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R.D.2.. HASTINGS.

FORWORDS

NUMBER 20

on Tidal Water xxiii. 100
[ie. Stormy Petrels] we
r., scratched; also in
scrabbling vbl. sb.

composed of eggs boiled hard, chopped and mixed, with a
seasoning of butter, salt, and pepper. 1880 S. LAKEMAN
Kuffir-Land 13 That small garden... was overrun with weeds
and scatted with poultry scrabblings. 1890 Daily News 20
Nov. 31 Small herd was paid in those days to scrabble face
and bleeding hands.

scoury, obs. Sc. form of SCORE.

scr- 1. While as a general rule an initial sc- or
s- in a mod. Eng. word indicates that the word is
not of OE. origin (OE. sc- being normally
represented in dialects as well as in standard
English, by sh-), it is doubtful whether the rule
applies to the combination scr-. The modern
representation of OE. scr- in dialects varies
between (fr-), (pr-), (sr-), and (sr-), and there is
some reason for supposing that in some
localities it normally becomes (skr-). Several
words of undoubted OE. descent (there being
no corresponding form in Scandinavian) have in
ME. or in mod.E. two parallel forms with (fr-)
and (skr-) respectively; e.g. shred, screed, from
OE. screde; shrew, dial. screw, from OE.
scrician; ME. scrape and schreape, from OE.
scrapan to scrape. The same variation of the
initial consonant appears in some other words,
which have not been found in OE., but which
have Teut. cognates: scream, ME. also schreame;
scram and shram dial. to numb, to paralyse (cf.
OE. scrimman of similar meaning); shrap and
shrag dial. a bush. As the combination (skr-),
unlike the Midland (sr-), is consistent with the
articulatory habits of standard English, some
dialectal forms with this beginning have found
their way into the literary language; in one
instance (screed, shred) an OE. word with
scr- survives in two parallel forms with
differentiation of meaning. In view of these
facts, it seems doubtful whether there is
sufficient ground for the usual assumption of
Scandinavian origin for words like scarp, which
existed in OE. (scrapian) as well as in ON.
(skrapa).

2. Many Eng. words beginning with scr- agree
more or less closely in meaning with other words
differing from them in form only by the absence
of the initial s. Examples of such pairs are crab
(apple), scrag, crag (neck), scrag, crambie,
scramble, cranch, scranich, cratch, scatch; crawl,
scrawl (v.); creek, screek; crimple, scripple;
cringe, scringe; croak, scroak (dial.); crump,
scrump; crumple, scrumple, crunch, scrunch; crush,
scrush (dial). It does not appear that these
coincidences are due to any one general cause
(see the articles on the several words), but it is
probable that the existence of many pairs of
synonyms with scr- and cr- produced a tendency
to change cr-, in words expressive of sounds or
physical movements, into scr- so as to render the
word echoic or phonetically symbolic; apparent
examples are scrawl vb., scranich, scrunch,
scringe, scroak.
For other instances in dialects see Wright Eng. Dial
Gram. 5323, where examples are also given of parallel forms
with (sk, k) before a vowel or (w).

scraa, variant of SCRAW.
scrab (skrab), sb. Sc. and north. Also 6 skrab.
[Prob. of Scandinavian origin: cf. Sw. dial.
skrabba of the same meaning. Sw. scrabba sea-
scorpion.] The crab or wild apple = CRAB sb.
Also attrib., as crab-apple, crab-tree.
1467-8 Durham Acc. Roll (Surtees) 92 Pro j bus. de
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scrabble ('skrab(ə)), sb. [I. SCRABBLE.]
1. A scrawling character in writing, hence, a
document composed of such characters. Also, a
picture composed of or characterized by careless
or hastily-executed line-work.
1842 P. F. TYLER in Burgen Mem. xiv. (1839) 311
Peregrine's letters they could read, but the Duches of
Suffolk... defied them... with her fearful scrabbles. 1862
Miss Yonge Counties Note 1. With some peaked scrabbles
and round whirls intended to scoke. 1869 Salt and Sallow
Word-bk. Scrabble, a badly written log. 1881 Risikin in
19th Cent. Oct. 317 Yesterday... came to me from the Fine
Art Society, a series of twenty scrabbles. 1908 Athenium 11 Apr. 457/2 A composition of some wrabs.
but much of it executed in a scabble of lines which wants
repose.
2. U.S. A scramble; a confused struggle, a
'free-for-all'.
1724 Gazette of U.S. 21 Feb. 3/2 The Frenchman... in a
scrabble swore he would have another hem to his ruffe, and
in the way scabble lost his shirt. 1808 T. JONES in
Sights in Guild Region 66 We often get caught by the waves,
and had a grand scabble to reach dry land. 1911 R. D.
GASKINS, Colonel Tadcaster of Missouri 41 Whoever wins
will win after the toughest scabble you and me ever saw in
Missouri politics.

3. The action or sound of scrabbling (SCRABBLE
E. 2).
1804 T. B. ALDRICH Two Bills at Clergy 143 The next
sound I heard was the scabble of the animal's four paws as
he landed on the gravelled pathway. 1946 D. C. PEATTIE
Road of Naturalist 1. 12, I could not hear his breathing, but
I heard his scrawl sound... Someone else was trying, with a
faint scabble, to land his way out.

Scrabble ('skrab(ə)), sb. 2. Also scabble. a. The
proprietary name of a game in which players use
tiles displaying individual letters to form words
on a special board.
1950 Official Gaz. (U.S. Patent Office) 10 Jan. 354/2 The
Production and Marketing Corporation, Newtown, Conn.
Scrabble For Game including Board and Playing Pieces.
Claims use since Dec. 1, 1948. 1953 New Yorker 30 May
17/2 We present for your edification the history of Scrabble,
the biggest thing in games since Monopoly and maybe the
biggest thing ever. Ibid. 18/1 It was as if everybody else were
suddenly clamoring to play Scrabble. 1954 Trade Marks
Jrn. 21 July 730/1 Scrabble... 'Board games.' Production
and Marketing Corporation. Scrabble is a registered trademark
existing under the laws of the State of Connecticut, United
States of America, Merchants. 1957 T. GIBLIN in Pick of
Punch 150 My supposition was that I was going to lose
losing to my wife at 'Scrabble'. 1959 C. SRY Farouche
Flowers 11, 25 For relaxation I sometimes play the spelling
game of Scrabble and in consequence am going to lose to my
unwieldy volumes of the Shorter Oxford English
Dictionary. 1962 A. SAMPSON, ed. Britain xxvii 450 He
likes going home early... and plays bridge or scabble in the
evenings. 1971 C. BONINGTON, Annals and Songs Part 10,
107 After the meal we played liar dice or Scrabble. 1978 J.
MATSON Dear Osborne xxii. 151 Scrabble. Shove Ha penny
and Draughts indicate the levels of skills and activities.

b. attrib. and Comb.
1954 Newweek 26 Apr. 57 To help Scrabble fans,
crossword-puzzle addicts, and other persons troubled for a
word ending in 'x', 'y', or 'z', a 'recreation dictionary' has been
compiled at the University of Massachusetts. 1956 N.
SPRATFELD Judith 11, 117 Cynthia sprawled over the
Scrabble board. 1960 Sunday Express 11 Sept. 6/6, I leave
it to Oscar to Scabble playing cat, to dredge up obscure
words. 1967 Sci. Amer. Sept. 268/1 The Double-Crostic
and games of the Scrabble type can be thought of as
combinatorial play in which 26 elements (letters) are
arranged into sets (words). 1977 B. GARFIELD Recoll x. 103
Anna made a word on the Scrabble board and watched him
enter the score.

scrabble ('skrab(ə)), v. Also 7 scrabble. [a. Du.
schrabellen (in sense 2); for sense 1 cf.
schrabbelear 'bad writer, scrawler', Verdam],
frequentative of schrabben SCRAWB V.]
1. intr. To make marks at random; to write in

scrabble his initials with my fingers, in red paint, on the
house-door. 1883 Spectator 3 May 557 T...
painting is better... though the white just
is improved by being toned down, and
about so much. 1894 Cornhill Mag. 11
The... scrabbled all over with mud-pie, who
making homes for themselves in it'
2. intr. Of an animal
hurriedly with the claws
person, to scratch or sc
hands or feet.

