PETANQUE QUARTERLY

2006 WINTER EDITION

Official Newsletter of the English Pétanque Association

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the first edition of Pétanque Quarterly newsletter. This is a new newsletter aimed at keeping you, the members, informed about what's going on in your sport.

As well as passing down information from the National Management Committee I'd also like to share your local news and views on the sport. To this end if you've any news you'd like to share please contact me at the address on the back page.

Mark Cooter
Editor

NEW EVENTS FOR 2006

The EPA are introducing three new English titles events in 2006 – The English Junior Triples, the English Ladies Triples and the English Junior Doubles.

The Founders Cup, the closed competition for each Region's Doubles Champions and runners-up, has been renamed the Champion of Champions Doubles. This will be held alongside the Champion of Champion Triples over a single weekend on the Isle of Wight, who are the current holders of both titles.

CALENDAR PUBLISHED

The national calendar of EPA, BPF and major international events has been published. See page 7 for a full listing.

Also, see pages 3 and 4 for our handy pocked sized 'cut out and keep' version.

NO CHANGE TO NATIONAL FEES

Attendees at the EPA's annual general meeting voted for no change to the membership fees for the coming year. As the BPF fees were set for two years this means that the National portion of your membership fess will remain unaltered for 2006 i.e. £30 club affiliation, £10 per adult and £3 per junior.

The County/Regional portion of the membership fee is set locally by your local County or Regional Pétanque Association. 93% of these followed the example set by the BPF/EPA and voted for no change in their fees either.

TITLES WEEKEND MOVES ACROSS COUNTRY

The EPA's National Titles weekend, that incorporates the English Singles, Doubles and Mixed Doubles titles events, will move across country this year to Bury St Edmunds.

Devon have played splendid hosts to this excellent weekend of boule for the last 8 years, unfortunately the increasing costs to the EPA of hosting this event are becoming prohibitive.

Devon Council, staff at the ISCA Centre and members of Devon Region are thanked for their hard work and hospitality in hosting this event in recent years.

MEMBERSHIP PACKS OUT NOW!

All club and individual membership of the EPA expires on 28th February 2006. Membership forms for 2006-07 have been sent out to your Regional Membership Secretaries and will be distributed via your club secretaries so watch out for yours.

For current news from the EPA make sure you visit the EPA web site regularly
http://www.englishpetanque.org.uk/

YOUR NATIONAL OFFICERS 2006

Following is a list of your elected officers, appointed officers and committee members:

YOUR NATIONAL OFFICERS

Mike Pegg	President
Dave Brooks	Vice-President
Kevin Moss	Secretary
Mick Bourton	Treasurer
Adrian Thomas	Director of Playing
Corinne Cooter	Membership Secretary
Kath Knight	Youth Development
John Thatcher	National Umpire
Dave Lavelle	National Coach

YOUR REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Martin Eggleton
David Baxter
Richard Baker

Despite having allowance for six Regional Representatives to sit on the Management Committee just three nominations were received for these posts.

YOUR LEAGUE REPRESENTATIVES

Dave Stubbs
John Middleton

The two elected league representatives are on the committee to look after the interests of the affiliated leagues.

EPA DELEGATES TO BPF

Mike Pegg	Executive Delegate
Adrian Thomas	Executive Delegate
Angie Jamieson	
Lee Jamieson	
David Baxter	
Dave Hancox	

In addition to the two executive delegates the EPA is entitled to send 11 delegates, who are elected annually, to the BPF annual congress (one for every 250 members). Sadly though with just 4 representatives the EPA was well under represented.

