

# OnBoard

Bimonthly Magazine of the Association of British Scrabble Players



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Issue 135 - December 2010

## from the editor

Overall, I've been pleased with the feedback from the first issue of Onboard, particularly the emailed pdf version which went down really well. A bit of colour makes all the difference. 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 will be indexed and in full colour throughout.

In general, the colour cover on the magazine also drew approving comments and this magazine again has a colour cover, but it does cost more to print, so I will revert to a black and white cover on editions where I do not have anything worthy of the more costly option. I hope you agree that this issue is worthy.

I am very grateful to all the people who have contributed some content to this issue. I really am getting to know who OnBoard's friends are. Nevertheless, I have again written an unsustainably large proportion of the material myself.

I continue to strive to make this a membership magazine as much as a Scrabble one. Please make it your New Year's resolution: to write something for OnBoard in 2011. Have a great Christmas holiday and New Year. *Alec*

### Youth Scrabble Coaching

On Saturday and Sunday 15th and 16th January, Alastair and Karen Richards are running a coaching clinic and tournament for young players, in the Girl Guide club room in Coventry. This coaching is free for beginners or experienced young players. For details, contact [karendrichards@gmail.com](mailto:karendrichards@gmail.com)

### renewal winners

There was a prize of a set of Protiles for 20 members whose names were drawn at random from all those that had renewed their membership by the 13th November.

The draw took place at the Motherwell tournament on that date. All the names were picked by different competitors. The winners were:

Christine Gillespie	Kenneth Gordon	Pricilla Munday	Pat Colling
Susan Thorne	Bill Croft	Sonia Cox	Eileen Johnston
Sandra Richards	Ann Golding	David Garland	Lena Glass
Dorothy Kemlicz	John Fyfe	Ruth McInerney	Christabel Jackson
Doreen Jarvie	Elizabeth Ramsay	Mel Maltz	Vincent Boyle

Renewals for 2011 were due by November 30th, so if you haven't renewed yet you really should think about doing so, otherwise you may not be receiving the next issue of OnBoard.

ABSP renewal is £15 and can be done by Paypal via the ABSP website or by cheque to Anne Ramsay, 8 Glen Cova Place, Kirkcaldy, Fife KY2 6UL

### To contact the editor...

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

## committee matters

The Committee last met on September 19th when discussion items included membership renewal, the timing of publication of AGM motions, feedback on the BMSC and the upcoming Masters, Four Nations and Causeway tournaments. Minutes of the meeting are on page 2 and 3 of OnBoard

Between meetings, Committee members are in regular contact and recent discussion has been around the presentation of WESPA rules – loose leaf or booklet; it was decided to have them both stapled and drilled in an attempt to keep everyone happy!

With the impending changeover to WESPA Rules, the Committee feels that ABSP needs a single point of contact for both the changeover period and for questions and issues that arise in future. Stewart Holden has agreed to take on the role of Rules Officer.

The Committee has also planned a promotional offer to attract new members who may be home-players or club players who have never ventured into the tournament scene. This will offer new members who sign up for two years some free Scrabble goodies such as an item of logowear and a luxury rack. Small adverts enticing people to go to the ABSP website for the offer details will appear in selected national papers, local papers and on posters in libraries. The thinking is that even regular home players can feel some sense of pride in belonging to the ABSP and as they then get the magazine over a two year period may be encouraged to dip their toes in the tournament water.

The World Youth Scrabble Championship is being held in Manila in early December. Very best wishes to our UK team 2010 - Tim Butcher, reigning UK Youth Scrabble Champion, Jessica Pratesi and first-time entrant Jack Durand, aged 10. We'll all be watching their progress with great interest.

Karen Richards will be holding another of her excellent Youth Scrabble tuition programmes in Coventry in January, hopefully it will be well attended and more youngsters will enter the tournament Scrabble scene as a result.

Testing of 'Short Scrabble' boards is in progress and the early indications are that they are being very well received in schools. Short Scrabble boards (developed by Allan Simmons) are smaller than standard boards and are proving to be popular as children are able to complete a game during a lunchtime Scrabble club.

The next Committee meeting is on December 12th but, as usual, if you have any issues you would like the Committee to discuss, please don't hesitate to contact me, Ross or any Committee member.

**Laura Finley**

Secretary ABSP

### renewal for qualification

Would all potential qualifiers for the England WSC 2011 & Four Nations 2011 teams, UK Causeway 2011 team and Masters 2011, be aware that they **MUST** renew their ABSP membership by 31st December 2010, or they will forfeit their place in ALL qualifying events.

ABSP renewal is £15 and can be done by Paypal via the ABSP website or by cheque to Anne Ramsay, 8 Glen Cova Place, Kirkcaldy, Fife KY2 6UL

# Minutes of ABSP Committee Meeting: Sunday 19th September 2010

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

**Present:** Laura Finley (LF), Wayne Kelly (WK), Philip Nelkon (PN), Ross Mackenzie (RM), Steve Perry (SP), Ev Simpson (ES)

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

**Apologies:** Stewart Holden (SH), Anne Ramsay (AR), Allan Simmons(AS), Sarah Wilks(SW)

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

**Resignations/appointments:** ABSP Treasurer: We are still in need of a Treasurer

**Minutes of the previous meeting:** Accepted.

## Team member reports and discussion

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

We made a small surplus from the BMSC

Incorporation is looking more complex than we can take on at the moment.

