THE TALK OF THE TERRAIN

IN THE CIRCLE



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Hope at last for Jersey Pétanque Club after the trail of destruction caused by Storm Ciaran

Jersey Pétanque Club is due to celebrate its 38th anniversary this year, but after the havoc left in the wake of Storm Ciaran there looked like there'd be very little to celebrate – and nowhere to celebrate it. The gale force winds tore into the clubhouse in early November, lifting it off its base and ripping off the roof. Builders covered the roof with plastic sheeting which made the clubhouse virtually watertight, but it still couldn't be used because the water damage was so severe that the toilets and kitchen etc were out of commission.

A structural engineer inspected the building in early January, to determine whether it could be rebuilt or needed to be replaced. Club members had been warned, that, if a new-build was deemed necessary, it could take a year before a new clubhouse was in place.

However the picture has now changed dramatically after a meeting with the site owners, Jersey Property Holdings. They have appointed builders who are tasked with repairing the clubhouse. Apparently "it will be restored to its former glory." And the revamped building could be more in line with what the club wants. The plans for the kitchen area will be shown to members who will be invited to tweak them to suit their needs. The best news of all though is that the club may be up and running again by the end of March – a far cry from early fears that it could be a year before things were restored to some sort of normality. The situation was so desperate that the club had investigated sharing facilities with the bowling club based at Les Creux. But the rent would have been too high; insurance on the clubroom was incredible; and the size of the property was considered far too big for their needs.

In an attempt to lift the morale of club members, the new club president, Dennis Mercier invited them to start playing again even before the facilities are restored. There's to be a cheese and wine gathering on Saturday, February 10th and members have been asked if they would like to take part in a roll-up beforehand. Anyone interested is asked to be at the terrains by 11am. They want as many members as possible to attend.



Clubhouse roof ripped off



Entry barred to both the clubhouse and the terrains

Jersey Pétanque Club wasn't the only club in the Island to suffer during the devastation caused by Storm Ciaran. St Saviour's new shelter at their terrain beside Grainville School also lost its roof and one of its two windows. Club members there are also in the dark as to when the repairs will take place, but at least the terrains are perfectly playable and members can always repair to the idoor bowling club premises nearby.





The Coach

Un gratton is defined as a mythical small stone which materialises under your boule as it lands.

Team-mates will often commiserate with "Oh bad luck".

I have seen that same small stone affect several throws in the course of a game, inflicting the same response "bad luck", "bad bounce," it hit a stone. There are literally thousands of stones on most terrains so how come that small one did not affect the opponents' boule or, come to that, their team-mate's boule.

In my opinion, after watching many, many players the response, rather than bad luck, should be bad throw.

Pétanque is, in essence an aerial game and the boule should spend most of its time in the air where little can affect it. Where the boule lands is in the hands of the thrower.

The " donnee," as it's called by French players, or landing spot, is crucial to a good throw. Of course, the boule will hit a stone on landing - it would be difficult to miss one but the stone was there before you went into the circle.

Before throwing go and look. Look at the spot you want to land on. Look beyond that spot to see the borrows, slopes or obstacles that will affect the roll out. Fill a hole made by a previously thrown boule even if there is not one in your immediate way. Think about your partner's next throw. They may be left-handed and that hole may be in their way on their roll out. But consult your team-mates.

As I have said to many players there is no such thing as bad luck in pétanque … just a bad throw!

The Coach



There are ways of getting round the rule about keeping your feet in the circle. But you can't wear an outfit like the one above too often or the umpires might get suspicious!

THE GROUND RULES

A regular series in which we look at some of the laws of the game that can lead to misunderstanding. Question-marks have been raised recently about two issues - what constitutes a 'dead' boule and how do you identify out-of-bounds areas. Derek Hart explains.

When is a boule or cochonnet "dead"?

Assuming that there are dead boule string lines set out on the terrain a boule or cochonnet must cross the string completely. How is this judged?

If the boule or cochonnet is obscuring the string when a player looks down over the boule or cochonnet it is still live. The boule or cochonnet must completely cross the string to be deemed "dead". Therefore, if you can see the string when you look down over the boule the boule is "dead".

Under normal circumstances a boule or cochonnet can cross two string lines before it is "dead". However, in a timed competition only one line is sufficient for the boule or cochonnet to be deemed "dead".

If the cochonnet is put out of the playing area by shooting and is declared "dead" and neither team has boule to play, the circle is placed over the spot where the cochonnet was before being shot or pushed out. Therefore, you should always mark the position of the cochonnet (as required by rule 6) again when it has been moved by a boule.

You should also mark the position of the circle **before** throwing the cochonnet.

It is permitted to clear stones or gravel from within the circle when it is your turn to throw but these should be put back once your throw is completed.

What constitutes an Out of Bounds Area?

If an area is deemed out of bounds, for example a large and deep puddle of water (in which the cochonnet floats), you are not permitted to play over that out of bounds area. It cannot be between the circle and the cochonnet.



