

KENT PETANQUE ASSOCIATION

GAZETTE

ISSUE No.87 SEPTEMBER 2013





MORTEN Per LAURSEN & MORTEN JUNGE Standing, and DIDIER CHOUPAY & PASCAL VERBREQUE

The World and his Aunt turned out in the sun on Monday 26th August, at the MEADOW OPEN DOUBLES competition at STAR MEADOW SPORTS CLUB in Gillingham. Most of us cannot remember such a gathering of talented petangue players at a competition in Kent for a long while! The total turnout was 51 teams, 102 playersall to play on 18 pistes expertly arranged by competition organiser MARK COOTER. A great atmosphere, great venue with a beer tent and a bar-bque local to the pistes. There was some "hangingabout" due to the number of teams.....which did not seem to cause any problems as there was some very good games to watch on a glorious sunny day. The preliminary games in the morning were played to eleven points, and three separate knockout competitions arranged for the afternoon. This was a big money day....£240 winner of the Main, £120 runner -up of the Main and £60 for the semi-finalist of the Main. £50 winner of the Plate and £30 for the runner-up of the Plate. £25 winner of the Consolage and £15 for the runner-up. A total of £600 in prize money.

MEADOW R.C. OPEN DOUBLES

A report by MARK COOTER

In agreement with the organiser of the London Doubles this year saw a change of date for the Meadow

Doubles to the August Bank Holiday Monday. The agreement was a win/win as both tournaments over the weekend saw bigger attendances than previous years. Indeed the turn-out of 51 teams at the Meadow was one of the best for a club event in Kent in many years. Event organiser, Mark Cooter, reminisced that it reminded him of competitions at the Fleet Tavern and the Wheatsheaf back in the early 80's when events would attract similar attendances on a regular basis. The 'international' element included 13 players that came over from France, 5 from Denmark, 2 from Hungary and 4 from Wales. Sadly a Spanish team who booked in could not make it but also in attendance were the usual array of UK based French, Algerian and Italian players. Teams also travelled from all over the UK including: Yorkshire, Bristol, Berkshire, Essex, Hampshire, East & West Sussex, Norfolk and London as well as from all over Kent. The star attraction was the inclusion of 5 times World Champion and 4 times Champion of France – Didier Choupay, and his playing partner Pascal Verbreque (Danish National Coach). Despite stringing out a couple of extra pistes and playing the 'morning' league games up to 11 points the leagues still took some time to complete but when they were over the teams were divided into three knockout competitions based on their finishing positions.

The early rounds of the main competition went according to form with France 1, Denmark 1 & 2, Wales 1 and England 1 all winning through to the quarter finals along with three more English pairings: Keith and Gary Atkinson, Tracy Turner & Lee Edgar and Sarah Huntley & Chris Peel.

France 1, Denmark 1, Denmark 2 and the Atkinsons all won through to the semi-finals with Denmark 2 and France 1 progressing to the final after two fairly one-sided semi-finals. An engrossing attacking final saw France (Didier & Pascsal) go into a 4-0 lead before the Danes (Morten Per Laursen & Morten Junge) took a 3 and then an excellent 6 to lead 4-9 before France fought back to win the final 13-9. In a generous sporting gesture Didier and Pascal split their winning prize money with the runners up, so each pair left with £180 each. The plate final between Chris Watkins & Didier Chassot and Herve Bavazzano & Rachid Hannach was not held as Didier needed to get his connection back to France. The finalists agreed to split the prizes but Chris & Didier won the toss to formerly claim the title. The Consolage competition was won by Max Boyce & Martin Wilsher beating Fay & Steve Golder in the final. All of the £600 entry fees were returned in cash prizes.