### **Membership Secretary**

AR: Membership stands at 721 to date. It was agreed to use 20 sets of Protiles as an incentive/reward for prompt renewals.

### **Secretary:**

It was agreed that AGM motions, in draft form, should be submitted by April 2011. The AGM pack should only carry argument supporting the motions, but the timing would allow time for discussion on UK-S and in OnBoard (draft agenda to appear in the June edition)

AGM: verbatim minutes – it was agreed that these are not necessary, but that contributors to AGM discussion could ask for their comments to be minuted.

Complaint received that AGM motions were not sufficiently publicised – it was agreed that the AGM pack (sent to every member), OnBoard, ABSP website and UK-S is enough.

Complaint received regarding the low turnout of voters on AGM motions (21.7%) – it was agreed that a majority of those who vote is all that is needed.

Request at AGM for Committee meeting minutes to appear on website and in OnBoard

### **Tournament Co-ordination:**

SP: TOs are getting their forms in quickly and the calendar is filling up well.

The TO forum at BMSC was very productive.

The Director's Guide needs to be rewritten in light of the change to WESPA rules.

Rating of events with WESPA rules: It was agreed that any tournament with a variation (eg: local variations: WESPA, version 2) must be considered by the Committee on a case by case basis.

## ABSP Events:

**BMSC 2010:** BMSC made a slight profit this year.

Yarnfield has been bought by an hotel chain but they have accepted our booking for next year.

The jute bags were very well received.

AS will conduct an email survey to collect feedback on this year's format.

**Masters:** This year's format meant playing after dinner on Saturday evening and play went on beyond 11.30pm. Most participants would prefer 16 games instead of 18.

**Four Nations:** Gareth Williams and Chris Quartermaine are organising this event in Flintshire. WK has sent out invitations – the event will be free challenge.

**Causeway Challenge:** WK – this is all in hand

**NSC:** PN has set out actions to counteract people declining places following regional events. It was agreed that the plate event will be dropped if there are fewer than six teams in a region.

**Promotions:** Home Player Membership Pack: committee were happy with this and keen to go ahead.

**Ratings:** Following the question asked at the AGM, it was agreed to ask JG to re-investigate the 40 point rule

**Website:** AB is to take over as webmaster with ES in a supporting role. Craig Beevers maintains the calendar. JG: does ratings. ES: to take over pictures

**Publications:** WESPA rules: it was agreed to accept SH's draft letter explaining changes and common misconceptions. It was felt that members will learn from experience of using the rules and that TDs should make announcements at the beginning of events reading from 'crib sheets'. The format of the 'new rules' was discussed – should it be a booklet or loose leaves to insert into the ring binder?

**Newsletter:** We await feedback re: electronic version of OnBoard. AW is working on building a 'team' of contributors.

**Youth Officer:** Karen Richards is running another coaching clinic in Coventry on 15/16 January – PN found the venue.

### **Routine discussion items**

**ABSP Objectives:** We still need a 'Youth' objective.

**WSC/Masters qualification:** Under the new system, everyone's rating is recalculated on January 1st - these recalculations can count as a 'peak rating'.

**Data Protection Issues:** –

**Titles and Awards:** –

**Dictionary Committee:** –

**Rules:** Version 1 of WESPA rules is to be sent to members ASAP. Version 2 is expected soon after 'with significant changes'. It was agreed that we have adopted version 1 (from January 1st) for the whole year (following the AGM).

**Equality:** –

**UK Reports:** Report received from Gareth Williams (Wales) re: Four Nations

### **Progression and Innovations**

**Merchandising:** SH suggested a 'promo idea' of plastic posters for use at tournaments.

**WESPA:** WESPA rating criteria were discussed

**AOB:** Request for advertising on website – it was agreed to avoid ads that are not specifically Scrabble related

**Date of next meetings:** December 12th at Laura's house

# the big match

Its always a big event for the ABSP when two members who have met through their tournament play get married. The social benefits of Scrabble are not to be underestimated.

On the morning of Saturday 30th October, at Great Yarmouth Registry Office, John Ashmore and Anne Hidden were married. A gorgeous sunny day, the couple were attended by family and friends, amongst whom ABSP members were well represented - as Nick Deller put it on Facebook... 'Best part of 10 Scrabble players and not a single tile was placed on a rack (though 9 were placed on a cake). You'd not imagine it possible!'



*Signing the register with witnesses Mary, Anne's sister and Joyce, John's mum.*

The ceremony was an immensely joyous occasion, Anne, looking radiant carried a bouquet of red roses that had been composed by Jacquie Aldous who arranged all the wedding flowers.

When it came to the signing of the register, the registrar deliberately took her time so that we could all enjoy the background music - a particularly sumptuous rendition of *I Dreamt I Dwelt in Marble Halls*.

Including John and Anne there were actually thirteen Scrabble players amongst those who assembled at the Caister Castle restaurant for the wedding breakfast, where the wine served bore the label 'Hidden Falls' ...in love, of course!

So how did this happy union come about?



