

## NEWSLETTER # 1

19-12-2018

The inaugural meeting of the Club was convened on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2018, in the Vista Lounge of CEX Coffs Club. Although, it was understood that the initial meeting would require a large amount of time, by way of explanation of the rules and the fee structure, some attendees were unhappy with this process imposing on board time. This was despite the initial meeting being cost free. Despite a shaky start, with more drama than an episode of 'Home & Away', the ground rules and fee structure were explained, and hand-outs given of:-

- a) Clarification of the Scrabble rules;
- b) 2 & 3 Letter words; &
- c) a hand-out of the basic rules, upon request.

In reference to the hand-out **item a)** above - '**Clarification of the rules**', some attendees thought it was an unnecessary complication. When in fact, it was to explain the existing rules, which have been updated and clarified over a number of years with the release of some new models of the game. This is a reflection of the current state of play.

- **The Collins Scrabble Dictionary (4<sup>th</sup> ed.) is the default dictionary for challenges.**

This is the standard for club use in English speaking countries outside of North America, although, for tournaments in an expanded list form to accommodate words longer than nine letters in length. To this end the Club will endeavour to obtain a copy of 'Don Hadley's Word Guide' when the updated version is released. More about the Dictionary will be discussed at length in a future Club Newsletter.

Imagine, if a cricket team of eleven players went onto a field of play, and each one had a different interpretation of the rules – chaos? It maybe fine to play a different interpretation of the rules at home, but in a club situation a standard set of rules & dictionary need to be applied to function successfully. In addition, should an update or different interpretation of the rules or dictionary occur every member will be made aware of it.

In addition, the following were conveyed:-

- **A condition required by CEX Club for usage of their facilities, is that all scrabble club members join CEX Club.**  
*CEX will list the Scrabble Club in their monthly magazine.*
- **A initial fee of \$5.00 would be imposed for each weekly session to enable the establishment of the Club with a review considered in the future.**

Further, looking ahead to the future, it was intended for a workshop to be given of 20-30 minutes duration at the commencement of each meeting, for those who wished to participate, and that Club members would be required to join the NSW Scrabble Association.

However, upon reflection the following is considered the way forward:-

- (1) to issue a newsletter each meeting with Club news & scrabble tips & hints to alleviate time constraints;
- (2) \*membership fees for NSW Scrabble will be deducted from weekly Club fee of \$5.00, due to limited resources of some members.

\* In reference to **item 2)** above, to alleviate the problem of fly-by-nighters, casual players and holidaymakers impacting on the membership fee arrangement; a member will be required to attend a minimum of 22 meetings in a calendar year to qualify for this concession. Otherwise, the fee is payable by the member.

- **It was considered that the Club be affiliated with the NSW Scrabble Association by members joining that Association.**

### **Why join the NSW Scrabble Association (NSWSA)?**

- I. Entitlement to reduced cost of entry fees to scrabble competitions & tournaments for members;
- II. support to Coffs Scrabble Club. The NSWSA has already supplied 4 scrabble sets and spare tiles;
- III. reduced cost of scrabble items purchased by members for private use;
- IV. reduced cost of scrabble items purchased for use by the Club;
- V. up to \$100 of extra support for advertising and sundries;
- VI. support to set-up a website for the Club;  
advice & further support for the day-to-day running of the Club and information about other clubs in the network;
- VII. inclusion in the NSW Club Directory on the internet. This is considered a form of advertising to attract new members, holidaymakers & short term visitors & passing trade as such;
- VIII. updates to latest changes occurring within the scrabble community;
- IX. for every four members signed up two free Scrabble sets will be supplied by NSWSA.

Many thanks to Colleen Greenwood for a donation of a bucketful of scrabble tiles to the Club, much appreciated.

The Club is fortunate to have two seasoned competition players in Glenda Harrington & Anne Hough.

There will be no Scrabble session on Boxing Day – play will resume in the New Year on 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan. 2019

I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year ahead.....  
Keith Bancroft – Convener.