

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
Kiwi (KIW)	Elaine Moltzen	07 843 5108	Thurs 7pm	Sunningdale Hall
Mt Maunganui / Papamoa (MMP)	Ngair Steel	07 542 1035	Any time ring	
Tauranga (TGA)	Noel Maisey	07 576 3218	Tues 7.20pm	
Tokoroa (TOK)	Lesley Edgeler	07 886 8374		
Taupo (TPO)	Gwen Robb	07 378 9409		
Waitara (WTA)	Trixie Neil	06 754 8745	Wed 1.30pm	
New Plymouth (NPL)	Helen Sillis	06 758 8001		
New Plym YWCA (NPY)	Shirley Tozer	06 758 2936		
Stratford (STR)	Sharon Clarke	06 765 5653		
Hastings (HAS)	Jeff Grant	06 876 4678	Thurs (alt) 7pm	Hastings RSA
Waipukurau (WPK)	Ann Grindrod	06 858 7493		
Wanganui (WAN)	Rosemary Cleary	06 347 1837	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	03 545 0014	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 53 December 1998



Club News

Trans-Tasman

Christmas Message

Norfolk Island

Asia-Pacific

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Editor's Note



There have been no fewer than five international Scrabble events featuring Kiwis over the last few months. Reports on Malaysia, Singapore, The Asia-Pacific, Norfolk Island and the Trans-Tasman all appear in this issue.

It was good to see NZ triumph over the Aussies in Auckland, after a narrow loss in Sydney two years ago. All the team performed well, and on a personal note it was pleasing to finish third this time, improving from 3rd to bottom in '96! Congratulations to Peter Sinton (DUN) for his superb individual effort, and to Nigel Richards (CHC) who was just half a win behind. Peter was interviewed on the John Banks radio show after the Trans-Tasman, and was awarded 'Bouquet of the Day' for his Scrabbling prowess. A big thank you to Mattel for their generous support, and to Glennis Hale and John Foster for all the hard work organising this event. Everything ran very smoothly and there has been lots of positive feedback.

The first Asia-Pacific Championship was by all accounts a great success, and the New Zealanders acquitted themselves well with four top-12 finishes.

Norfolk Island was as enjoyable as ever — a perfect place for Pat and me to spend our honeymoon. We will return!

On the local scene, Christchurch, Mt Albert, Wanganui, Dunedin, Rodney and Kiwi clubs hosted well-attended tournaments, and two NZ records were broken. 'Tiger' Richards won all four South Island one-dayers, averaging over 500 points per game on every occasion — a phenomenal performance (yet again).

Special thanks to Val Worth of Putaruru, who donated a commemorative Scrabble set to the Association. Kate Wignall (MTA)

subsequently won the set in a raffle, with funds raised going to the NZ World Champs fund.

The 1999 NZ Masters Championship will be held in Wanganui at Easter. Denise Gordon has been able to secure the venue at no cost (Rutherford Intermediate, where she is deputy principal).

Also next year, hopefully, the 5th World Scrabble Champs (WSC) will take place. At this stage there is some doubt whether it will happen at all, because of lack of sponsorship in the UK. This situation is hard to understand in view of the success of the 1991 and 1995 events in London. The latest word is that WSC '99 may be held in Melbourne, Australia, which would certainly cut down on our travelling expenses!

Thanks to everyone who contributed to *Forwards* during the year. We're always looking for material, so if you have something of interest, please send it in.

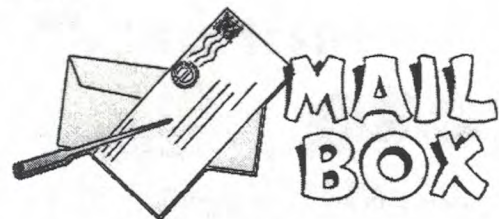
As always, a big thanks to our Executive — Glennis, David, Allie, Bev and Lyn, and to our publicity officer, Howard. They all put in a tremendous amount of time and effort for NZ Scrabble.

Finally, particular thanks to Glenda for all the preparation and layout work that goes into making *Forwards* such an attractive magazine.

Pat and I wish you all a safe and relaxing festive season. I'll be playing lots of tennis and golf until the Hastings tourney in March. We'll see you there!

Closing date for the March issue is February 20.

**Merry Christmas and
Happy Scrabbling in '99**
Jeff



First or Second

by Joe Edley
New York

Just read Jennifer Smith's article in the September *Forwards* on going first vs going second. Do you really believe it's better to go second? The argument is fallacious, for reasons you are probably aware of already. It's actually statistically better by about half a turn to go first, her analysis notwithstanding. That's not my opinion, but Maven's.

[Joe Edley is one of the finest Scrabble players ever, however he seems to have missed the point of Jennifer's article. She states on p14, "My sole purpose was to discover whether the first or second word played scored the higher points" (in her games), and on p15, "I now wish I had kept a relationship of the first/second word to the win/lose result." Bear in mind also that Jennifer is fairly new to the game. Personally, I found her analysis most interesting.

Of course Joe is correct that it is statistically better to start in Scrabble, because in theory half the time a player going first will also go out first, thus gaining the advantage of an extra turn. — Ed.]

Sport and Bonus Talk

by Michael Vnuk
Queensland

Even though I don't follow any sport, I've come across about half the words listed in *Sportstalk*. I looked in the *Macquarie Dictionary* and was surprised that it didn't have QUINELLAED and NETBALLER. EAGLED and COXLESS were the only ones listed,

although HIT-OFF (golf), TIE BREAKER and PUNCHBALL (but not PUNCHBAG) appear.

Dictionaries don't seem to review enough sources to cover the full scope of English actually being used. And it should be easier now that much more material, eg newspapers, magazines, Hansard, is readily accessible by computers, or is on the Internet. I knew BINGOED would not be in, since I tried to bingo with it once as an opening word, and it was challenged off. I should have played BOINGED.

Jennifer is not correct when she states in *First or Second* that "you can score as low as 55 for a second word bonus." The minimum score for a first word as a bonus is 60 as Jennifer rightly calculates (although the word can be placed without covering a double letter square). However, for the second word (and any other word subsequently) as a bonus, the minimum score is 56.

A Load of Bull

Anonymous & Unanimous

Tongues are wagging among Scrabblers in a sleepy little city that lies on the west coast of the North Island — they are saying that a certain lady renowned for her prowess with Scrabble tiles, who is also lucky enough to own 5 acres of green pasture adjoining her home, was recently blessed with a miracle.

It so happened that one day while sitting watching the grass grow she got a brilliant idea. "Yes", she murmured to herself, "I will buy a couple of heifer calves and fatten them up and when big enough have them slaughtered and we will have frozen beef for at least a couple of years". And so she did — two nice little heifer calves were soon seen grazing contentedly on the fields below. She reckoned she was pretty clued up on bovine husbandry and proudly watched them grow in size and also in her affections — until the thought of eating them was so repulsive that it was no longer part of the programme.

She fed them hay all winter and they really looked in splendid condition. One evening when she went to feed out their hay she almost collapsed with shock to discover that one of the heifers had just given birth to a beautiful baby calf. How on earth could such a thing happen? Immaculate conception? Surely not! She raced to the phone, contacting her many friends to spread the glad tidings. She confessed it would have been nice if it had been a heifer calf instead of that other kind. The following week she was off to the Orient on holiday and later when a friend came to see to the animals he remarked that the calf was not a bull, but indeed a heifer — and so, we, like you, are left to wonder.

Is any of this true? Or is it just — a load of bull!



World Champs in Australia?

The October issue of UK's *APSP Newsletter* reports that negotiations for the 1999 World Scrabble Championships are still in progress, and as yet no funding has been secured. Furthermore, if the event does take place, it is likely to be held in early November next year, in Melbourne, Australia.

[This would certainly reduce our travelling expenses! We'll keep you informed of further

Masters 1999

The 1999 NZ Masters Scrabble Tournament will be held in Wanganui on April 3-5 (Easter), at Rutherford Intermediate, 32 Toi St, Wanganui.

The Biggest Scrabble Game

The world's biggest game of Scrabble took place on October 14 on the soccer field at Wembley Stadium, London. The massive board covered 900 square metres and featured a full set of 100 huge reinforced fibreglass tiles, each measuring 2 metres square by 40 cm deep, which took two people to carry.

The teams played the game with military precision, assisted in their physical and verbal exertions by two 'tile-carriers' and a number of past UK Scrabble champions. The Army side was headed by a padre, and a lieutenant from the Wrens fronted the Navy team. In true amateur tradition, both sides played just for the honour and glory.

The Paras took an early lead with the Scots word WICKY (a rowan tree), but the Marines fought back with DEATHLY, and eventually ran out winners by a mere two points.

There are no future plans for the giant Scrabble set, but a spokesman stated that all suggestions would be gratefully received.



You think this is funny — you should see them try to open the dictionary!

Photo from *NZ Listener*,
Nov 7-13, 1998

Competition Corner ?

Solution — Scrabble Contest No 52

Nigel Richards found the following words, all of which contain the letters NOPQRSTU: APPROPINQUATES, APPROPINQUITIES, EQUIPARATIONS, EQUIPONDERATES, PERQUISITION/S, PRECONQUEST, PROPINQUITIES.

He also found another three which are just too long for Scrabble: APPROPINQUATIONS, QUADRIPARTITIONS, QUADRUPLICATIONS.

Others who solved the puzzle were Michael Vnuk (Queensland), Alan Boyd (HAM) and Jethro Snafflerod (IND).

A draw was held and first name out of the hat was Nigel — congratulations!

Scrabble Contest No 53

Suss out this one!

Val Worth of Putaruru sent us this little puzzler which is based on finding four allowable Scrabble words. Can you solve it?

A _____ (blow) for conservationists.

The _____ (whisper) is that the

_____ (bushmaster) has been killed by the _____ (anaconda).

The correct answer uses only six different letters, namely 3 A's, 3 C's, 1 J, 6 R's, 8 S's and 12 U's.

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

Entries to be sent to:

Jeff Grant
1109 Allenby St
Hastings

Word Maths Further Extended

by Nigel Richards (CHC)

As previously discussed, 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.

I found examples for sums from 2 to 243, 245 to 248, and 263. I won't bore you with all the details here, but it would be interesting to know if anyone can find a word that sums to 244, or any between 249 and 262.

I wonder if Alan has thought about the results if the values were reversed (A=26, B=25, C=24 ... Z=1)? Is the highest sum still 263 with UNPEACEABLENESS? The lowest, of course would be ZUZ and YU for 8. Indeed I can find examples for 8, 9 and 13 to 263. There are no valid words summing to 10, 11 or 12, but there could be some over 263.

Spaniels

by Bill Webster
United States

Can you untangle this anagrammatical piece? Solution on p 14.

Illy deterge Clean, hewn eh acme form signee Cod laughers.

"Saw ti na gallery?" Hes misled.

Hyte tas no het genre spirted oafs.

"On largely. Chum swore — tramline cane," eh periled. Eh saw ton sliming.

"Od ton cares em as, read!" hes peridot.

"Kayo, ti si juts na regally." Hyte cambered.



Book Review Five-Letter Words

Compiled by top Australian Scrabbler Bob Jackman, and published this year, *Five-Letter Words* is a worthy sequel to Bob's earlier work on 4-letter words.

All terms listed are allowed in Scrabble, and definitions are taken from either *Chambers Dictionary* or the *Official Scrabble Players Dictionary*.

Five-letter words are essential in a serious Scrabble player's armoury, and can often net scores of 50+, which could just turn a game your way. But if you are happy to browse, there's plenty of entertainment there as well.

Useful sections include:

- 1 Front Hooks of Fours, eg E/WHOW, C/ULEX.
- 2 End Hooks of Fours, eg ACER/B, PUJA/H.
- 3 Hooks Which Are Verbs, eg PANDY, to slap; SOWFF, to whistle or hum softly.
- 4 Hooks Which Cannot Be Pluralised With (e)s, eg CYANO, FRATE, THEBE.
- 5 Fives With High Letters, eg NUDZH, QUYTE.
- 6 Fives With Unusual Noun Forms, eg INANE, empty space, STANK, a pond.

Scrabble Foreplay

The following piece was spotted by Sue Walker (MTA) in a *Woman's Day* magazine:

"Levels of the male hormone testosterone double in the morning hours. Perhaps this explains why an early morning quickie is so popular with men. Male hormone levels also peak when a man succeeds — closing a great deal at work, winning a game of tennis, or even a board game. Who would have thought that Scrabble could be classed as foreplay — but only if he wins!"

7 Unlikely Fives, eg COCCI, KULAK, YIPPY.

This excellent booklet has 71 pages and is divided into user-friendly 'study-size' parts, each of which contains interesting fives for both social players and aspiring champions.

I particularly like the emphasis on definitions, which should help you remember the words. Even top players can learn from Bob's work — for instance, did you know that DONUT is to practise doughnutting (surrounding a parliamentary speaker to give TV viewers the impression of a packed house), and MOPPY means 'drunk'?

Another helpful feature is the extra information provided with some entries, for example under HAVOC we learn that HAVOCKER (noun) is allowed, and under GADJE (a fellow), that alternate forms GADGIE and GAUDGIE exist.

Anyone wanting a copy of *Five Letter Words*, please send \$15Aust to Bob Jackman, PO Box 28, Lindfield, NSW 2070, Australia.

Long Words

It's not often you hear about an 11-letter word being played. It's even less frequently heard of two tens played in the same game. How about all three of them in the same game? Bernard Gotlieb and Ann Sanfedele were playing in Albany New York earlier this year, when Bernard put down OUTGROW and later added an -ING. He then bingoed with OPERATING (around IN), which Ann extended with CO- in front. Finally, Ann added INTER- in front of TWINE. So the game ended with OUTGROWING, INTERTWINE and COOPERATING on the board!

from *US Scrabble News*, October 1998

Scrabble Email List Chris Handley (DUN) has created a list of Scrabblers who have email addresses. With a click of one button you can contact all NZ Scrabblers who subscribe to the list. The address for the list is: nz-scrabble@atlas.otago.ac.nz

1999 Scrabble Tournament Calendar

January

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

March

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

April

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

May

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

June

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

July

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

August

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

October

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Tournament	Date	Tournament	Date
Howick-Pakuranga	30-31 January	Papatoetoe/Holy Cross	3 July
Nelson	13-14 February	New Plymouth	17 July
Hastings	6-7 March	Stratford	18 July
Lynn Wood (Wellington)	13-14 March	Waikato	7 August
NZ Masters	3-5 April	Hamilton	8 August
Dunedin Lion Open (2 1-dayers)	24-25 April	Canterbury Open (2 1-dayers)	11-12 September
North Shore Bays	25 April	Norfolk Island Festival	20-25 September
South Is Champs	15-16 May	Mt Albert	2-3 October
Christchurch		Wanganui	23-24 October
NZ Nationals	5-6 June	Otago Lion Open (2 1-dayers)	6-7 November
		Rodney	13 November

ANAGRAM
CORNER

Scrabblers are dab hands at transposing letters, for example BRACE to CABER and INHERES to HENRIES. On a higher level, and certainly appropriate for Scrabble, the phrase UNBALANCED RACK reveals the warning CAN EARN BAD LUCK.

