

# Masterton



## Pétanque Club

AFFILIATED TO W.P.A.



January

2



# “Miss the bottles”

## Electronic NewsLetter

If you would like to be on the mailing list for this free newsletter, (you do not need to be a member of our club) send me a signal at: [bodebons@xtra.co.nz](mailto:bodebons@xtra.co.nz) and you will receive one by email about every eight weeks.

### MISS THE BOTTLE

Our biannual “**Miss the Bottles**” competition which was held on December 18 was again a fun day enjoyed by all. We must be getting better, judging by the number of broken bottles this year, compared with the previous competition in 1997.



In that year we smashed an unbelievable 230 bottles of wine with only 20 successful hits. This Year we only broke 86 bottles of wine with 52 successful hits with 21 of them perfect carreau. After we cleaned up all the broken glass and sprayed the area with water to remove the very strong smell of wine, we had a potluck dinner. Our members enjoyed it so much that we are thinking of making it an annual event with participants invited from all over New Zealand. If you are interested, we suggest you start practising with plastic lemonade bottles during this summer. We would never have been able to organize this competition without the generous assistance from our sponsor “The Broken Wine Bottle” restaurant here in Masterton.

See you in December 2000!



*Satirically Speaking*

# Last and First

# Carreau

Millennium  
2000

On December 31 1999 at 2200 hours the last Pétanque tournament in the world began in Masterton and finished in the new millennium at 1.37 hours! It is therefor also the only Pétanque tournament that has straddled two centuries. There were about 28 members including family members. There was plenty to eat and drink, making for some very good play. Prizes were appropriately diaries and calenders for the year 2000. Eighteen players took part in this historic event.

Please let us know if you know of any other Pétanque tournament that took place during the millennium.

You can contact me at  
[bodebons@xtra.co.nz](mailto:bodebons@xtra.co.nz)

As you can see from the photos, the weather conditions were excellent, despite the forecast of rain. We all had a good time and have decided to do it again next time.



1999 & 2000

Cheers, Tom.

# Pétanque World Cup 1999 Report

We received this report from Geoff Greer, Denise and Murray Porter just after our main newsletter had been posted to our members. We will put it in our next newsletter, but in the meantime here is an abridged version.

## The World Cup Competition Experience at Reunion Island

### Snap shot comments:

In an indoor stadium; 2000-3000 seats; ten hard bouncy red volcanic soil terrains, hot and very humid.

Around 40 national teams

International styles very different from NZ

At times practicing on concrete

New Zealand in local paper as “non academy”.

NZ won one game from 7.

The team and supporters had a lot of attention.

An incredible learning experience

Supporters benefited as much as players.

### Before the Competition at Reunion

We arrived at Reunion Island after about 30 hours of flying or in transit knowing that we had about three days to settle in before the tournament. After some initial hassles acquiring a hire car we headed down the coast to a resort area.

We discovered later that we were lucky in that our original booking fell through and our new accommodation was among coconut palms adjacent to a lovely white sandy beach, a nice place to relax and get some practice.

*(Photo on the right: Geoff, Denise and Murray at a practice session in Masterton before the World Cup)*

We practised in the car park beneath the trees, which was mainly concrete with some sand and pine needles.

The Dutch team was staying at our resort



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as well and they practiced along side us at times. We got an idea of what was to come, as they pointed very high with lots of backspin. The balls only moved a few inches on the concrete when it landed. Carreau after Carreau was also very impressive to watch.

A day or so later we went into the stadium to check out registering, photos etc. After all of the talk of the previous years rocky ground we were eager to find out what the terrain was going to be like.

The ten terrains in an inside stadium were a volcanic red, very hard and bouncy with a light loose surface of scoria and grey metal chips. We were relieved. It appeared to be OK for pointing but shooting was difficult as you couldn't even drop your boule an inch in front of your target without it bouncing over the top.

We were somewhat surprised to find that we, as well as the supporters were allowed to practice on it.

While practicing we were approached by a local team made up of some of the officials organising the tournament for a game. We were rewarded with a win, which gave us some confidence for the competition. They had what is called an "Academy" style as opposed to us being described in the local paper the next day as "non-academy." The headline was a "Frenchie" with the Allblacks". The article was mainly a biography bout Christian and his path to NZ and then back to Reunion as delegate. The black uniform was starting to get attention due to the Rugby Allblacks and we got more noticed than our play deserved because of that. Having all of the supporters in a black also helped create an impression. It helped them move about the stadium as well, as some areas were closed off to the public.

The registration process required presenting our NZPA licences. There was some panic as Murray had not thought to bring his. After several faxes back and forth to NZ by Christian and a fax from Cam Calder verifying it we all managed to get registered. This meant getting photo ID cards and tickets for meals at the Players and Officials restaurant for the length of the competition.

The opening ceremony involved al of the teams parading with their National flags and lining up for speeches, which were all in French. English was rarely spoken throughout the competition so we couldn't have got by without Christian who kept things on track interpreting for us when necessary.

