

# OnBoard

Bimonthly Magazine for the Association of British Scrabble Players



CHAMPION

SCRABBLE

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP 2011

WARSAW 12-16 October

NIGEL RICHARDS

SCRABBLE

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\$ 20,000

EVERY WORD COUNTS!



Issue 141 - December 2011

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## Minutes of ABSP Committee Meeting: Sunday 2nd October 2011

**Venue:** Philip's house, London

**Present:** Peter Ashurst (PA), Wayne Kelly (WK), Ross Mackenzie (RM), Philip Nelkon (PN), Steve Perry (SP).

**Standing apologies:** Anand Buddhdev (AB), Elie Dangoor (ED), Darryl Francis (DF), Anand Buddhdev (AB), Elie Dangoor (ED), Paula Davenport (PD), Alec Webb (AW).

**Apologies:** Laura Finley (LF), Stewart Holden (SH), Elisabeth Jardine (EJ), Anne Ramsay (AR)

**Ratings Officer:** John Grayson (JG)

**Resignations/appointments:** Allan Simmons stepped down from the Committee as of the AGM but will remain on the Committee discussion group, at least during the handover period.

**Minutes of the previous meeting:** agreed via email

### Team member reports and discussion

#### **Treasurer's report:**

- Barclays mandate has been updated with PA, RM and LF as signatories
- Bank balance – £14,359.22 nett of payment of £27,605.62 for Yarnfield Park
- 2010 accounts have been audited and approved
- Standing Orders – the matter was deferred at the AGM. PA is investigating further.
- Membership database has been reformatted, PA / AR are to review the current set up.
- Out turn cost for BMSC was a loss of £860.55, prize money was increased by using 2010 surplus of £540.
- BMSC giveaway mugs – surplus were sold to Tilefish
- Out turn cost for Masters was a loss of £37.00
- 50 Short Scrabble boards have been produced and paid for. PN confirmed that a maximum of 200 boards can be printed and issued
- Changing of ABSP bank - PA reported that he had visited a number of banks and it was not straightforward to obtain a new bank account, some banks now do not have community accounts and a business account would attract numerous charges

#### **Membership Secretary**

- Renewal forms will be issued with the WESPA V2 rules, due for issue before the end of October
- Tile giveaway for early renewals (20 sets) will be carried out using a random number generator for selection of the winners
- Standing orders from 2012 will be automatically entered into the draw for 2013

#### **Secretary:**

- AGM 2012 – there will be a sealed ballot box for proxy votes and voting will close at the end of play on Saturday night. This will allow time for the votes to be counted and the necessary calculations to be done well in advance of the AGM. This will only be for members at the BMSC who will not be attending the AGM.

## **Tournament Co-ordination:**

- The following were discussed at the TO Forum meeting at the BMSC:
  - Use of handhelds for 'personal' self-adjudication - currently not allowed. Question subsequently posed about laptops, notebooks and tablets (eg iPads).
  - It was decided:
    - Notebooks - as long as the Zyzzyva challenge page is visible to both players and the TD that is acceptable.*
    - Tablets – currently not acceptable.*
  - WESPA Rules V2. SP to issue a note to TO/TD's explaining changes as they affect tournament officials.
  - Entry forms on website. Requested that forms for upload should be supplied in pdf format. SP will convert where possible.
  - Suggested text of notices to be put on self -adjudication laptops circulated to TO Forum: "This computer is to be used for "SELF-ADJUDICATION ONLY. Any other use will render the user subject to ABSP sanctions."
  - Playing equipment - option to surcharge players who do not bring a set of acceptable playing equipment. Suggested amounts £5/£10 for day/multi-day events
  - Concern about numbers at tournaments and late bookings.

## **ABSP Events:**

### **BMSC:** .

- AS has unused division F 2010 trophies; RM has unused division E 2011 trophies. Can be reused with new adhesive plaques if we keep the same style of trophy.
- Yarnfield is provisionally booked for 2012 – it was agreed to budget for fewer players next year ie:130 instead of 150
- The fixed closing date worked and there were no late requests for entry.
- WK reported that the format for number of games was suitable
- Option for online entries and payments for 2012 – BMSC committee to pursue
- Option for direct payments to ABSP bank account for 2012 – details to be listed on entry form. This may encourage other TOs to do the same as many players no longer have cheque books.

### **Masters:**

- Questionnaires have been sent to those who were close to or actually qualified for WSC/Masters - 26 sent out, 12 replies
- Masters 2012 – proposed date: 30th June /1st July at the same venue

### **Four Nations:**

- No information to date regarding organisation of the event
- Invitations sent to top four UK representatives, three of whom have expressed an interest

### **NSC**

- Working group set up and initial discussion started tentatively (WK) Feedback is requested from working group in order to establish discussion points
- here were 229 entrants this year, 6 down on last year.
- 11 people played in the NI regional but only 6 were from Northern Ireland and thus competing for the 2 qualifying places.
- Republic of Ireland residents cannot qualify from the Northern Ireland heat. Overseas players can play in the London regional.

- NSC Semi-Final –PN reported that Leeds playing room was a new room and suitable in 2010, there were issues with the air conditioning in 2011
- NSCT – The Final seemed to go well and the venue was acceptable.

#### **Promotions:**

- Allan Simmons will discuss the role with Barry Grossman

#### **Ratings:**

- Committee agreed by email to share the ABSP Ratings Program with the Romanian Association free of charges and royalties, subject to Phil Jefferies (co-owner) agreement
- RISPA analysis has been carried out and a conversion equation prepared but this has not yet been used as no unrated Irish players have come to a UK tournament recently

#### **Website:**

- Chris Davies will take on role of webmaster and may come on Committee at a later date.
- Committee profiles need to be updated
- CD to send note to UKS that the website has been updated, as is done for WESPA website

#### **Publications:**

- Director's Guide – in need of update
- TD Guide has been updated and is available on the website
- Members' Handbook –  
  - Committee contact details need updating
  - Rating system refers to 100 games whereas it is now 150 (also refers to out-of-date events) needs updating
  - WSC qualification criteria (Section 11) needs updating
  - Section 12 – TLW – needs updating

#### **OnBoard:**

- Issue of initiation pack for CSW12 will be in the October issue of OnBoard
- AS is happy to continue providing indexing of electronic copy of OnBoard

#### **Youth Officer:**

- Letters have been dispatched to WYSC participants' schools appealing for time off for WYSC
- Re: tiles for Short Scrabble – PN pointed out that Mattel sell tiles for £8 a set and racks at £2 for four. It was also suggested that they might be sourced from local recycling groups
- Graeme Thomas Memorial Fund to pay for seven pairs of tops for WYSC reps. Adult companions may also want to buy some.
- PN reports that discussions are ongoing with Karen Richards regarding 2012 WYSC

#### **WESPA:**

- ED is willing to be re-nominated as our representative on the WESPA committee. SH has declined. Committee to discuss option of opening to the membership for person(s) to come forward
- We need to nominate someone attending WSC to represent ABSP at BGM. AS proposed

#### **Routine discussion items**

#### **Wordlist**

- RM has emailed Elaine Higgleton regarding putting the updated wordlist on CSW word check

## Rules:

- Issue of WESPA V2 pack to members – it was agreed to send this out as a separate mailing and to include the membership renewal slips
- SH agreed to raise Green/Laird BMSC game scenario (where no tiles were played due to Rule 5.2 on Six Consecutive Zeroes) with WESPA Rules Committee.

## Progression and Innovations

### Merchandising:

- AS will continue to look after existing logowear and Protiles stock
- AS is also happy to continue to be working contact with Borders Embroideries

### AOB:

- Terry Hollington Award has not been awarded since 2008 – it covers not just new and/or young players but those who have had a significant impact on Scrabble in UK.
- New player event (August) was cancelled through lack of interest - (RM holds stock of books, bags, tiles and boards), however two players turned up on the day. It was agreed to try another NPE alongside the MSO in 2012 – it could run in tandem with the Variations Games

**Date of next meeting:** Sunderland, Sunday March 4th 2012

## Letter

**Barry Grossman:** A couple of things I'd like to mention to members. First, I am attempting to help plug the large gap left by Allan Simmons's retirement from the Committee. Specifically, I will be looking for publicity opportunities for the ABSP. This will include getting mentions in the Press and on TV and radio, plus the old chestnut of tournament sponsorship.

My qualification for this is that I was the last person to step back when a volunteer was asked for, so I'm looking for help.

**If you know anyone in the worlds of Press, broadcasting or PR, or anyone who has influence over how a company spends its advertising budget, please get in touch.** Any assistance or even just advice would be very welcome.

**Wearing a different hat...** I am running a couple of courses for beginners at an adult education centre in the New Year. The courses are suitable either for complete beginners, or for players who already know their QIs and ZOs and are ready to move their game up a level.

The centre is residential, in lovely surroundings, with comfortable rooms, great food, and friendly fellow-players, so the courses are a holiday in themselves.

The venue is **Missenden Abbey, Great Missenden, Bucks**, from **27-29 January** and **11-13 May 2012**. The courses run from Friday evening to Sunday afternoon.

For details and booking information email [info@abucon.co.uk](mailto:info@abucon.co.uk) or visit [www.missendenabbey-al.co.uk/arca](http://www.missendenabbey-al.co.uk/arca) or phone **01296 383582**

Many thanks, Barry  
[bgrossman@talk21.com](mailto:bgrossman@talk21.com)

## LATE ENTRIES FOR TOURNAMENTS

Following the TD/TO Forum at the BMSC I agreed to write about the pitfalls of being a Tournament Organiser and the effect that late entries have on whether the event goes ahead or not.

Those on uk-scrabble will have seen the recent appeals from a couple of Organisers for those intending to play at their tournament to let them know as soon as possible of that intention; even if payment for the event was to come later. In both cases the number of entrants needed to make the tournament viable had not been reached and the Organisers faced with cancelling the tournament.

The decision to cancel a tournament is not taken lightly and much soul searching is done before doing so. As an Organiser you have a number of entrants in mind on which all your costs are based. Generally, this figure allows you to break even so that you do not make a significant surplus or deficit. Many Scrabble Clubs and Associations who organise a tournament and receive payments by entrants above their cut-off figure put the surplus monies into the prize fund or into Club funds to help offset rising costs or towards the next year's tournament that may have a shortfall.

So what, I hear you say, leads to the decision to cancel a tournament? To answer, I have to go back to the beginning of the whole process.

The usual starting point is the decision to actually organise a tournament. Then comes finding a venue and getting a date that does not clash with anyone else. Okay, we have that sorted, now comes the crunch part. Unless the Organiser has been dealing with the same venue for several years, the venue will want a deposit to secure their booking. The venue may even want payment in full several weeks before the event. In the case of multiple day events where the Organiser has asked for 'x' amount of bedrooms to be reserved, the venue will want a deposit along with the signed contract. The contract will show the cancellation rates that apply should the Organiser fail to fill all the rooms reserved. These rates can start from several months before the event is due to take place. For example, if you notify them 3 months before that you will not require all the rooms then the rate is 50% of the full charge, and increases significantly week by week until if you have a cancellation within the week prior to the event they will charge you 95% to 100% of the rate agreed. The same applies to one-day tournaments where a venue has scheduled employees to open and close the venue as well as setting up the room. These are the main reasons for setting a closing date for entries.

So the Organiser has done everything needed to set up a tournament, including asking for Ratings approval, publicising it through OnBoard and on the ABSP website and taking entry forms to any tournaments to which they may be going. Now all that needs to be done is to wait for the entries to start rolling in!

Some players are very good; they see the tournament advertised and send off their entry and payment in plenty of time. Some players let the Organiser know that they intend to come and will give them their entry when they see them in the near future. But there are other players who inform the Organiser the week before a tournament that they are coming and then sound surprised when the Organiser cannot accept their entry. For one-day tournaments, acceptance of a late entry may not be possible for a variety of reasons: the computer operator is away that week and wants to have everything set up the weekend before, the venue only holds a set number and that number has been reached or the organiser does everything manually and does not have the time to make adjustments to the divisions. For multiple day tournaments, the venue may not have anymore bedrooms available.

Organisers bend over backwards to get late entrants into the tournament but it is extra work for them. They want their tournament to go ahead. They want the tournament to be a good experience for everyone attending. The last thing they want to do is cancel. Cancelling means that those who have entered are disappointed, there may be a cancellation fee to pay and no Organiser whether individual, Club or Association wants to lose money. Will the Organiser be prepared to do all that work and have all the worry again next year? Probably not. So the message is clear "**get your entries in as soon as possible**" or let the Organiser know that you intend to come but need to pay at a later date. **Do not leave it until the last minute.**

**Amy Byrne**

## WSC - the view from table 2

The World Scrabble Championship happened almost two months ago and seems old news, however it is unthinkable that OnBoard will not carry the story of such a prestigious event, so here is my report, having volunteered, along with partner Yvonne Eade, to be a helper at WSC 2012.

Yvonne and I landed at Warsaw Airport at 10.30pm on the evening of Sunday 9th October and after passing through customs we were greeted by the smiling face of Polish Scrabble player Wojtek Usakiewicz who we have known since the Rhine tournaments of Karl Khoshnaw.

Wojtek secured us a taxi and accompanied us to the Hilton Hotel, venue of the World Scrabble Championships, and where we had been able to get accommodation at an agreeable price for the duration of the event. From the stories of some of the participants, what price you could obtain accommodation for at the Hilton was something of a lottery depending on when and by what route the price was obtained. As a consequence a large number of WSC competitors found it more advantageous to stay at other Warsaw hotels.

The hotel was certainly luxurious. Our room on the 18th floor was spacious with a kingsize bed, a huge picture window looking out over the city and an ensuite bathroom with a heated floor.

We spent Monday and Tuesday sightseeing, including a stroll with Wojtek through that quarter of Warsaw that is his home. And then, on Tuesday evening the WSC got underway as the players gathered to register, collect their Mattel goody bags and socialise with drinks and hors d'oeuvres. A convivial occasion with much shaking of hands and pecks on cheeks as old adversaries met up, possibly for the first time since the last WSC.

Philip Nelkon made a short speech explaining how Scrabble was the top selling game in Poland, that it was an important market for Mattel, making it an excellent choice as WSC venue and he thanked the Polish Scrabble Association for their assistance in staging the event.

It was at this point that Yvonne and I began our official duties when, together with Ray and Julie Tate who had also volunteered as helpers, we slipped away to the playing room to carefully go through every Scrabble set, making sure that tile quantities and letter distributions for all of them were correct. A necessary duty as one set was found to have Polish tiles, we also found half of the sets had tiles that were too big to comfortably fit the grid on the boards - something that was not able to be fully rectified until after the games had started.

Wednesday morning there was an opening ceremony carried out in Polish and English, in front of cameras presumably for the Polish media, and then, right on schedule, the first of the 34 rounds started at 11.00.

Table one was cordoned off as 'special'. On this table the tournament leaders would be playing their games and Ray and Julie Tate together with Cheah Siu Hean and Sam Miller would record racks and moves, and send them directly to the WSC website. At the same time Yvonne and I would annotate the games on table two so that tournament director Wilma Vialle in her quieter moments could record the moves in Quackle for later uploading to the website. In our first annotation we were able to pleasingly watch Calum Edwards conjure up a narrow victory against one of the mighty Thais, Komol Panyasophonlert.

Whilst all the participants were champions in their respective countries, there was still a wide range of playing abilities. Some large winning margins were recorded in round one, but also some upsets - notably the defeat of Andrew Fisher by Zbigniew Wieckowski, the Polish reserve who was only playing because some African players had had to drop out following visa refusals.

After round two a buffet lunch was provided in the area just outside the playing room. The food was good, but there was no seating available, just pedestal tables where you could stand



*The tournament gets under way and Yvonne and I annotate the game between Calum Edwards and Komol Panyasophonlert*

and eat your meal. In this area were also two huge computer monitors showing the total array of participants. These monitors completely governed the tournament, showing as they did the players' next opponents, table numbers, starts and replies as well as current placings which changed every few seconds as new results were recorded. Operating the computer was John Chew, creator of the pairing program being used for the championships.

As expected, after the opening few rounds the 'cream' started to rise to the top and by round five, the widely accepted 'world's best player' Nigel Richards was on table one.

In round six on table three a seemingly innocuous event occurred. Hubert Wee of Singapore, playing Charnrit Khongthanasat of Thailand picked up the tile bag by the wrong end tipping out several tiles that fell to the floor. Unbeknown to him one tile had become lodged in his clothing. Neither player accurately tracked the game, and at the end arranged the tiles in a way that did not instantly show that a tile was still missing.

In round seven, the last of the day, the competitors on table three were England's Ed Martin and Thailand's Chollapat Itthi-Aree each having won 5 of their 6 games. Both players accepted, presumably without close check, that all the tiles were present and started their game. It was only towards the end of a very tight game that Ed checked the remaining tiles and realised that one was unaccounted for. From my seat at the adjacent table I saw both players crawling around the floor looking under seats and tables and behind curtains. Eventually Wilma was called to the table. Although the rule book covers games that start with the wrong number of tiles, on this occasion both players seemed confident that had not happened, and yet one was now missing. Wilma asked both players to check their clothing and I saw Ed turn his pockets inside out. Wilma checked the tiles in the bag and was able to ascertain the identity of the missing tile (a G) which she took from another set and placed in the bag and ruled that the game should now be completed. At the end of the game Ed had won by just one point.

Table 3 was in the corner of the room furthest from the door and it being the last round of the day most of the competitors had left the room by the time the game finished. Some of the Thai team did however come over to see how their compatriot had got on, and on hearing the story of the missing tile immediately challenged Wilma on her ruling, and even cast suspicion upon Ed's integrity. Wilma recognised the absurdity of the accusation and stood firm in the face of some heated complaints.

Sadly, by some means or other this incident reached the ears of the press and became pretty much the only item from the championships that received media attention. Nevertheless, many competitors were unaware of what had happened until they read about it after returning home. It was then that Hubert Wee sent an apologetic message to Ed explaining that he had discovered the missing tile when it fell from his jacket whilst at dinner. He had been completely unaware of the upset it had caused.

At the end of Day One the only unbeaten player was former World Champion, Adam Logan of Canada with the personable Marut Siriwanngso of Thailand in second (he brings sweets to the table and is prepared to share them!). Paul Gallen and Brett Smitheram were also 6-1 and those on 5 wins included Stewart Holden, Paul Allan, Helen Gipson, Neil Scott, Mark Nyman, Calum Edwards, Edward Martin and Craig Beever.

Day Two started at 8.30am, so no chance of a lay in. Brett Smitheram on table one inflicted the first defeat for Adam Logan with the help of a fine nine-timer, holding ?ALMNER around a C thus: \_ \_ \_ \_ C \_ \_ \_ [1] (solution at end of report)

In round ten, back on table 2, I watched Brett open with CUING. Andrew Fisher exchanged tiles and Brett then held the awful GLOOTYY. Not many of us I think would so quickly spot the 8-letter bonus as Brett did [2]. He won comfortably and found himself top of the leaderboard.

In his next game Brett scored 495 but that was not enough to avoid a 12 point defeat to Neil Scott whilst on the neighbouring table a clash of the titans resulted in Nigel Richards narrowly defeating Adam Logan.

Round 13, and on table two we were set to record Chris May's game against Craig Beevers. Craig drew tiles and we waited for his opening move...and waited...and waited. Pen poised, I idly watched as numerous players passed by on their way to the adjudication point... and we waited. Some games on nearby tables were almost half way through...and we waited. 8 minutes gone, ...9 minutes gone. Craig sighed. 10 minutes gone ...is he okay? Has he had some sort of mental blip and is waiting for Chris to move? Almost 11 minutes gone and Craig takes his tiles and lays down ZACaTON for 102 points. Finding the best move when holding two blanks is a challenge even for the top players, the number of permutations is so great, but Craig brilliantly came up with the optimum play. As it turns out there is only one other bonus word available ECTOZOA also for 102, but once you have worked that out there is a choice as to which letters you use the blanks for, so still much to consider. I'm sure Craig also gave brief consideration to a move such as AZOTiC for 52 points, retaining a blank. Craig went on to win the game with only a one minute time penalty

In Round 14 Yvonne and I annotated as Mark Nyman convincingly beat Adam Logan and suddenly there were 4 English players in the top six places. After the following round all ten English players were in the top half of the field.