Here are the anagrams of half-a-dozen Aussie Scrabblers who attended the Norfolk Island festival in September. Keep watching and maybe your name will appear.

MARILYN MACKIE MAKE MAIN LYRIC
DOROTHY ELLIS HIRE TOY DOLLS
NOELINE THOMA ON-LINE AT HOME
WAYNE WILLIS A SINEWY WILL
TRISHA BRIGHTON HIGHBORN ARTIST
MARGARET BISHOP I GRAB METAPHORS

Around the Twist

A regular ongoing feature in the Scrabble magazine has been the fun to be had in anagramming names. A recent newspaper article expanded this practice, with emphasis on names in the news.

William Francis Birch

Fair laws, rich climb in.

Winston Raymond Peters

Not wanted - on piss, merry.

Monica Lewinsky

Slinky ice woman.

From the Nelson Scrabble Club's
September newsletter.

Waikato/Hamilton Tournaments 1999

It was incorrectly reported at the Wanganui management meeting that the above events would be held at the Hamilton Gardens in the third week of August next year.

In fact the venue for both tournaments will be the Waikato Polytechnic as in previous years and the dates are as shown on the calendar on previous page.

EXECUTIVE EXERTIONS

It is hard to believe that since the last *Forwards* there have been three international tournaments and six New Zealand tournaments. No wonder we are all feeling a little 'Scrabbled out' at the moment.

As a result it has been a busy couple of months, but also most rewarding, with four of our NZ team finishing in the top 12 at Kuala Lumpur, Fae Olson taking out the Norfolk Island tournament and our great win in the Trans-Tasman Challenge. We are feeling very proud indeed. Congratulations to all involved.

Special thanks to:

Nigel Richards who has analysed the present rating system and formulated a new one which will be introduced following the Howick-Pakuranga tournament.

Sue McRae who is doing a wonderful job with the initial organisation of next year's Nationals in Wellington.

John Foster for organising such a successful Trans-Tasman Challenge.

David Lloyd who has revised our logo which we proudly displayed on our T-shirts and scoresheets for the Trans-Tasman Challenge. (All clubs will receive a master copy of the updated scoresheets, result sheets and challenge slips.)

Howard Warner who is responsible for the superb media coverage in the past month.

Malcolm Graham for the striking Trans-Tasman T-shirts and Scrabble tile bags.

Mattel (NZ) Ltd for the generous sponsorship which enabled us to hold such a successful Trans-Tasman Challenge.

and the **many other individuals** who have contributed in so many ways.

This support is what makes NZ Scrabble so unique. Thanks everyone.

**Happy Scrabbling and a Merry
Christmas to you all**

Scrabble and Sex

now that she's got your attention
Margaret Bright (UK) will broaden your mind

No, this isn't an article about après-Scrabble activities at weekend tournaments. As I'm one of those people who retires to bed at 10pm for a little word play with my Psion (computer Scrabble), I wouldn't regard myself as qualified to comment on such things.

Perhaps *Scrabble and Gender* would be a better title, although not so eye-catching, because this article examines male and female performance — playing Scrabble I mean. As well as being a keen Scrabble player, I'm one of a rare breed — a female chess player. Only about 3% of serious club-standard chess players are women, because for some reason women can't get their brains around the game and consequently don't enjoy it. It was therefore pleasing to find that the sexes are relatively evenly balanced in the Scrabble world. A quick analysis of the newsletter ratings shows that 62% are female. Obviously, for women, Scrabble is a far more appealing game. Being a combination of strategy and word power, it means that men, with their perceived superior spacial awareness, and women, with their perceived stronger linguistic ability, should be able to compete on equal terms. Oh yes? Take a look at these statistics:

Rating	% women
190+	0
180-189	12
170-179	22
160-169	33
150-159	49
140-149	63
130-139	74
120-129	78
110-119	73
100-109	83
under 100	80

[The UK ratings drop the last digit. A similar table from the NZ ranking list is:—

Rating	% women
1900+	25
1700-1899	78
1500-1699	77
1300-1499	85
1100-1299	95
900-1099	86
<900	84

Overall, women make up 80% of ranked players, so they are very much under-represented in the top group. Of the top 20 players, 10 are women.]

It would appear that although women like Scrabble, they aren't much good at it. There is only one woman in the top 20 players — Di Dennis at 19. Why is this?

The question can be approached from two angles. Is it something to do with the nature of the game, or more to do with sexual differences in temperament and brain power? As it appears that men, particularly younger ones, excel at Scrabble as well as chess, it would suggest that good spacial awareness, sound strategy, and a firm grasp of probability theory are considerably more important than word knowledge. Personally, I would dispute that. The top players have amazing word power, as well as all the other necessary skills. The top women would probably be as good where word power is concerned, but do they fall down a little on strategy? On the few occasions when I play top men, I find they tend to play a tighter game and are good at closing down the board at the appropriate time. Perhaps men's strategic skills give them the edge?

Other reasons why women seem to be disadvantaged have more to do with social conditioning and the nature of everyday life. In general, women lack the killer instinct, which

puts them at a disadvantage in the highly competitive world of Scrabble tournaments. So many women still have what I would term a 'parlour game mentality'. That's fine when you have a few friends from your club round on a Sunday afternoon, but at matches and tournaments, for 50 minutes your opponent is your worst enemy and has to be beaten. A more aggressive and positive attitude could work wonders, girls! The other big problem is the intrusion of everyday life. Most women have spouses, families and jobs, and a million things to think about. Do you mentally compile shopping lists while waiting for your opponent to move? You shouldn't. For the duration of the game, you should be totally concentrated on the task in hand — winning! Men are usually better when it comes to single-minded concentration, and this isn't necessarily because they don't have other demands on them. Yes, many of the top players are single, relatively care-free young men, but where are their female counterparts? Yet some top players are family men, who these days will probably be sharing home responsibilities with their wives. Many of the best women players have husbands, families and jobs, yet still manage to reach a high standard. Women might do better if they worked on improving their powers of concentration rather than whinging about all the housework.

So, girls, pull your socks/stockings up! Improve your strategy, cultivate the killer instinct, and learn to concentrate. Watch out lads, it will soon be women on top!

[It's interesting that Margaret wrote her article before Helen Gipson's brilliant performance at the British Masters. I'm not going to get involved in any of my theories — I'll leave that to you, dear reader! However I do know that Helen has been putting a considerable amount of work into word-learning during 1998 — make of that what you will... — Phil Appleby, editor APSP Newsletter.]

From the *British APSP Newsletter*
 October 1998



Some people hate the letter V, and complain that they "always get both Vs". At least there is a 3-letter word containing two Vs — VAV is doubtless the most commonly played double-V term. Others used to dump this difficult duplication are VIVA, VIVO, VALVE and VERVE.

Here are a dozen less common words containing two Vs. Maybe one could help you improve an awkward rack, and dazzle your opponent too!

CONVOLVE	DEVVEL	LOVEVINE
OVERGAVE	REVIVIFY	VALVATE
VAVASOR	VENVILLE	VERVEL
VISIVE	VIVARIA	VOLVA

That Takes the Cake



Brain Storm..

from *The Word Book*
 by Gyles Brandreth

Norfolk Island Scrabble Festival September 1998

by June Ward and Doreen O'Shea, Hastings

Well, we have arrived at that special place once more — some for their first time, some their 10th.

First night we all got together at Barney Duffy's restaurant — beautiful meals, especially steak. We got to meet all the Australians and had a fun night doing puzzles, drinking and getting to know everyone.

First day, Glennis and Correne were trying to swap electric jugs around the units, theirs was all black inside. Did they swap it with yours while you were out?

The four well-behaved ladies at No 42 were talking about the old bags next door at 41. Next morning at Scrabble the puzzles that Glennis and Jeff gave out each day for us to enjoy were handed in — the winners were nom de plumed 'Old Bags of 41'. By gee, those unit walls are thin!

Every day was a great day on Norfolk — Scrabble puzzles, shopping, oh the great shopping. One lady had to buy new suitcases to come home with — four big ones filled to the brim. That family is going to have a great Christmas (Marianne)!

We dined out every night at different clubs and restaurants, great entertainment too. Liz thought the entertainment was especially good at prize-giving. I don't know if it was the voice or the body she liked best (maybe he had personality).

The tours were really excellent and Elvira gave us all a lot of laughs — a really fun lady. There was a breakfast walk on our second-to-last day and the Old Bags from 41 said we had to be quiet the night before 'cause they had to be up bright and early for their bush walk and breakfast, watching the sunrise. We were all woken early next morning because we'd had an early night the night before (haha) and there were two drowned rats at our door — their breakfast walk had been rained out. They never even got breakfast.

We had the last laugh!

Well, prize-giving night came — a great venue, nice meal, and of course the entertainment. But special thanks to Agnes, Lee and Janelle, Norfolk Islanders who organise the tourney, — really great fun people, and to Glennis and Jeff, who ran it brilliantly again this year. Thanks to you five people from all of us. Without you, we wouldn't have our week in paradise.

Special congratulations to Fae Olson for winning A grade — our NZ champ, well done Fae, you deserved it! And the 'good sport' prize went to Margaret Bishop of Hobart, Australia. She really deserved it too — it couldn't have gone to a nicer person, so friendly, always smiling and joined in with everything. She even put up with us (Anna, Liz, June and Doreen) some nights, so she really did deserve the good sport prize!

We could go on forever about the wonderful Island, the great people and all the laughs. But save your pennies and see for yourself next year.

I think Pat and Jeff had their honeymoon once we'd all gone. They never had any time on their own while we were all there.

By the way, the old bags at No 41 are June Mackwell and Marianne Patchett, two lovely ladies who are real good sports. Till next year.



Organisers Glennis Hale and Jeff Grant with top Australian Sandra Morgan and overall 1998 Norfolk Island Champion Fae Olson of Stratford

Norfolk Island 1998

by Elvira Steel, Dunedin

September is the time of year
When scrabblers get together
Flying off to Norfolk Island
To enjoy the warmer weather.

Pine Valley Apartments were our home
Run by Fred and Anne.
Offered us bananas off their tree
Our motel was spick and span.

Each morning we breakfasted there
Other meals, ate out for a treat
Barney Duffy's the first night
Then James' Place along the street.

Nan's has delicious fish, salad and chips
Yummy ice cream from the mall
Takeaway chicken at the Red Rooster
I almost forget them all.

Shopping is a dream there
My Visa was red hot
Transistor and scissors at Pete's place
A mohair snuggle at the Scottish Shop

Welsh earrings down at Dayton Place
World Traders — foundation just arrived
from Spain
Two blouses, two skirts from Just A Minute
Then the Chinese Emporium again.

Max's is a large shop on the corner
With a great variety of lines
I bought a lovely tablecloth
And two mats, with Norfolk pines.

The Garden Hedges tour
Where quarter horses display

Also a clever potter
We so enjoyed the day.

Mutiny on the Bounty
Took a blanket, to keep warm.
It was held under the stars.
So pleased there was no storm.

Emails to the grandchildren
And letters to our friends.
Norfolk Island stamps for all,
We were busy to the end.

Each day was twenty-one degrees
And also through the night.
The zephyr breezes kept us cool,
Prepared us for the fight.

Glennis and Jeff ran the festival
At the Colonial Hotel.
There were thirty-nine of us.
Everyone played Scrabble well.

We enjoyed playing the Aussies
They are full of tricks and fun.
In the end they beat NZ —
Not by much, but they won.

The dinner on the Friday night
Agnes and Janelle on call
Trophies for the winners
Albums and gifts for all.

The fog was covering Mt Pitt
We hoped it would not stop our plane.
Out came the sun as usual.
Farewell Norfolk — 'til we meet again.

10th Norfolk Island SCRABBLE Festival

Results (21 Games)

Anson Bay				
Name	Country	Wins	Points	BW
1 Fae Olson	NZ	14	8231	25
2 Anna Geange	NZ	13	8159	28
3 Lynn Wood	NZ	12	8071	22
4 Sandra Morgan	AUS	11	7971	20
5 Doreen O'Shea	NZ	9	8321	28
6 June Mackwell	NZ	9	8002	29
7 Helen Sillis	NZ	9	7684	18
8 Isabel van Hoorn	AUS	7	7375	19

Ball Bay				
Name	Country	Wins	Points	BW
1 Michael Vnuk	AUS	17	9000	34
2 Elaine Moltzen	NZ	14	8039	29
3 Ruth O'Neill	NZ	12	8042	22
4 Correne James	NZ	11	7651	18
5 Liz Catchpole	NZ	10	7498	13
6 Fay Grose	AUS	8	7756	21
7 Carolyn Kyle	NZ	8	7646	22
8 Margaret Bishop	AUS	4	7121	17

Cascade Bay				
Name	Country	Wins	Points	BW
1 Marilyn Mackie	AUS	13.5	8053	24
2 Jennifer Smith	NZ	13	8570	29
3 Trisha Brighton	AUS	13	7985	20
4 Marianne Patchett	NZ	11	7773	17
5 Dorothy Ellis	AUS	10	7737	16
6 Joan Thomas	NZ	8	8066	25
7 Lee Beaumont	AUS	8	7249	4
8 Joyce McCombe	AUS	7.5	7358	17

Duncombe Bay				
Name	Country	Wins	Points	BW
1 Pat Grant	NZ	15	7727	18
2 Jill Johnson	NZ	13	7536	6
3 June Ward	NZ	13	7409	11
4 Liz Quantock	AUS	11	7366	14
5 Jacqueline Coldham-Fussell	NZ	9.5	7713	26
6 Shirley Pelham	AUS	9.5	7246	11
7 Margaret Dyer	AUS	7	6959	10
8 Elaine Geier	AUS	6	6894	14

