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forwards



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From the editor

Jennifer Smith



My Scrabble rack talks to me.

You may have experienced something similar:

"You should try to get rid of one of those Is", it says. And then, when I'm greedy and go for a higher score *not* using an I, and subsequently pick up yet another I, it says, "It's your own fault! I TOLD you to get rid of an I."

Or: "You should get rid of that Q while you have a place for it to go." But who wants to settle for 11, when other letters can score a respectable 26? As my opponent fills up the only spot for a Q, my rack says, "It serves you right!"

Towards the end of the game, my tile rack says, "Make sure you can go out in two moves." If I ignore its voice and play a slightly higher scoring turn without checking that I have somewhere for my last tiles, I swear it sighs heavily and pointedly when I lose the game by a couple of points.

I never have liked being told what I should do. Added to that, I'm a slow learner. My rack knows me well, though, so lately it has been making its point more obviously:

I was pretty sure ROTLESS* wouldn't be a word, so I tried RIOTLESS*, hooking off an O and playing through an I. I was challenged off, of course, and as I placed my tiles randomly back on the rack, it took matters into its own hands and arranged them into the word OSTLERS. There it was, staring me in the face! As I kicked myself, I heard my rack saying, "You should always check whether you have a bonus starting with a vowel."

Shortly afterwards, I was toying with DEILING* and DIELING* (based on the fact that DEIL and DIEL are both words), and played DEILING*. As my rack accepted the challenged word back, it rearranged the letters to ELIDING. Of course - I knew that word. Why didn't I find it to start with?! And that reminded me that EILDING is also OK. "I'm always telling you to check for words starting with a vowel," my rack says self-righteously.

After a few more episodes of discovering vowel-starting words too late (eg. ISODOSE *after* having DOOSIES* challenged off, and OBSCURE when I was too chicken to try BESCOUR), I've started taking the advice of my rack re words starting with vowels. And it's been profitable.

I found OURSELF when I was unsure of FOULERS* (which I was right to be unsure of). And ASUNDER when DANSEUR didn't fit. And IGNEOUS when an -ING word seemed unlikely. And EDIFIER when the EI combination of DEIFIER and REIFIED didn't hook.

I don't always listen to my rack, though. When it says things like, "You should really learn your four-letter words" or "You should know your SATIRE words by now", I'm still inclined to turn a deaf ear.

* * *

Just a reminder that this issue is my second-to last as editor of *Forwards*. At the end of the year, if no-one has offered to take on the editing job, you will no longer have a magazine.



From our president

Val Mills



HELP!



There is really only one thing concerning me at the moment and that is the fact that come December 2013 we will no longer have an editor for this great little

magazine and consequently there may not be a magazine.

The exec has canvassed a large number of people and Jennifer has written an article settling out clearly what the job entails and offering assistance, but to no avail. As at the time of writing this we have no one waiting in line to take over the editorship.

Despite approaching all those I think might have the skills and be suitable, I am putting it out there again for consideration by you all. Just because you might not have been approached does not mean you are not eligible! I do not know or see all of you. **You** know what your skills are and what you are capable of doing. So please, if you are able to assist the association in this way, want to meet interesting people, learn a lot, and provide heaps of pleasure to scrabblers in NZ and abroad - please get in contact with anyone on the exec or Jennifer.

There's not much else the exec can do at this stage, so it's up to someone out there to step up and accept the challenge.

I'll wait for my phone to start ringing!

I love this time of year, not least because of all the Scrabble tournaments that we can go to! Starting with Whangarei in July and followed in quick succession by Hamilton, Tauranga, Christchurch and Hastings - not to mention cruises!

I certainly don't take the running of a tournament for granted. It's not until you have organised a tourney that you realise what is involved. It's great when the whole club takes responsibility and helps out, rather than leaving it to one or two.

Jennifer ran another great quiz night at the Hamilton tournament - the palindromes (had to google how to spell that!) certainly got us thinking and I found myself being able to talk quite knowledgably about left handedness the following week when the topic came up at our work morning tea!

The next major event for us this year is the sending of our team to the world Champs (well actually the Scrabble Champions Tournament, part of the World Mind Games) in Prague.

Our team is Nigel Richards, Blue Thorogood, Howard Warner, Peter Sinton, Joanne Craig, and Nicholas Cavenagh. Congratulations and well done to all of you for making the team. We will be keenly following your progress at the tourney.

Happy spring and good scrabbling to all of you.

Valerie Mills



The New Zealand team of six to attend the Scrabble Championships Tournament in Prague in December 2013 is: (from left) **Joanne Craig** (Christchurch), **Nick Cavenagh** (Hamilton), **Peter Sinton** (Dunedin), **Blue Thorogood** (Independent), **Nigel Richards** (Independent), and **Howard Warner** (Independent).

Reserves are **John Foster** (Independent, first reserve) and **Anderina McLean** (Mt Albert). Our best wishes for a successful tournament will go with them.

Our Blue

Blue Thorogood, Christchurch, is New Zealand's 2013 Scrabble Champion. Following his winning the title in Christchurch at Easter, this article appeared in *The Press*. Its author, Beck Eleven, and Fairfax New Zealand have kindly given us permission to reproduce it. [Beck said in her email to the Editor, "Go for it! The more people know about the excellent Blue, the better!"]



The truck driver who swallowed a dictionary

It's one of those winter nights where the fog is so thick and low you can barely see one lamp post to the next. Smoke from Blue Thorogood's tobacco roll-ups makes the air in his Rangiora bedsit more or less the same consistency.

Thorogood flips the cap off a Waikato Draught with his yellow Bic lighter and it's game on. The beer, the smoke, the heavy concentration - it's got the air of a lads' poker night but this is Scrabble. Serious Scrabble. Thorogood's opponent (and partner of three-and-a-bit years), Mandy Phillips, is using a computer for help. Phillips and her computer are streaking ahead but she's not too relaxed with the wide score gap because "Blue's

endgame is amazing". That and he has just been ranked New Zealand's number one Scrabble player.

The game is only a few moves in. They've played CUIRASS, FUD, JUTES and DOGMAN.

I see a scramble of letters on Thorogood's rack. He sees TOENAIL or ELATION or TONALITE. He doesn't always know exactly what the words mean but he knows how to form them and how to play them well on the board.

The 51-year-old drives a truck for Chemwaste Industries removing hazardous chemicals left by homeowners in the residential red zone. A typical day sees him rise at 5am and drive to work by 7.30am

to classify, sort and dispose of toxic goods like paint, gardening poisons, dieldrin, pentachlorophenol and such. By the time he gets home about 6pm-ish, it's been a long day so he's usually too tired for word games - which is where Friday nights come in, time for beer, fags and Scrabble.

The national Scrabble champs were held in Christchurch in early June. The event went mostly under the radar except 8-year-old Lewis Hawkins making headlines for coming first in fifth division.

The first division winner was Thorogood, who reckons Lewis' success at that age is amazing. Lewis and Thorogood and a handful of other Kiwis will be heading to the World Scrabble Championships in the Czech Republic in December. Thorogood has already booked the time off.

"The boss is pretty relaxed and supportive of Scrabble. He calls me 'atypical'."

Thorogood didn't pick up a lettered tile until he was 30. He was unemployed and hanging round a community centre in Auckland because he'd heard some people gathered there to play chess. No-one turned up but three grey-haired women with a Scrabble board.

"Play with us," they said. And he beat them all.

They suggested Thorogood join their Friday night Scrabble club. His only thought was: "What? They have Scrabble clubs?" One of the women wrote down the address on a scrap of paper which he promptly filed in his wallet and forgot.

A couple of months later, he found the note again. It said "Scrabble Night, Friday, Mt Albert." It happened to be a Friday and he had nothing else to do, so made his way to the location. Game by game, it became

apparent the Ngati Kahungunu kid who grew up in Wairau was a natural.

His vocabulary wasn't extensive so he played using everyday language while his more seasoned opponents laid down words he'd never heard of. He started reading the dictionary and learning new words. Where most people would see a jumble of letters, Thorogood could see several possibilities.

"It's not really about tricky words. It's about board management and [your opponent] not bugging up the board. You have to give something to get something." He stuck with the club for six or seven years before drifting off and giving up.

He dipped back in after a two-year hiatus and in the early 1990s managed second place in the B-grade of a national tournament.

"I look at the games I lost - not the games I won - and I think back about what I could have done to prevent that. I've lost a fair few and come second a lot. I'm the proverbial bridesmaid."

However, he was a solo father and his son had just turned 5. "He'd started school, so it wasn't ideal to be tripping around. I think I missed it but it didn't really matter."

Then, in 2004, the national tournament was being held in Auckland and Thorogood was going to be there at the same time. He wasn't sure about his chances but he entered anyway.

"I'd had a gap, two revised dictionaries had come out in that that time and I just didn't contemplate getting back into it. But I put a couple of months' work into it and ended up winning. Well, that surprised me." He has since won places in World Championships in Malaysia in 2009 and Warsaw in 2011.

Despite his natural skill on the Scrabble board, he says he can take or leave the studying side of it. There are plenty of CDs at his house but no stacks of dictionaries. However, a couple of photocopied A4 pages of words are pinned by the toilet. They're from the updated dictionary – a Scrabble player's version of toilet reading material. "To me, words are like bullets, like ammunition. The game is won with the more bullets you've got in your armoury. You need to know when to let loose and when to hold back because of the situation, what letters are left in the bag and what might be to come.

"Can one tile still be dangerous to you? You have to think about it. There's a lot of strategy. I try to play so my turn means something. It's not haphazard. I play each word for a reason."

The Christchurch group meets on Fridays in Sydenham and there are usually about 25 players from competitors to hobbyists but Thorogood struggles to turn up because his day is already long and it's too expensive making two return trips from Rangiora in one day.

It's social, too. At some tournaments he'd 'get on the piss' the night before, sometimes not – it doesn't seem to affect his play.

The South Island champs are a warm-up and there are some excellent players in the North Island, he says. "But I can't afford to flip-flop all around the country playing Scrabble.

"It's all for the love really. When you're playing Scrabble, the bills don't matter, quakes don't matter, nothing matters. Funnily enough, I do it to relax. It chills me out. There's no stress because my mind is on the game."

Back in the smoky room, the score gap between Thorogood and Phillips (and her computer) is closing. He's squeezing in three-letter words, in clever places making it difficult for Phillips to play.

The couple met through internet dating in 2009. She fell for his "lovely face and articulate emails". Once they'd exchanged a few emails, she suggested they meet. He replied saying that would be difficult because he was in Malaysia at the World Scrabble Tournament. She was impressed.

"I think I fell in love before we met. I love words and I love emailing and I was able to express myself freely. Words helped us fall in love.

"We used to play with loud music too because he said I had to learn to play with distraction – it hasn't worked though," she says, and they laugh again.

As Thorogood says: "We pretty much want the same thing, no hassles. My honey supports me 100 per cent and that's so good."

Soon enough, Phillips was playing more Scrabble than she used to. She was a pretty good player but in Thorogood, she'd met her match, hence the computer assistance. However, she has beaten him once without any online help. It was clearly a memorable event for Thorogood.

"I know that game all right. It was on my birthday. I drew tiles like a dog but that's no excuse." He's been drawing tiles like a dog tonight, too, and the game is in the balance.

In the end, he wins 432 to 422.

He laughs just that little bit louder.

"Golfers win millions. I somehow found I was good at the only game where you can make nothing. But I'll drink to that," he says, and finishes his Waikato Draught.

A numbers game

This article was published in the University of Waikato's newsletter.

Dr Nick Cavenagh's mother taught him to play Scrabble as a boy – problem was, he got so good she was forced to cheat just to keep the game competitive. Sadly for mum, her 7-year-old still won.

Nick, a senior lecturer in mathematics, laughs now at his mother's desperate deception: "She didn't tell me that story until I was an adult."

She did, however, instil a lifelong love for the game in her son who later this year will represent New Zealand at the World Scrabble Championship along with five other kiwis – including reigning world champion Nigel Richards.

"He lives in Singapore but they changed the rules so he can play for New Zealand," Nick says. "Actually I'm also a bit of a traitor, I'm an Australian but I play for New Zealand."

The World Scrabble Championship is the pinnacle of the game, a highly competitive tournament where teams and individuals pit their knowledge of the official Scrabble word list and match-winning tactics against the world's super Scrabble players. And as the best players know, winning is not all about seven-letter words.

"Your first move in Scrabble is a really important decision but there are just so many tactics," Nick says. "For example, when it gets to the end game, people have kept mental track of all the tiles so they know exactly what's on their opponent's rack and know exactly what they can do."

Of course there are hundreds of legitimate Scrabble words most people have never heard of (Scrabble buffs take note)



including aa – yes, it's a type of volcanic rock. Bad words are also fair game.

"You can play any swear word you like, so it is funny to see perfectly respectable old ladies playing really quite obscene words – they'll happily put it down if it's going to earn them points."

