THE TALK OF THE TERRAIN

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Talk of the town: The Home Nations


The first time Jersey hosted the Home Nations in 2018

It's all systems go for the big event, this year's Home Nations. This probably represents our best ever chance of ending England's winning streak which started way back in the year 2000 when the competition began. The previous occasion in 2018, when the event was held in Jersey, we came really close to lifting the trophy, pipped by just three points. Can we go one better this time around? Pétanque Jersey chairman, Dave Ibitson, thinks so: "Given our home advantage I believe this year is our chance to upset the odds and this will be our best opportunity to claim the trophy."


Will it be our turn this year to lift the trophy?

Meanwhile the management team have pulled out all the stops to make the event a showcase for the sport. Dave Ibitson again: "The Jersey Development Company are the key sponsors of the 2024 Home Nations championships. The vision is to create a Pétanque Village at the Weighbridge in the centre of St Helier, which will serve the needs of the competitors and create a fun experience for those watching the games. The facilities provided by the JDC include a marquee for the competitors with seating for 100 and 16 lane terrains. There will be tiered seating alongside for enhanced viewing, close to the action, and there will also be food and drinks outlets available for spectators.

Of course the one thing even Pétanque Jersey can't do is ensure two, warm sunny days for the event. Let's hope the jet-stream sorts itself out and enables the Island to put on a show worthy of the competition.

The Gold Cup: a silver lining

Heard the one about the Scotsman, the Frenchman and the Swiss guy? They probably walked into a bar afterwards, but only after scooping £1,500 in prize money - surely the biggest cash prize ever won by a pétanque team from Jersey. Congratulations to Callum Stewart, Geoffroy Buffetrille and Laurent Pellaton who were runners up in the Gold (top) section of the London Pétanque Championship held at Crystal Palace in June. The event featured no less than three world champions including Damien Hureau and Julian Lamour – both from France – and a Spaniard, Jesus Escacho Alarcon who was a member of the trio which beat the Jersey Boys, 13-4, in the triples final. The Jersey trio had won five matches in a row to reach the final There was also a doubles event and in the Bronze competition, among the beaten semi-finalists, was a certain Michel Morel.


The Gold Cup finalists



Warming up

… is not just for cold nights!

Firstly, it is essential, if you are going to play at your optimum level, that you warm up.

Muscle, ligaments and cartilage all work more efficiently and effectively when blood is flowing and warm.

So gentle exercise/movement before commencing play will help you to play better physically.

Throwing a few boules, bending/stretching will all help. Nothing too strenuous just ten minutes of movement to get your body working. Arms **and** legs don't forget.

Secondly throwing a few boules in warm up gives you another advantage over those who do not warm up.

You will get a better idea of the terrain. Whether it's receptive to a high lob or better suits a low rolling throw. Don't forget to look at the slope and borrows. Practice across the terrain because different areas of the terrain will give different result when you throw.

Thirdly, when it comes to warming up it is a time to get your head thinking about your game.

Try not to be distracted by conversation but think about your game, your throwing and your strategy.

Just concentrate on what's ahead. But calmly.

Lastly this is your chance to sort out any deficiencies in your technique. Just think, foot position, stance, grip and release. Smooth action, calm head.

Now your body's prepared, your brains in gear and your confidence is high.

See what warming up can do for your game.

The Coach



When in Greece, watch out for low-flying metal objects

THE GROUND RULES

A regular series in which we look at some of the laws of the game that can lead to misunderstanding. One aspect of the game that can raise a few eyebrows – because it doesn't happen very often – concerns the rules regarding timed games. Here's the FIPJP's advice note.

What to do when the whistle blows when 'time' is up

First the obvious point: if, in a time-limited game, one team reaches 13 points then the game is over and they are the winners. A game that has not finished in the orthodox manner (no matter what the score is at that point) continues in the following way. The teams finish the end currently in progress and then play two extra ends. During these extra ends all the normal rules still apply.

If at the completion of the two extra ends no team has won by reaching 13 points then:
If one team has scored more points than the other, then the game is over and that team is the winner. If the teams are tied. then there is one final tie-breaker end.