1800 SCRIBLET Country Farm'
straw right over against the barn
scrabble. 1668 J. Howe Blessed,
low. Dumbly spirit; in for nothing L.
in the dirt. 1863 W. 300 in Intell. Obs.
then scrabbled about until he came L.
worm. 1868 Kipling Seven Seas 72 Ganga.
That shriek and scabble on the river hatches. 1907
GLYN VIL. Elizabeth (1906) 62 Upon which Victorine looked
and began scrabbling with her toes on the parquet.
to frans. To make scratching movements with.
1890 W. H. POLLOCK in Longm. Mag. Aug. 466 The parrot
scrabbled his beak on the edge of his food-can.

3. intr. Of a person: To scamble on hands and
feet; to stumble or struggle along; lit. and fig.;
also occur. of an animal. Now somewhat rare.
1638 2nd Relat. Accidents Wydecombe 23 Then presently
the of the people scrabled forth the Church as well as
they could. 1666 BUNYAN Grace Abound 19/8, I did liken
myself... unto a child that was fallen into a mill-race, who,
though it could make some shift to scabble and sprawl in
the water, yet [etc.]. 1678 Pilgr. Progr. 1. 167 Little-
fash came to himself, and getting made shift to scabble on
his way. 1738 Universal Spectator 11 Nov. 3/3 The Hog
had scrabbled up stairs, shook the Child out of his blankets,
[and] killed it. 1742 Wasley's Extr. Jrn. 1. Mar. (1740) 33 The
boat... was driven down among the rocks, on one of which
we made shift to scabble up. 1774 J. ADAMS in Fam. Lett.
(1876) 12 One member of the General Court, he said, as they
came down stairs after their dissolution at Salem said to him,
'Though we are killed, we did scrabbling, did not we?'
1842 HENRY Comp. agit. Quiber 115 Scrabbling out of the
country, without assistance. A. E. BAKER
Northampton. Glass. s.v. I have hard work to get a living, but
I hope I shall manage to scabble on. 1894 BLACKMORE
Perjury xxvii. A dozen or so of poor creatures... too tipsy
to battle with the wretched walloped upon sacks, and
scrabbled under the stanchion-boards, where the gaiety of
the Fair had been. 1900 F. T. BULLEN Jolly of Sea 184 The
poor possessors of only a four-oared galley hope to rise to the
dignity of a lugger, so that they may quit scrabbling along
the shores.

4. trans. To scratch or rake (something) up, off,
out, etc. hurriedly; to obtain by scratching or
raking about.
1657 BUNYAN Vindie. Gospel Truths (1862) II. 203 How
dost thou run about the bush, seeking to scabble up an
answer. 1668 F. OGBORN Trade Mem. K. Jan. 84 The King
... casting himself upon the hazard scabbled out the quantity
of a or 3 hundred pounds. 1808 Sporting Mag. XXXII. 82
The wool, with part of the skin scrabbed off. 1863 BANNING-
GOTTLIEF Iceland 121 The snow had been scrabbed up by
the puff winds in the death agony. 1899 F. T. BULLEN Way
Party 95 The trimmers must lie flat and scrabble the coal
away fast as they can be pelleted down. 1897 E. WELCH in
Strand Mag. May 587/2 It scrabbled a hasty hole in the
sand.

5. intr. To struggle or scamble for
(something).
1698 VANBRUGH Prov. Wife iii. (1700) 32 That Phantom of
Honour, which Men in every Age so contemn'd,
they have thrown it amongst the Women to scabble for.
1861 C. C. ROBINSON Dial. Lond. 300 A generous juvenile
'scrabbles' a handful 'o' peas, which are instantly
'scrabbled' for.

scrabbled ('skrab(ə)d), ppl. a. [I. SCRABBLE V.
+ -ED.] Inscrubbed with scrawling characters,
written in a scrawling style.
1625 JACKSON Orig. Unbelief xvii. 425 [They] frame such
compositions of scralled lines, as men in phrenzie... do out of
scrabbed walls or painted cloaths. 1857 H. MILLER Sea. 22
Schm. vi. 141 The blank spaces were occupied with
deplorably scrabbled couplets. 1880 WEBB Goethe's Faust ii.
iv. 101 A scrabbled parchment, signed and sealed.

*scrabblement. Obs. rare-1. [I. SCRABBLE V.
+ -MENT.] Writing of a rambling character like
that of a madman.
c. 1663 T. COWLEY Confut. Rhem. N.T. (1658) 219 Of
the departed Saint Patroque, we read not, but in the
scrabblings of the Jesuits.
scrabbling ('skrablɪŋ), vbl. sb. [-ING.] The
action of the vb. SCRABBLE, also, an instance of
this.



EDITOR'S NOTE

The contributions continue to roll in, and once again we have a bumper issue of Forwards. Thanks to everyone who has sent material, and to Glennis for all the typing.

Well done to Christchurch, New Plymouth and Hamilton Clubs for hosting their recent tournaments, and a special thanks to David and Dorothy Pinner for organizing the latest Norfolk Island festival, which was once again a resounding success. I'm sure everyone who went will have happy memories of a whirlwind week of Scrabble, shopping, tours, bush walks, golf, tennis, Pictionary, puzzling, eating, drinking and socializing generally with fellow word buffs. Good luck to all the dieters! Thanks also to Agnes and Lee of the Norfolk Travel Centre for all their work. We hope you'll have us back in a couple of years time.

Further to 'The 700 Game' in our last edition, Sue Marrow advises that late last year or early this year David Blumhardt got 717 in a friendly game against Annette Coombes, who scored 262. A piece on the British Scrabble scene written by David appears in this issue. While in London David paid a surprise visit on our other overseas David (Lloyd), who has apparently just been to Turkey and Egypt. No doubt both Davids will have plenty to relate when they return to New Zealand.

Finally, congratulations to Richard and Kathy Solomon on the birth of their daughter Anna Claire, and to the Dunedin Scrabblers Marian Ashley and Ian Ross on their recent marriage.

Happy Scrabbling
Jeff.

A snowball sentence begins with a 1-letter word, followed by a 2-letter word, then a 3, and so on. Nobody attempted to extend the example in the last issue, so here goes:

'O, do you like games?'

'Mainly playing Scrabble!'

Sentences lengthened, snowballing wordsmanship, unsurpassable, lexicographers conscientiously substantializing anthropomorphitic insurmountableness.

CHARLIE CURL



We were deeply saddened by the recent loss of our good friend and former president Charlie Curl, who passed away peacefully at home on September 9th, 1990.

An ex-serviceman and successful in business, Charlie always maintained an air of quiet dignity, though he was a fiercely competitive opponent over the Scrabble board. We thank Charlie for all his work on the Association, and for the many happy memories of fun times at tournaments. Despite his illness, Charlie was always strong of spirit and a real stalwart of the Mt Albert Club. He remained one of nature's true gentlemen till the end.

Our thoughts are with Daphne and her family at this sad time. Charlie will be sadly missed by everyone, and if there isn't a Scrabble Club 'upstairs' I'm sure he will get one started.

This passage is ALERTING you to the fact that TRIANGLE is a term RELATING to the TANGLIER aspects of Geometry, of which we can say that it is an INTEGRAL part, without ALTERING even one GRAINLET of the truth, all by way of transposing letters.

(note: GRAINLET is not allowed in Scrabble)

CHRISTCHURCH SCRABBLE TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Held on May 26, 1990. 7 games were played.

A GRADE

PLACE	NAME	CLUB	WINS	SCORE	AVERAGE	BONUSES
1.	Bill Grigg	DN	6	2577	368	9
2.	Alan Boyd	DN	5	2960	423	9
3.	Bill McCavitt	CHCH	5	2540	363	4
4.	Doreen Ogston	CHCH	4	2835	405	6
5.	Katrine Renwick	CHCH	4	2567	367	7
6.	Carolyn Kyle	DN	3	2671	382	7
7.	June Thomason	CHCH	3	2519	360	2
8.	Hilary Ruscoe	CHCH	2	2269	324	2
9.	Gowan Banbury	CHCH	2	2040	291	1
10.	Margaret Lyall	CHCH	1	2362	337	6

B GRADE

1.	Mary Pinchin	CHCH	6½	2587	370	3
2.	Jo Burnside	DN	6	2819	403	14
3.	Jenny Garthwaite	DN	5	2667	381	6
4.	Bill Tozer	CHCH	5	2362	337	3
5.	Betty Sutherland	CHCH	3½	2117	302	3
6.	Daisy Madden	DN	3	2266	324	8
7.	Gordon Pinchin	CHCH	2½	2226	318	2
8.	Eunice Roberts	CHCH	2½	2038	291	0
9.	Terry McLaughlin	CHCH	1	1976	282	0
10.	Gary Mintrom	CHCH	0	2018	288	0

SPOT PRIZES A.GRADE

Game 1: 'X' Carolyn (53)
 Game 2: 'first word' Hilary (29)
 Game 3: closest final: June & Carolyn (35) / Mary & Eunice (draw)
 Game 4: 'Q' Bill M (40)
 Game 5: 'final word' Doreen (32)
 Game 6: 'J' Alan (40)
 Highest no. Bonus words: Alan(9), Bill G(9), Jo(14).