If your partner is called Ricard these could make an ideal birthday present



CLATTER
&
CHATTER

Pétanque umpires in France see red



An outbreak of ‘bouliganisme” has enraged umpires in France after one of them was strangled amid a surge in pétanque rage driven by drunken players. The problem has got so bad that a group of 26 “arbitres” from Gironde in the Bordeaux area have threatened to boycott the upcoming French boules championship qualifiers in March unless action is taken.



They say they are fed up with competitive games descending into slanging matches, threats and even physical assault, with rival players even having thrown their boules at each other. In the latest violent incident, Jean-Louis Lecoq, a referee in his 60s from the Gironde area around Bordeaux, was strangled by an inebriated player on Oct 7th.

“He went berserk. He tried to throttle me and threatened to kill me several times,” said the pensioner who had to be escorted off the terrain to avoid further attack. “Pétanque itself is not violent,” the pensioner told Le Figaro. “The problem is the effects of alcohol. Some people know how to take their drink and others don’t. It’s a shame because one bloke can discredit an entire sport.”

With the Paris Olympics taking place this year pétanque players in France were outraged when the sport was excluded from the Games. However, Mr Lecoq said: “How do you want us to become an Olympic sport when people play in jeans and some people get wasted while playing?”

Drink intake is limited to 0.5g per litre of blood during tournament matches in France since 2019 after a rash of cases of boules rage.

However, certain clubs continue to turn a blind eye.

“Some club presidents don’t follow the rules and serve alcohol very early in the day. When contests start at 11.30am, they start selling whisky, Ricard, and punch. How can you possibly play pétanque with that amount of alcohol? It’s not possible,” said one referee,

“The problem is recurrent. Clubs sell alcohol in their bars because it brings in a profit, but these people are not the ones protecting referees in case of assault,” said Patrick Bugeat, international pétanque referee.

Regarding the threat of a boycott, Mr Bugeat said: “We don’t know if we’ll go all the way yet, but something has to be done.”

“You get all sorts in this sport: the bad-tempered, the contradictory, the cantankerous, and the embittered. The day when we have a death on our hands on the pitch due to alcohol, people will say we should have done something.”

“I want to advance the sport of pétanque. And while alcohol has always been there, a new factor is now at play, which is a reflection of a society where violent acts stand out to tempers fraying but that a line had been crossed.”

“Once I almost got a boule in the face,” said Jean-Claude Prat, a former train conductor and pétanque player for 40 years before becoming a referee. He said he personally knew “95 per cent of players” but that some lost the plot in competitive games after a tipple. “My wife is scared and wants me to stop,” he said. “I’m going to think about it. I’m too old for brawls.” He said that simply closing a club’s “buvette”, or bar, would not stamp out the problem because people would simply swig from bottles kept in the boots of their cars.

Anthony Garnung, secretary general of the Gironde referees committee and who came under attack last year, said: “Several referees almost got stabbed for simply trying to get the rules respected.”

He promised that breathalyser tests would soon be introduced to counter the problem. “We’re going to tighten the screw. All players will be checked. If any tests positive, they will be expelled from the competition. There will be disciplinary proceedings that could go all the way to the criminal courts if necessary.”

The plonk for petanquers?

The only female chef in America to have earned three Michelin stars is the inspiration behind a new wine called “Pétanque.” Before you too excited, it’s non-alcoholic. Even more bizarre, it’s made in a country not noted for its wine production – Canada! Chef



Dominique Crenn is the owner of a restaurant in San Francisco called Atelier Crenn and her new concoction which is the result of a collaboration with a company called Proxies, apparently blends numerous herbs and flavours including kiwi, yuzu, verjus, oolong, juniper and rosemary and promises “acidity, body and tannin. Pétanque is apparently the chef’s favourite game.

Weird name for a pétanque club

This year’s prize for the pétanque club with the strangest name must surely go to the “The Weird Entertainers & Pétanque Club,” based in a suburb of Melbourne in Australia. Even though the focus is on pétanque, the club also promotes an active social environment for members to take part in a wide range of activities. They can play dominoes, scrabble, triminoes, rummy and other table games of their choice at the club, or they can just sit around and chat.



On occasions, when a big turnout is expected the pétanque terrains are dressed up for social activities in fair-ground style with tents and marquees, providing a carnival atmosphere

Seasonal message from Petanque Jersey chairman, Dave Ibitson

The JPA would like to wish all members a Happy and Prosperous New Year.
2023 was another successful year for pétanque in Jersey with good attendances at JPA Island competitions, a record win in the Inter Insular and a second place, yet again, to England in the Home Nations.
We are grateful for the number of people who put themselves forward for these competitions and for the continued successful Lunchtime Leagues, Parish Leagues and Cups. Your involvement keeps the JPA alive and kicking as we roll into another year.
2024 will see Jersey host the Home Nations Championships on Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th August and we hope that you will all take this opportunity to come along to the Weighbridge and watch over 120 of the best players from England, Scotland and Wales test their skills against Pétanque Jersey for this prestigious trophy in what will be the biggest competition in the United Kingdom in 2024.
We are currently running coaching sessions at local secondary schools, which will allow us to bring in a new wave of younger players who will be able to represent us in future competitions and we are also running a successful Development Coaching Programme and it is so pleasing to see how many players from the parish teams have joined us at these sessions at St Mary's Parish Hall. These initiatives point to an even more successful year in 2024.
We must also cast our mind back to the storms which hit the island in 2023, and while we are relieved that no members suffered injuries, we all know someone who suffered damage to their property and none more so than our members at JPC. Our thoughts are with this most important club and its members as we wish them and all of you a better 2024.

