



## **2019 Finish Line - 2020 on SSIPA's Horizon**

### **Indian Wells - Nationals**

USAPA's National Tournament is just around the corner. Please take the time to come by the SSIPA table in the USAPA tent to visit and pick up a free gift courtesy of SSIPA. This year, the leadership will post notices of when we will be in the tent. Please do not ask the USAPA volunteers questions regarding SSIPA. Thanks.

### **Points Race**

Now, only two tournaments left before the points race concludes. The Marriott and Worlds will complete the points race for 2019. SSIPA will be awarding the top 10 players in all age groups for both men and women \$16,000 worth of prizes to reward their success in 2019. Our goal is to get the prizes mailed before Christmas for the winners to enjoy during the holidays and share with family and friends.

### **Copa Di Vino Cup**

This special event December 13-15<sup>th</sup> in San Felipe, Baja, Mexico will start the beginning of the 2020 points race. Please consider this great trip as we close out the SSIPA year. Registration is Open on [pickleballtournaments.com](https://www.pickleballtournaments.com) though 12/9/19. California, Arizona and Nevada residents, what a great opportunity for pickleball.

Just click this link for more information or to register:

<https://www.pickleballtournaments.com/tournamentinfo.pl?tid=3108>

## Super Seniors World Pickleball Championships

There are now over 500 players registered for this tournament in what promises to be the greatest competition ever for the SSIPA membership. If you are not registered for this tournament and are in the area, come by the Surprise City Courts the first week of December for a special treat of pickleball pleasure.

See you there soon!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

## 2020 Tournament Schedule

### Florida, Florida, Florida!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Need a time away from the cold of winter or already in the Sunshine State for winter, either way, we have just what you need for the first quarter of 2020. SSIPA is teaming up with Lucy Kitcher Presents for 5 special tournaments to fit your pickleball needs. See the developing schedule below and then go to [pickleballtournaments.com](http://pickleballtournaments.com) to register. Registration is open now for all 5 tournaments to be held this winter.

### Schedule Growth

Currently, SSIPA has 22 tournaments on the schedule for 2020; however, many more are in the works. Canada has returned to the schedule. This tournament is North of Seattle and near Vancouver. Look for a flyer at the SSIPA table if you are at Nationals. New tournaments in Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Ohio as we continue to work on other states and locations. The schedule will continue to be developed up until the end of the first quarter. If you want a tournament in your area, contact us at [askssipa@gmail.com](mailto:askssipa@gmail.com).

### Why add the 50's?

Since I get this question almost daily, I thought I would respond to our membership to clarify SSIPA's position. **First of all, players in the 60+ age categories will not be affected by this change.** How is that possible you say? In the new SSIPA tournament guidelines that will be published

soon, players 60+ will not compete in brackets that have 50's players. In 2019, 76% of the tournaments on the SSIPA Circuit Schedule included players in the 50+ age categories. It just makes sense to add them to the family in order for these players to enjoy the benefits of SSIPA membership for only \$1.67 a month. If they only want to test drive SSIPA for the \$5 tournament temporary fee, that is clearly their choice.

### **Tournament Guidelines**

The board hopes to have the 2020 tournament guidelines completed soon. A special edition will be sent out to our membership prior to the first of the year.

### **Results of Award Points Survey**

Earlier this year, a survey was sent to membership regarding options for 2019 points awards. Approximately 400 responses were received. The award in 2017 was a Paddletek "golden paddle." Last year's award was a \$100 gift certificate to Pickleball Central. These two and two other potential award options were included in the survey. Here is the table showing the survey results:

<b>Option</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percent of Total</b>
Golden paddle	76	20%
Pickleball Central GC	115	29%
Amazon or other GC	126	31%
No Preference	76	20%

There was no significant majority vote for any one of the options. The board is finalizing details for the 2019 award which should be announced soon after the World's tournament in December.

