



Words from the Editor

Carol White

The warm weather is finally here. Read all the exciting pickleball news that the summer and fall will bring to Howard County picklers. If you have something of interest to the pickleball community, please consider writing an article to share in the next newsletter. Send articles to cmwhite214@hotmail.com.

Featured Articles

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From President's Desk

Joanne Griesser

Usually, the Presidents article starts with accomplishments for the past few months. This article will be different.

The Howard County Pickleball Association has almost 800 members to date. We grow monthly. It is time to pull together and ask for what we need for continued success as an organization. There are three areas that need our attention now and you can help.

The Association needs Session Coordinator volunteers. We need additional members to step up and offer time to set up courts for group play. Members want more sessions, but we do not have member volunteers to support it. Earl has bent over backwards to find a time and place for new sessions. The Association will buy four nets, supply balls and give you a cart to carry everything. You can do this with a friend; we are ok if people want to work together. It is not hard, and if you haven't helped in the past, then maybe it's time to do your part. Please consider becoming a Session Coordinator.

This newsletter doesn't write itself. There are people spending time to write and pull together every article and publication. We could use some more contributors. Stories of games played, tournaments won or lost are of interest. If you travel, let others know of a nice place that you found to play. Helpful tips that you have discovered will always be enjoyed. Share some of your experiences with our Editor at cmwhite214@hotmail.com.

Recreation and Parks (R&P): This is a tough one. R&P will not let us schedule our sessions on their courts. We cannot rent the courts from them. As an association we cannot schedule or advertise our sessions on any of their courts. The Association has donated several hundred hours of volunteer time over the past few years. We have never been compensated by R&P for our time. Because they will not work with us, we have backed away from support for their tournaments. They are slow to build dedicated courts, paint lines on underutilized tennis courts or recognize the need for more courts. We have presented our requests to R&P management for the past five years. Duane, Earl and I have all gone before their managers to present our case. We have pointed out that Montgomery, Anne Arundel, and Carroll counties far exceed Howard in the number of courts per person in each county. They have promised new courts in Western Regional (2023) and Blandair (2023), and painted lines at Hammond tennis courts. But this is still insufficient. We have asked for lights so our players who work can have some nighttime play, more indoor space in the winter months day and evening, and wind breaks at

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Western Regional and Schooley Mill. We are told it's not in the budget. R&P needs to reprioritize and put more facilities in the budget for our sport.

The Association Board has asked for these items over and over again. I have personally presented our needs to Raul Delerme, Director of Recreation and Parks. I have made presentations and written letters to Calvin Ball, Howard County Executive and the person who controls the budget for the county. My presentation to Mr. Ball was treated as inconsequential and I have never received a response to the letters, not even an acknowledgement.

There is an election coming up and Calvin Ball wants to hold on to his position. I will reach out to him one more time to add our needs to his platform. Our organization has almost 800 voting members. As tight as elections have become, I would say we deserve attention. Take a few minutes today and write Mr. Ball an email. Tell him the facilities in HoCo are insufficient. Let him know R&P says they do not have money to invest in Pickleball, even though it is the fastest growing sport, and how far we lag in comparison to neighboring counties.

It is well past time that all our members get involved. We need your support. You enjoy the sessions, drills, and tournaments that we host. With a little of your time, we can do so much more.

Volunteer as a Session Coordinator or work with a friend to help setup a new session.

Tap your creative side and send our editor an article for publication.

Email your government representatives. To send an email to Calvin Ball, cball@howardcountymd.gov or Raul Delerme rdelerme@howardcountymd.gov.

We are stronger and smarter together!

Family Wellness Day

Family Wellness Day is June 19th from 8-1 in Centennial Park. Pickleball will be a center attraction. Nets paddles and a small court will be setup for public to try the sport. Stop by our booth and help promote Pickleball in Howard County.

