

Hall, Pipal, Semerau Elected to '02 Board

Members Celebrate VOMPC Achievements at Annual Meeting



Bart Zachofsky mildly roasted the 2001 Prez, then presented Frank some gifts.



2002-2003 Board Member, Barbara Hall.

(Oct 27) Sixty club members gathered in the old barracks on the Plaza for the Annual Banquet and General Meeting. There was much to celebrate as the year 2001 was full of achievements and great times.

Club President Frank Pipal worked in one last raffle for the year and Mayor Ken Brown took home the door prize. But all came a way with a piece of club spirit that makes the VOMPC a great thing to be part of.

Jeanne Markson received a commemorative magnum for her diligent work over the course of the year. Byron Mayo was his usual disarming self as he recapped the Summer League action and made the awards.

PJ Mallette reviewed the Summer Double Leagues, including the donations of prize money by the participants to the September 11th

disaster relief efforts. The Club then wished him well in his quest for the World Junior Championship in France (see page 6).

Another bright spot was Karen Semerau's presentation on her experience at the Women's World Championship Qualification Tournament in Florida (see page 6).

On the menu was a delicious Thai buffet catered by none other than Narin Garrett of *Rin's Thai Restaurant*. And there was a nice selection of wines donated by Dave Rizzo of *Harvest Wines*.

Bart Zachofsky presented a plaque to President Pipal in recognition for his service to the Club this year. Frank also received a "gift basket" of fine Caribbean rums as a personal gift from a number of club members.

While Bart and Frank ran around to make last minute preparations, it

was Jeanne Markson, Byron Mayo and Dave Rizzo doing their civic duty, tallying the results of the first competitive ballot for the VOMPC in many years.

Unfortunately of the five fine candidates who stepped forward to contribute their time and efforts to the club, only three were to be chosen. Barbara Hall, Frank Pipal and Karen Semerau are all well-suited to the upcoming tasks—to make the year 2002 just as enjoyable and rewarding as 2001 has been.

At the November meeting, the baton will pass to the new Board. Their first order of business will be to determine the new President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary.

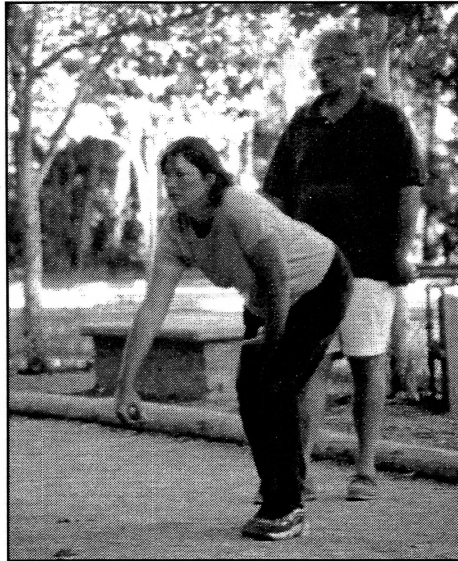
Let's wish all returning and new Board Members the very best as we look forward to a great year in '02.

Pipal, Noonan, Sammons Take Club Championship!

