

Do you have any suggestions for people that would like to improve their game?

Be patient, keep your eye on the ball and ALWAYS be ready for the next shot, even when you think you have hit a winner! Practice your shots anytime you can and make your opponent's hit one more ball...you never know what will happen. We truly get many opportunities to work on a particular shot so when you need it in a game, it just comes naturally! I do not think too much during the point, I just do it!

Will you please tell us about your charity work and how it started?

I am the US Ambassador for 67 Blankets for Nelson Mandela, a South African charity that has grown worldwide. Nelson Mandela devoted 67 years of his life to public service and human rights. 67 Blankets for Nelson Mandela is a worldwide initiative to knit/crochet blankets for the less fortunate. Participants are invited to either make a blanket or contribute squares for us to join into blankets. We engage with all members of our community (Girl Scouts to Senior Centers) to participate. The United Nations declared the 18th of July Nelson Mandela International Day, giving the world an opportunity to participate in the goodness and undying strength of humanity. Nelson Mandela said *"It's in YOUR hands"*

to make our world a better place”.

Can you tell us how we can help your charity either through participation or donation?

We do not take any monetary donations. The best way to help is to spread the word about what we do and know that any blankets we make are donated locally, here within the DMV area. It's all about improving our local community.

Pickleball Travel Tales

Pickleball in the Florida Keys, by Ken Greco

I few weeks ago I was on a Royal Caribbean cruise out of Tampa Florida. Our first stop was Key West. Known for its many bars, music and beautiful sunsets, Key West has some of the nicest, dedicated pickleball courts in the keys. There are six courts and the level of play is from beginner to 4.0 players, everyone is welcome. The courts are directly across from Higgs beach. There is a beautiful Oceanside restaurant next to the courts. Monroe County built these courts for use by the locals and visitors alike. I had a chance to play a few hours with Duane and Jan St Claire. I would recommend you check out these FREE courts if you are going to the Key West. I suggest that the HCPA investigate organizing a trip to the Keys in the future. Key Largo to Key West offers some of the more spectacular scenes of blue/green water vistas along the 120-mile drive south.



East Naples, by Duane StClare

Six of us from the Howard County Pickleball Association relocated south in March to the East Naples Community Park to play on one of their 64 pickle ball courts.



Theresa Compofelice, Susan DeSena, Renae Scheiber and Joe Manley joined Jan and I for a week of play at these courts.



The 80-degree weather was a nice change from the weather in Howard County. The courts were broken down into sections with 8 courts. Each section was labeled for the skill level of players from 2.0 up to 4.0+. Some of the time we were able to play under the shelter where the medal matches for the US Pickleball Open are played.



Of course, it wasn't all about playing when it came time to enjoyed one of Naples great restaurants in the evening. Hopefully this might become a tradition for more members in the future.



Webmaster Tidbits

Recently we experienced some difficulties with the website. Many people were receiving the message that the website login was temporarily blocked due to robot-based hackers. After a good deal of research and trial and error, I finally figured out a solution to the problem. Thanks for your patience.

We are attempting to reduce the emails going out to the association by posting the weekly doodle links up on the website. You will find the weekday and weeknight sign-up doodles under the Members menu and the Ladder League substitute sign-up under the Leagues menu item.

We have added the "PB Tutor Rental" menu item under Members to request the use of the PB Tutor device. Check out the multiple YouTube videos on the use of the device and then sign-up using the form link found on the webpage.

The photos on the association website have been updated with more recent photos. If you take a photo of an association activity, please email them to me via my our association email address: hocopball@gmail.com.

A new section has been added to our public side of our website: Instruction. This provides anyone interested in PB to learn what the local offerings are for instruction.

Please let me know via the web site contact page if you have any recommendations, suggestions or see something that needs to be fixed for our web site.

Howard County Public School Efforts

Duane met with Eric Bishop, the Supervisor of the Physical Education program for the Howard County School System to talk about how they want to coordinate the use of the nets, paddles and balls that we donated to the schools last year and how we can encourage the playing of pickleball in PE classes. Eric is going to identify 2 or 3 PE teachers who will work with us to use the equipment and instruct students in the playing of pickleball in PE classes. The Association hopes that the exposure to pickleball will encourage more play among youth and their families in Howard County.

Tournament News

Howard County Pickleball Association held three tournaments in the Spring of 2019- Womens, Mens and Mixed doubles.

- For the Womens, we had 4 teams participate with Dorothy Boulton and Mary Hughes winning over Debra Semmont and Maggie Hamilton.
- For the Mens event, we had 4 teams participate in a round robin event with Dave Ledane and Joe Beitz winning over Rob Schmidt and Dave Fontana.
- For the Mixed doubles, we had 8 teams participate in a round robin event with Sheree Shuy and Sonny Tannen winning over Renae Scheiber and Daryl Tuck





Upcoming Association Events

Annual Meeting- June 18th 5-8 APL Picnic Grounds. \$5 per person and bring a dish to share along with your preferred beverage.

Directions: Route 29 south
 Right onto Johns Hopkins Road
 3rd light left onto Sanner Road
 4th entrance right- stay to the left at the split
 Follow road around to pavilion.

Dinner at Tino's Italian Bistro & Wine Bar - June 24th – This is a fund raiser day for our association. Come meet and eat. Please share this with your friends; our association gets a small percentage of the money that comes in that day. The address is: 8775 Centre Park Drive, Columbia, MD 21054

Where to Play

The board is always looking for new places to play, indoors and out. Several members went to Mary Lands Farm on April 27th to check out the pavilion. There is enough room for 2 or 3 courts. Play for 2 hours is \$10 per person. This is being considered as a contingency site in cases where the weather is impacting our planned session. Use of this facility will depend on several factors: 1) availability – if the pavilion is not reserved for another function; 2) participation – if enough people sign up and commit to

paying the fee; 3) volunteers – if enough people are willing to pitch-in to setup – line the courts with tape. Here’s a picture of the site:



Locus Park and the Ice Rink are setup every Saturday morning for Howard County Pickleball Members.

Owen Brown Tennis Club - six dedicated outdoor courts being used for the late morning and afternoon till June 1st.

Atholton Park - Free play anytime the park is open.

Social Events

Nothing planned at this time.

Humor

A moth walks into a podiatrist office and sits down on the exam table.

The Podiatrist asks “What can I do for you?”

The moth replies, “My kids hate me. My wife is having an affair with my best friend and I hate my job.”

The podiatrist says, “I’m a podiatrist. Why did you come here?”

The moth replies, “Your light was on.”

Classified (Future- if you would like to advertise)

Instructions:

Barry Leech will be leading our introduction PB lessons on Saturday mornings just after our open play sessions. Share this information with your friends who would like to learn to play PB.

Duane StClair will be organizing some intermediate PB lessons in the near future so stay tuned for that.

New and Used Equipment for Sale

Free Stuff