

EAST KENT COASTAL PÉTANQUE LEAGUE

Minutes of Annual General Meeting 13th January 2026 at 7.30pm Held at The Racing Greyhound Ramsgate

Present:	The AGM began at 7.30pm. 15 teams were represented. 45 players attended.
Apologies:	Philip Coles, Sue Leadbeatter, Sally Rosebourne, Mike Charles, Mark Sinstadt, Paul Howson, Seth Proctor, Cynthia and John Blackwell, Marilyn and Peter Mundy, Ray Keemer-Richards, Suzie Hall, Kevin Nice, Martin Price, Marie-Nicole Preidel.
Minutes of 2025 AGM:	Approved unanimously with no objections.
Matters Arising:	League Secretary: During 2025 Sally Rosebourne retired as League Secretary due to ill-health and Tracey Sinstadt was appointed as the new League Secretary.
Reports:	<p>Chairman: Welcomed everyone and wished them a very happy and prosperous 2026. The Chairman reported that 2025 had been a mixed bag of a season. The league's long-serving supporter, Sally Rosebourne, retired for health reasons and Tracey Sinstadt took over as League Secretary, which has been an enormous help to him this year. Sadly, Phillip Coles, the League Treasurer, is not having a good time health wise. Phillip can work from home and continues to work on our accounts, but he is currently in the middle of some diagnosis and treatment and feels unable to attend the AGM. The Chairman explained that because the AGM was brought forward, there was not the usual time to complete the annual accounts and have them audited; the final expenditure only being invoiced a couple of days before the AGM; but the account is up to date and can be audited at any time. Also, there will be a small amount for bank charges and for web services carried forward into next year's accounts.</p> <p>The league itself ran smoothly, with the league games and competitions all successful and hopefully enjoyable for all who took part.</p> <p>Last year, the committee was tasked with investigating membership of Petanque England and it would be a discussed later.</p> <p>There had been a few complaints and adverse comments made to the Chairman and the Secretary about matters during the year. Pauline Maddison, Alan Cregeen and himself had dealt with a member who posted abusive and threatening comments on a social media platform. Pauline in her official capacity of Safeguarding Lead confirmed that the member concerned had overstepped the boundaries. The Chairman had personally been very upset that a popular and obliging player had acted so rashly and gave the committee no option but to suspend him. That person had then continued to contact his team members, attempting to orchestrate a further campaign against the victim, but failed to substantiate any of his claims. Although he had been given many opportunities, he did not appeal against the committee's decision. The Chairman commented that if anyone was involved in the episode, they may have been told that the person was badly treated because he 'blew the whistle' on an incident. This is entirely untrue and the committee will always try to act to protect any member from bullying and harassment, whether it is physical or verbal or online abuse and whether the victim is a team captain or a reserve player.</p> <p>The Chairman expressed the importance of not using 'dog balls' in league matches and explained the reasons why and that they would invalidate the league's insurance. He asked captains to ensure that all new players only use competition balls and to advise where they can be acquired.</p> <p>The Chairman reported that he had received comments about some players being entirely focussed on winning and in some circumstances seem to overlook the fact that we are a minor, local league and play for the enjoyment of playing pétanque and that we don't have umpires,</p>

	<p>but we do have fair play and respect instead and asked players to remember the 60 second rule and to enjoy relaxed and considerate play. The Chairman reminded the members that our league is, he hopes, sportsmanlike and rule-abiding. Also, there is nothing in the way of rewards in our minor league that would make it acceptable for the vast majority of us to cheat or bend rules to disadvantage another team or player.</p> <p>The Chairman announced that he has no personal experience of this, but has been told that it has happened in the past; bringing top players in from outside the normal team to play in a final or crucial match of some kind, which is stretching the rules even if they're correctly registered just before the game. He doesn't know where or when this happened, but hopes that no one in EKCPL would lower their standards to that extent. The Chairman clarified only players who play in the qualifying rounds should play in the finals, not super-subbs brought in on some pretext.</p> <p>The Chairman informed members that the three teams who played at Manston Sports and Social Club have relocated to Cliftonville Bowls Club due to conflict which could not be resolved.</p> <p>The Chairman informed members that Cliftonville Bowls Club were doubling their pistes for the 2026 season with plans to provide 21 new pistes over the next two years, which will be an important new resource for the league and a donation would be discussed later.</p> <p>The Chairman originally thought the league might possibly lose three teams this year, but it seemed that numbers have now stabilised and had circulated an option discussion document prior to the AGM and would be discussed later.</p> <p>The Chairman informed members that the playing season usually consists of 25 Tuesdays and the aim is to play on as many of those days as is possible with as few byes as possible. In addition to league matches, there are Cup and Plate matches and three Sunday competitions for Singles, Pairs and Triples. Also, during the winter, practice sessions took place at Charlotte Court Wednesdays and Saturdays, and some other teams practised at suitable times for themselves. A few friendly matches have also taken place.</p> <p>The Chairman sincerely thanked Pauline Maddison, the league's well-qualified Safeguarding Officer for her advice and support over the past year and also thanked the rest of the committee for their time and effort in ensuring the league ran smoothly.</p> <p>Awards:- (Commissioned and paid for by the Chairman with much gratitude)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ashley Barton who has gone above and beyond to help out in all weathers and many different roles at Manston. 2. Sally Rosebourne for her efforts in driving pétanque forward in Ramsgate. (As she was not present, the Chairman held onto the trophy) 3. Ray Keemer-Richards for his long and devoted service to the league over many years. (Collected by his wife on his behalf due to health problems) 4. Jackie Fearn for ensuring all Competitions run smoothly, whatever the weather or circumstance, for stepping in at the last minute if needed and supporting the Chairman.
	<p>2. Treasurer and presentation of Accounts: Presented by the Chairman as Philip Coles was unwell. It was mentioned that Nat West did not charge monthly interest and may be worth investigating. Chairman remarked that the account could be changed if anyone was willing to do the work of moving it to avoid the £50 p.a. fees at Lloyds.</p>
	<p>3. Playing Secretary: Was unable to attend.</p>
	<p>4. League Secretary: Tracey Sinstadt thanked the Committee for asking her to take on this role and gave thanks to Sally Rosebourne for her hard work in the past and wished her well. Tracey introduced herself and asked to be notified of any changes in captaincy or contact details. Tracey also thanked Cliftonville Bowls Club for allowing the Woodpeckers, Vikings and Juggers to join their club for the 2026 season and for their warm welcome.</p>

