

## **Minutes of Scrabble NSW Committee Meeting**

**19 December 2021**

**Attendance** - Bob Jackman, Chris May, Chris Ostrowski, Rene Chelton, Norma Tracey, Dorothy Fields, Liz Jackman (observer only), Graeme Lock Lee, Richard Birch, Colleen Birch

**Apologies** – Steven Savona, Pat Schuberg

**Minutes of Previous Meeting** – Accepted C Birch, D Fields & 2021 committee members

**Matters arising from last meeting** – revise Scrabble NSW website – no feedback received from 2021 committee members to date

**ACTION ITEM** – Revise Scrabble NSW website presentation

**President's Report** –

- Welcome to new members Chris May, Norma Tracey, Steven Savona, Rene Chelton, Pat Schuberg
- Chris May has offered with tournament directing eg adjudication, however currently has no knowledge of the computer program being used.
- Winter masters and challenge cancelled in 2021 due to covid
- Marathon and championships held in 2021
- New membership model – reasons for change – increase memberships, involve non tournament players in Scrabble NSW, electronic ATB available to both groups – social and full members.
- Letter sent to all scrabble convenors re the new membership model – poor response to date – 1 only. Need to continue to support affiliated clubs.

**Treasurer's Report**- as per written report provided to chairman. Scrabble NSW has approx. \$9000 in an Investment Acc earning very little interest and approx. \$11000 in a Commonwealth Account

**ACTION ITEM** – Pursue ways to increase returns on investment

**Membership Officer's Report** – See report attached. There was a query about the membership trend in other states.

**Equipment Officer's Report** – 10 extra clocks purchased, 1 extra look up computer available for 2022, extra 4 rotating boards will be available for 2022 (Baulkham Hills used boards), ample score books still available, Scrabble NSW owns a large scrabble board.

If anyone wants new/extra gear for new/existing clubs contact Bob or Chris O.

Promotion materials to be part of equipment and kept in one location.

**ACTION ITEM** – Collect promotional material from Monica Dwyer and give to Chris O.

## **NEW ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

### **1. Allocation of Committee Roles (Norma)**

#### **Committee decisions re committee roles**

- Graeme Lock Lee to cease being a committee member, however Graeme will continue in role of technical consultant to manage the Scrabble NSW website.
- Liz Jackman to be appointed to committee and take on the role of Secretary.
- Norma Tracey to be appointed as Publicity Officer

### **2. Club Promotions (Norma)**

Norma suggested working parties within the committee to implement projects.

**ACTION ITEM** – Norma to head up a working party with Rene and Pat to communicate with clubs and recruit new members. The promotion does not include online promotion.

Norma has engaged uni students, John Barker, Jenny Templeton and Joan Rosenthal to assist with her marketing plan of letterbox drop, contacting respondents and assisting new players.

Initial promotion is directed to Lane Cove Club to monitor successes.

Norma requested \$200 for advertising – committee agreed to this purchase.

### **3. Woogles Initiative (Chris M)**

Chris presented a written report and discussed the initiative of Scrabble NSW members playing on Woogles at a dedicated time each week, fortnight or month. Committee agreed to support this initiative.

**ACTION ITEM** – Chris M to implement Woogles online scrabble for Scrabble NSW players

### **4. Club Convenor (Rene)**

Rene, as President of the very successful Wollongong Club, brought to the committee that the Wollongong Club was not in favour of the increase of the pensioner club membership from \$17 to \$20 per year. The Committee acknowledged the Wollongong AGM members did not agree with the change in price structure.

Summary of ACTION Items

- **ACTION ITEM** – Revise Scrabble NSW website presentation -Graeme Lock Lee and Bob Jackman
- **ACTION ITEM** – Pursue ways to increase returns on investment – committee and John Holgate
- **ACTION ITEM** – Collect promotional material from Monica Dwyer and give to Chris O – Bob Jackman
- **ACTION ITEM** – Norma to head up a working party with Rene and Pat to communicate with clubs and recruit new members – Norma Tracey
- **ACTION ITEM** – Chris M to implement Woogles online scrabble for Scrabble NSW players – Chris May

