

THE HISTORY OF THE UPPER THAMES BOULES CLUB

The first 25 years

1987 - 2012

This History has largely been compiled by Andrew Lloyd from personal notes, Club records and with contributions from Ross Wheeler with the first draft in 2005, and from Richard Everitt, Wilf Dobbs, Brian Cooper and Gerry Ough in bringing it up to date.

THE HISTORY OF THE UPPER THAMES BOULES CLUB

(Originally known as Minety Pétanque Club)

Minety Twinning Association

During the 1980s a well-known Minety character, Tony Fursman, came up with the idea of a Twinning Link and he and Andrew and Diana Lloyd spearheaded the search and selection of a suitable town in France. The town finally settled upon was Chambon-sur-Voueize in the Creuse near Montluçon.

Pétanque was not a consideration when the link was established but, after the pattern of exchange visits was established, the members of Minety Twinning Association became aware that their link town was something of a centre for Pétanque and, in fact, organised a massive competition every July/August which was highly ranked in the circuit of quality competitions in France.

Alan McInnes was at that time Home Secretary of Minety Twinning Association (Andrew Lloyd was Foreign Secretary) and he recalls playing with the nephew of his host family in a Pétanque competition at Aubusson in 1985.

The idea of playing the game in Minety gradually took hold, again inspired by Tony Fursman, and some informal games were played in 1987/8, mainly in the Car Park of Minety Playing Fields. This was still an activity organised by Minety Twinning Association and in 1988, the first trophy was played for, a Singles Knockout, and was won by Andrew Lloyd who beat David Keates in the Final, held in the very muddy car park.

It rapidly became obvious that a permanent terrain was required and Andrew and Diana Lloyd put aside part of their garden to create a 2/3 piste terrain of 15 metres in length. Norman Crowther helped in digging out the terrain and, one morning in May 1989, a gang of volunteers descended upon Chapel Lane in Minety with spades and wheelbarrows to move sand and gravel. The work was done by mid-morning and the new terrain was immediately put into use. This terrain was used for a number of competitions and regular practice sessions by the Pétanque section of the Twinning Association. One of the most memorable was a 24-hour challenge match between two teams with players playing 2 hours on, four hours off.

The game grew in popularity within the Village and it became clear that more space was needed. Several possibilities were explored in the village of Minety. The Playing Field Committee could only offer the use of the emergency vehicle access but at the standard price of annual Club membership of £400. The Old Inn in Upper Minety rejected our request (on the basis that the Landlord did not like horses!) but Anthony Greenwood, the then Landlord at the White Horse Inn offered us the use of a piece of land adjacent to the lake. We were able to squeeze in four pistes in a somewhat unconventional shape for a Pétanque terrain. We obtained a large number of kerbstones which was helpful as we needed to provide a barrier on all sides of the terrain to prevent shot boules from disappearing either into the field on one side or the lake on the other!

1992

Various competitions were held at the new venue, including a knockout competition involving many organisations and families in the Village. This year marked the first of many good results at the Sherston Boules Day with Jill Wheeler, Jackie Crowther and Diane Minto winning the Ladies' Prize.

A major experience was gained when about ten members visited Minety's Twin Town of Chambon-sur-Voueize to take part in their annual International competition. The Newsletter at the time recalled the heat (100 degrees F in the shade), the size of the competitions (250 pistes), the quantity of games (300 teams in the Doubles competition, run in one day with a minimum of 3 games per team) and Andrew and Norman being invited to play in a "Gentleman's Competition" (how did that happen?!).

Andrew recalls the first game against a local team. "We pointed very well six times in the first end – unfortunately they fired all six with carreaux leaving us in the gutter whilst they scored six. We did not do much better after that, all weekend, although Judy Bulley won a ladies' singles match."

The first steps were taken towards forming a local league with discussions taking place between Minety Twinning, the Red Lion at Castle Eaton, a group from Highworth and the Trout Inn at Lechlade. The League was given the name of the Cotswold League and an invitation match was held at the Trout. Two Minety teams (Norman Crowther, Mike Bulley, Bob Griffin and Ross Wheeler, Alex Sullivan, Richard Crowther) played out the final.

Two triples teams qualified in the Novice section of the Pernod British Open at Botley near Southampton and played in the Finals at Battersea Park. Norman Crowther, Andrew Lloyd, Mike Bulley lost early on to the finalists but finished in 12th position. Ross Wheeler, Alex Sullivan and Richard Crowther came 10th out of 32 teams.