Approval & Adoption of Accounts:	Approved unanimously. Agreed unanimously no audit necessary. Proposed by Clive Hall. Seconded by Peter Preidel.
Policies:	To adopt the All England Code of Conduct was agreed unanimously with no objections.
Members Proposals:	1.Reg Dobson from The Anchor Inn proposed Affiliation to Pétanque England and gave his reasons for doing so. The cost would be £35 per team plus £10 per player. This was discussed amongst the members, but agreed unnecessary as the existing Kent League Insurance of £10 per player included 3 rd Party Cover for injury and public liability and also covered officers for League business.
	2. It was unanimously agreed that the 'Playing-Up' Rule 8.9 is ONLY to be used when a team is short of registered players and ONLY to be used twice per player during the season. This is to be closely monitored by team captains and updated in The Constitution.
	3. It had been reported that 'Ringers', or players who do not play regularly in League matches have been played in some semi-final and final Hatton Cup/Plate matches to give an unfair advantage. It is was proposed that Rule 9 of The Constitution is updated to include 'only registered, regular League match players are to play in any Hatton Cup/Plate match and MUST have been registered for at least ONE month before playing in these matches'. 12 teams voted in favour of this rule update, 0 votes against and was therefore Agreed. Proposed by Kathy Bracey. Seconded by Stephen Morris.
	4. The proposal to amend The Constitution, which was changed last year to playing various competition finals at Manston, to be updated to 'a suitable venue for Competition Finals'. 12 teams voted for this update, 0 teams against and was therefore Agreed. Proposed by Peter Preidel. Seconded by Alain Olivier.
	5. Proposal by Horse & Groom A to extend the season by playing on Thursdays if necessary. This was discussed as a possibility if the members decided on a Single League Structure for 2026, which was later to be voted on.
	6. Proposal by Natives B for the League to start early April and finish early September due to bar staff restrictions in September. This was discussed and was suggested that if any Home matches were scheduled for the Native teams at the end of the season, then they could reverse the fixture/s with the team/s involved so that the Native teams played any September Home matches as Away fixtures.
	7. Bob Cogger from Whitstable Natives A proposed playing The Hatton Cup matches over a 2-3 week period if a single League is agreed when discussing the League structure.
	8. Proposal to financially assist Cliftonville Bowls Club with their new 6 lane piste. This was discussed and David Robert suggested approaching the Kent Community Foundation. The Chairman suggested a donation of £200 from League funds, which was unanimously agreed. Proposed by Jason Flynn. Seconded by Pauline Maddison.
2026 League Structure:	The 2026 League structure was discussed as either a single league or variables of the existing two division structure. There were two votes. First vote: Decided that we should have two divisions. All 15 teams in attendance voted: 14 votes For and 1 vote Against. Therefore it was decided that the League structure for 2026 would remain as two divisions. Second vote: That if there were an even number of registered teams then it would be an even split, but if an odd number, the preponderance would go to Division One. Chairman said that in the event of too many byes, a new competition would be inserted into the calendar. Chairman was asked to set a date for final team registration, which was given as 28 th February 2026.

AOB:	Sam Boyce from Broadstairs Pétanque Club mentioned that the lighting at some venues was unacceptable. The Chairman accepted that the lighting at the Horse & Groom was questionable, but they do their best with the resources they have and make sure they move the mobile flood lights during play when necessary. It was suggested to reverse fixtures when Home matches are scheduled during the darker months at venues with poor lighting. Various members offered the use of their own redundant lighting sets.
<p><u>Presentation of League Trophies:</u></p> <p>Division One Winners: Broadstairs Pétanque Club Division One :Runners-Up: The Anchor Inn Division Two Winners: Whitstable Grattons A Division Two Runners-up: Five Bells A Hatton Cup: Broadstairs Pétanque Club Jennifer Scudmore Plate: Grattons A Division One Fanny Trophy: Whitstable Natives B Division Two Fanny Trophy: Whitstable Grattons B</p> <p><u>Competition Trophies:</u>(Individual trophies and medals were awarded on the day)</p> <p>Singles: Kevin Nice Doubles: Max Boyce and Sam Boyce (The doubles trophy had still not been returned by the previous winners, although chairman had brought an engraved plaque along to the meeting as he expected the trophy to be delivered to the AGM) Triples: Janet Dobson, Reg Dobson and Jason Fuller</p>	
Close of AGM	The AGM was closed at 9pm. No Committee meeting took place.