

**South Australian Pétanque League (SAPL) Inc.
Minutes for the Meeting held on Thursday 11 January 2024
at PPC**

Attendees:

- Anthony Pietsch (President/AHPC) (W)
- Ken Medhurst (Treasurer) (W)
- Wendy Benson (ESP) (W)
- Terry Hall (FAB) (W)
- Peter Matthews (NGPC) (W)
- Brett Williams (State Umpire Manager)
- Glenis Wilson (Assistant State Coach Manager)
- Stan Wilson (Secretary) (W)
- Rada Pierre (CDPA) (W)
- Deb Rodda (ESP)
- Colin Hill (GPC) (W)
- Gavin Scott (PPC) (W)
- Allan Sanderson (Public Officer)

Note: Clubs are allowed two delegates and one voting member. Officers and State Coach and Umpire Manager do not have a vote on the Committee. Voting members are denoted by (W) on the attendance list.

The President welcomed those present and opened the meeting at 7:00 pm

1. Apologies.

Coomawarra Petanque Club, Tina Stockley (Vice President), Mike Read (AHPC)

NB: both Tina and Mike submitted written inputs to the meeting which were taken into account during the discussions.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 4 November 2023 had previously been circulated to all clubs. Peter Matthews proposed that they be accepted as a true and accurate record. This was seconded by Colin Hill and carried unanimously. The President and Secretary signed and dated the minutes and they will be posted on the SAPL Website.

3. Business arising

3.1 (# 23.16)

Brett has circulated information regarding the 2024 Precision shooting competition

Action Closed

3.2 Interclub format proposed by Adrian Clements.

Anthony has provided a response which is attached as Appendix 1. A number of other clubs have also provided input to the discussion. A summary of the responses is: CDPA, make it a separate Saturday comp, which was not supported by the other clubs; ESP, not acceptable due to impact on players not selected; PPC, too narrow, no; FAB, can't support the format; NGPC, not enthusiastic; AHPC, opposed.

Overall, it was agreed that the proposal was not acceptable.

Action Closed

4. Treasurer's Report

The treasurer apologised for the late delivery of the financial statements which were sent to the Secretary earlier on the day of the meeting but not circulated. The secretary agreed to circulate the second quarter statements ASAP. The treasurer reported a summary which was as follows :-

The balance sheet shows SAPL has:

1. \$10727.82 in the bank account
2. \$1974.93 in uniforms held by Hip Pocket Workwear
3. \$ 220.10 balance of ORSR grant
4. \$237.60 bills paid in advance
5. A net equity of \$11677.19

Signed: _____
 President _____
 Secretary _____
 Date 2-3-24

The meeting was closed at 8:19 pm.
 Next meeting will be held on Thursday the 7 March 2024 at Prospect Petanque club at 7:00 pm

Next Meeting and Close

Tina has suggested that SAPL should offer some financial help to the Coonawarra club for the establishment of extra pistes for the Coonawarra Clash. After discussion around the table it was clear that the committee was not sympathetic to the suggestion.
 Tina had also proposed that SAPL should organise a two day competition over a holiday weekend to give the members from Coonawarra a chance to participate. The committee recalled that this suggestion was tried in 2022 and was not a success. No one from Coonawarra participated and local players were not interested and stayed away. The suggestion was not accepted.

9.2 Coonawarra

The umpires have agreed to send their account for the national competition to PFA. There will be no participation fee.
 maximum of 4 participants in each division. The competition will be held over two rounds. There who achieve the above qualifying score in the State Championships and will be limited to a leg of the National Precision Shooting Championships. This competition will be open to participants SAPL will also hold a second Precision Shooting competition at NGPC on the 2 March for the SA payable.
 achieved a score of 15 for Juniors and Women and 20 for Men. A fee of \$15.00 per head will be eligible to participate, players will need to have competed in a club qualifying trial and have 10am. There will be 5 divisions: Junior, Women, Women 60+, Men and Men 60+. In order to be SAPL will hold the State Precision Shooting Championships at Stirling on the 3 February 2024 at

9.1 Precision shooting 2024

9. AOB

Gavin Scott reported that he had approached the PFA Insurers to get clarification on the actual cover provided. He was asked to provide the information to SAPL for distribution.

8. PFA.

The TD reported that since the last meeting R#3 of the Interclub league had been held with 28 teams participating. The modified Swissish system was used and only three out of 42 games were played between teams from the same club in the morning session.

7. Tournament Director's Report.

There was no report from the State Coach Manager.

6. Coach's Report.

The State Umpire Manager said that there was nothing to report.

