



## Presidents Report 2007 – 2008

Despite the tempestuous beginning to this past 2007/2008 Petanque season, I am confident that this group of delegates will continue to foster the harmonious environment that was my objective for the last 12 months.

The current selection process that does not take into account a player's performance in **State League** games has led to these events I believe not being as well patronised as previous years and I urge that we continue to lobby to be autonomous when we select our State Coach and Teams. Gawler hosted its first **Interclub** event this year and they must be commended for their promotion of our game into country areas. ESP winners of the Interclub shield and Adelaide Hills have emerged as forces to be reckoned with. Well done to all who played and officiated at all State League events. A two day event for **State Titles** seems to preclude some people from playing and the new calendar has State Title events as One Day Events. The hot weather meant rescheduling some Interclub games and caused disruption to normal club events, I thank all for their patience. The new Calendar has taken this also into account

Although not a State League event The Coonawarra Classic was well patronised and we all look forward to that event every February – despite those pesky Victorians coming over the border!

Our **Sixers** team that went to Tempe in November performed well and narrowly missed out on first place. One or two more wins would have done the trick. A special mention must go to the unbeaten ladies team. The Veterans Team came a credible second.

Our **National Triples** teams did not fare as well this year, but once again the Men's veterans team held up to be placed second. Tim Whelan's structured approach to handling this senior group of players certainly took all up a level and made us think a little more about our approach.

I thank all the Clubs for their contribution and details which were used in the compilation of our **League Brochure**. (I took the liberty of sending a few of these off to PFA) Hopefully these will be a valuable resource that we can update from time to time and use in the promotion of our sport.

I also would like to thank the many volunteers who fronted up for the **Family Festival** at the Wayville Showgrounds earlier this year. The heat and the age of the participants did not auger well for our promotional aspirations, but it certainly showed that we can get our act together for any future activities.

The **Presentation Dinner** went smoothly and I hope that the tradition will continue. With most players leaving league games as soon as they are eliminated, this official recognition of the achievers in our game was well received. A club venue was chosen to keep cost down but it appears that this should not be a concern in future. Well done to all those players who received awards and to all other participants in our state league games.

Many thanks to Adrian Clements in compiling the season statistics and I take this opportunity to formally thank him for being our **Tournament Director**. Having tried to run a cup or two I can assure you it is not a job to be taken lightly.

Thanks also to Ray and Peter Beaumont and their assistants for umpiring during our league games and making sure we all do the right thing.

Well done to Dave Ward for revamping and updating the **SAPL Website**. As with Prospects site it is the place to go to if you are looking for the latest petanque news. Naturally the website will only be as good as the information that is given to Dave so please forward him anything regarding your club, coaching and umpiring details so that it can be used by all in SA.

I believe that there will be some difficult times ahead with the expulsion of Clubs and the constraints placed upon us by PFA so I appeal to you all to stay positive, united and support each other.

**Tina Stockley**  
24<sup>th</sup> July 2008