## Super Senior International Pickleball Association Stars

### August Star - Raymond Bennett - Spring, TX

*I am Raymond Bennett, a 73-year-old proud SSIPA lifetime member. I am a retired electrical engineer and a native Texan, now residing in Spring, Texas. My wife and I celebrated our fiftieth wedding anniversary on April 19<sup>th</sup> along with my three sons, their wives, and six grandchildren. My priorities are God, family, pickleball, and golf. Tennis was replaced by pickleball in this list. However, I am not sure that God and family will always agree with the order of that listing.*

*I was introduced to pickleball by my brother-in-law Reggie Kirksey in 2013. Before pickleball, we played tennis weekly which meant that one of us drove 50 miles each way - he lives on the south side of Houston and I on the north. One day he asked me to meet him at the Fonde Recreation Center in downtown Houston to play a game called pickleball. My response was “to play what?” followed by a few other choice words suggesting that he had been out in the sun too long. But he was hooked and wouldn’t let me off the hook until I agreed, and wow, am I glad I did. We played together at venues around the city until a health condition prevented his playing, so my first gold medal went to him in appreciation for introducing me to this game.*

*Although she doesn’t play, my wife Aggie has driven with me across the U.S. to support me in tournaments. Pickleball has given me the oppor-*



*tunity to play in 10 Texas towns and several states from the east to the west coast, and to meet a lot of great people. You never know who you are playing with or against until you have the time to sit down and talk. I am also grateful that pickleball has also afforded me the opportunity to sing the National Anthem at venues across the United States.*

*I am currently studying to become a certified referee. I have refereed in almost every venue that I have played but never considered certification until I was asked why I wasn't certified. My first attempt at the exam humbled me because it showed me that I didn't know nearly as much about the rules of pickleball as I thought I did. I ask for your prayers and support to help me achieve this goal!*

*I now have a pickleball net and some outdoor balls (thanks Tom Burkhart) and have started playing pickleball in the cul-de-sac in front of my house with a neighbor, my grandkids and other neighborhood kids. Some of them are becoming good players. Hopefully, we can develop an active pickleball venue in front of my house while introducing the game to younger and younger generations.*

*Pickleball is a great way for me to stay active while doing something I love. I can't imagine my life without it!*



## September Star - Jennifer Butler - The Villages, Florida



*Being a competitive tennis and table tennis player my entire life gave me a solid background in pickleball. A friend, Staton Williams, who lives in the Villages in Florida raved about the game and insisted I try it. After playing at the local YMCA, I was immediately hooked. During high school and college my sports were softball, volleyball, tennis, gymnastics, and rowing crew. Being a twin encourages one to be competitive, and we still crave the competition, no matter what age, so THANK YOU PICKLEBALL!! In the beginning of my pickleball career I found Jon Post, also a former tennis player who was addicted to our*

*game. We clicked on the court and have played in several tournaments together. I cannot give enough credit to Jon Post, not only a fantastic competitor, but also an organizer of local rec play, and a tournament director who donates his time and effort selflessly to expanding pickleball in North Carolina. One of my favorite memories was playing womens doubles at the US Open in 2017 with Jana Spano. We both were relative newbies on the pickleball scene at the time, but after I looked at the draw, I knew we had a good chance to go all the way. Jana scoffed at the idea, but I pushed her to believe, one match at a time, that we could win gold, which we did. Believe in yourself and your partner, and focus! Know your strengths and figure out your opponent's weaknesses- follow your strategy! Being a pilot with*



*American Airlines makes it convenient for me to fly to tournaments. I've been a pilot for 42 years, and have 3 years left till retirement. My regular route these days flying the Airbus 330 is Charlotte, NC to Dublin, Ireland. After connecting with Mr. Pickleball Ireland (Michael McDaid) I wanted to help the pickleball program in Ireland which is now in the toddler stage. My friend Mark Attwood and I went to Multyfarnham and Portmarnock to "Teach the Teachers" and spread the pickleball word earlier this year. Helping others improve their pickleball skills is such a rewarding experience. One of my nicknames on the court is the "Drill Queen". There are so many facets of the game that we all need to work on- drilling is so important to improve your skills. My husband Calvin Ward has not played pickleball yet (he's a golfer), but he just retired, so hopefully will have more time now. When we purchase a home in the Villages in the near future, I am hoping he will pick up the game. I'm looking forward to playing with all my friends in the Villages, especially my mentor Deb Harrison, who I aspire to be like when I grow up!*



Jennifer Butler In Action

## October Star - Marg Ouimet - Alberta, Canada

*I was raised in Kelowna, British Columbia. Sports was always an integral part of growing up for me. Summer saw me playing softball, volleyball, track and field, high jump, and teaching swimming. In the winter, I was on the slopes skiing or inside playing racquetball.*



*I married Dan Silvester and we had two boys. When the boys were two and five, I went to university and received my Registered Nurses Diploma. I had found my niche in life, as I loved nursing and worked Intensive Care, Emergency, and Air Ambulance. When Dan passed away suddenly, I stayed in Kelowna and started and implemented a pilot program to upgrade paramedics.*