At that time, many of those playing Petanque were family groups and we were able to hold a Junior Tournament in September of that year with 20 youngsters competing. The final was between John Harrison and Simon Ager with John being the victor.

We gained further experience by entering four teams in the Open Triples at the Lockkeeper at Keynsham. One team, Ross and Jill Wheeler with Alan McInnes lost out in the quarter finals. In the semi-finals of the Plate, Richard Crowther, Alex Sullivan and Duncan Minto knocked out Andrew Lloyd, Jackie Crowther and Judy Bulley before going on to victory.

Due to the increased interest, it was decided to break away from the Twinning Association and form the Minety Pétanque Association which had its inaugural General Meeting on 17th December 1992.

Minety Pétanque Club

The first Committee to be elected included Andrew Lloyd (Chairman), Norman Crowther (Playing Captain), Mike Bulley (Secretary) and Anthony Greenwood. Ross Wheeler was co-opted to the Committee in March 1993. The following local families were included in the membership during the first year: Ager, Bulley, Claridge, Crowther, Everitt, Fursman, Greenwood, Griffin, Harrison, Lloyd, McInnes, McWilliam, Minto, Parry, Spencelayh, Stiles, Stothard, Sullivan, Turner, Wheeler, Williams.

The new venue gave us the opportunity of playing against other Clubs and the first friendly matches were played against the Red Lion at Castle Eaton who introduced us to the services of the British Pétanque Association. The Club joined the BPA and the new terrain was officially launched by John Roberts, then President of the British Pétanque Association. He was accompanied to a special evening by Chris Hill, then President of the Chiltern Region and David Kimpton, the National Administrator of the BPA. A photograph of the visitors with Andrew appeared in the September 1993 edition of the BPA Pétanque News.

Andrew Lloyd represented the Club at the newly formed Great Western Region and became Regional Membership Secretary.

1993

The Juniors' Singles Cup was won by David Bulley with Ben Everitt as runner up. The Plate winner was Karen Spencelayh, runner up Charlotte Everitt. In the Ladies' Doubles, the winners were Joy Griffin and Elaine Minto, with Pauline Spencelayh and Jackie Crowther as runners-up. The winner of the Open Singles Competition was Norman Crowther, with Richard Everitt as runner-up.

Two teams took part in an Open competition at the Butcher's Arms, at Timsbury, both winning their morning leagues but losing out in the knockout stages although Alex Sullivan, Matthew Bulley and Richard Crowther reached the semi-finals.

The Club members were beginning to travel even further afield with Norman Crowther, Alex Sullivan and Richard Crowther being the plate runners-up at the Welsh Open Triples at Wenvoe.

Two major competitions were held with the participation of other Clubs, in particular a new Club from Kingham in Oxfordshire. The Club Triples, (the Bob Griffin Memorial Trophy) was won by Norman Crowther, Richard Everitt and Alex Sullivan with Richard Crowther, Alan McInnes and Elaine Minto runners-up. The Club Doubles, known as the Upper Thames Doubles, was won by Norman Crowther and Richard Everitt, with Alex Sullivan and Diane Minto runner-up. The plate was won by Joy Griffin and Duncan Minto with Jackie Crowther and Andrew Lloyd runners-up.

At the Lockkeeper's Open at Keynsham, all four MPC teams qualified for the main competition and three of our ladies represented the Region in Cardiff. In the Regional Pairs competition, Andrew Lloyd and Richard Everitt were semi-finalists and Norman Crowther and Alan McInnes were the runners-up.

A friendly competition and social evening was held with members of staff of "France" magazine from Stow-on-the-Wold, and another friendly was held against a team from Cricklade.

In October, the Club hosted a visit from the Green Man PC from Potters Bar who were on a tour of the Great Western Region. Apart from those competitions already mentioned, Club members had played in competitions in Bath, Coventry, Crowborough and Peterborough.

1994

The Club joined the Great Western League and had one of its most successful seasons.

During the year the Club organised the following competitions: drawn pairs, ladies singles, singles, juniors, Village triples, Club triples and Minety Open. For those competitions with larger numbers of entries, a temporary terrain was laid by spreading gravel across the lower end of the White Horse Car Park.

In the Club Singles, Norman Crowther beat Richard Crowther in the final. The drawn pairs was won by Tony Fursman, with Guy Child.

