

2011 Asian Petanque Championships Competition Report



PETANQUE FEDERATION
AUSTRALIA

15TH ASIAN PETANQUE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Pétanque Federation Australia Representative Team Report



Prepared By:

Warren Sowter, Delegate & Head Coach

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Introduction

This report is provided to the Board of the Pétanque Federation Australia. The report outlines the involvement of the Pétanque Federation Australia Representative Team in the 15th Asian Petanque Championships held in Nonthaburi, Thailand from the 16th of December to the 18th of December 2011. It contains the personal observations of the Head Coach & Delegate, Warren Sowter.

The 2011 Representative Team is amongst the most successful team involved in the Asian Petanque Championships. The team assembled in Bangkok and participated in all events of the competition.

This report will cover administrative, selection, competition and congress issues that were experienced or emerged during the competition.

The Squad

The squad comprised two teams a Men's Team of 4 male players and a Women's Team of 4 female players. These players were accompanied by a Head Coach and Delegate of the Pétanque Federation Australia Board and a Team Manager.

The team was as follows:

TEAM MEMBER	ROLE	HOME STATE
Warren Sowter	Head Coach & Delegate	NSW
Peter Mangan	Team Manager	VIC
MEN'S TEAM		
Eric Leconte	Team Captain	VIC
Laurent Fossaert	Player	VIC
Robin Anderson	Player	WA
Guy Detot	Player	SA
WOMEN'S TEAM		
Kate Mangan	Team Captain	VIC
Libby Sowter	Player	NSW
Marie-Ann Kerjean	Player	NSW
Delys Brady	Player	NSW

Selection Process

The 2011 Representative Squad was selected from a group of individual players who had self-nominated as an expression of interest through their State Coach to the PFA Director of Coaching Administration.

The State Coaches were invited to complete a rating of each nominee. The rating was constructed by the Director of Coaching Administration and was presented as an online 'survey'. Four parameters were used to evaluate the players potential to form a competitive and cohesive team. These parameters were:

- **Playing Skills:** the level of 'excellence' of the person's pointing and shooting skills.
- **Performance Level:** the performance standard of the player in recent competitions at state or national level.
- **Teamwork:** the cohesion and mutuality applied by the player in team play.
- **Self Management:** the way in which the player manages themselves under pressure; or when behind in the score.

The goal was to 'field' the best available team from the nominees. The players would need to display consistent behaviours of teamwork and self management. The team should be the players that had the best chance of winning games as well as being ambassadors for Australia and PFA.

The ratings were reviewed and a proposed team was selected on the basis of the rankings. This proposed team was presented to the PFA Director of Sport and then the National Selection Panel for endorsement.

Each selected player was required to submit a completed PFA-Form 3.3.1.2 Australian Representation Acceptance Form that included a Representative's Personal Profile. The list of selected players was reviewed to ensure all would meet the eligibility criteria for participation in the competition and for travel to Thailand.

When the squad was announced, one player advised their inability to travel with the team and withdrew. The nominated 'First Reserve' was invited to join the squad but advised of their inability to travel. Two further offers were made and were declined due to 'inability to travel'. In all, five players that had declared themselves available through their Expression of Interest declined the offer to participate for various reasons.

The process of offering positions in the team and then finalising the team was drawn out over two to three weeks. This process delayed the training program and impacted on the cost of travel for all team members. Airfares had risen by \$500 in the time it took to finalise the team.

The Head Coach was appointed team selector for the competition. The individual teams for any particular game would be agreed between the Head Coach and the Team Captain.

Individual Teams

PFA was required by the competition organisers to nominate specific team composition prior to the competition for travel and accommodation arrangements. The individual teams for each game would be selected prior to the game.

The teams had four players which permitted a change of player during the game if deemed necessary by the coach, the captain, or an individual player. The function of fourth player is not well understood and created some concern. Some work is needed for players in Australia to understand the function and operation of teamwork involving a four player team.