During this final end the rules are changed in one specific way in order to increase the chances of producing a winner. During this end the coche is not allowed to go 'dead'. If the coche is knocked out of the playing area, it is returned to the place where it had been originally (marking the coche is obviously a necessary precursor) and the game continues. Any boules knocked out of the playing area are however still regarded as 'dead'.

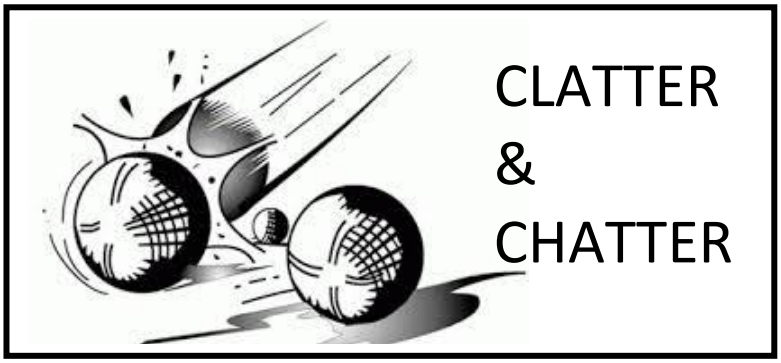
After the completion of the final end, if one team has reached 13 they are the winners, otherwise the team with the most points is declared the winner. It is possible for the final end to result in a 'null point' situation – either because of two boules equidistant from the coche, or because all then boules have been shot out of play … in which case another 'final end' should be played.

Note that under the current FIPJP rules, an end is completed (and the next end begins) when the last boule played comes to a rest or goes dead. Some players believe that an end finishes when measuring is completed, or when the coche is thrown to start the next end. This means that in a situation where the last boule rolls to a stop and seconds later the whistle blows to indicate the time limit has been reached, the game still has three full ends to play – the current end which is about to begin plus the two extra ends.

Spot the pétanque player!



Pictured above is a pétanque veteran in a slightly different setting. See if you can identify her. If you're stumped, the answer can be found on page 23





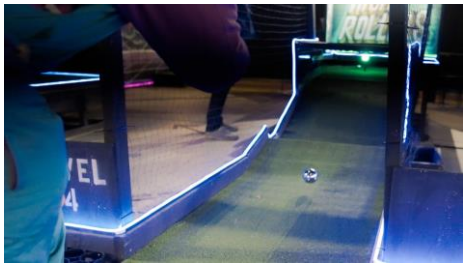
It's a funny old game



One thing you can never say about pétanque is that the game has gone pear-shaped. Ahem. However, there is now a variant that's gone oval! Yup. They're playing with oval-shaped boules – and an oval-shaped coche. They're the brainchild of a bloke called José Llinarès who came up with the idea when he watched a rugby match in Montpelier. He recruited a French pétanque champion, Maryan Barthélémy, who helped persuade an Italian boules manufacturer to make the decidedly unspherical boules. The inventors claim that *la jeu de la boule ovale* is completely different to the traditional game and have submitted rules for the new game to the sport's governing body. Unlike the traditional game competitors don't have to plant their feet in a circle – they can play from where they want along a line from left to right. The cochonnet has however been renamed, the olivette, and, in a nod to the number of players in a rugby team, the winner is the first to 15 points.
The rugby-shaped boules are made by the Turin-based firm, Boulenciel and charity tournaments have been played around the Marseilles area. Perhaps a cube-shaped football will be next.



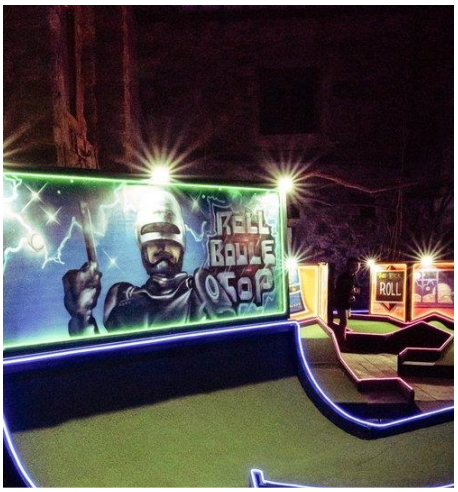
And if you think that one's crazy, try this for size!



