



Pétanque England News

**Pétanque
ENGLAND**

Volume 2021 Issue 1

March 2021

Inside Story

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Presidents Medal

Congratulations to Mike Cubit, Toni Gates, Leicester PC and David Plumhoff who all won the inaugural Presidents Medal in 2020. A massive thank you to them all for all the commitment and hard work which they put in during 2020.



There are many PE Members who do a lot of work which is often not seen by the whole membership so if you feel you know someone who deserves the recognition then please contact our president with the members name and a brief description of your reasons why.

National Development Programme

Pétanque England would like to welcome the following Junior players who have started their Pétanque journey.

**Emily Speed-Turner, Shanna Edgar,
Molly Cramp, Matthew Butcher,
Nathan Huntley, Tristan Kunaka,
Thomas Butler, Toby Cramp,
Alice Butcher, Ayva Law, Beth Elena**

The very best to you all and we look forward to seeing your progression in the World of Pétanque.

Southern Counties Round Up

The Autumn Cup

In the small window of opportunity in between lockdowns when organised sporting events were permitted, Southern Counties organised a special inter-club competition for 2020. The Autumn Cup was organised by Dave Stubbs as a way to get competitive play going again in a Covid-secure way and it proved to be a huge success with many clubs across the region entering a team or two.

Eighteen teams were arranged in six local groups of three teams each playing each other in a 6-a-side format with each team playing two home and two away matches. Following the knockout stages and quarter finals, a full day of competition was held at the end of October where eight teams played in the semi-finals and finals. Despite atrocious weather conditions on the day, team spirit was high. This competition was a huge success, with River Hamble winning the trophy. Many clubs and members appreciated the opportunity to play in local competitions and a similar Winter Trophy was being considered but unfortunately was not possible due to the latest lockdown.

AGM

Southern Counties held its first Zoom AGM in November which ran smoothly with a number of members joining in from far and wide. The highlight of the AGM was the presentation of the Vice President's Trophy which is presented to an individual member (or club) who has made a significant contribution in promoting the sport of Pétanque. This year, it was awarded to Samuel Rattue for his recent fundraising efforts as well his ambassadorial etiquette and conduct. Sam was praised for his teamwork and his attitude towards opponents alike when competing. We were also very pleased to see that Sam was awarded the NYS 2020 Team Player of the Year award.

Poppy Doubles

Every year, one of the most popular events in Southern's calendar is the annual Cobbetts Poppy Doubles, which attracts players from other regions and nations. It was a blow when this event had to be cancelled due to lockdown as it is a truly fun event, which also helps raise vital funds for the Poppy Appeal. However, the team at Cobbetts were delighted to be able to reschedule their event to 13 December, albeit with half the number of teams to comply with strict Covid-secure guidelines. The club managed to raise £600 with the generosity of players on the day and other member's contributions.

We hope that it won't be too long before players are able to get back to their club nights and playing local, regional and National competitions.

Best wishes

Steve Lombard
President of SCPA



Around the Leagues

SUFFOLK COASTAL PETANQUE ALLIANCE – The Relative “New Kid on the Block”

The history of the Suffolk Coastal Pétanque Alliance started back in 2007 when our President, Simon Fletcher, attended a Suffolk County Pétanque Association meeting whereby it was discussed that as the Ipswich area league had been defunct since 2000, that there was surely still individuals or small isolated pockets of players that wanted to play on a regular basis. Tasked with the mission of gathering these potential players together, Simon, in conjunction with the late Jimmy Robinson set up on the coast. They joined forces and got the first two pistes and loosely based club together on Aldeburgh seafront.



Through intensive internet searching, letter and email writing they were able to garner 9 teams together for the very first season in 2008, splitting them into 2 divisions, North and South, with 5 in one and 4 in the other. That very first Grand Final took place at the Greyhound, Pettistree. Such was the interest and success of that first season, that the following seasons registration saw us grow to 17 teams, splitting this time into 3 divisions. From 2010 until 2019 they rose to a total of 47 teams, with many venues now having multiple teams using the same facilities.

