

Sonoma Cup Returns Mar.23rd

Two Great Spring Tourneys Coming Up!

Sonoma Cup

Select Triples to Compete for Perpetual Trophy

It's back! The **Sonoma Cup Tournament**, which was inaugurated last Labor Day weekend, will make an early appearance on the 2002 calendar—with a Women's Division.

Players from around the Bay Area are expected to compete for the coveted perpetual trophy, currently in the proud possession of last year's winners Dexter Tracy, Steve Sterbentz and Thierry Barbetti.

This is a no-frills, no-holds-barred competition. So bring your team, your lunch *and a little extra juice* to this fun-filled day. There will be lots of action, cash prizes and awards.

As usual, **tournament sign-up closes at 10am sharp**. Entry fee is \$10 per player (1/2 price for juniors).

There will be 80% return of the purse. Proceeds will benefit the Club. *See you there!*

Mixed Doubles

3rd Annual with Potluck Lunch, **Sunday, April 28**

For the second April in a row, **Select Mixed Doubles** graces the VOMPC event calendar. With only 1/3 of our membership of the fairer sex, you bulls best get a move on and get your team together. Of course, ladies may select a partner of their own choosing and are encouraged to do so.

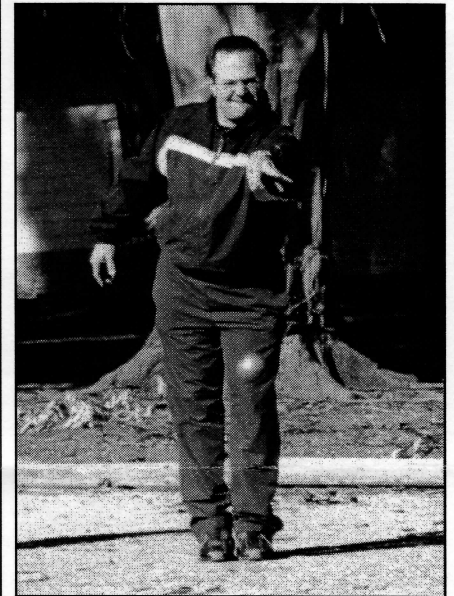
On the menu is a potluck lunch which, judging from recent history, will not disappoint. We hope to see many pétanque friends from around the Bay Area. This will be a great tune-up for the **FPUSA National Mixed Doubles** on May 25th (see page 4).

Tournament sign-up closes at 10am sharp. Entry fee is \$7 per player (\$4 for juniors). Bring your favorite dish to share for lunch.

100% of the purse will be returned in prize money.

Don't missed this one!

VOMPers Enjoy Balmy Winter League



Is it a Puerto Rican Hurricane? Heck no! It's Luis Velez laying one in there in an early-season match.

Twenty-eight players are mixing it up in the **2002 Winter Mixed Doubles League**, enjoying some unseasonably mild temperatures, and gearing up for a playoff showdown in mid-March.

In the *Mud Turtles Division*, Lisa Vaughan and Bill Carter bested PJ Mallette and Barbara Hall for first place in the season finale, 13-6. On the *Banana Slugs'* side, Tino Lofaro and Karen Semerau clinched their title with a nail-biter, 13-12, over Peter Mathis and Holly Sammons.

See the current standings and more action photos on page 3. All are welcome to view the playoffs, Sat., March 16th, 11 A.M. at the courts.

NO RESERVATIONS NECESSARY

Spring Cleaning: Annual Work Party Mar.30

Bring yer rakes, bring yer shovels, and a little good cheer and join the fun on Saturday, March 30th for our Annual Spring Work Party. There will be a variety of projects going on and no contribution is too small to make.

Come down anytime between 9am and 4pm, roll up your sleeves and pitch in to keep our courts beautiful. The club will provide lunch for all who participate. Thanks very much and 'see you there!

Big Turnout for Season Opener—Semerau, Lofaro Win!

(Feb.23) The traditional **Four Ball Singles Season Opener** kicked off the year in fine style as forty-eight contestants showed up to play *tete à tete* and enjoy **Tom Noonan's** delicious and hearty soup.

