

It is intended to publish this newsletter quarterly during 2016 and with your help in providing articles will try to 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

During 2015 the region has gained a new club at Honiton who will, I am assured, be joining the league this year. They have been assisted by Ottery St Mary members who have been joining them at Honiton while Ottery is without a home venue. That has now been resolved and Ottery St Mary now has a new playing area that will be opening in a few weeks.

Last year the Region had its best ever result at the EPA Inter Regional Championships and that report follows. The Devon League will start on 3rd April and I send best wishes to all teams and look forward to competitive matches played in good spirit. If clubs cannot field a full team of six then please still field as many players as you can as you will still have the opportunity to score some points. A team of four can still win one triple and two doubles so all may not be lost!

Playing our sport does require some administrative support and any help that you can give by keeping your details up to date and informing our Regional Membership secretary would be much appreciated.

I wish all clubs and our members a successful 2016. Enjoy playing boule!

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DEVON VICTORIOUS AT HAYLING ISLAND 2015



The Devon Pétanque Region Team at the English Pétanque Association's Inter Regional Championships at Hayling Island 12th and 13th September 2015. The team won Division 1 of the Challenge tournament after being promoted from Division 2 in 2014. They were in a very competitive division and finally managed to win by beating Chiltern region 30 games to 29. Devon's 1st team of Thierry Hacq, Franck Depreaux and Rob Thomas lost only 1 game all weekend.

NEWS FROM PLYMOUTH PETANQUE

Pétanque in Plymouth started in a very small way in the summer of 2013 when around half a dozen complete novices armed with nothing but their holiday boules and loads of enthusiasm met on a weekly basis to play on the paths of a very small park just off Mutley Plain. Later that year a purpose built single piste was constructed by Plymouth City Council in the nearby park at Freedom Fields. The group transferred their weekly games to this new site and numbers started to increase. It very soon became apparent that a larger terrain would be needed and that, perhaps, we should form a proper club.

In July 2014 Plymouth Pétanque was formed and we moved into our new home at Brickfields Sports Centre in Devonport. Here, where the centre had provided us with a six piste terrain, the club quickly grew to its present position with around 60 members and twice weekly sessions.

This winter we have played every Wednesday and Sunday afternoon. Average attendance has been around 30 players at each session and once or twice we have even got very close to filling the terrain with six games of triples. If this is

(Plymouth Pétanque cont.)

the sort of turn out that we get in February what can we expect this summer? Luckily we have had the go-ahead to extend our terrain to take four more pistes so, hopefully, we will be able to accommodate all who turn up.

At the beginning of February we introduced a training half hour before our normal afternoon session. This was initially intended for those members who wished to play in our Devon League team but has become extremely popular with the social players as well and we now have all six pistes running with members queuing up to have a go at the various exercises on offer.



On New Year's Day we decamped to the excellent public terrain at Seaton Beach in Cornwall where, after a hearty, hangover-beating breakfast in the beach cafe, eight of us braved the extremely strong wind and driving rain coming off the sea and attempted a few games. The wind, however, soon got the better of us and with the jacks refusing to stay still we decided to call it a day. We will be there on Jan 1st 2017 though, for sure!

All visitors are welcome at Plymouth Pétanque. We play every Wednesday and Sunday afternoon starting at 2.00pm and we even provide tea and biscuits! Directions on our website: www.plymouthpetanque.co.uk



HONITON PETANQUE CLUB



We opened for business in April last year and the first and main aim for the rest of 2015 was to recruit new members. This was done through as much free publicity as we could use - such as press releases, posters, social media, email campaigns, an open day etc. We managed to achieve 30 members which exceeded the forecast in the original development plan for the first year of the club's life.

The final part of that plan, over the winter, was to put some structures into the club for 2016. A committee to steer the club through its first full year was formed in January. The next step is to complete registration with the EPA as soon as possible. Also plans for competitions and events were put in place, including joining the Devon League. We are very much looking forward to locking horns with the other Devon clubs and, though our expectations are realistic, we will certainly give it our best shot! And we see participation in the league as an important step in the development of our players.

Our piste has settled down well in its first year, but needs some small superficial work done in readiness for the new season - which we believe will be an exciting one for us.

Chris Bigmore – Chair



HONITON PC OPENING

OTTERY St MARY PETANQUE CLUB

Since having to leave Salston Manor, The Otters have been guesting at recently formed Honiton PC for club sessions. This has enabled members to continue playing regularly and to help new players at the host club.



