

FORWORDS

**Journal of the New Zealand Association of Scrabble® Players
No 99 Winter 2010**



*New Zealand's new Champion, Lynne Butler
receives her trophy from outgoing President, Lynn Wood*

In this issue

New NZ Champion, Lynne Butler

Tribute to outgoing president, Lyn Wood – Paul Lister

Probability and Scrabble – Nick Cavanagh

Amusing entries in A-E-I-O-U-Y competition

Trickster lived up to its name

Youth Scrabble



NZASP Executive

President **Paul Lister**



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

Vice President **Val Mills**



11 Lanark Place
Glen Innes
Auckland 1072
Phone 09 528 9737
Email
valmills@xtra.co.nz

Secretary **Liz Fagerlund**



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

Treasurer **Clare Wall**



12/12 Vallance Street
Kilbirnie
Wellington 6022
Phone 04 387 4050
Email
Scrabble.clare@gmail.com

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

I'm FED UP!!!

I started out describing it as a SLIPUP, but as my anger grew my language got stronger. I wouldn't go so far as to say it's a BALLSUP* (because it's not an acceptable Scrabble word, even though that's the expression we use in New Zealand), but it's definitely a BALLUP – a COCKUP even. No, dammit, it's worse; it's a F#@%UP.

I'm CUTUP over this issue that has GROWNUP since the weekend of the Nationals, and it will FLAREUP even more when the rank and file gets to hear about it, I'm sure. For myself, I'm ready to BLOWUP and have a DUSTUP with somebody over it. I'll WARMUP to the task, GETUP a head of steam, WORKUP into a rage and KICKUP a fuss. I will. I won't LETUP or BACKUP.

I'm determined to find the bunch of TOSSUPS who are responsible for why the word list doesn't MATCHUP with words we all use every day. I've decided to SENDUP a petition on your behalf, and I will WALKUP and present it to them myself.

I'll ROUNDUP, SHAKEUP and TUNEUP the dictionary committee. I'll make them SITUP and take notice; make them FACEUP to their SCREWUP. They'll have to CLEANUP their act, STANDUP and be counted, and STICKUP for us Scrabblers. They've got to PULLUP their socks – SHAPEUP or ship out is my message for them.

They'd better not try to COVERUP, because I'll FOLLOWUP on this. Any excuses they MAKEUP and PILEUP won't STACKUP or HOLDUP.

I'll tell them that if they can't do a better job they should BREAKUP. They need to HANGUP their dictionaries, and

FOLDUP, WASHUP or CLOSEUP their committee. I'll WINDUP by telling them that if they don't PICKUP their act and are not prepared to CHANGEUP a gear in their efforts to LAYUP a complete word resource list, they should LINEUP and be shot!



I advise other Scrabblers to CHECKUP on your "UP"– words. LOOKUP the lists; CATCHUP on the newest words; STARTUP, SETUP and BUILDUP a complete list of "UP"-words; see what letters will HOOKUP to them, front or back; MARKUP the unusual ones; and TOUCHUP the lists from time to time. PINUP or PASTEUP the list where you can see it, and TAKEUP my suggestion to BRUSHUP your vocab. SCALEUP your efforts, and you'll soon SPEEDUP your play and PUSHUP your ranking.

I have just made such a list, and was shocked to discover a word that should be on the list but isn't. That sort of omission makes a MOCKUPery of Scrabble! That's why I'm so mad I could SMASHUP the dictionary committee – I'd like to LOCKUP the lot of them, actually!

The word I discovered that isn't on the list but **definitely should be** is LEADUP*.

And you know what? – you'll CRACKUP when you read this! **Despite having that huge range of acceptable "UP"-words available to play, guess which one I tried to play in the Nationals?**

Jennifer
(PS. When I started to WRITEUP* my complaint, I discovered this one as well!)

From the Executive

Dear Scrabblers

This is my final exert for *Forwards* magazine as your president, as you now have a new line-up on the executive. I had always hoped to do six years as the President but my health has overtaken that decision, and I'm now going to concentrate on the major job of returning to being a well Scrabbler. Life takes on a new perspective when one is told they can't do anything for you and that you are going to die in a matter of months. Obviously the doctor didn't know me at all, and must have re-evaluated my case and decided to do something about the dreaded cancer after all. Thanks Wellington Hospital; I'll always be grateful that you sent me to hell but let me come back. The same result wouldn't have been achieved if I had gone to heaven!

It has been a pleasure to be the president of this Association, in a game that we all hold dear to our hearts. I have enjoyed the challenges that have presented themselves, and the majority have been discussed and rationalised in a truly democratic way. We were a very email oriented committee and this made life easy, except when computers malfunctioned as mine did on several occasions. I had my trusty work computer to fall back on, and can admit using it far more than the home one.

Our treasurer Joan has stood aside and her replacement, Clare Wall, will continue the great work undertaken by Joan. Joan always managed our funds in the best interests of the NZASP. Well done Joan, and thanks so much for 11 years of service as the treasurer.

Liz, our ever trusty secretary, took on huge amounts of work for the Association and she too, did so for the

love of the game. Thanks Liz for all your efforts and efficiency in your major role, it was appreciated greatly. In true style Liz has agreed to stay as secretary for another year when she really wanted to retire. Her thoughts that so many changes in the executive was not a good thing were unselfish and caring. You can retire next year if you really must Liz.

Paul is a natural successor to the presidency and his work as vice president can only get better as a president. Paul has a natural flair for promoting the game and this is a great asset within our association. His profile on TV and radio came through well and gave the game the plugs it needed. Thanks Paul, and good luck in your new role.

Glenda has made her mark with our amazing website, a site which is a credit to her and the association as a whole. Publishing the entry forms for tournaments on the web was a great idea, and has been very well received. Keep up the good work Glenda and thanks for all your help.

While Jennifer isn't part of the executive, I want to thank her for the great contribution she has made to the first class magazine. I take a sense of pride in this publication when I see how much it has developed over the years. Thanks Jennifer, our editor, and Glenda, our layout editor; you both do an amazing job.

Our numbers are down in paid subscriptions to the Association, and this is of great concern. Surely \$8 a year, whether you are a tournament player or not, is a small price to pay towards our favourite game? I can't think of any other sport which has such a low fee, and I've



checked quite a number to date. Our magazine is of an exceptionally high standard, and it too has diminishing numbers. Such a shame for all the work that goes into making the look and quality of the publication so very attractive.

Dunedin hosted the 27th Masters at Easter with great hospitality and this was the first time in 14 years they had done so. The Bridge club was warm and cosy and Marion did a wonderful catering job over the three days we were there. Howard took the top honours on spread with Andrew the bridesmaid yet again.

Club tournaments have been well attended so it was sad to see the Nationals with only 82 partakers. Hamilton is a central location by road and I had anticipated many more entries from neighbouring cities.

That's it from me. So till we meet again across the table, good luck in your play and may the tile fairies be kind to ME.

*With love
Lynn*

General warning

- from Joan Thomas, departing Treasurer

I have thoroughly enjoyed being your treasurer for the past 11 years. I recall that in my first year I went to every tournament throughout the country as I felt it important that members should know who I was. That proved to be a two-edged advantage, as I ended up with wonderful friends and acquaintances from one end of the country to the other.

I plan to devote a lot more time to studying words now that I will no longer be dealing with the cash and the accounts, so look out, all my future opponents, I will be fired up and raring to go!

[Paul Lister wished to add to this article: "Joan THOMAS has been as fabulous a treasurer for the NZASP as possible. Thanks, Joan, and happy Scrabbling."]

Competition Corner



Scrabble contest no. 99

Without using any of the five vowels AEIOU (or blanks to represent them), how much can you score for the first two moves?

Example: NYMPH (38) + MYTHS/
NYPHYS (33) = 71 points.

Send entries by mail or email to:

Jeff Grant

'Ardra'

1109 Allenby St

Hastings 4122

ardra@paradise.net.nz

Closing date is 20 August 2010.

The winner will receive a book prize.

Entries submitted for contest no 98 appear on pages 13 and 14.

Masters Championship 2010

Dunedin was host to the 2010 Masters Champs held over Easter. The venue was the bridge club at the south end of town and proved to be very comfortable.

At the end of day one Anderina McLean was the dark horse of the field in the lead with 6 wins and a spread of 617. Also on 6 wins were Mike Sigley, Steven Brown and Blue Thorogood.

Howard Warner won all his games on day 2 to take the lead on 13 wins. Andrew Bradley was one win behind and Joanne Craig a further win back.

Going into the final game Howard was assured of victory, being one win ahead of Andrew Bradley but holding a huge spread of 1859. Howard lost the final game to Peter Sinton but won his 8th Masters title.

Second and third places went to Andrew and Joanne respectively. Another dark horse of the field was Shirley van Essen who achieved 6th place on 15 wins, gaining 185 rating points

Tribute from incoming president to outgoing president

- by Paul Lister

It has been my pleasure to know and play Lynn Wood since 1982.

Lynn has always been a ferocious competitor and some of her notable games were against her friend Lynne Powell – these games often played at a speed which would have given Pakorn a headache – and it was not uncommon for them to notch up a 900 aggregate game in 8 minutes 47 seconds or similar. I'm not quite sure what use that is, but I can tell you Lynn afforded me a few headaches over the board several times.

At one Masters where all I needed was to go out against Lynn in my last turn to get a reasonable high placing, I played under pressure the invalid TRAN* (when simple RANT or TARN would have done it!) and Lynn challenged me off and gleefully plonked her dot on the scores chart! On another occasion where I was about to claim the Dunedin Open, Lynn played against me on a complicated cramped board the word WIPEOUT, relegating me to a lesser placing and a good few chuckles amongst the crowd there that day!

Lynn is one of the most prolific players in NZ and also capable of playing at pace, but she has notched up some great performances in her tournament Scrabble career to date. One of her most outstanding was her excellent win in the 1995 Wellington tournament finishing several games ahead of Mike SIGLEY and myself. But she also has a number of high placings in tournaments all over New Zealand, not to overlook overseas performances, especially at the Norfolk Island scrabble festivals.

As a Scrabble promoter/administrator Lynn has worked tirelessly and I have

often slugged away with Lynn at shopping malls or Scrabble promotion events with Lynn going the extra yard. She has given to Wellington and NZ Scrabble till she has bled, and even as she has stood down from the NZASP presidency due to her variable health, she regretted she could not serve longer!

Lynn will continue as president of the Wellington Scrabble Club and has offered her ongoing advice as required to the new NZASP executive. Everyone, from her repatriated penguin WOODY in Australia down to the most recent Scrabble members of the NZASP, will, I'm sure, join me in wishing Lynn the best possible and improving health and the best possible Scrabble for the future.

Causeway team

Congratulations to the following players who have qualified to compete in the Causeway Challenge in Johor Bahru Malaysia from 1-5

December 2010:

Nigel Richards
Howard Warner
Lynne Butler
Joanne Craig
Patrick Carter



Reserves in order, if any of the above five are not available, are Mike Sigley, Andrew Bradley, Peter Sinton and Jeff Grant.



New NZ Champ

Congratulations to the new New Zealand Scrabble champion, Lynne Butler. Well done Lynne, on your amazing 14 wins from 15 games.

Lynne started playing Scrabble in the 1950s, as soon as she could read. She says she always had a love for language and would often get her nose stuck in a dictionary, reading even the etymology. She believes that taking French and Latin at school has been helpful with learning word lists – “and making up the odd word along the way!”

In her interview with the *Waikato Times* after the tournament, Lynne said, “I think a love of words is the most important thing a player must have. For me it’s the thrill of finding an unusual word and having the confidence to use it”, or “of making a sexy play and getting rid of all those horrible tiles”.

Lynne started playing competitively in

1983 when she was living in Australia, and won the Australian Scrabble Championships a few years later, in 1985. Since moving back to New Plymouth in 1987 she has achieved a second placing at the Masters and a third at the Nationals.

She has represented New Zealand at a few Trans-Tasman tournaments and four World Champs. When asked what the highlights of those tournaments have been for her, she says, “Being present when Jeff Grant came third in Washington in 1999, and in Mumbai, when Nigel Richards took out the 2007 World title.”

As for her own win at the Nationals, Lynne says, “No game in A grade is ever ‘easy’. However, I did draw well – I got 17 of the 30 blanks.” She puts her success down to “feeling so strong, cool, calm and focused, and maintaining it throughout the two days. I just hope I can replicate it in future tourneys.”



New NZ Champ, Lynne Butler

Notes from the Nationals

- by Lynne Butler

The planets all seemed to be in alignment for me at the 2010 Nationals in Hamilton last weekend.

Game 1

The first game was against Glenda Foster and my first rack was ABDLLN? I was wishing I had gone second so I could play one of the eight 8-letter bonuses^{#1}, when BLANDLY fell into place. I scored 3 more bonuses (SEAMERS, ARRIVED, FAVORITE) finishing the game with 579 +313. Glenda was gracious as always and showed her mettle to recover and finish the tournament in 3rd place, only half a game behind Howard.

Game 2

Liz Fagerlund was next. I had to change early but drew well to bingo on the third turn with 72 for REN(O)VATE. Liz replied quickly with SANDING for 83, but I immediately followed with ADEQUAT(E) for 131. Two more non-bonus plays of 51 and 63 points ensured another win.

Game 3

Glennis Hale in Game 3. I played SMARTER (I didn't see ARMREST) for 65 early in the game. Glennis had very difficult racks and was unable to catch up. We both had bonus words for our last moves. Glennis had TONGERS for 69 and I went out with BUSTIEST for 77.

Game 4

This game against Steven Brown progressed with Steven always within reach. My ONSTEAD was followed by Steven's UND(E)RtOW. Towards the end I held

AEGIRSU and the only viable bonus spot had to end with C. There were two

Ts among the 6 tiles left in the bag so I played off the U for 6 points and luckily drew one of the Ts, enabling me to play AGRESTIC on the TWS.

Game 5

Lawson had me biting my nails throughout this game. We both had bonuses early – SINUATE for me and ERASION for Lawson. I found EGESTED a wee bit later, but Lawson made a big play for 52 points and had the lead until the end when I managed to eke out a 10 point win. Phew!

Game 6

Andrew Bradley and I had 2 bonuses each – WRIGHTS and OVE(R)LATE for me; SOLDIERS and the beautiful NOTARI(Z)E for Andrew. Andrew scored a late 68 points for EXAMS to the bottom right TWS but I hung in there with another nailbiting* win of 16 points!

Game 7

This was the first time I had ever played Nick Cavenagh and I had heard only good things about his play. The game progressed evenly and was low-scoring until Nick played PUERIE for 71, followed by HORNY for 51. A couple of 30+ plays from me couldn't prevent a well-earned, 12 point win to Nick.

End of Day 1 and I had held on to the lead with 6 wins and a pretty good margin of +706 – what would Day 2 bring?

Game 8

Playing Jeff Grant first thing in the morning will always make you wish you'd had an early night. Jeff was making some great plays dumping loads of vowels while I had consonant-itis. I played the first bonus, PIEASES for 81, but before I had

time to enjoy the lead, Jeff replied with ACIDOSl(S). I was lucky to get two non-bonus plays of 60 and 42, while Jeff had to change twice and struggle valiantly with horror racks. A big confidence-boosting win for me.

