



## President's Update



Our first hello for 2024. If you are one of the many new members or have been with our club since 2020, welcome to another fabulous year of fun, laughter, coffee, lunches and dinners and of course playing pickleball at one of our 8 venues around the sunny coast.

With club memberships at near 600, the popularity of pickleball is just amazing. With a majority of members in the more "senior age group", we continue to attract more and more younger people, which is wonderful for the future of our club.

As we are now a large club with many new players joining us, we need suitable coaches for these people. So, we have put together a training programme with 30 experienced players in order that all new members are introduced to pickleball in the same manner, and to ensure that they have a good grasp of the fundamentals of the game. Our coaches and hosts who look after all of the sessions are all volunteers and I personally wish to thank them for their continued help.

As all of our coaches are excellent players and are very keen to help new members step into pickleball smoothly, our orientation for new players is going smoothly. Our new players are being introduced to pickleball at Caloundra on Sunday, Currimundi on Monday night, Mountain Creek High School every 4th Saturday, Goodlife at Buderim every Friday and Coolum every Saturday.

Between Ken Solomons, myself and our wonderful 'newbie coaches' we are confident SCPC is being well looked after in respect to the introduction of pickleball. We are also working on more exciting news which will involve skills and drills session for new members, so stay tuned to our club website.

## Newsletter Highlights

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## President's Update cont'd

As president I would like to reiterate that it is our mission to ensure that all members have fun and enjoy their pickleball. It does not matter if you play social or competitive pickleball we want EVERYONE to gain all of the benefits from our game that they wish for.

Cheers

Peter Campbell

President SCPC



## Around the Venues

### Caloundra Indoor Stadium (CIS)

**SCPC Friday League** is being well supported by players. Each week we are challenging 45 players to improve their performance against each other. Though there is the demand, we have not been able to increase the participant numbers up to 54 players (6 Groups of 9) as at present the software won't allow it. I have requested rectification of this with the company, but to date no success on this front.

Players should appreciate that the league event is not always easy to set up. This is because some weeks we have up to 15 different players from that of the previous week event. It is our goal to try as best possible to move the two top players from each group up a group, and the two bottom players down a group. This includes players into and out of Group 1. Sometimes it is only possible to move the top player of a group. The challenge of this is that when a new player joins, or an existing league player returns after an absence, it is not always possible to insert them into the groups at their appropriate skill level. To do so would be to unreasonably disadvantage regular league attendees.

Some weeks there is very little difference in the player skill sets within Groups 2, 3 and 4. Yet there are still competitive and sometimes very challenging games to be had regardless. Remember folks, regular attendance and consistent solid performance on game day is key to players moving up the overall table

**Sunday at CIS** has become popular again with 16 courts available and up to 70 players. This now includes 'Newbie Sessions'. Our trained 30 odd 'Newbie' club helpers, led by Ken Solomons and Pete Campbell, have come on board to help with the many sessions and other new player training activities whilst ensuring some standardization in that training.

**Thursday night at CIS** sessions are well supported also. The booking with CIS is for 4 courts. We will keep asking for more if they become available. As we all know it is an ever-moving schedule at CIS, with strong competition amongst other sports and events for court time.

### Currimundi Stadium (CRC)

We now have 3 nights available at Currimundi 6:30pm - 8:30pm sessions on Monday, Thursday and Friday. Sessions are filling quickly, like all sessions. Look at Opensports' description of the sessions and only book for those sessions that are aligned to your current skillset.

Thank you to all hosts of our sessions. Without your help and support we would not be able to manage. If any of our club members would like to host any session, please let one of the committee members know. The sessions are free to hosts and assigned coaches.

## Coolum State School

Coolum Pickleball continues to grow with what started with two sessions a week in July, to 7 sessions per week from February. These include sessions for all skill levels with the consistent theme of inclusivity. Many players who started at the beginners sessions, have now progressed to more advanced sessions. With the success and the relationship that Pat Cavanagh has with the school, we are hoping to get permanent lines soon and with that, additional sessions. Feel free to come and try it out and see what all the buzz is about.



