

Seal PC celebrate 40th Anniversary The first Kent Club to reach this age.

On one of the sunniest days of the year so far, Seal PC hosted an Open Triples competition and Anniversary party for its members past and present and Clubs across Kent.

Teams from Hartley (led by EPA President Martin Eggleton), Meadow, Sidcup, The Railway, Bat & Ball and White House joined 5 Seal Teams for a closely fought and most enjoyable day's Petanque.

Three leagues of four in the main competition eventually came to a tense Final between The Railway and Hartley – with Railway taking the main cash prize of £150. Runners Up received £75.

The Prize fund was donated by Frank Scott, Landlord of The White Rock Inn at Underriver, Dame Kelly Holmes' new restaurant in Hildenborough – Café 1809 and Seal member and Belgian National player, Didier Thaler, whose team reached the Semi-Finals.

The Plate was contested by two Seal teams and eventually won by 1 point by Seal Blues players Mike Hide, Jamie Finley and Seal Club Chairman, Howard Sandom.

Seal brought in a host of members from their past, when the Club was based at the now defunct, Crown Inn in Seal High Street. Founder member Terry Hodder recalled the early days when a small group first went to The Crown and played on a single strip of gravel which was to become one of the major Petanque Clubs in Kent. Back then Seal and The Kings Head at Staplehurst were the only Clubs in Kent. The Club still plays every year for "The Hodder Shield" donated by Terry as the Club's annual singles competition.

Seal Chairman, Howard Sandom, proposed the toast to "Seal members past and present" and "to the next 40 years!" The Club's youngest member, George Martin (12), who played in the competition vowed to take that challenge on! George is grandson to both Howard Sandom and Dave Martin, former Club Chairman – so has a good Petanque pedigree!

The event closed with Martin Eggleton congratulating Seal on the 40year achievement and for helping to perpetuate a high quality of Petanque in the South East.