THE TALK OF THE TERRAIN

IN THE CIRCLE



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That was the year that was!

What a year it's been. 2024 was definitely pétanque's annus mirabilis in Jersey. Topping it all was obviously the Home Nations result, ending England's winning run which had started when the event was first contested in the year 2000. It was a truly remarkable achievement. But a bit like climbing Everest – how do you top that?

And it's also been a good year for Jersey, both in club competitions and individual team events. The bronze medal won by Liberation in the Federation Cup at this year's Euro Cup was the first time any Jersey squad has managed to bring home any silverware since we've been sending teams to the competition.

Add to that the remarkable performances by Jersey representatives elsewhere in the world – notably the triples team that were the runners-up in the Gold section of the London Pétanque Club championships at Crystal Palace in June and the performance of the Jersey squad that took part in the Balaton Festival in Hungary: our triples team beat the Hungarian national trio to take the bronze medals – and it all points to a success story in which Island players have exceeded not only expectations but also anything for which we could have realistically hoped. The big question now of course is, have we peaked or can we build upon the successes of 2024 in the coming year?



WISHING YOU ALL A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A CARREAU-FULL NEW YEAR



Jersey: Home Nations champions



Liberation Pétanque Club: Euro Cup medallists



The Hungary games



Piggy in the middle

… or anywhere else on the terrain!

THE COCHONNET

The cochonnet is your target. Your object is to get closer to it with your boule than that of your opponents.

OBVIOUS ISN'T IT?

So doesn't it make sense to put the cochonnet in a position on the terrain where you and your partners find it easiest to get your boule close, the distance you like playing, the distance your shooter is most confident at and the position that gives you the best chance of achieving your goal.

So when it is your chance to throw the cochonnet, THINK!

It is a good idea to get a partner to pace out the distance you like and stand so you have a target. They can also mark the cochonnet's position. Should the opposition fail to throw the legal distance grab the opportunity to put it where you want it

DON'T JUST KICK IT!

Seize the opportunity to gain an advantage. Think about the terrain and your opponent's skill and ability. The borrows and slopes, the rough and the smooth areas and whether they are left or right-handed. Above all watch the roll of the cochonnet when it is thrown and the boule that are subsequently played. This will give you a fair idea of the way the terrain is playing.

One last thing don't forget to fill one hole made by a previously thrown boule. Take every opportunity to gain an advantage.

The Coach

THE GROUND RULES

A regular series in which we look at some of the laws of the game that can lead to misunderstandings. So while we are talking about the way to approach the throwing of a cochonnet, here is a brief summary of the rules that surround how it should be done …

The rule regarding replacing a cochonnet when thrown short or long or contrary to the rule, says that the opposing team should "place" it; that implies a legal position, failure to do so can earn a yellow card from the umpire. **THEY MUST PLACE IT** in a legal position i.e. between 6 and 10 metres and 1.5 metres from another cochonnet or circle and 50cms from the end string.

You can place (or throw) the cochonnet as close as you like to a side string (so long as it is not closer to a cochonnet or circle on the next terrain).

Several players have queried the use of certain cochonnet in particular the bright yellow "geologic " type.

If a cochonnet complies with the following rules it is legal:

They should measure 3O millimetres diameter + or - 1 millimetres. They should weigh between 10 and 18 grammes), if composite they should bear the maker's mark.

I think that now we all accept that those that can be picked up by a magnet are legal as they themselves are not magnetic, so long as they comply with the above rules.

