

Minutes of the Melaque Pickleball Steering Committee

March 1, 2025

Present: Lorna, Ken, Mary, Norva, Tom, Claude

Call to order: 12:59 pm

Treasurer update – Income as of March 1 is: 109,140. Expenses 61,742.

Total: bank balance and cash = 90,219 pesos.

French group update

- 12-15 people are playing at 3-5 pm T/W/Th/S. About half of the group also plays in the mornings. Beginners play on the old court with an instructor, usually Claude and his wife.

Membership/Hosts update

- Lorna is analyzing the numbers. 250 members over the course of the season. On SUG, there are about 220 registered now. About 130-140 people are actively signing up.
- Fees. Last year, we collected 133,000 pesos. This year 155,000 pesos (includes the prepaids from last year). That is up 15%. Maybe over the season we're up 20%.
- We did not have to cap memberships, as everyone has been able to play at least 3 times/week and some more. We were never over 90% full in primetime (2 early shifts)
- We need more Hosts next year. Mary and Norva will work on a draft of a recap of the year and ask for volunteer Hosts for next year. Will aim to send out through SUG by March 15.
- It was noted that members are not to sign up guests or friends. Currently, the new player is to register themselves, which is the only way to be able to "screen" new players for minimum skill level and for the Membership volunteer to know who is playing. The alternative is to come to the courts and if there is room, and the new player meets the Skill level for that timeslot, he/she can pay the daily drop-in fee and play. Further discussion was held on the extensive amount of time required to keep track of players that pay the daily fee. Changes were proposed for next season in that the daily fee will not include signup privileges. That is, will be a true drop-in, if space is available at that time and the player is of the skill level for that time slot.
- Discussion followed on next season's prices. It was noted that the two new courts (built in 2024) cost 300,000 pesos and it took over 3 years to raise the funding. In order to start saving towards future court expansion, at anticipated future costs, it will be necessary to increase fees.

Tom moved that we increase the daily fee to 80 pesos (does not include signup privileges); the monthly fee to 500 pesos (includes signup privileges); and the seasonal fee to 1250 pesos (includes signup privileges). Lorna seconded. Motion passed. This will be communicated in the recap email to members.

Signup Genius

- Two skill levels (Novice/Intermediate and Intermediate/Advanced) were used for most of the season. In late February, skill levels on Mondays and Fridays were changed to Novice/Intermediate, Intermediate, and Advanced. The committee is monitoring the usage for each group as well as "comments" from members on this change.
- Cathy is joining Lorna and Mary on a subcommittee to figure out when and how to change to the mid-season and low season formats for play. Joyce has suggested that as we approach the end of the season, we move to the lower cost level of SUG which does not include signup limitations, however Tom suggested we wait a month to do this.
- Skill levels: Discussion followed on the Guidelines and Skill Self-assessment. Novice/Intermediate (minimum 2.5). Intermediate (minimum 3.0). Intermediate/Advanced (minimum

3.5). Advanced (greater than 3.5). (As per the "Pickleball Canada Skill Assessment Guidelines" which are posted on the Melaque Pickleball website.)

- A suggestion was made to increase to 14 players (as per player input) on the New courts for the N/I level. This is tabled until next season.

Maintenance update

- Nets – center pole needs to be attached on one of new court nets. Received input from a player that new nets were needed. Discussed that we should buy three new nets for next season. Ken will purchase from Pickleball Depot and bring down. Permanent nets for new courts will be revisited early next season.
- Balls. Need more for next year. We're currently down to 40 balls. Franklin balls okay.
- Lights. Construction guy, Rafael. Hovita (park caretaker) spoke with Emmanuel (the Sports Director) who had not come to the planned meeting and he sent out Roberto Carlos Caledoro. Next week the work will be done and includes plug-ins for the water pump, hooking up lights on the new courts as well as two switches for the volleyball court lights. The workers will determine where the line will run. Additional lighting for the old courts will be considered once the new court lights have been installed and evaluated. Ken will ask the electrician if we need to add lights to old courts in the future, can it be done?
- Equipment box. Box is fine where it is. Holds three nets. Needed – first aid kit. Noted that there is a Pharmacy across the street.
- Priority for early next season: The old courts will likely need painting, including painting of all lines on old and new courts. Ken suggested that the new courts stay locked throughout the summer. Screens, dividing fence, nets, balls, blower and stools can be stored at Kens'. The equipment box will be left empty. The screens may not need to be put back up next season as the trees are filling in nicely.
- The trees need fertilizer before summer.

Other

- Open House February 8. It was a success. 26 people joined to play. The cost came to \$1,238 pesos. Unfortunately, no officials showed up. Lori suggested lessons for those who came to play. However, no volunteer has offered to teach.
- As follow-up to the additional Steering Committee meeting on February 15, and further input from some players, we changed to 3 skill levels of play on Mondays and Fridays. Screening of new players for a minimum skill level of 2.5 will continue to take place prior to registration.
- Follow-up was done regarding several emails about inappropriate player behaviour.
- Use of the Park on Sundays – opening and locking up. It is working out okay, though with some hitches. Sundays may not continue for much longer this season.
- Steering Committee Board members. It was noted that all Steering Committee members are committed to being "working" members. Lori Ross resigned from her position earlier in this season and we thank her greatly for the many hours that she has and continues to put into Melaque Pickleball.
- The following Committee members have agreed to stay on for another season:
 - Lorna Fowler: Membership
 - Mary Nelson: Treasurer
 - Norva Osborn: Secretary
 - Tom Chapman: SUG and emails pertaining to SUG
 - Ken Pettitt: Maintenance
 - Claude Hebert: French group
 - New Position: Liaison between community/government/membership. Essentially, a PR person. Lorna suggested Mercedes Rodriguez. All agree. Lorna will confirm this with Mercedes.

Subcommittee outside of Steering Committee:

- Tournaments/webpage – Joyce
- Backup for SUG - Joyce
- Maintenance – Lorne Ross, Ray Smith
- Format of Play - Lorna, Cathy Barter, Mary
- Mix and mingle play day – once a month. Once in January, February, on Saturdays? To promote getting to know players from other levels. This is tabled until next season.
- Volunteers for T-shirts (subcommittee) – Greg Crompton and Bettywyn Chapman. A call for Logo ideas has been sent.
- Survey to get feedback. Committee members will submit survey questions to Norva by March 15.

Meeting adjourned at 3:20 pm.

This is the final meeting of the season. The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, November 15 at 1 pm at Tom's house.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Secretary, Norva Osborn.