

CONTACT INFORMATION

Clubs (Nth to Sth)	Contact Person	Phone	Meeting Day/ Time	Meeting Place
Rodney (ROD)	Valma Gidman	09-425-6776	Mon (all) 1pm & 7.15pm	Totara Park, Warkworth
Nth Shore Bays (NSB)	Marge Dalzell	09-478-6248	Tues 10am	Campbell's Bay Methodist Church Hall
	Allie Quinn	09-483-7806	Thurs 7.15pm	Takapuna Senior Citizen's Hall
Mt Albert (MTA)	Karyn McDougall	09-834-3421	Fri 7.15pm	Mt Albert Senior Citizen's Hall
Pakuranga/Howick (PAK)	Jeanette Owler	09-534-4453	Thurs 7pm	St Matthias Church Hall, Panmure
Papatoetoe/Holy Cross (PHC)	May Meads	09-278-5155	Mon 1pm	64 Fairview Rd.
Hamilton (HAM)	Jacqueline Coldham- Fussell	07-846-7422	Tues 7.30pm	Hearing Assoc Building 40 Wellington St
Waikato (WKT)	Pam Robson	07-856-6449	Wed (alt) 7.30pm	St Aidans Church Hall Cnr Heaphy Tce & Thames St
Mt Maunganui (MTM)	Ngaire Steel	07-542-1035	Any time - ring	
Tauranga (TGA)	Noel Maisey	07-576-3218	Tues 7.20pm	
Tokoroa (TOK)	Florence Veldhuizen	07-886-6123		
Taupo (TPO)	Gwen Robb	07-378-9409		
Waitara (WTA)	Trixie Neil	06-754-8745	Wed 1.30pm	
New Plymouth (NPL)	Martha Morgan	06-758-1723		
New Plym YWCA (NPY)	Doreen Poole	06-751-1710		
Stratford (STR)	Sharon Clarke	06-765-5653		
Hastings (HAS)	Jeff Grant	06-878-6654	Thurs (alt) 7pm	Hastings RSA
Waipukurau (WPK)	Ann Grindrod	06-858-7493		
Wanganui (WAN)	Andrée Prentice	06-344-6343	Mon 7pm	Cosmopolitan Club
Masterton (MAS)	Aliette Hay	06-377-3273		
Avalon (AVA)	Eileen McLennan	04-567-1289	Thurs 1pm	
Lower Hutt (LOH)	Glenyss Buchanan	04-569-5433	Tues 7.30pm	
Wellington (WEL)	Lynn Wood	04-387-2581	Tues 7.30pm	5 Tully St, Kilbirnie
Nelson (NEL)	Pat Johnstone	03-544-1154	Wed 7pm	Golden Links Hall, 93 Vanguard St
Christchurch (CHC)	Margaret Lyall	03-332-5963	Fri 7pm	Sydenham Community Centre
North Otago (NOT)	Ann Brady	03-434-7110		
Dunedin (DUN)	Anne Stewart	03-488-2208	Mon 7pm	Dunedin Bridge Club Rooms

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FORWORDS



Official Journal of the New Zealand Association of Scrabble Players
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Editor's Note



The Scrabble year is now well underway, with successful tournaments having been hosted by Howick-Pakuranga, Wellington and Hastings. The latter event was a first for Hawke's Bay, and the club was pleased to welcome over 60 players from as far afield as Warkworth and Christchurch. Fortunately it was a fine weekend in Hastings, so everyone could enjoy the sun as well as the Scrabble. A novelty at the prize-giving was an award for the most unusual word of the tournament. It was a difficult choice, but the judges settled on URUSHIOL (a toxic liquid), which was played by Lynne Butler of New Plymouth. Local club members are hoping to hold another tournament in Hastings in 1997.

Next on the Scrabble calendar is the first ever South Island-based New Zealand Masters Championship. Good luck to the twenty-four participants who will be gathering in Dunedin at Easter. It will be my first trip down there, so I'm particularly looking forward to the experience.

Further afield, the Norfolk Island Festival in September is shaping up to be a beauty. There has been lots of interest from both NZ and Australia. Details of dates and costs appear in this issue. One top Australian player is rumoured to be planning a combination Scrabblefest and honeymoon! Join the party and have an unforgettable week on Norfolk Island.

From 1 February a new word list has been used in America in conjunction with OSPD2. It contains around 1200 terms drawn mainly from the infamous OSPD3 (which has not been adopted as it omits 'offensive' words). Only 750 of these words are new to us, because the rest are found in Chambers/OSW3. Many others have nine or more letters, and there are only 28 new 2, 3 and 4-letter words. We hope to adopt this supplementary list after the Nationals. You should be able to write the new words into your word lists, Griffons and OSPD2s. It isn't necessary to buy a new dictionary.

We mentioned anagrams of World Champs winner David Boys in the last issue. According to Word Ways editor Ross Eckler, the US telephone directory database Phonedisk lists 47 people named BOYD DAVIS and 2 named DAVIS BOYD amongst its ninety million entries.

This last name sounds a bit like former top NZ Scrabblers David Lloyd, who has just returned home after six years in the UK. His intended comeback to competitive Scrabble is eagerly anticipated.

Finally, thanks to everyone who has contributed to Forwards, particularly Glenda, our expert layout editor. Please send us anything of interest — Scrabble clippings, photos, stories, etc. They are all much appreciated and help to make the magazine more entertaining.

Closing date for the June issue is 25 May.

Happy Scrabbling
Jeff

MAIL BOX



PANGRAMMATIC DREAM

by STUART BUNKER
Waiheke Island

Reading in *Forwards* about the participation of Team NZ in the recent World Scrabble Championship, I was reminded of a dream I had just prior to the start of the event in which I was talking with tournament officials. The dream was action-packed and there were no blank spaces. To summarise the situation:

NEW VIBES IN VOICE
TODAY I MADE A WAGER
OF SIXTY QUID
OUR NATIONAL REPS
MIKE
BLUE
HALE
GRANT
JOHN FOSTER
COULD GET A PRIZE.

[This piece uses only the 98 letter tiles in Scrabble (very clever!) — Ed.]

TOURNAMENT TRENDS

by GERALD WARNER
Rodney

You may well consider me rather old-fashioned, but I do have some niggles with recent tournament trends.

I like the relaxing social atmosphere of a lunch get-together, with a meal provided by the host club and paid for as part of the entrance fee. The effort this entails — as it

is usually the result of much volunteer labour — is always appreciated.

I prefer the award of material prizes to professional money ones. Even if the quality is not always first-class, these presents evoke fond memories during their lifetime.

I would rather see long weekend tournaments limited to the Nationals and Masters, with the possible addition of two or three 'back-to-back' ones from two adjacently situated clubs, eg Waikato/Hamilton or New Plymouth/Stratford. The ongoing proliferation of tournaments is tending to nudge these occasions into little more than club outings. On the other hand, I am, of course, fully aware that for long distance travellers a two-day function may be more worthwhile.

The points I make are all my personal views and are not meant to reflect in any way on the hard work done by tournament organisers.

What do fellow Scrabblers think?

ANOTHER PANGRAM

by Olive HEATH
Avalon Club

After many hours I have come up with this, but I don't know whether it will make *Forwards*.

WE FREEZE MANY
PUDDINGS, BANANA CAKE,
JOINTED WHITE MEAT,
BOUILLI, CHOUX, GARLIC, TAROS,
QUITE GOOEY PROFITEROLES,
AND VIVERS.

This is a horribly compulsive thing to start!

All the best for 1996.

APPRECIATION

by I Kill SEAMEN (aka Elsie Malkin)
CHRISTCHURCH

Love the *Forwards* magazine and thoroughly enjoyed reading of the team's exploits in London. Way beyond me, I'm afraid, but keep up the good work, and a happy and successful year ahead to all Scrabblers.

SCRABBLE CHOCOLATES

by MARGARET LYALL
CHRISTCHURCH

The June 1995 issue of *Forwards* featured (on page 7) a small article about a firm which stocks a variety of Scrabble gear.

No doubt you are aware of Spear's products which are already available — Scrabble caps, brooches, etc., * but the latest would appear to be a chocolate game! My daughter in London sent me a box recently, purchased from Marks and Spencer, which contained 32 mints, each with a seven-letter anagram on the wrapper (see example in next column).

The box of confectionery is placed in the centre of the table and each player takes a mint and has 30 seconds to form an anagram from the letters shown (or the longest word if they can't find the seven-letter one). This continues until all the sweets are used up, and the player with the highest score wins the bonus prize of a chocolate bar divided into sections which spell the word 'Maestro'!

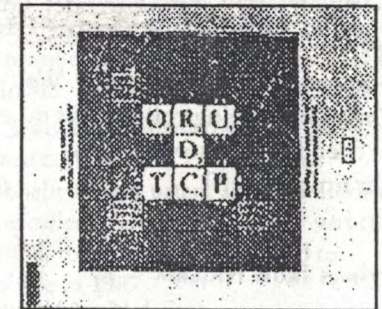
If you have not already sampled any, I enclose one for your interest! [Thanks, it was delicious — Ed.]

Kind regards and best wishes for 1996.

[We did actually get a 'taste' of this game at the World Champs dinner in London.

The mints were kindly supplied by the organisers. It's great fun when played with a group of word lovers, and quite addictive too, especially to the chocaholics among us. — Jeff]

* The Spear's Scrabble merchandise is advertised in UK's Scrabble Club News. If anyone would like more details please contact Jeff.



Can you solve this anagram?