Game 9

Peter Jones has a reputation for playing very unusual words, but Lady Luck was firmly on my side this game. I started with WhOOFeD for 84, followed shortly by MANU(R)INg. Later, holding EEHIORT, I was looking for an S for THEORIES or THEORISE. However I found a pretty little N and played ETHERION to clinch the game.

Game 10

Howard Warner is another formidable opponent and he headed off to an early lead. I struggled for a while until I picked up the first blank and was able to play COWleST, hooking the S onto BRUT to make the newly allowed plural, BRUTS. Despite the bonus I was still 7 points behind, and Howard increased his lead until that lovely Lady Luck gave me the second blank. This enabled me to play (S)TUNNERS, followed by a 51 point move to seal the win.

Game 11

I hadn't played Lynne Powell for a couple of years and she is still the fastest player I've ever meet. I got an early bonus, F(O)REDATE to take the lead. Lynne later played GIIDINGS and LIONETS for a 6 point lead. Fortunately, there was a place to play STRAWED for 83 on my second last turn which gave me an 80 point win.

Lunchtime on Day 2 – only 4 games to go and I have a 2-game lead. Can I hang in there?

Game 12

It's a battle of the New Plymouthites with Paul Lister, our new NZASP president, being my opponent. Paul started with cHILIIS for 65 which sure did send a shiver down my spine. However, I hung in there and later played SERIATE for 86 and then I played FIRST for 47 points (an omen for things to come?). Paul struggled with bad racks and I finished well.

Game 13

Another early lead for me against Murray Rogers, when I scored 90 for HOLIESt. A few moves later I played (R)EISTIER^{#2} and sMUDGED. Murray had horror racks while I scored well with the high point tiles to win by a good margin.

Two games to go and it appears that I have won the tourney! I am stunned and thrilled!

Game 14

Rogelio and I have had some cracking good games and this one was no exception. Rogelio got off to a good lead with his first move TORDION for 68.

I followed in his dust for a while and he later increased his lead with HUMBIED for 89. I replied with SARNIES for 82 to keep me within reach. With Rogelio 60 points in front I played KERATIsM^{#3} – oops, I had it mixed up with TERATISM. Rogelio quite rightly challenged it off. I then played ARKITEs which put me 3 points in front. Rogelio played VINAS for 36, leaving himself with LOP on his rack. I had picked up EERTSY (REESTY or YESTER). I had to score well, and go out to win the game. It took forever, but I finally played REESTY with the S over CUDDLED to make SCUDDLED. A tense challenge of both words and – both words were correct. What a game! I win by 18 points.

Game 15

The last game of the day was against John Foster. Once again I drew well and was off to an early lead with DEFINER, hooking the D onto KITHE to make KITHED, but John never gives in. He played the new YETtLES for 77 to draw within cooee. But 68 points for SLOPIER give me an unassailable lead. In a very fitting move, John, had the final say. John's last tiles were ORD, and, as he placed them under a W on the board he, in his inimitable fashion, pronounced "I'll have the last WORD!"

It was a very well organised tournament and the double-booking on the first day had little or no impact on the players. Many thanks to the past and present NZASP executive and the Hamilton Scrabblers who put in all the hard work to organise everything. Having the presentation dinner at the playing venue was a great idea and the catering was superb. Also, many thanks to all for the very kind wishes.

#1

BALLADIN
BUNDWALL
CLUBLAND
HANDBALL
HANDBELL
HANDBILL
LENDABLE
SLOBLAND

#2

REISTIER* is incorrect.
I had it confused with REASTIER
and REESTIER.

#3

MISTAKER
SITKAMER

Jeff is a National statistic

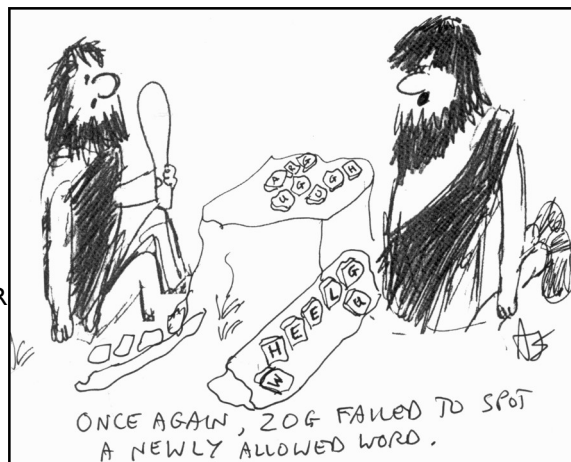
2010 was the 30th consecutive time that Jeff Grant has competed in the National Championships, the only person to have done this. He missed just the first event in 1980. Unfortunately for Jeff, 2010 saw his lowest placing (9th).

However, he has finished in the top three in 24 of those 30 appearances – truly an amazing achievement!

(And perhaps an international statistic, too?)

Jeff has played against all ten players in the Tournament of Champions to be held in Malaysia in December (see p41 in last mag), as well as Joel Sherman, the only one of the ten world champs not attending. He has actually beaten eight of the ten players in the TOC, drawn with Panupol, and lost only to the first world champ Peter Morris in the one game they played back in 1993.

It would be interesting to know how many others have played all those champs, and if so, if they fared as well.



- from an original by Allan Simmons first appearing in
Onwords Scrabble® magazine

Club News



Christchurch

Game between Dominic Lister and Margaret. Margaret had the word AIRIEST on her rack, with the choice of two places to play it. She made the word HAIRIEST. Dominic then followed with the word AIRIEST in the other available place!

Dunedin

2009 Club winners

Club Champion Karyn McDougall
 Round Robin Peter Sinton
 Challenge Ian Patterson
 Dictionary Stephanie Pluck.
 Highest Combined Score 947 — Chris Handley (475) and Karyn McDougall (472).
 Highest Winning Score Ian Patterson (629).
 Highest Losing Score Karyn McDougall (472).
 Highest Turn Score Chris Handley (149).

Peter Sinton won Dunedin Open and Otago Open Tournaments.

We were all saddened to hear of the passing of Christchurch stalwart Doreen Ogston. Doreen had been a regular attendee at Dunedin tournaments since her first trip to the Dunedin Open in 1986 (the only title that she won) right up until her last visit in 2008. She loved visiting Dunedin and reciprocated by billeting many of our members when they attended tournaments in Christchurch.

Hamilton

We are looking forward to hosting our 2010 Tournament on 7-8 August. Please note the change of venue for this year – **not** at LIC on Ruakura Road where

it has been for the last three years, but at the Hamilton Cosmopolitan Club, Claudelands Road. Although Jennifer Smith will be overseas at the time of our Tournament, she has already prepared the quiz for the Saturday evening, and she will leave the quiz-mastering in the very capable hands of Pam Robson and Liz Fagerlund. So get your quiz team of four organised in plenty of time. Remember, you can include family members or your Hamilton hosts in your team.

The Claudelands Motel, which is a five minute walk from the venue is offering a special deal for our Tournament: two people minimum two nights stay, \$80 per night – normal price is \$105 per night. 795 Heaphy Terrace, Freephone: 0800 855 044.

Kiwi

We were delighted to have a Wintec journalism student, Ji-Soo Kim, write an article on our Club for the *Waikato Times*. It appeared on the Friday before the Nationals, and created a bit of interest, with two new members contacting us the following week.

Tauranga

One of our members, Lyn Blow, passed away suddenly on 23 May. Many people who played at the last Tauranga tournament may remember her for her witty remarks when she made the announcements between games.

On club days, as often or not, she was behind the counter helping to serve morning teas which she also dished up with frequent witty comments. We miss her and her bright and sunny nature.

Wellington

Congratulations to Olivia and Jonathan Godfrey on the birth of their son, Callum Joseph Godfrey, born on Sunday 11 April at 2:25pm, weighing 3.8kg.

Whangarei

We have a close-knit membership and most Thursday afternoons 10-15 people meet for three games and afternoon tea. As most of us are Scrabble addicts, the Thursday fix is not enough, so we often pair up for more games during the week.

Recently Lynn Thompson and I played a game at home. Not only did it end in a draw (340 all), but we also tied on three other turns (231 at the 10th turn, 280 at the 14th and 326 at the 16th).

I keep the records for our Club as Gerald Warner used to. We all know that end score are occasionally drawn, but I do not recall others being quite so even.

Have other Scrabblers kept record of these instances? Has anyone worked out the odd of this in Scrabble?

- Suzanne Harding

Fast learner

- from Shirley Martin, Hamilton

Jennifer Smith and I were having a friendly game, and Jennifer played TORNADES off a T on the left of the board. I had never seen it before, so challenged. Of course, she was right. It's a thunderstorm.

My turn: I played SOILINGS down onto her S. On picking up my seven new tiles, I could scarcely believe my eyes when the letters for TORNADE appeared my rack! Then, after her next turn, Jennifer couldn't believe her eyes when I played TORNADES onto the top S of SOILINGS.

I don't think I've ever had a chance to play a newly-learned word so quickly!

The board looked funny, with the two TORNADES (no blanks) played exactly parallel across the board.

Tips for newer players

These thought-provoking tips come from an article by Allan Simmons, UK, as published in Onwords in 2008.

In the first half of the game plays should be instinctive, without undue concern about what letters remain in the bag or on your opponent's rack. Luck plays a greater part in the early stages. However, experience and skill can help to counter your own bad luck, eke out an advantage from your good luck, and minimise the impact of your opponent's lucky streak.

As the game progresses the luck element starts to decline and the opportunity for skill increases. At the halfway stage, especially, it's worth taking stock of the position. This is when a more meaningful strategy can kick in to consolidate a good lead or engineer a comeback.

Some considerations when taking stock mid-game are:

- How far ahead or behind are you?
- What openings are there for hooks or extensions?
- What openings are there for bonus word plays?
- Do you need to open or close the board?
- How many of the goodies have gone?
- Does the vowel-consonant balance look about right?

Parents with a sense of humour

- from Jennifer Smith, Hamilton

At a meeting, I spotted a man wearing a name tag introducing Max Minnema (true!).

He had obviously inherited the same sense of humour – he told me, "Overall, it means that I'm just average."

Solution: contest no. 98

We received some excellent entries. Our editor (**Jennifer Smith, Hamilton**) was quick off the mark with these two:

*A medic told hubby
Syrup of figs ends spasm.*

*Scrabble list outcry:
Yuk! Top is Jeff Grant! [Alas, not now!]*

And a little story ('six couplets about one couplet'):

*Halfseriously: "Try slurps from this keg, gal."
Abstemiously: "Yuk! Hops! I retch all!"
And then shrill loudly, "Plus don't like malt!"*

*Facetiously, "Yu don't drink?" he asks –
And when I don't gulp – sly: "Try! Just do it, dear."*

*Accept ... drink ... (Wofully!)
My! Thus, now I'm pregnant.*

Actually, YUK was a popular word in this contest. **Pam Robson (Independent)** submitted a simple but evocative little entry:

*Man he is so ugly
Yuk, not ideal!*

'New Model' by **Ron Bunny (Wallingford)** is interesting. *Majestically YugoChilean!*

Glennis Hale (Independent) wrote this clever series at the motel after the Masters in Dunedin (where she had nine wins).

*MASTERS! It's tops ... but why?
My - Just to win ... Be grand!
Games in South – fly!
Yup ... clocks, tiles, racks.
Scrabble, win's so funny,
By luck, or pick up blanks.
Rated high – got lucky?
Try – stuck on nine – DAMN!
Albeit not sulky.
Why sulk now? I'll be back!*

Lyn Toka (Kiwi) sent in these nice examples.

*Ann sets jinx on jury.
Why? Jurors find she's bad.*

*What devil sought rhythm
By such words? 'Tis Jeff Grant
(vaguely Shakespearean!)*

Dorothy Latta of Wellington submitted a number of superb couplets. Here are some of them. The first is quite topical.

*Ashes fill our sky!
Yuk from Iceland.*

*Can Eskimos truly
Cry 'mush!' to this team?*

*Pamper him most duly
By hugs or kisses warm.*

*What evil occurs by
Sly unnoticed plans.*

*Attest piously
My unvoiced psalm.*

Rhyming couplets proved much harder to construct. Here are some of the best ones.

(Synopsis of the fairytale "The princess and the pea")

*Mattress is most lumpy?
Thy bump prob's this pea. (Jennifer)*

*Can the wind so gusty
Fly us to mid lea? (Dorothy)*

A couple of innovative rhymes from our Canadian correspondent P Truedough (Whitehorse).

*As we plight our tryst,
Yukon might hear 'pst!'*

*Watch ventriloquy!
Try humor with tea!*

These excellent rhyming couplets were devised by ace puzzler **Lyn Toka**.

*Ah! She is so burly
My buxom Shirlea.*

*Taste this broth, Guy.
Try duck or split pea.*

(As Lyn explains, because Guy is a Frenchman, his name is pronounced to rhyme with 'pea'.)

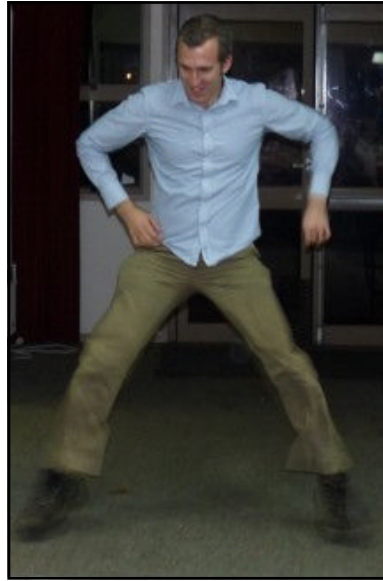
Choosing a winner was a difficult task, but we've gone for this delectable entry by **Dorothy Latta**. Well done!

*Plated with hot curry
Try chunks of minted lamb.*

Unanswerable questions

1. Is it good if a vacuum really sucks?
2. Why is the third hand on the watch called the second hand?
3. Why does "slow down" and "slow up" mean the same thing?
4. Why does "fat chance" and "slim chance" mean the same thing?
5. Why do "tug" boats push their barges?
6. Why are they called "stands" when they are made for sitting?
7. Why is it called "after dark" when it really is "after light"?
8. Why are a "wise man" and a "wise guy" opposites?
9. Why do "overlook" and "oversee" mean opposite things?
10. Why is "phonics" not spelled the way it sounds?
11. If you are cross-eyed and have dyslexia, can you read all right?
12. Why is bra singular and panties plural?

13. Why do they call it a TV set when you only have one?
14. Why is the man who invests all your money called a broker?
15. Why is the time of day with the slowest traffic called rush hour?



Nick Cavenagh performs a tap-dancing manoeuvre at the National prize-giving dinner



Murray Rodgers said a great many F words at the Nationals. (See page 27 for enlightenment.)

Auckland Matchplay Champs

The Auckland Matchplay Championships are played over four rounds, where competitors play an increasing numbers of games against each opponent to decide the victor. Draws and rankings and the sixteen competitors were decided by the results of the Mt Albert Memorial (two one-day Swiss draw) Tournaments.

First round (best of seven)

- Patrick Carter defeated Pam Barlow, 4-1
- Howard Warner defeated Su Walker, 4-0
- Kris Saether defeated Mary Gray, 4-0
- John Foster defeated Lynn Carter, 4-0
- Nick Cavenagh defeated Jennifer Smith, 4-0
- Lawson Sue defeated Hazel Purdie 4-2
- June Mackwell defeated Anderina McLean, 4-0
- Liz Fagerlund defeated Val Mills, 4-3

The game between Val and Liz was the only match to require 7 games. Liz won, but for a while it was all going Val's way when Liz was 1-3 down after 4 games!

