Coventry Pétanque Club, based at The Burnt Post on Kenpas Highway, achieved its best ever result in the English play-offs for the European Cup for Clubs. Competing in a semi-final at Letchworth, Herts, against three clubs from other parts of England, they managed runners-up place against strong opposition.

Set to play two triples games, followed by three pairs games, against each club during the day, Coventry began against Bancroft Park, from Milton Keynes, by winning the mixed triple 13-12 through Eileen Sollis, Gareth Twitchett and Alf Smallman, whilst the open triple went down 7-13. In the pairs round, Tony Thompson and John Baxter triumphed 13-10 after a tight game, Brian Stote and Eileen Sollis won their mixed 13-8 and Twitchett and Smallman struggled and went down 4-13 but the tie was won 3 games to 2.

In the second series, against the eventual winners, The Engine from Baldock, the only winners were Reg Eburne, Stote and Sollis in their open triple and the tie was lost 1-4.

The final two rounds were against London club Harrow. Once again, the triples went one either way with all to play for in the final series of pairs. Coventry summoned reserves of stamina and concentration and ran out winners in two of them, one a spectacular 13-0 by Thompson and Sheila Eburne, to take the tie 3-2 and achieve second place overall.

The Engine, which won its matches 4-1, 4-1 and 5-0, ran out clear winner and will progress to the English final to play for the opportunity to face foreign opposition. However, the Coventry club can justifiably claim to have enhanced its status as one of the top competitive clubs in the country.

Club captain, Brian Stote, said that he was delighted with the team’s showing, particularly as three of its members had been playing for less than three years, and hoped that such progress would be maintained during the coming season.