

## **Scottish Scrabble Association Committee Meeting on Sunday 23 April 2023 by MS Teams**

Present: Margaret Armstrong, Simon Gillam, Ross Mackenzie, Neil Scott and James Squires.

Apologies: Amy Byrne.

**1. SILK:** So far only 2 matches played in Central. NE would play first 2 matches in early May. NW hoped to play all matches in late May or early June.

**2. Scottish Open (20-21 May):** We have received 15 entries so far, a few others known and others possible. We should get at least 20 total, the minimum needed to break even.

### **3. Matters arising from previous meeting**

- a) The online scrabble learning event has been put back to a Wednesday in September.
- b) The Scottish Masters ran successfully with 6 players on 1-2 April. Agreed that for 2024 it should be an 8 player double round robin in late February, qualification based on ratings at end 2023, with some rated activity in 2023.
- c) It was agreed to postpone discussion of future two-day events (including possible Scottish Championship or Round Robin) until after the Scottish Open. Locations other than Edinburgh should have less expensive accommodation, but we need to find a reasonably-priced venue, with suitable space and tables, available both days.
- d) Nothing had come of the enquiry about setting up a scrabble club at a cafe in Falkirk.

### **4. Other tournaments**

- a) The events at Aberdeen (19 March) and Cumbernauld (22 April) had gone well.
- b) It was confirmed that Glenrothes (11 June) will be under SSA auspices.
- c) There will not be a Tweedbank event in the summer, but could be later in the year.
- d) Autumn tournaments that ran in 2022 expected to repeat in 2023: Milton of Campsie in September, Cumbernauld in October and Edinburgh in November.

**5. Other business:** Neil reported on a youth chess/scrabble event in Aberdeen on 22 April with 16 participants, which had received good feedback. The Aberdeen club is now meeting on Thursdays with 8 players.

### **6. Next meeting**

It was agreed that the next committee meeting should be on Sunday 24 September 2023 at 7pm, using Zoom or MS Teams.

Simon Gillam  
Secretary  
Scottish Scrabble Association

## **Scottish Scrabble Association Committee Meeting on Sunday 22 January 2023 by MS Teams**

Present: Margaret Armstrong, Simon Gillam, Ross Mackenzie, Neil Scott and James Squires.

Apologies: Amy Byrne (who is moving house).

### **1. Matters arising from previous meeting**

- a) For WESPA Championship 2023, three players had been selected. They had initially been asked to decide by 16 January, but extended to 30 January because of lack of information from NASPA/WESPA. As full details still not available, a further extension to 13 February was agreed
- b) Details had been agreed for SILK and Scottish Open (20-21 May), both now on ABSP calendar.
- c) Potential Scottish Masters and Scottish Championship to be discussed later in meeting.
- d) Aberdeen on 19 March in ABSP calendar. No further news on other potential events in Scotland.

### **2. SSA Scrabble Learning Session**

Neil proposed to organise this using Teams or Zoom on an evening in April for Scottish tournament players (roughly Division B and below) and Scottish club players. This can be advertised through email contacts and the main clubs, asking players to forward to others; not to be put on Facebook or website. Ross offered to be moderator. Agreed that SSA can pay for a one-month Zoom subscription if required.

### **3. Scottish Masters**

It was agreed to aim to organise a reduced size Scottish Masters before Easter, with 6 players playing a round-robin of 3 game matches (15 games). To be based on end-2022 ratings, requiring some rated activity in 2022. James will organise a Doodle poll of the top 7 players to see what date is best.

### **4. Any other business**

- a) It was agreed to postpone decision on a possible Scottish Championship in September to the next meeting, when we will know how entries to Scottish Open are going.
- b) We had received an enquiry from someone interested in setting up a scrabble club at a cafe in Falkirk; two players were following this up.
- c) Ross had updated the club details on SSA website to remove Glasgow and make other changes. He proposed to do a full review and update in the summer.

### **5. Next meeting**

It was agreed that the next committee meeting should be on Sunday 23 April 2023 at 7pm, using Zoom or MS Teams.

Simon Gillam  
Secretary  
Scottish Scrabble Association

## **Scottish Scrabble Association Committee Meeting on Sunday 13 November 2022 by MS Teams**

Present: Margaret Armstrong, Simon Gillam, Ross Mackenzie, Neil Scott and James Squires.

Apologies: Amy Byrne (who had technical problems in joining the meeting).

The meeting had been postponed from 4 September. After technical problems with Zoom the meeting was moved to MS Teams.

### **1. WESPA Championship 2023**

Simon had drafted text to seek expressions of interest for players to represent Scotland at the WESPA Championship in Las Vegas 28 July to 2 August 2023. The text was agreed, Simon to post on Facebook (ABSP and Snippetz) and email selected Scottish players, Ross to post on SSA website.

