



PICKLEBALL

SOUTH AFRICA

APRIL 2025

NEWSLETTER



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Growing the game
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Dear Picklers

The year is already flying by and seems to be gearing up for a whole lot more Pickleball. New clubs, new players, new tournaments and new opportunities!

This 2nd edition of our Newsletter sheds light on all the exciting SA Pickleball news over the past few months.

Please share your club, tournaments, social development and any other great pickleball content with us and we'll do our best to include it in our next issue.

Email: news@pickleballsa.com



PICKLEBALL

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The Foundry

Opened recently in the V&A Waterfront opposite the cruise terminal. It currently offers two indoor courts with another two expected to be added in the next few months.

The site also includes a coffee shop.



NEW CLUBS



Sanbonani Hotel Resort and Spa

In addition to 14 other on-site activities, visitors to Sanbonani can now enjoy Pickleball, with all the necessary equipment available at reception. There are four courts.

(There are a further 13 exciting adventures to choose from nearby).





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Pickletown

is in development and will be bringing Pickleball to Polokwane soon. The club will offer four courts, a coffee shop, pro-shop and nutrition hub.



Artistic
Rendition

NEW CLUBS

East London Get Ready

A brand new club is under construction in East London. More details to follow soon.



George Tennis Club

recently added four pickleball courts. The tennis club can be contacted for bookings and scheduled play.





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COMPETITIONS & EVENTS

Inter-provincial contest

A very successful Inter-provincial friendly took place in February between players from Gauteng and KZN at Kloof Tennis and Pickleball Club in KZN. The weekend allowed the players the chance to meet with, and challenge opponents from different provinces. They shared experiences and advice and had great fun. A great step forward for Pickleball in South Africa!



Memel's 2nd Annual Recreational Tournament

The event in March combined the celebration of our SA Human Rights Day and the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (in April).

"What we saw today melted our hearts. The kids from Memel Primary, players from Pretoria, Joburg, Durban, Zimbabwe, Bethlehem and the USA; all there to play and celebrate. (Singing the National Anthem saw some of us older folk become a little overcome.)"

For perspective, in 2018, the local municipal tennis club allowed Memel.Global access to two of the three sadly neglected courts in 'town'. Memel.Global staff, including girls and women from the SheWinS project, refurbished the courts by hand. Donors from the US and South Africa helped to make this possible. And so began Pickleball Play in Memel, and the local primary school became the first to include Pickleball as a school sport.

The Memel Eagles team either work, or have worked, for Memel.Global. Today, seven fixed teams, competed in an exciting round robin. An exhibition battle between KZN and Free State followed. Less intense games were also played to include everyone. The sound of the ball strikes were mixed with shouts of encouragement, whoops of joy, playful banter and shrieks of laughter.

Going forward, The Eagles' children are becoming just as passionate about Pickleball, and practice whenever they can. Around Memel, the game has really taken off. Local fire fighters, "Working on Fire", and even a young retail worker, have taken up paddles and joined the Memel Eagles Team.

The obvious absence of age, race, gender or religious barriers, and the evident genuine mutual respect, cooperation and community spirit, are in no small way attributable to the sense of equality that is fostered when playing Pickleball. This game has changed the face of Memel. Lawyers, teachers, shopkeepers and other business people turned out to support the event. What Pickleball can do for Memel, it can surely do for every community in South Africa! "

Pule Setai (with Les Pears)



PICKLEBALL SOUTH AFRICA

COMPETITIONS & EVENTS

Gauteng Open

A very successful Gauteng Open was recently hosted in Johannesburg. With many of South Africa's best players and several foreign players included in the draws, the competition was tough and provided top quality pickleball for players and spectators to enjoy.

International players included players from Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Uganda, DRC, Egypt and USA.



The Open singles categories were both won by SA players which is testament to the quality of our players. Well done to all involved and to all the winners.

Debbie Wentzel and Shane du Bois (with their Dinky Sports team) superbly organised the event, hosted at the Northcliff Eagles Pickleball Club.

Sponsors included Pickleball Zone SA, Manzi, Diadem, PVM, Joola, Digit Hosting Co, Moleko Printers, Sportmans Warehouse and EPG Gas.

Black Rock Studio were responsible for videography and photography.



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The last few months saw some very successful open days to introduce the game to more people.

GROWING THE GAME

Gqeberha

In Gqeberha more and more people are attending the coming Open Days. Keith Murcott says 'We often have the combination of veterans playing tennis along with a junior academy during the week, and when people see how active the club is, they want to be part of it, especially the Pickleball.'



Mbombela

The residents of Mbombela recently got a taste of pickleball and judging by their smiles it was good. Looking forward to many more fun filled games .





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UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS

ENTRIES OPEN
21 APRIL

CATEGORIES:

- **Mens & Ladies Open**
Singles, Doubles & Mixed
- **Mens & Ladies 35+**
Doubles & Mixed

PSA PROVINCIAL AND NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

PSA is excited to announce that the inaugural South African National and Provincial Pickleball Championships will be decided in 2025.

FOUR PROVINCIAL PLAY-OFFS

Four Provincial Play-off Tournaments will be hosted followed by the National Finals. Tournaments will take place in May and June.

- 1 GAUTENG** **7, 8 JUNE**
Gauteng, Limpopo, Mpumalanga
- 2 KZN** **17,18 MAY**
KZN only
- 3 WESTERN CAPE** **17,18 MAY**
Western Cape, Eastern Cape Coastal
- 4 FREE STATE** **31 MAY, 1 JUNE**
Free State, Northern Cape, Burgersdorp

NATIONALS

The winners of the Nationals will qualify to participate in the Regional and Continental tournaments to be hosted by the Confederation of African Pickleball.

GAUTENG **20-22 JUNE**

Want to host
a play-off tournament
at your venue?
Please complete the form by
clicking below

CLICK HERE

Closing date for
submission 22 Apr



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CALLING ALL SUPPLIERS

*We would love you to join this platform,
to add value and share information
with all Pickleball fanatics out there.*



Are you a supplier or
service provider in the
Pickleball space in
Southern Africa?
Advertise
in the next issue

For more information, email:
news@pickleballsa.com
WITH SUBJECT: ADVERTISE

CALLING ALL PICKLEBALL FANATICS

Please share all your exciting developments,
tournaments and events with us to
include in our next issues of the
newsletter.

We are here to assist. If you want
to get in touch with PSA please
email: info@pickleballsa.com

GET IN TOUCH WITH US

Please note
that although
the emails are not
permanently monitored,
we aim to respond within
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NEWS FROM THE KITCHEN

*This section is dedicated to sharing important news and decisions from the Interim National Executive Committee
The sub-committees are up and running.*

The Competitions and Events sub-committee has proposed an age group segregation which was voted in by the Interim National Executive Committee. The age groups for Pickleball in South Africa are as follows:



- Juniors u/12, u/14, u/16, u/18
- Open (19 - 34 yrs)
- 35+ (35 - 49 yrs)
- 50+
- 60+
- 70+

The segregation will allow for a more focussed strategy and development plan to grow the game in a way that is best suited for each group.

PROVINCIAL ASSOCIATIONS

The process of establishing provincial associations remains ongoing. The process is expected to take a long time but we will publish updates as positive forward motion is achieved.

MEMBERSHIP

The membership process has been restructured to ensure more benefits to members and to simplify the process. The membership portal is expected to go live soon. PSA wishes to thank its prospective members for their patience and support in this regard.

