

## REPORT FROM THE BOARD – MARCH 2017

Hope everyone has had a positive start to the new year. Here's an update to members following the last Board meeting.

Firstly, PNZ would like to congratulate the 2017 recipients of the **Petanque New Zealand Service Award**. This is a prestigious award that recognizes an individual who has made a significant and ongoing contribution to the game of petanque that has enhanced the game at local, regional, national and/or international level. The recipients are:

- Trevor Neilson (Tauranga/Bay of Plenty)
- Diane Findlay (Christchurch)
- Andrew Findlay (Christchurch)
- Allan Fletcher (Herne Bay)



These will be presented at the Annual General Meeting for those in attendance, or otherwise at the next suitable occasion.

**Date change for the 2017 National Doubles** and Selection weekend at Kapiti. This event has been moved back one week in the calendar, to 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> November. While we are very reluctant to change dates once set in the calendar and do apologise to anyone who is unduly affected by this change, it has come about because of an unforeseen change in the date of the Oceania Championship in Christchurch. Oceania is now being held 25-29<sup>th</sup> October and this would have left only 3-4 days before players had to turn around to travel to another major event and we believe this is an unreasonable expectation, so made the reluctant decision to change the date.

**New Club** – PNZ has recently welcomed **Mana Petanque Club** (Wellington Region) into our Association. We look forward to playing with you in the future.

**Oceania Championship** – apart from a change of date for the event, everything is coming together for a very successful event. We are anticipating 150 as a minimum number of players, officials and supporters, not counting those who may come from around NZ to watch. We hope many of you can join us for what will be the biggest tournament NZ will host for some years.

**Drug Free Sport** – At the request of the FIPJP and Oceania Confederation, PNZ has agreed to tighten procedures around alcohol and drug use at National and International events, and to encourage regions to do the same. The new policy is: No player may partake of alcohol or drugs, while they are still actively involved in playing during each day of the tournament. Once they have finished all their games for the day, a player may drink in accordance with particular host club rules. To enforce this, any player caught drinking or using drugs will be banned from the tournament without further warning. To assist with enforcing this, PNZ will be introducing random alcohol and drug testing and reserves the right to test anyone it feels may be affected by alcohol or drugs or any place getting in a tournament. These rules will be written into the Player Code of Conduct and Tournament Protocols and will be effective from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017.

### Representation – tweaks you can expect

- All players wishing to represent NZ must complete an umpiring workshop this year, if they have not done so in the last 2 years. Knowing the rules is an essential part of competing at this level.
- Uniform policy to change. All players will be provided a full kit (a jacket, 2 polos, \$50 allowance for plain black trousers, 1 cap) on their first representation for either a minor\* tournament or a major\*\* tournament (2 different uniforms), subsequent representations PNZ will pay for embroidery of existing polos for the same event or two new polos for a new

event. All items are eligible for replacement after 5 years of representation in an event or replacements can be purchased by the players earlier if required. Coaches/managers uniforms will be designated with the word "Coach" or "Manager" and these people will be eligible for a full minor\* or major\*\* uniform (or both) every 5 years.

\*Minor Internationals = Aust Open, TransTasman, Pan Pacific

\*\*Major Internationals = Oceania (biennial), Asian Championship (annual), Worlds x 3 (biennial).

- The Board is looking to review the entire representation process and structure. Over the years selection has been done many ways and while our current structure, with some modifications, has been in place for over 8 years, it does not seem to be achieving the goal of improved performance by players at international events. PNZ intends to table a discussion document at the AGM to begin the discussion with stakeholders. That document will then be modified and presented to clubs and individuals for submissions. There will be plenty of time for everyone to have input into a new process, which we anticipate will begin in 2019.

### **N3 Cards**

Are you using your Club's N3 card? I used it recently to purchase shower, vanity unit, taps etc to upgrade a bathroom and got on average 40% off the bill, just by presenting the N3 card. Every member has the right to use these cards, you just need to get the main card or a subsidiary card off the secretary of your club. Subsidiary cards are in the process of being renewed.

### **National Mixed Doubles**

The entry form for the inaugural National Mixed Doubles on 6/7 May has just been released. Richard Browne (Ashburton Petanque Club) has designed a fantastic trophy, which is two trophies in one and can be used by two individuals or put together as a joint trophy. This will also be the first tournament on Christchurch's new terrain, which they have been waiting on for six years, since their building was destroyed in the Christchurch earthquakes. When this tournament was first proposed by the Wellington Region there was a lot of support around the country for this event, so we hope lots of people will support it.

