



Waratah Words

Newsletter for the NSW Petanque League

No 1a, January 2019

Welcome to 2019

Welcome to 2019 and what we hope will be a great year for petanque in our state! We start the year with two new members on the Executive; one with previous experience (many years past!) and one first timer. There are problems to address and we need to be open-minded about trying new things and so for the first time in years we are performing a significant review of the way we operate.

A major part of this will be the 'Waratah Words' newsletter which we plan to publish quarterly as we believe that open communication and information provided is important for people to engage in informed discussion and understand why certain actions are taken. We do not want it to be a negative document, but one that reflects our aspirations for the game and how we attempt to realise them, but if we must deal with less savoury events, we will. Let's make an effort for this not to be necessary!

What is 'the League'?

The NSW Petanque League (NSWPL) is all of the clubs that have affiliated to the organisation, participate in its events and follow its rules and constitution. It is **not** just the 4 (currently 3) members of the Executive, but all players who are members of the clubs as well. The 'Committee' is the Executive plus a representative of each club and the Umpire Commission. Some players are not aware of the distinction. When we say 'the League needs to lift its game' we mean all of us! So, let's **all** make a contribution to a better NSWPL!

Can You Help?

If you have publishing skills, we would be happy to hear from you! We would like this newsletter to have a professional 'look and feel' and are keen to share the work load around. If you would like to help, contact the Secretary at nswplsecretary@yahoo.com.

Meetings Held in January

Special General Meeting - Report

The NSWPL Committee met on Saturday 5th January to address some important issues that faced the league. A Special General Meeting (SGM) was conducted after petitioning by some member clubs and then this meeting was followed by a regular committee meeting.

The business of the League at the Special General Meeting was to:

- Resolve the vacant positions of League President and Secretary (following the recent resignations Robert Boudan and Pierre Figon):
 - Grant Threadgate (Newcastle PC) was elected as President
 - Gary Hosie (Boule Artistes PC) was elected as Secretary
- Resolve the matter of a NSWPL Executive member criticising an un-named NSW club at a joint PFA and State meeting held in October in Melbourne. The club was accused of 'undermining the work of the League'. It was confirmed that the target was the Boules Artistes, which strongly denied the accusation and was supported by Lake Macquarie PC, Newcastle PC and Wollongong PC. The NSWPL will write to PFA refuting the accusation and

apologising to PFA for being asked to involve itself in what should have been dealt with internally.

- Address the non-recognition and failure to support the 2018 NSW Super 4 team that won the national Super 4 competition held in Adelaide in September last year. The Super 4 team were recognised for representing NSW with some small financial support for its expenses.

Committee Meeting - Report

At Committee Meeting was held immediately after the SGM (above) and the following main items addressed were:

- The vacant position of the NSWPL Vice President (with the resignation of Sue Begley) is to be referred to the NSW Fair Trading for guidance on the interpretation of the League Constitution in terms of filling the vacancy.
- Future meetings of the League are to be conducted using the 'Zoom' conferencing application which eliminates the need for club delegates to travel to each meeting. The first meeting using this method is to be held on Thursday 14th February.
- A working party was formed to review the draft calendar for 2019 as well as the NSWPL Competition Regulations. The working party is made up of Gary Hosie, Grant Threadgate, Delys Brady and Jean-Luc Domergue, the time frame to finalise the review is 14th February.
- The matter of bringing and drinking BYO alcohol at licenced clubs was discussed following a concern last year with one of the players. All players are reminded that BYO alcohol cannot be taken to licenced clubs.

Both the licenced club and the offending player can be fined by the NSW Liquor and Gaming authority. We do not want this to happen so please respect the rules! The NSWPL will write to the player's club.

Thanks to all those involved in these meetings. There were some robust discussions but we think the outcomes were satisfactory. We may not always agree but we must work to settle our differences in an open, honest and civilised manner.

Where to Now?

Due to the delays in re-booting the Executive, there will be a delay in releasing the 2019 NSWL Calendar and Competition Regulations. We don't believe that this will significantly affect the first two months of the year. This is a great opportunity to be bold and propose different ways of doing things.

We want to be clear and fair on how events are allocated. We are keen to provide more choices to clubs in how events are run and how we use the tools at our disposal to make them more interesting. Some ideas will be popular and others less so, but please look at the reason behind it. You may not like it but it may make sense! We should all accept the possibility of failure in our attempt to build success and be prepared to learn from those failures and seek to rectify the mistakes. Be aware, you may be consulted!

We hope that the NSWPL, you and your club, will embrace this opportunity constructively and that 2019 will be a watershed for petanque in NSW!

Regards

Grant and Gary