## Competitions Coordinator

Peter Nichols



Sunshine Coast Pickleball Club, at the Caloundra Indoor Stadium, hosted the initial Australian Seniors Tournament for 2024 over the period of 13-14 February. There were over 200 players competing across 18 doubles events. This seniors' tournament is part of Pickleball Association of Australia Seniors series of tournaments across Australia.

As Competition Coordinator, it is with pride that I can say that the tournament was run smoothly and without a significant glitch. We are all learning from each event SCPC conducts.



While there were a few minor teething problems, and of course not enough courts or gametime to widen the event offerings, the two competition days started and finished on time with players enjoying the format in good sporting spirit. This outcome achievement was only made possible by the many helping hands that contributed to the tournament logistics and coordination activities across the two event days, and in the lead-up period.

## Competitions Coordinator cont'd

There are many to thank for their contributions on the day. I am reluctant to name everyone for fear of missing someone out. There are, however, a few key persons that need special mentions. Darren Munn was the Tournament Director and put in months of planning and fielded dozens of emails from competitors in the lead up. He also rustled up a number of much appreciated sponsors for the two days. Additionally, he was the engine behind the administration of the Tournament within 'Pickleballbrackets.com' along with Michael Drummond our guru on data entry into this temperamental system. A special thanks to Grant Feeney for being our First Aid officer for the two days.



On day two of the tournament, we had a visit from our Sunshine Coast Councillor for Division 2, Mr. Terry Landsberg. It was great to see his continued interest in our growing sport. Special thanks to the Sunshine Coast Council for a much-appreciated grant to help defray the event running costs, and to our own committee member, Bobbie Maton, for putting in the hard yards to obtain the grant.



The PAA officials and referees, check in helpers, court runners and officials, court setup helpers, medal presenters, all greatly contributed to the event's success. It also goes without saying, that there would be no tournament without the players. Our club was well represented within the total 202 multiple Australian State participants. A special big congratulation to all the events' medal winners. See the event winner list via this link:

<https://pickleballbrackets.com/ptplg.aspx?eid=8331005f-8248-4102-864e-58ddd7ad30cf>



# Referee Training

On Saturday 3 February, 12 of us attended a half day referee course at Baringa State School. With the expanding number of competitions across the course of the year, it is important to have as many qualified referees as possible. A perfect example was the need for local referees at our recent PAA Seniors' Tournament held at Caloundra.

Our senior referee, Mark Delaney, will be putting our referring skills to the test by conducting "practice referring" games at a couple of our venues in the coming months.

As a referee your knowledge of the rules will improve immensely, it is a challenge but fun to do.



# Christmas Function 2023



Our competitions expert, Pete Nichols, put together a 96 persons 3 hour round robin which was a great success with everyone enjoying themselves. Caloundra stadium was totally full with 16 courts in play. If we could have had more courts in play we certainly would have done so as we had a long waitlist.

We purchased and had donated some great raffle prizes, with HUSTL donating a paddle (Gayle Staiger being the lucky winner). We were also given other gifts from one of our sponsors 'Salming' shoes and apparel. The Sunshine Coast stadium kindly donated sandwiches for our lunch. I would like to thank all of the other people who bought along fruit and slices for us all to enjoy for lunch. What a great bunch of volunteers we have in this club!



SCPC  
Christmas Elves



Jill Campbell

# Appointment of SCPC Club Captain

After considerable beating of the bushes for volunteers, the committee has cornered a sacrificial lamb for the position of Club Captain. To our great appreciation, Mr. Michael De Bartolo (likes to be called MickeyD) has graciously consented to join us overworked committee members and take on the important role of Club Captain.

## Role

Support to Coaches, Ambassadors and Referees, Venue Bookings, First Aid and Safety

## Objectives

- To provide leadership and support to coaches and ambassadors
- Establish, oversee and manage plans for the recruitment of all coaches, referees and ambassadors
- To coordinate venue bookings in conjunction with venue coordinators and the President
- To provide club members with another point of contact for pickleball rules and skill development
- Coordinate the first aid and safety operations of the club
- Lead club efforts to expand the sport of pickleball into schools, and other community entities when requested

Club members, please provide all courtesy and assistance to MickeyD as he quickly adjusts to his new role.