In the final round of day two Mikki Nicholson clobbered Nigel Richards 482-278 to climb to second place just behind Brett. Sadly for the English, there were still two days to go before the World Championship finalists would be decided.

On Day Three Yvonne and I took time out and made the 3-hour train trip to Krakow, leaving at first light. After a tiring day of sightseeing and the worst the Polish rail system could throw at us, we staggered back into the Hilton at 2am on Saturday morning. Whatever had happened at the tournament while we were away, surely none of the players would still be up at this time. Wrong! American night owl Chris Cree greeted us as we walked in, pleased that maybe he had found someone he could share a drink with at the casino. Sadly, we lacked his stamina.

Just a few hours later as Yvonne and I prepared for another day of annotation I checked to see what had happened in our absence. Mikki Nicholson had climbed to the head of the rankings for a couple of rounds at the start of the day before Nigel Richards retook top place which he only lost in the last round to Australian Andrew Fisher. In Round 19 Stewart Holden had remarkably blitzed Paul Allen 694-342 and in the final game of the day Polish player Bartosz Pieta had achieved a score of 511 but still lost by 3 points to English ex-pat Nick Ball now representing Canada. The most disappointing news was that Calum Edwards' luck had reversed and from being 9-6 he had slipped to 10-15.

So to Saturday and 8 more rounds which would decide the finalists. Craig Beevers beat Nigel in Round 26 to go a win clear at the top but then lost to Andrew Fisher. Nigel beat Chris May which turned out to be the first of a decisive run of 7 consecutive wins for the New Zealander and his place in the final was secure. Round 29 had seen a brilliant 9-letter play by him. Holding KILLROT he found a bonus around a separated I and E thus: \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ I \_ E \_ [ 3 ]

Craig Beevers beat Adam Logan in Round 31 to be the last hope of a UK player in the final but defeats to Paul Gallen and then Komol left the remaining place in the final between Andrew Fisher and American Dave Wiegand. These two then met in the tournament's closing round with Andrew the victor by 449-380 securing his right to face Nigel in the big best-of-five final the following day.

On Sunday most, but by no means all, of the WSC participants gathered to watch the Final displayed on a large screen set up in the room where all the previous games had been played. Expert commentary was given by Brett Smitheram.

Among the viewing audience Andrew Fisher, probably considered the underdog, appeared to have the popular support. Unfortunately, what he didn't have, was the best of fortune with the tiles. Nigel is an awesome opponent at any time, but with the luck of the tiles he is probably unbeatable. He drew 9 of the 10 blanks and was able to use all of them in bonus plays. Andrew did remarkably well to win two games and take the final the full distance, but it was Nigel who was destined to be the first ever twice World Champion and pick up the \$20,000 top prize (photo front cover). The games can be played through on [www.wscgames.com](http://www.wscgames.com)

Northern Ireland (Paul Gallen and Stewart Holden) won the team prize with best average performance and gained a third allocated place for the 2013 WSC. England and Scotland also earned extra places to 11 and 5 respectively.

David Webb who finished 75th had a poor tournament by his own standards, but in his online report summed the occasion up thus:

"However disappointing my final position, the WSC is still a wonderful, wonderful tournament. I feel that I am among my people regardless of how many of them I know. ...I will seek to qualify for future WSCs as long as the hunger to contend gnaws away at my innards."

*Solutions:* [1] AMELCoRN  
[2] CYTOLOGY [3] KILOLITER

**Ray Tate:** Annotating at the WSC was nearly, but not quite, as good as actually playing. It was a fantastic experience watching the top players on a consistent basis at Table 1 and observing the phenomenally high standard of play, although nerves did get to some of them with glaring misses which could only be put down to pressure.

The round 33 game between Pakorn and Chris May was the tensest game I've seen since I began playing competitively, as both players realistically needed to win to stand any chance of finishing 2nd to Nigel.

Julie and I possibly saved an embarrassing situation for Mattel when it came to the Final. We arrived in the playing room very early and began to play with the set planned to be used in the 'real thing'. I was being hammered by Julie but I smelt a glimmer of hope when I drew the second X !

If we hadn't played, the grid would have contained 100 tiles and it is highly possible that the faulty distribution would have gone unnoticed and Wilma would have been called into action when the rogue extra X was played or spotted by either player.

The tension was electric as the final went to a deciding 5th game, and although it didn't turn out a cliffhanger, and in my humble opinion, the greatest player to have ever put his hand in the bag became Champion for a 2nd time, Andrew played magnificently with his ONE blank in the games, securing his two wins with scores of over 500.

We met so many wonderful players from all corners of the globe during the event and made so many lasting friendships that we wouldn't have missed it for the world.

A big thank you to Philip Nelkon for affording us the opportunity to attend and participate in a small way in WSC 2011.

Personal congratulations to Neil Scott, Helen Gipson, Allan Simmons and Simon Gillam, representing Scotland, whose combined performance has given us another place at WSC 2013 in the Philippines.

Watch out folks, it might be me!!

# around the tournaments

## Perth

September 17 (7 Rounds)

| Perth A         |   |     |
|-----------------|---|-----|
| Neil Scott      | 6 | 436 |
| Simon Gillam    | 5 | 346 |
| Marion Keatings | 5 | 326 |

| Perth B           |   |     |
|-------------------|---|-----|
| Jim Wilkie        | 6 | 250 |
| Margaret Harkness | 5 | 210 |
| Helgamarie Farrow | 5 | 183 |

## Middlesbrough

September 18 (7 Rounds)

Report by Pauline Johnson

| Middlesbrough A |   |     |
|-----------------|---|-----|
| Craig Beevers   | 6 | 826 |
| Matthew Pinner  | 6 | 380 |

| Middlesbrough B   |   |     |
|-------------------|---|-----|
| Samantha Beckwith | 5 | 347 |
| Margaret Burdon   | 5 | 95  |

| Middlesbrough C |   |     |
|-----------------|---|-----|
| Barbara Lukey   | 6 | 439 |
| Linda Moir      | 5 | 231 |

The day itself went off very smoothly as everyone arrived on time and there was enough equipment to go around. There were no major incidents that needed the TD's intervention and as the divisions were RR they too went well.

Congratulations to the winners Craig Beevers, Sam Beckwith and Barbara Lukey for A, B & C respectively. Many thanks to those people from the Cleveland Club who put themselves out to ensure that the organisation / kitchen / running duties for the tournament were superbly met. Thanks are also due to Phil Jefferies our computer operator.

A special mention goes to Geoff Cooper for the loan of his laptop for self-adjudication purposes.

## Leamington Spa

September 23-25 (14 Rounds)

| Leamington Spa A |    |     |
|------------------|----|-----|
| Barbara Goodban  | 13 | 653 |
| Moira Conway     | 10 | 718 |

| Leamington Spa B |    |     |
|------------------|----|-----|
| Barbara Lukey    | 9½ | 199 |
| Anne Darby       | 9  | 635 |

| Leamington Spa C |    |      |
|------------------|----|------|
| Rosina Cornelius | 13 | 1047 |
| Barbara Haggett  | 12 | 1092 |

## Norwich

September 25 (7 Rounds)

Report by Anne Ashmore

| Norwich A    |               |     |
|--------------|---------------|-----|
| Paul Allan   | 7             | 798 |
| Angela Burke | 5             | 298 |
| John Ashmore | 5             | 251 |
| Ratings:     | Philip Aldous |     |

| Norwich B     |                 |     |
|---------------|-----------------|-----|
| Geoff Cooper  | 6               | 464 |
| Gill Thompson | 6               | 379 |
| Pat Friend    | 5               | 367 |
| Ratings:      | Dorothy Kemlicz |     |

The tournament got off to a good start with only the minor hitch of one player not showing up without telling us, but that was easily resolved when Jacquie Aldous, our very able

organiser kindly withdrew from playing and spent the day serving the refreshments instead. The rest of the tournament passed very smoothly and was one of the quietest I have ever attended.

Grand Master Paul Allan was gibsonized for the last round and was matched against Rosalind Wilson whose rating is over 50 points lower than Paul's. Rosalind led for most of the game only succumbing right at the end by a tiny 11 points - she was deservedly chuffed to bits.

Geoff Cooper consolidated his strong performance of 5 wins at the previous day's NSCT and dropped only one game on his way to victory.

The Norwich ladies supplied their usual offerings of very fine homemade cakes; with a field of only 24 players this ensured that there was plenty to go round.

## Bournemouth

### October 2 (6 Rounds)

Report by Val Wright

Glorious autumn sunshine welcomed players to the 16th Bournemouth Open Scrabble Tournament at the Rooper Hall, home of the Bournemouth Society for the Visually Impaired (BSVI), in aid of whom this event was held. There were 74 players in three divisions, of which the winners were as follows:

| Bournemouth A  |        | Bournemouth B |       | Bournemouth C |       |
|----------------|--------|---------------|-------|---------------|-------|
| Stewart Houten | 6 729  | Ian Burn      | 5 401 | Alan Everitt  | 5 473 |
| James Rossiter | 5 544  | Rita Todd     | 5 331 | Scott Bowman  | 5 427 |
| Penny Downer   | 4½ 358 | Mark Smith    | 5 328 | Mel Maltz     | 5 192 |

The Challenge Shield in memory of the Bournemouth Club's late Chairman, Margaret Bright, was won by Alan Childs winning 5 games and placed 4th in Div B. There were only 3 high word scores listed during the day, and the clear leader was REBATOES for 140, played by Stewart Houten, (a rebato or rabato is a wide lace-edged collar). A cheque for £550 was donated to the BSVI from entry fees. In addition, sales of home-made cakes and a raffle raised £161. Bournemouth Scrabble Club members would like to thank all the players most sincerely for their participation and generous support for the BSVI, and also Ruth Marsden for organising and directing the tournament.

## Cock o' the North (Coventry)

### October 7-9 (22 Rounds)

| COTN A            |         | COTN B          |         |
|-------------------|---------|-----------------|---------|
| Alastair Richards | 18 2190 | Sue Bowman      | 15 1075 |
| Wayne Kelly       | 16 664  | Brid Ui Bhriain | 14 463  |
| Steve Perry       | 14 648  | Ted Lewis       | 14 454  |

## Edinburgh

### October 8 (7 Rounds)

| Edinburgh A    |        | Edinburgh B    |       | Edinburgh C     |       |
|----------------|--------|----------------|-------|-----------------|-------|
| Neil Scott     | 6 917  | Linda Bradford | 6 177 | Paul Roberts    | 6 567 |
| Ross Mackenzie | 6 448  | Rhoda Gray     | 5 524 | Jennifer Payne  | 5 420 |
| Wilma Warwick  | 5 -237 | Sheena Wilson  | 5 377 | Margaret McGhee | 5 336 |

## Hove Actually

October 9 (9 Rounds)

Report from Doj Graham

| Hove Actually A |       | Hove Actually B  |       | Hove Actually C |       |
|-----------------|-------|------------------|-------|-----------------|-------|
| James Rossiter  | 7 708 | Timothy Lawrence | 6 262 | Peter Bailey    | 7 531 |
| Rahn McKeown    | 7 643 | Elizabeth Ramsay | 5 228 | Carmen Dolan    | 7 468 |
| Ed Rossiter     | 7 204 | Kevin Synnott    | 5 83  | Betty Simmonds  | 6 266 |

This was a new 30 player, 3-division, round robin, 20-minutes-on-the-clock event at the Avenue Bridge Club. Entrants were neatly split gender wise 15-15.

The trick to prize winning in the top two divisions lay in the late entry tactic (James Rossiter being first reserve in the event of a drop-out and Tim Lawrence being ushered in the night before). Notable performances came from debutant Paul Coyle in B (with 5 wins in his first and the chance of a top three finish going into his final game against Kevin Synnott); Rahn McKeown (not so much for being second in A but for his version of Around the UK by Tentative Transport, arriving in Brighton on Saturday via Glasgow); and the whole of the B division who, were they a bunch of skittles, would all have been huddled around the kingpin, such was the closeness of their results (resulting in four on 5 wins, four on 4 wins and only top and bottom (3 wins) deviating from severe Sardine Syndrome).

I spent much of the time watching the slow march of contestants to the Zyzzyva adjudication gallows and writing sentences like "A board goes in search of a tile after a round one 99-tile contest played with Milk Tray coloured tiles" and "A rack goes in search of balance" after observing some hair-wrenching contestants with serious vowel dilemma, and thinking "I may incorporate these thoughts into something coherent for OnBoard!"

The event finished in good time, the cake was excellent (I had four - all different), the salmon stayed in the fridge and, lo and behold, no belongings were left.

## Ilford

October 9 (7 Rounds)

| Ilford A         |       | Ilford B        |       | Ilford C        |           |
|------------------|-------|-----------------|-------|-----------------|-----------|
| Mike Chappell    | 5 443 | Noel Barnes     | 6 756 | Mark Bradley    | 5 309     |
| Vincent Boyle    | 5 392 | Carmen Toscano  | 6 34  | Carmen Dolan    | 5 245     |
| Jessica Pratesi  | 5 224 | Karen Game      | 5 352 | Damian O'Malley | 5 -91     |
| Ilford D         |       | Ilford E        |       | Ilford F        |           |
| Cody McCormick   | 6 243 | Natasha Pratesi | 5 93  | Sandra Richards | 5 1/2 332 |
| Priscilla Munday | 4 204 | Jacqui White    | 4 143 | Keith Woodruff  | 5 112     |

## Coventry Triple

(Everyone played 27 rated games)

Tuesday Oct 11

| Division A       |       | Division B    |       | Division C      |       |
|------------------|-------|---------------|-------|-----------------|-------|
| David Shenkin    | 7 323 | Nicky Huitson | 7 112 | Paul Cartman    | 8 798 |
| Victoria Kingham | 6 435 | Juliet Green  | 6 400 | Brid Ui Bhriain | 6 450 |

## Wednesday Oct 12

| Division A       |       |
|------------------|-------|
| Janet Phillips   | 7 617 |
| Paloma Raychbart | 6 79  |

| Division B  |       |
|-------------|-------|
| Ann Golding | 7 393 |
| Teresa Lyes | 6 312 |

| Division C    |          |
|---------------|----------|
| Steve Balment | 7 685    |
| Linda Barratt | 6 1/2 49 |

## Thursday Oct 13

| Division A       |        |
|------------------|--------|
| Paloma Raychbart | 8 1115 |
| Ann Golding      | 5 175  |

| Division B    |       |
|---------------|-------|
| Sue Bowman    | 8 502 |
| David Shenkin | 7 466 |

| Division C     |       |
|----------------|-------|
| Paul Cartman   | 7 192 |
| Valerie Morris | 6 186 |

## Bourne

### October 16 (7 Rounds)

| Bourne A         |       |
|------------------|-------|
| Kristian Saether | 5 398 |
| Jason Carney     | 5 287 |
| Paul Thomson     | 5 46  |

| Bourne B      |       |
|---------------|-------|
| Nigel Sibbett | 6 212 |
| Steve Balment | 5 443 |
| Paul Cartman  | 5 85  |

| Bourne C       |       |
|----------------|-------|
| Paul Walford   | 6 292 |
| Barbara Lukey  | 5 399 |
| Barbara Barker | 5 137 |

## Nailsea

### October 23 (7 Rounds)

| Nailsea A       |       |
|-----------------|-------|
| Gareth Williams | 6 537 |
| Phil Robertshaw | 5 569 |
| Peter Liggett   | 5 161 |

| Nailsea B     |       |
|---------------|-------|
| Tom Sharp     | 6 465 |
| Paul Grimshaw | 6 113 |
| Jean Bridge   | 5 258 |

| Nailsea C     |       |
|---------------|-------|
| James Ducker  | 6 441 |
| Philip Bowden | 5 389 |
| Paul Cousins  | 5 376 |

## Ashmore Invitational

### October 29-30 (12 Rounds)

Report from Nicky Huitson

| Ashmore Invitational |         |
|----------------------|---------|
| Wayne Kelly          | 11 1952 |
| Nick Deller          | 9 683   |
| John Ashmore         | 9 472   |

### Winning was a piece of cake...

This tourney was held on the weekend of John and Anne Ashmore's first anniversary, and those invited were the Scrabblers who had attended their wedding the year before. Knowing what a rowdy unruly bunch we were and, needing to stick by the ABSP rules, Wayne Kelly was appointed TD for the weekend. On the understanding that he didn't upset anybody he would be fed cake and allowed into the Gt Yarmouth inner sanctum...Wayne abused this privilege mightily by being required to balance player numbers (owing to the absence of Mike O'Rourke), and not only did he play, he totally annihilated all of us with the exception of Nick "where's the cake?" Deller, who was only able to beat him by wearing a pair of comedy specs...one of the many strange and wonderful spot prizes of the weekend. Wayne was rewarded for his efforts with a rather marvellous Big Bird pen which we were rather hoping he would use the following week in the NSC Grand Final. This could have detracted

pleasantly from the newspapers' obsession with his choice of shirt, but alas said bird has yet to see the light of day at a tournament.

Notable random happenings at this event were;

A) Jacquie Aldous' total delight at winning 6 out of 12 games, when her expectations were to win none. This resulted in not only a great ratings leap, but also her VOLUNTARILY watching at least one round of the NSC on ustream, much to the surprise of her husband Philip. As a postscript she did rather well at Luton too!

B) Ginny Dixon playing the only nine-timer of the weekend-CREASING

C) More cake on display than at the Kent Show, with Nuala's "15" cake and brownies, Joyce Ashmore's ginger cake and Jacquie's walnut cake being particularly well received (ie none left by Sunday tea time when SOME of us, having shown self restraint all weekend, would have liked a piece!)

D) The Remote TD, Jared Robinson, not needing to be called upon to resolve even one dispute.

Wayne was awarded a rather unique Winner's Cup, and we all consider ourselves instrumental in warming him up for his NSC final!

Mike was missed by all of us, and we sincerely hope that next year he will be back to join the group...not least because none of us fancy being thrashed by Mr. Kelly again!

I am passing a veil over my own appalling result for this tourney. Clearly, lack of cake affected my game. It was a nice tournament, and thanks to Anne and John for sharing the day with us.

## London Scrabble League 40th Anniversary Tournament

October 30 (7 Rounds)

Report and pictures from Sandi Simonis and Mauro Pratesi



| LSL A        |       |
|--------------|-------|
| Austin Shin  | 7 784 |
| Nick Ascroft | 6 208 |
| Elie Dangoor | 5 496 |
| Danny Bekhor | 5 496 |

| LSL B          |       |
|----------------|-------|
| Joe Bridal     | 6 523 |
| Evelyn Wallace | 6 448 |
| Sanmi Odelana  | 5 445 |
| Sharon Landau  | 5 358 |

| LSL C            |           |
|------------------|-----------|
| Jack Durand      | 6 675     |
| Robert Kaczmarek | 6 220     |
| Susan Thorne     | 5 1/2 309 |
| Ayaz Kazi        | 5 458     |

Kent House is an amazing place situated in Knightsbridge, across the road from London's Hyde Park – ideal for the special one-day tourney that marked the LSL's 40th anniversary. Normally such a place would be beyond the League's means but the venue management, having a keen scrabble player amongst them, allowed us to hire it at an affordable rate as a 'one-off' topped up by a league subsidy.



The extra touches went down very well - collages of pictures of Scrabble members collected over the years, news events from 1971, hits from 1971 like Rod Stewart's Maggie May and John Lennon's Imagine, souvenir pens and personalised rack covers with every player's name on one side and an amusing anagram on the reverse (see end of report). By all accounts the provided lunch was extremely good and plentiful.

Various committee members helped to make the 40th a deserved success. Dan Smith was instrumental in finding the venue and negotiating a viable rate. Ted Lewis organised special table numbers and flags representing the different nationalities in the league. Mauro and daughter Jessica

coped admirably with all the computer work - inputting results, creating fixtures and adjusting things to cope with late cancellations and some early departures. Others helped by taking photos, providing 1971 coin prizes, organising balloons, doing the registration, moving stuff around, setting up 'high score' Scrabble boards as in the 'old days', and everything else that was needed. Several committee members (both past and present) and league members provided delicious home-made cakes for tea.

