

Contact Information

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 Dalzell	09 478 6248	Tues 10am	Campbell's Bay Methodist Church Hall
	Allie Quinn	09 483 7806	Thurs 7.15pm	Takapuna Senior Citizen's Hall
Mt Albert (MTA)	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)	Shirley Martin	07 843 5831	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)	Ngairi 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	06 876 4678	Thurs (alt) 7pm	Hastings RSA
Waipukurau (WPK)	Ann Grindrod	06 858 7493		
Wanganui (WAN)	Rosemary Cleary	06 348 8098	Mon 7pm	Cosmopolitan Club
Masterton (MAS)	Aliette Hay	06 377 3273		
Avalon (AVA)	Eileen McLennan	04 567 1289	Thurs 1pm	
Lower Hutt (LOH)	Glenyss Buchanan	04 569 5433	Tues 7.30pm	
Wellington (WEL)	Lynn Wood	04 387 2581	Tues 7.30pm	5 Tully St, Kilbirnie
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

Official Journal of the New Zealand Association of Scrabble Players
Number 52 September 1998



Rankings

Riding Your Luck

Tournament Results

Sportstalk

US Champs

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Editor's Note



Firstly, apologies to the Capital Club in Wellington for omitting the results of their tournament (March 28/29) in the last issue.

There have been lots of events in the past few months, with Papatoetoe/Holy Cross, then the New Plymouth/Stratford and Waikato/Hamilton weekends. Congratulations to all the winners, and well done to the organisers.

It's always great to get club newsletters and tournament reports. This time we have quite a variety. I'm sure every club has something of interest to others, so why not put pen to paper and let us know what's happening in your neck of the Scrabble woods?

Our new president Glennis Hale and her committee have put in many hours making sure New Zealand is represented at the first Asia-Pacific Scrabble Tournament in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from September 16-20. This event was arranged at very short notice, but despite this we will have a top team there. I'm sure you'll join me in wishing Nigel, Kendall, Mike, Peter, Patrick and Howard all the very best of luck (lots of S's and blanks!).

The Executive has also been working strenuously on sponsorship, both for the Asia-Pacific and future international competitions. The NZ Scrabble franchise-holders Mattel (NZ) Ltd have been most generous in the past, and are providing substantial sponsorship for the Trans-Tasman Challenge in Auckland in November. Again, good luck to the 12-member Kiwi team, who will be trying to redress the balance after the 69-75 defeat in Sydney two years ago.

The Association has a new printer for adjudication slips at tournaments. This has

considerably improved an area which has been troublesome in the past. More good work by the new executive!

The 10th Norfolk Island Scrabble festival is fast approaching. We're looking forward to sharing another enjoyable Scrabble holiday on this beautiful island with lots of fellow word-lovers.

In the December issue there will be reports from the Norfolk Island Festival, as well as the Asia-Pacific and Trans-Tasman events.

Coincidentally, the *Inside NZ* programme featuring Scrabble (titled *More Obsessions*) will be screened on TV3 at 8.30pm on our wedding day — Tuesday, September 8th! Someone may have to video it for us.

Many thanks to those who sent 'get well' messages during my recent illness, and to everyone who wished Pat and me all the best for our marriage. We really appreciate your kind thoughts and will always remember our Scrabble friends.

Finally, thanks to all the people who submitted material for this issue, and as always, special thanks to Glenda who is responsible for the superb layout.

Closing date for the December issue is November 25.

Happy Scrabbling
Jeff



Word Musings

by Michael Vnuk, Queensland

Once again, *Forwards* has a range of interesting, informative and entertaining material. Anyone else I show the magazine to always seems to enjoy it. Some comments on the June edition:

I opened with the bonus BAWTIES (p9) once, but can't find it anywhere except OSPD — it's not in Webster's 10th. [BAWTY or BAWTIE, a dog, especially a big one, is listed in *Webster's New International Dictionary, 2nd Ed.*, as well as various Scottish references. It is strange that a Scots word like this is found in the American OSPD, but not in *Chambers Dictionary* which is based in Edinburgh! — Ed.]

Although ACAPNOTIC (p13) isn't allowed in Scrabble, Chambers lists MISOCAPNIC, hating smoke, especially that of tobacco. FIPPLE was one of the words in an Internet contest to suggest alternative meanings. One answer, from Ivan Oddcat (David Acton? English Scrabbler) was, "a button at a traffic crossing, the pressing of which pedestrians believe affords some control over the traffic signals, but whose only effect is to increment the number on the display marked 'Suckers' at traffic control headquarters".

Since UNCOPYRIGHTABLE (p21) is listed in *Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 10th Ed.*, it is now officially allowed in New Zealand. [who will be the first to play this impressive word? — Ed.]

Chambers Dictionary – New Edition

The new edition of *Chambers Dictionary* was due for publication in the UK on September 1, 1998. The associated OSW4 and updated OSL will probably not be produced until well into 1999, so it is unlikely that any changes to the word-base brought about by the new dictionary will be adopted in New Zealand before the year 2000.

According to the June issue of the British *APSP Newsletter*:

"It is clear from the comments ... from Chambers that they are negotiating with Merriam-Webster and Hasbro (US) to get permission to publish a SOWPODS (ie double dictionary) book."

[Possibly similar to the *Redwood*. — Ed.]

This could be good news for World Scrabble!

Scrabble Memories

American Scrabble Association director John D Williams Jr. remembers his first attendance at a North American Championship in 1983:

"It featured only 32 players, survivors of a 'tier' system of preliminary tournaments. First prize was \$10,000 and a piece of abstract sculpture allegedly inspired by the letter S.

The opening party was orchestrated by a public relations firm and was a swank affair in a hotel ballroom. I had my first taste of the diversity of the Scrabble culture as soon as I arrived at the reception. There, side by side, I saw two Scrabble icons. One was Scrabble inventor Alfred Butts, wearing a dark suit, white shirt and tie. The other was well-known expert Charles Goldstein, wearing a robot suit made entirely of Scrabble boards."

from the *American Scrabble News, June 1998*

Alfred Butts – Artist

The inventor of Scrabble, American Alfred Butts, was by all accounts a quiet, unassuming man, but people don't realise what a genius he was. Architect, inventor of other games besides Scrabble, and also a talented artist with paintings hung in major museums, Alfred displayed many talents throughout his long life.



'King of the Tiles'
Alfred Mosher Butts

from *US Scrabble News June 1998*

A Man, a Plan, a Canal — Panama!

This classic palindrome could be used to advertise a Panama Canal cruise and Scrabble tournament being organised on board a luxurious Holland America Line ship from November 28-December 8, 1998. Top US player Joe Edley and his wife Laura Klein will run the 22-round tournament, where all skill levels are welcomed. Prices start from \$US1485, but you'll need to get to Fort Lauderdale in Florida first.

6 Month Tournament Calendar

Canterbury Open	12-13 September
Norfolk Island	20-27 September
Scrabble Festival	
MtAlbert	10-11 October
Wanganui	24-25 October
Otago Open	7 November
Rodney	14 November
Trans-Tasman (Auck)	21-23 November
Kiwi	28 November
Howick-Pakuranga	January 1999
Nelson	13-14 February
Hastings	6-7 March
Lynn Wood Birthday	13-14 March

Battered Baht

Michael Vnuk of Queensland writes: "Having worked in Thailand for a couple of months in 1993, I'm inclined to think that the conversion rate on p27 is incorrect, especially since the Thai currency has been in trouble lately." Michael is quite right — the 50,000 baht won by Joel Sherman in the Thailand International Championship earlier this year was worth only about \$NZ1,600.

Celebrity Scrabble

The May 20 *New York Times* carries this report about Phil Bronstein, newspaper editor and husband of actress Sharon Stone:

They bought a house in San Francisco last week and they like to play Scrabble, or at least they did until Ms Stone beat him once too often.

"He knows so many more words than I do," she said, "but I come from Hollywood. I have that shark instinct. He plays to make fabulous words, I play to win."

Across the Board
June 1998

Competition Corner ?

Solution — Scrabble

Contest No 51

1 FORTYISH	6 PALPAL
2 EPHORATE	7 NAUTILUS
3 PIPI	8 BLOWBACK
4 SIXSCORE	9 GROSSART
5 MANYPLIES	10 THREONINE

Only a single 100 per cent solution was received. Well done to Nigel Richards (CHC)! John Foster (MTA) and Michael Vnuk (Queensland) were close behind with 8 correct.

Scrabble Contest No 52

The word FATHERING contains consecutive letters of the alphabet EFGHI, though they don't occur one after the other, or in order. Can you find an allowable Scrabble word containing **eight** consecutive letters of the alphabet (not in order)? **Hint:** A form of one such word has appeared recently in *Forwards*.

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

Entries to be sent to:

Jeff Grant
1109 Allenby St
Hastings

Anagram Propinquity

by Jethro Snafflerod

The complete list of anagram pairs which are consecutive listings in the principal alphabetical section of the *Redwood Word List* is as follows:

1 AGONIES	AGONISE
2 ALCHEMIES	ALCHEMISE
3 ANARCHIES	ANARCHISE
4 ANALOGIES	ANALOGISE
5 ANATOMIES	ANATOMISE
6 ANOPIAS	ANOPIA
7 APOLOGIES	APOLOGISE

8 ATOMIES	ATOMISE
9 BABIRUSAS	BABIRUSSA
10 BOTANIES	BOTANISE
11 BRITZKAS	BRITZSKA
12 CAUTERIES	CAUTERISE
13 CERUSITES	CERUSSITE
14 COLONIES	COLONISE
15 CONCENTER	CONCENTRE
16 COULISES	COULISSE
17 DECALITER	DECALITRE
18 DECAMETER	DECAMETRE
19 DECILITER	DECILITRE
20 DECIMETER	DECIMETRE
21 DIARIES	DIARISE
22 DISCOURS	DISCOURSE
23 DISCREET	DISCRETE
24 DORIES	DORISE
25 EASLES	EASSEL
26 EBONIES	EBONISE
27 ECONOMIES	ECONOMISE
28 ELECTRODE	ELECTROED
29 ELEGIES	ELEGEISE
30 EMPATHIES	EMPATHISE
31 EMPERIES	EMPERISE
32 ENERGIES	ENERGISE
33 EPICENTER	EPICENTRE
34 EULOGIES	EULOGISE
35 EUPHONIES	EUPHONISE
36 FANTASIES	FANTASISE
37 GEOLOGIES	GEOLOGISE
38 HANDCLAPS	HANDCLASP
39 HARMONIES	HARMONISE
40 KILOMETER	KILOMETRE
41 KNOPS	KNOSP
42 KOLBASIS	KOLBASSI
43 LAMPASES	LAMPASSE
44 LAPSTRAKE	LAPSTREAK
45 MACABER	MACABRE
46 MAUGER	MAUGRE
47 MEMORIES	MEMORISE
48 MERCERIES	MERCERISE
49 MERCIFIDE	MERCIFIED

50 MERCURIES	MERCURISE
51 MOIRES	MOISER
52 NANOMETER	NANOMETRE
53 NEOLOGIES	NEOLOGISE
54 NOMADIES	NOMADISE
55 NONCASUAL	NONCAUSAL
56 NOTARIES	NOTARISE
57 OUTSWARE	OUTSWEAR
58 PILLORIES	PILLORISE
59 POISONS	POISSON
60 POLONIES	POLONISE
61 PREASSIGN	PREASSING
62 PREMIES	PREMISE
63 PROMISORS	PROMISSOR
64 REREDOS	REREDOSSE
65 SACRIFIDE	SACRIFIED
66 SALTPETER	SALTPETRE
67 SANITIES	SANITISE
68 SUPULCHER	SEPULCHRE
69 SODOMIES	SODOMISE
70 SYNERGIES	SYNERGISE
71 TETANIES	TETANISE
72 UNDEFIDE	UNDEFIED
73 UNFILDE	UNFILED
74 UNSPIDE	UNSPIED
75 UNSPILT	UNSPILT
76 UNTRIDE	UNTRIED
77 UPSPAKE	UPSPEAK
78 VLEIS	VLIES

A clear winner was Nigel Richards (CHC) who found all of the above 78 pairs plus QADI/QAID on page 257 and a further 13 pairs of 4-letter words on pages 382-390. As I did not specifically exclude supplementary lists, I have to accept that these words do comply with my stated conditions. A book prize is on its way to Nigel.

Nigel also provided 13 consecutive synonym pairs which are all variants of DJIN/DJINN etc and GALABEA/GALABEAH etc, and 24 consecutive antonyms pairs which are all —FUL and —LESS endings of the same root word. As I did not exclude variant spellings and adjectival inflexions in my conditions I have to also accept these, but the synonym pair I was looking for was DISINHUME/DISINTER and

the antonym pair was SUPERB/SUPERBAD.

As a corollary to this exercise I started looking for the most widely separated anagram pair in the **main alphabetical Redwood** listing. Obvious candidates were ZOA (word no. 144,553) and AZO (word no. 8,006) with a separation of 136,547 words; but looking further I found:

ZYMASE/AZYMES (144,867-8,054=136,813) and

YAFF/AFFY (143,317-1,878=141,439)

YAFFING/AFFYING have an identical separation and must surely be the most widely separated pair of 7-letter words.

The most widely separated pair I have so far found is YARD/ADRY with a separation of 143,415-1488=141,927 or 97.95% of the total 144,900 words contained in *Redwood*.

No prizes this time, but I would like to hear from anybody who can improve on this mark.

Word Maths Extended

by Alan Boyd
Hamilton

It has previously been noted that words can be 'weighted' according to the sum of the numerical value of their letters, where A=1, B=2, C=3 .. through to Z=26.

For example, SCRABBLE has a 'weight' of 62 (19+3+18+1+2+2+12+5).

