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Clubs (Nth to Sth)	Contact Person	Phone	Meeting Day/Time	Meeting Place
Rodney (ROD)	Ruth Munnings	09-425-6398	Mon (alt) 1pm & 7.15pm	Totara Park, Warkworth
Nth Shore Bays (NSB)	Marge Daizell	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)	Shirley Wyatt	09-828-0989	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 7.15pm	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 Sunningdale Hall
Kiwi (KIW)	Elaine Moltzen	07-843-5108	Thurs 7pm	
Mt Maunganui / Papamoa (MMP)	Ngair Steel	07-542-1035	Any time - ring	
Tauranga (TGA)	Noel Maisey	07-576-3218	Tues 7.20pm	
Tokoroa (TOK)	Lesley Edgeler	07-886-8374		
Taupo (TPO)	Gwen Robb	07-378-9409		
Waitara (WTA)	Trixie Neil	06-754-8745	Wed 1.30pm	
New Plymouth (NPL)	Helen Sillis	06-758-8001		
New Plym YWCA (NPY)	Shirley Tozer	06-758-2936		
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		
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Masterton (MAS)	Aliette Hay	06-377-3273		
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Lower Hutt (LOH)	Glenyss Buchanan	04-569-5433	Tues 7.30pm	
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Capital (CAP)	Sue McRae	04-475-7899	Wed 7pm	Turnbull House, Bowen St.
Nelson (NEL)	Ann Hough	03-546-8977	Wed 7pm	Golden Links Hall, 93 Vanguard St
Christchurch (CHC)	Margaret Lyall	03-332-5963	Fri 7pm	Sydenham Community Centre
Dunedin (DUN)	Chris Handley	03-464-0199	Tues 7pm	Otago Chess Club, Maitland St.

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FORWORDS

50th Issue



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

This is a significant edition - our 50th! Things have come a long way since those first ground-breaking issues back in 1985. When I took over as editor of *Forwards* in 1989, the magazine had around 16-20 pages and 150 subscribers, all but a few in New Zealand. Now the mag has anything up to 40 pages, and is received by 220 readers, including ones in Australia, Japan, Singapore, United States, Canada, UK, N Ireland, Bahrain and Myanmar (formerly Burma).

The year 1998 is also a milestone for the game of Scrabble, as it is 50 years since it was first sold commercially. We should all raise our glasses to Alfred Butts for providing so much enjoyment to so many people all over the world.

The local Scrabble year got off to a great start with two well-supported one-dayers at Pakuranga, followed by successful weekend tourneys at Nelson and Hastings. The Kiwi event was unfortunately not held. Hopefully the Capital club will have more luck with their inaugural tournament in Wellington.

Following Capital is the Masters Championship hosted by Holy Cross Scrabble club in Papatoetoe at Easter. This is the first major step on the road to selecting New Zealand's representatives for the next World Champs.

There have been several notable achievements already this year. At Pakuranga, Fae Olson (STR) played her 1,000th rated game (the first to do it), Nigel Richards (CHC) swept all before him (except Bill Grigg) at Nelson,

averaging 487 points per game, and Howard Warner (IND) successfully defended his title at Hastings, beating yours truly on a countback. John Foster (MTA) won the trophy for the most unusual word at Hastings with IBOGAINE, an antidepressant (which some players may have needed!).

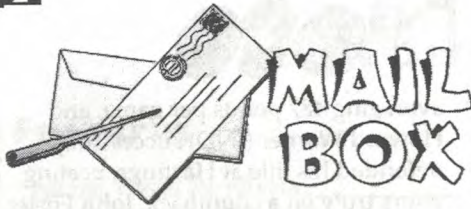
John has done a sterling job organising a superb venue for the Trans-Tasman Challenge in November, and thanks to his efforts we also have generous support from Mattel.

On the overseas scene, a couple of setbacks have occurred. The Bahrain International tournament scheduled for May has been cancelled (Nigel is now thinking about entering some other event), and the Redwood Word List has struck problems in Britain, where a court injunction by Chambers Harrap alleging breach of copyright has halted distribution. Let's hope that this is resolved in favour of the Redwood publishers, because it's an excellent work much needed by devotees of the game. The *Redwood* is an important step forward in the evolution of a level playing field for world Scrabble.

Finally, Pat and I would like to thank everyone who wished us well on our engagement. Thanks also to those who sent in material for the magazine, and as always, particular thanks to Glenda for all her preparation and layout work.

Closing date for the June issue is May 25.

Happy Scrabbling
Jeff



The Nigel T-Shirt

by Malcolm Graham
Christchurch

I heard through the grapevine that you wanted a photo of me (?) wearing my 'Nigel Richards' T-shirt. I thought that this couldn't be correct because I am very far from being a perfect human specimen.

Without even trying hard I can think of many, many attractive women I would much rather see photos of in your magazine wearing my T-shirt — or not. However, there's no accounting for taste (sigh!) so I have risked irreparable damage to my camera and arranged for a photograph which meets your specs to be taken.

You might notice that there are some



letters on the board which are hard enough to make out now let alone by the time the photo is reproduced in *Forwards*. These express my opinion that "Nigel threw the game" which Nigel feebly denies every time it comes up. It was the first game in the 1997 Nelson tournament and I sat down to play just as Nigel noticed that there was already a dot on the board by his name, and I maintain that he let me win (with a score not much better than my average) just to make me peel it off again.

While I printed my T-shirt, I also ran off a few more, one of which Bill Grigg gleefully bought from me at Nelson this year having just earned the right to wear it. If there is anyone else out there who has earned the right and sends me \$20 + \$1 P&P I will happily post one off. I only have half a dozen and my business is up for sale so they may be a very limited edition.

[Note that the word 'once' appears in very small letters under 'I' on the T-shirt.]

For the Zillionth Time

By Meg Henderson
Lower Templestowe
Australia

Your newsy December issue of *Forwards* was especially welcome. The item on *Euro English* was alarming — more like 'Neuro-English' for English speakers!

Regarding *Onth a Month*, if Michael Vnuk had continued his search for a rhyme for 'month' further than 100 different dictionaries he may have found an answer in the millionth, billionth, trillionth, decillionth or zillionth! You can find these words in the Chambers Dictionary, so they are all allowed in Scrabble.

Farewell New Zealand

by Howard Feldstein (USA)

As I prepare to fly to Australia, I look back very fondly on my year in New Zealand, and in particular to the many wonderful Scrabble experiences I've had.

Thanks to everyone involved with NZASP, and especially to all those people who welcomed me into their homes: Gerald Warner, Helen and Rob Sillis, Denise Gordon, May and Don Quigley, Ann Hough and Bill and Doreen Ogston.

Also thanks for the tournaments, the friendly 'rivalries' with Paul Lister, Liz Fagerlund, Lisa and Eileen McLean, and so many others. I hope to see some or all of you again some time.

PS I'll write from Australia!

The American Scene

The American Scrabble scene is undoubtedly the most active in the world. Reflecting this is the amazing volume and variety of communications that are handled by the offices of their National Scrabble Association. According to executive director John D Williams, Jr, they process over 1,000 pieces of mail a month, running from routine membership renewals to personal anecdotes about the game to inquiries for discontinued or even nonexistent Scrabble products. On top of this there are around 1,000 monthly telephone calls to and from members, the press, Scrabble company executives and the general public. These cover pretty much the same gamut, as does the ever-increasing e-mail.

Language Heritage

By Dawn Thomas

As an ex-schoolteacher, I have always been proud of my knowledge of words, their roots, extensions and grammatical form. However, I am always happy to extend that knowledge. It hurts no-one to learn technical, medical, musical and foreign words. It enhances one's enjoyment of reading and adds piquancy to one's conversation. Scrabble has added fluency to my written language, giving me a fuller understanding of our wonderful living heritage.

My suggestion to so-called English 'purists' is, if they wish to enjoy the fantastic game of Scrabble, to embrace the new, pit their word-power against their opponents, play the game and do not argue with the umpire, which is a perfectly authentic English dictionary [Chambers].

From the Australian Scrabble magazine

Across the Board, September, 1997

Alliterative

Best move at the 1997 UK National Champs was Paul Golder's conversion of LITERATI to the 12-letter ALLITERATIVE for 33 points. This superb play didn't win any prizes, and he lost the game by 177!

Criminy!

Highest scoring word at the Pakuranga Scrabble weekend on January 24-25 was Association secretary Allie Quinn's REQUOTED for 212 points. However the most eye-catching play occurred during a tight game between Jeff Grant and Patrick Carter. Trailing by 20 points on a blocked board Jeff extended OLOGIES to CRIMINOLOGIES for 51 points, eventually gaining a narrow win.

COMPETITION

ORNER



Solution: Scrabble Contest No. 49

- | | |
|------------------------|------------|
| 1 tin tip | 11 spa spy |
| 2 mud mug | 12 ill imp |
| 3 pub pud | 13 roo rot |
| 4 air ais | 14 sow sox |
| 5 wit wiz | 15 fou fox |
| 6 gig gin | 16 eat eau |
| 7 top tor | 17 icy ide |
| 8 gag gal (or sha she) | 18 key khi |
| 9 abo abs | 19 car cat |
| 10 bow box | 20 rum run |

Lots of people had a go at this puzzle — we even had an entry from a lady in Scotland! Three entrants scored 100%: Nigel Richards (CHC), Michael Vnuk (Queensland) and Margaret Bundock (ROD). First name out of the hat was Margaret. Congratulations!

Scrabble Contest No. 50

Singapore's representative at the last World Champs was Austin Kiat Hing, who has the interesting anagram STATING IN HAIKU. The haiku is an unrhymed Japanese verse form written in 17 syllables, divided into three lines of 5, 7 and 5 syllables each.

The contest this time should appeal to the more creative among you, but anyone can have a try. Simply compose a haiku about **Scrabble**. It can be serious or

funny, but it must conform to the restrictions mentioned above.

Closing date is May 20 and the winner will receive a book prize. Good luck!

Entries to be sent to:
 Jeff Grant
 Waipatu Settlement Rd
 RD 2, Hastings

More Word Maths

The Scrabble word with the highest total is not TUMULTUOUSNESS (240). It is beaten by UNTRUSTWORTHY (242), despite the word being a letter shorter. Only Nigel Richards (CHC) solved this.

Arresting Play

An extraordinary incident took place at the Bahrain Club's October tourney when a C Grade competitor was arrested after his 2nd game for non-payment of a debt! (Not the entry fee we presume.) After three days things were sorted out and the player released from custody.

NZ Masters	11-13 April
Dunedin Open	18-19 April
North Shore Bays	25 April
South Is Champs	16-17 May
Christchurch	
NZ Nationals	30-31 May
Papatoetoe/Holy Cross	4 July
New Plymouth	18 July
Stratford	19 July
Waikato	8 August
Hamilton	9 August
Canterbury Open	12-13 September
Norfolk Island	20-27 September
Scrabble Festival	
Trans-Tasman (Auck)	21-23 November

Smarten Up Your Abs

By Val Worth Putaruru

- | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| AB + AFT = ABAFT | AB + LATE = ABLATE | AB + RAM = ABRAM |
| AB + AMP = ABAMP | AB + LEGATE = ABLEGATE | AB + RAY = ABRAY |
| AB + APICAL = ABAPICAL | AB + LET = ABLET | AB + REACT = ABREACT |
| AB + AXIAL = ABAXIAL | AB + LOOM = ABLOOM | AB + RIM = ABRIM |
| AB + CEE = ABCÉE | AB + LUSH = ABLUSH | AB + ROACH = ABROACH |
| AB + ERRANT = ABERRANT | AB + MHO = ABMHO | AB + ROOKED = ABROOKED |
| AB + ESSIVE = ABESSIVE | AB + OLLA = ABOLLA | AB + SEY = ABSEY |
| AB + FARAD = ABFARAD | AB + ORALLY = ABORALLY | AB + THANE = ABTHANE |
| AB + HENRY = ABHENRY | AB + ORIGIN = ABORIGIN | AB + VOLT = ABVOLT |
| AB + JOINT = ABJOINT | AB + OUGHT = ABOUGHT | AB + WATT = ABWATT |

Caught in the Lingo Net

Following on from *Unfortunate Product* names in the June 1997 *Forwards*, here are some more embarrassing commercial slip-ups, trawled from the Internet.

