

# 2018 Pre Season



**Pétanque**  
**ENGLAND**

## Welcome to Petanque England

Thank you to everyone who voted in the recent ballot, the result was a resounding agreement with the Management Committee's plan to ensure we have the right structure to move our sport on to the next level.

This time is generally given over to lots of preparations for the coming season, groups are getting together in Clubs around the country to tidy the piste, lay new gravel, do a bit of weed killing, sort out the formations of the various teams for the year and at the management level things are no different. We are busy preparing the paperwork for competition entry, fleshing out the outline plans for the various Commissions and Groups to ensure they can deliver to their aims and ensuring all the other structures we need are in place.

You will shortly see one of the first administrative changes when you receive the paperwork for the first General Meeting, happening on 21st April. From now on it will be a lot easier for all members to be involved with the decision making process as we are introducing proxy voting. Full details will be sent with the notices at the relevant time, so keep your eyes open for that.

Martin

## **INTER-REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

After many comments last year about the availability of space at Mill Rythe we have introduced a slightly different system this year for bookings.

The main problem is that there just aren't enough beds there for everyone who wants to stay. The usable capacity for us is about 600 beds and our maximum number of players is much higher than that. Therefore, for an initial period, we have allocated each Region approximately 2/3 of their maximum squad size.

Any spare rooms available at the end of this time period will be redistributed across the waiting list.

Unfortunately we can't make Mill Rythe's owners build more accommodation, but we have tried to ensure equal access.

More information on caravan bookings, which have no Regional quotas, and the rest of the weekend can be found at

<http://iowtours.com/event/epa-inter-regional-championship-challenge-2018/>



## **SENIOR SQUAD RANKING COMPETITIONS 2018**

The programme of events for 2018 has been published, along with more information on the formats, criteria and intentions. More information can be found on the EPA website under Men and Women Playing Programme 2018.



With last year's great performances in international competitions we are beginning to see the fruits of this programme and hopefully will see even higher achievements in the coming years.

Not sure about entering any of the events as you don't think you are up to the standard? One of the best ways to improve your game is to play against tough opposition getting a chance to see up close how they do it. Go on, give it a try—you might just surprise yourself.

## HOME NATIONS QUALIFIER

Have you always wanted to wear an England shirt on an overseas tour but missed the boat for football, rugby or cricket? Well you may still be in with a chance. This year's Home Nations Championship is being played in Jersey, the first weekend in August.

Qualifying takes place on 13th May at Nottingham City Petanque Club, who always do a great job of making us welcome. The top 8 sides from this event are invited to form the squad so why not give it a try? Just look at these tempting pictures.



# COMPETITIONS

This year we have a host of events being run by clubs and regions around the country with opportunities to play against teams from the UK and overseas. These take a huge amount of effort to organise and some great sponsorship has been found for many so why not enter one, two or even more. Just have a look at this selection—and keep an eye on the website for more. Enter early to avoid disappointment.

**TRIPLES**  
**LEAGUE KNOCK OUT**  
**Sunday 15th April 2018**

First 32 entries guaranteed  
**£10 per person**

## CHILTERN

## OPEN

**Arlesey Town Football Club**  
Armadillo Stadium, Hitchin Road, Arlesey, Beds SG15 6RS

CASH PRIZES FOR MAIN AND PLATE

**£500 minimum first prize**

Pay on the day - Registration 9:00 - 9:30am  
Play starts at 10:00am

Entries to be received by Thursday 11th April to  
[prente30@hotmail.com](mailto:prente30@hotmail.com) or via facebook

**SOUTHERN COUNTIES PETANQUE ASSOCIATION**

**5, 6, 7 MAY 2018**

**WORTHING PETANQUE CLUB BN13 3RT**

## SOUTHERN COUNTIES SPECTACULAR WEEKEND OF PETANQUE

**SATURDAY 05 MAY 2018**  
DOUBLES - £20 PER TEAM  
TOP PRIZE: £400

**SUNDAY 06 MAY 2018**  
TRIPLES - £30 PER TEAM  
TOP PRIZE: £600

**MONDAY 07 MAY 2018**  
SINGLES - £10 PER PLAYER  
TOP PRIZE: £300

For more information and to register your team, please email:  
[weekendofpetanque@aol.com](mailto:weekendofpetanque@aol.com)

Event Sponsors:  
**CLOSEWOOD**

**LONDON PETANQUE CLUB**

## London Petanque Championship

**LONDON PETANQUE CLUB**  
Crystal Palace  
9 June 2018  
INTERNATIONAL TRIPLES

**SATURDAY 9th JUNE 2018**  
at  
Crystal Palace, Thicket Road, London SE19 2GA

Prize money totalling  
**£5,500**

Limited to 64 teams (triples) £30.00 per team  
Entry information will be published on 31.1.2018.

enquiries: [www.londonpetanqueclub.uk](http://www.londonpetanqueclub.uk)

Northern Petanque & Heckmondwike PC invites you to...

## La British Open

New triples tournament with a large prize fund.  
(Entry now open, enter using the details below)

**Saturday 21st July**  
(Afternoon qualifiers & evening social play)

**Sunday 22nd July**  
(Main competitions)  
£10 per player (licensed players only)

**The Venue**  
Heckmondwike Petanque Club  
Easy access from M62 and M1  
(close to Leeds Bradford airport)  
30 pistes, ample free parking  
with lots of nearby accommodation.

Any queries please contact through the FB page or  
using the contact details below.  
[fb.me/labritishopen](https://www.facebook.com/labritishopen)

(Like the page to stay up to date with the latest news  
and updates)

**James Hart - [hartjam87@gmail.com](mailto:hartjam87@gmail.com)**  
**+447581035312**

## TITLES WEEKEND—SPOTLIGHT ON GRAVESEND

**This year's Titles Weekend is taking place in Gravesend, Kent,** a part of the country that may not be as well known as some of our previous venues, such as Exeter and the Isle of Wight so I thought it might be an idea to tell you a bit about the area, particularly if you are thinking of bringing non players with you.

Gravesend itself does not necessarily have a great deal to offer the tourist (I can say that, I was born there) Pocahontas is buried in the town and the Napoleonic Fort and surrounding gardens are interesting, but it is a great location for exploring from with fantastic road and rail links to London and the rest of Kent.

Thanks to the HS1 London St Pancras is only 25 minutes away and there are good train links to Canterbury for some history or Whitstable, Margate and Ramsgate for those needing a bit of sea air and a paddle.

Bluewater is a short bus, train or drive away and Westfield Stratford is easily accessed by train in just 17 minutes.

There are numerous English Heritage and National Trust sites in the area too. Leeds Castle, just 30 minutes away by car and only a short train journey, is hosting a Grand Medieval Joust that weekend which should be a sight to see.

Hopefully everyone can find something there to interest them, so bring the family along—we would be delighted to see them all.



## **WEBSITE AND EMAIL ADDRESSES**

We have acquired the new domain name for Petanque England and will start to transition to Petanque England email addresses as we continue with the transformation of the organisation but don't worry, the old ones will remain live for some time to come. Full details for all the changes will follow as they come in to use.

**WWW.WATCHTHISPACE**

## **WELL DONE—YOU'VE MADE IT TO THE END**

Thanks for sticking with me.

I hope you have found something interesting or informative.

For future issues it would be great if there could be some Regional or Club content. I know there are some fantastic activities going on but we don't always get to see what other people are doing so could I ask you to send in anything you think is worth sharing. It could be pictures from a charity competition, the results of a great grant application, a come and try event in a local community. Anything.

If you have anything just send it to

[events@englishpetanque.org.uk](mailto:events@englishpetanque.org.uk)