5. Umpires Report.

Because the Treasurer's report had not been circulated to the clubs prior to the meeting no vote on the acceptance of the report was proposed or taken.

<u>No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Actionee</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Status</u>
23.7 (240)	2/2/23	AP	Anthony to continue refining the Team Capacity discussion paper.	Suspended
23.16	4/11/23	BW	Provide details of the 2024 Precision Shooting methodology	Closed

Note: Items shown as Closed in this report will be removed in the next summary report.

Appendix 1 Comments on Proposed Interclub format

What follows is an assessment of the alternative format for the SAPL Interclub competition, as recently proposed by Adrian Clements, in comparison with the system currently in place.

Advantages

1. **Simplicity**
The proposed system is straightforward and simple to administer.

2. **No intracub match-ups**

There would be no games between teams from the same club.

3. **Consistency**

'Luck of the draw' would be largely eliminated, apart from the question of who gets to play who with a home ground advantage.

Disadvantages

1. **Mismatches**

Games between teams of vastly different ability are not much fun for either party. The Swissish system is specifically designed to avoid them, by matching teams against others at a similar level as the day progresses. That makes more competitive and enjoyable games for players at both ends of the spectrum. In contrast, the proposed arrangement would see the strongest teams pitted against all the weakest teams, twice in every season. Conversely, if there were two hypothetical teams so good that they would beat everyone else apart from each other, they would only get to play each other twice a year, rather than meeting in playoffs on a regular basis as you would normally expect. (If they both happened to come from the same club, they would never play each other at all.)

A system where every team plays every team from every other club might be fair, but it might also be a bit boring.

2. **An extra game**

The current format involves five rounds of games and is nearly always finished by 5:30pm. The proposed format requires six games in a day. Bringing the start time forward to 9:00am would not be popular, particularly for those who have to travel some distance. At the same time, finishing after 6:00pm on a regular basis would be even less popular.

3. **An extra round**

The proposed format requires seven rounds. Where will that extra round fit into the calendar? More importantly, it means one of the six hosting clubs will get the benefit of a home ground advantage twice. That's hardly fair.

4. **Club Byes**

In each round, *two* clubs will have a bye for half the day, either am or pm. (Not "one club" as stated in the proposal.) But they would still be required to attend and play the other half of the day. Would players want to travel all the way from Gawler for example, or vice versa, to play just three games?

5. **Prizes**

Playing for prizes is an intrinsic part of petanque culture. Social games are sometimes played without prizes, but when people pay to play for a full day they expect there to be some reward for the winners at

Appendix 1 Comments on Proposed Interclub format

the end of the day. Under the proposed system, there would be no winners, no medals and no wine until the end of the season. You might play the best petanque of your life one day but you'd still go home with nothing to show for it. Would playing purely for club pride be enough of an incentive for players to participate? Probably not, in some cases. (Particularly if you happen to come from a club that has little or no chance of winning the overall championship.)

6. Selection

The clubs that currently field five or six teams on a regular basis would need to appoint selectors to pick their teams. About half of their members who currently wish to participate will have to be told, one way or another, that they can't play because they're not good enough. This sort of thing is a recipe for creating conflict and destroying the social fabric of a club.

7. Insufficient numbers

We also have a couple of clubs who more often than not don't have enough available players to field three teams. If they were to take part with just two teams, giving a bye to their opponents, they would be conceding six games in one day and to come out ahead they would have to win 10 of the 12 games they play. Is that a fair or worthwhile contest? (There would also be the possibility of two teams from different clubs having byes at the same time.) Alternatively, if they "seek uncommitted players from other clubs to complete their teams" then that would be "messy, and makes match results dodgy". The more likely outcome, in my opinion, is that some clubs wouldn't bother to participate at all.

8. Participation

Ideally, if all seven clubs fielded three teams, the proposed system would involve 63 players. Participation would thus be reduced by at least 30%, at best, compared to current numbers. However, in view of all the issues raised above, it would probably end up halving the overall participation rate, or worse.

9. Host clubs

For some clubs, the opportunity to host a League round provides an important source of income. The reduction in numbers coming from this proposal would take a big chunk out of that revenue stream.

Conclusion

In my opinion, the proposed format is ill-conceived and unworkable. It would create far more problems than it would solve. It would be a less interesting and less enjoyable competition and, most importantly, it would result in a significant reduction in participation for a variety of reasons. In short, I think it would have a devastating effect on the SA petanque community and it would mean throwing away all the progress we've made over the past 10 years or so. Not a good idea.

Anthony Pietsch