

PÉTANQUE TIMES

Vol. 9, No.6 NOV/DEC 2002

2003 Board Set-Bylaws Win Big!

Bouldt Elected Prez, Porto VP, Noonan Sec'y, Sammons Treasurer

VOMPC election results for the 2003 Board were tallied and announced at the **Annual Dinner and Meeting** at the Sonoma Barracks (see below). The updated bylaws breezed through with an approval of 67-17, a resounding vote of thanks to **Byron Mayo** and his committee for the hours of work they put in on the document.

For the second year in a row, the board election was competitive, with six candidates for four seats. Bringing new perspectives and enthusiasm to the board are **Holly Sammons** and **Teri Sirico**. Bringing years of experience in club affairs are former presidents **John Bouldt** and **Ed Porto**.

At its November 5th meeting the new board was seated and set about choosing officers. To the disappointment of some club members present, the board went in to a

private session for discussion and voting. In a follow-up open session on November 25th, the board re-confirmed all of its officers by a public vote.

John Bouldt was elected president and **Ed Porto** was elected for vice president. **Barbara Hall** stepped down from the Secretary's position but remains on the board as a director. **Holly Sammons** and **Tom Noonan** were elected treasurer and secretary, respectively.

A strong Board dedicated to improving the VOMPC's program is just one necessary element for the continuing success of our club. All club members are encouraged to get involved any way they can. Tournaments, work-parties, picnics, court-cleanup, committees: there are plenty of opportunities—just let a Board member know that you want to do your share and help.

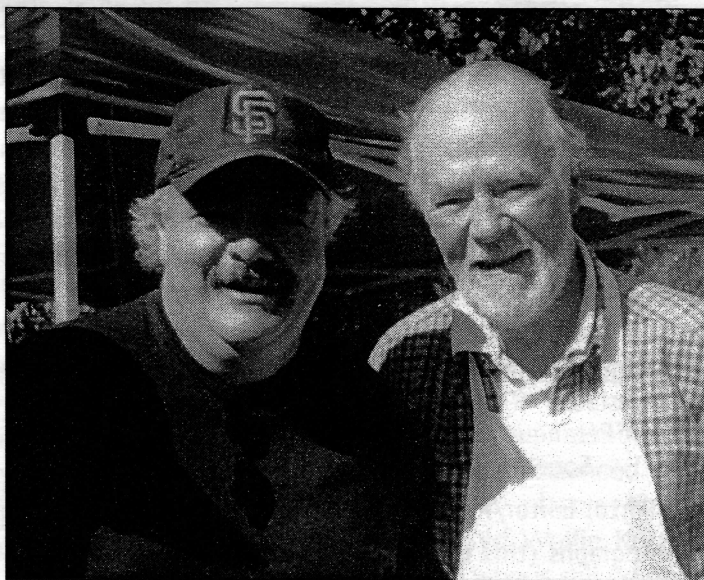
Members Convene for Annual Meeting & Dinner at Barracks

50+ Celebrate Another Great Year for Club; 'Meech & Mad Dog' Do It Again!

(Oct. 19) The VOMPC **Annual General Meeting and Banquet** returned to the old Sonoma Barracks as club members came together to take stock of their successes and wish the newly elected board well in the upcoming year. League and tourney winners and club contributors were also honored. And special recognition was given to PJ Mallette, Karen Semerau and others who represented the club and the USA at international tournaments.

Marco Ilaria and **Franklin Earl** served up a French country gourmet dinner, topped off with an exquisite chocolate mousse torte by the "Meech-stro" himself. Fine wines were donated by **Colleen Christiansen**, **Dave Rizzo**, **Dave Ogaz**, **Ravenswood**, and **Schug Winery**.

On the prep and service crew were the young **Erin Velez**, and California Culinary Academy students **Omar Torres** and **Jennifer Bouldt**. Women's league madonnas **Shannon Bowman**, **Holly Sammons** and **Karen Semerau** prepared the inviting table settings and helped "tear down" afterwards. And **Bart Zachofsky** and **Teri Sirico** were spotted doing their fair share as well



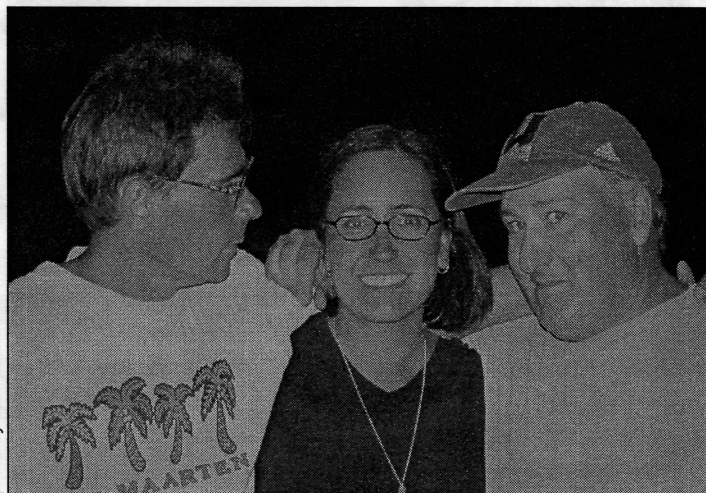
SUPER CHEFS! Seen here at last month's **Picnic & Panaché** (see page 4), **Meech & Mad Dog** finished the '02 season with a flurry. This duo has teamed up to prepare no less than seven club meals over the past two years. *Hats off to these guys for their tremendous efforts!*

A huge thanks goes to **Barbara Hall** and **Frank Pipal** who worked tirelessly in the weeks leading up to the event to plan, prepare and make sure that the 2002 Annual Dinner was a great success. And it truly was. *Good job, one and all!*

Bowman, Wellington, Porto Take Club Trophy



WINNERS: Ed Porto, Shannon Bowman, Peter Wellington.