There are likely to be Scrabble words (up to 15 letters possible) for all lower values from 2 (AA) up, but what about the higher ones? Are there any gaps before 200? TRUSTWORTHY has a weight of 207, and UNRIGHTEOUSNESS is 214, with the record being UNTRUSTWORTHILY (263). How many gaps are there between 200 and 263?

[This sounds like a job for the computer. Any takers? — Ed.]

Folger Splay Clabbers

by William Webster
(United States)

Can you untangle this anagrammatical tale? Solution on p. 9.

Mas Golfer dah bene no het flog source relay, froe ti saw oot tho.

Neb saw deray fro eth frits Clabbers mage, hewn Ulemas acme fro het downplay.

"Thaw mage si bets? Clabbers? Flog?"

"Tallymen, Clabbers tabes flog," saw Mass plyer. "How sego frits, own? Ho — sae betas yak. Sheer het reopen."

"Rand!" dais Neb, genies MESSIAH no eth broad.

Ether runts ratel, Neb dah ANTE.

Whoever, Mas dah eth frits "on uveal" lite.

Eh dame ETNAS puls WINGERS.

"Daniel!" aids het outsert nam.

Creditor Brain Advise lured het wot sword kayo.

"Nates, stane? Entera," ewer Nebs markers.

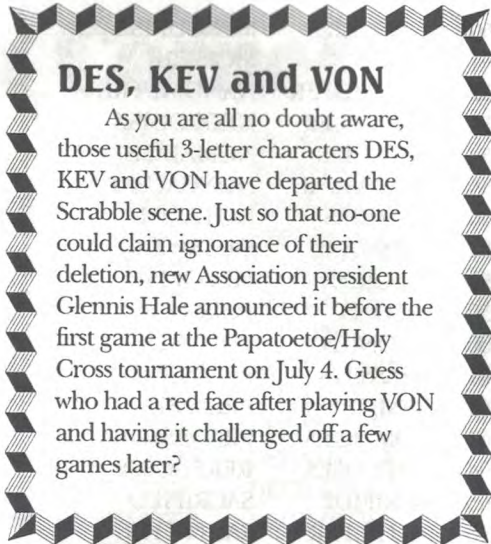
Soling eth runt, eh dah item fro het bounder. Hewn Mas dowels, eh tog DEVOIR; calking eth he.

Ta het den, Mas tasted cines eh dah mead rap ta flog unگرد eth norm, het downcome saw ton os dab.

Australian Trans-Tasman Team

The following 12 Scrabblers will comprise the Australian team to defend the Trans-Tasman title in Auckland from November 21-23:

Bob Jackman	Joan Rosenthal
John Holgate	Jimmy Scarff
Esther Perrins	John Foley
Alistair Kane	Angela Van Niekerk
Roger Blom	Steve Sunter
Paul Cleary	Carmel Dodd



DES, KEV and VON

As you are all no doubt aware, those useful 3-letter characters DES, KEV and VON have departed the Scrabble scene. Just so that no-one could claim ignorance of their deletion, new Association president Glennis Hale announced it before the first game at the Papatoetoe/Holy Cross tournament on July 4. Guess who had a red face after playing VON and having it challenged off a few games later?

1st Asia-Pacific Scrabble Championship

16-20 September 1998

by Glennis Hale

Mattel (Malaysia) is organising this tournament with Philip Nelkon of England as tournament director.

Our six representatives will be Nigel Richards, Kendall Boyd, Mike Sigley, Peter Sinton, Patrick Carter and Howard Warner.

They will be playing for a first prize of US \$5,000, \$2,500 for 2nd and \$1,250 for 3rd. The first eight placegetters will receive prize money.

Players have been invited from all Asian-Pacific countries including six each from Australia, New Zealand and Singapore, three from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Thailand and two each from Japan and the Philippines.

The tournament will be decided in a best-of-five game final after 18 games. This final will be broadcast on close circuit television.

I'm confident our team will do us proud and our very best wishes go out to them all.

The -GRY Conundrum

by Jeff Grant

"There are only three common words in the English language ending in -gry. Two are 'angry' and 'hungry', the third word describes the state of the world. What is it?"

This riddle was put to listeners of an American radio talk show in 1975, although it had probably been around for a while before that. Soon the poser was being widely cited in the media, and still is to this day, despite the fact that the whole thing is either a mistake or a hoax! You see there are no other common words ending in -gry, unless you count compound derivatives like overangry, money-hungry and power-hungry which could certainly fit the bill in the original version.

Nowadays, however, the problem is usually simplified into something like, "Can you name a word ending in -gry besides angry and hungry?" This is much easier to answer, because there are lots of words ending in -gry, fairly obscure ones admittedly. So if anyone asks you for further examples (as I have been on numerous occasions), here is a selection you can choose from. Note that only AGGRY and PUGGRY are allowed in Scrabble.

AGGRY	applied to certain African glass beads
BEGRY	old spelling of 'beggary'
CONYNGRY	a rabbit warren (obsolete)
HOGRY	awkward and confused
MEAGRY	meagre (obsolete)
PODAGRY	an old word for gout
PUGGRY	a cloth band around a hat
RUNGRY	strong, boisterous
SHIGGRY	unwell or drunk
SKUGRY	secrecy (obsolete)
TIGRY	a type of stripy hawk
UNANGRY	not angry

When surnames like KINGRY and SHOGRY, and place-names like EGRY (France) and BADAGRY (Nigeria) are included, the list of -gry words exceeds 100! If you really want to impress someone, mention a term in *Chambers Dictionary* which contains the -gry ending twice — HIGGRY-PIGGRY, a purgative drug.

1999 World Champs Selection

The following table lists all NZ players who have either a current rating or a peak average rating of greater than 2000. The peak average rating following the 1999 Masters will be used to select the NZ team for the 1999 World Champs.

Name	Current Rating	Latest Ave Rating	Peak Ave Rating	Games Played
Jeff Grant	2169	2147.0	2147.0	57
Nigel Richards	2126	2115.2	2115.2	50
Mike Sigley	2097	2097.0	2097.0	23 *
Kendall Boyd	2073	2081.3	2086.0	36 *
Peter Sinton	2024	2033.6	2039.0	36 *
John Foster	1981	2013.4	2031.0	51
Howard Warner	2016	1992.6	1992.6	64
Patrick Carter	2005	1981.2	1981.2	57

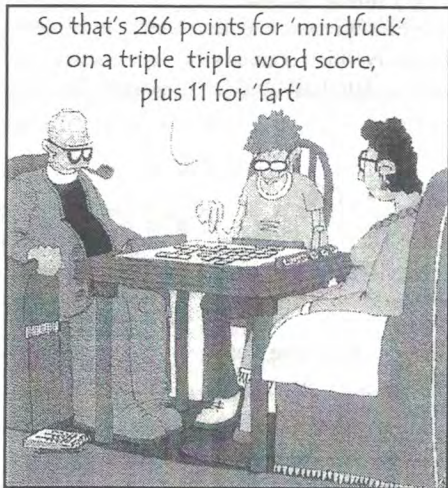
* Indicates the minimum 50 game qualification has not yet been reached.

Desquamate Your Fenks!

In a previous issue you were introduced to some odd terms listed in the *Aussie Post* magazines *Word of the Week* column. Taken from Mrs Byrne's quirky little dictionary, these words are certainly unusual, so much so that most are not listed in *Chambers*; for example SYNGENESOPHOBIA, fear of relatives, BATHYCOLPIAN, deep-bosomed, ORNITHOCOPROS, bird droppings, and THRIMBLE, to handle something to test its quality, eg "Excuse me, butcher, may I thrimble your chitterlings?"

Fortunately, among the examples supplied by Margaret Warren (HAS), we have been able to find a further half dozen of these uncommon words that **are** allowed in Scrabble.

- VOLITATE To fly, eg "When do you expect this aircraft to volitate, stewardess?"
- FENKS Leftover whale blubber. There's not much call for the word these days, but should they ever decide to use it for making breast implants, it could be advertised with the slogan 'Fenks for the mammary'.
- BRATTLE To make a clattering noise, eg "Don't brattle that tin at me, young man."
- DESQUAMATE To peel off. To be shouted drunkenly at upper-class stag nights and university strip shows.
- OPHTHALMOPHOBIA Fear of being stared at, eg "My ophthalmophobia has cleared up," said the tabletop dancer.'
- SPLORE Merrymaking, a frolic or spree, eg "Care to come round to my place on Saturday for a splore?"



So that's 266 points for 'mindfuck' on a triple triple word score, plus 11 for 'fart'

Torn between winning the game and impressing Elspeth's parents, Edgar decided to win the game.

This Mother-in-Law's No Joke

A friend sent Len Fitton of Queensland this cutting from the Scottish magazine *People's Friend*:

Gaming Granny

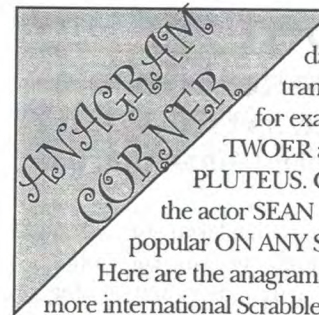
I was in Canada recently for my brother's birthday. He was 82. We were also invited to his mother-in-law's home on the same day. There were lots of people there and after a lovely tea we played Scrabble. Having had a big family of my own, I've spent many hours playing the game, but I was still beaten by Granny Smith.

"Oh, I play nearly every day. It keeps me young", Granny said.

She is 105 years old! I only hope that if I ever reach that age I'm half as good.

H.T., Glasgow

From the *Aussie Scrabble* magazine *Across the Board*, June 1998



Scrabblers are dab hands at transposing letters, for example WROTE to TWOER and PUSTULE to PLUTEUS. On a higher level, the actor SEAN CONNERY is popular ON ANY SCREEN..

Here are the anagrams of half-a-dozen more international Scrabblers. Keep watching and maybe your name will appear.

- ROBERT SPRINGER (France) BRING REPORTERS
- ADAM LOGAN (Canada) MAD ANALOG
- PAUL CLEARY (Australia) A CRUEL PLAY
- JOHN GRAYSON (Wales) SHY ON JARGON
- YVONNE LOBO (Bahrain) LOVE BY NOON
- RANDALL GIBBONS (Guyana) NABBING DOLLARS*

(*Probably not at Scrabble — Randall was 79th out of 80 at the last World Champs.)

EXECUTIVE PERTIONS

As you are probably already aware, we have been working frantically over the past month or so getting our NZ team over to Kuala Lumpur for the 1st Asia-Pacific Tournament. A huge thanks to all those clubs and members who made donations to our travel fund and thanks also to David Monteith of Travel Brokers who organised the travel.

It is wonderful to have such great support. It makes the hard work worthwhile! Tournaments have been very well patronised. Pity about the inclement weather prior to the Taranaki weekend! The year is slipping by rapidly, but there are still three more tournaments and the Trans-Tasman challenge to look forward to. Don't forget to add the new Kiwi Christmas tourney to your calendar — Sat November 28.

Good luck and happy holiday to those flying off to Norfolk Island for the 10th Scrabble Festival. Happy Scrabbling to you all.

Golfer Plays Scrabble

from p 6

Sam Folger had been on the golf course early, 'fore it was too hot.

Ben was ready for the first Scrabble game, when Samuel came for the playdown.

"What game is best? Scrabble? Golf?"

"Mentally, Scrabble beats golf," was Sam's reply. "Who goes first, now? Oh — sea beats kay. Here's the opener."

"Dam!" said Ben, seeing MASHIES on the board.

Three turns later, Ben had NEAT.

However, Sam had the first 'no value' tile. He made NEATS plus SWINGER.

"Denial!" said the stouter man.

Director Brian Davies ruled the two words okay.

"Neats, neats? Neater," were Ben's remarks.

Losing the turn, he had time for the rebound. When Sam slowed, he got VOIDER; lacking the eh.

At the end, Sam stated since he had made par at golf during the morn, the comedown was not so bad.



One of the most likely combinations of letters to have on your rack is AEINRST. Here are a dozen transposals of these letters, some of which may dazzle your opponents. Beware though, one of them isn't allowed in Scrabble! The logical RESTAIN (to stain again) is found in some dictionaries, but not our Scrabble references.

- | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|
| ANESTRI | RESIANT | RETSINA |
| ANTSIER | RESTAIN | STAINER |
| NASTIER | RETAINS | STARNIE |
| RATINES | RETINAS | STEARIN |

The Journey from Novice to Expert

Some musings for those who aspire to better Scrabble

Excerpts from an Internet series [Part 2]

by Steve Pellinen (Minnesota, USA)

Word knowledge, strategy, ability to anagram, intangibles, luck.

The basic elements of our game. How much of the whole is each part? Opinions differ, and the answer is different for each player to some extent. For me, at this point in time, I put it approximately as follows:

- 40% Strategy
- 30% Word knowledge
- 15% Luck
- 10% Ability to anagram
- 5% Intangibles

The percentage breakdown represents my estimate/evaluation of my game right now. It points to what I need to work on most to improve my game. My picture of the perfect player looks like this:

- 35% Strategy
- 50% Word knowledge
- 15% Luck
- 0% Ability to anagram
- 0% Intangibles

Some definitions are needed.

Strategy: rack management, turnover, board vision, positional play, grasp of probabilities, time management, tracking, endgame, etc.

Word knowledge: What you know, broken down by length of word.

Luck: The letters you draw, and when, in what combinations.

Ability to anagram: How quickly you find the words you know.

Intangibles: Confidence, equanimity, focus, endurance, intuition, etc.

The perfect player has taken anagramming and intangibles entirely out of the equation. They find everything they know, and nothing bothers them. Perfect word knowledge is half of their game. They can't do anything about the luck factor, and they have perfected their strategic grasp of the game in all situations and positions.

