

## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Cochrane Pickleball Club**

Date: Thursday, October 19, 2023

Location: Frank Wills Hall, Cochrane, AB

Attendees: 26

### **1. Call to Order**

Meeting called to order at 2 pm by Greg Young, President. Greg welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked all the volunteers who helped with the club this last season. Thanks were extended to Bill Cooper for serving as vice-president for the last two years.

### **2. Motion to Approve the Agenda**

Made by: Les Franke

Seconded by: Joanne Ferster

In favor: 26 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Carried

### **3. Motion to Adopt the Minutes of the May 11, 2023 AGM**

Made by: Nikki Franke

Seconded by: Catherine Burdett

In person: In favor: 26 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Electronic: In favor: 31 Against: 0 Abstain: 1

Carried

### **4. Grant Update**

Joanne Ferster gave an update on the grant application for the new courts. Four additional documents were requested by the grant committee in early August. Several were very comprehensive, including the memorandum of understanding with Entity One, which was drawn up by Nikki Franke and approved by Entity One. This is non-binding.

A small group was invited to present to Joseph Schow, the Minister of Tourism and Sport, and Peter Guthrie, the Minister of Infrastructure on Oct 2. The purpose of the meeting was to demonstrate the growth of pickleball and its financial, cultural and health impacts on the province and Cochrane. The meeting went very well. Minister Guthrie is very much behind our project. The ministers have a strong voice in the allocation of funds but do not have any approval authority with regard to the grant.

We will find out about the grant application in December.

### **5. Year-end Survey**

115 people responded to the year-end survey; the results of the survey were shared with the membership on Oct. 9. Lorraine Makowecki discussed the tabulated results.

In response to the question of whether DUPR will be continued in ladder play, Tony indicated there was no reason to continue with DUPR except for Calgary players who need it to play in the Calgary club. It was brought up that some clubs require a national rating system or DUPR; they won't accept a club rating.

Is there a downside to DUPR? It was mentioned that it is not monitored – there is potential for cheating and possibly games could be entered twice (both teams would have to agree to this because verification is required).

Tony will work with the ladder committee over the winter to address the use of DUPR, come up with a policy regarding players who don't show up for weeks on end, and determine if ladder should be for rated and non-rated players. The goal is to keep ladder competitive.

Website: changes have been made in response to suggestions made in the survey.

In regard to the question of whether emails to the club address get sent to all the board members, the answer is no, not automatically, but the email will be forwarded to all board members by the person who receives the club email. The board will then provide one answer upon consultation.

Regarding the ratings system that the club should use, the members agreed that DUPR was given a fair chance. The survey results clearly indicated that club members do not want to use DUPR; the result is that skill-based ratings will be the club's only method of assessment.

Regarding skills and drills, is it a to limit the number of times a person can attend. Notifications were sent out multiple times that if you attended one session, please refrain from attending the next so that more players have the opportunity to attend. The sessions were difficult to get in to.

## **6. Ratings Review**

Les Franke gave a review of the skills assessments that took place over the summer.

Skill assessments conducted in 2023: 122 (4 months)

Skill assessments conducted in 2022: 124 (5 months)

Success rate of requested promotions in 2023 was 55%.

3.0 success= 60%; 3.5 success= 42%; 4.0 success = 69%

Remaining players with only a DUPR Rating: 11

Throughout the season DUPR-only rated players were asked if they wanted a skills ratings; many said yes.

Six new raters were trained this last summer. For 2024, Steve Katulka will be in charge of the ratings committee.

The wait times to get a rating were much shorter this year than last year.

The ratings committee had a late start to the season. The committee tried to use DUPR and skills ratings initially; there were challenges with that, but it eventually was worked out.

With regard to how raters are chosen, Les stated that raters are recruited based on their knowledge of skills and their ability to identify the requisite skills for the level that they are assessing.

A concern was brought up regarding people who got rated by our club but had no interest in participating in our club; it was suggested that these people should have to participate in a minimum number of events in the club. Les suggested that next year there may be a \$10 (or more) charge and hopefully that will discourage people from taking advantage of our ratings service. That money will go back into the club, not to the raters.

