

How is jeu de crosse today?

Last month, I came in contact with Bruno Thiébault in Belgique who, besides his professional activities, dedicates himself to the survival of *jeu de crosse*. He collects *crosses* (clubs), *chouettes* (balls) and other *jeu de crosse* materials to save everything connected with the ancient game, and he also practices the game with the youngsters, hoping to prevent this ancient game from extinction. After some exchanges, we discovered that he is the grandson of Simon Duquesnoy who guided us during our first visit (2001) to the *jeu de crosse* region.

I had a dozen *crosses* and a big bag of *chouettes*, with which I do nothing anymore. Geert, my late husband, and I collected this equipment, not because we were collectors but to illustrate our books about the continental kindred games of golf. I wondered what would happen with all this when I'll one day join my husband. The game and the equipment are unknown outside the ancient county of Hainaut; probably all would end at the recycling centre. I decided to give everything to Bruno, and after having done that, I have a good feeling.

In the *crosse* region, I recognised many village names where people, organised in *crosse* associations, played the game at the beginning of this century. I became curious and tried to discover what was left of this ancient game. I contacted all the councils where the game was played in 2008. Unfortunately, only a few answered. And, of course, I searched for details on the Internet.



Les Amis du Pic et du Plat, Baudour (B) – Photo Geert Nijs, 2002

In Belgium, I could check the sites of the village councils, all up to date up to 2024, undoubtedly because in Belgium, villages are regrouped into conglomerates around the bigger cities. In France, the situation is more complicated. There still exist villages with populations of some 100 inhabitants or less. Most of my information, I found on the internet. So, as far as France is concerned, my results are not more than a provisional balance. In both countries, the balance is depressing (see next page).

I wish Bruno Thiébault good luck with his project, which is admirable.

Council in Belgium	Name	Game	2008	2012	2024	Ended in
Baudour (Saint Ghislain)	Les Amis du Pic et du Plat	P	X	X	No	2019 Reaction of the council
Baudour (Saint Ghislain)	Les Férus de la crosse	P	X		No	Reaction of the council
Dour	Les Dégourdis	P	X		No	Site of the council
Elouges (Dour)		P	X	X	No	Reaction of the council
Erquelinnes	Royale de Crosse Saint-Georges	B	X	X	No	Reaction of the council
Erquennes (Honnelles)	Le Rat d'Eau	P	X	X	No	Site of the council
Fayt-le-Franc (Honnelles)	Les Amis de la Frontière	P	X	X	No	Site of the council
Frameries		P	X		No	Reaction of the council
Hainin (Hensies)	La Cholette Joyeuse	P	X	X	No	Site of the council
Hornu (Boussu)	Les Crosseurs du Petit Hornu	P	X	X	No	Site of the council
Maurage (La Louvière)	Crosse Maurageois	P	X		No	Site of the council
Quévy	L'Avenir – Crosse à la Planche	B	X	X	Yes	Site of the council
Pâturages (Colfontaine)		P	X		No	Site of the council
Sirault (Saint Ghislain)	Les Courts Fûts	P		X	No	Reaction of the council
Sirault (Saint Ghislain)	L'Entente de Sirault	P	X		No	Reaction of the council
Sivry (Sivry-Rance)	La Crosse Chevrotine	P		X	No	Site of the council
Tertre (Saint Ghislain)	Les Amis de la Fontaine	P		X	Yes	Reaction of the council
Tertre (Saint Ghislain)	Les Dévoués du Coron d'en Haut	P		X	No	Reaction of the council
Wihéries (Dour)	La Cambuse	P	X		No	Site of the council
Wihéries (Dour)	Les Cambusiens	P	X	X	Yes	Site of the council

Commune en France	Nom	Jeu	2008	2012	2024	Fini en
Assevent	La Joyeuse	P + B	X	X	Yes	Site of the council
Aulnoye-Aymeries	Les Amis de la Crosse en Plaine d'Aulnoye	P	X		No	Reaction of the council
Aulnoye-Aymeries	Les Amis Réunis	P + B	X	X	No	Reaction of the council
Bachant	La Bachinoise	P + B	X	X	Yes	Reaction of the council
Bachant	Les Amis Réunis	P	X		No	Reaction of the council
Beaufort	La Bienveillante	P + B	X	X	No	2023 Reaction of the council
Berlaimont	Les Intimes	B	X	X	Yes	Site of the council
Boussière s/Sambre		P	X		?	Reaction nor info on the site
Boussois	La Sans Pareille	B	X	X	No	Site of the council
Cousolre	Les Joyeux	B	X	X	Yes	Association is on Facebook
Englefontaine	OATPNF/ ACBJB	B	X	X	No	2014
Feignies	La Revanche de la Soulette Finisienne	P + B	X	X	No	Site of the council
Feignies	Les Amis de la Crosse	P + B	X		No	Site of the council
Gognies-Chaussée	La Franco-Belge	P	X		No	Reaction of the council
Gommegnies	La Gommegnione	P + B	X		No	01 2023 Reaction of the council
Gommegnies	Les Amis Réunis	P + B	X	X	Yes	Reaction of the council
Jeumont	La Saint Martin	B	X		No	
La Longueville	Le Réveil Longuevillois	B	X		No	Site of the council
Leval	L'Egalité	B	X	X	No	Latest contact dates from 2017
Louvroil	La Bienveillante	P	X		No	Site of the council
Marpent	La Fraternelle	B	X		No	Site of the council
Marpent	La Soulette Marlentoise	P + B		X	No	Site of the council

Commune en France	Nom	Jeu	2008	2012	2024	Fini en
Maubeuge	Ligue regionale de Crosse-Golf		X	X	Yes	Site of the council
Maubeuge	L'Etoile	B	X		?	Reaction nor info on the site
Maubeuge	La Renaissance	P + B	X	X	?	Reaction nor info on the site
Mecquignies	L'Avenir de Mecquignies	P + B	X	X	?	Reaction nor info on the site
Mecquignies	Les Amis de la Crosse de Mecquignies	P + B	X	X	?	Reaction nor info on the site
Pont s/Sambre	La Vigilante	P	X	X	No	Reaction of the council
Pont s/Sambre	Les Amis Réunis de Pont-Pantegnies	P	X	X	No	2019 Info de la commune
Recquignies	La Transvalienne	B	X		?	Reaction nor info on the site
Saint Remy du Nord		P	X		?	Reaction nor info on the site
Sars-Poteries	La Revanche	B	X	X	?	Reaction nor info on the site
Solre-le-Château	La Fragile	B		X	?	Reaction nor info on the site
Solre-le-Château	La Solresienne	P + B	X		?	Reaction nor info on the site
Taisnières-en-Thiérache	L'Union	B	X		?	Reaction nor info on the site
Taisnières s/Hon	Culture et Loisir	B	X		?	Reaction nor info on the site
Villers-Sire-Nicole	La Tonkinoise	B	X		No	Site of the council