

pickleballEngland News

Newsletter for Clubs and players



Welcome!

2020 the year when all our plans were cancelled!

We started to hear about the Corona Virus early in the new year but at that time, didn't really believe it would become a pandemic of epic proportions. Expecting something more like SARS, we continued working on our plans for 2020 until early March. That was when the concern kicked in. Chris and I went to the Aragon Open 7th-8th March along with Louis Laville, Thaddea Lock and Anthony McElvine. Whilst there, the news was breaking about incidences of positive tests for Corona virus in various cities in Spain, including the one we had flown into!. We all jokingly said that we were likely to go home with the virus as well as medals. Whilst none of us had an official test, we now all believe that we did have the virus. Luckily none of us suffered badly but I confess it did knock me for six. It was whilst I was feeling decidedly unwell that the 2020 English OPEN tournament committee met and discussed what we should do. We finally made the decision to cancel the event towards the end of March. Now that we are in mid June we know that was the right decision. We also cancelled other events: Coaching holiday to Mallorca (May), SW Festival (June), Roberto Donati Bootcamp (June), IPTPA Certification Training (July) and put on hold the development of other events.

So after those painful decisions and the administration related to communicating them, what have I done with my time?

Well, in addition to enjoying my garden and the lovely weather, I chaired a Selection Committee to recruit and appoint 5 Directors for the new WPF European Federation. See page 5 for more information. I have been collaborating on the development of the World Pickleball Day initiative. See page 2. Chaired a number of pickleballEngland Board meetings, including ones to develop our covid-19 Guidelines. *Continued on page 2*

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107

CLUBS

Data as at 9.5.20

1190

PLAYERS

1130 of whom are from
England!

305

CONTACTS

Received via email

Continued from page 1. Co-ordinated our 2.6 Challenge activities which included developing a 26 Question pickleball Quiz. We raised £505 in aid of Breast Cancer UK which wasn't bad given that we only decided to get involved a week before the event! I have also kept our website up-to-date and contributed to our Facebook activity.

Before lock down, Chris and I played pickleball 6 days a week across three club locations, some days twice a day! This meant that we drove a LOT of miles and saved almost 7 hours a week just by not driving! I confess I enjoyed the stillness of the normally busy road that we could previously hear from our garden. It has definitely got busy again over the past few weeks as lockdown started to ease. We hadn't been out, apart from shopping once a month, until we went to play doubles pickleball with another couple last week. We seemed to have chosen the windiest day but it was tremendous fun playing outdoors. We are grateful to one of our club players in Bexhill who worked with the local council to get 4 pickleball courts painted on a tennis court.

I am keeping fingers crossed that the current pattern of easing restrictions continues and that everyone acts with caution so that we don't experience a second wave. I am also hopeful that maybe we can organise some fun pickleball for the last quarter of the year. Until we meet again. Karen x

World Pickleball Day is 10.10.2020

Objective:

Establish pickleball as a game that is played across the world and not just North America.

Goals:

1.Expose the game to new prospect players (goal 10,000 for first year)

2.Grow the number of players worldwide

Use as an opportunity for every pickleball venue to attract new players and to hold events designed to raise the profile of pickleball worldwide.

We hope as many clubs as possible will open their doors on Saturday 10th October to provide free taster sessions. There are lots of ideas on how to mark World Pickleball Day on our website: <https://www.pickleballengland.org/my-front-page/world-pickleball-day/>

There is a tool-box of items to help promote the day. There are also materials that would be of interest to players, including an e-Book by Tony Roig who was at the 2019 English OPEN "Play Pickleball - A beginners guide" with links to instructional videos. The book is for sale on Amazon and you can download it for free on our website.



FRANK ARICO - NATIONAL DIRECTOR

It's hard to believe that almost 3 months have gone by since we stopped playing pickleball and left behind "life as we knew it".

Potentially there are many ways to describe the past 3 months ranging from "scary" to "bizarre" to "surreal" etc etc one could go on and on and it is still hard to believe that something like this could happen in this day and age.

