

## Seeking Your Support for Chair

My name is Brady Kuech and I'm running for the position of NZDG Chair. I seek to raise the level of trust and bring greater unity to our growing community. As such, I would love to have your vote to achieve these aims over the next year.

For those who don't know me, I'm a United States born Kiwi who first discovered disc golf in 2007. Since moving to NZ in 2012, I have been heavily involved in the NZ disc golf scene as a player and tournament director, serving on the NZDG board of directors for five years as a Tour Director and Communications Director, as well as helping to form the Greater Wellington Disc Golf Club. If we haven't met on the course, you can see me on the weekly Sweet Chain Live Podcast every Thursday night.

I won't be able to increase trust and unify our community alone. I will work closely with Andrew Fleming, making sure the board communicates clearly and regularly with our members. I will work with Bray to better support tournament directors and grow the levels of professionalism across our NZDG sanctioned events. I'll assist Chris Corbyn to collect, create, and distribute materials making building courses, establishing clubs, and running events easier.

I look forward to this opportunity, and hope, like those who've come before me, that I can continue to build a strong foundation for the future of New Zealand Disc Golf.

Chris Van Rensburg  
PDGA 217721

### **The Fun Bit**

It would be fair to say that I am obsessed with this wonderful sport of ours. I got married earlier this year, in her speech, my wonderful wife acknowledged my passion for the game and new plastic, and rather generously gave me a limit of a hundred discs, boy I'm going to miss her.

I have come from a high performance sporting background, having played Premier league cricket overseas as well as just missing out on a career as a professional beach volleyball player, I was also a single figure golfer. I am passionate about competing and work very hard to be the best I can be. A year ago, I sold a successful insurance business to focus on one of my other passions, wildlife art, those of you the play at Jellie Park in Christchurch will know that very little painting has been done compared to the time spent working on my game.

### **The Serious stuff**

This wonderful game is by far one of the most accessible sports, the entry cost is minimal and everyone can play. A few weeks ago I was playing behind a group who would have all been well into their 70's and early 80's. That's amazing and really inspires me, at 50, I thought my chances of having a crack at being a professional sportsman were well and truly over, but that is no longer the case. And this is the message we need to be shouting from the roof tops.

But what about the disabled community? I have a great friend who is in a wheelchair. There is absolutely no reason he cannot be playing disc golf, what about all of those other people out there who have had their "sporting" dreams cut short by a devastating injury? I know I would not have been able to cope if I was unable to play sport.

At the end of the day, there is also the business aspect behind the scenes that needs happen and that is why I am applying to be on the board. I have been a financial professional all my life, having run a successful business myself and had senior roles in the corporate financial sector.

If there is one thing I have learned, it is, if you want something to happen, you have to make it happen, just get it done.

I guess I could go on, but I would have already got bored by now. So vote for me and let's make it happen.

25<sup>th</sup> July 2022

To the current NZDGA Board

Subject: Letter of Candidacy

Further to the nomination and seconding for the Board position of Secretary.

My first reason for applying at this juncture is due to a lack of others keen to get involved and especially in this role. But I have for a long time felt I should get involved and offer my time and energy in helping move this great sport forward in this country at a Governance level, but until now it hadn't been the right timing for me. Subject to being elected of course.

As we all know, the sport and participation in it has grown massively and every board in this current era has a vital role to play in not only representing all members, but to also manage the evolving nature of its growth. But also ensuring that there is a positive culture for those elected to govern, and ultimately the sport.

In the position and functions of Secretary I would see my role as one that is supportive for all Board members in ensuring internal communications are robust and up to date, but to also be supportive to the individuals in planning and meeting the aims that are set out.

I believe I have all the skills required to complete this role.

I am mindful that there may be some concerns around Conflicts of Interest, being that I am heavily involved in Disc Golf commercially. Not only does the Association have a strict policy around this subject, which I would support totally, but I very much believe in ethics, honesty and transparency in all aspects of life. Even commercially this is critical and deviation from this will have professional repercussions let alone those at the governance level. Even where any other potential board members are concerned, I would see my role as one to help enforce the Associations policy and in doing so ensure the current board has a strong ethical culture around any matters of conflict.

If voted in I would wish to ensure that all the hard work of all the past boards (and the current board members) is carried through into making this sport something we can all be proud of at all levels of participation.

Thanks for reading.

Keith Inwood

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PDGA # 86184

To all members of the NZDG

My previous letter is below should you wish to have another look. However, since the last election, I've opted to simply state that I am not easily scared off by the actions of individuals prior to the AGM vote. I am serious about turning the NZDG around. The very small minority of members that spread some rather malicious texts and emails around have thankfully shown themselves and I no longer need to expose them.

