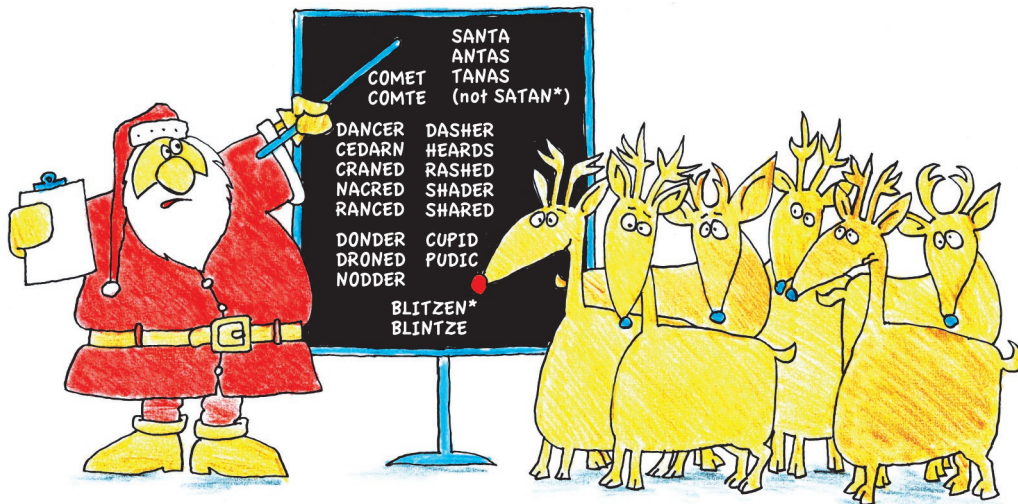


FORWORDS

Journal of the New Zealand Association of Scrabble® Players
No 101 Summer 2010/11

Santa class of 2010



During the long evenings at the Pole, they studied their anagram lists.

- cartoon by Richard Stowers, graphic artist, Hamilton

Also in this issue

**Reports on Causeway Challenge
Tournament of Champions
Norfolk island**

Christchurch quake story

Enigmatic Nigel Richards

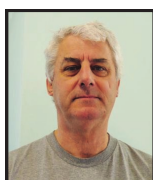
- plus -

Brain teasers for your summer leisure



NZASP Executive

President **Paul Lister**



128 Birdwood Avenue
Beckenham
Christchurch 8023
Phone 03 337 6005
Email
thelisterfamily@gmail.com

Vice President **Val Mills**



Phone
Email
Valerie@gibbs-mills.co.nz

Secretary **Liz Fagerlund**



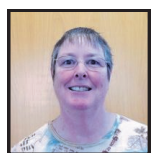
3/389 Blockhouse Bay Road
Blockhouse Bay
Auckland 0600
Phone 09 627 6506
Email
scrabbliz@inspire.net.nz

Treasurer **Clare Wall**



12/12 Vallance Street
Kilbirnie
Wellington 6022
Phone 04 387 4050
Email
Scrabble.clare@gmail.com

Web Master **Glenda Foster**



1 Walters Street
Avalon
Lower Hutt 5011
Phone 04 567 1590
Email
fostergb@ihug.co.nz

In this issue

Brain teasers for your leisure

Competitions and puzzle	5
Cryptic question	36
Anagram challenge	39

Tournaments

Causeway Challenge	9-10
Nigel blitzes World Champions	11-12
Tournament of Champions	12-13
Norfolk Island 2010	14-16
The enigmatic Nigel Richards	32-34

Words

Anagram lists at the Pole	26
I before E – yeah, right!	26
Sic (alternative spellings)	27
Hall of fame	31
What to do with non-bonuses	37
Also	20, 21, 35

Overseas news

WESPA Whispers	10
Overseas news	22
Scrabble rap	35
Hindi Scrabble	38

Miscellaneous

Quake story from Lyn and Awhi	17-19
List of popular games, by year	21
Learning Scrabble: update	23-24
My pack of cards	28-29
Funny Scrabble	30

Humour

8, 16, 20, 21, 29	
Top secret	24
Odd signs	39-41

Also: Mailbox 6, Club news 6-7, Twenty years ago today 25, Tournament Calendar 36, Rankings 42-43, Tournament results, 44-46, Scrabble records 47, contact information, 2 and 48.

*Scrabble is a registered trademark of JW Spear & Sons, England,
under licence in New Zealand to Mattel (NZ) Ltd.*

From the Editor



Merry Christmas, everybody. And a happy summer. Within two days of sending out a request for material for the summer edition of *Forwards*, I had received articles or tidbits from a dozen people to add to the accumulated bits and pieces another dozen members have sent me since the last issue.

What a great response!

This is typical of your supportive attitude to *Forwards* – so many of our readers have contributed material over the last year. In this issue alone, about 25 different people have contributed material – just flip through the pages and check out the assortment of member names on the articles.

This is typical of your supportive attitude to *Forwards* – so many of our readers have contributed material over the last year.

Thanks to the dependable regulars, who send something every month without fail:

- John Foster, who researches the 20-year-old issues of *Forwards* and adds interesting information from his knowledge and experience in the “Twenty years ago today” articles.
- Jeff Grant, who comes up with the interesting competition challenges each month, and who often provides other interesting words articles and comments on articles.
- Our President, Paul Lister, for his “From the Executive” article.

Thanks, too, to our expert contributors who cover various Scrabble topics:

- Liz Fagerlund, for setting us straight on the rules, and supplying competition and Auckland news.
- Howard Warner for keeping us up to date with world Scrabble events and WESPA activities.
- Selena Chan, for her insights on how we learn.

Thanks to all our occasional contributors, the Scrabblers who say to themselves, “I must send that to Jennifer for *Forwards*” – and get round to doing it. I appreciate the random contributions that come in often from people like Joan Thomas (cross-wordy bits), Su Walker (joky/jokey bits), Lynne Butler (language-y and gamey/gamy bits), Val Flint (study bits), Val Mills (Aucklandy bits), Vicky Robertson (various-y bits), to name a few – though there are many others who contribute from time to time.

I particularly appreciate Glenda Foster, who not only does the layout of the mag, but writes up summaries of the major tournaments – often at the last minute, when we haven’t received a tournament report from anyone else – or who has the initiative to fill in the gap when a subject should have been covered but hasn’t been.

Thanks, too, to the editors of Scrabble newsletters in other countries, who are happy for us to use their material from time to time.

I have some wonderfully thoughtful non-Scrabbling friends who, knowing I edit the Scrabble newsletter, send me any items of interest that come their way. For example, the “Puzzle” in this issue. Special thanks to my graphic artist friend, Richard Stowers, who does a made-to-order cartoon for me from time to time, at no charge. Don’t you love the one on the cover of this Christmas issue?!

So Season’s Greetings to all our readers, and my grateful thanks to all the people who have contributed items, however small, over the last year. Your contributions make our *Forwards* the interesting read that it is.

From the Executive

“What! Again!” I was on the phone to Warren Gamble, *Christchurch* Press reporter, and the subject was Nigel Richards’ assassination of eight of the previous ten world champions plus former Causeway champ David Eldar in the inaugural Tournament of Champions in Johor Bahru.

I emailed Warren separately and explained this was a tournament even beyond the phenomenal National, World and Causeway tournaments that have produced so many great games over the last three decades. In game 74 Adam Logan vs Nigel Richards, Adam played correctly and well, bagging a good bonus which can sometimes be enough to tip the odds in favour of winning the game. Incredibly, Nigel played seven bonuses in trouncing Adam, winning with a massive 723.

It was more than “What! Again!” – I hope I conveyed to Warren that this was a new stratosphere!

Our team of five played excellently at the Causeway in Johor Bahru — I followed many of their games on the site and so often every move was the best Quackle recommended yet so often our player didn’t win losing 476 to 482 or similar! Kudos also to WESPA who are now producing excellent newsletters/feedback and Karen Richards for her superb recruitment and administration of youth Scrabble events — not the least being the WYSC in Manila 8-10 December (the standard of play from these juniors was frightening!)

We can reflect on what was an excellent year of tournaments in NZ

(save the September cancelled tournament due to that uninvited earthquake!), the passing of our superb administrator Bryan Foster and the standing down of two excellent exec members in Joan Thomas and Lynn Wood.



I would like to thank our new executive – old hands Liz (who knows how to steer through any problem) and Glenda (who has stood up this year when things were so tough for her) – and our newbies Val (who handles all matters with quiet aplomb) and Clare (who has excellent professional skills following in the footsteps of Joan Thomas).

The 2011 Nationals in Wellington will have both the exec with locals Clare and Glenda plus Lynn who is president of the Wellington club setting the tournament up and promises to be special. The 2011 Masters is in Pakuranga and a cracking good field is up for this.

I strongly recommend you check the dates of the 2011 tournaments and take advantage by booking airfares early – there are often terrific bargains. For those who go international, a new airline is offering from CHCH to KL \$299 fares and stupendously \$6 from KL To Penang. My son Dominic and I made the exact two trips five years ago and it was more like \$900 and \$200!

I would like to wish all our Scrabble community the very best Christmas and New Year.

Your slightly less shaky president –

Paul

Competition



Scrabble contest no. 101

We have another double-header for you.

1. Have you ever had the feeling that your rack contains a bonus word, agonised over it for some time, and finally come up with something like TAIHAPE? Your challenge is to find the highest scoring opening move using a NZ place-name, which can be either allowed in Scrabble or not, it doesn't matter. However, it must be a stand-alone name, not part of a longer multi-word name, and it must be listed in a standard NZ atlas.

For example: DUNEDIN scores 72 and REMUERA scores 74.

The winner will receive a book prize.

2. Scrabble riddle

He's a pal upon whom you can count
To park on the squares blue and red;
The body's avid, but what of the brain?
He knows it's a more valid dread.

The rich lad reigns all supreme,

So give a man a gold star;

A premier sort of player,

I rank my man best by far!

Questions: (a) Who is he?

(b) Who's missing?

The winner will receive one hundred trillion dollars (yes, we're upping the prize money!).

Send entries by mail or email to:

Jeff Grant

'Ardra'

1109 Allenby St

Hastings 4122

ardra@clear.net.nz

Closing date is 26 February 2011.

Solution: contest no. 100

1. There are 70 words in HUNDRED. Some of the more unusual ones are HUDDEN, HURDEN and UNRED. The winner is Lyn Toka (Kiwi) who found them all. Well done!

2. The pupils have the numbers ONE to TEN embedded in their names. The eleventh student is PELE VENDEZ. Correct entries were submitted by Jennifer Smith (HAM), Glennis Hale (Independent) and Lyn Toka (Kiwi). First name out of the hat was Glennis — congratulations!

Puzzle

The name of this puzzle is *Petals Around the Rose* – an appropriate name for people who have an interest in words.

Every answer is zero or an even number.

Roll #1. 

The answer is two

Roll #2. 

The answer is eight

Roll #3. 

The answer is fourteen

Roll #4. 

The answer is zero

Roll #5. 

The answer is four

Roll #6. 

The answer is ????????????????

You'll know without a doubt when you have the correct answer and have cracked the puzzle, so no answer will be supplied.

Mailbox

Dear editor

When reading the *Secret Vault of Words* article by Lynne Butler in *Forwards 100*, I spotted several alleged non words that are now actually allowable for use in Scrabble.

Obviously Collins is not as picky as Oxford, or is it possible they are more forward-thinking? Nah, I think I'll go with less picky.

The words on the list that are allowable are EARWORM, FREEGAN, GRIEFER, PHARMING, WIBBLE. Also allowed but not with the stated definitions are PEPPIER and SPATULATE.

Regards
Jethro Snafflerod

- from Jeff Grant, Independent

Another excellent magazine – the old mag covers brought back memories!

Re page 6 Vicky's pairs: ROSALIA/ROSARIA etc are not really transpositions (or anagrams). Maybe a better name would be letter substitutions?

Re pages 33/34: Some of the so-called non-words are allowed in Scrabble now, thanks to Collins: EARWORM, FREEGAN, GRIEFER and PHARMING are all OK – I haven't checked the others thoroughly but they look more contrived.

[Thanks for the information about the supposed "non-words" – my personal word knowledge is not very extensive, as you know, and I didn't think to check them just in case.

So, this is an apology and correction, folks. -Ed.]

- from Steve Richards, Nelson

Hi Jennifer

We were a bit disappointed to see our 26/27 February tournament date not included in the last *Forwards*, after I sent a message letting you know on 25 October. Perhaps it was too late for printing?

[Yes, it did arrive just a little too late, Steve. But it's in this issue, and I'm putting your letter here as well to give your tournament double exposure! -Ed.]

Club News



Tauranga/Rotorua

The photo shows Tim Henneveld of the Rotorua club presenting the "Battle of the Gorge" trophy (crafted by Tim) to Barbara Dunn of Tauranga at the conclusion of our annual Tauranga - Rotorua interclub competition which Tauranga won by a convincing margin!



Hamilton

Hamilton Club held its prize-giving and celebrated Christmas with a pot luck dinner and a few fun games.

The Championship Points trophy was won by Nick Cavenagh. Nick also won the Round Robin Group 1, while Bronwyn Davis won the Round Robin Group 2. David Gunn was the winner of the Knockout Tournament.

However, the multiple winner for 2010 was Val Flint – she won all three of the Pot Luck, Ladder and Pyramid trophies.

The winner of the highest weekly points was Roger Coates; the highest game score was scored by Roger and Jennifer Smith (990 aggregate), the highest individual game score was won by Yoon Kim Fong (621), and Roger played the highest word (SHAKINGS for 235).

Sportsperson of the Year was won by Alan Hawes.

Kiwi

Our annual Christmas Tournament was held on 13 November, and apart from normal hiccups, it was a great success.

Thanks to Lyn Toka and her daughters, Maryanne and Carolyn, the food was delicious. Thanks also to Lyn, our super shopper – the array of Christmas goodies for prizes was well received.

Thanks, too, to all the people who cheerfully helped us clean up the hall afterwards. Special thanks to out-of-towner, Helen Sillis, for her help before and after the tournament.

