

# Winter 2023 - 24 Season

# Pre – Season Report

# 

Welcome to the Winter 2023-24 Season. Toby Northern will be aiming to make it back to back Winter titles but Geoffroy Buffetrille will be pushing him all the way.

Brian Harris just missed out last Winter, can he push the leading pair all the way again? Or Indeed Alex Stewart who looked odds on to win before a heavy defeat to Toby in the penultimate week last Winter.

Neil Selby was another player who will again be in the mix, however several big players not playing this winter resulting in just one league!

As a result, joining the topflight will be Jean Stewart, Daniel Villalard, Jim Waddell and Mo De Gruchy, playing in the Premier League for the first time, which one will fare the best?

**Let us know on Facebook who your top three will be.**

The Doubles Leagues have also seen a disappointing drop in entries so just one division as well.

Again many big name players out so one team to watch should be James Gennoe & Neil Selby, how will they fair against Graeme Follain & Keith Pinel, Alex & Jean Stewart and Gary Cowburn & Wendy Ritzema and Dawn Buckley & Geoffroy Buffetrille. They are the top five teams who are most likely to be fighting for the title.

But we could very well see a surprise with good teams all around the league with Andrew & Lorna Limbrick and club doubles winners Keith White & Mo De Gruchy able to push those at the top.

Also John McGaw with new partner John Flaherty, Branden De La Haye & Tim Jackson, Daniel & James Villalard, James Rondel & Ross Churchill and Alan Mitchell & Mike Robinson very experienced teams making up the final teams in the league.

**Let us know on Facebook who your top three will be.**

Good Luck to everyone.

**Please like and follow us on Facebook.**

League tables will be posted on Facebook each week (Sunday) as well as on the club Website which will have all the scores and reports as well, each week.

**WEBSITE** [**www.liberationpetanque.co.uk**](http://www.liberationpetanque.co.uk)

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**WINTER 2023 / 24 SEASON**

**WEEK 1 – 4th November 2023**

**DOUBLES LEAGUE**

# Welcome to the Winter season where we find ourselves back at Millennium Park for the second successive year.

# Starting off with a double fixture week in the Double League with a few new teams hoping to take a maiden title, with just one Division and ten teams this year.

# Graeme Follain & Keith Pinel played a new duo of John Flaherty & John McGaw in their first fixture getting off to a good start with a comfortable win. Then followed by Alan Mitchell and Mike Robinson who had a bye in their first match. A surprise win for Alan & Mike and an early loss for Graeme & Keith.

# A big match in the first round as Callum & Jean Stewart played Dawn Buckley & Geoffroy Buffetrille with a 13 – 10 result each and a missed opportunity to get a head start in the title race.

# Recent Island Mixed Doubles champions Gary Cowburn & Wendy Ritzema played Daniel & James Villalard recording a big win but then dropped points drawing with James Rondel & Ross Churchill.

# Keith White & Mo De Gruchy played Branden De La Haye & Tim Jackson winning big for a great start in their only fixture this week.

# In Round 2 Dawn & Geoffroy played John & John with the expected win moving them to four points.

# Keith & Mo played Callum & Jean with the latter handing Keith & Mo back-to-back losses in the first week of the season.



**WINTER 2023 / 24 SEASON**

**WEEK 2 – 11th November 2023**

**SINGLES LEAGUE**

# The first week of the Singles League got underway despite all the recent weather incidents disrupting Island life.

# Current champion Toby was away playing for the club in the European Cup for Clubs so his match against James Villalard will be played at a later date. This was the same for Geoffroy against Brian.

# Neil Selby did get his expected win against Daniel Villalard but Daniel pushed him all the way to 13 – 9, 13 – 10.

# James Villalard brought forward a match against John Flaherty but the points being shared in a very even match. John though lost to Jean in the scheduled fixture.

# Mo drew with Jim with a 13 – 9 result each way and also drew with John.



**WINTER 2023 / 24 SEASON**

**WEEK 3 – 18th November 2023**

**DOUBLES LEAGUE**

# The weather continues to hamper the season with a number of matches affected by the rain.

# Alan & Mike came out on top against Daniel & James and a draw against James & Ross as they start the season off well joint top.

