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In our efforts to deliver pétanque throughout Europe, the CEP has been hard at work providing support for our sport and federations to flourish.

Throughout 2019 we have dealt with several varied issues, the most problematic of them being related to membership transfers.

Consider for a moment that there are currently 39-member national federations that comprise our confederation.

We are committed to offering the kind of expertise needed for our growing pétanque federations to improve.

We continue to make every effort to try and connect experts and professionals from the leading federations with our new and developing members, in order to provide them with the chance to share knowledge and gain real experience.

This can take many forms, from our annual training programme, to the various meetings and initiatives set out by the CEP Directors and our Commissions.

I have personally attended both French and Spanish Federation Congress in the past few months.

The Exhibition Centre houses numerous exhibitions such as automotive, exhibitions and markets. It is a large building with a variety of large halls which at the time of my visit were displaying life size models of dinosaurs, you needed to use a little imagination to picture how it would transform to host the Women’s Triples but I’m confident all will be OK.

We included a short visit to the hotel for the teams which also looked to be more than adequate before
setting off on a 4-hour drive across Spain arriving in Madrid in the early hours with time for 5 hours sleep. The following day was taken up with meetings with the federation’s partners, Pablo Reyes, business development manager and La Liga TV followed by the Federation’s Congress on Saturday, which was a busy meeting for both pétanque and Bocce, or Bochas, as it is called in Spain.

The weekend was completed with a gala dinner giving us all another opportunity to network and share ideas. I may not be able to follow all that is being discussed at these various meetings, to my poor language skills, but I believe attending them benefits the federations concerned and the CEP. I’m extremely grateful to both federations for their invitations and warm hospitality.

Before we turn the page to a new season, I must acknowledge the latest champions from our 2019 season.

Our big winner in 2019 was without doubt France, who claimed the gold medal at their first appearance at our Veterans Championships in Albena, Bulgaria. I guess it was no surprise that France became the 2019 Veteran champions, despite the best efforts of Spain in the quarterfinals.

It’s often mentioned that to be a championship it must include France and the other main federations, so it seems our Veterans is now a real championship, and I’m sure everyone appreciated the presence and friendship, both on and off the terrain, of such famous players as Christian Fazzino, Jean Marc Foyot, Christian Lagarde and Fernand Rivière.

France also took gold at the Espoirs Women Championship in Saint Pierre Lès Elbeuf and their club team, Lyons Canuts gave the federation their 3rd gold, in as many years for the European Cup for Clubs in Saint Yrieix.

Congratulations to Italy who defeated Belgium, in what was a very tactical game, to win gold in the Mens Triples which was also held in Albena, Bulgaria.

However, the most impressive achievement to me was the gold medal that Finland earned in the final of the Espoirs Men Triples Championship.

They had a disaster in the qualifier stage coming 16th out of 16 teams so everyone, including Finland, were very surprised when in the poules stage they beat Spain and Sweden to qualify for the quarterfinals of the Championship, where they again excelled and went on to beat Slovakia, Monaco and then Germany in the final - well done Finland!

Some of you may have noticed the Confédération Mondiale des Sports de Boules (CMSB) website was shut down earlier this year.

The CMSB committee consists of 9 representatives (3 each) from the FIPJP (pétanque), the FIB (Lyonnaise) and the CBI (Raffa).

According to the minutes of their last meeting, which took place in February this year, the CMSB was to be dissolved on 25 April, at the end of the Sport Accord Convention but due to the pandemic the convention was cancelled and now takes place in Russia during April 2021.

At this point there seems to be some confusion over the status of the CMSB as some are protesting that it has not been dissolved however, I can report that the FIPJP have withdrawn their involvement.

I should point out that the CMSB is, or perhaps more accurately, was not a governing organisation, neither did it have any direct authority over the various federations/federations/clubs and players within the 3 sports.

As the CMSB is dissolved, we are now considering the value of our involvement with the Confédération Européenne des Sports Boule (CESB) whose ideology is to support the CMSB in its work by lobbying the European Olympic Committee and multi-sports.

Simply put, as pétanque, through either the office of the FIPJP or perhaps a new international federation, establishes I.O.C. recognition alone, then it seems natural for the CEP to take on the task of affiliating directly to the European Olympic and Multi-Sport organisations.

Moving forward, we began this season, with plans for the second Coaching Course in March, Congress in April, all our championships and our first European Umpires Seminar to take place in the last quarter of 2020.

However, this Annual Report was written prior to the Covid-19 Pandemic which has seen almost all of Europe in lock down.

