

2012 Trans Tasman Challenge Competition Report



PETANQUE FEDERATION
AUSTRALIA

2012 TRANS TASMAN CHALLENGE

Pétanque Federation Australia Representative Team Report



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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 2012 Trans Tasman Challenge held at the Wanganui East Club, Wanganui New Zealand from the 14th of April to the 15th of April 2012. It contains the personal observations of the Head Coach, Warren Sowter.

The 2012 Representative Team is amongst the least experienced teams involved in the Trans Tasman Challenge since it started in 2003. The team assembled in Wanganui 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: an Open Team of 6 male players and 6 female players; and an Over 60's Team of 6 male players and 6 female players. These players were accompanied by a Head Coach, a Delegate of the Pétanque Federation Australia Board and a Team Manager.

The team was as follows:

TEAM MEMBER	ROLE	GENDER	HOME STATE
Warren Sowter	Head Coach	Male	Lake Macquarie Club, NSW
Mike Mulvihill	Team Manager	Male	Prospect Club, SA
OPEN TEAM			
Robin Anderson	Team Captain	Male	Bayswater Club, WA
Francois Hitie	Player	Male	France Club, NSW
Grant Threadgate	Player	Male	Newcastle Club, NSW
Clifford Edouard	Player	Male	Melbourne Club, VIC
Guy Bahler	Player	Male	St Kilda Club, VIC
Guy Detot	Player	Male	Coonawarra Club, SA
Kate Mangan	Team Captain	Female	Melbourne Club, VIC
Libby Sowter	Player	Female	Lake Macquarie Club, NSW
Kim Threadgate	Player	Female	Newcastle Club, NSW
Danielle Marchand	Player	Female	AMA Club, NSW
Doreen Boudan	Player	Female	Floreal Club, NSW
Delys Brady	Player	Female	Newcastle Club, NSW

TEAM MEMBER	ROLE	GENDER	HOME STATE
OVER 60'S TEAM			
Dave Ward	Team Captain	Male	Prospect Club, SA
Allan Sanderson	Player	Male	Prospect Club, SA
Antonio Stojsic	Player	Male	Adelaide Club, SA
Adrian Clements	Player	Male	Adelaide Club, SA
Terry Dando	Player	Male	Hobart Club, TAS
Jean Paul Boudan	Player	Male	Floreal Club, NSW
Helen Bayet	Team Captain	Female	Rockingham Club, WA
Fayhe Hide	Player	Female	Rockingham Club, WA
Joyce Anderson	Player	Female	Bayswater Club, WA
Valmai Nicoll	Player	Female	Prospect Club, SA
Robyn Ryan	Player	Female	Newcastle Club, NSW
Irene Callaghan	Player	Female	Newcastle Club, NSW

Selection Process

The 2012 Trans Tasman Challenge 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 New Zealand.

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, eight 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 months. This process delayed the training program and impacted on the cost of travel for some team members. Airfares had risen by \$200 in the time it took to finalise the team.

The Head Coach was appointed team selector for the competition. The individual teams for the scheduled games was agreed between the Head Coach and the Team Captains.

Individual Teams

PFA was expected to nominate specific team composition prior to the competition. Teams were nominated to the organisers prior to start of play each day.

The individual teams for each day's play were selected by the coach in consultation with the team captains. The teams were selected giving consideration to playing skills, team harmony and self management.

The team combinations were:

- Day 1
 - Gender Triples were played in Round 1 and 2;
 - Gender Doubles were played in Rounds 3, 4 and 5;
- Day 2
 - Gender Triples were played in Rounds 6 and 7;
 - Mixed Doubles were played in Rounds 8, 9 and 10.

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 competition structure, registration, and available local support.

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. .

Most information about the competition was acquired at the pre-competition briefing prior to start of play on Saturday 14th April. The organiser, Richard Turfrey, provided an excellent overview of the competition process.

Team Uniforms

Team shirts and caps were arranged by the Director of Coaching Administration. Individual sizes for shirts were submitted by team members as part of their Acceptance and Personal Profile.

A track suit was identified and ordered for each team member. These were provided at the players expense. The track suit jackets were supplied on time. The supply of pants was limited.

Travel

All team members were responsible for their own travel to Wellington or to Wanganui. The organising committee arranged transfers from Wellington to Wanganui for six players. Other team members arranged their own travel via hire cars to suit their needs. Most team members were in Wanganui by Thursday evening the 12th April. The latest arrival was on Friday the 13th December at about 3pm.

Travel to and from the playing grounds was initially arranged by the organising committee. The players had sufficient hire cars between them to enable the team to travel together to and from the grounds. Travel to and from the Wanganui East Club was arranged with the club and involved their courtesy bus. Transfers to Wellington for airport departure was arranged by Richard Turfrey through a hire of the Wanganui East Club Courtesy Bus. The cost for the round trip from Wellington to Wanganui and return cost \$NZ60 per person.