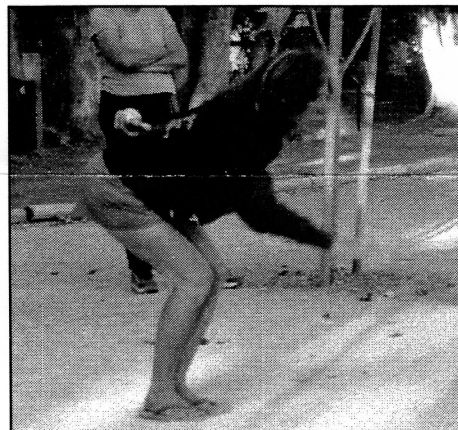
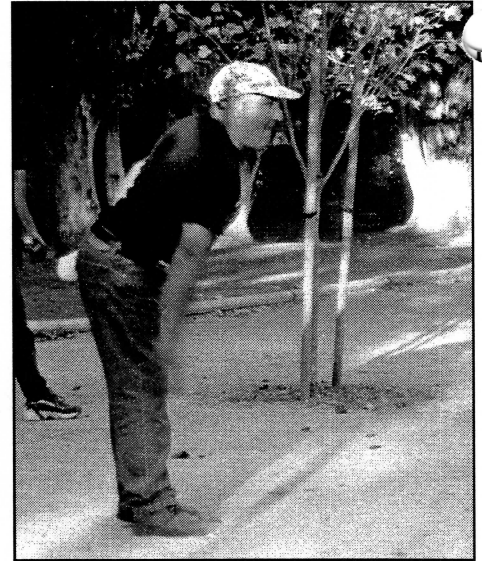
(Sep23) The Annual VOMPC MaTerre Club Championship was sponsored in absentia this year but it was well supported on the home front as thirteen mixed triples teams competed. And clubbers came together for a potluck luncheon and to support a grave but worthy cause.

This year's tournament was marked by a recognition of the September 11th tragedies. And donations were made to help the survivors. Our event sponsor, Jacques Mathieu (whose return travel plans from France were delayed by the disastrous events), contributed a \$500 matching grant which was added to the nearly \$700 raised from attendees.

In the competition there were both new and familiar faces who made the playoff. Pamela Stephens found herself tantalizingly close to her first Sonoma title. Her team of Bill Carter and Tino Lofaro were nearly white-washed in the Final Match. Behind 0-14, Stephens led her team with some uncanny pointing to make a run at it, before losing 9-15.



The Final: Holly readies herself for the point as her shooter, Tom Noonan looks on. "The Noonan" matched up well with mighty Tino Lofaro (upper right). Pamela and Frank were steady forces for their respective teams.



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Ed Porto, Editor/Publisher

Photographs (this issue): Ed Porto

VOMPC 2001 Board of Directors

Frank Pipal, President

Dave Ogaz, Vice President

Gail StClair, Secretary

Randy Ellis, Treasurer

Directors at Large: Rick Bagel, Mal Misuraca, Renato Sottile

On the winning side was Club President Frank Pipal, Tom Noonan and sophomore *pointeuse extraordinaire* Holly Sammons. This well-balanced team had lost to Pamela's marauders, 10-11, in a morning qualification game, but exacted their revenge without mercy when it counted.

In the Consolante, crafty Claude Berthoud, Thierry Barbetti and Shannon Bowman took care of Glory Glover, Erin McTaggart and Ricky Bagel for First Place. And in the Concours "Bonus Round," it was Karen Semerau, Ed Porto, and PJ Mallette who touched money.

This year's format of Mixed

Triplettes was intended to accommodate our increased numbers of women playing pétanque. One of those women, Fiorenza Liope, at the age of six, was the youngest player ever to compete in the Club Championship!

Court preparations were made courtesy of Mal Misuraca, Tom Noonan and Bart Zachofsky. The effervescent Glory Glover and Karen Semerau handled the fund-raising drive. Ed Porto took on the Director's mantle and Frank Pipal took care of the rest.

Thanks to all who participated, donated and played, making this day a great moment for the VOMPC.

Panaché & Alsatian Picnic Close 2001 Season



(Oct 21 An early autumn chill in the air set the stage for the 2001 season finale at the Maysonnave Memorial courts. And the Oktoberfest menu of *Alsatian Choucroute Garnie* fit the bill just perfectly! So did the panaché format, as people were matched up at random for some fun competition.

The return of **Franklin "Butch" Earl** to our courts was a welcome sight as he and his trusty gourmets-in-arms, Marco Ilaria and Luis Velez, rolled out the culinary delights for the last time this year. A few others were elbow to elbow with the Chef: Barbara Hall, Debbie Poulnot and Dave Rizzo rolled up their sleeves to dish up fifty finely crafted meals. There were imported beers and a good selection of *Harvest Wines* to accompany the feast.

