



Pétanque Times

Vol. 3. No. 5

Sept.-Oct. 1996

Heavy Turnout, Championship Tournament

MaTerre, International Increases Cash Prizes

Our annual VOMPC Championship held August 25 was a triumph—with a list of prizes that totaled more than \$400 in cash and \$300 in fine Sonoma Valley wines,

Top pétanque players from all around the Bay Area and beyond turned out for the select triplets event, sponsored by *MaTerre, International*, and coordinated by Steve Katz.

Veteran pétanque stars Jean Krauer, Raymond Nielsen and *Lozangeleno* Jeannot Zanella won the top prize, beating Jacques Biscay, Patrick Vaslet and Mike Ragot 13-4.

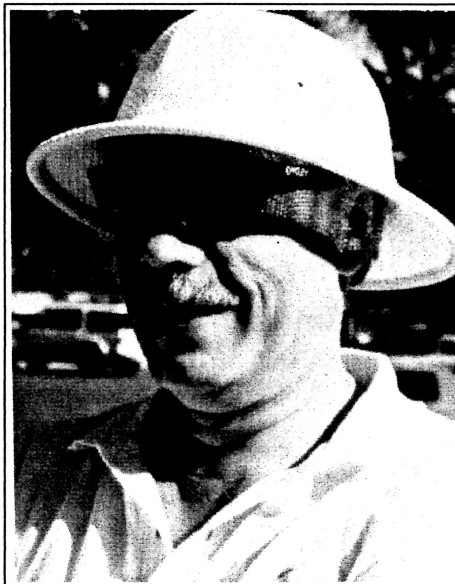
Third place went to Peter Mathis, Frank Basocchini and Gerard Cannabou.

In the *Consolante*, winners were Marcel Parnell, Jacques Gauthier and Leon Gales.

MaTerre, International also set up prizes for the team that traveled the furthest—Antonia Chavez and Bruce and Trevor Fisher of Willits.

Prize money also went to the youngest female and male players: Charlotte Noonan (17) and P.J. Mallette (11).

Harvest Tournament Scheduled Sept. 22



"Unbelievable!" says Renato, as he reacts to the higher quality of recent play at the Sonoma courts.

(Photo by Noah Katz)

Latest Count: 100 Members!

Last month, we hit the century mark. Our VOMPC membership now totals 100.

Welcome to George Pick, our newest member. And welcome to three new junior members: Eric Noss (10) and Kathleen Noss (7), both sponsored by Bob Bosco, their grandfather—and Gabe Rippel (14), also sponsored by his grandfather, Byron Mayo.

Random Triplet Event Celebrates Early 1996 Sonoma Grape Crop

On September 22, our Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club will celebrate the final days of one of the earliest grape harvests ever recorded, by hosting a big mixed random triplets Harvest Tournament.

We expect to have at least one woman on each team—with a random draw to decide on team assignments.

This ever-popular random approach mixes beginners with more experienced players and leads to a comfortable, no-pressure tournament that's always a great favorite with the club's newer members as well as the old hands..

Coordinated by Jacques Mathieu, registration will run 8:30-9:30 a.m. with the games starting at 10 a.m.

Bring a picnic lunch and a bottle of wine, or a six-pak, get better acquainted with all of the wonderful people in our Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club, play some friendly pétanque, and have yourself another great day in Sonoma.

Annual Election, Dinner Meeting Set for Oct. 26

*Members Voting On
Four '97-98 Directors*

Four two-year seats on the VOMPC board of directors are up for grabs in the annual election and dinner meeting set for Saturday night, October 26.

The terms of J. Mathieu, Chuck Fleming, Frank Pipal and Steve Katz expire the end of 1996.

(The two-year terms of, Frank Barsocchini, Barbara Stieper and David Rizzo continue through the end of next year.)

Out of the four outgoing directors, only Frank Pipal has agreed to run for a second term, as of now.

Meanwhile, a VOMPC nominating committee is at work, developing a full slate of candidates. Serving on this committee are Frank Barsocchini, Steve Katz, Chuck Fleming and J. Mathieu.

Location of the annual dinner meeting and election voting procedures will be mailed to all members later this month.

VOMPC Tip of the month:

If you haven't yet played the new gravel section on the north court, you should give it a try. It'll help you improve your game. And it's a lot of fun!



Bill Carter, in his own inimitable style, is seen here arguing a point of order during a tight match at the club's big championship tournament, August 25.

(Photo by Noah Katz)

Pipals, Stieper Win in Willits

Frank and George Pipal and Ken Stieper from our Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club took top honors in the select triplets tourney held in Willits on August 4.

Our local players won the event by defeating a team from the *Willits Boules Club* in the finals, 13-6.

Willits' Bruce and Trevor Fisher and Antonio Chavez settled for second place.