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HCPA Annual Meeting

In case you missed the very informative and fun HCPA annual meeting on May 21, 2022, here is a recap:

Welcome Everyone: Joanne

Thank all of the Volunteer Co-Ordinators for their work in the field. We couldn't host the daily sessions, teach classes, hold drill sessions, produce a quarterly newsletter, hold tournaments, maintain a web page and communications software to make it easier for you to know what is going on daily or host any kind of social events without them. They are the backbone of the organization, and they deserve to be recognized for their efforts.

Also like to thank the board members for their work. Constantly looking for opportunities to speak to the Ho Co Government, Columbia Association and Recreation and Parks, the Department of Aging reminding them we are here and we are growing, we need more places to play.

Finances: Joanne

We are in the black. We have about 13.4K in our account. Last year we spent 7K in equipment, software, Insurance, Supplies. We did spend 2.4K for Events and recognition awards

Anyone who wishes to see more details can contact Ira Frankel on the board and he will be happy to share the finer details of the report.

VP Message: Harold

Food Drive

Back in September 2021, in partnership with the Community Action Council of Howard County, we launched a Food Drive to benefit the Howard County Food Bank. During a one-week period in September 2021, your donations helped HCPA to collect 570 lbs. of healthy food stuffs to be distributed by the Food Bank. In addition, we stood up a Donation Web Site to allow members and guests to make on-line donations. Again, our members did us proud with contributions \$1300. I know it makes everyone feel good to be able to help our citizens of Howard County who find themselves in less fortunate circumstances. We will be doing the Food Drive again this year and look forward, with your help, to exceeding the 2021 Contributions.

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Suggestion Box

In 2021, we launched a link on our website to encourage our members to make suggestions for improvements in our operations and services. It can be found in the “Members” tab about halfway down the list of options.

Pickleball Tutor

Just a reminder to everyone that the association has a very useful training aid called a Pickleball Tutor. It essentially acts as a relentless opponent launching balls across the net at varying speeds, directions, angles, and frequency. It can be rented by any member for \$20/day. It comes with a container with 40-50 balls, a ball retriever (to save our aging backs), a small luggage cart, and a net if you need one. To do a rental, go to the HCPA website, Choose the tab “Equip. Mgt.”, then choose “PBTutor Rental.” Send an email request to the device manager, Harold White, with the desired pickup and drop off day and time as well as the number of days desired. We’ll coordinate the dates and then you can make payment at the bottom of the page.

Columbia Association from Duane:

I am doing instructional sessions in both a group and private format for both CA members and non-members. We have been offering ladder league play for members and non-members. Non-members pay at a slightly higher rate. We are working on some winter play opportunities. We are also planning a glow pickleball event in the next year.

Earl’s Message:

As always, I am grateful for the volunteering support given by our members in assistance with the coordination and set up of equipment for our open sessions. We have been able to offer many more open play sessions as well as drill sessions and now single sessions due primarily to our session coordinator volunteers. Fortunately, we are now able to offer our mobile application, Stack Team App, to facilitate the communication of the multiple open sessions in addition to posting to our website. I’m also thankful for our members' patience as our web site has gone through some growing pains. We appear to have turned a corner for those issues. We have come a long way since our inaugural year and we have a lot to be thankful and proud of, especially the hospitality and graciousness of our members.

More Courts: Joanne

More courts are coming: Blandair will have 6 dedicated courts within the next year barring any supply chain issues.

Atholton had more lines painted recently on the tennis courts.

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We did sign a contract for Jan-thru March for the Glenwood Sr Center, 2 hours evening play Monday evenings 5-7, cost between \$10-12 per session.

And as you all have read there is going to be a new indoor court opening this Fall in Columbia with 6 courts, heated and AC.

Like to introduce Denise Richards and her husband Will- and yes, they will be ISO employees and players. Please grab a flyer on your way out this evening.

Tournament: Andy and Ken

Andy Dalal

On Sunday, June 19, 2022 from 8:00am to 11:00am, a Father's Day tournament will be held at Locust Park. Pairings will be Men's and Mixed Doubles – Father & Son, Father & Daughter, Grandfather & Grandson, Grandfather & Granddaughter, or Two Fathers. We may open it up to more groups if we do not have enough participants.