After all the preparation and excitement something was bound to go wrong! There were three cancellations on the morning of the tourney, one only minutes before the start time. Then shortly after arriving, London Scrabble League Membership Secretary Janet Bonham was taken ill. It seemed serious, an ambulance was called and Janet was taken to hospital accompanied by son Graham. We were all most concerned about her and were so glad to hear later in the day that she was stable. Janet has since made a speedy recovery and we are so sorry Janet and Graham missed the day but we enjoyed her delicious date cake that she managed to deliver before being taken ill! Unfortunately, this delayed the start by some twenty minutes but with shortened breaks we managed to catch up.



One Division B player disappeared (!) at lunchtime without explanation and a Division C player left unexpectedly at tea time. Mauro Pratesi stepped in to play in division B leaving Jessica alone on the computer, a job she did admirably. This left us somewhat short of personnel, particularly as Steve Thomas (Graeme's brother) also had to leave at lunchtime as he too was unwell. LSL Treasurer, Barbara Morris, was persuaded to play the last two games in C division after her perfectly timed teatime arrival, in spite of not having any paper, tile trackers or the right glasses, and thereby saving two players from having to sit out a round.

So what of the tournament itself? The 103 registered players were whittled down to 98 at the start of the 7 round tournament. Many London League members attended, including six unrated players, with a few well established League members making their tournament debuts. Ex-members Bob Violett, Robert Richland, Chris Keeley, Jackie McLeod, Elisabeth Jardine and Philip Nelkon all came down for the occasion.

Austin Shin won all seven games to win Division A with 7 wins averaging 463 per game. Austin took home the Ivor Freedman Memorial Trophy to keep for a year. London Scrabble League member Joe Bridal won Division B with 6 wins. Kathy Suddick had led the division on spread going into the last round from Joe and Evelyn Wallace, all on five wins. Joe beat Kathy in the final game and Evelyn also won her last game but it was not enough to overtake

Joe. 11 year-old Jack Durand was the winner of Division C with 6 wins with Rob Kaczmarek second. Rob was leading by one clear win going into the last round when Jack wolfed\* him 448-351 to win the division! (\* as in Wolfman Jack... well, it was Halloween time!).

Jenny Clifford was the winner of the best word associated with our 40th (ruby) anniversary - MAROONER. Priscilla Encarnacion won the runner-up prize with FORTY! Viv Bishop had left just before the prize giving as her taxi was waiting but came back to find her missing handbag just in time to hear her name called out as the winner of the best overall performance above their rating.

You might like to work out whose name anagrams these are – one or two we’ve had to add in a title such as Mrs or Mr to make life easier! Solutions on page 40.

- CHEERY RUMINANT = \_\_\_\_\_ A CHAIR MOVING KIT = \_\_\_\_\_  
 BAN NUDE ORGY = \_\_\_\_\_ MISS INDONESIA = \_\_\_\_\_  
 TUNA NOSHERS = \_\_\_\_\_ AMAZON EYELASH GROOMERS = MR. \_\_\_\_\_  
 NITE PARADISE = \_\_\_\_\_ REV M I SHINBONES VIP = MRS. \_\_\_\_\_  
 BALD CHIN TERROR = \_\_\_\_\_ FRANTIC SOCK = \_\_\_\_\_  
 AH KIDDY STUCK = \_\_\_\_\_ A CRANIAL CLINIC PERSON = \_\_\_\_\_  
 MR BRASSY ORGAN = \_\_\_\_\_ COLONEL LITERATI = \_\_\_\_\_

## Lincoln Round Robin

### November 5 (8 Rounds)

| Lincoln A      |       |
|----------------|-------|
| Andrew Goodwin | 7 576 |
| Jason Carney   | 7 576 |
| Paul Allan     | 6 418 |

| Lincoln B          |       |
|--------------------|-------|
| Marjorie Struggles | 8 854 |
| Linda Barratt      | 6 600 |
| Tim Butcher        |       |

## Cheadle

### November 5-6th (15 Rounds)

| Cheadle A      |         |
|----------------|---------|
| Howard Wilde   | 13 1421 |
| Steve Perry    | 12 753  |
| Ross Mackenzie | 10½ 327 |

| Cheadle B     |        |
|---------------|--------|
| Sylvia Swaney | 13 692 |
| Peter Ashurst | 12 829 |
| Chris Davies  | 11 440 |

## Glasgow

### November 12th (7 Rounds)

Report from Ray Tate

| Glasgow A       |       |
|-----------------|-------|
| Vincent Boyle   | 6 523 |
| Ross Mackenzie  | 5 362 |
| Marion Keatings | 5 288 |

| Glasgow B    |       |
|--------------|-------|
| Caroline Foy | 5 459 |
| Julie Tate   | 5 407 |
| Juliet Green | 5 399 |

By the scheduled start time of 10am 30 players had gathered on an overcast autumnal day at Catchcart Parish Church Hall in Motherwell to lock horns in the 20th Glasgow Scrabble Tournament.

Division A from the outset developed into a battle between the 2nd and 3rd seeds, Vincent Boyle and Ross Mackenzie with the lead swapping between the pair. Vince won game 7 whilst Ross was defeated and Marion Keatings captured 3rd place.

In Div B Caroline Foy led on spread from Juliet Green in Round 1 whence Juliet held the lead from rounds 2-5 when she lost to Margaret Harkness. Going into the last game any one of 6 players were in with a chance of winning, but in the end Caroline won by 58 points of spread from Julie Tate who was 8 spread points better off than Juliet.

Ratings prizes in each division were awarded Colin Nicol in A and Doreen Jarvie in B.

High Game in A was won by Amy Byrne and High Move by Alan Georgeson. High Game in B was won by Juliet Green and High Move by Margaret Harkness.

As it was my first time as TD, I'd like to thank Ross for acquainting me with the TSH program and the players for behaving well enough in that, apart from a couple of overdraw decisions, I had nothing of note to worry about. It was pleasing to receive personal commendations from some of the players on leaving and private e-mails congratulating me on my performance so I guess I've got the position of Glasgow TD full-time!!

The most interesting (allowable) words challenged in my opinion were:-DISA INSOLATE  
JOWAR NAPING OUTSIZES (not a verb inflexion) RESEASON WOURALIS

The worst were:-CATER GAFFE GENIUSES MOPY UPTURNS VIMS UNHOOKED

Vincent had flown up from Stansted on the Thursday to spend time with his family who haven't moved away from his birthplace of Paisley and he had been imbibing for two days solid, whilst Julie had attended and celebrated her sister's wedding at a beautiful old country house on the shores of Loch Lomond. It would appear that the route to Scrabble success is to have liberal amounts of alcohol in the preceding 24 hours of an event.

## **Luton**

### **November 12th (7 Rounds)**

Report from Adrian Knoller

A sunny and calm day enhanced the atmosphere for the umpteenth Luton Armistice weekend tournament.

As is the norm we didn't get away to a prompt start. This time it was due to a rogue Sat/Nav putting a car in the middle of the town; judicious instructions on the phone given by a Luton player brought the occupants to us just ten minutes adrift. One other player was missing, and it turned out the next day that she was asleep at home until half the programme was finished.

Fortunately we had an able reserve, and he was able to step straight into the vacated spot in the lower group.

Results in all four divisions broadly followed the ratings sequences, although, apart from the top group, we had many 'fresh' names as prize-winners. Rather unfortunately for me, and for the player whom I had promoted to a higher division the night before after a late cancellation, this player failed to win a single game. Sorry, but Scrabble goes that way sometimes.

As is common now in this quarter of the country, with a total of less than 35 years of life between them, Shrinidhi Prakash, Jack Durand and Natasha Pratesi played with mixed fortunes. But all were smiling, and that's good.

The Luton Club players, all thirteen of them, were very generous this year, not claiming a single one of the sixteen prizes available. Hope that's the last time. But it was good to see several vets among the winners; shoots down my theory that players fade with age.

A sprinkling of words that met with Zyzzyva's approval.....GREWS BITTE STERNED  
GASPIER NIOBATES GABBY LANGER (check the definition) TRINGLE GEEP (cross

between a goat and a sheep) OXAZINE EIKON and my favourite, PROO (check that definition too)

Abandoned property, still not claimed at the time of writing :- a pair of standard green racks, and a Sony headset. I thought headsets were now part of the human anatomy; surely somebody must have noticed they are missing something vital to their day-to-day life.

One significant thing this year, and other TO's are reporting the same experience : late applications. Only three weeks before the date of the event I was considering cancelling, and returning some twenty-five cheques. A flurry saw me going for three divisions, and the last twelve days gave me enough players for four groups, with a handful of stand-bys. So I had to shop for more trophies. To all regulars, and occasionals, please try to help the organisers by showing your interest in playing. At least three weeks in advance. It really does make a difference in shaping and preparing for the event on the day.

And finally, the winners. Quite family orientated.

| Luton A       |                 | Luton B       |              |
|---------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|
| Paul Allan    | 6 648           | Nicky Huitson | 6 583        |
| Calum Edwards | 5 423           | Mick Healy    | 6 476        |
| Diane Pratesi | 5 282           | Philip Aldous | 5 331        |
| Ratings:      | Jessica Pratesi | Ratings:      | Barbara Dein |

| Luton C           |                | Luton D         |               |
|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Phyllis Fernandez | 6 429          | Viv Bishop      | 6 424         |
| Janet Bonham      | 6 400          | Peter Terry     | 6 286         |
| Peter Bailey      | 5 147          | Natasha Pratesi | 5 178         |
| Ratings:          | Jacquie Aldous | Ratings:        | Cindy Hollyer |

## Project WYSC Chigwell

### November 13th (8 Rounds)

| Chigwell A     |       | Chigwell B       |        | Chigwell C    |       |
|----------------|-------|------------------|--------|---------------|-------|
| Barry Grossman | 7 195 | Kevin Synnott    | 7½ 745 | Nick Stone    | 7 515 |
| Weibin Toh     | 6 814 | Victoria Kingham | 6 365  | Colin St Hill | 6 336 |
| Bob Violett    | 6 545 | Evelyn Wallace   | 5 325  | Anne Darby    | 6 254 |

## Four Nations Belfast

### November 12-13th (12 Rounds)

This is an annual team tournament between four top rated players from each of England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland. On their home territory the Irish team clinched victory with a round to spare and a whopping 33 wins from their 48 games. This was their first win in eight attempts. Top Individual performance was from Kevin McMahon who won 10 of his 12 games.

| Four Nations 2011   |     |       |
|---|-----|-------|
| Ireland (Paul Gallen, Stewart Holden, Kevin McMahon, Feargal Weatherhead) | 33  | 1560  |
| England (Terry Kirk, Lewis Mackay, Jared Robinson Phil Robertshaw)        | 24  | 1286  |
| Scotland (Simon Gillam, Neil Scott, Allan Simmons, Alan Sinclair)         | 23½ | 219   |
| Wales (Neil Green, Martin Sheehan, Chris Quartermaine, Gareth Williams)   | 15½ | -3065 |

# national scrabble championship

## The Grand Final

Report and photos from **Mauro Pratesi**



The two finalists had played 14 games at the Leeds Semi-final in September finishing in first and second places. This qualified them to play a best of five match at the Baker Suite of the Hallam Conference Centre in the West End of London to decide the National Champion.

Wayne Kelly from Warrington and Gary Oliver from Southampton were secluded in a separate room while their moves were relayed to an audience in the auditorium and online via a live internet feed. Top expert Brett Smitheram went through the moves on a giant board in front of an audience of about fifty people.

Gary won the first game. Wayne had caught up with RERAISED for 86 to put him just 412-420 behind but Gary went out with INDURATE for 66 to win 494-404.

Wayne took game two, 526-324. Wayne had nine of the eleven power tiles including both blanks and blew Gary away with TISANES, UNITIZER and PREMIUM.

Gary nudged back in front after lunch winning game three, 392-375. Wayne's RIGATONI gave him an early lead. VARVETS\* was disallowed for Gary (probably a garbling of VARVELS and VERVETS) but two bonuses in succession for 68 each, DABSTER and SNITCHED took him into a 199-187 halfway lead which he was able to sustain to the end

Game four and RAINOUTS gave Wayne an early lead 149-59. OSTINATI and EBONISED pulled Gary's score to 247 but steady a 37, 35, 42 and 28 kept Wayne in front. Gary played OE allowing a bonus play off the middle-top triple word square (H1) which Wayne gobbled up with TRUDGER for 89. Gary played out with SETTING/TRUDGERS for 107 but it wasn't enough and Wayne had won 463-439 to tie the match at 2-2.

At this point all the games had been won by the player who went first. In the final round Gary opened with YOU improbably followed by yet another YOU after Wayne had exchanged. Wayne then responded with TRAVAILS for 74 but HEADINGS by Gary for 73 maintained his advantage. Then, all of a sudden, fortune favoured Wayne - SAPIENT/WAIFTS for 95 and CAROMEL for 69 gave him a 425-279 lead. Gary responded with another 107 score for ERGOTIZE but he was still 386-425 behind. Wayne extended EXO to FLEXO for 45 putting the game and match under his control. The deciding game finished 486-428 in Wayne's favour and at 3-2 won the plaudits from an appreciative audience and those following on the Internet.



*Wayne wins*

# best 2011

*The British Elimination Scrabble Tournament (BEST) is a knockout competition which lasts over six months. Played as a series of face-to-face knockout matches at regional and then national level, the winner typically plays more than 70 games over six months to lift the trophy.*

*Ed Martin, who co-organises the event alongside Evan Simpson writes:*

Mikki Nicholson won the British Elimination Scrabble Tournament (BEST) after a tense 10-9 victory over Brett Smitheram in the final round. Brett had held an 8-5 lead overnight but Mikki managed to claw back and win the decider. She had earlier beaten Helen Gipson on spread in the semi final with a nailbiting 8.5-8.5 final scoreline. Brett had a more comfortable victory over Lewis Mackay in his semi final.

This year's tournament featured such an extraordinarily powerful field, with most of the big guns from the UK lining up to take a shot at the title, that winning through to victory was no mean feat for Mikki.

Mikki took first prize of £500 and Brett £250 for the runner up spot. Losing semi finalists Helen Gipson and Lewis Mackay took home £125 each and four losing quarter-finalists - Paul Gallen, Christian Brown, Wale Fashina and Kevin McMahon £50 each. There were eight ratings prizes of £25 each.

As you would expect from such a stellar line up there were some fantastic words played during the tournament. Here is a selection from the final: HEINIES, SHAGROON, CIPHERER, LANDGRAB, HATTERIA, GWYNIADS, OVERREN, SUNLANDS, ASPICKS, AGENESES, SATRAPY, BULLHEAD, TOHUNGA, VITIATOR, CYANOGEN, GAVOTTE, SUBORNER, ALLAYERS.

Full details of the tournament (and indeed of all the previous BEST tournaments going back to 2001) can be viewed at the website <http://www.centrestar.co.uk/best/2011/BEST2011.htm>

## Regional Finals

|                              |                       |               |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Group 1 London North         | Paul Allan 1 - 6      | Lewis Mackay  |
| Group 2 London South         | Brett Smitheram 6 - 2 | David Webb    |
| Group 3 South West And Wales | Phil Robertshaw 6 - 1 | Neil Green    |
| Group 4 North                | Mikki Nicholson 6 - 3 | Andy Goodwin  |
| Group 5 North West           | Wayne Kelly 3 - 6     | Wale Fashina  |
| Group 6 Midlands             | Christian Brown 6 - 4 | Evan Simpson  |
| Group 7 Scotland             | Helen Gipson 6 - 5    | Allan Simmons |
| Group 8 Ireland              | Paul Gallen 5 - 6     | Kevin McMahon |

## Quarter Finals

|  |              |                       |                 |
|--|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Phil Robertshaw 6 - 8  | Lewis Mackay | Christian Brown 3 - 8 | Brett Smitheram |
| Helen Gipson 8 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> - 5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> | Wale Fashina | Kevin McMahon 5 - 8   | Mikki Nicholson |

## Semi-Finals

|                    |                 |   |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|---|-----------------|
| Lewis Mackay 5 - 9 | Brett Smitheram | Helen Gipson 8 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> -8 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> | Mikki Nicholson |
|--------------------|-----------------|---|-----------------|

(Mikki won by 65 pts of spread)

## Final

**Brett Smitheram 9 - 10 Mikki Nicholson**

# ratings snapshot

These pages are a snapshot of how the ratings looked on 23rd November 2011. Players listed here have played at least 30 ABSP-rated games in total on that date, and at least 1 since 23rd November 2010. ABSP membership number is in the column before name, or blank if not a member. There are rated games taking place every week so for the most up-to-date list you should go to the ABSP website: [absp.org.uk](http://absp.org.uk) > results > ratings

|     |      |                             |     |      |                            |     |      |                       |
|-----|------|-----------------------------|-----|------|----------------------------|-----|------|-----------------------|
| 208 |      | Adam Logan                  | 178 | 1000 | Stewart Holden (GM)        | 168 | 123  | Noel Turner (Exp)     |
| 207 | 1841 | Nigel Richards (GM)         | 178 | 770  | Jake Jacobs                | 167 | 6    | Darryl Francis (Exp)  |
| 199 | 57   | Mark Nyman (GM)             | 178 | 1814 | Rik Kennedy                | 167 | 1006 | Ross Mackenzie        |
| 199 | 774  | Brett Smitheram (GM)        | 178 |      | Philips Owolabi            | 167 | 999  | Kay McColgan          |
| 196 | 764  | Lewis Mackay (GM)           | 178 | 1102 | Paul (England)<br>Richards | 166 | 1116 | Paul Bassett          |
| 195 |      | Nathan Benedict             | 178 |      | Ben Tarlow                 | 166 | 978  | Andy Becher           |
| 194 | 1427 | Mikki Nicholson (GM)        | 177 | 1197 | Christian Brown            | 166 |      | Philip Cohen          |
| 193 | 158  | Ed Martin (GM)              | 177 | 41   | Gareth Williams (GM)       | 166 | 888  | Chris Keeley          |
| 193 | 1368 | Phil Robertshaw (Exp)       | 176 | 880  | Femi Awowade (GM)          | 166 | 609  | Bob Lynn              |
| 192 | 147  | Helen Gipson (GM)           | 176 |      | Yi_En Gan                  | 166 | 1714 | Karen Richards        |
| 191 | 652  | Nick Ball (Exp)             | 176 | 1846 | Albert Hahn                | 166 | 162  | Alec Webb (Exp)       |
| 191 | 1355 | Craig Beevers (GM)          | 175 | 58   | Russell Byers (GM)         | 165 |      | David Delicata        |
| 191 | 482  | Neil Scott (GM)             | 174 | 45   | Barry Grossman (Exp)       | 165 | 1164 | Karl Kwiatkowski      |
| 190 | 1618 | Paul Gallen (Exp)           | 174 | 60   | Terry Kirk (GM)            | 165 |      | Chris Vicary          |
| 189 | 751  | Paul Allan (GM)             | 174 | 4    | Philip Nelkon (GM)         | 165 |      | Bob Violett (Exp)     |
| 189 | 745  | Harshan Lama'suriya<br>(GM) | 174 | 814  | Jared Robinson (Exp)       | 165 |      | Mike Willis (Exp)     |
| 189 |      | Kevin McMahon               | 174 | 5    | Brian Sugar (GM)           | 164 | 1221 | Jojo Delia            |
| 189 | 1713 | Alastair Richards           | 173 | 1202 | Jason Carney               | 164 | 14   | Di Dennis (GM)        |
| 189 | 846  | Austin Shin (Exp)           | 173 | 1423 | Calum Edwards              | 164 | 1419 | John Hardie           |
| 188 | 1220 | Theresa Brousson<br>(Exp)   | 173 | 1191 | Neil Green                 | 164 | 1429 | Stewart Houten        |
| 187 | 823  | Wayne Kelly (GM)            | 173 | 1469 | James Rossiter             | 164 |      | Mihai Pantis          |
| 186 | 1422 | Wale Fashina                | 172 | 1347 | Adekoyejo Adegbesan        | 164 | 1170 | Paloma Raychbart      |
| 185 |      | Evan Cohen                  | 172 | 1491 | Stephen Hunt               | 164 |      | Jin_Chor Tan          |
| 185 |      | Chinedu Okwelogu            | 172 | 165  | Cecil Muscat               | 163 |      | Chris Cummins         |
| 185 |      | Steve Polatnick             | 172 |      | Gary Polhill (Exp)         | 163 | 734  | Nick Deller           |
| 185 | 338  | David Webb (GM)             | 171 | 1016 | John Ashmore               | 163 | 836  | Nick Deller           |
| 184 | 1497 | Azu Ogbogu (Exp)            | 171 |      | Ian Gucklhorn              | 163 | 86   | Chris Fenwick         |
| 184 | 1488 | Ed Rossiter                 | 171 | 368  | Chris Hawkins (Exp)        | 163 | 86   | Frankie Mairey        |
| 184 | 21   | Evan Simpson (GM)           | 171 | 281  | Steve Perry                | 163 | 101  | Robert Richland (Exp) |
| 183 | 15   | Phil Appleby (GM)           | 171 | 1679 | Toke Aka                   | 162 |      | Alex_Gboye Balogun    |
| 183 | 362  | Gary Oliver (GM)            | 170 | 103  | Danny Bekhor               | 162 |      | David Brook           |
| 182 | 478  | Elie Dangoor (Exp)          | 170 | 202  | Penny Downer (Exp)         | 162 | 1120 | Anand Buddhdev        |
| 182 | 7    | Allan Simmons (GM)          | 169 | 914  | Vincent Boyle              | 162 |      | Mark Goodwin          |
| 181 | 1851 | Bob Linn                    | 169 |      | Carmel Dodd                | 162 | 199  | Graham Harding        |
| 180 | 1428 | Martin Harrison (Exp)       | 169 | 59   | Simon Gillam (Exp)         | 162 | 1706 | Clement Ikolo         |
| 180 | 1687 | Howard Wilde                | 169 |      | Mohammad Sulaiman          | 162 |      | Dan Sandu             |
| 179 | 1163 | David Sutton (Exp)          | 169 | 1057 | Mike Whiteoak              | 162 | 428  | Kwaku Sapong          |
| 179 | 1869 | Feargal Weatherhead         | 168 | 38   | Jackie McLeod (Exp)        | 162 | 1268 | Ebi Sosseh            |
| 178 |      | Andrew Goodwin              | 168 | 1349 | Fidelis Olotu              | 162 | 1231 | David Steel           |
|     |      |                             |     |      |                            | 162 | 555  | Raymond Tate          |
|     |      |                             |     |      |                            | 162 |      | Dianne Ward           |

