

Presidents Report

Pétanque England Annual General meeting 10th February 2024.

Each new year will bring with it, the high and lows of challenges as for any sporting organisation and for Pétanque England, the past year has been very much of the same, with those challenges having to be addressed by its governing body, the Board of Directors, Board Members and PE Supporting officers, all who have volunteered their time and application on behalf of all its members.

This report therefore is a reflection on the activities and actions that has occupied its governing body and various departmental sections.

Membership.

At the beginning of the year, following the proposals at the 2022 AGM of implementing a tiered membership, a dedicated panel of regional presidents, led by SCPA President Stephen Lombard was established, who with other regional presidents, were given the task and remit of exploring the feasibility of introducing such an additional (low cost) membership, that would attract strictly new members to our sport by registration with Pétanque England.

As with any such task, it took time, meetings, and compilation before being in a position of submitting their recommendations to the PE governing body Board of Directors for approval and implementation.

As a result, PE Club only membership was introduced but was being restricted to those persons, who were new to Pétanque England and who had, never held a previous PE membership. This singular PE Club membership would also have the caveats that restricted their playing to Club only and not allowing participation in formal Regional or National, including International, tournaments, nor having voting rights.

Whilst its introduction has only been available for six months, it has already resulted in the registration of one hundred new PE members and four (4) new registered club`s with positive indications that of others are will be increasing those numbers in the forthcoming future.

Junior Review.

Over the last year, the focus of our junior players has seen a gradual but positive development in establishing a new Junior multi regional structure. This ongoing progress has been enhanced by its lead management role being filled by Chris Chubb with additional assistance from other regional associates and support. Another development is in that they now have their own junior news- letter page within the main PE web site, acting as an additional mode of communication for all national juniors.

The support and encouragement given to our junior players by our membership is never under-valued as demonstrated by those who did so at the 2023 Inter-regional tournament and, who have since offered individual club venues in support of their forthcoming 2024 Junior programmed events.

Please read the Junior report submitted separately.

Complaints and disciplinary.

During the year it was considered that a complete review of our existing companies `Complaint and Disciplinary Process and Procedures` would be required to ensure that as such, it met current and future requirements within our sport and company.

A considerable undertaking, which took time and application in requiring specific and external advice on its correct and effective structure. The completion of this task in conducting the review and submitting its proposals was by engagement of a past PE/EPA President.

The review and renewed structure being now completed which following submission and approval, an announcement on its application, structure and operation will be made shortly.

Pétanque England National Tournaments.

As previously the 2023 playing events centred on the national playing calendar programme which were organised by the PE Events group ensuring they all functioned effectively as possible with the venue hosts.

Thanks go as always to those regional clubs and members who helped to organise and host the events.

The Chair of Events report will be available separately which will offer more detail on the event tournaments that our members attended.

Home Nations 2023.

Pétanque England had the honour of hosting the 2023 Home Nations championship and invited the participating team squads from our fellow Pétanque associations of Jersey, Scotland and Wales. The event being held at the Whitnash Windmill Pétanque Club and Social Club in Royal Leamington Spa, during August.

As in being the current holders of the championship, it was naturally important that our teams performed well on home turf. Our teams did not disappoint, as over the two-day event, they all went about their task with gusto and winning by a considerable margin.

As spoken about afterwards by each nation, it is an actual event that is the winner as all enjoyed the experience of participating and having the honour of representing your home country at the Championship.

Thank go to the Whitnash Windmill PC members who put on a commendable experience for all and to our officials who either controlled or umpired the tournament and to those PE members who conducted streaming of the event.

Next year 2024 the host will be the Jersey Pétanque Association and due to be held in early August.

Inter-regional Tournament 2023.

Much has been spoken about the previous years 2022 Inter- Regional tournament that was held at the Pontins Holiday Park, Pakefield venue. As already reported, the PE Board of Directors held meetings with Isle of Wight Tours and Pontins venue management to discuss and overcome the various issues that had arisen and concerning.