Normally we report on the previous year, about the coming months and discuss our plans during the Congress, but due to the pandemic we have needed to adapt for a new way of working, via video meetings and the unprecedented step of organising both our congress and elections via the internet.

Our attention is now firmly switched to 2021 and the following years, of course we are all eager to return to playing pétanque and a playing season without interruption.

As I write this update to my report, the situation caused by the pandemic is gradually improving, and we are finally seeing some loosening of restrictions in terms of sports activities.

But pétanque, like healthcare, falls under the sovereignty of national governments and the CEP is aware that whatever we do at the continental level it may not be applicable to, or endorsed by, every country in Europe.

Our advice for now is, we must all participate in our respective national programmes designed to survive the crisis.

Finally, I thank my fellow Directors, our member Federations, all the volunteers, coaches and players that have been involved in our events during what has been an exceptional year.

I look forward to seeing you on the terrain in 2021, please stay safe and healthy.

Mike Pegg
President of the CEP
Although it is important that we maintain our focus and set new goals with an eye towards the coming years, we must also review the past year which consisted of many great events.

The sport of pétanque in Europe have a majority of players more than 55 years old, but still the European Triples for Veterans was held only for the 5th time last September, and for the first time France participated too – and won, not very unexpectedly probably! The results were:

Veterans Championship
1. France
   Christian Fazzino, Jean-Marc Foyot, Christian Lagarde and Fernand Rivière
2. Sweden
   Leif Bäckström, Peter Bengtsson, Kader Chamil and Simon Cohen
3. Netherland
   Rajen Koebeer, Bert van Dijk, Junior de Jong and Henry Calvetti
3. Poland
   Ryszard Kowalski, Jerzy Siara, Andrzej Śliž and Leszek Złotowski
Nations Cup winner
Slovenia:
Miro Zadravec, Emsud Krestić, Tatjana Seruga and Vlado Rumiha.

Just after the veterans had received their medals we welcomed the participants to the European Triples for Men, the results were:

Mens Championship
1. Italy
   Diego Rizzi, Alessio Coccoio, Florian Cometto and Andrea Chiapello
2. Belgium
   Charles Weibel, Joël Marchandise, Geoffrey Haulotte and Christopher Jermus
3. Spain
   Jorge Martinez Pladesala, Alejandro Cardeñas Villaverde and Jesús Pérez Martín
3. Slovenia
   Gregor Sever, Matevž Dovžan, Žan Rode and Valter Gregor Oprešnik
Nations Cup winner
Monaco:
Vincent Ferrandez, Jean-Dominique Fieschi, Anthony Formento and Lionel Variba

Precision Shooting
1. Diego Rizzi, Italy
2. Jesús Pérez Martín, Spain
3. Hugo Dores, Portugal and Joël Marchandise, Belgium.
2019 European Champions

1. European Veterans Triples Champions
   France: Christian Fazzino, Jean-Marc Foyot, Christian Lagarde and Fernand Riviere

2. European Mens Triples Champions
   ITALY: Diego Rizzi, Alessio Cocciolo, Florian Cometto and Andrea Chiapello

3. European Espoirs Mens Triples Champions
   Finland: Teo Ekström, Niklas Palmqvist, Antti Pasanen and Elmo Yli-Vainio

4. European Espoirs Womens Triples Champions
   France: Emma Picard, Celine Lebosse, Caroline Bouriaud and Alison Rodriguez

5. European Cup for Clubs Winners
   France: Club Lyon Canuts

6. European Precision Shooting - Men
   Diego Rizzi - Italy

7. European Precision Shooting Espoirs - Women
   Eileen Jenal - Germany

8. European Precision Shooting Espoirs - Men
   Jesús Antonio Eschacho Alarcón - Spain
In October we met again, this time in Saint Pierre les Elbeuf, France for the European Triples - Espoirs, Men and Women. The results were:

Espoir Women Championship
1. France
   Emma Picard, Celine Lebosse, Caroline Bourriaud and Alison Rodriguez
2. Belgium
   Jessica Meskens, Kiany Deschouwer, Laura Streel and Lauranna van Loo
3. Germany
   Luzia Beil, Eileen Jenal, Dominique Probst and Jennifer Schüeler
Spain
   Maëva Bonnemain, Emilie Merairon, Mégane Nicolier, Clara Palli and Clara Palli
Switzerland
   Emma Picard, Celine Lebosse, Caroline Bourri and Alison Rodriguez

