

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.

REGIONAL PRESIDENT'S THOUGHTS

The 2016 season is now well under way, the league is progressing and no one team is dominating so the outcome is in the balance as it should be until the final few games. It has been difficult to coordinate the regional matches with Kernow and Great Western regions and the 3 way between those regions and Devon became a 2 way with just GWR and us. It is disappointing that Kernow are struggling with numbers this year as having strong opposition helps our region to improve its performance. I hope that Kernow can rebuild and move forward with new members.

Separate articles will cover the matches against Kernow and Great Western.

All our clubs, and the region, owe a great deal to those members who give of their time to maintain their playing areas, organise the club sessions and events and provide the support that every club needs in other many and varied ways. Without these willing volunteers our sport would not exist. We all enjoy playing boule but there is always the need for some to organise and drive the sport forwards. Recently I have found it difficult to play and also be at others beck and call during events. It is not easy to concentrate on my game when I am asked to give a ruling or even measure which is not a difficult skill if done correctly and practised. So please take responsibility for your own game and only call for assistance during games when absolutely necessary.

I have been the President of the Devon Petanque Region for 18 years now and while I am very happy to continue I am very aware that a succession process needs to be put in place so that other members of the region gain experience and knowledge of the region and how it works. Please

get in touch with me if you would like to assist in the running of the region, officially or on an ad hoc basis. I am always looking for an organiser to help run the regional competitions by manning the organiser's table and collating results. I am also very happy to come to any club and show individuals or groups how to set up and conduct events.

John Thatcher – Regional President

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DEVON vs KERNOW

The regional team played Kernow on Sunday 24th April. Kernow were not able to field a full team and “borrowed” two of our members to make up their team. Six triple teams played every other team from the opposing region. Our 1st team of Franck Depreaux, Thierry Hacq and Rob Thomas managed to win all their 6 games helping the region to a convincing 20 games to 16 win.

This annual event is our longest standing regional fixture played alternately home and away. Always competitive and played in a very good spirit.



Franck, Thierry and Rob studying the head closely

EPA National Titles weekend

28 - 30th May

This year was the second year of our three year stint of hosting this event on behalf of the EPA. It took a lot of hard physical work on Friday 27th May from a small group of regional members to prepare a 1000 sq metre temporary playing area and then clear it all away again on Tuesday 31st May. Without the time and help from Rob Brealey, Stewart Brown, Colin Salter, Dave Thomas, Peter Smith and especially Mike Carroll who travelled up from Plymouth on both days this event would not have happened. Our grateful thanks to these dedicated members and the ISCA Centre staff who made the event a success. The players and organisers all thanked our region for hosting this event and in no small way ensuring its success.



The temporary playing surface in action

DEVON vs GREAT WESTERN REGION

It was decided to use this event to “blood” new players and teams to gain experience for the future. As it happened the match was very close with GWR just managing to win 19 games to 17. Our new players thoroughly enjoyed the experience and hopefully whetted their appetite for more regional events.



The Devon & Great Western Teams

MEMBERSHIP

Our Regional Membership Secretary, Rose Thatcher, reports that we have 57 EPA Members as at 15th June. This is an increase of 14 members on last year’s total. The more EPA members we have the better will be our pool of players and the playing standards will rise as more players compete in regional and national events. This will then filter down to all clubs in the region.

NEWS FROM OUR CLUBS

Plymouth Pétanque Club

Plymouth Pétanque has been meeting regularly every Wednesday and Sunday throughout April, May and June with an average attendance of around 30 players. We have been very lucky with the weather, having been rained on only twice during this period.

The third paragraph of our constitution states that:

‘The objectives of The Club shall be to promote the amateur sport of, and community participation in, Pétanque in Plymouth and the surrounding area.’

To help fulfil this objective we organised a friendly invitation tournament on Sunday May 8th to which we invited players from the various small venues in the Plymouth area that have a pétanque facility. This included Devonport Park, The Hoe Residents’ Association, Stonehouse Tennis Club, St. John Village Hall and Tavistock Lions’ Club. In all we had

57 players and a great afternoon of friendly competition ensued including, at half time, an exceptional afternoon tea spread put on by our members. We certainly appreciated our four new pistes that now give us a total of ten.



Plymouth's Open invitation event 8th May

Three of our public parks in Plymouth have single game pétanque pistes that have been put in by the City Council. Unfortunately, they have not been particularly well used (except perhaps for the one on the Hoe where the local Residents' Association meet on a weekly basis in the summer months) and we, as a club, are trying to find ways of getting them used a bit more. The piste in Devonport Park had fallen into disrepair and a small team of volunteers from our club recently joined forces with the Friends of Devonport Park and gave it a bit of a refurbishment and we are pleased to see that it is now being used much more. Who knows, maybe we will soon be having enough players at these venues to form a local Plymouth League?

