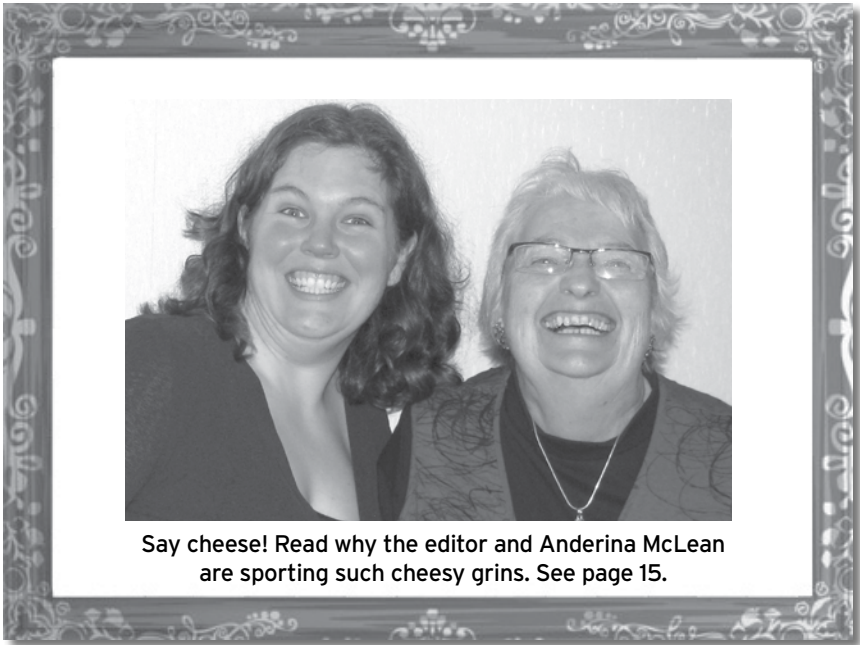


for words



Journal of the New Zealand Association of Scrabble® Players

No. 108
Spring 2012



Say cheese! Read why the editor and Anderina McLean are sporting such cheesy grins. See page 15.

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SCRABBLE CHEAT AT USA CHAMPS * DRAWING A BLANK * SHORT STORY BY BRUCE O'HARA * OLYMPIC QUIZ * IS THAT A WORD? ("HALL OF FAME") * SPOT THE BONUS * IN THE MONEY ("TWENTY YEARS AGO") * WOW! * NOOB TO NANG * F1GUR471V3LY 5P34KING * YOUR CHILD IS NOT A SCRABBLE BOARD

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From the editor

Jennifer Smith



K for Venezuela

Another pub quiz story for you.

Recently at our quiz night the Ponderous Puzzle (where clues are ongoing throughout the evening) featured a country. Fairly early on in the questions, one of the clues was: "The first letter of my name is worth 5 in Scrabble."

My teammates were relieved to have a Scrabble player who knew that K is the only letter worth 5 in Scrabble, and we proceeded to consider all the countries we could think of that began with K. None of them seemed to fit the other clues, though. Eventually, once we'd decided a later clue indicated the answer was a country that definitely *didn't* start with K, I pointed out that Scrabble-related questions had been inaccurate in the past, and that we should just ignore the K countries.

We got the correct answer on the following clue - Venezuela!

This time, however, I decided not to take it lying down, and emailed the Director of *Believe it or Not Quiz Nights* next day, also mentioning the OO inaccuracy of an earlier quiz. I let him know that USA and NZ function with different dictionaries (and franchise holders), told him the name of our official dictionary, and gave him the WESPA website for reference. He replied:

"As a self-confessed Scrabble geek myself I apologise profusely for the debacle with Venezuela last week.

This darn "Words With Friends" ap on my phone has infiltrated my thinking!

(It's worth 5 in that game). That was a last minute clue I threw in, post the quiz being verified. A foolish mistake I agree. Thanks for the email.

And the question you refer to three months ago was: What is a word not a word, according to the *Official Scrabble Players Dictionary*; AA, MM or OO? [OO] – which technically is correct as we qualified the question with the above dictionary, but now I know the NZ reference I am stoked - so thanks for letting me know. I have already printed off the list - 124 v 101 two letter words. Quite amazing how many more we allow.....!"

The good news is: we might get accurately referenced quiz questions in future. The bad news is: this incident may mark the end of my entertaining quiz stories!

PS. Yes, I *did* suggest he go along to one of our Clubs in Auckland!

Contact details

Hi, all Club secretaries and presidents.

Would you please check that information on the back of this issue is correct for your Club. The person listed should be the one you would like NZASP members or prospective new members to contact with questions about tournaments or where your club meets, not necessarily the secretary or the president. It would be best if you can provide an email contact as well (could be a different person). Send any changes or corrections to the Editor, please.



From our president

Val Mills



Isn't it great when spring arrives! Apart from the flowers that seem to spring (!) from nowhere, the lengthening days seem to give you energy and good vibes.

Looking back on the past few months it's been great to enjoy tournaments in Whangarei, Hamilton and Tauranga, all really well attended and organised. Jennifer ran another fabulous quiz night in Hamilton, and congratulations to David Gunn, Annette Coombes, Leighton Gelling and team for taking out the first prize.

October and November see tournaments in Wanganui, Dunedin and Hamilton so if you are in those areas please attend and support the hard work that a club undertakes to run a tourney. It's great to see that Liz and Howard are continuing with a matchplay tournament for those in Auckland. This is something that could be run in other areas, so if you are interested in finding out how to run a tournament like this please contact either Howard or Liz.

The 2012 Trans Tasman tournament is being held this year in November, in Melbourne. Our team is made up from the top 12 available players following the Nationals. Unfortunately, quite a few of our top players were unavailable this year. However, the team has now been finalised and it consists of Howard Warner, Rogelio Talosig, Patrick Carter, Joanne Craig, Glennis Hale, John Foster, Nick Cavenagh, Marianne Bentley, Lynne Butler, Lawson Sue, Liz Fagerlund and myself. The

reserves are yet to be finalised.

We have been given the names of the Australian team and I must say it looks like we have a daunting task ahead of us! Congratulations to all who have made it into the team, especially those making it for the first time. This is a great opportunity to get a taste of international competition.

Nigel Richards continues on his amazing winning way by winning the North American Scrabble Champs – this time he left his run to the last minute, needing to win the last game by 170 points. He won, with a spread of 177! Congratulations Nigel.

Continuing with my interest in what Scrabble players get up to in their spare time, Vicky Robertson (and her sister) have had all three of their entries accepted into the World of Wearable Art competition. Well done!

Happy scrabbling everyone.

* * *

The ideal mug for your coffee while you're playing Scrabble.

[Warning: don't challenge any of Vicky Robertson's vowel-heavy 4- and 5-letter words in future - it's her mug!]



Mailbox

Joan Thomas asked about the CREPELLATIONS play by Markus Lote in the 2011 Causeway Challenge. He played it against Sharon Sorensen of Australia (who played in the Nationals last month).

Sharon told me that after he played CRENEL he played off one tile on his next turn, to fish for LATIONS* as an extension to CRENEL to make CREPELLATIONS. He won the game 386-354. LATIONS* of course has two allowable seven letter plays :)

Joanne Craig, Christchurch

Those of you back in New Zealand may wonder what I'm up to.

I've now played three one-dayers over here in England. Placings have been 1, 2 and 2. I've qualified for the National Scrabble Championships and I'm contesting a regional knock-out final (called BEST) this month [July]. If I'm lucky I'll make it through that and then it goes national.

Fantastic Scrabble scene over here; very, very tough competition and I've been very lucky so far to meet some of the world's top players. I'm also playing in a league called YSL (Yorkshire).

Hope you're all still enjoying all the tournaments you can.

Kris Saether, England

I have relocated to Fremantle, WA earlier in the year, and have been here now for about 4 months. Sold my house in Tauranga and have headed off for an overseas adventure with my new partner Ali. We are planning to travel the world for



Stan Gregec with Dianne Ward.

a while, but also base ourselves here in Fremantle (or Freo as the locals call it).

Absolutely loving it here. I've ended up renting a house which is a stone's throw from where the Fremantle Scrabble Club meets. That has prompted me to get back into Scrabble seriously after a gap of about five years.

The person in the photo with me is Dianne Ward, a friend of Liz Fagerlund. I met her at the first tournament I entered here in WA last month.

Scrabble is organised much the same here as we do in NZ. There are quite a few ex-Kiwis hiding away in the ranks of local players. The main differences are they play 22 minute games instead of 25 minutes, and there is no penalty for a wrong challenge.

So I've had to learn to speed up my game, as I tended to play quite slowly. And to remember to challenge all the time!

They also tend to have more one day tournaments here with far fewer two-day events.

I was surprised that at the club level hardly anyone was using the turntable boards.

The only compensation of this is that many of the players are happy to play upside down.

Do look me up for a game if you're ever passing through this part of the world.

I survived my first tournament in Western Australia in July. They put me in the A grade and I got slaughtered. But a good experience – and character building!

Stan Gregec, ex Tauranga

A word you might be interested in knowing: **PROSOPOBIBLIOPHOBIA** – Facebook phobia, or having an aversion to all things Facebook.

Something that I have a medium dose of.

Fred Christall, Hamilton

Welcome

Alphagram: AEENNOT

Anagram: NEONATE, a newborn child

Congratulations to Olivia and Jonathan Godfrey on the birth of their daughter Annabelle Eve Godfrey (7.7lb = 3.38kg) at the end of June – a little sister for two-year-old Callum. Annabelle = two A's, two E's, two L's, two N's and a B – nice one Olivia!

Nigel triumphs

Our Nigel Richards, who lives in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia has won the USA National SCRABBLE® Championship for the fourth time—his third consecutive win—setting two new records.

Nigel won the US champs by the narrowest of margins – after game 30, with one game to go, David Gibson was one win ahead and 338 spread points ahead too. They played each other in the last game – Nigel needed to beat David by 170 points or more to win on spread – he won the last game by 177.

Nigel first, 22 wins, spread 1579; David second 22 wins, spread 1563!! Doesn't get much closer than that!! Third was Jesse Day with 21 wins and a spread of 1789

This is Nigel's fourth US title – well done Nigel.

First prize was \$10,000 and bragging rights among the world's 25,000 tournament SCRABBLE® players. [Not that Nigel ever brags!]

250 players took part in the competition.

From the "what next!" file

Make up some new words

If you've ever been screamed at over the Scrabble tiles for making up words, now's your chance to shine. Collins is allowing members of the public to suggest new entries for its dictionary for the first time. It said opening up the submission process would make its recording of the language more democratic.

Amateur lexicographers can make submissions at Collins's website. Editors aim to make a decision within two to three weeks. If an entry is accepted, its 'creator' can be permanently credited in the dictionary's online version.

Collins editors have already submitted a selection of words, including OMNISHAMBLES, originally from the TV satire *The Thick Of It*, and TASH-ON, a word for kissing popularised by reality TV show *Geordie Shore*.

- The NZ Herald (1 August)

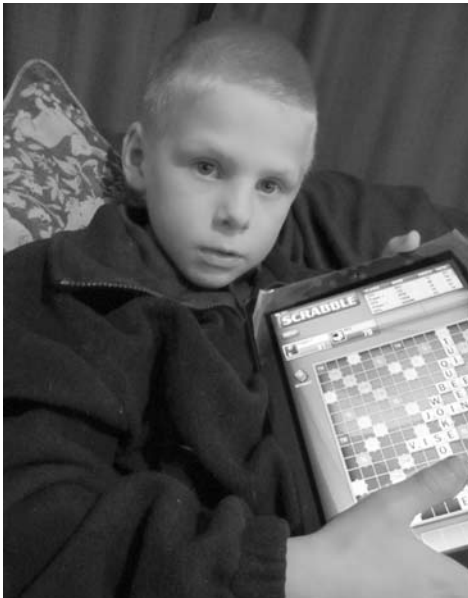
Club News

Christchurch

Scrabble players throughout New Zealand will be sorry to hear that Allison Torrence's, husband, Gordon Running, died in June.

* * *

Lewis Hawkins (7½) is a boy on a mission. A year ago he saw Alex Leckie-Zaharic on TV talking about how he won the NZ under 12 Scrabble championships. He has made it his goal that one day he will follow in Alex's footsteps and win the Championships too. He also likes to play Scrabble on the iPad and his mother says he would happily play on it all day if they let him.



Keen Scrabble player, Lewis Hawkins

Hastings

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of Elsie Tucker, a founding member of the Hastings Scrabble Club.

Elsie played a canny game and had a great word knowledge. She competed in B Grade at the National Champs from 1981-85 and finished in the top 10 on three occasions.

She also loved Rummikub and Skipbo, which she played until quite recently.

Unfortunately, failing eyesight curtailed her Scrabble, but she still enjoyed playing well into her 90s. I used to visit Elsie three or four times a year for a game or three and a chat. She was always interested in where Pat and I had been and how the Scrabble went. It is a pity the game wasn't invented earlier. Elsie used to say she wished it had been around when she was younger.

Elsie passed away peacefully on August 30 at the grand age of 101.

Jeff Grant

From 'Kato to the 'Naki

Near the end of March I and my housemates packed up and moved from Hamilton to New Plymouth, for unusual family reasons. Because of this, I had to say goodbye to the Hamilton Scrabble club. No longer would they sample the fruits of my kitchen, hear my small nuggets of trivia, or suffer my seemingly endless complaints when I was losing.

Now I'm in New Plymouth, and playing with the delightful ladies of the Pukekura club, although I affiliated with the nearly defunct New Plymouth club. At this point I'm the only man, and possibly the youngest member, as everyone else, except

one, seems to be a good thirty years older than me. Their frail exteriors belie the cunning of a fox, however; I've learned quite a few new words since I joined them.

The biggest difference between the clubs is that play is more relaxed in Pukekura; we constantly rummage through our word lists in our desperate search for playable bonuses. As a result, it's a bit of a shock to play in a tournament, where I no longer have that luxury.

As New Plymouth is so isolated, it's cut down on the tournaments that I can reasonably afford to attend, but I'll always try to get to the Hamilton ones, so I can catch up with old friends. It's also been suggested that I organise one for NP, possibly another promotion/demotion affair, early next year. We'll see.

To those in the Hamilton club, I had a great time with you all. I still miss playing on Tuesday nights; now Thursday morning is my week's highlight – at least until I find a job, which is still an ongoing project.

I finish with the wonderful mnemonic for remembering ?OX words -- Go Hard; Let No Player Score Very Well!

Leighton (Sandy) Gelling

Whangarei

Another fantastic Whangarei Tournament was held recently, with four divisions.

Three young new stars made their mark on the game.

Lyres Freeth from Rodney blitzed the B Grade winning every game with a spread of 1193, 19 bonus words and an average of 437 (watch out A Division).

Grade C had Kadda Mohamed from Christchurch win 11 of 13 games, a 965



Kadda Mohamed receives the Gerald Warner Trophy

spread, 17 bonus words and an average of 403.

Then Melody Freeth cleaned up D Grade with 11 wins, 962 spread, 11 bonus words and an average of 388. Wonderful to have players of this calibre coming through the ranks.

Kadda was also awarded the Gerald Warner Trophy for most promising new player. Howard Warner presented it to Kadda, who has only been playing at club level for 10 months. Well done Kadda!

Please note that Whangarei Members were the perfect hosts and left all the lovely prizes for our competitors. Liz Fagerland won the Raffle and Allie Quinn won the Lucky Number prize.

This year we had five billets and some members found a wonderful new place to dine at – “The Grand Thai Restaurant”.

Thank you to all who attended and we look forward to another great event this time next year.

Bev Edwards, Secretary

NOOB to NANG

Anderina McLean, Mt Albert

During the winter months, Mt Albert Scrabble Club ran a coaching clinic for interested players on Monday nights. We named the series of lessons after two new CSW12 words: “noob to nang” (a ‘noob’ is a newbie, a novice; while ‘nang’ is an adjective meaning ‘excellent’).