To be sure, most of the fifty-odd contestants were moving a bit more slowly in the afternoon match-ups, but the schedule of five games was just enough for the amiable crowd of participants. As the sun came out in the early after-

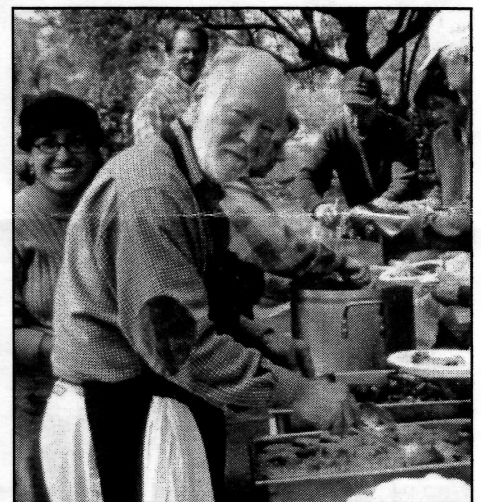
noon, batteries got recharged for an abbreviated playoff. Tino Lofaro and Jean-Michel Poulnot took the top prize by virtue of their 13-12 final victory over John Krauer and Joss Becoulet. Other winners included Peter Mathis and Holly Sammons (3rd Place) and Glory Glover and PJ Mallette (4th).

Board members Dave Ogaz and Gail StClair "did the math" and directed the tournament. Once again Frank Pipal attended to the pre- and post-event details, making sure that all bases were covered, insuring another spectacular day.

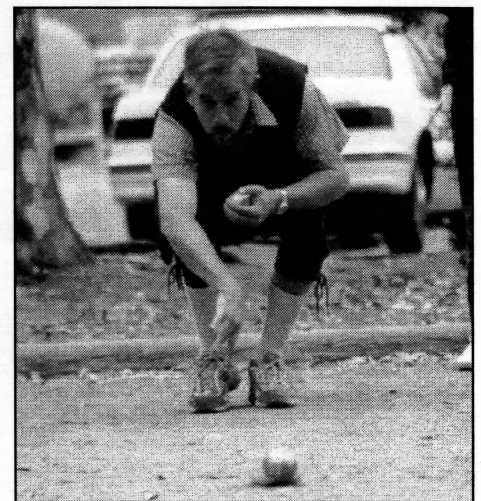
Much thanks to all our volunteers for a great day!



Brendan Bowman just loves this game!



"Well they often call him Speed-O..." but Mr. Earl slow-cooked this feast over the weekend, then served it up for hungry clubbers with delight.



Newcomer Hans Kurz shows veteran concentration as he plays for the point.

Erika/Karen Capture Women's League Title!

Division Winners Upset in Semifinal, Consolante—A Battle Royal



Fall 2001 Women's Doubles League players. Top row: Lisa Vaughn, Lynn Woodward, Holly Sammons, Elizabeth Ogaz, Barbara Hall, Shannon Bowman. Front row: Erika Schmidt, Karen Semerau, Cynthia Markson, Lorraine Cline, Erin McTaggart, Eva Lofaro.

(Nov3) The second season for the VOMPC Fall Women's League came to an enjoyable conclusion as the twelve participants met for their playoff on a summer-like day. And the friendly competition was not short on surprises.

Throughout the regular season, Barbara Hall and defending champion, Holly Sammons, had set the pace, going through opponents like a hot knife through butter. Everyone else were apparent *also-rans* as the Hall/Sammons juggernaut rolled into the playoff.