*Anne and John with their Scrabble playing supporters (L-R) Nicky Huitson, Nick Deller, Ginny Dixon, Mike and Nuala O'Rourke, Philip and Jacquie Aldous, Yvonne Eade, Alec Webb, Gill Thompson and Joyce Ashmore. (Photo courtesy of Pat Dixon)*

Anne had played tournament Scrabble for many years, but stopped shortly after the sudden death of her husband Simon in 2000. John's competitive Scrabble career began at about the same time, so it was not until 2006 when Anne decided to make a comeback that their paths crossed. It was at Milton Keynes that they first spoke. Anne thought she recognised John as someone she had played at Durham, so started a conversation. That turned out to be a fortunate mistake. John assured her he had never been to Durham, but nevertheless a friendship began.

Over the next few years the two met at various tournaments around the country, but it was not until the first round of the European Open at Harrogate in the spring of 2009 that they first played. They were due to meet again later in the event, and happened to sit together at the dinner which preceded that round. Anne asked, 'Are you going to be nice to me?' John's reply was 'I'll always be nice to you – except at Scrabble! That is a phrase which has been repeated often in the following months.

It was at the BMSC later that year that things got serious. The 220 miles between Anne's home in Harrogate and John's in Bradwell, near Gt Yarmouth, meant that there was a lot of driving involved, but the romance blossomed, and on New Year's Day this year the couple became engaged.

There were three in the relationship – John, Anne and her dog Harper. On a visit to Norfolk, the couple took Harper for a walk. When he got bored with chasing his ball, the two big kids with him decided to do so instead. Being competitive people, they both went for the ball at the same time. There was a tangle of legs, Anne fell over, and it turned out that she had broken her fibula. She claims it was John's revenge for beating him at Scrabble an hour earlier - John strenuously denies that allegation!

By the time the plaster came off, Anne was busy packing. Thirty-one years of belongings accumulated in her Harrogate home had to be boxed or disposed of, because the couple had a new home in Norfolk. The big move went ahead smoothly in July, and the wedding in October has now sealed their union.

Their most recent tournament was their local event at Norwich a month before the wedding. Anne did not have much luck that day, and afterwards announced on Facebook that 'Anne Hidden will not be playing tournament Scrabble again'. Several people fell for that hook, line and sinker. After watching with great amusement the replies which followed, she clarified the situation – Anne Hidden may not play again, but Anne Ashmore will be at Milton Keynes!

After the wedding Anne and John honeymooned in the highest village above sea level in Dorset, a lovely place called... Ashmore.



## === absp personality ===

### Alec Webb



*This is a feature of the magazine I am very keen to continue, in an endeavour that we all discover a little more about the people who make up our association. Sadly, the person due to be the second subject of this series suffered the decline and eventual loss of a close family member in the two weeks prior to this magazine's deadline, which made it impossible for them to complete their story in time. It will be one we hear at a later date.*

*Not wanting to ask any of my planned future 'victims' to rush out something for me, I have decided to make myself this issue's ABSP Personality - regardless of whether or not I actually have one...*

continued on next page

In 1987 I had been going to French evening classes in my home town of Lowestoft, but the regular tutor retired and the replacement did not make the classes so interesting. I therefore looked for something else to take their place. I saw in the local paper reports from two clubs - a Monday night chess club and a Tuesday night Scrabble club. It was no contest, my former mother-in-law, Iris, had always been begging me to play Scrabble with her, but I didn't really enjoy the game, so on Monday night off I went to the chess club venue... and no one turned up. Never mind, I determined to take Iris to the Scrabble club the following evening, secretly hoping that she would make a friend who would satisfy her desire for the game. I intended to have only that evening at the club myself, but they introduced me to playing 'High Score' Scrabble. I loved it and I was hooked.

Three months later club members took me to my first tournament (a high-score one, of course), at The Spider's Web near Watford and thus began 23 years of tournament play. One fellow club member, who had been playing Scrabble much longer than I, would often accompany me to tournaments - a young lady by the name of Yvonne Buck. She was going through a divorce at the time and later changed back to her former surname of Eade. I always found Yvonne's company a delight, a bond grew between us, and in August 1991 I moved in with her. We are a true Scrabble-made couple. In the last 20+ years I have only been to one tournament without Yvonne - while she was visiting her son in Malaysia. When I qualified for the World Championships in Melbourne in 1999 having Yvonne with me on the trip made up for a disappointing tournament performance.

My father had been a compositor on the Financial Times. When he died I was 15 years old and a pupil at Bromley Grammar School in Kent - I was quite good in the sciences, but continually failed in English, so was unable to get into the sixth form. I opted to leave school and take up an apprenticeship in print that my father had arranged for me when I was born. Financially, I'm sure it has been a poor decision, but I have always enjoyed my work and Monday mornings have never been a problem for me. For over 30 years I was a Camera Operator and then became a Mac Operator, although I confess I am not highly skilled in either typesetting or graphic design.

Pretty well all my Scrabble word study was done in my last few camera-operating years. I was in a darkroom, where the camera was set up under red safelights, but whilst the camera was making an exposure the room was brightly lit for 30 seconds at a time. Nothing much useful you can do in 30 seconds - except perhaps make and use flashcards for word learning. After my job became computerised in 1998 my word study practically came to a full stop - so to a large extent I'm still playing OSW.

