



## Dates for your diary

### Being hosted by 51 Pétanque Club

**Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> May** (from 7:30pm) BINGO (all profits to 51 PC)

**Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> June** (from 2.30pm) – Bob Bruce Pairs

**Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> July** (from 1.00pm – Teddy Bear Festival 'Come & Try')

**Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> July** (from 1.00pm – 'Bastille Day' Melee

**Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> October** (from 2.00pm) – BEETLE DRIVE (all profits to 51 PC)

**Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> November** (from 7:30pm) BINGO (all profits to 51 PC)

## Intra Club Spring Melee

### Clayton wins for the first time.

The Spring Intra Club Melee was held on Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> May. It was supported by 33 club members, all playing 4 timed games between them, during the morning and afternoon session. Around £225 was raised for club funds.

Ben Clayton won the overall competition, with 4 wins and +25 points difference, narrowly beating Claudine Guilmain who also won all 4 games, but with +24 points! Scott Wilson managed 3<sup>rd</sup> with 3 wins and +22 points difference.

Special thanks to Mandy Seabrook, Graham Beales and Scott Wilson for organising and running the competition.

## Winter League Concludes

### 4 Teams braved the winter!

The winter league is now concluded, and the 4 teams entering from 51PC had a great season with not one team finishing out of the top 3!

In a hotly contested league Packso 51 managed to pip Snowboules 51 by 1 point to clinch Division 1 and will both compete in the Premiership next season.

In Division 3, G2 ran out winners on points difference and Social 51 managed a respectable 3<sup>rd</sup> only 1 point behind the leaders.

## NCPA Summer League Commences

### 6 Teams competing for honours this season

**Division 1** - The Millers & The Oaks will be competing against the best in Norfolk.

**Division 2** - Magna, having been promoted from Div 3 & G2 having been relegated from Div 1 will be focusing on the top two spots.

**Division 3** - The Acorns and Les Garnier will be looking to bounce back from a disappointing 2025 season.

League games are played on Thursday evening from 7:30pm so pop down to the rec and support.

## Garnier Petanque Club

### 'On Loan'

Since the beginning of 2025 we have 'adopted' all the members of Garnier Petanque Club from Eccles. The Garnier Petanque club was set up at a similar time to 51 PC, and we have enjoyed numerous friendly and competitive matches over the past 40+ years. With the Garnier Hall currently closed and needing repairs to the roof, they have been welcomed to use the 51 PC piste and facilities on match days. They are currently in the process of raising £90,000 for repairs and are currently £35,000 off their target.

Please share the just giving page with friends and family.

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/savegarnierhall>



## Tips & Tactics

Always strive to become a better player

### Pointing with Purpose (Not Just Getting Close)



At higher levels, pointing isn't just about getting nearest—it's about **controlling the head**. A good pointer will think about *where the next boule should land*, not just this one. For example, if the jack is open, a soft rolling point that finishes just in front of it can “close the door,” forcing your opponent to shoot rather than out-point you.

Equally, on rough pistes, a higher lob (portée) can reduce the impact of stones and unpredictable bounces. Competitive players constantly adjust between **rolling and lob pointing** depending on terrain. The key is intent—every boule should make the next shot harder for your opponent.

### Reading the Head (Before You Throw)

Strong players pause before stepping into the circle. They're asking:

- Who's lying?
- Where is second and third point?
- What happens if I miss?

For example, if you're already holding two points, the best play may be a **blocking boule** rather than trying to add a third. Conversely, if you're down and the head is crowded, a shot might open multiple scoring opportunities.

This ability to “read the head” is what separates average players from competitive ones. It turns every throw into a calculated move rather than a hopeful one.

## Committee update

We need your help.

The committee relies solely on volunteers to run the club, including weekly socials, maintenance, stock, fundraising and many, many more jobs that go completely unnoticed.

We welcome feedback and ideas, but it must always be given respectfully and constructively. Personal or repeated criticism of individuals is not acceptable.

If you have suggestions or concerns, please raise them through the committee so they can be considered properly.

We are now looking to strengthen the committee and looking for volunteers who are willing to attend quarterly committee meetings and help shape the future of the club. If interested, please speak to club secretary, Mandy Seabrook.

## On to the next project

### Shelters

Our next project is to look at suitable shelters to help with the interchangeable seasons we face at the Rec. A number of solutions are currently being looked at and priced up, and once the information has been gathered a working party will be formed to take the project forward. We're hoping a solution can be found during this current season.

## Competition Boules

### Buy & Sell

Selling your unwanted competition boules could also help your bank balance whilst supporting new members who want to start playing either socially or competitively through leagues and competitions.

If you have any Boules you would like to sell, please email [petanqueclub51@outlook.com](mailto:petanqueclub51@outlook.com) stating the make, size and weight along with the price offer. These can then be communicated to club members.