A novel competition format was held in April – a piste crawl. 8 teams of doubles played each other at three different venues – the White Horse, the Lloyds' home and the Rose and Crown at Lea.

Coaching sessions were held for juniors by Ross Wheeler and Andrew Lloyd on Saturday mornings. David Bulley, John Harrison and Ben Everitt came 7th in the National Juniors Championship held in Leicestershire.

In Regional competitions:

Singles: Jackie Crowther was a semi-finalist and Norman Crowther beat Richard Everitt in the final.

Doubles (held at Minety): Richard Crowther and Diane Minto were runners-up.

Triples: Norman Crowther/Richard Crowther/Alan McInnes were 3rd and Mike Bulley/Judy Bulley/Jackie Crowther 5th and both teams qualified for the Inter-regional Championships.

In the annual Sherston Tournament, Norman Crowther, Richard Everitt and Andrew Lloyd were the first players to beat the regular visitors from St. Affrique in Southern France. They went on to the finals and were beaten by a 'local' Sherston team of Ghislaine Kemble (from France), a visiting Frenchman and an Englishman.

In the Great Western League, the winners and runners-up of each Division went through to a knockout. Minety (second in their Division) were drawn against the winners of the other Division, the Petanchors Putchers from Oldbury-on-Severn and the match was played at the Bird in Hand at Saltford, in pouring rain. The Minety team of Norman Crowther, Richard Everitt, Alan McInnes, Richard Crowther, Andrew Lloyd, Jackie Crowther and Ross Wheeler brought off an unexpected and very welcome victory and then went on to win the League. A photograph of the successful Minety team appeared in the BPA (British Pétanque Association) Pétanque News.

Norman and Richard Crowther and Richard Everitt took part in the Rochester European Classic in the Dockyard at Chatham. Norman and Alex Sullivan represented the Region in the Founder's Cup, held at Coggeshall in Essex.

Members also played in other competitions at Urchfont, and elsewhere in southern and central Wiltshire as part of a league run by the local branch of the charity SPARKS.

1995

The Committee for the year was Andrew Lloyd (Chairman), Richard Everitt (Secretary), Wilf Dobbs (Treasurer), Norman Crowther (Club Captain), Jackie Crowther, Ross Wheeler and Alan McInnes. Andrew Lloyd became the Regional Public Relations Officer.

In March, the Club helped the Great Western Region and others arrange a 'come and try event' at a French weekend organised by 'France' Magazine on the streets of Stow on the Wold. Andrew Lloyd not only appeared on Central News for six seconds but he also coached David Moorcroft in the basics of our sport. (David Moorcroft was a leading athlete and sports administrator).

In April, the Club ran a doubles competition open to all. An additional 12 pistes were created making a total of 16 pistes thus allowing 32 teams to take part in one day competitions – a valuable activity both for the Club and for the host venue. The same format was used both for an open triples competition in July and the Regional Doubles in June. The doubles open was won by the Kojaks from Reading with Mike Bulley and Richard Crowther as runners up.

In May we received a visit from the Robin Hood PC (largely the same players who had visited the previous year as the Green Man PC). The Home team had won with Norman Crowther and Alan McInnes achieving first position and Andrew and Sophie Lloyd third.

In July, the Club entered its usual strong contingent in the Sherston Tournament. This year was especially successful as both teams in the Final represented our Club. In the end, the Ladies, Jackie Crowther, Jill Wheeler with Linda Gay from Oldbury-on-Severn beat Norman Crowther, Richard Everitt and Andrew Lloyd.

Away from the Club and the Great West Region, Norman Crowther and Richard Everitt came third in the National Indoor Triples Championship at Whittlesey near Peterborough. They had also qualified for, and played in the 'Rochester European Classic', reached the last 64 in the International Championship Qualifying Series played on the site of the Crystal Palace, and represented the Region in the 'Champion of Champions' in Lincoln. Norman and Richard Crowther also represented the Region in the National Founder's Cup. Alan McInnes, Jackie Crowther and Andrew Lloyd reached the last 64 in the ICQS series. Ross and Jill Wheeler and Andrew Lloyd had taken part in the National Triples Championship at Portsmouth, Alan McInnes had played for the Region at the annual Inter-Regional Championships on the Isle of Wight. Norman, Alan and Andrew also represented the Region at a four-way Inter-regional challenge at Leicester.

