

Report from the Board - August 2015

Greetings everyone, I hope you are all managing to stay warm in what has been a fairly cold winter around most of the country. Once again with a heavy heart we say goodbye to a few friends and club mates from around the country. Bob McCarthy (Otaki; also played for Wellington and NZ), Athol Hastie (Milton) and Phillip Farlam (St. Kilda) have all lost the battle recently and I hope Jan, Moira and Wendy are all drawing support and strength from the petanque community around them. I apologise if I have left anyone out who should be mentioned here but these are the ones that have come to my attention.

I can report with pride that the Board has been working very hard on a whole variety of issues over recent months. In particular PNZ has completed an application for funding to Sport NZ as they have completely changed how they will be allocating funding in the future. Funding is now a 5 year process; for year 1 they have guaranteed us the same funding as previously (\$6,000), but the remaining 4 years will be assessed along with all other minor sports in NZ. We are not guaranteed any ongoing funding, so this has been a hugely important process for us. We have looked on it as an opportunity to put our case for increased funding and have worked closely with Sport NZ on this. We will know in December what our funding will be through to 2020 will be. As a part of this funding application PNZ's Strategic Plan was reviewed by the Board and the date for the next plan is now 2019, which brings us more in line with Sport NZ's funding time line.

The other major project that we are working on is developing the new website. This has been a little slower than hoped mainly because the above application took up so much of our time. However we still hope it will be operational before the end of August.

So what else has been happening?

Clubs. All clubs should now have been contacted by our **club liaison** Director Ray Pierce (rayxray@xtra.co.nz) but I know he is having trouble contacting Excelsior, Caversham and Bayview who have not responded to his contact. It may be that his, or our, contact details are wrong or those clubs just haven't got around to answering yet. If you are from one of those clubs can you please email Ray and let him know who and how to contact someone. We really want to make sure we are in contact with all clubs regularly as clubs are the backbone of our organisation. As Ray will have indicated, we really want to know if you have a problem, if you want help with something, what you think we should be focused on etc.

PNZ Board members are also keen to visit clubs and find out first-hand about your club. If you would like a Board member to come to your AGM, committee meeting or club day just let Ray know and we will try to make it happen.

Currently we have 42 clubs throughout the country. Four clubs are no longer operating or are not affiliated (Thames, Khandallah, West End and Milton), but we have a new club in the process of becoming affiliated, Woolston in Christchurch.

Pamphlets. Some of PNZ's promotional and training pamphlets are getting a makeover at the moment with a view to distributing them to clubs. Ray is also working on putting together a new "club kit" that all clubs will receive incorporating a lot of our resources and answering questions that new clubs need to know. We will distribute to all clubs initially to ensure every club has the most up to date information.

Shortly Ray will be in contact with clubs to get information for the new website. We intend to have more details about each club available online so we will be looking for an updated photo of your terrain (the ones off the current website are too small and will be distorted if used from there), contact information you want on the website, when your club meets, a brief message about your club, a little bit of history and so on. When you get that request if you could get the information back to us ASAP that would be very helpful.

N³ Cards. We have mentioned these previously and all clubs should now have been contacted about them. Barrie Anderson has the cards in his possession and these will be posted to clubs in the next week with a covering letter. If you have any concerns or questions about these cards feel free to contact the secretary about this. secretary@petanquenz.com. The card is for any member of your club to use for private or club business, but club secretaries will have to ensure they know where the card is at all times.

Green Prescription. PNZ is registered as a supplier with this service, so if you are looking for new members for your club you should make contact with the GP's in your area. See the magazine for further details on this and check out the website. <http://www.health.govt.nz/your-health/healthy-living/food-and-physical-activity/green-prescriptions/green-prescription>

Membership Fees. As I am sure you are aware PNZ operates with minimal income, with our primary source of income being membership fees. We have become aware of some clubs who are choosing not to register players who they say “only play socially”. PNZ’s policy on this is clear, all members of a club must pay a \$10 affiliation to PNZ. We do not have a social membership and the fee paid has nothing to do with competitive play. Money paid by clubs in affiliation fees is spent on general running of the organisation for the benefit of the sport of petanque. Contrary to rumours I hear, virtually no money from member’s affiliation fees is spent on competitive play. Members entering tournaments pay separately for that process through entry fees and members in the representative process pay an annual fee which is topped up with any profit from tournaments to cover the expenses for that process. This is a situation we intend to address in the near future as it is unfair for some clubs to pay for all members while others do not.

Training Sessions in September and October. You should all be aware of the PNZ training courses that are being held throughout the country during September and October this year. The training is in 4 areas:

- Becoming a coach
- A rule refresher and/or becoming an umpire
- Running tournaments and learning the Swiss System
- Scoring

We have had a great response to these events and if you haven’t already registered but would still like to, please get in touch with me (stefany@clear.net.nz) ASAP. In the next couple of weeks we will be getting back to individuals with the details of when and where training will take place and who will be conducting the various courses in each area. I would also like to clarify that we have permission from the owner of the Swiss programme we use to share this programme with members for training purposes.

Tournaments. We are looking to make our National Tournaments more exciting and hopefully more appealing to members. If you have any suggestions we would love to hear them.

