

# Summer 2021 Season

# Pre – Season Report

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Welcome to the Summer 2021 Season and welcome to new club members, Nicky Maindonald, Kevin Daly, James Mold and Stephanie O’Driscoll, Dave Barron and Julie Le Sueur.

We have the club Shooting Cup this weekend with a massive 24 entries blowing last years record entry number of 17 out of the water.

We also have a record number entered for the Super 7’s and the most entries into the club Singles and Doubles cups for the last 6 years. It is great to see so many members taking up the chance to play in these club only competitions, your support is amazing.

We also see a new club member only competition this year making it 5 in total, with the Singles Handy Cap Cup thanks to the suggestion from club member Daniel Villalard. This will be an interesting first attempt at applying a handicap (in a similar manner to golf) and will hopefully throw up a new winner (no pressure on you of course Daniel 😊).

Well with last Summer being an unusual one, the normal promotions and relegations did not apply so some people were given a reprieve from relegation and some unfortunately did not get promotion. The committee have tried to make a balanced and fair judgement on league positions.

We have again three Singles League Divisions which look as competitive as ever as skills keep on improving.

Joey Le Clech will be defending his Premier League title and will be first up against 5-time champion Toby Northern who returns to the Summer league after last year’s absence.

Also re-joining the topflight is Matt Buesnel and Laurent Pellaton, the latter winning Division 1 last Summer.

Last years Runner Up Neil Selby plays third place finisher Andrew Bellamy-Burt with Neil handing out a fanny certificate to Andrew last Summer, should be a closer match this year.

Geoffroy Buffetrille has now won three Winter Premier League titles in a row and did win the Summer one in 2017 so has to be one of the favourites again. Ross Payne finished the Winter season in top form, can he bring back his glory days from the Summer of 2013? Or could our only topflight female player Alice show the men whose boss!

**Let us know on Facebook who your top three will be, a prize for anyone who gets all three players (in the correct order).**

In Division 1, will Gavin Scott moving up a league be able to carry on his 100% start to his Liberation Pertanque Club career! It will be a tough task with 7 out of the other 10 players all having played in the Premier League.

Those players are Alex Stewart, Andrew Limbrick, Brigitte Ibitson, David Ibitson, Jean Stewart, Keith Pinel and Paul Bell, what a line up.

This line is completed by one of the top female players in the Island Natasha Romeril who is part of the club’s Euro Cup Squad as well as ever improving Matt Hutchings and Tim Jackson.

I know I could not pick a winner, can you?

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In division 2 we also have some top players with three of the Island top female players who have all represented Jersey in European Competitions in Cassie Stewart, Lorna Limbrick and Wendy Ritzema.

This league is joined by new members James Mold and Kevin Daly, both having played before, will they spring a surprise or will James Villalard or Brandon De La Haye who have been improving recently get that top three spot.

Also playing in the Singles league is a former Carrefour Singles Open Champion Gary Cowburn surely one of the favourites.

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The Doubles Premier League will see Laurent Pellaton & Matt Pinel try to defend their title, with Geoffroy Buffetrille & Matt Buesnel who despite finishing bottom last Summer got a reprieve and the went onto win the Winter Premier League title, those two teams play each other on Wednesday 21st July (Doubles week 7), cannot wait for that one.

Despite being one of the top double’s teams in the Island, Andrew Bellamy-Burt & Callum Stewart have never won the Summer Premier League tile, they did win the Winter one though in 2015/16 season.

With Neil Selby constantly finishing in the top three in the Singles leagues and his doubles partner Ross Payne looking back to his best this pair look a good shot for the title. Ross has won this league three times as well as the Winter Premier League three times, 6 in total, more than anyone else. Will he help Neil to his first one, it could be their year?

Colin Myers & Steve Simpkin are back in the topflight, this pair have played 171 league matches together, more than anyone else in the club ever!

Some great teams in the league with Graeme Follain & Keith Pinel undefeated in the Winter, Alice & Brigitte with a title to their names and not forgetting Brian Harris & Paul Le Moine, Alan Oliveira & Joey Le Clech and Premier League newcomers Gavin Scott & James Rondel.

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Division 1 Doubles League probably has two favourites in couples Alex & Jean Stewart and Andrew & Lorna Limbrick, but it is a very even looking league.

It also see’s new members James Mold & Stephanie O’Driscoll take part, some shocks in store maybe.

But anyone who can take three points of draw specialists John McGaw & Nick Pallot should be in with a good shout.

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Good Luck to everyone.

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

League tables will be posted on Facebook each week 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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