

2026 Annual General Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date/Venue: March 4th 2026 @ 7.30pm – The Bell, Great Paxton, St Neots

1. Present and Apologies:

- 1.1. **Attendees:** Dave & Val Sellick, Sue Noades, Steve Holton, Toni Scrivener, Phil Sargeant, Dale Green, Alison Lesley-Owen, Neil Stubbs, Matt & Alex Warren, Bob & Carol Footner, Chris Hall
- 1.2. **Apologies:** Kevin Grice, John Holden, Chris Lawrence, Chris Hancox, Donna Viney, Paul Viney, Neil Woods, Luke Searles, Tim Ablett, Brenda Bols and Pete Bols

2. Election of Officers

- 2.1. **Chairman.** Dave Sellick had, in 2025, given notice of his intention to formally retire from the post of Chairman at this 2026 AGM and would not be able to run the 2025 Winter League. Sue Noades therefore agreed to organise and run the Winter League in the role of Chairman (Designate) and subsequently agreed to make herself available for the full role of Chairman upon Dave's retirement. The room was asked if anyone else wanted to come forwards to take on the role but there was none. Sue was duly elected to the post.

Proposed by Dave Sellick and seconded by Bob Footner

- 2.2. **Vice-Chairman.** Sue Noades then requested that Matt Warren be appointed Vice-Chairman.

Proposed by Sue Noades and seconded by Dale Green

- 2.3. **Treasurer.** Sue Noades explained that whilst there had been little need for a separate role to manage the limited financial affairs of the league, she was hopeful of adding more activities during the calendar that would increase the requirement. Rachael Martin (landlady of the Bell, Great Paxton) offered to take on this responsibility, something that she already does for a number of other sports leagues.

Proposed by Sue Noades, seconded by Alison Lesley-Owen and also accepted by the room.

- 2.4. **Honorary President.** Steve Holton agreed to stay on in his role of Hon. President.

3. Minutes from the 2025 AGM

Minutes of the 2025 AGM were approved at the meeting.

4. Financial Report by Dave Sellick

- Cash in the bank at the beginning of the season: £145.45
- Income from League fees: £60.00
- Income from Competition fees: £188.00

- Expenditure on trophy engraving and awards: £222.00
- Lloyds Bank Charges for the two months prior to closing the account after last AGM: £8.50
- Image copyright infringement fee (unauthorised use of an England World Cup football image on our News page): £70.00
- Closing cash balance for the season: £92.95

5. Matters Arising

5.1. **Insurance/Player Waiver.** At the 2025 AGM the Chairman (Dave Sellick) told the meeting that he had quotes for liability insurance for the League but the cost would be prohibitive. The meeting agreed that Dave should go ahead and issue a waiver form to the team captains for all players to sign and agree to. Subsequent to that meeting, Dave had explored a number of options but had not found anything appropriate or relevant to our type of activity. At this 2026 AGM, Dave proposed an alternative approach where the following statement is placed at the top of the League Rules:

“The St Neots & District Petanque League (SN&DPL) is a platform that enables teams and individual players to compete against each other under a set of agreed rules. All teams and players take part at their own risk; all players must, under these rules, agree to waive any liability that the S&NDPL may have regarding damage to property and/or injury sustained whilst participating in the organised events. It is the responsibility of Team Captains to ensure that all team members are aware of both this waiver and the competition rules as laid down below.”

The proposal was made by Dave Sellick and agreed unanimously.

5.2. **Rules.** Rule amendments agreed in the 2025 AGM meeting were subsequently published to the web site.

6. 2025 Winter League

6.1. Sue Noades reported that players had enjoyed it and she was proud of everyone involved. Well done and thank you! The winter league had given people confidence to captain summer league teams.

7. 2026 Summer League Venues & Teams

7.1. Venues

- The pétanque piste at the White Horse in Eaton Socon is being restored by Luke Searle and others. It should be ready by the first week of April making it available for this summer season.

- An additional 3-lane piste is being created at the Bell, Great Paxton located at the bottom of the garden area and this will be gravel boarded out. It won't be ready for the start of our new season but will be available later for competitions and provides the potential for additional Bell teams in 2027. It will also be having additional lighting to cover that area.

