



# Senior International Representation 2023





# International Representation – 2023

## Introduction

This report describes our participation and results in the 2023 international (FIPJP & CEP) season. It does not provide any detailed commentary on the technical, tactical or mental performance of players at the tournaments which is confidential to our coaches.

Since the 2022 Annual General Meeting of Pétanque England (PE) our Senior Men and Women have participated in the following international tournaments:

- The CEP Men's European Triples Championships in Albertville, France held between 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> September 2023; and
- The FIPJP World Triples Championship in Bangkok, Thailand held between 23<sup>rd</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

At the PE Board Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2023, following discussions between the Lead Member for Senior Men and National Coaches, it was decided not to participate in the FIPJP World Singles, Doubles and Mixed Doubles Championships in Cotonou, Benin scheduled for 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023 and the postponed FIPJP Men's World Triples Championships also in Cotonou, Benin to be held between 14<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

We regret very much that we had no real other option than to join many other sister federations in withdrawing as it is important that our talented players and coaches are given the best international playing opportunities.

We also recognise and support the principle of holding major championships in all parts of the world, but this does require that playing conditions, costs, security, health, diarisation of other international tournaments and other logistics are carefully assessed in the round. After careful consideration, unfortunately these did not work for us in Benin.



## Tournament by tournament

### Men's European Triples Championship, 21 – 24 September 2023 – Albertville, France

Team: Jason White, Scott Ashby, Dean Ashby and Reece Gould

Coach: Rowland Jones

Head of Delegation: Martin Hughes

#### Team selection

The team for this tournament was selected in line with the published 2023 Senior International Representation 2023-24 document (February 2023).

In the case of the Triples, three separate competition days were held which included the National Triples at Ferndown (27<sup>th</sup> May, 2023) and two further days at Worthing (24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2023). Points were allocated on the basis of the finishing positions in each day and were personal; there was no requirement to play in the same team on each competition day.

The document stated that for the triples ranking, those players ranked 1 to 3 would be selected for international representation in 2023 subject to them meeting the commitment and preparation requirements set by our National Coach. Those players ranked 4 to 6 would be considered for selection as the fourth member of the team.

The final rankings are shown in the table overleaf. After consideration by the National Coach as to which fourth player might be the best fit for the team, taking into account the assessed strengths and weaknesses of the top three ranked players, their established roles during the SSE process as well as previous international experience, it was decided to select Reece Gould.

### SSE TRIPLES - RANKINGS 2023 - MEN

| RANK | PLAYER      | SSE1 (T) | SSE2 (T) | SSE 3 (T) | TOTALS |
|------|-------------|----------|----------|-----------|--------|
| =1   | ASHBY D     | 30       | 30       | 24        | 84     |
| =1   | ASHBY S     | 30       | 30       | 24        | 84     |
| =1   | WHITE       | 30       | 30       | 24        | 84     |
| =4   | GOULD       | 24       | 24       | 30        | 78     |
| =4   | HUNTLEY     | 24       | 24       | 30        | 78     |
| =4   | WILLS       | 24       | 24       | 30        | 78     |
| =7   | LOMBARD     | 8        | 16       | 16        | 40     |
| =7   | PRENDERGAST | 8        | 16       | 16        | 40     |
| 9    | HOWARTH     | 1        | 16       | 16        | 33     |
| =10  | EVERSDEN    | 16       | 8        |           | 24     |
| =10  | JONES       | 16       | 8        |           | 24     |
| =10  | PLUMHOFF    | 16       | 8        |           | 24     |
| =13  | EDWINS      | 8        | 4        | 8         | 20     |
| =13  | WEBB        | 8        | 4        | 8         | 20     |
| =13  | WOODWARD    | 8        | 4        | 8         | 20     |
| =16  | BAXTER      | 8        |          |           | 8      |
| =16  | BELADACI    | 8        |          |           | 8      |
| =16  | BENARAB     | 8        |          |           | 8      |
| =16  | DAHMANI     | 8        |          |           | 8      |
| =16  | MEHDI       | 8        |          |           | 8      |
| =16  | SAOUT       | 8        |          |           | 8      |
| =16  | TOMBLESON   | 8        |          |           | 8      |
| =23  | INCE J      | 1        | 2        | 4         | 7      |
| =23  | INCE M      | 1        | 2        | 4         | 7      |
| =23  | INCE T      | 1        | 2        | 4         | 7      |
| =26  | ATKINSON    | 4        |          |           | 4      |
| =26  | HICKMAN     | 4        |          |           | 4      |
| =26  | MONK        |          | 4        |           | 4      |
| =26  | SHEFFIELD   |          | 4        |           | 4      |
| =26  | ZIMMERMAN   |          | 4        |           | 4      |
| =26  | WATKINS     | 4        |          |           | 4      |
| =32  | LENNE       | 2        |          |           | 2      |
| =32  | RANK        | 2        |          |           | 2      |
| =32  | SWIFT       | 2        |          |           | 2      |
| =35  | ANNANE      | 1        |          |           | 1      |
| =35  | BYROM       | 1        |          |           | 1      |
| =35  | CLARKE      | 1        |          |           | 1      |
| =35  | ELDRIDGE    | 1        |          |           | 1      |
| =35  | FISHER      | 1        |          |           | 1      |
| =35  | GOLDER      | 1        |          |           | 1      |
| =35  | HAMADAOU    | 1        |          |           | 1      |
| =35  | NURSER      | 1        |          |           | 1      |
| =35  | PLAISTOW    | 1        |          |           | 1      |
| =35  | SARKISSIAN  | 1        |          |           | 1      |
| =35  | SMITH       | 1        |          |           | 1      |
| =35  | STEWART     | 1        |          |           | 1      |
| =35  | SUNGU       | 1        |          |           | 1      |
| =35  | WELCH       | 1        |          |           | 1      |

As part of the preparation for the tournament, the Lead Member and National Coach arranged for the available members of the team (Dean, Jason and Reece) to play at an international weekend tournament in Holland at the PUK club, near Amsterdam. This was a competitive and useful preparation attracting high level players including the Dutch National Men's Triples team selected for the European Championships.



## Precision shooting

Jason White was selected to undertake the precision shooting and overall shot to a good standard. In the first round he achieved 31 points which placed him in 10<sup>th</sup> position. The score required to go straight through to the quarterfinals was 36 points.

