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Hibiscus Coast (HBC)	Joan Pratt	09 426 4521	jopra@xtra.co.nz	Mon 12.45pm
Nth Shore Bays (NSB)	Lynn Carter	09 419 449		Tues 10am
Mt Albert (MTA)	Kate Wignall	09 625 0147	katewignall@kol.co.nz	Fri 7.15pm
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Kiwi (KIW)	Elaine Moltzen	07 843 5108	jillian.greening@yahoo.co.nz	Thurs 7pm/1pm alt
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Tauranga (TGA)	Stan Skinner	07 572 0866	marstan@xtra.co.nz	Tues 9.00am
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FORWORDS

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- from an original by Allan Simmons first appearing in Onwords Scrabble(r) magazine

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Fictional people in Scrabble: **Anderina McLean**

Learning about learning: **Selena Chan**

WESPA whispers: **Howard Warner**

A word from our players: **NEW FEATURE**



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From the Editor

I sn't language – and the way our brains work with it – wonderful! I had that thought last night as I typed the word EXTRANEIOUS in my comments to an author whose book I'm editing. I know that's the first time I've ever typed that word. I have said it before, although not very often, but that's the first time I've used it in my writing. It's been sitting in the back of my brain for years, waiting for the exact right moment to surface when I needed it. (Same as we know when we play a new word in Scrabble for the first time.)

That's one of the things about the English language that fascinates me – no matter what you want to express, there's a word (or words) in English that will convey the exact meaning.

I love being witness to the expansion of little kids' vocabulary. I read once in the introduction to a dictionary that our brain records each time we hear a word, assimilates it, analyses its context, and after three or more times is able to work out exactly what the word means and when and how to use it. And then it does just that. All effortlessly and subconsciously. Which explains how the huge word DISOBEDIENT suddenly came – very appropriately – out of my three-year-old-granddaughter's mouth one day!

Another fascinating thing is how we associate certain words with the first time we became aware of them. A friend rattled off TRISKAIDEKAPHOBIA (the fear of the number 13) one day many years ago. I'd never heard of it before, but whenever I come across it now, I always think of her. BOURSE is a word Joan Thomas taught me when we were

sharing a motel at a Nationals; I never see PIUM on a board without thinking of June Mackwell (and feeling slightly embarrassed – you'll remember why, June!); when I add an S to SALTIER I remember Allie Quinn; if I ever come across TRIPUDIA, an ancient religious dance, it will have me thinking of Joanne Craig; and so on.

I played BRAW for the first time the other day, and it brought back memories of my late Scotland-raised stepfather. I have never heard anyone else use that word ever, but when I was a little kid he always used to say, on a beautiful but freezing winter's night in Dunedin, "It's a braw bright moonlight night", only he pronounced it "brrrraw brrrikt moon-lik nikt". I have just discovered, to my delight, that BRICHT, LICHT and NICHT must have been the words he was saying – they are all Scrabble words.

Perhaps, because of this issue of *Forwards*, you will one day play BRULYIE and think of Kris Saether; or PINENES and think of Rosie Cleary and Mike Sigley; or DOMETT and think of Liz Fagerlund, or WUXIA and think of Jeff Grant; or RESH and think of Nick Cavenagh; or GRINCH and think of Anderina McLean; or even BRICHT and think of me. It's nice that we're all being immortalised in that sort of way, don't you think?



Jennifer

From the Executive

Dear Scrabblers, I know the inside of the Wellington Accident and Emergency intimately. On 11 August with searing pain in my groin, I dialled 111. The ambulance trip was uneventful and we duly arrived at trolley bay at 5.57am. Tests, more tests, head scratching, x-rays and ultra sounds later I was finally diagnosed with septic arthritis, and despatched to a ward at 10.58pm, some 17 hours after my arrival. The wheels of A&E turn very slowly and on two occasions I was parked in the corridor, as there was no room at the inn. If you leave your cubicle for a test, don't expect it back, there's always someone waiting to pounce on the space.

My operation, a hip washout, occurred the next morning and I was lucky to be first on the production line. The antibiotic treatment which is now in place will be continued for around six weeks, four with an IV drip and two weeks of oral dispatch. What an ordeal.

On 28 August Mum came to A&E by an ambulance I had arranged. She has gall stones and the gallbladder is infected. She got to a ward in 9.5 hours (lucky thing) but has been on nil by mouth for three days.

With all this happening I'm sure you will understand that not much Scrabble has been played since the Hamilton tourney. I can only thank my lucky stars all this trauma occurred in Wellington and not while we were away.

Our countdown to Norfolk has begun but who knows whether it will eventuate. Keep your fingers crossed for Mum and me that we get to enjoy 12 relaxing days of Scrabble and picnics and sunshine and

a jolly good battery recharge.

Hamilton hosted their quiz night again this year with the queen of quiz, Jennifer, dealing some good all round questions. The evening was a roaring success again, and is now a signature to their tournament.

It was nice to see the first, second and third places in the A grade at Hamilton were filled by the three of our World team who were there. We wish all the best for our team of Nigel, Jeff, Howard, Joanne and Blue. In particular, we hope that Nigel will retain his World Champion title – but if he doesn't, we hope he loses it to another member of our team!

I'll see some of you at the Mt Albert tournament, some on Norfolk, and the rest whenever.

Happy Scrabbling.

Lynn

Attention all you law-breakers

- from Karen Richards, Australia

Notice that appears on the North American Players Association website: "Payments to NASPA [North American Scrabble Players Association] can no longer be made through PayPal, as PayPal has determined that Scrabble is a form of illegal gambling."

I've heard Scrabble called many things, but this is a first!

[Paypal is an e-commerce business allowing payments and money transfers to be made through the internet.]



Competition Corner



Scrabble Contest no. 96

How many words can you find in the following piece that are not allowed in Scrabble?

Barry spent August at the Hillcrest Balmoral, lowclass accomodation frequented by seashiders, beachgoers, abseilers, surfriders, etc. Their he met Mrs Edith Lightwood, a 'vision of voluptuity, parfait pizzazz in her polkadot peignior.' They whiled away the time playing Ratrice, overs and unders, Brainstorm and Funworder (ie Scrabble), where he earnt her wroth when he bingoed out with EDUSKUNTA.

"That's acting unprofessionally!" fumed Edith. (Barry was fulltime subvicar at St Stevens.) "I'm damned if it is," rejoined Barry vicariously.

Send your list of nonwords by mail or email to:

Jeff Grant
'Ardra'
1109 Allenby St
Hastings.
ardra@paradise.net.nz

Closing date is 15 November 2009
The winner will receive a book prize.

Solution: Contest no. 95

The best (and only) move seems to be PIUPIU/MU for a measly 11 points. Correct entries were received from our editor Jennifer Smith (Hamilton), Allan Simmons (Scotland) and Lyn Toka (Kiw), who also commented, "My best move would be to throw the toys out of the cot and start again". First name out of the hat was Lyn. Well done!

Our Causeway team

The NZ Causeway challenge Masters team is Nigel Richards, Jeff Grant, Howard Warner, Joanne Craig and Blue Thorogood. Good luck from us all, team!



Nigel



Jeff

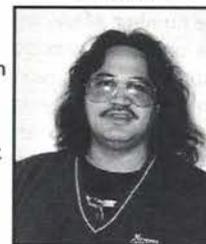


Joanne



Howard

Entries for the Open Section (which starts on Sunday 6 December) closed on 9 September, but we hope there are several New Zealand Scrabble players entered.



Blue

The 10 teams for the Masters Division in 2009 (which, like the Open Section, will involve 45 games played over 5 days) are:

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Australia | 7. Thailand |
| 2. Canada | 8. UK |
| 3. Causeway | 9. USA |
| 4. New Zealand | 10. By invitation |
| 5. Nigeria | 11. By invitation |

Ask Liz

With new rules having been introduced to New Zealand from the AGM this year, it's timely to take a close look at some of our rules, old and new. Liz Fagerlund has come across some interesting situations in the last two or three tournaments.

Question 1. – I played 4 tiles, but in error I have drawn 7 more tiles instead of 4. What do we do?

Answer – The answer depends on whether the player with too many tiles has STARTED putting them on his/her rack.

a) If **no** newly drawn tiles have been put on the rack, then the player places the newly drawn tiles face down on the table (leaving the tiles he/she already had on the rack). The opponent then takes as many as are overdrawn (in this case 3) and returns them to the bag.

b) If any newly drawn tiles have been placed on the rack, then all tiles must be combined either on the rack or face down on the table (in this case unless the player had a very long rack, it would have to be on the table!!) The opponent then selects the number of overdrawn tiles + one – so the opponent in this case chooses 4 tiles, chooses which 3 to return to the bag and which one the player may keep.

Often I have heard players saying that as their opponent has seen one (or more)

of the new tiles, option b) above applies.

This is **not** correct – option b) only applies if a player has put one or more of the new tiles ON THEIR RACK.

Question 2. – I have written my opponent's score down but not the cumulative total – can I still challenge?

Answer – No – even if you have STARTED writing the score in the designated place on your score sheet, you have now waived your right to challenge. This is a good reminder to look carefully at what has been played before writing down the score.

Question 3. – My opponent has played a word and fully replenished their rack, but I have not written the score down and I want to challenge.

Answer – This can be a tricky one – did the player play their word, press the clock and grab new tiles so quickly that the other player had no time to think about the word and whether to challenge? In this particular case, the word used all the player's 7 tiles, and they had replaced all 7 tiles and put them all on their rack before their opponent gave any indication they had wanted to check the word played. We all know that sometimes people forget to write down your score straight away even though they may be happy with your play. Play continued without a challenge as there really was ample



Liz Fagerlund



opportunity as soon as the player pressed the clock, then went for the bag and started to draw tiles, to either say challenge or ask them to hold/wait as a challenge was being considered.

It would probably be a good idea to bring into our rules use of the word "hold" if considering a challenge – however, most players will give a verbal indication that they are considering a challenge pretty quickly, and this alerts the player that they may not draw any replacement tiles yet.

Acceptance of the turn is starting to write the score on the designated place on the score-sheet. This, of course, means that the player can be writing anything else anywhere else on the score sheet, such as the word(s) played. It is unreasonable to expect a player to be looking at the other person's score sheet to see what they are writing and where, before continuing with the flow of pressing the clock, drawing new tiles, putting them on the rack.

So with the incidents in no. 2 and no. 3 – once your opponent had played their word and finished their turn by pressing the clock (or starting to draw tiles if they have forgotten the clock) you can see it is important to not write the score down before looking, but also very quickly indicate that you may challenge so that the opponent doesn't start or continue to draw tiles. I would strongly suggest you don't use the actual word "challenge" if you are considering whether to challenge or not (as in "I might challenge that") Better to say "hold" or "wait, I am thinking about that" so that it can't be confused with you definitely issuing a challenge. Then once you have decided, you need to let your opponent know – "challenge" – that word(s), or "okay", "that's fine", or something that clearly indicated your acceptance, along with then writing the score.

Famous Scrabble quotes

- COUNT DRACULA: "I prefer to play upside down."
- WILD BILL HICKOCK: "Let's draw to see who goes first."
- KARL MARX: "I'll change the lot."
- ALBERT EINSTEIN: "Can we check the score? I think I've added up wrong."

- from *Across the Board*,
Australia's newsletter

With the self adjudication that is so successfully being used now, before you go up to the computer you **MUST** indicate to the opponent ALL words you are challenging.

Question 4. – I play a word, announce my score, but accidentally put it in the incorrect place on the board, making a non-word. My opponent calls "challenge". I realise I hadn't yet pressed my clock – can I fix my word?

Answer – As long as you have not pressed the clock OR started to draw new tiles (if you forgot to press the clock), you may certainly change your play.

If you see your opponent has played a wrong word, or a word you think is wrong, **WAIT** until they have pressed the clock. (And try not to indicate in any way before they have pressed their clock, that they have made an error!) Remember, under our old rules you could say "challenge" as soon as they have announced their score – now a player may announce their score, and may still change their play if they have not **pressed the clock** (or started to draw new tiles if they have forgotten to press the clock). In this situation, a lesson well learnt by the opponent!!

Question 5. – I played a word, pressed the clock then immediately realised I had played an incorrect word. Can I change it? (My opponent had not written down the score.)

Answer – No – once you have pressed your clock it is too late to change your play.

Again, take a little more time if needed before pressing the clock – it will be hard to start with to remember that even though you have announced your score, if you haven't pressed your clock, you can change your mind on your play. So play, score and pause to ensure you are happy with it before pressing the clock.

Even though the turn now ends when you press the clock, and not when you announce the score, you **MUST** still announce your score **BEFORE** pressing the clock – I had a (non-tournament) game with someone who twice pressed the clock, then announced their score – my time should not be running while my opponent has still not announced the score for their turn.

6. Turning the board— I know I have mentioned turning the board before, but it is a pet bugbear of mine! Many players when they have completed their turn, will then rotate the board to face

their opponent. Most, if not all, of those who do that think they are being polite – I know many of them when they started playing were told it is the polite and correct thing to do (so that your opponent doesn't have to do it themselves). If everyone just turned the board for themselves when it is their turn (if they want it turned), then both players are turning it the same number of times.

For myself, once my opponent has made a play I am busy also checking their score; once the clock is pressed I may be starting to tile track their played letters off – if all of a sudden they rotate the board, it is very distracting. I may want to turn the board to check out their turn or I may finish tile tracking before rotating the board for myself, or for that particular turn, I may have no need to rotate the board at all.

Many countries have in their rules (including in the WESPA rules) that you may only rotate or adjust the board when it is your turn. Although this is not in our rules, just remember, once you have pressed your clock your turn has finished – and best for your game to let your opponent deal with which way up they want the board, while you deal with recording and adding your score, getting replacement tiles, and tile tracking.

Question 7. – Can I count the tiles in the bag when it is not my turn?

Answer – There is nothing in our rules covering counting the tiles – however, a good guideline to follow is that the person whose turn it is should have priority for counting the remaining tiles. If it is not your turn and you want to check, it is courteous to quietly advise you want to count the tiles. Ensure it is able to be seen that you have an empty hand both before it goes in the bag and after it comes out, and hold the bag above the table as you would when drawing tiles. If



Gulp! hiccup!

– from Joan Thomas, Hastings

What would you do with CCILUPW on your rack?

I placed the W and L on an O – 6 points for OWL – then picked up the other W and an H.

Time to change tiles?

No! I was able to play HICCUP on a triple word spot for 59 points.

Things are not always as bad as they first seem.

you start checking tiles when it is not your turn and the player then indicates they wish to check, you should immediately stop and allow them to check first (remember, their clock is ticking) — they may want to check how many tiles are left so that they can decide how many tiles to play.