### **2. SSA Events in 2023**

- For the 2-day Scottish Open, the quotes Amy had received from Pitlochry were too expensive. Simon had received a favourable response from the Carlton Bridge Club for May 2023, but was awaiting confirmation of available dates and pricing.
- It was agreed to repeat SILK in 2023 in the same format as 2022, but starting earlier (February).
- It was agreed to have a 2-day Scottish Championship event in the second half of 2023, limited to Scottish residents, to replace the Scottish Masters. Various possible formats were discussed. Players should be sounded out to assess the level of interest, and a decision made in early 2023.
- It was confirmed that there will be no teams league in 2023.

### **3. Other events**

Neil intends to organise an Aberdeen event, in March 2023 if not clashing with any other event. Simon to check with Amy on plans for Pitlochry and with Stu on whether any plans to revive Tweedbank. Ross to check with Aileen on plans for Cumbernauld and with Yvonne on whether any plans to revive Prestwick. It was noted that Alan and Wilma are organising a non-rated invitation event in Pitlochry.

### **4. Next meeting**

It was agreed that the next committee meeting should be on Sunday 22 January 2023 at 7pm, using Zoom or MS Teams.

Simon Gillam  
Secretary  
Scottish Scrabble Association

## **Scottish Scrabble Association Committee Meeting on Sunday 26 June 2022 by Zoom**

Present: Margaret Armstrong, Amy Byrne, Simon Gillam, Ross Mackenzie and Neil Scott

Apologies: James Squires (who had emailed comments).

### **1. Review of activity**

SILK 2022 is running with 6 players in Central, 6 in NE and 5 in NW. Six matches have been played in Central, none elsewhere. NW plans to play all matches over two days later in the year. Glasgow club will resume at a new venue in September. Edinburgh have temporary reduction in room hire cost, so no longer losing money each week. Elgin have 6 members, paying individually. No club activity at Aberdeen, hoping SILK will fill the gap. One day tournaments have been organised by Glasgow (10 Sept), Cumbernauld (8 Oct), and Edinburgh will be in November (date tba).

### **2. SSA Events in 2023**

- It was agreed that reviving the 2-day Scottish Open should be the priority: Amy to investigate off-peak in Pitlochry, Simon to investigate May at Carlton.
- It was agreed not to have a Scottish Masters in current format in early 2023. Possibility raised of reducing to one-day round robin with 8 players. Neil proposed a Scottish Championship event instead, similarly limited to Scottish residents. Could have A/B divisions. Neil and others to consider before next meeting.
- It was agreed no 2-day Scottish Round Robin in 2023. Also no teams league, as reduced interest and potential players are getting activity in Forth league/KO and Clyde league.

### **3. Other events**

Nothing had come of a proposal for an Aberdeen event. Amy is looking to organise a 3-day Pitlochry event in March 2023. We should enquire whether other previous organisers planned to resume in 2023, but maybe leave this until after the first one-day events in autumn 2022.

### **4. Next meeting**

It was agreed that the next committee meeting should be on Sunday 4 September 2022, again using Zoom.

Simon Gillam  
Secretary  
Scottish Scrabble Association

## **Scottish Scrabble Association Committee Meeting on Sunday 27 February 2022 by Zoom**

Present: Margaret Armstrong, Amy Byrne, Simon Gillam, Ross Mackenzie, Neil Scott and James Squires.

### **1. Review of club activity**

Clubs had resumed meeting at Edinburgh, Dunfermline and Elgin. Face coverings are not required during play at these clubs. Glasgow has been playing weekly on ISC plus regular online social events, unlikely to resume live meetings before the summer. No activity at Aberdeen, would need to rebuild membership. It was thought that Cumbernauld is also meeting - need to check. No other activity known.

### **2. Tournaments**

No one-day open tournament is likely in Scotland before the autumn. We should see how other ABSP-rated events do (eg Ilford, Isle of Man, NSC in Bristol). Possible one-day tournaments at Edinburgh and Milton of Campsie in autumn - need to check for any plans by Cumbernauld. If we think that there will be demand for more Scottish one-day events than clubs offer, SSA could organise one in the autumn. Agreed there should be no two-day SSA events in 2022 (Scottish Open, Scottish Round Robin, Scottish Masters). In the meantime, we should offer SSA assistance with ABSP rating process to those wishing to organise small invitation events.

### **3. Other events**

We should assess the level of interest for a SILK event in 2022, possibly running May to November in Central and North sections, followed by two-player Central v North final. Simon to email to SILK 2020 players and active clubs, post on Facebook (ABSP and Snippetz) and Ross to post on SSA website. Simon willing to take entries and run Central section. Agreed no teams league to run in 2022. Note that Forth Scrabble League has resumed with 13 player four-game round-robin throughout 2022.

