



May 2021

What fantastic 'autumn' weather we are having, still very mild temperatures and no signs yet of the winter frosts and snow, and the array of colours of autumn leaves is just beautiful at present, though I will not see the beauty when they fall all over the lawn and driveway. Add the wind, and then wet weather and those beautiful leaves quickly lose appeal and become another task on my list of chores for the weekend.

Tasks on the Secretary 'To Do' List for May include –

- ◆ The **MNZ Annual Meeting** is an administrative meeting discussing and changing the Constitution, Policies and the Rules of Participation – the documents that govern and outline the how and what we do in the sport. The Annual Meeting is being held at the Brentwood Hotel in Wellington commencing 1 pm on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> June and concluding at 3 pm Sunday 27<sup>th</sup>. Late registration fee is \$125 (received after 30 April) and includes meeting catering. Saturday lunch at \$25 will be available for early arrivals and Saturday Night Celebration Dinner is optional at \$50. For accommodation at the Brentwood Hotel phone 0508 273689 and quote Group Booking # 81292.
- ◆ Thank you to the Marching Waikato and Canterbury who have taken the time to look to the future of the sport and how best our rules can apply, recommending changes to the **MNZ Constitution and Rules of Participation** that will be presented to the Annual Meeting. Thanks also to Marching Auckland, Waikato, Hawkes Bay and Canterbury for your very interesting topics for **General Business** discussion.
- ◆ Thank you also to those Associations who have presented nominations for the one **MNZ Board Member** vacancy.
- ◆ Recommendations for **MNZ Service Awards** have been received and the Board will consider all recommendations at the May Board Meeting. Recipients attending the Annual Meeting will be presented on that occasion and others will be presented at upcoming Workshops.
- ◆ The **Annual Meeting Agenda** will be sent out on 15<sup>th</sup> May. To allow your delegates to be fully informed when they contribute to the discussion at the Annual Meeting, be sure to brief them of the full input of your Association Committee. The wider membership may also be interested and through an Open Forum Meeting could make contributions. The Remits and General Business items will be sent as an email attachment for you to swiftly circulate to your members for their input.
- ◆ Have you held an **Open Forum Meeting** recently – if not, it is an ideal opportunity to seek out potential committee members and volunteers for the new season. They may need some persuading so start now, especially if you have some known vacancies on the Committee for next season. If you have held a meeting, make sure your committee follows through on the topics raised. Not all topics raised will work for your association, but perhaps with a little adjusting they may and early planning for the new season can only be beneficial to all concerned... especially in your role as Secretary.
- ◆ The Association Committee will have considered and agreed on which option of **Association Committee Composition** your association will operate next year and now that the decision is confirmed, notice and nominations can be called as per the option requirements outlined in Constitution Rule 16.4.2. It is recommended that the Association Annual Meeting record the option operating for the coming year.
- ◆ File (if any) the list of **members with liabilities** to the sport that you have received from Team Treasurers. This advice must have been received by 30<sup>th</sup> April otherwise all members are declared 'clear' of liabilities. Keep reminding Team Treasurers to inform the Association immediately these members have cleared their liabilities.
- ◆ Your Committee should be **planning for the coming season**. Time to re-look at your Strategic Plan and develop new initiatives that will meet your targets in the plan. Your initiative might be to recruit

new Judges for which your Chief Judge will, with some assistance from the Committee, formulate a plan to apply over the coming months and have Trainee Judges at the ready for Opening Day. Or the Association may consider a target drive toward more Masters Grade Teams and organise a coffee morning and invite/encourage potential marchers along to a quick marching presentation before hand.

- ◆ Thank you to the Associations who have submitted applications to host the **2023 NZ Championships**, which the Board will consider at the May Board Meeting with the successful Association announced at the Annual Meeting in June
- ◆ **Volunteer of the Month** – please, please keep sending in your Volunteer of the Month for MNZ to recognise in the Newsletter and please continue to acknowledge your volunteers too, a card or quick email is all that is required sometimes. Perhaps a Volunteers Function could be planned for June during Volunteer Awareness Week. Your function could be a great opportunity to present Service Awards to your members and thank ALL the Volunteers. Think outside the square and create an exciting and fun function, it could be an open gathering on a Sunday afternoon in the Park with a lolly scramble and fun games or an invite event prior to your Monthly Committee Meeting with BYO drinks and nibbles.
- ◆ You will have started the planning and set the date for your **Association Annual Meeting**. Be sure to cast your notice wide and to include the parents/caregivers of your marchers. Make it interesting and inviting and prove to your members that marching meetings can be enjoyable and productive. Be sure to follow up with anyone showing an interest in Committee positions and answer their questions.
- ◆ **Admin stuff** needs to be filed regularly and that includes sending copies of the Association Meeting minutes to the CEO and have the minutes or reports from the Association Coaching Co-ordinator (sent to the Technical Manager and the Director of Coaching) and Chief Judge (sent to the Technical Manager and Director of Judging) as per ROP A19.4 and no later than one month after the date of the meeting. Association 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 Technical Working Party and attached when filing for keepsake as per ROP A20.2.
- ◆ **Administration Workshop** in the diary for Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> August at the Brentwood Hotel in Wellington. Workshop for President/Secretary/Treasurer commencing 10 am and concluding 4 pm. Registration Forms and more information will be circulated soon.
- ◆ Save the Date information flyers have been circulated for the Coach and Judge Workshops coming up in August and September respectively.

A busy month despite being the 'off season', stay safe and hope you lovely ladies have a **very happy Mother's Day** on Sunday, 9th May.

*Diane*

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