In the repêchage Jason followed up with 26 points giving a total of 57 points. This placed him in 11<sup>th</sup> and missing out on qualification by 9 points.

Overall Jason threw the boule very well and although he felt he could have snuck into the Quarter Finals, he was very positive and was looking forward to the championship starting.

At the previous European Championships in Albena, Bulgaria (2019), Jason scored 21 points in the first round. This placed him joint 18<sup>th</sup>. He added 31 points in the repêchage to finish on 52 points, finishing 16<sup>th</sup>. The qualification bar in 2019 was 64 points.

This underlines the need to shoot in the 30's to be competitive and at least get into the head to heads.

There's good reason to believe that Jason has the potential to improve in the precision shooting in the future if he is successful in being selected. A medal to add to that he won in this discipline at Espoirs level, the only male player to achieve this in our history is definitely within his sights.

|  |                          | Discipline 1  |    | Discipline 2                          |    | Discipline 3         |       | Discipline 4       |    | Discipline 5 |    | REPECHAGE | TOTAL | PLACE |       |    |       |       |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|--|--------------------------|---|----|---------------------------------------|----|----------------------|-------|--------------------|----|--------------|----|-----------|-------|-------|-------|----|-------|-------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|  |                          | Boule alone   |    | Boule behind jack                     |    | Boule between boules |       | Boule behind boule |    | Jack         |    |           |       |       |       |    |       |       |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|  |                          | 6m  | 7m | 8m                                    | 9m | 6m                   | 7m    | 8m                 | 9m | 6m           | 7m | 8m        | 9m    | Total | Place |    |       |       |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Italy / Italia   |                          | Diego Rizzi   |    | <b>QUALIFIES DIRECTLY - 1/4 FINAL</b> |    |                      |       |                    |    |              |    |           |       |       | 43    | 1  |       |       |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| France   |                          | Ligan Doerr   |    |                                       |    |                      |       |                    |    |              |    |           |       |       | 40    | 2  |       |       |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Belgium / Belgique   |                          | Logan Blaton  |    |                                       |    |                      |       |                    |    |              |    |           |       |       | 37    | 3  |       |       |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Monaco / Monaco  |                          | Jean-Pierre le Lons                                 |    |                                       |    |                      |       |                    |    |              |    |           |       |       | 36    | 4  |       |       |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| <b>Repêchage</b>   |                          |   |    |                                       |    |                      |       |                    |    |              |    |           |       |       |       |    |       |       |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| The shooter in the repêchage retains their 1st round points<br>Le tireur dans la repêchage garde ses points de 1er tour. |                          |   |    |                                       |    |                      |       |                    |    |              |    |           |       |       |       |    |       |       |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|  |                          | Qualification Results<br>Résultats de qualification |    |                                       |    |                      |       |                    |    |              |    |           |       |       |       |    |       |       |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|  |                          | TOT   | 6m | 7m                                    | 8m | 9m                   | Total | 6m                 | 7m | 8m           | 9m | Total     | 6m    | 7m    | 8m    | 9m | Total | Place |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| QUALIFIES  | Spain / Espagne          | Manuel Higinio Romero Rubio                         | 4  | 6                                     | 7  | 3                    | 5     | 25                 | 3  | 0            | 0  | 5         | 8     | 3     | 3     | 3  | 5     | 14    | 3 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 5 | 15 | 47 | 72 | 1  |    |    |    |    |
|  | Sweden / Suede           | Ivar Lijagren                                       | 6  | 9                                     | 5  | 0                    | 15    | 35                 | 3  | 3            | 0  | 3         | 9     | 3     | 0     | 0  | 0     | 3     | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 5 | 0  | 5  | 15 | 35 | 70 | 2  |    |    |
|  | Slovenia / Slovenija     | Gregor Sever  | 8  | 6                                     | 7  | 1                    | 10    | 32                 | 3  | 0            | 3  | 3         | 9     | 0     | 3     | 3  | 0     | 6     | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 0  | 0  | 10 | 36 | 68 | 3  |    |    |
|  | Türkiye / Turquie        | Mesut Duruk   | 12 | 3                                     | 4  | 1                    | 5     | 25                 | 3  | 3            | 3  | 0         | 9     | 0     | 3     | 3  | 3     | 9     | 1 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 5  | 5  | 0  | 10 | 41 | 66 | 4  |    |
|  | Luxembourg               | Claudio Comardi                                     | 6  | 9                                     | 8  | 3                    | 5     | 31                 | 3  | 5            | 3  | 3         | 14    | 0     | 0     | 1  | 0     | 1     | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 6 | 3 | 3  | 3  | 0  | 9  | 35 | 66 | 4  |    |
|  | Switzerland / Suisse     | Johi Chervet  | 6  | 11                                    | 1  | 2                    | 10    | 30                 | 5  | 3            | 5  | 0         | 13    | 1     | 0     | 0  | 0     | 1     | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 5  | 5  | 0  | 10 | 33 | 63 | 5  |    |
|  | Denmark / Danmark        | Lasse Dithmar                                       | 15 | 9                                     | 1  | 6                    | 5     | 36                 | 3  | 3            | 0  | 3         | 9     | 3     | 1     | 0  | 0     | 4     | 1 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 7 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 26 | 62 | 7  |    |
|  | Czech Rep / Rep Tchequie | Franšek Kaplánek                                    | 3  | 8                                     | 7  | 8                    | 10    | 36                 | 0  | 3            | 3  | 0         | 6     | 0     | 0     | 0  | 5     | 5     | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 6 | 0 | 0  | 5  | 0  | 5  | 25 | 61 | 8  |    |
|  | Portugal                 | Hugo Soares   | 3  | 3                                     | 11 | 3                    | 10    | 30                 | 3  | 3            | 3  | 5         | 14    | 0     | 3     | 0  | 1     | 4     | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0  | 0  | 5  | 10 | 30 | 60 | 9  |    |
|  | Netherlands / Pays-Bas   | Joey van Doorn                                      | 12 | 9                                     | 4  | 4                    | 3     | 32                 | 0  | 5            | 3  | 3         | 11    | 3     | 0     | 3  | 0     | 6     | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0  | 3  | 0  | 0  | 3  | 28 | 60 | 9  |
|  | England / Angleterre     | Jason White   | 9  | 3                                     | 2  | 7                    | 10    | 31                 | 5  | 3            | 3  | 0         | 11    | 3     | 3     | 3  | 0     | 9     | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 26 | 57 | 11 |
|  | Estonia / Estonia        | Heini Mitt  | 9  | 3                                     | 3  | 6                    | 8     | 29                 | 0  | 5            | 3  | 0         | 8     | 0     | 0     | 3  | 0     | 3     | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5  | 0  | 5  | 0  | 10 | 25 | 54 | 12 |
|  | Wales / Pays de Galles   | Len Field   | 8  | 3                                     | 6  | 8                    | 5     | 30                 | 0  | 0            | 3  | 0         | 3     | 5     | 3     | 0  | 0     | 8     | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 10 | 21 | 51 | 13 |
|  | Greece / Grèce           | Isabelle Giakoumis                                  | 9  | 5                                     | 0  | 6                    | 8     | 28                 | 0  | 0            | 5  | 0         | 5     | 0     | 0     | 0  | 3     | 3     | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0  | 5  | 0  | 5  | 22 | 50 | 14 |    |
|  | Israel                   | Eliyahu Oliani                                      | 14 | 0                                     | 3  | 3                    | 5     | 25                 | 3  | 0            | 0  | 3         | 6     | 3     | 3     | 0  | 0     | 6     | 3 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0  | 5  | 0  | 5  | 23 | 48 | 15 |    |
| Ukraine / Ukraine  | Pavlo Hrybachov          | 3   | 3  | 9                                     | 8  | 3                    | 26    | 3                  | 5  | 0            | 0  | 8         | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0  | 1     | 0     | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0  | 5  | 18 | 44 | 16 |    |    |    |
| Germany / Allemagne  | Marco Lonken             | 11  | 8  | 1                                     | 3  | 3                    | 26    | 0                  | 0  | 3            | 3  | 6         | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0  | 1     | 1     | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0  | 5  | 16 | 42 | 17 |    |    |    |



