



Women in Petanque

Promoting petanque through sharing news & information

Introduction

Welcome to this issue of Women in Petanque Newsletter featuring news, information and some inspiring stories from across the Petanque England regions.

The theme for this issue is 'inspiration' and we have been lucky enough to feature a number of articles about women who inspire others as well as from those who have been inspired and encouraged on their petanque journeys. Having just returned from my first international competition in Belgium, I have shared my experience of this trip on which I was inspired by some wonderful players. We also feature a few of our future stars as we focus on these inspirational young players who are making a mark in their own unique ways.

Thank you to everyone who sent in stories for this issue - enabling the sharing of good practice and create a platform to celebrate the successes of women playing petanque. We look forward to more of your petanque-related stories, be they from individuals, clubs or regions.

Hassi Leverett
Editor

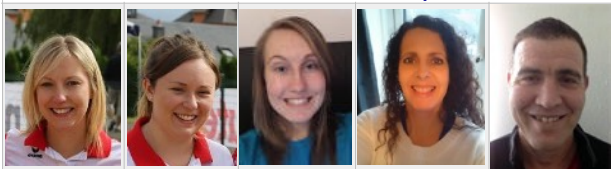
email: hassi@culturaljourneys.org

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Womens' Triples

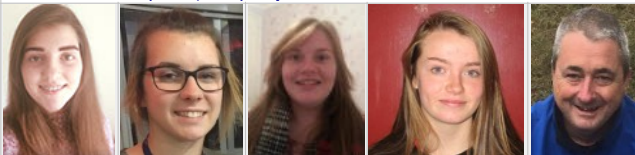
Palavas-Les-Flotas, France 27-30 September



Sarah Huntley	Emma Longstaff	Samantha Thatcher	Claire White	Sofiane Lachani - Manager
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Espoirs - Women

Almerimar (El Ejido), Spain 11-14 October



Rachel Kelly	Aimee Colley	Kaylee Thatcher	Alex Spillett	Paul Lancaster Team Manager
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Good Luck to all Petanque England teams including our National Youth Squad at the forthcoming European Championships to be held in France and Spain respectively. All the best to Sammy Thatcher & Monty Quaia who will be representing England at the Singles Championships in Italy 5-7 October and to our England Men's Team going to Canada for the World Men's Championships on 15-17 September 2018.



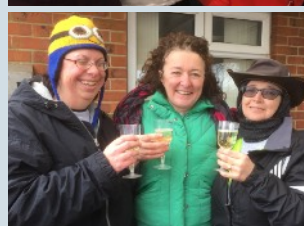
International Women's Day



Celebrating Women's Day

Southern Region held its first Regional Women's Doubles competition in March to celebrate International Women's Day, and also to mark the centenary of the first votes for women. The event was a resounding success as it attracted 24 teams (with only one drop out on the day) from across the SCPA Region and Sussex. Despite heavy downpours and water-logged pistes on the day, the women arrived with a sense of determination. The rain did not dampen spirits as they used the opportunity to catch up with friends, and celebrate. Many of the teams competing were new to playing at a regional event and some had never competed outside of their own club. Creating a fun and friendly competition as a celebratory event had encouraged them to take part. The men-folk were an integral part of the success of the day as they took care of all the logistics and practicalities - from clearing the water from the terrains, running a smooth competition, providing the lunches and refreshments and supporting their home teams as they played some hard fought games. Glenn Floyd, president of the region said "it was truly heart-warming to see so many of the region's ladies enter the competition and having the support of so many gentlemen to make the day a success". The Southern Region now plans to run this Women's Doubles event every March to celebrate International Women's Day.

Petanque England have congratulated the region for its success, and through the National Events Group are planning to encourage other regions to run similar events, with the winners being invited to represent their Region at a National Women's Doubles as part of Celebrating International Women's Day to be held in April. More information will be sent to the Regions in the Autumn.



Great Western Region also celebrated International Women's Day in March by running a Women's Melee. Di Greenaway set up a group to help in the planning and running the event. Di said "It was our first time of running and scoring a melee and we were pleased with our success. The banners, posters, balloons and bunting looked good although the wind did its best to blow everything away. I think a melee was a very good way of mixing up players.





