THE TALK OF THE TERRAIN

IN THE CIRCLE

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August 2023

It's not just a sport … pétanque plays a part which benefits the much wider Island community

Anne Morel played pétanque at a high level for more than 30 years. She used to be one of the stars at Carrefour Pétanque Club. But dementia intervened and gradually her skill set diminished. However, she's still playing the game, but now in sessions organised by Dementia Jersey at the terrain on the village green at St Martin. Helping her is another long-time Carrefour stalwart, her husband Frank. He helped set up the St Martin sessions. "It really helps Anne to continue to play the game," he said. "It's exercise. And she has to think about how she's going to play the next shot. Coming here has done her the world of good." The sessions often attract more than 20 people including their carers. "We were looking for different ways to engage with people living with dementia," said Volunteer and Activities co-ordinator for Dementia Jersey, Susie Kelly, "It's wonderful for them. It gets them out. It's exercise and it helps them cognitively – whose turn is it next, how hard should I throw my boules? It's also good for the carers – they can share their experiences."

And pétanque is also proving to be a real pick-me-up for sufferers of persistent pain, caused by a wide variety of conditions. Liam O'Connor, Vocational Co-ordinator with Pain Support Jersey, said: The members really enjoyed playing pétanque. Jo Mollet, one of those taking part, said: "The exercise helps a lot because we're out in the fresh air and having fun." Pétanque Jersey is also supporting Headway charity events.

All these sessions are examples of how pétanque has a wider role to play in the community. "With both the Home Nations and the Inter Insular coming up it is perhaps worth remembering that pétanque is not all about elite squads and travel to exotic locations," said Dave Ibitson,

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Anne and Frank Morel



The 1st St Ouen Sea Scouts learning how to play the game at St Mary



Having fun with Dementia Jersey



The Coach

There are four basic physical elements to a successful throw.

The Grip:

The boule should sit comfortably in the hand between the base of the thumb and the first three fingers. The thumb should not touch the boule! Develop a light grip as gripping the boule tightly will put tension into the arm and this will affect your ability to release the boule smoothly and accurately.

The Stance:

This should start with the feet which should be placed to give stability and balance and be aligned with the target. Your stance should also allow you to swing your arm freely without interference from your hip or your clothing.

Balance is important so extend your non-throwing arm as a counter balance behind you. Keep your centre of gravity within the circle - bending too far forward will cause you to fall out of the circle when throwing a long boule.

The Swing:

The throwing arm should remain straight. Bending your arm will cause you to throw off-line. Take sufficient backswing to achieve the desired length of throw. Playing a "snatch from the hip" will take the swing off line either across the body or the boule will fall short or long. Develop a smooth pendulum swing in waltz time - 1 back, 2 to the hip and 3 to the target.

Release:

Pétanque is an aerial game. It is played on rough ground so the longer the boule is in the air the less likely of it being deflected by the uneven surface of the terrain.

Uncurling your wrist will impart backspin and releasing the boule with your fingers pointing at the target will ensure that it travels in a direct line. Letting the boule go around or just below shoulder height will allow the boule to travel at least three quarters of the way through the air. It will land and the backspin will help it stop and the role out will be controlled.

Do not rely on the surface to control the boule, get a grip, stance, swing and release that gives you control.

THE GROUND RULES

A regular series in which we look at some of the laws of the game that can lead to misunderstanding. One area of the rulebook covers what to do about the potential distractions that may occur as you're about to play the crucial carreau. Derek Hart explains.

Standing room only

How often have you stood in the circle ready to deliver the winning boule only to feel the warm breath of your opponent on your neck, or see a large expanse of cloth being waved half way down the terrain or to hear the exchange of holiday related stories accompanied by laughter coming to your ears from only a foot or two from your throwing arm?

Why is that a heavy breather, the flag bearer, the teller of funny stories or the person who wants to stand in the circle with you will be the first to accuse you of having your foot a fraction of an inch outside the back of the circle?

A foot encroaching a sixteenth of inch onto the ring, even though it is technically contrary to the rules, gives a person very little advantage whereas the aforementioned heavy breathers etc. are gaining a distinct advantage by distracting during the throw.

The rules are very clear - when your opponents are playing their boule you should be quiet, still and at least two metres away from the circle and the cochonnet. You should be to the side and not directly behind the cochonnet. You should not be between the circle and the cochonnet - not even if you are off the terrain standing on the side. When your team are throwing you can stand where you like on the terrain. You can indicate the preferred landing spot or the line of play but you can not mark the surface of the terrain.