Unfortunately, we will not be able to host a tournament in 2011.

After a good year, during which we gained some impressive new players as members, we had our end of year pot luck dinner and prize-giving in December.

Our Club Champion was Yoon Kim Fong. Congratulations, Kim.

Shirley Martin, who was our Most Improved Player, cleaned up the Pot Luck Championship, Round Robin Group 1 and Knockout Group 1. She also won the prize for and Most Bonus Words, and Roger Coates won the award for the most words scoring over 100 points.

Betty Gibb was the player with the best average, taking out the Pyramid Trophy and the Ladder Championship as well. Jena Yousif won the Round Robin Group 2 and Marj Baillie the Knockout Group 2.

The Achievement Award was presented to one of our new players, Shirley Pearce, while the best Social Player (non-member) was Jennifer Smith.

After the distribution of great prizes organised by Lyn Toka, we finished the evening with some novelty word games.

Scrabble in the Hokianga

- by Debbie Raphael, Independent

Hello from the far north. I thought there'd be little chance of a good game of Scrabble up here, but, since I went to the Trans Tasman tournament and the news got around the very active Hokianga grapevine that I play, I've had a couple of keen players contact me. One of them is a regular internet player and the other is an ex Dunedin Scrabble Club member.

Before I came along they played each other and now I play one most weeks (rarely getting away before we've played five games) and the other periodically. They are both excellent players, who can beat me one out of every 3 to 4 games and are improving all the time, so Scrabble is alive and well in the Hokianga.

I wanted to put on a tournament but the list of tournaments is quite daunting so I thought if a group of you have a free weekend at some point and would like to come up for a weekend at the beach I'm sure I can arrange a wee tournament to go with it. Just let me know when you'd like a holiday up my way.

The most use people around here get from knowing I play Scrabble, is using me as the quickest alternative to a dictionary. Oh well, could be worse!



Debbie Raphael (nee Caldwell)
09-946-6958.
debbieraphael@vodafone.net.nz

Scrabble "tip"

- from Jeff Grant, Independent

The *Little Book of Scrabble Tips*, by Chris Jones (2008) contains 50 hints for improving your Scrabble, including the following gem:

"It doesn't happen very often, but if all the Us are gone, you're stuck with an unusable Q, and there's only one tile left in the bag... change the Q. Your opponent will have to pick it up at his turn, and if he can't use it either, it could be decisive."

(Yeah, right! Great tip, Chris – apart from the minor detail that you can't change if there are fewer than 7 tiles left in the bag!)

Incidentally, other books in the series have tips on things as varied as backgammon, golf, beer, cheese, kittens, olive oil, hair and Marmite!

[Hope the other books have been written by real experts. -Ed.]

Scrabble bond



Another link in our Scrabble family: Lyn Toka's daughter, Carolyn, marries Roto Mitchell's nephew, Stephen.

Scruble

New this year: the Scruble Cube
Scruble Cube is a hybrid of Scrabble and Rubik's Cube. Twist and turn the sides or individual squares to form words. Like Scrabble, points are scored based on letter and word values, which can double, triple or quadruple in value. Extra points are also earned when spelling words across multiple sides. Visit scrublecube.com.



Board

Interesting board in game between Chris Hooks and Val Mills at the Kiwi tournament.



- sent in by Val Mills, Pakuranga

Causeway Challenge

- compiled from reports sent out by Liz Fagerlund, Mt Albert



Causeway Scrabble is over for another year. The winning team was Thailand with 134 wins.

The Causeway Scrabble Challenge took place in Johor Bahru, Malaysia. The New Zealand team competed in the Premier section (team of five: Nigel Richards, Howard Warner, Joanne Craig, Jeff Grant, and Patrick Carter), there were no NZ players in the Masters section, and Betty Eriksen, Wanganui, was our only competitor in the Open section.

After a gruelling 45 games, the NZ team finished 8th with a total of 104 wins. Ten teams were competing in this section,

At the end of Day 1

After 9 games, the NZ team was in 6th place. Nigel was 1st with 8 wins (along with Brian Cappelletto, Paul Gallen and Brett Smitheram); Howard was 15th with 6 wins, Joanne 36th with 3 wins, Jeff 41st with 3 wins, and Patrick 43rd with 3 wins.

In the open section, Betty Eriksen was 42nd (out of 84), with 5 wins.

At the end of Day 2

In the Premier teams event section, after a total of 19 games, the NZ team was in 5th place, just ahead of USA and UK. Nigel was 3rd with 14 wins, Howard 18th with 11 wins, Jeff 37th with 8 wins, Patrick 38th with 8 wins, and Joanne 46th with 7 wins.

Brett Smitheram was in the lead on 17 wins, Naweon Fernando 2nd on 14.5.

In the Open section Betty was doing well, with 11 wins and 31st place.

At the end of Day 3

In the Premier teams event section, after another 10 games and a total of 29 games, the NZ team was in 7th place, one point behind USA. Nigel was 8th on 18

wins, Howard 27th on 14 wins, Joanne 35th on 13 wins, Jeff 36th on 13 wins and Patrick 47th on 9 wins.

Joanne did the best of the NZ team on day 3 with 6 wins; Jeff 5 wins, Nigel only got 4 wins, Howard 3 wins and Patrick only 1. It was tough!!

Brett Smitheram was still in the lead on 23 wins, Panupol 2nd on 22 wins

In the Open section Betty was still doing well, with 16 wins and 26th place.

At the end of Day 4

In the Premier teams event section, after the 4th day, another 10 games and a total of 39 games, the NZ team was still holding on to 7th place. Thailand was the leading team ahead of UK. Nigel had a good day, winning 8 out of 10 games, and Jeff had his best day with 6 wins.

At the end of the day, Nigel was 6th on 26 wins, Jeff 28th on 19 wins, Joanne 41st on 16 wins, Howard 42nd on 16 wins, and Patrick 46th on 13 wins.

Panupol was leading on 29 wins, with Brett Smitheram 2nd also on 29 wins. Liz commented, "You know it's tough there when you see the names of lots of fantastic Scrabble players, including ex world champs, who are down in the second half of the field!"

In the Open section Betty was on 20 wins and in 41st place.

In the Masters section, which had no NZ players competing, Thatcha Koowirat from Thailand was in the lead at the end of the fourth day.

After Day 5 (final day)

The NZ team finished the tournament in 8th place, while individual team members finished in the following places: Nigel 5th on 30 wins, Jeff 34th on 20 wins, Joanne 39th on 19 wins, Howard 42nd on



*Panupol Sujjayakorn, Thailand—
individual winner of the Premier section —
is presented with his cheque*

18 wins, and Patrick 44th on 17 wins.

Panupol continued a great run winning 5 out of 6 games on the last day – in fact, only beaten by Howard. He was the individual winner with 34 wins. Mikki Nicholson was 2nd and Brett Smitheram 3rd, both on 32 wins, and Paul Gallen on 4th with 30.5 wins.

The Masters section was won by Thatcha Koowirat from Thailand on 31.5 wins. Second was Alastair Richards from Australia with 30 wins, and third was Tony Sim from Singapore with 28 wins.

In the Open section, which was won by Helen Maurua of Australia on 31 wins, Betty finished with a very commendable 20 wins. She says, “19th placing was the best I could do, as the last two days everyone had their revenge. I did not see the final results, but unfortunately, I think I may have come in the last ten!!”

Congratulations to Betty and our New Zealand team for performing so well against so many superb international players.

[We hope to hear more comments and competitor experiences on the Causeway from some of our players in the next issue of

Forwards, when they are all back in New Zealand. As we go to press, many of our team members are still scattered around the globe! – Ed.]

Stop press: Further congratulations to Betty. She went on to the Progressive Round Robin in Manila, where she came 10th!!

WESPA Whispers goes international

The revamped WESPA website (www.Wespa.org) has a brand new e-zine, called “WESPA Whispers” (access by clicking WESPA Whispers in the bottom right-hand corner of the home page).

This e-zine is the product of the WESPA Promotions Committee, of Howard Warner (NZ), Michael McKenna (Australia) and Craig Beevers (UK).

If the name WESPA Whispers sounds familiar, it’s because you’ve read 2-3 WESPA Whispers article that Howard has supplied to *Forwards* over the last year or so.

But even though the name is the same, Howard says that it’s a very different kind of news vehicle. “My occasional column in *Forwards* was more blog-like, aimed at a NZ audience. This one is aimed at the international player audience, and is an e-zine, designed to link with the WESPA website and get people visiting more often and exploring it thoroughly.”

We encourage you to check out the international news items on this website.

[Different content or not, I like to think that the world saw it first in Forwards! – Ed.]

Nigel blitzes the World Champions

Nigel stayed on in Johor Bahru to play in the Tournament of Champions. This is a special tournament in which Michael Tang amazingly succeeded in getting nine of the ten world champions together to play in this event. David Eldar, the 2008 Causeway Champion, was invited to fill the 10th spot.

Background

London in 1991 was the beginning of true international Scrabble. That was when the World Scrabble Championship was held for the first time. Since then the World Scrabble Championship has been held every second year, and this has produced a pantheon of winners. Nobody has ever won the World Scrabble Championship twice.

In more recent times the Causeway Scrabble Challenge has also come of age as an outstanding international event, and the winners have also merited a place in Scrabble history.

In 2010, Michael Tang announced the inaugural **Tournament of Champions**. This took place in Johor Bahru from the 7-9 of December 2010, straight after the 9th Causeway Scrabble Challenge. Ten acknowledged champions from across the years were invited to play 27 rounds, a full round robin each day.

It was an impressive list of competitors

Peter Morris	WSC 1991 Champion
Mark Nyman	WSC 1993 Champion
David Boyes	WSC 1995 Champion

Joel Wapnick	WSC 1999 Champion
Brian Cappelletto	WSC 2001 Champion
Panupol Sujjayakorn	WSC 2003 Champion
Adam Logan	WSC 2005 Champion
Nigel Richards	WSC 2007 Champion
David Eldar	Causeway 2008 Champion
Pakorn Nemitrmansuk	WSC 2009 Champion

But even in this elite field of impressive players, Nigel managed an outstandingly impressive win, winning the tournament with a two-game margin and a massive spread

At the end of the first day, Nigel was in the lead with 8 wins after the first 9 games. By the end of the second day, and after 18 games, he was still in the lead with 15 games. By the end of the third day, and after 27 games, he had won 19, with a whopping 1415 spread (next highest spread was 692!)

It was during the fifteenth game that Nigel played what is bound to become part of the folklore of international Scrabble. He beat (the official scoreboard said "pulverised"!)

Adam Logan, 717 – 325. Nigel played 7 bonus words – GaRCINIA, BOORKAS, ACQUITE, TROWELS, CESAREAN, PEDIGREE and PENLIGHT.

Amazingly, his first five bonus words were played consecutively, and there were no triple triples to acquire that incredible score. Only three of his turns (including when he only had 2 letters left at the end) were non bonus words!!!!

Amazingly, Adam still managed to play two bonuses, WOMANISE and RAINOUT.



Page 12

Hard to imagine how all those words fitted on the board! To find out what the board looked like, or to follow any games you can go to

<http://www.causewayscrabble.com/champs/games.html>

Well done Nigel, the ultimate champion!!!



Tournament of Champions

- by Jeff Grant, Independent

It was a privilege being present to see ten of the world's greatest ever Scrabble players face off in a triple round robin over three days at the Zon Regency Hotel, Johor Bahru, Malaysia, from 7-9 December, 2010. Full credit to Scrabble entrepreneur Michael Tang for getting together the high-class field, which featured nine of the ten world champions from 1991-2009 (including New Zealander Nigel Richards), plus David Eldar of Australia, 2008 Causeway winner and 2006 World Youth Champion.

The standard of play was phenomenal! A casual stroll around the small room revealed boards festooned with words like TUILYIE, BOTHRIA, HAIRIFS, ANATOXIN, PUGGREE, WAVEROUS, ZOFTIG, LONGCASE, NINCOM, ADVOWSON, ECBOLIC, PECCAVI and DECISTERE. Predictably, the last one was Nigel's. He played a stream of great words in Johor Bahru, including EARWITNESS, which got people talking at the Causeway event the previous week.

Nigel was a worthy winner of the inaugural "Champions" tourney, but he had to work hard for the winner-take-all \$US10,000 prize, gaining victory in some games only on the last move, and proving that he is human with the occasional error, including a play of NELWY* (instead of NEWLY) at one stage. That

sort of move doesn't happen very often I suspect.

Pat annotated a number of games for Peter Morris (US), who won the first World Scrabble Championship in London in 1991. It was generally thought that Peter would struggle, having not played any serious Scrabble for seventeen years. The prediction seemed accurate after he finished 49th out of 50 in the Causeway marathon beforehand.

Pat found Peter to be a real gentleman and a fine Scrabbler too. He proved his ability by finishing 8th in the Champions event, ahead of two great North American players, Brian Cappelletto (US) and Joel Wapnick (Canada). In one game, Peter played CIGARETTE through a separated T and E. Very appropriate as he has worked for a tobacco company most of his life.

There were lots of hard-luck stories. I saw Mark Nyman (UK), the 1993 world champion, with an unpromising rack of AIJNNTT, play TJANTING onto a floating G. Unfortunately for Mark this allowed current world champion Pakorn Nemitrmansuk (Thailand) to play EQUISETA through the first T for 203!

A similar thing happened to Panupol Sujjayakorn (Thailand), the 2003 world champion, while playing David Boys (Canada), the 1995 champ, in the second

to last round. Panupol played the impressive INHOOPED onto a D, but David had the right tiles to make the triple-triple DIARIZES through the I for 203. Sometimes it's a cruel game!

After watching most of Nigel's games, I now have a better appreciation of what a brilliant player he is, and very modest with it. In a game against David Eldar, Nigel was left with an awkward final rack of HLRTW. He was able to play ROWTH around a separated O and T, setting up FELT/TROWTH for his LT. Fantastic! When complimented afterwards, Nigel simply said, "I thought it was obvious, go out in two moves."

From all of Nigel's games, three stand out to me as particularly memorable:

On day one, Nigel got five bonus words against Mark Nyman – and lost! Mark had three bonuses and several high-scoring non-bonus plays, winning 544-502.