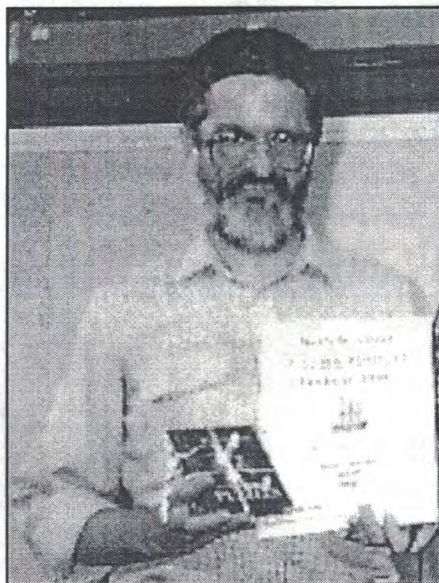
Emily Bay				
Name	Country	Wins	Points	BW
1 Margaret Hanson	NZ	16	6755	12
2 Noëline Thoma	AUS	16	6632	9
3 Wayne Willis	AUS	15	7052	10
4 Ed Olson	NZ	14	6729	16
5 Gill Russell	AUS	9	5743	6
6 Vera Burner	NZ	8	5737	1
7 Elvira Steel	NZ	6	5527	1

Knockout	Winner:	Lynn Wood
	Runner-up	Vera Burner
Consolation Knockout	Winner	Carolyn Kyle
	Runner-up	Dorothy Ellis
Sportsperson		Margaret Bishop
NZ Champ		Fae Olson
Australian Champ		Sandra Morgan

Most Unusual Word	Michael Vnuk	TWP
Highest Individual Game	Michael Vnuk	545
Highest Scoring Word	Lee Beaumont	122-STINGERS

Word Puzzles	1 Michael Vnuk
	2= Joan & Jenny
	2= The 41 Old Bags (June & Marianne)

Team Trophy Australia



B Grade winner Michael Vnuk, Queensland

Nationals 1999 in Wellington (Victoria University Union Hall) Accommodation and Travel

Accommodation

The capital city is light on motels but some nearby hotels have good rates:

- Closest option (5 mins walking):** very good private B&B in Talavera Tce
This is a self-contained, 2 bedroom flat
(1 twin, 1 queen) with cooked breakfast
4 people including breakfast = \$200 per night, if you book out the whole flat
Ph: (04) 471 0555
 - 10 mins walk, top class hotel:** **James Cook Centra** (The Terrace)
price for double/twin, including 2 breakfasts = \$129
Wellington Weekend Special
0800 699 500
 - same distance:** **Copthorne Plimmer Towers** (just off The Terrace)
dble/twin \$125, including breakfast = Wellington Weekend Special
0800 808 228
 - Similar price range (10 min. walk):** **Novotel Hotel**, 345 The Terrace
(top hotel with pool, gym, restaurant etc)
Wellington Weekend Special: \$119, including breakfast for 2 or \$150 triple
0800 288 880
 - Less fancy but still good quality (3 min drive):** **Quality Inn**, Willis St
(4 star hotel with pool, gym, restaurant etc)
Ph: (04) 385 9819
Special weekend deal: \$79 double or \$99 including 2 cooked breakfasts, \$122/triple
 - Similar standard (3 min drive):** **Hotel Willis Lodge**, Willis St
(3 star hotel with restaurant)
Ph: 0800 249 4678
Wellington Weekend Special: \$75-89 double/twin including 2 cont. breakfasts
 - Closest Motel (3 min drive):** **Harbour City Motor Inn**, 92 Webb St
(several 1 bdrm, 2 x 2 bdrm units, one 3 bdr apartment)
Ph: 0800 33 24 68
- Scrabblers deal: \$95 for 2, \$110 for 3, \$120-140 for 4, \$200 for 8 person apartment
- Cheaper option (5 min drive):** **Trekkers Hotel/Motel**, 213 Cuba St
(hotel/motel/backpacker options, bar/restaurant)
Backpacker bunks from \$17, other options progressively dearer.
Ph: (04) 385 2153

Flights

ANSETT have set up a Scrabblers discount airfare of 50% off full economy rates for the Queen's Birthday period (1 June - 11 June 1999)

Quote: MC 19033 when booking (full refunds available on tickets not used!)

This may seem no better than standard specials, but the big plus of this group discount is that conditions are very flexible and there are NO PENALTIES for cancellation or amendments!! Seats are limited.

Call: 0800 267 388 soon to book flights.

FAST FORWARD Award 1998

by Sue McRae
Capital Scrabble Club

This must surely go to Glenda Foster of Capital Club for her stunning 0 - 505 in just 5 minutes during the Wanganui Tournament held over Labour Weekend.

Here's how it all happened:

An avid cricket watcher, Glenda was enjoying coverage of the NZ vs Zimbabwe match on Sky TV late on the first day of the tourney. She watched the first innings which ended about 11pm and decided to pass up the second innings for the sake of getting some sleep. However, she awoke about 2am and turned on the set to see how NZ was doing, got hooked and watched until the glorious end about 5am.

Picture the worried glances from fellow Capital Club members when Glenda failed to show for the 8.30am start on Sunday morning. A quick cellphone call to her unit took some time to rouse her out of a deep sleep, but Glenda kept her cool, taking a shower, then pausing to consider checking out (but the queue

was too long), before arriving at the venue with just 5 minutes playing time left on her clock.

Her opponent, David Lloyd, had rather apologetically started the clock, as he was fully entitled to do, and looked decidedly embarrassed at having such an advantage; but he reckoned without the Foster Fast Forward phenomenon: Her first play, WINNER, should have warned him what was in store, as it was quickly followed by COSSETS (3 x "S" and a blank), SILENTER on a double/double, and (somewhat appropriately to describe her now winded opponent), JADED on a triple for another handy score.

To cut a long story short, Glenda finished the match on 505 points to poor David's 335, losing only 10 points for a one minute time penalty, making the final score 495-335.

So much for the "get a good night's sleep" theory — our advice to David Lloyd: watch more cricket.....

Painless

from p 4.

Lily greeted Lance, when he came from seeing Doc Slaughter.

"Was it an allergy?" She smiled.

They sat on the green striped sofa.

"No allergy. Much worse — terminal acne," he replied. He was not smiling.

"Do not scare me so, dear!" she riposted.

"Okay, it is just an allergy." They embraced.

High Tie in Canada

Shaun Goatcher and Craig Rowland recently had a 496-point tie at the Toronto Scrabble Club. They each played four bonus words — Shaun got PARADISE, RENAILED, VERATRIA and INCOMING, while Craig got AMARETTO, NEWFOUND, TOADFISH and RISSOLE.

Record Margin

Nigel Richards broke 700 for the second time recently. In a double challenge game at the Christchurch Scrabble club on October 30 he beat Paul Lister by 719-215. Nigel's score included five bonus words — BERGHAAN, COSTING, CARRATS, TUTOYED and TENORITE on a triple-triple for 131. Paul was unfortunate with his tiles and got no bonuses.

Not only was the 719 a new Christchurch club record, but the margin of 504 points set a new NZ record, breaking the old mark of 500 achieved by Glynis Jennings of Mt Albert some years ago.

Chew on This

Scrabble chewing gum (tutti-frutti flavour) is now available in America. What next — Scrabble Cola? Margarine? Condoms?

New Chambers Dictionary

The 1998 edition of *The Chambers Dictionary* is now out in the UK, and should be available here soon. It apparently has several thousand new words, many of which are no doubt already listed in the American OSPD. Strangely, a few words removed in the 1993 edition, such as CIDE, have been reinstated.

Some of the new words are ascribed to Spenser or Shakespeare, prompting one wag to comment, "I didn't know they were still writing".

A possible date for adoption of the new words in Britain is 1 January 2000, but that depends on when the next *Official Scrabble Words* (OSW4) is released. There is a tentative date of September 1999. If all this comes to pass, we could adopt the changes here in New Zealand at our 2000 AGM.

Here are some of the new words from Chambers '98. Don't look at them too closely!

ABLEIST	DOOFER	QAWWAL
ALCOPOP	GANGSTA	REBADGE
BITESIZE	KUZU	TWIGLOO
CONF	LADETTE	VOXEL
CROSTINI	LUVVY	ZINE

A Cautionary Tale

At a Scrabble event recently, a challenge slip was handed to the adjudicator with SLURRIES written on it. The word was duly ticked and returned to the table. However, it was subsequently noticed that the word on the board was actually SLURRYS. Neither player seemed aware of the error, and to muddle things further, when the score-sheets were checked, one had the bonus word written as SLURRY and the other as SLURRIES!

Moral: please check that the word written on the challenge slip is the same as the one on the board.

New Ratings System by Nigel Richards Christchurch

For nearly a year now I have been analysing various ratings systems used around the world and have suggested that the New Zealand system be changed to account for some of the problems of the present system. Part of my self-imposed brief was to change as little as possible while making the outcome more accurate and independently reproducible by anyone.

Plans have been made to introduce a new rating system for the first tournament in 1999 (Howick-Pakuranga). The new system is largely the same as the present system and only differs in the application of the formulae. It is hoped with the new system that ratings will now be calculated more fairly for everybody. This may even encourage some players to play where they normally wouldn't using the current system.

I will be making the exact formulae and procedures freely available to anyone wishing to know. I hope to have this ready for the Howick-Pakuranga tournament. If anyone wants to make suggestions for changes or has any questions then please feel free to talk to Glennis Hale, David Lloyd or myself.

Ford Perfect?

English Scrabblers and wordsmith Darryl Francis posted the following curious findings on the Internet:

"If you go into Lexpert and search for words that can be built from the letters of FORD ESCORT, the first word that comes back is CORRODES!

And FORD CORTINA gives FORNICATOR.

And FORD FIESTA gives DRAFFIEST. Since 'druffy' means 'worthless' it can hardly be an association Ford would relish.

The -GRY Conundrum — Postscript

It appears that this brain-teaser may have started as neither a mistake nor a hoax, but as a children's riddle!

Version 1

"There are two words that end with -gry. Angry is one and hungry is another.

What is the third word. Everyone uses it every day and everyone knows what it means. If you have been listening, I have already told you what the word is."

A common mistake in this version is to put a question mark after the third sentence. This turns a simple bit of verbal trickery, whose answer is 'what', into a fruitless exercise in lexicographic detective work.

Version 2

"Think of words ending in -gry.

Angry and hungry are two of them. There are only three words in the English language.

What is the third word? The word is something that is used by everyone every day. If you have listened carefully, I have already told you what it is."

The answer this time can't be 'what', because of the question mark. It is in fact 'language' — the third word in 'the English language'.

I don't know about you, but it sounds to me like the -gry conundrum, whatever version is used, was originated by the sort of people who go around saying things like, "I don't remember how to spell your name. How do you spell it?" Then after you tell them they say, "No, stupid! The correct spelling is I - T!" This, of course is followed by a big laugh.

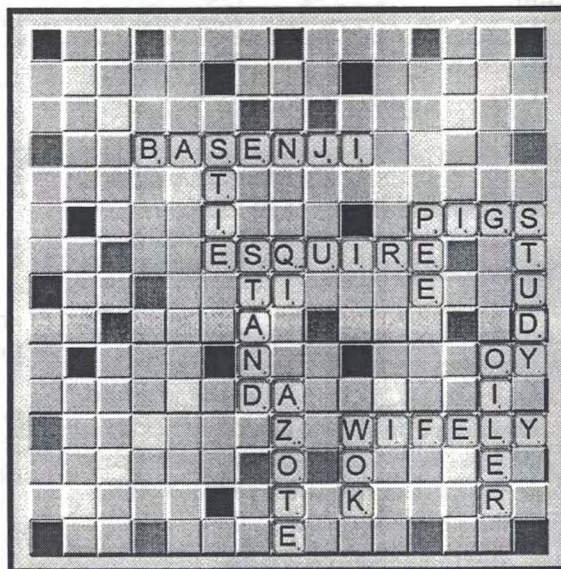
So it looks like the search for -gry words may have been rather a futile one.

[Thanks to Glenda who spotted this info on the Internet.]

An Extraordinary Play

On Friday 23 October 1998 a certain well-known Scrabbler played an excellent bonus word at the Christchurch club. It is a fantastic find, even more so because there were no vowels on the player's rack. See if you can spot the play which was worth more than 63 points.

No mistake — 63 points is too few, so those first two bonus plays you spotted just aren't good enough! Answer on p. 31



RACK

C D H L N R

Kiwi Clout vs the Asian Style

by Howard Warner
Auckland

The First Asia Pacific Scrabble Championship Kuala Lumpur, September 16-20, 1998

The six-strong New Zealand contingent arrived in Kuala Lumpur for the Asia Pacific Championships with a big reputation, it seemed. The tournament was launched the evening before with a (non-alcoholic!) cocktail function and a speech from the Malaysian Minister of Education. Amid the unaccustomed melange of languages and accents from the milling competitors, we learned that word had spread of the deeds of Kendall 'No 6' Boyd and 'Tiger' Richards and of the Kiwi fighting spirit generally.

In fact, the friendly Singaporeans, keen to see what we were really made of, challenged us then and there to "view the Asian style of play" with a round of games in a nearby hotel lounge. Kiwis never back down from a challenge, and so three of us squared off against their top three, including the highly-rated Tony Sim, a double Australian Open champion.

What we learned of this 'Asian style' then, and in the days following, is that they play a tight, strategically sound game; they are quick to place money on the table (in fact, Singaporean Michael Tang has been taking 'master classes' from Tony Sim at \$10 a game, based on the theory that the more he loses, the more he learns!); and they have a far more sophisticated approach to tile tracking, scoring and game analysis than we have even considered. Despite English being only a second language for many, it doesn't seem to make any difference to the extent of their word learning, except for occasionally checking (with free challenge) words we might consider of everyday usage.

The tournament venue and organisation were most impressive. Each table — bedecked by the two competitors' national flags — was big

enough to handle three games. (It needed to be, to accommodate the vast amount of paperwork to be completed for each game.) And with single challenge rules in force, the number of runners (players from local clubs) just about matched that of competitors.

We found 10 countries represented: the host country had 12 entries, the Philippines 10, Sri Lanka 6, (including 5 very studious schoolboys — more of them later), Singapore 4, Australia 4, and an assortment from Pakistan, India, Japan, Indonesia and Thailand. Those countries not involved included, surprisingly, China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, PNG and the Pacific nations.

The standard varied. At one end was the lone Japanese entry, who struggled. At the other end were Thailand, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Singapore. If we had entertained any ideas that Asian countries might be easy pickings because of the language gap and because we hadn't heard much about them, we quickly changed our tune as the tournament progressed.

Day one could be viewed as a bit of a loosener — a chance to find our feet in this single challenge, Swiss draw environment. Patrick Carter turned out to be a bolter, romping home with wins in *all* of the six games. The rest of us were a little way behind with either three or four wins — not a bad Kiwi haul for one day, but not exactly awe-inspiring.

That night we enjoyed another impromptu 'test series' — all six of us against the top six Philippine players, over two rounds, with a kitty of 50 ringgit per player (about \$150 in total) to be taken by the top team. It was a very evenly matched affair, with each round at 3 wins all.

