

Petanque England Annual General meeting 29th March 2025.

President`s Report.

As would be expected any annual national report that is submitted on behalf of the governing body, together with individual PE Director and support officer reports, is constructed and designed to give the membership, an overall insight into the operational activities it has engaged with over the past year.

Equally it is always important to remember that such reports are also a reflection of the dedication that is provided by those, who volunteer their time to the betterment of all our membership, regardless of application or the level to which the sport is played.

Membership.

It is pleasing to see our membership registration gradually increasing to levels we had in past years if not beyond. The introduction of the new `Club only membership` together with additional PE registered clubs, can be also attested to this increase and demonstrates a greater interest in playing Petanque as sport.

As indicated from last year`s annual report, when regional Presidents, Senior regional Officers, members and Petanque England officials combine their actions together, the results produce positive outcomes and benefits all in growing our sport.

Administration.

During the year consolidation of the Sports 80 programmed system has taken place and being serviced by our Administrator Richard Stevens. With the recent board approved addition of fellow directors, who with their specialist knowledge in `Insurance policies, Promotion/Marketing analysis, Web Site and Face- Book` has meant that members of Petanque England will further benefit in the future.

Separate reports being available.

Complaints and Disciplinary.

As highlighted previously, following a major review and subsequent approval, the introduction of the new `Complaint and Disciplinary Process Procedure` became operational. During this past year, it was instrumental and applied to a complainant case that required a considerable amount of time in its management, legal and financial costs. All sadly stemming from an incident, which should have been resolved, at club or even regional level.

It needs be emphasised and remembered, that this specific Complaint and Disciplinary process and procedure, was also designed to being adopted and implemented by all Petanque England registered clubs and regions. Should any such guidance be required for implementation, it is available via the case management.

Petanque England National Tournaments.

As per previous years the playing events centred upon the national playing calendar programme and organised by the PE Events group ensuring they all functioned effectively as possible with the venue hosts.

Grateful thanks and appreciation are given to those regional clubs and members, who host and assist in organising the events.

The Chair of Events report is available separately to offer greater in-depth details into the event tournaments and participations.

Inter-regional Tournament 2024.

This being the contracted third and last year, that the national event was being held at the Pontins Pakefield Holiday Centre, Lowstoft, Suffolk, as unfortunately the venue was being re acquisition for other usage.

Finding suitable alternative venues that meet our requirements has always been problematic.

However, this has been resolved with the assistance of our tournament service company, Isle of Wight Tours, in being able to transfer our tournament to another venue (Sand Bay Holiday Centre) located in west of the country.

Further details of the 2025 Inter-Regional Championship and Challenge tournament can be expected to be forthcoming in due course.

Home Nations.

The 2024 event was hosted by the Jersey Petanque Association and attended by teams from the Wales PA and Scottish PA in addition to our selves.

One of the features when representing your country and participating in a tournament against other nations, is also the opportunity of socialising with other national team members and enjoying the occasion.

Unfortunately, the latter appeared to have been engaged with a little too much enthusiasm and as result, it appears to have had a negative effect on the performance by some of our teams, meaning for the first time for many years, the championship went to another nation, Jersey PA.

For 2025, Home Nation Championship will be hosted by the Welch PA, at a venue scheduled in the southern part of the country. Hopefully, we will be able to improve on our performances, regain the premier position and bragging rights.

National juniors.

The progress made during the year by the national junior management and development team has been encouraging, in both coaching and making available the opportunities, regardless of their age, gender, or abilities, in participating in domestic and international events.

It was equally pleasing to see junior teams participating at the 2024 Inter-Regional within their own tournament and, to witness the continued encouragement and financial support provided by our membership via their annual raffle.

Their International participation at the CEP Junior Championship held in Spain, provided first time opportunities for these young players to experience such a tournament, which resulted in a podium finish for the junior male team, whilst our junior female team, just missing out in achieving the same.