It is exactly this element that needs reform in order to move NZ disc golf forward. If like me, you are tired seeing this pettiness continuing in our sport and embarrassing us as a disc golfing nation, then make your vote count.

Show these same members that you are tired of them holding disc golf hostage to further their own agendas.

The need for this SGM, as another example, has set us back even further into the year and is not helping our collective to cause.

Yet after all this, my resolve has not changed and I am here for every member of the NZDG.

Vote for me as Chairman and let's move forward.

Yours in service

Leon

#### Previous Letter of Candidacy

I was introduced to disc golf in 2014 and have been playing ever since. This would include playing the National Tour for a few years now.

I'm very involved in the growth of the sport and I'm also a partner in an import company specialising in disc golf discs, apparel and accessories. This is an obvious conflict of interest for the position of Chairman. I am still not in favour of such a conflict, however right now, it is time to put my money where my mouth is and put myself in a position where I can make the difference which I believe will catapult New Zealand disc golf onto the next level of "raising the bar". The conflict of interest is easily managed by recusing myself as and when required should the need arise.

I've long been a critic and often an outspoken one at that, with regards to the way in which disc golf has / is progressing within New Zealand. I'll admit, not always in the way some would have liked. Change does not come without cracking a few eggs.

So yes, I've upset a few people along the way. The end result though is that disc golfers in general have benefitted for it. Disc golf is growing rapidly and I'm proud

to say I played a small part in that. I've been fortunate enough to have had the right people around me whom shared the same vision and they ran with it to where we are today. If I had to do it all over again, I would.

A select group of disc golfers are walking, throwing proof that there is a future in playing disc golf beyond just casual rounds at your local course or the odd competition you may wish to play on the National Tour.

The point I'm trying to make is this;

The NZDG has largely been invisible / unknown to the general disc golfer  
Tournament Directors feel there is a lack of support or input into their events  
Players in general don't know what role the NZDG fills in NZ disc golf  
Lack of information regarding the goings on in NZ disc golf, not just when the next tournament is on.

No voluntary transparency within NZDG

No active oversight of events and permanent courses.

Largely a reactive organisation than proactive.

I'm sure there is more to add to the list but this is not why I'm mentioning these issues. My goal is to highlight the fact that this is not the properly functioning organisation it needs to be if we want to compete at a higher level.

I have 30 years of successful business experience. I am surrounded by a support group of disc golf players and non-players alike whom help me achieve the disc golf progression we all want to see and experience in this beautiful game. My relationship's within the disc golf community extends internationally as well as locally. Individuals and companies who all want NZ disc golf to succeed.

My plan to accomplish this, together with the new board members, is to solidify us all as a team. A cliché I know but it is the very foundation of any success story. We will need to engage all clubs as to what their wants and needs are from the NZDG.

It is just as important to gather the same information from every NZDG member. How can we serve you? The NZDG is, after all, here to serve its members.

In the spirit of transparency, all this collated information needs to be reported back to all members in a timely fashion along with an action plan.

I would urge all members to hold the board, myself especially, accountable for the way forward.

I would also recommend that we, as a board, make ourselves known at every event so that members can put a face to a name. These relationships are important if we ever expect to receive honest constructive feedback. It will be tough to hear sometimes, but if we don't know, we can't fix it.

Each member of the board will have their roles and I will do whatever I can to give them the support they need to carry out their duties.

All known issues will immediately be addressed at our first board members meeting and actioned with the relevant individuals or entities so that we can

move forward as soon as possible with new business.

I believe a monthly newsletter is important to keep members connected with the NZDG. It should also be a medium whereby the NZDG, individuals or TD's can communicate directly with members. Various other information can also be delivered such as reminders, upcoming events, NZDG support plans, club calls for help or assistance etc. You, the members can tell us what you want to know. An updated and completed members list needs to be compiled so every member is kept up to date with an unsubscribe feature if you so desire.

In conjunction to all of this, I will ensure that a quarterly report is delivered to each member as to what exactly the board has been doing on behalf of its members. This can be done online where members can have a chance to raise questions or concerns.

The important take away here is that you the members need to speak up as to what you would like the NZDG to be for you. It is of no use for us to do all of the above and it's of no relevance to anyone. The NZDG needs your help and input so that it can serve you effectively.

Finally, I have a family of disc golfers who all know what this endeavour will take to accomplish successfully.

Having said all of this, my biggest and most challenging goal will be to unite suppliers, vendors and players within NZ. After all, we want the same for NZ disc golf. We just have different ideas of how to get there. I want the opportunity to get that ball rolling so we all benefit from a game that is truly, an all inclusive sport.

With much love and respect

Best regards

Leon