Patrick, Vaslet, Barbara Hall and Tino Lofaro were runners-up.

(Sep 22) On a hot second day of autumn, fifty-one VOMPC members competed for the **Annual Club Championship** trophy. An additional twenty or so members and supporters turned up to partake of the bountiful luncheon, generously donated by **Jacques Mathieu**.

The surprise menu yielded a plethora of gourmet delights, including exquisite charcuterie and cheeses, champagne, filet mignon, garden fresh tomato salads, *ratatouille*, *couscous*, asparagus, premium wine provided by **Peter Wellington** and a deli-

cious chocolate *mousse* dessert prepared by **Elizabeth Lamond**. Diners ponied up their hard cash willingly for the delicious repast, knowing that their moneys were going to a worthy cause—the VOMPC facilities improvements fund.

All the great food and libations on hand did not detract from the competitive focus of the day, as tourney director **Bart Zachofsky** crafted a format to maximize play. The four qualifying rounds were completed in the late afternoon and a bit of creativity helped to insure that there was enough light to play the final match.

Of the seventeen teams in the field, eight finished at 3-1 or better. Going into the playoff, all eyes were on rising star Shannon Bowman and her team: middleman *extraordinaire* Peter Wellington and Ed Porto who was playing the shot. The trio was undefeated in the qualifying rounds, opening with two victories by fanny, and closing with a convincing 11-7 win over Peter Mathis, Karen Semerau and the always-dangerous Andrew Loi. They finished with a 4-0 record and a +33 point advantage.

Recent tournament and league history shows that early round success is no ticket to the championship.

Indeed, there has been a dearth of top seeded teams finishing as tournament winners this past two years. Shannon's team was mindful of this. They were surveying all their worthy opponents, taking stock of their strengths and their abilities to surprise.

Second seed was the 4-0 (+23) John and Joss Krauer with up-and-coming *tireur* Alain Gusella. John Bouldt, Hans Kurz and Teri Sirico were also poised for success with a 4-0 record, including some tough wins. Then, of course, there was PJ Mallette with seventy-year veteran Armand Squitieri and daughter, Monique. And no VOMPC playoff scenario would be complete without the presence of Tino the Great, and Patrick Vaslet who were teamed up with Barbara Hall (*trés formidable!*). The Willits bunch of Eldon Moilanen, Trevor Fisher and Suzanne Garcia were also in the mix. Rounding out the field were the local trios of "Ground Chuck" Fleming, Byron Mayo and the feisty Narin Garrett and Tom Bricca, Bill Carter and Lisa Vaughan.

In round one of the playoff, three one-sided matches brought forward the Krauers, the Squitieri's and

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Ed Porto, Editor/Publisher

Photographs (this issue): Ed Porto, Tom Noonan, Pascal Gravier

VOMPC 2003 Board of Directors

John Bouldt, President

Ed Porto, Vice President

Tom Noonan, Secretary

Holly Sammons, Treasurer

Directors: Barbara Hall, Frank Pipal, Teri Sirico

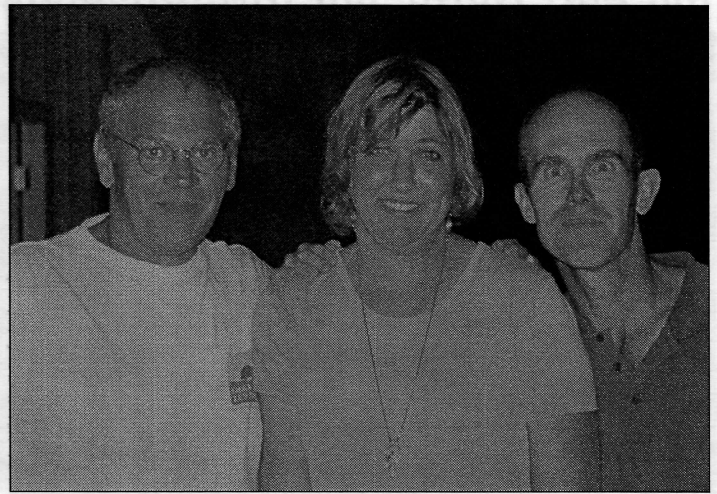
For more info, visit: www.sonomapetanque.com

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT

MaTerre Sponsors with a Festive Luncheon



Mathieu's crew put on a feast to remember.



Tom Noonan, Holly Sammons and Frank Pipal won the consolante.

Shannon and her men. Tino's squad had a tougher time, putting down JB & Company, 13-8.

