

To my valued clients and friends-

My world changed 3 years ago for the better. I would like to tell you about it. Here goes....

One of my clients came in to the office to chat. He knew that I used to play tennis. In fact, I had just finished a Men's 55 singles event in the Bay Area. My 1<sup>st</sup> tournament in about 30 years. I could hardly walk as my knee had swollen from the match. It took 8 weeks to get the water off my knee. I was not a happy camper to say the least. My friend, Brian, proceeded to ask me if I had ever heard of Pickleball? No, I said. As he left the office, he asked me to Google it. I looked it up and stumbled upon the pickleball nationals match between Daniel Moore and Wes Gabrielsen from a few years prior. Watching it several times, it looked like tennis on a small court (less running). It was a combination of tennis, ping pong and badminton. I had to try it!

As my knee was starting to look a little more normal, I continued to watch matches and read more on the sport. The one thing I noticed was that all the players and spectators seemed happy. I mean VERY happy. What was going on here, was this some kind of sports cult? I had to find out. Brian invited me to a park, in Auburn, to play one evening. They gave me a paddle and began to show me the strategy, scoring, etc. Since the court was only 20 feet wide and we were playing doubles, I immediately saw that you could cover a lot of court easily. Also, as we were playing, we were all laughing... well not all the time, but I saw how social it was. I was working up a sweat quickly just by playing doubles. Most players play doubles... it is more social, less wear and tear, etc., but I had to try singles. There was an athlete there who also had played a lot of tennis and I was able to play a game with him. I was hooked! As I left Auburn that night, I felt a high that I had not felt in years. I had the feeling I used to have playing tennis but the difference was I was walking normally, not limping. The next morning, I checked my knee and no swelling.

It was December when I played my first game of pickleball and my mind was working and thinking. A pickleball court is 20 feet wide by 44 feet long. Hmmmm. My driveway is 20 feet wide and long enough for a court. I bought a net, paddles and balls and put down chalk lines on the driveway. I grabbed my son, Drew, who is a competitive soccer player, but also loves ping pong. We started having these long battles, on cold December weekends, on this drive way court and it was a blast, although usually one of us was stomping off mad that we had lost. I won't tell you who!

Fast forwarding to today, I want to offer you a chance to enjoy this great sport! I have hired a friend, who is a Pickleball Teaching Pro, to provide instructional clinics so you can try "The fastest growing sport in the USA." Many parks around Sacramento are building new Pickleball courts in lieu of tennis courts. Also, several parks and racquet clubs are converting some of their tennis courts to Pickleball courts. I will be offering clinics at Rusch Park on Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, with three times available, 12pm – 1pm, 1pm - 2pm, and 2pm -3pm . Rusch Park is off I-80 in Citrus Heights. The Rusch Park pickleball complex address is 7801 Auburn Blvd, Citrus Heights, CA 95601. I encourage you to invite a friend to join! Please wear flat soled tennis shoes and workout/tennis type attire. We will supply paddles, balls etc. Each clinic will be limited to 10 players with approximately 5 players per court. If these dates are full or inconvenient for you, we will be adding additional dates in the future. Please RSVP by calling me, emailing me at [douglas.covert@lpl.com](mailto:douglas.covert@lpl.com) or return the enclosed reply mail envelope. I would love to share my passion for pickleball with you.

Hope to see you there!