

# THE PADDLE TAP



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- MEET THIS YEAR'S BOARD MEMBERS
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### 2024 BOARD MEMBERS

President: David Komie  
 Vice President: Olivia Reid  
 Treasurer: Loren Engel  
 Secretary: Traci Davlin  
 Member-at-Large: Jeremiah Garcia



### EXHIBITION AT OUR OWN COURTS

What a great start to 2024 as the World's top players put on an exhibition for KTPA members (more on page 3).



## Introduction to Pickleball 2/22/24 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

The KTPA is hosting a two hour introduction to Pickleball Class. If you have a New Year's Resolution to see what the fuss is about- Join us!

Come on out and get first hand experience in the fastest growing sport in America.

You will learn the basic skills necessary to go out and play a game of pickleball with your friends and neighbors.



# Letter from the President

By: David Komie

Since being elected December 5th it's been a whirlwind. I've had to get up to speed on how things work while also working with the Board on many new initiatives. I need to start this letter by thanking the Board for their hard work and support. I'm sure they have wondered, at times, what in the world have they gotten themselves into.

On January 13th we had our first event called Dinking in the New Year. When Yannet and I pulled up in our golf cart that day we saw that every court was full of people warming up. From that moment on I had a hard time not smiling because it was a special day of community, music, and pickleball.

I was persuaded to run for President, because I had a vision of our amazing community growing in numbers and in closeness. Since the 1st of the year we have increased membership nearly 10%. Our first event had people of all skill levels playing together and having a great time. I remember thinking that your new best friend might just play at a very different skill level than you.

We followed up our first event with a special treat. Ben Johns, Collin Johns, Dekel Bar and Brandon Nsekong put on a great exhibition for us. Ben is the undisputed greatest male player of all time. He and his brother Collin are the number one doubles team in the world for three years running. Dekel is a perennial top 10. Brandon is top 50 and has a 6.3 DUPR.

We got very lucky because the weather for the pro exhibition was perfect. The players put on quite a show, and the community ate it up. The players graciously stayed until every autograph was signed, and every picture was taken. My thoughts are already wandering toward a follow up pro event. Mixed doubles anyone?

It is our goal to have at least two major events a month. Each event will be organized by a different group of people so that no one person gets burned out, and to encourage community engagement. If you are interested in hosting an event please reach out to us. If you are interested in volunteering in another way, please also reach out to us.

Please make sure you are utilizing the new Forum in the Members-Only part of our website. The topics are limited to issues that the Board will ultimately vote on. We are a representative government and can only vote majority desires if we know what they are.

The next issues we will need to address are open play, facility upgrades, and fundraising. We will be communicating with you by email and on the Forum. We might use Facebook but I've been made aware that it is not a KTPA page although they graciously allow us to post there.

We hope you enjoy the return of our newsletter. If you see Susan Nicola please thank her for the amazing job she has done with it.

Thank you to all the volunteers who have worked so hard since I've been elected. You are the engines that power our growing community.

Finally, thank you to every single member for allowing the Board and I to serve you. It truly is a privilege.



# ACTION PHOTOS

By: Joe Nicola Photography



# MORE PHOTOS



# PROFESSIONAL PICKLEBALL AT KT

*By: Debbie Thomas*

Members of Kissing Tree Pickleball Association, as well as guests and residents of Kissing Tree, had a real treat on Saturday, Jan. 27. After a week of rainy, foggy, dreary weather not conducive to playing outdoor sports, we had a glorious day with clear skies, comfortable temperatures, and lots of sun. We also had the distinct pleasure of watching some of the best pickleball players in the world play games on our own court 4, right here in Kissing Tree.

The crowd of close to 200 people watched Ben Johns, Collin Johns, Dekel Bar and Brandon Nsekpong play pickleball. From courtside seats, bleachers, chairs on the sidelines and from the top of the limestone cliffs, we were able to see the pros in action – dinks, lobs, firefights, ATPs, Ernes, amazing backhands, roll shots, aces on serves, and lots of spin. In the friendly, but definitely competitive first match, Ben and Brandon took on Dekel and Collin. The three-game match ended with a win by Ben and Brandon, but it was hard-fought all the way.

