

France beckons for petanque pair

GAWLER Petanque Club players Luke Randall and Cameron Paul are in for an experience most teenagers could only dream of after being selected to represent Australia at under 18 level at the World Youth Championships in France later this year.

The championships will be held in Montauban from August 29 to September 1 and are open to teams from the 59 countries affiliated with the sport's world governing body, the International Federation of Petanque.

What makes this effort even more amazing is the fact that there are only four members on the team, and two of those come from the same club.

The other two players are from NSW and WA.

Gawler Petanque Club president Glenis Head agreed that it was a fantastic achievement by the club to have two players on the national team and was full of praise for the boys.

"We are so proud," she said.

"I am thrilled."

Head hoped the selection of Randall and Paul would promote the club and also raise awareness for the sport throughout the community, especially amongst juniors.

"We need to build on this," Head said.

"We need to start from here and grow up."

Head was upbeat about her players' chances.

"There we will be some top competition," she said.

"But they have got as good a chance as anybody else."

Both boys represented South Australia at the interstate championships in Sydney last November and were selected to represent Australia as a result of their good performances.

Randall, aged 17, has represented Australia twice previously, once in New Zealand in 2009 and also when he travelled to Lake Macquarie as part of the Australian Junior National team in May this year, while for Paul, 13, it is his first time representing his country.

For Randall, the idea of going overseas to compete again is exciting and he is hoping to soak up all that he can.

"I'm looking forward to the new experience and meeting new people," Randall said.

After numerous past interstate and international trips, Randall has some idea what he is in for and is focused on continuing his development as a petanque player.

"It is good fun (going away to play)," Randall said.

"The best thing about it is the new things you learn from going to places other than Gawler and Adelaide."

BELOW: Galwer Petanque Club's Luke Randall and Cameron Paul, who will represent Australia in France later in the year. PHOTO: Mary Ackers



Winter baseball clinics

THE Gawler Rangers Baseball Club has started its winter clinics, which will be held each Sunday throughout this month.

The clinics will run from 2pm to 4pm and are open to current players, as well as anyone else interested in taking up baseball.

Notable baseball identities will be present at the clinics to assist with coaching, along with senior players from the Gawler Rangers.

The clinics started on the weekend and are obviously very well received, with a large group of players attending.

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No Tour Down Under for Gawler

GAWLER will once again



miss out on the action of the Tour Down Under.

After being bypassed last year as the race travelled through Williamstown, next summer's event will do the same again.

On Thursday, January 23, stage three will begin in Adelaide before winding its way up through the hills to Williamstown.

One would think that Gawler, being the biggest town in the area, would feature more heavily in the fixture, but tour organisers obviously think otherwise.

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Association match

THE Barossa Valley Hockey

Association will play an association match against the Yorke Peninsula at Stockwell Oval on Saturday afternoon.

There will be both an A men and an A women's match.

The games are being held in place of the traditional country championships in Adelaide, which have been cancelled this season.

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Buckets, an umpire in waiting?

THE Ball's Up! thinks it may have found a way for Kapunda coach Jason Mackenzie to keep fit once he finishes playing.

Mackenzie was particularly vocal towards the umpires during his side's game against Tanunda on the weekend, providing the men in white with plenty of well-informed advice.

So clear on the rules was Mackenzie that it seemed the umpires even listened to him at times.

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200 up for Oz

CONGRATULATIONS to Freeling stalwart Darren Leske, who played his 200th game on the weekend.

Leske has been a loyal servant for the Redlegs and has been a fantastic contributor to the BL&G for many years.

In a time when loyalty in football is becoming harder to find, it is fantastic to see such a good bloke clock up a well-deserved milestone.

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