Skill Brackets: Beginners/Intermediate and/or Intermediate/Advanced

Registration for this PB tournament is online via pickleballtournaments.com.

Ken Billingsley

We are happy to announce that the HCPA will be hosting a Pickleball tournament at the Owen Brown facility from October 14-16, 2022. We will have access to the entire facility for the whole weekend, which allows for up to 26 Pickleball courts.

Plans for the future: Joanne

Keep requesting courts for our players. Already asking for space in the newly acquired park off of Ilchester road.

More presentations to Calvin Ball and Recreation and Parks for funding for courts.

More Tournaments, lessons, drill and skill classes.

Wellness day in Columbia Lakeside.

Food drives, other community activities.

Continue to support Special Olympics.

Plea for Volunteers: Joanne

We can't do this work without your help. Consider volunteering when the call goes out.

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Q: What's the score?

Harold White

I don't think I have ever played a game of pickleball that someone, often I, has not asked the question, "What's the score." It's easy to get distracted: a long rally, an exciting volley, a left/right player switch. I've had instances where not one of the four players on the court was positive of the right score. And to compound the pain, there are equally famous, slightly lesser frequent, variations, "Am I "1" or "2?" "Did I serve that last point?" "Did they serve the last point?" It can be frustrating and/or embarrassing.

I would like to offer some thoughts and solicit yours in this matter. Does anyone know of a wearable three place digital display that could easily be incremented (and decremented if you make a mistaken entry) at the end of the point to keep track of the current score. If you are the server, push yourself to call it out loud and clear so your opponents 44 feet away can hear it. If you are not sure of the score a quick whisper to your partner is barely noticeable and will confirm or correct your thought on the matter. Last resort, ask your opponents. ALWAYS call out all three parts of the score. This will help reinforce the correct score and server number in everyone's mind and possibly avoid a dispute later. USAPA official rulebook states:

4.D.1. In non-officiated play, the server normally calls the score, but the server's partner may call score if the server is unable to call the score. The person calling the score shall not change during the game unless there is a voice impairment.

Note there is no role for the receiving team in calling the score. I don't see anywhere in the rule book prohibiting it, but it would seem like common courtesy to let the server do the duty he/she is assigned. Of course, if a wrong call is thought to have been made, then by all means, speak up.

So, I'd like to end this musing on a really positive note. I think that it is a tribute to the kind of people attracted to our sport, that our attention and focus is way more on enjoying the game, the ribbing and banter from partners and opponents, the learning each game provides, and reveling in a couple of well executed plays, than on any intermediate or final score. Damn the score!