A record eighteen women competed in their own division and thirty men competed in the "Open." Three juniors entered in each division and played very well. Of note was Patrick Sammons and Keilyn Rice. Both qualified for their respective Concours.

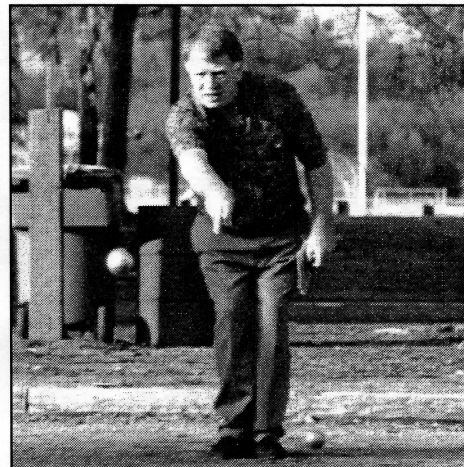
In the final match were likely suspects Karen Semerau and Holly Sammons. The exciting battle of titans ended with a 13-8 win for Karen. Barbara Hall took the Consolante, winning over upstart Lisa Hoxie in the final.

The final match of the Open was much less dramatic, as Tino Lofaro steamrolled Peter Mathis by a score of 13-3. Third place was won by that bionic maestro, Louie Toulon. Frank Pipal outlasted the field and took the Consolante.

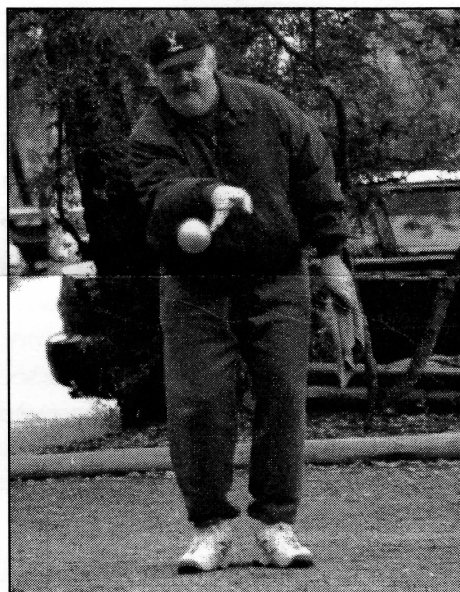
Much thanks to all who helped make the 2002 season opener a great success.



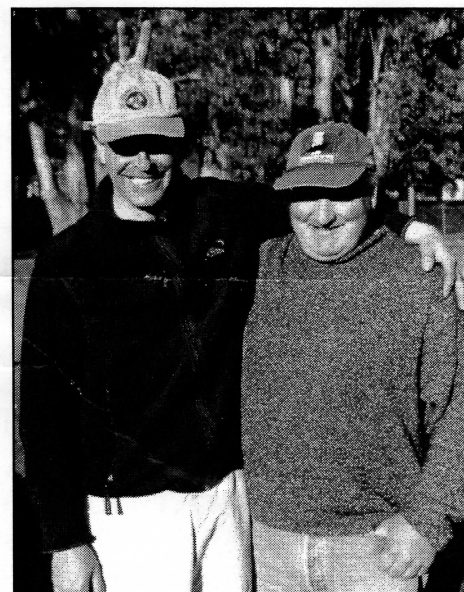
Holly Sammons eked out a 13-12 win in the semi-final over Joss Krauer.



Alain Giselle played well, but was taken down in the Consolante Final.



Chef Marco Ilaria cooked up an early round upset and made the Concours.



Finalists Peter Mathis and Tino Lofaro were in good spirits.