B.GRADE

Eunice (50)
 Terry & Gordon (28)
 Mary & Eunice (draw)
 Eunice (38)
 Jo & Daisy (26)
 Gary (33)

Adjudicators: Margaret Pascoe & Nola Caird

Assistant: Jan Sutherland

Organizer: Hilary Ruscoe

There are 19 different double-letter endings. The prize for the most 'interesting' list of words goes to Lyn Toka of the Hamilton Scrabble Club for this ingenious effort:

"Baa," said the abb,

(It was just newly spun)

"How odd, you'll agree,

I have dandruff, my son."

The tegg whispered "shh!"

(Genii on a hajj

Were all off to mumm

With some djinn who were large.)

"Try shampoo, you schlepp,

You dorr, you're an ass.

Like a mutt in a muumuu

You have no pzazz.

The rocc, the great aukk

And the cogq went away

To revv up their rickshaww

On the banxx of the Tayy.

They're missing from Cedric

And from Oswald too,

So they can't join the mummies

Or shampoo the ewe.

Consolation kudos to Rhoda Cashman and Dorothy Haining of the Rodney Club. Combining their entries produces the following list of double-ended oddities: markkaa, slubb, gorsedd, bidarkee, niffnaff, mahjongg, shh, Crossopterygii, hajj, cetywall, shtumm, jotunn, jordeloo, schlepp, mhorr, caddyss, polyglott, muumuu, pzazz.

Full marks also to Glennis Hale and John Foster of Mt Albert who also found 19 different examples, and to Andrée Prentice of Wanganui with 17.

Unless otherwise stated the dictionaries used for reference are Chambers English Dictionary (1988 Edition) and the Official Scrabble Players Dictionary.

The closing date is November 18th, 1990 and the winner will receive a book prize - good luck!

Entries to be sent to Jeff Grant, Waipatu Settlement Rd., R.D.2.. Hastings.

You are pleased to find OREGANO on the rack and collect 66 points for the first turn, placing G on the centre square - let's have a nice open game. A good start, but your opponent bangs down TAUTOMER ending on your R for 68 points (clever b-). You now have to wrestle with the letters IMORSTU - what is your best move?

THE FIRST TWO MOVES

Further to my challenge in Forwards 19 to produce a better two-move score than 343. I was at pains to point out to the editor that he had omitted one of my 343 solutions, namely

CHUTZPA(H) - HYPOXIC 116+227=343

This spurred Jeff to take up the challenge himself and come up with

QUIZZER(Y) - HYDROXY 118+230=348

using a blank for the first Z.

Undaunted I returned to the drawing board and found the following two solutions to better this score:

BEZIQUE(S) - HIJACKS 124+227=351

CAZIQUE(S) - HIJACKS 124+227=351

The ball's in your court now, Jeff. Any advance on 351?

-John Foster.

I doubt if 351 can be beaten without resorting to larger dictionaries. The record there is 365 for XICAQUE(S) - MUZJIKS. We are allowed the latter term (OSPD), but XICAQUE(S) appears only in Webster's 3rd Edition.

-Ed.

DISTINCTIVE GROUP PHRASEOLOGY.

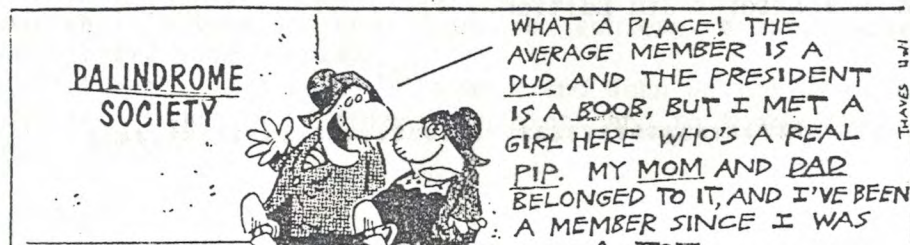
TERMS OF THE CHASE.

MYE of pheasants	SWARM of bees
RAG of colts	TRIBE of goats
BEVY of roes or quails	TROOP of monkeys
CAST of hawks	WATCH of nightingales
CETE of badgers	BARREN of mules
DOWN of hares	COLONY of gulls
DULE of turtles	COVERT of coots
FALL of woodcock	DESERT of lapwings
GANG of elks	GAGGLE of geese (not flying)
HERD of cranes, curlew, deer	HARRAS of horses
LEPE of leopards	FLIGHT of doves
NEST of rabbits	KENNEL of ratches
PAGE of asses	KINDLE of kittens
PACK of hounds	LABOUR of moles
ROUT of wolves	LITTER of whelps
SORD of mallards	MUSTER of peacocks
SUTE of mallards	SCHOOL of porpoises
STUD of mares	SPRING of teal
TEAM of oxen	BADLING of ducks
WISP of snipe	CLOWDER of cats
BROOD of hens	COMPANY of widgeon
CHARM of goldfinches	DOPPING of sheldrake
COVEY of partridges	FESNYNG of ferrets
DOYLT of tame swine	BUILDING of rooks
DROVE of kine	RICHESSE of martens
FLOCK of sheep	SOUNDER of swine
PLUMP of wild fowl	SINGULAR of boars
PRIDE of lions	COWARDICE of curs
SEDGE of herons	BADELYNGE of ducks
SHOAL of fish	SHREWDNESS of apes
SIEGE of herons	CHATTERING of choughs
SKEIN of geese (flying)	MURMURATION of starlings
SKULK of foxes	EXALTATION of larks
SLOTH of bears	CONGREGATION of plovers

From the Quickway Crossword Dictionary by Colonel H.W.Hill-Warne
(Tally-ho!)

-submitted by Noel Maisey. Tauranga.

FRANK & ERNEST



TOKOROA SCRABBLE CLUB

PRESENTATION NIGHT

By Kevin Edgeler

A highly successful tournament staged in February was the major highlight of the small Tokoroa Club in 1990.

In other tournaments staged throughout the year Florence Veldhuizen showed she is a top competitor and should be afforded the utmost respect as her fourth placing in the National B Grade shows.

Local trophies were awarded at the Annual Dinner held at the Tokoroa Cosmopolitan Club on 11th August.

Betty Price Salver:Club Championship
Florence Veldhuizen

Ann Plected Competition Night Shield
Florence Veldhuizen

Most Wins: Lois Kelly 65
Most Bonus Words: Florence Veldhuizen 119
Highest Individual Score: Kevin Edgeler 582
Highest Aggregate-3 games: Kevin Edgeler 1523
Most Bonus Words in a Night: Kevin Edgeler 9
Most bonus words over 90: Lois Kelly, Florence Veldhuizen and Kevin Edgeler 8
Highest Word: Evelyn Leckie 158
Highest Combined Game: Lois Kelly and Florence Veldhuizen 918

Overheard in an English Mansion, an exchange between the lady of the house and an itinerant tinker:

'Are you copper-bottoming 'em, my Man?'
'No. I'm aluminiuming 'em, Mum.'

(Now say it quickly half-a-dozen times without reading it off.)

Scrabble Styles of the Rich and Famous

Apparently the octogenarian novelist Graham Greene plays bilingual Scrabble in the Antibes every week with his French lady friend. G.G. is tight-lipped about her identity - he discretely refers to her as Y.

Hollywood star Omar Sharif is a Scrabble aficionado - he used to write a regular column on the game in the French magazine L'Express.

Plawright Noel Coward was a Scrabble enthusiast. So much so that he payed homage to the game in verse:

"With our deep sub-conscious minds we seldom dabble
But something must impel
The words we spell
When we're playing "Scrabble".

"Bronxville Darby and Joan"

Obviously Noel understood the intuitive aspect of the game and those creative moments when we unearth a seven-letter word after much grappling with our sub-conscious!

