

Meet the Committee.

Lee Edgar (President)



I started playing Pétanque at Huntington PC when I was about 11/12 years old and instantly took a liking to the game something I could play with my mates who also played at Huntington. As we got better at the game we started playing in the Thursday night John Smiths league travelling to other local clubs which was fascinating to see the different venues and terrains that we had to play on. Then we started entering weekend competitions.

I've been very privileged to have had the opportunity to play with some very good players over the years. I spent many years playing with my 2 mates Andy and Adam who I played with in the leagues and the various tournaments around the region and we then went down to the British junior championships in High Wycombe where we got beat in the finals and missed out going to world championships. Me and Andy decided to jump into the senior game and teamed with Mark Brigham also of Huntington and actually qualified to play in the inter-regional at Brean Sands.

Then I spent 5/6 good years playing with the late Pete Rowlands and Pat Rowlands and winning lots of silverware and some good tournaments and represented the region.

First time I qualified to play for England in the home nations was with Stone and Joe and we travelled up to Ayr in Scotland and played as England 1 and actually got best English team result 11/12. Then decided to take a couple of years out the game. Came back feeling fresh and teamed up with more great players. Over the years I've qualified to play for England in the Homes Nations 6 times and England 13 times. The best team I've qualified with to play for England has to be Matt Blyton and Barry Scott. Two very talented players of the game and learnt a lot from both of them.

Also asked by Matt Blyton to go to a big tournament in Munich in Germany where we teamed up with a very good player called Alec and it totally opened my eyes to Pétanque playing in an absolutely gorgeous venue with over 100 teams there it certainly is a memory that will stay with me for ever and I hope one day to go back and play there again.

My journey in Pétanque has given me the opportunity to make and meet some great Pétanque players and good friends from around the world so I decided after being asked loads of times from people to show them how to high lob point and shoot and I sat my coaching course and happily passed. This has given me the chance to be a coach in our region and then to be elected for head coach for Northern and now Yorkshire Pétanque also I am part of the England national youth squad coaching team.

I then plucked up the courage to put myself up for election to be President of the region and I'm very privileged to be elected as president. It certainly isn't an easy job but I'm lucky to have a good team around me to help run the region. I certainly can't wait to get back playing.

Roy Henstock, Secretary



I started playing pétanque in my late 60's, far too old to become a top player but as soon as I found the game I was hooked! This happened early in 2014 when Kirklees council, working with our Development Officer, Paul Simpkins, built a 10 lane terrain in Greenhead Park, Huddersfield. Paul held some 'have a go' days which I attended and then a meeting of players interested in forming a club was held in the Community Room at Greenhead Park in April 2014. Unable to sit on my hands I was elected the club's first Secretary and I've held that post ever since.

I have had some success at Huddersfield Petanque Club (HPC) winning all the internal tournaments at some time or another. I soon started entering Northern Pétanque events and my best results (so far!) were when playing with Dag at Wetherby and Lee at Bridlington. They did their best but I had to carry them!

I was part of a team from HPC that entered the inaugural Harrogate Invitational Tournament in 2015 and the team of Robin Schofield, Sue Crofts and myself were runners up in the 2016 event. I was invited to join the team of Dag, Liz and Neill to play at the Inter Regionals at Hayling Island in 2017 and in 2019 qualified to play there with fellow HPC members Paul, Brendan Callaghan and Richard Hartley.



Paul, Brendan & I travelled to Crystal Palace in 2019 where we played against 3 French Giants. From memory Dad was 6'5, son stood at 6'4 and little uncle could only manage 6'8. We lost that match. They didn't need to throw their boule they just leaned over and placed them!

The same HPC team travelled to the Guernsey Open in 2019. The airline had advised that boules were fine in hand luggage and we sailed through the custom checks on the outward leg but on the way home was very different. Boule not allowed in hand luggage and had to go in the hold. Same airport same airline!



I entered the Whitnash Open Spring event twice playing once with Chris Kitson & Aly Sebastien and the following year with a team from John Street Pétanque.

I have entered both La British Open tournaments and really enjoyed meeting and playing against the top English players and some from further afield. A great learning experience. I was elected as Secretary of Northern Pétanque in 2018 and I'm currently working hard to get Yorkshire Pétanque up and running.

New terrains and old.