Question 8. – My opponent counted the tiles when it was my turn – she counted 11 and then decided she would change when it was her turn. She didn't take into account that I then played 5 tiles, only leaving 6. On her turn, she duly announced "swap 3" and pressed her clock. I asked if she was sure there were enough tiles – on checking again, of course there were only 6. We decided between us that as she had pressed her clock, her turn has finished and she was then left with the same tiles, no exchange and no score. Do you think this was the right decision?

Answer – Yes I think this was exactly the right decision – a player may exchange as long as there are at least 7 tiles in the bag – the onus is on the person wishing to exchange to ensure there are enough tiles. As the pressing of the clock ends the turn it was too late for your opponent to change her mind. If she had said "swap 3" then decided to double

check the number before pressing the clock, she could have then made a move instead.

I understand this happened in a non-tournament game, but I think the same thing happened in the Hamilton tourney and the players came to the same conclusion.

Question 9. –

a) When a player declares they are changing, should they declare HOW MANY tiles they're changing?

Answer –

a) Yes - rule 15.6.7.1 declare the intent to change and the number of tiles to be changed.

b) If a player says "Change 5" and presses their clock, and then says "No, I think I'll change them all", is that OK? Or do they have to stick to what they said because they have ended their turn?

Answer –

b) As you say, they have ended their turn (by pressing the clock) – that means that if they have said change 5 and they have pressed their clock then that is the number they should change.

Rule 15.6.7.2 place the tiles to be changed face down on the table. At this point the opponent's clock can be restarted. The starting of the opponent's clock always indicates the end of your turn.

We are all dying

– from

Shirley Hol,
Christchurch

A clever person, a philosopher Nietzsche, once said that "We are all dying; it is just a matter of time!"



Twenty years ago today

- by John Foster, Independent

Following the recent Hamilton Tournament, it is interesting to compare the results from the corresponding tournament in 1989.

Reproduced below is the first page of results from that tournament (there were actually eight grades and three whole

pages of results in total). Remarkably, of the 24 players listed no less than nine were also present this year.

In the final game I played Allie Quinn, who looked like having her only win until I snatched a draw on the final play.

Plenty of players have finished with no wins in a tournament but I believe this to be the only time a player has finished with just a draw and no wins. Allie still reminds me of this incident from time to time.

RESULTS OF THE SEVENTH HAMILTON SCRABBLE TOURNAMENT HELD ON SUNDAY, 13TH AUGUST 1989

GROUP 1 (SATURN)

	WINS	POINTS	AVERAGE	BONUS WORDS
JEFF GRANT (Hastings)	6	3035	433	8
GLENNIS HALE (Mt Albert)	5	2907	415	14
GLYNIS JENNINGS (Whangarei)	5	2845	406	8
DAVID LLOYD (Mt Albert)	4	3035	433	13
ANDREW BRADLEY (Mt Albert)	3	2741	391	9
MAY QUIGLEY (Bays)	3	2659	379	9
ANN CANDLER (Nth Shore)	2	2627	375	6
KEVIN EDGELEER (Tokoroa)	0	2385	340	9

GROUP 2 (JUPITER)

	WINS	POINTS	AVERAGE	BONUS WORDS
PETER JONES (Mt Albert)	5	2818	402	10
GAYE MORGREN (Wanganui)	5	2781	397	13
JOHN FOSTER (Mt Albert)	4.1/2	2834	404	12
LYNNE POWELL (Bays)	4	2845	406	15
BETTY GIBB (Hamilton)	4	2581	368	9
JO JACKSON (Hamilton)	3	2397	342	5
LYNN WOOD (Wellington)	2	2386	340	7
ALLIE QUINN (Nth Shore)	1/2	2546	363	8

GROUP 3 (NEPTUNE)

	WINS	POINTS	AVERAGE	BONUS WORDS
ROGER COATES (Hamilton)	5	2835	405	9
FLORENCE VELDHUIZEN (Tokoroa)	5	2676	382	6
GERALD WARNER (Rodney)	4	2792	398	8
LESLEY EDGELEER (Tokoroa)	4	2592	370	6
LOIS KELLY (Tokoroa)	3	2322	331	6
ERODA CASHMAN (Rodney)	2.1/2	2461	351	3
MUTI ROWE (Stratford)	2.1/2	2385	340	6
CATHY WOODS (Mt Albert)	2	2363	337	6

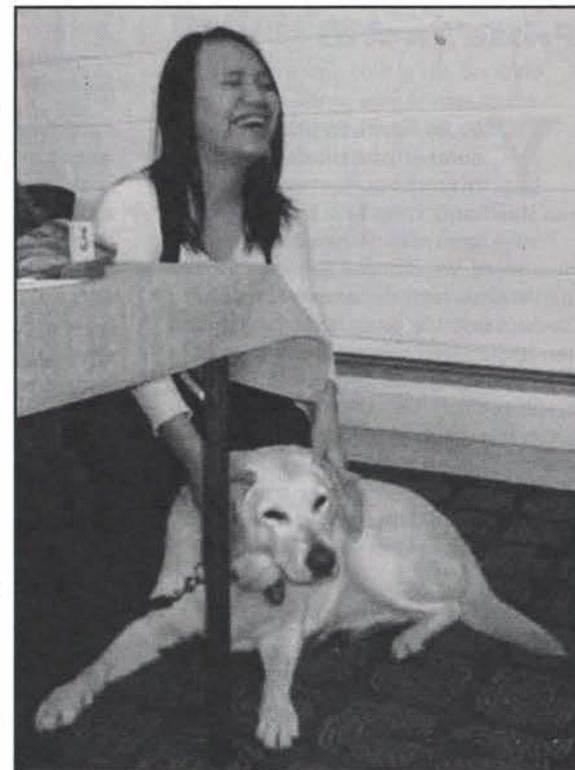
Awhina's last tournament

This familiar sight, Olivia Godfrey's beautiful and beautifully-natured dog, Awhina (Awhi for short), was seen in Whangarei for the last time at a tournament.

Awhina, whose Maori name means helper, was 10 and half when she retired. She left Olivia on 24 July, which was exactly eight years to the day from when first got together. Olivia took her down to Christchurch where she is now apparently enjoying herself enormously with Lyn Dawson, her husband John, and their dog, Rockie.

Olivia chose Lyn because she knew Awhi adored the family. John babysat Awhi for her whenever she was playing a tournament in Christchurch – they met Lyn the first time Olivia ever played a tournament in Christchurch. Lyn boarded them... so Scrabble proved to be a blessing in disguise for Awhi.

Olivia is getting her new dog on 11 September. She's a black lab Golden Retriever cross and her name is Hershey. They'll be training together for three weeks, during which time they both get the chance to decide whether they like each other or not. If they don't, then at the end of the three weeks, as Olivia says, they can both go their separate ways "with no hard feelings".



- photo by Val Mills

anagram corner

Scrabblers are dab hands at transposing letters, for example PREXY to PYREX and GREETED to DETERGE. On a higher level, THE CENSUS ENUMERATORS are aptly described as THESE SURNAME COUNTERS. Here are anagrams of six players from the National Champs in Christchurch.

DEAN REANEY	EARNED A YEN
CHRISTINA LINWOOD	HAIL TONIC IN WORDS
JOHN BAIRD	IN HARD JOB
YOON KIM FONG	INKY-FOG MOON
ANNETTE COOMBS	BEST NOTE CAME ON
FRAN LOWE	NEW FLORA

"Prime" words

You know what a **prime number** is: a whole number that has no factors other than itself and 1, eg. 2, 3, 7, 17.

I'd like to introduce the concept of a **prime word**, which I shall define as a word whose letters cannot form any words (Scrabble ones, that is) other than itself. Here are some examples of 3-letter prime words: CRY, WIZ, EGG, RIZ, JEU.

I've lost count of the number of times I was sure I had found another prime word, only to realise in time (sometimes quicker than others!) that it didn't qualify. YUCCA is not a prime (YU); neither is HWYL (WHY), etc.

I instinctively decided that the longest primes would probably not contain any vowels, and perhaps not even a Y. Excitedly, I thought I had found some big ones: PHPHT (5), GLYCYL (6), ZYZZYVA (7), etc., but you wouldn't believe how many "factors" they each have!

In trying to discover prime words, you quickly realise that there are many limiting conditions. For example: prime words that contain a vowel or Y can never contain the letters M or N, because M and N form 2-letter words with all those letters.

In a systematic search for primes, I looked at the construction of words, and whether they could be broken down into any two-letter words:

- To be a prime containing the letter A, a word cannot contain any other vowels except U or O (and not both), or any consonants except C, Q and V. The only possible primes containing A are the 3-letter OCA, VAC and VAV.
- To be a prime containing the letter E,

a word cannot contain any other vowels except I and U, or any consonants except C, G, J, K, Q, V and Z. This combination also throws up nothing bigger than 3s.

- To be a prime containing the letter O, a word cannot contain any other vowels except A, or any consonants except C, Q and V. Also only 3-letter primes in this lot.
- To be a prime containing the letter U, a word cannot contain any other vowels except A, E and I, or any consonants except B, C, D, F, J, K, L, Q, V, W and Z. At last! Many 4s in this lot, mostly words containing two Us, like JUKU, KUDU and KUZU. As an aside, it does include the 4-letter F#*@ word. Before I started this investigation, I had planned to call this exclusive group of words, **virgin words**. Somehow, once I discovered this word was one of them, the word "virgin" didn't seem so appropriate!
- To be a prime containing the letter I, a word cannot contain any other vowels except E and U, or any consonants except C, J, R, V, W, Y and Z. This combination gives the only 5-letter primes that I've been able to find. Can you find them? I have only found two, one on my own – during a long car trip! – and one with the help of LeXpert.
- To be a prime containing the letter Y, a word cannot contain any vowels except I, and can't contain a B, F, M, N or K. The I/Y combination gives up the 4-letter YIRR, and there are at least two 5-letter primes containing no vowels but a Y (or two). Can you find them?

- by Jennifer Smith, Hamilton

Definitions

There's a squabble in the Scrabble community. Three new entries in the game's official word list have caused a nationwide dork uproar.

The new words are "za," "qi" and "zzz." The first is slang for pizza. The second is a body's vital life force. The third is a snoring sound.

Before we go any further, let's all acknowledge that these words are a load of crap. Nobody needs to abbreviate pizza. It's only got five freaking letters in the first place. As for "qi," that word was probably dreamt up by a dude with a ponytail who found his centeredness in Sedona, and we don't need to humor those types of people. Third, if you've ever shared a room with a snorer, it sounds nothing like "zzz."

- Joe Walljasper in the
Columbia Daily Tribune

Who among us doesn't have a use for the newly official word MONDEGREEN? Webster's defines it as a "word or phrase that results from a mishearing of something said or sung. From the mishearing in a Scottish ballad of 'laid him on the green' as 'Lady Mondegreen.'"

DAZZLING DOZEN

Two of the worst letters to have together on your rack are W and U. Here are a dozen words, like WUD and WUSSY, starting with this awkward combination.

WUDJULA	WURTZITE
WUKKAS	WURZEL
WULLING	WUSHU
WUNNER	WUTHER
WURLEY	WUXIA
WURST	WUZZLE

Y is in the longest prime I have found – as far as I have been able to discover, the only 6-letter prime. One great big **beautiful** 6-letter prime. Can you find it? (On your own!) I'll give you a hint on page 17, and all the 5+ primes on page 43.

Mathematicians know, and have proven, that prime numbers are never-ending – but then, so are numbers! However, because our official word list is finite, prime words make up a small exclusive list. They are special, though, don't you think?

[Disclaimer: My research may well be imperfect. But I'm sure you'll let me know if it is!]

What is Generation Y??

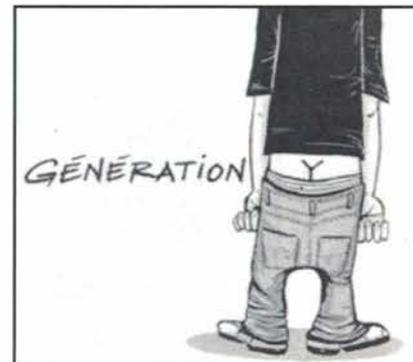
People born before 1946 were called The Silent Generation.

The Baby Boomers are people born between 1946 and 1959.

Generation X are people have been born between 1960 and 1979.

Generation Y are people born between 1980 and 2009.

Why do we call the last group Generation Y? Recently a cartoonist explained it very eloquently (see below):



Club News



Hamilton

Thanks, everyone, for your enthusiasm and support for the quiz we held on the Saturday evening of our Scrabble Tournament weekend. The big upset of the night was when the defending champions, the Oxymorons (we'll kindly not name them!), finished last equal!

Results:

1. The Valkyries (Val Mills, Anderina McLean, Karen Miller, Lorraine Van Veen)
- 2= Jo's Joes (Joanne Craig, Howard Warner, Roger Cole-Baker, Lawson Sue)
- 2= The Kiwi Connection (Lyn Toka, her daughter Carolyn, Helen Sillis, Elaine Moltzen, and her husband Tony)
4. The Piggles (Pat and Jeff Grant, Liz Fagerlund, Glennis Hale)

Work has already begun on next year's quiz, which will be a bit shorter so we are definitely finished by ten pm. See you there!

The Mt Albert tournament

- by Suzanne Harding, Whangarei

My first ever tournament back in 2005
Once experienced, never missed it again.
Undeniably a well organized event.
Next year I might win a prize?
Timing is tight. I invested in a Sam Timer.
Amicable adversaries to reacquaint myself with.
Lunches and refreshments always luscious.
Bridge Club rooms the ideal base for a Scrabble Battle!!
Exceed my expectancy if I can?
Rivalry and revelry over the racks.
Thanks to the team who put it all together.



Suzanne Harding

Wanganui

Mike Sigley played **eight** words in one move against me for 105 points.

I had played ESOTERIC vertically – onto a handy C, unfortunately in B2 file.

Mike's parallel play was PINENES - starting with PE and ending with SI, through the middle triple file, A1.

- Rosemary Cleary

P E
I S
N O
E T
N E
E R
S I
C

Pounding

Do you reckon this headline would attract many new players to the local Scrabble Club?

"Come take a friendly pounding at Des Moines Scrabble Club".

- from *The Examiner, Des Moines, USA.*

Fortunately, the rest of the article was a bit more encouraging.

Mailbox

Dear Ed,

Recently I had a weekend away with Jeff in Hamilton for their tourney. I enjoyed catching up with Scrabble friends and getting time to do some cross-stitching.

