

CNZ Case Study: dsport Programme

Club Search

As the city has a few more options for hosting venues than Palmerston North, the search for a suitable club began. Wellington Municipal CC was first approached, but as dsport were ideally looking for a weekend in which to hold the programme, and WMCC's weekends are extremely busy during the required period, more clubs were approached as backup options including Waimarie Hutt Valley CC and Kelburn CC. However, ANZAC Day became a viable option at Wellington Municipal CC which suited all parties.

Inclusion Training

CNZ, with the help of the Halberg Foundation, arranged for an Inclusion Training session to be held at WMCC in preparation for the day. The training was made available to all Wellington administrators. However, the only attendees were volunteers who would help on the day of the programme from the club and CNZ staff.

Celia O'Driscoll ran the session, and it was an open and safe environment in which to discuss the various ways to adapt croquet to suit the needs of players with physical disabilities.

The training had a positive impact on the attendees and this was noticeable on the day of the programme as they put what was learnt into practice. CNZ staff also took much out of the session and have used some of the information in their collation of inclusion resources.

CNZ will continue to work with the Halberg Foundation to arrange these sessions before other programmes are held in different parts of the country and is also exploring the idea of more regular training through the associations.

Fatigue



All of CNZ's other inclusion programmes up to this point had been one hour sessions. This meant that having more than two hours of play for the dsport members took us into uncharted territory. Some players got tired quickly or had reached their limit by the time the hour was up.

However, dsport saw this as a positive as it meant that their members were engaged enough in the sport to tire themselves out doing it, rather than being idle. From their perspective, having a participant immersed in croquet to the point of exhaustion showed that it was a sport that garnered enough interest from the individual to do this.

CNZ will look at ways to minimize fatigue in future programmes which have longer sessions, such as having enforced breaks or providing closer seating to the lawn for mini breaks between shots.

Lawn Care

As the programme took place one day before the lawns were due to have winter renovation work done on them from the council, the club allowed the use of a motorised wheelchair on them. The lawns were mostly dry on the day, and yet the chair still left noticeable tracks, and the front wheels dug up grass when sharp turns were performed. This was difficult to avoid, as the front wheels made these turns each time the player needed to readjust when addressing the ball.



Noticeable tracks left by motorized wheelchair

The club also noted that some other younger able-bodied players caused a little damage when taking shots. For future programmes, a quick introduction about the importance of lawn maintenance and care should take place before participants start playing.

Future Plans

CNZ plans to facilitate more area focused programmes based on the needs of dsport members. This would mean four week or longer programmes held in areas where members can easily reach. Based on initial survey responses, these could be held up the coast to start.

Unique Programme Attendees

9

Players with a disability

8

Playing family members

9

Non-playing family & staff

26

New people to croquet

What We Learnt

Adapted equipment was not a necessity for this group. While it may have helped some players compete at a higher level had they wanted, this group was comfortable to use the club's standard equipment. After some of our initial programmes, a large focus had been put on these new mallets, but this group showed it is not always necessary to have them.

Finding a club to host a weekend programme towards the end of the croquet season provided some challenges as many clubs in the region had already planned out their seasons. This could also be tricky for families in the long run, as weekday commitments are more difficult for dsport members due to the wide spread of their geographic locations. Hopefully, more localised programmes could open up the opportunity for weekday programmes.

Finally, having a fully immersive family day was crucial to the day's success. Having a barbecue after the event allowed for great socialisation between all attendees, and having the lawns open for free play after the initial hour and a half programme also boosted this. The timing of it on a public holiday meant that most members of the family could attend and try out the sport, showcasing that it can be played by everyone.