SCRABBLE IN ALICE SPRINGS

by DOROTHY ELLIS
Eagleby, QUEENSLAND

My trip to Alice Springs went well. It was a last minute decision and I am pleased that I went. My intentions were just to enjoy the week and release a lot of built-up stress. It worked.

The weather there was dry and hot, but not humid, so we were able to walk about and go on tours; even a camel ride — that was quite an experience.

There were 200 participants in the eight different games, and Scrabble had the most — over sixty! It was well organised with just a few hiccups. One major drama was when the Verdi Club was taken over by the bailiffs during the chess competition — they also had a big Country and Western dinner/dance

planned for that evening. The other clubs rallied around and the tournaments were held in the Casino and the dinner/dance at the Golf Club, which was the Scrabble venue.

Everyone enjoyed themselves, so they plan to hold another event next year instead of two years time.

Best wishes for 1996. I hope to catch up with you at the Norfolk Island Festival.

[Nice to hear from you, Dorothy. We look forward to seeing you and our other Aussie friends on Norfolk in a few months time. — Jeff]

GREETINGS FROM NIGERIA

by FEMI AWOWADE
AKURE, NIGERIA

Congratulations on your wonderful performance at the World Champs in London. I happened on a copy of *Forwards* and enjoyed reading it so much. It's the 10th Anniversary issue and I wish you could put me on your circulation list.

Kindly keep up the good Scrabble work. Cheers.

[We have sent Femi another complimentary *Forwards* and provided subscription details.. Nigeria did very well in their first appearance at a World Scrabble Championship, with Ifeanyi Onyeonwu gaining 13th place, Sammy Okosagah 22nd, and Femi 41st. — Ed.]

MORE FROM THE EDITOR

In the wind ... the next World Champs could be in either New York or Washington DC. Closer to home, how would players feel about a Masters-type tournament featuring 12 top NZ players

and 12 top Aussies? It could be held every two years on a home and away basis — great competition for both countries. Some informal discussions have taken place, and if enough interest is shown such an event could well become a reality.

Still overseas, the January issue of the British APSP Newsletter states that toy-makers Mattel have offered \$5.2 billion for arch-rivals Hasbro. Between them these two companies own the rights to Scrabble throughout the world. If this bid succeeds, Mattel would control the rights to Scrabble everywhere. Potentially this is extremely significant, as it brings the prospect of global Scrabble events, rules and dictionaries one step closer.



Please note the following annual payments are now due:

Affiliation fees	Club member	\$3
	Independent	\$6
Magazine subs		\$10

PLAYING FIRST: A PLUS

Over the years many players have wondered what kind of advantage there is to playing first. Mike Wise, co-director of the American Scrabble Superstars Showdown, noted that of the 648 games played among the higher-rated players, the one who played first won around 55% of the time. This gives a 10% winning advantage to the first player. While this result may not be conclusive, it is strongly suggestive that the advantage is significant. The National Scrabble Association believes that playing first, among experts, is worth about 17 points, which is about half a turn at top-expert level.

from *Scrabble Club News*, December 1995

REWRITING THE STORY OF SCRABBLE

FROM NEW YORK TIMES — 1 OCTOBER 1995

Jeffrey A Saunders knew that Scrabble was born on 79th Street in Jackson Heights, Queens. He knew that Alfred Mosher Butts (the inventor of Scrabble) lived there. He also knew that he was one of the few who had uncovered the real story of the popular word game.

Dates of the game's invention vary from 1931 to 1933, rarely is Jackson Heights mentioned and this bothered Mr Saunders who has lived in the area for 10 years and is co-chairman of the architecture department of the Jackson Heights Beautification Group. About a year ago, Mr Saunders resolved to put Jackson Heights into Scrabble history.

He searched the archives of the Community Methodist Church on 35th Avenue, where he found reservations from the mid 1930's for Scrabble games in the church's social room. He sought out friends of Mr Butts and his wife Nina and collected accounts from some original players like members of the Jackson Heights Woman's College Club. His conclusion was that it



Alfred Butts photographed in 1985 with an early version of Scrabble

was in the church hall and also in Mr Butts's apartment on 79th Street that friends and family first learned the game. On Sunday nights during the Depression players practised with hand-cut wooden tiles week after week until Mr Butts was satisfied he had it right. Those original players particularly recalled discussions over the number of triple word squares that were desirable.

Mr Saunders confirmed that the game was indeed conceived in 1931. He also established that a patent application for a game called 'Criss-Cross Words' was filed in 1938, the name being changed to Scrabble in 1947.

On Wednesday 27th September 1995, Mr Saunders's quest came full circle. He was among 30 Scrabble players gathered at the Community Methodist Church for the first meeting of the Queens Scrabble Club. The players competed in the very same room where some of the first players sat more than 60 years ago.

Mr Saunders reports that he will be meeting shortly with Robert Butts, Alfred's nephew and with the US's National Scrabble Association. At the historic meeting of the new club he stated "We will re-establish a history that has been hazy — until now!"

From *UK Scrabble Club News*
November 1995,
edited by Philip Nelkon.

[The December 1995 issue of the American Scrabble Club News notes that the building where Mr and Mrs Butts played early versions of Scrabble with fellow church members was recently dedicated a 'building of historical or cultural significance' by the New York Landmarks Foundation.]

GETTING THE WORD ABOUT THE WORD

by STEVE RUBINSTEIN

We took the case right to the top. We called headquarters in New York. Nothing like it had ever happened in the history of Scrabble they said.

"We'll have to get back to you on this," said the man from Scrabble.

I still maintain it wasn't cheating. My friend Leah maintains it was. It all had to do with the word 'reached'. A common word, as Groucho used to say, something you hear every day.

We were halfway through the game and the word 'ached' had already been played. I was feeling sneaky.

"If you can ache," I said to Leah, "you can re-ache, can't you?"

And I played 're' in front of 'ached'.

"Wait a minute," said Leah. "You can't re-ache. I've never heard of it. 'Re-ached' is not a word."

And she challenged it.

In Scrabble, if you play a phony word and get caught, you get no points and lose a turn. But if the word turns out to be legitimate, the opponent who challenged it loses a turn. It often winds up being the difference in the final score.

Even a pushover like Leah knew 're-ached' isn't a word, so she began flipping through the dictionary. I said nothing.

"Reached" she read aloud. "Past tense. To thrust out or extend the hand."

That's when she started calling me names, wild and unladylike. It was most

unbecoming.

"I didn't challenge 'reached'," she said. "I challenged 're-ached'."

"You challenged the word that's down there on the board," I said.

"You misrepresented the word," she said.

"You deliberately mispronounced it.

Besides, 're-ached' would be hyphenated and the rules say hyphenated words are not allowed."

Maybe I won the game by 14 points or maybe she won by 12 points.

"The word on the board doesn't have a hyphen," I replied. "That's what you challenged."

That's when we called the factory. Finally, we got through to a fellow named Michael Wise. He was on the rules committee.

"The rules do not cover this," he said.

That was all I needed to hear. The rules do not cover most things newspapermen do.

"However," he went on, "your action does not fall within the spirit of the game. It's an ethical question. A player may not say anything to mislead his opponent."

"Show me where it says that," I said.

"Look," he replied, "I don't say you're a bad person. If I were a tournament director, I would allow your word to stand but I would also not penalize your opponent for challenging a word about which she was deliberately misled."

If I had played the letters silently, he said, all would have been well. Opening my big mouth spoiled everything.

"Players may not talk during competition," he said.

"But Leah talks all the time," I said.

"Mostly about her two kids."

"I have ruled," Wise replied.

It was one of those wishy-washy, Solomonic, cut-the-baby-in-half decisions. And it was my dime for the call, too.

When the game ended, Leah announced she had won by 12 points and I proclaimed my victory by 14 points. We're still not sure. It's an ethical question, as the man says, and that takes me beyond my sphere.

This American Scrabble story was sent to us by Helen Young of the Central Coast Scrabble Club, Chittaway Bay, NSW, Australia.

[If a player puts down a word and deliberately pronounces it wrongly to mislead their opponents it could be argued that this is unethical. However, it is really a case of 'let the buyer (or in this case, player) beware'. If you challenge REACHED believing it to be REACHED you deserve to lose a turn, just as others have done for challenging the likes of RESTING (to sting again), APPLY (like an apple) and DOSSIER (more 'dossy'). Think before you challenge! — Ed.]

Off to a Bad Start

Late in 1994 Brian Edwards' radio show Top O' The Morning invited listeners to "write the worst possible, most atrocious opening sentence to an imaginary novel". Some of the more than 200 entries appeared in the Listener of December 24 1994. Here are some of the best (worst).

1. When nextdoor's dachshund got stuck in the cat door again, Roger just knew he was in for a bad day. *James Hunt*
2. The dame who came bursting through my door had the kind of figure you'd even sell Amway to support — lips like erotic cobras, flashing teeth to alert the unwary voyager of approaching danger in the rocks ahead, eyes that you wanted to protect from the bitter realities of the cruel world, breasts leading the way like a police escort in charge of a presidential motorcade — and somewhere in my nether regions I felt a mounting pressure, a red hot lava building in a dormant volcano that everyone had mistaken for dead. *Dan Horne*
3. Tex Stardust, last of the old-time space rangers, stared flintily across the sparse brush of the crater as he strapped on his pearl-handled neutron-revolvers, grimly vowing that the next renegade alien to lay a tentacle on his trusty robot mount, Miss Betsy, was gonna end up six metres under with a thorax full of uranium. *Daniel Tan*
4. As the moon hovered over the horizon like a sullen fluorescent balloon, Ronaldo looked over the twinkling sea, gently heaving like a mildly impassioned breast, and wondered if Delia's purple-flowered plant had a symbolic presence in her otherwise stark boudoir. *Stephen Benner*

Appalling as these may be, they are surely not much worse than the opening sentence of an actual novel by American writer Gail Scott that we published in Forwards 30, March 1993.