Have you ever read Vladimir Nabokov's novel "Ada"? Chapter 36 contains a description of one of the naughtiest games of Scrabble ever played. Fortunately it was played in Russian so the saucy symbolism may escape the English-speaking reader. According to Nabokov (who actually introduced crosswords to Russia) Scrabble was originally a game called FLAVITA (an anagram of ALFAVIT - the Russian word for alphabet) and was played in the eighteenth century using 125 lettered blocks and a board of 225 squares. The wooden racks were called "spektrijs". In the novel the three protagonists Van Veen, Ada and Lucette play a three-hander and the brilliant Ada scores 383 for the triple-triple TORFYANUYU (which means "peaty") and Van manages to find a seven with the letters E-I-K-L-M-N-R on Lucette's rack. Can you? Nabokov often uses anagrams and word play in his novels.

Did you know that Scrabble guru Gyles Brandreth is a former British Monopoly Champion, wrote books on Swedish pornography, holds the Guinness record for the longest after-dinner speech and once sent Princess Anne a travel Scrabble set so she wouldn't get bored on her honeymoon? He has also published umpteen books on Scrabble and word games and appears in the British "Who's Who". BRANDRETH is also an allowable 9-letter word in Chambers meaning "a stand of wood for a cask or hayrick; a rail round a well".

The British mountaineer Chris Bonnington played Scrabble with his companions on their ascent of the south face of Annapurna in the 1960's. Moving the tiles about was a bit of a problem during snowstorms though - oops! there goes the Q into the glacier!

American comedienne Carol Burnett often plays Scrabble with her daughter Carrie in Hawaii. They pretend they are the characters Eve Harrington and Margo Channing from "All About Eve". "We even score our games for Eve and Margo", says Carol.

Scrabble on the Box

Filmgoers will remember the scene from "Sabrina" when Willam Holden (with his leg in plaster) played Scrabble with Martha Hyer while Humphrey Bogart kibitzed and the game in "Foul Play" between two senior citizens in which a certain thirteen letter word appeared. But T.V. sitcom addicts will be able to cite a score of episodes in which a Scrabble set features. Can you identify the titles of the television comedies in which the following situations occurred? (Answers below)

1. Wilfred Bramble threatens to put an S on Harold Corbett's BUM.
2. Penelope Keith cheats while playing her butler.
3. Nigel Havers plays the word QWERTY and is challenged by his father (before Chambers '88!).
4. Michael J. Fox loses (ungraciously) a game against his sister.
5. Paul Hogan plays CARN against Strop (as in CARN the Blues!).

The Scrabble Game Show has had a successful run on the NBC network in the U.S. It is hosted by Chuck Woolery and is really an anagram contest in which celebrities try and identify a word while the letters are changing on a screen. They play for prizes which are won by contestants at home. It displays the Scrabble board but bears little resemblance to the game we know. There was a similar version in the U.K. and one of the contestants was our local Scrabble personality Esther Byers. The American show is actually produced by the Grundy Organisation out of Los Angeles and there has been talk of it being shown on Australian T.V.

You have no doubt seen the MacDonald's Scrabble competition advertised on television with all those nova's and trips being offered. Did you know that the similar contest run in America is giving away \$75 million worth of prizes? All you have to do is find the letters spelling BIGMAC to win one million dollars! Winners of major and minor prizes go to the various nation-wide "Scrabble Redemption Centers" (which sound like places of expiation for sneaky conniving Scrabble cheats). The latest BIGMAC millionaire was a rock guitarist, Clay Harn, who used the money to launch his group's recordings. On hearing the news he flew back home to Lewiston Idaho and treated his mom to a Big Mac at MacDonald's before flying to Canada for a concert. "The show must go on", he said "but a hug, a burger and a song made mom's day too". His prize will come in \$50,000 instalments over 20 years.

T.V. Quiz: Answers -

1. Steptoe and Son
2. To the Manor Born
3. Don't Wait Up
4. Family Ties
5. The Paul Hogan Show

- from Tile Talk, Sept 1989.

Results of the Eighth Hamilton Scrabble Tournament
Held on Sunday, 12th August 1990

<u>Group 1</u> (Saturn)				
	<u>Wins</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Average</u>	<u>Bonus Words</u>
Lynne Powell (N.Shore/Bays)	5	3126	447	15
Glennis Hale (Mt Albert)	5	2972	425	13
Jeff Grant (Hastings)	5	2811	402	8
Andrew Bradley (Hastings)	4	3014	431	12
Maurine Sullivan (Tauranga)	3	2879	411	10
Peter Jones (Mt Albert)	3	2561	366	6
May Quigley (N.Shore/Bays)	2	2762	395	8
Kevin Edgeler (Independent)	1	2539	363	7

<u>Group 2</u> (Jupiter)				
	<u>Wins</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Average</u>	<u>Bonus Words</u>
Patrick Carter (Mt Albert)	5	2830	404	9
Georgina Offringa (N.Shore/Bays)	5	2804	401	8
Glynis Jennings (Whangarei)	5	2710	387	8
Florence Veldhuizen (Tokoroa)	3	2820	403	8
Dorothy Pinner (Mt Albert)	3	2806	401	12
June Mackwell (Mt Albert)	3	2715	388	9
Betty Gibb (Hamilton)	2	2468	353	3
Ann Candler (N.Shore/Bays)	1	2439	348	7

<u>Group 3</u> (Neptune)				
	<u>Wins</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Average</u>	<u>Bonus Words</u>
John Foster (Mt Albert)	5	2774	396	12
David Pinner (Mt Albert)	5	2655	379	12
Gerald Warner (Rodney)	4	2751	393	8
Cathy Woods (Mt Albert)	4	2640	377	10
Rhoda Cashman (Rodney)	4	2472	353	7
Allie Quinn (N.Shore/Bays)	3	2602	372	7
Roger Coates (Hamilton)	3	2506	358	7
Correne James (Mt Albert)	1	2550	364	6

<u>Group 4</u> (Uranus)				
	<u>Wins</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Average</u>	<u>Bonus Words</u>
Lois Kelly (Tokoroa)	6	2828	404	7
Fae Olson (Stratford)	5	2971	424	14
Jo Jackson (Hamilton)	5	2771	396	7
Yvette Hewlett (Mt Albert)	3	2683	383	12
Faye Cronhelm (Independent)	3	2607	372	9
Bev Barker (Mt Albert)	3	2536	362	6
Reeva Pearson (Stratford)	2	2649	378	14
Alveen Seon (Mt Albert)	1	2463	352	9

<u>Group 5</u> (Pluto)				
	<u>Wins</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Average</u>	<u>Bonus Words</u>
Glenda Geard (Independent)	6	2725	389	9
Carole Coates (Hamilton)	5	2721	389	10
Puti Rowe (Stratford)	5	2704	386	9
Marj Baillie (Hamilton)	4	2816	402	5
Roy Vannini (Mt Albert)	4	2450	350	9
Peggy Wallace (Hamilton)	2	2375	339	4
Faye Leach (Hamilton)	1	2313	330	5
Jan Jacobi (Tokoroa)	1	2226	318	3

<u>Group 6</u> (Venus)				
	<u>Wins</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Average</u>	<u>Bonus Words</u>
Lyn Toka (Hamilton)	6	2668	381	11
Stan Skinner (Hamilton)	5	2695	385	7
Elaine Moltzen (Hamilton)	4	2514	359	7
Isabel Zyp (Hamilton)	4	2477	354	4
Daph Watson (Hamilton)	4	2409	344	4
Joyce Bourdot (N.Shore/Bays)	4	2404	343	7
May Bacon (Tokoroa)	3	2470	352	4
Anne Warner (Rodney)	3	2395	342	3
Bernice Vannini (Mt Albert)	2	2339	334	6
Shirley Bonthron (Tauranga)	0	2257	322	4

<u>Group 7</u> (Mercury)				
	<u>Wins</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Average</u>	<u>Bonus Words</u>
C Van Tilberg (Pak/Howick)	6	2696	385	5
Bridget French (Tokoroa)	6	2487	355	2
I Hague-Smith (Mt Albert)	5	2347	335	6
Phyllis Wilson (Tokoroa)	5	2287	327	2
Lil Moore (Mt Albert)	4	2445	349	3
Jillian Greening (Hamilton)	4	2278	325	5
Jenny Knight (Hamilton)	3	2088	298	1
Margaret McKechnie (N.Shore/Bays)	2	2456	351	8
Jean O'Brien (Stratford)	1	2237	320	7
Ed Olson (Stratford)	0	1912	273	1