## Triples – Swiss

With an entry of 34 teams, the format for the Triples was the usual five-round Swiss with the top 16 teams going into the European Championships and the remaining 18 going into the Nations Cup.

### **First Round Swiss Opponents: France**

This was a draw that the team were excited to get, and all looking forward to. The team selected to start the game were Jason, Scott and Dean. The team started very well and took a 4-0 lead, we had the last two boules the next end and unfortunately did not make them count. The momentum of the game changed, and the French started to control the ends better. The Team lost 13-4 but had competed against the French team well. The team stats were as follows.

Dean: Pointing 77% Shooting 100% Overall 79%

Scott: Pointing 88% Shooting 50% Overall 71%

Jason: Pointing 0% Shooting 67% Overall 58%

### **Second Round Swiss Opponents: Estonia**

The starting team for this game was Dean, Reece, and Jason. The team were very aware that they could not afford to lose this game and started off a little hesitantly. However they soon recovered their pose to win the game 13-4 in a reasonably comfortable manner. The stats were as follows:

Dean: Pointing 60% Shooting N/A Overall 60%

Reece: Pointing 56% Shooting 0% Overall 50%

Jason: Pointing N/A Shooting 80% Overall 80%

### **Third Round Swiss Opponents: Latvia**

The starting team for this game was Dean, Scott and Jason. The team were looking to push on after their last win and put themselves in a good place for qualification to the main. The team played a very solid game and won 13-4 The stats were as follows:

Dean: Pointing 59% Shooting 0% Overall 54%

Scott: Pointing 75% Shooting 100% Overall 86%

Jason: Pointing 0% Shooting 84% Overall 73%



## Fourth Round Swiss Opponents: Slovenia

The starting team was Dean, Scott and Jason. After winning the last game the team knew that a win in either of their last 2 games would probably put them into the last 16 and avoid the Nations Cup. The Slovenia team were the side that had won a bronze medal in the last European Championships and so we knew that we would have to play well. The Team put up a top level display and beat the Slovenian team 13-0. The stats were as follows:

Dean: Pointing 88% Shooting N/A Overall 88%

Scott: Pointing 67% Shooting 100% Overall 88%

Jason: Pointing 100% Shooting 86% Overall 88%

## Fifth Round Swiss Opponents: Sweden

The starting team was Dean, Scott, Jason. After the highs of the previous two games the team was slightly flat and started slowly. We got ourselves back into the game but unfortunately, we were outplayed by a team who had not long before beaten the French team on the show terrain. The final score was 6-13. The stats were as follows:

Dean: Pointing 55% Shooting 100% Overall 58%

Scott: Pointing 71% Shooting 20% Overall 50%

Jason: Pointing 25% Shooting 63% Overall 50%

The Swiss rankings table (see below) after the final game placed England in 13<sup>th</sup> position and direct qualification into the last 16 of the tournament.

The team had achieved its primary target of reaching the knockout stages, the first time this had been achieved for many years. This also meant that our qualification for the next FIPJP Men's World Triples Championships was guaranteed and did not require a further win in the Nations Cup.

We often measure our success in these tournaments by comparing where we are in relation to rivals or teams that have enjoyed greater success than we have at preceding tournaments. In this respect it was notable that both Holland and Germany failed to progress to the knockout stage of the Championship.