The Covid 19 pandemic called for social distancing of 2 metres. Let us keep that social distancing for pétanque.
I will **NOT** get your germs and I will **NOT** be distracted
- **perfect!**

Picture of the Month



The firing during a parish league match at St Mary proved to be too much for St Ouen's Ron Vibert



CLATTER & CHATTER

Too hot to handle



A Dutchman has died five days after being struck in the head by fragments of a pétanque ball that exploded "like a grenade" during a party in Belgium. Apparently, at a gite where a group of Dutch tourists was staying, a few boules had been placed in and around a fire pit. One of them became so hot it burst into pieces.

It's by no means the first time someone has been either seriously injured or killed in similar circumstances. In 2018, a man was killed at a BBQ in a small village near Perpignan. when a boule exploded and sent shrapnel into his skull. Unknown to the 31-year-old man a boule had been left inside the grill and forgotten about.

In 2009, a new unsold set of leisure boules sitting on a shelf in a shop's storeroom in Switzerland spontaneously exploded. The incident prompted the German government to issue a statement warning people of the danger of cheaply made boules reaching high temperatures.

In 2016, in a German town near Düsseldorf, a pétanque ball exploded in the middle of a marquee. The explosion ripped a hole in the tent's roof and left a crater in the ground. A German bomb squad responded, removed the remaining seven boules in the set, and safely detonated them.

A year later a Thai man became the first known person to be killed by an exploding boule. Reports suggested local players thought soaking boules in water and heating them up would help them play better. The victim was apparently doing just that when one exploded, sending a metal shard flying that pierced his skull and killed him instantly.

A pétanque set to Dior for …





Want to give your partner the ultimate pétanque set? Here's just the thing for you. They're adorned with the Christian Dior signature and come with two jacks embellished with the lucky star and are presented in an elegant box … "An ode to Mr. Dior's playful heritage and a joyful symbol of boldness and freedom." And they'll set you back a mere £1,750

The Jonah Lomu of pétanque



Thirty-two national titles, more than 20 regional titles and five trips to the world championships - in the world of pétanque Georgio Vaka'uta is a big deal. So much so – and because he's originally from Tonga he has been hailed as the Jonah Lomu of pétanque. (For readers unfamiliar with his name, he was considered to be rugby union's first global superstar and at six feet five inches tall he was a giant of a man). A French newspaper crowned Georgio Vaka'uta "the small Lomu". He was born in Vanuatu, and has played all over the world, but is now based in Auckland, New Zealand, after moving there in 1994. He said there was still one ambition that had eluded him. "The one thing I would really like to achieve is playing for New Zealand, representing the country at the Olympics," he said.

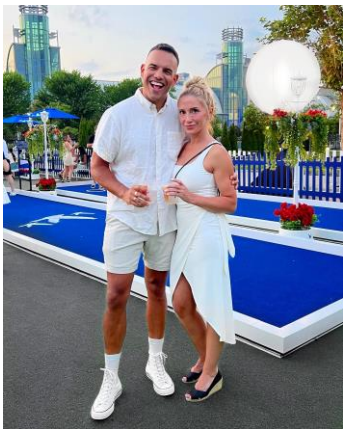
Flat caps in the heart of Yorkshire but no whippets

The next time you're in Leeds why not look up this set of statues in the city centre, inspired by the game of pétanque. It's a sculpture which still puzzles many in Leeds – three bronze figures leaning on a lamp-post watching a fourth playing a boule. It was unveiled by the deputy mayor of Leeds twin town, Lille, in 2000. The sculpture serves to remind people that an otherwise innocuous patch of gravel in the heart of Leeds city centre is, in fact, a place for entertainment and enjoying oneself.



Pétanque with a different kind of shot!





If you happen to be in Montreal later this month, why not pop along to the Grey Goose Lawn Pop-up Club where the a company is hosting "a fun-filled event fusing the classic French game with vodka. Participants can enjoy some boules in teams of two, four, or six, before a turn in the Clubhouse with a refreshing Grey Goose spritz or soda and French crêpes to indulge in après-boules."

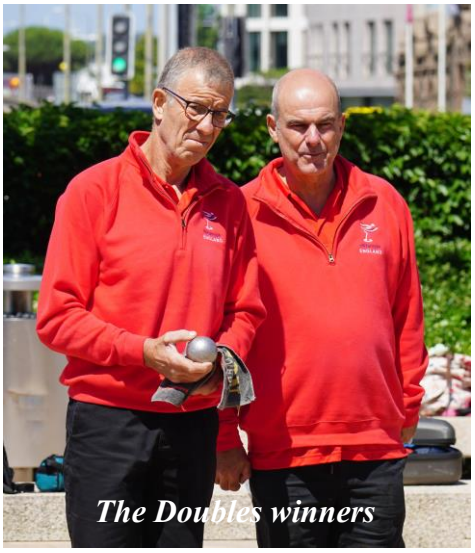
The Liberation International Open:

Viking raiders grab the spoils





Winners of the Singles and the Triples



The Doubles winners



Benny Bel-Lafkih



Simon Bird

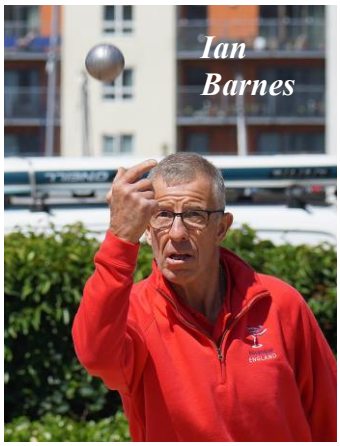


Julian Rouhaud

Liberation's International Open three-day event was a big success even if players from overseas carried away most of the spoils – which amounted to much of the £2,500 prize money on offer. And it was the Vikings from Norway who committed the lion's share of the pillage, winning both the Singles on the Friday and the Triples on the last day. In between, the Doubles prize was claimed by raiders from England. As well as the French, English and Norwegian contingents taking part alongside home players there were eight members of a club near Dublin who wore badges announcing the 'Dubliners on tour' – sadly they didn't bring their instruments with them!

The Liberation squad had a good idea of what the Norwegians were capable of having seen them win the equivalent of the Plate Final at the EuroCup at the end of last year. They'd also seen the French representatives in action and it was no real surprise that the Singles final featured both nations. The eventual winner, Benny Bel-Lafkih, did lose one match on his way to the final – against Kevin Daly, but managed to comer through 13-11 in a tense encounter against Julian Rouhaud from a French club near Angouleme (the only player to win all his matches in the qualifying round). Another of the Norwegian contingent, Eli Gjengstoe, took the bronze medal after a 13-9 win against Toby Northern in the third place play-off. The Plate competition at least provided a home-based winner, Keith Pinel beating Sandra Goodwin from the UK 13-5 in the final.

Day 2 saw a big improvement in the weather although there were still a couple of short sharp showers as well as a gusting wind. The Doubles final was another close-run affair, this time between two UK pairs. Ian Barnes and Simon Bird won it 13-11 against Adrian Emson and Myra Huntley. The Norwegians weren't far away with



Ian Barnes

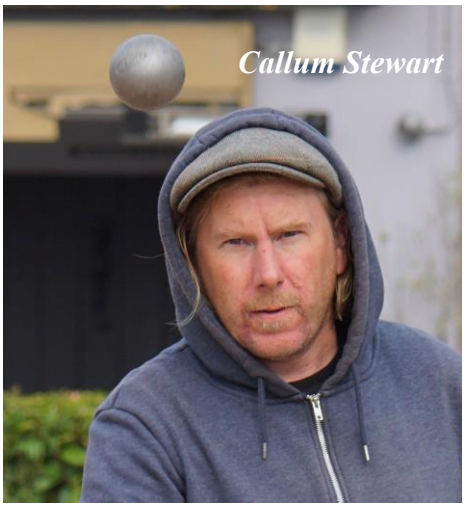


Gabriel Bel-Lafkih



Toby Northern




Callum Stewart


Clive De Silva

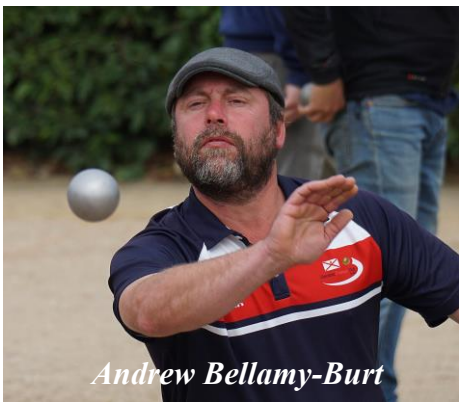

Eric Boeuf

Benny and Gabriel Bel-Lafkih winning the third place play-off against Laurent Pellaton and Jean Stewart 13-3. Keith Pinel and Graeme Follain lost out in the Plate final 13-10 to another UK pair, Eliot Mortimore and Paul Myers.

The final day was another one where rain intervened but the new Liberation terrain held up pretty well. The Triples final was another Norway versus France affair, well almost. There were three French players who'd set off for the competition but one of them was turned back at St Malo because his passport was two months out of date. Meanwhile Des Spratt who was on holiday from Northern Ireland had let the organisers know he was available as a stand-in should any of the teams be short of a player. He was signed up to join Julian Rouhaud and Eric Boeuf and the alliance managed to fight there way through to the final against the Benny and Gabriel Bel-Lafkih plus Eli Gjengstoe. The Norwegians dropped three points on the first end but then cruised to a 13-3 victory. Toby Northern, Andrew Bellamy Burt and Callum Stewart managed to win the third place play-off 13-6 against the English trio of Simon Bird, Ian Barnes and Adrian Emson while the Plate winners were another English threesome of Stuart Brown, Chris Turner and Carolyn Greenhalgh.


