



PÉTANQUE FEDERATION AUSTRALIA LTD

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Dear Members

On behalf of your Board of Directors I would like to wish you and your families a wonderful Christmas and New Year and we sincerely hope that 2017 will be great year for all of you. We would also like to thank you all for your support and your valued contributions throughout the year

At our last Annual General Meeting two new directors Sandra Webb and Jeff Langdon were elected to the board. They both brought valuable new skills and experience to the board and have contributed greatly to our board meetings and to the management PFA over the last 6 months.

At our next AGM at Easter two more of our board members will be required to stand down from their positions. They may stand for re-election but if they do so they will have to stand against any new candidates who would like to be considered for a position on the board. We encourage you to seriously consider nominating for the board as new ideas and experiences are always valuable.

One of the things that is noticeable about the current Board is that we only have one woman member, a long way from gender equality considering we have almost as many women players as men around Australia. We would like to encourage more women to stand as candidates at this forth coming election and we would encourage members to give them their support as the board has a very strong commitment to moving towards gender equality, in all areas of our sport.

After a lot of work from Jeff, our web site has improved immensely in the presentation and accessibility of information. What we need now is more contributions of news and photos from all the States as currently most of the items are from Victoria. Our Facebook site is also up and running but we need more followers. Find us at PetanqueAustralia on Facebook..

Development of our on-line portal is proceeding really well, our first ever on-line membership application was processed and the first computer-generated licence was issued at the end of November. Jeff is currently preparing a user manual and we will start testing it with a few clubs early next year, before we commence training and introduction Australia-wide. Once the system is working a club will be able to licence new players themselves, renew existing players' licences, arrange a player's transfer and renew the club affiliation on line. The plan is to have all clubs trained and familiar with using the system in time for the licence renewals in June

Over the year we have continued see a growth in new members, despite a problem with Hobart Petanque Club during the year, which cost us 50 licensed players we are now back to over 1520 licensed players and 49 affiliated clubs, including two new clubs in Tasmania.

During the year we appointed Leo Prior to the role of Umpiring Administrator to remove much of the burden of administration from the National and State umpires in that role Leo receives and circulates all umpires reports and maintains the records of umpire's qualifications.

We also appointed Gerard Finette to the role of Coach Administrator; Gerard is responsible for collecting all relevant documentation from our coaches to satisfy PFA and ASC requirements for their qualifications. We have now posted on our website the list of all our qualified and complying Umpires and Coaches.

Early this year we also appointed Patrick Dufresne as National Coach with the aim of working with the Coaching Commission to improve coordination and communications between the state coaches and developing national coaching standards. In October PFA assisted Patrick in

attending an International coaching course in France for which he was awarded an International coaching Diploma. Over the last few months Patrick has been developing a number of coaching aids which it is hoped will assist State coaches in the training and development of competitive players.

The Coaching Commission has been doing a good job in the selection of players for teams competing in International events. During the year they selected the team for the Pan Pacific Games in Thailand and last month they completed the selections for next year's Trans-Tasman team and it looks like we have the making of potentially a very strong team for the competition in March

On the subject of International events, in February we competed in the Oceania's championships finishing 4th behind the host Vanuatu, New Caledonia and Tahiti. This 4th place meant that we didn't qualify for the men's world championship to be held in Madagascar in December 2016.

In March we sent a team to New Zealand for the annual Trans-Tasman Competition. Unfortunately although we played well, we don't seem to be able to beat the New Zealanders at home!

Then In November we sent a men's team to the Pan Pacific Games in Thailand where they played some good games against very strong opposition but were knocked out by Malaysia in the Nations Cup

The major change to our Australian competition calendar was the introduction of the new State Super 4 Competition, with teams of two men and two women playing qualifying rounds in each State, culminating in a national final on the first weekend in September, held at Caulfield Park Club, in which the top open and O'60 teams from each State played off for the trophy. The competition was tough with teams from Victoria, NSW, WA and SA. The O'60s competition was won by NSW with WA 2nd. In the open competition the result was a draw between NSW and WA both with three wins and 56 points each. The opinion of all who took part was that the event was a great success and that we should continue with it again next year.

This coming Easter will see the first National Carnival of Petanque, which will be held at Caulfield Park between 13th and 17th of April, with the, singles, doubles, triples and shooters competitions all held at the same venue over a 4 day period. Details have been sent to all clubs. If you haven't seen them they are also on our website. Now is the time to book your accommodation and flights to what promises to be the biggest petanque event in years

The use of the 'Sport' software continues to increase, with 21 clubs now using it regularly to administer their competitions and we encourage all clubs to consider purchasing a copy, as it is fast and easy to use. A user manual is available on line and training courses can be arranged if needed. It will also be a useful addition to our new portal when downloading the licenced players file in order to run an event.

During the year we developed our first three-year business plan which set out a number of goals which the board would like to achieve it also contained financial plans for those three years. The plan will be reviewed again early next year and revised so as to ensure it continues to project our aims. The business plan is available on our website if you would like to have a look at it

That's all from me for now, I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at Caulfield Park at Easter for the Carnival of Petanque..

Regards

Joe Corcoran
President
Petanque Federation Australia.
18/12/ 2016