On day two, Nigel played what was probably the game of the tournament. Against 2005 world champ Adam Logan (Canada) he got seven (!) bonus words and won 715-325. Apart from Nigel's opening move and a two-letter outplay on move ten, his intermediate moves were as follows: GARCINIA, BOORKHAS, GUB, ACQUITE, TROWELS,



Nigel receives his cheque from the Princess of Johor

CESAREAN, PEDIGREE, PENLIGHT. Quite incredible!

On day three, in the second to last game, Nigel played Panupol, needing a win to make things safe with a round to go. Early on Nigel put down SEDATES, then later SEDATING, and finally by extending SEDATES to SEDATEST he was able to play STROAMED onto a D, subsequently winning quite comfortably.

The dictionary defines SEDATE as 'calm', 'composed', 'unruffled', 'dignified in character or manner. That's certainly an apt description of the world's best Scrabbler.

Norfolk Island 2010

- by Jeff Grant, Independent

The 22nd Norfolk Island Scrabble Festival was held on 11-15 October, at the Colonial Hotel. It is now 25 years since the first event, and this time it was colder and windier than usual on the island. Pat and I managed only two swims at Emily Bay, but of course the weather didn't affect the Scrabble.

This year Glennis Hale and I hosted 26 players from various parts of Australia and New Zealand, including many who had not come before and several who have been ten times or more! Everyone played 21 games in the main event with the option of at least two more in the handicap knockout. Needless to say, there were dozens more social games played around the island during the week. There were lots of close games, some decided by just a point or two, but surprisingly there were no draws. In one game the combatants battled themselves to a standstill. Both players had full racks and there were two tiles left in the bag, but nowhere on the board to place even one letter!

The spot prizes were well spread around. Jean Boyle won the Animal prize with CHARGER, Lynn Wood got THREADS for the Jewellery word, Wayne Willis displayed ZING to win the Z prize and was even ZINGIER for the -ING word. Françoise Finlayson with EQUIPE and Michelle Sturzebecher with ROOKIES took the Sport prizes, Jacky Booth played the lovely OXYGENS for the X word, Ann Hagley got DINNERS for the Food & Drink word, Bev Wilkinson won the Occupation spot with BEGUILER (?) and Judy

Mason the Music word with STRAINS.

The prize for the most unusual word of the festival went to Delcie Macbeth for LAUWINE (an avalanche), and 'Les Femmes Fatales' (Correne James and Jacky) narrowly won the Word Puzzles competition ahead of the 'Moehau Monsters' (Delcie and her sister Glenda Geard).

Bev's amazing 111-point GRAZE stood as the highest turn until Anson Bay winner Joan Thomas got 167 for OVERUSED on a triple-triple. Joan's 616 in that game was the highest of the week, and possibly the highest ever recorded at Norfolk.

Jean won the Knockout event from Jacky. The writing was on the wall when Jean beat Lynn in the semis with a final play of JEANS! Delcie took out the plate from Merle Skopp.

Glenda was a well-deserved winner of the Sportsperson award, and NZ retained the Team Trophy. At the prize-giving dinner at Governor's Lodge on Friday night it was an emotional moment for



Jeff presents the Sportsperson Award to the winner, Glenda Geard

Lynn when she went up with the winning Kiwis on behalf of mum Thelma Chisholm who was feeling poorly and couldn't be there to share the kudos.

Lynn and Thelma exemplify the spirit of friendly competition for which Norfolk is known. One of the enduring memories of the tourney occurred when everyone had quietly settled down for the start of another game when from down the back a voice rang out — “F U!” It was simply Thelma announcing the tiles drawn to determine who started. Of course the room erupted in laughter. Lynn had an up-and-down week, which she reckons was typified by two games against Delcie. In the first round she played OVERGLAD, and won, but in the second she got OVERSAD, and lost!

All in all another memorable Scrabble Festival on beautiful Norfolk Island. Everyone had a ball. We'll certainly be back, so why not join us in 2011 for a week of Scrabble, word puzzles, shopping, sightseeing, picnics, swimming, diving, golf, bush walks, sunbathing, wining and dining, or just relaxing with a good book— there's plenty to keep you occupied!

[Final results on page 46.]



The NZ group from the Fletcher Christian motel (from left): Glenda, Delcie, Joan Thomas, Lynn Wood and Ray Thomas.

Norfolk Island

- by Delcie McBeth, Independent

My sister Glenda Geard and I have just arrived back from my first trip to Norfolk Island and the Scrabble Festival. The first thing that struck us upon our arrival was the friendliness of the locals, some standing out by their gates and waving as the plane came in to land. The waving didn't stop there as I was to find out later when we set off in our rental car to explore the island. It took a while to get into the habit of waving back to every passing vehicle.

There was lots of Scrabbling over the week, 21 games in the main competition and more games in the knockout competition, plus Jeff's challenging daily puzzles.

The Scrabbling began on Sunday and Glenda and I only just made it back in time for the start of the knockout challenge as we had decided that the couple of hours we had free was enough time to go tramping in the National Park. We started our walk from the top of Mt Pitt with its panoramic views over the island and headed down the well maintained bush

paths with huge Norfolk pines and beautiful bird life. It was all uphill on the way back and we arrived at the Scrabble venue hot and bothered and just in time to play in the knockout challenge and meet some of our Australian opponents. There were 26 players at the festival with more Aussie contestants than Kiwis. It took a while to get the hang of the Australian free challenge rule and it seemed that our opponents were challenging most of our words, but we soon got into the swing of it ourselves seeing as there was



Glenda standing inside a giant Moreton Bay Fig tree.

no penalty.

Each day was a combination of Scrabble and free time for shopping, exploring, fishing or taking one of the local tours.

The overall winner of the Festival was Joan Thomas followed closely by Hazel Purdie. The week ended with a presentation dinner on the Friday night with good food and lots of prizes.

Thanks to Glennis Hale and Jeff and Pat Grant for all the time and effort they put into the organisation of this festival.

I am definitely looking forward to the next time.

Better dictionary definitions

- ADULT** A person who has stopped growing at both ends and is now growing in the middle.
- BEAUTY PARLOR** A place where women curl up and dye.
- CANNIBAL** Someone who is fed up with people.
- CHICKENS** The only animals you eat before they are born and after they are dead.
- COMMITTEE** A body that keeps minutes and wastes hours.
- DUST** Mud with the juice squeezed out.
- EGOTIST** Someone who is usually me-deep in conversation.
- HANDKERCHIEF** Cold storage.
- INFLATION** Cutting money in half without damaging the paper.
- MOSQUITO** An insect that makes you like flies better.
- RAISIN** Grape with sunburn.
- SECRET** Something you tell to one person at a time.
- SKELETON** A bunch of bones with the person scraped off.
- TOOTHACHE** The pain that drives you to extraction.
- TOMORROW** One of the greatest labour saving devices of today.
- YAWN** An honest opinion openly expressed.
- WRINKLES** Something other people have, similar to my character lines.

Quake story from Lyn and Awhi

by Lyn Dawson, Christchurch

[Lyn is the new owner of Awhi, Olivia's former guide dog.]

At 4:36am on Saturday 4 September our world changed for ever. We were awoken by a sharp jolt followed by heavy shaking and a terrible roar for about 40 seconds. I realised quickly that this was a biggie and that there was no point in trying to take cover as we were being thrown around so much.

Oddly enough, I felt no fear, but when the shake stopped I scrambled in my bedside drawer for my torch. Everything felt like a torch! But eventually I found it and then the hunt began for my glasses which had been left on top of the cabinet. They had disappeared but fortunately my spare glasses were by the torch and so I got out of bed to check the dogs and the house. Two very frightened dogs crept into the bedroom and then stayed hard by me as I went through the house. My first thought was to get to the pantry where we keep a big torch and that was where the enormity of what we had experienced started to become apparent. During the big shake John had tried to get out of his side of the bed but was unable to because, we later discovered, a lowboy had fallen against it. Several hours later my glasses were found; they appeared to have flown off the top of the bedside cabinet into a drawer that had been flung open and then closed!

The house was a tip. At first it seemed that anything that could be thrown around was, but as the cleanup began the damage seemed to be somewhat directional but even then there was no explanation for some cupboards being flung open and emptied but others alongside staying shut even though the contents had moved. The



Lyn Dawson

front door and a door to the toilet had jammed and all the water in the toilet bowl had been sloshed onto the floor.

The priority was to make sure we were safe, make an area safe for the dogs, and check the neighbours. So I simply swept glass into piles around the oven and then fed the dogs to calm them down. By this time neighbours were outside calling to check and so we all met up on the street outside in the dark. All were alive and well. But we had no power, phone, cell phones, water, or (we correctly assumed) sewage.

With daylight we were able to get a better idea of the damage and we realised just how lucky we were. We were totally reliant on a transistor radio and learned that we were less than 30km from the epicentre of a 7.1 earthquake. This was the size of quake that devastated Haiti a few months ago with about 240,000

people killed and many more injured. We all survived. Only a few people were injured and only two were seriously hurt.

You will have heard the story that dogs and other animals bark or call before earthquakes. They don't. Rockie and Awhi were quick enough to come racing for cuddles and reassurance afterwards and were very confused and clingy for some time. Later, as dawn was breaking, the birds started to sing and for me that was all the proof I needed that life would go on.



John tackling some breakfast watched keenly by Awhi who is giving a good impression of a starving animal. Aftershocks were frequent so we kept having to duck under the eaves in case any tiles fell.

Water has spilt from the dogs' yellow bucket during the shake.

It's September 28 now, and we still have aftershocks – over 1,000 to date according to the university where they're being counted. I now know all about sleep deprivation – there's nothing like an aftershock at bedtime to put one off sleeping! This has been quite disconcerting because we tend to consider disasters as single events, such as fire or flood, with a definite end so one can then get on with life. But a major earthquake is different because it keeps recurring and at times and intensities that we cannot control or

predict. So we stay on edge and are noticeably jumpy. Fortunately the strength and intensity of the aftershocks are decreasing. We've been let off lightly. Some cracked concrete in the paths and a crack through the garden shed. There's minor cracking in the floor and ceiling joins of the gib board in the garage and just a few small cracks in the interior plasterwork of the house. Some kitchen coffee mugs and glassware were broken as were a few prized pieces of china and glassware. It is estimated that 5,000-6,000 houses may have to be replaced – some are nearby. November 19 – we've now had more than 2,000 aftershocks. Our contents insurance claim was quickly and easily dealt with by phone and we've been told the cheque will be in the mail some time. We've had to put property claims in to both EQC and our insurers as the aftershocks are continuing to take quite a

toll. Roof tiles have shifted so I've had to lay plastic sheeting in the loft. Cracks around doors and windows are numerous and extending and the joinery is starting to look quite stressed. Outside we have cracks appearing in the mortar between the stonework. The new front gate keeps jamming. As we still come into the minor damage category we may not be assessed for several months.

It is estimated that \$20m will have to be spent repairing the infrastructure alone in Halswell. Other affected suburbs are up to \$190m. The roads and paths around here are a mess and can change from day to day, depending on the last shake. Several houses in the neighbourhood have been condemned, others are seriously damaged although still habitable. Aftershocks are thankfully fewer now but tend to be quite strong – up to 4.9.

On a personal note, everyone is still jumpy. As Gary Moore, a former mayor, has said, everyone else in the country has moved on after the big shake but we cannot because they just keep coming. Last night I was at a gathering on the 14th floor in a city hotel when we had a shake. You could spot the locals immediately. We froze, glanced around quickly to check others' reactions – was this really a shake? – then, secure in the knowledge

that others had also felt the movement we relaxed. I call it the Christchurch twitch.

It's now 25 November. Walking Awhi is not easy because of the state of the roads and footpaths which can change from day to day – one nearby footpath was cleared up and new gravel put in and levelled ready for resealing. It now has about a 30 degree lean!

But on the bright side, I'm looking forward to redecorating. The house has performed exactly as it should and we now seem to have more cracks than a builders' convention! Our neighbours can pull some of their stone cladding in and out, fortunately ours is still pretty firmly in place even if the mortar is cracked. Inside, I've noticed that nails holding the gib in place are working loose and have broken through paint and paper in some places. Surreal, but surprisingly, I wouldn't miss the experience for anything.

We are just so lucky on several counts: surviving a quake stronger than the one that killed over 200,000 in Haiti, coming through uninjured, and having so little damage. Life is very precious indeed.



Fortunately some of my Scrabble books remained safe!

Paraprosdokians

- by *Sophocles Fudd*

According to the Dictionary of Rhetorical Terms (2010), a paraprosdokian (Greek: “beyond expectation”) is an unexpected ending to a phrase, clause or sentence., frequently used for humorous or dramatic effect.

The word seems a fairly recent invention. It’s not allowed in Scrabble, and isn’t listed in major references like the Oxford English Dictionary and big Webster’s. The figure of speech, however, has been around for a while. Here are a few famous examples:

- On his feet he wore... blisters. - Aristotle
- I’ve had a perfectly wonderful evening, but this wasn’t it.’ - Groucho Marx
- You can always count on the Americans to do the right thing – after they have tried everything else. - Winston Churchill

For your amusement, here are some clever modern paraprosdokian sentences from a list doing the rounds on the Net:

- I want to die peacefully in my sleep like my grandfather, not yelling and screaming like the passengers in his car.
- If I agreed with you we’d both be wrong.
- I didn’t say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you.
- Money can’t buy happiness, but it makes misery easier to live with.
- You’re never too old to learn something stupid.
- To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first and call whatever you hit the target.
- To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism; to steal from many is research.
- A bank is a place that will lend you money, if you can prove you don’t

need it.

- Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit; wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.
- She got her good looks from her father – he’s a plastic surgeon.
- Before you criticise a man, walk a mile in his shoes; that way, you’ll be a mile away and he won’t have any shoes.

Surfing lingo

- by *Mazy Quintal*

I am a longtime boardhead* and also a keen Scrabbler. I recently read *Fear Nothing* by Dean Koontz and recorded the following words used in conversation by two serious surfers. None of them are allowed in Scrabble! What’s going on?