For all the wordsmiths and voracious readers out there, it might be disappointing to find Nick's Scrabble skills are firmly rooted in his mathematics-oriented brain.

"It's not really a literary game. It's the ability to re-arrange letters into words in your head, to see anagrams. Although there are a few players who have a photographic memory who know the entire official Scrabble word list – I'm not like that, I learn words quickly but I also forget them quickly."

The World Scrabble Championship will be held in Prague in November.

The end of an era

Brain Power competitions in *Forwards* come to an end this issue, with the solution to the last (=latest) and last (=final) Scrabble contest.

Thank you, Jeff Grant, for all the fun you've given us over very many years.

Solution: contest no. 111

Using a high opening move followed by a double-double, Hazel Purdie (Mt Albert) scored 254 points with ODZOOKS/COXCOMBS, John McNaughton (Wellington) managed 256 with SOVKHOZ/BOXWOODS and Dorothy Latta (Dunedin) got 258 for WORKBOX/ZOOMORPH. Michael Vnuk (S. Australia) and Lyn Toka (Kiwi) both found a 264-point solution with SOVKHOZ/COXCOMBS.

Taking a different approach, Leila Thomson (Lower Hutt) started with BLOWJOB (B on centre square) for 108 and then SCHMOOZ/BLOWJOBS (188) for a total score of 296. Even higher scores are possible, for example BLOWJOB(S)/ODZOOKS scores 317 points.

Well done Leila for winning our last Scrabble contest.

* * *

We Scrabblers practise EPEOLATRY, the worship of words.

It's in our words list, but EPEOLATRIST* isn't.

Allie Quinn, Whangarei

Cryptic palindromes

Answers are all palindromes, and all in our official words list unless indicated otherwise. (Answers page 46)

1. Found in the sandhills at the beach (6 letters)
2. Handy if you want to paddle, or if you don't want to paddle! (5)
3. This person can be found near a red light (5)
4. Something basic you hold (5)
5. A speeding vehicle that's not a Scrabble word (7)
6. Pop group that's dyslexic when it comes to the alphabet (4)
7. She's French and a model, but not a French model (4)
8. It comes between ALEF and ZAYIN (3)
9. An ancient Palestinian coin (3)
10. Nighttime, in a famous garden? (3)
11. (Not on our list) Informal address for Miss Montana (6)
12. Not in our word list, but [you used to] send your Scrabble contest answers here (5)
13. Worshipped, but not necessarily deserving of being worshipped (7)
14. Don't play it in a game of Scrabble, but would you find the Office of Equal Opportunity here in Taranaki? (3)
15. What you might do if you don't want to repaint your bedroom wall (7)
16. Sometimes painful cuff (7)
17. Where it's at if you're looking straight ahead (3,5 both palindromes)
18. Even more embarrassed? (6)
19. To do with a town favoured by Honda (5)
20. You'll find this place in Iran, but - spelling it out - there's no need to go as far as the E (9)

Mailbox

Recently there have been several questionable jokes in *Forwards* printed under my name!

I am concerned that people will think I actually read them let alone sent them in. Please note that Roger sends these through our joint email account and not me....

So for future reference, Roger sends the X-rated jokes, I send all the clever witty ones. 😊

Dianne Cole-Baker, Mt Albert

In response to the item "Long words" in the last edition of *Forwards*: long ago, when I was at school, we were taught that the longest word in English was antidisestablishmentarianism which has 28 letters.

It is still listed in my Concise Oxford Dictionary, marked "rare" and with its meaning of "opposition to the disestablishment of the Church of England".

I'll be very interested to see if its length has been superseded.

Judith Thomas, Independent

During the Hamilton Club quiz, we were asked to name three animals in our word list whose names end in -KEY.

I thought of the quiz the other day when I came across the word ZONKEY, a hybrid zebra/donkey cross also called a ZEDONK. Although neither is allowed in Scrabble, they have been listed in the big Oxford dictionary since 1986.

Jeff Grant, Independent

From France

Madelaine Green, Christchurch

I was biking along the Canal du Nivernais canal pathway in Burgundy, when we saw a place selling drinks and other refreshments.

It was about 3.30 pm on a Wednesday afternoon and it was extremely hot, so we thought we would buy a drink. When I turned the corner of the building I found about 30 people (men and women, half and half) at tables under a canvas canopy in "pleine air" so to speak! . . . I couldn't believe my eyes - they were playing Scrabble. Can you believe it out in the French country side?

Well, as you can imagine, I was fascinated - I looked at one game and found that all the words were English. I tried talking to them in my limited French but it was hard to communicate. So I smiled and sat down to have my drink beside another table where I could look over their shoulders to see what words they used.

I said I was from NZ in French, then indicated I played Scrabble too in NZ. They became animated then so I asked why they were playing in anglais???????

One lady got out her dictionary and fussed around to find a word which eventually turned out to mean money. Voila - they were playing for money!!

Do you know what these brackets (these ones!) are called?

They're called LUNULAE - because of their crescent moonlike shape. They got that name in the sixteenth century, from the Dutch humanist, Erasmus.

LUNULAE (and its singular LUNULA) is also used for the whitish area of the bed of a finger or toenail.

It's not LUNY!

Club News

Papatoetoe vs Pakuranga

Papatoetoe and Pakuranga have been competing for a donated trophy for seventeen years. The contest is hard fought, and Pakuranga usually beats Papatoetoe. However, over the past couple of contests Papatoetoe has crept closer to winning.

At our first contest for 2013, Pakuranga visited Papatoetoe's venue, and for the first time since 2008, Papatoetoe finally won the trophy back. We had a very social and relaxed afternoon, and now look forward to our next contest.

* * *

A happy match

Julia Schiller and Chris Guthrie, Mt Albert, have announced their engagement. they plan to marry in February 2015.

This news will come as no surprise to those who have seen the happy couple together!

Congratulations to you both.



A quizzical night

Leighton Walker (Sandy)

The highlight of the Hamilton Scrabble tournament is, for me, always the Saturday night quiz.

Once again we were treated to a variety of questions, covering statues, the number 7, left and right, geography, churches and much more. One round was particularly tricky, comprising a number of cryptic palindromes to solve throughout the evening – only the Quizzically Challenged managed to solve all of them.

The Ponderous Puzzle proved to be very challenging for the Fab F---, who were unable to solve it until the final clue.

Taking their places on the virtual podium were:

1. **The Quizzically Challenged** (94 points)
- Anderina McLean, Liz Fagerlund, Su Walker, Jeff Grant and Glennis Hale
2. The aptly-named **Latecomers** (90)
- Julia Schiller, Chris Guthrie and me.
3. (Equal): **the Jigots** - Lorraine van Veen, Val Mills, Delcie Macbeth and Glenda Geard;

and **A Good Rogering** (86) - Roger and Diane Cole-Baker, John Foster and Lyn Toka.

As was traditional, chocolate bars were handed out for the prizes.

Best answer of the night was in response to "A speeding vehicle that's not a Scrabble word". Instead of RACECAR*, one enterprising team gave A TOYOTA (and got a point!)

[The Cryptic Palindrome questions can be found on page 47 for you to try.]

John McNaughton

Nola Borrell, Wellington

In early 2012 John McNaughton, then 12, arrived at the Wellington Club (via the Kapiti Coast Club). His parents, entertained to an ongoing commentary on such exotica as hooks, phoneys, blockers, floaters and tile leave, had decided a wider audience was needed. En route, Glenda Foster gave him a coaching lesson or two.

- At his first tournament, Kapiti Coast 2012, John found BETTINGS for 160 points, though he won only two games and was last in his section. He was not disheartened, and in subsequent tournaments rose rapidly to top places.
- Wellington tournament, Jan 2013 saw him 2nd in E Grade with 10 wins, (+ 497 spread, 377 average) - and pipped only on spread by another young star, Lewis Hawkins.
- At the next Kapiti tournament, April 2013, John won C Grade with 12/13 wins (+1202 spread, 392 average, and 12 bonuses). He was flying.
- Nationals this year was another triumph. John was 2nd in D Grade with



10 wins (+700, 392 average, and 16 bonuses). (I was lucky to get 11 wins; John's spread was higher.) He scored 509 points with only one bonus word (BLAMERS) to help. A player to be watched!

- The recent Tauranga tournament was another victory: First in C grade with 10 wins, and a rating increase to 1238. (I escaped competing with him by sidling into B Grade.)

John says that he has always loved words, numbers and patterns and that Scrabble seems to satisfy all three of these passions. His most exciting game



John McNaughton (Wellington Scrabble Club), winner C Grade, Tauranga Tournament, August, 2013, with Barbara Dunn and Shirley Morrison, Tauranga Scrabble Club members.

was winning a Club game against Howard Warner: "Very close and very enjoyable". He says he is "lucky to play with great players like Howard and Glenda as they are very generous in teaching strategies and word knowledge."

He isn't fazed by playing scrabblers much older and more experienced. He says, "Scrabble (like music) is not ageist. I sometimes prefer to play people who are older as they are usually very encouraging. ... I have really enjoyed the opportunity to visit different parts of New Zealand and meet friendly players of all ages."

"Wellington Scrabble Club (and the Kapiti Club) have welcomed and encouraged me. Ruth Groffman in Dunedin, Dianne Cole-Baker in Auckland, and Karen and Alastair Richards of Brisbane have organised amazing Scrabble sessions for young players."

What is striking is that John is very modest about his achievements. If anyone at Club says, "Yay! My rating has increased!" it's more likely to be one of the old hands.

Is there time for anything else apart from school and Scrabble? John says, "I play the piano, viola, tennis and soccer so I have to be pretty organised with my time. I also love listening to BBC radio podcasts especially quizzes and comedy shows."

And family? "They're happy that I enjoy Scrabble so much. My big brother and sister (who scrap with me lots) are very supportive. My Mum and Dad wonder why I don't use my 3-letter word skills to memorise something like the genetic code!"

* * *

Coincidence

Vicky Robertson, Wellington

Recently, Olivia Godfrey and I played two games of social Scrabble. In the first game I got a triple triple, INTEGERS, for 131 points.

Then in the second game, to Olivia's horror, I got another triple triple with, can you believe, INTEGERS again! (This time 140 points) What are the chances of that!!!

[I'm more impressed with AEGIRITE! -Ed]



While not normally in the practice of photographing games, when the second INTEGERS came up and was photographed, Olivia and I decided to see if we could re-create the first game board from memory to also be photographed. It was a bit of a challenge, but we - mostly Olivia, accomplished it eventually - (Olivia remembered about 90% of the board!)

Scrabble for fun 2013

Ruth Groffman, Dunedin

This year at the end of August, 72 Primary School (10 schools) and 40 Intermediate (8 schools) School children competed in Scrabble for Fun.

As this is now the twelfth year I have run this programme, I am now getting principals from schools phoning me so that they do not miss out. It is very pleasing to see how much these children enjoy this competition. The intermediate section was added last year because children in the junior section enjoyed it so much.

The winning Primary School team won a Shield and a Scrabble set, and the winning Intermediate School team won a silver Cup and Scrabble set. Both of these were donated by the *Otago Daily Times newspaper*. Spot prizes were also given out for the best words using the letters Z, X, J and Q.

Junior year 5-6

1. George Street Normal
2. Kaikorai
3. Opoho

Intermediate year 7-8

1. Balmacewen
2. John McGlashan
3. Columba

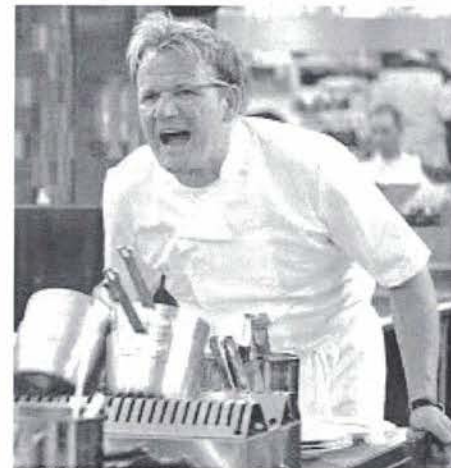
In the same week we held a competition for interested individual players, and 24 children took part from the Primary and Intermediate schools. Here the prizes were Collins Scrabble Dictionaries, Collins Hardback Word List books and Kiwi Scrabble Bags, all donated by the Dunedin Scrabble Club. The results from this competition were:

Primary Section

1. Tobias Devereax
2. Prattoyi Saha
3. Sammy Johnson

Intermediate Section

1. Sam Thompson
2. Braedyn Arbuckle
3. Silas Winlaegan



Gordon Ramsay on food?

[Reproduced without the oaths]

- This lamb is so undercooked ... it's following Mary to school.
- You burned the food so much ... it could be sold as black-out curtains.
- You used so much oil ... the US is going to invade your plate.
- Your chicken is so rubbery ... Goodyear called and asked for the recipe.
- That beef is so raw ... people in India are still worshipping it.
- The beef is so undercooked ... it's starting to eat the salad.
- Why did the chicken cross the road? ... because you didn't cook it!
- The duck was so raw ... it's still arguing with Bugs Bunny over the hunting season.
- This food is so burned ... I've called an ambulance.