The semifinals were competitive but resulted in decisive 13-7 wins for both Shannon's and Tino's teams. At 7pm, the final began and from the start it promised to be a battle royal. At 1-1, Barbara placed her ball four inches from the cochonnet at ten meters. Ed stepped in and threw his specialty—a *Hail Mary!*—knocking her boule out and sticking with a *palet* which left his boule resting on *le petit*. Then Tino delivered the equalizer, crashing both *boule et bouchon* out of bounds with a beautiful shot. (OK, next round!)

The ensuing rounds saw Peter's pointing prowess have its effect as his team built an 8-4 lead. But no pushovers were these opponents. In three rounds, Barbara, Patrick and Tino seemed to retake control, tying it up at 8-8.

By this time night had fallen, so **Tom Noonan** and **Frank Pipal** fetched and lit a dozen or so *tiki* torches to dimly illuminate the court. **John Krauer**, no stranger to late-running affairs, pulled up his late model sedan to the edge of the courts, providing the needed light to finish the long and grinding match.

And time was needed, to be

sure. Slow progress was made as Shannon's team nicked-and-dimed their opponents to the brink of defeat. Patrick insured the continuance of play a couple of times with some clutch shooting into the dark (after Tino had exhausted his ammo), obliterating the consistent points but suffering a few bad breaks.

In the final round, pointing was elusive with Peter's boule holding, one foot behind the cochonnet. With two balls left for Ed and her teammate Patrick holding his last one, Barbara delivered another one of her killer points, three inches from the *bouchon*. Her enjoyment was short-lived however, as that point was promptly shot away, with Peter's game winner resting safely on the ground. When the last boule went awry at 8:30 pm, the game was over, 15-9, for Shannon, Peter and Ed!

PJ's team wiped up for third place over Les Krauers and Msr. Gusella in a much quicker match. In the consolante, defending champions Tom Noonan, Frank Pipal and Holly Sammons took out their frustrations on their opponents, winning in come-from-behind fashion over Loi/Mathis/Semerou in their semifinal. They then took the final by storm, 13-5, over Gerard Canabou,

Erin McTaggart and Bart Zachofsky. Deanne Carr, Bill Miller and Tom Tetard took the consolante's third place with a spirited in-the-dark win over Loi, Mathis and Semerau.

A big thanks again to **Jacques Mathieu's** crew, including **Elizabeth Lamond**, **Bruce Frigard**, **Chuck Fleming**, **Ryan Tatarian**, **Rafael Echeveria**, **Tom Bricca** and **Lisa Vaughan**. The event coordinator was **Bart Zachofsky**. **Rob Zitzewitz**, **Glory Glover**, **Tom Noonan** and **Frank Pipal** helped with signup, accounting and running the show.

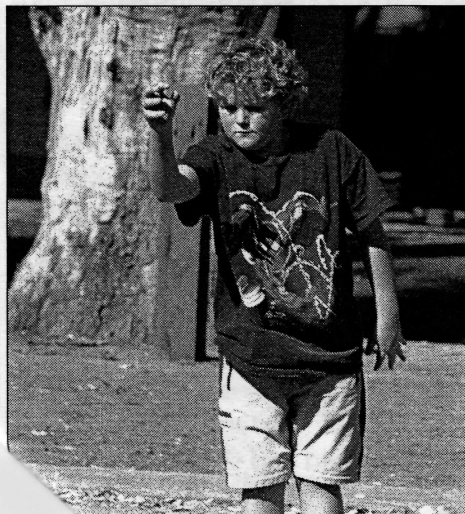
All in all, the **2002 VOMPC Club Championship** was a tribute to a great season. Good sportsmanship abounded. The mixed triples format reflected the makeup of our membership and helped create a balanced field of contestants. Our players ranged from eleven-year-old Wolfie Kurz to Armand Squitieri, who is still pointing away at the ripe young age of eighty-eight. Another tightly-played final was witnessed and applauded by a gracious *gallerie*. Great food was donated by our generous sponsor Jacques Mathieu of **MaTerre, International** and prepared and served by a willing crew of club volunteers. In addition, club coffers took in a sizeable amount of cash for future endeavors to benefit our club and community.

Panaché Draws from Far and Wide Mr. Earl Wows 'em with Choucroute Garnie!



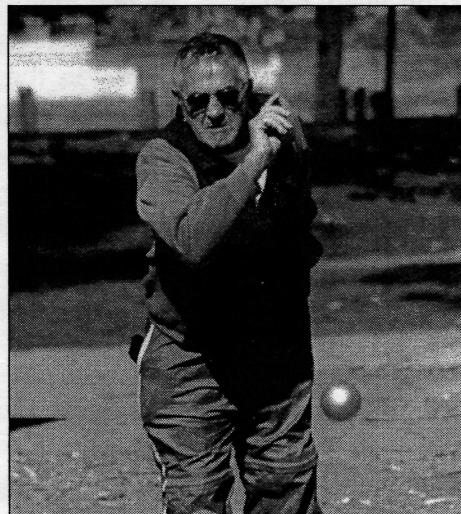
Multiple Winners: These happy folks enjoyed the top prizes, other prizes were drawn at random from the ample field of sixty-eight contestants.

