

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2025 AGM**

The committee met three times during the year

Major decisions and committee minutes are published on the Scrabble NSW website

Membership sits at 240, 124 Full Members and 116 Social Members. There are 24 Student members, most of who are social members. Junior social members are not required to pay the non-member levy.

25 rated tournaments were held in NSW during the year, 10 by Scrabble NSW including 3 Burwood Ratings Improvers, 8 privately run club tournament and 7 by Tony Hunt including Australian Youth Championship

Scrabble NSW switched to CSW24 permanently at the beginning of the year. Up to that point players were given a choice through hybrid events, which achieve the purpose

I appeared on Today Show as a result of OAM conferred early in the year for services to competitive Scrabble. Also attended investiture ceremony at Government House with Liz, John Holgate and Ivor Zetler later in year.

Represented Scrabble NSW in March at a Senior Weeks event at Gosford RSL, with Sandra Elliott. Attendance was poor but overall outcome was the establishment of a new club at Toukley by Sandra.

The Epping Club invited Scrabble NSW to stage a tournament in their club waiving room hire costs and putting up generous prizemoney. This was held in June and well attended. Another is scheduled for early November. Several social members were joined up as a result. The Epping Club created a short video of the event (still to be published on You Tube).

The committee suspended Josh Watt for 6 months for engaging in suspicious behaviour at the Chris May Winter Masters. No hard evidence of actual cheating was found.

Prior to that Josh had set up You Tube Channel for storage of historical footage. There are about 20 segments now on there, some editing work is still required and some footage still to be added. An additional channel mainly for streaming games at major events was set up by Edward Okulicz, after the NSW Committee costed the exercise independently.

Facebook was used to promote Bomaderry, Epping and Central Coast tourneys with minimal success. New clubs will also be promoted using Facebook Events. Cost per advertising program is usually around \$50

Steven Savona set up a new email list specifically for members of Scrabble NSW. 181 of 240 members currently are subscribed with about 30 not accepting their invitations. September ATBS were distributed with a link sent to that list.

Only clubs deemed to be affiliated are shown prominently on our website and in the ATB. At least four members are needed for affiliation although we request all affiliated clubs to join their members as at least social. This covers everyone in those clubs for insurance and ensures receipt of magazine.

New members are increasingly coming in through website. Relatively few new members are coming from the established affiliated clubs.

The website has also been expanded to include Player Achievements again, with paid help from Barry Harridge. The site is used to convey tourney information, provide registration forms and players lists, as well as to provide draws and ratings stats for last tournament. Webshows are used for major events such as the NSW Championship.

A new area called Games Index was set up to archive selected games recorded using Adnoto. The take up as not been positive despite Adnoto being an excellent tool.

Sunday night play using Woogles (an initiative of Chris May) failed to attract new players and is in limbo.

Things bode well for future. Affiliated club model necessitating social membership, website for joining and facebook promotion are all positives. Entering and paying for tournament streamlined on Scrabble NSW site. CSIM due to be live-streamed in January.

Bob Jackman OAM

President

3<sup>rd</sup> October 2025