

Presidents Report to the 2016 Scrabble NSW AGM

1. The committee met three times during the year (December, March and August)
2. Minutes of meetings, along with past major decisions, are available on the Scrabble NSW website
3. A deliberate attempt has been made to be more professional, and several new initiatives have been implemented eg display board, membership cards, web pages for clubs, informative handouts, revamped membership form, duty statements
4. There now 50 clubs, up from 45 at this time last year. New clubs are Bowral, Moss Vale, Inner West Day, Gundagai and Lane Cove
5. A large portable display board was purchased by Scrabble NSW, to help the drive to establish new clubs. This has been used successfully at Lane Cove and Southern Highlands
6. 33 clubs now distribute ATBs direct to members, 21 clubs carry out bulk renewals in a reciprocal arrangement with Scrabble NSW. This has resulted in a savings of \$1000 per year in postage and a reduction in the number of lapsed members. Thanks go to our Membership Officer who has exerted considerable effort to make the new system work.
7. Members requiring ATB to be posted to their home now have to pay a \$5 a year surcharge due to the astronomical increase in postage (\$2 per ATB) Scrabble NSW loses money on unaffiliated pensioner members who do not pay the surcharge
8. Currently there are 245 members, 47 of whom are not renewed. This unrenewed number is expected to reduce to about 20.
9. 62 out of 245 members receive their ATB electronically. This helps offset any losses on pensioner members.
10. Membership is steadily increasing thanks to establishment of new clubs. Existing clubs are providing very few new members.
11. Reciprocating clubs are not taking advantage of offer to provide them with new website. Only Bomaderry Club has taken advantage of the offer. Intention is to provide reciprocal clubs with cards carrying the web address of their web page
12. Every renewed member now receives a membership card.
13. The new member package has been revamped and expanded eg permanent tournament calendar, President's welcome letter
14. The membership form has been upgraded so that people can join direct from an interactive form on the Scrabble NSW website
15. Duty Statements have been completed for Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Officer and Equipment Officer. President and Club Liaison Officer statements still to be written.
16. New clubs being established and receiving equipment are requested to have a certain membership structure whereby club members become members of Scrabble NSW. Existing clubs have been encouraged to follow this model.
17. There is likely to be a new \$1 per player levy on all tournaments, to cover the cost of staging Nationals and helping fund players representing Australia overseas. This is because Mattel have withdrawn funding to Scrabble. Clubs staging tournaments and Scrabble NSW will have to budget for this.
18. Website is being continually updated for new tournaments and new clubs
19. School Scrabble is happening, two existing schools and two due to come on board, in South Western suburbs Tony Hunt co-ordinating