



**Minutes  
Pickleball BC Executive  
January 14, 2021**

Present: Walter Knecht, Karen Watson, Raymond Dear, Heather Hood, Barry Montgomery, Brian Shum, Alan Thomson, Sharon MacDonald, Ken Witt, Rod Williams

Regrets: Ken Holman

1. **Quorum** met
2. **Previous Minutes** from December 2, 2020 adopted – Discussion of AGM Minutes missing from website – this is to be updated
3. **Financial Report** – Brian Shum –

Cash Position

Board Meetings. Jan 14/21

Opening Bank Balance (VanCity)	7,201.03
PayPal account balance	6.98

Term Deposit #1 (0.65% Matures Jul 11/21) **6,102.28**

Term Deposit #2 (0.6/0.7/1.10% Mat Nov 24/23 - Annual Opts) **7,000.00**

Term Deposit #2 (0.6/0.7/1.10% Mat Nov 28/23 - Annual Opts) **12,000.00**

Investments Total Cash Available expenses(Est): 25,102.28

32,310.29

Walter (MailChimp) Jan **115.00**

Website Ad Expense (Ken) **0.00**

PCO (Membership Remittance) 722 x \$5 **3,610.00**

Misc. **\$500**

Total Expenses Accrued	4,225.00
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Ending Bank Balance – Estimated Jan 14/21	28,085.29
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The 2020 Budget is on the website. Plans in the budget for a driving tour for Walter and Heather, but nothing is moving as of yet.

4. **Registration current** – Rod Williams

Since I took over the processing of renewing and new membership submissions, we have processed 260 new memberships.

As of last week, we had 6497 current members on our Provincial roster.

2 new clubs are in discussion regarding organizing - Golden Ears and Vancouver Pickleball Association.

I have been in contact with Steph Fullerton regarding emailing the individual clubs their current roster, and this will be addressed in early February.

Section 11.1 EPIC Registration and General

Walter and myself have had numerous conversations with Richard Chambers and others involved in the roll-out of the new system. It is going to be released on a Province by Province basis. No set date on when BC will be integrated into the system.

## 5. **PCO general report** – Walter Knecht

Two issues of significance this time:

1. The cost of the Pickleball Canada (PCO) insurance offering seems to have skyrocketed this year. Claims for medical incident injury number about 60 in the prior year. The carrier is asking for a large premium increase - nearly 50%. This would at some time soon have to be transferred down to individual players. The cost was about \$1.50 3 years ago, rose to \$2.00 and would be increasing to \$3.00 per member.

PCO asked the Provinces about dropping this aspect of the insurance policy and received a pretty unanimous 'no' response - it is our biggest selling feature.

We can expect our PCO dues to increase to cover this, and other projected expenses - just do not know when.

2. The issue of PCO membership and governance structure is coming back. This was first raised in 2018. The plan was to change the membership classes to increase the manageability of this 22,000 member body. Instead of having 22,000 members (they would become NON members but pay fees to participate), membership would be limited to one per Province plus the executive - totalling about 20. This core would have ALL the voting rights - AGM and daily operating etc. The previous membership group then to be called participants would have ZERO voting rights on ANY topic ever. This would disenfranchise the members totally.

The plan was advanced to the state of getting set to draft the bylaw changes to make it happen. It was stopped as the time to get ready for the 2019 AGM was not sufficient. Then COVID kept the plan at bay for 2020. But it seems to have been revived for 2021.

I was against it in 2018, I am against it in 2021. I expressed such opposition at

the November ITAC meeting and will do so again at the upcoming late January ITAC meeting. (ITAC = Interprovincial & territorial advisory council)

## 6. **CoVid 19 Update Report** – Karen Watson

The January 7<sup>th</sup> continuation of the Provincial Health Orders until February 5<sup>th</sup> leaves sport in a holding pattern.

Effective until February 5<sup>th</sup> , indoor play, for those 22 and older, is limited to groups no larger than 2 players (singles only). Outdoor play, for those 22 and older, is limited to four players BUT a minimum of 3 meters is required between players (pickleball is not able to ensure 3 meters distances at all times on the same side of the net). UNLESS you are members of the same household, **then** the 3 meters is not required. So outdoor play is limited to singles only UNLESS you play with a member of your household. The pickleball net and non-volley zone does create the physical distance of 3 meters so members of the same household can play against another household.

What we understand, is that when the current restrictions are lifted, they will be replaced with a Phase 2.5 of Return to Play Guidelines. Currently we are almost back to Phase 2 (but not quite), in the fall we were at Phase 3 so any lifting of the restrictions will not take us back to where we were in the fall. There may be new considerations coming into play as well. Things like intensity of play, whether the sport is a contact sport or not and whether the 3 meters social distancing can be maintained during play . PBC has made clear to viaSport that pickleball is a low intensity , non-contact sport.

