

Roll up – for brick throws!

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QUIRKY annual brick and rolling pin throwing competitions are under way again at Stroud.

Contestants are lining up to chuck their bricks and pins on the same day as the unusual missiles will also be thrown in at least two places called Stroud in other parts of the world.

The international challenge, begun over 40 years ago, will be held at Stratford Park on the afternoon of July 21.

So far, a full team of six men is preparing to throw 5lb bricks as far as they can.

But the women's rolling pin side could do with a few extra entrants, said sportswoman Gill Thevenin.

**by Stroud Reporter
Jo Barber**



"Anybody who feels they could like to throw or have a try would be welcome to come along, particularly to add to the women's team," she said.

The event started after the mayor of Stroud, Oklahoma, USA, visited England and made a special trip to its Gloucestershire namesake.

He mentioned his town made bricks and always had a brick throwing contest on its festival day, and so the competition was born.

After worldwide publicity, Stroud in Ontario, Canada and the Stroud in New

South Wales, Australia, both joined in.

Throws are made in individual countries on a set date each year and the distances telephoned around the world to work out the gold medal winners. But this year Stroud, USA, has already thrown – on American Independence Day – but has kept its results secret until the correct date later this month.

Mrs Thevenin said the Stroud men's and women's teams were grateful this year for sponsorship received from town barber Tim Sysum and the Fortune Takeaway at Cainscross.

Brick and rolling pin throwing practices are on Wednesday evenings behind the Redgras area in Stratford Park from about 6.45pm. Anyone keen to try their hand is welcome to attend.