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Pétanque Times is a bimonthly newsletter of the Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club, PO Box 863, Sonoma CA 95476

Ed Porto, Editor/Publisher

Photographs (this issue): Ed Porto

VOMPC 2001 Board of Directors

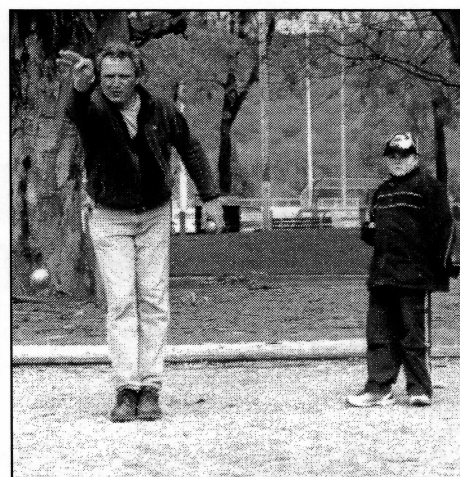
Frank Pipal, President

Mal Misuraca, Vice President

Barbara Hall, Secretary

Director of Sport, Dave Ogaz

Directors at Large: Renato Sottile, Bart Zachofsky



David and Goliath: Jacques Mathieu put down a feisty effort by Brendan Cohen.



Jean-Michel Poulnot got points for style—and 4th Place in the Consolante.

2002 Winter Mixed Doubles League

The "Banana Slugs" Division

Karen Semerau/Tino Lofaro	5-1
Peter Mathis/Holly Sammons	4-2
Luis Velez/Erin McTaggart	4-2
Lorraine Cline/John Bouldt	3-3
Ed Porto/Glory Glover	3-3
Frank Pipal/Keilyn Rice	2-4
Dexter Tracy/Lisa Hoxie	0-6

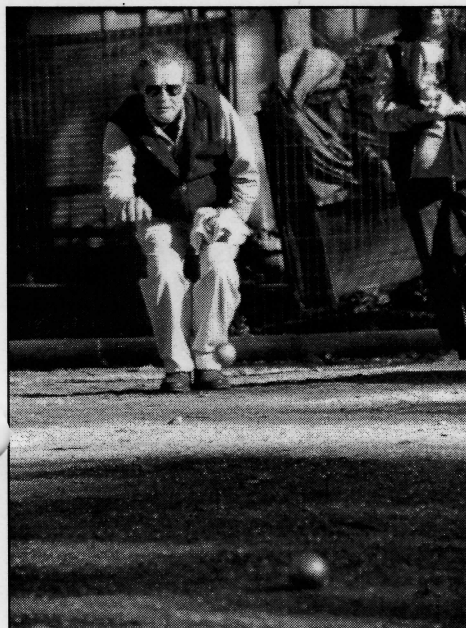
Here are the final regular season standings. The top four teams in each division are in the Concours. The rest will play in the Consolante.

From beginners to veterans, everyone has been having a ball.

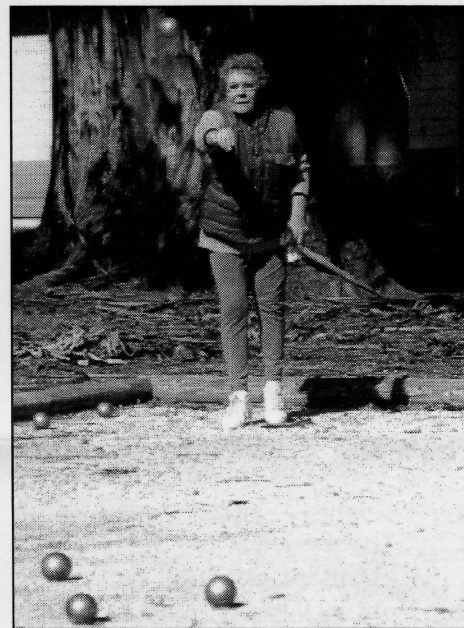
Good luck to all contestants in the playoffs!