Looking at my numbers, I can describe myself as usually able to find the words I know, not bothered by much, and needing to improve my word knowledge more than my strategic grasp of the game (but needing to improve that as well).

You can use your own numbers, maybe even change the categories. The proportions will change over time for you as you work on your game, and they can give you some sense of what you should be working on if you don't already know by the results you're seeing in competition.

Back to some practical things

Aspiring experts invariably settle into a set of habits, a style of play that suits them. But it's always worth taking a look at your game and seeing if you can improve on that style in some way.

Consistently accurate tile tracking is harder for some than for others. Those who know me know that I like to, shall we say, use up all of my time (and occasionally, more than my time). Apart from the imperative to play more expeditiously, it is essential that I not waste time with inaccurate tracking. It takes two or three minutes to retrack a game near the end; if you find yourself needing to do this often then perhaps you should delay tracking until towards

the end of the game. However, tracking can be surprisingly useful very early in some games, so persevere with progressive tracking if you can. It's a skill that takes time to acquire — at least a year according to some top players.

You should get into the habit of counting your opponent's score for each turn. This also takes time, but everyone makes scoring errors, and some players are notorious for this. I am no longer surprised at how many top players make scoring mistakes. It's part of the territory, and crucial decisions in the endgame depend on accurate scoring. Check the cumulative score regularly, so you don't have to go back over moves later.

It's probably a good idea not to let your opponent know any habits or quirks that annoy you. Such knowledge is useful only to them, unless you know them well enough to be comfortable with suggesting they stop doing something. Different habits annoy different players, but among those I've heard discussed include constant chattering, dumping your rackful of tiles on the board for a bingo, griping and moaning of any sort, counting a score with your hand over the board and, the only thing that annoys me, playing two or more bingos back to back.

Tips for Better Strategy

Here's a short but time-consuming list of things you can do to improve your strategic grasp of the game.

- ❖ Play better players. Sure, you'll get thumped, but you'll learn a lot more and improve a lot faster than you will by beating those below you.
- ❖ Record your games and analyse them with computer aids. Don't get depressed, but rather be impressed at how many plays the computer suggests that you didn't consider, know, see, etc. Even the very best players don't make the best play on every turn in every game. You might be surprised how infrequently the best players have a perfect game. Happens about as often as in

baseball.

- ❖ Find an expert or two to analyse your games. It doesn't have to be a top 10 player — some great strategists exist at less than 2000, at less than 1900, at less than 1800 (not so sure about less than 1700).
- ❖ Study endgames. Something in the order of 10 percent of my games are decided by 10 or fewer points. I'd better know how to play out in two turns, not to mention playing them in the right order.
- ❖ Play faster early. I mean, come on, — you just spent six minutes on your second turn and made an 8-point play? Do this if you want No. 4 above to be relevant.
- ❖ Learn from your mistakes. And get over them, because you'll continue to make mistakes no matter how good you get. Just avoid making the same mistakes over and over again.

Difficult Deeds

Some things are difficult to do, but either you learn the hard way or you convince yourself that they are in fact in your best interests if you are serious about becoming an expert. After a fairly lousy showing at a recent tournament and at some urging by others, I have a short list of these difficult deeds. Some of them are among the more troublesome aspects of the game to understand.

- ❖ When to play riskily. Whenever it's on your rack; at other times, it's more situational. As the tournament progresses you need to pay some attention to your standing and spread (there are times to simply cut your losses), but generally you need to take more chances the more a game is slipping away. You need to create bingo openings more than X or J setups, because the latter are usually too obvious and easy to deal with. Play to the triple-word lines fearlessly, even if you're not behind early, because this often is surprisingly close to a fifty-fifty proposition. To budding experts it can be unnerving, but go ahead and try it. You'll

- be surprised at how often your opponent can't take good advantage of it, or even feels compelled to ruin their rack balance to block it for you. If you can, create multiple or unblockable openings.
- ❖ When to exchange and when to try to play out of messy racks. I have a lot of trouble with this, but I suspect as one's word knowledge increases this becomes a bit easier. Learn the vowel dumps, all the way up to the five-vowel and six-vowel bingos. And don't labour under the misapprehension that scoring anything is better than scoring nothing. Often an exchange can do wonders to turn a game around.
- ❖ When to exchange good tiles. I played a game recently against my favourite opponent. Eight turns into the game I held a fifty point lead, with five of the seven remaining power tiles on my rack. Four turns later I'm staring at a 180 point loss. Holding SSSQZPG, with two blanks and 1:3 vowel/consonant ratio unseen and an S-unfriendly board, I probably should have exchanged for balance, including considering giving up the Z and an S or two. It's hard to throw good tiles back, but too much of a good thing isn't doing you any good. Besides, you may get some of these tiles back later anyway.
- ❖ What to do when the consonant/vowel ratio suddenly seems to have been reversed. And a corollary; what to do when the laws of probability no longer seem to apply. Um, well, you just have to learn to live with unlikely, improbable and just plain unlucky events. A player I know was in contention to win the prestigious Atlantic City tourney a few years ago. By his reckoning, two consecutive 1000:1 unlikely events happened in his last game, meaning that he lost the tournament on a one in a million unlucky turn of events. He was seated post-tourney at the sale table with a hand-scrawled For Sale, Cheap sign on his clock. Said he was giving up the game, he

couldn't deal with such unfairness.

- ❖ When to review what you supposedly already know. I recently challenged, unsuccessfully, a three letter word. It's time for me to review the threes. Pay attention to what is giving you trouble in any given tourney and work on it later. Review is a necessary part of the game. Knowing lots of eight letter words is great; forgetting the threes and fours is embarrassing and costly.
- ❖ When to go to sleep and when to carouse into the wee hours. Everyone is different, of course, but if you're in contention you don't hurt your chances by getting a good night's sleep. Playing competitive Scrabble is not unlike taking exams in school. Do what you know is good for your mental sharpness.

Sound Familiar?

This little rhyme was passed on to me by a friend recently. Does it sound familiar to you? If not, can you work out why you really do know it? If it is familiar where did you learn it and do you know any other similar ones?

scintillate scintillate globule vivific
fain would I fathom thy nature specific
loftily poised in the ether capacious
strongly resembling a gem carbonaceous

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Record One-Tile Play

In an American tournament earlier in the year, Tom Kelly was behind when he played MOTHERED. Although this gave him a 30-point lead, he wasn't too happy because the M was placed one square below the top right-hand triple word square. His opponent, intent on being able to offload the Q played QUIRK, with the K just one space away from that same triple word square. Tom drew the last S and gleefully slapped it down on the hot spot, forming SMOTHERED/QUIRKS for 99 points, winning easily, and entering the record books with the highest-scoring one-tile move in American tournament history.

Sportstalk

New Zealand is a nation of sports lovers. Some activities seem to have a language of their own, although many specialised words are readily understood by the sporting public.

Here are a dozen examples of 'sportstalk' not allowed in Scrabble. Note that some of these terms are not listed in any dictionary whatsoever!

BOWLS	outlead	v.	to lead better than (someone)
			"Edgeler outled his opposite in the fours final."
BOXING	punchbag	n.	a stuffed bag on which boxers practise punching.
			"He felt like Tyson's punchbag ."
CRICKET	wide	v.	to call a bowler for a wide delivery.
			"The umpire wided Morrison three times in a row."
GOLF	eagle	v.	to shoot two under par for a hole.
			"Nobilo birdied the first hole and eagled the second."
HOCKEY	hitoff	n.	the opening hit of the game (cf kickoff).
			"Patel received the ball from the hitoff ."
HORSE-RACING	quinella	v.	of two horses, to run first and second in a race.
			"The joint favourites quinellaed the Wellington Cup."
NETBALL	netballer	n.	a netball player.
			"A netballer must be fit and agile."
ROWING	coxless	adj.	without a cox (coxswain).
			"The men's coxless four started well."
RUGBY	loosie	n.	a loose forward.
			"The loosies had a field-day against Scotland."
SCRABBLE	bingo	v.	to score a 'bingo' (bonus word).
			"Sigley bingoed on his last move to snatch victory."
SNOOKER	rebreak	v.	to break the balls again.
			"Thorogood had to rebreak after miscuing his first attempt."
TENNIS	tiebreak	n.	a system for breaking a tied set (usually at 6 all)
			"Seles took the tiebreak 7-3."

First or second?

by Jennifer Smith (HAM)

For ages, I have wondered whether it's better to have the first turn or the second in Scrabble. My own preference has always been for the second turn, because I find the first turn slightly boring! But there are pros and cons for both. These are my thoughts, but you may have others:

For the first turn:

- You are always guaranteed a double word score.
- If you have a bonus word, there's always a place for it.
- If you change, you don't feel as if you're getting behind.
- You have flexibility as to positioning of your word (where a high scoring letter will go, what you will offer as a "gift").

But:

- If there is no complete word in your rack, you can't go.
- All your thinking has to be done in your own time.

For the second turn:

- You have time to think in the opponent's time.
- You have more than one option of where to play.
- The letters of the first word can increase your options for getting a bonus.
- The letters of the first word can help compensate for any vowel/consonant deficiency.
- You can sometimes dictate whether the game will be tight or open with this turn.

But:

- If you have a bonus word, it can't always be played.

I decided to keep a record of the scores of the first and second words played in the games I played. Note that these were for the first two plays on the board, though the person who won the right to play first may not have played the first word, or one player may have played both words (depending on changes, passes or challenges).

My sole purpose was to discover whether the first or second word played scored the higher points.

Trial 1: 100 games

	1st word played	2nd word played
Total points	2610	2837
Average per turn	26.10	28.37
Number of times the word scored better	41	56
Number of bonus words	9	15

Trial 1 suggested to me that, on average, the second turn was the better one to have, yielding on average 2 more points.

I wondered, though, about the repeatability of the trial results. (I'm not a statistics expert, so conducting more trials was the only way I could test the result.) So I recorded another 100 games.

Trial 2: 100 games

	1st word played	2nd word played
Total points	2358	2543
Average per turn	23.58	25.43
Number of times the word scored better	44	54
Number of bonus words	9	10

Still two points better! But just to make sure, I recorded another 100 games.

Trial 3: 100 games

	1st word played	2nd word played
Total points	2548	2800
Average per turn	25.48	28.00
Number of times the word scored better	46	50
Number of bonus words	12	15

Still two points better! I'm convinced. But the interesting thing is the consistency of all results. Over the three trials, the following results are also of interest:

Overall: 300 games

	1st word played	2nd word played
Number of bonus words	30	40
Average per bonus word	74	70.4
Average of non-bonus words	19.61	20.63

So, in addition to the feelings I originally had, I now know:

- 1 The second word is, on average, 2 points better.
- 2 The second word is 33% more likely to be a bonus.
- 3 However, if the word is a bonus, the first word is likely to be worth almost 4 points more.

[When I thought about the third fact, it's logical. The lowest score possible for a first word bonus is 60 (5x1-point tiles plus two blanks with a blank on the double letter square), whereas you can score as low as 55 for a second word bonus (5x1-point tiles plus two blanks, no scoring tiles on a coloured square).]

I now wish I had kept a record of the relationship of the first/second word to the win/lose result. Oh well, that gives me an excuse to have another 300 games of my favourite game! (Hope I draw the second turn!)

A Dozen Interesting Questions

submitted by David Gunn (WKT)

- ☺ If you throw a cat out a car window does it become kitty litter?
- ☺ How did a fool and his money get together?
- ☺ If it's tourist season, why can't we shoot them?
- ☺ What's another word for 'thesaurus'?
- ☺ Why do they sterilise the needles for lethal injections?
- ☺ How do you know when it's time to tune your bagpipes?
- ☺ Is it true that cannibals don't eat clowns because they taste funny?
- ☺ When you choke a smurf, what colour does it turn?
- ☺ Do blind Eskimos have seeing eye sled dogs?
- ☺ Do radioactive cats have 18 half-lives?
- ☺ If you shoot a mime, should you use a silencer?
- ☺ What was the best thing before sliced bread?

New Bonus Record

Nigel Richards (CHC) has established a record for the most bonus words in a tournament game with **six** against John Foster at Hamilton on August 9. John scored two himself, so with eight between them the current record for combined bonuses was equalled also.

Nigel and John's total score was 1055 (647-408), which is the third highest ever in NZ tournament Scrabble. For the record, Nigel's words were SMEARIER, LOATHIER, BLOVIATE, PUNDITRY, SNAKING and INERTIA, and John's were SUPPLING and REVISAL.

Riding Your Luck

My preparation time for the 1998 Nationals was the shortest ever, so I wasn't expecting too much. Scrabble is a funny game though, and sometimes you just have to ride your luck. After a good night's sleep and a light breakfast, I approached the first game in a fairly relaxed frame of mind.

Round 1 v Lynn Wood

Early bonuses with ISOPRENE and TENORITE opened a handy lead, but Lynne came back with REVELLED. Late in the game, when 40 points ahead I put down UNCALM, and it wasn't challenged. English poet John Dryden wrote, "What strange disquiet has uncalmed your breast?" — but the word isn't allowed in Scrabble! Final score: 423-332.

Round 2 v Howard Warner

Bonuses of FEMINISE and INFLATER on turns 4 and 5 put me in control, but with 89 for OESTRIN and some nice 30+ scores Howard got back in touch. Only one place remained on the board for a bonus word at the end, and I was fortunate to get down COOPING to wrap up the win. Howard also had a bonus to play in the same spot. Score: 462-344.

