



July 19, 2022 Okanagan Regional Club meeting.

Before I begin the notes, I want to thank you all for attending, and while I know we didn't get to all the Agenda topics in as complete a manner as we wanted to, I think what we did cover was useful and I hope you do too.

We will be addressing this style of meeting at our PBC board meetings, and I am confident we will be holding more of them in the future.

In some places in my notes I have warped the timeline a bit, as most discussions tended to wander back to PB Brackets at some point.

As an FYI, all current and past Board Minutes for PBC meetings are available for your perusal on the Resources page of the PBC website. There is also a list of board members and their area of responsibility there.

Rod W

Agenda Guideline

9:00 AM-9:20 AM. Arrival Target

9:20 AM- 9:30 AM Introductions

9:30 AM- 10:45 AM

1.0 Ratings, Rankings, Tournament (All relate to Pickleball Brackets Software) Note: 1-15 Breakout and discussion Included

10:45 AM- 11:05 AM Coffee Break. (Tim Horton's Packs) (Water)

11:05 AM- 11: 50 AM

2.0 PCNS System, Insurance, Affiliation

11:50 AM- 12:50 PM

Lunch (Have to go out for the Lunch down the street to the Pub I believe)

12: 50 PM- 1: 40 PM

3.0 Youth Development, Adult Development & Coaching (Sharing Info)

1:40 PM - 2:30 PM

4.0 Facilities Development & Tennis BC (Open Discussion) " Building Courts and a Database in BC "



Meeting Commenced at 9:30 AM

Intro- Barry M. PBC Regional Representative – PB Brackets prime

- Rod Williams PBC board member and PCNS prime for BC
- Round table of introductions by all the individuals and clubs present.

Attendee's expectations for meeting:

- Implement Ratings system
- Find a way to build more facilities around the province
- Facilitate more regional meetings

1.0 – Barry Montgomery - Ratings

PB Brackets provides a consistent method between all clubs of determining ratings. No opportunity for players to 'Cherry Pick' their desired rating by playing at a club with lower competition level to enhance their numbers.

Implementing Brackets takes pressure off the Club Admin to not provide subjective ratings for individuals (that person is generally the most disliked person in the club)

PB Brackets began Canadian operation with PCO interface in March 2021. Profiles within Brackets has grown to 4700 of the present 33,000+ PCO members.

PB Brackets provides 3 separate entities to clubs.

1. Ratings Engine (costs incorporated in other features)
2. Tournament Platform (costs approximately \$2.20ish (?) per entry per event)
3. League/Ladder organizing. (cost approximately \$0.08 per person per recorded game)

In order to implement a standard Canada wide rating system (CTPR) clubs need to use PB Brackets to record results.

Software protections are in place or being implemented to prevent players from entering tournaments at higher or lower rankings than they warrant. If the only record in place is an initial self rating, Brackets has to accept that number until results catch up with reality.

Previous attempts at determining Ratings were limited to Win-Loss records. Brackets considers a players 'expected' score based on the ratings of all 4 players on a court and determines a real time determination of a players ratings immediately after a score is



entered. At the end of a play day this compiled number becomes a player's new rating number and is recorded in their profile for future event participation.

50% of all club players are not interested in Ratings. We need to leave room for them to play in a manner and structure that they can enjoy as well.

Barry has created a pseudo club (Tik Tok) in brackets where he worked with Revelstoke and others to record results and begin the process of tracking ratings. This format is available to other clubs to use.

Rod indicated he has joined a Ladder in WK and finds the user interface easy and quick to learn and operate.

Ed S and James C-W from WK found the process of building a ladder or running a tournament difficult and would like to have a user manual provided.

Kelowna is using PB Brackets for all events and has eliminated Level Based Group play from their schedules.

2.0 PCNS, Insurance, Affiliation

These are the notes I wrote to use at the presentation and while I didn't cover all of these items due to time constraints, they cover the basics.

2017 Involved in the setup and operation of the West Kelowna PB club as Secretary.

First year of operation membership records were kept in an Excel Spreadsheet.

Needed something the following year and I investigated and implemented Registration Logic, it worked well, but they decided to pull up stakes in Canada and eventually folded. They had a user driven, question based registration form and gave me some ideas that have since been incorporated in the PCNS.

In 2019 we moved to Trackithub on short notice and ran with that for 2 years until they announced they were moving to a relatively expensive user fee system. I liked the signup interface, results recording and ratings results based on competitive play. The users in the club didn't however and the work required to record results went for naught.



During the second year of TiH we began recording RR and in-house tournament results in a spreadsheet built by Walter and at the end of the season the Win/Loss results of 1700+ matches was recorded and released to the membership. I got one response from an interested party after I sent the results out to the members. My conclusion was that not many members cared what their ratings are. They seem to prefer their own numbers anyway no matter how fanciful they may be.

