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All the signs point to a promising year ahead

Burger Kings



It's not every year you get the chance to recognise the accession of a new monarch. So, the Island's pétanque clubs are going burger barmy over the Coronation weekend. Alan Still and Alan Rimeur have a burning ambition to show off their skills with the tongs and spatulas at St Mary. There'll also be Coronation Cupcakes on offer for those with a sweeter tooth. The club will be stepping on the gas after their Saturday afternoon melee on May 6th. At Carrefour the head chef is no less than President, Mat Scholefield. There'll be a special Coronation Cup competition on the morning of Monday, May 8th, which will be followed by the burnt offerings. And at JPC it's hoped there will be enough members prepared to support a special event in honour of King Charles III on Sunday, May 7th Meanwhile Liberation have no plans to mark the Corornation – they have enough problems to sort out with their terrain.

2023 promises to be a much better year than the previous two as we learn to live with Covid and Carry on Petanquing.
Along with the full quota of JPA events we also have the pleasure of hosting the annual Inter Insular which will be held on Saturday 22 July at Carrefour.
The following month we will sending off eight triples teams to England, to compete in the Home Nations competition in which we will test ourselves against the best of England, Scotland and Wales. The games are to be played at Whitnash Windmill Pétanque Club, which is based near Leamington Spa in Warwickshire.
We have finished second to England in recent years, but the team of selectors are working hard to come up with a winning formula this year and to carry this into 2024 when we will be inviting the Home Nations to challenge us in Jersey.
We have had a good response to our request for players to put themselves forward for selection for the Island team and while not everyone was available, we do have enough to make our selection.
It is no secret that Jersey wishes to hold European competitions and the search for a venue to play these games continues apace and discussions have been opened with interested parties to locate a terrain which is large enough to accommodate these competitions with the possibility of putting a cover over it, which is a requirement for European competitions. This year I have attended both the CEP (European) and FIPJP (World) Annual Congress and it is very pleasing to see such commitment to the sport of pétanque across the globe and learning that the strengths and weaknesses we experience in Jersey are mirrored in



the member countries. For example, CEP Female memberships at 22% trail Male membership of 78% and Junior membership (17 years or younger) is at 2% and Espoirs (18-22 years) is 7%. Adults (13-54 years) is 55% and Veterans (55 + years) is 36%. Clearly, we need to increase Female and Junior membership and to this end we have embarked upon a comprehensive coaching course across the States secondary schools. Taster sessions have been held and now we are starting a programme which will focus on the JPA's Level 1 and 2 Skills Award. We do have several qualified coaches who will be making themselves available but give some thought to applying for a coaching qualification and then you can take an active part in promoting our sport to a younger and wider audience.
The four Island clubs continue to prosper and the Parish of St Helier Lunchtime League survived the pandemic and the Working From Home regime which made getting business teams together on the same day very difficult. The Inter-Parish League continues to thrive with the support of all 12 parishes.
We can look forward to a summer season of good weather and even better pétanque results.



The Coach

Recently I have met several new players who are buying boules for the first time. It is interesting to see the choices they are making when it comes to size and weight.

Of course, the boule you buy is a matter of personal preference. However, it does not surprise me that after a few months of playing, the boules are becoming an obstacle to the player's development.

If the boules are not the correct size and weight you will find that making a wide range of throws difficult.

Firstly, to play in competition boules have to comply with the standards set down by the F. I. P. J. P. the governing body of pétanque. They have to be made of metal, have a diameter of between a minimum of 7.05 centimetres and a maximum of 8.00 centimetres plus a weight of between a minimum of 650 grammes and a maximum of 800 grammes.

In addition. the manufacturers trademark and weight **MUST** be engraved on them. They can have various logos, acronyms and the players initials all in accordance with the specifications relating to the manufacturer of the boule.

So, you have a range of sizes and weights - how do you decide on what is right for you? There are two theories to bear in mind.

For pointing (placing) the general rule is that you need heavier and smaller boules. A heavy boule will roll truer and being small present less of a target for the shooter.