## Meet Your Committee Representative

### MICHAEL DE BARTOLO Club Captain

Another foreign import onto your committee, Michael (Mickey) De Bartolo was born in Norwich, Connecticut USA far too long ago.

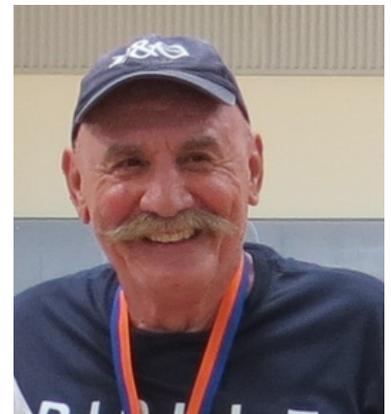
After completing his schooling and university degree in the Connecticut region, he signed a contract to teach in Australia in 1974 and was assigned to teach Physical Education and sex education at Mitchell High School in Blacktown, NSW, a co ed school from grades 7-12.

He spent 25 years in Sydney and moved to the Sunshine Coast in August of 1999, where he coached basketball and conducted clinics to the younger age group 10-15 years old. He joined the staff at Currimundi Special School in 2001 and retired in 2018, coaching basketball again at the Special Olympics level for 4 years.

He finally saw the light and took up pickleball in August of 2021 and has enjoyed the game every year since. He has had success in a few pickleball tournaments including medals at a national level in skinny singles.

He looks forward to bringing to our club a wide variety of skill sets that will further develop member numbers and hopefully bring our younger generation to the forefront!

[clubcaptain@scpickleball.com.au](mailto:clubcaptain@scpickleball.com.au)



# SCPC DUPR Rated Sessions

DUPR = Dynamic Universal Pickleball Rating



The DUPR rating system uses a scale from 2.0 to 8.0, with higher numbers indicating greater level of skills. Each player can have a singles DUPR and a doubles DUPR. The rankings are dynamic and can change over time as players compete in more matches and their skills improve. Overall, the DUPR rating system provides a fair and accurate way that is gender blind to assess players' skill levels and promote competitive play at all levels.

Players should be aware that our club is providing members, through the 'Friday League' and dedicated doubles DUPR sessions, opportunities to participate in and become rated under DUPR. Joining DUPR is not compulsory if you do not wish to be rated or participate in these sessions.

Information on the DUPR system and how to sign up to that system can be found at the following link;

<http://www.scpickleball.com.au/pickleball-bracketsdupr/ratings/>

The committee has recently adopted some in-house rules about the utilisation of DUPR. The club committee agreed to continue to use the DUPR Rating system for selected pickleball sessions. Additionally, it should be noted that:

- a. where a session requires participants to meet a DUPR rating criteria, hosts should scrutinize participants suitability and are authorised to query their participation in the session to ensure the required standard is met*
- b. if advertised as a DUPR session, hosts are required to record and upload to DUPR all valid game scores for that session; and*
- c. DUPR scores are only entered if the game has one team that reaches a minimum of 9 points (note hosts will set appropriate game time frames to assist achieve clearer outcomes).*

A member's responsibility when initially registering for the 'Friday League' requires them to sign up to the Pickleball Brackets system (see above link) and DUPR.



## SCPC DUPR Rated Sessions cont'd

A member's responsibility when registering for any SCPC DUPR listed session is that they must meet the assigned rating for that session and have signed up to DUPR. In some cases, for new SCPC members or not yet DUPR rated players, you may enquire with the session host to see if you should register for that session. Members should note section (b.) above regarding committee endorsement for the host to remove a player from a session if needed.

Members who continually register for sessions when they do not meet the assigned criteria could be deemed to be breaching club rules and could face committee disciplinary action.

As the DUPR rated system takes quite a number of games for a player's rating to become reflective of their sustainable performance, the club is trying its best to increase the opportunities for members to be able to sign up to a DUPR session. At this point we have setup some 3.9+ DUPR rated sessions and are now working on exploring the commencement of 3.2 to 3.7 only DUPR rated sessions.

