



Spring 2025



Welcome to our latest newsletter !

A big thank you to all members who regularly turn out and play this fun sport or hobby, whether you enjoy competitive play or recreational fun. We really do appreciate your time and efforts!

A lot of new friendships have been made along the way, since this club was established in September 2022, which is surely beneficial for everyone's health and well-being!

In recognition of the work done by the outgoing Committee, Wendy, Ali, Fiona and Gill Anton, the club treated them to lunch at Cardo's Restaurant in Perth in early March. This included some of the new committee and an excellent time was had by all.

Grants update

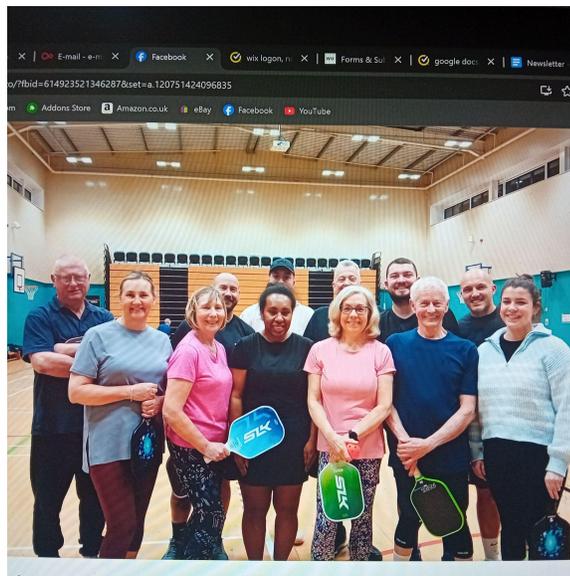
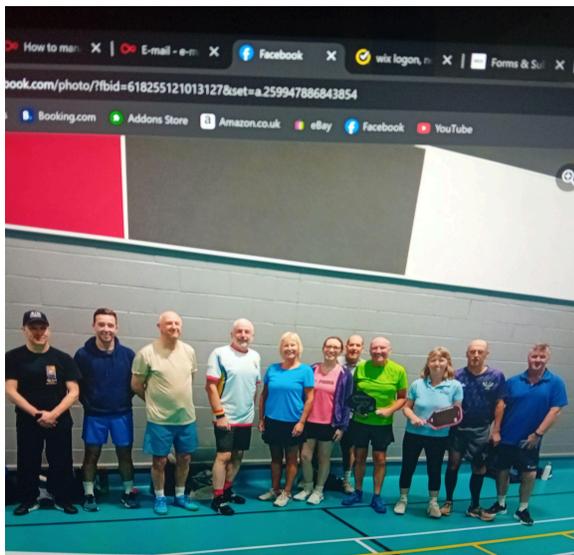
PPC recently applied for the latest funding available from Live Active (P&K Council), under the Sport for Change grant award category. The well-being, both physically and mentally, of sport, is well documented, and studies show that participation is dependent on many social and environmental factors.

Following our successful bid we are delighted to report that we obtained a further grant of £400!

Information will follow as to its subsequent use.

League Matches

PPC currently have 2 teams in the local Tayside League.



These two photos are from recent matches v Madoch Racketeers and In A Pickle. Members can see more photos and posts on our Facebook Page for Perth Pickleball Club.

Below is the current league table as at March 17th 2025.

	Played	Won	Drawn	Loss	Points
St Andrews 1	11	11	0	0	33
PPC1	11	8	1	2	28
St Andrews 2	12	6	1	5	25
Perfect Picklers	12	6	0	6	24

In A Pickle	10	4	0	5	17
Madoch Racketeers	11	3	0	8	17
PPC 2	10	0	0	10	10

PPC1 finished runner-up in the inaugural league - well done to the pool of Howard, Matt, Chris, Billy, Steve, Jane, Ian, Kat, David and Fiona.

St Andrews have to be congratulated on the strength and depth of their squad!

Well done to everyone who turned out for all of our teams regardless of results.

Our second team consisted of Ron C and Ron M, Elaine, Isla, Jenny, Audrey, Gordon, Isobel, Dave, Neil & John. They enjoyed their matches and it is clear to see the improvement in their game. Well done!

If you are interested in playing league or social matches please let any committee members or any of our ambassadors know.

Next season we should also be looking smarter as one of our member's, Chris Anton, has kindly managed to obtain sponsorship for us! Details to follow once we know more!

Coaching

A coaching assessment on Saturday January 25th, led by Jane, assisted by Howard and Ian, was undertaken with a group of intermediate/improvers @ the Letham Hub, seeking to get their skills analysed and assessed. Well done to all who participated. More assessments are planned.

