



Minutes of KPA & KPL Joint Annual General Meeting 2023
Thursday 16th November 8pm, at Hartley Country Club

1. **Confirmation of the Date of Notice of the Meeting**

The date and place of the AGM has been published on the website since March. The call for nominations and resolutions went out to clubs and members on 8th October 2023 and the agenda was issued on 7th November 2023.

2. **Apologies for Absence**

Sue Barnes & Alan Cregeen. There were 80 members present.

3. **Approval of the minutes of the previous KPA AGM**

The 2022 AGM minutes were accepted and approved unanimously, proposed by Tina Jacobs and seconded by Joyce Nash.

4. **KPA Chairman's Report**

Bob Gaywood:

"Good evening, Ladies and Gentlemen, and welcome to the 2023 Annual General Meeting of the Kent Petanque Association which again is being held in conjunction with the Kent Petanque League.

As is my normal practice, I shall begin this evening by reporting on the year's notable achievements by Kent members at international and national levels.

Notable International Achievements & Honours

Congratulations go to: -

Meadow Eurocup Team of: -

Scott Ashby, Becky Edwins, Alex Spillett, Rowland Jones, Greg Davenport and Federico Faucher, together with Coach Mark Cooter. They achieved third place in the Federation Cup.

Recognition goes to: -

Men's European Championship team of Dean Ashby, Scott Ashby and Jason White. (Played with Reece Gould).

Women's World Championship team of Becky Edwins and others – who are off to Thailand next week!

Notable National Achievements & Titles

National Men's Triples winners – Dean Ashby, Scott Ashby, and Jason White.
National Woman's Triples winners – Becky Edwins and others.
Home Nations England Team 2 – Aston Monk and Jason White
Home Nations England Team 4 – Peter Clarke, Dean Ashby, and Alex Spillett.

Kent Region

And now in our own Region:

Kent International Women's Day Doubles – Winners – Becky Edwins and Carolyn Edwins.
Runners-up – Diane Bryant and Irene Gibbs.

2023 KPA Competitions

Singles Winner – **Barry Soilleux**
Singles Runner up – **Barry Wing**

Doubles Winners – **Chris Watkins & Gary Atkinson**
Doubles Runners up – **Steve Brown and Jean Louis Guiot**

Triples Winners – **Scott Ashby, Rowley Jones and David Hoffman**
Triples Runners up – **Chris Watkins, Gary Atkinson and Marcus Hickman**

Mixed Doubles Winners – **Becky and Tim Edwins**
Mixed Doubles Runners up – **Richard Ruddick and Carolyn Edwins**

Over 55s Winners – **Corrine Cooter and Trevor Gordon**
Over 55s Runners up – **Steve Wells and Jeff Mack**

Chairman's Cup Winners – **Richard Spillett, Barry Wing and Matt Horrigan**
Chairman's Cup Runners up – **Mike and Debs Capelin and Suzie Hall**

Shooting Winner – **Richard Wenban**
Shooting Runner up - **Luke Ashford**

Andy Mills Junior Player of the Year

This year's choice for the Andy Mills Junior Player of the Year is a delight to announce. She has consistently developed her skills over the last few years and has shown absolute commitment to the Kent Junior Squad. This has resulted in her captaining her Squad throughout the 2023 Qualifiers, and at the Regional Finals at Pakefield, leading it to outright victory in the Junior Championship.

She has been officially recognised as one of the top names on the new junior leads national squad lists for next season, and we are naturally justifiably proud of her achievements. More recently, this player had significant results in the PE Junior Doubles and the Shooting competition in Oxshott, and also in Leicester at the PE Junior Singles.

I am therefore delighted to announce and congratulate **Tegan Finley** as our very own Kent Junior Player of the Year.

Regional Qualifiers

A total of 27 teams entered the Qualifiers this year. One less than last year. As usual, my grateful thanks go to the hosting clubs of Gravesend, Lordswood and Hartley.

Inter-Regional Championships

The Championships were again held at Pakefield in Suffolk and to the relief of many players from all Regions, the venue was greatly improved from conditions endured in the previous year.

As usual, Kent again sent a total of 13 teams consisting of 8 for the Championship Division 1, 4 for the Challenge Division 1 and a junior team.

We have already heard about our victorious Juniors, and our Division 1 squad nearly pulled it off, but sadly fell at the last hurdle, as did our Challenge squad. Both frustratingly finishing in second place in their respective divisions. It looked possible for a clean sweep at one stage, but sadly, it wasn't to be. Not this time!