MAX BOYCE and MARTIN WILSHER



CHRIS WATKINS and DIDIER CHASSOT

KPA GAZETTE





the DENMARK CONNECTIO

MARK COOTER explains the association between MEADOW P.C. and players from Denmark

The Denmark connection started a little before my time with the club. It came about when the Boule Hedebo club played at the Plough & Chequers in the European Cup in 2007. In those days the competition was 'head to head' i.e. just one club playing another. It was the convention for the home club to assist their guests with accommodation and food/entertainment. A friendship was struck up between the players and invitations were received for some members of the Plough to attend their open competition in Denmark and the reciprocal arrangement has gone on ever since.

AND THE MEADOW DOUBLES RESULTS

MAIN COMPETITION

Winners....DIDIER CHOUPAY & PASCAL VERBREQUE (Star Masters Club Paris) Runners Up....MORTEN Per LAURSEN & MORTEN JUNGE (Denmark) Semi-Finalists..CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN-NEILSEN & MORTEN SAXILD-HANSEN (Denmark) PLATE COMPETITION

Joint Winners......CHRIS WATKINS & DIDIER CHASSOT (Lordswood /France) ANGIE JAMIESON & LEE JAMIESON (Meadow)

CONSOLAGE COMPETITION

Winners......MAX BOYCE & MARTIN WILSHIRE (Meadow/Brown Jug)

Runners Up......FAY GOLDER & STEVE GOLDER (Railway)

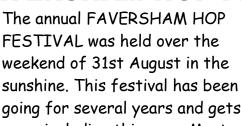


This particular three won nothing! But had a good day in the sun! Mike Cubbit. Mags Yates and Josie Elvin

"times up"

There is a rule....somewhere no doubt....regarding time between throwing boule, in a match. There is no doubt that some teams and players deliberately play time delaying tactics....and there is no doubt that some players feel the need to pace out the distance between circle and cochonet at "irregular" paces prior to throwing a boule! All well and good....except when you are playing in a match on a Wednesday night at a time approaching eleven oclock, and you have a half hour journey, or more home......maybe time should relate to common sense...or the lack of it!

Coustic Stage FAVERSHAM HOP FESTIVAL





going for several years and gets better by the year, including this year. Most streets closed to traffic with stalls and small shops selling a variety of goods, and food. Pubs with thirsty drinkers spilling outside to mingle with the Morris Dancers and live music.....as much live music as you can "shake-a-stick-at" playing at some separate eight locations around the town, either close to pubs or in pub gardens. The

standard of the musicians, top rate, and because they play outside there is no particular reasons for not getting the best volume from their amplifiers. Faversham....home of "SHEPHERD NEAME" had an event stage and huge beer tent located outside their show pub. A great weekend...... *Ideal event for a Petangue Competition!*



old men and the sea"

As Earnest Hemmingway once wrote !......in their present day form they are the loosing semi-finalists at the E.P.A. Over 50's Doubles Championship.......COLIN SENNECK and MICK NASH, both Kent players from Hartley Country Club, by the sea at Brighton.

The "over 50's Competition" was held on Sunday 1st September at Brighton P.C.a large playing area on the beach close to the sea. On a hot sunny summers day there is no better place to play petangue than at the Brighton venue!

Winners and EPA Doubles Champions are... ADRIAN EMSOM and MARTIN HUGHES

The article in last months Gazette regarding access to B.T. SPORT on your T.V. set may not have been correct. B.T. have published a mountain of information regarding their new Sports service, including TV ads., and full page newspaper ads.....none of which is exactly clear as to what is available for your individual specific set-up (ie broad band, TV, BT Vision, SKY etc.).

For one specific set of circumstances......" existing combined BT Broadband and BT Vision (not Infinity) and not connected by fibre optics"......telephone BT, quote your account reference number, agree to £10 being charged to your account (possibly agree to another years contract) and within a few days you will receive a "credit-type-card" which you insert into your BT Vision Black Box.....and Bob's your uncle you will have BT Sport on your TV.

Many thanks go to the very helpful BT employee who explained the above with a simple explanation over the telephone......whilst agreeing that the mountain of information blurb issued by B.T."is not that clear for the specific needs of all customers"!