- ☺ A large toothpaste company ran into trouble in France. It introduced a product called Cue, the name of a notorious pornographic magazine.
- ☺ When Coca Cola was first marketed in China, its name was rendered as Ke-kou-ke-la, which in one dialect is translated as the bizarre 'bite the wax tadpole'.
- ☺ Thanks to an oversight by a Swedish company we can enjoy sweets alarmingly labelled 'Skum'.
- ☺ A US food manufacturer introduced its 'Big John' products in Quebec as 'Gros Jos', before finding out that in the local lingo it means 'big breasts'.
- ☺ In Taiwan, the slogan 'Come alive with the Pepsi Generation' translated as 'Pepsi will bring your ancestors back from the dead'.
- ☺ Japan's second largest tourist agency was mystified when it entered English-speaking markets and began receiving requests for unusual sex tours. On finding out why, the owners of Kinki Nippon Tourist Company changed its name.

Most Unpalatable Request in a Scrabble Tournament?

The London Scrabble League holds small tournaments about every two weeks. These are informal affairs, lasting 3 games. Challenges are normally adjudicated by players from adjacent tables.

One afternoon Robert Richland raised his voice and asked "Could someone please check my ARSEHOLE?" I complied with his request.

Posted on an Internet Scrabble mailing list by Graeme Thomas (UK)

Irritable Vowel Syndrome

The single-minded practise more than four hours a day. One competitor failed to notice a bus hitting his car while he was discussing his game; another hoped to gain a girlfriend when he took the prize. Tim Rayment reports on the 1997 World Scrabble Championship.

excerpts from Sunday Times Magazine, 11 January 1998

Modesty would stop him saying this — modesty and the fear that you might laugh — but there are people to whom Mark Nyman is a god. There he goes, they murmur, possibly the best that ever lived, the greatest all-rounder in one of the most competitive pursuits on earth. He is handsome and passionate, although he hides his fervour under a surface of balance and calm. He is glamorous, with a life outside his sport and a good job in television. He is British. Despite all this, you have never heard of him. Nyman competes in a game played by 50 million people in 121 countries, and when he faces an opponent there is an ambition on his mind. A former world champion, he wants to be the first in his discipline to win the title twice. He also wants to go professional, living off prize money at tournaments around the globe. But time is running out. Nyman knows that he has until he is 40, a day that will come in nine years, before the next generation takes over, with younger bodies and nimbler minds. And, although he would never say so, he wants to prove right those who see him as a legend, the best of the best, a giant of his kind. Among his other talents, Nyman is mentally agile. Tell him your name: if an anagram exists, he will say so. He is introduced to Paul Reas, a photographer for this magazine. "Pleasure," he quips, thinking Reas is spelt Rees and turning the name into a word. "Serpulae," he says a second later, without seeming to pause

for breath. (Serpulae is the plural of serpula, a type of worm.) "It's a God-given thing," says the manager of the England team in which Nyman plays. "I have seen him turn over 50 [practice] cards a minute, each with seven letters in alphabetical order, and come out with 50 words." Nyman's ambition lies in a game played by people as diverse as Sting, Keanu Reeves and, in the privacy of her castles, the Queen. It is to win at Scrabble.

Let us fly to Washington, to a posh hotel near the White House, where every president since Calvin Coolidge (1923-29) has held his inaugural ball and 80 top Scrabblers are contesting the biennial world championship. Here is Clive Spate of Nottingham, who has revised 1877 pages of Chambers dictionary, taking him from A to U. Here are David Boys of Canada, the defending champion, and Nyman, last champ but one, and Robert Felt, a man so absorbed by Scrabble that once, while discussing his play, he failed to notice as his car was hit by a bus. Here is Ron Tiekert, known as the most ethical player in America, a person of principle in a game in which some will eat an unwanted Q. And Joel Sherman, one of the greats, whose whole being suggests that someone or something has left him crushed — he looks like an imploded Woody Allen — but who, when it comes to coping with a fistful of vowels and finding triple-word scores, can marshal his letters with the best of them.

Everyone is mildly excited. There are

big plans for Scrabble, a game that turns 50 this year. The penetration figures are impressive — 53% of British homes have it, and 100 million sets have been sold worldwide; if all the little lettered tiles were placed in a line they would go twice around the planet — but for the passionate, this is not enough. Synchronised swimming is an Olympic event; what about Scrabble? "In tennis, athletics or any other sport," says John Coyne, senior product manager for the game in Britain, "you always have the pinnacle. In athletics it's the Olympics; in tennis, Wimbledon; in football, the World Cup. Scrabble needs a tournament at that level."

Coyne is not alone in his vision. Everywhere in this room are players who need only the prompt of better prizes to quit their jobs and travel the world with their word lists. The game is better than chess, they say: the latter begins and ends with memorised strategies, while Scrabble, dependent on the shifting letters of fate, surprises every time. But it has a problem. "It's played by old people

or boring nobodies who have not got a life," says a source at Mattel, the game's maker.

So the game's hopes rest on the championship producing an interesting winner, someone who will encourage the world to give Scrabble respect in the next millennium. Eyes rest on Robin Pollock Daniel, an articulate, top-ranking Canadian, the most beautiful woman in the room. Or Matt Graham, a young American stand-up comic: he would look good for the image, as would Britain's Nyman, or victory by any of the Africans in the tournament.

First prize is US\$25,000. As the television networks are coming, Scrabble's big cheeses hope the nerds have a run of bad tiles.

Round one. Silence falls, except for the tiles' rapid rattle as they are shaken in their bags, and the occasional soft cry of "challenge" as a player seeks a ruling on a dubious word. This is not the game granny knows. Chess clocks allow each player 25 minutes in a 50-minute game; more surprising to the outsider, the play is not about words.

Take the English team of seven, in matching red shirts. All have a background in mathematics. Top-level Scrabble is science: it is about calculating the probability of events.

Granny plays by thinking of a word, putting it down, then finding herself at the centre of a quarrel as a Boxing Day dispute breaks out over her happy little noun. To practise for Scrabble would not occur to her. These players train. First they work on probability, researching how likely they are to pick up various combinations of letters. Then they learn anagrams



Mark Nyman, centre, leads the England team. Some say he's the world's best. His ambition is to be the first person to win the world championship twice

of the most common sets of tiles. Part of the brain analyses what an opponent might do, and plans blocking action.

Of course there are words to learn: 105,097 are legal under American rules, 122,863 under British ones, and at the world championship the dictionaries are combined, making 144,863 possible. British players try to memorise 22 000 American words that are mostly meaningless to them; there is only a 1 in 20,800 chance of pulling even the most likely seven-letter word, "trainee", from the Scrabble bag, and a 1-in-222,327,233 chance of finding the least likely, "zyzzyva" (a tropical beetle, worth 23 points). Such is the level of play, however, that unless you know both dictionaries you stand no chance. Nyman learnt 10,000 new words the year he became champion. And for the Americans it is worse: the British dictionary has 39,766 unfamiliar words, many from the time of Milton, all of which must be analysed for their probability of occurring and, as far as possible, learnt.

Many players have spent three or four hours a day for years perfecting their game. Bob Lipton, a Neil Kinnock lookalike on the American team, works on his Scrabble up to 12 hours a day; Matt Graham, the stand-up comic, decided to cram for the championship, finishing after midnight and starting at 5.30am. As a result, standards are so high that victory comes down to the luck of the letters, which makes the world championship absurd. Why do all this work if you are just the gods' plaything, to be handed vowels and Qs and denied precious blanks and Ss for their sport? That is what makes tournament Scrabble tough, and is why even the tough drop out.

Given the degree to which luck controls a player's fate in Scrabble, it would be reasonable if losers blamed their tiles. In fact the game tends to bring out such strong feelings of guilt and self-loathing that the more sensitive sort of spectator is advised to avoid it altogether.

Day two, and the British are doing well. Nyman leads, and there are red shirts at all the top tables. Until this moment, the person who is possibly Scrabble's greatest player has been relaxed. Perhaps mindful of how his television colleagues will see him — he is a producer for Countdown, the Channel 4 word game — he has said he is bored by the preparation the sport entails: "Well, I just sort of look at the word lists that are derived from the dictionary. I mean, I'm not very organised about it. I'm generally a mishmashy-type person..." Now, however, with the gods appearing to offer overall victory, he turns tense. Then he suffers a defeat, and there is no mistaking it: Nyman is lashing himself for an error. Try this one yourself. His opponent plays first, with "shark". Nyman's letters are E, F, I, L, R, W and Y. He puts down "weary", then realises he could have done better. "I should have played 'flawy'," he says. "The whole game would have changed. But I didn't see it." The difference in points? Three.

Then Esther Perrins, a member of the Australian team, emerges from the room. I know self-flagellation, and hers is terrible to see. Her face is flushed red, her demeanour is crushed, what little energy she has left after more than a dozen games of Scrabble is being used to replay her folly again and again in her head. She is one of the sanest people here, a homemaker with four young children -- a player with a life, in other words -- who says she came for fun. But she has just

lost a game by one point, and the fun has died for her.

Let nobody say Scrabble is childish. These are adult emotions: guilt and self-abuse and feelings of abject, absolute failure, brought about because the better word, worth three points more and which no normal person knows, occurs to you 30 seconds after the weaker one. Sherman suffers too; seeing "rogering" in a tournament, he stormed out and was found in the car park. To watch his opponent get 50 bonus points, and at the same time to be reminded of what he acknowledges is missing from his life, was too much.

Britain is not immune from Scrabble passion, as Clive Spate, the England player who ran out of revision time before he could read Chambers from V to Z, can tell you. He was once a co-defendant at the Central London County Court when, to the amazement of everyone present who was not a Scrabbler — to them it seemed routine — a former national champion sued the organisers of a tournament for allowing too little time to go to the lavatory between games.

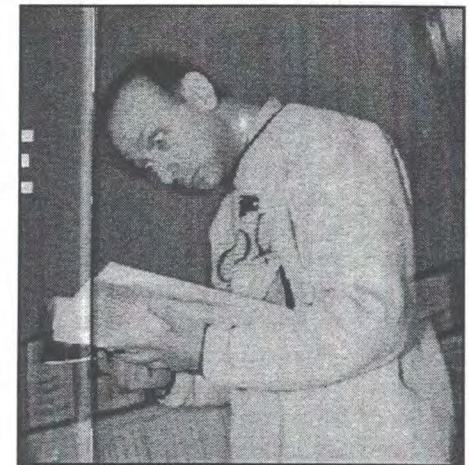
Passion reaches a peak in Joel Sherman, whose life is dedicated to the game. Until 1990 he worked behind the counter of a bank, adding up the money, advising less able tellers, eventually becoming a customer-service representative. But the job grew too stressful and his body rebelled. You can see the effects today, eight years after he quit to spend more time with his dictionaries. At the Scrabble table Sherman's mouth twitches and he burps and farts. He wears a sweatshirt reading "GI Joel": it stands for gastrointestinal, the area where his body could not bear the demands of banking and broke

down.

There is something engaging about Sherman. Honest about himself and his game, he has a gentle, self-deprecating humour. As a child he was very bright; he dreamt of being an architect, then a singer. "Basically, what it would require, what it would" — there is a strangled, choking sound, followed by a cough — "what it would require is some major changes to my sinuses." Why? "I can sing very well through one song and then I have to blow my nose." His mother gave him Scrabble when he was five; later she became paranoid and hard to live with, affecting all the family.

Winning would mean more to him than to anyone. "I know I have certain handicaps in terms of finding a mate," he says, "in that for one thing I don't drive, so it's difficult for me to get around and visit people. And I am also not in a very good physical condition.

"I mean, if you look at me, I am just of average build. I am not overweight, but I have very poor muscle tone. I am asthmatic and I have allergies which cause asthma attacks, and I have the bad



Joel Sherman

stomach, so there are a lot of physical reasons for a woman to be turned off by me!" He laughs gently. "I just hope, if I can gain some notoriety through this game and accomplish a few things — and I think I am still reasonably attractive, just looking at me — that there is still some possibility of attracting a mate."

Tension climbs in the final rounds, the room quieter than before. Suddenly there is commotion. Ron Tiekert, the most ethical player in Scrabble, is being accused of cheating. The outcome of his game matters: under the formula that determines how many players each country sends to the next world championship, a win would put Tiekert in the top 20, giving America another place. Two extra tiles have fallen onto the table in front of Tiekert, and one is a priceless blank.

The rules require players to carry on if they find irregularities in their set, such as extra or missing tiles. Tiekert goes on to win. Several strangers fill my tape recorder with their assurances that he is the most honest person they know. America gets another seat at the next championship.

It also wins this one: Joel Sherman beats Matt Graham in the final, and for better or worse his new life begins.

Something interesting happens to perspective over a few airless days watching Scrabble. People who might seem odd become normal human beings with hurts and hopes like any of us. Then, when it's over and the television networks arrive to view the winner, you look again. The broadcasters are beautifully groomed. Suddenly you see the Scrabble players as the reporters do.

