

Royal Wootton Bassett Pétanque Club. Issue 2 - 2023

My apologise as this is only the second newsletter of the year but there are a few items that need to be passed on to everyone. First though, a welcome to all the new members, we are now almost 80 members.

Site Development

The 2 additional piste 9 and 10 have been completed, please note that they must not be raked. We need to complete the surrounds and some work will be done this week to build steps from the football gate. Eventually there will be a path along the end of the 2 pistes and a firm standing area by the top of piste 10 and the plan for the area beyond this is to plant perennials. Marion will be asking for donations of plants later in the year.

The main canopy has been completed and this week guttering will be fitted. Initially one section of the canopy will be half boarded with a view to completing 3 other sections, later. Later this boarding may used for sponsors signs.

The fence provide by RWBSA looks good and allows people to see where we are. The parking area for mobility scooters will be finished soon. I would like to say that we are the only club in the area with access for persons with mobility issues.

We will be building 2 further pistes in the new area later in the year and these will total 6m x 13m with a walkway all around. Having 12 piste will allow hosting of major competitions.

Site Maintenance

A lot of the work on site is falling on just a few shoulders and it would be welcomed if more volunteers stepped forward. There is a fair amount of construction work but also some maintenance for example, repairs to the broken picnic table, weedkiller, repairs to the green windbreak, fitting more windbreak by piste 9. If anyone is able to help, please see Andy G or myself.

Club Development

The trip to Gibraltar went well earlier in the year as did the reciprocal matches against Monkstone and a further trip to North Devon is planned for October. Please see Lee if you are interested.

The social trip to Bath races went well and we hope to hold a BBQ later in the year.

There are 3 teams in the Cotswold league this year and all teams are doing well.

The committee have discussed the welfare of players and we feel that there is a need for a Welfare Officer. This is not a committee position at present, but a voluntary post and a job spec is attached to this newsletter.

The committee are formulating a sponsorship plan to raise funds for specific projects and if anyone knows of potential sponsors, please let one of the committee know.

Competitions

For a variety of reasons, the full programme of club competitions did not take place, but the next planned event is an Autumn melee on 23rd September.

Some coaching has occurred in shooting by Lee and for ladies led by Jan.

The club has had some success in the Petanque England Eurocup competition and a team representing the club will be playing in the plate final in Leicester on 20th August. We will be entering 2 teams in this competition this year and any players need to be full members of PE.

The EU23 competition was very successful and raised about £200 for BHF. This event will be repeated held next year as EU2024 on 18th May.

One club team achieved the semi-final at Sherston but were beaten by the eventual winners.

Petanque England have changed the membership structure to 2 tiers, competition player and club player. The offer at present is £10 for club player rising to £15 next year and this will include a comprehensive insurance and the ability to enter regional competitions. There is a leaflet in the hut describing this new system. Full PE membership is still required for national competitions.

Fundraising

The 100 club has financed two of the new picnic benches and so far, has raised in excess of £400. This is fun way to raise funds and please consider joining you might win the monthly draw,

Easyfunding has also raised over £400 for the club and does not cost anyone from the club. When ordering goods from groceries to holidays on the internet the provider donates funds to the chosen 'charity' either as percentage or as a fixed sum.

There are only 20 members in the 100 club and if you would like to join, please see Jacquii Anderson or Jan Bird. Be in it to win it!

This year our nominated charity is Parkinson's and so far, we have £258 raised.

RWBSA

Please use them as much as possible when available.

Can I remind everyone to follow the correct traffic flow and not to drive round the cones or the wrong way and also that dogs are not allowed on site.

Club Clothing

Keith Laurance has taken over organising the clothing so if you would like anything please let him know.

That's all for now folks but if you want to volunteer or just have a question let me know.

Alan