

## PNZ Board Report June 2017

The Board met at the end of May and had a very productive meeting. We welcomed Erik Ross from Petanque Taieri to the Board (Erik was elected at the AGM in April) and we have since agreed to co-opt Alan Lethbridge (Herne Bay) onto the Board. We look forward to what they have to offer the Board from a broad background of experience. Stefany Frost was elected to the position of President for the coming year. You can view a more detailed picture of the Board roles on the website.

Following up from the AGM, we have agreed on a proposal to go to clubs regarding membership and fees and this should be out to clubs for submissions in the next few weeks.

The other issue raised at the AGM was the qualification criteria for the National Club Championship and a request for the Board to review its position on allowing clubs to amalgamate to compete. This was hotly debated both at the AGM (with a 50/50 split of opinion) and again at Board level. The decision by the Board is that while both perspectives have merit and we do want to encourage participation, we do not feel it is right to change the criteria at this stage, because the goal of the event is to find the “best club” and allowing combinations of clubs dilutes that goal. There already exists a criteria where players who cannot compete for their own club can join another club, and then be eligible to play for them after a 12 month stand down period.

**Magazine** – With the resignation of the Editor last year and the rising costs of printing and postage, the Board have decided the time is right to convert the magazine to an e-magazine. The goal is to produce an e-magazine approximately every two months, so it will be more current. It is not the end of the magazine, just a change of direction. We are currently talking to a couple of people who may be prepared to take on this challenge. If you are interested, please contact the Secretary as soon as possible.

**Tournaments** – The Board received several letters and requests to consider various aspects of tournaments with the result that a number of changes are to take place.

- 1. Scheduling of Tournaments.** We have received repeated calls over the years for tournaments to be amalgamated to reduce the travel costs and time off work for players. For 2018 we have decided to trial an amalgamation of three events into one long weekend, being Labour Weekend. The National Singles, Doubles and Mixed Doubles will all run as one-day events on the Saturday, Sunday and Monday of Labour weekend. So, for 2018 the schedule will be:

Women’s Triples	2 March	Wellington	1 day
Triples	3/4 March		2 days
Clubs	21/22 April	Rotorua	2 days
Doubles	27 October	Auckland	1 day
Mixed Doubles	28 October		1 day
Singles	29 October		1 day
Senior Doubles	1/2 December 18	Canterbury	2 days

We will be calling for clubs to host these events in the near future.

- 2. Format for tournaments.** One-day events will be 4 rounds of Swiss, followed by elimination in groups of eight. First 8 = Championship; Second 8 = Plate; third 8 = Bowl. Obviously, this is somewhat dependant on the number of entries, but most tournaments have between 20 – 35 entries, so this structure should work well. In the case of a large number of entries (35+) or a smaller than average (-20) a further section will be added or deleted respectively. For the Triples and Senior Doubles, we are still reviewing the format for these two-day events and will advise in due course.
  
- 3. Entering Scores.** There has been an ongoing issue at tournaments of players entering incorrect scores on the results sheets. To address this issue, players will no longer enter their own scores; this will be done by the tournament director, who will double check winners and losers and enter the scores accordingly. No score will be entered until both parties are present, so the score can be properly signed off by both parties at the same time.
  
- 4. Eligibility to enter National events.** Previously National Tournaments have only been open to players who are New Zealand citizens or hold a permanent New Zealand residents visa. The Board has agreed to change this to allow players who have resided in NZ for more than 12 months, but are not eligible for a resident's visa, to enter National events. The reasons for this are:
  - a. If you are living in New Zealand and a member of an affiliated club, we believe you should have the right to play in the National events.
  - b. The criteria to obtain a permanent resident visa have become much tighter and more difficult to obtain.
  - c. We want to encourage as much participation as possible, and it is not helpful to eliminate potential players unnecessarily.
  - d. Rules around World Championship participation say that it is possible for New Zealand to have one member of the team who is not a citizen or permanent resident, provided that person is residing in New Zealand and has been a member of an affiliated club, so allowing such people to play in our National events will help us to identify any potential talent.

**Oceania 2017** – Preparations are well under way, grants have been applied for, and the NZ teams have been selected. A few weeks ago, we put out a request for sponsorship from members, clubs and regions and we are very grateful to those who have already contributed to the cause, as the minimum budget we need to raise is around \$50,000. We are also grateful to those who have offered their services during the tournament as we do need help with the breakfast and lunch times in particular. If you want to discuss the funding aspect please contact Stefany Frost, ([froststefany@gmail.com](mailto:froststefany@gmail.com)) if you are able to offer practical help please contact Diane Findlay ([evilkiwidi@gmail.com](mailto:evilkiwidi@gmail.com)). Over and above the money and the help, we do want to see a large contingent of supporters from around the country in Christchurch to cheer our teams on to victory. Let's make use of our hometown advantage! It is also an opportunity to see some of the best petanque you will see in this country.

