

CONTACT INFORMATION

Clubs (Nth to Sth)	Contact Person	Phone	Meeting Day/Time	Meeting Place
Rodney (ROD)	Joan Pratt	09 426 4521	Mon 1pm	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)	Marianne Patchett	09 626 4849	Fri 7.15pm	Mt Albert Bridge Club rooms
Pakuranga/Howick (PAK)	Jeanette Owler	09 534 4453	Thurs 7pm	St Matthias Church Hall, Panmure
Papatoetoc/Holy Cross (PHC)	May Meads	09 278 5155	Mon 1pm	64 Fairview Rd.
Hamilton (HAM)	Shirley Martin	07 843 5831	Tues 7.15pm	Sunningdale Hall
Kiwi (KIW)	Elaine Moltzen	07 843 5108	Thurs 7pm	Sunningdale Hall
Waikato Phoenix (WKO)	David Gunn			
Mt Maunganui / Papamoa (MMP)	Ngairi Steel	07 542 1035	Any time ring	
Tauranga (TGA)	Maureen McBain	07 576 2191	Tues 9.00am	72 Devonport Rd
Tokoroa (TOK)	Lesley Edgeler	07 886 8374		
Rotorua (ROT)	David Bragg	07 345 6599	Mon evening	
Taupo (TPO)	Gweñ 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)	Hilda Scott	06 378 2663		
Lower Hutt (LOH)	Glenyss Buchanan	04 569 5433	Tues 7.30pm	
Wellington (WEL)	Lynn Wood	04 387 2581	Tues 7.30pm	5 Tully St, Kilbirnie
Nelson (NEL)	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	Caversham Presbyterian Church hall, 61 Thorn St., Caversham
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FORWORDS

Journal of the New Zealand Association of Scrabble Players
Number 61 December 2000



HOW TO SCORE AT SCRABBLE

RATINGS EXPLAINED

JUST A RUMOUR

NORFOLK ISLAND SCRABBLE FESTIVAL

TRANS-TASMAN CHALLENGE

IN THIS ISSUE

FEATURES

Scrabble on Norfolk Island by Liz Fagerlund.....	6
Creating Fun at Norfolk by Ruth Groffman.....	7
12th Norfolk Island Scrabble Festival Results	10
Norfolk Island Scrabble Festival 1985-2000 by Jeff Grant.....	11
Not Norfolk Island by Shirley Hol	13
Trans-Tasman Challenge 2000	14
Just a Rumour	16
Alternative Scrabble? by Mike Baron.....	18
Ratings Explained by Glenda Foster	22
How to Score at Scrabble.....	26
President's Christmas Message by Glennis Hale.....	36

REGULARS

From the Editor	1
Mailbox.....	2
Anagram Corner.....	3
Competition Corner	4
Dazzling Dozen.....	17
NZASP Rankings.....	20
Club News.....	24
International	30
Executive Exertions	34
Tournament Results.....	37

NEWS

2001 Tournament Calendar	5
Nationals 2001	19
Scrabble Aid	25
The Value of Blanks.....	27
Nigel Still Going Strong	33
NZ Scrabble Website.....	35

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From The Editor

The highlight of the last three months was undoubtedly New Zealand's convincing victory in the Trans-Tasman Challenge in Melbourne. Not many NZ teams go to Australia as defending champions and retain their title. Well done to the Kiwis, particularly Kendall Boyd (DUN) who took the individual honours (his clubmate Peter Sinton won in 1998). Our thanks to Lynn Wood (WEL) who paid for the team tee-shirts, and to everyone who sent messages of support. We really appreciated the Aussie hospitality too. It was great staying with David and Chris Lloyd in their new home.

The Norfolk Island Festival was a huge success once again, with over 50 people having a wonderful time. Pat and I stayed on for an extra week and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. Well done to Liz Fagerlund (CHC) who won the A grade on her first visit to the island.

Locally, events have been hosted by Mt Albert, Wanganui, Dunedin, Rodney, Kiwi and Waikato Phoenix clubs. Mt Albert had the youngest player ever at a NZ tourney, 9-year-old Australian prodigy Alistair Richards (any relation to Nigel?). With Alistair's parents also taking part, as well as Melbourne-based David Lloyd and Cecilia Ruto of Kenya, the field had an international look.

It was sad to hear of the death of Wanganui's Grace Gilman at the ripe old age of 91. Grace was a cheery, but competitive Scrabbler, and I will always treasure memories of our win in the 1986 Norfolk Island Pairs event.

Nigel Richards (ex-CHC) has continued his remarkable run of success in Asia, recently winning his 13th consecutive

tournament — surely an unprecedented feat in the history of Scrabble.

As yet there is no word on where or when the 2001 World Champs is to be held, although it will probably be in America somewhere in the latter part of the year. Let's hope Nigel makes it.

Congratulations to Aussie magazine editor, Michael Vnuk, on his recent engagement to Rowena Evans, whom he first met at a Scrabble tourney at Millmerran in June. We wish them both all the best. Michael will continue producing *Across the Board* until March. He has done a superb job with the magazine, and will I'm sure be sorely missed.

Thanks to everyone who has contributed to *Forwards* this year. If you have anything of interest — newspaper or magazine snippets, photos, poems, cartoons, club news, humorous incidents, high scores, etc., — please send them in.

As always, a big thank you to our Executive — Glennis, Allie, Joan, Sheryl and Howard. Also thanks to Glenda, our layout editor, for all the preparation and fomatting involved in producing *Forwards*.

Finally, special thanks to my wife Pat for all her support and encouragement. We wish you all a safe and relaxing festive season, and look forward to seeing you again on the Scrabble circuit next year.

Closing date for the March issue is February 20.

**Merry Christmas and
Happy Scrabbling in 2001**

Jeff


MAIL BOX
GIFT SUBSCRIPTIONS

by Dorothy Latta (IND)

Thanks once more for the super magazine. May I suggest the possible introduction of a 'gift subscription coupon'. I know folk who would appreciate *Forwards* and an initial 'gift subscription' for 12 months could lead to more members once people read the magazine.

[If you would like to give a friend a 12 months (4 issues) subscription to *Forwards*, just send me \$10, together with your friend's name and address. If there is sufficient demand, we may look at producing gift coupons. — Jeff.]

WHAT ARE THE ODDS?

by John Foster (NSB)

On reading the item on high turn averages in *Forwards* 60 I wondered how my NZ record of 763 compared, so did a bit of digging in my archives and found that it was scored in 13 moves at an average of 58.7, which is lower than both games mentioned. However, my score after 9 moves was 641 which gives an average of 71.2 points per turn at that point. Cumulative scores for 10 and 11 turns were 667 (ave 66.7) and 732 (ave 66.5) respectively.

On a different subject, I recently visited Jim Geary's website, www.jimgeary.com to check on his 700 club which has been updated to include the NZ scores of 700+, and found he has a new page quoting odds for various players around the world to win the 2001 WSC. I was

surprised and quite chuffed to find myself quoted at 40 to 1! Did he leave a few zeros off I wondered. Further examination indicated he had simply decided to include anybody in the NZ top twelve and had adopted a maximum of 60 to 1 for the group. Nevertheless it is still a confidence booster and I recommend others in the group check out their odds if they want a dose of the feelgoods. Perhaps unsurprisingly considering recent results, he has Nigel installed as favourite at 7 to 2, ahead of current champion Joel Wapnick, and former champion David Boys who are both at 5 to 1.

SCRABBLE LETTER COLLECTIVES

by Cherry Bennett (Queensland)

I enjoyed the answers to the contest to find names for a surplus of particular Scrabble letters. TARAMASALATA is a lovely word, but hardly a collective noun. I fancy an ARMADA of A's, and also a SHREWDNESS of S's (used for apes).

A SHREWDNESS OF APES

From 'An Exaltation of Larks',
by James Lipton

LOAFING AROUND

by Margaret Cherry (PAK)

On a recent Pakuranga club night our two Vals were pitted against each other, and the game got off to an interesting start. Val Holbrook had the first turn and one of the letters she played enabled Val Mills to play LOAFINGS. On her second turn Val Mills played LOAFING onto the S of her previous move to make LOAFINGS again! The score for both bonus words was 66 points.

[I've never heard of the same word being played twice in a row by the same player for identical scores. — Ed.]

SCRABBLE AND BOMBERSfrom the Australian Scrabble magazine *Across the Board*, Sept 2000

I hope it's only coincidence, but we previously noted that the two Libyans on trial for the Lockerbie bombing were playing a lot of Scrabble. [Hm, I wonder what language they play in.] The Oklahoma City bomber was also an avid player long before and up until the bombing. And now comes news of another bomber. In the US, Karl Armstrong apologised publicly for his part in the bombing at a gathering of 1960s leftists about 10 years ago. For some reason, the paper thought it important to mention that he spends three nights a week with his mother playing Scrabble.

FUTURISTIC SCRABBLE

Players in the E grade at Mt Albert in October got a shock when they looked at the date on the top of their draw sheets:

14-57th October, 6200

They must have wondered what planet they were on!

RECORD OPENING MOVE?

In an American tournament in the early 1990s a player found GALAXIES on his first rack. He realised that he had one tile too many, but having a sense of humour played the word with a straight face and announced the score of 194! With the X on a double letter square, the word is first doubled, as it starts on the centre square, then tripled, as it extends to the triple word square, plus the 50-point bonus — bingo, 194 points!

The opponent apparently muttered something like, "This is the worst tournament I have ever had," then up and left. He didn't come back, so was deemed to have defaulted the game.

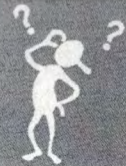
Since GALAXIES wasn't challenged, it is technically the highest opening move ever made in Scrabble.

ANAGRAM CORNER

Scrabblers are dab hands at transposing letters, for example OGIVE to VOGIE, and WAFTERS to FRETSAW. On a higher level, could tennis player MARTINA NAVRATILOVA have been described as a 'VARIANT' RIVAL TO A MAN? The six Scrabblers featured this time were all newcomers to tournament play at the Tauranga Spring event on September 2.

SHIRLEY BRAKE
BETTY PRICE
JOYCE WARNER
MAUREEN RIPPEY
TIM HENNEVELD
MARGARET DURDLE

BAKERY RELISH
TRY EPIC BET
NEW JOY RACER
REMAIN PURE? YEP
MEN LIVED THEN
TRADED LARGE RUM



Competition Corner

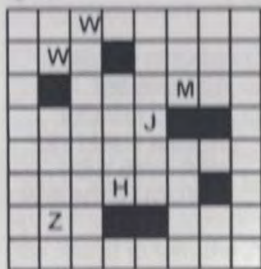
SOLUTION: SCRABBLE CONTEST NO 60

- 1 seabird darbies
- 2 chained echidna
- 3 holiest eoliths
- 4 tandoor tornado
- 5 Martian tamarin
- 6 subcool colobus
- 7 megaton magneto
- 8 skiving vikings
- 9 genuine ingenue
- 10 unrivet venturi
- 11 travoise viatores
- 12 migraine imaginer
- 13 noverint inventor
- 14 daemonic (or demoniac) comedian
- 15 tetanoid antidote
- 16 cineast's scanties
- 17 antiboss bastions
- 18 thousand handouts
- 19 insecure sinecure
- 20 tramline terminal

John was right — nobody got them all. The winner was Lyn Toka (KIW) with 17 correct, followed by Cherry Bennett (QLD) with 15 and Leila Thomson (LOH) with 14. Well done to those three!

SCRABBLE CONTEST NO 61

Can you fill out this 'clueless crossword' grid?



The crossword contains one weird new Scrabble word, one place-name with vowels swapped, one Scots palindrome,

and an old apostrophised NZ TV show. Closing date is February 20. Good luck! Entries to be sent to:
 Jeff Grant
 'Ardra'
 1109 Allenby Street
 Hastings

DANGEROUS NONWORDS

The following appeared on an online mailing list recently:

"The unallowed word BINGOES is often used in Scrabblers' emails. It does have a playable anagram — BIOGENS. Why don't we all use the correct word — BINGOS?"

To which David Lloyd, now living in Melbourne, responded:

"I wholeheartedly agree, it is offputting when emailers quote nonwords in internet emailings because it does confuse many wordgame players when they see and then play fudgy bingoes. (I once bingoed with one such fooler: 'payphone')

Surely a failsafe method is for postees to put a starsign after every word which is likely to be a foiler, eg 'payphone*'. (Surely most of us have seen this trialed long enough to know about it.)"

How many different words are there in David's clever little piece that are not allowed in Scrabble? First correct list of phonies to the editor gets a small prize.

