

Royal Wootton Bassett Pétanque Club. Issue 1 - 2024

As it is the start of the year and following the AGM and recent committee meeting there are a few items that need to be communicated, but first can I remind all those that haven't paid their membership that it is now due at £30 per person.

Site Development

The extra area that will become pistes 11 and 12 have been rolled and now need a top dressing which will be applied in the next few weeks. The surrounds have been tidied up to make it safe.

The main canopy is complete except for a further 3 sections that will be boarded. (2 on each side)

The windbreak that was extended alongside piste 9 was damaged in the high winds and now needs to be replaced but with netting on both sides. Some of the existing windbreak also needs repairing.

If anyone is able to help with these tasks, please let Andy G know.

Club Development

The club continues to battle in the Eurocup with the Allsorts playing at home on 11th Feb and they would welcome support. The Royals are in the plate and a date has yet to be set for their next match.

There are likely to be 3 teams from the club in the Cotswold League this year although we do not yet know the league format.

To prepare players for these competitions Lee is holding coaching sessions on Thursday at 7.00 pm

Only Lee is a qualified coach, and we need more to 'spread the load' if you are interested in training to become a club coach, please let me know and if we have enough numbers we will hold a course.

Our main communication with members is via the website, Facebook, newsletter and WhatsApp. If you would like to be on the RWBPC WhatsApp let me have your mobile number. (useful if it rains and the piste is waterlogged)

Competitions

We have not been very good at holding club competitions, but we intend to put this right in 2024 and the club events are -

13th April - Spring Melee

15th June – Drawn Pairs

10th August – Shooting/pointing

21st September – Autumn Melee

In addition to this we have –
17th March – IWD
18th May – EU24

IWD is a ladies only event for doubles and is free and open so PE licences are not required. I would encourage all our ladies to enter as you are all capable and it should be fun.

EU24 is again an open event for veterans' triples (over 55). Again, please consider entering as there will be some top-class players to learn from and we hope to raise funds for charity. There will be prizes in main and plate sections.

There will be other regional competitions at the club, but these have not yet been allocated.

We are again hoping to arrange matches against the Welsh clubs Monkstone and Pentwyn later in the year. There are no planned tour dates for 2024 yet.

Fundraising

Last year we raised a total of £500 for Parkinsons. The 100 club continues to slowly build and if you are interested in joining, please see Jacquii or Jan Bird.

Easyfunding has also raised nearly £500 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. Please sign up.

This year our nominated charities were voted on at the AGM and are Polio Eradication, Blood Bikes and Cancer.

RWBSA

If anyone doesn't have a member's card for RWBSA please let me know. 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 is organising the clothing so if you would like anything please let him know. As part of our sponsorship agreement PE members will have our sponsors name printed in the back of their polo shirts. Please can all PE members arrange to give their polo shirts to Keith Laurance or leave them in the hut, clearly marked with the owner's name! Please can we get this done by 10th February.

Social

The annual dinner went well from all the good comments I have heard and so I have booked the sports club for Friday 13th December for the 2024 annual meal. We will decide the type of meal nearer the date.

There is a social and quiz arranged for Sunday 25th February at the Ganges in February and this will be our first charity fundraising event of the year so raffle prizes are needed. Cost is £18 per head to Colin Sweet please.

We may arrange another day at Bath Races but need to check how many may be interested. If you are interested, please let Marion know.

On a final note, a recent problem arose from a photograph taken at an event that was posted on Facebook. If you do not wish your photograph to be taken and used by the club, please let me know. We will be including this permission option on our membership forms.

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

Alan

January 2024