

FORWORDS

**Journal of the New Zealand Association of Scrabble® Players
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- cartoon by Richard Stowers, graphic artist, Hamilton

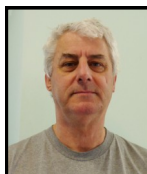
NZASP Executive

President Lynn Wood



5 Tully Street
Kilbirnie
Wellington 6022
Phone 04 387 2581
Email
lynnwood@paradise.net.nz

Vice President Paul Lister



128 Birdwood Avenue
Beckenham
Christchurch 8023
Phone 03 337 6005
Email
thelisterfamily@gmail.com

Secretary Liz Fagerlund



3/389 Blockhouse Bay Road
Blockhouse Bay
Auckland 0600
Phone 09 627 6506
Email
scrabbliz@inspire.net.nz

Treasurer Joan Thomas



424 Purser Place
Hastings 4120
Phone 06 878 2418
Email
thomas.joan@xtra.co.nz

Web Master Glenda Foster



1 Walters Street
Avalon
Lower Hutt 5011
Phone 04 567 1590
Email
fostergb@ihug.co.nz

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From the Editor

Warning: this editorial is an unashamed sales pitch.

However did we manage before the Zyzzyva word study program became available? I was very happy with LeXpert, but Zyzzyva is ten times better and more useful.

This Zyzzyva word study program – in my case, a better description would be a word **play** program – is the program the NZASP has been using for adjudication for the past year or so. But if that's the only place you've seen it, don't for one moment think that adjudication is all that it's good for.

The Zyzzyva program has multiple uses for exploring word options (I think a lot of recent articles in magazines around the world have used this resource for a fair bit of the research – I know I have). That's how I managed to write the Prime words article last month without having to spend months sorting through the word list.

For example, type in a word and on one screen page you can get anagrams, front hooks, end hooks, alternative spellings, meanings of all words mentioned (hover the mouse over hooks to get their meanings, too) and the probability of those words appearing in Scrabble.

But it can get a lot more sophisticated than that. Ask it to list words that begin with a certain collection of letters, or have three vowels but no E, or that take an end hook of P, or that have no vowels, or that include a Q but no U, or it's so versatile, you can find out almost anything you want, or combination of things you want.

But this is a sales pitch with a difference. You see, the product I'm

promoting is entirely free. Yes, FREE. The program is free to download, and I can tell you it's so easy to do – none of the complications that I've encountered when I've tried to download and install other programs. Just go to the zyzzyva.net website and follow the very clear instructions. Not only is it free, but it's a quality piece of software from a reliable source.

Where's the catch? A FREE program, that's GOOD, that's EASY TO DOWNLOAD, that WORKS, that's USER-FRIENDLY, that ISN'T COPYRIGHTED, and that will HELP YOU with your word study (or word play) ... it must have a catch! The good news is, there is no catch – the developer is more than happy to share it with other Scrabble players. He's simply pleased that it makes other people happy.

Can you believe that! Read the interview with Michael Thelen (page 30), and you'll believe it. Then go to his website and download the program (as 24,500 people have done since 2007), checking out the friendly tone of his website.

Michael says on his website that he's happy to accept donations, so I have suggested to the NZASP committee at the last management meeting that we should give him a donation, especially since the use of his program has enabled us to do away with having to pay for runners at our tournaments.



Jennifer

From the Executive

Dear Scrabblers,
The hustle and bustle of Christmas is well and truly with us. I hope your Christmas shopping has been successful and that you can now relax and enjoy the season with family and friends. My family has a limit on the present giving, just \$5 per gift, and only for the recipients of Christmas dinner at 5 Tully Street. It takes all the hassle out of life and nobody gets endless gifts they don't need or want. My friends all understand this and abide by the decision.

What a fantastic year we have experienced in the Scrabble world. The Worlds and the Causeway back to back kept us on the edge of our seat, and numerous tournaments around the country watered our thirst for the game we all enjoy so much. We are very proud of our New Zealand team, and I want to thank all the people who contributed to the fund, either by private donation or by playing in a tournament and paying the levy. It is a costly business getting our team to the venue of the worlds, and we are indebted to Nigel and Joanne for their own input for airfares to the event.

Your committee have all worked very hard for this organisation over the year that was. Joan, Liz, Paul and Glenda have all beavered away at their various duties and never quibbled when the load became too much. For my part as President, I have relied on Liz to administer all the day-to-day running of the Association and Joan to keep the finances in fine form.

Many of you will be aware I have lung cancer, and after much testing and

scanning, the doctors have given me a life sentence. The chemo and radiation are about to begin, and I'll be fighting this demon with all my might. It has been a very trying four months of waiting and hoping there had been a mistake, but alas it wasn't to be.

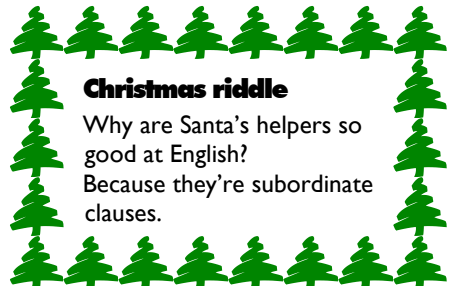
I hope I can see my term out as your President, but if things get too tough, I know you will allow me to stand aside and let Paul take the reigns. We must remain united in our commitment to the game we hold so dear, and as life always goes on, so will Scrabble. It has been a privilege and an extreme pleasure to be your President over the years I have held office. I have always held Scrabble as the number one priority in my life, and that will never change. I may not be able to fulfil my commitment till Queen's birthday weekend when a new president is elected, but this is a wait and see game, and who knows what will happen in the next six months.

Enjoy your holidays, wherever they may be, and keep the hope and joy of Christmas in your heart.

My love to you all.



Lynn.



Christmas riddle

Why are Santa's helpers so good at English?
Because they're subordinate clauses.

World Champs 2009

Our team at the World Champs

Congratulations to our New Zealand team at the World Champs in Malaysia (WSC) last month.

In a field of 112 players from 39 countries, Jeff Grant finished up in 35th place, Howard Warner was 47th, Blue Thorogood was 75th and Joanne Craig was 87th.

Special congratulations to Nigel Richards, our defending World Champion, who finished in top place at the end of the first 24 rounds, and who competed in the best-of-five final against second place-getter Pakorn Nemitrmansuk to become runner-up. An outstanding performance.

New Zealand is very proud of our five representatives.

New World Champion

Congratulations to Pakorn Nemitrmansuk of Thailand, who beat our defending World Champ, Nigel Richards, in the best-of-five final at the World Scrabble Championships.

The website 7thspace.com quoted



Pakorn Nemitrmansuk

Pakorn Nemitrmansuk:

"This win was not expected, and I am very happy! I am very honoured to have played against a player in this Championship that I look up to the most – Nigel Richards."

The same website reported the interesting and high scoring words played during the final rounds between Richards and Nemitrmansuk: STAMINAS (90 pts) and Richard's highest scoring word MACHINES (221 pts), and GENETRIX which means "biological mother" (101), ADVENES (80 pts) which means "becoming a part of something", and highest scoring word in the finals PALUDINE which means "marsh" (167 pts) from Nemitrmansuk.

Pakorn scored an incredible 670 points in game two of the final, the highest score of the tournament, on his way to winning the US\$15,000 first prize.

Best-of-five final

*-as reported by Allan Simmons in
The Star Online*

During the final stages of the tournament, any of a dozen or so players could have made the top two places for the best-of-five game grand final.

As the dust settled on the final round, it was Nigel Richards (2007 World Champion) who led the field with an 18-6 record. Just behind him, also on 18 wins, but with a lower accumulative spread (winning margin), was two-time WSC runner-up, Pakorn Nemitrmansuk of Thailand.

The grand final was played the following day with the game details relayed by CCTV and played through on a splendid large stage board watched by all the other players, who could also offer their own suggestions as to best plays.

It was a thrilling final and an



Pakorn Nemitrmansuk wins the WSC title

opportunity to watch the excellence of Nigel and Pakorn in action.

Pakorn took the first game by a mere 6 points following a very exciting end-game. He then had a superb flow in the second game, hitting Nigel with bonus after bonus and finishing him off with the nine-timer (across two triple words) PALUDINE as Nigel desperately opened up the play as the only way he might win.

Luck swung the other way in game three with Nigel having a mid-game roll and forcing a fourth game. It was that fourth game that captured all that is beautiful and skilful in Scrabble.

Pakorn kicked off with ADVENES, Nigel responded with GRIFTERS. Others were GENETRIX, an impressive BOTANICA (Pakorn's) and FREEHOLD, BOHEMIAN (Nigel's). It was Pakorn who edged the win but only on the last play of BOWATS. And so Pakorn Nemitrmansuk became the very worthy 2009 World Scrabble Champion.

Who is Pakorn Nemitrmansuk?

Pakorn Nemitrmansuk has been playing Scrabble since age 12. He is now 34, and one of Thailand's top Scrabble players, having won the Thailand International three times. He was the winner of this year's iGATE International in Bangalore, India, and the King's Cup in Thailand.

He has competed at World Scrabble Championship five times between 1999-2009, was the runner-up in 2003 and 2005, and is now the reigning World Scrabble Champion. He is an architect and resident of Bangkok.



- cartoon by Richard Stowers, graphic artist, Hamilton

Causeway Scrabble Challenge 2009

The 2009 Causeway Challenge is the longest Scrabble tournament ever held in the world (45 rounds over 5 days for 186 players, a total of 4185 games!). There were two sections in this tournament, Masters and Open, each person playing 45 games.

Premier section

The Premier section is a very exclusive group, 50 of the top players around the world playing as teams of five, where every player from each team played the other 9 teams once. The ten teams represented Australia, New Zealand, Thailand, United Kingdom, United States, Canada, Nigeria, plus three hybrid teams, Causeway (Malaysia and Singapore), International A and International B. The field thus comprised outstanding international players hand picked by Michael Tang.

We were delighted that Nigel won this tournament, taking the lead after the eighth game, and maintaining it until the end. The official Causeway website announced, "The Premier section was won by the quiet, bespectacled Nigel Richards from New Zealand, who has proved his worth in so many international events."

The teams event was won by the International A team, who being selected on merit, happened to all hail from the United Kingdom.

Results

1. Nigel Richards, New Zealand
2. Pakorn Nemitrmansuk, Thailand
3. Mark Nyman, International A (UK)



Nigel Richards

NZ individual results

Nigel Richards	1st	27 wins
Jeff Grant	28th	22 wins
Howard Warner	35th	20.5 wins
Blue Thorogood	43rd	16 wins
Joanne Craig	49th	14.5 wins

Open section

The Open section was more wide ranging in ability, with 136 players from 28 countries. Four New Zealanders played in this section.

Results

1. Michael Akonor, Ghana
2. Peter Kougi, Australia
3. Theodore Martus, Philippines

NZ individual results

Liz Fagerlund	57th	23 wins
Lynn Carter	93rd	21 wins
Rosalind Philips	124th	18 wins
Betty Eriksen	131st	17 wins

Well, done Kiwis!

World Youth Scrabble Championships

New Zealand had no players competing in this tournament in December.

Results

1. Suanne Ong, Malaysia
2. Alastair Richards, Australia
3. Michael McKenna, Australia



Suanne Ong and Alastair Richards at the start of one of their games

Club News



Christchurch

2009 has been a good year for the Club, the highlight being the hosting of the Nationals in June.

Shirley Hol's efforts to attract new players and encourage them to continue attending are beginning to show promising results, and in 2010 there will hopefully be a noticeable increase in membership.

Hamilton

He's a good Scrabble player, but he's a dab "hand" at more than Scrabble! Hamilton club member David Gunn recently won the North Island Euchre Singles Championship, held in New Plymouth in November, from a field of 250 players.

David, who also won the National Euchre title in 2007, had some wise words to say when the *Waikato Times* asked what he attributed his success to (consistency, faith in his partner, reading your opponent, being reckless, and playing the odds). But, in typical David fashion, he had an entertaining answer, too: "It also helped that I stayed sober for most of the weekend. Some of them were on it from 9am."

Congratulations from the Hamilton Club, David.

Kiwi

Kaimai Challenge

Once again, we held our annual challenge for the Kaimai Shield between our club and Tauranga. The lucky tiles really rolled our way, with us winning 32 games and Tauranga 16.

Kiwi Players were Roger Coates, Lyn Toka, Yoon Kim Fong, Elaine Moltzen, Marj Baillie, Jacqueline Coldham-Fussell, Samantha Samuels and Jenan Yousif.

Tauranga players were Stan Skinner, Shirley Bonthron, Heather Landon, Richard Cornelius, Kay Hubner, Pauline Smeaton, Shirley Morrison and Geoff Bonser.

Carole Coates kindly acted as adjudicator, recorder, refreshment maker and dishwasher. Thanks, Carole.

Mt Albert

The respected and loved secretary of the Mt Albert Scrabble Club, Kate Wignall, died suddenly on 6 November. She came as a '10 pound Pom' from a rural background in Lincolnshire in 1970 to work as a herd tester, but for many years worked for the Ministry of Ag. and Fisheries, recently at Auckland airport.

For about twenty years she had been a member of the Mt Albert Scrabble club, more recently as the secretary. Those of us who played Scrabble with Kate away



Kate Wignall

from the tournaments, knew that she was a far better player than her ratings would suggest but only after her death did we learn of her wide range of interests.

She will be sadly missed by a wide circle of friends, colleagues and fellow Scrabble players.

- *Shirley Wyatt*

Pakuranga/Howick

Margaret Hansen has sent this photo of herself in hospital, along with the comment, "This is why you haven't seen me at any tournaments lately."



Margaret has had a rough time lately. While in hospital having an operation on her right shoulder, she unfortunately had a fall, breaking her left arm – you might also be able to see a whopping black eye in this photo. Unfortunately, with both arms/shoulders incapacitated, she is unable to use her crutches as normal, so her mobility is restricted. However, Jeanette Owler reports that Margaret is now home, and healing, and has been able to attend one or two club sessions.

We wish Margaret all the best for a speedy recovery, and hope to see her back at tournaments in the New Year.

Rotorua

September was a sad month for Rotorua Scrabble players with the passing

of Betty Price aged 82 years.

Betty played Scrabble regularly up to the end (she last hosted a group of Scrabblers four days before she passed away) and not only played a skilled game of Scrabble but also had the energy to organise birthday luncheons for her Scrabble friends.

In spite of battling with health problems which would have stopped many a younger person in their tracks she continued to drive her car, provide regular luncheons for ladies who lived alone and help out by providing billets for our tournaments. Betty was admired and respected by those who knew her.

She loved going to garage sales and produced some interesting nick-knacks associated with Scrabble which she had bought on these outings. We miss her forthright manner, her generosity, and her genuine love.

For many of her Scrabble friends the adjustment to life without Betty will take some time. We can learn a lot from Betty's approach to life and be thankful for the privilege of having known her.

- *Ruth Godwin*

Woody

Lynn Wood reports that in the true spirit of Christmas her work mates have named a penguin at Kelly Tarltons in her honour.

Woody is a Gentoo penguin who was hatched on 2nd November. He is described by his keeper as "a little fighter — he likes to tell us off and rules the little creche he lives in. He also likes his food and is the heaviest of our young Gentoos."

Lynn is thrilled as she is an avid collector of all things penguin, and she hopes to visit Woody in the new year.

Mailbox

—from *Jeff Grant*

Regarding the one millionth English word, I agree with Professor Nunberg. Payack's assertions are nonsense. If there ever was a 'millionth English word' it arrived a long time ago. The 20-volume *Oxford English Dictionary* and *Webster's 2nd Edition* were published in the 1930s, both containing close to half a million words. If you add variant spellings and inflections (plurals, verbal forms, comparative and superlative adjectives) the total would be well over a million.

It has been reckoned that English has over a million **scientific** words alone! Adding words from other specialist fields, plus slang, obsolete forms and terms from other regional 'Englises' around the world, it is estimated that the total number of words in the English language is probably between 3-5 million. Then if you start adding proper nouns (personal names, place names, etc.), which are legitimate words, even if not allowed in Scrabble, who knows what the tally would be?

And as a postscript to the article on weird names: great news for Robin and Glennis Hale yesterday – their first grandchild has arrived in France, Joshua Sebastien Metral. No problems with weird made-up names in France. Apparently there is an 'official list' which you have to pick from.

—from *Jethro Snafflerod*

As a corollary to your article on Prime Words I would like to introduce another category which I shall call sub-prime words. These are words that within their natural spelling do not contain any allowable 2 or 3 letter words. For

instance ZYZZYVA is an example of a 7-letter sub-prime but ZYZZYVAS does not qualify as an 8-letter sub-prime on two counts because it includes AS and VAS. The longest sub-prime I have found is the 9-letter CEVAPCICI and I think it highly unlikely there will be many, if any, longer words that qualify. Someone may prove me wrong but I doubt it.