Three teams from the Valley of the Moon club traveled north for this annual Willits event.

THE UMPIRE'S CORNER

Q. We'd like to know what the French phrases mean that we hear tossed around on the courts. What does a shooter mean when he yells out "*Ka-row*?"

A. When a thrown boule knocks out an opponent's boule and *stays*, (taking the place of the struck boule), it's called a **carreau**. A successful *carreau* earns the rueful respect of your opponent.

Here are four more terms that relate to shooting:

Tirer au fer is when you throw in the air and hit a boule without touching the ground first. This is a favorite toss of expert pétanque players.

Rabaille or **Rafle** is when you shoot a boule by using a rolling ground shot, instead of throwing through the air.

Casquette means you hit the boule you're trying to hit, right on the top, but you didn't get it to move.

Eclater means to knock several boules out with one, successful power-shot.

(If you have a question about pétanque you'd like to submit, write to The Umpire, PO Box 863, Sonoma, CA 95476. All answers are certified by our FPUSA Umpire Pierre Joske.)

Summer League Singles in Final Week

SUMMER LEAGUE SINGLES					
PLAYER	Matches Won	Matches Lost	% W/L	Games Won	Games Lost
RED DIVISION					
P. Mathis	6	0	1.000	12	2
M. Norton	6	2	.750	14	4
B. Mayo	6	2	.750	12	7
J. Des Pois	4	3	.571	9	9
B. Carter	3	3	.500	8	9
B. Miller	3	4	.428	6	9
T. Noonan	3	5	.375	8	12
Zachofsky	1	5	.166	4	10
G. Pipal	0	8	--	5	16
BLUE DIVISION					
J. Mathieu	4	0	1.000	8	1
F. Pipal	5	1	.833	10	4
J. Bouldt	3	1	.750	7	2
C. Fleming	3	2	.600	7	6
S. Troia	2	2	.500	4	5
R. Poli	1	3	.250	4	6
M. Katz	0	5	--	2	10
D. Rizzo	0	4	--	0	8

Championship Playoffs Start September 12

The regular season for our Summer League Singles ends next Wednesday, Sept. 11, with one big question still to be settled: *Who made it to the playoffs?*

In the RED DIVISION, undefeated Peter Mathis along with Mike Norton and Byron Mayo have nailed down the top three berths.

The Number Four spot is still up for grabs. Bill Miller, John Des Pois and Bill Carter all have a fighting chance.

The BLUE DIVISION is a similar story. More games must be played, however, to settle the dust on this one.

J. Mathieu leads the division, undefeated. And Frank Pipal is a shoo-in with a 5-1 record. That leaves John Bouldt and Chuck Fleming and Sal Troia and Roger Poli all competing for the other two spots in the playoffs.

Playoff elimination matches that will narrow the League down to the *Final Four* are to be played Sept. 12 through Sept. 18—leading up to *Super Boule Saturday*, September 21.

That's when the *Final Four* battle it out for the 1996 Summer League Singles title ...

THE GRAND CHAMPION!

Torrid Pace Set in Men's Doubles

Mathieu-Fleming Lead the League, Still Undefeated

Players in the Summer League Men's Doubles may wish that Jacques Mathieu had stayed in France.

Since his return from vacation, the team of Mathieu and Chuck Fleming has set a torrid pace and sits atop the men's league with a perfect, undefeated record.

Two teams are nipping at their heels, however. The team of Mike Norton and John Bouldt and the team of Claude Berthoud and Peter Mathis are tied for second place.

(Berthoud and Mathis have the edge at this point because they're ahead in the percentage of games won/lost—used as a tie-breaker.)

Over in Mixed Doubles, it's an unknown. With summer almost over and only one match reported, it's obvious the Mixed Doubles teams had a hard time ever getting started.

To count in the standings, all matches in both divisions must be completed and reported by September 23.

A playoff format will be announced by a special flyer before the end of league play.

Meanwhile, if you have any questions, call the Summer League Doubles coordinator, Steve Katz, 996-3302.

SUMMER LEAGUE DOUBLES					
TEAMS	MATCHES			GAMES	
	WON	LOST	% W/L	WON	LOST
ALL-MEN'S DIVISION					
Jacques. Mathieu Chuck Fleming	5	0	1.000	10	0
Claude Berthoud Peter Mathis	4	1	.800	9	2
John Bouldt Mike Norton	4	1	.800	8	4
Frank Pipal George Pipal	6	2	.750	12	6
Ken Stieper Sal Troia	3	2	.600	7	4
Bill Carter Bruce Frigard	4	4	.500	9	9
Byron Mayo Bob Bosko	4	5	.444	11	11
Tom Noonan Dexter Tracy	2	4	.300	5	9
Steve Katz Paul Verdone	2	5	.286	4	11
Morris Katz Noah Katz	0	2		1	4
Pierre Mallette PJ Mallette	0	6		1	12
MIXED DOUBLES					
Judy Mendel Tom Noonan	1	0	1.000	2	1
Montana Mathieu Jacques Mathieu	0	1		1	2



Bastille Day Food and Fun Draws Crowd

Sixty esurient pétanque lovers made a feast of it on Bastille Day, July 14, as they gorged on platters heaped with BBQ'd chicken, pasta, salad, bread, cheeses and fruits. Ravenswood wines and a keg of beer went along with the proceedings.