As part of Malmesbury Carnival in August, the Club organised an open competition in the car park of the King's Arms in Malmesbury High Street.

The winners of the Club competitions during the year were:
Drawn Pairs: Richard Crowther and Maureen Titcombe
Club Pairs: Norman and Jackie Crowther
Club Triples: Norman and Richard Crowther and Charlotte Everitt

In the Regional competitions, Norman Crowther and Richard Everitt, playing with Mark Gay from Oldbury, won the Regional Triples and, without Mark, also won the Regional Doubles.

Friendly games were played against the Tollgate, Holt near Trowbridge.

In November, Andrew, Ross and Jill Wheeler went to Spain with the annual Watts Wanderers' Tour. In one of the usual open competitions of some 60 teams played on the car park of Tivoliworld at Benalmadena, Ross and Jill came third in the plate competition.

Finally for the year, at the Regional AGM, Andrew Lloyd was elected as the second President of the Great Western Region. At the same time, Alan McInnes was elected as Secretary of the Great Western League, joining Ross Wheeler who was already established as the Treasurer of the League.

1996

At this time, qualification for international competitions was achieved through the International Championship Qualifying Series with the top three teams participating in the prestigious International North Sea Pétanque Tournament and the top team representing the UK in the World Championships. Our 'premier' team of Norman Crowther, Alan McInnes and Richard Everitt reached the last 12 – a superb achievement.

Andrew Lloyd attended a Grade 3 Club Coaching course and became one of five qualified coaches in the Region.

Club members performed well in the Regional Pairs Competition. Richard Everitt teamed up with Mark Gay of the Petanchors and won the event. Runners-up were Alan McInnes and Andrew Lloyd. In the Regional Ladies' Doubles, the runners-up were Judi Bulley and Penny Ager.

The membership for that year was 19 families and 1 single.

The Club continued to hold a variety of "come and try events" including a group from a wine club, although our efforts to host an inter-pub competition was not successful.

The annual Inter-Regional Tournament was held for the last time on the Isle of Wight and Alan McInnes and Andrew Lloyd had been part of the 21 players representing the Region. In his capacity as Regional President, Andrew had also participated in the competition for the Presidents' Cup, a singles knockout between the Regional Presidents. In successive rounds, he won through to the Final to play against Max Jorda of the London Region who had represented Great Britain in the World Championships on several occasions. The Final was played in front of all the participating players, some 400 people. The pressure was all on Max and Andrew won the first National Trophy to be won by a player from the Great Western Region.

The November 1996 issue of the national Pétanque news featured a photograph of Jackie Crowther on the cover, squat pointing at the British Open Boules Championship Qualifier at Teignmouth as well as a photograph inside of Andrew receiving the President's Trophy.

At the AGM, Andrew stood down as Chairman after 10 years in order to concentrate on his duties as Executive Vice President of the British Pétanque Association. Alan McInnes continued as Secretary of the Great Western Region and the Great Western league as well as taking on a coordinating role for the newly formed Cotswold League, comprising teams from Upton St. Leonards, Horton, Gotherington and Highworth U3A in addition to ourselves.

The first two Presidents of the Great Western Region, Keith Moloney and Andrew Lloyd jointly sponsored an annual Regional President's Trophy, organised on a *melée* basis. Alan McInnes was the first winner.

The Watermark Club of South Cerney donated a Trophy for the player who accumulated most points on Club nights throughout the season and the first winner was Ross Wheeler.

1997

The Chairman and Club Captain for the year was Ross Wheeler and his Committee included Jackie Crowther, Richard Everitt and Alan McInnes.

As a change of venue, the second annual Club dinner was held at the Suffolk Arms, Brinkworth.

A village competition was held for the various organisations within the village of Minety. This was organised by Norman Crowther on a knockout basis to coincide with the Village Fete.

In the Great Western League, we won the second division cup and promotion to the First Division and we also beat the Petanchors to win the Regional Knockout Cup.

We participated once again in the British Open Boules Championship for 1997. Andrew Lloyd was the organiser of the qualifying heat at Newquay and several Club members, including Norman Crowther and Roger Norton took part in the qualifier held in Queen's Square, Bath and moved on to the final at the same location.

This year saw the Great Western Region winning its second National Trophy, and the most important one. As a result of last year's success in the Regional Doubles, Richard Everitt and Mark Gay, Alan McInnes and Andrew Lloyd played in the Founder's Cup, held in Essex. Alan and Andrew gained a lot of experience but Richard and Mark gained the Trophy, beating a couple in the final who had played many times for Great Britain.