And some thoughts on playing the game now that winter's here

Advice on Petanque Q&A's Facebook page by Stephen R Ferg

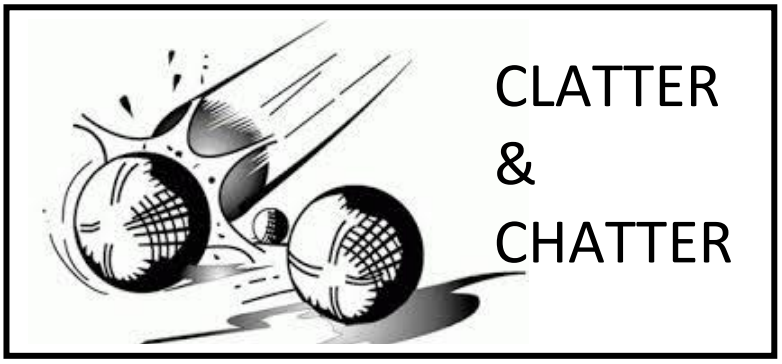
Winter is upon us (at least in the northern hemisphere) and it is time for players to start asking for advice about playing with gloves or using hand warmers. First of all, it is legal to wear gloves while playing, if you wish. But I personally have tried gloves and hand-warmers and, in my opinion, they don't work very well.
My personal advice is not to try to keep your HANDS warm. Your best bet is to keep your BOULES warm. First of all, start with warm boules. Keep your boules indoors overnight.... don't leave them outside or in your car. Then, before you leave for the piste, fill a couple of plastic (or glass) bottles with water as hot as it comes from the tap. The water needs to be hot, but it doesn't need to be boiling. Then put the jars, together with your boules, into an insulated bag. If you don't have an insulated bag, wrap boules and jars together in a towel. By the time you get to the piste your boules should be slightly warm to the touch. That's enough... they don't need to be hot, just warm. As long as you're actively playing with them, the boules will stay warm enough for you to be comfortable.
While you are playing, hold your boules in your hands as much as you can. If that's awkward or difficult, tuck them into a coat pocket. Do not leave your boules on the ground, and especially do not leave them in the shade ... if you do, they will quickly cool off.



Of course, if you're lucky enough to play on a terrain alongside a clubhouse (as at St Mary or Jersey Pétanque Club), you can always perch your boules on a heater!



The winter alternative is to play underground!



Head out to the exotic east?
(and we don't mean Grouville!)



Pétanque may have missed out on being included in the Paris Olympics but it's a different story in Taiwan. For the first time the sport has been included as an official discipline in the "World Masters Games." The games in Taipei next year feature 35 different sports, comprising a total of 283 individual sporting events. "The games aim to blend athletic competition with cultural tourism, offering players a unique chance to engage in friendly sportsmanship and immerse themselves in the rich culture of Taiwan." Registration is open until February 17, 2025

Masseurs included!



And pétanque will also feature in the World Games which will be held from 12 to 18 August 2025 in Chengdu, China. It may not be as expensive as you think. "Each qualified federation will send one Women's and one Men's team. In 2025 we will have one more event than in 2022 with the Women's Precision Shooting, the Men's Precision Shooting and the Mixed Doubles. The athletes will be fully supported for six or seven days and, as the World Games are placed under the aegis of the International Olympic Committee, most of the National Olympic Committees will now cover all or part of their travel costs, as well as those of the so-called 'extra-officials' appointed by the federations - coaches, trainers, physiotherapists, masseurs etc"

Italy: World champions



Played on home territory hopes were high that France would be able to reclaim the world triples crown, especially after the defending champions Thailand failed to make it to Dijon – they were ruled out at a late stage because of visa problems. But it all went poivre-shaped in the semi-finals when the French trio, including Dylan Rocher, came up against Madagascar and lost by a convincing 13-3 margin. The Madagascan players had already shown their prowess, after one of them won the precision shooting competition. Italy meanwhile had sneaked through the quarter-finals after a 13-12 victory against Benin and then beaten Tunisia 13-3 in their semi-final. The final was a thriller but the Italians shaded it 13-11 against Madagascar.



An alternative way to becoming table toppers

Players at the world triples championship in Dijon were able to relax with a table-top version of the game, though it's not clear how the terrain would have coped with a high lob.

Pétanque players under siege



Evidently they forgot to install a drawbridge across the moat at Weymouth Pétanque Club



The line-up for the Singles

Hurrah for Hureau



Liberation Pètanque Club staged another memorable international event at the Weighbridge over the August Bank Holiday weekend. Many of the overseas competitors who attended the club's first international came back for a second helping.

Star of the show was Damien Hureau from France (a triples world champion in 2004) who won gold medals on all three days, winning the Singles, pairing up with fellow Frenchman Patrick Neuville to take the doubles and joining the Norwegian pair of Benny Bel-Lafkih and Eli Gjenstoe to complete a full house in the Triples.

In the Singles Hureau beat fellow Frenchman Julien Rouhaud 13-3 in the final. The best placed local player in fourth place was Geofffrey Buffetrille, who lost the third place play-off to Mark Gay from England. He was one of only two local players who got through to the last eight, the other being Andrew Bellamy-Burt.