Topics covered included strategy (such as hooks and parallel playing) and tiles (such as what to do with the biggies, and when and what to exchange). Most of the material was prepared and presented by Howard Warner, with back-up from Anderina McLean and Liz Fagerlund. Mt Albert club would like to thank all those who helped out, and those who supported this new idea by coming along to participate in the lessons.

One innovation that made these group lessons possible was the display board designed along with Howard and Anderina and assembled by Su Walker (shown here).

Between us we came up with the dimensions we believed would be workable for teaching a smallish group of learners, portability and ease of use such having a wipeable surface at the same time retaining the coloured squares. This was achieved by drawing the grid of 15 x 15 on a large piece of acetate then filling in the appropriate coloured squares with cardboard cut-outs representing the triple word scores etc. A similarly sized piece of white paper was laid behind this to show the grid off to best effect. Flipping the clear plastic sheet over and securing it to the top of a large cardboard backing board gave the hard surface required to lean and write on. The grid remains permanently on

the plastic while the opposing side can be used again and again.

We believe this board to be unique in that it is designed to be written on with whiteboard markers and wiped clean with an eraser or a paper towel. This makes it much easier for the tutor to prepare examples and make rapid changes, rather than hunting through a set for just the right tiles to demonstrate a particular point.

If you are considering running some coaching or demonstration sessions of your own, please contact the Mt Albert club if you would like to borrow this piece of innovative Scrabble technology.



Su with the teaching aid she developed

Unfortunate play

The Jewish Chronicle online (a UK magazine) reports the match played by a football team that calls itself **Scrabble**. Their gameplay is not doing much for the reputation of Scrabble. They lost a game to Waldaf Town 3-2, thanks to an own goal.

However, the game wasn't all one-sided - Waldaf Town also scored an own goal!

[What do you think would be the Scrabble equivalent of an “own goal”? Getting challenged off? Losing a blank or S off your rack after drawing too many tiles? Opening up a triple-triple?]



Solution: contest no. 107

There is more than one solution to this puzzle. Jethro Snafflerod, Hazel Purdie (Mt Albert), Lyn Toka (Kiwi) and Joan Thomas (Hastings) solved it with IJTIHADS as the headword, while Leila Thomson (Lower Hutt) and Ron Bunny used TJANTING.

First name out of the hat was Lyn. Well done!

Scrabble contest no. 108

This contest was devised by Jethro Snafflerod. It looks quite tricky.

The answers to the following clues are all 7-letter anagram pairs with at least one of the pair being a new CSW12 word. Example: The solution to 'Enzyme borrowers' would be ENOLASE LOANES.

- The headscarves are made from goat's hair.
- Water-skiing without getting wet may cause deafness.
- Seals get transported round the farm.
- A hormone to make the sea-trout grow bigger.
- Black magic or sorcery, either way.
- Let's get rid of this musical genre.
- Local governments miss their targets.
- The bicycle races encounter softer going.
- Let's raise our glasses to Mr Sigley.
- Makes the Hindu celebration unnecessary.
- A model for Borat.
- A fine fabric label.
- Aquatic reefers, maybe.
- An entrance for proletariat moggies.
- An irascible catfish.
- An encircled area of the gridiron field.
- The official seal is reversed.
- These exercises look quite meaty.
- The Irish dancing festivals are exposed.
- Not very bright non-Muslims.

The winner will receive a book prize.

Send entries by mail or email to:

Jeff Grant, 'Ardra', 1109 Allenby Street, Hastings 4122. Or: ardra@clear.net

Closing date is 26 November 2012

Spot the bonus



Yes, well most of us would find that bonus word! But it can be difficult when you get two of the four power tiles on your rack at the same time.

Can you find the bonus words on the following racks, each of which shows two words featuring one of the power tiles, J, Q, X or Z. (Easiest ones first!)

- | | | |
|-----|---|--------------|
| 1. | QUINE | JOL |
| 2. | OX | QUINE |
| 3. | QUOTE | XI |
| 4. | DIXIE | ZO |
| 5. | ZOOTY | AX |
| 6. | JEEL | BEZ |
| 7. | AZINE | OX |
| 8. | LEZ | QUAT |
| 9. | SUQ | ZEAL |
| 10. | ZINE | SUQ |
| 11. | SUQ | JEER |
| 12. | JOULE | ZA |
| 13. | JAR | NAZI |
| 14. | ZONAE | XI |
| 15. | JAIL | SEZ |
| 16. | JOR | NAZE |
| 17. | QUA | ZELS |
| 18. | MAX | JUBE |
| 19. | NIXE | AZO |
| 20. | NAARTJE (with a floating Z on the board) | |

Answers on page 40.



Hall of Fame (or infamy)

Three people take a bow in the Hall of Fame this issue.

* * *

Hello, Olympics fans.

I was born in 1877, and my Swedish parents gave me good Swedish names, **Karl Emil Julius Ulrich Salchow** - but just call me Ulrich.

I was competitive figure skating's first "superstar", competing at the beginning of the 20th century.

I won World Figure Skating Championships ten times, from 1901 to 1905, and from 1907 to 1911. (I didn't compete at the 1906 World Championships that were held in Munich, as I feared that I wouldn't be judged fairly against Gilbert Fuchs of Germany.) I also won the European Championships a record number of nine times. And I won gold when the sport, thanks to its growing popularity, was included in the 1908 Summer Olympics in London.

After my competitive days, I went on, as the president of the International Skating Union from 1925 to 1937, to modernise skating and increase its appeal. I died in 1949.

I'm probably not remembered so much for my administrative role, even though I initiated the holding of the World Champs outside of Europe for the first time (New

York, 1930).

No, I'm remembered for a jump! In 1909, I first landed a jump in competition in which I took off on the back inside edge of my skate, and landed on the back outside edge of my other foot. You've probably

heard commentators saying something that sounds like "sow-cow"? Well, that's the jump named in my honour, the SALCHOW jump.

Think of me when you're watching the figure skaters at the Winter Olympics, or whenever you see the tiles ACHLOSW on your rack.

There are no anagrams for SALCHOW(S), so I'm worth remembering!

* * *

Hello from another Scandinavian skater.

I was born earlier than Ulrich, in 1855 in Norway, and died in 1938.

I was a professional skater, competing in races and meets that offered the winners prize purses and medals; and was the World Professional Speed Skating Champion from 1882 to 1889.

At the Vienna World Championships I won both the speed skating and figure skating events becoming the World Champion. In the winter of 1883, at the open air rink in New York, I defeated 17 picked skaters – the fastest from Norway, Canada, England and the United States – and set records for the mile, 5 mile and 10 miles.

Axel Paulsen is my name. You Scrabble players are pretty switched on, so you'll



have guessed that the figure skating jump called the AXEL is named after me.

I first performed the AXEL at the World Championships in 1882 – while wearing speed skates, believe it or not.

The AXEL is the only jump the skater enters while facing forward. It's an edge jump launched on the forward outside edge and landed on the back outside edge of the opposite foot. Because it has a forward takeoff but lands backwards, a single axel actually has 1.5 rotations, so it results in the longest air time, making it a fan favourite.

Unfortunately, I rarely got to perform it myself in figure-skating competitions – because I made money winning speed-skating races, my professional status meant I wasn't allowed to compete in an amateur sport.

* * *

Hello - from an Austrian skater, this time.

I'm **Alois Lutz**, born in Austria eleven years after Ulrich, in 1898. However, I only lived for 20 years. Not much is known about my short life, except that I first performed the LUTZ jump in figure skating competition in 1913.

To do a LUTZ, you perform a long glide on a left backward outside edge in a wide arc into the corner of the rink. Just prior to jumping, you reach back with the right arm and the right foot and vault into the air, before performing a full

turn in the air and landing on the right back outside edge.

I wasn't an innovator at the same level as Paulsen and Salchow, and I never won a world medal, so I'm not one of the sport's greatest stars.

I'm content, though, as I'm sure Scrabble players are much more familiar with the word LUTZ than they are with SALCHOW! Lutz has a helpful front hook of K, too. And although you guys probably play AXEL more often than LUTZ, I'll have you know the LUTZ is considered one of the more difficult jumps.

Today the LUTZ is often done

in double or triple versions – the figure skating equivalent of a double or triple word score, I'd say!

* * *

Remember us all when you play SALCHOW, AXEL or LUTZ.

Oh, and by the way, Jeff Grant, next time

you're making suggestions to the dictionary committee, you might like to suggest two skating words that haven't made your Scrabble dictionary yet: FLUTZ* – that's a flawed LUTZ jump that takes off from a inside edge instead of the intended outside edge; and WAXEL*, a failed

AXEL attempt, in which the skater slips off the takeoff edge, often resulting in a fall.

They'd make useful front hooks, don't you reckon?



Twenty years ago

John Foster, Independent

My selection from *Forwards* No. 28, Sept 92, is a rhyme created around monetary units starting with letters from A right through to Z, which really only scratches the surface of the multitude of weird monetary units available to Scrabblers.

One of the most frequently played 2-letter words would have to be XU. A quick shufti through our two latest dictionary revisions has shown that the proliferation continues. In CSW 7 I have found SOM(S), SOMY, BHAT, DENI(S), KUNA, KUNE, LIPA(S), LIPE, SUMY, TYIN, TYIYN. And in CSW 12, I have found the new words ATS, KOPIYOK, HAOS, TEIN(S), LIPAS, SENES, TIYIN(S) most of which are newly allowed plurals of existing terms.

I stress that these lists are the result of a quick shufti and are not intended to be exhaustive. There are probably quite a few more, particularly if longer words, that remain to be found.

IN THE MONEY (FROM ANNA TO ZLOTY)
In Afghanistan they spend the AFGHANI
In Rumania you need lots of BANI
Brazilians love their CRUZEIROS
Peruvians once had DINEROS
ESCUDOS flood Lisbon in torrents
Hungarians cling to their FORINTS
In Haiti they worship the GOURDE
The Czechs by HALERU are lured
IMPERIALS ruled in old Russia
In Genoa more JANES made you flusher
Malawians value their KWACHAS
Hondurans are LEMPIRA watchers
The MARKKAA are tops with the Finnish
In Nigeria your NAIRAS diminish
The OBANG of Nippon is now gone
But the Macao PATACAS flow on
QINTARS make leks in Albanian pretties
Cents make RINGGITS for Malaysian cities
Ecuador's SUCRE seems sweeter and holier
Than rough-sounding TUGRIKS of Outer Mongolia
And VELLONS in former Spanish homes
UNCIAE were found in Ancient Rome
The WON is won in South Korea
You pay with XU for Vietnamese beer
In China it's the YUAN they revere
Zaireans cherish their native ZAIRE
BALBOA. BUQSHA. KRONE. FEN or DONG
BOLIVAR. BAIZA. JUN. SEN or CHON
No matter the currency's nation
They all get depressed by inflation!

-Franc Schilling

Wow!

Last issue, President Val talked about what Scrabble players do when they're not playing Scrabble.

Here's an interesting one: Vicky Robertson, Wellington, has, with her sister, designed and created three WOW finalist garments in three months – on a “frugal” budget of about \$300 each.

First-time entrants Vicky Robertson and her sister Natasha Macaulay teamed up to produce two bizarre bras and one full outfit for september's Brancott Estate World of Wearable Art Award show (WOW). They used recycled junk, hardware products, and electronics to operate the two battery-operated bras.

“Gaia Organica” is a full outfit inspired by the struggle between the organic and the inorganic world, complete with headgear and boots.

They created two bizarre bra garments – “Hypno-Bra” sporting their mathematical-minded father's love of spirals, and a Dr Seuss-style “Menopausal Mania” bra with fans operating at the ends of springs.

WOW competition



Vicky (right) and Natasha show some of the materials they used in their entries for WOW.

director Heather Palmer said it was “very special” to have more than one entry accepted into the show. “Over the years we have had a number of designers who have had more than one accepted, but it is undoubtedly a fantastic achievement to have three accepted in a first attempt.”

Congratulations, Vicky.



Hypno-Bra



Menopausal Mania



Gaia Organica

Say cheese

Anderina McLean, Mt Albert

So, it happens that, unintentionally, I cheesed off our Editor.

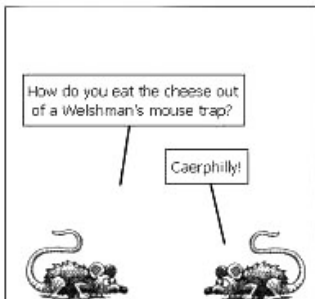
Here's how it happened: I played the word HALOUMI against Jennifer at the Nationals. She challenged it. It stayed. (It would have stayed with two Ls, too: HALLOUMI). I beat her by 115 points.

Fast forward three weeks to the Kiwi tournament, where Jennifer and I met again. I played BOURSIN. (I knew the word, but not the meaning: it's another type of cheese). She challenged it. *Chalk* up another 5 points for me. This time, I really *creamed* her, with a 148-point win.

My punishment? I must serve you up a CHEESEBOARD of FROMAGE/S to feast upon. So here goes:

Some cheeses you can play in Scrabble:

GRUYERE
JARLSBERG
CHESHIRE
BRIE
WENSLEYDALE
(GREEK) FETA/FETTA
PARMESAN
MOZZARELLA
CHEDDAR



Some cheeses you can't

play in Scrabble:

(Red) LEICESTER*
TILSIT*
CAERPHILLY*
(Bel) PAESE*
(Red) WINDSOR*
STILTON*
EMENTHAL*
LIPTAUER*
LANCASHIRE*
DORSET (Blue) VINN(E)Y*
ROQUEFORT*
CAMEMBERT*
GOUDA*
EDAM*
GORGONZOLA*
ILCHESTER*

The cultured reader may recognise in the order of this list its source: Where else would one turn for a list of types of cheese but to Monty Python's "Cheese Shop" sketch (the script of which also gives us the Scrabble words BAZOUKI (BOUZOUKI, BUZUKI) and ESURIENT)? For those unfamiliar with this piece of comedy, it's a skit about a man who wants to buy some cheese, but, despite the customer's numerous guesses (above), it transpires that the National Cheese Emporium does not in fact have any cheese available at all.

As an extension of the sketch, Monty Python's *Big Red Book* offers the role-playing game for two players: the customer, who must keep guessing types of cheese, and the storekeeper, who must keep declining in fresh ways and/or making plausible excuses (e.g. "the cat's eaten it"). The loser is the first person who either repeats himself or runs out of ideas. This game can also be played with other COMESTIBLES:

fruits, perhaps, or pastas...

I mention this here because it strikes me as an excellent way to pass the time next time you're carpooling to a Scrabble competition! On the same car trip, you might stop for a bite at Subway, where they will routinely offer you a choice of SMOKED, SWISS, or CHEDDAR cheese on your sandwich.

However, it occurred to me that neither of the cheeses that started this fermentation of ideas occurred in Monty Python's list... and so I came to (I am not kidding!) www.typesofcheese.com. Additional allowable cheeses from this source are: RICOTTA, FONTINA, PROVOLONE, ROMANO, CHEVRE (or CHEVRET), ASIAGO, MASCARPONE and RACLETTE. Another similar website contributed COLBY, HAVARTI, MUENSTER (or MUNSTER), PANEER, and STRACCHINO (pl. STRACCHINI) to the growing list.

Finally, I had to see what the world's biggest WIKI had to say about types of cheese, and there I found a dazzling international spread which reads like a wish-list for future Scrabble words. Unfortunately the majority are still not allowed.



I THINK THE ODOUR EATERS HAVE EATEN MY BRIE SANDWICHES!



"Limburger, I need you to start stinking outside the box."

However, indulge yourself with those that are: Icelandic SKYR; Italian BOCCONCINI, DOLCELATTE, PECORINO (pl. PECORINI), TALEGGIO, and, new to CSW 12, REBLOCHON; and French ABONDANCE, CANTAL, and VACHERIN (Vacherin is defined by Zyzzyva as a dessert, elaborated by Wikipedia: a FRENCH dessert – a MERINGUE crust filled with CREME CHANTILLY and fruit).

Noticing that the Norwegian cheeses mostly ended in -OST, I conducted a pattern search for *OST rather than check each one individually on the Word Judge. Thus MYSOST and (the one I would absolutely love to play against Jennifer when we next meet) GJETOST are added to our list.