The Watermark Trophy was won by a young player with some potential – Gerry Ough.

This was our last season playing at the White Horse and the closed winter season was spent in seeking new facilities.

1998

The Officers of the Club were Jackie Crowther as Chairman, Wilf Dobbs (Treasurer), Richard Everitt (Secretary), Norman Crowther (Captain of Minety 1), Dick Smedley (Captain of Minety 2), Dave Ashford (Captain of Cotswold League team) and Ross Wheeler and Alan McInnes.

After consideration of several venues, the Club moved to the Foresters Arms at the Leigh and the Annual Dinner was held at the new venue in April. The Club provided a membrane for the terrain plus top dressing and lighting. The total costs incurred by the Club for this initial work were £1100.

The Club took part in the finals of the British qualifying rounds of the European Club Cup competition, being drawn away against Gravesend – a strong Club in the strongest region. Gravesend were the winners but they did not get it all their own way as they won by only one point.

The Club continued to do well in Regional competitions with Jackie Crowther and Jill Wheeler playing each other in the finals of the Ladies' singles, 3 Club members reaching the semi-finals of the Regional Doubles and Norman Crowther, Alan McInnes and Richard Everitt being runners up in the Regional Triples and therefore qualifying to represent the region in the National Champion of Champions the following year.

At Sherston, three Minety teams reached the semi-finals with the final being all Minety.

In the December issue of the BPA's Pétanque News, two articles by Andrew Lloyd were published. The first explained the method of playing "Pointers and Shooters", a game for three players where, by rotation, the non-pointer is the nominated shooter. The second outlined his thoughts on International representation, having been a spectator at the North Sea Tournament that year in Sweden.

1999

The Chairman was Norman Crowther. New lighting was installed at the terrain at a cost of £400 and further improvements to the playing area cost £300.

The Club again took part in the European Club Cup and were drawn at home against the Plough and Chequers from Kent, home Club of several international players. Not surprisingly, we lost and our victors went on to win the UK element of the Competition. That apart, there were no major competitions held by the Club during the year. However, Jackie Crowther won the Regional Ladies' Singles and had also qualified with Norman and with Alan McInnes to play for the Region on four occasions.

Ross Wheeler and Andrew Lloyd organised a 'come and try' event at Salisbury Racecourse as part of a 'Soir de France' race evening.

2000

The Chairmanship was taken over by Alan McInnes.

The Club continued to feature strongly in the Great Western League, although the No. 1 Team was relegated from the First Division to the Second, the No. 2 Team came 2nd in Division Three.

2001

It was agreed that the Club would not participate in the Great Western League, largely due to travelling distances, late return home and the splitting away of the Brunel League.

However, the new Cotswold League was formed encompassing Minety, Highworth U3A, Upton St. Leonards, the Plough at Prestbury, and two teams from Gotherington.

Richard Everitt and Andrew Lloyd entered the National Over 50s Championship and got as far as the semi-finals. Andrew was also the Head of the British delegation at the North Sea Tournament in Germany.

2002

The Tuesday evening drawn competitions for the Watermark Trophy continued to be very popular and were largely instrumental in attracting new members.

Teams took part in the Gotherington Doubles with Gerry Ough and Wilf Dobbs being the runners up.

Andrew Lloyd was Head of the British Delegations at the North Sea Tournament in Denmark and at the Ladies' World Championships near Toulon in France.

2003

The name of the Club was changed to Upper Thames Boules Club and Andrew Lloyd once again became Chairman.

In addition to Tuesday evenings, the Club began operating a Friday morning playing session which continued into the winter.

In the Gotherington Doubles, players from our Club again achieved the runners-up position – this time it was Geoff Busby and Wilf Dobbs.

A friendly competition was held 'at home' against Marlow Town Twinning Association PC but this, like other competitions, had to be held only for a limited time as the venue's facilities were not kept open for the Club's use. The venue was proving to be a barrier to any desire by the Club to organise challenge matches or open tournaments.

We were placed third in the Cotswold League – this was becoming our customary position.

Andrew Lloyd was Head of the British delegation at the North Sea Tournament in Holland. Whilst he was there, he invited two of the top UK players, Vanessa Webb and Chris Allen to come to the Club one evening to give some playing tips and some coaching. This they did in July at what proved to be one of the highlights of the year.