Only two pairs won all five games in the qualifying round of the Doubles and they went on to contest the final which was a one-sided affair, Patrick Neuville and Damien Hureau fannying Laurent Pellaton and Julian Rouhaud. In the semis, Neuville and Hureau had beaten Matt Pinel and Toby Northern 13-7 while Pellaton and Rouhaud had seen off another Anglo/French pair, Eric Boeuf and Geoffroy Buffetrille 13-4. In the Triples Hureau and the Norwegians, Benny Bel-Lafkih, Eli Gjenstoe took the title with a 13 - 5 win over an English trio, Ameen Miah, Mark Gay and Steve Daykin. Third Place went to Jeremy Grigg, Matthew Pinel and Toby Northern with a hard fought 13 - 10 win over Bouef, Buffetrille and Rouhard in the play-off.



The Triples winners: Benny Bel-Lafkih, Eli Gjenstoe and Damien Hureau





The Doubles winners: Patrick Neuville and Damien Hureau and runners-up, Laurent Pellaton and Julien Rouhaud



Third in the Triples: Matt Pinel, Toby Northern and Jeremy Griggs



Geoffrey Buffetrille – top Jersey player in the Singles



Brinley Neilson – the youngest competitor

Dylan Rocher: the legendary French pétanque player opens up on the rigours of playing the sport professionally



Popping down to your local pétanque terrain and throwing a few boules is not physically demanding like some sports. Although, especially as players get older, day-long competitions can seem like hard work.

But spare a thought for professional players like seven times world champion, Dylan Rocher. The French master was born in 1991 and had won his first junior title by the age of six. But now in his mid-thirties he finds the demands of the sport are exacting a heavy price on his body – as he explained to journalist, Tristan Lesaffre, in "Magazine L'Équipe."

“During the year, our schedule is crazy. We play every weekend, even in winter. In the summer, I sometimes play twenty-five days in a row. My arm can't take it anymore. We have alcohol tests, anti-doping tests.

“A pétanque competition is not like a football match, you don't play your match for ninety minutes or one hundred and twenty, and then it's over. A game can last from thirty minutes to two hours. In one day, I have to throw between 700 and 1,000 balls (about 600 kg in total), walk between 10 and 15 kilometers, sometimes in 35 °C.

“When it's blazing hot on the pitch, as happens at the Marseillaise (the biggest international pétanque tournament in the world), it's tough. I've had to stop because I didn't have a cap on. You drink water galore, your fingers swell a bit, the balls can be boiling.

“My lifestyle, already, is zero alcohol. From time to time, I like to have a glass of wine or something like that with my friends, but never in competition. I watch what I eat and weigh myself every Monday. I have a gym at home too, with an exercise bike and a rowing machine. I try to work out twice a week.

“Apart from that, I belong to a football club near where I live. I subject myself to this physical activity, because it does me good physically and allows me to think about something other than pétanque.

“If you are not in good shape, if your legs hurt, you lose precision, that's clear and simple. But the luck we have in this sport is that we can stay at the top level for thirty or forty years. Look at Christian Fazzino (French player crowned "player of the century" by the International Federation in 2000): the guy, he is 67 years old, has had a healthy life, he is still very, very good at his age.

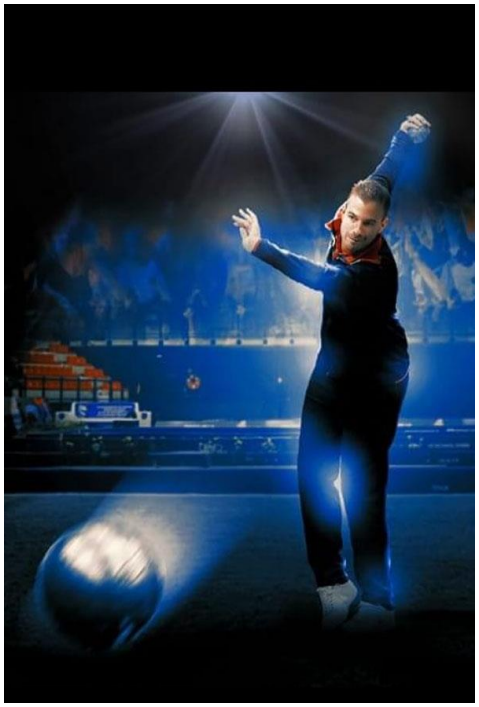
“Pétanque works all the muscles: you walk back and forth, you crouch, stand, you throw the balls. The most used is the arm. I throw with my left arm, but I use my right arm to hold the other balls and also as a balancer, it gives me momentum.