On the Saturday evening we went to the Quiz Night run by a glamorously tiaraed lady called Jennifer. A great time was had by all and it was interesting to note how a lot of the teams of four managed to answer most questions even some really obscure ones.

It is a fantastic way of getting Scrabblers together to unwind, so my congratulations to Jennifer for coming up with this light-hearted entertaining evening. Also a "Pat" on the back for the many hours it must take to put all the categories and questions together.

Well done and long may the tiaraed reign continue ☺

Also, a huge thank you to Shirley and Tom Martin and all the helpers who did the catering at the tourney. Lovely home baking and other food was enjoyed by everyone.

- from Pat Grant

"Alternative" names: changing times

- correspondence between
Jeff Grant and the Editor

Jeff

A recent death notice for an elderly lady in our local paper noted that the deceased was:

- the sister of Cora, Edward, Maud, Ethel and Doris,
- mother of Robert, Michael, Susan, Kevin and Gayle,

- nana of Aaron, Amber, Rian, Kyle, Damon, Jaime, Sheree, Kelly, Mason, Norton, Jayden, Shelley, Eden, Rhianna and Meryn,

- and great nana of Liziannia, Shan, Aston, Kapri, Tahlia, Tianna, Corbyn, Tiara-Liege, Trei, Sharieff, Tyrell, Xaviyah, Ohnree, Shaydun, Shalom, Baylee, Karizmah and Fury.

Makes you wonder what the next generation will come up with.

Ed

I have a friend whose son has named his kids Bailey, Rhianin, Meadow, Indie, Atlanta, Cruz, McCaulay and Octavian (no 8).

And my friend has just read an article that children with unusual names are more likely to get into trouble with the law!

Another person I knew had twin grandchildren called Nikula and Ballarum. (She had great trouble remembering the names at first, so mentally thought of them as "wine cooler" and a "bottle of rum" – which is why I can remember the names myself 15 years later!).

A newspaper article I read while in the UK quoted some research as saying traditional names are kept by the upper classes; the "invented" names are introduced by the middle and lower classes.

Stick to the Harrys and Charleses if you want to show the class you're from!

Jeff

I agree the 'lower' classes are more likely to concoct unusual names and I also think people with particular handles are more likely to get into trouble.

How is a kid going to be expected to act at school with a first name like Tyson, Bronson, Stallone or Brik? All these have appeared in our local court pages.

Mailbox Stop Press

-from Tim Henneveld

Recently we attended the Tauranga tournament, which was very well organised. However, on a personal note, I would like to express my feelings about self-adjudication.

Having to get up and go to the computer takes more time for me than for most able-bodied people, which makes me lose concentration about the game in hand.

I understand that the computer and printer are still available, so I would like to see at least one runner/computer operator present at tournaments, especially for people with disabilities.

Perhaps tournament organisers could state on enrolment forms if a runner is available. I would be all for it, even if it cost a little extra.

Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy goes to Betty Eriksen of the Wanganui Club on the death of her husband.

Bill passed away suddenly on Friday 24 July. He was a tireless worker and his vegetable garden was truly magnificent. But for a shoulder injury during the peak of his Rugby career, he would surely have represented New Zealand as an All Black. He was also a first class swimmer in his day.

Bill was immensely proud of Betty, their two children and all their achievements.

He will be sadly missed by his family and friends.

The old ones are always the best

-from the Christchurch Club newsletter

- Old actors never die, they just drop a part.
- Old bankers never die, they just lose interest.
- Old cardiac surgeons never die, they are just bypassed.
- Old deans never die, they just lose their faculties.
- Old Egyptian tourists never die, they just go senile.
- Old geometry teachers never die, they just go off on a tangent.
- Old hookers never die, they just get laid off.
- Old investors never die, they just roll over.
- Old journalists never die, they just get depressed.
- Old kings never die, they just get throne away.
- Old lawyers never die, they just lose their appeal.
- Old magicians never die, they just disappear.
- Old nitpickers never die, they just feel lousy.
- Old pilots never die, they just go to a higher plane.
- Old robbers never die, they just steal away.
- Old sculptors never die, they just lose their marbles.
- Old tree surgeons never die, they just pine away.
- Old upholsterers never die, they just don't recover.
- Old veterinarians never die, they just go to the dogs.
- Old wheel-fitters never die, they just get retired.

Learning about learning while playing Scrabble

- by Selena Chan, Christchurch

This is the seventh – and penultimate – instalment in a series of articles about learning Scrabble.

Performance indicators

The articles in previous issues can be taken as guidelines that you may like to try as you progress through your journey into tournament Scrabble. This learning journey may be hard and long, or it can be enriching and joyful. Your mental approach to the game and what you want to get out of it should be the prime motivating factors in how you approach the whole process.

You can take it seriously, lay down a training / studying programme, put up performance indicators of your progress (number of bonus words in each game, number of wins per tournament, improvement of ratings after each tournament etc.) and work towards a goal that you set. You might want to move up a few hundred rating points in a year or meet or exceed your win expectancies each tournament. Some people find this technique works well for them and they enjoy seeing themselves progress up the ratings ladder.

You can also take the game less seriously and use some of the ideas put forward in the previous articles to just improve your word knowledge and to better understand the underlying complexities of Scrabble.

Whichever approach you take, the most important thing is to enjoy the game. The best game maker's strategies to encourage people to indulge in playing more Scrabble have been put into the game play of Scrabble. These include:



Selena Chan

- The need for good Scrabble players to have good word knowledge. This takes time, energy, a degree of commitment and knowledge of the gaps in your word knowledge.
- Practice of a range of practical, cognitive, spatial and attitudinal skills.
- An element of luck..
- Many permutations so that the game does not become boring.

Whichever way you choose to enjoy the game, it is important to think through your motivations for undertaking the Scrabble journey. If your motivation is to improve your rating, then key performance indicators (KPIs) are a good way to set goals.

However, remember that goal posts do move in Scrabble (in some tournaments, the tile fairies are on holiday!), so if you do not meet your set KPIs, do not beat yourself up too hard. Resilience is an important trait in all pursuits, the important thing is to learn from your mistakes / failures and to improve on your performance the next time around.

Prime words: hint to the challenge on pages 12-13

Hint: You have to use a blank.

Scrabble holiday

- from Ruth Groffman, Dunedin

What could be better than playing Scrabble on the high seas?

There are already 45 Australians registered on this cruise, 24 of them Scrabble players. Why not make this an Australia V New Zealand tourney and show those over the ditch what we are really made of!!!! It is very reasonably priced (prices shown are in Australian dollars).

Scrabble will be on sea days, mainly in the afternoon from 1.30pm, 4 games. On one of the days we will play in the morning. We will manage to get 20 games in, in a round robin format, non-rated.

Cruise (No. W016N) is for 11 nights, leaving Brisbane at 2 pm (Day 1) on 1 May 2010.

Programme:

Days 2, 8, 10, 11: At sea. Scrabble pm, 4 games.

Day 3. Scrabble am, 4 games. Arrive New Caledonia pm, depart in the evening.

Day 4. Isle of Pines, New Caledonia, in port full day.

Day 5. Mystery Island, Vanuatu, in port full day.

Day 6. Wala, Vanuatu, in port full day.

Day 7. Champagne Bay, Vanuatu, in port full day.

Day 9. Vila, Vanuatu, in port full day.

Day 12. 6am arrive back in Brisbane.

Fares, in Australian dollars, and including taxes:

Quad: inside cabin \$1229pp, outside with window \$1259pp, share top suite \$2961.50pp.

Twin: inside cabin \$1909pp, outside with window \$1969pp, balcony \$2519pp.

Single: inside cabin \$3060pp, outside with window \$3159pp, balcony \$5039pp.

Let me know if you are interested by emailing me at ruthgroffman@hotmail.com

Scrabble artwork

- sent in by Su Walker, Mt Albert

Sharon Finn, wife of Tim Finn, creates masterpieces of artwork, from mosaic works to specialised lighting of concerts.

She has evolved her techniques to produce a collection of fantastic and beautiful three-dimensional constructions in the form of mannequins and birdcages, embellished in intricate and magical ways using varied materials such as crystals, vintage jewellery and buttons, chicken wire, brass filigree and stampings.

The two pieces in the photographs are "Speechless" and "Lights". Speechless is a "lady frame" featuring dominoes and the original Scrabble tiles, and "Lights" features glass beads and Scrabble tiles.

You can see more of her artwork on <http://www.sharondelier.com>



Quizzically challenged

- by Anderina McLean, Mt Albert

Jennifer: "I'd like a volunteer to write up a report on the quiz for the next magazine".

Anderina: "When would that be?"

JS: "Are you volunteering?"

AM: "No, I'd need to check my study timetable... I'd love to do it, but I just don't think I'll have time..."

JS: "Thanks, Anderina, I'll put your name down."

So it's Saturday night, 11pm, and after more than a week of frantically cataloguing (I'm doing a course in Information & Library Studies), I find myself making my journalistic debut for a deadline of ... tomorrow.

A few weeks ago, at about this time, I was a member of the victorious Valkyries team at the Hamilton club's second annual Quiz Night (may this fine tradition long continue!) (The Quiz, I mean, though come to think of it, I'd be happy to maintain the winning tradition, too...). We won chocolate. I am enjoying my share as I write this report.

The quiz structure was organised into 10 rounds, 10 questions per round, 1 point per question. Each round was marked by the Quizmaster (and marks displayed for all to see) before the next round commenced. As usual (and I can say that authoritatively, having attended both this year's AND last year's quiz), Quizmaster Jennifer's questions were a skillful blend of "easy!", "oh! I should SO

know that!", "do you reckon that's a trick question?" and "impossible! Who would know THAT?"

In addition to the 10 category rounds, there was a 'What am I?' round, with cumulative clues given at the end of

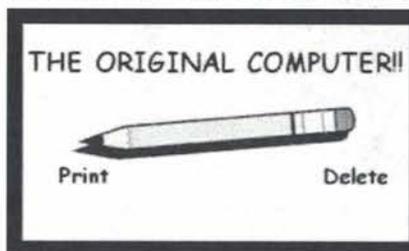
each round, being worth 10 points to a team if guessed correctly at the end of round one, 9 points if guessed at the end of round two (like the Valkyries did) and so on, to finally 1 point if not guessed until the final round, when all they had to do was make an anagram of ROTATES NOTES (as happened to one team, who shall remain, shall we say, Anonymous?) (Beware the TOASTER ONSET - no, wait, that's not an ancient Greek artefact, discovered in Egypt in 1799...)

So, so far we're up to 11 rounds, each worth a maximum of 10 points. But there's more: at the end of a round, before handing in their answer sheet, a team may opt to double their points for that round (based, presumably, on their certainty of having scored well in that round, although some made better use of this privilege than others). Each team has two double-up rounds, making 130 points the maximum possible score.

In this year's quiz, 8 teams competed, with about 4-6 players per team. The winning score (that was the Valkyries', did I mention?) was 81, with teams Kiwi Connection (presumably from the Kiwi club) and Jo's Joes (made up of Joanne + a bunch of rowdy blokes) tying for 2nd place with 77 points each. In third place,



Anderina McLean



excruciatingly close, came the Piggles (named from a combination of members' initials: Pat, Mr Grant, Mrs Grant, Liz, and GLEnnis) with 76 points.

VALKYRIE, incidentally, is defined by Zyzzyva as "a maiden in Norse mythology" (also VALKYR, WALKYRIE

[n - S], neither of which variations I knew; in fact, I would have been pretty dubious about trying VALKYRIE, in the unlikely event of me a) having all those letters on my rack, b) finding the word and c) finding a place to put it!) Considering this definition uninspiring, I turned to Wikipedia, which informed me (among many other things) that a Valkyrie "is one of a host of female figures who ... bring their chosen who have died bravely in battle to the afterlife hall of the slain... Valkyries also appear as lovers of heroes and other mortals, where they are sometimes described as the daughters of royalty, sometimes accompanied by ravens, and sometimes connected to



The tiaraed Quizmaster, Jennifer Smith

swans." Yeah! That's what I'm talking about!

(Of course, we called ourselves the VALKYries because our team was comprised of Val, Anderina, Lorraine, and Karen, not specifically because of our penchant for bearing mead to the undead... at least, that was my understanding...) We also have a cool theme song, by Wagner! (I'm telling you this so that, in years to come, when you attend a Hamilton Scrabble Club Quiz Night (may this fine tradition long continue!), and you are asked "which team won the 2009 Quiz?" you will have some chance of remembering.) While there was much hilarity, controversy, education, edification, and, above all, fun for all embedded in each category, I can't reproduce all 130+ questions and clues here, with their answers and accompanying information, so what follows is a completely biased selection of annotations on some of the (many) personal highlights of the night for myself and my team.



The 2 x Bs team — Brian, Debbie, Bryan and Glenda (taking the pic)



Jo's Joes team — Andrew, Jo, Howard, Roger and Lawson

(If you want to know the rest, hey, 'volunteer' to write it up yourself next time... may this fine tradition long continue!)

Round 1: Current events

This was introduced as a warm-up round, and was the only round in which every team scored more than 50% correct.

What was Michael Jackson's middle name?

It was not, in fact, either "Prince", "Billie", "Jean" or, um... I think "Peter" may have been our final guess, on the premise that we knew it must be something so ordinary that it had failed to

register with us.

[Answers to all questions in this article can be found on page 43.]

Round 2: Which came first?

It was observed that Jennifer could, in fact, have saved herself the bother of researching new questions for this round, as she could have reproduced last year's in full and we would have completely forgotten the answers! Ditto for next year.

Which successful stunt came first, crossing between Twin Towers on a tightrope, going over Niagara Falls in a barrel, or Houdini's Chinese Water Torture stunt?



A general view of the quiz room

It was only three weeks ago for me, but, well, your guess is as good as mine now.

Round 3: North and South

While many of these questions had a 50% chance of success, it is interesting to note that in this round a) no teams chose to double up and b) every team scored either 5 or 6 points.

The phenomenon known as aurora australis occurs in the southern hemisphere. What is the corresponding phenomenon in the northern hemisphere called?

I'm including this one here because, as our Quizmaster informed us, both words in the answer are allowable in Scrabble (yes folks, includes both 'Northern' and 'Lights'!)

Round 4: Do you know your ABC's?

In my opinion, one of the great skills of a Quizmaster is to incorporate as wide a range of trivia into a single thematically linked category as possible. Jennifer certainly excelled herself in this category, with content coverage including 2 alphabets, 10 countries, a currency, some addition, and some vehicle registration plates. Oh, and just a touch of Scrabble. In this round we learned:

- The total points value of the 100 Scrabble tiles is 187 points
- The most common letters beginning words in the Scrabble dictionary are (in order): S, C, P, D, M, A
- The most common letters ending words in the Scrabble dictionary are (again, in order): S, E, D, G, Y, R, T, N



Quizmaster Jennifer presents prizes

What country starting with P is an acceptable Scrabble word?