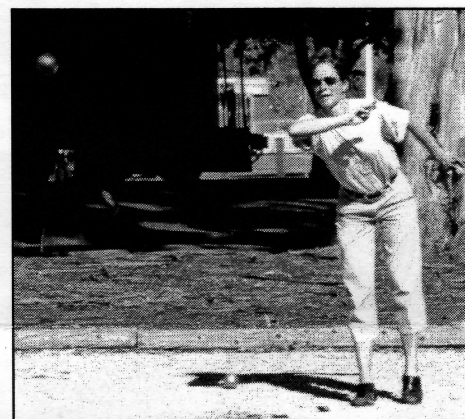
In the Concours it was single elimination and the results were decisive. Newcomer Lisa Vaughn and her partner Lynn Woodward controlled their semifinal game and knocked off Hall and Sammons, 15-10. In the other semifinal Cynthia Markson and another newcomer, Erin McTaggart,

put up a valiant effort but were out-gunned by the point/shoot combination of Erika Schmidt and Karen Semerau, 15-7.

After one round, *IT WAS TIME FOR LUNCH!* Hey, these girls know how to party, as a leisurely break was called for a sumptuous potluck meal which was generously offered to others in attendance as well.

In the final match, Erika and Karen came on strong—and just kept coming. Lynn and Lisa made a mini-run in the closing rounds but eventually went down by a score of 15-5.

In the Consolante, Elizabeth Ogaz and new-be Lorraine Cline were slow out of the gate but nearly took the 2 outta 3 playoff. In the first game, their opponents, Eva Lofaro and Shannon Bowman (another newcomer!), took charge and rolled to a 13-2 win. They continued their

