

## City Grants Lease to Club!

### Long Wait Ends: 10 Yrs.+10 Yr. Option—a Just Reward for VOMPC

(Apr 17) At a regular meeting of the Sonoma City Council, the VOMPC was granted a ten-year lease for the Henri Maysonnave Memorial Courts, with an option to extend it to 2022.

Councilman Ken Brown and Mayor Al Mazza steeped praise upon the club for its past and ongoing contributions to the City of Sonoma.

Prior to this, the club operated under a year-to-year

license which offered little security and required annual re-application. The new lease guarantees the VOMPC sole custodianship of the court areas.

Much thanks goes to all volunteers who, over many years, worked hard to make our club a community organization deserving of this honor.

*April 17, 2002: truly a great day in the annals the VOMPC. Congratulations, one and all!*

**CELEBRATE! THREE GREAT EVENTS COMING YOUR WAY—DON'T MISS 'EM!**

### Member/Newcomer Picnic and Tourney Chef Riffo Returns May 19

You know the drill (or do you?). Bring a guest (someone *new* to the game) to the courts for a light hearted tournament and luncheon feast.

First impressions are important and **Dave Riffo** will be at it again, pleasin' the crowd—& *by Jove, he knows how!*

The format is Select Doubles. If you have extra guests, make it known so that a clubber can help you host.

Tournament **sign-up closes at 10am sharp**. Entry fee is \$5 per player. Lunch is \$10 (\$3/\$5 for kids).

#### ~ LE MENU ~

Grilled Sausages, Grilled Chicken  
Spuds Riffo  
Garden Salad & Grilled Veggies  
Bread, Cheese & Fresh Fruit  
Glass of Wine

Proceeds from the lunch will benefit the Club. See you there!

### Second Annual Club Picnic—Roger, Zino, Gustave Set for June 2

Well, it was such a great idea LAST year that, in 2002, the Club Picnic returns in force, with a repeat performance by Chefs **Roger Poli** and **Zino Mezzoui** and *Special Guest Chef du Jour* **Gustave Foucher** of Sacramento.

On the menu is *Cous-Cous à la Roger*, a rich chicken stew served with Gustave's special lamb *merguez* sausage and appropriate sides, salad and dessert.

The order of the day is casual, so come about noon, have lunch and play some pick-up games with your friends. Guests pay only \$10.

Because this is a "free" event, hotline reservations will be necessary to partake in the luncheon. **Make your reservations no later than Thursday, May 30th. Et Bon Appétit!**

### Emperor Norton Handicap Tourney + Royal Picnic June 23

All year long he is our FPUSA President, but on this day **Mike Norton** is Lord Emperor of the VOMPC courts. He will reign supreme once again with a plethora of mandates and ingenious ways to level the playing field for all contestants who venture into his domain.

This will be the fourth running of this auspicious event—truly, one of the club's favorites. As usual, the Emperor and his minions will prepare a BBQ feast for all his loyal subjects. **Check the club hotline or bulletin board for the menu in early June.**

As usual, tournament **sign-up closes at 10am sharp**. Entry fee is \$5 per player. Lunch is \$10 (\$3/\$5 for kids).

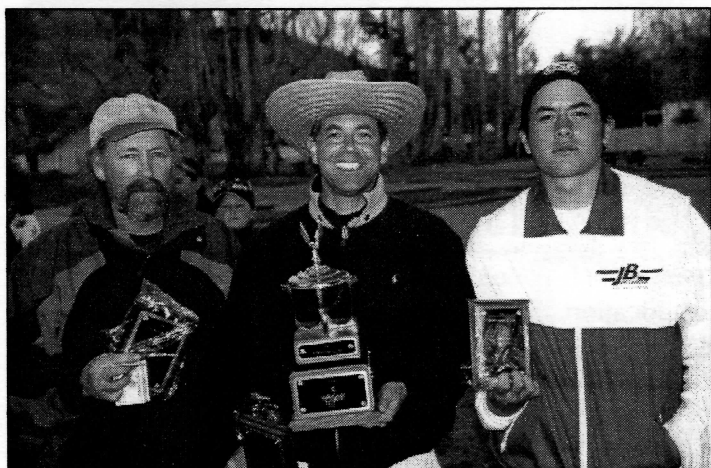
There will be lots of prizes and surprises—and a raffle at day's end.