This was one of those annoying questions for which we made a guess, then figured out the answer with certainty just as marking commenced!

Round 5: Sporting Chance

I always do badly in the Sports category in quizzes. However, well done to my team-mates who managed to rustle us up a score of 7 anyway. Moving right along...

Round 6: Homes of the Rich and Famous (and fictional)

I had just been lamenting to my team that there never seemed to be a Literature category in quizzes these days. Then along came this category, full of things any self-respecting children's librarian ought to know, including the addresses of Mary Poppins' Banks family, Peter Pan's Darling family, Superman, and Sherlock Holmes. Also featured here:

Who lives at 742 Evergreen Terrace, Springfield?

I got a bit fancy here, and insisted to my team that the obvious answer was too obvious. The Flanders family, regrettably, is not the correct answer.

Who lives at 1313 Webfoot Walk?

Teams	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	what an I	Place
Oryzopsis(DC)	6	10	6	4	5	8	4	5	1	3	8	60
Kuauqua Tarts	6	4	6	2	5	10	5	5	3	6	9	71
Kiwi Connection	14	3	5	6	7	6	7	4	2	14	9	77 2*
The 2x Bs	7	3	6	7	3	7	8	6	2	12	5	66
Piggles	20	4	5	18	5	5	1	7	2	6	3	76
Jos Jos	7	5	6	12	7	6	4	4	3	14	7	77 2*
The Valkyries	8	7	5	16	7	5	4	5	3	12	9	81 ①
Brains Anon	12	2	6	5	3	5	3	5	2	14	1	60

The final score board

Big ups here to our generous Quizmaster, for allowing the Valkyries (yes, it was us) the point for the uncle of the resident of this address!

Round 7: Money Money Money

It was stipulated at the beginning of this round that we had to keep our hands out of our pockets and our wallets closed.

The 10c piece and which other of NZ's coins has a smooth edge?

I'd just like to say that Olivia Godfrey was meant to be in our team, but apparently she had something better to do that night. Humph.

Round 8: Famous People

This category included actresses, presidents, a gangster, a nursery rhyme, a picture book, and a trapeze artist. Also:

Who is fifth in line to the throne of England?

Personally, I'm not sure this should have been question 10 in the round. We could have gone on debating possibilities and elaborating family trees for many more minutes, but our discussions were truncated somewhat by the need to get our answer sheet handed in.

Round 9: Multiple choice, multiple topics

Unexpectedly, this appears to be one of few rounds in which Scrabble did not feature in the questions or answers at all. Perhaps this accounts for no team scoring higher than 3 points altogether for this round?

Who was the Catherine wheel named after: Katherine of Aragon, St Catherine of Alexandria, Catherine the Great of Russia, Catherine Parr, Catherine Zeta-Jones, or none of these?

This was the only question in this round that I definitely knew the answer to, for certain. I was going to quote here the passage from the book that I had read the answer in, as it is somewhat amusing, but now that I've gone to the trouble of finding the passage I've realised that quoting it would give away the answer. So you should all go and read *Millions* by Frank Cottrell Boyce, because it's funny, it won an award, it has a neat shiny cover, and it might one day help you to win a trivia quiz.

Round 10: Words, words, words

Funnily enough, this round did make a few references to Scrabble. And more than half the teams elected to double their points (or else realised that they had to, 'cos it was the last round!)

All of these words refer to people's names: ALLONYM, AUTONYM, CACONYM and MONONYM. Which one is relevant to the singer, Cher?

All of these words are allowable in Scrabble. I don't know about you, but -NYM isn't usually a combination I automatically think to investigate. Also, included in Jennifer's notes, to which I am privileged to have access for the purpose of writing this report, was the following quotation, attributed to Burt Bacharach: "A synonym is a word you use when you can't spell the word you first thought of."

And finally, because it seemed as if only Jennifer and I knew the answer to the question in the Famous People category "Who wrote the children's picture book, *The Gruffalo*?", the correct answer to the question "What's a gruffalo?" is:

"A gruffalo! Why, didn't you know? He has terrible tusks, and terrible claws, and terrible teeth in his terrible jaws. He has knobbly knees, and turned-out toes, and a poisonous wart at the end of his nose. His eyes are orange, his tongue is black; he has purple prickles all over his back..."

(by Julia Donaldson, illustrated by Axel Scheffler)

(We include a picture of the Gruffalo. We weren't too sure about copyright



*The Gruffalo**

issues surrounding using it, but since we [Anderina and the editor] are sort of reviewing the book – we do urge you to own or buy it – we are hoping publication of the picture will pass the scrutiny of any copyright police. *The Gruffalo* is Jennifer's all-time favourite children's picture-book story. Buy it for your kids and grandkids.)

Presidential message

A message from the US President, Barack Obama, was read out at the US School Scrabble Championships:

"My family and I know from experience that Scrabble requires creativity, finesse, and most importantly, a love of learning and language. I hope that passion for the game inspires all of your life's endeavours."

One millionth English word

A couple of people have drawn our attention to articles on the internet about the so-called millionth word entering the English language. We give you two sides of that debate:

According to the Global Language Monitor:

Linguistic experts predicted that the English language was due to celebrate its one millionth word in June. According to the Global Language Monitor, an association of academics that tracks the use of new words, the milestone would be passed at 10.22am on June 10.

The widespread popularity of English as a second language in Asia has brought about the most fertile period of word generation since William Shakespeare's time with new terms coined on average every 98 minutes, the Texas-based group claims. It acknowledges new words once they have been used 25,000 times by media outlets, on social networking websites and in other sources.

The terms it is currently monitoring which could take English to the one million threshold include "defollow" and "defriend", words describing what users of websites like Twitter and Facebook to do contacts with whom they do not wish to stay in touch.

Another internet word "noob" – a derogatory name for someone new to a particular task or community – is also in the running, along with "greenwashing" (what companies do to appear environmentally friendly) and "chiconomics" (recession fashion).

Paul Payack, chief analyst at the Global Language Monitor, said: "Despite having a million words at our disposal it is unlikely that we will ever use more than just a tiny fraction of them. The average person's vocabulary is fewer than 14,000 words out of these million that are available. A person who is linguistically gifted would only use 70,000 words."



The organisation first predicted that the millionth English word was imminent in 2006, and has repeatedly pushed back the expected date. Other linguists have expressed scepticism about its methods, claiming that there is no agreement about how to classify a word.

CBS News said:

That prediction has come under fire from linguists who say Payack is more interested in generating publicity than in adding to linguistic scholarship.

"He made it all up in his head," said Robert Beard, a linguist who worked with Payack on an Internet dictionary told the Houston Chronicle "He's a great marketer, but he's a classics major. He knows nothing about linguistics."

"I think it's pure fraud," said Geoffrey Nunberg, a University of California-Berkeley linguistics professor. "It's not bad science. It's nonsense."

Experts say it's impossible to calculate the number of words in the English language, which is complicated by the classification of compound words, verb forms and obsolete terms.

[I have searched the internet for any news on what the one millionth word turned out to be, but with no success, so draw your own conclusions! – Ed.]

A word (or more) from our players

I often get nice little communications from Scrabble people telling me about a new word, or a group of words, accompanied by interesting comments.

For example:

Have just found the word LAVOLTA, a dance in the Shakespearian era.

LAVOLT LAVOLTS LAVOLTA LAVOLTAS

Tra-la-la, can John Travolta dance the LAVOLTA?

That nice little email from Joan Thomas, Hastings, made me decide that it would be good to have a regular feature that collects up all such gems in one place in Forwards. I hope you enjoy this new regular double-page feature, and that it will inspire you to send in your interesting or quirky vocabulary-specific discoveries.

Common to uncommon and vice versa

- by Nick Cavenagh, Hamilton

A common way to learn new Scrabble words is to extend common words to uncommon ones.

In the following list, the letter outside the brackets is a unique hook on that side. For example, A is the only letter you can put in front of GOOD to make a five-letter word. However, there may be other, multiple hooks on the other side. For example, GOOD has right hooks S and Y.

A(GOOD); B(LORE); C(OPEN); D(WILE); E(STOP); F(UGLY); G(REIN); (LEIS)H;

I(DENT); L(YARD); M(OPUS); N(ACRE); (SANK)O; P(AVID); R(INTO); S(ENVY); (RICH)T; U(PLED); V(IBEX); W(AIDE); Y(SAME); Z(HOMO).

A more uncommon way to memorize words (but one which works for me) is to find uncommon words within common ones. For example, the everyday word FRESH contains the less everyday word RESH. Moreover, F is the only letter that hooks onto RESH. As above, all the hooks below outside the brackets are unique.

A(GREE); B(LUNT); C(HAIN); D(RIVE); E(NEMA); F(LOOR); G(NOME);

H(OIKS); I(NANE); K(NIFE); (META)L; N(AVAL); O(MEGA); P(RUNE); (ETHE)R; S(HADE); T(WICE); V(AGUE); W(RATH); (ANNO)Y.

There are many other examples!!

To get your brain going

- sent in by Su Walker, Mt Albert

1. You have ADDEEFL on your rack, and the only place for a bonus is around another E. What could you play?
2. Let's assume you didn't find the play, and your next rack is ADDEINU, with the same spot still available. Can you find one this time?
Hint: both plays involve an unusual vowel combination.
3. Name the only 6-letter word that ends in -MT.
Hint: it has four bigger "relations" (two 9s, two 8s), and these are the only words with that ending.
Answers on page 43.

Croatian currency

- sent in by Annette Coombes, Phoenix

From a postcard sent to me by Nick Cavenagh:

"I am having a great time in Europe. I will never forget that LIPA and KUNA are Scrabble words after using Croatian currency."

Special words

- from Kris Saether, Mt Albert

I stumbled across a nice Scrabble word the other day and noticed some interesting properties about it.

BRULYIE, a Scots word for a noisy dispute, a brawl.

Can you see what's so special about it?

There are no two-letter words spelled out consecutively with its letters. In fact, there are only three words spelled out consecutively, whatever the length. There is a three-letter word, a four-letter word, and a five-letter word. The three-letter word is BRU, starting on the first letter. The four-letter word is RULY, starting on the second letter. The five-letter word is ULYIE, starting on the third letter!

Putting Scrabble on the NZ map

Some more place names to add to our map of New Zealand:

COROMANDEL wood of an Asian tree (ebony), and a lacquer used in China on decorative screens
BLACKBALL the sweet!
GALATEA strong, twill-weave cotton fabric

from Jennifer Smith, Hamilton

RANGIORA (in Canterbury, about 25km NW of Christchurch)

a NZ shrub

DOMETT (about 100 km north of Christchurch)

a type of plain cloth

BLOCKHOUSE (Bay, - the suburb in Auckland where I live)

a small temporary fort

- from Liz Fagerlund, Mt Albert

Fictional people in Scrabble

- by Anderina McLean, Mt Albert

Incidentally, while writing up Quizzically challenged (see page 19), I noticed that (not too surprisingly) "gruffalo" isn't allowed in Scrabble.

But a few other fictional "peoples" or creatures that appear only in texts by single authors (i.e. not just UNICORN, BANSHEE etc.) are acceptable in Scrabble: TRIFFID and HOBBIT are two examples that spring to mind.

Many people from the Harry Potter books (e.g. DUMBLEDORE, HIPPOGRIFF, QUIDDITCH) are acceptable but this is, generally, because the author borrowed them from other contexts.

A few further relevant examples came to light after discussion with my husband. JEDI is allowed, but not Wookiee or Ewok. SITH is in the official word list but is apparently an older form of SINCE so doesn't take an S.

Then we were surprised to discover there is no acceptable form of Trekkie. JABBERWOCK and JABBERWOCKY are both acceptable, and my husband says ORC definitely came from Tolkien, but Zyzzyva suggests otherwise.

I have been hard-pressed to think of any picture book examples (Dr. Seuss seemed most likely, but no Lorax or Sneetch is allowed). MUPPET is fine, but Womble and Fraggles aren't. However, I was thrilled to discover a picture book example at last - you can have GRINCH (ES), which Zyzzyva defines as a killjoy.

I wonder what kind of process these words go through to become "words" - if indeed there is a consistent system. Can we expect to be able to play Gruffalo in the future?

Monetary units

—by Vicky Robertson, Wellington

I've compiled a list of monetary units around the world which could be interesting to readers.

Albania	LEK		
Algeria	DINAR		
Angola	KWANZA		
Armenia	DRAM		
Azerbaijan	MANAT		
Bangladesh	TAKA	Macedonia	DENARI, DENARII, DENAR
Bhutan	NGULTRUM		
Botswana	PULA	Mongolia	TUGHRİK, TUGRIK
Brazil	REAL	Myanmar	KYAT
Bulgaria	LEV	Mozambique	METICAL, METICAIS
Cambodia	RIEL	Nicaragua	CORDOBA
China	YUAN, RENMINBI	Nigeria	NAIRA
Croatia	KUNE, KUNA	North Korea	JUN
Czech Republic	KORUNA	Panama	BALBOA
Denmark	KRONE, KRONEN, KRONER	Papua New Guinea	KINA
	NAKFA	Paraguay	GUARANI
Eritrea	KROON, KROONI	Peru	SOL
Estonia	BIRR	Poland	ZLOTY, ZLOTIES, ZLOTE, ZLOTYCH
Ethiopia	FRANC	Portugal	DOBRA
France	DALASI	Romania	LEU
Gambia	CEDI	Samoa	TALA
Ghana	QUETZAL	Saudi Arabia	RIYAL
Guatemala	GOURDE	Sierra Leone	LEONE
Haiti	LEMPIRA	South Africa	RAND
Honduras	FORINT	Soviet Union	RUBLE, ROUBLE
Hungary	RUPEE	Spain	PESO
India	RUPIAH	Swaziland	LILANGENI
Indonesia	RIAL	Sweden	KRONA, KRONOR, KRONUR
Iran	SHEQEL		SOMONI
Israel	LIRA, LIRE, LIROT, LIROTH	Tajikistan	BHAT, BAHT
Italy	YEN	Thailand	HRYVNA, HRYVNIA
Japan	TENGE	Ukraine	
Kazakhstan	SOM, SOMY		
Kyrgyzstan	LIT, LITAI, LITAS, LITU	United Arab Emirates	DIRHAM
Lithuania	MALOTI, LOTI	Vanuatu	VATU
Lesthoto	RINGGIT	Venezuela	BOLIVAR
Malaysia	LARI, LAREE, RUFİYAA	Vietnam	DONG, XU
Maldives	PATACA	Zambia	KWACHA
Macao			



Vicky Robertson

Overseas News



Belgium

A young man from the canton of Vaud has been crowned as the Francophone World Champion for Scrabble. Twenty-year-old Hugo Delafontaine also won three other gold medals at the 38th Scrabble World Championships in Belgium. The president of the Swiss Federation for Scrabble said it's the first time in nearly 30 years that someone so young has won the title in all of the categories. Delafontaine has already won several world championships in the junior categories.

