



PETANQUE ENGLAND DIRECTORS REPORT – 2020

FORWARD BY THE ACTING VICE-PRESIDENT

During the period since the last AGM, our sport along with others who generally operate outdoors have been subject to various adaptations of the government restrictions in response to the Covid Pandemic. We have met that challenge with regular PE guidelines updates, risk assessment advice and recommendation, whilst playing in restricted numbers at club levels. During a respite in the summer months in 2020 we were able to expand on our activities at Club and regional levels. Additionally, it allowed aspects of our national playing programme to take place, amongst highlights being the national titles and ranking events being held at Gravesend in Kent and other such as Worthing.

It was encouraging to see our players again participating in the Singles, Doubles and Triples competitions, even though under restricted control of safe distancing, attention to hand sanitation, face covering, one-way systems and, the use of own coshes and being back to making circles with our shoes.

However, come the winter we found ourselves again back to the bleakness of lockdown which curtailed much of our playing activity. As winter turned to spring this year, with vaccinations starting to take place, we could at least start to feel liberated as the restrictions were loosened to allow the 2021 playing programme to commence, which would include the Titles and Senior Selection Events, National youth and Espoir squad days, together with the Veteran qualifiers at Leicester. In addition, we have seen the Euro Cup semi-finals and the International Women's day triples take place at Gravesend.

We have also seen the introduction of National League which has been sponsored by Brunel European Freight to whom we are grateful and thank.

Perhaps the biggest interest for all our members has been the eager re-introduction this year of the Inter-regional Championship in September. Whilst we were sorry to lose the opportunity of holding the annual event at the proposed venue in Suffolk, the Events group have worked hard to acquire the use of the marketplace of Melton

Mowbray as the venue for 2021. Preceding this a weekend earlier would be the National Mixed Double and Triples titles being held at the same venue.

The Inter -regional will be a change from the normal venue of having one main centre with a separate off site nearby location, to requiring all participants to arrange their own accommodation to suit their needs. It will also require a degree appreciation and understanding by all to those who have tolled to make this work.

Equally it is important to remember we will be in the Public`s eye, which will offer us a great opportunity of showing the positives of just why we portray petanque, as being a family sport for all.

As we progress with the remained of this year and onwards to the next, it is vital we do not lose sight of the vision that our sport represents to us individually and as a member of Petanque England, whilst holding to the positive values we set in attracting new members, be they young or older to our sport.

Finally, may I take this opportunity on behalf of the PE Board, to offer our grateful thanks to all those members who continue to work quietly in the background, in enabling our sport to function.

Colin Roper

GOVERNANCE

The directors who have served during the year have been: -

Martin Eggleton – President (resigned 30/05/20)

Clive D Silva – (appointed President 30/05/20)

David Baxter – Events & NPP Secretary

Kathleen Brooks (resigned 25/02/20)

Ken Buchan - Company Secretary and Disciplinary Officer

Cary Bush – Treasurer

Annette Eggleton (resigned 30/05/20)

Martin Hughes – Vice-President & Chair of the National Performance Panel

Ray Keemer-Richards – Membership

Jim Marstin – Clubs Administrator

David Mason – Chair of the Events Group (resigned 30/05/20)

Robert Parker – Chair of the Umpiring Commission

Alan Roden – Eurocup administrator

Colin Roper – Chair of the Coaching Commission

Toni Gates – Head Coach of the NYA (appointed 30/05/20)

Barry Wing- Head of the Events Group (appointed 30/05/20)

Christine Spray (appointed 30/05/20)

Janice Keemer-Richards – Safeguarding Officer (appointed 30/05/20)

MEMBERSHIP

It has been a difficult 18 months for the membership department with many members not re-joining in 2020 and due to statutory regulations, we had to freeze their data. As they tried to re-new in 2021 each one had to be manually restarted. However, the good news is that we have 2150 members. Hopefully we can build on this number and I am hoping we can make some headway on the two tiered membership scheme.

Ray Keemer-Richards.

National Membership Secretary

CLUB REGISTRATIONS

Previous years:

2017.....171 Clubs

2018.....170 Clubs

2019.....163 Clubs

2020.....167 Clubs

2021.....142 Clubs registered at 1st July. 28 Clubs have not registered.

This included three new Clubs. Two Club closures that I am aware of and two Clubs closing but moving to play at an existing Club

Contribution to PE funds was £4,970 with a shortfall of £980

Jim Marstin

Pétanque England Club Administrator.

SAFEGUARDING

After being appointed the PE Safeguarding Officer, I immediately updated the Petanque England Safeguarding Policy and Practice & Procedure document, with the help of some very experienced people and members. At the same time I studied an online course, Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable Adults, which I passed with distinction in March 2021. Included in the document, is a very current and serious subject, Photography & Social Media. My aim is to make our members aware of the possible problems associated with taking photos in public, posting on Social Media, (Facebook, Instagram, etc), and the implications of that action in some situations. At PE events the Organiser will have appointed a designated photographer, who will have completed a form, which is sent to me to file and is valid for a year. We all need to be aware. Please go on to our website and read our policy, and the Practice & Procedure document. Many thanks.