One benefit of being in the print was that I could produce scoresheets for myself. They used to be admired by many players, and I was often told that people would be prepared to buy them. So about 6 to 7 years ago, I paid to have some wirebound scorebooks printed and took them to tournaments to sell for £2.50 each. They were a hit and we're still producing and selling them today - at the same price - although, in truth it is Yvonne who does most of the selling.

It was in 1996 that Graeme Thomas first approached me about becoming the APSP Newsletter editor. I was amazed,. Graeme told me Hartley Moorhouse was looking to retire, but I have no idea why Graeme thought of me to replace him - perhaps he asked everyone!. Anyway, I instantly declined; Hartley's writing was so slick and witty, I knew I could not make a comparable job of it. However, in 2001 Pete Finley was looking for a replacement for the then editor of The Last Word, Christina French. I figured that as long as I could find people to write the content for me I had the ability to put a decent looking magazine together. I volunteered and went on to produce issues 86 to 100 of TLW before retiring due to an overload of work in a small home business I operate with Yvonne. Until very recently the magazine remained being printed at my workplace, so I never completely lost my involvement with it. And now, of course, I have returned to the job I retired from too soon.



I do have one other passion apart from Scrabble, and that is dancing. I met my ex-wife at the Royston Ballroom in Penge - until my job took us to East Anglia, she danced with the Frank and Peggy Spencer Latin Formation Team. I had one TV appearance myself in a formation dance team on the Carl Alan Awards Show in 1969. Since Yvonne and I have been together we have tried many dance forms - the one we have been enjoying for a number of years is western partner dance, and in fact for the last 6 years I have taken and taught a class in Lowestoft. Yvonne and I go dancing 3 or 4 nights a week and we have to carefully manage our dance time and our Scrabble time. Both are equally important to us.

Okay, so now you know a bit more about me. Do you have a story to tell, or maybe you know someone who has? It's not necessary to have been a champion at Scrabble or any other pastime, just to be someone it's worth knowing more about. Interesting jobs or unusual hobbies, there is always more to us than meets the eye. Write to me yourself or interview a friend and then let us all know more about this person we tend to only see at tournaments. Alternatively, send me their contact details and I will approach them myself.

Be it two paragraphs, or two pages, please send the result of your project to Alec Webb, 17 St Margarets Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk or email [editor@absp.org.uk](mailto:editor@absp.org.uk)

## Letter

**Anne Ashmore:** The recent Wetherby Tournament which was held in August was on the whole a really good day - everyone arrived safely, we ran on time to the timetable. However it was marred by an incident with the adjudicating computers.

Some people seem to think that in between their games it is ok for them to use the computers provided for self adjudication for their own use; looking up words, anagrams, meanings and even, I understand it has been known to play unrelated games on. This happened at Wetherby and during the next game one of the computers was inadvertently reset to the wrong lexicon on Zyzzyva by players who were not very familiar with the programme. Consequently a challenge was incorrectly judged and a valid move rejected. This only came to light a couple of turns after they had resumed play and as TD I had to rule that the game continued. They were both very upset because the result of the game could have been very different and it was not their fault.

Subsequently at the BMSC tournament director's meeting I suggested that it should be a proper rule that noone should touch the adjudication computers except to make a challenge in the course of a game - not even to check a word between games. I also made the point that all these laptops are private property with a lot of personal data on, generously lent by their owners and I think it is an unacceptable liberty to use them for anything except a valid challenge during a game. I have noticed also that at on some occasions players trying to make a challenge are held up by someone who has finished their game checking a word afterwards - again wholly unacceptable.

A suggestion was also made that it could be an idea that players lending their laptop might be granted a discount on their entry fee - after all, many tournaments knock 50p off for bringing a clock.

**Committee response:** *The committee were alerted to this issue by Anne at the BMSC and since that time have been advising Tournament Organisers that they should stress that self-adjudication laptops must only be used for game-time adjudication (the owner excepted). We do indeed encourage organisers to consider giving a small reduction to those whose laptops are used for adjudication.*

# around the tournaments

## Southsea

September 17-19 (15 Rounds)

Southsea A			Southsea B			Southsea C		
Janet Phillips	13½	1219	Anne Darby	11	742	Joy Rowe	11	437
Viv Beckmann	9	195	Nicky Huitson	9	113	Kerry Constant	10	670
Verity Cross	8½	277	Joy Fox	8	663	Ann Clark	10	452

Southsea D			Southsea E		
Jack Ancomb	6	322	Elizabeth Ramsay	6	523
Ruth MacNerney	5	416	Christine Cartman	6	256
Priscilla Munday	5	304	Esther Kasket	6	244

## Lincoln

September 18 (7 Rounds)

Lincoln A			Lincoln B		
Martin Harrison	6	477	Pat Friend	6	312
Chris Hawkins	5	453	Tim Butcher	5	519
Ashley Coldrick	5	336	Geoff Cooper	5	402

## National Scrabble Club Tournament

September 25 (7 Rounds)

There were three concurrent round robins, with one player from each team in each group, based on rating. The results of each team member in their respective divisions were aggregated to produce a final team table:

Team table	W	Sprd
Oxford Dons	13	+559
Nottingham Nomads	13	+250
Cambs	12	+264
White Tiger Roses	11	+213
Moreton	10	+275
Edinburgh A	9	-208
Southampton Botley	8	-473
Naija Warriors	8	-880



*NSCT Champions, Oxford Dons: Nick Ascroft, Steve Perry and Stewart Houten*

The Board 1 Round Robin was very close with all 8 players winning either 3 or 4 games. The divisional winner on spread was Wale Fashina (Moreton).

