COBPC NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2023 NO. 89

NEWS FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

At the last committee meeting, we discussed feedback from the Annual General Meeting. I can confirm that the Queen Square money is ring fenced. There will be a review of the QS charge next year, in the light of our own subscription increase and a possible rise in the council charge. We also discussed the Thursday League bar arrangements which is under review at the moment. Committee members are working on improvements to the club's website and Facebook page.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY FINAL

International Women's Day dawned bright and clear for early check in from 8:30.

Such a lovely group of ladies from all over the country and of various standards of ability from England players to the best of local teams.

Luckily the morning stayed dry, but by afternoon the rain set in and lashed with little respite for the rest of the day. Undaunted, the ladies remained cheerful and played with great spirit until they were gradually eliminated as the semi-final stage was reached.

Huge congratulations to Ann and Mary who reached the semi-finals despite some stiff competition, and commiserations to Sally and Dalene who won one game (and gave the eventual winners a good game!) but came second in three games!

The event was deservedly won by ladies from the Chiltern region.

(See 'How it all began' article at the end of the newsletter)

CLUB DOUBLES

The Club Doubles, held last weekend on the 29th July, was another great day of competition for members. The weather was kind to us, we didn't need our wet weather gear and we even had some sunshine! Learning from experience we shortened the length of games, (only the finals were untimed), keeping the whole day on track and ensuring an earlier finish for everyone.

With twelve teams entered we held group rounds in the morning, with the top eight teams progressing to the Gold competition in the afternoon and the remaining four teams into the Silver.

The Gold finalists were Geoff and Ade, and Steve and Flavia, with Geoff and Ade winning 13 – 3 to claim victory and are our new Club Doubles Champions.

The Silver final was between Pam and David and Geoff and Louise, with Pam and David winning their closely contested final 13 – 7.

Once again, our thanks go to Emma who managed the timing and scoring us, and to Liz Bugg for capturing some action shots from the games.

And finally, a big thank you to everyone who took part and for making the day such a success.

BATH OPEN COMPETITION SUNDAY 6 AUGUST

Just a quick reminder that we are holding the Bath Open this coming weekend and all members are welcome to attend to either spectate, help with the organisation or join in and play. There may still be some slots available and if you are interested, so hurry and contact either Cary Bush cary@bathboules.co.uk or Steve Charman stevecharman171@gmail.com

8.45 am – 5.00 pm
The Bath Open is on August 6th 2023 at Larkhall Sports Club.

The format will be triples and providing we are able to attract 32 teams you will be guaranteed 5 games and for the lucky ones – up to 7.

The morning games will not be timed but will be up to 11 points. In the afternoon we will revert to 13 points untimed games.

We will also be holding an open melee on Saturday 5th with an entry fee of £3 and a £20 prize but this could change depending on the number of people playing, i.e. additional prizes.

Payment may be made by either Cheque: Payable to 'City of Bath Pétanque Club' or Bank Transfer: City of Bath Pétanque Club, BAN details are on the entry form. Please also include your team's name as the reference (so that we can tie it up with the entry form).

Following successful competitions over the years at both Queen Square and Larkhall the decision has been taken that we will no longer provide a meal as part of the package.

From this year the entry fee for each team will be £35 and you will be allowed to bring and consume your own food. Food will also be available at the club.

For entry forms and food menu, please contact either Cary Bush or Steve Charman.

We still need lots of raffle prizes for the competition. Please bring your contributions to the club, and either give them to a committee member or leave them in the shed marked "BATH OPEN - RAFFLE PRIZE". Thank you.

THURSDAY LEAGUE

August is the final month of the Thursday league with the last round of scheduled games on the 24th August. Our club teams are well placed in all the Divisions, so keep up the good work everyone!

Club teams are always looking for extra players. If you're not already signed up and fancy a game, then please email Mike mike@bathboules.co.uk

There are 4 divisions and you can check the league fixtures and results in League Republic to see how our teams are doing: https://cobpc.leaguerepublic.com/index.html

BRUNEL

It's not too late to sign up for the squad, so if you fancy laying, please email Trevor, and he'll add you to the list trevor.glenton@gmail.com

EURO CUP

We all enjoyed our EuroCup semi-final at Oxshott. As expected, it was a tough day's competition for us, drawn against London A, London B, plus a team from Milton Keynes.

