

PRESIDENTS REPORT 2015

As I write this and reflect on the past year I am aware that it has been a very difficult year for many of our members, with deaths and life threatening illnesses affecting so many members right around the country. To all those who have been touched by these events we send our love and support.

2014 saw a number of changes to the PNZ Board with the resignation of Alan Heron and Dirk Winnie at the last AGM, who were replaced by Barrie Anderson and Claire Bradburn. Later in the year Richard Turfrey resigned due to work commitments and Ray Pierce was co-opted onto the Board in January to bring us back up to full strength. I took up the reins as President of PNZ in May 2014 which has been both challenging and stimulating.

The Board's priorities for the year were improving communication, increasing participation and re-establishing and/or reviewing various programmes and policies that had either lapsed or were no longer functional. So what have we achieved?

- One of the first things the Board did was finalise the Strategic Plan that had been discussed during the previous year. This is a working document and provides the Board with a focus and a guide for where to put our resources.
- We introduced monthly Skype meetings with varying degrees of success (due to technical issues).
- We distributed our draft youth policy for discussion and then adopted the edited policy to guide our future planning. Of note is the change from 23 and under to 18 and under as the definition of youth to bring it into line with international age limits, local recommendations from Sport NZ and to be a more manageable age to focus on. The other significant development in this area has been the change from a separate national tournament for youth to having a youth section in all our national tournaments. There are now three areas in the country that are working on developing youth petanque and these groups will ultimately provide a model of how best to achieve growth in this area around the country.
- Communication was deemed a critical area and the Board has increased its level of communication with members through written summaries following meetings, a very active facebook site, the magazine, Board forums at national tournaments, actively seeking feedback from members about various issues, listening to members concerns and making changes to our procedures and policies. We have been doing the ground work to develop a more comprehensive user friendly website.
- We changed the way the magazine will be published to make it more accessible. From this year the magazine will be available free to members through the website, as a PDF through their club or via email. Hard copies will be distributed to clubs free (1 magazine per 20 members), and individuals are still able to purchase their own copy through subscription if they wish.
- Membership and marketing was also a focus
 - The facebook site was set up
 - The 21st birthday celebrations provided a focus for some clubs to get out into the community and promote petanque, with seven events being held nationwide. PNZ provided small grants for many of these events as a way of

supporting them. The payoff was increased club cohesion, increased public awareness and for several clubs new members.

- PNZ has reviewed all its brochures and these will be at the printer very soon and distributed to clubs. We are hoping to organise it so that each club can put their details on the brochures directly and order what they need on line.
 - We are currently looking for a professional marketing person to look at PNZ and provide a longer term strategy for marketing our sport. Our newest Board member Ray has agreed to take promotion and marketing under his wing for the next couple of years and has some great, innovative ideas to get this underway.
 - We have initiated the process of producing some DVD's on playing petanque, coaching etc
 - We are putting together a club kit which will eventually be distributed to all clubs old and new and contain everything from how to set up a club to promotional material to how to represent your country at petanque
 - N³ Cards: PNZ has negotiated a deal for each club to have an N³ card. This is a group purchasing scheme and will enable all clubs and their members to access significant discounts at hundreds of stores around New Zealand.
- Four Technical Directors were appointed in the areas of Tournaments, Coaching, Umpiring and Representation and these people (Barrie Anderson, Graeme Morris, Trevor Neilson and myself) have been charged with managing their respective areas. Some of the developments include:

Tournaments

- ❖ Developed a five year tournament plan ensuring a fairer distribution of tournaments around the country
- ❖ Reduced the cut off point for number of teams going into the trophy section. Previously if >32 teams entered, 16 would go through to trophy and if 31 or under only eight went through. Members requested this be reviewed as it was too high. We initially changed the cut off to 26 teams but this has since been revised again to 25 plus teams entered, 16 go into the trophy section, if 24 teams and under are entered eight go through.
- ❖ We have reviewed the payment structure for clubs holding National tournaments from \$100 plus \$5 per team to a set fee, which will see most clubs get more funding. The payment will now be \$150 for a one day tournament; \$250 for a two day tournament and \$50 per half day (5 hours) for any other days or part days, e.g. shooting tournaments, assessment camps.
- ❖ Added the potential for an extra section in National Tournaments. Members expressed concern 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. Previously using the Swiss system players on day two were divided into either 16 or eight players for the trophy and the rest were grouped into a Consolante. Now if a sufficient number of teams enter there will also be a plate and a plate consolation section as well as the Consolante.
- ❖ Barrie is gearing up to hold "tournament director training" sessions around the country to ensure all clubs have access to appropriate information and protocols for running any type of tournament.
- ❖ Much of the documentation around tournaments has been reviewed and updated and some of the protocols have been strengthened.

