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President's Report - June 2024

Nolan Ahn, PAK President

"PAK OPEN 2024"

PAK is busy preparing for our first Pickleball Brackets assisted Tournament on August 2-4. PAK Open 2024 is the first to be played on a 10-court venue on Kauai, the newly re-surfaced and striped 6 pickleball courts at Kauai Community College. We will stripe with tape using our newly acquired striping machine on four additional courts at the adjacent tennis courts. Craig Watanabe and Alton Amimoto will lead the striping crew, and the machine will help save old backs in doing this tedious task. One day, chalk and painters' tape will not be needed for our courts because the lines will be permanent. The machine can lay out a proper painting strip using two rows of tape simultaneously for a perfect template. Thank you to Juliet Peters' friends who packed the overweight, over sized box as luggage and saved PAK about \$500 of shipping charges!





Here are the advantages of using Pickleball Brackets:

- National and International exposure for our tournament.
- Automated sign up, payment, and assignment to specific brackets.
- Partnering capabilities for people that need one.
- On-site printing of pairings, matches, and courts.
- Text capability to players when their next match and court will be.
- Cumulative tallying of points and determining winners.
- Ability to recruit volunteers and referees.
- Instant on-line results of brackets and matches.

The disadvantage of Pickleball Brackets is a steep learning curve for using their highly complex systems. Thanks go out to Juliet Peters and Rumi Masumura for their tireless dedication to making our initial try successful.

The rest of the board is busy with the many other details of running a tournament that is expected to have about 200 players. Logistics like registration, vendors, food concessions, court set ups, sponsorships, prizes, swag bags, raffles all need attention. We are pleased that there are many who have sponsored us in PAK 2022 are returning, along with many new and significant donors.

July 26th is the deadline for sign-ups that will include a free T-shirt and a swag bag. PAK members are entitled to a \$20 discount off the tournament fees. For those that have never entered a pickleball tournament, you really should try it! The adrenaline rush of competition and anticipation is worth the effort. It is our goal to have a spirit where our courts are the "Friendliest Pickleball Courts on the Planet".

Speaking about courts, we turn our eyes to the Koloa courts at Annie Knudsen Park. The County did pickleball a huge favor by renovating the badly worn tennis courts and installing four dedicated pickleball courts and two temporary pickleball courts on the one adjacent tennis court. Despite facing the wrong way, the courts have become extremely popular. Norman Van Vactor started organizing play at the courts and I heard recently there were 80

people playing one Saturday evening. Marvin Nomi, who travels and plays at all the courts on the island, tells me that he was the oldest player there at age 76. With that many people on the six courts, it would be expected that players would get to play only three matches in about two-and-a-half hours. Just goes to show we need more courts to accommodate pickleball's growth! Let's have a friendly race with the County to see if our next courts are built by PAK, or by them. That race would have no losers. It reminds me of stories I have heard from people from all over that their home courts are the worst one could imagine. I ask them "How bad are they?" Their answer is usually "Wonderful". That's pickleball for you.

Until next month,
Nolan

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