COBPC NEWSLETTER
MAY 2025 NO. 104

PLAYING MATTERS:

BRUNEL LEAGUE

We have entered two teams in the Brunel League after a few years of having only one. Thank you to all of the new players who have volunteered to join both squads – there's always room for some more!

Old hands may recall that our senior team used to be called 'City of Bath' whilst the development team was 'The Larks'. In the new era we have swapped these around. CoB squad is there mainly to introduce new players to competition play, have the chance to play against more experienced players and, with luck, win a few matches along the way.

Our first game was a case in point, playing Bath Premier Cru (one of the top teams) in the Brunel KO Cup. We lost but gave them some good games, played some enjoyable boules and learned quite a lot about match play from their more experienced players. By the time this newsletter is published we'll have played our first league game against Saltford Raptors – finger crossed for that!

You can follow the fortunes of our two teams on the Brunel League website https://brunel.leaguerepublic.com/

EUROCUP

Congratulations to our senior team who had a convincing 5-0 win over the Northey in their third round match. We are now through to the semi-finals on 29th June!!

WESTERN CHALLENGE CUP

Both club teams have won their second round matches, showing the strength and depth of our squads. We wait with interest to see the quarter final draw - I hope we're not drawn against each other!!

THURSDAY LEAGUE

The league is as popular as ever with 30 teams registered this year, split over four divisions. We have eight teams entered, sadly we've lost the Larks who were one of our long-standing teams, but we welcome a new club team, the Unbelievaboules, captained by David Bonham-Carter.

The league started on 15th May and runs through to the end of August, but it's not too late to join in the fun. If you're interested in playing for one of our club teams, then please contact me: mike@bathboules.co.uk

CLUB SINGLES COMPETITIONS

We had twelve entries for the lady's competition and twelve for the men's.

After the morning round of games, all twelve were rated 1 – 12 based on games won and points difference. Players 1 – 8 formed the Gold Group. Knockout games in the afternoon.

Finals:

Lady's Gold - Di Barros v Yvonne Bruton
Men's Gold - Colin Batchelor v Geoff Wyatt
Lady's Silver - Mary Humphries v Jackie Haines
Men's Silver - Dave Bonham-Carter v Dominic Singleton

Semi Finals:

Ladies Gold – Annette Hall v Suzanne Batchelor
Men's Gold - Chris Barros v Steve Charman

Winners and runner up:

Lady's Gold – Yvonne Bruton; runner up Di Barras
Lady's Silver – Jackie Haines; runner up Mary Humphries
Men's Gold – Geoff Wyatt; runner up Colin Batchelor
Men's Silver – Dominic Singleton; runner up Dave Bonham-Carter

The competition was hard fought, competitive and played in the very best spirit. We had absolute beginners to battle

hardened pros, playing for the singles titles. Our old war horse, Geoff Wyatt, winning the singles title for the fourth time. A new name on the lady's trophy, Yvonne Bruton.

I would like to thank Greg for some insider dealings to provide a glorious day of weather. Special thanks to our administrator Emma Pope who kept the competition up to date, on time and for taking photos.

I want to give an extra special mention to our trophy sponsors 'Tiger Trophies' aka Gary Haskins, for providing the trophies for all the above mentioned competitors.

DON GRIMES/ADRIAN DOLAN MEMORIAL TROPHY

This was played against The Northey Arms on Easter Monday, 21 April 2025, at Larkhall.

There was a good mix of players from beginners to battle hardened. It was a great performance by all who participated, and I hope those members who had not played in a competition before, enjoyed the experience.

I hope the taste of playing in a competitive competition will see you all take part in the club events this season.

Well done all, and congratulations to COBPC for the win.

SPRING TOUR TO HEREFORD

Members of the COBPC set off on a four-day Regional Spring Tour to Hereford, organised by Di Greenaway, to play with three local clubs, West Hereford, Ross-on - Wye & Abergavenny.
Mixed teams were chosen from each club, playing friendly, yet still very competitive, timed games.

