

## **PRESIDENTS REPORT Year ended December 2016**

### **Membership**

At the end of 2016 PNZ had 41 affiliated clubs throughout NZ, with a total membership of 1155. This was a 4.5% increase on the previous year, which is an encouraging trend, and one which has continued into 2017. We welcomed two new clubs into the fold, the Mana Club in the Wellington region and the Cliff Road Club in Tauranga. Our new regulations around what constitutes a club saw the closure of two clubs, St. George and Mange Callioux.

Membership is an ongoing issue for the Board and we have been looking at alternatives to the current membership structure. To assist the Board in its governance, we have presented a discussion document to this meeting on membership and funding.

### **Communication**

Both our Facebook site and Website are operating effectively, with good numbers viewing both sources of communication. However, there are still improvements to be made in our use of all social media sites and the website. We are working on these, and if any member would like to become involved in assisting with these projects we would welcome their input.

Our other primary means of communication are through Board reports, the magazine and messages to club secretaries. The biggest issue we face with the latter is that club secretaries do not always pass the information onto club members, leading to a constant chorus of "I didn't know that". The magazine has currently lapsed as Graeme Morris, our editor for the past few years, resigned to take up the position of National Women's Coach. Anyone interested in taking up this challenge either alone or as a shared role should get in touch with the PNZ secretary. After each face-to-face Board meeting, the President writes a report for members, but we still get queries about information that has been presented in these reports, which suggests that they are not widely read. This raises the question, are they a useful communication tool?

### **Service Awards**

Four service awards were made during 2016. These awards recognise an individual who has made a significant contribution to the game of petanque that has enhanced the game at local, regional, national and/or international level. Clubs and regions can nominate people for these awards at any time. The nominations are assessed by the Board on the level of contribution; the length of time over which the contribution was made; the quality of the contribution; and the impact on petanque.

This year's well deserved recipients are:

Allan Fletcher (Herne Bay)	Trevor Neilson (Bayview)
Diane Findlay (Christchurch)	Andrew Findlay (Christchurch)

### **National Champions for 2016**

Congratulations to:

Women's Triples	Sharon Cannon, Christine Strichen, Claire Wilson
Open Triples	Allan Fletcher, Richard Swaney, Pam Jenkins
Clubs	Bayview
Singles	Maurice Belz
Doubles	Tom Paulo, Andre Noel
Senior Doubles	Graeme Morris, Margaret Penny

The winners of the **Shooting** competitions were

Men	Maurice Belz
Women	Ann Shields

### **Marketing of Petanque**

This is an area of significance to all clubs, as the most common comment we hear is “how can we get new players”. PNZ engaged a firm of consultants to come up with a marketing plan that would assist us to achieve our goal of increased participation in petanque. We have completed the first phase of this, and are now working on how to proceed with their recommendations, given our limited financial and personnel resources. We fully appreciate that for any marketing strategy to be effective, we need to work closely with our members and clubs, and will therefore be seeking involvement from you in due course. We have agreed to a maximum spend of \$10,000 at this stage, but anticipate there will be ongoing costs from this initiative in future years.

### **Review of the Constitution**

The PNZ Constitution was reviewed during the year with several relatively minor changes being required. We were going to put these amendments to this AGM. However, following advice from Simpson Grierson we have decided to wait until the new Incorporated Societies Act comes into force (probably) later this year, as this is likely to require a more detailed review of, and further changes to, the Constitution.

### **Health & Safety / Insurance**

The new Health & Safety Act came into effect during the year, which has led to many questions about our liability under the Act. The good news is, as we do not directly employ anyone, we as an organisation, do not come under the Act. This is also true for many if not most of our affiliated clubs. However, there are likely to be some clubs associated with bowling clubs, chartered clubs, or sports hubs that may well employ people, and they will have liability under this Act. While PNZ does not come under the Act, we do still have a responsibility to ensure members are warned of any risks and that we do not cause or contribute to any preventable harm to members attending our events. To this end PNZ is:

- a) Writing a more comprehensive Health and Safety Plan
- b) Making it mandatory to have a Health and Safety briefing before every National tournament (we encourage all clubs and regions to do the same)
- c) Investigating PNZ’s liability and the need for insurance in this area.