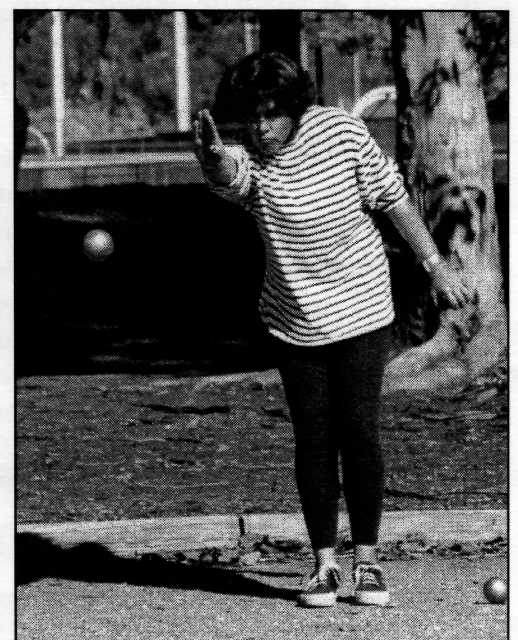
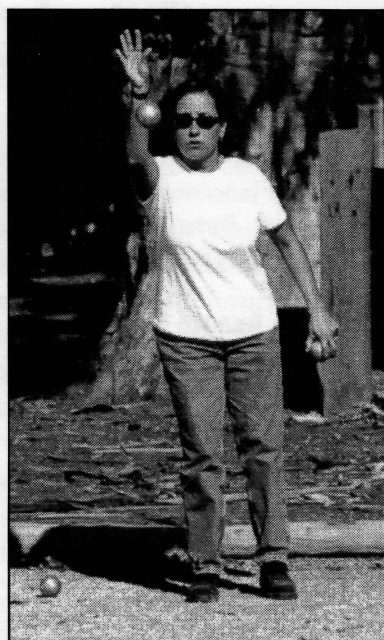
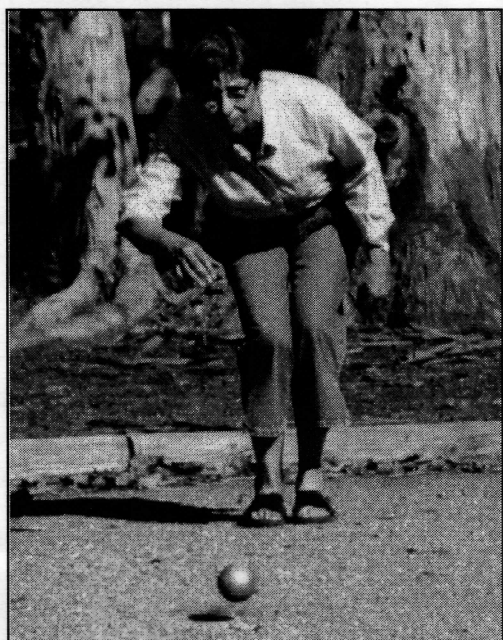
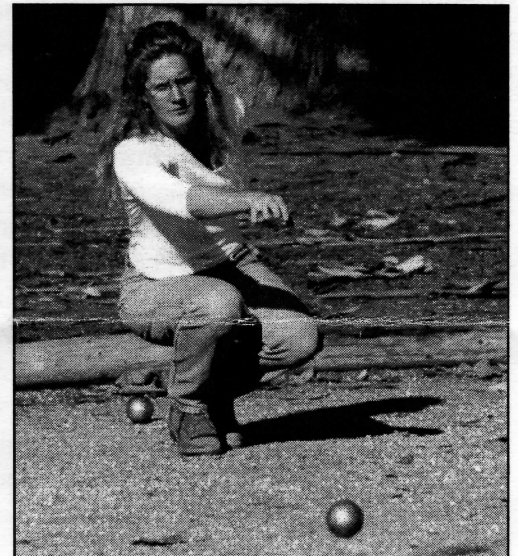
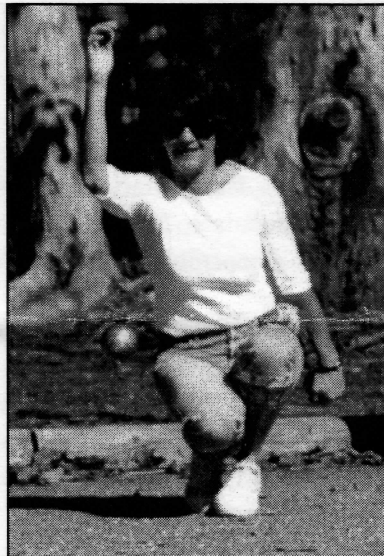
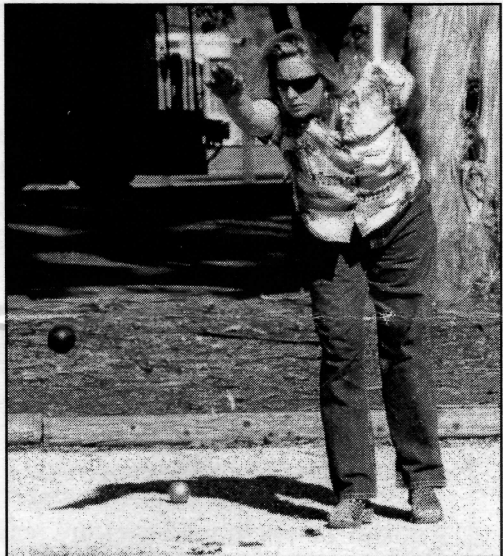
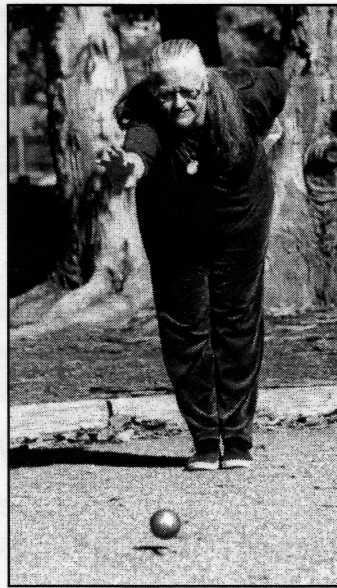
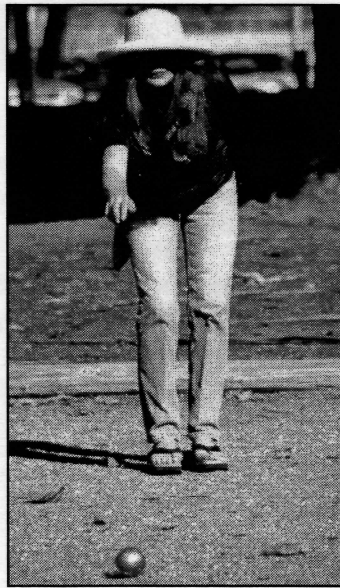
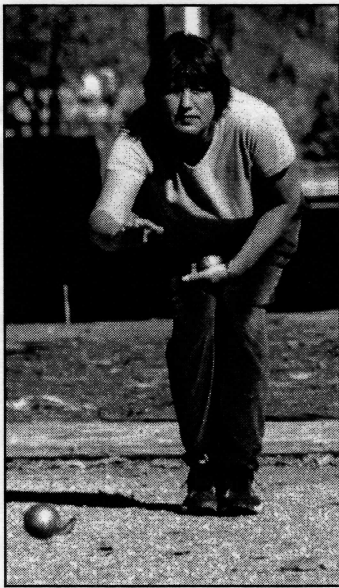