|     |      |                            |     |      |                            |     |      |                      |
|-----|------|----------------------------|-----|------|----------------------------|-----|------|----------------------|
| 161 | 1635 | Nick Ascroft               | 155 |      | Tony Bearn                 | 147 |      | Lynne Murphy         |
| 161 | 1486 | Ashley Coldrick            | 155 | 835  | Maurice Brown              | 147 |      | Omri Rosenkrantz     |
| 161 | 463  | Helen Harding              | 155 | 1824 | Oliver Garner              | 147 | 589  | Anne Steward         |
| 161 |      | Mark Hollingsworth         | 155 |      | Ed Garrett-Jones           | 147 | 719  | Kate Surtees         |
| 161 | 1608 | David Holmes               | 155 | 488  | Marion Keatings            | 147 | 1598 | Carmen Toscano       |
| 161 | 873  | Matthew Pinner             | 155 |      | Bartosz Pieta              | 146 |      | Ed Breed             |
| 161 | 1510 | Jessica Pratesi            | 154 | 343  | Amy Byrne                  | 146 | 923  | Teresa Lyes          |
| 161 |      | Andrei Russell-Gebbett     | 154 | 180  | Neil Darbyshire            | 146 | 480  | Anne Ramsay          |
| 161 | 226  | Alan Sinclair              | 154 | 476  | David Shenkin              | 146 | 1411 | Rebecca Sheldrick    |
| 161 | 116  | Martin Thompson            | 154 | 1389 | Paul (Tranmere)<br>Thomson | 146 |      | Fran Thompson        |
| 161 | 292  | Wilma Warwick              | 154 | 229  | Graham Wakefield           | 145 | 1631 | Jack Anscorb         |
| 160 |      | Bob Berry                  | 154 | 94   | Rachelle Winer             | 145 | 1210 | Graham Bonham        |
| 160 | 1375 | Mike Chappell              | 153 |      | John Barker                | 145 | 1768 | Charles Micallef     |
| 160 |      | Alan Georgeson             | 153 | 69   | Moira Conway               | 145 | 1287 | Stuart Solomons      |
| 160 | 553  | Brian Jones                | 153 | 1456 | Andrew Eames               | 145 |      | Lesley Trotter       |
| 160 | 1863 | Tim Knight                 | 153 | 79   | Chris Finlay               | 145 |      | Nicky Vella-Laurenti |
| 160 | 154  | Mike O'Rourke              | 153 |      | Gerard Fox                 | 144 |      | Chris Civil          |
| 160 | 479  | Andrew Roughton<br>(Exp)   | 153 | 997  | Phil Kelly                 | 144 | 1770 | Tia Corkish          |
| 159 |      | Billy Dott                 | 153 | 837  | Peter Liggett              | 144 | 469  | Tony Davis           |
| 159 | 1362 | Graham Haigh               | 153 | 919  | Peter Thomas               | 144 |      | Mike Evans           |
| 159 |      | Joseph McGinley            | 152 | 852  | Maureen Chamberlain        | 144 | 688  | Lorraine Gordon      |
| 159 | 213  | Neil Rowley                | 152 |      | Victoria Kingham           | 144 | 1602 | Kim Hands            |
| 159 | 810  | Linda Vickers              | 152 |      | Naomi Landau               | 144 | 760  | Sanmi Odelana        |
| 159 | 1279 | Ben Wilson                 | 152 | 176  | Jayne Mackenzie            | 144 | 707  | Gwynfor Owen         |
| 158 | 1754 | Quentin Baker              | 152 | 20   | Janet Phillips             | 144 |      | David Reading        |
| 158 | 1211 | Ian Coventry               | 151 | 534  | Caroline Atkins            | 144 |      | Mario Saliba         |
| 158 | 1693 | Rafal Dominiczak           | 151 | 1765 | Beverley Calder            | 144 | 1189 | Martin Taylor        |
| 158 | 1243 | Doj Graham                 | 151 |      | Chris Downer               | 143 | 1870 | Abiodun Adeyemi      |
| 158 | 105  | Elisabeth Jardine          | 151 | 1051 | Elizabeth Hull             | 143 | 1559 | Joe Bridal           |
| 158 | 115  | Diane Pratesi (Exp)        | 151 | 631  | Alison Sadler              | 143 | 1473 | Neil Broom           |
| 158 | 88   | Sandie Simonis (Exp)       | 151 | 268  | Donna Stanton              | 143 |      | Alan Catherall       |
| 158 | 1649 | Paul {Halifax}<br>Thompson | 151 |      | Kevin Synnott              | 143 | 124  | Ivy Dixon-Baird      |
| 158 | 1459 | Ronan Webb                 | 151 |      | Fern Wheelwright           | 143 |      | Wendy Lindridge      |
| 157 | 1301 | Rick Blakeway              | 150 | 471  | Anne Ashmore               | 143 |      | Mark Murray          |
| 157 | 1440 | Tim Charlton               | 150 | 1739 | Feroza Bartlett            | 143 | 1457 | Amanda Sodhy         |
| 157 | 1862 | Stu Harkness               | 150 |      | Timothy Lawrence           | 143 | 1468 | Kathy Suddick        |
| 157 | 1203 | Greg Kelly                 | 150 | 93   | Ruth MacInerney            | 143 | 1149 | Jim Wilkie           |
| 157 | 1380 | Anthony Pinnell            | 149 | 789  | Alan Bailey                | 142 | 635  | Philip Aldous        |
| 157 |      | Chris Quartermaine         | 149 |      | Chris Harrison             | 142 | 1861 | Rose Calder          |
| 157 | 111  | Neil Talbot                | 149 | 408  | Nuala O'Rourke             | 142 |      | James Crooks         |
| 157 | 1674 | Ricky Zinger               | 148 | 51   | Cathy Anderson             | 142 | 1145 | Peter Darby          |
| 156 |      | Olakunle Ajayi             | 148 |      | Christine McKenzie         | 142 | 1217 | Peter Darby          |
| 156 | 530  | George Gruner (Exp)        | 148 | 458  | Eileen Meghen              | 142 | 507  | Carolyn Emery        |
| 156 | 793  | Joanne Hiley               | 148 | 1269 | Richard Moody              | 142 | 1123 | Kathryn Henry        |
| 156 | 986  | Robert Pells               | 147 | 228  | Adrienne Berger            | 142 | 507  | Martin Leverton      |
| 156 | 1691 | Wojtek Usakiewicz          | 147 | 84   | Pauline Johnson            | 142 | 1123 | Chrystal Rose        |
|     |      |                            | 147 |      | Pramit Kamath              | 142 | 1732 | James Squires        |
|     |      |                            |     |      |                            | 141 |      | John Balloch         |
|     |      |                            |     |      |                            | 141 | 1412 | Melanie Beaumont     |

|     |      |                       |     |      |                       |     |      |                       |
|-----|------|-----------------------|-----|------|-----------------------|-----|------|-----------------------|
| 141 | 399  | Louise Brundell       | 137 | 655  | Mary Jones            | 131 | 1762 | Reeyaaz               |
| 141 | 1466 | Suzanne Dundas        | 137 |      | Celine McCart         |     |      | Goolamhossen          |
| 141 | 3    | Laura Finley          | 137 | 1050 | Yvonne McKeon         | 131 |      | Lee Graham            |
| 141 |      | Brenda Margereson     | 137 | 28   | Lorna Rapley          | 131 | 1877 | Jayne Grey            |
| 141 | 1511 | Colin Nicol           | 136 | 1455 | Angela Burke          | 131 |      | Terry Jones           |
| 141 | 932  | Jill Parker           | 136 | 81   | Joyce Cansfield (Exp) | 131 |      | Jayanthi Kannan       |
| 141 | 637  | Val Wright            | 136 | 61   | Lorraine Crouch       | 131 | 1853 | Sarah Khawaja         |
| 140 | 1020 | Derek Bower           | 136 | 933  | Ann Golding           | 131 | 177  | Henry Walton          |
| 140 | 1383 | Sarah-Jane Jamison    | 136 | 1413 | Geoff Goodwin         | 130 |      | Martin Bloomberg      |
| 140 | 1479 | Bob Jarvie            | 136 | 267  | Graham Maker          | 130 | 603  | Linda Bradford        |
| 140 | 713  | Trish Matthews        | 135 | 1892 | Noel Barnes           | 130 |      | John Harrison         |
| 140 |      | Jean Rappitt          | 135 |      | Jean Bridge           | 130 |      | Peter Hunt            |
| 140 | 422  | Carol Stanley         | 135 | 689  | Kenneth Gordon        | 130 |      | Bryn Packer           |
| 140 | 1053 | Stephen Wintle        | 135 | 242  | Sheila Green          | 130 |      | Gordon Procter        |
| 139 | 96   | Diana Beasley         | 135 | 1533 | Colin Kendall         | 130 | 632  | Carol {Norwich} Smith |
| 139 | 449  | Alan Childs           | 135 | 1270 | Len Moir              | 129 | 943  | Carol Arthurton       |
| 139 | 1484 | Karen Game            | 135 | 790  | Margaret Staunton     | 129 | 511  | Samantha Beckwith     |
| 139 |      | Alan Guy              | 135 | 1317 | Marjorie Struggles    | 129 | 238  | Margaret Burdon       |
| 139 | 1115 | Nick Jenkins          | 135 |      | Richard Woodward      | 129 | 1092 | Heather Burnet        |
| 139 | 523  | Kate Leckie           | 134 | 427  | Peter Ashurst         | 129 |      | Barbara Dein          |
| 139 | 150  | David Longley         | 134 |      | Sonny Hemachandra     | 129 | 1199 | Richard Hitchcock     |
| 139 |      | Kate McNulty          | 134 |      | Duncan Keet           | 129 | 1577 | Esther Kasket         |
| 139 |      | Kay Powick            | 134 | 291  | Sylvia Swaney         | 129 | 1654 | Ian Kendall           |
| 139 | 636  | David Williams        | 133 | 1179 | Janet Adams           | 129 | 904  | George Newman         |
| 139 | 489  | Tom Wilson            | 133 | 1010 | Tolani Ayo-Awojobi    | 129 | 829  | Kim Phipps            |
| 138 | 738  | Margaret Armstrong    | 133 | 252  | Steve Balment         | 129 |      | Rita Todd             |
| 138 | 254  | Ian Burn              | 133 |      | Graham Buckingham     | 128 |      | Liam Donnelly         |
| 138 | 1262 | Ginny Dixon           | 133 | 406  | Moya Dewar            | 128 | 1293 | Dennis Hussey         |
| 138 | 163  | Yvonne Eade           | 133 | 92   | Priscilla Encarnacion | 128 | 263  | Sheila Jolliffe       |
| 138 | 544  | Marjory Flight        | 133 | 875  | Jim Lyes              | 128 | 1136 | Ted Lewis             |
| 138 | 1035 | Andy Gray             | 133 | 886  | Ruth Marsden          | 128 | 1854 | Michael Thomas        |
| 138 | 1022 | Nicky Huitson         | 133 | 35   | Lois McLeod           | 128 | 1003 | Sheena Wilson         |
| 138 | 100  | David Lawton          | 133 |      | Martin Sheehan        | 127 | 856  | Minu Anderson         |
| 138 |      | Jonny Maitland        | 133 | 1175 | Rosalind Wilson       | 127 | 557  | Janice Bease          |
| 138 |      | Marc Meakin           | 132 | 1504 | Andrea Adnan          | 127 |      | Sylvia Carroll        |
| 138 | 1237 | Dorn Osborne          | 132 | 639  | Esther Bacon          | 127 | 725  | Paul Cartman          |
| 138 | 802  | Patricia Pay          | 132 | 1005 | Verity Cross          | 127 |      | Terry Corps           |
| 138 | 161  | Margaret Pritchett    | 132 | 1509 | Heather Laird         | 127 | 1843 | Chris Davies          |
| 138 | 1294 | Christine Strawbridge | 132 | 401  | Sharon Landau         | 127 | 1667 | Mary Doyle            |
| 138 | 876  | Evelyn Wallace        | 132 |      | Frankie Latham        | 127 | 223  | June Edwards          |
| 138 | 1206 | Sarah Wilks           | 132 | 1823 | Elizabeth Ramsay      | 127 | 840  | Rhoda Gray            |
| 137 | 80   | Mary Allen            | 132 | 423  | Alec Robertson        | 127 | 776  | Peter Hall            |
| 137 | 899  | Jake Berliner         | 132 | 996  | Kenneth Ross          | 127 | 975  | Jill Harrison         |
| 137 | 66   | Sue Bowman            | 132 | 960  | Mary Siggers          | 127 |      | Sheila Hinett         |
| 137 | 1540 | Rowan Callaghan       | 132 | 470  | Norman Smith          | 127 | 1656 | Damian O'Malley       |
| 137 | 1282 | Barbara Goodban       | 131 | 992  | Geoff Cooper          | 127 |      | Mauro Pratesi         |
| 137 | 232  | Iain Harley           | 131 | 1424 | Len Edwards           | 127 | 775  | Pat Wheeler           |
| 137 | 1591 | Mick Healy            |     |      |                       | 126 | 570  | Jean Gallacher        |

|     |      |                            |     |      |                     |     |      |                   |
|-----|------|----------------------------|-----|------|---------------------|-----|------|-------------------|
| 126 | 1238 | Juliet Green               | 121 | 1642 | Alan Payne          | 116 |      | Carole Wheatley   |
| 126 |      | Stella Magnus              | 121 |      | Jo Ramjane          | 116 | 1442 | Gordon Winter     |
| 126 | 625  | John Mitchell              | 121 | 972  | Denise Saxton       | 115 | 1373 | Stany Arnold      |
| 126 |      | Pauline Russell            | 120 | 868  | Christine Gillespie | 115 | 953  | Peter Bailey      |
| 126 | 1580 | Nigel Sibbett              | 120 |      | Josephine Mayo      | 115 |      | Anna Borg         |
| 126 |      | Martin Smith               | 120 | 1574 | Ken McGinness       | 115 | 320  | Fay Madeley       |
| 125 | 924  | Linda Barratt              | 120 |      | Ovidiu Tamas        | 115 | 185  | Lou McMeeken      |
| 125 |      | Mario Camilleri            | 120 | 1666 | Brid Ui_Bhriain     | 115 | 1341 | Pam Sparkes       |
| 125 |      | Carmen Dolan               | 120 | 1867 | Pauline Weatherhead | 115 |      | Paul Walford      |
| 125 |      | Tanya Robson               | 119 | 1049 | Ken Bird            | 114 | 1263 | Barbara Barker    |
| 125 | 1849 | Theresa Scallan            | 119 |      | Pat Broderick       | 114 | 735  | Hilary Birdsall   |
| 125 | 246  | Wendy Tiley                | 119 |      | Joe Caruana         | 114 |      | Irene Catherall   |
| 124 | 922  | Barbara Allen              | 119 | 1705 | Sharon Hewitt       | 114 | 565  | Ann Coleman       |
| 124 | 682  | Janet Bonham               | 119 | 1089 | Vivienne Newman     | 114 | 1119 | Anne Darby        |
| 124 | 1385 | Mark Bradley               | 119 | 169  | Sue Thompson        | 114 | 1007 | Margaret Irons    |
| 124 | 822  | Jill Bright                | 119 | 1848 | Sally Twine         | 114 | 1222 | Bronagh Kenny     |
| 124 |      | Catalin Caba               | 119 |      | Albert Zammit       | 114 |      | Freda Marcus      |
| 124 | 381  | Michael Harley             | 118 | 1752 | Carol Bartlett      | 114 |      | Paul Mifsud       |
| 124 | 572  | Val Hoskings               | 118 | 330  | Viv Beckmann        | 114 | 626  | Martha Mitchell   |
| 124 | 1146 | Leonora Hutton             | 118 | 257  | Syd Berger          | 113 | 1525 | Caroline Foy      |
| 124 |      | Sammy Mangion              | 118 | 1403 | Emma Brown          | 113 | 1331 | Carol Grant       |
| 124 |      | Mario Seychell             | 118 |      | Jennifer Clifford   | 113 | 1064 | June Johnstone    |
| 124 | 1675 | Mark Smith                 | 118 | 920  | Eleanor Dobson      | 113 |      | David Mills       |
| 123 | 110  | Liz Barber                 | 118 |      | Lorna Franks        | 113 | 782  | Richard Pajak     |
| 123 | 1298 | Helgemarie Farrow          | 118 |      | Norma Galley        | 113 | 1276 | Evelyn Wansbrough |
| 123 | 737  | Margaret Harkness          | 118 | 715  | Barbara Hill        | 113 |      | Judy Young        |
| 123 | 1169 | Yvonne Holland             | 118 | 1113 | Chris Jackson       | 112 |      | Ben Berger        |
| 123 | 1066 | Barbara Morris             | 118 | 414  | Jill Jones          | 112 | 1779 | Joe Knapper       |
| 123 |      | Julie Nelkon               | 118 | 77   | Joy Lloyd           | 112 |      | Mary Orr          |
| 123 |      | Ralph Obemeasor            | 118 | 1054 | Barbara Lukey       | 112 | 1478 | Vivienne Stokes   |
| 123 |      | Tom Sharp                  | 118 | 1575 | Margaret Marshall   | 112 | 1640 | Nova Williams     |
| 123 | 477  | Malcolm Shaw               | 118 | 1773 | Cody McCormick      | 112 | 356  | Pamela Windsor    |
| 123 | 29   | Marlene Skinner            | 118 |      | Brenda Northcott    | 111 | 1038 | Jacquie Aldous    |
| 122 |      | Sheila {Perth}<br>Anderson | 118 | 1738 | Heather Roberts     | 111 | 1503 | Maureen Barlow    |
| 122 |      | Sue Ball                   | 117 |      | Paul Dundas         | 111 |      | Linda Beard       |
| 122 | 964  | Phyllis Fernandez          | 117 | 718  | Pat Friend          | 111 | 1489 | Anne Cheesman     |
| 122 |      | Marian Hamer               | 117 |      | Sara Hardy          | 111 | 420  | Marie English     |
| 122 |      | Sheila Jeffery             | 117 | 1696 | Ena McNamara        | 111 | 1532 | Lyn Kendall       |
| 122 | 938  | Helen Polhill              | 117 |      | Judy Monger         | 111 | 931  | Janet Milford     |
| 121 | 390  | Betty Balding              | 117 |      | Mary Morgan         | 111 | 1183 | Priscilla Munday  |
| 121 |      | Eileen Basham              | 117 |      | Willie Scott        | 111 | 1868 | Trevor Warwick    |
| 121 |      | Linda Bird                 | 117 | 1450 | Christine Tudge     | 111 |      | Jane Weston       |
| 121 |      | Gila Blits                 | 117 |      | Maureen Underdown   | 110 | 743  | Nora Bain         |
| 121 | 1653 | Tim Butcher                | 116 | 1625 | Georgie Burchell    | 110 | 982  | Ron Bucknell      |
| 121 | 402  | Sally Fiszman              | 116 |      | Maureen Hoch        | 110 |      | Jill Burgess      |
| 121 | 948  | Eileen Foster              | 116 | 901  | Dave Hoskisson      | 110 |      | Tricia Cooper     |
| 121 | 1889 | Valerie Morris             | 116 | 1683 | Janet Southworth    | 110 | 1657 | David Garland     |
|     |      |                            | 116 | 1253 | Philip Turner       | 110 |      | Paul Grimshaw     |