The Asian teams, particularly Thailand, have the tactical use of four players well developed. The players in those teams understood and accepted the importance of the fourth player and that it is possible that the fourth player may not play. Our mens team demonstrated a mature approach to the fourth player involvement.

Tour Administration

Communication

Communication to the team prior to the competition was good in terms of understanding competition process, structure and schedule. The Director of Sport sought and provided details about registration, travel and available support in the area.

The team members stayed together throughout the competitions ensuring effective communication. They regularly communicated with each other through a SMS or telephone contact. Team members demonstrated strong team cohesion through their standard of team support. When not playing, they were at the court side supporting the other players. The Green & Gold presence was obvious.

Most information about the competition was acquired at the pre-competition briefing and draw on the night of the Thursday the 15th December. The organising committee provided an excellent overview of the competition process. A score book for each category; men's, women's and junior's, was provided for each Team Manager.

Team Uniforms

Team uniforms were arranged by PFA Board members. Individual sizes for shirts were submitted for team members and PFA Board arranged for the procurement of the required number of shirts. The supply of shirts was received by Libby Sowter.

When the shirts were sorted for distribution, it was discovered that the shirts were different to previous designs and their were insufficient of the sizes ordered. Libby Sowter arranged for the production and delivery of sufficient shirts of the same standard pattern for the team. On receipt of this order, she then distributed the shirts by post or courier to ensure all players had their shirts prior to departure from Australia.

There was some confusion about dress standards for men in relation to pants. The matter was resolved on the day of travel for most players. Robin Anderson could not be contacted as he had already departed for Thailand. Fortunately, Robin had packed a pair of beige trousers. The team looked similar with everyone wearing beige or bone or light brown trousers/pants. There are opportunities to reduce the anxieties that come with uncertainty about supply of uniforms and other administrative details.

The team received 'sponsored' green and gold shoulder sling bags and the new yellow caps from Whole Business Pty Ltd. These gifts were well received by the players. They enhanced the presentation of the team and were particularly useful to the players. The caps were very much sought after by players, officials and supporters alike. Some sought to exchange on the first day. The green PFA caps supplied to Libby Sowter were not attractive to other players and offers to give them away were rejected.

Travel

All team members were responsible for their own travel to the host country. The organising committee was to provide the transfers from the airport to the hotels and the hotels to the competition. The team members arranged their own travel through a variety of agencies and to suit their needs. Most team members were in Bangkok by Monday evening the 12th December. The latest arrival was on Thursday the 15th December.

There may be opportunities to negotiate package or group rates for future team travel that could encourage additional supporters to travel with the team.

Travel to and from the playing grounds was arranged by the organising committee. Coaches were provided and the schedule well communicated. Transfers to the airport for departure were organised and were very efficient.

Accommodation

The host country was responsible for providing accommodation and meals for the team. The team was accommodated at The Palazzo Hotel. The accommodation was of a good standard.

All players who travelled earlier to Bangkok either booked their own accommodation at their own expense or booked this additional accommodation through the Registration process. The cost of the additional nights and for accompanying persons was paid at the time of the competition. The exchange rate became an issue. All expenses charged by the Organising Committee and the APSBC are expressed in US Dollars. The conversion to AUD the TBHT led to some additional expense for the Delegate.

It is suggested that all payments that are to be made by PFA are completed prior to leaving Australia. If the Delegate or Head Coach is required to make any payment, that payment should be provided to that person in the appropriate currency prior to departure.

Gifts

There is a tradition within the Pétanque community and the Asian Petanque Championships that teams and their players exchange gifts during or after the competition. PFA Board did not provide any gifts for this purpose. Libby Sowter purchased at her expense gifts for the APSBC and the Thai Federation.

Libby Sowter had arranged gifts for players to exchange. These were old Australian pennies. These could be used as tossing coins. She cleaned, polished and prepared these coins for each player. Each player was supplied with 10 pennies.