Flying Dutchmen

The JPA is bringing over two top Dutch coaches in April for a weekend of intensive training to help prepare the Island's elite players - those who are likely to be involved in forthcoming European competitions. Jos Te Boekhorst and Jan van Keulen are coming to the Island in mid-April and the coaching sessions will take place over the weekend of April 20th/21st, although there will be a Meet and Greet session on Friday 19th to allow the coaches to get to know the participants through observation during some games. Jan was the coach for the Dutch team at this year's Euro Veterans Triples in Albertville and Jos is one of the country's top coaches.
Among the areas they hope they can help improve our game are in technical skills and tactical awareness. As well as improving our playing skills, it's hoped that our coaches will also benefit, allowing them to be able to build on their experience and develop their own skills and gain information to help them with the selection for the Home Nations, Inter-Insular and future European competitions. There will be two sessions on each day and there may well be a competition at the end of the Sunday afternoon to see whether the lessons have been taken on board. There will be a £20 fee to take part in the training, to help defray the cost of bringing the two coaches over from the Netherlands.



Jan Van Keulen

West is best, East is least!



Or is it the other way round? A new parish-based competition is set to be launched in June which may provide the answer. It's a one-off with the aim of the event, apart from being an entertaining day on pétanque terrains around the Island, being to raise money to help cover the costs of this year's Home Nations extravaganza.
The basic idea is to find the top doubles teams in both the west and east of the Island and bring them together in the centre of the Island – at the Weighbridge – for the finals. It's scheduled to take place on Sunday, June 2nd.
Six terrains will be nominated in the east of Jersey and another six in the west. Pairs will play a match in four of them, moving round their side of the Island. They'll be timed events - the format stipulates match durations of up to 45 minutes followed by an allowance of 30 minutes travelling time to get to the next venue. When the teams arrive at Liberation Square the scorecards will be handed in and the top four pairs – two from the east and two from the west – will play two semi-finals and the final. It's hoped clubs in the Parish League will enter up to four pairs – and similarly for the Island clubs, particularly players who hope to represent Jersey in the Home Nations.

Shot of the day



In an Island competition Geoffroy Buffetrille not only managed the difficult art of firing the coche off the lane he was playing in, but it shot over onto the adjoining terrain where another game was being played. It then hit the coche in the other game …a unique cannon, you could call a coche carreau!

Shot of the year



Well, it was as far as Wendy Riztema was concerned, pictured here with French maestro, Philippe Suchard, a twelve times world champion..



The 2023 Home Nations: Jersey runners-up, yet again



The final table from this year's Home Nations had a familiar look about it, with England's dominance being confirmed – winners every time since the inaugural competition in 2000 - and Jersey's role as perpetual runners-up also becoming established.

So it was, congratulations to England for winning - again. Congratulations to Jersey for coming second - again. Congratulations to England 2 for winning all their 12 matches. And finally, congratulations to Jersey 7 - Andrew Bellamy-Burt, Wendy Ritzema and Gary Cowburn - for winning nine of their matches making them the Jersey trio with the best record and sixth in the overall table.

In truth it was never going to be easy, beating England for the first time in Home Nations history in their own back yard – and so it proved.

The event was held for the first time on the terrains of the Whitnash Windmill Pétanque Club in Warwickshire. At the end of the first round of matches the home side had established a convincing lead, with Jersey and Wales fighting for second place with Scotland bringing up the rear. Jersey ended Day One with a 4-all draw against England., the first time their opponents had failed to win a match, but the Islanders had a lot to do if they were to overhaul the leaders on the second day.

Jersey started Day 2 with a cracking 6-2 against Wales, but England seem to have sealed the deal with an 8-nil demolition of Scotland. If there were any hopes that Jersey could overhaul England they were completely dismissed when the Island team went down to a 6-2 defeat against Scotland. The final table tells no lies – England were worthy winners and, by a considerable margin. So, it's all to play for later this year when Jersey hosts the Home Nations for only the second time.

Final Standings

Country	W	F	A	D
England	79	1155	720	435
Jersey	47	961	908	53
Scotland	40	856	1042	-186
Wales	26	785	1087	-302

Best Teams

Team	W	F	A	D
ENG2	12	156	76	80
ENG3	11	144	90	54
ENG1	10	146	86	60
ENG7	10	144	94	50
ENG4	10	134	104	30
JER7	9	141	81	60
ENG6	9	149	91	58



Top Jersey team: Gary Cowburn, Wendy Ritzema & Andrew Bellamy-Burt







Triples all round for pétanque's pensioners!



Euro Vets: Andy Limbrick, Joy Hart, Derek Hart & coach, Ken Vibert

They made a decent fist of it, but Jersey's triples team failed to go through to the knockout round in the Euro Veterans event in Albertville. They played well enough and went close in several of their five games but at the end of the day they lost four of them (Jersey 6 - Finland 13; Jersey 10 - England 13; Jersey 3 - Czech Republic 13; and Jersey 9 - Slovakia 13). Their one win was 13-11 against Estonia.