|     |      |                  |     |      |                    |    |      |                   |
|-----|------|------------------|-----|------|--------------------|----|------|-------------------|
| 110 |      | Sylvia McCulloch | 104 |      | Nancy Alroy        | 99 | 1828 | Mel Maltz         |
| 110 | 211  | Philippa Morris  | 104 |      | Philip Bowden      | 99 | 1587 | Irene Newberry    |
| 110 | 1118 | Remie Salazar    | 104 |      | Rosina Cornelius   | 99 |      | Robert Orr        |
| 110 | 917  | Nicola Staunton  | 104 |      | Jenny Corps        | 99 | 818  | Rose Wall         |
| 110 | 1788 | Julie Tate       | 104 | 1327 | Sonia Cox          | 98 |      | Jean Buckley      |
| 109 |      | Joyce Ashmore    | 104 | 1742 | Lee Fisher         | 98 |      | Len Choules       |
| 109 |      | Gill Carr        | 104 | 791  | Rosemary Jordan    | 98 |      | Pauline Cilia     |
| 109 |      | Frans Farrugia   | 104 | 1085 | Betty Simmonds     | 98 |      | Florence Davies   |
| 109 |      | Jean Owen        | 104 |      | Alfred Xuereb      | 98 |      | Yvonne Lambert    |
| 109 | 826  | Elizabeth Terry  | 103 |      | Rachel Bingham     | 98 | 1726 | Duncan MacFarlane |
| 109 |      | Sandra Walton    | 103 | 384  | Mabel Choularton   | 98 |      | Jenetta Mills     |
| 108 | 1063 | Irene Atkinson   | 103 |      | Anne Convery       | 98 | 1787 | Natasha Pratesi   |
| 108 |      | Fran Burling     | 103 | 1855 | Jack Durand        | 98 | 1873 | Paul Roberts      |
| 108 | 928  | Iris Cornish     | 103 |      | Joan Ellis         | 98 | 1506 | Gill {Norwich}    |
| 108 |      | Maggie Fleming   | 103 | 1729 | Paul Harding       |    |      | Thompson          |
| 108 |      | Pawlu Frendo     | 103 | 798  | Peter Lindeck      | 98 |      | Claire Violett    |
| 108 | 941  | Audrey Harvey    | 103 |      | Jean Mainwaring    | 97 | 709  | Betty Benton      |
| 108 | 1009 | Jenny Sakamoto   | 103 |      | Julie Wise         | 97 |      | Anne Connolly     |
| 108 | 1552 | Charles Tollit   | 102 |      | Elisabeth {ClvInd} | 97 | 1524 | Malcolm Davis     |
| 107 |      | Raquelle Azran   |     |      | Allen              | 97 |      | Fay Goble         |
| 107 |      | Les Costin       | 102 |      | Janice Ball        | 97 |      | Barbara Haggett   |
| 107 |      | Cecilia Cotton   | 102 |      | Joyce Frost        | 97 |      | Sandra Harrap     |
| 107 |      | Maisie Culpin    | 102 | 1112 | Peter Johnson      | 97 | 1134 | Dorothy Kemlicz   |
| 107 | 1200 | Caroline Elliott | 102 |      | Maria Marczak      | 97 | 1304 | Linda Moir        |
| 107 | 298  | Mavis Harding    | 102 |      | Barbara McLaren    | 97 | 1633 | Robert Peters     |
| 107 | 1644 | Kenneth Lovell   | 102 | 927  | Audrey Medhurst    | 97 |      | Maria Treadwell   |
| 107 |      | Peter Sime       | 102 | 1297 | Graham Pace        | 96 | 1548 | Viv Bishop        |
| 107 |      | Pamela Vahed     | 102 |      | Jeanne Rossiter    | 96 | 1820 | Rosemary Wood     |
| 106 | 1686 | Angele Andrews   | 102 | 357  | Jean Shaw          | 95 | 1544 | Anne Atherton     |
| 106 |      | Dominic Borg     | 101 |      | Eve Dwyer          | 95 | 1168 | Brian Beaumont    |
| 106 | 1471 | Scott Bowman     | 101 | 405  | Peter Ernest       | 95 | 726  | Christine Cartman |
| 106 |      | Jenny Burgess    | 101 |      | Alan Everitt       | 95 |      | Shirley Cave      |
| 106 |      | Lena Cook        | 101 | 736  | Molly Lane         | 95 |      | Sally Hanson      |
| 106 | 1480 | Doreen Jarvie    | 101 | 1554 | Vicky Owen         | 95 |      | Baldip Kaur       |
| 106 | 976  | Adrian Noller    | 101 |      | Moreen Shillitoe   | 95 | 1502 | Cathy Poacher     |
| 106 |      | Helen Sandler    | 101 | 1084 | Rod Winfield       | 95 |      | Jan Vokes-Taylor  |
| 106 | 1171 | Susan Thorne     | 100 |      | Bridget Busk       | 94 | 1465 | Doreen Clayton    |
| 105 | 1259 | Sheila {Rmfrd}   | 100 | 1704 | Paul Carter        | 94 | 1225 | Lena Glass        |
|     |      | Anderson         | 100 | 1340 | Paula Docherty     | 94 |      | Joan Rees         |
| 105 | 1630 | Ted Anscomb      | 100 |      | James Ducker       | 94 | 83   | Pat Rockley       |
| 105 |      | Peter {Prtsmth}  | 100 | 1212 | Marjorie Gillott   | 94 | 1448 | Joy Rowe          |
|     |      | Edwards          | 100 | 451  | Vera Sime          | 94 |      | Beryl Shoesmith   |
| 105 | 1306 | Margaret Emmott  | 100 | 483  | Peter Terry        | 94 | 1252 | Ruth Turner       |
| 105 |      | June Faulkner    | 100 | 935  | Ian Whyte          | 94 |      | Isla Wilkie       |
| 105 |      | Marjorie Gardner | 99  |      | Joan Everitt       | 94 | 1501 | Brenda Young      |
| 105 |      | Barbara Kent     | 99  |      | Florence Fontaine  | 93 | 1207 | Hannah Corbett    |
| 105 |      | Colin StHill     | 99  |      | June Lindridge     | 93 | 1648 | Irene Lawes       |
| 105 | 1699 | Nick Stone       | 99  |      | Jean MacLellan     | 93 |      | John McCart       |

|    |                        |    |      |                            |    |                            |
|----|------------------------|----|------|----------------------------|----|----------------------------|
| 93 | Avril Shaw             | 86 | 828  | Moira Metcalf              | 76 | Patricia Parton            |
| 93 | 1398 Jill Warren       | 86 | 1397 | Christine Silvester        | 76 | Margaret Scamell           |
| 92 | 1866 Terry Avery       | 86 | 1792 | Dan Smith                  | 76 | Audrey Shergold            |
| 92 | Eileen Bradshaw        | 86 |      | Martyn Washbourne          | 75 | 1782 John Fyfe             |
| 92 | 1261 Jo Holland        | 86 |      | Amabel Winter              | 75 | Teresa Haycock             |
| 92 | 1176 Gordon Lamb       | 85 | 1834 | Peggy Fehily               | 75 | 1290 Mary Kennedy          |
| 92 | 1392 Chris Leathem     | 85 |      | Marcia Hall                | 74 | 563 Fred Burford           |
| 92 | Gwen Linfoot           | 85 | 998  | Jean Hendrick              | 74 | 1143 Letty Burrell         |
| 92 | 1832 Shrinidhi Prakash | 85 |      | Jill Russell               | 74 | Margaret Cooke             |
| 92 | Peter Thorpe           | 85 | 1629 | Maggie Shutt               | 74 | Tom Creed                  |
| 92 | Sandra Weston          | 85 | 1332 | Sheila Wyatt               | 74 | Jean Geldard               |
| 92 | 872 Jacqui White       | 84 |      | Anne Lynas                 | 73 | Pat Carr                   |
| 91 | 1289 Kerry Constant    | 84 |      | Reno Zammit                | 73 | 1719 Eileen Johnson        |
| 91 | 1073 Jenny Harris      | 83 |      | Rita Barton                | 73 | Anne Pary                  |
| 91 | Monica Marden          | 83 | 1767 | Martin Byrne               | 73 | Helen Thompson             |
| 91 | 1734 Olive Martin      | 83 | 1229 | Eileen Hunter              | 72 | John Boughton              |
| 91 | 1232 Brett Scaife      | 83 |      | Linda Marguy               | 72 | Steve Wilkinson            |
| 91 | 485 Ann Toft           | 83 | 1745 | Douglas Morris             | 71 | Ann Gregson                |
| 90 | Peter Basham           | 83 |      | Judith Puttick             | 70 | Mary Harris                |
| 90 | Chris Chapman          | 83 |      | Doreen Searles             | 70 | Steven Henry               |
| 90 | Norah Cole             | 82 |      | Margaret Aldous            | 70 | Margaret (Edbgh)<br>McGhee |
| 90 | 1148 Renee Gilbert     | 82 |      | Joyce Hoffbrand            | 69 | 1399 Carol Russell         |
| 90 | 1781 Carol Joahill     | 82 | 1541 | Marjorie Lunn              | 69 | Shirley Stokley            |
| 90 | 1852 Estelle Matthews  | 82 | 1599 | Margaret (Fife)<br>McGhee  | 69 | 1874 Lucille Terry         |
| 90 | 1267 Margot Montgomery | 81 | 359  | Vera Allen                 | 68 | Jane Craig                 |
| 90 | Margaret Speight       | 81 |      | Lionel Howard              | 67 | 1334 Catherine McMillan    |
| 90 | Alison Stilwell        | 81 | 1882 | Gil Hunter                 | 66 | Dorothy Jackson            |
| 90 | 1454 Janet Watson      | 81 | 1553 | Brenda Keast               | 65 | Bob Horne                  |
| 89 | Sybil Berrecloth       | 81 | 1390 | Maria Raffaelli            | 65 | Michael Slow               |
| 89 | Josephine Croasdale    | 80 | 410  | Myra Copleston             | 64 | 1774 Margaret Smith        |
| 89 | 30 Ruby Flood          | 80 |      | Olive Matthew              | 63 | 1805 Marion Loewenstein    |
| 89 | Frances Goulding       | 80 | 1135 | Sylvia Oates               | 61 | 1741 Bill Croft            |
| 89 | 1769 Jennifer Payne    | 80 |      | Alison Peters              | 60 | 1316 Veronica Baker        |
| 89 | 1893 Angela Wright     | 80 | 1710 | Sandra Richards            | 60 | 1028 Peggy Lavender        |
| 88 | 1677 Mary Baty         | 80 | 1850 | Rena Waddell               | 59 | 949 Barbara Horlock        |
| 88 | 985 Carmen Borg        | 80 | 1819 | Stanley Wilkinson          | 58 | 1748 Connie Walton         |
| 88 | 683 Mavis Ernest       | 80 |      | Keith Woodruff             | 57 | 1844 Gemma Davis           |
| 88 | Hazel Packham          | 79 |      | Dorothy Henry              | 56 | 1740 Zandra Begg           |
| 88 | Maria Scicluna         | 79 | 1795 | Valery Jansen              | 56 | 541 Pamela Brown           |
| 88 | 1523 Kath Williams     | 78 |      | Chris (S'hampton)<br>Baker | 55 | 1474 Carol Mouncey         |
| 87 | Hilda Bennett          | 78 |      | Brigitte Brath             | 54 | Judy McBride               |
| 87 | 799 Cindy Hollyer      | 78 | 1822 | Pat Johnson                | 50 | Elisheva Auerbach          |
| 87 | Rosemarie Howis        | 78 |      | Michael Murray             | 50 | Beate Holder               |
| 87 | Mary Pugh              | 78 |      | Olga Robinson              |    |                            |
| 87 | 851 Sheila Smith       | 78 |      | Sheila Johnston            |    |                            |
| 86 | Sheila Bromly          | 77 |      | Paula Davenport            |    |                            |
| 86 | 1039 Dorothy Edwards   | 76 |      |                            |    |                            |
| 86 | Pat Evans              |    |      |                            |    |                            |

## 'Collins Little Book of Scrabble Secrets' by Mark Nyman

Any reflections on the art of Scrabble by the 1991 World Champion and a man who still has a fair claim to be the best player ever to come out of these islands are bound to be worth attending to, and at a modest £3.89 from Amazon this little book is surely a bargain.

I am not sure that it quite lives up to its title; advanced players expecting dramatic revelations that will instantly lift their rating from, say, 180 to 200 may be a little disappointed, as Mark, no doubt wishing to avoid a charge of elitism, tends to play down what one suspects are the real secrets of Scrabble success: a limitless capacity for absorption in the game allied to a fiercely competitive spirit, and of course, an unusually agile and capacious brain to begin with.

What he offers instead is a pleasant ragbag of hints, reflections, reminiscences and word lists, aimed principally at the lower rated player, though of course a little reinforcement of what is already known is useful at any level. What does shine through, and is perhaps as much the true 'secret' of Mark's own success as anything, is his undimmed enthusiasm for the tools of his trade, as he speaks of words being 'corkers', 'crackers' and 'beauties', and enthuses over 'lovely little hooks'. That Scrabble is sheer sensuous fun we all know; that it is still fun for an ex-World Champion is curiously reassuring.

Because of the timing of its publication, on the eve of an update to the word list, the book occupies a slightly tricky position between the current CSW07 and the impending CSW12, with a leaning towards the latter: for example, the list of three-letter words at the end reflects CSW12. In this area, the only problem that I have noted is that several of the 'special sixes' in section 78, which Mark credits with a 'blocker' status, have in fact lost that status in CSW12: HUPIRO, KERERU, MONOAO and RAWARU now gain an -S. One may also note in passing that SPECTRUM/CRUMPETS, which Mark offers as an anagram pair, has in fact a third anagram CRUMPEST.

All in all, in a bargain book that should slip nicely into any Scrabble player's Christmas stocking.

**David Sutton**

**S C R A B B L E -- W I N N I N G W I T H W O R D S**

**CHESTER ONE-DAY SCRABBLE COURSE** with Allan Simmons

**Friday January 27<sup>th</sup> 2012 10am-4.30pm**

**Ramada Hotel, Whitchurch Road, Chester CH3 5QL**

Includes six main 30min topics, a demonstration game and handouts

Ideal for those attending the Chester event 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> Jan at the same hotel, but open to anyone.

**COST FOR TUITION, REFRESHMENTS AND LUNCH £35 Deadline 31 Dec.**

Email or ring for draft course schedule\* and any queries: onwordsltd@aol.com tel: 018907 71785

Allan Simmons: Edington House, The Bow, Coldingham TD14 5NE

\*content can be tailored to what most attendees are interested in

Those requiring B&B Thursday night (**£37 single/twin/double**) before the course can book this using the Chester tournament entry form itself, but if you are only attending the course then book by ringing direct on 01244 333 429 (or..401) and say you are attending the Scrabble course.

**NB: Ten attendees are required to make the course feasible – full refunds if it has to be cancelled.**

# dusting off the archives

A stroll down Memory Lane with Robert Richland

## 20 years ago

APSP Newsletter, December 1991, editor Clive Spate

This issue was in stapled A4 format and unnumbered.

- The main focus was the coverage of the inaugural WSC in London at the end of September. The eleven UK players were: Phil Appleby, Joyce Cansfield, Pete Finley, Andrew Fisher, Mark Nyman, Diane Pratesi, Allan Saldanha, Sandie Simonis, Clive Spate, Martin Thompson and Bob Violet. Pete, Mark and Clive were late entrants, due to the non-appearance of the Nigerians. Pete received a phone call the night before the opening day asking him to play. He travelled overnight from Sunderland, fleetingly going over the non-OSW two- and three-letter words during a break!

48 players were split into eight groups of six and each played five round-robin games. Both Pete and Andrew made it to the last 16, whilst Joyce and Sandie went one better and reached the quarter-finals

The Final itself was an all-USA affair. Peter Morris won 2 – 1 against Brian Cappelletto, who had played the 176-point 9-timer GOLDFISH (round an F) in his semi-final with fellow USA player Joe Edley. Peter won \$10,000 for his WSC win; Brian had to settle for \$5,000.

The WSC had week-long daily coverage on BBC-2 soon after the event, with Alan Coren and Darryl Francis picking out the highlights.

- GylesBrandreth was made a director of Spear's Games, a few months after he was made the Conservative candidate for Chester for the 1992 general election.

WSC aside, other recent tourney wins included:

Allan Simmons (Redbridge), Noel Turner (Isle of Wight), Helen Grayson (Sheffmatch and also Tyne & Wear), Mark Nyman (WSC Training Event), Allan Saldanha (Richmond).

Top 4 ratings (Nov 10th 1991): Gareth Williams 196, Clive Spate, Phil Appleby/ MarkNyman.

## 15 years ago

APSP Newsletter, issue 51, December 1996, editor Phil Appleby

- A 'Stop Press' (an attached slip of paper) announced that Andrew Fisher was the 1996 NSC Champion, beating Terry Kirk 3 – 1 in the Final.
- Newly available was the Psion TSP Scrabble program, retailing at £49.95. Very much a forerunner to both Quackle and Zyzzyva, TSP enabled you to set up board and rack positions and find anagrams of any combination you wished (including blanks). A Psion Organiser was required to use TSP, with the cheaper 512kB Series 3a costing over £300.
- Elsewhere in the Newsletter was another pre-Quackle program featured, Critique, which covered a recent tourney game between Mike O'Rourke and Phil Cohen.
- Graeme Thomas gave us a list of words that took a back -I hook (e.g. CORNETT-I), together with a list of words that contained I, N and G but did not make words ending in -ING (e.g. MRIDANG).
- Martin Reed gave us a list of words containing WORM and WOOD (e.g. SANDWORM and PINEWOOD).

NSC aside, other recent tourney wins included: Di Dennis (East London), Gareth Williams (Avon), Maria Thomson (Three Rivers Masters), Robert Richland (Letchworth), Helen Gipson (Isle of Wight), JoyceCansfield (Winter Matchplay).

Top 3 ratings (Nov 22nd 1996): Allan Saldanha 198, David Acton 197, Clive Spate 196.

