

# Summer - 2022 Season

# Pre – Season Report

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Welcome to the Summer 2022 Season. Laurent Pellaton starts his defence of the Premier League title. Its no easy feat winning it once, never mind twice.

Newly crowned Winter Champion Geoffroy Buffetrille will be hoping to make it back-to-back titles. He had a fairly disappointing Summer season in 2021 by his standards, but we are sure he will once again be challenging for that prestigious top spot.

Neil Selby had a disappointing Winter campaign but finished runner up last Summer, can he go one better this time around. Ross Payne was one of three players tied for third place with points difference giving him a bronze medal, will he but up there again.

Andrew Bellamy-Burt missed out on third by two points on points difference and has won more Summer Premier League titles than anyone else, but despite being one of the toughest players to beat he also struggles to turn draws into wins. Likewise for Alice Dilks who was undefeated in the Winter but had ten draws.

Joining the likes of Brian Harris and Joey the Clech is newly promoted Gavin Scott who won Division 1 last season and Division 2 the season before that, with his shooting ability could he top the Premier League?

Also promoted were experienced Premier League player Alex Stewart making up a very strong league as usual.

**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, relegated Callum Stewart and Matt Buesnel (who won Division 1 in the Winter) will be looking for an immediate return to the top league in the Summer and they play each other in Week 1 fixture.

Andrew Limbrick just missed out on promotion last season so will be hoping to convert his excellent cup form into the leagues for another promotion push.

Strong players all around with David Ibitson, Paul Bell and Wendy Ritzema, Cassie Stewart and Tim Jackson being joined Mo de Gruchy for another strong line up.

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Brigitte Ibitson dropped down to Division 2 and should be strong candidate to move back up. They are joined though by some very experienced players, not just league experience but European experience. This includes Lorna Limbrick.

Daniel and James Villalard are improving year on year so could be in with a shout for promotion but several new players in this division, many of which are new or fairly new to the game , so could be some dark horses, with Martin Schwartz, Luc Rochefort, Colin Floyd, Jim Waddell, John Flaherty and returning Ian Black so should be an interesting league this year.

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The Doubles Premier League champions Laurent Pellaton & Matt Pinel are back looking to become the second team to make it three titles in a row after Antony Di Santo & Ross Payne (2013 - 2015). Considering they won the title by 10 points last season then the rest of the teams are going to have to improve some way to catch them.

Geoffroy Buffetrille & Matt Buesnel who have a few titles under their own belt will be looking to prevent Laurent & Matt from winning again as will Neil Selby & Ross Payne who finished runners up last Summer.

Another top team in Andrew Bellamy-Burt & Callum Stewart who are consistently winning competitions will also be in with a shout as will Gavin Scott & James Rondel.

Gary Cowburn & Wendy Ritzema and Graeme Follain & Keith Pinel make up the teams and are joined by newly promoted Alex & Jean Stewart, who had a very good Winter season in the end after a poor start, along with Cassie Stewart & Chris Le Gallais who will be playing in the Premier League for the first time. Alan Mitchel & Mike Robinson make up the teams joining the topflight.

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Dropping down to Division 1 and probably pre-season favourites to go straight back up is Alice Dilks & Brigitte Ibitson, they will be pushed hard though by fellow relegated team Colin Myers & Steve Simpkin.

Andrew & Lorna Limbrick missed out on promotion last Summer despite having the best points difference so expect them to be challenging for the title this season.

Will Daniel & James Villalard cup form translate to consistent league form as they bid for their first promotion. Brande De La Haye & Tim Jackson had their worst season yet in the Winter and failed to win a match last Summer, will their form change for this season.

John McGaw & Nick Pallot will be taking points off a lot of teams as they draw more matches than most and Kat Stewart & Paul Bell will be there or there abouts when it comes to promotion along with Dawn Buckley & James Gennoe.

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Good Luck to everyone.

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

League tables will be posted on Facebook each week (Wednesday Night) 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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