

# English Petanque Association Inter-Regional Championship

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2007

## The Players

Ashley Odell  
Barbara Burchell  
Beth Godwin  
Charlotte Dennis  
Daniel Hill  
Dave Cottrell  
Debbie Elcome  
Glenn Floyd  
Graham Elcome  
Harrison Ash  
Helen Manley  
Ian Burchell  
John Billet  
John Inglis  
Karen Lombard

## Southern Counties Petanque Association

### Team Manager's Report

The 1<sup>st</sup> Division of the EPA Inter-Regional Championship 2007 was contested by Chiltern, East Midlands, Eastern, Kent, Northern, Southern, West Midlands and the Welsh Petanque Association. Each Region was represented by eight Adult and one Junior Team.

Saturday started off a little cloudy but as the morning wore on the sun came through and it turned into a hot and sunny day. In the morning we had good wins against Chiltern, Eastern and West Midlands but lost against the Welsh. The afternoon started well with a good win against Kent but then there was a loss against East Midlands which was followed by a win against Northern. Altogether we had won five of the seven rounds.

All of these matches were very competitive and required long periods of concentration to maintain a high level of play. This was combined with little time, if any, for our players to relax between rounds and in some cases a very short break between the end of the morning's play and the start of the afternoon session.

We ended the day with 34 wins which left us in 4<sup>th</sup> place but, importantly, only four wins behind the leaders, Kent.

## Kim Elcome

### SCPA - Saturday's Team Scores

Leesa Rhodes  
Mark Robertshaw  
Mark Duncan  
Matt Slater  
Michael Tull  
Peter Brown  
Richard Greeves

Team	W	L	F	A	Diff
1	3	4	54	69	-15
2	3	4	71	63	8
3	5	2	74	45	29
4	2	5	73	76	-3
5	4	3	76	71	5
6	4	3	83	57	26
7	5	2	80	59	21
8	2	5	57	84	-27
J	6	1	87	63	24
Total	34	29	655	587	68

Richard Patterson

### Division 1 - Position After Saturday's Play

Rod Fisher  
Steve Lombard  
Stuart Floyd  
Tracey Elcome  
Trevor Treend  
Wayne Webster

	Wins
1 <sup>st</sup>	Kent 38
2 <sup>nd</sup>	East Midlands 36
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Chiltern 35
4 <sup>th</sup>	Southern 34
5 <sup>th</sup>	Northern 31
6 <sup>th</sup>	Eastern 30
7 <sup>th</sup>	Welsh PA 26
8 <sup>th</sup>	West Midlands 22

**The Teams**

Blue Army  
DPR

On Sunday the weather was again hot and sunny. By finishing in 4<sup>th</sup> place on Saturday we were drawn to play against Chiltern, East Midlands, Kent, West Midlands and the Welsh. Of those teams Chiltern, East Midlands and Kent were, like us, in a position to win the Championship whereas the Welsh and West Midlands which were 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> at the start of play were well off the lead. We did not play either Eastern or Northern on Sunday.

Hampshire Rose 1  
Hampshire Rose 2  
Jammy Dodgers

Once again the matches were hard and many were long. We did just what was needed with very good wins against West Midlands and the Welsh followed by a win against Kent just before the lunch break. By then we were leading the Championship. The afternoon saw us win against both East Midlands and Chiltern.

Les Escargot  
SCPA Juniors  
The Stranglers

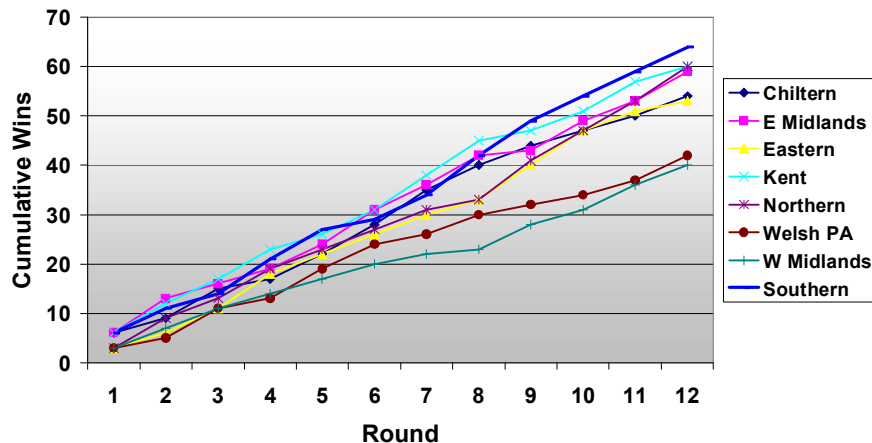
Having won all five of Sunday's rounds only Kent could finish ahead of us if they had a very good result in their final round match against East Midlands. If Kent won by 7-2 or better then the Championship was theirs for the 6<sup>th</sup> year in a row but East Midlands did what we needed and beat Kent 6-3.