Des Spratt

Afterwards there was a lot of praise for the organisation of the event by Toby Northern and his team. And thanks were also due to Elaine Paisnel who spent a lot of time running around, responding to shouts of "umpire."


Andrew Bellamy-Burt


Elaine Paisnel




Third in the Triples

The Carrefour Open 2023





Singles winner Mike Curd



Doubles winners Andy Limbrick & Alan Lahiffe



Triples first: Seb & Delphine Renaud plus Lee Holberry

Heard the one about the Englishman, the two Jerseymen and a threesome from Guernsey? They were the winners of the top prizes in the Carrefour Open competition which was held in May for the second year running and for the second year the weather was kind. The event started well for the home club when Andy Limbrick and Alan Lahiffe won the Doubles. They beat another local team, Neil Selby and Keith Boleat, in the final. A pair from England, Clive de Silva and Migs Trimingham were third. The Plate competition was won by Brian Harris and Colin Myers. Iain Haith & Vicki Le Poidevin from Guernsey were the runners-up and the bronze medals went to an English pair, Cary Bush & Mary Bradridge.

The Triples were dominated by local teams, but it was a Guernsey trio who picked up the silverware - Seb and Delphine Renaud with Lee Shortstack Holberry taking the gold medals. They beat Brian Harris, Wendy Ritzema and Gary Cowburn in the final. The Plate winners were another Jersey threesome – Nicky and Barry Maindonald plus Kevin Daly - who pipped another Guernsey trio, Giles Cleal, Iain Haith & Vicki Le Poidevin. In third place were a joint English/Guernsey team, Gary Lee, Andy Briggs and Keith Priaulx. The Singles were dominated by home Players but the top prize went to a visitor, Mike Curd from England, who beat Alan Lahiffe in the final. The bronze medal went to Kevin Daly. There were both Plate and Consolage competitions in the Singles. The winner of the former was Brian Harris who beat Andy Limbrick in the final with third place going to an English player, John Brown. The Consolage went to Geoffroy Buffetrille, the winner against Keith White with Guernsey's Seb Renaud third.











Fun, feasting & frustration in Granville





Derrières en haut!



Pirate party crew



The St Helier squad (with several ringers!)

Do you remember 'It's A Knockout' or the Euro version, 'Jeux Sans Frontières'? It was televised mayhem involving buckets of water, greasy poles and foam rubber suits. A downmarket version of the madness was the staple of a bi-annual series of games involving Jersey parishes and their twinned towns and villages in Normandy. The first 'Jeux Inter-Jumelages' took place in St John in 1992, followed two years later by Villedieu les Poéles and continued every two or three years until 2018. Then there was the Covid interlude during which the appetite for a resumption of the games in their traditional form seemed to cool.

So this year the format was reinvented when Granville stepped into the breach and offered to host the games with the added twist of combining them with the celebrations of the 100th anniversary of the tall ship, La Marité, the last surviving French vessel to have been involved in deep-sea fishing off Newfoundland. However, the games were given a fresh twist by being centred on a pétanque competition – the only water involved was distributed in bottles, the only grease came in tubes of sunscreen and the dress code centred on straw hats: it was a very hot day.

Most of the Jersey parishes signed up for the resumption of the games, St Brélade sending a team of more than 20 while St Mary could only manage four – and St Peter opted out completely at a rather late hour. They all set sail at a wretchedly early hour aboard the Manche Isles Express and after a short bus trip found themselves at Granville pétanque club where the hospitality began with a traditional French breakfast involving a variety of croissants, pain raisins and other pastries. But then the mayhem began, a pétanque competition that can only have been organised by a Joker left over from the days of Jeux Sans Frontières.

There were supposed to be four rounds of pétanque, two before lunch and two after, but very few visitors managed anything like that. It all descended into chaos from the get-go, induced apparently by some kind of communications breakdown at the planning stage – some parishes weren't expected at all. One St Mary player found himself playing for St Helier alongside a Frenchman against two St Laurentians. How that computed when the final result was announced was anyone's guess.



Not on the same wavelength?



St Mary out in the cold





If anything, the chaos got worse after lunch when finding two opponents to play was a lot harder than the actual game itself. As to the overall result, no-one had a clue as to what was going on. Still there was the consolation of a well-organised lunch. The beer, wine and cider flowed and there was a lot of friendly banter. Luckily, for those who couldn't find anyone to play there were lots of alternative traditional games available including the local version of "pallet," involving throwing metal discs at a stick stuck in the ground with five coins on top.