Eventually the Kiwis triumphed on spread, based on one single game — Nigel had a 300-point win over their top player, Odette Rio, and in the process avenged the whopping defeat she had handed him in that day's tournament play.

The second day saw Patrick rise to top position after round one, with seven wins out of seven. About this point, we started to frame an idea of getting all six Kiwis in the top 20. Unfortunately, from that point on, the vicissitudes of the draw dashed that hope by pitting Kiwis against each other a little too regularly. Some of us played almost every other Kiwi, and some more than once — only Peter Sinton seemed to escape the curse.

Overall, day two wasn't a big one for the Kiwis, with Patrick struggling to win another game and the rest of us dropping back down the field. For my part, as soon as I slipped off the pace, I inexplicably found myself meeting some of the highly fancied competitors, such as Tony Sim, Sri Lanka's Naweene Fernando, Thailand's Charnwit Sukhumratanaporn and Nigel Richards! By the end of the day, only Kendall and Nigel looked reasonably well placed.

The third day saw Kiwis on the move. Kendall made top position at one stage, Peter strung a few good wins together and I had a



Mike Sigley (NZ) vs Thong Liew Kee (SG)
photo by Ricky Purnomo

barnstorming run of wins (including, unfortunately, Mike Sigley and Patrick) to rise from 28th at the end of day two to 6th coming into the last round. Unfortunately I then met a rampant Nigel, who pulled out his best game of the tournament, including plucking five bingos seemingly out of nowhere in typical fashion. Also, Mike and Patrick had the misfortune to meet up in that final round.

Our final standing — Nigel 4th, Kendall 6th, Howard 9th, Peter 12th, Mike 29th and Patrick 39th — was, in the context, a highly creditable performance. Though we didn't get anyone in the final — and more significantly, failed to stop an Aussie from getting there — we did have four in the top 12. The next best countries were Sri Lanka with three (7th, 8th and 10th) and the Philippines with two (3rd and 5th). The Philippines were probably a little unlucky, as the aforementioned Odette Rio, fresh from five years of playing the world's best in New York, had led the tournament almost the entire way and become odds-on favourite to take out the title.

As if three days of intense competition Scrabble wasn't enough (you all know what Scrabblers with the bug are like!), we New Zealanders (minus Mike, who had met up with Denise Gordon and was getting into genuine holiday mode) took on the five baby Sri Lankans over two rounds. Despite the toughness of the Sri Lankans in the tournament proper, this turned out to be our most comprehensive 'test' victory — 10 wins to five.

The fourth day of the tournament was a chance to let others do the stressing out. We gathered in front of a trio of giant closed-circuit TV screens to watch Gerald Carter of Thailand and Bob Jackman of Australia battle it over five games for the Asia Pacific title. As each of us found, it's easy to be a genius with someone else's tiles, especially when you can see what their opponent is stuck with and so know what's left in the bag. For the record,

Gerald got a late bonus (AIRLINE) to defeat Bob by 407-403 in the decider.

A valuable part of the tournament was a meeting of players from all 11 countries, held at the end of the third day's play. The meeting was called, and superbly chaired, by Butch Maniego, a charismatic Philippine player, who is a high-profile sports commentator in real life. We discussed how we could build on this most professional and enjoyable of starts to create more of a competition network in the Asia-Pacific region. It was interesting to learn that a number of initiatives are already under way: Pakistan has a sponsor and a structure prepared for a World Cup-type teams event, and Thailand, Singapore and the Philippines all have events planned with money prizes, for which they are keen to attract overseas players. The goodwill and camaraderie among nations that this tournament engendered will, I think, go a long way towards making the regional circuit concept a reality. We also obtained a commitment from the Mattel's representatives there to repeat the Asia Pacific Championships format.

Overall, it was a highly enjoyable and illuminating stay in a country with a very different culture. The top-level competition of the Commonwealth Games, running

simultaneously with out tournament, added to the flavour of the week. And I hope we will meet up again with some of the lovely people we met over the Scrabble board — whether in New Zealand or elsewhere in the region.

Standings after 18 Rounds

Rank	Player	Country	Wins	Spread
1	Bob Jackman	AUS	13	886
2	Gerald Carter	THAI	13	647
3	Odette Rio	PHIL	13	548
4	Nigel Richards	NZ	12	752
5	Virgilio Morales	PHIL	12	618
6	Kendall Boyd	NZ	12	358
7	Nashad Najmu	SRI L	12	101
8	Naweene Fernando	SRI L	11	695
9	Howard Warner	NZ	11	532
10	Harshan Lamab	SRI L	11	401
11	Raja Fuadin	MAL	11	204
12	Peter Sinton	NZ	11	112
↓				
29	Mike Sigley	NZ	9	12
↓				
39	Patrick Carter	NZ	8	-20

Final

Gerald Carter (Thailand) beat Bob Jackman (Australia) 3-2 in the best-of-five final.

1999 World Champs Selection Peak Average Rating Update

The following table lists all eligible players who have a peak average rating of greater than 2000. The peak average rating following the NZ 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	2174	2155.3	2155.3	83
Nigel Richards	2130	2118.2	2118.2	64
Mike Sigley	2009	2065.2	2097.0	36 *
Kendall Boyd	2073	2081.3	2086.0	36 *
Peter Sinton	2024	2033.6	2039.0	36 *
John Foster	2028	2005.4	2031.0	91
Howard Warner	2036	2001.0	2001.0	91

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

NZASP Rankings as at 8 December 1998

Rank	Name	Rating	Games	Wins	%	Rank	Name	Rating	Games	Wins	%
1	Jeff Grant	2174	864	677	78%	52	Bill Grigg	1502	314	168	54%
2	Nigel Richards	2131	242	208.5	86%	53	Faye Cronhelm	1499	610	302	50%
3	Kendall Boyd	2073	217	162.5	75%	54	Sue McRae	1477	371	203	55%
4	Lynne Butler	2047	687	420.5	61%	55	Yvette Hewlett	1472	289	133.5	46%
5	Howard Warner	2036	454	268.5	59%	56	Gaye Norgren	1468	249	122	49%
6	John Foster	2028	846	500.5	59%	57	Shirley Hol	1465	258	125.5	49%
7	Peter Sinton	2024	265	195	74%	58	David Gunn	1461	788	396	50%
8	Mike Sigley	2009	622	467	75%	59	Betty Gibb	1459	294	120.5	41%
9	David Lloyd	1993	409	228	56%	60	Ann Candler	1451	703	316.5	45%
10	Patrick Carter	1970	535	325.5	61%	61	Rhoda Cashman	1448	843	390	46%
11	Sheryl Davidson	1956	718	410	57%	62	Ann Hough	1442	168	98.5	59%
12	Glennis Hale	1909	961	537.5	56%	63	Marj Batchelor	1438	283	126	45%
13	Glynis Jennings	1898	560	266.5	48%	64	Kim Graham	1433	295	166	56%
14	Lynne Powell	1884	960	519.5	54%	65	Rebecca Freeth	1424	146	94	64%
15	Lynn Wood	1862	1071	531.5	50%	66	Marian Ross	1415	260	123.5	48%
16	Andrew Bradley	1835	433	210	48%	67	Norman Wheeler	1409	542	293	54%
17	Denise Gordon	1832	675	355.5	53%	68	Marj Baillie	1398	551	280	51%
18	Eileen McLean	1822	794	438.5	55%	69	Margaret Simpson	1380	529	264	50%
19	Glenda Foster	1818	644	326	51%	70	Doreen Davies	1377	249	128	51%
20	May Quigley	1812	906	409	45%	71	Max Aston	1373	225	117	52%
21	Valerie Mills	1806	564	295.5	52%	72	Andrew Coombes	1369	158	69.5	44%
22	Rosemary Cleary	1799	446	219	49%	73	Correne James	1366	489	227.5	47%
23	Fae Olson	1788	1155	561.5	49%	74	Ruth O'Neill	1362	332	160.5	48%
24	Glenyss Buchanan	1772	645	317	49%	75	Margaret Lyall	1341	273	118	43%
25	Steven Brown	1772	334	200	60%	76	Doreen Ogston	1323	452	200	44%
26	Pam Robson	1760	495	254.5	51%	77	Janice Cherry	1322	143	86	60%
27	Lisa McLean	1759	353	202.5	57%	78	Isabel Zyp	1307	366	185	51%
28	Peter Jones	1755	732	371	51%	79	Reeva Pearson	1303	1096	500	46%
29	Alan Boyd	1749	500	285.5	57%	80	Shirley Martin	1299	354	184.5	52%
30	Paul Lister	1724	362	211	58%	81	Shirley Wyatt	1296	311	145.5	47%
31	Chris Hooks	1698	662	328	50%	82	Carolyn Kyle	1292	159	70	44%
32	June Mackwell	1654	650	290	45%	83	Betty Eriksen	1290	550	274	50%
33	Jane Walton	1654	303	165	54%	84	Elaine Moltzen	1281	421	208	49%
34	Puti Rowe	1649	623	314.5	50%	85	Peggy Wallace	1267	431	205	48%
35	Andree Prentice	1648	596	324.5	54%	86	Malcolm Graham	1257	211	110.5	52%
36	Doreen O'Shea	1644	328	180	55%	87	Elsie Malkin	1228	169	95	56%
37	Liz Fagerlund	1640	295	172	58%	88	Margaret Cherry	1228	294	145.5	49%
38	Yvonne Wilson	1632	226	136	60%	89	Clare Wall	1207	189	98	52%
39	Allie Quinn	1616	818	379.5	46%	90	Liz Catchpole	1203	268	131	49%
40	Helen Sillis	1613	586	303	52%	91	Jennifer Smith	1202	170	103.5	61%
41	Anna Geange	1610	435	240	55%	92	Dorothy Haining	1176	538	280	52%
42	Karyn McDougall	1610	383	207	54%	93	Hazel Purdie	1168	387	186	48%
43	Gerald Warner	1610	1055	487	46%	94	Sue Walker	1167	343	177.5	52%
44	Leila Thomson	1603	531	245	46%	95	Pam Barlow	1154	184	95.5	52%
45	Glenda Geard	1596	751	384	51%	96	Delcie Macbeth	1121	404	218	54%
46	Hilda Scott	1584	273	156	57%	97	Shirley van Essen	1118	95	57.5	61%
47	Howard Feldstein	1560	68	38	56%	98	Kathleen Mori-Barker	1102	193	94	49%
48	Margaret Bundock	1560	732	372	51%	99	Lorraine Van Veen	1095	575	296.5	52%
49	Roger Coates	1552	496	237	48%	100	Margaret Parsons	1079	268	140.5	52%
50	Jean O'Brien	1518	588	301.5	51%	101	Dean Riesterer	1066	124	80	65%
51	Maureen Holliday	1515	266	147.5	55%	102	Pauline Hayes	1029	119	52	44%

Rank	Name	Rating	Games	Wins	%	Rank	Name	Rating	Games	Wins	%
103	Gordon Pinchin	1022	205	111	54%	137	Jill Johnson	774	127	59	46%
104	Margaret Mourant	1022	282	147	52%	138	Juliette Giles	764	123	63.5	52%
105	Bev Barker	1003	436	203	47%	139	Ed Olson	731	1032	413.5	40%
106	Julie Atkinson	994	101	59.5	59%	140	Brian Horsley	726	202	97.5	48%
107	Olwen Skelton	986	434	205.5	47%	141	Heather Port	726	53	30	57%
108	Joan Pratt	985	304	163.5	54%	142	Doreen Rowlands	711	165	63	38%
109	Michael Hyndman	973	141	83.5	59%	143	Dorothy Latta	708	213	84	39%
110	Lyn Dawson	966	142	88	62%	144	Val Worth	703	346	168	49%
111	Shirley Tozer	960	218	111.5	51%	145	Paddy Glen	690	85	38	45%
112	Roto Mitchell	959	215	107	50%	146	Chris Handley	688	42	18	43%
113	Joan Thomas	956	131	74.5	57%	147	Irene Hague-Smith	684	574	262	46%
114	Annette Coombes	953	442	194.5	44%	148	Anton van Essen	677	38	20	53%
115	Jacqueline Coldham-Fussell	947	349	166	48%	149	May Meads	675	220	114.5	52%
116	Pam Mayall	935	211	107	51%	150	Kate Wignall	673	511	251.5	49%
117	Elsie Pugh	925	152	81.5	54%	151	Karen Miller	666	94	45	48%
118	Margaret Schimanski	917	104	45.5	44%	152	Betty Sutherland	661	102	41.5	41%
119	Marie Cairns	911	117	65	56%	153	Marie Kingi	657	246	104	42%
120	Marjorie Heads	905	280	151	54%	154	Ruth Munnings	643	56	26.5	47%
121	Pat Johnstone	896	300	140	47%	155	Mike Miller	634	85	39.5	46%
122	Pat Grant	893	98	55	56%	156	Rob Sillis	631	48	25.5	53%
123	Elaine King	876	362	187.5	52%	157	Sharon Clarke	578	127	41	32%
124	Yvonne Erickson	872	128	50.5	39%	158	Elise Joy	557	106	45	42%
125	Naomi Gilmore	859	169	87.5	52%	159	Adrienne McKeown	538	243	104.5	43%
126	Mary Pinchin	840	255	129	51%	160	Sammy Sanders	514	114	42	37%
127	Elizabeth Arlington	833	38	22	58%	161	Bill Tozer	504	117	47	40%
128	Trish Hellriegel	827	148	75.5	51%	162	Margaret Garner	499	175	71	41%
129	Margaret Hanson	825	163	85	52%	163	Kath Davies	461	167	79	47%
130	Valma Gidman	820	401	195	49%	164	Kerry Dawkins	461	48	8	17%
131	Jean Clarke	816	173	90.5	52%	165	Jillian Greening	450	268	123	46%
132	Susan Olson	815	96	48	50%	166	Kath James	448	288	120.5	42%
133	Lil Moore	789	519	250.5	48%	167	Jacqy Struik	424	92	32	35%
134	Margaret Forbes	786	151	67.5	45%	168	Elvira Steel	395	229	25	11%
135	Janet Willison	784	47	32.5	69%	169	Resie Coenen	364	34	7	21%
136	Mary Gray	779	232	124.5	54%	170	Vera Burner	362	371	99.5	27%
						171	Nola Edwards	315	55	20.5	37%

I'm glad to see
every animal is
kept in its natural
habitat



The Accidental Scrabbler

by Clare Wall, Hamilton

My partner, Frank, and I are currently on holiday, travelling around South East Asia. After a month and a half covering Thailand and Malaysia, we were resting up in the Cameron Highlands (central peninsular Malaysia), getting ready to move on to Kuala Lumpur (KL). The morning we were to leave the Highlands, Frank noticed an article in that day's newspaper announcing that the Annual Scrabble Tournament of the Malaysian Scrabble Association (MSA) was to be held in KL the following weekend (18-19 July). After some hesitation on my part as I was not sure whether late entries would be considered, Frank persuaded me to phone the organiser, Mrs Emy Yap, to see whether they would accept my entry. To my delight Emy was very enthusiastic and warmly welcomed me.