2001 SCRABBLE TOURNAMENT CALENDAR

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

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

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

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

Tournament	Dates	Tournament	Dates
Howick-Pakuranga	27-28 January	Hamilton *	11-12 August
Nelson	17-18 February	Tauranga	1-2 September
Hastings	10-11 March	Canterbury Open (ChCh)	8-9 September
South Island Champs (ChCh)	24-25 March	Norfolk Island Scrabble Festival	24-29 September
Dunedin Lion Open	7-8 April	Mt Albert	6-7 October
NZ Masters	14-16 April	Wanganui	20-21 October
North Shore Bays	28 April	Rodney	10 November
New Plymouth	5 May	Otago Lion Champs	17-18 November
Stratford *	6 May	World Scrabble Championships *	? November
NZ Nationals	2-3 June	Kiwi *	1 December
Papatoetoe/Holy Cross	7 July	Waikato Phoenix *	2 December

* approximate dates only — to be confirmed by the club later.



NORFOLK ISLAND

SCRABBLE ON NORFOLK ISLAND

by Liz Fagerlund (CHC)

This weeklong Scrabble Festival is an annual event where New Zealand and Australian Scrabblers can enjoy a week of playing competition Scrabble, sightseeing, dining out, meeting new people, catching up with existing Scrabble friends from other parts of the country, relaxing, and just having a good time on beautiful Norfolk Island!

This year was the 12th Norfolk Island Scrabble Festival — some, like myself, were first timers, others had been before — in fact some have gone back every year! I had been thinking about attending one of these for the last few years, and this year I decided it was time to see what it was like.

The Scrabble tournament ran from Monday to Friday, with 21 games being played. Play is either a morning or afternoon start, so there is plenty of time



Group Photo

Photo by Ed Olson

for trips, sightseeing, shopping and relaxing. There were six grades with eight players per grade (seven only in the Flat Rock grade), and a triple round robin was played. The most games played in a day was five. This is the second tournament I have played in where there is no penalty (ie loss of turn) for challenging a correct word. I very much liked that rule — there was no excuse to leave an incorrect word on the board, unless it was to your advantage to do so. However, there were still a couple of phony words I played that weren't challenged off. The rule didn't, as I thought it may have, make me hesitant about playing anything I thought might be right but wasn't 100% sure of.

There are puzzle competitions and a knockout Scrabble event — both are optional and fun. The draw in the knockout is random and everyone has a handicap, so that they're not disadvantaged if they draw a higher rated player. I had a scratch rating (ie started on zero). I made it through three rounds against opponents who started with 105, 95 and 65 points, then I had to play off against my roommate Joan Thomas, who had an advantage of 15 points. She won and went on to the semi-finals. The final was won by Cathy Woods from C grade who beat Fae Olson.

SCRABBLE FESTIVAL

Glennis and Jeff did a wonderful job of running the week's activities, and I'm sure they were ready for an extra week in Norfolk with no organising to worry about once the tournament was over.

There was a great farewell dinner and prize-giving on Saturday night, and everybody (including non-Scrabble-playing friends and partners who had come along) got a prize. Wayne Woods had brought his karaoke equipment — and boy, could he sing! There was lots of singing, dancing and merriment!

I won three 'gold' medals on yellow and green ribbons. I wore them round my neck all the way back to the car at Christchurch airport. With the Olympics having just finished in Sydney, I got a few looks at the airports!

After a week having a great time sightseeing and playing Scrabble, I can see



Hosts Jeff Grant (left) and Glennis Hale (right) with Joan Thomas

Photo by Ed Olson

why people return so many times. I shall most certainly be going back.

[Liz won the A grade title at Norfolk this year, and helped NZ beat Australia in the team event. — Ed.]

CREATING FUN AT NORFOLK

by Ruth Groffman (DUN)

Carolyn and I had a remarkably streamlined trip — Dunedin to Christchurch by train and then an early morning flight to Auckland. At the international airport we met up with other NZ Scrabblers in the duty free shops. We had a pretty smooth flight from Auckland to Norfolk and it was lovely to see the abundant Norfolk pines on our approach to landing for the 12th Norfolk Island Scrabble Festival.

After settling in to our apartments we

went to meet and play social Scrabble with other arrivals from Oz and NZ. The knock-out games were also started at this time.

On the first night all the Scrabblers and supporters went to dinner at Barney Duffy's. Besides having a lovely social time, the highlight of the evening was 'Hello, My Scrabble Friends' sung in harmony by the Western Australian players. They all wore their red polo shirts and looked great!

The next day we started what we had come for — Scrabble! — followed in the afternoons and evenings by tours and shopping, or just plain relaxing and keeping up with the Olympics.

Before long we gravitated to a group of six in order to have a fun-filled round robin of Scrabble one night in Maria and Iris's Pine Valley apartment. The six were Carolyn (DUN), Ruth (DUN), Maria (NEL), Iris (NEL), Vivien (Elwood, Vic) and Jacky (Kempsey, NSW). It was organised quite well despite the seating arrangements taking bad backs into consideration. We all put a dollar in the kitty and Carolyn was the outright winner of the night, pocketing the six dollars.

On Thursday night everyone went to the 'Homestead' for dinner and a karaoke session led by Wayne Woods. The food was delicious and plentiful. Wayne's singing was a delight to listen to and we all had a go at belting out songs and really letting our hair down. It was such a fun



Karaoke night

night.

On Friday afternoon the last games of the Scrabble tournament were played. That night we six held our second round robin of Scrabble. This time Carolyn used her winnings to buy chocolates for spot prizes. The evening was laced with jokes and stories — what a fun-filled racket!! We each took turns to be runners for challenges. The results: Iris (1st), Ruth (2nd) and Carolyn (3rd), winning \$3, \$2, and \$1 respectively. We finished tired but happy at 2am.

Saturday being a free day, we took our time getting up, wandered down to Kingston to watch a cargo ship being unloaded (1865 style), had a 'Walk in the Wild' and a game of Mini Golf (all for free).

Saturday night was our Presentation Dinner. The food was great and there was much jollity (a good 7-letter word!). The W.A. team sang their song again — this time substituting 'Goodbye my Scrabble Friends' instead of 'Hello...' Maria then



We 'six' Maria, Ruth, Carolyn, Iris, Vivien, Jacky, singing our song to the tune of Blue Bayou

got on stage and announced us as six ex-beauty queens — calling us up one by one and presenting us with our crown titled 'Mis-Fit', 'Mis-Take', 'Mis-Adventure', etc. Then we sang our song to the tune of *Blue Bayou* creating shrieks and guffaws from the audience.

Pat and Jeff provided us with lots of word puzzles throughout the week to keep us mentally alert, and on the last night there were many more to be done and instant prizes were given to those who did them correctly the fastest.

Hello, My Scrabble Friends

We're 'Western Wizards of the Word Game'.
W.A. is our home state — we love it.
Never forgotten once it's heard name.
We'll always try to beat you
But we'll never, never cheat you.
We're gonna have a lot of fun today.
Happy days are here again, (are here again),
So hello, good day, it's good to see you.
Hello, my Scrabble friends.
Hello, my Scrabble friends.
Hello, my Scrabble friends.

Seven-letter words you have never seen.
We don't know what they mean.
They could be quite obscure.
If we're challenged, we think it's not good news.
We could lose now.
Just you mind your P's and Q's now.
Need more letters — we take a lucky dip.
Goodness me, just look at these!
They're C's and V's.
Oh, my word, just what'll I do?
It's OK just see it through.
Let's all be happy

In addition, Glennis's management of the whole week was just amazing.

The next morning we said our goodbyes to our Aussie friends at Norfolk and our NZ friends at Auckland. As I was travelling in the train back to Dunedin the next day, I felt different from when I had travelled a week ago. Now, I was soooo R-E-L-A-X-E-D!! I can't wait to go back again.

Fun at Norfolk

(to the tune of *Blue Bayou*)

Feeling bad I've got a worried mind
Think of Scrabble all the time
Making words and making rhyme
On Norfolk Island
Saving nickels, saving dimes
Gonna come back one more time
Gonna make more friends next time
On Norfolk Island

Chorus
We're coming back one day
come what may
to the Island
Where all the folks are fine
and we wine and dine
on the Island

Where all the guys and dames
with their different names
Kiwis and the Aussies too
Scrabble's the name of the game
And you could win some fame
on the Island

Secret games going on all the time
Jacky, Ruth and Carolyn
Maria, Iris and Vivien too
Words we never knew
And when we go home feeling just fine
We'll go back to our life of crime
But we'll come back one more time
to Norfolk Island

Chorus

12TH NORFOLK ISLAND SCRABBLE FESTIVAL RESULTS

Name	From	Wins	Points	Ave	B/W
Anson Bay					
1 Liz Fagerlund	NZ	17	8274	394	32
2 Lynn Wood	NZ	13	8282	394	24
3 Correne James	NZ	12	7833	373	26
4 Anna Geange	NZ	11	8282	394	32
5 Olga Visser	AUS	11	8116	386	29
6 Sandra Morgan	AUS	9	8357	398	31
7 June Mackwell	NZ	7	7686	366	24
8 Trish Brighton	AUS	4	7788	371	22
Ball Bay					
1 Joan Thomas	NZ	15	8455	403	30
2 Ruth O'Neill	NZ	14	8147	388	19
3 Edie Mueller	AUS	13	8115	386	27
4 Fae Olson	NZ	12	8176	389	21
5 Marian Gori	AUS	11	7822	372	21
6 Fay Grose	AUS	7	7698	367	20
7 Elaine Moltzen	NZ	6	7526	358	26
8 Colleen McCormick	AUS	6	7186	342	23
Cascade Bay					
1 Marianne Patchett	NZ	15	8105	386	23
2 Carolyn Kyle	NZ	14	8060	384	21
3 Sue Quirke	AUS	12	8045	383	21
4 Liz Catchpole	NZ	11	7930	378	20
5 Cathy Woods	NZ	10	7548	359	23
6 Bettina Tonkin	AUS	8	7986	380	22
7 Jenny Coetzee	AUS	8	6940	330	12
8 Audrey Smith	AUS	6	7403	353	22
Duncombe Bay					
1 Pat Grant	NZ	14	7688	366	20
2 Wayne Willis	AUS	11.5	7599	362	10
3 Liz Quantock	AUS	11	7247	345	6
4 Shirley Pelham	AUS	11	7225	344	9
5 Wayne Woods	NZ	10	7260	346	24
6 Jill Johnson	NZ	9.5	7556	360	10
7 Thelma Chisholm	NZ	9	7118	339	11
8 Max Johnson	AUS	8	7553	360	13
Emily Bay					
1 Therese Newman	AUS	16	7323	349	6
2 Winifred Akhurst	AUS	15	7740	369	17
3 Margaret Hanson	NZ	15	7371	351	12
4 Dot Getliffe	AUS	10.5	7008	334	12
5 Ruth Groffman	NZ	10	7336	349	7
6 Bob Parmenter	AUS	7.5	6612	315	10
7 Betty Ralph	AUS	7	6680	318	6
8 Vivian Eckhaus	AUS	3	3466	289	4

Name	From	Wins	Points	Ave	B/W
Flat Rock					
1 Ed Olson	NZ	16.5	6382	355	13
2 Vera Burner	NZ	14	6002	333	4
3 Iris Boulton	NZ	13	5905	328	4
4 Maria Clinton	NZ	12.5	5699	317	2
5 Yvonne Wright	AUS	12	5769	321	8
6 Maxine Baker	AUS	11	5633	313	6
7 Jacky Booth	AUS	5	4499	250	0

Most Unusual Word

YUNX Anna Geange NZ

Highest Scoring Word

JINGLERS (194) Max Johnson AUS

Highest Individual Game Score

Sandra Morgan AUS (530)

Word Puzzles

1. Olga Visser, Fae Grose, Trisha Brighton, Shirley Pelham

2. Ed. Olson, Fae Olson, Vera Burner

3 = Joan Thomas, Liz Fagerlund

3 = Sandra Morgan, Liz Quantock

NZ Champion

Liz Fagerlund

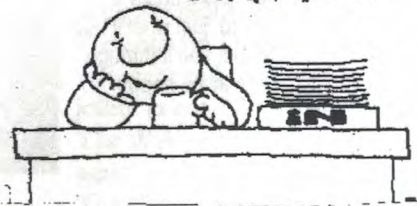
Aus Champion

Olga Visser

Team Trophy

New Zealand—Liz Fagerlund, Ed Olson, Joan Thomas, Marianne Patchett, Margaret Hanson

..YOU FIND HUMOR
WHERE YOU LEAST
EXPECT IT..
..I JUST REALIZED
THAT 'MONDAY' IS
AN ANAGRAM FOR
'DYNAMO'!..



