



Pétanque Times

Vol. 8, No. 2

Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club

March-April, 2000

Season Opener Mar. 26

Open Tournament, Four-Boule Singles

The Year 2000 pétanque season comes roaring in on Sunday, March 26, with a solid, competitive, four-boule singles tournament at our Valley of the Moon pétanque courts.

Entry fee is seven dollars. And Ed Porto, who is coordinating the event, promises that 80 percent of the purse for this season opener will go back into prize money.

Bring your own picnic lunch. Or, you can order sandwiches when you sign-in at the registration desk. Be sure to sign-in by 10 a.m. sharp. That's the firm registration deadline. No exceptions.

Have You Paid Your 2000 Dues?

Our March 26 singles events are limited to Year 2000 FPUSA members only.

If you haven't yet renewed, you can do so when you sign in for the tournament.

Tête à Tête Tourney, For Women Only

This is an invitation for all of you ladies who have long asked for a Tête à Tête singles pétanque tournament of your own. No hassle. No hurry. No handicaps.

That's the name of the game in Sonoma, Sunday, March 26. Come meet your friends and play for the fun of it plus generous cash prizes.

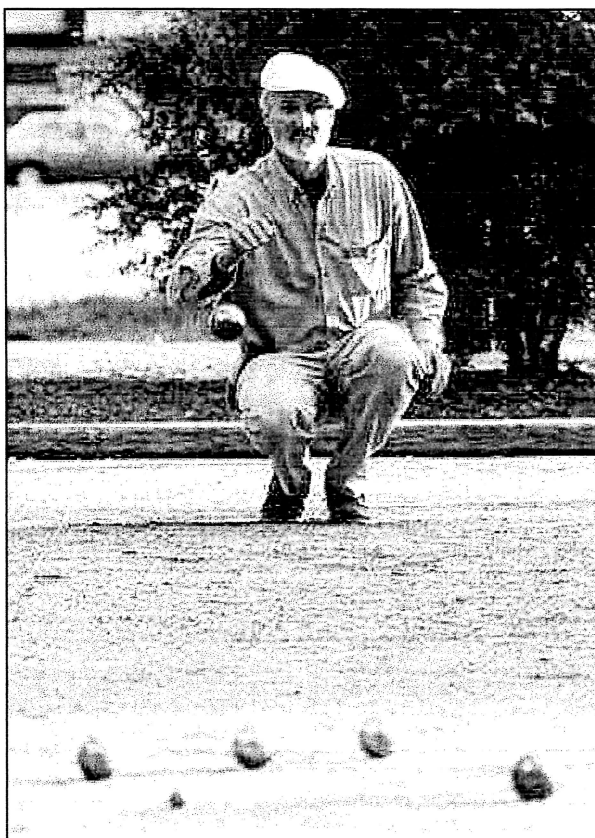
Here's the Way It Works

When you pay your seven-dollar entry fee, you make your choice. You can either play in the Women's Division, a four-boule singles tournament for women only. Or, you can enter the scheduled VOMPC open, four-boule Tête à Tête.

Whichever way you go, the sign-in deadline is 10 a.m. No exceptions.

If you need a fourth boule, we will have extras on hand when you register.

So come out and enjoy yourself on opening day— at the courts in Sonoma!



Tom Tetard shipped out on a slow boat to China, February 23—one day before his 50th birthday. "So long," he said. "See you on the courts this summer." *Bon voyage, Tom.*

Rain Slows 2000 'Winter/Spring' Mixed Doubles League Action

The madcap idea of a brief, five-and-a-half-week mixed doubles tournament in the middle of winter met with surprising enthusiasm. Twelve teams jumped on board for some lively pre-season action. League play began February 5 with an end date set for March 23.

Then came the usual winter rains.

At this point, six teams out of the twelve have yet to report completion of a single game. But with sunny weather somewhere ahead, all 24 players are now looking forward to a blazing finish. *Here are the standings, as of February 29.*

Doubles Team	W/L	Pct.
SYRAH DIVISION		
Ed Porto, Glory Glover	2/1	.666
Tom Bricca, Pauline Bricca	1/1	.500
Randy Ellis, Gail Ellis	1/1	.500
Richard Bagel, Patricial Noonan		
Gerry Canabou, Marguerite Canabou		
Bill Carter, Robyn Zitzewitz		
ZINFANDEL DIVISION		
Peter Mathis, Karen Semerau	2/1	.666
Dave Rizzo, Theresa Tops	1/2	.333
Peter Wellington, Jane Wellington	0/1	
Jacques Mathieu, Jennifer Mathieu		
Tom Noonan, Pamela Hawkins		
Dave Ogaz, Gail St. Clair		

Tournament Volunteers Needed



The active involvement of our members helps to make our club so successful. And this year, we need a few more volunteers to help out at some of our tournaments.

If you are willing to help at one or two of these events—ground prep, food service, registrations, cleaning up, whatever—**please call club secretary Randy Ellis—935-9135.** He's making up an honor list of volunteers.