## 10 years ago

The Last Word, issue 81, December 2001, editor Christina French

- Christina, in her front page editorial, remarked at how a ‘yobbo’ mooned at her through the window whilst she was playing Andy Cook at the recent Winter Matchplay in Milton Keynes. She also sent her very best wishes to Laura Finley, who recently underwent heart surgery.
- A major loss to UK Scrabble occurred on October 21st when Terry Hollington died of cancer at the age of 67. Terry was instrumental in setting up the (then) APSP rating system (based on the BCF chess system) in 1988 and became the first Ratings Officer..
- In an article entitled ‘The Elite – And Why I’m Glad We’ve Got Them’, Pete Finley pleaded with everyone not to be jealous of top Scrabblers’ success. He concluded: ‘Be thankful for them. Learn from them. Aspire to join them’.
- David Shenkin was in the ABSP Member Interview spotlight in this issue. Outside Scrabble, David told us he was a member of the New Eltham Operatic Society, as well as being a cox for his college 11th boat at Cambridge.
- Stewart Holden reviewed the newly-published book ‘Word Freak’ by Stefan Fatsis, who spent several months enthusiastically playing at Scrabble tourneys in the USA whilst acquainting himself with many of the Scrabble personalities around the world.
- Right at the end (on the inside back cover), was the news that Mark Nyman was the new NSC Champion, beating Terry Kirk in the best-of-five Final.
- Andrew Davis became ABSP Masters Champion.

Other recent tourney wins: David Dawson (Cleveland), Noel Turner (Bournemouth).

Top 3 ratings (Oct 9th 2001): David Webb 206, Robert Felt 204, Andrew Fisher 202.

## 5 years ago

TLW, issue 111, December 2006, editor Elisabeth Jardine

- Yet another huge loss to UK Scrabble occurred on November 4th when Graeme Thomas perished in a car accident near his home in Hatfield.  
Graeme was APSP/ABSP Chairman from 1988 to 2001 and a prominent tournament director. He was survived by his twin brother Steve, two sisters and his parents. A full obituary was to follow in the next issue.
- June Clark (Romford SC) also sadly passed away, on September 21st, losing a long battle against cancer.
- Jake Jacobs was the new NSC Champion, winning 3 – 2 against Christian Brown in the Final. At 57, Jake was the oldest champion in the NSC’s 36-year history.
- Edinburgh (Amy Byrne, Simon Gillam, Wilma Warwick) became the first Scottish team to win the NSCT Final.  
Phil Appleby became the first two-time BEST champion, beating Harshan Lamabadusuriya 10–9 in a very close Final.
- New ABSP Chairman Terry Kirk chaired his first Committee meeting on October 8th.
- Ed Martin was the first subject in a new series, ‘Personal Profile’.
- David Sutton (in Edgeways) listed some Zulu words such as IMPALA, MBAQANGA and SKOKIAAN. His ‘Author, Author!’ profile was Charles Dickens.

Other recent tourney wins included: Mikki Nicholson (Durham Grand), Bob Violet (Norwich), Bob Lynn (Bournemouth), Wilma Warwick (Edinburgh), Marion Keatings (Garvald), Di Dennis (Cardiff), Wayne Kelly (Stafford), Chris Finlay (Salisbury), Amy Byrne (Elgin), George Gruner (Luton), David Shenkin (Eastbourne), Gareth Williams (Lincoln).

Top 3 ratings (Nov 27th 2006): Adam Logan 211, Brett Smitheram 203, Andrew Davis 198.



## Mike Whiteoak

I was born several years ago in Manchester – more years ago than I sometimes care to remember, although I can say that my age is less (just) than the minimum number of points it is possible to score for a bonus. Or should I say fewer?

Growing up in Manchester, I wasted no time in becoming a Manchester United supporter. This in fact occurred at the age of five, within the first five minutes of my first day at infants school, when I was surrounded by a gang of giant six-year-olds, who asked me “Do you support United or City?”.

I had no idea what they were talking about, but one of them helpfully explained that if I said City I would be beaten up.

The correct answer suddenly became obvious to me. At home that evening I asked my parents the same question, and was relieved to find that I was not obliged to beat up my dad.

Two years later my dad did something which in later years would have a bigger effect on my life than he could possibly have imagined. He taught me to play Scrabble. The first word I played was TOM, which he disallowed on the grounds that it was a proper noun. I have remembered this lesson ever since, with the result that my opponents have regularly received a five bonus point for my unsuccessful challenge.

By the age of twelve I was winning every game against my dad. No-one else amongst our family or friends could beat either him or me, so I concluded that I was obviously the best Scrabble player in the world.

Having clearly achieved everything there was to achieve in Scrabble, I resolved to devote the rest of my life to becoming like my hero, George Best. I planned to get drunk every morning, score a hat-trick for United in the afternoon, and score with Miss World in the evening. The only thing preventing me from fully achieving this ambition was the fact that I never actually played football. I spent the next twenty-eight years mostly perfecting just the first of those skills.

I managed to bluff my way through several years at a well-known school in Manchester (yes, it was approved, albeit not by me) and a less well-known, but nicer, university in Norwich, by ensuring that I always sat next to clever people with legible handwriting and choosing only to study subjects where I would not be required to produce evidence of having done anything too demanding, such as reading a book. I left university with an ability to speak incoherent nonsense in two or three languages, often all at the same time, a hangover, a degree that purported to equip me to live without the money that it made me incapable of earning, and a wife who spoke no English. The problems started when she did begin to acquire that particular skill; we discovered that we didn't like each other, and divorced.

It became apparent that I might soon have to decide what I wanted to do when I grew up, although I have to admit that I have still not been able to make a definite decision on this. Initially I worked for a bank – when I say ‘initially’, I mean that I acquired some initials to put after my name by passing some banking exams. This has subsequently proved useful in arguments with bank managers, but I soon realised that a bank manager was not what I wanted to be. After returning to university, this time in Sheffield, and gaining a teaching qualification, I realised even more rapidly that I did not want to be a teacher either.

My subsequent career path has been varied and interesting. No, that's not true. It's been varied. Sometimes it has been fun – making cheese cakes and selling ice cream were jobs that

were fun although, admittedly, not as much fun as eating cheese cakes and ice cream. Several jobs of mine have involved selling – as well as ice cream, I've sold life insurance, beds, fish and chips, utilities, and exhibition stands, to name but a few. Usually I left the job when I became disillusioned with the product and uncomfortable with having to sell something that I considered to be overpriced, overrated and that I would not want to buy myself. (Although this was never a problem with ice cream. Or fish and chips.)

For the last six years I have worked as a fundraiser for the Air Ambulance, originally in Devon, but for the past three years in London. This is still not necessarily what I want to do when I grow up, but at least I feel comfortable that there is nothing unethical about the job that I do, so I might just keep doing it and not grow up at all.

Soon after the turn of the millennium I bought a computer, as everyone seemed to have one and I didn't want to be left out. Not knowing what to do with it, I remembered Scrabble, and began to play online. This gave me my first indication that I was not quite the best Scrabble player in the world. The person who kept beating me informed me that he was the best player in Scotland. I wondered how he knew this, and concluded that he was probably the only person in Scotland who was able to read and write.

This person persuaded me that I should attend something called the Summer Matchplay. Instantly, he had got me hooked on a new addiction, one that I have not yet been able to give up. I think most keen Scrabble players will know what I mean when I say that I get a buzz from the intensity of playing a rated game of Scrabble. From the time the clock is started, to the end of the game, there is not a thought for anything else in the world but the board and the tiles. I don't think there is any other fully-clothed activity so totally absorbing.

I discovered that Scrabble players were all a bunch of geeky weirdos, which of course meant that I fitted in very well with them. I really have made some great friends through Scrabble, but best of all, it was through Scrabble that I met my lovely Rachelle, and found love and happiness such as I had never known until then. We have been together for four years now, and will be getting married in 2012. I may not, after all, be the best Scrabble player in the world, possibly not even the second best, but I would certainly claim to be the luckiest and the happiest.

## == margaret seabrook r.i.p. ==

### **A Dedicated Scrabblor**

On one evening just a few months after the Dorking Scrabble Club started in 1992 Margaret Seabrook, recently widowed and looking for a new outlet, came to try playing Scrabble in a club. She took to it at once and quickly became a keen player determined to win every game.

When the club joined the Southern Counties League a year or so later she was a leading member of the Dorking team and continued to play in League Scrabble matches for many years. When Dorking temporarily withdrew from the League she joined the Brighton Club, playing in its team for League matches.

Over the years she maintained her membership of both clubs, supporting both regularly. Living in Horsham she would drive 14 miles to Dorking on Wednesday evenings and 20 miles to Brighton on Monday and Friday evenings. With return journeys that adds up to over 100 miles per week! On top of all that she would regularly join in as many tournaments as possible.

Margaret died on July 29th She was well known and well liked by many Scrabblers, particularly for her wicked sense of humour. Life was never dull when Margaret was around and a black hole has now come to the Scrabble World.

*Priscilla Munday*

# Stephen Wintle's **OVERBOARD**

A change in the scheduled item this issue due to a chance encounter with former Right Honourable Deputy PM, and now Lord Prescott, in the Eric Morecambe bar during September's HB Holiday in the attractive Lancashire coastal resort bearing the much loved comedian's name.

Espying me with my "Scrabble Is For Life Not Just For Christmas" carrier bag, acquired at the 2010 BMSC (and, on a personal note and not wishing to sound ungrateful, rather more appreciated than the brightly coloured 'travel mugs' distributed at this year's event), this burly and somewhat dishevelled figure waddled over to me and introduced himself as none other than the esteemed aforementioned political gentleman. As far as I can remember, the dialogue ensued thus:

JP: Scribble! Love it. Can't get enough of it! Play it morning, noon and white with the knife.

SW: White with the knife?

JP: Eh? Every night with the wife. Can't you we're very hell?

SW: How long have you been playing?

JP: Until a couple of years ago I played Junior Screwball. I'd bloody thrash my grindchildren every time. Then the missus persuaded me to try the adult version. After all, she said, you don't want to make a bod for your own rack. And hey pesto, I've been hoiked ever since.

SW: What sort of scores do you normally get?

JP: Usually between 120 and 150; but last week I got my skyest ever whore. Unbelievably, I used all my tiles up in one move! Bet you've never done that! Had this really ricky track too but somehow I got RETAINS out of it and scored 68 pints!

SW: Any other memorable moves?

JP: One sits out. Early on in a game against Tony [Blair] I played JAG. A lit baiter played 'A' and 'G' onto the 'J' going down this time. Ended up with two Jags on the board and two Jags on the drive. A cream:dumb true!

SW: Moving away from Scrabble, during your professional career you've gained a bit of a reputation for mixing your words up. Do you think there's any justification in that?

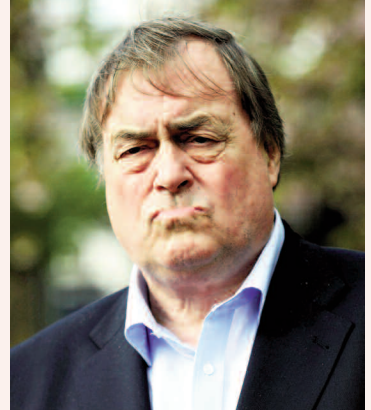
JP: Absolute wadscollop. Snuff and notsense. Viscous lies whipped up by a teeming scory press.

SW: So no truth in it at all?

JP: One not so ever.

SW: What do you like to do for relaxation, apart from Scrabble?

JP: Word botching is a favourite of mine. I've always been a twit of a bitcher. Bit of a film bluff as well though I've not seen too much lately. Thought that 'King's Peach' was a bit overrated. Never could work out where the peach came into it. Not keen on that Hairy Porter either. A you fears back 'The Fool Monty' really tickled me and enjoyed Schindler's Lisp, though he seemed to speak well enough to me. 'Earl With A Girl



Peering' was good and I don't mind a bit of horror. 'Blood From The Mummy's Broom' mums too kind and that Vincent Price one, 'Mask Of The Dead Ref'".

SW: TV?

JP: Me and the wife love 'Strictly Dumb Can't Sing' and 'Upstairs Downton Stairs Abbey'. 'Foyle Swore' and 'Bornhowler'; sorry 'Hornbowler' are another crew tackers.

SW: Best book?

JP: 'Care of Master Bridge'.

SW: And holiday spot?

JP: Sport of Pain.

SW: Moving back to Scrabble, is there anything you'd like to achieve in the game?

JP: Scramble is always going to be my peel ration and I'd like to do something for the game in general. I've been thinking about maybe organising a tournament up here next year.

SW: Any idea when?

JP: Probably towards the end of the year. September, October, No wonder or Distemper.

At this point our conversation is abruptly curtailed by the arrival of Mrs Prescott.

Mrs P: Supper time dear. Bonus for you tonight love - Scrabbled Egg On Toast...

## On The Rack

### A Scrabble Sonnet

This classy little poem was sent in by Jenny Sakamoto of Oxford Scrabble Club. It was written by **Peter Draper** of Banbury who is not an ABSP member but is a published poet and occasional Scrabble opponent of Jenny's.

*In the wearying Scrabble for life,  
Your chances and fates in the draw  
So often seem unfair and raw,  
Productive of tiresome strife.  
The patterns perplex and confuse,  
Make nil or minimal sense,  
Like a tangled barbed-wire fence,  
Our mind-map designed to bemuse.  
But then a glint of light shows,  
You no longer want to resign,  
You change letters, create and compose,  
Your courage defeats the malign.  
Triple Word Score in life can be taken,  
Once your shadows and doubts are forsaken.*

# scrabble tips

for home players and those new to the ABSP - by Allan Simmons

This section within OnBoard is specifically for newer players or those that might have joined the ABSP as a regular home player. Some of the material is new but a lot of it is tailored from articles that may have appeared elsewhere over the years.

## Christmas Hooks

As it's close to Christmas this piece is a poor-attempt at a topical theme. I've used the letters of CHRISTMAS to introduce you to some of my favourite unusual hook words where the root word is not itself common either. Perhaps you'll be able to introduce some of the following into your games over Christmas. As you read through them, see if you can see another underlying theme relating to the hooked words.

- C** is for C-URARE, a natural paralysing poison. URARE is a name for the plant that yields the poison.
- H** is for H-AMATE, hook-shaped. AMATE is an archaic verb meaning to dismay.
- R** is for R-UTILE, a reddish brown mineral. UTILE means useful or profitable.
- I** is for I-GAPO, a seasonally flooded riverside forest. GAPO is another spelling of the same word.
- S** is for S-TIVY, a dialect word meaning to stifle or suffocate. TIVY is derived from TANTIVY, meaning with great speed, galloping.
- T** is for T-ABID, an adjective relating to TABES, wasting away (pathology). ABID is an archaic past tense of ABIDE ó normally ABIDED or ABODE are used.
- M** is for M-ATOKE, a type of plantain in Uganda. An ATOKE is the sexless part of a type of marine worm.
- A** is for A-BORAL, away from the mouth (zoology). BORAL is a mixture of boron carbide and aluminium.
- S** is for S-AGENE, a type of fishing net. AGENE is a chemical often used as a whitening agent in flour.

Did you spot that all the hooked words are also useful single letter hooks of common words (eg, URARE from RARE and TIVY from IVY)?

Your board challenge is to find the play that scores more than 50 points from this Christmassy rack, using the board shown:

**XMASPUD**

|    | a    | b    | c    | d    | e    | f    | g    | h    | i    | j    | k    | l    | m    | n    | o    |
|----|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 1  | Red  | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue |
| 2  | Red  | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Red  |
| 3  | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Red  |
| 4  | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue |
| 5  | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue |
| 6  | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue |
| 7  | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue |
| 8  | Red  | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Red  |
| 9  | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue |
| 10 | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue |
| 11 | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue |
| 12 | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue |
| 13 | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue |
| 14 | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue |
| 15 | Red  | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Blue | Red  |

Solution p.48

## Tough Luck

Every Scrabble player has experienced it some time or another – a series of awful pickups, despite working hard to find reasonable plays each turn. After three or four difficult racks in a row your fighting spirit has been worn down so much that you are then prone to missing a great play that may unexpectedly present itself.

Take the following sequence from one of my recent tournament games. My opponent had kicked off with CHURN H4d for 26. My first rack was the uninspiring IORUUV. It was tempting to change but the few points on offer for a partial remedy with CURIO or HOURI persuaded me otherwise. I settled for the latter at H5a for 16. The next few plays were rewarded with seemingly worsening pickups:

Opponent: PRAY L4a 34

My rack: IUVDGGV

My play of GUV at L6a (21) was another compromise between changing, scoring and rack balance. At least it used the duplicate G and V.

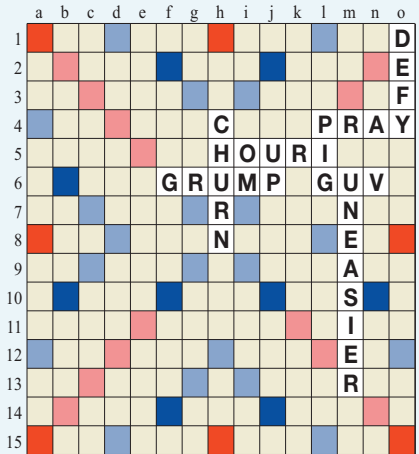
Opp: DEFY O1d 33

My rack: IDGVMRP

Despite the vowel shortage I was grateful to be able to score well with GRUMP F6a (34), even though it meant keeping the cumbersome V.

Opp: UNEASIER M6d 70

With the board now as shown right, my next rack was equally dire and I changed all seven out of pure frustration. Can you see a worthwhile play that I missed?



**V D I D G L U**

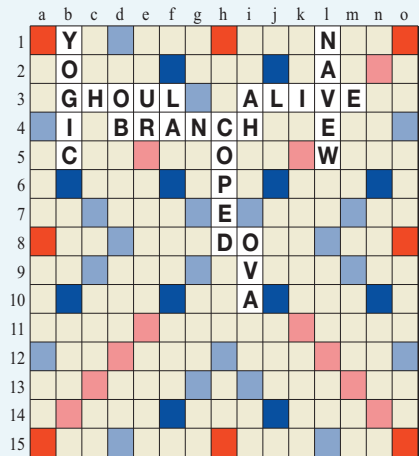
Now imagine you've had a similar sequence of weak pickups leading to these racks:

**B P T R U N K**

**E U F A I L E**

Using the board on the right, can you see either a score over 30 or a bonus play in each case?

Solutions p.48



### Some definitions:

HOURI - a nymph of the Muslim paradise

NAVEW - a wild Swedish turnip

YOGIC - relating to yoga

Scrabble articles like these can be found each Saturday in The Times. There is also a book, published by Collins, of a collection of over 90 of such Scrabble tips and articles by Allan Simmons that appeared in The Times between 2005-2006:

*The Times Scrabble Workout* – ISBN 978-0-00-730303-8 rrp £7.99

# SCRABBLE® LOGOLOGIC

Compiled by Allan Simmons

Your challenge is to recreate the Scrabble game using all the **17 words** given below. The number of tiles in each row or column, and the total face-value of those tiles (ie ignoring premium squares) in each row or column are shown alongside the empty board. It is assumed that readers are familiar with the letter values.

When you have completed the diagram can you find the elusive highest scoring play that scores exactly **44 points** with this rack? Solution page 48.

