



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018

Date: 14th March 2019

Time: 5.30 - 6.45pm

Venue: Club Premises, Floriana

Members present: Nicky Vella Laurenti, Charles Micallef, Kevin Pirota, Moses Azzopardi, Anna Borg, Dominic Borg, Frans Farrugia, Maria A. Scicluna, Dave Parkin, Sammy Mangion, Alfred Xuereb, Josephine Mayo, Christine Strawbridge, David Delicata, Marlene Calleja, Paul J. Mifsud, Bryan Priest, Moira Fenech.

A. Approval of the (pre-circulated) minutes of the last AGM.
Moses Azzopardi approved Minutes, Alfred Xuereb seconded.

B. Tabling of (pre-circulated) Annual Report drawn up by Strategy Committee (including detailed presentation of Club's audited accounts)

C. Comments on the Annual Report by the outgoing President

The report (see Appendix 1) was circulated during the meeting. Outgoing President, Nicky Vella Laurenti (NVL) took the members present through the report. He started by analyzing Participation, which he said, is very important, as without it, the Club would not exist. Overall, there was a 45% participation rate. This must be gauged against the fact that a 100% participation rate was impossible to achieve as being a member of the Scrabble Club is not exclusive since all members have other commitments and other hobbies, so it is impossible to attend all tournaments.

Tables show that 2 new members never took part in anything, meaning that the Club was still not managing to consistently integrate new members. On this front, NVL spoke of a new initiative launched during the previous year, the coaching classes run by Charles Micallef, which he said were very well structured and enjoyed by all. They were intended not only for new members, but for old ones as well. We need to give members the chance to develop their playing ability, imparting certain skills which they will use in their own play.

Viz-a-vis social cohesion, NVL regretted that the Annual Presentation Dinner had not been held, saying that the usual venue, the Vivaldi Hotel, was not available and that a new venue would be found and announced soon. NVL reminded that the group lunches held during One-Day Tournaments and international tournaments (MISO) were social events in their own right, to which some members were joined by members of their families. There was also the MISO tour, run by Dominic and Anna, which unfortunately was not well attended by the Maltese. That is a pity as it would be a good opportunity to forge friendships and bond with foreign participants.

In terms of membership, NVL said this stood at 30 registered members, 10 new members in the past few years, mostly male. Our Club is an aging Club: average age of members 60. We need to attract young people, who we know have young children and busy lives. He remarked that very few of the Club's competitive events were family friendly and that the Club needed to create new schedules. One such schedule would be the Short Interleague Tournament (SIT) to be held between successive leagues and to consist of 3 games on a Monday or Thursday and 3 games on the following Thursday or Monday.



Registered Sports & Voluntary Organisation

On Public Profile, NVL said how difficult it had become nowadays to get something printed in newspapers. He said that last year we participated in the Mediterranean Gaming Week at the Excelsior Hotel, as well as in the European Week of Sports at Cottonera Pavilion, both of which exposed the game and Club to the general public. However, NVL said that we need to work harder to promote our Club.

On Finance, NVL spoke of his satisfaction with the fact the the Club had managed to make a profit this year, mostly thanks to MISO, with the Club's net worth going up to €15000 from last year's €12000. On Social Responsibility, the Club had taken part in the Strina Campaign and had organised an ODT the proceeds from which had gone to the ALIVE Charity Foundation. On Official Status, the year had seen the Club's enrolment with the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations. On Participation in Club Administration, NVL said that we need more help from those members who are not involved in anything. What keeps the Club going and growing is the work we put into it.

D. Open discussion on the Annual Report

Christine Strawbridge asked how will outsiders know about them, to which NVL replied that the tournaments would be advertised on social media and appealed to members to share such posts.

Moses Azzopardi commented on how much better the accounts were this year. He does not like revaluation profit on investment and wanted an explanation of the term SportsMalta provision re MISO and WESPAC. Outgoing Treasurer, Reno Zammit, explained that it refers to the number of bed nights generated by foreigners during MISO. To this, NVL added that the process of submitting the claim is a long and complicated owing to data protection. Moses would like this item to be stated under Debtors or Money Due by SportsMalta.