### **4. Any other business**

a) The committee recorded its thanks to Marion Keatings for her service on the committee, including taking entries for SSA events and organising League and SILK. It was agreed that we do not need to actively seek a replacement committee member at present.

b) It was noted that CSW21 will apply for ABSP-rated games from 19 April 2022; Edinburgh will adopt it for club games from the same date. An initiation kit is available for ABSP members.

### **5. Next meeting**

It was agreed that the next committee meeting should be in late June 2022, again using Zoom.

Simon Gillam  
Secretary  
Scottish Scrabble Association

### **Draft email/post:**

The Scottish Scrabble Association (SSA) is looking to organise a SILK tournament in 2022. The format would be similar to previous years, with all-play-all sections in Central and North regions playing three-game individual matches by private arrangement in the period May to November 2022, this time followed by a two-player final. Depending on numbers and location, either regional stage could be played as sub-regions with a playoff. The event would require enough players being willing to host matches and players being willing to travel. *Entry fee £5 (£7 for ABSP non-members)*. If you are interested, please respond by 20

March to SSA Secretary Simon Gillam ([smallig@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:smallig@yahoo.co.uk)) and if there is sufficient demand the tournament will be organised and you will be sent an entry form and details.

**Alternative: replace italics by:**

*Free entry for those who entered the abandoned SILK 2020 event; entry fee for others £5 (£7 for ABSP non-members).*

---

## **Committee Meeting on Sunday 11 August 2019 at Stirling University**

**Present:** Margaret Armstrong, Amy Byrne, Simon Gillam, Marion Keatings, Ross Mackenzie, Neil Scott and James Squires.

### **1. Matters arising from the previous meeting on 20 May 2018:**

Neil had not been able to organise a training event because of work pressure, but still intended to do so when he has more time. At present a junior event is not considered worthwhile, because of the lack of juniors playing, but individual support is being provided to one junior.

### **2. Financial report for 2018 and expenditure in 2019:**

Ross's financial report for 2018 had been sent to committee members and Kenneth Ross carried out an independent examination. There was a small loss in 2018, but our balance is still very healthy. In 2019 our outgoings have been reduced by the move to a free website host, and we have made a donation to the SIMPLE tournament in Edinburgh.

### **3. Any other business:**

a) It was agreed to keep the Scottish Masters arrangements the same as in 2019, with invitations limited to players rated 140+, which could give fewer than 12 players; a lower-rated reserve can be added to make numbers even.

b) Following a straw poll of players at the Scottish Open, it was agreed that the event should move back to the Carlton in Edinburgh, with preferred dates in late May; Simon will be TD. The Scottish Round-Robin with Marion as TD should continue at the Carlton in February, avoiding rugby home internationals.

Simon Gillam  
Secretary  
Scottish Scrabble Association

---

## **Meeting on Sunday 20 May 2018 Carlton Bridge Club, Edinburgh**

**Present:** Margaret Armstrong, Amy Byrne, Simon Gillam, Marion Keatings, Ross Mackenzie, Neil Scott and James Squires.

### **1. Matters arising from the previous meeting on 14 May 2017**

SSA tournament entry forms for 2018 had not included a mobile contact. This will be done for 2019, with Marion's mobile number replacing her home number.

### **2. Financial report for 2017 and expenditure in 2018.**

Ross's financial report for 2017 had been sent to committee members and all were content. Kenneth Ross was carrying out an independent examination. The tournaments had all made surpluses in 2017, but the Scottish Open would make a loss in 2018. It was agreed to make a donation to the SIMPLE tournament in Edinburgh in May 2019.

### **3. Data protection.**

Ross had looked into the implications of the new data protection regulations. His three proposals listed below were agreed. It was agreed that we don't yet need a retention policy.

### **4. Web site.** <https://eiznek.wixsite.com/scottishscrabble>

Ross was thanked for creating the new SSA website. It is now the first result from a Google search for Scottish Scrabble. We had been contacted through the website. Updates should go through Ross. Simon has also been given access and James will as well.

### **5. Any other business.**

- a) It was agreed to reduce the number of games required to qualify for the Scottish Masters from 40 to 30. It was agreed to impose a minimum rating qualification of 140, which could result in fewer than 12 players; a lower-rated reserve can be added to make numbers even. There was discussion of reducing the number to places to 8 but agreed to keep at 12.
- b) There was discussion of having one-day training events for relatively new lower rated players, possibly on the day after a one-day tournament. Neil would be happy to run such an event but would need time to plan. It was suggested that clubs could also do training events for their members.
- c) It was agreed to look into the possibility of a junior event next year.
- d) In discussion before the meeting, it was agreed that it would be desirable for the 2019 Scottish Open not to be close to the SIMPLE tournament.

