Royal Wootton Bassett Pétanque Club. Issue 2 - 2025

Thought it was time to send out a newsletter to keep everyone up to date, especially those that are not able to regularly attend club sessions. There are a number of members who have either had an operation or are undergoing treatment and I would just like to wish them all a speedy recovery and hope to see them soon.

Membership renewal is coming up, and the increase has been deferred for a year, so it is only £30. Also welcome to the new members Sue and Chris Powell, Adam and Diane Piatek, Sam Greenslade, Nathan Claridge, Luis Soto and Mike Wells.

Past Events

EU25 was again successfully held with Imagine Cruising sponsoring the plate and highest ranked club team. For 2026 this event is moving a week to avoid the FA cup final.

Colin and Marion ran a pétanque event in May at the families day at Lime Kiln that was well received.

2 scout groups and the air cadets were hosted back in July and thanks to all the volunteers that helped with this. Unfortunately, the experience day with RWB Academy did not happen.

We travelled to Monkstone (Cardiff) in May, and they returned in September. The overall results was a win for Monkstone and both events were well attended and enjoyable.

The club's team the Royals won the Cotswold league but narrowly.

The club had a go at croquet in Moredon, Swindon and some croquet players paid a return visit.

The GWR Veteran's Doubles was won by Allan Bond with Phil Bradshaw. As well as Allan Bond other club members did well in this competition, with Colin and Marion Sweet reaching the quarter finals of the gold, Steve Roberts reaching the semi-finals and Jan and Phil Weaver losing in the final of the plate.

RWBPC teams also did well in the annual Sherston event. The teams of Allan Bond, Laurence Bond and Andrew Anderson, and Marion and Colin Sweet and Rod and Mary Elliot reached the quarter finals of the main competition. Claire Pope, John Parsons and Peter Eslick reached the quarter finals of the silver.

RWBPC Ladies beat Cricklade Ladies 10 – 7 at Cricklade.

Alan McInnes won the GWR shooting competition. Alan McInnes and Jacquii Anderson reached the semifinals of the GWR Singles competition.

The club's autumn melee was won by Brian Claridge.

Mary Elliott and Claire Pope won the IWD and represented the region at the International Women's Day finals but came up against strong competition..

In the various club teams did well in the Interregional, with the squad managers, Marion and Colin, doing a sterling job.

The GWR mixed Doubles was held at RWBPC and Colin and Marion Sweet won the Silver Competition.

The second Tuesday pairs competition organised by Jan and Phil is now complete, and the results will be out soon.

Club Development

The canopy by pistes 11/12 has been completed and is a great addition.

Plans to build further pistes by the entrance to the football AGP pitch has been put on hold until we see how the other clubs in the sports association develop.

In terms of player development Jan has been carrying on with ladies coaching and there have been a number of other sessions. We have purchased a number of items to assist with coaching and are hoping to have some regular sessions next year.

You may have noticed that a camera has been installed this is for security and to allow remote viewing to the piste in case it is unplayable.

The club has a development plan in place, and we asked for input a few weeks ago as we are in the process of reviewing and updating this plan. This revised plan will be reissued early in the new year on the website.

Insurance

We will be changing our insurance policy next year as Petanque England have expanded their insurance to include public liability for all club members including non-PE members. Officials and Coaches are also covered for professional indemnity. 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)

Fundraising

The MacMillan fundraiser was very successful and raised over £600 with gift aid.

The 100 club continues to slowly build and will be providing funding towards club improvements. It has already been used for purchasing the benches and we are looking at the next items.

It is £24 annually for one number and we have a monthly draw. If interested in joining, please see Jacquii or Jan Bird.

Easyfunding continues to contribute to club funds and is an easy way to raise money and no cost to members.

Only by fundraising are we able to keep our low membership costs.

RWBSA

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

We have some new club clothing, a baseball hat and sweatshirt if you would like these or anything else please let Keith Laurance know.

Social

Thank you to Beryl for arranging the Chilli/Quiz evening which along with BBQ was well attended and I think both a success and the next event is the annual meal on Friday 12th December. Please let Jacquii know your menu choices.

On a final note, can I please ask that whenever the club is used that all items are stored away and that the hut is left clean and tidy especially now that we have made improvements.

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

Alan

November 2025

Thought we should start to share some of the rules of the game.

Article 7, Valid distances for the thrown jack

For the thrown jack to be valid, the following conditions apply:

1) That the distance separating it from the internal edge of the circle must be -

6 metres minimum and 10 metres maximum for Juniors and Seniors. -

For competitions intended for younger players, shorter distances may be applied.

2) That the throwing circle must be a minimum of 1 metre from any obstacle and 1.5 metres from another circle or jack in use.

3) That the jack must be a minimum of 50 cm from any obstacle and from the end line of the lane, it must also be a minimum of 1.5 metres from another circle or jack in use. (note: no minimum distance is required from the "side" line that separates the lanes or the dead ball lines at the side of the lanes).

4) That the jack must be visible to the player whose feet are placed astride the extreme limits of the interior of the circle and whose body is absolutely upright. In case of dispute on this point, the umpire decides, without appeal, if the jack is visible.

At the following end the jack is thrown from a circle placed or traced around the point where it finished at the previous end, except in the following cases: - The circle would be less than 1 metre from an obstacle, 1.5 metres from another circle or jack in use. - The throwing of the jack could not be made to all regulation distances.

In the first case the player places or traces the circle at the regulation distance from the obstacle or object in question.

In the second case, the player may step back, in line with the previous end's play, without

exceeding the maximum distance authorised for the throwing of the jack. This opportunity is offered only if the jack cannot be thrown to the maximum distance in any other direction.
If the jack has not been thrown in accordance with the rules defined above, the opposing team will place the jack in a valid position on the terrain. They may also move the circle back, in accordance with the conditions defined in these rules, if the first team's positioning of the circle did not allow the jack to be thrown the maximum distance.
In any case, the team which lost the jack after the invalid throw must play the first boule.
The team that won the right to throw the jack have a maximum of one minute to do so. The team that won the right to place the jack after the unsuccessful throw of the opponent must do so immediately.