Even now, you realise, the world is making its judgement of Joel, and also of Matt, the defeated finalist who was

supposedly the sexier option. All over America, people make their tea, and some notice on their televisions a little interlude from a posh hotel near the White House. The outside world makes its judgement, and perhaps the judgement is right. But at the same time it is wrong. Our swift verdict loses sight of the sweet humanity of a man who pulled a terrible set of tiles out of life's bag of letters, and whose whole existence has been made valid by the fact that on a Monday morning in Washington, he won a game of Scrabble.

Tuesday Tableau

A SEXY GIANT,
JOEL SHERMAN, IN
A FINAL SUITING
A DUET OF QUITE
VIVID NEW YORK
PARTIES, BREEZED
ALONG TO BECOME
OUR WORLD CHAMP

This tableau that uses all 100 tiles in a Scrabble set was posted on an internet Scrabble discussion group by American Scrabble player Dan Stock.

The I's Have It

British Scrabbler Phil Appleby had a 35-point lead and a rack of EIIIMW in the middle of a recent game. When his opponent played a bonus word, he couldn't change because he had MEW for 45 points (leaving IIII !). He drew OSX and his opponent gave him a place for XI for 50. Next he drew SR for a rack of IIIORSS. Getting rid of IRIS for 18 points, he then got down two consecutive bonus words for 92 and 90. Phil was somewhat bemused, having scored 295 points in five turns after starting with four I's!

The World Champs on Internet

It may not have been quite the same as actually being in Washington DC, but for those with Internet access it was a pretty good substitute. After the end of each round all results were posted on the World Wide Web, showing who played, the scores and updated overall placings. As well as this, a 'commentary' was posted, providing some informal details of the proceedings. The information from the Web was also sent to subscribers on various Scrabble-related mailing lists around the world. Those to thank for this terrific coverage are Canadian computer expert John Chew, and Sherrie Saint John, administrator of the biggest international Scrabble mailing list.

"What next?" you may ask. The British *APSP Newsletter* (Dec '97) surmises that full video and audio coverage on the Web may not be far away. So in 1999, instead of sitting in a room watching the play on closed circuit TV or a giant board, it could be possible to sit at home and see the World Champs final unfolding live on your computer!

[In fact people who had access to Marldoom, an Internet Scrabble-playing area, were able to watch the final games through John Chew's live demonstration on a simulated board — with commentary on the games. — Glenda]

Thematic Record

Lou Miller of Oregon had a terrific game at the Portland Scrabble Cub in October. Thematically, his first four turns were WOMEN, LEGGIEST, AIRWOMEN and BEVY, and he went out with DAINTIER to win by 724-300. For the record, his opponent was a woman.

Nigel Richards List Corrections

Nigel has asked that the following corrections to his lists be published.

Change this	To this
BATTIL	BATTILL
BATTILS	BATTILLS
BLOREES	BLORES
BRAGGLY	BRAGLY
CENTINAL	CENTINEL
CLEMMS	CLEMS
add	DIDDLEYS
DUMCANE	DUMBCANE
DUMCANES	*delete*
FEINTEE	FEINTER
GUCKIES	GUCKIEST
HERPESES	*delete*
ICHABOB	ICHABOD
JOSHKIN	JOSKIN
JOSHKINS	JOSKINS
LIDDER	LIDGER
LIDDERS	LIDGERS
MAIDEE	MAIDED
MALVASIE	MALVESIE
MANSWORM	MANSWORN
PINYINS	*delete*
PITHOIS	PITHOS
SPAZES	SPAZZES
STRONB	STROMB
STRONBS	STROMBS
STRONBUS	STROMBUS
SYRLE	SYRLYE
TWAITEES	TWAITES
TWIFOLF	TWIFOLD
UNHOMLEY	UNHOMELY
UNROTED	UNROTTED
UNROTEN	UNROTTEN
WEKAWAY	WELAWAY

My thanks to all those people that have pointed out some of these errors.

What's a Z Worth in Polish Scrabble?

By Philip Nelkon

We were asked this question by a journalist the other day. A quick call to Jim Harrison, the Scrabble Development Manager at Spears established that the answer was a measly 1 point and that furthermore there were 3 different types of Z in the Polish Scrabble set.

The next question was one that had always intrigued me — Are there any tiles worth 6, 7 or 9 in languages other than English? "Yes", said Jim "in Portugal the Q scores 6, a D counts for 7 in Finnish, a Y will get you 7 in Swedish and a P is worth 6 in Icelandic." I thought it best to stop that particular discussion at that point. It turns out that there is no tile worth 9 in any of the 30 language versions that Spears produces.

So how do you go about constructing a new language set? Apparently, all those years ago, Alfred Butts gleaned his frequency and distribution information from the New York Times, but Jim is more scientific — "We use 3 sources — a classic text of the given language, a modern text and a newspaper article. We then divide the letters up into four bands from very common to rare". Try to avoid getting a Z when playing in Malaysia — there are 1221 A's used in written Malaysian text for every one Z.

In English, the consonant to vowel ratio is 60/40 whereas for Italian it is 50/50. Because of this there are 20 more tiles in an Italian set which has 15 Os. Normally, Spears try to keep the number of tiles in each language to around 100 as this has been proved to make for a better game.

German used to have 117 tiles, including 4 blanks, and players played with 8 letters on their racks (must have made the triple-triples a lot easier) but this was changed a few years ago. Jim still gets the occasional letter of complaint about the change. Another strange fact about German players is that they are the only country who insist on using wooden tiles, something to do with wood equating with quality in the German psyche.

Of course, many languages are not suitable for Scrabble — some widely spoken Indian dialects have up to 400 different letters. Chinese and Japanese are also obvious examples, but the game is sold over there in English with a rulebook in the native language. On a recent trip to Beijing, a Spears executive found an unauthorised Scrabble set in Pinyin (a westernised form of Chinese). It had letter sounds up to 3 letters appearing on each tile — the lawyers are dealing with that one!

There are no languages at the planning stage at the moment. Bulgarian was the last to appear in 1995, but letters continue to arrive advocating that new sets be produced. In the last year, Spears have had requests for Cornish, Esperanto, Gaelic, Welsh and Yiddish. Unfortunately, if a language has less than around 5 million speakers it is not considered commercially viable.

From UK Scrabble Club News, Sept. 1997

Oxymora

What are oxymora? They are a plural of oxymoron. It is when two contradictory terms are yoked together in a small space, eg bittersweet, good grief, standard deviation.

The word 'oxymoron' is itself oxymoronic because it is formed from two Greek roots of opposite meaning, 'oxys', sharp, keen, and 'moros', foolish, the same root that gives us the word 'moron'. Here are some examples

- | | | |
|---------------|-------------------|------------------|
| old news | spendthrift | criminal justice |
| even odds | same difference | dry ice |
| flat busted | student teacher | industrial park |
| pretty ugly | light heavyweight | open secret |
| civil war | original copy | baby grand |
| awful good | recorded live | working holiday |
| inside out | superette | negative growth |
| plastic glass | random order | tight slacks |

Some oxymora may be a matter of opinion, eg

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| military intelligence | holy war |
| government worker | virgin birth |
| wedded bliss | rap music |

from the Wanganui Scrabble Club Newsletter, September 1996.

Good grief! What's an oxymoron?



Birds of a Feather

Consider the following collective nouns: a plump of wild fowl, a gaggle of geese (but in flight the geese become a skein), a herd of swans, a sord of mallards, a raft of pintails, a company of widgeons, a cast of hawks, a bevy of quail, a muster of peacocks, a nye of pheasants, a brood of chickens, a covert of coots, a desert of lapwings, a congregation of plovers, a wisp of snipe, a fall of woodcock, a bazaar of guillemots, a flight of doves, a murmuration of starlings, an exaltation of larks, a watch of nightingales, a building of rooks, a parliament of owls, a host of sparrows, a siege of bitterns. Clearly, when it comes to the birds, the English language really spreads its wings.



a cast of hawks

Bulu Imam in Sanctuary Club submitted by June Ward (HAS)

OSPD2 Corrections

Here are the cumulative corrections to the OSPD2. All (except for DIDDLEYS) were corrected in the final printing.

You might like to check your copy of OSPD2 to ensure all corrections have been made.

ALIYAH	plural -YAHS (not -YAS)
CLAUGHT	-ING (not -INT)
CLEEK	CLAUCHT (not CLAUGHT)
DIDDLEY	plural DIDDLEYS, (DIDDLEYS is plural of DIDDLY)
FLANKEN	plural FLANKEN
HERPES	plural HERPES (not HERPESES)
HONDLE	-DLED, -DLING, -DLES (not -DLIED or -DLIES)
insert HOOTY	adj HOOTIER, HOOTIEST sounding like the cry of an owl
LEAP	add LEPT as optional third past tense
insert MISENROLL	v -ED, -ING, -S to enroll improperly
MOJO	add MOJOES as optional plural
PECORINO	-NOS, -NI
PINYIN	plural PINYIN (not PINYINS)
insert PREFREEZE	v -FROZE, -FROZEN, -FREEZING, -FREEZES to freeze beforehand
insert REARMOUSE	n pl. -MICE rermouse
REFALL	change -FALL to -FALLS
REREMOUSE	n pl. -MICE a bat (a flying mammal)
SJAMBOK	definition should be 'to flog'
SPAZ	pl. SPAZZES (not SPAZES)
UNMESH	-ES (not -S)
insert UPFRONT	adj honest, candid
URB	plural URBS
delete VANIR	
insert XANTHATE	n pl. -S a chemical salt

Queensland Tournament

The annual Southport tournament (6 games) will be held on May 17 at Gold Coast. For further details contact the organiser:

Jack Ashwin
PO Box 5096
Bundall, Q4217
Australia
Phone 061 7 5597 1625

1998 Trans-Tasman Challenge

The 2nd Trans-Tasman Challenge will be held at Auckland's plush Ellerslie International Motor Inn from November 21-23 this year. This event features the top 12 players from Australia and the top 12 from New Zealand competing in a 23-game round robin like our Masters Championship. Besides arranging the excellent venue, John Foster has also been liaising with Mattel (NZ) Ltd., who have generously agreed to provide substantial sponsorship for this international fixture.

The New Zealand team for

the Trans-Tasman will be selected following the National Champs at Queen's Birthday weekend. Good luck to all the aspirants!



Ellerslie International Motor Inn

c anagram

Scrabblers are dab hands at transposing letters, for example TRUCE to CRUET and WOODHEN to HOEDOWN. On a higher level, Susan Thorpe of England has solved the age-old riddle of why THE CHICKEN CROSSES THE ROAD by anagramming it to SHE CHECKS CORN AT OTHER SIDE — brilliant!

Here are half-a-dozen anagrams of Scrabblers who played in the 1997 World Championship.

BRIAN CAPPELLETTO (US)
INCAPABLE PLOTTER
ESTHER PERRINS (Australia)
SHEER SPRINTER
GERALD CARTER (Thailand)
RED-RAG CLARET
RUSSELL BYERS (England)
R, R, S, S, — BULLSEYE!
ALBERT HAHN (Canada)
HEALTH BRAN
LINDA PRAY (Oman) PLAN DIARY

Cocoa Capers

Jack Eichenbaum (NY) whitewashed the field at the Cocoa Beach, Florida, tournament in October. He won all 15 games to finish seven games ahead of 2nd and 3rd place-getters Howard Pistol and Doris Ripp.

Dazzling Dozen

We have previously featured unusual 5-letter words containing J and Q. Now here are a dozen useful X words to dazzle your opponents.

AXION	MIXEN	SIXMO
DEOXY	OXLIP	TAXUS
EXURB	PYXIS	UNMIX
IXTLE	REDUX	XYLOL

Which Dictionary and Rules?

From Scrabble FAQ on Internet

The following is a summary of which dictionary and challenge rules are used in competitive English language Scrabble play in various countries.

OSPD is the American reference, OSW is UK's, and a combination of both is termed SOWPODS.

Under single challenge, a turn is lost only by a player making an invalid word that is challenged, so challenges are free. Double challenge has a challenger also risking loss of turn if the word is valid. Under Singapore's unique rule, the maker of a bad challenge loses five points.

There is a move afoot, especially strong among top players who have played or have some prospect of playing in the World Champs (at which SOWPODS and single challenge are presently used), toward merging the rules. Most suggestions centre on using SOWPODS and some kind of middle-ground challenge rule, such as Singapore's or one penalising a challenger only for the second and succeeding bad challenges in a game (dingle challenge). However, there is not general agreement on this.

Here is a breakdown of references and challenge rules for various countries.