Our club does not accept other club ratings; those done by Mike Cooper (Edmonton) and Jane White (Red Deer) may be considered but not necessarily accepted. We do not accept IPTPA.

Are US ratings accepted? Steve Katulka will determine this on a person-by-person basis.

Pre-assessment clinics: Les and the rating committee will attempt a few next year. They will be two hours in length, conducted like a rating session but will include teaching. This will better prepare the players; they will be more aware of the expectations and what their deficiencies are. Will likely be a sign-up, two courts at a time dependent on court time. Will probably be offered during ratings times.

A suggestion was made that the raters watch group play to determine that players are appropriately placed or see if they may be good enough to move up a level. Les indicated that he can't tell people that they are ready to be rated. The time commitment to do this would be too great for the raters; they already spend many hours doing assessments. Also, some players get nervous when they see raters watching them.

## **7. Club Fees**

Pickleball Alberta is potentially raising its fees by \$10/person for 2024 (total of \$15). Pickleball Canada fees are \$10. CPC fees are projected to remain at \$55. Total fees potentially will be \$80/person.

In response to the question of whether the town reimbursed us for rainy/smoky days, yes they did. Why did the town close the courts Oct. 9? The town claimed that they had to do maintenance; Greg appealed for additional time – the Town said no. The Town is not very flexible; won't accommodate our requests.

## **8. Club Schedule**

Greg presented a draft schedule for 2024. The Town will only let us book courts for a maximum of 8 hrs/day Monday to Friday. We cannot book the courts in the evenings or on the weekends.

Member expressed concerns that the 3.0 round robins are scheduled at high rain-out times. The schedule was presented as a draft only and will likely see changes before the 2024 season begins.

Can we switch the schedule around halfway through the season? Board was open to this suggestion.

Most members want club play to start at 09 am, but perhaps they don't understand the implications of starting at 9; there is a wasted hour everyday. If we start club play at 10, then rec play could potentially happen everyday from 8 to 10. Schedule to be worked on over the winter. The town will not give us evening hours.

## **9. Financial Statement and Budget**

Bob Marescaux presented the income statement and balance sheet for 2023, and the proposed budget for 2024. This information was sent to the members on October 9.

The club is in a good financial position; our year-end balance is \$4582.

We budgeted \$13,000 for court usage for 2024; this does not account for any rain/smoke days so we may not spend that much.

Court expansion expense is a one-time expense. If we don't get the grant, we don't spend the \$3000. Do we have a guarantee from the town that they won't increase our fees? No, there is no guarantee but the club this year was their only client except for one hour by the teachers. We can walk away if they raise the fees.

**Motion to accept the 2023 financial statements and adopt the 2023-2024 budget**

Made by: Joanne Ferster

Seconded by: Dave Stock

In person: In favor: 25 Against: 0 Abstain: 1

Electronic: In favor: 30 Against: 0 Abstain: 2

Carried

**10. Registration start date and committee sign-ups**

Registration for the 2024 season will open on January 1, 2024.

Bill Cooper's group still plays in May thus a May 13 start date is proposed.

A member suggested that the town could potentially keep the courts closed till mid May. There would be strong opposition to that because everyone (club and non-club members) want to access the courts as soon as possible in the spring.

**11. Club name change**

Joanne Ferster presented information on the legal issues, the processes involved, and the costs of changing our club name from Cochrane Pickleball Club to Cochrane Outdoor Pickleball Club. There is a lot of work to change the name: changes to bylaws, the logo, the website and URL, cheques, etc. This couldn't be done until after the grant is approved because the application and all supporting documentation has CPC on it.

Joanne recommends that we don't do this; we can make clear on the website that we are an outdoor club only that runs from May to September.

Fay will also indicate on Facebook that we are an outdoor club and only operate from May to September.

**12. Election**

There were no additional nominations put forward for the vacant board positions. Thus, the following individuals have won their positions by acclamation:

Vice-president: Joanne Ferster

Secretary: Lorraine Makowecki

Members-at-large: Catherine Burdett

Ken Little

**13. Motion to Adjourn**

Made by: Nikki Franke

Seconded by: Les Franke

Carried; all in favour.