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May Nissen Nets

Due to a technical error, the nets were not ordered by LARPD in early May as we were told. We were recently told they were ordered in early October and there are fingers crossed to have them in place on or around New Years. We will do what we can to help track their delivery. We apologize for the confusion.

Pleasanton Muirwood Park

Construction is nearing completion at Muirwood park, on the six new, permanent pickleball courts. As of Halloween Night, "There are a few more steps of work to be completed and with some potentially unstable weather coming tomorrow, staff is slightly uncertain of an exact opening date at this time." This message came from Michelle Crose of the Pleasanton Parks and Recreation Department.



President's Message

Hello Members,

The month of October was special for the club, and I wanted to share my pride and joy. For those of you who may be new, we hosted our very first outdoor tournament on a large scale. Some of our prior tournaments were much smaller in scale and we limited participation to just club members. The 1st Annual Tri-Valley Harvest Crush Tournament, held October 8-9, incorporated nonmembers, attracting players from the entire Bay Area, Reno (Nevada) and David Skelton from Bend (Oregon).



With the assistance of Gigi Guerra from Pickleball is Great (PIG), we hosted over 150 players of different ages and skill levels for two full days at May Nissen Park. Months of planning, emails, texts, meetings, agreements, disagreements, telephone calls, blood, sweat, and tears took place behind-the-scenes, and were not blatantly obvious. What resulted from all the challenging work, was a pickleball tournament that received kudos and tons of praise from both players and non-players alike. Ramin Erfanian commented that the tournament was well organized and run "silk smooth."

This leads me to say THANK YOU to all our tournament volunteers. You know who you are and due to your efforts and dedication to the game, this tournament was a success. Without your lack of sleep, dirty shoes, and trying to setup equipment in the early (dark) hours of tournament day and then dismantling the same equipment when the sun went down, this event would have failed. Not only was physical labor involved, but others donated tents, brooms, blowers, and items necessary to get the tournament running like a well-oiled machine. Other volunteers staffed the food booths, raffle table, functioned as runners for the players, escorting them to and from the courts to keep the games moving.

The TVPC is proud of all our members that played in the tournament. Some exited their comfort zones, played hard, and gave their best efforts. Many made it to the podium, some did not, the point is that you tried. You deserve a pat on the back.

I would also like to thank Selkirk, Paddletek, ProKennex, SwiftNet, Marriot Hotels, Franklin X, McGrail's Winery, Ruby Hill Winery, and Rubino Winery for their sponsorship.

Finally, as President of the TVPC, I must give a huge shoutout to board members, Robert Beanland, Paula Orrell, Lori Dorsey (for a beautiful tournament logo) and Larry Bird for their tireless dedication to the game, and their efforts to bring all of you: New friends, great games, and a sense of community.

Play on,

— Kirby Wong



New Members

Gold Level Members:

◇ Karyn Meola Shinn

Bronze Level Members:

◇ Bill Aston	◇ Patti Ingram	◇ Laureen Rooze
◇ Ann Ayres	◇ Corrinne Kahler	◇ Tom Rooze
◇ Vern Booth	◇ Julie La Blanc	◇ Heidi Sloss
◇ Melissa Fowler	◇ David Marquardt	◇ Debi Smith
◇ Julia Garcia	◇ Sandi Martin	◇ Charlene Swansiger
◇ Ram Kesavan	◇ Scott McMillin	◇ Elizabeth Williams
◇ Sam Herron	◇ Marites Pascual	◇ Ken Williams
◇ Lai Shun Hui	◇ Samantha Reid	

Tournament Observations (Written by Rich Hume)

I worked as a volunteer at the 1st Annual Harvest Crush Tournament. I was a runner and would collect and check score cards. When I wasn't busy, I was watching the game play.

There are couple things I noticed during play and I'll pass them on here. These are my opinions and observation of course.

Firstly, I was surprised by the lack of dinking at the advanced levels. I would not expect to see much in the 2.5-3.0 games, but I expected more from the other levels.

What I saw was a lot of hard hitting. Points were decided by banging the ball past someone, or hitting out balls. There were very good blocks at all levels. But my main point here would be that I saw a lot less dinking than expected.

Third shot drops? Nope, I saw almost none of those. All third shots were drives, followed up with more drives. In the finals of the mixed 4.0 senior game I did see some dink points. It looked like one of the teams decided that they couldn't win by banging and were working to create / force dinking points.

Final note on this topic, when a team did manage to drop the ball or start dinking, they did so quite successfully. It looked to me that most teams were not interested, nor particularly good at the softer side of the game.

Out balls ... There were a lot of shots hit too hard and a lot of those were hit back. The art of the duck was a rare commodity. I can understand that as the points were typically fast and there was not a lot of time to judge the out balls. Power over control seemed to be the common theme.

Blocks ... The players were very good at blocking. I was impressed by many of the "bang-block-bang" sequences I saw. This was true across all skill levels; even the 2.5 players were making some great shots.

Lobs ... With all the banging, the disadvantaged team needed to reset or drop or lob to get back in the points. The typical response was to bang back, but if they got out of position there were a lot of lobs. And the lobs were pretty good. I was surprised by the frequency of the shot, but if you don't play a soft game, there are not a lot of other choices.