The next time you're in central London and have got some time on your hands, why not give "Crazy Boule" a go? In the words of the team behind the idea,



"Imagine the classic French game crossed with the unhinged world of 'Crazy Golf'. The result? A balls to the wall game that is harder, faster, darker and ultimately crazier than ever before."



Apparently, you have to navigate your way through a custom-built course, including ramps, jumps and other crazy twists, all in a quest to get your boule closest to the jack.
The venue is located on London's South Bank between the Waterloo and Westminster bridges. And you can add to the entertainment by wining and dining at the premises.

Paris doesn't want the CLAP

How far would you go if your pétanque club terrain was threatened with redevelopment? Members of a club in Paris are involved in a bitter row to save their home in the heart of Montmartre, close to Sacré-Coeur.
The 52-year-old pétanque club, Club Lepic Abbesses Pétanque (CLAP) has been given a court orders to leave the site. Members have resorted to pitching tents on the site, keeping a 24-hour vigil to prevent the area being cleared. Every day they stay they incur another €500 (£430) fine.
The land contains eight pétanque pitches and a café kiosk, originally belonged to an artist whose daughter sold it to the Parisian authorities. The space is now facing redevelopment under plans put forward by the director of a nearby hotel, Oscar Comtet. He wants to open the space to the public, replacing the food kiosk with a pond, and some of the pétanque pitches with a garden (though six will be kept, including two suitable for competitive play).



The club frames it as a David versus Goliath battle: ordinary folk against a luxury hotel "We are one of the last corners of neighbourhood life in Montmartre, said one of the protesters. "It's the death of the soul of Montmartre, where Montmartrois can still meet, exchange, play cards and play boules."

Entente Incroyable





Togetherness, or to put it another way, unité!

The first leg of the annual pétanque celebration involving Jersey Pétanque Club and their counterparts in Normandy, Coutances, took place in early August – on an unseasonably chilly day. The cool weather didn't however prevent both sets of players



The captains



Cathy Keir

thoroughly enjoying themselves on a day when the result couldn't have been closer, the home side just shading it by 17 games to 15. They won the first round of doubles 6-2, but were pegged back by the visitors in the second session, 3-5. Another strong showing by the Jersey team after lunch saw another 6-2 win. The home side only needed to win two of the remaining eight matches, but struggled, only just getting over the line. One of those wins was achieved by a late stand-in, Cathy Keir, who partnered Dennis Le Mercier for the two afternoon matches. She was playing the game for the first time ever, without even the benefit of a few practice throws. C'est la vie, as they say in, err, France. Quite apart from the fun on the terrains, there was much laughter and merriment at the various feasting junctures before the brief final awards ceremony, Dennis Le Mercier was presented with Listel Trophy which has been in contention since 1986. It was Jersey's 12th victory in a row. Three Jersey pairs won three of their four games with Mike Yates and Sally Gent proving the best performers on points difference. For the French team, Christian Samson and Sandra Perier won all their four matches.

And a grand day out for Granville in St Brelade

And by contras, on a gloriously sunny day, the twinning link between pétanque clubs in St Brelade and Granville was renewed for the first time after the Covid interval, Eighteen Granvillaise took part and were treated to bacon rolls, cake and wine at the JPC terrains upon arrival. The visitors then carried the day, winning twelve games to the home side's six. The best Granville team were Alain Bruneau and Daniel Priout with +22 while for the locals Joy and Derek Hart were top with +14. Afterwards both teams went to St Brelade Parish Hall for nibbles and aperitifs and were entertained by Milo-Melo, the Jersey/French band which includes one of the home team members, Monty Tadier, on accordion.