We are actively seeking the use of an external coach, and will continue to approach coaches listed on the Pickleball Scotland website.

We want to support as many members as we possibly can at all levels of ability. It is important that PPC recognises the wide range of ability that exists within our club and encourages player development. We are fully aware of a gap in provision in this area.

Jane Morrison has obtained her Coaching Certificate and will offer sessions but in all honesty we need more coaches to support a club our size. There is a possibility that we can occasionally enlist a fellow pickleball player, who has recently gained his coaching certificate, from St Andrews Club.

PPC are in a position to offer coaching, from Jane, over the next few weeks as follows:-

Monday 28th April 9.30-11.30 @ the Perth College session

Monday 5th May 10 -11am @ the Letham Hub session

Sunday 11th May 6 - 8pm @ Letham Hub Ladies Fun Doubles
£3 entry fee

Sunday 18th May 6 - 8pm @ Letham Hub improver/intermed.

Sessions can be booked using the FiT app.

From earlier Sport For Change funding that the club has already received, Rebecca Bond has just completed the first part of her coaching award. She will aim to set up some sessions with small groups of improvers - there are two reasons for this,

- a) to help our improver standard of players develop and
- b) it is a requirement of Rebecca's award in order for her to progress further with her coaching course.

Details will follow about this mutually beneficial arrangement.

Social League

Louise Hatch has done a great job organising the social team!

Louise told PPC, "Over the last 5 months our social teams have played 13 matches with 25 different players taking part in the league. It's been a great experience and a lot of fun, with some very close matches. "

The photo below shows our 2 social teams in a recent match versus the Dundee team " In a Pickle "



Some of our members recently attended the Pairs Ladder event on Sunday 9th March at the DISC Sports Centre in Dundee, hosted by "In a Pickle". Margaret Cowie was one of our attendees and she said "The event was for improver and intermediate players. Over sixty players from a range of clubs had the use of eight pickleball courts. The players were divided into six groups of four pairs. At the end of each set, one pair moved up a group and one pair moved down. The event was well organised, friendly and sociable - and there was home made tablet! "

Membership and sessions

The club now has 120 members and is really at maximum capacity. We are looking to recruit a few new members but generally of a higher standard. The split of members is approximately - Improvers 50 members, Intermediates 50 members and Advanced 20 members.

For anyone visiting our website (www.perthpickleballclub.com) they will see that we are closed to new members joining. We are however allowing for enquiries and we will be offering a come and try taster session for as many of such persons as possible.

The planned date for this is Sunday 4th May at Letham Hub, 7pm to 8.30pm, led by Jane, together with some of our club ambassadors, and other committee member helpers.

The committee has recently agreed that the club will NOT take on any 'improver' standard players at the moment in view of our limited coaching provision.

One of the principal issues with organising sessions is the number of different venues, variance in the courts (especially the correct kitchen size) with particular emphasis on matches and varying sizes of kitchen simply in general play.

One of the more popular sessions has been the Monday afternoon, which stems back to Bells days and until recently we were getting 6 courts at the ASW. Unfortunately this option was removed by the College and we were offered various options for Monday morning, Thursday and Friday afternoon. We tried the Thursday

afternoon, however the uptake was poor and accordingly this slot was cancelled.

We have now been able to secure an additional slot on Monday afternoon @ the college from 3 to 5pm , hopefully starting from 14/4/25 and this will be by invitation only for Advanced and Upper Intermediates; the Monday morning session 9.30 to 11.30 will remain.

With the clocks about to change and hopefully some decent weather on the horizon, we may need to reassess the number of courts being made available, it would be helpful if you could indicate at your regular sessions if you consider you will reduce your playing time over the next 6 months.

Perth College sessions are due to cease at the end of July and Glenearn and Letham Hub at the end of June. Discussions will take place as to any continuation at any of our venues over the summer months and also an official start up date for next season.

DUPR Update

As a reminder, DUPR stands for Dynamic Universal Pickleball Rating. It is a standardised rating system of a player's skill level and performance on the court.

The reason we adopted it in 2024 was to help our players understand where they stand in terms of ability and to assist people with booking appropriate PPC sessions, so that players are

matched against opponents of similar skill levels. One of the primary benefits of DUPR is its focus on player improvement.

There is no requirement for social/ recreational players to have a DUPR rating, but intermediate and advanced players who are trying to develop their game are encouraged to register and develop their rating. If you play in the competitive leagues, you are required to have a DUPR rating and your match results will automatically be recorded on DUPR by the home team.