	OSPD	OSW	SOWPODS
Double-challenge	Canada Israel Malta Mexico Thailand US		New Zealand
5pt-challenge			Singapore
Single-challenge		Ireland UK	Australia Malaysia Philippines Sri Lanka
Unknown			African nations Bahrain Bermuda Qatar

Mayflower Marvels

The venue for the 4th World Scrabble Championship was the magnificent Mayflower Hotel in Washington DC. This spectacular edifice has many claims to fame, such as:

- The Grand Ballroom has been used for every presidential inauguration from Calvin Coolidge to Bill Clinton.
- Winston Churchill spent many hours there posing for his portraits.
- Franklin D Roosevelt composed the historic line "We have nothing to fear but fear itself" in Suite 776.

Wacky Definitions

The Chambers Dictionary, one of our Scrabble references, is renowned for some of its entertaining definitions. Here are some well-known examples, and a couple of new ones.

TAGHAIRM	Inspiration sought by lying in a bullock's hide behind a waterfall.
MIDDLE-AGED	Between youth and old age, variously reckoned to suit the reckoner.
OUTNIGHT	To surpass in mentioning nights.
ECLAIR	A cake, long in shape but short in duration.
JAYWALKER	A careless pedestrian whom motorists are expected to avoid running down.
KEN-NO	A cheese prepared in ostensible secrecy for the gossips at a birth.
SPATANGOID	A heart-shaped sea urchin with eccentric anus.
ALBUM	The dried dung of dogs,
GRAECUM	formerly used for inflammation of the throat.

(They had some great natural medications in the old days. Another good one was the euphemistic 'all-flower-water' (Oxford Dict.), cow's urine as a remedy — for what we're not told!)

International Scrabble Records

Scrabble FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions), by American Steve Alexander, on Internet, lists the following records achieved in official club or tournament play. High scores occurring under former British rules are not included, because most were achieved by tacit collaboration. We have also noted the New Zealand records for comparison.

Individual Score

789	Graeme Thomas (UK)
770	Mark Landsberg (US)
763	John Foster (NZ)

Combined Score

1108	Mark Landsberg and Alan Stern (US)
1106	Dawn Kitzen and Chris Hooks (NZ)

Margin

569	Ken Lambe (US) 716-147
500	Glynis Jennings (NZ) 679-179

Single Turn

392	Karl Khoshnaw (UK)
392	Godfrey Demajo (Malta)
284	Sheryl Davidson (NZ)
284	Shirley Wyatt (NZ)

Karl's high turn dates back to 1982, so it may have been achieved under 'high score' rules.

Steve has no details on Graeme Thomas's 789 game or Godfrey Demajo's 392 single turn, so we don't know when or under what conditions these occurred.

Scrabble Scramble

"What could we do without scrabble and squabble and twiddle and scramble and scribble and shuffle and rattle?"

Professor Ian Gordon discussing the suffix -le in the excellent *Take My Word For It* (1997)

NZASP Rankings as at 8 March 1998

Name	Rating	Games	Wins	%	Name	Rating	Games	Wins	%
1 Jeff Grant	2185	781	611.5	78%	50 Marj Baillie	1561	511	263	51%
2 Nigel Richards	2146	164	145.5	89%	51 Howard Feldstein	1560	68	38	56%
3 Mike Sigley	2101	586	444.5	76%	52 Maureen Holliday	1555	252	142.5	57%
4 Kendall Boyd	2054	181	136.5	75%	53 Bill Grigg	1552	246	136	55%
5 Howard Warner	2027	363	213.5	59%	54 Betty Gibb	1524	260	105.5	41%
6 John Foster	2019	755	445.5	59%	55 Yvette Hewlett	1517	242	112.5	46%
7 Peter Sinton	1979	229	171	75%	56 Andrée Prentice	1485	550	295.5	54%
8 David Lloyd	1943	305	174	57%	57 Ann Hough	1485	115	72	63%
9 Patrick Carter	1941	458	280	61%	58 Anne Warner	1479	641	333	52%
10 Lynne Butler	1913	639	389.5	61%	59 Ruth O'Neill	1477	271	133.5	49%
11 Denise Gordon	1909	599	324.5	54%	60 Rebecca Freeth	1466	125	84	67%
12 Glynis Jennings	1902	553	262.5	47%	61 Ann Candler	1466	642	288.5	45%
13 Glennis Hale	1896	864	487.5	56%	62 Glenda Geard	1466	669	339.5	51%
14 Lynne Powell	1889	883	480	54%	63 Jean O'Brien	1439	574	292.5	51%
15 Chris Hooks	1888	586	300	51%	64 Shirley Hol	1429	203	102	50%
16 Andrew Bradley	1887	370	185	50%	65 Isabel Zyp	1419	312	157	50%
17 Sheryl Davidson	1883	594	340	57%	66 Lyn Toka	1416	314	169	54%
18 Glenda Foster	1871	568	290	51%	67 Correne James	1413	423	197	47%
19 Glenyss Buchanan	1850	582	293	50%	68 Doreen Ogston	1405	398	173	43%
20 Rosemary Cleary	1835	383	194	51%	69 Leila Thomson	1397	478	216	45%
21 Pam Robson	1786	412	217.5	53%	70 Yvonne Wilson	1381	161	96	60%
22 Valerie Mills	1770	493	264.5	54%	71 Margaret Lyall	1375	218	99.5	46%
23 Anna Geange	1767	346	206	60%	72 Margaret Bundock	1373	650	326.5	50%
24 Peter Jones	1751	658	332.5	51%	73 Andrew Coombes	1369	158	69.5	44%
25 May Quigley	1742	839	372	44%	74 Shirley Wyatt	1369	230	110.5	48%
26 Lynn Wood	1736	970	481.5	50%	75 Marian Ross	1369	219	104.5	48%
27 Margie Hurly	1728	293	172	59%	76 Lesley Edgeler	1367	196	81	41%
28 Gerald Warner	1703	972	452	47%	77 Kim Graham	1367	234	134	57%
29 Doreen O'Shea	1701	249	145	58%	78 Karyn McDougall	1363	328	168.5	51%
30 June Mackwell	1696	631	283	45%	79 Shirley Martin	1348	286	152.5	53%
31 Allie Quinn	1695	744	342.5	46%	80 Max Aston	1326	186	97	52%
32 Alan Boyd	1690	433	253	58%	81 Betty Eriksen	1321	485	243.5	50%
33 Eileen McLean	1683	686	378.5	55%	82 Leanne Field	1301	189	112	59%
34 Rob Talbot	1681	306	170.5	56%	83 Norman Wheeler	1294	488	261	53%
35 Fae Olson	1664	1024	504.5	49%	84 Rhoda Cashman	1291	788	358	45%
36 Paul Lister	1657	310	175	56%	85 Hazel Purdie	1284	327	160	49%
37 Dave Godman	1640	379	210	55%	86 Janice Cherry	1283	83	57	69%
38 David Gunn	1617	680	351	52%	87 Lorraine Van Veen	1271	521	269.5	52%
39 Roger Coates	1602	455	223	49%	88 Jennifer Smith	1223	102	65.5	64%
40 Faye Cronhelm	1598	563	280	50%	89 Margaret Simpson	1212	461	227	49%
41 Kevin Edgeler	1595	278	110.5	40%	90 Valma Gidman	1210	340	173	51%
42 Helen Sillis	1591	491	255	52%	91 Elsie Malkin	1209	128	67	52%
43 Steven Brown	1589	241	153.5	64%	92 Clare Wall	1207	189	98	52%
44 Lisa McLean	1589	246	138.5	56%	93 Alastair McDougall	1205	128	83	65%
45 Reeve Pearson	1577	1001	458	46%	94 Delcie Macbeth	1198	343	189	55%
46 Marj Batchelor	1575	243	109	45%	95 Joan Pratt	1196	270	150.5	56%
47 Sue McRae	1571	318	174	55%	96 Elaine Moltzen	1192	380	185	49%
48 Puti Rowe	1571	563	278	49%	97 Sue Walker	1163	255	132.5	52%
49 Liz Fagerlund	1563	201	115	57%	98 Peggy Wallace	1161	377	176	47%

Name	Rating	Games	Wins	%	Name	Rating	Games	Wins	%
99 Margaret Cherry	1141	234	111	47%	148 Sally McNulty	708	64	31	48%
100 Malcolm Graham	1113	171	87.5	51%	149 Kate Wignall	702	457	225	49%
101 Liz Catchpole	1096	214	107	50%	150 Val Worth	700	305	150	49%
102 Olwen Skelton	1090	420	200.5	48%	151 Jean Clarke	680	119	65	55%
103 Marjorie Heads	1086	268	146	54%	152 Jill Johnson	678	106	46.5	44%
104 Margaret Mourant	1081	275	146	53%	153 May Meads	677	193	98.5	51%
105 Dean Riesterer	1080	111	71	64%	154 Bill Tozer	673	103	42	41%
106 Elsie Pugh	1076	138	78.5	57%	155 Jacqueline				
107 Annette Coombes	1048	374	159.5	43%	Coldham-Fussell	669	301	141	47%
108 Joan Thomas	1041	59	38	64%	156 Lynley Watkin	664	44	24	55%
109 Bev Barker	1031	408	189	46%	157 Lil Moore	657	478	225.5	47%
110 Margaret Parsons	1029	241	123	51%	158 Doreen Rowlands	650	151	56.5	37%
111 Mary Pinchin	1025	214	115	54%	159 Ed Olson	648	925	359	39%
112 Yvonne Erickson	1014	87	32	37%	160 Margaret Hanson	643	95	48	51%
113 Neville James	1004	162	73	45%	161 Jean McDougall	640	129	66.5	52%
114 Kathleen					162 Elaine King	623	322	166.5	52%
Mori-Barker	994	180	90	50%	163 Vera Burner	608	326	91.5	28%
115 Gordon Pinchin	984	171	86	50%	164 Kath Davies	601	160	78	49%
116 Dawn Kitzen	983	267	134	50%	165 Susan Olson	596	49	23	47%
117 Roto Mitchell	976	202	100	50%	166 Jillian Greening	593	261	122	47%
118 Shirley Tozer	975	204	109.5	54%	167 Adrienne McKeown	593	236	101.5	43%
119 Michael Hyndman	964	102	61	60%	168 Karen Miller	570	74	33	45%
120 Margaret					169 David Sutcliffe	560	148	79	53%
Schimanski	947	90	39.5	44%	170 Mike Miller	534	58	24	41%
121 Katrine					171 Kath James	533	275	116.5	42%
Kerr-Renwick	938	218	95	44%	172 Sharon Clarke	528	87	22	25%
122 Pam Barlow	937	130	66.5	51%	173 Mary Lewis	526	32	14	44%
123 Mary Gray	921	178	98.5	55%	174 Sammy Sanders	470	74	24	32%
124 Daphne Parker	916	210	98.5	47%	175 Lulu Holt	410	251	114	45%
125 Pauline Hayes	910	112	46	41%	176 Elvira Steel	368	175	14	8%
126 Pat Johnstone	896	300	140	47%	177 Jacqy Struik	289	78	25	32%
127 Marie Cairns	892	90	53	59%	178 Nola Edwards	201	41	15.5	38%
128 Margaret Forbes	863	144	66.5	46%	179 June McConnell	116	48	1	2%
129 Naomi Gilmore	862	142	74.5	52%					
130 Brian Horsley	853	176	83.5	47%					
131 Irene Hague-Smith	847	527	238	45%					
132 Pat Hutchison	841	52	31	60%					
133 Pam Mayall	834	164	81	49%					
134 Marie Kingi	831	225	97	43%					
135 Lyn Dawson	817	90	57	63%					
136 Dorothy Haining	800	490	248	51%					
137 Margaret Ham	792	127	66	52%					
138 Paddy Glen	787	78	36	46%					
139 Cecilia Bullo't	778	246	107	43%					
140 June Ward	766	118	59	50%					
141 Trish Hellriegel	756	121	62	51%					
142 Juliette Giles	746	82	39	48%					
143 Heather Port	726	53	30	57%					
144 Julie Atkinson	723	47	27.5	59%					
145 Elise Joy	719	92	41	45%					
146 Margaret Garner	710	148	61.5	42%					
147 Ruth Munnings	710	42	21	50%					

That Takes the Cake



toffee nosed

From *The Word Book*
by Gyles Brandreth



A Year in the Life of Kiwi Scrabblers

By Elaine Moltzen

This time last year the decision was made to start a new Scrabble club in Hamilton. With the help and support of local businesses, friends and members a healthy bank balance got us up and running within a fortnight and we were on our way. Our meetings are held alternate Thursday afternoons and evenings and relaxation and fun are the two main ingredients.

