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Taking the Piste!



Stone's Pétanque Newsletter

Issue No 20 - Nov 2006

Reflections on the Year

Sadly, the year offered "more of the same" in terms of gradually reducing Membership and this in turn was reflected in the low turnout at several Melees and even one of the Competitions (the Sanchiz Memorial) where only 8 members took part.

Despite this, the year held several highlights - firstly and perhaps most importantly, we have a new Sponsor. The Hanley Economic Building Society kindly agreed to sponsor us this year for the generous sum of £250 which covers our greatest expense - the insurance against Accident and Public Liabilities. Many thanks both to the Society and to Stanley Dyke who put in a lot of work behind the scenes to interest the Society in the first place.

The second highlight of the year was the Festival Competition. We have always enjoyed a good level of interest in this event, but this year it surpassed itself - 66 players, including 9 teams from our Sponsors, registered for the evening! A hectic, but most enjoyable time was had by all. Here's to the next time.

In May, we were asked if the Club would host an evening event for the "51 Club" which is an organisation of existing and former businessmen from the Stoke-on-Trent area. Fifteen of their members came along, and despite the fact the only one of them had ever played previously (Stanley of course!) a good time was had by all despite what appeared to be cut-throat competition at times.

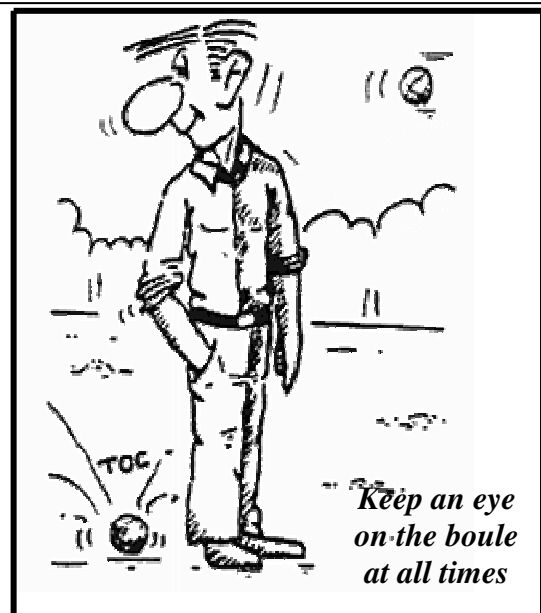
In July, the Secretary was asked to run a series of "taster sessions" on Monday afternoons for a group of retired people who were interested in the game, had never played before, but were unable to come on Sundays or Wednesday evenings. Accordingly, every alternate Monday, groups of between 6 and 12 newcomers to the game came along until the end of September and hopefully will continue next season.

We were also able to generate a reasonable amount of publicity through the Newsletter - small items in the local "What's On" and a nice article and photograph inviting people to join us. Despite all this activity, we have not recruited any new members. We'll just have to keep plugging away.

Who Done What

In playing terms, it has to be said that Ken Heath has played some of his best ever boules this year. He has played consistently well and deservedly, partnered by Audrey, won both the Festival and JF Sanchiz competitions. He also won three melees, one of them with what I think must be a Club record, with 3 Wins +33!! Well done, Ken.

One of our newest Members, Bill Holmes, is however improving his skills rapidly and this, plus his determination and competitive spirit means that he's "coming up on the rails". Watch out Ken ..!



Christmas is Coming

...and so is the time for our traditional Melee known as the "Turkey Trot". This year it will be held on **Sunday 10th December** starting at the usual time and subject as always to the weather.

However, given the generally low turnout over the year, we need to know how many people are interested in taking part. So, if you intend to play please fill in the slip at the bottom of the page and return it to the Secretary **by the 1st December**. Or, if you prefer, telephone him on 01785 814471.

I am afraid that if we can't raise at least 8 players, the competition won't be run this year. Should it become apparent that there is insufficient interest, I will ring those who have replied to let them know.

Next Season

Just to allow you to fill in all the diaries and Calendars which fond families will be giving you this Christmas, the Calendar for the 2007 Season is attached. You will see that this year, the name of the relevant Organiser has not been shown - it might be possible to guess why. Suffice to say that volunteers to learn how to organise will be welcome.

Seasons Greetings



A Fireside Challenge for Cold Winter Evenings

Solve the well-known phrase.....

PROMISE

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ACCAUGHTT

**GIVE GIVE
GIVE GIVE
GET GET
GET GET**

**MAN
BOARD**

LEADTEN

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**SMOKE
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**SHUT
SIT**

**FUNNY FUNNY
WORDS WORDS
WORDS WORDS**

MIY LIIFIE

Turkey Trot, 10th December 2006

Yes, I intend to play at this year's Turkey Trot Melee.

Name _____ Telephone No _____