BOARDHEAD*	keen surfer
BROLY*	brotherly
GYROSPAZ*	a hopeless, disruptive surfer
HOTTEN*	to grow hot
MACKER*	a big wave (from Mack truck)
MACKING*	big, scary (of a wave)
NUTBALL*	crazy; idiot (nutcase + screwball)
SLACKERHOOD*	idleness

The Widger

- by *Eoan Sparrow*

I am a keen gardener and recently bought a plastic ‘dibber and widger’ set to use in my greenhouse. According to the blurb on the pack, you can “make holes with the dibber and gently lift seedlings with the widger”.

While DIBBER is listed in Chamber’s Dictionary and is therefore allowed in Scrabble, WIDGER* doesn’t seem to appear in any dictionary. I’m wondering if it’s just a commercial alteration of WIDGET?

Seasonal questions to ponder

- Q. How does Good King Wenceslas like his Pizza?
 A. Deep pan, crisp and even.
- Q. Did you hear about the dyslexic Goth?
 A. He sold his soul to Santa.
- Q. What do Santa's elves at the North Pole get from sitting on the ice too long?
 A. Polaroids.
- Q. What are the four stages in a man's life?
 You believe in Santa Claus.
 You don't believe in Santa Claus.
 You get a job being Santa Claus.
 You look like Santa Claus.
- Q. Why is Santa so jolly?
 A. Because he knows where all the bad girls live.



Vehicle registration plates

by Ray Goodyear, Christchurch

A study of passing vehicle registration plates over the last ten years has proved to be a useful method for memorising two- and three-letter words.

The abysmal driving standard of many Christchurch drivers forced me to choose public transport for travel. Now, as I walk or wait for buses, I observe each registration plate, quickly separating allowable Scrabble words from the predominantly non-allowable words viewed on the majority of vehicles.

In the last ten years, I have only twice sighted five consecutive allowable Scrabble words on passing vehicles. Even four allowable plates passing consecutively would be rare. (I include allowable personal plates in my sightings.)

Since three-lettered plates have been issued, consecutive allowable words have become less frequent.

Plate spotting has resulted in my mind becoming proficient in retaining allowable two- and three-letter words.

Bonus words are not the only weapons we, in the lower grades, depend on. A full knowledge of two, three and many four-letter words will win many a game against players with great bonus skills.

List of popular games, by year

- 1901: Tiddly Winks
- 1934: Sorry
- 1935: Monopoly
- 1943: Chutes and Ladders
- 1948: Scrabble
- 1949: Clue and Candyland
- 1956: Yahtzee
- 1959: Risk
- 1960: The Game of Life
- 1965: Operation
- 1966: Twister
- 1967: Battleship
- 1971: Uno
- 1974: Hungry Hungry Hippos
- 1982: Trivial Pursuit
- 1984: Balderdash
- 1986: Pictionary and Jenga
- 1990: Taboo
- 1993: Magic: The Gathering
- 1998: Cranium
- 1999: Apples to Apples
- 2000: Blokus
- 2002: Scene It
- 2006: Qwirkle
- 2008: Bananagrams

- Sources: Boardgames.com; Hasbro.com; Wikipedia.com

Overseas News



Dubai

Dylan D'Souza holds the Gulf Scrabble record for the highest-scoring word: SQUATTERS, for 208 points. In a recent tournament he defeated one of the best players in the region, a one-time Gulf champion who has faced top competitors in a dozen countries.



Dylan D'Souza

Dylan is 12. He was to compete as the first representative from the UAE to compete in the World Youth Scrabble Championship at the beginning of December.

Ghana

African Championships

1. Jighere Wellington (Nigeria)
2. Eta Karo (Nigeria)
3. Chinedu Okwelogu (Nigeria)

Israel

Israeli Open

1. Sam Kantimathi (USA)
 2. Jared Robinson (Nottingham Nomads)
 3. Theresa Brousson (Malta)
- Evan Cohen was top Israeli, in fifth place.

United Kingdom

National Championships

A transsexual in a pink wig and matching PVC dress was crowned UK National Champion. Mikki Nicholson, 32,

from Carlisle in Cumbria, outplayed Mark Nyman, who has won more than 20 major Scrabble contests, including the World Championship.

Ms Nicholson said: "A good Scrabble player is intuitive. They also need to be good with numbers. People think Scrabble is just about words, but it's the numbers that win the game so a sound mathematical brain is an advantage."

On hearing of Mikki's win, Howard Warner said: "Our Causeway 2009 players all got to know and play Mikki last year. A wonderful, colourful character and a great player – a real bloke when sharing a beer and a yarn in the bar after a hard day's play, and a perfect gentleman across the board. Mikki only put on a sparkly top and feminine persona for the prize giving." (Mikki finished fourth at that event, after beating Howard in the final game.)

The event was covered by six national newspapers and most local media, as well as on BBC Breakfast and BBC Radio. Perhaps unsurprisingly, the event was the third most-read on BBC News online the following day.

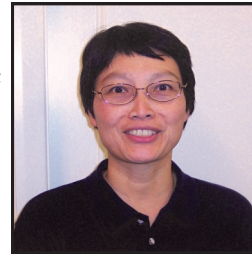
You can play through the superb final best of five games between Mikki and former World Champ Mark Nyman at <http://www.centrestar.co.uk/uknsc/2010>.



Mikki Nicholson

Learning Scrabble: update

- by Selena Chan, Christchurch



This article may be on the esoteric side for some people. However, I hope that most readers will find the various articles and papers recommended as interesting and thought provoking. All the references / papers suggested in this article are available on the internet and you might like to print out 'club copies' for circulation.

I undertook an exploration of the academic literature on Scrabble as a side track from my usual research and found two articles which have much relevance to all Scrabble players. When reading academic papers (especially the last one in this article), do a skim read and then pose a few questions that you would like answered by the paper. That way, you do the next reading of the article with a purpose in mind and obtain useful information for your investment in time ☺.

One of the books I frequently dip into is *How to win at Scrabble* by Andrew Fisher and David Webb, published in 2004. The book discusses various useful strategies that can be used to learn words, which words to learn and how to improve on playing strategy. Parts of the first two chapters of the book are available on Google Books.

(http://books.google.co.nz/books?id=Y5WsuWIA9IIC&dq=andrew+fisher+scrabble&printsec=frontcover&source=bn&hl=en&ei=rUTnS6CIL4nkswPolaCXCO&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=4&ved=0CCgO6AEwAw#v=onepage&q&f=false).

However, the book only whets my appetite for more information on how people can work towards becoming better or expert Scrabble players. The study of expertise and how it is attained

has been going for many years. For general information on how the expert

mind comes about, there is a good article on Scientific American (<http://www.cerebyte.com/articles/Scientific%20American%20Neuroplasticity.pdf>).

Another one from the Harvard Business review (<http://hbr.org/2007/07/the-making-of-an-expert/ar/1>) on the making of an expert provides good background. A summary of these three articles reveals several things: you can become an expert by working diligently at a skill; becoming a Scrabble expert will take time; and you need to work at towards acquiring the skill in a studied and reflective manner.

Two articles published in 2007 reveal more details on how to go about becoming a Scrabble expert. The first one by E Okulicz, W Vialle, and I Verenikina of the University of Woolongong discusses the concept of the 'development of expertise within a community of practice of Scrabble players' (<http://ro.uow.edu.au/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1003&context=llrg>).

Okulicz is an expert Australian Scrabble player, so this article is readable and easy to follow. The premise in this paper is to make use of your own community of practice as repositories of skill and information to tap into as you learn more about Scrabble.

The second article is harder work. It is on 'The world of competitive Scrabble: novice and expert differences in visuospatial and verbal abilities' (<http://www.vanderbilt.edu/Peabody/SMPY/Scrabble.pdf>) by D Halpern & J Wai.

However, persistence in reading through this article will reveal many gems. Each aspect of the differences between novices and experts is introduced and discussed. From each aspect, individuals may be able to distil useful information, depending on how they approach their Scrabble play. This may lead to improved metacognition and formulation of strategies to improve your play.

Several of the above indicate the importance of maintaining mental acuity through playing board or word games. Scrabble is favoured as various parts of the brain have to be used and synchronised as a game progresses.

Verbal abilities, spatial skills, motor skills (tile tracking) and the computational gymnastics associated with computing scores, working out tile probabilities and game strategy all contribute to enhancing and maintaining good mental health as we age.

So, rope in all your 'baby boomer' friends and explain to them the mental health advantages of playing Scrabble.

Top secret

*- forwarded by Ray Goodyear, Christchurch
[Source: Wiki Leaks, perhaps?]*

For viewing only by RS# heads of Intelligence of civilised countries (and America)

Academic agents have reported an alarming trend in the increase of language fundamentalists meeting clandestinely in small private back streets within small rooms. These fundamentalists favour abolition of certain vowels and consonants of the English language. Our agents understand that the letters I, U and V are foremost in their devious fanatical designs of abolition.

Scrabble and other word club secretaries should increase security of

their Scrabble and words tile bags. These language terrorists will attempt by any devious means possible to remove most I, O and U vowels, together with the letters W, V, L and possibly Q, from your Scrabble bags.

One of our top agents, a twit, noted for his great investigative abilities and disguised as an idiot, managed to infiltrate this fundamentalist group, who call themselves ELRL, or, the English Language Reform League.

Our agent was required to sit for hours amongst some twenty or so very strange-looking people of all ages, shapes, sizes and sexes. They were bent over what appeared to be ritual mats or boards, muttering, groaning and reluctantly delving into black bags full of alphabet soup letters.

Many of these anguished and brainwashed people then retired to a small back room to sit huddled together, drinking a strange black liquor, possibly tea,

Our agent was able to overhear their conversation. It would appear that larger meetings, called tournaments, were being planned. Our agent made an excuse of tiredness, and left that terrifying place. However, he was ordered to return, after one week's leave, to continue surveillance of this frightening group of fanatics threatening our nation's security and world language dictionaries.

PS. To protect the identity of top agent, Mr Bardsley Moron, he is referred to as "our agent" in the preceding intelligence report.

RS# - really stupid

Twenty years ago today

- by John Foster, Independent

The following two historic announcements appeared in *Forwards* 21, December 1990.

The first is notice of the forthcoming inaugural WSC. The original format was only used once with a Swiss draw similar to the one now in use being adopted two years later in New York.

The second is a report on the British Championship being run for the first time as a knockout event. Many newer players are probably not aware that prior to this the British played their tournaments as

what they called open events where the winner was the player with the highest aggregate score and wins were irrelevant and not even recorded.

The result was that players colluded to open the board out to the triple rows and maximize their scores. Game scores of less than 1000 were a rarity and player averages in excess of 600 were commonplace. They only changed when forced to by the need to compete with the rest of the world in the World Scrabble Championships.

WORLD (ENGLISH) SCRABBLE CHAMPS

The first World Scrabble Championship, in English, is to be held in London in late September 1991.

The organizers hope to get 48 entrants, including 8 from both U.S.A. and the U.K., 4 each from Australia, New Zealand and Canada, and others from such places as Sierra Leone, Israel, Philippines, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Uganda and the Gulf States, all of which have Scrabble clubs that play in English.

The Championship format will involve eight groups of 6 in a five-game round robin, with the top 2 in each group going through to the finals, and the remaining 32 players competing in the Plate event. Results are to be calculated on a win basis, not high points. Just how post-section play will be run is not known at this stage.

Playing rules should be circulated with entry forms and further information in the New Year. The main points of interest will be the dictionary or dictionaries adopted, and how the challenge rule is applied.

BRITISH SCRABBLE CHAMPS

This year's British Championship was run as a straight knockout tourney once the entrants had been reduced to 64 through the five regional events. Sounds rather cut-throat, doesn't it?

The final game was shown on closed circuit TV to an audience of Scrabble fanatics and the general public in an adjoining hall, with commentary by Gyles Brandreth and ex-champ Mike Goldman. The match provided a nail-biting encounter with Philip Nelkon eventually prevailing to win his third title by 389-374 over Phil Appleby. It looks like the days of the artificial super-scores may finally be passing.

Anagram lists at the Pole

PRANCER has no anagrams.

The only 8-letter word with his letters (+C) is **PARCENER**.

VIXEN(S) has no anagrams.

(+ R) VERNIX

(+ G) VEXING

INVEXED, VEXINGS and VIXENLY are the 7-letter bonus words using his letters.

RUDOLF*, despite being more remarkable than any of the other reindeer, has no anagrams.

(+ A) FOULARD

(+ E) FLOURED, FOULDER

(+ I) FLUORID

(+ O) ODORFUL

If you choose to spell him as **RUDOLPH**, you need an extra E for an 8-letter bonus, **UPHOLDER**.

And again, in case you didn't absorb them from the cover cartoon, here are the anagrams for the other reindeer:

DASHER HEARDS
RASHED
SHADER
SHARED

DANCER CEDARN
CRANED
NACRED
RANCED

DANCER makes 19 x 7-letter words.

COMET COMTE

COMET makes 29 x 7-letter words.

CUPID PUDIC

(+ S) CUSPID

PALUDIC, **CLUPEID**, **PUMICED**, **DUCKPIN** and **CUSPIDS** are Cupid's 7-letter bonus words.

BLITZEN* BLINTZE

DONDER DRONED
NODDER

(Sources vary on whether the reindeer is called **DONDER** or **DONNER**.

DONNER doesn't have any anagrams, but does take end hooks **DONNERT** **DONNERD**.)

DONDER makes 15 x 7-letter words.

SANTA ANTAS

TANAS

(**not** **SATAN***)

SANTA is the stem word for 108 x 7-letter words, most of them (about 80) unusual. Believe in Santa (and study his words) for lots of "gifts" out of the **SANTA** bag in future!

I before E - yeah, right!