I turned up at the Park Royal Hotel in KL the next day, a Saturday, for the first day of the two day tournament. The tournament was divided into two sections — Masters and Novice. To my dismay Emy decided that, as I have played several tournaments in New Zealand, I was to be in the Masters category! There were 50 entries in the Masters section which drew competitors from Malaysia, Singapore and the Philippines. Players included the current Singaporean champion and several of the current and former Malaysian champions. I was in illustrious company given my very modest NZ ranking!

Everyone was incredibly welcoming and curious as to how I came to be in the tournament. Several asked if I had flown over specially. I was very tempted to say yes! I was particularly pleased to meet Quek Sim Ho of Singapore who went to last year's World Championships in Washington and played Mike Sigley. I can't remember who he said won!

The Malaysian Association is only just now instituting a grading system like the one we use

in NZ so there was no draw made for the whole tournament. Instead a random draw was made for the first game and from then on a 'King of the Hill' system was used. This means that you play someone who has the same or close to the same number of wins as you. Fortunately for me the MSA uses SOWPODS so I didn't have to suddenly unlearn words! Other tournament rules were the same apart from the challenge rule. In KL, the person making an incorrect challenge (ie the word challenged is in fact correct) lost 5 points but did not lose a turn. To my mind this makes challenges more common.

We played a total of 15 games over the two days, of which I won 7 and wound up in 34th place. I found this rather humbling when I considered that virtually every other player was playing in their second or third language! As in NZ tournaments I found the atmosphere very relaxed and social. The eventual winner, with an outstanding result of 15 wins from 15 games, was Pui Cheng Wui of KL. This retired gentleman told me that he studies every day and needs to know the meanings of words to be able to remember them. I guess that he will be at the World Champs next year!

The prize-giving on the Sunday night was a very formal affair, being a reception attended by the patron of the MSA who is the Sultan's brother. The prizes were lavish by NZ standards as Emy had succeeded in obtaining a high level of sponsorship. The winner received RM1,000 (about NZ\$500) plus a food hamper, deluxe Scrabble set and other gifts. Prizes of diminishing value down to 8th place were awarded. Sadly there were no prizes for coming 34th!

During the tournament I was told by the Singaporean players that their annual champs were to be held two weeks after the Malaysian tournament and I was warmly encouraged to enter. Since Frank and I were heading that way

anyway I was able to play in the Singaporean tournament too. It was held under a similar format with around 25 players in the Masters category. Again I ended up around two-thirds of the way down the field!

The main impression I have taken away with me from the two tournaments is that Scrabble players everywhere are interesting and very sociable people. Post mortems were conducted at length after every round with congratulations and commiserations extended

First Things First

Apart from the fact that it is a piece of nonsense, what is special about the following block of text?

Abbey bells clop. I am aglow. I annoy an adder as I coop chilly dewy moss in my floppy boot. I aim a blow at him; bop him. I bellow, "Adios adder!" as I begin an adept biopsy on him.

"Chimp! Clot!" It is St Ann, a ghost in filmy chintz.

I deny I am loopy. "It hit first." I beg, "Buy my adder?"

"I do not buy adders. I accept deer, eel or beef. I almost know how my choosy abbess's belly fills now. Beef is best. Eels cost most. As for my bossy abbot," St Ann adds, "I abhor his floppy belly — it belly flops in billowy deeps."

My abbot begs his deity, "Do not accept or allow any adders in my cell — not a foot in my access door, or floor or ceil."

I acknow my abbot is a dopy ass — adders do not hop foot by foot!

Yes, every word used has its letters in alphabetical order. (And if you think you can

where necessary, just like in NZ! I was the object of much friendly curiosity and everyone was incredibly welcoming.

I have been encouraged by this wonderful experience to seek out other tournaments while we're on our travels and I would encourage others who are overseas for a length of time to do the same. It's a great way to meet the locals and you will instantly have much in common!

Happy Scrabbling!

by Jennifer Smith
Hamilton

make up a better story with the same constraints, have a go!

The exercise got me thinking: how many 7-letter words are there whose letters are in alphabetical order? I found five, only one of which has seven different letters:

ADDEEMS BEEFIFY
BILLOWY CHIKORS
DIKKOPS

Are there any more?

What about reverse alphabetical order? I found twelve 7-letter words, two of which do not have a double letter:

SNIFFED SNIGGED SPIFFED
SPONGED SPOOFED SPOOKED
SPOOLED SPOOMED SPOONED
TRIGGERED TROLLED WRONGED

Are there any 8-letter words in alphabetical order? Are there any 8-letter words in reverse alphabetical order?

Have fun looking!

[Webster's unabridged dictionary lists the odd-looking word AEGILOPS, an ulcer in the corner of the eye, while the reverse-alphabetical TROLLIED and SPOONFED are both allowed in Scrabble. A pity that SPOON-FEED seems to be invariably hyphenated. — Ed.]

The Last Word in Trans-Tasman Rivalry

by Howard Warner



Forget the Commonwealth Games medals count. Forget the cricket and league mismatches. Forget even the (horrors!) walloping Wallabies. New Zealand can at least claim superiority to the Aussies in one sport — Scrabble.

The rivalry between the old foes was alive and well at the three-day Trans-Tasman Challenge in Auckland in November.

We were hungry for revenge, after suffering defeat at the hands of the old foe in Sydney two years ago.

That hunger showed in a lead the New Zealand 12 maintained over our Aussie counterparts at every stage of the 24-round event.

These were two teams matched in strength. The Aussies were missing only one of their top 12-ranked players. Likewise the Kiwis, after Mike Sigley pulled out — though his replacement, Lynne Butler, a former Australian national champ, is no slouch.

At the end of day one, we were sitting pretty at 55 wins to 41. Leading the individual standings on six wins were four New Zealanders — Nigel Richards, Howard Warner, Jeff Grant and Lynne Powell — and Bob Jackman from Australia.

Through day two, the Aussies pegged back our lead to be 7 games behind (99½ to 92½) after round 16. Nigel held the individual top spot throughout, except for one round of glory for Bob Jackman. At the end of the day Nigel was still leading, on 11½ wins, ahead of Howard, Bob and Australian dark horse Jimmy Scarff, a 17-year-old Melbourne schoolboy, on 11. Four more Kiwis were sitting on 10 wins.

But on day three, we Kiwis showed our stamina, picking up the pace to finish 21 games

ahead (154½ to 133½). Though the New Zealanders led all the way, it was probably round four, which we won 11 games to 1, that gave us the confidence to go on and complete the job. We also had three rounds of 9 wins to 3, compared with Australia's best round of 8½ to 3½.

In the individual contest, Nigel continued to lead from the front, apart from a brief half-game lead for Howard and — most significantly — Peter's final-round touch of the finishing tape. Nigel, who finished with a spread of 1707, about 800 ahead of both Peter and third-placed Jeff, will be ruing the game he drew with Australia's international novice Angela van Niekerk on the final day.

Though Nigel's performance throughout set the benchmark for all the players, other individuals deserve mention: Peter, of course, for his quiet persistence which rewarded him with his first major title (he also claimed the highest game score, a nice round 600); Jimmy Scarff, in his first major tournament, who ended up the highest-placed Aussie at fourth and showed himself to be a player of the future in world competition; and Lynne Powell, the top-finishing woman at ninth, who made day one her own, winning the first six games straight.

Along the way some beautiful and rare words made an appearance, worth savouring once more before they disappear back among the tombstone columns of Redwood. They included GARAGEMEN, CASUISTIC, JETPLANES, PLAGUIEST (all nine letters), David Lloyd's 10-letter SUBROUTINE, and DEASHING, KHALIFA, BHAKTI, FILMDOM, TEOSINTE, ACTINIAE, MOVIEOLA, ZOOECIA, QUEYNIES, ZARIBA, SHOTPUT, AZUREAN, ANAEROBE, KHODJA and UNVIRTUE.

A significant change to the tournament this

time was the double round-robin format, in which players only competed against members of the opposing team. This added a special edge to the developing contests, both team and individual. I think the embellishments of alternate starts and "dingle" challenge (one free challenge, and thereafter double challenge) are now well entrenched at this level. They seemed to work very fluently.

Fluent is a word that could be applied to all aspects of the tournament. With the extensive organisational efforts of John Foster, the slick design of T-shirts, nametags and poster by David, the creative gift baskets from Pam Robson, the efficient adjudicating by Correne James and scoring by Margaret Bundock, the financial help and backing from Mattel, and the airy, spacious venue at the Ellerslie International Motor Inn, the whole thing had a wonderfully professional feel.

An important vote of thanks must also go to the Australians, who honoured us with such a strong presence — they reckon it can be hard to get a full quota of top players together even for their national tournaments. They also had a fair number of supporters in tow.

All credit to them, as Fitzy would say, for the friendly spirit in which they pitted brains against us on our turf. As with most trans-



Peter Sinton

Tasman sporting events, the mutual respect and the friendship off the field matched the intense rivalry on the field.

We know they are looking forward to hosting us in Melbourne in two years' time — and seeking their own revenge.

But we'll be ready.

Trans-Tasman Tournament 21-23 November 1998

23 Games

	Name	Wins	Spread	Ave	B/W
1	Peter Sinton	NZ	18	958	422 42
2	Nigel Richards	NZ	17.5	1707	468 59
3	Jeff Grant	NZ	16	984	429 46
4	Jimmy Scarff	AUS	16	817	423 43
5	Howard Warner	NZ	15	513	413 42
6	Kendall Boyd	NZ	15	492	410 42
7	Bob Jackman	AUS	14.5	486	409 37
8	Patrick Carter	NZ	14	912	414 36
9	Lynne Powell	NZ	12.5	-81	407 45
10	Joan Rosenthal	AUS	12	192	401 44
11	Roger Blom	AUS	12	120	405 44
12	Esther Perrins	AUS	11.5	-42	397 37
13	Paul Cleary	AUS	11	306	419 43
14	John Holgate	AUS	11	-5	402 41
15	John Foley	AUS	11	-455	411 45
16	Glennis Hale	NZ	11	-483	389 36
17	Alistair Kane	AUS	11	-597	395 31
18	David Lloyd	NZ	10	-402	395 42
19	John Foster	NZ	10	-438	385 34
20	Carmel Dodd	AUS	10	-1374	378 31
21	Steve Sunter	AUS	9	-370	388 32
22	Lynne Butler	NZ	9	-441	396 31
23	Sheryl Davidson	NZ	6.5	-1055	377 34
24	Angela Van Niekerk	AUS	4.5	-1744	361 33

Total Wins

NZ	155
AUS	134

Ruth Unswayed

Ruth O'Neill of New Plymouth broke the NZ record for a high non-bonus single turn playing in the E Grade at the Kiwi Tournament on November 28. She converted WAY into UNSWAYED on a triple-triple for 135 points, which was the highest-scoring move of the day.

The Highest Single Move Score

According to the *Guinness Book of Records*, the highest single move in a game of Scrabble was achieved by Dr Karl Khoshnaw on 11 April, 1982, with 392 points for CAZIQUES on a triple-triple. Karl was runner-up in the 1993 British Nationals, and has competed at three World Championships, representing UK (1993), Kurdistan-Iraq (1995) and Kurdistan (1997). He also holds the record for the highest game score ever at the World Champs — 739 points in 1993.

Back in the 1970s and 1980s, 'high score' Scrabble was played in the UK, and it was quite common for letters deliberately placed between two triple word squares to remain there for some time before one of the players eventually hit the triple-triple for a huge score. 'Blocking' the spot was frowned upon.

The ultimate illustration of a 'high score' approach was when top English player Phil Appleby, playing socially against his sister Gilli in June 1989, racked up an amazing score of 1049 points to win by 796! Both records were accepted by the Guinness people.

A key phase of play in this incredible game occurred when Phil opened a triple-triple by putting an E on the end of FOR. Next move he added an R, leaving ER one space away from the bottom right triple word square. Two moves later he played OXIDIZERS around the ER for 374!

The highest known game score back in 1981 was 774 points scored by English Scrabblers Allan Simmons. During the course of this game OYE was played with the E one square to the right of the bottom left corner. Allan got 149 points by making MEIONITE around the E — fifteen moves later!

Karl got his massive 392-point move during a club game in Manchester against an Elizabeth McClymont. Which of them set up the play with a 'fortuitously' placed Z (from PHIZ) is not recorded. What does Karl's high-scoring word CAZIQUES mean anyway? It is the plural

of CAZIQUE, which is a variant of CACIQUE, which has a number of different meanings. *Chambers Dictionary* says it is "a W. Indian or American Indian chief, or a local political boss in Spain or Latin America", whereas OSPD defines it as "a tropical oriole (bird)", *Webster's* adds that it can also mean "a powerful landowner in the Philippines", or "in colonial Carolina, a county noble next below the landgrave in rank". Quite a versatile word!

An unheralded Scrabble fact is that Dr Khoshnaw's record was equalled in more recent times by Maltese player Magri Demajo. His feat is not recognised in the *Guinness Book of Records* and little is known of the actual game except that the 392 points were gained with the word MEZQUITE (a kind of spiny tree or shrub) on a triple-triple. This word, also spelled MESQUIT, MESQUITE and MEZQUIT, is found only in the American Scrabble dictionary.

It is doubtful that the single-move record will ever be beaten in conventional play, but American pharmacist and Scrabblers Ty de Pena of California reckons it should be achievable using the word QUAZEPAM, a generic drug that he apparently encounters in his work. This could score 410 points on a triple-triple, but unfortunately the term hasn't made it into *Webster's* (or any?) dictionary yet. As a matter of interest, the related drug OXAZEPAM, which is allowed in Scrabble, has the potential to equal the current record.

So is a single move score of more than 392 likely to happen? Not in normal competition, that's for sure, but it is certainly possible by adopting the high score 'set up' style.

Here is what happened in a (very) friendly game between Pat Hutchison and Jeff Grant on August 14, 1998.

