



Chair – Catherine Black
Administrator – John Emberton
Club Captain – Rich Rushton

Summer Club Newsletter

Stockton Pétanque Club is enjoying the most successful season ever now that we have extended our terrain from 8 to 16 pistes enabling us to host bigger and better events including three Heart of England competitions.

We now have 47 registered members including 6 recent joiners, plus four players from other clubs who have joined Stockton PC to play in our Saturday leagues which regularly attract 18-20 players. Our monthly melees are also very successful, attracting an average of 22 players. 29 of our members are PE Licence holders and we are particularly proud that 15 of these have entered National and Heart of England competitions with some great successes.

The season started well with Rich Rushton/Alfie Potter and Nouri Beladaci/Richard Collyer achieving 2nd and 3rd places in the Regional Winter League. Nouri Beladaci and Richard Collyer went on to reach the final in the Heart of England Veterans championship, and qualify to represent the Region at the National Veterans championship in September.

Ten Stockton players entered the qualifying competition to represent the Heart of England Region in the National Inter-Regional Championship in September with Alfie Potter and Jeff Rand gaining selection.

In the meantime, five Stockton ladies competed in the International Women's Day finals. Emily Adams and Sally Hayes represented the Heart of England Region in the pairs championship and Catherine Black, Becky Rushton and Sarah Jerger played in the triples championship, reaching the semi-finals in the gold division, losing narrowly to three England players.

Six players teams from Stockton entered the Heart of England closed triples on 12th July. Alfie Potter and Nouri Beladaci reached the final and will now join the winning team from Whitnash as representatives of the Heart of England in the Champion of Champions contest in September.

Stockton Pétanque Club hosted the Heart of England closed pairs championship on 19th July which attracted 26 teams, including 14 players from the home club. Two of the pairs from Stockton reached the final 8 – Steve Neale/Rick Hayes and Catherine Black/Becky Rushton – both of whom were unfortunately knocked out in the quarter final.

The West Midlands Summer League ended on 22nd July, with Stockton Knights finishing third in Division 1. Stockton Villagers were top of Division 2 and have gained promotion to Division 1, whilst Stockton Yeomen were a very creditable fourth.

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At the National level, eight Stockton players competed in the competitions to select the England teams for the European and World Championships. All put up great performances against the best teams in England and the heroes were Rich Rushton and Alfie Potter who had six wins from 10 games and finished 11th from 28 teams. Alfie also had great success in the National Singles Title Championship where, facing the top UK players, he reached the quarter finals. Unfortunately, he was drawn against Dean Ashby from the England #1 team which he lost with a fighting 8-13.

In a local success, three Stockton players: Emily Adams, Gareth Potter and Greg Coyne entered a triples competition in Hereford which they went on to win.

Well done to all of these players, who are establishing Stockton Pétanque Club on the Regional and National maps.

On the domestic side, with just nine weeks to go in the Stockton's Summer League Steve Neale is in the lead with 66 points, just ahead of Nouri Beladaci on 63. There's a closer battle for third place, with Catherine Black and Greg Coyne tying on 52.

After 23 weeks of the annual Singles League Steve and Nouri are also leading the table with 18 and 17 wins respectively. Catherine is chasing with 13 wins.

The Club has also been very active socially in the summer when we hosted 'Piste Parties' - friendly games followed by a French-themed buffet for two Rugby-based '41' Clubs and a 'Simply Social' group. We also organised a coaching event for a group of juniors from Southam College and will be hosting a U3A group from Rugby who are trying out pétanque as one of their social activities.

We welcome all local clubs and companies looking for a social evening with a difference to come and play with us. We provide the boules, coach the players in the rules, and organise friendly competitions.

We have a very busy weekend ahead with another 'Piste Party' on Friday 31st July, the August melee on Saturday 1st and the club's Annual Open Pairs on Sunday 2nd, so why not come along and join in the Club's success.

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