* * *

Scrabble vocab

Roger Cole-Baker, Mt Albert

Most sports develop their own unique and colourful vocabulary. For all their love of words, Scrabblers use a mundane range of terms for their equipment, such as *tiles, boards, bags, racks*. Presumably, a *night on the tiles with the old bag looking for hotspots* has a different connotation for most of us, depending on the amount of alcohol consumed.

The unoriginal words used during play to describe key moments in a game, such as *challenge, phoney, bingo, double-double, and triple-triple*, sound, apart from *bingo*, rather pedestrian. We could at least use more interesting words such as **NONUPLE** (ninefold) for *triple-triple*.

The Ultimate Guide to Winning Scrabble by Derryn Hinch has a glossary of 72 words, most of which are not used in NZ. He has two good colourful words - **JABBERWOCK** for weird non-existent words and **DINGO** for unplayable bingos ('cos they "din-go" anywhere).

We have a lovely player in our club, a notorious *bingo hunter* who will be known to many readers as the frequent winner of the prize for the most bingos at tournaments. Too often when playing her I have been in a strong winning position, only to be defeated by her going out with a bingo. I now describe such play as a **SWALKA*** (or **SWALKer**) as its sound matches my inevitable squawk of rage...followed by a sigh of despair "Not again!"

It is about time that Scrabblers started to enrich their sport with colourful words. Such a contribution to our language might even get into SOWPODS.

I trust that your readers will find that **dingo** and **swalka*** aptly describe some of the more frustrating moments in their games.

The meaning of BILLION

A billion is a difficult number to comprehend.

- A billion seconds ago it was 1959.
- A billion minutes ago Jesus was alive.
- A billion hours ago our ancestors were living in the Stone Age.
- A billion days ago no-one walked on the earth on two feet.

[Apart from the fact that the calculation must have been done in the 1990s, this concept is interesting.]

Keep those figures in mind when next you hear a politician talking about a billion dollars, or hear of the collapse of a finance company losing billions of dollars of investors' money.

* * *

We keep on learning

Joan Thomas, Hastings

Playing against the computer can be a learning exercise.

Recently the word ZOOPEERY was played. I had never seen it, so I consulted Zyzzyva. Zoopery is experimentation on animals. The plural is ZOOPERIES.

Sounded like lot of blooper* to me! Then I looked in Chambers and discovered that it is not a recent addition.

We live and learn.

* * *

Whew! Hebrew!

What is the longest word in Hebrew? According to numerous sources, it's **ookhsheh'le'entsiklopedioteinu**.

It warranted 20-30 mentions in overseas newspapers, but not one of them said what it meant!

* * *



Ask Liz

Liz Fagerlund (Mt Albert)



Is it okay to keep playing obvious phonies at the end of a game to try to make your opponent run out of time and therefore gain a win?

Is there anything in our rules that would prevent this from happening? Not entirely - though rule 15.9.1 says - play continues until

15.9.1.1 either one player plays the remaining tiles on his/her rack and there are no tiles in the bag

15.9.1.2 or **neither player can make a valid play**

Is this ethical and fair play? In my opinion definitely not!

This happened at a tournament earlier this year:

One player (player A) had a 7 point lead, but was very short on time. The other player (player B) had plenty of time left. Both players had one tile left - they both had the same letter, and there was nowhere for a valid play.

Player B kept trying phony plays and starting player A's clock. Player A kept passing as there was nowhere to play a valid word that they could see.

This charade was kept up for many, many turns; once player A went over time, player B then passed and got a win, with the time penalty incurred by player A.

I can understand someone trying a possible word that they don't know in the hope it's correct, but when there are

clearly no - even vaguely - possible moves, player B should just accept a loss with good grace. In the game described, as per rule 15.9.1.2 neither player could make a valid play, and the game should have ended well before it did.

I have had a bit of a browse through other countries' rules and also the WESPA rules to see if they have any that would cover making this situation fair.

The NASPA (USA) rules have this:-

V.B. Forced Overtime

If one player has unplayable tiles, it is unethical for the other player to repeatedly play obvious phonies solely to force overtime penalty points. The Director should be called to erase any overtime resulting from this practice.

Also, the rule that most other countries and WESPA have regarding the person going out, is that the person going out neutralises the clock. See example with the WESPA and NASPA rules below:-

WESPA RULES

5.1.2 Actions to be Taken Upon 'Playing Out'

A player attempting to play out must neutralise the timer, rather than starting the opponent's timer. The opponent must then either:

- (a) accept the turn by revealing his or her unplayed tiles;
- (b) call 'hold'; or
- (c) challenge the turn.

5.1.3 Right to Restart Timer

(a) If a player has attempted to play out, and the opponent fails to accept the turn within approximately five seconds, then the player is entitled to restart the opponent's timer while awaiting the opponent's action.

(b) If an opponent's timer is so started, the opponent must neutralise the timer after deciding either to accept the turn or to challenge

USA RULES

V.D. Neutralizing the Clock on the Out Play

After the final play, stop the clock. The game is over if your opponent reveals his/her tiles or declares their point value. The game is also over if your opponent neither holds nor challenges within 20 seconds. If the play is held, start your opponent's clock. It will run until s/he releases the hold (ending the game) or challenges.

If we had this rule, it would have stopped this unfortunate incident happening - player B would have tried a word and neutralised the clock, and not started player A's clock. Player A would not have taken as long as 20 or even 5 seconds to choose to challenge and therefore would not have their time used up.

I will be looking at putting in a remit covering this end of game procedure for the next AGM.

* * *

Two wonderful words from Africa:
WHENWE - South African word for an immigrant with rosy memories of their former home. They reminisce, "When we..."
BEENTO - West African word for someone who was educated in England. They skite, "Been to..."
Both take S.



Granny Wars

Dianne Cole-Baker, Mt Albert

"Granny Wars"! Not another name for Scrabble, but a new card game being published for Christmas by Julia Schiller and her partner.

Julia would like to introduce us to this game and some of the other games their company has developed, and the Mt. Albert Club would like to assess interest from players in our tournament. Why not join us for an evening of fun and friendly rivalry?

It's still at the early stage of arranging - depends on your interest and participation.

We would envisage staying on at the tournament venue, enjoying some pizza and plonk at about 6pm or thereabouts, then trying Julia's new game and some of the previous games she has developed. Probably no later than 8:30pm finish.

So for a different fun and games evening to your usual Saturday night, and some relaxation after the stresses of Scrabble, please let us know if you would be interested. The only cost would be for the food etc. as above.

PS. Granny Wars will be fun but will never replace Scrabble!

* * *



Blog of an annoyed typist

Jennifer Smith, Hamilton/Kiwi

OMG! I'm in trouble with my supervisor, Fay Ranger, again! Honestly, nothing I do ever meets with her approval, ugly toffee-nosed snob that she is.

This time I had to type up the political speech for one of the candidates vying for the leadership of the Labour party, and I had to do it from his dictation. Politicians, as you know, are pretty ponderous and long-winded - not to mention boring - so it wasn't going to be an easy job. Anyway, I got it all done in double quick time.

After the last confrontation I had with Fay, I wasn't taking any chances, so I kept a careful look out for extra Os, and put a spell cheque through the peace to make sure there were no spelling mistakes before I handed it in to her. (SRSLY, I never type **anything**, not evn this blog, without doing a spell Czech.)

But you've guessed it! She was not happy. She reckoned it was full of spelling mistakes. She's underlined all the words she reckons are wrong. Duh! What on earth is she on about?! However, I've worked out what the problem is - she's dumb, that's all, plane and simple.

I mean, I've read the speech out to lots of my friends and acquaintances, like my hairdresser - and it all makes sense to them. You read it allowed, and see if you have any problem:

"Ladies and gentlemen. The currant government has got to go! I'm not usually tritical of my fallow MPs, but I can't help being sinical. They may be volubil as they holla out their policies but they don't speak much scents.

"I know it's radicle, but I'm telling you I don't have an apatite for increasing any tacks. There are too many people, like those poor devvels on the dholl, hoo can't affoord to pay more. I say to that incipit Mr Key, 'Watchet! Only eleven months to the next election, and if you increase feeze now, you may as well fall on your sord!"

There was allot more in the same vane ... but you get the general idea.

Admittedly, some of the words are a bit pompous, but that phreak, Fay, just hasn't got the brains to follow what an intelligent, educated man is saying and understand the littoral meaning of his words.

I mean, is she thick or what!! Even my barbican understand it!

* * *

Recipe for weight-losing exercise

Ingredients

1 Weetbix

1 Aero chocolate bar

Method

Crumble the Aero over the Weetbix.

Voila! AEROBIX*



Eureka moments in Scrabble

Selena Chan, Christchurch

Most Scrabble players will have experienced the 'ah ha' moment psychologists call the eureka effect or moment. Eureka moments are defined as 'a significant discovery or insight that arrives through intuition'. Therefore, due to its ephemeral and subjective nature, the arrival of eureka moments is difficult to forecast. This is especially the case with how our brain calls on our tacit knowledge to solving problems.

We all recognise eureka moments when they arrive. The satisfaction at finding a word (whether it leads to winning a game or not) is often sufficient for a warm glow to descend on us. So experiencing eureka moments are perhaps intrinsic reward stimuli bringing us back to Scrabble despite weathering tournaments where the tile fairies are definitely on holiday.

For some time, I have been intrigued by how the eureka moment occurs. What does it take to bring it about and why does it not happen more often?

As usual, I fossicked on Google Scholar and found the eureka effect occurs in a

muted form, hundreds of times a day! This is because eureka moments are brought about by the same mechanisms we use to carry out mundane everyday activities, like drive the car, respond to emails, cook dinner etc. Our brain does not distinguish between exciting 'ah ha' moments and the daily search for the morning paper under the front hedge. Basically, we problem solve all the time. It is only when the solution is recognised as scintillating by oneself or the people around us, that we take notice of our innate ability to exercise intuitive judgement. The science and human innovation literature has a wealth of literature examples on how complex problems are mulled over before solutions appear in a flash of inspiration.

So, here is a brief breakdown from an experience I had at a National tournament a couple of years ago to illuminate how eureka moments might occur and some ideas on how to better tap into our inner intuition.

I was behind by a small margin and the game was about two thirds through. The board was tight and my opponent played a bingo down to M13. I had what looked to be a very unpromising rack of AILNT and a blank. Therefore, I had to come up with a word to fit down one side of my opponent's word. Crucially, the third and fourth letters of the word, if I played down the right, had to be vowels. Since I already had two **I**s and an **A**, the blank had to be either an **E** or a **U**! My intuitive decision was to place the **I**s at the bottom of the word since **U** and **I** did not usually go together. In order for the **I**s to fit with my opponent's word, they had to be apart, separated by **L**, **N** or **T**. So my rack started to look like this:

ALUTINI, ATUNILI, LAUNITI, TAUNILI
- when I 'saw' NAUTIL! To fit beside the
ESSES of DRESSES.

(NB. I checked the combination on Zyzyva. There are 9 possible 7-letter words, of which NAUTILI is the only one with a **U**! See if you can find the other 8 words)

So, what are the factors that contributed to this brief but satisfying eureka moment?

1. You have got to know your stuff. In this case, word pattern recognition. Otherwise, your neural networks will have nothing to go on. So word knowledge and word layout patterns are key triggers for your neural networks to align. Your work at learning words is rewarded when the right orientation of letters is lined up on your rack and you can make sense of the jumble of letters.
2. It is not just the initial visual impression; the whole decision-making mechanism needs to be practised so you are able to take the shortest route to finding a viable word, recognise when there is no possibility of a bingo and find the word that perhaps scores best or provides a good rack leave. This process takes deliberate practice to perfect.
3. Specialist knowledge comes into play. I had just completed a study of high **I** words as I seem to be plagued by **I**s at tournaments. This has paid dividends many times. For instance, I had one game in the recent Canterbury tournament where I drew 7 of the **I**s and used 4 of them in 2 different bonus words (vanities, birdings - no blanks). I also managed to squeeze out a win in another game when I was presented with the final rack EFIINT and a blank

by playing INFINITE across an **N** on the tight board, with the blank as another **U**!). So, having put in the study, I could at least recognise high **I** words if the right patterns were organised on my rack. Plus, having specialist knowledge is a great confidence booster.



4. Resilience and diligence count. Scientist credited with making intuitive discoveries have put in years of study and continually worked on their problems. So the same holds in Scrabble. Study your games to see what you have missed and how you can improve, even if you have won the game. Recording the words played and the letters on each rack and then using Quackle or similar to analyse your game, helps you work out if you are making progress with becoming a more effective problem solver. You then need to work on the gaps in your word knowledge

and poor decisions made during the game. Working through improving how you solve problems is an on-going process of reflective learning, requiring persistence and fortitude. You need to face up to your weaknesses and work through to improve.