Maaseik - International Petanque

Hot off the 'Love Bus' by Hassi

When I was first invited to play in the Maaseiker Tournament in Belgium, I was excited at the prospect of playing as part of the England Squad in an International Competition. But as the date for the tournament drew closer, the feelings of excitement were mixed with anxiety and some frustration and the prospect of a long journey in a mini-bus was one that was filling me with dread.

Finally the day of travel arrived as I set off at 06:45 on the first leg of my journey picking up Sammy and The Hoff en-route - both making great companions. Arriving at Martin's place in Enfield for the start of an epic journey, we were warmly greeted by the rest of the squad who were all ready and waiting for us to board. Travelling with a bus full of top petanque players all in their 20's, I had pictured a scenario where I would not fit in and expected a long and daunting journey ahead. This could not have been further from the reality as this friendly bunch of young men and women made the whole journey a truly memorable and fun experience. There was no hint of arrogance, only friendly banter and humour.

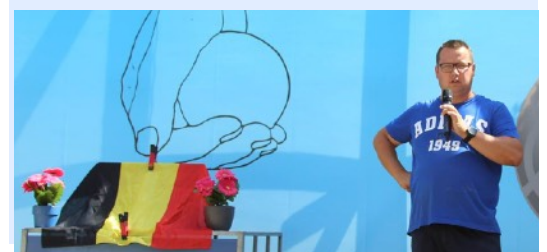
The ferry crossing from Dover to Calais was smooth and the final drive from Calais to Maaseik proved long in the heavy rain, but with Martin in the driver's seat the team were in good hands.

We arrived at Maaseik to a real festive feel (bunting, lights and music) and were welcomed by Karin, one half of the organising team. We were then quickly back in the bus and taken to our accommodation at a campus about a mile away to drop off our bags before returning to the terrains for some food and get the precision shooting under way. For many, the thought of taking on this challenge after the long day of travel seemed unthinkable but Sammy was one of the first to 'go for it', and her score saw her get to the top 8 the following day and reach the Semi-Finals. I admired (and envied) the energy of our young players as they wanted to party into the night and all I wanted was a bed for the night!

The opening ceremony saw Geert (other half of the organising team) welcome visitors from several countries before unveiling an impressive Maaseiker bill board to music and fireworks. There was some amusement as an animated Geert continued with his welcome speech whilst trying to (discreetly) put out a fire caused by one of the fireworks

On the last day, Geert paid an emotional & moving tribute to a very talented young Belgian player Cyril Vangriecken who was tragically killed in an attack in Leige. The stadium was stunned in silence with very few dry eyes.

continued...





Maaseik - International Petanque

Day One - Singles

Feeling refreshed and ready for the day ahead, the entire squad was entered to play the Singles on the first day. As the competition got underway there was much encouragement from all the players and especially spectators Carol & Glen - who were just brilliant as they supported the England Squad from the side lines. It was also heartening to see some of the more experienced players take a few of us 'new' ones under their wing and show them the ropes. For me, this was Claire White who was so kind and caring throughout the tournament, offering guidance, support and friendship - I feel this was a crucial part of what turned out to be a very positive experience.

Day Two - Doubles

The teams had been pre-selected and I was about to have one of the best days ahead with my doubles partner Sabrina Seville. From the start of the first game to our last game in Group A of the quarter-finals, Sabrina's effortless motivation simply brought out the very best in me. Her wonderful spirit and sense of humour throughout the day resulted in so much fun both for the two of us and all those around us. The highlight of this day was playing the quarter finals on the centre piste with an amazing partner who was impressing the crowds shooting boules to boules on a very difficult terrain. I gained so much from this experience and the humility shown by Sabrina not only towards me in the Doubles but Hannah Griffin & Steph Moulden who were fortunate to play in the Triples with her, made me proud to be part of the England Squad at Maaseik.

Day Three - Triples

With three very long and tiring days gone before, there was a certain degree of weariness as we embarked on our final day of the tournament. Teamed with two lovely ladies - Fay & Ajjay - we went into our first match of the day against the top England team and reigning champions Sarah, Emma & Sammy. We were determined and played well but were sadly beaten by them. Losing the next two games, resulted in an early knockout for us but offered a great opportunity to sit back, soak up the sunshine, indulge in a bottle of rose and spectate some of the tournaments top matches. Congratulations to Sarah, Emma & Sammy who got through to the Finals.

The journey back home was long and tiring with much of the 'love bus' travelling in silence as everyone was catching up on their sleep. I had plenty of time to reflect and despite feeling exhausted by the end, it was an amazing and memorable experience - both playing petanque and being in the company of some incredibly inspirational women.

