

English Petanque Association Inter-Regional Championship

Our Players

Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th September 2008

Team Manager's Report

Allan Paice

Ashley Odell

Beth Godwin

Callum Lombard

Dave Stubbs

David Plumhoff

Debbie Elcome

Graham Galton

Harrison Ash

Helen Manley

John Inglis

Karen Lombard

Kath Knight

Keith Down

Mark Robertshaw

Matt Silvester

Matt Slater

Michael Priest

Mike Knight

Mike Sheppard

Mike Tull

Paul Hayward

Richard Baker

Richard Patterson

Rod Fisher

Sam Thatcher

Sheila Hayward

Steve Lombard

Trevor Treend

We arrived at Brean Sands on Friday ready and eager to defend our 2007 Championship. It started badly with many people being delayed by bad weather, roadworks and an accident on the M5 and the weather forecast for the weekend was, to say the least, poor. Rain was due on Saturday and more of it on Sunday and, unfortunately, the weather forecast was almost right.

Division 1 of the 2008 EPA Inter-Regional Championship was contested by the Chiltern, East Midlands, Eastern, Isle of Wight, Kent, London, Northern and Southern Regions. Each Region was represented by eight adult teams and one junior team.

The matches were all played in a very competitive but sporting fashion by all of the Regions and their teams. As usual, some games were short and others very long and some matches started late if both teams were not ready on time or if they had to wait for the preceding game to finish. There never seemed to be enough time to relax between rounds or for some teams to get much of a lunch break.

Saturday started overcast and then the sun appeared and gave us a false hope of good weather. However, halfway through the morning there was a torrential rain storm that soaked everyone but play continued. It rained on and off for the rest of the day. We ended the day having only beaten the Isle of Wight Region. At the end of Round 7 with five more rounds to play on Sunday we had 25 wins that left us in 7th place with only the London Region below us.

Saturday Team Scores

	Team	W	F	A	Diff
Matt Slater	1	2	53	74	-21
Michael Priest	2	2	58	83	-25
Mike Knight	3	2	65	79	-14
Mike Sheppard	4	2	67	77	-10
Mike Tull	5	2	61	81	-20
Paul Hayward	6	4	70	75	-5
Richard Baker	7	4	79	72	7
Richard Patterson	8	5	86	60	26
Rod Fisher	J	2	67	83	-16
Sam Thatcher	Total	25	606	684	-78

Positions After Saturday's Play

		Wins
Sam Thatcher	1 st	Chiltern 42
Sheila Hayward	2 nd	East Midlands 39
Steve Lombard	3 rd	Kent 35
Trevor Treend	4 th	Eastern 32
Rod Fisher	5 th	Northern 30
Richard Patterson	6 th	Isle of Wight 26
Richard Baker	7 th	Southern 25
Michael Priest	8 th	London 23

On Sunday the weather was generally overcast with one or two very light showers though the sun did appear a couple of times the whole day was quite cold.

Our Teams

Blue Army

Cron dall

Jammy Do'nuts

Junior Team

KBS

KDM

L'Escargot

Limesdowne
Leopards

Red & White Army

With 25 wins our overnight 7th place meant that on Sunday our opponents were the Eastern, Isle of Wight, Kent, London and Northern Regions. Our objective was not to finish in 7th or 8th place and so avoid relegation to Division 2. We had to stay above the London Region which started Sunday with 23 wins and to climb above the Isle of Wight Region which started with 26 wins. The 5th placed Northern Region started Sunday with 30 wins, five more than us, and so to finish higher than 6th place would have been a tremendous achievement.

We achieved good wins in the two most important rounds against the Isle of Wight and London Regions and although we lost the other three rounds we did well enough in them to end the day with 24 wins to give us 49 wins altogether.

To our great relief this appeared to be sufficient to ensure that we stayed in Division 1 with the Isle of Wight and London Regions being relegated to Division 2. However, we had to wait to the Presentation to confirm our position.