France

Pierre Olivier Georgette is the new Champion of France at the standard game, known in France as "Classique" [as opposed to Duplicate which most French tournament players still play].

Guyana

Scrabble is heading for high schools – a team from the Guyana Association of Scrabble Players (GASP), the game's governing body, is currently working with the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports to launch the game competitively in secondary schools.

The new National Scrabble Champion is 28 year-old Abigail McDonald

Abigail, a self-employed graphic artist, started playing Scrabble when she was 13. She is currently a part of a committee that



Abigail McDonald

is working towards launching Scrabble in schools, and says that the benefits of sports in general are far reaching. "Besides building vocabulary, it builds confidence, the sense of being

involved in something worthwhile; it puts you out there."

Malaysia

Penang Open Tournament, July:

1. Nigel Richards
2. Suanne Ong
3. Helen Gipson

Qatar

At least 14 members of Qatar Scrabble League (QSL), eight of them school children, are taking part in monthly competitions to help them prepare for the World Youth Scrabble Championship (WYSC) in Malaysia in December and the Gulf Scrabble Championship next year for the adults. Officials will select three other school children to represent Qatar at the WYSC.

UK

The 2009 British Matchplay Scrabble Championships at the end of August were sponsored by digital toy factory Denki, creators of the upcoming Xbox LIVE Arcade game *Quarrel*. Denki has contributed to the overall prize fund and were on site during the tournament to demonstrate *Quarrel*, pick the brains of competitors and use their feedback to make sure the game is thoroughly enjoyable, rock solid and even more awesome than ever.

The BMSC is organised by the Association of British Scrabble Players and is the most prestigious and high-profile event in the British Scrabble Calendar.

Colin Anderson, Denki's managing director, said, "From the very earliest days of designing *Quarrel* – before it was even called *Quarrel* – we've shown the game to groups of people we thought could help make it better. We've shown it to strategy



gamers, kids and families through to gamers, students and our friends at other Dundee games companies. When the opportunity arose to show the game to the UK's leading Scrabble players, it was too good to resist."

USA

In August, nearly 500 players from 40 states and several countries competed in the five-day National Scrabble Championships. Competitors ranged in age from 10 to 92. There were many great players in the field, including four world champions – Nigel Richards, Adam Logan, Joel Wapnick and Panupol Sujjajakorn. Nigel was defending the title he won last year.

After leading for much of the way and having a 2 game lead with 2 games to go, Nigel Richards was beaten in the last 2 games by Dave Wiegand, to just miss out on winning by a spread of 135.

1. Dave Wiegand, USA (second national title)
2. Nigel Richards, New Zealand
3. Joel Wapnick, Canada
4. Adam Logan, Canada

Hasbro's profit up but Scrabble sales down

Hasbro's second-quarter profit rose 5 percent, while revenue edged up 1 percent to \$792.2 million from \$784.3 million last year. Excluding the adverse affect of the stronger dollar, net revenue rose 7 percent.

In the U.S. and Canada, sales rose 5 percent to \$490.9 million from \$467.7 million, boosted by sales of Transformers and G.I. Joe toys. "Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen" came out early in the quarter, and "G.I. Joe: The Rise of the Cobra" was due to debut in August.

Internationally, sales fell 6 percent to \$276.2 million from \$293.7 million, hurt by the stronger dollar. Transformers and G.I. Joe toys were also among the better sellers internationally.

One weak spot was games and puzzles. Hasbro owns a multitude of game titles including Scrabble and Monopoly — and sales in that division fell 17 percent. But Hasbro said that was due to the timing of shipments for promotional programs that will roll out over the next few months.

-from Associated Press

Zzyzx Road

It's a Scrabble player's dream destination: Zzyzx Road, California.



[Don't turn it into a nightmare by trying to play it, though – the word's not in our word list.]

According to Wikipedia, Zzyzx Road is a 4.5-mile (7.2 km) long, part paved and part dirt, rural collector road (a low or moderate-capacity road) in the Mojave Desert. It runs from Interstate 15 generally south to the Zzyzx settlement.

Las Vegas, Nevada is the nearest major city, about 100 miles (160 km) northeast.

The name Zzyzx was given to the area in 1944 by Curtis Howe Springer, claiming it to be the last word in the English language. Springer made up the word's pronunciation "zi-zix".

He established the Zzyzx Mineral Springs and Health Spa in 1944 at the spot, which was federal land, after filing mining claims for 12,000 acres (49 sq km) surrounding the springs. He used the springs to bottle his water and provide drinks for travelers through the hot desert. Springer also imported animals from around the country to attract more families to visit his ranch. He used Zzyzx until 1974, when he was arrested for misuse of the land as well as alleged violations of food and drug laws, and the land was reclaimed by the government.

WESPA whispers

- by Howard Warner, NZ's Liaison Officer with WESPA



It is now six years since WESPA, the World English-language Scrabble Players Association, was set up during the World Championships in Kuala Lumpur. So it seems an appropriate time to review the work of the association, in a year when the premier world event is returning to Malaysia.

In the first few years, progress was slow. But things have been speeding up, especially over the past year. I reckon the signs are there for an exciting and enduring global Scrabble scene.

The most visible sign is the proliferation of 'open' WESPA-endorsed tournaments around the world. There are now successful annual events in India, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Malaysia, the UK, Germany, Malta, Israel and Nigeria (I've probably left some out). There's also the two-yearly World Players Championships in Dallas, Texas.



Howard Warner

Last year's inaugural event was attended by three Kiwis and won — comfortably — by our Nigel. In fact, a good many of the international tournaments were won by Nigel.

If you look at the international ratings list on line (<http://members.ozemail.com.au/~rjackman/>), you'll see that Nigel is also way out in front for number of competitive games played, with 896. Next highest are Singaporean (and WESPA secretary) Cheah Siu Hean on 777, and English (formerly Nigerian) player Femi Awowade, devilishly poised on 666. By contrast, the next highest Kiwis for number of international games played are myself (420), Jeff Grant (364) and Liz Fagerlund (257). Of course, those numbers will rise later this year, with the upcoming World Champs (24 games) and Causeway Challenge (45 games in both the premier teams event and the open section). Incidentally, if any of you wanted the Scrabble experience of a lifetime, you should consider entering the Causeway (Johor Bahru, Malaysia, 2-6 December).



It's relatively cheap to fly there, get to Johor — just over the causeway from Singapore — and stay at the venue. The open event is held in the same room, and over the same five days, as the world teams event.

The WESPA executive has settled in under the leadership of Englishman Elie Dangoor, after the previous chairman, Roy Kietzman of Bahrain, passed away suddenly in March. The rules committee, driven by Sydney law student Chris May, has worked hard to develop a set of workable rules, with input from players around the world. We will see these applied in international tournaments from here on. (Particularly interesting, after the experiences of Causeway 2008, are the rules relating to 'cheating'.)

The ratings committee was recently re-formed, after attracting flak for not doing very much. They will now be fine-tuning the SOWPODS ratings system developed by committee member Bob Jackman (Australia), which has been the pro tem system for WESPA over the past few years. Bob recently raised the minimum number of games for rankings, from 25 to 50, after complaints that people were playing their first international tournament and jumping straight into the top 10. But he resisted reducing the three-year period for names to drop off the rankings due to inactivity.

Dictionary issues have dominated WESPA's formative programme. The dictionary committee, which includes our Jeff Grant, has secured the rights to decide on content for the next edition, to be published by Collins. They have completed an extensive — at times quite heated — public consultation process. And veteran Scrabble writers Allan Simmons and Darryl Francis (both UK) are already working on the next edition. This is due to be published next year, for adoption in 2012. After that, the process will be reviewed. (WESPA may stick with

“The youth committee, under the energetic chairmanship of globe-trotting Aussie Karen Richards, has made giant strides.”

Collins, form a relationship with another publisher or even self-publish.)

The upcoming WESPA word source will still be drawn from the corpuses of Collins, Chambers and the American list (itself culled from various Websters editions). The committee has resisted making wholesale changes, despite strong submissions for such things as deleting all archaic words or having national associations submit their favourite local words. However, they do propose normalising more adjectives to include comparative (-ier) and superlative (-iest) forms, and adding the -s plural to all Maori loan words — as with loan words from every other culture on Earth.

The youth committee, under the energetic chairmanship of globe-trotting Aussie Karen Richards, has made giant strides — though not in New Zealand, more's the pity! Ruth Groffman of Dunedin is a member of this committee, but outside of her excellent local programme we haven't got much to show in the way of a youth programme. Karen is keen to help us develop this area of our game.

Individual countries were initially slow to embrace and endorse WESPA. But now most major Scrabble playing regions have come on board as financial members. As you'll know, we decided at our AGM in June to formally join the association. Now WESPA's country membership is Australia, Ghana, India, Malaysia, Malta, New Zealand, Nigeria, Qatar, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand

and the UK. Two other members are the American state of Minneapolis and the Israeli city of Tel Aviv.

These last two are interesting, because they both belong to the North American Scrabble 'conference', which uses a different word source and different rules. Which leads to me to the exciting developments in North America — potentially very significant for global Scrabble.

The region, comprising the USA, Canada and Israel, has always operated under a powerful players' body (the NSA), funded and controlled by the commercial owner Hasbro. (The rest of the Scrabble world is owned by Mattel, and run by national players' associations, such as our NZASP).

But Hasbro has been gradually withdrawing its involvement in competition Scrabble. First it opted out of its four-yearly, alternate hosting of the World Champs. Then it dropped the ball on the annual North American Champs. Earlier this year, it decided to place the bulk of its support into school Scrabble. This led to the gradual disbanding of the NSA, and its replacement by NASPA, the North American Scrabble Players Association.

Note that key word 'players' in the title. Major drivers behind this organisation were the Texans Chris Cree and Geoff Thevenot, both top SOWPODS players and supporters of unification (between North America and 'the world'). Last year, Geoff organised the first ever international SOWPODS tournament in the US, and Chris followed up with his awesome World Players Champs. Those two tournaments seemed to open the floodgates — since then, a number of SOWPODS tournaments or TWL tournaments with a SOWPODS grade have sprung up in North America. Chris Cree is co-chairman of the new

players' association with Canadian John Chew, who has been the ICT coordinator of most World Championships. So the omens are looking good for an eventual alignment of NASPA with WESPA, in one big happy family of global Scrabble competitors. Bring it on, I say!

By the way, you can check out the comprehensive NASPA website at www.scrabbleplayers.org. Among other fascinating bits of content is a rare profile of Nigel — an outtake from Stefan Fatsis's ground-breaking (though overly Americo-centric) book *Word Freak*.

So, exciting times for world competitive Scrabble. The four big upcoming events in Malaysia (World Champs, Causeway Challenge, World Youth Champs and the simultaneous Johor Bahru Progressive Round Robin) will offer a great forum for players from around the globe. There's also the biennial general meeting of WESPA, to be held during the World Champs. I'll be updating you on all the goss, so watch out for more 'WESPA whispers' in future editions of *Forwards*.

Mobile library

*- sent in by Margaret Cherry,
Pakuranga*

In the tenth century, the Grand Vizier of Persia, Abdul Kassen Ismael, took his library with him wherever he went. The 117,000 volumes of books were carried by 400 camels trained to walk in alphabetical order.

*- from The Ultimate Book
of Useless Information*

So our "mobile library" system isn't as modern as we thought! And neither is the Dewey system, perhaps!

Gems from Jonathan Maitland

- sent in by Steve Richards, Nelson

Steve sent us an excellent, but unfortunately very long, newspaper story that his mother in the UK had sent him. The article was written by Jonathan Maitland, who decided to go all out to improve his Scrabble playing by doing thousands of hours of study.

The following are some gems from that article:

- There comes a time in every Scrabble player's life when they must decide whether or not to take the next step.
- I took heart, however, from Malcolm Gladwell's book *Outliers: The Story of Success*. It claims that if you practise something for 10,000 hours, you can become a virtual genius at it.
- I did the maths. That would mean learning new words, 12-hours-a-day, for the next two-and-half years.
- I was also determined to find out what every word meant. It's a small crime against literacy, I think, to simply learn words like SAXE, HORA and ZARF by rote, without knowing that they are, respectively, a colour, a traditional Israeli dance, and an ornamental coffee cup holder.
- Occasionally I could turn up the wattage a bit with my newfound knowledge. Meeting a man called Alec at a party, I broke the news to him that his name was, in fact, a legitimate Scrabble word.
- Alec Hoag was a nineteenth century conman from New York, whose big mistake was to try and swindle the police. As they threw him into the cells, they said: "You're not very smart, Alec."
- I started hearing famous, possibly apocryphal, stories of old. Like the elderly woman whose opponent played the word *ORGASM*. Bemused, she asked what it meant and on being told, she looked shocked. "Goodness me," she exclaimed. "I must tell my husband when I get home."
- Then there was the woman who tried to get rid of an awkward tile by attempting to swallow it.
- I took part in an official tournament ... it didn't go well. Some of the words my opponents played looked like misprints – VIFDA, a way of drying meat; UMIAQ, Eskimo boat; ZEIN, a protein. Six hours and five heavy defeats later, my brain felt like it had been through a blender.
- The beauty of Scrabble is that you can beat someone considerably better than you, provided all the luck is on your side. But when you play experts many times on the trot, luck evens out.
- But something unexpected happened. Without wanting to sound pretentious, I think I began to solve one of the great mysteries of life: the secret of happiness. It comes, I suspect, when we do something we genuinely enjoy. And for me, that meant Scrabble.
- Scrabble is, arguably, the perfect game. To be good at it, you need an exquisite combination of luck, skill, strategy, word knowledge, and, crucially, the capacity to TCUP: Think Clearly Under Pressure.
- The acronym was coined by Sir Clive Woodward and his 2003 Rugby World Cup winning team.

Another Scrabble analogy

It's fascinating how often the game of Scrabble is used as an analogy. The following analogy is an extract from an article by Bob Ellis of Dakota. He uses it to explain why he believes DNA is evidence of "intelligent design" in the ongoing debate of evolution vs intelligent design.