[What a coincidence, Jethro! The UK magazine Onwords last month reprinted our Prime Words article, and Allan Simmons followed that up with an article on words that he called "Nonsequentials". Allan has given us permission to reproduce his article, which I'm sure you will be interested to read on page 21. —Ed.]*

—from *Joan Thomas*

Here are two extra Monetary units to add to Vicky's list from the September issue

Ghana PESEWA

Spain PESETA

I assume she deliberately left out the common ones:

DOLLAR POUND EURO

Corrections

Last month's article on Prime Words contained a mistake that I'm sure most of you noticed.

The 6-letter word (p43) should of course be SYZYGY with a blank as a Y (not ZYZYGY* with the blank as a Z).

It started out as a simple typo (ZYZYGY*), but when I was proof-reading I noticed that the word couldn't have two Zs without one of them being the blank, so "corrected" that instead of the offending Z, thus making it all so much worse! My apologies.

Another typo on page 26: RINTO* is not a word. It should have been PINTO.

Also in the picture captions in the Tournament Results Ray Goodyear's name was misspelt—sorry Ray.

Competition Corner



Scrabble Contest no. 97

Your opponent starts the game with WISH (W on centre square) for 20 points while your tiles are still face down on the table. You start putting them on the rack in alphabetical pairs...HI, NO, ST. What would you like the last tile to be, and what is the optimum play if your wish comes true?

Send entries by mail or email to:

Jeff Grant

'Ardra'

1109 Allenby St

Hastings

ardra@paradise.net.nz

Closing date is 20 February 2010.

The winner will receive a book prize.

Solution: Contest no. 96

There are 22 words not allowed in Scrabble: lowclass, accomodation, seasiders, abseilers, etc, Mrs, Edith, a, voluptuity, pizzazz (not enough blanks), polkadot, peignior, ratrace, unders, funworder, ie, earnt, bingoed, thats, unprofessionally (too long), fulltime, I'm.

Four entrants found all but one word – Leila Thomson (Lower Hutt), Lyn Toka (Kiwī), Val Flint (Hamilton) and Rhoda Cashman (Hibiscus Coast). First name out of the hat was Val. Congratulations!

The geekiest Scrabble game ever!

- from the website Fun Stuff

Many may think that

Geeks stay online to surf the web, design websites or play World of Warcraft, but it seems that some also like a good challenging game of Scrabble.

This Scrabble board game example shows a game in progress that looks as if the Geek's dictionary was used for most (if not all) of the words.

To amuse you over Christmas —

Which of the words on this board are acceptable Scrabble words? No cheating by looking up word lists.

Answers on page 48.



Pakuranga Mall Tournament

- by Val Mills, Pakuranga

The Pakuranga Mall Scrabble Tournament was held for the second year running, on 12 and 13 September. Again the Mall contacted us, offering Westfield vouchers of \$600 for prizes, if we would like to hold a tourney there. Quite naturally, the answer was "Yes, thank you!"

This year we were placed in a great part of the mall, just outside Farmers and Whitcoulls with the smell of coffee drifting over from the café about 10 metres away.

The light was good and it was warm... a great plus, after last year when we were placed right by an entrance door and were blasted by a cold wind every time someone entered the Mall!

The mall management were great to work with. They put up posters around the mall which resulted in three members of the public joining us to play – all were



From left: Anne Scatchard, Chris Hooks, Margie Hurley, Liz Fagerlund, Patrick Carter, Andrew Bradley, Su Walker and Lawson Sue

already playing Scrabble on-line. When we arrived on Saturday morning the tables were all set up, a notice board was provided and staff were there to meet us to talk about power supply and anything else we might need.

We had 26 entries on the first day, so just had one grade with \$80 for the first prize. The Swiss draw format was used.

The scores were entered after each game and the draw for the next game was generated very quickly. The program, which is set up on the association's computer, is straightforward and quick to use. Liz and I were both able to play as well as load the results. We had spot prizes each game, kindly thought up by June, which were most appropriate for our circumstances...F for Famers, P for Pascoes,



From left: Anne Scatchard, Cicely Bruce, Liz Fagerlund, Chris Hooks (head), Su Walker and June Mackwell

S for Stirling Sports, W for Whitcoulls – you get the picture.

The mall was busy on Saturday and it was great to have Val Holbrook from the Pakuranga club to talk to the people that stopped to watch, and hand out word lists and flyers with details about the Pakuranga club. Val took over from Sandhya (one of the members of the public that joined us) to play in the afternoon and we were lucky that Lawson arrived to carry on her job. He ended up having a game with an 11-year-old boy who is the Scrabble champ from the school for gifted children. His mother was keen to bring him along to club night.

The next day we had more entries so decided to have two grades. This meant that more people would be in for a chance to win vouchers. Two more members of the public joined us for the morning and seem quite keen to continue. The mall was quieter but we still had quite a bit of interest. I'm looking forward to seeing if this actually generates any new members for our club and will keep you posted!

The game of note on this day had to be Patrick's against Andrew in which Patrick scored an incredible 692!

Everyone who played adjusted to the noise, music and public interest while playing and I would like to thank people who took time out, even while playing, to talk to members of the public, answer their questions and let them watch.

We have a few ideas for next year. Howard has suggested we contact Whitcoulls prior to the event so they can display the game and dictionaries on the day, and Lawson has suggested having competitions for the public that are Scrabble related, such as anagramming puzzles, with vouchers being used for prizes.

So, we are hoping to be asked back next year and are grateful to Westfield for its support.

Results

Saturday – one grade

1. Glennis Hale
2. Liz Fagerlund
3. Chris Hooks
4. Pat Bryan
5. Howard Warner

Sunday – two grades

A

1. Val Mills
2. Patrick Carter
3. Chris Hooks
4. Pat Bryan
5. Glennis Hale

B

1. Lynn Carter
2. Su Walker
3. Cicely Bruce
4. Athena Teutau
5. Kate Wignall

Letters and numbers

- sent in by Kevin Edgeler, Tokoroa

From a Hubbard's breakfast cereal packet:

Letters A, B, C and D do not appear if you spell any of the numbers between 1 and 99. Hundred is the first time the letter D appears.

In addition, letters A, B and C do not appear in the spellings of 1 to 999. Thousand is the first time A appears.

Neither B or C appear anywhere in the spellings of 1 to 000,999,999. Billion is the first number to use B.

The letter C does not appear anywhere in the spellings of the entire English counting system!

[If you think this article could be flawed, see answers on page xx.]

Different ways to play Scrabble

- by *Christiana Zhu, for a journalism assignment at AUT*

Scrabble has been an age-old staple in the family board games cupboard to be brought out with tea and scones when gran visits, or dug out to use as distraction on a rainy day. Most of us have fond memories of the game or still like to play with family and friends, but not many take this battle of words and wits anywhere beyond our own kitchen tables.

Sitting below the radar of a majority of everyday kitchen-Scrabblers is a community of passionate players who take the game very seriously. These players compete against each other on a professional level regionally, nationally and globally, playing this ordinary game in a number of extraordinary ways.

The New Zealand Association of Scrabble Players (NZASP) is the umbrella organisation for organised Scrabble in New Zealand and represents around 350 members and 27 affiliated clubs all around the country. The association supports a network of passionate New Zealand Scrabble players, bringing them together in a number of national tournaments every year.

When soaking in the surroundings of a New Zealand Scrabble tournament for the first time as a mere kitchen-Scrabbler, all the stereotypical boxes for the game were easily ticked off. There were plenty of grey heads in the crowd, and the contestants had travelled from all over New Zealand to do nothing but play Scrabble for two days. Aged and disposable time – check and check. It was even appropriately located in the Remuera Bridge club with tables and Scrabble boards set up in perfectly manicured rows – archaic atmosphere, check.

However as soon as the clock was set and the first game began, a buzz of tension and excitement not usually present in kitchen-Scrabble cast itself across the room.

It also turned out that professional Scrabble players in little New Zealand are not quite below the radar internationally. There are only 115 places available at the biennial World Scrabble Championships to be split between 44 participating countries based on performance in past tournaments and New Zealand secured



Tension and excitement at the Mt Albert Scrabble Tournament

four of them for the 2009 championship, only falling behind the US, England, Canada, Thailand, Malaysia and Australia.

We also have a former World Scrabble Champion, Nigel Richards, playing in our name, despite being based in Malaysia. He has won around 75% of all his games played, making him the victor of multiple prestigious Scrabble tournaments including the 2008 US National Scrabble championship, the 2007 World Scrabble championship, and eight-time winner of the King's Cup in Bangkok, the biggest Scrabble competition in the world – all in the space of his 10-year-young professional Scrabble career. A bit of a legend in the Scrabble world.

Scrabble is commonly regarded as a game of words by kitchen-Scrabblers, but it became clear from observing the A-grade players at the national tournament that it is also a game of numbers and strategy. In fact, New Zealand's resident Scrabble Masters champion Howard Warner admits to not knowing the meanings behind a lot of the words he plays.

Warner says that contrary to popular belief, the key to being a successful player does not lie in the power of vocabulary and language, but rather in the power of maths and logic. Three letter words and words with Zs are powerful weapons at his level of Scrabble and the game boards in the A-grade were laden with obscure words such as 'riz' and 'rez', which would probably really annoy the kitchen-Scrabbler who would not consider them real words.

"People always say to me – what do the words mean and how do you even put them in a sentence? I just say to them: if you're interested in the words for their meanings only then read or write. Scrabble is about using words to score points. The letters could just as

easily be imitation soldiers that you can use to score points."

However, across the room from Howard, there were players for which the meanings of the Scrabble words they have played over the years have built foundations of their understanding of the English language. Dutch couple Tim and Jansje Henneveld came to New Zealand 35 years ago knowing minimal English and used Scrabble to upskill.

"It's a great way to learn a language," says Tim Henneveld. "We started playing Scrabble sitting either side of a table with a dictionary so we could look up the meaning of the words we didn't know. To me, if I know the meaning I can remember it better."

Tim and Jansje became two of the founding members of the Rotorua Scrabble club and also play Scrabble in Dutch – speaking in Dutch while piecing together English words that is. Being available in over 29 different languages, Dutch Scrabble does actually exist, but Tim and Jansje prefer to play the English version.

"We play Dutch sometimes but I don't like it because we get so confused." However, speaking in Dutch while playing in English seems to be a different matter.

While Tim and Jansje's unique playing style certainly stood out in the room when they played against each other, the person who really held the spotlight in the room was Olivia Godfrey. Godfrey is blind, but a Braille Scrabble set and tactile clock are all she needs to play better than most people and she is currently ranked number 31 in the country.

Sitting at her special table in a corner of the room with Hershey her new chocolate Labrador guide dog curled up by her feet, Olivia surveys the board with expert hands, brows furrowed in concentration as she decides on her next move. After playing three letters in a 74



Olivia Godfrey playing Scrabble with a Braille Scrabble set

point scoring move, Godfrey confidently reaches out her left hand for a sip of tea from a cup that was exactly where she knew she had left it. Godfrey finished the tournament at the top of B grade with three wins ahead of the runner up.

Godfrey, now in her mid thirties, started playing Scrabble when she was 6 on a Scrabble set that was given to her as a present. This is a familiar story for many, only unlike most children, Godfrey started playing with a Braille Scrabble set. "It also had one more 'S' than it should have, and one less 'blank', so for years I thought Scrabble had 5 'S's and one blank," she says, laughing.

Godfrey's love of Scrabble stems from her love of word games and writing. She is a sharp player with an amazing memory and ability to work with patterns which enables her to keep on top of the play.

"I play Scrabble so much that I know what the Scrabble board looks like. I just remember where things are but I'm not a visual person, I don't think in pictures. I remember which move was where, I replay the game in my head, and I know the order that turns have gone down in. It's all to do with patterns and

probabilities. At this competitive level it's not very wordy, it's a lot more like chess." When asked if she was wary of her opponents trying to cheat, she spoke of her sense of security when playing within the NZASP community, but also made it clear that her disability did not make her a weaker opponent.

"I think generally speaking most

Scrabble players are really trustworthy. And, you know, there is kind of a pleasure in beating people when I do think that they've been a little bit naughty."

One Scrabble format where cheating can happen a lot more easily is online. With online dictionaries and anagram builders such as www.wineverygame.com, the most difficult Scrabble racks can be rearranged into playable words in a matter of seconds with no skill required barring the ability to key in the letters and press enter. First-time tournament participant Athena Teutau was a keen online player and chooses to play three-minute games of speed Scrabble on the Internet Scrabble Club (ISC) to overcome this problem.

"If each person only has 3 or 4 minutes to play a whole game then there's less of a chance for them to look up online dictionaries or use anagram builders. It is hard to start off with because you need to put down 100 tiles in 3 minutes, but you get used to that."

Teutau also mentions that for keen players who are reluctant to take the game to the next level due to the embarrassment of being inexperienced,

online Scrabble also offers anonymity as a security blanket.

“Online scrabble is really good because you don’t get that direct feedback as much. I was guessing a lot but I was on the computer so it didn’t matter if I made a mistake because no one knows who you are.”

“I only joined the [NZASP affiliated] club less than a month or two ago and I found that there were a few that go online but predominately they’re younger.”

The aging Scrabble population is a problem which the NZASP is facing as members are mostly over the age of 40 and although New Zealand Scrabble has a strong current world standing, the future is looking uncertain.

“Unfortunately Scrabble’s the poor relation to the likes of Bridge and Chess and it shouldn’t be because we currently have the world champion, and that’s fantastic.” says Lynn Wood, president of NZASP. Wood believes that participation is the key to younger people getting into Scrabble.

Eleven year old Sierra Naraghi-Keiper, One of the New Zealand’s youngest NZASP affiliated club members agrees with Wood. The year 8 student at St Thomas’s School in Auckland has a game score record of 377 points and is the two-time champion of the Gifted Education Centre’s annual Scrabble-a-thon competition.

Naraghi-Keiper first played Scrabble for fun on a set that was given to him by his father when he was four and now plays both online on ISC, and weekly at his local Scrabble club. A child who has been identified as being gifted, Naraghi-Keiper attends Gifted Education Centre’s One Day School and started taking Scrabble more seriously after winning their Scrabble-a-thon competition in June 2007.

“Most kids find the idea of Scrabble boring and will write it off before even trying it,” says Naraghi-Keiper, who says

playing Scrabble has significantly helped with not just his spelling and vocabulary, but his maths and problem-solving skills too. Above all of that, he also finds Scrabble lots of fun.

“Don’t judge a book by its cover. Start playing. You will find that you love it.”

Naraghi-Keiper has been a member of his Scrabble club for 4 weeks and is really looking forward to his first national tournament. He will probably be the youngest contestant there by decades, but he will be a welcome beacon that signals hope for the future of New Zealand Scrabble.

[Abridged]

NZ representation on WESPA

Congratulations to Howard Warner for being voted onto the 11-member WESPA Committee.

He says, “This should help me to both represent NZASP’s views to the global body and channel WESPA views back to New Zealand. But it won’t stop me giving my own views on issues, whether they are in accord with WESPA or not.

Howard has clear views about promotion and sponsorship of world Scrabble.

“My goal is to build the global profile of our brain sport (as opposed to the physical game, which is Mattel’s concern), so we can attract big-name sponsors and create a professional (or as near as dammit) circuit. It is clear that the minimal income WESPA derives from its members won’t stretch far, so sponsorship is integral to the future of international Scrabble. My immediate task is to work out the essential tasks and gather a subcommittee of people with the requisite skills.”

If you think you have something to offer or know of others who do, please let Howard know.

Norfolk Island Scrabble Festival

- by Jeff Grant, Independent



Sportsperson Award winner Fay Grose (Australia) with organisers Jeff Grant and Glennis Hale.

The 21st annual Norfolk Island Scrabble Festival was held on October 12-16, 2009, in the

Sirius Room at the All Seasons Colonial of Norfolk Hotel.

Glennis Hale and I welcomed 31 keen Scrabblers from various parts of New Zealand and Australia who played triple round robins in four grades (21 games each, bye in bottom grade).

The main difference from the game in NZ is that there is no penalty

for challenging an incorrect word. Despite this 'free challenge', many crookies* stayed on the board, including the following:

- | | | |
|----------|------------|-----------|
| DUALER* | ANALS* | VETOS* |
| SURRIES* | YAES* | HOUSIE* |
| SEXINGS* | SATINE* | OUTWAIL* |
| NAVED* | WINER* | ZOAE* |
| BAW* | BAIN* | WEEPED* |
| ADDINGS* | TINIA* | SLAYINGS* |
| UNEVEN* | WOMENISER* | |

Perhaps people were just too nice to challenge! You have to admit though that some of these do look plausible. Quite a few are actually listed in other dictionaries.