(Oct. 26) The Annual **Season Finale Picnic & Panaché** drew nearly ninety people for lunch and/or play on the finest of mid-autumn days. **Franklin "Mad Dog" Earl** continued his run of crowd-pleasin' events with his inimitable Alsatian delight, *choucroute garnie*! **Luis Velez**, **Marco Ilaria**, **Dennis Fegundes** and **Pam Salza** also rolled up their sleeves to help out. **Frank Pipal** added to the delight with a delicious home-baked *strudel*.



Cohen was in the chase—until the
(*C'est la panaché, mon ami!*)

The competition was great fun, as newcomers mixed in with club members and many of our pétanque friends from Northern California who showed up in force, making for a reunion-type atmosphere. Kudos to **Dave Ogaz** for running the show and to **Lynn Woodward** who helped with registration and recording. All participants enjoyed a great ending to another fine season of pétanque!
See you all next year!



Andre Sanchou was in the chase as well. (but what it was he was chasin' is anyone's guess!)

Preston Sparkles for VOMPC & WBC Lofaro/Vaughan Win —finally for Willits!

(Nov. 2) A bright and balmy day at **Preston Winery** in the beautiful Dry Creek Valley of northern Sonoma County was the setting for the Annual **George Pipal Memorial Tournament** (a.k.a. "*The Willits Challenge*"). And the turnout was as spectacular as the weather.

The **Willits Boules Club**, headed up by their affable president (and longtime VOMPC member) **Eldon Moilanen**, fielded six doubles teams ("ringers" included!). The VOMPC put forth twelve mixed doubles teams. The result was a record turnout for this yearly event: thirty-six players!

All participants enjoyed a bountiful potluck lunch, fresh breads (hearth-baked on premises) and, of course, **Lou Preston's** fine wines.

The top teams faced off in lop-sided semifinals with Antonio Lofaro and Lisa Vaughan taking down Shannon Bowman and Patrick Vaslet and Gerard Canabou and Joss Krauer getting over on Eldon M. and Trevor Fisher. In the final match, Canabou/Krauer put up minimal resistance. Lofaro and Vaughan took the trophy, 13-4, and long over due for Willits!

Editor's Note: As of press time there was no photo available of the happy Willits winners, standing proudly and holding the most beautiful trophy in all of pétanque. But rest assured, their names will be added to the long list of champions which graces its precious pedestal.

Also—heard tell that at the victory parade through downtown Willits, chants of "*Moilanen for Mayor*" rose from the throngs of revellers.

S U M M E R L E A G U E S W R A P U P

PJ Takes 3rd Straight Singles League Title! Mathis Runner-up Again

(Sep 7) Four finalists met for an afternoon showdown to determine who would hold the coveted **Summer Singles League** trophy until 2003. During the prior week the quarterfinals were held. Bill Carter had bested Frank Pipal in two out of three games; same for Ed Porto and Peter Mathis who managed close wins over Karen Semerau and *wildcard* Holly Sammons, respectively. PJ Mallette swept the other *wildcard* Patrick Sammons, 13-3, 13-10.

Tight games were not particularly characteristic of this "*Super Boule Saturday*," as the single league play-off day has come to be called. In one semifinal, Ed Porto got spanked by Peter Mathis, 13-5, 13-3. In the other, Bill Carter managed a victory against his young opponent, but PJ won decisively in the third game.

The stage was set for a good final between the division winners and the first game was a beauty. PJ closed it out with a three-point final round, 13-9. The second game PJ drove it home for the title, 13-4, over his worthy opponent.

Carter and Porto played for third place. Carter jumped ahead in both games, 10-3 and 8-2, but failed to hang on. Porto won the match in two straight, 13-12, 13-9.

Fifteen players participated this year in Summer League Singles. **Peter Wellington** was at the helm at his first run as league director. *And what a fine job he did!* Thanks to Peter and all who played for a great season.

And congratulations once again to PJ Mallette, Grand Champion!

Tino/Gerard Underdogs But Take Doubles Title! Third-Place Veteran Pair Comes on Strong in Playoff

(Sep 14-15) After a grueling season for the eighteen contestants, the top three teams plus a *wildcard* entry of Peter Wellington and Steve Sterbentz entered the playoff. Peter Mathis and Holly Sammons took the regular season title by virtue of a head-to-head tiebreaker over PJ Mallette and Barbara Hall. Tino Lofaro and Gerard Canabou squeaked into third place on the season's final day when spoilers Frank Pipal and Byron Mayo defeated Bill Carter and Jacques Mathieu in two out of three games (after dropping the first one 3-13!).

Both semifinals were long drawn out—and well played—affairs, pushing the final match to the following day (due to darkness). But there wasn't much to wait for! Tino and Gerard delivered Peter and Holly two crushing defeats, 13-4, 13-1, before the front runners got out of the chocks.

With underdog champions and a good turnout, the Summer Doubles League was a great success. Thanks to **Peter Mathis** for coordinating and *congrats to the Grand Champions, Tino and Gerard!*

Mixed Doubles League Scheduled for Winter

The popular Winter Mixed Doubles League will return to the courts this January, with play running through March. Participants must have a valid 2003 VOMPC membership.

Watch your mailbox for an info-flyer or contact your local board members for more details.

on the road...



...with the VOMPC

VOMPers Play in WCQT Alec & 'Da Weas' 2nd Again!

