

April 2021

Daylight saving ends this weekend in the middle of Easter Weekend. It is amazing how fast time moves.... This time last year we were working from home in Level 4 lockdown and 'bubbles' was the buzz word. Thank goodness we got through the NZ Championships with no COVID-19 restrictions and the entire country got to enjoy an amazing event in Dunedin. With the NZ Champs behind us we now move toward Annual Meetings and end of year report writing.

We are now into the off-field season or the administration season, when we review, prepare remits, budgets, and new directions and plans for next season. An Open Forum Meeting is a good starting point to get feedback from members. A review of last season will provide both positive and negative feedback that you can critique and set plans ready for the new season.

- ◆ Firstly, a BIG thank you to **Marching Otago** and all their Volunteers for organising and presenting a great NZ Championship and to all the Teams who provided some exciting marching for us lucky to be in attendance to marvel at.
- ◆ A BIG thank you also to the Associations who have completed any outstanding end of year reporting. **Life Members** even if they are not active, they are still members of your Association. **Volunteer Members** all those who help out at Competitions, in the Recording Room, selling the raffles etc and **School / Community** are those participants whose names you have collected e.g. at Have a Go Days or Leisure Teams performing at competitions. These member stats are all recorded and added to your Membership statistics for the year.
- ◆ **MNZ Annual Meeting** has been advertised and registration form emailed out (and the first responses received – thank you Marching Otago).
- ◆ Any changes to the MNZ **Constitution, Policies and Rules of Participation** need to be carefully worded and before finalising remits make sure that a full check is made of the Constitution, Policies and Rules of Participation to ensure further changes are not required to give effect to a proposed change. Any such remits must be endorsed at an Association Committee meeting. Deadline for submitting remits etc is 30th April 2021.
- ◆ Does your Association have any item to be included for discussion in **General Business**? Be clear with your intent of the item for discussion and include convincing reasons why and how your discussion item will add value to the sport. Deadline for submitting General Business items is also 30th April 2021.
- ◆ Your Association will need to consider whom they intend nominating for the one **Board Member** vacancy and will need to approach that person to ensure the nomination will be accepted and requesting a précis sheet of their marching and employment/business achievements and a personal vision statement aligned to the MNZ Strategic Plan. Shaun Dowers, who was appointed Board Member to fill the vacant position created by the election of Vicky Law to President last Annual Meeting. is the Board Member who is retiring by rotation. There is no election for President, Vicky has served one year of the four-year term. Deadline for submitting nominations is 30th April 2021.
- ◆ Does your Association wish to submit names of suitably eligible person/s (as per Rule of Participation A23) for **MNZ Service Awards**? Send names and a brief précis of their service to the CEO, also by 30th April 2021.
- ◆ **Volunteer of the Month** – Please do not overlook this important task of nominating a Volunteer of the Month even in the off season. Now is the time to nominate your Committee, Coaches, Judges now that you have no volunteers on the field of competition. Acknowledging the work of Volunteers encourages their further involvement and can even lead them into Membership.
- ◆ If your Association has been considering an application for hosting the **2023 NZ Championships**, the deadline for application is 30th April 2021. If you need any help, have any questions don't hesitate to ask.

- ◆ You will have started the planning and established the date for your **Association Annual Meeting**, and you may have identified potential Committee Members who attended and contributed to your Open Forum Meeting. Be sure to follow up with them as they may need some persuading so start now, especially if you have some known vacancies on the Committee.
- ◆ **Board appointments** have been advertised in the Newsletter. Interested persons may require a copy of the Job Profile for the position of interest, they are available from the MNZ Website in printable format. Please encourage anyone interested, to send in an application and remind them that any such applications close with the CEO on 30th April 2021 and will be considered by the Board at the May Board Meeting.
- ◆ Remind **Teams Treasurers** to forward to the Association a list of their members with liabilities to the sport, giving details in respect to liabilities (as per Rule of Participation A20-9) to the member concerned who must also be advised of the liability. The list must be sent to the Association by 30 April otherwise all members are declared 'cleared'.
- ◆ **Administration Workshop** for President/Secretary/Treasurer is in the diary for Sunday 8th August 2021, commencing 10 am and concluding 4 pm.
- ◆ The weather looks good for Easter, but if you find yourself locked indoors it is an ideal time to check that all **Minutes** have been forwarded and remind your Chief Judge and Coaching Co-ordinator to check also that they have sent off their reports to their MNZ counterparts. Your Minutes will include reportage from your Treasurer, Chief Judge and Coaching Co-ordinator and if not included in the text of the minutes and referred to 'as attached', then the reports **MUST** be attached when circulated including when forwarded to MNZ and attached when filing for keepsake as per ROP A20.2.

A busy month with 30th April the deadline date for many actions. Have a great Easter Weekend, chocolates are allowed – it is tradition so enjoy.

Diane

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