

June 8-9, 2024... Two Awesome Days For Regency Pickleball

By Bob Zyontz

June 8 was the day the pickleball nomads had all been waiting for, thinking about, and talking about for the past nine months.

At 9:00 AM that morning, under an absolutely gorgeous sky provided by the Pickleball Gods Dink, Lob, and Slam, the Regency at Monroe Pickleball Club (the Club) held a special “Opening of the Gate” ceremony to celebrate the community’s new Pickleball facility.

With a large crowd in attendance, Club president Lisa Citron’s opening remarks touched on the evolution of pickleball at Regency, praised the HOA Board and the FSR management team for their support, called out the contributions of Board members Jay Gunnick, Bill Shuzman, Bob Zyontz, Gary Ramella, Eva Nyman, Harriet Blumenstock, Bobby Harris, and Phyllis Greenberg, and paid tribute to Regency pickleball pioneers Barry Panson, Jackie Dwan, and Gary Lynn for their efforts to make our six new courts a reality.

The microphone was then passed to master of ceremonies Bobby Harris. Harris, the Board chair for tournaments and leagues, went over the ground rules for Day 1 of the Club’s third annual pickleball tournament that was scheduled to begin at 9:30 AM. Once the gate was opened, the crowd poured in.

Because this was their first major event of the year, and the first time the courts were being used, Club members were invited to share in the awesomeness. The first 200 members who showed up to play, or to watch, received a special gift from the Club’s Board. Members were also provided with the opportunity to order Club-branded t-shirts, caps, and visors for themselves, their kids, and their grandkids.

With all the fanfare and built up anticipation, spirits were high, and the adrenalin was flowing. Before official play began, there was a symbolic first serve and return volley from Panson and Dwan respectively. Once that was completed, Harris unleashed the hounds.

Players took the courts and competed in men’s doubles (A and B divisions) and women’s doubles (A and B divisions), with players ranked by skill sets. The

competition was brisk, and the players did not disappoint by showcasing their skills, stamina, and determination. The crowd watched outstanding matches across all levels in this double elimination tournament. When the dust finally settled, and the Gatorade and energy bars had been consumed, the division winners emerged.

Paul Trinkoff and Isaac Levy took the gold medal in the Men's A division, while Bill Shuzman and Mark Frankel won gold in the Men's B division. In the women's competition, the gold medal in Division A went to Arlene Goldberg and Judy Azoulai, while Sheri Nagel and Sharon Mineroff walked off with the gold in Division B.

Sometimes these events are remembered for the contributions of non-participants who gave their time to fill important roles. Tom Cullen, the Club's official photographer, could be seen prowled the sidelines, even standing on the clubhouse balcony, to capture the action as only he can. Wendy Strauss and Meg Prybl manned the apparel table during play, and Michael "Pickleball Baby" Cohen helped coordinate the team matchups and court assignments. There was even a pizza run made by Barry Citron and Mark Goldberg to give the players some much needed fuel so they could continue to play. Hey guys, where was the pepperoni?

Day 2 was scheduled for 9:00 AM on Sunday, June 9, with both mixed doubles and singles play on the agenda. But, unlike the previous day, overcast skies brought rain. However, because Regency pickleballers don't roll over, even for Mother Nature, the decision was made to postpone play until 4:00 PM.

When the action resumed, all those present witnessed some highly competitive matches in both mixed doubles (A and B divisions) and men's singles play. After almost four hours of intense pickling, Bruce and Sharon Mineroff emerged victorious by winning the gold medal in the A division, while Norm and Harriet Blumentstock battled their way to the gold medal in the B division. Paul Trinkoff took home the gold in the men's singles competition.

This year's tournament has created memories that all involved will be talking about and reminiscing over for a long time to come. It was a great day for the Regency community, and the Regency at Monroe Pickleball Club would like to thank all those who came out to pickle with us and experience the fun and excitement of tournament play.

To see pictures of the tournament players in action, please visit regencyatmonroepickleballclub.org.



The Gold, Silver, and Bronze medal winners from the men's and women's doubles matches gather together to show off their bling. Back row, from left to right: Noreen Gummic, Scott Friedman, Mark Frankel, David Berkowitz, Mosey Ghaffari, Helen Zyontz, Harriet Blumenstock, Gary Ramella, Phyllis Greenberg, Judy Azoulai, Bobby Harris, Bill Shuzman, and Alan Strauss. Front row: Mitch Glanzrock, Paul Trinkoff, Lisa Citron, and Isaac Levy. Not pictured: Jerry Stevens and Olga Turova.
(Photo by Bob Zyontz)



Sheri Nagel and Sharon Mineroff (foreground) square off against Judi Azoulai and Arlene Goldberg in women's doubles play. (Photo by Tom Cullen)



A very happy Regency at Monroe Pickleball Club President Lisa Citron takes a moment to survey the pre-tournament crowd while husband Barry (in background) contemplates his first match. (Photo by Tom Cullen)



In the Men's Division A doubles action, the "Men in Black" team of George Rothweiler and Steve Finkelstein take on Bobby Harris and Scott Friedman.
(Photo by Tom Cullen)