What has increasingly irritated me about this survey is that I can find no predictable pattern to determine whether or not a particular cheese will be allowed. It has been argued that you can't have a cheese that is named after a place (such as Edam, Gouda, Camembert, etc.) but there are just as many exceptions as adherents to this rule (such as CHEDDAR, JARLSBERG, and even, depending how you look at it, PARMESAN). While BRIE is allowed, it as defined by

Zyzyva as meaning “the eyebrow, also BREE, BROO”. I can only postulate that the inclusion of a cheese in our present Scrabble dictionary is determined by the compilers’ personal taste, as I could not discover one variety of blue cheese that is allowed.

So much for types of cheese. But the cheesy topping on our Scrabble vocabulary still has room to mature further. My research thus far has contributed many more words besides mere types.

There are adjectives used to describe cheese: besides the obvious “blue” and “stinky” I was pleased to discover SEMISOFT and SEMIHARD. A cheese’s rind may be BLOOMY, and the cheese itself could be CURDY or WHEYEY. Each of these three also has a comparative and a superlative form, and WHEYISH and WHEYLIKE are also allowable, should you find WHEYEY too awkward a word. I myself can not imagine when the word WHEYISHNESS might be useful in a sentence, let alone its plural (also allowed!)

Having described your cheese, you might want to think about how it’s made. Ingredients may include PENICILLIUM, BUTTERFAT, and MICROBIAL RENNET (AKA RENNIN, RENIN, RENNASE - it’s a type of ENZYME or ENZYM, though it is sometimes described as a BACTERIUM). Many CHEESEMONGERS also employ some kind of COAGULANT, such as COAGULASE.

An important distinction among cheese lovers is whether or not the cheese has been PASTEURISED – ie. whether it has undergone PASTEURISM or PASTEURISATION in a PASTEURISER (all except the -ism can also take a Z in place of the S: PASTEURIZE etc.)

Then, of course, how will you serve

your cheese? Merely skimming the surface of cheese-dependent recipes gives us GRATIN/E, QUESADILLA, MOUSETRAPS, ROSTI, QUICHE, PARMIGIANA, MANICOTTI, LASAGNA (LASAGNE) and TIRAMISU, as well as RAMEKIN (which I thought was a dish rather than a recipe, also RAMEQUIN), and SOUFFLE and FONDU/E (which also function as an adjective and a verb, respectively: SOUFFLED, SOUFFLEED, FONDUED, FONDU(E)ING).

Of course there are more obviously cheese-derived foods: CHEESECAKE, CHEESEBURGER, and CHEESESTEAK (new to CSW 12) I don’t know about the more ambiguous CHEESEMITE, which Zyzyva doesn’t define - is it akin to popular cheese accompaniments MARMITE and VEGEMITE, or is it something multi-legged and therefore more sinister?

And speaking of sinister, don’t ask about HEADCHEESE – I found two quite different definitions online, and I haven’t decided yet which disgusts me more (but as neither contains, or relates to, actual cheese, it is thankfully outside the scope of this article – so that might signal that this is a good place to stop).



Scrabble Power

Betty Don, Nelson

I take the last tiles from the bag replacing five; my rack is full
Our scores are close. What can I make with **A T L E G O V** ?

Hmm! Looks Russian. Rearrange **TEAL** and **GOV**; **GAVE** and **LOT**
Move them 'round: **GOT** and **VEAL**
Now looks German. Try again

AGE and **VOLT** are more likely
(Opposite, he shuffles seven)
Using them without an **S** is hard- all four are on the board

Then... there! I see it now
VOLT with **AGE**! A bonus word
But, alas, at this end stage
is there place for seven tiles?

Again...there! I have found **COL**
with room above and room below
He plays three tiles; doesn't block me
I play **VOLTAGE**, making **COLT**

All tallied up, plus bonus fifty
and double my opponent's rack
the game is won, achieved with power
that of electromotive force

[Written for Boulder Writers, a Poetry Writers' Group Betty belongs to in Nelson. The theme that month was "force".]

App for iPhones

Collins, the official Scrabble publisher, has launched the first official Checker and Solver app. It has been available for the iPhone since July.

A tree with knobs on

What's interesting about NOOP (a knob) and POON (an East Indian tree)?

- They are both Scrabble words that are probably not familiar to most NZers.
- Each is the other spelt backwards.
- They are anagrams.
- They both take S hooks front and back, and both ends at once.
- They can both drop their first letter (OOP and OON). And then they can drop the first letter of those shorter words (OP and ON).
- They can both drop their last letter (NOO and POO). And then they can drop the last letter of those shorter words (NO and PO).
- SNOOP AND SPOON both take Y, and SNOOPY and SPOONY are also anags.
- Take out one of the Os from either NOOP or POON, and the result is not a Scrabble word.

Getting snotty

Joan Thomas, Hastings

I was playing Roger Coates at the Hamilton tournament.

A few moves into the game Roger played SNOTTER which I knew to be correct but I challenged off the move because he had played a dud hook.

The board was very open and I was unable to block it so I played for rack balance knowing that he would get SNOTTER down with his next move, which he did.

I then looked at my seven tiles – INORSTT – and lo and behold I was able to play SNOTTIER through the E of SNOTTER!

Although these two words are unrelated we enjoyed a laugh at the sequence of play.

Your child is not a Scrabble board

Extracts from an article by Mia Freedman in The Sunday Telegraph, Sydney

Dear Parents, stop it. Enough with the tricky spellings. Stop confusing your baby's birth certificate with a game of Scrabble. It's not funny, it's not clever and it's not fair.

Your children will resent you as soon as they're old enough to explain: "No, it's Ambah – A-M-B-A-H."

Yes, I'm talking to you, parents of Mykal, Krystyn, Jennipher, Jessyka, Allisenne, Grayss, Jaxxon, Ellivia, Kloe, Aaden, Destyneigh ...

And yes, these are all actual names of actual people. Poor, poor, people.

No child's name needs an apostrophe in it.

Under the terrifying heading "Apostrophe Creativity", one baby-naming website urges parents to, "Revamp a classic name with a little punctuational flair!" Let's all take a moment to send our very best wishes to M'shell, L'oegan, Brook'Lynn, D'estiny, L'Wren, Cam'ron, Aa'Niyah, Rach'Elle, O'Livia, Ma'Kayla ...

Don't ever Google "unique baby names" because your eyes will start bleeding when you learn about 'alphabet soup' names such as ABC and XYZ. There are names with Roman numerals like K-VIII-lin (Caitlin). There are names with dashes like Sta-c. And names where the dashes are pronounced "dash" like L-Sha (La-dash-a).

But WHY? Fear of "common" appears to be the biggest motivator.

Where does this creeping trend come from? Director of a social research

company puts it down to "this general child obsession in our culture. Each child is unique but that doesn't mean they need a crazy name." Blogger Magary elaborates: "There's a bizarre assumption that if you make your child's name unique, the child will be unique."

She also notes that this grasping for "special" is more common among lower socio-economic groups. The middle classes do it, but they tend to use last names as first names, eg. Parker, Harrison.

The moral of the story: don't vomit the alphabet onto your baby's birth certificate. You don't have to use all the letters to make them unique.

One-liners

Lynne Butler, New Plymouth

- My mate told me that he thought he was the worst vet in the world. I said, "Don't put yourself down."
- I said to my doctor, "Call it a hunch, but I'm pretty sure I have an abnormal convex curvature of the upper spine."
- Being told you "really are one in a million" is nice. Unless of course it's a diagnosis.
- When I was younger I was scared of earwigs because I thought they actually lived in your ears. I was even more terrified of cockroaches.
- My local chip shop has started using magazines instead of newspapers. I'm currently eating them out of House and Home.

Of ceilidhs, ukuleles and equine oddities

Jeff Grant, Hastings

Paul Lister's story in the last issue about the Scottish and Irish gathering called a CEILIDH (pronounced 'kaylee') reminded me of the following ad, which appeared under 'Musical Instruments' in our local paper recently:

YOOKALAYLEE As new \$25

If you had never seen the word UKULELE written down, I guess this would be a reasonable spelling based on the way it is pronounced.



So what is the hardest word to spell if all you know is the meaning and pronunciation?

My top contender comes from a famous book first published in 1726 - *Gulliver's Travel*, by Anglo-Irish poet and satirist Jonathan Swift. In this work, Swift features a race of intelligent horses with a name pronounced 'winnim', who control the brutish race of men called Yahoos.

Unfortunately, our dictionaries list the word in capitalised form only, so it isn't allowed in Scrabble. However, it can be used generally for a horse with human characteristics (Mr Ed?), and other references, such as the big *Oxford* dictionary, record an alternative uncapitalised spelling.

Anyone who spells this word correctly from the pronunciation deserves to win Lotto! Apparently Swift created HOUYHNHM in imitation of the sound of a horse's neigh.

Reducing words to one letter

There's an email doing the rounds at the moment, which is incorrect (as so many of these emails are!).

It was about the ONLY (it said) 9-letter word from which you can remove one letter at a time, leaving a word each time, until only one letter is left.

I didn't keep the email, but from memory, I think the word it said was STARTLING, which reduces in turn to STARLING, STARING, STRING, STING, SING, SIN, IN, I.

I couldn't believe there is only one word like that - I'm sure there must be dozens, if not hundreds of words you can do this to, so I asked Jeff Grant for his comments. He said:

This is probably an old 'riddle' dating back to Victorian times when word games and riddles were very popular. It may be the best of its length using only common everyday words. However as you surmise, it is certainly not unique. You can achieve the same result with words like STORMINGS and STORYINGS. John Foster's MODERNEST can be formed one letter at a time from M (MO, MOD, MODE, etc), but of course M is not considered a word in most dictionaries.

Why not just make it STARTLING, then you can reach 10 letters? A similar example is STRAPPINGS which can be formed from I, IN, PIN, PING, APING, RAPING, RAPPING, TRAPPING, STRAPPING, STRAPPINGS.

A couple of other 10-letter words that can be progressively reduced a letter at a time are the similar STRANGLERS and ESTRANGERS.

There may be quite a few 9+ letter examples using just Scrabble words, but probably not hundreds. I once built the word STRENGTHENINGS adding one letter at a time to I using words from the big *Oxford English Dictionary*.

Drawing a blank

Philip Nelkon, UK

The NZ Scrabble guru Jeff Grant likes telling the story of a North Island tournament player who was navvying in Dunedin one year. As his workmates paused for a smoko he was delighted to see one of them pull a Scrabble set out of his kitbag and ask the visitor if he would care for a three-hander.

"Sure, why not," he replied, "I play a bit myself."

He watched as his co-workers set up the board and racks then tipped all the tiles face up into the lid of the box. They proceeded to count each letter for the correct distribution – a surprisingly professional approach for an ad hoc game, he thought.

Suddenly one of them picked out the two blanks and put them in his pocket.

"Why are you doing that?" he queried.

"Oh," was the reply, "those ain't got no letters on them, sport. We never use 'em."

* * *

Consider yourself lucky if you draw a blank, they can often decide a game but getting the best out of them can be extremely difficult.

The first decision is when to play a blank and when to keep it. Generally, experts value the blanks at around 25 points. So if you can use your blank in a bonus it is usually worth doing. However, there is a grey area where you only have a low-scoring bonus worth in the 60s; here it may be possible to score 40+ whilst retaining the blank for a higher scoring game later on in the game.

Visualising the letter the blank should

be also can be difficult. I'd suggest first seeing if it works as two of the most useful letters – S or E. If that doesn't work, try the letters in point scoring order – A, I, L, R etc. As with all bonus-spotting, try creating suffixes and prefixes to reduce the letters that you have to shuffle around.

What if you are fortunate enough to have both blanks on your rack at the same time? Finding a bonus with two blanks can be especially difficult, so again, fixing on one of the blanks as a low-scoring letter, as mentioned above, should be helpful.

Also consider whether you can use one of the blanks for a good score and retain the other one. At a recent tournament, after playing a bonus, I drew OKNQR??. I was able to play QuIRK for 54 and then picking four tiles made SWOONER on the following move.

Sometimes you will draw a blank too late in the game to make a bonus. If the score's close and there are no high scoring plays available, try hanging onto it until all the letters have gone. Very often, the flexibility that a blank gives you will enable you to go out first and snatch a close game at the last gasp.

Good luck!

- from Scrabble Club News, UK

* * *

Correction

We're sorry to say youngsters Corey Symon and Sam Thompson were incorrectly named in the last issue of *Forwards* when their names were inadvertently switched. Sam is the blond on page 8 and Corey is the brown-haired lad on page 9.

Apologies to Sam and Corey.

Lost for words

Sent in by Anderina McLean, Mt Albert

The *New Zealand Geographic* (issue 115) reports that over the last 20 years, the total number of written English words has decreased. (The same has happened to Spanish and Hebrew.)

A research team analysed ten million words from Google books (which holds about 4% of the world's books in digital format) published between 1800 and 2008. They looked at words that had existed for more than 50 years and classified them as 'dead' if they had dropped below 5% of their median usage.

The head of the research team, Alexander Petersen, says: "There is no worry about decline: basically it just reflects the fact that we are becoming a more efficiently communicating species with less error rate in our written history. And unlike biological species, which can undergo irreversible extinction, words exist as long as the books that house them do."

The study also described a 'sink or swim' point of 30-50 years, about the same as a human generation, that Peterson says can dictate the rise, survival or demise of a word.

Check out the Google N-gram viewer at <http://books.google.com/ngrams>. It lets you compare the rise and fall of any word through time, or compare the use of pairs of words.

[For example, I compared FILM and MOVIES, as these days I feel behind the times when I say film. However, film still seems to be in greater use than MOVIES, I was pleased to see. -Ed.]

I've been reading

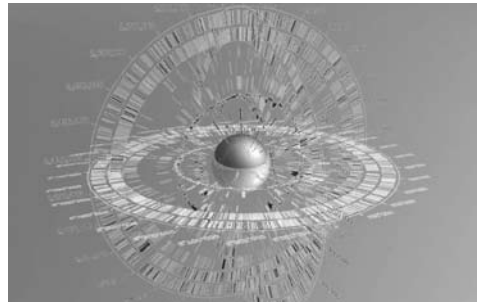
Lyn Toka, Kiwi

The greatest show on earth (the evidence for evolution) by Richard Dawkins

To quote the blurb: "written with elegance, wit and passion, it is hard-hitting, absorbing and totally convincing".

Most of the scientific names and processes are too long for Scrabble. Many of the following are animal names, and now that I know the meaning, maybe I (and you) will find them useful.

CICHLID	tropical fish (takes -S or -AE)
COLUGO	flying lemur
DORADO	marine fish
GENOME	genetic material within an organism
HALTERE	projections behind insects' wings
PINNIPED	aquatic placental mammal (takes -S or -AE)
PRION	petrel
ROTIFER	aquatic invertebrate
SIFIKA	arboreal primate
TELEOST	bony fish
THEODICY	branch of theology
VARVE	sediment deposit in glacial lake



Genome



Overseas News

Dubai

22nd annual Gulf Scrabble Championship

This was a two-day event attracting 25 competitors from across the Middle East, from Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia and the UAE. Student Sanchit Kapoor was the youngest player in the championship at the tender age of 12, and it was his first

1. Ronald Credo, a two-time former Philippines Scrabble champion.
2. Mohammed Suliman, Pakistan
3. Ralph Lobo, UAE

France

French National Classique Tournament

(played like ours)

1. Olivier Francart
2. Christian Coustillas, defending champion

Guyana

Caribbean Scrabble Campionships

Winner Urlet Bullock, Barbados

Pakistan

Alastair and Karen Richards have been in Karachi in July to conduct a workshop for youngsters.

Koala Scrabble Challenge

1. Alastair Richards (pictured)
2. Tariq Pervez
3. Anwar Siddique



Singapore

14th Singapore Open

1. Aaron Chong (Malaysia)

2. Hubert Wee (Singapore)
 3. Alastair Richards (Australia)
- Nigel Richards (New Zealand) was 5th.

Sri Lanka

23rd Sri Lanka Open Scrabble Championship

Forty participants competed in this two-day event.