We then learned about a business run by Ben and Dekel: Pickleball Getaways. Ordinary pickleball players have the opportunity with Getaways to combine travel to amazing locales around the world AND have personalized instruction from some of the best players in the world. Some KT residents who have already participated in Getaways had nothing but accolades for the program.

We then got to see one more match, pitting the best men's doubles team in the world, brothers Ben and Collin Johns, against Dekel and Brandon. While it was a good match, the brothers Johns prevailed.

We then had the privilege of taking pictures with the pros. Some lucky players had hats, balls and paddles autographed. After a group picture, things began to wind down.

What an exhilarating, fun and exciting afternoon we had.

Thanks to David Komie, KTPA president, and the KTPA board for all the work put into planning and executing this event. Everything seemed to go very well – we had bleachers, Dave Davlin with a wonderful sound system, professional photographer Joe Nicola recording the event, and, at the last moment, a new net on court 4. I believe a good time was had by all. (see pictures next page)

# DINKING IN THE NEW YEAR

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What a great turnout for our first KTPA event as experienced and new players got together on January 13th for fun, food, and fellowship! Thanks to the Cactus Flats Band for bringing the party, and to Joe Nicola for organizing the fun! Jerry, our HOA bartender was around for a little after play fun!



Thank you to all the players who volunteered your time for our community.



# More from Dinking in the New Year





NOTE TO SELF

# Great Day for Pickleball



# 2024 BOARD



- KTPA Board of Directors
- David Komie - President
- Olivia Reid - Vice President
- Loren Engel - Treasurer
- Traci Davlin - Secretary
- Jeremiah Garcia - Member-at-Large

## EMAIL INFORMATION FOR BOARD LOCATED AT WWW.KTPA.ORG

Olivia Reid was nominated by KTPA members, and the Board voted to elect her as our next Vice President. Olivia has been a member of KTPA since 2018, and was an original member of the Pickleball Task Force formed by the HOA. Please join us in welcoming Olivia to the Board.



Traci Davlin (center) is serving her second term as KTPA's Secretary. She is becoming a regular on the tournament scene, and you can see her on our courts playing and drilling a lot! Thanks Traci for all you do.



Jeremiah Garcia is KTPA's member-at-large. If you see him around and want to say hello, he always has time to answer your questions.



If you have anything you'd like to add to this newsletter contact Susan at [snicola77@yahoo.com](mailto:snicola77@yahoo.com)



## New Court Numbering-Y'all Spoke and We Listened



Kevin and Kathy Wilson lead  
the Introduction to Pickleball Clinics

Next Clinic will be 2/22/24 at 11:00 a.m.

Check on [ktpa.org](http://ktpa.org) and Kissing Tree Pickleball  
Facebook page for sign-up dates!

## OPEN PLAY WINTER HOURS:

- Sunday 2-4 p.m.
- Monday 2-4 p.m.
- Tuesday Ladies 9-11 a.m.
- Tuesday 5-7 p.m.
- Wednesday 2-4 p.m.
- Thursday Gents 9-11 a.m.
- Thursday 5-7 p.m.
- Friday 9-11 a.m.
- Saturday 9-11 a.m.



# TREASURER'S REPORT



Loren Engel, MSEE, MBA is our new Treasurer. Loren doesn't take himself too seriously, but he always takes his work, and this position very seriously. Please welcome Loren.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Note this is only for the KTPA and excludes the KTPTA, which I won't have access to until we obtain 501c3 status and merge the funds for the two organizations into the KTPA.