New terrain at Ottery St Mary

Having secured a Section 106 grant at the second attempt, Ottery committee members have battled their way through local authorities, a solicitor, a lease, Land Registry and Public Liability insurance – an educational process if not a difficult one. However, a new terrain now has been built on the Town Council sports field at Strawberry Lane and now awaits further compaction before the final dressing is laid. A pavilion is on site to provide facilities for liquid intake and output! Watch this space for a grand opening date and a great new season.

David West – Secretary

TORRIDGE U3A PETANQUE CLUB

We are a new team entering the Devon League for the first time so it is probably a good idea to tell you a little about ourselves.

Our Torridge U3A Pétanque team has grown out of a U3A club based in Westward Ho! and we play out of the Village Inn PH. As the name suggests, all our members are of a certain (high) minimum age, with a club membership total of 29. We play regularly throughout the year three times a week with an average turnout of 10-15 players at each session.

Last year we played a few friendlies against league teams and as a result have decided to enter the League this year. Our aspirations this year are to win the league (!!)

match win (or more) during the season is our main objective.

We all look forward to playing on different surfaces during the season, learning a great deal from our more experienced opponents and welcoming you to our home piste, some of you for the first time.

During the coming season we will be meeting you all and playing competitive, but also friendly, games of boule, a game we all obviously enjoy.

We look forward to it.

Ged Barton - Torridge U3A Captain

CHUDLEIGH PETANQUE CLUB

Chudleigh Pétanque Club held its AGM back in December. At this meeting we formally accepted the resignation of our founding Club President, Franck Depreaux. Franck graciously handed the baton to another founding member, and man of great influence and esteem, Mike Moyses. Henry Pickett took back the role of Club Secretary with Rob Thomas becoming Membership Secretary and Thierry Hacq remaining as Treasurer.

The club is in a delicate position with a small membership and a minimum number of competitive players. The loss of Vice President John Baxter last summer has been a blow to the club but, in his honour, we are determined to build on the foundations that John had such an important role in laying. We are looking at the club from a renewed perspective with the aim of growing and reaching out to more in the community:

- We have introduced a 3-tiered membership to attract players that are not (yet) interested in competition.
- We have also implemented a seasonal calendar so that sessions run from March to October inclusive on Thursday evenings (6.30 – 8pm), which should be more accessible to people with families.
- We are now looking at improving our local events calendar and plan to stage an open event for the people of Chudleigh, and beyond – we will keep everyone informed as this develops.

On 12th June Chudleigh will be holding a Party in the Park in celebration of the Queen's 90th Birthday. Chudleigh Pétanque Club will have a visible presence at the event which is a great opportunity to introduce local people to the club and the sport.

Henry Pickett – Secretary



DEVON PETANQUE NEWSLETTER

March 2016

PIG on the HILL PETANQUE CLUB

The Pig On The Hill Pétanque Club has now entered its 25th year season. Over the years we have developed from playing “open pistes” – up and down and across our very nearly level terrain – into the more structured regime of having marked lanes following our introduction into the Devon Region Pétanque. This was followed by upgrading our pavilion and later adding our covered piste.

Following the recent acquisition of “The Pig” by new owners who wished to maximise their investment by adding log cabins to their portfolio, we were asked to move across the drive onto a brand new piste which is almost as level as the old one, and nearer the pub. After great consternation we were permitted to install a new pavilion alongside.

Time has again moved on and to further their entertainment facilities the owners are now to cover the terrain with a permanent tent, including lighting, to cater for outside functions including pop concerts etc. which will also include a new outside bar adjacent to the piste. The downside is that the tent poles will reduce the number of pistes to three if we are not to have poles in the middle of the lanes, but as a gesture of goodwill they are to add one additional piste to the side of our existing terrain.

Unfortunately this will preclude us from hosting county competitions but our ability to defend our existing county championship in the league will not be affected!

On the home front, congratulations to Mike Anderson for winning our Winter Competition at the first attempt since joining the Pig On The Hill PC, something that he couldn't achieve as a member of the Village Inn. We look forward to the start of this year's Devon League and the ensuing summer's competitions, and with a much stronger team!