To think, just four years ago when I took up petanque I could not have imagined myself playing as part of the England Squad at an International Tournament and here I am just hot off the 'love bus' from Belgium. Thank you PE and especially Martin Hughes.

Hassi



Photos courtesy of Joe Sheffield



Inspiring Women - Kath Brooks

New PE Board Director

Congratulations to Kath Brooks who has taken up her role as the first woman director on the new Petanque England board. Kath is keen to hear views and suggestions that will encourage more women to be involved in playing, competing and contributing at regional and national level.

Message from Kath:

I started playing petanque back in 1998 after a very enjoyable family holiday in France. My son was the first one who got into the sport and we soon realised he was really quite good. On our return we found out where our nearest club was and it went on from there. I have had the honour of playing for Great Britain and both my children have played at National and International level. We have made a lot of good friends over the years. I am a great believer in the power of sport and over a number of years of teaching Physical Education in secondary schools I have seen many children thrive as their self-confidence and self-belief grow. As we all know Petanque is a sport for all ages and abilities where people can improve their skills and develop confidence whilst at the same time making new friends.



Petanque has given me and my family hours of fun but there comes a point when it is time to give something back which is why I decided to offer my services as a Director of Petanque England. There are many girls and women that play but we did not have any representation at Board level. My aim is to bring a different perspective to the Board and to promote the involvement of females in our sport. Since joining the Board I have been involved with the selection of our Ladies team for the forthcoming Women's European Championships and the Ladies European Singles. I am looking forward to travelling to Italy as Head of Delegation at the European Singles Championships in October this year.

I have already spoken to several of you in order to give you the opportunity to voice your opinions, thoughts and aspirations so that your views are represented at Board level. If anyone would like to talk to me please feel free to contact me via email or telephone, if I know your thought and feelings, both positive and negative, I will make sure your views are shared.

You have a voice and it is important that it is heard! I'm sure many of you will be at Hayling in September for the Inter-Regional Championships and I look forward to seeing you there.

Best wishes

Kath Brooks

kathbrooks23@hotmail.co.uk

Mobile: 07472 672387



Inspiring Women - Sarah Huntley

Sarah is currently the top ranked female player in the country - a title she has held for the last two years - and also holds the top female shooting title for 2018. Sarah has been playing for almost 16 years and first played for Great Britain in 2005 when she went to the Junior World Championships in Canada. As part of our Inspiring Women issue, we are delighted to run this Q&A feature and would like to thank Sarah for her candid responses.

What is your earliest memory of playing petanque?

My first memories of playing petanque were league matches with my grandparents, my mum and my brother at the Plume of Feathers when I was about 12.

What was your first major win?

In 2005, me and my mum won the BPA Ladies Doubles and qualified to represent Great Britain in Blangy, where we won the International Doubles.

What do you consider to be your greatest achievement?

I am most proud of my bronze medal in the shooting competition at the Ladies World Championships in 2011. It was my first World Championships and I knocked out the Thai world champion in the quarter finals.

How do you feel about being part of the England Women's Team?

I'm really excited to be part of the women's team this year. The team is really strong and we have some great managers working with us - Nic Baxter and Sofiane Lachani. After some really good wins at the world's last year, I'm hoping we can do ever better this year.

How do you generally prepare before a particularly important competition?

I try to get out and practice most nights before a major competition with a variety of different people and on different pitches, as well as league twice a week and competitions most Saturdays and Sundays.

Who is your petanque role model?

My role models growing up were Matt Eversden, Phil Winston and Jonathan Sewell. They were Chiltern number one every year and were pretty much unbeatable in every competition they played in Chiltern. Their level of play was amazing but I also really admired their friendship and camaraderie.

Who do you get your inspiration from?

I have always been inspired by Vanessa Webb, as she is a fantastic shooter, and as well as being the best woman, she was also recognised as one of the best players in the country.

You come from a long line of petanque players, how did your family get into playing the sport?

My grandparents were always really competitive and involved in the pub sports, including skittles, crib, darts, dominoes etc., They came across Petanque one day, which they loved and gradually more and more of the family got involved.

Was there much rivalry between you and Jeremy to be the best player when you were younger?

When me and Jeremy started playing, we played together a lot and so didn't really have rivalry with each other, we just wanted to beat everyone else!

