



PICKLEBALL CAPE TOWN

UPLIFTING COMMUNITIES THROUGH SPORT

"Sport has the power to change the world.
It has the power to
INSPIRE.
It has the power to unite people in a way
that little else does.
It speaks to youth in a language they
understand.
Sport can create hope where once there
was only despair."

NELSON MANDELA



PICKLEBALL CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA



UNEARTHING PICKLEBALL: OUR JOURNEY FROM CAPE TOWN TO THE HEART OF A NEW SPORT

Pickleball, a hidden gem, caught our attention on a YouTube reel and instantly became our family's passion. We, the Wagners - Kim, Gunther, Zachary, and Evan, scoured Cape Town and South Africa for equipment but found slim pickings. With only one sports store stocking a basic set and an online distributor, Diadem Sports, offering limited options, we took matters into our own hands.

Our backyard, featuring a makeshift court made from old trampoline poles, garden mesh, and concrete pots, became our sanctuary. White and black spray paint gave birth to our lines. Fueled by our love for Pickleball, we reached out to Pickleball SA for more information and found ourselves embracing a new role as Pickleball ambassadors. With no established scene in Cape Town, we made it our mission to champion Pickleball in South Africa, putting this exhilarating sport firmly on the map.

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES THROUGH PICKLEBALL

Sport is a vital component of any community, extending its social benefits far beyond school walls. We believe that Pickleball, with its inclusivity and versatility, holds immense potential, particularly for underprivileged schools and communities.

Growing up on the Cape Flats in Cape Town, we intimately understand the challenges faced by at-risk youth and their families. Pickleball transcends boundaries of age, race, socio-economic status, and background, making it a unifying force with the potential to unlock opportunities. It can provide employment, exposure for students, educators, coaches, and local businesses, keeping the youth engaged and diverting them from the pitfalls of gangsterism and drugs in impoverished communities.

Our mission is clear: to spread Pickleball across South Africa, especially in underprivileged schools. We aim to build courts and provide equipment, training, education, and certification to teachers and P.E. coaches, facilitating the sport's growth. By introducing students to the game, we envision the establishment of leagues, tournaments, and clubs throughout the region, just as we've seen in Pretoria.

BACKYARD PICKLEBALL



UNEARTHING PICKLEBALL: OUR JOURNEY FROM CAPE TOWN TO THE HEART OF A NEW SPORT



Our quest to take Pickleball to the next level was met with numerous roadblocks. We reached out to sports complexes, tennis clubs, schools with tennis courts, and city officials, only to face resistance. None of the tennis clubs were open to the idea of sharing their courts with a different sport.

Undeterred, we decided to meet with school sports coordinators and tennis clubs in person, which yielded more positive results. We discovered a disused and rundown public tennis facility with a missing net on a multi-sport court, ideal for our purpose and not interfering with tennis players. Word had spread quickly about Pickleball, with daily emails pouring in from locals who had heard about it from friends and family abroad, North Americans living in Cape Town, and travelers planning to visit.

Our group had grown to two families playing Pickleball in our backyard every weekend. We upgraded our DIY net to two cinder blocks filled with concrete mix, holding two PVC pipes, and a garden mesh net held together with duct tape and cable ties.

To host an Open Day, we still needed proper nets. A local small business, a pool cover manufacturer, came to our rescue, embracing our unconventional requests and ideas with enthusiasm. The journey had its challenges, but we were determined to make Pickleball thrive in South Africa.