*Don't missed this one! It's a blast!*

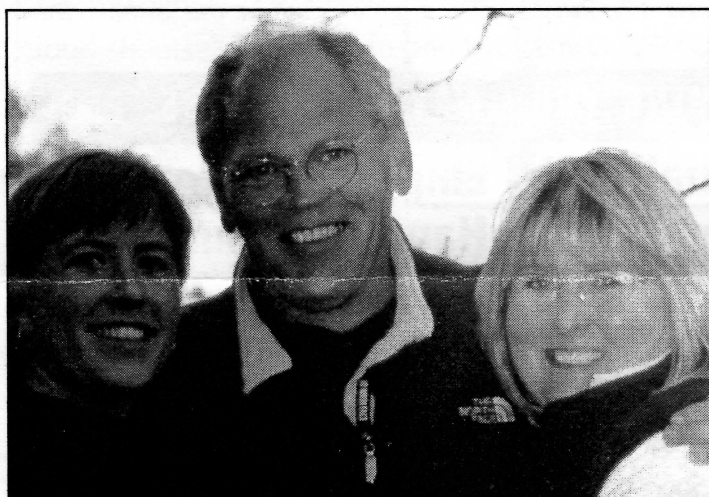
**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED BY THE THURSDAY PRIOR TO THESE EVENTS: 258-3450**

# Mallette, Mathis, Carter Take '02 Sonoma Cup!

## Consolante: Noonan, McT, Sirico Win, Junior Gals Finish 2nd



**Holdin' Da Cup:** Bill Carter, Peter Mathis, PJ Mallette



**Consolation Row:** Erin McTaggart, Tom Noonan, Teri Sirico

### © VOMPC 2002

**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

Tom Noonan, Treasurer

Director of Sport, Dave Ogaz

Directors at Large: Renato Sottile, Bart Zachofsky

(Mar 24) A sunny, brisk day made for *survival of the fittest* in the second running of the **Sonoma Cup Tournament**. This year's champions PJ Mallette (shooter), Peter Mathis (middle) and Bill Carter (pointer) found themselves on the upside of three 13-12 victories enroute to two decisive wins against formidable opponents in the semifinal and final matches.

As the team gathered strength, other contenders fell. In the Quaterfinal, the champs avenged their only loss of the day (8-13) with a 13-12 win over Pierre Smets, Michel Saga and Erika Schmidt.

In the Semifinal, years of experience and great skill were no help for eventual third place finishers Tino Lofaro, Patrick Vaslet and Louis Toulon. That trio scratched out a meager 5 points against the soon-to-be champs. And in the final, vintage VOM mainstays Mike Norton, Kenny Stieper and John Bouldt faired even worse, barely avoiding a 'fanny', 1-15.

Fourth place money went into the pockets of Ed Porto, Peter Wellington and Bart Zachofsky. Barely missing the Final Four were Barbara Hall, Holly Sammons and Karen Semerau. Those *Wonder Women* prevailed in their three morning games, including a big win over the defending champions, but were bested in the quarterfinals by Tino, Patrick and Toulon.

Tom Noonan, Erin McTaggart and Teri Sirico took the Consolante. But the surprise team of that bracket was Hallie Cohen, Sara Ogaz and Olivia Sammons. These up-and-coming juniors finished a strong second (*good goin' girls!*). Rounding out the consolante winners were the third-place-finishing "*Meech All-Stars*" of Marco Ilaria, Chris Irving (of Santa Cruz) and Ricky Bagel.

Thanks to **Frank Pipal** and **Barbara Hall** for organizing and running the show, and, of course, to our engraver-extraordinaire **Bart Zachofsky**, who crafted and donated the award plaques (as he did last year). At days' end, Bart took home his gift to the club, the perpetual trophy, but only to carve in the names of the winners—who will hold that coveted prize until next year.