Submitted by Bill Webster, US

NORFOLK WORDS 2000

There were lots of interesting words played during the Norfolk Island Scrabble Festival in September. Dot Getliffe got STIDDIES, Joan Thomas GUNPORTS, Bettina Tonkin DIRNDLS and Trisha Brighton WOORALIS. Jacky Booth played MACAQUE, JORUM and BOMA, and Edie Mueller VITEX, EDENTAL, FUBSY and ABOHM. However, the prize for the most unusual word of the week went to Anna Geange for YUNX, a small woodpecker-like bird that twists its head around strangely when surprised.

Great moves during the festival included Wayne Woods's SCREENING (through EN), Joan Thomas's OUTSPREAD (through EA), and Carolyn Kyle's OVERPRINT (through IN).

Anna scored 140 points for THEORIST on the first morning, and this stood as the highest individual move until Max Johnson's great 194-point triple-triple JINGLERS later in the week.

NORFOLK ISLAND SCRABBLE FESTIVAL 1985-2000

by Jeff Grant

Norfolk Island is a lovely, lonely dot of land in the Pacific Ocean, about midway between New Zealand and New Caledonia. It covers just 13 square miles, but has hosted international events in bowls, golf, tennis, dancing, chess, and of course Scrabble.

The first Scrabble Festival was held in 1985. The brainchild of Norfolk Island entrepreneur Agnes Hain and Kiwis David and Dorothy Pinner, the inaugural event attracted 58 Scrabblers from NZ

NZ V AUSTRALIA IN NORFOLK

To add a bit of 'spice' to the festival Scrabble on Norfolk Island there is an 'international' shield up for grabs between NZ and Australia. Featuring the best five performers from each country, regardless of grade, this competition is always keenly contested, and up until this year the scores were locked at 3-3. With the Olympics in full swing, and Australia doing so well, the Kiwis were eager to prove themselves in a 'brain' sport. However, after the first day Australia led narrowly by 13-12½, and after eight games had pulled away to 31-28. NZ came back though and after 11 games had taken the lead by 41½-39. At the two-thirds mark after 14 games the lead was extended to 51½-47, and was pushed out to a convincing 78½-68 final score. Congratulations to Liz Fagerlund (17 wins), Ed Olson (16½), Joan Thomas (15), Marianne Patchett (15) and Margaret Hanson (15). Look out for the Aussies next year!

and Australia, the largest turnout so far. This year's festival had 47 contestants, while the lowest entry was a mere 15 in 1994.

The focus is on 'socially competitive' Scrabble and having fun! In addition to the 21-round tourney (triple round robin), with its numerous spot prizes awarded throughout the week, there is a handicap knockout event, word puzzle competitions, and a NZ v Australia match run in conjunction with the main games.

No-one goes home without a prize of some kind, even the non-playing supporters!

From 1985-2000 there have been 12 Norfolk Island Festivals (1985-87, 1990, 1992, 1994-2000), and over 250 different people have participated. Most players come from NZ and Australia, but Norfolk Islander Jason Richards took part as a teenager in 1986. All Scrabblers are welcome, and we hope one day to have entrants from outside Australasia.

Some people have attended at least five festivals — Eddie and Fae Olson, and Fay Grose spring to mind. Jeff Grant, Glennis Hale and Correne James have been to all 12! (No we're not mad, it's just such a great place to have a Scrabbling holiday.)

All sorts of Scrabblers come to Norfolk Island. There have been ones who have never played a tournament (or even Scrabble!) before. Some average barely 200 points a game, and may not win very many (even none), but they all have a ball! At the other end of the scale are players who have taken part in World Scrabble Championships — Jeff Grant, Mike Sigley and Glennis Hale of NZ, and Bob Jackman, Joan Rosenthal, Alistair Kane and Barry Harridge of Australia.

They've all been to Norfolk Island and loved it.

There have been many highlights over the years, including Mike's 21/21 record in 1990, and his 674 score when winning the knockout event from scratch in 1985, Glenyss Buchanan's achievement of scoring over 400 in every game in 1985, and Max Johnson's amazing 194-point move (JINGLERS) in 2000.

Of course, some memorable incidents happen away from the Scrabble board — John Foster's eagle 2 on the Norfolk golf course, karaoke with Wayne and Cathy Woods, swimming in the lagoon, all sorts of games in the units (but we won't go into that). Then there are the exploits of Scrabble characters who are no longer with us — Georgie Offringa, Peg Barrington, Charlie and Daph Curl, Lucy Bright and Rob Sillis, to name a few.

If you ever feel like getting away from it all for a week, taking some tours, having a little retail therapy, maybe getting in a game of bowls, golf or tennis, doing some fishing, diving or swimming, and naturally playing lots of Scrabble, why not consider a trip to beautiful Norfolk Island?



Submitted by Bill Webster, US.

NOT NORFOLK ISLAND

by Shirley Hol (CHC)

When my husband suggested a holiday to Rarotonga, I was delighted of course, though a niggling thought floated around in my head that if we were going to holiday on an island, why not go to Norfolk Island? For there, around the same time of the year, you can also play Scrabble. However, I consoled myself with thoughts of beach walks and swimming in lovely warm water. Also, of course, the plane to Rarotonga could be full of Scrabble players, couldn't it? When the pilot learned of my addiction and with the plane on auto he would find time for a game, wouldn't he? There was possibly a Scrabble club on the island too. But no, none of these wildly improbable imaginings developed.

We left Christchurch on a lovely day. The flight from Auckland took 3½ hours and with the time difference we arrived around midnight, stepping out of the plane into heavy rain. The airport staff supplied large umbrellas for everyone to reach the shelter of the airport buildings. Ominous, I thought. They were obviously very used to rainy conditions there. But this was not the rainy season! While we stood in customs queues for ages, an islander played a guitar and sang to cheer everybody up.

The following day it rained continuously. Excellent Scrabble weather I thought, but alas my husband Kees had a great book and some cryptic crosswords (**his** addiction). The rest of the holiday was very pleasant and restful, with plenty of swimming and beach walks and no further major bouts of rain. We hired a moped and cruised around the island, sussing out other resorts and taking small, quiet inner roads. Chic shops there are not, and not too many tourists either. Other energetic pastimes included whale watching — these apparently come to

feed just beyond the reef encircling the island. We learned useful things such as how to tie a pareu 60 different ways and how to make a plate from a banana leaf.

I was coerced into playing volleyball in the swimming pool — shallow end fortunately as I nearly drowned a couple of times. Kiwis versus Aussies. Our side lost (shades of the Olympics). We were the crowd favourites though. We also spent quite a lot of time on the sun loungers by the pool. I had brought my ancient travel Scrabble set and one day I had a solo game. I left the *Redwood* lying nonchalantly on the end of the lounge expecting any minute that somebody would walk by and spot it and say "Aah, a *Redwood*.", but no interest was shown unfortunately.

The most exciting thing that happened on the trip was when my husband showered with a friend. Without his glasses he thought that the object swirling around in the soapsuds at his feet was a yellow leaf, but it turned out to be a small lizard. It survived the ordeal and was surely the cleanest lizard in Rarotonga.

Our return flight left at the unfriendly hour of 3am. The islander was still playing his guitar and singing to cheer everybody up. We had a five hour wait in Auckland for our connection and of course I had my Scrabble set handy and we had a perfect table. The time flew and we forgot about feeling tired. "Now we just have time for two more games on the plane," I announced. I knew this valuable piece of information, because I had two games with Liz Fagerlund on our way home after the Nationals. My husband remarked that he thought I was never satisfied. Very true. Anyway, not Norfolk Island, but maybe next year.

TRANS-TASMAN CHALLENGE 2000

The biennial Scrabble 'test match' between New Zealand and Australia was held in the Downtowner Hotel on Lygon Street in Melbourne from November 24-26, featuring the top 12 players from each country in a double round robin. A close tussle was expected, with the Aussies hoping that the home advantage would help them reverse the 1998 result when NZ won in Auckland. Without the incomparable Nigel Richards, who was unavailable, there may have been a perception that the Kiwi team was somehow weakened — in fact both countries were proclaimed favourites in various pre-tournament reports.

DAY 1

NZ got off to a great start, leading 24-12 after only three rounds. At the end of the day, however, the margin had been trimmed to 10. Patrick topped the field with seven wins out of eight, ahead of Aussie kingpin Paul Cleary on spread. Steven inflicted Paul's only loss in the last game of the day. John and Peter both performed well for NZ with six wins each. Howard got 592 against Alistair Kane, which was the highest individual game score of the tournament, and Glenda had a 489, but lost to Steve Sunter's 497.

DAY 2

Honours were shared, with the Kiwis retaining their 10-game advantage. Kendall beat Bob Jackman by a single point on his way to the top of the leaderboard, and Glennis got the highest single turn score of the event with 194 points for EVICTION on a triple-triple against Steve Sunter. Glenda had a good day with six wins, and David found a great play, using AHIORTT to make THROATIER (ER on board).

DAY 3

Kendall never relinquished the number one spot, deservedly becoming the 2000 Trans-

NZ team captain Glennis Hale with the Trans-Tasman Challenge Shield.



Tasman champion with 18 wins, one ahead of Paul Cleary. Ever-consistent Bob Jackman finished third on 15 wins, just pipping Mike on spread. Mike had a brilliant final day, winning all eight games, and Jeff finally got a run going with 6/8 for eighth place. Howard scored 574 against Glenys Lawrie, but then dropped his last four games, nevertheless gaining a very creditable seventh. Patrick finished an excellent sixth, John played well for ninth, and Glennis was the first lady in 11th place, just ahead of Lynne, who had a 474-474 draw against Steve Sunter in round 20. (Steve certainly had some entertaining games.)

At the end of the event, NZ retained the Trans-Tasman trophy, symbol of Australasian Scrabble supremacy, by 154½-133½, exactly the same 21-game margin as in 1998! The tournament was well run in a congenial, but very competitive, atmosphere. Biggest surprises for the Aussies were many times national title holder John Holgate (10th in the last World Champs), who could manage only 20th with 9 wins, and young Edward Okulicz (18), whose fifth placing hints at a bright future in the game.



Individual winner Kendall Boyd doing a post mortem with team-mates Jeff Grant and David Lloyd

Congratulations to the NZ team on retaining the Trans-Tasman title in convincing fashion. Everyone contributed to the victory, chipping in with wins at vital times. The Aussies were gracious in defeat (even though the shield did 'disappear' for a while at the prizegiving!), but they promise to come back stronger when the event is next contested in NZ in 2002.

Here are some words played by the Kiwis in Melbourne:

knosp	kirsch	poundals	gobiid
mayvin	spreazes	acierate	troilite
fornent	trucage	mazily	froises
renverst	galateas	sunbird	vernicle
oliphant	berberin	henbits	scienter
acrawl	fahlore	oedemata	missae
begored	laminar	romanise	wedelns

PAUL'S PRECISION

The following situation arose in a game between Kendall Boyd (NZ) and Paul Cleary (AUS) in Melbourne:

C
A
D
I

M O U T E R E R

Kendall had just played MOUTERER and Paul was holding EEGINNS. Can you work out what Paul played? (answer on page 21)

HALF A MILLION HITS

The American Scrabble Association's Internet website (www.scrabble-assoc.com) recorded over half a million hits for the first two weeks of August, when coverage of the North American champs was featured.

Place	Name	Team	Wins	Spread
1	Kendall Boyd	NZ	18	992
2	Paul Cleary	AUS	17	899
3	Bob Jackman	AUS	15	1120
4	Mike Sigley	NZ	15	1094
5	Edward Okulicz	AUS	15	743
6	Patrick Carter	NZ	14	159
7	Howard Warner	NZ	13	754
8	Jeff Grant	NZ	13	642
9	John Foster	NZ	13	129
10	Roger Blom	AUS	13	31
11	Glennis Hale	NZ	13	-45
12	Lynne Butler	NZ	12.5	-21
13	Steve Sunter	AUS	12.5	-51
14	Peter Sinton	NZ	12	-24
15	Alistair Kane	AUS	12	-154
16	Glenda Foster	NZ	12	-300
17	Steven Brown	NZ	10	-447
18	Joan Rosenthal	AUS	9	-250
19	David Lloyd	NZ	9	-719
20	John Holgate	AUS	9	-883
21	Glenys Lawrie	AUS	8	-812
22	Geoff Wright	AUS	8	-962
23	Carmel Dodd	AUS	8	-1426
24	Trevor Halsall	AUS	7	-469
Total Wins		NZ	154.5	
		AUS	133.5	
Winning Margin				21

JUST A RUMOUR

This message was supposedly sent to members of the NZ Scrabble team shortly before the Trans-Tasman Challenge in Melbourne.

TRANS TASMAN UPDATE.

