COBPC NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2025 NO. 109

EURO CUP 2025/26

City of Bath 2 was drawn against Cricklade 2 in the first round of this national competition. It was a repeat of our winning quarter-final encounter in the Western Challenge Cup, played a few months ago on the most beautiful summer day.

We returned to Cricklade with high hopes but in very different weather conditions. The heavy rain never stopped and the pistes were covered with puddles. The match began with two triples (at least one has to be a mixed triple). Both were extremely hard-fought and ended with one victory each after well over an hour and a half's play.

The next round consisted of three doubles (again, one mixed). We enjoyed two easy victories but lost the third, leaving us the winners, three games to two. We drove back to Bath, very wet, but pleased to have won a highly competitive match played in a good spirit against friendly opposition.

THE MAY GAMES

Many of you will have joined with Terry and Di when they have arranged trips over the years to different regions to enjoy the hospitality of local clubs as well as competing both with and against our hosts.

Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond our control, we have been unable to formulate a reasonable plan to visit the Thames Region. It is therefore being proposed that we make a trip to Ireland (In an around Dublin) to play against a number of local clubs. The Irish Petanque is coming along in leaps and bounds and as some of you have had the opportunity of meeting some of their members in Santa Susanna.

Anyone who may be interested please let either Cary Bush cary@bathboules.co.uk , Chris Baross chrisbaross@gmail.com or Steve charmans71@talktalk.net know.

Plans are also underway to visit Yorkshire in 2027 where there are many Petanque Clubs.

FRIENDSHIP GAMES – AUGUST 21 – 24 2026 – NEUSIEDL AM SEE AUSTRIA

Friday, August 21:

• Arrival with a get-together in the evening and dinner together at the Hotel Wende. Those arriving earlier will have the opportunity to throw a few balls in the arena.

Saturday, August 22:

• Tournament, followed by a visit to a wine tavern in Neusiedl am See in the evening.

Sunday, August 23:

• Tournament, followed by a gala dinner at Hotel Wende in the evening – dress code: festive and elegant (stylish, but comfortable – perfect for an enjoyable evening).

Monday, August 24:

• Departure

Our hosts have also recommended a number of hotels which vary in price from € 75 to €125 per person.

It is also proposed, for those interested to have a few days before the games visiting Bratislava in Slovakia and Ljubljana in Slovenia. Plans are being drawn up at the present time.

SANTA SUZANNA TRIP

The trip will run again next year. There may be added a couple of optional days in Barcelona either before or after the competition.

The dates for the competition next year are: Sunday September 27th to Friday October 2nd October.

COACHING

Due to a lack of general interest and the poor weather conditions, coaching has been suspended until the middle of March.

However, for those who are interested in continuing with the coaching it is proposed

that those who volunteer will be teamed up with a coach on a Tuesday and / or a Saturday to help with their play as well as hopefully appreciating the importance of game management.

QUEEN SQUARE IMPROVEMENTS

Christine, John Stanfield and Eileen met with Ryan Duncan, who has been the programme manager for the Queen Square improvements project, to discuss changes to the pistes.

There will be wooden edging surrounding the pistes. We saw an example - 3cm high and 1cm thick. The pistes will be regraded to give a flat surface.

There was much discussion about the benches near the central path being too close to the pistes. Ryan appreciated that we need more space between pistes and benches, as players need to use the area during play.

There will be hard surfaces covering the ground in the benches area, as this will be easier for maintenance.

We emphasised, and Tony agreed, that the same gravel used now, will be laid on the new pistes.

Timescale. Work will probably not commence before September 2026.

OTHER CLUB NEWS:

MOVEMBER

Question: What do handlebars, pencils, horseshoes, and chevrons all have in common?

Answer: You'd have seen them all displayed as moustaches during the City of Bath Pétanque Club Movember Fundraising.

After a month of careful nurturing and grooming of the upper lips the Club are really pleased to share that over £1200 has been collected for Cancer Research UK. It is a big thank you to all the members who have contributed and taken part in this worthy cause. Much fun has been had along the way, including the amazing moustache display by everyone at the COBPC Queen Square group. Can you name everyone in the photo? A special prize is being offered for the first person to let Anne know all the names correctly!

We far surpassed our initial aim of raising £400 to top up the Tiger Trophies cancer charity competition, organised by Gary and Tracey, to £2,000.00 in total. The Movember fundraising effort has been added to the money raised at the competition, which means they have now collected almost £3,000 in total to such a good cause. There's still more money coming in and who knows, we may even break the £3,000 mark.

Thank you again to everyone who contributed.

CLUB XMAS PARTY DECEMBER 7TH

As an alternative to dinner at a restaurant this year a couple of our members suggested that we hold a Christmas party at the club. There are rumours that Frank Sinatra and Colin Young of the Foundations will be paying a visit. A number of games are also being organised. There will be a Buffet at around 7.00 p.m.

Cost for the evening will be £18 and should either be paid into the clubs bank account (with name identifying who made the payment): City of Bath Petanque Club, Sort Code: 40-09-44 Account number: 90213977. Alternatively, you can pay on the door (make sure you confirm you will be attending) or at the Club Shed on Tuesday or Saturday (cash and cards accepted).

Please contact Mary Bradridge (marybradridge@hotmail.co.uk) or Ann Charman (charmans171@talktalk.net) for further information or to reserve your place. ***(see posters attached to the newsletter)***

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 6 December, 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.

WHATSAPP GROUPS

We have a numerous groups on WhatsApp you can request to join, e.g. Queen Square; Message Board; Coaching; Brunel; Maintenance; etc. 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 one of the groups and wish to be included, please inform Steve Charman stevecharman171@gmail.com and Anne Knight for Queen Square anne@bathboules.co.uk
If you wish to be removed from the groups let Steve or Anne (only for Queen Square) 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 November draw:
1st prize winner: Tony & Mary Humphries
2nd prize winner: Ruby Moxham
3rd prize winner: Di & Chris Baross

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.

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.

CLUB WEBSITE

Check out our wonderful, revamped website.
https://bathboules.co.uk/

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

- 6 December – Monthly melee
- 7 December – Club Xmas Party, LSC, 5.30 p.m.

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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