As a result of those meeting, it is pleasing to report that the experience had by those who participated in the 2023 Inter-Regional tournament, was very much in the positive and a reward for those endeavours. Even the weather was enjoyable on the first day though it reverted to type on the second day.

Whilst excepting there were minor problems to address and overcome for the future, overall though it now represents an enjoyable and attractive national event for our members to qualify for.

2023 Internationals.

Our international participations during the past year were much lower than that of the previous year. The main participation being for the Senior men and Veterans teams who both participated in the CEP championships held in Albertville, France and the senior women who would participate in the FIPJP world championship in Bangkok, Thailand.

The PE Veterans team performance was of great interest having reached the latter stages of the championship tournament but then, they ran up against the national French veteran's team which all included past world champions.

The fact that the match went on for two hours testifies to the endurance and quality of our team's performance, so much so that, though they eventually lost, drew the plaudits of the opposition and media.

The PE Senior Men team followed on from the Veterans and continued with good performances which contributed to being in the latter stages of the main championship. Though they eventually failed to reach further into the tournament, their overall performance and final position, can be considered as an improvement, when set against previous years finishing positions.

The PE Senior Women team had to endure a long flight and the initial disappointment of poor allocated accommodation arranged by the Thai Pétanque Federation. Along with other participating countries they were able to find alternative accommodation to better suit their needs.

Taking that experience aside, their quest of performing to a high standard was equalized by even higher standards set by many of the Asian participating teams. Unperturbed the team put in good performances in the Nations Cup to reach the latter stages and hopes of a podium finish eventually dashed in being beaten by the Danish Women's team.

Our Junior and Espoir players were in transition therefore other than the Junior mixed team who participated in the Germain invitational international, none took part in any of the European or World Tournaments.

A separate report being submitted by the PE Juniors management is available.

It is anticipated that the forthcoming year 2024 will allow for these two groups to be a much more progressive in their development with the possibilities of future participation at CEP and other international tournaments.

International Women day (IWD).

It should be acknowledged that as in previous years, this groups development is in the positive of expanding and seen as important to our sports attraction and growth. Continue support and thanks is given to Hassi Leverett and her team, for the work they have committed themselves too and to the ladies who participated.

Umpires Commission.

The service provided by these resolute members, who volunteer their time to officiate and ensure fair play, whilst we as PE Members participate in playing at regional and national events, should always be acknowledged and appreciated.

It would fair to say not all our members are willing to take on such a role of responsibility, which is concerning, as the current number of qualified umpires within our sport is far less than desired.

This does prompt the question as to why there is a lack at regional or club level, in prompting encouragement and investment in having members of applying to become additional qualified and active umpires.

The Umpire Commissions formal report is separately available.

Coaching Commission.

The Coaching Commission qualification courses have continued in being an attraction to our membership. At the same time, PE Coaching licences and DBS certification renewals were applied for and processed with re activation.

During the past year, the total number of qualified Club Coaches (Category 1) has varied as some existing coaches reached their expiry and due to various situations, have not to renew but have been replaced with those, who have newly qualified.

The commission have received further application from various regional members, wishing to take the Club Coach (Cat 1) course which is further encouraging.

Currently the Coaching Commission can advertise, that we have 110 Qualified Club Coach (Cat 1) and 15 x Advanced Club Coach (Cat 2) plus 2 x County Coach (Cat 3 and 3A) throughout our regions.

It had been hoped during the past year, that opportunities for those Category 2 Advance Coaches wishing to take the Category 3 County coach courses would have evolved, but unfortunately due various circumstances that did not come to fruition, though it is intention to see this resolved together with the introduction of the bi-annual assessment of the quality of our club coaching.

Euro Club.

The eagerly participated Euro Club tournament attracted club teams from many regions. The eventual winners being the Meadow Petanque Club from Sittingbourne, Kent who went forward to represent PE during the later of 2023.

