

Report from the Board 23 April 2015

Finally an update from the Board! You could be forgiven for thinking we made a good start, but it didn't last, well I'm here to say that isn't so. I do sincerely apologise for the sparse communication over recent months, it has been a challenging time with so many tournaments and holidays using up time and energy. It is very easy to lose momentum, but I'm happy to say we are back on track and full steam ahead.

We were having trouble using skype for meetings and have had a couple of frustrating months trying to get it sorted. We are currently trialling an 'imeet' audio visual site which we hope will improve this situation and we will all be able to meet regularly without the current frustrations.

The latest edition of the **magazine** has been published. As well as the hard copies that your club received, your secretary has a PDF version that they can email to you or print off if you wish. As soon as our webmaster is back in the country it will also be on the website. Our goal is to make it readily available to as many members as possible. Our editor Graeme Morris (petanquemag@xtra.co.nz or 06 3787331) would love to hear from you if you would like to contribute anything, or would like to advertise in the magazine, which is now in colour and reaching a much wider audience.

I've mentioned **N³ cards** a couple of times. This deal is now in the final stage before being distributed to your club. Each club will be allocated one card, which will be in the name of your current secretary. The secretary (or other designated office bearer) will need to take responsibility for keeping track of this card at all times. It is envisaged that clubs, and individuals within the club, will be able to access significant discounts at a wide variety of stores. We hope that every one of our members will get to use it somewhere, sometime. We look forward to hearing how it is working for your club.

Tournament news:

- We won both the open and senior divisions of the annual TransTasman Challenge. Congratulations to all 24 players, plus the coaches and management who made it happen. Always good to have that fierce rivalry with Australia! Our full contingent of players and supporters was over 50 people who created a great atmosphere of friendship and support. The tournament was held in Avoca, a small town in West Victoria which did a fantastic job of hosting the event, with the whole town getting behind it. My personal highlight, (apart from winning) was the enthusiastic singing of the NZ National Anthem which created Goosebumps and tears for many of us. Thanks Ruby for the practice on the bus.
- Recently we called for applications to host the remaining National tournaments for 2015 and to host the 2016 TransTasman Challenge. These venues were decided at last night's Board meeting.
 - National Singles 3/4 October at Horowhenua Club (Levin)
 - National Doubles 7/8 November at Herne Bay Club (Auckland) – Assessment Camp for Open players will be on Monday 9th November
 - National Senior Doubles 5/6 December at Kapiti (Wellington) – Assessment camp for senior players will be on Monday 7th December
 - TransTasman 2016 19/20 March at Alexandra Club in Central Otago

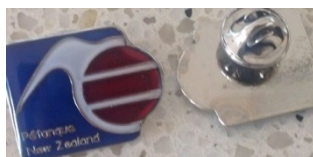
Congratulations to all these clubs.

- Shortly, we will be calling for applications for 2016 tournaments as we believe members should have access to the location of tournaments at least 6-12 months ahead of the event. Please note there is now a standardised form that applicants must complete.
- Payment to clubs that host national events. In response to queries from clubs about this payment the Board reviewed the policy and we are pleased to announce that we now have a fixed host fee for any club which will mean most clubs get a little bit more and it won't be dependent on how many teams enter. The rates are \$150 for day one; \$100 for day two with any extra days (shooting tournaments, assessment camps) paid at \$50 per half-day, a half day being defined as 5 hours.
- Another policy that has been reviewed in response to member's feedback at forum sessions is the potential for more sections in National Tournaments. Members expressed concern that there was not enough encouragement for teams not finishing in the trophy section and wanted the possibility of playing off for further honours in the lower orders. The Board decided to add a plate and plate consolation section when the number of entries allowed. The following table shows the cut off points for the various sections. A new section will not be created unless there are at least four teams in it.