Spot prizes were awarded in every round. Lyn Dawson won the X prize for UNBOX, Anne Scatchard the Bird Word with OUSEL, and Rhona Kenyon the J prize for JACKAL. Cascade Bay winner Yvonne Mackenzie played STEAMER for the Sea Word, June Mackwell got STRIPIER for Colours, and Allie Quinn LIZARD for the Z spot. Dianne Cole-Baker scored 58 for EROTISE, the lowest bonus word, and also made one of the



Organiser Jeff Grant with A Grade winner and Australian Champion Gillian Kinder (right) and A Grade runner-up and NZ Champion Joan Thomas (left).



Jeff Grant with the winning NZ team, from left: Joan Thomas, Yvonne Mackenzie, Sue Harding, Pat Ward and Dianne Cole-Baker.

great plays of the week by extending COVER to COVERT then to COVERTURE/S. The Food and Drink prize was shared by Lynn Wood with CHEWER and June with the complementary IMBIBE.

Ball Bay winner Christine Foot's early high move of 176 for ATTEMPTS on a triple-triple was beaten on Thursday by Gillian Kinder. This move undoubtedly helped Gillian win the top Anson Bay grade, as she only beat Joan Thomas narrowly on spread.

Christine's 611 stood as the high game score throughout the week, despite Duncombe Bay winner Sue Harding coming close on the last day with 565.

The prize for the Most Unusual Word was awarded to Linda Pedersen for LWEI (Angolan currency), ahead of Sue's KENAF (Asian plant).

'Les Femmes Fatales' (Correne James and Jacky Booth) retained their Word Puzzle title, and Roger Cole-Baker won the Knockout event from Yvonne.

Fay Grose, who has been to the festival 13 times, was a popular Sportsperson winner, and NZ took the Team Trophy.

The prize-giving dinner was held at

Governor's Lodge on Friday night and was thoroughly enjoyed by players and supporters alike. Most people headed home the next day, but a few Kiwis stayed on to relax and enjoy the island activities. Pat and I swam nearly every day at Emily Bay, but it was a bit nippy at times.

Since the first festival back in 1985, over 400 different players have visited Norfolk Island. It's a great week. Maybe you can join us next year.

Full results are on page 52.



"That's the last time I'll volunteer to be a runner at a tournament in December."

-from the Christchurch Club newsletter

Small kids, big brains, giant board

- by *Howard Warner, Mt Albert*

Primary and intermediate-school pupils from around Auckland invaded the field at Mt Smart Stadium recently to play on what could have been the biggest Scrabble board ever.



Children from the Gifted Education Centre's one-day school were showing off their skills at a public 'Scrabbathon'. Three teams of four children each played two competitive games of Scrabble on a standard revolving board. With each turn, crowds of young supporters reconstructed the words by placing one-metre-square plywood tiles onto a giant board that had been painted on the turf.

The aim of the event was to raise awareness for the special education needs of gifted children and to help the kids celebrate their success.

The project was organised and run by a team of public relations students from AUT university. As a starting point, a

handful of schoolchildren had been selected to design the Scrabble tiles. Each design was centred on a 'tall poppy' — someone who had inspired them to achieve.

The event, attended by Mt Albert club members Hazel Purdie, Anderina McLean, Liz Fagerlund and Howard Warner, ran like clockwork on a sunny spring day. The only hairy moment came when a sudden gust of wind swept away the giant tiles. (It took about 10 seconds for the scurrying helpers to retrieve them and reposition them precisely on the board — except for one lone R wandering around looking for an R-less word to slot into.)

The children won a stack of Scrabble

equipment prizes donated by Mattel. And Howard was asked to sign a super-deluxe board that was to be auctioned on TradeMe for fundraising.



Perfect words

- by John Foster, Independent

As a corollary to the recent correspondence and articles on prime and sub-prime words, another category of words has occurred to me. I call them perfect words because every pair of adjacent letters is an allowable word, not just each adjacent pair of letters.

For example NATIONAL is a perfect word not because NA-TI-ON-AL are all allowable but because NA-AT-TI-IO-ON-NA-AL are all allowable. The idea first occurred to me when observing that the new word OIDIROID complied with the definition and thinking it would be quite uncommon. I quickly discovered that there are hundreds, perhaps thousands, of such words and that it is even possible to write coherent sentences using only perfect words, except for the occasional conjunction or article, as in the following examples.

The MUTINOUS STONEMASON
REFASHIONED ANOMALOUS JADE
PAGODAS for the LONESOME
HOMESTEADER.

The FASTIDIOUS OUMAS and OUPAS
WERE ASHAMED that SOME HAD
FEASTED AMID a YEAR of FAMINES.

Perfect words of 11 letters or less are so numerous that it would be a huge task to list them, but unsurprisingly the numbers start to taper off with longer words and it is practical to list the 16 words that I have found with 12 or more letters.

12 letter

DELAMINATION	DEMYELINATED
DENOMINATION	HABITATIONAL
HAEMATEMESIS	ISOSTEMONOUS
MONOPETALOUS	RENOMINATION
SOMATOSTATIN	STEATOMATOUS
STOMATITIDES	

13 letter

DEMYELINATION	METASOMATOSIS
ONOMATOPOESIS	STENOPETALOUS

14 letter

DENOMINATIONAL

In my search for longer words I have repeatedly come across likely looking examples only to be thwarted by a single invalid letter pairing. The most frequently occurring blockers are SE*, SA*, RI*, RA*, and my old favourite, OT*. If some of these make an appearance in the future I may resume my search.

Nonsequentials*

- by Allan Simmons, UK

Prompted by the article [on Prime Words], it's interesting to also note all the words from Collins Scrabble Words that do not contain any other words within them, spelt out from their consecutive letters.

For example, SPRUIK contains no shorter words within it but SPRUCY would not qualify because it contains RUC.

Examples of three, four, five and six-letter words that do meet the criterion are abounding so only a few examples are given below, but for the other lengths, all the words that fulfil the criteria are listed. It follows that none of these words can be formed on the board by hooking or extending an existing word, and that those that are nine letters or more are useless for Scrabble.

THREES: 221 words: eg ACE, AVA

FOURS: 216 words: eg AZYM, BUCK

FIVES: 110 words: eg AZYGY, BUILD

SIXES: 50 words: eg ACACIA, BUIBUI

SEVENS: 18 words as follows:

APHYLLY	BURDLY	CACIQUE
CRAZILY	GRACILE	HYRVNIA
UKSKEI	PLECTRA	PRIVILEY
PYURVIC	QUIBBLE	SKRIEGH
SWAZZLE	THRYMSA	VICTRIX
WAVICLE	ZYZZYVA	

EIGHTS: 4 words BULNBULN

SPUILZIE SULTRILY TRICTRAC

NINES: 2 words as follows:

CEVAPCICI and EQUIVOQUE

There are none for TEN and above.

Thanks to Allan for kindly allowing us to reproduce his [slightly abridged] article.

Scrabble: is it a toy, a game or a puzzle?

An interesting hearing took place in the Supreme Court in New Delhi in November.

The court was hearing a legal suit where toys and games manufacturers Pleasantime Products and Funscool were seeking a levy exemption on the grounds that Scrabble is a puzzle (and therefore not subject to an excise levy under the Excise and Tariff Act in that country). The excise authorities had billed each company for the equivalent of about \$NZ 100,000 over the last five years.

The court spent considerable time grappling with the definition of **toy**, **game** and **puzzle**, and whether the word game falls in the category of an educational toy.

The manufacturers relied on dictionary meanings to show that it was just a puzzle. They also produced affidavits of purchasers of Scrabble to prove that it was a toy used to impart education to children, but is treated as a puzzle by adults.

The bench went to great lengths to find out the appropriate definition of Scrabble and accessed leading dictionaries and perused the precedents to determine the truth. It also considered Scrabble's history, development and structure

In his written judgement, Justice Kapadia said the difference between a **game** and a **puzzle** could be marked by three different features – outcome, clue-chance and skill. "In a puzzle the outcome is pre-determined and fixed. It is not so in Scrabble.

"For example, in crosswords, the outcome is pre-determined or fixed. There is a grid of squares and blanks into which words crossing vertically or

horizontally are written according to clues.

"Similarly, a jigsaw puzzle is a contrivance for testing ingenuity. There is a set of varied, irregularly shaped pieces, which when properly assembled form a map or picture. These are examples to demonstrate that in a puzzle the outcome is fixed or pre-determined which is not so in Scrabble."

An important difference was that in Scrabble there were no clues, whereas in a crossword puzzle, words were written according to clues. In Scrabble there was an element of chance and skill.

"Thus, Scrabble is an ingenious mix of anagrams, crosswords, chance and skill. It involves a lot of luck. One of the crucial ingredients is that you cannot know what tiles are on your opponent's rack or which you will draw next. So, aided by artful strategy, there is a good chance of beating someone with a better vocabulary."

When the manufacturers made a last ditch attempt to get Scrabble exempted from payment of excise duty by asking that it be classified as an educational toy, the court said:

"Going by the dictionary, **educational toys** remain an object for a child to play with. The elements of chance and skill are absent in a toy. Hence even a Junior Scrabble is not an educational toy. It is a game."

The court upheld the decision of the Commissioner, Central Excise, Mumbai, to classify Scrabble as "not a toy, not a puzzle but a game", hence not exempt from excise duty.

Scrabble Slam!

Scrabble Slam! is a card game intended for 2-4 players ages 8 and up. It's a fun, quick game more similar to Upwords than classic Scrabble.

The game starts by players agreeing on any four letter word to start the game [the instructions suggest using the word GAME] and pulling the letters out of the deck to form that word. Then the remaining 51 double-sided, standard-size playing cards are dealt to the players. Each card has two letters, one on each side. The indices on the cards show you both letters that are on that card so there is no need for flipping the cards back and forth. Players then race to play their cards, one at a time, to make a new word. GAME leads to tame, same, dame, fame, lame, came, name, gate, gape, gale, gaze, gave, etc. The first player to play all their cards is the winner. If no one is able to play all their cards, the player with the fewest cards is the winner. Games take only about 10 minutes to play.

You don't really take turns in Scrabble Slam Card Game. Everyone just shouts out the new word they're going to change the base word to. As quickly as they can, they slam down one card at a time from their hand on top of a letter on the table to spell their new word.

The cards you get dealt are what you're stuck with, no exchanging. There are limited numbers of hard letters, no QU or X and only a few V and Z. Blank cards can be used as wild cards. No proper names, place names or acronyms are allowed. Words may be disputed by the other players.

Made by HASBRO, and retails for about \$US6.99.

Review comments are generally excellent. Described as a quick, fun family game, good first word game for kids, especially those keen to play Scrabble but lacking the vocab to play with adults.

Could increase the starting word to five letters to extend older kids.

The biggest drawback is the number of cards players must hold in their hands (although it does not seem to be a drawback for players to place their cards on the table).

Scrabble Slam! card game is currently No. 3 on the Amazon.com toys and games best seller list.

Allowable but unplayable words

- by John Foster, Independent

Our word-base contains a number of words that simply cannot be played on a Scrabble board because they contain too many of a particular letter including use of the blanks. A search of LeXpert has turned up the following list of 18 such words.

KNICKKNACK(S),
CLASSLESSNESSES, POSSESSEDNESSES,
SENSELESSNESSES, STRESSLESSNESS,
SUCCESSLESSNESS, BEZZAZZ(ES),
PAZZAZZ(ES), PIZZAZZ(ES), PIZZAZZY,
RAZZAMATAZZ(ES), RAZZMATAZZ
(ES).

It is possible that there may be others that are unplayable because of combinations of multiple letters such as 3 x Ks and 3 x Bs, but having tried some of the more likely combinations I think it unlikely.

During the search, the rather improbable KKKANDYKURNIAKK turned up. Not finding this word in the dictionary I tried a Google search which surprisingly resulted in two hits, both of them speculating about the inclusion of this word in LeXpert. It seems likely that Andy Kurnia, a software engineer and competitor at the 2005 WSC, has managed to insert his name into LeXpert and bury it so deep that it can only be found if one is actively searching for 15 letter words containing more than 3 x Ks.

Believe it or not

In an article titled “Improbable research” on the guardian.co.nz website, a writer (described as the editor of the bimonthly *Annals of Improbable Research* and organiser of the Ig Nobel prize) cites a study by Gregory N Price that looked at the relationship between 19 variables and crime by studying offenders in Mississippi.

Price concluded that fat people are more likely to engage in illegitimate activities (ie. become criminals) because obesity reduces the incentives an individual has for engaging in legitimate labour-market activities.

Another variable that seemed to affect whether people turned to crime was the Scrabble score of an inmate’s first name, based upon the numeric values assigned to letters in the board game Scrabble.

Researchers named Figlio, Bertrand and Mullainathan also found the Scrabble value of a person’s name is significant. They showed that individuals with low socioeconomic status have a tendency to have first names with a high Scrabble value, and low socioeconomic status in turn also has adverse labour-market effects.

Prompted by the above, an anonymous NZASP member undertook a tongue-in-cheek study of relevance to NZASP.

Using the names of people published in NZASP rankings (September 09), this researcher found that of the top 100 players listed, Jennifer Smith’s first name yielded the highest Scrabble score (18).

When confronted with this incriminating result, our Editor said she believed the study was flawed. “If I had been listed as Jen or Jenny, my score would not have been as high.” Introducing a vindictive note, she added, “I notice that Jeffrey Grant’s score would have been 23 had his first name not been abbreviated.”

The only person on the whole of the Scrabble rankings list with a greater chance than Jennifer Smith of becoming a criminal is Jacqueline Coldham-Fussell. With a whopping first name score of 28, she is apparently almost twice as likely as anyone

else to resort to criminal activities. (Abbreviating your name won’t make you more law-abiding than the rest of us, either, Jacqueline!)

The next most likely crims are Jeff Grant, Vicky Robertson, Hazel Purdie, Judith Thomas and Judith Bach, all with a first name Scrabble score of 17.

The good news for all the people named in this article is that most prisons have a Scrabble set available for inmates’ use!

Serendipitous discovery

Only one person on the whole of the Scrabble rankings list has a first and surname composed entirely of one-point letters. That person is Antonia Aarts.

Talking about criminal Scrabblers ...



Authorities are on the lookout for a missing I, L and A after someone stole the letters from a Vineland (New Jersey) promotional sign. Police have arrested a man and charged him with criminal mischief for allegedly defacing the sign. Investigators have recovered the letters N, E and N, but the other three letters are still missing.

The vandalism marks the second time in several weeks that someone has gone letter-stealing from a notable sign in the city. Police jokingly speculated that maybe the local mischief-makers are big Scrabble fans.

[I think they need to look for someone called ILA or ALI. – Ed.]

Twenty years ago today

by John Foster, Independent

Forwards number 17, December 1989 was the first produced by Jeff Grant, our longest serving editor (so far anyway). It seems fitting that my selection from that issue should be the very first page and Jeff's first contribution as editor. There were to be many, many more to follow in later issues.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Well, Forwards has a new editor, and for better or worse, I'm it.

Firstly, thanks to David Lloyd for his efforts in producing the magazine over the past couple of years. It wasn't easy taking over from our worthy founding editor Sue Marrow, but I'm sure you will agree David has done an excellent job. The humorous drawings and candid photos were particularly enjoyed. Everyone wishes you well on your overseas jaunt, David. Perhaps you may find time to send us some news of the Scrabble scene in other parts of the world. A report on the game in Africa would be interesting, for instance ... I wonder if there are Zulu or Swahili sets?

I'm sure David would like me to thank Glennis Hale for her help in compiling Forwards. Doing the typing for the magazine is quite a task, and we do appreciate the time and effort involved. Thankfully Glennis has agreed to carry on with the typing duties, for which I am most grateful, as my ability on the old qwerty keyboard is definitely not up to scratch.

Neither am I an artist and I don't even own a camera, so will be relying on you Scrabblers out there for contributions – articles, clippings, cartoons, club news, photos, etc. No matter how small, anything Scrabble or word related that you think might interest the readers, please send to me at the address below:

Jeff Grant,
Waipatu Settlement Rd.,
R.D.2. Hastings

Scrabble letter distributions

- from Wikipedia

Many editions of the word board game Scrabble vary in the letter distribution of the tiles, because the frequency of each letter of the alphabet is different for every language. As a general rule, the rarer the letter the more points it is worth.

Many languages use sets of 102 tiles, since the original distribution of one hundred tiles was later augmented with two blank tiles.

In a four-part series starting this issue, we show the tile distribution of the game in different languages. In Part I, we cover Afrikaans, Arabic, Bulgarian, Catalan, Croatian, Czech and Danish.