Ayjay Keemer-Richards.

Safeguarding Officer

EVENTS

Despite the Covid-19 restrictions the group managed to run some of our National Championship events under special arrangements at Gravesend RFC. This enabled 76 players to take part in Singles and 136 in doubles and 114 in mixed doubles.

National Champions.

Men's Singles Champion – Sofiane Lachani

Women's Singles Champion – Rebecca Edwins

Men's Doubles Champions – Jeremy Huntley and Jason White

Women's Doubles Champions – Sarah Huntley and Rebecca Edwins

Mixed Doubles Champions - Rebecca Edwins and Jeremy Huntley

The Events Group were busy throughout this period making sure COVID guidelines were put in place in order to hold these events.

Baz Wingman

Events Group Chair

COACHING

The past and current year has been a very difficult time for us all in our opportunities to enjoy playing petanque as a sport.

The same can be said about our planned coaching and development programmes, be that at club, regional or national levels. When and where it has been possible, it required structured control and application to the guidelines protocols that our organisation adopted and issued at all levels.

Whilst the main thrust of our coaching has been affected, it does not mean the coaching commission has been locked away from being active. As such I can report on the following:

Club Coach. Category 1.

Our current qualified Club Coach number @ 121 * Please see comment below.

Additional club coach courses proposed during 2020/21 had to be cancelled, as the circumstance change, we look to resume the opportunity during the latter of this summer period.

Advance Club Coach. Category 2.

Two Advance Club Coach workshops had been set to take place, but again these had to be cancelled, though it is likely they will proceed again later in 2021.

Current qualified Advance Club Coach number @ 12.

County Coach. Category 3.

Current qualified 1. Plus 2 in primary stages

This comprehensive coaching course was hopefully being launched formally during the 2020 Autumn period but fell to the same problems of restrictions. However, we look to its launch possibly in this autumn 2021.

It should be clearly understood that this course is a major step forward in our coaching structure as it includes a high number of modules and participations that will need to be fully completed, requiring the course duration to be taken over many months, in addition of having a role application that will be beyond just its county title.

Confederation de European Petanque. C.E.P. Coaching Course.

As previously reported, during 2019, 2 executive members attended the CEP European Coaching Diploma Course (part 1) in Luxembourg. The second attendance part, which was due to complete in early 2020, had to be cancelled and has been put back until possibly 2022 when hopefully it will re- commence.

Coaching DBS certificate renewal.

During 2020 to current date, we have completed some 61 DBS clearance certificated and PE Coaching Licence renewals. During the remainder of 2021 there will be others who will reach their expiry date, so the process will continue as the wheels of administration turn.

It is rather disappointing that there has been a low number who, since 2018/19 have failed to renew their DBS requirements and have since lost their qualification. This is despite regular reminders being sent and whilst appreciating the current Covid-19 restriction.

** Over the year a small number (8) qualified club coaches have decided, due to various circumstances not to renew their DBS and coaching licence. We wish them well and thank them for their contribution.*

Even though as expected, there will be high`s and low`s in the number of qualified club coaches, the overall trend is very encouraging, as we continue to create a positive structure that is available to all ages, gender`s and levels.

However, it is still important that the quality of our coaching is maintained and recorded if we are to make further impact on our overall playing performance. The introduction of assessments and participant feedback are key areas to future success.

Whilst the commissions executives were able to converse and submit a 2020 end of year report the annual commission members meeting was unable to take place. However, it is envisaged that a 2021 annual meeting will be arranged for late autumn.

Colin. Roper

Coaching Commission Chair.

UMPIRING

The Umpiring Commission consists of every qualified umpire in England. At our first Commission meeting for the year, Gareth Sullivan was appointed Chair and John Edmondson, Kevin Moss, Bob Parker, Mike Pegg, and John Thatcher as the Commissions Executive.

Unfortunately, a few months later due to issues he was having within the board, Gareth decided he had no choice other than to resign from his position. A second full commission meeting was called at which Mike was appointed to the chair with Gareth moving to the Executive.

The Commission have provided umpires for each of the national events held since the 2020 AGM. The new FIPJP rules for our sport, issued in December 2020 may have caught a few players out at the first few competitions, but during these early days our umpires were on hand to explain, rather than to impose penalties and so, the adjustment at a national level to the new rules was relatively quick.

Although the pandemic has prevented holding umpiring courses and exams these past months, the budget restrictions imposed on our discipline have had a greater affect forcing a rethink into how we can provide suitable training for candidates and existing umpires for the future.

It has always been the expectation of our governing body that recruitment and training of umpires should begin with the various regions, but very few, perhaps one, has taken up this challenge.

We have produced and issued a new accreditation scheme, which makes the regions participation much clearer, and we hope will go towards providing a stronger platform for each candidate to begin their career in umpiring or for existing umpires to further theirs.

However, there remains one thing this commission cannot do, and that it is to provide each candidate and umpire with the experience they need, should they wish to progress beyond the level of Club umpire.