One of the team, Derek Hart sent this report on what was clearly an enjoyable trip, even if the results didn't go their way.

It is a privilege but a daunting one to play in a CEP - Confédération Européenne de Pétanque - competition. Daunting because of the venue. Playing in an Olympic stadium watched by hundreds of partisan spectators is very different from playing at the Elephant Park in front of a child on a slide!

Daunting because of the surface - tarmac covered by a single layer of snowwhite sharp gravel. And again, daunting because on the next terrain a team are playing Jean-Marc Foyt, Christian Fazzino, Christian Legarde and Michel Lol: does the shooter never miss?

How does he carreau at 10 metres on this surface? Perhaps 60 years of experience accounts for some of their lucky shots.

Thirty-four teams of veterans (I could have been their Dad, but then 55 is the age of a veteran in the world of pétanque) from all over Europe participated. Russia and Belarus were not invited - shame we may have done well against them!

The standard of play, even by the lowly Lithuanians, Slovenians and Latvians was high. How do they achieve their standard of play? Apparently, it's down to practice, dedication and more practice.

We were vanquished but we were never bloodied nor bowed. Our opponents gave praise when it was due and the dreadful 'fanny' was never bestowed on us, not out of pity but because we fought valiantly, though in vain.

The opening ceremony was an impressive affair with a parade of the nations and the lighting of the Olympic flame. The 1992 Winter Olympics were held in Albertville and the Olympic Hall stands as a testament to the French commitment to a Gallic sporting endeavour.

We met up with a lot of old pétanque friends but one missing face was that of Mike Pegg, President of the CEP, who was unable to attend due to his wife's health problems.

The teams ate in the ice skating rink served by volunteers from the surrounding towns and villages. The ice had been covered by sheets of plywood, but the cold did creep into the old veterans' bones. However, the warmth with which the small Jersey contingent were greeted took off some of the chill.

Joy, Andy Limbrick, coach Ken Vibert and I enjoyed our foray into European pétanque and although disappointed with our results we did learn much about playing at a higher level.

We were even approached by a couple who wanted a team photograph and a child who asked for our autographs so we must have impressed someone - perhaps we just looked like someone famous!



Déjà vu in the Island vets



Champions: Brian Harris, Gordon de Gruchy & Les Norman

It was three in a row for Gordon De Gruchy, Les Norman and Brian Harris in the Island Veterans Triples at the St Mary Boulodrome in October (although Colin Myers stood in for Gordon the previous year). They reached this year's final having only lost one match – and that was against the trio that had beaten them in the qualifying round, Alex and Jean Stewart plus Tony Morton. That in itself was an amazingly close encounter which went to a final end in which both teams kept coming up with what looked like the winning shot. By contrast, the final was a bit of an anti-climax, with the reigning champions taking the trophy 13-3. Both semi-finals were much closer. The eventual winners managed a 13-10 victory against the only trio to come through the qualifying round with an unbeaten record, Derek and Joy Hart plus Steve Foster. The other semi was even closer with the runners-up edging out Dave and Brigitte Ibbotson plus Mike Fennell 13-12 after that latter had fought back from being 10-2 down. The latter threesome then went on to lose the third place play-off, 13-8, to the Harts and Steve Foster. Eleven teams took part in the event.



Runners-up: Alex Stewart, Jean Stewart and Tony Morton



European Men's Triples



Guernsey: Jersey's opponents in their final match of the qualifying round

Another short-lived European adventure

Pétanque Jersey's European adventure in the Men's Triples had its moments but it ended with a first round defeat in the Nation's Cup, The Jersey trio, Toby Northern, Gary Cowburn and Andy Limbrick, lost their two opening matches against Sweden (13-5) and Slovakia (13-4) but it was a case of third time lucky thanks to morale-boosting 11-8 win against Lithuania.

However, the good work was undone in the next match when they were fannied by Germany. Unbelievably their next opponents proved to be Guernsey. Things were looking bleak with thanks to a 10-2 scoreline favouring the Sarnians but Team Jersey turned it round by winning the next eleven points.

That put them in 28th position (out of 34) in the final table, giving them a place in the first round proper of the Nations Cup (for the teams outside the top 16) where they played Norway. In what proved to be their final match they went 12-nil down but fought back to 12-7 and were a bit unlucky to concede the winning point to their opponents.

Earlier, in the firing competition, Jersey's Toby Northern came 29th with 14 points over the five rounds. Guernsey's Brandon Ogier was 32nd with 9 points. Top scorer was Italy's Diego Rizzi with 43 points.



The opening ceremony

Carrefour vice-captain hands club doubles trophy to himself (and his partner)!

Carrefour's Jean Pierre club doubles competition is now in its 28th year. This year's event was held in early August and was won by Vice Captain Paul Waters and Keith Lajoie. Lindsay Walker and JP Were the runners-up while Christine Eccles and Lance Kiddie took third place.