*Through friends, I was introduced to Ralph Ouimet and married 1999. I became a farmer's wife and moved to Alberta. I experienced a steep learning curve, chasing cattle, driving a swather, and cooking for silage crews. These activities, along with nine grandchildren and two grand-children, keeps me extremely busy. We still find time to camp and fish with friends.*



*Because Ralph and I both have a passion for traveling, we bought a fifth wheel and our adventures began. While on a trip to Arizona and a visit to Palm Creek, my sister in law introduce me to pickleball. I Was Hooked!!*

*We now spend our winters in Palm Creek where I am in seventh heaven because I am able to play pickleball everyday. I soon realized that I needed to volunteer and give back to the sport I love. I helped teaching, started reffing, and soon saw a need for medical aid at the tournaments. I realized that if I wanted to play, as well as act in a medical capacity, I needed to put a team together*

*for the task.*

*From 2015 to 2017, the US Pickleball Nationals came to Palm Creek. I was asked to coordinate the medical coverage for the tournament. I set up teams of skilled volunteers who, armed with walkie talkies and fanny packs, covered the 32 courts for 10 days straight. This is something I am extremely proud of, but this could not have been accomplished without the many medical volunteers.*

*One of the questions I am frequently asked is if I have used the Automated External Defibrillator (AED). The answer is yes. I used it on a 20 year old lady. I was privileged to be invited to her university graduation, I am a huge advocate of having AED machines available at all sports facilities.*

*I have been an Ambassador in Alberta, a Board Member of Pickleball Canada, and Vice President of Palm Creek Pickleball Club. I have watched the sport grow in leaps and bounds. While traveling, I have played on the high seas and in small towns of 200 residents. What other sport can give you the thrill of completion, while enjoying wonderful people you meet through the game.*

*Super Senior International Pickleball Association, SSIPA, has given an opportunity for older players to play in their own age bracket. I am blessed to be able to compete and hope to continue for many years to come.*



## 2019 Remaining/2020 Developing Tournament Schedule

#	S	Date	Tournament	Location	Reg. Open Date	USAPA
32	(S)	11/22-24/19	JW Marriott - Phx Desert Holiday Classic	Phoenix, AZ	Open	Sanctioned
33	(S)	12/02-06/19	SSIPA Worlds	Surprise, Arizona	Open	Sanctioned
34	(E)	12/13-15/19	Copa Di Vino Cup	San Felipe, Baja, MEX	Open	Non Sanctioned
<b>NEW 2020 SCHEDULE UPDATE - PLAN NOW TO ATTEND THESE 2020 TOURNAMENTS</b>						
1	(P)	1/8-12/20	USAPA Southwest Regional	Surprise, AZ	Open	Sanctioned
2	(E)	1/11-12/20	Key West Gamma Pickleball Classic	Key West, FL	Open	MMO-Sanctioned
3	(S)	1/28-30/20	Sun City Marinette SSIPA	Sun City, AZ	Open	Sanctioned
4	(E)	1/31-2/2/20	Gamma Sundial Championships	Sanibel, FL	Open	MMO-Sanctioned
5	(S)	2/6-10/20	Sombrero Showdown and Amigos Cup	San Carlos, Mex	Open	Non Sanctioned
6	(S)	2/11-13/20	Space City Part Deux	Houston, TX	TBD	Sanctioned
7	(S)	2/18-19/20	Cowtown Senior Pickleball Classic	Fort Worth	TBD	TBD
8	(E)	2/20-23/20	South Florida Gamma Championships	Davie, FL	Open	MMO-Sanctioned
9	(E)	3/7-8/20	ARNOLD Sports Festival PB Championship	Columbus, OH	1/1/20	Sanctioned
10	(E)	3/7-8/20	The Grapevine Indoor Tournament	Grapevine, TX	12/1/19	Sanctioned
11	(P)	3/13-15/20	USAPA Mid-South Regional	College Station, TX	TBD	Sanctioned
12	(E)	3/14-17/20	Vero Beach Gamma Pickleball Championships	Vero Beach, FL	Open	MMO-Sanctioned
13	(E)	3/20-24/20	PicklePlex Gamma Grand Slam	Punta-Gorda, FL	Open	MMO-Sanctioned
14	(E)	4/05-06/20	Aaron Gifford Pickleball Benefit Tournament	Las Cruces, NM	TBD	Sanctioned
15	(S)	4/14-16/20	Willow Grove Pickleball	Cordova, TN	TBD	Sanctioned
16	(S)	5/01-03/20	Quad States Senior Open	Denton, TX	1/17/20	Sanctioned
17	(E)	5/01-03/20	Doc Holliday Classic	Griffin, GA	TBD	Non Sanctioned
18	(E)	5/29-31/20	Rowlett Rumble	Rowlett, TX	2/3/20	Sanctioned
19	(E)	6/12-14/20	Colorado Pickleball Open	Arvada, CO	TBD	Sanctioned
20	(E)	8/17-19/20	Kahunaverse Sports Super Senior Slam	South Surrey, BC, CAN	TBD	Non Sanctioned
21	(S)	10/5-7/20	SSIPA East Championships	Griffin, GA	TBD	Sanctioned
22	(E)	10/23-25/20	Camden Outdoor Gamma Classic	Camden, SC	TBD	MMO-Sanctioned