Our team in the Devon League have been performing pretty well considering that all but one of them had never played pétanque before joining us. Much of the credit for this must go to Devon Pétanque's own coach, Thierry Hacq, who came to us last November and gave us a wonderful day of coaching. To this day, whenever we put a first shot 9" directly in front of the jack we call it doing a "Thierry"!!

Quite a few of our members are also now starting to enter various competitive events in Devon and beyond and are gaining experience of competitive play at the next level. We are making new contacts and acquiring more knowledge and skills through informal discussions at regional events. A couple

of us attended the EPA National Championships at ISCA in May and our thanks go to our own Mike Carroll, who made three journeys to ISCA and back from Plymouth that weekend to give assistance with the preparation and clearing of the pistes for the event.

Our regular Sunday and Wednesday sessions remain totally social. The tea breaks (and sometimes fish and chip breaks!) being as important as the games themselves. We are now looking forward to our charity event to be held on Sunday June 19th involving dressing-up and an auction of promises.

Rob Preston

ISCA PETANQUE CLUB

The last few months have been a busy time for the club especially with the hosting of the National Titles Championships on the 28 - 30th May.

As per the previous year, a car park was transformed in one day into a pétanque terrain for the Championships with 20 tons of gritty sand spread over the surface, edges constructed, scoreboards fitted and lines provided. It was a marathon effort by the relatively small team of helpers from both Isca and other neighbouring clubs to both set up and of course, take down and clean up after the event. And as for the weather then it was absolutely wonderful!

Our own participation in the event provided some interest and the results achieved were beyond expectation given the high level of expertise shown by many of the participants.

Mens Doubles – Rob Brealey and Colin Salter reached the quarter finals of one half of the Plate event.

Mens Singles – Colin Salter reached the semi finals of one half of the Plate event.

Mixed doubles – Joan Dixie and Rob Brealey were placed in the Gold Event after playing so well in the preliminary rounds and went on to reach the quarter finals before being beaten in a thrilling close game.



DEVON PETANQUE NEWSLETTER

June 2016

Well done to all participants and thanks for the Isca supporters who at one stage looked like they were going to break out into a Mexican wave!

Membership remains steady at the Club but new members would be most welcome. If you have friends and relatives in the Exeter area they would be most welcome at the Isca Petanque Club in Summer Lane, Exeter on a Wednesday or Friday evening, starting a 7.30 p.m. Boules can be provided so why not encourage them to have a go.

And finally a "Thought" for June's Newsletter – where does a Naturist keep his tape measure?

Colin Salter

HONITON PETANQUE

On April 1st we completed our inaugural year and on all fronts have been very pleased with our progress. With many new people signing up in the first year to try the sport, we were keen to see how many would renew membership in April. To date we stand around the mid-twenties in number with new enquiries still coming in. We continue to publicise ourselves locally mainly through press reports and social media, but word of mouth is also helping.

Our EPA club registration has now been completed which we believe gives the club a more sporting outlook, and pleased by the number of members who have already purchased competition boules. We are also actively encouraging members to take part in regional events and competitions to gain experience of other players and terrains. In May ten of our members enjoyed taking part in the East Devon Charity Shield and acquitted themselves well with a good showing in the Plate.

Of course we also made our debut in the Devon League this year and after three matches (two

away) find ourselves propping up the table! However all three matches were narrow 3-2 defeats and with a few points here and there we could easily have nicked one or two unlikely wins. As we initially set a fairly modest target of winning an average of one game per match, we are obviously ahead of that, and it says something that we are feeling a bit disappointed. We are aiming a bit higher now and hope to chalk up that first success soon.

We have also arranged a series of friendly challenge matches, and in the first of these in May we entertained Royal Oak PC, a touring side from Shropshire (Severn Valley Petanque). We managed to win the match 6-2 but importantly it gave the chance for more members to gain some team experience in a relaxed atmosphere. In the second match in June East Devon PC (Sidmouth) were the visitors and we also won that one 5-3. The wins also gave the club a welcome confidence boost.

Chris Bigmore

OTTERY ST MARY PC

With the work of our contractor completed, willing members worked hard to continue terrain compaction and dressings so that we could start playing at our new home. Fixings for lane lines, boules and scoreboards were also needed and other items that had been stored at peoples' homes were retrieved. Thanks to all concerned, club sessions began on 13th April for Wednesdays at 2.30 and Sundays at 10.30; with improving light conditions we were able to switch the Wednesday meetings from 2.30 to 7pm on 18th May.