Our first social occasion was a visit from a combined New Plymouth/Stratford team with the latter taking home the spoils by winning the day by three games. We are now holding an annual one-dayer between us, officially named the Ki Ki tournament.

Another special occasion was a celebration for Daph Watson who turned 80 in August. We invited her friends from the Hamilton Club and had a nice supper and a few wines and surprised her with a lovely cake decorated in the Waikato colours, as she is an avid supporter of Waikato rugby.

All in all it's been a great year and we thank everyone for their best wishes and support.

We concluded 1997 with our annual prizegiving and congratulate our inaugural trophy winners.

Club Champion	Roger Coates
Pot Luck Trophy	Roger Coates
Pyramid Trophy	Daph Watson
100 Pt Words	Peggy Wallace
Bonus Words	Roger Coates
Sportsperson	Elsie Pugh



Please note our new secretary is:
Jacqueline Coldham-Fussell
16 Ranui St
Hamilton
Phone 07 846-7422

Rodney Scrabble Club

Prize List 1997

Highest Game Score	Lynne Powell (643)
Runner-up	Rebecca Freeth (570)
Highest Combined Score	Lynne Powell and Isobel Yorke (990)
Runner-up	Rebecca Freeth and Dorothy Haining (908)
Highest Word Score (non TT)	Rhoda Cashman (126)
Runner-up	Gerald Warner (115)
Lowest Winning Score	Ngairi Colville (205)
Runner-up	Mary Casse & Jack Miles (217)
Ladder Challenge (overall)	Dorothy Haining
Runner-up	1 evening, 2 afternoon Lynne, Betty, Isobel Gerald, Ngairi, Margaret
President's Cup	
Evening Round Robin	Gerald Warner (10)
Runner-up	Dorothy Haining (9)
Secretary's Cup	
Afternoon Round Robin	Rhoda Cashman (13)
Runner-up	Naomi Gilmore & Lynne Powell (11)
Most Improved Player	Gail Cotton (24 pts)
Runner-up	Margaret Bundock (19)
Discretionary Trophy for services to the club and all-round sportsmanship	Jack Miles

Hamilton Newsletter

By Pam Robson

Hamilton members once again enjoyed an end-of-year social dinner followed by their Annual Prize-Giving at Gerrards Restaurant just prior to Christmas.

Club Competition results for 1997 were:

Club Champion

2nd

3rd

Knock Out

Runner-up

Pot Luck Trophy

2nd

3rd =

3rd =

Ladder Challenge

2nd

3rd

Round Robin Group 1

2nd

3rd

Round Robin Group 2

2nd

3rd

Bonus Words Group 1

2nd

3rd

Bonus Words Group 2

2nd

3rd

100pt+ Word Trophy

2nd =

2nd =

2nd =

Pyramid Trophy

2nd

3rd

Most Improved Player

Sportsperson of the Year

Monthly Comp Trophy

2nd

3rd

Highest Combined Aggregate

Highest Scoring Indiv Word

One Sunday in November we again enjoyed a mini-Christmas Tournament made up of players from Ham/Waikato/Tokoroa/Mt Albert Clubs. Once again a handicapping system was devised to give all players an equal chance. Prizes were all 'Christmassy' things and it was a really super day. Congratulations to the

Pam Robson

Steven Brown

Alan Boyd

Pam Robson

Jane Walton

Alan Boyd

Pam Robson

Betty Gibb

Jane Walton

Shirley Martin

Alan Boyd

Pam Robson

Pam Robson

Betty Gibb

Roger Coates

Isabel Zyp

Peggy Wallace

David Gunn

Pam Robson

Steven Brown

Roger Coates

David Gunn

Jennifer Smith

Jillian Greening

Alan Boyd

David Gunn

Shirley Martin

Pam Robson

Pam Robson

Steven Brown

Isabel Zyp

Jennifer Smith

Elsie Pugh

Jennifer Smith

Jacqueline

Coldham-Fussell

Pam Mayall

Alan Boyd and

Jennifer Smith

Pam Robson

victor, Anna Geange of Mt Albert.

Finally, our thanks once again to Jeff and Glenda for their fantastic work with *Forwards*. We all look forward to receiving our copies with great anticipation.

Dunedin Newsletter

By Bill Grigg

World Champs

Kendall Boyd came 6th — what a great effort! He finished with 14 wins, only 2 away from making the final. Going into the last afternoon Jeff Grant (HAS) was in an excellent position, being up with the leaders with only 3 games to play. On the final day Kendall came with a wet sail and won his last 7 games to grab 6th place. After this marvellous achievement he headed for Las Vegas where he tells me he visited around 100 casinos, some very big and others quite small. Asked about entertainers, show-girls, etc, Kendall said he was too busy playing blackjack and roulette to notice. Yes, he did keep his shirt! To Kendall, Jeff, Mike and Lynne — well done, you did us proud.

At the Club

Marian Ross, founder of our club, president, secretary, has resigned from the committee after 12 years. We all appreciate the effort she has put in. Marian will continue to be a member of the club. At our AGM Daisy Madden spoke up and for her troubles was elected our new club president. I'm still treasurer.

Welcome to Richelle Courtney, Ron



Bill Grigg

van der Hoeft, Kerry Dawkins and good to see Jim La Rooy back. Elvira Steel and Daisy Madden recently had birthdays (both over 21 again).

Last month Carolyn Kyle, Marian Ross and I attended the Nelson tournament and had a most enjoyable time. Nigel Richards (CHC) just keeps on winning. Ann Hough (NEL) was 9th seed so second was a superb effort. Paul Lister (CHC) was 3rd on a countback from Marj Baillie (KIW) and Bill Grigg (DUN). Joan Thomas (HAS) won B Grade. I was very pleased to beat Nigel 414-319. It was great to see the North Islanders in attendance, plus a strong contingent from Christchurch. Thanks Nelson, hope to come back some time.

Quiz

What do the following racks make?

- (a) MISHIES (d) FURKIST
(b) HUGRATS (e) KUPFELS
(c) VOILIER

Answers are at end of report.

Masters Tournament

Peter Sinton and Kendall Boyd will be representing our club at Papatoetoe in April.

Nationals

It's early days yet, but with Peter, Kendall, myself (first time), and maybe others from Dunedin, plus a strong contingent from Christchurch, including current national champ Nigel Richards, as well as some Nelson players, the South Island will have its biggest numbers in years. Look out North Islanders, here we come in quality and quantity.

Norfolk Island

Carolyn Kyle and Elvira Steel are already making plans for this popular September festival.

Our Next Tournament Dunedin Open

April 18-19 (two 1-dayers)

Cost: \$13 per day

Closing date: Monday April 6

Contact: Bill Grigg
10 Church St
Green Island
Dunedin (03-488-2885)

Otago Open Championship

November 7 (1-dayer) in Dunedin.

All invited.

Mr Modest

Malcolm Graham (CHC) wears a T-shirt printed:

I
once
BEAT

NIGEL RICHARDS

(Malcolm beat Nigel at Nelson in February 1997 and yes, after Nelson this year I just had to get my \$20 shirt too!)

New Club Secretary (please note)

Chris Handley
18 McMillan St
Dunedin (03-464-0199)

Quiz Answers

- (c) RILIEVO
(b) TUGHKRA
(d) TURFSKI
(e) SKEPFL
(a) MEISHS

Hastings v Masterton

On January 31 the Masterton team travelled up to Doreen O'Shea's home in Hastings to challenge for the interclub shield competed for annually by the two clubs.

In the first round Masterton gained a 3-1 advantage, and after three rounds they led by 7-5. Round 4 was a clean sweep to Masterton which at that stage had pulled away by 11 games to 5. However Hastings fought back well, taking the next three rounds all by 3-1, tying up the contest 14-14 with only one round to go. The last round was shared 2-2, so a points countback was needed to

decide which team took home the shield. This resulted in a narrow win for the holders Hastings by 6939-6721.

Top performer on the day was Yvonne Wilson (HAS) with 6 wins and 11 bonus words, followed by Doreen O'Shea (HAS) and Doreen Davies (MAS) both with 5 wins. High game score was Doreen O'Shea's 576, and the highest single turn was Doreen Davies's MUSCOVY for 103 — note that this is not allowed, because Chambers lists only 'Muscovy' (capitalised) and 'muscovy duck' (phrase).

Everybody had at least one win and there were some nice words played, including METERAGE and SUPERATE by Yvonne, CHOLERA by Marj Batchelor (MAS) and CLARENCE (a type of 4-wheeled carriage) by Hilda Scott (MAS).

An enjoyable day was had by all, and Masterton are now looking forward to returning Hastings's hospitality early next year.

One Wordy Guy

This is the title of an entertaining novel about Scrabble (called THE Game for legal reasons), written and published by American expert Bill Webster in 1995. Bill lives in Carefree, Arizona, and played competitive Scrabble for many years. His highest game score is 719.

Bill's love of words stretching back more than six decades would doubtless have impressed his ancestor Noah Webster, the dictionary-maker.

One Wordy Guy relates the adventures of super-Scrabbler Gary Gray — note the transposable names. There are lots of other similarly named characters in the book, for example Brian Bairn, Eric Rice and Milton Tomlin, as well as punning ones like Fran Chise and

Pearl E White.

It's a lightweight read which should appeal to Scrabblers, with lots of word-play and puzzles, interspersed with interesting Scrabble game and tournament situations. Many of Gary's moves are pure fantasy, for instance in one game he converts PHENOM into EPIPHENOMENAL, also forming seven 2-letter words with the letters played! Rather unrealistically Gary never loses, in fact there is a big prize for the first player to beat him. He also completes his moves in only eight minutes — hardly optimum time use.

So does Gary eventually get beaten? Can he maintain his uncanny Scrabble success as well as his romance with secretary Sandra? If you like word-play (lots of puns and anagrams), and can overlook the odd spelling error (concensus, accomodation, aenous, suprired, homliest, neuralae), you'll probably enjoy this unique little paperback.

If anyone is interested in borrowing *One Wordy Guy*, or would like to obtain a copy direct from the author at a reasonable price (\$US5 + postage and packing), please contact Jeff for further details.

Hear This

A cricket bat is a willow,
A will owe is a pay not,
A pain 'ot is a warm ache,
A war make is a peace end,
A pea send is a missile,
A miss isle is a shore torn,
A shorthorn is a cow.

An old play on words featured in
NZ Woman's Weekly 9.2.98

Chequed for Miss Steaks

When words profound and fluent
I'm called upon to write,
I always worry that I mite
not get the spelling rite

So I keep a spelling checker
(clever thing) in my PC,
and my computer brings to cite
miss steaks aye can knot sea.

A chequer is a wondrous thing.
It freeze me lodes of thyme.
It helps me chews the word sigh knead,
and lets me make them rime!

Each frays composed upon my screen
eye trussed to bee a joule.
The checker ponders every word
against sum spelling rule.

Be four my checker changed my weighs
aye had full many a laps.
Long words with lots of fid lee bits
once gave me hart a tax.

Butt now bee cause my spell ling
is chequed with such grate flare,
their are know eras in my pro's.
(Of nun aye am a where!)

To rite suck sinked is quite a feet
of witch won should be prowed.
Sew wee mussed rite eggs act and neat.
Miss takes are knot aloud.

Now yew can sea why aye S steam
soft wear that does sew pleas,
and why I brake in two averse
in prays of our pea seas.

From *Grapevine*, submitted by
Glennis Hale (MTA)

Pobblebonk

Dogs, cats and horses 'say' much the same all around the world, but there are many different species of, for example, frogs, which have differing calls. Michael Vnuk (Queensland) notes that *The Wild Life of Greater Britain* (1995) lists over 30 frogs in the region. Some of their calls are described as:

Drawn-out, rising, wavering 'reeeek'

Long, drawn-out, moaning 'aaaare'

Loud, ventroloquial, high-pitched, metallic 'cheep'

High-pitched, bell-like 'tching-tching'

Aristophanes coined the term 'brekekekex' to specify the croaking of frogs, and 'ribbit' is commonly used nowadays. The former appears in the big *Oxford*, and the latter in the *Macquarie Dictionary*, but neither is allowed in Scrabble.

One Queensland frog has a lovely onomatopoeic name — the scarlet-sided **pobblebonk** — imitative of its resonant call. 'Pobblebonk' can be found only in the *Australian National Dictionary*, so Scrabblers are once again thwarted.

The Expurgated Version

A rich family commissioned a well-known author to write its history, but pointed out that he should soft-pedal the fact that one uncle's life of crime had ended with a death sentence in the electric chair. The author was told, "Don't say it straight out. Skirt around it a bit."