Board 2 divisional winner was Chris Cummins (Cambs) with 5 wins. Christian Brown (Nottingham Nomads) won 6 of his 7 games to top the Board 3 division by 2 clear wins.

However, the members of the Oxford Dons had top 3 placings in each of their divisions to become National Scrabble Club Champions 2010.

## Carlisle

September 25-26 (15 Rounds)

Carlisle A			Carlisle B		
Mikki Nicholson	11	1256	Samantha Beckwith	11	754
Darryl Francis	10	988	Margaret Burdon	10	489
Ross Mackenzie	9	316	Kate Leckie	9 1/2	433

## Norwich

September 26 (7 Rounds)

Norwich A			Norwich A		
Richard Evans	7	588	Richard Evans	7	588
John Ashmore	5	592	John Ashmore	5	592
Bob Violett	5	357	Bob Violett	5	357

The Norwich tournament saw the return of Richard Evans to the tournament scene after a lay off of several years. He showed no loss of his old ability as he romped home unbeaten and two wins clear of the A division field. Ratings prizes were won by Noel Barnes in Division A and Christine Cartman in Division B

## West Sussex

September 26 (7 Rounds)

West Sussex RR A			West Sussex RR B			West Sussex RR C		
Gary Oliver	6	646	Timothy Lawrence	5	653	Ian Burn	6 1/2	613
Ebi Sosseh	6	187	Elizabeth Hull	5	343	Amanda Sodhy	4	290

West Sussex RR D			West Sussex RR E		
Nicola Staunton	6	287	Peggy Moore	6	180
Peter Bailey	5	00	Brian Beaumont	5	285

## Cock o' the North

October 1-3 (22 Rounds)

COTN A			COTN B		
Wayne Kelly	19	1418	Jim Lyes	17	1191
Theresa Brousson	18	1994	Marlene Skinner	14	361
Neil Broom	14	565	Nicky Huitson	13	996

## Edinburgh

October 2 (7 Rounds)

Edinburgh A			Edinburgh B			Edinburgh C		
Ricky Zinger	6	472	Margaret Armstrong	6	333	Margaret Smith	6	136
Amy Byrne	6	217	Mary Jones	6	250	Julie Tate	5	584
Ross Mackenzie	5	425	Helgamarie Farrow	5	410	John Fyfe	5	140

## Bournemouth

Report from Val Wright

This 6-game Swiss paired Tournament was held on Sunday 3rd October 2010 at the Rooper Hall, home of the Bournemouth Society for the Visually Impaired (BSVI) in aid of whom this event was held. Two regular late arrivals (no names!) caused a slight delay but they arrived before their clocks were started. There were 3 divisions of 24 players, of which the winners were as follows:

Bournemouth A			Bournemouth B			Bournemouth C		
James Rossiter	6	547	Jill Harrison	5	399	Judy Young	6	672
Noel Turner	5	499	Elizabeth Ramsay	5	346	Jenny Sakamoto	5	543
Alan Bailey	4	361	Michael Baxendale	5	314	Colin St Hill	5	132

The Challenge Shield for the best performance by a Bournemouth Club player, in memory of the late Chairman Margaret Bright, was won by Nicky Staunton winning 4 games in Div B. Overall there were 3 Bournemouth club members all with 4 wins but Nicky had the highest spread.

There were several high word scores during the day, starting with ZAXES for 90 but this was soon overtaken. Bob Lynn scored 131 for LITTERED, shortly followed by Alan Bailey with IDEATION, also for 131. It was not possible to split the bottle of wine, so Bob took the bottle and Alan will get his in due course.

A cheque for £600 was donated to the BSVI from entry fees. In addition, sales of Home-made Pies, Cakes, Christmas Puddings and Christmas cards, plus a Raffle, raised £214.65. 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.

## Nailsea

October 9 (7 Rounds)

Nailsea A			Nailsea B			Nailsea C		
Neil Green	5	544	Beverley Calder	6	356	Paul Grimshaw	7	490
Phil Robertshaw	5	418	Jean Bridge	6	220	Paul Cousins	5	578
Rick Blakeway	5	258	Patricia Pay	5	495	Alan Reynolds	5	339

## Oxford

October 15-17 (14 Rounds)

Oxford A			Oxford B			Oxford C		
Marlene Skinner	10	325	Minu Anderson	11	723	Kenneth Lovell	11	552
Jan Bailey	10	227	Joy Lloyd	9	360	Hannah Corbett	10	520

## Cheadle House

October 23-24 (15 Rounds)

Cheadle House A			Cheadle House B		
Wayne Kelly	14	2391	Ginny Dixon	11	621
Wale Fashina	11	531	Marlene Skinner	11	359
Alison Sadler	11	508	Juliet Green	11	320

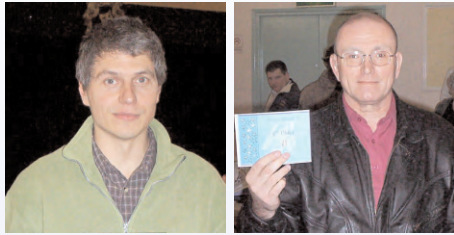
## Project Manila II

### Chigwell, October 24 (8 rounds)

Fund raising tournament for Jessica Pratesi's participation World Youth Scrabble Finals in Manila, Philippines in December.