Contact details for the above can be found at:
www.englishpetanque.org.uk/officers.html

NEW SECRETARY

Following an appeal against the postal vote the post of secretary could not be announced at the Annual General Meeting of the EPA. The appeal was put before the EPA's Arbitrators, who upheld the appeal and ruled that a new postal vote would need to be taken. In order to save the EPA the expense of another postal ballot candidate John Roberts then withdrew his nomination and so Kevin Moss was duly elected unopposed. Kevin's contact details are:

Kevin Moss
14 Nightingale Close
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk
IP33 3SY

Phone : 01284 705775
E-mail : kevin@moss84.freeserve.co.uk

NEW CLUBS

We extend a belated welcome to the following new (and returning) pétanque clubs and members who all affiliated with the English Pétanque Association in 2005:

Bluebell P.C. (East Midlands)
Boyne Hill P.C. (Thames Valley)
City of Bath P.C. (Great Western)
Cotford P.C. (Devon)
Culcheth P.C. (Northern)
Dove P.C. (Southern)
Green Man Mill Green P.C. (Chiltern)
Isle of Wight Community Club (Isle of Wight)
Onley Arms P.C. (Eastern)
Orange Tree Baldock P.C. (Chiltern)
Potters Bar P.C. (Eastern)
Rayne Swan P.C. (Eastern)
Three Counties P.C. (East Midlands)
Whitehill Tavern P.C. (Kent)
Whitnash Windmill P.C. (West Midlands)

WOT, NO MEMBERS AREA?

"At the last Management Committee Meeting a decision was taken that we should not hide the notes and documents from meetings away. And that also by having a Members Area *(on the EPA web site)* could be seen that we have something to hide. I will arrange for a notice to be placed on the website advising everybody of this. I am sorry that we didn't do this immediately."

Kevin Moss
National Secretary

Your cut out and keep guide to BPF events in 2006

BPF & INTERNATIONAL EVENTS 2006

Grand Prix 1	12 March
Grand Prix 2/3	9 April
Grand Prix 4	23 April
Grand Prix 5	7 May
Grand Prix Top 16	20-21 May
British Ladies Triples GB Qualifier 1	26 March
British Ladies Triples GB Qualifier 2	22 April
British Ladies Triples Top 8	6 May
British Junior Doubles and Triples	1-2 April
North Sea Tournament - Norway	22-25 June
European Junior Championships – Switzerland	18-20 Aug
World Champions – France	20-24 Sept

Tip - Print pages 3 and 4 double sided on a piece of card, cut around the dotted line and "voila" you have a handy pocket sized competitions calendar

ROUND THE REGIONS

Our round up of news snippets from around some of the EPA Regions:

Anglia P.A. – Jerome Morais has taken over as President of the Anglia Pétanque Association following Kevin Moss' election as EPA National Secretary.

Chiltern Region – Chiltern players have been enjoying success through the winter months with their teams reaching the finals of the first three Indoor Grand Prix's at Whittlesey Boulodrome. There were wins for Engine B and Pikies while Chiltern 2 had to settle for the runners up spot in the latest event.

Source: http://p.etanque.tripod.com

Devon Region – As well as holding down the posts of Regional President and Umpire hardworking John Thatcher also took on the vacant post of Membership Secretary last year. As if that wasn't enough John agreed to take on the EPA National Umpire's job this year. Thankfully wife Rose has agreed to take over the Membership Secretaries role.

Eastern Counties Region - ECR Players Simon Bird and Sofiane Lachani teamed up with Phil Claydon (Thames Valley) as L'Equipe, to win the 3rd Indoor Grand Prix at Whittlesey and jump to top of the standings. Playing together for the first time since representing Great Britain in the North Sea Tournament last June, L'Equipe showed they had not lost their touch by conceding only 10 points in 7 games throughout the day's competition, culminating in a resounding victory in the final over Chiltern 2.

Source: www.ecrpetanque.co.uk

East Midlands P.A. – After a disappointing showing in the Inter Regional championships when they were relegated from division 1 for the first time in their history the East Midlands Regional squad regained some honour as they wrestled the "Tri-Way" Trophy away from Chiltern. The tournament took place at Whittlesey on 30th October. Final scores: **East Midlands** 20 wins, **Chiltern** 18, **Anglia** 7

Kent P.A. – An excellent response for the first Tetley's Kent Indoor Classic saw it over subscribed. However the organisers are laying on addition pistes so the event will now accommodate 80 teams.

London Region – Have been hosting a monthly get together in Battersea Park through the winter months.

News courtesy of www.harrowpetanque.co.uk

Northern Region - Six teams from each of the three distinct areas of the large Northern Region competed in their annual "Intra-Regional" tournament on 9th October. The result was very close with South, West and East Yorkshire just managing to retain the title. Top team were North Yorkshire's Trevor Inman, Angie and John Gaughan with 5 wins.