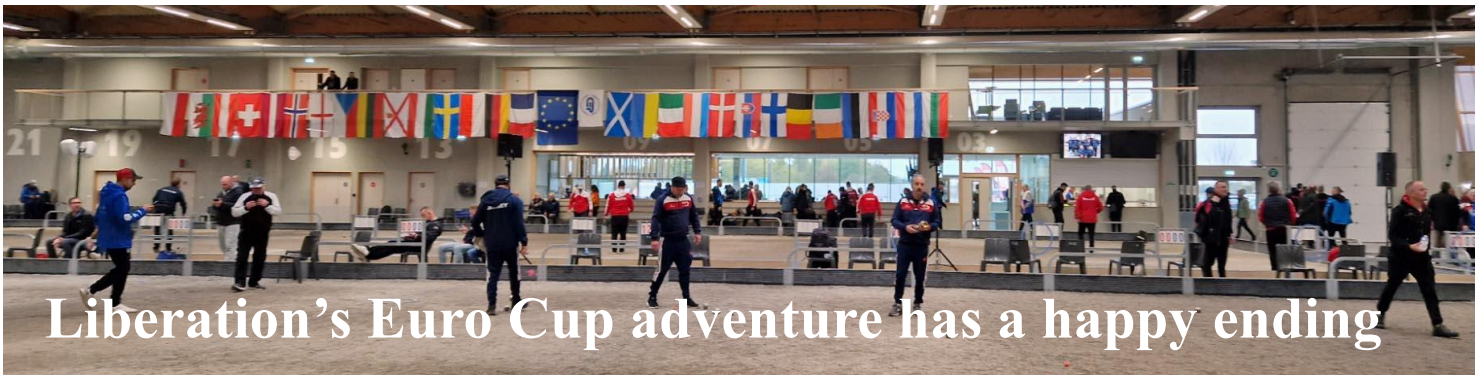
“I've had quite a few muscle problems, quite a bit of tendinitis. I also broke my ulna radius (forearm) in a motorcycle accident in 2009, which forced me to wear a cast on both arms for a month.

“To achieve a perfect carreau, the basis is footwork, a bit like in golf where, if you're stiff as a plank, it won't work. You also have to hold the ball securely beneath your hand, and not with your hand open, so that it doesn't continue to roll once it has replaced the targeted ball.”



The only way to stop Dylan Rocher winning?





Liberation's Euro Cup adventure has a happy ending

The Euro Cup competition for clubs began in 1998 with only five nations taking part. Since teams from Jersey started participating – Carrefour in the early years, then Liberation in recent times, we've never reached the prize-winners' podium – until this year that is. The fact that the Liberation team succeeded this time around – at the seventh time of asking - was all the more amazing because the odds were stacked against them long before they even reached the venue in France.

The original plan was to fly to Gatwick, then get the Euro Star at St Pancras to Lille. Très simple. Until thick fog intervened. Their flight was cancelled and although they were offered an alternative flight time the same afternoon, with more fog forecast, they decided they couldn't take the risk, so set about finding another way of getting to the tournament in Sin-Le-Noble, near the Belgian border.

It looked like sink or swim but at the eleventh hour – well, 10pm to be precise - they managed to charter a boat from Le Mourier Marine which could take them to St Malo. At least they would be in the right country, if a long way from their eventual destination. At least something went right. "The boat was wonderful, l and we were blessed with a very smooth crossing," said team member Wendy Ritzema. "The cost was about the same as our air fares, which we were informed would be reimbursed."



Hot new pétanque fashion: the Liberation life-preserver

On arrival at St. Malo, the team had a half hour walk to obtain a hire car. Their luck held. They managed to find a nine-seater available for hire. Club captain Toby Northern volunteered to add chauffeur to his string of job titles. It took them six hours to get to the venue. "The boulodrome was massive and cost millions to build," Wendy continued. "The flags of all twenty-four nations taking part were displayed, but the Jersey flag was missing. And to add insult to injury, in its place was a Guernsey flag. They soon sorted that out, but I don't think anyone would have blamed us for thinking that the trip was somehow doomed."