Group Highest Scores

1. Maurine Sullivan	-	563
2. Dorothy Pinner	-	521
3. Correne James	-	495
4. Faye Cronhelm	-	504
5. Carole Coates	-	482
6. Stan Skinner	-	492
7. Margaret McKechnie	-	512

Group Bonus Words

1. Lynne Powell	-	15
2. Dorothy Pinner	-	12
3. David Pinner/John Foster	-	12
4. Reeva Pearson/Fae Olson	-	14
5. Carole Coates	-	10
6. Lyn Toka	-	11
7. Margaret McKechnie	-	8

Spot Prizes

K 80	-	Glennis Hale
J 95	-	David Pinner
Q 95	-	Conny Van Tilberg
X 85	-	Peter Jones
Z 126	-	Fae Olson
HLS 394	-	Correne James
LWS 329	-	Bridget French

Highest Word - June Mackwell - 185

Highest Aggregate - May Quigley)
 Andrew Bradley)

Lucky Number - Phyllis Wilson

Raffle 1. Joyce Bourdot

CORVINE CONUNDRUM

The following piece was overheard by a passing wagtail, supposedly uttered by a crow to a scarecrow, somewhere near the town of Truth Or Consequences, New Mexico:

'Hay, be seedy. He effigy!
Hate-shy jake eh, yellow man?
Oh peek, you are rusty!
You've double, you ex-wise he!'

(Think of the alphabet)

pay through the nose
excessive charge, a rip-off;
eg 'If you want one of those
new Mercs, you pay
through the nose for it.'
NZA.

pea, pie and pud traditional
piecart serving of a mince
pie with mashed potato and
peas all sloshed over with
gravy.

pea-brain mentally deficient;
eg 'What a pea-brain, she
never gets more than four-
letter words in Scrabble.'
ANZ.

pea-shilling touche a
facetious way of saying
'two-shilling piece', obv.obs.

peacharine a cross between a
nectarine and a peach, said
by those who remember
them to have the soft look

piecart caravan with hinged
side-door through which
fast foods are served,
traditionally pea, pie and
pud (qv), now also
hamburgers and chips, other
fried foods, confectionery,
soft drinks and cuppas of tea
or coffee. Often located,
through the night, near
railway and bus termini.

pigeon's milk a fine drop of
liquor; eg 'Orhh, that's a
grouse bit of pigeon's milk,
can I have another?' [R. Steele]

Piggy was a nickname
student revue-writer Steve
Whitehouse bestowed on
Rob Muldoon in a mid-
1960s show at Victoria
University of Wellington. It
has lingered on, usually
among the ex-prime
minister's opponents.

79

From 'The Dinkum Kiwi Dictionary',
by David McGill.

" IF ONLY "

or " A SCRABBLE PLAYERS LAMENT "

This could be the day! A lucky tournament. Pick up some
blanks, even a high scoring tile or two and maybe win a spot
prize.

Here we go, round one.

What a start! GLITZ, with Z on a double letter, that's 50
points, WOW. Grab some more tiles while my opponent is
playing. WHAT! 'Glitzzy', with the Y at the end of a bonus
word. Their 90 points make my 50 look sick. Oh well, battle
on but cannot get into the game, with racks full of vowels.
IF ONLY I had not played 'glitz'.

Round two. Down a game but plenty of time to catch up.
Slowly but surely - balance the rack and build up to a bonus
word. Check the score but not looking good, only 74 after
11 turns is too slow. The other player got lucky and is
already over 300. IF ONLY I had not started too slow!

Here we are, almost finished game three. I am ahead by 80
points and looking sweet. Play tight - pick up the last tile
- OH MY GOODNESS - the Q. The cunning so-and-so sitting
opposite quickly realised and played out Z, K and two F's
one at a time in good scoring places to win by 3 points.
IF ONLY I had remembered the Q.

What a mess. Six games and still not a coloured sticker by
my name.

In that last game when the treble-treble was open I had
2 R's, 2 N's and 3 L's. I changed my tiles, my opponent
scored 203 on the treble-treble and that was the game over.
IF ONLY I had blocked the treble-treble.

Last game - surely some luck this time. I must play V
somewhere, 'von', 'van', 'vie' or 'vly' will do. Dip into
the bag and out comes another b..... V. Someone has a
message for me in that bag! Now this looks like a word.
All 7 tiles too. Play it confidently, that's the way.
A challenge? The adjudicators were quick and here comes the
runner. A kiss for me and wide smiles from across the table.
IF ONLY I had been sure of that word.

Well, I suppose there will be another tournament and IF ONLY..

OPEN IESTER

THE SCRABBLE DECK OF CARDS

During the early part of this year, a representative Scrabble Team from a small provincial centre had been on an arduous tour of North Island Scrabble Tournaments when they arrived in Hamilton for the New Zealand Scrabble Championships.

The next day, being a Friday, the team went out under the watchful eye of their coach, Reeva Pearson. After outlining to the team the best way to find 7 letter words, she told them to take out their New Zealand Association Coaching Manuals and to pay attention to what was being said. Those of the team who had their NZ Assn Coaching Manuals did as they were told, but one player only had a deck of cards and so he spread them out on the floor in front of him. The coach saw the player and said:

"Edward" (for that was the player's name) "put away those cards".

And after the coaching session was over the player was taken away and brought in front of the Hamilton Scrabble Association Committee. The President John Moore said:

"Why have you brought this player here?"

"For playing cards during a training session, sir"

"And what have you got to say for yourself young man?"

"Much sir", replied the player.

And John Moore said:

"I hope so, for if you have not, I will punish you more severely than any scrabble player was ever punished."

The player said:

"Sir, I have been on an arduous tour of the North Island for some months now and have had with me neither my NZ Scrabble Player Association Dictionary, Oswald, or my Mike Sigley Teach-Yourself Coaching Manual, but I hope to satisfy you with the purity of my intentions."

And with that, the player began his story.

"Sir" the player said, "When I see the Ace I think of the one great scrabble player, Jeff Grant, who won the Masters Tournament at Mt Albert at Easter. When I see the two, I think of the two words that describe the single most important thing that goes to winning a game of scrabble - No - not fair play, but seven letters or bonus words. When I see the three, I am reminded of the triple letter squares which are every scrabblers nightmare when their opponent uses the X both ways, and when I see the four, I think of our scrabble magazine, Four Words, so aptly edited by Jeff and Glennis. When I see the five I think of the five seven letter words that Allie Quinn gained against Roger Coates at last year's Champs, and it was his birthday too. When I see the six, I think of Edna Chandler, who lost all her games on the first day of this Tournament and Faye Leach, who lost all her six games today (that's a hard act to follow). When I see the seven, I'm reminded of Reeva Pearson, the greatest collector of 7 letter words, and when I see the eight, I think of the 8 triple word scores on a scrabble board, and when I see the nine, I look at the 9 years the Hamilton Club has been going and think of Daph Watson, our only founder member who is still playing, and John, Betty and Rita who work so hard at keeping the Hamilton Club the success it is. When I see the ten, I think of the Pakuranga, Tokoroa, North Shore, Masters, Wellington, New Plymouth, Hamilton, Mt Albert, Wanganui and the National Tournament,

THE SCRABBLE DECK OF CARDS

all fun days that keep everyone busy playing scrabble. When I see the Jack or the Knave or the Devil's card, I think of the single biggest threat to scrabble players; playing in a Tournament in England by their rules. When I see the Queen, I think of Glennis Hale, our Champion Lady of 1990. Well done Glennis! When I see the King, I think of Charlie Curl, because he's the Grandad to NZ scrabble. When I see the Joker, I think of John Moore, who always has a joke to tell, and does such a great job as compere for our evening."

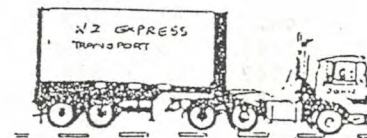
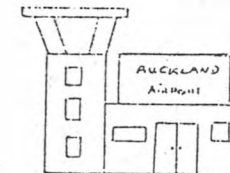
"Sir" the player went on, "in my deck of cards there are twelve picture cards, the same amount of games we try hard to win at these National Champs. There are fifty two cards, the number of players at this year's Tokoroa Tournament, everyone's favourite and a great success once again. There are thirteen tricks and they remind me of Tuesday, February 13th, when Mt Albert won back the NZ Challenge Shield from North Shore Bays by the skin of their teeth. There are four suits, which reminds us all of the top four clubs in New Zealand in 1990 - Hastings, Masterton, Wellington and New Plymouth.