Espoir Men Championship
1. Finland
   Teo Ekström, Niklas Palmqvist, Antti Pasanen, Elmo Yli-Vainio
2. Germany
   Leon Gotha, Paul Möselin, Marco Kowalski and Pascal Müeller
3. Monaco
   Gaëtan Ardourel, Christophe Mancini, Jose Riviere and Nicolas Riviere Jr

In July we had the four qualification tournaments in the 2019 European Cup for Club Teams in France, Switzerland, Belgium and Italy, followed by the finals at the of November for the 16 qualified teams in Saint-Vrieux-sur-Charente in France,

Espoir Men Championship
1. France
   José Riviere, Jose Riviere, Guang Yang, Benjamin Suire and William Silferberg
Spain
   Jesús Antonio Eschacho Alarcón, Felix Fernandez Romero, José Alberto Andez Quiñones and Juan Ruiz Salas.
Belgium
   Jessica Meskens, Kiany Deschouwer, Laura Llull Homar, María Cristina Rivera and William Silferberg

Precision Shooting
1. Jesús Antonio Eschacho Alarcón, Spain
2. Jose Riviere, Monaco
3. Pascal Mueller, Germany and Jason White, England

During the Espoirs championship in France we arranged for a European Umpire exam. After a week-end with many hours work at the terrain for the candidates, they finalized the exam with a written test, and we could congratulate the 7 umpires with their new title.

Nations Cup winner
Spain
   Jesús Antonio Eschacho Alarcón, Félix Fernandez Romero, José Alberto Andez Quiñones and Juan Ruiz Salas.

Precision Shooting
1. Jesús Antonio Eschacho Alarcón, Spain
2. Jose Riviere, Monaco
3. Pascal Mueller, Germany and Jason White, England

The results of the finals were:

European Cup for Clubs (EuroCup)
1. Lyon Canuts - France
2. CB Monegasque, Monaco
3. BP Riganelli, Luxembourg and ASD Bocciofila Valle Maira, Italy

Federation Cup for Clubs (FedCup) winner
Pachy P.C. Waterloo, Belgium

Congratulations to all our winners during 2019, but also to all the participants having attended the tournaments and made it a great experience for us all.

It can be both long and very busy days at the control-table during our championships. At the Espoirs triples last year we were very lucky to have Laurent Causse from France at the table together with us. Laurent did a great job both at the table and on the terrain, commenting throughout the tournament.

Laurent Causse is probably known to almost everyone, having worked on behalf of his Federation, the FFPJP and also La Chaîne L’Equipe at tournaments in France for years.

We had been looking forward to further cooperation with Laurent in 2020, but now we just have to wait until 2021 to repeat this partnership.

The work of the CEP Directors throughout the year relates to much more than preparation and organisation for the European Championships, in co-operation with the hosting nations.

We have during the year of 2019 also dealt with:
• Prepared the Membership Survey and continuous updated our contact database
• Invoicing all Federations, incl. the annual fee to FIPJP
• Prepared and organized our Spring meeting in Luxembourg
• Prepared and organized the Congress 2019, also in our headquarters in Luxembourg
• Invited, prepared and organized the EuroCup – qualification-tournaments and Finals, in cooperation with the hosting clubs/nations
• Appointment of Umpires for 2019 European Championships, incl. EuroCup
• Production of scorecards and software for all our championships
• Reviewed the rules of all our championships with agreement of our members
• Prepared for different courses of education
• Discussions and communications concerning the CESB
• Continuous update of our website, incl. the documents presented on the website, and of course.
• Continuous administration and monitoring of our Facebook Group

Of course, we were also preparing for the future and we have been really looking forward to new events in 2020, in Spain, Latvia and France. Now, we just have to be patient and hope for the best in the year to come!

Until then – we will keep in touch – always at your service!

Signe Hovind
Secretary General of the CEP
We have audited the balance sheets of the CEP and the related statements of income, retained earnings, and cash flows for the year end 31 December 2019, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Treasurer’s Responsibility
The CEP Treasurer is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in Europe; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of consolidated financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor’s Responsibility
Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in Europe. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and the disclosures in the financial statements.

The procedures selected depend on the auditor’s judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error.

In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity’s preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity’s internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion.

An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the CEP Board, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statement.

During our audit, it became apparent, however, that the financial statements in respect of the year ending 31 December 2018 contained errors that were not identified in the 2018 audit.

1. An invoice issued by the CEP in 2018 for €300 remained unpaid at the end of the year to 31 December 2018.

This should have been accounted for in the 2018 Income & Expenditure Statement and listed as a debtor on the 2018 Balance Sheet.