What is your favourite way to relax after a competition?

Some of the players I play with are also my best friends so it's really nice if we have some time to socialise with them after we have finished playing.

What is your future ambition/aspiration for petanque - both on a personal level and for the sport itself in England?

The best we have achieved in the Women's World Championships (as far as I know) is the quarter finals which I would love to match. For the sport as a whole, I would love for petanque to get into the Olympics and hopefully gain some more popularity in England.

Finally, what advice would you give to new players who want to play in competitions?

Keep positive and persevere. When I started I often lost first round in the plate, but slowly got better results the more I played. Don't be afraid to ask better players to play with you and most importantly try to enjoy the game.



Inspiring Women - Patricia Rowlands

'The Duchess of Petanque'

Once you've met Pat, you never forget her as she inspires all who come into contact with her. Whether you're playing with or against Pat in a local, regional or national competition, the way you are treated by this lovely lady is the same. She shows love and respect to everyone, shares her experience and simply oozes her passion for the sport, for the players of all ages and has a certain joie de vivre both on and off the terrains.

Endearingly known as 'The Duchess' by peers and those who have known Pat a long time, referred to as Nana by the young ones, and considered one of the nicest players by new and seasoned players, it was a delight to meet Pat at the National Titles Weekend.

Pat has been playing Petanque since 1980 and has clocked up over 40 Northern club titles, plus an impressive regional and national roll of honour (below) which sums up the achievements of our 'Duchess of Petanque' who is an inspiration to so many:



- ◆ Representing England at Home Nations: 2015, 2016, 2017 & most recently at the 2018 Competition in Jersey
- ◆ Northern Player of the Year: 2016, 2017
- ◆ Regional Number One Qualifying Team: 2000, 2011, 2014, 2015
- ◆ Regional Triples Winner: 2001, 2002, 2003, 2015, 2017
- ◆ Regional Mixed Pairs Winner: 2011, 2014, 2016, 2017
- ◆ National Mixed Pairs Runner Up: 2016
- ◆ Euro Cup Finalist

We asked Pat what inspired her and what advice she would give to our Juniors?

"What inspired me years ago was watching our top players i.e. Barry Scott's team and family and I thought I need to play like them. They were all very good. And of course seeing our men and women who play at the top now is very inspiring.

As for our juniors, they have to practice hard and enjoy the game"





Toni's Top Tip!

Our regular feature with Toni and her Top Tip is proving popular both for beginners and seasoned players. Toni is an inspirational Coach to our National Youth Squad and has done wonders to motivate and inspire our youngsters over the past few years. Previously, Toni represented the Chiltern Region at the Inter-regional championships and Champion of Champions and had qualified three times to play for England in the Home Nations.

In this issue, Toni talks about losing!

Overcoming Losing

Is winning all that matters? If so you have the wrong mindset. You should always try to win but ultimately the result is out of your control. You can play badly and win just as you can have your best game ever and lose against top opposition. With two first class teams, one has got to lose. That is why it is crucial to learn how to cope with these losses. One quality that sets champions apart from others is their ability to manage disappointment and to successfully recover and go on to the next game with a positive mindset and belief in their ability. Managing the feeling of loss is very important in being able to move on in either the event, future events or the sport in general.

The degree to which a player may experience inhibiting emotions depends on the level of meaning and importance they placed on the recent loss. Understanding the different stages of loss are important in helping to deal with the loss and move on.

Stage 1: Shock

Shock is experienced when the poor performance comes as a complete surprise. Often a player/team shows no signs that a dip in performance is about to occur

Stage 2: Denial

Then you hear a player saying they cannot believe this has just happened, almost in denial about the outcome.

Stage 3: Anger/Fear

Once sitting on the side-lines watching the event proceed or the medals being given the denial turns to fear (what if I can't pull my form back) or anger at this point, the player may look back in a clouded hindsight looking for a scapegoat to blame for the loss. A realistic look back at their preparation or actual performance will often show they did what they could and gave their best effort at the time or simply they are responsible because of bad preparation.

Stage 4: Depression

Depression may set in when a player feels they have lost their chance of representation or winning a big title.