On 1st August 2011, the Alliance officially announced a corporate sponsor in the shape of Adnams of Southwold and adopted the Adnams logo onto the League's kit and from 2012 onwards renamed the various divisions from Suffolk river names to various beers etc bottled by our corporate partners. Since the inception of the Alliance, many players have gone on to become regular County & Regional level players as well as a few gaining even further recognition, such as Lewis Fletcher, who captained the England Junior team at the 2013 World Junior Championships in France. Presently our current starlet Baillie Inglis has now been selected to the NYA Championship team for this years 2021 Junior Euros to be held in Spain.

Foreign excursions have now become the norm with the League. From our coastal base we usually play Friday and Saturday against local Belgian teams, one club of which we have visited every year since 2012, and then on the Sunday we travel a little further to a Dutch club where we have visited the last 7 years up to 2019. Establishing other events into our league programme has now seen us have challenge matches versus the Mercia Region, the superb Moules & Boules Trophy played for in July on the Aldeburgh pistes, as well as friendly matches versus a visiting Belgian club 5 years ago, a club from Bewdley in Warwickshire, and 4-way event in at the City of Bath PC along with the Great Western Region and Carrefour PC from Jersey. We now have an annual challenge match versus The Swan at Little Totham from the Eastern Region.

In recent years, the league has also provided teams the opportunity to take part in the Winter League as well, and incredibly nearly 50% of the entire league membership now plays all year round with several events occurring over the Christmas and New Years period, in all weathers!!

Until the end of 2017, the League operated it's divisions on a geographical basis but in 2018, having given all teams a years notice period, we made the switch over to ability-based divisions and went through a process of grading every single team on all their results from the previous 3 seasons. The divisions were organised so that promotion and relegation was instigated. It certainly made the 2018 season more competitive for the vast majority of teams, as it pitted every team against similar quality teams within every division, with very few exceptions.

As we move continually forwards, we look to remain ground-breaking and setting standards for others to follow, both in terms of playing ability as well as organisational skills, especially as we have seen the



administration of the league move from single-point control to Committee based, which has aided in the sharing of duties and responsibilities, as well as opening the doors to new ideas and innovations. We have always been and will remain warm, friendly and open to anyone who wants to play and enjoy their pétanque to whatever level they want to get to. There is no minimum standard and thus vastly experienced players play alongside complete novices at a wide variety of locations.

Around the Leagues

KENT PETANQUE LEAGUE

The first league set up in Kent was way back in 1977 when four of the teams that were playing at that time came together to create the first league in Kent, they were the Optimists, GASP, Portex and Seal, with Seal going on to win the inaugural season. Incidentally, Seal is the only one of these teams/clubs still remaining.

1978 saw the growth to seven teams/clubs with the experience of seal seeing them winning again.

1981 brought the beginning of a second division as the teams had risen to seventeen from fifteen clubs, Jubilee topped div 1 for two years, 81/82. Extra teams led to the first knock-out cup competition with the Wheatsheaf coming out top.

1983 continued growth in the number of teams led to the formation of division 3 to accommodate 23 teams.

When 1984 season started with 4 divisions and 32 teams, only two remained from 1981, Seal, GRFC, both still competing to this day. Numerous clubs were now putting out more than one team.

So many of the clubs and teams were associated with public houses that it was also a good night out for the odd pint or two, but sadly so many of these early venues have been closed.

Continued interest saw the growth through 5 then six divisions and in 1989 there were 52 teams from 30 clubs competing in six divisions.

Much coming and going over the next few years saw the league continue with 6 divisions until 1993 when 57 teams from 31 clubs competed in 7 divisions, all this time the knock-out cup continued to run alongside.

A steady increase in popularity at all levels enabled the league to expand to first eight and then nine divisions when in 1999 there were 86 teams from 51 clubs competing and in 1997 a plate competition was added to the knock-out cup.

The early 2000's saw a decline in the number of clubs, as the hostelry's closed their doors or took back the space allocated to petanque for outdoor seating. The numbers settled in the lower 70's by the middle of the decade, but there were still 7 divisions, but the number of clubs had reduced to 35-38.

By 2015 the number of clubs competing had dropped to 32 but were still putting out 68 teams each week, and the good standard of competition saw many of the players acquitting themselves well at the annual inter-regional competition when they played for Kent. By 2017 the club numbers had dropped below 30 for the first time since 1992 and seems to have steadied back to 28 clubs with around 60 teams.