# Keith & Mo got a good win over John & John and Gary & Wendy beat Branden & Tim to top the league table early on in the season but only on points difference over Alan & Mike.



**WINTER 2023 / 24 SEASON**

**WEEK 4 – 25th November 2023**

**SINGLES LEAGUE**

Beautiful sunny day for the Singles League and its looking close at the top early on in the season.

Current Champion Toby tops the league after handing out a 13 - 0 to Daniel on his way to two wins with John Flaherty his other opponent.

Good start for Jean with her second win of the season, this time over Mo. James beat dad Daniel stealing the first game 13 – 12 from 10 – 12 down. James then went on to beat Jim in a match played in advance winning 13 – 0 in one game. James has an outstanding match against Toby!

Could this be Neil’s year? He has also started off well with a win over Alex for two wins from two.

Geoffroy though dropped four points with two draws, first against Alex and then against Jim to fall four points off top spot already at the start of this season. Brian yet to play and Daniel holding up the league for now.



**WINTER 2023 / 24 SEASON**

**WEEK 5 - FREE WEEK**

# NEXT WEEK - DOUBLES LEAGUE

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# Kind Regards

# Toby Northern

# Chairman

# Liberation Petanque Club



**WINTER 2023 / 24 SEASON**

**WEEK 6 – 9th December 2023**

**DOUBLES LEAGUE**

# Well it could be a two horse race this season in the doubles league as Gary & Wendy made it four wins from five matches and undefeated. This was against John & John who drop to bottom on points difference as a result.

# Alan and Mike made it three wins from four and also undefeated with a win over Brandon & Tim. They have a match in hand on leaders Gary & Wendy due to a bye in the first week so could tie at the top when the fixtures balance themselves out.



**WINTER 2023 / 24 SEASON**

**WEEK 7 – 16th December 2023**

**SINGLES LEAGUE**

# The last Singles league week before Christmas but not before the end of the year. Another week of double fixtures.

# In the first set of fixtures league leader Toby played Mo first making it four straight wins although Mo made Toby work hard for it in the second game 13 - 10. Toby though played Brina in his second match with Toby just beating Brian to the title last Winter but Toby beat Brian comfortably 13 – 5, 13 – 2 to make it five straight wins.

# James who was in second place going into the weekend played Alex but a loss see’s him drop to fourth.

# Brian who was playing catch up played Daniel who was aiming to move off the bottom of the league. A win for Brian, his first of the season leaving Daniel bottom.

# Cassie also playing catch up played John and just took the win with John going close 13 -11 in the second game.

# Neil was on 100% record coming into the weekend, could he extend that against Jean and Jim? Well Neil beat Jean comfortably to maintain 100% record with his match against Jim still to be played.

# Jean’s first loss after drawing with Geoffroy who has struggled at the start of the season with two draws so needed to beat Jean who was third in the league. Geoffroy also drawing with John so eleven points off the top spot already!

# James had already beat Jim handing out a certificate. Mo played Cassie and got her first win to move above Cassie in the league. Daniel played Alex getting a draw and his second points of the season but still bottom after a great performance from John against Geoffroy.



**WINTER 2023 / 24 SEASON**

**WEEK 8 – 23rd December 2023**

**Doubles League**

# The last Doubles league fixtures of the year were held this weekend, who would end the year on top?

# League leaders Gary & Wendy faced tough opposition in Dawn & Geoffroy as they aimed to finish the year top of the league. Dawn & Geoffroy won this match though to move back into contention for the title and hamper Gary & Wendys chances, although they remain top at the moment.

# Their nearest rivals going into the weekend were Alan & Mike, they also had a tough match against Callum & Jean. Match unplayed.

# Two teams able to challenge for the title James & Ross played Graeme & Keith. Match unplayed.

# Struggling teams Branden & Tim played Daniel & James with both teams aiming for a win to move them up the table. A great win for the Villalard’s, their first of the season.



**WINTER 2023 / 24 SEASON**

**WEEK 9 – 30th December 2023**

**SINGLES LEAGUE**

The final fixtures of the year were played this weekend with the Singles League and

the last double fixture weekend of the season.

# Title holder Toby played Cassie and Alex hoping to continue his push for back to back Winter titles. He did so comfortably against Cassie winning 13 – 5, 13 – 0, the tenth time he has handed out a Singles 13 – 0 certificate, the first person to do so.