While there are many aspects of evolution theory that, frankly, evolutionists have no plausible explanation to support key hinge points of their entire theory, one of the most mystifying is the question of where all the biological information in our [DNA] structures come from. How it gets reliably passed on from one successive generation to the other is interesting enough, but where did that information come from?

If we were to walk along and suddenly come upon a Scrabble box spilled on the ground with all the letters randomly tossed around, (ignoring for a moment the question of "who created the Scrabble game") we wouldn't think that anyone was trying to tell us something from these randomly scattered letters, we wouldn't think someone was transmitting information to us, would we? But if those same Scrabble letters on the ground were arranged to provide the message "THERE IS A RAGING LION AROUND THE NEXT CORNER DONT GO THERE" then we would quite obviously recognize that information was being transmitted to us...and that an intelligent author had done so.

- from
The Dakota Voice

Scrabble analogy

Ian Rankin, is a Scottish crime writer. Recently he attended the Edinburgh festival where he was asked if he'd write a sci-fi novel. He replied that he never would, since many such novels were "like a bad Scrabble set", with every character having too many letters X and Z in their names.



He could be right! David Weber, in his *Off Armageddon Reef* books about an advisor from the future bringing technology to a primitive people, decided to replace 3/4 of the vowels of his characters' names with the letter Y (or occasionally other tortured vowel combinations) and J with a Zh, and let the reader force themselves to pronounce them correctly in their head. Opening a page at random, we have Paityr Wylsynn, Ahdymyn, Erayk, Zhaspahr Maysahn and Zahmsyn Trynair.



SpooF 1

- from www.theonion.com, a website devoted to fictitious but amusing "news items"

Scrabble breaks up marriages

Bitter, maniacal laughter sounded from the eternal winter of Hasbro CEO Mortimer Z Hassenfeld's office chambers as yet another relationship fell to the diabolical machinations of his company's popular board game Scrabble.

Hassenfeld, who has not left the gloomy solitude of the Hasbro Corporation's Dark Tower in more than 40 years, was reportedly most pleased as he surveyed on a bank of TV monitors the doom and destruction dealt by Scrabble to a once-happy couple.

"Ha! You really thought your so-called 'courtship' could withstand the divisive power of the almighty Scrabble?" shouted Hassenfeld, who is said to personally inspect each game board to ensure that it contains the correct maddening distribution of vowels, consonants, and blank tiles. "Your fate was sealed, fair Karen, the moment you reached out to gently place the letters A-X-I-O-M down for a triple-word score!"

Sources said that since the vengeful, lovelorn Hassenfeld first began marketing Scrabble under the Hasbro brand, roughly 1,447,055 romantic couplings have been destroyed by the game's devastating ability to turn otherwise felicitous partners into fierce, seething rivals.



Another unsuspecting couple spends a quiet night at home breaking up over Scrabble.

"Yes, yes, bring out *The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary*. That should diminish the tension in the room!" said Hassenfeld, who is believed to have never recovered from being left at the altar in 1959 by his high school sweetheart, Ms. Paulette Merriweather. "Oh, what is that you say, Ron? You'd be winning right now if Karen hadn't racked up all her points by adding letters onto words you already created? Well, well, it seems a vile, black cloud of antipathy has cast a pall on our little love nest, now, hasn't it? Ah ha! Delicious."

Hassenfeld reportedly celebrated Scrabble's latest dismantling of young love by pouring himself a glass of 1787 Château Margaux and ordering the immediate distribution of 500,000 new Scrabble boards for use in the sabotage of countless future first dates, romantic weekend getaways, and quiet nights at home.

"Scrabble will do them all a tremendous favor, you see, for love is but a murderous labyrinth of fire, a thorn-lined path I was once fool enough to tread myself," Hassenfeld said as he gazed at the image in a shattered picture frame resting on his desk. "But I soon learned, as all fools must, that, in the game of romance, we will all of us be forever a few letters short of spelling H-A-P-P-I-N-E-S-S."

Added Hassenfeld, "You may shake the tiles as hard as you like, but nothing will ever change that fact."

Representatives for Hassenfeld claimed that the executive's younger, kinder-hearted self may still in fact be alive somewhere within him, buried beneath 50 years of pain, regret, and heartache. However, the chances of that Hassenfeld ever returning, sources said, are "about as unlikely as landing three power tiles on three separate triple-letter bonuses."

SpooF 2

- sent in by Kris Saether, Mt Albert

The story below is a satire, or parody, from a website called www.thespooof.com. The story is entirely fictitious.

World Scrabble Championship ruined after cleaning woman vacuums up tiles



The sole remaining tiles

The World Scrabble Championship has been thrown into disarray after it was discovered that a cleaner had destroyed almost all the scrabble tiles the night before.

The cleaner had been putting the finishing touches to preparations for the prestigious annual event when she accidentally vacuumed up what she thought were "little bits of Lego". By the time the error was discovered, the bin men had already called and taken the rubbish to the dump.

Three solitary letters were found under a sofa — which was a place that the cleaner had obviously never bothered her arse to clean properly.

Contestants must now attempt to make a successful tournament from the letters I, G and F.

"In a bizarre way it's actually made the competition much more exciting to watch", said the event organizer. "Once you get past the word FIG everybody is curious what else the contestants can possibly come up with."

Who said that poetry is boring?

These are entries to a *Washington Post* competition asking for a two-line rhyme with the most romantic first line and the least romantic second line:

1. My darling, my lover, my beautiful wife:
Marrying you has screwed up my life.
2. I see your face when I am dreaming.
That's why I always wake up screaming.
3. Kind, intelligent, loving and hot;
This describes everything you are not.
4. Love may be beautiful, love may be bliss,
But I only slept with you 'cause I was pissed.
5. I thought that I could love no other
— that is, until I met your brother.
6. Roses are red, violets are blue,
sugar is sweet, and so are you.
But the roses are wilting,
the violets are dead,
the sugar bowl's empty
and so is your head.
7. I want to feel your sweet embrace;
But don't take that paper bag off your face.
8. I love your smile, your face, and your eyes
Damn, I'm good at telling lies!
9. My love, you take my breath away.
What have you stepped in to smell this way?
10. My feelings for you no words can tell,
Except for maybe "Go to hell".
11. What inspired this amorous rhyme?
Two parts vodka, one part lime.

Who's playing Scrabble?

Police dog, Frog

As reported on BBC news: A police dog who found a huge drug haul is also a keen student of the word game Scrabble, his handler says. Frog the spaniel became the most successful police dog in Sussex after he found drugs worth £600,000 in a day. The £600,000 haul is already more than half the yearly quota for the unit's 11 dogs. In his downtime, Frog helps his handler to win at Scrabble, giving her clues by staring intently at the board. PC Steph Barrett said: "He's just a bit strange. He doesn't think he's a dog. He enjoys playing Scrabble at home on a daily basis and he's just very odd."

Mark Tokarski

Writing in piece of mind.wordpress.com, he said, "I take what I call 'Scrabble' pills. They help me beat my wife at that game, sometimes. About half the time." He was referring to what are otherwise known as Omega 3 fish oil tablets.

Supercentenarian, Ruth Anderson, Minnesota

"I'm doing OK for my age," said Ruth Anderson, on her 110th birthday. Ruth faced her birthday with an open mind and a mean game of Scrabble. She may be the last Minnesotan alive who was born in the 1800s



Ruth's confirmation photo

Ruth's philosophy on life: "First, you keep yourself active," she said. "You do things. You think about things. And then, don't waste time fussing about things you can't change. And then just be lucky. I guess." [Pretty much the same philosophy would work for Scrabble! – Ed.]

Film making students at Wilmington University, USA

They earned the Best Comedy award for their short film, "Scrabble: The Motion Picture," at an international competition for university students in California, which featured 45 films. Former Hollywood directors and actors judged the short film at the competition and praised it as one of the best they had seen in a long time.

[However, since their film was labelled "comedy", chances are they may not be serious Scrabble players!]

French football keeper Lionel Letizi

Lionel Letizi liked to relax in the evening with a game of Scrabble. He played for Glasgow Rangers for a couple of seasons and you'd imagine the most dangerous thing that could happen to him would be lining out in a Celtic/Rangers derby. It was actually his love of Scrabble that caused him problems, as he managed to pull a back muscle reaching for a Scrabble piece he had dropped.

Diana Field, Australia

She is 73 years old and ailing, but Diana Field, veteran of over 2000 official Scrabble games over more than 30 years, is still poised to get you with a hryvnia. [100 kopykas in Ukrainian currency]. Scrabble was a godsend to Diana at the time, some 35 years ago, when she suffered a stroke and, as a way of getting her brain back to work, she took up the game. She has won "a lot" of her 2325 rated games since her use of the word "scrabble" in her very first game brought her lasting fame in the Australian Scrabble world.



The beginning and end of words

- by Jennifer Smith, Hamilton

I thought readers might be interested in some facts that I uncovered while preparing the Quiz for the Saturday night of the Hamilton Tournament.

More words in the Scrabble dictionary start with S than any other letter.

No surprises to anyone there, I shouldn't think. But you may be surprised by some of the letters in the "top 8" letters starting words:

S (64000)

C (24120)

Yes, C!!!! Perhaps we should get over hating to see a C on our racks. Next time you pull one out of the bag, try a positive affirmation, "Oh, good, that letter starts more words than any other letter except S."

But that also explains why a C word so often blocks the left-hand side of the board.

P (23351)

D (15917)

M (15077)

A (15723)

R (14507)

B (14359)

What! T doesn't appear on that list of the top 8 starters!!! No, it's ninth (13919).

More words in the Scrabble dictionary end with S than any other letter. Again, that's not a surprise. But you may be surprised at what ranks fifth. Here is the list of the "top 8" ending letters:

S (at least 64000 words!)

E (27350)

D (24097)

G (19422)

Y (19118)

R (13775)

T (12940)

N (11671)

That 64,000 is a funny number. It seemed a coincidence that was also the number that LeXpert gave me for the number of words including a T. And the number including an E. And ... Obviously, that's as high as the LeXpert program can calculate.

And which letter do you think would start and end the most words?

Well, the race favourite, S, wins hands down. No other letter even comes close.

D and E are the only ones to exceed 1000, R and T have respectable figures, while G and A (surprisingly, perhaps) only just exceed 500. And that difficult rank outsider, C, sneaks in again at number 8 on the list!

S (11823)

D (1592)

E (1273)

R (718)

T (612)

G (589)

A (513)

C (470)

Tournament Calendar

Tournament	Place	Dates
Mt Albert	Auckland	3-4 October
Wanganui	Wanganui	24-25 October
Kiwi	Hamilton	7 November
Otago Lion Open	Dunedin	14-15 November
World Scrabble Champs#	Johor Bahru, Malaysia	26-29 November
Causeway Challenge #*	Johor Bahru, Malaysia	2-6 December

entry restricted to qualifiers

restricted and open sections

Britannia rules at Scrabble (and that's my final word)

The following article, by Dom Joly, writing in *The Independent*, London, highlights the international problem of having two Scrabble dictionaries operating in different parts of the English-speaking world.

Every year we spend part of our summer holidays with friends in their cottage on Bruce Beach on the shores of Lake Huron in Canada. Entertainment is sparse around here so, once the kids are in bed, we hunker down to some marathon games of Scrabble.

Over the years this has developed into quite a tradition, with a garish tartan cap the prize for the winner. There is, however, one enormous problem with playing Scrabble with North Americans – they don't speak English. We are, in Oscar Wilde's wise words, "two nations divided by a common language".

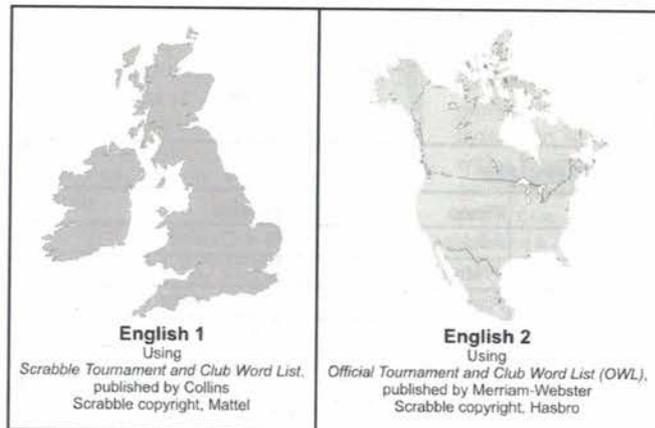
There are two Scrabble dictionaries, one for North Americans, one for Brits. If you go on to the official website it asks you to choose one before accessing the word checker. This has actually not been a problem until last night, when I used the two-letter word "qi". This is one of my stock two-letter get-out words, and

means life force. To be precise, I used the plural, qis.

"I challenge," said my host, who claimed to know every legitimate two-letter word. This was quite a step for a Canadian – normally a very un-confrontational people. I sat back smugly, confident in the knowledge that this was a winner.

He thumbed through the little leaflet that comes with the game. It listed all the two-letter words – qi was not there. I demanded to see a dictionary. One was eventually produced and, once again, qi was not there. In desperation I went online to check the Scrabble website. I checked the North American version and qi was not there. On the European version, however, it most certainly was, and the plural was listed as well. I demanded that he withdraw his challenge and apologise. He refused and reminded me that we were in Canada. "When in Toronto, do as the Torontonians do."

Quite apart from the fact that we weren't even in Toronto, this comparing Toronto to Rome riled me further. Our positions were drawn and the game stalled – we were at loggerheads, a Scrabble-off. Suddenly, a diplomatic breakthrough.



Murphy's lesser known laws

Stacey suggested that I use my Facebook and Twitter accounts for something useful for once. Why didn't I put the problem up online and we'd get an independent ruling? Even though it was three in the morning back in the UK, I know enough insomniacs and internationalists to feel confident that we'd get a good answer. So online I went, and up went our situation

There was a deluge. I've never had such a huge amount of replies. They were mostly along two lines. The first was that it was ridiculous that North Americans can't speak proper English but, since I was playing in Canada, local rules apply. I ignored these – they were clearly the work of turncoats. The second consensus was summed up best by one that read very simply – "Queen trumps colony." I howled with laughter and passed this on to my hosts who looked at me with sour expressions. Another missive expressed deep concern that Canada, a country that still has our beloved Queen as their figurehead, should choose not to speak her English. The sender was appalled that they should share a Scrabble dictionary with America, a country that, in his opinion, is barely able to read, let alone play Scrabble. I was forced to remind him that the game was actually invented in the US.