My grateful thanks again go to Duncan Brown and the KPA team for their hard work in organising the accommodation, team kit etc, so effectively.

Congratulations and thanks to:-

Peter Clarke for managing the Division 1 squad, Phil Monk for the Challenge squad and Jamie Finley for the Juniors.

It would be remiss of me at this stage not to congratulate the other young players in the Junior squad, who all played so well as a team, and all contributed towards a great result. They are James Rudden, Zac Finley, and Toby Phillips. Well done to all of you.

Membership

Having seen a steady increase in our membership numbers since the lockdown ended, it has now somewhat evened out.

Last year I reported we had a membership of 481 adults and 10 juniors and this year it is remarkably similar at 479 adults and 13 juniors. Nevertheless, we are still some 34 percent up on 2021.

Thank You's

My sincere thanks as ever, to the 2023 KPA Management Committee for their hard work and commitment to our sport.

The 2022 / 23 Committee are:

Tim Edwins - Secretary
David Baxter - Treasurer
Carolyn Edwins – Playing Committee Chair
Tracy Spillett – Committee member
Averil Flack – Committee member
Sheila King - Safeguarding

Duncan Brown - Membership
Alan Cregeen - Website
Jamie Finley – Youth Development
Mark Toulson – Committee member

I must make a special mention at this stage of our hard-working Secretary, who also organised and ran all the official KPA competitions, including the Qualifiers. Well done, and thank you Tim.

My grateful thanks also to Playing Committee members:

**Carolyn Edwins, Keith Atkinson,
Duncan Brown, and Sheila King**

Sadly, a number of the committee are stepping down today, namely, Sheila King, who in recent times has worked tirelessly in promoting and developing a safeguarding structure for this Region and indeed Petanque England. Tracy Spillett, who has served on the committee for more years than I care to remember and has been involved in, well, everything really. And Averil Flack, who although only joining the committee in 2022, has contributed greatly over the last twelve months.

To all three, I offer my grateful and sincere thanks for your time, advice, and valuable assistance. I wish you all well for the future.

All my committee members have massively contributed to running the sport of Petanque in this Region and beyond – all as unpaid volunteers and all for our enjoyment. In fact, often at their own expense. Personally, I cannot thank them enough. In my opinion, it certainly won't do any harm to remember this next time there's a temptation to have a little moan about something.

Taylor Award

It is now my pleasure this evening to announce the recipient and present the Taylor Award.

This important award has traditionally been in the gift of the Chairman, and is awarded to someone, who in the Chairman's opinion has contributed significantly to Pétanque in the Kent Region.

For his foresight, hard work, incredible resolve, physically building, financing, promoting, growing the membership, and then expanding the facility. I am absolutely delighted to present this year's Taylors Award to none other than **Steve Wells** of the Crockenhill Petanque Club.

Finally, Ladies and Gentlemen, as you are aware, I am standing down as KPA Chairman and President of the Kent Region after around ten years or so on the Management Committee.

Thank you all for your support over the years.

It has been an absolute honour and a pleasure to serve the Region and I wouldn't have missed it for the world. Have a great Christmas, and I'll see you when the Summer Pétanque season commences."

5. **Treasurer's report:**

David Baxter:

"I am pleased to be able to present you with our accounts for 2023 and can report a small surplus on the year. I will take you through the accounts before you and it is best if you have any questions to raise them as we go.

Income. The membership income which is net after transaction expenses and represents 499 members is up on last year as is interest on our deposit account due to the increases in bank rate this year.

Competition income is for our title events net after prizes of £110 + £2720 from the IRQ.

Now to expenditure. Admin expenses were similar to last year except for a drop in trophies as a number of players indicated they didn't want any more glasses!

The IRQ incentives listed are those not used in support of players going to the Inter-Regionals.

Kit was lower this year as we were only buying for new representatives all others used the kit bought last year.

The support to our players this year was to four individuals and the Meadow Club.

We had very little action on the Junior Fund, one donation and no expenses.

Now to the Balance Sheet which shows £9597 available to us, a small increase on the year."

6. **Determination of the KPA membership fees:**

The Kent Management Committee recommended no change to the current £10 regional precept. This was proposed by the Management Committee, seconded by Richard Spillett, and carried unanimously.

7. **Election of KPA Officers:**

Bob Gaywood has resigned, and Vice Chairman is currently vacant. Bob announced no one had come forward to be the new KPA Chairman. Duncan Brown was proposed by Keith Atkinson and seconded by Carolyn Edwins and passed unanimously. Existing officers David Baxter & Tim Edwins remain in post as Treasurer & Secretary respectively. With Duncan moving into the Chairman role the Membership Secretary role was now vacant. Ray Keemer-Richards said he was willing to take it on and was elected unopposed.