# Toby followed this up with a win over Alex 13 – 5, 13 – 7, conceding an average of just four points winning all seven matches at the start of the season.

# Title rival Neil played Mo, winning comfortably also, but drew in a catch up match against Jim to drop five points off the pace after losing to Brian a week earlier.

# Geoffroy played Mo and Cassie, getting back to back wins, his first of the season a quite a way off top spot.

# Brian played Alex and Jim with winning both to climb the table

# Jim then playing Daniel with a draw a good result for both players. John had already drawn with James in a match played in advance.

# With these results Toby tops the Singles League at the end of 2023 and by some way, will that continue into 2024? We will have to wait and see.



**WINTER 2023 / 24 SEASON**

**WEEK 10 – 6th January 2024**

**DOUBLES LEAGUE**

# The first schedule week of 2024 was played this weekend with the Doubles League teams in action. Four matches were scheduled but also four matches were outstanding from 2024.

# James & Ross had barely played this season with two matches outstanding, they could have moved up the table and into contention with a few wins. They played Branden & Tim who have struggled so far this season. A close first game to 11, then made light work in the second game winning to 3, so after winning their first match of the season Branden & Tim have now lost four straight matches.

# James & Ross followed this up with a huge win over Daniel & James 13 – 3, 13 – 0 handing out the first certificate of 2024!

# James & Ross though then lost a catch up match against Graeme & Keith with the latter moving into the top three with a match outstanding. This was James & Ross first defeat of the season.

# League leaders Gary & Wendy played Keith & Mo who have been struggling also this season. Despite a big win in the first game Gary & Wendy couldn’t make it count losing 13 – 8 in the second game and dropping two valuable league points in the process.

# Callum & Jean would be hoping for a win over Daniel & James to get their title chances back on track but they could only draw but did then beat Alan & Mike in a catch up match.

# Outstanding matches

# Graeme Follain & Keith Pinel v Keith White & Mo De Gruch

# Alan Mitchel & Mike Robinson v John Flaherty & John McGaw



**WINTER 2023 / 24 SEASON**

**WEEK 11 – 13th January 2024**

**SINGLES LEAGUE**

# The big week of the season as current and four time winter champion Toby played four time winter champion Geoffroy. Toby having won his first seven matches needed another win to keep himself at least five points clear of Neil.

# Geoffroy had won his last two matches after a bad start to the season could he make it three in a row and throw the title race open? Well he started well on top form to take the first game but toby fought back to get a valuable draw and maintain his unbeaten run.

# Neil played Cassie who was in the bottom half of the table just above the relegation zone, could Neil capitalise and close the gap on Toby? Yes he could and comfortably so, the gap now down to three points.

# Brian was in third place, nine points off top spot. He played Jean who could move above him with a win. Points shared in this one and Jean also drew with James.

# Alex and Jim were both on six points, but although Jim was without a win he’d only lost two of his eight matches played so a tough match for Alex who finished third last year. A big win in the first game to Alex but Jim won the second 13 – 1! For the draw.

# James has had a good season so far and could push himself towards a medal place with a win over Mo. He did just that.

# Finally the bottom two players both on two points played each, who would come out on top John or Daniel? A great first win of the season for John.

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# Outstanding singles Matches

# Daniel Villalard v Jean Stewart



**WINTER 2023 / 24 SEASON**

**WEEK 13 – 27th January 2024**

**FREE WEEK**

# NEXT WEEK - SINGLES LEAGUE

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**WINTER 2023 / 24 SEASON**

**WEEK 14 – 3rd February 2024**

**SINGLES LEAGUE**

# As the season moves towards its end in five weeks’ time. Just three of those are singles league weeks.

# With just three points separating the top two this week could prove pivotal as Neil played Geoffroy needing a win to keep pace with leader Toby who played Jim.

# Neil won a close first match against Geoffroy 13 – 11 and in with a chance of a big win, tied at 7 – 7 in the second game before Geoffroy won a few big ends to take the second game 13 – 8 for a draw. Toby won comfortably again 13 – 7, 13 – 3 against Jim to move five points clear with two matches to go.