That same day, 22 random triplet teams played pétanque in the club's annual *Grand Concours de Pétanque*—sponsored by our friends at Ravenswood.

Tom Bricca, Mike Ragot and Judie Zitzewitz won the event in a 13-8 victory over Tom Noonan, Dexter Tracy and Armand Squitieri.

Third place went to Louis Toulon, Tom Evans and Edmond Ghione.

Consolante winners were Raymond Nielsen, Pierre Mallette and J. Mathieu.

Chuck Fleming and the ever-helpful Barbara Stieper coordinated the entire day.

© VOMPC 1996

"Pétanque Times" is a bi-monthly newsletter of the Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club, PO Box 863, Sonoma, CA 95476.

Byron Mayo, Editor and Publisher.

VOMPC Officers and Directors:

Jacques Mathieu, president

Barbara Stieper, vice-president

Frank Pipal, treasurer

David Rizzo, secretary

Chuck Fleming, director of sports

Frank Barsocchini, director

Steve Katz, director.

WANTED! A FEW GOOD MEN AND WOMEN

We're looking for members who would be interested in helping the club, by serving on the board of directors.

It's an important job. You help set the direction of the club. You're involved with all major decisions. And you have fun while you're at it.

Meetings are held once a month, usually at different members' houses.

If you're interested, or if you'd like to nominate somebody for the board, call any member of this year's nominating committee:

Frank Barsocchini 938-5745

Steve Katz 935-1404

Chuck Fleming 938-2823

Jacques Mathieu 939-9925

The deadline is Sept. 23.



Bruce Frigard got his head handed to him in a Summer League doubles match last month against undefeated J. Mathieu and Chuck Fleming.

(Photo trix by his doubles partner, Bill Carter.)

Fully recovered, Bruce went on to show everybody how to fix the court's damaged bulletin board.

Thanks to Bruce, we now have a new, heavy-duty, quarter-inch-thick sheet of Plexiglas installed.

Club's Proposal For Maysonnave Memorial Bench

Henri Maysonnave, a proud Frenchman, wine lover, *mordu de la pétanque*, and respected City of Sonoma *Alcade*, owned the property where our Valley of the Moon Pétanque courts are now located.

In his will, he dedicated the land plus adjacent cottages to the City. Following his death in 1988, VOMPC founders John Kemble of Ravenswood and John Bouldt, along with Pierre Joske, petitioned the City for use of the land as Valley of the Moon pétanque courts. The city agreed.

Now, the VOMPC board has proposed a custom MaTerre bench and memorial plaque honoring Maysonnave, to be located near the entrance to the courts. A decision by the city is expected at a meeting on September 11.

Big Big Win In Menlo Park For VOMPC

The challenging, new combination of Pipal and Stieper came through once again—winning first place in a select mixed triplets tournament held by *La Boule Joyeuse* in Menlo Park on August 18.

This time it was Ken and Barbara Stieper along with Frank Pipal who made-up the triumphant VOMPC combo.

Some of the Bay Area's best pétanque players entered the tournament.

In the match for first place, our Sonomans beat Patrick Vaslet, Michelle Ragot and Mike Ragot. The final score was 13-0. "Fanny!"

**Coming
in October**

Sat., Oct. 26.
*Annual Dinner &
VOMPC Election*
Sun., Oct. 27
*Select Doubles
Tournament*

Mark your
calendar now
for the annual
VOMPC
awards dinner
and election
Saturday Night
October 26
(the night before
our exciting
Select Doubles
Tournament)

Full details to follow
later this month



Noonan Story On Pétanque In Newspaper

Tom Noonan's feature story on "beating the French" at the game of Pétanque, which ran early this summer in the *Sonoma Index-Tribune*, was reprinted recently in the *Vintners Voice*, a national newsletter published by the Sonoma Valley Vintners & Growers, for the trade and consumers.

In his version of the story, edited for the vintners, Tom concluded with a whimsical pitch for a new pétanque league among our Sonoma Valley wineries.

He roughly outlined some suggested "rules" and asked any interested vintners to call or write him.

Response to date? Tom says, "None."

Valley of the Moon
Pétanque Club
PO Box 863
Sonoma, CA 95476