Wordy

by Glenda Foster

We have been sent a disk containing computer programs designed with word game enthusiasts in mind. The author, Mendel Cooper of the United States, distributes the programs as shareware and freeware. Shareware means that if you like the programs and wish to continue using them you should pay a registration fee (US\$2.00) to the author. Freeware means that the programs are completely free to use. Here is Mendel Cooper's description of what the disk contains:

"WORDY410 (version 4.10) is the latest update of an educational word-game study system. The included WORDY practice game checks entered words "on the fly" against a 100,694 word dictionary. This game is optimized for practising the pattern and word recognition skills used by Scrabble (tm) and Boggle (tm) players. Stand-alone SEARCH, ANAGRAM, UNSCRAMBLE, and word-pattern find utilities for serious Scrabble (tm) players & crossword puzzle enthusiasts now included. This package is a "must-have" for competitive word game players - it is both a research and training tool, as well as just fun. Updated for the final release of the **3rd edition** of the OSPD (tm). Has support for wild cards ("blank tiles"), a BINGO utility, an "intelligent" file reformatting utility, a 30% speedup on the utilities, and a new look for the WORDY game. Re-edited master word list for increased accuracy. New: support for and information on the exciting new 1DIF Scrabble(tm) variation.

LNGWD20 is a bonus list of 147,526 words over 8 letter long for registered WORDY users. Most of the WORDY utilities work on this list. Using this list eliminates the need for a supplementary dictionary to check long words not listed in the OSPD (tm).

SCRBL37 is a set of word lists and other goodies

for Scrabble (tm) players. Now updated to be "compatible" with 3rd Ed. of OSPD (tm). Version 3.6.

CSCLK13 is a full-featured chess clock, with digital display, move counter, pause function, and more. Also useful for timing Scrabble (tm) games because the clocks may be paused.

CDNTMR1 is a countdown timer, for use with board games, in cooking, and other applications.

SIER10 is a graphic display of the "Chaos Game". It gives a striking demonstration of the order underlying randomness.

ALERT10 is a combination "burglar alarm" and "screen saver". It flashes a warning message on the screen and simulates a phone dialing the police, both of which should frighten any intruder within sight/earshot of the computer.

READ301 is a list of recommended books to enlarge one's horizons, a mini self-improvement reading program. It is a guide for self-education on a variety of topics. Includes "cheap-but-good" software listing. New: guest commentary and analysis and an electronic publishing proposal."

Of most interest to Scrabble players are the various programs that create word lists according to your specifications. Also included are lists that have already been created, eg Q words, Z words, Vowel dumps, 2 letters. The master word list is based on OSPD3 and is said to have an error rate of "less than 0.02%, perhaps ten or less". There is a list of all words which are new in OSPD3, which is where I learnt that we may soon be able to have words such as ab, ed, moc, deoxy, ditz, farside, geez and zin. The separate long word list is not based on a named dictionary and has not been checked for accuracy or completeness, making it of limited value for NZASP players. Another

OSPD 3 (CENSORED!)

The politically correct gnomes who purged the American OSPD of all those naughty words like FART, WOG and NANCY got a little carried away when they decided to delete PISSANT (an ant) as well. Apparently it will be restored in the next printing. Makes you wonder how ALBUM and MISHIT survived, doesn't it?

Word has it there are many errors in OSPD3 — certainly all those from OSPD2 haven't been corrected. Serious Scrabble players will continue to use OSPD2 (the one we have), plus a supplementary list of new words deemed acceptable in America.

TRAVELLING TO AMERICA?

If anyone is planning a trip to the US, Canada, Mexico or the US Virgin Islands and wants to get hold of a Scrabble Club, contact the NZASP Secretary. Whether you are going to Carefree, Arizona; Mountain Home, Arkansas; Skokie, Illinois; Lake Oswego, Oregon; Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, or a more mundane place like Washington, New York or Los Angeles, there is probably a Scrabble club somewhere nearby, and we have a full list of contacts.

SCRABBLE ILLUSTRATED

The US magazine *Sports Illustrated* usually covers only physical contests like football, hockey and baseball, but in its December 1995 issue there is an article on Scrabble. Has anyone come across it? Apparently the magazine even sent a photographer to the World Champs in London, so it would be interesting to see this coverage. No doubt they have tried to make it as 'racy' as possible.

limitation of the whole package is that OSW-only words are not included. The master word list can be edited, so if you have the time and energy you can add OSW-only words.

The programs are easy to use and come with adequate documentation. They will run on most standard IBM compatible PCs under DOS (or a DOS session in Windows). To extract the files from the disk you will need a decompression program such as PKUNZIP. The search utilities are very fast, for example it took about 1 second for the INSET program to find 235 words that include REV in that order, and 2 seconds for the BINGO program to find the 53 bingos formed from ?RETINA. The lists created by the programs can be edited and printed using any standard word processor or text editor. An improvement to usability would be the inclusion of a menu system for the search utilities so that users can select the appropriate options from one screen and the selected program would run automatically.

If you are interested in obtaining a copy of the disk contact the author at:

M Cooper
3425 Chestnut Ridge Road
Grantsville, MD 21536-9801
UNITED STATES

Email: thegrendel@aol.com

or send a 3½ inch 1.44Mb disk and your name and address to:

Glenda Foster
317 Maungaraki Rd
Lower Hutt

COMPETITION CORNER

Superchallenge

Here is a puzzle to really test your word power. Because of its difficulty we are offering a \$50 prize to the first person to provide a correct set of answers. If this isn't claimed by **October 31** a consolation prize will be given for the best attempt.

All the words sought are allowed in Scrabble.

Please send your entries to:

Jeff Grant
Waipatu Settlement Rd
RD2, Hastings

Identify these words

1. A noun with six consecutive consonants.
2. A 9-letter word containing only three different letters, each appearing three times.
3. A word with fifteen different letters.
4. A word boasting 4 i's in the space of six letters.
5. A 2-letter word said to be composed of three sounds.

WANGANUI TOURNAMENT

LABOUR WEEKEND

26-27 OCTOBER 1996

Please note the corrected date!

Solution: SCRABBLE CONTEST No 41

It seems there are 61 allowable Scrabble words in NATIVITY (not counting the word itself). Lots of entries were received, with top marks going to Leila Thomson (LOII), Gerald Warner, Dorothy Haining and Margaret Bundock (all ROD), closely followed by Glennis Hale (MTA) and Rhoda Cashman (ROD) with 60 words, and Alan Boyd (DUN) and Doreen Ogston (CHC) with 59.

A draw was held and first name out of the hat was Dorothy. Congratulations!

SCRABBLE CONTEST No 42

This could be called an **alternative** quiz. You have to make ten words out of the fragments shown below, all of which will be used up when you have found the ten correct answers.

Example: a clue like 'windy' could be solved by either br-ee-zy or tw-is-ty, and 'does' by pe-rf-or-ms or de-er.

All words are allowable in Scrabble. The closing date is 20 May and the winner will receive a book prize.

Entries to be sent to:

Jeff Grant
Waipatu Settlement Rd
RD 2
Hastings

- | | |
|-----------|----------|
| 1 number | 6 condom |
| 2 couch | 7 delves |
| 3 supply | 8 mere |
| 4 chassis | 9 flower |
| 5 rose | 10 lied |

ad - an - bo - ch - cl - d - de - di - dy - ed -
er - er - es - in - is - it - li - ly - m - mb -
ne - on - pr - qu - ra - s - the - ub - wi

WHAT A FIND

by JETHRO SNAFFEROD



The OSW3 additions include the 9-letter word CEVAPCICI (Yugoslavian kebabs) and I cannot help asking "why?"

Consider this word for a moment. As it contains no allowable 2 or 3 letter word the only way it could possibly be played is by utilising at least two spaced letters already on the board and using a blank for the third C. And we Scrabblers have been accused of adopting words which are convenient for our game. Indeed!

Has anyone played EST or TWP yet? What about PHS? Have you ever wondered what the least played 3-letter words might be? There are certainly some that don't appear very often, either because they contain awkward letters or easy ones. Here are a dozen such words to dazzle (or at least surprise!) the opposition.

CWM ENS ESS HMM LES RAS
RHY SIS SOS UDS ZIZ ZUZ

SCRABBLE SONNET

Philip Nelkon, editor of Scrabble Club News discovered via the Internet that recent Nobel Prize winner, Seamus Heaney, once wrote a sonnet called:

Scrabble

(In memoriam Tom Delaney, archaeologist)

Bare flags. Pump water. Winter evening cold.
Our backs might never warm up but our faces
Burned from the hearth-blaze and the hot whiskeys.
It felt half remembered even then, an old
Rightness half imagined or foretold,
As green sticks hissed and spat into the ashes
And whatever rampaged out there couldn't reach us
Firelit, shuttered, slated, and stone-walled
Year after year our game of Scrabble: love
Taken for granted like any other word
That was chanced on and allowed within the rules.
So 'Scrabble' let it be. Intransitive.
Meaning to scratch or rake at something hard.
Which is what he hears. Our scrapings, clinking tools.

LONDON



1995

WORLD SCRABBLE® CHAMPIONSHIP

The 1995 World Scrabble Championship final was played at the Park Lane Hotel, London, on Sunday November 5th - an appropriate date as there were fireworks aplenty. The finalists were David Boys of Canada and Joel Sherman of the United States, who qualified ahead of Jeff Grant (NZ) and Bob Lipton (US).