**If members would be interested in participating in a 3.2 to 3.7 level DUPR rated session notify me direct at [scpcduprsessions@gmail.com](mailto:scpcduprsessions@gmail.com)**

**Michael Drummond**

Secretary SC Pickleball

## Tasmanian Pickleball Championships

A determined group of Sunshine Coast players attended the Tasmanian Pickleball Championship held at Kingston Tasmania over the period of 1-3 March 2024. The players successfully competed in a range of events from singles and skinny singles to all double combinations across a variety of age and skill groups. Some 6 gold, 1 silver and 3 bronze finals were won by the Sunny Coast players. Results can be seen at the following link:

<http://pickleballbrackets.com/ptplg.aspx?eid=fe485899-49b8-463b-a99b-8df37a02ac73>

Congratulations from all Sunshine Coast pickle heads must go to the following successful players:

Darryl Exelby, Colleen McMillan, Graeme and Lauren Clemett, Jeanette Ward, Erica Bacon, Tom Grudzinkas, Julie and Paul Campbell (play both Victoria and SC).



# Venue Assessment Forms

Pickleball Association of Australia (PAA) has introduced a new task activity each month for all its pickleball club affiliates. Clubs are to submit a completed 'Venue Assessment Form' for each of its venues where we play authorised pickleball sessions.

So, for SCPC we will need to do eight separate monthly submissions to cover all our venues. While not onerous it does require volunteers to schedule and complete the form via a phone app. The form looks at aspects such as - where we are playing, indoors/outdoors, the type of court surface, that hazards are identified and dealt with appropriately. The key is ensuring the safety of our players within the facility and ensure they have a good understanding of safe play and code of conduct policies.



PAA advise that one of the main reasons that they are requiring this venue assessment form to be completed is 'because across the nation pickleball is being played anywhere and everywhere it possibly can'. Whilst the sport can be adopted on almost any surface, in any area, this is leading to some unsafe practices across the nation. Some operators are putting the players' health at risk by



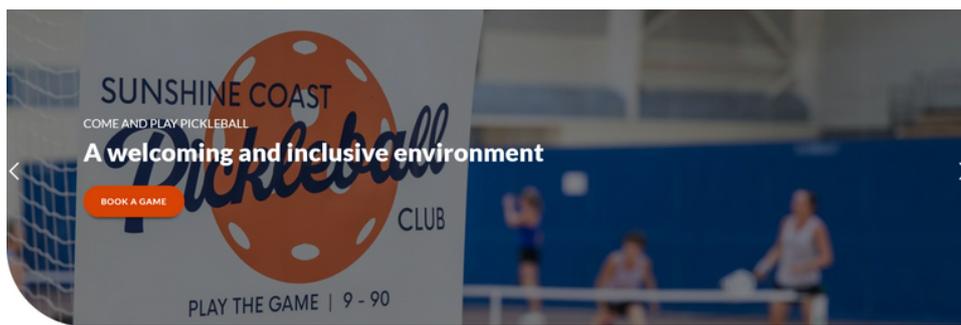
running sessions which should not be running in certain confined space locations or in adverse conditions/weather or with too many obstructions. PAA has developed an extreme weather policy and this will be available for all affiliates over coming weeks.

This Venue Assessment Form is in a transition period. A lot of the information provided will help PAA make justified decisions with regards to what PAA need to do for its member associations and affiliates. What will help PAA understand clubs better are questions like; Do you have a defibrillator, first aid kit, sunscreen? Once they collate data over a period of time PAA will be able to use this data to leverage appropriate national partnerships eg St Johns Ambulance and work with them to provider First Aid Kits/courses for PAA affiliates across the nation.

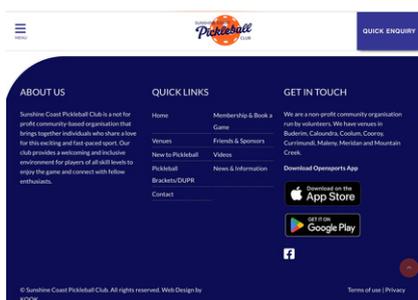


The information collected by the monthly forms is to be used internally by PAA, State Members and their affiliates only.