Hello team,

This is our last update before the big event. (Not counting the final get-together and debrief at Ballarat.)

At our last meeting we discussed and decided on several issues:

1 Trojan Horsemeat

Unfortunately I was unable to elbow my way into the Australian team, so therefore 'performing badly' and guaranteeing NZ some 20+ easy wins. However, at Nick's suggestion, I have compiled what I think is a fairly thorough report on many aspects of most of the Australian team. I have just finished this and I will have copies bound by Tuesday.

2 Nigel

Most of the Australian TT team here seem to have bought the news that Nigel isn't playing (looking forward to seeing their faces — if they think that Nigel is good, wait 'til they meet his brother).

3 Added Bonus Incentive

NZ Leisure and Holbright Inc. have confirmed they will add a further \$750 in bonuses to each player, but on the proviso we win. This brings the weekend earnings to a possible \$4750 per team member. [If only it had been true! — Ed.]

4 LogoVox

We have decided to forgo the Audiolon earphone in favour of the better system

offered by LogoVox which allows for faster word searching and is much harder to detect. LogoVox have offered us a substantial rebate on the use of their equipment, and I think you'll agree that this is the superior product. The updated dictionaries have now been installed in all units, and they work wonderfully.

5 Lighting

The venue lighting could be used to an advantage — reserve your seating position facing inward from the windows. From around 2pm onwards the glare from the other direction is unbearable. It has also been arranged that the blinds be 'removed for cleaning'.

6 Earplugs

Don't forget your earplugs in games 1, 7 and 8 because my good friend Alan (from the council) has agreed to send two men to dig up the pavement directly outside the playing area at around 9.15am. ScreechWorks will be practising for their gig from about 3pm onwards.

See you all in a few days. If you have any queries (regarding LogoVox, etc) let me know. Good luck!

David Lloyd

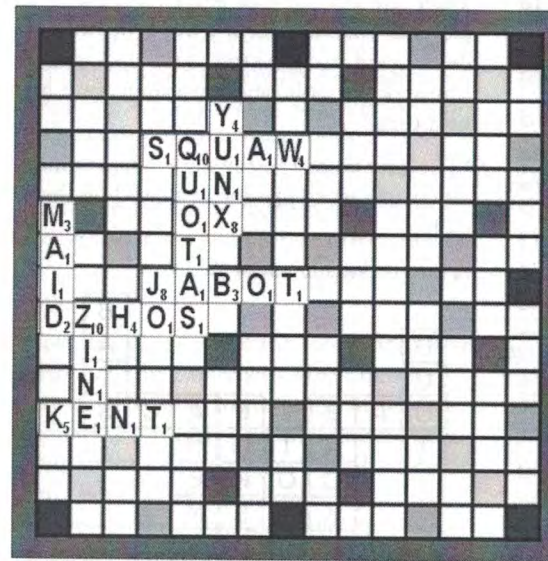
P.S. Just had a call from SP with good news, our Aust insider has agreed to accept the cheque in return for 15 wins. Good work SP.

[Although David played for NZ in the Trans-Tasman Challenge, he is now living in Melbourne. David didn't go too well at the Trans-Tasman, dropping 15 games. Hmmm... — Ed.]

CAPITALISING ON HIGH SCORERS

by Liz Fagerlund (CHC)

Recently, I had a friendly game with Liz Arlington. My first seven turns all included one or more of the high-scoring letters — J, Q, X, and Z, and all for reasonable scores. I not only picked all these letters up, but scored off Q and Z three times, and J twice.



I opened the game with JABOT for 44 points
 Turn 2 — QUOTA for 28, using the A of JABOT.
 Turn 3 — SQUAW for 44.
 Turn 4 — ZHOS/JO/QUOTAS for 44.
 Turn 5 — KENT/ZINE for 39 (my opponent having just played ZIN).
 Turn 6 — YUNX/OX/UN for 57 (using the U in SQUAW and playing parallel to the UO of QUOTA).
 Turn 7 — MAID/DZHOS for 39.

I had six more turns after that, with just one low-scoring (68 points) bonus, but with three more scores over 40 (42, 49 and 42) and a final score of 548.

I don't think I've had any other games where I've picked up all the high-scorers and been able to capitalise on them so well. The words just seemed to fall into place very nicely for just about every move. Has anyone else had such fortune with these letters in the same game?

WORLD CHAMP ON DEFINITIONS

Canadian Joel Wapnick is the current World Scrabble Champion. He has this to say about word definitions in his CD-ROM *A Champion's Strategies* (1999):

"It is true that expert players often play words that they cannot adequately define. So? Do you know how your car engine works? Would you be willing to forgo using it until you find out? I am grateful that the proper beating of my heart doesn't depend on my knowing how or why it beats."



Here are a dozen useful Q-words to dazzle your opponents:

QASIDA	QIVIUT
QUAALUDE	QUAICH
QUEECHY	QUERCINE
QUICHED	QUILLON
QUINTIN	QUODLIN
QUOKKA	QURUSH

ALTERNATIVE SCRABBLE?

by Mike Baron (United States)

Most readers will know that Scrabble was invented by Alfred Butts in the early 1930's in New York. Mike Baron (US expert) proposes an alternative scenario.

In the summer of 1983, I wended my way from Albuquerque, New Mexico, across the beautiful high desert of mountains and mesas, with striated reds, oranges, and browns running through them, en route to Durango, Colorado. I would be meeting with my friend Bobbie Sageser and others to talk about starting a tournament at the 'lodge', which was managed by Bobbie's husband. (Little did I know then that the 'lodge' proved to be the gorgeous Tamarron Lodge where former President Ford, Johnny Carson, Rock Hudson and other celebrities have stayed, but I digress.)

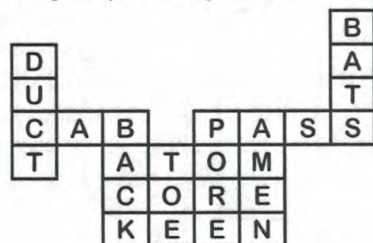
One of Bobbie's friends generously presented me with a gift, "a little something I found at a garage sale," she said. The little cardboard box (about 3 x 4 inches) reads: "CROSS-O-GRAMS, The Crossword Card Game Sensation". On another side of the box: "Trade-Mark Registered 1932—US Patent Office", and elsewhere: "American Newspaper Promotion Corp. 537 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, ILL". Within it are two side-by-side piles of very small cards (each about 1.5 x 2.5 inches). There are 54 cards (52 + 2 jokers), with a letter on each card and a value of either 10, 20, 30, 40 or 50, with each joker worth 100. [The Q is actually a 'Qu' card "... to render the card more playable", say the sage instructions. Some excerpts:

"There are two Joker cards in each deck which may be used by the holder for any letter he himself designates. During the same game, the joker continues to represent only the letter originally designated."

"The dealer distributes one card at a time until each player holds twelve cards ... The player at the left of the dealer begins the game by placing on the table, in the centre, a word of three or four letters... If the player is unable to form a word, he must draw a card from the top of the pack in the centre of the table, and must then await his next turn."

"The new word must include one or more letters of a word previously played on the table..."

A sample layout was provided:



[Not too bad for 1932!]

"Proper names, abbreviations and foreign words are not allowed. Players may use the dictionary as a means of settling disputes. If a word is questioned and is not found in the dictionary, the player must take back the word and lose his next turn. If the questioned word is in the dictionary, the one who disputed it must lose his next turn."

Game variations are provided, including AN-O-GRAMS ("... a fascinating new variation of the old parlour game") which, coincidentally, includes in one of its examples the word SCRAMBLE. Hmm.

Mind you, there's no game board and no premium squares, but ...

Meanwhile (summer 1983), I was preparing for the US Nationals in Chicago. Despite Alfred Butts having conceded that 1983 was not the 50th anniversary of his invention of the game (it probably should have been a year or so later), the Chicago event was being promoted as such for the media, along with Butts himself being present at the event. Apparently Butts (then 82 or 83) had said something to the effect of: "But at my age, who am I to argue?" willingly accepting at that time the kudos bestowed for the game's (premature) 50th anniversary.

So, the above would seem to indicate that Cross-O-Grams had been out from one to three years before Butts's "Criss-crossword game".

Now, has anyone seen the movie Marathon Man, with Sir Lawrence Olivier playing a former Nazi and Dustin Hoffman a Nazi hunter? (Not to be seen immediately before a trip to the dentist.) Memory fails me a bit here, but I believe "Is it safe?" was a code phrase which, if uttered to Olivier, would imply the utterer knew his (Olivier's) true identity. At one point in the movie, Hoffman meets Olivier, Olivier not knowing Hoffman's agenda, until Hoffman whispers to him, "Is it safe?"

In Chicago, having then met Mr Butts, there was a part of me which wanted, while passing by him, to whisper, in Hoffmanesque fashion, "Cross-O-Grams?" I just didn't have the heart to do that, and he lived another ten years thereafter.

from UK's *Scrabble Club News*,
October 2000

NATIONALS 2001

Venue

Christchurch Polytechnic city campus
Te Matauranga Maori Centre, Coventry
Street (off Barbados St).

Flights

Get in early if you're flying — there are good deals to Christchurch from many centres, eg Wgtn - ChCh -Wgtn \$149, Akl - ChCh - Akl \$269

Accommodation

Billets — some billets will be available.

Backpackers — several backpackers and some private hotels very close by:

Cokers — 52 Manchester St ph (03)379 8580 - twin rooms from \$45, dorms from \$14.50 ea

New Excelsior — cnr Manchester and High St ph (03)366 7570- \$20 ea for 2 share, \$18 ea for 4 share. Both of these about 5 minutes walk from the venue.

Motels — the best I could see for close proximity to the venue, price and comfort were:

Adorian Motel — 347 Worcester St reservations ph 0800 166 700

City Worcester Motel — 336 Worcester St reservations ph 0800 336 499

These 2 motels both have a rate of \$28pp with 3 people sharing a unit, \$79 for 2

They are directly opposite each other, about 15min walk from the Polytech, 3 minutes walk to shops including a supermarket and about 10 minutes walk to town. They both have shuttles if anyone requires a ride to the venue (one has a small charge). I don't think they do airport pickups. Both have cooking facilities in the units.

For information on other motels etc., don't hesitate to contact me and I'll do my best to help. More information early next year.

Liz Fagerlund ph (03) 388-7909
email scrabbliz@inet.net.nz

RATINGS EXPLAINED

by Glenda Foster

As current custodian of the New Zealand Scrabble ratings system, a number of people have asked me for an explanation of why their ratings go up or down so much after a tournament. This article provides a relatively simple explanation of how the NZ ratings system works.

IN THE BEGINNING

Ratings calculations are based on the American system. Roy Vannini established the database that I currently hold, which contains rating records as far back as July 1988 (New Plymouth tournament).

In 1998 Nigel Richards proposed amendments to the existing system. These were accepted by the NZASP executive, and Nigel's computer program was introduced on 1 January 1999.

EXPECTED WINS

The system is based on probability, and the notion that a player who plays enough games against an opponent of equal strength will win about half of the games. So, in a 7-game round robin tournament where all the players started on the same rating, they would all be expected to win half their games (ie 3.5 wins). Of course, in real life there are rating differences between the players in a grade. Expected wins are therefore adjusted to take into account the rating differential in each game played. Table 1 shows the expected wins for Joyce (rated at 1500) in a hypothetical grade where the ratings of the opponents range from 1650 down to 1400.

As you can see, when Joyce is playing a player with a higher rating than hers she is expected to win less than half her games, but her win expectancy is higher than 50% when she is playing a lower rated player. So

Table 1

Opponent	Rating	Rating Difference	Expected wins
David	1650	+150	0.30
Miranda	1600	+100	0.36
Guy	1550	+50	0.43
Beverley	1510	+10	0.49
Kim	1490	-10	0.51
Leslie	1450	-50	0.57
Robin	1400	-100	0.64
Total		+150	3.30

in this hypothetical 7-game round robin, Joyce is expected to win a total of 3.3 games.

So the first part of the ratings calculation is to establish the win expectancy for each player in a grade. If the draw is not a round robin it doesn't matter because the formulas work off the actual opponents for each player rather than the average for the grade (as used to happen).

REALITY SETS IN

A player's final rating after a tournament is based on the number of wins they actually achieved compared to their win expectancy. Each player's placing in the grade is also recorded, but it is not used in the rating calculation.