For the final best-of-five game series the contestants were ensconced in a 'private' room two floors away from the stage and the audience. According to informed sources; counting the adjudicators, other tournament officials, photographers, technicians, etc., not to mention the players, there were over **twenty** people in this room.

Meanwhile, back in the ballroom, onstage were two experts (Mark Nyman of England and Steve Alexander of US) to analyse the moves, two young ladies to place the letters on the giant Scrabble board, and the incomparable Gyles Brandreth MP as compere. The players' room was linked by monitor to the stage and the words placed on the board as quickly as possible (there were a few hiccups). People in the audience were encouraged to make suggestions as the games progressed, and there was some heated debate as to the merits of particular words. Overall, both finalists did extremely well, finding some brilliant

The Final

plays, despite the pressure of lights, cameras, and the knowledge that dozens of people, including the world's top Scrabblers, were watching their every move.

David and Joel had already faced each other three times during the qualifying rounds, with David holding the psychological edge 2 - 1. Joel, however, had won his last three games, including a morale-boosting 103-point win over David. So it all came down to the final.

Game 1 started with Joel changing, then playing three bonuses in the next four moves — CONFINER, LUSTRATE and HOGTIED. David impressed with OSW-only words KAFILA, AVOYER and QUIPO, as well as bonuses VERBALS and JOUSTING, but better letters at the end allowed Joel to sneak in by 431 - 421.

In **Game 2** David missed an awkward early bonus (ABOMASA), but made up for it with excellent plays of LAMBDROID and FANEGAS, making the score 1 - 1 with a comfortable 404 - 276 win.

Game 3 was again close. Joel opened with BENNIES, and then BESEECH. David stayed in touch with SARONGS and GOATEED, but Joel made it safe with the late bonus TANKAGE (appropriately for a Sherman), winning 443 - 398. As Joel now held a 2 - 1 lead, David had to win the next game to stay in the contest.

Game 4 started badly for David, and his second rack of CIINRRW looked most unpromising. The decision to change paid dividends as David was able to play first TRUDGES and then halfway through the game a further three consecutive bonuses

— AUNTLIER, FLINCHED and FLAWIER. Joel managed OVERSETS and NAIADES, but he couldn't stop David tying the series 2 - 2 with a 513 - 393 victory.

So, as in the preceding two World Championships, the final came down to a deciding game. Why not follow this climactic clash through step by step and see what words you would have played.

Game 5 Joel Sherman (US)

David Boys (Canada)

Turn	Rack	Play	Score	Total	Rack	Play	Score	Total
1	CHIQSTW	WITCH	34	34	CDNORU?	UNCORDS	85	85

David also had the playable 7-letter bonuses CANDOUR and CAUDRON (both 67) or CRUNODE (69), as well as 8-letter ones TROUNCED (62), CHONDRUS (64), INDUCTOR (64), CONDUCTER (66) CORNUTED (66) and DECURION (70). You can see that UNCORDS for 85 is by far the best play. It means 'frees from cords' and is in Chambers only.

David reckons he learnt it the night before!

2	QSINNRW	QUIN	26	60	ADEEEUX	EXUDE	41	126
3	NRSWEIN	TWINNERS	0	60	EAEEEE	change 6	0	126

Joel's WINNERS won't go down and he tries TWINNERS, which is disallowed. (It's in bigger dictionaries defined as 'ones that bear twins'.) David's awful pickup doesn't look so bad after Joel's last turn, as he in effect has a free change.

4	NRSWEIN	WINNER	25	85	AEFIPTV	PRIVATE	20	146
---	---------	--------	----	----	---------	---------	----	-----

Good turnover by both players, with David's move blocking triple-word access off the W.

5	NSAAADT	DATA	22	107	PEILOTZ	ZEALOT	50	196
---	---------	------	----	-----	---------	--------	----	-----

Nice playoff by Joel, but David really puts the pressure on now, extending his lead to 89 points.

6	ANSEFGM	FEMS	34	141	PIAEOOT	FIFE	42	238
---	---------	------	----	-----	---------	------	----	-----

Joel decides on a good score and reasonable leave to keep in touch. The placement is risky though, and David cashes in to get even further ahead.

7	AGNEGNR	WRANG	18	159	AOOTAI	IOTA	21	259
---	---------	-------	----	-----	--------	------	----	-----

As someone pointed out, Joel needed an E for GANGRENE. Do both players know that WRANG takes an S? David scores well with poor tiles, extending the lead to exactly 100 points.

8	EGNIMVY	ENVYING	28	187	AIOAILO	AIOLI	18	277
---	---------	---------	----	-----	---------	-------	----	-----

There are still three S's and a blank to come so both players turn over as many tiles as possible.

9	MLOORRS	MORAL	16	203	AOEGHN?	HEADLONG	72	349
---	---------	-------	----	-----	---------	----------	----	-----

Joel has higher scores available, eg MO, MY, OI (25), but he needs to retain a good balance and an open board. David makes the killing play (or is it?). A great find! He remembers his team-mate Joel Wapnick, who probably lost the 1993 title by opting not to open a triple-triple which would have given him an unassailable lead. A safer move for David was OBEAHING (bewitching), and unplayable sevens were HALOGEN, HEXAGON and HOGMANE.

Turn	Rack	Play	Score	Total	Rack	Play	Score	Total
10	ORSSUBE	SUBEROSE	69	272	ABDLSUY	BEADY	45	394

Resisting the temptation of 76 points for BOURSES (stock exchanges) onto AIOLI, Joel comes up with the brilliant SUBEROSE (corky) which opens a second triple-triple and gives him a chance. Crunch time! David spots LADYBUGS for 98 points — an excellent move which would put him 175 points clear. He places the letters and starts counting. Something tells him to stop. He takes the letters back and rechecks his tile tracking. The letters remaining are AEEJKOPRT. It hits him like a bolt of lightning. Playing LADYBUGS could lose the game! If Joel is holding the right tiles he can make PEJORATE for a score of 212! Under severe time pressure David makes the winning play. Even a move like PERTAKEN from Joel wouldn't be enough now.

11	EEKOPRT	SPOKER	0	272	LSUAJ	JAMS	39	433
----	---------	--------	---	-----	-------	------	----	-----

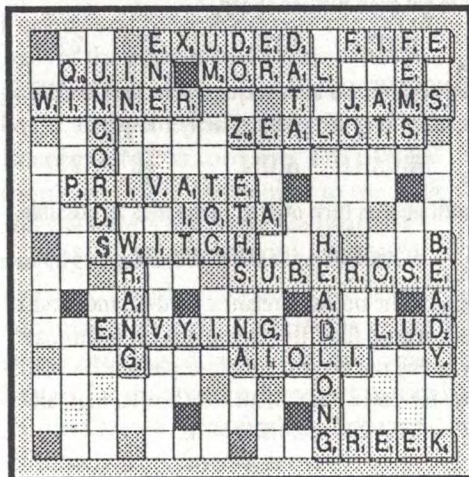
Joel can't win. He tries SPOKER for 58 points, but it's not allowed.

12	EEKOPRT	GREEK	33	305	UL	LUD	4	437
				- 5				+ 5
				300				442

(David also had a 10 point time penalty)

Final Score David Boys 432 — Joel Sherman 300

David could have played ULE for 6 with his last tiles, but it didn't matter. Time was up and the title his. Apparently David learned around 12,000 new words in the months leading up to the World Champs, and this monumental effort certainly paved the way to his deserved success.



David Boys presented with the winner's cheque

As well as a cheque for \$US11,000, David received a Royal Doulton vase, a leather-bound Chambers Dictionary and a Collector's Edition Scrabble set with gold-plated tiles.

Our heartiest congratulations to David Boys of Canada — he is a most worthy World Scrabble Champion.

English as She is Spoked

Andrée Prentice of Wanganui witnessed some weird and wonderful uses of English while travelling in Asia recently, though nothing quite as humorous as those collected by Derek Davies in the *Far Eastern Review* or Denis Winston in his classic work *French Widows in Every Room*.

Here are some examples from the Wanganui Club Newsletter (January 1996), kindly sent to us by Andrée, and from Mr Winston's collection.

In Bangkok drycleaners	Drop your trousers here for best results.
Detour sign in Japan	Stop: drive sideways.
In Tokyo bar	Special cocktails for the ladies with nuts.
Cairo Hotel	As of 12 midnight all clocks will be forward one hour back.
Barber shop, Bombay	Gentlemen's throats cut with very sharp razors with great care and skill. No irritating feeling afterward.
Hotel, Ankara, Turkey	You are invite to visit our restaurant where you can eat the Middle East foods in an European ambulance.
Hotel brochure, Italy	Suggestive views from every window.
Notice on TV set, Belgrade	If set breaks, inform manager. Do not interfere with yourself.
Time zone warning, Italian cruise ship	The hour will be 60 minutes late today.
Hotel, Lisbon	If you wish disinfection enacted on your presence please ring for chambermaid.
Hotel courtyard sign, Barcelona	No automobiles, pederasts only.
Akai tape-recorder guarantee	The country's agents stamped on the backside will carry out the honour of the guarantee in their country.
Guidebook, India	Emperor Jehangir had 7000 ladies in the harem. As he was a talented drunkard and luxurious man he died in 1627 at the age of 57 years.

One of my favourite examples is actually the shortest. It appeared on a bar notice in a Finnish ferry: WERYSTRONK BIER.

Margaret noticed that when Pearl was questioned whether she thought a Scrabble word was correct, she was in the habit of saying, "Oh, Yes Indeed I do".

So when Margaret and husband Len were choosing horses for the Wellington Cup, one horse name stood out in her mind.

