

## REPORT FROM THE BOARD – DECEMBER 2015

Greetings everyone. Our last weekend Board meeting was a month ago, so I apologise for the delay in getting this report to you. The delay is due entirely to the self-indulgent travelling around NZ by the author, which is not conducive to sitting down at the computer to write and of course the Christmas madness. Since we last wrote the Board has had two skype meetings and a full weekend meeting and all Board members are continuing to work on a number of issues.

The BIG project over the last few months has been the website; designing, creating and producing such a site was a challenge for the Board as it is largely outside our area of expertise. We employed a web design company called Myth to help us achieve what we wanted from the site, which was primarily easy to use for both users and managers, logical to follow, attractive and easy to read, the capacity to hold all our information, online entry and application forms and good back up. I hope you agree with the Board that we have achieved our goals so far. Most of the feedback we have had has been positive and we have had some very helpful suggestions which we have incorporated. There are still one or two tweaks that need to happen, but the site is live and after much hard work inputting all the information we are pretty happy with the result. One of the big things about the website is that everything on the site has been reviewed and updated so the current information is as up to date as possible. We now have two website managers (Sarah-Jane Wright and Stefany Frost), so please send any information, updates, concerns, suggestions and/or criticisms to them directly. Our goal is for the website to be a primary communication tool with members; the go to site where you can find whatever you need to know about petanque simply and quickly. For this to happen we need all members and/or clubs to send us information, entry forms, results, local news etc. Thanks for your patience with this project and a huge thank you to the outgoing website manager John Targett. John hung in and supported us through what turned out to be a very protracted period despite being extremely busy and having resigned from the role last year.

### Updates from the last report:

1. We have just heard back regarding our Sport NZ funding for the next 4 years. This brought good news and bad news. The good news is that we will be funded for the next 4 years and that the amount has not decreased, the bad news is it is still at the same rate as previous years (\$6,000 per year). We were hopeful that we would get an increase to achieve some of the goals we had set out to them, but were unsuccessful.
2. Clubs are beginning to send information to our club liaison Director (Ray Pierce) which is great and we encourage all clubs to use Ray as their direct link to the Board. We love to know what is happening at a local level as clubs are the heart of our organisation.
3. Our president has been calling into clubs around NZ to meet the locals and see first-hand what is happening locally. Board members are always happy to visit your club, AGM, committee meeting or club day. Just say the word and we'll get someone there.
4. Updating Promotional Pamphlets and Training Manuals and creating the "club kit". These projects have been on the back burner while the website was being developed, but will now be full steam ahead again.
5. N3 Cards. Your club should have these now and we hope all members will get a lot of benefit out of them. We have recently put new information on the website about this, so please check it out.
6. Training Sessions in Umpiring, Coaching, Running Tournaments & Scoring. The Umpiring workshops are now completed with 2 new national, 2 new regional and 10 new club umpires being trained and many more updating their training. The list of current umpires has been updated on the website; if you have umpire qualifications and are not on the list, please contact Trevor Neilson ASAP.

Coaching clinics have been held in Dunedin, Auckland and Wellington and there is more follow up work to do to complete these courses. Tournaments & Scoring which will be done together have been delayed due to Barrie's Anderson's health issues. As Barrie is the Technical Director of Tournaments he was going to do the training around the country. Once we know how things are progressing for Barrie we will make some decisions about how to proceed on this training in the New Year.

Certificates of achievement will be sent out to clubs in the New Year to be presented to the new umpires and coaches.

7. Guidelines for running regional tournaments. This document has now been distributed and is on the website and we encourage all regions to use this as their guide for running tournaments. Tournaments not run to reasonable standards will not be considered for seeding purposes.
8. The Women's World Championship was held in Thailand in early November. Sharon, Claire and Christine played well on a very difficult terrain. They managed 2 wins out of 5 on the first round of play and provided all their opponents with a strong challenge. They were eliminated in the first round of the knock out by a very on-form Australian team.
9. Both the open and senior assessment camps for NZ Representation in 2016 have been held and teams to represent NZ at Oceania and TransTasman have been named. See the website for full details of these teams. Congratulations to all the players who were involved in the process and those who were selected to represent NZ, I have no doubt you will do NZ proud. To those who didn't make the current teams, keep putting in the hard work and you will get the results you want.
10. The position of Technical Director of Representation will be advertised in the New Year with a view to appointing someone around March. Is this a position you might be interested in? A job description will come out along with the request for nominations.
11. Promotion & Marketing. The Board has been in contact with a few marketing people to get a feel for what they think is required. The consensus was that before we start marketing on a National Basis we need to have our internal structure working efficiently and the Board agree that we are not quite there yet. That doesn't mean we are doing nothing, but that we are not going to employ someone to assist us until we are fully ready.
12. Many of you will have caught up with what Ray Pierce has been organising in Auckland. He has secured a prime spot down on the waterfront in Auckland in the Wynyard Quarter to build a piste which we can have until the 30<sup>th</sup> March 2016. It is adjacent to the Karanga Plaza, in the vicinity of the TeWero Pedestrian Bridge, Expo Centre and Restaurants, so a very busy, highly visible area. This project will act as a central area where we can demonstrate and promote petanque and encourage people of all ages to "Give the Game a Go". Ray has secured the backing of the Auckland Council, Panuku Development Auckland and TV 1 who are going to do a breakfast show from there in the New Year and the terrain is ready to play now. We urge all members living in Auckland to give this project your full support and if anyone is visiting Auckland, please, please, please come down and support them, play some games, aim to spend an hour or two there if you possible can. We have this area for three months, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, so let's make the most of it! For further information visit the website latest news page or contact Ray directly on (09) 815 2386 or 027 4824582 or [rayxray@xtra.co.nz](mailto:rayxray@xtra.co.nz). Congratulations Ray on getting this up and running.
13. Sponsorship. We are currently chasing up one or two ideas, but would still like to hear from anyone with any ideas or leads in this area.