Project Manila A		
Paul Allan	6½	1146
Barry Grossman	6	558
Mike Whiteoak	6	217

Project Manila B		
Derek Bower	6	489
Kassim Giwa	6	311
Reeyaaz Goolamhossen	6	163



Paul Allan

Derek Bower

Photos courtesy of Mauro Pratesi.

## Peterborough 24 hour

Report from Chris Hawkins

20 hardy souls attended the fourth Peterborough '24 hour' tournament on 6-7th November at the Newark Hotel. The format of the event meant that each player played 24 games and had four byes over a period of 28 hours, from 12.30pm Saturday to 3.30pm Sunday, including three meal breaks. There were three divisions of 7, 7, and 6 players, round robins in the 7 player divisions, round robin robin plus 1 KOTH round in the 6 player division. Three players went up and three down at the end of each seven games.

The first series of games took us to the evening meal break. The winners were **Howard Wilde** in A, **Kim Hands** in B and **Reeyaaz Goolamhossen** in C. After a lovely evening meal, the players returned to the playing room at 8pm for what would be an incredible stretch of 14 consecutive rounds with hardly any time off in between, apart from when the new round robin groups were calculated at about 2.15am. **Kim Hands** came within one win of a most amazing double only losing the A division she was promoted to in the final round. **Lewis Mackay** was her vanquisher in the KOTH round, but she had earned herself some valuable rating points and (and bragging rights!) after she had beaten him (and other 180 player **Howard Wilde**) earlier in the session. In the B and C divisions, recently relegated players **Austin Shin** and **Greg Kelly** were the victors.

The third round robin brought us up to the breakfast break at around 8.15am. This time there were wins for **Austin Shin** in A, **Greg Kelly** in B (who both *did* manage to back up one division win with another!) and **Frankie Latham** in C. By now many players were showing visible signs of fatigue, but incredibly the level of play had hardly dropped - the average score in the first round robin was 397, which was repeated in the second round robin and only dropped to 386 in the third round robin.

After breakfast the final round robin took place, only being interrupted for a quick buffet lunch. The final set of winners were **Lewis Mackay**, **Jared Robinson**, and **Reeyaaz Goolamhossen**.

As well as winning prizes for each round robin win, players' 24 game totals counted towards three more prizes. In third place overall was **Greg Kelly** on 17 wins +1139 spread. The final KOTH game in division A between Lewis and Austin, as well as deciding who won that division also ended up determining who won the 24 game prize, **Lewis Mackay** won it to finish on 18 wins +940, **Austin Shin** finished on 17 wins +1155.

Many of the players present were kind enough to tell me how much they had enjoyed the event. If anyone out there is worried about entering a future 24 hour event for fear of not making it through the night, look no further than some of the performances displayed this weekend.



*Photo courtesy of Mauro Pratesi*

### **A report on the games comes from Mauro Pratesi:**

Following seven regional events, a gruelling two day semi final we were now down to the final two battling out a best-of-five contest on Sunday 31st October in the depths of a Central London Conference Centre. Players played in a separate room and the moves relayed to the theatre where spectators and experts were on hand to suggest, explain and analyse the moves minutes after they occurred. Mark Nyman, 44 from Knutsford, Cheshire and former London League member was attempting to win for a record fifth time. His opponent was Mikki Nicholson, 32 from Carlisle, already a strong Scrabble player in the five years he has been playing the game. The match itself was colourful, eventful and extremely hard fought immediately the moment Mikki walked into the playing area! Mark opened with JIG for 22. Mikki replied with LEVERING for 63. Mark's MORRISED for 72 was replied with LISTEES for 74. The standard just got better and better.

Mikki had forged ahead in the first game with scores of 53, 33, 42 and 54 even Mark's OCEANAUT for 72 was not enough to secure victory. Mikki was one-nil ahead. Game 2 Mikki went first and picked ADEILNT. All Scrabble players ought to know, like IRELAND, TAILEND\* is one the racks which does not yield a seven letter word. Lots of eights but Mikki could not pass as this would have given Mark an opportunity to exchange tiles. After five minutes of deliberation Mikki changed one. The D! Mark bonused with TABOOED for 74. Mikki picked up a Y and played BINATELY. Mark scored 31 for QAT. Mikki bonused with INFICETE. Mark bonused back with TOGETHER. A paltry 16 from Mikki and Mark tucked MOISTEN under TOGETHER making EM, TO, HI, ES and ART for 96. Five bonuses in seven moves - not bad! AX by Mikki for 53 was replied by JAZY for 69 and Mark was in

control 331-220. IMPELLER for 76 pushed Mark 472-280 in front. VANISHES from Mikki put him 369-497 behind and Mark took his time and made Mikki wait. Smiling calmly, after a long pause, Mark slotted TRIO under FOOD making EFT, NOR, OI and DO and finished the game at 550-391 levelling the tie at one-all.