Keith Lajoie & Paul Waters



Lindsay Walker and JP



Christine Eccles and Lance

Coutances 2023













One of the most enduring relationships in our sport was reaffirmed in Normandy in August – the long-standing love affair between Jersey Pétanque Club and their counterparts in Agon-Coutainville.

However, after more than 30 years the numbers of players taking part were down, old age and poor health taking their toll. And there were indications that some regular participants had decided, regretfully, to call it a day, as far as future get-togethers were concerned.





Whatever the future holds, there was no doubt the spirit of the annual fixture on the late August Bank Holiday weekend was still very much alive. In particular there was no let-up in the traditional hospitality overload, even if the weather did briefly threaten to put a damper on proceedings.

After the alfresco feast at lunchtime, part picnic but also featuring a mobile catering van in attendance, there was a splendid finale in the evening at an out-of-town restaurant where some of the customers put on an improvised show, dancing on tables. There were even a few games of pétanque played!







The weather in Normandy was not overly kind although the rain confined itself to the lunch interval on the Saturday. At least that meant the glasses of wine were diluted, improving the standard of play in the afternoon. That seems to have worked in the visitors' favour. They made it a double over their opponents after their success at Les Quennevais in June. The first round was tied four-all, but Jersey won the second 6-2 – and went on to record 5-3 victories in both afternoon sessions.

At the prize-giving on the Saturday evening the wine flowed – again – and Joy and Derek Hart were acknowledged as the top Jersey pair, winning all their four games, a feat matched by Joan and Dennis Le Mercier, but with a lower points difference. Daphne Romeril and Mike Fennell also received prizes for being the third best performing Jersey twosome. For the home side, Marcel Geuno and partner, Annie Leroy won all their four games. But truthfully, everyone taking part was a winner!















Silverware Sunday at Jersey Pétanque Club





Linda Taylor





























Jersey Pétanque Club held its 37th AGM and awards ceremony at the St Brelade's Bay Hotel in late November. The coveted Player of the Year trophy went to Linda Taylor for whom it was an extra special award because it had been won by her late husband Keavan some 14 years previously. Among the trophy winners who were unable to attend the meeting were Joy and Derek Hart whose haul filled a large cardboard box. The full list of awards: Best Jersey pair in the home leg of the annual fixture against Coutances: Ron Vibert and Daphne Romeril. In the away leg: Derek and Joy Hart. The Anthony Nolan Charity Competition: Tommy Glennie. President's Trophy: Vic Le Riche and Jan Le Gresley. The Women's Singles: Joy Hart. The Men's Singles: Derek Hart. The Winter Melees, Ladies: Linda Taylor. The Winter Melees, Men: Harry Le Marquand. The Summer Melees, Ladies, Jennie Le Marinel. The Summer Melees, Men's: Harry Le Marquand. The Cynthia Michel Memorial Spring and Autumn Melees, Women's: Rita Le Brocq; Men's Mike Yates. Stableyard Studio Doubles: Derek and Joy Hart. Women's Doubles: Linda Taylor & Jo Le Quesne. Men's Doubles, Mike Yates and Dennis Le Mercier. Mixed Doubles, Rosemary Renouf & Mike Yates. Club Doubles, Ron Le Herissier & Vic Le Riche. Doubles Melee, Derek and Joy Hart. The Trixie Moulin Memorial Doubles, Joy & Derek Hart Veterans Doubles Joy & Derek Hart. Women's Triples: Joan Le Mercier, Gill Blampied & Linda Taylor. Men's Triples: Mike Yates, Mick Rondel & Brian Elliott. Mixed Triples, Mike Yates, Peter Blampied & Joan Le Mercier. The Club Triples: Dennis and Joan Le Mercier & Peter Blampied.

St Saviour win parish pétanque's triple crown





It's never been done before, mainly because it couldn't have been achieved until last year (because the third leg of the parish triple hadn't been introduced). But once the triple crown was up for grabs it was St Saviour who seized it with, well, multiple hands.

In the Parish League St Saviour were confirmed as champions with two matches still to play. What made it sweeter was that the title decider was against the current reigning champions, St Brelade. In truth St Saviour only needed a draw and they achieved that at the half-way stage, winning all three of the opening singles. They ended the season eleven points clear at the top of the table, suffering only one defeat and two draws.

St Brelade were runners-up, another eleven points ahead of St Martin in third place. Propping up the table were St Helier and Trinity on 17 points apiece, but it was the latter who took the wooden spoon on points difference.