Being sited on a town council owned field, we were obliged to do work on levelling and seeding a large area of displaced soil and again members rallied around, with John Thatcher working hard and alone on one occasion. We certainly need to

recruit some younger members! The club is beginning to generate more local interest now that we're back in Ottery and will be holding sessions for Rotarians and National Women's Register, and we've had a challenge from our neighbouring Bowling Club to play each other at our respective sports.

Our annual Charity Shield event on May 16th gave us the opportunity for the terrain to be officially opened by Glyn Dobson, Town Mayor, and club chairman John Thatcher. The weather was good to us and an enjoyable day was shared by Devon players from Ottery, Honiton, Exeter, and Plymouth, in addition to folk from Cornwall and Great Western. John Thatcher was rewarded for all his hard work in making the day a success when he and Rose won the Plate; Clive De Silva and Chris Spray from Great Western were victorious in the Shield event. In addition to entry fees, money was raised from a well-supported raffle and donations, plus the mid-day events in which Peter Smith won the shooting and Dave Lobb took the pointing prizes. At the end of the day a grand total of £400 had been raised for Hospiscare.



Chris Spray and Clive de Silva winners of the Charity Shield

In the Devon league we seem to have adopted a policy of winning matches by a 3 – 2 scoreline which has seen us beat Honiton away and home and Isca away. Ottery staged the Devon Triples on 12th June and we are looking forward to hosting the regional Singles and Shooting on 14th August.

Dave West – Secretary

CHUDLEIGH PETANQUE CLUB

On 12th June Chudleigh joined the nation in celebrating the Queen's 90th Birthday with a Party in the Park. Among many other clubs and societies taking part, Chudleigh Petanque Club invited members of the public to have a go. We had a reasonable amount of interest and now wait to see whether we have caught any new members!

We are also very proud of our own Franck, Thierry and Rob who were victorious in the Devon Triples tournament on the same day.

Our next home event is the John Baxter Memorial Pairs on 7th August to which everyone is invited - more information will follow.

Henry Pickett

PIG ON THE HILL PC

On our move to the new piste area and reduced size pavilion we were once again reduced down to three pistes from the original five due to the fact that the management wanted to erect an Arabian style tent with six main supporting poles plus a bar with later a toilet block adjacent. To say that we were disappointed is an understatement.



The Tent!!!

The reduction of pistes meant that we were unable to host the Devon Triples as originally planned. However we were able to host a visiting



team from Alverly on the Spring Bank Holiday which we managed to win on points difference.

Sadly we have lost some members namely Mick and Davina Constable also Walter and Judith Wooldridge through illness, they having moved to nursing homes. On the bright side Judith Anderson has joined her husband Mike and we are also entertaining some younger (hopefully) players from West Buckland School. In the meantime we had ten of our members competing in our annual Arkle Cup match which was won ultimately by Chris Jeffrey with Gary Smith the runner up.

Our President, John Violet is hosting our Silver Jubilee celebrations with a BBQ at his residence in July which all members are looking forward to.

Best wishes for the rest of the season.

Doug Spiller – Chairman

WHAT IF?

Q. What happens if? (March question)

Team A have attempted to shoot the holding boule of Team B but unfortunately they hit the jack instead.

The shooter's boule rolls over the dead ball line at speed and hits the back board, it then rebounds back onto the terrain and stops the jack from going over the dead ball line which is only 30 centimetres away. The players had marked the original position of the jack and boules.

Only one answer was received and that was from Henry Pickett who answered ["I think you remove the shooter's dead boule from the terrain and continue to play on the jack's new position."](#)

HENRY WILL RECEIVE A BOTTLE OF WINE FOR HIS CORRECT ANSWER.

The June newsletter's question is:

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?

Answers to this situation should be sent to Mike Pegg, our Regional Umpire, at mike.pegg@fipjp.com Correct entries by 1st August will be placed in a draw and the winning entry drawn will be receiving a bottle of wine!

YOU HAVE TO BE IN IT TO WIN A BOTTLE OF WINE! HAVE A GO YOU MAY BE RIGHT!

REGIONAL PLAYING CALENDAR

17th July - Regional Pairs at ISCA PC

26th July – Ann Paterson Memorial day at ISCA PC

7th August – John Baxter Memorial Melee at Chudleigh PC

14th August – Regional Doubles and Shooting Championships

10/11 September – Inter Regional Championships

DEVON LEAGUE RESULTS

1 Torridge U3A	5 matches won
2 Ottery St Mary	4 “
3 ISCA	3 “
4 Plymouth	2 “
5 Pig on the Hill	2 “
6 Honiton	0 “

Full details may be found on the Devon Petanque website. www.devonpetanque.org.uk

When online have a look and contribute to the Devon Petanque Facebook page.

Edited by John Thatcher