In the end, after several hours of negotiation, we agreed to accept words that appeared on either side of the pond and "qis" was allowed. Not only that, it turned out to be the winning margin, and I am one step nearer to wearing the hallowed tartan cap.

- Dom Joly
The Independent, London

1. Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
2. Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.
3. Those that live by the sword get shot by those who don't.
4. Nothing is foolproof to a sufficiently talented fool.
5. The 50-50-90 rule: Anytime you have a 50-50 chance of getting something right, there's a 90% probability you'll get it wrong.
6. If you lined up all the cars in the world end to end, someone would be stupid enough to try to pass them, five or six at a time, on a hill, in the fog.
7. The things that come to those who wait will be the scraggly junk left by those who got there first.
8. The shin bone is a device for finding furniture in a dark room.
9. A fine is a tax for doing wrong. A tax is a fine for doing well.
10. When you go into court, you are putting yourself into the hands of 12 people who weren't smart enough to get out of jury duty.

Scrabble can help prolong your life

A one-page article in *Newsweek* was titled "Can You Cheat Death?"

It answered the question with "No, but you can negotiate".

The article began with the statistics that American men live for 75 years and women for 80 years, varying on family medical history, ethnicity, and geography. Then in chart form, it proceeded to give examples of facts that could increase or decrease our life span.

Here are a few of the negatives :

- If you get less than six to eight hours of sleep a night, subtract one year from your life.
- If you are putting on weight, subtract five years.
- If you smoke, subtract 15 years from your life expectancy.

Some more positive facts include:

- If you nibble on nuts add two years.
- If you floss daily add two years.
- If you eat five servings of fruits and vegetables daily add three years.
- If you take 81 mg of aspirin every day add five years to your life because the aspirin helps keep your arteries free of clotting plaque.
- If you have a blood relative who has lived to be 95 or older add 10 years to your life expectancy.
- If you regularly play puzzles like Scrabble or Sudoku, you can add five years to your life.

[A non-Scrabbling member of my family who thinks that playing a game of Scrabble is the worst form of boredom says, "Playing Scrabble does not make you live longer – it only makes it seem longer." –Ed.]

Ah, NOW you're talking

The politically incorrect version of why Scrabble and crossword puzzles are good for you!

Although the article that these points came from was written seriously, it made me smile. All this talk about improving your mind, living longer and more healthily, when the only things that matter are:

- Solving a puzzle helps improve your vocabulary... Having a great vocabulary helps you win people over, prosper in your career, and excel academically.
- You can use a crossword puzzle to strike up conversations. You can challenge others around you.
- Believe it or not – crosswords give others a better impression of you. Anyone who notices you solving them regularly will believe you're brilliant. Once you complete a puzzle just show it to everyone around you and they'll be elated by your little success. You may even have people coming to you asking questions. Overall, people are more likely to treat you with respect and even admire you.
- These games [like Scrabble] make us aware of how smart we really are. Crossword puzzles can achieve that same effect.

- from "Benefits of doing crosswords" by Jerome Niemi on examiner.com

Scrambling the Scrabble rules

- by Carl Bialik, the Numbers Guy

I wrote [earlier in the year] about the tile values in Scrabble, and how some players think they're out of whack. Northwestern University economist Jeff Ely saw the article and (somewhat) jokingly suggested on his blog an auction of tiles rather than a purely random draw, to take some of the element of luck out of the popular word game.

Now he's reported back on his experiment, and found that, at least for an economist — who confesses, "Scrabble normally bores me to tears" — and economics graduate students, it was a fun time. The rules they used include giving each player, at the start of the game, 100 points, a collection they use to bid on tiles and also add to when forming words.

Besides learning that Scrabble can be fun for him when incorporating economics, Ely got some preliminary data on the true value of tiles. Aficionados of the game know that a blank — which can be played as any letter — and S are valuable because they can be used to form so many words. Therefore, playing them on the board is worth just 0 or 1 point, respectively — the tiles' value comes from the other letters whose usage they make possible.

Conversely, Q and Z aren't part of as many words and are hard to play, so playing them brings a bonus of 10 points (not counting triple word scores and the like).

But are the numbers on the tiles properly assigned? Ely's verdict: "The relative (nominal) values of tiles are way out of line with their true value. ... For example, blanks have a nominal score of zero. But the market price of a blank in

our play was about 20 points." So a blank should have a negative point value, he argues, to compensate for the windfall that landing one can be. Same goes for S, while playing a U or a V should be worth more than it is now, because of how comparatively hard those letters are to use.

- from his website, numbersguy.wsj.com

Solutions

Prime words (from pages 12 and 13)

The fives containing an I are CIVIC and CIRRI. Other 5s (no vowels) are XYLYL and GHYLL. The 6 is ZYZYGY, using the blank as a Z.

[Disclaimer – again!]: My research may well be imperfect. But I'm sure you'll let me know if it is!]

To get your brain going (from page 26)

DEFLEAED
UNIDEAED
DREAMT
REDREAMT, UNDREAMT,
OUTDREAMT, DAYDREAMT

Quizzically challenged (from pages 19-24)

Round 1: Joseph
Round 2: Niagara Falls in a barrel
Round 3: Aurora borealis
Round 4: Panama
Round 6a: The Simpsons
Round 6b: Donald Duck
Round 7: 50c
Round 8: HRH Princess Beatrice of York
Round 9: St Catherine of Alexandria
Round 10: Mononym

Rankings

NZASP Rankings list as at 14 September 2009

Rank	Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%	Rank	Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%
1	Howard Warner	2062	1256	1720	73%	43	Vicky Robertson	1548	86	156	55%
2	Jeff Grant	2049	1412	1843	77%	44	Anderina McLean	1536	246	435	57%
3	Joanne Craig	2043	190	282	67%	45	Helen Sillis	1533	619	1237	50%
4	Blue Thorogood	2006	398	570	70%	46	Peter Johnstone	1530	35.5	58	61%
5	Mike Sigley	1973	848	1183	72%	47	Yoon Kim Fong	1515	396	752	53%
6	Peter Sinton	1954	502.5	683	74%	48	Karyn McDougall	1513	567.5	1076	53%
7	Kristian Saether	1915	74	118	63%	49	David Gunn	1495	993	1996	50%
8	Lynne Butler	1888	773	1255	62%	50	Olivia Godfrey	1490	360	629	57%
9	Andrew Bradley	1858	655	1257	52%	51	Roger Coates	1481	537.5	1143	47%
10	Steven Brown	1851	744.5	1372	54%	52	Margie Hurly	1475	257	480	54%
11	Glenda Foster	1837	796.5	1550	51%	53	June Mackwell	1474	587	1336	44%
12	Rogelio Talosig	1833	358.5	601	60%	54	Scott Thieman	1466	20	43	47%
13	John Foster	1826	1180.5	2059	57%	55	Scott Chaput	1464	85	132	64%
14	Chris Hooks	1824	807.5	1661	49%	56	Selena Chan	1453	213	395	54%
15	Debbie Caldwell	1819	483.5	786	62%	57	Clare Ruckstuhl	1449	180	329	55%
16	Liz Fagerlund	1805	755	1436	53%	58	Irene Smith	1429	82	167	49%
17	Glennis Hale	1802	1202.5	2142	56%	59	Jean O'Brien	1401	819.5	1618	51%
18	Val Mills	1769	773	1654	47%	60	Andree Prentice	1400	754	1478	51%
19	Glynis Jennings	1767	398.5	841	47%	61	Mary Gray	1383	291.5	547	53%
20	Lawson Sue	1747	292	557	52%	62	Hazel Purdie	1377	736.5	1509	49%
21	Rosemary Cleary	1738	547	1187	46%	63	Glenda Geard	1375	795.5	1614	49%
22	Denise Gordon	1732	621	1255	49%	64	Betty Eriksen	1373	900.5	1777	51%
23	Lynn Wood	1715	1197	2512	48%	65	Shirley Martin	1356	599	1156	52%
24	Murray Rogers	1714	473	899	53%	66	Ella Rushton	1355	167	286	58%
25	Peter Jones	1711	719	1470	49%	67	Pam Barlow	1335	456	899	51%
26	Nick Cavenagh	1682	40	63	63%	68	Pat Bryan	1325	108	184	59%
27	Lynne Powell	1682	808.5	1588	51%	69	Margaret Cherry	1323	389	783	50%
28	Glenyss Buchanan	1674	527.5	1130	47%	70	Maureen Holliday	1309	552	1076	51%
29	Ann Hough	1671	456	928	49%	71	Ray Goodyear	1299	183	365	50%
30	Pam Robson	1666	465	1015	46%	72	Ernie Gidman	1292	294	584	50%
31	Paul Lister	1663	689.5	1205	57%	73	Jena Yusuf	1286	259.5	510	51%
32	Shirley van Essen	1649	314	602	52%	74	Faye Cronhelm	1275	674	1360	50%
33	Amelia Carrington	1644	247	439	56%	75	Roto Mitchell	1274	478	937	51%
34	Marianne Bentley	1641	242	540	45%	76	Delcie Macbeth	1270	619	1179	53%
35	Ian Patterson	1633	157	273	58%	77	Lynn Carter	1254	369	690	53%
36	Joan Thomas	1623	674.5	1343	50%	78	Rhoda Cashman	1253	718.5	1480	49%
37	Janice Cherry	1621	312	595	52%	79	Lyn Toka	1235	413.5	784	53%
38	Allie Quinn	1620	827.5	1706	49%	80	Katrina Allen	1227	81	149	54%
39	John Baird	1612	119	201	59%	81	Yvette Hewlett	1225	341.5	722	47%
40	Sheila Green	1590	31	62	50%	82	Su Walker	1219	669.5	1318	51%
41	Jennifer Smith	1586	695	1419	49%	83	Marianne Patchett	1214	241.5	462	52%
42	Shirley Hol	1566	469.5	991	47%	84	Leila Thomson	1206	432	981	44%

Rank	Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%	Rank	Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%
85	Chris Higgins	1202	69	110	63%	133	Barbara Dunn	779	145.5	255	57%
86	Lorraine Van Veen	1190	659.5	1315	50%	134	Ruth Godwin	774	67.5	181	37%
87	Elaine Moltzen	1180	470	940	50%	135	Carole Coates	773	459.5	941	49%
88	Sandra Stacey	1154	106	209	51%	136	Lisa Tam	768	29	41	71%
89	Herb Ramsay	1144	81	114	71%	137	Valma Gidman	763	557.5	1108	50%
90	Marian Ross	1142	412	827	50%	138	Karen Miller	752	389.5	799	49%
91	Kaite Hansen	1142	181	337	54%	139	Annette Coombes	748	471	1063	44%
92	Jo Ann Ingram	1126	118.5	244	49%	140	Thelma Chisholm	743	202.5	422	48%
93	Correne James	1125	571	1183	48%	141	Kathleen Mori-Barker	736	285.5	584	49%
94	Ann Candler	1124	610.5	1305	47%	142	Rosemary Waiters	732	99.5	187	53%
95	Steve Richards	1124	194	402	48%	143	Tony Charlton	726	130.5	263	50%
96	Veronica Zilinskis	1120	165.5	290	57%	144	Rahimah Abdullah	725	37.5	84	45%
97	Joan Pratt	1113	579	1107	52%	145	Mary Curris	711	100	201	50%
98	Allison Tarrance	1109	252	481	52%	146	Kate Wignall	704	674.5	1348	50%
99	Shirley Wyatt	1108	409.5	878	47%	147	Maria Clinton	703	172	340	51%
100	Roger Cole-Baker	1107	223	424	53%	148	Alison Holmes	701	122	226	54%
101	Ruth Groffman	1107	329.5	690	48%	149	Yvonne Mackenzie	646	367.5	794	46%
102	Carolyn Kyle	1100	486	975	50%	150	Judy Driscoll	642	22	84	26%
103	Cicely Bruce	1097	85.5	141	61%	151	Christina Limwood	630	52.5	113	46%
104	Chris Handley	1089	288	547	53%	152	Marc Van Hoecke	620	75	153	49%
105	Colleen Cook	1080	195.5	397	49%	153	Barbara Cornell	611	37	102	36%
106	Lyn Dawson	1075	306	565	54%	154	Suzanne Harding	610	105.5	228	46%
107	Connie Flores	1066	115.5	184	63%	155	Janny Henneveld	603	223	477	47%
108	Gabrielle Bolt	1058	265.5	516	51%	156	Maria Barker	602	77	182	42%
109	Rosalind Phillips	1050	319.5	620	52%	157	Anne Scatchard	565	99.5	186	53%
110	Agnes Rowland	1031	63	113	56%	158	Jean Craib	530	300	655	46%
111	Liz Richards	1029	197.5	400	49%	159	Noelene Betjeman	521	161	352	46%
112	Karen Gray	1014	135	250	54%	160	Margaret Hanson	496	433	890	49%
113	Jean Boyle	1014	320.5	598	54%	161	Tim Henneveld	479	200.5	478	42%
114	Kerry Mckenna	1013	36	57	63%	162	Betty Sutherland	478	198.5	473	42%
115	Judith Thomas	1000	89.5	173	52%	163	Judith Bach	468	48	104	46%
116	Nola Borrell	947	128.5	234	55%	164	Dorothy Haining	461	460	937	49%
117	Sheila Reed	938	122.5	257	48%	165	Karen Brookes	440	23	93	25%
118	Margaret Lyall	914	418.5	846	49%	166	Linda Moore	423	57	119	48%
119	Jacqueline Goldham-Fussell	903	451	935	48%	167	Anthea Jones	414	111	228	49%
120	Heather Landon	894	188.5	375	50%	168	Sue Mayn	385	114	301	38%
121	Roslyn Lister	873	281.5	550	51%	169	Lynn Thompson	379	99.5	229	43%
122	Malcolm Graham	871	240	482	50%	170	Margaret Miller	374	76	197	39%
123	Liz Catchpole	870	354.5	730	49%	171	Antonia Aarts	369	33	90	37%
124	Pam Muirhead	846	44.5	68	65%	172	Pauline Smeaton	335	270.5	528	51%
125	Bernice Hyde	840	190	365	52%	173	Anne-Louise Milne	334	41	224	18%
126	Dianne Cole-Baker	838	197	378	52%	174	Bev Griffin	267	58	163	36%
127	Jan Evans	837	89	186	48%	175	Bev Allen	266	22	91	24%
128	Jean Wacker	834	210	409	51%	176	Trish Fox	173	12	93	13%
129	Michael Groffman	821	177.5	374	47%	177	Jeannie Lambert	84	5	57	9%
130	Catherine Henry	807	285.5	536	53%						
131	Suzanne Frederick	794	177.5	315	56%						
132	Bev Edwards	783	102.5	174	59%						