5 times World Champion Didier Choupay played in a local Kent competition when he competed in the Meadow Doubles on 26th August. To my knowledge this is only the second time that a World Champion has played in Kent following Philip Quintais appearance in the Kent Classic in Chatham Dockyard many years ago. UK based Frenchman Herve Bavazzano pulled off a major coup when he arranged for Didier to carry out a coaching session at Harrow on Saturday 24th August. This was followed by his participation in the London Doubles on the Sunday and then the Meadow Doubles on the bank holiday Monday. As expected Didier and his playing partner, Pascal Verbreque, went on to win both competitions. According to the Boulistenaute on-line magazine Didier

Choupay was born on 1st May 1963. He took up the sport fairly late in life (well, for a World Champion) following a motorcycle accident when he was advised to take up boule for his rehabilitation. Didier currently plays for the Star Masters club in Paris.He won the first of his 4 French National titles in 1985 when he won the French National Triples Championship playing with Patrick Lopez and Alain Bideau. That same team was selected to represent France in the World Championships in Morocco that year, which they duly won.

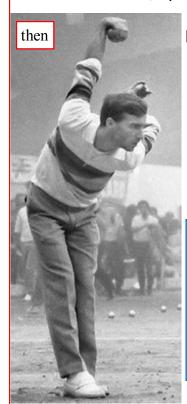
During his playing career Didier has played with some of the other greats including Alain Bideau, Michel Loy, Philip Quintais and some of Choupay's major achievements are listed below:

World Champion:

1985 with Lopez and Bideau 1988 with Voisin and Fazzino 1989 with Voisin and Fazzino 1994 with Loy and Bideau 1998 with Fazzino, Quintais and Bideau

French National Triples Champion

1985 with Lopez and Bideau 1994 with Chagot and Bideau 1996 with Loy and Milcos Christian Fazzino to name but a few



French National Mixed Doubles Champion:

2002 with Nathalie Sirot
Winner of Coup de France
(French Club Championships)
and the European Cup for
Clubs:

2007 with Star Masters, Paris.

Article by
MARK COOTER
Star Meadow P.C.
DIDIER CHOUPAY and his partner
PASCAL VERBREQUE played in
the Meadow Open Doubles Monday
26th August





the FRENCH CONNECTION

Marseilles.....not the film!

Just Petanque!

And not the "du Mondial La Marseilles"!

But......Marseilles petanque players in the U.K.!

Playing over the August Bank Holiday!



There are very many Petanque Clubs based in Marseilles.....and one such Club is

"La Boule Spendide Blancarde" located on the Boulevard de la Blancarde in the 4th arrondissement in the Bouches du Rhone department of France. This club has a membership of over 100, and 10 players and 5 wives travelled from Marseilles to play in a competition at the Harrow Club (London Region) on Sunday 25th August and then onto Gillingham on Monday 26th August to play in the MEADOW DOUBLES Competition. They flew into Stanstead airport on Friday and returned to Marseilles on the Tuesday, and were in accommodation in London for their short period of stay.

HERVE BAVAZZANO played at the "Blancarde" Club last year in a competition that they organised especially in preparation for the World Championships. Friendships were made, and some of the locals expressed an interest to visit England, and play some PETANQUE. Hence the group playing at Harrow and Gillingham over the August Bank Holiday weekend. HERVE comments......" their friendliness, and the fact that they really enjoyed the "Fair Play" of the English players...... and the group......gave an excellent image of their Club and Marseilles in general ".

Photo and notes provided by HERVE BAVAZZONO

Some "Brits" can't help but notice that when playing "Europeans" the playing rules are interpreted slightly differently at Club playing level. "THEY"... bring common sense and expediency into the game......"moved a boule!.....put it back (without being marked)"toe slightly over the circle....so what? "....."I need that measured!....(not again?)"have a smoke".......have another beer and enjoy the game!

sun goes down in the south



Late September, and the last campers and caravaners head North as the campsites close for the winter.