7th European Triples Championship - MEN  
 Albertville, France - 2023 - Final Ranking

| Rank | Federation        | Wins | BHN<br>Buchholz | fBHN<br>Fine Buchholz | Points<br>For/Against |
|------|-------------------|------|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1    | Belgium (BEL)     | 5    | 14              | 78                    | 65:23                 |
| 2    | Monaco (MON)      | 4    | 15              | 67                    | 54:29                 |
| 3    | Luxembourg (LUX)  | 4    | 15              | 63                    | 56:36                 |
| 4    | Sweden(SWE)       | 4    | 15              | 63                    | 54:42                 |
| 5    | Italy (ITA)       | 4    | 13              | 73                    | 58:37                 |
| 6    | France (FRA)      | 4    | 13              | 65                    | 62:30                 |
| 7    | Poland (POL)      | 4    | 12              | 67                    | 58:34                 |
| 8    | Switzerland (SUI) | 3    | 15              | 70                    | 53:45                 |
| 9    | Spain (ESP)       | 3    | 15              | 64                    | 48:35                 |
| 10   | Hungary (HUN)     | 3    | 15              | 60                    | 47:45                 |
| 11   | Denmark (DEN)     | 3    | 15              | 58                    | 56:50                 |
| 12   | Portugal (POR)    | 3    | 14              | 73                    | 52:35                 |
| 13   | England (ENG)     | 3    | 13              | 67                    | 49:34                 |
| 14   | Finland (FIN)     | 3    | 12              | 62                    | 49:43                 |
| 15   | Austria (AUT)     | 3    | 11              | 62                    | 49:48                 |
| 16   | Türkiye (TUR)     | 3    | 10              | 66                    | 48:55                 |
| 17   | Czech Rep. (CZE)  | 3    | 8               | 64                    | 58:52                 |
| 18   | Ukraine (UKR)     | 2    | 17              | 62                    | 34:53                 |
| 19   | Slovenia (SLO)    | 2    | 16              | 65                    | 42:44                 |
| 20   | Germany (GER)     | 2    | 14              | 59                    | 42:40                 |
| 21   | Norway (NOR)      | 2    | 13              | 62                    | 40:45                 |
| 22   | Israel (ISR)      | 2    | 13              | 58                    | 46:43                 |
| 23   | Netherlands (NED) | 2    | 12              | 55                    | 46:49                 |
| 24   | Estonia (EST)     | 2    | 11              | 63                    | 40:56                 |
| 25   | Slovakia (SLK)    | 2    | 11              | 57                    | 40:52                 |
| 26   | Greece (GRC)      | 2    | 10              | 60                    | 46:48                 |
| 27   | Scotland (SCO)    | 2    | 9               | 62                    | 41:53                 |
| 28   | Jersey (JEY)      | 2    | 8               | 62                    | 33:57                 |
| 29   | Latvia (LAT)      | 1    | 12              | 58                    | 37:60                 |
| 30   | Andorra (AND)     | 1    | 11              | 60                    | 43:59                 |
| 31   | Wales (WAL)       | 1    | 11              | 60                    | 31:61                 |
| 32   | Bulgaria (BUL)    | 1    | 10              | 59                    | 27:58                 |
| 33   | Lithuania (LTU)   | 0    | 12              | 51                    | 32:62                 |
| 34   | Guemsey (GGY)     | 0    | 10              | 50                    | 42:65                 |

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This was the best placing after the Swiss for a decade and ensured that unlike the previous three previous Men's Triples European Championships, we did not find ourselves in the Nations Cup.

The Buccholz score of 13 meant that our opponents had won an average of 2.6 wins, which meant that the draw had not been particularly easy. This was in fact a mid-range level of difficulty in terms of the draw, with two of our opponents in the top 6 of the rankings.

## European Championships Knockout

### Last 16 Opponents: Sweden

It was slightly unfortunate that the sequential draw based on the Swiss rankings meant that we would face Sweden again. It would have added something interesting if the team had faced a new opponent at the Championship. However, facing Sweden again did not daunt the team in any way, in fact the determination level was ramped up by the prospect.

The starting team was Dean, Scott and Jason. The team found themselves 8-0 down in quick time (without doing much wrong). They dug deep and kept themselves in the match, some great attacking play got them back to 12-9 down and within touching distance of a first ever Quarter Final for our country. Unfortunately the very strong Swedish team managed to get over the line. The stats were as follows:

Dean: Pointing 80% Shooting 50% Overall 75%

Scott: Pointing 67% Shooting 73% Overall 67%

Jason: Pointing 25% Shooting 75% Overall 67%

## Assessment

Our National Coach reported to the PE Board that in his opinion, the team performed to an exceptionally high level. He noted that in the 11 championships that he had attended as either a player or a coach, he had never seen a team shoot as well as this team. The team spirit was very good throughout and they all bought into the brand of pétanque they wanted to play. The Coach also made special mention of Reece Gould who did not get as much game time as he would have liked. The attitude that he showed in supporting the team was magnificent, and he validated his selection.



## Women's World Triples Championship, 23 – 27 November 2023, Bangkok, Thailand

Team: Becky Edwins, Hannah Griffin, Sarah Huntley and Kaylee Thatcher.

Coach: Jeremy Huntley.

Head of Delegation: Not sent.

### Team selection

The team for this tournament was selected in line with the published 2023 Senior International Representation 2023-24 document (February 2023).

In the case of the Triples, three separate competition days were held which included the National Triples at Ferndown (27<sup>th</sup> May, 2023) and two further days at Worthing (24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2023). Points were allocated on the basis of the finishing positions in each day and were personal; there was no requirement to play in the same team on each competition day.

The document stated that for the triples ranking, those players ranked 1 to 3 would be selected for international representation in 2023 subject to them meeting the commitment and preparation requirements set by our National Coach. Those players ranked 4 to 6 would be considered for selection as the fourth member of the team.

The final rankings are shown in the table overleaf. Becky, Hannah and Sarah won all three rounds and amassed maximum points. After consideration by the National Coach as to which fourth player might be the best fit for the team, taking into account the assessed strengths and weaknesses of the top three ranked players, their established roles during the SSE process as well as previous international experience, it was decided to select Kaylee Thatcher.

As part of the preparation for the tournament, arrangements were made for the selected team members to play at an international weekend tournament in Holland at the PUK club, near Amsterdam. This was a competitive and useful preparation although a gender specific tournament would probably be optimal.