Liberation make it seven in a row



Toby with the jug and the successful Liberation squad

Liberation have earned the right, yet again, to represent Jersey in the European Cup competition to be held in in Sin-Le-Noble, France (30 kilometers south of Lille) in November. They had the championship in the bag after their 21-10 win at Carrefour. And they completed the season in record-breaking style.
Not only did they win all their six matches, but they also had a +136 points difference (compared to last year's record-breaking +122).
Carrefour finished second, level on points with St Mary, but with a better points difference – although they were helped when JPC failed to put out a team in the final match of the season.

	PLAYED	WON	LOST	GAME POINTS FOR	GAME POINTS AGAINST	MATCH POINTS
LIBERATION PC	6	6	0	161	25	18
CARREFOUR PC	6	3	3	98	88	9
ST MARY PC	6	3	3	67	119	9
JERSEY PC	6	0	6	46	140	0

New champions in the Women's triples but almost as you were in the Men's





It was a bit of a Liberation clean sweep in this year's JPA Men's Triples played on the Carrefour terrains. The club provided ten of the twelve players who reached the semi-finals – that was from a disappointing turnout of only nine teams.
The only trio with a clean sweep in the qualifying round, in which each team played four games, was Geoffroy Buffetrille, Gary Cowburn & Matt Pinel. However they came unstuck in their semi-final, losing 13-6 to the trio which had scraped through the opening round with only two wins – Andrew Bellamy-Burt, Laurent Pellaton and Jake Romeril. The other semi went to the wire James Gennoe, Ross Payne and Neil Selby beating Steve Leathem, Colin Myers and Brian Harris 13-12. It was a pretty close game in the final as well but it was Andy Limbrick, Laurent Pellaton and Jake Romeril who emerged as winners with a 13-9 score-line in their favour. That meant Laurent and Andy held on to the title they'd won the previous year with Callum Stweart..

There was an even more disappointing turnout in the women's event with only four teams involved. They each played six games, meeting every other team twice.
First with five wins were Christine Eccles, Katrina Holden and Wendy Ritzema with the 2023 champions, Judy Dove, Joy Hart and Bridie Hunter having to settle for the runners-up spot. with four wins. The bronze medal position was taken by Nicky Maindonald, Jean Stewart & Cassie Stewart-Le Gallais with three wins.

Toby becomes the third to do the triple



Congratulations to Toby Northern who has joined an elite club after winning this year's JPA singles. He's the third Islander to pick up the coveted trophy on three occasions, joining Matt Pinel and Mark Nicol in achieving the triple crown. Toby had previously won the championship in 2013 and 2015.

Only a dozen players took part in this year's competition with the top four going through to the semi-finals. Three players - Toby Northern, Andy Bellamy-Burt and Ross Payne won four of their games. They were joined in the semis by Neil Selby on three wins, who edged out Geoffroy Buffetrille and Laurent Pellaton who also win three time, on points difference.

In the semis Toby went through to the final after beating Ross Payne 13-6 and Andrew Bellamy-Burt joined him in the final after a 13-3 win against Neil Selby. Toby completed his hat-trick of wins with a 13-6 victory against Andrew Bellamy-Burt, while Ross Payne went on to take third place with a 13-4 win over Neil Selby.



Runner-up Andrew Bellamy-Burt

And it's a first for Nicky Maindonald





Runner-up - Joy Hart



Third - Wendy Ritzema

Only six players took part in the women's competition which was decided on a round-robin basis. The top two, with four wins each (Joy Hart & Nicky Maindonald) played against each other in the final with Nicky winning 13-8. Bridie Hunter & Wendy Ritzema, who finished third & fourth with three and two wins respectively, played for the third spot, with Wendy taking the bronze position 13-8.

Brian and Elaine go one better



Last year's beaten finalists went one better in this year's JPA Mixed Doubles, Brian Harris and Elaine Paisnel claiming the silverware after a hard fought 13-9 victory against Alan Lahiffe and Nicky Maindonald. Played on the Carrefour terrains, eleven pairs took part in the competition with four timed rounds played to decide the semi-finalists.

