COBPC NEWSLETTER
MAY 2024 NO. 96

WHAT ARE THE FRIENDSHIP GAMES?

It was started with four Clubs from four Countries Neusiedl (Austria), Villingen (Germany), Saluzzo (Italy), and Kayl (Luxembourg) with a format of one round in each Country over four years. The rounds take place on the first weekend after the 15th of August with a squad of 14 players.
There were then two more Clubs invited to join the games, one from Martigny (Switzerland) and the City of Bath Pétanque Club England to make six rounds over 6 years. (With a two-year gap for COVID19)

This year it is the City of Bath Pétanque Club's turn to host the games in Bath. This will commence with a welcome to City of Bath Pétanque Club on Friday 16th August. Play will start on Saturday 17th and will Finish on Sunday 18th. There will also be a farewell dinner on Sunday night at the Hilton Hotel.

There will be 84 players at the club over the weekend and we will welcome people over that weekend to watch the play. We will not be able to invite non players to the food on Friday, Saturday or Sunday due to the limited space in the club house. However, you may be able to join us at a cost to the farewell dinner. Details to follow.

There is a subcommittee that reports back to the committee at each committee meeting. This subcommittee are looking at Accommodation, Travel, and Food over the three days. We have put a welcome pack together to help our guests to make the most of their visit. This subcommittee will be reaching out to City of Bath Pétanque Club members for help.

There will be a selection process in place for the 14 players required to represent the City of Bath Pétanque Club. Selection will be based on players who have travelled to play in the other Countries and people who are prepared to travel to play in Germany next year.

When the plan is finalized then we will update you all.

Bryan Huish, Chair, COBPC

AGM 2024

Friday, 3 May, 2024 – COBPC Executive Committee will be holding their AGM and Annual Presentation Evening, at 7 p.m., at Larkhall Sports Club. This will also include a fish 'n' chip supper.

NEXT OF KIN FORMS

Next of kin forms and plastic wallets are available from the shed. If you've not collected and completed yours yet, then please pick one up when you're next at the club.

Members who play at Queen Square on a Wednesday, see Anne Knight before play on these days for the forms and pouches.

This could be a life saver, so please help us to help you by carrying this information with you when you come to play.

YOUR CLUB NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT?

As a club we rely on volunteers, and the EC are grateful for the help and support we get from you to run our weekly club sessions, competitions, coaching and general club maintenance tasks. If you can help with any

of these activities, then we'd love to hear from you.

There are three specific areas where we are looking for help and expertise:

1. Now we have the new lease agreed we need to move forward with improvements to our club facilities, and to manage this we have a 'Facilities Management Group'. This group reports to the EC and is responsible for the design, oversight and management of all change, improvement, and general maintenance of our Club facilities. As I'm sure you'll have noticed, the winter has taken its toll on the wooden edging which is now rotting, so the first job will be to replace this and get us ready for the new season and the 'Friendship Games'.

2. Website administration - as you will have read in previous Newsletters, we are planning to redesign and update our website. As part of this process, we are looking for someone with an interest in this area to become our Club website administrator, this could be a shared role. The role involves overseeing content and keeping the information current.

3. Publicity – anyone who is a regular user of social media could support the transformation of our current presence online.

Don't be shy, step forwards and see how you can help our club. Please contact Jenny Newman jennymnewman2@gmail.com if you would like to be involved in these exciting new initiatives. All suggestions, no matter how big or small, will be considered by the improvements group, and working parties arranged to implement chosen projects.

100 CLUB

The winner for April is S & J Hughes. If you are interested in taking part in this monthly club run lottery, contact Chris McGinn chris@chrismcginn.com to purchase tickets. 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 Square.

CLUB HABERDASHERY

We have a wide range of club specific clothing, bags, and ancillary items for purchase via the 'Club Shop'.
https://www.michaelhope.co.uk/products/club-shops/city-of-bath-petanque-club/city-of-bath-petanque-club
Orders are generally turned around in 5 – 7 days and can be collected from the Box premises or delivered for a small fee.

PLAYING MATTERS

As you'd expect there's lots going on, so please check the GWR and PE websites and calendars for updates on competitions and events. Dates are still being finalised for our internal Club competitions and these will be published shortly.

Don't forget our next monthly melee is Saturday May 4th, registration 9.45 am for a 10.00 start.

EURO CUP

Euro Cup, the team lost 4-1 to Berbers Nomades on April 6th. They were tough but enjoyable games.

BRUNEL LEAGUE

We now have the schedule of games for this year's 'Brunel League', (***see attachment in last month's newsletter***). There's no commitment involved other than to receive an email before each match asking about your availability and to then reply if you'd like to play!

We have had a very stuttering start to this year's Brunel League, unable to raise a team

for the first match and unable to lay the second (home) match because of a clash with a key home game for LAFC (plus floodlight problems). We managed to field a team for our third match against Horton (and pulled off our first win of the season) / but lost valiantly, against a combination of friendly opposition and interesting pistes. We now need to catch up on the missed matches and also fit in a Brunel Cup match before the end of May.

