

ANNUAL REPORT 2010

We have now completed the first year under the new Petanque New Zealand governance structure. This has been a steep learning curve for the three remaining board members and there have been many difficult issues to resolve. As with any new government, it is impossible to make large scale changes in the initial year. Some of the policies in place need some tweaking and this will be a priority over the next 12 months.

One of the main tasks for the Board was the completion of a new Strategic Plan. Most of the board spent a full day at a designated Strategic Planning meeting facilitated by Sport Auckland. Our SPARC liaison person attended the February board meeting to review the new Strategic Plan and the Plan will shortly be added to the website.

The open forums instigated by this Board have been successful and productive. Many good suggestions have been made and are being considered by the Board. I plan to continue the forums, particularly at the National Tournaments as this captures members' views from outside the main centres. Diverse opinions have been expressed at these forums and this gives the Board the opportunity to provide reasons and explanations.

We are now starting to see the rewards of our representation process with a 2009 Trans Tasman win over Australia in Sydney, a bronze medal in the shooting and a 3rd equal placing in the Coup de Nations trophy at the Asian Games and our latest success where we won a bronze medal in the shooting and a 3rd equal place in the 2010 Pan Pacific Championship. New Zealand is starting to be noticed in the Asian and Pacific petanque scene.

Youth is an area that Petanque New Zealand will target in the coming year with the planning and implementation of a Youth pathway a priority. We now have a pathway for Women with a National Women's Triples tournament being added to the calendar. The Seniors pathway could be enhanced by other areas having their own Seniors tournament before the national Seniors Tournament.

The Board is ably supported by the continued input, hard work and enthusiasm for our Sport by the Technical Directors. The Technical Director of Coaching is David Lippard, the Technical Director of Representation is Murray Porter and The Technical Director of Tournaments is Trevor Neilson. Thank you all for your expertise, time and energy.

Secretary Barbara Whittington and Treasurer Brian Smith continue to make valuable contributions to the efficient administration of Petanque NZ – thank you both.

The Board is here to work for you the Petanque community, so we appreciate your comments and feedback.

I look forward to meeting many of you at the various tournaments around the country during the next year.

Lorraine Brock

President

Director Membership Services

This has been a busy year. Communications with Clubs were given a high priority after justified comments at AGM re inaccurate Club information and contacts. I undertook to fully update the Club and contact databases and to update the website and magazine Club information. This has been completed but is an ongoing task with the next update scheduled for June/July 2010.

A start has been made on compiling a Youth database, Coach Database and Umpire database. Additional information concerning Youth players will be requested during the 2010 update.

A computerized Tournament system was introduced at the 2009 NZ Triples. This is being further developed together with a second Excel based system suited to smaller Tournaments. This project is ongoing and still in trial mode.

NZ Championship winners' shirts have been provided for all winners for 2008 plus the 2009 Triples. The 2009 Singles, Doubles and Senior Doubles shirts have been ordered and will be presented shortly.

A little known aspect of my job position is to provide confidential assistance and support to players or Clubs with problem situations. Throughout this year I have been able to assist in the resolution of several issues.

I would like to express my appreciation to Brian Smith for his continued dedication to the PNZ website. This modern form of communication is becoming increasingly important and it is a vital link between the Board, Clubs and players.

The PNZ magazine has been compiled and edited by Murray Porter and the Board appreciates the time and commitment Murray has put into the magazine.

Diane Findlay

Director Membership Services

Director Player Development

As the Director of Player Development the year has been very frustrating in many ways. As a board we inherited policies put in place by the previous executive which we were unable to modify until the time period given by the previous executive was up.

Part of my portfolio as Director of Player Development is the representative selection/assessment process. Whilst it could be seen that the selection system in its first year worked well with a good win over Australia in the Trans-Tasman and a women's team selected to represent New Zealand at the world championships in Thailand, the process does need modification. As a result I prepared a review

questionnaire that has gone out and is available to all members of petanque in New Zealand and we hope that there will be a good return of members' views. The questionnaires are due back to the secretary by 31st March and the board will analyse the returned papers early in the new term.

On 20th and 21st February, Dirk Winnie and I ran a training weekend for young players in the Hutt Valley. We used the membership database to identify eligible players and made contact with all who were on the list. There were five girls from the South Island and one from Feilding. Because not all eligible players were identified on the database, we missed a large group of Auckland based players. Fortunately, at the last minute, a training camp was able to be organized for them in Auckland. Whilst it is very regrettable that the costs for running the Hutt Valley camp were very high, I believe we gave the players the attention they required (nothing had been done in the junior area since NZ defeated Australia in the 2008 youth Trans-Tasman) and we have kick-started a youth programme that can be developed over the next few years.

During the year I also obtained equipment and made up 10 umpires' kits. 6 of these were distributed (given by PNZ) throughout the country for regional use and the other 4 are to be offered for sale to clubs and individuals. Wellington has already bought one of them as an extra.

I have also investigated availability of and priced the materials required to make 6 identical shooting kits which will also be distributed to areas around the country so that future skills assessment shooting tests can be conducted under more identical conditions.

Graeme Morris

Director of Player Development

Director of Sport Development

I have found this year on the PNZ Board very frustrating.

Initially I thought we had a very balanced Board and were going to make a difference and progress the sport. Early in our tenure we arranged a meeting in an attempt to develop a relationship between the Technical Directors and the Board. For most parts I thought this was a good meeting however it was evident that while there was a desire by all to progress the sport the pathways to achieving this were very different.

Trying to set up a National Inter Regional Competition is one idea [of mine](#). There is an extremely successful Tournament operating in the Lower part of the country. It would be very simple to replicate in the Northern region and nationally. It fits well with the representative pathway but it appears to have stalled.

Much of the energy from this year has gone into trying to develop levels of accountability and lines of communication for both the Board and the Technical Directors.

We were being asked to support a process that has seen an approximately 25% drop off in players wanting to participate. The coaching pathway whose stated intention was to develop coaches to a level to coach Nationally and Regionally has seen a number of resignations and little action.

I believe that the best thing we have done is to initiate the forums at the National Championships however I think we need to continue to look at improving the communication further. One way of doing this would be to publish the minutes of our meetings on the website.

The Youth Training weekend that Graeme and I ran was very successful but again there was a failure to follow through. Having the Australians pull the plug on the Youth Trans Tasman didn't help but our lack of systems meant a lack of communication to the players on the ground.

Although this weekend was mired in controversy it has kick started a real interest in doing something for our youth, as well as uncovering a number of young players who were not known to PNZ. This is an area that I would love to continue to be involved with in the future. I believe that I have the coaching skills and the people skills to advance this area.

I continue to have a passion for the game and will support initiatives that enhance our sport.

Dirk Winnie

Director Sport Development