(Oct. 12-13) Two all-VOM teams competed in the **World Championship Qualification Tournament** in Sarasota, Florida. The team of Barbara Hall, Karen Semerau and Patrick Vaslet got as far as the quarter finals, losing a close match to PJ Mallette and Alec Stone who were teamed up with Christian Triay of the LAPC.

Mike Norton, Frank Pipal and Tom Noonan made the top sixteen. PJ & Alec's team played tough and came in second place overall, repeating their standing at last year's event in Sonoma. Gerard Canabou and Louis Toulon also completed on a mixed-club teams, with Gerard's taking third place. *Congratulations to all of our players for representing the VOMPC so well.*

(Oct. 6) VOMPers were all over the courts at **Lamorinda's Mixed Triplette Tournament** in Lafayette. Antonio Lofaro, Karen Semerau and Patrick Vaslet prevailed in the final over tino Lofaro, Tom Bricca and Eva Lofaro. John Krauer and Edmond and Yvette Ghione of **La Boule d'Or** (San Francisco) took third place. Frank Pipal, Shannon Bowman and Didier Barbetti finished first in the consolante.

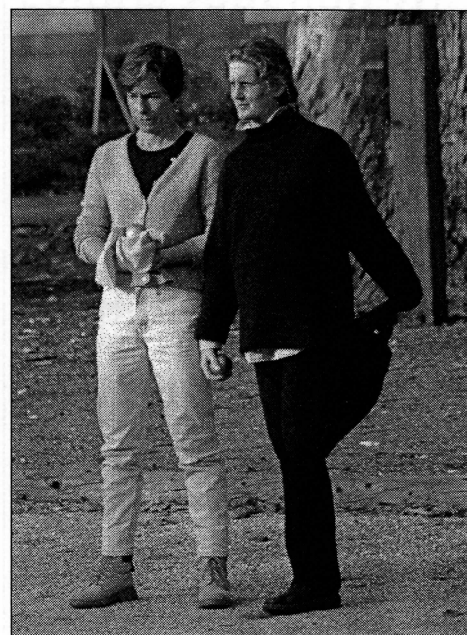
VOMPC Featured in France Magazine!

The VOMPC was featured in a 4-page, photo-studded article in the October edition of **France Magazine**, a British publication which covers French culture and travel.

SPECIAL WOMEN'S LEAGUES REPORT

It's Schmitt/Semerau Again! 2nd Consecutive League Title

Sammons/Hall Comeback Stalls in Nite Court Nail-Biter



It was all smiles after lunch—and throughout the day—for all the happy leaguers.

Erika Schmitt keeps loose in the semifinal.

(Nov. 16) In what is one of the great success stories for the VOMPC in recent years, the **2002 Fall Women's Doubles League** completed its third successful season with spirited play, good sportsmanship, a great final match and a lovely potluck luncheon for participants and their guests.

Under the direction of **Barbara Hall**, ten teams signed up for the rigorous nine-game schedule. As was the case last year, Barbara and partner Holly Sammons rolled into the playoff as the front runners, but there were many upsets and surprises along the way, including the junior team of Hallie Cohen and Olivia Sammons who made it to the concours!

The playoffs began with the top four teams advancing. One semifinal went quickly, a 13-11 win for Hall/Sammons over Eva Lofaro and Joss Krauer. The other semifinal dragged on for two hours as defending champs Erika Schmitt and Karen Semerau turned back a good effort by Shannon Bowman and Lisa Vaughan, 13-6.

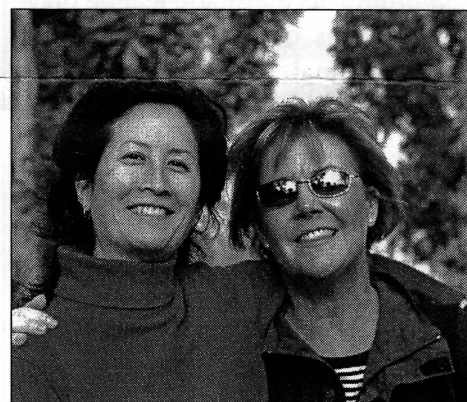
The final match began on the north courts. As darkness descended on that late afternoon, the game was moved to "nite court" with Semerau/Schmitt leading 7-3—and the ample-sized *gallerie* moved with it!

At the new venue, Hall/Sammons fell further behind, 3-11 before scoring five, then three points in successive rounds for an 11-11 tie.

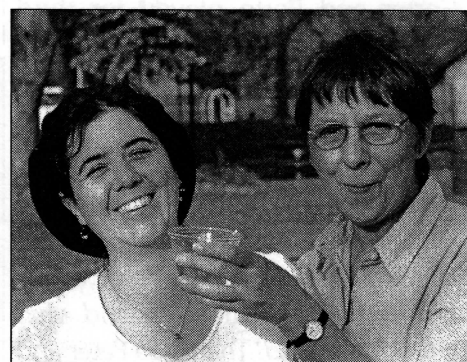
Barbara then gambled, placing the jack in a difficult pointing area. After a good first ball by Holly, Erika placed her third boule directly in front of the jack. It held up for the remaining five boules and Karen tapped it with her second boule for the game winner, 13-11!