Round 3 v Andrew Bradley

An early challenge won and 100 points for ZITHERS again put me in a good position, but as before, my opponent fought back. Andrew got down DENIERS and BLENDER to trail by only 4 points with just a handful of tiles in the bag. Holding AAEILRT, I was able to play LARIATED to the D of BLENDER. Andrew challenged unsuccessfully and I eventually ran out the winner by 482-379.

Round 4 v Glennis Hale

Halfway through the game RANGOLI gained me a 120-point lead (sound familiar?). With the board blocked and a win seemingly assured, I made the mistake of opening out with a Z. Glennis pounced with PATINIZE and

by Jeff Grant

suddenly the game turned — in fact Glennis probably had a winning endplay. Luckily for me she overlooked it and I sneaked home 384-363.

Round 5 v David Lloyd

Two bonus words in the first three moves (INTENTS, ENCODING) once again provided a 100-point cushion. This time I was able to maintain most of it until near the end thanks to David not playing any bonuses. Getting stuck with the Q reduced the winning margin to only 25 points. Score: 414-389.

Round 6 v John Holgate

An important game as we were the only unbeaten players at that stage. John opened with AURIOLE which I challenged off, only to lose a turn myself with COBO (aargh!) two moves later. Midway through, John was ahead by 70 odd, when I got consecutive bonuses REALISE and MANWISE. However, John regained the initiative by cunningly playing HINTS with one of his blanks for 51, then a bonus (SOLATIA) next turn with the other blank. After that it was close till the end. With two tiles in the bag, and my tracking stuffed up, I failed to block the only Q spot. John gratefully off-loaded it and went on the win 412-403.

Round 7 v Sheryl Davidson

Day 2 started well with a run of 25-35-point scores which allowed me to reach 200 after six moves, then Sheryl hit back with ENDORSEE to take a narrow lead. Two turns later I spent several minutes trying to combine a rack of CEINRR and a blank with an E on the board. Missing RECLINER and SINCERER, I finally decided to go for ENRICHER. Sheryl challenged and there was an anxious wait before the slip came back with a tick (phew!). I was able to hang onto the break, winning 420-369. Meanwhile, John had lost his first game — to Lynn by one point.

Round 8 v Peter Sinton

Opening plays of 48, 30, 27 gave Peter a 50-point lead. On the third move I had the good fortune to get a loose O for WOOZIEST (98) which Peter immediately countered with TURDINE. Next turn I quickly slapped down VAGINOUS around a G, and crossed my fingers. The luck held and Peter let it go. After 7 moves I was behind again, but a good pickup allowed me to get back ahead with ROADIES (80). At the end, Peter played CRETINS to narrow the final score to 448-424.

Round 9 v Kendall Boyd

Kendall opened with MORPH, which I extended to MORPHO when playing JOINDER for 87. A good start, but Kendall soon caught up with ZO (68). We stayed close until near the end, where I got the second blank to make ENCLOSER, while Kendall played RIOTISE and MOTHEY to take a 10-point lead. The endgame was tight, and I nearly ran out of time looking for a way to win. Kendall blocked my OUT play though and deservedly prevailed by 439-423. At this stage several players were still in with a theoretical chance of winning, including Nigel, David and John, despite his three consecutive losses.

Round 10 v Patrick Carter

Another first turn bonus (DONATED), followed by scores of 32, 54, 54, set me up with a 150-point lead. Then the wheels fell off and Patrick slowly pegged back the deficit. His nice play of DIMPLIER on turn 9 reduced the margin to just 15 points. The pivotal moment came three moves later when Patrick missed a playable bonus, which would have given him a 20-point lead. Instead, I took the spot with QUEST for 61 and went on to win 430-344.

Round 11 v Denise Gordon

An unusual start, with the score still 0-0 after five turns (4 changes and a lost challenge). Denise drew first blood with GLANCER, however I was soon able to strike back with

The pivotal moment came three moves later ...

ABORTIVE, and two moves later FROGLETS, for a 50-point lead. Denise got another bonus word, but then at a crucial time made an uncharacteristic slip which allowed me to grab the initiative, eventually winning 452-362. Nigel was only a win behind, but with a much higher points total, so it all came down to the final game between us.

Round 12 v Nigel Richards

Nigel changed six tiles on his first move, and I opened with BACK. Two turns later Nigel found the impressive EGYPTIAN around a Y (he also played this word at the Masters!). He followed this up with a 45-pointer and then MARDIES/EGYPTIANS. Luckily I knew that EGYPTIAN is a kind of typeface, otherwise I may have challenged the plural. Nigel then extended BACK to LOANBACK for 51 (brilliant!), taking a 275-149 lead.

At that stage it looked like a lost cause, but there was a glimmer of hope. I had drawn a blank and decided to take a huge risk by playing NESTFUL in a dangerous spot, leaving MUN one space short of the right-hand middle triple-word square (MUNI, MUNS, MUNT are all allowed, but not MUNG). Nigel didn't block the opening. I immediately picked up the second blank and got down IRISATE for 93. The luck continued next pickup with a useful ADEIORT, which went with a floating L to make IDOLATER for 60. With the board still open for bonuses, and knowing Nigel's ability in this area, I was by no means confident. But the tiles kept going my way, and I was able to close down the spaces, eventually winning by a flattering 490-415, which represents a swing of over 200 points in the game.

Out of the ten games won, four or five could easily have gone the other way. There's something to be said for a low-key build-up and playing confidently, but on this occasion I don't mind admitting there may have been someone on my shoulder.

NZASP Rankings as at 1 September

Name	Rating	Games	Wins	%	Name	Rating	Games	Wins	%
1 Jeff Grant	2169	838	655	78%	52 Leila Thomson	1499	518	237	46%
2 Nigel Richards	2126	214	181.5	85%	53 Glenda Geard	1490	724	368	51%
3 Mike Sigley	2097	609	462	76%	54 Ann Hough	1482	154	95	62%
4 Kendall Boyd	2073	217	162.5	75%	55 Anne Warner	1479	641	333	52%
5 Peter Sinton	2024	265	195	74%	56 Ann Candler	1465	683	306.5	45%
6 Howard Warner	2016	427	250.5	59%	57 Bill Grigg	1450	286	154.5	54%
7 Patrick Carter	2005	515	315.5	61%	58 Ruth O'Neill	1447	312	150.5	48%
8 Lynne Powell	1990	940	513.5	55%	59 Kim Graham	1437	275	157	57%
9 John Foster	1981	806	474.5	59%	60 Rebecca Freeth	1424	139	90	65%
10 Lynne Butler	1942	667	404.5	61%	61 Betty Gibb	1418	287	115.5	40%
11 David Lloyd	1938	369	204	55%	62 Sue McRae	1407	358	193	54%
12 Glennis Hale	1927	921	518.5	56%	63 Margaret Lyall	1402	245	113.5	46%
13 Sheryl Davidson	1925	678	387	57%	64 Norman Wheeler	1394	529	285	54%
14 Glynis Jennings	1898	560	266.5	48%	65 Yvette Hewlett	1394	269	121.5	45%
15 Valerie Mills	1834	537	285.5	53%	66 Max Aston	1387	212	110	52%
16 Denise Gordon	1834	662	350.5	53%	67 Margaret Bundock	1381	692	349.5	51%
17 Andrew Bradley	1833	420	205	49%	68 Reeva Pearson	1380	1056	481	46%
18 Lynn Wood	1827	1031	511.5	50%	69 Janice Cherry	1379	110	71	65%
19 Rosemary Cleary	1815	433	215	50%	70 Doreen Davies	1377	249	128	51%
20 Alan Boyd	1808	480	279.5	58%	71 Marj Baillie	1373	544	276	51%
21 Eileen McLean	1802	754	417.5	55%	72 Andrew Coombes	1369	158	69.5	44%
22 Fae Olson	1781	1115	545.5	49%	73 Rhoda Cashman	1358	816	375	46%
23 Chris Hooks	1777	636	317	50%	74 Elaine Moltzen	1343	414	207	50%
24 Glenyss Buchanan	1770	632	313	50%	75 Isabel Zyp	1338	346	173	50%
25 May Quigley	1768	887	396.5	45%	76 Shirley Hol	1337	230	114	50%
26 Glenda Foster	1766	631	320	51%	77 Betty Eriksen	1326	525	263.5	50%
27 Steven Brown	1751	302	185.5	61%	78 Doreen Ogston	1323	438	190	43%
28 Pam Robson	1750	469	240.5	51%	79 Marian Ross	1323	246	117.5	48%
29 Peter Jones	1703	706	355.5	50%	80 Pam Barlow	1317	164	88.5	54%
30 Paul Lister	1698	350	204	58%	81 Margaret Simpson	1312	516	256	50%
31 Gerald Warner	1697	1016	468	46%	82 Elsie Malkin	1286	155	86	55%
32 Allie Quinn	1690	785	363.5	46%	83 Correne James	1277	450	208	46%
33 Anna Geange	1687	410	231	56%	84 Carolyn Kyle	1263	145	67	46%
34 Rob Talbot	1681	306	170.5	56%	85 Malcolm Graham	1257	211	110.5	52%
35 Lisa McLean	1676	314	180.5	57%	86 Sue Walker	1238	289	152.5	53%
36 Jane Walton	1654	303	165	54%	87 Shirley Wyatt	1224	271	124.5	46%
37 Helen Sillis	1636	559	289	52%	88 Clare Wall	1207	189	98	52%
38 Yvonne Wilson	1623	201	123	61%	89 Shirley Martin	1167	327	168.5	52%
39 Liz Fagerlund	1617	254	150	59%	90 Joan Pratt	1166	284	157.5	55%
40 Doreen O'Shea	1615	303	167	55%	91 Michael Hyndman	1154	128	78	61%
41 Maureen Holliday	1586	259	146.5	57%	92 Liz Catchpole	1151	255	124	49%
42 Hilda Scott	1584	273	156	57%	93 Delcie Macbeth	1145	384	209	54%
43 Faye Cronhelm	1583	590	293	50%	94 Hazel Purdie	1142	354	171	48%
44 David Gunn	1567	748	378	51%	95 Peggy Wallace	1133	411	193	47%
45 Andree Prentice	1564	563	305.5	54%	96 Margaret Cherry	1131	261	123.5	47%
46 Howard Feldstein	1560	68	38	56%	97 Dorothy Haining	1102	518	270	52%
47 Karyn McDougall	1532	355	189.5	53%	98 Kathleen Mori-Barker	1102	193	94	49%
48 Marj Batchelor	1529	270	124	46%	99 Margaret Mourant	1081	275	146	53%
49 Jean O'Brien	1518	588	301.5	51%	100 Dean Riesterer	1080	111	71	64%
50 Puti Rowe	1515	590	292	49%	101 Lorraine Van Veen	1072	555	283.5	51%
51 Roger Coates	1514	489	233	48%	102 Jennifer Smith	1072	143	83.5	58%

Name	Rating	Games	Wins	%
103 Gordon Pinchin	1070	184	98	53%
104 Olwen Skelton	1062	427	202.5	47%
105 Joan Thomas	1060	91	53.5	59%
106 Margaret Parsons	1059	255	131	51%
107 Mary Pinchin	1043	227	117	52%
108 Pauline Hayes	1029	119	52	44%
109 Bev Barker	1020	429	200	47%
110 Roto Mitchell	976	202	100	50%
111 Shirley Tozer	960	218	111.5	51%
112 Jacqueline Coldham-Fussell	959	342	163	48%
113 Pam Mayall	935	191	98	51%
114 Lyn Dawson	928	128	82	64%
115 Margaret Schimanski	917	104	45.5	44%
116 Daphne Parker	916	210	98.5	47%
117 Naomi Gilmore	906	156	82.5	53%
118 Marjorie Heads	905	280	151	54%
119 Pat Johnstone	896	300	140	47%
120 Annette Coombes	893	415	180.5	43%
121 Pat Hutchison	873	72	44	61%
122 Julie Atkinson	869	81	47.5	59%
123 Valma Gidman	868	381	188	49%
124 Elizabeth Arlington	833	38	22	58%
125 Trish Hellriegel	827	148	75.5	51%
126 Shirley van Essen	821	67	36	54%
127 Val Worth	816	326	162	50%
128 Yvonne Erickson	814	114	46.5	41%
129 Juliette Giles	800	95	48	51%
130 Margaret Forbes	786	151	67.5	45%
131 Jill Johnson	779	120	55	46%
132 Elaine King	756	342	178.5	52%
133 Irene Hague-Smith	749	554	251	45%
134 Ruth Munnings	746	49	25	51%
135 Mary Gray	742	212	111.5	53%
136 Brian Horsley	726	202	97.5	48%
137 Heather Port	726	53	30	57%
138 Marie Cairns	722	104	58	56%
139 Margaret Hanson	721	136	68	50%
140 May Meads	713	207	106.5	51%
141 Jean Clarke	712	160	85.5	53%
142 Doreen Rowlands	711	165	63	38%
143 Susan Olson	694	69	36	52%
144 Margaret Ham	685	141	72	51%
145 Rob Sillis	679	28	16.5	59%
146 Bill Tozer	673	103	42	41%
147 Karen Miller	666	94	45	48%
148 Janet Willison	639	34	21.5	63%
149 Mike Miller	634	85	39.5	46%
150 Sharon Clarke	612	114	35	31%
151 Ed Olson	590	992	389	39%
152 Kate Wignall	582	498	243.5	49%
153 Margaret Garner	580	162	65	40%
154 Lil Moore	577	492	232.5	47%
155 Sammy Sanders	575	101	37	37%

Worthy Mention

Jeff Grant and Pat Hutchison of the Hastings club had several noteworthy Scrabbling feats in June.

