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FIPJP & CEP



WPA Vice-President (Playing) – Report 2008

European Cup For Clubs

Following their victory in the Welsh tournament, the Monkstone Inn hosted the Club Champions Léman Pétanque of Switzerland. Although unsuccessful in progressing to the next round, all involved agreed it was an extremely successful event and the Monkstone PC did a sterling job of hosting their visitors.

WPA Grand Prix Qualifier Series

The four rounds of the 2008 Grand Prix series were held at Panteg House, Abergavenny, Wenve Arms and, a new venue for this year, Dinas Powys RFC. Each terrain offered something different, with Dinas Powys proving a particular challenge.

The standard of play of all 18 teams competing was very high again this year, and the revenue generated by these events provided a substantial portion of WPA funds.

There was some criticism of the final standings and, as a result a meeting was held to discuss possible options for changing the format for 2009 and beyond. As a result, 2009 will see the introduction of a Play-Off system for the Teams finishing the Grand Prix Series in places 1-4 and a similar one for the Teams finishing in places 5-8.

WPA National Competitions

The numbers of Teams and Players entering all National Competitions was disappointingly low this year compared to 2007. There was no obvious reason for this, although the soaring cost of fuel may have played a part. Contact with the VP(P)s in England and Scotland indicate that numbers were low across the country at events this year, some Competitions even being cancelled as a result of insufficient numbers.

The weather played a major part in the 2008 Playing Calendar, with the WPA National Mixed Doubles being moved to another date and the WPA Development Triples and Inter-Counties competitions being cancelled.

In addition, we were forced to cancel the WPA Open Triples and Open Mixed Doubles – again due to the very poor entry numbers.

WPA League

A mixed season for the WPA League in 2008 saw the arrival of a new Club, Euroclad, and the Season having to be extended to complete all fixtures. It quickly became apparent that a number of Clubs had over-extended themselves by entering more Teams than they could comfortably accommodate. Eventually the League completed by the end of September, and the League Cup & Plate Finals

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reaching their conclusions at the Wenvoe Arms.

Vice-President (Playing)

On a personal note, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people who provided support, advice and guidance throughout the Season, making the job easier than it would have otherwise have been.

In particular, I would like to thanks Tony Smith, Derek Jones and John Legge.

Robert Pugh
Vice President (Playing)
Welsh Pétanque Association