We have been running some PPC DUPR sessions, but these have had a mixed response, with some players feeling more under pressure during these sessions and not enjoying it as much. This has impacted on the number booking those sessions. The committee has therefore decided that we will not run regular PPC DUPR sessions as part of the programme. So, the only way to develop your DUPR rating is to play in the competitive league. If demand improves in future, we may reconsider the position.

At the moment there is a very broad skill level within each of the player groups (improver, intermediate and advanced). To ensure members at all levels continue to enjoy playing, it is important that players recognise their own skill level and book into the appropriate sessions. We have recently been receiving feedback that some players at a lower skill level continue to book into intermediate/ advanced sessions where they are clearly not at the required level and struggle during games. This results in some of the better players not enjoying it, and not booking into that

session in the future. Your enjoyment and skill level will only improve if you are playing others at a similar skill level to your own.

Bells Sports Centre

Club President Gordon Butt is actively involved in a local working group with the aim to pressurise the council into restoring our badly missed sports centre at the North Inch.

The situation is gathering momentum but as we know politics will play a part in any outcome.

The Closure of Bells sports centre by Perth and Kinross Council, has undoubtedly removed a stable base, we are currently operating out of numerous venues of varying standards with complications in repeat bookings. A group called Perth & Kinross Community Sports Network has been set up with representations from all sports users from Bells, all of whom have lost out.

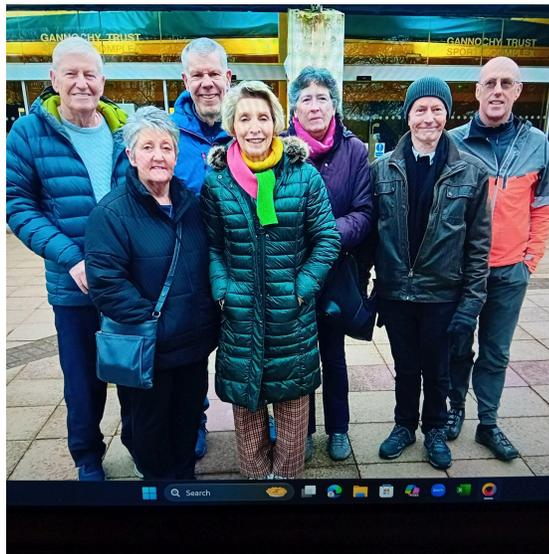
An online Petition has been set up, with over 3300 people already having signed this; the fact there was no public consultation on the closure of Bells is a major factor.

PKCSN (Perth & Kinross Community Sports Network) is a consortium of sports bodies representing 12 different sports, including Athletics, Bowls, Badminton, Basketball, Floorball, Table Tennis, Volleyball, Hockey, Tennis, Pickleball, Netball, Roller Hockey and Squash as well as disability sports totalling over 3500 local participants.

PKCSN takes the view that the best option to secure the future of the Bells as a multisports venue is to create a Partnership with PKC in the lead role, applying to various grant funding bodies.

The cost of reinstating Bells will be less than the cost of a new build PH20 and would take less time. The PH20 facility would only have 6 badminton courts compared to Bells which has over 20.

Below is a photo of a few of PPC members who attended a photo opportunity at the venue recently to help raise the campaign profile.



A lot of publicity is on Facebook @ Keep Bells Sports Centre in Perth Open. Please share their page and sign up to the campaign.

Social Events

We plan to have two club functions in the Black Watch cafe. One on June 19th and one on November 20th.

Details will follow.

Our social team is organising a night out for their section on April 17th in Cafe Kisa and the 1st and 2nd teams plan to have a similar venture at a date yet agreed (possibly the 19th or 26th April in Brown & Blacks Scone). Dave Joiner has kindly offered to arrange that occasion.

Further points of interest

A regular newsletter possibly worth reading has been set up @ www.pickleston.com and is called Pickle Fix. Produced weekly it has a lot of interesting articles and includes Scottish events. You need to sign up (for free) to get the newsletter delivered to your email inbox.

Recently the club offered the use of 'demo' paddles - did anyone actually order one? We would be interested to hear if you did!

Do you fancy playing pickleball outdoors in the summer if we have



one!?

If so, Darnhall Tennis Club in Craigie, Perth are in the process of putting down lines and they are hoping there will be availability on their courts, particularly during the day. Final details from the tennis club about access and payment have yet to be sorted but if you wish to find out more about this venture then please email at

Darnhall.tennis@gmail.com for assistance.

Perth Pickleball club would like to thank UHI (ASW) and the Letham Hub and Glenearn Campus for the use of their facilities.

Happy Pickling!