Top after the timed rounds were Dawn Buckley and Geoffroy Buffetrille with four wins. They played Nicky Maindonald and Alan Lahiffe (3 wins plus 4) in the first semi-final. The other semi was between Elaine Paisnel and Brian Harris (3 wins plus 11) and Cassie Stewart-Le Gallais and Ross Payne (3 wins plus 16). Dawn and Geoffroy beat Nicky and Alan 13-10 and Elaine and Brian had a slightly easier 13-6 win. The third place play-off was even more keenly contested than the final, but Alan and Nicky came out on top, 13-12, against Cassie and Ross.

JPC: Back home where they belong







Jersey Pétanque Club is back in business after the havoc caused by Storm Ciaran. The clubhouse had been lifted off its base and the roof ripped off by the devastating weather event last November. The fear was that it could be a year before things got back to normal but the clubhouse is now fully functional - although there are elements of the refurbishment still to be completed, mainly connected with upholstery of the seating. The States of Jersey has spent a six-figure sum repairing the building – apparently the other option, a new-build, would have cost twice as much

The first competitive event since the storm struck – the first round of the summer melees – took place on May 5th and club members said how pleased they were to be back. Since then the original playing calendar has been reinstated and things seem to be getting back to normal although there are concerns about the lower attendances at competitions compared to before Storm Ciaran struck.

JPC Mixed Doubles

The Mr and Mrs Doubles



Ken and Beryl Vibert



Derek and Joy Hart

There's something to be said for the strength of a married relationship … in pétanque, at least. The four couples who made it through to the finals of the JPC mixed doubles were all husband and wife teams. Eleven couples took part in the competition, and they were divided into two round robin leagues in the qualifying round. The top teams in the leagues faced each other in the final while the runners-up were left to fight it out over the third place medals. In the event Beryl and Ken Vibert won all their four games in one league and Joy and Derek Hart were unbeaten in their five games. In the final the latter took an early lead but once the Viberts managed to get their noses in front they never looked back and ended up 13-5 winners.

In the third place play-off, Peter and Gill Blampied, who'd won four out of their five games in the qualifying round, beat Vic and Sandra La Riche 13-10.

Toby or not to be



Toby Northern won this year's Liberation Singles Open (which he later followed up by winning the Island singles championship). Toby had also topped the club's Premier League singles in what was a record-breaking performance. In the LPC Singles Toby beat Jake Romeril 13 - 10 in the final, despite Jake having won all his previous matches. In the semi-finals Toby had knocked out Andrew Bellamy Burt by the same scoreline, while Jake had a 13-5 victory against Geoffroy Buffetrille.



A hard night's work



This year's Liberation's Club Doubles Cup went the distance – and, indeed, didn't finish until 11.15pm! But it was worth it as far as Neil Selby and Ross Payne were concerned.

The pair had finished third in the competition in both 2022 and 2023, but this year they not only reached the final – but won it as well.

They did it after coming through a tough semi-final against the top-rated pair in the qualifying round, Geoffrey Buffetrille and Matt Buesnel, just shading a 9-8 win.

Meanwhile in the other semi-final Brian Harris and Lorna Limbrick had a far more comfortable time of it, beating John McGaw and Nick Pallot 9-1.

It was a pretty tough battle in the final as well, Neil and Ross eventually coming through 13-11 against Lorna and Brian. In the third place play-off John and Nick beat Geoffroy and Matt 13-6



Geoffroy – the sharpshooter



Geoffroy Buffetrille went nap in this year's Liberation firing competition. And for anyone not up on sporting parlance that means he's come out on top no less than five times over the years. In this year's event he reserved his top score for the final, recording a 32 compared to his opponent, Brian Harris's 20.

Nineteen players took part and the top six in the opening round went through to the second round. The top two of the final six qualified for the final. Third place – and for the third year running - went to Ross Payne.