Results:

1st	South , West & East Yorkshire	19 wins +39
2nd	North Yorkshire	19 wins +13
3rd	North West	16 wins -52

Source: www.northernpetanque.co.uk

Southern Counties P.A. – Two of our trend setting regions in junior development, Southern Counties and the **Isle of Wight Region** held a 'mini' inter-regional when a squad of 7 junior teams from Southern Counties travelled to Sandown to do battle with their counterparts. Southern Counties triumphed by 18 games to 10.

Source: www.southerncountiespetanque.org.uk

Thames Valley Region – Burnham Pétanque Club won the Thames Valley Club Team Championships. The club also took first place in both the Midweek and Weekend Leagues this year.

Source: www.burnhampetanque.co.uk

West Midlands P.A. – Dave Brooks has been busy designing a new regional web site which is now up and running. Check it out for yourself at: www.westmidlandspetanque.co.uk/wmhomepage.htm

CALLING ALL REGIONS

If you would like to inform the rest of the EPA what you're doing in your region then write to the Editor at the address on the back page.

WORLD NEWS

WORLD WIDE DROP IN MEMBERSHIP (IN 2004)

Despite the continued spread of the sport around the Globe figures released by the international governing body, the Fédération Internationale de Pétanque et Jeu Provençal (FIPJP), for year ending 31st December **2004** showed a drop of some 19,000 registered members to 566,866.

Once again this loss in membership was almost exclusively in France where the number of licensed members dropped 18,921 to 'just' 390,516.

However the figures can be treated with some degree of scepticism as one third of the affiliated nations were shown with exactly the same membership figures as were reported for 2003 and a further 4 nations didn't report their membership at all.

It's not all bleak however as another six new nations took up the sport in 2005. Asia in particular has seen a huge growth in the game in recent years. Indeed the latest 5 Nations to affiliate to the FIPJP all came from this continent - they were Armenia, India, Pakistan, Philippines and Taiwan. This brings the total affiliated nations to 66 from all six Continents.

Source: www.fipjp.com/ststist/fipjpstat.htm

CLEAN SWEEP FOR THAILAND IN ASIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Thailand had a clean sweep of Gold medals at the 9th Asian Pétanque Championships that were held in Kumagaya, Japan between 28th-30th October.

Eleven Nations took part including FIPJP newcomers India and Pakistan as well as teams invited from Australia.

There were no surprises in the Mens and Ladies Shooting events as the Thai's fielded their two current World Shooting Champions – Thaleungkiat Phusa Ad and Thomgsri Thamakard. Thailand also recorded wins in the other two events - the Mens and Ladies Triples.

Singapore took the honours in the Nations Cup, winning both the Mens and Ladies events.

Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze
Mens Triples	Thailand	China	Thailand/Cambodia
Ladies Triples	Thailand	Cambodia	Vietnam/Malaysia
Mens Shooting	Thailand	Cambodia	Australia/Malaysia
Ladies Shooting	Thailand	Australia	Vietnam/Malaysia

Your cut out and keep guide to EPA events in 2006

EPA CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2006

English Triples (Home Nations Qualifier)	30 April
English Singles	27 May
English Doubles	28 May
English Mixed Doubles	29 May
English Ladies Triples	18 June
Over 50's Doubles	23 July
Home Nations	12-13 Aug
Inter-Regional Championships	9-10 Sept
English Junior Doubles/Triples	23-24 Sept
Champion of Champions Doubles/Triples/Shooting	7-8 Oct
National Club League	2 July, 16 July, 30 July,17 Sept, 1 Oct

DOUBLE WORLDS IN 2006

The 2006 World Championships are to be held in Grenoble, when both the Senior **and** Ladies World Championships will take place at the same time. The 2007 Worlds will be held in Pattaya in Thailand and in 2008 they will be held in Senegal. The Championships return to Europe in 2009, at Maastricht in Holland.

Source: www.britishpetanque.org

WORLD CHAMPS WEB SITE

The 2006 joint World Championships already have a web site dedicated to them. The site can be viewed in English and it covers such things as tickets, accommodation, local amenities etc. There is also a site dedicated to the 2006 European Junior Championships.

