



Presidents Report – Brian Chipman

Before sharing the Presidents Report I would like to take a moment to thank our Board, Committee Members and the many SCPA Volunteers. Our Board and members have volunteered over 2.2k hours this board year, which is impressive to say the least. Your support and commitment have helped deliver a remarkable board Year while growing and uniting our pickleball community.

I would also like to take a moment to recognize the loss of Board Member and friend Jim Pye. Jim served on our Board from 2017 to 2019 and from 2025 to 2026.

Jim was always willing to support the Board and pickleball community where needed. He was instrumental in hosting pickleball outings that included dinking and regular play round robins. In addition to this Jim successfully led our player ratings session in 2026.

Jim was a great guy and valued Board Member and I for one appreciate working with and getting to know him more personally.

Jim precedes his children and his wife Liz who has been an active volunteer for the SCPA.

I would also like to acknowledge the passing of SCPA Member Carol Brophy.

I recall participating in drill sessions with Carol and Carolyn Oughton several years ago. The sessions were led by Carol's partner Tom Pinfold. I was fortunate to get to know Carol during this time and will remember her as a kind and warm person.

Both Carol and Jim will be missed.

- The 2025/26 Board year has been notable, to say the least, and I'm incredibly proud of our Board's many accomplishments and unwavering commitment to serving our pickleball community. Our committee structure has continued to serve SCPA well, thanks to the hard-working directors chairing each committee.
- Our membership grew from 340 members in 2025 to 433 members in 2026 - an impressive **27% increase** over last year. Our membership is made up of 234 female and 199 male members, including, most notably, **16 junior members**.
- This growth can be attributed to the success of our events, player development initiatives, and school programs, which continue to introduce new players to the sport and strengthen our pickleball community.

New Facility

- Our year began with ambitious plans including moving forward from the Sunshine Coast Golf & Country Club (SCGCC) and finding a new year-round permanent site opportunity.
- SCPA Member Stacey Buckhorn played an important role in identifying a potential location in Roberts Creek for a future pickleball facility. SCPA Vice President and Facility Committee Lead **Ted Bentley**, along with committee members—particularly Barry Krangle—then worked closely with Roberts Creek Councilor Kelly Backs, the SCRD, and the Roberts Creek Community Association.
- Through these collaborative efforts, the parties have reached an agreement with the SCRD to proceed with developing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).
- This represents a major first step toward securing property for a permanent, year-round, eight-court pickleball facility on the Sunshine Coast. It is an exciting milestone for the SCPA and our growing pickleball community, and we are grateful to everyone who has contributed their time, expertise, and support to help move this important project forward.

Operations

- Secretary and Operations Committee Chair, Michael Jackson has done a great job managing the various secretary duties including taking meeting minutes, filing reports, etc. The role of Secretary is not for everyone and the Board appreciates Michael's efforts.
- Michael and Carol Mollerup had a busy this board year on the Operations Committee running school programs five times a week in Sechelt, Roberts Creek and Gibsons. Our school play has been very successful often running at capacity. This has clearly demonstrated the need for a permanent facility to accommodate the increasing demand for pickleball on the Sunshine Coast.
- Michael also oversees our equipment and supplies and secured a centralized and secure equipment & supplies storage unit.
- In addition to serving on the Operations Committee, our longest serving Director, **Carol Mollerup** also sourced donations, food and prizes for most of our events. Carol was tournament Director for our Dinks and Drinks event.

Treasurer and Funding

- **Carolyn Oughton** has done an outstanding job as Treasurer including policy development, reporting and finding opportunities to grow our funds. Carolyn volunteered to launch the Funding Committee in late April and as Committee Chair has been in the process of building her Team and developing funding strategies. This role will be instrumental in supporting our future facility and program needs.
- **Janyce Bampton** joined the SCPA Board in May 2026 and began by overseeing grants on our Funding Committee. Janyce has since joined the Facility and Events Committees and brings welcome enthusiasm and fresh perspective to the Board.

Marketing & PR

- **Bruce Fraser** stepped down from the Board in May 2026 due to other commitments. Bruce was our Marketing Committee Chair and was focused on branding, initiating sponsorships, funding opportunities and strategies. The Board thanks Bruce for his services.
- After Bruce' departure Ted and I re-focused our efforts on cleaning up our website, keeping our social media pages current and relevant and submitting several key articles to the Coast Reporter and Vancouver Island Pickleball.
- I also worked with Sunshine Coast Financial to secure a \$2K Arena Bowl sponsorship grant.
- I also had a marketing firm, Kocially Social Media present to the Executive, which was insightful.

Player Development

- Player Development Committee Chair, **Cheryl Linsley** and the Player Development Committee have had a very active and successful year. The Committee held weekly player development Drill Club opportunities led by volunteers Rick Semel and Andre Causaban. These events were usually at capacity and the demand keeps growing. Tom Pinfold also held player development sessions during our school programs.
- Led by volunteers Rick Semel and Philippa Putlitz the Player Development Committee held our 3rd annual week-long player introduction and development program at Chatelech Secondary school. This program ended with a round robin tournament where students enjoyed a competitive and fun experience. I would like to note that several students from this program also played in our first youth exhibition division in our June Arena Bowl.
- The Player Development Committee will now be providing instruction, a week-long player introduction and development program during November at Elphinstone Secondary school.
- Again, Jim Pye was a member of the Player Development Committee and successfully held a rating session for members.
- The most notable milestone for Cheryl and the Player Development Committee this year was the Activating Youth Pickleball BC Program on the Sunshine Coast. With the assistance of Phillipa Pulitz the SCPA partnered with Pickleball BC.
- With the help of Barry Krangle, Rick Semel and Philippa Putlitz the SCPA held pickleball introduction to students at 5 elementary schools in the spring of 2026 and 4 more in late 2026 or early 2027.
- Kudos to Cheryl, Committee members and volunteers for having such a successful year including the development, launch and execution of SCPA youth programming.

Events

- The Events Committee led by **Ross Miller** is arguably the busiest Committee and has had a very successful year hosting 6 events (*Arena Bowl, Burger and Beer, D&D, Autumn Bowl, Canada Day & Festive Dinner*).
- Most notably this year's Arena Bowl included its first fundraising 50/50 and silent auction events, raising \$2K for our club.

- **James Adam** serves on the Events Committee and has been instrumental in creating automated tournament scheduling programs, which has improved and streamlined processes. James was also Tournament Director for our Area Bowl, which was arguably our most successful Area Bowl.
- Ross and his Team have done an outstanding job in serving our pickleball community.

The individual year-end committee reports provide further details for each of the above-mentioned programs.

I am proud of the many accomplishments we have achieved together!

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian Chipman

President

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