So you see, sir, my deck of cards serves me not only as an Almanac and a Coaching Manual, but also as a NZ Scrabble Association Handbook."

And friends, this story is true, I know because Roy Vannini told me so.

WRITTEN BY: ELAINE MOLTZEN.

HAMILTON SCRABBLE CLUB.



From Wanganui Club Newsletter

Norfolk Island

SCRABBLE

Festival 1990

PRIZE WINNERS.

CONVICT GRADE

	Wins	Points	Average	Bonus Words
1 Marge Hughes	15	6365	254	7
2 Vivienne Williamson	14	6202	345	9
3 Nancy Haaker	12	6439	353	9
4 Doris Harper	12	6118	340	7
5 Dawn Kitzen	11	6701	372	18
6 Olwen Skelton	10	5953	331	10
7 Cecily Crampton	9	5652	314	6
8 Gillian Cruise	9	5334	296	3
9 Kath James	6	5530	307	6
10 Ed Olsen	5½	5382	299	6
11 Norah Cox	3	4603	256	-
12 Robyn Heenan	1½	4536	252	5

Highest score in one game Nancy 478

BOUNTY GRADE

David Pinner (non competitor)	14	7542	419	27
1 Reeva Pearson	11½	6864	381	33
2 Fae Olsen	11	6985	388	29
3 Rosalie Goldsworthy	9½	6588	366	16
4 Conny Van Tilburg	9	6682	371	16
5 Martha Morgan	9	6520	362	10
6 Nita Oldham	9	6454	359	12
7 Dorothy Haining	8	6489	361	11
8 Rosemary Cleary	7	6542	359	12
9 Janet Thompson	7	6357	353	14
10 Ruth O'Neill	7	6326	351	13
11 Margaret Lyall	6	6036	335	19

Highest score in one game David 473

Conny 467

ANSON BAY GRADE

1 Mike Sigley	21	9797	467	53
2 Jeff Grant	16	8718	415	34
3 Glennis Hale	15	8633	411	31
4 Denise Gordon	9	8170	389	29
5 Correne James	7	7879	375	28
6 John Foster	6	7655	364	29
7 Cathy Woods	6	7157	341	21
8 Rhoda Cashman	4	7173	342	18

Highest score in one game Mike 630

Knock-out Competition

1. Glennis Hale - Mt. Albert, Auckland
2. Jeff Grant - Hastings

Consolation Knockout Competition

1. Ruth O'Neill - New Plymouth
2. Rosalie Goldsworthy - New Plymouth

Word Puzzles

Group Prize

1. Correne James, Conny Van Tilberg, Jeff Grant and John Foster.
2. Rosalie Goldsworthy, Ruth O'Neill, Martha Morgan - New Plymouth

Individual Prize

1. Margaret Lyall
2. Dawn Kitzen

Pairs

Rhoda Cashman, Nita Oldham

Sportsperson of the Tournament

Rhoda Cashman - Warkworth

Most outstanding Children

Lavinia, Timothy and Ricky

Special Gold Medal Awards (Champion Games Organisers)

Were unanimously awarded to Dorothy & David Pinner

BONUS BABBLE

#2

Beginners often puzzle over why THEY don't seem to get many bonuses, even simple ones like TEARING that better players appear to play regularly. Then as a player improves she'll realise that bonuses don't just "appear", but are generally built towards from a solid foundation (called a "STEM") of 6 letters. Even these 6-letter stems may themselves have been deliberately built up from 5-letter stems, and maybe those in turn from 4s. Eventually a good player may be barely conscious of 6s, planning to move directly from a 5 to a 7.

However, anyone interested in bonuses should be very familiar with most of the best 6-letter stems, and for each one know at least ONE word for each 7th letter (or more ambitiously - EVERY word).

So, if you find AEIMNST on your rack, then instead of idly wondering if there might be a bonus there, recognise that this is in fact AEINST + M (or easier to remember as ANTIES + M). You should then know that ANTIES is a stem you have learned and be able to reel off at least one 7-letter word for each of the 24 letters of the alphabet that ANTIES takes. So INMATES probably comes to mind. Or if you have ANTIES + E you'll know ETESIAN which you'd probably never heard of before starting your planned study program.

I recommend you make a card, or page, for each of the top 10 (or 20, or 30, or...!) 6-letter stems, then record every 7-letter word arising from that stem. All the words are easily found from ALPS or ASHY - see Forwards #18. Then periodically see how many you can write down without looking, and carefully study the ones you missed. Continual puzzling, and writing down of these words really makes them stick! (I give myself a score each time to measure my improvement - one point for each word found, and DEDUCT three points for each word found that ISN'T a word!)

Personally I prefer to be content with knowing just ONE word for each letter - if I see INMATES I don't mind missing ETAMINS, MAINEST, MANTIES, TAMEINS, or TAMINES. Sure, there'll be times when INMATES won't be playable, but I prefer to spend time learning another stem instead - nothing's worse than having 7 letters and not knowing ANY bonus in them.

Once you've learned the top 6s, then provided you don't squander your blanks and Ss, and A, E, Is, and N, R, Ts, and provided you maintain a fair vowel/consonant balance, you will surely find at least one bonus every game.

The next step is to look at the specific 5-letter stems (listed in Forwards #18). A good 5 is more likely to appear than a good 6, so if you develop a broad feeling for 5s you can make more intelligent decisions as to when to GO for a bonus, or to flag it away and play a few more "in-between" turns until a solid foundation should come along. Then you will be well on your way to averaging TWO bonuses per game, and playing better Scrabble.

(Notice that the best 5 - RATES - combines with 9 different letters to turn into a good 6-letter stem - N M I B P T C L E).

97%	AEINST	- ANTIES
94%	AENRST	- ASTERN
92%	ENORST	- STONER
92%	EGILNS	- SINGLE
92%	AELPRS	- LAPSER
90%	EENRST	- RESENT
90%	AEMRST	- MASTER
90%	AEIRST	- SATIRE
90%	ABERST	- BREAST
89%	EIPRST	- PRIEST
89%	EINRST	- INSERT
89%	EERSTT	- STREET
88%	EORRST	- STORER
88%	EHORST	- TOSHER
88%	DEINST	-
88%	AEPRST	- PASTER
88%	AEPPRS	- SAPPER
88%	AELSST	- SLATES
88%	ACEHRS	- ARCHES
87%	EILLST	- ILLEST
87%	EGINRS	- SINGER
87%	DEENRS	- SENDER
87%	ADEIRS	- RAISED
87%	ACELRS	- SCALER
86%	ERSTTU	- UTTERS
86%	ELORST	- STEROL
86%	EHIRST	- THEIRS
86%	EGILNT	- TINGLE
86%	DEORST	- STORED
86%	AGINST	- SATING
86%	ADEILS	- SAILED
85%	EORSTT	- OTTERS
85%	EIMRST	- MISTER
85%	AELNST	- LATENS
85%	AEINRT	- RETINA
85%	ADELRS	- SADLER
83%	ENRSTU	- TUNERS
83%	AERSTT	- TASTER
83%	ADENST	- STANED
83%	ACERST	- CRATES
82%	EINPST	- INSTEP
82%	CENORS	- CENSOR
82%	CELORS	- CLOSER
82%	AELRST	- ALTERS
82%	AELMRS	-
82%	AEHLST	- LATHES
82%	AEGINR	- EARING
81%	EILRST	- LITRES
81%	EILOST	-
81%	DEEIRS	- DESIRE
81%	AEERST	- EASTER
81%	ADGINR	- DARING
81%	ACERSU	- CAUSER
80%	EIORST	- SORTIE
80%	EILNST	- SILENT
80%	EILNOS	- LESION
80%	AGINRS	- GRAINS

ANTIES

+A =	ENTASIA	TAENIAS			
+B =	BASINET	BESAINT	BESTAIN		
+C =	CANIEST	CINEAST			
+D =	DESTAIN	DETAILS	INSTEAD	SAINTED	SATINED STAINED
+E =	ETESIAN				
+F =	FAINEST	NAIFEST			
+G =	EASTING	EATINGS	GAINEST	GENISTA	INGATES INGESTA
		SEATING	TANGIES	TEASING	TSIGANE
+H =	SHEITAN	STHENIA			
+I =	ISATINE				
+J =	JANTIES				
+K =	INTAKES				
+L =	EASTLIN	ELASTIN	ENTAILS	NAILSET	SALIENT SALTINE
		SLAINTS	STANIEL	TENAILS	
+M =	ETAMINS	INMATES	MAINEST	MANTIES	TAMEINS TAMINES
+N =	INANEST				
+O =	ATONIES				
+P =	PANTIES	PATINES	SAPIENT	SPINATE	
+Q =	(Oops - nothing!)				
+R =	ANESTRI	NASTIER	RATINES	RESIANT	RETAINS RETINAS
		RETSINA	STAINER	STARNIE	STEARIN
+S =	ENTASIS	NASTIES	SESTINA	TANSIES	TISANES
+T =	INSTATE	SATINET			
+U =	AUNTIES	SINUATE			
+V =	NAIVEST	NATIVES	VAINEST		
+W =	AWNIEST	TAWNIES	WANIEST	WANTIES	
+X =	SEXTAIN				
+Y =	(Oh dear, that's real unlucky!)				
+Z =	ZANIEST	ZEATINS			

Only 3 tiles (one Q and two Ys) don't go with ANTIES, so 91 of the other 94 tiles do. This gives ANTIES a 97% probability (all other things being equal).