The consolante also went down to the wire, as first-time leaguers Deanne Carr and Toni Mallette prevailed 13-12 over Erin McTaggart and Glory Glover.

Congratulations to Grand Champions Erika Schmitt and Karen Semerau and to all our Women's Leaguers for another tremendous season!



Consolante winners Toni Mallette and Deanne Carr were pleased with their first league season playing together.



Colleen Christiansen and partner Elizabeth Ogaz relax and unwind after their well-played quarterfinal game. The duo upset a few teams en route to the playoffs.

FALL LEAGUES STANDINGS

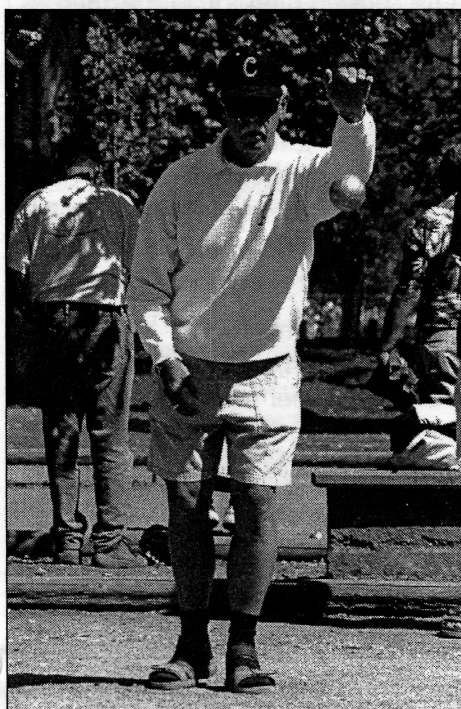
Women's Doubles League Final Standings

| | |
|------------------------------------|------|
| Shannon Bowman/Lisa Vaughan | 8-1* |
| Holly Sammons/Barbara Hall | 8-1 |
| Erika Schmitt/Karen Semerau | 6-3 |
| Eva Lofaro/Joss Krauer | 5-4 |
| Hallie Cohen/Olivia Sammons | 4-5 |
| Elizabeth Ogaz/Colleen Christensen | 3-5* |
| Erin McTaggart/Glory Glover | 3-5 |
| Toni Mallette/Deanne Carr | 3-6 |
| Narin Garrett/Elizabeth Lamond | 2-5 |
| Edith Nazworthy/Diane Juen | 1-8 |

*held tiebreaker**

New Member/Veteran League Final Standings

| | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Elizabeth Lamond/PJ Mallette | 5-0 |
| Gerry Haney/Karen Semerau | 5-1 |
| Colleen Christensen/Ed Porto | 3-2 |
| Deanne Carr/Tom Noonan | 3-3 |
| Wolfie Kurz/Hans Kurz | 1-4 |
| Edith Nazworthy/Diane Juen | 1-5 |



"Jugular Gerry" Haney honed his skills in the New Member/Veteran League.

FALL 2002 NEW MEMBER/VETERAN LEAGUE REPORT

New/Vet League Ends on High Note

Zachofsky/Sirico Delight the Crowd, Noonan/Carr Win!



photo by Pascal Gravier

It was a festive day at the courts for all the players and all who attended!

(Nov 23) The third running of the **New Member/Veteran League** held its playoffs on a sunny afternoon. League directors **Bart Zachofsky** and **Teri Sirico** arranged for a beautiful potluck lunch featuring, among other delights, garlic soup, fried *accra* (a specialty from the French West Indies), chocolate *mousse* and homemade wine.

There was no shortage of good play as Bart pulled a few rabbits out of his hat to keep things lively: 17-point games for the concours semi-finals and final and a single 21-point game for the consolante.

Matched up by random draw, the semifinalists played hard with Tom Noonan and Deanne Carr emerging victorious over Ed Porto and Colleen Christiansen, 17-13. In the other, Frank Pipal (substituting for PJ Mallette who was working his part time job) and Elizabeth Lamond reigned supreme over Karen Semerau and Gerry Haney, advancing in PJ's absence, 17-7.

The final was also well-played with



Young veteran PJ Mallette gave his all for partner Elizabeth Lamond in the final.

PJ entering the game. It was nip and tuck until Deanne took the bouchon back for the game-winner, 17-10.

Porto/Christiansen finished strong, winning 17-6 for third place. And in the consolante Hans and Wolfie Kurz prevailed in the marathon, 21-14.

At day's end, a plethora of prizes (including some premium wines generously donated by our friends at **Schug Winery**) were handed out by Teri. Everyone came away with a little something and some good memories from a wonderful season.

The Umpire's Corner . . .



Q. In a tight game, our last boule is very close. We measure. It beats our opponent's by just a millimeter. We declare the game over. We win.

Our opponents then insist on measuring, too. But during the measurement, their man bumps our boule. He says, "Oh, it doesn't make any difference, it rolled right back to where it was." He finishes measuring and declares that his team has the point by a millimeter.

We measure again. Guess what? Their boule is now closer by a millimeter!

I object, saying, "The round was over and we won before the boule was bumped. You can't measure a boule after it's been moved." They say, "You obviously don't know the rules."

Can you straighten out this mess, Ump?

A. More than one issue is involved here.

After making your measurement, you had no right to "declare the game over" without agreement from the other team on the outcome of the measurement.