2004

We continued to show a strong presence in the Cotswold League under the leadership of Geoff Busby and were one of three teams who achieved seven wins during the season and we were placed second having won 31 games.

Wilf Dobbs was once again the runner up in the Gotherington Doubles, this time playing with Andrew Lloyd.

Andrew Lloyd was elected President of the International North Sea Pétanque Tournament and he and Diana attended the Tournament in Sweden for a handover. Diana took on the role as Secretary to the Committee.

Norman and Jackie Crowther with Richard Everitt were the runners up at Sherston, playing against a competent team from Gien in France in the Final. Gerry Ough, Wilf Dobbs and Andrew Lloyd played in the National Triples Championship at Loughton in Essex and Andrew also played in the Brecon Open Doubles with Rob Arthur of Gloucester and they were runners up in the plate. A group of 8 (Wheelers, Dobbs, Coopers and Lloyds) went on the annual Watts Wanderers' trip to Almuñécar in Spain.

2005

Brian Cooper was elected Chairman.

In order to ensure that the Club maintained the minimum requirements of Club Membership of the English Pétanque Association, it was agreed that, in future, the membership fees of the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer would be paid by the Club. In return, it was expected that the Club would once again become active in the management of the Great Western Region.

The Club again took part in the Great Western League under the captaincy of Norman Crowther where we won 5 out of the 8 matches played.

The standard of play was maintained in the Cotswold League under the captaincy of Andrew Lloyd. This year we maintained third place but this had to be taken to points to decide.

Andrew Lloyd presided over the North Sea Tournament in Cardiff and also went as Head of the British delegation to the Ladies European Championship at Odense in Denmark.

The Club held an Open Melée competition on a Saturday morning. The overall winner was Jill Wheeler, second Gerry Ough and third Marlene Slee.

This year, no less than 17 members went to Almuñécar in Spain. Brian and Angela Cooper, aided by Wilf Dobbs, were our most successful players. Apart from the two open competitions, the main highlight was a competition against a similarly sized contingent from Marlow Town Twinning followed by the two teams lunching at the same restaurant. This lunch, and the final evening of the whole group, was enlivened and enhanced by the community singing led by Peter Sheppard, on a rare trip abroad.

2006

Success at last in the Cotswold League. Our Foresters' team won the League under the guiding hand of Norman Crowther and the Woodcutters under Peter Sheppard came 4th.

The prize winners in the annual melée were Bill Giles and Angela Cooper and Andrew Anderson added a new name to the Watermark Trophy.

The number of players turning up for the new Friday morning sessions was growing steadily with 16 being typical.

We strengthened our link with Marlow as well as hosting visitors from Huelgoat in Brittany.

Andrew Lloyd presided over the International North Sea Pétanque Tournament at Fredrikstad in Norway.

2007

Continued success in the Cotswold League with the Foresters winning for the second year in a row. Friends from Marlow and Upton St. Leonards joined in two of our annual competitions.

Wilf Dobbs won the Watermark Trophy by one point from Norman Crowther.

Norman also won the Sherston Tournament, with some help from Richard Everitt and Alan McInnes and they also became Regional Triples Champions.

Brian and Angela Cooper were runners up in the Bath Open.

Andrew Lloyd presided over the International North Sea Pétanque Tournament at Travemunde on Germany's Baltic Coast.

Ross Wheeler stood down from the Committee, having been on it since the beginning and having taken on positions within the Great Western Region and Great Western League and always taking a questioning approach to our activities, with ideas of his own.

Andrew and Diana Lloyd took a party of 20 invited friends to Loctudy in Brittany for a pétanque holiday, 16 of whom were from this Club. This visit gave us the opportunity of visiting the Pétanque Club at Huelgoat where we received a lively welcome, to which we were able to respond by getting Wilf to lead the singing.

2008

In the Cotswold League, the Foresters were runners up and the Woodcutters were 4th once again.

The Watermark Trophy was won by Wilf Dobbs with Jacquii Anderson taking the Ladies' prize.

Gerry Ough, Alan McInnes and Kevin Parker were runners up at Sherston.

Jim Mitchell and Wilf Dobbs won the Club Pairs which was held on Monday evenings over several weeks.