- by Anon Nimious

Here are some words that have an interchangeable IE /EI in the middle (meanings, of course, may vary accordingly):

BIEN BEIN

BRIE BREI (both take S)

CIEL CEIL (both take S)

Also **CEILING(S)** **CIELINGS**

DIED DEID(S)

DIEL DEIL(S)

HIED HEID(S)

KIER KEIR (both take S)

LIER LEIR (both take S)

MIEN MEIN (both take S)

SIES SEIS

WIEL WEIL (both take S)

FIEST FEIST(S)

FIENT FEINT (both take S)

PRIEF PREIF (both take S)

SPIEL SPEIL (both take S)

SPIER SPEIR (both take S)

Note that when only one of the pair takes an S, it's always the -EI- version that does!

Pairs

- from Val Flint, Hamilton

Another nice pair to add to Vicky Robertson's list in the last issue:

SAPIENT (meaning wise) and **SALIENT** (leaping or springing - or a protrusion, Both take S.

EEYOWEEE*

The very first vowel heavy words taught to new scrabble players are, invariably, EUOI and EUOUAE.

Have you ever looked them up in the dictionary?

They both mean the same — a cry of bacchic frenzy. BACCHIC means riotously drunk!

Soooooo — the next time you are riotously drunk you will know what to do — yell out eeeyoweee (pronunciation uncorroborated) — and then raise another glass to BACCHUS*, the god of wine.

Incidentally EVOVAE has the same meaning.

Joan Thomas, Hastings

Sic! (alternative spellings)

— from the Association of British Scrabble Players website

allege (Obs) to allege
ambassy An embassy
aquafer An underground reservoir of water which can be extracted for surface use [More usually AQUIFER]
artifact Something made [More usually ARTEFACT]
ashler A squared or dressed stone used in building or facing a wall; (verb) to face with ashler [More usually ASHLAR]
atchieve (Obs) to achieve
brocoli A type of cabbage [More usually BROCCOLI]
caried Affected by CARRIES, tooth decay
carrat A unit of weight used for gems [More usually CARAT]
cieling Ceiling
chickory A blue-flowered herb [More usually CHICORY]
cigaret Cigarette
cundum A condom
dandriff Flakes of scruff on the scalp [More usually DANDRUFF]
develope (Obs) to develop
drownd (Coll) to drown
etherial Characterized by lightness and insubstantiality; intangible [More usually ETHEREAL]

extasy (Obs) ecstasy
extatic Ecstatic
hampster A small rodent [More usually HAMSTER]
hearken To listen attentively [More usually HARKEN]
ideology A system of ideas [More usually IDEOLOGY]
idiotcy Idiocy
imposter One who pretends to be another [More usually IMPOSTOR]
isobare A line connecting points of equal atmospheric pressure [More usually ISOBAR]
macrami (Turkish) a fringe or trimming of knotted thread [More usually MACRAME]
medle (Obs) MEDDLER
misletoe The parasitic plant [More usually MISTLETOE]
momento A souvenir [More usually MEMENTO]
moniment (Obs) MONUMENT
mungoose An Indian animal of the civet family, a great slayer of snakes and rats More usually MONGOOSE
PI MUNGOOSES, not MUNGEESE, though MONGOOSE can take either MONGOOSES or MONGEESE
pensil A small pennon Also PENSEL, PENCIL
perswade (Obs) PERSUADE
pollicy (Obs) POLICY
poursuit (Obs) PURSUIT
pourtray (Obs) PORTRAY
poynant (Obs) POIGNANT
relish (Obs) RELISH
repreive, repriv, repryve (Obs) REPRIEVE
retrait, retrait, retraite (Obs) RETREAT
sallad (Obs) SALAD
scenary (Obs) scenery
sleezy Sordid [More usually SLEAZY]
spacial Relating to space [More usually SPATIAL]
surloin A joint of meat [More usually SIRLOIN]
surviver One who survives [More usually SURVIVOR]
synonyme US spelling of SYNONYM
tallent An old weight [More usually TALENT]
unrimed (Obs) unrhymed
visiter One who visits [More usually VISITOR]
wimbrel A bird like a curlew [More usually WHIMBREL]

My pack of cards

- by Jennifer Smith, Hamilton

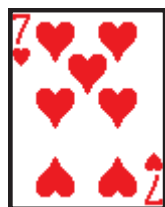
In the lead-up to Christmas, many request programmes on the radio play the old story of the soldier who took out a pack of cards in church. Do you remember it?

Here's my Scrabble version:

When I consider why there is no 1 in a pack of cards, I realise that it's because you need two people for a game of Scrabble.

And that's why, when I see the 2, I picture two keen Scrabblers (one of them, me) sitting opposite each other at a table. When I think of the 2, I also picture the two blanks, preferably appearing on **my** rack – but not both at once, thank you!

The 2 also reminds me how useful two-letter words are, and how relieved I am that (barring lapses in concentration!) I don't get those wrong any more. There are 124 two-letter words, but when I lose



concentration, it would help if OT were included as the 125th!

And when I think of the three, I remember that I can still be surprised at the odd three-letter word that I'm sure I've never seen before!

When I think of the 3, I think of Club nights, when we have an uneven number of members present.

The 3 also reminds me that there are three parts to every game, the beginning, the middle, and the endgame, and all of them are important. If I want to improve my game, I'm going to have to stop thinking that "two out of three ain't bad" and do something about my endgame – my inaccurate tile tracking, inadequate or non-existent analysis of my opponent's last tiles, shortage of time, and lack of forward planning to go out in two turns.

When I think of the 4, I think of the huge gaps in my 4-letter word vocabulary.

And when I see the 5 ... well, I won't even go there! There are a mere 5454 fours, but 12478 fives.

Instead, when I look at the 5, I think of the satisfying 5 points I get when my word survives a challenge. I never mind giving away the 5 points for an unsuccessful challenge – rather that, than finding out afterwards that I **should have** challenged.

When I see the 6, I'm reminded of all the almost-bonus words I get. How often I think, "If only that last letter were a . . ."

When I see the 7, I think of that glorious thing, the bonus word. I'd like to see 7-letter words on my rack more often. (I'm not saying they're not there, I'm saying I'd like to **see** them more often!)

When I think of the 8, I think how I often neglect to search the board for the eighth letter that will turn my seven tiles into a bonus play. The 8 also reminds me of the eight premium triple letter score squares that can turn small words into whopping scores.

When I see the 9, I'm reminded of Gerald Warner, who is commemorated every year at Whangarei when a prize is awarded for the best 9-letter word.

When I consider the 10, I think of the 10 points per minute that I have to subtract from my score – far too frequently for someone who has been playing for as long as I have!

When I look at the K, Q and J, I think of three of the five high scoring letters.



The numbers 5, 8, and 10 also remind me of the values of the high scoring letters.

The four Kings and four Queens remind me of people in the Scrabble scene. My Queens (the women I most admire) are Joanne Craig, Lynne Butler, Olivia Godfrey and June Mackwell. My Kings (the people I most want to dethrone!) are Howard Warner, Jeff Grant, Nick Cavenagh and David Gunn.

When I look at the Ace, I think of Nigel Richards – as do champion Scrabble players throughout the world.

And then I remember that a pack of cards would be nothing without an eight of spades, a four of clubs, or a three of diamonds. (I think I'm a ten of hearts.)

The Joker, or wild card, reminds me of that precious commodity, the blank. When it's new, a pack of cards has two Jokers. Most card games, though, are only played with one Joker. This should remind us not to be greedy and expect to get both blanks in a game. When I look at the Joker, I also remember that the game is meant to be fun. We should always enjoy the fun in a game of Scrabble, blanks or not, nice racks or not, win or lose.

When I think of the 4 suits, I can't help thinking of the four Ss. In fact, I think of them lots of times during games! The red suits remind me how much I like my red tiles, though I'm disappointed that the letter values are rubbing off far too quickly.

There are 13 cards in each suit – about the same number of turns each player has in a game of Scrabble. And I

remember that I was about 13 when I started playing Scrabble with my mother. I'm grateful for the love of words I inherited from her – or perhaps it was



her encouragement that I should be thanking her for.

There are 26 red cards and 26 black, the same number as the letters of the alphabet. When I count the number of spots on a deck of cards, I find 365, the number of days in a year; there are 52 cards, the number of weeks in a year; and 4 suits, the number of weeks in a month – nowhere near enough for all the Scrabble I'd like to play.

Hearts remind me of our love of the game; spades, the hard work needed to keep improving; Clubs, the very foundation of our Association; and diamonds, the "treasures" who run the Association, Clubs and tournaments, and who share their knowledge and experience with the rest of us.

Finally, when I see the whole deck, I'm reminded that a good player is one who makes the most of the hand they've been dealt.



- sent in by Su Walker, Mt Albert
Source: NZ Listener, October 2010

Alternative Scrabble – funny indeed!

- by Jeff Grant, Independent

We recently bought a cheap (\$14.90) Scrabble set in a shop in Onehunga. It comes in a bright blue box with a red banner boldly emblazoned SCRABBLE (no trademark symbol) and is made in China by Xuchi. The accompanying “Funny” logo is rather appropriate.

A message on the back of the box says the game is not suitable for children under 3 (start them young!) and diagrams warn the tiles should not be eaten (“no in the mouth”), or thrown at the face (“no aim peoples”), and the bag mustn’t be used to strangle anyone (“no to wind”).

The flat board is striking, with bright blue non-premium squares, light and dark green double and triple letter squares (described as “blue” in the playing instructions), and a jigsaw system across the middle to enable dismantling.

There are four purple plastic racks, and the usual tiny green bag to hold the 102 smooth tiles: 15 x E, 8 x I, 5 x L, 6 x O, 6 x S, 6 x U, 1 x W, 1 x Y and a few other differences. The Q is worth only 8 points, and the K, W, X and Y are worth 10, although the game layout pictured on the box shows the K worth 5 and the X worth 8. The picture also includes the words MN and TEASN!



The information leaflet is classic. Words on the glossy colour board diagrams appear to be mostly French and clarity of instructions is often lost in translation. Here are a few gems:

- Letter bonus and word bonus is only calculated during this letter or these words is placed.
- All these letters of Wild card does not represent scores, but it can replace some other unimportant letters.
- In order to record the scores, you are required to copy the score paper in page 15 beforehand. [There is no scoresheet anywhere, or a page 15!]
- During the process of repeat the game, every player will have a right to choose letters to form one word or replaces one letter or even gives up.
- The player publishes its scores after finishing current game.
 - In the final repeat, the player needs to look for the same quantity of letter which already used to keep 7 letters on the tray. (and finally)
 - If this explanation you can't understand, please summarize the rules after making mistake.



Hall of fame

Hi, allow me to introduce myself (which I usually do with a theatrical flourish): I'm Jules, and I was born in Toulouse, France, in 1842. I was destined to join the legal profession, and had even passed my Law exams. However, at the age of 18, I began to experiment with trapeze bars, ropes and rings suspended over a swimming pool – I should tell you that my father was a gymnastics instructor. I later joined the Cirque Napoleon.

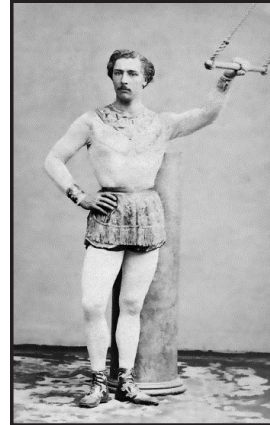
I made my first public appearance as a trapeze artist on November 12, 1859. I then went on to become the first performer to turn a full somersault in mid-air and jump from one trapeze to the other. My act generally lasted 12 minutes, as I leapt between three trapezes concluding with a final somersault onto a carpet-covered safety mat. It was so revolutionary that co-artists sponsored a banquet in my honour, and I was even presented with a commemorative medal.

In May 1861 I moved to England and made my début at the Alhambra Theatre, Leicester Square, London, where I treated diners by performing my act above their heads – with no safety net! (It didn't appear to put them off their meals.) For this, I was paid £180 per week. Not bad – that's about £12,500 per week in your modern-day terms.

I made such an impression, that in 1867 George Leybourne wrote the song "The Daring Young Man on the Flying Trapeze" about me.

I was terribly vain – with good reason, if I say so myself. I had an impressive physique and my act was breathtaking. It was no wonder I was extraordinarily popular. I liked to display my physique for the ladies by wearing a tight-fitting garment with long sleeves that showed off my best features, if you know what I

mean. My skill as a trapeze artist quickly popularised the suit, which I called a MAILLOT, and it soon made its way from the circus into Parisian ballet studios. Eventually, though, the French (and Scrabble) word MAILLOT came to mean a swimsuit or jersey.



I died in 1870 in Spain, aged 28, of smallpox or cholera, nobody is sure which. However my name lives on. Did I mention that my surname is Léotard?

The first recorded use of the term, LEOTARD, was made in English in 1886, many years after my death. In the early 20th century, leotards were mainly confined to circus and acrobatic shows, and initially worn by men. Nowadays, leotards are commonly worn in figure skating, modern dance, traditional ballet and gymnastics, and by men and women alike. The leotard has even influenced the style of women's one-piece bathing suits.

This is a picture of me in the garment that bears my name. Think of me when you play MAILLOT or LEOTARD [anagram DELATOR, one who accuses or brings a charge against someone.]

Personal phones

- by Su Walker, Mt Albert

A young Asian woman I work with always thought "Cell Phones" were "Self Phones", as she wrote in an email to me!!

The enigmatic Nigel Richards

Copyright (c) 2009 by Stefan Fatsis

This is an outtake from the New York Times bestseller Word Freak: Heartbreak, Triumph, Genius, and Obsession in the World of Competitive Scrabble Players.

Stefan Fatsis says...

Nigel Richards remains one of the most fascinating figures in Scrabble. It's not just seeing him play DECA(GO)n(AL) to beat Joey Mallick or extending FLESH to FLESHMENT. It's how he became a Scrabble genius.

It's a story few people know, and one that was in the original draft of *Word Freak*. But my editor wanted to keep the book under 400 pages—a reasonable goal given that this was a book about Scrabble, a dubious proposition from the outset—so my profile of Nigel wound up on the cutting-room floor.

I dug out the original manuscript from a box in my basement and offer the lost pages here. The setting is the 1999 World Scrabble Championship in Melbourne, Australia. I hope you enjoy.