Accommodation

The team players were responsible for arranging their own accommodation. Most of the team was accommodated at Anndion. The players had managed to get good rates through an internet booking site, LastMinute.com. The accommodation was of a very good standard.

Four players were accommodated in different premises. One had booked into a caravan park and stayed in their hired Backpacker mobile home. Two players stayed in a backpacker hostel. Another stayed with family in the Wanganui town.

Gifts

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 2 pennies.

The PFA Board delegate sourced and presented gifts to the organisers on behalf of PFA.

The Competition

Format & Structure

The 2012 Trans Tasman Challenge was held from the 14th – 15th April 2012, Wanganui Petanque Club, Wanganui, New Zealand. The competition was arranged with events in Open and Over 60 Divisions.

Programme

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITIES	VENUE
13 th April 2012	All day	Arrival of the Participants	Anndion Lodge

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITIES	VENUE
	9:30	Team Captain's Meeting	Anndion Lodge
	10:00	Distribution of Track Suits	Anndion Lodge
	10:30	Team Meeting	Anndion Lodge
	11:30-2:30	Team Practise	Wanganui PC
	18:00	Dinner at Wanganui East Club	Wanganui East
14th April 2012	08:30	Registration & Team Submission	Wanganui PC
	08:45	Official Opening	Wanganui PC
	09:00	Round 1: Gender Triples	Wanganui PC
	11:00	Round 2: Gender Triples	Wanganui PC
	13:00	Round 3: Gender Doubles	Wanganui PC
	14:40	Round 4: Gender Doubles	Wanganui PC
	16:00	Round 5: Gender Doubles	Wanganui PC
	18:30	Dinner at Wanganui East Club	Wanganui PC
15th April 2012	09:00	Round 6: Gender Triples	Wanganui PC
	11:00	Round 7: Gender Triples	Wanganui PC
	13:00	Round 8: Mixed Doubles	Wanganui PC
	13:00	Round 9: Mixed Doubles	Wanganui PC
	13:00	Round 10: Mixed Doubles	Wanganui PC
	18:30	Presentation	Wanganui East
	19:00	Dinner at Wanganui East Club	Wanganui East

The Results - Open

Day 1: 14th April 2012

Round 1 Results - Open Gender Triples

AUSTRALIA	AUST	NZ	NEW ZEALAND
Guy Detot/Clifford Edouard/Francois Hitie	9	11	Allan Fletcher/Andre Noel/Georgio Vakauta
Robin Anderson/Guy Bahler/Grant Threadgate	13	4	David Lippard/Michael Rocks/Richard Swaney
Doreen Boudan/Delys Brady/Danielle Marchand	8	10	Sharon Cannon/Pam Jenkins/Joanne Lippard
Kate Mangan/Libby Sowter/Kim Threadgate	1	13	Barbara Johnston/Christine Strichen/Claire Wilson
Game Score	3	9	Guy Detot/Clifford Edouard/Francois Hitie

Round 2 Results - Open Gender Triples

AUSTRALIA	AUST	NZ	NEW ZEALAND
Guy Detot/Clifford Edouard/Francois Hitie	7	13	David Lippard/Michael Rocks/Richard Swaney
Robin Anderson/Guy Bahler/Grant Threadgate	1	13	Allan Fletcher/Andre Noel/Georgio Vakauta
Doreen Boudan/Delys Brady/Danielle Marchand	4	13	Barbara Johnston/Christine Strichen/Claire Wilson

AUSTRALIA	AUST	NZ	NEW ZEALAND
Kate Mangan/Libby Sowter/Kim Threadgate	12	11	Sharon Cannon/Pam Jenkins/Joanne Lippard
Game Score	3	9	
Progressive Game Score	6	18	Guy Detot/Clifford Edouard/Francois Hitié

Round 3 Results - Open Gender Doubles

AUSTRALIA	AUST	NZ	NEW ZEALAND
Robin Anderson/Guy Bahler	1	13	Richard Swaney/Georgio Vakauta
Clifford Edouard/Francois Hitié	13	6	David Lippard/Michael Rocks
Grant Threadgate/Guy Detot	1	13	Allan Fletcher/Andre Noel
Delys Brady/Kim Threadgate	6	13	Pam Jenkins/Joanne Lippard
Doreen Boudan/Danielle Marchand	7	13	Christine Strichen/Claire Wilson
Kate Mangan/Libby Sowter	5	13	Barbara Johnston/Sharon Cannon
Game Score	2	10	
Progressive Game Score	8	28	

