

This has been a year unlike any other due to the covid-19 virus which has completely changed all plans for the year and dictated much of the short season of petanque that has existed this year.

Just when the club was about to start playing in numbers we were thrown off the piste from March until June. Even then the playing of Petanque was limited to a subset of around a third of the members who have been braving the virus and playing in Bubbles of six. With enough space to cater for three such bubbles the limit on numbers has been eighteen which was reached on just one occasion but never exceeded.

Maintenance of the Piste has been limited this year with no progress on the drainage problems.

Last year there was much talk of adding a further three pistes on the area of grass outside the swimming pool window. This activity got shelved due to the refurbishment of the sport centre and the need to build a path right across the potential new piste.

Then of course the Covid-19 situation arose and for a while the future looked bleak.

In more recent times the possibilities of carrying out further development work on the pistes has been discussed with the Cricklade Town Council (CTC). At a Zoom meeting with the CTC, I highlighted issues with Trees, Drainage and Fencing etc. The response from the CTC has been most encouraging with generous offers to assist us in the development of the facilities as far as we wish. In Particular;

- There is an ongoing activity of reviewing the state of the trees around Cricklade which means that the two large trees which overhang the pistes are due to have their crowns raised. This should stop our high lobs from colliding with the low hanging branches.
- The Drainage problems around the exit of the Children's play area that spill over onto the pistes are due to be dealt with by the CTC who are planning to install a French drain along the length of the path on the playground side of the path.

- When the CTC heard mention of the possibility of having a seventh piste located on the grass area at the far end of the Piste adjacent to the Skate park they decided that this was a far simpler task than building an additional piste with permission to build piste 7 given at the meeting.
- The Building of three extra pistes has been discussed previously. If the club wishes to pursue this work then the CTC have agreed this in principal and will provide assistance to move this project through to completion.
- On the issue of safety the CTC are more than happy to have a fence around the sides of the piste adjacent to the Play area and tennis courts (this had previously been understood as something that the CTC would not entertain – incorrectly as it turns out).

So in Summary, Fencing Trees and drainage activities will get sorted in due course while the club has to decide on the way forward regarding what is now an option of two different developments of the playing areas; A seventh Piste, three extra pistes, or both.

During these difficult times we have developed a stronger liaison with the Leisure Centre which continues to provide toilet facilities and an offer of refreshments.

Many Thanks need to go to David Wall for the creation of a set of numbers for Saturday play. These have not been exercised much before lockdown closed down their use. I'm sure that when we eventually get to start using them in the future they will prove to be very much better than the originals which involved too many meetings with the same players too many times. I look forward to the time when we can all play on Saturdays again and meet more of the other players during each session.

Many Thanks are extended to Malcolm who has been painting and fixing up the Boule holders.

Many Thanks also to Tony and Keith who have extended the fencing provision to deal with youngsters taking short cuts across the piste.

And finally a big thankful to the rest of the committee who have done a great job in keeping the club running throughout this difficult year.

Kevin Weatherhead Dec 2020