**B**<sub>3</sub> **O**<sub>1</sub> **D**<sub>1</sub> **D**<sub>2</sub> **I**<sub>1</sub> **E**<sub>1</sub> **S**<sub>1</sub>

| No.  |    |  | 2 | 6  | 5 | 6 | 8  | 8  | 4 | 1 |  |  |  |  |
|------|----|--|---|----|---|---|----|----|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| Val. |    |  | 4 | 18 | 5 | 8 | 11 | 19 | 4 | 2 |  |  |  |  |
|      |    |  |   |    |   |   |    |    |   |   |  |  |  |  |
| 3    | 12 |  |   |    |   |   |    |    |   |   |  |  |  |  |
| 5    | 8  |  |   |    |   |   |    |    |   |   |  |  |  |  |
| 3    | 6  |  |   |    |   |   |    |    |   |   |  |  |  |  |
| 3    | 3  |  |   |    |   |   |    |    |   |   |  |  |  |  |
| 3    | 6  |  |   |    |   |   |    |    |   |   |  |  |  |  |
| 2    | 2  |  |   |    |   |   |    |    |   |   |  |  |  |  |
| 4    | 4  |  |   |    |   |   |    |    |   |   |  |  |  |  |
| 4    | 4  |  |   |    |   |   |    |    |   |   |  |  |  |  |
| 1    | 2  |  |   |    |   |   |    |    |   |   |  |  |  |  |
| 3    | 3  |  |   |    |   |   |    |    |   |   |  |  |  |  |
| 6    | 13 |  |   |    |   |   |    |    |   |   |  |  |  |  |
| 1    | 4  |  |   |    |   |   |    |    |   |   |  |  |  |  |
| 1    | 3  |  |   |    |   |   |    |    |   |   |  |  |  |  |
| 1    | 1  |  |   |    |   |   |    |    |   |   |  |  |  |  |

**A**<sub>1</sub> **N**<sub>1</sub> **O**<sub>1</sub> **N**<sub>1</sub>    **A**<sub>1</sub> **T**<sub>1</sub> **E**<sub>1</sub>    **C**<sub>1</sub> **O**<sub>1</sub> **R**<sub>1</sub> **G**<sub>1</sub> **I**<sub>1</sub>    **E**<sub>1</sub> **Y**<sub>1</sub> **E**<sub>1</sub>    **H**<sub>1</sub> **E**<sub>1</sub> **T**<sub>1</sub>  
**H**<sub>1</sub> **O**<sub>1</sub> **G**<sub>1</sub>    **I**<sub>1</sub> **N**<sub>1</sub> **G**<sub>1</sub> **O**<sub>1</sub> **T**<sub>1</sub>    **O**<sub>1</sub> **A**<sub>1</sub> **R**<sub>1</sub>    **O**<sub>1</sub> **R**<sub>1</sub>    **R**<sub>1</sub> **E**<sub>1</sub>  
**R**<sub>1</sub> **H**<sub>1</sub> **Y**<sub>1</sub> **M**<sub>1</sub> **E**<sub>1</sub>    **R**<sub>1</sub> **I**<sub>1</sub> **V**<sub>1</sub> **I**<sub>1</sub> **E**<sub>1</sub> **R**<sub>1</sub> **E**<sub>1</sub>    **T**<sub>1</sub> **I**<sub>1</sub> **E**<sub>1</sub> **S**<sub>1</sub>    **T**<sub>1</sub> **O**<sub>1</sub>  
**Y**<sub>1</sub> **E**<sub>1</sub> **S**<sub>1</sub>    **Z**<sub>1</sub> **O**<sub>1</sub>    **Z**<sub>1</sub> **O**<sub>1</sub> **N**<sub>1</sub> **E**<sub>1</sub>

## anagram quiz

### Janus

from Graham Bonham

The month of January is named after Janus, a Roman god associated with beginnings and transitions.

Janus is usually depicted with a particular physical abnormality in relation to his head. If someone is described as having this particular abnormality, the description is almost certainly intended metaphorically, rather than literally. The solutions to this anagram quiz have a characteristic analogous to that physical abnormality.

Each of the anagrams has only one solution and where, in the author's judgment, the solution is a commonplace word - or, at least, a non-obscure word - this is indicated. Solution on page 41

- |    |                      |    |                         |
|----|----------------------|----|-------------------------|
| 1  | DDNENE               | 11 | AATAAT                  |
| 2  | LSLESE               | 12 | RAMARM (not obscure)    |
| 3  | RRAAAA               | 13 | EDERRD (commonplace)    |
| 4  | LUUPPL (not obscure) | 14 | ITITRR                  |
| 5  | EESRSR               | 15 | RVVEEIR (not obscure)   |
| 6  | AHALHL               | 16 | DDHAAHE                 |
| 7  | SSEESS               | 17 | TISSEEI                 |
| 8  | ALMLMA               | 18 | OTROATR (not obscure)   |
| 9  | GEEGDD               | 19 | LLAHHAA                 |
| 10 | RTTEER               | 20 | VAOORTATR (not obscure) |

The transition from CSW 2007 to CSW 2012 results in just one addition to, and no deletions from, the set of words bearing the characteristic which each solution to this anagram quiz shares. Which of the above is that additional word?

## Brief Encounter Revisited - Part Two or The New Fours

*This is a little story to help you remember the new four-letter root words in CSW12. It supplements Brief Encounter Revisited which introduced the new threes in the CSW12 Initiation Kit printed in the last OnBoard. The story excludes inflections of threes, but for completeness these are listed in a supplement at the end. The new words are capitalised and emboldened...*

So here I am on the train again on my way to yet another rehearsal with this new experimental orchestra specialising in Chinese music, but this time I'm carrying my **ERHU**, which is a two-stringed instrument played with a bow. And imagine my delight when the same pretty girl gets on the train.

'Hi', I say, 'How are you doing?'

'Oh, hi' she says, 'nice to see you again. You off to music practice? I'm just off to my **MAHA** yoga class.'

'Ah, is that like hatha yoga?' I say.

'Similar but it incorporates all eight of the classic yoga disciplines. Have you ever done yoga?'

'No, my thing's judo', I say. 'Had a good bout at club last night, went on for a quarter of an hour and at the end I won by just one **KOKA**, that's three points, the lowest score awarded for a hold or throw'.

My stop is approaching and this time I manage to pluck up courage.

'Look, I don't suppose you'd like to come round to my place for a meal tonight, I mean if you're not doing anything. I cook a pretty good Indian'.

'I'd like that' she says. 'About eight suit you?'

'**DEFO**' I say, and then add '**NANG!**' which is not like me because I'm not into street slang, but I'm feeling a bit flustered.

'I take it that means cool', she smiles. 'See you then'.

After practice I make the mistake of telling my Scots friend and fellow musician Hamish about the date and my meal plans.

'Och, you want to cook her a bit of **HASS**', he says. "That's a kind of oatmeal pudding made with sheep's gullet. **AWFY** tasty. It has this wonderful **OATY** flavour.'

'No, no', joins in Enrico, another of my orchestra friends, who comes from Naples (we're a very cosmopolitan lot). 'You want a good-a Italian dish, with a nice-a meat sauce like **RAGU** or **SUGO**'.

'Don't make me want to **FLOB** with your **PUKY** Scots and Italian dishes' says Vladimir, another musical colleague. 'Why not a beautiful chicken **KIEV**, that is named after my home town?'

'Non, non, if you want to impress this girl with your cuisine it must be French' says another friend Jean-Claude. 'What about a **TIAN**, a vegetable gratin baked in an earthenware dish, like my old Provencal grandmother used to make?'

But as I say, I've already made up my mind that it's going to be an Indian evening, and on the way home I call on my good friend Deepak, who runs the 'Ye **OLDE** Indian Corner-shop'; it doubles as an **OFFY** or off-licence, so I can pick up some wine there as well.

'Let's see, I say, 'I need cauliflower, potato, pigeon pea and spinach, so that's some of your **GOBI**, **ALOO**, **DAAL** and **SAAG**. Oh, and some betel leaf, that's **PAAN** isn't it, and do you have any of those **GOJI** berries?'

Deepak calls his **BAHU** to deal with the order; it's quite handy having a daughter-in-law who lives with the family, especially when you're trying to run a shop.

'Preparing a feast, are we, **BHAI**?' says Deepak (I like the way he addresses me as brother). 'Who could be coming round, some **MILF** perhaps?' Deepak prides himself on his command of English slang, so much that he sometimes leaves me behind.

'What's a **MILF**?' I say.

'Why, a sexually attractive middle-aged female', he says.

'She's not in the least middle-aged', I say indignantly, 'and neither am I'. But I realise when I get home that I am in fact a bit out of practice with these situations. How do young women expect to be entertained these days? What sort of music might she like? She didn't strike me as any kind of **GRRL**, into punk rock and that sort of **CACK**. More likely to have classical or operatic leanings; perhaps she'd be a fan of some **DIVO** like Pavarotti. We hardly wanted to spend the time watching television, even if it hadn't been the usual load of **KACK** on that evening, a long documentary about some so-called showbiz **SLEB**.

I put some wine-glasses out; after the derogatory remarks she'd made at our last meeting, about her colleagues being on tik or **TINA** - that's crystal meth - I knew she wouldn't be expecting anything in that line.

I prepare the table and for a touch of atmosphere add a **DIYA**, a small oil lamp used in Hindu devotions, that Deepak gave me for Christmas. I'm not sure that this is a good idea, because I manage to spill hot oil on my hand.

'**ARGH**', I say. An oil lamp can be a tricky thing, what my Irish grandmother would call a **HOOR**. Lucky I didn't set the place on fire, as I only rent the flat and might have found myself saddled with a large bill for **BOTE**, or compensation for damage to property.

All is ready and I even have time to do a bit of work on the computer. I'm an experienced programmer, though a bit of a **NOOB** when it comes to the Internet, and I add a few lines of code to the program I'm currently working on, knocking up a quick routine to **BLIT** some data, that is, to transfer a large array of bits between different locations in the computer memory.

Next I look up a few things I wanted to know on Wikipedia. I'd been reading a book about a naturalist's travels and had run into a few unfamiliar words; a dictionary's OK but the advantage of a **WIKI** is that it often gives you an image. Ah, so that's what a **WELS** looks like, a sort of giant catfish, originally American but introduced into European rivers. And that's a **SUNI**, a small S. African antelope. And a **CRIA** is apparently the offspring of a llama, while a **DEGU** is a small rodent native to Chile, also known as the Brush-tailed Rat. And what was that other word I didn't know? Ah yes, **TEIN**, a monetary unit of Kazakhstan, one hundredth of a tenge.

Finally I have a quick look at my Maori friend Tairongo's **VLOG**, or video log; we had been in touch by **VOIP** the evening before - it's so handy now that you have this system for converting analogue signals to digital so you can make very cheap telephone calls over the Internet. It showed him at a celebration with his **NGAI**, his tribe, after his rugby team - he plays for Auckland - had won a match against **RONZ**, or the rest of New Zealand.

'Great show', I'd told him.

'**CHUR**', he said, which is how these taciturn New Zealanders express informal agreement.

Then there is a knock at the door and there she is. She looks stunning in an Indian-style dress; I think the material is **AIDA**, a finely meshed cotton fabric nearly as soft as **FLOX** or floss silk, and it's decorated in the traditional style with **ZARI**, a kind of thread made of fine gold or silver wire.

We eat and get to talking. She tells me about her holiday in North Africa, where she had stayed in a **RIAD**, a traditional Moroccan house with an interior garden. I wondered if she had encountered any prejudice, being Jewish in a Muslim country, but she said not at all, that the **UMMA**, or body of Muslim believers, set great store by hospitality and had been very kind, though the man of the house had had to leave after a few days as he was making an **UMRA**, a lesser pilgrimage to Mecca made at the same time as the greater pilgrimage or hajj. She had missed his company, as he had been a very educated man and they had had some interesting discussions about **FIQH**, or Islamic jurisprudence, an expansion of sharia law.

The evening goes all too quickly. I see her home. She doesn't ask me in, saying she has a very early start tomorrow, which dashes my spirits a little, but then she says 'Next time!', which raises them again, and kisses my cheek with a big **MWAH**.

I walk home, feeling that kiss burn on my cheek like a big **XRAY** or letter X.

Next time!

**Supplement:** The new fours also include plural or third person singular forms of the new threes, and also a number of new plurals for existing threes that did not take -S before.

**Plurals for new threes:** ALUS AMES AWKS GAKS GAWS GERS INGS PELS QINS RAVS SUGS TIKS

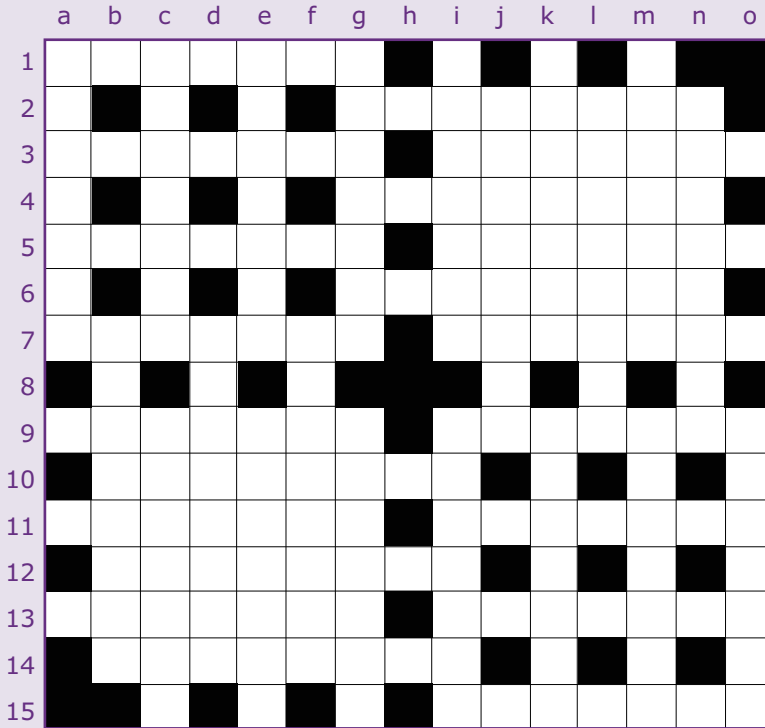
**New plurals for existing threes:** AKAS AUAS CUMS FEWS HAOS UMUS

*I also regret that I found it impossible to incorporate the new four-letter word CLIT, colloquial for an intimate part of the female anatomy, without jeopardising what I felt to be the delicate romantic nature of the piece. Readers are welcome to remedy this deficiency according to their own imaginations*

**David Sutton**

# Anagrid

The answers are simply anagrams of the clues. Solution page 48



## HORIZONTAL CLUES

1. CAILMEN
2. PORKEEXEC
3. LOSINGG - DREERLU
4. TRIODEEL
5. ICYTOID - DOSSEAR
6. OXFELNAG
7. PEASIRE - IAILESS
8. -
9. ADDFEEM - BIDDESE
10. TENNEROO
11. CROTINI - CERFISS
12. INPETTEN
13. CNICOLI - GYNNLII
14. ACCIDITS
15. DUSKLIT

## VERTICAL CLUES

- a. EPHONIC
- b. PETDROOP
- c. KELEILE - OILFREE
- d. CITISIAN
- e. RIGTEIN - ACTIMEL
- f. STANIDIE
- g. FLOSSLY - SCOTED
- h. -
- i. SURPIES - CITKEBS
- j. EXEITATU
- k. LACLERS - DLLWEED
- l. SKEERNOG
- m. ORDEERS - ILIANTI
- n. INREDED
- o. GNNESIS

**Solutions to anagrammed names** (page 16): Ruth Macinerney, Brenda Young, Susan Thorne, Diane Pratesi, Robert Richland, Kathy Suddick, Barry Grossman, Victoria Kingham, Sandie Simonis, Mr Reeyaz Goolamhossen, Mrs Vivienne Bishop, Nick Ascroft, Priscilla Encarnacion and Caroline Elliott.

# Cryptogram Solution page 48

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 14 | 3  | 10 | 9  | 8  | 26 |    | 17 | 20 | 10 | 8  | 21 | 24 | 10 | 5  |
| 12 | 9  | 18 | 10 |    | 11 | 8  | 7  |    | 15 |    | 7  | 10 | 9  | 16 |
| 9  | 7  | 18 | 8  | 16 | 22 |    | 25 | 26 | 7  | 4  | 4  | 11 | 25 | 18 |
| 12 | 22 | 24 | 10 | 7  | 22 | 10 | 5  |    | 21 | 16 | 4  | 4  | 10 | 10 |
| 13 |    | 10 | 7  | 13 | 11 | 2  | 26 |    | 8  | 9  | 10 | 10 |    | 26 |
| 24 | 10 | 7  | 9  | 8  | 10 | 5  |    | 5  | 10 | 13 | 11 | 9  | 10 | 13 |
| 10 |    | 5  |    |    | 13 | 11 | 10 | 9  | 9  | 7  | 25 |    | 10 |    |
| 13 | 12 | 13 | 10 | 13 |    | 25 |    | 12 |    | 26 | 10 | 7  | 25 | 13 |
|    | 6  |    | 1  | 12 | 2  | 18 | 11 | 25 | 18 |    |    | 12 |    | 7  |
| 21 | 12 | 9  | 7  | 8  | 10 | 13 |    | 17 | 16 | 1  | 16 | 2  | 5  | 13 |
| 23 |    | 7  | 12 | 2  | 7  |    | 19 | 10 | 6  | 11 | 6  | 7  |    | 24 |
| 7  | 6  | 11 | 21 | 10 | 13 |    | 12 | 9  | 10 | 8  | 10 | 9  | 7  | 2  |
| 22 | 12 | 13 | 24 | 9  | 16 | 5  | 13 |    | 9  | 10 | 9  | 11 | 13 | 10 |
| 17 | 25 | 10 | 10 |    | 3  |    | 8  | 3  | 7  |    | 8  | 7  | 10 | 13 |
| 7  | 11 | 9  | 13 | 24 | 10 | 5  | 13 |    | 2  | 11 | 7  | 25 | 7  | 13 |

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

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
|    |    | O  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |



Bust of Janus -  
Vatican Museum

## Solutions to Janus Anagram Quiz (p37)

- |          |            |              |
|----------|------------|--------------|
| 1 DENNED | 8 MALLAM   | 15 REVIVER   |
| 2 SELLES | 9 DEGGED   | 16 HADEDAH   |
| 3 ARAARA | 10 TERRET  | 17 SEITIES   |
| 4 PULLUP | 11 ATAATA  | 18 ROTATOR   |
| 5 SERRES | 12 MARRAM  | 19 HALALAH   |
| 6 HALLAH | 13 REDDER  | 20 ROTAVATOR |
| 7 SESSES | 14 TIRRIIT |              |

SENES is the palindrome which is new in CSW 2012.

# prize puzzle

This puzzle is within the capability of all OnBoard readers and everyone sending in a correct solution will be entered into a draw to win a £10 voucher toward the purchase of goods from TILEFISH 'your one stop Scrabble shop'.

Your challenge is to find a play with the tiles shown that scores exactly 58 points.

As ABSP members it is presumed that you already know the points value of the tiles and the values of the premium squares.

To be entered into the draw, send your solution to OnBoard, 17 St Margarets Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR32 4HS.

or email: editor@absp.org.uk

Closing date 14th January 2012.

The puzzles on this page were created for OnBoard by Stewart Holden; similar challenges by the same author can be found in The Guardian's Weekend magazine every Saturday.

The winning entry each issue is decided by using numbers drawn in the National Lottery.