The Jersey team made it through the group stages in second place on points difference after beating Latvia 16-10 and they qualified for the Federation Cup – the equivalent of a plate competition. The players then secured Jersey's first-ever knockout win against Croatia in the Federation Cup draw, which meant they needed to pull off a strong



Toby Northern with the trophy



The Liberation team with their Danish semi-final opponents



Playing against the superstars



The Liberation squad

performance against Lithuania to go through to the semi-finals.

After the singles, Jersey were 8-4 down despite wins for Wendy Ritzema and Toby Northern but they managed to win two of the three doubles, thanks to Andrew Bellamy-Burt with Laurent Pellaton and Geoffroy Buffetrille and Toby Northern. But the team were still 11-10 down overall and could only go through to the semi-finals if they won both triples matches.

Thanks to both trios – Andrew Bellamy-Burt, Jean Stewart and Gary Cowburn and Toby Northern, Laurent Pellaton and Geoffroy Buffetrille – winning in style Jersey did indeed go through to a semi-final against Denmark. That was as far as it went, Jersey losing heavily to a very strong team who went on to clinch the gold medal. Ireland were the other team to lose out in the semis and, alongside Jersey, they were both awarded bronze medals.

The celebrations afterwards were a bit low-key: “We had no time to celebrate our win as we had a very early start the next day to get to St. Malo for Condor’s trip home. We left the hotel at 3am and with Toby again at the wheel we drove through the night to get there in time for the ferry,” said Wendy.

The highlight for her though was finding herself playing with her partner Gary Cowburn in a doubles match against a French world champion - Dylan Rocher – and his partner Lucie Rousseaux – and managing to score eight points. “For a pétanque player, it doesn’t get any better than that. We are both still on cloud nine. And playing for Liberation Pétanque Club, representing Jersey in the Euro Cup was an unforgettable experience."

Hungry for success!

An unexpected bonus after a brilliant performance in the London Open in which a Jersey team got through to the final of the main event was an invitation to play in an international tournament in Hungary, part of the Balaton Festival. It's the country’s biggest pétanque competition and while it’s only in its third year, the attractive prize money on offer, entices high quality teams to the event, against whom the Jersey squad enjoyed “testing their skills.”
Six Jersey players - Callum Stewart, Ross Payne, Geoff Buffetrille, Paul Bell, Neil Selby and Laurent Pellaton – took up the offer to play during the festival weekend.
Also taking part were which seven-time World Pétanque champion Bruno Le Boursicaud and pétanque influencer Tanguy Penin (yes, there is such a thing!) making it a high-profile event as far as the pétanque worlds was concerned.
Even if the opposition wasn’t tough enough, the games were played in temperatures which rose to 36 degrees at times.
Fourteen nations were involved and the Jersey sextet did themselves proud. They finished in third place overall and Ross Payne came seventh out of the 84 players involved after all his matches.



Laurent Pellaton, Callum Stewart and Geoffroy Buffetrille came third in the triples, in which the two finalists were essentially professional players. In the third place play-off the Jersey trio beat the Hungarian national team 13-7 (a team which went on to play this month in the world championships in France).

Ninety not out: Ken Luce is still on his game





There are veterans, aged over 55, super-veterans, aged over 70 … and then there's Ken Luce. He's still playing pétanque two or three times a week, despite having turned 90 years old. He still takes part in competitions at Jersey Pétanque Club and this year won the club triples along with his playing partners Mick Cotillard and Graeme Follain. He also represents St Ouen in the Inter Parish League. The club helped him celebrate becoming a nonagenarian in October when he was given a surprise birthday party at St Ouen Parish Hall.

Ken's pétanque career started in his fifties at the original home of Carrefour Pétanque Club when they played on a terrain by the side of the old Carrefour Selous pub. "I'm not really interested in sport, but Maurice Gouedard kept pestering me to play and I finally gave it a go. I've been playing ever since and, as long as my health keeps up, I shall continue playing. It keeps you fit. When you're retired you need something to do. It gives you something to look forward to. And it's a very sociable club."