Too Cool

We led the Division after Round 5 but then slipped back a little only to regain the lead from Kent after Round 9. From then on we kept the lead until the competition was over.

Finally, the Championship was ours for the first time since 1994.

**Division 1 - EPA Inter-Regional Championship 2007**



**SCPA - Final Team Scores**

Team	W	L	F	A	Diff
1	7	5	106	97	9
2	4	8	109	121	-12
3	7	5	115	94	21
4	5	7	130	119	11
5	7	5	127	119	8
6	8	4	137	103	34
7	9	3	137	93	44
8	6	6	120	127	-7
J	11	1	152	92	60
<b>Total</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>1133</b>	<b>965</b>	<b>168</b>

### The Managers

### Inter-Regional Championship Team Manager

Bernie Miles

### Junior Team Manager

Peter Galton

There was the long wait for the presentations to get going and a lot of presentations to be made before it got to the climax of the weekend, the presentation to the Division 1 winners. Although we knew that we had won it was still a mighty relief to hear Mike Pegg, the EPA President, announcing that the 2007 winners of the 1<sup>st</sup> Division of the EPA Inter-Regional Championship was the Southern Counties Petanque Association.

### Division 1 - Final Positions

		W	F	A	Diff
1st	<b>Southern</b>	64	1133	965	168
2nd	<b>Kent</b>	60	1155	973	182
3rd	<b>Northern</b>	60	1041	1031	10
4th	<b>East Midlands</b>	59	1128	1029	99
5th	<b>Chiltern</b>	54	1073	1053	20
6th	<b>Eastern</b>	53	1038	1083	-45
7th	<b>Welsh PA</b>	42	957	1143	-186
8th	<b>West Midlands</b>	40	931	1179	-248

The whole weekend was a complete triumph for all of our players but special mention should be made of our Juniors, Charlotte Dennis, Helen Manley and Stuart Floyd who were not only the best Junior team in either Division they were the 3<sup>rd</sup> best team of Division 1 with 11 wins out of 12 matches.

They played so well over both days and won against tough opposition in tough matches with the support of the Junior Team Manager, Peter Galton.

### Division 1 - Top Three Teams

	Team	W	F	A	Diff
1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Eastern 8</b>	12	156	76	80
2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Welsh PA 3</b>	11	143	77	66
3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Southern Juniors</b>	11	152	92	60

The whole weekend was an exhibition in team unity and team spirit at a level that I have not seen before in the few years that I have been attending Inter-Regional Championship competitions. There was a real belief in the possibility of winning and not just having to be content with settling for a well placed finish.

Throughout the Championship our players stayed focused on the game in hand but at the same time became one complete unit, all determined to do their best for each other. Whenever possible players were staying behind to support others when they should have been playing their next game or, more importantly, having lunch.

Their vocal support for our teams made the difference in many close games where the right result was very important to our success but far from secure. It was noticeable that at the end of most rounds our teams had better support than their opponents which could only serve to encourage our players and discourage theirs.

## **The Supporters**

Everyone who  
was there for us

When the Championship Trophy was finally presented to our President, Richard Baker, it was a glorious moment for all our players, managers and supporters. It was a moment that we will remember with so much joy for a long time. Everyone did themselves proud over the two days of competition and I feel so lucky and privileged to have been the Team Manager when we finally won the Inter-Regional Championship again.



We should all be so proud of our representatives at the English Petanque Association Inter-Regional Championship 2007 who showed that they have everything that it takes to be good and worthy winners.

My personal congratulations and thanks go to each and every one of the players. They made my job so very easy and thoroughly enjoyable throughout the competition.

Bernie Miles

SCPA Team Manager  
EPA Inter-Regional Championship 2007