



DEVON PETANQUE NEWS

March 2017

NEWS FROM THE CLUBS

CHUDLEIGH

Chudleigh have upgraded their lighting thanks to a grant from their local Round Table. The wiring was upgraded to allow the field to be used by the Devon Air Ambulance. Chudleigh will hold their 2nd John Baxter Memorial event on 6th August.

HONITON

The end of 2016 was also the end of our first full year in existence, which we marked with a small club social in Christmas week. Members enjoyed some mince pies and mulled wine following a bit of competition. A good time to reflect on how much was achieved, and start thinking about plans for 2017. Apart from the Christmas holiday, playing sessions continued throughout the winter with good support - only losing a handful of days to the weather.



Honiton's Xmas Social Meet

In January we held our AGM which was actually the first elected affair. Due to their U3A

commitments Janet and John Driscoll have stepped down as Secretary and Treasurer respectively, and we welcome in their place Larry Halliwell and Tony Prior. Both guys bring a lot of administrative experience from similar organisations and we look forward to their positive input. As we do for Andy Mills who also joins the committee.

It was confirmed that we would continue running a team in the Devon League and build on our first year's participation. There is a quiet determination to make progress in the competition. And to involve more of our members, who will gain some experience as well, it was also decided to arrange more friendly challenge matches – three of these have already been agreed. We are also encouraging more members to take part in the various local open tournaments, and are intending to hold a club (closed) doubles event. This will give us some practice with a view to perhaps hosting an open event in the future. Our main change decided by members was to move our midweek session from Wednesday to Thursday afternoons.

With the growing season approaching we can at last lay down the first sections of Grass Mesh to improve access to the terrain, and some minor work is also being done on the piste in readiness for the season – one which we are very much looking forward to, and meeting everyone again at the various events and matches.

Chris Bigmore



DEVON PETANQUE NEWS

ISCA

Well the start of another year for the Isca Petanque Club and what a difference a year makes. With a recent surface dressing applied to our terrain the play is a little different to what it used to be, taxing the mind and playing ability of our club members and hopefully our visitors as well.

Cometh the New Year and cometh the fixtures list for 2017 and “sacre bleu” – playing on a Wednesday! Let’s hope that this finds favour with the teams and leads to exciting and challenging matches amongst the Devon league and perhaps gives some respite to players who might be “tutted at” for playing every weekend!

Not only a new terrain surface and playing mid week but as we know all good things come in three’s and arriving promptly on platform 3 was a new set of rules for the 2017 season. I’m glad someone took the time to highlight the changes as the weekly test by one’s better half seems somehow to concentrate the mind on what is now required.

Following our AGM in December we also have a new team captain in the more than capable Dave Thomas. No doubt you will be hearing from him as matches are organised over the coming weeks. Thanks Dave for taking on this role.

Wishing everyone a great new season and hopefully see you on the piste!

Colin Salter

OTTERY ST MARY

Like most clubs we’ve kept playing through the winter months, although some members understandably only come out with the sun. We’re now going to organise some dressing on the terrain but we’re pleased with how it’s settled down since last year’s build.

Our AGM was held in January and Sheila Hall was welcomed aboard as our new Treasurer; Peter Smith has stayed on the Committee and will be the Devon League contact for our matches this season. There being (surprise, surprise) no other nominations, John Thatcher remains as Chairman, Dave West as Secretary and Rose Thatcher as a Committee member. “Any other business” was used as a general discussion arena for ideas and plans to take us forward and was very well supported. The splendid buffet provided at The London Inn where the meeting was held proved as usual to be more than we could eat, even though some members refilled plates on more than one occasion!

Membership is increasing and we have welcomed players from the former Tiverton club. With experienced people joining, Peter Smith is going to have a difficult task on his hands for team selection this year.

A skittles match has been arranged with our neighbouring Bowling Club for 17th March and later in the year the two clubs will play each other in their respective sports – we’ve promised not to use our boules on the hallowed turf of the bowling green. On the other side of our field in Strawberry Lane is the cricket club, but we won’t be throwing the gauntlet in their direction! **Dave West**



DEVON PETANQUE NEWS

PLYMOUTH

The most popular image of pétanque is surely the one of old men in a French village square on a warm and sunny day playing under the shade of an ancient tree.

The image of Plymouth Petanque club playing on a wind and rain swept terrain at Seaton on New Year's Day was rather different! (see the photo)



Twenty two of us met up at the amazing beachside cafe at 11.00am where many exceedingly large breakfasts were consumed before we all moved across the road to the terrain. Not everyone thought that playing in these conditions was a good idea and a few dropped out (notably two French friends who, unable to decide whether the English were crazy or brave, decided that a walk on the beach would be a better option) but seventeen of us managed to last out for about an hour. This event is now most definitely an annual fixture and maybe, just maybe, we might one year get a fine day for it.