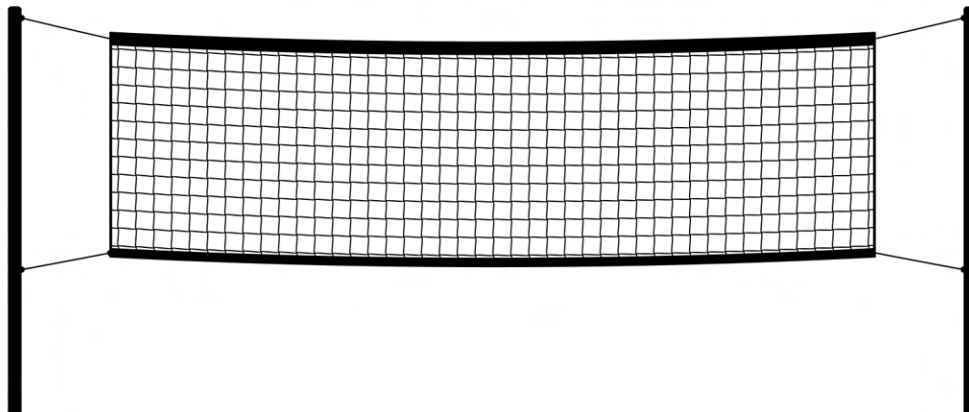
### KTPA Treasurer's Report

Financial Results are shown for December 2023 and for January 2024 Month-to-Date through Jan 29<sup>th</sup>. January dues revenue was driven by 77 renewals and 31 new members signing up so far in the month! January expenses comprise normal payment processing fees and expenses associated with the very successful Dinking in the New Year event. As of January 29<sup>th</sup>, KTPA cash in the bank stands at \$16,196.27.

KTPA Income Statement	Dec '23	MTD 1/29/24
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Membership Dues	1,440.00	2,160.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>1,440.00</b>	<b>2,160.00</b>
Expense		
Event Expense		396.58
Payment Processing & Bank Fees	50.37	63.88
Website	299.00	
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>349.37</b>	<b>460.46</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>1,090.63</b>	<b>1,699.54</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>1,090.63</b>	<b>1,699.54</b>

KTPA Balance Sheet	Dec 31, 23	Jan 29, 24
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current Assets		
Checking/Savings		
Wells Fargo	14,486.73	16,186.27
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<b>14,486.73</b>	<b>16,186.27</b>
Other Current Assets	200.00	260.00
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>14,686.73</b>	<b>16,446.27</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>14,686.73</b>	<b>16,446.27</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>		
Equity		
Unrestricted Net Assets	14,686.73	16,446.27
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>14,686.73</b>	<b>16,446.27</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>14,686.73</b>	<b>16,446.27</b>

# ASK THE REF



## Ball Etiquette

Stray balls from another court are a fact of life. If your ball rolls onto the playing surface of an adjoining court, do not chase after it. Call "Ball" or "Ball on Court" to alert the players of a possible hazard. If the ball is at the back of the fence on an adjoining court and not posing a safety hazard, wait until the rally is over, and then retrieve it, or ask the other players to retrieve it if they are closer. A quick "Thanks" for the person retrieving your ball is nice.

If you are retrieving the ball for another court, gently roll or toss it back to the player waiting on it. Don't create another safety hazard by launching a Hail Mary for the end zone! And please, don't exchange your old ball for a new shiny one, or an indoor ball for an outdoor ball! If your play is interrupted by a stray ball, immediately stop play, call "Ball," and replay the point.

You can't call a ball hinder if you continue play and then commit a fault. Also, be honest if the "Ball" call comes AFTER you hit a shot that results in a fault. Just admit the call did not affect your hit, and move on to the next point.

## Sportsmanship vs Gamesmanship

Tournament play is competitive play. You employ all your best skills and attack your opponent's weaknesses. In recreational play, common courtesies should prevail.

Don't bring your hardest overhead smash at the beginner or newbie. Don't continually lob a player with limited mobility. Yeah, you could win the point, but maybe take the opportunity to work on those dinks or 3rd shot drops. Congratulate your opponent's and partner's good shots, but refrain from the chest bumps, fist in the opponent's face and loud exclamations of "Yeah!" when you hit a winning shot. We all know the pain or joy of that ball that hits the top of the net and dribbles over. Most players acknowledge their good luck with a raised hand or a "Pickleball Sorry". In rec play, don't play "keep away" from the best player on the court, or hit every ball to the weaker player just so you can win.

