

Tēnā Koutou

Ko Maungakiekie rāua ko Rakaumangamanga ōku maunga

Ko Waitematā rāua ko Ipipiri ōku moana

Ko Mahuhu ki te Rangī rāua o Ngātōkīmatawahaorua ōku waka

Ko Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei rāua ko Ngā Puhī ōku iwi

Ko Te Taou, Ngaoho, Te Uringutu, Ngāti Kuta, Patukeha ōku hapū

Ko Ōrākei, Te Rawhiti, Kaingahoa ōku marae

Ko Arne Burgess tōku ingoa

E noho ana au ki Tāhuna

Tēnei te mihi ki a hapori ripirere

My Name is Arne Burgess and I am seeking election to the position of Tour Director for the New Zealand Disc Golf Association.

I have been playing Disc Golf for just under two years. I have been playing tournament golf for a year and a half and I am looking forward to running my first event as TD in June. I have been a committee member of the Christchurch Disc Golf Club, and I am a member of NZDG, CDGC and QDGC.

I bring with me 20 plus years of sports administration in rugby, cricket, American football, netball, golf and soccer. Disc golf as a sport has grown beyond what it was pre covid times. We sit at a precipice of the sport climbing to the next level or going backward. The quantity of Disc Golf tournaments is growing by the month, and I want to support TD's with continuing this growth.

Where I believe I can be effective, is to represent NZDG in a way that ensures that the quality of these tournaments is consistent and aligns with the guidelines set out by PDGA. I will do this by ensuring that events on the NZDG tour comply with minimum requirements for their tier levels. I also want to discuss with TDs as to how we can eliminate split tier tournaments such as A/B tier or even A/C tier. Our amateur player base is at least 4 times bigger than our professional player base and deserve the same experience as the professional players.

I also believe that I can be effective in helping NZDG to 'grow the game' by simply defining what that looks like. Some ideas I have with this is to

- Assist the Outreach Director to create a curriculum of Disc Golf, to approach regional sporting bodies to fund disc golf coaches for schools.
- Work with TDs that are local to these schools to put on leagues or tournaments so that kids that are learning Disc Golf have the ability to play it outside of school.
- Actively seek funding to ensure that junior tournament entry is free or subsidised.
- Working with Sport NZ to follow their Women in sport strategy.

In summary, with me as Tour Director I want to bring change to the NZ disc golf tournament scene. By change I mean better tournaments, more often, With equitable payouts and more unique players.

I encourage all fellow NZDG members to vote. I appreciate the support of those who give me their vote but equally appreciate all who don't.

Tēnei te mihi ki a koutou

Arne Burgess

To the Members of New Zealand Disc Golf



Mat Prichard - Candidacy Letter for Deputy Chair

I have remained passionately committed to NZDG and to disc golf in New Zealand while in the role of Financial Advisor to NZDG for the last three years. This has involved board advisory and preparation and review of the annual financial statements as a Chartered Accountant.

After nearly 11 years I have recently resigned as Finance Manager at Snow Sports NZ which has created a welcome and long-awaited opportunity to dedicate more time to NZDG. With sports administration, finance, and governance experience gained from a team of 60 incredible people, managing an annual budget of \$6m, and working closely with highly skilled board members, I have gained valuable experience to assist the future growth of NZDG.

My director goals include:

- Governance, sponsorship, and strategy advisory
- Assisting the Chairperson role as required
- Assisting the Treasury function directly as required
- Assisting directors with their own personal governance development
- Contribute to the development and future of the NZDG tour
- Investigate resuming annual course installation funding provided by NZDG
- Continue Sport NZ relationships to have NZDG recognised as a national sports partner

My happy place is designing disc golf courses in Wanaka with my besties The Basket Tiers and having everyone join us at our diverse quarterly public pop ups. Pop up donations then go to Disc Golf Wanaka and assist in the generation of annual trust funding for our thriving club. The personal reward comes from making our game accessible to all, particularly when those pop ups are later funded and installed as permanent courses.

However, my underlying personal motivator for many years has been to have NZDG recognised as a national sports partner. My dream is to unlock the potential funding for disc golf in NZ at a government level. Our game ticks so many health boxes and through my time at Snow Sports NZ I have developed long-term relationships with the key Sport NZ contacts to make that dream a reality.

More Baskets in the Ground!

Mat Prichard

CA, GradDipCom, BBS

Hi All,

I'm Ewan, some of you will know me from events I've run in the Canterbury area, some from events I've played in throughout the south island. This year is my 4th year of competitive disc golf, and marks also two completed terms as an executive committee member for the Christchurch Disc Golf Club. For the bulk of these terms I have also served as the club's Primary TD through 3 Club level Events, 7 C teirs, and as both a Rules Official and Assistant TD for both iterations of the Garden City Open at B teir. I have also contributed extensively to Course maintenance and Engineering tasks for CDGC.