More chaos ensued at the end of the fun and games. The free bus service back to the centre of Granville came to an abrupt end leaving many participants standing around in the hot sunshine for the best part of an hour. Some walked, some were offered lifts in cars, but all was forgotten and forgiven at a special supper put on by the hosts, catering in fine style for nearly a couple of hundred people. The pity was that the speeches overran somewhat leaving many of the Jersey contingent having to leave before the cheese and sweet courses.

Before the feasting got underway the winners of the pétanque competition were announced – Portbail and Grouville. Quite how that conclusion was reached was a bit of a mystery. No scores were posted and given St Brelade's apparent success on the day it all seemed a bit odd. However, Mark Labey the Constable of Grouville, was happy to receive a share of the trophy. The visiting contingent, apart from those that decided to stay overnight before returning on Condor from St Malo the next day, legged it back to the port and were relieved to enjoy another smooth passage home, putting an end to a long but enjoyable, if rather frustrating, day.



La Marité



The Panama team



Sitting on the sidelines



The Granville team

Les jeux alternatifs français















Handy Andy

Andy Limbrick is the new Island Singles champion



There's to be a new name inscribed on the JPA singles trophy after Andy Limbrick became champion for the first time. It meant that he now has his name on all three JPA majors: the Singles, the Doubles and the Triples.

In this year's final he beat Jake Romeril 13-6 in a match that was closely contested at first before Andy pulled away in the latter stages. Earlier he had beaten Brian Harris 13-3 in their semi-final while Jake Romeril edged out Matt Pinel 13-10 in the other, but Brian had the consolation of winning the bronze medal, beating Matt 13-11.



There were three trophies being contested at this year's JPA Singles championship, two of them for the first time. The new cups were for a separate women's event and a Plate competition, designed to attract more entrants – and it worked with a record 35 competitors taking part, 24 in the men's event and 11 in the women's.



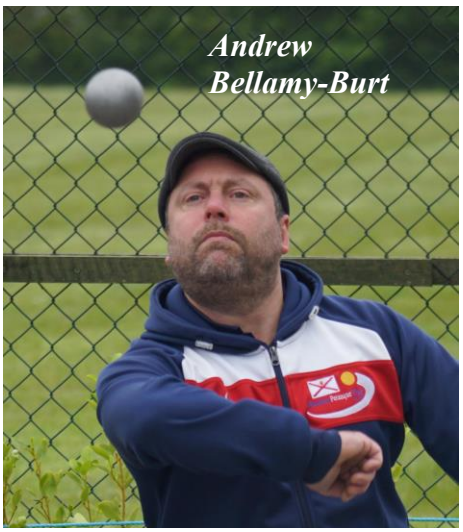
The women's event was an all-family affair with Jean Stewart losing to her daughter Cassie Stewart Le Gallais in the final. Cassie had struggled to make it through the qualifying round, just edging into the qualifying group in 8th place. In the quarter final she found herself facing Wendy Ritzema, the only competitor to have won all five games in qualifiers, but Cassie turned the tables and won 13-4. She then went on to win her semi-final 13-6 against Lorna Limbrick, while her mother came through 13-10 in a close-fought encounter against Nicky Maindonald. Her opponent had the consolation of winning the bronze medal beating Lorna Limbrick.



The inaugural Plate competition was won by Ross Payne in a very close final against Alan Lahiffe, which ended with a 13-10 scoreline. Earlier Ross had beaten Geoffroy Buffetrille 13-5 in the first semi-final while the runner-up had taken out Mat Scholefield 13-8 in the other. The bronze medal went to Geoffroy who beat Mat 13-9.



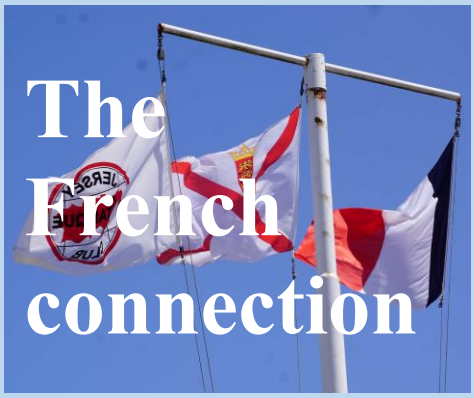












The French connection



The entente cordiale between Jersey Pétanque Club and their counterparts from Coutances was renewed in June, celebrating more than three decades of friendly rivalry. More than 20 players made the trip from Normandy to take part in four rounds of doubles as well as the customary hospitality and they were blessed with a warm, dry weekend.