Covid19 put the brakes on competition at the start of 2020 although we did manage to put together a knock-out cup and plate competition for those teams that felt safe to play.

When the Maidstone and District league that played a winter competition folded, Mick Nash of Hartley CC started the winter season of the KPL and has enjoyed a reasonable take up of at times 40 teams playing through in four divisions along with a winter cup and plate competition running alongside.

Hopefully when we have news of an easing of the lock-down we will again offer the clubs and teams the opportunity to continue the sport we all love.

Around the Clubs

Pétanque Wallingford

The club, Pétanque Wallingford (PW), is relatively new but has made great strides in its short life - 11 years.

PW started playing on Wednesday evenings on the Wallingford Sports Park car park. We then found that a pub in the area had a piste which they never used, so we went to play there on Thursday evenings. We also found two pétanque pistes in a village recreation ground a few miles away. When the rugby, hockey and football season started up in September we had to give up our Wednesday evenings because the Sports Park needed the car park! So PW approached the Sports Trust to see if they could become the 7th resident club. The Trust showed us which land we could use so we set about raising the money. This was turning out to be taking too long so 13 PW members paid for 10-year membership (£500 each) and so PW had enough money to go ahead.

PW built the 8-piste (12.5 x 24 metre terrain) in March 2013 and swiftly built their membership to the 60 it is today. PW installed lighting too a few years later. Fund raising continued and with a small grant from Sport England and a national supermarket chain were able to build another 3-piste terrain (12.5 x 12.5 metres) with a different surface, so now have a capacity of 66 players which is great for open days. PW has a mix of players - 40 social players and 20 licensed players and we have 4 club coaches. One of the 'original' members (who is also one of the coaches) is the [Petanque Captain for the GB&NI World Transplant Team](#). PW also had a local charity catering for people with learning difficulties come to play (with their carers) on Wednesday afternoons. PW only have one youngster playing (aged 11, the daughter of a member) and getting more young people to play is something we want to address once the country has got over the COVID problem. Before the COVID restrictions PW organised play 5 times a week and members could play as often as they liked. PW are looking forward to returning to normality because we are all missing the game. Members have played in Jersey and Guernsey, at the Londonnaise and at Hayling Island. We also have 8 club trophies for all members to play for throughout the year. These can be seen on our website, petwal.co.uk which also has a blog with photos of their activities.

During the first lockdown the number of people playing was limited in order to facilitate distanced play and the use of club rings, scoreboards and boules was banned to prevent cross contamination. We started a WhatsApp group for people to book space so we could avoid play clashes and avoid mingling. One member arranged an 8-week league tournament for the summer and 16 people took part.

We use our website to publicise the latest rulings from the club in line with information from Pétanque England.



NYA - National Development Programme

The NYA (or previously NYS etc) has for several years been trying to expand our work to encompass those juniors new to the game or not ready or wanting to try for the National Squad. We hit many stumbling blocks including trying to stretch our finances, finding programmes that would suit both new players and those juniors already of international standard and one of the biggest issues was how to provide for young players only wanting to come out for a couple of hours without it involving almost half a day's travelling time. There are massive benefits of young, new and aspiring juniors having the opportunity to meet, mix and play with the National Squad juniors but it became evident that there were also separate requirements for this group of juniors.

It was agreed at the end of 2019 we would have a reshuffle including adopting the new NYA name and introduce a section specifically for "Youth Development". As has become a frequent story, Covid-19 put a stop to us moving forward with our plans, but we did spend the season working hard on fine tuning things in 2020. Sadly 2021 has not started as any of us had hoped but the NYA are starting to roll out (slowly) the plans for our National Development Programme. This programme is designed to work exclusively with juniors outside of our National Squads and will involve engaging with PE Regions & local coaches, providing fun training & competition, publishing a Development Newsletter and continuing with the 2020 National Development Squad. Information on this can be found on the NYA website.

Our dedicated development coaching team come packed with an extensive amount of knowledge and qualifications in many different areas.



