



March 2021

March, the beginning of autumn and some of the trees are starting to show change of colour but is too early to determine if it is a weather season change or lack of rain stressing the trees to colour and drop leaves. Soon the temperatures will be dropping too and of the course the days too will change as we come to the end of daylight saving.

Weather will not be an issue as Teams and Judges direct their attention to and head off to the More FM Arena in Dunedin for the NZ Championships where host Association Marching Otago are completing the final details ready to welcome Marchers, Team Management, Judges and Supporters. The final details also include a COVID plan should the country be covered by more than one Alert Level. We are so keeping 'fingers crossed' that COVID is not going to disrupt our pinnacle event for the second time and continue as per 'normal' as I am sure you are too. Ensure that your Teams and Judges leave for Dunedin with the full support and best wishes of your Association, and you need to be aware of their travel times and their mode of transport, you are possibly the first contact if they run into difficulty with a mini-van breakdown, getting fogged in on early flights or even cancelled flights rescheduled.

We don't have many tasks to complete this month but after the NZ Championships we really step up the planning for next season and Association Annual Meetings.

Tasks this month should include staying aware of.

- ◆ **COVID** updates and restrictions (if any) are readily available at the Ministry of Health and Sport NZ websites. Both sites offer updates and information on how to avoid the virus and ensure ongoing good health and well-being. Please share with your Teams, especially those travelling to Dunedin for the NZ Championships. The health and well-being of our participants at the NZ Championships is very much a priority for us and can only be successful with the support of our Team of marching people.
- ◆ **NZ Championships** on 18/19/20th March. Farewell your Teams and Judges and check that they have no last-minute changes or concerns and wish them safe travels.
- ◆ **Sponsor** response for new NZ Championship Trophies for the Plate March was over-whelming. Sincere thanks to everyone for your support and we look forward to seeing the new trophies on the trophy table in Dunedin. If your Association was one who had offers from individuals to sponsor a trophy, they may be willing to extend the offer to the Association. Take a look at your Association list of trophies, some may need replacing or a new award could be added.
- ◆ **Publicity Officers** will be busy updating reports to the media about local Teams and Judges attending the NZ Championships and will need to follow up afterwards with the results and team achievements with photographs if possible. The Championship Draw will be added to the MNZ website later this week and all the Results as soon as possible after the Presentation of Awards.
- ◆ **2023 NZ Championship** applications to host this prestigious event will be considered at the May Board Meeting. Now is the time to follow up on the discussion from your last meeting and the research undertaken on venues etc and convince your Association of the benefits to the Association of putting together an application. Refer to Rule of Participation NZC1-2. The Application Document must be received no later than 30th April 2021. The Board consider applications at the May Board Meeting and the Host Association for the 2023 NZ Championships will be announced at the Annual Meeting to be held in Wellington on 26/27 June. If you need help putting an application together don't hesitate to ask and the Director of Finance will offer advice on budgets, you can contact him direct.
- ◆ **MNZ Annual Meeting** is to be held on Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 June at the Brentwood Hotel in Wellington. It will commence at 1 pm on Saturday and conclude at 4 pm Sunday. This Annual Meeting, being a two-day meeting will address remits to make changes to the Constitution, Policies and the Rules of Participation.

- ◆ **Association Delegates** to the MNZ Annual Meeting need to be considered, they represent your Association at the meeting and they must be capable of contributing the views of your membership in the discussions and then be able to present a comprehensive report back to the Association of the actions taken.
- ◆ **Constitution, Policies and Rules of Participation** changes require remits. They need to be carefully worded and before finalising your remit wording make sure that a full check is made of the Constitution, Policies and Rules of Participation to ensure changes are covered and are not in conflict with the different documents. Any such remits must be received by 30th April 2021.
- ◆ **General Business** items for discussion must be submitted to the CEO no later than 30th April 2021. 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.
- ◆ **Nominations** for one Board Member will be required and your Association need to consider whom they intend nominating for that Board Member position. You will need to approach the person to ensure they will accept your nomination and for them to provide a précis. Nominations close 30th April 2021. The term for a Board Member is four years (Rule 5.3.2). There is no election for President, President Vicky is in the second year of a four-year term (Rule 5.3.2).
- ◆ **MNZ Service Awards** are an opportunity for MNZ to acknowledge the service of members in a role other than a marcher. Does your Association wish to submit names of suitably eligible person/s (as per Rule of Participation A23)? Send names and a brief précis of their service to reach the CEO no later than 30 April 2021.
- ◆ **Association Forum Meeting** is a great opportunity to get feedback from all members of your Association and a chance to present a review of the past season, even some plans already finalised for the coming season. Some feedback will be good, some will be bad, but all will give direction and ideas for improvement next season. You may also identify interested members who could become Committee Members. They may need some persuading so start now, especially if you have some known vacancies on the Association Committee. The Forum Meeting could also be the platform for recognising your Volunteers who have supported your association during the year.
- ◆ **Association Annual Meeting** planning will be underway, and your Association Committee will need to consider which option of Association structure as per Constitution Rule 16.4.2. the Association will operate next year, and this should be recorded in your monthly minutes and then also in the Annual Meeting minutes. You have two structure options –
 - a) A President, Secretary, Treasurer, Coaching Co-ordinator, Chief Judge, Membership/Privacy Officer, Promotion/Publicity Officer and up to four other Committee Members.
 - b) A President, Secretary, Treasurer, Chief Judge, Coaching Co-ordinator and three Committee Member Convenors of Sub-Committee for Promotion and Publicity, Planning and Development and Technical and Coaching/Judging
- ◆ **Volunteer of the Month** – please, please send in your Volunteer of the Month – look at the Mums and Dads who have volunteered during the year. This simple recognition might be the catalyst to getting them further involved in the Team or the Association next season, maybe even in key positions of Team Management or even Association Committee Members.
- ◆ **Admin Workshop** (advance notice) for President/Secretary/Treasurer will be held on Sunday 8th August at the Brentwood Hotel in Wellington. A one-day workshop for the key officers of your Association.
- ◆ **Technical Workshops** (advance notice) for Coaches and Judges are in the planning stage for August/September, date and venue/s still to be confirmed and will be advised as soon as confirmed.
- ◆ **Life Members** who maybe not be as active as in the past, are still very interested in marching and the Association and really appreciate the invite to the Association Championships, so hope you added them to your list for your Championship. Thank you to the Associations who have completed and submitted the Life Member Registration Form, those still to send it in please do so asap to add to the final membership numbers for the 2020/21 season. A tip for next year - keep the completed form on file, add new Life Members elected this coming season and sadly removing the names of those who are no longer with us. Your form will then be ready to submit with the Association Registration Form at the beginning of the new season.

- ◆ **School /Community Member Form** also needs to be completed especially now that the end of season is fast approaching. Any School/Community group or Leisure Teams at your competitions should be included in these numbers, and if it will save you time, just staple a copy of the entry form to your competition to the registration form and send through (or scan each and email).
- ◆ **Volunteer Form** also needs to be completed or updated. Tip for completing the form - add names after each competition/meeting/activity, draw a line and send through to be added to the membership stats, then after the next month or two of adding more names draw another line and send through. Much easier than trying to think over an entire season of who has been a volunteer.
- ◆ Keep the minutes coming through and keep up the great work.

Have a great month. If you are lucky enough to get time off and attend the NZ Championships, I look forward to catching up sometime over the 3-days whilst in Dunedin.

Diane

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