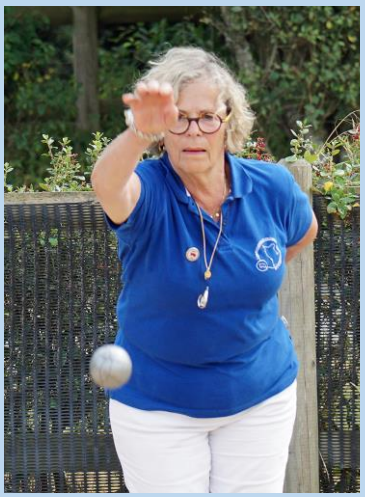
Some of the visitors had been entertained by their hosts on the Friday, but the rest who travelled by ferry on the Saturday morning were delayed by congestion at the harbour.

However the first round of competitive consumption, otherwise known as breakfast or le petit dejeuner, finally got underway in mid-morning. Once the pile of croissants and pain raisins had been demolished it was down to the serious business and it was the visitors who took an early lead, winning the opening round 7-4, but the home side responded in the second round to tie the series at 11-all.

The lunch interval proved decisive. There was so much good food on offer that it demanded to be accompanied by equally good beverages. Whether it was the Ricard, the wine or a potent blackberry liqueur that made the difference isn't clear, but the visitors appeared to bottle it. The home side took the third round 9-2 and then went on to win the fourth 7-4 to make the overall score 27-17. The achievements were celebrated by 52 guests at an excellent luncheon at the Hotel Ambassadeur the next day. A deserved 'well done' to Ron Vibert and Daphne Romeril for being the only Jersey team to win all their four games – and to the Coutances captain Marcel Geuno and partner, Annie Leroy, who also completed the four-timer.





















Liberation qualify for the EuroCup – but only just



This year's Interclub championship was the closest for several years, with Liberation's dominance of the competition in recent years finally coming under threat. That was after Carrefour pulled off a shock 17-14 win away at the Weighbridge – the first time the home side had lost a match for several years. With the other results going pretty much to form, the championship – and the right to represent Jersey in the EuroCup in November – came down to the reverse fixture at Carrefour's home ground in Grouville. Going into the triples Liberation found themselves 12-9 down and needing to win both of the threesomes if they weren't going to miss out on big prize which they've held since 2018. However, they stepped up to the challenge, Toby Northern, Laurent Pellaton, Geoffroy Buffetrille beating Paul Waters, Steve Leathem and Keith Boleat 13-2 while Callum Stewart, Cassie Stewart Le Gallais and Matt Pinel won 13 – 3 against Alan Lahiffe, Matthew Scholefield and Nicky Maindonald. Otherwise Liberation almost managed a clean sweep, dropping only three points in the home doubles match against St Mary. As far as the also-rans were concerned, St Mary just shaded it against Jersey Pétanque Club, taking third place on aggregate points difference.

FINAL TABLE 2023

	Won	Lost	Pts For	Pts Agst	Aggregate
LPC	5	1	154	32	+122
CPC	5	1	133	53	+80
STM	1	5	44	142	-98
JPC	1	5	41	145	-104

What a washout!

The JPA Mixed Doubles event at the Weighbridge had to be abandoned because of the rain-flooded terrain. Because of the tight fixture schedule, it will be resumed on October 14th. The event was abandoned just before the semi-finals. When they are eventually played the draw is Katrina & Trevor Holden v Elaine Paisnel & Brian Harris and Gary Cowburn & Wendy Ritzema v Cassie Le Gallais Stewart & Ross Payne.



JPA Men's and Women's Doubles

"As constant as the Northern star":

Julius Caesar, Act 3 Scene 1





Champions in the Men's and Women's Doubles

Toby or not Toby? That is the question when it comes to the JPA Men's Doubles championship. He's just won it for the fourth time, on this occasion partnered by Laurent Pellaton – about whom Shakesperean puns are slightly more difficult. They won all four games in the group stage before beating Matt Pinel and Geoffrey Buffetrille 13-5 in the semi-final. Their opponents in the final were Alan Lahiffe and Mat Scholefield who had fannied Andrew Bellamy-Burt and Callum Stewart in their semi-final. Northern and Pellaton closed out the final convincingly13-2. Third place went to Bellamy-Burt & Stewart who beat Buffetrille & Pinel in the play-off.

In the women's event Cassie Stewart Le Gallais and her mum Jean went one better than last year, winning all five of their games in the round-robin event, with last year's winners, Wendy Ritzema and Christine Eccles in the runners-up spot on three wins. Third were Lorna Limbrick and Nicky Maindonald.





Men's and Women's Doubles runners-up





Third place in the Men's and Women's Doubles

One event and two triples championships





The new JPA Men's Triples champions are Laurent Pellaton, Andrew Bellamy-Burt and Callum Stewart. Laurent was one of the trio that lost out in last year's final. The 13-5 scoreline didn't reflect how close the final was against James Gennoe, Geoffroy Buffetrille and Ross Payne. The third-place play-off was tied at nine-all before a decisive final boule by Andy Limbrick gave him and his team-mates, Alan Lahiffe and Mat Scholefield, the four points they needed for victory against Neil Selby, Toby Northern and Jake Romeril.