It was apparent that the players from other teams were most appreciative of gifts that individual team members had sourced themselves. Typically the desired items were: pins, caps (not PFA caps), Australian team shirts, koala or kangaroo furry animals.

There would be benefits to planning the approach to gift giving and to communicating the 'tradition' to team members prior to leaving Australia. Given sufficient time, players could easily acquire their own supplies in advance. Pétanque Federation Australia could review its approach and the type of gifts to enable team members to more confidently represent their country.

Possible alternative could include: tossing coins that have the PFA logo on one side and a kangaroo on the other. With sufficient numbers, each player could give the 'coin' to the opposition after the toss. Throughout the competition, it is likely that each team member could receive this as a gift. There is an opportunity to review the PFA cap to make it more appealing as a touring cap.

The Competition

Format & Structure

The EGAT - 15th ASIAN Petanque Championship was held from the 15th – 19th December 2011, Pitchayanan Petanque Club, Nonthaburi, Thailand. The event included the Asian Petanque & Sports Boule Confederation Conference. The competition was arranged with events in Men's, Women's and Juniors.

Programme

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITIES	VENUE
15 th December 2011	All day	Arrival of the Participants	Palazzo Hotel
	14.00 – 17.00	APSBC Annual Meeting	The Emerald Hotel
	17.00 – 18.00	Manager Meeting	The Emerald Hotel
	18.30 – 21.00	Welcome Dinner	The Emerald Hotel
16 th December 2011	06.00 – 07.00	Breakfast	Palazzo Hotel
	07.00 – 08.00	Leave hotel to Pitchayanan Petanque Club	Bus
	08.30	Opening Ceremony	
	09.30	Shooting Competition (Men, Women, Junior)	
	12.00 – 13.30	Lunch at the venue	
	13.30 – 17.00	Triple Competition	
	17.30	Dinner at the venue	
	18.30	Back to the hotel	
17 th December 2011	07.30 – 08.30	Leave hotel to Pitchayanan Petanque Club	
	09.00	Continue Triple Competition	
	12.00 – 13.30	Lunch at the venue	
	14.00	Nations Cup	
	15.00	Shooting – Semi Final	
	17.00	Shooting – Final	
	17.30	Continue the triple competition	
		Dinner at the venue	
	18.30	Back to the hotel	
18 th December 2011	07.30 – 08.30	Leave hotel to Pitchayanan Petanque Club	
	09.00	Nations Cup – Semi Final	
	10.00	Asian Cup – Semi Final	
	11.00	Nations Cup – Final	
	12.00 – 13.00	Lunch at the venue	
	13.00 - 15.00	Asian Cup – Final	
	15.00 – 15.30	Medals Ceremony	
	15.30	Back to the hotel	
	17.30	Leave hotel to EGAT Pier	
	19.00 - 23.00	EGAT Boat leave from Pier; Dinner will be served on the boat	
	23.00	Back to the hotel	
19 th December 2011	All day	All players leave Thailand	

Shooting Competition

The format of the shooting competition was the FIPJP standard for Shooting Competitions. The grounds were prepared using a bitumen square as a base and was covered with a layer of sand. Rubber strips were nailed to the ground to allow for consistent placement of the target boules and the jack. The target boules and jack were placed within a mat having a hole the specified diameter. This arrangement was supplied as a kit by Marathon, the company that sponsored the boules and the shooting kits.

Shooting Round 1

Laurent Fossaert represented Australia in the Mens Shooting. Kate Mangan represented Australia in the Women's Shooting. Laurent scored 18 and finished 8th in the 1st round. Kate scored 14 and finished finished 10th in the 1st round. The top four teams went through to the Quarter Finals.

