



National Presidents Report

Annual General Meeting 2015

I am very sorry and deeply disappointed that I cannot be with you today. Shortly after returning from the European Espoirs event held in Spain I went down with flu, I had hoped to be over the worst of it by now but I'm not in a fit condition to drive to the meeting or to chair it so I have asked our Vice President, Martin Eggleton to deputise for me and to be the presiding officer.

This is the first AGM that I have missed in 20 years of being a National Officer and ironically it is my last as your President.

Despite being ill I am still required to deliver a report on the past 12 months of our Association, so this one is perhaps not as long as my normal reports would be but I hope it covers the main points.

Financially we are in good shape as our National Treasurer, Cary Bush will explain in his report shortly. At long last it would now seem that we can start investing money back into our sport instead of just coping with the expenditure and day to day running of our Association.

I guess I have given Colin Roper, Chair of the Coaching Commission a bit of a tough time recently. I have been urging him and the commission to get our coaches on courses that lead to a nationally recognised accreditation rather than just in-house training.

I appreciate that they have carried out a full review of the Club and Advanced Club Grades and have also been busy introducing the new courses to some of our regions. Hopefully as this year progresses and with the extra money assigned to their budget we will see some of our coaches actively working towards a UK Coaching Certificate.

The Club Development Aid or what we are now calling the Club Small Grant Scheme was re-launched this year with a much easier and simpler application process. Very recently the panel considered 3 applications rejecting two only because the Panel agreed their requests for capital equipment, lighting and building materials was outside the remit of the scheme.

To clarify the Club Small Grant Scheme is aimed at promotional and development activities such as attracting new members to the sport or developing activities for existing members.

Just before the end of last year our National Membership Secretary, Richard Baker, decided to stand down due to health issues. I'm not sure if Richard is present today but I had a chat with him on the phone a few days ago and I am happy to report that he is much improved, I am sure you all join with me in wishing him the very best of health for the future.

Richard's resignation came just as we were about to start preparing for the 2015 membership year. Our database needed to be updated with the national and regional fees, there was quite a bit of housekeeping to do and of course we also had renewal notices etc to get ready.

With no other volunteers coming forward to help, Tony Mann and I took on the tasks. Tony's attention to detail complimented my knowledge of the database and system and I think we can both be very proud of our team work.

Our first task was to correct the contact list in our Club database as we found 30% of the data entered to be wrong, the task took us both more than 5 hours to complete but the effort was well worth it.

We then quickly moved on to producing renewal notices and other documents while IMG were supposed to be updating the system. However, you will all have had an email early in the year explaining that not everything went to plan!

Since then Tony and I took a proactive approach with Individual Membership and Club registrations than the previous reacting when a registration or application arrived.

We began our campaign by issuing invoices to all 2014 Registered Clubs along with a covering letter and 2015 registration form. Each form and invoice was given a reference code that was unique to the club. Being proactive and presenting the existing clubs with the option to pay by cheque or by bank transfer has paid dividends in both the speeding up of registrations and the number of clubs that have registered to date.

Currently our efforts have seen 164 clubs register which compared to last year's 139 is a significant increase. 11 of the 2014 registered clubs have now confirmed they will not register this year but we already have 10 brand new clubs so the number of EPA Registered Clubs is looking to be very healthy.

We have also speeded up the process of issuing licences, as each application to renew or for new membership is processed a temporary licence is issued by email. Within 7 days of the application the card licence is printed and sent to the Regional Membership Secretary to send on to the clubs or individual member.

At last years AGM I reported that 2,049 members had renewed and by the end of the year I can report that we had 2,754 members.

This year at the time of writing this report 2,162 members have renewed their membership, add to this our Hon. Life Members (25) and the 198 new members who have joined since the 1st October 2014 makes the current total of members 2,285 which is a total of 69 more than at this time last year. So far the impact of the increased fee has not materialised.

Insurance is not the most interesting of topics so I will keep my report short with just a few facts.

We are still using Mann Broadbent as our Insurance brokers, by the way it was Mann Broadbent who sponsored the participation medals at the Home Nations Championship which was held at Mansfield PC last year.

However, our insurance is with another insurer because the company we were dealing with has ceased providing sport related liability cover.

Our new policy now includes cover for two club opens (last year it was only the one) which often include non EPA people playing petanque. Other than this the policy is very much the same as last year and continues to protect our members against their legal liability for a negligent act whilst playing, practicing, umpiring or coaching and in addition includes members whilst engaged in committee meetings and social events directly related to our sport such as organised fund raising events.

