Royal Wootton Bassett Pétanque Club. Issue 1 - 2026

I am writing this as the rain is pouring down and realised that perhaps not everyone was aware that we have some indoor boule at the sports club for use on such days. Indeed today (Friday) we had some members outside braving the conditions whilst others went indoors and almost all had a coffee together afterwards.

Nearly everyone has paid their membership for 2026, so thank you.

AGM

At the recent club AGM a number of awards were presented and for those who were not able to attend the winners were …

Spring Melee - Rod Elliott

Autumn Melee – Brian Claridge

Tuesday Pairs – Colin Brain/ Andy Gallagher

Cotswold team's player of the year nominated by the captains of the teams …

Royals player of the year – Andrew Anderson

Allsorts player of the year. – Keith Sealy

Bees player of the year – John Emmins

Nominated by the committee……

Male player – Colin Brain

Female player – Claire Pope

Most improved – Luis Soto

Volunteer award – Mike Deegan

President's award – Jan and Phil Weaver

Junior award – Nina Marchant

All these awards are perpetual trophies except for the junior award, so if winners could return them, it would be appreciated. Instead of engraving we now hold 'roll of honour' on the website with all winners named and include the other notable achievements of club members

There was a very good cheese (and pate) and wine social held after the AGM.

Events

The regional calendar has been issued, and we will be inserting some club tournaments in the near future. To enter the regional and national events a PE licence is required but where the event is

designated as open anyone can enter. I would hope that many of you will enter these competitions if not for the experience, then because you have the skill.

Next week is the AGM of the Cotswold Petanque League and we currently run 3 teams. If anyone is interested in playing in this league or in changing teams, please let me know as I will be naming squads during February.

We will be running a Spring and Autumn Melee (dates to be announced) and from now on Saturday play will be a regular feature. This will either be a practice session or a melee. I will not be able to cover every Saturday but within the club we should be able to find some to keep it running every week.

We have some ideas of other formats for competitions and hope that you will give them a try.

4 out of 5 pairs are playing at the club on Sunday to complete the GWR winter doubles and it you have time they would appreciate the support. The remaiing team are travelling to Bath.

The RWB Royals beat Fareham 2 last Sunday 3-2 in a very close match and now go on the round 3 of the PE Eurocup.

Club Development

You will notice next week when you visit that Andy G has gone to a lot of trouble to replan and fit out the club hut. **Please keep it tidy.**

The jobs that are yet to be done are painting of all the woodwork and treatment of the sleepers when the weather improves. In addition, we need to improve the drainage (I say improve because with the level of rain we will never cure it.)

Please put you bags under the new seating inside the canopy and use the coat pegs such that seating is free for sitting.

Insurance

Petanque England have expanded their insurance to include public liability for all club members including non-PE members and I have therefore cancelled our cover with insure4sport. This does not cover personal accident insurance and non-PE members should ensure that they have this cover or join Petanque England for comprehensive cover either as a club player (£10) or competitor member. (£25) We will be obtaining quotes for buildings and contents insurance.

Fundraising

There will be a number of fundraising events for charity during the year to see if we can beat the £2200 raised in 2025. The person who organises the event gets to nominate the charity, so if you a have a favourite charity arrange a social or talk to Beryl.

RWBSA

The RWBSA is changing its constitution to enable changes to the Associations governance and there is a general meeting on Monday 16th February to arrange this. This will give Petanque and Running a vote in how the Association runs. Please attend if you can, details have been sent to members.

Alan McInnes

6 Feb 2026

The rule for this newsletter is ….

Article 17, Behaviour of players and spectators during a game

During the regulation time allowed for a player to throw a boule the spectators and players must observe total silence.

The opponents must not walk, nor gesticulate nor do anything that could disturb the player about to play. Only their team-mate/s may remain between the throwing circle and the jack.

The opponents must remain beyond the jack or behind the player and, in both cases, to the side with regard to the direction of play and at a distance of at least 2 metres the one from the other.

The players who do not observe these regulations could be excluded from the competition if, after a warning from an umpire, they persist in their conduct.