Stage 5: Understanding

This emotion occurs when the player begins to realistically examine their performance, brutally and honestly examining their poor performance. This is where formal reviews by coaches or honest appraisals by teammates are critical to find the real answers. If the player is really being honest this leads to understanding what let them down, for example, poor tactical decisions were made. The outcome of these reviews can be potential learning experiences,

Stage 6: Acceptance

Acceptance is NOT about becoming satisfied with a poor performance. Acceptance is about accepting it happened, taking responsibility for the outcome and getting ready to move forward. At your point of acceptance you should have left your frustration behind you. Frustration is an in the moment feeling and there is no room for it in your future plans/ preparation.

Stage 7: Adjustment

After your acceptance you can learn from your failure, adjust your technique, routine, and mindset. Helping yourself to not make the same mistakes again.

Stage 8: Moving on

At this point your loss becomes history, you made the mistake, learned from it now move on. Adopt new faith in your self and your ability and approach your next game with the mindset of a winner.

And Remember: It is impossible to win all the time, so be gracious in your loss!



Here Come the Girls

Ella

This year, the talk of the town was 11 year-old Ella Slade, who was crowned the winner of the Women's Doubles playing with Kaylee Thatcher and a finalist in the Mixed Doubles with Jamie Brooks at the National Titles Weekend in Gravesend. Ella went on to compete in the Women's Ranking Triples events at Worthing and Arlesey (known for having one of the toughest terrains in the country) and was ranked Number 14. Ella's confidence and technical skills were summed up by Martin Hughes:

"Here is the best young lob pointer in the country I have seen this year. Technical pitches have no fear for this one. Loads of stones and bad landing places? No problem. Pick your spot and commit to the lob. Look at the concentration on that face! Well played and well done to our coaches and mentors who are supporting all our young players"

We asked Ella a few questions:

How long have you been playing?

I started playing in April 2016 when I was 9 years old because my dad told me Sussex were short of a junior player to make up a team for the 2016 inter regional championships. This only gave me five months to learn the art of the sport along with rules and tactics. The first year was all about learning and playing petanque with my dad coaching me and supporting me through the start of my petanque journey.

What are your best achievements to date?

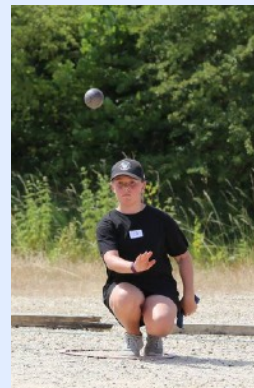
There are so many achievements I am proud of and here are a few of them:
 Being Awarded the 2016 NYS Doubles Player award
 Hastings 1066 petanque league completing the double by winning the league and the Knockout cup 2017
 NYS Adult/Junior winner 2017 playing with Jack Blows winning all our games during the day
 2nd in the NYS Doubles 2017 playing with Marc
 Winning the B competition in the French Triplets competition in May 2018 in France beating the Belgium world championship team playing with Morgan and Callum
 Worthing doubles finalist 2018 with Morgan

On a National Level, I feel very proud of my achievement especially this year when I won the Women's Doubles with Kaylee at Gravesend and the Mixed Doubles with Jamie. I am so happy to have made the top 16 of the Women's Ranking for 2018 coming in at Number 14 (last year I was ranked 22)

How do you prepare for playing in big competitions?

I am always determined knowing that if you work hard something will come out of it and by playing different people and different competitions you can learn from others and even if you lose you still learn. Dedication and hard work only comes with what you are willing to put into it.

I would never have been able to achieve what I have without the support of the people that I play with and practice with, my parents have been amazing supporting me - especially my dad who drives me everywhere and gives up his days off for me to enjoy the sport I love. I hope more people will get involved in the sport and show its a sport for all genders and ages. I love petanque as you get to meet new people, playing with others and the art of the sport and the constant learning.





Here Come the Girls



Francesca

One of the most inspiring of young players, Francesca is held in great admiration by players in the Southern Region. She is always smiling and has a great positive attitude towards the game. Just four years ago, Francesca was undergoing stem-cell transplant, chemotherapy and other treatments for a long-term genetic condition.

We asked Francesca to tell us about her Petanque Journey:

“Hi, my name is Francesca and I am a 12 year old Junior Petanque player. My home club is Adur and I represent it by playing Division 2 League games. I have been playing for nearly 2 years.

I hadn't even heard of petanque until one day my mum and I were passing the Adur Petanque terrain when we saw a game being played and I was intrigued - one month later I was playing!