(S) - Standalone Tournament  
(P) - Point Event  
(E) - Embed Tournament - Includes <50 Age



Proud Ally Of



## 2019 SSIPA Circuit Point Leaders

Ranking	60-64	Pts	65-69	Pts	70-74	Pts	75-79	Pts	80+	Pts
1	Henderson,Susan	143	Smart,Laura	125	Gillette,Joan	127	Tym,Alice	90	Krueger,Beverly	27
2	Honeycutt,Karen	109	Carr,Kathleen	98	Bagley,Carolyn	123	Pejchar,Linda	75	Agnos,Erol	25
3	Ruxton,Sally	98	Hopkins,Paula	92	Wintroub,Barbara	73	Dhaeseleer,Pocket	62	Knutsen,Rosalie	21
4	Powers,Chris	84	Garcia,Mary	88	Sherman,Barbara	68	Keller,Diane	60	McCutcheon,Sallie	13
5	Franke,Annette	82	Noakes,Vicky	87	Bowman,Sandra	59	Grosman,Janie	59	Harvey,Nancy	11
6	Hoffmann,Emily	74	Myers,Eva	76	Cooper,Carol	59	MacEachron,Ann	50	Brown,Maxine	11
7	Payne,Mary	68	Borne,Christine	62	Adams,Charisse	59	Pahde,Janet	44	Gillespie,Patricia	7
8	Butler,Jennifer	60	Baynton,Sally	58	Hoggatt,Linda	56	Montgomery,Winnie L	41	Clemens,Lyndon	7
9	Readicker,Robyn	59	Morrissey,Kathy	56	Everman,Lorraine	45	Childs,Susan	40		
10	Roose,Tua	58	Romagosa,Irene	55	Schmalz,Nikki	44	Vaughn,Georgianna	27		
11	Shumann,Vicki	56	Galon,Mary	54	Bruns,Fay	43	Wilson,Patsy	27		
12	Douglas,Sharon	46	Likarish,Kathleen	53	Bruder,Linda	43	Meyers,Lyn	26		
13	Jaworsky,Grace	42	Popovich, Virginia	50	Martens,Julie	42	Sidwell,Bonnie	25		
14	Drake,Cherilyn	41	Noblit,Jamie	50	Stateler,Cathy	41	Ward,Phyllis	24		
15	Tiller,Marsha	40	McCray,Corinne	48	Ware,Jacquae	40	ames,Genevieve (Ginny)	20		
16	Plamondon,Chantal	38	Chambers,Priscilla	48	Brannan,Janis	38	Davis,Joan	18		
17	Whitley,Udell	37	Eickenroht,Elaine	48	Hodgson,Jan	38	Vincent,Juanita	17		
18	Boyll,Joan	36	Strauss,Linda	41	Ridenhour,Evelyn	37	Sass,Nancy	17		
19	Janssen,Cheryl	36	Longest,Judy	41	Myer,Frances	36	Spacher,Valeria	17		
20	Otey,Dana	35	Marold,Hilary	40	Clark,Ann	35	Gray,Donna	17		