Some of the defeated put up heroic fights – Kris reported: "Mary then gave me a lift home, but I was wary of getting driven out to somewhere 'quiet' the whole way back, somewhere the police don't have much presence, and tile luck can be avenged."

A couple of really nice plays: Pam Barlow's MACADAM and Mary Gray's CURIOSA. Mary also played MASSIVE in the same game for a massive 107 points – but still lost that game.

Round 2 (best of nine)

- Patrick defeated Liz, 5-1
- Howard defeated June, 6-1
- Kris defeated Lawson, 5-1
- Nick defeated John, 5-4

No five-nil defeats in this round! One very close match score – Nick pointed out that if his game with John had been a

best-of-seven round, John would have moved on to the semi-finals. They were 3-3 after the sixth game, and 4-4 after the eighth.

Howard reported that June came out firing from the start in the first game and never let up. "June said she was very happy to have won the first game. And I was in second heaven experiencing her magnificent pumpkin soup."

After they had played their six games for the contest, Patrick and Liz played another friendly. Liz reported: "And of course, that one went all my way – 489-355 (Liz HEROINS AURATES DUNNIES, Patrick FARNESOL). Isn't that the way, when it doesn't count!"

Lawson and Kris played their second round match at the *Horse & Trap* on a Sunday over a 2-for-1 meal. The last game was tight to the finish, level-pegging all the way until Kris went out, 11 points behind at the time, to steal it at the death. This meant that he'd taken three of the last four tight games. "It was a well contested match," Kris reported, "and I was only comfortable in the first two games. Full credit to Lawson for a stiff test, but the luck was mostly with me on the day."

As an example of Kris's luck, he recounts: "In the first game, with AACIKNS on my rack, I saw the potential for KACHINAS but figured there wasn't much chance of Lawson playing the letter I needed. Lo and behold, his opening move WHORE put the H exactly where I wanted it, to set up the double-double for 118 + 5."

Round 3 (best of 11 games)

- Nick defeated Patrick, 6.5-4.5
- Howard defeated Kris, by default

Unfortunately, Kris, who was scheduled to play Howard for the final spot, found his heavy university work load

meant that he had to withdraw from the contest.

Nick and Patrick's first game was a draw, perhaps indicative of the tight games to follow! **Patrick** would have won if he'd challenged Nick's second-to-last turn. But win some, lose some – in the fourth game, **Nick** would have won if he'd gone out with RUER. "However," Nick reported, "for some reason I thought ROUME* (a non-word) was more likely – a decision which has turned me aptly into a RUER."

Final (best of 13 games)

- Howard defeated Nick, 7-3
Having had to win over the 2008 (John) and 2009 (Patrick) champs, Nick drove up to Auckland to play the finals at Howard's place.

This final had it all: exciting finishes (N439-H438), tight games, challenges, high scoring games (H493-N445), costly mistakes by both players and plenty of bonuses.

Bonus words played:

Howard: UNTINTED, OBLATION (#1) AMORTISE (#2) CODEINE, SADDLING (#3) FOREVER, NEPHROID, ABOULIA (#4) GANOINE, URGENTLY, DIORITE

(#5) COLOGNE, SOLVERS (#6) ISOLEAD, GILBERTS, TUMBLES (#7) REALIZED (#8) UPSTAGED (#9) PILLION, ROOTSIER (#10)

Nick: JUNKIES, SENATOR (!) FOULING, LABORING (#2) AMORTISE (#3) NATTERS, INSANIE (#4) INJECTS, TRITONE, DOLLIERS (#5) DETAILER, DIVORCEE (#6) TOWELING, INVERSE (#7) PEATIER, HUNDREDS (#8) EQUITIES (#9) SUNBEAM, ANTLIAE (#10)

So that makes Howard the 2010 Matchplay Champ. Congratulations!

Footnote from Nick, on rules:

"In my fourth game with John it would have proven useful for me to be aware of the rule that the game is not over until the last word is played and **both** parties hit the clock (to signify that the final word has not been challenged). On John's penultimate move he had 0 seconds on the clock, but at the time I thought if I went out he could not go overtime and get a penalty. Always useful to know the minutiae of the rulebook!"

A week of verse

- sent in by Jeff Grant, Independent

This very clever little verse was written by Englishman Sir Jeremy Morse and was published in the May 2010 edition of *Word Ways* (The Journal of Recreational Linguistics). Sir Jeremy is an interesting character (he really has been knighted), who is well known in British puzzling circles. Google him to find out more.

The end of each line anagrams the seven days of the week, Sunday - Saturday

Working Week

Captain Daunsy
Twined his dynamo
(Off sea-duty)
On sandy weed –
Cleared his yard thus,
As a fairy'd
Sweep a dust-ray.

Youth Scrabble

Youth Scrabble Camp

McLaren Vale , South Australia, 6 – 19 April

- by Karen Richards, Chair, Youth Committee, WESPA

Once again we had a fantastic time with some of Australia's up-and coming Scrabble players, plus a NZ contingent, consisting of Ruth Groffman, who will be running similar workshops in New Zealand (I am helping her with one from 16 - 19 August), and Amy, the first young New Zealander to show an interest in eventually representing her country at WYSC.

Barry Harridge volunteered to transport some participants from Adelaide (we really **must** train young players to travel light in future!) and seemed to really enjoy the first day of the program – thank you Barry.

Absolute beginner, Rangi Collins (from South Australia – he found us because of my Facebook ads) showed great promise, and Adam Kretschmer will continue to encourage him locally. On the final day, I played a bonus against Rangi, ending in ING at the top right-hand side – he responded with QUAIL above it onto the TWS, forming four words, and scoring over 60. What an effort from someone who didn't know his twos, and didn't know about parallel play at the beginning of the week. It is discovery of such new talent which makes it all so worthwhile for me. There must be hundreds of similar young people out there who have never experienced the excitement of playing such a move, and I would love for all readers to attempt to locate these young people, and send them to future camps.

The idyllic country setting was spoilt a

little by the millions of millepedes (also spelt millipedes, Phillip informed me, so I have gained a new word from this experience), but Kashi proved adept with the dustpan and brush.

After the workshop, we invited local players to join us, to give the young players a chance to consolidate what they had learnt. Twenty-four players competed in a round robin, and many of the prize-winners were young people.

I must thank all my junior helpers, James Gunner, Michael McKenna and Phillip Hamilton. Phillip was in charge of keeping everyone fit, and could regularly be seen with the stopwatch as they all did circuits of the playground. (We try to teach young people the vital connection between keeping fit, and peak mental performance.) Even young Isaac was helping the beginners with their word study – they always start by learning the twos, plus a small stable of high-probability bonuses, to give them some basic ammunition.

Various prizes were presented after the workshop, including a copy of Allan Simmon's excellent workbook (donated by Barry). Because we had been talking about various ways to recall groups of words, Barry offered this for the best illustration of a set of related words. This was won by Isaac, for his smiling toenails ... (get it? ... TOENAIL, ELATION). Maybe he needed to have the sun shining on the toenails, to include the INSOLATE reference. Honorable mentions went to Rangi for his wonderfully detailed drawing

connecting OARAGE and AGORAE (you'd have to see it to get it, but I will never forget that combination now!) and Amy's beaut depiction of a TRAINEE miner, looking (ie. using his RETINAE) for ARENITE. Michael produced a sample, with a MIGRAINE IMAGINER, but I found that too realistic, and had to fight off a migraine all week! This is the new generation of anagram artists.

There was a rotating board prize for the best result in the final quiz. This should have gone to Isaac, but we asked him to settle for second prize, as he had done a similar quiz before, giving him an unfair advantage. Ben Munson therefore was the recipient of the board. (Ben was

the young player who gained nearly 400 points in the Plate Section at the Australian Champs). Being a few weeks older than Alastair, he is unfortunately no longer eligible for WYSC, but is still worth a little investment of our time, as he will be a force to be reckoned with in future.

I would like to finish by encouraging you all to recruit one or two young players for next year's Scrabble Camp. It will be held in the week **before** the Australian Championship, at a campground in Canberra. I am also looking for a few more leaders, if you would like to volunteer (even as camp cook, if you don't want to actually teach the young players).

My experience at the Youth Scrabble Clinic

- by Amy Lee, Dunedin

On 7 April 2010 in Adelaide at Douglas Scrubs Girl Guide camp there was a Scrabble clinic run by Karen Richards. At 10am I met up with all the other students who were doing the workshop, picked my bed then played a quick game of Scrabble, with Michael McKenna (one of the students) before lunch. Michael is a 14-year-old Scrabble player who lives in Sydney, Australia.

At 2pm we started our first lesson. We learnt about board and tile management with Karen then we did a bit on anagrams with Michael and Isaac.



Amy (left) with Karen Richards

Day 2

We learnt about where you should put your high value letters, and what you should keep on your rack for a bonus. After that we had a delicious morning tea, a little break, then went onto more anagrams, but this time with Philip.

For dinner we had a stir fry then got free time from 7 to 10pm.

At that time I played Rangī and won by 100 points!

Day 3

We had a review of what we learnt then had a few quizzes and had a mini tournament which was quite fun and had taken up a whole day. After a yummy dinner all the kids watched a few movies before bed.

Day 4

This was the last day so we had to clean up before the big tournament which was very exciting.

I learnt lots at the camp and improved my Scrabble 100% and would love for you to come and enjoy the Scrabble clinic with me in Canberra, Australia next year.

Thank you Karen Richards for a great first week of the holidays. And to Ruth for taking me to the camp even though she was sick with a cold.



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(see more of his cartoons on sunshinestatecomics.com)

Tournament Calendar		
Tournament	Place	Dates
Whangarei	Whangarei	10-11 July
Kapiti	Kapiti Coast	17 July
Nelson	Nelson	24-25 July
Hamilton	Hamilton	7-8 August
Trans Tasman Challenge#	Christchurch	14-16 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		

Ruth's story

- by Ruth Groffman, Dunedin

The unfortunate part is that I got the flu right at the beginning of the trip. As I struggled through runny nose, fever and head cold and cough, it was a wonder that I gained 7th Place in the Australian Scrabble Championship Plate. Amy was hired as a runner for this three-day tournament.

Barry Harridge came to collect Phillip, Ben, Amy and me from the Backpackers we had been staying at. What a hassle it was to get ourselves and our luggage into his car!! Amy had the largest suitcase (over 20kg) and she had to sit with it on her knees for over an hour until we got to Douglas Scrubs.

Well, once we got settled into our rooms, what did we do? We played Scrabble!!

After lunch, Karen got straight into giving the group lessons in rack management. If she felt that someone wasn't paying attention, off they went for a run or an exercise stint!

I was still very fluey and there was the sweetest 14-year-old boy there called Michael McClelland who asked me if I would like a honey drink. But what a player he is – sharp as a tack! – ready to walk in David

Eldar's footsteps. And does he know his anagrams!! He started in Karen's workshop when he was 11 years old.

At this point I had to go to bed and whilst I was out cold, the kids when outside and had their lesson on "Memory".

The days were jam-packed with lessons on anagramming, how to conduct yourself in a tournament, the best foods to eat when at a tournament, end play, how 'never to give up', and by the end of the third day everyone was given a written test to check what had been retained.

The food was very good and plentiful throughout with lots of fresh fruit and it was enjoyed by everyone.

On the last day the public was invited to come and enter a mini tournament (5 games) after which we got everyone to join us for lunch (there was still so much food!). After lunch someone us drove up to Adelaide airport via the largest Mall in the southern hemisphere at a place called Marion.

I'm looking forward to Karen helping to run After-School Coaching Clinics in Dunedin in August this year.

Scrabble for Fun

- by Ruth Groffman, Dunedin

This year there will be a record number of 148 primary school children from 23 different schools competing in Dunedin's Scrabble for Fun in Library Week in August. We have the library's full cooperation for the venue for Monday to Thursday of this week (16th - 19th August) and the supply of morning teas and scoring sheets on all the days.

This year we are privileged to have Karen Richards, the World Youth Scrabble Coach, come to Dunedin to conduct after-school coaching clinics in the same week, culminating in a further day of competition.

Ten schools have offered their premises for Karen Richards' Scrabble Coaching Clinics. The inspiration I received by visiting Australia is starting to bear fruit.

I'm sure there are other libraries around New Zealand who would be willing to hold a competition such as the one in Dunedin. All they need is for someone to organise it!! I'm happy to liaise with any library that a Club nominates. If you pay my airfare, I'll come and organise it for you or alternatively, I can send you a write-up of how to run it yourselves. Please let me know what you think.

Students playing Scrabble

- by Happychyck on Blogspot

My high school students have fallen in love with Scrabble.

My high school students, although in a creative writing class, are reluctant writers. They are not lovers of language. Some of them could not spell their way through a ransom note. Yet, they beg to play Scrabble.

It started as a Friday activity, when classes are only 30 minutes. Call it word play. Vocabulary development. A cop out. Whatever. They didn't just play regular Scrabble during our little word play unit. I taught them some variations on the game, and they found some of them rather challenging.

Theme Scrabble was the first one we tried. I told students to play the game just as they normally would but to try to build words that were school-related. That night I gave extra credit to students each time they built a word related to the theme. The students were excited to earn extra credit, so that was a big motivator.

Anagrams or Clabbers was a bit hard for them to catch onto at first. They were able to simply put down the word in any order that they wanted. This made them think about strategy a bit because they were able to put down high-point tiles on the bonus spaces.

Tonica was interesting because all the tiles were divided up at the beginning of the game, and those were the tiles they had to work with during the whole game. Of course, the scores were high for the game. I was interested in seeing the various strategies. One group just played as usual, but another team spent most of their time with their noses in dictionaries trying to come up with the longest words possible. Nose in a dictionary? Seriously. Wow.

After a few days of this, of course, the most natural thing for me to do was to ask each team to make up their own variation of the Scrabble game and then give it to another team to play. Here are some of their ideas:

- all tiles passed out, and the person who has a word with a Z ready to play starts the game
- players have enough tiles to fill the tray at all times
- all words put down can only be animals or colors
- all words can only be placed backwards on the board
- bonus point squares are only good if the word is a drink, otherwise, points are normal
- a player can trade hands (or rack of tiles) with another player at any time if an agreement is reached

All in all, they thought the other groups' game instructions were fairly easy to understand. I thought their games were rather creative, and their variations were definitely fun to play.

Correction

- from Chris Handley, Dunedin

Re "Know your hooks", page 27, March issue:

I miscounted – there are actually 7 valid two letter words in ANANUESIS.

Stop press

Have you heard? Apparently they've removed the word GULLIBLE from the *Oxford English Dictionary*.

Trickster lived up to its name

- by the Forwards Editor

By the time you read this, the hue and cry over Scrabble Trickster will have died down, and – if you ever **were** concerned about the “news” that Scrabble was suddenly going to allow proper nouns, and even words spelled backwards – you will now have had your fears laid to rest.