This is what he wrote: "Uncle William occupied a chair of applied electronics in one of the leading government institutions. He was held to the post by the closest of ties, and his death came as a real shock."

The World Champs Final

The 4th World Scrabble Championship reached its climax on Monday, November 24, at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington DC. The *American Scrabble News* (December 1997) describes the situation:

"The media descends. The tournament room, now void of playing tables, has been transformed into a theatre. Hundreds of spectators gather to watch a closed-circuit broadcast. Tournament director Charlie Southwell joins forces with 1993 World Champ Mark Nyman (England) to commentate. Each move is mirrored on a giant Scrabble board at the front of the room.

This is the stuff that all good competitions are made of. Two 'characters' — a retired bank teller, Joel Sherman, versus a stand-up comedian, Matt Graham — reflect the diversity of the Scrabble world.

Each player followed a specific regime to prepare for the World Champs, and while Joel has been more 'private' since his arrival, choosing not to interrupt the flow of tiles by playing after hours, Matt juggled studying word-lists with performing two nights at a local comedy club. Ritual is important, so don't forget the lucky sweatshirt (Joel), and an infusion of music via walkman between rounds (Matt). The scene is set. Let battle commence!

Game I

Matt opened spectacularly with FUSTIAN for 76 points (Kendall pointed out that he also could have played FIAUNTS, FAUNIST, or perhaps best, INFAUST). Matt then picked up HMOTW and both blanks, from which he made MISTHROW for a 128-point lead. Joel came back with TORNADIC,

but Matt's GUINEAS wrapped up a 409-334 victory for a 1-0 lead in the final.

Game 2

Joel's opening rack of AIOUVZ and a blank presented some interesting possibilities. He chose to use the blank for ZOUAVE, jumping to a 54-point lead, but Matt's first turn of SIZZLERS more than cancelled that out. Faced with an awkward rack of ACEGIU, Joel next played GUAIAC for 13. He stayed just behind until the 5th move when SEXPOT (54) took him to a 38-point lead. However, holding AILRTT Matt spotted LITERATI through a floating E to regain the lead. The crucial move came when Matt was behind 295-308 and holding BDEFNOW. He could have played BOWNED for 52, but instead opted for DOWF (39), which looked OK, but actually allowed Joel to score 48 with GLAD, leaving only two tiles in the bag. Although Matt gave himself a chance of a winning bonus, it didn't come off and Joel took the game 387-363. One game all.

[Had Matt played BOWNED it is likely he would have won the game and taken a 2-0 lead, which may well have proved decisive, even against a player of Joel's ability.]

Game 3

For the third game in a row Matt's first word was a bonus — HANDING for 82. A couple of moves later Joel missed DEADLIFT around a loose E, but made up for it with ARGOTIC to cancel out Matt's lead. Matt then failed to spot BERTH for 54, and with Joel playing WIDENERS a few moves later, Matt needed a bonus to win. He got it on his last move, but by then it was too late. Joel held on for a 419-405 win and a 2-1 lead.

Game 4

Joel Sherman (US)

Matt Graham (US)

Turn	Rack	Play	Score	Total	Rack	Play	Score	Total
1	EHORRRU	HOUR	14	14	AAEEGIT	TAIGA	24	24
2	AEPRRU	YAUPER	31	45	AEEEFIJ	JEFE	56	80
3	ABGOORT	TABOO	40	85	AEEEGIZ	ZIP	28	108

Quelle HORREUR! What has Joel missed? Nothing actually, unless you're playing in French or Middle English. (HORREUR is modern French and 15th century English for 'horror'.)

Joel could have played PARRY (35), but opted for extra tile turnover and better leave. Matt took full advantage of the hot spot. (In case you're wondering, PRAYEUR is not a French word.)

Joel had the Chambers-only word BOTARGO (a relish made of mullet or tunny roe), but it wasn't playable. He could also have got 40 points for TABOR or the more dangerous ABORT. Incidentally, the shoe-shine term BOOTRAG and the obscene ROOTBAG are both unacceptable. Matt's best play was AGUIZE (to dress or equip — obsolete) for 52 points, followed by GAUZE for 32.

4	EEGLNRE	GLEANERS	72	157	AEEEGOQ	GLOZE	30	138
---	---------	----------	----	-----	---------	-------	----	-----

ENLARGES also scores 72 and is safer. Matt could have played GOE/GO/LEZ for 35.

5	ALRTW??	STALWART	63	220	ACEEIMQ	METIC	31	169
---	---------	----------	----	-----	---------	-------	----	-----

Potentially a winning pickup for Joel. Many bonus words were available here, including WASTREL for 65. An interesting option would have been to play ALEW for 33, keeping R, T and 2 blanks. The perfect move (if it was a word!) is LOFTWARDS (in the direction of a loft) through OF for 118 points. An excellent Chambers-only play by Matt. Unfortunately he landed on that unlucky score 169 (13 times 13), not that we're superstitious or anything.

6	HIINNUY	UNCINI	8	228	AEIOQSX	QUAI	26	195
---	---------	--------	---	-----	---------	------	----	-----

A superb move by Joel, better than LINNY (16) with its awful IIU leave. UNCINI are small hooklike structures. Matt gets rid of the Q and opens another high-scoring spot.

7	ADILSUY	SLAY	47	275	ELMOSWX	MOW	23	218
---	---------	------	----	-----	---------	-----	----	-----

The obvious play for Joel, who took an 80-point lead at this stage. Matt had a better option — OWL/OOF/WOE for 30 opens the board for a triple word play next time, assuming that Joel doesn't have the last S.

8	BDEINOU	OBIED	29	304	EEFLRSX	FLEXERS	0	218
---	---------	-------	----	-----	---------	---------	---	-----

Joel missed BEDOUIN (66) here, showing that even the best players are fallible. This would surely have wrapped up the game for Joel, but his Chambers-only OBIED (bewitched) was nevertheless a good move taking out the bottom triple line. The crucial play of the final. Matt felt he had to try FLEXERS, and Joel certainly didn't know it was wrong, as evidenced by the big sigh of relief when the word came back from the adjudicator with a cross. Joel apparently told Matt at the time that he would have made the same move. Had FLEXERS been OK Matt would have taken a 17-point lead. Interestingly, most dictionaries list FLEXOR, but none have FLEXER.

Game 4

Joel Sherman (US)

Matt Graham (US)

Turn	Rack	Play	Score	Total	Rack	Play	Score	Total
9	AENNSTU	NUT	8	312	EEFLRSX	EXEME	42	260

Computers give UNOFTEN (23) as Joel's best play, but this opens up FLEXURES or REFLUXES (both 92) to Matt, so the defensive NUT is much sounder. Joel's rack didn't contain a bonus word, but there are several eights with a floating letter — NAUSEANT, ASTUNNED, UNFASTEN, TUNNAGES, ANULETS, TONNEAUS, QUANNETS. Matt took the points with EXEME (to exempt, in old Scots law). The vowelless leave was a potential problem though, and some observers felt that FLEME (30) was a better option.

10	AEHIINS	HI	16	328	EFLRRSV	REV	6	266
----	---------	----	----	-----	---------	-----	---	-----

Joel blocked one bonus line and kept a nice rack for the consonant-heavy unseen letters. Matt's play left a chance of bonuses like SALFERN, SAFROLE or REFOLDS.

11	AEIKNOS	SINK	27	355	DEFLRST	FEND	36	302
----	---------	------	----	-----	---------	------	----	-----

Short on time, Joel tried to block bonuses from the end of JEFE. This move put him 89 ahead, but could have let Matt in with ADOPTER (95) or ADOPTED (98)! Perhaps it would have been better to leave this spot and block the top of the board with NAIK (16). Incidentally, a floating L with Joel's rack gives KAOLINES (Chinese clays). Unbeknownst to Matt, there were only consonants (DDPTV) in the bag, so a win just wasn't possible. Keeping LRST, he was hoping to snatch victory with a late bonus like FORESTAL or OESTRAL, but unfortunately for him the last five vowels (AAEOO) were all on Joel's rack.

12	AACENOO	OCEAN	23	378	DLPRSTV	PRE	11	313
----	---------	-------	----	-----	---------	-----	----	-----

Joel knew he had the title wrapped up now. Matt blocked TOAD/GLOZED, but could have done slightly better with PRESET.

13	ADOT	ODA	24	402	DLSTV	DEV	11	324
14	T	TA	2	404 + 6 (LST) left on Matt's rack.				410

Joel could have played ETA/RET (6), but I'm sure he wasn't too worried. For the record, Joel went 1 min 47 secs over time, so the final adjusted score was 390-324. Game, set and match, 3-1.

CONGRATULATIONS

to Joel Sherman, runner-up in London in 1995, and now the new **World Scrabble Champion!**



Month Shmonth

On the subject of rhymes for the word 'month', Nigel Richards (CHC) points out HONEYMONTH and TWELVEMONTH in Chambers and MIDMONTH in OSPD.

'You might call December a kid month,
At least from around about midmonth.'

Not really satisfying is it? How about the 'oinkth and grunth of pigth'?

Another difficult word to rhyme is 'oblige' which can cleverly be done as follows:

Elijah knew, oblige a Jew.

Yet another oft-quoted is 'silver'. The word 'desilver' is trivial, but a true rhyme does exist. The *English Dialect Dictionary* lists 'chilver', a ewe-lamb.

How to Get Lots of Scrabble Publicity

by Nigel Richards (CHC)

During the next parliamentary election there could be a candidate in each electorate standing for the **Scrabble Party!** The manifesto could be something like To promote Scrabble, and other mind games, around the country, provide funds, organise tournaments and help set up clubs. It wouldn't really matter how many votes were gained because the Scrabble Party would appear on every voting paper and the whole voting population of New Zealand would see it. Also the news media would probably think it was a bit of a novelty and do some interviews and generally talk about it on TV and radio, and write about it in magazines and newspapers.

[A great idea! Any volunteers? — Ed.]

World French Championship

The 25th World French-speaking Scrabble Championship was held in Quebec, Canada, in July 1997. Playing Duplicate Scrabble where everyone has the same racks, A. .relien Kermarrec of France won with a total of 6088 points out of a possible 6095, ahead of 1993 champ Emmanuel Rivalan, also from France.

NZ Top Ten at WSC

There have now been 4 World Scrabble Championships — London in 1991 and 1995, New York in 1993, and Washington DC in 1997. Here are New Zealand's top 10 performances so far:

3rd	Jeff Grant	1995
6th	Kendall Boyd	1997
7th	Mike Sigley	1993
13th	Jeff Grant	1997
17th*	Jeff Grant	1991
19th	Mike Sigley	1995
20th	Blue Thorogood	1993
24th	Jeff Grant	1993
25th	Mike Sigley	1991
34th	Lynne Butler	1991

* Plate Winner

More Chambers Curiosa

The February 1998 edition of the British *APSP Newsletter* notes the following oddities in Chambers Dictionary:

ALFORJA a baboon's cheek pouch

LATITAT a writ based on the supposition that the person summonsed is hiding.

SHUNAMITISM rejuvenation of an old man by means of a young woman. (hmmm...)

Washington Challenges

There were around 3,200 challenges during the 844 games of Scrabble at the World Champs. Included were the likes of GERM, LORE and NAG. These may seem common words, but don't forget that there were many competitors for whom English is not the first language. However, there no doubt were 'frivolous' challenges made solely to gain time. This usually occurs when a free-challenge rule is in force and the challenger is not penalised for challenging an acceptable word. The adjudicators did a great job in Washington, and not a single player lost a turn because of an inaccurate adjudication.

TSP Terror

The October 1997 edition of the UK Scrabble enthusiasts' magazine *Onwords* contains this letter from eminent wordsmith Darryl Francis, who often plays against a computer program called TSP (The Scrabble Player).

"Every so often, TSP makes one of those moves which completely knocks the wind out of my sails, and makes me almost give up in despair. Playing a game recently, I started with HOPED for 30 points — a good start I thought. TSP immediately replied with ORTHOPEDIES around my HOPED for 51 points!"

[If anyone experiences similar plays from Maver. or Tyler here in NZ, please let us know. — Ed.]

One-Word Poetry

In the 1960s poet Aram Saroyan downsized his poetry from a few lines to one line to one word. His minimal poetry reached a peak, and a peek, with the one word masterpiece 'light', an eye-catching variation on its dictionary counterpart. This won an \$800 literary award in the States, which may represent the most money a single poem has ever earned in a day — nearly \$114.29 per letter!