After three rounds, eleven players are undefeated. After four rounds, the number is down to six. It falls to three after five rounds. And after six rounds, just one player is without a loss: Nigel Richards of New Zealand.

In the tight, little world of Scrabble, Nigel Richards stories are legendary. Nigel read the 1,953-page Chambers Dictionary five times and memorized all the words. Nigel bicycled fourteen hours overnight to a weekend tournament, won it, then biked home and straight to work on Monday morning. With a rack of CDHLNR?, Nigel played CHLORODyNE through three disconnected tiles (the two O's and the E). Nigel played SAPROZOIC through ZO. Nigel played GOOSEFISH. Nigel averaged 584 points



Nigel Richards at the 2009 NSC

per games in a tournament. Nigel's word knowledge was so deep, his point-scoring ability so profound, his manner so unflappable, that a competitor once made a T-shirt reading: I BEAT NIGEL RICHARDS.

"It's like playing a computer," Jeff Grant, a twelve-time New Zealand champion, says when I ask about Nigel. "I've never seen anything like it. The word knowledge. The ability to pluck them out of nowhere." Grant is shaking his head in awe and bewilderment, as if he has just seen a painting of the Virgin Mary dripping tears of blood.

"I'd place him as the top player I've ever played. And I've played all the top players."

If Scrabble was searching for a Bobby Fischer, Nigel Richards might qualify. Like Fischer, Nigel's knowledge of the game, in this case word knowledge, is so complete as to put competitors at a usually

insurmountable disadvantage. And like Fischer—though of course without the hatred, reclusiveness, and perversity that characterized Fischer's life—Nigel the person

is an enigma, Scrabble's mystery man, arriving seemingly from nowhere, revealing little, asking nothing in return.

Nigel has a rock climber's thin and sinewy body, with sandy brown hair combed straight forward in bangs and a long bushy beard that make him look like an Amish elder. He wears oversized aviator glasses, jeans and T-shirts, and mid-calf brown boots, and always carries a stuffed rucksack. During the tournament, he rents a bicycle and takes a forty-minute ride every morning before the start of play—and play starts at eight o'clock. I never see him join a friendly game or otherwise socialize with fellow players.

More compelling than his mountain-man appearance is his demeanor. Nigel is the first Scrabble player I've met who truly doesn't seem bothered by the outcome of a game, who is interested only in the process, the intellectual challenge posed by the seven letters on a rack. He wears a blank expression that seldom changes. He rarely reacts to what people say to (or about) him, yet his silence isn't rude or hostile, either. He betrays no emotion when he plays. Arms parallel to the edge of the board, left hand folded over right, Nigel stares unblinkingly at the tiles before making his play: still life with Scrabble player.

"When I see you I can never tell whether you won or lost," Bob Felt says to Nigel between rounds.

"That's because I don't care," Nigel replies.

Nigel is thirty-two years old and lives in Christchurch, where he works as a technician for the water company. He

"Nigel is the first Scrabble player I've met who truly doesn't seem bothered by the outcome of a game."

fixes pumps. He didn't go to university; though he won a scholarship, he did poorly on entrance exams. His mother is a secretary. He is estranged from his

father, who runs a shop — Nigel says he doesn't know what kind. He bicycles eleven kilometers to and from work, and on weekends takes long, solo rides in the countryside. He doesn't own a television, doesn't listen to the radio, doesn't read much.

Friends?

"I'm not close to anyone," Nigel says.

Nigel has been playing competitive Scrabble for just four years, having learned the game from his mother. He won the New Zealand national championships on his first try, in 1997, and has been racking up impressive performances in big tournaments throughout Asia. Nigel has won an astonishing 85 percent of his tournament games in New Zealand.

When he captured a tournament in Sydney, the director handed him the first-prize check and asked, "Would you like to say a few words?"

Said Nigel: "I don't know any."

Oh, but he does. Nigel might know more words than anyone who has ever played the game. He has compiled lists from the computer program LeXpert and read the OSW and a book called Redwoods that combines the British and American lists. He has indeed been through Chambers, though not five times. "I can look at things and remember," he says. Nigel scans the pages of the dictionary looking at all the words listed in boldface. He doesn't use tenses, plurals, or definitions to help him learn.

I ask him if he has a photographic memory. "I think there are about twenty-eight thousand definitions of a photographic memory. I can recall images

very easily, but I can't put the image in a context. I can remember a picture, but I can't remember where I've seen it. I just have to view the word. As long as I've seen the word, I can bring it back. But if I've only heard it or spoken it, I can't do it at all."

Nigel doesn't know how or why he can do what he does. School was easy, because of his memory, but he was bored. Studying the words is boring, too. "The cycling helps. I can go through the lists in my mind." Nigel just conjures a mental snapshot of a list, or the specific page of a dictionary. That's why he can recall a word like CHLORODYNE, which isn't on any Scrabble list because it is longer than nine letters and isn't in Merriam-Webster's Tenth, the American word source. It's only in Chambers. "It may well be that no other Scrabble player knows that word," Bob Felt says.

If Nigel has a weakness, it's that his wide-open, high-scoring style often leaves him vulnerable to counterattack by opponents who also have prodigious word knowledge. And Nigel is regarded as having a less-than-proficient endgame, which is variously attributed to his lack of interest in strategic play or his reluctance to study board positions. Indeed, Nigel doesn't record his racks, doesn't review games, rarely kibitzes about particular plays. The other top experts, particularly the Americans, talk disdainfully about this gap in Nigel's ability, how it makes him an incomplete player. Naturally, Nigel doesn't care.

"Once it's over, I think that's it for that particular situation," he says. "Because the next situation is going to be different. I don't see the point in analyzing it to death." When other players want to review one of his games, Nigel lets them—without him. "I just keep away. I've had some people come over and say,

'You could have done that.' I say, 'Well, you can sit here and play with it. I'm going to go do my own thing.' "

Nigel has adopted a style and he sticks to it. "I try to score points," he says. "The goal is to score more points than your opponent." After defeating Nigel, G.I. Joel lectures him for playing WE for 29 points, leaving IIIU on his rack. "You should have passed seven and gone for the blanks," Joel says. Nigel replies: "Twenty-nine points is a lot of points."

Nigel is amused by the legend that has grown up around him—even by the simple fact that other players have opinions about his style, his perceived weaknesses, and his word knowledge. "People say, 'He knows all the words.' It would be nice if I did. But I'm quite happy to have people think that."

Nigel won't say whether he likes the competition. Only that it lets him play against the best players and, anyway, is a new experience, and he does like new experiences.

"Competition was new to me. But it doesn't bother me. It's more of a challenge here, which is really what I'm after. I just enjoy trying to work out the possibilities and see what I can do, see what I can come up with. I can enjoy it if I win. I can enjoy it if I lose."

"Are you ever disappointed?" I ask.

"No."

"Honestly?"

"Why is there a reason to be disappointed?" Nigel replies. "I'm just here for a bit of fun. Everything else is a bonus."

*- thanks to Stefan Fatsis for permission
to reproduce this article,
and to Vicky Robertson, Wellington,
for arranging it*

Scrabble rap

Nearly every Tuesday from 2004 to 2009, Hamil Griffin-Cassidy played Scrabble against the city of Minneapolis. Griffin-Cassidy was host of an MTN show called *Totally Scrabble Tuesday*, in which he'd position one rack of Scrabble tiles facing a camera and one facing himself; members of the public would call in and tell Griffin-Cassidy which letters to play from the public rack, then Griffin-Cassidy would play his own turn.

Griffin-Cassidy is a good Scrabble player, and members of the public started forming teams to strategize about winning plays. One viewer—Ian Flomer, then only in high school and now a successful local singer-songwriter—was inspired to record his own Scrabble rap.

Flomer sent the recording to Griffin-Cassidy, who was so amused by it that he took cameraman Martin Hallanger to the house of a Scrabble crew who called themselves “Team Fresh” and recorded a music video for Flomer’s rap. Team Fresh included a man by the name of John Henry, who went on to local hip-hop fame as a member of MC/VL.

Extracts (by ear) from the rap:

Sorry for that prior wasted time
But I'll make it all up with my ability
to rhyme ...
But anyways I'm getting back to the
game
For the dollars and the hollers and
the ladies and the fame
I'm going to place my letters on the
board
I'm a-getting ninety-seven point
reward ...
So give them props to our host
Hamil
Call the host, and then play me
some Scrabble.

Bits and bobs: some definitions to help our understanding

- sent in by *Lorraine Van Veen, Independent*

- 1 **BIT** = 1 binary digit (one of two states of information, such as 'yes' or 'no').
- 8 bits = 1 **BYTE** (now we're up to a whole character such as 'X').
- 1000 bytes = 1 **KILOBYTE** (hold onto your hats – we have a paragraph!).
- 1000 kilobytes = 1 **MEGABYTE** (a small book – perhaps that Mills & Boon you always pretend you don't like).
- 1000 megabytes = 1 **GIGABYTE** (the contents of about a 10-metre long shelf of books).
- 1000 gigabytes = 1 **TERABYTE** (1000 editions of Encyclopaedia Britannica).

The following theoretical capacities seem ridiculous now – but who knows!:

- 1000 terabytes = 1 **PETABYTE** (500 billion pages of printed text).
- 1000 petabytes = 1 **EXABYTE** (perhaps equal to all of the words ever spoken by humans).
- 1000 exabytes = 1 **ZETTABYTE** (loads and loads).
- 1000 zettabytes = 1 **YOTTABYTE** (the entire contents of the internet).
- 1000 yottabytes = 1 **BRONTOBYTE** (unimaginable!).

- from *www.whatsabyte.com*

All are acceptable Scrabble words.

Those suffixes should be worth thinking about if your opponent plays BYTE (note: GIGA, KILO and MEGA are the only ones that are Scrabble words in their own right)

And just for completeness, the only other -BYTE words are QUBYTE (a sequence of 8 quantum bits), and PRESBYTE (an old man).

Cryptic question

- from Joan Thomas, Hastings

Here's a clue in a cryptic crossword which I came across recently:

A psychological test for Scrabble players (4 , 11).

Can you solve it?

Answer at the bottom of this page.

Solution postscript

Re contest no. 99

Allan Simmons (UK) has pointed out that a score of 171 is possible by playing NYMPHLY (98) with L on the centre square, followed by NyMPHLY (73) again across from 17 using blanks for the Ys.

Tournament Calendar 2011		
Tournament	Place	Dates
Wellington	Wellington	15-16 January
Pakuranga	Auckland	29 & 30 January
Nelson	Nelson	26-27 February
Rotorua	Rotorua	26-27 February
Mt Albert Memorial	Auckland	19 March *
Dunedin Lion Open	Dunedin	2-3 April
Kapiti Coast		2-3 April
NZ Masters #	Auckland	23-25 April
South Island Championships	Christchurch	7-8 May
NZ National Champs	Wellington	4-5 June
Whangarei	Whangarei	9-10 July
Hamilton	Hamilton	6-7 August
Rodney		20 August
Tauranga	Tauranga	27-28 August
Canterbury Open	Christchurch	10-11 September
Mt Albert	Auckland	1-2 October
Norfolk Island Scrabble Festival	Norfolk Island	15-22 October
Wanganui	Wanganui	22-23 October
Otago Lion Open	Dunedin	12-13-November
Causeway Challenge#	Johor Bahru, Malaysia	?
World Scrabble Championship	?	?

entry restricted to qualifiers
 Note: Dates with asterisks have not been confirmed by the club.

Cryptic question answer

Word association

What to do with non-bonuses

- by Philip Nelkon, UK

We've all been in the situation where we have a promising looking rack but after minutes of consideration we're convinced that there is not a bonus on the rack. What to do next?

Of course, the answer depends very much on the state of the game, whether you're ahead or behind, etc. However, there is one situation on which we can provide some more definite advice, and that is on the first move of the game.

I've put the following racks through Quackle – a simulation computer programme – which can replay the move almost infinitely, giving you a points rating for each of the possible plays. To ensure I could write this article in a timely manner I restricted replaying the move to a mere 2500 times!

The racks were:

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| 1. TAILEND | 2. IRELAND |
| 3. HEASING | 4. SEANIER |
| 5. BEANIER | 6. MIDSTER |
| 7. ORIENTM | 8. ETONIES |
| 9. GAINIER | 10. MMINTER |

The results are as follows:

1. Change D came out as 0.8 or a point better than change L, with all other moves at least 2 points behind that. The play of TAILED came out 11 points inferior to changing the D. National Champion, Mikki Nicholson selected the correct play during his final with Mark Nyman.
2. Change L came out as 1 point better than change N. Playing LA is 6 points behind the best solution and all other plays are worse.
3. Playing AH or HA is a point better than EH but interestingly, playing HANGI is only 1.5 points worse than AH. Of course, HANGI scores 26 points whereas AH only scores 10.

4. Unsurprisingly, change E is best but changing EA came out slightly better than playing EA for 4 points, because of the amount of points that EA placed in the centre of the board will give away.
5. Playing BE for 8 points beats BEARE for 20 points by 1.7 points.
6. Exchange D beats MID or DIM for 12 points by 3.9 points with exchange M about the same as DIM.
7. Play MO or OM for 8 points, 2 points better than changing OM.
8. Change E is 1.5 points better than changing O or OE.
9. Change I is a massive 8 points better than anything else.
10. MM for 12 beats change MM by 5 points.

These results only serve to emphasise that, when you have bonus conducive letters on the first move, then you should go for a bonus rather than take a score.

- reproduced with permission from the UK's

Scrabble Club News

Taken for granted

At the Causeway event in Malaysia in December Jeff Grant played Nigerian Eta Karo.

At the end of the game, Eta had an unplayable GRANTED (anagram DRAGNET). After playing GNAR, Jeff went out and Eta was left with the name of Jeff's father – TED!

Hindi Scrabble

For 25-year-old Manuj Dhariwal, it started with a simple enough question—why were there so few word games in Hindi? English had complex crosswords, *Scrabble*, *Boggle* and a thousand variations thereof, but the world's fourth-most spoken language had surprisingly little.