The original media release early in April went something like this: “The makers of Scrabble have confirmed that they are making plans to change the rules for the first time to introduce new challenges to the game for a special edition,” Mattel spokeswoman Julia Jensen underlined that the changes only affect the Trickster. “This is a special edition and the rules don’t impact the original Scrabble game,” she told AFP [French Press agency]. [*Underlining is mine.*]

In the best journalistic tradition of not letting the facts get in the way of a good story, much of the British press omitted to tell readers that Mattel’s intention was not to touch the original game, but to create a separate spin-off product. According to the media in the UK, the holy rules of basic Scrabble were being changed for the first time since 1948 (after being invented in a slightly different form in 1938).

The news spread around the world, unleashing a torrent of outrage from traditionalist Scrabblers to media commentators, and creating a wave of hysteria on the internet.

The American Scrabble community checked its calendars. Was it April 1?

The story was no April Fools’ joke, but it wasn’t exactly true, either.

Mattel, you’ll recall, controls Scrabble only outside the United States and Canada. In the USA, Hasbro is the maker and marketer of Scrabble.

“Hasbro has no plans to introduce a

version with new rules,” a spokesperson said. “Scrabble Trickster will not be sold in the United States.”

“Scrabble Trickster, due out in July in the UK only, not the US, will allow proper names such as city or celebrity names. It will not replace the original Scrabble in the UK or US. And the rules aren’t officially changing,” said John D Williams Jr, executive director of the National Scrabble Association, authorised by Hasbro to speak about Scrabble.

“This is just one new variation,” he said.

So, for the American Scrabble community, the story was a non-event.

Stefan Fatsis, a Washington-based Scrabble coach and devotee, summed up the furore this way: “It’s a case of corporate flackery and media incompetence completely misleading the public.”

As he says in his book, *Word Freak*: “At the highest levels, Scrabble is a perfect intellectually challenging game of strategy and geometry and math and the English language . . . You don’t need to change anything because Alfred Butts got it right, this perfect balance between risk and reward, between luck and skill.”

And *Daniel Terdiman* made a similar comment in *The Post and Courier* (USA): “A little lesson for Mattel: You’re not Apple. Produce a new iPad and that’s a good thing. Try to improve on Scrabble? Not so good.”

In summing up the media treatment of the story, Katie Rowe in Australia’s *Across the Board* (Australia) Scrabble newsletter wrote amusingly:

“When I read this morning that starting this July, the Scrabble rules will change to allow the use of proper nouns, I had to check today’s date to make sure it wasn’t somehow still April Fools’ Day . . .

Although it has been widely reported that Scrabble will soon allow the use of proper nouns, it turns out that that is not true ...

“Fantastic, I thought, as I found other versions of the story littering the Web everywhere, and went looking around the Web for similar news like, for example, the NBA will soon allow players to run up the court without dribbling, the Senate will allow cloture with 45 votes, the Federal Aviation Administration is now happy for you to breathe cigarette smoke into your cell phone in the bathroom on a plane and bacon will now be the official food of Israel.”

Perhaps the most perceptive observation as to the motives behind Trickster was made in the editorial of the SA News (Singapore) Scrabble newsletter:

“From a trademark ownership point of view, producing a Scrabble variant every few years is considered to be a way of demonstrating continued use of a trademark, which is important when maintaining a claim. So these gratuitous variant products may have more subtle purposes than just being a publicity gimmick.”

Here in New Zealand, newspapers, radio and TV latched on to the story, one newspaper suggesting that under the new rules, even

Taumatawhakatangiāngikōauauotamatea tūriupukakāpikimaungahoronukupokaiwhenua takitāmatā, the name of a Hawkes Bay hill, would be permissible if there were enough letters and space on the board!

Jeff Grant’s response to all the hype was: “The name of the game – Scrabble Trickster – gives you a clue that it’s just a gimmicky knock-off designed to make money for Mattel. Nothing to do with proper Scrabble, and serious players will treat it for what it is – a joke. Of course the media jumped on the bandwagon claiming it would alter the game and it was the first rule change since 1948, etc –

all rubbish. The fact that Scrabble Trickster also allows words to be spelt backwards should tell people it’s not to be taken seriously. Just another variant of the “real” game, with no more effect on it than other forms like Junior Scrabble and Super Scrabble.”

Paul Lister was in great demand from the media – he did seven radio interviews and one TV interview from his base in Christchurch!

Meanwhile, in Auckland, Howard Warner challenged a reporter who contacted him to a game of Scrabble, with the reporter playing under the “new” rules, and Howard playing conventionally.

Yes, you’re all grinning, because you know what the outcome would be, even with Howard treating the reporter gently!

“And so it went,” Tim Hume reported in the *Sunday Star-Times*. “BATHORSE ... PAEONIC ... MOTIEY. I responded as best I could. PORKY. RIBS. GOOF. UM. As predicted, the proper nouns made no difference. I used only one, near the end: ZANE on a double word score. Warner smiled indulgently, and pointed out that I could have played the same tiles under standard rules. A NAZE is a headland, apparently. Warner won, 536 to 234.”

And so the storm in New Zealand’s teacup has died down. It did have a sobering side to it, though, as Howard’s email to Scrabble members pointed out:

“Isn’t it amazing how much publicity a multinational like Mattel can milk from one little change, whereas Scrabble players (in NZ or anywhere in the world) struggle to get any traction from the media.”

Trickster, in fact

You can be forgiven for inferring that the game of Trickster is absolute chaos to play – nothing like traditional Scrabble

at all – with people playing proper names, spelling words backwards, and placing “floating” words anywhere on the board. That’s the impression the media have conveyed.

Sure, Trickster introduces those twists to the game, but not for **every** turn. It’s still basic Scrabble and it’s not mayhem. When a player plays through one of the new ‘Trick’ squares on the board, they draw a card. (A bit like a Chance card of some games.) These cards give a variety of rule-breaking opportunities, including the oft-quoted examples, but also including being allowed to take letters from your opponents’ racks, steal points, etc. Sounds quite fun to me! (Not much different than

the innovative variations suggested by the children in the article on page 21.)

Some of the trick cards could help save youngsters from the crushing defeats that are so demoralising, and that can put them off playing Scrabble for life.

So – just as Mattel said in its press releases – the new rules provide light-hearted fun while encouraging families to get involved together in educational word play.

Perhaps we should give it a go with our families? A few more games of Trickster with children now might result in a few more members for Scrabble Clubs later.

Twenty years ago today

- by John Foster, Independent

Well, here it is, the solution to the clueless crossword, together with the names of the five Scrabblers who were able to solve it twenty years ago. This time around not a single correct (or even incorrect) entry was received. I don’t believe we were smarter twenty years ago so the reason must be that people no longer read authors such as Jonathan Swift. Once the long word across the top is solved the rest of the puzzle is a lot less difficult.

SOLUTION : SCRABBLE CONTEST No 18

Correct entries were received from Andree, Glennis, Alveen, Rhoda and Jonn. A draw was held and the winner is John Foster from the Mt Albert Club - well done!

H	O	U	Y	H	N	H	N	M
E		N	G	A	I	O		A
L	O	D	G	E	P	O	L	E
L		E	D	D	A	S		L
B	I	R	R		S	E	C	S
O		J	A	H		G	I	T
X	M	A	S		V	O	A	R
E		W	I	G		W	O	O
S	U	S	L	I	K	S		M

Scan of the actual magazine

Anniversary

- from Jed Martinez, Florida

April 4th was a famous day in Scrabble history.

It was on this day in 1993 (seventeen years ago) that Scrabble creator Alfred Butts passed away.

One of the best ways to remember him was this famous anagram of his full name:
ALFRED MOSHER BUTTS = BOARD FLUSTERS THEM

Probability and Scrabble

- by Nick Cavenagh, Hamilton

Mathematics can tell us the likelihood of obtaining certain racks in Scrabble. Particularly useful is the choose function. Choose(n,k) gives the number of ways of choosing k objects from a set of size n, where order doesn't matter. Choose(n,k) is given by the formula:

$n!/(k!(n-k)!)$, where n! is the product $1 \times 2 \times \dots \times n$.

So, for example, choose(5,2) tells you the number of games of Scrabble that need to be played in group of 5 people so that everyone plays each other exactly once. $5! = 1 \times 2 \times 3 \times 4 \times 5 = 120$, $2! = 2 \times 1 = 2$ and $3! = 3 \times 2 \times 1 = 6$, so choose(5,2) = $120 / (2 \times 6) = 10$.

The choose function also helps us determine the probabilities of certain events. For example, what is the probability of getting both blanks on your first rack? If we consider each Scrabble tile as different, there are choose(100,7) possible first racks. If two of the tiles are blank, the other five tiles must be chosen from the remaining 98 tiles. Therefore the answer is choose(98,5)/choose(100,7) = $(7 \times 6) / (100 \times 99) = 0.42\%$. In other words, you should get both blanks on your first rack on average once in every 236 games.

Assuming you and your opponent each play 50 tiles each during a game of Scrabble, the probability that you will get both blanks during the game is Choose(98,48)/Choose(100,50) = $50 \times 49 / (100 \times 99) = 24.75\%$. As you might expect, this is close to 1/4.

But now see how this changes if you pick more tiles out of the bag than your opponent. Suppose that by playing longer words than your opponent, you play 60 tiles and your opponent plays 40 during an entire game. Then the probability that you will get both blanks is Choose

(98,58)/Choose(100,60) which is 35.76% – a considerable increase! By a similar calculation, the probability that you will get at least one blank in this scenario is 84.24%.

This is one of many ways that probability can be applied to Scrabble, and shows that there is a very good case for playing five- and six-letter words instead of three- and four-letter words where you can.

(On the other hand, doing so can set your opponent up...!)

Hall of Fame (or Infamy)

Hi. My name is Vidkun Quisling.

I was a Norwegian army officer, and I founded Norway's fascist party in 1933. In December 1939, I met with Adolf Hitler and urged him to occupy Norway. Following the German invasion of April 1940, I then served as a figurehead in the puppet government set up by the German invasion forces – and that's how I sealed my linguistic fate!

Before the end of 1940, QUISLING was being used generically in English to refer to any traitor, person who commits treason, or collaborator. Winston Churchill, George Orwell and H G Wells all used the word in their wartime writings. I lived to see my name immortalised, but not much longer. I was executed for treason soon after the liberation of Norway in 1945.

Remember me when you play QUISLING(S) or QUISLINGISM(S).

- Source: *Miriam-Webster Inc.*

[Hall of Fame (or Infamy) is a new feature. Please feel free to contribute an article, or suggest an article, if you know of a person who has "given" their name to any of our official Scrabble words.]

A word (or more) fro

Dismantling the ORANGERY

Start with the word ORANGERY, and remove one letter at a time, leaving a word each time (without changing the order of the letters). How many ways are there of doing it?

Solution on page 43.

Anagram pairs

There are just over 6000 pairs of 7- or 8-letter anagrams (ie. where there are only the two anagrams). Couplets are fun to learn, as you will see when you read about the Youth Scrabble Camp in Australia, where one of their exercises was illustrating anagrams.

Here's a nice pair: **KURSAAL** and **RUSALKA**. KURSAAL is the reception room of a spa, while RUSALKA is a Russian water nymph. Can you picture the water nymph walking into the spa?

Anzac words

... I wondered if "Anzac" has any allowable anagrams. Well, it doesn't. The letters with a blank, AACNZ?, make only one word, CHAZAN, which is a cantor in a synagogue (variants include HAZAN).

With two blanks, AACNZ??, there are 6 words. Do you know any? Most are not common.

Anzac makes me think of war, bravery, mateship ... and biscuits. BISCUIT has no anagram, but gives three 6-letter words. What are they?

Answers on page 43.

*- from Across the Board
(June edition), Australia*

PERPS and TECS

The world of crime and detection is full of short forms such as con, crim and wit (witness). Two new ones in the Scrabble lexicon are PERP (perpetrator) and TEC

(detective). The crime novel I'm reading has the following which are not allowed yet:

NYM* a pseudonym
TAC* tactical (tac team)
TOX* toxicity (tox report)
UNSUB* unknown subject
VIC* victim

Some of these terms are also used in TV programs like CSI and SVU. How long will it be before they appear in our dictionary?

- Jeff Grant, Independent

SLUBS and NEPS

While in a shop in Dunedin I noticed the following on a tag attached to a small carry bag:

"This fabric is made from natural fibres. Slubs and neps are natural characteristics of the fabric and are not flaws."

A couple of nice little Scrabble words there, but what do they mean? Apparently a SLUB is a soft thick nub, and a NEP is a small knot of fibres. The only definition of NEP in our Scrabble dictionaries is 'catmint'.

- Jeff Grant, Independent

A scathing word

I discovered a gorgeously picturesque word – JERKWATER. If you imagine what you would think that the "water" of a jerk might be like, you will love the meaning, contemptibly trivial. A jerkwater town is small, remote and insignificant; what we would call a one-horse town at the back of nowhere.

And a POMWATER? No, not a derogatory word concerning a Pom, but a sweet variety of apple.

- Anon Nimious

Another NZ place name for our map

PELORUS is a navigational instrument.

om our players

Toasts

- BANZAI** (Japanese) patriotic cheer, battle cry or salutation
[may you live ten thousand years]
- BRINDISI** (Italian) *noun*, a toast; a drinking song, especially in opera
[Old German, I offer it to you]
- CHEERS** *informal interjection*, Good health
- CHEERIO** *interjection*, Good health
- GESUNDHEIT**
(German) *interjection*, Your health, said to someone who has just sneezed
- LECHAIM, LEHAIM, LECHAYIM, LEHAYIM** (Hebrew) a drinking toast
[to life!]
- PROSIT** (German) good health!
[from Latin, may it prove beneficial]
- SKOAL SKOL**
(Norwegian and Swedish) Hail!
- SKOLION SCOLION**
a short drinking song of ancient Greece, taken up by guests in irregular succession
- SLÀINTE** (Gaelic) Good health
- VIVAT** (Latin)
interjection, Long live! *noun*, expression of approval or applause
- WASSAIL** the salutation uttered in drinking a person's health; a liquor in which such healths were drunk, especially ale with roasted apples, sugar nutmeg and toast.
Nouns: WASSAILER, WASSAILING(S) WASSAILRY
- from SA News, Singapore (no 3/2009)

From my reading

Have you been following any of the World Cup football matches in South Africa and/or seen any of the reports on the television sports round-ups? If so you will be

familiar with the South African trumpets blaring out incessantly as play proceeds. These are called VUVUZELAS – and yes, the word VUVUZELA is acceptable on the Scrabble board.

Another unfamiliar word. I have just looked at an English calendar which has a different recipe for each month. One recipe is for Kentish HUFFKINS. A HUFFKIN can be eaten as a plain bread roll or with the 'hole' (made by pushing a floured finger into the centre of a round ball of dough before baking) filled with fruit or jam and topped with cream.

You wouldn't want to have long fingernails!

- Joan Thomas, Hastings

Playing the F words

(This poem is worth 8 points, as it is X-rated)

Be careful while playing Scrabble with your grandmother
She may not condone the use of F words.
If you play effectively or with effort
You may be asked to efface your words.
If you are clever and come forth with effervescence
She may accept your efficacy.
Don't play effeminate; she will hang you up in effigy.
You may have an effete word
Don't waste any time – use efficiency,
Be expressive with effulge or effusive.
For those brainy players – take advantage
Of your effectors and efferents.
Don't use the most blatant word
Or at least the one nearest at hand, eftest –
Do I need to say it again, eft.
Have I emphasised the caution of using the F words?
This is all good advice
Unless she is a well-seasoned effusive tournament player.
But, to top it off,
End the game by going out on the board with effluent.
Now you have given her the proper effect!

