



About your Petanque League

Players are reminded that all relevant NSWPL documents all accessible on the website (<https://nswpetanqueleague.weebly.com/>), familiarise yourself with the workings of the organisation as well as the regulations that apply to our competitions. It's a bit like the rules of petanque; if we all know them there is less likelihood of misunderstandings. Here is a brief summary of some key areas of interest.

President's comments

What is the NSWPL?

The NSWPL is an incorporated Association registered with the NSW Office of Fair Trading. The NSWPL Committee consists of the member clubs' delegates (usually the club president or the nominated delegate) and the State Umpire and the State Coach as advisers without voting rights.

The executive is elected every two years with the current term expiring at the 2021 AGM when the incumbents and nominations will be eligible for election by the member clubs.

The League is governed by its Constitution and is required to lodge a financial return annually to the NSW Office of Fair Trading. The Executive consists of the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.

The current office bearers are Grant Threadgate, Marie-Anne Kerjean, Gary Hosie and more recently Eric Doublet respectively.

The NSWPL Committee meets on as-needed basis, this year there has been four meetings. The priority of the League is to set the competition calendar and maintain and apply the 'Competition Regulations'.

If you have any suggestions or wish to know more about the League please ask your club president.

Finance

The NSWPL finished the year in a good position with \$9,261 in the bank after incurring a small deficit of \$583. The deficit reflects the financial support to representative players for uniforms and a small allowance to defray the cost of representation.

Over \$3,200 in prizemoney was awarded to players and we paid fees of \$1,100 to umpires.

Detailed financial statements will be available to clubs for acceptance at the League's next AGM.

Membership

Unfortunately the NSWPL is now reduced to five clubs with about 170 members following

the closure of the Lake Macquarie club. We are looking at ways to bring in new clubs.

On the positive side, player participation at NSWPL Championships has increased during the year with an additional \$1,360 collected in competition playing fees.

Competitions

The NSWPL introduced a number of new initiatives for its Championships to freshen things up to attract greater participation and increase interest amongst players.

These included different prize structures that delivered prizes to more players, varying competition start times and formats to enable competitions of shorter length than was previous

The Executive invited players from the ACT and overseas to join us at certain NSWPL Championships. This brought in additional revenue, more teams, new faces (and conversations) and of course, goodwill. We enjoyed having them and thank our members for welcoming them!

The Executive, along with Newcastle Petanque Club, organised a successful competition at the Waverley Estate winery in the Hunter Valley, which looks like being an annual event. This attracted excellent publicity in the local media.

Umpires

We now have two more umpires (pending final confirmation) as well as two who have upgraded their qualifications. Well done! (refer to the Director of Umpiring Report on page 3 for details).

A player survey is currently under consideration to get feedback about the League's performance and your ideas for the future. It is understood PFA may also undertake a survey so we are awaiting its release before a final decision on the whether the League's will proceed.

It is hoped that you enjoyed the competitions throughout 2019 and after the Christmas and New Year holiday season are now ready for another top year of petanque in 2020!

Grant Threadgate
President

<https://nswpetanqueleague.weebly.com/>

Secretary's summary

At the end of my first year as NSWPL Secretary it is time to reflect on what has been mostly a very positive year!

The Executive cannot be all things to all people and the clubs must bear responsibility for grass roots development and social aspects of the game whilst we can set the tone and the framework for developing petanque as a sport.

The majority of regular participants in NSWPL competitions have enjoyed a rising standard of play and an increased number of interesting venues and formats. Attendances at NSWPL Championships have been up, partly because of our willingness to invite licenced players from outside of NSW, a small number in truth, but also because more players are coming out and embracing the notion of gaining points in the Ranking Table, enjoying the increased distribution of prizes and also the new faces and conversations to be had.

After all, even serious competition has a social side and the opportunity to meet new people, share our love of the game and maybe receive an invite to visit new-found friends within Australia or even overseas is a bonus. It's something that can benefit us all!

Most clubs have added some new (or 'recycled') members this year which has increased the player pool and that's a good thing. We still have an issue with less players being willing to travel to competitions away from 'home' this is a function of changing demographics. It is understandable but nevertheless presents the League with a challenge.

I have been asked at least three times this year as to 'What is the Executive doing to revitalise the league?' or words to that effect. It made me wonder if the questioners have been paying attention but to be fair not everyone is as immersed in the workings of the League as we the Executive, so I thought I would explain what we have been, and will be, doing to encourage positive change.

When we came into our positions, we set out a plan with three phases; Stabilise, Prioritise, Capitalise. Following is a brief description of the intentions.

Stabilise

Simply, try and stop or at least slow the decline in memberships and attendances, these being different but definitely linked. We made a number of significant changes

to the NSWPL Competition Regulations that introduced incentives for clubs to actually increase their membership. We allied these incentives to clubs possessing umpires, the shortage of which is another issue that needs to be solved. To that effect we have recently added two new umpires and an umpire course is set for February.

For NSWPL Championships, we increased the size of prizes and importantly, the number of people that receive prizes, sometimes small but nice to receive nevertheless!

