



Press Release

Deaf European Cup Petanque 13-14.08.2023 Brugge

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The local club Koninklijke Sporting Kring Doven Brugge organized in cooperation with Belgian Deaf sport Committee this 1st European Cup Petanque for the Deaf. What normally would have taken place in 2020 on the occasion of the 90th anniversary of the local club was postponed twice due to the pandemic while 2022 was not possible due to the already planned centenary of our national federation.

Petanque has been played since 1985 in Belgium among the deaf sports but internationally this was only with France and since the 2000's some other countries started to play this sport, at the end of the 2010's we noticed that there were more than 4 countries and the idea came to create this European Cup to give a signal to European Deaf Sport Organization to eventually create a European Championship for which at least 6 countries had to debut. With this Europacup, 7 countries participated while at least 3 other European countries recently started that sport but could not attend.

Therefore, we hope that by reporting this exceptional event, the media will also give the necessary attention to this sport among our target audience.



Sunday, August 13, 2023:

The opening ceremony at the Petanque grounds PC Den Arend, Arendstraat 34 b, 8000 Koolkerke - Belgium went smoothly so that the European Cup "doublets" could start on time under ample public interest for this first, only a heavy rain shower around noon halted this tournament for over half an hour. For the first time, the Belgian national anthem in Flemish sign language was shown on a screen during the opening ceremony!



The participants of this European Cup at the opening ceremony



Opening remarks by President Belgian Deaf Sports Committee Jan Van den Braembussche

For the women, after 5 preliminary rounds, the finalists were known. Belgium 1 and Spain were the only ones with 4 victories and could play the final which Belgium narrowly won with 13-12 as they had to work hard to win after a 10-4 lead!

For the 3rd place Belgium 2 was the only one with 3 victories and got on the podium before France, Czech Republic and Sweden.

Unexpectedly Belgium got 2 medals against strong opponents!

The men's competition was played in 2 pools and the losers of the first round could still play a barrage which gave them a chance to qualify for the semi-finals where France, Spain, Czech Republic and Belgium 1 qualified. The favorites France and Spain then played the final which France won brilliantly with 13-9. The Belgians lost to the Czech Republic for 3rd place by a large

margin while the Swiss won the consolation final for 5th place against Belgium 2 and Sweden beat Germany for 7th place.

This European Cup was attended today by several guests of honor including Mayor Dirk De fauw and Alderman Welfare Pieter Marechal of the City of Bruges.





Men's Final Double: France - Spain



Women's Final Double: Belgium - Spain



Monday, August 14, 2023:

The European Cup "Single" and "Precision Shooting" took place on the Petanque grounds of PC De Gulden Kamer, Blauwkasteelweg 28 A, Sint Kruis - Brugge.

Especially the Precision Shooting men attracted a lot of attention, in which the Frenchman FAUREL Gino showed his superiority by taking a very high score in both the preliminaries and the finals; against the Spaniard GIL APARICIO Juan Francisco; For bronze, it was the German SIEBERT David who took it from the Belgian LAMI Fred.

For the women, after the preliminaries, the French LADEIRO-PIRES Sylvianne and the Belgian HERMANS Ingrid were qualified for the final, where the French one more than deservedly won it. For third place the Czech JAVURKOVA Nikol had to compete against AZZALIN Valerie and here the Czech Republic could get their 2nd medal.





In Single Ladies, Spain's FERNANDEZ CALLEJON Montserrat was the only one with 4 wins while France, Sweden and Belgium 1 had 3 wins each. France with BRUNET Françoise was allowed to go to the final with a better score while Sweden's ANDERSSON Inger was the best for bronze. However, the final was won by the French BRUNET Françoise with 13-8.

Single Men was again a showdown between the 2 top countries France and Spain with the Spaniard LARA MARTINEZ Antonio brilliantly winning the final against the Frenchman JULIEN Cyril with 13-11. It was also exciting for bronze with 13-11 between the Swede HÖGBERG Thord and the Belgian WILMSEN Michel.

Bruges Alderman Culture Nico Blontrock was the guest of honor at this European Cup today.



Podium Precision Shooting Women



Podium Precision Shooting Men



Podium Single Women



Podium Single Men

In the evening, the Extra Award ceremony took place with the following nominations:

- MVP Men: FAUREL Gino – France
- MVP Women: FERNANDEZ CALLEJON MONTSERRAT - Spain



- Best Country Women: BELGIUM
- Best Country Men: FRANCE



- Fair-play: SWITZERLAND



A very successful organization to the great satisfaction of all participants from the 7 countries Czech Republic, Germany, France, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Belgium. For this all thanks go to the volunteers of the organizing club Koninklijke Sporting Kring Doven Brugge.

But also the cooperation of Petanque Federatie Vlaanderen and Belgium was of great importance for this event to allow everything to take place in an official framework. This federation showed its great interest in including this sport within their framework as a sport for people with disabilities such as our target group, the deaf and hard of hearing.

The next European Cup will normally take place in Spain 2025. Meanwhile, an application will be submitted to the European congress of European Deaf Sport Organization to organize also an official European Championship, possibly from 2026 and in which more diverse trials can be calculated over a time span of 1 week and with the intention to keep the European Cup between the European Championships as long as this sport is not yet included at the world level.

The only downside is the little media interest, despite the prior press release.

See more:

- <https://deafsport.be/> + <https://deafsport.be/article/141>
- <https://www.facebook.com/BDC1922>
- <https://www.instagram.com/belgiandeafsportcommittee/>

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KSK Doven Brugge
founded 1930



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