- ❖ We are currently developing a standardised application form for people who wish to host National and International tournaments for PNZ.

Coaching

- ❖ Four very experienced coaches (John Greig, Michael Rocks, Murray Porter, and Jean Parley) have been appointed to lead the four national squads and to help develop the coaching network throughout the country.
- ❖ Graeme is writing a Coaching manual which will form the basis of a nationwide coaching plan. He will then create the opportunity to train club coaches around the country and from that will select coaches to develop into regional coaches and so on.
- ❖ Graeme has also been appointed to a development committee to set up an Oceania Coaching School so that we can pool resources and develop greater strength in coaching in our region.

Umpiring

- ❖ Umpire uniforms were purchased
- ❖ Trevor has reviewed and updated all umpiring documents on the website
- ❖ Updated the umpire register and improved communication with all current umpires
- ❖ Trevor has begun planning umpire training in each area throughout the country to make sure all umpires have the same knowledge base and to encourage more people to take up umpiring.
- ❖ Trevor is also working with Australia and the wider Oceania Federations to develop an Oceania Level Umpire training programme and exam. With two International Umpires in Australia this is now possible and we believe it will enable PNZ to upskill more umpires to a higher level as it will be much more cost effective and has the advantage of being in English.
- ❖ Trevor has been working with three umpires around the country who have completed the requirements for National Umpire status and we are hoping they will be appointed to these roles shortly, which will almost double our pool of National Umpires.

Representation

- ❖ Revised the ranking point schedule
- ❖ Selection camps were held in conjunction with National Tournaments
- ❖ Feedback on what members want from the process and how they perceived the current process was widely sought and received
- ❖ A move away from a one or two year process to an ongoing squad structure
- ❖ Greater participation in the representative process this year with 47 players currently in the four squads, as opposed to around 28 last year.
- ❖ Ongoing coaching and assessment of all players in the squads

Despite all the good things, there are some issues that the Board has not progressed as far as we would have liked:

- The constitution review. A panel of experienced people around the country was set up to carry out this review, however the decision was made some months ago to postpone this review until 2015 as there were too many other pressing issues that needed to be dealt with and we had to prioritise tasks.

- The Website development. This is a high priority for the Board and we are working on it, but it is complicated by the fact that no one on the Board has a great deal of expertise in this area. We are taking expert advice from a variety of sources and we assure you it will be up and running very soon. We are being very thorough in this task as we want to get it right.
- Sponsorship and funding. While we have begun to put in some grants for the representation process, this is an area that still needs some major development and we haven't had anyone on the Board that has had the time or expertise to develop this. Both Claire and I are going to work on this during the coming year.
- Promotion of petanque. Ray Pierce has taken up the challenge of promotion of petanque so we look forward to some development of this area in the coming year.

In conclusion I would like to mention a couple of issues which I feel there is some contention over.

1. The fact that PNZ has money in the bank. We are often asked, why we aren't spending it? The Board has drafted a budget for 2015 and I assure you that this is about to change. We are facing some big expenses in the coming months as we drive PNZ forward. 2015 will see spending of at least \$20,000 on major issues such as the website development; promotion and marketing of petanque; development of coaching programmes; umpire training; tournament director training and training of scorers throughout the country. The Board's responsibility is to ensure the members money is spent wisely and for the benefit of all players. We sometimes hear it said that PNZ has money so they should be paying for individuals and teams to travel overseas. While PNZ would love to fund players to travel to tournaments, the Board does not believe this is something that should be funded with member's funds, but rather through sponsorship, grants and other enterprises which we are working on.
2. The representation process. This year despite efforts to make it as transparent and structured as possible there were a few glitches that arose which we will sort out for the coming year. The selectors and coaches have been working with the Board to produce a policy and process that we believe will work for everyone. What I have personally appreciated is the feedback that players have provided as it is only through this that we can find the best way forward.

Thank you all for your support through the year (particularly during my own family crisis at the end of last year). The Board will continue to work for the good of Petanque in New Zealand and I look forward to what we can achieve in the coming year.

Stefany Frost
President
New Zealand Petanque Association Inc.