And finally …



Congratulations to LPC Member Neil Selby who produced these rather fine trophies to be awarded to the winners of the club's big summer competition, the International Open Weekend. Nearly a hundred teams have entered the three competitions on the three days of the Bank Holiday weekend



The Spring Open







The winners: The Singles: Craig Allen (Guernsey) ; The Doubles: Geoffrey Buffetrille and Laurent Pellaton; The Triples: Andrew Bellamy Burt, Geoffroy Buffetrille and Callum Stewart

Spring sunshine dominated Carrefour's three-day event – although the weather wasn't kind throughout. The sun certainly shone on Liberation Pétanque Club's players, although Toby Northern, for once missed out, being beaten by Craig Allen from Guernsey in the Singles final. The Plate winner in the Singles was Brian Harris. In the Doubles the top prize went To Laurent Pellaton and Geoffroy Buffetrille who beat another Jersey pair in the final, Lorna Limbrick and the ever youthful Tony Morton. In third place was another member of the Limbrick clan – Andy – who was paired with Alan Lahiffe. They beat Colin Myers and Brian Harris in the 3rd place play-off. The Triples provided another gold medal to Geoffroy Buffetrille alongside his partners, Andrew Bellamy Burt and Callum Stewart. They beat a trio from England in the final while another threesome from Jersey took the bronze medals: Laurent Pellaton, James Rondel and Gavin Scott. The Plate winners were Joy Hart, Judy Dove and Steve Foster who beat a Carrefour trio in the final: Paul Waters, Christine Eccles and Keith Lajoie.

Brian Harris at the double: indoors and outdoors



The new Carrefour Doubles Champions are Daniel Villalard and Brian Harris. They beat Christine Eccles & Graham Walker in a hard-fought final, 13-10.. In third place were Janet Gallichan and Steve Leathem. There were four rounds in the competition, timed at one hour each before the untimed semi finals, third place play off and final.



Brian Harris and Colin Myers were the winners of the 2nd Winter Indoor Open which was hosted at Home Farm in St John. They beat Derek and Joy Hart, who were the only pair to win all their games in the 5 rounds. Andrew Bellamy-Burt and Laurent Pellaton took the 3rd place after beating last year's runners up, Lorna Limbrick and Gavin Scott, in the playoff.

Going Dutch



Jersey Pétanque Club was the venue for top level coaching sessions for players keen enough to want to represent the Island. It proved to be an intensive but enjoyable weekend of boule practice and theory.

The JPA invited two coaches from the Netherlands to run a training event for thirty-six of the Island's better players.

Jos te boethorst and Bernard Bredow, both with long playing experience (and Jos has h a diploma in coaching) offered their expertise to members of the Association.

On the Saturday exercises were set up both for shooting (i.e. hitting your opponent's boule out) and pointing, that is placing a boule on the terran in the spot where you want it to be. On the Sunday the players participated in a range of modified games intended to encourage players to put into practice the skills gained through the exercises.

The two coaches spent a few extra days in the Island leaving the rain to fall on the Low Countries whilst Jersey basked in the sun. They saw the Island at its best and enjoyed the wild beauty of St Brelade along with the other parishes.



Jos te boethorst

Both coaches praised the Island not only for its scenery but also for its friendly Pétanque players and the clean and unspoiled countryside. Our players learned and gained much over the weekend and Jos and Bernard discovered little a piece of Paradise

A French view of the Olympic Games in Paris having excluded pétanque

By Victor BOUTONNAT (translation of article that appeared in Ouest France 3.4.24).

"A typically French sport, pétanque was nevertheless left aside for the Paris Olympic Games. -a decision that frustrates the players even if they are aware that the image of the discipline still needs to evolve.

Does pétanque still suffer from its image as a drinking sport? The discipline, which is part of French tradition, was withdrawn from the Paris Olympic Games. The Paris 2024 organising committee preferred to focus on more modern and dynamic sports, namely climbing, surfing, skateboarding and breakdancing "which have in common their youth, the call to creativity and are spectacular and demanding! » said Tony Estanguet, president of the organising committee, in 2019. Like karate or squash, pétanque has therefore remained at bay.

Enough to leave the main players bitter. "Pétanque is a French sport, born in France, and in Paris we thought we had our chances. It's a shame, it was now or never," regrets Dylan Rocher, seven-time world champion, who feels "a little discredited." The discipline nevertheless had arguments to put forward. Despite its French birthplace, it is present on all continents, practiced by 200 million people, accessible to everyone, regardless of age or gender and has almost no environmental impact.