Round 4 Results - Open Gender Doubles

AUSTRALIA	AUST	NZ	NEW ZEALAND
Grant Threadgate/Guy Detot	5	13	Richard Swaney/Georgio Vakauta
Clifford Edouard/Francois Hitié	13	1	Allan Fletcher/Andre Noel
Robin Anderson/Guy Bahler	0	13	David Lippard/Michael Rocks
Delys Brady/Kim Threadgate	5	13	Christine Strichen/Claire Wilson
Doreen Boudan/Danielle Marchand	3	13	Barbara Johnston/Sharon Cannon
Kate Mangan/Libby Sowter	12	9	Pam Jenkins/Joanne Lippard
Game Score	4	8	
Progressive Game Score	12	36	

Round 5 Results - Open Gender Doubles

AUSTRALIA	AUST	NZ	NEW ZEALAND
Grant Threadgate/Guy Detot	13	1	David Lippard/Michael Rocks
Clifford Edouard/Francois Hitié	4	13	Richard Swaney/Georgio Vakauta
Robin Anderson/Guy Bahler	3	13	Allan Fletcher/Andre Noel
Kate Mangan/Libby Sowter	13	2	Christine Strichen/Claire Wilson
Delys Brady/Kim Threadgate	9	10	Barbara Johnston/Sharon Cannon
Doreen Boudan/Danielle Marchand	7	13	Pam Jenkins/Joanne Lippard
Game Score	4	8	
Progressive Game Score	16	44	

Day 2: 15th April 2012**Round 6 Results - Open Gender Triples**

AUSTRALIA	AUST	NZ	NEW ZEALAND
Guy Detot/Guy Bahler/Grant Threadgate	1	13	Allan Fletcher / Andre Noel / Georgio Vakauta
Clifford Edouard / Francois Hitie / Robin Anderson	9	7	David Lippard / Michael Rocks / Richard Swaney
Doreen Boudan / Delys Brady / Danielle Marchand	1	13	Sharon Cannon / Pam Jenkins / Joanne Lippard
Kate Mangan / Libby Sowter / Kim Threadgate	13	3	Barbara Johnston / Christine Strichen / Claire Wilson
Game Score	6	6	
Progressive Game Score	22	50	

Round 7 Results - Open Gender Triples

AUSTRALIA	AUST	NZ	NEW ZEALAND
Guy Detot/Guy Bahler/Grant Threadgate	11	6	David Lippard / Michael Rocks / Richard Swaney
Clifford Edouard / Francois Hitie / Robin Anderson	12	13	Allan Fletcher / Andre Noel / Georgio Vakauta
Doreen Boudan / Delys Brady / Danielle Marchand	5	13	Barbara Johnston / Christine Strichen / Claire Wilson
Kate Mangan / Libby Sowter / Kim Threadgate	9	10	Sharon Cannon / Pam Jenkins / Joanne Lippard
Game Score	3	9	
Progressive Game Score	25	59	

Round 8 Results - Open Mixed Doubles

AUSTRALIA	AUST	NZ	NEW ZEALAND
Robin Anderson / Kim Threadgate	1	13	Barbara Johnston / Georgio Vakauta
Libby Sowter / Francois Hitie	13	10	Christine Strichen / Michael Rocks
Doreen Boudan / Guy Detot	13	12	Allan Fletcher / Sharon Cannon
Delys Brady / Grant Threadgate	8	13	Andre Noel / Joanne Lippard
Clifford Edouard / Danielle Marchand	6	8	Richard Swaney / Pam Jenkins
Kate Mangan / Guy Bahler	5	11	David Lippard / Claire Wilson
Game Score	4	8	
Progressive Game Score	29	67	

Round 9 Results - Open Mixed Doubles

AUSTRALIA	AUST	NZ	NEW ZEALAND
Robin Anderson / Kim Threadgate	11	10	Andre Noel / Joanne Lippard
Libby Sowter / Francois Hitie	13	3	Allan Fletcher / Sharon Cannon
Doreen Boudan / Guy Detot	4	13	Barbara Johnston / Georgio Vakauta
Delys Brady / Grant Threadgate	5	13	Richard Swaney / Pam Jenkins
Clifford Edouard / Danielle Marchand	4	13	David Lippard / Claire Wilson
Kate Mangan / Guy Bahler	7	13	Christine Strichen / Michael Rocks

AUSTRALIA	AUST	NZ	NEW ZEALAND
Game Score	4	8	
Progressive Game Score	33	75	

Round 10 Results - Open Mixed Doubles

AUSTRALIA	AUST	NZ	NEW ZEALAND
Robin Anderson/Kim Threadgate	7	12	Richard Swaney/Pam Jenkins
Libby Sowter/Francois Hitie	5	13	Barbara Johnston/Georgio Vakauta
Doreen Boudan/Guy Detot	3	13	Andre Noel/Joanne Lippard
Delys Brady/Grant Threadgate	13	12	David Lippard/Claire Wilson
Clifford Edouard/Danielle Marchand	7	13	Christine Strichen/Michael Rocks
Kate Mangan/Guy Bahler	3	13	Allan Fletcher/Sharon Cannon
Game Score	2	10	
Progressive Game Score	35	85	