Umpires need to exercise their skills just as players practice theirs – to do this, umpires need to be appointed to competitions so they may improve and gain experience. There are plenty of events held at club and regional level, but very few clubs or regions bother to seek the services of an umpire.

We all want our sport and its governance to improve, so this part of our sport is appealing to you, the regions, clubs and members - help us improve umpiring by asking the commission to appoint an umpire for your event.

For further details regarding courses, exams or umpire appointment, please email umpiring@petanque-england.uk

Mike Pegg

Umpiring Commission Chair

NATIONAL YOUTH ACADEMY

2020

2020 was a very difficult year for the NYA, we held our Annual Open Coaching session in May which was attended by coaches Toni Gates, Scott Ashby, Keith Flack, Phil boarder, Brian Stote, Joe Sheffield, Kath Knight & Chris Garrett and 26 juniors ranging in age from 7yrs to 17yrs old. The day consisted of various skills tasks and supervised gameplay.

Sadly, shortly after the coaching day the Covid-19 Pandemic took hold and our Junior Open Singles Championship with 25 entries had to be cancelled.

The NYA work then moved virtually through Facebook and Zoom, We were lucky enough in October to hold our Junior Open Doubles Championships. 12 juniors entered this competition, quite a drop in numbers from previous years but considering the pandemic we were pleased with this attendance. Winners, JJay Inkley and Baillie Inglis

Despite 2020 being a very challenging year much has been achieved by virtual means and much more individual time has been given to each player. Once life returns to 'normal' we will continue to carry out some of our work using zoom.

2021

The NYA made the decision to cancel all early events due to covid-19, in many ways 2021 has been harder than the previous year.

Kath Knight as lead of the National Development programme, along with her coaching team compiled a coach resource booklet for regions and coaches promoting and supporting working with junior players. This has been extremely well received.

The NYA will discuss with the board the feasibility of now attending the World Championships as finances, location venue having been changed and the pandemic continues to change.

The NYA are holding their Singles and precision shooting Championships in October.

Plans are already underway for the 2022 season and, we are hoping for a more normal season so youth players can once again fully embrace the sport.

Toni Gates.

NYA Lead Coach

SPORT DEVELOPMENT GROUP

It has been a disappointing 18 months that the group has been in operation. Most of the projects we had in hand have had to be mothballed, due to the effects of the pandemic. We are beginning to rise like a phoenix out of the ashes, so watch this space.

Ray Keemer -Richards

Sport Development Group Chair

EURO CUP 2020/21

Due to the Covid 19 pandemic, the 2019/20 tournament had to be suspended and it was decided that this be continued to form the 2020/21 competition.

This reached the semi- final stage with sixteen teams still in contention. These were drawn into four groups:

Group A - Feering Bell, Arena, Goldsmiths and London 1

Group B – Cobbetts 2, Duke of Wellington Grenadiers, Fareham Conifers and River Hamble

Group C – Baldock Town, The Bob Carter Centre, London 2 and Solihull Swifts

Group D – Bath Sporting Cocks, Manston, Meadow and City of Bath

Goldsmiths, Solihull Swifts and City of Bath withdrew from the competition before the semi- finals were played.

The Semi- finals were played at three venues on Sunday 4th July with London 1, River Hamble, Baldock Town and Meadow winning their groups and qualifying for the final.

Feering Bell, Cobbetts 2, London 2 and Bath Sporting Cocks were group runners up and therefore will contest the PE Trophy final.

The plate competition also reached the semi- final stage with Nottingham City, Hereford 2, Crowborough and Railway Inn making it to the final.

The finals of the PE Trophy and the Plate competition will be held at Leicester on Sunday 22nd August

The final of the main competition will also be held at Leicester over the weekend of the 21st and 22nd August, the winners of which will be invited to represent England in the European Cup Finals to be held in Early December.

Alan Roden

PE Euro Cup Organiser.

NATIONAL PERFORMANCE PANEL

Due to the covid pandemic many of the FIPJP and CEP International Tournaments in 2020 that our national team were likely to participate in, were cancelled or postponed till the 2021. Unfortunately, this has proved to be just as difficult to arrange with the CEP European tournaments re programmed possibly for the summer or later in the year, but finally being cancelled. Though currently the FIPJP in their wisdom, have suddenly announced they would consider the possibility of holding a World Championship for Senior Men, Women and Juniors in November and to be held in Spain. Currently they are attempting to clarify which countries would consider participation. Unfortunately for our Espoir group who having applied themselves to their squad training days in April and May in preparation for their CEP tournament in October, will now have to wait for an opportunity in 2022. The same situation being applied to our Veteran`s group to whom they participate on a Bi – Annual ratio.

On the home front for the National Performance Panel, it has been a period of robust deliberation on various matters including financial budgets, lead roles team selections and possibly a restructuring in the function of the performance panel. One provision that has resulted, is providing from 2022 a safe passage for younger player to experience the opportunities of participating in senior UK ranked competitions, though subject to appraisal by the relevant group coach`s involved.

Colin Roper

Acting VP/ President.