

Report from the Board – May 2016

Following January and February skype meetings and our first full weekend Board meeting for the year, held in early May, we would like to update you all on what we are up to. Firstly, most of you know that one of our Board members (Barrie Anderson) has been very ill over the last 7 months, but we are happy to report that he is doing much better and sincerely hope he has kicked cancer's butt. We also pass on our condolences and best wishes to all those families and friends who have been affected by ill health and death within their family or petanque community over recent months.

The AGM was held in early March with one new Board member and one returning Board member being elected. Barrie Anderson was re-elected and Kevin McFadgen from Wellington was elected as the fifth member. The new roles of all members are on the website, but in brief for those who don't have access to the website:

Stefany Frost - President; Communications (website, social media, board reports, magazine); International Relations; Representation.

Barrie Anderson – Vice President; Umpiring; Tournaments.

Claire Bradburn – Coaching; Sport NZ Representative; Assisting with Sponsorship and Funding

Ray Pierce – Club Liaison; Publicity, Promotion & Marketing

Kevin McFadgen – Sponsorship, Grants & Funding; Standards and Complaints


Youth Development has not been allocated this year, not because it is not important, but because there are higher priorities for the coming year.

We also welcome aboard a new club, Cliff Road Petanque in Tauranga. Although they are mainly old hands in a new club we welcome you and wish you many hours of fun on the terrain.

Updates from last report:

Website. Thank you to those who have sent in comments, we do like to hear all your suggestions. There are a few changes that we are planning in the near future.

- The current format of the 'Calendar "does not work for us, so this will be redesigned over the coming weeks.
- We are looking at how we can incorporate other websites into our site e.g. Southern Region or APA.
- We are going to create two closed forums for coaching and umpiring, where PNZ umpires and coaches can login to a secure site and discuss issues.
- We will be creating a "mail monkey" so you can sign into it with your email address and get notified directly of any updates to the website.

Facebook. We have had some requests to put everything on the website and not just on Facebook. This is sometimes difficult, especially for "live" updates of tournament progress and results. If the webmaster is at the tournament as it is easier to update Facebook than it is the website. For those not on Facebook you can access the site by tapping the  button at the top right of the Home screen, just above the photo, which will let you read the information without having to join up to Facebook.

Promotional Pamphlets. Our aim is to have these distributed to clubs in early June.

Training Manuals. These are still being updated – deadline for completion is 30 June (2016!).

"Club Kit". These should be available for new clubs, and existing clubs who would like one, by the end of June.

Service Awards. Three nominations were accepted for the inaugural PNZ Service Awards. These were presented to

- **Christian Fouquet** - one of the founding members of PNZ, represented NZ on 22 occasions and has been very active at a local and national level including a stint as President.
- **Barbara Whittington** - Secretary of PNZ for over 17 years, national level umpire and has been active at a local level).
- **Brian Smith** - Treasurer of PNZ for about 16 years, very involved in writing manuals, coaching material and promotional material for PNZ, much of which is still used today. Brian was also president of PNZ for a term.

Your club can nominate a person for a Service Award and submit it to the Board at any time of the year (all the criteria and documentation are on the website or we can send it to you if you can't access the website). The Board consider nominations towards the end of the year and recipients are presented at the AGM where possible.



Christian Fouquet



Barbara Whittington



Brian Smith

Training in Umpiring, Coaching, Running Tournaments & Scoring

- **Umpiring.** The first round of training was completed last year and the Technical Director of Umpiring is about to embark on a second round during the winter months of 2016. If you are interested in knowing more about the rules or becoming a club, regional, national or international umpire, you need to register for one of these courses. If you are a current umpire and have not attended a refresher course in the last 12 months you will also need to attend. The application form will be out in the next week, so keep an eye open for this. This year Trevor has recommended that all players in the representative squads and all coaches should also attend the course. They don't need to sit the exam unless they want to, but we need to know that everyone has a good knowledge of the rules and we are all "singing from the same hymnbook".
- **Coaching.** The first round of club coach training has been held, with some participants attaining the status of club coach. We would also like to have a coaching co-ordinator in each region, to work with Graeme Morris (TD of Coaching) to ensure all clubs have access to at least a club level coach. If you are interested in becoming a co-ordinator, club or regional coach, please contact Graeme (details on website)
- **Tournaments & Scoring.** This tour was scheduled to occur last year, but unfortunately Barrie (TD of Tournaments) has been unwell, which has caused a delay. The training will now be done over the winter months and will be re-advertised soon, so again keep an eye open if you are interested. Once we have registrations we will advise where and when the training will take place.

PNZ's ultimate aim is to have at least one person, and preferably three, from each club who understand the rules, how to coach and how to run a tournament.

Promotion & Marketing and Sponsorship & Funding.

These critical areas of our business are always in our sights. At the last Board meeting we agreed to look at using a professional marketing person to draw up a marketing plan for us. If you know of anyone interested in this role, please get hold of Ray Pierce who is in charge of this area. A member wrote to Stefany Frost last year with the name of someone interested in helping us with either marketing or sponsorship, but despite endless searching she cannot find the email. If you are reading this, PLEASE send Stefany the details again; we are definitely interested in following up.

