



Pétanque England Membership Survey 2020

1 Introduction

We had been aiming to break even in our spending but in recent years we have seen successively increasing deficits that we cannot continue to sustain. We therefore need to take a hard look at all aspects of our finances. Before we draw up our 2021 budget we want to hear your views and ideas on sources of income and what we should be spending it on.

Please read through this document and then respond freely or follow the guidance on topics in section 3 below or give us your opinion on certain topics via our [online survey](#).

To inform your thinking here is a summary of the relevant numbers from 2019. (You can get more detail from the accounts posted on our website) [link](#)

Income. Our Total income was £79,500

Membership and club fees	Competition Entries	Player contributions	Sponsorship and donations
£64,500	£8000	£4000	£3000

(amounts rounded to nearest £500)

Expenditure

Our Total Expenditure was £90,300 as follows on three broad core areas;

£28,500 to run PE, i.e.

admin	coaching	umpiring	insurance	affiliation fees
£11900	£3100	£4000	£8400	£1200

(amounts rounded to nearest £100)

£14,300 Domestic Playing .i.e. Titles events, qualifiers, CoC, Inter-regionals, Home Nations

Organisers and event expenses	Trophies & Shirts	Prizes	Home Nations and Eurocup
£2800	£3000	£4000	£4500

(amounts rounded to nearest £100)

£47,500 To fund squads and international teams.

Junior U18	Espoirs 18-23	Senior Women	Senior Men	Veterans 55+
£12,600	£6900	£12600	£9100	£6300

Note that the variation in support for each group is a reflection of the costs not the result of favouring one group over another. In summary our 2019 costs were;

Running PE	32%
Domestic Play	16%
Squads and International	52%

Question. How have we arrived at this allocation of funds?

Answer. In the past we have endeavoured to provide funding to send the best English team that we can to all the official World (FIPJP) and European (CEP) International Championships to which we have been invited or qualified.

However, the international scene at both European and World levels has increased over the years from 2 to the current 7 and soon to be 8 with Juniors splitting to boys and girls categories and so the proportion spent has changed commensurate with that. However, the level of financial support required varies from year to year depending on the charges made to us by the host country/federation as well as the distances travelled.

Our financial support for our international teams varies in age terms. We fully fund our Youth, we now ask for a £150 per player contribution from our Espoirs and £250 per player from our Senior Women, Senior Men and Veterans.

It is clear that without additional income we cannot continue the level of funding that we have traditionally supplied.

If we cannot give financial support to all our teams on the traditional basis it begs the natural question "How should we fairly allocate our financial support?"

The PE Board would be very interested to hear our members' views on this assuming our current financial constraints, but also on how income might be increased to fund this particular area of our activity.

In looking at the big picture, it might be that our members see a case for a different set of priorities for our spending which would necessitate a different allocation of funds between the three core spending areas of running PE, domestic playing and international playing.

There may well be new areas of activity that PE does not fund nationally at present and which in the opinion of our members merits serious consideration. It would be very good for the PE Board to hear from members what new priorities for funding should be considered. In setting the 2021 Budget and beyond. The PE Board wants to approach all possibilities with an open mind, assessing them on a level playing field to decide what brings the most overall benefits and value to our sport as a whole.

2 Consultation Process

Our objective is to complete the consultation in time to form a policy that will guide us in our 2021 programme. It is being led by new President Clive de Silva and run by PE Board members, David Baxter, Cary Bush, Martin Hughes.

We are starting now and hope to conclude by October, so we can inform our 2021 Budget-making process. The closing date for this first stage is July 3rd. We will also be carrying out a separate exercise later this summer on PE's domestic and international playing

programme which will form part of the overall review process for 2021. If you have views on this now, please feel free to provide them, but there will be a more focussed opportunity to do so in due course.

All feedback we receive will be considered carefully and we will publish our response and explain how the Board intends to structure its 2021 Budget as a result. PE Board Members are ultimately accountable and responsible for the income and expenditure of the company.

3 How to give your feedback

Some people like to respond to this sort of request by answering specific questions others like to just write up their ideas on some or all aspects of the issues we are facing.

If you prefer to fill in a structured online survey, then we have framed some more structured questions around a number of key issues. Please go to this internet [link](#) to complete the online survey.

If you prefer just to give us your written views, then please do so. We want to give our members as open an opportunity as possible to give us their views and we have set out below three key topics you might like to think about.

Please don't feel that you should confine your views to the items shown under these topics or try and attempt to answer all of them. You might just have a view on one item or a few items. You may have a burning issue which is not mentioned at all below - it's really up to you to decide how you would like to respond.

Topic 1: Funding our sport

We can try and make do with the current sources of income or we can take active steps to improve our finances. If we can't increase our income, we will have to make difficult choices between the core PE areas of Administration, National Playing and International Playing. Please give us your thoughts on the following:

- The level of our membership fees – about right, too low, too high?
- Tiered membership fees – lower at club level, highest at international level?
- National competition entry fees – should they be increased and applied to fund playing development/international costs?
- Cash prizes for national competitions – for some, for all or not at all?
- Fundraising and sponsorship – practical ideas/suggestions?
- Any other ideas/options how costs could be reduced/income increased?

Topic 2: Playing our sport at home

In giving us your views on these items, you may wish to tell us what you think our funding priorities should be and/or give us your ideas:

- Changes or improvements to the Inter-Regional Championships?
- Changes or additions to national Singles, Doubles, Mixed Doubles and Triples competitions and the operation of our National Rankings?
- Investment in an indoor pétanque facility?

- EuroCup – changes or improvements and PE funding for the champion club at international stage?
- New initiatives for national based club competitions?
- PE's involvement in the Home Nations Championship including funding of players and kit?
- National youth development?
- Espoirs (18-23 years old) development and support?
- Increasing the participation of women?
- Opportunities for our veteran players (55+)
- Support for grass roots development of the sport?
- Coaching – expanding the number of coaches and developing new coaching programmes?
- Umpiring – expanding the number of umpires and developing our existing umpires?
- Benefits to members either existing (e.g. insurance) or new?
- Potential activities in schools to promote the sport?
- Any other ideas/options how costs could be reduced/income increased in playing our sport at home?

Topic 3: Playing our sport internationally

In giving us your views here, it is important to recognise that official England representational opportunities have increased and this has meant a much higher financial burden. This is not sustainable long-term without increased income or by cutting other PE activities to make up the shortfall which members would not wish to support because they see them as a greater priority. Some options you may wish to think about:

- A set sum for all international funding each year evenly split between categories?
- Different levels of funding based on an assessment of the competitiveness of English teams in their respective categories?
- 100% PE funding of our young players to play internationally – essential or needs to be re-thought?
- Prioritisation of funding for certain international tournaments – which ones?
- Are there FIPJP/CEP tournaments where our players should not be financially supported at all regardless?
- Increased player contributions (all categories)?
- Sponsorship opportunities?
- Kit – partially or fully funded by players?
- Implications good or bad for the sport if the result of decreasing or removing funding meant that our country was not represented at major FIPJP/CEP tournaments?
- Any other practical ideas/options on how costs could be reduced/income increased in playing our sport internationally?

Please send us your feedback by email or complete the [online survey](#) by 3rd July 2020.

Please email your responses to David Baxter admin@petanque-england.uk

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