| Player                | SSE T1 | SSE T2 | SSE T3 | Totals |
|-----------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Becky Edwins          | 30     | 30     | 30     | 90     |
| Sarah Huntley         | 30     | 30     | 30     | 90     |
| Hannah Griffin        | 30     | 30     | 30     | 90     |
| Karen Lombard         | 24     | 24     | 8      | 56     |
| Kaylee Thatcher       | 24     | 24     | 8      | 56     |
| Samantha Ogles        | 24     | 24     | 8      | 56     |
| Rachel Kelly          | 16     | 8      | 16     | 40     |
| Lori Seville          | 4      | 4      | 24     | 32     |
| Sabrina Seville       | 4      | 4      | 24     | 32     |
| Nicki Scott           | 4      | 4      | 24     | 32     |
| Alex Spillett         | 8      | 16     | 4      | 28     |
| Fay Goulder           | 8      | 16     | 4      | 28     |
| Sophie Rowley         | 1      | 8      | 16     | 25     |
| Ella Slade            | 1      | 8      | 16     | 25     |
| Linda Webb            |        | 16     | 4      | 20     |
| Lesley Eastlake       | 16     |        |        | 16     |
| Lesley McCallum       | 16     |        |        | 16     |
| Hassi Leverett        | 16     |        |        | 16     |
| Daena Vincent         | 16     |        |        | 16     |
| Angela Brooks         | 16     |        |        | 16     |
| Janet Dalton          | 8      |        |        | 8      |
| Carolyn Edwins        | 8      |        |        | 8      |
| Margaret Eldridge     | 8      |        |        | 8      |
| Carrie Litchfield     | 8      |        |        | 8      |
| Paula Fauvel          | 8      |        |        | 8      |
| Sandra Goodwin        | 8      |        |        | 8      |
| Gay Evans             | 8      |        |        | 8      |
| Clare Revill          | 8      |        |        | 8      |
| Carol Woodward        | 8      |        |        | 8      |
| Migs Trimmingham      | 8      |        |        | 8      |
| Christine Peat        | 2      |        |        | 2      |
| Lesley Crofts         | 2      |        |        | 2      |
| Hilary Dalmasse       | 2      |        |        | 2      |
| Christine Spray       | 1      |        |        | 1      |
| Diane Smith           | 1      |        |        | 1      |
| Carla Jervis          | 1      |        |        | 1      |
| Francesca Evans-Jones | 1      |        |        | 1      |
| Louise Williams       | 1      |        |        | 1      |
| Trudy Bishop          | 1      |        |        | 1      |
| Wendy Hall            | 1      |        |        | 1      |



## Precision shooting

Sarah Huntley was selected to undertake the precision shooting and scored 21 points in the qualifying round. Sarah was ranked joint 17<sup>th</sup> out of 41 and was just two points short of qualification for the repêchage.

As is often the case there are fine margins and just a hit on the jack in the final round would have led to a further chance to qualify for the Quarter Finals.