The JPA Women's Triples champions are Joy Hart, Bridie Hunter and Judy Dove – a second year running for Joy and Judy who won the event last year with Esta Williams. They topped the round-robin competition with three wins in their four games with a points difference of plus 19. The runners-up were Nicky Maindonald plus Jean and Cassie Stewart who also won three games but had a points difference of plus two. The bronze medals went to Alice Dilks, Elaine Paisnel and Brigitte Ibitson who had two wins and a points difference of plus 10

Carrefour Club Doubles: Joy for Lajoie



It was "great fun in the sun" at the Carrefour Pétanque Club Triples event. The new champions are Nigel Marshall, Brian Harris and Steve Leathem. The runners-up were Keith Lajoie, James Villalard and Paul Waters with the bronze medals going to Christine Eccles, JP and Kevin Daly.

However Keith Lajoie and Paul Waters made up for any disappointment at coming second by going one better in the club doubles championship. They beat Lindsey Walker and JP in the final. Christine Eccles & Lance Kiddie were third.



Doubles champions



Doubles runners-up



Doubles third place

Continued from the front page

Pétanque's role in the community



Pétanque Jersey chairman. "We must not forget our roots. Many of those players from the 1980s are still playing regularly and for them pétanque is as much about being a sociable occasion as a sporting one. The Parish League wouldn't be the same without the tea and home-made cakes after the games have ended. It's an ideal way of keeping in contact with friends whilst as the same time keeping active.

"In Jersey we are continuing to develop links with the community including young future Jersey players. Thanks to the work of the JPA's Development Officer Robin Stockton there are now terrains at Les Quennevais, Haute Valle and Le Rocquier Schools and there is also one just next to Grainville School."

Robin Stockton said: "The terrain at Les Quennevais School is now up and running. It was built on the site of an old flower bed and by coincidence is adjacent to the classrooms used by the school's Modern Languages Dept who have already made good use of it.

"It's hoped that further coaching will take place at the start of the Autumn Term and that a competition will take place between the four schools towards the end of October. During the final week of the school year four JPA coaches gave a two hour coaching session at Haute Vallee School with all twelve of the students who took part achieving the JPA's Level 1 Skills Award."

"Many thanks to David Ryan Landscapes for the work they did to build the terrain as well as the two they constructed at Haute Vallee School in the spring. Also the JPA are grateful for the grant they received from the Jersey Community Foundation to enable these terrains to be built."

And outside school, youngsters belonging to the 1st St Ouen Sea Scouts have taken a big step towards earning their Skills Challenge badge thanks to members of St Mary Pétanque Club. A dozen cub scouts spent nearly two hours learning how to play the game and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. By the end of the session several of the youngsters had been identified as potential stars of the future.

Keith & Mo spring a big surprise in the Liberation club doubles



There was a real turn-up for the books at the Liberation Club Doubles in early June when the eighth ranked team from the qualifiers came through to win the trophy. The shocks started in the in the first knockout round. It was a classic example of the Swiss curse with the 8th ranked team, Mo de Gruchy and Keith White, beating Matt Buesnel and Geoffroy Buffetrille, the only pair to win all their four games. And in the final, "Exceptional pointing from Keith and Mo outdid the shooting from their opponents Wendy Ritzema and Gary Cowburn," according to a club spokesman. Keith and Mo won 13-2. They'd reached the final by beating Alice Dilks and Brigitte Ibitson 8-5 in the semi-final, while Gary and Wendy had beaten Neil Selby and Ross Payne 8-5. Third place for the second year running went to Neil Selby & Ross Payne who beat Alice and Brigitte 13 – 12.

Points in the bank win the day



The St Mary club doubles was almost abandoned after the first of the round robin series of games with the rain and wind making playing conditions really tough. But the players decided to see it through and Dave and Brigitte Ibitson took the prize. They won all their four opening games and faced Chris Fennell and Malcolm Perrée in the final round, the only pair on three wins. The latter pair went on to win the game 10-3 but it was nowhere near enough to catch Dave and Brigitte on points aggregate.

Jean does it again



There was an extremely tight finish in this year's Liberation Open Ladies' Singles event. The top three in the round robin event each finished with four wins. That meant it went to points aggregate and Jean Stewart came out top with plus 26. In second place was Mo de Gruchy with plus 15 and just behind her in third place was Delphine Renaud from Guernsey on plus 14. It was Jean's second win in the event, having first picked up the trophy in 2020.