Shooting Round 1 Results - Men's

NO.	COUNTRY	PLAYER'S NAME	SCORES
1	Vietnam	Huynh Cong Tam	41
2	Singapore	Cheng Zhi Ming	36
3	Thailand	Sanya Phanphueak	36
4	Cambodia	Yim Sophorn	33
5	Malaysia	Shful Bahri	30
6	Laos	Phone Xay	21
7	Lebanon	Mickael Arcolao	21
8	Australia	Laurent Fossaert	18
9	China	Chen Jian	16
10	Japan	Hiroshi Katata	15
11	Chinese Taipei	Tsai Chih Peng	14
12	India	Nikhil Singatkar	6
13	Brunei	Xamdol Kalee	5

Shooting Round 1 Results - Women's

NO.	COUNTRY	PLAYER'S NAME	SCORES
1	Thailand	Phantipha Wongchuej	41
2	Vietnam	Tranthi Phuong Em	34
3	Laos	Manyvanh	30
4	Chinese Taipei	Wang Po Ching	29
5	Indonesia	Elza Yuhi Puspita	27
6	Japan	Akemi Kinoshita	26
7	Cambodia	Ke Leng	25

NO.	COUNTRY	PLAYER'S NAME	SCORES
8	Singapore	Vicki Heo B H	17
9	Malaysia	Anis Amira Basri	17
10	Australia	Kate Mangan	14
11	China	Song Su Zhen	13
12	India	Layyatee	7
13	Brunei	Sehanee	6

Shooting Round 2

In the 2nd Round, Laurent scored 23 and made it through to the Quarter Finals. Kate scored 9 and missed the cut for the Quarter Finals. The Top four from Round Two went through to the Quarter Finals.

Shooting Round 2 Results - Men's

NO.	COUNTRY	PLAYER'S NAME	SCORES
1	Vietnam	Huynh Cong Tam	41
2	Singapore	Cheng Zhi Ming	36
3	Thailand	Sanya Phanphueak	36
4	Cambodia	Yim Sophorn	33
5	Chinese Taipei	Tsai Chih Peng	33
6	Lebanon	Mickael Arcolao	31
7	Malaysia	Shful Bahri	27
8	Australia	Laurent Fossaert	23
9	Japan	Hiroshi Katata	16
10	Laos	Phone Xay	13
11	India	Nikhil Singatkar	12
12	China	Chen Jian	7
13	Brunei	Xamdol Kalee	5

Shooting Round 2 Results - Women's

NO.	COUNTRY	PLAYER'S NAME	SCORES
1	Thailand	Phantipha Wongchuvej	41
2	Vietnam	Tran Thi Phuong Em	34
3	Laos	Manyvanh	30
4	Chinese Taipei	Wang Po Ching	29
5	Cambodia	Ke Leng	48

NO.	COUNTRY	PLAYER'S NAME	SCORES
6	Singapore	Vicki Heo B H	25
7	Japan	Akemi Kinoshita	24
8	Malaysia	Anis Amira Basri	21
9	Indonesia	Elza Yuhi Puspita	17
10	Australia	Kate Mangan	9
11	China	Song Su Zhen	4
12	India	Layyatee	3
13	Brunei	Sehanee	3

Shooting Quarter Finals

The Quarter Finals was played as an Elimination Final. Countries were drawn against another in pairs. Australia was drawn against Vietnam. (1st vs. 8th) Vietnam scored 47; Australia scored 11. Australia was eliminated at the Quarter Finals.