	Jeff		Pat			
1	RORE	8	8	BECK	22	22
2	MADE	18	26	OAT	12	34
3	HET	12	38	EF/ERF	19	53
4	ROW	18	56	AI/AW	9	62
5	TOD/ED	18	74	BLUE	15	77
6	TELL	14	88	EA/LA/TEE	11	88
7	HIN	22	110	SINE	21	109
8	OX	20	130	VAN/LAV	18	127
9	CH 3	-	130	JAIL	22	149
10	POX/PAW	20	150	OW/OX	19	168
11	BEG	7	157	VAGI	27	195
12	BECKS/SAT	16	173	INN/NOX	14	209
13	DOT/AND	9	182	PLAINR	83	292
14	NOR	11	193	YU	28	320
15	RAJ	20	213	CH 4	-	320
16	RE	6	219	ICE	20	340
17	QUIZZIFY	419	638	DOM	20	360
18	SAG	18	656			
		+10	666			



Jeff comments: "I couldn't believe my luck when Pat opened the triple row with ICE, and I had the exact letters to make QUIZZIFY!"

Pat comments: "I couldn't believe it either — one moment I was 120 points ahead, the next I was 300 behind!"

All jokes aside regarding Jeff's 'beastly' score, the 'devilishly' cunning set-up, etc., 666 is particularly appropriate this year. You see 1998 = 666+666+666, and since 1998 can be represented using three 666s, assign successive multiples of 3 to the letters of the alphabet: A=3, B=6, C=9 ... Z=78, then add the values of the letters in NINETEEN NINETY EIGHT, and you will obtain exactly 666!

What does QUIZZIFY mean? *Chambers Dictionary* defines it as "to cause to look odd (obsolete)", while the *Oxford English Dictionary* says it means "to make into a quiz" — in the sense of an odd or eccentric person, in character or appearance. The word is very rare, in fact the *Oxford* has only a single citation of use, from English writer Robert Southey's fantastic rambling miscellany *The Doctor*, published in seven volumes from 1834-47.

"The caxon quizzifies the figure, and thereby mars the effect [etc.]"

[CAXON is another good Scrabble word — it's a kind of wig.]

Obviously some collaboration (and good fortune!) was involved in the 419-point QUIZZIFY move in the game described, but that's what 'high score' Scrabble is all about.

Murphy's Laws of Scrabble

by Bill Webster
United States

- ☹ To go first, if you draw an A, opponent will draw a blank.
- ☹ If you dump two U's, you will draw a Q.
- ☹ If you dump the Q, you will draw at least one U.
- ☹ If you do not play your I, you will draw another.
- ☹ If you play off all your I's, you will need one next turn.
- ☹ If you keep any double letter, you will draw a third.
- ☹ If you put a vowel next to a premium square, opponent will have the X for it.

Seven Syllable Word

English Scrabblers Chris Hawkin and Peter Dean play each other regularly on a social basis. In their 1001st encounter, Peter played ORIGINAL on a double-double for 82 points, which Chris later extended to ORIGINALITY, then UNORIGINALITY. Words with 13 letters are rare enough in Scrabble, but has one with seven syllables ever been played before?



Submitted by Bill Webster, United States

U-N-E-M-P-L-O-Y-E-D for 87

What is the six-letter word that best describes the plant where wooden Scrabble tiles have been made for 25 years? C-L-O-S-E-D.

"It's really just very sa d," said Lois Hood, who worked at the plant in Fairfax, Vermont, for eight years "doing everything: inspecting, dyeing, milling."

The plant was closed on December 5 by Hasbro's Milton Bradley unit — formerly the town's largest employer — because "we couldn't make it more efficient". It means the loss of jobs for all 87 workers.

Hasbro spokesman Mark Morris noted in a media release: "Professional (!) Scrabble tournaments do not use the wooden tiles that have become so familiar to millions. Plastic is used instead, because the pros (!) can tell what the letters are by running their fingers lightly over the wooden tiles before plucking them from the bag."

He also said most players wished for sets to include more blanks.

No replacement site has been named for the operation.

Bill and Monica

Bill Clinton and Monica Lewinsky have dominated the news lately. Anagrammatically, their paths were destined to cross.

Not only does MONICA LEWINSKY transpose to the crude WANK MY SILICONE, but also to the more revealing MAIN YEN O' SLICK W. Some say that Miss Lewinsky was attracted by the president's smile. Perhaps he thought IT'LL WIN MONICA L. (a transposal of WILLIAM CLINTON)

More ominously for Bill's future aspirations in the White House, let's examine the apt Latin phrase IN FLAGRANTE DELICTO (caught in the act). Incredibly, and maybe prophetically, this anagrams to:

CLINTON + GIRL = A DEFEAT

Auckland Home Championship 1998

Grade A	Wins	Score	Ave	
1	Howard Warner	51.5	27830	435
2	Patrick Carter	41	24601	410
3	David Lloyd	34.5	23957	399
4	Glennis Hale	29.5	23226	387
5	Glynis Jennings	28	25153	393
6	Sheryl Davidson	25	23951	374
7	Lynne Powell	24	24756	387
8	Valerie Mills	23.5	22682	378
9	Chris Hooks	23	18324	382
Grade B				
1	Anna Geange	22	10824	387
2	Peter Jones	16	10998	393
3	Margaret Bundock	16	10824	387
4	Allie Quinn	14	10488	375
5	Shirley Wyatt	13	8613	359
6	Kim Graham	12	11164	399
7	Maureen Holliday	12	10836	387
8	Karyn McDougall	6	8325	347
Grade C				
1	Margaret Simpson	17	10828	387
2	Mary Gray	17	10664	381
3	Margaret Mourant	17	10320	369
4	Hazel Purdie	16	10690	382
5	Sue Walker	14	10701	382
6	Liz Catchpole	12	10398	371
7	Irene Hague-Smith	12	9756	348
8	Pauline Hayes	7	9538	341
Grade D				
1	Julie Atkinson	11	4676	390
2	Elaine King	9	5557	370
3	Karen Miller	6	5151	343
4	Kate Wjgnall	5	5123	342
5	Adrienne McKeown	5	3166	352
6	Lil Moore	3	4200	350

Due to illness, etc. Grade D was not completed.

All Credit to the Lads

The distinguished British playwright Alan Plater has written a play about two football-mad lads who blunt their urges to compete on the field by playing a highly competitive game of Scrabble. The play, *All Credit to the Lads*, previewed at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, England recently, and given the fame of its author, is likely to appear elsewhere in the near future.

from *UK Scrabble Club News*,
November 1998

Club News



Dunedin Newsletter

by Bill Grigg

Canterbury Open

Day 1 Congratulations to (who else?) Nigel Richards (CHC) who finished on 7 wins with a 526 average. Bill Grigg (DUN) was second and Liz Fagerlund (CHC) third. Nigel and I had a good game with both playing three bonus words. He won 554-379. In C Grade Chris Handley (DUN) placed second on 5 wins. Good to see competitors from Nelson and North Island.

Day 2 Nigel Richards won again with 7 wins and an average of 534. Karyn McDougall (DUN) came second and Allie Quinn (NSB) was third. In C grade Chris Handley continued good form, finishing third.

Thanks to all in Christchurch. Your hospitality was much appreciated.

Asia-Pacific, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

The NZ team did well. Nigel Richards (CHC) was 4th on 12 wins, Kendall Boyd (DUN) 6th on 12 wins and Peter Sinton (DUN) 12th with 11 wins. Both Kendall and Peter enjoyed the trip. Whilst there they watched the NZ cricket team play — no, they weren't crazy!

Norfolk Island

Carolyn Kyle and Elvira Steel had a wonderful time, meeting new friends. A good holiday was had by all. Carolyn won the consolation knock-out competition and is very proud of the trophy she won. Both are looking forward to next time.

Quiz 1

Can you solve these Norfolk brain teasers? What do they mean?

- (a) **JACK**
 (b) VAD ERS
 (c) XX

Sept-Oct-Nov

Glen Madigan playing for the first time in the R/R Competition.

Marian Ross beat Peter Sinton 467-376 — she has beaten him four times this year.

Kerry Dawkins won a trophy ten pin bowling in Christchurch.

Otago Lion Champs

Day 1 (A) 1 Nigel Richards (CHC), 2 Liz Fagerlund (CHC), 3 Shirley Hol (CHC). (B) 1 Shirley van Essen (CHC), 2 Gordon Pinchin (CHC), 3 Glen Madigan (DUN) — in his first tournament.

Day 2 (A) 1 Nigel Richards (CHC), 2 Liz Fagerlund (CHC), 3 Karyn McDougall (DUN). (B) 1 Shirley van Essen (CHC), 2 Gordon Pinchin (CHC), 3 John Bell (DUN)

Thanks Christchurch for your great support. Sorry Doreen Ogston didn't make it this time; her dear friend Katrine Kerr-Renwick passed away. Special thanks to the Lion Foundation and Commercial Tavern Green Island for their donation for trophies.

Quiz 2

What do the following racks make?

- (a) SURDING (b) NOOLIRS
 (c) PEGSINS (d) ADAISTS

Competition Results

Club	Champion	P	W	Ave
Round Robin	1 Peter Sinton	34	28	468
	2 Marian Ross	37	19	396
	3 Bill Grigg	37	21	378
Ladder Comp.	1 Bill Grigg	20	17	405
	2 Marian Ross	36	26	389
	3 Glen Madigan	34	8	351
Challenge Comp	1 Karyn McDougall		67	435
	2 Bill Grigg		26	424
	3 Marian Ross		38	404
Dictionary Comp	1 Karyn McDougall		7	476
	2 Marian Ross		3	415
	3 Daisy Madden		10	400

Quiz Answers

- (c) GIPSENS (d) STADIAS
 (a) LINGRDS (b) ROSINOL
 (c) Double cross
 (b) Space Invaders
 (a) Jack in the box

Dunedin Tournaments 1999

Everyone welcome

Dunedin Lion Open

24/25 April (2 one dayers)

Otago Lion Open Champs

6/7 November (2 one dayers)

\$13.00 each day. All invited.

A big thank you to Graham Gough for opening up the clubrooms, to Chris Handley for competitions, to the drivers, and most of all to those members who regularly attended.

**Merry Christmas
and all the best for 1999**

Nelson

As part of our efforts to attract new members, we occupied a corner at October's 'Positive Aging' expo in the Richmond Mall. This exercise lured a half dozen club members, playing Scrabble in public, squeezed between an art teacher's display and the weaving club's demonstration.

The exposure didn't attract a flood of new recruits, true — but it did reinforce our presence in the activities world. We also distributed some 3000 publicity leaflets in neighbourhood letterboxes. But the best way of luring newcomers, judging by recent experience, still seems to be a mention in the newspaper and word-of-mouth encouragement.

Ann beat Murray by 569-419 on October 28th, which set a new club record combined score of 988.

**from the Nelson Scrabble Club Inc.
Newsletter, November 1998**

An Extraordinary Play —

Answer from p 16

The Christchurch player was of course Nigel Richards, and his brilliant bonus word was CHLORODYNE (a type of patent medicine) for 99 points. Most people would be happy to see CHANDLER or CHILDREN for 63.

This must surely be one of the most extraordinary moves ever! Has anyone heard of a comparable play, even by a computer?

Anagrammatically

An anagram, as we all know, is a word or phrase made by rearranging the letters of another word or phrase. Here are some classic examples.

Dormitory	Dirty room
Snooze Alarms	Alas, no more z's
Contradiction	Accord not in it
The Earthquakes	That queer shake
Animosity	Is no amity
Slot machines	Cash lost in 'em
	[my favourite! — Ed.]

This one is amazing (from Shakespeare's Hamlet):

To be or not to be, that is the question. Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune.

Anagrams into:

In one of the Bard's best thought of tragedies, our insistent hero, Hamlet, queries on two fronts about how life turns rotten.

And the grand finale:

That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind. — Neil Armstrong.

Anagrams into:

A thin man ran, makes a large stride, left planet, pins flag on moon! On to Mars! — Ruth O'Neill (NPL)

International



Australia

Victorian Championships

Bob Jackman (NSW) took out the Masters section, with 18 wins from 21 games, three clear of Alistair Kane. Fifty players competed in the event held from 6-8 June.

	Wins
1 Bob Jackman	18
2 Alistair Kane	15
3 Ray Alford	14
4 Roger Blom	14
5 Marie Knight	13

Coominya Tournament

The 4th annual Coominya event in Queensland on 12 July attracted 86 players. The Masters section was won by Michael Vnuk with a 6/6 clean sweep, one win ahead of Gerry Reynolds.

Sydney Winter Masters

Held on 25-26 July, this popular event had 41 players, including many of the top echelon in Aussie Scrabble. Once again, it proved a triumph for Bob Jackman, who won 18 games from 20, three ahead of Paul Cleary and John Holgate.

	Wins	Spread
1 Bob Jackman	18	1390
2 Paul Cleary	15	1508
3 John Holgate	15	1383
4 Esther Perrins	13	673
5 Joan Rosenthal	12	716

Queensland Championships

Bob Jackman (NSW), winner in 1996 and 1997, was absent this year, but there were many visiting players, including Brian Horsley from Christchurch, NZ, who finished 18th in the Advanced section.

Over 40 prizes were given out at the end of the tournament, which was held on August 22-23. Section winners received special coins — a

20-toea coin, a 10-vatu coin, a 10-xu coin and a 1-lev coin.

It was good to see some of our Aussie friends from previous Norfolk Island festivals doing well. Michael Vnuk came runner-up in Masters, with Graeme Lock Lee 6th and Joan Colburt 7th. Jack and Patti Ashwin, and Brenda Nord, also competed. Yvonne Doughty was 4th in the Advanced section, Jo Phillips was 8th and Lorie Ewings 12th. But it was in the Recreation group where the Norfolk players really cleaned up, with Joan Murphy 1st, Noéline Thoma 2nd and Wayne Willis 3rd.

	Wins	Spread
1 Derek McKenzie	14	1174
2 Michael Vnuk	11	365
3 Julie Gardiner	11	345

Baulkham Hills Open

This inaugural NSW tourney was played on August 30, with 66 players taking part. Robin Flynn won her first major victory with 7 straight wins, finishing one ahead of Jean McGiffen, Joan Rosenthal and Audrey Newman. Bob Jackman was 5th, heading a group of six players with five wins.



Bahrain

The ninth **Gulf Scrabble Tournament** (GST) is set for May 19-21, 1999 at Bahrain's Hilton Hotel. The Gulf champion will probably have automatic entry into the next World Champs.

Second ranked Gulf player Selwyn Lobo from Dubai, United Arab Emirates, won the **Filipino Club Centennial Scrabble Open**, ahead of Saudi Arabia's Salah Salih, with Roland Filio of Bahrain third.



Belgium

The 1998 **French-speaking World Scrabble Championship** was held in Brussels in July. Christian Pierre of Belgium won his fourth world title — a great achievement.



