

# English Petanque Association Inter-Regional Championship 2008

## Combined Junior Team Report

Combined Team – Juniors: Kaylee Thatcher, Martin Brooks, Giacomo Sepe, Christian Waller.  
Manager – Liz Farrow.

It was never going to be easy for this team of young 'juniors' as they would be coming up against strong teams who would be a lot older and more experienced than they. It was unfortunate that their first game was against Kernow/Devon who had imported a team of juniors from the Isle of Wight as they do not have a junior team. This was followed by games against Anglia Region and Thames Valley Region. In all three games the Juniors struggled and lost badly but kept their heads up determined to do better. The fourth game of the morning was against Wales. The weather had started to deteriorate badly and after just 3 ends they had to be moved to drier ground as their piste was totally flooded. Many adults were trying to avoid playing under the dreadful conditions that followed but the Juniors battled on and recorded their first win of the day before rushing off to grab a quick lunch and some dry clothes. The afternoon started with Great Western as their opposition and having got the taste for victory they quickly saw them off with a 13-2 win. Next up was Sussex and after a very close start to the game the juniors suddenly raced to the winning post again. An even closer battle followed in their final game of the day against West Midlands who eventually came out the winners.

Seven games in a day, even with a team of four, is a very long and exhausting day. The team had played their hearts out all day and deserved a well-earned rest.

Sunday was a much better day from the point of view of number of games, only 5, and the weather, almost dry but a cold strong wind. After 4 games and despite all their efforts the team had failed to record another win. In two of the games they had been very close to winning. The final game was to be against Kernow/Devon, the team that had beaten them to just 1 in the first game on the Saturday. Having been told that they had absolutely nothing to lose and everything to gain and that they should go out and enjoy it, the team did just that and actually fanned the opposition. What an amazing score to finish the competition on.

I am sure that this experience has been very good for them and will help them throughout their petanque careers. A special mention must be made of Kaylee Thatcher whose determination and grit was exemplary. Whilst the rest of the team gave 100% Kaylee gave 150% in every game she played. Several of the other Junior Managers that the team played against were very impressed by Kaylee.

For a very young and inexperienced team, which has not had the opportunity to play competitions together, they produced very good results:

12 games – 4 wins (including fanning a very strong team).

This was a team that I was proud to look after. They were a definite credit to the region.

Liz Farrow  
Combined Junior Team Manager