Part 1

Afrikaans (102 tiles)

2 blank tiles (scoring 0 points)

1 point: E ×16, A ×9, I ×8, D ×6, N ×8,
O ×6, R ×6, S ×6, T ×6

2 points: G ×4, H ×3, L ×3

3 points: K ×3, W ×3

4 points: M ×2, U ×2, Y ×2

5 points: P ×2, V ×2

8 points: B ×1, F ×1

10 points: J ×1

Afrikaans uses the letters Z and X, but so infrequently that there are no tiles for them in the standard set. A blank can still be used as a Z or an X. There are also no tiles for C and Q as these letters aren't used at all in Afrikaans, except for in a few loanwords.

Arabic (100 tiles)

2 blank tiles scoring 0 points

1 point: ا ×8, ب ×4, ج ×4, ح ×3, خ ×3,
د ×3, ذ ×3, ر ×3, ز ×3, س ×3

2 points: ت ×4, ث ×3, ع ×4, ف ×3, ق ×3,
ك ×3, ل ×3

3 points: م ×3, ن ×3, ه ×3, و ×3, ي ×3

4 points: ص ×3, ض ×3, غ ×3, ط ×3, ظ ×2

5 points: ع ×2

6 points: ق ×2

8 points: م ×2, ع ×2

10 points: ا ×2, و ×2

Bulgarian (102 tiles of Cyrillic letters)

2 blank tiles (scoring 0 points)

1 point: А ×9, Е ×8, И ×8, Н ×4, О ×9,
П ×4, Р ×4, С ×4, Т ×5

2 points: Б ×3, В ×4, Д ×4, К ×3, Л ×3,
М ×4

3 points: Г ×3, Ъ ×2

4 points: Ж ×2, З ×2

5 points: Ы ×1, У ×3, Х ×1, Ч ×2, Я ×2

8 points: Ц ×1, Ш ×1, Ю ×1

10 points: Ф ×1, Ц ×1, Ъ ×1

Catalan (100 tiles)

2 blank tiles (scoring 0 points)

1 point: Е ×13, А ×12, I ×8, R ×8, S ×8,
N ×6, O ×5, T ×5, L ×4, U ×4

2 points: C ×3, D ×3, M ×3

3 points: B ×2, G ×2, P ×2

4 points: F ×1, V ×1

8 points: H ×1, J ×1, Q ×1, Z ×1

10 points: Ç ×1, L·L ×1, NY ×1, X ×1

Accents and diaereses are ignored; for example, *À* is played as *A*. Nevertheless, there are special tiles for Catalan letters Ç (ce trencada) and LL (ela geminada), as well as the digraph NY. It's not allowed to play an N tile followed by a blank tile (as Y) to form the digraph NY. Official rules treat the Q tile just like one letter, but usually Catalan players use the Q tile like the QU digraph and all Catalan Scrabble Clubs use this de facto rule.

Croatian (103 tiles)

2 blank tiles (scoring 0 points)

1 point: A ×11, I ×10, E ×9, O ×9,
N ×6, R ×5, S ×5, T ×5, J ×4,
U ×4

2 points: K ×3, M ×3, P ×3, V ×3

3 points: D ×3, G ×2, L ×2, Z ×2, B ×1,
Č ×1

4 points: C ×1, H ×1, LJ ×1, NJ ×1,
Š ×1, Ž ×1

5 points: Ć ×1

8 points: F ×1

10 points: DŽ ×1, Đ ×1

Czech (100 tiles)

2 blank tiles (scoring 0 points)

1 point: O ×6, A ×5, E ×5, N ×5, I ×4,
S ×4, T ×4, V ×4, D ×3, K ×3,
L ×3, P ×3, R ×3,

2 points: C ×3, H ×3, Í ×3, M ×3, U ×3,
Á ×2, J ×2, Y ×2, Z ×2

3 points: B ×2, Ě ×2, ě ×2

4 points: Ř ×2, Š ×2, Ý ×2, Č ×1, Ů ×1,
Ž ×1

5 points: F ×1, G ×1, Ú ×1

6 points: Ň ×1

7 points: Ó ×1, Ť ×1

8 points: ě ×1

10 points: X ×1

This distribution lacks *Q* and *W*,
which are rare in the Czech language.

Danish (100 tiles)

2 blank tiles (scoring 0 points)

1 point: E ×9, A ×7, N ×6, R ×6

2 points: D ×5, L ×5, O ×5, S ×5, T ×5

3 points: B ×4, K ×4, I ×4, F ×3, G ×3,
M ×3, U ×3, V ×3

4 points: H ×2, J ×2, P ×2, Y ×2, Æ ×2,
Ø ×2, Å ×2

8 points: C ×2, X ×1, Z ×1

This distribution lacks *Q* and *W*,
which are rare in the Danish language.

Lolita and Scrabble

The famous Russian writer Vladimir Nabokov shot to fame with his book *Lolita*, which was published in 1955 and became an international bestseller.

Nabokov died in 1977, but the last years of his life were marked by physical and intellectual weakness. His biographer, Brian Boyd, describes how during his illness, Nabokov for the first time ever lost three games of Scrabble to his sister.

They had played the game since early childhood and Nabokov had always been the winner.

Nevertheless, almost to the last day he continued to write, and left behind the scribbled notes for a novel *The Original of Laura*.

Now, more than 30 years after his death, Nabokov's son Dmitri has sparked controversy by agreeing to have his father's unfinished last novel published, even though Nabokov made it clear in his will that the manuscript he was working on should not be published.

The Passing Decades

- by Jeff Grant

TENTWISE in the TWENTIES

SHITTIER in the THIRTIES

FOISTER in the FORTIES

IFFIEST in the FIFTIES

SEXITIS in the SIXTIES

INVESTEES in the SEVENTIES

EYESIGHT in the EIGHTIES

EINSTEIN in the NINETIES

[Italicised words are not official Scrabble words]

A word (or more) from

More on monetary units

- from *Jeff Grant, Independent*

LIROT, LIROTH plural of LIRA, does not refer to the Italian one, but a former monetary unit of Israel. Malta also has the LIRA, but the plural there is LIRI.

LILANGENI, the Swaziland currency, has the unusual plural EMALANGENI.

A monetary unit not allowed in Scrabble is Tonga's pa'anga*, which is divided into 100 SENITI (plural the same).

More on BRULYIE

- from *Kris Saether, Mt Albert*

My little piece on BRULYIE last issue has resulted in discussions about its BRULZIE and BRUILZIE versions, and their similar mates ULYIE / ULZIE, SPULYIE / SPULZIE / SPUILZIE, to plunder (it has all the verbal forms), and TUILYIE (the only Y word that has the extra I in it) / TUILZIE, to fight.

I first started to investigate that ending because of inconsistencies like TAILYE / TAILZIE, which I randomly knew from gameplay I think, and the absence of ULYE* (having known ULYIE / ULZIE well from 5-letter word learning). I'd also heard of CAPERCAILZIE, obviously not from Scrabble learning and not sure what it is or how I knew the word apart from it being a variant of the more common CAPERCAILLIE, and it caught my interest to see if each of these longer words all held the tri- or quadripartite prefix pattern. Of course they don't... no CAPERCAILYE* or CAPERCAILYIE*, no TAILYIE*, etc. ASSOILZIE exists, but there's no ASSOILYIE*.

A bizarre set of words, all from Scottish I expect.

More Scrabble words for the NZ map

- from *Jennifer Smith, Hamilton*

BURNSIDE (a suburb of Dunedin)
ground beside a brook

PARAPARA (route between Raetahi and Wanganui)

small NZ tree

- from *Val Flint, Hamilton*

The buffalo or bison once roamed the open prairies in herds that stretched across Canada. For thousands of years the First Nations people of the plains depended on these animals for food, clothing, shelter and tools. Dried buffalo meat, dried SASKATOON berries and the fat boiled from buffalo bones were combined to make a nutritious food called PEMMICAN. This preserved dish was the staple food for everyone living on the prairies including the First Nations, explorers, traders, settlers and the North West Mounted Police (Mounties* is not allowed).

- from *Su Walker, Mt Albert*

I have just come across the website <http://twitter.com/dictionarycom>. It contains Scrabble words of the day amongst other wordy things) and thought members might find some interesting tidbits on it, for example:

"IRREGARDLESS is considered nonstandard because of the two negative elements ir- and -less."

Regardless (or IRREGARDLESS!) of that, it's an acceptable Scrabble word.

om our players

Donations

- from Shirley Martin

I was surprised – when I played it at Club night against Jennifer Smith – to learn that ALM is not a word. Other club members were surprised, too. Jennifer told us a good way of remembering it: if you're giving ALMS to the poor you've got to have dollars! She visualises the word as ALM\$.

It reminded me of BANN\$S, a marriage notice. It must have an S, too – perhaps because it involves two people getting married?!

Words that don't look and sound right

In the above discussion, Shirley mentioned two of her favourite words that take an S but don't look like they would, GLAD / GLADS (gladioli) and EARNEST / EARNESTS (part payment in advance).

It prompted the following list of ten words that sound like they are a past participle (of a verb), but can take an S (because they actually mean something else):

BENT	BENTS	stiff grass
CAME	CAMES	=KAME, lead rod in frame
FLEW	FLEWS	a dog's pendulous chop
SAID	SAYS	=SAYYID, SAYID, SAYED, honorary Muslim title
SANG	SANGS	blood
SOLD	SOLDS	pay, remuneration
SUNK	SUNKS	a turf seat, SUNKIE
TORE	TORES	torus
TROD	TRODS	a track, TRODE, TROAD, TROADE
ATE	ATES	blind ambition that drives ones to ruin

- from Joan Thomas, Hastings

In our house we enjoy doing the general knowledge crossword in the *Sunday Star Times* – armed with a dictionary, a thesaurus, the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* (how old-fashioned!) and, when all else fails, LeXpert on the pocket PC. A recent clue was... a Scottish/ Irish settlement on a fortified island. Answer ... CRANNOG – a new word to me now stored in the memory bank.

I sometimes do a bit of random research by looking up the meaning of a word and then checking extensions to that word. For example SAZ is a stringed instrument of Turkey, North Africa and the Middle East. SAZ is a familiar word often played, but now I also know the less familiar SAZHEN – a Russian measure – and SAZERAC – a cocktail of Pernod and Whisky. That must be a potent brew!!!

- from *Onwords magazine, UK*

Only eight five-letter words end in the unusual vowel combination –AU. None contain Es, so they are valuable Scrabble words, assisting in playing off the more awkward vowels and retaining an E. Since these words are mainly of foreign origin not all of them take an –S. However, it can be less confusing if you note that it's the last four in alphabetical sequence take an –S:

BOYAU – x	NIKAU – s
HINAU	NOYAU – s
KAWAU	PIKAU – s
MAPAU	PILAU – s

CH ... and so on

What is the longest word you can build up by adding one letter at a time to the end of CH, forming a valid word at each stage? Answer on page 48.

Interview with Michael Thelen, creator of Zyzzyva

- by *The Word Buff*

First, I thought you might like to see who we're talking to. So here is Michael...



Hi Michael. Can we start with a brief description of the guy behind the photo?

I'm 32 years old, married with three young kids. I live in the suburbs of Salt Lake City, Utah, and I work as a professional software engineer. In addition to playing Scrabble, I love to read, write, play golf, and observe the night sky.

Zyzzyva is absolutely free? Are you crazy?

That's right! That is to say, Zyzzyva is free, but I'm not crazy. I think a major reason so many people use Zyzzyva is because it's free. If I forced people to pay for it, I don't think it ever would have become so popular. Anyone can download it and start learning words right away, and it makes me happy when other people are

happy.

Of course, I'm also happy to accept donations! If anyone enjoys Zyzzyva and would like to send a donation, there is a PayPal link on the main Zyzzyva page.

Can you tell us the story behind Zyzzyva's creation and why existing Scrabble helpers, like LeXpert, weren't enough?

I try to avoid using Windows whenever possible, and LeXpert was a Windows-only program. When I first started studying Scrabble words, I wanted a study program that would run on Linux, but I couldn't find a good one. Since I'm a programmer, I figured I could write a decent program myself, so I did.

Once I had produced something usable, I decided to make it freely available because I didn't think other people should have to write their own software just to do something simple like word study. Now, anyone can study words for free by using Zyzzyva on nearly any version of Windows, Linux, or Mac OS X.

How well has Zyzzyva been received? Is there any way of estimating how many copies have been downloaded?

The feedback has been very positive, whether people are using it for word study, anagramming, or word adjudication at Scrabble tournaments. Zyzzyva is used as the official word judge program at most Scrabble tournaments in North America, including the U.S. National Scrabble Championship and the U.S. National School Scrabble Championship. I just discovered it was also used at the 2009 Victorian Championships in Melbourne. Cool!

Zyzzyva has been downloaded about

24,500 times since January 2007. Over the past month, it's been downloaded an average of about 30 times per day. Thanks for nudging me to check out the statistics. I hadn't ever checked them before. Even I didn't know Zyzzyva was that popular!

And what's with your strange choice of product name?

I wanted to pick a fun word that was somewhat unique. I knew "zyzzyva" was one of the most improbable words to be played in a Scrabble game, and I liked the sound of it.

Later on, after I had picked the name, I realized that since "zyzzyva" was also the last word in alphabetical order (it has since been replaced by "zzz"), I could call Zyzzyva "the last word" in word study. I wish I could say I was smart enough to come up with that slogan from the start.

Who does all the design and development?

I do the actual development pretty much by myself. I hold myself personally responsible for the entire software cycle including design, programming, testing, and release management.

However, I also have to give a lot of credit to the users of Zyzzyva who have given me valuable suggestions and feedback. I'm quickest to implement features that I want for myself, but many users have suggested features that I never knew I wanted until I heard the suggestion! Also, several users have been very patient and helpful as they help me debug problems that I can't recreate on my own computer.

Zyzzyva is a much better program because of its fantastic users.

Who actually owns Zyzzyva?

I own the copyright on all the source code, and I make it available under the GNU General Public License. That means that anyone is free to examine and change

the code as much as they like.

However, if they distribute a modified version of Zyzzyva, they must also distribute the modified source code. This ensures that Zyzzyva will always be freely available to anyone who wants it.

And finally a Scrabble Helper with word definitions! Who should we be thanking for all that work?

Most of the OWL definitions came from John O'Laughlin, an American Scrabble player. Most of the CSW definitions came from Barry Harridge, an Australian Scrabble player. I've done a fair amount of tweaking of the definitions myself, including formatting them nicely for Zyzzyva.

I've contributed several hours of my own time, but not nearly as many hours as you would think, thanks to those two gentlemen. I'm afraid to list names of other people who have helped, because I know I will forget someone, but some others who have been very helpful are Richard Buck, John C. Green, and Dominick Mancine.

What if people want to use a different dictionary?

Several lexicons are provided with Zyzzyva, including the official word lists for Scrabble tournament play in North America (OWL2) and Scrabble tournament play throughout most of the rest of the world (CSW).

If a user wants to use a lexicon of their own, they can tell Zyzzyva to create a "Custom" lexicon from a plain text file. Currently, this is the only way to use a word list other than the ones provided with Zyzzyva.

Are there any copyright issues around using Zyzzyva that users should be careful about?

Not that I know of.

What are you like at Scrabble yourself?

I like to think I'm a decent player, in large part due to my use of Zyzzyva. My current Scrabble rating is about 1700, which makes me one of the top 200 players in North America. I hope to attain an even higher rank than that!

Are you a fan of any other word games besides Scrabble?

I like to do the occasional crossword puzzle, though I'm not very good at them. Other than that, I don't get much time for other word games.

Another reason I don't play many other word games is because my friends and family avoid word games around me!

Is Zyzzyva being used much outside of the Scrabble community? What other word games do you think it could be useful for?

I think Scrabble players represent the vast majority of Zyzzyva users. But I've always envisioned Zyzzyva as a general-purpose word study program for any type of activity where you have to jumble, find, or unscramble words.

For example, I think Zyzzyva would definitely be useful for anyone who wants to improve at Boggle, or wants to beat all their friends at Word Twist on Facebook!

How do users let you know about problems or requests?

Many users send me email at the address listed on the main Zyzzyva page. This is a good way to reach me, though I must admit that I can be pretty bad at responding to email in a timely manner.

Instead, it's often a better idea to send a message to the Zyzzyva Users mailing list, which is read by many smart and helpful people. Whenever someone asks a question on the mailing list, it is usually answered fairly quickly. I also read and respond to the list, and I take feature requests that way, too.

Are there any upcoming features you can tell us about?

I have a lot of big ideas, but I'm not sure which one I'll work on next.

One thing many people have requested is the ability to print word lists directly from Zyzzyva. Currently, you have to save the list to a text file, then open it with Wordpad or a similar program to print it.

I'd also like to allow users to make personal notes within the program, which could be used for giving yourself hints or reminding yourself of words that are related to the current word you're looking at.

Interview (slightly abridged) reproduced with the kind permission of Derek McKenzie aka Word Buff. See his website www.word-buff.com for interesting interviews with champions, inventors, creators, hosts, authors and hobbyist with a common interest in word games. Lots of other cool word stuff on his website, too.