The struggle to field teams has highlighted once again the need to recruit new players to join the squad. If you are interested, please email Trevor Glenton (mailto:trevor.glenton@gmail.com).

Before each game we'll send out an email asking who's available to play and we'll then select a team of between six and nine players depending upon availability. We aim to give as many players as possible the opportunity to play and to select from across the whole squad, not just a few favoured players. In addition to seeming fairer, this has also proved surprisingly effective in terms of success in games – last year we came fourth in the league!

The full schedule of upcoming matches and results can be seen in League Republic:

Once on the web page, https://brunel.leaguerepublic.com/index.html#google_vignette scroll down to **Competitions**, click on the tab labelled **'Brunel League 2024'**; and **'Brunel League 2024 KO 2024 Competition'**.

THURSDAY LEAGUE

Details for the league have now been finalised and we have 30 teams entered for the new 2024 season. The majority of teams have re-joined, with one team taking a sabbatical and two new teams entered. The League will once comprise 4 divisions; with eight teams in each of the first two divisions and seven teams in the latter two. After promotions and relegations, the CoBPC teams are:

Div 1
Parkies (Mike Woodward)
No Half Measures (Alex Robertson)
Div 2
Banjacs (Steve Charman)
COBlers (Barry Smith)
Poets (Christine Cox)
COB Phoenix (Di Greenaway)
Div 3
The Larks (Clive Burge)
Max's Mob (Max Bartlett)
Div 4
Pink Ladies (Jess Grosvenor)

The league commences this year on Thursday 16th May and the playing schedule, results and standings can be viewed on League Republic: https://cobpc.leaguerepublic.com/index.html
It's not too late to play, if you're interested in joining one of our teams, please contact me on mike@bathboules.co.uk

DON GRIMES MEMORIAL TROPHY

Written by Terry Basson

Oh, what a sunny wonderful, early spring morning to remember that giant of a sportsman Mr Don Grimes.

Don mastered the game many years earlier than most, who now enjoy what he worked so hard to promote.

Standing tall in body statue, rarely out of shorts - winter or summer.

Never failed to call out encouragements, to those who picked up the game's metal three, for the very first time.

Don was a man for all seasons Petanque – a leader who is greatly missed by all who shared his time here on earth.

This annual competitive, yet massively friendly game, between Northey Arms Petanque club - The City of Bath Petanque club. Resulted in a close win by 'Northey Arms Petanque club'. Well done The Lavender Hill Mob!

Thelma Grimes, Don's wife, presented the 'Don Grimes' blue glass trophy to Mike of Northey Arms Club.

This treasured Bath blue glass trophy bowl, was designed by the late Adrian Dolan, proprietor of 'Bath Aqua Glass' a longtime sponsor on Northey Petanque Club.

MIXED DOUBLES, TIGER TROPHIES CANCER CHARITY COMPETITION, SUNDAY 13 OCTOBER, COBPC PISTES, LARKHALL

For those of you who have not taken part in this charity event previously, now is your chance to get involved. It is a really fun day supporting an extremely hard-working charity which is generously organised by Tiger Trophies; and supported by COBPC and Larkhall Sports Club.

There may still be some places available. If you don't have a partner, speak to Gary and he may have some names to pass on to you.

9.00 am registration, 9.30 am start. 16 team limit, £20 per team to include a £10 donation to Cancer Research UK. Payment confirms entry. Four groups of four times games, followed by gold, silver, bronze, pewter semi-finals.

Optional lunch is available at £10 per head. Choices will be emailed on receipt of entry.

Why not wear pink – a prize for best in pink given, (this is hotly contested), let your imagination go wild!!

GWR 2024 PLAYING CALENDAR

https://www.gwrpetanque.com/
and https://petanqueengland.sport80.com/public/events.
to view the calendars.

EXHIBITION GAMES - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Please can you spare a couple of hours to help out with exhibition games. We need new faces as well as those who volunteer regularly. Contact:
stevecharman171@gmail.com
cary@bathboules.co.uk
patandgreg62@gmail.com

COBPC COMMITTEE

Just a reminder, these are your Club 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 up to date 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/

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Frid 3 May, COBPC AGM & Presentation Evening, LSC, 7 p.m.
- Frid 3 – Mon 6 May, Jersey Open
- Sat, 4 May, Melee, registration by 9.45 am; play at 10.00 am promptly
- Thurs 9 – Mon 13 May, Trip, PE Southern Region, Dorset and Hampshire
- 29 Sept – Frid 4 Oct, Santa Susanna Cup, Barcelona
- Sun, 13 Oct, Tiger Trophies Cancer Charity Competition, 9.00 am registration, 9.30 am start

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.

GWR PETANQUE

GWR is the Great Western Region of Pétanque England who organise and promote the game of Pétanque or Boules (French bowls) in the West of England counties of Gloucestershire, North Somerset & Wiltshire.
https://www.gwrpetanque.com/

PETANQUE ENGLAND

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

Editor

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