At first a few minor engagements and appointments were cancelled and these were easy to shrug off and then came the BIG one after a fantastic 2019 English Open Pickleball championship in Nottingham we were really looking forward to hosting and running the 2020 English Open and Bainbridge Cup. The excitement and anticipation had been mounting all along and with 700+ entries around February we were really looking forward to showing the International PB community what we could do in terms of organisation and professionalism as we had done the previous year.

As we all know, it was not to be and the heart-breaking decision to cancel was in a way quite a relief after the uncertainty of the previous couple of months.

Within 18 hours of the decision to cancel I completed the processing of some 600+ Paypal refunds of entry fees paid.

With that over, what was going to be a busy and intense few months, preparing and testing all the software for the 2020 tournament all of a sudden there was nothing major left to do.

I have always had the unfortunate habit of very quickly getting myself involved ("embroiled" !) in a new project / challenge.

I am a member of the Camberley U3A (University of the Third Age) a voluntary organisation of some 1800 members in Camberley alone. It is made up of both educational, social and sporting groups (I belong to the Table Tennis Group and I run a weekly PB group of about 40 members). Up to a couple of years ago I was a Trustee and Treasurer of the CU3A and I still have regular contact with the current Trustees. During a conversation with the Chairperson I was made aware that efforts had been made to get some "Virtual Meetings" going using Skype, Whats App, Facetime and Zoom (which 3 months ago I had never heard of before) but not much progress had been made.

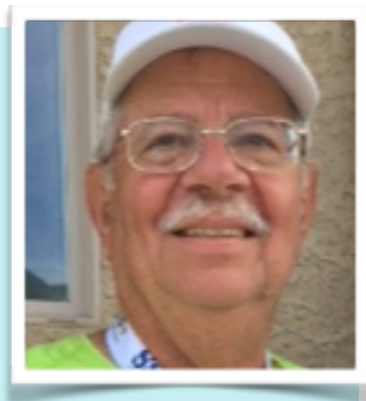
The challenge was difficult for me to pass up as I saw that by implementing and rolling out "Virtual Meetings" it would make a significant impact and improvement to the lives of many members during this lockdown / isolation period by enabling them to 'see' and chat with other members and their families too.

I set up a team of 5 members as the Virtual Groups Support Team with a mission to roll out Zoom to as many members as possible and to promote activities such as Travelogues, Bingo, Quiz as well as enabling some of the conversation and social groups to resume their weekly meeting over Zoom.

It has been an amazing learning curve and not without its difficulties in trying to teach in extreme cases one or two members who hardly know how to switch an iPad or iPhone on and off ! The reward however has come from a continuous stream of emails received daily from Members who are very grateful that they were (in some cases) pushed to move into the 21st century and install Zoom.

Although the lockdown has been eased somewhat, the future is still a bit unclear and while one wants to remain optimistic and hope that things will soon return to "normal" - it is difficult to predict how this saga will unfold. Zoom may be great for a lot of things but it's not easy to play Pickleball 'virtually'. Let's hope that we can be back on the courts in the not too distant future.

In the meanwhile - stay safe and take care. Frank



New Member Benefit - free access to Pickleball Magazine

Pickleball Magazine is published 6 times a year and the publisher has given us permission to distribute to our members for free!

The June/July issue was recently published and there are pages of tips, tricks and tools to read that could help you improve your game.

To access the magazine: <https://www.pickleballengland.org/june-july-2020-issue-pickleball-magazine>. Links to future issues will be emailed to members. The next issue is due in August and will have a feature on pickleballEngland!



English players clean up at the first European tournament with prize money!



I Open Internacional de Aragón



Louis Laville & Anthony McElvine (Men's Doubles) and Louis Laville & Thaddea Lock (Mixed Doubles) won their first prize money for winning Gold at 19+ Pro level at the 1st Aragon Open tournament 7th/8th March in Spain.

Louis & Anthony played out of their skin to beat Ernesto Cardenas & Carlos Perez Soto - regular gold medallists at European tournaments. Louis & Thaddea conquered their nerves to beat Virginia Lainez and Carlos Perez Soto who beat them at last year's French Open. Thaddea also won Silver in the Ladies Doubles 19+ Pro level and Anthony won Silver in Mixed Doubles 19+ Elite level.