- We are updating equipment e.g. highly visible, automatic countdown clocks, computer screens instead of print outs, audio speakers for music and announcements, flags and signage.
- Winners of all national events get automatic, free entry into the representation process
- The winners of the National Triples will be given the right to attend the next Pan Pacific Championship as the New Zealand team, whether they are in the representation process or not. There will be conditions around this e.g. no substitution of players from the winning team (the team that wins is the team that goes) and if the winning team can’t go, then the second placed team will get the opportunity, with the same conditions.

We have also redefined the rules for the **Club Championships**.

- Teams of 6, with a minimum of two 2 females in each team
- Players must have been a member of the club they play for, for at least 1 year prior to the tournament (some flexibility, e.g. people who have permanently relocated to a new area or never played petanque previously)
- No separate senior category
- One team per club initially, closing 4 weeks prior to the event. If spaces available at that point we will open up entries again for one week where clubs may enter additional teams. This means registrations will be complete 3 weeks before the event to allow for travel arrangements.
- If more teams than spaces available, selection will be via random draw
- Format of tournament may change if more than 16 teams enter
- Absolute maximum number of entries is 22 even with altered format
- They will be held in Rotorua

Bucholz system. The Board have agreed to implement the Bucholz points system for all national tournaments from 1st October 2015. The Bucholz system is used internationally and uses a different set of criteria to calculate the final ranking in a tournament. The first cut is the number of wins the team has and then instead of using point differentials for the second cut, Bucholz points are used, which take into account the results of the opponents the team has played. See the August magazine for further details on this or contact Barrie Anderson (barrie@andersonz.net).

Regional Tournaments. After many requests for guidelines/protocols for running regional tournaments from clubs and regions, PNZ is finalising recommendations for running Regional Tournaments. While clubs and regions are entitled to run tournaments to their own formula, tournaments not run to the standard expected by PNZ will not be considered for seeding point purposes. This document should be out to clubs and regions within the next 2 weeks.

Representation Process. The NZ Women's team (Claire Wilson, Christine Strichen & Sharon Cannon) will be travelling to Bangkok in November to compete in the Women's World Championship. They will be accompanied by their coach Michael Rocks and myself as I am attending world congress and various other meetings on behalf of PNZ. Don't be surprised if you see my name down as the 4th player!! Be assured I am not actually playing, it is a practical step to enable me to have access to the playing area to support the team. I will be posting regular updates on Facebook and Twitter so you can see how they are going. We would also like to commend the team on their fundraising efforts, it is very heartening to see them working so hard and the petanque community getting behind them. Unfortunately grants from national Community Trusts are no longer an option for teams travelling overseas, so funds need to be raised regionally or by hard graft.

2015/16 representation process is now out and every club should have received the information and application forms which are also on the current website. Please share with all your members early because **applications close at the end of August**. If you are currently in a squad, you should have been notified by your coach, if not email me on stefany@clear.net.nz and I will forward them to you.

PNZ's policy around funding NZ teams and uniforms was refined at the last Board meeting.

Monetary assistance – We are going to pay grants only to teams travelling to World Championships (as they have the highest level of expenses) who will now receive \$200 per person as a start to their fundraising.

Uniform – Players

1st year - 2 polo shirts, 1 tracksuit top, 1 pair of trousers and 1 cap

2nd year onwards - 1 polo shirt and 1 cap (if desired)

Every 5th year of representation - a new tracksuit top and pair of trousers (if desired)

Uniform – Coaches

Once only - 2 polo shirts, 1 jacket and 1 cap

All other uniform items are at the players or coaches expense.

PNZ also intends to standardise the uniforms that players wear by having a black (with white trim) or a white (with black trim) option and keeping them the same each year. Teams travelling can decide on which uniform they would prefer given the heat of the country they are travelling to.

The position of Technical Director of Representation will become available in the next few months as I step aside to focus on other issues affecting petanque. Once this year's process is underway, the job description and application notice will be posted. We will be looking for applicants to take up the position by February/March of 2016 and to work with the Board to take this part of our operation forward.

Promotion & Marketing. One of the problems with petanque nationally is that we do not have a high enough profile. The Board have agreed to get a professional marketing plan done and have committed funds to this project for the next 3 years. Does anyone have any contacts within the petanque community who would be interested in quoting for this work? The Board has initiated contact with a few marketing businesses, but we would love to hear from anyone who has an interest or a contact that could help us. Please email Stefany if you have any thoughts.

Sponsorship. Is there anyone out there who has a particular interest in the area of sponsorship or has contacts that PNZ, or they, could approach? This is an ongoing problem area for the Board and we would very much like to hear from anyone who could help us with this task. Having someone who could mentor one of us in this field would be useful. Please contact me (stefany@clear.net.nz) if you can help.

Well that's it for this time round. I'll leave you with the following inspiration!

A gravel arena...the toss of a cochonnet...

the gleaming arc of a boule in flight...

the clack of steel and spurt of gravel...

Is there any better way of spending an afternoon than playing petanque!

Warm Regards
Stefany Frost
President
on behalf of the Board