Although petanque is a “low risk activity”, the need for public liability insurance and insurance protecting Board members, executive members and club members against liability has been raised by many clubs over the years and several clubs do have their own liability insurance. We have also been advised that under the new Incorporated Societies Act, all Societies will need to have insurance to protect their members from liability. PNZ is investigating different insurers and the costs to cover all our member clubs under one policy. We will have further information and costs to clubs soon.

### **Financial Issues**

In this year’s accounts, you will note that we have a total deficit of \$9,231 as opposed to a surplus last year of \$2,708, a difference of nearly \$12,000. This has come about for three main reasons

1. depreciation of assets has increased by \$3,461;
2. increased expenses in general (Oceania cost (\$2,018; Affiliation fees (\$1151) the representative process (\$1,452)); and
3. Increased investment in initiatives, such as umpire training (\$2,015); website development (\$1,264)

While we still have a surplus of funds and could sustain small losses for a few years, if we are going to continue our investment in marketing, umpiring, coaching, tournament directing, developing tournaments etc., we need to ensure appropriate funding is in place. Our projected costs for 2017 at this stage are: Marketing \$10,000; Coaching \$8,000; Umpiring \$8,000; Tournaments \$3,000; Oceania \$5,000. A total of \$34,000, plus the potential expense of Insurance. Clearly, we will strive to keep these expenses to a minimum, but the costs are still high. We need to address this by increasing our income, hence the need to review affiliation fees.

## **General**

The areas of coaching, umpiring, tournaments and representation have all been covered by individual reports from the Technical Directors or acting TDs. From the Boards perspective, these areas are all progressing towards our wider goal of greater participation in, and development of, petanque at all ages and levels.

It was good to see the International Rules finally agreed and passed by the International Body FIPJP. These took effect on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017.

Workshops in umpiring and running tournaments were well attended for the most part and there was good participation in coaching throughout the country. We are looking forward to developing these initiatives further in 2017 and particularly looking forward to bringing an overseas coach to NZ to develop our coaches. They will then be able to go back to their regions and clubs and provide the support for players at all levels.

## **Thanks to outgoing Board members**

Three Board members have resigned their positions this year and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Barrie Anderson, Ray Pierce and Kevin McFadgen for their service to the petanque community over the years and wish them well for the future.

I would also take this opportunity to thank Barbara Whittington and Brian Smith who have continued in their roles of Secretary and Treasurer and who have given unflagging support to PNZ over many years. Thanks also to Claire Bradburn for her work on the Board and to all the Technical Directors, coaches, umpires, selectors, scorers and other PNZ officials.

The Board would also like to acknowledge all the club and regional level coaches, umpires, tournament directors, scorers and the multitude of club committee and volunteers who give their time to petanque throughout the country. Without these volunteers, none of us would be able to enjoy playing the sport we love.

## **Looking ahead to 2017**

Several challenges lie ahead of PNZ in the coming year:

1. The challenge of attracting individuals who wish to put something back into our sport. We have vacancies on the Board, for several executive roles, magazine editor and some coaching roles which we need people to volunteer for. We need more worker bees!
2. Finding the funding to cover our increasing costs and ongoing initiatives.
3. Resolving issues around membership, tournament formats, the representative process and insurance.
4. Complete some of the initiatives that have stalled, for example getting the club kit to all clubs, redeveloping our Health and Safety Plan, rewriting the tournament manual.
5. Olympic Games! Petanque may be admitted as a sport in 2024. We need to understand the impact this would have on our sport and how we would manage this.

Stefany Frost  
President  
Petanque New Zealand