

MIRROR MIRROR ON THE WALL

WHO'S THE BEST " PICKLER" OF THEM ALL

This question resonates all over the provinces and territories of Canada without an answer !

Is it John Kusch (undefeated) from Langley? BC ?. Might it be Brian Lam from Coquitlam ? (the best singles player in BC) How about Bill Furse from Collingwood .(with teaching experience from the Villages in Florida) ? How about Dave Hall from Manitoulin Island who has attended tournaments from, one end of Ontario to the other? He also emanates from the Villages of Florida – the largest program in the world. What about John Hylton Foster –5 times gold medal winner in tennis in the seniors games in singles)? Perhaps Mr. Joseph Cormier from Quebec who won open singles in the national Tournament in Quebec Aug 17-18 in Repentigny . How about Mr. Kevin Doucet from Alberta who with won the doubles in Oakridge Rec in 2011 in Calgary and singles .

As you can see there are many choices . What is needed in Canada is two things:

First we need to produce dialogue between the two national organizations – both which I started, and much , much, more communications between the provinces with an eventual goal of compromise and joining of the two associations both Nationally and provincially to form a cohesive, coordinated approach for Canada. I have seen in writing ,instructions from one association that they not speak to the other ,and this is sad and not the Canadian way. With 175 programs in BC we can and should do better.

The above question – who is tops , will only be answered when we have provincial play downs featuring all ages which qualify for a national tourneys in rotating provinces. The sooner this happens the better.

Second , some good work has occurred on Places – to – play, and on Tournaments both social, recreational as well as competitive by both groups. That a clash of two cultures, the snowbirds and the recreational players has occurred, is beyond a doubt but does it need to be a " battle to the death ? "

This has occurred once before in the history of Pickleball and should not be repeated.

Finally, I hope that the summer has produced more outdoor venues in the best weather in the history of our province. Let's hope a co-operative effort to join forces for Canada occurs as the snowbirds anticipate their return to the South. No doubt, as in previous years, the " Planted all year players" will come back from golf, tennis, walking, running, dragon boats, baseball, squash, racquetball , table tennis badminton. Speed badminton, and join our growing fraternity of players in the fastest growing sport in North America – PICKLEBALL.

Many initiatives in other countries are happening to make this a truly international Sport.

Press coverage at each tournament and video postings on U tube and on websites will also be a great help. In the end we should find out who is the " Best of them all " in our special " Game for LIFE .

Yours in Sport and Health,

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