

Wellington Petanque Association Interclub Competition

Discussion Paper

Beginning:

A formal interclub competition run by the Wellington Petanque Association was first played in 2003.

It started as a winter competition with seven clubs entering a team and Kapiti (as the largest club) was allowed to enter two teams to prevent a bye. The competition was divided into two divisions of 4 teams and played over 9 rounds and all games were played at the one venue.

The same format was used for the 2003/2005 season.

In 2005/2006 the competition involved 9 clubs and was played over 5 Saturdays with a match in the morning and another match in the afternoon. Having 9 teams created a bye. Each team consisted of 6 players and each match involved singles, doubles and triples.

This format continued for the 2006/2007 season.

From 2008 to 2016 the interclub was played by teams in two zones. The West Zone games were played at Kapiti and the East Zone were played at Park Avenue (now Naenae). The zone competitions were played over 2 and a half days (separate Saturdays) with a match in the morning and another match in the afternoon. A bye was involved. After the zone competitions were finished all teams played in a final's day at Kapiti. The top 2 teams from each zone played for the division one championship, the 3rd and 4th placed teams played for the division two championship and the 5th placed teams played for the division three title.

This format proved quite popular until 2016. Because of the zone format teams did not have to travel so much as previously.

Currently:

There was no interclub in 2017 but at a WPA Committee meeting (regular meeting of all clubs) on 4th May 2017 it was passed that **the interclub was to be reinstated and it would be held on one day (at the end of January 2018) and it would involve teams of 4 (2 doubles)**. Clubs were invited to enter more than one team. The first team from a club would be entered automatically in division one and any subsequent entries from a club would be entered in division two.

2018 There were 9 teams in each division and played over 5 Swiss draw matches.

Unfortunately, with 9 clubs entering (particularly in the first division) this resulted in a bye. With the intention that the first division, be a "true" interclub with each club represented there was no other alternative to having a bye. There was no fair way of reducing the division to 8 teams and likewise there was no fair way to bring up a team from division 2 as this would give the club with 2 teams an advantage. Also, how would you decide on which club was entitled to 2 teams in division one?

In 2019 the competition followed a similar format with division 1 divided into 2 pools of 4 with semi-finals and a final and the second division consisted of one pool of 6 teams.

In 2020 there were 9 clubs with 20 teams entered. With so many teams it was decided to play 4 Swiss Draw qualification games after which teams were split into 3 sections of 4 and 1 section of 2.

Places 1 to 4 played for the division one title. Places 5 to 8 played off for 5th to 8th positions and teams 9 to 12 played off for the division two title. Teams 13 and 14 played for 13th and 14th places. With so many teams there were many players playing for their club who would not normally play in WPA tournaments.

In 2021, there were 16 teams from 9 clubs. All teams participated in a 4 round Swiss draw format. After the 4 Swiss draw games teams were divided into 2 divisions of 8 teams each in a single elimination format. The top 8 in Division One and the other 8 in Division 2.

The day finished very late.

Future:

The Wellington Petanque Association clubs need to consider how the interclub needs to be structured going forward.

Some aspects to be considered are:

- What are the aims of an interclub competition? Should it be purely to find the top club in Wellington in whatever format is decided? Or should it be to encourage as many players as possible to play competitively in a team environment, or should it be both?
- Should it remain a one-day competition.
- Should it involve only one team per club or should clubs be allowed to enter multiple teams which would mean more players involved which encourages participation.
- Does a team consist of;
 1. 6 players in a format of singles, doubles and triples.
 2. 6 players in a format of 2 triples
 3. 4 players in a format of 2 doubles

Once some of the above questions have been answered, a suitable format can be designed to meet the criteria that clubs have decided upon.

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