Our partners Isle of Wight Tours Ltd who sponsored the Home Nations Championship winners medals will have been contacting our Regional Committees recently with details of the accommodation at Mill Rythe and the nearby Parkdean caravan park.

Mill Rythe have agreed to my suggestion of extending the permanent terrain to accommodate a further 16 lanes. Although no actual date has been set I would expect work to commence towards the end of this year and assuming all goes to plan it will mean that we could continue to invite the Welsh PA to our event even if the East Midlands split goes ahead.

As part of our continued commitment to the Code of Good Governance three members of our Management Committee have been reviewing our

Disciplinary Procedures and Constitution. Although the Management Committee as a whole have not fully agreed all the proposed changes we felt that having got to a stage where we could not resolve our differences any further then the best thing to do was to present them to you today for discussion and perhaps agreement.

These proposals not only change our Constitution, but also the basic structure of the MC. I fully understand that not every member would want to engage with discussions over these sorts of proposals but as they are very important to the future of our Association I would ask you all to consider them very carefully before casting your vote.

2014 Honours List:

English Triples Men

who will represent our Association at the European (CEP) Triples Championship for men in Bulgaria are:

Scott Ashby, Kevin Spillett, Rowland Jones and Jack Blows

English Triples Women

who will represent our Association at the World Triples Championship for women in Thailand are:

Kim Lachani, Lisa Edmondson, Myra Huntley and Emma Coggins

English Doubles

Jack Blows and Phil Winston

English Mixed Doubles

Sofiane and Kim Lachani

English Singles

Ross Jones

As you will know the FIPJP held their first Singles World Championship Male and Female in January 2015. We held a qualifier to decide which two players would represent our Association. They were:

Singles World Championship

Men: Dean Seville

Female: Angela Gaughan

It is worth noting that this year's the Singles Championships being held in Devon will be single gender events, in other words there will be two events run side by side one for our female members the other for the men.

English Veterans (55+) and the team that won the Nations Cup at the European (CEP) Veterans Championship held in Sweden was:
Barry Scott, Robert Silvy, Lee and Angie Jamieson

English Over 50s Doubles

Robert Gaywood and Jean-Louis Guiot

English Junior Triples and team that represented our Association at the European (CEP) Junior Triples Championship was:
Connie Bell, Jessica Shoesmith, Samuel Mellen and Oliver Zimmerman.

Champion of Champions Triples

KENT: Kevin Spillett, Jack Blows and Scott Ashby

Champion of Champions Doubles

SOUTHERN: David Cruz and David Stubbs

Champion of Champions Shooting

CHILTERN: Sofiane Lachani

Club Tournament (EuroCup) and the teams which represented our Association in the CEP's EuroCup are:
2014 - Meadow PC

2015 - Baldock Town PC.

Inter-Regional Championship

Division 1 - Kent

Division 2 - Isle of Wight

Inter-Regional Challenge Tournament

Division 1 - Southern

Division 2 - Devon

Inter-Regional Championship Juniors

Chiltern

I believe our Association is in good order, for the future we have established a National Junior Squad Coaching Team which has been placed under the authority and budget of the Coaching Commission. The next step is to establish an Espoirs Squad Coaching Team and to engage more fully with our younger adult members.

This past year we have set Codes of Conduct for our Members, the Management Committee and Coaching. We have reviewed and updated our Equity Policy, our Membership and Club Registration process and each of the events we currently organise for our members.

On a personal level I have continued to represent our Association at World and European events and although I am standing down as your President I will continue to represent our Association internationally.

Through my international umpires qualification I continue to work with the International Umpires Commission and as the President of the Confédération Européenne de Pétanque (CEP) I look forward to working with our new MC to ensure our Association benefits from these relationships.

I would like to thank all the Management Committee members, present and past, for all their hard work and commitment in helping me to get our Association to where it is today.

In particular I want to thank Tony Mann who for the past 4 years has been our National Secretary.

Having spent a couple of years without a Secretary I know what is involved with the job and I greatly admire the way Tony has carried out all his duties with diligence and dedication.

He has taken me and others to task over how we communicate with our members and anyone who has ever received an email or letter from Tony will know how thorough he is in presenting information.

Tony has been tenacious with review and the production of our new Equity policy and Various Codes of Conduct. I am sure he will be sorely missed as a member of the Management team and most certainly as National Secretary.

I would also like to thank all our members for allowing me to lead our Association these past 10 years, it has been a privilege, an honour and a pleasure to serve you all.

I am sure that Martin and the new Management team will bring a different and perhaps fresh approach to the management of our Association and I wish them the very best for the future.



Mike Pegg, National President (2005-2015)
English Petanque Association