The Results - Over 60

Day 1: 14th April 2012

Round 1 Results - Over 60 Gender Triples

AUSTRALIA	AUST	NZ	NEW ZEALAND
Jean-Paul Boudan/Adrian Clements/Tony Stojsic	0	13	Charles Brock/Neville Frost/Graeme Morris
Terry Dando/Allan Sanderson/David Ward	1	13	Clive Bartleet/Bob Bridge/Ralph Priddle
Irene Callaghan/Valmai Nicoll/Robyn Ryan	1	13	Marilyn Bunce/Janet Goodin/Shirley Selwyn
Joyce Anderson/Helen Bayet/Fayhe Hide	12	8	Shirley MacDonald/Margaret Maher/Ann Shields
Game Score	3	9	

Round 2 Results - Over 60 Gender Triples

AUSTRALIA	AUST	NZ	NEW ZEALAND
Jean-Paul Boudan/Adrian Clements/Tony Stojsic	8	9	Clive Bartleet/Bob Bridge/Ralph Priddle
Terry Dando/Allan Sanderson/David Ward	11	12	Charles Brock/Neville Frost/Graeme Morris
Irene Callaghan/Valmai Nicoll/Robyn Ryan	13	6	Shirley MacDonald/Margaret Maher/Ann Shields
Joyce Anderson/Helen Bayet/Fayhe Hide	11	3	Marilyn Bunce/Janet Goodin/Shirley Selwyn
Game Score	6	6	
Progressive Game Score	9	15	

Round 3 Results - Over 60 Gender Doubles

AUSTRALIA	AUST	NZ	NEW ZEALAND
Jean-Paul Boudan/Terry Dando	11	7	Neville Frost/Graeme Morris
Adrian Clements/Tony Stojsic	7	11	Clive Bartleet/Charles Brock
Allan Sanderson/David Ward	5	13	Bob Bridge/Ralph Priddle
Helen Bayet/Fayhe Hide	9	6	Marilyn Bunce/Janet Goodin
Irene Callaghan/Robyn Ryan	3	13	Margaret Maher/Ann Shields
Joyce Anderson/Valmai Nicoll	10	12	Shirley Selwyn/Shirley MacDonald
Game Score	4	8	
Progressive Game Score	13	23	Shirley Selwyn/Shirley MacDonald

Round 4 Results - Over 60 Gender Doubles

AUSTRALIA	AUST	NZ	NEW ZEALAND
Jean-Paul Boudan/Terry Dando	10	9	Bob Bridge/Ralph Priddle
Allan Sanderson/David Ward	11	7	Clive Bartleet/Charles Brock
Adrian Clements/Tony Stojsic	3	13	Neville Frost/Graeme Morris
Helen Bayet/Fayhe Hide	3	13	Margaret Maher/Ann Shields
Irene Callaghan/Robyn Ryan	9	10	Shirley Selwyn/Shirley MacDonald
Joyce Anderson/Valmai Nicoll	3	13	Marilyn Bunce/Janet Goodin
Game Score	4	8	
Progressive Game Score	17	31	

Round 5 Results - Over 60 Gender Doubles

AUSTRALIA	AUST	NZ	NEW ZEALAND
Jean-Paul Boudan/Terry Dando	12	8	Clive Bartleet/Charles Brock
Allan Sanderson/David Ward	13	3	Neville Frost/Graeme Morris
Adrian Clements/Tony Stojsic	2	13	Bob Bridge/Ralph Priddle
Helen Bayet/Fayhe Hide	5	13	Shirley Selwyn/Shirley MacDonald
Irene Callaghan/Robyn Ryan	8	11	Marilyn Bunce/Janet Goodin
Joyce Anderson/Valmai Nicoll	10	8	Margaret Maher/Ann Shields
Game Score	6	6	
Progressive Game Score	23	37	

Day 2: 15th April 2012**Round 6 Results - Over 60 Gender Triples**

AUSTRALIA	AUST	NZ	NEW ZEALAND
Jean-Paul Boudan/Adrian Clements/Tony Stojsic	4	11	Charles Brock/Neville Frost/Graeme Morris
Terry Dando/Allan Sanderson/David Ward	11	13	Clive Bartleet/Bob Bridge/Ralph Priddle

AUSTRALIA	AUST	NZ	NEW ZEALAND
Irene Callaghan/Valmai Nicoll/Robyn Ryan	10	9	Marilyn Bunce/Janet Goodin/Shirley Selwyn
Joyce Anderson/Helen Bayet/Fayhe Hide	5	8	Shirley MacDonald/Margaret Maher/Ann Shields
Game Score	3	9	
Progressive Game Score	26	46	

