

NZU Board report – June 2007

Introduction

Greeting from your Board. We hope your Perth WUCC and 2006 season hangover has abated and you are now ready to kick this game into gear for 2007 and 2008. We have a lot of new ideas and initiatives coming out over the next 12 – 18 months and with your help we can really get things happening.

The NZU Board met around the table on the weekend of 19/20 May with a very full agenda.

Out of this meeting came a number of actions and ideas, some short term, some long term and some perhaps only pipe dreams. The vision we have come up with for Ultimate's future in NZ will need to be further refined with input from you, our stakeholders, and this will happen over the course of the next year.

The aim is to develop a group of shared goals that all regions and future Boards will keep working towards, continually building on those on the successes of those before them. YOU can and should be involved in this process – so if you have an idea, a thought or a piece of constructive criticism, please do not hesitate to contact us.

The immediate actions that have come out of this meeting revolve around three areas – Tournaments, Sharing and Worlds.

Tournaments

Ultimate in New Zealand is in need of an enduring and predictable tournament structure. National events have been tinkered with, probably rightly, each and every year, but this has led to a sense of uncertainty and has prevented effective planning for individuals, teams, clubs and regions. The NZU Board put out a survey prior to the meeting and the feedback received was very useful. After rigorous debate, we have adopted the concept of 1 National Championship Tournament each year for each division – Mixed, Men's and Women's (with Men's and Women's tournaments being held at the same venue at the same time). It is the intention of this Board that this structure stay in place for at least three years – to allow the schedule to settle, better forward planning and a focus on other matters such as growing player numbers and abilities. It is also the intention that these two tournaments will be held at the same time each year further removing confusion about the National schedule.

The advantages of this model also include an increase in the importance of these tournaments and to allow more locally targeted events to develop, which is desirable from a regional development and financial point of view.

Does this mean only two events each year for me or my team? Hopefully not. The NZU board sees the success of regional tournaments such as Brass Monkey, Taupo Hat, Disc Wars and Ocean Beach as a way of developing more events in a year. While these tournaments have mostly targeted the social player, there is no reason why more competitive tournaments cannot be run along the same lines. NZU intends to put a

great effort this year into producing teams resources to encourage and enable more regions, teams or individuals to organise events.

Sharing

There are many people in the Ultimate community that work very hard to help run our sport. Part of NZU's role is to try and help these people and make their task easier. The fastest way to achieve this in the short term is to ensure that all of our collective knowledge is shared, so we can all learn from the success and failures of each other and improve our ways of operating. Things like recruitment, coaching and school programmes are used at the local level, but could be shared and developed at a national level, allowing all regions/volunteers to take advantage of good things been done elsewhere in the country. Look out for initiatives in the near future and get involved. The more ideas and larger our collective knowledge, the more successful this programme will be.

Worlds 2008 and Beyond

The focus of the High Performance area this year will again be the World Ultimate Championships in Vancouver, August 2008. World clubs in Perth has been a huge focus recently with many, many people working very hard to ensure that it was a success. This was achieved, with 5 teams making the trip across the Tasman – a fantastic outcome. This has understandably led to a lull during the 6 months afterwards, but efforts will need to be stepped up or organise a successful WUGC 2008 campaign. NZU will be looking to appoint some people to lead this effort, so if you wish to be involved – don't be shy – let us know.

Longer term though, we need to put in place a more enduring High Performance Programme which will make the process of gearing up for these Worlds events easier, as much of the ground work will already have been done. Again – watch out for NZU initiatives in this area and if it interests you – get involved.

End Piece

So there you have it. Our immediate goals for this year:

1. Enduring, predictable tournament structure
2. A shared vision by all stakeholders
3. Improved resources and ideas sharing including running tournaments
4. WUGC 2008 and beyond

as well as an effort to put in place an infrastructure that will help NZU succeed in the future.

The key, if you are interested, is to get involved. Got an idea? – let us know. Want to help out? – let us know. Constructive criticism? – let us know.

Let's work together to take the game of Ultimate in NZ to another level.

Iain, Eric, Ingrid, Mike and Sammy
Your NZU Board