It goes without saying that Scrabble players in New Zealand are enormously grateful to Michael Thelen for his wonderful ZYZZYVA program. His website is zyzzyva.net.

In case you're wondering . . .

1. After twenty years, the hitherto regular columns, **Dazzling Dozen** and **Anagram Corner**, will be discontinued – both Jeff Grant (who devised them) and Jennifer Smith (the Editor) believe those articles have come to the end of their shelf life. We thank Jeff for his efforts and his unflinching reliability with sending those articles over the years. No need to worry, folks – that doesn't spell the end of Jeff's interesting contributions to *Forwards!*
2. Last issue we announced that Selena Chan's **Learning about learning while playing Scrabble** was the penultimate article. Sorry, folks, it was the final instalment. (The Editor does know the meaning of "penultimate" – but she can't count!)

CANADA is an OK Scrabble word

- by Val Flint, Hamilton

I've just experienced the holiday of a lifetime, travelling through the Rockies from Vancouver, then a week on a cruise ship to Alaska; and from there to the UK and Switzerland. Of the seven weeks away there were only two days of rain – it rained several nights but the sun always shone again at dawn – that's as near to perfection as you can get.

I left Hamilton NZ with its minus zero temperature and arrived in steamy Vancouver 14 hours later – 35 degrees and the glass still rising. The downtown YHA was welcoming, comfortable-ish and decidedly lacking in air-con. No jet lag so it was outside to tan and explore and maybe find some new Scrabble words here and there.

An INUKSHUK stands in welcome at Lions Bay, marking an open channel between north and mainland Vancouver. Correct Inuit plural forms of INUKSHUK are Inuksuit* (not permissible in Scrabble) or INUKSHUIT (permissible). Scrabble allows the plural form INUKSHUKS, but that's not recognised in Inuit. The word means 'in the likeness of a man' – flat stones are piled on top of each other to form a human shape, some with arms outstretched. Originally the figures were used to mark caribou pathways for mustering, and now the INUKSHUK has been selected as the symbol for 2010 Winter Olympics that will be staged at Whistler, north of Vancouver.

On the shores of Medicine Lake in the Rockies, fluffy little creatures scurried around so rapidly in the long grass, that it was impossible to capture a picture of even one of them. These were PIKAS ("golf balls with ears" our tour guide quaintly put it); a PIKA is a tiny tailless hare that hares about in permanent panic mode, no doubt because it's a tasty morsel for the bald eagle whose EYRIE (+ variant spellings) was perched in the topmost branches of a

nearby pine tree, a tremendous vantage point for the eagle-eyed bird to see any slightest movement and swoop. If only those little PIKAS had an ounce of brain, they may know they would survive longer if only they'd stop twitching and flitting.

Medicine Lake fills with glacial melt each year but the water drains away within a few weeks. The First Nations knew about this foible so ignored the lake for the most part as its waters provided nothing that they needed; it was named Medicine Lake for the natural healing plants found on its shores. However, white man came along and decided it could be a good fishing venue so plugged the drain hole in the centre with mattresses and newspapers, and filled the lake with trout, but the water still drained away, exposing all the plugging and thousands of gasping fish. Before the next spring snow melt, the quantity of plugging was increased and fish restocked once the water level rose to a suitable depth. Divers were then sent down to see why the water continued to drain away – imagine their surprise when they found hundreds of fish lounging happily on the mattresses reading the newspapers!

In Skagway, ALASKA, I discovered an ULU – see picture. The ALASKA(takes an S) ULU is an extremely versatile cutting

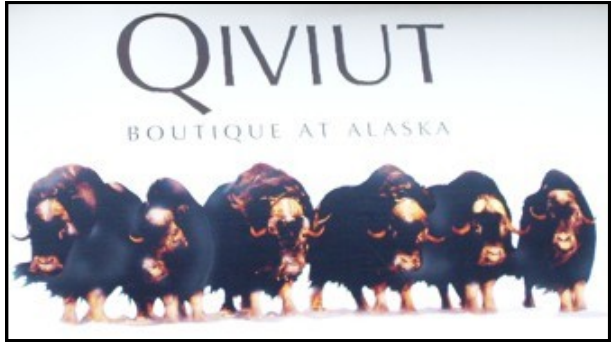


ulu

tool crafted by the native Alaskan people over three thousand years ago. The ULU knife – with the semicircular blade – was primarily used by Eskimo women for skinning and cleaning fish and has played an important role in the survival of the Arctic people. Today Eskimos continue to use the versatile ULU as their primary cutting tool. Further information tells of its use for skinning bears – but first you have to catch your bear and that’s a whole new story.

We rode a Gold Rush train from Skagway to White Pass, rattling along the narrow-gauge lines at a spanking pace, perched on a slender thread of flat land that spiralled ever upward on the sheer mountain side . It was with a sense of relief when we descended into the valley to a less nerve-racking entertainment – gold-panning. Before making our \$millions we had a tour of the mine and its machinery – an enormous rusting hulk, a TROMMEL, loomed above us. It seemed strange that so much complex machinery was needed to extract gold when all we used was a black wok-shaped pan and still found some hiding in the sand and gravel at the bottom. I haven’t decided how to invest mine yet.

In Ketchikan, QIVIUT (variant spelling qiveut* – not allowable in Scrabble) wool garments were for sale, at enormous prices;

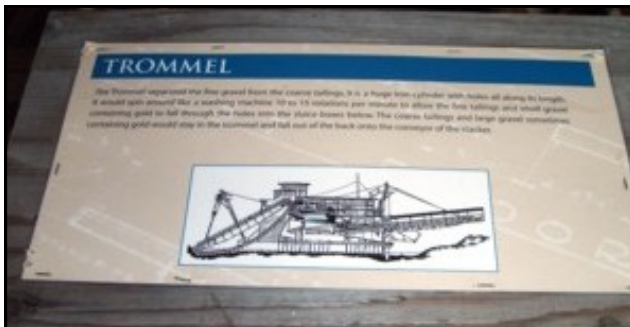


qiviut—a shop front of a store selling qiviut wool goods

a plain scarf cost US\$175. QIVIUT wool is the underlayer from the MUSKOX, is as soft as alpaca and eight times warmer than sheeps’ wool. Apparently it cannot be used for felting but will withstand extreme wash temperatures without spoiling. QIVIUT is an Inuit word and has several other spellings, all pronounced ‘keeveeoot’.

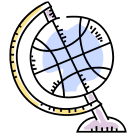
Later that day a group us took a float plane and soared over the nearby mountains to spy on the mountain goats and look for signs of bears. We saw a couple of goats blending with the snow patches, high enough to escape the clutches of the black bear, but probably not that of the GRIZZLY which hunts or grazes on berries at higher elevations. The float planes fly fairly low so we were able to see the expanses of MUSKEG (a Cree word) below us that bore the signs of bear tracks meandering through this emerald green marshland.

And two days later I was winging my way to the UK where I found no new words that are allowed in Scrabble. Back in NZ I have a jade INUKSHUK as a meaningful souvenir (as well as 600 photos) from that fantastic big OE – I’d do it all again tomorrow and maybe look out for more new words, fewer photos.



trommel

Overseas News



France

The French National Championship (played to Duplicate rules) resulted in First Equal winners: Fabien Fontas and Jean-Francois Lachaud. The two players were just 20 points short of perfect after 5 games.

Guyana

Results of Guyana Association of Scrabble Players (GASP) Diwali Scrabble Championship:

1. Abigail McDonald
2. Leon Belony
3. Orlando Michael



Abigail McDonald

Malaysia

Results of Penang Open:

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

Philippines

Nigel Richards won the 33-game Baguio Centennial Word Builders'

Tournament in September

with a whopping seven games to spare.

1. Nigel Richards
2. Theodoro Martus
3. Odette Rio

Qatar

Concerned over the growing number of cases of HINI (swine flu) in Qatar, the Qatar Scrabble League told students participating in Scrabble training for the World Youth Scrabble Championships to observe sanitary hygiene during their weekend sessions at the International Academy for Intercultural Development in September

All participants were issued with health guidelines against the spread of swine flu virus. They were told wash their Scrabble sets and tile bags and sanitise their board and boxes before playing. They were also advised not to attend the sessions if they were feeling unwell or had coughs and colds.

Singapore

Results of National Championships:

1. Michael Tang
2. Shim Yen Nee
3. Tony Sim

Although he was the new national Champion, Michael was ineligible to represent Singapore in the WSC as he had chosen to represent Malaysia in previous WSCs.

South Africa

Results of Championships:

1. Trevor Hovelmeier
2. Syephen Gruzd
3. Dylan Early

Trinidad and Tobago

Results of Trinidad and Tobago Scrabble Association Championship (East Zone), held in October:

1. Tamara John-Seedial
2. Aqilah Robin
3. Dillion Jeboudhsingh

UK

ITV has signed a major deal with toy and game makers Mattel. ITV Studios, the biggest commercial television network in the UK (which makes Coronation Street), will develop international television, online, mobile and other formats for some of Mattel's best-known brands, which include Scrabble. The deal would not mark the first time a TV version of Scrabble has appeared – a Scrabble game show ran in America from 1984 to 1990 before it was cancelled.

The UK Scrabble magazine, *Onwords*, which first appeared in July 1979, has come to an end after 122 issues. The reasons given are decreasing number of subscribers, and the increasing number of media sources about Scrabble (LeXpert,



UK champ Craig Beevers with a winning board

Zyzyva, books, other magazines, websites, email lists, internet, etc).

Results of National Championships, held in October, after best-of-five final:

1. Craig Beevers (runner-up in 2008)
2. David Webb (co-author of *How to Win at Scrabble*)

USA

Results of US Championships:

1. David Weigand (for the second time)
2. Nigel Richards

For lexophiles* (lovers of words)

1. In a democracy it's your vote that counts; in feudalism, it's your Count that votes.
2. A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.
3. If you don't pay your exorcist you may be repossessed.
4. You are stuck with your debt if you can't budge it.
5. Local Area Network in Australia : The LAN down under.
6. He broke into song because he couldn't find the key.
7. A calendar's days are numbered.
8. A lot of money is tainted: 'taint yours, and 'taint mine.
9. A boiled egg is hard to beat.
10. A plateau is a high form of flattery.
11. Those who get too big for their britches will be exposed in the end.
12. If you jump off a Paris bridge, you are in Seine.
13. Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead to know basis.
14. Acupuncture: a jab well done.
15. Marathon runners with bad shoes suffer the agony of de feet

Scrabble in France

from Scrabble Club News, UK

The following article was written by Hervé Bobbot, one of the top players in France, and also one of their representatives at the last three English speaking World Championships.

The majority of tournament Scrabble in France is played to the Duplicate format but in 2003, a small group of French players started to organize face-to-face Scrabble for competitive play. We called it 'Scrabble Classique' as that was what was written on Mattel's box set.

We had, and still have, to face strong opposition from some duplicate players who do not see the point in developing what they derisively call 'kitchen Scrabble', where 'luck' decides everything. Nevertheless, the immense majority of home players do not play Duplicate, and we argued that classic Scrabble would bridge the gap between the home players and club play.

It's interesting to ask the question whether French, as a language, is more 'suitable' for Scrabble than English.

In terms of letter distribution there are 102 letters in French (legend has it that the blanks were forgotten in the first 100-letter tile set!).

The main differences are:

- 7 high scorers instead of 4: K, W, X, Y and Z are worth 10 points, J and Q, 8 points.
- 6 x U instead of 4, which makes the Q easier to handle, even if QI is not valid. Q-less words include QAT, QIN (a musical instrument), CINQ (five), COQ (a rooster), QIBLA, etc.
- 6 x S instead of 4: this letter is also very commonly used in French and most words are pluralized with it.

So, in total, we have 15 'power tiles' instead of 10 in English.

In terms of words – l'Officiel du Scrabble 5th edition is the word reference. There are many fewer root

words (63,419) from 2 to 15) than in Collins, but these allow more inflections (378,989 versus 267,750). A regular verb like AIMER will give 37 forms. Adjectives have generally 4 forms. So you can learn a lot of words with little effort.

There are many more smaller words in English (77 v 124 two-letter words and 589 v 1292 three-letter words). These allow more technical moves – hooks and parallel plays for the English player as compared to the French player. Interestingly, almost two-thirds of French 2s and 3s are valid in English.

There are slightly more 7s and 8s in French, but word patterns make them generally easier to form (-ERAIS, -ERAIT, -IONS are common verb endings). Hooking is easy with verbs; AIME/R/A/I/S or T.

Another difference with English is the number of variants: 17 types of JELAB, numerous for OOLACHAN, etc. The French do not like variety in spellings, ideally, only one should be valid! The maximum in French is 7 forms for one word (KASHER, etc.).

So the answer to the initial question would be, "it depends what you call suitable". I would say that French is easier to play.

When it came to competition rules, tournament and rating systems, etc, these had to be worked out from scratch, so we drew greatly from the rules used in English-speaking countries. The rules are essentially the same in the UK and France but some differences exist:

- We adopted the 5-point penalty challenge, as a compromise between free and double challenge, and this

choice was never questioned. In fact, tournament players generally know a high percentage of allowable words so there are fewer challenges and also fewer phoneyes left on the board.

- We have not implemented the 'hold' rule (yet), but players HAVE to turn the board for their opponent before hitting the clock and picking new letters. This sequence always gives a few seconds to think about challenging or not.
- There is a 5-point penalty (per letter) for overdrawing and opponent picks at random the extra letter(s) from your rack.
- We do not use overtime. When it's over, it's over! You cannot play any more and may only challenge your opponent's moves. That situation is rather exceptional and people stick to their 25 minutes (reduced to 20 in major competitions).
- In tournaments, a win brings 3 points, a draw 2, a loss 1, and forfeit 0. Ties on numbers of wins are split with reference to the matchups between the particular individuals involved, or, if not applicable, by spread (limited to plus/minus 100 per game).

Very few clubs have classic sessions but 76 rated tournaments were played last year, with an average attendance of 21. The main event was the French Championship with 73 contestants.

Tournaments are not split into divisions but it is definitely what we are aiming to do when the average numbers allow it.

In 2006, a Classique championship was added to the schedule of our annual World Scrabble championship. To date, 3 of the 4 world champions have come from Africa, where Classique is far more popular than Duplicate – Parfait Mouanda from Congo in 2006, Amar Diokh from Senegal in 2007 and Elyseeé Poka from Ivory Coast in 2008.

Runs on the board

- by *Howard Warner, Mt Albert*

The talking points of the recent International Festival of Scrabble in Johor Bahru, Malaysia, were all about runs. No, not the sort you get from spicy Asian food, but wins and losses.

I opened my account in the World Champs with a run of four losses, but soon made up for it with a run of seven wins. In the Causeway, I started with a hiss and a roar but then had two runs of five losses — on days two and four. However, I now know that these were nothing.

Thailand's Pakorn, en route to winning the World Champs, enjoyed 14 wins in a row — the longest run ever at a WSC. Aussie Naween Fernando made his mark at the tournament merely by being the one to end Pakorn's run.

Scotswoman Helen Gipson, after finishing 10th in WSC, was among the leaders right up to the halfway mark of Causeway. Then something unprecedented happened: she lost 10 games in a row. (I am happy to have been her victor No 6 in that run.)

Also in Causeway, Komol of Thailand followed up a run of six losses with a run of 10 wins. And just when our Blue Thorogood was going along nicely in Causeway, he lost all seven games on the last day. The tile gods sure have a warped sense of humour.

Then, in the three-day Progressive Round Robin event following the Causeway Challenge, clear favourites Nigel Richards (New Zealand) and David Eldar (Australia) confounded the pundits by winning half a game between them in the first five rounds. Yet they went on to finish first and second in the event. Goes to show, anything can happen in Scrabble over a short spell but class always wins out in the long run.

Duplicate Scrabble

Duplicate Scrabble is a variant of the board game Scrabble where all the players are faced with the same board and letters at the same time and must play the highest scoring word they can find.

Although duplicate is rarely played at competition level in English, it is the most popular form of the game in French and is also played in other languages, such as Romanian and Dutch. The largest French Scrabble festivals can attract over 2000 people and some individual tournaments can count over 1000 participants per game.

Duplicate Scrabble was invented by Hippolyte Wouters circa 1970, a Belgian lawyer who spoke French as his first language. In 1972 he organised the first French World Scrabble Championships in Cannes, France. Although only eight players participated in this tournament, a World Championship has been organised every year since

Due to the nature of duplicate, there is almost no limit to the number of players who can participate in a single game, and at the biggest international festivals, some games are played by more than 1000 people simultaneously. In French, duplicate is practised in France, Belgium, Canada, Switzerland, Senegal, Benin, Tunisia, Lebanon and many other countries.

Duplicate Scrabble has been part of the Romanian national championship since 1981.