Bonfire night may have been five days away but the fireworks restarted in earnest after the lunch break. Mark opened game three with ONSTEAD for 70. Two moves later Mikki held a brief lead when BECALMS for 83 made the score 99-94 to Mikki. COTHURNI by Mark for 92 gave Mark the lead but Mikki's DELAINES for 72 swung the game back in Mikki's favour. SOREDIA two moves later gave Mikki an advantage and held on to win 444-435 to lead 2-1. Game four was quiet by comparison. Two bonuses by Mark, INJURES and his penultimate move, LOCUSTAE, levelled the match at 2-2.

All four games had been won by the player who went second! Both blanks in each game also went to the player going second. What if they drew game five? When Mikki played COWHEEL for 80 it was in reply to Mark's UPDATES as a double-double for 105... any ending scenario was possible. Although Mark had SOARERS for 79 Mikki hit back with scores of 45, 36, 38 and 39! At 350-333 in Mark's favour, Mikki played the winning move by playing ABEIST+blank onto an O for 86 points! No ordinary mortal Scrabble player would know OBEISANT, but for these two experts... words like these are learned in their preparation! This play put Mikki in front 419-350. Mark's final rack was HILNOTV. Mikki picked up the last tiles and held ACEEJLR. Mark knew only a bonus would help him win the final and in desperation played PINYVOLTHIN\* for 116.

Tournament Director Wayne Kelly was called upon for a third time during the match for an adjudication. Mark was told it was not allowed. (Wayne's previous adjudications had been KIRBY, which was allowed and gained Mikki an extra five points, and PIKIEST\*. Which Mikki had to remove from the board). After playing out their final moves Mikki had won the game 483-337, the match 3-2, and the title of National Scrabble Champion 2010. A terrific final. It was tragic that someone had to come second. Congratulations to Mikki on his achievement... and yes! All five games were won by the player going second. Also both blanks were played by the player going second. Had they drawn game five? Spread would have been the deciding factor. Mark would have been ahead by 193 points!

*Mikki's decision to bring a bit of glamour to the Final with his choice of attire had a positive effect on the amount of newspaper coverage the final received. Not unexpectedly though, much of what was written lacked accuracy or was not particularly flattering...*

**Craig Brown Daily Mail:** ...Up to now, the world of Scrabble has been notably free of snappy dressers, though in America there is a regular finalist who wears special Scrabble boxer shorts over his trousers, coupled with a matching Scrabble tie.

But, by and large, Scrabble players are a conventionally scruffy bunch, favouring moth-eaten jerseys, corduroys and beards, perhaps topped off with anoraks, weather permitting. This makes it all the more remarkable that no one batted an eyelid when Mr Nicholson turned up for the finals in a shocking-pink PVC dress, a pink wig and lace tights.

Even after he had won, and was being photographed holding his cut-glass bowl close to his heavily made-up face, the surrounding Scrabble buffs were far more interested in the way he employed the word 'obeisant' to secure his victory.

**Rob Hastings, Independent:** ...Mr Nicholson, who clinched his win with 'obeisant' – showing deep respect – marked his victory with no hint of the grandiloquence expected of a stereotypical Scrabble champion. After brief thanks to his supporters and a few bold poses for the photographers, he declared simply: 'Pub time it is.'

## best 2010

Since the last issue of OnBoard the final stages of BEST 2010 have been played out.

The Semi Finals were played to the best of 17 games. Brett Smitheram defeated Evan Simpson by 9 games to 4 in the first match. In the second Mark Nyman galloped into a 7-0 lead against Allan Simmons and finally won 9-3.

The Final was played between Mark and Brett at Mark's home in Knutsford over the 16th and 17th October. The champion would be the first to win 10 games.

Brett won the opening two games but Mark took the next four. Brett then levelled the match before taking the 9th game to go into the lead. It was in this game that the first challenge of the match was made when Mark queried HUFFINGS a 212 point nine timer. The wrong challenge cost him a further 5 points!. However, Mark won the last round of the day so that overnight the final was tied at 5 games each.

Mark got off to a flying start next morning, winning the first three games. Brett replied with three of the next four, but Mark's win in the 18th game sealed the championship for him by 10 games to 8.

This is where the prizes went in this years BEST:

Winner: Mark Nyman - £500 Runner up: Brett Smitheram - £250

Losing semi finalists: Evan Simpson, Allan Simmons - £125

Losing quarter finalists: Lewis Mackay, Ed Rossiter, Kevin McMahan, BenTarlow - £50

Ratings prizes: Cecil Muscat, Tim Charlton, Beverly Calder, Vicky Owen, David Steel, Rick Blakeway, Ray Tate and Celine McCart - £30.

## the 40 point rule

**John Grayson (ABSP Ratings Officer):** The 40-point rule deals with the rare occasions that players with ratings more than 40 points apart play each other. So if a Player A rated 100 plays Player B rated 150, for the purpose of rating that game, Player B is rated 140 and Player A 110. Player A is credited with 190 ratings points(RP) for a win, 140 RP for a draw and 90 RP for a loss.

A question raised at this year's AGM asked about the 'unfairness' in denying Player A the full 200 RP for the win (and, I presume, 150 RP for the draw).

