

## REPORT FROM THE BOARD – May 2014

Whew what a month it has been since the AGM!

I think I speak for all the Board when I say we have all been immersed in Petanque over the last four weeks, culminating in a three day marathon Board meeting. Personally I feel humbled by the opportunity to lead PNZ forward, sometimes overwhelmed at the task ahead, but mostly excited and energised and on a steep learning curve. As a Board we are very aware of most of the issues that need to be worked on but I am sure we will discover others and while we are all enthusiastic to get moving we are also aware that we need to balance this with not making knee jerk reactions or ad hoc changes. So while in the short term some things will change be assured we will be taking the time to fully understand the more complex issues, talk extensively with the members who have been here before us and the people affected by the issues and systems that we know need to be reviewed. Please bear with us while we do this over the next few months.

We are just a small band of people and we have divided up the major performance areas between us, based on our interests and expertise. These have been published on the website and magazine, but if you require further information please contact the secretary Barbara Whittington, P O Box 31127, Lower Hutt, Wellington. Tel: (04) 567 9647; Mob: 021 443 916; Fax: (04) 577 3400. Email: [secretary@petanquenz.com](mailto:secretary@petanquenz.com) or Stefany Frost Mob: 021 717 080. Email: [stefany@clear.net.nz](mailto:stefany@clear.net.nz). All the Board members are interested in what you have to say and to this end we intend to make ourselves available at tournaments, approach Clubs about coming to visit them, offer to come along to committee meetings, AGM's, prize giving's or special events at your Club. We will also be hosting an open forum on the evening prior to all National tournaments where members from around the region or attending the tournament can come and discuss issues or problems with us, or just have a drink and a catch up.

The Board are currently working on a number of issues and we have a number of documents pending release. While we are keen to get this information out to you we also want to take the time to do it properly, so bear with us a little longer. Documents you can expect to see in the next few weeks...

- **Strategic plan** – this process was started last year and is now virtually complete from the Board's perspective. Currently it is being reviewed by Sport NZ for their input. This is a working document which will guide our direction and planning over the next three years and we would anticipate it being made public within a few weeks.
- **Tournament plan** – to streamline planning and communication we have developed a schedule which covers the region designated for tournaments for the next six years. Obviously these may be subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances, but this will not be done lightly. Tournaments have been allocated on a basis which reflects our membership, which is 2/3 North Island and 1/3 South Island. So of the 30 tournaments scheduled, Tauranga/Auckland get 10, Wellington/Central get 10 and South Island get 10. Actual host Clubs will be allocated closer to the time. The Club Championships and the Youth Tournament have not been scheduled beyond 2015 and 2014 respectively as the Board is undertaking a review of these events to determine the best format for moving forward.
- **Revised ranking point schedule and player rankings** – The Board has been reviewing the schedule of points allocated to tournaments for the purposes of player rankings. All three National tournaments that make up ranking points have now been run twice under a Swiss Format, and the new ranking schedule will be applied retrospectively for the last two years, to ensure a fair and equitable result. We are in the process of collating these points and would expect both the revised schedule of points and the current ranking of players will be on the website within the next week.
- **Youth policy** – We are making some final editing to this discussion document and then we will release it to all members and open it up for discussion and submissions from members for a six week period. At the last meeting the Board adopted a change in the current definition of Youth from 23 and under to 18 and under. We did this for several reasons: 23 and under was the age used as a cut off for TransTasman Youth teams, however this age has no significance anywhere else in the world and as Australia is unable to furnish a Youth team to TT until at least 2016 it gives us an ideal opportunity to bring youth into line with the International age for Youth petanque and the Sport NZ definition of youth. It will also allow us to target our youth initiatives in a more productive way directly to schools. Given the major nature of this change, we are prepared to allow the old definition of youth to apply for the 2014 Youth Tournament in Auckland in December, so as not to disappoint anyone 19-23 who may already be planning to attend this event.
- **Coaching & Umpiring** – Our first priority in these areas is to find the right people to fill the positions of Technical Director of Coaching and Technical Director of Umpiring. This will give us the technical and administrative

backup to train members and support the development of these areas across all levels of petanque. We have revised the job descriptions for these positions and will be calling for expressions of interest from members in the next two weeks.

- **21<sup>st</sup> Celebrations** - PNZ is turning 21... and we intend to celebrate. Very soon there will be details of how you and your Club can help us celebrate and promote the sport we love. It's a great opportunity to get our sport in the media, to the public and generally increase participation. We hope you have great ideas that you will share with other Clubs too. We're even putting up a prize for the best promotion.

Other areas that we are working on:

**Communication** – This is a huge area of need and commitment. The Board have made a commitment to revamp our website but at the time of printing our Webmaster is not in the country and we haven't had the opportunity to discuss this with him yet, so further details on this soon. The Facebook site 'Petanque New Zealand' is working well for immediate updates for those connected to the facebook; make sure you 'like us' so you can follow us. For those not electronically minded we will ensure all information that is posted to the website is also forwarded to Club Secretaries and anyone else who wants to get a direct copy of information just needs to ask the Secretary to go on the Club email list.

The Club Secretaries then need to take responsibility for

- i. Making sure the PNZ Secretary has the correct email contacts
- ii. Getting information provided to members, i.e. emailing it, printing it off and putting it on Club notice boards, and delivering or posting to members who are unlikely to get the information in any other way.