That same summer of 2019 I was asked to get involved with the **Technology Task Force** that PCO was beginning with the hope of building a platform for Club Management, Event scheduling and Results recording among other features. I was getting overwhelmed by the Club duties and the 1700+ records and backed out by the end of the summer. When I relinquished my duties with WK in late 2020. I asked Walter if I could help out at PBC as long as I didn't inherit a full time job. I got snookered and landed back with the TTF as well as current PBC/PCO Registration duties.

The working group of the Tech Task Force had decided upon a platform by this point provided by Trackie. This was called EPIC at the time and eventually became the PCNS. The original plan was to give the clubs what they needed to succeed, and really the end product resembles more of what PCO needs than any individual club. That's not to say we don't presently have a useful tool, and we have seen and will see improvements in it over time that will provide even more functionality to you as a club.

There are still over 100 system improvements on the to-do list you can see under System Updates when you log in to your profile.

Support Resources tab contains all the video tutorials you need to know to succeed in the system both from a club and individual standpoint.

The Event Module is improving and useful. Recurring events are simple to duplicate and advertise. Setup is very similar to club detail setup and once an event is live, just duplicate it and change the dates. One-off events work well.

Pickleball Brackets also provides all you need to set up single or recurring events whether they be on a costed basis or free. Some costs to the club are involved in this though.

The idea that we can have 75 BC clubs using the same enrolment platform has made my job a lot simpler. Dealing with the various records provided by clubs when I got the Registrar job in 2020, recording the weekly submissions, verifying the duplicate memberships or



inaccurate info (especially email addresses) providing a report to the PBC treasurer weekly to transfer funds to PCO, dealing with the return notification from PCO about who was already paid with other clubs, reconciling those discrepancies, updating the mailing lists based on the new signups and generally getting lost in the process was a real bear in the somewhat slower wintertime season when we had 6000 members. It was easily taking me 20 hours a week to handle this plus the work done by Walter, the treasurer and the minions that Walter had recruited to gather and collate the information to then send to me. We are now approaching 11,000 members and this process now takes me about 20 hours a month. Lots of other duties have come up because of the growth in clubs and membership but it is hard to predict how much work is coming my way on any given week. Most inquiries from clubs are rather unique in scope. Each week is a new adventure, but my workload is far less than it was a year ago.

I realize changing over all the existing clubs to a new system was onerous on the clubs, but I hope you are finding the process much more streamlined and simplified now that we have a couple of seasons under our belts.

Discussion

The commonality of Platform presented by the PCNS provides several advantages.

- An individual member anywhere in Canada sees the same style of registration form no matter which club they register for.
- The process of club Administration is similar in scope for every club so people who are having issues with something can approach another club (or me) with questions and we have likely seen it before and can assist.
- The commonality means an admin can move to another location or club and get up to speed quickly on the process if they wish to volunteer. This also means a club admin knows most of the duties required to do the Provincial Administration role if and when I step aside.

There remains over 100 detailed System Improvements on the to-do list for the PCNS. Some are trivial, but some are quite important. The system is far from perfect for every situation but is improving and adding required features over time.

One example of a recent improvement is the Events Module. One off events, whether paid or free can be built, advertised and administered by a club. Recurring events are also possible, but the process of duplicating an event and changing the date for the 'new' event is a bit cumbersome, especially for constantly recurring events.



For those clubs using 3rd party registration and management software, they need to export records from the PCNS lists and import/compare it to their admin lists to ensure active PCO membership by all members of their club. It is possible to receive an email for every individual PCNS registration so players can be added to management systems as they apply for registration. This process will work for a club such as Kelowna or Vernon who may consider using the PCNS for registration and dues but retain their current club management platform.

Insurance. Clubs are covered for liability insurance for guests attending club sponsored activities. Those individuals have no availability to personal damage coverage. There exists a letter from the PCO president indicating this is the case and we'd all like to have a copy of that on hand.

However, it is not recommended that clubs turn a blind eye to players who may not have PCO membership and play regularly in your events. Guests are just that. Regular player should be active PCO members. This is not an issue for clubs that collect dues through the PCNS as the individuals then have 'skin in the game'. Those clubs who collect dues outside of the PCNS have some due diligence to do to ensure players have current membership.

Clubs would like to have an API between their current member management service (Jegysoft, Love our Club, Wild Apricot etc) to Trackie and the PCNS. This has been asked for more than once. This usually applies to bigger clubs (some bigger than some other provincial membership totals) and have a process in place that works best for them. Newer and smaller clubs have embraced the functionality of the PCNS as they don't have experience with anything else beyond manual Club management operation.

Lunch Break. – this is where a lot of worthwhile discussion took place if my table of participants was any indication.

A question was asked about the PCO policy on Transgender Athletes. To my knowledge there currently is no set policy, but Barry indicated that Mixed Doubles may one day disappear as a scheduled event at tournaments. Men's Women's and Open may be the next phase of competitive play. Kelowna mentioned that using a consistent ratings result for competitive play puts a person in with the proper group of competitors whether they be male, female or transgender.