Shooting Quarter Finals Results - Men's

NO.	COUNTRY	PLAYER'S NAME	SCORES
1	Vietnam	Huynh Cong Tam	47
8	Australia	Laurent Fossaert	11
2	Singapore	Cheng Zhi Ming	28
7	Malaysia	Shful Bahri	24
3	Thailand	Sanya Phanphueak	44
6	Lebanon	Mickael Arcolao	34
4	Cambodia	Yim Sophorn	19
5	Chinese Taipei	Tsai Chih Peng	24

Overall Shooting Competition Results - Men's

NO.	COUNTRY	PLAYER'S NAME
1st	Vietnam	Huynh Cong Tam
2nd	Singapore	Cheng Zhi Ming
3rd	Thailand	Sanya Phanphueak
3rd	Chinese Taipei	Tsai Chih Peng

Overall Shooting Competition Results - Women's

NO.	COUNTRY	PLAYER'S NAME
1st	Cambodia	Ke Leng
2nd	Laos	Manyvanh
3rd	Thailand	Sanya Phanphueak
3rd	Vietnam	Tran Thi Phuong Em

Triples Competition

The triples competition was played in groups or poules. Teams were drawn into Groups at the conclusion of the APSBC Congress. In the Men's Australia was drawn in Group C with Laos and Malaysia. In the Women's Australia was drawn in Group B with Singapore, Thailand 1 and India. Both Australian teams made it to the Top Eight and the Second Round.

Round 1 Results - Men's Triples

Group A

NO.	COUNTRY	GAME 1	GAME 2	GAME 3
1	Brunei	7	7	
2	Singapore	13	4	13
3	Lebanon	9	13	0
4	Vietnam	13	13	

Vietnam & Singapore progress to Round 2 as part of the Top Eight teams.

Group B

NO.	COUNTRY	GAME 1	GAME 2	GAME 3
5	India	0	7	
6	Thailand 2	13	13	
7	Chinese Taipei	13	9	13
8	China	1	13	10

Thailand 2 & Chinese Taipei progress to Round 2 as part of the Top Eight teams.

Group C

NO.	COUNTRY	GAME 1	GAME 2	GAME 3
9	Laos	13	12	11
10	Australia	3	13	13
11	Malaysia	13	13	
12	X	0	0	

Malaysia & Australia progress to Round 2 as part of the Top Eight teams.

Group D

NO.	COUNTRY	GAME 1	GAME 2	GAME 3
13	Japan	9	13	3
14	Cambodia	13	13	
15	Thailand 1	13	10	13
16	X	0	0	

Cambodia & Thailand 1 progress to Round 2 as part of the Top Eight teams.

Round 1 Results - Women's Triples

Group A

NO.	COUNTRY	GAME 1	GAME 2	GAME 3
1	Chinese Taipei	13	5	13
2	Indonesia	7	13	7
3	Laos	13	13	
4	Brunei	7	7	

Laos & Chinese Taipei progress to Round 2 as part of the Top Eight teams.

Group B

NO.	COUNTRY	GAME 1	GAME 2	GAME 3
5	Australia	0	13	13
6	Singapore	13	4	10
7	Thailand 1	13	13	
8	India	7	7	

Thailand 1 & Australia progress to Round 2 as part of the Top Eight teams.

Group C

NO.	COUNTRY	GAME 1	GAME 2	GAME 3
9	Vietnam	13	13	
10	Malaysia	11	13	13
11	China	13	0	4
12	X	0	0	

Vietnam & Malaysia progress to Round 2 as part of the Top Eight teams.

Group D

NO.	COUNTRY	GAME 1	GAME 2	GAME 3
13	Japan	8	13	4

NO.	COUNTRY	GAME 1	GAME 2	GAME 3
14	Cambodia	13	3	13
15	Thailand 2	13	13	
16	X	0	0	

Thailand 2 & Cambodia progress to Round 2 as part of the Top Eight teams.

Round 2 Results - Men's Triples

Group E

NO.	COUNTRY	GAME 1	GAME 2	GAME 3
1A	Vietnam	13	4	13
2B	Chinese Taipei	10	8	
1C	Malaysia	0	13	6
2D	Thailand 1	13	13	

Thailand 1 & Vietnam progress to the Semi Finals as part of the Top Four teams.