8. **Election of KPA Management Committee:**

Averil Flack, Sheila King & Tracy Spillett have resigned. Bob announced one new nomination to join the committee, Peter Shillinglaw, and he was declared unopposed. Existing members remain in post. The committee is always open to new members. Richard Wenban put himself forward and was duly elected to the management committee.

9. **Handover of the Chair for KPL business:**

David Baxter, KPL Treasurer, took the chair and welcomed everyone.

10. **Approval of the minutes of the previous KPL AGM:**

The 2022 AGM minutes were proposed by David Nolan and seconded by Alex Spillett and unanimously approved.

11. **KPL Secretary's report:**

Mick Nash:

"Kent Summer League"

In terms of teams that made up the Kent Leagues last summer, Manston were unable to find the necessary players so did not re-join the league. We also lost Hartley Larch and Railway Rockets from the league.

The Bridges lost their venue after the Bridges PH shut. They moved to The Jolly Millers PH and are now known, unsurprisingly, as The Jolly Millers.

Villager Legends became Villager Renegades, The Chequers became Crockenhill Chequers, and we welcomed a new team Crockenhill Villagers.

GRFC fielded a third team but with limited players were unable to raise a full team every week. Thanks anyway as this gave me an even number of teams in the league.

As a result of these changes, this year we had a total of 46 teams in 3 divisions of 10 teams each, plus two divisions of 8 teams each. Using "crossover games" I was able to ensure the teams in the divisions of 8 had a full fixture list.

During 2022 all teams were advised that there would be no promotion and relegation, so I respected this position. However, some teams *were* promoted to balance the numbers replacing teams that had not re-joined the league.

League Cup and Plate Competitions

My thanks to Hartley Country Club and Gravesend Rugby Football Club who allowed us to host the Cup and Plate semi-finals respectively, at their venues.

And thanks also to Duke of Wellington for allowing the finals of both the cup and plate to be hosted at their venue.

League Handicap Competition

This popular competition was held on 8th October. Many thanks to Hartley Country Club for allowing the League to host the event at Hartley. There are plenty of prizes on offer and invariably this is an enjoyable occasion for all who take part.

Winter League

David Baxter and I completed the Winter League for 2022-2023 and subsequently held a presentation evening in March 2023 where prizes were distributed.

The Winter League for 2023 to 2024 is well under way with 12 teams competing in two leagues of 6 with a couple of crossover games. No bones about it this is a disappointing entry to the winter league as indeed was the number of entries to the summer league 2023.

I believe we must acknowledge the devastating effect that the pandemic had on our sport with the loss of a number of venues and resulting loss of teams, and players. We must remain grateful to the Sports Grounds and the Public Houses who allow us to use their venues on a weekly basis through much of the year.

Finally I would like to thank David Baxter for his support during the year, and Alan Cregeen for his work in updating the Website."

12. **KPL Treasurer's report:**

David Baxter:

"Our finances are fairly simple, mainly entry fees and trophies.

There was very little change in participation over the previous year so broadly similar income.

Trophies have seen significant price rises this year and I am grateful to Gravesham Trophy Centre for finding ways of keeping our costs in bounds and kept our increase to £200.

Apart from the trophies we have put approximately £100 into the Handicap Competition, £200 into refreshments at Finals and £850 into two of our clubs to improve their facilities.

The result was a deficit on the year of £1,016. Without the grant of funds from reserves the deficit is £166 an increase on the previous year, a trend we propose to counter with an increase in entry fees."

13. **Election of KPL Officers:**

Alan Cregeen, Mick Nash & David Baxter were all happy to continue in their KPL roles. All were declared elected unopposed.

14. **KPL Resolutions notified in advance:**

1. It is proposed that the KPL fees for 2024 shall be £30 per team.

Carried unanimously.

2. Amendments to Article 3.3 and Rule 1.1:

Currently:

"Players must have, or have applied for, a current Kent Pétanque Association membership card before being permitted to play."

Proposed:

"Players must have, or have applied for, a current Pétanque England Club or Competitor membership with the Kent region before being permitted to play."

Carried by majority, with 1 vote against.

3. Delete Rule 1.4:

Reason, online membership is immediate so not relevant now.

Carried unanimously.

4. Match start time:

It is proposed that the normal start time will be 7.30pm and that the times in Rule 2.1 paragraph 1 are amended accordingly and in Rule 2.1 paragraph 2 the time 8.0pm is changed to 7.30pm in line 1 'an earlier' is changed to 'a later'.