## **Data Protection Proposals**

Proposal 1: That SSA adopts an Information Policy, informs members of it and publishes it on its website.

"SSA holds no personal data on individuals (as defined in the EU General Data Protection Regulation) except for the names and contact details (email addresses, postal addresses and/or telephone numbers) of (i) some members and (ii) those who have previously entered a SSA-organised event. These are only accessible to SSA

committee members and these are solely used to inform people regarding SSA events and activity. SSA will not share your data with anyone without your prior express permission. If you wish to change the details SSA holds, or if you do not wish SSA to hold this information, please contact the Secretary by post, email or telephone using the details on the SSA website. If you wish to see the data SSA holds on you, please write to the Secretary at his/her postal address using the details on the SSA website, and ensure your request is both signed and includes a postal address for a response."

Proposal 2: That Committee agrees and minutes that the membership list of SSA is the list on ABSP website filtered to identify those that meet the criteria in the Constitution, plus those who have opted-in (including affiliates, clubs and corporations), minus those who have opted out (if any).

Proposal 3: That future SSA entry forms include the following wording: "By entering this tournament, you agree to your contact details being used by SSA as required to run the tournament. If you wish your details to be retained by SSA, e.g. to allow you to be informed of future events, please tick this box [  ]. Your data will be managed in accordance with SSA's Information Policy, available on its website."



**Meeting on Sunday 14 May 2017  
Carlton Bridge Club, Edinburgh**

**Present:** Margaret Armstrong, Simon Gillam, Marion Keatings, Ross Mackenzie, Neil Scott and James Squires.

**Apologies:** Simon had apologised for the lack of notice; it had been agreed to proceed with the meeting although Amy Byrne was unable to attend.

**1. Matters arising from the last meeting on 16 May 2016**

- a) Simon had not yet updated SSA membership to remove inactive players, who would be invited to apply to continue as members if they wish. He had not yet contacted clubs to see whether they wish to be members.
- b) We had not heard anything on the intended ABSP initiative to get more children playing.

**2. Financial report for 2016 and expenditure in 2017**

- a) Ross's financial report for 2016 had been sent to committee members; Kenneth Ross had carried out the independent examination. There was a small deficit but the balance remained ample as no major items of expenditure were anticipated.
- b) During the year it had been agreed to stop the £1 per head SSA levy; SSA events now aimed to break even.
- c) It was agreed not to offer financial assistance to any Scottish players at the 2017 WESPA championship in Nairobi or 2017 WSC in Qatar.

**3. Any other business**

- a) The leading Scottish players had been determined by peak ratings, but none had yet confirmed intention to play at the 2017 WESPA championship in Nairobi. It was agreed to invite applications from other Scottish players.
- b) It was agreed to offer a gratuity to Ross for his computer and stationery costs at SSA events of £5/day.
- c) It was agreed that SSA tournament entry forms should include a mobile contact number for potential use on the day.
- d) There was a discussion about reduced numbers of entrants and the cost of events. Ross will speak to ABSP about possible targeted advertising on Facebook. Margaret will look into the possibility of an Aviemore venue.

## **Minutes of 16 May 2016**

Present: Amy Byrne, Simon Gillam, Marion Keatings, Ross Mackenzie, Neil Scott and James Squires.

Apologies: Margaret Armstrong

### 1. Matters arising from the last meeting on 17 May 2015

A) Ross agreed to provide assistance to Marion in setting up TSH for the Scottish Round Robin, including possible inter-division matches.

B) Simon had liaised with Alan to coordinate the website list of rated players with the SSA membership list, but had not yet updated to remove inactive players, who would be invited to apply to continue as members if they wish. He had not yet contacted clubs to see whether they wish to be members.

C) Simon had maintained the Scottish peak rating system to March 2016, but the results were not required. It was agreed not to continue regular updates in 2016-17 and instead get data retrospectively from the new ABSP system if required for 2017.

### 2. Financial report for 2015 and expenditure in 2016

A) Ross's financial report for 2015 had been sent to committee members. The surplus for 2015 had been £218, mainly because of a larger than planned surplus at the 7-game event; the closing balance was £1066. It had been agreed that Kenneth Ross would carry out the independent examination.

B) In 2016 the Scottish Open would run at a loss, because numbers were lower than hoped.

C) There are no international events in 2016 for which SSA is providing financial assistance. It was agreed to have a fund-raising quiz towards possible financial assistance for players going to the 2017 WESPA championship.

### 3. Any other business

A) It had been agreed that Tweedbank in July 2016 will be under SSA auspices. Amy is looking into the possibility of an additional event in Nethy Bridge in September or October. Simon had not made any progress in investigating possible new venues, apart from ruling out the Glen Pavilion in Dunfermline. Committee members suggested various other possible venues.

B) Amy reported that there would be an ABSP initiative to get more children playing. We will want to participate, and benefit from their advice.