Canada

The 1998 **Canadian National Championship** was held in Toronto from October 16-19. The winner was Joel Wapnick, former North American champ and runner-up in the 1993 Worlds. Joel is also the author of arguably the best book ever written on top-level Scrabble, namely *The Champion's Strategy for Winning at Scrabble*, published in 1986, and sadly now out of print. Runner-up to Joel in Toronto was Albert Hahn, with James Cherry third. Joel won the best-of-5 game final 3-2, despite not getting a single blank.



India

Dean Saldanha (15), the current Gulf champion, on holiday from the United Arab Emirates, won the **All-India Scrabble Tournament** in Bombay in August. Mohan Chunkath, who has played mostly in America, was runner-up. Over 130 Scrabblers took part in the event, including 18 in the top section.

Akshay Bhandarkar, who was camera-shy when living in Bahrain, is apparently right at home in the TV studios of India. Akshay, sharing the screen with a Hollywood film star who also plays Scrabble, held his own in explaining the ABCs of the game and how to get into the Scrabble stratosphere in the global competitive arena. The remarkable thing about the TV programme is that until about 18 months ago Scrabble was an obscure activity in India and had no competitive clubs that anyone had heard of.

Suddenly, with Akshay catapulting himself into number 8 spot at the last World Champs, Scrabble has gained media attention, and the former Bahrain and Gulf champ has become a

mini-star of sorts in India. Meanwhile, club activity has sprouted around the country with players like Mohan Chunkath (22nd in Asia-Pacific event) emerging as champion-class competitors.

from *Scrabble Squibs*, newsletter of the Bahrain Scrabble League



Malaysia

The **Central Capacitors Scrabble Tournament** in Kuala Lumpur on July 18-19 attracted 68 entrants. Defending champion, Malaysia's 1997 World Champs rep Pui Cheng Wui was in devastating form, winning all 15 games to finish four clear of second place getter Tony Sim. The novice section was won by 10-year-old prodigy Zain Putra with 11 wins from 12 games.



Oman

Sonny Hemachandra won the Oman Open Scrabble Tournament in October, with Ralph Lobo runner-up.



Poland

The first English-speaking Scrabble event was held in Warsaw in June with 8 players taking part. Wojciech Usakiewicz from Warsaw was the winner. The Polish Scrabble Federation has over 50 members, 18 of whom can play in English. They are planning to hold English tournaments once a month.



Singapore

The 1998 **Singapore Scrabble Open Championship** was held on August 1-2, with 79 players taking part, including Clare Wall from Hamilton, New Zealand.

In the Masters Section, the winner was decided in the last game when Michael Tang beat Ador Ruiz by 335-295 on a tight board to clinch his first national title. Michael was lucky to draw both blanks, one of which he used to make

the only bonus word of the game —
SHOULDER.

In third place was Cheah Siu Hean with 10 wins, one behind Ador. Fourth and fifth went on countback to Singaporean World Champs reps Tony Sim and Quek Sim Ho. Clare finished a very creditable 19th with 7 wins.

A **Scrabble Funtasia**, with events for school children, social players, teams, experts and even a Celebrity Challenge is to be held in the Suntec International Convention Centre between December 18th and 27th to celebrate Scrabble's 50th anniversary.

United Arab Emirates

Gulf champion Dean Saldanha, along with his family, have moved to Canada, leaving a huge void in Dubai's Scrabble scene.

United Kingdom

The UK Association has changed its name from APSP to ABSP — Association of British Scrabble Players. Any implication of elitism inspired by the word 'Premier' is now a thing of the past.

The **Ladies Championship** was held on the Friday evening and Saturday morning (August 28-29) just before the British Matchplay event. This year competition was fierce with Chris Lloyd taking the title on countback from Ruth Morgan-Thomas and Mary Grylls. All three had 5 wins from the 6 games played.

The **British Matchplay Championship** has been won by a woman for the first time. Helen Gipson created history in the 3-day event held on August 29-31 by beating last year's winner, Andy Davis, 440-404 in the deciding game. Helen finished with 14 wins (+812) from 17 games, with Andy runner-up on 12 (+1026) and Russell Byers 3rd (12 wins, +879).

UK Ratings as at 29 October

- | | | |
|---|-----|---------------|
| 1 | 198 | Phil Appleby |
| 2 | 197 | Andrew Fisher |

- | | | |
|----|-----|-----------------|
| 3 | 196 | Mark Nyman |
| 4 | 194 | Allan Saldanha |
| 5 | 193 | David Acton |
| 5 | 193 | David Webb |
| 7 | 191 | Andrew Cook |
| 7 | 191 | Brett Smitheram |
| 9 | 188 | Russell Byers |
| 10 | 187 | Andrew Davis |
| 10 | 187 | Allan Simmons |
| 10 | 187 | Clive Spate |

The **Canterbury Tournament** on September 5th was won by World Champs rep Allan Saldanha. His recent absence from the game whilst at Cambridge University proved no disadvantage as he easily won the event ahead of Alec Webb in second place and Paul Golder third.

The **1998 British National Scrabble Championship** in October was won by Mark Nyman.

United States National Championship

As reported in our last issue, The US National Scrabble Championship was held in Chicago from 8-13 August. With 540 players from 40 states and 7 countries there were plenty of newsworthy Scrabble stories during the five days of competition.

- ◆ There were over 20,000 hits each day on the newly launched American Scrabble Association website:—
www.scrabble-assoc.com.
- ◆ Eleven-year-old Leon Fernandes of Canada came 7th in Division 4, averaging over 400 for most of the tournament.
- ◆ Regular *Forwards* subscriber Ron Tiekert came 5th in the top section, while another, Norma Fisher, was runner-up in Division 2.
- ◆ The 'Biggest Comeback' prize went to Thailand's Charnwit Sukhumrattanaporn, who came back from 47-249 down in one game to win 393-375.
- ◆ Eventual champion Brian Cappelletto may have set some sort of record against Iim

Geary by scoring 470 points in 12 turns, winning by 104, without playing a bonus word!

Reno, Nevada

The annual Reno tournament was held at the Sands Regency Hotel and Casino on July 8-12. This 22-round event drew 164 players, including many top experts. The winner on 18.5 wins and a huge 2082 spread was Lester Schonbrun, two games clear of Robert Felt. Lisa

Odom finished strongly to take 3rd place with 15.5 wins, regaining her position as America's top-rated lady player (on 1981).

Uruguay

The first ever Uruguayan National Championship was held this year in Montevideo. Julio Echenique was crowned the first Uruguayan champion, winning the event ahead of 19 other competitors.

President's Christmas Message

by Glennis Hale

With Christmas almost upon us it is time for me to reflect on my first six months as President. What a busy and exciting time it has been.

I cannot recall a busier time in Scrabble. On the international front, the 1st Asia-Pacific Tournament to organise in such a short time, the ever popular Norfolk Island Festival and finally the 2nd Trans-Tasman Challenge. All three highly successful, with NZ Scrabblers performing superbly. Congratulations to all our representatives. A special thank you to Mattel (NZ) Ltd for their generous sponsorship of the Trans-Tasman Challenge.

All our NZ tournaments have been very well patronised this year, and my thanks to all those organisers out there who do such a wonderful job. A fun day was had by all at Kiwi's inaugural Christmas tournament. A novel idea, with lots of prizes and goodies for everyone. Well done, Kiwi.

Another full and exciting Scrabble calendar lies ahead of us in 1999. Get those dates in your diary early.

I want to thank David, Bev, Allie and Lyn for all their hard work and support, and Margaret Bundock, on behalf of all the clubs, for her invaluable organisation of all the computer work related to tournaments. Finally, thanks to Jeff and Glenda for their efforts in producing the magazine. These dedicated people make my job so much easier.

I am very much looking forward to the 1999 Scrabble year.

To everyone, including our many overseas friends and *Forwards* readers, I wish you good health, a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Tournament Results



Canterbury Open Tournament Day 1 12 September

7 Games

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Avg	B/W
Grade A					
1 Nigel Richards	CHC	7	1446	526	19
2 Bill Grigg	DUN	4.5	-39	406	16
3 Liz Fagerlund	CHC	4	55	399	8
4 Karyn McDougall	DUN	4	-365	364	10
5 Allie Quinn	NSB	3.5	-340	370	10
6 Ann Hough	NEL	2.5	-223	386	10
7 Shirley Hol	CHC	1.5	-190	398	8
8 Margaret Lyall	CHC	1	-342	422	7

Grade B

1 Doreen Ogston	CHC	5	230	384	10
2 Shirley van Essen	CHC	4	231	388	8
3 Sue Walker	MTA	4	139	392	11
4 Lyn Dawson	NEL	4	121	373	10
5 Elsie Malkin	CHC	4	22	365	11
6 Gordon Pinchin	CHC	3	-10	375	11
7 Mary Pinchin	CHC	2	-326	329	1
8 Yvonne Erickson	CHC	2	-407	327	3

Grade C

1 Dorothy Latta	IND	6	315	378	8
2 Chris Handley	DUN	5	328	357	3
3 Anton van Essen	CHC	4	134	336	7
4 Bill Tozer	CHC	3	-140	302	2
5 Juliette Giles	CHC	2	-83	332	6
6 Betty Sutherland	CHC	1	-554	288	0

Grade D

1 Stella Hasseldine	CHC	6	253	329	1
2 Sue Clements	CHC	5	336	343	1
3 Betty Wilson	CHC	5	34	315	1
4 Ray Goodyear	CHC	3	-32	316	4
5 Elvira Steel	DUN	2	-322	271	0
6 Kerry Dawkins	DUN	0	-269	279	1

Canterbury Open Tournament Day 2 13 September

7 Games

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Avg	B/W
Grade A					
1 Nigel Richards	CHC	7	1607	534	21
2 Karyn McDougall	DUN	5	309	385	11

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Avg	B/W
3 Allie Quinn	NSB	5	-73	389	9
4 Bill Grigg	DUN	4	-96	362	6
5 Shirley Hol	CHC	3	-344	348	11
6 Liz Fagerlund	CHC	2	-258	363	7
7 Margaret Lyall	CHC	1	-568	344	7
8 Ann Hough	NEL	1	-577	316	3

Grade B

1 Elsie Malkin	CHC	5	741	416	9
2 Doreen Ogston	CHC	5	597	407	13
3 Sue Walker	MTA	5	222	381	13
4 Shirley van Essen	CHC	5	66	382	8
5 Mary Pinchin	CHC	3	-440	339	4
6 Lyn Dawson	NEL	2	-162	355	4
7 Yvonne Erickson	CHC	2	-364	342	5
8 Dorothy Latta	IND	1	-660	301	5

Grade C

1 Juliette Giles	CHC	6	366	354	8
2 Betty Sutherland	CHC	6	219	338	3
3 Chris Handley	DUN	5	344	367	6
4 Ray Goodyear	CHC	4	101	324	3
5 Vivian Henderson	CHC	4	-59	299	1
6 Elaine Hunter	CHC	2	-17	302	3
7 Kerry Dawkins	DUN	2	-177	295	2
8 Bill Tozer	CHC	2	-193	295	5
9 Betty Wilson	CHC	2	-209	309	3
10 Elvira Steel	DUN	2	-375	290	0

Mt. Albert Tournament 10 & 11 October 1998

13 Games

Grade A

1 Jeff Grant	HAS	11	1477	449	27
2 Sheryl Davidson	PAK	9	409	394	18
3 Lynn Wood	WEL	9	30	398	18
4 Howard Warner	IND	8	763	432	20
5 John Foster	IND	8	224	402	18
6 David Lloyd	MTA	7	255	399	19
7 Patrick Carter	MTA	7	201	398	16
8 Fae Olson	STR	7	-91	389	20
9 Lynne Powell	NSB	6	-185	401	23
10 Glennis Hale	MTA	5	-123	379	18
11 Andrew Bradley	MTA	5	-868	357	16
12 Alan Boyd	HAM	4	-500	385	22
13 Valerie Mills	PAK	4	-770	366	18
14 Eileen McLean	IND	1	-822	362	13

Grade B

1 Peter Jones	MTA	9.5	518	400	18
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Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Avg	B/W
2 May Quigley	IND	8.5	636	409	13
3 Pam Robson	WKT	8	561	408	22
4 Yvonne Wilson	HAS	7	-89	393	14
5 Paul Lister	CHC	7	-397	367	12
6 Steven Brown	HAM	6.5	216	412	25
7 Gerald Warner	ROD	6	141	394	9
8 Doreen O'Shea	HAS	6	-29	382	15
9 Lisa McLean	IND	5	261	394	20
10 June Mackwell	MTA	5	160	393	18
11 Allie Quinn	NSB	4.5	-389	367	14
12 Chris Hooks	MTA	3	-927	355	11
13 Anna Geange	MTA	2	-662	362	10

Grade C

1 Puti Rowe	STR	11	950	438	25
2 Margaret Bundock	ROD	9	271	395	13
3 Faye Cronhelm	IND	8	352	406	22
4 David Gunn	WKT	8	77	411	22
5 Glenda Geard	IND	7	91	386	23
6 Janice Cherry	PAK	7	89	388	16
7 Andree Prentice	WAN	7	8	380	9
8 Yvette Hewlett	IND	7	-88	392	19
9 Rhoda Cashman	ROD	7	-193	371	16
10 Reeve Pearson	STR	6	-352	390	23
11 Ann Candler	NSB	5	-76	402	17
12 Kevin Edgeler	TOK	4	50	388	18
13 Kim Graham	NSB	4	-88	389	18
14 Lesley Edgeler	TOK	1	-1091	348	10

Grade D

1 Shirley Martin	HAM	10	401	395	18
2 Shirley Wyatt	MTA	9	411	377	9
3 Peggy Wallace	HAM	8	566	406	19
4 Isabel Zyp	HAM	8	201	379	10
5 Hazel Purdie	MTA	8	-34	390	8
6 Liz Catchpole	MTA	7	42	364	9
7 Sue Walker	MTA	7	-189	381	27
8 Pam Barlow	PAK	6	-35	372	15
9 Dorothy Haining	ROD	6	-62	349	9
10 Margaret Cherry	PAK	6	-188	362	12
11 Correne James	IND	5	-58	369	8
12 Delcie Macbeth	IND	4	-292	370	13
13 Betty Eriksen	WAN	4	-372	358	9
14 Joan Pratt	ROD	3	-391	364	19

Grade E

1 Lorraine Van Veen	PAK	11	470	389	16
2 Dean Riesterer	PAK	9	583	392	17
3 Marianne Patchett	MTA	9	465	370	12
4 Joan Thomas	HAS	9	203	369	14
5 Annette Coombes	WKT	7	243	356	15
6 Julie Atkinson	MTA	7	131	376	11
7 Pam Mayall	HAM	6	242	371	12
8 Mary Farmer	MTA	6	148	373	16
9 Elaine King	MTA	6	-530	349	10
10 Pat Grant	HAS	5	-69	361	6
11 Naomi Gilmore	ROD	5	-132	341	2