The day started well with two victories against London B, finally losing 3-2 after the doubles round. Although we had two very close games against London A, narrowly losing both triples, their skill and expertise proved too much for us.

Undaunted, we finished the day with a 3-2 victory over Bancroft Park, leaving on a high and looking forward to next year where our target will be to get both of our teams through to this round of the competition.

Overall, it was a great experience and an opportunity to see and play against some of the best players in the country. If you're interested in joining the squad for selection to play in this year's EuroCup then please contact the Playing Group.

WELL DONE!

Well done to Lesley Eastlake, Mark Gay and Chris Garrett who won the annal boules competition at Sherston, on 15 July. There were 128 teams who came from France, Wales and London as well as local sides. *See the full article on: www.sherstonboules.org*

MELEE – 5 AUGUST

We are running an open melee the day before on August 5th, anyone is welcome to join. £3 pp entry fee.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE VISIT

Members of COBPC were delighted to host twelve first timers belonging to various local Women Institutes.

Having taken them through some fundamentals of the sport they were split into teams, along with one of our club members allocated to assist.

Despite some rain and gusty winds which sent all the players seeking shelter for a time, a good time was had by all.

SWEET PEA COMPETITION

On 2nd July, a number of keen gardeners and supporters met for our annual competition. Numbers were down this year, partly due to other boules competitions that day, and also the difficult weather for growing during this year's spring. However the weather was kind, and the standard of blooms was high as always. Our winner this year was Clive Burge. Having won in previous years, Clive is clearly the club expert on sweet peas, and the guy to ask for advice. Congratulations Clive. We then all enjoyed afternoon tea, with gorgeous home baking.

Thanks go to all those who contributed to the success of the day, and especially to our judge Richard Patrick.

NEW KIT

The committee hopes you will all like the smart new club strip which is now available to buy. As well as a change in colour, a brighter blue, it incorporates our new City of Bath logo, which the Council have allowed us the honour of using. If you would like to buy any of the kit, please visit their website: https://www.michaelhope.co.uk/products/club-shops/city-of-bath-petanque-club/city-of-bath-petanque-club where you will find the choices available. Orders are generally turned around in 5 – 7 days and can be collected from the Box premises or delivered by post for a small fee.

100 Club

July's winner was Anne Knight. More members than ever are taking part which makes the prize money pot even bigger! If you want a chance to win, tickets can be purchased through Chris McGinn at chris@chrismcginn.com only £2 each with 50% of the funds received that month returned as winnings, while the balance is used for projects at Larkhall and Queen Sq.

VOLUNTEERS

Your club is run by volunteers which means they give up a lot of their personal time to make sure we can all play at a well established, friendly and inclusive club. Your elected committee and a small band of volunteers, maintain the pistes, organise events and competitions, open up for club sessions, buy tea/coffee/biscuits which we all enjoy after a game. If you can volunteer your name to help out in any way, that would be much appreciated. Sharing the load is always much easier than carrying it yourself! Give your name to any committee member.

CITY OF BATH WEBSITE

We are starting the process of rebuilding the club's website and will be holding a get together to discuss ideas as to how this should be structured and what members and non-members would be looking for when visiting the site. Before we start the process, we would like members to provide us with their ideas and suggestions. Additionally, if anyone would like to join the project team, please feel free to come forward and let us know. These may be given to one of either Mike Woodward mike@bathboules.co.uk , Cary Bush cary@bathboules.co.uk or Trevor Glenton trevor.glenton@gmail.com .

