



Pétanque Times

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New Prez: Barsocchini

B. Stieper Re-Elected Vice Pres.

New Officers Elected At Nov. Board Meeting

Frank Barsocchini will lead the team handling the affairs of the Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club in 1997.

In a November 19 meeting of both retiring and incoming directors, Frank was elected VOMPC president and Barbara Stieper was re-elected vice-president.

Frank Pipal, starting his second term on the board, will continue to serve as treasurer.

Tom Bricca will take on the job of club secretary.

Peter Mathis has agreed to serve as VOMPC director of sports, with the assistance of Jon Des Pois.

In taking over as president from Jacques Mathieu, Frank Barsocchini expressed the club's deep gratitude for the tireless work of retiring directors Jacques Mathieu, Steve Katz and Chuck Fleming.

SCENE FROM THE SINGLES' PLAYOFFS



Peter Mathis and Jon Des Pois put on a wild show in their semi-final match of the Summer League Singles' playoffs. Fourth-seeded Des Pois edged out Mathis, the undefeated Red Division champion, (13-4) (1-13) (13-11).

(Photo by Bruce Frigard)

Introducing: Our 1997 Board

Here's a list of all seven directors on our 1997 board:

Frank Barsocchini and **Barbara Stieper**, going into their second year.

Frank Pipal, re-elected to a second two-year term.

Tom Bricca, **Jon Des Pois** and **Morris Katz**, new directors, each elected to a two-year term on the board.

Peter Mathis, appointed by the board to complete the unexpired two-year term of David Riffo.

Now that his daughter is living with him, Dave Riffo has resigned from the board. The directors have all expressed their thanks to Dave for his help on the board this past year as club secretary.

Home Teams Star in Final Tournament

Nobody in Sonoma can even remember the last time two local teams made it into the *finals* of a major VOMPC select doubles tournament.

It happened on Sunday, October 27, when J. Mathieu and Chuck Fleming took on Bill Carter and 11-year-old P.J. Mallette in the final winners' match of the day.

The Mathieu-Fleming team won the big event (13-8), handing Carter and P.J. a solid second place finish.

Third place went to Jacques Gautier and Nicolas Breton of the La Morinda Club. They beat out another VOMPC duo, Tom Noonan and Dexter Tracey, (13-10).

Raoul Chavez and Paul Porter from the Willits Boules Club won the *Consolante*.

A crowd of 28 teams entered this final VOMPC tournament of the year, coordinated by Frank Pipal.

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"Pétanque Times" is a bi-monthly newsletter of the Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club, PO Box 863, Sonoma, CA 95476.

Byron Mayo, Editor and Publisher.

VOMPC Officers and Directors:

Frank Barsocchini, president
Barbara Stieper, vice-president
Frank Pipal, treasurer
Tom Bricca, secretary
Peter Mathhis, director of sports
Jon Des Pois, director
Morris Katz, director.

LOST BOULE PROBLEM

Please check your boules. Do you have one that doesn't match the others?

Somebody has one of Jean Markson's XJBX 710 boules, Code A-03. Let's try and find it for her.

(Anytime you find an odd boule left at the court, call me and I will see that it gets back to its owner.)

Byron Mayo, 935-1069

... Doing Well in San Rafael

Several VOMPC members showed up among the winners at La Pétanque Marinière's select doubles tournament Oct. 14 in San Rafael.

The team of Louis Toulon and John Bouldt took second place. Tom Noonan and his daughter, Charlotte, came in third. In the *Consolante*, P.J. Mallette and his mother, Toni, went almost all the way, settling in the end for second.

Vive la Pétanque T-Shirts Available

Top-quality T-Shirts with *Vive La Pétanque* emblazoned across the front are available at the "Tops and Trophies" store, 18315 Sonoma Hwy.

You can order any color, any size. Cost about \$7 each.

These are the same shirts awarded to the leaders in Summer League Singles

Small Turnout for September Mixed Triplets

Only ten teams turned out for the club's Harvest Tournament Sept. 22. However it was a happy-go-lucky bunch, with one woman on almost all of the ten mixed triplet teams.

Armand Squitieri, Toni Mallette and Mike Ragot won the event, defeating Tom Noonan, Jeannette Krauer and Eric Gautier in the final game, (13-8).

Patrick Vaslet, Michelle Ragot and Phil Leveau garnered third place by edging out Frank Pipal, Montana Mathieu and Edmond Ghione in a close one (13-11).

Over in the *Consolante*, it was an easy (13-0) blowout for Mike Norton, Cathy Leveau and Nicolas Breton over Albert Lucas, Steve Jones and Jacques Gautier.

The day was coordinated by J. Mathieu.

Pétanque Times Schedule

Our newsletter is published six times each year, usually the *first* week of the month of issue. However, this issue was published the *third* week of the month, in order to bring you the election results of the club's Nov. 19th board meeting.