The winner of the last prize puzzle was Jill Bright who found TRUSTWORTHY as shown on the board below.

|    | a | b | c | d | e | f | g | h | i | j | k | l | m | n | o |
|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 2  | F | U | N | K |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 3  |   |   |   | I | T | C | H | E | D |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 4  |   |   |   | R |   |   |   | V |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 5  |   |   |   | U |   |   |   | I |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 6  |   |   |   | S |   |   |   | C |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 7  |   |   |   | T | I | N | T |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 8  | B | E | L | O | W |   |   | E |   | I | D | E | A | T | E |
| 9  |   |   |   | O | U | T | D | I | D |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 10 |   |   |   | R |   |   |   | I |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 11 |   |   |   | T |   |   |   | M |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 12 | G | I | N | S | H | O | P |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 13 |   |   |   | Y |   |   |   | A |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 14 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | N |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 15 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | I |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |

|    | a | b | c | d | e | f | g | h | i | j | k | l | m | n | o |
|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1  |   |   |   | B |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 2  |   |   |   | E |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 3  |   |   |   | N |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 4  |   |   |   | J | A |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | R |   |   |
| 5  |   |   |   | T |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | I |   |   |
| 6  |   |   |   | T |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | L |   |   |
| 7  |   |   |   | S |   |   |   |   | O | V | E | R | L | A | P |
| 8  | I | N | D | I | C | T | E | D |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 9  |   |   |   | O |   |   |   | Y |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 10 |   |   |   | W |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 11 |   |   |   | S |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 12 |   |   |   | H |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 13 |   |   |   | O |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 14 |   |   |   | E |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 15 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |

A E G N O X Y



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# forthcoming tournaments

This list is compiled by Steve Perry who is the ABSP's Tournament Co-ordinator. Steve's role is to manage the Scrabble calendar so he will need to know as early as possible if you are considering running an event. Steve's email is: steveperry414@gmail.com

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Harrogate 14 games</b>  | Contact: Viv Beckmann   |
| Friday 2nd Sunday 4th December   | Tel 0191 2742420  |
| <b>Workshop 14/5/5/5 games</b>   | Contact: Jared Robinson   |
| Friday 9th–Sunday 11th December  | Tel 01628 500623  |
| <b>Newhaven (Edinburgh) 7 Games</b>  | Registration: 09:00   |
| Saturday 10th December 2011  | First game: 09:45 Departure 18.00   |
| Contact: Alan Sinclair   | Tea/Coffee available throughout the day   |
| Tel 0131 669 7316  | Entry costs: £10.00 for ABSP member   |
| Venue: Newhaven Church Hall, 7 Craighall Road, Edinburgh, EH6 4NE                | £12.00 for Non-ABSP member  |
|  | Cheques payable to Alan Sinclair and sent to 19 Duddingston Avenue., Edinburgh, EH15 1SJ  |
| <b>Twixmas 15 games</b>  | Contact: Amy Byrne  |
| Thursday 29th–Friday 30th December   | Tel 0131 6613869  |
| <b>UK Open (Coventry) 18/38 games</b>  | Contact: Len Moir   |
| Tuesday 3rd–Saturday 8th January   | Tel 01913 880033  |
| <b>Pitlochry 14/9 Games</b>  | Contact Alan Sinclair   |
| Sunday 15th–Friday 21st January 2012   | Tel 0131 6697316  |
| <b>Northern Ireland 15 Games</b>   | Contact: Sarah-Jane Jamison   |
| Saturday 21st–Sunday 22nd January  | Tel 02890 289355  |
| <b>West Berks 7 games</b>  | First game: 10:00 Departure 18.30   |
| Saturday 21st January 2012   | Tea/Coffee available throughout the day   |
| Contact: Ian Burn  | Entry costs: £13.00 for ABSP member   |
| Tel 0118-984-5045  | £15.00 for Non-ABSP member  |
| Venue: The Barn, Beech Road, Purley-on Thames, Berks,                            | Cheques payable to West Berks Scrabble Club   |
| Registration: 9.30   | Tournament A/c and sent to Ian Burn, Valley View, 92 Purley Rise, Purley-on-Thames, Berks, RG8 8DH                              |
| <b>Chester 17 Games</b>  | Contact: Kathy Rush   |
| Friday 27th–Sunday 29th January  | Tel 01928 733565  |
| <b>West Sussex 6 games</b>   | Registration: 09.30   |
| Sunday 29 January 2012   | First game: 10:00 Time of departure 17.00   |
| Contact: Peter Hall  | Tea/Coffee available throughout the day   |
| Tel 01903-775396   | Entry costs: £14.00 for ABSP member   |
| Emergency number on day only   | £16.00 for Non-ABSP member  |
| Tel 07724-545641   | Deduct 50p if you bring and are prepared to lend a clock  |
| Venue: The Woodland Centre, Woodlands Avenue., Rustington, West Sussex, BN16 3HX | Cheques payable to Rustington Scrabble Club and sent to RSC, c/o Peter Hall, 34 Lawrence Ave, Rustington, West Sussex, BN16 3HX |

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## **7 Game Tournament (Edinburgh)**

Saturday 4th February 2012  
Contact: Amy Byrne  
Telephone: 0131 661 3869  
Venue: Carlton Bridge Club,  
36b Warriston Gdns Edinburgh  
EH3 5NE  
Registration: 09:15

First game: 09:45 Departure 17.30  
Light lunch included. Tea/Coffee available  
throughout the day  
Entry costs: £19.00 for ABSP member  
£22.00 for Non-ABSP member  
Cheques payable to Centrestar and sent to  
Amy Byrne, 12 Northfield Terrace, Edinburgh,  
EH8 7PX

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## **Israel Open 20 Games**

Friday 10th–Sunday 12th February 2012

Contact: Evan Cohen  
Email: evan@post.tau.ac.il

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## **Corby 16 Games**

Saturday 18th–Sunday 19th February 2012

Contact: Carmen Toscano  
Telephone: 01536 601987

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## **Leicester 7 games**

Saturday 25th February 2012  
Contact: Alison Sadler  
Telephone: 01509-550797  
Emergency number on day only  
Mobile: 07773-629118  
Venue: St. Peter s Church hall, Church  
Road, Glenfield,  
Leicester. LE3 8DP

Registration: 09:00  
First game: 09.45 Departure 17:30  
Tea/Coffee available throughout the day  
Entry costs: £12.00 for ABSP member  
£14.00 for non-ABSP member  
Deduct 50p if bringing clock which you are  
prepared to lend  
Cheques payable to Leicester Scrabble Club  
and sent to Alison Sadler, 31 Kenilworth  
Avenue:, Loughborough, LE11 4SL

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## **New Malden 7 games**

Saturday 3rd March 2012  
Contact: Elizabeth Terry  
Telephone: 01483 474011  
Emergency number on day only  
Mobile: 07995 090101  
Venue: Christ Church Centre, Coombe  
Road, New Malden, KT3 4RE  
Registration: 09:15–09:45  
First game: 10:00 Departure 17:45

3-5 divisional tournament  
Tea/Coffee available throughout the day  
Entry costs: £14.00 for ABSP member  
£16.00 for non-ABSP member  
Deduct 50p if bringing clock which you are  
prepared to lend  
Cheques payable to Elizabeth Terry  
Tournament a/c and sent to Elizabeth Terry,  
114 Hermitage Woods Crescent, Woking,  
GU21 8UF

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## **Peterborough 5 point penalty 7 games**

Saturday 10th March 2012  
Contact: Chris Hawkins  
Telephone: 01733-223202  
Emergency number (on the day)  
Telephone: 07775 438682  
Venue: Millfield Community Centre,  
439 Lincoln Road, Peterborough,  
PE1 2PE  
Registration: 9:15  
First game: 9.45 Departure 17:45

Tea/Coffee available on arrival and throughout  
the day.  
Entry costs: £14.50 for ABSP member  
£16.50 for non-ABSP member  
Deduct 50p if bringing clock which you are  
prepared to lend  
Please note players entering both this and the  
free challenge event can deduct £6 from the  
combined entry fee.  
Cheques payable to Peterborough Scrabble  
Club, and sent to Chris Hawkins,  
39 Peterborough Road, Eye, Peterborough,  
PE6 7YA

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## **Pitlochry Pitlochry (20 games)**

Sunday 11–Wednesday 14th March

Contact: Amy Byrne  
Telephone: 0131 6613869

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**Swindon 7 games**

Sunday 11th March 2012  
Contact: Steve Perry  
Telephone: 01367-244757  
Venue: St Joseph s Catholic College,  
Ocotal Way, Swindon,  
SN3 3LR  
Registration: 09:00  
First game: 10:00 Departure 18.15

3/4 division tournament  
Tea/Coffee available on arrival and throughout  
the day.  
Entry costs: £13.50 for ABSP member  
£15.50 for non-ABSP member  
Cheques payable to Steve Perry and sent to  
29 Elm Road, Faringdon, Oxon SN7 7EJ or  
Paypal to sperry123@talktalk.net (please send  
confirmatory email with standard information  
and pay credit/debit card charges)

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**Coventry Double 22 games**

Saturday March 24th–Sunday March 25th

Contact: Len Moir  
Telephone: 01913 880033

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**Coventry Triple 27 games**

Tuesday 27th–Thursday 29th March

Contact: Len Moir  
Telephone: 01913 880033

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**Aylesbury 7 games**

Saturday 31st March 2012  
Contact: Janet Bonham  
Telephone: 01296 483717  
Venue: Stoke Mandeville Village  
Community Centre, Eskdale Park  
Eskdale Road, Stoke Mandeville  
HP22 5UJ  
Registration: 09:15

First game: 10:00 Departure 17:45  
3/4 divisional tournament  
Tea/Coffee available 9.30 onwards  
Entry costs: £14.00 for ABSP member  
£16.00 for non-ABSP member  
Cheques payable to Aylesbury Scrabble Club  
Tournament Account, and sent to Janet  
Bonham, 14 Earlswood Close, Aylesbury,  
Bucks, HP21 7PG

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**Easter (Bristol) 8/21 games**

Friday 6th - Monday 9th April

Contact: Ronnie Reid  
Telephone: 01256 895690

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**Peterborough Free Challenge  
7 games**

Saturday 14th April 2012  
Contact: Chris Hawkins  
Telephone: 01733-223202  
Emergency number (on the day)  
Telephone: 07775 438682  
Venue: Millfield Community Centre,  
439 Lincoln Road, Peterborough,  
PE1 2PE  
Registration: 09:15  
First game: 09.45 Departure 17:45

Tea/Coffee available on arrival and throughout  
the day.  
Entry costs: £14.50 for ABSP member  
£16.50 for non-ABSP member  
Please note players entering both this and the  
5 point penalty event can deduct £6 from the  
combined entry fee.  
Deduct 50p if bringing clock which you are  
prepared to lend  
Cheques payable to Peterborough Scrabble  
Club, and sent to Chris Hawkins,  
39 Peterborough Road, Eye, Peterborough,  
PE6 7YA

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**Southampton 6 games**

Sunday 15th April 2012  
Contact: Alan Bailey  
Telephone: 02392-384360  
Emergency number on day only  
Mobile: 07763-894738  
Venue: Hedge End Village Hall,  
SO30 4AF

Registration: 09:10  
First game: 10:00 Departure 17.15  
Tea/Coffee available throughout the day.  
Entry costs: £13.00 for ABSP member  
£15.00 for non-ABSP member  
Cheques payable to Southampton Scrabble  
Club and sent to Alan Bailey, 84 East Lodge  
Park, Portsmouth, PO6 1AQ

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## Newcastle 7 games

Saturday 21st April  
Contact: Viv Beckmann  
Telephone: 0191 2742420  
Emergency number on day only  
Mobile: 07818 831917  
Venue: West Denton Community  
Association, Hillhead Road,  
Newcastle-upon-Tyne,  
NE5 1DN

Registration: 09.00  
First game: 10:00 Departure 17.45  
Refreshments available most of the day. Lunch  
is NOT provided  
Entry costs: £13.50 for ABSP member  
£15.50 for non-ABSP member  
Cheques payable to Newcastle Scrabble Club ,  
and sent to Michael Muray. 12 Benwell Village  
Mews, Newcastle upon Tyne NE15 6LF

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## Havering Evergreens - Over 50s 7 games

Saturday 21st April 2012  
Contact: Cindy Hollyer  
Telephone: 01277-822050  
Venue: St John s Church Hall, Church  
Road, Mountnessing,  
Brentwood, Essex, CM15 0RH  
Registration: 09:15

First game: 10:00 Departure 18:00  
Tea/Coffee available throughout the day but  
lunch is not provided.  
Entry costs: £13.50 for ABSP member  
£15.50 for non-ABSP member  
Deduct 50p if bringing clock which you are  
prepared to lend  
Cheques payable to Havering Scrabble Club  
and sent to Cindy Hollyer, 78 Peartree Lane,  
Doddington, Brentwood, Essex, CM15 0RH

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## Spring Matchplay Staverton 25 games

Saturday 5th–Monday 7th May

Contact: Amy Byrne  
Telephone: 0131 6613869

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## European Open – Malta 21 games

Friday 11th - Monday 14th May

Contact: Josephine Mayo  
email: maltascrabbleclub@gmail.com

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## Bournemouth Spring 7 games

Sunday 13th May 2012  
Contact: Ruth Marsden  
Telephone: 01202 707148  
Emergency number on day only  
Mobile: 07720 949 825  
Venue: Rooper Hall, 5 Victoria Park  
Road, Moordown, Bournemouth

Registration: 09:30  
First game: 10:10 Time of departure 18.10  
Tea/Coffee available throughout the day  
Entry costs: £13.50 for ABSP member  
£15.50 for Non-ABSP member  
Cheques payable to Bournemouth Scrabble  
Tournament and sent to Ruth Marsden,  
27 Spencer Road, Canford Cliffs, Poole,  
BH13 7ET

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## Malta International 24 games

Friday 18th - Sunday 20th May

Contact: Josephine Mayo  
email: maltascrabbleclub@gmail.com

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## Chigwell Pairs and Singles 7 games

*Entries can be from pairs or from individuals*

Sunday 20th May 2012  
Contact: Diane Pratesi  
Telephone: 0208 556 2902  
Venue: Victory Hall, Hainault Road,  
Chigwell, Essex IG7 6QX

Registration: 09.30  
First game: 09.40 Departure 17.15  
Refreshments available throughout the day,  
Lunch is NOT provided  
Entry costs: £15.00 for ABSP or LSL member  
£17.00 for all others  
Cheques payable to Diane Pratesi and sent to  
33 Amberley Road, Leyton, London E10 7ER

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**Luton 7 games**

Saturday 26th May  
Contact: Rosalind Wilson  
Tel: 01582 507249  
Emergency number on day only  
Mob: 07753 143262  
Venue: St. Luke s Church Hall, High Street, Leagrave, Luton LU4 9JY

Registration: 09:20  
First game: 10:10 Time of departure 18.00  
Tea/Coffee available throughout the day  
Entry costs: £13.50 for ABSP member  
£15.50 for Non-ABSP member  
Cheques payable to Luton Scrabble Club and sent to Rosalind Wilson, 22 Sherborne Avenue., Luton, LU2 7BB

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**Grand Jubilee (Coventry) 36 games**

Saturday 2nd - Tuesday 5th June

Contact: Len Moir  
Telephone: 01913 880033

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**New Malden 7 games**

Saturday 16th June 2012  
Contact: Elizabeth Terry  
Telephone: 01483 474011  
Emergency number on day only  
Mobile: 07995 090101  
Venue: Christ Church Centre, Coombe Road, New Malden, KT3 4RE  
Registration: 09:15–09:45

First game: 10:00 Departure 17:45  
3-5 divisional tournament  
Tea/Coffee available throughout the day  
Entry costs: £14.00 for ABSP member  
£16.00 for non-ABSP member  
Deduct 50p if bringing clock which you are prepared to lend  
Cheques payable to Elizabeth Terry  
Tournament a/c and sent to Elizabeth Terry, 114 Hermitage Woods Crescent, Woking, GU21 8UF

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**Project WYSC Chigwell  
8 games – 20 minutes**

Sunday 24th June 2012  
Contact: Diane Pratesi  
Telephone: 0208 556 2902  
Venue: Victory Hall, Hainault Road, Chigwell, Essex IG7 6QX

Registration: 09.30  
First game: 09.45 Departure 17.30  
Refreshments available throughout the day, Lunch is NOT provided  
Entry costs: £15.00 for ABSP member  
£17.00 for non-ABSP member  
Cheques payable to Diane Pratesi and sent to 33 Amberley Road, Leyton, London E10 7ER

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**Lincoln 7 games**

Saturday 25th June  
Contact: Ben Wilson  
Telephone: 01522 687077  
Emergency number on the day  
Mobile: 07857 519807  
Venue: All Saints Church Hall, Moor Lane, North Hykeham, LN6 9AB  
Divisions according to entries  
Registration: 9.30

First game: 10.00 Departure 17.45  
Tea/Coffee and biscuits available before the start and between games  
Entry costs: £15.00 For ABSP members  
£17.00 for non-ABSP member  
Add 50p if not bringing a timer that you can lend. Deduct £5 if aged under 18 on the day of the event  
Cheques payable to Lincoln Scrabble Club and sent to Ben Wilson, 7 Perney Crescent, North Hykeham, Lincoln, LN6 9RJ

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**Festival of Scrabble Mkt Harboro  
(19 games)**

Saturday 7th - Sunday 8th July  
Contact: Amy Byrne  
Telephone: 0131 6613869

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**Peterborough All Nighter  
27 games**

Saturday 28th - Sunday 29th July  
Contact: Chris Hawkins  
Telephone: 01733-223202

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# tournaments coming up...

| Event                  | Date            | Games    | Organiser          | Telephone      |
|------------------------|-----------------|----------|--------------------|----------------|
| Twixmas                | Dec 29th - 30th | (15)     | Amy Byrne          | 0131 661 3869  |
| UK Open Warm-Up        | Jan 3rd - 4th   | (18)     | Len Moir           | 01913 880033   |
| UK Open                | Jan 5th - 8th   | (38)     | Len Moir           | 01913 880033   |
| Pitlochry              | Jan 15th - 20th | (14)/(9) | Alan Sinclair      | 0131 6697316   |
| Northern Ireland       | Jan 21st - 22nd | (15)     | Sarah-Jane Jamison | 02890 289355   |
| West Berks             | Jan 21st        | (7)      | Ian Burn           | 0118 984 5045  |
| Chester                | Jan 27th - 29th | (17)     | Kathy Rush         | 01928 733565   |
| West Sussex            | Jan 29th        | (6)      | Peter Hall         | 01903 775396   |
| Edinburgh              | Feb 4th         | (7)      | Amy Byrne          | 0131 661 3869  |
| Israel Open            | Feb 10th - 12th | (20)     | Evan Cohen         | +97277 8844013 |
| Scottish Masters       | Feb 10th - 11th | (12)     | Neil Scott         | 01224 639291   |
| Corby                  | Feb 18th - 19th | (16)     | Carmen Toscano     | 01536 601987   |
| Leicester              | Feb 25th        | (7)      | Alison Sadler      | 01509 550797   |
| New Malden             | Mar 3rd         | (7)      | Elizabeth Terry    | 01483 474011   |
| Peterborough 5pp       | Mar 10th        | (7)      | Chris Hawkins      | 01733 223202   |
| Pitlochry              | Mar 11th - 14th | (20)     | Amy Byrne          | 0131 661 3869  |
| Swindon                | Mar 11th        | (7)      | Steve Perry        | 01367 244757   |
| Coventry Double        | Mar 24th - 25th | (22)     | Len Moir           | 01913 880033   |
| Coventry Triple        | Mar 27th - 29th | (27)     | Len Moir           | 01913 880033   |
| Aylesbury              | Mar 31st        | (7)      | Janet Bonham       | 01296 483717   |
| Easter                 | Apr 6th - 9th   | (8)/(21) | Ronnie Reid        | 01256 895690   |
| Peterborough fc        | Apr 14th        | (7)      | Chris Hawkins      | 01733 223202   |
| Southampton            | Apr 15th        | (6)      | Alan Bailey        | 02392 384360   |
| Newcastle              | Apr 21st        | (7)      | Viv Beckmann       | 01912 742420   |
| Havering Evergreen     | Apr 21st        | (7)      | Cindy Hollyer      | 01277 822050   |
| Spring Matchplay       | May 5th - 7th   | (25)     | Amy Byrne          | 0131 661 3869  |
| European Open, Malta   | May 11th - 14th | (32)     | Josephine Mayo     | +356 7996 5207 |
| Bournemouth            | May 13th        | (8)      | Ruth Marsden       | 01202 707148   |
| Malta                  | May 18th - 20th | (24)     | Josephine Mayo     | +356 7996 5207 |
| Chigwell Pairs/Singles | May 20th        | (7)      | Diane Pratesi      | 020 8556 2902  |
| Luton                  | May 26th        | (7)      | Rosalind Wilson    | 01582 507249   |
| Grand Jubilee          | June 2nd - 5th  | (36)     | Len Moir           | 01913 880033   |
| Brighton & Hove        | June 10th       | (7)      | Doj Graham         | 01273 699811   |
| New Malden             | June 16th       | (7)      | Elizabeth Terry    | 01483 474011   |
| Chigwell WYSC          | June 24th       | (8)      | Diane Pratesi      | 020 8556 2902  |
| Lincoln                | June 30th       | (7)      | Teresa Lyes        | 01652 648 697  |
| Festival of Scrabble   | July 7th-8th    | (19)     | Amy Byrne          | 0131 661 3869  |
| English Open           | July 13th-15th  | (21)     | Len Moir           | 01913 880033   |

## OnBoard as a pdf

If any member would prefer to receive their copy of OnBoard as an emailed pdf file, please contact membership secretary, Anne Ramsay at [anne.ramsay@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:anne.ramsay@blueyonder.co.uk)

Emailed pdfs should arrive a little earlier than the mailed booklets. They are indexed and in full colour throughout.

## To contact the editor of OnBoard

Email: [editor@absp.org.uk](mailto:editor@absp.org.uk) or [alec.r.webb@btinternet.com](mailto:alec.r.webb@btinternet.com)

or write to: Alec Webb, 17 St Margarets Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR32 4HS