

REPORT FROM THE BOARD – AUGUST 2014

Our condolences and thoughts are with Lynn and the Lawson family after the unexpected death of Richard Lawson at the weekend. Although I didn't know him personally, I am assured by all who did that he was one of a kind. A kind, humble gentleman, a great petanque player and a good friend. His nick names say it all "Orsum Lawson" and "the smiling assassin". He will be sadly missed by all who knew him. You can leave a tribute to Richard at the following link.

<http://www.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.tributes.co.nz%2FViewMyTribute.aspx%3Fid%3D10181&h=gAQHlpRJT>

Daylight saving is around the corner and before we know it there will be Christmas decorations in the shops and people will be singing Christmas carols.....the year is simply flying by.

What has the Board been up to?

There are numerous projects going on behind the scenes that we believe will benefit the organisation as a whole and will enable the smooth running of PNZ. Some of these are:

- Ongoing consultation with a wide variety of members and other stakeholders throughout the country, through visiting clubs, approaching individuals, surveys, forums and so on. We believe that by listening to members we can get a good overview of how they see the sport and PNZ's role in it. It is only with this knowledge that we can provide a cohesive vision, responsible strategies and policies and good decision making. It forms the basis of our governance of the organisation as a whole.
- We are looking to define our purpose, what is our goal, why do we exist, what do we have to offer players at all levels?
- All Board members are preparing a list of short term goals that they are working on, based on the strategic plan in their area of governance. This will provide accountability and clarity in each of our roles.
- Preparing a universal time line for the Board so everybody knows what needs to be done and when it needs to be done by
- The issue of how we reward and value the dozens of people throughout the country who give countless hours of their time for the benefit of the sport. In the past PNZ has had an awards system which enables us to recognise, thank and encourage these individuals. We are looking to reinstating these service awards and to better define the criteria for life membership.
- We are updating and printing promotional posters and brochures for clubs to use to attract new members.
- We are developing a club kit that will contain all the basic information that a club needs to get started
- Looking at how we can be fiscally responsible, save money where we can (e.g. board meetings), spend money on the key areas (e.g. promotion, coaching, umpiring), preparing and adhering to an annual budget and ensure all members get a fair share of the pie.
- Looking at cost effective ways of developing the website
- We are investigating our potential liability as a Board and as an organisation. Should we be insured against potential liability? For example, Associations Liability which provides protection to those who might be held personally liable for mistakes, errors or omissions (Wrongful Acts) while undertaking their duties for the association; Statutory Liability which provides protection for legal costs during an investigation or inquiry; Public Liability which provides protection against claims for compensation in respect of unexpected and unintended personal injury or property damage for which we may be legally liable arising out of our activity.

Tournaments

Barrie has the planning of the four National events being held over the next four months well in hand and the entry forms for the Singles in Christchurch is already on the website. Barrie is running the first of

many training courses for the Swiss System in Auckland next month so if you are in the region and want to be a part of that please contact him asap. While it is PNZ's responsibility to run the National Tournaments we do need assistance to do this, so we want to encourage as many clubs as possible to have someone trained in running tournaments. While it is not a compulsory aspect of the protocols for hosting a National event, we would certainly look more favourably on a venue that could provide people to run the tournament as well as the other requirements. This saves PNZ money having to send people to the area and ensures the same few people don't burn out trying to race around the country running each of our seven National Events.

With regard to hosting a National event, we would draw your attention to the fact that the tournament schedule for the next 6 years is on the website. If your region is allocated a tournament and your club thinks they might like to host it, you need to apply to PNZ to run the tournament. We encourage all clubs to be proactive about this so that venues can be allocated as soon as possible. When applying to host a tournament the club needs to put a proposal to PNZ based on the "Protocols for Hosting National Championship Tournaments" which are clearly set out on the website under tournaments. We have received some proposals for 2015 tournaments already, so make sure you get your proposal in as soon as possible. Try thinking 12 months ahead!

Representation

The 2015 process for representation has just been initiated and all the documentation is on the website. Applications close at the end of September. If you have any queries please get in touch with the secretary or myself. The main change to this process is a move away from a two year selection process to ongoing squads of players who will be under constant review from coaches and selectors. All players in these squads will be expected to be in a coaching/mentoring programme, be highly competitive and be striving for the highest performance possible. Once the squads are established this year the players will continue to be part of the squad in future years unless they withdraw or are released from the squad by the selectors i.e. they will not have to apply to be part of the process again. Ultimately (2015 or 2016) we will be moving away from players applying to get into the process and coaches/selectors inviting players into the process based on their ability, performance and potential. So now is the time to get in the mix if you are thinking about it. Don't let money be a reason you don't put your name forward, if there is a will, there is a way!