The "Mud Turtles" Division

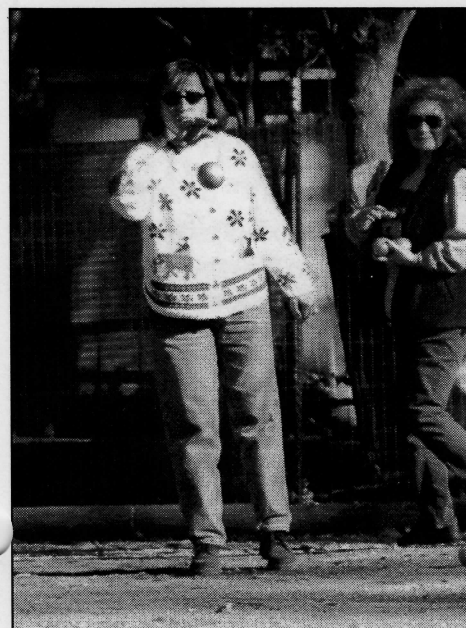
Lisa Vaughan/Bill Carter	5-1
Bart Zachofsky/Teri Sirico	4-2
Narin Garrett/Tom Bricca	4-2
PJ Mallette/Barbara Hall	4-2
Shannon Bowman/Ted Bucklin	3-3
John Krauer/Joss Krauer	1-5
Mick Bunker/Sharon Bunker	0-6



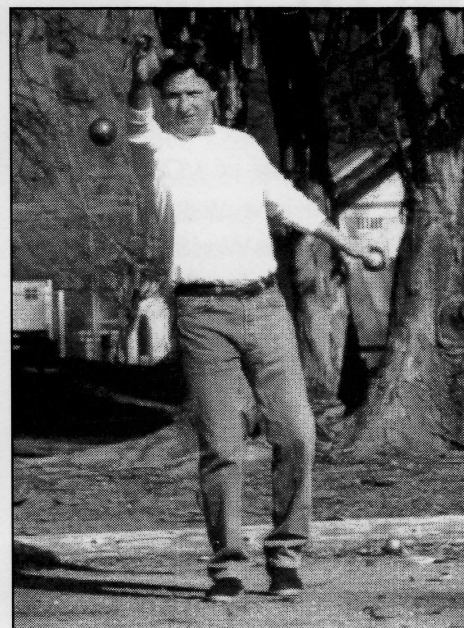
Mick and Sharon Bunker took the plunge and signed up for their very first league, giving a few veteran teams a run for their money!



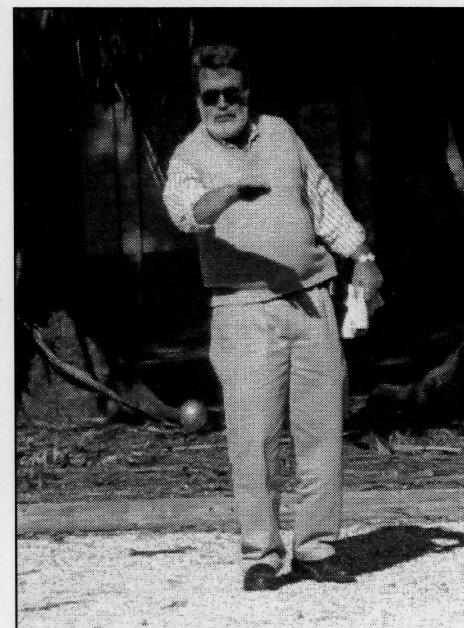
Joss Krauer brings a touch of the old country with her—and a few *carreaux*!



Barbara Hall (and partner PJ Mallette) will be out for vindication in the playoff.



No stranger to finesse, Dexter Tracy lets one fly.



Relaxed stance, palm parallel to the ground, Bart Zachofsky lays in a point.

The Umpire's Corner . . .



Q. "What is the rule if a player steps out of the circle when he tosses his boule? I called him on it once. But he did it again in the same game, while shooting. He shot my boule away from the cochonnet and illegally won a critical point!"

What do you say, arbitre?

A. In a tournament, if a shooter steps out of the circle during his throw, call the umpire over. Register a protest. The umpire will then issue an official warning to the offender. If it happens again, the umpire may disqualify that player from the tournament. And the umpire's decision is final.

The boule hit, however, cannot be put back into its original position unless that position was marked.

Do you have a pétanque question?