During his long playing career one of the highlights was winning the doubles in one of the early Ken Le Brun parish knockout competitions. His partner was his wife Margaret.

Jersey Petanque Club: Some of the Silver Sunday award winners



Peter Blampied



Sandra Le Riche



Mike Yates and Dennis Le Mercier



Tommy Glennie



Vic Le Riche



Glenda Killip & Anne Gouedard



Linda Taylor



Mick Cotillard

JPA Triples

Three out of four ain't bad



The JPA Triples trophy is back where it belongs – if you're Geoffroy Buffetrille, Matt Buesnel and Laurent Pellaton, that is. They reclaimed the trophy they'd won in 2020 and 2021, having missed out on the hat-trick last year when they were runners-up. They were the only trio to emerge from the qualifying round unbeaten. What's more they won their four matches with an astonishing points difference of plus 43. And they only conceded two points in their semi-final win. But the final against Wendy Ritzema, Gary Cowburn and Brian Harris proved a much tougher proposition. The score was locked at 9-all before the eventual winners sealed the deal 13-9. In the third place play-off Paul Waters, Christine Eccles and Keith Boleat beat last year's winners, Alan Lahiffe, Keith Lajoie and Jake Romeril 13-8.

JPA Veteran's Triples



Four in a row for Brian Harris and Les Norman

Played at St Mary, Brian Harris and Les Norman once again took centre stage in the Veterans' Triples, winning for the fourth year in a row – this year (as in 2022) with Colin Myers, as well as 2021 and 2023 with Gordon de Gruchy. In this year's final they played the only unbeaten team in the qualifying round – Jean and Alex Stewart plus Tony Morton and triumphed 13-6. Eight teams took part and, in the semi-finals, the eventual winners beat Alan Lahiffe, Andy Limbrick & Steve Leatham comfortably, 13-1. In the other semi, the runners-up had a tight 13-10 win against Daniel Villalard, Keith White & Graham Toudic. The beaten threesome also lost out in the third place play-off, being the wrong side of a 13-4 scoreline against Lahiffe, Limbrick and Leatham.

JPA Men's Triples



Slow starters come through to take the honours

Four timed games were played in the opening round to decide which teams would go into the semi-finals and the eventual winners managed to sneak through with just two wins. But Andrew Bellamy-Burt, Laurent Pellaton & Jake Romeril then knocked out the only team with four wins under their belt - Geoffroy Buffetrille, Gary Cowburn & Matt Pinel – beating them 13-6. In the other semi-final, Brian Harris, Colin Myers and Steve Leatham narrowly lost out 13-12 to James Gennoe, Ross Payne and Neil Selby. Andrew Bellamy-Burt. Laurent Pellaton and Jake Romeril then got their hands on the trophy with a 13-9 win against James Gennoe, Ross Payne and Neil Selby while the third place play off was won 13-10 by Geoffroy Buffetrille, Gary Cowburn & Matt Pinel.

JPA Women's Triples

Defending champions have to settle for silver



Four teams entered this year's women's triples, played on the Carrefour terrains. Each trio played six games, meeting every other team twice. First with five wins were Christine Eccles, Katrina Holden & Wendy Ritzema. The defending champions, Judy Dove, Joy Hart & Bridie Hunter came second with four wins and the bronze medal position was taken by Nicky Maindonald, Jean Stewart & Cassie Stewart-Le Gallais with three wins.

JPA Women's Doubles



Another trophy for Wendy and Christine

The 2022 winners, Wendy Ritzema and Christine Eccles, reclaimed the trophy after having been runners-up last year. Four teams took part with each pair playing the other three twice. First, with five wins, plus 25, were Christine Eccles & Wendy Ritzema. Second were Jean Stewart & Cassie Stewart-Le Gallais, last year's winners, with four wins, plus nine and third were Judy Dove & Joy Hart, three wins plus 12.

