

Pétanque- England Annual general meeting 10th December 2022.

Acting/ Interim Presidents Introduction and annual report.

Summary Report.

The annual Presidents report presented to the membership at an AGM, is an opportunity to record and reflect on the differing functions of the sport`s governing body for England and its activities.

The resignations of two elected national presidents during 2021/22 has twice required the provision of an acting /interim President to oversee the governance and operations of our organisation and has regrettably given the incorrect impression of a non-functioning PE Board.

During these periods it became evident that there were noticeable issues within our Governance Documentation, Articles of Association that needed to be addressed and would require knowledgeable application from those within the Board of Directors or by suitable external professional personal to rectify or amended to suit.

The Disciplinary and Safeguarding requirements of key roles were accomplished with the appointments of a Chair of Resolutions dealing with members complaints and National Safeguarding Officer to oversee the implementation of our Safeguarding policy.

Whilst we have enjoyed greater performances and rewards from our participation at European International tournaments this year, it is also at club and regional levels we need to see development and progress that is sustainable. To do so will require greater positive inputs not only from our members, but possibly with assistance from external professional bodies.

Report 2022.

National events.

The organisations 2022 playing activities would be centred around the annual National Playing Calendar and to meet that challenge and needs, would fall upon the new Chair of Events and team to ensure that these events functioned as effectively as possible with the venue hosts.

Our thanks go to Ferndown PC, Leicester PC, Luton PC, Nottingham PC, Bury St Edmunds PC Worthing PC all who with the Events group, hosted and organised the 2022 national events.

Also, thanks to the regional clubs who organise regular major competitions for our members.

A comprehensive list of winners and runner up are available via the separate reports.

One of the highlights of the national calendar is the **Inter-Regional Championship** and **Challenge** weekend.

Whilst the 2021 Inter-regional at Melton Mowbray was to a degree successful, due the efforts of the events group, it did have drawbacks with an extra financial cost to the members and organisation.

It was therefore important that our organisation looked to re-establish a main centre which would serve all our overall needs as previously enjoyed.

It should be noted that over the past years, the governing body has continued to look for suitable venues that would meet those overall needs and at a financial cost that was acceptable to our membership. Unfortunately, despite recommendation or approaches, it has not to date become a reality.

With the established association with Isle of Wight Tours, we again considered the venue at Pontins Holiday Centre in Lowestoft Suffolk for 2022. Following visits early in the year to the venue with IOW Tours, the Board of Directors were in position to consider the venue as a future location.

One key point was to ensure that any such future contract would not put the Petanque England at risk financially over a set period. This was achieved by the engaged services of specialist solicitor(s) to produce a 3- year contract that would serve its purpose and to the satisfaction of both companies.

The 2022 Inter-regional. (A Post Review)

As with any first year at a new venue, even with the best of pre- planning regarding the facilities or competition over the weekend, there are always issues and problems that manifest themselves that require remedies or actions.

Some issues came about simply due to communications at the venue not being fully understood, made clear enough or misunderstood as to the challenges that were going to be required or by members not themselves following advice given.

These important issues have since been raised at the post Inter-Region meetings by the PE Directors / Tournament Organisers with the I-O-W tours and the venue host, to ensure they are rectified and that the improvements are implemented for the future.

Our great thanks must go to those few PE members, together with the IOW staff, who volunteered their services to prepare and ensure the playing terrains frameworks were laid out and strung for the competitions to take place and who again, made themselves available on the Monday, to dismantle all the two playing areas after the event.

Report continued.

As the new year progressed, the PE Board of Directors accepted the retirement of the National Company Secretary who also held the role of Disciplinary officer. The primary role was passed onto the National Treasurer, whilst the latter Disciplinary role, was redirected to the national Vice-President.

The Disciplinary file revealed that it contained a total of twenty-three different complaints plus another twelve awaiting further consideration or action. Sadly, a high number of these complaints were linked to social media comments or counter comments between members.

Regrettably, it can only be assumed that a culture has gradually emerged over recent years, that it is ok to use social media as a negative tool. Accepting that constructive comments are always worthy for consideration, unwanted and not thought- out social media comments are not helpful, more so when they are aimed at, not only other members, but those who unconditionally volunteer their services to the betterment of our sport.

Not the best way in which to demonstrate good sporting behaviour to any Junior aged or potential new members, who are considering pétanque as a sport.

It prompts the thought, that it is time to re-read the Petanque England `Members Code of Conduct` before scribing or pursuing such behaviour.

Home Nations.

This year saw the return of the championship for the four National squads after a three-year gap. The honour of hosting was organised by our colleagues, the Scottish Pétanque Association (SPA) and held at the superb venue of Troon PC and Muir Rugby Club.

For the PE teams it was important to perform well as they were the current holders and were naturally keen to retain the title, which they did with aplomb.