- There is an element of luck in attaining eureka moments. In the above example, the luck element was actually in having to use the blank as a vowel and its placement at the front of the word. This set up the pattern to work towards. Otherwise, there would be many more possibilities to filter. So don't beat yourself up too much when things do not fall into place and you have had a hard luck tournament. If your post-tournament analysis shows that you had made the best of the tiles you were dealt and made the decisions to change tiles when things were truly dire, then accept that the small element of luck crucial to all activity was not available. View the event as another learning experience.
- During a game, a relaxed frame of mind tends to bring on insightful neural activity. You are better able to harness your intuition when you are open to messages from you inner self and able to access your internal mind's eye. As with a previous article on Flow, playing Scrabble may bring about feelings of enjoyment and contentment, setting up ideal conditions for the intuitive process to work.

If you are interested in a neurobiological study of how insight occurs (paragraphs 4 and 5 provide an overview) plus the story of Archimedes' eureka moment, check out this link for the article by American

researchers on "Neural activity when people solve verbal problems with insight".

<http://www.plosbiology.org/article/info>

All the best in your aspirations towards more eureka moments in Scrabble.



"What's the opposite of 'Eureka!'?"

* * *

Was it really easier?

One of the best *Scrabble* players in the world barely speaks English.

Panupol Sujjayakorn, a Thai *Scrabble* player, decided that instead of learning a whole language, he would just memorise the 120,000-word *Scrabble* dictionary so he could play the game.

Now, *that's* determination!



Do a selfie then twerk in your jorts

One of the best ways to discover whether you have become a fuddy duddy is by your reaction to the *Oxford English Dictionary's* annual list of potential new words.

This year's crop of terms and abbreviations coined by a generation apparently obsessed with itself is likely to result in a paroxysm or two. *Srsly* (abbreviation of seriously).

Compilers of the dictionary's online database have identified 1000 new words that will be considered for the next paper edition of the dictionary if they prove to be more than passing fads.

Many terms suggest a certain self regard among their creators. Examples include *metime* (time spent relaxing on one's own), taking a *selfie* (a photograph of oneself, usually taken on a cellphone camera held at arm's length), or having a "food baby" (a swelling of the gut caused by overindulgence rather than pregnancy).

Some readers may already be moved to *vom* (abbreviation of vomit), but others may find themselves *squeeing* (squealing with delight) or even moved to *twerking*, the suggestive dance popularised by Miley Cyrus when she appeared at the MTV Video Music Awards earlier this month.

Katherine Connor Martin, of Oxford Dictionaries Online, said "twerk" has been around for about 20 years in America, arising from the hip hop scene, but had earned a place in the database after it became a talking point last year.

"There are many theories about the origin of the word, but we think the most likely theory is that it is an alteration of

work, because that has a history of being used in similar ways, with dancers being encouraged to 'work it'. The T could be a result of blending with another word such as twist or twitch. The current public reaction to twerking is reminiscent in some ways of how the twisting craze was regarded in the early 1960s... only time will tell if twerking will similarly be embraced by the general public."

Technology is one of the biggest drivers of new vocabulary. *Bilcoin* (an online currency) and "click and collect" (ordering goods online before going to pick them up) appear, while Facebook's system of allowing people to endorse a page has turned the word UNLIKE into a verb.

Neologisms from the fashion world include *platforms* (platform shoes without a high heel), *jeggings* (jeans leggings), and *jorts* (jeans shorts).

For readers who found themselves flinching constantly: *apols* (abbreviation of apologies). You may consider the whole exercise an *omnishambles* (a series of cockups, coined in Armando Iannucci's political sitcom *The Thick of it*).

* * *



Name shame

On July 12, a San Francisco news station rushed a report on air with what it thought were the names of the four pilots of Asiana flight 214, which crash landed at San Francisco International Airport, killing three and seriously injuring 180.

The news station had to make an embarrassing apology after being tricked into reporting incorrect, offensive and racist names for the pilots who crash-landed at San Francisco Airport.

KTVU anchor Tori Campbell reported live on air that "Captain Sum Ting Wong, Wi Tu Lo, Ho Lee Fuk and Bang Ding Ow" were piloting the Asiana Boeing 777 when it crashed.

Campbell said the National Transport Safety Board (NTSB) had confirmed the pilots' names.

Campbell apologised for the mistake on air later that day but pointed the finger at the government organisation saying, "These names were not accurate despite an NTSB official confirming them this morning."

The NTSB released a statement saying the error was the fault of a summer intern who "acted outside the scope of his authority when he erroneously confirmed the names of the flight crew on the aircraft".

Following the gaff, three veteran producers were fired by the TV station.

* * *

Scrabble in te reo

Jacob Tapiata (Te Arawa, Ngati Porou) and Sheeanda Field (Ngariki Kaipatahi, Ngati Porou, Tahoe) tested their te reo skills in a Scrabble game as part of Massey's Maori Language Month activities.

It was the first time the Scrabble board totally in te reo Maori has been at Massey's Manawatu campus. The board was created by the Palmerston North City Council to help speakers with using te reo Maori every day.

Sheeanda Field, Kaihauta Maori, says it was "really neat" to have the resource at the library. "We're trying to foster a fun environment around speaking te reo and this initiative is just one of the ways we can do this."

Jacob Tapiata, a self-confessed Scrabble fanatic, enjoyed the experience. "It was tumeke (awesome) to be able to play and use te reo Maori and to have some fun with your colleagues."

After some heated exchanges and accusations of cheating a winner was declared. Jacob Tapiata won the game by five points.

FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, ALVIN,
DO WE HAVE TO GO THROUGH
THIS EVERY TIME WE HAVE
ALPHABET SOUP?!!?

MICRON...MICRO...
...MINOR...COIN...ICON...
RIM...MOO...CROON...
MORON...MORONIC...



THE SCRABBLE ADDICT

Phoneys

by Ed Martin

An extract from *The Scrabble® Player's Handbook*.

Don't play phoneys! Many players underestimate just how costly a phoney is, especially newer players. Even one phoney has a strong chance of costing you the game. On the surface a phoney appears to cost you the points you would otherwise have scored that turn. It's actually a lot worse than that.

Firstly, you have put yourself into a poor frame of mind and will immediately lose concentration.

"Why did I play such a stupid move? I should have known that was never a word! If only I had some sense!" Feelings of anger and annoyance are not conducive to cool, rational analysis - and if you play a phoney and have to face the same rack for a

second time then your next move is likely to be poor as well. If you can't regain your composure quickly, it may affect the whole of the rest of the game. Be positive - after playing a phoney there is nothing you can do about it. Concentrate on playing the best move on each of the remaining turns.

Secondly, you have revealed all or part of your rack to your opponent.

The degree to which this matters depends on how many letters you showed, and the stage of the game. But it will have an effect. In the most extreme example, if you play a phoney bonus with fewer than seven letters in the bag, your opponent will know exactly what is in the bag, and will be in a position to outwit you in the endgame.

Fortunately this is rare.

More normally the effect will be lesser - but still important. Most obviously, your opponent will be able to block your best plays on the next turn. Alternatively, they may be able to play an unusually aggressive move, safe in the knowledge that you will be unable to take advantage of the opening. Indeed, you may be faced with a dilemma about whether to sacrifice points blocking the spot yourself on your next move. Most likely, you will return to cursing yourself about your folly in playing

the phoney in the first place, compounding the problem.

While the effect of a phoney on the result depends on circumstances, it is a mistake to think that it is somehow less of a problem to play a phoney immediately after your opponent has played a phoney, or perhaps exchanged, on the grounds that neither players' score has

increased. That argument won't amount to much when you have lost a game by 40 points and could have done something about it!

Similarly some players are unperturbed by playing a phoney on the first move. The same thing applies - it might be the difference between winning or losing. The fact that the phoney doesn't put you into a losing position in its own right is neither here nor there.

Weaker players will often say that they were 'unlucky' because their word was disallowed, but this misses the point that playing a phoney is usually a choice. It is very rare for a player to put down a word that they are 100% sure is valid, only

"If you lose a turn with a phoney then you don't deserve to win the game. Simple." -

Mark Nyman

to have it disallowed; there is usually a scintilla of doubt over a nonword before it is played. Whether it is caused by a "rush of blood to the head" or just excessive optimism that a high-scoring or rack-balancing move will be allowed, the fact is that if you choose to play within your own safe word knowledge (i.e. only picking candidate moves from the list you have in your brain of definitely acceptable words), you can choose not to play phoney words at all.

The thought process "Hey, you never know if you don't try" usually precedes a phoney. Instead of risking the loss of a turn, make a note of your potential word at the bottom of your scoresheet with the intention of looking it up after the game. Then take the safe option instead. Scrabble is about "controlling the controllables" and the number of turns you lose by playing phoney words falls into that category.

Of course, the only sure fire way to avoid playing phoney words is to study. You just need to know the words - and if you have to resort to guesswork during the game, you are at a massive disadvantage.

The *Scrabble Player's Handbook* is available for free download at: www.scrabbleplayershandbook.com



* * *

How's that?

From Val Flint, Hamilton

- A calendar's days are numbered.
- A plateau is a high form of flattery.
- Those who get too big for their britches will be exposed in the end.
- When she saw her first strands of grey hair, she thought she'd dye.
- Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead to know basis.
- Marathon runners with bad shoes suffer the agony of de feet.
- No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.
- Atheism is a non-prophet organisation.
- The soldier who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a seasoned veteran.
- When cannibals ate a missionary, they got a taste of religion.

Scrabble art



Twenty years ago

John Foster, Independent

This issue my selection is a very neat article listing strange five-letter animal names starting with every letter of the alphabet. They should be familiar to most Scrabble players as allowable words but I'm betting most of us would not know their meanings.

The authorship of the article is unclear but as "A Brock" is actually a badger I am surmising that it is yet another nom-de-plume of the multinom-de-pluminous Jaffer Gentry.

Animal Fivers

There are hundreds of animal names available to Scrabble players, from the common CAT and DOG to the more exotic GUANACO and VIZCACHA. Here is a quick A - Z romp through the murkier reaches of the five letter animal alphabet.

AGUTI	a guinea-piglike South American rodent destructive to sugar-cane.
BOBAK	a burrowing squirrel, also called the Polish marmot.
COYPU	the large South American aquatic rodent that yields nutria fur.
DAMAN	the Syrian hyrax, which is the biblical cony.
ELAND	a South African antelope with a bulge on the larynx.
FOSSA	a civet or viverrine carnivore of Madagascar.
GAYAL	an Indian domesticated ox, akin to the gaur.
HUTIA	the West Indian hog-rat, which has fur mixed with spines.
INDRI	a short-tailed Madagascan lemur with exserted ears.
JOCKO	a chimpanzee, deriving from the West African word 'ncheko'.
KULAN	the onager, or a nearly related wild ass of the Kirghiz Steppe.
LORIS	the small, nocturnal slender lemur of Sri Lanka.
MANUL	a wildcat of central Asia, with soft yellowish fur.
NYALA	a large gregarious South African antelope.
OKAPI	a giraffoid ruminant: discovered in 1900 in central Africa.
PEKAN	the wood-shock, a large North American musteline carnivore.
QUOLL	the spotted predatory dasyure or 'native cat' of Australia.
RATEL	a nocturnal badger-like creature of Africa and India.
SAIGA	an ovine, reddish antelope of West Asia.
TATOU	the giant armadillo of the forests of Brazil.
URIAL	a wild sheep inhabiting the lower Himalayas.
VISON	an old name for the American mink.
WALER	in India, a horse imported from New South Wales.
XERUS	an African ground squirrel with a long tail and coarse hair.
YAPOK	the South American amphibious opossum which eats shrimps.
ZERDA	a small, large-eared African fennec fox.

A Brock

Who's playing Scrabble

A Scrabble-playing pizza chef wants his job title to be officially recognised by Scrabble. And Huddersfield, England, man Neil Curtis has been backed by his boss at Pizza Express in a campaign to get the word PIZZAIOLO* - meaning pizza chef - accepted.

It all started when Neil took up an invitation to staff from the restaurant group's new chief executive, Richard Hodgson, to ask him "anything" they wanted. Neil wrote to Richard asking him why the job title isn't officially recognised as a legal word in Scrabble, while BARISTA is - and asking what he planned to do about it!

Taking up the challenge, Richard has called on the company's 10,000 staff to support Neil in his mission to have "pizzaiolo" officially recognised at Scrabble tournaments, by Scrabble clubs and by the Scrabble app from video games firm EA Games.

Said Richard: "While it may have seemed like a trivial request from Neil, for me it highlighted a wider issue - a lot of people don't know what a pizzaiolo is. We've got 2,123 pizzaiolos turning out handmade pizzas across over 420 restaurants every day and Neil's right to say they deserve to be recognised.

"I spent my first few weeks with PizzaExpress working in some of our restaurants and saw just how talented our pizzaiolos are. I tried my hand at pizza tossing and can report that it's really hard. Our chefs train for three months before they step into our open kitchens and proudly carry on the Italian pizzaiolo tradition. They should be celebrated."



