

## English Petanque Association Inter-Regional Championship

### Southern Counties Petanque Association Devon Junior Team

Inter-Regional – Brean Sands  
Devon Juniors – Stuart, Sonia, Charlotte and Helen  
Team Manager (Covering for Liz Farrow) – Gill Harrington

This was my first ever time at managing any kind of team and I found it nerve wracking and challenging. However, I did enjoy the experience.

I was very impressed with the way the juniors had played on the weekend and even though they were very tired by the end of Sunday they didn't seem to give up. They fought well and achieved a 4<sup>th</sup> place position with 6 wins and +19 points difference.

There was one game that really stood out for me which was the 1<sup>st</sup> game on the Sunday. This was against Wales and Sonia, Charlotte and Helen were the players for this game. They couldn't have done anything different than what they did. All three pointed well and both Sonia and Helen shot when they needed to. Unfortunately they lost this game with a score of 13-12.

The first game on Saturday really proved Stuart's shooting ability when at one end he had a difficult shot to give them 5 points. He achieved this with what ease and they eventually went on to win this game.

Helen said and I quote "I can't point and shoot in the same end". Well, she proved me wrong and did just that. It showed me that she is a far better player than she thinks she is and has great potential.

Sonia was steady throughout the competition, pointing and shooting whichever was necessary. I would go as far as to say she was the most consistent of them all on the weekend.

Charlotte had a few bad points but more than made up for this more in most of her games. When she was pointing well most of them were only a few inches from the coche often giving the other teams the difficult decision as to whether to shoot her boule out or try and out point it. On a lot of these occasions they decided to point and cost themselves if not two maybe three boules before beating it.

I had a wonderful experience but was left mentally drained by the end. If I am offered the chance to do this again I will need to prepare myself.

Gill Harrington