2. The assets of the CEP as at 31 December 2018 appear to have been undervalued by a total of €440.

The assets in question are either Fixed Assets, Stock or a combination of the two.

We have recommended to the CEP Board that adjustments should be made to the statements for the 2019 financial year to correct these errors. Allowing for these corrections, we believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a reasonable basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion
In our opinion, the financial statements referred to previously present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Confédération Européenne de Pétanque and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year ending 31 December 2019 in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in Europe.
Treasurer’s Report

My sincere thanks to the Audit Commission: Colin Stewart (Scotland), Kerstin Hjelm (Sweden) and Ioannis Giakoumis (Greece) for their diligence in auditing our 2019 accounts.

I would also take this opportunity to compliment my fellow Directors for ensuring we have another successful year with all our championships and activities completed within the budget.

Despite all our planning, no one could have predicted the situation we are all faced with due to the pandemic. I can only hope that 2021 brings about some normality to our lives enabling us to continue with the positive attitude and a desire to develop our sport which the CEP is renowned for.

The income and Expenditure for the year ending December 31st, 2019 are presented as follows:

Income

Our main income source continues to be from Membership however, Marketing and Registration fees for Championships and Training Courses help to bolster our funds.

The grant, available through our covenant with the Luxembourg Ministry of Sport, provides a maximum of 7,500 euros per year, but this is subject to the activities we host at the FLBP’s National Boulodrome in Belvaux, Luxembourg.

Thanks partly to our training programme, activities in the boulodrome were increased during 2019, resulting in our receiving the full grant from the Ministry.

In total, we received 8,820 euros, 1,320 euros related to a late application in 2018.

It was hoped that the planned activities for 2020 would also enable us to receive a further 7,500 euros, however, due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, this will now not be achieved.

As you know, we invoice you both for the CEP and FIPJP membership fees, this is not only ensuring Europe is currently the only continent up to date with their fees, but it also helps towards your admin costs by having just the one bank transfer to arrange.

CEP Treasurer
Tony Smith - Wales
Expenditure
The increased income directly relates to the increase in our activities and expenditure for the year.

The main areas of expenditure are Administration, Championships, Umpires and Prizes. With the exception of our Championships, due to some being held by the same host, expenditure has increased for each of these disciplines.

The costs associated to our Training programme, Coaching for Coaches was offset from the income we received from the course registration and championship registration fees.

Statement of Financial Position
Our financial position remains strong with Net Assets of circa 43,000 euros however, it is unfortunate that I also have to report an increase in debtors, due to three federations failing to pay their fees.

The introduction of the “CEP” administered Membership/Licence Transfer protocol has the potential to provide us with a significant income which will further help with our long-term plans.

Any surplus money is invested back into our sport to support our training programme and future development plans and as a direct effect of the pandemic it is now predicted we shall achieve our desired level of reserves for the first time putting us in the driving seat to be able to deliver our future objectives.

Tony Smith
Treasurer of the CEP
The consolidated provisional budgets for 2021 and 2022 are presented here.

Foremost among the Director’s priorities is the need to maintain a stable financial position.

Through the efforts of our Marketing Commission we are actively seeking sponsorship to assist with the delivery of our training programme and reduce the financial burden on our members.

Initially, the marketing revenue is based on the sales of precision shooting templates but, we are optimistic that for the following years sponsorship contracts will have been secured to provide a new income stream.

Our web site has been undergoing some modifications to facilitate future advertising space, though the value of this directly relates to the volume of visits that can be attracted.

The budgets do not include any grant payments from the Luxembourg Ministry of Sport, as this is dependent on our use of the facilities at the Luxembourg National Boulodrome.

The Directors are aware that membership fees remain our most valuable source of income and consider it prudent to schedule a full review prior to the 2021 Congress meeting, although at this time, we do not predict an increase.
A successful championship does not take away the importance of checking our rules and regulations to ensure we continue to have the tools needed to provide a safe and equal playing environment. Whilst the news of a change to the rules often creates the idea that fundamental aspects of how pétanque is played will change, the updates centre around a number of minor tweaks and ‘tidy ups’ to the existing text.

However, we have taken the decision to implement a significant change to our rules for team kit (uniform) which is to allow shorts. To assist the umpires who are responsible for enforcing our rules we have added to the guide that the length of the shorts may not be shorter than the player’s fingertips when the arms and fingers are extended at the player’s side.

The latest version of our rules in both English and French plus a picture guide relating to the team uniform rules are posted in the documents page of our website.
Following on from the success of last year’s Coaching for Coaches course our plan was to organise a more advanced course in March, in fact we were already taking registrations and reserving hotel rooms when, due to the pandemic, the event was unfortunately cancelled.