1. Lakshan Wanniarachchi. He has consistently remained Sri Lanka's number one rated Scrabble player for over a decade.
2. Nimalan Premkumar, placed 5th at the World Youth Scrabble Championship in 2011
3. Wimal Fernando

All Island Age Group Scrabble Championship

This event was attended by 260 participants.

Under-13 Hansi Weerasuriya

Under-18 Gayanth Chandrasena, in

an upset win that saw him defeat several more experienced and higher rated players who have represented the country at the World Youth Scrabble Championships.

Over-18 Nimalan Premkumar

United Kingdom

The British Matchplay Scrabble Champs, played over 21 games, attracted 120 players.

Winner Kevin McMahon, Dublin

One of his plays in the final game was IMMORTAL on a triple triple for 158 points.

King's Cup in Bangkok

This tournament was held in June, and was attended by a small contingent of Kiwi players.

Our highest finisher was, predictably, Nigel – in 8th place, with 18 wins and 11 losses. He actually had to work his way up from much further down, so it must have been a tough tourney for him.

Liz Fagerlund finished a very impressive 29th, on 16-13 (only two fewer wins than Nigel). She was followed by Paul Lister in 49th (14-15), Lynn Carter in 77th (11-18) and Rosalind Phillips in 82nd (10-19).

Well done Kiwis!

The 29-round main event was topped by Thai youngster Thacha Koowirat, on 22-7, two wins ahead of Helen Gipson of Scotland and his countryman Taewan Sutthasin. However, in the best-of-three showpiece finals, Thacha lost 0-2 to Helen Gipson of Scotland. So the King's Cup got its second female champ.

Young Australian Alistair Richard, who will be both coaching and competing in Dunedin soon, came fourth on 19 wins. Another Aussie, WSC runner-up Andrew Fisher, came 10th on 18 wins. (We'll probably be playing these two in the Trans-Tasman in Melbourne later this year.)

Report by Howard Warner, Mt Albert

New milestone

At the Nationals in June, Jeff Grant, Independent, reached the milestone of 2000 tournament games.

My apologies to Jeff for failing to mention this achievement last issue. It was particularly remiss of me, considering it was **ME** he played for that historic game!

Ed.

Come cruising

Ruth Groffman, Dunedin

Wayne Willis is running another Scrabble Cruise for 2013. Below are the details and current prices. The ship will be P & O Dawn for 11 nights around the Pacific. Ports of call will be Santo, Wala, Champagne Bay, Vila, Mystery Island and Isle of Pines. Wayne has arranged this through Redcliffe Travel

Scrabble will be a Round Robin, Australian National Rules and non rated.

You do not need to be a Scrabble player to join this group, so bring along spouses, and friends for a fun time and warm weather!!

Cabin prices

(Cruise number W 330 11 nights departing 23rd July 2013)

Balcony from \$2299 pp (twin share)

Quad Share Inside from \$999 pp

Twin Share Inside from \$1599 pp

Quad share and triple share cabins, inside and outside, from \$999 – \$1599pp.

All prices listed are AUSS\$ and are subject to change without notice

Past passengers on P & O or Princess lines may be eligible for an additional benefit and details of their Captains Circle Membership should be provided at the time of booking.

Contact Ruth or Redcliffe Travel for more information.

Stop Press

You will all be sorry to hear that Joan Thomas's husband Ray died late last month.

Many of us have met Ray and enjoyed his company at Nationals dinners and on other Scrabble occasions..

Our deepest sympathy to Joan.

Scrabble cheat at USA champs

The media hoo-ha that we've come to expect followed the cheating incident at the USA Championships in August.

Unfortunately, as Clare Wall pointed out, most of the reports failed to mention the Nigel's incredible feat, or even the names of the champion and the runners up. Most - particularly radio reports - took the opportunity to sling off at the fact that there is such a thing as a Scrabble tournament!

Most memorable comments were:

- I expect he'll be banned for a spell (*a blogger*)
- Tile and error (*newspaper headline*)
- R₁E₁C₃O₁R₁D₂S₁
C₃H₄E₁A₁T₁E₁R₁

Those two drastically different words couldn't describe more perfectly the highs and lows of this year's National SCRABBLE championship which saw one player break two winning records and another casting a shadow over the tournament by being the first person ejected from it.

Nigel Richards, 45, posted his third consecutive and fourth overall championship, setting two new records, according to the SCRABBLE tournament's website. The New Zealand-born security analyst, who now lives in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, finished with a record of 22-9 [games].

But his highly touted achievement in the SCRABBLE world was overshadowed by two of those precious blank tiles that are so valuable because they can be used as any letter you like ... (*top marks to the CNN website for this good example*)

- *Fortunately, we can rely of Stefan Fatsis, USA Scrabble player and Scrabble author, for the full, correct and*

balanced version of events which he published in a blog [slightly abridged]:

I had just hung on for a 395-352 victory in Round 24 of the 2012 National Scrabble Championship on Tuesday when an official pulled me aside: A boy had been caught palming the blanks and ejected from the tournament.

The news ricocheted through the ballroom at the Orlando resort where 342 people – men, women, and a handful of children – were gathered for Scrabble's annual five-day, 31-game championship marathon. Many players were familiar with the boy, who had competed in school and rated Scrabble tournaments for a couple of years. But they didn't know of him as "one of the top young Scrabble players" in America, as he was described in news reports. Rather, he'd gained renown because of a performance at a previous tournament that seemed too good to be true.

So the mood after the revelation was less shock that someone had cheated than relief that the fraud had been unmasked. And beneath that, sadness – for the adolescent boy, who would no doubt be facing shame and scorn in and out of the Scrabble world, and for the game, which I knew would be taking another turn on the media dunk tank.

As of Friday, the "scandal" had netted about 500 media hits, according to the National Scrabble Association. The news was first posted on the tournament's website. A Merriam-Webster executive attending the event tweeted it. Scrabble players posted on Facebook. When the Associated Press got wind of the story, it was off to the races. *The New York Times*

played it on the sports front. Brian Williams talked about it for a minute on MSNBC's Rock Center (complete with a foreboding soundtrack and a Scrabble board tipping over ominously in dark shadows). Deadspin called the expelled boy a "dumbass."

And these two glib hairdos on something called *Good Afternoon America* thought it would be fun to have members of their studio audience hold up giant Scrabble tiles spelling CHEATER. That the cheater in question was a child apparently didn't register with anyone at ABC. "If you can't count on the integrity at the Scrabble championships, then what has this world come to?" one of the hosts, former ESPN smartass Josh Elliott, cracked.

As I've written before, Scrabble is an easy target for the mainstream media. The game fits many stereotypes, none especially flattering. To most people, it's a dorky boxed board game, something grandma plays at the kitchen table. In that context, "competitive Scrabble" seems oxymoronic. But Scrabble is arguably no less sophisticated than chess or backgammon. The difference is that chess and backgammon have been around for centuries (Scrabble was created in the 1930s and '40s), are universally recognized as highbrow pursuits, and, crucially, are in the public domain while Scrabble is owned by a company (actually two, Hasbro in North America and Mattel everywhere else). It's difficult to hold two conflicting ideas at once, in this case that a game can be both a simple, over-the-counter pastime and a rich, complex riddle worthy of deep thought, study, and analysis.

It's the latter interpretation that moves people to spend hundreds of hours

memorizing tens of thousands of words and to spend thousands of dollars to travel to events like the National Scrabble Championship. When people compete, they want to win. And some people will do anything to win. As anyone who plays the Scrabble knockoff Words With Friends knows, "cheating" in the digital sense of Scrabble usually involves employing an anagram finder to unscramble your letters. Over the board, though, cheating has taken many forms.

Scrabble transitioned from living-room novelty – nearly 4 million sets were sold in 1954 – to competitive passion in the 1960s, when it landed alongside chess, backgammon, and bridge in smoke-filled games parlors in New York City. Scrabble hustles evolved quickly. In those days, the tiles were placed face down in the box top during play. Regulars could spot the blanks, which were lighter than other tiles "because they spent half their time on one face or the other," says my Scrabble friend Lester Schonbrun, who frequented the clubs. When the tiles were placed in bags during games, unscrupulous players could feel around for the blanks because they had no grooves, a tactic known as "brailling."

Plastic tiles – in a rainbow of colors! – have made brailling obsolete. The North American Scrabble Players Association has a 53-page rulebook governing club and tournament play that anticipates almost every conceivable situation ("Players who are physically abusive will be immediately ejected and disqualified") and possible method for cheating. There are many. There's "banking points," or announcing an incorrect score for a play

and then “correcting” it later in the game. There’s choosing new tiles quickly before an opponent can inspect and potentially “hold” and then “challenge” a play. That’s known as “fast-bagging.”

In the National School Scrabble Championship a few years ago, a team of two players took advantage of their younger, inexperienced opponents by playing one made-up word after another to rack up as many points as possible and improve their chances of winning the event. Technically, that wasn’t cheating – the other team could’ve challenged the words off the board, if they’d been sophisticated enough to know they were being had.

And then there’s what the boy did in Orlando, and others have done before him: palm the good tiles.

There are different techniques for pocketing tiles. One player with an expert-level rating kept the tile bag above his head as prescribed by rule. But he also kept a baseball cap pulled low, craned his neck and eyes up toward the bag, and scanned the tiles in his hand at the bag’s opening before placing them on his rack (or returning them to the bag).

A player could grab more tiles than necessary while replenishing his rack, drop the extras in his lap or pocket, pluck out the desirable ones when needed to make a “bingo” and clandestinely return the chaff to the bag.

At the conclusion of every game of tournament Scrabble, players arrange the 100 tiles into four five-by-five squares, to ensure none are missing. The next players at the board together place the tiles back into the bag. After Round 23 in Orlando, Arthur Moore, a 43-year-old

Florida computer technician, saw his next opponent, the boy, sitting at their designated table. (They were competing in Division 3, the second-lowest classification out of four. I played in Division 2, on the opposite side of the ballroom.) Moore left the room to clear his head before their game. When he returned, the boy was missing, but Moore noticed that the two blanks were side by side in one of the five-by-five tile quadrants, on his opponent’s side of the table.

Moore had played the boy a day earlier. The boy had drawn both blanks, but Moore won anyway. Aware of scuttlebutt about the boy’s suspiciously strong performance at the previous tournament, Moore saw the side-by-side blanks as a potential red flag. Each player filled the bag with tiles from his own side. As they finished, Moore grabbed the top of the collapsed bag with both hands to allow the tiles to settle. That also allowed him to watch his opponent’s hands. Moore told officials he saw the boy grab the blanks with his left hand and close his pinky, ring, and middle fingers around them. The boy dropped some other tiles into the bag with both hands and then moved his hands below the table. Moore loaded the remaining tiles on his side into the bag, placed it next to him, and called for a tournament director.

Moore told the director he saw the boy palm both blanks. The director dumped the tiles onto the board to search for them. At that point, a player at an adjacent table said: “He just dropped two tiles on the floor.” Moore saw that one was a blank; the other landed facedown. The boy picked them up and put them on the table. He was taken from the tournament room,

questioned by tournament officials, and, with his mother present, ejected from the event. All of the players who had lost to the boy were subsequently awarded wins.

Moore finished second in Division 3. At the awards ceremony, when he was called up to receive his \$800 prize, Moore got a standing ovation. He told me he's glad he did what he did, but distraught about what the boy and his family must be going through. "While necessary, there is certainly no joy in having to punish a [kid] for such an offense," Moore said.

Cheating in Scrabble is rare; according to NASPA, there have been just five suspensions for cheating since 2008. Why? Beyond personal validation, there's little at stake. First prize in Division 1 in Orlando was \$10,000, and apart from the winner, 45-year-old New Zealander Nigel Richards – who won for the third time in a row and record fourth overall, and who has won at least \$200,000 playing Scrabble in the last dozen years – no one is making much money playing the game. Scrabble games aren't individually refereed. Self-policing rules. Most players love the game – whether at the intellectually rich level of the top of Division 1 or the less rigorous plane of Division 3 – too much to take a risk. As three-time national champion Joe Edley put it in a 1995 *Sports Illustrated* article by S.L. Price (which helped inspire me to play and write about Scrabble), "nobody wants to cheat; otherwise they lose a significant part of their life."

That's why the media storm over the caged blanks feels so cheap, and so unrepresentative to those of us who love Scrabble so much. "Is the cheating incident really seen, even by us, as more notewor-

thy than one of the most amazing tournament finishes ever?" a top expert, Jim Kramer, posted Friday on the Yahoo listserv Crossword Games-Pro, where the posts have been about the cheating incident and media fallout, and little else.

Kramer's right, so let me shift the focus. Richards was facing another Scrabble legend, former national champion David Gibson, a 61-year-old math instructor from South Carolina, who won, in 1995 and 2003, the only two Scrabble tournaments that awarded a \$50,000 prize to the winner. Heading into Round 31, Gibson was first with a 22-8 mark and a point spread of 1,740. Richards was second at 21-9 with a spread of 1,402. To win the tournament, Richards had to outscore Gibson by 170 points in the finale. If he won by 169, the two would share the crown.

Either outcome seemed unlikely. While Richards is considered an offensive master, Gibson is known for defending cautiously. But Gibson blundered on his second move, and Richards pounced with a bingo, TRAPLIKE, for 80 points. Four moves later, Richards bingoes* again – ADJUTANT for 98, using a blank for the N. On the very next turn, Gibson missed a bingo of his own: NORTHING (which means movement toward the north). Three turns later, Richards bingoes a third time with MELANITE (a black variety of garnet) for 61. Gibson, whose annotated Scrabble dictionary is [a book of wonder](#), uncharacteristically missed another bingo, ARCIFORM (having the form of an arc).

Despite all that, Gibson still had a chance to hang on to the title. But he couldn't do it, the game ending with the second blank unused on his rack and the score 475-298,

a difference of 177 points. Two of the greatest players of all time, joined in one of the most remarkable finishes Scrabble has ever seen, and all anyone wants to talk about is a kid who made a terrible mistake.

FIGUR471V3LY 5P34K1NG

Good brain exercise. Can you read it easily?

7H15 M3554G3
 53RV35 7O PROV3
 HOW OUR M1ND5 C4N
 DO 4M4Z1NG 7H1NG5!
 1MPR3551V3 7H1NG5!
 1N 7H3 B3G1NN1NG
 17 WA5 H4RD BU7
 NOW, ON 7H15 LIN3
 YOUR M1ND IS
 R34D1NG 17
 4U7OM471C4LLY
 W17H OU7 3V3N
 7H1NK1NG 4BOU7 17,
 B3 PROUD! ONLY
 C3R741N P3OPL3 C4N
 R3AD 7H15.

Misery limericks

Lyn Toka, Kiwi

End game misery

Though the board was so tight - what a squeeze
 My opponent was scoring with ease
 And her very last take
 S and blank, what a break
 While I got the two bloody Vs.

Bonus word misery

We've all been there, so I've heard
 I'll tell you just what has occurred
 I've held onto the lead
 Till the last turn indeed
 My opponent plonks down a full word.

Scrabble-friendly countries

The following countries can all be played in Scrabble because they have an everyday meaning:

Alaska	ice-cream dessert
Angola	angora
Bolivia	soft fabric
Brazil	wood from which dye is extracted
Canada	type of goose
Chad	scrap of paper
Chile	a hot pepper
China	fine porcelain ware
Cyprus	tree
Greece	flight of steps
Guernsey	woollen shirt
Guinea	former British coin
India	code word for I
Japan	coat with black glossy lacquer
Jordan	chamberpot
Mali	member of the gardener caste in India
Marshall Islands	put in proper order
Morocco	soft leather
Niger	a negro
Panama	lightweight hat
Philippines	Philippine
Russia	Russian leather
Sierra Leone	mountain range, monetary unit
Spain	to wean
Sri (Lanka*)	Hindu title of respect
Tonga	light Indian cart
Turkey	large American bird
United Kingdom	
United (Arab*) Emirates	title of a chieftain

Hamilton's quiz night

David Gunn, Waikato Phoenix

Having attended two out of three quiz nights organised by Jennifer Smith during Hamilton tourneys, for a second and a third placing, we were keen to finally have a win.

