

## **New Zealand Disc Golf Association Incorporated**

### **Chairman's Report on Operations for the Year to May 2020**

#### **“Nice problems to have”**

A year of growing pains, during which:

- The Association grew from c.300 to c. 400 active Members.
- Recreational player numbers in New Zealand grew from c.15,000 to c.20,000\*.
- Recent tournaments (2020) were effectively sold out; player numbers of 100+ will likely become the new normal for many events.

Similar levels of compound growth can be expected for the next several years.

On a per capita basis, the South Island has at least 5 times as many players as the North Island. This is not a problem, far from it, it is a golden opportunity. If the North Island were to bring per capita numbers to where the South Island is now, it would mean some 40,000 to 50,000 new recreational players and 800 to 1,000 new NZDG Members.

[\*These broad estimates of recreational player numbers derive from 4 complementary sources: precise counts of players at courses over time, rule of thumb estimates of players per course according to current load, anecdotal sales data from vendors, and by using tournament attendance as proxy.]

#### **NZDG responses to growth**

While the above are nice problems to have, they require more than a simple coping strategy. During the year, the Board took action as follows:

- The number of Non-Executives was expanded from 2 (the PDGA Representative for New Zealand and the Membership Secretary) to 5, with the addition of a Website Consultant, a Tour Director Assistant and a Financial Advisor. This trend can be expected to continue as and when needs arise and suitably qualified people put themselves forward.
- A system of Working Groups was instituted, similar to sub-committees, but less formal and more task or project oriented. Working Groups active during the year were:
  - Constitution Working Group (project completed). A substantially re-written Constitution was put to Members and approved by them in February 2020. Main elements were expansion of the Board from 6 to 7 Directors (with clearly defined roles), significant changes to voting procedures, improved governance, and increased focus on Affiliated Clubs (18 currently), who have a dedicated Director (Deputy Chair).
  - Tour Working Group (ongoing). To keep in review all aspects of the NZ Tour. A comprehensive TD pack was compiled to assist Tournament Directors.
  - Website Working Group (ongoing). An entirely new website was built. As well as carrying forward everything for NZDG Members from the old website, the new website faces outward (for example to new players and prospective new Members). It is intended as a gateway to all things disc golf in New Zealand, and it is hoped will support the Association through the coming years of growth.

- Covid-19 Working Group (ongoing). Taking advantage of medical expertise in our Membership, we formed this Working Group before the first case was reported in New Zealand. Thus we were able to give practical advice to Members immediately.

Most of these Working Groups and associated projects have demanded a considerable investment of time and skill.

### **The tournament scene**

Before it was paused by Covid-19, the tournament scene in New Zealand was thriving. Once restrictions are lifted (i.e. when we move to Level 1), we expect tournaments to bounce back to where they were in the first quarter of 2020, and to continue growing.

We are particularly pleased to see new Tournament Directors putting themselves forward. We have increased the level of support for TDs (especially new ones), and expect this support to continue growing.

### **Conflict of interest**

The Board has put in place a simple (unbureaucratic) but comprehensive Conflict of Interest Policy, which we hope will guide the Association and its Members for years to come.

### **Legal**

The Board took simple steps to protect NZDG's intellectual property and brand, including establishing a relationship with a leading intellectual property law firm.

### **Sport New Zealand**

We started building a relationship with Sport NZ. We expect this to bear fruit in future, for example in the dealings of Affiliated Clubs with their regional sports trusts.

### **Member support**

We surveyed our Members on matters of topical interest, something we expect to repeat in future.

We instituted a simple feedback form on our website, and have done our best to respond to all queries.

We formalised policy for financial support of Members travelling to tournaments.

We reviewed Membership terms (and are proposing an additional type of Membership - by subscription - which is being put to the Annual General Meeting).

### **Volunteers**

The 6 Directors of NZDG and our 5 Non-Executives are all unpaid volunteers working in their spare time. I would like to thank them all heartily.

Paul Deacon  
Chairman