Rules

The rules of duplicate Scrabble can vary between different languages and different associations. Some of the general principles of duplicate are:

1. The arbiter draws seven random tiles at the start of the game. He announces them to the players who draw the

same seven letters. The players are given an allotted time to write their chosen word on a slip of paper which will be collected by a runner and handed to an arbiter. The player is obligated to record the score and the position of his word. An invalid word scores zero points.

2. The highest scoring word is placed on the board. Hence every player is faced with the same situation at the same time, and no player has any advantage because of the letters selections.
3. There must always be at least one vowel and one consonant. If the seven letters do not contain one vowel and one consonant, they are put back in the bag and seven new letters are chosen. If there are no more consonants or no more vowels in the bag, the game ends.
4. At the end of the game, the player who has scored the most points is declared the winner. This score can also be expressed as a percentage (by dividing by the total of all the best plays) or as a negative, for example 790 out of 800 would be -10 (or 98.75%).

- source, Wikipedia

Close games

- Pat Grant, scorer

Unusual results at the Mt Albert tournament in October:

- Over one-fifth of the 386 games played had a margin of 20 points or less.
- There were 38 games won by between 11-20 points and 34 between 2-10 points.
- Six games were decided by a single point and there were 3 draws.

Sandwich words

- by Jennifer Smith, Hamilton

I have long been fascinated by words that take the same hook front and back, like CON (ICON, CONI) or AR (CAR, ARC).

I was made aware of this characteristic in my earliest Scrabble days. Many years ago, at the Norfolk Scrabble tournament, my opponent challenged OOH, and as Jeff Grant picked up the challenge slip, blank except for three letters on it, he turned it round and asked, "What word are you challenging. HOO or OOH? – not that it matters, it's right both ways."

"So it is!" I thought. "OO is like an open sandwich – you can put H on either side of it." From then on I've thought of words like KAT (IKAT, KATI) as "sandwich words".

Now that I have the Zyzzyva word study program installed on my computer to play with, I've been able to explore the concept of sandwich words further.

Apart from the S-sandwich, which comes in 1191 varieties (none of which I'll include in this article), there are not as many of these words as you might expect. There are plenty of small words, of course, but not many longer words.

There are no sandwich words involving J, Q, V, X or Z, which is not surprising, considering how rarely they perform as "hookers" generally.

In the following discussion on the sandwich nature of different letters, I've only shown some of the longer or more interesting examples.

A-sandwiches (38)

VIATIC	AVIATIC	VIATICA
STERN	ASTERN	STERNA
SPIRE	ASPIRE	SPIREA

B-sandwiches (5)

LAM	BLAM	LAMB
-----	------	------

C-sandwiches (5)

ILIA	CILIA	ILIAC
ABA	CABA	ABAC

D-sandwiches (54, mostly verbs, as you might expect)

UNITE	DUNITE	UNITED
WINDLE	DWINDLE	WINDLED
ROGUE	DROGUE	ROGUED

E-sandwiches (54)

ARED	EARED	AREDE
MERGE	EMERGE	MERGE

F-sandwiches (5)

REE	FREE	REEF
LEA	FLEA	LEAF

G-sandwiches (5)

ARE	GARE	AREG
-----	------	------

H-sandwiches (13)

OKE	HOKE	OKEH
ALMA	HALMA	ALMAH

I-sandwiches (8)

CH	ICH	CHI
MID	IMID	MIDI
GAD	IGAD	GADI

K-sandwiches (9)

HAN	KHAN	HANK
BAR	KBAR	BARK

L-sandwiches (12)

ATRIA	LATRIA	ATRIAL
OMENTA	LOMENTA	OMENTAL

M-sandwiches (8)

ALAR	MALAR	ALARM
NA	MNA	NAM

N-sandwiches (12)

ALA	NALA	ALAN
-----	------	------

O-sandwiches (16)

LENT	OLENT	LENTO
KAY	OKAY	KAYO
PING	OPING	PINGO
VERS	OVERS	VERSO

P-sandwiches (18)

RAM	PRAM	RAMP
-----	------	------

R-sandwiches (21)

AGA	RAGA	AGAR
-----	------	------

ICKLE RICKLE ICKLER
 ANCHO RANCHO ANCHOR

T-sandwiches (57, more than any other letter except S)

APER TAPER APERT
 RASHES TRASHES RASHEST
 WEENIES TWEENIES WEENIEST

U-sandwiches (2, very rare)

TA UTA TAU
 PEND UPEND PENDU

W-sandwiches (6)

ALE WALE ALEW

Y-sandwiches (18)

ARROW YARROW ARROWY
 OWLER YOWLER OWLERY
 SAME YSAME SAMEY
 ELM YELM ELMY

I think of all the above sandwiches as “open sandwiches” – the reason will become clear in a moment.

By now, you have probably thought of some words, like LUM, that take a front hook of P (PLUM), and a back hook of P (LUMP), and both hooks **at the same time** (PLUMP).

I choose to call a word like that, if it takes the same hook front and back simultaneously, a “double-decker” sandwich.

There are no double-decker F, G, I, J, L, O, Q, U, V, X, and Z sandwiches, but probably hundreds of S ones, since there will be heaps of nouns that take a front hook of S (and pluralise with an S).

C, K, W and Y make just one double-decker sandwich each . . .

HI CHI HIC CHIC
 IN KIN INK KINK
 HO WHO HOW HOW
 AWN YAWN AWNY YAWNY

... while A, B, M, N make just two each.

MENT AMENT MENTA AMENTA
 NAN ANAN NANA ANANA
 AR BAR ARB BARB
 UR BUR URB BURB
 AR MAR ARM MARM

UM MUM UMM MUMM
 OO NOO OON NOON
 OW NOW OWN NOWN

Double-decker D-sandwiches are fairly common (31):

ADDLE, ANGLE, ARE, EAVE,
 EDUCE, EKE, ELAPSE, ELATE, ELOPE,
 ELUDE, EMERGE, EMOTE, EMURE,
 ENERVATE, ENOUNCE, EPILATE,
 EPURATE, EVALUATE, ERE, ESCRIBE,
 EVOLVE, ICE, OPE, RABBLE, RAGGLE,
 RAPE, REE, ROVE, RUMBLE, WINDLE
 and WINE.

Just 4 x double-decker E-sandwiches, three beauts and the simple RAS.
 PERDU EPERDU PERDUE EPERDUE
 TAMIN ETAMIN TAMINE ETAMINE
 MAIL EMAIL MAILE REMAILE

Some nice double-decker H sandwiches (8 altogether).

AGGADA HAGGADA
 AGGADAH HAGGADAH
 AGGADOT HAGGADOT
 AGGADOTH HAGGADOTH
 EIGHT HEIGHT
 EIGHTH HEIGHTH

Also AS, EAT, ET, IS and UMP.

P has 4 unspectacular ones (AL, LUM, OO, RE), while R has 11 ordinary ones (ACE, AMBLE, APE, AVE, ELATE, EMOTE, ENFORCE, EVOKE, EVOLVE and ICE),

T has only one interesting one among its 13 (AVER, TAVER, AVERT, TAVERT) – the rest are common words (ABLE, AI, AR, AT, EL, ES, OO, OR, OW, RAP and WEE).

We’ve been looking at the letters that make the outside of the sandwiches, but in Scrabble we’d be wanting to remember the words that make the “fillings” of the sandwiches.

The largest filings for double-deckers -sandwiches I can find are the three 10-letter CHECKLATON (SCHECKLATON, CHECKLATONS,

SCHECKLATONS), ELECTORATE (SELECTORATE, ELECTORATES, SELECTORATES) and PECULATION (SPECULATION, PECULATIONS, SPECULATIONS), and the massive 12-letter word EXPLOITATION (SEXPLOITATION, EXPLOITATIONS, SEXPLOITATIONS).

Apart from the S fillings, the longest words tend to be the 8-letter fillings of D-sandwiches, like ENERVATE and EPURATE. But the 7-letter H fillings quoted above are pretty impressive, and RAMMIES and WEENIES are 7-letter fillings for T-sandwiches.

Not many “sandwich fillings” are versatile enough to be the basis of more than one sandwich word. ABLE is one example of such a “super sandwich

filling” (it is sandwiched by both S and T). You can keep an eye out for more examples yourselves.

But “super double-decker sandwich fillings” are even rarer.

I can only find one 3-letter super double-decker sandwich filling: UMP, which yields an H and an S double-decker sandwich.

The rest of the super double-decker sandwich fillings are all two-letter words, including AL (P and S), EA (S and T), EL (S and T), OW (N and T), and IN (K and S). OO is special, as it is the filling for three double-decker sandwiches (N, P and T).

But the word that wins the title of Super Double-Decker Filling Champion is AR (filling for four double-decker sandwiches, B, M, T and S).

Tournament Calendar 2010

Tournament	Place	Dates
Wellington	Wellington	16-17 January
Pakuranga	Auckland	30 & 31 January
ACC Masters Games	Dunedin	30-31 January
Rotorua	Rotorua	27-28 February
Mt Albert Memorial	Auckland	? 20 March
Dunedin Lion Open	Dunedin	27-28 March
NZ Masters #	Dunedin	3-5 April
Kapiti Coast		? 17 April
South Island Championships	Christchurch	8-9 May
NZ National Champs	Hamilton	5-6 June
Nelson	Nelson	? July
Whangarei	Whangarei	10-11 July
Hamilton	Hamilton	7-8 August
Trans Tasman Challenge	TBA	August
Tauranga	Tauranga	28-29 August
Canterbury Open	Christchurch	11-12 September
Mt Albert	Auckland	? 2-3 October
Norfolk Island Scrabble Festival	Norfolk Island	10-15 October
Wanganui	Wanganui	23-24 October
Kiwi	Hamilton	13 November
Otago Lion Open	Dunedin	13-14-November
Causeway Challenge#	Johor Bahru, Malaysia	1-5 December

entry restricted to qualifiers

Note: Dates with question marks have not been confirmed by the club.

WESPA whispers

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



I compiled this from Johor Bahru, Malaysia, where we saw more than 300 players from around the world during a three-week-long 'International Festival of Scrabble'. It started with the three-day World Scrabble Championships, continued through the Causeway Challenge (five days for both the Open and Masters fields) and then led into the World Youth Championships and the simultaneous Johor Bahru Progressive Round Robin (adults' tournament).

With so much going, the excitement level was high and whispers were rife. So here goes...

World champs

The future shape of the (Mattel-owned) WSC is very much top of mind among players. It looks to be well established as the premier event in world Scrabble, despite its increasingly shoestring feel. The World Champs has now been run ten times, every two years. In the early days, its ownership alternated between Hasbro (the North American owner of Scrabble) and Mattel. Hasbro pulled out some years back, and you get the impression – from the declining prize-money and out-of-the-way locations – that Mattel no longer views tournament Scrabble as a priority channel for promoting its wares.

WSC 2009 is the first major tournament to have applied the newly formulated WESPA rules, and players and tournament staff alike seem to feel the experience was a success. Chris May, author of the rules, has invited comments on how well they worked, and WESPA is setting up a forum allowing tournament directors of internationally rated events to feed in their experiences.

There were two departures at this year's WSC prize-giving ceremony: one well received, one not. For the first time, a team prize was awarded — to Thailand, which finished with three players in the top five, including new champion Pakorn

Nemitrkansuk and first-time competitor Marut Siriwangso. But players were stunned when the place-getters from 10th through to 4th were not invited on stage to receive their prizes, instead having to stand up in the crowd and wave sheepishly. Scotland's Helen Gipson had even put on her best frock in anticipation of being recognised as the first woman to make a WSC top 10.

Later, on the international email list, Mattel boss Philip Nelkon apologised, saying it was a spur-of-the-moment decision. Presumably it had been prompted by the guest of honour and local government minister with the world's longest name delivering a speech to match. Maybe the officials were in a hurry, but the top echelon of players didn't mind a few seconds of recognition after three tough days of tournament play while the world watched.

Power players

Pakorn, after his 3-1 win over our Nigel Richards, must now be considered the most successful player at WSC level. He is the second (after the ageless Joel Wapnick of Canada) to make three finals and win one. But Pakorn's finals were consecutive — if you discount 2007, when he didn't even make the Thai team. Also consider that he's only 34, which gives him about 10 years on Nigel, 20 years on former champs David Boys and Mark Nyman, and 30 years on Wapnick. So it's a fair bet he'll make a few more finals.

Talking of finalists, Malaysia's Ganesh Asirvatham, who was runner-up to Nigel in 2007, caused a major stir when he pulled out of this year's WSC (as well as Causeway) on the eve of the event, despite having been given his own slot as defending runner-up. The organisers had based all their pre-event publicity around Ganesh as the 'local hero', so they were understandably miffed. We hope it doesn't harm the chances of Nigel getting a similar slot for WSC 2011, which would keep New Zealand to five players.

National allocations

Especially in the closing stages, there was much interest in team allocations for WSC 2011, based on a new formula. Ultimately – and frustratingly – New Zealand finished only one win or a handful of spread points behind the US in the race for an extra place. Sadly, host country Malaysia lost a place after Ganesh's withdrawal and a disappointing run by the other local hope, schoolgirl Suanne Ong.

Looking ahead

Though Nelkon says the next WSC venue is undecided, the whisper is that it will be in Australia. That would be good for our finances. Nigeria is pushing hard for a chance to host, based on their player numbers and consistent results at top-level Scrabble. Unfortunately, travelling abroad is still proving a sticking point for that country. Expatriate Nigerian Yusuf Oyakunle, South Africa's brightest hope in the WSC, was turned back at Singapore airport and five Nigerian players missed the first day of the Causeway Open because of visa problems.

We had thought the format of WSC was set in stone, for all time. But then the biennial WESPA meeting, held after Day 2 of this year's champs, asked for and then endorsed Nigel's view: "an extra day's play for all and no best-of-three final". Judging from comments on the international email list, Nelkon could be warming to the idea.

Causeway Challenge

Malaysian businessman and competitive Scrabble addict Michael Tang is making ground on WSC with his highly successful Causeway Challenge concept. It began 10 years ago as a test between Singapore and Malaysia. The annual event has since grown to 10 teams (this year it included the top seven countries, plus a joint 'Causeway' team and two ratings-chosen composite teams). Among the top players Causeway is growing in prestige, especially compared with WSC. Tang, who is a master at pulling strings and wooing sponsors, is now offering more prize-money, more games and a stronger field (by far) than any other event.

In the past two years, he has run an open event parallel to the teams event. This year it attracted around 150 players, including many big names who couldn't make the Masters field. Both divisions offered prize-money down to 10th place, as well as prizes for high game, high word and best word.

A real prize-giving

The prize-giving, in contrast to WSC's, was conducted with much fanfare (though thankfully not too much speechifying). All prize-winners were invited up to the stage, accepted their envelopes and posed for the cameras. (Uganda's self-named 'Phenomenon' Philip Edwin-Mugisha pranced, Nigel ambled and Pakorn came up repeatedly for all his countrymen who had taken early flights home.) But the top three Masters teams (the UK, Thailand and 'International B', made up of all English players) received only medals – a little odd for a teams event, I feel.

Tang also announced a new three-division format for next year, with increased prize-money across the board. The 'premier' division will be a winner-take-all clash of the 10 world champions – but only if all agree to take part. If this ambitious event comes off, he should get fabulous worldwide coverage for Scrabble.

On-line coverage

Tang took great delight in quantifying the on-line coverage of his giant event (200-plus mentions in stories, from around 34 countries, I think). He had brought over his Canadian cousin, a TV reporter for CBS, to film the whole event and do interviews with almost everyone involved. And he created various other internet firsts in coverage of the Masters: annotating almost all the 1125 games for uploading to causewaychallenge.com and compiling a list of bingos played by each of the 50 players.

All of this undoubtedly points the way forward for showing competitive Scrabble to the world – using a global medium for a global brain sport. After all, Mattel (and Hasbro in the early days) always chose its

WSC locations based on where it would get the best TV/press coverage — though never making much of an impression. The Malaysian visionary has simply taken Scrabble to the inevitable next stage.

Other Causeway initiatives

As if that's not enough, Tang also wants to expand the Causeway brand, at its home in Johor Bahru, to other popular games such as mahjong. Another idea, he tells me, is to franchise his Scrabble teams format to the regions of the world.

He has shown that he cares about the future of Scrabble (not just about money) by starting a Causeway 'scholarship', for a worthy young player from a poorer country. The inaugural recipient is 19-year-old Komol Panyasophonlert of Thailand (5th at this year's WSC and 6th at London four years ago, when he was still at school). He will be funded to attend international tournaments for a year.

Back-to-back events

The holding of two major events in one city makes eminent sense, given the high cost of travel and general impoverishment of top players. More Scrabble centres are looking to do the same. For example, the Malta Scrabble Club will hold the European Open next year, straight after its own Malta Open. I think the European Open is a great concept for globalising Scrabble and expanding it beyond the main centres. This

event was launched in Manchester last year, and will go to Poland in 2011.