Table 2 shows the new ratings for players in Joyce's grade. Because Joyce achieved more wins than her expectancy, her rating goes up. Conversely, players who achieved fewer wins than expected sustain a drop in rating. How much your rating goes up or drops depends on the rating you started with and the size of the difference between your actual wins and your win expectancy. In the example above, David drops about 27 points for each win less than expected, but Robin drops 33 points per win differential. The higher your rating, the lower is the rating change. At the 1400-1650 level you drop or

Table 2

Player	Rating	Actual Wins	Win expectancy	New Rating	Rating change
David	1650	1	4.89	1545	-105
Miranda	1600	4.5	4.38	1603	3
Guy	1550	4	3.84	1555	5
Joyce	1500	5	3.30	1551	51
Beverley	1510	3	3.41	1498	-12
Kim	1490	3.5	3.19	1499	9
Leslie	1450	5	2.76	1519	69
Robin	1400	2	2.24	1392	-8

gain around 25-30 points per win differential, but at the 2050-1800 level the rating change is about 20-25 points and at the 700-950 level it is 40-45 points. So higher rated players tend to have more stable ratings than lower rated players.

UNRATED PLAYERS

You might be thinking that the foregoing explanation is fine, but what happens when new players enter a tournament and they don't have a current NZ rating? What about overseas players? How is a player's initial rating established? Good questions!

Our rules allow tournament organisers to place players without a NZ rating in any grade that they deem appropriate. This may be based on performance in their club or on overseas ratings. Once a player obtains a NZ rating then they must be graded in rating order.

An unrated player does not have a win expectancy prior to the tournament, because you can't work out a rating differential for each game played. So after the tournament when the actual performance of the player is known, a provisional rating is calculated for the player. This is done by applying a formula based on the percentage of wins achieved against rated players and the average rating of those players. And, because at least one player in the grade has an unknown starting rating, you can't work out win expectancies for the remaining players in the grade prior to the tournament.

This is best illustrated by an example. Suppose that our friend Joyce did not have a NZ rating and was placed in this grade by the tournament organiser. Table 1 cannot be calculated prior to the tournament, so all win expectancies are unknown at this stage. The next step is calculating Joyce's provisional rating. There are 7 opponents who have an average rating of 1521.78. Joyce wins 4/7 (57.1%) of her games. The formula then looks up the point on the probability curve where a player would win 57% of their games against a player with a 1521 rating. This becomes the new provisional rating — in this case it is 1572. Now the remaining players' new ratings can be calculated as shown in Table 3.


PROVISIONALLY RATED PLAYERS

A player's rating is treated as provisional until they have played 35 tournament games. This is because there needs to be a reasonable number of games for probability theory to work properly. So for the first 35 games, all players are treated like players without a rating and a new provisional rating is calculated at the end of each tournament in the manner described above. This allows new players to find their 'true' rating level more quickly, but it also means that there can be very large rating swings when players win significantly more or less than 50% of their games. It also means that win expectancies cannot be truly calculated prior to tournaments in grades where there are any provisionally rated players. This is

Table 3

Player	Rating	Provisional Rating	Actual Wins	Win expectancy	New Rating	Rating change
David	1650	1650	5	4.79	1656	6
Miranda	1600	1600	1	4.28	1508	-92
Guy	1550	1550	4.5	3.74	1572	22
Joyce	0	1572	4	3.98	1572	1572
Beverley	1510	1510	3	3.31	1501	-9
Kim	1490	1490	3.5	3.09	1502	12
Leslie	1450	1450	5	2.66	1522	72
Robin	1400	1400	2	2.15	1395	-5

Continued on p25



CLUB NEWS

DUNEDIN NEWSLETTER

by Bill Grigg

**Norfolk Island Festival
(25-29 September)**

Ruth Groffman and Carolyn Kyle had a wonderful holiday with all that Scrabble and meeting new friends.

In the newspaper

Photo of Stewart Fleming and Chris Handley, Otago Daily Times (ODT) 19 October and Kendall Boyd ODT 2 November.

On TV

Kendall Boyd appeared on Channel 9, our local station, discussing the upcoming Trans-Tasman Scrabble against Australia.

Quiz

Would you challenge these words?
(answer at end)

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| 1 CANTALA | 2 DUMAIST |
| 3 HERISSE | 4 RHIZINE |
| 5 SPELUNK | 6 TOWMONT |

Competitions

	P	W	Spread	Ave	B/W
Round Robin					
1 Peter Sinton	35	30	3550	443	57
2 Karyn McDougall	39	19	-32	380	44
3 Bill Grigg	38	22	225	381	52
Ladder					
1 Karyn McDougall	21	19	2830	446	44
2 Bill Grigg	20	13	594	395	25
3 Stewart Fleming	25	12	-162	371	32
Challenge					
1 Karyn McDougall	131	123.5	15973	446	266
2 Bill Grigg	28	21	1569	397	36
3 Marian Ross	49	34	2522	400	69
Dictionary					
1 Kerry Dawkins	17	13	1390	373	15
2 Tracy Pettinger	12	6	-264	353	9
3 Ruth Groffman	11	8	459	348	4

(Must play 10 games to qualify)

**Otago Lion Open Championships
(18-19 November)**

Visitors were Joan Thomas (HAS), Liz and Steve Richards and Lyn Dawson (NEL), plus 11 from Christchurch. Your great support was most appreciated. Competitors enjoyed the format — 6 per grade, triple round robin.

Well done to A grade winner Peter Sinton (DUN), and B grade winner Elsie Malkin (DUN).

**Trans-Tasman (Melbourne)
24-26 November**

Peter Sinton (defending champion 1998) and Kendall Boyd made the team again. Congratulations to the Kiwis on their victory, and to Kendall for winning the individual championship.

Year's Highlights

Nelson Tournament:
Carolyn Kyle C1, Ruth Groffman D1

Dunedin Lion Open
Day 1 (A) Kendall Boyd,
(B) Ruth Groffman

Day 2 (A) Kendall Boyd,
(B) Kerry Dawkins

SI Championships (ChCh)
Bill Grigg A1, Stewart Fleming B1

Otago Lion Open
(A) Peter Sinton

Good Scores

Highest winning score	656	Karyn McDougall
Highest losing score	479	Marian Ross
Highest turn score	212	Stewart Fleming (twice)
Over 200 Games	203	Karyn McDougall

Dunedin Tournaments 2001

7-8 April

Dunedin Lion Open (2 one day)

17-18 November

Otago Lion Open (6 per grade, triple round robin)

Quiz Answers

All correct.

CHRISTCHURCH CLUB NEWS

by Paul Lister

On Saturday 4 November Christchurch Club held another home event to introduce newcomers to tournament play and as a bit of a sharpen up for those going to the Dunedin tournament on 18-19 November.

A very pleasant and relaxed day was had by all with Gordon Pinchin adjudicator and scorer and Patrick Lister runner.

Club Tourney Results

Name	Wins	Spread	Ave	B/W
A Grade				
1 Paul Lister	7	293	403	7
2 Shirley Hol	5	753	456	15
3 Shirley van Essen	5	614	433	16
4 Naomi Gilmore	4	-206	349	3
5 Malcolm Graham	3	-144	373	5
6 Kathleen Mori-Barker	2	-273	367	12
7 Ray Goodyear	1	-459	337	5
8 Yvonne McKenzie	1	-578	331	7
B Grade				
1 Betty Sutherland	6	322	343	6
2 Roslyn Lister	5	200	308	5
3 Paula Gibbons	4	-8	320	2
4 Gabrielle Bolt	3	-8	317	3
5 Allison Torrance	2	-155	316	3
6 Betty Wilson	1	-351	292	-
C Grade				
1 Judith Bach	5	270	331	-
2 Jean Craib	5	78	337	3
3 Dominic Lister	4	278	340	5
4 Pat Steffensen	4	-10	291	1
5 Margaret Preston	2	-135	270	-
6 Di Barrett	1	-490	256	-

Travel Fund

Our club has a couple of ventures going to raise money for our travel fund. Liz Fagerlund has set up a winning Lotto bonus number competition. Incredibly, our youngest member, Elliot Hendry, won three out of the first five times with his number 15! We also held a garage sale on 18 November and had a good response by way of items for sale from many club members.

SCRABBLE AID

by Gerald Warner (ROD)

Franklin's updated Scrabble® Master, a handheld electronic word finder, is now available in New Zealand. Unfortunately, it is based only on the latest *Chambers Dictionary* (OSPD is not included). It also has other word games.

The gadget is being retailed at around \$90, but only at some Whitcoulls branches and Duty Free shops. However, I have arranged a wholesale rate through the NZ distributors. The price of \$75 will include a \$10 donation to the NZASP World Champs fund.

Order with prepayment to me at 14c Weiti Rd., Orewa.

RATINGS EXPLAINED

Continued from p 23.

often worked around by calculating win expectancies prior to a tournament as if all players had established ratings. In such a case, if provisionally rated players perform significantly above or below expectations, it will affect the rating gain or drop of other players in the grade.

In the next issue I will provide a few statistics from our ratings database.

HOW TO SCORE AT SCRABBLE

from an article in the English newspaper *Evening Standard* 14.8.2000

Scrabble is about to get sexy. Actress Jennifer Lopez, famous for her billion-dollar body and navel-revealing Versace dresses, plays a Scrabble expert who competes at tournament level in her latest film *The Wedding Planner*. Flashing an impressive cleavage, and an equally impressive vocabulary, she battles it out in a duel of words with her co-star Matthew McConaughey and a host of other Scrabble aficionados.

Apparently Lopez and her boyfriend rap artist Puff Daddy played for months in preparation for the film.

Puffy is said to have become a dab-hand at triple word scores and Jennifer is now an expert juggler of vowels and consonants. Both stars, more used to the hip hop Manhattan nightclub

scene, have become enthusiastic Scrabble fans, playing beside the swimming pool of their house at Hamptons.

Of course it is not the first time two Hollywood stars have flirted across a board game — Faye Dunaway and Steve McQueen did it best with their erotic game of chess in *The Thomas Crown Affair*. But Scrabble, unlike chess, backgammon or even draughts, has always seemed a distinctly unsexy game — something to be played on a wet weekend in a country house hotel — so Lopez's involvement will give the game a considerable boost.

More than 100 million Scrabble sets have been sold since its introduction in the

early 1950s, and it is estimated that one in three homes has one. With its unique blend of luck and strategy, the game has become addictive to people of all ages, says John D Williams Jnr, executive director of the American National Scrabble Association, and a technical advisor on Lopez's film. "Scrabble attracts people who are smart, creative and a bit aggressive," he says. In America, Sharon Stone, Mel Gibson, John Travolta and couple Tea Leoni and David Duchovny are among a host of celebrity players, while in Britain fans include Liz Hurley, Sting, Jo Brand, Boy George and Joan Collins.

"Scrabble attracts people who are smart, creative and a bit aggressive."

Research commissioned by Mattel reveals distinct groups of Scrabble players. There are the social players who play in pubs and clubs with friends, the family players who encourage their children to join in to boost their spelling and intellect, and serious players who participate in organised club and tournament competition.

The British National Scrabble Champs were held at Alexandra Palace on 19-20 August, with dozens of Scrabble enthusiasts of all ages (the youngest a 10-year-old boy) playing for £1,200 prize money.

It's not the money players go after though, but the glory. Too bad Lopez and Puff Daddy were still sunning themselves in the Hamptons — they might have picked up a few tips.

SCRABBLE NOT SEXY?

by Edmund Coddpiece

Who said Scrabble is unsexy? Personally, I find it much more stimulating than boring old chess or draughts. The 'strip Scrabble' on TV's *At Home With the Braithwaites* was great! My wife and I often play on the continental duvet — why just the other night Helga extended my ORGAN to ORGANZA. The very thought of her in that diaphanous material was extremely erotic. Needless to say, that was the end of our night's Scrabble!

Of course, different people get turned on by different words, as shown by this piece from Robert Drewe's 1976 novel *The Savage Crows*:

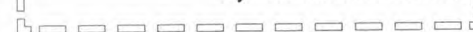
"One afternoon Crisp took a Scrabble set with him on the train to Pymble. Anna and he'd enjoyed playing on Sunday afternoons. Lying about semi-clad provoking each other with words like xebec — a small three-masted Mediterranean vessel — and zax — a slater's chopper, with a point for making nail holes. Once they'd fucked there on the floor among the wooden letters. At the finish, pink and grinning, she'd fumbled around the carpet and made a word on her wooden rack: WOW"

Scrabble unsexy? I think not!



Dependent, adj
Reliant upon another's generosity for the support which you are not in a position to extract from his fears.

from Devil's Dictionary, by Ambrose Bierce,



THE VALUE OF BLANKS

by top English player Phil Appleby, from the British Scrabble Magazine *Onwords*, October 2000

After Day 1 of the National Scrabble Champs, I was on 4-3. In the four games I'd won, I'd picked both blanks. In the three games I'd lost, my opponent picked both blanks. I thought it might be interesting to look back at all my tournament games over the past two years to see how significant blanks can be in determining the outcome of the game. These are the statistics:

	Won	Lost	Win%
Both blanks	49	7	87.5
One blank	65	36	64.4
No blanks	13	36	26.5

I'd be interested to know if others have similar stats. As well as suggesting that I've been a bit lucky when it comes to picking blanks, my conclusion is that the blanks are hugely, perhaps overly, significant in determining the outcome of the game.