Chris Mitchell who also bagged two Golds at 50+ Pro level was presented a cured ham (honestly! see picture left) as a Men's Doubles prize and he and wife Karen won paddles in the Mixed Doubles 50+ Pro level.

7 Golds and 2 Silvers out of a possible 10 medals for our English players = a very successful weekend.

WPF European Federation



In April a European Federation Selection Committee made up of Mhairi Adam (Pickleball Scotland), Marc Declercq (Spain), Pierre Obozinski (France), Natalia Bartiuk (Ukraine), Karen Mitchell (England) and Seymour Rifkind (USA) was formed. The purpose of the committee was to ensure that WPF member countries in Europe would be responsible for voting and selecting their own board that would represent WPF in Europe.

We then announced the formation of the federation and invited applications. Those applications were reviewed and a short list was created for an interview process. After the interviews, the selection committee aligned on which candidates to offer the 5 Director positions.

The new federation's Board of Directors are:

David Mazzucco from Scotland

Cyril Dirand from France

Leo Gonzalez Rodriguez who is Spanish but lives in England

Lenka Misickova from Czech Republic

Mathias Lassfolk originally from Finland and now resident in Switzerland

Between the individuals they have been playing pickleball for over 22 years and have attended over 50 tournaments. They have diverse backgrounds with experience of growing pickleball, developing a country federation, Marketing, Media, Governance in Sport, Training, Fundraising. The Board's first task will be to formalise the creation of the European Pickleball Federation.

Covid-19 Guidelines for returning to play

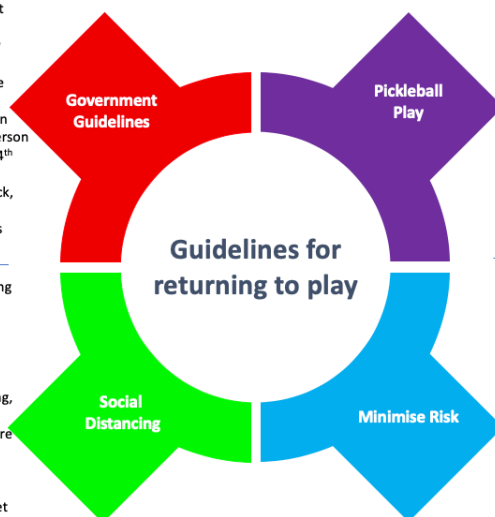
Our guidelines should be used with a great deal of common sense.

Only make arrangements to play with people that you know and feel comfortable sharing a court with.

In case you missed it, we have been keeping the website up to date with details of guidelines for returning to play. Initially it was singles only outdoors, then you could play doubles within the same household. From 4th July, doubles between individuals is possible. To check the detail visit: <https://www.pickleballengland.org/corona-virus/>

- Always pay heed to government guidelines
- Can go out for exercise as many times as you want
- 6 people can meet up if practice safe distancing (except *)
- *Clinically vulnerable people can only meet up with one other person outside their household. From 4th July this can be 6 people
- If you have symptoms or feel sick, **Stay at Home**
- If anyone in your household has symptoms, **Stay at Home**

- Maintain the 2m social distancing on court and off court. From 4th July, the 1m plus guidance will allow doubles play amongst individuals
- No socialising
- No physical contact – No hugging, no handshakes or high fives, no paddle taps because then you are too close!
- Do not use shared equipment – use only your own paddle
- The owner of the nets should set up and take down on their own



- No club play at this time
- Individuals can play pickleball outside - **Singles or Skinny singles**
- **Doubles** can be played if teams are from the same household. After 4th July, individuals from different households can elect to play in a team. You should still try to maintain 1m+ between.
- Communication between partners is critical
- Check whether you need to book your court ahead of time
- If courts are in use, adhere to venue's guidance. Do not congregate

- Arrive changed and ready to play
- Avoid touching your face
- Avoid touching surfaces. Use hand sanitizer if you touch any surfaces (to sanitize your hands and the surface)
- Sanitize your hands when you finish play
- Bring tissues to contain sneezes/coughs
- Bring plenty of water. Do not use water fountains
- Clean your paddle, ball, water bottle and clothes after play
- Make sure a record is kept of who was playing, and agree between yourselves to let the others know if any symptoms following play

**25,000
BY 2025**

When the Board of Directors met in January this year they agreed a bold and ambitious target of 25,000 individual members by 2025. Covid-19 might have put a crimp into our plans but we think we can still meet this target if we work together, expand our team of volunteers and continue to have the support of clubs and players.