Whilst not reaching the finals, this being won by a European team, it demonstrated the willing ness of our clubs and players to enter such a competitive tournament.

As announced, PE Support Officer Alan Roden who for eight years has function in the role of PE Euro Club Cup organiser, has decided to take a step back. Our grateful thanks to Alan for such sterling service on behalf of PE and the membership.

A replacement for the role is now sort and enquires and application for the role, should be sent to the National Secretary and President.

Please also read the separate Euro Club report.

Report conclusion.

Whilst this report offers an overall insight of the past years playing activities it also highlights the requirements and actions of our sport`s governance in having to deal with various issues and adjustments, though not including unfortunate withdrawals of service, due to family circumstances, health issues or sadly, the passing of those who served our sport willingly in their voluntary capacity.

If we as a sport are to continue to develop and achieve our goals through positive application, then it will require further inclusion of members who are willing to serve broadly in that same voluntary manner without pursuing a personal agenda.

Finally, my grateful thanks to all those who have continued to serve either as Directors or Board Members and to those, who have served as in support on behalf of our membership.

Colin

Colin Roper.
President Pétanque England.

Directors Reports

Officers Reports

Euro Cup Report for the 2024 AGM

The 2022/23 competition had a total of 71 entries from 15 different regions and was won by Meadow PC over fellow finalists Baldock Town, London 1 and River Hamble.

The PE Trophy (Played for by teams finishing runners up in their semi final group), was won by Bargemans Rest PC over Railway Inn, Cobbetts 2 and London 2.

The plate (for teams eliminated during the first and second rounds) was won by Royal Wootton Bassett over Bat and Ball PC, Kings Head and Ravenshead.

The competition progressed fairly smoothly but some deadlines were breached with teams not arranging their matches. This caused a few problems and it was decided to strengthen the deadline dates for the 2023/24 competition to help prevent a repeat.

The current competition saw an increase in participation with 82 entries from 16 different regions.

The tournament has reached the end of round 2 with the plate draw to be made over the next few days. So far there have been no instances of matches not being completed in time.

Venues for the semi finals and the three finals will be determined when the make up of the participating teams are known.

As you may be aware, I will be stepping down as tournament organiser after this years final weekend and I wish my successor best wishes.

Alan Roden – PE Euro Cup Organiser.

Admin Support - Report of 2023 Activity

Officers David Baxter and Paul Leverett

Website Enquiry

Each website enquiry results in an initial response and typically between one and four follow ups

In 2023 this generated 315 email exchanges, so close to one a day. Many of these queries are from members of the public and of those about 2 per month are from people wanting advice on how to build a terrain, so plenty of new interest out there.

Website Maintenance

Regular updates throughout the year, not just the 80 pages and the National Calendar but the programmes that make it and the backing up for security.

The Membership Database

This has been the first full year of the new Sport:80 system. The key features are tighter privacy controls and GDPR compliance; an efficient card payment system; Automatic transfer of precepts into regional accounts that has saved hours of reconciliation work; An online support system that allows issues to be logged and queries tracked. 55 queries raised and solved.

For most of the year the lions share of this work was been done by Paul Leverett who I now miss every day.

Event Entry Administration

A new system using the Sport:80 database was introduced this year which has enabled us to link entrants to their PE membership so being assured of their validity and allowing payment through the member's Sport:80 account. This coming year I am linking the National Calendar that appears on the web page to the Sport:80 event entry so that information only has to be input once which eliminates the duplication of effort that used to be involved in publishing the national Calendar.