3.0 Youth Development (and here is where we really missed Walter's knowledge)



Barry emailed a comprehensive package of information from Kirk Peterson to all participants this morning. It outlines Kirk's experiences and processes within the Whistler community school system.

There is currently no national platform for Youth Activities. BC needs to develop a structure for our own use across the province. West Kelowna asked if there could be a paper on the general requirements of each club to give each one a starting place to begin working with schools and community groups.

PBC has provided \$10,000 for Community and Youth grants around the province. The status of these funds and their disbursement is available in the Monthly Board meeting report available on the PBC website Resources page.

Kelowna asked if there is a standard Grant proposal form available. To my knowledge all clubs were approached about this last winter and provided the necessary information. Kelowna would also like to see more information on the Sport BC program to facilitate tax receipts as they begin plans for future court construction.

West Kelowna mentioned that schools are interested in Competitive Team and Individual sports but are focussed on those that provide opportunities for students to move on to Post Secondary Education using any sport as a springboard. No University provides a Scholarship for Pickleball at present. Money is going to be spent at the High School level on Basketball, Volleyball, and Hockey etc. however schools do have some limited resources for sports equipment.

After School Camps for Children are something to be considered.

Individual School Champions need to be identified, and then Train the Trainers. Summerland approached their local school on a Pro-D day and trained the teachers on the sport

Kelowna holds Junior events on Friday evenings

Barry suggested we may need to get an equipment package together that we can pass between clubs.



Princeton used the PBC grant money and matched those funds to provide equipment to the local high school

Vernon asked how best to engage a school or school district. It is easiest if the club has a retired teacher or three in their roster, as they would likely have some current contacts.

Kamloops mentioned contacting the local Athletic Councils in the school districts to bring up the idea of training kids in multiple schools.

Kelowna mentioned that some schools do have PB equipment in their inventory, but it is at times almost 50 years old and gathering dust. If they were approached about updating their equipment with assistance from a community club, they may prove to be interested.

Lake Country holds Tuesday evening Kids events which are free, but PCO Membership is required. Club membership fee is waived for juniors

Vernon is holding a regional Kid's tournament on August 12-14th. Registration closes July 29th. Not much interest yet.

Penticton is dropping the age limit for club membership to 16 to bring in kids.

No discussion was held on Adult Development and coaching due to time constraints.

4.0 Facilities Development

Kamloops – 10 Courts. Election time is a good time to apply gentle pressure on City Council representatives. More courts are required for indoor winter play.

West Kelowna – 10 outdoor courts plus 2 public courts in one location. Hours of use have increased recently due to growth and need. One of the main instigators of new court construction was the presentation to the city of pictures of 30 paddles lined up to use the 4 substandard courts we originally had compared with the mostly empty 8 tennis courts at the same location. A picture is worth a thousand words. The club has obtained space for 3 indoor courts at a local church and is looking at a spot to set up 6 indoor courts for winter play. Membership is capped.

Lake Country – 9 permanent and temporary courts. They are gently pestering the city for more facilities and have a presence on the Sports Facility Committee in their community.



Penticton – originally 4 courts. The club provided the city with \$50K for an additional 4 courts at the beginning of Covid and have only had 2 built so far. They are expecting the next 2 for 2023. They also rent the old Greyhound Garage facility and mark off courts for winter play.

Salmon Arm –6 outdoor courts. An improving relationship with the city and have a lease on the facility. The provided \$1500 to the School District to repair a gym surface and install Pickleball Lines so they could have an indoor play location.

Princeton – 2 courts available at the school, and new facilities are planned for a city park.

Kelowna – have a growing Future Courts fund to eventually relocate from their current location beside Parkinson Rec. Are in negotiations with the City to construct 20 outdoor courts with a shade/rain cover plus 8 indoor courts. They wish to remain located on the PRC property due to its convenient location. The City of Kelowna has a popular indoor program year-round and attracts potential club members. The club runs some of their programs at the Curling Rink and Global Sports club on Harvey has 6 indoor courts on a pay to play basis. Currently club members pay annual dues then nothing to play in club events, but they feel that will need to change in order to build new facilities. The Global club costs are getting their membership used to the process. They are looking for indoor Warehouse space to provide winter play, but this will require a 12-month lease. They pointed out that all other sports the city caters to have dedicated facilities (Tennis, Golf, Basketball etc) why not Pickleball. Membership is capped.

Summerland – Happy to have 6 courts including the Badminton Hall they can use during the daytime hours. Courts are located within a Campground limiting available times for play.

Vernon – 12 now covered indoor courts. This has been a \$1.8 Million dollar project funded by grants and member donations. Another \$600K is required to complete facility and build washrooms. They capped membership earlier this season but opened it up again when they found their courts only full 60% of the time. \$8 per two-hour session for daily play. \$65 per month flat fee with unlimited play on top of \$80 annual dues.

Dave Eaton was identified to the participants as the PBC Board Member with the responsibility for Facilities Development.



Tournaments

No Provincial Tournament presently held in BC. Nobody put up their hands to hold one.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:00 PM