7.2. Teams

The Anchor and North Buckden Badgers teams of 2025 have both lost players resulting in their amalgamation into a single team to be captained by Dave Sellick and playing at the White Horse. This effectively reduces the number of confirmed 2026 Summer League teams to five. However, Luke Searle and Toni Scrivener have offered to captain two new teams if they can secure enough players. This table shows the current status:

Team Name	Host Venue	Captain	# Players
Crown	The Crown	Alison Lesley-Owen	8 + 2 P/time
Bell	The Bell	Kevin Grice	9
Bell Ringers	The Bell	Sue Noades	9
Barley Mow	The Barley Mow	Phil Sargeant	9
TBC	The White Horse	Dave Sellick	8
White Horse	The White Horse	Luke Searle	4
Anchor	The Anchor	Toni Scrivener	2

7.3. **Recruitment.** In addition to the urgent need to create at least one new team for the upcoming summer season, the long-term ambition is to grow the league back to pre-COVID strength with eight (or more) teams from the six last year. The ideal scenario therefore would be to have seven teams in 2026 then grow to eight in 2027. To meet both objectives, new player recruitment posts have been placed on local social media groups. To date we have received sixteen enquires with a potential eighteen players. About a third of these have some pétanque experience, the rest are beginners. An introduction session for these potential new players is being planned for Wednesday March 18th with the objective of getting commitments from sufficient people to fill the two new teams being created by Luke and Toni.

8. Fees

8.1. **League Fees.** After some discussion it was agreed to increase League Fees to £20 per team for the Summer League. Team captains should send the fees to the new Treasurer, Rachael Martin at their first game at The Bell. This will help to cover rising costs with engraving etc. and for any additional trophies needed.

It was agreed that the Winter League will pay a nominal fee of £5.00 per team for the coming season.

8.2. **Competition Fees.** The room agreed to retain the current £2 per head entry fee for the Singles, Doubles and Triples knockout competitions.

9. League Start Date

The room agreed to start the Summer Season at the same time as last year. The first League fixture will therefore be Wednesday April 22nd 2026 preceded by an Open Practice Session taking place at the Bell on April 8th and White Horse on April 15th. The season will end around the 17th September and the Winter Season will commence around the 26th October.

10. AOB & Member Propositions

10.1. **Bell Piste Boundary.** Dave Sellick requested that the sloping sided bricks used to border the Bell piste be replaced with straight sides to avoid ambiguity when a boule is out of play. Dale Green explained that the current focus is to construct the new piste and therefore would not be possible at this time.

10.2. **Sunday Summer League Proposal.** Kevin Grice (absent from the meeting) proposed a Sunday League to run alongside the Summer League. This would be similar to the successful Winter League but be limited to teams of four players and played in the morning e.g. 10am-12am or 11am-1pm. Team Captains agreed to get feedback from their team members.

10.3. **Rule Change; Knockout Competition Substitutions.** Dave Sellick stated that our current rule of not allowing any substitutes for qualifying players finding themselves unavailable to play at Singles, Doubles & Triples Knockout Finals has created genuine issues on a couple of occasions. Phil S proposed that, in genuine unavoidable cases, a team member who did not play in any of the qualifying rounds could play in the final as a substitute. This was then seconded by Alison, Chris H and Neil with the room also agreeing and the motion was accepted. There was also discussion whether the substitute should be assessed to ensure they were not of a higher playing standard than the person they were replacing. It was

decided that this was too complicated.

- 10.4. **New Melee Competitions.** Sue Noades proposed to add a Doubles and Triples mixed team melee knockout competition to the 2026 fixtures to foster a greater inter-team spirit. It was suggested that the Bell would be an ideal venue once the additional piste is completed. Players from any Sumer League team can partner up to form a mixed doubles or triples team who will then be allocated a venue to compete at. A random draw will take place for each venue to determine who plays who.
- 10.5. **Rule Change; Adjacent Jacks.** Neil Stubbs requested rule clarification for occasions when jacks thrown on adjacent lanes land close to each other making play difficult. Petanque England rules state that the second jack thrown should be moved to outside a 1.5 metre radius of the other jack or thrown again. It was agreed that we should adopt the same.
- 10.6. **Rule Change; Jack Re-Throws.** Following on from 10.5, it was also agreed that foul throws of the jack should not result in a re-throw. In line with Petanque England rules, the jack should instead be passed to the opposing team to play.
- 10.7. **Open Sessions:** To be held on either the 18th or 25th March for all new players interested in joining one of the teams. This will be held at The Bell following on from contacting them all, along with the attendance of Matt W, Toni S and Luke S. This will give the opportunity on both sides to see who is available to form the two teams needing players.
- 10.8. **Registration of Team Players:** If all Captains can advise of their team players as soon as they are aware this would be hugely helpful. Most information however, had already been given at the meeting with just a few missing players.