Membership Report

At the end of 2023 our membership position was;

Total 2645

Adult 2542 Honorary Life 22 Junior 80 Male 53 Female 27

Level : Competition 2454 Club 89

Gender: Male 1805 Female 814

REPORT TO PETANQUE ENGLAND AGM 10.2.24 - FROM C CHUBB, JUNIOR PE LEAD

- a) During most of 2023 I carried out this role unofficially. I was appointed as PE Junior Lead in early October 2023.
- b) Earlier in 2023, PE were invited by the German Petanque Federation to send a mixed team of juniors to an event in Saarbrücken, Germany on the 9/10 September, 2023. The hosts provided the arrangements and all accommodation free for the participants. The cost to PE was travelling.
- c) It was agreed with President Colin that PE should send a team. Jeremy Huntley agreed to attend as the team coach and to assist with selecting the team. We later co-opted Rachel Kelly (PE Espoir) to accompany the team as it would be mixed gender.
- d) The team was selected on 29.7.23 immediately after the PE Junior Singles Championships at Leicester. The selectors were Jeremy Huntley, Rachel Kelly and myself. The selected team was: Ella Slade (Sussex), Jane Geddes (Heart), Alex Moriarty (GWR) and Aimee Rickman (SCPA). Ella & Jane had been part of the PE Junior girls' team that was runner up in the European Junior Girls Championship, 2022, they had also won the PE Junior Doubles title; Alex Moriarty won the PE Junior Singles, Aimee Rickman was runner up.
- e) The final result was disappointing with our team only registering one a win. However they only lost 6-7 to the German team that was runner up and in their final match of the weekend beat the Czech Republic 12-6. Alex Moriarty was 8th in the first round of the precision shooting with 21 points, first was a player with 42. In the final the same player won with 28.
- f) PE held Junior Singles (Leicester) and Doubles (Oxshott) Championships in 2023, the results were: Singles – Winner Alex Moriarty (GWR), Runner up Aimee Rickman (SCPA); Doubles - Winners Jane Geddes (Heart) & Ella Slade (Chiltern), Runners up Alex Read & Matthew Butcher (SCPA), Alex Moriarty won the PE Junior Shooting title with Tristan Kunaka (SCPA) runner up.
- g) We also held two Multi Regional Coaching days one in the spring in Worthing and the second in the Autumn in Whitnash. Both were well attended by juniors and coaches alike.
- h) During 2023 two candidates passed their PE Skills Award at Green and three at Red level.

- i) We have a small but active group of juniors who show great potential to progress. The intention is to increase the amount of activity for them significantly during the coming year.

Umpiring Commission



AGM Report January 2024

PE Umpiring Commission Executive:

Mike Pegg (Chair), John Thatcher, Gareth Sullivan and Kevin Moss

Unfortunately, but as predicted, the Commission has struggled to provide umpires for each national event due to work, health issues or simply because we don't have anyone available or willing to attend the event. For the same reasons, we have not been able to organise a national umpiring course or exam in 2023.

Although we currently list nine active umpires on the petanque-england.uk website, it is fair to say that only three of these are available to officiate a national event, not nearly enough to cover all the national events on the calendar.

It has been suggested that we allow regions to have their own umpire accreditation system, but the recruitment and initial training of umpires has always been the responsibility of our regions, so we cannot see how this would change anything.

The umpire examination is organised by the Umpiring Commission to ensure consistency and fairness in qualification, but this does not prevent any region or club from asking for help or guidance with recruitment and training.

As far as we know, only one of our referees has organised a course in his region and rumour has it that another has officiated, albeit unofficially, at an event while on holiday overseas.

As well as candidates, we also need opportunities for them and existing umpires to gain more experience, something our two umpires John Edmondson and Gareth Sullivan would agree with after their experience of umpiring at a European Championship in Albertville, France.

Gareth and John also took the European umpire exam, unfortunately they did not reach the high standard set by the CEP to become a European umpire, but they came close and have been invited to retake the exam soon.

If your region or club has anyone, preferably under the age of 60, who is interested in becoming an umpire, please contact us.

We are in a difficult position - we need more umpires, umpires need competitions to improve their skills and gain experience, and you, our member, should expect your club and region to ensure that you have an umpire!

This situation will only improve unless we all work together!