"We, at the high level, do everything like a sport. We have alcohol controls, anti-doping tests, we pay attention to all that," points out Dylan Rocher. If the image of an undemanding leisure sport sometimes still inhabits people's minds, the best players actually work on physical preparation, as a day of competition is demanding. The legs, back, shoulders, neck and wrists are very stressed and the appearance of tendinitis is common. During a day of competition, 12 kilometers are covered and the equivalent of 120 kilos are thrown.

The organising committee of Los Angeles, host city of the 2028 Olympic Games, has proposed five additional sports (baseball, cricket, flag football, cross and squash), awaiting approval from the IOC. Pétanque is not there. "I do not despair that one day, through the Olympics in an Asian country, we can be candidates again. These countries play a lot and are very good," says Michel Le Bot, the President of the French Pétanque Federation since 2021. Dylan Rocher is more pessimistic: "It's going to be complicated, there's still work to be done…"

Honours shared by three parishes

The annual Inter Parish competition organised and sponsored by Ken Le Brun took place on a very wet morning. The number of entries was disappointingly low, but maybe the rain kept some people away. Three parishes - St Clement, St John and St Mary – declined to take part at all.

The three competitions run concurrently, with each parish invited to enter one team in each. Five parishes entered players in the singles. After the first three rounds, St Martin's player Brian Harris had three wins and a +18 points difference with St Helier's Keith Boleat on two wins and +8. No other players could catch these two, so they declined to play the fourth round, but St Helier, with still a chance to win, played St Martin and with a 13-4 victory, snatched the win.

Six parishes took part in the doubles. Only St Brelade's pair of Bridie Hunter and Mike Yates won all three rounds, with a creditable +28. Both St Lawrence and St Saviour won two of their three games. In the triples there were seven teams. Both St Ouen's and Trinity won all three of their games in the rounds, so they played off to decide the winners. Ken Vibert, Graeme Follain and Geoff Thomas won the game 13-6 having pulled away from a closely fought opening, from Trinity's Paul Waters, Colin Myers and Alan Dunford.



Singles winner

It may not rhyme, but a new competition proves East is Best!





The bubbly boys



The wine buffs

When Pétanque Jersey were faced with the task of staging the Home Nations competition the committee were urged to consider fund raising ideas to help offset the inevitable cost of running this event.

It was Treasurer Joy Hart who came up with the idea of a competition that involved pétanque terrains right round the Island.

Many people started to support the event. Elaine Paisnel's daughter Heidi produced the East /West diagrams, Judy Dove and Elaine Paisnel assisted with the proof reading and eventually the paperwork was ready to be received by all the Island Pétanque players.

Marion Simkin involved the Parish teams and all the clubs informed their members and entry forms started to come in. There was a hope that we could get 48 teams but as it happened we decided to close the entries at 24 doubles teams.

The format took a lot of working out but eventually the cunning plan came to fruition on June 2nd. The idea was for doubles teams to play four 45-minute timed games moving either clockwise or anti-clockwise to a terrain in the next parish, depending on whether they won or lost.

According to one player, it was fun to turn up at a pétanque terrain they had never played on before not knowing who their next opponents were. Another player said he was impressed that people turned up at the right terrain at the right time.

In fact it didn't always quite work out as planned but competitions officer, Dawn Buckley, was at the end of a telephone to give any help that was required.

On the day several parish captains and other pétanque players supported the event. Marion Simkin offered teas and cookies to the teams that played at the St Lawrence terrain, Chris Bray at Trinity could access all the facilities, Vic Le Riche made sure his terrain at St Peter was in tip top condition for each game and St Ouens members eagerly watched the teams playing on their terrain.

After the four games everyone adjourned to the Liberation terrains where Dawn was waiting to take the scorecards and work out the top teams.

The top two pairs from the East were Geoffroy Buffetrille & Laurent Pellaton and Matt Pinel & James Rondel while from the other side of the Island it was Joy & Derek Hart and Bridie & Dave Hunter.

In the semi-finals Geoffrey and Laurent beat Matt and James and Joy and Derek lost out to Bridie and Dave. In the final it was Geoffroy and Laurent who came out on top.