## Minutes of 17 May 2015

Present: Margaret Armstrong, Simon Gillam, Marion Keatings, Ross Mackenzie, Neil Scott and James Squires.

Apologies: Amy Byrne

### 1. Matters arising from the last meeting on 11 May 2014

A) No SSA magazine had been produced in 2014. It was agreed to stop producing them.

B) It was noted that only £100 SSA contribution was required for the Commonwealth event, rather than the £400 budgeted, because of donations received.

C) The constitution was drafted, and approved at a General Meeting on 16 May.

### 2. Financial report for 2014 and expenditure in 2015

A) A summary financial report for 2014 had been prepared by Ross and copied to committee members in January; it showed a balance of around £850 at end-2014, no change over the year. There were no comments.

B) A surplus of around £150 was forecast for 2015, if there were no contributions to international events.

C) It was agreed not to make any contribution to Scottish players at the WESPA championship in Australia in November 2015.

### 3. Any other business

A) Neil intended to start a small scrabble class in Aberdeen. This was welcomed, and it was agreed that it could be under the SSA auspices.

B) Neil advised that he intended to step down as TD of the Scottish Round Robin from 2016. Marion agreed to take over as TD, with help on the computing.

C) It was agreed that two players who were not automatically SSA members under the new constitution should become members. Any further applications could be dealt with by email.

D) Simon will check with known clubs to see whether they wish to be members.

### Addendum

After the meeting, it was agreed to continue the peak rating system from April 2015 to March 2016, to select Scottish representatives for any international individual and team events in 2016. The only change is to reduce the required number of games for individual qualification to be the same as for teams, a total of at least 60 in the year with at least 15 in each 4-month period.

## Minutes of 11 May 2014

Present: Margaret Armstrong, Amy Byrne, Simon Gillam, Marion Keatings, Ross Mackenzie, Neil Scott and Kate Surtees.

### 1. Matters arising from the last meeting on 16 June 2013 and other decisions taken

A) Decisions had been taken since the last meeting on a replacement player for Six Nations 2013 and on possible qualification for Scrabble Champions Tournaments 2014 and 2015 and team tournaments 2015.

B) No SSA magazine had been produced in 2013 (or 2012). Amy and Ross agreed to consider producing one in late 2014 if there was likely to be suitable material.

### 2. Financial report for 2013 and expenditure in 2014

A) A summary financial report for 2013 had been prepared by Ross and copied to committee members in January; it showed a balance of around £850 at end-2013, a surplus of £55 for the year. In total £350 had been contributed to the Scottish players at Scrabble Champions Tournament 2013 and Six Nations 2013. There were no comments.

B) It was agreed that there should be no contribution to Scottish players in the Scrabble Champions Tournament 2014, as entry is open to all, and there will be no Six Nations event in 2014. For the Commonwealth Scrabble Team Championship 2014 to be played in August in Clydebank, it was agreed to contribute £400 plus additional money from quizzes and other fund-raising. Amy will remind ABSP that they had offered to help in fund-raising for the event. It was also suggested that WESPA may be able to assist.

### 3. Any other business

A) Amy indicated that she wished to step down as Chair but was willing to remain on the committee. Kate indicated that she wished to leave the committee. It was agreed that these changes would take effect after the Commonwealth event in August. Before then, Simon will redraft proposals for the SSA constitution, taking account of the recent Irish experience, and issue them for comments from the committee and then from Scottish players more widely.

B) It was agreed that the SSA's attempt to co-ordinate the 2014 Scrabble calendar for Scotland was worthwhile, and should be repeated for 2015. It was noted that many events have reduced numbers, and there was some discussion on what formats of events would attract more players.

## **Minutes of 16 June 2013**

Present: Margaret Armstrong, Amy Byrne, Simon Gillam, Ross Mackenzie, Neil Scott.

Apologies: Marion Keatings, Kate Surtees.

### **1. Matters arising from the last meeting on 27 May 2012**

A) Schools Scrabble: There had been a recent email contact from Albyn School in Aberdeen, about a possible Scrabble tournament for their school. Neil had volunteered to liaise with them, but no reply had been received yet.

B) No SSA magazine had been produced in 2012. Amy and Ross agreed to aim to produce the next for November 2013.

C) It was agreed that the Glenrothes tournament planned for 28 September should again be under SSA auspices, and Simon offered to be TD.

### **2. Financial report for 2012 and expenditure in 2013**

A) A summary financial report for 2012 had been prepared by Ross and copied to committee members in January; it showed a balance of around £800 at end-2012, a deficit of £55 for the year. Over £300 had been contributed to the Six Nations hosted by Scotland; almost two-thirds of this had come from quizzes compiled by Ross rather than general funds. There were no comments.