## President's Report to Meeting of 19/12

### Activities since last meeting in June

1. COVID lockdowns caused cancellation of Winter Masters
2. Spring Marathon and Champs went ahead – organised at Revesby by BJ
3. Email discussion brought about Change in Membership Model

### Rationale: Three reasons for new model

#### 1. Declining Membership

Scrabble NSW was in parlous State – membership dipping below 150, was 300 – nearly zero members coming from clubs many of which had been established and supported by Scrabble NSW with Scrabble sets, web and ATB exposure – prevailing attitude of you only need to be a member if you play tournaments – little interest by most others in recruiting new members

#### 2. Lack of financial growth

Bank account has remained static for past 7 years – bulk of membership monies collected going to CASPA who have stockpiled \$17,000 – example is single pensioner member receiving hard copy ATB - \$12 going to CASPA, postage of 4 magazines is \$9.00 (most of our members are pensioners) – CASPA also take \$12 for members not requiring hard copy, when insurance component is only \$3 – States were charged full levy amount twice when no ATBS were produced - this committee has previously decided to raise matter at CASPA which I did in 2020 only to have the issue swept under carpet – meanwhile \$3000 was allocated to TT in Canberra by CASPA after zero funding been received for Aussie travelling to NZ for past 20 years – this \$3000 is coming out of membership funds from all States, hence declining state of Scrabble generally – money is better off staying with the States for promotion as CASPA do no promotion - Presidents discussion on Slack has advocated moving to a user pays system and quashing levy for one quarter but this goes unnoticed by Co-ordinator

#### 3. Move to electronic ATB

It was agreed by Committee that we need to support the ATB editor in his desire to move away from hard copy ATB – New Zealand have done it and charge \$30 NZ for posting – UK have done it completely – the decision to separate membership from hard copy was made but the option remained for hard copy, as an extra. The price was set at \$20 to cover printing, postage and handling at \$20 per year. There have been suggestions to increase membership to \$40 from Nick I.

As a strategy, social membership exposes more people to e-ATB with the possibility of joining face-to-face play and tournaments - charging for ATB means we no longer lose money on memberships, provided we are not charged by CASPA for those receiving e-ATB only – setting affiliated clubs as those with 4 members enable us to decide where to spend promotional dollars, now possible with more money coming into our account

4. Website updated for renewal and joining online, achievements and next event
5. New Membership Application card produced – RB
6. Update business card produced - BJ
7. All active clubs were informed of changes and sent Membership cards and business cards. No known response from any club apart from two renewals
8. Focus is now on increasing membership, but a user pays system is needed to be adopted by CASPA

9. **ASPANSW Treasurer's Interim Report December 17 2021**

Funds at bank 16/12/2021 \$11,187.01

Investment funds IMB \$9,800.95

10.

CASPA Membership Levies paid

September \$453

11. December \$501

WESPA Levies NSW Championships \$62 (27/11/2021)

CSIM \$161 (13/9/2021)

ATO Refund \$982 (5/10/2021)

Tournaments

NSW Champs Profit \$12

Spring Marathon Profit \$0

12.

13. Tournament Levies

14. Spring Marathon \$15 26/10/2021

15. OITOOBER \$20 26/10/2021

16. Lake Macquarie \$40 10/11/2021

NSW Championships \$41 17/11/2021

Sutherland \$60 13/12/2021

17.

18. John Holgate

## MEMBERSHIP OFFICER REPORT DECEMBER 2021 - C Birch

MEMBERSHIP/ATB	2021	2020
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS</b>	171	139
FULL PAYING	69	53
PENSIONERS	93	83
STUDENTS	7	3
<b>DISTRIBUTION OF ATB</b>		
Electronic	77	47
Post to home (pd \$10)	6	12
Post to club	87	80

### **NSW Clubs 16.12.2021**

Total clubs – 35 (2020 42 clubs)

#### **Clubs with 3 financial members – 5**

Lake Macquarie, South West Rocks, Sydney, Turramurra, Macarthur

#### **Clubs with 2 financial members – 8**

Revesby, Bondi, Coffs Harbour, Lismore, Mittagong, Port Macquarie, Newcastle, SOS

#### **Clubs with 1 financial member – 8**

Belmont, Inner West Day, Maitland, Orange, Ourimbah, Terrigal, Wagga Wagga, SPA

**Twelve clubs have more than 5 members.**