Conversely for shooting (knocking your opponents out) you need a lighter and larger boule. Throwing a heavier boule over long distances presents a greater difficulty. A lighter boule gives a better chance of a carreau (leaving your boule in the place of the shot boule) especially if the boule is "semi soft".

But it's relative. Small hands and a large boule are not compatible. The boule will always feel like it is about to drop from your hand. Small boule and large hands will make releasing the boule more difficult.

You must get boule that feels comfortable, letting you grip it between the first three fingers and the base of your thumb (keeping your thumb off the boule). Grip it lightly as you would a small bird, not strong enough to crush it but firm enough to stop it flying away.

The weight is also a factor that varies from player to player depending on build and strength. A few grams extra can make a big difference over an all-day competition and when playing at distance.

As for the markings or striation on a boule. The theory being, the more grooves you have the more grip on the terrain (as with a car tyres tread). The smooth boule is considered a shooter's boule.

My advice is to borrow boules, before you buy, and try a range of sizes and weights before you pay out for what may prove to be a mistake.

A set of boules will last you years so make your investment wisely. The wrong boule can be a hindrance to your development.

THE GROUND RULES

A regular series in which we look at some of the laws of the game that can lead to misunderstandings. One of the questions that often crops up is over who should play next when it's not possible to identify a boule that's holding. Derek Hart has this explanation.

Whose turn is it to play next?

During a recent game an interesting situation occurred.

Team A threw the cochonnet and played their first boule. Team B played next but did not improve on Team A's boule. Team B played again this time attempting to shoot Team A's holding boule. As is often the case things did not go according to plan and all three of the played boule left the terrain. But **NOT** the cochonnet!

This provoked the question - Who plays next?

The answer is contained in article 29 of the rules :- Boules equidistant from the Jack.

The boules, being outside the playing area (i.e. dead) are equidistant from the cochonnet and therefore Paragraph 3 applies. "If both teams have boules at their disposition, it is for the team which played the last boule to play again, then the opposing team and so on alternately until the point belongs to one of them .....".

So, the simple answer is Team B plays next.

Another incident (and one that occurs quite frequently) is one where a player played the wrong boule. Now I notice that many players have boule that are the same weight, diameter and markings as other players. If you do play someone else's boule you are permitted as soon as it is noticed to change the boule for one of your own. But to save any problems check your boule and ensure that you are playing your own boule.

Congratulations to Tony Allchurch



Tony Allchurch, one of the prime movers in establishing the sport of pétanque in Jersey, was awarded the British Empire Medal in the King's first New Year Honours List. He received the award for services to the community in recognition of his role as chairman of the Jersey Fairtrade Island Group and the Rotary Club of Jersey,
Tony's work, when he's not playing pétanque, has included raising funds for the fight against polio and being an advocate for peace, he said he was "thrilled" to receive the honour and paid tribute to his wife Maggie, who is also his pétanque doubles partner, for her support.



CLATTER & CHATTER

Bagels and boules in Brooklyn



It's the American way. It's got to be bigger and better. The Carreau Club, "the nation's first pétanque bar" in New York opened two years ago with 2,000 square feet of outdoor terrain. It proved to be a hit – so much so they've added 6,000 square feet of indoor playing area. And while you may be lucky enough to get a cup of tea or coffee at a clubhouse in (old) Jersey, in Brooklyn the menu is a bit more ambitious: "It wouldn't be a French-inspired boule-bar without a great menu, and Carreau Club delivers with a full bar, craft beer, wine and cocktails. Plus, a small deli counter will serve French-inspired salads, crispy socca waffles, pissaladière (flatbreads), and sandwiches including lamb merguez "mitraillette," jambon beurre, and pan bagnat," said co-owner Dana Bunker.