Check them out for yourselves at:
www.palais-des-sports.com/petanque2006/index.php
and www.cejp2006.com

SUCCESS ABROAD FOR ENGLISH PAIR

Many of you will know Matt Blyton who now resides in Cyprus. Matt gets to play very little boule now but he did manage to track down and play in a concours organised by the local society of French lovers and speakers. Against the odds Matt, playing with his 9 year old son Jamie, went on to win the event at the first attempt in April and they successfully retained the title when the event was repeated in October.

MORE GOLDS FOR THAI'S

Thailand's pétanque stars took three more gold medals at the South East Asia games that were held in the Philippines in December. They won the Mens Doubles, Ladies Singles and Ladies Doubles events. Laos took gold in the Mens Singles.

EUROPEAN CLUB CUP 2005

A team from France was crowned European Club Champions for the fifth year running. The finals of the European Club Cup were held in Nice, France over the weekend of 26th-27th November 2005.

The four remaining clubs in the event were the Joli Bois from Belgium, La Genevois from Switzerland, Star Masters de Barbizon from France and the defending champions, the D.U.C. de Nice club, also from France.

The Star Masters from Paris were the form team going into the event having conceded just one game on their way to the finals. They kept this run going with a 5 games to nil win over Swiss champions La Genevoise before defeating their compatriots the D.U.C. de Nice club 4-0. The home club won the deciding barrage game against the Joli Bois from Belgium 4-2 to set up an all French final.

The final was a much closer affair than their previous meeting but the Star Masters maintained their superiority with a 4-3 win which saw them become European Club Champions 2005.

Final results:

1. Stars Masters de Barbizon [France]
2. D.U.C. de Nice [France]
3. Joli Bois Bruxelles [Belgium]
4. La Genevoise [Switzerland]

Results courtesy of www.cep-petanque.com

BRITISH INCLUSION FOR 2006 IN DOUBT

For the first time since 1997, when the European Club Cup started, there may be no British involvement in this year's competition. Participating Nations must enter by 1st March with the respective National club champions selected no later than April 2006. However, to my knowledge the BPF had not made any arrangements for this.

HOME NATIONS 2006

It was agreed at the EPA AGM to raise the profile of the prestigious Home Nations event. A budget has already been set for kitting out the English squad. The qualifying players are due to be presented with two embroidered polo shirts (i.e. England logo with Home Nations 2006) to keep. As the event is being held in the height of the Welsh summer the players will also be issued with returnable sweatshirts and jackets.

INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATION

Prize or Stepping Stone?

In recent months there has been much debate in the GB pétanque world about the International Qualifiers mostly stimulated by the calendar and the difficulty of fitting all the events in. There has been much debate about format of qualifiers and on ideas to reduce congestion in the early part of the season by qualifying one year for the next or separating North Sea qualification from World Championship qualification.

What hasn't been debated is "What is the purpose of International Qualification?"

Should we treat it simply as a prize? You have won the qualifying competition and your prize is to go to the World or European championships and experience playing against the best teams from other FIPJP countries.

Or should we treat it as a stepping stone to move up to the next level of pétanque? You have won the qualifying competition and your prize is to dedicate yourself to producing the best GB performance at a World or European championships.

I think that the problem with our domestic game is that in recent times most players view GB qualification as a prize while the BPA saw it as a stepping stone to improve standards in Britain as measured by our performance in the international events. With different agendas it is hardly surprising that there was a lack of harmony between players and BPA. Not only that but the result was unsatisfactory for both groups. I have attended the last 6 World Championships and each time the GB team has come away with feelings of dissatisfaction at having under performed and the BPA and now the BPF has seen GB slipping further down the rankings which was particularly evident at the 2005 North Sea Tournament

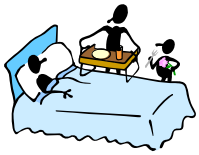
What should we be doing? I think the first priority is for players and officials to be on the same page. I also think that in the long term the Stepping Stone approach is the only way to go because we have already seen how the prize approach is ultimately unsatisfactory even for the prize winners. To my mind the debate needs to be about how a stepping stone approach is implemented. What do you think is needed in terms of support and playing structure to take the standard of pétanque forward in this country?