B) It was agreed to contribute £50 from SSA funds to each of the five Scottish players in the Scrabble Champions Tournament (previously World Scrabble Championship) in Prague in December 2013. There would be no financial contribution to the Scottish team for the Six Nations, to be hosted by England in November 2013. Ross agreed to produce more quizzes, this time to support general SSA funds.

### **3. Commonwealth Scrabble Championship 2014**

A) The SSA had suggested to the ABSP that a Commonwealth Scrabble Championship could be organised in the Glasgow area around the time of the Commonwealth Games. Simon and Amy had liaised with Steve Perry, ABSP chair, and also received advice from John Chew. The suggested format was similar to Six Nations but for teams of 3 players, duration 4 days in August 2014, possibility of individual entries from countries unable to raise a team. Steve Perry had offered to consult Commonwealth countries to establish the level of interest, but nothing had been heard yet.

B) Neil suggested that it could be a world event, rather than Commonwealth; after discussion it was agreed to leave both possibilities open. He favoured only having country teams, not individuals or composite teams; this was also left open. Simon agreed to contact Steve Perry to establish whether any progress had been made, and to offer SSA assistance. A posting on world scrabble could also be done, to assess interest. Amy agreed to draft material that could be used to approach

potential sponsors.

C) If a team event is arranged for August 2014, it was agreed that Scottish selection should be on the same basis as for Four/Six Nations, but with qualifying year from April 2013 to March 2014.

#### 4. Any other business

A) For the Scottish Masters, it was agreed to keep the number of players and qualifying conditions unchanged, but to change to have 3 rounds of king-of-the-hill after the round robin, giving a total of 14 rounds. Amy agreed to check potential MSI tournament dates in February 2014, so that the Scottish Masters could avoid clashing with the MSI event and Israeli Open.

## Minutes of 27 May 2012

Present: Margaret Armstrong, Amy Byrne, Simon Gillam, Marion Keatings, Ross Mackenzie, Neil Scott, Kate Surtees

### 1. Matters arising from the last meeting on 26 June 2011

A) There had been an informal meeting of five committee members on 30 October 2011 to review progress.

B) The ABSP only had one active school contact in Scotland, and Amy had two other contacts from her efforts in 2009. It was agreed not to pursue the possibility of a Scottish youth scrabble event at present.

C) An SSA magazine had been produced for November 2011, and it was agreed to produce the next for November 2012.

D) Arrangements had been agreed to expand the Four Nations event for 2012, to include Malta and Israel, in a 20-game round robin between 6 teams. It will be held 31 August to 2 September, at the Beardmore Hotel and Conference Centre in Clydebank. Some sponsorship and donations had been attracted, and it was hoped to raise more, linked to live streaming on Scrabcast.

### 2. Financial report for 2011 and expenditure in 2012

A) A summary financial report for 2011 and notes had been prepared by Ross and copied to committee members in February; it showed a balance of around £850 at end-2011 and projected surplus of around £150 in 2012 (assuming no contribution to Four Nations). There were no comments.

B) It was agreed to contribute £250 from SSA funds to the International Team Tournament 2012 (expanded Four Nations).

### 3. World Scrabble Championship 2013 Qualification

A) It was agreed to follow ABSP in splitting ties on most recent peak, then highest peak (instead of splitting on highest peak).

B) It was agreed not to follow ABSP in introducing requirements for a minimum number of games in non-invitation events.

C) After a vote, it was agreed by a majority: to extend Scottish WSC 2013 qualification to those with at least one Scottish-born parent, on the same basis as those Scottish by birth, requiring notification by end-July 2012 from any player not qualifying by residence who wishes to be considered by Scotland; and to increase the required minimum number of games played in Scotland from 30 to 40, with the intention of increasing it again to 50 for WSC 2015.

D) It was confirmed that the qualifying year runs from April 2012 to March 2013, and agreed that all other qualifying criteria should be as for WSC 2011.

Any other business

A) Actions being taken (for League, SILK and other events) in consequence of the ABSP ban affecting a Scottish player were confirmed.

B) A new event in Glenrothes on 22 September 2012 was welcomed.



## Minutes of 26 June 2011

Present: Margaret Armstrong, Amy Byrne, Simon Gillam, Marion Keatings, Ross Mackenzie, Neil Scott, Kate Surtees

### 1. Matters arising from the last meeting

A) Amy recommended that another attempt be made to organise a Scottish youth scrabble event in autumn 2011. She would provide a list of school contacts and in September Simon would try to establish what timing would best suit schools.

B) An SSA magazine had not been produced yet in 2011. Amy and Ross would collaborate to try to produce one for August.

