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| **JANUARY NEWS** |

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| Welcome to all of our new members and welcome back to last year’s members!  We currently have 228 members 64 of you were not members in 2021. We have an exciting year ahead hoping that COVID will be behind us by the time we get to the summer. Please read on for information on;* Winter Play
* Corpus Christi School Pickleball Fundraiser
* Interclub Play
* Club Events
* Court Reserve
* Club Skill Level Ratings
* Open Tournament
* Summer Camp for kids
* Spectator Article – Letters to the Editor.
* Anonymous Feedback Form
* Board of Directors Contact Details

We hope to see you on the courts soon.  |

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| **WINTER RENTALS ARE ON HOLD UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE** We have requested more rentals from the Catholic School board for the winter.  We hope by the end of January there will be plenty of places to play.  Once we open up again, for our beginners, we will be offering a 4 week introduction to pickleball course on Sunday afternoons, for 2 hours at St. Andrews United Church.  We still have space in the 4pm sessions.  The cost is only $20 for 4 lessons. One session will be offered by Brett and Pamela Adams and the other by Carolyn Buck and Haig Saadetian.  Let Carolyn Buck know if you are interested. cbuck@pickleballhamilton.com |

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| **WINTER PLAY** Because there are so few spots for members to play, once we open again, we are restricting you to sign up ahead of time to ONCE per week.  Once we have more rentals, we will increase that as we go along.  If you see there are available spots the day of a rental, then feel free to jump in for your level. Please remember to MIX at **all** sessions.  If you don’t want to mix, then book a spot in the BYOG (bring your own group) session.  We want to be welcoming and friendly to all our members and leave no one sitting. |

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| **CORPUS CHRISTI  SCHOOL NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT**Theresa Lacharity, one of our members and a teacher at Corpus Christi, would like to introduce pickleball to the teachers and children in her school.  The board has agreed to fund raise for two  nets.  Please donate to support and encourage our youth to join in our fabulous sport.  Send all donations to Jessica Kawamoto, our treasurer,  jkawamoto@pickleballhamilton.com.If you have any old paddles or balls surplus to your requirements, the school would appreciate them as well.  John Sharp and Linda Kawamoto have offered to provide an introductory course to them starting once COVID allows us. |

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| **INTERCLUB LEAGUE** We have contacted numerous pickleball clubs that are interested in participating in an interclub league this summer.  Anyone who is interested in helping with an interclub league, please contact Haig Saadetian.  haig.saadetian@gmail.com Additionally we do hope to host and play at neighbouring Clubs during the Summer.  |

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| **CLUB EVENTS**Our preliminary calendar of Club organized events includes February       Greystone Club, more details to followMarch           We are hoping to reschedule at the Haig BowlApril/May?    Opening Day/New MembersMay               Fun Mystery Partner Doubles Event  June              Club Tournament 11/12thJuly               Canada DayAugust          Open Tournament – 20/21stSeptember    Fast and Furious – to be moved to new monthOctober         Hallowe’en and President’s tournament and N2N fundraiser |

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| **THANK YOU** Thank you to Rob Hill, John Kastellic and Carolyn Buck for getting us up and running with the new signup program, court reserve.  I know a lot of time and energy was spent to get us to where we are now.  As a reminder, a Whats App Group for Court Reserve Help has been created.  Please use this for all Court Reserve Issues. |

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| **CLUB SKILL LEVEL RATINGS** In order to facilitate a mixture of open and level play, and to provide a platform for members to develop their skills to whatever level they aspire, your board has assigned skill levels to all 2021 members. New club members have self-assessed themselves and confirmation, adjustments up and adjustments down will be made by your Board on a monthly basis based on observed play.This is an emotive subject and we do note some negative feedback that has been received. Our considered opinion is that Level Play needs to be an integral part of our scheduled play but that we must facilitate enough scheduled opportunities for all members to get the play opportunities they seek.As a reminder, please remember that skill levels should be assigned based on IPTPA-based descriptions which can be accessed on our website <https://pickleballhamilton.com/club-ratings> . We hope that all members understand that performances against and comparisons to other players has no bearing on Pickleball Skill Level Ratings.Additionally please note your Club Rating has no bearing on what skill level you can or should enter for externally organized tournaments.Any member wishing to have their allocated skill level revised, can submit a request via this link <https://forms.gle/niQgWmYowK9Qz6gS7> and it will be reviewed by the Board of Directors. |

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| **OPEN TOURNAMENT - SAVE THE DATE** We have requested use of the 12 courts Confederation Park for Pickleball Hamilton to run an open tournament on the August 20/21, 2022 weekend.  Please keep it available to play and/or volunteer to help.  More details will follow. |

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| **SUMMER CAMP FOR KIDS** We will be running a summer camp from July 11-15 for youth from 7 to 17 years of age.  Pass the word.  More information will be on the website soon.  Looking for a volunteer to help with the organization.  Let Linda know if you can. lkawamoto@pickleballhamilton.com |

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| **SPECTATOR ARTICLE - LETTERS TO THE EDITOR** As there has been a few misinformed negative letters to the Editor in the Spectator and to Esther Pauls about letting Pickleball Hamilton run the courts at Hill Park. The City of Hamilton approached Pickleball Hamilton to run the 12 courts at Hill Park. It was not an initiative driven by Pickleball Hamilton but we welcome the opportunity and are in discussions with the City to agree what Public Access provisions can be made on the old 6 courts and what that will cost to cover insurance and other matters.If you want to share your thoughts on Hill Park and/or Pickleball Hamilton would you please take time to write an appreciation and positive letter to Esther Pauls, our city councillor for Ward 7.  We have the courts at Hill Park due to her support.  She would love to hear from you especially those who live in Ward 7.  esther.pauls@hamilton.ca  |

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| **PICKLEBALL ONTARIO AWARD** Pickleball Hamilton is proud to receive a certificate from Pickleball Ontario for promoting the growth and development of Pickleball.  Thank you to all past and present board, volunteer and club members for helping us succeed in growing pickleball.  We need all of you to make our club friendly and welcoming – A simple step is ensuring that when you play in open or Level Play, you do your utmost to play with and against as many different players as you can – every time.  |

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| **ANONYMOUS FEEDBACK FORM**Icon  Description automatically generated We would love to hear constructive feedback from our members on programming, events, culture or anything else that would help to make our club the best it can be! If you’d like to provide suggestions for improvement, please feel free to submit anonymous feedback at the link below (also found on our website by clicking on the members area tab): [https://forms.gle/2oxGbmaUg7tViJcEA](https://pickleballhamilton.us16.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a3a354ffac2371f84475f9b66&id=96266e2be1&e=96c0789de7) |

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| **YOUR PICKLEBALL HAMILTON BOARD OF DIRECTORS** President: Linda Kawamoto  -    lkawamoto@pickleballhamilton.comVice-President: Carolyn Buck -  cbuck@pickleballhamilton.com Treasurer: Jessica Kawamoto  - jkawamoto@pickleballhamilton.com Secretary:  Matt Cunningham -  matthewmarrcunningham@gmail.com **Directors-at-Large**:  John Kastelic  -    jvkastelic@gmail.comJohn Sharp -        jsharp843@me.comHaig Saadetian  - haig.saadetian@gmail.comPamela Adams -  pamelaricker1@yahoo.ca |

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| ***Pickleball Hamilton is dedicated to introducing, teaching and growing the game within the Greater Hamilton Community.    We are passionate about --and committed to--providing inclusive, varied and accessible programming in a well-maintained and safe environment.*** |

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