October 26th Dinner Party Packs 'em In

Revelry Continues with Late Night Pétanque

Fifty members, spouses and guests jammed Zino's Sonoma Hotel restaurant Saturday night, October 26, for a lavish VOMPC annual dinner and board election.

Before dinner, outgoing president Jacques Mathieu reported on a good year in which the club upgraded the Sonoma courts and sponsored nine tournaments along with Summer League singles and doubles.

Mathieu also paid tribute to Ken Stieper for his long-time help to the club—ranging from barbecuing to outer grounds control. And he expressed the club's thanks to Byron Mayo for designing, writing and publishing the "Pétanque Times" newsletter.

Following the dinner came the Summer League Singles awards, the VOMPC board election and more bottles of Ravenswood wine. And it didn't stop there.

At the end of the evening, a few congenial reprobates moved on to the "night court" for some late night pétanque.

The two a.m. nighthawks included Tom Bricca, John Bouldt, Bill Miller, Dave Riffo, Frank and George Pipal and Peter Mathis.



Geo. Pipal, 80, Celebrates with Pétanque Gang

George Pipal — *bon vivant, raconteur* elder statesman and sometimes pétanque player, walked into an on-the-court surprise party, celebrating his 80th birthday, during the middle of the October 14 doubles tournament in Marin.

On hand to toast George's genial, senior status were his wife Carolyn, son Frank of the VOMPC, daughter Suebla Pipal of Copenhagen, son John Pipal of London, and a bunch of Pétanque playing friends from Sonoma, Marin and beyond.

Barbara and Ken Stieper chilled the bottles of Gloria Ferrer *Blanc de Noirs* and secretly delivered them to the site. Bart Zachofsky, president of La Pétanque Marinière, added to the festivities with a wide assortment of ripe cheeses and crackers.

It all ended with an unfettered late afternoon of good pétanque.

Happy 80th birthday, George, from all of your pals in the Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club.

THE UMPIRE'S CORNER

Q. Once and for all, will you please settle a question that keeps coming up at the courts? When you play more than one game in a series, who gets to go first at the start of the next game? Is it the winner or the loser of the previous game?

A. Throughout the world of pétanque it has long been a gracious tradition to allow the *loser* to go first when you're playing a social game among friends.

However, in a serious match, where control of the cochonnet can be a tactical advantage, some tournament directors will specify that the *winner* starts the next game.

No FPUSA rules cover your question. So it's a local option. Any club can specify the rules for playing on that club's home courts. Or, in lieu of any local rules or local tradition, you simply make certain both sides agree right at the start on which approach to follow.

(If you have a question about pétanque you'd like to submit, write to The Umpire, PO Box 863, Sonoma, CA 95476. All answers are certified by our FPUSA Umpire Pierre Joske.)

Final Standings,* Summer Singles

Red Division

- 1st Peter Mathis (W/8-L/0)
- 2nd Mike Norton (W/6-L/2)
- 3rd Byron Mayo (W/6-L/2)
- 4th Jon Des Pois (W/4-L/4)
- 5th Bill Carter (W/4-L/4)
- 6th Bill Miller (W/3-L/5)
- 7th Tom Noonan (W/3-L/5)
- 8th B. Zachofsky (W/1-L/7)
- 9th George Pipal (W/0-L-8)

Blue Division

- 1st J. Mathieu (W/6-L/1)
- 2nd John Bouldt (W/6-L/1)
- 3rd Frank Pipal (W/5-L/2)
- 4th C. Fleming (W/4-L-3)
- 5th Sal Troia (W/4-L/3)
- 6th Roger Poli (W/1-L/6)
- 7th Morris Katz (W/1-L/6)
- 8th David Riffo (W/0-L/7)

Championship Playoff

- 1st John Bouldt
- 2nd Jon Des Pois

* Ties in *matches Won/Lost* were settled by which player had the best percentage in *games W/L*.

(Photo by Bruce Frigard)



IT WAS A HOT SUMMER FOR JOHN HENRY BOULDT

First, he won the playoffs in Summer League Singles, defeating finalist Jon Des Pois in two straight games. Then, he and his doubles partner, Mike Norton, won the belated Summer League Doubles playoff in two straight games, defeating finalists J. Mathieu and Chuck Fleming

Congratulations, Champ!

Playoff Results, Summer Doubles

The Summer League Doubles for 1996 finally came to a close two weeks ago, after a long tumultuous season that stretched from June into mid-November.

In a "grand championship" match, Mike Norton and John Bouldt beat Jacques Mathieu and Chuck Fleming (13-12) (13-1).

Third place went to Bill Carter and Bruce Frigard, who defeated Frank and George Pipal two out of three: (13-3) (2-13) (13-6).

Complete final standings for Summer League Doubles have yet to be released.

**November 17
Willits Challenge?**

RAINED OUT!

*Happy
Holidays*



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