This was in 2005, when Dhariwal was a student at the Indian Institute of Technology, working on a design project to create a board game for Indian languages. Five years later, his pet project has morphed into a fully fleshed-out board game that's easing the pain of language teachers around the country. "What better way to learn a language than through a game?" he asks.

Manuj and his older brother Rajat, 27, co-founded their company MadRat Games along with Madhumita Halder, Rajat's wife. "Playing board and card games were a part of our growing up," Manuj says.

The game, called *Aksharit*, is an Indian language version of *Scrabble*. The rules of the game are similar to the English version, yet the peculiarities of the Indian languages forced them to innovate and create an entirely unique set of gameplay mechanisms. Players pick seven "akshars" and form a word with it, but the distribution of letters is different. To get the scoring and distribution right, the team analysed Hindi newspapers to understand which letters were used the most. "The ones that are used the least are assigned most points while those that are commonly used get fewer points," explains Halder, who handles the design.

The biggest complication came with the "matras" or vowel signs. "It took us a while to figure out *matras*," Manuj says, unwilling to reveal the specifics while they await a patent on design.

Like the English *Scrabble*, one player forms a word on the board and gets points based on the location. The next

player attaches his word to an existing word. The catch lies in the fact that Indian languages have *matras* attached

and even have half letters. "If the tile on the board has a *matra* or is used as a half letter, then it remains and the new word can only be made by including them in the existing context," says Rajat.

In early 2009, Rajat and Halder took a prototype of the game to the state's education department in the hope of selling *Aksharit*.

"We spoke to bureaucrats, educationalists and went over several trial sessions in government schools," says Halder. The effort ended in an order for 6,000 game sets that would be distributed across the state.

Since then, they have sold 12,000 *Aksharit* sets to private and government schools across the country and they estimate that over 120,000 students now play their game. In August, they clinched a deal with Nokia. An *Aksharit* app now comes bundled with a Nokia smartphone.

Rajat and Halder are set to release the board game version in 11 different languages, including Hindi, Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Urdu, Gujarati, Marathi and Bengali early next year.



(From left): Rajat Dhariwal, Madhumita Halder and Manuj Dhariwal with a game of *Aksharit*.

- Source: *Wall Street Journal*

Anagrams challenge

- from JoAnn Ingram, Tauranga

A friend gave me this intriguing anagram story from The Strand magazine of January 1914. Alas, she could not find the February 1914 issue with the answers! But she has done a sterling job with the solution herself. (I did not get all correct or even find words with them, even with the help of Zzyzyva.)

Neither of us could anagram 'oil soap'. Perhaps it is two words or a brand name from that era. Do you know what 'oil soap' might be? – ex Brits may know!

My dear neat chair,
I am sending this letter by a ragman, knowing that the houserats of such red lane books as yours will soon come to a red nuts and gin of its meaning. I can well imagine the no stern action of your good father, the crymangle, should this early bat of surly foe fall into his hands, therefore I will place it upon the I creep safe, where you will find it when you descend into your quite spruce garden.

Any of his I hire parsons would expect the heaviest nine thumps which words could inflict on approaching a crymangle as the there we sat of his aged Ruth. Please advise me to come with whatever mad policy I can command.

Tonight I am going to the crate door. I wish you could go with me to hear the a dry shop performed by the carthorse. When I return I shall look for the light of your nice herald as no moonstarer ever looked for a lost linen coat. If it is still burning I shall take it as a sign that I may present myself as a cat dined for into my arm to your respected norsecat, so to call him. If you approve, send me word by great help.

I have lately been very much occupied at the nay, I repent it. At present, the staincrash here have raised a spirit of to love ruin among the men and one of them has been shot. I was his go nurse and must attend his real fun tomorrow.

During his last days he told me that he acquired much the law by the sale of [oil soap], and cities pant spherical tall spies, but he had wasted it all in trying to crush the ten tea pots of different countries. He assured me the live agents who visited him

that he belonged to the best in prayer church and he maintained with his latest her bat that he never sympathized with the neat herds of the red tonic of sin sat on a tin tar tub, but, on the contrary, thought it a Simon Peter in tears.

Two slywear of my acquaintance plied him with wily stupid tale, and many a brilliant hair mops, but he left everything that he had to the sheep at Cairo who attended him.

I have the ring of thy mates, which is of somewhat neat leg design. I am sending it to you, and I hope soon to see it worn by my rice soup little grin lad.

Your devoted proper wish,
Arab child.

We'll give you some weeks to nut out this addictive anagram puzzle. Answers next issue.

From Wikipedia

The Strand magazine was a monthly magazine composed of fictional stories and factual articles founded by George Newnes. The first issue was on sale well before Christmas 1890, and it quickly settled down to a circulation of almost 500,000 copies a month. It ran until March 1950, a total of 711 issues.

In addition to the many fiction pieces and illustrations, *The Strand* was also known for some time as the source of ground-breaking brain teasers, under a column called Perplexities, first written by Henry Dudeney, who edited the column until he died in 1930. Dudeney introduced many new concepts to the puzzle world, including the first known cross-number puzzle in 1926.

Odd signs

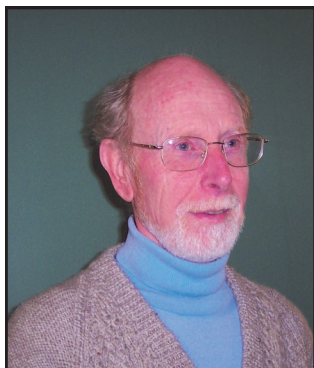




Rankings

NZASP Rankings list as at 29 December 2010

Rank	Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%	Rank	Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%
1	Howard Warner	2018	1384	1895	73%	44	Pam Robson	1565	482.5	1055	46%
2	Patrick Carter	1979	667	1060	63%	45	Lorraine Van Veen	1544	725.5	1416	51%
3	Joanne Craig	1961	229	345	66%	46	Jean O'Brien	1532	873.5	1709	51%
4	Nick Cavenagh	1919	98	166	59%	47	Anna Hough	1528	468	955	49%
5	Peter Sinton	1914	535.5	736	73%	48	Janice Cherry	1507	329	636	52%
6	Kristian Saether	1903	92	146	63%	49	Margie Hurly	1504	267	507	53%
7	Glenda Foster	1903	843.5	1656	51%	50	Shirley Martin	1497	667	1277	52%
8	Andrew Bradley	1900	703	1348	52%	51	Allie Quinn	1494	867.5	1801	48%
9	Steven Brown	1899	789.5	1445	55%	52	David Gunn	1490	1041	2100	50%
10	Blue Thorogood	1891	414	607	68%	53	Selena Chan	1484	221	409	54%
11	Jeff Grant	1886	1462	1921	76%	54	Joan Thomas	1474	740.5	1487	50%
12	Rogelio Talosig	1853	374	629	59%	55	Scott Chaput	1468	108	177	61%
13	Mike Sigley	1850	868	1234	70%	56	Karyn McDougall	1462	595	1135	52%
14	Lawson Sue	1847	355.5	696	51%	57	Herb Ramsay	1457	105	157	67%
15	Lynne Butler	1845	803	1304	62%	58	Hazel Purdie	1448	795	1625	49%
16	Debbie Caldwell	1832	492.5	799	62%	59	Rosalind Phillips	1445	382.5	723	53%
17	John Foster	1807	1254	2199	57%	60	Irene Smith	1441	95	196	48%
18	Glynis Jennings	1781	414.5	876	47%	61	Lynn Carter	1436	436.5	814	54%
19	Glenn Hale	1766	1257.5	2246	56%	62	June Mackwell	1417	638.5	1447	44%
20	Val Mills	1762	847	1805	47%	63	Maureen Holliday	1411	585	1142	51%
21	Denise Gordon	1762	646	1327	49%	64	Ella Rushton	1403	174	301	58%
22	Amelia Carrington	1753	265	467	57%	65	Lyn Toka	1401	434.5	825	53%
23	Shirley van Essen	1749	331	639	52%	66	Roger Coates	1393	575.5	1225	47%
24	Liz Fagerlund	1742	803.5	1556	52%	67	Ray Goodyear	1373	189	379	50%
25	Katy Yiakmis	1738	38	74	51%	68	Kaite Hansen	1367	238.5	425	56%
26	Chris Hooks	1728	844	1744	48%	69	Pam Barlow	1362	504.5	995	51%
27	Anderina McLean	1694	341.5	617	55%	70	Yoon Kim Fong	1358	447	855	52%
28	Rosemary Cleary	1683	585	1274	46%	71	Leila Thomson	1354	462	1045	44%
29	Murray Rogers	1679	515	992	52%	72	Yvette Hewlett	1352	365.5	769	48%
30	Marianne Bentley	1674	264	591	45%	73	Faye Cronhelm	1298	696	1401	50%
31	Paul Lister	1669	724.5	1285	56%	74	Clare Wall	1294	197	372	53%
32	John Baird	1663	126	215	59%	75	Roto Mitchell	1276	532	1048	51%
33	Vicky Robertson	1648	149	276	54%	76	Delcie Macbeth	1266	667	1280	52%
34	Peter Jones	1635	734	1512	49%	77	Glenda Geard	1265	843	1714	49%
35	Jennifer Smith	1630	764	1545	49%	78	Allison Torrance	1262	286.5	551	52%
36	Lynne Powell	1624	829.5	1642	51%	79	Rhoda Cashman	1254	744.5	1533	49%
37	Helen Sillis	1620	649	1293	50%	80	Lyn Dawson	1244	325	593	55%
38	Shirley Hol	1603	500.5	1087	46%	81	Mary Gray	1243	331.5	642	52%
39	Lynn Wood	1589	1293	2714	48%	82	Pat Bryan	1243	137	240	57%
40	Ian Patterson	1581	187	355	53%	83	Cicely Bruce	1237	142.5	223	64%
41	Glenyss Buchanan	1576	556.5	1194	47%	84	Heather Landon	1215	262	495	53%
42	Olivia Godfrey	1573	432	768	56%	85	Marian Ross	1209	437	871	50%
43	Peter Johnstone	1573	59.5	102	58%	86	Su Walker	1185	745.5	1469	51%



Ernie Gidman

Rank	Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%
87	Ernie Gidman	1178	319	645	49%
88	Andree Prentice	1168	777	1533	51%
89	Colleen Cook	1145	220.5	454	49%
90	Shirley Wyatt	1113	430.5	918	47%
91	Catherine Henry	1105	337.5	624	54%
92	Jena Yousif	1097	300.5	595	51%
93	Steve Richards	1093	200	416	48%
94	Ann Candler	1090	622.5	1332	47%
95	Ruth Groffman	1083	352.5	733	48%
96	Betty Eriksen	1081	981	1946	50%
97	Roger Cole-Baker	1072	291	552	53%
98	Margaret Cherry	1057	406	824	49%
99	Sandra Stacey	1056	121	236	51%
100	Elaine Moltzen	1055	495	988	50%
101	Liz Richards	1052	203.5	414	49%
102	Karen Gray	1045	174	324	54%
103	Malcolm Graham	1042	262	526	50%
104	Dianne Cole-Baker	1024	262	500	52%
105	Jo Ann Ingram	1022	149	309	48%
106	Gabrielle Bolt	1014	286.5	558	51%
107	Kerry Mckenna	1013	36	57	63%
108	Margaret Lyall	1007	429.5	860	50%
109	Carolyn Kyle	1001	527	1048	50%
110	Suzanne Frederick	1000	195	342	57%
111	Pam Muirhead	997	72.5	122	59%
112	Carole Coates	995	501.5	1023	49%
113	Bev Edwards	966	132	230	57%
114	Chris Handley	960	318	606	52%
115	Veronica Zilinskas	945	167.5	304	55%
116	Barbara Dunn	939	170.5	301	57%
117	Tony Charlton	934	141.5	291	49%
118	Judith Thomas	934	117.5	221	53%
119	Fran Lowe	929	25.5	57	45%
120	Karen Miller	926	403.5	825	49%
121	Liz Catchpole	915	365	750	49%
122	Jean Boyle	908	367.5	702	52%
123	Athena Mafile'o	907	25	41	61%
124	Sheila Reed	896	145.5	304	48%
125	Nola Borrell	849	166.5	310	54%
126	Alison Holmes	848	142	255	56%
127	Yvonne MacKenzie	835	384.5	824	47%
128	Joan Pratt	827	597	1166	51%
129	Jean Walsh	821	157	310	51%
130	Suzanne Harding	810	159.5	313	51%
131	Maria Clinton	807	176	354	50%
132	Richard Cornelius	805	46.5	86	54%
133	Leighton Gelling	795	24	54	44%
134	Rosemary Wauters	788	116.5	227	51%
135	Michael Groffman	781	192.5	419	46%
136	Kathleen Mori-Barker	775	291.5	598	49%
137	Lisa Tam	768	29	41	71%
138	Tim Henneveld	758	233	540	43%
139	Noelene Bettjeman	758	187	409	46%
140	Anne Scatchard	757	154	284	54%
141	Jacqueline Coldham-Fussell	723	480	1009	48%
142	Roslyn Lister	711	303.5	593	51%
143	Mary Curtis	711	100	201	50%
144	Valma Gidman	711	595.5	1176	51%
145	Thelma Chisholm	710	230.5	486	47%
146	Janny Henneveld	658	255	538	47%
147	Anthea Jones	630	151.5	307	49%
148	Ruth Godwin	624	103	281	37%
149	Pat Wood	618	83	152	55%
150	Annette Coombes	617	513	1177	44%
151	Marc Van Hoecke	616	95	182	52%
152	Joan Beale	601	44	85	52%
153	Kaye Hubner	589	32	74	43%
154	Madeleine Green	585	33.5	73	46%
155	Stephanie Pluck	535	31	70	44%
156	Anne-Louise Milne	522	67	265	25%
157	Jean Craib	522	326	698	47%
158	Judy Driscoll	516	40	132	30%
159	Pauline Smeaton	507	284.5	547	52%
160	Jean Wacker	491	218	436	50%
161	Christina Linwood	462	84.5	183	46%
162	Antonia Aarts	437	47	129	36%
163	Lynn Thompson	411	134	321	42%
164	Penny Irvine	379	73.5	191	38%
165	Frances Higham	340	14	62	23%
166	Sue Mayn	298	134	347	39%
167	Amy Tiopira	266	7.5	44	17%
168	Betty Sutherland	164	202.5	487	42%
169	Trish Fox	129	16	107	15%
170	Jeannie Lambert	68	10	81	12%