### **Membership**

Affiliation to PNZ costs \$10 per person per year, the lowest of any known sporting organisation, and yet we still get resistance to paying this from social players and there are many clubs who refuse to join PNZ because of this fee. The Board has been discussing how it can better cater to the needs of both social and competitive players and has come up with an alternative proposal which will be presented at the AGM, simply to begin the process of discussing this with our stakeholders

### **STA Travel**

PNZ is about to sign a partnership deal with STA Travel. This is the old Student Travel Agency but has for some years been a full travel agency acting for all clients. They can offer PNZ members, friends, family or anyone else the best deals and specials that any travel agent can offer. We will have our own designated travel agent who we can get to know and all we have to do is say we are from PNZ. They can look after every aspect of our flights, accommodation, car rental, cruise, bus trip or whatever you desire, whether there is one person or a group. They have the same financial deal as all other travel agents, overseas bookings are free, domestic bookings pay a \$15 levy, unless you are booking for 10 or more people. They can provide a quote for you the same as any travel agent and if you don't like it, you don't have to accept it. The bonus for PNZ is that they will refund 1% of the total cost of all bookings back to PNZ. While this is not much, if everyone used this agency for all travel arrangements we could get several hundred dollars a year back which we could use for the development of petanque. We will send out full information and contacts as soon as the

contract is signed and I hope you will give them a chance to show how amazing they are and help PNZ at the same time. I have already used them to get quotes for multiple bookings from all countries attending Oceania and they have been amazingly efficient and helpful.

### Reviews in Progress

- Insurance Liability – this has dragged on longer than expected, but we can now tell you PNZ does not require insurance around Health and Safety issues as we have no liability under the new Health & Safety Act; however, we are going to require insurance under the new Incorporated Societies Act and we have been advised that we should have Public Liability insurance. We are now investigating the cost of these and how we can cover PNZ and all affiliated clubs in one deal.
- Representation Process – as outlined above
- Membership structure – as outlined above
- Tournament format for day two of National events. Do we have the right format for two day events? PNZ wants to know from the competitive players what you think. We intend to discuss this at the AGM.

### Health & Safety Review

PNZ has taken legal advice around our liability under the new Health & Safety Act and because we do not employ any people we do not come under the Act. Two main issues have come out of the review

1. Any club that is involved in employing someone e.g. if they are directly associated with a bowling club or sports club that employs people, and their club is contributing to this person's payment, they do come under the Act and have greater liability. If this applies to your club, we encourage you to get advice on where you stand under the Act.
2. While PNZ and most clubs do not come under the act, workers or volunteers do have duties under the Act. They must:  
**“Ensure as far as practical their own health and safety and that nothing they do or fail to do puts someone else's health at risk”.** This applies to everyone who is a volunteer, i.e. all of us. If we are hosting schools, corporates, tournaments etc., we must have a policy, a plan and we must do a verbal briefing. We must also ensure we do not fail to take all precautions to prevent harm, i.e. make sure ropes are not unnecessarily hazardous or loose, no one can tip an urn of boiling water over, slip on a wet floor, trip over obstacles left around the piste edges etc.

In general, Petanque is a low risk sport and a proper written plan and verbal warnings, combined with common sense should be all we need to do. PNZ are working on a new Health & Safety policy and plan which we will share with all affiliated clubs for use once it is completed.

### Coaching

PNZ is still intending to bring a Thai coach to NZ to coach our coaches. This initiative has been in the pipeline for some time, but it has proved difficult to coordinate New Caledonia and Australia in a three-way coaching trip as had been planned. This event is intended for coaches throughout NZ who will come and be trained in coaching methods, so that they can return to their petanque communities with confidence and skills to offer. The team of coaches who attend will be handpicked by PNZ and we will be looking for coaches who are already doing at least club level coaching and who are willing to sign a contract with PNZ that in attending the training they will give at least two years back to PNZ as a coach. If you think you should be on this list, please contact Claire Bradburn ([claire4petanque@gmail.com](mailto:claire4petanque@gmail.com)) asap.

### **Umpiring**

The new rule changes that came into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017 have provided a few curly questions for our Technical Director of Umpiring Trevor Neilson, but in conjunction with the Australian Federation and Mike Pegg from the FIPJP Umpiring Commission we are gradually sorting out the finer detail. As soon as this process is complete PNZ will be producing a printed version of the rules for all members.

Do you need umpiring equipment or to update your umpire kit? PNZ has for sale all items required by umpires. This list has been sent to your club secretary or you can see the list of items, approximate prices and order form on the website (under Umpiring). We will provide these at cost to PNZ, but be quick as we are only taking orders till the 24<sup>th</sup> March.

### **Membership of the Board**

We received only one nomination for the three vacant Board positions. This is disappointing and leaves PNZ in a very difficult and weak position. Although not a particularly satisfactory solution, we do have the power to co-opt Board members until the next AGM, so if anyone is interested in taking a role on the Board for a year please contact the secretary Barbara Whittington ([secretary@petanquenz.com](mailto:secretary@petanquenz.com)).

**Club Kits** are still pending. Apologies for the delay, but it has been a hectic first few months of the year.

Stefany Frost  
For the Board  
15 March 2017