Group F

NO.	COUNTRY	GAME 1	GAME 2	GAME 3
2A	Singapore	7	13	5
1B	Thailand 2	13	9	13
2C	Australia	4	9	
1D	Cambodia	13	13	

Cambodia & Thailand 2 progress to the Semi Finals as part of the Top Four teams.

Round 2 Results - Women's Triples

Group E

NO.	COUNTRY	GAME 1	GAME 2	GAME 3
1A	Laos	13	0	10
2B	Australia	4	4	
1C	Vietnam	13	13	
2D	Cambodia	3	13	13

Vietnam & Cambodia progress to the Semi Finals as part of the Top Four teams.

Group F

NO.	COUNTRY	GAME 1	GAME 2	GAME 3
2A	Chinese Taipei	4	3	
1B	Thailand 1	13	13	

NO.	COUNTRY	GAME 1	GAME 2	GAME 3
2C	Malaysia	5	13	4
1D	Thailand 2	13	11	13

Thailand 1 & Thailand 2 progress to the Semi Finals as part of the Top Four teams.

Overall Triples Competition Results - Men's

NO.	COUNTRY
1st	Cambodia
2nd	Thailand 1
3rd	Thailand 2
3rd	Vietnam

Overall Triples Competition Results - Women's

NO.	COUNTRY
1st	Thailand 1
2nd	Vietnam
3rd	Cambodia
3rd	Thailand 2

Nation's Cup

A Nation's Cup Competition was conducted for those teams that did not reach the Semi Finals of the Asian Championships Triples event. Individual events were held for Men, Women and Juniors. The Australian Men's Team was eliminated by Chinese Taipei in the first round. The Australian Women's Team made it through to the Final where they were defeated by Laos. The final result seeing the Australian Women's Team as First Runners-up.



Nations Cup Results - Men's

	NO	ROUND 1	SEMI FINAL	FINAL	WINNER
Lebanon	13	1 Lebanon	11		
Japan	1		Malaysia	13	
		2 Malaysia			
		3 Singapore		Malaysia	13
		4 Laos	Singapore	7	
		5 Chinese Taipei			Malaysia
		6 Australia	Chinese Taipei	13	
		7 India		Chinese Taipei	5
		8 China	China	12	

Nations Cup Results - Women's

	ROUND 1	SEMI FINAL	FINAL	WINNER
1	Japan	5		
		Malaysia	9	
2	Malaysia	13		
			Australia	3
3	X			
		Australia	13	
4	Australia	13		Laos
5	Laos	13		
		Laos	13	
6	Singapore	2		
			Laos	13
7	China	10		
		Chinese Taipei	9	
8	Chinese Taipei	13		

Player Support

One factor that provides players with peace of mind and allows personal focus on the game at hand is the level of support they receive before, during and after each game. Individual players in this squad were very supportive of each other. Various players, as would be expected at this level of competition went through the usual emotional and physical 'highs and lows'. Team members provided personal support for each other to become quite a homogenous group.

Of particular note was the continual support provided by Peter Mangan. With Men's and Women's games being contested at the same time, I was unable to view and support the whole team. Peter spent the entire time watching and supporting team members as they contested some very intense games. He also performed the role of Team Manager for the players and myself. Peter, as a support person, was an integral part of this successful touring squad. Thanks Peter.

The role of the fourth player in each team was not so well understood by all. There was some frustration, as would be expected from enthusiastic and committed players, when viewing the game from the sideline. What must be acknowledged is the efforts made by Guy as a team member. Guy consistently encouraged and supported the players in the men's team as well as the women's team. Guy provided coaching support for Kate prior to the Shooting Competition and the women prior to the Nations Cup. Eric was the alternate coach for the women's team during the Nations Cup. His support is acknowledged.