In the 1970s one-word poetry reached new heights. The art even had its own magazine, *Matchbook*, which boasted one-inch-square pages stapled inside fully-functioning matchbooks. Each issue featured nine words, real or coined, short or long. Here is a selection of the more interesting examples.

anagramarama
armadildo
cerealism
electrizzzzz
grobblems
hairanoia
immaculation

meeeeeeeeeeeeee
metaphoria
psychasm
sixamtoninepm
tictactile
underwhere
whirrrrrd

from Word Ways, August 1996



Australia

New South Wales

The NSW Spring Marathon was held in Turrumurra on October 26, 1997. Most of the top Australian players competed in a field of 53, with the World Champs reps making their last appearance before Washington.

		Wins	Margin
1	Joan Rosenthal	10	+1249
2	Esther Perrins	9	+952
3	John Holgate	9	+510

The 1998 City of Sydney Masters attracted 42 players to the Gazebo Hotel, including international visitor Sam Kantimathi (US) former winner of big events in Thailand and the Philippines.

The 18-round tournament was held over 2 days, with the lead changing many times. Paul Cleary beat John Holgate in the final game, leaving him the only player on 14 wins. Paul's outplay in the decider was BREGMA, slotting the A between a V and TIC, giving him the game by only 4 points. Sam was second on 13 wins, followed by John on 12, ahead of Bob Jackman and Alistair Kane on countback. Excellent performances were also recorded by former Norfolk Island participants Graeme Lock Lee (7th) and Lois Binnie (10th).

Northern Territory

The 1998 Northern Territory Championships were held in Alice Springs in January as part of the Lasseters Indoor Challenge. After 4 days play Glenys Lawrie of Western Australia

emerged victorious with 18 wins from 24 games. Second on countback was Trevor Halsall (NSW), ahead of John Barker (NSW) who had 16 wins. Glenys also won the Franklin Mint Scrabble set decided by the draw of a tile between the four section winners at the closing ceremony's poolside dinner.

Queensland

A weekend of almost continuous Scrabble was held on the top floor of the Grand Pacific Hotel, Kingscliff, from 14-16 November, 1997. Play started at 7pm on the Friday and continued until noon on Sunday, with ASPA Queensland president Olga Visser winning the prize for the most games played with 55! There were also knock-out competitions, round robins, and various novelty awards.

Highlight for some was the 2am entry of firemen after a smoke alarm went off. The next marathon Scrabble weekend is being planned for midyear at Kooralbyn.

from *The Q-Files, ASPA Newsletter*
edited by Michael Vnuk.

Tasmania

The 1997 Tasmanian Championships were held in Hobart on November 1-2.

		Wins	Points
1	John Foley	10	5274
2	Andrew Hamblin	10	5104
3	Khen Meerding	7	4688

Victoria

The December Decathlon was held on December 28 with 28 players competing over 10 games.

		Wins	Points
1	Carmel Dodd (SA)	9	4125
2	Alistair Kane (Vic)	8	4293
3	Sue Kyatt (Vic)	7	3897



Argentina

The Argentinian Scrabble Association has 700 members, despite

being only a year old. In recognition of this they were given 5 places at the inaugural World Spanish-speaking Championship in Madrid on December 12-14, 1997.

Susanna Hartman won the first Argentine National Scrabble Championship in November.



Bahrain

The kingdom's latest Scrabble prodigy 10-year-old Mario Ranasuriya won the 1997 Schools Championship with a highest game score of 588. Six schools took part, with entrants receiving trophies, novelty prizes and ice-cream vouchers.

Mangala Bhandarkar, mother of World Champs player Akshay Bhandarkar, recently became the first lady in eight years to win the Bahrain Scrabble Championship. In a tight final she defeated 18-year-old Nikhil Soneja by 2 games to 1.

The Bahrain International Scrabble Open (BISO) scheduled for May has unfortunately been cancelled. Despite more than 30 registrations for the event, and widespread general interest, the committee was unable to enlist the basic support required to host such a major international competition.

The Gulf Scrabble Open in November was won by top Saudi Arabian player Ricky Gonzalez. He was one of six players tied on 5 wins, finishing ahead of former gulf and Bahrain champions Roland Filio and Akshay Bhandarkar. Ricky earned the right to represent Saudi Arabia at the World Champs, but unfortunately had to withdraw when he was unable to get a visa.

The Gulf Scrabble Tournament (GST) is to be held at the Hilton Hotel on May 20-22. With Qatar making its debut, it will be the first time all six gulf states have participated. This is the 8th GST

and the number of players is being increased from 32 to 40.



Canada

A Montreal vs Toronto competition was played on September 27-28 with 28 Scrabblers taking part. David Boys (1995 World Champ) headed the field with 11 wins from 12 games, closely followed by Joel Wapnick on 10 wins.



Czech Republic

The 4th Czech National Championship was held in Prague in November. The winner was well-known folk singer Jaromir Nohavica who commented afterwards — "Making a song means thinking about every word, whereas Scrabble is more exciting because every letter must be considered." Czech Scrabble has 39 letters, and bonus plays are rare, as are game scores over 300.



India

Not much is heard of Scrabble in India, the second most populous country in the world, but a 2-day tournament with 80 players took place in Bombay recently. The Zygo Scrabble Open used only the American Official Scrabble Players Dictionary and penalised players for a wrong challenge. The event was won by Mohan Chunket, a US-rated player from Madras, runner-up was Shaik Ahmed, with actor B J Anand third. Young Bahraini star Akshay Bhandarkar was fourth. Members of the Zygo group intend to switch to OSPD and OSW this year.



Netherlands

The first Dutch National Scrabble Championship was held in 1972, but a national association has only recently been formed. There are currently 17 clubs affiliated, and they hold 5 tournaments a year, as well as the National Champs and a Club Championship. There are about

500 registered club players and around 100 of them play in tournaments, which are based on high scores rather than playing to win. They also play some Duplicate Scrabble, and have a rating system, as well as a word book listing all 2-8 letter terms gleaned from the *Van Dale Dictionary*.

The Flemish have a similar-sized organisation which is also about 25 years old. The two sets of players often attend each other's tournaments.

Nigeria

The Nigerian Scrabble Association is now formally recognised by the government as a sporting association. Nigeria and Ghana recently played a friendly team event which Nigeria won by 105-65.

Poland

According to the Internet, Scrabble is thriving in Poland. A Polish set has different letter distribution and point values, with POZNOŚC (lateness) apparently the highest opening score possible at 118 points. The best stem is AIKMNO which yields 59 bonus words, and the Polish 2-letter word list includes AJ, EJ, II, IW, OZ and WY. which must be useful!

National champs have been held in Poland for the past 5 years, with the best players averaging over 400 points per game. The top Polish Scrabbler is Warsaw businessman Tomasz Zwolinski, who has won the national title four times — 1993, 1994, 1996 and 1997.

Saudi Arabia

Despite strict government controls on mixed events, the progressive Riyadh Scrabble Club plans to run the country's first tournament for men and women "open to all classes of players irrespective of creed, nationality or origin."

South Africa

The Pan-African Scrabble

Championship will be held in Capetown from April 10-13. Players have been invited from Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe, as well as Israel, Malaysia, Malta, the United Arab Emirates and the Seychelles.

Spain

The first World Scrabble

Championship for Spanish speakers was held in Madrid on 13-14 December. Competing for 1 million pesetas (about \$10,000) first prize, each entrant played 7 games of high score Scrabble, with the top two then facing off in the final. Players from countries such as Venezuela, Ecuador, Mexico and USA took part, and for English-speaking countries used to male-dominated teams at this level, it was interesting to note that all eight players from Argentina were women.

Josep Marti of Spain led the initial section with 3,406 points from his seven games. However in an exciting best-of-three game final he was beaten by fellow Barcelona resident Juan Ramon 2-1. The highest placed non-Spaniard was Carmen Vallecillo from Argentina.

United Kingdom

The 17th **East London** event in October was won by *Scrabble Club News* editor Philip Nelkon, ahead of London clubmates Barry Grossman and Di Dennis.

The **British National Scrabble Championship** was held from October 3-5. Andrew Cook (26) from Abingdon in Oxford took his first title with a 3-0 win over Londoner Jackie McLeod in the final. Phil Appleby was third, David Acton fourth and 1996 champ Andrew Fisher fifth.

More than 130 players competed at the biggest ever **Isle of Wight** tournament. Terry Kirk (London League) won the A Division ahead of Steve Balment and Karl Khoshnaw.

The final of the 1997 **British National Club** event was held in Rotherham on October 26. The Nottingham Nomads team of World Champs reps Russell Byers and Clive Spate, together with Sheila Spate and reserve Ivy Dixon-Baird, proved too strong for Aireborough, winning decisively 7-2. It was again bad luck for Joyce Cansfield who has now been on the losing side in seven National Club Tournament finals.

The **APSP Winter Matchplay** tournament was held on November 29-30. Winner of the 11-round event was Bob Violet on 10 wins, with Allan Simmons second (9 wins) and up-and-comer Neil Rowley third (8 wins).

Divisional winners in the **Romford** round-robin event in December included top English players Alec Webb and Robert Richland, as well as Northern Ireland's World Champs rep Nuala Clenaghan. In the bottom group Perry Fung won 3 games out of 5 - an amazing achievement considering he is only seven years old!

There will be no British National Scrabble Championship this year, because Spears/Mattel have decided that their money would be better spent on a series of public relations events to celebrate the 50th anniversary of commercial Scrabble production.

United States

The **Ocean City**, New Jersey, event was held on September 19-21, with 119 players competing over 12 rounds. The winner was Odette Rio (9 wins) on a countback from Joe Weinike. Matt Graham came third, ahead of fellow 8-

game winners Lynn Cushman and Sam Kantimathi.

Top 10 as at December 1997

1	2051	Joel Sherman
2	2047	Dave Wiegand
3	2044	Adam Logan (CAN)
4	2039	Joe Edley
5	2034	David Boys (CAN)
6	2015	Paul Epstein
7	2011	Brian Cappelletto
8	2008	Jim Kramer
9	2002	Steve Polatnick
10	2000	Jim Geary Ron Tiekert

[Our thanks to UK *Scrabble Club News*, edited by Philip Nelkon, for much of the international information.]

In the Pool

At the New South Wales Championships last October it is rumoured that when Richard Farrington added -CREMENT to EX on the board, his opponent was heard to say "Oh, Sh**!"

Computer Savvy

The December 1996 edition of the American Scrabble News reports on a game between US expert David Wiegand and his computer. First blood went to the computer with SANITORIA through an AN. "Okay, no big deal," thought David as he played ELK on top of the -RIA for 36 points. Bad move, because the computer came back with EUKARYOTE through the KA. David next made MOVE for 43, but then the computer played INNERSOLE through the ER of ELK/-RIA. Three nines in a row! Needless to say, David didn't win.



Tournament Results



Pakuranga Scrabble Club Tournament

24 January 1998

7 Games

Grade A

Name	Club	Wins	Score	Avg. B/W
1 Jeff Grant	HAS	5	3035	434 10
2 John Foster	MTA	5	2721	389 10
3 Glennis Hale	MTA	4	2760	394 13
4 Sheryl Davidson	PAK	4	2696	385 11
5 David Lloyd	MTA	4	2655	379 10
6 Howard Warner	IND	4	2652	379 9
7 Lynne Powell	NSB	2	2604	372 9
8 Patrick Carter	MTA	0	2519	360 5

Grade B

1 Peter Jones	MTA	4	2962	423 13
2 Gerald Warner	ROD	4	2764	395 7
3 Valerie Mills	PAK	4	2734	391 8
4 Allie Quinn	NSB	4	2731	390 9
5 May Quigley	NSB	4	2703	386 9
6 Lynn Wood	WEL	4	2562	366 6
7 David Gunn	WKT	2	2570	367 11
8 Fae Olson	STR	2	2486	355 6

Grade C

1 Faye Cronhelm	IND	5	2849	407 10
2 Marj Batchelor	MAS	5	2695	385 5
3 Eileen McLean	IND	4	2786	398 13
4 Doreen O'Shea	HAS	4	2675	382 7
5 Lisa McLean	WKT	3	2739	391 12
6 Helen Sillis	NPL	3	2620	374 10
7 Maureen Holliday	MTA	2	2628	375 8
8 Steven Brown	HAM	2	2585	369 9

Grade D

1 Reeva Pearson	STR	6	2950	421 15
2 Rebecca Freeth	ROD	6	2904	415 10
3 Correne James	IND	5	2546	364 7
4 Glenda Geard	IND	4	2738	391 9
5 Ann Candler	NSB	2	2845	406 11
6 Yvonne Wilson	HAS	2	2666	381 7
7 Margaret Bundock	ROD	2	2528	361 3
8 Rhoda Cashman	ROD	1	2473	353 3