TAKING THE LEAP TO REAL COURTS

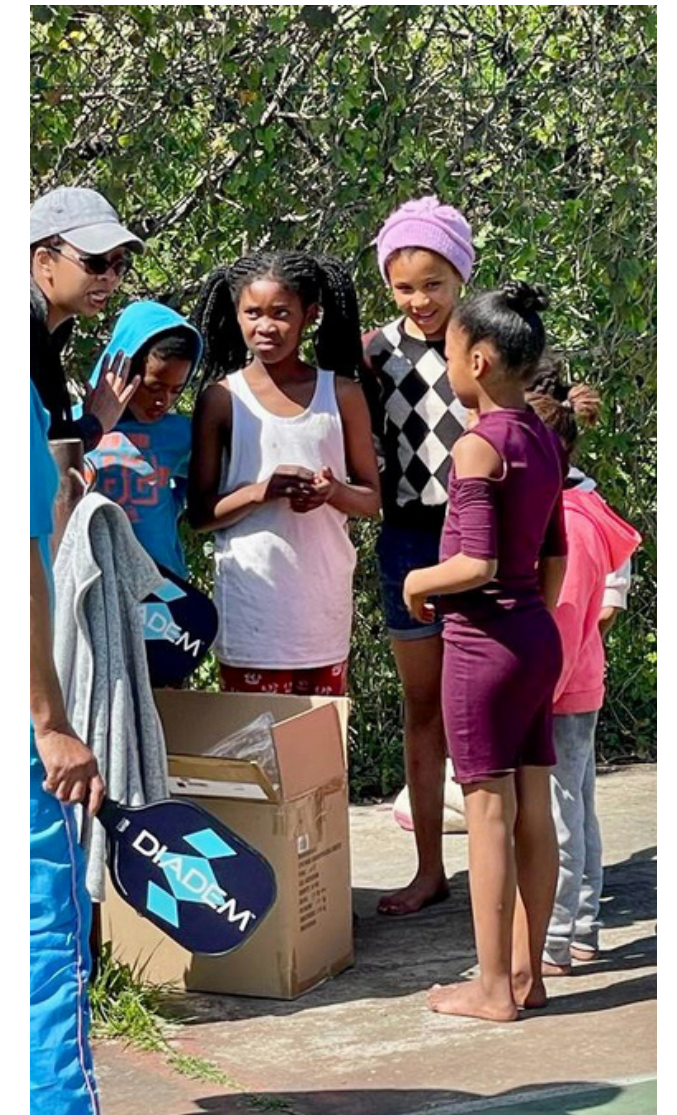


A DAY OF DISCOVERY IN THE CAPE TOWN WINE COUNTRY

Our very first 'informal' Pickleball play day took place in the stunning wine region of Cape Town. It was a day filled with beautiful landscapes and new experiences, as we had the privilege of sharing the court with seasoned Pickleball players from the USA and Canada who graciously offered their expertise in teaching and coaching.

This day marked the birth of our vision in numerous ways. Local children from nearby farms, originally gathered to play basketball, stumbled upon our Pickleball match. Thanks to Jason, we had enough paddles for each child, most of whom had never held a paddle before and found hitting the ball a bit challenging.

Our North American friends showed incredible patience and enthusiasm, extending their coaching to the children. Their joy was so contagious that the kids returned the same week, eager for more. It was a day where Pickleball not only united us but also brought smiles and excitement to young hearts.





"A fundamental concern for others in our individual and community lives would go a long way in making the world the better place we so passionately dreamt of."

Nelson Mandela

PICKLEBALL CAPE TOWN'S INAUGURAL OPEN DAY - A SMASHING SUCCESS!



On October 2, 2022, history was made as Cape Town hosted its very first official Pickleball Open Day. The event was nothing short of a triumph, with both seasoned Pickleball players and first-timers coming together, forming a wonderful tapestry of diverse and amazing individuals.

Cape Town, often celebrated as a melting pot of cultures, lived up to its reputation on this special day. A rich blend of nationalities graced the event, including South Africans, Americans, Canadians, Mexicans, Zimbabweans, and Spaniards. It was a day where the love of Pickleball transcended borders and brought people from all walks of life together. An incredible milestone for Pickleball in Cape Town and a testament to the sport's universal appeal.



WHERE WE STAND TODAY: TRANSFORMING DREAMS INTO REALITY

The journey continues, and it's a thrilling one! We've secured a 10-year lease for disused tennis courts and facilities, marking the beginning of Cape Town's very first permanent Pickleball courts. By November 2023, we'll have four permanent courts open for the youth and farming community in the Vlaeberg area.

With hard work and determination, we've managed to raise enough funds to refurbish one existing, run-down tennis court. However, the path ahead still requires resources. Lighting, security fencing, upgraded toilet facilities, and renovations to the spectator stand and the cafe/tuck shop are essential components of our project.

But we're not stopping there. Our vision includes refurbishing a second run-down tennis court, converting it into a dual-purpose facility with lines for four Pickleball courts alongside a temporary net and lines for a full tennis court.

Furthermore, we recognize the importance of coaching certification. We aim to provide proper coaching and expertise to potential and future coaches, teachers, and physical education trainers to foster the sport's development. We've come a long way, and with your support, we're turning our dreams into a vibrant, thriving Pickleball community.



UNSTOPPABLE GROWTH EVERY WEEK!



Our journey is marked by unstoppable momentum, with new faces joining our Pickleball community each week. Newcomers quickly become regulars, and families of all ages and fitness levels come together to embrace the game. One thing is certain: anyone who's played Pickleball with us is eager to return for more. We've received numerous requests from international visitors to our beautiful city, including North America, the UK, Australia, and Europe. Their willingness to support our cause in any way possible has humbled us, and we're deeply grateful.

While our permanent courts are under construction, we've made the most of a tennis court, painting lines for three Pickleball courts: one for beginners, one for intermediate players, and one for the advanced. We provide quick introductions for beginners and newcomers, and they soon find themselves immersed in and falling in love with the game. Our turnouts have been so fantastic that we've spilled over onto the courts still awaiting refurbishment. This is undeniable proof that Pickleball is on the path to immense success. With the right support and backing, we can continue to grow and thrive, creating new business and employment opportunities that were previously unseen.





WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT TO GROW!

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“What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived.
It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead.”

NELSON MANDELA