## 7. **Officiating** – Al Thomson

### Head Referee Report

- Received an email from Carley Shaw-Maclaren, who was asking about getting someone to teach Refereeing to interested people in Northern BC. He is the Engage Sports Representative for the area and is willing to assist financially. Al responded by saying that PBC is setting up a Referee Training Program with PCO, which is trying to get people qualified to teach and rate in all areas of BC. Due to COVID this has been severely restrained, but the theory has been provided through Zoom sessions.
- Al & Walter held Zoom training sessions (4 & 5 Jan) to review the major rule changes for 2021, to those indicating their interest in participating in the Referee Training Program.
- A Referee Training session by Zoom is being offered to 4 Provinces that have no trainers

## 8. **Website** – Ken Holman – no report

## 9. **Youth** – Heather Hood

### Youth Program in BC

What do we know now? Youth in this context are defined as U18 or “school-aged” youth. Over 75 pickleball clubs and community groups were surveyed to learn what is happening in B.C. for school-aged youth. Overall in the findings, there is not any one size fits all approach to youth programs in BC; and, clubs look to be all over the map. However, there is significant progress forward on the Youth front with key themes emerging to include:

- most clubs support inclusion of Youth
- a few clubs developed specific policy supporting youth development
- a few exemplary models of youth mentoring, summer and after school programs
- some partnerships with municipalities, schools and school districts underway and under development

Also respondents reported some of the following issues and barriers impacting youth development:

- Covid 19 restrictions impeding progress
- bigger issues like lack of Court capacity for existing members
- no dedicated courts for organized play, player development and training programs; and, or, limited access to any courts

Board members commented ...

Barry ...policy and Youth development program model in Vernon club

Sharon ... summer programs ...

Ray ... partnerships ?

So moving forward, What are the key ingredients of successful implementation models of Youth Development programs?

Knowing what we know now, what’s next? 2021-22 goal and plan to achieve it  
Youth programs - Will call Zoom meeting to discuss and facilitate plan going forward.  
Heather to set up Zoom meeting with Walter in the next few weeks.

## 10. **PSO** – Karen Watson

### Provincial Sport Organization

Several months ago , PBC applied to viaSport to become a PSO . COVID has delayed the process but Walter and I were able to have a meeting with viaSport last week. The meeting was an opportunity to answer some questions that viaSport had around our membership, the PBC Coaching Pathway ( that we are adopting from PCO) as well as our Sport for Life Framework ( which we have also adopted from PCO) as well as other required components to get approval for becoming a PSO. They were happy about the Officiating work that is being done. Overall a positive meeting . One of the questions raised was around policies on Code of Conduct, Conflict of Interest, Dispute Resolution, Equity Access and Criminal Records Check. PBC does not have any of these policies but viaSport has some templates to help Sports Organizations develop their policies. Walter has given Ken Witt the contact information for Heather Beatty at viaSport so that he can get these templates.

### 11. **EPIC** or the big software project – Rod Williams

We have received copies of the Draft Users Guides for Provincial and club organizations. I am presently building a step by step Powerpoint/PDF presentation on how a club will build its presence within the framework of EPIC. I am focusing on the Registration aspects only. This presentation will be available for critique next week. Other modules including Event Planning etc. Not yet ready for Prime Time so not testable. Possibly by the first release date in February.

No date of availability for BC Clubs at present.

An example of a working Club layout in the IPP/Epic Platform. <https://secure.pickleballcanada-ipp.com/club/manitoulin-island-pickleball-group/1177/ratings/184/>

Demo site for EPIC Platform <https://secure.pickleballcanada-ipp.com/login/>

**Just click on one of the Red Populate Login links and Log in to play around.** As a Member you can Join Pickleball Canada, Pickleball BC and various Clubs. Video Tutorials are available on the Overview page of a Member's info page. Details next week.

### 3. **Ranking** – Barry Montgomery

#### Ratings:

Very active over December/January working to advance the concept of Performance Based Ratings by holding Zoom meetings with club representatives and organization directors explaining the tools and introducing Pickleball Brackets platform options. The expanded 4 digit rating number was first introduced for development of the USAPA Universal Tournament Pickleball Rating. This system has been used at the club level as well and it now becoming very advanced. Barry has been assigned to the 3 person committee representing PCO to conclude a contract with Pickleball Brackets for their 3 main products (Ratings Engine, Tournament, and League/Ladder Platforms) to integrate with the PCO Integrated Pickleball Platform (IPP) These platforms will be available to all affiliated clubs with preferred pricing and endorsed by PCO.

Barry has agreed to develop a series of short education write-ups for the PBC newsletter starting in February and will be holding an educational Zoom meeting very soon for PBC Directors.

### 12. **Policy Review** – Ken Witt

Ken received several documents including Memos of Understand, Personal Information Protection Act, and Bylaws and expressed frustration over what the end goal is. He requested some direction and prioritizing of items.

### 13. **Muni, etc** Raymond Dear

Working on narrowing the scope under the umbrella of Municipal and Community Contact List

Focus on creating a resource area on the PBC site for individuals and community groups to assist in their efforts to establish pickleball facilities, such as dedicated pickleball courts.

Soliciting members, and players/organizers/leaders other jurisdictions that have gone through the process and have been successful.

The idea is to develop helpful guidelines from real/actual experiences that have been successful. To collate the steps, processes, contacts, that assisted them in achieving their goals. An area of ideas and successful practices.

In doing so, creating a contact list of people in different communities as resource people.

Been connected to a working group that has interests in developing private / public pickleball facilities. One tool they are working on is a Provincial survey to gather information to assist in their goals. We will be looking at piggybacking on this if the scope of the survey is broad enough for our general membership and to assist in the scope of developing a resource area on the PBC website.

Once I get a handle on the parameters, I will be soliciting information from a broad spectrum of members, such as yourselves and other community leaders.

14. **Deaf participation** – Walter Knecht – held over to next meeting.

**Next meeting scheduled for Thursday February 11, 2021 at 6:30 pm.**