In the qualifiers for the Great Western Regional team, Richard Everitt, Penny Ager and Alan McInnes were placed first and Gerry Ough with Alan and Lawrence Bond came second. Both teams played at the Inter-Regional Championships at Brean Sands (Andrew Lloyd substituted for Richard).

Andrew Lloyd with Andrew Bishop of the Boules at the Bull were Regional Doubles Champions.

Andrew Lloyd presided over the last International North Sea Pétanque Tournament at Copenhagen. He turned then to more local matters by becoming the Regional Coach.

The Club's annual dinner was held at the Rose and Crown at Brokenborough.

2009

The Watermark Trophy was won by Gerry Ough with the top lady being Joan Rolfe. The Club introduced a 'Friday Cup' which was won by Gerry Ough.

The Red Bull Doubles was won by Wilf Dobbs and Kevin Parker with Gerry Ough and Malcolm Brooks runners up.

Gerry Ough, Kevin Parker and Andrew Lloyd were runners up in the Regional Triples Championship.

43 members and guests enjoyed our annual dinner at the Cricklade Country Club.

2010

The Club was saddened by the death of Ross Wheeler.

The Watermark Trophy was won by Gerry Ough with Jacquii Anderson taking the Ladies' Prize. The overall winner of the Friday morning Cup was Brian Cooper.

The Foresters' team again won the Cotswold League with the Woodcutters coming 3rd.

The Spring melée was won by Roy Harvey and Jacquii Anderson.

The Gotherington Doubles was won by Wilf Dobbs and Kevin Parker and the Regional Doubles Champions were Gerry Ough and Garry Douel.

The annual dinner was held at Marsh Farm, Wootton Bassett

A new competition was introduced, the "Ross Wheeler Trophy" with pairings being selected by a small Committee. The winners were Richard Everitt and Andrew Anderson.

Brian Cooper stood down as Chairman and Sally White was elected in his place.

2011

We played once again in the European Club Cup competition. We had a bye in the first round then played at home in icy weather against the Compton Inn. A win meant we had to face the winners of the Devon round but we were drawn at home. The visitors took an early lead but we held our nerve and won through.

The fourth round was our first away match and was held at the Engine at Baldock. We anticipated being outclassed as several of their players have played for Great Britain. However, we did not anticipate the shoddy reception. We were not welcomed nor given any refreshment by people who ought to have been good ambassadors for the sport.

The Gotherington Doubles was won by Wilf Dobbs and Bill Giles and Bill was runner-up in the Red Bull Doubles but this time with Gerry Ough.

In the long running annual fun boules tournament for businesses and organisations in and around Bath, Peter Sheppard and Brian Cooper played with Butterfly Conservation and won the Sunday competition, 64 teams taking part in league and knockout.

In the Cotswold League, we took our customary positions as first and third.

The Watermark Trophy was won by Gerry Ough with Jacquii Anderson as the best lady. The Friday morning cup was won by Gerry Ough with Joan Rolfe as the leading lady.

The Spring Melée was won by Brian Cooper and the Ross Wheeler Trophy by Diana and Andrew Lloyd.

Andrew Lloyd stood down from the post of Regional Coach having completed two periods of two years in office.

The annual dinner was held at the Horse Guards, Brokenborough.

2012

Garry Douel and Gerry Ough won the Regional Doubles.

2013

This year the club was very successful and dominated the Cotswold League with the Foresters winning and the Woodcutters runners up.

Gerry Ough won the Regional Shooting.

The Ross Wheeler Trophy was won by Marlene and Leon Slee at an event that also marked then Queens Jubilee. Allan Bond won the melee whilst the Watermark trophy was won by Gerry Ough and Jacquii Anderson won the ladies trophy for the 5th time! Pam Orchard was awarded the Friday morning trophy.

Membership was increased for the first time in many years to £20 per individual and £30 per family and public liability insurance was introduced.

2014

The lighting for the site was determined to be needing repair and this was achieved following a donation from BV Dairy. A club strip was introduced consisting of green polo and sweatshirts with yellow lettering. With this strip we progress to the 4th round of the Eurocup but were beaten by a difficult piste in Hampshire but finished 3rd out of 4 on the day.

Garry Douel won the Regional Singles and Gerry Ough the Regional Shooting.

The Watermark trophy was won by Jacquii Anderson and the Ladies cup by Pam Orchard. The Ross Wheeler trophy was won by Peter Sheppard. Andrew Lloyd became Regional Coach and represented the region on the National Coaching Committee.