At the AGM we will share more about our strategy and plans.

Updates from our Regional Directors

NORTH EAST REGION: STAN JOHNSON

A 'Big Hello' from the North East or is that from the North Eats! As that is all I seem to have been doing since the start of Lockdown, more reason (if we needed any) to get out, get active and start hitting that plastic ball as soon as we are allowed.

Having time on my hands I was just reminiscing about the PB games I had recently enjoyed playing prior to the Lockdown. In December I joined Karen and Chris Mitchell to play in the World Championships held in Punta Gorda, Florida where fellow Canadian PB players Roger and Karen kindly offered us accommodation in their home. Chris and I had some really good games and coupled with Chris success in the singles made for a great trip.

Then in February I was fortunate to return to play in three more tournaments which were held in Naples, Englewood and Punta Gorda again I enjoyed some really great tough games, made some new friends and was lucky enough to medal in all 3 tournaments! Thinking back the Americans sure do take their PB seriously, we were spoilt for choice regarding tournaments to play in such a short space of time and I hope it won't be that long before PB in the U.K. and Europe is so popular that we can also offer such a wide choice of tournaments!

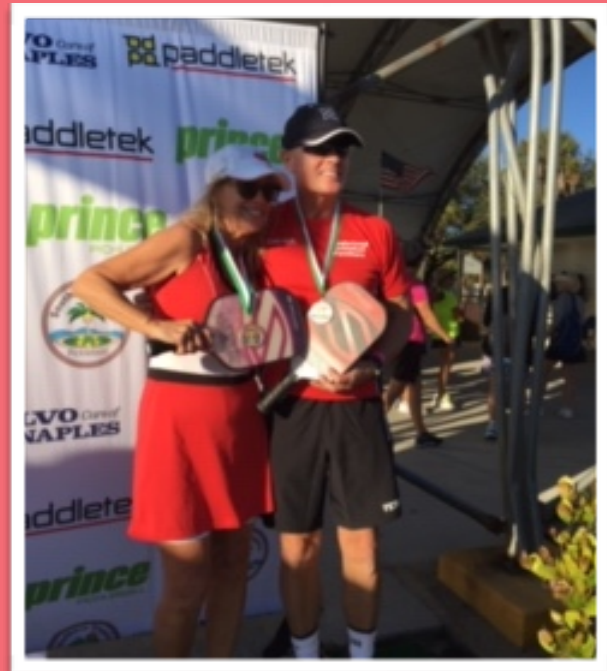
What memories, what memories! who would have thought?

So here I am in Lockdown! which began with my daughter and her partner moving into our house just for a "couple of weeks" while their new house was being completed, and here we are 11 weeks later. So perhaps after drinking a little too much vino and played every game under the sun and lost in Scrabble, Monopoly, Boggle, Articulate and yes even I Spy! So, I decided I needed a new distraction and after some research my new hobby turned out to be air rifle target shooting in our back garden otherwise known as 'plinking'. Thanks to online shopping we are now proud owners of 6 fine new air rifles and as my daughter said "dad, you could tell your friends that you have replaced your dinking with plinking". I know sad isn't it!? But at least I win the odd target shooting competition!

Anyway back to PB, I know how frustrated all pickleball players must feel right now but fingers crossed there is light at the end of the tunnel. We are aiming to pull together a North East PB festival as soon as it's permissible so we can catch up with all our PickleBall friends and put PB North East on the map! So watch this space! In the meantime stay in good health, good spirits and keep safe.

Best wishes to all.....Stan

You can contact Stan by emailing him Stan@pickleballengland.org.