The other team had every right to measure the outcome themselves.

If, however, the other team accidentally moved one of the boules during their measurement, then they should have lost the point.

So in the end, it should have been your team's point. In an important game with an extremely tight measurement to be made, both teams should have insisted upon calling for an arbitre's ruling. That would have avoided the conflict in this "messy" situation.

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

A Sport, Pétanque

a poem by Brendan Cohen

Pétanque, more than a sport
tennis, light ball, action
pétanque, heavy boule,
concentration

The eyes of the boule
both hands
for wine, for boule

Eye as keen
arm as strong
mind over matter

For a boule, for a wine
for mind
a scrap, a scratch
no mercy

For a kid
admire
learn, teach, create

A circle
puts mind over matter

Pétanque is silly
pétanque is stupid,
say people

Shocked with a boule
can not speak
do not say what
you, don't know,
say boulists

For
Pétanque
is not a sport
more



Chuck Fleming will give granddaughter Logan a few years grace period before her pétanque lessons begin!

Trip to 'Ground Zero'

On a recent trip to the East Coast, I took the opportunity to visit the site of what used to be the World Trade Center. My motivation was partly curiosity and partly reverence, piqued by a sense of pride that our club had contributed to the disaster relief funds last year.

Upon seeing the vastness of the cavity which had been opened into the heart of the great city, I was shocked at the proportions of the vacant area. When I turned the corner of a narrow street, there lay a fenced-off urban wasteland. A huge pit, peppered with construction apparatus, was surrounded by humbler—but spared—buildings, now exposed by the absence of the fallen behemoths.

As I approached the cage-like galvanized fence, I noticed a marked difference in the people who were passing by, or stopping at, the various points on the long frontage. Their gait was slower. Their gaze was deeper. That New York brashness was softened by what was before us all.

At one point along the fence, there is a list, posted high, of all the "heroes" (they are not referred to as victims). That hit me square in the throat. Whatever the reasons I may have had for going there were completely replaced by the magnitude of so many tragedies represented by that list of names. The world seemed to stop right there on Church Street.

Eventually, I made my way to the Trinity Church, a tiny 17th Century wooden chapel which miraculously survived that day, just across the street. All along the wrought iron churchyard fence, were t-shirts draped layer-upon-layer from fire and police departments, communities and organizations from across the nation and around the world.

Let's get a club shirt on that fence, folks—from all of us, to all those heroes—the next time someone goes.

—Ed Porto

VOMPC Board Notes

09.03.02

Treasurer's Report: current balance \$6,212.

FPUSA event bids (Pipal): Hall motions/Misuraca seconds for the VOMPC to bid for Women's Qualifiers, Western Singles, NW Regionals. Unanimously approved.

MaTerre (Pipal): a committee is to meet with Mathieu to come to an understanding of the details of sponsorship.

Annual Dinner (Hall): M.Illaria's menu submitted, \$30/person. \$500 advance approved.

Nominations (Hall): nominees in acceptance: R.Sottile, T.Sirico, H.Sammons, PJ Mallette. Pending: K.Semerau, T.Bricca, B.Carter, E.McTaggart. Regarding juniors running for office: currently eligible, ineligible to serve under future bylaws.

Policy & Procedures Committee (Pipal): John Bouldt, Frank Pipal and one TBD.

Fall Leagues: Plans are underway.

Letter of Reprimand (Sottile): Ogaz distributed a drafted letter. Board meets in private session (dismissed, no action taken).

Club Championship: Zachofsky to be the Tournament Director. MaTerre details TBD.

T.Bricca submitted a proposed motion as an objection to the bylaws revision. As an accommodation, the objection and a rebuttal will be on the ballot. Unanimously approved.

Sottile asked that all Board members adopt a personal policy of not discussing "club politics" at the courts. No discussion.

10.01.02

Treasurer's Report: Current balance: \$6,990.

Club Championship (Zachofsky): Event raised \$660 for Capital Improvements Fund. Thanks to MaTerre for lunch donation.

FPUSA nominations (Pipal): Club members can send their nominations to local FPUSA counselor by November.

Nominations Committee (Pipal): 6 nominees approved: J.Bouldt, B.Carter, PJ.Mallette, E.Porto, H.Sammons, T.Sirico. Issue of eligibility brought by Pipal (discussion, no action).

Fall Leagues (Hall/Zachofsky): 10 teams in Women's Doubles, 8 teams in New/Vet.



From Our Outgoing President

Thank you all for the overwhelming support that I received in the past two years as President.

There were some great successes on my watch and all of them involved a group effort. There were also some trying times when many of you offered the encouragement necessary to stay the course.

The new President and Board will need your support and encouragement just as I did. Be sure to give them your feedback and ideas for great petanque in 2003.

—Frank Pipal (pronounced "people")

"Salute" Funds in the Bank!

The **Salute to the Arts** fund raiser, in which many VOMPers participated this past July, netted **\$1,395** for the club. It was a fun time and a great way to get involved with the local community—as well as raise money for future club projects!

Special thanks again to John Bouldt for coordinating the effort.

Thank You, Christian!

(Nov 9-10) Wet and windy weather did not deter twenty-odd VOMPers from turning out for a **Technique Clinic** offered by our gentleman friend, **Christian Triay** of the LAPC.