This tournament still creates that magic and enjoyment of participation, in offering an opportunity to all members, to represent your country at international level within the British Isles.

The Home Nations championship 2023 host`s will be the turn of Pétanque England. The tournament will be held and hosted at the Whitnash Windmill Club in the Heart of England over the same corresponding weekend.

Internationals. A reflection.

Details on the senior participations are subject to a separate report.

During 2021 it had become accepted, that due to the overriding covid virus restrictions, any FIPJP World and CEP European tournaments were unlikely to take place. However, as circumstances changed, the possibility of participation become a reality and lead to PE sending teams of both Senior Men and Women and Juniors, to the World (Triples) Championships being held in mainland Spain during November.

May 2022.

The FIPJP World Men and Women Singles, Doubles, and mixed Doubles. This championship being held in Karlslunde Denmark.

The PE team delegation would be up against some of the best team players in the world of Petanque. Whilst again the individuals and doubles team put in some good performances, it lacked that final edge to push them on to the later stages of the championship.

June.2022

The CEP women Triples. Torrevieja, Spain.

The team of four and team coach were to make strong progress and only narrowly missing achieving further progression in the main championship. However, their performance in the Nations Cup led them to finish as the (Gold) medal winners.

July. 2022

The CEP Men and Women singles, Doubles and Mixed Doubles. S-Hertogenbosch, Holland.

The PE teams were well matched with their current and previous international knowledge together with a positive team ethos and spirit. The main aim for the five separate disciplines, was to achieve a top sixteen position across all prior to the next stage of the competition.

The Men and Women double teams progressed strongly with both reaching the championships Semi- Final and Final positions and achieving (Bronze and Silver) podium finishes respectively.

Oct 2022.

CEP Espoir and Junior triples. Majorca Spain.

This would be the first time that the CEP held a single gender Junior championship, to match that of the Espoir teams.

Whilst the Espoir`s men team would find it hard going against some of the stronger performing teams in their respective leagues, they eventually reached the semi- final of the Nations Cup, where they finished in a `Bronze` medal position.

In the Tir de Precision shooting event, Jason White completed well against top opposition and progressed to the semi-finals and ending with another credible `Bronze` medal position.

The Junior girl team worked hard to continue their progress in the main Championship and entered the championship final against Turkey, though despite best efforts they had to settle for the `Silver` medal position and a very creditable achievement for all their efforts.

Looking back at our performances over this past period, we have reached new heights of achievements in our international participations.

The key question now is, how best do we make use of that success in maintaining that level of performance, whilst using it in attracting new members to our sport and national organisation.

International Women day.

This is a group who are growing each year with many looking forward to enjoying their playing events. Many thanks to Hassi and her ladies who make this happen and continue to make this progress into a bigger attraction. Well, done.

Veterans.

Our Veterans events continued and would again attract increasing members during the year even though 2022 would not see an international take place. Our thanks go to Simon Bird for leading the group and to those venues who assisted in the opportunities of participation.

See separate Veterans report.

Euro Cup.

Another eagerly participated competition by club members. Our thanks go to Alan Rodin who has led on these events successfully and to River Hamble PC who went on to represent PE clubs at the recent International held in France.

See separate Euro cup report.

Nation Juniors.

Following a change in the management of the National Junior Academy, their activities and ongoing progress would need to be revalued and refocused. To assist, a Steering Committee involving members of the active Junior coaches and PE Board was formed to look at the operational alternatives which would simplify the logistics and function at regional levels.

This has taken time to come to fruition. However, following direct interest indicated by those regional qualified coaches willingness, a bases of cooperation in Junior multi regional centres has started to become a reality in preparation for year 2023. It is with confidence that each region together with the PE Board, will support this investment into the future of our juniors and sport.

Umpires Commission.

It is recommended that reading and digesting the separate report submitted by the Umpires Commission. It highlights important factors and the need for new qualified Umpires that are going to be required in the future from within the regions.

Coaching Commission.

The Club Coaching (Cat1) qualifications and Club Coach Advanced (Cat2) qualifications have taken place across some 11 regions. During 2023, it is expected that this level of qualification will continue, in addition to seeing participation in the higher levels of the category 3 course take place. It is also intended to review the quality of coaching at club levels is being maintained via assessments.

Report conclusion.

Our organisation has had to suffer many adjustments over the last few years and realisation that much will be needed to reach our intended goals. That can only be achieve with the cooperation of our members who see the broader vision of our sport and organisation and not from those who pursue a personal view or agenda.

As a final comment to this rather long report, my grateful thanks to those who continue to serve on the board of directors and those members who have continued to work in the background on our behalf.

Finally, as we are quickly approaching the season of good will, may I wish you a Merry Christmas and a healthy New Year to all and families.

Colin.