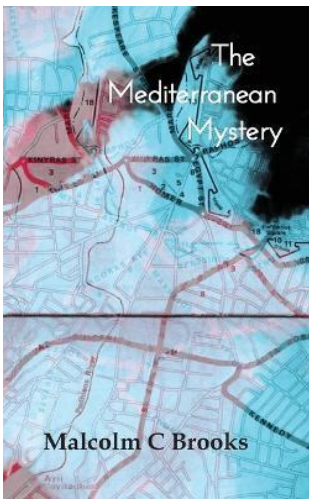
Malhereusement in Montmartre



Meanwhile a community pétanque club in Paris is battling for survival after a luxury hotel filed plans for the walled garden that hosts its games. The club took over the 765 square metres of playing grounds in Montmartre after the city bought the land from a daughter of a resident painter in 1972. No formal contracts were signed but the city gave its tacit approval, connecting water and electricity for the clubhouse and letting the club reserve entry to members only. The status quo prevailed until a few months ago, when the luxury boutique hotel next door filed a plan for an extension. Club members are digging in for a fight. They remember a year-long battle in the 1980s to prevent the construction of a multi-storey carpark on the site. Neighbours chained themselves to the trees to scupper the project, and in 1991 the site was designated a protected landscape.

Pointing the finger!





Two pétanque players from Cricklade in Wiltshire have teamed up as a double to play a different kind of game, but one which does involve firing – as well as pointing (the finger at potential suspects)! They've co-written a murder mystery set in Cyprus called "The Mediterranean Mystery". Malcom Brooks is an RAF veteran who was stationed in Cyprus during the troubles in the late 1950s. He says he survived three murder attempts during his time there. Today he's an 83-year-old pétanque coach and doubtless knows how to shoot straight. He'd always had an ambition to write a book, but it was a fellow pétanque enthusiast who helped him turn his idea into fruition. Co-writer Christine Saunders said: "I first met Malcolm two years ago at the opening of a new pétanque club in Cricklade. "I had never played before, but he became the coach there and everyone loved him. He is always so happy and wants us to have fun. He wrote the plot and asked me if I could help set it out. He knew I had written and edited two books 20 odd years previously."

Shoot-out in Sherston



Fed up of holidaying in sunny Spain or foodie France? Why not try something different this year and enter a team at the Sherston Boules Festival. It's a village in Wiltshire where, once a year, they go utterly mad and close the village's main street and make it the focus instead for a big pétanque event (128 doubles teams took part last time round). This year it's on July 15th and as well as pétanque there's loads going on including a duck race



Home is where the Harts are



When you've played as much pétanque over the years as Derek and Joy Hart you'd think that going away on holiday might be an opportunity to escape from not only the daily grind but also the lure of the boules terrain. Instead, why not enjoy the exciting scenery, the warmer weather and the exotic food and drink that foreign climes tend to offer? Put quite simply, going on holiday is about getting away from it all. However, the Harts see it differently. They will treasure the distinctive landscapes, make the most of what the weather has to offer and relish the offerings of the local cuisine. But the pétanque? Derek Hart takes up the story …

We have the habit of finding Pétanque terrains and pétanque players whenever and wherever we are on holiday!

Travelling through Dallas, Texas we heard the very distinctive sound of boule being played and subsequently we met the players, a Mexican and an Afghan! In New Zealand we found the terrains in Wellington and Arrowtown and in Luang Prabang, Laos, the local police station had an area and we discovered the officers playing the taxi drivers! Not surprisingly we did not find a terrain in Mongolia but I did meet the chair of the Mongolian Pétanque Federation in Belgium.

In France you would be hard pressed to find a village or town without a Place de Pétanque. So on holiday recently in La Palma (the most westerly and northerly of the Canary Islands) we discovered Los Llanos Bola y Petanca Club. Situated in the local sports arena the covered terrains were the home of the La Palma League champions. Alexis Cruz invited us to join the small group for their Monday practice evening. Fortunately Frans, who was originally from Switzerland, had excellent English and we were introduced to and welcomed by Carlos and Dione, the other members of the Los Llanos League team.

As you may be aware La Palma recently experienced a rather dramatic volcanic eruption which devastated large tracts of the Island. But at least the locals know what to do with the lava that flows from their volcano. Crushed it makes a great surface on which to play pétanque. We enjoyed a great evening with the La Palma players who lent us boules and encouraged us to join their twice weekly evening practices.