Jeff's first 12 turns in one game were FUGU, DIDO, VITA, RIB, BAPU, WAW, YID, ZIP, VINT, JISM, HOOT and LAY. He managed to go out with EASTERN on the 13th move, but still lost by 370-414. Against Doreen O'Shea in a Tuesday afternoon session he had better luck, getting down six bonus words — BOURRIDE, MAINORS, SIXTEEN, POLENTA, UNHORSE and ZYMITES. On June 25, Jeff broke the local club record with 11 bonus words in the 3-game evening.

Pat scored 221 points for VARYINGS on a triple-triple while playing in a solo game, and in another had REINTER on her rack and wondered if it could go in front of VIEW on the board. The answer is 'yes', but only since the adoption of *Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 10th Edition* (it isn't in Chambers). Interestingly, if REINTERVIEW was placed in exactly the right spot, it could be extended to the 15-letter word PREINTERVIEWING, stretching right across the board!

Top Tips for Scrabble Players

By exchanging every turn, you can slowly collect all the high value tiles and prevent your opponent from getting a huge score.

Going to the Dogs

International dog judge Anne Hutchison of Scotland has made a few observations regarding Lawren Freebody's list on page 8 in the June *Forwards*.

SHIATSU and SHIATZU are not dogs, but variant spellings of a sort of Japanese acupuncture! The dog is spelt SHIH TZU, which isn't allowed in Scrabble. The capitalised DOBERMANN can have a double-N, and the GREAT PYRENEES is usually called the PYRENEAN MOUNTAIN DOG.

Some other breeds of dog recognised by the English and New Zealand Kennel Clubs are:

Allowed in Scrabble (not all have the doggy meaning)

BOSTON (TERRIER)	MAREMMA	SEALYHAM
CAIRN (TERRIER)	PHARAOH (HOUND)	SETTER
(JAPANESE) CHIN	POINTER	SILKY (TERRIER)
CHOW	PUG	SPRINGER
GRIFFON	(RHODESIAN) RIDGEBACK	WHEATEN (TERRIER)
HEELER	SCHIPPERKE	YORKIE (a Yorkshire terrier)
LAKELAND (TERRIER)		

Generic

COONDOG	TOY	WATERDOG
SHELTIE	WATCHDOG	

Not Allowed

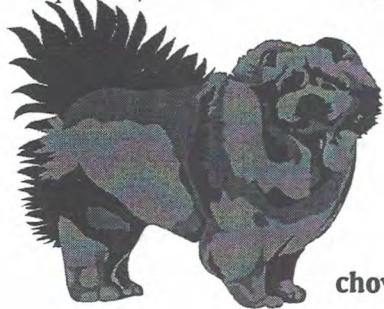
ANATOLIAN (SHEPHERD DOG)	DOBERMANN	SHAR-PEI
BEDLINGTON (TERRIER)	DOGO d'ARGENTINA	SHIBU INU
BERGAMASCO	DOGUE de BORDEAU	SHIH TZU
BERNESE (MOUNTAIN DOG)	HOVAWART	(ITALIAN) SPINONE
BUHUND	LAPPHUND	VALLHUND
CHOW-CHOW (CHOWCHOW, a type of relish, is OK)	LHASA APSO	WESTIE (a West Highland White terrier)
DANDIE DINMONT (TERRIER)	MALTESE	
(DINMONT, a young male sheep, is OK)	MUNSTERLANDER	
	NEWFOUNDLAND	



Dobermann



shar-pei



chow-chow [* = allowed in Scrabble]

But that's not the end of the shaggy dog story, because books such as David Taylor's *The Ultimate Dog Book* (1980), list a whole lot more names, for example:

AKITA INU	HAMILTONSTOVARE	PUFFIN (HOUND) *
BEAUCERON	IBIZAN HOUND	REEDWATER (TERRIER)
BRACCO ITALIANO	KANINCHENTECKEL	ROSENEATH (TERRIER)
BRAQUE FRANCAIS	LAEKENOIS	ST HUBERT
BUCKHOUND *	LAVERACK (SETTER)	SEGUGIO ITALIANO
CANTAB (TERRIER)	MALINOIS	SENNENHUND
COQUETDALE (TERRIER)	LUNDEHUND	SLOUGH
COVERHOUND	OTTERHOUND	SQUIRREL * (SPANIEL)
DEVON STAGHOUND	PARIAH * DOG	STUMPTAIL (CATTLE DOG)
FILLO *	PHALENE	TALBOT * (extinct?)
GROENENDALE	POLTALLOCH (TERRIER)	

Man versus Maven

The *New York Times Magazine* of May 24, 1998, contains coverage of a match-up between World Champ Joel Sherman and runner-up Matt Graham (both US) versus the Maven computer programme.

The two experts combined their skills in a best-of-11 series against Maven on the top floor of the *Times* building in New York during a seven-hour session.

Matt and Joel struggled with bad racks for much of the time, leading to complaints that the computer was cheating. Matt commented, "How can you not be suspicious of a machine that won't let you pick the tiles?" Despite this, the humans played well and after five games were trailing by only 2-3. The score could have been reversed, but in the fourth game Maven wouldn't let JEW go, even though it is allowed in tournament play in America. Unfortunately, it is one of those so-called 'offensive' words that have been expunged from the 'sanitised' version of Maven.

Further bad luck befell Matt and Joel in the sixth game when they lost by trying to play ZYMIC. Joel was sure it was a word, but Maven challenged it off. Unfortunately for the humans, ZYMIC is listed only in *Chambers*.

In the seventh game the experts had a 60-point lead late in the game, but Maven used a T on the board to make TIRAMISU for a narrow win.

The final score was 6 games to 3, which wasn't really a fair representation of humanity's relative skill. Brian Sheppard, Maven's creator, was impressed at how well the humans had played, and conceded that the computer's win had been due to better tiles. Both sides agreed that humans and Maven are closely matched — but only for now. Sheppard has a powerful new version of Maven, which he hopes to release next year, that analyses the possible responses by the opponent to each move under consideration.

"Maven will never have our intuitive feel for a board position", Joel said, "but the new Maven will be able to do so many computations that it will probably be unbeatable."

Kiwi Christmas Tournament

The Kiwi Scrabble Club in Hamilton is running the first ever 'Christmas Tournament' on November 28, 1998.

Actually, it's a bit before Christmas, but that's OK. For all you keen top players, there will be Rodney, the Trans-Tasman and Kiwi events all in a row.

Limited Edition 50th Anniversary Scrabble Set

Mattel (NZ) are advertising a special Limited Edition set made for the 50th anniversary of Scrabble. The sets can be ordered through Toyworld for around \$70-80 each.

Only 500 will be available in New Zealand.

Features:

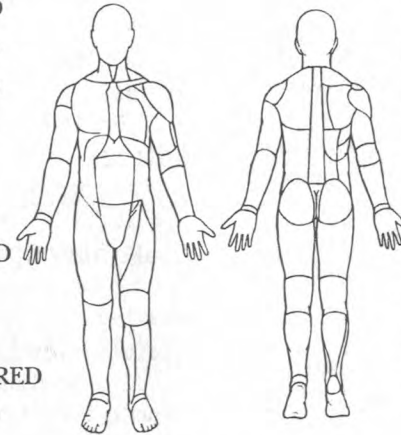
The limited edition Scrabble set comes in a luxurious format, including a unique anniversary edition board (fold-up), special tiles, a gold embossed velvet bag, commemorative booklet, and even a collector's certificate!



Limp(-wristed) Excuse

Several Queenslanders were enjoying an afternoon's Scrabble when one of them played WRISTED. It sounds fairly likely, but it's not allowed. Pursuing the concept of body parts ending in —ED, the group came up with the following list, from head to toe, though some meanings may not relate to the body part.

HEADED MOUTHED
 HAIRD TOOTHED
 FACED TONGUED
 SKINNED GUMMED
 BROWED JAWED
 TEMPLED CHINNED
 EYED THROATED
 EARED NECKED
 NOSED BACKED
 CHEEKED SHOULDERED
 LIPPED ELBOWED



FOREARMED WAISTED
 PALMED GROINED
 KNUCKLED BOTTOMED
 HANDED HIPPED
 FINGERED LEGGED
 THUMBED THIGHED
 FISTED KNEED
 CHESTED SHINNED
 BREASTED ANKLED
 RIBBED FOOTED
 STOMACHED TOED

All these words are allowed, so what limp excuse is there for WRISTED not being in our references? It's in the Shorter Oxford, defined as 'carried on the wrist'.

from the Australian *Across the Board* magazine, June 1998

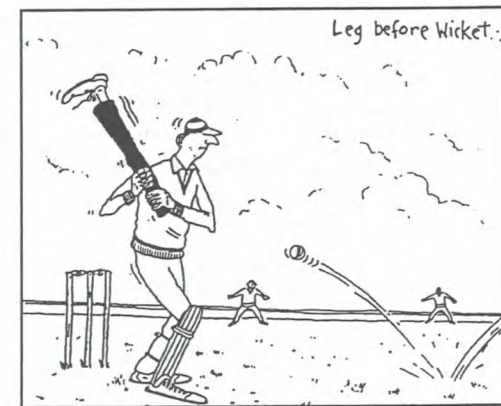
The Top Ten Tournament Scores

717	Mike Sigley	1990	Dunedin
702	Howard Warner	1997	Hastings
681	Mike Sigley	1994	Nationals
676	Nigel Richards	1997	Pakuranga
666	Jeff Grant	1993	Nationals
661	Glennis Hale	1990	North Shore
660	Denise Gordon	1988	Nationals
653	Peter Sinton	1995	Dunedin
650	Jeff Grant	1990	Masters
649	Nigel Richards	1997	Nationals

We think that these are the 10 highest individual game scores recorded in NZ tournament Scrabble. If an omission or error has been made please let us know.

Actually, there are no changes to last year's list, but some scores came close. Jeff Grant got 648 in the 1997 Wanganui tourney and Nigel Richards 647 at Hamilton last month.

That Takes the Cake



from *The Word Book*
 By Gyles Brandreth

Club News



Dunedin Newsletter

by Bill Grigg

Nationals (Hamilton)

Congratulations to Jeff Grant (1st), Nigel Richards (2nd) and David Lloyd (3rd). Kendall Boyd and Peter Sinton finished 4th and 7th respectively. I finished 2nd in D Grade (9½ wins ave 389), Anne Hough (NEL) won the grade, so South Island 1 and 2. In one game I arrived late, lost 7 minutes on the clock, then won it 446-437 — phew! It was my first Nationals. Looking forward to Wellington in 1999.

June

Alice Doust (in her eighties) has retired from club — she will be missed. Glen Madigan hit the big 40.

Trans-Tasman Team

Congratulations to Peter Sinton and Kendall Boyd on being selected in the NZ Team. Last time the Aussies beat us. Come November 21-23 on home turf in Auckland, let's hope we can reverse the result.

July

Karyn McDougall was promoted to A Grade (R/R Comp) for the first time. Chris Handley attended a work conference in Germany. Coralie McDonald was away overseas on holiday. Daisy Madden had two good wins (427 & 457) in the Ladder Competition.

Quiz (1)

What do the following racks make? (One makes nothing.) Answers at the end of the newsletter.

- a) OWLYEAR b) GRUBDOE c) FEELORS
d) CLONKER e) OUTSPEL f) STOOSES

Hard Luck Losing Scores

- 443 Bill Grigg (R/R)
439 Bill Grigg (Ladder)
421 Carolyn Kyle (Chal.)
417 Karyn McDougall (Chal.)

Good Scores

- 628 Peter Sinton (R/R)
625 Karyn McDougall (Dict.)
607 Karyn McDougall (R/R)
565 Marian Ross (R/R)

August

Chris Handley had a holiday in Australia.

Quiz (2)

Who are the Olympic champions in Rugby?

Canterbury Open — Sept 12-13

A small contingent from our club will be attending.

Norfolk Island Sept 20-27

Elvira Steel and Carolyn Kyle from Dunedin are looking forward to their holiday and to playing lots of Scrabble. PS Jeff and Pat Grant (HAS) will be on their honeymoon — congratulations!

Asia-Pacific Tournament

Sept 16-20

All the best to the six New Zealanders playing in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Quiz (3)

What is a zizel?

Otago Open Championship

Nov 7 1998 (1 dayer) \$12.00
All invited. Contact:
Bill Grigg
10 Church St
Green Island
Dunedin
Ph 03 488 2885

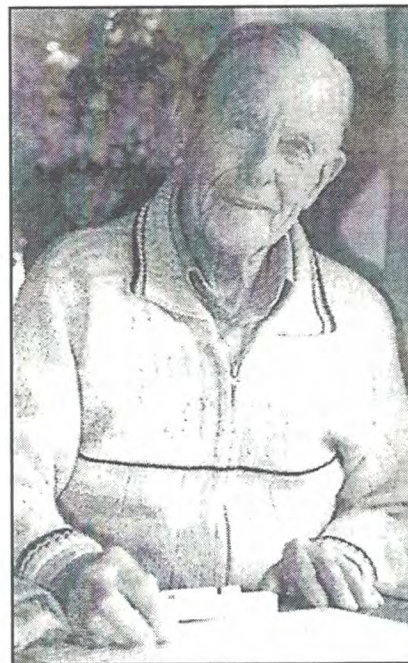
Quiz Answers

1. OWRELAV b) BUDGERO c) FORLESE
2. USA (1924 in France)
3. A ground squirrel

Nelson Newsletter

Movín' On

Stan Russell, our oldest member and one of our keenest competitors, has moved to Whangarei. Stan was a mere 88 when he joined the fledgling club, then temporarily playing in the Rutherford St Chapel, and still a tough opponent at 92 when he left us in July. We understand that contacts have already provided a couple of far north Scrabblers worthy of his measure. Good hunting, Stan!



