

It is intended to publish this newsletter quarterly with your help in providing articles to try keep you all informed about pétanque in the region. Articles from clubs, notices and reports about events, coaching tips, umpiring questions will all feature at various times.



## PRESIDENT'S THOUGHTS

2016 has been a successful year with an increase in membership and despite terrible weather at the Inter Regional Championships Devon were able to give a good account of themselves and finish in 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Challenge Tournament. There have been 5 club charity events held across the region's clubs raising valuable monies for a variety of charitable causes. Our club members should be congratulated for the time and effort they put in to staging and attending these events.

On 29<sup>th</sup> November we held our Annual General Meeting at a new location, The London Inn at Okehampton. Once the formal parts of the meeting were complete we enjoyed a buffet supper. Much discussion took place concerning the new league rules for 2017 and it was decided to allow each club to respond by email by 14<sup>th</sup> December with any comments on how the league should be conducted. We then went on to present trophies to the regional champions for 2016.

They were:

Singles – Thierry Hacq



**Thierry Hacq with the Singles Trophy**

Doubles – Thierry Hacq and Rob Thomas

Triples – Thierry Hacq, Rob Thomas and Franck Depreaux

The Devon Petanque League was won by Torriddle U3A.

You will notice one name cropped up in each of the Regional Championships. Congratulations to Thierry with his hat trick of regional titles.



**TORRIDGE U3A**

Other items covered briefly at the AGM included information that some changes for the Rules of the sport would be coming into force shortly. John Thatcher and Mike Pegg would be involved in briefing current EPA umpires and would then run umpire courses for Devon club members once the national dates are known. John Noblet from Tavistock Lions Club attended the meeting and briefed the members on the intention to build a new pétanque playing area in Tavistock.

## Regional Officers 2017

President – John Thatcher

Vice President – Gary Smith

Secretary – Mac Paterson

Membership Secretary & Treasurer – Rose Thatcher

League & Fixtures Secretary – Marie Pegg

Regional Umpire - Mike Pegg

Regional Coach – Thierry Hacq

I wish all our members a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year and look forward to seeing you all at the regional events in 2017.

**John Thatcher**

**President, Devon Petanque Region**

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## CHUDLEIGH PETANQUE CLUB

Chudleigh PC has seen a 15% increase in membership since the summer. This growth is promising and we hope it is the beginning of a new wave of interest.

The Devon Air Ambulance is going to use Chudleigh Sport Centre as a designated landing spot. They need

good lighting so the wiring in our system has been upgraded. We have also secured a bit of funding from the Rotary Club to spend on lighting and facilities so look forward to using that.

Mike Moyse - Chairman, Chudleigh PC

## ISCA PETANQUE CLUB

For various reasons the report of one of the summer's charity events was not sent in for inclusion in the September newsletter. For those who weren't in attendance here is that report:-

### £400-00 raised for Charity by South West Petanque Players

On Sunday 24 July, Isca Petanque Club hosted a doubles competition in memory of the late Ann Paterson, who died in November last year. Ann was a long-established member of our club.

A total of 17 pairs took part and the event was organised in leagues in the morning with straight knockout in main and plate events in the afternoon.

Weather was mixed throughout the day's play with some sunny and some showery periods but overall, play continued in good spirits without too many interruptions.

As to the results then the overall winners were Isca club players Stuart & Yvonne Brown who defeated fellow club players Joan Dixie and Colin Salter.

In the plate event the winners were Susan Williamson and Graeme Kirkham from Tregony PC.

At lunchtime three separate challenges took place to test skills at pointing, shooting and egg splatting. Using only approved boules for each challenge to make things fair, the competition was fierce amongst the competitors with grim determination to prove dominance especially as regards the egg. As for winners then Thierry Hacq won the egg splatting, Andy Rose from the Rising Sun PC the pointing and Peter Smith from Ottery St Mary PC the shooting competition.

Many thanks to Ann's husband Mac and Rob Brealey who organised the day.

Thank you to all who attended and were so generous in their support raising £400-00. All the proceeds from

the day went to Ann's favourite charity, Save the Children.



**John and Rose Thatcher** - Winners of the Keith Brealey Memorial trophy with Jean Brealey and her son Rob. All monies raised were donated to the Devon Air Ambulance

**You couldn't make it up!**

Overheard on a recent Club night at the Isca Centre  
Player 1 – "I either need to nudge it out the way or ideally Carreau to move it"  
Player 2 – "I didn't know Carol was playing?"

Club Chairman's response "She only plays at Christmas!"

### Isca Website

A new website is up and running for the Isca Petanque Club and this can be found at:-  
<http://www.iscapetanque.btck.co.uk/>

This complements our existing Facebook page which can be found at **Isca Petanque club**.