It soon became obvious why the team were top of their league - Dione had formidable pointing skills but could fire accurately when called upon and Alexis with his shooting skill would not have been out of place in any European competition - he also placed exceptionality well. Frans and Carlos also pointed and fired with great accuracy (Frans claimed he was a relative newcomer to the sport!). The three of them played a very aggressive shooting game and afterwards the terrain resembled a war zone with a boule shot out almost with each boule thrown.

We enjoyed three evenings in the company of the group leaving with them inviting us back for a fourth session but, unfortunately, we had come to the end of our holiday.

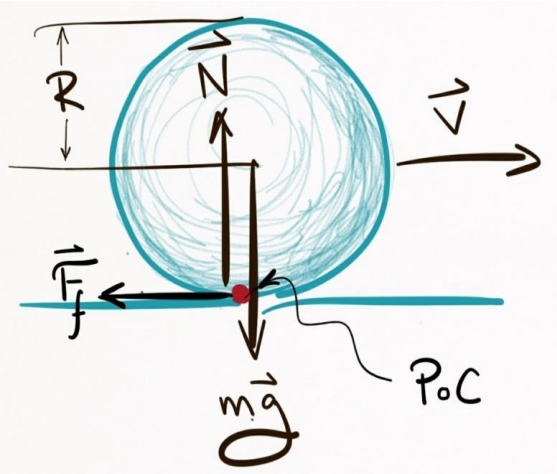
We will long remember our visit to Los Llanos Bola y Petanca Club and the friends we made there. Anyone visiting the Island would, I am sure, be made most welcome and if you are holidaying in La Palma I recommend an evening (or three) with this great group of players.

Our thanks to Alexis, Frans, Dione and Carlos and good luck to them in their La Palma League (but I doubt they will need luck).



Joy and Derek Hart, singing the praises of the Canary Islanders

The small bang theory on the origins of the pétanque universe





Back in the good old days

The first clatter of boules colliding took place more than a hundred years ago in the town of La Ciotat in Provence. But was the boule thrown by a member of a doubles or a triples team? That has been the debate triggered on Mike Pegg's "Petanque Rules – ask the umpire" site on Facebook. And was it thrown in 1907 or 1910?

The opening shot was fired by Arnold van de Pol. "Hi Mike, In 1907 pétanque was created in La Ciotat, southern France. Do you know if that was as a tripletette or as a doublette or maybe both?"

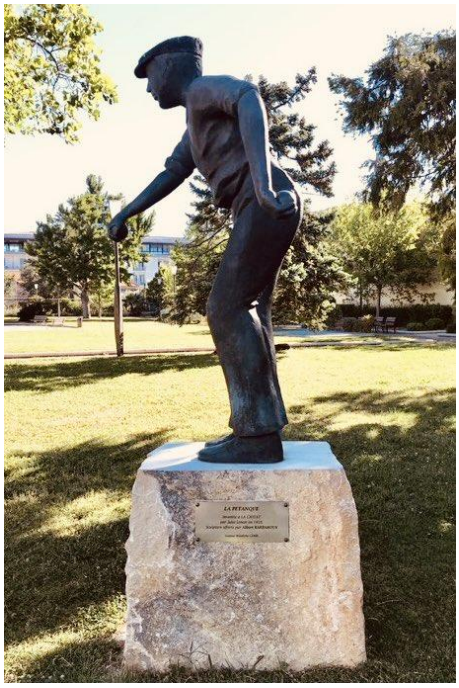
The first counter volley came from a Raymond Ager. "As somebody living in La Ciotat, everybody is familiar with the story of how the game was invented. However, I've never heard any reference to whether this was doubles or triples. I suspect that's lost in the mists of time. However bearing in mind that pétanque was a modification of le Jeu Provençal, if you look at the earliest rules, the only form that's recognised in triples. So, my money would be on triples."

Mike Pegg, who usually has an answer for all the obscure enquiries posed by the site's visitors, was unable to supply a definitive response. "It's true that there are serious doubts about 1907 or 1910, but if we believe the founder of the game Ernest Pitiot himself, it will be 1910. Triples or doubles, the sources I have don't say anyhing about it. Neither does Ernest Pitiot in his 'testament' or in his interviews in French magazines from the late fifties of the last century. But since the game of péanque was created as a derivative of the game of provençal (le jeu provençal) that was mostly played in triples, we can assume that the first pétanque competition in 1910 also was played in triples."