David Delicata made a comment on the Autumn League. Many members are confused by the two leagues. Charles Micallef said that everything is explained in the fixtures but it really is complicated. NVL said we're trying to kill two birds with one stone. The easiest thing would be to have all the Leagues based on the National League but that would be boring. Theresa Brousson suggested a knockout after a National League based Tournament.

Dave Parkin said we were mentioned in a foreign magazine, and a coffee shop in San Gwann would like to host Scrabble tournaments. Charles Micallef has already approached a Gozo Local Council to hold sessions in Gozo as well.

Sammy Mangion wanted to know what had happened to his motion regarding walkovers. NVL said he had answered him by email. There already are rules regarding walkovers. These were instituted five years ago. The rules are there but we do not enforce them. We set new dates instead of conceding walkovers. When David conceded a walkover to Charles, he decided to do it because it was a tight finish in the National League and he did not want to influence the outcome.

Theresa suggested that the National League be WESPA-rated. NVL replied that this was the Committee's wish but that mastery of the tournament software programme, tsh, was a prerequisite for this to happen.

E. Approval of Annual Report

Maria proposed the approval of the Annual Report. She was seconded by Marlene Calleja.



F. Election of auditors for the following year

David Delicata was proposed to serve as auditor for another year. The proposal was accepted unanimously.

G. Motions, counter-motions, amendments and counter-amendments, if any, to be discussed and voted upon

No motions or amendments had been presented.

H. Considering and approving or rejecting all new by-laws and amendments to bylaws which the Strategy Committee may have passed since the last General Meeting.

N/A

I. Receiving the resignation of the President, the Strategy Committee and the Case Committee.

Received

J. Election of the new committees and President

The outgoing members of the committees and the President were all confirmed in their posts, with the exception of Charles Micallef, who would not sit on the Strategy Committee.

President - Nicky Vella Laurenti

Strategy Committee:

- Chairperson - Nicky Vella Laurenti
- Secretary - Josephine Mayo
- Members - Kevin Pirotta, Mario Camilleri

Case Committee:

- Chairperson - David Delicata
- Secretary - Reno Zammit
- Member - Mario Camilleri

K. Selection of election board for the following year

To be selected if there are enough candidates for elections to be held.

L. Other matters

Since there were no other matters, the Annual General Meeting came to an end at 6.45pm.

Josephine Mayo
Secretary

Nicholas Vella Laurenti
President



Appendix I

Malta Scrabble Club Annual Report of Activities & Outcomes 2018

1. Participation in Club Competitions

a. Activities

- A varied and populated calendar of events, comprising 7 leagues and 11 day tournaments (of which one 3-DT, two 2-DTs, and eight 1-DTs), was prepared and published on 25 December, 2017.
- Almost all competitions gave members different options as to when and how often to play.
- With the exception of the Malta International Scrabble Open (MISO), the fees charged for all competitions were nominal (€1/fixture for leagues; €2/tournament for day tournaments).

b. Outcomes

	Participating Members		Unique Participants		Average	Median
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%		
Leagues	91	45	24	83	13	13
Day Tournaments	143	45	24	83	13	14
MISO	47	54	22	76	16	17
Local	96	41	22	76	12	12
Overall	234	45	27	93	13	14

2. Competitive Play

a. Activities

- All competitions were Malta-rated and the three MISO events were also WESPA and ABSP-rated.
- A periodic Scrabble coaching event, called 'Let's Talk Scrabble' was organised four times.
- All valid bingos played in the 35th Malta National Scrabble Championship (MNSC) were published on a bi-weekly basis.
- 3 international tournaments were organised in Malta, attracting over 60 participants from abroad.
- Players were paired according to rating or performance.
- Prize funds were set up for 35th MNSC and MISO 11.
- A cash prize for best improved MISO-participating member was awarded.