The crazy or brave question might well be asked regarding our twice weekly sessions down at The Brickfields too. Very few of our members see the cold weather as a reason not to play and our numbers hardly drop at all in the winter.

The average attendance for December, January and February is still well into the mid-

twenties. The only problem is keeping the hands warm. Gloves on or off for taking the throw?

We had a slight setback in January when our headquarters (a metal shipping container) was broken into. Luckily little damage was done and the culprits only got away with our £10 float and (this is perhaps a bit more serious) our supply of tea time biscuits!

Our Devon League team will soon be in full training mode ready for the forthcoming fixtures and are looking forward to some keen competition.

Rosemary Earl

PIG ON THE HILL

We are saddened to hear that Silvia Spiller, wife of Doug, the Chairman of Pig on the Hill has passed away. We send our condolences to Doug and the club at this time.

TORRIDGE U3A

The League Fixtures are out, so it must soon be summer, about time too!

The winter season has seen our team and the U3A members as a whole enjoying the close season with our annual social events.

Firstly the league team, together with their partners, enjoyed an end of season evening meal at the Village Inn with our new hosts, Angie & John. It was a good evening with, as you may expect from us, plenty of banter, little of it being complimentary. So much for team unity - I wonder sometimes how we survive.

Luckily for us some of our team sing in the local choir so we had in house entertainment.

In the New Year the U3A members held their annual dinner at a local restaurant, our internal



DEVON PETANQUE NEWS

competition winners were presented with their medals, and the social evening was enjoyed by all and deemed to be a success.



Torridge U3A celebrate the 2016 League Title

On a more serious note our members amassed the sum of over £600 during 2016 from our 50p session subs and the first of our Charitable donations was made on 15 February with S W Hospice receiving £300. A further donation of the same amount is to be made next week to the Devon Air Ambulance.

We look forward to seeing you all again on the piste, our aims are the same as last year - one win please and let us see if we can be Chelsea this year - we have given up on Leicester!!!

Ged Barton

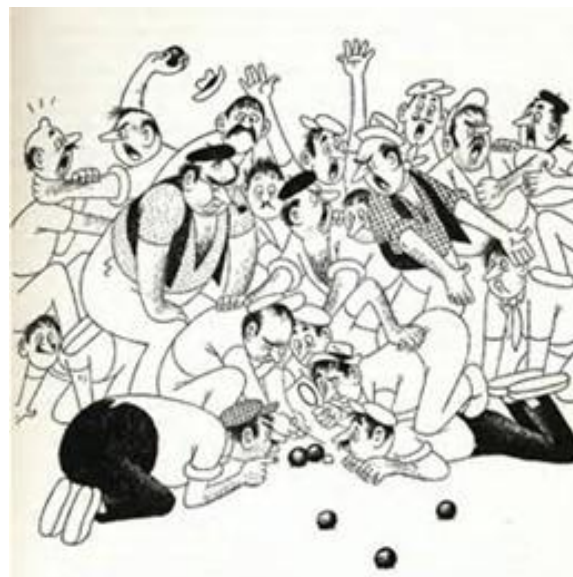
PRESIDENT'S REPORT

UMPIRING

After a very busy 2016 we approach this coming season with many changes on the horizon. You will all by now have had a chance to look at the rule changes brought in for this year forwards. These changes are the result of a lot of trials, across other federations and associations. Much discussion at top level

before finally being thrashed out by the FIPJP Technical committee agreeing on the wording before those changes were approved at the World Championships last year. Since these changes there has been further discussion by the players and the umpires who have to apply the rules.

To that end the region has offered to run Rules Awareness courses and an Umpire's course this year. So far there has been a low number of members who would like to attend one of these courses so Mike Pegg and I would like to come to each club and run a 1 day or half day course. Clubs please contact us to arrange a convenient date and we will fit in as best we can.



While I am sure this NEVER happens at your clubs, understanding how to apply the rules is always an asset

DEVON PETANQUE LEAGUE

The league this year has put in place a new set of rules and I would ask you all to try and apply



DEVON PETANQUE NEWS

some flexibility in hosting and playing in the matches listed. You will note that no times or dates have been posted on the League Programme. There is just an end date when the matches MUST be completed. This is because we are asking the two team captains involved in each match to talk to each other and agree a start time and date

The League and Fixtures secretary has explained further the League programme:

“I made the mistake of using week numbers, week 1, week 2 etc, I should have put Round 1, Round 2 and so on and then perhaps it would all be a little clearer.

If you are drawn to play 2 clubs in any one period, for example week 1, or I should say Round 1, e.g. Chudleigh play Ottery and Honiton.

Chudleigh do not have to play these two teams on the same day or for that matter in the same week.

Chudleigh will have from today (22nd March) until the 9th April to arrange and play both teams on a day that they agree with their opponents.