The young guard

The dynamism of Australia's Karen Richards in developing youth Scrabble provides a great model for the rest of WESPA. Her annual World Youth Scrabble Champs (WYSC) is going from strength to strength — in numbers, global reach and prestige. And she has lined up a major global sponsor for the future.

We are already seeing her WYSC stars successfully filtering through to top-level adult tournaments: David Eldar (the inaugural winner), Charnrit (last year's winner), Suanne Ong (this year's winner), Alistair Richards, Austin Shin, not to mention the conveyor belt of brilliant Thais and Singaporeans.

The downside for these youthful up-and-comers is the end-of-year timing of our premier events. For this year's WSC, the whole of Singapore's first-choice team had to turn down the chance of representing their country because they were sitting school exams.

As an aside, the youngest player at this year's WSC — in fact at any WSC — was 14-year-old Malaysian William Kang. And there was an 11-year-old American boy playing in the Causeway Open, en route to WYSC. (Three times his age is still young in New Zealand Scrabble terms!)

Picture perfect

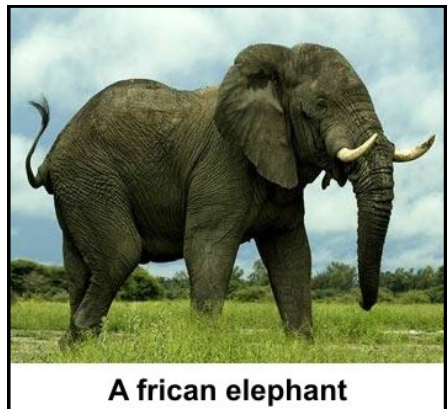
A class of five-year old students is learning to read.

One of them points at a picture in a zoo book and says, "Look at this! It's a frickin' elephant!"

The teacher takes a deep breath, then asks, "What did you call it?"

"It's a frickin' elephant! It says so on the picture!"

And so it does...



African elephant

More Scrabble analogies

1. David Moyes, writing about football on Telegraph.co.uk

“[Having Alberto Aquilani in the team] is like having a Z in Scrabble. You wait forever for your chance to cash in, by which point everyone else is miles ahead.”

Alberto Aquilani is an Italian footballer who plays for Premier League club Liverpool and the Italian national team.

2. From BBC’s Top Gear website

“The SEMA show kicks off next week in Las Vegas. The world’s biggest tuning show, it’ll be packed to the brim with hotted-up, bodykitted, modified metal – including, as always, many Corvette-based creations.

“There shall not – we predict – be many Corvette-based creations at SEMA scarier than this, the C6 GTR from the intriguingly named Michigan-based tuning firm Specter Werkes (don’t you just hate it when just keep picking Es out of the Scrabble bag?).”

3. Jim Braaten, writing on the Star Tribune’s website, Minnesota

“After observing hunters in action for nearly four decades, I’ve concluded the actions most deer hunters take in the woods can be compared to one or more popular board games.”

Jim goes on to describe the characteristics of several types of hunters:

Those who hunt like they’re playing **CHECKERS** “look for a hunt where the rules of the game are kept rather simple and the strategy to win is hardly complex.”

The **CHESS** hunter “understands the importance of being one step ahead of

the opponent (or deer). They enter the hunt with a well conceived game plan, and only achieve satisfaction when the king deer is brought to checkmate so the hunt concludes with a decisive victory.”

The hunters who hunt deer like they play **CHINESE CHECKERS** “lack the patience to sit still as they always seem to be on the move through the woods.” Action is the name of their game.

The deer hunters who choose to hunt as though they’re playing **MONOPOLY** “take special pleasure in securing as much private land as possible so only their family and friends may hunt it.”

For deer hunters who hunt like they play the game **SORRY** “it’s seemingly a mad dash to get out of the woods and back to camp.”

Jim’s highest praise is reserved for the hunter who deer hunts as if they’re playing **SCRABBLE**.

“They know how to make the best of the situation at hand. Through years of experience, they’ve discovered how to study the woods carefully before making the next strategic hunting move. Deer rubs, scrapes and other tell-tale signs all have a point value determining how they ultimately make the next hunting decision. And while they might rely on luck to a certain extent, they also achieve success only by learning how to out-score the opponent.”

Sigmund Freud

I had some words with my wife, and she had some paragraphs with me.

Who's playing Scrabble?

Muldavio, clarinetist, taxidermist and epic poet

Mikelangelo, writing in *The Guardian*, UK, said:

"I first met Muldavio long ago when I was but a young man. It was in a little café and an important



Muldavio

Scrabble tournament was in progress. Muldavio was locked in a deadly struggle of words with a petite Argentinian fellow. They were having a heated exchange about the word **antidisestablishment-arianism**, with the Argentine heatedly insisting that the word was pure poppycock. Muldavio was in the right, but had to flee as the distraught Argentine started shooting wildly, sending Scrabble pieces flying in all directions

Subway patrons in the USA

Subway customers are awarded game pieces when making qualified purchases at Subway restaurants. Some game pieces award instant prizes, others must be entered onto a virtual game board.

[Not] the late Walter Cronkite, broadcast journalist

At his memorial service in September, it was revealed that he was a bad speller who avoided games of Scrabble;

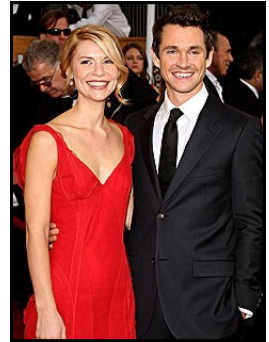
Students at Kutztown Univeristy, Pennsylvania

Computer science students have created a musical application that maps letters and words played on the two-dimensional Scrabble board game into

electronically generated musical notes and chords. When the word FAT was played, the computer played a series of notes, which it repeated until another word was played. Once the new word was spelled out, it, too, was converted to notes and played, followed by the notes for FAT, in a loop that continued until the next word was in place.

Claire Danes and Hugh Dancy, actors

The pair met while filming a movie, announced their engagement in February and married in September. It's reported that they bonded over games of Boggle and Scrabble on the movie set.



Claire Danes and Hugh Dancy

Jennifer Garner and husband Ben Affleck, film stars

"My husband Ben and I love nothing more than a night of playing Scrabble," Garner said. "It gets quite serious. I always have a dictionary on my lap in case I need to look up a word, but I don't cheat — honestly!"



Jennifer Garner

Kristen Bell, movie actress

In a women’s health magazine she said, “There is almost nothing, barring a natural disaster, that I would let eat into my time at home, playing Scrabble with Dax [boyfriend Dax Shepard].”

[Perhaps] **Sarah Palin, USA politician**

“Everybody in the family played Scrabble and took great pride in hoarding Ks and Qs and slapping them down in long, fancy words on triple-letter scores.” – from her book, *Going Rogue*

Those words have created debate in the USA. Typical comment: “Any good Scrabble player knows it’s impossible to ‘hoard’ Ks or Qs, as there is only one of each in a set of tiles. Perhaps she was thinking she was playing Poker, where hoarding Kings and Queens might be beneficial? Or perhaps she made this up like everything else.” Another person commented, “If this is her game of Scrabble, you can only imagine what her foreign policy would be like.”

Athletes in a fun-run, Chicago

There were the serious runners, like the winner who finished in a blazing 15 minutes, 10 seconds, and those out for some fun, like a group of runners who dressed as Scrabble letters and formed words along the way.

Martin Lewis, money-saving expert

Martin Lewis is an award-winning TV and radio presenter in the UK, national newspaper columnist and bestselling author. He is listed in the latest edition of *Who’s Who*, where he describes his hobbies as “trying to get my average Scrabble score above 400, reading historic novels, very poor golf, anything with lists, jive, watching athletics and supporting Manchester City”.

Answers

From Geekiest Scrabble game ever (page 11)

The correct words are:

LINUX	YAHOO	INTERNET
HACKER	US	WEB
DE	PI	SUPERMAN
TESLA	HEAD	GEEKS
JAVA	VIRUS	TETRIS
CYBER	QUEST	HI
EMAIL		

From Letters and numbers (page 13)

“Thousand is the first time A appears.” This is a common statement that floats around and surfaces occasionally at pub quizzes and the like. *But what about one hundred and one?*

“The letter C does not appear anywhere in the spellings of the entire English counting system!” *Perhaps it’s being a little pedantic to ask, but what about centillion (10 to the power of 600)?*

From Ch and so on (page 29)

CH	CHI	CHIA	CHIAS	CHIASM
CHIASMA	CHIASMAL			

Season’s Greetings



Rankings

NZASP Rankings list as at 12 December 2009

Rank	Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%	Rank	Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%
1	Howard Warner	2102	1286	1754	73%	44	Jennifer Smith	1546	714	1453	49%
2	Jeff Grant	2060	1423	1856	77%	45	Karyn McDougall	1544	578	1091	53%
3	Joanne Craig	2043	190	282	67%	46	Peter Johnstone	1542	40.5	73	55%
4	Blue Thorogood	2006	398	570	70%	47	Shirley Martin	1540	613	1176	52%
5	Peter Sinton	1991	517.5	698	74%	48	Hazel Purdie	1528	753.5	1536	49%
6	Mike Sigley	1936	857	1197	72%	49	Helen Sillis	1517	621	1244	50%
7	Kristian Saether	1915	74	118	63%	50	June Mackwell	1510	599	1356	44%
8	Lynne Butler	1888	773	1255	62%	51	Ann Hough	1494	459	941	49%
9	Glennis Hale	1873	1214.5	2162	56%	52	Margie Hurly	1475	257	480	54%
10	Steven Brown	1851	744.5	1372	54%	53	Scott Thiemann	1466	20	43	47%
11	Andrew Bradley	1851	662	1270	52%	54	Jean O'Brien	1457	824.5	1625	51%
12	Rogelio Talosig	1833	358.5	601	60%	55	Scott Chaput	1457	93	147	63%
13	Debbie Caldwell	1819	483.5	786	62%	56	Selena Chan	1453	231	395	54%
14	Chris Hooks	1812	816.5	1681	49%	57	Clare Ruckstuhl	1449	180	329	55%
15	John Foster	1809	1189.5	2079	57%	58	Roger Coates	1447	540.5	1150	47%
16	Rosemary Cleary	1775	555	1201	46%	59	Irene Smith	1429	82	167	49%
17	Denise Gordon	1772	629	1269	50%	60	Janice Cherry	1404	313	608	51%
18	Glynis Jennings	1769	406.5	861	47%	61	Ella Rushton	1403	174	301	58%
19	Lawson Sue	1761	300	577	52%	62	Glenda Geard	1393	800.5	1627	49%
20	Lynne Powell	1757	815.5	1601	51%	63	Andree Prentice	1383	760	1492	51%
21	Val Mills	1755	783	1674	47%	64	Yoon Kim Fong	1361	412	788	52%
22	Liz Fagerlund	1737	758.5	1449	52%	65	Faye Cronhelm	1359	684	1373	50%
23	Glenda Foster	1728	805.5	1577	51%	66	Leila Thomson	1356	439	995	44%
24	Murray Rogers	1714	473	899	53%	67	Maureen Holliday	1309	552	1076	51%
25	Peter Jones	1711	719	1470	49%	68	Ray Goodyear	1299	183	365	50%
26	Lynn Wood	1697	1214.5	2547	48%	69	Mary Gray	1293	295.5	567	52%
27	Nick Cavenagh	1678	44	76	58%	70	Ernie Gidman	1292	294	584	50%
28	Pam Robson	1666	469	1022	46%	71	Betty Eriksen	1287	915.5	1819	50%
29	Paul Lister	1663	689.5	1205	57%	72	Yvette Hewlett	1286	354.5	749	47%
30	Olivia Godfrey	1654	383	671	57%	73	Pat Bryan	1276	115	197	58%
31	Shirley van Essen	1649	314	602	52%	74	Pam Barlow	1269	465	919	51%
32	Amelia Carrington	1644	247	439	56%	75	Rhoda Cashman	1253	718.5	1480	49%
33	Marianne Bentley	1641	242	540	45%	76	Lynn Carter	1253	381	710	54%
34	Glenys Buchanan	1640	531.5	1144	46%	77	Delcie Macbeth	1245	623	1186	53%
35	Vicky Robertson	1639	100	183	55%	78	Allison Torrance	1242	260	494	53%
36	Allie Quinn	1634	831.5	1713	49%	79	Lyn Toka	1235	413.5	784	53%
37	John Baird	1612	119	201	59%	80	Lorraine Van Veen	1230	664.5	1322	50%
38	Sheila Green	1590	31	62	50%	81	Katrina Allen	1227	81	149	54%
39	David Gunn	1578	1005	2016	50%	82	Marianne Patchett	1214	241.5	462	52%
40	Joan Thomas	1563	684.5	1363	50%	83	Margaret Cherry	1208	394	796	49%
41	Anderina McLean	1556	262.5	464	57%	84	Shirley Wyatt	1204	416.5	891	47%
42	Shirley Hol	1556	474.5	1006	47%	85	Chris Higgins	1202	69	110	63%
43	Ian Patterson	1555	161	288	56%	86	Elaine Moltzen	1180	470	940	50%

Rank	Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%	Rank	Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%
87	Correne James	1171	577	1196	48%	137	Carole Coates	773	463.5	948	49%
88	Kaite Hansen	1159	191	352	54%	138	Lisa Tam	768	29	41	71%
89	Marian Ross	1159	422	842	50%	139	Yvonne MacKenzie	768	378.5	809	47%
90	Herb Ramsay	1144	81	114	71%	140	Valma Gidman	763	557.5	1108	50%
91	Sandra Stacey	1139	115	222	52%	141	Jacqueline Coldham-Fussell	750	457.5	955	48%
92	Jean Boyle	1124	330.5	611	54%	142	Anthea Jones	741	126	248	51%
93	Steve Richards	1124	194	402	48%	143	Kathleen Mori-Barker	736	285.5	584	49%
94	Ann Candler	1124	610.5	1305	47%	144	Rosemary Wauters	732	99.5	187	53%
95	Jena Yousif	1123	262.5	523	50%	145	Tony Charlton	726	130.5	263	50%
96	Veronica Zilinskas	1120	165.5	290	57%	146	Rahimah Abdullah	725	37.5	84	45%
97	Joan Pratt	1113	579	1107	52%	147	Mary Curtis	711	100	201	50%
98	Karen Gray	1112	144	265	54%	148	Maria Clinton	703	172	340	51%
99	Ruth Groffman	1107	329.5	690	48%	149	Annette Coombes	703	478	1083	44%
100	Sheila Reed	1099	131.5	269	49%	150	Tim Henneveld	701	211.5	491	43%
101	Cicely Bruce	1097	85.5	141	61%	151	Alison Holmes	681	122	226	54%
102	Roto Mitchell	1090	493	970	51%	152	Marc Van Hoecke	678	84	168	50%
103	Fran Lowe	1086	21.5	42	51%	153	Judy Driscoll	642	22	84	26%
104	Roger Cole-Baker	1082	230	444	52%	154	Christina Inwood	629	60.5	128	47%
105	Jo Ann Ingram	1081	120.5	251	48%	155	Thelma Chisholm	624	210.5	437	48%
106	Colleen Cook	1080	195.5	397	49%	156	Kaye Hubner	623	21	46	46%
107	Lyn Dawson	1075	306	565	54%	157	Barbara Cornell	611	37	102	36%
108	Connie Flores	1066	115.5	184	63%	158	Suzanne Harding	610	105.5	228	46%
109	Gabrielle Bolt	1058	265.5	516	51%	159	Ruth Godwin	607	72	201	36%
110	Su Walker	1057	683.5	1351	51%	160	Maria Barker	584	82	189	43%
111	Rosalind Phillips	1044	333.5	640	52%	161	Anne Scratchard	565	99.5	186	53%
112	Nola Borrell	1035	136.5	247	55%	162	Jean Craib	530	300	655	46%
113	Agnes Rowland	1031	63	113	56%	163	Janny Henneveld	515	230	490	47%
114	Liz Richards	1029	197.5	400	49%	164	Richard Cornelius	515	27	46	59%
115	Michael Groffman	1017	184.5	389	47%	165	Margaret Hanson	496	433	890	49%
116	Kerry Mckenna	1013	36	57	63%	166	Betty Sutherland	478	198.5	473	42%
117	Judith Thomas	992	96.5	186	52%	167	Judith Bach	468	48	104	46%
118	Carolyn Kyle	965	491	990	50%	168	Dorothy Haining	461	460	937	49%
119	Karen Miller	961	399.5	818	49%	169	Stephanie Pluck	450	17	41	41%
120	Chris Handley	924	292	562	52%	170	Linda Moore	423	57	119	48%
121	Liz Catchpole	915	365	750	49%	171	Antonia Aarts	413	38	103	37%
122	Margaret Lyall	914	418.5	846	49%	172	Madeleine Green	405	17	44	39%
123	Suzanne Frederick	898	183.5	328	56%	173	Penny Irvine	396	60.5	162	37%
124	Dianne Cole-Baker	896	209	398	53%	174	Sue Mayn	385	114	301	38%
125	Bernice Hyde	881	197	378	52%	175	Lynn Thompson	379	99.5	229	43%
126	Bev Barker	877	446.5	920	49%	176	Pauline Smeaton	335	270.5	528	51%
127	Roslyn Lister	873	281.5	550	51%	177	Anne-Louise Milne	310	49	239	21%
128	Malcolm Graham	871	240	482	50%	178	Margaret Miller	285	78	204	38%
129	Pam Muirhead	868	47.5	75	63%	179	Noelene Bettjeman	275	163	365	45%
130	Catherine Henry	867	292.5	549	53%	180	Bev Griffin	267	58	163	36%
131	Heather Landon	842	198	395	50%	181	Bev Allen	266	22	91	24%
132	Jan Evans	837	89	186	48%	182	Trish Fox	173	12	93	13%
133	Jean Walsh	821	157	310	51%	183	Jeannie Lambert	15	6	64	9%
134	Jean Wacker	802	215	422	51%						
135	Bev Edwards	783	102.5	174	59%						
136	Barbara Dunn	776	149.5	262	57%						