Tournament Results

Nelson Club Tourney 4-5 July

15 games

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
Grade A				
1 Debbie Caldwell	NEL	10.5	908	430
2 Ann Hough	NEL	10.5	794	420
3 Murray Rogers	NEL	8.5	475	406
4 Peter Johnstone	CHC	6.5	-539	378
5 Vicky Robertson	WEL	6	-760	369
6 Ella Rushton	DUN	3	-878	354

Grade B				
1 Herb Ramsay	CHC	10	214	378
2 Kaite Hansen	CHC	8	106	380
3 Steve Richards	NEL	8	-266	355
4 Lyn Dawson	CHC	7	48	365
5 Kerry McKenna	CHC	6	124	379
6 Liz Richards	NEL	6	-226	370

Grade C				
1 Malcolm Graham	CHC	11.5	683	403
2 Lisa Tam	CHC	10	763	389
3 Tony Charlton	NEL	8.5	389	371
4 Maria Clinton	NEL	8	-236	346
5 Barbara Cornell	NEL	6	-145	356
6 Madeleine Green	CHC	1	-1454	315



Debbie Caldwell, Nelson,
A grade winner at Nelson



Andrew Bradley, Mt Albert,
2nd in A grade at Whangarei

Whangarei Club Tournament 11-12 July 2009

13 games

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
Grade A				
1 Howard Warner	MTA	12	1330	461
2 Andrew Bradley	MTA	10	526	419
3 John Foster	IND	10	518	420
4 Liz Fagerlund	MTA	7	481	405
5 Lawson Sue	PAK	7	-85	403
6 Kristian Saether	MTA	7	-95	398
7 Joan Thomas	HAS	7	-290	382
8 Jennifer Smith	HAM	6	-528	371
9 Val Mills	PAK	5	7	390
10 Roger Coates	KIWI	5	-157	367
11 Hazel Purdie	MTA	5	-276	394
12 David Gunn	WKP	5	-306	390
13 Allie Quinn	WRE	3	-342	388
14 Olivia Godfrey	WEL	2	-783	381

Grade B				
1 Margie Hurly	WRE	9.5	762	425
2 June Mackwell	NSB	8	460	393
3 Betty Eriksen	WAN	8	296	376
4 Yoon Kim Fong	KIW	8	291	386
5 Lynn Carter	NSB	8	28	401
6 Anderina McLean	MTA	7	326	392



Joan Pratt, Hibiscus Coast,
3rd in C grade at Whangarei

Grade C				
7 Maureen Holliday	HBC	7	210	382
8 Shirley Martin	HAM	7	-224	370
9 Roger Cole-Baker	MTA	6.5	302	402
10 Lorraine Van Veen	PAK	6	-467	379
11 Delcie Macbeth	IND	4	-469	375
12 Faye Cronhelm	IND	4	-476	367
13 Jo Ann Ingram	TGA	4	-506	348
14 Su Walker	MTA	4	-533	361

Grade D				
1 Cicely Bruce	WRE	11	1004	415
2 Roto Mitchell	WAN	11	620	401
3 Joan Pratt	HBC	8	234	362
4 Dianne Cole-Baker	MTA	6	88	373
5 Barbara Dunn	TGA	6	33	361
6 Kate Wignall	MTA	6	-153	365
7 Carole Coates	KIWI	6	-174	365
8 Heather Landon	TGA	4	-256	361
9 Annette Coombes	WKP	4	-574	346
10 Jacqueline Coldham-Fussell	HAM	3	-822	334

Grade E				
1 Bev Edwards	WRE	10	642	380
2 Mary Curtis	MTA	8	324	358
3 Ruth Godwin	ROT	8	157	338
4 Pauline Smeaton	TGA	8	98	341
5 Anne Scatchard	WRE	8	-81	315
6 Sue Mayn	ROD	7	-55	325
7 Suzanne Harding	WRE	7	-128	338
8 Dorothy Haining	ROD	6	-127	346

9 Noelene Bettjeman	HBC	6	-287	333
10 Lynn Thompson	WRE	5	-219	327
11 Linda Moore	ROD	5	-311	316

Hamilton Club Tournament 8-9 August 2009

13 games

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
Grade A				
1 Howard Warner	MTA	12	959	461
2 Jeff Grant	IND	10	336	399
3 Joanne Craig	CHC	9	923	446
4 Glenda Foster	WEL	9	674	433
5 Val Mills	PAK	7	-138	397
6 Lawson Sue	PAK	6.5	-424	381
7 Debbie Caldwell	NEL	6	145	420
8 Liz Fagerlund	MTA	6	-47	399
9 John Foster	IND	5.5	59	386
10 Andrew Bradley	MTA	5.5	-15	400
11 Rogelio Talosig	IND	4.5	-200	392
12 Glennis Hale	IND	4	-121	415
13 Peter Jones	HAM	3	-953	373
14 Jennifer Smith	HAM	3	-1198	354

Grade B				
1 Joan Thomas	HAS	10	761	412
2 Nick Cavenagh	HAM	10	471	417
3 Lynne Powell	HBC	9	-2	404
4 Allie Quinn	WRE	8	572	419
5 Yoon Kim Fong	KIW	8	129	421



Lynne Powell, Hibiscus Coast,
3rd in B grade at Hamilton

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
6 Anderina McLean	MTA	7	520	416
7 Helen Sillis	NPL	7	359	396
8 Lynn Wood	WEL	7	-149	387
9 David Gunn	WKP	6	-319	384
10 Margie Hurly	WRE	5.5	-21	403
11 Glenda Geard	IND	5	-327	374
12 Roger Coates	KIW	4.5	-111	379
13 Pam Barlow	PAK	2	-927	369
14 Hazel Purdie	MTA	2	-956	360

Grade C

1 Roto Mitchell	WAN	10	466	400
2 Faye Cronhelm	IND	9	630	417
3 Lyn Toka	KIW	8	137	396
4 Elaine Moltzen	KIW	7	444	410
5 June Mackwell	NSB	7	117	384
6 Jena Yousif	KIW	7	109	400
7 Delcie Macbeth	IND	7	-4	407
8 Lorraine Van Veen	IND	7	-99	399
9 Roger Cole-Baker	MTA	6	181	418
10 Cicely Bruce	WRE	5	-254	389
11 Su Walker	MTA	5	-455	388
12 Jo Ann Ingram	TGA	5	-763	358
13 Samantha Samuels	KIW	4	-250	381
14 Rosalind Phillips	MTA	4	-259	358

Grade D

1 Catherine Henry	TGA	9	881	399
2 Jacqueline				
3 Coldham-Fussell	KIW	9	128	366
4 Heather Landon	TGA	9	40	353



*Faye Cronhelm, Independent,
2nd in C grade at Hamilton*



*Mike Sigley, Wanganui,
1st in A grade at Tauranga*

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
4 Bev Edwards	WRE	8	283	376
5 Kate Wignall	MTA	8	219	362
6 Rosemary Wauters	TGA	7	-338	334
7 Barbara Dunn	TGA	6	176	382
8 Carole Coates	KIW	6	165	382
9 Karen Miller	IND	6	-28	355
10 Annette Coombes	WKP	4	-389	356
11 Jean Wacker	TGA	3	-371	324
12 Maria Barker	HAM	3	-766	325

Grade E

1 Mary Curtis	MTA	11	710	376
2 Suzanne Harding	WRE	9.5	512	367
3 Christina Linwood	DUN	9	502	370
4 Jillian Greening	HAM	8	11	352
5 Ruth Godwin	ROT	7.5	-27	334
6 Pauline Smeaton	TGA	7	94	343
7 Anthea Jones	KIW	5	-75	341
8 Pat Wood	TGA	5	-165	334
9 Anne Scatchard	WRE	3	-142	326
10 Jeannie Lambert	ROT	0	-1420	271

**Tauranga Club Tourney
5-6 September**

13 games

Player	Club	Win	Spread	Ave
1 Mike Sigley	WAN	11	1024	466
2 Howard Warner	MTA	10	1005	437
3 John Foster	IND	8	400	422
4 Lynn Wood	WEL	8	271	393

A Grade



*Jena Yousif, Kiwi,
1st in C grade at Tauranga*

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
5 Denise Gordon	WAN	8	130	406
6 Val Mills	PAK	7	-81	411
7 Peter Jones	HAM	7	-124	391
8 Lawson Sue	PAK	6	-230	388
9 Allie Quinn	WRE	6	-294	377
10 Pam Robson	IND	6	-542	384
11 Marianne Bentley	TGA	5	167	407
12 Joan Thomas	HAS	4	-131	397
13 Helen Sillis	NPL	3	-1037	339
14 Jennifer Smith	HAM	2	-558	374

B Grade

1 Anderina McLean	MTA	10	604	411
2 June Mackwell	NSB	10	521	388
3 Olivia Godfrey	WEL	8	520	412
4 Scott Thieman	MTA	8	337	396
5 David Gunn	WKP	8	220	400
6 Andree Prentice	WAN	8	-66	377
7 Betty Eriksen	WAN	6	46	378
8 Hazel Purdie	MTA	6	-63	379
9 Glenda Geard	IND	6	-250	367
10 Shirley Martin	HAM	6	-285	366
11 Maureen Holliday	HBC	4	-295	360
12 Roto Mitchell	WAN	4	-433	360
13 Faye Cronhelm	IND	4	-461	371
14 Lynn Carter	NSB	3	-395	380

C Grade

1 Jena Yousif	KIW	10	284	394
2 Delcie Macbeth	IND	9	753	419
3 Rhoda Cashman	HBC	9	355	399
4 Su Walker	MTA	8.5	620	416

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
5 Lyn Toka	KIW	8	327	392
6 Lorraine Van Veen	IND	7	311	393
7 Elaine Moltzen	KIW	7	54	385
8 Joan Pratt	HBC	7	-130	361
9 Cicely Bruce	WRE	5.5	-206	396
10 Roger Cole-Baker	MTA	5	-44	374
11 Shirley Bonthron	TGA	5	-755	356
12 Rosalind Phillips	MTA	4	46	367
13 Jean Boyle	WAN	4	-384	360
14 Shirley Morrison	TGA	2	-1231	347

D Grade

1 Nola Borrell	IND	11	398	381
2 Jean Wacker	TGA	9	441	375
3 Ruth Godwin	ROT	8	144	346
4 Dianne Cole-Baker	MTA	8	-159	353
5 Annette Coombes	WKP	7	186	370
6 Bev Edwards	WRE	7	174	368
7 Catherine Henry	TGA	7	-50	377
8 Chris Day	TGA	6	504	379
9 Mary Curtis	MTA	6	313	391
10 Rosemary Wauters	TGA	6	56	372
11 Kate Wignall	MTA	5	-407	351
12 Kaye Hubner	TGA	5	-714	332
13 Janny Henneveld	ROT	4	-365	336
14 Tim Henneveld	ROT	2	-521	316

E Grade

1 Anne Scatchard	WRE	10	452	350
2 Pat Wood	TGA	9	410	335
3 Noelene Bettjeman	HBC	9	400	361
4 Richard Cornelius	TGA	9	261	348



*Anne Scatchard, Whangarei,
1st in E grade at Tauranga*



*Murray Rogers, Nelson,
2nd in A Grade at Canterbury*

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
5	Geoff Bonser	TGA	7	302	355
6	Jillian Greening	HAM	7	220	356
7	Sue Mayn	ROD	6	-61	322
8	Antonia Aarts	MTA	6	-144	331
9	Valerie Scott	TGA	5	-78	335
10	Ray Seddon	TGA	5	-191	323
11	Pauline Smeaton	TGA	5	-255	330
12	Marilyn Anderson	TGA	0	-1316	270

Canterbury Open 12-13 September 2009

14 Games

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
A Grade					
1	Blue Thorogood	IND	13	1546	462
2	Murray Rogers	NEL	10	688	422
3	John Baird	CHC	7	-10	390
4	Shirley Van Essen	CHC	7	-126	391
5	Shirley Hol	CHC	7	-430	377
6	Peter Johnstone	CHC	5	-573	383
7	Irene Smith	CHC	4	-814	356
8	Selena Chan	CHC	3	-281	378
B Grade					
1	Ray Goodyear	IND	11	606	401
2	Marian Ross	DUN	7	106	381
3	Herb Ramsay	CHC	7	46	381
4	Kaite Hansen	CHC	7	39	374
5	Veronica Zilinskis	CHC	7	-144	380
6	Allison Torrance	CHC	6	-206	367
7	Colleen Cook	CHC	6	-325	369
8	Gabrielle Bolt	CHC	5	-122	353



*Ray Goodyear, Independent,
1st in B grade at Canterbury*

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
C Grade					
1	Margaret Lyall	CHC	10	826	389
2	Kathleen Mori-Barker	CHC	10	499	387
3	Yvonne Mackenzie	CHC	8	688	380
4	Alison Holmes	CHC	8	610	369
5	Gordon Pinchin	CHC	8	-67	356
6	Marc Van Hoecke	DUN	8	-91	336
7	Trish Fox	CHC	3	-1315	281
8	Di Barritt	CHC	1	-1150	298



*Margaret Lyall, Christchurch,
1st in C Grade at Canterbury*

NZ Scrabble Records

Record	Tournament		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	487	Lynne Wood (WEL) & Debbie Caldwell (NEL)	482	Margaret Warren (HAS) & Jeff Grant (HAS)
Highest Single Turn	221	Sheryl Davidson (PAK) Lisa McLean (IND) Jeff Grant (IND)	347	Neil Talbot (WEL)
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)	590	Paul Lister (CHC)
Highest Take-off	54	Lisa McLean (IND)	68	Andrew Bradley (MTA)
Most Bonus Words (3 Game Session)			14	Jeff Grant (IND)
Highest 3-Game Aggregate	—	—	1805	Nigel Richards (CHC)
Most Consecutive Bonus Words	5	Allie Quinn (NSB)	5	John Foster (MTA) Patrick Carter (MTA)
Most Bonus Words in Game (1 person)	6	Nigel Richards (CHC) Yvette Hewlett (IND) Paul Lister (CHC)	7	Jeff Grant (IND)
Most Bonus Words in Game (2 people)	8	Mike Sigley (WAN) & Glenys 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)	—	—

New Zealand Masters (23 Games)

Most Games Won	Jeff Grant (HAS) 21 (1993, 1997), Mike Sigley (WAN) 21 2002
Highest Aggregate	Nigel Richards (CHC) 11,103 (1999)
Most Bonus Words	Nigel Richards (CHC) 61 (1998)
Highest Spread	Howard Warner (MTA) +2410 (2000)