Bottles of champagne was awarded to the winners and wine to the runners up with the third and fourth placed teams having to make do with cans of Spanish beer. More important Pétanque Jersey made £407. 72 towards the cost of staging the Home Nations.



And the lager louts!

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).

AUGUST

3rd/4th Home Nations at the Weighbridge
7th LPC Club Singles
11th JPC Men's and Women's Doubles, 11.45an start
13th Drinks and Nibbles at JPC Check=in at 18.30pm
23rd – 25th JPV visit to Countances

SEPTEMBER

6th – 8th Guernsey Open
8th JPC Men's and Women's Singles, 11.45am start
9th Drinks and Nibbles at JPC Check=in at 18.30pm
14th JPA Island Triples. At JPC
15th JPC Club Triples
22nd JPC Club Doubles, 9.45am start
29th JPC President's Trophy Melee, 145pm start

OCTOBER

5th JPA Veteran's Triples. Venue TBD
12th Inter Insular
13th JPC Club Triples, 9.45am start
19th LPC Charity Open Triples
20th JPC Part 2 of the Cynthia Michel Doubles, 1.45pm start
27th JPC Stable Yard Doubles, 1.45pm start

NOVEMBER

3rd First winter melee at JPC, 1.45 sstart
7th – 10th CEP European Cup for clubs
24th JPC awards presentation and AGM

The mysterious east: Grouville's pétanque club is bouncing back



Some years ago the Chefs Tenants of the (now) Fief du Roi, better known as Grouville Common, built a pétanque terrain at the northern end of the area for recreational use. It only had two lanes so wasn't suitable for group competitive matches. However in March Grouville Pétanque Club were forced to move from their terrain at Holme Grown and look for a new home. Fortunately, the Chefs Tenants were sympathetic to the club's plight and accepted in principle that two more similar terrains could be built at either end, making six playable areas in total. They also recognised that there should be access for disabled players. Two planning applications were made and since been approved. Quotes have been sought for the work to be undertaken. With parking and toilet facilities close by, the new home will fit the bill and the "pétanquers" are both relieved and very excited for the future of the sport in the parish. Grouville Pétanque Club has accepted responsibility for building and maintaining the terrains, which will significantly enhance the sporting facilities in the east of the island. To this end, a properly constituted club has been formed and a number of fund-raising events – including attendance at the car boot sale pictured above - have already been held in order to help meet the construction costs. The event helped raise £513 towards building the new terrains.

Pegg pulls out of CEP



Mike Pegg

Mike Pegg has retired as President of the European Péanque Federation (the CEP). Prior to that he was The President of the English national pétanque federation. Many of you will have come across him one way or another. Those taking part in European competitions may have met him on the circuit or if you're on Facebook you may have have seen his Facebook page, "Petanque Rules – Ask the Umpire." It's certainly worth a visit – some posts ask ridiculous questions, others bring up some key points. Either way Mike always comes up with an answer. Happily he is continuing with his Facebook role. Apparently h was and is the first and only international umpire from an English-speaking country. He was the moving force behind getting the FIPJP to publish its rules in English as well as French. After his retirement he had this to say: "Everything comes to an end, and today, a few weeks late, I say goodbye after eight years on the CEP board. Thank you all for your co-operation, both in contact with you via email, but also when meeting face to face during the European Championships. I will for sure take good care of all the good memories. I wish every one of you all the best for the future. And all the best to my successor, Michael Regelin from Germany.



One of the most recent questions to the "Ask the Umpire" Facebook page was as to whether the interesting looking cochonnets pictured above were approved for use in FIPJP competitions. This was Mike's response: "According to the latest list of approved boules and jacks (12/6/24) the "LATEAM SPORTS: polyester resin jacks, available in several colours, inscribed LATEAM SPORTS" have been approved by the FIPJP

Mike also gave an interesting response to another question which was definitely one of the more bizarre ones he's had to answer: "Can players be forced to use club boules rather than their own?" Mike's answer: "Not as far as I know, but perhaps it would be a better option than using my set of boules as they seem to have a natural aversion to stopping next to the jack.