SOUTH EAST REGION: SUE HARRIS

My goal from September last year onwards was to visit as many of the 52 clubs in the South East Region as possible.

Whilst not getting to every single club, I was lucky enough to visit over 30 of them and I wanted to thank everyone for their hospitality and for making me so welcome as well as for the valuable feedback I received.

I undertook a survey to understand what clubs believed were the key priorities to be addressed going forward so that we could align our activities to reflect these priorities.

The Region now has 52 clubs, 610 members and covers 10 counties. The programme for the year included establishing coaching initiatives, establishing leagues in each of the counties, supporting festivals in Hertfordshire and Kent, organising local tournaments, promoting the sport at a Regional level through articles in local media, sharing best practice amongst clubs, and organising a bootcamp for three days with Roberto Donati, the US Pro.

The first coaching initiative with 5 coaches on 5 courts and video feedback took place in early March with many others scheduled. Sadly lockdown took over after the first very successful event. The bootcamp with Roberto Donati also had to be cancelled.

Immediately prior to lockdown a very successful festival was organised in Hertfordshire by Christine Neyndorff and her team with excellent support from Lou Stephens and her team.

As part of the initiative to get our sport into schools, pickleballEngland introduced pickleball to the Sutton Schools Sport Partnership.

The South East Doubles League proved popular and got off to an excellent start in 2020. Putting in place formats for county leagues which can begin to operate when life returns to a new normal is a priority activity for the future.

Finally, there are a number of outdoor tennis courts marked up for pickleball across the Region and hopefully people will try to take advantage of these until indoor facilities eventually open up.

You can contact Sue by emailing her sue@pickleballengland.org



2020 ENGLISH OPEN & BAINBRIDGE CUP



We were obviously devastated that we had to cancel our tournament. It was obviously the right thing to do but for some it probably felt like we pulled the plug a bit too quickly. We have also decided that in 2021 we will hold just an English OPEN and host the Bainbridge Cup in 2022 when travel will be back to normal. As soon as we have more details for 2021 we will share them with you

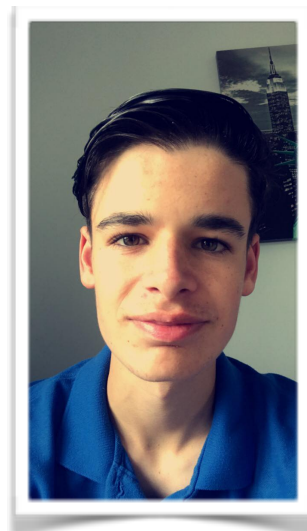
West Midlands REGION: Sam Basford

The start of 2020 was a very busy period for me in pickleball!

The first major event was qualifying as a Level 2 Certified Instructor with the IPTPA and also becoming a director of level 2 tests, such as the skills test and observed teaching lesson, meaning I am able to help other players become certified coaches! I managed to squeeze two of these assessments in before lockdown, meaning we have 2 more qualified Level 2 instructors in the South East now.

We also held a fundraising tournament in Rugby to aid the schools' initiative in the area. 2 schools have expressed an interest in putting pickleball into the curriculum, and although this has been delayed by the pandemic, they are still keen potentially in a year's time to evaluate the situation and implement pickleball.

Lockdown has been a very busy time for me in the West Midlands! I still had 2 university exams to complete with one still being up in the air, thankfully those 2 are now out of the way!



As some of you will have seen I have been busy fundraising to help cover the cost of refurbishing an out-of-use tennis court in Clifton, near where I live into 3 dedicated pickleball courts. The work is now finished and we have 3 permanent outdoor courts to play on over the summer. I have started offering free one hour demo sessions to new players in the area. You can see before and after pictures (left)

I also coordinated the **Solitude Singles** event, which was enjoyed by competitors and punters alike. The event was a test of paddle skills for some of the best players in England,

who were competing on behalf of people in order to win them some prizes, courtesy of **Drop Shot** UK. Congratulations to Jibin Paulose and his sponsor Ed Hares, who because of Jibin, won a water bottle, outfit and paddle!