ISCA PETANQUE CLUB

Over the winter months we have been playing our usual Wednesday and Friday evenings and encouraging some of our newer members to play as much as possible with a view to be playing in the Devon league this year. Some new faces will be playing for us this year as we believe every club member should be able to contribute. Rob has designed new score boards which you will see being used this year. We have also done our best to keep the weeds at bay on the terrain in readiness for the EPA National Titles Weekend in May, although only so much can be done due to wet weather. We shall be ready for what will be a fantastic weekend of Pétanque in Exeter. By Rob Brealey

WHAT IF?

Q. What happens if?

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

The shooters 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.

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

Those who attended the Rules Awareness Course may have a head start on this!

REGIONAL PLAYING CALENDAR

24th April – Annual match vs Kernow at ISCA PC

8th May - Charity Shield at Ottery St Mary PC

28th – 30 May EPA Singles, Doubles and Mixed Doubles Championships at ISCA PC

5th June – 3 way match vs Kernow and Great Western Region at ISCA

12th June – Devon Triples Championships at Chudleigh

26th June – Keith Brealey Memorial day at ISCA PC

17th July – Devon Doubles Championships at ISCA PC

24th July – Ann Paterson Charity Day at ISCA PC

7th August – John Baxter Charity day at Chudleigh PC

14th August – Devon Singles and Shooting Championships at Ottery St Mary PC

INTER REGIONAL EVENTS

The first Inter Regional match is our home match against Kernow on Sunday 24th April at the ISCA club. The team for this match will be announced soon. Those members not selected for this match will be strongly considered for the next event which is the 3 way match against Kernow and Great Western on Sunday 5th June. The region uses these events to hold a raffle to generate funds for the region. Any prizes contributed to these raffles would be very much appreciated.



NATIONAL EVENTS

The English Pétanque Association's National Singles, Doubles and Mixed Doubles will take place at the ISCA Pétanque Club on Saturday 28th until Monday 30th May. These events are open to all members of the Association and attract many of the better players in England looking to win one of these titles. The Singles and Doubles are separate Men's and Women's events and I think that the Mixed Doubles speaks for itself. Any EPA member may enter any or all of these events by downloading a competition entry form from the EPA website at <http://www.englishpetanque.org.uk/>



TEMPORARY PLAYING AREA CONSTRUCTION AT ISCA 2015

The Devon Pétanque Region is hosting this event and in order to conduct a successful competition it will need a few volunteers to help prepare and clear up on Friday 27th and

Tuesday 31st May. The work on Friday starts early at 09.00 and includes setting out a temporary playing area. This means screwing together lots of lengths of 4" x 2" timbers, spreading and raking 10 tonnes of gravel, stringing out lanes for play and placing scoreboards out. Work then starts to clear away at approximately 4 p.m. on Monday 30th May and then continues on the morning of Tuesday 31st.

Volunteers do not have to be there for all these sessions but many hands make light work and the more members that can give a few hours the easier it will be for the Region to host a successful event so please look at your diaries and help wherever you can. Contact John Thatcher by email at johnthatcher@talktalk.net or on 01392 873796.

COACHING

1. Warm Up. Roll 2 boules around the palm of your hand. Rotate shoulders, throw a few gentle shots. Don't start cold and a 10m shot!
2. Basic Pointing: practise Rolling, Half-lob and Full-lob at 6, 8 & 10m. Use both a squatting stance, mainly for shorter ends, and standing, for longer ends.
3. Basic Shooting: point 3 boules to the jack and then shoot the boules. Practise at different distances and vary the order in which you hit the boules, e.g. nearest the jack, shortest boule, etc.
4. Developing Pointing Skills: the landing spot. One of the key skills in pointing is choosing the right landing spot and then having the skill and accuracy to land on it. The basic exercise is to prepare a landing spot, 50cm diameter and then point onto it. When you first start, the main objective is just to land on the spot. As you become more accurate, the objective becomes to land on the spot and get near the jack.
Practise at different distances and vary the distance of the landing spot so that you practise rolling, half and full lobs.
5. Precision Pointing: place 2 or more blocking boules in front of the jack, e.g. 2 boules 1m in front of the jack, 50cm apart. Practise pointing to the jack avoiding the blocking boules. You can use different techniques here, e.g. rolling or lobbing to pass between the boules, playing to the side of the boules, etc.

(Taken from <http://petanque.org/coaching>)

Edited by John Thatcher