We also introduced a number of new competition formats that provided clubs with choice as to how they could run a competition, whereas previously there was basically one option and a rule that stated 'Competitions must start before 9:30'. With an aging membership and the hope that we might also attract new, younger players, the possibility of starting at 10:30 or 11:00 could be beneficial! But let me re-iterate, it is the club's choice.

Prioritise

During the 'Stabilise' phase we needed to identify and introduce some prioritisation and increasing the attendances and the excitement of NSWPL Championships was high on the list. We needed to brighten things up and give players more reasons to attend.

We made the decision to open up NSWPL Championships to licenced players from outside the state, meaning from within Australia or even overseas. This was clearly designed to 're-vitalise' these events by introducing new faces and sources of revenue as well as more and better competition. All laudable reasons in our opinion and definitely appreciated by the majority! More to the point, it was successful!

Promoting petanque

The NSWPL Shooting Competition was held in Ballast Point Park, a very visible public location and attracted interest from the passers-by. We need to expose the game so we intend to do it again.

Potential Expansion

Through research and networking (and some luck!) we have located and spoken to nine different playing groups in country areas (Berrima, Ballina, Cessnock, Kangaroo Valley, Maitland, Port Macquarie, Taree, Tenterfield and Wagga,) about joining the League and offered coaching and support.

These have not borne fruit (yet) because realistically, there is not much the League can do for some of them due to the distance or the degree of interest in competitive petanque. Wagga has some potential due to the proposed 'Big Blue' event in nearby Tarcutta.

More promising is a group in Port Macquarie where the council has built a new piste and there is another group in nearby Taree. We

will be trying to bring these groups together and helping them to grow!

Waverley Estate Winery Event

The tournament held at the Waverley Estate winery in October was a joint initiative by Newcastle PC, BA PC and the Executive to provide NSW players with an exciting venue that attracted new players, good publicity and laid the foundation for an annual event and possible playing group in the Hunter. It was incredibly well received by the participants.

There was excellent co-operation between players and umpires, as in order to play timed games without marked courts, we needed to introduce some 'local' rules. Our host was very pleased with the day and offered to make it an annual event.

Setbacks

Some proposed initiatives did not come into being, the 'Champions Challenge' springs to mind and some were not managed as well as we would have liked and we accept the criticism that the NSWPL website was not always kept up-to-date and the newsletter should be published quarterly as proposed. In 2020, we will try and do better. Any volunteers to help with these two tasks? That would be greatly appreciated!

I suspect that for some of you much of this is information you are reading about for the first time and you may be surprised. There are important and informative documents on the NSWPL website that provides most of what you need to know. The more informed our members are, the easier it is for us to fulfill our role, so please go to the site.

Capitalise

In 2020, we would like to begin the Capitalise phase and further cement all of these initiatives and create more opportunities for you to play the type of petanque you want.

We are very excited about a number of NSWPL events with different target audiences, namely the NSWPL SuperVeterans Mixed Doubles (for players with at least 70 years of life experience) and the 'Big Blue' which entails NSW clashing with the Victorians. More about these two events elsewhere in this issue.

Gary Hosie Secretary

Other initiatives

Other initiatives that are in the early discussion stages are competitions between NSW and both ACT and Queensland. I am confident these will eventuate and with the clash against the Banana Benders to take place in Port Macquarie,

it will be a superb opportunity to introduce the 'Port' people to top-line petanque and provide the previously mentioned local petanque group with a boost! More information will be sent as it comes to hand. Each of the representative events are

desirable in themselves but the potential legacy of a new petanque club in each host venue is very important, too?

There are other ideas and initiatives being discussed but as you will appreciate there is a significant amount of effort and with all that is going on it may be that some just don't work and some might fizzle out due to a lack of time. That said, we'll be doing our best and we hope that you will support us by increasing your participation!

SuperVeterans? This one's for our Petanque Pioneers!

There are many people who laid the foundations of the NSWPL who are still playing regular petanque, mainly at their home clubs. You may not see many of them up on the winner's podium so much these days but the competitive spirit still burns bright. They are the 'petanque pioneers' and we owe them a debt of gratitude!

A number of people in this category have expressed an interest in an event tailored for them, so let's give it a go!

This year we are introducing a new category called 'SuperVeterans' which is for players 70 and over and we hope to attract a great crowd to the NSWPL SuperVeterans Mixed Doubles Championship to be held at Belmore Bowling Club on the 23rd of August.

Even if you are no longer keen on regular travel between the three cities (Wollongong, Newcastle and Sydney) please make an exception for this one or co-opt a 'youngster' to bring you. Details will be released soon.

The Big Blue - NSW vs VIC

For a long time, we have discussed the idea of finding a place halfway between Sydney and Melbourne so that the players from these places can compete against each other more often.

In the meantime, some big competitions have started that attract interstate players but the bottom-line is, unless you are a prize-winner, these can be expensive propositions with accommodation and travel, which may mean airfares for some. We have now discovered a perfect place to play in Tarcutta, which is almost exactly halfway between the two cities.

As a first event, we have organised the 'Big Blue' which pitches 'state against state, mate against mate'. Classic! It will be held on the ANZAC weekend.