**Representation** – The Senior process and the Open process have been separated out this year. The Senior process (players 60+ on or before 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017) is currently open for registrations for the 2017/18 Representative season. Applications close on 21<sup>st</sup> June, so don't miss out on your

chance to represent New Zealand at the 2018 TransTasman or Australian Open. Details are on the website under Representation, contact Stefany ([froststefany@gmail.com](mailto:froststefany@gmail.com)) for further information.

The Open representative process needs to change as it is not achieving the desired goal of getting the best players in front of the selectors. While there will undoubtedly be further changes once a new Technical Director of Representation is appointed, the Board feels that how the teams are selected needs to change now.

For the 2018 Open Representation process, players will not be asked to put their name forward for selection. Instead, players will be selected to attend one or two Trial days or weekends. The selection of players will be based on a combination of players National Ranking and selectors and coach's wild cards. Players will need to take part in at least 50% of the four Open championships (up from three) over a two-year period to get a National Ranking. If a player is not interested in representing New Zealand they can opt out of the process if they are selected to the trials, but ultimately, we are looking for players who have passion, commitment and determination to make it to the top. PNZ are looking at how we can fund the process of trials and sending teams overseas, but players also need to look at how they can help themselves achieve their goals. Full details of the 2018 process will come out in July/August.

**Constitution.** The Board did not present the amendments to the constitution that it had planned to at the last AGM because of the proposed new Incorporated Societies Act. However we have now been advised that the new Act may not be implemented for another two years. The Board therefore intends to introduce the changes to the constitution and this, along with a proposal for change to the membership and/or affiliation fees, will be voted on at a Special General Meeting in conjunction with the National Doubles in November.

### **Quick Updates**

**Insurance** – Still gathering information and quotes about what if anything we need to do.

**Marketing strategy** – We have completed the first component of the process with the consultant, but are very wary of spending money on any initiatives that are not going to produce results, so we are proceeding with caution and have gone back for further quotes on various aspects of the consultant's proposal. If anyone has marketing experience and would like to help in a one-off project with the Board, we would love to hear from you, please email the secretary ([secretary@petanquenz.com](mailto:secretary@petanquenz.com))

**Coaching** – We are still negotiating with the Thai coach to get him out to New Zealand. If that fails we will look further abroad. Getting appropriate coaching for coaches is a priority for PNZ this year.

**Umpiring** – The TD of Umpiring (Trevor Neilson) has just completed a third nationwide training tour, with great results. We will be making one final adjustment to the PNZ interpretations and rules in the near future. As they will not change then until the next International rule changes, we will be printing A5 booklets with the rules for all members.

**N3** – we are looking at co-opting a person outside the Board to manage this process for us. Currently it is very underutilised by members and there are apparently still some clubs who have not registered their cards and some members who don't know what it is all about. We will get back to you with further details asap.

**STA Travel** – We are intending to sign a partnership deal with them, but this requires some fine tuning before we sign the deal. We will give you all the details once it is signed and sealed.

**Player Code of Behaviour** – This has been updated to reflect the changes to the PNZ drug and alcohol policy. It is being reviewed by the Board and will be on the website within the next couple of days.

**Service Awards** – Are you aware that your club or region, can nominate a player for these awards at any time of the year? The awards are considered by the Board later in the year, and presented at the AGM each year. All the details are on the website.

**Club Kits** – This job has still not been completed as the policies, constitution, rules etc keep changing. They are on the top of the list to get done this winter.

**Health & Safety** – Again we are still working on this new policy and hope it will be out by July-August 2017.

**Board Membership** – We are still looking for one more member for the Board, so if you are interested, we would love to hear from you. Please contact the Secretary if you are interested or have any questions about the role.

**Contacting the Board** – The Board is always ready to listen to any feedback, concerns or ideas that you might have. We are here for petanque and are only too aware that we do not have all the answers, so if you want to contact us, you can do it through the website or write to the Secretary at any time, or you can attend one of the Forums at 5.00pm the Friday night before each National Championship.

I'll leave you with this thought!



Stefany Frost  
For the PNZ Board  
8 June 2017