



Firstly, on behalf of the Scrabble Victoria committee, I would like to wish all members a Happy New Year! As we approach the 40th anniversary of our Association, membership growth and player participation is a major focus point for us.

To help achieve this, there are some initiatives I wanted to highlight:

EVENT FORMATS – RECREATIONALS RETURN IN 2024

To help bring new players into our in-person events, most metropolitan events will now automatically include a **Recreational** Division. These divisions are open to all new players (and those rated under 1000) and will be run over four rounds. No clocks will be used with each game having a fixed limit of 50 minutes. This format had some positive feedback when we ran one last year and we shall be including this from here on as a result.

MEMBERSHIP SCHEMES

- A reminder that our 2024 Member Referral scheme is still in effect.
This year we are recognising members who refer a current non-member to join the Association. If that non-member is completely new or is rejoining after a period of 5 years of not being a member with us, then the referring player will receive a free entry into a single day tournament. Further, if the new member plays a second event in 2024, then the referring player gets a second free entry into a single day event.

EVENT FORMATS – EXPANSION OF SATURDAY ONLINE

Saturday Online events will now be made more available to non-Victorian players, meaning more diverse opponents for those who enjoy our online events. More details on dates can be read [here](#).

PLAYER COMMUNICATIONS – NEW WAYS TO STAY UP TO DATE

Keeping our members informed and updated is paramount. These **new** platforms are being added in 2024.

- Members can now stay updated via WhatsApp and our Channel: click [this link](#) to join the Channel.
- A new Member's Forum will be introduced on Facebook in January. Stay tuned for more details.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST SOUGHT

- We are seeking people or businesses interested in providing sponsorship/support for our services in 2024. If you know anyone who may want to know more, please contact me via reply email.
- We are considering further expansion of our Recreational events to what is already being introduced. Players who would be interested in helping to run these events on an ongoing basis are encouraged to email me and we can discuss this further.

We already have 21 in-person events and 12 online events planned for this year, and I am looking forward to an exciting year ahead.

I am also looking forward to sharing it with all of you in 2024. Let me know if there are questions.

Happy New Year

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