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Avg	B/W
12 Valma Gidman	ROD	5	-511	336	7
13 Val Worth	IND	4	-389	342	16
14 Dorothy Latta	IND	2	-854	319	8

Grade F

1 Lil Moore	MTA	9	290	342	11
2 Mary Gray	MTA	8	949	390	12
3 Irene Hague-Smith	MTA	8	501	356	12
4 May Meads	PHC	8	336	369	12
5 Kate Wignall	MTA	8	97	357	9
6 Ed Olson	STR	7	25	332	9
7 Margaret Hanson	PHC	7	-5	349	9
8 Sammy Sanders	PHC	5	-157	339	5
9 Resie Coenen	PHC	3	-947	291	2
10 Robin Sun	MTA	2	-1089	292	2

Wanganui Tournament 24 & 25 October 1998

13 Games

Grade A

1 Jeff Grant	HAS	11	973	448	27
2 Lynne Butler	NPL	10	876	457	31
3 Glennis Hale	MTA	9	595	421	24
4 David Lloyd	MTA	8	414	403	19
5 John Foster	IND	8	320	404	23
6 Sheryl Davidson	PAK	7	221	412	23
7 Glenda Foster	CAP	6	13	411	17
8 Lynn Wood	WEL	6	-586	373	16
9 Mike Sigley	WAN	5	544	423	26
10 Fae Olson	STR	5	-306	377	19
11 Denise Gordon	WAN	5	-478	372	14
12 Glenyss Buchanan	LOH	4	-845	366	16
13 Rosemary Cleary	WAN	4	-1001	357	14
14 Steven Brown	HAM	3	-740	369	19

Grade B

1 Eileen McLean	IND	11	654	415	23
2 Margaret Bundock	ROD	8	292	398	12
3 Lisa McLean	IND	8	102	398	25
4 Leila Thomson	LOH	8	-49	378	11
5 Doreen O'Shea	HAS	7	262	396	15
6 Anna Geange	MTA	7	55	393	16
7 Helen Sillis	NPL	7	25	392	18
8 Yvonne Wilson	HAS	6	62	375	14
9 Puti Rowe	STR	6	-21	394	16
10 Gerald Warner	ROD	6	-130	397	11
11 Andree Prentice	WAN	5	-109	390	13
12 Liz Fagerlund	CHC	5	-223	392	12
13 David Gunn	WKT	5	-251	391	23
14 Marj Batchelor	MAS	2	-669	347	10

Grade C

1 Sue McRae	CAP	10	1042	410	17
2 Gaye Norgren	WAN	9	663	395	17
3 Margaret Simpson	PAK	8	303	398	21

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Avg	B/W
4 Norman Wheeler	WEL	8	-88	378	11
5 Martha Morgan	NPL	7	53	366	6
6 Max Aston	LOH	7	-65	378	14
7 Correne James	IND	6.5	-106	354	8
8 Betty Eriksen	WAN	6.5	-133	352	12
9 Janice Cherry	PAK	6	232	400	22
10 Shirley Wyatt	MTA	6	-185	364	15
11 Hazel Purdie	MTA	5	-64	367	11
12 Ruth O'Neill	NPL	5	-197	354	13
13 Reeve Pearson	STR	4	-529	375	22
14 Sue Walker	MTA	3	-926	352	22

Grade D

1 Margaret Cherry	PAK	11	760	378	12
2 Margaret Parsons	TPO	9.5	627	390	9
3 Jennifer Smith	HAM	9	630	398	19
4 Roto Mitchell	WAN	7	63	361	8
5 Marie Cairns	TPO	7	29	348	4
6 Audrey Plane	WAN	7	-56	347	9
7 Pat Grant	HAS	6	-275	350	13
8 Jean Boyle	WAN	6	-389	328	9
9 Michael Hyndman	CAP	5.5	-41	357	13
10 Jean Clarke	STR	5	-248	344	5
11 Jean Walsh	WAN	5	-376	349	12
12 Susan Olson	STR	5	-411	324	10
13 Sue Osborne	WAN	4	38	350	14
14 Joan Thomas	HAS	4	-351	356	11

Grade D

1 Janet Willison	NPY	12	1206	386	8
2 Ed Olson	STR	11	573	355	5
3 Sharon Clarke**	STR	8	-311	300	8
4 Rob Sillis	NPL	7	280	353	11
5 Margaret Garner	NPY	7	109	315	2
6 Margaret Ham	WTA	7	-93	329	1



Shirley Hol (CHC) 3rd place Otago Open A Grade day 1

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Avg	B/W
7 Kath James**	WAN	6	-411	291	2
8 Vera Burner**	WAN	5	-495	287	0
9 Dot Kirkpatrick**	NPL	2	-1048	221	0

There was a Bye for everyone in this Grade

& 2 Byses for those marked **

Otago Open Championship 1998 Day 1

7 November

7 Games

Grade A

1 Nigel Richards	CHC	6	1060	506	21
2 Liz Fagerlund	CHC	5	567	437	11
3 Shirley Hol	CHC	5	174	416	15
4 Karyn McDougall	DUN	4	116	405	9
5 Marian Ross	DUN	3	-157	368	8
6 Bill Grigg	DUN	2	-336	357	6
7 Carolyn Kyle	DUN	2	-869	332	8
8 Margaret Lyall	CHC	1	-555	354	8

Grade B

1 Shirley van Essen	CHC	5.5	185	374	9
2 Gordon Pinchin	CHC	5	234	381	8
3 Glen Madigan	DUN	4	180	386	10
4 Daisy Madden	DUN	4	147	358	7
5 Mary Pinchin	CHC	4	55	339	2
6 Juliette Giles	CHC	3.5	527	402	6
7 Chris Handley	DUN	3	-30	355	4
8 Kerry Dawkins	DUN	3	-466	303	2
9 Penny Irvine	DUN	2	-216	318	5
10 Elvira Steel	DUN	1	-616	281	0

Otago Open Championship 1998 Day 2

8 November

7 Games

Grade A

1 Nigel Richards	CHC	7	1430	514	17
2 Liz Fagerlund	CHC	6	60	387	8
3 Karyn McDougall	DUN	4.5	234	403	10
4 Marian Ross	DUN	3	182	405	9
5 Bill Grigg	DUN	3	-173	369	10
6 Shirley Hol	CHC	2	-444	342	4
7 Margaret Lyall	CHC	1.5	-318	365	9
8 Carolyn Kyle	DUN	1	-971	323	5

Grade B

1 Shirley van Essen	CHC	6	297	381	6
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Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Avg	B/W
4 Juliette Giles	CHC	4	-92	352	8
5 Mary Pinchin	CHC	3	83	341	3
6 Glen Madigan	DUN	3	-69	345	2
7 Penny Irvine	DUN	3	-262	327	10
8 Chris Handley	DUN	2	-189	327	5
9 Kerry Dawkins	DUN	2	-162	291	0
10 Elvira Steel	DUN	2	-216	309	2

Rodney Tournament

14 November 1998

7 Games

Grade A

1 Lynne Butler	NPL	6	571	427	12
2 Howard Warner	IND	5	162	393	9
3 David Lloyd	MTA	4	235	397	10
4 John Foster	IND	4	59	413	11
5 Patrick Carter	MTA	3	246	408	9
6 Sheryl Davidson	PAK	3	-338	363	7
7 Glennis Hale	MTA	3	-382	366	8
8 Lynne Powell	NSB	0	-553	358	10

Grade B

1 Valerie Mills	PAK	5	304	415	12
2 Lisa McLean	IND	5	210	402	11
3 Peter Jones	MTA	4	74	393	12
4 May Quigley	IND	4	-102	380	8
5 Eileen McLean	IND	4	-157	377	8
6 Fae Olson	STR	3	-4	383	9
7 Pam Robson	WKT	2	-147	375	12
8 Lynn Wood	WEL	1	-178	373	7

Grade C

1 Andree Prentice	WAN	7	651	412	10
2 Gerald Warner	ROD	4	234	394	6
3 Chris Hooks	MTA	4	77	370	8
4 Glenda Geard	IND	4	51	385	12
5 Margaret Bundock	ROD	3	135	385	7
6 Helen Sillis	NPL	3	-143	369	9
7 David Gunn	WKT	2	-729	358	10
8 Maureen Holliday	IND	1	-276	366	7

Grade D

1 Yvette Hewlett	IND	5	400	425	13
2 Ann Candler	NSB	5	337	423	12
3 Correne James	IND	5	-19	389	9
4 Rebecca Freeth	ROD	4	139	405	9
5 Rhoda Cashman	ROD	3	-84	375	4
6 Janice Cherry	PAK	2	-171	390	8
7 Shirley Martin	HAM	2	-284	378	12
8 Shirley Wyatt	MTA	2	-318	384	7

Grade E

1 Margaret Cherry	PAK	5	287	406	7
2 Reeve Pearson	STR	5	217	422	16
3 Jennifer Smith	HAM	5	162	391	8
4 Dorothy Haining	ROD	4	258	405	7
5 Sue Walker	MTA	4	123	387	14

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Avg	B/W
6 Hazel Purdie	MTA	2	-77	391	8
7 Lorraine Van Veen	PAK	2	-323	360	7
8 Margaret Mourant	MTA	1	-647	333	5

Grade F

1 Julie Atkinson	MTA	5	396	391	4
2 Joan Thomas	HAS	5	172	377	6
3 Annette Coombes	WKT	4	354	407	11
4 Olwen Skelton	ROD	3	30	360	6
5 Joan Pratt	IND	3	27	375	8
6 Elaine King	MTA	3	-258	346	4
7 Susan Olson	STR	3	-343	350	11
8 Valma Gidman	ROD	2	-378	333	3

Grade G

1 Margaret Hanson	PHC	5	93	346	2
2 Ed Olson	STR	4.5	-191	356	5
3 Dorothy Latta	IND	4	302	360	8
4 Jill Johnson	PHC	4	299	389	4
5 Lil Moore	MTA	4	116	372	8
6 Irene Hague-Smith	MTA	3	73	347	5
7 Paddy Glen	ROD	2	-379	320	2
8 Ruth Munnings	ROD	1.5	-313	345	4

Grade H

1 Paddy Hoffman	ROD	7	523	354	3
2 Lulu Holt	MTA	5	91	336	3
3 Robin Sun	MTA	4	163	325	1
4 Mary Casse	ROD	3	-39	325	3
5 Vera Burner	NPL	3	-49	322	1
6 Merle Spinetto	ROD	3	-76	316	1
7 Betty Wyatt	ROD	2	-294	308	1
8 Jenny Reed	ROD	1	-319	276	1

Kiwi Club Tournament 28 November 1998

7 Games

Grade A

1 John Foster	IND	6	519	418	9
2 Howard Warner	IND	5	461	437	14
3 David Lloyd	MTA	5	122	403	9
4 Lynn Wood	WEL	4	91	392	10
5 Sheryl Davidson	PAK	4	61	392	12
6 Glennis Hale	MTA	2	-281	356	9
7 Valerie Mills	PAK	1	-370	369	10
8 Fae Olson	STR	1	-603	347	6

Grade B

1 Steven Brown	HAM	5	201	405	12
2 Eileen McLean	IND	5	179	414	11
3 Lisa McLean	IND	4	255	390	12
4 Pam Robson	WKT	4	140	395	13
5 Chris Hooks	IND	4	-76	369	10
6 Peter Jones	MTA	2	-64	388	12
7 June Mackwell	MTA	2	-225	350	6
8 Alan Boyd	HAM	2	-410	352	8

7	June Mackwell	MTA	2	-225	350	6
8	Alan Boyd	HAM	2	-410	352	8
Name		Club	Wins	Spread	Avg	B/W
Grade C						
1	Puti Rowe	STR	5.5	235	431	12
2	Glenda Geard	IND	5	79	388	7
3	Helen Sillis	NPL	4	256	395	10
4	Roger Coates	HAM	4	47	393	12
5	Allie Quinn	NSB	3	124	395	10
6	Gerald Warner	ROD	3	-2	421	8
7	Margaret Bundock	ROD	2.5	-271	377	6
8	Faye Cronhelm	IND	1	-468	366	10
Grade D						
1	Kim Graham	MTA	5	339	415	11
2	Betty Gibb	KIW	5	243	394	9
3	Rhoda Cashman	ROD	5	215	382	5
4	Marj Baillie	KIW	4	46	375	7
5	Correne James	IND	3	41	404	10
6	David Gunn	WKT	3	-148	374	9
7	Lyn Toka	KIW	2	-408	352	7
8	Elaine Moltzen	KIW	1	-328	374	8
Grade E						
1	Ruth O'Neill	NPL	5	11	392	5
2	Reeva Pearson	STR	4	289	411	18
3	Isabel Zyp	HAM	4	216	400	7
4	Peggy Wallace	HAM	4	189	400	9
5	Shirley Martin	HAM	4	-27	378	9
6	Shirley Wyatt	MTA	4	-112	370	7

7	Sue Walker	MTA	2	-206	388	11
8	Pam Barlow	PAK	1	-360	353	7
Name		Club	Wins	Spread	Avg	B/W
Grade F						
1	Jennifer Smith	HAM	6	646	435	10
2	Delcie Macbeth	IND	5	285	409	9
3	Mereaina					
	Searancke	KIW	4	-243	355	4
4	Annette Coombes	WKT	3	97	378	11
5	Jacqueline					
	Coldham-Fussell	KIW	3	85	382	8
6	Joan Thomas	HAS	3	-76	367	6
7	Pam Mayall	HAM	3	-82	386	6
8	Bev Barker	MTA	3	-84	368	6
9	Carole Coates	KIW	3	-181	341	4
10	Elsie Pugh	HAM	2	-447	362	4
Grade G						
1	Mary Gray	MTA	5	427	373	4
2	Lil Moore	MTA	5	170	366	7
3	Margaret Hanson	PHC	5	86	360	6
4	Susan Olson	STR	4	-168	332	6
5	Ed Olson	STR	3	-40	339	5
6	Rob Sillis	NPL	3	-79	347	6
7	Valerie Holbrook	PAK	3	-141	318	1
8	Dorothy Latta	IND	3	-150	331	4
9	Val Worth	IND	2	-30	344	5
10	Marie Kingi	PHC	2	-75	347	6



Merry Christmas

and

Happy New Year



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	135	Ruth O'Neill (NPL)	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)	504	Nigel Richards (CHC)
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)