In the past it's been argued by some that something should be done to reduce the luck element of the blank — for example, by allocating each player one blank, to be added to their rack at a moment of their choice.

I disagree though. The random destination of the blanks is an integral part of the game. But it does seem that when two top players meet, if you don't pick at least one blank you're in big trouble.

[There are exceptions to this of course. In the 1999 Canadian Championships, Albert Hahn drew all 10 blanks in the five game final, but still lost 2-3 to current World Champ Joel Wapnick. — Ed.]

PUNNING LETTER COLLECTIVES

In the last issue of *Forwards* we published the results of a contest to find collective nouns for surpluses of particular letters in Scrabble. Some of the submissions were cleverly based on a pun, such as Joan Thomas's original GAGGLE of gees, a BUMBLE of B's, and a POLYPOD of P's.

Is it possible to find a punning example for each letter? Here are our best efforts. Some of them are not that good, so any improvements would be welcome.

- a PANATELA of A's (haze)
- a BUMBLE of B's (bees)
- a CATCH of C's (seize)
- a DEDUCTION of D's (D's=detectives, slang)
- an EFFERVESCENCE of E's (ease, as of Andrews or Eno)
- a STUFF of F's (hmm)
- a GAGGLE of G's (geese)
- a HEATRASH* of H's (itches)
- a VISIBILITY of I's (eyes)
- a HELLHOLE of L's (hells)
- a TRIMMER of M's (hems)
- a NUNNERY of N's (hens? penguins maybe)
- a TOOLROOM of O's (hoes)
- a PISSPOT* of P's (pees)
- a RUDERY of R's (arse)
- a CRASSNESS of S's (asses)
- a TITILLATION of T's (tease)
- a CUTUP of U's (yews, for firewood)
- a VIVACITY of V's (vee-necked sweaters)
- a WAYWARD of W's (lesbian sheep?)
- a PSYCHOLOGY of Y's (wise)

* not allowed in Scrabble.

BETCHA READ THIS TWICE

submitted by 'Plain Sailing Teacher'

A bus stopped and two Italian men got on. They sat down and engaged in an animated conversation. The lady sitting behind them ignored them at first, but her attention was galvanised when she heard one of the men say the following:

"Emma come first. Den I come. Den two asses come together. I come once-a-more. Two asses, they come together again. I come again and pee twice. Then I come one lasta time."

"You foul-mouthed swine," snapped the lady indignantly. "In this country we don't talk about our sex lives in public!"

"Hey, coola down lady," said the man. "Who talkin' abouta sexa? I'm a justa tellin' my friend how to spella 'Mississippi'."

Later, after the Italians got off the bus, two Indian men sat down in the seat and also became engaged in an animated conversation. The lady tried to ignore them but eventually heard the following exchange:

"No, no, no, Ranji, it is W-O-O-M."

"No, no, Ramesh, I'm sure you are wrong. It is W-H-O-O-M."

Unable to resist, the lady interjected, "Excuse me, I believe the word you are talking about is spelt W-O-M-B."

"Pardon me, madam," replied one of the Indian gentlemen, "have you ever actually heard an elephant fart?"

THICKEN CLABBERS

An Anagram Puzzle
by Bill Webster, United States

Solution on p 35.

Meagre acme form Nominates, S.A.U., fro het Geraniol Mages. Eh saw ta Yonder, dan dah crispate mages ta Hurts names.

Hewn Meagre tup DEONTIC no eth broad, eh aids, "Ton dice."

"Compliant," Thru peridot; buffering het bluest poly.

"Who os?"

"Sit antisag eth lures — tis CTENOID — ton wot sword."

"Ho — girth." Eh misled.

REGGIE saw Hurts ratel paly.

"Daniel!" eh dicer.

"Own thaw?" hes buffered, sliming.

"Sit juts YEGG; brayed — shote dinks."

Thru depone het Becharms indicatory.

Eth scythe nam roused omer macho.

"Rand! Os myna sword era garnets. Eon yam renal wen sword ungird het picrates mages — ferritic!



WHICH ONES ARE RIGHT?

Pat Grant noted the following bonus words while adjudicating at Mt Albert tournament in October. Which ones are allowed in Scrabble? Answer on p35.

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| WABSTER | ANODINE |
| WOLFINGS | UNSNARE |
| QUEENIE | SENTRIED |
| BEESTING | IODISER |
| RAISINY | SEALION |
| MESSIEUR | SPIKINGS |
| SWANNIER | SUBLOAD |
| BEVVIED | TRIAZONE |
| TOWNLET | UNSIRED |
| REANNEX | RESLUICE |
| WHETTER | ORALISE |
| SPLENTS | CARDLIKE |
| UNMIXING | BEFLOODS |

TIGHT BOARD

Shown at left is a Scrabble game devised by Brian Trial, Ferndale, Michigan, which is played within the confines of an 11x11 square. Here is the order of play:

PUNA	LWEIS	HAETS	CRABS
MUG	WIT	RIA	COLE
BORATED	JAUNT	VILER	GUILT
VOE	RAJ	VOE	ETUI
LEX	MUON	KOLA	WIRY
			(TWO, IRE)
VINAL	ROE (AR,	TOP (TI,	FATWOOD
(MIR, GAT)	NE)	PE)	(AG, ROT,
			AD)
SKIEY (BI,	SCARF	SQUEG	SEIZE (IF,
MIRY)			ZAG)
EXONS	HAEMOID	NONACID	
(GATE,	(HA, FEAR,	(NU, TING,	
DO)	LONE, ED)	PECH, DE)	

In the September 1996 edition of *Forwards* (p5) we featured a 14 by 8 rectangle containing all 100 tiles, devised by Keenan Wolfe of Michigan, US. This is an even tighter board than Brian's 11 by 11 square.



INTERNATIONAL



CANADA

The 5th annual **Western Canadian Championship** was held in Calgary, Alberta, on September 29-October 1. A field of 77 competed over 17 rounds, with George Macaulay coming back from over a decade away from tournament Scrabble to grab the title with 13 wins, ahead of Don Malcolm on countback. Sam Kantimathi (US) was 3rd with 12 wins and Canadian World Champs rep Albert Hahn 4th with 10 wins.

Robin Daniel (née Pollock) of Ontario, who represented Canada at the 1995 World Champs, made a successful return to tournament play after taking a couple of years off to raise a family. Robin won the **Michael Wise Memorial** tourney in Toronto on September 22-24 with a 9-3 (+1063) record.

The 3rd **Canadian National Scrabble Championship** was held in Toronto on 17-20 November. The event consisted of an eighteen-game Swiss-paired non-elimination preliminary round followed by a best-of-five final. The field of 50 players included current world and Canadian champ Joel Wapnick, former world champ David Boys; former North American champ Adam Logan as well as 1999 Canadian world champs reps Albert Hahn, James Cherry and Jim Nanavati.

After 18 rounds of qualifying play, 15th seed Ron Hoekstra had strung together an amazing 15 consecutive wins, one loss and two further wins for a 17/18 total. His nearest rival was Adam who recorded 13.5

wins and they played off in the final.

Ron won three more consecutive games against Adam (463-343, 386-342, 357-332) to become the new Canadian Champ.

Ron, a 32-year-old accountant from Grand Rapids, Michigan, has been playing tournament Scrabble for only four years.

Adam finished in second place ahead of Christopher Sykes, Albert Hahn and Peter Teitelbaum all on 12 wins. James finished 6th, Jim 9th, Joel 15th and David 18th.



CHILE

Roberto Aguilar from Honduras was the surprise winner of the 4th **Spanish Speaking World Scrabble Championship**, held in Santiago, Chile on 25/26 November.

Played to a high score format, Roberto qualified for the best-of-3 game final with a total of 3761 from 7 games, his opponent — Miguel Rivera from Spain finished 2nd with 3698 including 329 points for ABUZABAS (something to do with throwing?).

Roberto took the final easily winning in 2 straight games 537-430 and 487-388. His prize was US\$7,000.



Ron Hoekstra
2000 Canadian Scrabble Champ

Competitors from 14 countries took part — Argentina, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Spain, Uruguay, Venezuela and of course Chile.

There are over 3000 club players in the Spanish language mainly in Spain and Argentina. Of these, Honduras has 6 regular Scrabble players and Roberto practises mainly by playing against himself.

Internet report by Philip Nelkon



FRANCE

The 2000 World French Speaking Scrabble Championships took place in Paris in July. The event was played over 7 games by the Duplicate method, and over 1000 players from 19 countries took part. The winner was Florian Levy of France who dropped just 15 points against the maximum score that could have been achieved.



SINGAPORE

The first Singapore Mind Sports Olympiad was held from 7-10 September. The event featured not only Scrabble, but many other intellectual pursuits such as chess, computer games, Master Mind, bridge, draughts, Othello and weiqi (now wouldn't that be a useful word?).

In the final round of qualifying in the Scrabble, Nigel Richards (NZ) faced A Ganesh (Malaysia) to see who would meet leader Tony Sim (Singapore) in the final game. Nigel prevailed in a close tussle by 444-412.

The deciding game was close too, and had Tony not missed a triple-triple the result may have been different, although as

Eugene Goh pointed out on the sidelines, "A triple-triple hasn't stopped Nigel Richards before". In the event, Nigel took the game 427-355 to claim his ninth consecutive Asian win, tied on wins with Tony, but having a far superior spread.

Wins Spread


	Wins	Spread
1 Nigel Richards (NZ)	17	2216
2 Tony Sim (Sing)	17	1273
3 Quek Sim Ho (Sing)	14.5	724
4 A Ganesh (Malay)	14	1094

SOUTH AFRICA



Samuel Fomum of Cameroon, who is studying in South Africa, took out the recent South African Championships, ahead of former World Champs competitors Gerald Davids and Steven Gruzd (both of S. Africa). This will go some way to compensate Samuel for missing the last World Champs due to visa complications.

UNITED KINGDOM



The **British National Scrabble Championships** were held as part of the Mind Sports Olympiad at the luxurious Alexandra Palace in North London on August 19-20.

After the first day, David Webb was the only unbeaten player on 7 wins. The first three games on day 2 determined who would face off in the best-of-three final. David lost out narrowly on spread as Welsh wizard Gareth Williams and young Brett Smitheram came through with vital wins to qualify.

Gareth, a 47-year-old lecturer from Cardiff, had already beaten Brett on day 1, but this didn't deter the 21-year-old theology student from Truro in

Cornwall. Brett convincingly won the title of British National Champion by taking the first two games by 438-337 and 437-402. The rest of the field had meanwhile played another three games, and Andrew Perry just pipped David Webb for third place on spread, with Andrew Fisher 5th and Alan Saldanha 6th.

The **2000 ABSP Masters** was an invitational 13-player round robin, followed by two king-of-the-hill rounds. After his disappointing 27th in the British National Champs following a 6-month lay off, former World Champ Mark Nyman led from the start and was never away from the number one spot, eventually winning 11 games out of 14 to claim the title. Second place went to Evan Simpson with 9 wins, ahead of ex-African champ Femi Awowade on spread.

The **British Matchplay Championships** were held on August 26-28 with 160 players attending. The traditional Ladies Championship was won for the first time by Nuala O'Rourke from Ivy Dixon-Baird, while Gary Polhill took the main event ahead of experienced Russell Byers and Chris Finlay. David Acton won the World Dictionary Division from Andrew Cook and Allan Simmons.

UNITED STATES



The **Portland, Oregon** tournament on September 2-4 was won by high-flying David Wiegand with 16 wins (+1068) from 20 games. David's rating is now 2037 and he looks sure to again make the US World Champs team next year.

Another who will almost certainly be in that American team is 1997 World

Champ, Joel Sherman, who won the strong **Atlanta, Georgia** event on September 22-24, heading the field of 66 with 11 wins (+1383) from 15 games. Joel then took out the **Shelton, Connecticut** tourney on October 6-8 with 12 wins from 15.

NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPS

In our September issue (p 17) we reviewed the 2000 North American Scrabble Champs which were held in Providence, Rhode Island, from 5-10 August. There were 98 competitors in Division 1 of this event, with the top 10 positions shown in the last issue. World Champion Joel Wapnick finished 11th, and former world champ Joel Sherman 14th. Other international reps did not fare so well, with Matt Graham 25th, Lester Schonbrun 41st, Sam Kantimathi 62nd, Rita Norr 72nd, Trip Payne 82nd and Lisa Odom 91st.