My first competition was Adur Snowboules which was a great introduction to the game and I now play competitions at Worthing, Fareham, Handcross, Cobbets and many more. In May 2018, I played at the 3-day National event in Gravesend, Kent. I thoroughly enjoyed playing against top players, where the atmosphere was friendly but competitive and would recommend this event to anyone who has never been.

After only a year of playing, I was chosen to play in the Junior Squad at the Inter-Regional competition at Hayling Island. It was an amazing experience and being part of a marvellous team helped me to build confidence in myself. We came 2nd.

I enjoy playing Petanque because it is a unique sport that offers many opportunities. It is also a very social game in which I have made many friends.

I play as a pointer and generally only in doubles and triples. I frequently play alongside my Mum in competitions and I think we make a great team.

I have a long-term genetic condition, which caused me to have a stem-cell transplant. In 2014, I spent a lot of time in hospital and Petanque has given me something to strive for and enjoy. During my chemotherapy, subsequent treatment and recovery, my Mum has supported me every step of the way and I think this is why we have such a strong bond.

I am looking forward to the coming year where I will try to push myself to gain more confidence in the game.”





Here Come the Girls

Anglia, whilst not one of the bigger regions, has provided more than its fair share of junior players that have gone onto represent England at both the 2011 and 2013 Junior World Championships, as well as the 2012 & 2014 European Championships and 2015 European Espoirs respectively. Here we introduce two of their young players with great potential:

Kira

Based in Ipswich, Kira is an integral member of her Adnams Coastal Petanque League team. Kira has also played for the Anglia Juniors at Hayling Island for the last 4 years, although this year she isn't attending as she turns 13 that weekend and would like to celebrate that milestone with her family.

Kira has enjoyed success at a Regional level playing alongside her brother Lewis (now 21), who is a former Junior World Champion and holds the Junior/Adult Regional title for the 2016 and 2017 seasons. She also enjoys playing abroad and travels to Belgium and Holland every May as part of the Coastal team playing alongside adults. Kira's confidence has been boosted by various compliments from opposing teams such as one Belgian club president presenting her with a special medal for being the best visiting junior player he'd ever seen play. Another Belgian club who hold a melee every year and have prizes for the best male and female players ended up presenting Kira with alcohol as they hadn't figured on a junior female being the best lady player!



Back in 2016 Kira & dad Simon played in the Brighton PC Open which saw them gain a notable victory over Merle and Rachid, and in later stages narrowly lose out to Vince & Fahdi.



We asked Kira a few questions:

How did you get into playing petanque?

I started playing when I was 10, mainly because my dad and my brother play and I wanted to get involved. Started playing a few fun competitions, then I got taken into our league team.

What has been your best achievement so far?

My two Regional titles plus playing so well against far more experienced players at the Brighton Open, including losing in a timed game against Stone and Kath. I was also awarded the "Jimmy" trophy (like an Oscar) for Most Improved Player in 2016 within the Coastal League. In 2016 NYS Doubles with Ella Slade, 4th place overall and Best Minor pair.



What advice can you give other younger players starting to learn?

Take all the advice you can, try different surfaces and playing partners, don't be afraid to make mistakes but when you do learn from them, and relax.

Where do you want to be in 5 seasons time?

More confident, able to represent the country, better skills and a greater knowledge.



Louna

And finally to Louna, described by Toni Gates as an "absolute delight who always has a smile on her face". Louna was one of the youngest competitor at the Home Nations Qualifiers. Aged just 9 years old, she travelled to Nottingham to play with her dad Jordan and family friend Teresa Bingham. Louna plays in the Anglia region and is known for her smiles. She is currently in the Benjamin category of the Juniors, and is definitely one to watch as she has developed a great passion for petanque and is improving rapidly.



Guest Feature - Making Coaching Fun

Thanks to Colin Roper for sharing his knowledge and expertise in making coaching fun. Colin is the National Coach and is also on the Petanque England Board. He often travels with the England Teams as Head of Delegation and keeps the squads motivated through his funny anecdotes and stories.

Making Coaching Fun!

As interesting as the heading sounds, turning it around a little as `is there fun in coaching` can often be viewed in the positive. You only have to look at the faces of regional or national teams, when they gather around their coach having just won an important match. He or she is also a hero in that moment. But how that can change when a loss is hurtful. The times I have heard, `it was all the coaches fault`!

