

Wellington Petanque Association

Representative Squad Report for the 2016 Season

The representative squad for the 2016 year consisted of 24 players.

The number of players in the squad was consistent with the previous year.

The squad met for 5 training days. These were all held at the Otaki petanque club and I am very thankful for the support given by the Otaki club.

Training days were very well supported with most of the squad being able to make some or all of those training days. I was unavailable for one of the days but the training was taken by Kevin McFadgen in my absence.

Training days were usually run from 10am until 3.30/4pm with participants contributing towards a shared lunch. A charge of \$5.00 per participant (including the coach and manager) was asked for. The money collected went towards the representative players travel fund which has been running for several years now. This fund is to help in a small way towards costs incurred by the players who travelled to away fixtures (i.e. Auckland and Dunedin). The fund is administered by Helen-Mary Foly of the Kapiti club.

Chanticleer Cup match – held at Herne Bay petanque club.

Margaret Mordecai was the team manager for the Chanticleer match played in Auckland and arranged accommodation for the team and co-ordinated travel arrangements. I would like to thank Margaret for her very valuable work for the team.

The team selected to play for Wellington in defence of the Chanticleer Cup was:

Open Team:

Steve Frampton (Kapiti)
Kevin McFadgen (Kapiti)
Yvonne Fitcher (Wanganui East)
Tony Simpson (Wanganui East)
Alan Taylor (Kapiti)
Barbara Nicholls (Otaki)
Reserve – Trish Smart (Manawatu)

Senior Team:

Shirley MacDonald (Otaki)
Sheryl Parslow (Wanganui East)
Brian Bradburn (Silverstream)
Tony Gatford (Kapiti)
Ann Hogg (Otaki)
Marc Khull (Manawatu)

First time Wellington representatives were Ann Hogg and Marc Khull.

With a team of 12 it is not easy to keep track on what is happening at all times and I was assisted by Claire Bradburn and Margaret Mordecai who were able to follow games that I was not close to and give me feedback and assistance where required.

The team members who went to Auckland for this match had an excellent “team spirit/culture) and it was a pleasure to see their development during the weekend. Several

comments were made by Auckland people about the team spirit and the tenacity of the Wellington players.

The rules of the tournament lean towards more of a development fixture for players than one of being able to field a full strength team. Players who have represented New Zealand open teams in the previous 12 months are not eligible for selection.

This meant that many of our top players are unable to play in this fixture. However, because they have not represented New Zealand in the open teams in the last 12 months Auckland were able to field a particularly strong team. Two players in particular were in the top 5 nationally ranked players (4th and 5th). These players definitely made a difference to the outcome of the tournament and whilst they were played within the rules, I believe that it was not within the “spirit” of a development tournament and that the eligibility rules for this competition should be reviewed.

The final scores for the tournament were:

Auckland 72 – Wellington 36

The reserve player Trish Smart was played in 2 matches on the Sunday.

Tri-Star Tournament:

A team of 7 (6 players and myself as coach) travelled to Dunedin to defend the Tri-Star trophy.

The team members were:

Steve Frampton (Kapiti)

Yvonne Fatcher (Wanganui East)

Tony Gatford (Kapiti)

Marc Khull (Manawatu)

Tony Simpson (Wanganui East)

Alan Taylor (Kapiti)

The tournament was hosted by the Southern region and was played at the Caversham Petanque Club.

Canterbury (after failing to field a team in 2015), 2 Southern teams and Wellington took part.

The team performed well and many games went against us by 1 or 2 points.

Canterbury came from 3rd place after day 1 to win the tournament with 47 points followed by Southern Black on 39, Southern White on 34 and Wellington 24.

Hawkes Bay Challenge Cup (formerly the Haines Cup):

Once again this tournament was very well hosted by the Manawatu Petanque Club.

The Wellington team was:

Steve Frampton (Kapiti)
Annick LeGuen (Kapiti)
Kevin McFadgen (Kapiti)
Claire Wilson (Wanganui East)
Claire Bradburn (Silverstream)
Christine Strichen (Wanganui East)
Ann Hogg (Otaki)
Yvonne Futchter (Wanganui East)
Alan Taylor (Kapiti)
Brian Bradburn (Silverstream)
Barbara Nicholls (Otaki)
Marc Khull (Manawatu)

Most of the squad were available for this fixture and it was beneficial to have such a large squad as several of the originally selected team members were struck down with ill health and had to be replaced.

Wellington began the day well by winning the first round (Singles) by 7 games to 5 but Hawkes Bay rallied in the second round (doubles) by 5 games to 1 and this trend continued in the triples. Hawkes Bay won the match 33 - 15

Summary:

Whilst we were unable to retain any of the three trophies played for, the squad developed well over the year and the improvement in play from all members of the squad is very noticeable in the results players are obtaining in tournaments.

The main focus of the squad is to prepare teams for the representative matches Wellington participates in. But also a very important part of the squad development is allowing players who want to improve their skills and perhaps move on to the next level. I believe that the squad "programme" allows this to happen through players learning new skills and techniques and being able to play (within the squad) against players who are of the same level or better on a regular basis.

Graeme Morris

Wellington Regional Coach