To do this, I had to make sure I had my quiz "nigel" in the form of Sandy Leighton who had recently shifted to New Plymouth. He and Nick Cavenagh had been regular members over the last two years of our quiz team ably organised by Annette Coombes. Our team, called "That's a curly one", has had some success at pub quizzes around Hamilton. Anyway, this year we lost Nick who, as billeting host to other Scrabblers, created another team.

The quiz was like a script from *Nothing Trivial ...* and like a French farce, with Lawson arriving at his usual time.

We played it well, our double-ups scoring big. Our friend Cilla from Morrinsville chimed in with Beatrice being fifth in line to the British throne (on the Kings and Queens round) after we all got QUEENFISH wrong (yes, it's a Scrabble word). We couldn't get the Ponderous Puzzle until the third round but averaged 7-9 per round. We crashed on a couple of rounds - didn't get jigsaws (the pastime invented to help children learn Geography) and didn't twig the connection between Mount Everest, Maxwell Montes, and Olympus Mons (highest mountains on their planets).

The power letters (country names including J, X, Q or Z) were a breeze except we didn't score anything for our first word, Iraq (neither did anyone else - Jennifer had accidentally left it off her list, and used tiredness as the excuse for not going

back and re-marking all the papers), then amazingly omitted New Zealand (ha!) and Fiji (haha!).

Jennifer did a marvellous job and even had an Olympic round despite her aversion to sports questions. For that special round, Nick had to carry in the Olympic torch, and Lyn Toka was a marvellous recipient of the gold medal for the decathlon, complete with tears when the NZ flag was raised and we sang our national anthem.

We had a lot of laughs, and were pleased with our first prize chocolates - eat yer heart out, Howard!

I'd like to thank my team members, Annette, Cilla and Sandy. Is Sandy now the Nigel of quizzes? Now that's a curly one!



Our champion decathlete, Lyn Toka, shows off the Olympic medal presented to her by quiz-mistress Jennifer Smith.

All photos: Val Mills



Gold: (From left) Priscilla Wilson (friend of Annette), Annette Coombes, David Gunn, Leighton Gelling



Silver: Liz Fagerlund, Lynne Butler, Gennis Hale, Anderina McLean



Bronze: Anne Scratchard, Cicely Bruce, Suzanne Harding

I've been reading

Howard Warner, Mt Albert

In *Davita's Harp*, a novel by Jewish-American writer Chaim Potok, I found these words (all allowable in Scrabble):

torah	<i>also tora</i> the body of Jewish law (pl. torot, toroth)
haggadah	<i>also haggada, aggada, aggadah</i> order of service in a Passover meal (pl. haggadot, haggadoth, aggadot, aggadoth)
seder	a Jewish ceremonial dinner sederim pl. of seder
aleph	<i>also alef</i> the letter A in Hebrew
mitzvah	a commandment of Jewish law (pl. mitvoth)
minyan	a quorum for a Jewish religious service (pl. minyanim)
shul	<i>also schul</i> Yiddish for synagogue (pl. shuln, schuln)
Kashruth	<i>also kashrus, kashrut</i> fitness for Jewish ritual use
kaddish	a Jewish prayer (pl. kaddishim)
midrash	an early Jewish interpretation of a biblical text (pl. midrashim, midrashot, midrashoth)
goyish	<i>also goyish</i> non-Jewish
challah	<i>also challa</i> a plaited loaf used in celebration of Sabbath (pl. challot, challoth)
yeshiva	<i>also yeshivah</i> an orthodox Jewish school (pl. yeshivot, yeshivoth)
jordan	a chamber-pot coney, ossifrage, lapwing species of seabird
westering	(of winds) moving towards the west

Note: all nouns borrowed from Hebrew or Yiddish words take an -s or -es plural in English, but our Scrabble dictionary also allows the Hebrew/Yiddish plural in some cases.

Olympic quiz

Jennifer Smith, quiz mistress, Hamilton

These were the elimination “Decathlon” questions asked to find the individual quiz winner in the Olympic challenge. (Contestants indicated their answer with one, two or no hands in the air, depending on the options.)

Would you have performed consistently, and survived to the final question?

Answers on page 40.

1. Is the word OLYMPIC an OK Scrabble word or not?
2. Is OLYMPIAD an OK Scrabble word?
3. In cycling, there's a wonderful new event, called the OMNIUM. Is it an OK Scrabble word?
4. We witnessed R*P*CH*GES in rowing. How many Rs are in the word (one, two or three)?
5. We watched the KAYAKS. How many Ks in the middle of KAYA*ING?
6. In track and field, we had DECATHLON and HEPTATHLON events. Are HEPTATHLETE and DECATHLETE acceptable Scrabble words?
7. Our commentators say that athletes are “MEDALLING” or that someone “MEDALLED”. In Scrabble, Can MEDAL be used as a verb like this?
8. In the one-on-one contact sports, there is a situation called PARTERRE. Is it part of wrestling, boxing or fencing?
9. In equestrian events, one of the jumps is a four-letter word with an X in it. Is it the LANX, the OXER or the EXPO?
10. What common piece of sporting equipment has been banned from all Olympic venues?
Tie-breaker: How many national anthems were recorded for the award ceremonies “in case”?

Tauranga tournament



Players at the Tauranga tournament in August enjoying dinner at a local restaurant: (From left) Lawson Sue (Mt Albert), Shirley Pearce (Kiwi), Su Walker (Mt Albert), Vicky Robertson (Wellington), Val Mills (Pakuranga), Lynn Wood (Wellington),

Lorraine Van Veen (independent), Jennifer Smith (Hamilton), Shirley Martin (Hamilton), Pam Robson (Independent), and Pam's partner Al.

Photo: Val Mills

Who's playing Scrabble

Chris Evert, tennis legend

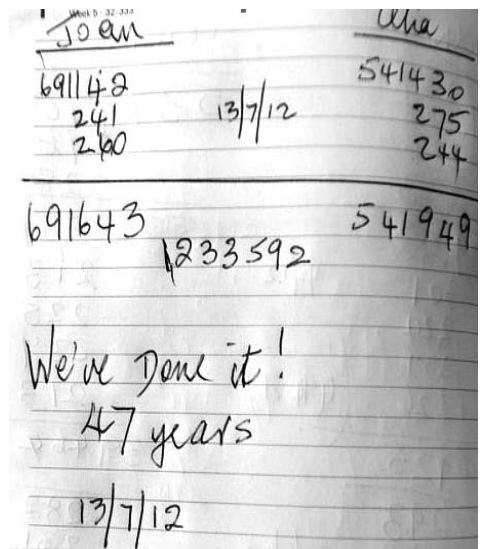
Chris Evert won 18 Grand Slam singles titles in the 1970s and 1980s in a career that started 40 years ago when she was 16. By the time she retired in 1989, she had 154 singles championships victories to her name. Chris started playing Scrabble as a child, but it was on rain-soaked days at Wimbledon that she played most often. "We could be in the ladies locker room for three, four or five hours," she said. "Playing Scrabble would help to keep your mind off the long wait." Her most regular Scrabble opponents were Margaret Court, Martina Navratilova and Virginia Wade.



Celia Simms and Joan Dungay, England

Both 75, they have achieved a stunning combined score of more than a million (1,233,592) points after a staggering 47 years playing Scrabble together. They have been best friends since they were 14. They don't live in the same town now, but meet every three months for games. Whenever they play, they put the scores in a book. Recently they decided it was time to have a quick count up, and were surprised to

find that they had surpassed the million mark by quite some way. Joan says: "We've already started working towards a new million – I'm not sure that we have another 47 years left in us to play though!"



English Olympic soccer team

Despite the pressure and excitement of home games, Britain's Olympic soccer team managed to find an unlikely manner to stay calm – playing Scrabble. One of the players said: "There is a lot of down time so it's important we keep ourselves entertained. It's nice really, as it brings the team together."

Manager of a mental health team

The man was accused of sexual harassment during a game of online Scrabble with a nurse. He received a police caution after the nurse reported him, and was suspended and eventually sacked for serious gross misconduct.

John Gotti, 1970s Mafia gangster

He had a soft spot for Scrabble and would sit up all night with his buddies and a dictionary under his arm arguing over whether or not words could be allowed – with huge bets on the table. Gotti was one of the most notorious and violent gangsters America has ever seen.



Favourite words

The *Mail Online* (UK) reports on new research by Scrabble into what makes words beautiful.

Celebrities offering up their own favourite words include the actor and comedian Stephen Fry who suggested SNUFFLE and Jamiroquai singer Jay Kay, who put forward WHIPPERSNAPPER, reported the newspaper.

Sting choose LACONIC which means few words and Hilary Devey from (BBC Dragons' Den) selected MACHINATION: noun, defined as 'the act of plotting.'

Famous linguist JR Tolkien, claimed CELLAR DOOR was most beautiful in his 1955 lecture *English and Welsh*.

The authors Edgar Allen Poe also shared Tolkien's view although Oscar Wilde picked VERMILLION as his personal favourite.

In Robert Beard's *The 100 Most Beautiful Words in English* BUNGALOW and ELBOW feature.

In 2004, research found that MOTHER is the most beautiful word in the English language, according to a survey of non-English speakers.

More than 40,000 people in 102 countries were polled by the British Council to mark its 70th anniversary.

MOTHER, PASSION, SMILE, LOVE and ETERNITY were the top five choices.

FATHER did not even make it into the list of 70 words, but strange choices such as PEEKABOO, FLABBERGASTED, HEN NIGHT and OI made the list.

When insults had class

Lynne Butler, New Plymouth

There was a time when words were used beautifully. These glorious insults are from an era when cleverness with words was still valued, before a great portion of the English language was boiled down to four letter words!

The exchange between Churchill and Lady Astor: She said, "If you were my husband, I'd give you poison," and he said, "If you were my wife, I'd take it."

Gladstone, a Member of Parliament, to Benjamin Disraeli: "Sir, you will either die on the gallows or of some unspeakable disease." "That depends, sir," said Disraeli, "on whether I embrace your policies or your mistress."

"He had delusions of adequacy."

– **Walter Kerr**

"He has all the virtues I dislike and none of the vices I admire." – Winston Churchill

"A modest little person, with much to be modest about." – **Winston Churchill**

"I have never killed a man, but I have read many obituaries with great pleasure."

– **Clarence Darrow**

"He has never been known to use a word that might send a reader to the dictionary." – **William Faulkner** (about Ernest Hemingway)

"Poor Faulkner. Does he really think big emotions come from big words?" – **Ernest Hemingway** (about William Faulkner)

"Thank you for sending me a copy of your book; I'll waste no time reading it."

– **Moses Hadas**

"He can compress the most words into the smallest idea of any man I know."

– **Abraham Lincoln**

"I didn't attend the funeral, but I sent a nice letter saying I approved of it." – **Mark Twain**

"He has no enemies, but is intensely

disliked by his friends." – **Oscar Wilde**

"I am enclosing two tickets to the first night of my new play; bring a friend . . . if you have one." – **George Bernard Shaw** to Winston Churchill

"Cannot possibly attend first night, will attend second . . . if there is one."

– **Winston Churchill**, in response.

"I feel so miserable without you; it's almost like having you here." – **Stephen Bishop**

"He is a self-made man and worships his creator." – **John Bright**

"I've just learned about his illness. Let's hope it's nothing trivial." – **Irvin S. Cobb**

"He is not only dull himself, he is the cause of dullness in others." – **Samuel Johnson**

"He is simply a shiver looking for a spine to run up." – **Paul Keating**

"There's nothing wrong with you that reincarnation won't cure." – **Jack E. Leonard**

"He has the attention span of a lightning bolt." – **Robert Redford**

"They never open their mouths without subtracting from the sum of human knowledge." – **Thomas Brackett Reed**

"In order to avoid being called a flirt, she always yielded easily." – **Charles, Count Talleyrand**

"He loves nature in spite of what it did to him." – **Forrest Tucker**

"Why do you sit there looking like an envelope without any address on it?"

– **Mark Twain**

"His mother should have thrown him away and kept the stork" – **Mae West**

"Some cause happiness wherever they go; others, whenever they go." – **Oscar Wilde**

"He has Van Gogh's ear for music."

– **Billy Wilder**

"I've had a perfectly wonderful evening. But this wasn't it." – **Groucho Marx**

My ultimate Scrabble play

Bruce O'Hara

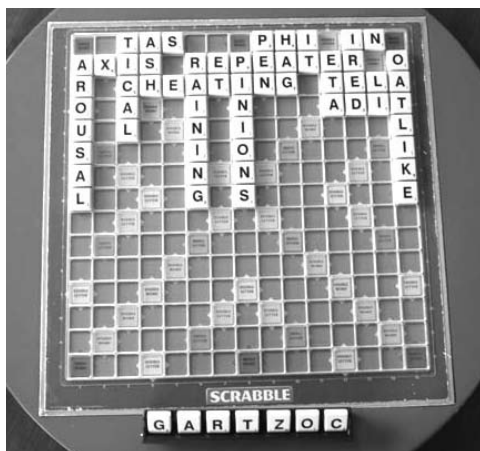
[Bruce O'Hara is a Canadian, the author of Enough Already: Breaking Free in the Second Half of Life. He teaches English in Ecuador, where he lives with his wife Caty and their two young children.]

The great 19th century scientist, Thomas Huxley, also known as 'Darwin's bulldog' for his defense of the theory of evolution, is said to have argued that random chance is capable of great creativity if given enough opportunities over enough time. If you set enough monkeys to work pecking at enough typewriters, he argued, sooner or later one of them would produce a work of Shakespeare. With something like 30,000 games of Scrabble begun every hour, that's a lot of Scrabble monkeys pecking away. Yet the highest officially recorded score for a single Scrabble play is 392 points scored by Dr. Saladin Khoshnaw for the word CAZIQUE in 1982.

Why has no one made a truly spectacular play during literally billions of Scrabble games? I suspect the problem is that most Scrabble play is not random. Players interrupt the creative power of randomness with their various strategies: save the S and the blank tiles for a good play; don't leave an open triple for your opponent; look for opportunities to triple a high-point letter.

While these various defensive strategies may help increase players' scores most of the time, they also act to undercut the randomness necessary to generate a truly spectacular score. Why do I say this? Because I have experienced directly the power of randomness.

Twelve-year-old Josh lives three doors down. He mows our lawn. I have to be truly desperate to play with Josh. That I am willing to play Scrabble with this little



smart-ass at all, is a good argument for the need for 12-step programs for Scrabble addicts. This particular day, Josh has just finished cutting the lawn.

Shamelessly, I bribe him with cookies and ice cream. Josh's father is a sometimes Scrabble player, so Josh knows the rules of Scrabble, but he's never really warmed to the game. He usually wants to change the rules in some way, "to make it less boring." Josh is randomness personified.

Today is no exception. "We have to start at the top of the board, and fill as much of it as we can before we can play on the bottom half of the board," he proposes. I agree only because he won't play otherwise.

Turn 1: Josh: PINIONS / 70 points
Bruce: REPEATER / 64 points

Josh wins the draw to play first. He takes more time than usual to play. "Minions," he says, "Zeus and his minions," playing the word down the center column. The M in MINIONS appears to be a blank. It's his first ever 7-letter word, so I am slightly suspicious. I turn the 'blank' over, and find it is actually a P. Josh feigns surprise. Briefly, I struggle with my conscience. PINIONS is a word, I admit belatedly, worth 70 points. Josh is chuffed.

His buoyancy is only slightly punctured when I play REPEATER for 64 points

Turn 2: Josh: PHI / 21 points for 91 total

Bruce: TELA / 14 points for 78 total

Josh plays PHI across the top line, screwing up my chance for OPINIONS. “Fee Fie Foe Fum,” he says, but I’ve seen him in a “Phi Beta Kappa” sweatshirt so I suspect he’s taunting me. I play TELA, which means fabric in both English and Spanish. Josh is skeptical. “Look it up,” I say, throwing him the Scrabble dictionary.