Aside from pickleball I have been busy rifling through Netflix (would recommend Ozark and Money Heist), and occasionally playing teacher to my younger siblings.

You can contact Sam by emailing him Sam@pickleballengland.org

NORTH WEST REGION: ELAINE SHALLCROSS



For many years the health benefits of sport, exercise and activity has been recognised as being valuable, and I don't think that our sport of pickleball is any exception to that.

However in my recent experience it has given me so much more, that you wouldn't find on any list, something that may well have helped to save my life. I had always been active, and enjoyed my involvement in many sports as a volunteer and on a professional basis for over 50 years, and I am convinced my sporting experiences have contributed massively in

After I was diagnosed with breast cancer, following general screening 8 months ago in October 2019. It was such distressing news! I was filled with what if's and why's, and lots of things were buzzing around in my head. I thought I may feel more upset and angry, but managed to stay remarkably calm considering. Being diagnosed with a possible life-threatening condition, it makes you think and it certainly changes your perspective on life, and what the future may hold.

At first I was hesitant to tell anyone, just a few close family and friends, who understandably were upset, and as shocked as Treena and I. As my surgery fast approached I changed my mind on this silence, and thought it the right time to break the news, in the hope that it would be a reminder to everyone to go and get those essential health checks done that are so vital, to our well being. It is startling how many pickleball friends have since told me it prompted them to go for their check ups and thankfully so far it has been the sort of news I would want to hear. When I told people about my cancer, I give them an option, a chance to help and support me, as I felt sure I would be needing it with what lay ahead. Some people at first were a bit uneasy and didn't know what to say, and that was okay, as we all deal with things differently. But most people just wanted to comfort me and asked how they could best help. This is really what I want to focus on now.

The pickleball community have been truly amazing, it is incredible where the the support has come from and I really have felt the "pickleball love", from everywhere. I received so many lovely little, memorable things that mean so much to me. I have had messages, notes, cards, with such kind and inspiring words..... gifts, kiddies drawings, fruit, and flowers, so many surprises, such kindness from pickleball people that in some cases I didn't really know that well, but have all left a huge footprint on my heart.

I can't believe how many ladies and pickleball players have reached out to me, sharing their experiences in their personal breast cancer battles. It is sadly much more common than we think. I am by no means unique, there are many men and women. I take my hat off to all these people for their positivity and showing me the way to beat this cancer blight. In the early days I was still able to keep involved in pickleball, doing a little playing, and reasonable amounts of teaching and coaching. But when Chemotherapy came along particularly from cycle 4 the effects were brutal and certainly floored me. It was those messages of comfort and absolute belief in me, that I could beat this horrible illness from my pickleball family that picked me up and got me back on the right track. By just being there, even online... you all helped me so much. You improved my motivation, my attitude, you simply boosted my spirit at a time when I needed it most and made me feel better about everything. Pickleball and my pickleball friends have been the perfect distraction that has stopped me dwelling on any negative thoughts...You made me realise that my pickleball work is a long way from finished, and I really want to thank you for all you have done for me.

I can't sign off without mentioning my team of people and players in the North West, who have shared my burden every step of the way and carried me over the past 4 months. I also need to thank the Hua Hin players again for their loyalty and support and running such a fantastic Thailand Open Tournament, in my absence, with the help of Lou Stephens. To the folk from the UK who supported our Thai event, at a very difficult time I thank you. Finally players from our home countries, in England, Scotland, Wales, and NI, Ireland, European countries and the rest of the world, a massive thank you, I have been so touched by the support, warmth and respect you have shown me.

I am coming through the main body of my treatments now, with surgery, chemotherapy and radiotherapy all completed. I have a little way to go yet, but feel I can win this game with all of you on my team. I believe at the end of this journey, it will have made me a much stronger person and given me a greater love of pickleball. After everything I've been through, I feel even more passionate about encouraging more people into our sport. One or two of our North West projects have been on ice for now, as have many all around the country. I hope to give you a much better update in the next PE newsletter. The big news is that we hope, government, and UCLAN permitting to still go ahead with the North West Pickleball Festival at the end of September, so keep your fingers crossed.

