



# Pétanque Times

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## NEW VOMPC DIRECTORS NAMED AT OCT. 22 ANNUAL MEETING

At a rollicking dinner and annual meeting Oct. 22, four members were elected to two-year terms on the club's board of directors.

**J. Mathieu** won re-election for a second term. **Chuck Fleming**, **Steve Katz** and **Frank Pipal** won first-term seats. All four will join current directors **Pierre Joske**, **Byron Mayo** and **Mike Norton** to complete the full, seven-member board for 1995. The election count was spread surprisingly even among all candidates, with **Sal Troia** missing out on a board seat by a narrow margin. Fifty-two members cast ballots in the election. That's a solid 70 percent of the total membership.

The dinner in the Garden Room at Zino's Ristorante was a convivial affair, with many toasts and tributes and tall tales of victories and near-misses on the courts. President **Mike Norton** expressed the club's thanks to out-going directors **Myron Reece** and **Tom Noonan**. And he offered a special tribute to out-going director **John Bouldt** for his long dedication and many contributions to the club. John was one of the original founders of the VOMPC.

## TWO BY-LAW PROPOSALS WIN BIG IN ANNUAL ELECTION

By an overwhelming margin, VOMPC members approved two by-law proposals recommended by the board of directors. Proposal A, which provides for removal of a director who misses two consecutive board meetings or three meetings during the year, won by a vote of 48 to 3. Proposal B, which allows new members who join after the first of July to pay only half the dues for that calendar year, won by a vote of 45 to 5.

## VOMPC PLAYERS WIN ON THE ROAD

Last month, several club members continued their winning ways in out-of-town tournaments. Up at the Willits Boules Club on Oct. 16, the team of **Jon Des Pois**, **Chuck Fleming** and **J. Mathieu** captured second place in the Willits select triplets tournament. And down in San Rafael at the Boule D'Or M/F select triplets tournament on Oct. 9, first place went to the team starring **Barbara** and **Ken Stieper**. Congratulations came from all directions.

## CLUB MEMBERSHIP TOTAL INCREASES TO SEVENTY-FOUR

**Claude Jean** of Sonoma and **Jean-Marie Dalmau** of Glen Ellen are the two newest members of our Valley of the Moon Petanque Club. A warm welcome to them both. They bring our membership total up to 74 for the year.

#### BOULE D'OR TEAM WINS VOMPC HARVEST TOURNAMENT

Oct. 24 was a warm Indian Summer day in our Sonoma Valley. Ideal conditions for the annual Harvest Tournament. And 48 players on 24 select doubles teams turned out to make the most of it. Perennial Boule D'Or stars **Raymond Nielsen** and **Jean Krauer** walked away with top money, in first place. **Maurice Ebollito** and **Gerard Canabout** came in second. And our popular VOMPC father-son duo of **Frank** and **George Pipal** took third-place honors, by upsetting **John Bouldt** and **Mike Norton** in another close one. The Consolante round was won by another VOMPC team, **Peter Mathis** and **Sal Troia**. The entire day was coordinated by **Tom Noonan**.

#### SHOOTING AND POINTING SIDE-SHOW DRAWS FUN-LOVING CROWD

One of the exciting highlights of the Harvest Tournament this year was a shooting and pointing competition that drew a cheering crowd along the sidelines. **Jon Des Pois** won the money in the skilled shooters contest. **Jean Krauer** won the perfect pointers event. It was all really something to see!

#### GRAFFITI 'ARTISTS' TAG NEW MaTERRE BENCHES AT PETANQUE COURTS

Armed with the inevitable spray cans, unidentified locals left their marks on two of the club's handsome new MaTerre benches sometime during late October. However, a determined VOMPC crew fought back last week. **J. Mathieu** along with the help of **Chuck Fleming** and **Bob Bosko** took on the mess with some hard-working solvents and plenty of elbow-grease. The job is not yet done. But the benches are already looking and feeling better.

#### LOUIS TOULON WINS SUMMER LEAGUE GRAND CHAMPIONSHIP

Who's Number One in the VOMPC? **Louis Toulon**, that's who! In a big, post-season match between Red Division champion **Chuck Fleming** and Blue Division champion **Louis Toulon**, the flashy Frenchman won two straight games to take it all. Along with the prize money and a first-place plaque, Louis gets his name engraved on the club's ornate, Summer League Grand Championship trophy. Prize money and plaques also went to **Chuck Fleming** and to second-place winners **Peter Mathis** in the Red Division and **Mike Norton** in the Blue Division.