b. Outcomes

		Initial 2018	End 2018	Difference
Malta Rating	Average Rating	1284	1302	18
	Median Rating	1345	1291	-54
	Standard Deviation	337	328	-9
	<i>n</i> members with initial		6	



Registered Sports & Voluntary Organisation

	above-median rating and end rating improvement			
	n members with initial year below-median rating and end rating improvement		7	
	Post-MISO average rating change		7	

WESPA Rating	Median Rating	1158	1090	-69
	Average Rating	1189	1167	-22
	Standard Deviation	344	355	11

3. Social Cohesion

a. Activities

- To provide an environment where members can mix before, between and after games, the hall and garden outside the Club Premises, the cafeteria and pool area of the University Residence, and the terrace and partitioned sections 5-7 of the Luzzu Conference Hall were made available.
- Various social events were organised as part of MISO 11, which attracted 62 overseas participants from 17 nations:
 - 6 group lunches on the days of tourneys
 - A social dinner on the terrace of Luzzu Restaurant with a slideshow of photos from past MISO editions
 - A day tour of the Maltese Islands

b. Outcomes

	Participating Members		Unique Participants		Average	Median
	n	%	n	%		
Day Tournaments	142	54	15	52	12	12
MISO	58	40	20	69	12	12
Local	84	41	15	52	12	12
Overall	151	40	16	55	12	12

4. Membership

a. Activities:

- Memberships were renewed for the year.
- First-time members were given a one-time 50% discount on their membership fees

b. Outcomes

Number		30 members
Gender	Male	20
	Female	9



Registered Sports & Voluntary Organisation

Age	Average	60 years
Length of Membership in years	0	4
	1-3	3
	4-8	3
	9-14	3
	15-21	3
	22-29	9
	>=30	5
Region of Residence	SH	3
	NH	8
	SE	1
	W	2
	N	4
	G&C	0

5. Finance

(see Treasurer's Report, 2018 Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss Account)

6. Participation in Club Administration

a. Activities

- Updating of consolidated participants lists almost fully automated
- Registration almost entirely self-administered by entrants
- Use of closed email groups for operational teams to enhance teamwork
- General meetings scheduled on playing days before the start of play to enhance attendance
- The Club applied with Government to have a public officer released to work full-time for the Club for a period of a year. The application was turned down.

b. Outcomes

Number of active roles	Members with administrative role	
	<i>n</i>	%
27	15	50

7. Public Profile

a. Activities

- 50 posts published on Club's Facebook page (average of ~4/month)
- Participation in two exhibition events (Mediterranean Gaming Week, European Week of Sports)

b. Outcomes

- 204 FB page likes by end of year.

8. Event Environment



a. Activities

- Assembly Hall within Malta Playing Fields Association HQ venue for all leagues.
- University Residence Restaurant/Cafeteria venue for local day tournaments.
- Luzzu Conference venue for MISO.

b. Outcomes

- 71% satisfaction with leagues venue
- 81% satisfaction with local day tournaments venue
- 82% satisfaction with MISO venue

9. Social Responsibility

a. Activities

- An ODT was held in aid of cancer research in collaboration with the Alive Charity Foundation.
- An ODT was held in aid of the Malta Community Chest Fund Foundation.

b. Outcomes

- Over €300 was raised through these initiatives.

10. Official Status

a. Activities

- The Club formally enrolled with the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations and is thus a registered VO. (ID. no.: VO/1593)
- The Club renewed its registration with SportMalta as a sport organisation. (reg. no.: C/174)
- The Club renewed its membership of the World English Scrabble Players' Association.

11. Satisfaction

a. Activities

- Feedback form sent electronically to all participants to gauge satisfaction.

b. Outcomes

- Satisfaction with the organisation of events was 73% for leagues, 82% for local day tournaments and 84% for MISO.
- Satisfaction with the format of competitions was 72% for leagues, 82% for local day tournaments and 82% for MISO.

12. Fair Play

(Nothing to report)

Josephine Mayo
Secretary

Nicholas Vella Laurenti
President