Next issue will include a number of 7s that "aren't", and also many that ARE, but are maybe not what you'd think!

Happy bonus-hunting

OTARINE PANTS

IN A SET

Taenias bestain the cineast brain:
 Sainted etesian and faintest tsigane.
 Sheitan. isatine for janties.
 Intakes salient with manties.
 Inanest atonies in panties.
 Resiant nasties instate your aunties!
 While natives with waniest strain.
 Have sextain in zaniest pain.

P(L)AIN ENGLISH

Reading, Francis Bacon once mentioned, maketh a full man; sometimes even overflowing, as when you strike two verses on the same subject in old magazines dated 25 years apart. The first is so old, with author unknown, that it's almost traditional. Here it is:-

Let's begin with box; the plural is boxes,
But the plural of ox is oxen, not oxes.
One fowl is a goose, but two are called geese,
Yet the plural for moose is never called meese.
You may find a lone mouse or a whole nest of mice,
But the plural of house is houses, not hice.
If the plural of man is always men
Why shouldn't the plural of pan be pen?
If I speak of a foot and you show me two feet
If I give you a boot, would the pair be called beeth?
If one is a tooth and the whole set are teeth,
Why shouldn't the plural of booth be called beeth?
If the singular's this and the plural is these,
Should the plural of kiss ever be keese?
We speak of a brother and also of brethren,
But although we say mother, we never say methren.
Now the masculine pronouns are he, his and him,
But imagine the feminine, she, shis and shim!

While American writer Bennet Cerf claimed that a European student, confused by English spelling, submitted this poem in a term examination:

In A Blue Mued

The wind was rough
And cold and blough;
She kept her hands inside her mough.

It chilled her through
Her nose turned blough,
And still the squall the faster flough.

And yet although
There was no snough,
The weather was a cruel fough.

It made her cough
(Please do not scough);
She coughed until her hat blew ough.

From the writers' magazine 'Freelance' (submitted by Norma Keesing, Hastings).

On the subject of irregular plurals, two of the strangest (non-English) are in Chambers - as/aesir (Norse) and lilangeni/emalangi (Swazi). The latter is not cross-referenced either.

SCRABBLE ON SESQUI CALENDAR

FORGET the Commonwealth Games, royal tour and Sesqui carnivals... for an insight into how New Zealanders really want to mark 1990 have a glimpse at the official projects calendar.

For the not-so-shy Kiwi there's a nudist rally at Lower Hutt, or perhaps the Arcturus Trust Mud Ball in Invercargill, or the Stink Pot Trek in Wainuiomata and the 1990 Pongal Celebration in Wellington.

Then there's the Quarry Summer Do in Whangarei, Christchurch's Out of Petticoats into the Water Girl Guides camp.

If none of those appeal, try visiting the 1990 Moggy Dog Show at Upper Hutt, entering Masterton's Ridiculous Relay or Waimate's Wallaby Rally.

Free your creative potential at a workshop in Taradale, help clean up Dunedin's cemetery or celebrate Cowes 1990 visit to Bulls.

There's The Great Chocolate Scallop Hunt at Whangaparaoa and a fancy dress archery hen shoot in Napier, sheepdog trials just about everywhere and a reunion of whaling families in Wainuiomata.

Toss New Zealand's favourite footwear at Taihape's 1990 Gumboot Day or flick through the dictionary to find out what's happening at Hahnemann's Bicentenary Homeopathic Birthday Party in Auckland and the Dys-trophic Epidermolysis Bullosa Research Association Conference at Hastings.

Join the South Island Simulated Holy Land Tour or gatecrash Pahiatua's Gathering of the Clans.

See stars at the Astronomical Observers and Telescope Makers 1990 Convention in New Plymouth or find out what's among them at the Kiwicon Science Fiction Conference.

And don't miss the Festival of



New Zealand 1990

(Sunday Times 31.12.89)

the Handbell in Wellington or nominating Invercargill's Friendliest Shop Assistant.

Hamilton's having a Hi-Level Hoedown (square dance to all you city slickers) and Henderson's letting loose in a Carnival of Chaos.

1990 National Missing Persons Week should track down the party-poopers who wanted to escape the whole year and ended up at the Scrabble tournament in Mt Albert.

Wanganui will go wild at a 1990 Morning Coffee Session which could lead to entries for the Feminist Socialist Embroidery Exhibition in Wellington.

And if the Recycling and Compost Makers Open Day in Devonport isn't your idea of entertainment then head to the other end of New Zealand for the Southern Cavey Clubs (guinea pigs) Championships in Dunedin.

Those are just a few of the more than 8000 events planned for 1990.

Who ever said nothing ever happens in New Zealand?

Party-poopers? This reporter obviously doesn't know much about Scrabble 'players'!

FROM YOUR LONDON CORRESPONDENT

Sue Marrow has just sent me the latest Forwards Scrabble magazine which I really enjoyed reading. She also suggested that I write an article on the Scrabble scene in England. The English do play Scrabble, but not as we know it. There are two types of game over here:

1. Play to win
2. High score

1. Play to win or match play is most closely aligned with our NZ way of thinking and playing. This game operates on the same principle as ours and that is as the name suggests, to try and beat the opposition. There are however a number of significant differences which definitely take a lot of getting used to. First is, only words in Chambers Word List (OSW) are permissible. That means unlearning all the words such as DE, QUAI, ZAIRE and many others which I had enough difficulty learning in the first place. My favourite seems to be playing, and being challenged on, the word ET at least five times since I've been here.

Talking about challenges - a challenger over here can challenge as many words, as many times as he wants without the fear of losing his go should the challenge fail. This to a large extent takes away the challenge of Scrabble for me. I find that playing here you become less adventurous and as a consequence you probably don't learn as many words because you are too scared to try them. In NZ we always have that risk element where you know you can try a word because there is a good chance that your opponent may be as unsure of the word as you yourself. That fun element of the game is completely eliminated here as the challenger has nothing to lose and could in theory challenge every word played during the entire game! It sort of makes the game tame and almost boring. (The editor might like to put in one of those editor-type notes about now, saying "these views are the views of the writer and not necessarily agreed with by the editor.") **NO WAY! Ed.**

2. High Score:

Jeff's article said it all, but I'll say a bit more anyway. I regard this type of playing as completely contrived and farcical where you set your opponent up and he sets you up and it doesn't really matter who wins. It would be possible to lose all your games, but still win a tournament. Incidentally I learned today that recently a game of 1000 was achieved by one player although I have no details of the game. It shows the level of absurdity the high score game is reaching.

Fortunately the proportion of tournaments using the high score game is diminishing in favour of the play to win style, which is encouraging. It was good to have the odd NZ style games with David Lloyd while he was here.

There are very few clubs in London. They have what is called 'The London League' where all the members fill out a form detailing the days they are prepared to play, what areas they are prepared to travel to, etc. All the info is fed into a computer and the results printed out. This makes it quite awkward for casual visitors like myself to be able to drop in on a club and meet a lot of players at one time. It also means committing yourself weeks in advance if you are to join the league.

However, having said all the above, the people are great and there is not much in the way of skiing over here, so I guess I'll be joining them - in match play of course.

Dave Blumhardt

PS If anyone has any further queries I'm quite happy to answer them if I can.

