



Welsh Petanque Association

WPA PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2007

I am pleased to say that the WPA has had a very good year. We have held more tournaments and more members have played than ever before. The WPA league now has 23 teams competing in three divisions.

This year the season stretched from January to October. This could be due to global warming or it may be due to a revitalized zest for the game. I hope it is the latter.

The European "cup for clubs" got the year started. It was a great success with The Wheatsheaf coming out on top. They were accompanied to the GB play-offs by The Monkstone who then lost in the final to a very strong English team.

The Celtic Challenge was held at Abergavenny in May and was regarded by all as a resounding success. APC can be justifiably proud of their achievement. Wales 'A' won the challenge convincingly. Again Wales provided the top triple but this time there were two, Paul Bond, Neil Dobbins & Rod Dobbins and Kevin Hughes, Christine Hughes & Chris Jones.

As a footnote the term "**ABERGAFANNY**" could well enter the oxford dictionary.

The WPA "Open Weekend" held at the end of May was affected by appalling weather. Never the less we managed to compete on all three days. The big success of the weekend was the turnout for the mixed doubles on the Monday. This format must become a fixture on the calendar.

In June we hosted the ladies top 8 Qualifier and the BPF International Qualifier at Brecon. The organisers and players were extremely complimentary about the venue and the superb organisation provided by Brecon PC. Two WPA triples went on to finish in the top 8 teams. Another first.

The Home Nations Championship was played in Inverness Scotland on 11th and 12th August. We took a comparatively inexperienced team to compete on a very challenging terrain. We finished in third place but many of our players came of age and there were some remarkable success stories.

Our juniors came second with nine good wins. They also agreed to split to accommodate a Scottish junior who did not have a game. That decision made me proud. Well done the three of you.



The EPA inter-regional championships were held at Brean Sands on September 8th and 9th. The WPA was competing in the Challenge (the top division). Historically we have moved up and down between the two divisions on an annual basis.

This year was no exception and we failed to stay up. But it was close and again we saw some excellent results from many of our least experienced players.

Our juniors finished bottom but had a better "for" points score than the team who finished fourth. They narrowly lost a number of very close games. At that level a very creditable performance.

This would seem to be a good time to congratulate all those who represented Wales this year and in particular those who did it for the first time. Well done.

I am sure you will join me in congratulating our National Champions:

National Singles Champion Steve Brace

National Doubles Champions Phil Bradshaw & Neil Dobbins

National Triples Champions Coral Jenkins, Peter Westall & Don Jenkins

It is noticeable that the standard of play is improving in our organisation. This is obvious in the leagues and in the tournaments. There are no longer any easy games. The competition for representation is fierce and can only bode well for the future.

Finally, I need to say a few words about your executive. This has been one of the best committees I have ever served on. They have all strived to contribute not just in their allocated areas but in every area we covered. Each and every one has made a huge contribution.

We have achieved some of the objectives we set ourselves and made progress in many. There is of course still much to do.

The decision we made a week ago will allow us to take control of our sport. How well we develop it is up to us, all of us.

Sadly two of our Executive have decided to stand down. Dave Cannan and John Legge.

Dave has elected to stand down after long and valuable service. His talents are obvious. He is a great people person, totally respected for his honesty and integrity. He brought to the exec the history of our sport and a commonsense



approach that frequently kept us from making errors. I sincerely hope that he will continue to make this contribution from the wings.

John and Claire are expecting their first child. I believe he also has to set up a forensic system in Abudabi. Both of these events require his undivided attention.

When Keith Lord retired from VPP I thought we would be unable to fill his shoes. Along came this young inexperienced player who volunteered. He was an immediate success.

Also as the association has grown so has John and he has now structured the playing side of our sport to an incredible level. Few people realise just how much of his time this took and we owe a huge debt of thanks to Claire for her patience.

It is appropriate to thank these two outstanding members in the time-honoured fashion.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Don Jenkins', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Don Jenkins
WPA President