Neil said: "I love Scrabble - I've got about 30 games on the go at the moment - and I love my job.

"I can't believe that my email to Richard has sparked a full-scale campaign for *Collins Official Scrabble Words* to recognise

'pizzaiolo'. Of course, there's only one 'Z' in Scrabble so you'd have to use a blank to play the word - but it could lead to some great scores. The word BARISTA is legal so I think 'pizzaiolo' should be in all dictionaries."

Pizza-lovers can support the campaign by joining the petition on Twitter - #scrabblekneadspizzaiolo - using the handle @PizzaExpress.

- The word 'pizzaiolo' is not recognised by the Collins or Chambers dictionaries
- The Collins dictionary [and our *Scrabble dictionary*] includes the word PIZZAIOLA as an adjective - cookery of a sauce or dish, made with tomatoes, olive oil, garlic and other seasonings - not as a noun to describe a person
- The Collins Dictionary recognises the word barista
- The word 'pizzaiolo' was added to the online edition of the Oxford English Dictionary in 2006



Bonjour.

You will guess that I'm French! I was born in 1530, christened Jean. My father was just a humble notary in the old southern town of Nimes, so I was not from a family of consequence. However, I managed to gain employment in the service of the Keeper of the Great Seal of France, where I attracted the attention of King Francis II. He made me his private secretary, and I was then appointed ambassador to Portugal.

Being a scholarly person, I had hoped to leave a worthwhile legacy - a dictionary of the French language. I spent many, many years compiling it, and it was one of the first French Dictionaries. It was called *Thresor de la langue françoise tant ancienne que moderne*, and was published in 1606. Just think - I could have been as famous as the English Samuel Johnson, who didn't compile his dictionary until 150 years after mine. It distresses me - even after all this time - to tell you nobody remembers me for my dictionary.

My eponymous words are not in my dictionary, but they are in yours. Let me tell you why.

In 1559 I was sent to Portugal to negotiate a marriage between the king's sister, Marguerite of Valois, and Don Sebastian, the king of Portugal. The negotiations failed - and not just because Margaret was only six years old, and Sebastian five! But those details are irrelevant to my story.

From my aborted visit to Portugal came the seeds - literally - for a worldwide industry.

While in Portugal, a botanist friend in Lisbon invited me to dinner. He showed me a plant he was growing in his garden. He had obtained the seeds from Portuguese sailors who had recently returned from America. He believed the plant had wonderful healing properties, and reckoned its application to a cancerous tumor had worked wonders. I became convinced this was so after treating a friend who had a serious face wound.

I cultivated the seeds he gave me with great care in the garden of the French Embassy, and in 1560 I sent a sample of the plant to Queen Mother Catherine de Medici, because she suffered from chronic migraine headaches. Not only did she find the white powder from the leaves cured her migraines, she also found it very pleasant to sniff. She decreed that the plant was to be called "Herba Regina," or the queen's herb!

Other prominent persons followed her example, and tobacco (pictured below) became fashionable, along with the culture of snuffing.

I had no idea the water-soluble alkaloid was poisonous. You people today have the gift of hindsight, medical science and



experience, and know just how dangerous the substance named after me is.

But even then, long before the twentieth century, tobacco was condemned by many:

- James VI of Scotland (later James I of England) referred to smoking as “a custom loathsome to the eye, hateful to the nose, harmful to the brain, dangerous to the lungs, and in the black, stinking fumes thereof, nearest resembling the horrible Stygian smoke of the pit that is bottomless.”
- Amurat, a sultan of Turkey, ordered smokers to be shot.
- The czar of Russia punished smokers by having their noses snipped off.
- The Senate in Berne, Switzerland, added “smoking” to “stealing” and “killing” in the Ten Commandments.

The use of tobacco might have been stamped out completely but for commerce – our French government imposed a state tax of two francs per hundred pounds of tobacco, and the million francs a year revenue kept tobacco in favour. Other countries followed suit and benefitted from taxing it.

The Swedish botanist Carolus Linnaeus [who also named QUASSIA that featured in the last issue of *Forwards*] named the common tobacco plant NICOTIANA – in my honour, he thought. But it has turned out to be a dubious honour. Yes, I’m Jean Nicot.

Sadly, the words NICOTIN(S), NICOTINE(S), NICOTINED, NICOTINIC, etc have made me infamous rather than famous.

Even if you are not a NICOTIAN (tobacco smoker), try to remember me kindly when you play any of my words and say, “Merci, Monsieur Nicot”, for the 50 bonus points.

I've been reading

Anne Scatchard, Whangarei

The *Kashmir Shawl* by Rosie Thomas contains many Indian words allowed in Scrabble. I can't wait to use PASHM!

CHAI	spiced tea
CHARPOY	bedstead of woven webbing
CHENAR	oriental plane tree
CHORTEN	Buddhist shrine
CHOTA	small
DHAL	curry from lentils/ beans
DHOBI	washerman
DUPATTA	scarf
GHAT	steps leading down to a river
GOMPA	Tibetan monastery
KAMEEZ	long tunic
KURTA	long loose garment
MANI	place to pray
NAAN	flat bread
PAKORA	pieces of food dipped in batter and fried
PASHM	underfur esp. from goats used for cashmere shawls
PASHMINA	cashmere shawl
PICE	former Indian coin
PYJAMA	loose fitting trousers
SHIKARI	a hunter
TONGA	light two wheeled vehicle
THANGKA	religious painting on a scroll



GOMPA, Tibetan monastery

Overseas News

Canada

8th Canadian National Scrabble Championships (52 players)

1. Adam Logan, Ottawa
 2. Ross Brown, Ottawa
- Adam is, a 38-year-old mathematician, civil servant and former world champion. He played GARDYLOO (a Scottish warning call) and EGLOMISE (an artistic process using glass).

Guyana

Guyana Open Tournament

1. Leon Belony
2. Colin Chichester
3. Wayne Cave

Iran

Newsbisuit.com reports the newly-elected reformist Iranian president, Hassan Rouhani, declared that his first act in office would be to reform the widely-derided Scrabble smartphone app. Mr Rouhani has spoken about the need to re-engage with the West, free political prisoners and return to the traditional *Chambers* dictionary. There are 50 million Iranians eligible to vote, the majority of whom are furious that their Scrabble player history has been wiped on *Facebook*.

Malaysia

Penang International Scrabble Championship

Winner: Mohammad Inayatullah, Pakistan

Thailand

28th King's Cup International Scrabble Championship, Bangkok

1. Nigel Richards, New Zealand
2. Komol Panyasophonlert, Thailand
3. Gerald Carter, England

Pakistan

25th Pakistan Scrabble Championship

1. Waseem Khatri, defending champion
2. Yasir Jamshed
3. Mohammad Inayatullah

Waseem, the defending champion, has now won the title six times. Five teenagers finished in the top 10. One of them, Mohammad Inshal, finished fourth, ahead of several former national champions.

20th Ranking Scrabble Tournament

1. Yasir Jamshaid
2. Mohammad Inayatullah
3. Waseem Khatri



United Arab Emirates

In a bid to enhance the learning and teaching of Arabic, improve student vocabulary and writing skills and increase student motivation, the Abu Dhabi Education Council (Adec) will introduce Arabic Scrabble to Grade 6 students as an extra-curricular learning resource.

A pilot phase was implemented across six schools taking into account gender and region (Abu Dhabi, Al-Ain and Western Region), in order to measure the impact of the game in improving student writing skills. During the pilot phase, students as well as schools developed a great interest in the game, Scrabble clubs were formed, and students competed in local competitions at both school and regional levels. Students underwent two assessments, one prior to playing the game, and the other after months of practice, to measure the impact of the game on improving their writing skills. The pilot outcomes showed improvement in writing skills and vocabulary for most of the students who have participated in the game compared to their peers who didn't.



UK

The winner of Channel 4's Child Genius competition is schoolgirl Scrabble champion Shrinidhi Prakash, aged 11. Shrinidhi (above) competed in more than four rounds (21 finalists) to be crowned Child Genius of the Year 2013. The competition, organised in association with British Mensa, tested the children, aged 7 to 11, on their skills in mathematics, logic, spelling and definitions, general knowledge and debating.

Shrinidhi, from Orpington, Kent, is the current World Under-12 Scrabble Champion and has held the title for the past two years. A confirmed bookworm, she is currently hard at work writing her fourth novel.



USA

2013 National SCRABBLE Championship (500 players)

1. Nigel Richards, NZ
2. Komol Panyasophonlert, Thailand
3. Will Anderson, USA

Nigel has now won the title five times, four times consecutively. In the final round, he had enough of a lead over runner-up Komol Panyasophonlert, that he could afford to lose by up to 55 points without losing the championship.

Nigel collected the \$US10,000 prize. It was a feat made more impressive as he competed in section A which used the North American word source. He lost two of the last three games but ended up pipping Komol, with 24 games from 31 and a spread of 1934 just 66 points ahead of Komol. Evidently he received a standing ovation from the 500+ players.

USA National Scrabble association folds

The National Scrabble Association, which helped shepherd the game's public image for more than 25 years, ceased operations when Hasbro, the owners of Scrabble [in the USA], decided to cut much of its funding. Hasbro has spent millions of dollars over the years financing the independent organisation, but now says it will perform the association's tasks in-house.

The following article by well-known Scrabble player and writer, Stefan Fatsis, appeared in The New York Times in July:

After more than 25 years managing, marketing and refereeing the competitive side of America's most venerated word game, the National Scrabble Association has packed up its tiles and gone out of business.

Its demise doesn't reflect a lack of interest in Scrabble, which turns 65 this year. The game has never been more popular. More than a million people, from kids to hipsters to nonagenarians, play daily on Facebook. In May, nearly 200 students in fourth through eighth grades competed in the National School Scrabble Championship. On Saturday, more than 500 die-hards, myself included, will gather in Las Vegas for the National Scrabble Championship, a five-day, 31-game anagrammatic marathon.

Instead, the death of Scrabble's organizing body – which closed on July 1 following years of declining financial support from Hasbro, the game's owner – reflects a broader conflict between corporate and intellectual forces in American cultural life.

Guess which one is winning. Played at its

highest level, Scrabble is a strategic sibling of chess, backgammon and the Chinese game go. Top tournament players must master as many of the 178,000 acceptable 2- through 15-letter words as possible, "see" them among a jumble of letters, determine which maximize the chances of winning and consider an opponent's possible countermoves, all while a timer ticks from 25 minutes to zero for each player to make all plays.

Like those old games, competitive Scrabble is a math-brain exercise, one combining spatial relations, board geometry and language maximization. Unlike them, it is owned by a company, whose goal is to generate revenue through the sale of sets and spinoffs and downloads.

"You have to understand that we are in the games-making business. We are not in the altruism business," a marketing executive for Selchow & Righter, Scrabble's first corporate parent, said during a meeting with tournament players lobbying for support in 1985. But those words could just as easily have been spoken last week by an executive of Hasbro, which has owned the rights to Scrabble in the United States and Canada since 1989.

During the past quarter-century, Hasbro has spent millions of dollars financing the independent National Scrabble Association. The association organized national, world and school championships; booked the winners on the "Today" show and "Jimmy Kimmel Live"; sanctioned more than 200 local tournaments a year; maintained a database of several thousand dues-paying players and calculated their tournament ratings; placed the game on ESPN for six straight years; published a newsletter;

worked with Merriam-Webster on the official Scrabble dictionary (a fifth edition is in the works; get ready for "gi," "cuz," "ixnay" and more); and fielded inquiries ranging from disputatious living-room players seeking rules adjudications to a 1990s media blowup over the inclusion of the word "jew" in the lexicon.

Was that corporate money well spent? The publicity that the Scrabble association helped generate no doubt sold more than a few boards. But the group's performance could not and should not have been measured in such a reductive way.

Scrabble isn't a marketing or earnings-report star. It can't be hyped with an online vote resulting in a cat's replacing an iron, which Hasbro employed to juice sales of Monopoly. It doesn't rely on new cards that players need to buy to keep playing, like the Hasbro game Magic: The Gathering.

But as a game, Scrabble is remarkable. It carefully balances skill and luck and risk and reward. It exploits the breadth and beauty of the English language. It fosters mind-blowing creativity, heart-stopping tension and computer-stretching quantitative analysis.

Most people playing online or at the kitchen table aren't aware of Scrabble's complexity, let alone its tournament culture. Hasbro, obviously, is. The corporate question is whether it has a responsibility to both worlds, casual and competitive – and

whether that responsibility extends to times like these, when Hasbro has been laying off workers and focusing on top-selling products.

Corporations from Coca-Cola to the N.F.L. are caretakers of some slice of history. Usually that history is central to the business. To Hasbro, Scrabble isn't. But it is an enduring piece of Americana, developed in a garden apartment in Jackson Heights, Queens, by an unemployed architect named Alfred Butts who spent years perfecting his game before it swept the country in the 1950s. I have yet to find a parallel for it – that is, a proprietary game with a subculture whose passion and sophistication transcend its ownership.

