COBPC NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2025 NO. 106

PLAYING MATTERS:

DOUBLES COMPETITION RESULTS 8 JUNE 2025

16 teams entered with each playing 3 games within 4 groups in the morning, this then seeded each team with the top two teams of each group qualifying for the Gold competition and the other two teams qualified for the Silver competition. These were then played after lunch on a knockout basis which resulted in nail biting finals.

Gold competition – winners Ade & Geoff, runners up Yvonne & Jean-Marc. Score 13 – 12.
Silver competition – winners Pam & Alex, runners up Max & Julie. Score 13 – 5.

A great day was had by all and thanks to Chris and Di for keeping everyone's energy levels up with lovely cakes. Thanks also to Emma Pople for the smooth running of the day by keeping the scores and making sure everyone knew where they had to be when and for the article and photographs.

BRUNEL LEAGUE

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

EUROCUP

We played in the semi-finals last Sunday at Wallingford. The semis are always a tough round. We certainly weren't blessed with the best of draws: Baldock Town (aka the England Squad), London A, and Grand Cru.

It was a long hot day, but a tremendous experience to play against and watch some of the best players in the country in action, they make it all look so effortless. Needless to say we didn't make the final.

This is the third time in seven years we've reached the semi final stage, let's hope it's fourth time lucky for a place in the final next year for one of our teams! (see photo attachment)

WESTERN CHALLENGE CUP

Our two club teams have now played their quarter final rounds. Both were very close with the results hanging on the last game in each match.

The A team lost against GC51, agonisingly losing the deciding game 11-13, so it couldn't have been much closer. But another fantastic result for the B team who beat Cricklade 3-2 in another nail biter.

The draw for the semis hasn't been made yet, but we wish Greg and team all the best in the next round.

THURSDAY LEAGUE

We're now halfway through the season – doesn't time fly when you're enjoying yourselves! Well done to all club captains for keeping to the schedule and for using the catch-up week for outstanding games.

Sadly, one of the two new teams in the league, the Rose and Crown, has dropped out so all their remaining matches have been cancelled and their scores removed. This will be disruptive for all the Div 4 teams but can't be avoided.

It's a bit of a curate's egg for club teams this season, with our three top teams propping up the bottom of the Division 1, but better news in the other divisions where Di and COB Phoenix are top of Division 2 and our new team in Division 4, the Unbelievaboules, ably led by David, are currently in second place.

Good luck to everyone in the second half of the season.

BATH OPEN - 3 AUGUST, 2025

20th ANNIVERSARY OF THE CLUB

20 years ago the club was established. From a membership of 4 we now have in excess of 110 members.
To celebrate this event we are planning an all celebration on September 21 st (Sunday) with a Hog Roast and Live Music. It is also planned to have an open melee throughout the day for those who wish to join in with prizes for the best player. Keep the day free and further information will be issued over the next few weeks.

Thanks to Mark and Shirley Leddy we have also had a 2 page article in the 'Bath Magazine', came out today with COBPC feature.

Here's a link to the online version and our feature is a double page spread on pages 54/55.
https://issuu.com/mcpublishing/docs/the_bath_magazine_july_2025?fr=xKAE9_zMzMw

Together with articles placed in the 'Local Look' this year, we have been promoting the club and attracting new members.

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 13 July – Club Mixed Doubles
Sunday 31 August – Club Triples

OTHER CLUB NEWS:

QUEEN SQUARE PETANQUE
If you haven't played at Queen Square on our weekly Wednesday morning sessions, why not give it a try. It's developed into a bit of a tradition where some players go for lunch or coffee after play in central Bath.

MONTHLY MELEE
Our next monthly melee is Saturday, 6TH September 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

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 July draw:

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.

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

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

- 13 July - Club Mixed Doubles, Larkhall
- 2 August – Monthly Melee
- 16 & 17 August - Friendship Games, Germany
- 23 & 24 August - Boules Blitz Tournament, Ireland
- 31 August - Club Triples, Larkhall
- 6 September – Monthly melee
- 28 Sept to 3 Oct - Santa Susanna Trip, Spain
- 4 October – Monthly melee
- 12 October - Cancer Charity Match. If interested give your team's name to Gary gryhaskins@yahoo.co.uk
- 1 November – Monthly melee

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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