mastery in the second game and built up a 10-3 lead. But Lorraine and National Mixed Doubles Champion Elizabeth were not to be denied a victory: they woke up and stormed back for an exciting 13-11 win.

Momentum was on their side and Cline/Ogaz carried it into the rubber match, gaining an 8-4 advantage. But Lofaro/Bowman closed the gap and eventually tied it up at 10 all, before closing the deal with a three point finish, 13-10.

Prizes were awarded after the matches were completed, including a trophy and plaques donated by Bart Zachofsky, and bottles of Mondavi wine contributed by Michael Hall. Ricky Bagel created some special labels to commemorate the event.

Hats off to Barbara Hall for making the Women's League such a success. And congratulations to all these great



...watch for a full report on the **New Member/Veteran League** in the January '02 edition!

Karen Semerau Takes WWCQT in Florida!

First Sonoman Ever to Win a Qualification Tournament

(Oct 21) While fifty-some odd club members were playing panaché at our courts, **Karen Semerau** was in the BIG game in Boca Raton Florida, that is the **Women's World Championship Qualification Tournament**. And her team of Beth Krumholz of New York and Marieke Rolland of Florida won it all!

In fact they didn't lose a game that day. Muggy heat and rain didn't deter them as they took the final in come-from-behind fashion 15-10.

Karen's team will represent the USA in the biennial **Women's World Championship**, to be held in Latuque, Quebec July 21-22, 2002.

Congratulations Karen!

PJ Plays for the U.S. at the Junior World Championship!

(Nov2-4) **PJ Mallette** travelled to Lons La Saunier, France to compete in the biennial **World Junior Championship** with two players from Los Angeles and one from Washington, D.C. The team performed better than any US Junior team had ever done.

After a slow start, losing to Switzerland, Luxembourg and Norway, our kids came back to win against Slovenia and Australia (twice) to make the Eighth Finals where they were eliminated by a strong French team, 13-6.

Frank Pipal accompanied the team as leader of the U.S. delegation.

Congratulations PJ!

Chefs of Honor 2001

Well, who doesn't like to eat?

As you may know, nothing goes better with pétanque than good wine and good food (and a good pastis!).

Below is a list of Club members who really gave their all this past year to bring us a great bounty of culinary delights.

Thank you, Chefs! It was great!

John Bouldt

Abalone

Franklin Earl

Boulliabaisse, Choucroute Garnie

Narin Garrett

Thai Buffet

Marco Ilaria

Boulliabaisse, Italian Dinner,
Choucroute Garnie

Zino Mezzoui

Cous Cous Royale

Tom Noonan

Big Soup, Paella

Mike & Susan Norton

Emperor's Barbeque

Frank Pipal

Paella and many, many desserts

Roger Poli

Cous Cous Royale

Dave Rizzo

BBQ Lamb Feast

Renato Sottile

Kids' Day Barbeque

Ken Stieper

Emperor's Barbeque

Luis Velez

Boulliabaisse, Italian Dinner,
Choucroute Garnie

The Women's Leaguers

Big Night Hors d'oeuvres

Attention: Shooters!