What's the value of that to a \$4 billion corporation? Is it more or less than the \$700,000 or \$800,000 a year Hasbro spent on the National Scrabble Association at its peak – before it stopped paying for club and tournament Scrabble in 2008 and slashed the budget for school and casual Scrabble to the point that the association decided to cease operations?

But forget about money. What's the

value of something like Scrabble to the culture at large? Does its owner have an obligation to nurture each side of the game, whether or not it jibes with the prosaic nature of the toy industry or boosts profits? Do history and intellect matter?

I spoke recently with Hasbro's chief marketing officer, John Frascotti. He said the right things about Scrabble's past and its competitive side. Hasbro is "committed to spending marketing dollars to promote the Scrabble brand and to promote Scrabble play," Mr. Frascotti said. He told me he believed the company could do what the Scrabble association did, at least for schools and casual players. "Judge us as we act, not as we say," he said.

I promised to keep an open mind. But since I started playing competitively and reporting on Scrabble 15 years ago, I've shaken hands with a moving walkway of Hasbro executives, all of whom have pledged love for and commitment to the game. And then the cuts came. Hasbro recently withdrew its last, token contribution to the national championship: \$15,000 in prize money.

The winner of the tournament in Las Vegas will still be paid \$10,000. After the company pulled the plug on them in 2008, competitive players formed their own governing body, the North American Scrabble Players Association, and, thanks to higher dues and participation fees, the tournament circuit has kept humming. If Hasbro does the same with School Scrabble – Mr. Frascotti said it wouldn't – I'll help find a way for my 11-year-old daughter and other young devotees to compete for a title in an educational game that they adore.

Hasbro knows that we players will

volunteer to do what it had paid others to do for it: support a culture that doesn't necessarily fit in an earnings-driven world of fad toys and movie tie-ins. Maybe that's smart business. But with ownership comes responsibility, and sometimes even a little altruism.

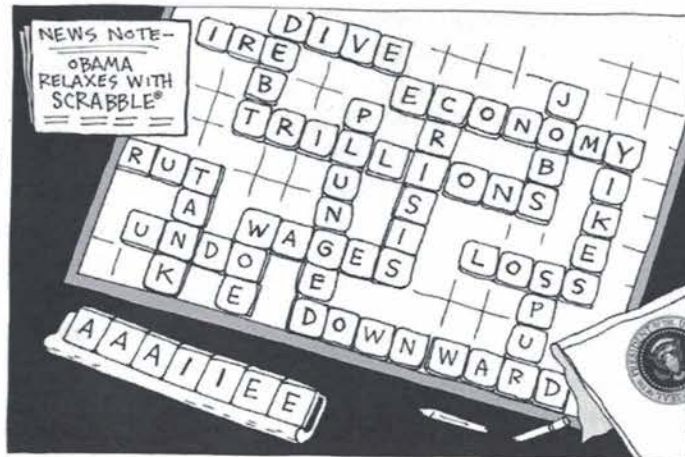
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Plurals

We'll begin with a box, and the plural is boxes, But the plural of ox becomes oxen, not oxes. One fowl is a goose, but two are called geese, Yet the plural of moose should never be meese. You may find a lone mouse or a nest full of mice, Yet the plural of house is houses, not hices.

If the plural of man is always called men, Why shouldn't the plural of pan be called pen? If I speak of my foot and show you my feet, And I give you a boot, would a pair be called beet? If one is a tooth and a whole set are teeth, Why shouldn't the plural of booth be called beeth?

Then one may be that, and three would be those, Yet hat in the plural would never be hose, And the plural of cat is cats, not cose. We speak of a brother and also of brethren, But though we say mother, we never say methren. Then the masculine pronouns are he, his and him, But imagine the feminine: she, shis and shim!



The Gods of Scrabble

Mohan Srivastava, from Toronto, a 55-year-old geological statistician, won the 2013 CBC Creative Nonfiction Prize for this story:

"Should no be cheating, young man!"

Struggling to find my footing on the bottom of the pool, I rubbed water from my eyes and turned to the voice, accented and shrill. Sitting on the edge, plump and paisley in her bathing suit, was an elderly woman. A granny. An irate granny.

"You is cheating for to be in this lane!" Eastern European. An irate Eastern European. She hung onto the "ng" longer than usual, pushing it halfway to a "k"; a "z" nudged aside the "th"; the "ch" was closer to "sh". She snapped on her bathing cap, glared at me and repeated emphatically "Sheetingk!!"

I hopped slowly through the water to the edge and pulled myself up to sit beside her and explain: "I actually don't swim very fast; I've been in a cast for 17 weeks and the doctor suggested swimming laps." She blushed as I gestured to my emaciated right leg, still scarred from the motorcycle accident. "Sorry for my mistaking," she said, "Young mans always using slow lane when is not for them. Is fast lane is for them."

I knew what she was complaining about. Trying to rehab my leg, I was often a bit put out when one of the young mans would use the slow lane just because it was less crowded. Dolphins like space to move.

I returned to my laps and she followed along behind me, bobbing up and down in an exaggerated breaststroke. I couldn't make any distance on her, and she seemed to have no wish to pass me. So we pattered



back and forth for half an hour together.

She climbed out when I was done and asked, as I towed myself off, "Vat you doingk now?"

"Umm, I don't know. I don't have any plans. Just going home I guess."

"Should be joining to me and my friends." I was confused, and hesitated long enough for her to add "Is nothing fancy. Is club for Scrabble in room beside of library. We need other player. Is missing the old one, Agi. Is sick today." I agreed to join them; it seemed rude to decline the invitation. And I like Scrabble.

I changed into my street clothes and found my way to the room beside the library. My swimming partner was already there, setting up the board. I introduced myself and she beamed "Mo! Is Hungarian name!" I hated to disappoint her, but I explained that it was actually a shortened form of an East Indian name, Mohan. She was undeterred. "In my country, is shortening of Moric, which is meaning of black person."

"My name is Mancy. Is meaning of graceful." I shook her hand and helped her turn all the Scrabble tiles upside down in the lid. "Friends will be soon. Zsóka and Márta. Zsóka she is sheeter, always making words not are words. Márta not so good; but she is lonely so be with friends is good."

When Zsóka the Cheater arrived, she gave Mancy a knowing look. "Always with the young men, Mancy." I saw Mancy blush again; she seemed easily embarrassed.

Zsóka turned to me, introduced herself and said "Mancy, she's not so good with English; doesn't know so many words like me. This is why Scrabble is so good for her: to learn new words, to discuss them, to practice using them."

Mancy dismissed her friend's patronizing commentary. "Is why you lose last time, Zsóka? Or maybe you no so good with words like you think." I liked these two. Scrabble, attitude and trash talk mix well.

Márta breezed in. Chiffon scarves and make-up. We were missing a chair, so I stood up to get her one from across the room, limping visibly as I carried it back. "Such a gentleman!" said Zsóka.

Márta waved the tip of a scarf at me, Zsa Zsa Gabor style, and winked. "Too bad for Agi. Not so bad for us." I must have shown some sign of discomfort because Zsóka jumped to my defence. "Don't make our guest feel awkward, Márta. He is polite young man and we want him to come back and play again. Right?"

Mancy concurred emphatically, "Good young mans are not so many. Always bad words and baggy clothes. Are not so many like you who will keep company of old ladies." I told them I was glad they'd invited

me, that I enjoyed the game, and would be glad to play with them again if they needed a fourth.

Zsóka declared that she would keep score. "And Moric will be checking," added Mancy.

"Youngest goes first?" I asked, venturing a joke.

All three of the Hungarian matrons glared at me. "Must be taking of tiles and first to be closest to letter A," Mancy decreed. On this, they managed a rare moment of agreement.

Zsóka drew a "B"; Mancy mouthed "sheeter" at me; Márta winked again. We each drew our seven letters and started the ritual of shuffling them on our rack, hoping for inspiration. The Scrabble Gods were not smiling on me, having saddled me with six vowels and a consonant. Was "ee-i-o" a word? A greeting, perhaps, on Old Macdonald's farm.

Zsóka opened up play with "gym" and Mancy immediately complained. "What it is with no vowables?" Zsóka said it was the same as "gim-nah-sium" and looked to me for confirmation. Before I could offer an opinion, Mancy pointed out "Is ab ... abreef ... is shortening and no shortening not allowed. Is in rules." But the rules in the box lid were covered with tiles, and so the women turned to me, Moric the Arbiter of English. I nodded, to indicate that I got Mancy's point, but said that "gym" is such a common abbreviation in English that it probably counts as a legitimate word for Scrabble. Mancy sulked; Zsóka preened and counted her points; Márta winked again. I wondered if it was a tic, and not a wink.

We continued on for several rounds, with every word being debated and discussed.

Zsóka was forced to retract "peeple". Márta stuck to solid and uncontroversial words like "road". Mancy kept insisting that she was very close to using all her letters, but never got closer than "chop". I was challenged on "gumbo", but managed to convince the others that it was not a misspelling of "jumbo", but a legitimate soup ... "like borscht," I said, trying to be helpful with a culturally relevant example.

"I like, is very good explanation," said Mancy. "Gumbo. I learn new word today. You explain more words, I learn more words."

Zsóka played "rhino", and Mancy asked "What it is rhino?", struggling with the pronunciation. I explained that it was the same as a rhinoceros. "Orrszarvú," added Márta, giving the Hungarian word. Mancy was unconvinced: "But is missing ending. Is like orrszarvú without nose." Zsóka jumped in, pointing out it wasn't a nose, it was a horn. "Is still bad word, like gym. Is not by rules," complained Mancy; but Zsóka had already added her points.

Two rounds later, I had on my rack a seven letter word that could be played onto a triple word score, with my "M" landing on a double letter score ... nearly 100 points. But the Scrabble Gods weren't smiling on me, they were snickering; this was a joke, not a gift. The word they'd blessed me with was "orgasms".

Having no wish to field Mancy's inevitable question ... "What it is orgasms?" ... I chose, reluctantly, to pass on the seven letter word and played "grass" instead, still snagging the triple word score. The Scrabble Gods snorted derisively. Wimp. They delivered to me five more vowels as punishment for cowardice.

On my next turn, when I used the "M" and the "O", Zsóka said "Oh, too bad you didn't have those on your last turn. You could have made orgasms."

"Yes, would be good word," agreed Márta. "Almost the same in Hungarian: orgazmus."

"Can be plural?" asked Mancy.

"Of course," replied Márta, as Zsóka nodded.

Of course.

* * *

Trivia

Joan Thomas, Hastings

I play in a pub quiz at the RSA on Wednesday nights. The pub quiz is a good place to learn new words.

I now know WURTZITE, a sulphide of zinc.

The combination of the seven letters required to add to one floater on the board will probably not materialise on my rack for some considerable time. I hope that I don't forget this word but if I ever miss the opportunity to play it I will never know!

Do you know what is the longest word which can be spelt without repeating a letter? Apparently it is UNCOPYRIGHTABLE - can anyone come up with a longer one which is in our Collins word list?

SCRAUNCHED* is deemed to be the longest English word that is only one syllable long. There are loads of references to it on the web, including from the Oxford Dictionary, but it is not in our Collins word list nor in the Chambers Dictionary. SCRAUNCH /ES /ED /ING would be useful additions for Scrabble fanatics.

[DERMATOGLYPHICS in our word list equals UNCOPYRIGHTABLE. - Ed]

Strange animals

Jennifer Smith, Hamilton/Kiwi

There are some very strange animals in our word list, as the article in "Twenty years ago" shows.

Here is a collection of 60 compound words combining two animals that I have been collecting over the years. If you have two animals on your rack, you could try them together! Chances are, you'll strike it right.

Two animals don't always make a third when they get together, of course. BATFOWL means to catch birds at night, BUCKRAM means to stiffen, a BUGBEAR causes anxiety, COCKCROW is the dawn, and WOLFRAM is tungsten.

To me, the most fascinating thing about this list is that only three of the words have anagrams:

BATFISH - BIFTAHS

BEARCAT - ABREACT and CABARET

RAMCAT - AMTRAC and TARMAC.

The lack of anagrams indicates that the words use a horrible collection of consonants - one glance down the list will confirm this! Not the sort of letters you normally want to see collected together on your rack, so any one of these words could be a game-saving, rack-clearing gem.

They can also give you the chance to net a decent triple word score by extending a simple animal word with another.