One extra reward was being invited to attend a coach and training weekend by both the French and Netherland Petanque Federations, which has since been accepted.

None of these developments would happen without the support given by the parents and by those, who give their time to the juniors continued progress.

A sincere thank you.

2024 Senior Internationals.

Our participation at both CEP and FIPJP Championships were constructive in participations but, apart from individual performances that were worthy, we unfortunately did not make the progress that was sort.

CEP singles, doubles and mixed doubles championship was held in Switzerland, at a location with stunning mountain backdrops and whilst our participations were genuine and positive, we failed to achieve podium progress in either of the main and secondary events.

Senior Women.

The CEP Triples Championship, held in Spain during the summer period, which meant that the team would be playing externally and in high- temperatures. Whilst again our endeavours were credible during the tournament, including a latter match that took over two hours to complete, we sadly concluded our participation.

Senior Men.

The FIPJP triples Championship took place in France and during December, a complete opposite in temperature though held internally in a large Stadium with an alternative and external adjacent Marque.

Again, whilst the teams` efforts were in the positive, we failed to make the progress envisaged other than a very credible finish, in the Tir de Precision event.

Whilst not a reason for performance disappointment, it should be noted that the team squad had to endure a poor standard of hotel accommodation, that was arranged by the hosts, so not being concussive in achieving happiness and positive mind set preparedness.

International Women Day (IWD).

It is worthy to note that this segment of regional and national playing, has become positive by its movement and willingness to expand that attraction and in attracting more female players to our sport.

Grateful thanks must go to those who arrange the regional and national qualifiers and finals. Long may it progress.

Euro cup.

Following participation by the Meadow PC team at last year`s CEP Euro Club Championship tournament held in France, the 2025 European Club Championship is under way.

As mentioned previously, the role of administrating the Euro Cup was sort and is currently under the control of the PE Administrator as a separate identity, dealing with the qualifying rounds and any queries.

Veterans.

The opportunities of (CEP) international participation is limited in being Bi annual event meaning no attendance in 2024, the next international 2025 is due to be held in Spain in mid- July. One sad comment, that the vacancy for a Veterans non- playing Lead to be filled, which being advertised earlier this year has to date, had no response.

Umpires commission.

Repeating the message as of last year, the service provided by these resolute members who provide and volunteer their time to officiate and ensure fair play at regional and national events is paramount.

Our current lack in the number of umpires is a concern and needing action to addressed the situation not just by the national board, but at Club and Regional levels.

As an initial step, the Umpires Commission has embarked upon in encouraging members who are interested in taking the first stage of becoming a qualified PE Umpire with a day course that is being held at Leicester PC on Saturday the 12th of April.

Information regarding this intuitive has been circulated and being sent to all regional presidents.

Please read the Umpires Commission report.

Coaching Commission.

Whilst the attraction of attending and achieving Club Coach (category 1) qualification has continued through 2024 there has been a further interest in progressing to the next stage of qualification to Club Coach advance (category 2) qualification.

To date, the complement is currently 121 qualified (category 1) coaches, covering eighteen regions with further applications received from five regions to attend future courses.

The Club Coach Advance (category 2) number 12 qualified coaches and two at Category 3 and 3A levels.

This year will see an endeavour to increase that latter levels as well as seeing further introduction of bi- annual coach assessments.

In addition will see the return of Coaching Commission meetings that will be organised and be held at different regional venues, rather than being at one location to achieve greater attendances.

Report conclusion.

Whilst it is gratifying to see the interest in playing Petanque as sport start to grow, there is still much that needs to be addressed and achieved, if the sport of Petanque in England is to continue making genuine progress.

However, such progress will only be achieved by the application of all within our sport and acting as a positive collective, rather than as separate identities, pursuits of personal agenda`s or with a mind- set attitude that only suits the individual.

My grateful thanks to all those who continue to serve as either Board Directors or as Support Officers and to all those members, who support in the background or continue do so their own way.

Colin

Colin Roper

President Petanque -England