"Besides that, I have an old document, published in 1920 by the 'Manufacture Française d'Armes et Cycles de Saint-Étienne' (also manufacturer of boules) with the rules of the game of provençal that says nothing about triples or doubles. Another document I have dates from 1935 and is published by 'La Manufacture Artisanale de Boules à Jouer' in Marseille. It contains the rules of the game of provençal (only teams of 3 players) and at the end a very short and unofficial chapter on the game of pétanque (maybe the first rules of pétanque!): teams of 1, 2, 3 or 4 (!) players."



La Ciotat, the birthplace of pétanque



The pétanque player



Return to Santa Susanna

Sun, Sangria and success at pétanque



Every Easter an international pétanque competition is held on the Costa Brava at the seaside resort of Santa Susanna and it's proved an attractive event for a handful of players from Jersey, although this year there were eight of them taking part with the addition of Wendy Ritzema and Gary Cowburn. Geoffroy Buffetrille and Laurent Pellaton, Callum Stewart and Ross Payne, and James Gennoe and Paul Bell were the other pairs.

Although the event attracts a high standard of players our Craapaud contingent acquitted themselves very well. On the first day, seven games were played, with Wendy and Gary winning six, Geoffroy and Laurent five and Callum and Ross and James and Paul winning four each. This meant that Wendy and Gary, Geoffroy and Laurent, Callum and Ross made it into the main draw and James and Paul the Plate.

On the Sunday, James and Paul finished top of their group in the Plate on points difference. Sadly for them, the decision of who went through was on a head to head, so they just missed out. The main draw was split into 8 groups of 4 meaning 3 games were played. The winners from each group then went forward into the quarter finals.



Wendy and Gary and Callum and Ross were unfortunate to meet the finalists in their respective groups, so went no further in the competition. Geoffroy and Laurent however, topped their group and progressed to the quarter finals, only to be beaten by the eventual tournament winners.

Mike at the Double



Mike Ritzema is officially the melee maestro of St Mary. Congratulations to him on winning both this winter's Saturday and Monday competitions – and that's after winning the Monday melee event in the summer. Mike had won both events long before the final rounds at the end of March.

Waving the Wight flag



Jersey Pétanque Club members are looking forward to hosting members of their equivalents in the Isle of Wight. The visitors are coming with a ten-member squad on Friday, May 12th and the plan is hold competitions on both the Saturday and the Sunday with two games in the morning and two in the afternoon on each day. The usual JPC hospitality will be in evidence with a ploughman's lunch of cheese and ham on offer on the Saturday and BBQ on the Sunday.

The JPA has a new beancounter



At an EGM in late April Joy Hart was recruited as the new JPA Treasurer, replacing Steve Harvey. She paid tribute to her predecessor who she said had already been a great support. "I just want to thank him. The boots I have to fill are enormous. The accounts he produced are meticulous. He also sorted out the association's insurance. And he was responsible for updating the JPA constitution. Luckily he's going to be my mentor."

New name on the Inter Parish League trophy





St Martin



St Ouen – KO kings

The annual Parish League lunch was held at the Ambassador Hotel in February. After the excellent meal trophies and medals were presented to the successful teams. In the Inter Parish League the three-year reign of St Saviour was finally ended by St Brelade, if by a very narrow margin, and their squad turned up in force. The winners of the KO Cup were St Ouen while St Martin won the plate competition.



The twelve parishes have been invited to help renew the twinning links with their counterparts in Normandy, based initially on a pétanque tournament which is to held in Granville on June 24th. Town twinning was all the vogue twenty years ago but in many cases the links have fallen away to a greater or lesser extent. However in Normandy there's still a desire to keep the twinning spirit alive. To that end as well as significant French hospitality on offer there will be a range of festivities going on including an opportunity for four games of pétanque to be played, two in the morning and two in the afternoon – as well a chance to play a Breton game called Jeu de Palets. There will be a ferry service available – weather permitting – that will enable those taking part to get there and back on the day.

