

CANDIDATES' PROFILE STATEMENTS

PRESIDENT NOMINATIONS



DAVID MASON

Age - 73

Occupation - Retired

Region - Heart of England

Nominated by David Baxter

It is with some trepidation that I offer myself for election as President.

My career, for thirteen years I was the Director of a large social services department, then worked for over the years as a governance consultant; I am now retired and have time to carry out this very important role.

I started to play pétanque in Warwickshire in 1991 and have, thanks to great partners played for GB in the old North Sea and Home Nations. I work regularly as a coach, especially with our espoirs, and from time to time both organise and umpire events.

As well as working in both club and regional committees, for several years I have been a Director of PE, with responsibility for events. My service on the Board equips me to understand the challenges and opportunities faced by PE



CLIVE DE SILVA

Age – 53

Occupation – Electrician

Region – Great Western

Nominated by Christine Spray

Hello members, my name is Clive De Silva. I am 53 years of age and am currently the Lead Member for the Petanque England Veteran Section. I am feeling excited about putting in this application to become the President of Petanque England.

I was born in Bath and have lived there all my life. I started playing pétanque competitively in 2010 and have represented Great Western Region on numerous occasions. I have been a PE Board member since 2019 so I have seen how PE operates behind the scenes. Our current President, Martin Eggleton, has done outstanding work to move our association forward and I hope to carry on with this work whilst bringing my own ideas to the board.

I am very confident in organising and developing ideas along with listening to others and helping them to achieve their goals.

Thank you for reading my statement and if elected I will promise to be fair to all, to listen and communicate with the membership and to ensure that any decisions made will be for the benefit of the members of Petanque England.

DIRECTOR NOMINATIONS



MATT BLYTON

Age – 54

**Occupation – Senior
Education Advisor**

Region - London

Nominated by Chris Kitson

In 1980, I entered my first pétanque competition, a large annual indoor event at Towerlands Equestrian Centre, Braintree. I was hooked and have been a licence holder ever since.

The sport has given me many special memories and friendships across the world. I am keen to give something back. In 2013, I helped establish the first National Junior Squad which I supported for six years. Prior to that I held Northern regional and national (Singapore) coaching positions. I have also had considerable experience playing and coaching at an international level, whilst also establishing many local clubs over the years. I am now keen to join the PE Board to support the sport's further growth and development nationally

Working in education, I have been a teacher and school leader for 16 years and since 2004 have been a school advisor, both for MoD and now for North Yorkshire County Council. As a public servant, I therefore uphold the Nolan Principles which include key qualities of acting with the highest standards of impartiality, integrity and objectivity. I regularly support school Governing Boards, sit on a military charity's steering group and have relevant skills in project management, quality assurance and financial oversight.



TONI GATES

Age - 52

Occupation - Hairdresser

Region - Chiltern

Nominated by David Baxter

I am a member of Chiltern Region and in the past held a position on the region's committee. I have been playing pétanque for over 15 years. I work as a hairdresser and my hobbies include arts/crafts, car shows and quiz nights.

I have been involved in working with the national juniors for around 4 years, working now as the lead coach for the National Youth Academy overseeing all our national youth work ranging from event organisation, coaching, planning international trips, ordering kit and chiring meetings with our training team. We have over the last few years built on work previously done and now have a strong and effective structure that covers youth players from entry level through to championship level working on mental and technical strength. I believe the skills and knowledge I use within the NYA would give a fresh and committed approach to the board



PETER HARDY

Age - 70

Occupation - Retired

Region - Anglia

Nominated by Anne Hardy

I have played pétanque in Anglia Region for thirty-five years and have been involved in the administration of the sport at all levels throughout this period.

I was Treasurer of Norfolk County Petanque Association, then Chairman for eleven years and am now a vice president. I was Anglia Regional Umpire for five years then Regional Treasurer for a further five years until November 2019. I am now Regional Umpire again due to a lack of qualified individuals. I have been an umpire for twenty-five years.

I was an actuary by profession and retired from Norwich Union as Pensions Director. I am familiar with corporate matters and with the duties and responsibilities of a director of Petanque England.

My focus will be threefold: Firstly, to help increase the membership of PE, Secondly, to assist the Umpire's Commission develop greater interest in and commitment to umpiring and Thirdly, with my finance background, I can play an important role supporting the Treasurer and helping to ensure that PE is run efficiently and effectively.