Continued from page 9... Pickleball is active in the fight against cancer, and when I am a little better, I would like to further promote our sport whilst raising some funds for cancer charities and projects. I guess you won't be surprised, when I tell you that the team in the chemo unit at Blackburn Royal are coming on a pickleball taster session, when covid 19 allows, as are the radiologists from Royal Preston Hospital haha. So, pickleball IS unique, it does have something very special... it wraps around its players, and participants, especially when they are vulnerable. It cares for its own. It has cared for me and will care for other players, I'm sure when it is needed most. Thank you Elaine x

You can contact Elaine by emailing her at elaine@pickleballengland.org

SOUTH WEST REGION: ROBERTO ROSPO

It was meant to be a year full of exciting events. In Bristol we had organised the first festival in the South West which would have hosted 100 players from all over the UK.

Myself and my friend and county rep for the South West Richard Thoms had been planning to have the first doubles league .

I was looking forward to playing in the Bainbridge Cup (my favourite event in Pickleball) with over 600 players. And I was very excited to play again in the Dutch Open and in the Irish Open. But then the pandemic put everything on hold.

Keeping in touch with my friends and family during the lockdown has been very important for me. Even a quick call or a text has made a huge difference. Thank goodness for technology! My friend Karen Butera from Orlando introduced me to Zoom and during our first chat we thought "why not invite other Pickleball International friends to our calls?" The group continue to expand, and it was nice to see friends from various states of the US and from other countries all over the world. We then decided to have Pickleball pros as special guests. And we were delighted to have guests in the calibre of Ben and Colin Johns, Simone Jardim, Lucy Kovalova, Scott Golden, Dave Weinbach, Irina Tereschenko and Randy Coleman, Jennifer Lucore and Sarah Ansboury. We have learned so much from them and they have brought some smiles to our face during this unique time we are living. We thank them all for their time and for generosity with answering all of our questions! The group continues to expand and more pros will be joining us in the coming weeks!

The past 5 weeks have been recorded and added to the pickleballEngland YouTube channel.

Sarah Ansboury: <https://youtu.be/EctgwVL0tHQ>

Jennifer Lucore: <https://youtu.be/tgTC6D61q0o>

Randy Coleman: <https://youtu.be/QGf0Gtq1xVE>

Irina Tereschenko: <https://youtu.be/-ILi6syExag>

Dave Weinbach: <https://youtu.be/WkMJR8dzL5U>

If you want to join our group, please email us on pbquestions20@gmail.com.

You can contact Roberto by emailing him roberto@pickleballengland.org



EAST MIDLANDS REGION: JEFF VAN DER HULST

Wow 2020 did start great in the first two months, as set out in my original plans to attempt to visit most of the pickleball clubs and players groups in the East Midlands Region (EMR) in the first quarter of 2020.

I was actually on a good run with not only a visit to clubs and players groups in Suffolk, Norfolk and Peterborough but as well providing 2 hour free sessions of pickleball skills clinics with maximum attendance. It was fantastic to see familiar and lots of new faces in our pickleball community and finding new groups in Bury St Edmunds, Kings Lynn and Peterborough.

At the same time here in Norwich preparations were on the way to kick off a doubles league for 3.5/4.0 players in the EMR which was supposed to have started by the end of March.....

Now fast forward we are in the first week of June with very little to no pickleball, it is very noticeable how addictive pickleball actually is, you hear from players and their pickleball withdrawal symptoms just because we miss not only the playing but as well the social and keeping fit aspects of pickleball, hitting a whiffle ball against the wall or a challenge of keeping uppies on the rim of your paddle is certainly not the same as being on court having fun playing.

This did give me some time to finish off editing my video with highlights of my Indonesian pickleball road trip from last November, the introduction of pickleball in a country with a strong national love for badminton and table tennis. When introducing pickleball you see faces lighting up within minutes of people picking up a paddle, a ball and start playing the snowball effect is starting to take place just by handing over a paddle, a ball which results in a fun addictive game with a funny name.