The hosts provided a barbecue, sandwiches, and salads, all served with a welcome, second to none!

Drinks out on the balcony, chats producing laughter were all part of building gold-plated friendships. Gifts were exchanged and everyone said what a thoroughly enjoyable trip it was, with new friendships made.

A big "thank you" to Di for her organisational skills, and for Di & Terry for organising the gifts to be exchanged.

Check out the clubs facebook site for Terry's full article and photographs.

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

The aim is to spread these over the summer months and, where possible, to ensure these do not overlap with other local, regional or national competitions which will be of interest to club members.

Our club championships will precede the equivalent regional event, as follows:
Sunday 8 June – Club Doubles
Sunday 13 July – Club Mixed Doubles
Sunday 31 August – Club Triples

OTHER CLUB NEWS:

PISTE RESURFACING – QUEEN SQUARE

Many thanks to Peter Simpson for organising gravel to resurface one of the two pistes at Queen Square, which was looking more than a little bald.

Also, a big thank you to all who took part in spreading the gravel, raking the pistes and redirecting anyone who chose to take a shortcut across it while this was going on.

MONTHLY MELEE

Our next monthly melee is Saturday, 7 June, 2025, registration 9:15 – 9:45 am for a 10.00 start. £3 p.p. to enter. Games are 4 x 25 minutes. This is open to all members and non-members. All abilities welcome.

CARD PAYMENTS AT THE CLUB

We now have a 'sum up' machine for taking card (or phone/watch) payments. It is plugged in and located to the right of the opening hatch in the shed (on the shelf). There is a written sheet of instructions with the device. If anyone wants a quick lesson

on how to use it please see Annette - it really is very easy, and the more people that can use it the better.

It has been used to charge non-members who come to the shed for a drink and who invariably do not have any cash on them. They are charged £1.50 for a drink only, which brings us into line with what the football club charge.

Some weeks it has been quite busy, so we need everyone to be able to take a payment to facilitate this. If you're playing close to the shed, it is very quick and easy to take payment and let people help themselves.

When it's been busy we have taken the opportunity to top up the water in the urn in between games.

So far it's worked well as people have been appreciative of the opportunity to buy a hot drink, it raises funds for the club and people visiting for the football are taking an interest in the Petanque club.

COACHING – LARKHALL

Coaching has restarted. Currently the sessions are running every Monday at 4.30 pm (except for Bank Holidays).

Everyone is welcome. There is a specific WhatsApp group for people interested in coaching. If you wish to be added to that group, speak to either Annette or Steve to add you. All the session information is communicated via this WhatsApp group, so please join if you have an interest in attending.

If you'd like advice on purchasing boules then please speak to one of the coaches who will be happy to give you advice on size and weight. https://www.dcpetanque.net

FRIENDSHIP GAMES – AUGUST 16 & 17

City of Bath hosted the games in 2024 with great success and many of you were around to witness not only the standard of play, but also the friendship between the nations.

This year's tournament is the finale of a six year cycle. The tournament will be played over the weekend of August 16 and 17. The tournament is open to all club members although there will be a limited number of playing places, (14 maximum). However, you don't have to be playing to enjoy the atmosphere and meet up with old friends as well as establishing new ones.

There are a number of options to reaching Villingen, e.g. going solo, driving, taking a train or flying. Several adventurers will be taking advantage of the weekend to spend more time exploring parts of Germany.

If you are interested in coming to Villingen only, please let me know and plan to make your own travel arrangements outside the 3 days in Villingen.

For those of you interested in spending more time on a semi organised trip please let me know.

The current plan is probably to visit Munich making day trips to the Eagles Nest and the Fairy tale castles, amongst other day trips. Ultimately taking the train across Germany to Villingen.

Contact Cary, either at the club or by email cary@carybush.co.uk if you are interested in joining the trip or purely visiting Villingen with perhaps your own itinerary around Europe.