*Due to the early release of this issue, the **Mixed Doubles Tournament** results from April 28th will be featured in the July/August edition. Thanks—The Editor*

## A Mascot Not to Be—Flew the Coop?

As of press time, the rooster who regularly visited our courts all winter has not been seen for a few months.

Hopefully he has found 'greener pastures' for his worldly pursuits.

Thanks to those who sent in their entries, but unfortunately the *name-that-rooster contest* is postponed indefinitely until he—or another like-ly candidate—shows up again.



# Work Party: 5 Trees + Lots of Cleanup

(Mar 30) Eighteen of the VOMPC's finest put in a hard day's work on the courts at our **Annual Work Party**.

The main task was planting "Jean" & "Jacques," two new trees on the south courts (donated by **John Bouldt** and **Jacques Mathieu**). Three other trees which were damaged over the winter were also replaced.

But, as you know, trees need water, so irrigation lines were laid below ground to accommodate our current and future watering needs.

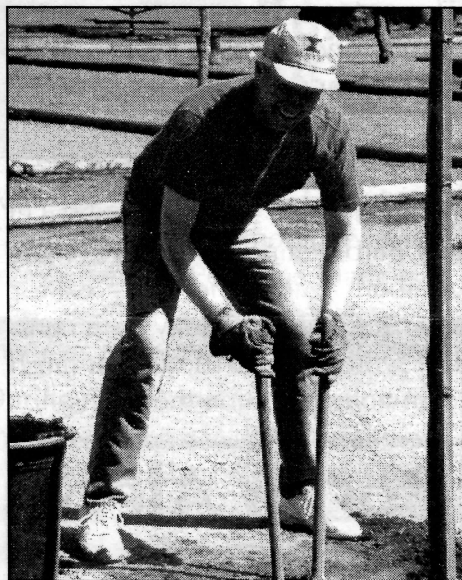


Jacques Mathieu starts to cut a trench for the irrigation lines.

The shed was prepped for re-painting and the courts were "edged." Then, the entire area was raked and cleaned up—with lots of T.L.C.

When the crew broke for lunch, Court Improvements Director **Bart Zachofsky** treated everyone to his trademark Kosher Hot Dogs and New York style onions.

Most of the crew stayed until early evening to finish things up—a full day and then some. *And the courts never looked better. Thank you all!*



Mike Norton happily digs in.

## 2002 Work Party Crew

John Bouldt

Pierre Joske

Barbara Hall

Jacques Mathieu

Peter Mathis

Byron Mayo

Erin McTaggart

Tom Noonan

Mike Norton

Frank Pipal

Ed Porto

Dave Riffo

Michel Saga

Erika Schmidt

Karen Semerau

Teri Sirico

Patrick Vaslet

Bart Zachofsky

## **Makin' Their Own Work Party—the Old Fashion Way!**

(Mar 12) After a windstorm and extensive trimming of the eucalyptus trees by a city contractor, our courts looked like a messy crime scene—right down to the plastic yellow warning tape which cordoned off the area.

Noticing this state of affairs, some good old club members took to the courts in short order for a pre-emptive strike, prior to our annual spring cleanup.

Founding members **Pierre Joske**,

and **John Bouldt**, President **Frank Pipal** and longtimer **Yves Casabonne** took care of the dirty business in about three hours time.

The crew filled Yve's dump truck and away to the landfill it went—full of bark, branches and leaves.

Thanks to these club stalwarts, our work party crew had more time for improvement projects and a righteous manicure of the courts.

*Great teamwork, Gentlemen. Thank you!*



Byron Mayo and Pierre Joske make ready a hole for one of the new trees.

## The Umpire's Corner . . .



**Q.** My opponent and I can't tell who has the point. It's that close. We call the arbitre. He comes over, checks the situation and points to my opponent's boule. "It looks like that one." Then he measures, but touches the jack and pushes it a bit toward my boule. "Sorry about that," he says, "but I already judged the other boule closer by eye. I give him the point."