Turn 3: Josh: IN - 5 points for 96 total

Bruce: ADIT - 28 points for 105 total

Josh continues to play his top-down game, putting IN in the top row for a measly 5 points. I place ADIT below TELA. It’s only worth 28 points, but I like it when I can make five words with four letters. “Isn’t ‘add it’ two words?” asks Josh. “An ADIT is a mine entrance,” I reply. Josh looks suspicious. I motion towards the dictionary. Josh rolls his eyes. He challenges me again: “ETA?” “Estimated Time of Arrival,” I lie, knowing he will be much happier with this than if I tell him it’s a Greek letter.

Turn 4: Josh: RAINING - 11 points for 107 total

Bruce: HEATING - 25 points for 130 total

Josh again is uncharacteristically slow in playing. He places RAINING down from the R in REPEATER. I tease him: “I thought we were filling the top first?” “It’s okay if the word starts at the top,” he says, sounding slightly defensive. He is surprised and disappointed when his big word only scores 11 points. “Where you play is as important as what you play” I remind him. Immediately I play HEATING, which makes four words to score 25 points. Josh starts to pout, which makes me nervous, because it’s often the precursor to his leaving in a huff.

Turn 5: Josh: AXIS - 27 points for 134 total

Bruce: OATLIKE - 33 points for 163 total

Josh plays AXIS, and stops pouting when it scores 27 points. He complains when I play OATLIKE down the right side of the board to the triple word score. “It’s okay if the word starts at the top,” I reply, mimicking his tone of voice. Josh starts to pout again. I offer him the plate of cookies.

Turn 6: Josh: TAS - 14 points for 148 total

Bruce: AROUSAL - 24 points for 187 total

Josh returns to his top-down game, playing TAS across the top line. “TAS?” I ask, feigning skepticism. “Ta-ta for now”, he replies, “that’s two TAS.” The kid is starting to think like a Scrabble player. I’m about to upbraid him for wasting an ‘S,’ but there’s just enough petulance in his reply to make me hold my tongue. I play AROUSAL down the left side of the board, again to the triple word score. “Is that a dirty word?” asks Josh. “Sexy,” I reply, “but not dirty.” Josh is unconvinced.

Turn 7: Josh: TICAL - 42 points for 190 total

Bruce: ?????

Josh is leafing through the Scrabble dictionary. “Would you accept TICAL” he asks. “Is it in the dictionary?” I ask. “A former Thai unit of weight,” he reads. I nod acceptance. “I wouldn’t want you to think I was cheating,” Josh continues, laughing as he changes HEATING to CHEATING. “Good play” I admit. “Worth 42 points,” I add. Josh looks at the score and sees he is leading by 3 points. “I’m winning,” he says gleefully. Josh has never beaten me at Scrabble. He’s always maintained “the score isn’t important to me.” I suspect that would change if he were to win this game.

I’m scouting around the middle of the

board for a triple letter score where I can play my Z. Josh can see where my eyes are scanning. "We're supposed to play from the top down," he upbraids me. I count. "The second and third line each have 13 letters in them," I reply, "The top is full."

Josh counts. "The top row still has seven spaces in it," he whines. "There were some nice plays down from the top line," I allow, "but between TAS, and PHI and IN, you've screwed them all up." "You should at least try", Josh says, with an I-could-go-home-you-know whine in his voice.

I humor him. "GOATLIKE is a word." I say, putting down my G. I continue across the top row, right to left, filling each blank space randomly.

I chuckle when I place the C in front of AROUSAL. I once lost a Scrabble match for challenging CAROUSAL. I was sure CAROUSEL was spelt with an E. It is. CAROUSAL, on the other hand, is "a wild, drunken party."

The top row is all blocked now that I have played CAROUSAL. I'm considering whether it's worth taking the quick 30 points it offers, and am just about to remove my other six tiles, when Josh reads off the top row I have put in place. He mispronounces it, but his pronunciation is close enough that I correct him without thinking. (I moonlight as a private practice counselor, so it's a word I constantly use with clients.)

Only then do I look at the top row as an actual word, a 15-letter word covering three triple word scores.

I have made eight words with my seven letters, three of them eight-letter words on triple word scores. The Z is on a double letter score. Down it scores 20, and across it scores 20 times 27. That's 560 points for one letter. That's higher than I've ever scored in an entire Scrabble game, just for one letter.

Feverishly, I tally the cross plays: CAROUSAL 30, AX 9, TRAINING 9, RET 3, OPINIONS 30, ZETA 23, GOATLIKE 39. One hundred and forty-three points just for the cross plays. Josh is looking at me like I'm a little crazy, and at this moment perhaps I am.

Then I total CATASTROPHIZING, spread out magnificently across the top row. Forty-two points tripled, then tripled again, then tripled yet again. Forty-two tripled is 126. One hundred and twenty-six tripled is 378. Three hundred and seventy-eight tripled is 1134 points! Add 50 points for the bingo and 143 points for the cross plays, for a grand total of 1327 points!

I am manic in my excitement. "Do you know what this means?" I ask Josh. "It means you're going to win whatever I play, doesn't it?" he responds, clearly not happy. "That's probably true," I admit, laughing. "Then I'm going home," says Josh, and he does.

I'm so high I don't even care. I decide I'll buy a new Scrabble board. Humming *We are the Champions*, I glue all the words to the Scrabble board where they are, except for my final play. I glue my rack to the Scrabble board, and then print and glue a plaque with the date below it. For the next hour, I stare at the board. Sometimes I put the magic letters in place. Sometimes I put the letters on the rack, amazed that I almost missed finding the Scrabble equivalent of the Holy Grail.

I google CATASTROPHIZING to make sure it's not spelled as CATASTROPHISING. 169,000 hits! I think I've got the spelling right. I look up the definition for CATASTROPHIZE in the Oxford Dictionary online: "verb. (no object) view or present a situation as considerably worse than is actually is." Dictionary.com even uses catastrophizing in an example sentence: "Stop catastrophizing and get on with your

life." I smile, having used those very words with more than one client.

A Scrabble trivia site lists the highest officially recorded score for an entire Scrabble game as 1049 points, scored by Philip Appleby way back in 1989. Now I'm really feeling high: with one play I have scored more points than the best Scrabble game in history!

That was the high point.

It's been downhill ever since.

It started when my wife Cathy came home. Josh's mother had stopped her on the street. Josh had come home very upset, almost in tears, and his Mom couldn't get him to talk. "What did you say to Josh that got him so upset?" she asks. "He didn't like losing, I guess," I reply.

Then Cathy notices the Scrabble board. "What have you done to the Scrabble board?" She asks. I jump at the opportunity to tell her about the game.

When I finish she says: "It's a great word, I'll grant you, but you traumatized the kid. I mean it's one thing to beat him, but to trounce him completely – that was cruel, Bruce."

I take a digital photo of the board and email it, along with a blow-by-blow description of the game, to my three main Scrabble buddies, off at a regional Scrabble tournament. They reply with an email complimenting me on my 'inventiveness'. They refuse to believe my ultimate play actually happened! Over the course of the next week I end up in rancorous arguments with each of them in turn.

That was more than a month ago. My winning board is still on the living room coffee table. 'His Scrabble shrine' my wife calls it. I haven't played Scrabble since.

This morning I finally gave in to the nagging inner voice that tells me I really should check CATASTROPHIZING in LeXpert, since my Scrabble word list only

goes up to nine-letter words.

It's not there.

"What! Are the 169,000 websites that use CATASTROPHIZING all wrong? Is the Oxford dictionary an unreliable source? Is every counselor in North America mangling the English language?" I'm talking out loud to the bloody dictionary, telling it: "When we get close to the end of the Mayan calendar, and CATASTROPHIZING is number one on every *Trending Now* list on the Internet, you're going to feel *really stupid!*" Which, coincidentally enough, is exactly how I'm feeling right now.

Then I calm down.

One of the favorite activities in our Scrabble group is to make fun of the Scrabble dictionary. "I feel as lazy as an Al tonight." "It's a cold wind outside, almost as cold as an OE in the Faroe Islands." And we have to guess the pronunciation because we've never heard or used the words in our entire lives. "Eh-eye" "Oh-Wee."

Even our language betrays our lack of regard. If one of us makes an illegal play, we would often respond, "It's not a *Scrabble word.*" Which is another way of saying: "We know the whole world uses this word, but, I'm sorry, you going to have to play something else." Though all of us bitch constantly about the inadequacies and inconsistencies of the Scrabble dictionary, none of us would dream of trying to argue for acceptance of a word not in the Scrabble dictionary.

"It's not a *Scrabble word.*" I finally admit to myself, sadly. I wonder how many times Huxley's monkeys would randomly type a word that looks normal but doesn't appear in the Scrabble dictionary, either. For a couple of minutes I just sit there, feeling like a monkey myself.

Then I smile. "It's over," I think to myself, "It's over." Thank God. Now I can play Scrabble again.

Solutions

Spot the bonus (from page 10)

1. JONQUIL, flower
2. EQUINOX, when sun crosses the equator
3. QUIXOTE, an idealist
4. OXIDISE, to combine with oxygen
5. ZOOTAXY, zoology
6. JEZEBEL, scheming woman
7. OXAZINE, chemical
8. QUETZAL, tropical bird
9. QUEZALS, same
10. QUINZES, card game
11. JERQUES, to search for contraband
12. AZULEJO, pottery tile
13. OXAZINE again
14. JANIZAR, Turkish soldier
15. JEZAILS, heavy musket
16. ZANJERO, supervisor of canals
17. QUEZALS again
18. JAMBEUX, leg armour
19. OXAZINE yet again
20. JAZERANT, armour

Olympic quiz (from page 32)

1. OLYMPIC* is *not* an acceptable Scrabble word.
[However, funnily enough, OLYMPICS is OK! I'd have thought the adjective (Olympic) would have been OK, and the proper noun (Olympics) wouldn't have been! – Jennifer]
2. OLYMPIAD is an acceptable Scrabble word.
3. OMNIUM is an acceptable Scrabble word. It also takes an S.
4. REPECHAGE has *only one R* - it's the first letter....
[This question caught all remaining contestants"! So, we had to have our own quiz repechage, and everyone got a second chance!]

5. KAYAKING only has one K in the middle. It cannot be spelt with a CK, either.
6. HEPTATHLETE and DECATHLETE are acceptable Scrabble words.
7. MEDALLED/MEDALED and MEDALLING/MEDALING are *both* acceptable Scrabble words, with one L or two.
8. PARTERRE (OK in Scrabble) occurs in Freestyle or Greco Roman wrestling. Sometimes called the referee's position, it's a starting position used to break a tie.
9. The OXER, is an ox-fence (consists of rails and a hedge). LANX is a platter, and you know what an EXPO is.
[Once again, all remaining contestants were eliminated at the end of this round. Who would have thought the questions were so hard??? (How are you doing?) So all people who were still "live" after the previous round were re-instated, and the first to yell out the nearest correct answer to the last question was to be declared the winner.]

10. SKATEBOARDS.
[I would have accepted SKIPPING ROPE, since, in an interview, Usaine Bolt revealed he was not allowed a skipping rope for training at the venue.]
[No-one could answer this question. At least, not with the right answer!]

Tie breaker: 205 National Anthems were recorded for the games. I wonder how many were actually played?
[Fortunately – and incredibly – Lyn Toka knew the exact number, so she thoroughly deserved her gold medal.]

Is that a word?

We all know we can't use proper nouns in a game of Scrabble, but that words like ALASKA, BERLIN and BOLIVIA are legal moves because each has an alternate meaning that satisfies the game's rules.

And it was just that kind of information that author David Bukszpan was after when he began working on *Is that a word? From AA to ZZZ, the weird and wonderful language of Scrabble*.

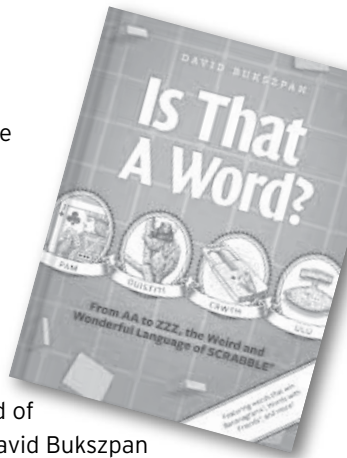
The book is an in-depth look at the odd-ball lexicon of words - which he terms Scrabblish* - that are legal in Scrabble but which might get you funny looks if you used them in written or spoken conversation.

Yet Bukszpan makes learning some of the Scrabblish basics a lot of fun. Did you know, for example, that the famous *Laverne & Shirley* opening of "Schlemiel! Schlimazel! Hasenpfeffer Incorporated" uses three words that are legal according to the OSPD: A SCHLEMIEL is a fool or someone with bad luck; a SHLIMAZEL is someone perennially unlucky; and HASENPFEFFER is a German stew of rabbit or hare.

In an interview with Daniel Terdiman on **cnet.news**, David Bukszpan answered the following questions:

What do you think is the most bizarre word in the official Scrabble dictionary?

My favorite word, or at least the most bizarre, is ZZZ, the last word. It's odd not just because it has no vowels, but also because it's very difficult to play. On top of that, it's fairly useless, because its hard



David Bukszpan

to imagine any situation when it would be wise to use both blanks just to play the Z. The word is defined, by the way, as an interjection used to suggest the sound of snoring.

What words do you define as Scrabblish?

Scrabblish consists of not just the English words we know, but of injections (like ZZZ, HMM and TSKTSK) and Old English and Old Scottish words (like HAE meaning to have) and other words we think of as foreign that have been absorbed, like popular Yiddish and Spanish words. There are also words that we just plain don't think of as words like the name of the letter H, AITCH.

So how does this advance the state of the English language? Doesn't it make a mockery of English?

I think a lot of people see it that way. Like, "Well then, anything I say is a word." And I used to feel like that when I discovered a word I never thought could exist, especially when an opponent played it against me.

But I found myself appreciating the scope of our language, or at least the scope of Scrabblish. English, of course, is famous for absorbing so many words from other languages and for being so elastic. And although the dictionary for Scrabble necessarily cannot be elastic - it must say, "these are words. and these aren't" - playing and learning about words that are Old English, say, or mostly used in the Scottish highlands and not the streets of St. Louis, is a way of thinking about how we communicate, how we express things in words, when sometimes we don't even realize we're using words. Or we're asleep ("Zzz").

Finally, it's surprising, but a lot of these Scrabblish words that we'd never expect to be words actually come up fairly often, once we're made aware of them. To pick two from the first two pages of the dictionary, AA is a word for a type of lava found in Hawaii, and ABED means in bed. I've encountered both those words numerous times since I started writing the book.

In the book, you list some sentences made using Scrabblish. What's your favorite all (or mostly all) Scrabblish sentence?

There's one in particular I really do get a kick out of: "A gaga dodo in a bubu, a cocoo kaka in a mumu, and a chichi nana in a tutu go to the dada godo."

If you were to translate that from Scrabblish to English, you get something like "An insane (large, extinct) bird in a (large, flowing) garment, a crazy (type of New Zealand) parrot in a (loose-fitting) dress, and a stylish grandmother in a (ballerina) skirt go to the (irrational) art-movement disco."

Since you've (presumably) mastered Scrabblish, how much has your average score improved?

I still have a long way to go, and I'm still far from the kind of players who play tournaments. But yes, my score has improved dramatically since starting this project. And that's how this book began: I was looking for a way - short of reading the dictionary - to learn words that might be useful in Scrabble. Finding nothing suitable, I started writing the kinds of tongue-twister type sentences found in the third part of the book. Then I wanted to share them with friends. In a way, it was my own way to play with words with friends.

TOURNAMENT CALENDAR 2012		
Tournament	Place	Dates
Wanganui	Wanganui	20-21 October
Hamilton 12 Game Promotion/Demotion	Hamilton	3 November
Otago Open	Dunedin	10-11 November
Trans Tasman #	Melbourne	16-18 November
Wellington	Wellington	19-20 January
Masters 2013	Whangarei	30 March - 1 April
Nationals 2013	Christchurch	1-2 June

Promotion/Demotion tournament

The Hamilton club is running another tournament on 3 November this year - like last year's tournament it is the Promotion/Demotion format. Except this time it is even longer - 12 games in one day!