Len chose Senator and Maxann, but Margaret chose, "Oh Yes, Indeed I do". So Margaret backed her fancy, and Len backed his fancy. And do you know who won the Wellington Cup? "Oh Yes, Indeed I do"

PEARL FRASER, WAITARA SCRABBLE CLUB

[For non horse fanciers, Yes Indeed won the Wellington Cup. — Ed.]

WORD LISTS FROM ROBOT BANTER

Please order by Code, enclose cheque or Bank draft in \$NZ made out to Margaret Bundock & post to:

Robot Banter, 30 Bay Vista Drive, Red Beach, OREWA.

Please note \$1.50 handling charge for orders totalling less than \$20.

The Order Form allows for more than one name so that lists are correctly named for each user if multiple copies are being ordered. Only one address please if you wish to save on postage.

Code	Description	Sides	Price \$
234F	All 2, 3, 4 letter words	9	2.00
234R	2, 3, 4s reversed ie reverse alphabetical order	9	2.50
234FR	2, 3, 4s forward & reversed	18	4.00
5F	All the 5s	19	5.00
5R	5s reversed	19	6.00
5FR	5s forward & reversed	38	10.00
6F	All the 6s	33	8.00
7F	All the 7s	48	11.00
8F	All the 8s	59	13.00
LP7L	Low point(no 2+ tiles) 7s alphabetical order	8	2.00
LP7A	LP7 anagram groups in component letter order	14	4.50
LP7LA	LP7s list & anagrams	22	6.00
ALL7A	All 7 letter anagrams in component letter order	99	20.00
ALL8A	All 8 letter anagrams in component letter order	116	27.50
95ND	All 1995 deletions & additions (alphabetical order)	14	5.00
FH234	Front hooks to legal words of 2, 3, & 4 letters	19	10.00
FH5	Front hooks to legal 5 letter words	24	12.00
BIG5	All 5 letter words with at least one of J,Q,X,Z	2	1.50
P&P	Orders totalling less than \$20 (overseas & local)		1.50
OSP	Overseas orders (surface mail)		2.50
OSPA	Overseas orders (air mail) Int. Reply.Paid Coupon QR		12.50

Name				
Address				
Code	Price	Quantity	Total cost	Name (if different to above)
Signed			TOTAL(\$)	

THE TIEBREAKER

by JETHRO SNAFFLEROD

The epic contest which resulted when I challenged Robot Blatter and his computer to find more words than myself which could be progressively extended from 2 letters up to 7 or 8 letters (*Forwards* 33) must still be fresh in the memory of all serious logophiles. The ultimate result was that we fought each other to a standstill and finished in a tie, finding between us 173 words which could be extended from 2 to 7 letters plus 16 which could be further extended to 8 letters.

I now claim victory by virtue of having discovered, as a result of the OSW3 additions, the following additional 22 extensions to 7 letters plus 3 which are further extendable to 8 letters.

- | | | | |
|---------|---------|----------|----------|
| ANTARAS | BANDARS | LASSIES | MALISMS |
| MANGALS | MANGELS | MANGERS | MANIACS |
| MENTORS | MODERNE | MODERNER | MODERNS |
| MUTISMS | PARKIER | PARKIES | PARKIEST |
| PHONERS | PHONEYS | PHONONS | PHOTOGS |
| PHOTONS | TAKINGS | TANGIES | TANGIEST |
| TANGIER | | | |

The above are all left to right extensions, but SPARKIEST must now be added to the very small list of words which can be extended from 2 to 9 letters by extending in both directions.

HOWARD'S WAE

While visiting Hastings in December, Wellington Scrabbler Howard Warner had a couple of games with Jeff Grant. In the first one everything went Jeff's way and he won by a massive 575-254. I Howard was sure the tiles would improve in the next game. They did, but not much! Jeff was obviously still on a high from the World Champs, scoring a second big win, this time by 629-311.

"One of the tragedies of Scrabble competition is that most players willingly take early retirement or otherwise give up gainful employment and neglect their families in order to spend nine hours a day studying anagrams and hooks and the likes, only to come to tournaments and find that their opponents have been devoting even more time to study and practice, having taken even earlier retirement and completely abandoned their families."

[Quoted by Gordon Meggs in the Australian Scrabble Magazine *Across the Board*, December 1995]

ANAGRAM CORNER Scrabblers are dab hands at transposing letters, for example EQUIP to PIQUE and PUNCHER to UNPERCH. On a higher level THE ENGLISH COUNTRYSIDE = YIELDING HORSE-CHESTNUT.

Here are half-a-dozen Scrabblers' anagrams. Keep watching and maybe your name will appear.

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| MAY MEADS | YES, MADAM |
| MAUREEN HOLLIDAY | I RELOAD HUMANELY |
| NAOMI GILMORE | ORIGINAL MEMO |
| PADDY HOFFMAN | DAFFY HAND-MOP |
| KATH DAVIES | ASK THE DIVA |
| MARGARET HAM | HATE GRAMMAR |

SCRABBLE HINTS

SOME TIPS FOR IMPROVING YOUR GAME

by Jeff GRANT

Word Knowledge is a key factor in Scrabble. Half of the following hints relate to **vocabulary**. If you make an effort to learn new words your game will improve.

Suggestion Write out your own word lists and read them over from time to time. This will help you remember.

1 TWOS AND THREES

These little words are the basis of the game. You need to know them. There are only 119 two-letter words and just over 1200 threes. Many of them are everyday terms. Work on the ones you are unfamiliar with and the benefits will come.

2 FOURS AND FIVES

There are **thousands** of these. It will help you to become acquainted with some of the more unusual ones. Concentrate on particular groups, such as:

Hooks: Learn what comes before and after commonly played 3- and 4-letter words, eg AZO takes an L in front (LAZO) and an N at the end (AZON).

High letters: Make a list of words containing J, Q, X or Z (BENJ, QUENA, MIREX, FOZY, etc). Sometimes these score as much as a bonus word!

3 TOO MANY VOWELS

This problem affects **all** Scrabblers. It helps if you can learn some of the shorter 'vowel-heavy' words. After the twos (AA, AE, AI, EA, EE, IO, OE, OI, OO, OU), make sure you know AIA, EAU and EUOI. Then have a look at the 3-vowel

fours, and the 4-vowel fives, eg AITU, EIDE, IURE, NAOI, UNAI AIOI, MIAOU, OUIJA, URAEI, ZOOEA

Suggestion Don't be afraid to change. If your rack is AAIIIO there is little point in playing AIA for 8 points and keeping IIO. In most cases it would be better to change all seven tiles.

4 TOO MANY I'S

This particular vowel problem occurs frequently. There are nine I's, and unlike the other vowels, no 3-letter word containing two of them. Some words can get you out of trouble - KIWI and LIMIT for instance. Why not make a list of 4- and 5-letter words with two I's, eg

ILIA, INIA, HILI, PILI, WILI
FICIN, RICIN, LIMBI, NIMBI, ZIMBI

Suggestion If you have three or more I's on your rack, it is often best to change.

5 Q WITHOUT A U

The Q was once a real bogy letter, but now you should be able to score well with it. Learn the Q-words that have no U, in particular QI, QAT, QADI, QAID, WAQF, QANAT, QIBLA, TALAQ, TRANQ, QINDAR and QINTAR. All these can have an S added.

Some Q-words contain a U, but not following the Q, eg SUQ, BURQA, UMIAQ, QIVIUT.

6 STEMS

You may have heard other players mention **SATIRE** or **RETINA** words. These are common 6-letter stems that combine with lots of other letters to make bonus words. Because these letters are so common they should appear on your rack regularly. As an exercise, perhaps you could write out the **RETINA** stem and learn all the words that go with it.

RETINA + A = nothing!
+ B = ATEBRIN
+ C = CANTIER, CERATIN,
CERTAIN, CREATIN,
CRINATE, NACRITE

etc

Suggestion If you compile more of these lists, try to make the stem an actual word. For example, the combination AEINST makes a 7-letter word with every letter except Q and Y. Some Scrabblers know this best-of-all stem as **SATINE**, others **STAINÉ**, neither of which is a word. Better to call it **TISANE**, which is a word, then you won't be tempted to play something like **SATINE** or **STAINES**.

7 BONUS WORDS

If you play out all seven tiles a 50-point bonus is gained. There are certain things you can do to make it easier to spot these on your rack.

Try shuffling the tiles around to gain different perspectives. If you have a single high letter it will often start the word. Look for beginnings and endings such as be-, re-, un-, out-, dis-, over- and -ed, -ing, -ier, -iest, -able, -less. Be aware of letter combinations like 'tch' and 'ght'. If you have an awkward-looking rack, maybe

there is a compound word hiding there, eg **RAGWORT**, **BLUEJAY** or **COWPOKE**. Sometimes you may be able to use a letter on the board to make an 8-letter bonus word.

8 ESSES AND BLANKS

These are the most valuable tiles for making bonus words. Don't hesitate though to use an S in a shorter word if you can get a reasonable score, particularly in the early stages of the game when there are lots of goodies still to come, or if you have two or more of them.

You should try to get a bonus word with a blank, unless there is an especially high-scoring move available using less letters.

Suggestion Playing out plenty of tiles increases your chances of picking up S's and blanks.

9 RACK CONTROL

Aim for a good score, while leaving a reasonable selection on your rack. Sometimes it is desirable to sacrifice a few points. For example, when holding ZOITINI, it is better to get 28 for ZITI (leaving ION) than 33 for ZO (leaving IIINT). Try to maintain a good **balance** of consonants and vowels.

In general get rid of duplicated letters, particularly awkward ones like C, I, U, V, W. If your rack is really bad, and there are no decent moves on, consider changing.