no. of Entries	Options for 24 or less		Options for 25 plus teams		
1	Trophy	Trophy	Trophy	Trophy	Trophy
2					
3					
4					
5	Trophy consolation	Trophy consolation	Trophy consolation	Trophy consolation	Trophy consolation
6					
7					
8					
9	Consolante	Plate	Trophy consolation	Trophy consolation	Trophy consolation
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					
19	Consolante	Consolante	Plate	Plate	Plate
20					
21					
22					
23					
24					
25					
26					
27					
28					
29	Consolante	Consolante	Plate Consolation	Plate Consolation	Plate Consolation
30					
31					
32					
33					
34					
35					
36					
37					
38					
39	Consolante	Consolante	Consolante	Consolante	Consolante
40					
41 +++					

Website re-development:

We are in the final stages of negotiation with a web design company and are confident that we will have a new professional site up and running well before the summer season. One thing they have asked us for is new, larger photos of your club rooms and terrain and we would also like more information about each club e.g. club days and times, a brief history of the club, any major tournaments your club hosts annually and so on. We will write to all clubs requesting this information soon.



PNZ Badges. PNZ has reordered badges which are now available for purchase. The cost is \$6.00 to clubs who purchase 10 or more or \$10 (includes postage) to individuals or clubs who purchase fewer than 10. Contact Barrie Anderson or Sarah-Jane Wright if you are interested in these.

Fridge Magnets. PNZ has printed some fridge magnets with our contact information on them to give to community groups, new members or for individuals. Claire Bradburn is distributing these to clubs around the country.

PNZ Tossing coins. We are going to reorder these very popular items and will let you know when they are available.

Oceania Championship:

Those members who attended the AGM will be aware that PNZ is hosting the 2017 Oceania Championship. This is both a wonderful opportunity to showcase petanque in New Zealand and also a major financial stress as we are required to provide accommodation and some meals to all participants. This means fundraising and sponsorship are essential and we will be looking for support from members throughout the country. In the next few months we will be calling for applications to host the event. Once we know where it will be we can look at avenues of local funding, however wherever it is held we will need to do some National fundraising as well.....so watch this space for how we are going to achieve this goal. If you have any ideas or want to help with this project feel free to contact me.

One way we will start the funding for this project is through a levy on all entries to National Tournaments. Initially the Board had suggested \$5 per player, but the feeling at the AGM was that this should be \$10 per player per event and this was accepted by the Board. It is temporary and all money paid will be put in a dedicated fund for Oceania.

Training and upskilling members:

During the coming months the Technical Directors in each area (umpiring, tournaments, selection and coaching) are going to be offering training to all members throughout the country. The exact format and dates are still being worked out, but if you are interested in how to run any type of tournament including the Swiss System, updating yourself on the rules, umpiring at any level, learning how to score your own or other games, being an official PNZ scorer, improving your game or becoming a club or regional coach, then keep your eyes and ears open because we're coming to a city near you. We will make sure we advertise these opportunities widely so you don't miss out.

Recently the Board formed a working party to develop the area of youth petanque. This consists of a range of people working with youth and some youth players. The goal is to better identify what work and what doesn't work in attracting youth to the sport. This knowledge will then be used to develop a set of strategies and procedures that other clubs, schools or regions can successfully apply.

Some of the other issues that the Board are continuing to debate and seek council on are:

- The women's triples. Should it be a separate tournament (7 entries last year) or should it be integrated into the national triples with a trophy for the highest placed women's team? Or like we have done for the youth should we offer a trophy to the highest placed women's team in each of the nationals?
- Club Championships. Ongoing debate about what is a club, who should be allowed to enter, should it be restricted to mixed teams, should be go back to being sexist and say must have two women in each team, should you be allowed to borrow a player from another club and so on.
- The representative process. Some things are working very well, others are not.
- Increasing participation in the sport
- Promotion
- Funding
- The constitution. Why do we exist, what is PNZ's purpose?

There are no simple answers to any of these issues and we know that we can't please everyone, but we will continue to challenge our process and come to the best decision we can. The most valuable resource we have in resolving these issues to the best possible outcome is YOU. We have invited a lot of feedback and it has been and continues to be invaluable. The best way we can govern this organisation is to listen to our members and learn from experience. I hope you agree that we are doing that.

Our next Board meeting is Tuesday 26th May if you want anything to be raised, please put it in writing to the secretary the week prior to the meeting.

Stay warm as winter descends upon us...

Regards

Stefany Frost

President