Currently:

"2.1 Games will normally be played on Wednesday evenings commencing at 8pm. At 8:05pm any triple or double which is absent from the pitch may be penalised one point which is awarded to their opponents. After this they will forfeit one point for every two minutes continued absence. Any triple or double not present after a half hour (by 8:30pm) will forfeit their game. If no player from a team has arrived by 8:30pm the team may be penalised by having a 5-0 (65-0) result awarded to their opposition. Either team may request an earlier start, which would have to be agreed by the other team. Without agreement, the default time would be 8 pm. Only three players need to be present by an agreed earlier start time but all players who are going to be taking part in the match will need to be available by 8 pm subject to 2.1 above and 2.2 below.

2.2 Any incomplete team may start without waiting for their partner but may not use his/her boules. If after an end has started, the missing player arrives, he/she may not take part in that end, but is only allowed to participate as from the following end. If the missing player arrives more than one hour after the game has started he/she loses all right to participate in that game. He/she may take part in the following game."

Proposed:

"2.1 Games will normally be played on Wednesday evenings commencing at 7.30pm. At 7:35pm any triple or double which is absent from the pitch may be penalised one point which is awarded to their opponents. After this they will forfeit one point for every two minutes continued absence. Any triple or double not present after a half hour (by 8:00pm) will forfeit their game. If no player from a team has arrived by 8:00pm the team may be penalised by having a 5-0 (65-0) result awarded to their opposition. Either team may request a later start, which would have to be agreed by the other team. Without agreement, the default time would be 7.30pm. All players who are going to be taking part in the match will need to be available by the agreed start time subject to 2.1 above and 2.2 below.

2.2 Any incomplete team may start without waiting for their partner but may not use his/her boules. If after an end has started, the missing player arrives, he/she may not take part in that end, but is only allowed to participate as from the following end. If the missing player arrives more than one hour after the game has started he/she loses all right to participate in that game. He/she may take part in the following game."

Failed by majority

5. Winter League.

It is proposed that the KPL administers a Winter League with the following objectives and format. To be added to the Constitution and Rules.

Objective.

To provide an opportunity for competitive play in a relaxed and open environment that will enable novices to get a taste for pétanque and experienced players the opportunity to play with a different mix of players from their usual.

Format:

1. Matches will be 2 rounds of triples and the reverse triples.
2. There will be no strict eligibility requirements. New players are encouraged to join Pétanque England. Their membership will last through the following summer until March of the subsequent year.
3. The KPL score card will be used but names will not be recorded.
4. A cup and plate competition will be included and in the event of ties (after games won, points difference, points for) each side will nominate a triple consisting of any 3 players who have already taken part in the evenings' games to play a tie break game to 7 points.
5. Entry fees, at the current KPL rate, will be used to provide trophies and food on Semi-final, Final, and Presentation nights if sufficient.
6. Normal KPL playing rules will be followed.
7. Try to avoid rearrangements except for bad weather by being flexible. (e.g. Agree beforehand to play 2 doubles if only 4 players available).
8. In the event of anything that the teams cannot resolve the Organisers decision will be final.

Point 2 was amended as follows:

2. There will be no strict eligibility requirements. New players will be able to experience league play using the balance of their 5 taster sessions (as defined by PE) before they are required to join Pétanque England. Their membership will last through the following summer until March of the subsequent year.

Carried unanimously.

15. Any other KPL business (upon which no binding vote is to be taken):

None.

16. Presentation of KPL awards:

The trophies were presented to the League and Cup competitions winners and runners up by KPL Secretary Mick Nash.

Division 5	Runners Up	Harrow Percherons
	Winners	Crockenhill Chequers
Division 4	Runners Up	Duke of Wellington Troopers
	Winners	Sidcup Rollers
Division 3	Runners Up	White House Bell
	Winners	GRFC Lions
Division 2	Runners Up	Sydney Arms PC
	Winners	Tovil Miners
Division 1	Runners Up	Lordswood Lightning
	Winners	Railway Rising
Knockout Plate	Runners Up	Hartley Oak
	Winners	Crockenhill Chequers
Knockout Cup	Runners Up	Lordswood Lightning
	Winners	Railway Rising

17. Presentation of KPA awards:

The trophies were presented to KPA Winners and Runners Up by Chairman Bob Gaywood.