Welcome Six New Members

Give a warm welcome at the courts to these six new members who have joined the VOMPC since the beginning of the year:

Chester Arnold
Gail and Sara Ellis
Pamela Hawkin
Mal Misuraca
Robyn Zitzewitz

Current Committees

Valuable VOMPC work is done by committees. Here are four that are currently active. You are invited to contact any committee member for additional information.

Court Maintenance

Bill Carter, Chm.
 Frank Pipal
 Chuck Fleming

Court Improvements

Ed Porto, Chm.
 Bill Carter
 Jeanne Markson,
 (Liaison with the City)
 Jacques Mathieu
 Peter Mathis
 Steve Sterbentz

Summer Leagues

Frank Pipal, Chm.
 Byron Mayo
 Mike Norton

Website

Randy Ellis, Chm.
 Richard Bagel
 David Ogaz



THE UMPIRE'S CORNER

Q. Yeah, it sounds unbelievable. But it really happened. Four of us had a hot game going, when a shooter on a nearby court fouled us up. He shot his cochonnet and it bounced into our playing area, where it hit my cochonnet far out of position.

There we were with two yellow cochonnets on the court and nobody could tell or sure which was which—or the correct positions.

In our game, a fierce little argument followed. Nobody came up with a satisfactory solution.

What would be your ruling, Ump?

This month's question was the kind of thorny, on-the-edge issue that occasionally arises in the game of pétanque. It was a situation that might even be interpreted differently, depending upon the Umpire. The problem described, however, does illustrate the importance of marking the location of the cochonnet and boule in an important match or in a major tournament. It's one way of avoiding controversy.

Do you have a pétanque question?

Write The Umpire, PO Box 863, Sonoma, CA 95476.

All answers are certified by our FPUSA Umpire Pierre Joske.

A. In a friendly contest, you should pick up either one of the cochonnets, put it back as close as you can to its original position and just go on with your game.

In a strict tournament, however, if the teams can't decide which is their cochonnet, both cochonnets would be ruled dead—as if they were lost. Then, for any scoring, Article 13 would apply. Look it up. This may sound unfair to your game, because it was your cochonnet that was hit away. But unless you marked the position of your cochonnet, that's the way the boule bounces.

Schedule Change!

In a move to avoid conflict with several unforeseen Bay Area events coming up in June, the board has revised the Year 2000 schedule.

The schedule insert in this issue is the correct, updated version. Save it for your reference. In order to avoid any confusion, toss out that earlier January 5 version. *Thanks!*

Two Sources for Pétanque Boules

Newcomers often ask us, "Where can I buy boules?"

Well, we now have **two** good North Bay sources for regulation pétanque boules, imported from France:

INTÉGRALE

Bruce Frigard
18754 Park Tree Lane
Sonoma, CA 95476
Phone 939-9418

JB PRODUCTS

Louis Toulon
138 Southern Heights Blvd.
San Rafael, CA 94901
Phone 1-800-296-2961

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'Pétanque Times'

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VOMPC Officers and Directors:

Ed Porto, president
Frank Pipal, vice-president
Rob Zitzewitz, treasurer
Randy Ellis, secretary
David Ogaz, director at large
Steve Sterbentz, director at large
Richard Bagel, director at large

Coming next month, Sunday, April 16
Member-Guest Tournament & Picnic

"A good time to introduce a friend to the joys of pétanque"

Revised Format Planned, Summer League Doubles

A modified 2000 Summer League Doubles format is in the works that calls for advance scheduling of the opposing teams by random draw—and weekly matches through the summer season.

Developed by the VOMPC Summer League Committee and approved by the board at a special February 12 meeting, the simple format is an attempt to eliminate most of the controversial scheduling and completion problems that have dogged Summer League Doubles in past years.

Weekly matches will be played anytime Sunday through Saturday as agreed upon by the opposing teams. Open weeks will be built into the schedule with no matches assigned—allowing for "make-up" of any matches missed.

Final details of the new format will be released well ahead of the May 19 sign-up date, according to Frank Pipal, who is coordinating the 2000 Summer Doubles program.

No Major Changes In Summer League Singles Program

After a one-year hiatus, Byron Mayo returns to familiar haunts this year as coordinator for the 2000 Summer League Singles program.

Coordinator of the program four different years in the past, Byron is planning an updated version of the format that proved so popular, 1994-1998.

With a start date planned for May 30, all of the details on Summer League Singles 2000 will be available in early May.

Why Your Club Membership Dues Are So Important

Consider this: Your annual VOMPC membership dues help the club provide for much needed improvements and upkeep at the courts—our bi-monthly "Pétanque Times"—our tournament flyers—good liability insurance coverage on the courts—full eligibility for FPUSA/VOMPC tournaments—and eligibility for participation in our summer leagues and social events.

Along with all that, your membership brings you into the camaraderie and fun and friendships that are an integral part of our Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club.

If you haven't yet paid your dues for Year 2000, send in your check now. We'd hate to lose you come March 31, when unpaid members are dropped from the club rolls.

Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club
PO Box 863
Sonoma, CA 95476



The Pétanque Court roosters are back—walkin' the walk and talkin' the talk. Bring on the new season. We're ready!