A story in fading sunshine from ex-pats as they pack for their return back to Blighty.

Our campsite, Beausejour, is situated in the Herault (Languedoc Roussillon) region of the south of France. The campsite, which is alongside the wide sandy beach of Serignan Plage about 2 miles from the village of Serignan and about 12 miles from Beziers. The site is a combination of mobile homes, touring caravans, campers and tents. Many of the mobile homes are owned by retired French couples who come predominately from the South or southwest France although among the petanquers are some from St. Omer and Paris.

Whilst the site is old it now has a four star rating. The site is open from April to 30th September each year and has mobile home offers during April, May, June and September.



There is a typical petanque terrain bordered by Mulberry trees which offer some shade from the hot sun (29 today). Petanque starts as soon as there are 6 people seated waiting to play, around 4.30pm in hot weather, earlier in cooler months, more players appear as the afternoon goes on resulting in about 20 players/spectators sitting on the surrounding benches as it is predominately a social event. The people are generally the retired French but after each game the boules are thrown into the centre by anyone who wants to play and a melee then starts.

This is the site where John Price first started his petanque tours playing against local villages:- Serignan, Vendres, Lespignan, Valras Plage Portieagnes, Montady, all within a 25 miles radius, who traditionally feed and entertain the teams after the games. At 3pm every Wednesday at Le Cap d'Agde an open doubles competition takes place with around 50 teams entering. The Entrance fee is 4 euros per team for three games and if the first game is won 2 euros are returned, Win 2 games and receive 4euros and for 3 wins its 8 euros. This competition attracts all standards of players and nearly always includes holiday makers. The terrains vary from fairly smooth to those sporting large stones, but again the emphasis is on enjoyment. There is also an open doubles competition held on Fridays at Adge, throughout the summer, 4 euros a couple, but the winners of three games receive bottles of wine and tinned pate. Of course each village has its own pistes and hold competitions with considerable prize money where the level of play is generally of a higher standard.

Article and photo's by BABS & JIM CARR



K.P.A. Management Meeting 5th Sept.

Meeting held at Tovil Workingmen's Club.

Attending were....M.Eggleton, D.Baxter, K.Buchan, M.Cubitt,
R.Keemer-Richards, M.Weston, M.Cooter, C.Cooter, T.Turner,
P.Abbitt, R.King, M.Nash, R.Spillet and R.Yates.

A few notes taken....not minutes.

Queries relating to E.P.A. membership are being dealt with expediently by direct communication between R.Keemer-Richards and Mike Pegg. EPA/KPA Licences are required for players for the KPA Winter League. All Kent players have accommodation for the Regional Finals at Hayling Island.

The team winners of the Dunquerquise prize funded entry cancelled their involvement at short notice to the dismay of organisers of both the KPA and the Dunquerquise.

Four Kent players who qualified to play at the Regional Triples Finals at Hayling Island have cancelled their involvement, and have been replaced so far by one reserve, with the Playing Committee investigating names for "emergency" medical reserves. Playing kit for the Kent players will be delivered on Monday 9th Sept and will be made available to players on Friday afternoon at the Mill Rythe reception.

Some Kent players have had their accommodation at Hayling Island altered, from chalet and half board at the Mill Rythe Holiday Village to a caravan site at Southsea some eight miles from the playing venue. Suggested that the Finals of last year at Hayling Island were such a success that more "family and friends" will be accompanying players this year hence the over booking. Suggested that next year, Kent will "block book" some chalets and some caravans as early as possible in the season, and maybe bring all the qualifiers forward to early season.

Chairman's Cup. To be held at The Whitehouse, West Farleigh on Sunday 15th September, and will be organised by Ken Buchan. The mobile bar local to the playing area will be in use together with bar-b-ques for players to use, to cook their own food. Tea and coffee will be available. Top prize confirmed as £150.

Kent Classic will be at Lordswood Club on Sunday 6th October, invitations to teams from France, Holland and Denmark are being investigated. To be organised by David Baxter.