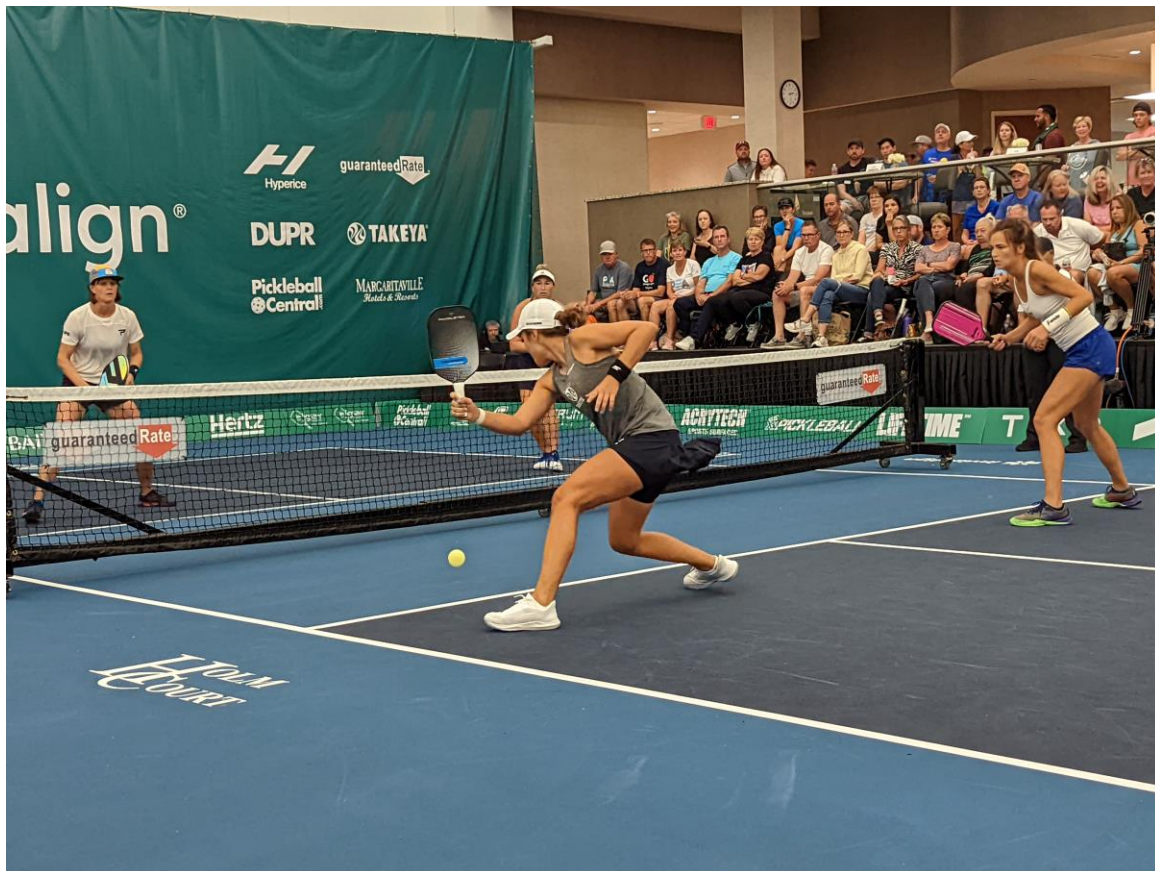
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Travel with...

Duane St. Clair

I recently attended the Invisiline PPA North Carolina Open in Charlette North Carolina. It was held indoors at the Lifetime Club. Many of the top pros were there. Unfortunately, Ben Johns and Annaleigh Waters skipped the tournament the week after the US Open in Naples. If you have never been to a pro tournament in person you are missing how hard the players hit the balls and how well they reset points when on defense. Pickleball is still at a level where for \$20 or \$30 you can get a seat right at court level to be on top of the action. You can hear the players talking strategy to each other. All the pros were easy to approach and were willing to have a selfie taken with them. A few years from now when the matches will be held in large stadiums with pros making huge amounts we will long for the days like they are today.

We will be able to see a tournament in October in our backyard when the pros come to our area. The Washington tournament will be held in College Park. Plan now to see the pros there.



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Special Olympics

Bob Sans

I previously wrote an article for the Spring 2022 Newsletter that predated the actual start of the Howard County Special Olympics Program that we were preparing to enact. I can gladly report that we have successfully transitioned an idea to bring Pickleball as part of the Special Olympics offering to a very positive venture.

As an update, we are approaching our 7th week of a 10-week program. Throughout the past 6 weeks we have been surprised with how well the Athletes have been doing in exceeding our expectations. They do present challenges and have forced us to rethink and modify the program to better meet their needs.

We have had 28 Special Olympic Athletes participating through the Howard County Special Olympics who have had little to no experience in playing Pickleball when we started in April. Through the dedication and work of the 40+ Volunteers/Mentors coming primarily through the HCPA, these players have become acclimated to the sport and many have started to play actual games after the third week of play. This is truly a credit to the Volunteers as well as the players as weekly play has been interrupted by holidays and more so by weather which has been brutal seemingly every week. Despite the weather, the players have had fun and sometimes from the sidelines it is difficult to separate who is having more fun, the Athletes or the Volunteers. As we start to wind down the inaugural season, I am hoping to introduce some form of competition/mini tournament amongst the current group of players in late June.