Final Team Scores

Team	W	F	A	Diff
1	4	108	126	-18
2	3	94	143	-49
3	3	92	133	-41
4	4	113	132	-19
5	6	121	133	-12
6	8	127	109	18
7	7	139	124	15
8	9	145	89	56
J	5	118	122	-4
Total	49	1057	1111	-54

This year the announcement that we had all been waiting for was made. The London and Isle of Wight Regions were to be relegated to Division 2 for the 2009 Championship. At the end of a difficult weekend this was a creditable result for us. We were very pleased to remain in Division 1!

The final results table is shown below.

Final Positions

		W	F	A	Diff
1st	Chiltern	66	1121	994	127
2nd	East Midlands	65	1140	976	164
3rd	Kent	60	1102	966	136
4th	Northern	56	1068	1083	-15
5th	Eastern	50	1015	1087	-72
6th	Southern	49	1057	1111	-54
7th	Isle of Wight	47	1006	1115	-109
8th	London	39	979	1156	-177

Congratulations to the Chiltern Region on winning the EPA Inter-Regional Championship 2008. They took the lead after the 3rd round and stayed there until the end beating the East Midlands Region by only one win.

Our progress throughout the Championship is shown below. Our results in the first three rounds left us in last place and it took until Round 7 for us to climb above the London Region. On Sunday, our results were enough to ensure that we stayed above the London Region and, after Round 10, climbed above the Isle of Wight Region and stayed there until the end of the competition. In the end we were just one win behind the 5th placed Eastern Region.

Our Managers

Bernie Miles

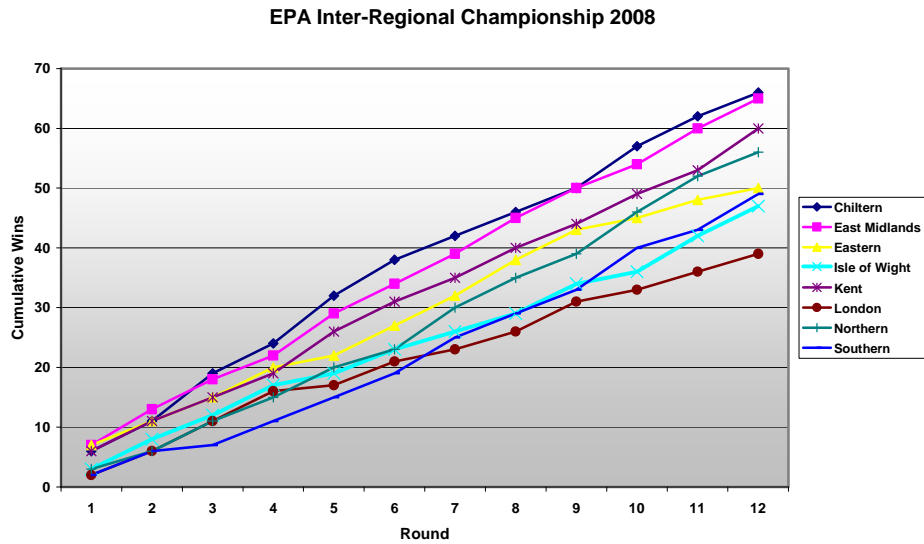
Inter-Regional
Championship Team
Manager

Peter Galton

Inter-Regional
Championship Junior
Team Manager

Our Supporters

Everyone else
who was there to
support us



The whole weekend was as competitive as usual and play was not helped by the inclement weather. All of our teams performed as well as they could against some excellent opposition. Many of the games were very close and it seemed that, this year, more of those close games went against us than went for us.

I would especially like to congratulate our Junior Team who made a very important contribution to our final total of 49 wins. They always gave their best efforts and were well managed by Peter Galton.

Our Challenge Cup Squad should also be congratulated on finishing 3rd in their competition only two wins behind the 2nd place Kent Region and three behind the winners, the Chiltern Region.

We should all be proud of all of our representatives at the 2008 English Petanque Association Inter-Regional Championship. Best of all by finishing 6th this year we will be able to try to win the Championship again next year.

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

Bernie Miles

SCPA Team Manager
2008 EPA Inter-Regional Championship