The KPA League Handicap will be at Hartley Country Club on Sunday 20th October, to be organised by Mick Nash, including clarification of individual and team handicaps.

Proposed that the KPA Winter League will commence on 9th October with 1st Round Cup matches, and Wednesday 16th October with the first League matches.

There will be a meeting of EPA Regional Officers on 21st Sept. at Reading, M.Eggleton and D.Baxter will represent the Kent Region. Suggested that "New Member" membership be mentioned and the associated "pack" from the EPA that experiences a tortuous and expensive postage route from the EPA to the New Member.

Accounts, as presented by the KPA Treasurer show that all grants to players for attendance and accommodation at Hayling Island have been paid and received by players.....with the possible exception of one Junior. The KPA overall funds stand at £15,800 inclusive of the Junior Fund and KPA Summer and Winter Funds.

Continued

The E.P.A. AGM is scheduled for 16th November, Kent members to give some thought to the possibility of the need for a new President, New Vice President and New Membership Secretary.

Kent members also to give thought for any proposals that the Kent Region will need to put forward.

The K.P.A. AGM will be held at Gravesend Rugby Club on Thursday 21st November, a meeting combined with the KPA Summer and Winter AGM's.

Next KPA Management Meeting will be on Thursday 7th November, at MEADOW P.C.

believe • it • Or • not An attendance re-

teresting lecture relating to...beer, wine...and all things boozy, raised the following question that may be of interest to us boule playing Francophiles. Doting French parents, to this day, give their chil-



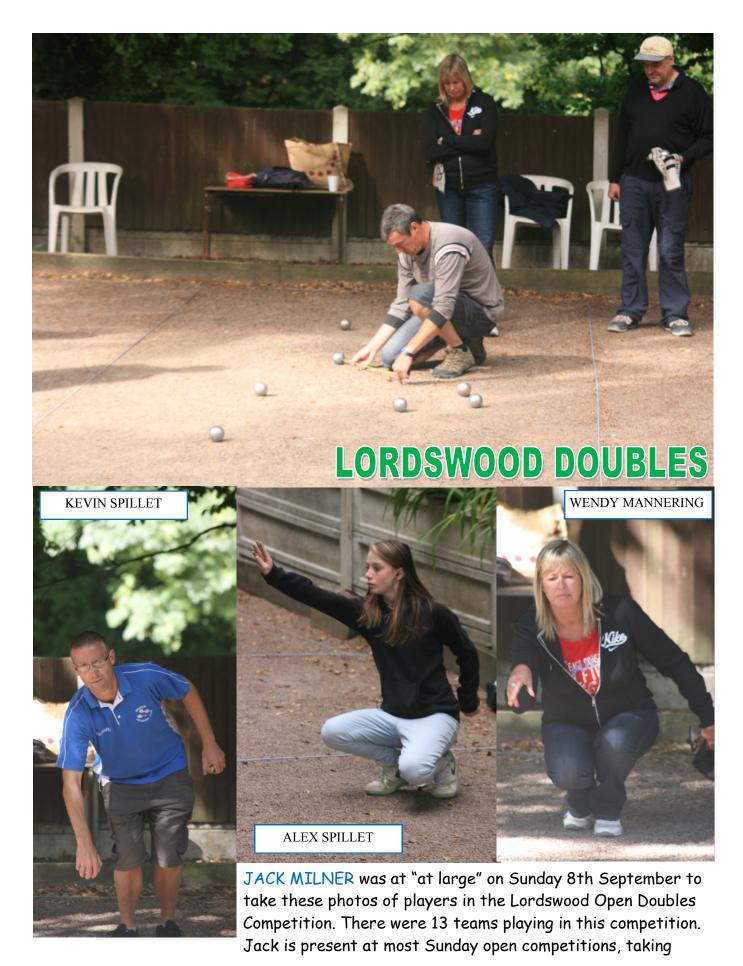
dren the odd snifter of wine now and again......and teach them to play Petanque! Us Brits, in days gone by would give our kids the odd pint or two of beerand teach them to play darts! The reason being.....so says the learned lecturer....was that the drinking water supply was so bad so as to distribute pestilence and a multitude of viruses and diseases among the populations.