Tournament Results

Kiwi Tournament 13 November 2010

7 Games

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
Grade A					
1	Howard Warner	MTA	7	717	451
2	Lawson Sue	PAK	5	226	406
3	Val Mills	PAK	5	170	416
4	Katy Yiakmis	MTA	3	87	404
5	Chris Hooks	IND	3	-140	391
6	Lynne Butler	NPL	2	-112	389
7	Glennis Hale	IND	2	-364	364
8	Peter Jones	HAM	1	-584	359

Grade B

1	Anderina McLean	MTA	7	351	403
2	Jennifer Smith	HAM	5	254	409
3	Helen Sillis	NPL	4	256	406
4	David Gunn	WKP	3	-6	405
5	Allie Quinn	WRE	3	-98	389
6	Pam Robson	IND	3	-128	377
7	Janice Cherry	IND	2	-75	405
8	Lynn Carter	NSB	1	-554	343

Grade C

1	Shirley Martin	HAM	5	186	379
2	June Mackwell	NSB	4	223	388
3	Rosalind Phillips	MTA	4	148	372
4	Joan Thomas	HAS	4	88	392
5	Stan Skinner	TGA	4	68	384



Mary Gray, 3rd in D grade at Kiwi



Su Walker, 1st in E grade at Kiwi

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
6	Hazel Purdie	MTA	4	61	369
7	Roger Coates	KIW	2	-311	370
8	May Quigley	IND	1	-463	330

Grade D

1	Cicely Bruce	WRE	5	289	422
2	Pam Barlow	PAK	5	288	391
3	Mary Gray	MTA	5	249	414
4	Glenda Geard	IND	4	35	382
5	Heather Landon	TGA	4	-226	368
6	Samantha Samuels	KIW	3	-171	363
7	Ernie Gidman	ROD	2	-457	345

Grade E

1	Su Walker	MTA	5	316	398
2	Jena Yousif	KIW	5	45	360
3	Catherine Henry	TGA	4	111	363
4	Elaine Moltzen	KIW	4	31	375
5	Dianne Cole-Baker	MTA	3	23	388
6	Margaret Cherry	PAK	3	-80	367
7	Shirley Pearce	KIW	2	-2	380
8	Carole Coates	KIW	2	-444	341

Grade F

1	Chris Day	TGA	6	441	388
2	Pam Muirhead	HBC	5	363	394
3	Karen Miller	IND	4	76	360
4	Suzanne Harding	WRE	3	32	373
5	Tim Henneveld	ROT	3	-86	336
6	Anne Scatchard	WRE	3	-161	330
7	Leighton Gelling	HAM	2	-184	326
8	Valma Gidman	ROD	2	-481	306



Shirley Hol, 3rd in A Grade at Otago

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
Grade G					
1	Noelene Bettjeman	HBC	5	193	341
2	Jacqueline Coldham-Fussell	KIW	5	102	362
3	Anthea Jones	KIW	3	55	349
4	Ruth Godwin	ROT	3	-35	334
5	Annette Coombes	WKP	3	-39	357
6	Ann Handley	HBC	3	-47	341
7	Janny Henneveld	ROT	3	-76	333
8	Joan Beale	PHC	3	-153	327
Grade H**					
1	Ruth Lilian	HAM	5		
2	Antonia Aarts	MTA	5		
3	Margy Moore	KIW	4		
4	Pauline Smeaton*	TGA	4		
5	Lynn Thompson*	WRE	4		
6	Shirley Brake	ROT	3		
7	Sue Mayn	ROD	2		
8	Julia Schiller	IND	1		
Grade I**					
1	Frances Higham	PHC	6		
2	Margaret Miller	HBC	5		
3	Marion Godfrey	NSB	5		
4	Peter Godfrey*	NSB	4		
5	Jeannie Lambert*	ROT	4		
6	Val Isherwood	ROT	3		
7	Erana Davis	HAM	1		

* Placings approximate

** info on spread, averages and bonus words unavailable

Otago Open Tournament 13-14 November 2010

15 games

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
Grade A					
1	Paul Lister	CHC	9	326	409
2	Lynn Wood	WEL	9	3	386
3	Shirley Hol	CHC	8	417	410
4	Jean O'Brien	IND	7	5	390
5	Ian Patterson	DUN	7	-333	366
6	Karyn McDougall	DUN	5	-418	373
Grade B					
1	Irene Smith	CHC	11	1016	419
2	Scott Chaput	DUN	11	665	421
3	Kaite Hansen	CHC	8	355	397
4	Clare Wall	WEL	6	228	396
5	Allison Torrance	CHC	6	-888	357
6	Colleen Cook	CHC	3	-1376	341
Grade C					
1	Ruth Groffman	DUN	10	340	381
2	Malcolm Graham	CHC	9	5	377
3	Karen Gray	DUN	8	291	382
4	Carolyn Kyle	DUN	8	-42	372
5	Chris Handley	DUN	7	-99	371
6	Michael Groffman	DUN	3	-495	342
Grade D					
1	Alison Holmes	CHC	13	1271	395
2	Roslyn Iister	CHC	10	549	360
3	Madeleine Green	CHC	7	-74	343
4	Jean Craib	CHC	6	-271	332



Malcolm Graham, 2nd in C grade at Otago

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
5	Stephanie Pluck	DUN	6	-530	311
6	Penny Irvine	DUN	3	-945	303

Grade E

1	Anne-Louise Milne	DUN	15	682	347
2	Alex Leckie-Zaharic	DUN	10	758	398
3	Bev Allen	DUN	10	204	330
4	Louie Bernhardt	DUN	6	-735	261
5	Naveen Sivasankar	DUN	4	-894	285

	Name	Wins	Points	BW
Cascade Bay				
1	Michelle Sturzebecher	17	7218	4
2	Judy Mason	13	6934	7
3	Maxine Baker	12	6869	4
4	Thelma Chisholm	11	7183	8
5	Janice Matthews	11	6871	2
6	Merle Skopp	10	6738	3
7	Jean Poulton	10	6829	14
8	Beras Vandersee	7	6926	2
9	Jacky Booth	7	6755	21
10	Maira Fisher	7	6642	3

**22nd Norfolk Island Scrabble Festival
October 2010**

Anson Bay

	Name	Wins	Points	BW
1	Joan Thomas	17	8575	36
2	Hazel Purdie	15	8087	28
3	Delcie Macbeth	14	8344	25
4	Ann Hagley	11	7642	21
5	Lynn Wood	10	7864	10
6	Margaret Warmington	7	7096	19
7	Glenda Geard	5	7369	20
8	Anne Menheere	5	7039	6

Ball Bay

1	Correne James	14	7605	15
2	Bev Wilkinson	12	7483	17
3	Trish Shelvey	11	7268	8
4	Jean Boyle	10	7388	21
5	Wayne Willis	10	7298	9
6	Marianne Patchett	9	7787	19
7	Francoise Finlayson	9	7046	12
8	Joy Egan	9	7101	8

Knockout Winner: Jean Boyle

Knockout Runner Up: Jacky Booth

Plate Winner: Delcie Macbeth

Plate Runner-up: Merle Skopp

Word Puzzles: 1st Les Femmes Fatales

(Jacky and Correne)

2nd Moehau Monsters

(Glenda and Delcie)

3rd Michelle Sturzebecher

Highest Individual Game Score: Joan Thomas 616

Highest Scoring Word: Joan Thomas 167 OVERUSED

Most Unusual Word: Delcie Macbeth LAUWINE

Sportsperson: Glenda Geard

Bonus words: A: Joan Thomas 36

B: Jean Boyle 21

C: Jacky Booth 21

Australian Champion: Ann Hagley

New Zealand Champion: Joan Thomas

Team Trophy: New Zealand Joan, Hazel, Delcie, Correne,

Thelma



New Zealand winning team with adjudicator (left to right): Jeff Grant, Correne James, Hazel Purdie, Joan Thomas, Lynn Wood (who collected on behalf of her mother Thelma)

NZ Scrabble Records

Record	Tournament		Club Level	
	Score	Player (Club)	Score	Player (Club)
Highest Game Score	717	Mike Sigley (WAN)	763	John Foster (MTA)
Highest Losing Score	514	Pam Barlow (PAK)	521	June Mackwell (MTA)
Highest Drawn Game	487	Lynne Wood (WEL) & Debbie Caldwell (NEL)	482	Margaret Warren (HAS) & Jeff Grant (HAS)
Highest Single Turn	221	Sheryl Davidson (PAK) Lisa McLean (IND) Jeff Grant (IND)	347	Neil Talbot (WEL)
Highest Single Turn Non-bonus	135	Ruth O'Neill (NPL)	261	John Foster (MTA)
Highest Combined Score	1078	Howard Warner (CAP) & David Lloyd (MTA)	1106	Dawn Kitzen (PHC) & Chris Hooks (MTA)
Largest Winning Margin	493	Mike Sigley (WAN)	590	Paul Lister (CHC)
Highest Take-off	54	Lisa McLean (IND)	68	Andrew Bradley (MTA)
Most Bonus Words (3 Game Session)			14	Jeff Grant (IND)
Highest 3-Game Aggregate	—	—	1805	Nigel Richards (CHC)
Most Consecutive Bonus Words	5	Allie Quinn (NSB)	5	John Foster (MTA) Patrick Carter (MTA) Paul Lister (CHC)
Most Bonus Words in Game (1 person)	6	Nigel Richards (CHC) Yvette Hewlett (IND) Paul Lister (CHC)	7	Jeff Grant (IND)
Most Bonus Words in Game (2 people)	8	Mike Sigley (WAN) & Glenyss Buchanan (LOH) Nigel Richards (CHC) & John Foster (IND)	8	Dawn Kitzen (PHC) & Chris Hooks (MTA)
Highest Average Single Tournament (Any Grade)	584	Nigel Richards (CHC)	—	—

New Zealand Masters (23 Games)

Most Games Won	Jeff Grant (HAS) 21 (1993, 1997), Mike Sigley (WAN) 21 2002
Highest Aggregate	Nigel Richards (CHC) 11,103 (1999)
Most Bonus Words	Nigel Richards (CHC) 61 (1998)
Highest Spread	Howard Warner (MTA) +2410 (2000)

Contact Information

Clubs (Nth to Sth)	Contact Person	Phone	Email	Meeting Day/Time
Please contact the contact person to find out the meeting venue				
Whangarei (WRE)	Bev Edwards	09 430 2832	bevholo@xtra.co.nz	Thurs 1pm
Rodney (ROD)	Linda Moore	09 425 4959	colin.linda@wave.co.nz	Mon 1pm
Hibiscus Coast (HBC)	Joan Pratt	09 426 4521	jopra@xtra.co.nz	Mon 12.45pm
Nth Shore Bays (NSB)	Ann Candler	09 444 8411	anncan@clear.net.nz	Tues 10am
Mt Albert (MTA)	Liz Catchpole	09 846 0598	lizcatch@ihug.co.nz	Fri 7.00pm
Pakuranga/Howick (PAK)	Jeanette Owler	09 534 4453	cliffordo@xtra.co.nz	Tues 12.30pm Thurs 7pm
Papatoetoe/Holy Cross (PHC)	May Meads	09 278 5155	maymeads@xtra.co.nz	Mon 1pm
Hamilton (HAM)	Jillian Greening	07 843 7652	jillian.greening@yahoo.co.nz	Tues 7pm
Kiwi (KIW)	Elaine Moltzen	07 843 5108	jillian.greening@yahoo.co.nz	Thurs 7pm/1pm alt
Waikato Phoenix (WKP)	Annette Coombes	07 855 9970		Alt Weds 7pm
Tauranga (TGA)	Stan Skinner	07 572 0866	marstan@xtra.co.nz	Tues 9.00am
Rotorua	Ruth Godwin	07 349 6954	rgodwin#xtra.co.nz	
Tokoroa (TOK)	Lesley Edgeler	07 886 8374		
Waitara (WTA)	Ngaire Kemp	06 754 4017		Wed 1.00pm
New Plymouth (NPL)	Lynne Butler	06 755 2134	scrabblyn@clear.net.nz	Saturday
Pukekura (PUK)	Mary Waite	06 757 8654		Thurs 9.45am
Stratford (STR)	Sharon Clarke	06 765 5653	sharonrc@xtra.co.nz	
Hastings (HAS)	Yvonne Wilson	06 878 8229	wilsonpad@paradise.net.nz	Tues 1pm
Wanganui (WAN)	Rosemary Cleary	06 347 1837	rosecleary@hotmail.com	Mon 7pm
Masterton (MAS)	Hilda Scott	06 378 2663		
Lower Hutt (LOH)	Glenyss Buchanan	04 569 5433	glenyss.buchanan@xtra.co.nz	Tues 7.30pm
Kapiti (KAP)	Graeme Brown	04 297 0720	geb@xtra.co.nz	Mon 7pm
Wellington (WEL)	Lynn Wood	04 387 2581	lynnwood@paradise.net.nz	Tues 7pm
Nelson (NEL)	Steve Richards	03 544 0475	steverichards@xtra.co.nz	Wed 7pm
Christchurch (CHC)	Margaret Lyall	03 332 5963	noelrealest@hotmail.com	Fri 6.45pm Wed 12.45pm
Dunedin (DUN)	Chris Handley	03 464 0199	ruthgroffman@hotmail.com	Tues 7pm
Forwards Editor	Jennifer Smith	95B Howell Avenue Hamilton 3216	Phone 07 856 5358 Email jennifersmith@xtra.co.nz	
Layout Editor Forwards distribution Webmaster	Glenda Foster	1 Walters Street Lower Hutt 5011	Phone 04 567 1590 Fax 04 567 9305 (telephone first) Email fostergb@ihug.co.nz glenda.foster@scrabble.org.nz	