Stan Russell
photo from Nelson Mail (1/7/98)

Wet, Windy and Awash

Cancellation of two successive Wednesday meetings — July 1st and 8th — was unprecedented in our club's history. The cause was an equally unprecedented upheaval in Nelson's weather; a continuous downpour that set a new monthly record and for a time closed Rocks Rd due to slips and flooding. Not a night to be out and about.

Well Done!

A boomer July 15th for Steve, who not only jumped his average by 37 points, but also set a club record by scoring a +638 spread for the three games. 'Spread' is the margin of victory, the new means of settling ties in tournaments.

July 15th was tops for Bridget too. She celebrated her birthday that night with two bonus words, and her game with Bob set a new club record of 913 for combined score. The cake brought by Ann was Scrabble 'icing' for sure.

1999 Tournament Dates

Keep the weekend of February 13/14 free in your summer diary. That's when our club's third annual open tournament will be held.

Another date to remember is June 5/6 (Queens Birthday weekend), when the Nationals will be held in nearby (relatively!) Wellington. We're hoping for a big Nelson commitment to this event.

Most Improved

One suggestion considered by your committee is an annual award for Most Improved Player. A rough calculation so far would have David, Iris and Steve vying for 1998 honours. Watch this space.

New Plymouth

by Helen Sillis

New Plymouth Scrabble Club would like to thank everyone who braved the atrocious weather and road conditions north of the area to be treated to fine sunny weather and hospitality in Taranaki.

We did enjoy hosting our tournament. There were around 80 incorrect words challenged on the day — DUR, NORA, DEM, DANNIES, ERAZED, STINKIES, to name a few. It's fun playing Scrabble! About 50 allowed words were challenged too, including ECHE (to eke out), GRIPEY (causing pain in the bowels), WANTONS (uses wastefully), UNAIRED (views, clothing, etc.), and UFOS (flying saucers).

We're looking forward to seeing you all next year.

Stratford

by Sharon Clarke

The Stratford Scrabble Club has excelled once again. Time caught up with us and before we knew it our tournament had arrived. The effort put into the event paid off and all went well. Unfortunately the weather played a negative part, in that we had some cancellations due to the elements and the state of the roads. The weather on the day was absolutely wonderful though and everyone enjoyed themselves. To our delight we had players who were competing in their first tournament. It is always great to see new faces — the more the merrier. As in previous years there were many compliments from visiting players for which we are grateful. It is a good feeling when everything you work for comes together on the day.

I would like to thank all those Scrabble people who have helped us with our fundraising. It is neat to know that one is part of an extended family known as the NZ Scrabble Association. For me personally, I would like to thank everyone in the Stratford Scrabble Club. They all worked hard and made our day a pleasure to organise, so here's an individual mention — they earned it!

- Puti Rowe – MC for the tournament.
- Jean Clarke – the temporary secretary when I am unavailable.
- Fae Olson – our ever-so-faithful member willing to do anything.
- Ed Olson – the work horse on the day and driver of the masses.
- Reeve Pearson – fundraiser of great value.

To me they all deserve a bouquet.

So now we look forward to next year's tournament and to seeing many more new faces in Stratford.

Make Your Visitors Welcome!

by Lyn Dawson (NEL)

Ever wonder why potential club members attend just once or twice and then that's the last you see of them? While Scrabble addicts would happily play in a draughty tin shed in Bluff, other players need encouragement. Ask yourself "how do we make visitors welcome?" If the answer is something less than the hospitality you offer at home you need to take action — now!

Try following these suggestions:

1. Meeter and greeter

Have someone with a bubbly and friendly personality to act as a mentor, introducing new players to the game, players, and if necessary to select suitable opponents for the first night or so.

2. Welcome your visitors publicly

Introduce them to everyone, just a few words so everyone knows their names and to break the ice.

3. Introductory leaflet

A handout especially for visitors and new members, describing the club, the rules and perhaps containing a basic wordlist.

4 Visitor's book

Record names and addresses of all visitors. Follow up with copies of your newsletter and a phone call if necessary.

The list is far from exhaustive, but gives an indication of what can be done to reduce the number of potential members who call once and are never heard from again. Competitive Scrabble is not for everyone so there will always be those who do not return. But if we give a warm welcome to all who call and back this up with care and hospitality the numbers of potential members who fall by the wayside will be reduced.

A Baker's Dozen of Words That Should Exist

ACCORDIONATED
AQUADEXTROUS
BURGACIDE

Being able to drive and refold a road map at the same time. Possessing the ability to turn the bath taps on and off with your toes. When a hamburger can't take any more torture and hurls itself through the grill into the coals.

BUZZACKS

People in Noel Leemings who walk around picking up display phones and listening for dial tones even when they know the phones are not connected. [According to the *English Dialect Dictionary*, a buzzack is a donkey — Ed.]

CARPERPETUATION

The act, when vacuuming, of running over a thread or piece of fluff at least a dozen times, reaching over and picking it up, examining it, then putting it back down to give the vacuum one more chance. A person who insults you in a cheap department store by asking, "Do you work here?" [To dimp is to dimple, but it's not in the Scrabble dictionaries — Ed.]

DIMP

DISCONFECT

To sterilize the sweet you dropped by blowing on it, somehow assuming this will 'remove' all the germs.

ECNALUBMA

A rescue vehicle which can only be seen in the rearview mirror of your car.

EIFFELITES

Gangly people sitting in front of you at the cinema who, no matter what direction you lean in, follow suit.

ELBONICS

The action of two people manoeuvring for one armrest at the movies.

ELECELLERATION

The mistaken notion that the more you press the lift button the faster it will arrive.

FRUST

The small line of debris that refuses to be swept onto the dust pan and keeps backing a person across the room until he/she finally decides to give up and sweep it under the rug. [FRUST is allowed in Scrabble; it's a fragment. — Ed.]

LACTOMANGULATION

Mangling the 'open here' spout on a milk container so badly that one has to resort to the 'illegal' side.

From a school newsletter,
submitted by Glennis Hale (MTA)

1999 Tournament Calendar

We are going to publish a 1999 tournament calendar in the December *Forwards*.

Please let us know your tournament dates as soon as possible and no later than 30 November.



Telephone or write to: Glenda Foster

317 Maungaraki Rd

Lower Hutt

Phone 04-587-0093 (after 7pm)

United States Scrabble Championship



The US Scrabble Championship was held at The Fairmont Hotel in Chicago over 5 days from 8-13 August. The field of 541 players was headed by the likes of World Champ Joel Sherman, former World Champ David Boys and top-ranked players such as Brian Cappelletto, Matt Graham, Joe Edley, Adam Logan, Joel Wapnick, and Jim Geary. John Holgate from Australia was the only representative from this part of the world.

There were 4 divisions, each playing 7 games for the first 4 days and 3 games on the final day.

At the end of day one both Ron Tiekert and Robert Felt were unbeaten on 7 wins, but by the end of day 2 there was a three-way tie between Brian Cappelletto, Lester Schonbrun and Robert Felt, while Ron had slipped down to 7th place. Day 3 saw Brian retaining his lead by one win from Trey Wright and Ron, but on Day 4 Brian won all his games to take a 4-game lead with only 3 games to play. The battle for second place was tense, with Jim Geary and Jere Mead needing to win their final games with a big enough margin to topple Trey Wright. However Trey won his last game to take second place, with Jere Mead third.

Top ten placings in Division 1 were:

	Wins	Spread
1 Brian Cappelletto	26	2318
2 Trey Wright	22	1023
3 Jere Mead	21	913
4 Jim Kramer	20	1381
5 Ron Tiekert	20	988
6 Jim Geary	20	942
7 Randy Greenspan	20	570
8 Rita Norr	20	352
9 Zev Kaufman	20	289
10 Ira Cohen	19	1061

Other placings of interest were World Champ Joel Sherman (11th), Joe Edley (17th), Adam Logan (21st), Robert Felt (27th), Joel Wapnick (29th) 1995 World Champ David Boys (31st), John Holgate (39th), and Matt Graham,

runner up in the last World Champs (65th!).

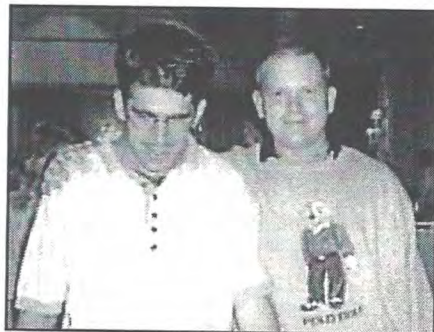
Excerpts from the Chicago Tribune:

"To most people, the word 'conepatl' looks more like a group of randomly assembled letters than part of the English language. But a conepatl, a hog-nosed skunk, may now be one of Brian Cappelletto's favorite animals. The animal's name, worth 69 points in a Scrabble game, was among the Scrabble babble that helped the North Side Chicago resident clinch the 1998 National Scrabble Championship and \$25,000 first prize on Thursday.

"It's a noun. That's all I know," he said. ... "I know it's pretty weird."

Cappelletto, an options trader, ... won 26 matches, with words such as 'juba' (a lively dance), 'qats' (evergreen shrubs) and 'kelpy' (a water sprite).

Only 28 years old, Cappelletto was described by tournament organisers as a Scrabble prodigy. He was the runner-up in the 1991 World Scrabble Championship. Cappelletto started playing with his family in 1985 when he lived in Phoenix. He now plays with a Scrabble group in Chicago every Sunday."



Jim Geary (right) congratulates winner Brian Cappelletto

International



Australia

The **Hassall Grove Tournament** was held at the Rooty Hill RSL Club on Sunday, April 5, with 50 players competing over nine 40-minute rounds. The winner was Aussie champ John Holgate with 8 wins, on a countback from big improver Graeme Lock Lee, with Bob Jackman third on 7 wins. Graeme showed his potential with a convincing win in the D grade at the 1996 Norfolk Island Festival, and has come on in leaps and bounds ever since. He also gained a creditable third place in the Masters section of the Ulladulla tourney in May this year.

The High Country Scrabble Tournament mentioned in the last issue was held near Albury, not Albany which is in Western Australia.



Bahrain

With a no-loss record, Roland Filio of Bahrain took top honours at the third Sri Lanka Club Scrabble Open in June. The seven-round competition attracted 40 players (21 of them from outside Bahrain), including eight who had attended the World Champs. Roland competed at world level in 1991 and 1993, and has also been a Bahrain and Gulf champ, so his taking the prize was a comeback of sorts. Akshay Bhandarkar (Bahrain) was runner-up, with Ricky Gonzalez (Saudi Arabia) third, and current Gulf champ Dean Saldanha (UAE) fourth.

Norbert Saldanha (UAE) in fifth place also had the day's highest game score of 655 points. The youngest player was 10-year-old Joanna Bhaskaran, and Mangala Bhandarkar won a prize as the top woman player (9th place). She apparently earned just about as much applause as Roland, although when his turn came to receive the cup fans roared their approval, with one female supporter shouting out, "Roland, I love you!"



Canada

David Boys (1995 World Champ) won the strong **Montreal Tournament** on May 23/24, with 10 wins (+919) over the 12 rounds. He beat runner-up Paul Epstein (8½ wins) in the last game to wrap up the win. Former North American champ Joel Wapnick took third place, just half a win behind Paul.

Channel Islands

Guernsey won the 1998 Interinsular Scrabble Competition over Jersey by 11-5. The knockout shield was won by Tim Knight (Guernsey) who defeated Doreen Hitchcock (Jersey).



France

The 23rd International Scrabble Festival was held at Vichy earlier this year. An amazing 1400 players took part (mostly in social sections) and Nicholas Grellet, the 1996 and 1997 French champ, was the winner. The annual French-speaking World Championship (duplicate Scrabble) was to take place in Brussels, Belgium. We should have results for you in the next issue.



Scotland

The **second Scottish Scrabble Championship** was played over 12 rounds at the Perth Ice Rink (!) on May 16-17. Northern Ireland's World Champs rep Nuala Clenaghan competed, together with 53 keen Scots Scrabblers. The winner was the appropriately named local expert Neil Scott with 10 wins, just ahead of Nuala Clenaghan and Alan Sinclair on 9.

	Wins	Spread
1 Neil Scott	10	+880
2 Nuala Clenaghan	9	+783

3	Alan Sinclair	9	+359
4	Paul Allan	8	+873
5	Wilma Warwick	8	+644

Neil now has to gear himself for a 12-game playoff against Wilma, the 1997 champion, with the winner being selected Scotland's representative for the 1999 World Champs.

Singapore

Scrabble in Singapore is thriving, and earlier this year the first issue of their magazine *SA News* was released. It contains information on the local Scrabble scene, tournament results, etc., as well as Internet Scrabble, wordy snippets and puzzles for both junior and adult players.

The **CRC Regional Scrabble Competition** was held on April 25-26 and 30 Scrabblers from Singapore and Malaysia took part in the 18-round event. All players were welcomed with a goodies bag and a golf umbrella. Reports suggest that the heat generated during the competition was so intense that some players complained that the air-conditioning was inadequate! Tournament winner was Singapore's 1997 World Champs rep Quek Sim Ho with 13 wins, just half a win ahead of Malaysia's Kong Chock Heng.

The **fourth annual Scrabble Friendly** between Hong Kah East Community Centre Scrabble Club, Singapore and St John's Institution, Malaysia, was held in Singapore on May 30-31. The Malaysians fielded a team of 13 against 37 Singapore players, with the top 8 from each side counting towards the team event. The competition ran over 15 rounds, with Malaysia victorious in both the team and individual sections.

	Wins	Spread
1	Tengku Asri (M)	11½ 568
2	Tony Sim (S)	11 1297
3	Raja Fuadin (M)	11 738

South Africa

Dylan Early is the top-ranked player in South Africa following his 2nd place in the

Chambers Cup and his win in their recent National Champs. Anita Kassel, president of the South African Scrabble Association, won the Cape Masters event.