Ranking	60-64	Pts	65-69	Pts	70-74	Pts	75-79	Pts	80+	Pts
1	Grest,Eric	84	Frank,Steven	134	Thomas,Christopher	108	Miller,Larry	111	Jackson,Michael	86
2	Kaufman,Lonne	68	Roberson,Refford	127	Tietze,Earl	80	Federico,Gil	106	Scharlach,Robert	73
3	Franke,Ronald	68	Kuss,Tim	121	Friedenberg,Mark	78	Tomb,Donald	93	Sparks,Grady	57
4	Courtney,Steve	65	Popovich,Peter	94	Luevano,Michael	69	Holsapple, Frank	85	Alexander,Tom	50
5	Pickard,Philip	63	Myers,Robert	80	Costanza,Bob	67	Benkoski,Ernest	79	Holleman,Dan	43
6	Rausch,Jeff	54	Morrison,Johnny	69	McJunkin,Curtis	66	Honeycutt,Larry	55	Lofgren,Jack	40
7	Wellington,Greg	51	Mikalonis,Dave	64	Stateler,Davey	63	Sneed,Gb	49	Lewis,Ken	38
8	Attwood,Mark	50	Baynton,Barr	55	Nishiguchi,Norio	58	Brinegar,Jerry	43	Schmeck,Ron	31
9	Kellam,Mark	49	Stevenson,Marion	54	Persilver,Doyle	49	Childs,Tony	40	Crummett,Ruane	30
10	Grubbs,Rodney	47	McMillan,Jim	48	Farley,James	45	Martin,Lawrence	37	Eggen,Fred	27
11	Stolbof,Barry	43	Wyborny,Grant	47	Hackenberg,James	44	Martens,Rainer	36	Berry,James	22
12	Ellis,Owen	38	Romagosa,Robert	45	Flanagan,Chuck	44	Chatwin,Terrence	35	Flach,Jon	22
13	King,Anthony	38	Kendrick,Tom	45	Lozano,Arthur	42	Zuckerman,Alan	35	Davis,Keith	20
14	Ratzki,Tom	31	Kowalchuk,Norman	40	Erwin,Mike	41	Jarrett,Harry	29	Swartz,Jerry	20
15	Brian,Aaron	31	Berg,Eugene	37	Brannon,James	40	Hoggatt,Paul	27	Mayfield,Gerald	20
16	Beggs,Steve	31	Kent,Richard	37	Willingham,Ken	39	Hawkes,Paul	27	Astor,Wally	14
17	Taylor,Ricky	31	Schultz,Jim	37	Deaztlan,Tony	39	Cohen,Jim [James]	27	Arends,James	14
18	Conley,Carl	30	Morrissey,Richard	36	Steinoff,Robert	34	Reynolds,James	27	Pesile,Michael	13
19	Dale,Ronald	28	Callihan,David	36	Lite,Lawrence	31	Woods,Michael	27	Connell,Charles	13
20	Floming,Loren	28	Richards,Paul	35	Henry,Clayton	31	Barnett,Burnice	26	Lyman,Robert	10

## Tournament Updates

### Mansfield Summer Slam - Mansfield, TX

The Mansfield Summer Slam Pickleball Tournament was held in Mansfield, TX on Friday-Sunday, September 6-8<sup>th</sup>. This indoor tournament was of the highest quality and will need to be considered for your schedule for 2020. The tournament staff from the parks and recreation department was very efficient and accommodating. Lunch was provided each day and the food was prepared by the facility and enjoyed by all.

With nearly 350 players in men's, women's and mixed doubles, there was plenty of competition for all age and skill groups. (For complete tournament results, go to [pickleballtournaments.com](http://pickleballtournaments.com).) Daily play was continuous on the 27 hardwood courts at the Fieldhouse USA in Mansfield. The referees were under the direction of Angela Luhman and they did a fantastic job. Referees were paid the customary \$5 and \$7 for certified referees. There was no match wait times for referees with plenty on hand to manage the tournament.

Greg Guse was the tournament director for the event. Greg has become one of the best Tournament Directors in the state of Texas. The quality of his events can match that of any tournament anywhere. Congratulations to this team and all the support provided for a great player experience. Again, do not miss these events in 2020, as there will be 2 tournaments at this location for your enjoyment.



## USAPA Mid-Atlantic Regional Tournament - Myrtle Beach, SC

The USAPA Mid-Atlantic Regional Tournament was held in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina on Friday-Sunday, September 20-22<sup>nd</sup>. This special destination location provided players with many opportunities not found at your usual tournament location. This was the second year for this location and now the regional will be moving to Virginia Beach for 2020. The Myrtle Beach Sports Center provided 24 indoor courts on a hardwood surface. Prior to the tournament an ambassadors round robin event was hosted with prizes given. First and second place received large bags of M&M's to the delight of the competitors. What a special time to reward all the hard work done for the USAPA by these ambassadors.

With over 500 players, from over 20 states, the competition was at the highest level. The gold medal winners pre-qualified for the 2020 USAPA National Championships to be hosted again at Indian Wells, California.