Round 7 Results - Over 60 Gender Triples

AUSTRALIA	AUST	NZ	NEW ZEALAND
Jean-Paul Boudan/Adrian Clements/Tony Stojsic	7	13	Clive Bartleet/Bob Bridge/Ralph Priddle
Terry Dando/Allan Sanderson/David Ward	6	8	Charles Brock/Neville Frost/Graeme Morris
Irene Callaghan/Valmai Nicoll/Robyn Ryan	4	13	Shirley MacDonald/Margaret Maher/Ann Shields
Joyce Anderson/Helen Bayet/Fayhe Hide	5	4	Marilyn Bunce/Janet Goodin/Shirley Selwyn
Game Score	3	9	
Progressive Game Score	29	55	

Round 8 Results - Over 60 Mixed Doubles

AUSTRALIA	AUST	NZ	NEW ZEALAND
Jean-Paul Boudan/Helen Bayet	11	5	Bob Bridge/Margaret Maher
David Ward/Fayhe Hide	2	13	Marilyn Bunce/Ralph Priddle
Adrian Clements/Joyce Anderson	4	13	Clive Bartleet/Shirley MacDonald
Robyn Ryan/Tony Stojsic	1	13	Neville Frost/Shirley Selwyn
Terry Dando/Irene Callaghan	13	8	Charles Brock/Ann Shields
Valmai Nicoll/Allan Sanderson	13	11	Janet Goodin/Graeme Morris
Game Score	6	6	
Progressive Game Score	35	61	

Round 9 Results - Over 60 Mixed Doubles

AUSTRALIA	AUST	NZ	NEW ZEALAND
Jean-Paul Boudan/Helen Bayet	9	13	Clive Bartleet/Shirley MacDonald
David Ward/Fayhe Hide	13	6	Neville Frost/Shirley Selwyn
Adrian Clements/Joyce Anderson	5	10	Marilyn Bunce/Ralph Priddle
Robyn Ryan/Tony Stojsic	6	13	Janet Goodin/Graeme Morris
Terry Dando/Irene Callaghan	13	11	Bob Bridge/Margaret Maher
Valmai Nicoll/Allan Sanderson	8	13	Charles Brock/Ann Shields
Game Score	4	8	
Progressive Game Score	39	69	

Round 10 Results - Over 60 Mixed Doubles

AUSTRALIA	AUST	NZ	NEW ZEALAND
Jean-Paul Boudan/Helen Bayet	13	4	Marilyn Bunce/Ralph Priddle
David Ward/Fayhe Hide	9	10	Janet Goodin/Graeme Morris
Adrian Clements/Joyce Anderson	8	13	Neville Frost/Shirley Selwyn
Robyn Ryan/Tony Stojic	5	13	Charles Brock/Ann Shields
Terry Dando/Irene Callaghan	12	8	Clive Bartleet/Shirley MacDonald
Valmai Nicoll/Allan Sanderson	13	8	Bob Bridge/Margaret Maher
Game Score	6	6	
Progressive Game Score	45	75	

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 Mike Mulvihill. With Men's and Women's games, Open and Over 60's, being contested at the same time, I was unable to view and support the whole team. Mike spent the entire time watching and supporting team members, particularly the Over 60's, as they contested some very intense games. He also performed the role of Assistant Team Manager for the players and myself. Mike, as a support person, was an integral part of this touring squad.

The tactics required for timed games were not well understood by all players. There was some frustration experienced by a number of players when they observed or heard the active coaching of the Over 60's NZ coach. His coaching style was particularly intrusive and noisy. There were a number of Over 60's players who found his behaviour quite distracting.

It must be acknowledged that some financial support was provided in support of the players. A number of players received support from their clubs. NSW Petanque League provided financial support for the NSW players to offset their expenses. The Boules Artistes Club donated money to assist the team with expenses. We thank those who supported the players and the team in this competition.

General Competition Observations

The following observations about players and the competition were made:

- This competition was well organised and the grounds were of a high standard.
- The competition involved an event that is normally only contested in the Trans Tasman Challenge - mixed doubles.
- The team accepted the challenge and pulled together to support each other to deliver a very solid result.
- The New Zealand team was very experienced and included some very capable players. The team had been through a thorough selection and development process. They displayed a high level of focus, commitment and cohesion.

- The Australian players defeated some of their very capable players.
- Team members who had completed their games consistently took the time to watch and support 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 are a number of players that would benefit from some individual coaching to develop their concentration, focus and commitment to the games at hand. We will include this in team development.
- There needs to be some communication and education around the tactics and strategies for playing timed games.
- All team captains, Robin Anderson, Kate Mangan, Helen Bayet and Dave Ward, led their teams with outstanding skills.
- Mike Mulvihill must be acknowledged for his consistent support and encouragement of all players throughout the competition.
- Francois Hitie displayed strong team skills and regularly supported and encouraged others with his experience and playing skills.
- Clifford Edouard performed to a high standard in his play, his teamwork, and his coaching support for his team mates. Clifford would be my choice of Most Valuable Player of the Challenge.