General Competition Observations

The following observations about players and the competition were made:

- This competition was the highest standard that I have attended. The fact that all Thailand teams have been or still are World Champions is testament to the standard of competition.
- The competition involved a number of events that are normally contested in Australia and in the World Championships.
- The team accepted the challenge and pulled together to support each other to deliver a very strong result.
- The other countries competing in the competition were very experienced and very capable players. Cambodia defeated the Thailand 1 men's team in the final.
- The Australian players defeated some very capable teams. Men defeated Laos. Women defeated Singapore in the poules. They defeated Malaysia in the Nations Cup.
- Team members who had completed their games consistently supported those who were still playing.
- As in all groups, there are individuals who hold strong opinions and/or have strong personalities. There is a need for some focus on developing greater teamwork and in developing individual self-management to ensure greater cohesion within playing teams.
- There needs to be some communication and education around the use of four players in a team. Countries like Thailand, Japan and Singapore use this fourth team member very tactfully.
- Both team captains, Eric and Kate, led the teams with outstanding skills.

- Guy Detot must be acknowledged for his consistent support and encouragement of all players throughout the competition. He would be my choice of Team Player of the Championships.
- Eric Leconte performed to a high standard in his play, his leadership as team captain, his teamwork, and his coaching support for the women's team. Eric would be my choice of Most Valuable Player of the Championships.

Asian Petanque & Sports Boule Confederation Annual Meeting

The APSBC Annual Meeting is an integral part of the Asian Petanque Championships. The Annual Meeting was held at the Emerald Hotel on the afternoon of the 15th December. I attended as the appointed delegate for Petanque Federation Australia. Unfortunately a problem with the Indian Teams's lunch delayed the bus from the Playing Grounds to the hotel. We arrived 30 minutes late.

This in itself was embarrassing as a National delegate. To join the meeting as the Financial Statement was being delivered created further embarrassment when asked to discuss the lack of payment by of membership fees by Australia. As a delegate, not a member of the Board, I felt that it was not my place to make excuses for the board, so appeared somewhat more embarrassed when trying to avoid the questions. My response was that I believed that arrangements had been made between the PFA and the APSBC Treasurer and that I would make a payment after the meeting.

During the meeting, the President encouraged all members, PFA is an Associate Member, to continue to promote the sport and acknowledged the work that Vietnam had done to prepare for the Asian Petanque Championships in 2012.

Competition Relevance

The 15th Asian Petanque Championships is one of the highest standards of petanque competition in the world. It also brings together most of our regional neighbours. Whilst Australia cannot progress to the World Championships through this competition, we have the opportunity to develop a high standard of skills and experience by competing in this event.

This competition provides Australia and its petanque playing community the opportunity to challenge at the highest level. There are many countries who attend and compete in this Championship that do not compete at the World Championships. These teams are very strong. Australia has demonstrated through the 15th Asian Petanque Championships that it has the potential to develop its standards to become even more competitive.

We have achieved a strong result: 2nd in the Women's Nations Cup; Top eight in Mens and Womens; Top eight in Men's Shooting.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are made as a result of the observations made before, during and after the 15th Asian Petanque Championships:

- The PFA Board should develop a set of guidelines and support information for Representative Teams and players. These guidelines should provide information and advice on preparing for and attending international competitions.
- The PFA Board should ensure that all relevant information about international competitions is sourced and communicated to representative players and coaches well before they attend competitions.
- The PFA Board should appoint a tour 'manager' or 'coordinator'; or empower the appointed Coach, to coordinate all preparation for the 'tour' including travel, accommodation, registration, uniforms and gifts.
- The PFA Board should develop a different strategy to the development of player skills and expertise. Competitions and coaching strategies must support the development of relevant skills.
- The PFA Board should continue to develop its selection process to ensure that people are selected on the basis of merit. This will include playing skills, current competition performance, commitment to teamwork and self management.
- The PFA Board should review the process, quality and quantity of gift-giving for representative players. The gifts should complement the relationship development between Australian players and their opposition.
- The PFA Board should ensure that all financial commitments are honoured and are completed prior to departure of the Representative Team. All payments need to be made in the currency of the Organising body.