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

Answers are certified by FPUSA Umpire Pierre Joske



Our Four Legged Friends

Dear Club Members, please be advised of the city leash ordinance in Depot Park. Also, in consideration of our friends—both two AND four legged—be mindful of leaving pets tied up near the courts for extended periods of time, especially if your pet is not in agreement and is inclined to exercise his/her right to free speech! *Thank you, Da Club.*

Lots of FPUSA Events in Store for the Bay Area; Singles in Sonoma!

The 2002 FPUSA event calendar is completed and plenty of competition is planned for Northern California.

These are great events to attend. Meet pétanquers from California and across the US. Refer to your FPUSA Boulesheet and future updates for full details.

Here are some dates to keep handy:

Sat. May 25 National Mixed Doubles, Lafayette

Sun./Mon. May 26-27 National Open Doubles, San Rafael

Sun. May 26 National Women's Doubles, San Rafael

Sat. Jun 8 NW Regional Champs, Select Triplettes (Competitors), Sacramento

Sun. Jun 9 NW Regional Champs, Select Two plus One Shooter (drawn at random from the Competitors), Sacramento

Sat./Sun. Jul 27/28 West Coast (3-Ball) Singles Championship (with a Women's Division), VOMPC

The FPUSA Sport Committee has been working hard to offer new formats and attract more participants to its competitions. As you might expect, FPUSA membership is required at all of its events.

More specifically, for the regional and coastal events FPUSA membership within those particular areas is an additional requirement.

'See you on the FPUSA circuit!'

\$2,053.15 It's Official: 2001 WCQT—Our Best Fundraiser Ever!

It wasn't easy, but months of hard work by a group of VOMPC volunteers resulted in a great boost to our club coffers at the World Qualification Tournament last Labor Day.

Big thanks to the crew of **Frank Pipal, John Bouldt, Cynthia Markson, Holly Sammons, Erika Schmidt, Karen Semerau** and **Teri Sirico**.

And thanks again to all our sponsors and donors who contributed to making 2001 a great financial year. A list of all these generous folks is posted at the courts and on our website, www.sonomapetanque.com.

Club Donation Raises Funds for Bs&Gs Club

(Feb.2) At the Annual Sweetheart Auction, a VOMPC-hosted paella and pétanque picnic for twelve guests fetched \$1600 for the **Valley of the Moon Boys and Girls Club**.

At the January Board meeting **Jeanne Markson** presented the idea to the board and it was readily approved.

President **Frank Pipal** will coordinate the date and arrangements with the generous donors (yet to be identified as of press time).

Club members can be proud of the continuing contributions which our organization is making to our local community, to the benefit of all Sonomans.

VOMPC Board Notes

02.05.02

Treasurer's Report (Semerau): balance \$5,229

Club donation to Boy's and Girl's Club annual fundraiser (Feb 02), raised \$1600 at auction.

Posting of the 1/13/02 Code of Conduct hearing discussion.

City Report (Mathieu): 10 year lease for VOMPC is on the Feb 6th City Council agenda.

Committee Appointments (Pipal): Zachofsky appointed to chair Court Improvements for 2002. New Court Maintenance Committee to be established with new personnel. Ogaz to coordinate the court maintenance.

Annual Work Party (Pipal): Date TBD. To include planting of approved trees. Improvements Committee to make other recommendations.

Maintenance Committee Report: referred to Zachofsky and Ogaz

Code of Conduct Complaints: tabled unanimously.

Sponsor Review (Byron Mayo): board officially thanked all the club's 2001 sponsors and donors and Jessica Misuraca for her good work on the website. Sponsor/Donor list to be posted on the website and at the courts. Board re-endorses the sponsorship policy for 2002. Unanimously approved.

Bylaw Review: Byron Mayo to chair this committee to review the current bylaws and submit its recommendations to the Board.

Assignment of Directors to Calendar Events.

Karen Semerau tendered her resignation from the Board. Chuck Fleming to be asked to accept the nomination to the B.O.D.

WANTED: ONE TREASURER

At the February board meeting, **Karen Semerau**, the top vote-getter in the VOMPC Fall 2001 election and Treasurer for 2002, resigned her board post. Karen's was the shortest board term in recent club memory.