Competition Relevance

The 2012 Trans Tasman Challenge was an opportunity for our Australian team to pit its skills and abilities against a strong team. As a relatively new group of players, the team performed well. Obviously the final score reflects the difference between the two teams at this stage.

In reviewing the individual scores, six games in each group were lost by only 1 or 2 points. These could have gone either way. Additionally, there were a number of games that started strongly for the Australian team but resulted in an eventual loss. The observations provided by the players, reinforce and acknowledge the need for more training to raise the standard of accuracy and consistency of skills.

This competition is an integral part of our player development and our sport in the region. There are many opportunities for our players to develop their competition experience in this event.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are made as a result of the observations made before, during and after the 2012 Trans Tasman Challenge:

- The PFA Board should develop a set of guidelines and support information for Representative Teams and players to improve communication and preparation for the competition. These guidelines should provide information and advice on preparing for and attending the international competition.

- The PFA Board should ensure that all relevant information about the Trans Tasman Challenge, such as format, accommodation, travel etc., 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 continue to support the current coaching strategy for the development of player skills and expertise.
- The PFA Board should develop a competition calendar of national and state competitions that support the development of skills relevant to the International Competitions.
- The PFA Board should continue to support the new representative selection process to ensure that people are selected on the basis of merit. This process includes playing skills, current competition performance, commitment to teamwork and self management.

Appendix 1

Player Comments

As required by the Representative Player Code of Conduct and Player Acceptance terms, a number of players have submitted their thoughts about their involvement in the 2012 Trans Tasman Challenge. The received comments include:

From Danielle Marchand:

Hi Warren

Once again I would like to commend you on the tremendous work you did and congratulate you on keeping all of us together as a group. As a business owner I know how hard it can be to manage a group of people with diverse affinities, wishes and attitudes.

I have learnt a lot from my other fellow players who have had no hesitation to share their previous experiences and encouraged me to continue to do my best. The fact that I shared my room with our Captain was also a plus for me, she has a lot of knowledge and have had a tremendous exposure to representative games and of course she was gladly sharing her experience with me. For my part, I was not entirely satisfied on my performance but I guess the nerves got the better of me and did not allow me to grab these games in which were so close to victory.

If I can be allowed a comment, I would say that moving forward we need to get a trainer in Sydney to help those ones who are not based in Newcastle. Once a week training should from now on be part of our Petanque programme.

I would also like to see a "camp" weekend during which the whole squad can be together away from everything and focus on the games ahead with coaching as well as training sessions. I know that this may be costly to some players but I guess you need to invest to progress...

To end with, on a personal note, I have found my participation although modest to be a very good experience and will welcome any opportunity given to me to form part of a representative group going overseas again.

Keep up the good work Coach!

See you Sunday and regards to Lib.

Regards,

Dani

From Irene Callaghan:

HI WARREN

We arrived safely but very tired. I think the difference between the two teams is their shooting ability. We seem to be equal as far as pointing but sadly lack in that department. A good time I'm sure was had by all, thank you.

IRENE

From Terry Dando:

Hi Warren,

Personally, many thanks for your support and encouragement prior to, during and after the

challenge.

It was appreciated by me and by other team members.

I've noted a few dot points as requested (these are my thoughts).

Then

Arriving early to meet as many team members to discuss the forthcoming challenge.

Living in accommodation where most team members were.

Having confidence /belief in your partner/team members and vice versa

Being a risk taker at times e.g. -"attack the jack" as you instructed

Having belief and confidence in your ability

Having the will to win

Feedback - team and personal

The Future

Possibly have all team members accommodated in the same motel/Hotel so that team meetings can be easily accommodated and information shared prior to and during the challenge.

Definitely meet at least two days prior if we haven't already met (in Australia we have lights at a number of venues where Thursday evening practice could be held followed by a practice on the Friday). This should be a pre-requisite-arriving Friday tired is not acceptable, after all it is an international challenge we are participating in!!!!

Have an attacking approach and not a conservative one; this does not occur overseas perhaps a motivational speaker or counselling approach to team members to instil this into team members.

A knowledge or practice at shutting out external factors when playing - it is easy to say this but it can be done with practical exercises - I can forward some if required - in other words we need to be more tenacious and positive mentally in our approach to the game.

Perhaps a sharing of knowledge about team members' experiences (could be gathered from players – say the previous 2 to 3 years - could also include their playing strengths be it mental, physical, skills or ability to play with others).

A note from each team member on what their approach is to the game - personal and expectations from team members.

Hope the above helps for future successes.

Kind regards to you and Libby

Terry

P.S.

I can't say I'll be thinking of you in the US but I hope the forthcoming tournaments are a great success.