C) Amy recommended that we pursue the possibility of expanding the Four Nations to invite other teams when it is next Scotland's turn to host (in 2012). This could involve up to 10 teams (e.g. adding Malta, Israel, Rest of Europe, N America, Rest of World), giving 36 games over 4 days, and could be attractive if scheduled next to another major event in UK. This would require investigation of potential interest from other countries, sponsorship, venues, etc. Amy, Neil, Ross and Simon agreed to serve on a sub-committee to take this forward.

### 2. Financial report for 2010 and expenditure in 2011

A) A summary financial report for 2010 and notes had been prepared by Ross in January; there were no comments. As agreed, the surplus from the 2010 Scottish Open had been used to reduce entry fees for the 2011 Scottish Open and Round Robin events.

B) It was agreed that the SSA would contribute £100 towards the expenses of each of the four Scottish representatives at the World Scrabble Championship in Warsaw (Poland) in October 2011, and £25 towards the expenses of each of the four team members for Four Nations 2011 in Ireland.

### 3. Any other business

Neil reported that there had been no progress on the venue for Scottish Masters 2012. Simon agreed to enquire about a possible alternative.

## Minutes of 2 October 2010

Present: Margaret Armstrong, Amy Byrne, Simon Gillam, Marion Keatings, Ross Mackenzie, Neil Scott  
Apologies: Kate Surtees

### 1. Matters arising from the last meeting.

A) Amy had investigated Stirling University as an alternative venue, but it was not suitable on cost and unavailability in May. No other options were now being actively investigated, but any other suggestions were welcome.

B) There had been no progress in organising a schools' event.

C) An SSA magazine had been produced for sale in October. It was agreed that Amy and Ross would collaborate to produce a larger magazine for May 2011.

D) It had been agreed by correspondence that the Scottish Four Nations team for 2011 would be picked based on a peak rating system similar to WSC 2011, but with qualifying year August 2010 to July 2011. It had been decided to defer any decision on changing Scottish Masters qualification; the committee agreed to continue with the current qualification system.

E) Amy had approached Mattel about the possibility of a Scottish bid to host WSC 2011, but was advised that it would not be favoured. If sponsorship could be raised, Mattel suggested the possibility of bidding for a future world youth championship, and the committee suggested the possibility of expanding the Four Nations to invite other teams when it is next Scotland's turn to host (in 2012).

### 2. SILK

A) One match in a qualifying section had not been completed by end-September; it had been postponed because of illness. It was agreed that it could be played in early October.

B) The Four Nations 2010 had been arranged for a date clashing with the SILK final, which had been notified to ABSP well in advance, but had been overlooked because it was not in the published ABSP calendar. It had been difficult to find an alternative date for the SILK final, but it had eventually been agreed to hold it on 18-19 December, despite some inconvenience. Ross would host the first day and Simon the second. It was agreed that Simon should mention in his report to the ABSP committee that the clash had caused problems, and ask the ABSP to take steps to avoid a similar clash in the future.

### 3. Four Nations team 2010

For the event on 27-28 November in Wales, three of the Scottish team members were now confirmed. It was agreed that for the remaining place a definite answer would be required by 16 October. It was confirmed that the SSA will not be contributing to team expenses this year.

#### 4. Any other business

A) The 7-game SSA event will be in Edinburgh (Carlton) on 5 February and Scottish Masters at the same venue on 12/13 February. Amy will be organising an event in Pitlochry in late March.

B) It was agreed to try to book Dewars in Perth for the Scottish (21/22 May, or if that is unavailable then the following weekend) and Round Robin (first or second weekend in August). Marion agreed to take entries for the Scottish.

C) The next SSA committee meeting will be at the Scottish in May 2011.

## Minutes of 23 May 2010

Present: Margaret Armstrong, Amy Byrne, Simon Gillam, Marion Keatings, Ross Mackenzie, Neil Scott, Kate Surtees

1. Matters arising from minutes of previous meeting in August 2009.

A) Amy had investigated the costs of using various hotels in Stirling as alternative venues for SSA events, but had not found anywhere suitable. She will now investigate Stirling University.

B) The schools event did not take place in October 2009. Amy would now contact some schools to try to establish the best time of year for an event and book a date. Ross and Marion offered to help in running the event.

C) It was agreed that the 2011 Scottish Masters should have the same format as 2010, with no second section.

2. Financial report for 2009 and expenditure in 2010

Ross had prepared accounts for 2009; a summary was circulated with the agenda, showing a reduction of about £400 in the balance, mainly because of contributions to expenses of three Scottish players at WSC 2009. For 2010 it was agreed not to contribute to expenses of Scottish team members in the Four Nations, to maintain funds for 2011. It was agreed to produce an SSA magazine for sale in August.

3. WSC qualification criteria

Proposed new qualification criteria for Scottish places at World Scrabble Championship 2011, based on those adopted by the ABSP for England, had been circulated to committee members and others inviting comments. After discussion of the proposals and comments, it was agreed to adopt all the proposed criteria without any changes; these new criteria are appended to the minutes. It was noted that an additional Scottish event in the December-March period would make it easier for contenders to play the required number of games.