Tournament Results

Mt Albert Club Tournament 3-4 October 2009

13 Games

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
Grade A					
1	Howard Warner	MTA	11	1319	468
2	Jeff Grant	IND	11	766	441
3	John Foster	IND	8	288	404
4	Lynne Powell	HBC	7	234	421
5	Andrew Bradley	MTA	7	-141	398
6	Glennis Hale	IND	7	-153	392
7	Chris Hooks	MTA	7	-233	398
8	Glynis Jennings	MTA	6	134	404
9	Lawson Sue	MTA	6	-212	400
10	Lynn Wood	WEL	5.5	-604	368
11	Val Mills	PAK	5	62	405
12	Nick Cavenagh	HAM	4	-467	397
13	Liz Fagerlund	MTA	3.5	-368	365
14	Glenda Foster	WEL	3	-625	365

Grade B

1	Olivia Godfrey	WEL	12	906	422
2	Rebecca Freeth	ROD	9	337	408
3	June Mackwell	NSB	8	342	383
4	David Gunn	WKP	8	267	388
5	Joan Thomas	HAS	8	266	388
6	Shirley Martin	HAM	8	140	371
7	Vicky Robertson	WEL	8	26	391
8	Jennifer Smith	HAM	7	237	392
9	Hazel Purdie	MTA	7	77	439
10	Glenda Geard	IND	5	23	387
11	Betty Eriksen	WAN	5	-590	393
12	Ann Hough	NEL	3	-753	361
13	Mary Gray	MTA	2	-550	370
14	Janice Cherry	PAK	1	-728	350

Grade C

1	Faye Cronhelm	IND	10	338	402
2	Yvette Hewlett	IND	9	721	414
3	Lynn Carter	NSB	8	160	397
4	Allison Torrance	CHC	8	156	384
5	Pam Barlow	PAK	8	128	376
6	Pat Bryan	MTA	7	166	397
7	Shirley Wyatt	MTA	7	-284	357
8	Su Walker	MTA	6	93	392
9	Correne James	IND	6	11	365



*Yvette Hewlett, Independent
2nd in C Grade at Mt Albert*

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
10	Margaret Cherry	PAK	5	-1	380
11	Roto Mitchell	WAN	5	-66	373
12	Roger Cole-Baker	MTA	5	-216	366
13	Fran Lowe	IND	4	-343	350
14	Jena Yousif	KIW	3	-863	344

Grade D

1	Rosalind Phillips	MTA	9	442	382
2	Heather Landon	TGA	8.5	356	372
3	Hilary Blacklock	MTA	8	132	366
4	Catherine Henry	TGA	7	400	386
5	Bev Barker	IND	7	150	357
6	Bernice Hyde	HBC	7	73	374
7	Jacqueline Coldham-Fussell	KIW	6.5	4	364
8	Liz Catchpole	MTA	6.5	-298	331
9	Dianne Cole-Baker	MTA	6	-184	352
10	Jean Wacker	TGA	5	-242	343
11	Annette Coombes	WKP	4	-448	337
12	Ruth Godwin	ROT	3.5	-385	327

Grade E

1	Anthea Jones	KIW	11	692	387
2	Tim Henneveld	ROT	11	528	356
3	Athena	MTA	9	755	384
4	Joan Beale	PHC	8	129	346
5	Kate Wignall	MTA	7	491	366
6	Janny Henneveld	ROT	7	184	352

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
7	Antonia Aarts	MTA	5	-272	337
8	Elaine Ware	MTA	5	-326	338
9	Noelene Bettjeman	HBC	2	-718	297
10	Frances Higham	PHC	0	-1463	269

**Norfolk Island Scrabble Festival
12-16 October**

21 games

	Name	Wins	Points
Anson Bay			
1	Gillian Kinder	13	8333
2	Joan Thomas	13	8196
3	Lynn Wood	12	8299
4	Allie Quinn	11	8199
5	Patricia Mitchell	10	8027
6	June Mackwell	10	7658
7	Caroline Scowcroft	8	7921
8	Fay Grose	7	7446

Ball Bay

1	Christine Foot	16	8469
2	Correne James	13	7908
3	Cicely Bruce	11	8347
4	Gaile Clark	11	8163
5	Roger Cole-Baker	11	7830
6	Lyn Dawson	9	7374
7	Linda Pedersen	8	7485
8	Wayne Willis	5	7028

Cascade Bay

1	Yvonne McKenzie	16	8097
2	Dianne Cole-Baker	15	8035
3	Thelma Chisholm	13	7567
4	Bev Edwards	12	7192
5	Jacky Booth	8	7287
6	Beras Vandersee	8	7026
7	Maira Fisher	8	6773
8	Rhona Kenyon	4	7080

Duncombe Bay

1	Sue Harding	18	8078
2	Pat Wood	16	7244
3	Bev Stephens	14	7183
4	Lynn Thompson	11.5	7079
5	Anne Scatchard	10	6760
6	Anne-Louise Milne	8.5	6278
7	Anna Perikow	6	6318

Troam Trophy

New Zealand: Sue Harding, Pat Wood, Yvonne Mackenzie,

Dianne Cole-Baker, Joan Thomas

New Zealand Champion

Joan Thomas

Australian Champion

Gillian Kinder

Knockout

Winner: Roger Cole-Baker

Runner-up: Yvonne Mackenzie

**Wanganui Club Tournament
24-25 October 2009**

14 Games

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
Grade A					
1	Howard Warner	MTA	12	1520	456
2	Mike Sigley	WAN	9	196	405
3	Denise Gordon	WAN	8	319	403
4	Rosemary Cleary	WAN	8	62	380
5	Vicky Robertson	WEL	6	37	411
6	Glenda Foster	WEL	6	-420	398
7	Glenys Buchanan	LOH	4	-743	375
8	Olivia Godfrey	WEL	3	-971	364
Grade B					
1	Hazel Purdie	MTA	10	374	401
2	Jennifer Smith	HAM	9	565	412
3	Yoon Kim Fong	HAM	8	-30	386
4	Leila Thomson	LOH	7	-149	389
5	Betty Eriksen	WAN	7	-174	361
6	Andree Prentice	WAN	6	-452	371



*Yoon Kim Fong, Hamilton
3rd in B grade at Wanganui*



Betty Eriksen presents Jean Boyle with her Isi place prize in Grade C at Wanganui

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
7 Anderina McLean	MTA	5	301	413
8 Yvette Hewlett	IND	4	-435	383

Grade C

1 Jean Boyle	WAN	11	832	392
2 Sheila Reed	WEL	11	545	385
3 Sandra Stacey	WEL	10	448	394
4 Nola Borrell	WEL	9	354	391
5 Judith Thomas	IND	8	202	368
6 Roto Mitchell	WAN	8	-66	368
7 Suzanne Frederick	WAN	7	259	387
8 Karen Miller	IND	7	-347	352
9 Su Walker	MTA	6	-72	385
10 Jean Walsh	WAN	4	-687	351
11 Robyn Stansfield	WAN	3	-1454	298

Kiwi Club Tournament

7 November

7 Games

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
Grade A				
1 Howard Warner	MTA	7	641	466
2 Nathan Benedict	USA	6	470	439
3 Glennis Hale	IND	5	161	388
4 Patrick Carter	MTA	3	-15	412
5 Glynis Jennings	MTA	2	-268	377
6 Chris Hooks	MTA	2	-312	382
7 Lawson Sue	PAK	2	-499	358
8 John Foster	IND	1	-178	390

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
Grade B				
1 Val Mills	PAK	5	20	377
2 Lynn Wood	WEL	4	136	399
3 Pam Robson	HAM	4	84	401
4 Allie Quinn	WRE	4	17	397
5 David Gunn	WKP	4	-94	392
6 Jennifer Smith	HAM	3	153	397
7 Helen Sillis	NPL	2	-145	392
8 Joan Thomas	HAS	2	-171	389

Grade C

1 Shirley Martin	HAM	6	271	413
2 Jean O'Brien	IND	5	161	400
3 June Mackwell	NSB	4	80	389
4 Stan Skinner	TGA	4	54	360
5 Yoon Kim Fong	KIW	3	222	392
6 Roger Coates	KIW	3	-222	353
7 Mary Gray	MTA	2	-22	359
8 Pam Barlow	PAK	1	-544	336

Grade D

1 Samantha Samuels	KIW	5	474	396
2 Lorraine Van Veen	IND	5	286	407
3 Delcie Macbeth	IND	4	-25	370
4 Lynn Carter	NSB	4	-61	358
5 Roto Mitchell	WAN	3	22	376
6 Su Walker	MTA	3	-284	372
7 Roger Cole-Baker	MTA	2	-150	376
8 Jo Ann Ingram	TGA	2	-262	340



*Karen Miller, Independent
3rd in E grade at Kiwi*

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
Grade E				
1 Nick Higgins	HAM	6	530	424
2 Rosalind Phillips	MTA	5	461	414
3 Karen Miller	IND	5	150	368
4 Val Flint	HAM	4	231	418
5 Liz Catchpole	MTA	4	-7	375
6 Pam Muirhead	HBC	3	-176	368
7 Heather Landon	TGA	1	-169	348
8 Jacqueline Coldham-Fussell	KIW	0	-1020	307

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
Grade F				
1 Dianne Cole-Baker	MTA	6	730	412
2 Carole Coates	KIW	4	235	382
3 Barbara Dunn	TGA	4	108	355
4 Anthea Jones	KIW	4	-15	356
5 Shirley Brake	ROT	4	-114	332
6 Annette Coombes	WKP	3	-208	336
7 Kaye Hubner	TGA	2	-540	330
8 Ruth Godwin	ROT	1	-196	346

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
Grade G				
1 Ann Handley	HBC	6	425	361
2 Richard Cornelius	TGA	6	262	362
3 Maria Barker	HAM	5	402	362
4 Karen Stewart	KIW	4	563	395
5 Margaret Penniket	KIW	4	32	353
6 Leighton Gelling	HAM	4	-144	326
7 Madge Watson	HBC	3	-57	317
8 Margaret Miller	HBC	2	-244	310
9 Jeannie Lambert	ROT	1	-540	275
10 Christine Doolan	ROT	0	-699	269

**Otago Lion Open Tournament
14-15 November 2009**

15 Games

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave Score
Grade A				
1 Peter Sinton	DUN	15	1551	446
2 Lynn Wood	WEL	8	273	395
3 Olivia Godfrey	WEL	8	127	389
4 Shirley Hol	CHC	5	-648	370
5 Peter Johnstone	CHC	5	-788	369
6 Ian Patterson	DUN	4	-515	377

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
Grade B				
1 Anderina McLean	MTA	11.5	434	408
2 Karyn McDougall	DUN	10.5	456	395
3 Scott Chaput	DUN	8	565	427

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
4 Ella Rushton	DUN	7	-479	375
5 Yoon Kim Fong	KIW	5	-251	379
6 Betty Eriksen	WAN	3	-725	347

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
Grade C				
1 Marian Ross	DUN	10	538	397
2 Kaite Hansen	CHC	10	399	393
3 Karen Gray	DUN	9	441	397
4 Michael Groffman	DUN	7	146	378
5 Carolyn Kyle	DUN	5	-817	358
6 Chris Handley	DUN	4	-710	341

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
Grade D				
1 Yvonne MacKenzie	CHC	11	1087	393
2 Marc Van Hoecke	DUN	9	-186	356
3 Christina Linwood	DUN	8	217	374
4 Thelma Chisholm	WEL	8	121	363
5 Trevor Rowell	DUN	6	-357	349
6 Penny Irvine	DUN	3	-832	338

Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Ave
Grade E				
1 Madeleine Green	CHC	12	685	321
2 Stephanie Pluck	DUN	10	1045	346
3 Anne-Louise Milne	DUN	8	173	316
4 Amy Tiopira	DUN	0	-1838	237



*Yvonne Mackenzie, Christchurch
1st in D grade at Otago*

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) & Glenyss Buchanan (LOH) Nigel Richards (CHC) & John Foster (IND)	8	Dawn Kitzen (PHC) & Chris Hooks (MTA)
Highest Average Single Tournament (Any Grade)	584	Nigel Richards (CHC)	—	—

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)

Contact Information

Clubs (Nth to Sth)	Contact Person	Phone	Email	Meeting Day/Time
Please contact the contact person to find out the meeting venue				
Whangarei (WRE)	Bev Edwards	09 430 2832	bevhola@xtra.co.nz	Thurs 1pm
Rodney (ROD)	Linda Moore	09 425 4959	colin.linda@wave.co.nz	Mon 1pm
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)	Diane Cole-Baker	09 309 5865		Fri 7.15pm
Pakuranga/Howick (PAK)	Jeanette Owler	09 534 4453	cliffordo@xtra.co.nz	Tues 12.30pm Thurs 7pm
Papatoetoe/Holy Cross (PHC)	May Meads	09 278 5155	maymeads@xtra.co.nz	Mon 1pm
Hamilton (HAM)	Jillian Greening	07 843 7652	jillian.greening@yahoo.co.nz	Tues 7pm
Kiwi (KIWI)	Elaine Moltzen	07 843 5108	jillian.greening@yahoo.co.nz	Thurs 7pm/1pm alt
Waikato Phoenix (WKP)	Annette Coombes	07 855 9970		Alt Weds 7pm
Tauranga (TGA)	Stan Skinner	07 572 0866	marstan@xtra.co.nz	Tues 9.00am
Rotorua	Ruth Godwin	07 349 6954	rgodwin#xtra.co.nz	
Tokoroa (TOK)	Lesley Edgeler	07 886 8374		
Waitara (WTA)	Ngairie Kemp	06 754 4017		Wed 1.00pm
New Plymouth (NPL)	Lynne Butler	06 755 2134	scrabblyn@clear.net.nz	Saturday
Pukekura (PUK)	Mary Waite	06 757 8654		Thurs 9.45am
Stratford (STR)	Sharon Clarke	06 765 5653	sharontc@xtra.co.nz	
Hastings (HAS)	Yvonne Wilson	06 878 8229	wilsonpad@paradise.net.nz	Tues 1pm
Wanganui (WAN)	Rosemary Cleary	06 347 1837	roseccleary@hotmail.com	Mon 7pm
Masterton (MAS)	Hilda Scott	06 378 2663		
Lower Hutt (LOH)	Glenyss Buchanan	04 569 5433	glenyss.buchanan@xtra.co.nz	Tues 7.30pm
Kapiti (KAP)	Graeme Brown	04 297 0720	geb@xtra.co.nz	Mon 7pm
Wellington (WEL)	Lynn Wood	04 387 2581	lynnwood@paradise.net.nz	Tues 7pm
Nelson (NEL)	Steve Richards	03 544 0475	steve-richards@xtra.co.nz	Wed 7pm
Christchurch (CHC)	Margaret Lyall	03 332 5963	noelrealest@hotmail.com	Fri 6.45pm Wed 12.45pm
Dunedin (DUN)	Chris Handley	03 464 0199	ruthgraffman@hotmail.com	Tues 7pm
Forwards Editor	Jennifer Smith	95B Howell Avenue Hamilton 3216	Phone 07 856 5358 Email jennifersmith@xtra.co.nz	
Layout Editor Forwards distribution Webmaster	Glenda Foster	1 Walters Street Lower Hutt 5011	Phone 04 567 1590 Fax 04 567 9305 (telephone first) Email fostergb@ihug.co.nz glenda.foster@scrabble.org.nz	