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The opening ceremony finished with a local dance from the school children that had led the teams in. Some of the children had earlier befriended the New Zealanders troupe and we found ourselves pulled out into the middle to dance in front of the crowd. It was a lot of fun trying to emulate their National dance.

The opening night finished with a buffet and drinks. It was here we met the Irish for the first time. It appears that the Kiwis and Irish team have had a bit to do with each other at every world cup. This has been due to Cam Calder's involvement over the years. The three Irish players had been competing to the world cup for between 7 to 12 years so they knew the ropes and supported us when we were playing and off the piste.

## At the World cup:

### The competition structure:

The world cup involves a number of qualifying rounds to get into a final sixteen with the rest going into the Nations cup, which is the equivalent of a plate.

We knew if we performed similar to previous years NZ teams that over the length of the competition we would get between 6 and 8 games. As it came to be we had 7 games.

We were understandingly a bit nervous but thrilled to be competing at such a wonderful event amongst the world's best. The name players who have dominated the sport for years and who feature on the international Petanque videos were walking past and practicing on the piste's around us.

Once we started we felt OK. Being watched was not an issue as there were ten terrains and most people who were watching were observing the name teams, apart from our supporters of course.

We were hoping to draw some teams near our level of experience and skill. As it was, apart from Singapore we drew teams who were in the top 18 of the world cup. Approximately 40 National teams were competing.

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The World Cup style of competition format is quite different to our competitions as it is over 4 days and nights and involves only 10 terrains for 40 teams. At the most there are 2 or 3 games a day.

There is often a long wait between games. So you have to find a rhythm and get your skill levels up quickly in every game. This is something we struggled with during the tournament.

The games we played were as follows:

## **Preliminary rounds:**

### **Denmark ( Score 4-13)**

#### **Comment:**

This being the first game both teams were tense and were trying to find their feet. The Denmark shooter was shooting and not hitting many in this game. However, in later games he got his eye in and they eventually made it through to the final 16.

We had difficulty shooting due to both the bounciness of the terrain and not being able to hit it consistently on the full. Many of the ends were also at 9 to 10 metres.

### **Great Britain ( 1. Score 4-13 ) and (2. Score 4-13)**

#### **Comment:**

We drew Great Britain twice and in both games we had our opportunities to advance our points but were unable to capitalise. They went onto the final 16. They caused a bit of an upset when they beat Morocco 13-1 on the way.



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## **Singapore ( Score 13-6) Our only win.**

### **Comment:**

Singapore was the only team we played of a similar level to us. We were trailing 1-6 early in the game, but with a concerted effort, more accurate pointing and a successful shoot, we accumulated 12 unanswered points winning 13-6.

## **Morocco ( Score 0-13 )**

### **Comment:**

This team was the 1998 2<sup>nd</sup> place getter at the world champs in the Canary Islands. Their pointer is reputed to be the best pointer in the world. In this game they played shorter ends of 7 to 8 metres.

We pointed fairly well but in the end they had too much strike power for us.

It was quite amusing in hindsight, that they had to beat us to get into the world cup final 16 after their beating by Great Britain.

(Note that we did draw Madagascar, the eventual new world champs, but did not have to play them as we lost both of our first games)

## **Nations Cup:**

### **Germany ( Score 3-13**

### **Comment:**

This game went away from us quickly. We got the first points as we were pointing reasonably well in this game. Germany got back into the lead with 5 points and with a lot of our boules close they shot the cochenet out by mistake and picked up 4. They did the same with the next end and got another 4 and the game was over.

Germany went on to the final of the Nations cup winning against Sweden

### **Sweden ( Score 4 -13**

### **Comment:**



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Again we felt that some of our pointing was quite competitive in this game. More so than the score indicates. They came second in the Nations cup to Germany.

(We would have had one more game but drew a bye in this last round.)

## Playing Styles

As mentioned earlier they were predominantly long ends at 9 to 10 metres. The only deviation from this were the USA team that tried to throw it just on 6 metres each time.

There were a variety of different styles. The “Academy” approach was the high lob for pointing (either crouching or standing) and on the full Carreau for shooting. Having mentioned the academy style there was a wide variety of approaches. There were some expectations from the crowd of what was a good style. The crowd booed the French team and some of the other top players when they pointed low on some or occasions.

For most players though they used the style that they were most successful with. Many players pointed low with success. Shooters dropping earlier were always punished.

It was interesting to observe the different rituals or preparation before each point or shoot. It was the same each time to get the consistency.

## The Rules

The main rule was the 6 to 10 metre rule. The one-minute rule was also adhered to when necessary due to the number of teams and limited terrains.

The other main requirement was to be very still when any team around you was shooting. That is whether in your game or in the one next to you.

The main impression from the tournament was that the teams played in a good competitive spirit. Minor infringements such as feet over the line were not bothered with.