BOULES BLITZ TOURNAMENT

The Boules Blitz – Frankfield, Cork, Southern Ireland.

Planning a holiday to Southern Ireland? Why not combine the trip with a couple of days petanque at the Boules Blitz open. The Frankfield Open will be held over the weekend of August 23 & 24. It is a doubles tournament played over the 2 days. The main tournament has even been won by 2 players from the COBPC in the past. So, while the standard is reasonable you will not be out of your depth. If you are interested or would like further details please talk to Cary

cary@carybush.co.uk or Mary who can provide you with further details as well as places to visit should you wish to stay for a few days.

SANTA SUSANNA – 28 SEPT TO 3 OCT

Due to the success of the Santa Susanna Competition in Spain 2024, we are returning this year. It is a 5-day trip. We fly out on Sunday 28th September and return on Friday 3rd October.

There is a promotional video for the Santa Susann Competition, *(see Youtube link below)*. It looks an exciting event for those taking part. There may still be places available for anyone who is thinking about joining. Speak to Steve if you want more information stevecharman171@gmail.com

https://youtu.be/J4RMql3qz6k?si=yJTd5DLchmCks60I

WHATSAPP GROUP

We have a 'COBPC Message Board' on WhatsApp. Its purpose is to be an instant avenue for communication to all members of CoBPC.

Its use will be to inform members of competitions, club events, updates and such like. It is not a platform for general chit chat. If you are not already in the group and wish to be included, please inform Steve Charman stevecharman171@gmail.com
also, if you wish to be removed from the group let Steve know.

100 CLUB

There are 3 cash prize winners every month now! So, if you've not already bought your tickets…. you've got to be in it to win it!

Winners for the March draw were:
1st prize - Barry Smith
2nd prize - Chris McGinn
3rd prize - Bryan Huish

Winners for the April draw were:
1st prize – Christine Cox
2nd prize – Tony & Mary Humphries
3rd prize – Carol Barnes

Winners for the May draw were:
1st prize – Julie & Steve Hughes
2nd prize – Alex Robertson
3rd prize – Brenda Burge

Check out the Club Facebook page for the videos.
https://www.facebook.com/bathboules/

There are still tickets available and as ticket numbers increase, then the prize pot increases, and the funds raised for the club increase – it's win win all round! Please see Annette, or email her on annetteh40@yahoo.co.uk if you wish to buy tickets, increase your holdings or ask for a form from the clubhouse.

MINUTES OF THE 2025 CLUB AGM

I have had a number of members ask me if there are minutes to read from the AGM held this year, especially from members who could not attend the meeting.

I've put in a request to the club secretary and am waiting for a reply.

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.

GWR & PE

Please check the GWR and PE websites for playing calendars and updates on competitions and events:
https://www.gwrpetanque.com/full-calendar
and https://petanqueengland.sport80.com/public/events.

COBPC COMMITTEE

After our last AGM 2025, these are your appointed Club committee members:

- Bryan Huish, Chair
- Chris Garcia, Vice Chair
- Cary Bush, Treasurer
- Jenny Newman, Secretary
- John Stanfield
- Eileen Anderton
- Wade Edwards

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 articles to this month's newsletter.

FACEBOOK

If you have some petanque news you wish to share as a member, then please send to Chris for the facebook page. Any articles received are posted at the discretion of the editor.

Thank you to Chris Garcia for doing the Facebook site and for the contributions received for posting. Visit https://www.facebook.com/bathboules/

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 7 June - Club Melee, Larkhall
- 8 June - Club Doubles, Larkhall
- 13 July - Club Mixed Doubles, Larkhall
- 16 & 17 August - Friendship Games, Germany
- 23 & 24 August - Boules Blitz Tournament, Ireland
- 31 August - Club Triples, Larkhall
- 28 Sept to 3 Oct - Santa Susanna Trip, Spain
- 12 October - Cancer Charity Match. If interested give your team's name to Gary gryhaskins@yahoo.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., £1.50p to play

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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