The team is headed by Kath Knight and supported by senior coaches Chris Garratt, Brian Stote & Phil Boarder. There is a network of other members in her team which builds a very well-equipped setup. Here is a little insight into some of the members of the development team.



NYA - National Development Programme

Kath Knight

Gained her Grade 3 Coaching qualification in 1998 and has progressed to hold Advanced Club Coach

Involved in many aspects of coaching she acts as senior coach with PE Coaching Commission, running courses (with Chris Garratt) for those wishing to qualify as club coaches. She is very experienced in running after-school petanque clubs, running these at several schools for many years. With her late husband Mike, Kath run a junior petanque club of 30+ members for several years as well as running courses for Over 60s and for Disabled people for her local council. The list goes on being involved in Come and Tries, French Days, Multi-Sport days for uniformed groups and corporate groups.

Kath also held the position of National Youth Development Officer & was Assistant Junior Team Manager at the North Sea Tournament in Norway, the European Championships in Switzerland and the World Championships in Canada.

Added to this she has been part of the coaching team with juniors competing in France, Belgium and Slovakia, and Junior Team Manager at the Home Nations (Inverness)

With many strings to her bow and a relentless desire to give back to the sport Kath also currently holds the positions at Club Level (Arundel PC) - Chair, Club Coach, Competitions Organiser, Twinning Officer. Regional Level - (Southern Counties) - Secretary, Joint Junior Coach (Southern has 2 junior coaches, a RCC and a YDO). Kath is also a Tester for the National Junior Skills Award Scheme

Well that really is quite a list of petanque credentials. Kath is/was also heavily involved with a number of organisations such as Guides and Beavers so has the experience to work with our young players in a knowledgeable, engaging and fun way.

Chris Garratt

Chris has many strings to his bow qualified and experienced as coach and official in several sports, a few of which are listed here:

1. Rugby (referee and Advanced Level Coach)
2. Tennis and Squash (previously worked as a professional coach)
3. Football (referee and coach)
4. Cricket Coach
5. Basketball (level 2 coach and referee)
6. Pétanque, Advanced Coach, and "Senior Coach" with PE/NCC and GWR RCC
7. Qualified Mountain Leader (MLC)

Central Council for Physical Recreation: external assessor and examiner for Community Sports Leader Award.

As an Ex Head of Section in Further Education College, Sports and Leisure and an Ex Head of PE in School he has a wealth of knowledge in managing and developing young players. Chris is the joker in the pack and has a lively spirit which masks well his main qualifications in Bachelor of Education (Physical Education), Postgraduate Diploma in Recreation Management.

There will be more information on the coaches and on our Zoom Meeting for any NDS, NDP or non NYS in the next Newsletter.

Coaching

The recent Coaching Commission end of 2020 year report, issued to the PE Board and Regional Coaching Coordinators, highlighted the progression of our coaching programme at various levels. Unfortunately, much was affected due to the restriction that came into force.

However, on a brighter note, just prior to and during the less restricted period, the Coaching Commission were able to conduct, conclude and exam pass, 11 new Club Coaches (3 regions)

The report was able to indicate that to date, our organisation now had registered:

120 + Plus Qualified Club Coach (Category 1) covering all our than 16 regions. *

(*The formation of the NW region only becoming into operation at the latter of the year, though will have the opportunity of having their own qualified coaches in the future)

The continuation of the Advance Club Coach course and `Workshop` elements also suffered, though as its external elements can be completed on- line, it has allowed for some progression.

The currently the number that are now registered:

10 x Qualified Advance Club Coach (Category 2) covering 8 regions. Additionally, there are 4 other Club Coaches who are in the process of completion.

As with both above groups, as and when the return is safely allowed, re-enactment of the courses will resume.

One small note, during 2020 and at end of year, we had 8 (eight) qualified club coaches who stepped down from being active, due to various personal reason. We thank them for their past contribution and wish them well for the future.

The full introduction of the high level multi module County Coach course (Category 3) was set to take place during the latter of 2020, but has had to be delayed until such time, when hopefully during 2021 it is possible to do so.

During these difficult times of restriction, the commission has still been active, particular in arranging the DBS certificates and Coaching licence renewals for several qualified coaches who had reached their expiry date. To date, we have completed a total of 49 renewals over many of our regions, with a small additional number outstanding due to delay in completion of their verification.