LARKHALL FUN DAY

LSC will be holding their fun day on August 27th. We have been invited to hold a pétanque exhibition which include demonstrating the game, supervising games and putting on a couple of competitions. We are looking for a couple of members who would be able to help. If you are available could you please contact either Peter Mills peter@write2mills.net or Barry Smith barryrsmith2012@gmail.com or https://bathboules.co.uk/welcome-to-the-city-of-bath-petanque-club/contact-us/

COBPC COMMITTEE

Just a reminder, these are your hardworking committee members:

- Bryan Huish, Chair
- Chris Garcia, Vice Chair
- Cary Bush, Treasurer
- Jenny Newman, Secretary
- Pam McKeown
- Peter Mills
- John Stanfield
- Mike Woodward
- Barry Smith

YOUR CONTACT DETAILS

Please make sure your membership and contact details are uptodate so that you receive all club news and newsletters.

MANY THANKS

Many thanks to all who contributed to articles in this month's newsletter.

FACEBOOK

A big thank you to Chris Garcia for keeping the Facebook site up to date with Club News. Visit https://www.facebook.com/bathboules/

PETANQUE ENGLAND

Check out their website https://www.petanque-england.uk/

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Next club Melee, 5 August, LSC
- Bath Boules, 6 August, LSC
- Friendship Games, Switzerland, 13 – 21 August
- LSC Fun Day 27 August at LSC
- COBPC EC meeting 6 Sept
- Mixed Doubles in aid of Cancer Research, 15 October, reg. 9 am, start 9.30 am. Entries to sales@tigertrophies.co.uk

WEEKLY TIMES OF PLAY

Larkhall Club - Sat 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Tues 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Queen Sq - Wed 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Editor

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WOMEN IN PETANQUE INITIATIVE
HOW IT ALL BEGAN

Timeline

April 2017 - David Baxter sent out an email to all female players asking for volunteers to help promote our sport to women.

June 2017 - Eight ladies volunteered to form a group and explore ideas (Hassi Leverett, Di Greenaway, Giselle Whiteacre, Elaine Aldersey, Hillary Annicchiarico & Lesley McCallum, Teresa Bingham & Jackie Corp)

We had a couple of telephone meetings with David Baxter before five of us met at Elaine's house in Bournemouth. It was a great meeting with lots of ideas and positive vibes. We decided on a name 'Promoting Petanque to Women' which we later changed to 'Women in Petanque' (WiP) and looked at some of the barriers that may be limiting women from playing competitively. Using the Sport England template, Hassi & Di customised the report and made recommendations to the PE Board.

The WiP group between them had different skills so within just a few weeks of setting up:

Lesley had designed a poster 'Let's Play Petanque' which was customised for regions and clubs to attract new members

Hassi became editor and produced the 'Women in Petanque' newsletter with inspiring stories and contributions from players across the board.

Elaine & Hilary visited their local university and colleges to put up the posters

Di distributed the posters and actively promoted Petanque to attract more female members.

The Group formally launched and produced a pack (including their first newsletter) and distributed this at the 2017 Inter-Regionals at Hayling Island.

A few members of the Group brainstormed ideas for hosting a Women's competition and it was agreed to pilot a Women's Doubles event as part of International Women's Day.

In March 2018, Di & Hassi organised their first IWD events in their respective regions GWR (about 10) & Southern (which attracted 46 players)

Di wrote to International Women's Day for permission to use their logo and produced a banner which continues to be used at IWD events several years on. This banner is still being used today.

Two more editions of 'Women in Petanque' newsletter were produced.

In March 2019, the Regional IWD model was extended with nine regions taking part and running an IWD Doubles event. With the success of so many regions hosting their own events, Hassi sent a proposal to the PE Board to set up a National IWD Doubles for the regional winners which was approved.

The first National IWD event was held in April 2019 with 32 teams taking part. This was deemed a huge success and turning point for the initiative.

A fourth (and final) newsletter was produced showcasing the success of IWD with stories of inspiring women.

The Regional IWD events have grown in strength year on year. This year (2023) we had 12 regions hosting their event with almost 120 Women's Doubles teams taking part across England.

Let's hope it carries on growing and we get more grassroots women participating at all levels in this sport we love.

Thank you to Hassi Leverett and Di Greenaway for the article.