Q.E.D....wine and beer healthy and safe!

Now this period of legless kids roaming the streets went on for many years, in fact several centuries.....and was true of most if not all Western societies, and over a period of time so adjusted the internal organs of the citizens so that today we can take a few drinks without being too silly and annoying too many of our friends!

Around about the same time.....the Eastern societies.....solved the "bad" drinking water problem by "boiling" it and making tea, and coffee and other such hot drinks.....no booze? Well, so says the lecturer !......the resulting Easterners metabolism is good for drinking tea and coffee but is not that good for drinking even the smallest amount of booze, even when a Westerner is buying....makes them act very silly. On the other hand us Westerners enjoy a jolly good drink !.......the French drink wine and are reasonably good at Petangue.....and the Brits drink beer and are better at darts!







FOR

At the Whitehouse P.H. West Farleigh on Sunday 15th September. Excellent day of friendly petanque organised by KEN BUCHAN and assisted by Club hosts PETER ABBITT and MIKE ALINGHAM. 12 teams played in this free entry competition for the top prize of £150, and a bottle of wine for all those that entered.

A "cook-yourself" bar-b-que was provided, and the mobile bar was in operation close to the pistes.

The winners of the Chairman's Cup and the £150 prize money were the team of COLIN SENNECK, JEAN LOUIS GUIOT and BOB GAYWOOD who beat the team of GILL PEARSON, BOB PITTAWAY and BRIDGET SNOW in the final. The Plate competition was won by the team of PETER BRYANT, COLIN GIBBS and IRENE GIBBS who beat the team of GEOFF FULLER, RAY WALL and MAUREEN FULLER in the final.



The Chairman's Cup is a free entry competition for all those teams and players who played in at least one round of the Regional Triples Qualifiers, but failed to reach the Finals at Hayling Island. 18 teams were eligible for this competition.

new ADVERTISER

in the GAZETTE

NEIL PHILLIPS, top Kent petanque player, and member of the RAILWAY P.C. Sole Street has forwarded details of his business to be advertised regularly in the Gazette. Neil has existing customers, some being petanque

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players, in the areas of New Barn, Meopham, Hartley, Longfield and Istead Rise and comes highly recommended.

For further details contact NEIL on the above number.

This application comes at an opportune moment in time to remind all Kent Registered Petanque players that they are more than welcome to advertise their businesses in the Gazette free of charge.....please contact Ron Yates with your details.

get well soon

MICHELLE CREGEEN who fractured her wrist at the Chairman's Cup on Sunday 15th September. Michelle tripped over the piste lane string whilst playing a game, and was forced to return home early.

CHARLIE SHRIMPTON now at home recovering after a short stay in hospital. Best wishes from all Kent petangue players.



an evening of jazz at Ryakh

Following on from a very successful concert earlier in the year, the DUKE OF WELLINGTON P.C. are holding a another concert. If you have a liking for "Traditional Jazz" - New Orleans Revival Jazz" - "Dixieland Jazz" or whatever you wish to call it, you can do no better than listen to this excellent band of talented musicians.

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Contact CHRIS STOTESBURY,

WYKE LODGE, LONDON ROAD, RYARSH, KENT ME19 5AS

KEN OSBORNE It is with sadness we report that KEN OSBORNE has passed away, on Sunday 22nd September.

KEN was a long time Kent petanque player having played for clubs at SEAL, IGHTHAM and The GEORGE Meopham

Condolences go to Ken's family from Kent players who knew, and enjoyed playing with him.



KENT WIN AT THE E.P.A. NATIONAL TRIPLES



After 5 rounds of Qualifying competitions involving over 30 teams and over 100 players, the cream of the bunch represented Kent at the E.P.A. National Regional Triples

Finals at Mill Rythe Holiday Village on Hayling Island over the weekend of 14/15th September.