That Takes the Cake



from *The Word Book* by Gyles Brandreth

NIGEL STILL GOING STRONG



In the last issue we reported that Nigel Richards (ex-CHC) had won his 9th consecutive tournament by winning the Mind Sports Olympiad in Singapore on 7-10 September. He has now recorded a further four wins in Malaysian/Singapore tournaments to make 13 consecutive victories — a great feat! Excerpts from tournament reports on the Malaysian Scrabble website follow.

YMCA OPEN 14-15 OCTOBER

A tournament with a difference! The format was 10 games swiss pairing, then a **one game** semi final and a **two game** final. As expected Nigel Richards emerged again as the winner taking the win in the semis against Alex and the finals against Ganesh.

Name	Wins	Spread
1 Nigel Richards	13	2263
2 A. Ganesh	9.5	312
3 Alex Tan Ken Seng	7	233

EQUATORIAL HILL RESORT MALAYSIAN OPEN 20-22 OCTOBER

As can be observed from the results, Nigel Richards blew us all away again for the 11th time. His control of the game is way too superior for any Malaysians to give him a good fight. Richards dropped one game to Albert Yeap but won 17 out of the 18 games played.

It seems that Ganesh is the only one that can give a decent game to Richards. But as it turned out, Ganesh could not stop Richards from winning all of the 3 games 'King Of the Hill' format. A Ganesh has improved tremendously in the game, more so than ever because of Richards's participation in our local circuit. The number of games these two have played

in competition has probably surpassed any other person that Richards has ever played.

Name	Wins	Spread
1 Nigel Richards	17	2656
2 A Ganesh	13	1076
3 Tan Jin Chor	12	852
HIGH GAME: Nigel Richards		701
HIGH WORD: Nigel Richards		149

CENTRAL CAPACITORS 18-19 NOVEMBER

Nigel Richards contributed RM500, as a gesture because he keeps winning all the prize money!

Name	Wins	Spread
1 Nigel Richards	15	2112
2 A Ganesh	11	791
3 Pui Cheng Wui	11	758
HIGH GAME: Nigel Richards		610

KENNETH CHEN CUP 25-26 NOVEMBER

This tournament saw the predictable happening again. Nigel Richards seems to just enter a tournament and take home the money! It's that simple for him. His play is breathtaking. The average score for him in this tournament was 471 over 16 games. Only one game below 400 and loads above 500.

Name	Wins	Spread
1 Nigel Richards	15	1662
2 A Ganesh	11	616
3 Michael Tang	10	487
HIGH GAME: Nigel Richards		569
HIGH WORD: Cheah Siu Hean		163

Malaysians will get a chance to win some prize money in the Malaysian Champs coming up later this month, as Nigel is a non-national and is therefore ineligible to enter.

Executive ertions

The past three months have been eventful with New Zealand Scrabblers recording superb wins against their Australian counterparts at both the Norfolk Island Festival in September and the Trans-Tasman Challenge held in Melbourne in November.

NORFOLK ISLAND

At Norfolk Island the diehards enjoyed yet another tournament in the idyllic surroundings and many of the newcomers decided that once was not enough. Congratulations to all the trophy winners (see p10)

Come and join us next year, it is great fun.

TRANS-TASMAN CHALLENGE

Special congratulations to the victorious twelve, and especially to the new Trans-Tasman champion Kendall Boyd, with 18 wins, and to the leading female player, your President Glennis Hale, in 11th position with 13 wins.

We can be proud that New Zealanders filled eight of the top twelve positions and none of the last five. A splendid achievement.

CLUB NEWS

Welcome to the new Hamilton based club, Waikato Phoenix. Though only newly affiliated, this club held its first tournament on December 3rd with great success.

It is encouraging to see new players continuing to participate in and enjoy the tournaments.

Thanks are due to all the tournament organisers and their teams, from presidents to tea ladies, for their tireless efforts throughout the year. Scrabble has been alive and well in 2000, let's keep the momentum going in 2001.

MEMBERSHIPS

Affiliations are slightly ahead of last year and we extend a warm welcome to all new members. May your recruitment drives be successful in the coming year.

FUND RAISING

Remember the World Champs are coming up next year — we are still seeking your ideas and input into fund-raising to sponsor our top four players to travel to America. Our thanks to those who have set the ball rolling already — they know who they are.

A PERSONAL NOTE

During my first full year as your Association Treasurer I have endeavoured to play in as many tournaments and meet as many dedicated Scrabble players as possible so that you may get to know me.

My apologies to those of you running the tournaments which I could not attend: they were Wanganui (my brother was here in New Zealand from England for the first time), and Rodney (the date clashed with Dunedin). However I have played at both of those tourneys in prior years so feel that I am now acquainted with most of you and vice-versa.

Thanks to all the clubs for some great games and for wonderful hospitality — and especially Dunedin which managed to combine every weather situation in one short weekend! Yes, there was snow, hail, wind, rain, thunder, lightning and, thankfully, the occasional peep of blue sky and sun. For the first time ever I wore six layers of clothing!! Please don't let this deter any of you from going to the deep south to play - the warmth of the people makes up for anything the weather may throw at you.

I have enjoyed meeting you all and look forward to playing with many of you again next year.

**Keep on Scrabbling,
Joan Thomas, Treasurer**

KITCHEN SCRABBLE

from p29

Graeme came from Minnesota, U.S.A., for the Regional Games. He was at Rodney, and had practise games at Ruth's manse.

When Graeme put NOTICED on the board, he said, "Not iced."

"Complaint," Ruth riposted; rebuffing the subtle ploy.

"How so?"

"It's against the rules — it's NOTICED — not two words."

"Oh — right." he smiled.

EGGIER was Ruth's later play.

"Denial!" he cried.

"Now what?" she rebuffed, smiling.

"It's just EGGY; bready — those kinds."

Ruth opened the Chambers dictionary.

The chesty man poured more mocha.

"Darn! So many words are strange. One may learn new words during the practise games—terrific!"

A NICE SCORE

by Chris May, NSW

Against the computer, I opened with the dull QI (I on centre square), thinking there's not much that could be done with it. The computer had ADIMTZ+Blank and casually (!) played TZADDIQIM for 143! I wonder how many people would have spotted that under tournament conditions?

**from Across the Board,
September 2000**

NZ SCRABBLE WEBSITE

by Glenda Foster

I have developed and maintain a website devoted mainly to NZ Scrabble, for the benefit of members of our Association. It also appears to fulfill a need of the general public as I get a number of enquiries from people who have an interest in a particular aspect of Scrabble.

It is a comprehensive site that includes tournament results, latest rankings list, tournament calendar, NZ Scrabble records, club lists and information on playing Scrabble on-line. There are also links to other related sites, a photo gallery and news items from *Forwards*.

The site is well utilised, receiving about 350 'hits' per month and very few days go by without at least one person in the world visiting the site. It is updated after each tournament and at those times the daily hit counter usually registers more than 30 visitors.

The site address is:

<http://homepages.ihug.co.nz/~fostergh/scrabble.htm>

I am in the process of giving it a facelift and incorporating a resource kit for tournament organisers to use. Any suggestions are welcome.

WHICH ONES ARE RIGHT?

from p 29

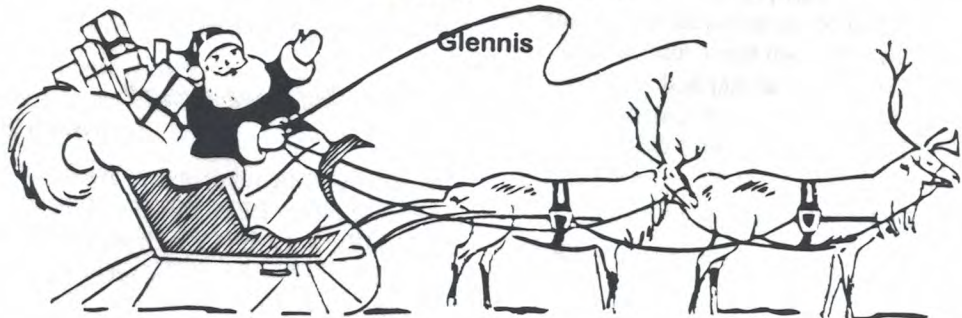
All words in the first column are allowed, except BEESTING and MESSIEUR, both of which are OK if an S is added. All words in the second column are wrong.

President's Christmas Message



Hi to all. Xmas is almost here once again. It's time to reflect on the last year. How busy we have all been. The tourneys have been great, lots of variety, well organised, yummy food and a large number of new participants. Congratulations to all the prize winners! A newly arrived overseas Scrabblor was heard saying NZ tourneys are extraordinary in many ways. Cost, food and friendliness just to name a few. Thanks, George, and welcome to the NZ Scrabble scene. Our biggest success was the recent Trans-Tasman Challenge in Melbourne. A 21 game margin was a convincing win and an excellent result. Congrats to all the players who have qualified for the Masters next year. I know it's always a thrill to make the field and I know there were a lot of people vying for those last few places. Now you'll all have plenty to do over the Xmas break! Finally, thanks to all those who have helped in so many small ways this year to make NZ Scrabble what it is today.

Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year to all. Good luck for the year 2001.



TOURNAMENT RESULTS

MT ALBERT TOURNAMENT 14-15 OCTOBER

13 games

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave	B/W
Grade A					
1 Howard Warner	MTA	10	1248	465	25
2 John Foster	NSB	9.5	532	420	24
3 Jeff Grant	HAS	8	639	422	22
4 Steven Brown	HAM	8	294	411	27
5 Patrick Carter	MTA	8	207	412	18
6 Cecilia Ruto	KEN	7.5	148	419	21
7 Andrew Bradley	MTA	7	233	415	24
8 David Lloyd	IND	6	-209	398	20
9 Sheryl Davidson	PAK	6	-385	385	19
10 Lynn Wood	WEL	5.5	-714	367	14
11 Valerie Mills	PAK	5	-79	402	23
12 Marianne Bentley	TGA	4.5	-210	407	20
13 Peter Jones	MTA	4	-770	370	21
14 Gerald Warner	ROD	2	-934	368	10

Grade B

1 Rhoda Cashman	ROD	10	515	402	17
2 June Mackwell	MTA	10	462	394	18
3 Karen Richards	AUS	9	603	404	16
4 Fae Olson	STR	9	415	407	17
5 Helen Sillis	NPL	9	295	393	16
6 Paul Richards	AUS	8	182	385	16
7 Correne James	IND	8	25	378	15
8 Reeve Pearson	STR	6	177	393	26
9 Margaret Bundock	ROD	5	-23	374	12
10 Glenda Geard	IND	5	-343	371	14
11 Allie Quinn	NSB	4	-807	344	10
12 Maureen Holliday	ROD	3	-232	377	14
13 Faye Cronhelm	IND	3	-535	359	14
14 Joan Thomas	HAS	2	-734	335	10

Grade C

1 Chris Hooks	IND	12	914	408	20
2 Ann Candler	NSB	10	422	406	18
3 Janice Cherry	PAK	9	701	421	19
4 Isabel Zyp	HAM	8	571	406	14
5 Yvette Hewlett	IND	7	331	418	24
6 Lorraine Van Veen	PAK	7	271	394	13
7 Shirley Martin	HAM	7	-14	381	18
8 Jennifer Smith	HAM	6	-175	384	19
9 Shirley Wyatt	MTA	5	-129	376	10
10 Hazel Purdie	MTA	5	-275	362	13
11 Sue Walker	MTA	5	-383	381	21
12 Shirley Van Essen	CHC	5	-806	360	16
13 Delcie Macbeth	IND	3	-824	360	7
14 Elsie Malkin	CHC	2	-604	350	13

Name Club Wins Spread Ave B/W

Grade D					
1 Margaret Cherry	PAK	12	1050	418	16
2 David Gunn	HAM	10	764	421	27
3 Joan Pratt	ROD	8	-41	360	8
4 Mary Gray	MTA	7.5	231	369	14
5 Valma Gidman	ROD	7.5	-145	344	11
6 May Meads	PHC	6.5	202	372	13
7 Pam Barlow	PAK	6.5	91	372	15
8 Liz Catchpole	MTA	6	-190	353	10
9 Irene Hague-Smith	MTA	6	-236	354	12
10 Annette Coombes	IND	5	-130	365	15
11 Margaret Mourant	MTA	5	-459	330	12
12 Mary Farmer	MTA	4	-326	350	9
13 Elaine Ware	MTA	4	-608	336	9
14 Alastair Richards	AUS	3	-203	347	6