I am the father of twelve year old twins, one who regularly competes in disc golf events alongside me. My training and experience professionally is in the civil engineering, construction, and mining fields, with my current role being service technician engineer within the irrigation industry. Problem and solution identification, being able to communicate with and collaborate with others, and my work ethic are all traits I bring to the table, and which to date have served CDGC well.

I intend to stand in the upcoming NZDG board elections as chairman, along side like minded people such as Arne Burgess, and Andrew Falconer, all of us looking to improve the governance, standards, and accessibility of Disc Golf within New Zealand, whilst working at the issues around transparency and reunification with regard to the relationships between the NZDG board, its affiliated clubs, and its membership. At present there is a perceived lack of action, leadership, approach-ability, and general direction from the NZDG board, and these are the things I intend to correct.

First and foremost I am a player, whilst I like to dabble in the MPO fields, I am by definition an amateur, and like the majority of players that make up the eligible voting membership, my interest is in ensuring that amateur players are afforded the same experience and standard of competition that pro fields enjoy. Further to this our focus needs to always be on our home grown talent and providing development opportunities to them rather than them being a side show to imported touring pros. As a TD I am aware, as some will be, that junior and female divisions tend to be some of the biggest event expenses due to lower numbers of players signing up. An NZDG Board under my leadership will be working with TDs to find ways to make these divisions viable, and to build the player bases they serve. This may involve financial assistance where appropriate.

I would also like to see a review undertaken into tournament practices like split tiering (a/b teir, b/C teir, or a/c teir). These practices are being used in order to pay out am fields less than pros, and to offer a lesser standard of competition, (less officials, less marking of Ob etc), which doesn't sit well with. As TDs we should be striving to provide the same, top notch experience to all players at our events, even if this means offering our top events at B or C teir to meet or exceed the minimum standards laid out to us by the PDGA.

As NZDG is elected by the player population to represent and govern, they must be accountable for ensuring events and TDs are providing acceptable experiences and payouts across both pro and am fields. If this is not happening it is the Boards duty to step in and prevent repeat occurrences, either through review of preparations, re-teir, offering TDs additional support, or limiting TDs to lower teirs or refusing sanctioning for future events. These are all tools a Board under my leadership will wield should the need arise.

Secondly I wish to address the "growth of the game" and NZDGs role in this. Events and tours such as TDU and Elite Series whilst providing a showcase for the heights of the New

Zealand scene do not "grow the game", frequent and accessible competition does. Well supported events aimed at youth does. Reinvesting gains from events and membership into course maintenance or helping to establish courses where there aren't any, does.

By changing our funding model, and reviewing our constitution to come into line with sport NZ guidelines, we have an opportunity to seek other means of funding which could be used to help support TD's to offer better junior and female divisions (currently one of the most cost prohibitive parts of a small tournament), and assisting TDs in taking competition to provincial areas which will benefit more players than the few who currently receive minor travel grants.

With so many tournaments competing to be top level, it is also vital we continue to grow the grassroots game either through a new series of smaller one day events or changing the criteria of the NZDG tour to allow one day events to be considered. Anecdotally there is great value in one day events as CDGC have proven. They generally attract more amateurs for their first competitive experiences, they afford players the chance to learn and try new divisions, and also are great for training TDs and breeding competition. One dayers grow the game.

Youth leagues and junior only tournaments again tried last year by CDGC have resulted in us growing a league of some 40+ school children. The flow over is that at Garden City Open we had one of the biggest MJ/FJ15 fields to date. They are however expensive and rely on sponsorship to make them accessible to youth. This is an area where NZDG funding should be considered. Youth leagues grow the game.

Whilst I acknowledge those who have come before, now is the time for us as a group to consider moving forward under a new guard, into a new era for NZDG. Choose wisely.

Ewan Craig
#174234

Dear Members,

Thank you for taking the time to learn about the candidates in this 2024 election for New Zealand Disc Golf Board of Directors. It's members like you that we need more help from as we continue to grow our club and our sport into 2025 and beyond.

In case we haven't met, my name is Brady Kuech and I'm the current chair of NZDG. I'm seeking to be reelected to the position of Chair having held the position for the last two years. Prior to my time as Chair, I served on the NZDG Board as both the Tour Director and the Communications Director.

It's been my goal for the last two years as Chair to rebuild the trust in NZDG and to build a foundation of systems and structures that allows the board to seamlessly carry out their duties. With most of those systems now in place, I would now like to turn my focus towards three new objectives.

- 1) Continuing to elevate the three NZDG major events (NZ Nationals, NZ North Island Championship, and NZ South Island Championship) as well as turn NZ Nationals into a recurring DGPT Q Series event.
- 2) Unify schools and work towards dedicated student events on the NZDG Tour.
- 3) Reinvigorate NZDG year end awards.

I cannot achieve any of these objectives alone, and I look forward to working with the passionate individuals on the board and around the country in order to achieve them.

Thank you all again for your time and for being an active member of this club.

See you on the course.

Regards,

Brady Kuech
Chair
New Zealand Disc Golf