At a recent tournament a few people witnessed a 'near miss' between a hard shot going over the retaining board and a spectator's shin!

Luckily, the boule struck harmlessly into the rammed earth base of the bench and the startled spectator prudently moved to a safer vantage point. No one was hurt but this points to some precautions we all should take on and around the courts. While pétanque is, by and large, a very safe activity for everyone, steel balls flying through the air can be dangerous.

So.....

If you are a shooter, please make sure that the area near your target is clear of spectators, pets, glass objects, etc. This is especially true if your style is to shoot very hard.

If you are a team captain (or a teammate) be attentive to your surroundings. Alert other players or spectators of an impending shot.

If you are a spectator, be aware of the games in your vicinity and stay out of harm's way. Also, please keep a close eye on small children or pets who may wander into an undesirable location.

And Thanks for keeping our courts safe!

The Umpire's Corner . . .

The Umpire is in France. But he shall return in time to answer your next question in the January 2002 edition of *The Pétanque Times*. Stay tuned!

Do you have a pétanque question?

Write to The Umpire, P.O. Box 863, Sonoma, CA 95476.

Answers certified by FPUSA Umpire Pierre Joske

VOMPC Board Notes

09.20.01

Treasurer's Report: Balance as of 8/31/: \$5,348.

Communications Report (E.Porto): \$299.36 spent on most recent newsletter, photo albums and binders for news clippings.

Court Maintenance (B.Carter): Picnic tables need to be fixed to the ground. \$100 approved, work to be completed within 30 days.

MaTerre/VOMPC Club Championship to be held on 9/23. The format will be a pot-luck plus a \$5 per person donation to partake with proceeds going to disaster relief funds.

Insurance Update: Misuraca will continue to explore insurance coverage and report to the Board.

Special committee formed (Misuraca, Ellis and Dave Rizzo) to review conduct issues on 9.02.01. The committee will report back to the Board.

Petition submitted (Teri Sirico/Ed Porto) for shade trees on the south court at no cost to the Club. Board voted unanimously to approve the trees.

WCQT reports submitted (Pipal, Porto, Bagel): Complete accounting forthcoming.

One written complaint vs. two club members for misconduct at the WCQT submitted by staff members (Bagel, Porto and Noonan).

Motion made to ban R.Nielsen from further VOMPC events pending FPUSA investigation. 5 Ayes, 2 Abstained (Ogaz, Sottile).

10.15.01

Treasurer's Report: Balance (10/15/01): \$7,662 (some WCQT expenses yet to be paid).

\$700 collected at MaTerre event and \$500 donated by J.Mathieu for a total of \$1200 to be donated by VOMPC to New York Firefighters 9/11 Disaster Relief Fund. Unanimously approved.

Certificate of recognition to be made for J.Mathieu for all his hard work done on behalf of VOMPC. Unanimously approved.

J.Markson to chair Children's Discovery Garden ad hoc committee: J.Mathieu, J.Mathieu, F.Pipal, M.Misuraca, D.Ogaz, J.Bouldt, R.Bagel

Complaint by T.Bricca: Questioning the right of the Board to temporarily suspend R. Nielsen.

Special committee (D.Ogaz, B.Zachofsky, R.Ellis) formed to investigate existing complaints regarding WCQT event including whether or not to continue suspension of R.Nielsen. Unanimously approved.

2001: By ANY Measure, a Great Success!

The year 2001 has certainly been a great one for the VOMPC. We can all be proud of our accomplishments and all signs point to a bright future for our Club.

Memberships

The current count of 172 members matches last year's total but includes less late season and "gift" memberships. Female membership stands at 61 and continues to grow. Though more improvement can be made at the junior level, there has been increased youth participation at the courts.