It was an inside job





Barnstorming performance

What may well have been the Island's first major pétanque competition to be played indoors was a huge success. It took place in January which is about as off-season as you can get, but no less than 28 pairs took part. Great credit is due to Carrefour for organising the event – let's hope it's repeated next year. It took place in an indoor sand school in St John, normally an equine arena. The terrain was interesting to say the least. Having played our boules a few times, they became rather sticky. Later we were told that the tacky quality was probably caused by our four-legged friends' habit of peeing whenever they felt like it. Still, the players carried on regardless. After five rounds, four teams emerged to contest the semi-finals, Wendy Ritzema and Gary Cowburn played Andy Limbrick and Steve Leathem in the first semi and won 13-6. They then went on to take the trophy in an epic final. In the other semi, Lorna Limbrick and Gavin Scott beat Daniel and James Villard 13-4. In horse-racing parlance, the final was won by a short head with Scott and Limbrick 12-9 in front only for Riztema and Cowburn to pass the winning-post with a four on a decisive final end.



Lorna Limbrick & Gavin Scott



James & Daniel Villalard

LPC Charity Doubles delayed



Weighbridge terrains ready for Crown Green bowls?

Liberation Petanque Club's seasonal pipe-opener, the Charity Doubles was delayed while the Weighbridge terrains were finally returned to something like their normal status after the Christmas hiatus. This event was played on the wet new terrains but with plenty of sunshine throughout the day. Entry fees and donations helped raise £202 for the Jersey Childrens Charity, Variety Jersey and Ronald McDonald House. Ten pairs took part in the event with three of them managing a hat-trick of wins but only Matt Pinel and Neil Selby managed to win four games. However they lost 13-5 in the final to Callum Stewart and Ross Payne. Gavin Scott and James Rondel took third place after beating Brian Harris & Colin Myers.



Ross Payne and Callum Stewart

President ends 3-year losing streak



The annual season opener at Carrefour Pétanque Club was a close-run thing with the President's team beating that of the Vice-President, 8-7. Both the winning team, led by Mat Scholefield, and the losing squad, with Nicky Maindonald in charge, ended up scoring 152 points over the fifteen games of doubles. The result meant that the President finally managed to put an end to the Vice-President's three-year winning streak



It’s pétanque but not quite as you know it!



The brain injury charity Headway held its annual pétanque competition on the Weighbridge on a bright, sunny day in mid-April. The event, sponsored by Integras Wealth Management and Snap Digital, attracted 24 triples teams, many of whose members had never played the game before.Not that the way they played was strictly kosher. There were no hoops, just pink circles chalked on the ground, games lasted just 15 minutes, and what counted was the overall team score.

Technically a team could lose all its games and still win the competition, if all their games were high scoring. In the event the Zedra Trust Company came out on top with Butterfields second and Snap Digital, last year’s winners, third. The JPA were heavily involved helping to run the event, including umpiring the games, as well as providing many of the boules and even the cochonnets – brand new ones bearing the JPA logo, which certainly stood out. There was a particularly interesting ending to the event, called a Starburst. All the players were invited by JPA chairman, Dave Ibitson, to stand in a big circle each with a boule carrying a sticker with their name on it. They were then given the signal to throw their boules simultaneously with the nearest to the coche in the centre of the circle winning a meal for two at a posh restaurant. The event raised £2,250 for Headway.



Innovative between-the-legs throwing stance



JPA chairman Dave Ibitson takes centre-stage



New JPA coches



Slightly more orthodox throwing stance



The Starburst circle



The winners



Starburst aerial view





Competitors concentrating



Stationary chalk circle

Dates for your Diary

(Please note this is only a guide. It's drawn from the club web-sites and is subject to change. Please check with the host club before attending any event).