From Valmai Nicoll:

Trans Tasman 2012 – Comments provided by Valmai Nicoll

These comments only pertain to the over 60s team

Selection/Training/Squad/Team Composition

- Track record in big competitions
- Opinion of State coach
- Select the Trans Tasman squad as early as possible thereby enabling:
 - attendance at suggested interstate competition, recognising that some locations e.g. Azzurri are more expensive and inaccessible in terms of distance and time
 - a training camp?
- Eliminate people who are unable to correct a flaw in their technique
- State coach in conjunction with National coach, to develop a training schedule, e.g. skills training and participation in appropriate competitions, being sensitive to financial constraints and other lifestyle commitments of the over 60 player group
- State squad players must demonstrate a willingness to mix and match teams and pairings to develop mutual understanding of strategies, strengths and weaknesses.
- Squad players playing in recommended interstate events are open to playing with other players not from their home state if required to do so to achieve a best fit skills mix.

Coaching

- On reflection and learning the international standards from Adrian Clements, the pro active coaching and intervention in games by the Kiwi coach appears inappropriate and did at times have a negative impact of the women's teams. If the Kiwi coach was in contravention of the international code, then it should be addressed.
- The women players commented that they found it very supportive having an interested and supportive onlooker (Mike) so this may be something to consider in future in terms of squad composition and roles. In Australia, a manager/secondary coach should not be too hard to organise within the total squad membership.

Skills/Temperament

- A critical balance needs to be achieved between skills and temperament
- Team members must support each other
- Team members must be able to manage their own match temperament to effectively manage their own game and to avert the potential negative impact on their team members
- National and State coaches need to engage actively in open discussion with players if temperament or team harmony is an issue, moreover, players identified with issues need to have an agreed strategy for managing these issues
- Players with good match temperament greatly assist the selection of player partnerships by removing personality considerations.

Mike's general observation: many of our teams were consistently under pressure because we were out pointed early in games giving the Kiwis boule advantage, when we gained boule advantage we often failed to take that opportunity because of inadequate pointing skill.

Game Format

- One round of mixed triples and women's doubles be included in the Trans Tasman

format

- *Hold the tournament in grounds unfamiliar to the Kiwi players in 2013 if possible and preferably grounds that we have had access to.*

Many thanks Warren for a great job as our coach and organiser, I really appreciate the time and effort that you have put in, you did a great job during the tournament. We are all very privileged to represent our country and have the support and camaraderie intrinsic to this style of tournament.

From Guy Bahler:

Hi Warren

I had a good trip back.

I think that to prepare this competition when you play with players you have never played with before (in my case) you should play together the day before (Friday) against the other team 1 or 2 matches very intense to know your team player their strengths & the weaknesses (for triple & double), and after sit & speak together about the technique & strategies to adopt for the next day. With this I think we are ready mentally for the tournament.

See you next week

Regard

Guy

From Adrian Clements:

One of the things the Kiwi players spoke about was the 2 day training camp they had held very recently, to work on team combinations, etc. This would have been an advantage if we could have managed something similar, even if we managed it at state level. (Neville Cross did say that it had cost him around \$4000 to participate in selection trials and training camps this year!)

Obviously, our skill levels need to improve by doing more drill exercises.

Our decision making was OK, but without the consistent skills, it puts us under pressure too often.

I noticed that when shooting, the Kiwis often land just before the target ball, rather than going for an "au fer" shot. This enabled their ball to stay around more often than not. When they needed to shoot over the top, they did so. They also used a lot of backspin.

Hope this is useful.

Adrian

From Kate Mangan:

Hi Warren

My comments

1. *Team should stay in same accommodation*
2. *More skills based training*
3. *Uniforms should be finalised well in advance*
4. *There needs to be a training workshop on the tactics and strategies for playing timed games.*

Kate

From Libby Sowter:

Hi Coach,

I would like to thank you for all the hard work you put into the team. The majority of the team worked together on & off the field. Their are some who still need to work on the team work as their behaviour is a reflection on the Australian Team.

The team get-together after a game was very helpful. To hear the games won I think spurred others to lift themselves, & we had a chance to give some advice to help others & voice any worries. If we needed to talk concerns in private you gave all your attention to work them out.

There are some more lessons to learn on the timed games for some, even though you went through what we needed to do, some have trouble applying this.

All the members I played with; we talked about our game plan as you asked & was very proud of that & we did very well. It would be good to train with everyone but as we have big distances between us this makes it difficult & as we pay our own way it would make it very expensive. I believe in what the squad is about & as we move forward with the selection process & team work & having great coaches working together, the Australian team will be richer for it.

Thanks to all the team members who went to New Zealand & a big thanks to our coach.

Lets move forward.

Regards

Libby Sowter

From Helen Bayet:

Hi Warren,

Sorry for the delay in getting back to you but it has been really full on for me since I arrived home.

