

# SOUTH AUSTRALIAN PETANQUE LEAGUE

2019/2020

## President's report

The highlight of this past twelve months came right at the end; 84 eager players, including many new faces, at the concluding Interclub competition round. This showed how our League has encouraged a spirit of friendly competitiveness, which has drawn many players who begin at a social level, to learn more about the game by getting involved at state events. This was also noticeable at the Mixed doubles state championship last year. Well done to those clubs for creating the atmosphere that is bringing new life into our interclub rounds.

It was also pleasing to see a number of new umpires stepping up to take their place in this competition. It is a PFA goal for every club to have a qualified umpire and coach among their members.

Several players from our state gained international selection during the past year.

Alexi Alexi gained his first taste of international competition as part of the Australian Men's team at the Pan-Pacific games in New Caledonia. He was then a part of the team for the Oceania tournament in Melbourne, along with Wendy Bensen, Deb Rodda and Selina Dally in the women's Oceania team.

Wendy Bensen and Selina Dally went to the Women's World Championship in Cambodia last November. Both performed well in tough conditions and against seasoned competitors.

Rada Pierre, Tory McBride, Dominique Pierre, Lionel Pujol, Selina Dally and Steve Hambour were selected in the team to contest the Trans Tasman trophy, but, unfortunately, were unable to go when the event was cancelled.

South Australia hosted the Australian Masters Games last October. Thanks to Naz Saunders and her team for successfully running this event.

I applaud the enormous effort put in by the committee and members of the Novar Gardens club to create a venue of high quality, ready for hosting the Australian championships at Easter. Unfortunately players from around the country will have to wait to be able to enjoy the facilities.

Again, I wish to thank the members of the League committee for their continuing support and the time and effort they put in to keep things happening. In particular Anthony Pietsch for his handling of the Tournament Director' role, one which attracts unnecessary criticism. Naz Saunders not only tackles the secretarial stuff, but kept the AMG program on track.

I also thank all club committees, who, in this difficult time, have kept their members informed and kept on top of the required measures so that players could come back to the clubs safely.

Congratulations to the Eastern Suburbs club for winning the season's Interclub competition.

Adrian Clements

June 2020