Pick of the crop





After a Covid-enforced gap, the Grouville Pétanque terrain at Holme Grown recently saw six Parish related teams compete for the prestigious Tomato Trophy. Teams representing the Municipality, the Chefs Tenants of the Fief du Roi and the Grouville/Portbail Association were joined by teams captained by Deputies Carolyn Labey, Steve Luce and Rose Binet.
The Tomato Trophy was first presented in 2015 for competition between Parish related teams of novice players, to thank Stanley Payne at Holme Grown for providing the terrain where Grouville's parish team is based. Eventually it was the Municipal team captained by Connétable Mark Labey, together with wife Collette and staff member Patricia da Silva, who claimed the big prize, the centre-piece of which was knitted by Grouville stalwart Elaine Paisnel.

Chris claims his first ever trophy



St Mary's first major of the season, the Singles, was won by Chris Fennell – and apparently it was a sporting first for him as well. All the cups at his home are made out of china! Only eight players took part in the competition, divided into two groups of four with the two finalists each emerging with three wins to their name Showing consistent form throughout, Chris went on to claim the trophy after beating the club's reigning Singles champion, Brigitte Ibitson 13-5 in the final.

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).

AUGUST

12/13th Home Nations, Leamington Spa
13th JPC Men's and Women's Doubles
20th President's Trophy melee at JPC
26th Inter Insular at CPC
30th St Mary Super Veterans (over 70s) competition

SEPTEMBER

2nd Guernsey Open Doubles
3rd Guernsey Open Triples
10th Men's and Women's Singles at JPC
13th Inter-Parish KO Cup at JPC
16th JPA Open Triples at LPC
17th JPC Mixed Triples
17th-19th CEP Veterans' Triples
21st-24th CEP Men's Triples
24th JPC Club Doubles

OCTOBER

7th JPA Veterans' Triples at St Mary
8th JPC Club Triples
13th Resumed JPA Mixed Doubles at the Weighbridge
21st LPC Charity Open Triples

NOVEMBER

5th JPC Winter Melee series begins
9th-12th CEP EuroCup for clubs

New officer required at the JPA

Elaine Paisnel has agreed to take on the secretary position at the JPA and is due to be formally appointed by the management committee at its September meeting. She replaces longtime holder of the post, Steve Foster. At the same time, the JPA is also looking to appoint a Competitions Officer to run the Summer and Winter Leagues, Inter-Club and Island Championships, following an agreement that this wasn't a role that should be covered by the secretary. An appeal is being put on the JPA website and Facebook pages. If a new officer is appointed by the next AGM at the latest, all that will be lost is the next series of Winter League matches.

Politicians to play pétanque?

The Sports Minister, Deputy Lucy Stephenson, has asked the JPA to help organise an introduction to pétanque for the Island's politicians. "I'm looking to organise a social get together for States Members and was thinking about potentially organising a fun introduction to pétanque, perhaps with an informal tournament approach.", she said. "Ideally it would be at The Weighbridge in early September. Obviously there are 49 States Members and while it would be great to get as many of us together as possible I wouldn't expect everyone to be able to attend."
On behalf of the JPA, chairman Dave Ibitson, responded positively and suggested a date in early September.

Trios picked for European triples

The teams to represent Jersey in the European Men's & Veterans' triples competitions which will be held at Albertville, south-east France in September have been announced. In the Men's Triples we will be represented by Gary Cowburn, Andy Limbrick & Toby Northern with Dave Ibitson as manager/coach. In the Veterans' Triples our team will comprise Joy and Derek Hart and Andy Limbrick with Ken Vibert as manager/coach.

Trois acclamations pour St Ouen



Champions, St Ouen



Runners-up, St Helier

As part of the French Festival celebrations in St Helier, organised in conjunction with Maison de la Normandie et de la Manche, eight parish teams took part in a pétanque competition, although in fact there were only seven parishes involved plus an extra team from of St Lawrence to make the competition format work more easily. Each team played five games, all of which were limited to 30 minutes. The only team to win all five matches was St Ouen who were crowned Champignons, or whatever is the French word for champions. St Helier and St Brelade both won four matches but the former were awarded the runners-up spot on the basis of a better points aggregate.

Juniors: Dodd does the double



The Junior Island championship took place at the St Mary Boulodrome in mid-July. Morgan Dodd who won the event two years ago reclaimed his crown after beating Lauren Le Garignon 13-2 in the final. Harry Sargent, last year's winner, came third.

Parish KO competition semi-finals

In the quarter-finals of the Carreau Le Crapaud Parish Knockout competition St Brelade beat Grouville 5-1 with St Peter having the same winning score against St John. The game between St Saviour & St Martin was closer, with St Saviour winning 4-2. The closest match was Trinity vs St Ouen, with the score tied at 3 games each, 72 points each, Paul Waters took on Ron Vibert head to head and won.
The draw for the semi-finals has been made with games due to be played before September 15th. St Saviour will take on St Peter and Trinity will play St Brelade.