Be a good partner, too. Eye rolls, shaking your head when your partner makes an error or constantly offering unsolicited instruction isn't fun for anyone. There's no place in rec play, or competitive play either, for cursing, paddle throwing or any other temper tantrums. If you are a spectator at a pickleball match, remember it's good sportsmanship to acknowledge great shots, but don't cheer when a team commits an unforced error. Lastly, it is also common practice in pickleball to tap paddles across the net at the end of every game and say "Good Game".

So, here's a paddle tap, and I look forward to seeing all of you well-behaved and polite pickleball players on the courts!



## ASK THE REF

Jo Honeycutt, a Kissing Tree pioneer, has been playing pickleball for 11 years. She has been a certified referee for 7 years. She and her husband, Larry, have been instrumental in beginning and developing the pickleball program here at Kissing Tree.

If you have questions about pickleball rules or procedures, she will periodically answer them in a column in this newsletter.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR INFORMATION

WWW.KTPA.ORG



# Tips from the Pro

*Yannet Brister is a former tennis player, now a Pro-Level Pickleball player, who lives right here in Kissing Tree. Each month we will post a short instructional article to help improve your game.*

## **Tip #1 - Court Positioning for Intermediate and above players**

Where you position yourself on the Court matters.

Part of being a good player and partner is knowing where to be on the court and when to be there. So instead of feeling frustrated with your partner when they miss a third shot drop, and your opponents smashes the ball at you, ask yourself “did I do everything I could to be aware of what ball my partner was hitting, and did I do my best to be in a good position on the court to defend?”

Your position will decide your shot selection and that will define the technique you will use. So do your best to make sure you’re always in the best position on the court as possible for the next shot coming to you.



# Monthly Tips

## From a Physical Therapist

### Pickleball Pelvis

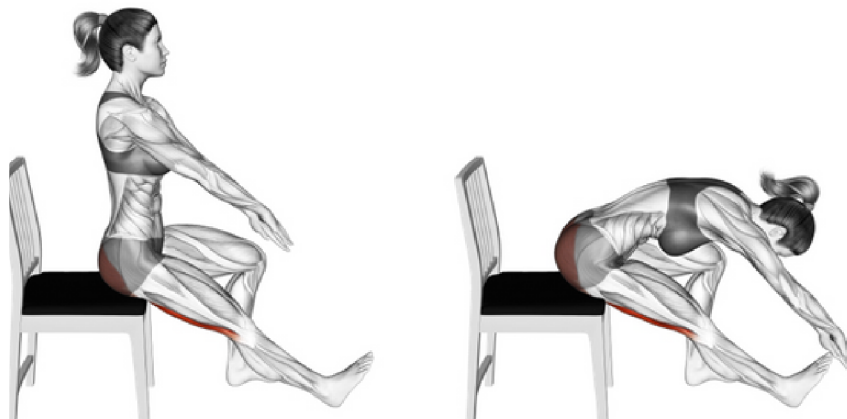
We have now been dinking into 2024. Along with this fun sport comes injuries. No matter what level of play, at some point, you will get an injury. Many of these injuries are avoidable. One of these injuries that seems to be happening fairly frequently in pickle ball is a malalignment of the pelvic bones which manifests itself as low back (pelvis) pain.

Your pelvis is made up of bones connected by ligaments and muscles attached by tendons. Pickle ball is one of several sports that can cause these bones to rotate, tilt or even slip upward which is a painful malalignment.

This malalignment most likely occurs when you are lunging for balls and/or quick changes of direction along with tight muscles and/or weak muscles. But this doesn't have to be the case if you increase strength and flexibility through some exercises.