*- Murray Rogers, Nelson
(as recited at the Nationals dinner)*

Cognitive apprenticeship in Scrabble

- by Selena Chan, Christchurch

One of the learning theories I am an advocate for and which I use extensively in my teaching practice is the concept of cognitive apprenticeships.

Cognitive apprenticeships involve the teacher becoming more aware of their student's level of entry into a learning situation and then scaffolding the student, using various teaching and learning strategies, towards learning a new skill or concept. It is a way of guiding and coaching a learner by making the thinking skills required to learn the skill or concept visible to the learner.

In Scrabble, we are often learning as individuals, and although there is informal guidance of new players and discussion amongst more experienced players about various strategic moves, there is no formalised training programme to help aspiring Scrabble players improve their games – apart from trial and error.

However, all is not lost. Every Scrabble player is able to maximise their learning by making use of as many opportunities for learning as possible. Using the principles of cognitive apprenticeships means that we focus our learning on the concepts of scrabble strategy by doing the following:

- Asking more experienced players questions that will help explain their strategic decisions.
- Reading the articles in past *Forwards* (2007 – 8) where various players are interviewed, as these often provide some indication of their thinking.
- Encouraging players to improve their 'self-talk' so that they are more able to later explain how they made important decisions that turn certain games



Selena Chan

around from clear losing games to a win.

- Playing duplicate games in small groups and have the groups discuss each move so that all the members of the group understand how the decision to play each move is made.
- Using the games archived on the World Scrabble championship or the North American National tournament sites as simulations. You can work out what you will play and then compare with the actual plays to see whether your play is similar or dissimilar. Then work out why – you might have made a better play! 😊
- Using programmes like Maven or Quackle to analyse your games. Note that computer simulations come up with the best scores or moves but they might not be the best move from a human perspective!

Remember that the objective is to gain the many skills that experts have by studying why they play in a certain way or make specific decisions. How each expert plays might not be the style that you aspire towards – it is still up to you to pick up the practices that match your own individual way of playing and to practise these skills so that your Scrabble playing decisions improve and become intuitive.

More Scrabble analogies

Verse Scrabble is a deceptive way to twist and change the real message of the Bible.

This is how it is played. Reach into a bag of Bible verses and pull a verse out of its context. Then repeat this action seven times. Now carefully rearrange these disjointed verses so that they teach something different. This is frequently used to manufacture doctrines that the Bible does not teach.

- *Pastor Ray Geide, USA*

I'd always wondered, as I'm sure others have, what it would be like to travel to a country that starts with eight straight consonants and has a Scrabble value of 30. It wasn't my only reason for travelling to Kyrgyzstan but it was as good as any.

- *James Schloeffel, writing in the Sydney Morning Herald*

I'm not 100% sure that duopoly is a word, but spellcheck isn't underlining it, so I'm calling it good. Spellcheck is the Scrabble dictionary of the 21st century, validating conveniently made-up words.

- *IanRose, writing on worldcupblog*



Iceland Volcano Spews Consonants and Vowels

New Yorkers with suddenly dashed European travel plans were not the only ones in town inconvenienced by the eruption of a volcano 2,800 miles away.

All across this fair city, thousands of people, some of them highly paid television and radio newscasters, found themselves tumbling down the vowel-and-liquid-consonant-lubricated slopes of Eyjafjallajökull, the mountain's 16-letter, six-and-a-half-syllable, 47-Scrabble-point name.

Here's the lowdown from a native speaker at the Icelandic consulate: EY-ya-fyat-lah-YOH-kuht. The "EY" rhymes with the word "bay." The "k" is softer than an English "k," almost like a hard "g." And the "t" at the end kind of sticks for a second and pulls away with a hint of a glottal "l." (Say it soft and it's almost like, "Hey, ya fergot La Yogurt.")

It's simple. "Eyja" is the Icelandic word for island. "Fjalla" means mountain. "Jökull" is glacier.

- *Andy Newman and Bao Ong*

Double letters

BOOKKEEPER has three pairs of double letters in a row. Does anybody know of others? Words like COMMITTEE and KEELLESS have three pairs, but not in a row.

SUBBOOKKEEPER* (which isn't a Scrabble word) has four consecutive pairs.

So you've got two Fs?

There are 13 x 6-letter compound words that end in OFF. How many of them can you think of? Likewise there are 24 7-letter ones. Try those, too. (Easiest to think of them in alphabetical order, perhaps.) Answers on page 43.

Scrabble is cruise!

Betty Eriksen, Wanganui

I recently returned from a cruise of the South Pacific on the *Pacific Dawn* which sailed out of Brisbane 1 May for a 12 day cruise to New Caledonia and Vanuatu. Accommodation and food was first class, and there were daily activities and entertainment to suit everyone.

Amongst the 2000+ passengers were about 30 Aussie Scrabblers and their partners, and half a dozen New Zealanders. I shared a “stateroom” with Yvonne McKenzie, a Scrabble player from Christchurch.

We enjoyed a 21 game tournament on five mornings of the cruise in a real holiday atmosphere. It was all fairly laid back as the tournament was not rated, and there was no 5-point penalty when a word was challenged off.

We went ashore at Noumea and Isle of Pines in New Caledonia; and Wala, Champagne Bay and Vila in Vanuatu. The beaches were beautiful and although the sands were golden on all the beaches it differed in texture from powdery, like flour, to gritty coral .

I did learn two fun brand new skills. With Yvonne's encouragement I learned to snorkel, so I could go out and view the coral and fish for myself; and I also learned to play Texas-Hold'em poker! All very exciting.

I can certainly recommend cruising as the way to go for a thoroughly restful and fun holiday.

Yvonne Mc Kenzie, Christchurch

My first sight of her took my breath away. I have travelled before by ship but never ever one so large and magnificent. Whowwwww!!!! The *Pacific Dawn* is fantastic. We were shown to our state

room cabin and Betty and I enjoyed seeing all the facilities that we would share over the next 12 days – own shower, toilet, hairdryer – it had everything. The cabin was sound proofed too so we didn't get a lot of outside noise.

The first few days were hard to manage as we got our sea legs. We enjoyed playing Scrabble and tried to take our minds off the rolling of the ship. We were warned about the wind as it was very strong so we didn't venture out on deck. We braved it down to the dining room and were delighted to see the food range that was a buffet style; a truly wonderful array of delicious foods which each day was presented with freshness, flavour and variety. We also ventured down to the main dining room where all the Scrabble people were and had a full service dinner a few times. The swordfish was out of this world. Yummy.

There were shows each night and after enjoying our dinner we would walk to the show lounge and be entertained for the evening with a wonderful assortment



Yvonne receives the D grade prize from Wayne Willis.



Michael Groffman receives his C grade prize from Wayne Willis

of artists performing. In between times we stopped at a few islands and enjoyed the fares that the natives had to offer. I purchased a beautiful big shell and two masks to add to my collection. Going to the islands by tender was a bit time consuming but it was well worth the wait. The native people were happy and carefree. The children were delightful, especially one young man who had a parrot on his head. Another boy had a turtle in a bowl.

The beaches were a dream out of a movie. I tried to snorkel without the use of equipment only to find that the water was too salty so went back and hired some equipment for us. Betty hadn't done any snorkelling before so I taught her what to do and before long we were out on the reef looking at the most amazing fish and coral. Champagne Bay was and still is my favourite island. There was plenty to do on board the ship and no-one should ever be bored as there was something for everyone. I have come home suntanned, fit and relaxed after the best cruise I have ever had.

Ruth Groffman, Dunedin

What a wonderful way to have a holiday where all your food and entertainment is included and where you can choose to participate in activities or not. In the restaurant all your dietary requirements are complied with and nothing is too much trouble. For me, the shipboard life is what it was all about and visiting five islands was just a bonus. It was wonderful to meet Scrabblers who were happy to play with you at any time

and anywhere and the staff on the ship were happy to let you play where ever you wanted to.

I felt so relaxed after this trip and able to tackle anything at home so much better as a result. Another trip will be organised in 2012 so if anyone is interested, please let me know.

Results

All up in the group were 47 with 33 players for Scrabble. New Zealand did very well considering only five players (Betty, Yvonne, Ruth and Michael Groffman and Jo Ann Ingram) were from New Zealand.

First and second places in the A and B grades of 8 people were all Australians, but Betty won the High Word with SAUTING for 110. The C grade, also of 8 people, was won by Michael, and he also had the highest game, with 464. The D grade, which had 10 people, was won by Yvonne, who also won the High Game (483) and High Word (NODDERS for 94).

Yvonne and Michael won models of the *Pacific Dawn* – a wonderful memento.

Scrabble in Montana

- by *May Meads, Papatoetoe*

Last August when I was in Billings, Montana, staying with my son and family I had a very interesting afternoon of Scrabble.

Before I arrived, my daughter-in-law had answered an ad in the paper for someone interested in Scrabble. She emailed an answer and said her mother-in-law was coming from New Zealand and would be interested in a few games.

Although I was there from 1 May, it was not until two days before I left that we managed to arrange a time. He was in different states visiting and so was I.

We had checked him out in the Internet and it turned out that he was Montana State Champion and a Professor at Montana State University. Needless to say, as a low grader I was very nervous, but thought with me being 85 he would make allowances, which he did, allowing me to use our book.

He turned up with a folding set and about five bags of different coloured tiles. We had four interesting games and I managed to win one. I put down the word "hireout" which it turned out later should have been "outhire" or even "outhyre" and he didn't challenge it.

David Weiss was his name and he is 47, a lovely young man. He stayed and had coffee and pikelets (which he had never tasted before!) with us and it was a great day.



David Weiss

Notable deaths

Chris Haney, the creator of one of the greatest board games of all time, Trivial Pursuit died recently in Toronto at age 59.

Chris Haney (left in the photo) was a picture editor on The Gazette in Montreal when he invented the quiz game with Abbott, a sports reporter for the Canadian Press, a national news agency. The pair came up with the idea over a lunch-hour game of Scrabble in a bar in December 1979. Their thoughts had turned to how they could do better, and within the hour they had sketched out – on bar-room napkins – a rough framework of what would become Trivial Pursuit, including the wheel-and-spoke design of the board and the six categories: arts and literature (which became the brown segment), science and nature (the green segment), entertainment (pink), geography (blue), history (yellow), and sports and leisure (orange).



Trivial Pursuit, launched in 1981, has gone on to sell more than 100 million copies in 26 countries and 17 languages.

Abraham Nathanson, who helped create the popular word game Bananagrams also died recently, at age 80.

Nathanson, who lived in Rhode Island, was a graphic designer, photographer, children's book author and illustrator. He and other family members created the game four years ago, and the yellow pouch has become a familiar sight in many homes.

Bananagrams was named "Game of the Year" in 2009 by the Toy Industry Association.



Overseas News



Australia

2010 Australian Scrabble Championship, April,

Champion of Champions, (94 players)

1. Naween Fernando
Andrew Fisher
 2. Rod Talbot
7th in the Plate
- (55 players) was
Ruth Groffman, New Zealand.



Naween Fernando

Victorian State Championships

1. Edward Okulicz
2. Naween Fernando
3. Joanne Craig, New Zealand

NSW State Championships

1. Bob Jackman
2. Edward Okulicz
3. Alistair Richards

France

Festival de la Cote Fleurie (115 players)

1. Bernard Caro
2. Anthony Clemenceau
3. Eric Imbert

Ghana

Results of the first Legon Open Scrabble Championship (22 players):

1. Christian Mensah
2. C M Placca
3. Ralph Owusu

Guyana

Independence Day Open Tournament

1. Moen Gafoor, President of the Guyana Scrabble Association

2. Ulric Harris
3. Floyd Carmichael

India

Bayer National Scrabble Championships three-day tournament

Winner: Sherwin Rodrigues

[Incidentally, at the start of the tournament, the *Hindustan Times* reported, "In competitive games of Scrabble ... it's not unusual to see one player make nearly 300 points with one word."]

Mattel has tied up with Barista Lavazza, to organise Scrabble competitions at all their outlets across the country, titled "Barista Lavazza Café Scrabble Championship 2010".



Sherwin Rodrigues

Malta

The **European Scrabble Open** was held in Malta, and Joanne Craig and Nigel Richards were competing. With three rounds to go, Nigel had the Open won – he then was given 3 byes (how boring for him to not be playing! – it looks as though a player withdrew from the last day due to illness).

1. Nigel Richards, New Zealand, 27 wins and a spread of +4106
2. Helen Gipson, Scotland, 24 wins
3. Joanne Craig, New Zealand, 21 wins and a spread of +175

Congratulations to Nigel, European Champion! Also congratulations to Joanne, who grabbed 3rd place in the final game by beating Harshan by a mere 3 points and putting him in 4th place. A

great result for two of our WSC players.

Nigel and Joanne also competed in the **Malta International Scrabble Open** event, which followed the European Open. There were 92 entrants in this competition.

After 21 games Nigel finished 3rd on 15 wins and a spread of +1883 (the biggest spread of the tournament), and Joanne finished 8th with 14 wins and a spread of +542.

1. Mohammed Sulaiman, Pakistan
2. Craig Beevers, England
3. Nigel Richard, New Zealand

Mohammad Sulaiman said afterwards: "I'm proud to say that I was able to defeat one of the world's best Scrabble professionals, Nigel Richards, to claim the title. There's no doubt about the greatness of Nigel as a player and he is rated highly among the top Scrabble players in the world, therefore I'm feeling proud to clinch the title for my country amid presence of such seasoned players".

Congratulations to both Nigel and Joanne for their great performances in this tourney.

Footnote from Joanne: "I highly recommend these tourneys to anyone considering a trip to this part of the world. The competitors were very friendly, the weather is great this time of year (around 23 degrees) and Malta has some amazing world heritage sites – Valleta, Medina and some stone temples that predate Stonehenge."

Nigeria

Scrabble is one of about 15 sports registered with the National Sports Commission that have been banned from participating in the National Sports Festival later this year.

President of the Nigeria Scrabble Federation, Chief Toke Aka, said that Scrabble is not only a household name in Nigeria but "we are also a very strong



Mohammed Sulaiman with acting tournament director Theresa Brousson

force on the continent and we also make an appreciable impact in the world. Only recently, the BBC did a documentary on Nigeria Scrabble, highlighting the strength of the sport in Nigeria and yet we are not being given the required recognition at home."

Qatar

Karen Richards, chair of Sub Committee on Youth of WESPA, took a three-day workshop to enhance the skills of promising young players in Qatar undergoing rigid training for upcoming regional and global Scrabble competitions. Qatar hopes to host the World Youth Scrabble Championship by 2012.

United Kingdom

There are currently 308 listed clubs within the UK movement.

Ruth MacInerney, playing in Division B in Swindon in March, broke the record for the highest score for one single play in an ABSP rated Tournament (beating Adrain Tamas's 257 for PECTIZED in the UK Open 2009). Ruth scored 311 with the word tVVEEZERS as a nine-timer.

Joanne Craig placed fifth in the English Grand tournament held recently. The Grand is a "twin" round robin, and included some of the top UK players.

