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## Lamorinda Petanque, 30 years strong

By Pippa Fisher



Mayor Mike Anderson throws out the first ball, marking the Lamorinda Petanque Club's 30th anniversary. Photo Pippa Fisher

In the shady spot near the creek on St. Mary's Road, home to Lamorinda's Pétanque Club, Mayor Mike Anderson threw out the first cochonnet (small, target ball) and first boule to kick off the Oct. 20 tournament as players watched with professional eyes. He described the club as an "oasis of calm and civility."

The club is celebrating its 30th anniversary. Founder Pascal Gravier recalled the last time a mayor tossed out the first ball, 24 years ago. "Mayor Gayle Uilkema threw out the first ball at our old location down the road which is now the roller rink."

The club is indeed an oasis, but alongside its calm and civility it features some world-class players. Sixteen-year-old Noah Sonet will be playing on the U.S. junior team in Cambodia next month, one of only three juniors in the country.

The club welcomes new members. "But be warned," says Gravier. "It is addicting."

Further information can be found on their website <http://lamorindapetanque.com/index.html>

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