10 BOARD CONTROL

Avoid opening up high-scoring opportunities (particularly triple-word squares) unless you are scoring highly yourself. If you are well ahead, keep the board tight. Let your opponent take the risks. However, if you are miles behind, try to keep the board open so that there

are places to get your bonus words down.

Suggestion If your opponent looks like taking a winning lead with an unfamiliar word, **CHALLENGE** it! Always challenge the last turn if you are not absolutely sure of the word — you have nothing to lose.

⓪⓪ TIME STRATEGY

You have limited time to play the game. **Use it wisely.** As a general guide, try to make about **seven** moves in the first 10 minutes of your allotted time, and **five** moves in the next 10 minutes. You should allow a minimum of 5 minutes for the endgame. This is where many games are won and lost. Be aware of any key letters unplayed — JQXZ, Blanks, S's. What is your opponent planning? Can you go out and catch him with some tiles? **Look for the best option.**

⓪⓪ LUCK AND ATTITUDE

On some days the words just flow; on others nothing seems to go quite right. Accept your losses **and** your wins graciously. Don't be 'psyched out' when facing a superior opponent. The tiles may go your way. Any player can beat a better one on occasions. Follow these tips and it should happen more often.

Be Positive. If you think you have a word, give it a try. Nothing ventured, nothing gained.

Do your best, respect other players, and above all

ENJOY THE GAME!

[Note: These are general hints, some of which are obviously not applicable in every situation.]

SCRABBLE UNITED

Some good ideas for a united world Scrabble fraternity are being proposed in Australia.

CASPA coordinator John Holgate has proposed (via Internet) the establishment of an International Scrabble Players Association (ISPA) which, like the FIDE in chess, would set conditions for world championships, regulate standards of play and develop international ratings and tournaments. ISPA would represent national associations and meet every 2 years at the World Champs with country representatives and the trademark holders to resolve particular issues.

Meanwhile Meg Henderson has been canvassing far and wide for the production of an International Scrabble Players Dictionary. She has approached the Chambers and Mattel people, and apparently there is much support.

Let's hope these excellent concepts eventually become reality. Maybe in the not too distant future we will be able to travel anywhere in the world and play a game of Scrabble using a single standard dictionary and one set of rules.

UNDERWATER SCRABBLE

According to UK's *Scrabble Club News*, The Times Diary of December 12 reports a 24-hour marathon **underwater** Scrabble game at Portsmouth University in aid of Children in Need. Apparently two specially laminated boards were used and the tiles had small lead weights attached.

GONE ABROAD FOR A SPELL

Excerpts from an article by Israeli champ Sam Orbaum, originally published in the *Jerusalem Post*, reprinted in *Scrabble Club News*.

"I had seriously considered not competing because 5 months of chemotherapy had dented my brain power and at the best of times, I have a bad memory, but my results at the Israeli championships won me a free trip to the London tournament, courtesy of those wonderful people at Ziontours and I was not so intellectually diminished that I'd pass up a freebie. I was more worried about letting down Ziontours than Israel. ...

The Nigerian team creates a flap just by showing up. Nigeria had, in the previous two tournaments, failed to arrive. This time they obtained visas because the chairman of the Nigerian Scrabble Association has become one of the military rulers. ...

I find myself apologising to the gentleman from Malta for the little scene we allegedly caused in his streets just a couple of days before, with the killing of Fathi Shkaki. He assures me there are no hard feelings. In fact, we are kinsmen. Same religion? No, same dictionary. ...

I meet several other Jews but am looking for something more exotic — I get my chance during the opening ceremony when we receive our national flags and assemble in line. The 4th person after me is the representative from 'Kurdistan-Iraq'. For an embarrassed moment they can't find his flag. Daring myself, I step out of line, walk up to him and whisper "Perhaps you'd like to borrow mine?" He looks at my auspicious Jewish symbol, smiles and responds "Actually,

I wouldn't mind". We become fast friends.

First morning — Zelig (the other half of the Israeli contingent) wins his first three games.

Characteristically he is moaning, expecting disaster. An Israeli spectator says "C'mon think positive". Zelig throws her a basset-hound look and says "Excuse me, but I'm doing quite well thinking negative." ...

Second morning — I get a lot of attention for the T-shirt I am wearing depicting a Scrabble board filled with wacky words. I lose to the British Champion — Mike Willis, but I get a little satisfaction by playing SNOOL, which he challenges. I point to my belly — it's on the T-shirt and I learned it by getting dressed that morning.

I assemble several players together for a group photo: the representatives from Bahrain, Oman, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the UAE plus me each holding our flags. Michael Holmes from the Seychelles wants to join us. I wave him away pointing out "You're not at war with us." ...

Third morning — On the underground on the way to the Tournament, I sit waiting in the station facing a huge billboard advertising a



Sam Orbaum (Israel)

business information service. Its message: "On an average day 7% of your work is meaningless scribble". In my browned out state of mind I read it as "meaningless Scrabble" and frown saying to myself "Nah, it's much more than 7%." ...

With the pairings posted for the final round, I note with disappointment that I won't get to play Blue Thorogood. Blue is a Maori. I may never get another chance to play a Maori, or a man named Blue again. ...

I finish 40th. The winner — David Boys — says "I have to thank Dave Gibson (North American Champion) for me being where I am." Somebody asks why. "Because he's not here", he cracks.

Nothing like a bit of false modesty, but nobody could deny this tournament separated the men from the Boys.

ROCKING AROUND THE SCRABBLE BOARD

Robert Palmer presented the prizes at the World Championship and confessed his addiction to Scrabble, but he is not alone in the rock music world. In the *Daily Mail Magazine* recently Suzi Quattro admitted to loving the game — "I play myself mostly and have a top score of 670 points," she said. The interviewer wasn't sufficiently clued up to enquire whether this was two-handed or for all 100 tiles.

Mark Knopfler of *Dire Straits* plays regularly and Sting apparently included a reference to Scrabble in one of his songs. Roger Taylor of *Queen* once took part in the British National Champs, and Michael Jackson has said he enjoys a game or two. Freddy Mercury was a fearsome player who once got 3 bonuses in a row according to Taylor.

From UK Scrabble Club News,
January 1996.

FAMOUS LAST WORDS

The last word in Chambers Dictionary is ZYTHUM, an ancient Egyptian beer, while OSPD goes one better with ZYZZYVA, a tropical weevil. This second term is listed in the multi-volume *Nomenclatur Zoologicus*, which also contains the odd-looking ZYZZYX, a hymenopteran (insect), and ZYZZYZUS, a coelenterate (invertebrate). Even if these words were to be included in a future Scrabble dictionary they would be unlikely to have an impact on the game. In fact, the last one, like PIZZAZZ, is unusable because of its four Z's.



Cartoon sent to us by Doreen Ogston, Christchurch.

CLUB NEWS

Rodney Club Homeplay

Results of Homeplay Round Robin tournament played by Rodney Club members during 1995.

A Group	Wins	Ave	B/W
1 Gerald Warner *	30	417.5	33
2 Rhoda Cashman *	24	386.2	32
3 Isobel Yorke	20	378.8	25
4 Anne Warner	19.5	366.6	25
5 Paddy Glen *	16.5	358.2	16
6 Naomi Gilmore *	14.5	348.4	6
7 Clyde Titchener	13	341.2	15
8 Margaret White *	13	320.0	23
9 Rebecca Freeth	11	344.7	15
10 Valma Gilman *	9	337.3	18
11 Olwen Skelton *	7.5	333.0	14
12 Dorothy Haining	Withdrawn		

B Group	Wins	Ave	B/W
1 Lloyd Freeth *	22	340.0	16
2 Marjorie Hughes *	21	363.0	17
3 Betty Wyatt *	21	341.0	12
4 Mary Casse *	20	342.0	21
5 Vivienne Williamson	19	346.5	15
6 Ngaire Colville *	15.5	330.0	7
7 Merle Spinetto *	14.5	347.0	9
8 Norah Cox *	10	301.0	1
9 Rita Bavage * (dec.)	8.5	266.5	0
10 Jean Deans *	4	252.0	0
11 Joan Osborne	0	235.5	0

Notes

- 1 In each group sessions consisted of 3 games.
- 2 A Group played challenge games, B Group with books. No clocks.
- 3 * denoted the number of estimated wins for unplayed games

HASTINGS v MASTERTON

On January 27 the Masterton team travelled up to Doreen O'Shea's home in Hastings to challenge for the interclub shield.

In the first session Hastings grabbed a 3-1 lead, and were able to pull away steadily throughout the day. Despite suffering a 0-4 drubbing in round 6, the final score was a convincing 22-10 win to the holders.

Top performer on the day was Andrew Bradley (Hastings) who signalled his return to competitive play by winning seven of his eight games. Andrew had the highest individual score with 635, and also the highest single turn — 149 points for MISNOMER. The bonus word prize was shared by Doreen and Andrew who both got 14.

An enjoyable day was had by all, and Masterton are now looking forward to hosting the Hastings Scrabblers later in the year.

DUNEDIN OPEN CHAMPS

NEW DATE

Please note that this event
will be held on

NOVEMBER 2-3

(not Nov 9-10 as shown in the Calendar)

STRATFORD SCRABBLE CLUB

On Saturday 2nd December 1995 we held a Christmas tournament for New Plymouth, New Plymouth YWCA, Waitara, Wanganui and ourselves.

It was just a fun day for those who attended, with each player getting a little Christmas stocking with some goodies so everyone went away with something. The organiser, Sharon Clarke, secretary of the Stratford Scrabble Club, was unable to attend as she was in hospital. However, everyone who attended had a good time which was the intention of the day.