*Tell me, Ump, is that fair? Do I have to stand for that kind of ruling?*

**A.** You may not think it's fair. But that's the way it is. Once the jack is moved, the arbitre can't measure the point accurately, even with calipers. He must call it as he saw it when he first viewed the situation.

### **Do you have a pétanque question?**

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

Answers are certified by FPUA Umpire Pierre Joske

## Special Olympics Bocce Program Off to a Great Start

(Apr 14) The VOMPC kicked off its 2002 Spring Training Program for the Sonoma Valley Special Olympics Bocce Team.

These folks are just fun to be around and a number of clubbers have volunteered to show 'em a great time at our courts.

If you're interested in being part of this rewarding program, please contact Prez Pipal or leave a message on the hotline. Playtime is Sunday mornings 10:30-11:30 AM until the end of June.

## Mathis/Sammons League Champs

The 2002 Winter Mixed Doubles League went the way of many recent VOMPC league seasons, as the division champions were eliminated in the playoffs.

First to be upended were *Banana Slugs* winners Tino Lofaro and Karen Semerau. The duo blew an 11-5 advantage over PJ Mallette and Barbara Hall and went down in the opening round quarterfinal, 11-13.

Then, *Mud Turtles* champs Bill Carter and Lisa Vaughan were stymied early and often by eventual champions Peter Mathis and Holly Sammons in a 13-4 semifinal.

The final match saw a determined PJ and Barb getting close but coming up short against the crafty exPrez and "Ice Queen" Holly Sammons. The score was 13-10, a great finish to a winter of fun on the courts.

## Bosko Alert!

Reliable rumor has it that long distance club members **Bob** and **Jane Bosko** of Couer d'Alene, Idaho will be arriving in Sonoma on or about June 15th for their customary summer visit.

*Bob & Jane, we're looking forward to seeing you!*

## ...got pictures?

*Hey!* If you happen to take any photos of your pétanquing buddies during events or around the courts, feel free to submit them to the *Pétanque Times* Editor.

All photos will be considered for publication and will be returned to you in short order. *Thanks!*

## on the road...



## ...with the VOMPC

(Mar 10) VOMPers made up about half the field at **La Pétanque Marinier's Annual Northern California Commemorative Cup** Mixed Doublette Tournament in San Rafael. Three of the four semifinalists in both the Concours and Consolante were VOM teams.

In the Concours final, Tino Lofaro and Barbara Hall had their way with Lisa Vaughan and Bill Carter, 13-4. In the Consolante, Erin McTaggart and Ed Porto, who had struggled all day, woke up in time for a 13-1 win in the final.

(Apr 7) Three VOMPC mixed triples teams finished in the top four in an amiable tournament host by **La Boule D'Or** in Golden Gate Park. Shannon Bowman, Patrick Vaslet and Bart Zachofsky took first place. Barbara Hall, Frank Pipal and Ed Porto finished a close second.

(Apr 7) Four clubbers travelled to compete in the LAPC's annual **San Pedro Select Triplette** (to play on three different teams!). Gerard Canabou's trio took 2nd place in a very tough field. PJ Mallette's squad was tops in the Consolante.

(Apr 21) VOMPC teams Karen Semerau/Patrick Vaslet, Tino Lofaro/Barbara Hall, Jean/Joss Krauer and PJ Mallette/Holly Sammons finished 1-2-3-4 in a Select Doubles Tourney hosted by **La Boule Joyeuse** in Menlo Park.



## VOMPC Board Notes

**03.05.02**

Treasurer's Report (Hall): Balance: \$6,542.

Special Olympics (Pipal): The program will begin in April and last for 3 months.

Soup and Petanque Tournament Report (Hall): BOD thanks Tom Noonan, Ed Porto and Barbara Hall for running the tournament.

City Restroom Key (Pipal): Bathroom keys to be in the possession of Pipal, Bill Carter, and one other person.

Board Position Vacancy (Pipal): T.Noonan, S.Bowman, E.Porto nominated. Election to vacant position tabled to April meeting.