APRIL
28th Carrefour reception drinks & draw for the Jersey Open
29th Carrefour Jersey Open Doubles
30th Carrefour Jersey Open Triples
MAY
1st Carrefour Jersey Open Singles at Carrefour
13th JPA Men's and Women's Singles at CPC
JUNE
10th JPA Men's and Women's Triples at CPC
24th JPA Men's & Women's Doubles at LPC
24th Parish twinning competition at Granville
JULY
8th JPA Mixed Doubles at LPC
14th Liberation International Open Singles
15th Liberation International Open Doubles
15th Millennium Park parish competition
16th Liberation International Open Triples
22nd Inter Insular at CPC
AUGUST
30th St Mary Super Veterans (over 70s) competition
SEPTEMBER
2nd Guernsey Open Doubles
3rd Guernsey Open Triples
13th Inter-Parish KO Cup at JPC
16th JPA Open Triples at LPC

Inter Insular latest

Guernsey have booked the Manche Iles boat for 22nd July and they are sending 15 players with Seb Renaud resuming as playing captain. They're due to arrive at 9am and we've booked a minibus to transfer them to the Carrefour terrains at Le Boulivot. The return boat is 18:40, so fingers crossed no need to rush. Lunch will be organised by the home club but the JPA will be picking up the tab!

Winter has come and gone

Winter seems to be never-ending but at least the JPA Winter League has been completed, with Grantez having played their outstanding game. It all means that Grantez are champions, with Leathalimbs second. Beeches Old Boules and Millennium Marauders were relegated. In Division Two, Pink Elephants were the winners and were promoted along with second placed Country Gang

The final League One table

POS	Team	PLD	W	D	L	SF	SA	SD	PTS
1	Grantez	10	6	3	1	41	19	22	21
2	Leathalimbs	10	5	3	2	34	26	8	18
3	La Hague Tigers	10	5	2	3	33	27	6	17
4	PES PC	10	3	4	3	30	30	0	13
5	Beeches Old Boules	10	2	4	4	29	31	-2	10
6	Millennium Marauders	10	0	2	8	13	47	-34	2

Inter Club match schedule

This year's Inter Club matches have a compressed schedule with games being played every week for six weeks – that's so as to try and avoid the lack of light problems which blighted several matches at the end of the season last year.

June 5th
Carrefour v St Mary
Liberation v Jersey Pétanque Club
June12th
Jersey Pétanque Club v St Mary
Liberation v Carrefour
June 19th
Jersey Pétanque Club v Carrefour
St Mary v Liberation
June 26th
St Mary v Carrefour
Jersey Pétanque Club v Liberation
July 3rd
St Mary v Jersey Pétanque Club
Carrefour v Liberation
July 10th
Liberation v St Mary
Carrefour v Jersey Pétanque Club

Summer League to start

Looking at the thermometer you may be hard-pressed to believe it, but the JPA Summer League begins next month. This year there are just two divisions and the first round of matches is on May 18th.

Carrefour's chocolate fest



Keith White meets the Easter Bunny

Congratulations to those Carrefour members who were successful in the club's Easter Melee. First was Keith White, second Keith Lajoie and third Kevin Daly.

Time for the single-minded

Time to get fingers extracted and clasping your boules. Entries for the JPA Men's and Women's Singers on May 13th haven't exactly flooded in, so please register asap - the entry form can be found on the JPA website under "documents").. If 16 or more register for the events, then we will have a plate competition which doubles your chances of winning a medal.

Calling on the Golden Oldies

A special tournament is to be held to celebrate St Mary Pétanque Club's 20th anniversary this year. Appropriately it's for Super Vets (anyone aged 70 or over) which will exclude very few of the home club's membership!
It's a doubles event scheduled for Wednesday, August 30th. The entry fee will be £5 per person. Entries will be offered Island-wide. There'll be a special trophy for the winners and although the competition is designed to be a one-off, if it turns out to be successful, there's a chance it could become an annual event.

Last chance for big weekend

The Liberation International Open Weekend in mid-July is well subscribed at this stage but there are a handful of places left, eleven in the Singles on July 14th, three in the Doubles on July 15th and 14 in the Triples on July 16th.

And they're off

The Inter Parish League is up and running and already the usual suspects are jostling for position. St Saviour have got off to a flyer in the early stages of the race. Last season's runners-up are unbeaten on top the table. St Mary and St Brelade are also in the mix, but the surprise package is St Clement who managed to beat St Brelade.