We had our winners:

- A Mike Sigley
- B Martha Morgan
- C Margaret Ham
- D Marcus Pearson

Congratulations to those people and many thanks to all who participated and helped out. Many thanks to Lynne Butler for adjudicating and Chris Butler, our runner.

Don't forget Stratford Scrabble Club's inaugural tournament on 21 July 1996.

HAMILTON

by ELAINE MOLTZEN

After a very enjoyable and exciting year of Scrabble we concluded things last year with a dinner at Memory Lane Restaurant. Club funds paid for half the cost and it made for a very pleasant evening for all our club members. In fact everybody enjoyed themselves so much they now want to make it an annual event.

We concluded the evening with our annual prize-giving and the winners for 1995 are as follows:

Club Champion	Steven Brown
Pot Luck Champion	Elaine Moltzen
Ladder Champion	Elaine Moltzen
Club Knockout Champ	Pam Robson
Round Robin Group 1	Roger Coates
Round Robin Group 2	Jane Walton
Round Robin Group 3	Daph Watson
Bonus Words Group 1	Steven Brown
Bonus Words Group 2	Lyn Toka
Bonus Words Group 3	Jacqueline Coldham-Fussell
100pt Word Winner (new club record — 9 in one year)	Marj Baillie
Most Improved Player	Kim Graham
Sportsperson of the Year	Pam Mayall
Pyramid Winner	Pam Robson

DUNEDIN NEWSLETTER

by Bill Grieg

January

Congratulations to Kendall Boyd on finishing second in the Howick-Pakuranga tournament. In one game he defeated eventual winner Jeff Grant. Kendall is now in the top eight in the country. Peter Sinton is back to defend the club champion title which he has held from 1990 to 1995. Anne Stewart is off to live permanently in Perth, Australia.

Rosemary Cleary (WAN) was down here on holiday and we had some enjoyable games. Please come again.

February

Welcome to two new members — Russell Edwards and Joan Joyce. Elvira Steel is on crutches again — we all wish her a speedy recovery. Daisy Madden is not so well. Marian Ross once again bravely stated she was going to beat the men this year. True to her word she defeated Kendall Boyd twice in the round robin competition.

Alas, I couldn't let her beat me. Sorry, Marian.

We are delighted to be hosting the New Zealand Masters Tournament in Dunedin at Easter.

Quiz

What words can you make out of the following letters?

- a) AEGINSU
- b) AEHILPR
- c) DDEEENW
- d) EGIILNT

Dunedin Tournaments 1996

Otago Open Champs 22 June
Dunedin Open 2-3 Nov

Please note date change for Dunedin Open. You are all welcome to enter both tournaments.

Quiz Answers

(d) LINGIT
(c) ENDEWED
(b) HARELIP
(a) GUINEAS

Happy Scrabble

INDEPENDENT CLUB NEWS

by Sheryl Davidson

Last year was very successful Scrabblewise for Eileen McLean (IND) of Thames. She competed in 12 of the 15 tournaments that she was eligible to enter in 1995 and played in 7 different grades throughout the year — from A to G.

PAK	6th	E
WEL	4th	C
NSB	3rd	E
Sth Is Ch	1st	B
Nationals	3rd	E
PAP	6th	D
NPL	4th	D

WAI	2nd=	F
HAM	4th	G
DUN	5th	A
MTA	3rd	C
WAN	12th	B

Eileen also visited us in Wellington at the Masters at Easter to see how we were doing and to fit in a few games with Sue McRae who adjudicated.

Luckily there are a few clubs nearby, so Eileen managed to squeeze in some club games as well.

At the Pakuranga club she finished just ahead of Valerie Mills to win the grade and came fourth in the Pot Luck Competition. At the Mt Albert club she finished ahead of Anna Geange in the B grade with a win rate of 69% and an average of 405 per game. At the Waikato club she won the club championship trophy.

Margaret Bundock runs the Auckland In-house Competition where Eileen was 3rd in the B Grade.

Pam Robson started an In-house competition in Hamilton which proved very popular and Eileen finished 6th in the A Grade.

Four of us also combined in a Scrabble weekend on Rangitoto Island just before the Mt Albert tournament, where we played Scrabble by gas-lamp and had a great time.

[In the middle of all this Scrabble, Eileen was the Number 1 raffle-seller in our World Champs fund-raising campaign. — Ed.]

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The 1995 Festival was a huge success. This year's should be even better! Join in the fun at the Scrabble® Festival whilst spoiling yourself with an 8 day holiday on beautiful Norfolk Island. It's all here waiting for you to enjoy

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TRAIN THE BRAIN

by DENNIS BOON

Much research has been undertaken in recent years to improve our understanding of the human brain. All Scrabble players, at some time, have wished for a few extra brain cells, or maybe just a few more that worked, while struggling to recall a particular anagram or 6-letter build combination.

Memory consists of three basic categories:

Short term — temporary recollection.

This stores information we consider unnecessary to retain, eg the petrol bowser number you need to tell the cashier. Once you are back in your car and driving home, the information is irrelevant and dissipates.

Long term — recent. This retains the recent past, eg your last Scrabble opponent.

Long term — remote. These memories from the distant past form our knowledge base.

Healthy older people are proven to be slightly slower than healthy young people in most tests of mental agility. This is often attributed to having to sift through more stored information, hence, in some tests, older persons have better judgement.

There are many causes of memory loss, the most notable being depression, tiredness, medication, alcohol abuse, stress and sickness.

Memory can be enhanced.

1. Stimulate your brain by doing puzzles, crosswords and playing thought-provoking games. Scrabble is an excellent game as it requires concentration, decision-making and

recall.

2. Reading improves concentration provided the material is interesting.
3. Physical exercise benefits the brain. Exercise increases the blood flow which purges our bodies of waste products; the more efficient our body the better it serves the brain. An exercise program need not be rigorous — a 20-minute walk has proven benefits.
4. Choline, a B-complex vitamin, has been identified as essential to memory function. B vitamins help convert proteins, carbohydrates and fats into fuel and, in the brain, synthesise mood-controlling chemicals. A deficiency of these vitamins manifests as extreme muscle weakness and mental problems. Egg yolk, fish and legumes are good sources of choline.
5. Sleep regenerates the brain and any change to a normal routine can upset this process. If you usually retire at 10pm, don't fall into the trap of staying up past midnight to have a couple of extra practice games. You are not doing yourself any favours!
6. Clean air is obviously beneficial. Sleeping in an enclosed stuffy room can leave you jaded the next day.
7. Think positively! Think of that 'magic' game you just played and not about how the person you are about to play beat you last time.
8. Understand your brain and what works best for you. If you are intent on learning new words but find studying lists for long periods tiresome, then

cut back. Studying for 5 minutes, resting for 5 minutes, then revising another 5 minutes keeps the brain fresh and alternates between 'shocking' and 'reminding' the brain.

9. Tight clothing can restrict blood flow. When you are competing, loose clothing and comfortable shoes are the logical choice.

From the Australian magazine
Across the Board June 1993.

BRIAN'S BONUS BLITZ

In the second round at the World Champs Jeff played Brian Cappelletto (US), who was runner-up in this event in London in 1991. Jeff averaged a reasonable 27 points over the first seven turns, but was on the receiving end of a bonus blitz, trailing at that stage by 190-455! Jeff eventually lost that game by 293-538, but gained revenge with a 438-359 victory over Brian later in the tournament. (Ironically, one of Brian's bonuses in the earlier game was the Chambers-only word TOHEROAS, shellfish found only in New Zealand, and in the second game he played KIWI!)

TERRY O'CONNOR

It is with regret that the North Shore Bays club advise the passing of their valued member Terry O'Connor on 14 January 1996. Terry was only in his early forties; a fun-loving guy who will be sadly missed by all.

SOME MEN ENJOY OYSTERS

On October 30, 1994, puzzlemaster Will Shortz challenged listeners on American National Public Radio to construct chain-link sentences, ones in which the last two letters of each word are repeated as the first two letters of the next word. Here are some of the best entries:

- ✧ Can an anteater erase several almost stonelike Kenyan anthills?
- ✧ Head administrator organised education on online networks.
- ✧ Two women entertain international allies.
- ✧ Scrabble least stymies esteemed educators.
- ✧ Can an anagram amuse senile lexicographers?
- ✧ Wine never erases essential aloneness.
- ✧ Rye yeast starts tsetse sex experiment.
- ✧ Grandma makes essential aluminium umbrella labels.
- ✧ Doctor Orlando does estrogen enhancements.
- ✧ The hearse sealed Edwin inside; death thus ushered Edwin into tomorrow.
- ✧ Madonna, naked, edifies Estonia's asexual aldermen.
- ✧ Penelope's escargot otherwise seemed edible.
- ✧ Sage George Gershwin intones especially lyrical albums.

Perhaps *Forwards* readers would like to have a go at this type of chain-link sentence. We will publish any worthy examples.

My FAVOURITE Words

(TO THE TUNE OF My FAVOURITE THINGS)

by JOHN DENNETT

ABVOLTS and BACKSEY, CADENZA and DODDLES;
ELCHEES and FLAMFEW, GAZOOKA and HODDLES;
IZZARDS and JEEPNEY, KINETIC, LOVEBIRDS;
These are a few of My Favourite Words.

MUGWUMP and NAGMAAL, OPAQUER and PADDOCK;
QUIOKKAS and RAGBOLT, SEQUOIA and TZADDIQ;
LIMWHILE and VARMIN, WISTITI and YIRDS;
These are a few of My Favourite Words.