English Grand

Thanks to an email from Glenda to the NZ Scrabble list, NZ Scrabble players were alerted to my attendance at the English Grand in Coventry 28-31 May (which is why I regretfully didn't make it to the Nationals this year). Glenda provided the link to full results and walk through of a game between myself and Theresa Brousson (Malta).

This game was the topic of Allan Simmon's regular Scrabble column in The Times (UK). Allan has given his permission for it to be reproduced in Forwards. (Please forgive his incorrect implication that I represented Australia rather than New Zealand at the Worlds!)

Allan is one of the top UK players, author of Play Like A Champion (an analysis of his games at the UK Masters 2007, which he won) and co-author (with Darryl Francis) of Collins Official Scrabble Lists.

As I write this column the 30-game English Open is ongoing in Coventry. Most of the field is from the UK but there is also a sprinkling of overseas players in attendance. Two of those are among the top female players in the world — Theresa Brousson from Malta and Joanne Craig from Australia. Both ladies have represented their countries at the World Championships. They played each other in round two and what a great game it was, with an early explosion of bonus plays.

For your interest and education, here are the game details [(B)rousson, (C)raig, and word positions use the grid reference plus (a)cross or (d)own.] :

B: BELMRTU	TUMBREL	H2a	78	78
C: ADFHSSU	SHADUFS	B9d	84	84
B: AACENOU	OCEANAUT	A2d	74	152
C: AEIORWY	YOWIE	A1a	36	120
B: CFIIJLP	PIC	A8d	30	182
C: AORZEHO	HEADROOM	E6a	72	192
B: FIJLB?R	JIB	D1d	43	225
C: ADEGLOT	JAGA	D1a	24	216
B: FL?RERV	FRIVOLER	A12d	86	311

- sent in by Joanne Criag

C: DELOTIN	LENTOID	G13d	75	291
B: EGIMPTX	FIXT	A12a	42	353
C: AEEGILS	LEGALISE	H8d	80	371
B: EGMPAEO	POEM	L12d	33	386
C: IKRRTUZ	MURK	O12a	30	401
B: EGAAIOS	IO	B14a	24	410
C: IRTZNNT	ZIG	J6a	33	434
B: EGAASDY	YA	K5a	21	431
C: NNORTTV	VROT	J4d	20	454
B: EGASDAE	EGAD	L7d	20	451
C: NNTIQTW	QI	B7d	33	487
B: SAEDNNO	NON	F5a	14	465
C: NNTTWE	WENT	L3d	23	510
B: ADES	SADE	J9d	31	496

Craig: NT left -2 508

Brousson: +2 498

Brousson went on to finish third in the event (21 wins) and Craig finished fifth (19 wins). The winner was the 2005 National Champion, Wale Fashina, on 23 wins.

Some definitions

ICH	a disease of fish
JAGA	to guard or watch
LENTOID	shaped like a lens
SADE	a Hebrew letter
SHADUF	mechanism for raising water (Egypt)
VROT	rotten (S. African)



Australian Scrabble Championship (Nationals)

- by Val Mills, Pakuranga

A family reunion in Adelaide this Easter, celebrating my mum's 90th birthday, coincided with the Australian Scrabble Championship – also being held in Adelaide, and as it happened, the venue was just down the road from where were staying.

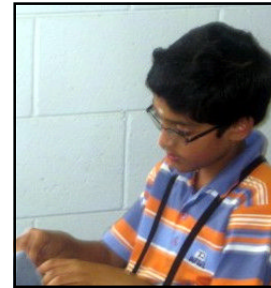
I naturally had to put in an appearance, and so on the Saturday and Sunday I spent a bit of time at the venue having look at how they do things, talking to people and watching a few games.

I knew a few people from the times that I've helped out at the Trans Tasman, so it was good to catch up with the likes of Anne Drew, Bob Jackman, Carmel Dodd, Karen Richards and others.

Unfortunately I made notes on my Ipaq, but the battery then failed and I lost all my information. However I have been to the Australian Scrabble website and can tell you that 150 people entered. The venue was a bowling club, not too different from venues that we might use over here. There were two grades – the

Championship and the Plate. The Championship seemed to be for people with a rating over 1200 or so. There were 94 in the championship and who played who was decided by using the Swiss Draw method.

I was interested to watch 14-year-old Anand Bharadwa play. His dad said he had been playing Scrabble since he was about eight but had soon started thrashing his mum and dad. Karen, who looks after youth Scrabble in Australia, said that there were about eight players under the age of 14 and close on 20 under the age of 18 playing in the tourney. It was great to see this.



14-year-old Anand Bharadwa playing in the Australian Nationals

The championship was won by Naweena Fernando, but it was right down to the wire and in the end depended on what happened in other games as to whether he would win or not. Once I got there and started watching it was hard to leave, but I was really pleased I ended up with two good reasons for spending Easter in Adelaide.



Australian Champion, Naweena Fernando (right). Anne Drew is playing the other game.



Come and join us for another wonderful Scrabble® Festival here on Norfolk Island!

From
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Scrabble® Registration Kit of \$295 is additional to your travel arrangements.

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Your registration kit covers operational costs such as: hire of venue, morning tea, airfares to Norfolk Island and 8 days accommodation for two festival organisers, administration, prizes & trophies.

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Holiday Package price includes:

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Conditions apply. Prices are current today & subject to change without notice.

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Please Note:

Car insurance & petrol are additional to above holiday package prices.

Scrabble® Registration Kit is additional to the above package prices (for those participating in the festival).

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Email: debbie@travelcentre.nf Website: www.travelcentre.nf

If office is closed please leave a message on our toll free number



We live on Norfolk and know Norfolk Best!

And the same to you

- sent in by Helen Sillis, New Plymouth

Most of us have owned an autograph book at some time in our lives, and chances are some smart pal wrote in it the famous cryptic rhyme, "YY UR YY U B, I C U R YY 4 ME", or something similar. Perhaps spurred on by such childhood memories, the British weekly, *New Statesman*, recently invited its readers to try their hands at a cryptic verse, and gave as an example, "B hold the paw run 4 tune 8, Cue 7's B 9 D cree . . ."

In reporting on the results, Miles Backward commented: "I wish we had never set this competition. It has driven me mad and will no doubt provoke revolt among the printers." Nevertheless, the magazine dutifully reported the prize-winning efforts, including this gem: "A lasso will 2 NEI X poser I0 der 4m, Will not B A bell 2 D fie, Mile us TF orts warm!"

Making up such rhymes is an occupation which could very nicely fill in a wet weekend, and cause a good deal of hilarity in the process. How about this one, for example: "In sow th land U can C the C, If U B by the tied, But if UR in land abit, Tha flay Ming C doth high d." Or this: "Afar mer kneads 2 mayk sum A, B4 the win ter C son, The cat L like 2 eta bit, To help them keep thair ree son."

However, a colleague floored us completely with this one, dredged up from his school days more years ago than he cares to remember: "If the B MT put : If the B." To save an awful lot of head scratching, we offer a free translation . . . see solutions on page 43.

[What a pain to type! I have checked and rechecked these rhymes, so no complaints, please, that you couldn't work out the meanings because I have typed them incorrectly! – Ed.]

Our precious possessions

- by Kaite Hansen, Christchurch

Recently I altered my will and it set me thinking about the Scrabble paraphernalia we have. Whether it is the fancy board that turns at a silken touch or the various books and learning tools we amass. What happens to them when we die? Whilst we hold these items in precious esteem, perhaps our family is not quite so reverential.

Rotating Scrabble boards and digital clocks are expensive. Even quality dictionaries can be beyond some people's budget. And much of our best equipment is not easily available in New Zealand.

I particularly treasure my 1988 first edition of the *Ultimate Guide to Winning*

Scrabble, by Michael Lawrence and John Ozag, discovered in an Op shop in Milton, a tiny village south of Dunedin.

Although some of my other books are out of date in terms of words, I still enjoy browsing through them. Who knows, one day they could fetch a satisfying price on Trade Me as Retro Scrabble Tools. But these items could easily be relegated to the garage or a storage cupboard instead of being used and appreciated.

So, for those of you who do not have a family member passionate about Scrabble who would use them, think about donating them to your club.

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 this third of a four-part series, we show the tile distribution of the game in Hungarian, Icelandic, Italian, Malaysian, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian and Russian.

Part 3

Hungarian (100 tiles)

2 blank tiles (scoring 0 points).

1 point: **A** ×6, **E** ×6, **K** ×6, **T** ×5, **Á** ×4, **L** ×4, **N** ×4, **R** ×4, **I** ×3, **M** ×3, **O** ×3, **S** ×3

2 points: **B** ×3, **D** ×3, **G** ×3, **Ó** ×3

3 points: **É** ×3, **H** ×2, **SZ** ×2, **V** ×2

4 points: **F** ×2, **GY** ×2, **J** ×2, **Ö** ×2,

P ×2, **U** ×2, **Ü** ×2, **Z** ×2

5 points: **C** ×1, **Í** ×1, **NY** ×1

7 points: **CS** ×1, **Ő** ×1, **Ú** ×1, **Ű** ×1

8 points: **LY** ×1, **ZS** ×1

10 points: **TY** ×1

DZ and *DZS*, which are fairly rare in Hungarian, have no tiles, nor do *Q*, *W*, *X* and *Y*, which are only used in loanwords, as part of the extended Hungarian alphabet.

Icelandic (104 tiles)

2 blank tiles (scoring 0 points)

1 point: **A** ×10, **I** ×8, **N** ×8, **R** ×7, **E** ×6, **S** ×6, **T** ×5, **U** ×6

2 points: **Ð** ×5, **G** ×4, **K** ×3, **L** ×3, **M** ×3

3 points: **F** ×3, **O** ×3, **H** ×2, **V** ×2

4 points: **D** ×2, **Á** ×2, **Í** ×2, **Þ** ×1

5 points: **J** ×1, **Æ** ×1

6 points: **B** ×1, **É** ×1, **Ó** ×1

7 points: **Y** ×1, **Ö** ×1

8 points: **P** ×1, **Ú** ×1

9 points: **Ý** ×1

10 points: **X** ×1

Italian (120 tiles)

2 blank tiles (scoring 0 points)

1 point: **O** ×15, **A** ×14, **I** ×12, **E** ×11

2 points: **C** ×6, **R** ×6, **S** ×6, **T** ×6

3 points: **L** ×5, **M** ×5, **N** ×5, **U** ×5

5 points: **B** ×3, **D** ×3, **F** ×3, **P** ×3, **V** ×3

8 points: **G** ×2, **H** ×2, **Z** ×2

10 points: **Q** ×1

The letters *J*, *W*, *X*, and *Y* are absent since these letters are used only in loanwords.

Malaysian (100 tiles)

2 blank tiles (scoring 0 points)

1 point: **A** ×19, **N** ×8, **E** ×7, **I** ×7, **K** ×6, **U** ×6, **M** ×5, **R** ×5, **T** ×5

2 points: **L** ×4, **S** ×4

3 points: **G** ×4, **B** ×3, **D** ×3

4 points: **H** ×2, **O** ×2, **P** ×2

5 points: **J** ×1, **Y** ×1

8 points: **C** ×1, **W** ×1

10 points: **F** ×1, **Z** ×1

Notice *Q* and *X* are absent because they are only present in loanwords.

Norwegian (100 tiles)

2 blank tiles (scoring 0 points)

1 point: **E** ×9, **A** ×7, **N** ×6, **R** ×6, **S** ×6, **T** ×6, **D** ×5, **I** ×5, **L** ×5

2 points: **F** ×4, **G** ×4, **K** ×4, **M** ×3, **O** ×4

3 points: **H** ×3

4 points: **B** ×3, **U** ×3, **V** ×3, **J** ×2, **P** ×2,

Å ×2

5 points: **Ø** ×2

6 points: **Y** ×1, **Æ** ×1

Page 40

8 points: **W** ×1

10 points: **C** ×1

The letters *Q*, *X* and *Z* are absent since these letters are rarely used in Norwegian.

Polish (100 tiles)

2 blank tiles (scoring 0 points)

1 point: **A** ×9, **I** ×8, **E** ×7, **O** ×6, **N** ×5, **Z** ×5, **R** ×4, **S** ×4, **W** ×4

2 points: **Y** ×4, **C** ×3, **D** ×3, **K** ×3, **L** ×3, **M** ×3, **P** ×3, **T** ×3

3 points: **B** ×2, **G** ×2, **H** ×2, **J** ×2, **Ł** ×2, **U** ×2

5 points: **Ą** ×1, **Ę** ×1, **F** ×1, **Ó** ×1, **Ś** ×1, **Ż** ×1

6 points: **Ć** ×1

7 points: **Ń** ×1

9 points: **Ź** ×1

This set is used since 2000. Before that year, a slightly different configuration was used: **Ż** was worth 7 points, *F* was worth 4 points. There were 2 *F*'s, and 8 *A*'s. The letters *Q*, *V* and *X* are also absent and blank tiles cannot be used to represent these.

Portuguese (120 tiles)

3 blank tiles (scoring 0 points)

1 point: **A** ×14, **E** ×11, **I** ×10, **O** ×10,

S ×8, **U** ×7, **M** ×6, **R** ×6, **T** ×5,

2 points: **D** ×5, **L** ×5, **C** ×4, **P** ×4

3 points: **N** ×4, **B** ×3, **Ç** ×2

4 points: **F** ×2, **G** ×2, **H** ×2, **V** ×2

5 points: **J** ×2

6 points: **Q** ×1

8 points: **X** ×1, **Z** ×1

While *Ç* is a separate tile, other diacritical marks are ignored. *K* and *Y* are absent, since they are only present in loanwords in Portuguese.

Romanian (100 tiles)

2 blank tiles (scoring 0 points)

1 point: **A** ×11, **I** ×10, **E** ×9, **R** ×7, **T** ×7, **N** ×6, **U** ×6, **C** ×5, **O** ×5, **S** ×5, **L** ×4

2 points: **D** ×4, **P** ×4

4 points: **M** ×3

8 points: **F** ×2, **V** ×2

9 points: **B** ×2, **G** ×2

10 points: **H** ×1, **J** ×1, **X** ×1, **Z** ×1

Diacritical marks are ignored, so for example *Ă* and *Â* are played as *A*.

Russian (104 Cyrillic letter tiles)

2 blank tiles (scoring 0 points)

1 point: **О** ×10, **А** ×8, **Е** ×8, **И** ×5, **Н** ×5, **Р** ×5, **С** ×5, **Т** ×5, **В** ×4

2 points: **Д** ×4, **К** ×4, **Л** ×4, **П** ×4, **У** ×4, **М** ×3

3 points: **Б** ×2, **Г** ×2, **Ь** ×2, **Я** ×2, **Ё** ×1

4 points: **Ы** ×2, **Й** ×1

5 points: **З** ×2, **Ж** ×1, **Х** ×1, **Ц** ×1, **Ч** ×1

8 points: **Ш** ×1, **Э** ×1, **Ю** ×1

10 points: **Ф** ×1, **Щ** ×1, **Ъ** ×1

Russian-language Scrabble sets used to have 126 tiles. The number was reduced in 1990.



Jo Ann Ingram (left) and Pat Grant perform a skit at the National prize-giving dinner

Who's playing Scrabble?

