

SPORT

Jersey prove hot hosts

Island pétanque teams defeat Scotland and Ireland on home terrains

TO their great delight Jersey 1, consisting of Matthew Pinel (17), Jeremy Grigg (17) and Marc Nicol (29) finished top team in the inaugural tri-nation petanque inter-insular played at the Weighbridge at the weekend.

They were the only team, in all four groups, to win all of their games over two days' play as they helped Jersey 1 to a resounding 33 game win. Jersey 2 finished second with 24, Scotland were third with 23 and Ireland fourth with 16.

For the Pinel, Grigg and Nicol partnership, however, perhaps their greatest satisfaction was in beating the Scottish A team (all three of them hardened European internationals) playing, according to Nicol 'a near perfect game'.

'We played so well we didn't give them a chance, really,' he said. 'It was tough - they

By Chris Lake

sport@jerseyeveningpost.com

used more strategy and would discuss everything between shots while we just knew what each other was going to do,' added Grigg, while Pinel chipped in with: 'As a team we played well. We all like to fire as much as we can...' (they won that game a thumping 13 points to three).

The team's aggressive approach was to pay dividends in a competition that president of the Jersey Petanque Association, Ken Le Brun, wants to use as a springboard to eventual competition abroad, first in the European and then the world championships.

'We needed this tournament to give us an idea of what standard we are,' he said. 'And we wanted to do it well, so that they'll go away

telling other petanque players that they enjoyed playing here and that "(Jersey) know what they're doing".

He needn't be disappointed in that, for both Byron Milton ('don't ask me if my parents were poetic!'), president of the Scottish Association, and George Davidson, secretary for the Ireland Petanque Association, were impressed by every facet of an enjoyable weekend.

And it was good competition, too, superbly organized with



Sunshine and smooth terrains: But some of the visitors did not favour the perfect surfaces at the Weighbridge

the only complaint being that, according to Milton, the terrains were much better than they needed to be, from his players' point of view.

'We're not used to playing on anything as smooth as this,' he said. 'If the surface is rough, you have to pick your spots more carefully. Experienced players can do that. A smoother surface means that they might lose games they normally would have won.'

From a party of 18 his four teams included Robbie Stronach, 'our best all-round player who was at the World Championships two years ago' while the Irish party included all-Ireland singles' champion Jim Ryan and... Frenchman Fred Paisnel from Brest and Portuguese player Humberto Tavares.

Tavares' skill at thumping away the jack (or 'cochonnet') was extraordinary, as were

his occasional passionate, emotion-charged expressions of belief or disbelief depending on what boules had been played or where it lay over ten metres in front of him.

'We've only invited two nations this year but hopefully, next year we'll be able to invite more,' said Elaine Paisnel, secretary of the JPA. 'We wanted to gauge where we're going, and how realistic it would be for us to play in Europe,' she said, adding that 'competitive petanque isn't just a pub game' - a view reinforced by Davidson, who stressed that most of his players used terrains in a public park, or at a petanque club co-joined with a golf club. Milton, however, was slightly more pragmatic.

'The first clubs in Scotland were formed as pub teams,' he said, 'probably because, if you played boules on a Saturday afternoon, it slowed down your drinking time and saved you money!'

Top team with all 12 games won was: Marc Nicol, Jeremy Grigg, Matthew Pinel, part of the Jersey 1 team. They were the only team, in all four groups, to win all of their games over the two days. Top team in Jersey 2 was Lawrence, Ian and Mick Rondel with eight wins. Top Scottish team was Mags and Colin Montgomery with John Watson with seven wins. Top Irish team: was Paul and Tricia Murray with Michel Romey with six wins.

The first JPA petanque international was sponsored by Helm Trust, Magic Touch and Normans Ltd.



Jersey 2's Mick Rondel (0093833)

Two round-Island swim successes



Marcy MacDonald: Breakfast!

PERFECT conditions greeted the 'Hadyergobs' relay team of Jersey Long Distance Swimming Club swimmers for their Round Island attempt on Sunday.

