

PETANQUE: ITS GOVERNING STRUCTURE AND WHERE WELLINGTON PC FITS IN AND THE INTER REGIONAL COMPETITION

A few weeks ago, Pétanque England announced that this year's Inter Regional Competition in September will be held at Weston Super Mare. Some members have been asking what is the Inter Regional Competition and how I can be involved? I thought it might be helpful to put together this brief explanation.



Although pétanque is considered a “minority sport” it is none the less a global sport and, like all other global sports, it has an international governing body, “Federation Internationale de Petanque et Jeu

Provençal”. It is this organisation that lays down the rules that we all play by regardless of where we are in the world. It also organises world championship competitions for men, women and juniors. Details of past and future events can be found on their website: [F.I.P.J.P](http://www.fipjp.org)



Each country where pétanque is played has its own governing body. In our case Pétanque England. Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland have their own governing bodies. Membership of Pétanque England is open to all pétanque players and cubs can be affiliated. Pétanque England organises national competitions for men, women and juniors and it also runs the “National Teams” that competes in European and World competitions. More information about Petanque England can be found at: [Pétanque England](http://www.petanque-england.org).



There are 18 regions currently affiliated to Pétanque England. Wellington PC is a member of the Devon Region. Each Region is responsible for organising its own competitions some of which are qualifiers for the national competitions. A part of the annual Pétanque England membership fees is passed on to the regions to help run competitions etc.



The foundation stones for the sport of pétanque in England are the various pétanque clubs throughout the country many of which are, like Wellington PC, affiliated to Pétanque England. Clubs organise their own competitions and club members who are also Pétanque England members can enter competitions organised by their region and Petanque England. One of these competitions is the Inter Regional Tournament that this year is being played at Weston super Mare. The following is an extract from the Pétanque England website which explains a little bit more about this competition:

The Inter-Regional tournament is Petanque England's biggest annual competition and is the highlight of the Petanque year for many PE members. The tournament comprises two divisions, and within each division there is a Championship (eight teams per regional squad) and a Challenge (four teams per regional squad).

Each team within a region's squad is ranked and plays against equally-ranked teams from all other regions in their division.

The Presidents Cup aggregates the score of all a regions squads – both Championship and Challenge – to find the overall best-performing region.

Participating PE Regions hold qualifying competitions to select their players, and the Regions then enter their squads in the competition (it is not possible for individuals to enter directly). Booking of accommodation is also done via the Regions, who make bookings for their team with our partner Isle of Wight Tours.

So, anybody wishing to take part in the Inter Regional Tournament must firstly be a Pétanque England member. Secondly you need to be selected to play. The selection procedure is carried out by the Devon Region Committee but the exact process is still to be announced.

Last year I was lucky enough to be selected to play and an account of my experience was posted on the website.

With this year's event being in "our own backyard" there is likely to be greater competition for places on the team. But this should not discourage anybody from having a go. However, if you do get on the team it is a very busy and hectic two days of intense competitive pétanque but great fun as well.

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