Accommodation is reasonable, there is free camping, it is a drivable distance (less than five hours from Sydney or Melbourne) and there are excellent floodlights.

For these reasons we are making the teams larger than normal, with 24 players in each. There will be a formal 'Expression of Interest' (EOI) but selection priority will be based on the NSWPL Ranking Table, as well as performance in some national and international events. There is no 'Veterans' category.

The team will be announced in February or March (TBC) which gives players the opportunity to perform at two or three NSWPL events and gain points. More information soon.

Umpire Course

Delys Brady is our Director of Umpires and she is organising an umpire course on February the 22nd at Belmore Bowling Club starting at 10:30. We would like all clubs to have at least two umpires so we ask that members be canvassed and encouraged to participate.

Please contact nswplsecretary@yahoo.com and book a place.

Australian Representative Teams and NSW Players

NSW players had a significant presence in Australian representative teams in 2019 and contributed with some excellent performances.

January March – Trans-Tasman (Newcastle)

- Veteran: Victoria O'Connor, Pierre Figon (BA)
- Open: Harold Dercy (FP), Kierran Clarke, Bronson Romani, Cathy Ayre and Chantelle Mcgrath (Newcastle PC).

Australia won this event.

May - Doubles and Singles World Championship (Almeria, Spain)

- Cathy Ayre (with Lynn Dufresne)

August - Pan-Pacific Championship (Noumea)

- Chantelle Mcgrath, Kimberly Broadbridge and Cathy Ayre

October - Oceania Championship (Melbourne)

- Haejung Jang, Chantelle Mcgrath, Ariadne Ernest, Sue Begley, Eric Doublet and Jean-Luc Domergue. Sue won the Doubles (with Tina Genovese) and was 4th in the Shooting Competition

November - World Championship (Cambodia)

- Haejung Jang and Chantelle Mcgrath
- Well done to all!

Umpiring Update

There were 27 active duty days for competitions covered willingly by umpires throughout the year. This includes 8 days of active umpire duty for Tim and Delys associated with the Trans-Tasman and Oceania competitions. Of the remaining 19 days, 13 were covered with non-playing umpires. Please note that the umpires also officiate at their own club comps and championships although these are not included in this summary.

The players must be thanked for being exceptional where there have been playing umpires, limiting calls for the umpire to only those measurements/issues requiring an official decision.

Goals for 2020

- **To run 3-4 training sessions throughout the year** to enable each club to have, at the least, a club qualified umpire (but the more the better) and give other players, if they wish to attend, an opportunity to learn more about the rules. The first is being planned for February with a date to be circulated soon.
- **To improve the measuring skills of players** and this begins with every team, and ideally every player, having their own tape measure.

Rule refreshers

- **Have a tape measure or umpire's measurer** – if the umpire is called because neither team has a tape measure, all players in the game will receive a yellow card. (see Article 26)
- **Leaving the ground during a game** – if you need to leave the ground to go to the toilet or for some other reason, call the umpire first. If you don't you could be yellow carded. Make sure you have played your boules before you leave too,

because if you haven't returned when it is your turn to play, then you will lose them at a rate of one per minute. (see Article 32)

- **Article 2a about boules** – boules must have a legible manufacturer's trade mark, serial number and weight, otherwise if boules are checked by the umpire you may be asked to change the set to play.
- **Article 17 – where to stand during play** – opponents **MUST** remain behind the jack or the playing circle and 2 metres to the side of the line of play in both cases. If you are not playing then you should not be standing on the line in the middle of the piste, out of respect for your opponents and the teams on the adjacent piste. You can be yellow carded.
- **Preparing grounds for play** – every effort should be made to ensure that vegetation does not encroach on the boundary line of pistes. Where this is not possible this should be pointed out to the umpire prior to the start of the comp and a ruling made if boules of the jack are likely to hit that vegetation.

Article 35 - Penalties for non-observation of the rules of the game.

- **Warning – Yellow Card** to the individual player but where it is for exceeding the one minute time limit to play, ALL players in the team receive a yellow card. Where one of those players has already received a yellow card (say, for a foot fault) that means they have received 2 yellow cards which equals an orange card and the player will be penalised by disqualification of the boule played or about to be played.
- **Disqualification of a Boule – Orange Card** – boule played or about to be played. Where a second orange card is issued, 2 boules will be removed.
- **Exclusion of a player for the game – Red Card**
- Disqualification of the team responsible
- Disqualification of the two teams in case of complicity.

Delys Brady
NSW Director of Umpiring

Current Umpires, Classification and Days of Active Duty

Umpire's Name and Club	Status/Level	Days of Active Duty	Official/Assisting
State Director of Umpiring Delys Brady (NEWC)	Nat/1	6	6/0
Timothy Stevenson (NEWC)	Conf/1	8	8/0
Neil Brown (NEWC)	State/2	0	0/0
Monique Thibault (FP)	Nat/1	8	8/0
Sue Begley (BA)	Club/3	3	3/1
Jean Luc Domergue (BA)	Club/3	2	2/1
Terry Waters (BA)	Club/3	Pending	Measuring exam TBC
Marie-Anne Kerjean (Woll)	Club/3	Pending	Measuring exam TBC