The tournament became the first ever to host the Wheelchair events in both singles and doubles. These two events combined both skills and genders. It was amazing to watch the outstanding skill levels of these remarkable players. In 2020, maybe all regionals will be willing to add this event to their schedules. The venue offered great viewing areas with bleachers and many quality matches for the viewing pleasure of both players and spectators.



A special thanks goes out to the tournament staff which included the Regional Director, Sharon MacKenzie, District Ambassador and President of the Myrtle Beach Pickleball Club, Jim Loving and the referee coordinator, Laura Patterson, also the Secretary of the USAPA. This most successful event was well planned and executed by this trio in the most professional manner and was an exemplary regional tournament. Attending this tournament provided not just great competition,

but also, a personal level of pure enjoyment. Looking forward to Virginia Beach next year.



### USAPA Great Plains Regional - Colorado Springs, CO

The 2019 Great Plains Regional took place on September 5-8 in Colorado Springs, CO. Co-Tournament directors Ramona & Steve Boone hosted the event. Due its size 2 different venues were used including Monument Valley Park, the main site. 473 players participated in a total of 928 matches. 210 players were over 60 years of age. A number of brackets used shortened formats due to rain and the threat of rain. The good news is all brackets were successfully completed. 2020 USAPA Nationals pre-registration Gold medals were awarded to 26 Mixed Doubles teams, 23 Men's Double teams, 18 Women's Doubles teams and 11 Women's and 20 Men's Singles players.



More photos are available on Facebook at USAPA Great Plains Pickleball

## USAPA West Regionals - Fountain Valley, CA

The 2019 West Regionals enjoyed beautiful sunny California weather at the Fountain Valley Tennis & Pickleball Center from September 18-22. Steve Sidwell and Mark Peifer served as co-tournament directors for the 4<sup>th</sup> largest Pickleball tournament in the world! A total of 1104 players participated playing in a total of 1552 matches on 32 courts. 491 players were over 60 years of age and received free SSIPA bag tags. Despite its size, the tournament ran as smooth as silk, ahead of schedule without delays with Melissa McCurley in charge of operations. Over 50% of the matches were refereed by certified Referees.



More photos on Facebook at [USAPA West Regional Pickleball Tournament 2019](#)

## USAPA Atlantic South Regional - Foley, AL

The Atlantic South Regional was held in Foley, Alabama August 23 - August 25, 2019 in a great indoor facility. Foley Event Center was a tremendous venue, 19 courts with a textured, glare free floor, and excellent light. Maybe a few too many lines from other sports, but we're all used to that! Thanks to Bill Hess, Karen Parish, Kelly Gent and a host of volunteers for putting on a well-run tournament. Many players don't realize the amount of work that goes on behind the scenes to make it happen.



In addition to the venue, lots of great restaurants and only minutes from the beach. What more could you ask for? Well maybe a medal....next time. The Atlantic South just announced a “Save the Date” for August 20 - August 23, 2020, when the regional will be held at Foley Event Center again.



## SSIPA East Championship - Griffin, GA

SSIPA East Championships were held in Griffin, GA for the third year in a row. The Spalding County Pickleball Association (SPCA) has one of the premier venues for a pickleball tournament. The Spalding County Pickleball Complex is located within Wyomia Tyus Olympic Park. Wyomia is from Griffin and was a two-time gold medal Olympian in the 1964 and 1968 Olympics, and was the first athlete to win back to back 100-meter titles. This has since been duplicated by Carl Lewis, Gail Devers, Shelly -Ann Fraser-Pryce, and Usain Bolt.

During the week of the tournament, celebrations were being held welcoming Wyomia back to Griffin. A special dinner was held by the SPCA, and the SSIPA board was honored to be invited and attend.



SSIPA executive director - Ford Roberson, Wyomia Tyus, SSIPA board member - Mark Kellam

The weather was fantastic for three great days of pickleball competition and friendships. 250 players competed for points. A reminder the SSIPA Championships (SSIPA East, SSIPA West, and SSIPA Worlds) medalists earn more points than a regular SSIPA series event.

Mark Kellam, Sheila and Peter Phelps - SPCA President and First Lady, Ford Roberson



National Anthem and Opening Ceremonies

## Ruidoso Championships/SSIPA Billy-the-Kid Shootout - Ruidoso, NM

We had our boots and hats on and guns up for the Ruidoso Championships/Billy-the-Kid Shootout this year on August 22-25. We added an extra day to the tournament to accommodate more players and we had nearly 200 registered and 130 of those were SSIPA members. Players were from ten different states. Playing during the monsoon season in NM the afternoon rains are always possible but we only had one short rain delay on singles day. The other days had beautiful weather starting out cool. The Ruidoso/Alto clubs and the Ruidoso Parks and Rec stepped up as always and put on a special event for everyone playing. Several dinners were set up at Farley's and the Flying J Chuckwagon for the players enjoyment in the evening. Ruidoso's tournaments are known for their hospitality, free lunches, cool weather and mountain views!