ANTBEAR BUCKRAM CATFISH

ANTLION BUFFALOFISH CATWORM

BATFISH BUGBEAR COCKBIRD

BATFOWL BULLBAT COCKCROW

BATHORSE BULLDOG COCKHORSE

BEARCAT BULLFROG COCKROACH

BOARFISH CATBIRD CODFISH

COWBIRD	FOXSHARK	SHEEPDOG
COWFISH	FROGFISH	SNAKEBIRD
DEERFLY	GOATFISH	SPARROWHAWK
DEERHOUND	GOOSEFISH	TITMICE
DOGFISH	GRUBWORM	TITMOUSE
DOGFOX	HAWKMOTH	TOADFISH
DOLPHINFISH	HOGFISH	WOLFFISH
DRAGONFLY	HORSEFLY	(WOLFISH is also a word)
DUCKMOLE	LIONFISH	WOLFHOUND
EAGLEHAWK	MOUSEBIRD	WOLFRAM
EELWORM	PIGFISH	WORMFLY
FISHWORM	RABBITFISH	ZEBRASS
FOXFISH	RAMCAT	(not quite two animal words)
FOXHOUND	RATFISH	

If you think these animals are strange, just take a look at some of the places where animals hang out or are cared for! A common ending of -ERY can be added to at least 20 animal names. All the following can be pluralised, and not one of them has an anagram.

BEAVERY	HOGGERY	RATTERY
CATTERY	JACKASSERY	SWANNERY
DOGGERY	MONKERY	SWINERY
FISHERY	MOUSERY	SHELLFISHERY
FROGGERY	OWLERY	SNAILERY
GOOSERY	PEACOCKERY	WHALERY
HENNERY	PIGGERY	WORMERY

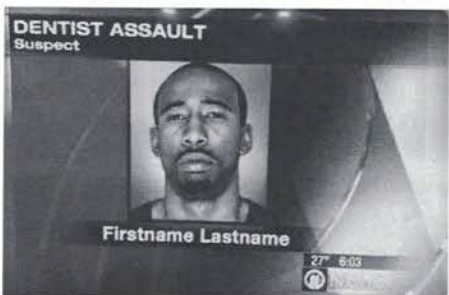
(HEN and SWAN needed an extra N before the -ERY)

Watch out for two imposters, SPIDERY and TIGERY. Although correct words, they don't fit into this list - they haven't had -ERY added to them, just -Y. They describe animal-like behaviour, so as adjectives, they can't be pluralised. BEAVERY, however, **can** be pluralised, even though BEAVER has only been extended by -Y.

TOURNAMENT CALENDAR 2013

Tournament	Place	Dates
Hastings	Hastings	21-22 September
Mt Albert	Auckland	5-6 October
Norfolk Island	Norfolk Island	13-20 October
Wanganui	Wanganui	26-27 October
Rodney	Snells Beach	9 November
Otago Lion Open	Dunedin	16-17 November
Scrabble Champions Tournament	Prague	3-8 December

I gave you one job...



Rankings

NZASP Rankings as at 13 Septemeber 2013

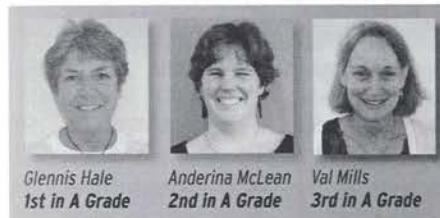
Rank	Name	Rating	Wins	Games
1	Howard Warner (GM)	2013	1728	2316
2	Jeff Grant (GM)	2011	1559	2053
3	Blue Thorogood (GM)	1982	544.5	776
4	Nick Cavenagh (GM)	1924	261.5	443
5	Mike Sigley (GM)	1896	920	1314
6	John Foster (GM)	1890	1430	2487
7	Joanne Craig (GM)	1890	316.5	481
8	Peter Sinton (GM)	1873	655.5	908
9	Karen Richards	1857	35.5	55
10	Denise Gordon (E)	1820	674.5	1393
11	Patrick Carter (GM)	1811	718.5	1146
12	Glennis Hale (GM)	1809	1401.5	2506
13	Liz Fagerlund (E)	1802	995.5	1914
14	Andrew Bradley (GM)	1801	786	1503
15	Lyres Freeth	1786	158.5	242
16	Val Mills (E)	1785	1099.5	2279
17	Steven Brown (GM)	1775	874	1629
18	Rogelio Talosig (GM)	1772	445	751
19	Lynne Butler (GM)	1758	868	1422
20	Debbie Raphael (E)	1755	570	952
21	Glenda Foster (E)	1754	935.5	1866
22	Lawson Sue (E)	1745	585.5	1121
23	Anderina McLean (E)	1732	537.5	993
24	Scott Chaput	1704	172.5	281
25	Vicky Robertson	1698	245	481
26	Glenyss Buchanan	1691	641.5	1368
27	Shirley van Essen	1688	394.5	775
28	Paul Lister (E)	1668	774.5	1372
29	Rosemary Cleary (E)	1662	690.5	1502
30	Chris Hooks (E)	1653	921	1897
31	Olivia Godfrey	1640	596	1112
32	Katy Yiakmis	1630	162	334
33	Janice Cherry	1628	368	709
34	Murray Rogers (E)	1613	670	1300
35	Marianne Bentley (E)	1610	295.5	666
36	Lynn Wood	1608	1571.5	3293
37	Alex Leckie-Zaharic	1591	112	198
38	Pat Bryan	1587	206	362
39	Margie Hurly	1583	324	626
40	Helen Sillis	1579	704	1405
41	Roger Coates	1578	689.5	1441
42	Pam Robson	1568	537.5	1171
43	Karyn McDougall	1556	654	1275
44	Cicely Bruce	1549	302.5	533
45	Karen Gray	1540	263.5	500
46	Faye Cronhelm	1527	808	1613
47	Lynne Powell (E)	1511	894.5	1809
48	Jennifer Smith	1511	922.5	1921
49	Kadda Mohamed	1503	111.5	168
50	Shirley Hol	1494	597.5	1311
51	Lorraine Van Veer	1489	827.5	1622
52	Yoon Kim Fong	1487	501	973
53	Selena Chan	1483	278.5	523
54	Peter Johnstone	1475	141.5	260
55	Pam Barlow	1461	624	1242
56	Anna Hough	1460	556	1122
57	Delcie Macbeth	1457	815.5	1553
58	John Baird	1443	176	329
59	David Gunn	1438	1163	2388
60	Allie Quinn	1435	996	2064
61	Joan Thomas	1427	907	1819
62	Shirley Martin	1416	802.5	1560
63	Herb Ramsay	1406	143	228
64	Maureen Holliday	1398	604	1182
65	Chris Higgins	1396	99	166
66	Jeanette Grimmer	1391	83.5	139
67	Hazel Purdie	1370	977	2001
68	Rosalind Phillips	1363	523	1002
69	Leila Thomson	1359	532.5	1173
70	Margaret Cherry	1358	458.5	926
71	Nola Borrell	1350	309.5	564
72	Irene Smith	1324	168	340
73	Yvette Hewlett	1315	426.5	895
74	June Mackwell	1309	782.5	1723
75	Lynn Carter	1305	586	1134
76	Jena Yousif	1305	381	757
77	Minuri Undugodage	1304	23	50
78	Gabrielle Bolt	1303	368.5	715
79	Andree Prentice	1296	918.5	1807
80	Heather Landon	1289	420	815
81	Glenda Geard	1289	969	1977
82	Kaite Hansen	1287	315.5	585
83	Jean O'Brien	1280	993.5	1967
84	Mary Gray	1239	446.5	883
85	John McNaughton	1238	54	84
86	Lyn Dawson	1212	387	720
87	Ray Goodyear	1206	215	449

GM - Grand Master E - Expert

88	Ernie Gidman	1196	371	747	136	Leighton Gelling	742	89	171
89	Roger Cole-Baker	1196	425.5	815	137	Jaiden Tucker	737	39	59
90	Chris Handley	1186	360.5	694	138	Alison Vautier	709	70.5	191
91	Lois Kelly	1153	62.5	161	139	Joan Beale	703	148	284
92	Mary Curtis	1151	229.5	430	140	Phyllis Paltridge	703	20	70
93	Clare Wall	1141	248	484	141	Sam Thompson	695	31	74
94	Ruth Lilian	1141	35	49	142	Sandra Cowen	677	49	84
95	Dianne Cole-Baker	1112	397	756	143	Linda Moore	673	93.5	190
96	Marian Ross	1106	507	1004	144	Tim Henneveld	672	365.5	807
97	Shirley Pearce	1100	36	80	145	Anne Scatchard	671	288	573
98	Karen Rodgers	1089	138	341	146	Judith Thomas	667	165.5	319
99	Ruth Groffman	1081	444	932	147	Antonia Aarts	661	163	349
100	Su Walker	1076	902.5	1806	148	Elaine Ware	659	364	708
101	Connie Flores	1074	153	255	149	Valma Gidman	651	650.5	1304
102	Sheila Reed	1068	196	388	150	Anne-Louise Milne	648	119	369
103	Karen Miller	1066	477.5	957	151	Betty Don	636	73	212
104	Betty Eriksen	1063	1212.5	2359	152	Anne Goldstein	630	27	42
105	Chris Day	1062	109.5	193	153	Jacqueline Coldham-Fussell	616	552	1163
106	Jean Boyle	1060	491.5	940	154	Pauline Smeaton	613	318	612
107	Carole Coates	1057	575.5	1175	155	Margaret Toso	600	55.5	120
108	Jo Ann Ingram	1047	209	405	156	Jean Craib	589	379.5	797
109	Fran Lowe	1040	70.5	127	157	Pat Wood	582	122	229
110	Kathleen Mori-Barker	1033	348.5	696	158	Steve Pearson	574	33	53
111	Lewis Hawkins	1032	65	88	159	Judith Bach	543	124.5	231
112	Shirley Morrison	1027	136.5	294	160	Noelene Bettjeman	541	270	584
113	Marianne Patchett	1027	282.5	555	161	Gordon Pinchin	527	189	369
114	Lyn Toka	1026	504.5	973	162	Sue Mayn	505	182	439
115	Catherine Henry	1023	417.5	799	163	Frances Higham	491	86	275
116	Agnes Rowland	1022	105	196	164	Chris Guthrey	481	50	152
117	Carolyn Kyle	1012	702	1407	165	Judy Driscoll	470	117	341
118	Elaine Moltzen	1005	539	1079	166	Stephanie Pluck	464	52.5	129
119	Colleen Cook	1001	307.5	611	167	Di Barritt	453	69.5	209
120	Barbara Dunn	998	237	409	168	Kate Truman	449	33	44
121	Julia Schiller	990	168	367	169	Alan Henley	443	58	136
122	Roto Mitchell	989	658	1303	170	Margaret Peters	427	17	66
123	Alison Holmes	976	224.5	410	171	Lynn Thompson	412	243.5	543
124	Suzanne Harding	943	312.5	600	172	Margaret Miller	400	124.5	318
125	Josie Parkin	922	34	68	173	Hanna Dodge	387	52.5	138
126	Bev Edwards	907	197.5	391	174	Janny Henneveld	370	377	804
127	Michael Groffman	906	258	523	175	Kasi Mooney	359	12	54
128	Malcolm Graham	895	354	727	176	Corey Symon	345	19	44
129	Yvonne McLaughlan	877	470.5	966	177	Judy Cronin	339	33.5	114
130	Tony Charlton	865	202.5	404	178	Bev Allen	313	50	162
131	Annette Coombes	825	648	1417	179	Tyler Proctor	173	12.5	45
132	Allison Torrance	819	373	722	180	Trish Fox	89	25	191
133	Margaret Bullen	813	55	93	181	Susan Milne	70	26	177
134	Ruth Godwin	798	227.5	541	182	Merilyn Anderson	57	13	102
135	Maria Clinton	784	216	453					

Tournament Results

Whangarei Tournament 6-7 July 2013



Glennis Hale 1st in A Grade
Anderina McLean 2nd in A Grade
Val Mills 3rd in A Grade

GRADE A	CLUB	WINS	SPRD	AVE	
1	Glennis Hale	IND	12	696	411
2	Anderina McLean	MTA	10	680	413
3	Val Mills	PAK	10	565	408
4	Liz Fagerlund	MTA	9	692	408
5	Lyres Freeth	ROD	9	398	421
6	Margie Hurly	WRE	7	56	403
7	Cicely Bruce	WRE	6	-46	392
8	Lynn Wood	WEL	6	-139	378
9	David Gunn	WKP	6	-319	373
10	Faye Cronhelm	IND	5	-696	358
11	Delcie Macbeth	IND	4	-540	376
12	Shirley Martin	HAM	3	-386	371
13	Jennifer Smith	HAM	2	-260	382
14	Lorraine Van Veen	MTA	2	-701	360



Heather Landon 1st in B Grade
June Mackwell 2nd in B Grade
Hazel Purdie 3rd in B Grade

GRADE B	CLUB	WINS	SPRD	AVE	
1	Heather Landon	TGA	11	315	379
2	June Mackwell	IND	10	822	406
3	Hazel Purdie	MTA	10	249	393
4	Dianne Cole-Baker	MTA	8	507	394
5	Jeanette Grimmer	ROD	8	386	402
6	Mary Curtis	MTA	7	493	394

