

Walter Knecht Retirement

Walter was the right person at the right time! In 2017 no provincial pickleball organization existed. With support from Pickleball Canada Walter took up the challenge of creating Pickleball B.C. No coherent membership system existed – it was paper and pencil, or for the more sophisticated, spreadsheets. Thankfully, Walter was a guru of spreadsheets and macros and was quickly supporting clubs and raising the bar for membership tracking and reducing the work that each club needed to do. He created a structure for clubs to become a part of a provincial organization and began the process for pickleball in B.C. to be recognized by Sport B.C.

If that wasn't enough, with a vacancy in the coordination of referee development within Pickleball Canada, Walter volunteered to take on the task of creating its framework. This included the creation of on-line tests to evaluate perspective referees. This has proved to be an invaluable tool.

As the tournament chair for the 1st B.C. Provincial Pickleball Championships I worked closely with Walter to define the vision, roles and responsibilities for this event. I valued his perspective and appreciated his confidence in letting the Vernon Pickleball Association 'run with it' within the framework we established. Pickleball B.C. was an outstanding partner in the success of the Championship.

My personal thanks to Walter who has made pickleball better in B.C. and Canada. The right person at the right time!

Richard Chambers
Former President, Pickleball Canada