# So the 17th of February will be a huge match between Toby and Neil. Toby just needing a draw for the title.

# Brian played John hope to keep pace on the top two but needed a miracle for the title. Brian won to maintain third position but title hopes have ended. Jean close behind though after a 13 – 12 win over Alex in the second game gave her all three points.

# James fought out a draw against Cassie to maintain his position in the top half of the table whilst Cassie struggles.

# Mo and Daniel un-played.



**WINTER 2023 / 24 SEASON**

**WEEK 15 – 10th February 2024**

**DOUBLES LEAGUE**

# The battle for the Doubles League title this Winter is wide open. With a big weekend wins are all that matter.

# Leaders Graeme & Keith faced a tough match against Gary & Wendy who had lead for most of the season before dropping off the pace. However Gary & Wendy stepped back on the plate to take a big win to sit top of the league. Unfortunately though they have played all their matches and will need a lot of things to go their way to take the title.

# James & Ross played strugglers John & John needing a win to have any chance of the title. John & John had got their first point in a catch up match against Alan & Mike. James & Ross only just made it, taking the second game 13-12.

# Callum & Jean were well off the pace going into the final stretch so also needed to win against Branden & Tim, who were in real danger of relegation. Match un-played.

# Alan & Mike had also fallen off the pace after a very good start to the season so needed to beat Keith & Mo to have any chance of a medal place at the end of the season. They did just that but no medal this season I’m afraid.

# Dawn & Geoffroy sitting in second place but with a match in hand and the only undefeated team left in the league played Daniel & James who were another team at risk of relegation. A fairly close game but another win for Dawn & Geoffroy.



**WINTER 2023 / 24 SEASON**

**WEEK 16 – 17th February 2024**

**SINGLES LEAGUE**

# The penultimate week of the Singles League and the one that could see the title settled with the top two players playing each other.

# Toby had been surging through the season with seven wins and a draw- going into this weekend with a five point lead over Neil who has been having one of his best seasons so far.

# Neil needed to beat Toby to take it into the final week of the season, could he hand Toby his first defeat of the season and take it to a dramatic finish? Well Neil losing 6 – 2 in the first game reeled off 13 straight points to take the first game 13 – 6 and move 2 – 0 up in the second game before Toby finally got back on the score sheet, but then found himself 7 – 2 against Neil and under pressure but then hit a 10m carreaux for three points on the next end to get himself back in the game.

# It was finely poised at 8 – 8 before Neil went 10 – 8 up but again Toby fought back leading 11 – 10 was holding Neil shot clipped Toby boule and his own but also moving the Jack to Toby back boule. A bad place then left the door open for Toby who took his opportunity placing on the Jack to get the draw win a record seventh title.

# Brian was in third place and played Mo, who had beaten Daniel in a catch up match to move out of the bottom three. Could Brian secure at least third place? Well he beat Mo but needs to win his last match and hope Neil doesn’t win.

# Geoffroy has moved up the league with a win over James but will finish out of the top three in the Winter for the second successive season after previously winning the title four years in a row!

# Jean draw with Jim, losing the first game 13 – 12 means her hope for a top three place is over.

# Alex, who had a great season last year, has struggled this year and could have fallen into the relegation zone with a loss to John. Alex 12 – 0 up in the first game before John got back to 7, then John took the second game for a draw.

# Daniel Bottom of the table going into the weekend need to get a win to have any chance of avoiding the bottom three. He played Cassie who could also drop into the bottom three with a loss. However it was Cassie that took all three points and in doing so relegated Daniel.



**WINTER 2023 / 24 SEASON**

**WEEK 17 – 24th February 2024**

**DOUBLES LEAGUE**

# The Penultimate week and one that could decide the title race as Dawn & Geoffroy played James & Ross. Could the latter take a big win and take it to a dramatic finish on the 9th March?

# Unfortunately for James & Ross, the came across Geoffroy in superb shooting form, with Dawn pointing well they ran out big winners 13 – 1, 13 – 7 to take the title.

# Remarkably this is Geoffroy sixth Winter Doubles title and not only that he has won with six different partners!!!

# The bottom two played each other as John & John took on Branden & Tim, knowing a win would see them moved above them and drop Branden & Tim into the relegation zone. Well Done to John & John as they pulled off a big win, their first together to move out of the relegation zone.