Despite Covid there have been projects getting underway. Many of these are small "village green" style terrains of 1 or 2 lanes but the keen players of tomorrow may come from these type of terrains.

Recently discovered

Thornton le Dale built a 2 lane terrain in 2017. The boules terrain is in the grounds of the village hall (opposite the Classic Car Garage/Museum) and boules can be hired locally.

Grassington built a terrain at the Bowls club in 2018 with a grant from Yorkshire Dales fund.

Built in 2019 The Ashes, Howden near Howden Minster is a 2 lane terrain used mostly by U3A every Saturday morning from 10.00 to 12.00. No experience is necessary and boules can be loaned to new players. They have a video! <https://youtu.be/53fWHkVSiZI>

Built in 2020

Ripponden has built a 3 lane terrain at a cricket club and has started limited play.

Lightcliffe in Calderdale has 8 lanes. Very well hidden and protected by locked gates. If you're thinking of dropping in for a look you'll be disappointed. Some limited play in Autumn 2020 and starting again soon in 2021. No club yet and waiting until post covid to start marketing. 30 to 40 interested players.

Bishop Monkton built 2 lanes but no play yet although strong interest from the residents.

Addingham built 2 lanes near the War memorial and had a grand opening in February 2020.

Planned for 2020 but delayed

Shelley in Kirklees had funding and a contractor ready to go for a 4 lane terrain. Was scheduled for Autumn 2020. Taster sessions planned for when it's built. Shelley has plans for a club and will be the 8th place to play in Kirklees.

Planned for 2021



Ingbirchworth just over the South Yorkshire border in Barnsley has plans for a 4 lane terrain on their community playing field. Already has a strong group of volunteers including parish councillors and looking for quotes from contractors. Expecting to build in time for summer.

Horsforth Town Council started talking about a terrain in March 2021. A YP member spotted this and made contact. They have been circulated with documentation and we wait & see.

A resident in Ilkley has been thinking about a terrain since February 2020 and has recruited a local councillor but no progress since then.

Marton cum Grafton is at the quotes stage but will probably end up with a small 2 lane terrain. There should be enough North Yorkshire villages to start a league by summer.

Mirfield petition

Harry Overend from Mirfield Pétanque club writes...

Kirklees have received a payment from a local builder of £40,000 to be spent specifically to improve the facilities in Memorial Park in Mirfield. A petition has been started to show Kirklees how much support there is for this much needed extra terrain space.

With your help we can show that the need is there. See <http://chng.it/HrMsZbwM> and support it if you can.

Return to Play.

There is little change from the 29th March guidelines but points to note are that car sharing is not allowed unless it's the same family or social bubble, socialising between and after games is not allowed and the difference between organised sport and informal play is crucial.

<https://www.petanque-england.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/PE-Covid-19-Play-Safe-Guidelines-April-10-2021.pdf>

Inter Regionals.

PE Events committee is looking at venues and keen to hold these this year. There may have to be compromises. More than one venue is being considered. No contracts have yet been signed. With the uncertainty of covid there is the possibility of it being regionalised and different venues holding parts of it. Early decisions are planned by Board so qualifiers can go ahead but if they can't be held regions can rely on earlier year's qualifiers to form teams. The date is fixed for 4th & 5th September.

Magic little grants.

There are many funding streams available. One of the simplest is Magic Little Grants. You can see more at <https://localgiving.org/about/magic-little-grants/> £500 is available. If you don't ask you don't get. Could be used to write a small website or print 1,000 flyers for a leaflet drop or to spring clean your terrain, plant flowers or to provide benches. Advice on applying for funding from development officer if you need it.

Scorers.

Boul'scor is a 3 in one device that will pick up your boule, keep score and measure short differences. See more at <https://www.boulscore.fr> or DC pétanque. Expensive but could be the ideal birthday present for the boules player who has everything.

Pocketscorekeeper is a simple plastic scorer that just keeps the score. See more at <http://www.pocketscorekeeper.com> The cost is about 7 dollars (£5) but the postage costs from the USA are expensive - unless you buy in bulk and resell.

Bowls scorers are available on the web. Cheapest seems to be 2 for £7-80 with free postage. Can't be hung round your neck but they slip easily into a pocket.

Email development@yorkshirepetanque.co.uk with comments.