Whilst it might sound and smack of officialdom, considering we are still currently restricted in playing, but our obligations of retaining a qualification still requires us to meet our duty of care and insurance policy requirements. Therefore, as further renewals come about during 2021 the application process will need to continue. As such, when we are all allowed to return to some active coaching, we will be ready and able to do so effectively.

There are other areas which need implementing and attention such as the current PE web site, Coaching section, which will receive an updating. More to follow.

Our coaching structure has come a long way since we started with the new structure and, it is pleasing to see the increase in playing performances at club and regional levels.

All due to the input that has been applied by our keen qualified coaches, though we still need to maintain that standard and improve as we progress.

As we hopefully move on during 2021, we will start to see additional coaching elements being introduced at all levels, including assisting our NYS, Espoir and even our senior level groups.

Colin R.

On behalf of the Coaching Commission

PE Board Meeting and PE Documents

The next PE Board meeting will be held on Saturday 10th April

If any member has any ideas or comments which they would like to be discussed then please do not hesitate to contact a member of the board.

All the Board Member details can be found on the last page of this newsletter.

Please be advised that the following documents have been updated and are shown on the PE website.

[Governance Documents - \(petanque-england.uk\)](http://petanque-england.uk)

Pétanque England Rules

Safeguarding policy

Safeguarding Practice and Procedure

Social Media Policy

PE JOBS SECTION

PE Veterans - Coach

PE are looking for someone to take up the role of Coach for the Veterans. This role will involve working with the Veterans Lead on National development and also being the Coach for the Veterans at Events and Championships.

The successful candidate will need to have good development skills and also be a PE Qualified Coach.

If you are interested in the position then please contact Clive de Silva
(president@petanque-england.uk)

Disability in Pétanque

PE is looking for a member to take up the role of

National Disability in Pétanque Manager

This role will include reporting to the PE Board and being the link between PE and any organisation dealing with disability in Petanque.

The member will work closely with PE in the development of disability in pétanque

Please contact our president for further details



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World Transplant Games

Pétanque and the WORLD TRANSPLANT GAMES (WTG)

Pétanque is one of a host of sport categories in the World Transplant Games and European Transplant Games. The UK Transplant Games do not have Pétanque (Yet !)

Since introducing Pétanque to the GB&NI Transplant Games, Team GB has taken part in:

South Africa - Durban 2013

Argentina - Mar del Plata 2015

Spain - Malaga 2017

UK - Newcastle 2019 (Run by Pétanque England)

WTG 2021 Houston cancelled because of Covid

Next **World Transplant Games** has just been announced Australia - Perth April 2023.

- Apart from the World Transplant Games there is the European Transplant Games also held every two years.

Dublin 2021 - European Transplant games was cancelled last August because of Covid

Team GB is hoping to play in the next European Transplant Games in Oxford 2022.



Mike Marshall (right), the Team GB captain, and his partner Steve Whelan.

Pétanque England

Website :

<https://www.petanque-england.uk/>

Facebook :

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/132280860160602>



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PETANQUE ENGLAND BOARD MEMBERS

President - Clive de Silva (president@petanque-england.uk)

Vice President - Martin Hughes (vp@englishpetanque.org.uk)

Secretary - Ken Buchan (secretary@petanque-england.uk)

Treasurer - Cary Bush (cary@carybush.co.uk)

National Youth Academy - Toni Gates (toni2rz@btinternet.com)

Umpiring Chair - Gareth Sullivan

(umpiring@petanque-england.uk)

Membership Secretary - Ray Keemer-Richards
(NatMemSec@englishpetanque.org.uk)

Christine Spray - (spragness@aol.com)

EuroCup - Alan Roden (alan.roden@ntlworld.com)

Safe Guarding - Ayjay Keemer-Richards
(ayjay.k.r@googlemail.com)

Coaching Commission Chair - Colin Roper
(cwr70@mirrordoor.co.uk)

Events Chair - Barry Wing (chair.events@petanque-england.uk)

Blast from the Past



2006 North Sea Tournament held at Cardiff Bay