



Welcome to our updated website and I would like to thank Mark Bell (Coach at Norfolk PC and supporter of juniors) for all the work he has put in to achieve this.

I took on the role of Petanque England (PE) Junior Lead in October 2023, having done the job unofficially earlier in the year. I decided to take the job because I was inspired by the quality of the youngsters playing at Pakefield in the Inter-Regionals, their enthusiasm, competitiveness and skill. They were a joy to be around, lots of laughter and fun, friendships made, the support they showed each other, we are privileged to have such a great bunch of kids playing our sport.

So what now. First let us nurture the skills and attitude of the juniors we currently have. Give them opportunities to progress and play at the highest level but also to maintain the fun and friendships they had at Pakefield. Then to work towards creating the next generation of young players so they can experience the exhilaration of playing well and winning and find the fun and friendships of the current mob!

So objectives for 2024. First recruit more juniors, schools, youth organisations, from our current players, the best recruiting officers are Mum's, Dad's, Grandparent's bringing along their young ones. Our current juniors, let me lay down a challenge to every junior in Petanque England, bring along one friend (two if you like) we will then work to engage them and keep them playing; a challenge to every club, introduce our sport to at least one youngster in the coming year, there is no excuse not to, every club could manage at least one. We then have to stimulate them into staying and wanting to progress as petanque players.

We must provide a framework of coaching and competition for our juniors. PE cannot be active in every youth club, or in every petanque club. Local clubs start the process, find 'em and start 'em off. Introduce the PE Skills award scheme, it is a challenge for the kids, they like that. Get them playing in local competitions, team them up with experienced players. Does your Region have a Junior Championship? If not, get them to start one – singles, doubles, triples, adult juniors; introduce them to your leagues, get them playing, that is the way they will learn and progress. Communicate with juniors@petanque-england.uk, get involved with PE we will try to help, advise and encourage.

So what events will we try to promote in 2024? In March there will be two coaching days, one in the Midlands and one in the South, why not the North? Tell us you have the young players and we will be with you. We are trying to organise a coaching weekend in Cherbourg and another with some of our national top players in Kent.

There will be PE Junior Championships for singles, doubles, triples, adult/juniors and shooting. We are looking at combining with the main PE titles weekend for some of them. We are entering teams in the Worthing Weekend of Petanque and the London Championships where they will play against some top players; we are hoping to have teams in the Home Nations Championships, this year in Jersey. We will be sending a boys and girls team to the European Junior Championships in Spain, note the date 3-6.10.24.

A lot to do, we might not make everything but it will not be for the lack of effort I assure you.

We need support from coaches and top players nationwide. So many of you have had great pleasure and success from our sport, now give a little back and support our kids, please.

Any comments? If you feel you can assist please contact juniors@petanque-england.uk. We will respond.

Thankyou and best wishes - Chris Chubb, PE Junior Lead.