So now we are planning for 2021 and future years and to that end we are researching the possibilities of providing video conferences and webinars to complement our course and provide more tools for the development and support of coaches.

Marketing

Marketing and sponsorship revenues have been practically non-existent throughout the history of the CEP despite various efforts, but perhaps that can change now the Directors have firmly established that the CEP is a respected brand name in our sport with strong organisational skills.

Of course, we are very aware of the social-economic situation that everyone is affected by and this will certainly have an impact on the world of sports, but we must seek other sources of revenue.

Our opportunities for sponsorship are based on three fundamental pillars:

1. Our brand.
2. Our European Championships.
3. Our media rights.

The cancellation of our championships presents us with the opportunity and time to develop a strategy for 2021 and following years.

Already negotiations are underway with a number of different brands within our sport to sell them the CEP brand and to establish that we have a “window” they can take advantage of to sell their products.

Although the new Marketing Commission consists of just two people, they have a great deal of experience in this field which means we are very optimistic of their success.
Membership

39 European Federations affiliated to the CEP / FIPJP in 2019

Each year we conduct a survey of their membership and since 2016 this survey has included the number of clubs which are the grassroots of our sport and vital to the recruitment and retention of players.

The reported numbers from each federation can be found on the survey page of our website, here is a consolidated report of the total numbers:

- **Federations**: 39
- **Clubs**: 8,870
- **Individual Members**: 404,467

### Age Groups

- **55+ Veterans**
  - Male: 176,381 (80.5%)
  - Female: 42,737 (19.5%)

- **23-54 Adults**
  - Male: 123,097 (80.6%)
  - Female: 2,716 (19.4%)

- **18-22 Espoirs**
  - Male: 8,117 (75.5%)
  - Female: 5,362 (24.5%)

- **17- Juniors**
  - Male: 16,485 (75.5%)
  - Female: 5,362 (24.5%)
On the 7th May we launched the new Licence/Membership Transfer protocol and have already begun processing some.

As we explained at the time, there has been an increasing number of requests from federations for help in relation to players who, after being disciplined and having their licence suspended, obtained new licences with other federations.

Most of you will know the F.I.P.J.P. has a form for transferring licences which is designed to be signed by both federations to confirm there are no issues preventing a transfer, but the system is not monitored and it is obvious, from the issues reported that it is open to abuse.

We are taking an active role in the transfer of players between federations to help all concerned that the process is completed as quickly as possible and without issue. An administration fee is charged for each and every transfer with the monies received being invested back into our sport.

Transfer forms are available via email from our Transfer Secretary, Jean-Luc Melleker at the following address - transfer@cep-petanque.com

The protocol and regulations are available to download from a new page on our website www.cep-petanque.com/transfers.html.

Please note, transfer between federations are only valid with a CEP issued, signed and numbered "European Transfer Certificate".
Albertville, France - world-famous for having hosted the opening and closing ceremonies of the 16th Winter Olympic Games in 1992, will host two European Championships in 2021, the:

- 6th European Veteran’s Triples: 19 - 21 September and the

Situated on the Costa Maresme in Catalonia, Santa Susanna will host the:
- 10th European Espoirs Triples - Men & Women and the
- 12th European Juniors - Boys & Girls: 3 - 6 June 2021

and to complete the tournaments for 2021 the 23rd European Cup for Club Teams will be hosted in the Boulodrome du Saint-Yrieix in Saint-Yrieix-sur-Charente in week 48: 2 - 5 December
Celebrating their 50th Anniversary, the NJBB, with their partners, Team TOC will host the 3rd European Singles, Men & Women and our 1st European Doubles, Men - Women and Mixed from the 13 - 17 July 2022 in 's-Hertogenbosch, the capital of the Province of North Brabant.

To complete the season our 24th European Cup for Club Teams will be taking place in the Boulodrome du Saint-Yrieix in Saint-Yrieix-sur-Charente in week 48: 1 - 4 December.

The Spanish Pétanque Federation is the host for our 9th European Women's Triples Championship 3 - 5 June 2022. The event will be hosted at the Cantabria Trade Fair Centre (feria de muestras de Torrelavega) which is roughly 8 kilometres from the Cantabrian Coast and 27.5 kilometres from the capital of Santander.

At the end of September, we return to Spain, but this time Almerimar for our 11th European Espoirs Triples - Men & Women and the 13th European Juniors - Boys & Girls: 29 September - 02 October 2022.