David Baxter

EXCITING NEW EVENT

Pétanque Promotions, on behalf of the EPA, are currently in negotiations with a sponsor with a view to hosting a series of open competitions in the summer along the lines of the old British Open events. This is likely to take the form of up to 16 competitions around England held over 8-9 Saturdays. It is intended to have 2 categories at each event, teams of "18-40 year olds" and "40 & Over", with the top 2 teams from each category at each event going through to the finals at Battersea Park. Total prize money could be in excess of £6,000 going to the top teams as well as the clubs they represent. Watch your post for further details.

GET WELL SOON



I am saddened to report that **Tiny Neville** (Southern Counties) has suffered a stroke. However he is now at home and is making a steady recovery, I am sure you all join me in wishing him well.

NEW EURO EVENT

What are the odds of a player who has just passed from Junior to Adult qualifying to play in the Senior World Championships, not very high unless he or she was a junior world champion or at least high in the ratings.

This is not just an international problem but one that faces us all. At the 2005 spring Board of Directors meeting the Confédération Européenne de Pétanque (CEP) discussed at length this issue and decided to introduce a new European Championship aimed at the 18–23 year "young" players.

We are currently working on the format which should be finalised at our next meeting in March, but we have decided to hold the qualifying games in 2006 with the finals in 2007. This sort of event will, we hope, retain some of our younger adult members giving them a realistic target to aim for and just may lead to a World Championship tournament.

Mike Pegg
Member of the CEP board of directors

RULE CHANGES

The FIPJP's Umpire Commission is currently reviewing the rule book, early indications are there may be a few changes if only slight as discussions so far have been mostly about the structure of the rule book. We will of course update you as soon as we know more.

ENHANCED INSURANCE COVER

Recently Mick Bourton, National Treasurer, and Mike Pegg, National President, met with Perkin Slade the insurance brokers. In this day and age of litigation we have to insure the EPA for Civil Liability to cover organising competitions, coaching and other events. To improve the cover we have in place they have requested Perkin Slade to include our County/Regions and Clubs to those entitled to indemnity.

Acting on Perkin Slade's advice, with effect from the 1st March 2006 we are adding all our members to this policy taking on the responsibility that was, in error, assumed to be a function of the BPF.

The new policy will have a limit of indemnity of £5,000,000 which is the suggested national minimum and has 'worldwide' cover, meaning as member of the EPA you will be insured throughout Great Britain and abroad whilst playing or taking part in an organised pétanque event.

We are now investigating the possibility of re-introducing personal accident insurance. We hope to have some further positive news on this soon.

NATIONAL LOTTERY

News from the CCPR

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has launched a public consultation seeking views on the allocation of lottery funding to good causes beyond 2009. It is important that individuals and organisations involved in sport respond to this consultation, so that the Department is made fully aware of the importance of the national lottery to sport, and of the impact it has made both at community and elite level.

The CCPR would encourage all member organisations to respond to the consultation, and also to promote it through your network of clubs.

Suggested key messages to include in your response are that sport needs to retain its share of lottery funds, and presents good value for money in terms of expenditure, whether this is through achieving world class success or through contributing to government targets around health, education and social inclusion.

For further ideas on how to promote the consultation and what to include in your response visit www.uksport.gov.uk/toolkit.asp

To access the consultation document visit http://www.lottery2009.culture.gov.uk/ **Responses should be submitted by 28 February 2006.**