As the home captain Thierry will most likely choose his normal club day but he has the flexibility to pick another day if for some reason his first choice does not suit either of the away teams.

For example Thierry could arrange to play Ottery on the 5th April and Honiton on the 9th... whatever suits the teams concerned.

In nearly every case there is a 2 week window between the “play by” dates, giving you

ample time to arrange your matches and to play them.”

As Regional President I would ask you all to please try to accommodate each other. Some clubs struggle to field a full team on their club session days while others may have a mixture of retired and working players to co-ordinate.

PLEASE WORK WITH EACH OTHER!

TITLES WEEKEND.

For the past 2 years our region has hosted the EPA titles weekend. In 2014 we agreed to host this for 3 years and this will be our final year. Therefore it will be your last chance to play in a national event held locally, so please take advantage of this opportunity. It does not matter if you do not end up as a National Champion but playing in these type of events will only benefit your game. Put the dates of the EPA Singles on 27th, the Doubles on 28th and the Mixed Doubles on 29th May in your diary.

This event is also an opportunity for the region to raise some funds by holding raffles over the three days. If you would like to donate a raffle prize then please contact me by phone or email. Volunteers will be preparing the playing areas on Friday 26th May and then clearing up on Tuesday 30th May.

YOUR REGION NEEDS YOU!

Without volunteers to help prepare and run these events the region will not exist so please put these dates In your diaries and if you are free please come along and help as many hands do make light work.



DEVON PETANQUE NEWS

COACHING

Our Regional Coach, Thierry Hacq is working with Plymouth PC on 29th March coaching all members of the club that wish to take advantage of this day. If your club would like any help from Thierry do not hesitate to contact him and subject to Thierry's work commitments he will help if he can.

COACHING TIP

At www.englishpetanque.org.uk/video.html There is a video which lasts about 20 minutes that will explain the basics of throwing the boule. So if you have not had any formal coaching and want to check that your technique is correct it may well be worth your time to watch this.

REGIONAL MATCHES

"The Cornish are coming!"



This year we are playing both Kernow and Great Western away. These matches usually consist of 6 triple teams per region who then play all other teams in the opposing region. So a day's play would be 6 games. The other regional match is a 3 way match playing both

regions on the same day at ISCA PC (which is central to all regions). Your regional committee will select teams from those who volunteer to play. As we need, in total, 18 triple teams all those who volunteer are very likely to be selected for one match at least!

Those of you who would like to play in any or all of these matches please volunteer by email, either as individuals or as formed teams of three or four (Triples teams may consist of 4 players)

Dates of matches are:

4th June - Great Western Region at City of Bath PC

9th July – Kernow at Vogue St Day

27th August – 3 way (vs Kernow and GWR) at ISCA PC

Devon vs Great Western Region 2016





DEVON PETANQUE NEWS

Plymouth Pétanque

There's a pétanque playing piste we use, just
north of Stonehouse Creek
Where a motley group of 'nutters' plays at
boules.

They are there in any weather, sometimes
twice in every week.

Who's unkind enough to call them silly fools?

There are several chaps named Michael and a
Dave or two as well.

Of Johns, we have enough to form a queue
The ladies are more varied in their choices of
a name,

But heads will turn if you call out, 'Hey, Sue!'

'The game's the thing,' is quoted oft by those
within the clique

And that is how we try to make things work.

Though when you've just been 'fannied' by
someone you thought was weak,

A smile becomes a rather tortured smirk.

Just to play a little better is a universal aim,
And practice can make perfect, so they say
But with 'pointing' and then 'shooting' hard, it
seems a ruddy shame

That my pétanque playing feet are made of
clay.

We've a dark green steel container now to
keep our stuff from harm,

And it's packed with almost all you could
desire.

There are measurers and coches, magnets,
sticks and magic charms.

In the winter we would like a blazing fire.

There's a battered old car hooter tethered to
the scoring board.

It frightens us to death at start of play.

Then some rather clever big-head bod who's
six has just been scored

Toot-toots with glee, another donkey bray.

New Year's day at Seaton was a day for
getting wet.

And the breakfasts put away were somewhat
huge.

But even so, I think it is a day we won't forget.

Our feet were soaked, but there was no
deluge.

Our thanks must really go to Rob for
friendship in the team.

Our thanks as well to those who make the tea.

There's a fine and friendly feeling here, that
works just like a dream.

There's nothing like it nearer than Torquay.
(Well! It's sometimes difficult to find rhymes.)

There's a pétanque playing piste to the north
of Stonehouse creek,

Where a motley group of 'nutters' plays at
boules.

They are there in every weather, sometimes
twice in every week,

Who's unkind enough to call them silly fools?

Jim Whyte January 2017.

(After the style of *The Green Eye of the Little
Yellow God*.)

Thanks to Jim Whyte for his poetic
contribution.