Karen stated in her resignation letter: "Unfortunately, being a board member in the current climate within our organization requires and deserves more time and energy than I can give right now."

Karen promised to remain involved as a club contributor and volunteer, as she has consistently done in the past. She looks forward to representing her club and her country with pride at the Women's World Championships later this year.

The board is currently considering a number of nominees for the position and is pressing forward with the club business at hand.

Editor's note: According to recent club records, the "current climate" in which the board finds itself has been characterized by a spate of complaints and accusations brought by two club members who are currently on probationary status. These items have dominated the board's time for months.

Charges have been levelled against the club president, the vice president, the club founder, the board of directors and other club volunteers.

Their grievances have also appeared in a long series of email messages to the pétanque community across the U.S., dating back to last summer.

In addition to persistent and intrusive phone calls, certain board members have been subjected to a threat of lawsuit by one of the probationers—this in response to the board's unanimous disciplinary decision, handed down in January.

From the President's Desk...

Trash Talk.

Years ago we generated no more garbage at the courts than what the city park crew could deal with. One year we held a



big event on a long weekend. That Monday another group's event left the receptacles overflowing. Ever since then we've been required by the City to deal with our own garbage collection. At first we had a dumpster for just the core season, now it's permanent.

What's in the dumpster? Ninety per cent is stuff for which each of us has curbside recycling pickup at home. Or stuff that has a cash value. Don't be fooled by the "recycle" logo on some of our oil-drums. NONE of it gets recycled, it ALL goes into the dumpster. VOMPC pays all year to have it emptied.

Take home your empties and put them with your recycling pickup. An empty wine bottle weighs less than half a full one. Beer six-pack carriers hold empties too. Don't worry, there'll probably still be plenty of trash to put in the dumpster; we end up with non-club debris from park visitors. But you'll feel better knowing that you're doing the right thing.

Later, we'll deal with the remainder. Who knows, maybe we can turn it into money for the club. If that happens, perhaps one day we'll be begging you to leave your junk at the courts. In the meantime, with your help—let's see if we can't make the dumpster seem like an anachronism.

'See you on the courts, FP

Feelin' Special?

Last year ten club members took part in a three-month coaching program for **Sonoma Valley Special Olympics Bocce Team**.

The VOMPC has been asked to do the same for April-June, 2002. It's an hour or so on Saturdays, and a great thing to be part of.

If you think you might have a few Saturday mornings free this spring, please contact **Frank Pipal** for more information.

A Reluctant Mascot: Gotta Name for Him?



Who could say he isn't beautiful? (Ahem.)

It seems that we are getting a little extra company at the courts these days. A finely feathered friend who has a penchant for boule bags, sweaters, backpacks and wasabe peanuts is taking a liking to the VOMPC.

He struts around as if he has a long term lease on the place and is not afraid to check you out for potential offerings which might come his way.

It looks like he's gonna be around for awhile, so we might serve him well by giving him a name.

Please send in your suggestions, attention to the Editor, or by email. A prize will be awarded to the winning entry. And, no, it won't be dinner at *Feathers*.

To Our Dear Friend Zino, Best Wishes from Us All



Charter member and long-time club contributor **Zino Mezzoui** (on the right, with Claude Berthoud) closed his restaurant last month. It had been a fixture of Plaza life and club lore for for many happy and successful years.

Zino has always been there for the VOMPC, hosting annual dinners and donating to club events and projects.

While we will all miss *Zino's Restaurant*, we hope to see more of Zino at the courts, now that his life takes a turn away from the long hours of a restaurateur.

The club wishes Zino the very best in his future pursuits and we look forward to more great things from a truly great and generous individual.

For all you've done for us, Zino, thanks so much!

HEADS UP!

If there is no star next to your name, you are one! *Thanks for your timely membership renewal.*

If there is star next to your name, **please send in your renewal right away**, or you will be dropped from the 2002 VOMPC roster.

Thank you!

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



Byron Mayo
880 Oak Lane
Sonoma, CA 95476

Your Handy **2002 Schedule of Events** Flyer is Enclosed

2002 Membership Ticker: 78