7	Su Walker	MTA	6	110	393
8	Lyn Dawson	CHC	6	52	368
9	Mary Gray	MTA	6	-68	367
10	Roger Cole-Baker	MTA	5	-164	356
11	Jean Boyle	WAN	5	-264	362
12	Julia Schiller	MTA	4	-803	334
13	Josie Parkin	???	4	-995	334
14	Bev Edwards	WRE	1	-640	339



Jo Ann Ingram 1st in C Grade
Suzanne Harding 2nd in C Grade
Anne Scatchard 3rd in C Grade

GRADE C	CLUB	WINS	SPRD	AVE	
1	Jo Ann Ingram	TGA	12	763	378
2	Suzanne Harding	WRE	10	683	379
3	Anne Scatchard	WRE	10	604	340
4	Jenny Litchfield	WRE	9	611	376
5	Antonia Aarts	MTA	8	174	347
6	Margaret Toso	WRE	8	172	333
7	Ruth Godwin	ROT	7.5	178	344
8	Annette Coombes	WKP	7	353	372
9	Joan Beale	PHC	7	186	363
10	Caron Harrison	WRE	7	-247	334
11	Tim Henneveld	ROT	6	-23	327
12	Valma Gidman	ROD	6	-193	337
13	Lynn Thompson	WRE	4.5	-389	325
14	Janny Henneveld	ROT	4	-382	325
15	Frances Higham	PHC	4	-522	314
16	Noelene Bettjeman	IND	3	-513	311
17	Sue Mayn	???	3	-624	329
18	Margaret Peters	WRE	1	-831	309

Hamilton Tournament 10-11 August 2013



Howard Warner 1st in A Grade
Jeff Grant 2nd in A Grade
Nick Cavenagh 3rd in A Grade

GRADE A

		CLUB	WINS	SPRD
1	Howard Warner	IND	12	+1285
2	Jeff Grant	IND	11	+1227
3	Nick Cavenagh	HAM	11	+502
4	John Foster	IND	10	+602
5	Glennis Hale	IND	8	+577
6	Liz Fagerlund	MTA	8	+334
7	Lyres Freeth	MTA	8	+64
8	Val Mills	PAK	6	-304
9	Lawson Sue	PAK	4	-473
10	Anderina McLean	MTA	4	-647
11	David Gunn	WKP	3	-576
12	Cicely Bruce	WRE	3	-805
13	Pam Robson	IND	2	-792
14	Yoon Kim Fong	KIW	1	-994



Jennifer Smith 1st in B Grade
Rosalind Phillips 2nd in B Grade
Roger Coates 3rd in B Grade

GRADE B

		CLUB	WINS	SPRD
1	Jennifer Smith	HAM	10	+475
2	Rosalind Phillips	TGA	9.5	+658
3	Roger Coates	KIW	9	+563
4	Lorraine Van Veen	MTA	9	+480
5	Delcie Macbeth	IND	8	+425
6	Pam Barlow	PAK	8	-239
7	Hazel Purdie	MTA	7	-101
8	Lynn Wood	WEL	6.5	+226
9	June Mackwell	IND	6	-6
10	Heather Landon	TGA	6	-375
11	Shirley Martin	HAM	5	-123
12	Glenda Geard	IND	3	-255
13	Jena Yousif	KIW	3	-469
14	Leanne Field	IND	1	-1259



Roger Cole-Baker 1st in C Grade
Betty Eriksen 2nd in C Grade
Ruth Lillian 3rd in C Grade

GRADE C

		CLUB	WINS	SPRD
1	Roger Cole-Baker	MTA	10	+890
2	Betty Eriksen	WAN	10	+340
3	Ruth Lillian	KIW	9	+308
4	Lyn Toka	KIW	8	+192
5	Julia Schiller	MTA	8	-99
6	Dianne Cole-baker	MTA	7	+297
7	Carole Coates	KIW	7	+64
8	Catherine Henry	TGA	7	-7
9	Su Walker	MTA	6	+326
10	Shirley Morrison	TGA	6	+119
11	Suzanne Harding	WHA	5	-96
12	Josie Parkin	TGA	4	-672
13	Faye Leach	KIW	3	-757
14	Rosemary Wauters	TGA	1	-905



Margaret Bullen 1st in D Grade
Leighton Gelling 2nd in D Grade
Annette Coombes 3rd in D Grade

GRADE D

		CLUB	WINS	SPRD
1	Margaret Bullen	TGA	10	998
2	Leighton Gelling	NPL	10	751
3	Annette Coombes	WKP	10	491
4	Antonia Aarts	MTA	9	473
5	Joan Beale	PHC	8	174
6	Sharron Nelley	KIW	8	154
7	Anne Scatchard	WRE	8	19
8	Tim Henneveld	ROT	7	302
9	Ruth Godwin	ROT	7	35
10	Jacqueline Coldham-f	KIW	7	15
11	Janny Henneveld	ROT	7	-9
12	Margaret Toso	WRE	7	-119
13	Anthea Jones	KIW	6	-24
14	Chris Guthrey	MTA	5	-202
15	Sandra Cowen	TGA	5	-219
16	Frances Higham	PHC	5	-480
17	Margaret Peters	WRE	4	-642
18	Dorothy Bakel	TGA	3	-619
19	Lynn Thompson	WRE	3	-621
20	Kasi Mooney	PHC	1	-477

Tauranga Tournament 24-25 August 2013



John Foster 1st in A Grade
Lawson Sue 2nd in A Grade
Val Mills 3rd in A Grade

GRADE A

		CLUB	WINS	SPRD	AVE
1	John Foster	IND	11	895	428
2	Lawson Sue	MTA	10	700	427
3	Val Mills	PAK	10	566	431
4	Vicky Robertson	WEL	9	194	399
5	Lynn Wood	WEL	8	172	393
6	Roger Coates	KIW	7	-255	384
7	Faye Cronhelm	IND	6	-2	403
8	Pam Robson	IND	6	-220	379
9	Jennifer Smith	HAM	5	172	406
10	Cicely Bruce	WRE	5	-192	394
11	Lorraine Van Veen	IND	5	-304	376
12	Lynne Powell	IND	4	-669	366
13	Marianne Bentley	TGA	3	-701	363
14	David Gunn	WKP	2	-356	391



Delcie Macbeth 1st in B Grade
Shirley Martin 2nd in B Grade
Jeanette Grimmer 3rd in B Grade

GRADE B

		CLUB	WINS	SPRD	AVE
1	Delcie Macbeth	IND	9	507	412
2	Shirley Martin	HAM	9	295	395
3	Jeanette Grimmer	ROD	8.5	472	402
4	Joan Thomas	HAS	8	610	411
5	Nola Borrell	WEL	8	-80	384
6	Hazel Purdie	MTA	7	483	400
7	Jena Yousif	KIW	7	33	377

8	June Mackwell	MTA	6	74	370
9	Rosalind Phillips	TGA	6	2	385
10	Glenda Geard	IND	6	-249	385
11	Mary Gray	MTA	5	-340	370
12	Heather Landon	TGA	5	-475	364
13	Lynn Carter	IND	4.5	-131	394
14	Lois Kelly	TGA	2	-1201	328



John McNaughton 1st in C Grade
Allison Torrance 2nd in C Grade
Carole Coates 3rd in C Grade

GRADE C

		CLUB	WINS	SPRD	AVE
1	John McNaughton	WEL	11	693	401
2	Allison Torrance	CHC	9	455	404
3	Carole Coates	KIW	9	338	384
4	Chris Day	TGA	9	273	386
5	Shirley Morrison	TGA	8	309	369
6	Catherine Henry	TGA	8	90	363
7	Jo Ann Ingram	TGA	8	15	365
8	Suzanne Harding	WRE	7.5	-8	374
9	Betty Eriksen	WAN	7	542	380
10	Roto Mitchell	WAN	7	298	365
11	Barbara Dunn	TGA	6.5	69	374
12	Ruth Godwin	ROT	6	-89	341
13	Julia Schiller	MTA	6	-115	364
14	Lyn Toka	KIW	6	-254	368
15	Rosemary Wauters	TGA	4	-384	362
16	Anne Scatchard	WRE	3	-533	321
17	Antonia Aarts	MTA	2	-1049	322



Tei Ngatai 1st in D Grade
Geoff Bonser 2nd in D Grade
Sandra Cowen 3rd in D Grade

GRADE D	CLUB	WINS	SPRD	AVE	
1	Tei Ngatai	TGA	13	1330	399
2	Geoff Bonser	TGA	11	913	386
3	Sandra Cowen	TGA	10	783	374
4	Tim Henneveld	ROT	10	580	341
5	Steve Pearson	TGA	8	314	357
6	Jacqueline Coldham-Fussell	KIW	8	166	370
7	Pauline Smeaton	TGA	8	28	337
8	Noelene Bettjeman	IND	7	-15	317
9	Audrey Bree	TGA	7	-56	331
10	Sue Mayn	ROD	6	-36	337
11	Chris Guthrey	MTA	6	-125	339
12	Judy Driscoll	KAP	5	-192	344
13	Dorothy Bakel	TGA	4	-499	310
14	Lynn Thompson	WRE	4	-667	305
15	Ray Young	TGA	4	-775	291
16	Janny Henneveld	ROT	3	-149	353
17	Valerie Scott	TGA	3	-761	318
18	Merilyn Anderson	TGA	0	-839	296



Tei Ngatai receives the Noel Maisey trophy for highest placed novice at the Tauranga Tournament in August.

Canterbury Open 7-8 September 2013



Howard Warner 1st in A Grade
Blue Thorogood 2nd in A Grade
Steven Brown 3rd in A Grade

GRADE A	CLUB	WINS	SPRD	AVE	
1	Howard Warner	IND	10	1064	460
2	Blue Thorogood	IND	9.5	332	440
3	Steven Brown	KAP	8	587	433
4	Val Mills	PAK	7.5	-211	417
5	Peter Sinton	DUN	7	180	430
6	Scott Chaput	DUN	6	-314	394
7	Shirley van Essen	CHC	5	-932	363
8	Murray Rogers	IND	3	-706	365



Lynn Wood 1st in B Grade
Karen Gray 2nd in B Grade
Kadda Mohamed 3rd in B Grade

1	Lynn Wood	WEL	10	516	398
2	Karen Gray	DUN	9	308	396
3	Kadda Mohamed	CHC	8	561	419
4	Shirley Hol	CHC	7	32	381
5	Peter Johnstone	CHC	7	25	382
6	John Baird	CHC	5	-258	378
7	Anna Hough	IND	5	-483	367
8	Herb Ramsay	CHC	5	-701	364



Selena Chan 1st in C Grade
Irene Smith 2nd in C Grade
Kaite Hansen 3rd in C Grade

GRADE C	CLUB	WINS	SPRD	AVE	
1	Selena Chan	CHC	12	1250	444
2	Irene Smith	CHC	7	134	379
3	Kaite Hansen	CHC	7	-66	374
4	Gabrielle Bolt	CHC	7	-122	356
5	Jean O'Brien	IND	7	-164	370
6	Lyn Dawson	CHC	6	-223	357
7	Ray Goodyear	CHC	5	-385	350
8	Chris Handley	DUN	5	-424	359



Kathleen Mori-Barker 1st in D Grade
Carolyn Kyle 2nd in D Grade
Colleen Cook 3rd in D Grade

GRADE D	CLUB	WINS	SPRD	AVE	
1	Kathleen Mori-Barker	CHC	11	550	385
2	Carolyn Kyle	DUN	10	189	377
3	Colleen Cook	CHC	9	350	382
4	Yvonne McLaughlan	CHC	7	52	362
5	Malcolm Graham	CHC	6	-15	367
6	Madeleine Green	CHC	5	-257	350
7	Allison Torrance	CHC	4	-386	338
8	Phyllis Paltridge	CHC	4	-483	345



Anne Goldstein 1st in E Grade
Joanna Fox 2nd in E Grade
Betty Don 3rd in E Grade

GRADE E	CLUB	WINS	SPRD	AVE	
1	Anne Goldstein	CHC	10	503	361
2	Joanna Fox	CHC	10	462	362
3	Betty Don	NEL	9	167	346
4	Jean Craib	CHC	8	56	345
5	Mandy Phillips	IND	7	455	381
6	Judith Bach	CHC	7	19	354
7	Hanna Dodge	CHC	4	-132	344
8	Trish Fox	CHC	1	-1530	275

Answers to Brain Power

Cryptic palindromes (from page 12)

- MARRAM
- KAYAK
- MADAM
- TENET
- RACECAR
- ABBA
- ELLE
- VAV [The sixth letter of the Hebrew alphabet - NUN and MEM come *after* ZAYIN]
- ZUZ
- EVE
- HANNAH
- ARDRA
- DEIFIED
- OEO
- REPAPER
- ROTATOR
- EYE LEVEL
- REDDER
- CIVIC
- DABABABAD . Well done if you knew this obscure place!!!



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He was a pretty good scrabble player until he drew a rack of vowels and had a crisis of consonants