Tournaments

This year the VOMPC expanded its offerings once again and showed continued creativity in tournament formats. An extra Triplette was added in February; the Mixed Doubles continued a tradition begun last year; and the new Mixed Triples format for the MaTerre Club Championship truly reflected the gender makeup of our club. But the biggest single event came on Labor Day weekend when ninety-nine boulists from around the country competed in the World Championship Qualifiers and the Sonoma Cup Tournaments. No grander event was ever held at our courts.

The Gourmet Life

Again, new ground was broken with a full range of talent in the club stepping up to create delight after culinary delight. From soups and sausages in the winter to traditional barbecues, to couscous, boullibaisse, paella and abalone to the great Italian dinner at Ravenswood and finishing with the Choucroute Garnie in October, our offerings consistently showed a tireless commitment to excellence on the part of our volunteers. And Thai cuisine at the Annual Banquet was a refreshing and fitting finale to our tradition of breaking bread together.

Leagues

While leagues have been growing in popularity over the past couple of

years, 2001 saw a total of six leagues formed and run by club volunteers. The New/Member Veteran League ran for its second season, settling into the Fall slot. The Women's League grew into a doubles format and boasted the Club's first female league director. And the trend will continue in 2002—you can count on that!

Funds

Event by event, phone call by email, dollar by gift, this year's grassroots fund raising efforts were second to none in Club history and the Club coffers are in solid shape. While fund-raising is not an end in itself for the VOMPC, it certainly comes in handy for various Club initiatives.

Giving Back

This year saw the Club become involved with the Sonoma Valley Special Olympics Bocce Team. While we wish that pétanque was on the list of Special Olympics sports, the ability of our organization to contribute time and energy to this worthy cause made us all proud. In another instance, our Club seized the moment for another needy cause: September 11th disaster relief. In many smaller ways our members "gave back" this year—from a courtside wedding celebration, to cards and well-wishes to fellow members in hospital to spontaneous drives to help members in need.

Thank You

Of course, no single person is responsible for all the good things we have accomplished this past year. All our events are group efforts and require the time and generosity from many members. But, no single person did more to make this year the stunning success that it was than Frank Pipal, 2001 President of the VOMPC.

So, the next time you see Frank at the courts, say "Thanks!" to our outgoing President for doing such an outstanding job. Frank, you served us well!

In Assistance to Others in a Time of Tragedy...

October 22, 2001

New York Firefighters 9-11 Disaster Relief Fund
PO Box 65858
Washington D.C. 20035-5858

To the administrators of the NY Firefighters 911 Disaster Relief Fund:

On September 23rd. our club held its annual club championship tournament (pétanque is a French game similar to Bocce ball). Coming so soon after the tragic events in NYC, many of us had misgivings about staging our event as if things were normal.

Eventually we decided to go ahead, but to encourage participants (about forty members turned out) to contribute to this fund. Some returned prize money that they won in the competition, and the event's sponsor -a member who is a builder by trade - matched donations up to five hundred dollars.

At the end of the day there were seven hundred dollars in the pot, the matching funds from MaTerre International bringing the total to twelve hundred.

Enclosed please find two checks, one on the club account for \$1050 and the other on the account of Boden Plumbing for \$150. We are pleased to be able to help in this way.

Thank you for the good work that you are doing.

Yours sincerely,
Frank Pipal
President, V.O.M.P.C.

INSIDE:

The results are in:

**Meet Our New VOMPC
Board Members for 2002!**

Women's League Wrap-up

The President Takes a Prize

Reflecting on Our Year 2001

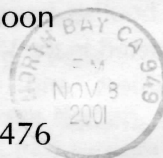
**Travelling boulists do their
Club proud!!**

Mr. Earl delivers again!

...and few chummy pictures.

Well, open it up!

Valley of the Moon
Pétanque Club
P.O. Box 863
Sonoma CA 95476



Byron Mayo
880 Oak Lane
Sonoma, CA 95476

Final 2001 Membership: 172