Complaints' Status (Misuraca): Motion made (Sottile) to suspend all complaints currently under consideration. Discussion. No seconds. Executive Session to meet on 03.06 to handle the complaint items.

Bylaws Review (B.Mayo): Review is underway and will be ready for the October election.

Court Improvements (Zachofsky): spring work party date set for Mar.30; to include approved tree-planting and clean up tasks.

Calendar of Events: Pipal to check with the VOM Boy's and Girl's Club to get a kid's tournament scheduled in the summer.

Summer Leagues (Pipal): Call for League Directors. TBD at April meeting.

**04.02.02**

Treasurer's Report (Pipal): Balance: \$6199.

Sonoma Cup report (Pipal, Zachofsky).

Noonan approved for Treasurer's post.

City Report (Markson): Club's lease on City Council agenda for 04.17.02.

Summer League program approved.

Technique Clinics (Hall): to be organized by Hall and Noonan.

Apr/May/June event staff approved. Sottile to host Kids' Day; a date in August TBD.

City Restroom Key (Hall): key to be given to Tino Lofaro. Unanimously approved.

Code of Conduct status (Misuraca): written report on the special session of 03.06.02. All complaints were considered and dismissed. Probations remain in force.

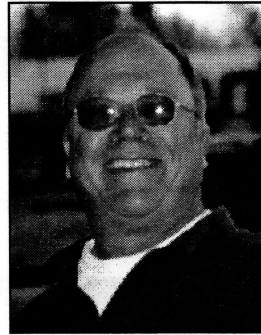
Proposal (Sottile): "Three strikes, you're out" for misbehavior. No seconds. No discussion.

Procedural Question (Sottile): regarding the volunteer court clean up of 03.12.02. Clarification given by Pipal.

## Noonan Joins Board Directors Vote in New Treasurer

At the April Board meeting, FPUSA umpire and club chef **Tom Noonan** was approved for the board position vacated in February. Tom will take on the Treasurer's office and looks forward to contributing regularly to club events and programs.

*Thanks for steppin' up, Tom!*



## LPM Honors Kenny Stieper

(Mar 10) At their Annual Northern California Commemorative Cup Tournament, La Pétanque Marinierie paid its due to longtime VOMPC member and supporter **Ken Stieper**.

During the awards presentation for the players, LPM President (and VOMPC member) **Christine Cragg** presented the two-time president with a plaque. Warm wishes were given to Ken by all in attendance.

## Welcome NEW MEMBERS!

Kristen Armstrong

Marc Armstrong

Moses Brown

Jim Kent

Joan Kent

Max Kurz

Wolfgang Kurz

Elizabeth Lemond

Ken Wagar

**Newsflash:** the VOMPC is featured in the May edition of *Sunset Magazine*!

## The Founders' Corner

**Editor's Note:** Recently I asked club founder **John Bouldt** to write a series of articles about the origins of our club. The intent is to reflect on the VOMPC's humble beginnings and the vision of those who started it all.

*Please enjoy! -Ed Porto*

One year after relocating to Sonoma with her husband John and family, French native **Annick Bouldt** re-established Sonoma's sister city relationship with Chambolle-Musigny. In the following year (1987), a 17-member delegation visited Sonoma, staying in private homes in the valley.

The Bouldts' houseguest brought a set of boules as a gift and they were immediately put to good use. At one evening BBQ in their guests' honor, local sister city club members brought their boules. Hosts **Joanne** and **Keith Filipello's** driveway became the piste.

That evening's experience was the genesis of the idea of creating a venue where folks could gather to play and socialize.

Early in 1988, Annick was tutoring French to the family of Ravenswood Winery owner **Joel Peterson**. At a social gathering John proposed that they all partner up and continue the previous year's inaugural **Bastille Day Grand Concours de Pétanque** hosted by the Filipello's at sponsor Gundlach-Bundschu Winery.

...and every year since then, the Bastille Day Grand Concours is one of the highlights of the VOMPC season.