No-one from Anglia has ever been involved in the administration of the sport at national level. Members may feel it beneficial to cast the net wider to achieve a diverse board.



JANICE KEEMER-RICHARDS

Age - 68

Occupation - Retired

Region - Kent

Nominated by Ray Keemer-Richards

I originally started playing pétanque when my sister was short of a player for their team, The Luddesdowne Cocks, more than 14 years ago. What seemed to me, then, a silly game of throwing metal 'balls' at a tiny wooden 'ball', has now become a big part of my life! I am now retired but was for 12 years a TA in a primary school. I am now, and have been for the past 10 years, a volunteer TA, working at St. Nicholas CoE School in Strood, Kent near where I live. Enjoying the teaching side of things, I decided to train as a Club Coach, and have enjoyed coaching the Kent Juniors on a regular basis. As a result, I have watched them blossom into players to be reckoned with. They have progressed beyond belief and are now a part of the NYA, being coached under the watchful eye of Toni Gates and her team, who do a fantastic job! I consider myself a fair player, having one England cap under my belt. I was very proud to represent England in Maaseik, Belgium in 2018. A very humbling and enjoyable experience, and something I had never done before. As I have said, Pétanque is a big part of my life and enjoy playing at least three times a week, plus any competitions at weekends. In the summer evenings we have a team practise at The Railway Inn, Tuesday Club and then league on a Wednesday. I have played and was going to play this season in the East Kent Coastal League, and I am also a regular player in the Kent League, Team Captain of the Railway Roosters. I have served on both Committees. Secretary of the EKCL and Youth Development Officer on the Kent Committee.

I look forward to working with the PE Board striving to do the best we can for all our members.



ALAN RODEN

Age - 69

Occupation - Retired

Region - Chiltern

Nominated by the Board

I first discovered the sport of pétanque at the age of 48 in 1999 and my biggest regret is that I joined the fold so late in life. I joined my local club in Luton and soon became a regular player in their 'A' team and became captain of the team soon afterwards. I became Club secretary in 2002 and have held that position ever since.

I became a member of the Chiltern Regional committee in 2003 and was appointed Regional team manager, a position that I continue to hold.

In 2014, I joined the EPA Management Committee and took over the organisation of the Euro Cup two years later a task that I continue to perform as a Board member for Petanque England.

I will support all initiatives to increase the communication between the board and the members and to further democratise the organisation.

I also support the current squad system for our international teams as the professional way of ensuring that we have the best possible chance of success in the European and World championships.

I would like to continue to serve this great sport that has given me so much pleasure in the last 20 years and offer myself to be considered as an P.E. Board member.



CHRISTINE SPRAY

Age - 57

Occupation - Doctor

Region – Great Western Region

Nominated by Clive de Silva

Dear members, my name is Christine Spray and I work for the NHS as a Paediatric Consultant specialising in gastroenterology, hepatology and nutrition at the Bristol Children's Hospital

I have been playing pétanque for 10 years and play for the Great Western Region

I am keen to have a position on the PE Board as a director as I want to make a difference to our fantastic sport

I would like to bring together our female members in all categories and regions and represent the views of our female members at board level

I have worked in numerous situations involving high profile board meetings with the NHS and believe I can make a beneficial contribution to Petanque England.

If elected to the board I will endeavour to work for the whole membership to the best of my abilities



BARRY WING

Age - 52

Occupation – Digital Consultant

Region - London

Nominated by Michael Cubitt

I would like to put myself forward to be a director of PE as I feel I have the right attributes to help steer the company in a positive way for the sport.

Some of my skills are playing at the top level, coaching and promoting.

I was a member of the team which represented GB in many World Championships and the North Sea Tournaments between 1990-2000. I have also been involved in many international projects including London v New York, and Saint Avertin v London. As head of recruitment for the London Petanque Championship, I succeeded in recruiting 64 teams for the 2018 event and 143 triples in 2019. In addition to this, I was also involved in organising sponsors, vendors, etc, which gave the security to enable London to increase its prizes year on year to £11,200 in 2020!

I am currently working on many other projects to help raise the profile of our sport such as a coaching academy and a boot camp idea with many of the World Champions I have built relationships with such as Damien Hurreau, Dylan Rocher. Phillipe Suchaud who are keen to come and coach our players should they have free time to do so in their busy schedules.

My passion is evident on social media for all to see and I hope that I am elected by the Members so I can use my vision to create more opportunities for us all as players.