A little history. Julius Caesar on returning from a successful campaign rode in his chariot and accepted the adulation of Rome. Riding with him was his private man servant, who, upon observing all around them, whispered into Caesars ear `Enjoy the moment, the mob are fickle`.

Fortunately, I have not seen any historical illustration of the gladiatorial or petanque coaches being put to the sword in the Colosseum for failure.

Now picture the following...

You are the coach. In front of you are twenty one members, of the 2nd Brentwood Cub pack, visiting your own club, all eager to take their sports badge by experiencing Petanque for the first time. They cannot wait to get their hands on what seems to them, large steel Ball Bearings or small Cannon balls, to play with. A daunting prospect for any coach to face. Fortunately, you have made preparation by arm twisting some additional experienced helpers and together with the pack leaders, you get them organised. Having given them some brief history of the sport, how it is played and spoken about safety.

`No, it will Not make you laugh, if you drop the boule onto your foot or another pack member, etc etc and yes, you will be allowed to throw the steel boule and will not get told off by your parents.

Having distributed the boule, all a mix of junior, leisure and light weight/diameter boule, funny how they like those which are bright and have lots of lines, you are ready to get started. At this point, those parents who were in attendance and having listened to the instructions, have wisely taken a step back from being too close to the terrain.

So, after a mixture of trial and error, during the elements of being able to throw a boule, they progress and are organised into teams and enter in simple competitive games. As time progresses, so does their own competitive edge start to emerge as they get more and more successful as the fun level increases. It is then that you can enjoy magic moments of coaching. Take a safe spot and close you eyes and just listen. All you will hear is the sound of laughter and enjoyment of achievement as boule are pointed close to the jack or the sound of a boule hitting another out of position.



At the end of the evening a prepared `Coaching certificate of participation` is presented to the leader and cub pack to mark their achievement. When asked if they have enjoyed the experience, was it fun and would like to return at some time, a very loud YES is heard from a very happy cub pack. About a week later a card arrives to the Club secretary, thanking the club, yourself and members for allowing the pack to play petanque for their sports badge. It is signed by every member of the cub pack.

So is making coaching fun. Yes, as it encompasses many requirements and diverse activities to suit those that you going to coach, be they just 7 or 97 years young. It is so different from applying just training, which tends to lean towards constant work drills that can lead to boredom and disinterest, which is certainly not in the Fun Book of Coaching.



Local & Regional Successes

Promoting Petanque in Style - Petanque & Prosecco Afternoon Tea!

Cobbetts Boules Club welcomed 24 guests from a local Spa club to 'Come & Try' event offering an afternoon of Petanque followed by a luxurious cream tea and a glass of fizz. The event was an instant hit with several of the guests currently looking into joining a club near them.



City of Bath Club - Diane Greenaway

Women and men working together and successfully promoting Pétanque to a local W.I.

City of Bath is one of the clubs which is proud to have almost equality with around 50 % of male and female members. There is no hierarchy and all are treated equally. So it was not surprising that an initiative to introduce a Women's Institute group to pétanque came firstly from one of their male members.



The Club organised a successful 'Come and Try' session which resulted in the WI group entering a team in the local league.

All in all it has been a very successful outcome and a great example of both genders working together with our sport as the main focus.



Congratulations to Diane Greenaway & Gill Brooks Winners of the GWR Ladies Doubles.

Making Headlines at Portchester PC

Perseverance pays off as this Southern Region club proved when they managed to get a double-page spread in their local paper as part of their bid to recruit new and younger players. The club also invited a local TV station to their terrain who ran a short piece on petanque. Nick Hall, chairman of PPC, said "we were very pleased to get the local media attention thanks to the hard work of our members Bill Wright & Trudy Bishop".

Portchester also run family sessions on Saturday mornings in their efforts to get parents and children to come along and enjoy playing the sport together.



Brand new club - Lesley Drakatos

Well done to Lesley who has been busy setting up a brand new club in Wellington, Somerset. This new 'state of the art' club is part of the Devon Region and boasts a brand new custom built terrain, sports facilities including a swimming pool, gym, badminton and basketball courts.



The Petanque Club is eligible for PE and club members will be encouraged to take up the PE membership. There is a healthy 50:50 ratio of the sexes and male members are given incentives to bring along their partners to clubs sessions which is proving successful. The club has already had a visit from the local WI and are currently looking at a New Club Coach.