|  |                         | <b>Tir de Précision</b><br>1er tour |   | Atelier 1   |    |    |    | Atelier 2          |    |    |    | Atelier 3         |    |    |    | Atelier 4 |    |    |    | Atelier 5 |    |    |    |  |   |    |    |    |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|-------------|----|----|----|--------------------|----|----|----|-------------------|----|----|----|-----------|----|----|----|-----------|----|----|----|---|---|----|----|----|
|   |                         |                                     |   | Boule seule |    |    |    | Boule derrière but |    |    |    | Entre deux boules |    |    |    | Sautée    |    |    |    | But       |    |    |    |   |   |    |    |    |
|   |                         |                                     |   | 6m          | 7m | 8m | 9m | 6m                 | 7m | 8m | 9m | 6m                | 7m | 8m | 9m | 6m        | 7m | 8m | 9m | 6m        | 7m | 8m | 9m |   |   | 6m | 7m | 8m |
| THAILANDE   | KANTAROS CHOOCHUAY      | 3                                   | 3 | 3           | 3  | 12 | 0  | 3                  | 3  | 3  | 9  | 3                 | 3  | 0  | 3  | 9         | 1  | 3  | 1  | 0         | 5  | 5  | 5  | 0   | 3 | 13 | 48 | 1  |
| VIETNAM   | THACH THI ANH LAN       | 3                                   | 3 | 3           | 3  | 12 | 0  | 3                  | 0  | 3  | 6  | 3                 | 3  | 0  | 0  | 6         | 3  | 3  | 3  | 3         | 12 | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0 | 0  | 36 | 2  |
| LAOS  | Thepphakan Bovilak      | 3                                   | 3 | 3           | 0  | 9  | 3  | 5                  | 3  | 1  | 12 | 0                 | 0  | 0  | 3  | 3         | 1  | 0  | 0  | 0         | 1  | 5  | 5  | 0   | 0 | 10 | 35 | 3  |
| MYANMAR   | KHIN CHERRY THET        | 3                                   | 3 | 0           | 3  | 9  | 3  | 3                  | 0  | 0  | 6  | 0                 | 1  | 3  | 0  | 4         | 3  | 0  | 3  | 0         | 6  | 5  | 5  | 0   | 0 | 10 | 35 | 3  |
| GERMANY   | Lisner Kerstin          | 3                                   | 3 | 0           | 0  | 6  | 3  | 0                  | 3  | 0  | 6  | 3                 | 3  | 0  | 0  | 6         | 3  | 0  | 3  | 0         | 6  | 5  | 5  | 0   | 0 | 10 | 34 | 5  |
| TUNISIA   | MOUNA BEJI              | 5                                   | 3 | 3           | 0  | 11 | 3  | 0                  | 3  | 0  | 6  | 0                 | 0  | 0  | 3  | 3         | 0  | 3  | 3  | 9         | 0  | 0  | 3  | 0   | 3 | 3  | 32 | 6  |
| FRANCE  | Cindy PEYROT            | 3                                   | 0 | 0           | 0  | 3  | 3  | 0                  | 1  | 0  | 4  | 3                 | 3  | 3  | 0  | 9         | 0  | 0  | 3  | 0         | 3  | 5  | 0  | 5   | 0 | 10 | 29 | 7  |
| USA   | Howe Rebecca            | 3                                   | 3 | 0           | 0  | 6  | 3  | 0                  | 1  | 0  | 4  | 0                 | 3  | 3  | 0  | 6         | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0         | 0  | 5  | 0  | 3   | 5 | 13 | 29 | 7  |
| POLAND  | BLASIAK KATARZYNA       | 0                                   | 3 | 0           | 0  | 3  | 3  | 0                  | 3  | 3  | 9  | 5                 | 0  | 0  | 0  | 5         | 0  | 3  | 0  | 3         | 6  | 5  | 0  | 0   | 0 | 5  | 28 | 9  |
| SPAIN   | DIAZ REYES SARA         | 0                                   | 3 | 3           | 0  | 6  | 0  | 3                  | 3  | 3  | 9  | 3                 | 1  | 3  | 0  | 7         | 1  | 0  | 0  | 3         | 4  | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0 | 0  | 26 | 10 |
| SLOVAQUIE   | Stowasserová Vanda      | 0                                   | 0 | 0           | 0  | 0  | 1  | 3                  | 0  | 0  | 4  | 3                 | 0  | 0  | 0  | 3         | 3  | 3  | 3  | 12        | 0  | 5  | 0  | 0   | 0 | 5  | 24 | 11 |
| ISRAEL  | Nissim Dolev            | 1                                   | 0 | 3           | 0  | 4  | 0  | 0                  | 3  | 0  | 3  | 0                 | 0  | 0  | 3  | 3         | 0  | 3  | 0  | 0         | 3  | 5  | 0  | 5   | 0 | 10 | 23 | 12 |
| MOROCCO   | GOURAR SOUKAINE         | 3                                   | 0 | 0           | 0  | 3  | 0  | 3                  | 0  | 0  | 3  | 1                 | 3  | 3  | 3  | 10        | 1  | 1  | 0  | 0         | 2  | 0  | 0  | 5   | 0 | 5  | 23 | 12 |
| BELGIUM   | Jessica MESKENS         | 0                                   | 0 | 3           | 3  | 6  | 0  | 3                  | 3  | 1  | 7  | 0                 | 3  | 0  | 0  | 3         | 3  | 3  | 1  | 0         | 7  | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0 | 0  | 23 | 12 |
| NEW CALEDONIA   | NGADAE ADELE            | 0                                   | 0 | 0           | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0                  | 0  | 0  | 3  | 5                 | 0  | 0  | 0  | 5         | 3  | 3  | 3  | 1         | 10 | 0  | 5  | 0   | 0 | 5  | 23 | 12 |
| CHINESE TAIPEI  | GUO ZI-NING             | 0                                   | 3 | 0           | 0  | 3  | 0  | 3                  | 3  | 0  | 6  | 0                 | 3  | 0  | 0  | 3         | 0  | 0  | 3  | 0         | 3  | 0  | 5  | 0   | 3 | 8  | 23 | 12 |
| SWITZERLAND   | Maitre Wicki Ludvine    | 3                                   | 3 | 0           | 0  | 6  | 3  | 0                  | 0  | 0  | 3  | 3                 | 3  | 0  | 3  | 9         | 0  | 0  | 0  | 3         | 3  | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0 | 0  | 21 | 17 |
| INDONESIA   | DWI APRILIAH ANJANI     | 0                                   | 3 | 3           | 0  | 6  | 0  | 0                  | 0  | 3  | 6  | 3                 | 0  | 0  | 0  | 3         | 3  | 3  | 0  | 0         | 6  | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0 | 0  | 21 | 17 |
| ENGLAND   | Huntley Sarah           | 3                                   | 3 | 0           | 0  | 6  | 0  | 0                  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0                 | 3  | 3  | 3  | 9         | 0  | 3  | 3  | 0         | 6  | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0 | 0  | 21 | 17 |
| MALAYSIA  | Mohd Asri Nur Ain Syuh  | 0                                   | 3 | 0           | 3  | 6  | 0  | 0                  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 3                 | 0  | 5  | 0  | 8         | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0         | 0  | 5  | 0  | 0   | 0 | 5  | 19 | 20 |
| JAPAN   | GOMA AYUMI              | 0                                   | 0 | 3           | 0  | 3  | 0  | 3                  | 0  | 0  | 3  | 3                 | 1  | 0  | 0  | 4         | 3  | 3  | 3  | 0         | 9  | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0 | 0  | 19 | 20 |
| CAMBODIA  | UN SREYA                | 0                                   | 0 | 3           | 3  | 6  | 3  | 0                  | 0  | 3  | 6  | 0                 | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0         | 3  | 0  | 0  | 3         | 6  | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0 | 0  | 18 | 22 |
| CANADA  | Coulombe Sonia          | 0                                   | 0 | 0           | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0                  | 3  | 0  | 6  | 0                 | 0  | 0  | 0  | 3         | 0  | 0  | 0  | 3         | 3  | 0  | 5  | 0   | 0 | 8  | 17 | 23 |
| DENMARK   | Svensson Camilla        | 0                                   | 0 | 3           | 0  | 3  | 0  | 1                  | 0  | 0  | 1  | 0                 | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0         | 0  | 3  | 0  | 0         | 3  | 5  | 0  | 0   | 5 | 10 | 17 | 23 |
| ITALY   | DEDOMINCI SARA          | 0                                   | 3 | 3           | 0  | 6  | 3  | 1                  | 0  | 1  | 5  | 3                 | 0  | 0  | 0  | 3         | 0  | 0  | 3  | 0         | 3  | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0 | 0  | 17 | 23 |
| PHILIPPINE  | Dela Cruz Violeta       | 0                                   | 1 | 0           | 0  | 1  | 0  | 3                  | 0  | 3  | 6  | 0                 | 0  | 0  | 3  | 3         | 3  | 3  | 0  | 6         | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0 | 0  | 16 | 26 |
| SWEDEN  | WESTIN Annelie          | 3                                   | 0 | 0           | 3  | 6  | 0  | 0                  | 3  | 0  | 3  | 0                 | 0  | 0  | 1  | 1         | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0         | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0   | 5 | 5  | 15 | 27 |
| BRUNEI  | HAJI ABIDIN SURTINI     | 0                                   | 0 | 0           | 3  | 3  | 0  | 0                  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 3                 | 0  | 0  | 0  | 3         | 0  | 3  | 0  | 0         | 3  | 5  | 0  | 0   | 0 | 5  | 14 | 28 |
| HONG KONG   | TONG YIM PING           | 1                                   | 0 | 0           | 0  | 1  | 0  | 0                  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 1                 | 0  | 3  | 0  | 4         | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0         | 0  | 0  | 3  | 5   | 0 | 8  | 13 | 29 |
| UKRAINE   | Lemeshevská Tetiana     | 3                                   | 0 | 0           | 0  | 3  | 3  | 3                  | 0  | 3  | 9  | 0                 | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0         | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0         | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0 | 0  | 12 | 30 |
| HUNGARY   | KOCSIS-SIMON Ágnes      | 0                                   | 3 | 0           | 0  | 3  | 0  | 0                  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0                 | 3  | 0  | 3  | 6         | 0  | 0  | 1  | 0         | 1  | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0 | 0  | 10 | 31 |
| FINLAND   | Kuivasniemi-Lehti Helen | 3                                   | 5 | 0           | 0  | 8  | 0  | 0                  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 1                 | 0  | 0  | 0  | 1         | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0         | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0 | 0  | 9  | 32 |
| NORWAY  | Jayer Charlotte         | 0                                   | 0 | 3           | 0  | 3  | 3  | 0                  | 0  | 0  | 3  | 0                 | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0         | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0         | 0  | 3  | 0  | 0   | 0 | 3  | 9  | 32 |
| LATVIA  | Miglāne Ginta           | 3                                   | 0 | 1           | 0  | 4  | 1  | 0                  | 0  | 0  | 1  | 0                 | 0  | 3  | 0  | 3         | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0         | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0 | 0  | 8  | 34 |
| ESTONIA   | Varje Reede             | 0                                   | 0 | 3           | 0  | 3  | 0  | 3                  | 0  | 0  | 3  | 0                 | 1  | 0  | 0  | 1         | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0         | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0 | 0  | 7  | 35 |
| AUSTRALIA   | Dally Selina            | 3                                   | 0 | 0           | 0  | 3  | 0  | 0                  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0                 | 0  | 0  | 3  | 3         | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0         | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0 | 0  | 6  | 36 |
| SINGAPORE   | Pan Josephine           | 3                                   | 0 | 0           | 0  | 3  | 0  | 0                  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0                 | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0         | 3  | 0  | 0  | 3         | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0 | 0  | 6  | 36 |
| MAURITIUS   | BHOOKHUN-SEERUTTUN      | 0                                   | 0 | 0           | 1  | 1  | 0  | 0                  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 3                 | 1  | 0  | 0  | 4         | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0         | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0 | 0  | 5  | 38 |
| CZECH REPUBLIC  | Tomášková Dana          | 0                                   | 0 | 0           | 0  | 0  | 0  | 3                  | 0  | 0  | 3  | 1                 | 0  | 0  | 0  | 1         | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0         | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0 | 0  | 4  | 39 |
| MEXICO  | Taboada Fabiola         | 3                                   | 0 | 0           | 0  | 3  | 0  | 0                  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0                 | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0         | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0         | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0 | 0  | 3  | 40 |
| SOUTH KOREA   | Hong Sungeun            | 0                                   | 0 | 0           | 0  | 0  | 1  | 0                  | 0  | 0  | 1  | 0                 | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0         | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0         | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0 | 0  | 1  | 41 |

