

First (Annual?) Kitsilano CC Pickleball Tourney a SMASH!!!

The first pickleball tourney (likely the first in Vancouver?) took place at the Kitsilano Community Center in the afternoon of Dec. 15, 2015, followed by a fun-filled dinner social/award presentation at the nearby White Spot on Broadway.

The friendly, non-sanctioned tourney was organized by Tony and Anke, with many forms of support coming from BC Pickleball Association (donated the winner's plaque hand-crafted by James Min, and a brand new paddle), Anke (her own art work), Tara/International Cellars Inc. (many bottles of wine!), Manta World Sport (two paddle carriers), and all others who brought a prize or re-gifts for drawing! We had prizes for everyone!!!



"I am so happy to have won the first Kitslano Pickleball Tournament. I owe my victory to all of my great partners. I am so excited to have won my beautiful trophy. I can't wait to try out my new racket. Thank you for organizing this great event," said the first place winner, Jake Wolfman.

The all doubles tournament was formatted to accommodate all skill levels of the 24 participants; the at-randomly selected players changed their partners every game – the winning teams splitting to play the following games in the same courts, partnered by two runner-up (losing) team members joining from either the bench or another court. Each game was timed to last just 8 minutes, and everyone's scores for each game were entered in the tally sheet. At the end, each players added up the best five scores from all the games played. Under this format, the players were given incentive to win to remain on the court to continue playing more games. Here are the winners:

1st Place WINNER: Jake Wolfman

2nd Place: Rick Barker - prize: artwork by Anke

3rd Place Lynn Shepherd - paddle case from Manta Sport

4th Place Ray Stevenson - paddle case from Manta World Sport

The post-game gathering was attended by most of the players plus a few non-competitors who wanted to just socialize and show their support. The private room, reserved by the group, was filled with lively conversations by the ***"WONDERFUL, amazing, and fun PB players,"*** who had a rare chance to get to know their follow players outside of the courts.



Finally, here are some of the comments sent after the event...

"Hi all you WONDERFUL amazing fun PB players... AND you certainly proved that last Tuesday night! Thank you!! Thank you for all your support & playing & laughing & smiles & JOY!!"

"This is an amazing group! You have made us feel so welcomed!! Thank you so much for organizing last evening. I also love the very positive and fun emails you send out."

"Thank you for organizing a wonderful Xmas dinner event. Also many thanks to Tony for M Cing last night's distribution of gifts. Look forward to more fun in the New Year. "

"Thanks to Anke and Tony for such a fun tourney. I'm enjoying Pickleball with this friendly group....thank you all."

"I also wanted to thank you for welcoming Jake into our wonderful group. He has been having so much fun and he was so proud of his new racket and the beautiful trophy! Thank you James! I promise it will be returned to its home in Kitslano for next year's tournament. Thank you Anke and Tony for organizing such a great event!"

"It was a delight to be invited to the first Vancouver open social tourney. Fitting for our sport, all had fun, good competition, and no one got hurt (although James hit the wall). This is a good template for tournaments going forward throughout BC. Of course the social is the 'cream on top of the cake'eh. Merry Xmas to all!"

"Fabulous!!! Wish we could have been there. Hope to be back in Vancouver by Thu night."

"Looks like you all had a great time. Sorry we couldn't be there and thanks for organizing this Anke. "

Written by Aki Takeda