Many thanks go out to the Howard County Pickleball Association, the Board and its members for being a major supporter in whatever was needed to get this program up and running. Another vote of thanks goes out to the Howard County Recreation & Parks for their support in allowing us use of the Schooley Mill courts. I owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to Bob Baker, Janet Larrimore & Marilyn Micelli of the HCSO for having the faith and trust in us in making this program successful during its first of what I hope will be many seasons to come. Additional votes of appreciation go out to Maria Docal who has served as Coordinator for the program; Sonny Tannon who has provided invaluable assistance in structing the 10-week and weekly sessions; & Don Schmidt, Nancy Hartka, Steve Orr and Bob Leypoldt who have provided guidance and instruction to the players while supervising the Volunteers. However, it has been the Volunteers who deserve the credit for making our first season a success. Those of you who know me know that I am never at a loss for words (both verbally and in written form). This is a rare occurrence but for once words totally fail me in expressing the feelings, I have for each of you for giving up your Sunday afternoons, braving the variety of weather conditions we have had to endure but

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most of all for just being there for the players. Your presence, patience, and skills have made this endeavor worthwhile and a success not just in the SO program but for the Athletes. I only hope that each of you that have volunteered continue to participate in the seasons to come.

We remain the only county in the State that offers a Pickleball program. I am looking to change this as I have invited the Directors from 5 of the surrounding counties to visit, play and observe what we have been able to put together. The purpose for this is to spark additional interest in these counties to have them put together their own program so that by this time next year we can start to have inter-county tournaments. I would hope that with our involvement and that of the five surrounding counties that we might be able to grow this sport to a statewide program complete with statewide competition similar to other SO sports.

As I have said, this has truly been a learning process. In considering a second season (dates to be decided with the HCSO) I am thinking that we will offer a Pickleball 1 and a Pickleball 2 program. One program will be for Beginners or for those Athletes who may not yet be able to play competitively. The second group will be comprised of those players who can demonstrate that they are either ready to play or can play the game with some level of supervision. My thinking will also be to reduce the number of players in each group to no more than 20 as it seemed that our sessions were more manageable with less players. Another consideration might be to locate our sessions to an indoor facility to reduce the chances from playing in the extreme elements. I would also welcome feedback and suggestions from all involved as to how you think that we can make this program better.

I had a thought in September 2021 that we could bring Pickleball into the Special Olympics. My mantra in the Fall of 2021 had been "Why Not". Through a tremendous joint effort between Special Olympics, the HCPA, HCR&P and a bunch of committed volunteers, we have been able to demonstrate that Special Olympics Pickleball has become a true reality. I had also asked in 2021 to think back on how much fun it was when you started playing? Our Volunteers have passed that "gift" of having fun on the courts to these Special Olympic Athletes with many forming a bond with the Players. I no longer can ask "Why Not?" but now I can ask "Have the rewards gained by this experience gone beyond any of your expectations and those of the Athletes you have worked with"?

Many Thanks.

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Tournament News

Winter Tournament for Advanced Players

Andy Dalal

On February 28th, HCPA held an indoor tournament for advanced players which was a very successful event. The tournament reached its limited capacity in only a couple of hours once registration was opened. The session was held from 5:15 to 6:45pm at the Gary J. Arthur Community Center and to start and complete the tournament within that time frame, participants arrived by 5:00pm and helped with both setting up and taking down the nets. The tournament used a round robin format and each team was guaranteed 5 matches. The tournament scoring for each match was one game to 15 points, win by 1 point using rally scoring. In rally scoring, a point is awarded to whichever team wins the rally – be it the serving team or the non-serving team. Matches were competitive and there was parity among the teams. None of the teams won all their games and the winner of the tournament was based on a three-way tie breaker! More importantly, the players had fun and displayed excellent sportsmanship!

Players and Teams who participated:

Bob & John

Garth & Rob

Ken & Chris

Gina & Mike

Jim & Tina

Kavita & Steve

And the winner of the tournament..... drum roll....Ken & Chris.