4. Any other business

A) It was agreed that it would be desirable to change the Scottish qualification for the Four Nations team in 2011 and Scottish Masters 2012 to adopt a similar system of averaging peak ratings, with the Four Nations qualifying running for the year to July and Scottish Masters for the year to November. These would differ from WSC by being limited to Scottish residents, and only require 60 games in total, of which at least 15 in each 4-month period. These proposals would be circulated for comment, with the aim of agreeing them by correspondence by July. These changes would not affect the Four Nations team in 2010 and Scottish Masters in 2011.

B) Amy proposed to look into the possibility of a Scottish bid to host WSC 2011. She would investigate possible sponsorship and also speak to Mattel, and keep the committee informed of progress.

## Scottish Selection Criteria for WSC 2011

The new qualifying year runs from 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011, and is split into three four-month periods; April to July, August to November and December to March. Your peak rating in each period will be recorded, and the four players with the highest average peak will qualify for the team. If there is a tie, the player with the highest individual peak take precedence. If a player declines their place, their invite goes to the next in line based on these criteria.

To qualify you must:

i) be a paid-up ABSP member for the full qualifying period (NB: this period covers two calendar years).

ii) have been born in Scotland or meet the Scotland residency criteria which are:

- be resident in Scotland for the whole of the qualifying year; and
- have been resident in Great Britain (Scotland, England or Wales) for the preceding year.

Players with a claim to represent more than one nation must confirm to the SSA by the end of the first qualifying period (July 2010) whether they wish to be considered for the Scottish team.

iii) play at least 25 ABSP rated games in each period, and at least 100 ABSP rated games (of which at least 30 in Scotland) throughout the qualifying year.

## Older meetings/decisions:

9 August 2009	<b>League</b> : It was agreed that from 2010 Scottish League matches should be submitted for rating as each result is received (similar to SILK), instead of waiting until all games are completed in each 2-match round.
17 May 2009	<b>Masters</b> : The Scottish Masters had been held at the Carlton Bridge Centre. The players were happy to pay extra for the better playing conditions.  <b>Self-adjudication</b> : It was agreed that for each tournament it should be up to the TD to decide whether self-adjudication should be offered.  <b>WESPA</b> : It was agreed that at present SSA should not seek to affiliate direct to WESPA, with Scottish players continuing to be affiliated through ABSP.
8 November 2008	<b>SILK</b> : It was agreed that the East and West regions will be replaced by two Central groups, with players allocated so that each group is of similar size and strength, and also trying to avoid long journeys. Two players will qualify from each Central group, and two from North, for a 6-player final.
13 May 2007	<b>British Team Tournament / Home Internationals - Scottish Qualification</b> : Team selection will be based on ratings at 31 August. Participants must be resident in Scotland for the 12 months prior to 31 August (Scottish-born non-residents are not eligible) and they must have played at least 40 ABSP-rated games in that year, of which at least 30 must have been played in Scotland. It was agreed to offer £50 SSA funding towards the costs of each team member, for each year when the event is not in Scotland (as had been done for 2005 but not 2006).
13 August 2006	<b>World Scrabble Championship - Scottish Qualification</b> : It was agreed that Scottish qualification by residence should be brought into line with UK and England, to be one complete year of residence preceding the year of qualification, instead of two complete years preceding the year of qualification.
30 November 2003	<b>Scottish Team Expenses</b> : It was agreed that, in future, the SSA will not provide expenses for Scottish teams playing in UK events.
10 November 2002	<b>British Team Tournament</b> : Neil Scott proposed that we organise a team tournament between Scotland, England, Ireland and Wales.
Inaugural meeting	<b>Function</b> : It was agreed that the SSA would take over the

18 November  
2001

organisation of the Scottish Championships, the Scottish League and the Scottish Masters.

**World Scrabble Championships** : Qualification criteria for Scottish representatives were agreed. The highest rated player(s) on 1 January of the year of a WSC will be selected, provided (1) they were born in Scotland or have lived in Scotland continuously for at least two and half years prior to 1 July of the year of the WSC, (2) they have played a minimum of 60 ABSP-rated games in the year prior to the year of the WSC (of which 30 must have been played in Scotland), and (3) they have played a minimum of 30 rated games in the second half of the year prior to the year of the WSC (of which 15 must have been played in Scotland).

**Scottish Masters** : Qualification criteria for invitation were agreed. The top 12 rated players on 1 January prior to the Masters will be invited, provided (1) they have lived in Scotland during the second half of the previous year, and (2) they have played a minimum of 40 ABSP-rated games in the previous year (of which 30 must have been played in Scotland).