The western theme was carried over to the medal stand as always and lots of great candid photos were taken when the medals were handed out. The players loved taking photos with the hats, guns, & saddles. In addition, this year we added a Wheaties backdrop for photos. Don't miss this one next year!!!





## 2019 English Open - Nottingham, England

Alchemy played its part in making the inaugural English Open a fantastic success. Twelve months of detailed planning by two Tournament Directors, a dedicated Tournament Committee, bespoke software, a group of wonderful volunteers, an amazing venue, a fabulous hotel within walking distance, a fabulous disco playlist and 305 happy picklers were the major components that combined transformed into a seemingly magical weekend in Nottingham, England from 23-25th August. The feedback the team received after the tournament exceeded their wildest dreams, says Karen Mitchell one of the Tournament Directors and one of the founding Directors of pickleballEngland.



So what was so special about this tournament?

The Venue - The David Ross Sports Village - brilliant venue with 24 courts (just 20 were used this year), changing rooms and toilets, physio room, players' lounge, space for welcome desk and pickleball shop, water foun-

tains, 190 seat viewing balcony with views of all courts within the beautiful Nottingham University Campus. Just across the road was the Orchard De Vere Hotel which provided a special rate to pickleball players which



meant there were a good number of players staying there and always someone in the foyer or at the bar that you would recognise. The hotel also has a conference centre next door which was the venue for the post tournament dinner and party. Good food, good music (provided by DJ and pickleball player, Peter Hitchman) and over 110 happy picklers meant the party was one to remember!

The Software - Pickleball England Tournament Software - PETS - was launched at the tournament. The software enabled the team to provide a personalised schedule of games to be played in the round robin section of each day. The schedule was printed and inserted into player goody bags and was also available online for access anytime (along with results of all games played and group standings and visual representation of the knockout stages). In the foyer of the venue and in the players' lounge, there was a big screen with a list of the games being played on each court and a list of upcoming games, so that players could see who was playing where. When it came to the knockout section these screens also notified players where they will be playing next. We managed to get through 1044 games over the 3 days of the tournament, maximizing usage of the courts. QR codes on the scoresheets meant that the court monitors would scan the QR code, the match details would come up and they entered the result, got the player to validate the result was entered correctly and submit the result so that the software was updated real time. Matches finished and scores were on the software immediately, which then meant the scrolling screens were updated. There was no delay between the end of round robin and the start of knockouts as all the games had been set up ahead of time and the software populated the player information immediately after the games were completed.

The Team - Karen Mitchell and Sam Basford originally agreed to collaborate to put on the tournament and worked on the detailed planning for around 6 months before they were joined by Karen's husband Chris and

Frank Arico, the other pickleball England founding Director. Chris helped shape the requirements for the software and Frank did an amazing job developing the software. Chris, Sam and Frank tested the software and when satisfied all was working well, set up all the events and fixtures for the tournament. A few days before the tournament, the core team was swelled by a core group of volunteers that included Sam's mum, brothers

EVENT	PLAYERS	TIME	COURT
	Matthias Herber		
Men's Singles 3.5 19+	Leoharico Gonzalez Nathan Groves	15:00	9 ON C
Men's Singles 2.5-3.0 50+	James Perez Ajay Sachdev	15:15	3 ON C
Men's Singles 2.5/3.0 60+	David Bungard John Shanley	15:15	6 ON C
Men's Singles 2.5/3.0 60+	Steve Gilbert Paul Hacking	15:15	7 ON C
Men's Singles 3.5 19+	Andre Strachan Daniel Wen	15:15	8 NEXT

and sister; Karen & Chris's friends Steve and Shirley; Frank's wife Jackie and 6 work experience students from Nottingham University that had been engaged a few months earlier. Then during the weekend, an army of other volunteers helped everything run smoothly. These volunteers were so helpful, so welcoming and reflecting the same spirit as the core team.

Cameras everywhere - The Championship Court was set up on court 10 with bleacher seating and a live feed to Facebook all day long. Players took turns to provide commentary. There were also several other cameras filming activities over the weekend from several media outlets, adding to the excitement of the event.