Grade E

Name	Club	Wins	Score	Avg. B/W
1 Karyn McDougall	MTA	7	3146	449 13
2 Shirley Wyatt	MTA	5	2646	378 6
3 Shirley Martin	HAM	4	2509	358 8
4 Sue Walker	MTA	3	2710	387 11
5 Kim Graham	NSB	3	2677	382 8
6 Hazel Purdie	MTA	2	2615	374 6
7 Margaret Simpson	PAK	2	2521	360 12
8 Joan Pratt	MTA	2	2513	359 9

Grade F

1 Delcie MacBeth	IND	6	2931	419 11
2 Lorraine Van Veen	PAK	4	2830	404 8
3 Dean Riesterer	PAK	4	2634	376 8
4 Olwen Skelton	ROD	4	2556	365 5
5 Valma Gidman	ROD	4	2544	363 6
6 Peggy Wallace	HAM	3	2736	391 6
7 Liz Catchpole	MTA	2	2447	350 7
8 Pauline Hayes	MTA	1	2340	334 5

Grade G

1 Pam Barlow	PAK	6	2678	383 7
2 Pat Hutchison	HAS	5	2441	349 4
3 Joan Thomas	HAS	4	2569	367 7
4 Irene Hague-Smith	MTA	4	2373	339 4
5 Pam Mayall	HAM	3	2611	373 3
6 Naomi Gilmore	ROD	3	2439	348 1
7 Paddy Glen	ROD	3	2422	346 1
8 Ed Olson	STR	0	2323	332 6

Grade H

1 May Meads	PHC	5	2640	377 10
2 Jill Johnson	PHC	4	2663	380 1
3 Dorothy Haining	ROD	4	2589	370 6
4 Elise Joy	PHC	4	2514	359 6
5 Kate Wignall	MTA	4	2460	351 2
6 Kath Davies	MTA	4	2373	339 3
7 Julie Atkinson	MTA	3	2598	371 7
8 Beryl Jones	PHC	1	2211	316 0

Grade I

1 Jim Wills	PAK	7	2781	397 6
2 Elaine King	MTA	5	2625	375 7
3 Ruth Munnings	ROD	5	2606	372 9
4 Adrienne McKeown	IND	4	2431	347 2

Name	Club	Wins	Score	Avg. B/W
5 Vera Burner	WAN	4	2250	321 3
6 Jacqy Struik	PHC	1	2276	325 4
7 Patricia Wareing	PAK	1	2206	315 1
8 Hazel Smith	PHC	1	2134	305 1

Pakuranga Scrabble Club Tournament

25 January 1998

7 Games

Grade A

Name	Club	Wins	Score	Avg B/W
1 John Foster	MTA	6	2883	412 8
2 Jeff Grant	HAS	5	2708	387 8
3 David Lloyd	MTA	4	2561	366 8
4 Patrick Carter	MTA	3	2831	404 8
5 Howard Warner	IND	3	2791	399 9
6 Glynis Jennings	MTA	3	2651	379 9
7 Glennis Hale	MTA	3	2591	370 9
8 Sheryl Davidson	PAK	1	2613	373 11

Grade B

1 Lynn Wood	WEL	5	2823	403 8
2 May Quigley	NSB	5	2764	395 9
3 Peter Jones	MTA	4	2880	411 13
4 Allie Quinn	NSB	4	2825	404 11
5 Valerie Mills	PAK	3.5	2789	398 6
6 Fae Olson	STR	3	2802	400 10
7 Gerald Warner	ROD	2.5	2642	377 6
8 David Gunn	WKT	1	2404	343 7

Grade C

1 Eileen McLean	IND	6	2786	398 8
2 Helen Sillis	NPL	5	2823	403 10
3 Steven Brown	HAM	4	2709	387 11
4 Doreen O'Shea	HAS	4	2649	378 5
5 Maureen Holliday	MTA	3	2633	376 8
6 Faye Cronhelm	IND	3	2573	368 9
7 Lisa McLean	WKT	2	2615	374 13
8 Marj Batchelor	MAS	1	2316	331 4

Grade D

1 Margaret Bundock	ROD	5	2788	398 8
2 Correne James	IND	4	2700	386 5
3 Ann Candler	NSB	4	2686	384 9
4 Yvonne Wilson	HAS	4	2642	377 9
5 Reeva Pearson	STR	3	2803	400 14
6 Glenda Geard	IND	3	2604	372 9
7 Shirley Wyatt	MTA	3	2527	361 6
8 Rhoda Cashman	ROD	2	2621	374 7

Grade E

Name	Club	Wins	Score	Avg B/W
1 Lorraine Van Veen	PAK	6	2858	408 10
2 Shirley Martin	HAM	6	2808	401 10
3 Kim Graham	NSB	4	2946	421 11
4 Hazel Purdie	MTA	4	2715	388 9
5 Karyn McDougall	MTA	3	2710	387 8
6 Delcie Macbeth	IND	3	2684	383 10
7 Sue Walker	MTA	2	2546	364 10
8 Cathie Sale	PHC	0	2341	334 4

Grade F

1 Janice Cherry	PAK	5	2902	415 8
2 Valma Gidman	ROD	5	2857	408 10
3 Margaret Mourant	MTA	4	2708	387 6
4 Peggy Wallace	HAM	4	2636	377 8
5 Dean Riesterer	PAK	3	2591	370 4
6 Olwen Skelton	ROD	3	2520	360 7
7 Liz Catchpole	MTA	3	2405	344 4
8 Pauline Hayes	MTA	1	2449	350 9

Grade G

1 Joan Thomas	HAS	7	2946	421 9
2 Dorothy Haining	ROD	5	2614	373 4
3 Jeanette Owler	PAK	4	2594	371 1
4 Pam Barlow	PAK	4	2541	363 7
5 Trish Hellriegel	MTA	3	2650	379 6
6 Pam Mayall	HAM	3	2620	374 6
7 Irene Hague-Smith	MTA	3	2375	339 6
8 Kate Wignall	MTA	2	2350	336 2
9 Pat Hutchison	HAS	2	2342	335 5
10 Ed Olson	STR	2	2195	314 3

Grade H

1 Julie Atkinson	MTA	5	2952	422 8
2 Ruth Munnings	ROD	5	2895	414 11
3 Lil Moore	MTA	5	2572	367 6
4 Elaine King	MTA	4	2531	362 5
5 Adrienne McKeown	IND	4	2416	345 5
6 May Meads	PHC	3	2480	354 7
7 Margaret Hanson	PHC	3	2302	329 7
8 Sammy Sanders	PHC	2	2389	341 3
9 Kath Davies	MTA	2	2284	326 4
10 Vera Burner	WAN	2	2242	320 2

Nelson Scrabble Club Tournament

14-15 February 1998

11 Games

A Grade

Name	Club	Wins	Score	Ave	B/W
1 Nigel Richards	CHC	10	5357	487	28
2 Ann Hough	NEL	7	4551	414	21
3 Paul Lister	CHC	7	4312	392	11
4 Marj Baillie	KIW	7	4227	384	14
5 Bill Grigg	DUN	7	4101	373	14
6 Sue McRae	CAP	6	4283	389	14
7 Liz Fagerlund	CHC	5	4272	388	14
8 Bob Johnstone	NEL	5	4166	379	13
9 Doreen Ogston	CHC	5	3990	363	13
10 Marian Ross	DUN	3	4077	371	15
11 Karyn McDougall	MTA	3	4039	367	11
12 Carolyn Kyle	DUN	1	3826	348	9

B Grade

1 Joan Thomas	HAS	9	4316	392	15
2 Maree Arps	NEL	8	3703	337	6
3 Malcolm Graham	CHC	7	4201	382	12
4 Kathleen Mori-Barker	CHC	7	4044	368	8
5 Marjorie Heads	WEL	7	3771	343	10
6 Steve Richards	NEL	6	3993	363	11
7 Pat Johnstone	NEL	6	3930	357	9
8 Elizabeth Arlington	CHC	6	3761	342	8
9 Lyn Dawson	NEL	5	4084	371	9
10 Claire Hayes	NEL	5	3620	329	7
11 Liz Richards	NEL	4	3900	355	12
12 Shirley van Essen	CHC	4	3744	340	7
13 Iris Boulton	NEL	3	3618	329	1
14 David Skerrett	NEL	0	2897	263	2

Hastings Scrabble Club Tournament

7-8 March 1998

11 Games

A Grade

Name	Club	Wins	Score	Avg.	B/W
1 Howard Warner	IND	9	4860	442	17
2 Jeff Grant	HAS	9	4606	419	21
3 Glenda Foster	CAP	6	4556	414	15
4 David Lloyd	MTA	6	4359	396	22
5 John Foster	MTA	6	4186	381	14
6 Rosemary Cleary	WAN	6	4156	378	14

Name	Club	Wins	Score	Avg	B/W
7 Sheryl Davidson	PAK	5	4205	382	19
8 Andrew Bradley	MTA	5	4110	374	12
9 Glennis Hale	MTA	4	4388	399	18
10 Anna Geange	MTA	4	4124	375	15
11 Lynn Wood	WEL	3	4133	376	10
12 Pam Robson	WKT	3	4094	372	14

B Grade

1 Doreen O'Shea	HAS	8	4613	419	19
2 David Gunn	WKT	6	4598	418	23
3 Fae Olson	STR	6	4597	418	17
4 Allie Quinn	NSB	6	4394	399	16
5 Lisa McLean	WKT	6	4349	395	20
6 Reeve Pearson	STR	6	4331	394	22
7 Eileen McLean	IND	6	4048	368	12
8 Faye Cronhelm	IND	5	4347	395	16
9 Marj Batchelor	MAS	5	4240	385	10
10 Sue McRae	CAP	4	4235	385	14
11 Helen Sillis	NPL	4	4112	374	13
12 Kevin Edgeler	TOK	4	4096	372	12

C Grade

1 Glenda Geard	IND	7	4340	395	17
2 Lesley Edgeler	TOK	7	4218	383	8
3 Kim Graham	NSB	7	4106	373	10
4 Karyn McDougall	MTA	6	4317	392	13
5 Correne James	IND	6	4204	382	15
6 Janice Cherry	PAK	6	4158	378	11
7 Betty Eriksen	WAN	6	3981	362	12
8 Yvonne Wilson	HAS	5	4322	393	10
9 Hazel Purdie	MTA	5	4117	374	8
10 Doreen Davies	MAS	4	4026	366	10
11 Margaret Bundock	ROD	4	3775	343	8
12 Aliette Hay	MAS	3	4256	387	12

D Grade

1 Joan Thomas	HAS	10	4477	407	12
2 Margaret Parsons	TPO	8	4102	373	4
3 Marie Cairns	TPO	8	4025	366	4
4 Dorothy Haining	ROD	6	3959	360	9
5 Nola Steevens	HAS	6	3679	334	7
6 June Ward	HAS	5	3837	349	5
7 Margaret Warren	HAS	5	3807	346	12
8 Vera Burner	WAN	4	3618	329	5
9 Ed Olson	STR	3	3532	321	3

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)
Highest Losing Score	513	Jeff Grant (HAS)	521	June Mackwell (MTA)
Highest Drawn Game	456	Lynne Butler (NPL) & Glenyss Buchanan (LOH)	482	Margaret Warren (HAS) & Jeff Grant (HAS)
Highest Single Turn	221	Sheryl Davidson (PAK)	284	Sheryl Davidson (PAK) Shirley Wyatt (MTA)
Highest Single Turn Non-bonus	108	Blue Thorogood (IND)	261	John Foster (MTA)
Highest Combined Score	1078	Howard Warner (CAP) & David Lloyd (MTA)	1106	Dawn Kitzen (PHC) & Chris Hooks (MTA)
Largest Winning Margin	493	Mike Sigley (WAN)	500	Clynis Jennings (MTA)
Highest Take-off	54	Lisa McLean (IND)	68	Andrew Bradley (MTA)
Most Bonus Words (3 Game Evening)	—	—	13	David Lloyd (MTA)
Highest 3-Game Aggregate	—	—	1805	Nigel Richards (CHC)
Most Consecutive Bonus Words	5	Allie Quinn (NSB)	5	John Foster (MTA)
Most Bonus Words in Game (1 person)	?	?	6	Mike Sigley (WAN) Nigel Richards (CHC) Lynne Powell (ROD)
Most Bonus Words in Game (2 people)	8	Mike Sigley (WAN) & Glenyss Buchanan (LOH)	8	Dawn Kitzen (PHC) & Chris Hooks (MTA)
Highest Average Single Tournament (Any Grade)	584	Nigel Richards (CHC)	—	—