And they played very well. And had a good weekend of petanque.

All the Kent players gathered on the pistes at Mill Rythe from all holiday and camping sites in and around the South Coast on Saturday morning eager to show their strengths....and they did.

Kent won the CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION #1 with 70 wins and a points difference of 408, beating Chiltern Region who gained 60 wins and a points difference of 204, and in third place were the East Midlands Region who won 47 games with a points difference of -51.

Kent won the INTEREGIONAL CHALLENGE CHAMPIONSIP #1 with 34 wins and a points difference of 163, beating the Anglia Region who gained 27 wins with a points difference of 39, and in third place was the Chiltern Region with 27 wins and 35 points difference. The Kent junior squad did not do so well and finished 7th out of eight teams in the Junior Championships, which was headed by Eastern Region followed by the Heart of England Region and the Southern Region.

For the full detailed results go to the E.P.A. web-site.

Early reports indicate that this was an excellent weekend, a very good venue and an expertly run competition by MIKE PEGG and his team. The hosting by Mill Rythe Holiday Village and the organisation of the weekend by ISLE of WIGHT TOURS proved again to be excellent.

This weekend is proving to be popular with players and friends and families alike, so much so that the Mill Rythe Holiday Village does not have sufficient accommodation to cater for all, and utilises caravans in nearby campsites for the overflow. An indication that Kent will need to book early for accommodation next year.

See next months issue of the Gazette for photos of the weekend by JACK MILNER.

Meetings of the Kent Petanque Association, The KPA Summer League and the KPA Winter League.....plus trophy presentations.....at Lordswood. These gatherings have been well organised and extremely well supported by Kent players. The same format will continue this year, but at a different venue.....GRAVESEND RUGBY CLUB on 21st NOVEMBER at 8pm.

NEW VENUE

The HARE & HOUNDS BLEAN

(New home of the old Share & Coulter Club) OPEN COMPETITION SUNDAY 29th SEPT. FOOD & BAR-B-QUE AVAILABLE

> Competition starts at 10:30am The Hare & Hounds 4 Blean Hill, Blean, Canterbury, CT2 9EF For further details contact ROBERT SHERIDAN at

rsheridan23@gmail.com

of things to come!

SUNDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER HARTLEY MIXED DOUBLES **Hartley Country Club**

Culvey Close Hartley DA3 8BS Starts at 10am

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SUNDAY 20th OCTOBER SHEPHERD NEAME K.P.L HANDICAP **Hartley Country Club**

DA3 8BS

Organised by League Secretary MICK NASH

SUNDAY 27th OCTOBER HARTLEY P.C. **OPEN DOUBLES Hartley Country Club DA3 8BS** Starts at 10 am

SUNDAY 3rd NOVEMBER ICICLE DOUBLES at LORDSWOOD SPORTS CLUB ME5 8YE

NEW VENUE The RAILWAY INN **Sole Street** Sunday 13th **October TRIPLES**

Starts at 10am Sole Street Meopham DA13 OXY

Starts at 10 am

SUNDAY 22nd Sept. **KPA DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP** TOVIL **WORKINGMEN'S CLUB TOVIL HILL MAIDSTONE**



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Contact and entry forms from..... DAVID BAXTER Entry cost £10 per person—registration strictly in advancedb@volvox.biz

💲 go to MARK COOTER, HERVE BAVAZZANO, DAVID BAXTER BABS CARR, JIM CARR and JACK MILNER for providing info

and details for this issue of the Gazette.

Jack Milner would like it to be known that the group photo at the Harriers, shown in last months Gazette.....was taken by him.



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See also Gazette Issue 50 for full report



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GAZZETTE

The KENT PETANQUE GAZETTE is edited by RON YATES.

Any item of news for inclusion in future editions should be sent to e-mail ronyates6@btinternet.com

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E&OE