This exercise isn't hard but requires a little time and effort. The flexibility exercises include stretching your quadriceps (front of your thigh), hamstrings (back of your thigh), hip flexors (front of your hip) and your gluteus maximus (your butt).

Hamstring Stretch: Sit on the edge of a chair with feet flat on floor. Extend rightleg in front of you, heel on floor with toes pointed up toward you. Keep your back straight as you lean forward, reaching your hands toward your toes or right leg. You should feel a stretch in the back of your thigh. Hold 10 seconds before slowly releasing stretch as you end in the starting position. Repeat with the left leg. Repeat 10 times on each side. **More exercises with demonstrations coming next month!**



# SKILLS & DRILLS



Great job on the January Skills and Drills everyone! If you didn't get a chance to make it, you missed a great opportunity to practice with a mentor(s) there to support, direct, redirect and answer your questions for each court. These are KTPA sponsored events that are open to all KT players at any level. Thanks to Russ Finlay for leading this clinic.

## WHAT'S NEXT?

Mark your calendars for the next Skills and Drills on February 3rd (1st Saturday of every month) from 11 - 12 am on courts 1-8. We will be opening up the courts to participants to not only practice their skills but also learn to be more consistent. Consistency is one of the hardest concepts any player can tackle, so we are providing an opportunity to learn some drills you can do to help with this. Each month the KTPA Education Committee focuses on a few areas at a time to help you focus on one skill at a time. February will be on: volleying low over the net, dinking with a purpose, and serving deep by using training tools. Some of these tools can be easily emulated with simple supplies you have available to you. So please join us as we grow together as a Pickleball community.







## Pickle Chicks News

Pickle Chicks play is every Tuesday morning from 9-11 a.m. on Courts 1-8.

The quarterly Pickle Chicks Luncheon will resume, and we will celebrate January, February and March birthdays on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, 11:30 a.m., at Tarbox & Brown. To sign up, text Sherril Sibley at 972.814.4257 or email:

**[sherrilsibley@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sherrilsibley@sbcglobal.net)** The first lunch we ask that you bring something that you LOVE. It can be your favorite book, a picture of your grandchildren, a bible verse, just anything you LOVE. If you are new to KT, please email Sherril your birthdate so you can be included in these luncheons.

Future luncheon dates are at 11:30 a.m. on 4/16, 7/16, and 10/15.

## Pickle Gents Play

Gentlemen play Thursday mornings from 9-11 a.m. on Courts 1-8

*This newsletter is a publication of KTPA. More information, as well as discussion forums can be found at [WWW.KTPA.ORG](http://WWW.KTPA.ORG)*



**Always wear Court Shoes  
When Playing**

# CURIOUS MINDS WANT TO KNOW

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*This month's question is:  
What made you want to play pickleball?*



## Gail S.

"In 2020, I lived in the Woodlands and played tennis. I could hear all sorts of laughing from a nearby court and saw they were playing pickleball. The next day I took a pickleball lesson and was forever hooked!"

## Marc L.

"It appeared to be the fastest venue to meet the men and sweat at the same time. If there were no sweat or elevated heartrate, I would have remained just a Gold's Gym rat with a public library card."

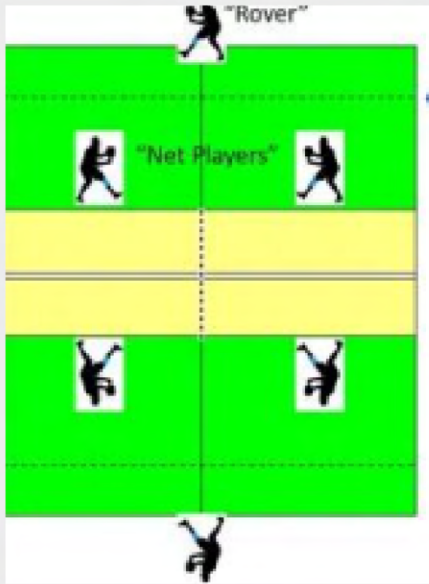
## Luanne E.