POS	Team	PLD	W	D	L	SF	SA	SD	PTS
1	St Saviour	22	19	2	1	97	35	62	59
2	St Brelade	22	15	3	4	87	45	42	48
3	St Martin	22	11	4	7	71	61	10	37
4	St Ouen	22	7	8	7	66	66	0	29
5	St Mary	22	7	6	9	66	66	0	27
6	St Clement	22	7	6	9	62	70	-8	27
7	St Peter	22	7	6	9	60	72	-12	27
8	St John	22	7	5	10	59	73	-14	26
9	Grouville	22	6	7	9	64	68	-4	25
10	St Lawrence	22	6	7	9	60	72	-12	25
11	St Helier	22	4	5	13	50	82	-32	17
12	Trinity	22	4	5	13	50	82	-32	17

Inter Parish Knockout Cup

Ten parishes took part in this year's Inter Parish KO competition – missing only St John and Trinity – and by the time the event had reached the finals we knew that both the main competition and the Plate event were going to end with new names on the two trophies. One of them was that of St Saviour who started quietly, losing their first match against St Mary, but they went from strength to strength and won all their remaining matches in the qualifying round. They went through to the semi-finals of the main event alongside St Peter, St Brelade and Grouville. St Saviour went on to beat St Brelade 2-1 to reach the final where they would meet St Peter who overcame Grouville by the same margin. In the final St Peter took the singles with Gil le Roche beating Peter Blampied. Both the Doubles and the Triples were tied at the time, but the result seemed to spur on St Saviour and they surged ahead picking up a four in the Doubles and a three in the Triples – and they didn't look back. Last year's main event winners, St Ouen, found themselves in the Plate competition. In the semi-final they beat St Martin 3-nil and went on to win the final by the margin against St Clement, who'd beaten St Mary 2-1 in their semi-final.

Carreau Le Crapaud competition

The third leg of the triple was the inaugural Carreau Le Crapaud Inter Parish trophy which took place on the St Martin terrain. .And again St Brelade were the beaten finalists. St Saviour won 4-2 after having been 2-1 behind at the half-way stage but they wrapped up both the Singles and the Triples in double-quick time with such healthy margins that the remaining Doubles couldn't affect the overall result. But Alex and Jean Stewart won the final game to wrap up the victory.



Parish League champions



Parish Knockout Cup winners



Carreau Le Crapaud Inter Parish trophy victors



St Ouen: winners of the Plate competition

In the semi-finals of the Plate competition (for the first round losers at the Inter Parish Knockout Cup) held at Jersey Petanque Club,, St Martin played St Ouen and lost 0-3 while St Clement played St Mary & won 2-1. The final between St Ouen & St Clement ended in a convincing 3-0 win to St Ouen.

Joy for Lajoie in the JPA Triples



Champions: Jake Romeril, Keith Lajoie & Alan Lahiffe



Runners-up: Laurent Pellaton, Matt Buesnel & Geoffroy Buffetrille

It was the16th time the JPA Triples had been played and amazingly no name has appeared on the trophy more than three times. However Geoffroy Buffetrille could have changed all that. He went into the competition with his partners Laurent Pellaton and Matt Buesnel hoping to achieve a hat-trick of wins. However the favourites suffered an early loss and the only team to emerge from the qualifying round unbeaten was that of Matt Pinel, Callum Stewart and Ross Payne. In their semi-final they looked like maintaining their winning streak, leading 11-2. However their opponents, Jake Romeril, Alan Lahiffe and Keith Lajoie had other ideas. They were a scratch team, formed at the last minute to even up the numbers taking part in the competition, but somehow, they pulled it round to win the match 13-12. It was also desperately close in the other semi-final, but the reigning champions, Pellaton, Buesnel and Buffetrille managed to shade it against Wendy Ritzema, Gary Cowburn and Brian Harris 13-11, The final wasn't so close. Lahiffe, Lajoie and Romeril went two-nil down but recovered to lead 8-2 and went on to win 13-7 – the first time the surname Lajoie has appeared on any JPA trophy. The play-off for third place play-off was much tighter with Cowburn, Ritzema and Harris winning it at the death 13-12 against Pinel, Stewart and Payne.



Third place: Brian Harris, Wendy Ritzema & Gary Cowburn



Geoffroy Buffetrille



Alan Still



Lorna Limbrick



Matt Buesnel



Alan Lahiffe



Katrina Holden



Neil Selby



European Cup competition for clubs ends in more frustration for Liberation





A disappointing overall result, going out in the first round of the Federation Cup, but some strong individual performances to look back on, particularly those of Geoffroy Buffetrille who managed to win three of his four singles matches. Toby Northern and Laurent Pellaton both weighed in with two singles wins each. There were some really strong showings in the doubles - Andrew Bellamy-Burt & Callum Stewart winning their match against a pair that included former world singles champion Maiki Molinas. Several of the defeats were by narrow margins, but consistently it was the triples where the club let themselves down.

Liberation started their European Cup campaign with a 27-4 defeat by Denmark. That was followed by 24-7 losses against both Switzerland and Norway. The exited the competition with a 24-7 defeat by England in the first round of the Federation Cup (the tournament for teams that exited the main competition after the opening round). The Liberation squad was Andrew Bellamy-Burt, Callum Stewart, Geoffroy Buffetrille, Laurent Pellaton, Toby Northern, Cassie Stewart-Le Gallais and Jean Stewart with Alex Stewart as delegate.

A final comment from the club: "Plenty of positives to take away with some superb performances in some of the matches. A great venue, with wonderful people who volunteer their time to help the smooth running of the event and of course special thanks to the CEP for an excellent tournament."