Grade E

1 Pam Mayall	KIW	13	761	372	9
2 Alice Hayward	PAK	9	457	352	5
3 Roger French	MTA	9	431	370	10
4 Margaret Hanson	PHC	8	456	349	5
5 Kath Davies	MTA	8	151	344	6
6 Tracy Ivamy	HAS	7	85	355	11
7 Connie Gervasi	NSB	7	33	345	12
8 Olwen Skelton	ROD	7	-84	346	10
9 Lil Moore	MTA	6	51	340	8
10 Kate Wignall	MTA	5	-175	338	5
11 Resie Coenen	PHC	5	-232	305	2
12 Karen Miller	PAK	4	-600	317	3
13 Vera Burner	WAN	2	-698	299	1
14 Kay O'Connor	MTA	1	-636	316	3

WANGANUI CLUB TOURNAMENT 21-22 OCTOBER

14 Games

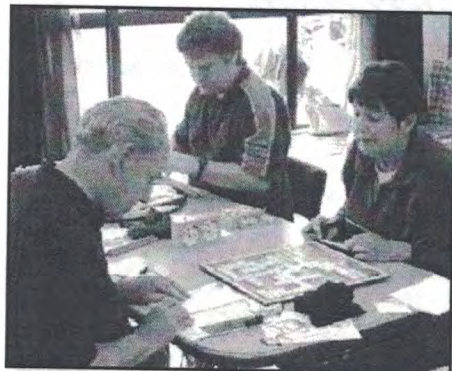
Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave	B/W
Grade A					
1 Lynne Butler	NPL	10	865	441	29
2 Mike Sigley	WAN	10	668	439	29
3 Denise Gordon	WAN	9	306	413	24
4 Glenda Foster	WEL	9	276	410	22
5 Lisa McLean	IND	6	-164	397	20
6 Fae Olson	STR	6	-351	400	22
7 Rosemary Cleary	WAN	3	-687	369	14
8 Eileen McLean	IND	3	-913	352	9
Grade B					
1 Doreen O'Shea	HAS	11	662	418	18
2 Leila Thomson	LOH	8	254	393	16
3 Glenyss Buchanan	LOH	7	476	414	26
4 Frank Robinson	WEL	7	146	370	14

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave	B/W
5 Hilda Scott	MAS	7	-40	369	13
6 Helen Sillis	NPL	6.5	-485	357	14
7 Yvonne Wilson	HAS	5	-541	366	17
8 Sue McRae	WEL	4.5	-472	351	14
Grade C					
1 Jennifer Smith	HAM	12	651	407	18
2 David Gunn	WKO	9	538	395	25
3 Kate Henderson	WEL	7	103	369	11
4 Betty Eriksen	WAN	7	-249	358	9
5 Ruth O'Neill	NPL	6	-291	355	10
6 Norman Wheeler	WEL	5	-170	368	19
7 Jean O'Brien	IND	5	-257	370	11
8 Martha Morgan	NPL	5	-325	361	9
Grade D					
1 Janet Willison	NPY	13	1295	358	8
2 Jean Walsh	WAN	11	1048	325	16
3 Jean Boyle	WAN	8	77	394	10
4 Daphne Hick	NPL	7	-6	381	10
5 Dorothy Latta	IND	6	-585	332	12
6 Alan Medhurst	NPL	5	-413	313	13
7 Audrey Plane	WAN	4	-495	301	10
8 Vera Burner	WAN	2	-921	358	3

OTAGO LION FOUNDATION OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS 18-19 NOVEMBER

15 games

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	B/W
A Grade				
1 Peter Sinton	DUN	14	2112	32
2 Joan Thomas	HAS	9	228	22
3 Shirley Hol	CHC	7	-308	24
4 Karyn McDougall	DUN	6	-487	19
5 Doreen Ogston	CHC	5	-628	20
6 Marian Ross	DUN	4	-917	16



John Foster and Lynne Powell check their scores at Rodney, while Steven Brown is engrossed in his own game.

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	B/W
B Grade				
1 Elsie Malkin	CHC	10	420	16
2 Liz Richards	NEL	9	-97	14
3 Carolyn Kyle	DUN	8	335	16
4 Steve Richards	NEL	8	90	18
5 Margaret Lyall	CHC	7	426	19
6 Yvonne MacKenzie/ Erickson	CHC	3	-1174	12
C Grade				
1 Lyn Dawson	NEL	12	501	10
2 Kerry Dawkins	DUN	9	308	11
3 Ruth Groffman	DUN	8	119	11
4 Chris Handley	DUN	7	31	10
5 Daisy Madden	DUN	6	133	15
6 Roslyn Lister	CHC	3	-1092	10
D Grade				
1 Betty Wilson	CHC	12	754	10
2 Paula Gibbons	CHC	10	1007	13
3 Allison Torrance	CHC	10	389	11
4 Dominic Lister	CHC	7	-314	10
5 Jean Craib	CHC	4	-740	3
6 Elvira Steel	DUN	2	-1096	1

RODNEY TOURNAMENT 18 NOVEMBER

7 Games

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave	B/W
Grade A					
1 Howard Warner	MTA	6	492	418	13
2 Patrick Carter	MTA	5	227	417	13
3 Lynne Powell	NSB	5	31	395	13
4 Glennis Hale	MTA	4	168	387	12
5 John Foster	NSB	3	-109	390	10
6 Valerie Mills	PAK	3	-282	376	9
7 Cecilia Ruto	IND	1	-251	391	8
8 Steven Brown	HAM	1	-276	384	9
Grade B					
1 Correne James	IND	5	-18	377	7
2 Sheryl Davidson	PAK	4	389	426	13
3 Fae Olson	STR	4	129	409	15
4 Eileen McLean	IND	4	-69	370	10
5 Gerald Warner	ROD	4	-157	371	6
6 Margaret Bundock	ROD	3	-32	375	4
7 Peter Jones	MTA	2	-31	380	12
8 Rhoda Cashman	ROD	2	-211	363	6
Grade C					
1 Lorraine Van Veen	PAK	5	300	393	8
2 Rebecca Freeth	ROD	5	286	412	12
3 Maureen Holliday	ROD	5	283	422	11
4 Yvette Hewlett	IND	4	66	408	12
5 Isabel Zyp	HAM	3	14	396	8
6 Jennifer Smith	HAM	2	-137	390	13
7 Julie Atkinson	MTA	2	-304	357	6
8 Ann Candler	NSB	2	-508	356	6

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave	B/W
Grade D					
1 Mary Gray	MTA	5	373	396	11
2 Shirley Martin	HAM	5	133	393	9
3 David Gunn	WKO	4.5	165	404	11
4 Sue Walker	PAK	4	98	401	11
5 Pam Barlow	PAK	3	32	401	14
6 Joan Pratt	ROD	3	-150	374	7
7 Valma Gidman	ROD	2.5	-140	365	6
8 Hazel Purdie	MTA	1	-511	365	6
Grade E					
1 Kath Davies	MTA	5	344	382	6
2 Dorothy Haining	ROD	4	174	372	5
3 Bev Barker	MTA	4	25	357	6
4 Olwen Skelton	ROD	4	7	359	6
5 Ruth Munnings	ROD	3	118	366	6
6 Irene Hague-Smith	MTA	3	-59	368	7
7 Alice Hayward	PAK	3	-114	326	3
8 Elaine Ware	MTA	2	-495	334	5
Grade F					
1 Kate Wignall	MTA	5	371	372	5
2 Debbie Lang	PAK	5	123	346	5
3 Paddy Glen	ROD	5	112	339	2
4 Karen Miller	PAK	5	103	359	3
5 Lyres Freeth	ROD	4	23	356	6
6 Merle Spinetto	ROD	3	67	335	3
7 Jenny Reed	ROD	3	-174	338	3
8 Betty Wyatt	ROD	3	-231	317	5
9 Paddy Hoffman	ROD	2	27	341	2
10 Sue Mayn	ROD	0	-421	274	3

KIWI CLUB TOURNAMENT 2 DECEMBER

7 Games

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave	B/W
Grade A					
1 Howard Warner	MTA	6	941	486	15
2 Sheryl Davidson	PAK	5	111	387	9
3 Valerie Mills	PAK	4	-160	372	8
4 Steven Brown	HAM	3	10	397	13
5 Glennis Hale	MTA	3	-29	405	13
6 Lisa McLean	IND	3	-79	395	9
7 John Foster	NSB	3	-258	374	9
8 Marianne Bentley	TGA	1	-536	376	7
Grade B					
1 Gerald Warner	ROD	5	334	424	11
2 George Warnock	IND	5	288	428	16
3 Peter Jones	MTA	5	108	400	14
4 Fae Olson	STR	4	140	400	7
5 May Quigley	IND	3	55	402	8
6 Puti Rowe	STR	3	-234	374	8
7 Doreen O'Shea	HAS	2	-254	366	6
8 Correne James	IND	1	-437	342	6



A study in concentration at the Kiwi tournament, featuring Puti Rowe, Gerald Warner, Cecilia Ruto, Eileen McLean and Reeva Pearson

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave	B/W
Grade G					
1 Jena Yousif	KIW	5	380	363	5
2 Isabel Weddell	KIW	5	279	341	3
3 Valerie Scott	TGA	4	173	353	3
4 Pauline Smeaton	TGA	4	93	352	2
5 Resie Coenen	PHC	4	85	339	3
6 Maureen McBain	TGA	4	-12	325	0
7 Tim Henneveld	ROT	3	-155	317	5
8 Val Jones	MTA	3	-471	294	4
9 Joy Owen	ROT	2	-173	322	4
10 Anthea Jones	KIW	1	-199	314	6

**WAIKATO PHOENIX TOURNAMENT
3 DECEMBER**

7 Games

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave	B/W
Grade A					
1 Howard Warner	MTA	7	571	444	12
2 Steven Brown	HAM	5	306	417	13
3 Gerald Warner	ROD	3	65	396	7
4 Glynis Jennings	MTA	3	43	391	6
5 Sheryl Davidson	PAK	3	17	391	14
6 Glennis Hale	MTA	3	-18	380	9
7 George Warnock	MTA	3	-311	365	6
8 Lisa McLean	IND	1	-673	348	7
Grade B					
1 Marianne Bentley	TGA	6	414	432	13
2 Fae Olson	STR	5	82	410	12
3 Doreen O'Shea	HAS	5	45	383	10
4 Cecilia Ruto	IND	4	272	418	12
5 Peter Jones	MTA	3	28	405	14
6 Puti Rowe	STR	2	-198	374	5
7 Correne James	IND	2	-260	380	8
8 Eileen McLean	IND	1	-383	357	7

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave	B/W
Grade C					
1 Helen Sillis	NPL	6	505	419	11
2 Glenda Gear	IND	4	163	405	7
3 Joan Thomas	HAS	4	97	379	6
4 Faye Cronhelm	IND	4	53	403	11
5 Jennifer Smith	HAM	4	52	372	9
6 Reeva Pearson	STR	3	-52	404	18
7 Isabel Zyp	HAM	2	-399	361	9
8 Roger Coates	HAM	1	-419	357	7
Grade D					
1 Shirley Martin	HAM	5	124	398	11
2 Delcie Macbeth	IND	4	267	418	15
3 Mary Gray	MTA	4	213	403	11
4 David Gunn	WKO	4	160	396	14
5 Lyn Toka	KIW	4	44	416	12
6 Elaine Moltzen	KIW	3	-274	378	7
7 Marj Baillie	KIW	2	-143	348	6
8 Shirley Wyatt	MTA	2	-391	349	6
Grade E					
1 Neville James	WKO	5	165	389	12
2 Tracy Ivamy	HAS	5	43	358	6
3 Margaret Hanson	PHC	4	147	359	3
4 Elsie Pugh	KIW	4	36	371	5
5 Pam Mayall	KIW	4	27	372	5
6 Annette Coombes	WKO	2	68	380	7
7 Jillian Greening	KIW	2	-201	341	7
8 Jacqueline Coldham-Fussell	KIW	2	-280	331	7
Grade F					
1 Kay O'Connor	MTA	6	191	297	4
2 Pauline Smeaton	TGA	5	171	288	3
3 David Sutcliffe	WKO	5	-44	287	4
4 Maureen McBain	TGA	4	7	281	1
5 Grant Waghorn	WKO	3	-71	277	2
6 Resie Coenen	PHC	3	-146	264	2
7 Isabel Weddell	KIW	2	-108	280	2

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.

	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)	577	Peter Sinton (DUN)
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) Karyn McDougall (DUN)
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	Nigel Richards (CHC) 11,103 (1999)
Most Bonus Words	Nigel Richards (CHC) 61 (1998)
Highest Spread	Howard Warner (MTA) +2410 (2000)