A participant in the recent FIPJP Senior World Championship, Christian shared his insights and experience with players of skill levels.

The Technique Clinics program was initiated this year by **Barbara Hall** and was a great success. A big thanks goes to Barbara as well as the other volunteer coaches, **Tom Noonan**, **Peter Mathis** and **Frank Pipal**.

The Founders' Corner

by John Bouldt

Following the successful second annual **Grand Concours de Petanque** and **Salute to the Arts** petanque exhibition in 1988, **John Kimble**, **Pierre Joske** and I began a two-year quest for a suitable location to gather the handful of local pétanquers.

Using the **French Sisters Cities** organization as our banner, **Annick** and I approached the **Sonoma Community Center** via the 1989 Sister's Cities president, **Ken Brown**. Negotiations for a 60 ft. by 60 ft. piece of undeveloped land behind the Center were thwarted because we lacked the million-dollar liability insurance required.

That same year, Pierre Joske approached the **Sonoma County Parks and Recreation Department**, requesting use of an open field in the yet-to-be-developed area of **Maxwell Regional Park**. While they deliberated on the possibility, the pétanque pioneers would gather to play regularly at that location and at a gravel parking lot behind the **Winemaker Restaurant**. Eventually, the county rejected our request, again due to lack of insurance.

Early in 1990, Pierre Joske and I were discussing the problem we were having in our attempt to acquire insurance via our Sister Cities organization. He suggested that we consider forming an affiliation with the **FPUSA** thereby affording us the required liability insurance. I approached fellow Sister Cities member and Vice-Mayor **Ken McTaggart** with the proposal. He offered to help us acquire temporary use of some vacant land in **Depot Park** that had been willed to the city by **Sonoma Alcalde, Henri Maysonnave**.

In the next segment John will reveal how the VOMPC was established and how it negotiated with the city government for the vacant, undeveloped land which eventually became our courts...

Welcome NEW MEMBERS!

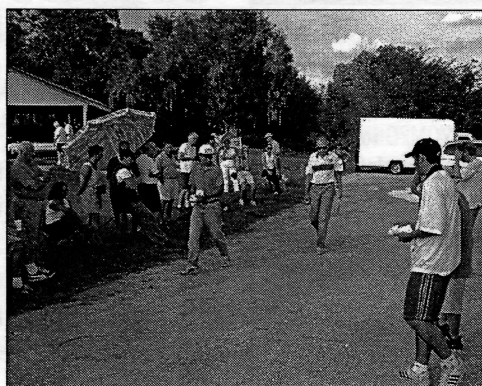
Fritz Fuller
Andrew Loi

Pétanque Tales from the Caribbean and Florida

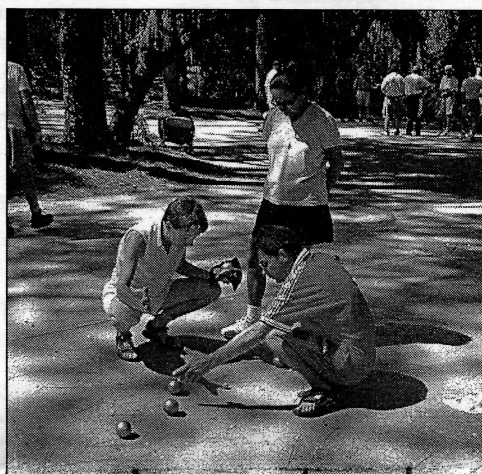


VOMPers sow seeds of new club in tropical paradise.

Frank Pipal presents Chief Garnette Joseph with boules to take home to the Carib Reserve in the island nation of Dominica. Tom Noonan and Frank scoured the shops of St.Pierre, Martinique to find enough to equip a complete game. Then just before the Carib delegation of 30+1 left to catch their ferry, they were able to give the elders a crash-course in pétanque. Since then, E-mail correspondence with Dr. Charles Corbette, Dominica's Minister for Carib Affairs confirms the game has taken off and that a club is being formed. Thanks to Tom and Frank, contacts with Martiniquan boulistes have been established and more balls have been sent for.



photos this page by Tom Noonan



At the WCQT in Sarasota, a sizeable crowd stuck around to watch PJ Mallette, Alec Stone and Christian Triay (of the LAPC) take on a strong team of East Coasters.

Karen Semerau, Barbara Hall (standing) and Patrick Vaslet discuss team strategy in a late-round match.

(See page 5 for details.)

Pétanque Times To Go Quarterly Next Issue: February '03

Starting with the next edition, your club newsletter will become a quarterly publication, with February, May, August and November issues.

This schedule synchs up nicely with important milestones on the club calendar (event schedule, elections, league seasons) and will allow for a bit more time between printing deadlines.

All the VOMPC news will still come your way in the familiar format which has been successful over the years, with special flyers and inserts as needed.

So stay tuned, Happy Holidays and see you in February!

Valley of the Moon
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Sonoma CA 95476

Byron Mayo
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Sonoma, CA 95476

NOTICE: Because the next newsletter will be issued in February of next year, your **2003 VOMPC/FPUSA Membership Renewal Form** is enclosed.

Please send in your renewal as soon as you can—Thanks!

Final 2002 Membership Count: 158