Service Awards. The Board has received several nominations for the newly created NZP Service Award which the Board are considering. Recipients of these awards will be presented at the AGM in March.

Hosts of 2016 National Tournaments. Clubs hosting National Tournaments have been decided for all events in 2016 and they are as follows:

National Women's Triples Championship	6/7 February 2016	Kapiti Petanque Club
National Triples Championship & AGM	5/6 March 2016	Manawatu Petanque Club
National Club Championship	23/24 April 2016	Rotorua Petanque Club
National Singles Championship	1/2 October 2016	Panmure Pioneers Petanque Club
National Doubles Championship	5/6 November 2016	Christchurch Petanque Club
National Senior Doubles Championship	3/4 December 2016	Dunedin City Petanque Club

TransTasman Championship in 2016. The dates of this event are 19-20 March in Alexandra. If anyone wants to come to Alexandra to support the four NZ teams playing we would love to see you. Margaret Penny is organising a tour associated with this, so if you want to be part of that you will need to get hold of her

ASAP. If you are looking at coming independently you need to book accommodation ASAP as this is a very busy time for the whole Central Otago Region and accommodation is very scarce. Alexandra for those that don't know the area is 1 hour from Queenstown airport and about 2 hours from Dunedin airport.

Oceania Championship 2017. The Board has asked Christchurch Club if they are prepared to host the 2017 Oceania Championship and they have agreed. Planning is now underway for how we will fund and host this event.

Drinking at National Tournaments. Following a few complaints to PNZ about the level of drinking at some National Tournaments the Board has taken a good hard look at this issue. We have decided that the current rules in our player code of conduct will remain at this stage but we will continue to look at this issue and investigate our responsibilities to Sport NZ and Drug Free Sport. Please be aware that currently:

- You cannot turn up to a tournament hungover or drunk.
- You cannot drink while you are playing a game (including coming off the piste to have a drink).
- You cannot drink to excess at any point during the time you are at the terrain.
- Players or spectators who are deemed to be affected by alcohol will be sanctioned by the umpires.
- PNZ have asked our National umpires to be vigilant about this issue.
- If a player has an issue with another player's (or spectator's) behaviour whether alcohol induced or not they should discuss it with the umpire of the day.
- What you can do is have a drink between your games, preferably away from the immediate piste area, IF the rules of the club you are at allow it. NB some clubs do not allow people to bring their own alcohol into the club, do not allow drinking in the immediate surrounds of the terrain and some do not allow the bar to be open until certain times of the day.

AGM – The notice of the AGM has gone out to clubs and is on the website. As always we have two Board members standing down. This year they are Sarah-Jane Wright and Barrie Anderson. Sarah-Jane has decided not to stand again after many years of dedicated service to the Board. Barrie Anderson is intending to put a nomination in for re-election, but this may be reviewed depending on his current health issues. So we are looking for nominations from members throughout the country. We need people who are hardworking, motivated and interested in taking petanque into the future. You can be from anywhere in the country and don't have to be a top player or even a good player to be a good Board member. All the information and nomination forms are on the website....be aware that they need to be returned to the PNZ office by 5.00pm on 19th January 2016.

I think that is it for now... Christmas is nearly upon us and for some this can be a difficult time, so we send you the love and support of the whole petanque community. Where ever you are and whatever you are doing this Christmas we hope you get some time out to relax and enjoy friends and family and play lots of petanque.



Jingle boules, Jingle boules, Jingle all the day. Oh! What fun it is to play, On a lovely summer's day.  
Jingle boules, Jingle boules, Jingle all the day.

Merry Christmas  
Stefany Frost  
President  
Petanque New Zealand