Serves were calmer than I expected. I didn't see a lot of out balls and there was only one player with a spin serve. I did see some bad serving at the 2.5 level, but that is on par with the skill level. The upper levels didn't seem to put a lot of time in developing hard, low, or spinny serves either. The serve seemed more of just a way to start the point without trying to develop some advantage.

So let me pass on my advice to the tournament player based on my observations:

- 1) Expect a lot of hard shots to be hit at you
- 2) A lot of those shots are going out, so prepare to duck at all times!
- 3) Get your serves in and they needn't be anything special
- 4) Cultivate a short game: Dinks, drops, and resets were rare, but effective. Soft shots will handcuff bangers if you do them well.
- 5) A tournament is an endurance contest, so take your water breaks and time outs
- 6) Knowing the rules is a good idea: There were a couple of disputes and knowing what the rules are, would be useful
- 7) If things get strange, get in touch with the tournament director: It is their job to settle issues so put them to work if there is a dispute on the court

— Rich Hume enjoys thinking about playing great pickleball

Harvest Crush Volunteers

As Kirby mentioned earlier in this newsletter, our 1st Annual Harvest Crush Tournament was huge success as measured by any and all involved, thanks to our army of volunteers who gave of their time and / or equipment:

Fred Quarterman, Mike Montin, Mary Keller, Doreen Rosengarth, Christine Holsen, Diane Shord, Roger Lee, Taylor Dorsey, David Skelton, Geert Van Looy, Paul Kline, Dan Ramirez, Jennifer Lubeck, John Lubeck, Debi Smith, Rich Hume, David Van Lue, Dave Hickman, Nick Schenkel, Bonnie Pasternak, Mats Bodin, Puneet Khurana, Greg Orrell, Diane Wood, Dave Burg, Jason Chan, Cherie Leines, Vern Booth



Harvest Crush Results

Women's Doubles

2.5 (50-59) **G:** C Orrey – T DeCosta

2.5 (60+) **G:** P.J. Bayless – P Holliday

3.0 (8-49) **G:** J Melgar – A Sundin

S: Erinna O – J Dela Vega

B: C Del Rosso – M Karatepe

3.0 (50-59) **G:** B Bernhoft – K McArthur

S: J Quiring – J Potter

B: D Rosengarth – C Holsen

3.0 (60+) **G:** L Paul – D Boyle

S: K Minicozzi – J O'Connor

B: E Welco – D Lenz

3.5 (50-59) **G:** L Dorsey – M Geronimo

S: N Cheung – A Ronato

4.0 (8-49) **G:** T Jacobs – L Legrady

4.0 (60+) **G:** J Rathbone – G Kenney

S: D Morris – D Yee

Mixed Doubles

2.5 (8-49) **G:** N Nojiri – L Suzuki

S: C Nash – L Chen

2.5 (50-59) **G:** H Simpson – W Yoshida

2.5 (60+) **G:** T Slesnick – T High

S: P.J. Bayless – R Bayless

3.0 (8-49) **G:** M Pelegrin – J D Abella

S: M Wong – E Chang

B: K Mahdavi – D Eswar

3.0 (50-59) **G:** T Dokter – R Seevers

S: W Kramm – R Lee

B: D Seifert – J Peck

3.0 (60+) **G:** L Kilpatrick – B Kilpatrick

S: N B Soares – C Calcagno

B: D Wood – M Cooke

3.5 (8-49) **G:** A Papenfuss – M Imburg

S: Erinna O – C O'Neill

3.5 (50-59) **G:** J Potter – B Hicks

S: J Melgar – D Look

B: L Dorsey – R Beanland

3.5 (60+) **G:** L Hernandez – M Callahan

4.0 (8-49) **G:** J Paige – S Hagen

S: L Dengler – Y Pelletier

4.0 (60+) **G:** D Morris – D Skelton

S: L Dunn – K Wong

Men's Doubles

3.0 (8-49) **G:** P Nguyen – K Ly

S: V Kumar – L Nashier

3.5 (8-49) **G:** K Wong – T Abram

S: P Lin – C Hunsaker

B: K Gu – R Giri

3.5 (50-59) **G:** M Bodin – P Hendrickson

S: R Lee – D Skelton

3.5 (60+) **G:** M Aubel – M Callahan

S: B Hicks – Y Pelletier

4.0 (8-49) **G:** R Pandey – S Siddhanti

S: D Christopher – C Malekamu

B: R Beanland – C Singer

4.0 (50-59) **G:** E Oncena – S Barnert

S: R Erfanian – M DeGuzman

Club Members are in **Bold Font**

New WhatsApp Groups

In an effort to help organize the play and times at the new Muirwood courts, we have created new WhatsApp chat groups:

- **TVPC Muirwood Beg / Int:** Used for time and location of play

- **TVPC Muirwood Int / Adv:** Used for time and location of play

Your Board Members:

President: Kirby Wong

VP: Robert Beanland

Treasurer: Paula Orrell

Secretary: Lori Dorsey

Merch & PR: Larry Bird

info@trivalleypickleballclub.com



Harvest Crush Action