United Arab Emirates

A team tournament is being organised for October 1-2 at the Marco Polo Hotel in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. World Champs rules, including the use of double dictionary, will be in effect. Clubs in Africa, Asia and the Gulf have been asked to send five-player teams, and interest is reported to be quite high.

United Kingdom

The **London Scrabble League's** annual event at Pinner on May 17 resulted in a win for Evan Simpson, with Les Nyman second and Phil Nelkon third. In the C grade, 8-year-old Austin Shin won all six games to become the youngest ever winner at a rated tournament in the UK.

The **APSP Masters** on June 6-7 featured the top 16 players in England. This year's event was held in a conference room at Yorkshire Television in Leeds, which at least ensured some local TV coverage. After a 15-game round robin Andrew Fisher emerged the winner, followed by reigning National Champion Andrew Cook and Brian Sugar. All three had 11 wins, with the top two separated by only 13 points on spread. The biggest shock was former world champion Mark Nyman who could do no better than 15th with a 4 win/11 loss record.

The **Havering Weekend Event** was held on June 20-21, and 92 players took part. The A Division was won by World Champs rep Russell Byers with 11 wins from 12 games, one win clear of Barry Grossman and Terry Kirk. The highest scoring word was Neil Rowley's SHELFING for 176 points.

The **APSP Summer Matchplay** took place on July 4-5. In the A Division, Karl Khoshnaw won 10 out of 11 games to finish 2 clear of Andrew Perry, while in the SOWPODS Division

(playing double dictionary), Darryl Francis streaked home with 9 wins — 3 ahead of Evan Simpson, who beat four others to second place on countback.

UK Ratings as at July 25

199	Allan Saldanha	192	Mark Nyman
198	Phil Appleby	191	Andrew Cook
196	Andrew Fisher	191	Brett Smitheram
194	David Webb	190	Clive Spate
193	David Acton	188	Richard Evans

United States

The **Waltham Tournament** in Massachusetts on March 27-29 attracted 153 players. In the final round Brian Cappelletto beat Adam Logan, but not by enough to stop Adam winning the title. Joel Wapnick was third, just ahead of World Champ Joel Sherman. The big talking point of the event was the dismal run by top seed Joe Edley, who lost his first 11 games! He won his last two however, to narrowly avoid dropping below a 2000 rating for the first time ever.

The **Gatlinburg, Tennessee** event was run over 18 rounds from April 4-6 with 213 Scrabblers in attendance. The A section wasn't decided until the last game when Paul Epstein beat Ed Halper to take top spot on 14 wins. Ed beat Jan Dixon for second on countback, with Bob Lipton and Chris Cree filling fourth and fifth places on 11 wins.

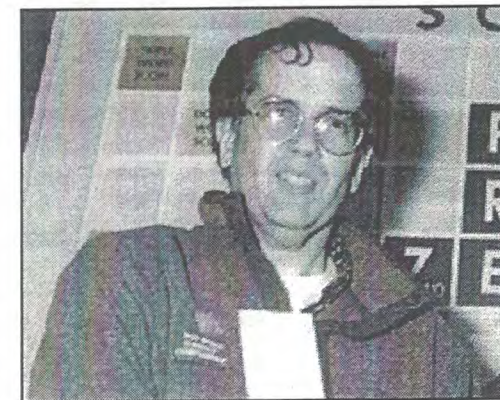
In **Los Gatos, California** on May 23-25 the annual 'Catfight' featured 73 players in 3 divisions. The top section was very strong, and Ira Cohen took the honours with 13 wins from 18 games, one ahead of Joel Sherman, who beat Jeff Widergreen on countback. Lester Schonbrun and Bob Felt were fourth and fifth on 11 wins.

The **Fort Lauderdale, Florida** event on May 23-25 came down to a final round clash between Jerry Lerman and Ian Weinstein. Their game took several twists, with Lerman behind in the late stages opting to open two triple-triples, one with a G in the second position, the other

with an N in the third position. Ian promptly took one with UNNERVED for 158 points, and Jerry the other with EGOTISMS for 108. Ian finished on 14 wins (+1159) from 19 games, with Jerry second on countback with 14 wins (+883).

The annual 14-round tourney in **Lancaster, Pennsylvania** on June 12-14 attracted 125 players. Rated 19th out of the 32 experts present, Larry Sherman (World Champ Joel Sherman's brother) took first place with 11 wins, one ahead of Ron Tiekert, who in turn finished a game clear of Sammy Okosagah, a recent immigrant from Nigeria, who has represented his country at the World Champs.

A host of top players attended the **Albany, New York** event from July 2-5. First place in Division 1 went to World Champs competitor (and *Forwards* subscriber!) Ron Tiekert, with 14 wins out of 18, two clear of Jan Dixon, who beat World Champ Joel Sherman into 3rd place on spread.



Ron Tiekert

Brian Cappelletto won the **Southwestern Invitational** tournament with an outstanding 15-2, +1173 record. Jim Geary had led throughout the event, but a loss to Brian in the final game dropped him to 2nd place, albeit with a superior spread (14-3, +1398). Texan Chris Cree finished third on 12 wins. Brian is now No 1 in North America with a ranking of 2065.

Tournament Results



Capital Club Tournament 28-29 March

13 Games

Grade A

Name	Club	Wins	Ave	B/W
1 Alan Boyd	11	5174	398	16
2 Lynne Powell	9	5594	430	30
3 Lynn Wood	9	5234	403	16
4 Sheryl Davidson	9	5099	392	18
5 Glenda Foster	7	5395	415	19
6 Eileen McLean	7	5259	405	19
7 Glenyss Buchanan	7	5254	404	18
8 Doreen O'Shea	6	5287	407	18
9 Denise Gordon	6	5123	394	18
10 Fae Olson	6	5071	390	16
11 Rosemary Cleary	6	5054	389	16
12 Steven Brown	4	5004	385	21
13 David Gunn	2	4693	361	19
14 Helen Sillis	2	4625	356	10

Grade B

1 Andrée Prentice	10	5447	419	15
2 Liz Fagerlund	9	5289	407	15
3 Yvonne Wilson	8	5379	414	19
4 Lisa McLean	8	5086	391	16
5 Hilda Scott	8	4958	381	20
6 Ann Hough	7	5046	388	22
7 Betty Eriksen	6	4778	368	16
8 Max Aston	6	4763	366	12
9 Doreen Davies	6	4750	365	9
10 Doreen Ogston	5	4911	378	19
11 Sue McRae	5	4820	371	14
12 Frank Robinson	5	4659	358	14
13 Leila Thomson	4	4767	367	12
14 Marj Baillie	4	4581	352	8

Grade C

1 Kate Henderson	9	4741	395	15
2 Michael Hyndman	9	4651	388	16
3 Sandra Stacey	9	4480	373	7
4 Gwen Kaiser	8	4485	374	9
5 Joan Thomas	7	4685	390	13
6 Shirley Van Essen	7	4595	383	10
7 Lyn Dawson	6	4312	359	12
8 Sheila Reed	6	3797	316	10
9 Carl Gray	5	4484	374	12
10 Marjorie Heads	5	4424	369	10
11 Ed Olson	3	3937	328	7
12 Elvira Steel	3	3701	308	3
13 Vera Burner	1	3647	304	2

Holy Cross Club Tournament

4 July

7 Games

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave	B/W
1 Howard Warner	IND	6	338	411	9
2 John Foster	IND	5	46	389	10
3 Fae Olson	STR	4	282	412	12
4 David Lloyd	MTA	4	190	390	12
5 Sheryl Davidson	PAK	4	-129	375	11
6 Glennis Hale	MTA	2	-286	385	10
7 Andrew Bradley	MTA	2	-311	348	6
8 Chris Hooks	IND	1	-130	394	9

Grade B

1 David Gunn	WKT	5	-42	375	10
2 Allie Quinn	NSB	4	310	397	8
3 Anna Geange	MTA	4	28	411	10
4 Peter Jones	MTA	4	18	407	11
5 Jane Walton	HAM	3	1	377	7
6 Lisa McLean	IND	3	-6	397	14
7 Faye Cronhelm	IND	3	-91	376	8
8 Eileen McLean	IND	2	-218	377	8

Grade C

1 Helen Sillis	NPL	6	413	418	10
2 Ann Candler	NSB	5	433	438	12
3 Reeve Pearson	STR	5	101	436	18
4 Kim Graham	NSB	4	67	405	10
5 Glenda Geard	IND	3	-88	402	9
6 Janice Cherry	PAK	3	-270	377	11
7 Rebecca Freeth	ROD	1	-189	381	5
8 Elaine Moltzen	KIW	1	-467	345	7

Grade D

1 Pam Barlow	PAK	7	580	432	14
2 Rhoda Cashman	ROD	4	40	383	4
3 Margaret Bundock	ROD	4	-61	363	5
4 Shirley Martin	HAM	3	275	390	7
5 Isabel Zyp	HAM	3	-14	370	9
6 Sue Walker	MTA	3	-132	374	10
7 Shirley Wyatt	MTA	2	-275	345	6
8 Liz Catchpole	MTA	2	-413	309	5

Grade E

1 Peggy Wallace	HAM	5	230	402	9
2 Joan Pratt	ROD	4	204	395	10
3 Jennifer Smith	HAM	4	-12	399	10
4 Hazel Purdie	MTA	4	-324	357	7
5 Margaret Cherry	PAK	3	121	379	7
6 Margaret Simpson	PAK	3	109	387	11
7 Delcie Macbeth	IND	3	54	381	7
8 Lorraine Van Veen	PAK	2	-382	344	6

New Plymouth Club Tournament

18 July

7 Games

Grade A

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave	B/W
1 Rosemary Cleary	WAN	5	206	387	11
2 Patrick Carter	MTA	5	26	396	11
3 Lynne Butler	NPL	4	314	410	9
4 Sheryl Davidson	PAK	4	17	389	9
5 Denise Gordon	WAN	3	219	410	12
6 Lynn Wood	WEL	3	145	384	7
7 Fae Olson	STR	3	-435	360	8
8 Glenyss Buchanan	LOH	1	-492	350	7

Grade B

1 Eileen McLean	IND	6	345	400	8
2 Steven Brown	HAM	5	257	414	10
3 Peter Jones	MTA	4	114	414	12
4 Helen Sillis	NPL	4	-8	371	8
5 Doreen O'Shea	HAS	3	-282	360	2
6 Glenda Foster	CAP	2	45	392	6
7 May Quigley	IND	2	-17	394	8
8 David Gunn	WKT	2	-454	366	13

Grade C

1 Lisa McLean	IND	6	401	405	13
2 Jean O'Brien	IND	4	134	375	6
3 Glenda Geard	IND	4	105	381	9
4 Marj Batchelor	MAS	4	-57	374	3
5 Puti Rowe	STR	4	-106	372	7
6 Leila Thomson	LOH	3	189	380	7
7 Reeve Pearson	STR	2	-291	366	13
8 Ruth O'Neill	NPL	1	-375	336	4

Grade D

1 Sue McRae	CAP	7	399	416	9
2 Michael Hyndman	CAP	5	14	363	8
3 Martha Morgan	NPL	4	232	395	10
4 Margaret Simpson	PAK	4	73	378	11
5 Norman Wheeler	WEL	3	87	371	9
6 Betty Eriksen	WAN	2	-118	343	6
7 Margaret Bundock	ROD	2	-144	355	3
8 Shirley Tozer	NPY	1	-543	332	6

Grade E

1 Margaret Schimanski	NPY	6	436	400	3
2 Ann Smith	HAS	4	109	351	7
3 Margaret Ham	WTA	4	-25	331	2
4 Sharon Clarke	STR	4	-55	326	6
5 Julie Atkinson	MTA	4	-136	344	3
6 Doreen Rowlands	NPL	2.5	-7	317	1
7 Jean Clarke	STR	2	-70	338	3
8 Margaret Garner	NPY	1.5	-252	317	1

Grade F

1 Janet Willison	NPY	7	737	396	1
2 Ed Olson	STR	5	102	288	3
3 Rob Sillis	NPL	5	86	309	2
4 Evelyn Hunt	WTA	4	233	318	3

Name Club Wins Spread Ave B/W

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave	B/W
1 Jacqueline Coldham-Fussell	KIW	5	201	367	9
2 Dawn Kitzen	PHC	5	68	379	11
3 Annette Coombes	WKT	4	-38	367	7
4 Dorothy Haining	ROD	4	-9	370	5
5 Pam Mayall	HAM	4	-33	350	4
6 Mary Farmer	MTA	3	106	379	8
7 Valma Gidman	ROD	2	-192	342	6
8 Margaret Forbes	PHC	1	-179	348	4
1 Naomi Gilmore	ROD	6	506	392	5
2 Trish Hellriegel	MTA	5	168	367	5
3 Jim Wills	PAK	4	159	367	6
4 Val Worth	IND	4	78	363	8
5 Jill Johnson	PHC	4	-3	366	4
6 Marie Kingi	PHC	3	-182	333	8
7 Margaret Hanson	PHC	2	-458	324	3
8 Kate Wignall	MTA	0	-268	344	5
1 Irene Hague-Smith	MTA	6	467	371	6
2 May Meads	PHC	5	354	369	8
3 Karen Miller	PAK	5	4	336	2
4 Sammy Sanders	PHC	4	38	338	2
5 Elise Joy	PHC	2	-95	339	4
6 Lil Moore	MTA	2	-136	321	4
7 Merle Spinetto	ROD	2	-297	322	4
8 Ed Olson	STR	2	-335	316	2
1 Ros Phillips	PHC	6	671	375	5
2 Jacqy Struik	PHC	5	-42	317	3
3 Riita Shoebridge	PHC	4	244	337	2
4 Tony Turner	PHC	4	141	344	5
5 Hazel Smith	PHC	4	-162	326	3
6 Evelyn Hunt	WTA	3	105	331	3
7 Resie Coenen	PHC	1	-379	273	0
8 Kasi Mooney	PHC	1	-578	284	2