# Two other teams both on four points in Keith & Mo and Daniel & James played each other knowing a win would see them survive in the league, but a draw was the result leaving both at the bottom end of the table.

# A win for Graeme & Keith over Callum & Jean would see them take second in the league and guarantee Gary & Wendy third but this match was un-played.



**WINTER 2023 / 24 SEASON**

**WEEK 18 – 2nd March 2024**

**SINGLES LEAGUE**

# The final schedule week of another season in the Singles league as the Winter 23/24 season draws to a close.

With Toby already crowned champion his last target was to remain undefeated, would Jean spoil the end of the season for him?No and in fact a big win for Toby 13 – 4, 13 - 1mean’t another record as he smashed the previous record for the lowest average points conceded in a season previously set by Matt Ryan which was in a lower Division in Division 1 in the Winter 2015/16 season of 5.5.

The lowest previous record in the Premier League was Matt Pinel of 7.0 in the Summer of 2018.

The new record of 5.0 meaning Toby average score in a Premier League was 13 – 5 across 22 games (11 matches) that’s some achievement.

# Neil Selby, disappointed after draw with Toby last time out meaning he couldn’t catch him drew a very close match with James 13 – 12, 11 -13! A great season James playing against much more experienced players.

Elsewhere Daniel Villalard who was already relegated and finished bottom of the league will take some positives after gaining a draw in his last match of the season

against Geoffroy Buffetrille. Geoffroy though finished a massive fourteen points off top spot for a disappointing season.

Neil Selby sealed second place with a draw against James Villalard who also had a good season finishing sixth. Brian Harris secured back to back top three finishes

but dropping to third this season after he drew with Cassie.

Jim Waddell waited to the last match of the season to get his first win of the season, this was against John Flaherty who was relegated along with Mo De Gruchy who lost to Alex Stewart.



**WINTER 2023 / 24 SEASON**

**WEEK 18 – 9th March 2024**

**Doubles League**

# The season end this week with the final scheduled Doubles league matches.

# With the title and medal places already secured it was just a matter of enjoying the last match of the season and trying to finish on a high.

# Callum & Jean did just that with a win over John & John who managed to win two matches towards the end of the season pulling them clear of bottom spot.

# Alan & Mike had already drawn with Gary & Wendy weeks earlier. Dawn & Geoffroy

# Sealed an unbeaten season with a win over Branden & Tim who finished bottom as a result.

# James & Ross were looking to finish on a high against Keith & Mo to finish fourth but could only draw so finished fifth.

# End of Season

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# Kind Regards

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# Chairman

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**Winter 2023-24**

**End of Season**

**Report**

What a great season it has been with a season of records.

A record breaking season for Toby with three club records.  Following on from his record 5th Winter Premier League title and record seventh Premier League title overall Toby big win over Jean Stewart 13 – 4, 13 – 1 mean’t another record.

Toby smashed the previous record for the lowest average points conceded in a season previously set by Matt Ryan which was in a lower Division in Division 1, in the Winter 2015/16 season of 5.5.

The lowest previous record in the Premier League was Matt Pinel of 7.0 in the Summer of 2018.

The new record of 5.0 meaning Toby average score in a Premier League was 13 – 5 across 22 games (11 matches) that’s some achievement.

Geoffroy made it five Winter Doubles Premier League Titles a new record and with his fifth different partner.

**Premier League Singles Champion**

Well Done to Toby Northern on winning the title. Making it back to back titles and a record fifth Winter title and record seventh title overall.

Runners up spot went to Neil Selby with Brian Harris taking third.

Commiserations to those relegated, Daniel Villalard and John Flaherty and Mo De Gruchy.

**Premier League Double Champions**

Congratulations to Dawn Buckley & Geoffroy Buffetrille who have won this seasons Doubles Premier League title.

They beat Graeme Follain & Keith Pinel who pushed them the whole way finished second place. Third Place went Gary Cowburn & Wendy Ritzema.

Commiserations to those relegated Branden De La Haye & Tim Jackson.

**Player of the Season**

**Will be announced on Facebook soon!!**

I hope you all enjoyed the season and are looking forward to another great Summer of petanque.

All end of Winter season tables, winter results are on the website.

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