Andy Robinson, captain of Scotland's rugby team

John Barclay, Scotland's flanker, spoke about the first time Andy would lead Scotland out against his home nation [England]: "Forget any thoughts of split loyalties – he's a winner and desperately wants the points as much as any of us players. Be it cards, Scrabble or rugby he hates losing and that is infectious."

The late Freddie mercury, lead singer of Queen

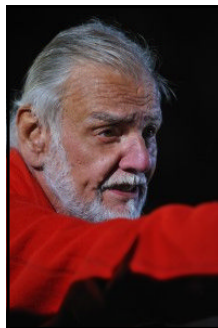
Freddie Mercury, flamboyant lead singer of British supergroup Queen, loved to play Scrabble. When he wasn't prancing on stage in white satin pants delivering a phenomenal performance, composing musical hits or holding one of his legendary parties, Mercury would produce a Scrabble set and urge those around to join in.

"He hated to lose at Scrabble," recalls Peter Hince, Queen's former road manager.

Mercury died of AIDS complications aged 45. What has history done with his Scrabble set?

George Romero, film director

Romero has made six zombie movies in 42 year. When asked in an interview what he has been doing the rest of the time, he replied, "We're either – my partner and I – developing new ideas, or I'm just sitting at home playing Scrabble with my girlfriend and playing with the cat ... I



have terrible karma. I don't pull good letters. And I insist that if you could take the luck out of the game, somehow it would be great."

Lee DeWyze, 2010 American Idol

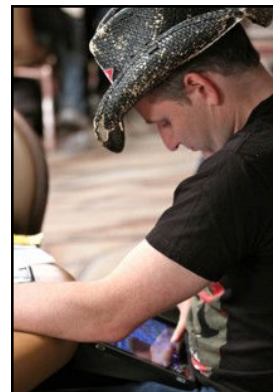


24 year-old Lee DeWyze is the ninth winner of *American Idol*. His blog states that he owns a British Bulldog named Capone, has four tattoos, is afraid of clowns and heights, loves playing Scrabble, and called home before each *Idol* performance.

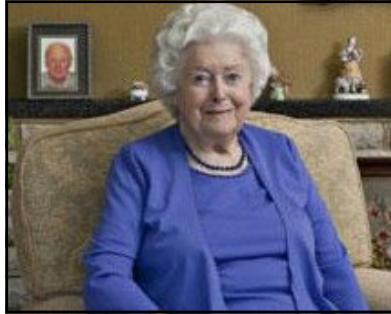
Andy Boch, world class poker pro

The picture shows poker professional Andy Bloch at the World Series of Poker Player's Championship. What's he looking at? Yes, he's deep into a game of Scrabble on his iPad.

Forget those pocket aces ... Triple Word Score!



June Spencer, who plays Peggy in *The Archers*



June Spencer OBE, 90, has been the voice of Peggy Woolley (née Perkins, formerly Archer) in Radio 4's *The Archers* for 60 years and is the only remaining member of the original cast.

"I'm a Scrabble addict. I set up a Scrabble club just after Roger died [of a stroke, in 2001]. He and I played Scrabble every day. The club is highly organised and greatly enjoyed by about a dozen of us every Tuesday afternoon."

Elizabeth Taylor



A new book, the private love letter of Richard Burton and Elisabeth Taylor reveals intimate details of their romance.

"Richard and I had an incredible chemistry together," she said. "We couldn't get enough of each other." She recalled how they would "make love, and play Scrabble, and spell out naughty words for each other, and the game would never be finished. When you get aroused playing Scrabble, that's love, baby."

Convicted murderer, Joy O'Shea-Woomer

A jury convicted Woomer in January of third-degree murder, drug delivery resulting in death, and delivery of a controlled substance. She says that sleep is the "ultimate escape" in Lancaster County prison and that 17 months behind bars has "honed my Scrabble skills, becoming the one everyone tries to beat".

Kate Hudson, film star

The 31-year-old actress who turned down a place at New York University in favour of drama school in California, is a keen Scrabble player.



Facts of life

A year two student came home from school and said to her grandmother, "Grandma, guess what? We learned how to make babies today."

The grandmother, more than a little surprised, tried to keep her cool. "That's interesting," she said. "How do you make babies?"

"It's simple," replied the little girl. "You just change Y to I and add ES."

Proofreading is a dying art

A collection of headlines that nobody on the newspaper read properly before going to press!

- Man kills self before shooting wife and daughter
- Something went wrong in jet crash, expert says
- Police begin campaign to run down jaywalkers
- Panda mating fails; veterinarian takes over
- Miners refuse to work after death
- Juvenile court to try shooting defendant
- War dims hope for peace
- If strike isn't settled quickly, it may last awhile
- Cold wave linked to temperatures
- Enfield couple slain; police suspect homicide
- Red tape holds up new bridges
- Man struck by lightning; faces battery charge
- New study of obesity looks for larger test group
- Astronaut takes blame for gas in spacecraft
- Kids make nutritious snacks
- Local high school dropouts cut in half
- Hospitals are sued by 7 foot doctors
- Typhoon rips through cemetery; hundreds dead

Solutions

Dismantling the ORANGERY (from page 26)

With one letter removed, ORANGERY can become ORANGER or ORANGEY.

With the next letter removed, ORANGER can become ORANGE or RANGER. ORANGEY can become ORANGE or ORANGY.

With the third letter removed, ORANGE can become ORANG or RANGE. RANGER can become ANGER or RAGER. ORANGY can become ORANG or RANGY.

With the fourth letter removed, ORANG can only become RANG. RANGE can become RANG or RAGE. ANGER can only become AGER. RAGER can become AGER or RAGE. RANGY can only become RANG.

With the fifth letter removed, RANG can become RAG or RAN. AGER can only become AGE. RAGE can become RAG or RAN. RAG and RAN can be further reduced to AG or AN by the removal of a letter.

I **think** that makes a total of 20 different ways the reduction can be achieved.

And the same to you (from page 38)

If the grate be empty put coal on. If the grate be full stop.

Anzac words (from page 26x)

Seven-letter ANZAC words: CAdeNZA, CANZonA, ChAZANs, ChAZzAN, CZArINA, ZACAtON

6-letter words from BISCUIT: BUSTIC, CUBIST, CUBITI, CUBITS

So you've got two Fs? (from page 29)

7-letter words: BUYOFF, CUTOFF, DIEOFF, FLYOFF, LAYOFF, LOGOFF, PAYOFF, PUTOFF, RIPOFF, RUBOFF, RUNOFF, SETOFF and TIPOFF.

8-letter words: BLOWOFF, BOILOFF, CASTOFF, COOKOFF, DUSTOFF, FALLOFF, FUCKOFF, HANDOFF, JUMPOFF, KICKOFF, LEADOFF, LIFTOFF, PICKOFF, PLAYOFF, RAKEOFF, SELLOFF, SENDOFF, SHOWOFF, SHUTOFF, SPINOFF, STOPOFF, TAKEOFF, TURNOF and WAVEOFF.

Rankings

NZASP Rankings list as at 7 June 2010

	Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%		Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%
1	Howard Warner	1996	1335.5	1836	73%	43	Allie Quinn	1567	848.5	1755	48%
2	Lynne Butler	1996	787	1270	62%	44	Janice Cherry	1549	327	629	52%
3	Joanne Craig	1985	210	319	66%	45	Glenyss Buchanan	1546	544.5	1173	46%
4	Patrick Carter	1980	658	1047	63%	46	Peter Johnstone	1545	46.5	88	53%
5	Mike Sigley	1915	862	1220	71%	47	David Gunn	1542	1020	2053	50%
6	Andrew Bradley	1914	686	1322	52%	48	Sheila Green	1541	35	76	46%
7	Peter Sinton	1914	535.5	736	73%	49	Anna Hough	1528	468	955	49%
8	Jeff Grant	1901	1454	1908	76%	50	Margie Hurly	1507	264	494	53%
9	Steven Brown	1899	774.5	1424	54%	51	Selena Chan	1484	221	409	54%
10	Kristian Saether	1894	83	133	62%	52	Shirley Martin	1481	631	1218	52%
11	Blue Thorogood	1891	414	607	68%	53	Maureen Holliday	1470	568	1103	51%
12	Glenda Foster	1861	825.5	1629	51%	54	Hazel Purdie	1460	775.5	1579	49%
13	Rogelio Talosig	1845	367	616	60%	55	Karyn McDougall	1460	590	1120	53%
14	Debbie Caldwell	1819	483.5	786	62%	56	Herb Ramsay	1457	105	157	67%
15	John Foster	1816	1233.5	2160	57%	57	June Mackwell	1455	624	1414	44%
16	Nick Covenagh	1805	74	126	59%	58	Scott Chaput	1442	97	162	60%
17	Denise Gordon	1797	638	1306	49%	59	Joan Thomas	1432	706.5	1428	49%
18	Glynis Jennings	1781	414.5	876	47%	60	Kaite Hansen	1431	220	396	56%
19	Chris Hooks	1770	831	1711	49%	61	Glenda Geard	1405	816.5	1656	49%
20	Amelia Carrington	1753	265	467	57%	62	Ella Rushton	1403	174	301	58%
21	Shirley van Essen	1749	331	639	52%	63	Clare Ruckstuhl	1387	191	357	54%
22	Paul Lister	1735	710.5	1257	57%	64	Ray Goodyear	1373	189	379	50%
23	Lawson Sue	1726	323	637	51%	65	Leila Thomson	1358	455	1024	44%
24	Glennis Hale	1716	1239.5	2213	56%	66	Roger Coates	1351	551.5	1179	47%
25	Liz Fagerlund	1704	786.5	1517	52%	67	Lyn Toka	1347	428.5	812	53%
26	Murray Rogers	1703	503	978	51%	68	Faye Cronhelm	1336	691	1388	50%
27	Lynne Powell	1702	825.5	1629	51%	69	Lynn Carter	1332	412.5	768	54%
28	Anderina McLean	1698	302.5	544	56%	70	Rosalind Phillips	1322	364.5	690	53%
29	Val Mills	1684	816	1746	47%	71	Jean O'Brien	1319	848.5	1667	51%
30	Rosemary Cleary	1672	576	1253	46%	72	Pam Barlow	1314	487	963	51%
31	Peter Jones	1668	733	1505	49%	73	Delcie Macbeth	1309	642	1228	52%
32	Pam Robson	1666	469	1022	46%	74	Ernie Gidman	1307	314	626	50%
33	John Baird	1663	126	215	59%	75	Yoon Kim Fong	1304	418	803	52%
34	Rebecca Freeth	1662	189	327	58%	76	Pat Bryan	1300	131	227	58%
35	Vicky Robertson	1662	135	242	56%	77	Irene Smith	1288	84	181	46%
36	Marianne Bentley	1653	259	578	45%	78	Yvette Hewlett	1286	354.5	749	47%
37	Jennifer Smith	1649	746	1511	49%	79	Mary Gray	1281	311.5	597	52%
38	Ian Patterson	1641	180	340	53%	80	Lyn Dawson	1280	317	579	55%
39	Olivia Godfrey	1640	411	728	56%	81	Lorraine Van Veen	1274	693.5	1364	51%
40	Shirley Hol	1628	492.5	1072	46%	82	Su Walker	1273	714.5	1410	51%
41	Helen Sillis	1589	635	1273	50%	83	Cicely Bruce	1263	123.5	191	65%
42	Lynn Wood	1583	1259.5	2640	48%	84	Ann Candler	1263	620.5	1319	47%

	Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%		Name	Rating	Wins	Games	%
85	Katrina Allen	1227	81	149	54%	134	Kathleen Mori-Barker	775	291.5	598	49%
86	Marian Ross	1209	437	871	50%	135	Alison Holmes	769	129	240	54%
87	Karen Gray	1193	166	309	54%	136	Lisa Tam	768	29	41	71%
88	Roto Mitchell	1186	517	1014	51%	137	Roslyn Lister	747	293.5	578	51%
89	Gabrielle Bolt	1185	283.5	544	52%	138	Rosemary Wauters	744	108.5	201	54%
90	Rhoda Cashman	1181	731.5	1507	49%	139	Tim Henneveld	739	230	533	43%
91	Allison Torrance	1169	271	522	52%	140	Kaye Hubner	735	27	62	44%
92	Andree Prentice	1168	777	1533	51%	141	Rahimah Abdullah	725	37.5	84	45%
93	Carole Coates	1139	485.5	977	50%	142	Jacqueline Coldham-Fussell	720	468.5	990	47%
94	Betty Eriksen	1130	956.5	1906	50%	143	Mary Curtis	711	100	201	50%
95	Shirley Wyatt	1126	421.5	905	47%	144	Janny Henneveld	710	252	531	47%
96	Steve Richards	1124	194	402	48%	145	Suzanne Harding	706	123.5	256	48%
97	Val Flint	1105	49	69	71%	146	Maria Clinton	703	172	340	51%
98	Margaret Cherry	1092	403	817	49%	147	Tony Charlton	684	134.5	277	49%
99	Heather Landon	1090	229	437	52%	148	Jean Craib	676	320	683	47%
100	Elaine Moltzen	1089	486	968	50%	149	Anne Scatchard	673	120.5	227	53%
101	Colleen Cook	1089	208.5	425	49%	150	Anthea Jones	669	138.5	275	50%
102	Roger Cole-Baker	1086	261	500	52%	151	Ruth Godwin	653	88	236	37%
103	Ruth Groffman	1080	334.5	705	47%	152	Thelma Chisholm	649	227.5	479	47%
104	Jo Ann Ingram	1064	141	296	48%	153	Richard Cornelius	637	32.5	61	53%
105	Sandra Stacey	1056	121	236	51%	154	Christina Linwood	621	81.5	171	48%
106	Dianne Cole-Baker	1036	239	454	53%	155	Marc Van Hoecke	616	95	182	52%
107	Agnes Rowland	1031	63	113	56%	156	Barbara Cornell	611	37	102	36%
108	Liz Richards	1029	197.5	400	49%	157	Judy Driscoll	599	32	112	29%
109	Kerry McKenna	1013	36	57	63%	158	Annette Coombes	593	491	1118	44%
110	Margaret Lyall	1007	429.5	860	50%	159	Dorothy Haining	590	472	951	50%
111	Jena Yousif	979	265.5	536	50%	160	Maria Barker	584	82	189	43%
112	Carolyn Kyle	979	519	1033	50%	161	Pauline Smeaton	562	280.5	540	52%
113	Chris Handley	974	311	591	53%	162	Penny Irvine	523	70.5	176	40%
114	Catherine Henry	969	308.5	578	53%	163	Jean Wacker	491	218	436	50%
115	Karen Miller	961	399.5	818	49%	164	Pat Wood	485	67.5	127	53%
116	Nola Borrell	953	154.5	289	53%	165	Madeleine Green	432	26.5	58	46%
117	Veronica Zilinskas	945	167.5	304	55%	166	Stephanie Pluck	418	25	55	45%
118	Joan Pratt	940	584	1127	52%	167	Lynn Thompson	408	113	265	43%
119	Fran Lowe	929	25.5	57	45%	168	Anne-Louise Milne	318	55	253	22%
120	Pam Muirhead	925	54.5	89	61%	169	Sue Mayn	317	120	315	38%
121	Liz Catchpole	915	365	750	49%	170	Antonia Aarts	311	42	122	34%
122	Judith Thomas	911	105.5	200	53%	171	Noelene Bettjeman	275	163	365	45%
123	Malcolm Graham	904	253	511	50%	172	Amy Tiopira	266	7.5	44	17%
124	Suzanne Frederick	898	183.5	328	56%	173	Di Barritt	242	51.5	153	34%
125	Sheila Reed	896	133.5	283	47%	174	Margaret Miller	239	80	211	38%
126	Bernice Hyde	881	197	378	52%	175	Betty Sutherland	164	202.5	487	42%
127	Jean Boyle	842	348.5	668	52%	176	Trish Fox	129	16	107	15%
128	Barbara Dunn	840	158.5	275	58%	177	Jeannie Lambert	7	7	75	9%
129	Yvonne MacKenzie	835	384.5	824	47%						
130	Jean Walsh	821	157	310	51%						
131	Michael Groffman	814	189.5	404	47%						
132	Bev Edwards	806	125	217	58%						
133	Valma Gidman	784	584.5	1157	51%						

