

AN INTRODUCTION TO  
**PETANQUE**



The terrain at Wetherby Sports Association  
(see back for club details)

WELCOME TO  
**WETHERBY  
PETANQUE CLUB**

A MEMBER of  
NORTHERN PETANQUE  
which is a region of the  
ENGLISH PETANQUE ASSOCIATION

## Wetherby Petanque Club

(previously Boston Crown P.C.) started in Boston Spa in 1993. In September 2002 the club moved to a new terrain at the Wetherby Sports Association and the club extended this to 34 metres by 12 metres in 2003. (11 games at once).

The club has had very successful playing years recently with the 1st team winning the York & District league 5 times in the last 8 years.

Players from the club frequently feature in club and regional tournaments.

**However players who only wish to play socially are equally welcome.**

The club meets on Tuesday afternoons throughout the year starting at 1.00 pm. The club also fields 2 teams of 6 in the York & District league which is played on Thursday evenings from the end of April to the end of August. Evening club sessions depend on the number of players wishing to play but **the terrain is always available for club members.**

Visitors are welcome although membership of the Sports Association and the Petanque club are required for regular players. Knowledge of the game is not essential since the club includes a qualified coach and several very experienced players.

**Boules are available for anyone to try the sport.**

Membership of the Sports Association is £6 p.a. in 2007 (£10 for families) and membership of the club is £10 p.a. (£2 p.a. for juniors Anyone interested in visiting or joining the club should ring the club secretary Jenny Stockton on 01937 583319 or see the club website at [www.northernpetanque.co.uk/wetherby](http://www.northernpetanque.co.uk/wetherby).

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## HOW TO PLAY PETANQUE

### BASIC RULES

- ★ The game is played as singles, doubles or triples. In singles or doubles each player has 3 boules and in triples 2.
- ★ The team that starts is decided by tossing a coin.
- ★ One team member draws a circle on the ground, 35 to 50 cm diameter. The first player throws the coche 6 to 10 metres away and at least 1 metre from the boundary. He or she then throws the first boule ( both feet must remain in the circle and on the ground until the boule lands ), placing it as near to the cochonnet as possible.
- ★ An opponent then tries to throw his/her boule nearer to the coche or to knock away the leading boule. Then players from whichever team are not closest to the coche play until they get a closer boule and so on. When a team have no more boules the other team, in turn, throw theirs.
- ★ A boule hitting a boundary is dead and is removed from that end. On a piste marked with strings a boule is dead if it completely crosses the string.
- ★ When both teams have no more boules, points are counted. The winning team receives as many points as it has boules nearer to the coche than the best of the opposition.
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- ★ The game continues with a player from the team that won the previous end drawing a new circle around where the coche finished and throwing the coche for a new end. The circle can be moved back in the line of the previous end if there is not room to play a 10 metre end.
- ★ The game continues until one team reaches 13 points



- ★ Full rules of the sport are on the EPA website - [www.englishpetanque.org.uk](http://www.englishpetanque.org.uk)

### TIPS

- ★ The boule can be thrown at any height or even rolled depending on the terrain.
- ★ Boules are thrown underarm, usually with the palm of the hand downwards which allows backspin to be put on the boule giving greater control.

## PETANQUE IN ENGLAND

### HISTORY

Ball games resembling Petanque have been played for many centuries. History tells us that two balls and a jack were even found in the sarcophagus a 52<sup>nd</sup> century BC Egyptian prince.

It is also likely that Francis Drake was playing a version of Boules rather than Crown Green Bowls. The modern game of Petanque (or Boules as it is often referred to) was a modification of an established Provençal ball game in 1910.

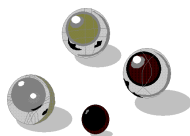
The sport quickly spread to almost all parts of France then to all parts of the world because of its universal appeal.

Its appeal is that it is a simple but skilful sport. It can be played on a variety of surfaces. It is comparatively inexpensive both for equipment and maintenance of facilities.

**Above all it is a family sport where males and females from a very wide age range can compete on equal terms.**

### THE EQUIPMENT

**Boules** - metal of diameter 7.05 to 8cm, engraved with their weight and manufacturers name and a **Jack** (or coche) - wood of diameter 25 and 35mm, it may be painted any colour for good visibility on the terrain.



[www.boulesales.co.uk](http://www.boulesales.co.uk) (an EPA subsidiary) can advise you on which boules to buy. They are the UK stockist of **JB Boules**. For more details see [www.boulesales.co.uk](http://www.boulesales.co.uk)

## ENGLISH PETANQUE ASSOCIATION

[www.englishpetanque.org.uk](http://www.englishpetanque.org.uk)

In 1974 the British Petanque Association was formed and granted affiliation to the Federation Internationale de Petanque at Jeu Provençal, the international body of the sport.

The BPA's aims were to promote the growth of Petanque in Britain, standardise rules and to conduct and arrange local, regional, national and international competitions for BPA members. Most importantly it aimed to provide a means of communication between clubs.

In 2004 the sport devolved further to cater for the needs of its expansion. A new internationally recognised governing body, the British Petanque Federation was formed to which the English, Scottish and Welsh Associations are affiliated.

**The EPA is now the governing body for the sport in England.**

### WHAT CAN THE EPA OFFER YOU

A member has the following benefits.

In playing terms it enables you to be a member of a structured sport which gives you opportunities to **compete from club to international level.**

You can compete in all events organised by Northern Petanque which is the EPA region covering the North of England. This includes the chance to represent Northern at the annual Inter Regional Championships which is the largest Petanque event in Britain with several hundred players taking part.

At national level it gives you the chance to compete in the English Title Championships as well as the qualifying events of the British



Petanque Federation which can lead to international representation.

You will have **access to coaching** either at a local level or on specialist courses. In addition you can also train to be a qualified Coach.

You can upgrade your membership (at no cost) to an international licence which will allow you to play in events abroad.

You will be issued with a rule book and if you so wish you can train to become a qualified Umpire.

You will receive through your club and region, information including newsletters, details of EPA and Northern Meetings.

EPA membership provides you with a **comprehensive insurance and liability cover** (further details are available on the EPA website).

## NORTHERN PETANQUE

[www.northernpetanque.co.uk](http://www.northernpetanque.co.uk)

The Northern Region of the British Petanque Association was formed in 1997 and covers **Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire.**



This became Northern Petanque in 2004 when the EPA was formed.

Each year Northern holds Singles, Pairs and Triples Events, there is a qualifying series to determine who will represent Northern at the Inter-Regional Championships. There is also an Intra Regional where squads from different areas of Northern compete against each other.

For information on local clubs, tournaments and leagues or for any general information about the sport of Petanque ring the Regional President Alan Swift on 0113 2681124 or visit Northern's website at [www.northernpetanque.co.uk](http://www.northernpetanque.co.uk)