JPA Men's Doubles

Convincing win for Buffetrille and Gennoe



Nine teams took part with five timed rounds deciding the semi-final places. They saw last year's runners-up, Alan Lahiffe & Mat Scholefield lose narrowly 10-13 to Geoffroy Buffetrille & James Gennoe while Gary Cowburn & Brian Harris beat the defending champions, Toby Northern & Laurent Pellaton, rather more easily 13-2.
The third place game saw Toby Northern and Laurent Pellaton beat Alan Lahiffe and Mat Schoefield 13-4. In the final Geoffroy Buffetrille and James Gennoe beat Gary Cowburn & Brian Harris 13-3

The outgoing Pétanque Jersey chairman, Dave Ibitson, looks back on a year to remember

As I approach the end of my three-year tenure as Chairman of the JPA I would like to look back at what Pétanque Jersey has achieved. This year's proudest moment must be our victory in the Home Nations. To constantly finish higher than Scotland and Wales who both have a much larger number of players to choose from is excellent, but to beat England which has more than 150 clubs from which to choose their team and have been unbeaten for 21 years is amazing and Jersey can now proudly claim to be the top pétanque nation in Britain.

Of course, this could not happen without the efforts of the JPA members who put themselves forward for selection and the coaches and selectors who give time and thought to the team selection and all those who kindly volunteered to help on the day and the umpires and scorers who ensured the smooth running of the competition.

Furthermore, none of this would happen without the coaching sessions and I thank the coaches who put on some extremely well attended sessions and the European coaches who came to Jersey to provide some high-level training which everyone who attended was highly appreciative of.

We are the reigning Inter Insular champions, recording a record win in 2023, but unfortunately, due to travel problems, we did not manage to get to Guernsey this year, so I would suggest we play the away and home legs early next year, before the Home Nations in August to get the Inter Insular back on track.

A special mention should be made to congratulate the Liberation Pétanque Club who represented Jersey in the Euro Cup this year and took bronze medal position, winning our first medals at the competition.

Our Summer and Winter leagues continue to flourish, and the Parish League welcomes all twelve parishes to discover who will become the top parish on the Island and take the league and cup trophies. Congratulations this year go to St Brelade.

The lunchtime league is now under new sponsorship from Butterfield Bank and consists of three divisions in both the Summer and Winter seasons with over 100 people enjoying playing, many for the first time.



Cause for celebration

We work hard to create more opportunities for our members to play pétanque on island and men and women of all ages and abilities. I would urge everyone to check with your clubs and parishes or visit our website to see when competitions are scheduled and take a chance by signing up for those that are suited to you.

The JPA remains committed to developing our youth programmes and I am grateful to Robin Stockton for all his hard work organising this and the coaches who put in the hours to run sessions within our secondary schools.

Finally, on behalf of myself, my family and the JPA Committee, I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and prosperous New Year and I hope to meet you all at the competitions in 2025.















Parish League: St Brelade finish the season unbeaten

POS	Team	PLD	W	D	L	SF	SA	SD	PTS
1	St Brelade	22	17	5	0	100	32	68	56
2	St Saviour	22	14	4	4	89	43	46	46
3	St Mary	22	12	4	6	73	59	14	40
4	St Clement	22	9	6	7	69	63	6	33
5	St Ouen	22	8	8	6	62	70	-8	32
6	St Martin	22	8	7	7	66	66	0	31
7	Grouville	22	8	5	9	64	68	-4	29
8	St John	22	8	5	9	62	70	-8	29
9	St Peter	22	7	6	9	62	70	-8	27
10	St Lawrence	22	4	6	12	54	78	-24	18
11	St Helier	22	3	6	13	48	84	-36	15
12	Trinity	22	0	6	16	43	89	-46	6



Runners-up St Saviour at their last match of the season

Congratulations to St Brelade who won this year's Parish League in convincing style, managing to end the season unbeaten and in fact only drawing a handful of games. It was in truth a two-horse race – yet again with St Saviour who ended up ten points behind the champions.

St Brelade will be hoping to kick on next season and join St Saviour as the only parishes to complete a hat-trick of wins. St Mary were in third place, some six points behind St Saviour but seven points clear of the rest of the field.

Next was a bunch of six teams with only six points separating them all, St Clement in fourth and St Peter in ninth place. Behind them were the also-rans.

St Lawrence, historically one of the stronger parishes, finished in tenth place, nine points behind St Peter, but three ahead of St Helier.

Propping up the table were Trinity who managed to go through the season without a win. They had many close games but couldn't quite pull off a victory, although, by a strange twist, they did well in one of the cup knockouts getting through to a final.