"Unlike other sports activities, there's no waiting for the action. It's immediate with pickleball, no matter if your serving or defending."

## Curt L.

"Growing up, I was always riding my bike around looking for something to play. Years later I found Kissing Tree and pickleball. Perfect for someone like me who still wants to run around with all the kids in the neighborhood."

# Happening this month!



## VALENTINE'S DAY ROVER PICKLEBALL

JOIN THE KTPA FOR A FUN AFTERNOON AT THE PICKLEBALL COURTS WHILE WE PLAY ROVER PICKLEBALL ON VALENTINE'S DAY, FEBRUARY 14TH. SOME OF YOU MAY REMEMBER HOW MUCH FUN THIS TOURNAMENT WAS WHEN WE RAN IT IN SEPTEMBER, 2021, AND IT SHOULD BE WAY MORE FUN WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF MANY MORE PLAYERS. PARTICIPANTS ARE INVITED TO WEAR VALENTINE-THEMED CLOTHING.

THIS IS A TOURNAMENT FOR ALL LEVELS AND TEAMS WILL BE "EQUALIZED" AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE FOR MAXIMUM FUN. THE GRAPHIC ABOVE IS AN EXAMPLE OF THE COURTS WITH ALL PLAYERS ON THE COURT. INTERESTED? MORE INFO AND SIGN UP WILL COME SOON. THIS IS FOR CURRENT MEMBERS OF KTPA ONLY SO JOIN/RENEW AT [KTPA.ORG](http://KTPA.ORG).

## 2024 IS A LEAP YEAR. THAT MEANS THAT WE GET ONE MORE DAY TO PLAY PICKLEBALL!

JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON OF FUN PLAYING PICKLEBALL WITH FOLKS OF ALL SKILL LEVELS- WHERE YOUR PARTNER AND YOUR OPPONENTS ARE SELECTED BY A RANDOM DRAWING FROM A BINGO BALL MACHINE. FEBRUARY 29, 2024 FROM 11:00-1:00 AND COURTS 1-8. OPEN TO ALL KTPA MEMBERS--ALL LEVELS ENCOURAGED.

THE GAMES ARE LIMITED TO 11 MINUTES-YOU QUIT PLAYING WHEN YOU HEAR THE BELL, AND THEN IT IS OFF TO YOUR NEXT MATCH. ONE WRINKLE WILL BE THAT IF YOUR SERVE IS OUT, YOU GET ANOTHER TRY! (YAY!) THE GOAL IS TO PLAY WITH RANDOM PARTNERS AND TO TRULY MIX IT UP, WHILE HAVING SOME FUN ALONG THE WAY. NO PRESSURE TO WIN --JUST PLAYING FOR FUN!

# SAVE THE DATES

## Upcoming Events



### **Skills & Drills**

2/03/24 from 11 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. on courts 1-8 (no sign-up needed)

### **Special Board of Directors' Meeting**

2/6/24 from 5:30-6:30 at The Mix.

### **Valentine's Day Rover Pickleball**

2/14/24 at 3:00 p.m. Kissing Tree Pickleball Courts sign up NOW at [www.ktpa.org](http://www.ktpa.org)

### **Introduction to Pickleball**

2/22/24 at 11:00 a.m. Sign up NOW at [www.ktpa.org](http://www.ktpa.org)

### **Leap Year Bingo Mixer**

2/29/24 at 1:00 p.m. @ KT Pickleball Courts. Sign up soon on website

### **Ladder League**

3/3 - 4/27 @ 6:00 p.m. Sign up February 7th

### **Eat, Dink & Be Pickled**

3/17/24 from 1:00-4:00 p.m. KT Pickleball Courts - more info coming soon!

### **Battle of the Sexes**

3/30/24 at 2:00 p.m. @ KT Pickleball Courts

### **Peaches' KTPA Spring/Tax Day Fundraiser**

4/14/24 at 2:00 - 6:00 p.m. @ KT Mix and Biergarten