And finally a "Thought" for December's Newsletter – La portée, la demi portée ou la roulette? Which one do you favour?

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### **PIG on the HILL PETANQUE Club Winter Newsletter**

Well the winter quarter has arrived, the Arabian tent is down so it's out with our winter coats and wet weather gear.

Our winter competition starts in January so it's practice, practice, practice, hopefully in reasonable



weather.

Our Christmas Dinner will be held at The Thatched Inn in Abbotsham and we look forward to a convivial evening with a nice and good company 17<sup>th</sup> Dec with a splendid raffle in aid of a worthy cause, meanwhile on the 5<sup>th</sup> November we entertained our 2 social members from the Oxshott Petanque club to a friendly game and social gathering after at the Pig with a possibility of a tour to their club sometime in the new year.

After all the excitement have a glorious Christmas and a fantastic New Year.

From us in North Devon, Good Health and Happiness.

Doug Spiller. POTH Chairman

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## HONITON PETANQUE

There is not too much extra activity to report this Autumn. After the main season for league and competitions ended, we had one more challenge match in late September against East Devon Petanque club, and were narrowly beaten. So overall this year we won three out of the four challenge matches we played, which was some consolation for our losing debut season in the Devon League. These matches help boost morale but are also played to give some potential league players match experience. To further help bridge the gap between session play and the Devon League we also hope to organise some sort of local area competition next year. We are looking at groups such as the U3A and Twinning Association and other local clubs taking part in competitive matches.

Our sessions in the Autumn continued to be well attended and members are keen to carry on whenever possible throughout the Winter. Even in late November we had attendances of 18 and 17 on consecutive Sundays, which was very pleasing, and we finish the year with a club membership of 27. We had hoped by now to have laid the first two sections of the grass reinforcement mesh, designed to improve access across the field to the terrain, but were asked to postpone by Mountbatten Sports whilst work is completed on a new Cricket nets area. This and a bit more work on piste improvements are planned for the new year.

We should like to wish all our fellow Devon boulistas a very happy Christmas and a successful new year – except of course when you play us!

**Chris Bigmore**

## OTTERY ST MARY PC

The move back to Ottery earlier this year has resulted in an increase in membership and we will continue to interest more people in our game.

Despite verbal noises from the Bowling Club about challenges in our respective games, nothing progressed and I sent a letter to them on 12<sup>th</sup> October because they do have some alternative activities during the winter. Still no reply!

Our new terrain has held up against recent bad weather and following storm Angus we even managed to play the next day without wearing wellies! Is there really a rule about floating jacks? Grass and weeds are now in evidence, and Pete Marles has offered to apply a spray of weed killer.

We do have one honorary member in the shape of the horse that lives in an adjacent field and he enjoys a selection of offerings brought by some members for club sessions. Other clubs should note that when coming to Strawberry Lane, snacks such as carrots, apples, etc. will always be welcome. It might also discourage the beast from nibbling items left hanging on the fence!

Progress towards the installation of lights continues to crawl at a pace for reasons beyond our control; having established that planning permission is not required for this work, we are back in the hands of the Town Council due to a clause in our lease. This effectively means that there must be a decision made by our landlord regarding who does what to get the job done, even though we said that we will pay for it. It seems that the Finance Committee must consider the matter and then make a recommendation to the Town Council at its next meeting! We await the outcome following that meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> December.

**PS The Town Council had now given permission so lights will be installed in due course!**

That will be the day following our Christmas event to which everyone is bringing goodies and during which regular and novelty games will be enjoyed – so it's been rumoured!

PPS The 4<sup>th</sup> December "Christmas Bash" went off very well with a couple of games followed by lunch and then John Thatcher set us some testing skill games to complete before all members receiving prizes of great value!!



David West – Secretary Ottery St Mary PC

## PLYMOUTH PETANQUE

October and November have been quieter months for the members of Plymouth Petanque with no special events held...just our standard Wednesday and Sunday social sessions. The colder weather has not, however, reduced our attendance. Our average attendance in October was 29 for each session and for November it has been 27. Is it the game or the tea and chat that draws them in? Probably a combination of the two.

On Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November, we held our AGM. For this we rented a local community hall and after the meeting at 11.00am we sat down to one of our wonderful club lunches (everyone brings along something they would like to eat with a bit extra to share, this works a treat every time) and then headed down to Brickfields for an afternoon of pétanque.

One amazing fact that was announced at the AGM was that over the last 12 months we have had more than 2,700 individual attendances at our social sessions. As the sessions, last around two hours that is 5,400 personal hours of pétanque played. That is also 2,700 cups of tea or coffee plus, probably, a truck load of biscuits! I wonder how many kilometres of boules travel that would be?

On Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December, we will be having a Christmas drinks and social evening at a bar in the city centre and on January 1<sup>st</sup> we will be holding our second New Year's Day pétanque event on the beach side public terrain at Seaton (in Cornwall). Please do join us...it's a great way to blow away all the excesses of the festive season (although last year they were, perhaps, blown a little bit too much!). Meet at the wonderful beach side cafe for a coffee or brunch at 11.00 am and then over to the terrain for a few games.



## TORRIDGE U3A

Having had some two months to reflect on my comments in the September edition, especially when looking at the current league performance of Leicester City, we have now decided to support the England rugby team and aim to equal their 2016 unbeaten run next year in our Petanque league.

At this time of the year, being the season of goodwill, I am sure you will all assist us in achieving our dream for next year.

Christmas is the time for children to become excited, send Santa their wish list and expectations will be high that all will be delivered. Despite my age, I am young at heart, still believe in Father Christmas, will he deliver my wish for next year?

Dream over Bubble has burst, back to reality.

Our team enjoyed meeting you all again at the AGM last Tuesday, this being the time to express your views on various matters and hearing contrary views from others. This is as it should be, if we respect all comments, accept all differences of opinion, and go forward to 2017 and beyond in playing and enjoying the game we all enjoy.

At the Village Inn we recently had a change of Landlords. Stuart and his wife have finally retired after many years in situ. We all appreciate the support they have given to us Petanque players, not only the U3A group but also the Village Inn PC which sadly folded a few years ago.

As the saying goes, out with the old and in with the new.

We welcome the arrival of Angie and John Holme, like me a grockle, who have moved to Glorious Devon from Coventry, as the new Landlords. They have been very supportive of the U3A Petanque group and were delighted to receive a trophy for their sports awards cabinet. Angie also expressed her wish to play league Petanque but, being of a much younger age group we



would not be able to accommodate her in our U3A league team.

Our thanks to all of you for partaking in this sport, we enjoyed meeting you, receiving your hospitality, playing with or against you in the league, at charity events and regional matches. Without you Torridge U3A would have had a quiet season and missed the pleasure of your company.

MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Ged Barton – Torridge U3A

### WHAT IF?

Our Regional Umpire, Mike Pegg posed a question for any of you to respond to in the June newsletter. The question was:

What if.... the jack having been hit by a boule rolls into an out-of-bounds area, both teams have boules to play.

The shooter from Team "A" says the end is void and claims it must be replayed in the same direction and from the circle that has just been used.

However, the pointer from Team "B" says "no, we must start a new end and play in the opposite direction".

What is the correct answer?

This is Mike's answer to a reply from Colin Salter of ISCA PC

John tells me I was being unfair because the question was a "trick" one... it is something we may ask an Umpire during a course to test not only his knowledge of the rules but also his awareness of what appears to be a straightforward enough scenario.

What I didn't give in the scenario was a rather key piece of useful information, where on the terrain was the jack before it was knocked out of play. I had better explain a little more.... if you had placed the circle at the very start of the lane and thrown the jack 6 metres you would still have a little over 8m of lane in front of you.

To start a new end, you place the circle around the position of the jack before it was knocked out of play, or if it was not marked at the nearest valid point to where the jack went out of play. With that in mind it is possible and acceptable to start the next end and throw

another short jack in the same direction as the previous one... there is nothing in the rules to say which direction you must throw the jack.

So, the answer is:

It is a new end and the jack can be thrown in either, or any, direction on condition that it will be a valid distance from the circle.

## ENGLISH PETANQUE ASSOCIATION PLAYING CALENDAR 2017

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March** – Annual General Meeting

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March** – Club Team Tournament Finals

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April** – Regional Day

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May** – Home Nations Qualifier

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May** –  
Women's Qualifier Singles and Shooting.  
Men's Qualifier

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May** - Regional Day 2

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May** – EPA Singles Championships

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May** - EPA Doubles Championships

**Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May** – EPA Mixed Doubles Championships  
(All these events are at ISCA PC, Exeter)

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June** – Regional Day 3

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June** – EPA Veterans Triples Championships

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July** -  
Women's Doubles Qualifiers  
Men's Qualifier

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July** – Regional Day 4

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> July** –  
Women's Qualifier Triples  
Men's Qualifier

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> July**  
EPA Festival of Petanque

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> August** – Regional Day 5

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> August**



# DEVON PETANQUE NEWSLETTER

December 2016

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Home Nations Championships

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September**

Inter-Regional and Challenge Tournament

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October**

Champion of Champions Doubles and Triples

(Venues are yet to be announced for all these events but will be published on the EPA website [www.englishpetanque.org.uk](http://www.englishpetanque.org.uk))