How it works

You don't have to understand the rules, just turn up, and we will explain everything on the day! But if you are curious....

It's essentially a round robin or four rounds in groups of four players, with promotion and demotion between each round. At the start of the day, players are in groups of four based on ratings. After each round, the top player in each group (apart from the top group) gets promoted to the next group above. Conversely, the bottom player in each group gets demoted down to the next group (with the exception of the bottom group). The "top" player after each round of three games is determined in the usual way (number of wins followed by the best margin).

The tournament is rated. No expectancies are given before the tournament, since who you play depends on who gets promoted or demoted during the day.

Twelve games sound like a lot, but they pass more quickly because within groups you do not have to wait for announcements before starting the next game - as soon as your opponent is free, you can commence play.

Lunch is after the third game (bring a plate to share), afternoon tea after the sixth game (provided), dinner (pizza, provided) after the ninth game.

Placings (and cash prizes) are for those who score the most wins overall (then by margin), independent of their group. Other specific prizes may be given depending on numbers, to be announced on the day.

Entry fee of \$20.00 includes NZASP levy, afternoon tea and pizza dinner. Please advise if vegetarian (or no cheese, etc) for pizza order.

More limericks

Lyn Toka, Kiwi

What happens to Scrabble nerds?

An Auckland girl got in a lather
When her boyfriend announced he would
rather
Play Scrabble all day
Than romp in the hay
So she ditched him - and ran off with his
father.

And how a Scrabble nerd plays

A young lass from down Wanganui
Played Scrabble in Taumarunui
Her opponent said, "Gee!
You're too clever for me"
When from RATA she made RATATOUILLE.

And a final limerick from Anon

A Scrabbler we know, name of Toka
Gets her brain power from eating tapioca
Writing limerics, solving quizzes
Our Lyn sure a whiz is -
It even helps her dance carioca!



Rankings

NZASP Rankings
as at 15 September 2012

Rank	Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%
1	Howard Warner	2043	1635.5	2197	74%
2	Jeff Grant	1999	1527	2012	76%
3	Peter Sinton	1965	613.5	841	73%
4	John Foster	1911	1371	2396	57%
5	Joanne Craig	1909	297.5	452	66%
6	Mike Sigley	1903	910	1300	70%
7	Blue Thorogood	1879	492	710	69%
8	Patrick Carter	1876	704	1123	63%
9	Rogelio Talosig	1872	417	700	60%
10	Andrew Bradley	1850	762	1452	52%
11	Glennis Hale	1834	1355.5	2428	56%
12	Lynne Butler	1823	862	1408	61%
13	Val Mills	1807	997.5	2087	48%
14	Marianne Bentley	1806	287.5	640	45%
15	Paul Lister	1775	752.5	1328	57%
16	Liz Fagerlund	1760	910.5	1770	51%
17	Denise Gordon	1750	664.5	1379	48%
18	Lawson Sue	1740	504.5	975	52%
19	Nick Cavenagh	1730	186	325	57%
20	Debbie Raphael	1730	558	929	60%
21	Murray Rogers	1719	625.5	1205	52%
22	Anderina McLean	1705	455.5	847	54%
23	Janice Cherry	1682	364	696	52%
24	Glenyss Buchanan	1677	613.5	1303	47%
25	Chris Hooks	1672	917.5	1884	49%
26	Vicky Robertson	1669	221	431	51%
27	Lynne Powell	1667	871.5	1746	50%
28	Pam Robson	1661	524.5	1133	46%
29	Rosemary Cleary	1660	666	1436	46%
30	Olivia Godfrey	1656	544	1013	54%
31	Steven Brown	1655	849	1578	54%
32	Helen Sillis	1636	688	1365	50%
33	Glenda Foster	1628	897.5	1788	50%
34	Ian Patterson	1606	210	399	53%
35	David Gunn	1602	1112.5	2251	49%
36	Jennifer Smith	1599	865.5	1791	48%
37	Pat Bryan	1593	184	319	58%
38	Lynn Wood	1581	1454.5	3053	48%
39	Shirley van Essen	1570	371.5	733	51%
40	Scott Chaput	1569	137.5	222	62%
41	Cicely Bruce	1562	255.5	439	58%
42	Katy Yiakmis	1556	132	282	47%
43	Margie Hurlly	1554	317	613	52%
44	Karyn McDougall	1554	635	1230	52%
45	John Baird	1554	149	271	55%
46	Lyres Freeth	1529	104.5	154	68%
47	Pam Barlow	1525	590	1173	50%
48	Joan Thomas	1523	858	1723	50%
49	Irene Smith	1511	135.5	267	51%
50	Shirley Martin	1502	753.5	1454	52%
51	Peter Johnstone	1480	112.5	203	55%
52	Faye Cronhelm	1467	776	1544	50%
53	Shirley Hol	1465	567.5	1239	46%
54	Roger Coates	1440	638.5	1355	47%
55	Allie Quinn	1439	959.5	1996	48%
56	Glenda Geard	1436	943	1908	49%
57	Yoon Kim Fong	1435	470	904	52%
58	Nola Borrell	1435	261.5	466	56%
59	Yvette Hewlett	1431	414.5	867	48%
60	Anna Hough	1430	519	1053	49%
61	Margaret Cherry	1428	446.5	898	50%
62	Lorraine Van Veen	1416	796.5	1556	51%
63	Karen Gray	1410	224	411	55%
64	Leila Thomson	1409	507.5	1131	45%
65	Selena Chan	1408	252.5	480	53%
66	Maureen Holliday	1404	601	1175	51%
67	Herb Ramsay	1397	128	199	64%
68	Kaite Hansen	1382	290	527	55%
69	Delcie Macbeth	1380	770.5	1471	52%
70	Mary Gray	1379	414.5	808	51%
71	Chris Higgins	1369	90	152	59%
72	Hazel Purdie	1339	904.5	1865	48%
73	Ernie Gidman	1323	366	727	50%
74	Rosalind Phillips	1287	480.5	921	52%
75	Jeanette Grimmer	1277	51	80	64%
76	Alex Leckie-Zaharic	1277	66	100	66%
77	Andree Prentice	1270	893.5	1751	51%
78	Jean O'Brien	1253	938	1852	51%
79	Ray Goodyear	1252	210	435	48%
80	Lynn Carter	1251	542.5	1038	52%

81	Betty Eriksen	1230	1132.5	2222	51%	124	Catherine Henry	855	403.5	774	52%
82	Heather Landon	1222	373	725	51%	125	Margaret Bullen	854	39	67	58%
83	June Mackwell	1209	732.5	1628	45%	126	Philippa Medlock	852	67.5	128	53%
84	Clare Wall	1202	241	471	51%	127	Tony Charlton	838	180.5	375	48%
85	Carolyn Kyle	1200	614	1219	50%	128	Jean Boyle	810	457	869	53%
86	Su Walker	1187	858.5	1719	50%	129	Leighton Gelling	806	73	146	50%
87	Kadda Mohamed	1186	62	83	75%	130	Marianne Patchett	806	265.5	526	50%
88	Samantha Samuels	1178	172	338	51%	131	Suzanne Harding	794	254	495	51%
89	Marian Ross	1177	475	944	50%	132	Kathleen Mori-Barker	786	324.5	654	50%
90	Dianne Cole-Baker	1163	341	652	52%	133	Ruth Godwin	785	187	460	41%
91	Allison Torrance	1158	322.5	622	52%	134	Anne Scatchard	779	243	480	51%
92	Karen Miller	1118	458.5	915	50%	135	Maria Clinton	766	201	411	49%
93	Shirley Morrison	1117	118.5	256	46%	136	Jean Craib	757	355.5	740	48%
94	Chris Handley	1111	336	635	53%	137	Sandra Cowen	749	34	58	59%
95	Bev Edwards	1107	178.5	348	51%	138	Linda Moore	747	90	177	51%
96	Sheila Reed	1101	177	346	51%	139	Alison Vautier	694	58.5	163	36%
97	Roto Mitchell	1100	630	1235	51%	140	Janny Henneveld	693	351	740	47%
98	Karen Rodgers	1089	124	312	40%	141	Annette Coombes	692	592	1318	45%
99	Gabrielle Bolt	1080	334.5	657	51%	142	Judy Driscoll	670	86	259	33%
100	Lyn Toka	1080	474.5	920	52%	143	Antonia Aarts	651	120	257	47%
101	Ruth Groffman	1079	417	875	48%	144	Judith Bach	630	93	174	53%
102	Elaine Moltzen	1075	535	1067	50%	145	Pat Wood	617	108	200	54%
103	Shirley Pearce	1064	29.5	68	43%	146	Tim Henneveld	576	324.5	743	44%
104	Ann Candler	1055	655.5	1387	47%	147	Jacqueline				
105	Connie Flores	1051	135	226	60%		Coldham-Fussell	552	533	1125	47%
106	Mary Curtis	1031	180.5	346	52%	148	Lynn Thompson	543	207	450	46%
107	Malcolm Graham	1012	334	683	49%	149	Margaret Toso	530	28.5	68	42%
108	Chris Day	1004	83	152	55%	150	Stephanie Pluck	523	44.5	114	39%
109	Jena Yousif	1002	352.5	698	51%	151	Anne-Louise Milne	518	87	309	28%
110	Lyn Dawson	996	366	678	54%	152	Joan Beale	500	92	189	49%
111	Roger Cole-Baker	964	369	703	52%	153	Chris Guthrey	498	28	92	30%
112	Barbara Dunn	952	201.5	353	57%	154	Pauline Smeaton	493	304.5	585	52%
113	Colleen Cook	951	270	553	49%	155	Margaret Miller	482	111.5	288	39%
114	Jo Ann Ingram	942	171	351	49%	156	Sue Mayn	481	164	400	41%
115	Fran Lowe	939	57.5	113	51%	157	Naveen Sivasankar	469	10	42	24%
116	Agnes Rowland	931	94	168	56%	158	Alan Henley	443	58	136	43%
117	Judith Thomas	925	149.5	277	54%	159	Betty Don	430	27	125	22%
118	Alison Holmes	922	203.5	368	55%	160	Noelene Bettjeman	425	241	528	46%
119	Michael Groffman	915	233.5	478	49%	161	Judy Cronin	264	17	59	29%
120	Carole Coates	894	548.5	1123	49%	162	Frances Higham	258	56	180	31%
121	Julia Schiller	875	120	273	44%	163	Trish Fox	187	24	163	15%
122	Yvonne McLaughlan	872	445.5	924	48%	164	Susan Milne	54	21.5	135	16%
123	Valma Gidman	871	640.5	1271	50%						

Tournament Results

Kiwi Club Tournament 30 June 2012

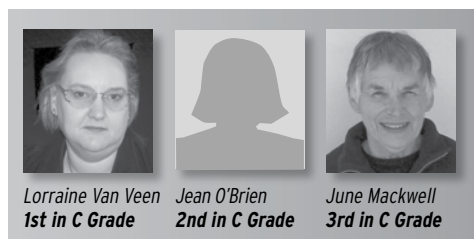
GRADE A	CLUB	WINS	SPREAD	AVE
1 Howard Warner	MTA	6	535	429
2 Lawson Sue	PAK	6	341	414
3 Anderina McLean	MTA	4	130	398
4 David Gunn	WKP	4	-27	405
5 Val Mills	PAK	3	140	390
6 Jennifer Smith	HAM	3	-191	377
7 Helen Sillis	NPL	2	-353	361
8 Katy Yiakmis	MTA	0	-575	342



GRADE B	CLUB	WINS	SPREAD	AVE
1 Joan Thomas	HAS	6	276	407
2 Pam Robson	IND	5	120	387
3 Shirley Martin	HAM	4	-101	375
4 Su Walker	MTA	3	185	409
5 Hazel Purdie	MTA	3	11	394
6 Stan Skinner	TGA	3	-118	365
7 Pam Barlow	PAK	3	-250	374
8 Cicely Bruce	WRE	1	-123	371



GRADE C	CLUB	WINS	SPREAD	AVE
1 Lorraine Van Veen	IND	7	560	425
2 Jean O'Brien	IND	5	203	390
3 June Mackwell	IND	4	209	383
4 Roger Coates	KIW	3	21	377
5 Jena Yousif	KIW	3	14	401
6 Andree Prentice	WAN	2	-100	365
7 Leanne Field	IND	2	-403	330
8 Mary Gray	MTA	2	-504	335



GRADE D	CLUB	WINS	SPREAD	AVE
1 Val Flint	HAM	5	359	410
2 Samantha Samuels	KIW	5	317	396
3 Shirley Pearce	KIW	5	207	389
4 Lyres Freeth	ROD	4	491	409
5 Karen Miller	IND	4	121	402
6 Elaine Moltzen	KIW	3	-443	345
7 Heather Landon	TGA	2	-86	375
8 Faye Leach	KIW	0	-966	296



GRADE E	CLUB	WINS	SPREAD	AVE
1 Roto Mitchell	WAN	5	250	335
2 Chris Day	TGA	4	306	350
3 Shirley Morrison	TGA	4	192	330
4 Bev Edwards	WRE	4	82	314
5 Carole Coates	KIW	2	-236	297
6 Catherine Henry	TGA	1	-242	289
7 Leighton Gelling	NPL	1	-352	290

Whangarei Club Tournament 7-8 July 2012



Roto Mitchell
1st in E Grade



Chris Day
2nd in E Grade



Shirley Morrison
3rd in E Grade

GRADE F	CLUB	WINS	SPREAD	AVE	
1	Julia Schiller	MTA	5	80	362
2	Ruth Lilian	KIW	4	140	359
3	Melody Freeth	ROD	4	0	363
4	Geoff Bonser	TGA	4	-72	350
5	Pat Wood	TGA	4	-91	346
6	Ruth Godwin	ROT	3	5	341
7	Janny Henneveld	ROT	3	-17	341
8	Jacqueline Coldham-Fussell	KIW	1	-45	351



Howard Warner
1st in A Grade

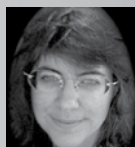


Liz Fagerlund
2nd in A Grade



Debbie Raphael
3rd in A Grade

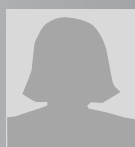
GRADE A	CLUB	WINS	SPREAD	AVE	
1	Howard Warner	MTA	11	1329	472
2	Liz Fagerlund	MTA	8	512	406
3	Debbie Raphael	IND	8	426	441
4	Lawson Sue	MTA	8	230	403
5	Val Mills	PAK	7	158	406
6	Glennis Hale	IND	7	-138	388
7	Cicely Bruce	WRE	7	-212	403
8	Shirley Martin	HAM	6	-109	386
9	Jennifer Smith	HAM	6	-190	385
10	Margie Hurly	WRE	6	-308	386
11	Janice Cherry	PAK	6	-325	396
12	Allie Quinn	WRE	5	-495	370
13	Lynn Wood	WEL	4	-321	373
14	Lorraine Van Veen	IND	2	-557	371



Julia Schiller
1st in F Grade



Ruth Lilian
2nd in F Grade



Melody Freeth
3rd in F Grade

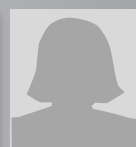
GRADE G	CLUB	WINS	SPREAD	AVE	
1	Karen Stewart	KIW	5	181	370
2	Sandra Cowen	TGA	5	71	365
3	Tim Henneveld	ROT	4	119	354
4	Frances Higham	PHC	4	-193	321
5	Annette Coombes	WKP	3	21	369
6	Alan Henley	IND	3	-110	327
7	Joan Beale	PHC	2	31	364
8	Margy Moore	KIW	2	-120	344