**David Gunn (WKT)
B Grade winner
Holy Cross
Tournament**

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave	B/W
5 Nola Edwards	WTA	3	88	329	2
6 Esther Soffe	WTA	3	-157	291	0
7 Sylvia Nicholas	WTA	1	-232	275	1
8 Dot Kirkpatrick	NPL	0	-857	224	0

Stratford Club Tournament

19 July

7 Games

Grade A

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave	B/W
1 Lynne Butler	NPL	6	364	420	9
2 Patrick Carter	MTA	6	164	413	12
3 Lynn Wood	WEL	3	24	393	9
4 May Quigley	IND	3	7	378	6
5 Fae Olson	STR	3	-144	388	11
6 Denise Gordon	WAN	3	-151	374	9
7 Glenyss Buchanan	LOH	2	-46	392	11
8 Rosemary Cleary	WAN	2	-218	371	8

Grade B

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave	B/W
1 Glenda Foster	CAP	6	298	423	11
2 Steven Brown	HAM	5	193	414	15
3 Eileen McLean	IND	4	108	386	9
4 Lisa McLean	IND	3	-10	402	16
5 Helen Sillis	NPL	3	-36	382	10
6 Doreen O'Shea	HAS	3	-146	401	8
7 David Gunn	WKT	2	-158	376	11
8 Peter Jones	MTA	2	-249	374	10

Grade C

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave	B/W
1 Leila Thomson	LOH	5	620	410	8
2 Jean O'Brien	IND	5	351	404	10
3 Ruth O'Neill	NPL	4	-153	373	4
4 Glenda Geard	IND	4	-168	356	7
5 Marj Batchelor	MAS	3	52	395	6
6 Norman Wheeler	WEL	3	1	374	10
7 Puti Rowe	STR	3	-175	378	9
8 Reeve Pearson	STR	1	-528	348	12

Grade D

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave	B/W
1 Betty Eriksen	WAN	6	310	399	8
2 Sue McRae	CAP	5	504	415	11
3 Martha Morgan	NPL	5	65	375	8
4 Margaret Bundock	ROD	4	375	403	7
5 Margaret Simpson	PAK	4	-50	373	13
6 Michael Hyndman	CAP	3	-233	369	9
7 Shirley Tozer	NPY	1	-481	327	4
8 Margaret Schimanski	NPY	0	-490	333	1

Grade E

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave	B/W
1 Julie Atkinson *	MTA	7	584	387	5
2 Ed Olson	STR	5	249	351	6
3 Doreen Rowlands *	NPL	5	128	340	4
4 Jean Clarke	STR	4	433	387	6
5 Janet Willison	NPY	4	180	362	4
6 Rob Sillis *	NPL	4	-104	326	5
7 Ann Smith *	HAS	4	-232	325	4

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave	B/W
8 Sharon Clarke *	STR	3	-78	294	5
9 Margaret Ham *	WTA	3	-84	327	0
10 Margaret Garner	NPY	2	-258	320	4
11 Jenny Rowe *	STR	1	-818	210	0

* Players had a Bye (played only 6 games)

Waikato Scrabble Club Tournament

8 August

7 Games

Grade A

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave	B/W
1 Jeff Grant	HAS	5.5	279	440	15
2 Nigel Richards	CHC	5	377	445	15
3 John Foster	IND	5	310	407	10
4 Howard Warner	IND	4	172	432	18
5 Glennis Hale	MTA	3	-162	395	10
6 Lynne Powell	NSB	2.5	-417	386	14
7 Lynne Butler	NPL	2	-373	384	7
8 David Lloyd	MTA	1	-186	395	11

Grade B

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave	B/W
1 Eileen McLean	IND	5	290	415	11
2 Valerie Mills	PAK	5	243	404	9
3 Pam Robson	WKT	4	80	412	13
4 Sheryl Davidson	PAK	4	-28	399	9
5 Fae Olson	STR	3	-124	388	8
6 Alan Boyd	HAM	2.5	-158	393	11
7 May Quigley	IND	2.5	-355	370	9
8 Lynn Wood	WEL	2	52	386	5

Grade C

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave	B/W
1 Peter Jones	MTA	5	210	416	13
2 Helen Sillis	NPL	4	174	416	9



Nigel Richards (CHC)
A Grade winner Hamilton

Hamilton Club Tournament 9 August

7 Games

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave	B/W
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Grade A

1 Nigel Richards	CHC	5	671	493	21
2 Jeff Grant	HAS	5	276	404	11
3 Lynne Powell	NSB	5	4	417	13
4 Patrick Carter	MTA	3	66	417	12
5 David Lloyd	MTA	3	-66	405	11
6 Lynne Butler	NPL	3	-173	374	8
7 Howard Warner	IND	3	-209	402	10
8 John Foster	IND	1	-569	378	8

Grade B

1 Lynn Wood	WEL	5	616	427	12
2 Sheryl Davidson	PAK	5	45	388	11
3 Alan Boyd	HAM	4	176	386	9
4 Glennis Hale	MTA	4	99	401	11
5 Glynis Jennings	MTA	4	5	393	8
6 Eileen McLean	IND	3	-220	346	7
7 Fae Olson	STR	2	-468	348	6
8 Pam Robson	WKT	1	-253	339	6

Grade C

1 Valerie Mills	PAK	6	517	416	7
2 May Quigley	IND	5	373	405	10
3 Steven Brown	HAM	5	135	390	12
4 Peter Jones	MTA	3	20	392	9
5 Allie Quinn	NSB	3	-221	371	8
6 Gerald Warner	ROD	3	-255	370	4
7 Anna Geange	MTA	2	-114	382	12
8 Doreen O'Shea	HAS	1	-455	334	3

Grade D

1 Lisa McLean	IND	5	-28	413	11
2 Jane Walton	HAM	4	180	412	13
3 Liz Fagerlund	CHC	4	17	404	7
4 Yvonne Wilson	HAS	3	201	418	12
5 Roger Coates	HAM	3	-45	389	11
6 David Gunn	WKT	3	-75	405	11
7 Helen Sillis	NPL	3	-117	392	9
8 Ann Candler	NSB	3	-133	379	8

Grade E

1 Hilda Scott	MAS	6	235	399	9
2 Glenda Geard	IND	4	279	414	12
3 Betty Gibb	KIW	4	74	389	8
4 Ruth O'Neill	NPL	4	-44	375	7
5 Norman Wheeler	WEL	4	-51	372	8
6 Kim Graham	NSB	3	63	393	6
7 Reeve Pearson	STR	2	-142	406	14
8 Pam Barlow	PAK	1	-414	349	6

Grade F

1 Margaret Bundock	ROD	6	451	390	4
2 Margaret Simpson	PAK	5	-109	359	10
3 Shirley Wyatt	MTA	4	225	389	6
4 Rhoda Cashman	ROD	4	85	366	6
5 Isabel Zyp	HAM	4	-200	349	5
6 Correne James	IND	3	113	372	2

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave	B/W
3 Anna Geange	MTA	4	-79	390	10
4= Doreen O'Shea	HAS	3	6	396	11
4= Allie Quinn	NSB	3	6	403	11
6 Gerald Warner	ROD	3	5	394	7
7 Steven Brown	HAM	3	-60	407	13
8 Jane Walton	HAM	3	-262	381	8

Grade D

1 Lisa McLean	IND	5	330	414	12
2 Liz Fagerlund	CHC	5	309	402	10
3 Yvonne Wilson	HAS	5	173	401	12
4 Hilda Scott	MAS	5	172	399	10
5 Glenda Geard	IND	3	-20	402	8
6 David Gunn	WKT	3	-430	354	9
7 Roger Coates	HAM	2	-321	376	10
8 Ann Candler	NSB	0	-213	382	8

Grade E

1 Kim Graham	NSB	5	177	414	11
2 Rhoda Cashman	ROD	4	146	393	8
3 Ruth O'Neill	NPL	4	80	387	7
4 Reeve Pearson	STR	4	44	391	13
5 Elaine Moltzen	KIW	3	-85	380	7
6 Norman Wheeler	WEL	3	-124	371	8
7 Yvette Hewlett	IND	3	-155	386	10
8 Betty Gibb	KIW	2	-83	392	11

Grade F

1 Isabel Zyp	HAM	6	394	377	5
2 Margaret Bundock	ROD	5	427	400	7
3 Correne James	IND	4	289	381	6
4 Margaret Simpson	PAK	4	157	401	13
5 Shirley Martin	HAM	4	42	369	11
6 Sue Walker	MTA	2	-425	326	4
7 Liz Catchpole	MTA	2	-495	329	3
8 Shirley Wyatt	MTA	1	-389	348	4

Grade G

1 Margaret Parsons	TPO	5	505	428	11
2 Peggy Wallace	HAM	5	220	402	7
3 Dorothy Haining	ROD	5	-138	355	5
4 Jennifer Smith	HAM	4	299	405	11
5 Delcie Macbeth	IND	3	69	381	6
6 Lorraine Van Veen	PAK	3	37	376	7
7 Bev Barker	MTA	3	-251	364	4
8 Jacqueline Coldham-Fussell	KIW	0	-741	322	5

Grade H

1 Valma Gidman	ROD	5	379	385	8
2 Annette Coombes	WKT	5	270	382	10
3 Marie Cairns	TPO	4	378	370	5
4 Ed Olson	STR	4	111	359	5
5 Jean Clarke	STR	4	-11	344	5
6 Margaret Hanson	PHC	4	-85	338	3
7 Val Worth	IND	4	-96	342	7
8 Mike Miller	WKT	3	30	353	7
9 Kate Wignall	MTA	3	-25	359	2
10 Mary Gray	MTA	3	-68	370	7
11 Rob Sillis	NPL	3	-88	351	8
12 Resie Coenen	PHC	0	-795	268	1

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave	B/W
7 Liz Catchpole	MTA	2	-98	338	6
8 Shirley Martin	HAM	0	-467	343	7
Grade G					
1 Delcie Macbeth	IND	6	264	394	8
2 Lorraine Van Veen	PAK	4	199	405	8
3 Peggy Wallace	HAM	4	156	392	8
4 Jacqueline Coldham-Fussell	KIW	4	-71	356	7
5 Margaret Parsons	TPO	3	5	382	4
6 Jennifer Smith	HAM	3	-119	381	7
7 Bev Barker	MTA	3	-263	349	7
8 Elsie Pugh	HAM	1	-171	371	4
Grade H					
1 Dorothy Haining	ROD	7	399	359	6
2 Julie Atkinson	MTA	4	54	370	7

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave	B/W
3 Annette Coombes	WKT	4	-1	358	5
4 Val Worth	IND	4	-68	333	7
5 Mary Gray	MTA	3	-29	357	6
6 Valma Gidman	ROD	3	-161	345	3
7 Margaret Hanson	PHC	2	-114	335	4
8 Marie Cairns	TPO	1	-80	347	5
Grade I					
1 Jean Clarke	STR	5.5	180	374	6
2 Rob Sillis	NPL	5.5	129	352	5
3 Mike Miller	WKT	4.5	34	348	4
4 Kate Wignall	MTA	3.5	99	380	7
5 Ed Olson	STR	3	209	388	9
6 Resie Coenen	PHC	3	-313	318	1
7 Karen Robertson	HAM	2	-144	343	5
8 Jillian Greening	HAM	1	-194	346	10

In Memory of Daph Curl by Glynis Jennings

Like all members of the Scrabble fraternity who knew and loved Daph, I was shocked to hear of her sudden passing on 20 August, her birthday.

Having known Daph and her late husband, Charlie, for about 15 years, I was honoured to be asked to pay tribute to her in *Forwards*. So many memories came flooding back —

- of staying with Daph and Charlie when I took part in a Masters tournament; of a happy holiday on Norfolk Island in 1985 sharing their motel unit;
- of travelling to many tournaments with Daph and the time it was very cold so she left a safety heater on for the cats (a gesture which touched me);
- of Daph coming in to talk to Mum when we returned from a tournament;
- of her unfailing cheerfulness and sense of humour;
- of her willingness always to help in the kitchen at tournaments and the delicious cheese balls which were her culinary trademark.

The list could go on indefinitely, but, suffice to say, all who knew Daph will have their own special memories of her and the



Daph Curl

qualities that went to make up a lovely person in so many ways. The devotion she and Charlie had for each other was exemplified in all their actions, yet that warmth radiated to encompass all with whom they came in contact. May the yawning gap that Charlie's death 8 years ago left in Daph's life have, at last, been bridged. Both of them will be ever remembered with deep affection by us all.

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	Glynis 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	Nigel Richards (CHC)	6	Mike Sigley (WAN) & Nigel Richards (CHC) & Lynne Powell (ROD)
Most Bonus Words in Game (2 people)	8	Mike Sigley (WAN) & Glenyss Buchanan (LOH) & Nigel Richards (CHC) & John Foster (IND)	8	Dawn Kitzen (PHC) & Chris Hooks (MTA)
Highest Average Single Tournament (Any Grade)	584	Nigel Richards (CHC)	—	—

NZ Masters (23 Games)

Most Games Won	Jeff Grant (HAS) 21 (1993, 1997)
Highest Aggregate	Blue Thorogood (IND) 10782 (1993)
Most Bonus Words	Nigel Richards (CHC) 61 (1998)