The big plus for the tournament was the good sportsmanship displayed. Even in the very tense final matches it was very businesslike with acknowledgement

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of skill displayed by opposing teams.

The one area of rules we came into contact was the dress code. Shorts (and Jandels) were not allowed. Apart from that, the dress code was not onerous. Teams only needed to wear matching shirts and trousers.

## Role of Supporters

We were fortunate to have our support team of Gary and Karen Tayler, Joanne Porter, Philippa McNiven, and Don and Cathy Thompson. They to were dressed in black and were easily identifiable amongst the spectators.

One of the main benefits from the tournament was having 10 people participate and observe the level and styles of play bringing this back to New Zealand. For those who attended the sport of Petanque will not be the same again.

## Finance Issues

(Travel Costs and Fund Raising, Local and National)

### Snap shot comments

We had excellent support from the Bay View fundraising Committee. They worked tirelessly with us to raise a large part of the required funds.

The International Petanque Federation contributed during competition. NZPA contributed \$670 from the \$7000 raised from the National raffle for each of the playing team members.

### Summary of Costs: (for 3 players)

Return Airfares	\$7500
Insurance	\$350
Uniforms	\$1050
Accommodation/ meals etc outside competition.*	\$2500

**Total:** **\$11,400**

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(\* Note that this was for expenses associated with the tournament before and immediately after it. It does not include any holiday time we may have spent after the tournament.

Note also that the International Petanque Federation pays for a hire car, accommodation and meals for the duration of the competition. This includes the final night Banquet which is over \$100 for non players and officials.)

## ***Funds Raised:***

NZPA Raffle	\$2000
Wellington Petanque Assoc.	\$100
Rotorua Petanque Club	\$100
Le Coq and Boule ( Taradale)	\$200

Total: **\$2400**

## ***Local Fundraising and Players own Contributions:***

For example, local raffles,  
Trivial pursuits, fund raising competitions,  
sales of shooters mates and  
players own contributions.

**\$ 9000**

Total expenses: **\$11400**

## ***Commentary:***

The total expenses needed for each player was \$3800.

We understand that the NZPA is intending not to support the future teams other than a New Zealand T-Shirt each and that it is expected that the regions where the winning team comes from will raise funds for their team.

As we may be the last ones to receive this type of NZPA support we thank them and those players in different parts of the country for your support.

Previously sponsorship from the airlines has been available. Unfortunately

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in 1999 this was not possible. It is hoped that this may be able to be targeted for future teams.

## CONCLUDING COMMENTS

We have been asked to comment and give any suggestions from our experience.

For us players and the supporters it was a wonderful experience. Our view of Petanque will never be the same again.

There has been some debate about New Zealand's participation in overseas tournaments. After attending this one we are now firm supporters of this in order to develop the sport in NZ. Some observations are:

If players in NZ are serious about developing Petanque into a real sport they need to look outside New Zealand to raise skill levels.

We believe NZPA should encourage players to attend any tournament which involves exposure to international styles and skills levels.

The NZPA should support in a meaningful way NZ attendance at the World cup, any Pacific and Asian based competitions and the NZ Open as our only local International Tournament.

There are also a number of suggestions about planning and supporting any teams to the World Cup in the future. These include:

Have an NZPA policy on the detail of what to expect before the Easter National competition.

This should include specifically what support financial or otherwise is available. You can see from the costs that for some the level of support will determine whether they will go or not.

We believe a financial contribution is a useful start for the team. It should be pre-determined before the Easter Competition. It does not have to be a large amount. The fundraising does not have to be rushed and planning should be ongoing.

The raffle is problematic. Other ways should be investigated. Although this year there were other benefits to NZPA as well, so from that point of view NZPA may want to retain it.

Work on longer-term sponsorship for NZPA activities including international competitions so that it isn't a yearly task.

Encourage supporters to go. Supporters tour perhaps, if there is interest. It is essential that at least one member of the group is a French speaker.

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From a preparation point of view a number of simple things are suggested.

Contact the winning team soon after they have won to let them know what happens next.

Link them up with a team from the previous years as soon as possible.

Be clear about what is expected of the team before they go and after they return. This includes expectations of club visits, reports and any other activities.

If asked what is the one piece of advice for next years team we wished we had. It would be:

**“Just play like you did when you won the National Triples.”**

The above comments are not intended as a criticism of the process this year. New Zealand has only been involved in this type of competition for a short period of time and NZPA appears to be improving and developing its approach over time.

We hope that future teams enjoy the experience as we did and would be willing to discuss any issues with them and the NZPA if they wish.

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# M.P.C.



Next time you are in Masterton you can find us at the Park Bowling Club in Queen Elizabeth Park.

Each Wednesday night we meet at about 5.30pm and on Sundays at 2.00pm.

For more information phone:

(06) 378 7331

(06) 377 3404

or email: [grame.morris@xtra.co.nz](mailto:grame.morris@xtra.co.nz)