Lyres Freeth
1st in B Grade



Jeanette Grimmer
2nd in B Grade



Margaret Cherry
3rd in B Grade

GRADE B	CLUB	WINS	SPREAD	AVE	
1	Lyres Freeth	ROD	13	1193	437
2	Jeanette Grimmer	ROD	8	318	393
3	Margaret Cherry	PAK	8	132	392
4	Faye Cronhelm	IND	8	90	378
5	Heather Landon	TGA	7	237	388
6	Rosalind Phillips	PAK	7	179	389
7	Delcie Macbeth	IND	7	-89	384
8	Mary Gray	MTA	6	-194	382
9	Bev Edwards	WRE	5	-234	353



Karen Stewart
1st in G Grade



Sandra Cowen
2nd in G Grade

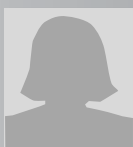


Tim Henneveld
3rd in G Grade

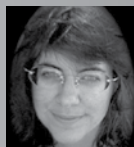
10	Dianne Cole-Baker	MTA	5	-397	336
11	Lynn Carter	IND	5	-563	366
12	June Mackwell	IND	4	-7	365
13	Betty Eriksen	WAN	4	-283	372
14	Su Walker	MTA	4	-382	364



Kadda Mohamed
1st in C Grade



Valma Gidman
2nd in C Grade



Julia Schiller
3rd in C Grade

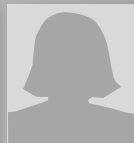
GRADE C	CLUB	WINS	SPREAD	AVE	
1	Kadda Mohamed	CHC	11	965	403
2	Valma Gidman	ROD	8	288	366
3	Julia Schiller	MTA	8	16	363
4	Roger Cole-Baker	MTA	7	640	394
5	Jean Boyle	WAN	7	145	379
6	Suzanne Harding	WRE	7	16	357
7	Linda Moore	ROD	6	-377	338
8	Pat Wood	TGA	4	-291	340
9	Anne Scatchard	WRE	4	-763	326
10	Jenny Litchfield	WRE	3	-639	324



Melody Freeth
1st in D Grade



Antonia Aarts
2nd in D Grade



Ruth Godwin
3rd in D Grade

GRADE D	CLUB	WINS	SPREAD	AVE	
1	Melody Freeth	ROD	11	962	388
2	Antonia Aarts	MTA	8	506	360
3	Ruth Godwin	ROT	8	259	341
4	Noelene Bettjeman	IND	8	138	334
5	Lynn Thompson	WRE	6	-20	330
6	Margaret Toso	WRE	6	-87	333
7	Joan Beale	PHC	5	-287	344
8	Alan Henley	IND	5	-302	311
9	Frances Higham	PHC	5	-480	321
10	Margaret Peters	WRE	3	-689	296

Hamilton Tournament 11-12 August 2012

GRADE A	CLUB	WINS	SPREAD	AVE	
1	Howard Warner	MTA	10	941	449
2	John Foster	IND	10	544	420
3	Lawson Sue	PAK	8	150	403
4	Glennis Hale	IND	8	138	410
5	Joanne Craig	CHC	7.5	576	436
6	Lynne Butler	NPL	7.5	43	404
7	Rogelio Talosig	IND	7	-275	371
8	Val Mills	PAK	6.5	-10	389
9	Anderina McLean	MTA	6	206	409
10	Nick Cavenagh	HAM	6	158	414
11	Liz Fagerlund	MTA	5.5	-205	390
12	David Gunn	WKP	4	-407	385
13	Murray Rogers	NEL	3	-1072	342
14	Jennifer Smith	HAM	2	-787	376



Howard Warner
1st in A Grade



John Foster
2nd in A Grade



Lawson Sue
3rd in A Grade

GRADE B	CLUB	WINS	SPREAD	AVE	
1	Lynn Wood	WEL	10	723	415
2	Pam Robson	IND	10	620	405
3	Lyres Freeth	ROD	8	562	407
4	Joan Thomas	HAS	8	12	396
5	Pam Barlow	PAK	8	-257	380
6	Katy Yiakmis	MTA	7	407	402
7	Cicely Bruce	WRE	7	246	406
8	Allie Quinn	WRE	7	41	377
9	Roger Coates	HAM	6	242	402
10	Margie Hurlly	WRE	6	-545	372
11	Delcie Macbeth	IND	5	-350	371
12	Hazel Purdie	MTA	4	-329	370
13	Shirley Martin	HAM	3	-356	359
14	Su Walker	MTA	2	-1016	349



Lynn Wood
1st in B Grade



Pam Robson
2nd in B Grade



Lyres Freeth
3rd in B Grade



Ruth Lilian
1st in D Grade



Roger Cole-Baker
2nd in D Grade



Catherine Henry
3rd in D Grade

GRADE C	CLUB	WINS	SPREAD	AVE	
1	Glenda Geard	IND	11	546	398
2	Betty Eriksen	WAN	8	356	386
3	Lyn Toka	KIW	8	343	402
4	Lynn Carter	IND	8	205	391
5	Shirley Morrison	TGA	7	256	377
6	Andree Prentice	WAN	7	34	374
7	Samantha Samuels	KIW	7	-30	371
8	Dianne Cole-Baker	MTA	6	229	379
9	Shirley Pearce	KIW	6	34	372
10	Karen Miller	IND	6	-389	345
11	Mary Gray	MTA	5	517	394
12	Roto Mitchell	WAN	5	-402	356
13	Mary Curtis	MTA	4	-430	369
14	Faye Leach	KIW	3	-1269	322

GRADE E	CLUB	WINS	SPREAD	AVE	
1	Annette Coombes	WKP	10	488	361
2	Sandra Cowen	TGA	10	312	361
3	Jillian Greening	HAM	9	114	360
4	Jacqueline Coldham-Fussell	KIW	8	823	368
5	Tim Henneveld	ROT	8	434	359
6	Joan Beale	PHC	8	189	363
7	Chris Guthrey	MTA	6	-378	336
8	Frances Higham	PHC	3	-570	324
9	Kasi Mooney	PHC	3	-762	317



Annette Coombes
1st in E Grade



Sandra Cowen
2nd in E Grade



Jillian Greening
3rd in E Grade



Glenda Geard
1st in C Grade



Betty Eriksen
2nd in C Grade



Lyn Toka
3rd in C Grade

GRADE D	CLUB	WINS	SPREAD	AVE	
1	Ruth Lilian	KIW	11	952	405
2	Roger Cole-Baker	MTA	10	513	388
3	Catherine Henry	TGA	8	173	372
4	Ruth Godwin	ROT	8	65	345
5	Julia Schiller	MTA	7	130	363
6	Leighton Gelling	NPL	6	-60	347
7	Anne Scatchard	WRE	5	-378	327
8	Suzanne Harding	WRE	4	-130	352
9	Margaret Bullen	TGA	3	-610	345
10	Janny Henneveld	ROT	3	-655	331

Tauranga Tournament 25-26 August 2012

GRADE A	CLUB	WINS	SPREAD	AVE	
1	Howard Warner	MTA	11	1255	24
2	Joanne Craig	CHC	11	1218	29
3	John Foster	IND	10	591	24
4	Val Mills	PAK	9	1044	25
5	Lynne Powell	IND	6	-24	22
6	Pam Robson	IND	6	-269	15
7	Janice Cherry	IND	6	-491	14
8	Vicky Robertson	WEL	6	-578	18
9	Anderina McLean	MTA	5	14	19
10	Nick Cavenagh	HAM	5	-436	22
11	Lynn Wood	WEL	5	-553	16
12	Jennifer Smith	HAM	4	-90	17
13	Lawson Sue	PAK	4	-652	19
14	David Gunn	WKP	3	-1029	20



Howard Warner
1st in A Grade



Joanne Craig
2nd in A Grade



John Foster
3rd in A Grade



Mary Gray
1st in C Grade



Nola Borrell
2nd in C Grade



Carolyn Kyle
3rd in C Grade

GRADE B	CLUB	WINS	SPREAD	AVE
1	Cicely Bruce	WRE	9	620 17
2	Faye Cronhelm	IND	9	483 18
3	Shirley Martin	HAM	9	421 17
4	Glenda Geard	IND	8	93 16
5	Margaret Cherry	PAK	8	-7 13
6	Roger Coates	KIW	7	215 20
7	Yvette Hewlett	KAP	7	84 17
8	Joan Thomas	HAS	7	-37 18
9	Delcie Macbeth	IND	6	238 26
10	Lorraine Van Veen	IND	6	-353 16
11	Allie Quinn	WRE	5	-96 17
12	Hazel Purdie	MTA	4	-356 13
13	Ernie Gidman	ROD	4	-780 13
14	Jean O Brien	IND	2	-525 10

GRADE D	CLUB	WINS	SPREAD	AVE
1	Kadda Mohamed	CHC	10	595 14
2	Chris Day	TGA	9	731 16
3	Rosemary Wauters	TGA	8	17 13
4	Barbara Dunn	TGA	7	171 7
5	Margaret Bullen	TGA	7	75 7
6	Carole Coates	KIW	7	69 17
7	Valma Gidman	ROD	7	56 7
8	Alison Holmes	WEL	7	29 10
9	Julia Schiller	MTA	7	-191 7
10	Catherine Henry	TGA	6	264 9
11	Suzanne Harding	WRE	6	-40 6
12	Anne Scatchard	WRE	6	-398 5
13	Ruth Godwin	ROT	5	-110 1
14	Sandra Cowen	TGA	5	-251 6
15	Richard Cornelius	TGA	4	-584 9
16	Judy Driscoll	KAP	3	-433 2



Cicely Bruce
1st in B Grade



Faye Cronhelm
2nd in B Grade



Shirley Martin
3rd in B Grade

GRADE C	CLUB	WINS	SPREAD	AVE
1	Mary Gray	MTA	12	1074 21
2	Nola Borrell	WEL	9	344 13
3	Carolyn Kyle	DUN	8	357 13
4	Andree Prentice	WAN	8	327 11
5	Jeanette Grimmer	ROD	8	298 6
6	Lynn Carter	IND	8	32 17
7	Betty Eriksen	WAN	7.5	233 11
8	June Mackwell	IND	7	311 14
9	Su Walker	MTA	6	-34 18
10	Roto Mitchell	WAN	5	-507 10
11	Shirley Morrison	TGA	5	-513 13
12	Shirley Pearce	KIW	3.5	-397 10
13	Lyn Toka	KIW	3	-330 16
14	Jena Yousif	KIW	1	-1195 5



Kadda Mohamed
1st in D Grade



Chris Day
2nd in D Grade



Rosemary Wauters
3rd in D Grade

GRADE E	CLUB	WINS	SPREAD	AVE
1	Annette Coombes	WKP	10	827 20
2	Janny Henneveld	ROT	10	494 5
3	Geoff Bonser	TGA	9	528 11
4	Josie Parkin	TGA	9	206 13
5	Pat Wood	TGA	8	568 10
6	Steve Pearson	TGA	8	395 12
7	Tim Henneveld	ROT	8	-60 6
8	Lynn Thompson	WRE	7.5	49 10
9	Chris Guthrey	MTA	7	-75 8
10	Audrey Bree	TGA	6	205 3
11	Valerie Scott	TGA	5	44 4
12	Kaye Hubner	TGA	5	-340 16

13	Noelene Bettjeman	IND	4.5	-117	5
14	Ray Seddon	TGA	3	-666	2
15	Merilyn Anderson	TGA	2	-744	6
16	Susan Milne	MTA	2	-1314	2



Annette Coombes
1st in E Grade



Janny Henneveld
2nd in E Grade



Geoff Bonser
3rd in E Grade

Canterbury Open Tournament 8-9 September 2012

A GRADE	CLUB	WINS	SPREAD	AVE
1 Paul Lister	CHC	12	707	415
2 Blue Thorogood	IND	11	1083	450
3 Murray Rogers	NEL	10	192	397
4 John Baird	CHC	6	159	391
5 Shirley van Essen	CHC	5	-175	387
6 Lynn Wood	WEL	5	-448	370
7 Irene Smith	CHC	4	-517	379
8 Shirley Hol	CHC	3	-1001	354



Paul Lister
1st in A Grade



Blue Thorogood
2nd in A Grade



Murray Rogers
3rd in A Grade

B GRADE	CLUB	WINS	SPREAD	AVE
1 Nola Borrell	WEL	11	611	407
2 Anna Hough	NEL	9	468	404
3 Kaite Hansen	CHC	9	170	390
4 Selena Chan	CHC	8	-69	377
5 Andree Prentice	WAN	6.5	138	393
6 Ray Goodyear	CHC	6	-233	364
7 Carolyn Kyle	DUN	4.5	-194	365
8 Gabrielle Bolt	CHC	2	-891	345



Nola Borrell
1st in B Grade



Anna Hough
2nd in B Grade



Kaite Hansen
3rd in B Grade

C GRADE	CLUB	WINS	SPREAD	AVE
1 Kadda Mohamed	CHC	12	933	399
2 Allison Torrance	CHC	11	313	376
3 Malcolm Graham	CHC	8	23	373
4 Lyn Dawson	CHC	7	55	375
5 Colleen Cook	CHC	6	-72	375
6 Margaret Lyall	CHC	5	-535	347
7 Tony Charlton	NEL	4	-261	336
8 Kathleen Mori-Barker	CHC	3	-456	352



Kadda Mohamed
1st in C Grade



Allison Torrance
2nd in C Grade



Malcolm Graham
3rd in C Grade

D GRADE	CLUB	WINS	SPREAD	AVE
1 Yvonne McLaughlan	CHC	12	820	372
2 Maria Clinton	NEL	10	848	371
3 Jean Craib	CHC	10	171	345
4 Gordon Pinchin	CHC	7	68	360
5 Judith Bach	CHC	7	11	348
6 Betty Don	NEL	4	-300	331
7 Hanna Dodge	CHC	4	-608	320
8 Trish Fox	CHC	2	-1010	286



Yvonne McLaughlan
1st in D Grade



Maria Clinton
2nd in D Grade



Jean Craib
3rd in D Grade

Contact Information

Clubs (north to south)	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	bevhol@xtra.co.nz	Thurs 1pm
Rodney (ROD)	Linda Moore	09 425 4959	colin.linda@clear.net.nz	Mon 1pm
Hibiscus Coast (HBC)	Joan Pratt	09 426 4521	jopra@xtra.co.nz	Mon 12.45pm
Mt Albert (MTA)	Dianne Cole-Baker	09 309 5865	drcb@xtra.co.nz	Fri 7pm
Pakuranga/Howick (PAK)	Jeanette Owler	09 534 4453	cliffordo@xtra.co.nz	Tues 12.30 Thurs 7pm
Papatoetoe/Holy Cross (PHC)	Tony Turner	09 525 0765		Mon 1pm
Hamilton (HAM)	Jillian Greening	07 843 7652	nicholas_cavenagh@yahoo.co.uk	Tues 7pm
Kiwi (KIW)	Jacqueline Coldham-Fussell	07 846 7422	scrabifuss@xtra.co.nz	Thurs 7pm/1pm alt weeks
Waikato Phoenix (WKP)	Annette Coombes	07 855 9970		Alt Weds 7pm
Tauranga (TGA)	Barbara Dunn	07 544 8372	dunnz@kinect.co.nz	Tues 9am
Rotorua	Ruth Godwin	07 349 6954	rgodwin@xtra.co.nz	Thurs 9am
Waitara (WTA)	Shirley Sarten	06 754 6078		Wed 1pm
New Plymouth (NPL)	Lynne Butler	06 755 2134	scrabblyn@clear.net.nz	Saturday
Hastings (HAS)	Yvonne Wilson	06 878 8229	wilsonpad@paradise.net.nz	Tues 1pm
Wanganui (WAN)	Rosemary Cleary	06 347 1837	rosecleary@hotmail.com	Wed 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@clear.net.nz	Wed 7pm
Wellington (WEL)	Lynn Wood	04 387 2581	lynnwood@paradise.net.nz	Tues 7pm
Nelson (NEL)	Tony Charlton	03 545 1159	tony.charlton@yahoo.co.uk	Wed 7pm
Christchurch (CHC)	Margaret Lyall	03 332 5963	noelrealest@hotmail.com	Fri 6.45pm Wed 12.45pm
Dunedin (DUN)	Ruth Groffman	03 455 1777	ruthgroffman@hotmail.com	Tues 7pm
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