Sponsorship - The team managed to secure sponsorship from WPF and the UK Pickleball Shop as well as donation of equipment from Paddletek, Engage, Gear Box, TMAPR and Hudef. Orange goody bags were provided by Pickleball Central, and filled with a souvenir t-shirt, snacks from the Happy Snack company and PhD, WPF caps, Official Programme and personalised players badge and match schedule.

The English OPEN was PickleballEngland's first International tournament and the event was staged to raise funds for the not-for-profit association that launched on 2nd January this year and already has almost 900 registered players and over 85 registered clubs. Something very exciting is happening in England. Next year, the same team will host the Bainbridge Cup and the 2020 English OPEN from 2nd-5th July at the same venue - you won't want to miss it!

## VIM Today QC Pickleball Tournament - Moline, IL

With almost 200 players from around the country, a great time was had by all in the Quad Cities Pickleball Tournament. Located on the Mississippi River that forms the boundary between Iowa and Illinois. Players were sleeping in one state at night and playing in another state by day. The countryside and the four communities were a special place for those that have not spent time in the area. This is the largest population area between Chicago, Illinois and Des Moines, Iowa. Home to over 300,000 people in a place where pickleball has become a center of activity. The local Quad Cities club has over 500 players. Larry Miller, a local favorite, is the current club president. With 34 outdoor courts and plans to continue adding more in various locations, play is available in all 4 communities.



The tournament management team included a great group of volunteers. Goody bags, shirts, bag tags, and snacks added to the success of the tournament with the players. Barbara Shinboni, the tournament director, and David Stover as operations manager have a lot to be proud of regarding the success of the event. Players should hope to have a chance to return to the area for another great event in 2020.



## USAPA Pacific Northwest Regional - Albany, OR

For the first time, the Pacific Northwest USAPA Regional was held at two locations on the same weekend in September. All events for players under 60 years old were held in Beaverton, while the Albany Pickleball Club along with the Albany Tennis Club hosted more than 230 SSIPA players. We awarded more than 270 medals over the 3 days in Albany with the debut of the “Golden Ticket” to the Gold Medal winners of the played divisions.



With both indoor and outdoor temporary courts in use all weekend the weather was of minimal impact to all the players. This was also the first year for the USAPA to authorize the Medal Match Only (MMO) sanctioning. The reason for the one year exemption was due to the limited number of Certified Referees in the PNW along with the multiple revisions to the USAPA

Referee Certification Program this year. Jim Cooke was recently appointed the PNW Referee Coordinator and is ready to help anyone who wants to pursue their passion in refereeing.

In closing, none of this would be possible without the leadership of Mark Floyd and the support of Bob & Sharon VanderLinden, Bob & Connie Anderson, John Morey, and Chip Blackmon. I enjoyed the opportunity to support the SSIPA and Ford Roberson and look forward to potential future events.



## Communications Review:

1. We have various ways to communicate with us via email: please use the appropriate email:
  - a. For MemberLeap and membership questions: [ssipa.membership@gmail.com](mailto:ssipa.membership@gmail.com)
  - b. For general questions about our organization, policies, procedures - that pertain to all members: [ssipa.pb@gmail.com](mailto:ssipa.pb@gmail.com)
  - c. For web site questions or comments: [ssipa.webmaster@gmail.com](mailto:ssipa.webmaster@gmail.com)
2. [www.ssipa-pb.org](http://www.ssipa-pb.org) is our official web page and the primary way information is passed on to members and the pickleball community. Please visit this site and get: Breaking News, SSIPA Code of Ethics/ Bylaws, SSIPA Stars (player profiles), Board member bios, Membership, Founding Members, Tournament Schedule and links to results, Guidelines on Hosting a Tournament and SSIPA Point Leaders.
3. Join our Group Facebook page: you can ask to join (it is a closed group) by searching for Super Senior International Pickleball Association.
4. We also have a SSIPA Facebook Page to better share information and have you Follow

**Membership Number:** Will I need my SSIPA Membership Number? When you join we will send you your SSIPA membership number. You should not need it in the future as each Tournament Director will receive a list of all current SSIPA Members that are playing in their tournament. There is no membership card. If you have a problem, contact: [SSIPA.Membership@gmail.com](mailto:SSIPA.Membership@gmail.com)

**SAFETY** in all our tournaments and play is paramount. Super Senior players can be more prone to minor injuries - stretching before play, adequate hydration, and proper conditioning should be a goal for everyone. Eye protection, while not required, is strongly recommended. The potential for eye injury is high and can easily be protected/minimized by always wearing glasses, sunglasses or goggles - both indoor and outdoor.