Tournament Results

Mt Albert Memorial Tournament 20 March 2010

8 games

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread
Mt Eden Grade				
1	Patrick Carter	MTA	7	276
2	John Foster	IND	6	605
3	Rebecca Freeth	ROD	5	159
4	Vicky Robertson	WEL	5	152
5	Nick Cavenagh	HAM	5	141
6	Chris Hooks	MTA	5	84
7	Olivia Godfrey	WEL	5	-6
8	June Mackwell	NSB	5	-33
9	Howard Warner	MTA	4	189
10	Janice Cherry	IND	4	75
11	Jennifer Smith	HAM	4	-52
12	Liz Fagerlund	MTA	3	-34
13	Scott Thiemann	MTA	3	-132
14	Anderina McLean	MTA	3	-171
15	Val Mills	PAK	3	-232
16	David Gunn	WKP	3	-265
17	Hazel Purdie	MTA	2	-140
18	Julie Atkinson	MTA	0	-616

Mt Hobson Grade

1	Mary Gray	MTA	7	668
2	Su Walker	MTA	6	296
3	Pam Barlow	PAK	6	190
4	Lynn Carter	NSB	5	329
5	Pat Bryan	MTA	5	195
6	Roto Mitchell	WAN	5	-20
7	Lyres Freeth	ROD	4	250
8	Valma Gidman	ROD	4	91
9	Margaret Cherry	PAK	4	42
10	Cicely Bruce	WRE	4	34
11	Bev Edwards	WRE	4	-20
12	Jo Ann Ingram	TGA	4	-35
13	Catherine Henry	TGA	4	-133
14	Betty Eriksen	WAN	3	195
15	Jean Boyle	WAN	3	-160
16	Kaye Hubner	TGA	3	-247
17	Richard Cornelius	TGA	3	-425
18	Annette Coombes	WKP	2	-257



*Mary Gray, Mt Hobson grade winner at
Mt Albert*

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread
19	Ruth Godwin	ROT	2	-445
20	Lynn Thompson	WRE	2	-548

21 March 2010

8 games

1	Patrick Carter	MTA	7	590
2	Howard Warner	MTA	7	551
3	Anderina McLean	MTA	6	327
4	Chris Hooks	MTA	5.5	-22
5	Lawson Sue	PAK	5	503
6	Glynis Jennings	MTA	5	395
7	Kristian Saether	MTA	5	372
8	Val Mills	PAK	5	279
9	Olivia Godfrey	WEL	5	167
10	Hazel Purdie	MTA	5	111
11	John Foster	IND	5	102
12	Su Walker	MTA	5	47
13	Rosalind Phillips	MTA	5	38
14	Lynn Carter	NSB	4.5	169
15	Liz Fagerlund	MTA	4	212
16	Roto Mitchell	WAN	4	123
17	Jennifer Smith	HAM	4	90
18	Vicky Robertson	WEL	4	-6
19	Pat Bryan	MTA	4	-19

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread
20	Mary Gray	MTA	4	-193
21	Athena Masileo	MTA	4	-308
22	Jean Boyle	WAN	4	-410
23	Richard Cornelius	TGA	3.5	-331
24	June Mackwell	NSB	3	17
25	Betty Eriksen	WAN	3	17
26	Pam Barlow	PAK	3	-176
27	Kaye Hubner	TGA	3	-184
28	Mary Thornber	MTA	3	-189
29	Antonia Aarts	MTA	3	-354
30	Jo Ann Ingram	TGA	2.5	-109
31	Bev Edwards	WRE	2	-160
32	Catherine Henry	TGA	2	-307
33	Frances Higham	PHC	1	-942

**Dunedin Lion Open Scrabble
Tournament
27-28 March 2010**

15 games

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Avg
Grade A					
1	Peter Sinton	DUN	12	986	439
2	Tim Anglin	IND	10	418	419
3	Ian Patterson	DUN	6	-99	415
4	Peter Johnstone	CHC	6	-185	392
5	Karyn McDougall	DUN	6	-265	394
6	Herb Ramsay	CHC	5	-855	383
Grade B					
1	Kaite Hansen	CHC	12	747	410
2	Jean O'Brien	IND	10	557	408
3	Betty Eriksen	WAN	6	-108	362



Kaite Hansen, B grade winner at Dunedin

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Avg
4	Karen Gray	DUN	6	-307	359
5	Marian Ross	DUN	6	-390	356
6	Ruth Groffman	DUN	5	-499	345

Grade C

1	Heather Landon	TGA	12	479	366
2	Carolyn Kyle	DUN	9	444	388
3	Chris Handley	DUN	9	236	376
4	Yvonne Mackenzie	CHC	6	-398	343
5	Michael Groffman	DUN	5	-312	351
6	Christina Linwood	DUN	4	-449	351

Grade D

1	Marc Van Hoecke	DUN	12	1387	407
2	Penny Irvine	DUN	11	427	361
3	Stephanie Pluck	DUN	9	742	401
4	Anne-Louise Milne	DUN	7	-107	343
5	Vicky Clark	DUN	5	-538	334
6	Amy Tiopira	DUN	1	-1911	272

**NZ Masters Championship
3-5 April 2010**

23 Games

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Avg
1	Howard Warner	MTA	17	1775	447
2	Andrew Bradley	MTA	17	702	420
3	Joanne Craig	CHC	16	1456	452
4	Mike Sigley	WAN	15	1021	424
5	Steven Brown	KAP	15	717	422
6	Shirley Van Essen	CHC	15	168	402
7	Peter Sinton	DUN	14.5	1356	429
8	Jeff Grant	IND	14	684	425
9	Blue Thorogood	CHC	13	593	426
10	Denise Gordon	WAN	13	287	413
11	Lawson Sue	MTA	12	-31	408
12	Murray Rogers	NEL	12	-307	388
13	John Foster	IND	11	-256	394
14	Liz Fagerlund	MTA	11	-398	385
15	Glenda Foster	WEL	10.5	-375	386
16	Paul Lister	CHC	10	-708	377
17	Anderina McLean	MTA	9	-157	397
18	Glennis Hale	IND	9	-314	391
19	Rosemary Cleary	WAN	8.5	-425	369
20	Lynn Wood	WEL	8	-809	371
21	Marianne Bentley	TGA	7.5	-821	390
22	Shirley Hol	CHC	7	-1279	375
23	Ian Patterson	DUN	6	-1579	368
24	Joan Thomas	HAS	5	-1300	368

**South Island Champs -
Christchurch
8-9 May 2010**

14 Game double round robin

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Avg
A Grade					
1	Blue Thorogood	CHC	10	838	452
2	Paul Lister	CHC	10	251	414
3	John Baird	CHC	7	-11	394
4	Ian Patterson	DUN	7	-51	397
5	Shirley van Essen	CHC	6	107	406
6	Murray Rogers	NEL	6	-115	387
7	Lynn Wood	WEL	6	-414	384
8	Shirley Hol	CHC	4	-605	381

B Grade					
1	Mike Southern	CHC	10	609	415
2	Anna Hough	CHC	9	441	409
3	Kaite Hansen	CHC	8	87	390
4	Selena Chan	CHC	8	23	384
5	Herb Ramsay	CHC	7	-15	381
6	Karyn McDougall	DUN	6	-333	369
7	Ray Goodyear	CHC	6	-340	371
8	Irene Smith	CHC	2	-472	377

C Grade					
1	Lyn Dawson	CHC	11	412	387
2	Marian Ross	DUN	9	213	391
3	Allison Torrance	CHC	8	243	379
4	Gabrielle Bolt	CHC	8	-122	362
5	Andree Prentice	WAN	7	173	380
6	Colleen Cook	CHC	6	-24	359



*Lyn Dawson, C grade winner at
Christchurch*



John Baird, 3rd in A grade at Christchurch

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Avg
7	Karen Gray	DUN	5	59	383
8	Veronica Zilinskas	CHC	2	-954	341

D Grade					
1	Margaret Lyall	CHC	11	360	388
2	Chris Handley	DUN	10	726	392
3	Carolyn Kyle	DUN	10	451	380
4	Dominic Lister	CHC	6	82	366
5	Thelma Chisholm	WEL	6	-90	348
6	Kathleen Mori-Barker	CHC	6	-94	370
7	Tony Charlton	NEL	4	-231	352
8	Roslyn Lister	CHC	3	-1204	323

E Grade					
1	Jean Craib	CHC	12	975	350
2	Judith Bach	CHC	11	277	344
3	Madeleine Green	CHC	9.5	134	309
4	Amy Tiopira	DUN	6.5	-350	278
5	Di Barritt	CHC	6	-416	273
6	Betty Sutherland	CHC	4	-186	294
7	Trish Fox	CHC	4	-511	274
8	Phyllis Paltridge	CHC	3	77	192

**NZ National Championships
5-6 June 2010**

15 Games

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Avg
Grade A					
1	Lynne Butler	NPL	14	1586	454
2	Howard Warner	MTA	11.5	743	413

	Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Avg		Name	Club	Wins	Spread	Avg
3	Glenda Foster	WEL	11	178	389	15	Yoon Kim Fong	KIW	6	-413	381
4	Steven Brown	KAP	9	244	416	16	Mary Gray	MTA	6	-537	376
5	Andrew Bradley	MTA	9	126	400	Grade D					
6	Rogelio Talosig	IND	8.5	134	398	1	Cicely Bruce	WRE	12	1003	422
7	John Foster	IND	8	228	408	2	Lorraine van Veen	IND	12	813	416
8	Nick Cavenagh	HAM	8	182	410	3	Karen Gray	DUN	11	650	392
9	Jeff Grant	IND	7	168	415	4	Carole Coates	KIW	10	299	382
10	Liz Fagerlund	MTA	5	-103	395	5	Roto Mitchell	WAN	10	-64	366
11	Murray Rogers	NEL	5	-272	404	6	Val Flint	HAM	9	717	409
12	Paul Lister	CHC	5	-346	370	7	Betty Eriksen	WAN	9	118	373
13	Lawson Sue	MTA	5	-564	382	8	Jo Ann Ingram	TGA	8	-10	358
14	Glennis Hale	IND	5	-611	374	9	Elaine Moltzen	KIW	7	35	365
15	Lynne Powell	HBC	5	-823	382	10	Dianne Cole-Baker	MTA	7	28	376
16	Peter Jones	HAM	4	-870	367	11	Roger Cole-Baker	MTA	7	-294	368
Grade B						12	Nola Borrell	WEL	5	-321	350
1	Amelia Carrington	IND	12	957	436	13	Malcolm Graham	CHC	5	-367	360
2	Anderina McLean	MTA	10	526	404	14	Fran Lowe	IND	4	-827	333
3	Val Mills	PAK	10	474	416	15	Jean Boyle	WAN	3	-558	357
4	Rosemary Cleary	WAN	9	851	413	16	Jacqueline Coldham-Fussell	KIW	1	-1219	331
5	Marianne Bentley	TGA	9	277	399	Grade E					
6	Vicky Robertson	WEL	9	239	402	1	Bev Edwards	WRE	11.5	503	374
7	Jennifer Smith	HAM	9	206	393	2	Valma Gidman	ROD	11	738	374
8	Shirley Hol	CHC	9	-203	391	3	Suzanne Harding	WRE	10	509	366
9	Helen Sillis	NPL	8	-199	382	4	Roslyn Lister	CHC	10	357	332
10	David Gunn	WKP	6	-235	383	5	Janny Henneveld	ROT	10	221	354
11	Lynn Wood	WEL	6	-391	374	6	Rosemary Wauters	TGA	10	90	361
12	Allie Quinn	WRE	5	12	406	7	Tim Henneveld	ROT	9.5	219	354
13	Glenyss Buchanan	LOH	5	-201	381	8	Anthea Jones	KIW	9	294	343
14	Shirley Martin	HAM	5	-770	380	9	Leighton Gelling	HAM	9	288	345
15	June Mackwell	NSB	4	-472	363	10	Jean Craib	CHC	9	-138	337
16	Scott Chaput	DUN	4	-1071	370	11	Anne Scatchard	WRE	8	430	342
Grade C						12	Thelma Chisholm	WEL	8	232	353
1	Katy Yiakmis	MTA	11	480	403	13	Christina Linwood	DUN	8	176	356
2	Joan Thomas	HAS	9	311	397	14	Judy Driscoll	KAP	7	-42	358
3	Kaite Hansen	IND	9	276	392	15	Margaret Penniket	KIW	6	-506	346
4	Glenda Geard	IND	9	-105	381	16	Jean Wacker	TGA	4	-606	292
5	Roger Coates	KIW	8	200	388	17	Margy Moore	KIW	4	-764	302
6	Leila Thomson	LOH	8	-23	384	18	Lynn Thompson	WRE	3.5	-696	321
7	Rosalind Phillips	MTA	7	275	382	19	Susan Milne	MTA	2.5	-1290	255
8	Faye Cronhelm	IND	7	226	400						
9	Pam Barlow	PAK	7	213	402						
10	Lyn Toka	KIW	7	146	413						
11	Delcie Macbeth	IND	7	-212	384						
12	Lynn Carter	NSB	7	-361	372						
13	Su Walker	MTA	6	-135	394						
14	Ernie Gidman	ROD	6	-341	368						

Nationals prize giving pictures



A Grade prize-winners Glenda Foster, Lynne Butler, Glennis Hale, Jeff Grant and Howard Warner



E Grade prize-winners Roslyn Lister, Bev Edwards, Valma Gidman and Suzanne Harding



B Grade prize-winners Anderina McLean and Val Mills



Lynne Butler (left) presents the Georgie award for the most improved player to Roslyn Lister



C Grade prize-winners Katy Yiakmis, Lynne Toka and Joan Thomas



Team trophy winners Cicely Bruce, Suzanne Harding and Bev Edwards from Whangarei



D Grade prize-winners Karen Gray, Lorraine van Veen, Elaine Moltzen and Cicely Bruce

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	514	Pam Barlow (PAK)	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	bevholo@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)	Ann Candler	09 444 8411	anncan@clear.net.nz	Tues 10am
Mt Albert (MTA)	Liz Catchpole	09 846 0598	lizcatch@ihug.co.nz	Fri 7.00pm
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 (KIW)	Elaine Moltzen	07 843 5108	scrabilfuss@watchdog.net.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)	Ngairi 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	rosecleary@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	steverichards@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	ruthgroffman@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	