Singles	Runner Up	Barry Wing
	Winner	Barry Soilleux
Shooting	Runner Up	Luke Ashford
	Winner	Richard Wenban
Doubles	Runners Up	Steve Brown & Jean-Louis Guiot
	Winners	Chris Watkins & Gary Atkinson
Triples	Runners Up	Chris Watkins, Marcus Hickman & Gary Atkinson
	Winners	Scott Ashby, Rowland Jones & David Plumhoff
Mixed Doubles	Runners Up	Richard Ruddick & Carolyn Edwins
	Winners	Becky Edwins & Tim Edwins
Over 55s Doubles	Runners Up	Steve Wells & Jeff Mack
	Winners	Corinne Cooter & Trevor Gordon
Chairman's Cup	Winners	Richard Spillett, Barry Wing & Matt Horrigan
The Andy Mills Junior Player of the Year	Winner	Tegan Finley

18. KPA Resolutions notified in advance:

PROPOSAL 1: Constitution Change

Proposed by Hartley Pétanque Club

Current item:

"8.1(b) The Secretary shall be responsible for convening meetings of the Management Committee and of the Association and for maintaining accurate minutes of the business transacted at those meetings."

Change to:

"8.1(b) The Secretary shall be responsible for convening meetings of the Management Committee and of the Association and for maintaining accurate minutes of the business transacted at those meetings. **Said minutes to be published within 21 days of the date of the recorded meeting.**"

Carried unanimously.

PROPOSAL 2: Playing Committee Structure

Proposed by Gravesend Rugby Football Pétanque Club

Proposal that the KPA Playing Committee is structured as follows:

- Chairperson from the KPA committee.
- Four committee members who are not members of the KPA or KPL committees.
- Recommendations and decisions of the committee are to be taken to the main committee by the chairperson for verification.
- Suggested meeting frequency minimum twice per year.

Carried unanimously.

PROPOSAL 3: KPA & KPL Structure Change

Proposed by Istead Rise Pétanque Club

Proposal that the Kent Pétanque League is amalgamated into and run by the Kent Pétanque Association.

Failed unanimously.

PROPOSAL 4a: Kent Regional Qualifying Series Change

Proposed by the KPA Playing Committee

Proposal that the Kent regional qualifying series is changed to below:

- KPA Qualifiers reduce from 5 to 4 events
- Best 3 results from 4 qualifiers count towards the final points total

Carried by majority.

PROPOSAL 4b: Kent Regional Qualifying Series Change

Proposed by Lordswood Pétanque Club

Proposal that the Kent regional qualifying series is changed to below:

- KPA Qualifiers reduce from 5 to 3 events
- Entry per qualifier is increased to £15 per person to offset lost revenue
- All 3 results count towards the final points total

Withdrawn.

PROPOSAL 5a: Chairman's Cup Change

Proposed by the Kent Playing Committee

Proposal that entry to the Chairman's Cup is changed to below:

- All players who take part in at least 3 Kent qualifiers, but do not qualify for the Kent squad, eligible to enter the Chairman's Cup

- Players who have not played in at least 3 Kent qualifiers will be required to pay the entry fee to play in the Chairman's Cup

Amended to add "any player that finishes in the Kent qualifying series top 12 positions will not be eligible to play in the KPA Chairman's Cup".

Carried as amended, by majority.

PROPOSAL 5b: Chairman's Cup Change

Proposed by Lordswood Pétanque Club

Proposal that entry to the Chairman's Cup is changed to below:

- The Chairman's Cup becomes a standalone event, and participating in the Kent qualifying series is no longer a prerequisite for entry
- The Chairman's Cup is held, where possible, after the Inter Regional Championships
- Venue, entry fee and format remain at the discretion of the KPA committee

Withdrawn.

19. Appointment of auditors:

Bob Gaywood was proposed as new auditor and unanimously agreed.

20. Any other KPA business (upon which no binding vote is to be taken):

It was asked if the KPA website could be improved. David Baxter explained that we need a willing volunteer to help update and improve the website.

Brian King asked what the region is doing to encourage more junior participation. Carolyn Edwins explained this was discussed at a recent playing committee meeting. Other regions are being contacted for their ideas and opinions. Also, schools and scout groups have been contacted but so far no responses.

Peter Clarke informed the meeting that there had been a complaint from another region about his conduct as Kent manager during the inter-regional championships. Pétanque England have investigated the claim and deemed there was no case to answer.

Steve Wells said he has had around 300 elderly people trying pétanque at the Crockenhill club. He has also tried to encourage juniors, but there are barriers due to safeguarding and other issues, and also lack of interest.

Melissa Rowley & Alex Spillett both approached Duncan about joining the Management Committee.

Meeting closed 22:28.