



Petanque Federation Australia Ltd. Affiliated to the FIPJP

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PETANQUE FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

PRESIDENT’S REPORT TO THE 2016 AGM

On behalf of your board of directors I would like to welcome you all to the 2016 Annual General Meeting.

At last year’s AGM we adopted a new constitution, which aligned us with the requirements of the ASC. At this year’s AGM we will see one of the most important changes, start to take effect. Each year two members of the board are required to stand down, if they wish they can seek re-election.

In addition, during the year the board decided that at this AGM we would seek to increase the number of elected board members from 6 to 7, the maximum number permitted under the constitution, creating 3 vacancies on the board

Ray Beaumont has decided to resign from the board and will not seek re-election. Leo Prior has agreed to retire from the board but will stand for re-election,

We called for nominations for these three board positions and at the close of nominations three candidates had been nominated, Leo Prior, Sandra Webb and Jeff Langdon

During the AGM these three candidates should be elected unopposed, to the board.

As members become more accustomed to these annual board vacancies, it is hoped there will more candidates in future elections. This is the best way to ensure we

have a board which is made up of a mixture of experienced members and fresh enthusiastic new members.

During the year you will have noticed our web site has continued to improve and hopefully you now find it a very valuable source of information. In the very near future we will introduce a new application to allow clubs to pay players license fees and club affiliation fees on line. The plan is to have this operating in time for the renewal of licenses in June

We continue to work closely with the State Leagues and listen to their views and opinions. Although we don't always agree on all things, I believe we have a good working relationship with all of the State Leagues and will continue to work on improving these.

Last year we established a coaching commission, to provide advice in the selection of teams for international events and that has worked well. In order to further improve our coaching standards and our coaching administration, we have appointed Patrick Dufresne as National Coach and Gerard Finette Coaching Administrator, this is working very well and allows the National coach to concentrate on developing the coaches, without the workload involved in looking after administration and record keeping

Following the retirement of Ray Beaumont as National Director of Umpires the board has decided to introduce an umpiring structure similar to the new coaching structure. The board will appoint an Umpiring Administrator and we are currently in the process of appointing a new National Umpire. We believe this new structure will make the role of National Umpire more effective, allowing them to concentrate on umpire training and development.

As far as growing our sport is concerned, this year has seen a continued strong growth in members in most States. The number of licensed players in Australia has now reached almost 1600, not quite the 1750 that we projected this time last year but still a record number for the second consecutive year. Anyway, it never hurts to set our sights high, even if we don't quite achieve them. We will continue to grow our sport, with a target of 1800 licensed players by this time next year.

We must give a huge vote of thanks again to Robert Boudan, who looks after our licensing. He has coped really well with the rapid growth, over the last couple of years. Hopefully, things will get a lot easier when our new on line licensing process is in operation.

Our second National day of promotion for Petanque, held on the Bastille Day weekend last July was a great success with well-attended events held by many clubs throughout Australia, with good local press coverage. We will continue this again this year and based on the experience gained over the last two years it should be bigger and better with more clubs involved and even wider press coverage.

During the course of the year we sent Australian teams to a number of international events in Asia and Oceania. In October we sent a team to the Confederation Cup in New Caledonia, where they played well against some very strong opposition,

including France, Thailand and New Caledonia. In November Australia was represented by teams in both the Junior and the Women's World Championships in Thailand both teams played well and improved on our previous placings. Earlier this month both Open and Over 60's teams from Australia took part in the Oceanic Championship in Vanuatu and despite very hot and humid condition did well with a really good 4th place in the shooting competition. Over the last few years we have continued to improve our standing in the eyes of our competitors and our teams have achieved some great results. I am sure we will go on to achieve even better results in the future. As a result of our recognition as a sport, our teams now have a new uniform bearing the Australian coat of arms.

As I write this our Trans-Tasman team will be in Hamilton, playing against New Zealand for the Trans-Tasman Cup, which I am sure we will win back this year.

On a national front we have had five very successful and well-organized championships.

At Bexley last Easter we had the Australian International Triples and Shooters events. The competition was strong in all categories and we witnessed some extremely close games. Our thanks to Bexley club for hosting such an enjoyable event and we look forward to them hosting the event again this Easter

In September we held the second Australian Singles championships in Newcastle. Unfortunately it was not as well supported the previous year. However it was enjoyed by all who took part and congratulations to Newcastle Club for contributing to the success of the event.

The International doubles was held on the weekend of the 6th and 7th of February at Camberwell Petanque Club. This event was well supported with some really tight competition and some really good finals. Thanks yet again to Camberwell Club for hosting such an enjoyable weekend.

Unfortunately the Interstate Challenge planned to be held in Perth had to be cancelled. Despite extending the closing date, three weeks before the scheduled date for the event there was still only one team entered from outside WA. A very disappointing result, when you consider that the West Australian teams had been regular supporters of the event for many years, regardless of where it was held. This finally proved, what many people had said, it was too expensive to send teams of 10 players across the country for this event, getting support from all states has frequently been difficult and this sounded the death knell for the ISC.

However, after a great deal of thought and consultation a new event was born. The State Super 4, entries for the event have now closed and the quality of the entries, indicates that we will be treated to some very close games at the final in September.

During the year the board held a two day planning session in Melbourne. One of the biggest changes to come out of that meeting, was the decision to amalgamate all separate International Championship events into one, Annual Carnival of Petanque. This will be held around Easter each year, commencing in 2017. Planning for this event has started and expressions of interest to host the event will be circulated to

Clubs shortly. The board firmly believes that holding the triples, doubles, singles and shooters events, in the same location during one week. Will save competitors a lot of money, boost the number of entries considerably and give the event a much higher profile within the community.

Another decision made at the planning session was the development of a 3 year business plan for PFA. This has now been completed and will be posted on our web site before the AGM. It will of course be reviewed regularly and updated as required to include any new ideas. Please have a look at this as it tells you, what we are hoping to achieve over the next few years. We would love to hear any comments or suggestions you have.

At the beginning of last year we decided to appoint a bookkeeper to assist in keeping our financial records, after an unsuccessful attempt to recruit a new treasurer to the board. We also made the decision to change our accounting system to MYOB, a system with which many of you will be familiar. Both these changes, have proved to be a very worthwhile and we have been able to produce more detailed financial reports for the board every month, which has assisted greatly in improving our financial control.

You should by now have received our annual financial Reports and you will see that our finances continue to improve and to provide a firm foundation for our future, growth.

That just about brings us up to date, in previous years I have listed our objectives for next year at the end of the report. However they are now, much more clearly set out in our new business plan, so please have a good look at it and give us your comments.

Yours in Petanque.

Joe W Corcoran.

President PFA

18 March 2016