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Spring Tournament for Female Players

Andy Dalal

On March 28th, HCPA held its first ever tournament for female players which was a very successful event. The tournament not only reached its limited capacity in only a couple of hours but because of registration snafu, the tournament had 16 players or 8 teams in the tournament rather than the usual 12 players or 6 teams for recently held indoor tournaments. This session was also held on a Monday evening in Western Howard County. Based on feedback from the past indoor tournaments, changes were made to this tournament. Scoring for each match was one game to 21 points rather 15 points, rally scoring. There was a break for teams so that teams did not play in every round in the round robin format. After the round robin stage, the highest seeded team from each group proceeded to play each other, as well as the second highest, third highest and fourth highest teams from each group, i.e., 1v1, 2 v 2, 3 v3, 4 v4 to determine places 1-8. In another words, a championship match was held between the top two teams!

Players and Teams who participated:

Joanne G. & Kathy

Kavita & Emily

Lissette & Gina

Dineen & Joanne

Amy & Marie

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Brenda & Asha
Theresa & Susan

And the winner of the tournament..... drum roll....Kavita & Emily



HCPA Father's Day Round Robin Tournament (Summer Tournament)

By: Andy Dalal

On Sunday, June 19, 2022, from 8:00am to 11:00am, a Father's Day tournament will be held at Locust Park. Pairings will be Men's and Mixed Doubles – Father & Son, Father & Daughter, Grandfather & Grandson, Grandfather & Granddaughter, or Two Fathers. We may open it up to more groups if we do not have enough participants.

Skill Brackets: Beginners/Intermediate and/or Intermediate/Advanced

Registration for this PB tournament is online via pickleballtournaments.com.

SAVE THE DATE - Tournament on Oct. 14-16, 2022 - Joola Maryland Open

By Ken Billingsley

We are happy to announce that the HCPA will be hosting a Pickleball tournament at the Owen Brown facility from October 14-16, 2022. We will have access to the entire facility for the

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whole weekend, which allows for up to 26 Pickleball courts. And did we mention that Joola will be the primary sponsor?

We will host Singles, Mens/Womens Doubles, and Mixed Doubles. Based on current plans, we will have space for 750 participants over the three days. More information will be coming regarding how to register but save the date. We plan to give HCPA members a week to register before we open it to the public. If you have not set up an account on PickleballTournaments.com, now would be a good time to do so.

LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS: To put on a successful tournament, we will need the assistance of the entire membership. We are looking for people to help at the tournament desk, get matches started, and ***anyone interested in becoming a Referee Trainee...if you play Pickleball, you know enough to be a referee, so try it out.***

You can reach us at:

hcpatournaments@gmail.com

410.929.2681

Coming soon: Dill Dinkers

In the words of Denise Richards:

“In the summer of 2021, my husband Will and I instantly fell in love with Pickleball after our very first lesson. By winter, we were so hooked on the game that we became determined to keep playing, despite the weather and low court availability. Most of the time when we did get a court, we spent half of our time cleaning it so it would be safe to play. I searched the county to try and find indoor courts, only to find that there were very few options. This is when we first started to realize that there was a need for an indoor facility. After visiting out of state indoor pickleball venues, we decided to make one in our own community. So here we are ready to open in September and we can’t wait to share our new place with the other addicts in the community.”

The new facility is 15,000 square feet with a 20-foot ceiling. It is temperature controlled and has six courts with fencing and individual court entrances, restrooms, and a café area. The services include: membership perks, leagues, private lessons from a team of certified professionals, open play, tournaments, court rentals, business events, parties, and corporate sponsorships. In lieu of an onsite restaurant, a rotation of local food trucks will provide freshly prepared meals in an array of different cuisines.

This new facility, called Dill Dinkers Pickleball, is located at 9179 Red Branch Road, Columbia, MD 21045. Read more at www.dilldinkers.com.

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Ads

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Dill Dinkers Indoor Pickleball

Will and Denise Richards-Founders

www.dilldinkers.com



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