The results in the shooting reflected a wider trend in the Women's game (and arguably in the Men's game as well) of increasing dominance by South East Asian countries.





After the repêchage, a Quarter Final place was achieved by a minimum cumulative two-round total of 38 points.

In the Quarter Final onwards, the minimum winning score was 35 points in the Quarter Finals, 25 in the Semi Final and 42 in the Final. The gold medallist, Khin Cherry Thett of Myanmar never shot lower than 35 in the five rounds she shot in and averaged 41 points.

Shooting consistently mid-thirties upwards has to be the target to medal.

Sarah is a highly experienced international competitor at this level and has two bronze medals in precision shooting at both at World (2011) and European (2016) levels. In 2019 at the World Championships (Santa Susanna, Spain), Sarah missed out on the repêchage by just one point, also scoring 21 points. In 2017 at the World Championships (Kaihua, China), Sarah scored 24 points in qualification and then a very good 35 in the repêchage for a combined total of 59 points, unluckily leaving her just three points short of a Quarter Final place and placing her 10<sup>th</sup> in the world at the time.

Given her record in the discipline it remains a realistic prospect for Sarah to medal again in this discipline should she be selected in the future. However, it is important to recognise that it is becoming increasingly tougher to be competitive in precision shooting at world level, given the upward trajectory of the South East Asian countries.

### Triples - Swiss


With an entry of 43 teams, the format for the Triples was a five-round timed Swiss with the top 24 teams going into the World Championships and the remaining 20 going into the Nations Cup. The teams ranked 1 to 8 would proceed directly to the Round of 16 while the teams ranked 9 to 24 would play a 'cadrage match'. The winners would progress to the last 16 and the losers would drop into the Nations Cup.

|                          |        |
|--------------------------|--------|
| Game 1: v Vietnam        | L 4-13 |
| Game 2: v Hong Kong      | W 13-7 |
| Game 3: v Chinese Taipei | L 6-13 |
| Game 4: v Scotland.      | W 1-13 |
| Game 5: v Malaysia.      | L 2-13 |




After the Swiss, the published rankings showed that we were in 27<sup>th</sup> spot, which put us into the Nations Cup. As is always the case with the Swiss format at international championships, the minimum target is three wins out of five and England's continuation to the knock out stages of the World Championships hinged on the fifth match against a strong Malaysian team.

Two teams made it into the cadrage on just two wins, but the Bucholz score for qualification was 14 points. England had 12 Bucholz points, which meant that the average number of wins per opponent was 2.4. The score was adversely affected by two of England's opponents (Scotland and Hong Kong) only winning one game out of five (one of these wins was a bye). Three of England's opponents in the Swiss progressed: Malaysia made it to the final 16, Chinese Taipei to the Quarter Final and Vietnam were Gold Medallists.