The JPA Mixed Doubles finally comes to a conclusion


Champions


Runners-up



Third place

In 2022 the JPA introduced a new championship, a Mixed Doubles competition which was won by Cassie Stewart-Le Gallais and Ross Payne. This year's event started at the Weighbridge bur incessant rain led to the terrain becoming unplayable. After a lengthy postponement, the competition was resumed on the Weighbridge on the 14th of October - and this time, thankfully there was only one small shower!

The semi-finals saw Elaine Paisnel & Brian Harris take on Katrina & Trevor Holden and Wendy Ritzema & Gary Cowburn against last year's inaugural champions, Cassie Stewart-Le Gallais & Ross Payne. After a slow start from both pairs, Elaine & Brian pulled away and beat Katrina & Trevor 13-8. Wendy & Gary had a slightly easier win against Cassie & Ross, 13-5. In the third place play-off, Cassie & Ross were 9 all against Katrina & Trevor but the latter two placed well on the last end to take four and the game.

The final was a nip and tuck game with Wendy and Gary eventually pulling ahead and winning 13-8.

Historic win for Jersey in this year's Inter Insular



Jersey enjoyed one of its biggest wins in the history of the Inter Insular, beating Guernsey 37-11 in late August.
The match had been scheduled for a month earlier, but rough seas had thwarted the visitors' ferry crossing,
However, with the Sarnians' hopes on a high after an epic draw in last year's encounter (although Jersey had retained the trophy on the pétanque equivalent of goal difference) a window of opportunity to play the game arose – in retrospect probably something the visitors came to regret.
The Jersey team was able to show off their new team kit to home supporters after having worn it for the first time at the Home Nations competition in Leamington Spa earlier in August.

The Inter Insular was held at the home of Carrefour Pétanque Club in Grouville for the first time - where the terrains were unfamiliar to many of the visiting players.
The Guernsey squad soon found themselves 8-4 down after the opening round of 12 singles matches (one point for a win). Any hopes of an improvement in the first round of doubles (two points for a win) were dashed as the home side won five of the six matches, making the overall score 18-6.
Among the Jersey winners were Cassie Stewart Le Gallais and Nicky Maindonald who inflicted the competition's only whitewash, a 13-0 win against top-rated Guernsey pair of Delphine Renaud and Vikki Le Poidevin.
Any hopes of Guernsey being able to salvage the situation evaporated after the second round of doubles which saw Jersey complete a repeat 5-1 scoreline giving them an unassailable points lead of 28-8. Jersey went on to rub salt in the wounds by winning three of the four triples matches (three points for a win) making the overall points total, 37-11. Four Jersey players managed to win in all four games they took part in – Ross Payne, Callum Stewart, Toby Northern and Nicky Maindonald, the latter playing in her first Inter Insular.
Jersey team manager Dave Ibitson said: "I'm very proud of the team. Given both the Doubles and Triples teams only knew who they were playing with on the day, the way they gelled together was absolutely perfect. It was a great performance and I'm also pleased with the way the competition was played in such a good spirit."

Success in the Guernsey Open

After the vintage year in 2022 when Jersey walked away with most of the silverware the Crapaud contingent managed a solitary success last year.
Forty-seven teams took part in the doubles and twenty-seven in the triples in the annual Guernsey Open.
It was the Jersey triples team of Geoffroy Buffetrille, Andrew Bellamy-Burt and Callum Stewart that brought home the bacon. In the final they played a strong Guernseyt trio, Giles Cleal, Dan Le Sauvage and Craig Allen. According to a local scribe, "Geoffroy Buffetrille in particular played with an extremely high standard, shooting almost every boule. The Jersey team ran out convincing winners 13-3, with a superb shot to shoot the cochonnet on the final end to seal the victory."



Geoffroy Buffetrille, Andrew Bellamy-Burt and Callum Stewart

Pellaton leads the peloton



There's a new name on Liberation's Club Singles trophy – that of Laurent Pellaton who beat Andrew Bellamy-Burt 13-9 in the final. Earlier he'd had a 13-10 win against Andy Limbrick while, in the other semi-final, Bellamy-Burt had beaten Callum Stewart 13-3. Bellamy-Burt won the third place play-off.

New competition up and running, well tottering and wheezing, for the Super Vets



Octogenarian he may be, but that hasn't stopped Ken Le Brun coming up with bright ideas – and more importantly, making them happen. His latest wheeze was a doubles competition for the Island's silver surfers – anyone aged over 70. It proved a big success with sixteen pairs taking part, although it turned out to be a bit of a Demolition Darby (and Joan), not that Paul Waters & Kevin Daly are married, you understand. The pair crushed the opponents in their group of four, racking up a points difference of plus 33. They then added the scalps of Joy & Derek Hart to make it an unassailable plus 43. The Harts had come top of their group, winning all four games – as had Ken & Beryl Vibert and Robin Stockton & Keith Baddeley. The St Mary pair claimed second place in the tournament, no mean feat against such strong opposition, (four wins, +24) with the Viberts in third (four wins +21).