*The next vignette will recall the efforts of the founders to establish the "Valley of the Moon Petanque Club" and begin a dialogue with county and city government, local businesses and service organizations in order to acquire sponsorship and land for petanque courts.*

# Pétanque: a Poem, and a Picture...

To the Editor's delight,  
**Hallie and Brendan Cohen**  
submitted these wonderful  
impressions of the game of  
pétanque to share with all  
club members. Thanks,  
kids. You're the greatest!

## Pétanque

by Brendan Cohen

Pétanque,  
a world of boules  
of wine

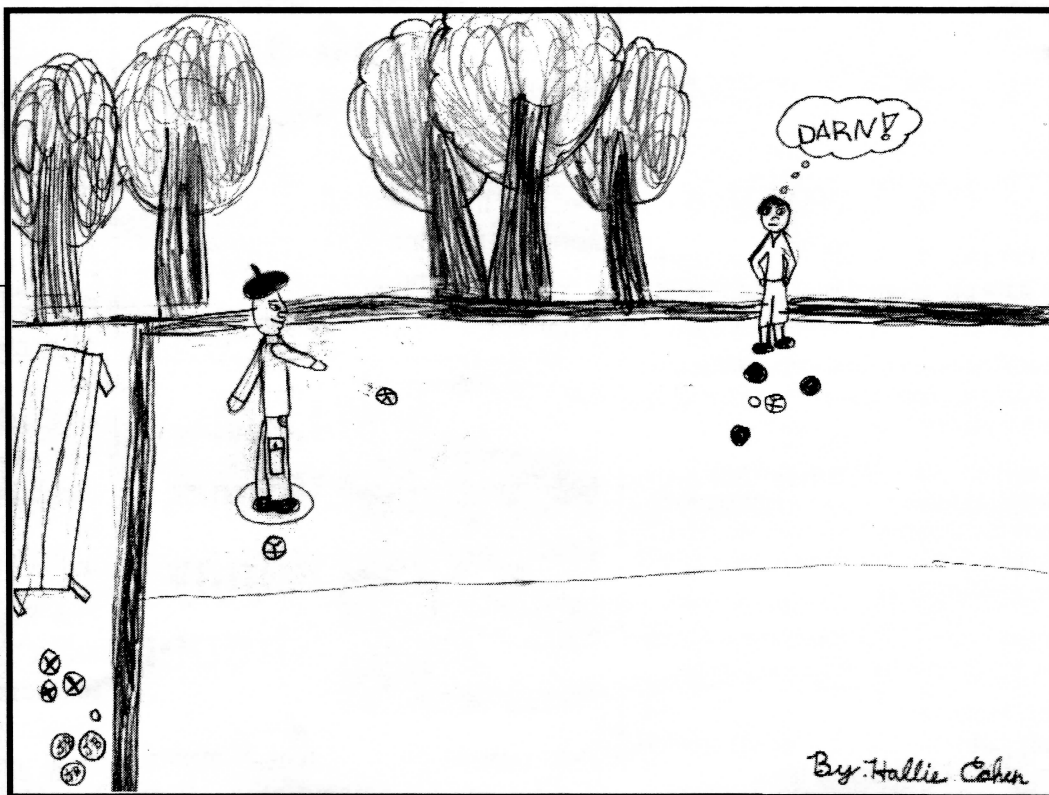
Loud laughs  
loud shouts  
a glass  
a boule  
the little one  
Pétanque

Where the field  
of sand  
You can see  
the concentration  
in the air  
Pétanque

A light toss, fun  
a force of concentration  
into a boule  
Pétanque

Where benches  
of wine  
stand alone  
rustling trees  
Pétanque

Where the thoughts  
you can walk through, are thick  
walk, in a fog  
of thoughts  
Pétanque



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

Byron Mayo  
880 Oak Lane  
Sonoma, CA 95476



*Check out the enclosed 2002 Summer Leagues  
Registration Forms. Three different league formats  
to choose from. Sign up soon!*

**2002 Membership Ticker: 104**