Graeme Lowe, who is in training for a solo Round Jersey, along with Lisa Biddlecombe, Garry Bell, and Chantele Rose completed their first open water adventure in a time of 11 hours and 13 minutes with a gutsy performance.

The novice team, who were raising money for Jersey Hospice, set off from Elizabeth Castle Breakwater yesterday morning and were aided by the JLDSC club boat Sea Swimmer, piloted by Charlie Gravett and Mick Le Guilcher. On Saturday Marcy MacDonald came within minutes of the solo Round Island record when she completed her circumnavigation in nine hours and 59 minutes, just six minutes off the all time best.

The next event in the JLDSC's outdoor programme is a Jersey to France swim with Karen Throsby from Warwick University on Monday 5 July.



Left: Ireland's Jim Ryan and Sue Ryan

Pictures: DAVID FERGUSON (00993831)



Left: Scotland's Douglas Hamilton in action (00993827)

SIDELINES

PETANQUE

Magic Touch Island Doubles

THE de Gruchys, Gordon and Dorothy, retained their trophy last week by beating Elaine and Fred Paisnel 13-7 in the final.

Having begun the day with 20 pairs divided into four groups of five before playing each other in those groups, three of the group winners won three of their four games: Joan and Dennis le Mercier with point difference of +27,

Elaine and Fred Paisnel with +20 and Linda Taylor and Ken Vibert with +19.

However the de Gruchys won all four of their games convincingly (+42); the highest score against them being six and they also had wins of 13-1 and 13-0 thus setting out their intention of a place in the final from the outset.

The semi final between the de Gruchys and Taylor and Vibert was, once again, a convincing victory for the title holders 13-4. Meanwhile the other semi saw the

Paisnells move ahead early on against Joan and Dennis le Mercier before the Ler Merciers squared it to 12-all.

Eventually, after a tense final end, the Paisnells booked their place in the final where they continued in good form, taking early points before the de Gruchy juggernaut slowly but surely pulled away and, despite having two or three goes at clinching the game, they ran out winners, 13-7, to become the first pair to retain the championship.

TENPIN

Fosters Invitation League

WEEK 14 of the friendly league had the following results: Chris Elward beat Rob Shaw, Spike Burgess beat Craig Johnson (8-0); Elaine Huggins beat Tom Long, Tony Jeanne beat Jenny Jeanne, Alan Berry beat Steve McVay (6-2); Rose Edwards beat Serge Mezec (5-3). High scores were as follows: Elaine Huggins 211, 170; Alan Berry 211, 202, 178; Steve McVay 181, 178, 175; Chris Elward

179, 170; Spike Burgess 179.

| Competitor | HGS | HSS | HGH | HSB | Pts |
|----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Spike Burgess | 237 | 571 | 244 | 572 | 74 |
| Chris Elward | 211 | 544 | 219 | 568 | 74 |
| Jeff Edwards | 224 | 629 | 235 | 647 | 62 |
| Alan Berry | 232 | 591 | 235 | 597 | 61 |
| Paul Lister | 217 | 559 | 229 | 595 | 55 |
| Jenny Jeanne | 203 | 546 | 217 | 588 | 54 |
| Elaine Huggins | 211 | 527 | 227 | 575 | 53 |
| Tom Long | 174 | 478 | 199 | 555 | 49 |
| Steve McVay | 235 | 628 | 236 | 631 | 47 |
| Tony Jeanne | 189 | 506 | 209 | 536 | 46 |
| Rose Edwards | 177 | 462 | 213 | 570 | 46 |
| Tim Stout | 223 | 547 | 233 | 601 | 46 |
| Rob Shaw | 212 | 605 | 224 | 641 | 42 |
| Aimee Mezec | 197 | 497 | 231 | 599 | 40 |
| Serge Mezec | 167 | 466 | 206 | 583 | 37 |
| Craig Johnson | 212 | 482 | 243 | 575 | 36 |