The Toulon vs. Fleming tete-a-tete match of the year took place at Little Switzerland, as **Annette** and **Yves Casabonne** celebrated the grand opening of their new petanque courts and BBQ/Picnic facilities. Some 32 members gathered that day for a full afternoon of barbecue and friendly petanque.

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

A Year of Progress (although shaky at times)

As I look back on this year, it seems to have been a year of contrasts. We struggled with the emergence of a secondary petanque club; a process that created some wounds that perhaps only time can help to heal. As club president, I was very sorry to lose the support of some of our more active members. However, I was extremely encouraged by the continued growth of new members to the club and even more striking was the significant improvement in quality of play among many of our continuing members.

As West Coast Counselor, I had hoped to accomplish more in the area of standardization of tournament play. I had also wanted to develop a "handicapping" system for use in selected tournaments, but support was minimal and I failed to persevere in its generation. However, this year we experienced our most successful year in overall tournament attendance. This included strong participation from many of our "sister" petanque clubs throughout Northern California. As the year progressed, our tournament participants became increasingly comfortable with the new tournament format that we adopted this year. A format similar to that used in France & England.

One of our goals with the '94 Board was to improve the timeliness of communication and the quality of our Newsletter. Despite an energized start, the project's objectives were not fully realized, although progress was made. Thanks initially to Tom Noonan, and later to the especially diligent & resourceful Byron Mayo.

There were many other highlights during the year: a successful "kick-off" dinner at the beginning of the year thanks to Renato Sottile & Pasta Nostra; improved VOMPC participation at tournaments outside of Sonoma; the contribution of four customized benches by Jacques Mathieu; an enormously successful Summer League coordinated by Byron Mayo (accolades to Louis & Chuck); gracious accommodations for our Board meetings and a spectacular summer league finale thanks to Yves Casabonne & Little Switzerland; a successful interclub challenge with our friends in Willits, including the establishment of a very creative trophy by John Bouldt; most recently a well attended end of the year dinner at Zino's and a successful Harvest Tournament with added creativity thanks to Tom Noonan. On the near horizon, are further court improvements thanks to Pierre Joske and a new water fountain thanks to Myron Reece and a contribution from Steve Ledson.

As your outgoing President, I want to thank the entire 1994 Board of Directors (Byron Mayo, Jacques Mathieu, Pierre Joske, John Bouldt, Myron Reece & Tom Noonan) for an excellent effort. I also congratulate & welcome newly elected 1995 members Chuck Fleming, Steve Katz & Frank Pipal, as well as newly re-elected Jacques Mathieu.

Let's all look forward to great petanque in 1995, especially with regard to our plans to host the National Triplets Qualifying Tournament in May. We'll need your help to make it a successful event for the FPUSA, the game of petanque and the city of Sonoma.

Mike Norton

'LITTLE SWITZERLAND' OFFERS NEW FACILITY TO VOMPC

The new BBQ/picnic and petanque facility at Little Switzerland includes 11 manicured courts with night-lighting. **Yves and Annette Casabonne** have offered to our club the use of these outstanding new facilities as an additional resource for private VOMPC parties, tournaments and informal play, with the exception of Sundays. The board has accepted the offer with a vote of special appreciation and thanks to Yves and Annette.

TRIPLETS TOURNAMENT LAUNCHED OUR FALL SEASON

Our VOMPC ushered in Autumn on September 25th with a relaxing, random triplets tournament that saw 11 triplet teams competing for cash prizes under a hot Sunday afternoon sun. The team of **John Bouldt, Dolly Millier and Frank Pipal** won the event in a tight final game with **Maurice Ebollito, Lena LeBihan and George Pipal**. Third place went to **Tom Noonan, Armand Squitieri and Eric Gautier**. It was a smooth, easy-going fall tournament, coordinated by **Myron Reece**.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE IN JANUARY

Annual membership dues for the VOMPC are \$20 for an individual or \$30 for a family membership. 1995 dues should be paid in January. For advance payments, send your check to VOMPC, PO Box 863, Sonoma, CA 95476.

**Late news flash...**

NEW BOARD ELECTS CLUB OFFICERS FOR 1995

Nov. 11: Last night at its first meeting, the new board of directors elected new VOMPC officers for 1995. The full slate of officers and directors for next year is as follows:

**Byron Mayo, president**  
**J. Mathieu, vice-president**  
**Mike Norton, Treasurer**  
**Steve Katz, secretary**  
**Pierre Joske, director of sports**  
**Chuck Fleming, director**  
**Frank Pipal, director**