PPS Don't anyone get over 1000!

A 15-LETTER WORD by Kevin Edgeler.

At a recent Scrabble tournament some of the between games conversation centred around the question of whether there had ever been a 15-letter word played across or down a board, in New Zealand.

At the present time this writer feels sure that no official tournament play has revealed this occurrence, but a friendly game at home has provided this rare feat.

The game was a social one with dictionary usage allowed.

The word started off as 'FORMAT' and was extended to 'FORMATION', later to 'REFORMATION', then 'REFORMATIONIST' and lastly to 'PREFORMATIONIST', reaching from top left triple to top right triple.

This was not a triple-triple-triple (27 times letter count), or even a triple-triple (9 times), but a very rare achievement nevertheless.

OVERLAP COMPETITION No. 4

Again more entries. Comments range from "Highlight of Forwards" to "Excellent exercise to build vocab and waste time"(!).

The winner was our worthy editor, Jeff Grant, who managed to pip Rhoda Cashman(Rodney) by 1 point in the last line to score 747 points. 3rd equal with 741 points were Dorothy Haining(Rodney) and "Otarine Pants" (Dunedin), followed by Marjorie Hughes(Rodney), Andrew Bradley(Hastings), Andree Prentice and Nita Oldham (both Wanganui).

Jeff's answer read as follows:

silliLYingly
wiliLYsins
slyLYsis
illYnx
nILl
pLYm
piLiLy
sillYsol
limPLYfull
lapilLicitly

- GERALD WARNER

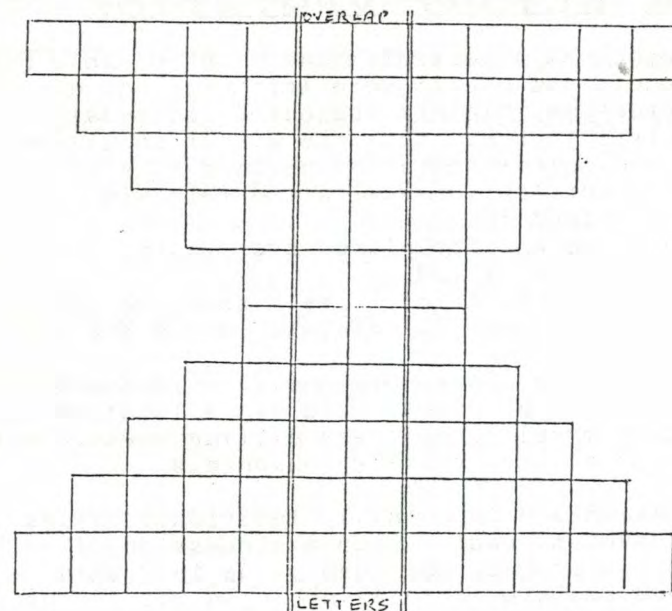
NORITES

Bingo-hunters are probably familiar with the useful word NORITES (stonier norites), but how many of you know what it means? Chambers dictionary defines norite as follows:

'a gabbro with a rhombic pyroxene'.

Some nice Scrabble words there! And just in case you are wondering, gabbro is a type of igneous rock, rhombic is a particular shape, and pyroxene is a general name for a certain group of minerals. If you want more specific details you will have to look them up yourself.

OVERLAP COMPETITION No. 5



The object of Overlap is simply to complete each line across with two words of your own choosing. But the second word on each line must begin with the Overlap letters, that is, the last two letters of the first word on the line. Each letter has a different value and the idea is to select words that give you the highest possible score. The Overlap letters count double as they occur in both words. There is to be no repetition, incl. singular and plural of the same word: but other derivatives are allowed, such as load, loaded, loading; hard, harder, hardest.

All words used in Overlap must be from the Chambers English Dictionary (1988 Edition) or the Official Scrabble Players Dictionary.

SCOREBOARD: a-4; b-2; c-3; d-3; e-4; f-1;
g-2; h-1; i-3; j-4; k-8; l-5; m-1; n-2;
o-2; p-4; q-10; r-5; s-3; t-1; u-6;
v-3; w-4; x-5; y-7; z-4.

Entries to be sent to Gerald Warner, Sandspit Road, R.D.2, Warkworth by November 23rd, 1990.

The winner will receive a small prize. Entries are to be sent like this:

queenLYrical	70
squeAKimbo	55
khaKInky	52
etc.	

TOTAL: 567

A SLIGHT VARIATION

At the recent Mt Albert birthday night Glennis Hale, Paul Patchett and myself were left over and decided to play a threesome. Glennis suggested, somewhat facetiously I thought, that the winner should be the one with the lowest score. We decided to give it a go and play for low score with the following hastily conceived rules:

1. A legal word must be played every turn
2. No changing permitted
3. Passing only permitted if rack shown to opponents to prove that no move is possible. To be avoided for obvious reasons.
4. When playing a bonus word the 50 points are deducted instead of added. This was a later variation suggested by myself when I was getting nowhere with a succession of high-scoring consonants.

Play commenced and immediately individual styles began to develop. Paul played a succession of brilliant low scores, only one being in double figures and amassing a total of 58 in his 17 turns. I, on the other hand went for bonuses and the all important negative scores to finish with 25 after having a minus score for much of the game due to my three bonus words. Glennis played a balanced game with a combination of these styles. She was the one who finally went out with a very useful total score of 12 due to having scored two excellent low-score bonuses.

Paul was caught with 8 on his rack and I with 5, so that after adding these to our scores and deducting the total of them to Glennis's score, the completed result was Paul 66, me 30 and Glennis a magnificent minus 1.

Glennis wishes to claim this as a NZ record for lowest winning score, but I believe it could be ineligible because it was scored while playing a threesome. Perhaps the editor could confirm this.

-John Foster

Yes, I'm afraid you're right, John. Magnificent though this achievement undoubtedly is, it cannot be officially recognised as a record.

I believe a similar variation was tried some years ago in the Land of the Lofty Scores, resulting in mass hysteria and the first recorded cases of SPASS (Scrabble Players' Anoxic Shock Syndrome). This affliction is curable only by providing the sufferer with repeated doses of the common but addictive 'Triple-Triple' drug.

Well, who are they? The question was asked of readers in "FORWORDS" No. 18. Who are Chaz R Pewters, Zac Wherpster and Esther C Zwarz. The names appear on the second page of "Chambers Anagrams".

My guess is that Esther is the real name and the other two clever anagrams of her name. Perhaps the editor will correct me if I am wrong.

Open Jester.

You're on the right track. All names are actually anagrams of the compiler Peter Schwarz, who is also mentioned on pg. vii at the start of Official Scrabble Words. Peter's wife, Catherine, is the senior Reference Editor at Chambers (see OSW Preface, pg v).

-Ed.

THE TOP 10 TOURNAMENT SCORES

661	Glennis Hale	1990	North Shore
660	Denise Gordon	1988	Nationals
650	Jeff Grant	1990	Masters
645	Jeff Grant	1989	Nationals
644	Glennis Hale	1986	Masters
630	David Lloyd	1985	Nationals
628	David Lloyd	1984	Nationals
619	David Blumhardt	1984	Nationals
616	Mike Sigley	1986	Masters
613	Alan Boyd	1986	South Is.

We think these are the highest individual game scores recorded in N.Z. tournament Scrabble. If an omission has been made please let us know.

THE HIGHEST SINGLE-TURN SCORE ?

In Forwards no.9 David Lloyd exhibited a theoretical 1681-point single-turn using words from Chambers and OSPD. By extensively modifying David's effort, using words from CED only it has been possible to add a further point to the total.

Twenty-five moves are needed before PSYCHOANALYZING is interwoven into the top row. This as a triple-triple-triple (27 times face value) worth 1427 points by itself, including the 50-point bonus.

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 spheres | 15 reacquainting |
| 2 oospheres | 16 evitated |
| 3 bodega | 17 ad |
| 4 abb.bo | 18 vox. go. ax |
| 5 hoa | 19 ygo |
| 6 hyle | 20 dime |
| 7 rawly | 21 fit. ef |
| 8 wroke | 22 cations |
| 9 enrol.re.an.lo | 23 ratifications |
| 10 san | 24 nu. ur |
| 11 coke | 25 in |
| 12 over. love | 26 psychoanalyzing. preacquainting. |
| 13 loved. er | ywroke. clovered. noospheres. |
| 14 acquaint | levitated. zax. gratifications |

Can anyone improve on 1682 points ?