2006 EPA, BPF & INTERNATIONAL CALENDAR		
Date	**Event**	**Venue**
12-Mar-06	BPF Grand Prix 1	Detling
26-Mar-06	BPF Ladies GP 1	Crondall
01-Apr-06	BPF Junior Doubles	Kenilworth
02-Apr-06	BPF Junior Triples	Kenilworth
09-Apr-06	BPF - Grand Prix 2 and 3	Oldbury on Severn/Inverleith
22-Apr-06	BPF Ladies GP 2	Bury St Edmunds
23-Apr-06	BPF Grand Prix 4	Bury St Edmunds
30-Apr-06	EPA Triples (Home Nations Qualifier)	Gravesend
06-May-06	BPF Ladies Last 8	Cardiff Yacht Club
07-May-06	BPF Grand Prix 5	Cardiff Yacht Club
20-21 May-06	BPF Last 16	Luton
27-May-06	EPA - English Singles	Bury St Edmunds
28-May-06	EPA - English Doubles	Bury St Edmunds
29-May-06	EPA - English Mixed Doubles	Bury St Edmunds
18-Jun-06	EPA Ladies Triples	Harrow
16/18-Jun-06	Blangy	Blangy
22/25-Jun-06	International North Sea Tournament	Norway
01-Jul-06	EPA Congress	To Be Advised
02-Jul-06	EPA National Club Championship	Various
16-Jul-06	EPA National Club Championship	Various
23-Jul-06	EPA Over 50's	Brighton
30-Jul-06	EPA National Club Championship	Various
12/13-Aug-06	Home Nations	Wales
18/20Aug-06	Junior European Championships	Switzerland
09/10-Sep-06	Inter-Regional Championships	Brean Sands
17-Sep-06	EPA National Club Championship	Various
23-Sep-06	EPA Junior Doubles	Isle of Wight
24-Sep-06	EPA Junior Triples	Isle of Wight
20/24-Sep-06	Senior and Ladies World Championships	Grenoble
01-Oct-06	EPA National Club Championship Final	Various
07-Oct-06	EPA Champion of Champions Doubles	Isle of Wight
08-Oct-06	EPA Champion of Champions Triples	Isle of Wight
04-Nov-06	BPF Congress	To Be Advised

BPF CONGRESS 2005

Last year's BPF Congress was held at Cardiff Yacht Club and was attended by delegates from the three member Associations.

The BPF Executive are Dan Murphy (WPA) President, John Cameron (SPA) Vice-President, Brian Ward (SPA), Adrian Thomas (EPA), Mike Pegg (EPA) and Gay Evans (WPA). The BPF Secretary remains Richard Roberts, and the Treasurer is Russell Jenkins.

The BPF's secretariat and headquarters will also remain at the same address in St Andrews Crescent, Cardiff - so all BPF contact details remain unchanged.

The fees payable for BPF events and membership remain unaltered.

A more detailed report of the Congress will be published on the BPF website.

Source: www.britishpetanque.org

LADIES DOUBLES

A lot of comment has been made about the lack of a BPF Ladies Doubles event this year. The reasoning behind this is quite simple in that there is no point in holding a qualifying event as there might not be a competition to qualify for.

The Ladies International Doubles at Blangy is by invitation only and there is no guarantee that the BPF will be invited to send a team in 2006. Also, with just five International teams present last year there is no guarantee that the event will be held again in 2006.

IF the BPF do receive an invitation then they have other options, such as inviting last year's winners, or taking players from the Ladies Triples event, although I understand BPF President, Dan Murphy, is still keen to hold some form of qualifying event.

PAT STANDS DOWN

After many years of loyal service to the BPA and latterly the EPA, Pat Watts has decided not to be considered for appointment for the post of National Coach. However, it is hoped that Pat will continue to pass on his knowledge, particularly at the excellent Junior Weekend of Excellence which Pat has been instrumental in running for several years and laying the foundations for many of our current young stars.

SACRÉS BOULES

"Can't you go and play boule somewhere else?"
Brought to you courtesy of www.petanque.org

HOW BIG IS YOURS? Venue that is

The BPF and EPA are still looking for new venues capable of holding national events. They should have at least 28 pistes, ideally 15m x 3m each, with on site facilities such as toilets, catering, lighting and, ideally, power points. If you know of a venue in your area that you think fits the bill then please contact the National Playing Officer, Adrian Thomas (phone 01420 478298 or e-mail: thomas.adrian@tiscali.co.uk), with details of the venue.

EDITORS NOTE

The views expressed in **PETANQUE QUARTERLY** are those of the editor and contributors only. They do not, necessarily, reflect the views of the English Pétanque Association.

STOP PRESS

David Lavelle was named as the successful applicant for the vacant position of EPA Coach.

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