As some of you might not know but it is the aim to have 25,000 pickleball players by 2025 in England. You can spread the love, the passion, the addiction for the game of pickleball by just handing over a paddle, a ball and have fun playing a game. There are many unused outdoor spaces where you could share the fun game we know as pickleball, I am looking forward to the pickleball snowball effect in England.

Pickleball Jeff

Indonesian pickleball Road trip video: https://youtu.be/4V_HJKBhBVY

Check out Jeff's BLOG on tennis versus pickleball here: <https://www.pickleballengland.org/tennis-versus-pickleball/>

You can contact Jeff by emailing him at jeff@pickleballengland.org

Since writing this article Jeff has also been named by the IFP as Co-Chair of the IFP Rules Committee.



Great News!



UK Pickleball Shop have advised that The Pickleball Club net is now back in stock! Priced at £99 but with a £10 discount for members of Pickleball England.

The Pickleball Club portable net system, was designed in response to repeated requests for a lighter and more affordable net system. The freestanding metal structure features a 22ft wide net, which is 36" at the sidelines and 34" at the centre and adheres to all official regulations set by the USA Pickleball Association (USAPA) and the International Federation of Pickleball (IFP) for tournament grade nets. The Pickleball Club net was the official net of the English Open 2019. To order visit: <https://pickle-ball.co.uk/products/pickleball-club-portable-net-system>

UK Pickleball Shop have stocks of outdoor balls in different colours if you want to be able to distinguish your balls from the opposition and just handle your own! They have also recently taken delivery of club paddles, including a lightweight one for juniors. Visit their online shop <https://pickle-ball.co.uk>.

DO YOU WANT TO HELP GROW PICKLEBALL IN ENGLAND?

In our last newsletter we asked for volunteers to take on a County Representative role. We have volunteers for Kent, Sussex, Hampshire, Bristol, Surrey, Essex, Lancashire, Shropshire, Norfolk.

Here's a bit more about the role:

- Regional Director's main contact point for the county
- Contact point with local council department responsible for sport and social inclusion
- Contact point for local media
- Day to day contact point for county clubs
- Point person to co-ordinate county wide league or competition
- Contact point for arranging coaching clinics for clubs (National lead works with regional directors who work with county representatives who work with the clubs)
- Provide input to newsletter process with insight into players to watch, fun chit chat or things that are working well at clubs or in the county
- Actively promote pickleballEngland membership

Now that we have added 6 Regional Directors, we want to add County Representatives to our growing network of volunteers, dedicated to growing pickleball in England.

If you are interested in representing your County, you can either reach out to your Regional Director or email info@pickleballEngland.org with your details (including the county you want to represent) and an overview of why you are interested in the role and what you would like to see accomplished in your county.

And finally...

If you have suggestions on what you would like to see in a future newsletter, or if you have something you would like to include in a future newsletter, please send them via email to info@pickleballengland.org.

We have a feedback/suggestions page on our website. Tell us what you would like to see added to the website, BLOG topics, club support needed etc. We welcome your input. Visit: <https://www.pickleballengland.org/feedback/>

2020 AGM

After the success of using Zoom for our Board of Directors meetings and for events that we have run over the past few months, we think that we will host our AGM over Zoom rather than as a face to face meeting. Prudent for social distancing but also avoids people having to travel. We are hopeful that a few more people might join in. We haven't set the date yet but it is likely to be sometime in August since our first AGM was at the end of August 2019.

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The screenshot shows a web form titled "We want to hear from you" in red. Below the title is a small explanatory text: "pickleballEngland was created to support the growth of pickleball by providing information, tools and resources for players and clubs. So if you have suggestions on what you would like to see added to the website, BLOG topics, activities or events to help the growth of the sport or even some feedback for us - here is your chance." The form contains several input fields: "Name *" with sub-fields for "First" and "Last", "Email *", "Subject *", and a large "Suggestion *" text area. There is a "Submit" button at the bottom. A section titled "Which topic do you have a suggestion for? *" includes radio button options for "Website", "Regional Directors", "BLOG Topic", "Activities / Events", "Individual Membership", "Club Support", and "Other". A note below this section says "Please choose topic that most closely relates to your suggestion".