Our newest Board member Kevin McFadgen has taken up the role of sponsorship, grants and funding, and we look forward to seeing how this develops under his guidance.

Major decisions from the last Board meeting

- **Date of AGM.** It was decided to move the date of the AGM to the Clubs Tournament at ANZAC weekend. This gives PNZ longer to get the accounts prepared, reviewed and published; avoids having the nomination process over the Christmas break and allows greater representation from a greater variety of clubs around the country. It will be either the Friday night or the Saturday night of the tournament.
- **What is a club?** PNZ is frequently asked "what is a club?" It comes up for new clubs and often around the time of the Clubs Championship. PNZ have now defined what they expect a club, that wishes to be affiliated to PNZ, should be. This has already been circulated to clubs, but is reproduced here and is on the website.

The following are the criteria that must be met in order to be accepted as a Club under Article 5.1 of the Petanque New Zealand Constitution:

1. A group of people organised for the specific purpose of playing petanque
2. Has at least 6 active (playing) members
3. Has an operational space that is available for the club to play at (no requirement for the number of pistes, and does not have to belong to the Club)
4. Have a set of rules, defined purpose, goals and objectives that govern the club
5. Be able to show evidence of office bearers
6. Be able to demonstrate that the Club is active, in the form of regularly and continually holding club days (at a minimum).
7. Be open to, and have an active policy of, recruiting new members.

We are aware that this definition will affect two or three existing clubs, and we are keen to work with them to ensure a good outcome for all concerned. Please contact Ray Pierce if you have any concerns.

- **Women's Triples Championship.**

This tournament has been shifted around the calendar several times, trying to find a suitable time of the year for it. At the last AGM we were asked again to look at the timing of this tournament in relation to the National Triples. The Board has discussed the matter, and decided that the Women's Triples Championship will be held as a 1-day tournament on the Friday before the National Triples Championship. As there are usually only 7-11 teams entered, it does not warrant a 2 day tournament,

and we hope that combining both events may encourage more women's teams to enter, due to savings in travel and accommodation costs.

For 2017 the schedule will be

- Friday 3 March – National Women's Triples Championship & National Shooting Championship
- Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 March – National Open Triples Championship

These will be held in Auckland, venue to be announced.

The 5 year plan for allocation of tournaments will consequently be reviewed and amended.

Hosts for 2017 Tournaments.

Requests for clubs to host PNZ National tournaments for 2017 will be made soon.

- **Surveys.**

Two surveys will be coming out soon:

- One for all members. We ask all clubs to ensure that as many people as possible reply to this, as it helps us to know what members want, need, how and where to market ourselves etc.
- A second survey to players in the current representative squads, for evaluation of the process and operation of the squads.

- **Roles of the Board and Technical Directors.**

The Board made the decision that Board members need to be independent of the Technical Director roles, to minimise overlap between governance and operational issues. This will mean a few changes and some positions will be advertised soon.

Other information

Sport NZ Information.

As our major sponsor, Sport NZ are wanting us to produce figures and information about the degree of participation in petanque rather than just membership! Collecting this information is challenging because most clubs just want to play and not think about recording information. We understand it is a chore, however it is one which we will have to get our head around in the coming year.

Our new financial year starts on 1 July for Sport NZ and from that time we will need clubs to record all participation that takes place at their club or at any other venue to measure the level of participation in petanque in New Zealand. We will before that time develop a simple recording sheet that someone from the club needs to take responsibility for completing. We will be in touch directly with clubs about this issue once we have done the recording sheets.

We also need to try to measure the level of participation in non-affiliated clubs and informal petanque groups around the country. So we will be looking for all our members to provide us with any information they may have on this. It is going to be very challenging for all.

Competition Results

The first four months of this year was a busy time on the National and International petanque scene, with the New Zealand Open, two National Triples, the Oceania Championship, Trans-Tasman Challenge and National Clubs Championship all taking place. The results for all these events are on the website, however the following deserve special mention:

- We would like to publically congratulate the four TransTasman teams (24 players) who convincingly beat Australia in both the Open and Senior divisions at Alexandra in March.
- We would like to pay tribute to the 12 players, 2 officials, and 4 supporters who journeyed to Vanuatu to compete in the postponed 2015 Oceania Championship. This was a trip fraught with obstacles and challenges, but the highlight was a team who persevered through the adversities and come out on top with two gold medals - Georgio Vakauta in pointing and Margaret Maher, Claire Bradburn & Jean Parley in the women's triples.
- We had a record entry in the National Clubs tournament, with 20 teams of 6 players from 17 clubs taking part. This tournament is always played in such a friendly, fun atmosphere and I think is the highlight of the year for many players. Will your club be in the mix next year?

Members of the Board are currently reviewing

- The PNZ constitution – is it still fit for purpose?
- The Health and Safety Act – what are our responsibilities under the new Act?
- Our insurance liability in general
- The proposed new Incorporated Societies Act – what does this mean for PNZ?
- Membership and affiliation to PNZ – Is there a better way?
- A mixed doubles Championship and a regional Championship – Is there any interest in these tournaments? Do we have the resources?

If you have any thoughts on any of these issues please feel free to contact us.

As you can see, what the Board does may not always be visible, but be assured we are always doing it!

Keep warm (if winter ever comes)

Stefany Frost

For the Board

May 2016