Inaugural winners, Kevin Daly and Paul Waters

Cup and league double for Grantez



The Jersey equivalent of the Superbowl took place in early December, or Superboule as we know it! The match was played at the home of Grouville FC and it was the Island's KO Cup final. The winners, not for the first time, were Grantez, but it was a close-run thing against PES PC, having to be decided on points difference after the match score ended in a 3-3 draw. The doubles were shared two-all. Grantez's Triples team won 13-1 but Andy Bellamy-Burt took it to the wire by beating Geoffroy Buffetrille 13-11 in the Singles. Meanwhile in Division One of the Summer League a rescheduled match between Pink Elephants and Grantez which finished in the dark saw Grantez take the title for the sixth year in a row. After the closely fought doubles, which didn't finish until 8.30pm Grantez were four-nil up and as playing the remaining games would have made no difference and it was almost completely dark they were declared winners, champions and received a congratulatory hot drink and sausage roll. Second in Division One were PES PC, two points behind the champions and Beeches Old Boules were third. La Hague Tigers and Country Gang were relegated. In Division Two, Millennium Marauders finish top with, currently Les Papillons in second and Fleur de Lys third. The wooden spool went to another St Mary-based outfit, the Bleus et Blanc.

New Singles champions at Carrefour

There were two new names on Carrefour's singles trophies after the competition played in August last year. Congratulations to Nicky Maindonald and Kevin Daly who won the women's and men's events. Christine Eccles was second in ladies with last year's winner Margaret Robinson taking third spot. Club captain



Alan Lahiffe was the runner-up in the men's competition with James



Villalard claiming third place having beaten his father, Daniel on the way.

Toby Northern firing on all cylinders



Congratulations to Toby Northern who won the Island firing competition for the second year running, beating Paul Waters 20 - 6 in the final. Earlier in the competition Toby achieved a personal best with a 31. In the eleven years the event has been held the highest score ever achieved was a 35 by Mark Nicol. And congratulations to Nicky Maindonald who won the women's competition for the first time beating Elaine Paisnel in a relatively low-scoring final.

Provisional dates for your Diary

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

JANUARY
13th CPC AGM at Bob's Bar
27th CPC's Indoor Winter Open Doubles in St John
FEBRUARY
19th JPA AGM at St Mary Parish Hall, 7pm
22nd Parish League luncheon, Hotel Ambassadeur
APRIL
13th LPC Open Singles
MAY
4th CPC Open Doubles
5th CPC Open Triples
6th CPC Open Singles
11th JPA Island Single. Venue TBD
15th LPC Club firing competition
JUNE
3rd Inter Club League begins for following five Mondays
12th LPC Club Doubles
8thh JPA Men's & Women's Triples Venue TBD
19th – 23rd CEP Men's & Women's Singles + Mixed Doubles
22nd JPA Men's and Women's Doubles. Venue TBD
24th JPA Men's & Women's Island Doubles at CPC
29th LPC Open Doubles
JULY
6th JPA Island Mixed Doubles. Venue TBD
10th LPC Club Singles Handicap Cup
11th - 14th CEP Women's Doubles. Santa Susanna, Spain
26th LPC International Open Singles
27th LPC International Open Doubles
28th LPC International Open Triples
AUGUST
3rd/4th Home Nations at the Weighbridge
7th LPC Club Singles
SEPTEMBER
6th – 8th Guernsey Open
14th JPA Island Triples. Venue TBD
OCTOBER
5th JPA Veteran's Triples. Venue TBD
19th LPC Charity Open Triples
NOVEMBER
7th – 10th CEP European Cup for clubs

New terrain unveiled in Havre de Pas



Jersey's newest pétanque terrain has been officially opened on a new housing development at Havre de Pas. It's one of the features of Andium Homes' Edinburgh House project which has created 147 new apartments on the site. The terrain was officially christened by Pétanque Jersey chairman, Dave Ibitson, who explained the game to the Island's housing minister David Warr who officiated at the opening ceremony.

No room in the Singles at the Liberation International Open



The Liberation International Open over the Bank Holiday weekend, 26th-28th July, is on course with the Singles already sold out. Such was the demand the number of available places was increased from 32 to 40 but they have all now gone. However, there are still a few places available in the doubles and the triples is undersubscribed. The organisers would like to see more local players take the opportunity to take part against some top European competition.

Terrain tight spot for Grouville



Another Island team that has become homeless is Grouville's parish club, but not as a result of the devastation caused by Storm Ciaran. It's because the owner of the Holme Grown where the team's terrain is based has increased the annual rental to an unaffordable level. The club will be able to start the new Parish League season on the Holme Grown site but at the end of March they will need to have a new base. They did ask neighbouring parishes for help in the short-term but while one said they might be able to help, the other suggested they play on the Carrefour Petanque Club terrain at Le Boulivot. However another option looks set to come to the rescue, although it's by no means a like-for-like replacement. There's been a terrain on Gorey Common for years, but the problem is that it has only enough room for two games to be played at the same time, whereas the parish format requires the two sessions of three games, with three doubles matches to begin with, followed by the remaining doubles, the singles and the triples. The club is hoping to eventually extend the playing area on the Common and both the Constable and the Chefs Tenants are being supportive. Meanwhile the club is trying to reorganise itself, obtaining a bank account, writing a constitution, and setting up a working party to tidy up the Gorey terrain.