On to next year, the first games can't be far away. The good news is that Grouville will have three terrains in action which means that games can be played in just two halves.

Summer Cup



Well Done to PES PC - Callum Stewart, Jean Stewart, Andrew Bellamy-Burt, Joey Le Clech, Ross Payne and, Alan Oliviera who beat Beeches Old Boules in the final of the delayed Summer Cup. They won all four doubles meaning the triples and singles didn't need to be played.

Toby and Wendy are the stars



Toby Northern won the St Mary firing championship for the third year running. He beat Geoffroy Buffetrille 17-15 in a very close final. Geoffroy had the consolation of recording the top score of the day, 20, in the qualifying round. In the women's event Wendy Ritzema beat Margaret Robinson in a low scoring final to win her second shooting Star Trophy.



Presentations to the award winners in the lunchtime leagues had a truly festive feel with gold medals (but no frankincense or myrrh) handed out to Only Boules and Horses, winners of Division One and the top team in Division 2 was Great Boules of Steel while Hit, Miss and Maybe took the trophy in Division 3.


Only Boules and Horses


Hit, Miss and Maybe

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).

DECEMBER
28th LPC Charity Doubles
JANUARY
25th Carrefour Winter Indoor Open Doubles, St John
FEBRUARY
17th JPA AGM, St Mary Parish Hall, 7.30pm
APRIL
12th Liberation Open Doubles
JUNE
28th Liberation Open Singles
JULY
10th Liberation firing competition
25th Liberation International Open Singles
26th Liberation International Open Doubles
27th Liberation International Open Triples
AUGUST
9th/10th Home Nations in Wales (provisional dates)

St Brelade's cup runneth over



This year's Inter Parish KO Cup competition included a rare pétanque event when two teams tied at three games each and had the same total points. The match had to be resolved with a head-to-head. Paul Waters won it against Ron Vibert, putting Trinity into the semi-finals. They went on to beat St John in the next round to reach the final on the St Peter terrains where they played St Brelade, 5-1 conquerers of St Saviour in their semi-final. Trinity's charge ended there with St Brelade again winning by a 5-1 margin



Halloween at Carrefour a hit



The annual Carrefour Halloween Charity Doubles raised £170 for the club's nominated charity, the Royal British Legion. Congratulations to the winners Geoffroy Buffetrille and a scary Laurent Pellaton who beat Callum Stewart and Ross Payne in the spooktacular final

The JPA needs you

The JPA AGM will be held at 7.30pm at St Mary's Parish Hall on 17th February, 2025. Dave Ibitson, our current Chairman is standing down, having been in charge for three years. It is vital that a new Chairman is found to continue to promote our sport and oversee its organisation. At the same time our Treasurer, Joy Hart, is also stepping down and we need the right person to take up the reins. Nominations for the two roles are needed in time to be considered at the AGM.

Liberation clean sweep in Guernsey



Congratulations to Liberation players who took part in the first ever Guernsey Open Singles championship. Toby Northern took the title beating fellow Liberation player Callum Stewart 13 - 8 in the final with Geoffroy Buffetrille in joint third place.

Vive La Difference





In between the Olympics and the Paralympics was that other sporting extravaganza in France, the gastronomic fest involving Jersey Pétanque Club members and their counterparts from Coutances. It was even more epicurean than the previous nigh-on 40 times the event has been held, mainly thanks to the atrocious weather that limited the pétanque element of the entente cordiale to a brief afternoon's activity in between the bouts of feasting.

The pétanque element of the fraternal binge-fest was due to be played at a new venue: the seaside commune of Gouville, with its delightful array of multi-coloured beach "cabanes". That was because of a Clochmerle-style dispute over the use of the toilets at the Agon-Coutainville pétanque club, the venue in previous years. But upon arrival the heavens opened, and the rain came cascading down. It was apparently the worst weather the event had ever suffered. The inundation led to the terrain becoming flooded and play was abandoned. Both parties adjourned for a Bacchanalian overload. Several more rounds of feasting followed before the gastro-warriors said their fond farewells and "let's all do it again next year." Which is a bit of an issue, given that many were wondering whether the event had run its course due to a rather disturbing fall in numbers, especially on the Jersey side of the equation, but the feeling, certainly amongst the French, was that it should continue.