Firstly, my sincere thanks to you for the great support that you gave to all the members of the team for New Zealand.

The way you 'ran' and controlled the team during the tournament whilst we were away was excellent and I believe it helped the whole team to bond together.

The ground rules were set and to my knowledge most players took notice of these.

I think in having the 4 individual captains was a good idea as it was impossible for you to be with everyone all of the time. For myself, I found all the ladies in the Over 60's very good to get along with and I think we worked well as a team and supported each other. The combinations for the triples and the doubles appeared to be the best selection and I doubt if the results would have been any different if we had played them differently.

The mixed doubles I had thought would be our downfall but as it worked out I think 4 of the teams were able to combine well and win games. My personal experience playing with Jean Paul was great and I actually enjoyed all my games, especially as I was then doing most of the pointing.

For future competitions, it is difficult to say what more you could do in preparing the teams

and players, mostly because of the distances involved in trying to get players together. Training camps before competitions would be excellent but in reality probably an impossibility because of the costs involved and the distances to travel.

Probably the main things we need to focus on in Australia is improving our shooters and concentrating more on playing the game and not worrying about what is happening around us which seemed to be a distraction to some players.

Overall I think we did reasonably well and with your plans for the future teams with the training squads is bound to pay off in due course.

Once again, many thanks for your support and making my time in the team an enjoyable experience.

Best wishes to Libby and I hope you all have a lot of success next weekend in the National Doubles.

Kind regards

Helen

From Grant Threadgate:

Hello Warren

Whilst waiting for my new PC I have had time to reflect on the Trans Tasman competition and provide the following for consideration.

We were defeated by a very strong NZ squad on their home turf. They had the advantage of playing in their regular team combinations and had been thru an objective and structured selection process. Their teams were supported by coaches, team captain, supporters etc. Fortunately for NZ they have the geographical advantage over Aust of being able to play regularly, lower cost of travel etc . Their results, particularly in the open were held together by two extremely strong international players in Andre and Georgio.

By comparison our squad was made of players; some of whom did not know each other let alone play together. The squad make up was again partly the result of who was available, who could afford the trip and from those who had some skill. Unfortunately I feel this will always be the case in Aust. In terms of squad management I feel that, in hindsight, some things could have been done better e.g. communication, consultation with players and more input from players on the various combinations. Whilst you asked on many occasions if anyone had any issues some people are reluctant to open up in public forum. It is also acknowledged that we only had one official , in yourself, there is probably a need to consider more closely the role of a team captain in terms of combination selection, consultation and team maintenance etc.

I suggest that PFA should critically review the TT performance and the current selection process. In Aust we suffer from the tyranny of distance = cost to the player and their availability. We cannot develop well drilled team combinations whilst ever players are thousands of kilometres apart. It is obvious also that many good players have a resistance to the \$150 bond that exists and the team combinations that have been suggested over the last several months. Unfortunately there is a lack of sophistication and transparency in the selection processes from state to state that attempts to result in a cohesive national team. This lack of sophistication also certainly applies to players, clubs and states.

As an alternative to the current selection model I put forward the following, which in some respects may seem to be retrograde but I consider it will certainly overcome some of the cur-

rent problems.

1. Conduct a national gender triples competition over a weekend with players nominating their own team combinations.
2. The comp would be Open and > 60's
3. No > 60's could play in the Open (this only weakens the > 60's and can prevent younger players from representing Aust)
4. Entry fee say \$180 / team
5. The winners and runners up for each division would be awarded the privilege of representing Aust in the Trans Tasman and other international events in that petanque year.
6. There are no prizes; all funds (possibly for e.g. up to \$5,400 if 30 teams) would go towards funding legitimate travelling and accommodation expenses of the squad in representation.
7. Should one player from an eligible team withdraw then the whole triple team is eliminated from representing in that year. The basis being that players are now refusing to play with other individuals. Once a team (triple) is eliminated for this reason the opportunity is offered to the next highest ranked in the competition i.e. 3rd.
8. The representative squad would be supported by a manager and elect their own captains i.e. 4, Captains in consultation with players would determine the team mixed and doubles combinations.
9. Players must agree to abide by the double and mixed combinations prior to accepting representation.

The above model also enables players to continue their combination in various competitions prior to representative responsibilities

In addition I consider that PFA needs to have more influence over the conduct of the TT in terms of program, format and location. Whilst Wanganui was a good location it was a little remote and incurred additional travelling cost. The competition format could also include singles by deleting the second round of gender triples. PFA may have to renegotiate the competition format with Petanque NZ

Warren, under challenging circumstances in NZ I consider you did the best you could in trying to organise, motivate and lift the team. It was a big ask for one person, please read this as being objective and positive to further petanque in Aust.

Happy to discuss any aspects

Regards

Grant Threadgate