LIMPKIN, MOISTER — NIBLICK OYSTER;
When I'm feeling sad.
I simply remember My Favourite Words
And then I don't feel so bad.

PAISLEY and QUETZAL, ROTUNDA and SHIDDER;
TYMBALS and UPWHIRL, VAQUERO and WHIDDER;
YELLOCH and ZEPHYRS, AXILLAE and BLURBS;
These are a few of My Favourite Words.

CHOCTAW and DURDUMS, EXALTED and FIBBING;
GUINYAHS and HEYDUCK, ITALICS and JIBBING;
KITSCHY and LUSTRUM, MAZURKA and NERDS;
These are a few of My Favourite Words.

ODZOOKS and PICQUET, QUINELLA and RIGOURS;
SWOZZLE and TABLEAU, LIPTAKEN and VIGOURS;
WOLFKIN and YUMPIES, ZYMOTIC, ADVERBS;
These are a few of My Favourite Words.

BEVVIES CHEERFUL — DRIBLET EARFUL;
When I'm feeling sad.
I simply remember My Favourite Words
And then I don't feel so bad.

[From the Australian Scrabble Magazine *Across the Board*, December 1995]



BAHRAIN

In December the unbeatable Naween Fernando walked off for the fourth

time with the Bahrain Scrabble Cup, completing a 2-0 victory over Roland Filio at the Hilton Hotel. Despite Roland's undisputed skilful technique, both games belonged to the 16-year-old master who also won the Bahrain title in 1990, 1992 and 1994.

In game 1 Naween triumphed 455-371, followed by 455-338 in the second game. Each player had his share of bingos and slick, tactical moves, but Naween kept well apace in each game. For the second year the Bahrain champ maintained a no-loss record.

Yvonne Lobo recaptured third place — which she held last year — with a 2-1 win over Nikhil Soneja. However, the evening's closest games (320-314, 427-426) were in the Bramco plate match won 2-0 by K V Chidambaram over Mohammed Janjira. It was the first time that all best-of-three matches were decided after two games. Nikhil, in fourth place, was the only player who wanted to play a non-obligatory third game which he won handily 449-335, picking up 189 points with POETRIES, PLEASED and RENOUNCE.

Naween began his Scrabble career in the Bahrain Scrabble League at the age of seven, coming runner-up at eight in the first Bahrain Cup championship. The student at Sacred Heart School

widened his horizons by seizing the Gulf Cup three times and placing high in tournaments in Great Britain, the United Arab Emirates, Thailand and Sri Lanka as well as making his debut in last year's World Scrabble Championship.

**Roy Kietzmann, Chairman,
Bahrain Scrabble League**

Roy Kietzman has been appointed chairman of the Bahrain Scrabble League for a tenth term. Roy also edits the Bahrain Scrabble newsletter which always contains a wealth of interesting items.

Naween Fernando received the Gulf News - Bahrain Scrabble Cup for the fourth time at an awards dinner at the Filipino Club. Along with a trophy for the season's best score (648), the champ also won a return ticket to Malta where he hopes to compete in a tournament as well as play against the Maltese World Championship rep, Peter Elbourne. Naween, and his team-mate Akshay Bhandarkar were, at 15, the youngest players at the World Champs in London. However, they are veterans compared to another Bahraini Scrabbler, Mario Ranasuriya who is just **nine** years old!

AUSTRALIA

The Australian Open Double Dictionary Championships were held in mid-January at Alice Springs. Over sixty players competed in three grades, with Tony Sim of Singapore repeating his 1995 success in the Masters Section. Here are the top ten places:

Australian Open January 1995

(25 games)

	Wins	Margin
1 Tony Sim (Singapore)	20	2230
2 John Barker (Aust)	20	1126
3 Paul Cleary (Aust)	18	1893
4 Alistair Kane (Aust)	18	1251
5 Geoff Wright (Aust)	18	1184
6 Marie Knight (Aust)	17	1080
7 Patrick Carter (NZ)	17	850
8 Trevor Halsall (Aust)	16	1142
9 Glenys Lawrie (Aust)	16	1126
10 Barbara Berlin (Aust)	15	708

Job Satisfaction

When you fill in a form and they ask for your occupation do you ever wish you could put down something like ENTREPRENEUR or ASTRO-PHYSICIST? Never fear, there are some down-to-earth jobs that are much more interesting. How about these two from Webster's 2nd Edition for instance: SUBBOOKKEEPER a subordinate keeper of accounts (note the 4 consecutive double-letter sets). UNDEROVERLOOKER a trainee quality control clerk perhaps?

OSPD ERRORS

Please note that the correct plural of SPAZ is SPAZZES (not SPAZES), and the plural of HERPES is HERPES (not HERPESES). All OSPDs and Griffons should be amended accordingly. These changes take effect from 1 April 1996.

First Impressions

Graeme Thomas makes the following point in the October 1995 edition of the UK Scrabble magazine *Onwords*.

"Many people have come to believe that one can play the game (Scrabble) well, armed with only everyday English. The sudden realisation that this is not true, and that most people's vocabulary is minuscule compared with the riches of the English language, no doubt comes as a blow to newcomers' egos, and so they depart.

Other games, such as Bridge or Chess, have accumulated a mystique, and are widely known as difficult games. This means that newcomers are not at all surprised when they get soundly beaten on their first visit to a club."

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An exotic Scrabble cruise advertised in the December 1995 edition of the *American Scrabble Club News*. Anyone interested?

Name	Club	Wins	Points	Ave	B/W
8 Maureen Holliday	MTA	5	4294	390	12
9 Doreen Ogston	CHC	5	4050	368	19
10 Joan Pratt	MTA	5	3992	363	14
11 Karyn McDougall	MTA	4	3973	361	7
12 Ernie Gidman	ROD	3	4022	366	10
13 Margaret Parsons	TPO	3	3935	358	12
14 Margaret Warren	HAS	2	3715	338	10

Grade E

1 Marjorie Heads	WEL	9	4160	378	10
2 Rose Roselea	HAS	9	3786	344	4
3 Alistair McDougall	PAK	8	4177	380	17
4 Roto Mitchell	WAN	8	3979	362	10
5 June Ward	HAS	7	4299	391	10
6 Cecilia Bullo't	WAN	7	3870	352	3
7 Clare Wall	HAM	6	4296	391	10
8 Kath James	WAN	6	4084	371	8
9 Ann Smith	HAS	6	3504	319	4
10 Valma Gidman	ROD	5	3855	350	6
11 Jean McDougall	PAK	5	3328	303	6
12 Sue Osborne	WAN	4	3728	339	6
13 Ed Olson	STR	3	3572	325	5
14 Marjorie Lythgoe	AVA	3	3189	290	2
15 Nola Steevens*	HAS	1	681	341	2

* Withdrew after 2 games.

Computer Equipment Courtesy M.R. Bundock



Andrew Bradley (HAS) and Blue Thorogood (Wairoa) at the Hastings tournament. Note the blocked board!

TRUST US?

Jack Tayler of the Hastings Scrabble Club brought this clever little piece to our attention. Apparently it was displayed by a dissident American picketing the US embassy in London.

Nausea is
plausible when
devious men
abuse the
trust of a
frustrated
genius,
oblivious to
unjust
misuse,
pious
bluster and
avariciousness !

Rousing
applause
must be
thrust on the
crushing of
rapacious
injustice and
tenacious
lust !

AAAAH!

Drawing for the start in a friendly game recently Nola Steevens of Hastings picked out an A, which was matched by her opponent Jeff Grant. Nola responded with a third A and Jeff a **fourth** before the tie was broken. The odds against four consecutive A's being picked from a full bag are reckoned to be over 30,000 to 1!

NZ SCRABBLE RECORDS

Shown below is the current list of NZ Scrabble records.
If anyone can improve on or correct any of the entries, please let us know.

RECORD	TOURNAMENT LEVEL		Club Level	
	Score	Player (Club)	Score	Player (Club)
Highest Game Score	717	Mike Sigley (WAN)	763	John Foster (MTA)
Lowest Game Score	124	Elvira Steel (DUN)	71	Melanie Neilsen (DUN)
Highest Losing Score	513	Jeff Grant (HAS)	521	June Mackwell (MTA)
Lowest Winning Score	176	Ed Olson (STR)	142	Elvira Steel (DUN)
Highest Drawn Game	456	Lynne Butler (NPL) & Glenyss Buchanan (LOH)	482	Margaret Warren (HAS) & Jeff Grant (HAS)
Lowest Drawn Game	255	Letitia Vaitupu (DUN) & Shirley Murcott (NOT)	294	Jack Tayler (HAS) & Nola Steevens (HAS)
Highest Single Turn	221	Sheryl Davidson (PAK)	284	Sheryl Davidson (PAK)
Highest Combined Score	1060	Lynne Powell (NSB) & Jeff Grant (HAS)	1106	Dawn Kitzen (PHC) & Chris Hooks (MTA)
Lowest Combined Score	333	Ed Olson (STR) & Sylvia Nicholas (WTA)	259	Elvira Steel (DUN) & Melanie Neilsen (DUN)
Largest Winning Margin	493	Mike Sigley (WAN)	468	Andrew Bradley (MTA)
Highest Take-off	52	Andrée Prentice (WAN) & Marj Baillie (HAM)	68	Andrew Bradley (MTA)
Most Bonus Words (3 Game Evening)	—	—	13	David Lloyd (MTA)
Highest 3-Game Aggregate	—	—	1761	Glenyss Buchanan (LOH)
Lowest 3-Game Aggregate	—	—	538	Chris Williams (HAS)
Most Consecutive Bonus Words	5	Allie Quinn (NSB)	5	John Foster (MTA)