**WOMEN – FEMMES**  
**Classement apres 5 tours / Ranking after 5 rounds**



| Rank | Name                     | Score | BHN | FBHN | Points |
|------|--------------------------|-------|-----|------|--------|
| 1    | France (FRA)             | 5     | 17  | 78   | 61.13  |
| 2    | Cambodge (CAM)           | 5     | 11  | 77   | 65.16  |
| 3    | Espagne (ESP)            | 4     | 16  | 78   | 60.23  |
| 4    | Viet Nam (VIE)           | 4     | 16  | 68   | 52.28  |
| 5    | Laos (LAO)               | 4     | 15  | 72   | 59.25  |
| 6    | Thaïlande 2 (THA)        | 4     | 14  | 73   | 52.44  |
| 7    | Thaïlande 1 (THA)        | 4     | 12  | 68   | 58.22  |
| 8    | Suisse (SUI)             | 4     | 11  | 75   | 58.24  |
| 9    | Suede (SWE)              | 3     | 18  | 57   | 46.43  |
| 10   | Allemagne (GER)          | 3     | 17  | 65   | 45.48  |
| 11   | Danemark (DEN)           | 3     | 17  | 64   | 50.48  |
| 12   | Tchéquie (CZE)           | 3     | 17  | 63   | 36.38  |
| 13   | Malaisie (MAS)           | 3     | 16  | 62   | 42.32  |
| 14   | Tunisie (TUN)            | 3     | 14  | 66   | 47.35  |
| 15   | Indonésie (INA)          | 3     | 14  | 66   | 42.46  |
| 16   | Estonie (EST)            | 3     | 13  | 66   | 39.44  |
| 17   | Slovaquie (SLK)          | 3     | 13  | 64   | 35.49  |
| 18   | Maroc (MAR)              | 3     | 12  | 71   | 49.49  |
| 19   | Chine Taipei (TPE)       | 3     | 12  | 61   | 51.45  |
| 20   | Etats-Unis (USA)         | 3     | 11  | 71   | 55.31  |
| 21   | Myanmar (MYA)            | 3     | 11  | 69   | 62.28  |
| 22   | Nouvelle-Calédonie (NCL) | 3     | 9   | 68   | 50.38  |
| 23   | Japon (JPN)              | 2     | 15  | 59   | 40.45  |
| 24   | Italie (ITA)             | 2     | 14  | 60   | 30.49  |
| 25   | Finlande (FIN)           | 2     | 14  | 53   | 36.54  |
| 26   | Norvège (NOR)            | 2     | 13  | 65   | 42.45  |
| 27   | Angleterre (ENG)         | 2     | 12  | 67   | 38.47  |
| 28   | Belgique (BEL)           | 2     | 12  | 61   | 48.43  |
| 29   | Pologne (POL)            | 2     | 12  | 61   | 33.44  |
| 30   | Lettonie (LAT)           | 2     | 11  | 57   | 50.50  |
| 31   | Singapour (SIN)          | 2     | 10  | 70   | 39.47  |
| 32   | Ile Maurice (MRI)        | 2     | 10  | 61   | 38.45  |
| 33   | Canada (CAN)             | 2     | 10  | 59   | 51.47  |
| 34   | Hongrie (HUN)            | 2     | 8   | 60   | 44.46  |
| 35   | Israël (ISR)             | 2     | 8   | 55   | 40.45  |
| 36   | Ecosse (SCO)             | 1     | 14  | 53   | 29.57  |
| 37   | Brunei (BRU)             | 1     | 14  | 53   | 25.55  |
| 38   | Philippines (PHI)        | 1     | 12  | 56   | 29.51  |
| 39   | Ukraine (UKR)            | 1     | 12  | 55   | 26.54  |
| 40   | Mexico (MEX)             | 1     | 11  | 55   | 32.54  |
| 41   | Australie (AUS)          | 1     | 11  | 52   | 18.61  |
| 42   | Corée du Sud (KOR)       | 1     | 9   | 58   | 20.56  |
| 43   | Hong Kong (HKG)          | 1     | 9   | 48   | 30.58  |

### Triples – Nations Cup

Cadrag: v Australia                    W 13-2  
 Round of 16: v Czech Rep.            W 13-5  
 Quarter Final: v Denmark            L 8-13



## Assessment

This tournament involved a long haul flight and on arrival the team was faced with unsatisfactory accommodation which necessitated finding an alternative. This course of action was followed by several federations.

The playing surface was very challenging and demanding boule to boule shooting and lob pointing. As we have identified on many occasions previously this poses particular difficulties for English players both male and female given the lack of available surfaces of this type domestically, although we have prioritised more technical surfaces for the SSE process in recent years.

A wider observation of European teams suggested that they too found the surface challenging. European federations that are normally highly competitive such as Belgium, Italy and Denmark ended up in the Nations Cup. Six out of the eight quarter finalists were from South East Asia.

It's fair to acknowledge that we have found Women's World Championships tough over recent years. In the last three Women's Triples World Championships we have not met our objective of qualifying for the knockout rounds of the tournament and nor have we medalled in the Nations Cup.

In 2021 (Santa Susanna, Spain), after the resumption of international competitions post COVID, we won two games in the Swiss and were placed 27 out of 37 in the Swiss rankings. We went on to lose against Canada in the Quarter Final of the Nations Cup.

In 2019 (Cambodia), we again won two games in the Swiss and were placed 40<sup>th</sup> out of 48 in the rankings. We lost in the first round of the Nations Cup to Denmark, with the latter going on to win a Bronze Medal.

In 2017 (Kaihua, China), we performed very well, winning three Swiss games out of five, including one of the best wins we have ever achieved defeating Thailand 13-2. We were placed 11<sup>th</sup> in the Swiss ranking, defeated our rivals Holland in the knockout cadrage and then lost to Italy in the Round of 16 in poor weather conditions. Italy went on to win a Bronze Medal.

We have undoubtedly made progress in other formats of the Women's game in recent years and we have internationally competitive players backed up with effective and experienced coaching input. A more positive take on Cambodia 2023 might be that arguably we did not lose to any opponent we shouldn't have done and that the team ethic and spirit was very positive.



## Conclusion

We should place on record our appreciation of the efforts of all our players in the 2023 international tournament season.

Our players that competed internationally were a credit to our country in the way they conducted themselves and by the way they took on the challenge of elite level competition.

It's always important to recognise the constraints we face in terms of limited financial and human resources along with a critical lack of an indoor facility to maintain year round play and training. It could be argued that with the size of membership of PE, we often 'punch above our weight'.

We played 14 matches in the two international tournaments where overall we won 7 (50%) and qualified for the top 16 In the Men's European Triples.

Our Coaches, Rowland Jones and Jeremy Huntley made a hugely important contribution to the success of our players and teams. Consistency in coaching personnel and input is an important factor in achieving success and represents an improvement on past practice where we often had a different Coach for every tournament at Senior level.

**Author:** Martin Hughes, PE Board Member and Lead Member for Senior Men with input from Rowland Jones and Jeremy Huntley, Senior Men's and Women's Coaches 2023.