Although we have had an invitation to the Asian Games, we have not had sufficient interest from players in the current representation process to attend this tournament. PNZ are looking to improve its criteria for which International tournaments we attend, why we attend, who is eligible etc and will be looking to appoint teams early so they can work towards the goal of the tournament.

With regard to the World Singles we have had two expressions of interest and these players have been accepted based on the following criteria:

- a) Be part of the current (2014) representative process
- b) Show ongoing commitment and dedication to training and development of themselves as a player
- c) Finish in the top 4 men or top 4 women at the 2014 National Singles Championship in Christchurch on the 4/5 October

In breaking news over the last few days Tahiti has asked to postpone the 2014 men's world championships due to the Ebola threat. This has caused a great deal of consternation and frustration from petanque federations around the world who are putting pressure on FIPJP to get this reversed or to transfer the tournament somewhere else. We will post information on the website as it comes to hand.

Umpiring

Trevor has made a great start to his new appointment. He has talked to all regional and national umpires and asked them to complete a survey to find out their views of where we are at and what needs to happen. He has also been reviewing and updating some of our umpiring documents and plans to hold

refresher courses for all umpires once he has clarity around various rulings. The long awaited umpires shirts have now been delivered to all regional and national umpires, so they should be more visible and more official in future (thanks Barrie for getting this sorted).

Coaching

Graeme hasn't had a lot of time to get his teeth into this yet, but once he comes back into the country on the 9 September it will be all go. In a joint appointment between coaching and representation we have appointed three high performance coaches, with a fourth pending. Open men's coach/selector is John Grieg; Open women's coach/selector is pending; Senior coaches/selectors are Murray Porter and Jean Parley. As well as coaching all the players in both squads in their category, Graeme is looking to draw on their (and other members) wisdom and expertise to help determine the way forward for coaching throughout the country. You may notice that we have not made a public call for coaches at yet, instead we have approached people directly for their involvement so that we can get the process underway. Once the coaching structure is fully established throughout the country then we will have a pool of potential coaches from which appointments can be made and we hope the coaching positions will be as sought after as the playing positions.

Communication

We are still looking for an editor for the magazine! There are only 3 or 4 editions a year, so not an overwhelming task. Is there anyone out there interested? You would be joining an enthusiastic, motivated and supportive group who are endeavouring to lead PNZ into the future. Contact our secretary or myself if you want to take up this challenge!



21st Celebrations

Our planned celebrations are getting closer....What is your club/region up to? So far we know that Panmure Pioneers are having a 21 hour petanque-a-thon; Christchurch Club and the Canterbury Region are holding a public promotion at the Botanic Gardens. They have got the Breeze radio station on board with live radio coverage and a free sausage sizzle and the Alliance Francaise will provide a French theme and music. Alexandra & Cromwell Petanque are joining forces to put a float in the Alexandra Blossom Festival; Kapiti and the Wellington Region are hosting a 21st celebration dinner at the National Doubles; Dunedin clubs are in negotiations to host a public promotion in the Octagon in the centre of Dunedin. Let's make it BIG



n³ is coming to your club!

PNZ is a member of n³ which is the old "Government Stores Board", a trading network which uses business and organisation members to get bulk buying power. PNZ are in the process of obtaining a member card for each of our 48 clubs which will give each club exclusive discounts with around 100 suppliers. To name just a few that petanque clubs may be interested in: Bunnings (e.g. string, nails, spray for terrain marking); NZ Safety (uniforms); Noel Leemings; Plumbing World; Resene; Southern Hospitality (catering stuff, e.g. serviettes, paper cups; cleaning supplies); Ideal Electrical; Office Max; Packaging House; Placemakers; Carters. Discounts range from an average of 5% at Liquorking to over 50% at Mico. Each club will need to nominate the person who will be responsible for the card at their club (an office bearer would be required) and then members can access the card through them. We will bring you more details as this deal progresses, but in the meantime have a look at the website www.n3.co.nz

That's it for now
Stefany Frost
President