

## Annual General Meeting 2019: Chairman's Report

Welcome everybody to this our 20<sup>th</sup> AGM of the boules in Gwent league at the start of our 21<sup>st</sup> playing season.

Looking back, it is incredible how time has flown and how this league has grown. We met around this time in 1999 at the Roman Lodge Hotel on Ponthir Road (which has just become the Isca Arms) and we were then just 10 clubs with one team each. We have lost 3 of this founding group - Newport High School Old Boys on stow hill Newport, Panteg and now for this season Red Lion. Actually, we had late overtures from Panteg to rejoin but negotiations failed.

On a good note this year we have 3 new teams joining us namely The Greyhound Llantrisant, The Crown Varteg, and Greenlawn are putting in a 3<sup>rd</sup> team. Welcome to all of you.

We are looking for suggestions to do something special to celebrate our 21<sup>st</sup> season. So if anybody would like to put forward a suggestion please let Robin and I know.

At last, the past season was played in excellent weather with a sunshine summer and thanks to you all games took place with no real problems.

I say every year that fulfilling matches on a Monday evening is mandatory (unless the coch is floating). So when you pay your membership you, on behalf of your club, are agreeing to these rules which have been set by a majority of votes in a past meeting.

The divisions were again very competitive but perhaps not division 1 where the Caerleon A team ran away with it, and they also won the Henry Powell cup and the Champion of Champions competition at the end of the season.

In the Henry Powell cup Caerleon beat ROF and the Plate competition final saw, probably for the first time, two teams from outside division 1 contesting it. Honours went to the

division 4 champions Upper Cocks against division 2 team Caerleon Cohort.

On a Sunday in July we played our league v The Welsh Pétanque Association (WPA, teams from the Cardiff area). We won this year and we led from round one and just kept increasing our lead. Thanks to all the 24 players who represented our league.

This event started as a means of letting players who don't play in the Welsh system have a chance to play the same type of players as in the Cardiff league. The competition will take place again this season and I would encourage anybody who feels nervous about joining in to do it as it is a fun day. We are home this year and we are open to a club that would like to volunteer to host it.

We finished the season with our annual presentation evening which again, because of our high numbers, took place in Ponthir Hall. Again, I think that the hog roast was a big success and with a live duo at an all-in cost of £12 pp made it excellent value. Thanks to all who came and maintained our good turnout of over 100 persons for this event.

I would like to thank Robin as secretary, treasurer, results secretary, publicity officer, etc. for all his good work (again). Robin took this position the year after our 1<sup>st</sup> season as the final results for that season showed a lot of anomalies.

Thanks to Kon from Caerleon who although away in Tenerife has already put forward a prospective fixture list which each club has received a copy for comments, Wilf Hall (Machen) who has set up a very good website and Paul Macer-Wright (Monmouth) who runs the Facebook page both obviously under Boules in Gwent. All these people work behind the scenes to ensure that this league is a great competition. Well done to everybody.