# Website Wonder

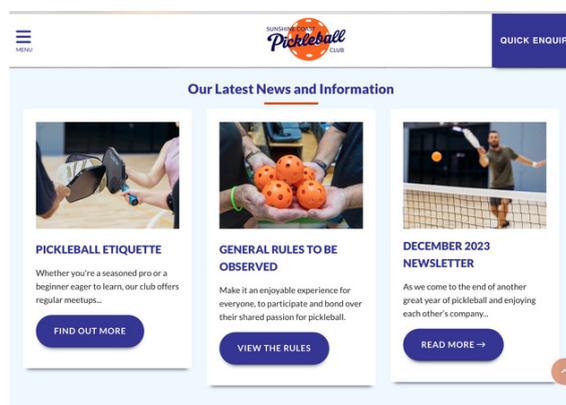


Sunshine Coast Pickleball Club (SCPC) has a brand-new website optimised for phones and tablets without leaving traditional desktop users behind. We are very proud of the website design; it has already proved a great success in attracting new players to our club. The revised name improves our Google search engine optimisation position within Australia. [www.scpickleball.com.au](http://www.scpickleball.com.au)



The website contains images of the SCPC venues, links to Membership Revolutionise Portal and Opensports. It provides information on how to book a game, details of our newbies come and try sessions, essentials such as importance of correct court shoes, and borrowing paddles at all SCPC venues. There are also instructional videos and important information with links to pickleball rules and player etiquette, latest newsletters and FAQs for OpenSports app. Check these first when

you have an OS query. As well, there are links to our sponsors and friends in the growing world of pickleball.



If you have a good idea of something that you think will improve or add to the members experience with the website, please send us an email at [communications@scpickleball.com.au](mailto:communications@scpickleball.com.au)

Finally, a respectful reminder that we are all volunteers that help to run your club, when messaging via the website or Opensports please be concise and polite. Polite messages are always treated with priority. Unpolite messages tend to get lost in the system.

See you on court in 3 months if I survive the scheduled terminator spare parts knee fitting operations. All visitors welcome, a small gift, for example chocolate or any medicinal drinks made in Scotland always appreciated.

Spare a kind thought for nurse Jane!

**Darren Munn**  
Communications Manager



# SCPC Mea Culpa Corner



**Competition Coordinator** - for the PAA Seniors Tournament in Feb 2024, I started planning way back in 2023. So, what was the problem in having the tournament medals engraved 2023?? I also thought I was 'woke' in making sure the Womans' medals were engraved correctly. By popular demand I have brilliantly corrected the medal situation.



Now the 'Big Boss Competition Coordinator' wants me the overworked scorer to hand out a Malteser to each tournament player!!! A pen each is not enough??

**Seniors Tournament Scorer** - after 17 hours of 'Tweedledee and Tweedledum' drivel (Competition Coordinator and Tournament Director) in your ear for two days I can accede to a minor error! I printed out the gold and bronze play off score sheets while only considering Pool 1 players. Surprise, surprise Pool 2 players were not happy??? Fortunately, no games had started, and I taped a couple of mouths closed for improved concentration.



The sacrifices the Senior's Tournament Scorer had to make! Along with all his critical keyboard work the scorer also had to help one of our sponsor's physiotherapists keep his skill sets honed during the tournament.

**Secretary SCPC** - after publishing the bios of committee members in our December 2023 Newsletter, I was advised by two of our committee members that I had submitted the incorrect bios. Please find attached the correct bios.

## **Competitions Coordinator - Pete "The Pelican" Nichols**

Pete Nichols is the Local Boy who has ventured no further than his backyard. A renowned builder, in the style of that great Italian - Bonanno Pisano from Pizza, Pete's homes and sheds can be seen leaning everywhere around his local region. Aply supported by his fulltime career Kelli, Pete has recently swapped his bricklaying trowel for a Pickleball paddle, and one can say that's only good for the local building industry.