2015

Rumours started about the future of the Foresters with the ill health of the landlady and her husband. Unfortunately Tony Llewelyn sadly passed away.

The Foresters finished second in the Cotswold League but won the play-offs and the club reached the 3rd round of the Eurocup. Norman Crowther won the Regional Singles and went on to win the Regional Triples with other players from Cricklade whilst Gerry Ough, Garry Douel and Alan McInnes qualified to represent the region at the Inter-regionals at Hayling Island.

The watermark Trophy was won by Norman Crowther and the Ladies cup by Jacquii Anderson.

2016

Garry Douel was Club President and commenced to seek an alternative location because of the uncertainty of the Foresters. A planning application was applied for to build houses on the car park and piste area. Conversations were started with RWBSA. Norman Crowther, Gerry Ough and Alan McInnes qualified at GWR2 for the Inter-regionals, came second in the Regional Winter Doubles and were runners up at Sherston.

The Watermark trophy was won by Norman Crowther and Jacquii Anderson won the Ladies Cup.

2017

Agreement was reached with RWBSA that we could move to their site in Royal Wootton Bassett and funding was applied for with Sport England and the Landfill Community Fund.

Alan McInnes and Jacquii Anderson won the Regional over 50's with Norman Crowther and Paul Adams (Cricklade) coming second. These four qualified for the Interregionals to represent the region as GWR2.

CLUB CHAIRMEN

Pétanque Section of Minety Twinning Association

1987 – 1992 Andrew Lloyd

Minety Pétanque Club

1992 – 1997 Andrew Lloyd
1997 – 1998 Ross Wheeler
1998 – 1999 Jackie Crowther
1999 – 2000 Norman Crowther
2000 – 2003 Alan McInnes

Upper Thames Boules Club

2003 – 2005 Andrew Lloyd
2005 – 2011 Brian Cooper
2011 - 2016 Sally White
2016 – 2017 Garry Douel
2017 to date Alan McInnes

CLUB SECRETARIES

Pétanque Section of Minety Twinning Association

1986 – 1992 Mike Bulley

Minety Pétanque Club

1992 – 2003 Richard Everitt

Upper Thames Boules Club

2003 - 2011 Richard Everitt
 Malcolm White
 Andrew Anderson

CLUB TREASURERS

Pétanque Section of Minety Twinning Association

1986 – 1992 Mike Bulley

Minety Pétanque Club

1992 – 1994 Mike Bulley
1994 – 2003 Wilf Dobbs

Upper Thames Boules Club

2003 -2014 Wilf Dobbs
2014 - Andrew Lloyd
 Malcolm White

OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS THROUGH THE YEARS

Norman Crowther	Doreen Busby	Penny Ager
Dave Ashford	Geoff Busby	Dick Smedley
Gerry Ough	John Wright	Malcolm Brooks
Celia Parker	Peter Sheppard	Jim Mitchell
Joan Rolfe	Kevin Parker	Malcolm White
Mike Edwards		

Recognition is made here of the support received since the beginning from Jill Wheeler. She helped Ross in making his contribution to the success of the Club and is one of only three players who have been members continuously for 25 years.

THE WATERMARK TROPHY WINNERS

1996	Ross Wheeler
1997	Gerry Ough
1998	No competition
1999	Wilf Dobbs
2000	Norman Crowther
2001	Wilf Dobbs
2002	Geoff Busby
2003	Wilf Dobbs
2004	Norman Crowther
2005	Norman Crowther
2006	Andrew Anderson
2007	Wilf Dobbs
2008	Wilf Dobbs
2009	Gerry Ough
2010	Gerry Ough
2011	Gerry Ough
2012	
2013	Gerry Ough
2014	Jacqui Anderson
2015	Norman Crowther
2016	Norman Crowther

THE CLUB NIGHT LADIES' CUP WINNERS

2007	Jacqui Anderson
2008	Jacqui Anderson
2009	Joan Rolfe
2010	Jacqui Anderson
2011	Jacqui Anderson
2012	
2013	Jacqui Anderson
2014	Pam Orchard
2015	Jacqui Anderson
2016	Jacqui Anderson

THE FRIDAY MORNING TROPHY WINNERS

2009 Gerry Ough
2010 Brian Cooper
2011 Gerry Ough

THE FRIDAY MORNING LADIES' TROPHY WINNERS

2011 Joan Rolfe
2012
2013 Pam Orchard