One change that we have made is that the PNZ magazine is now going to be provided **free.....** It will be available free online or via a PDF file. The PDF version can be printed off or shared with others as desired. We are also investigating the cost of providing each Club with a free hard copy to share with Club members. Individual members who still want to receive their own hard copy will still be able to subscribe in the same way they do now.

As mentioned we want to talk to you and your Club, know how you're doing and see if there is anything we can help you with, be open and available including hosting open forums in conjunction with National Tournaments or other tournaments if the opportunity arises.

We are currently reproducing PNZ pamphlets, posters and brochures which will be available to Clubs and members to use for promotion.

**Membership services** – Nothing much has changed here except Sarah-Jane has taken over this area so ALL correspondence regarding change of Secretary, or contact details, annual updates etc will now go to Sarah-Jane and a copy to the PNZ Secretary. We will remind all Clubs of this at various points and in the meantime we will forward any wayward information to Sarah-Jane.

**Constitutional review** – As requested by members at the AGM, the Board will be undertaking a review of the constitution with the assistance of some very experienced members. This process will take time and careful consideration, but we hope to have it completed within a year. A few of the issues on the radar are: the fundamental structure of the organisation, the number of Board members, dual memberships, what constitutes a Club, quorum rules, voting at annual meetings, how to include input from regions into the Board process, sanction disclosure policy, election of President and protocols for life membership. If you know of others, please let us know.

**Tournaments** – Four major changes have been made regarding National Tournaments

- i. National Women's Triples will, from 2015, be held in early February in conjunction with Waitangi weekend. For 2015 this is 7/8 February in Auckland
- ii. To accommodate the TransTasman Challenge which has been set for March 14/15 in Avoca, Australia, the 2015 National Triples will be held a month earlier than usual on 28 Feb / 1 Mar in Christchurch. We recognise that it is far from ideal to be messing around with our National Tournament dates, and this is not something we have done lightly. Later this year we will be setting a permanent date for the annual TransTasman challenge which will give certainty to our annual calendar. In the meantime we hope you will bear with us while we try to meet everyone's needs.
- iii. Ranking points earned in National Tournaments have been adjusted and applied retrospectively. See above.
- iv. Currently under the Swiss System we have used a cut-off point of 32 teams to determine how many teams go through to the championship level barrage on day two. This cut-off point has been reduced to 26 teams. So if 26 teams or more are entered - 16 teams will be taken through to the barrage round and the remainder

will be in the Consolante. If 25 teams or less are entered – 8 teams will be taken through to barrage round and the remainder will be in the Consolante.

The Swiss System has been trialled now for two years and the Board has formally adopted it as the format for all National Tournaments. This decision will be reviewed again in two years. Barrie has produced a comprehensive manual for the running of the Swiss Tournaments and will be conducting training in this for all people wanting to run National Tournaments.

Discussions around developing a National Regional Tournament have been put on hold at the moment as we have too many higher priorities.

**Umpire shirts** are finally ready to be ordered, we are just sorting sizes now. They are fluro and will have Umpire on the back and PNZ logo on the front. When members become a regional umpire they will receive one shirt with the words Regional Umpire on it, when they become a National Umpire they will receive a second shirt and the printing will be upgraded to include Regional Umpire and National Umpire, or higher as the case may be.

**Selection processes** - Although this process only affects a small percentage of our members, it is a big issue for those members who are in, or want to be in, the process. At the risk of hearing your collective groans we are going to be reviewing the entire process and will be discussing this with as many people affected by the process as is possible. If you want to have your say we want to hear it. In the short term we have made three significant changes to the process that you need to be aware of. Please see the separate communication that was released regarding these issues.

- i. We have revised the ranking points available for National tournaments (which will also apply to selection points). We will be applying the new points system retrospectively to all tournaments included in the current ranking points, (namely Singles and Doubles 2012, 2013 and Triples 2013, 2014). Thanks Diane Findlay for your help in getting this back up to scratch. If you have any questions about this issue please contact Stefany directly.
- ii. Selection Camp for Senior Men and Senior Women (2014) will be held in conjunction with The National Senior Doubles and not as a separate camp.
- iii. The timing of Selection Camp for Open Men and Open Women is open for voting on option A or B, if B which date. Voting closes on 13<sup>th</sup> June. See the website for further details on this issue.

Things to Note:

**Public relations** – It is the Board's intention to get around as many Clubs as possible, talk to as many members as possible and make ourselves available to members at every opportunity. Stefany has begun a series of discussions with members who have had long standing input into the development and running of PNZ over the last 21 years and this will continue throughout 2014. In order to keep moving forward we need to learn from the past, understand the challenges and use the good work that has been achieved in various areas to build on. If we don't come to you, you have an open invitation to come to us.

**Sponsorship and funding** – Always a difficult area, but we believe the best way forward is to shoulder tap people throughout the country to come on board with this project as often this area is about who you know and what contacts you have. If you have any ideas or want to help, Richard would love to hear from you.

**Overall standards and sportsmanship** – We will be enforcing a zero tolerance policy for inappropriate conduct or standards at all levels of the sport.

**Finance** – If you are making a payment to the PNZ bank account PLEASE clearly mark who from and what for. It would be appreciated if you could send Brian an email to advise the amount deposited, who from, and what for.

**Ongoing meetings** - Our next Board meeting is on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June via Skype so if you have any issues please get them to the Secretary at least 2-3 days prior to that for inclusion in the meeting.

Au revoir, till next time,  
Stefany Frost for  
PNZ Board