Pete has taken to Pickleball like a duck to oil. His patented 'Look down range stare' shot has mesmerised players and the ball alike. He is an avid 'DUPR' supporter, and many players will never forget his 2-hr at the net (or in fact anywhere) monologue on the system's operation and how it will improve your game and revolutionise the sport. Pete's ascension to the committee has been 'welcomed' by his carer and others alike. Fiercely protective of his 'Events', woe betide any communications guru that tries to invade his turf.



## Mea Culpa Corner cont'd

### Communications Guru– Darren Nunn

Darren Nunn is the Yorkshire 'pots and pan' man, who is an international sensation. Whatever country he goes to they only want to share with the world his talents and quickly help him 'move on'. Darren loves his new sport of Pickleball, in fact so much he has brought every type of paddle made as he seeks to find one that wants to play with him.

Darren was strongly encouraged by his diminutive partner Jane, to get out from under her feet and explore this new sport. He has fully immersed himself in the sport and the social food element, so much so, his twin boys have to be reintroduced to him when he ventures home to change his clothing once a month. Darren is the go-to guy on the committee and the everywhere man.

Changing his IT systems so regularly no one else can then operate them – Darren has become indispensable to the committee. Players tremble at his organizing skills and diplomacy. He constantly goes out of his way to 'coach' his partners on how best to play with him – so much so his patented 'thigh slap' lets you know he is so happy with you on the court. How we all will miss him on the court for a 'too short period' after an operation that repairs his thigh to improve that 'thigh slap' echo.



## Newsletter Competition Taking the Game Overseas

As we head into that period for many to launch off on their overseas escapades, we thought that maybe we should get our members to become roaming ambassadors for the great game we play. So, to provide an inducement to get some great holiday snaps, we are offering a special prize for the best holiday snap that shows a member in an exotic overseas location displaying a pickleball paddle and/or wearing a club t-shirt or displaying club sign.

Here are some generic shots from past overseas escapades, but alas, most missed opportunities to promote our game or club

**So think creatively and get your shots into [scpickleballnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:scpickleballnewsletter@gmail.com) no later than 31 August 2024.**



Clayton Westwood hustling to pay for a new paddle in Phuket Thailand



Donald and Linda Fisher making new pickleball friends cruising from Hawaii



Hugh and Kathleen Gibson taking the game to Greece



Colleen McMillan taking the game to India

## Newsletter Competition cont'd



The Jaynes and the Hall families taking SCPC pickleball to our northern neighbours on the island of Borneo.

## SCPC Sponsor

We would like to introduce Sunshine Coast Orthopaedic Group and Fortius Allied Health, sponsors at our recent SCPC Seniors Tournament.



The Sunshine Coast Orthopaedic Group and Fortius Allied Health offer a comprehensive array of services aimed at optimising musculoskeletal health and enhancing overall well-being.

Fortius Allied Health specialises in a multidisciplinary approach, providing a range of allied health services tailored to meet individual needs. Their offerings encompass physiotherapy and exercise physiology services. Through personalised assessment and treatment plans, they address various conditions such as pre and post-operative rehabilitation, sports injuries, chronic pain and mobility issues. Their team of skilled professionals utilises evidence-based techniques and advanced modalities to promote recovery, improve functional abilities and prevent future injuries.

In conjunction with Fortius Allied Health, the Sunshine Coast Orthopaedic Group specialises in orthopaedic care, focusing on the diagnosis, treatment and management of musculoskeletal disorders and injuries. Led by a team of experienced orthopaedic surgeons, their services encompass orthopaedic consultations, surgical interventions and post-operative care. They cater to a diverse range of orthopaedic conditions, including fractures, joint arthritis, ligament injuries and spinal disorders. Utilising cutting-edge surgical techniques and state-of-the-art technology, they strive to deliver optimal outcomes while prioritising patient safety and comfort.

Together, Fortius Allied Health and the Sunshine Coast Orthopaedic Group form a collaborative partnership dedicated to providing holistic musculoskeletal care. By integrating allied health services with specialised orthopaedic expertise, they offer a comprehensive approach to rehabilitation and recovery. Whether it's restoring mobility, managing pain, or enhancing physical function, their combined efforts aim to empower individuals to regain independence and lead active, fulfilling lives.