The main aim of the ABSP ratings system is to use past results as a measure of ability (and predictor of likely future performance). Ratings are likely to be most accurate for those who play many games each year, against a wide variety of opponents, many of whom also play many games each year. Where possible, it is best to minimise the effects of extreme results on a player's rating. This happens at the lower range of ratings, where the minimum allowed rating of 50 also means no player can have a tournament rating below 50.

Whereas players may differ in their estimate of the luck element in Scrabble, an imbalance of luck must be a factor in some extreme results.

In the example above, player A defeating player B is an extreme result. I cannot see any benefit, from the point of view of accuracy of ratings, in making the result even more extreme by awarding extra rating points. The 40 point rule has been used in the ABSP ratings system since it began in 1987.

The chief gradings (ratings) officer of English Chess (whose rating system we adopted and adapted) told me that no-one in chess circles had ever seen the need to tinker with the 40-point rule.



# ratings snapshot

These pages are a snapshot of how the ratings table looked on 16th November 2010. There are rated games taking place every week so for the most up-to-date list you should consult the ABSP website: [absp.org.uk/ratings/ratings.html](http://absp.org.uk/ratings/ratings.html). This list is in ratings order. ABSP members have their membership number shown before their name

207		Nigel Richards	176		Richard Evans(Exp)	166	1231	David Steel
206	0057	Mark Nyman(GM)	176	1369	Ben Tarlow	166		Jin_Chor Tan
205	0774	Brett Smitheram(GM)	176	0123	Noel Turner(Exp)	165	1221	JOJo Delia
200	1621	Chris May	175	0072	John Grayson(GM)	165	0045	Barry Grossman(Exp)
200	1368	Phil Robertshaw(Exp)	175	1488	Ed Rossiter	165		John Hardie
195	0751	Paul Allan(GM)	174	0058	Russell Byers(GM)	165	0199	Graham Harding
193	0764	Lewis Mackay(GM)	174	1057	Mike Whiteoak	165	1164	Karl Kwiatkowski
192	1355	Craig Beevers(GM)	173		Andrew Goodwin	165	1469	James Rossiter
192	0147	Helen Gipson(GM)	173	0004	Philip Nelkon(GM)	164	0241	Bob Berry
191	0745	Harshan Lamabadusuriya(GM)	173	1349	Fidelis Olotu	164	1120	Anand Buddhdev
190	0158	Ed Martin(GM)	173	0005	Brian Sugar(GM)	164		David Delicata
188	1750	Kevin McMahon	172	1202	Jason Carney	164	1491	Stephen Hunt
188	1427	Mikki Nicholson(Exp)	172		Gerry Carter	164		Tim Knight
187	0007	Allan Simmons(GM)	172	1000	Stewart Holden(GM)	164	0609	Bob Lynn
187	0021	Evan Simpson(GM)	172	0224	Gary Polhill(Exp)	164	1663	Mihai Pantis
186	1220	Theresa Brousson(Exp)	172		Feargal Weatherhead	164		Dan Sandu
186		Joanne Craig	171		Ademola Ajayi	163	1347	Adekeyoje Adegbesan
186	1618	Paul Gallen	171	1679	Toke Aka	163		Chris Cummins
186	0846	Austin Shin(Exp)	171	1423	Calum Edwards	163	0165	Cecil Muscat
185	1687	Howard Wilde	171	0059	Simon Gillam(Exp)	163	0115	Diane Pratesi(Exp)
184	0814	Jared Robinson(Exp)	171	1191	Neil Green	163	0226	Alan Sinclair
183	0041	Gareth Williams(GM)	171		Chris Vicary	162		Alex_Gboye Balogun
182	0823	Wayne Kelly(GM)	170		Christian Brown	162		David Brook
182	1497	Azu Ogbogu(Exp)	170	0734	Nick Deller	162	1375	Mike Chappell
181		Evan Cohen	170	0014	Di Dennis(GM)	162		Mark Goodwin
181	0478	Elie Dangoor(Exp)	170	0006	Darryl Francis(Exp)	162	1619	Joseph McGinley
181	0482	Neil Scott(GM)	170		Clement Ikolo	162	0101	Robert Richland(Exp)
181	1163	David Sutton(Exp)	170	1814	Rik Kennedy	162	0116	Martin Thompson
180	0880	Femi Awowade(GM)	170	0428	Kwaku Spong	161	0978	Andy Becher
180	1422	Wale Fashina	169	1016	John Ashmore	161		Billy Dott
180		Sam Kantimathi	169	0888	Chris Keeley	161		Mark Hollingsworth
180		Abiodun Olaleru	169	1006	Ross Mackenzie	161		Peter Igweke
180	1570	Adrian Tamas	168	0307	Dick Green(Exp)	161	0105	Elisabeth Jardine
179	1428	Martin Harrison	168		Stewart Houten	161		Paul Nind
179	0060	Terry Kirk(GM)	168	0038	Jackie McLeod(Exp)	161	1170	Paloma Raychbart
179	1672	Philips Owolabi	168		Bob Violett(Exp)	161	0919	Peter Thomas
179	1102	Paul{England} Richards	167	0914	Vincent Boyle	160	0343	Amy Byrne
178	0368	Chris Hawkins(Exp)	167	0162	Alec Webb(Exp)	160	0852	Maureen Chamberlain
178		Biyi Oyadiran	166	1116	Paul Bassett	160	0766	Christo Davison
177	0362	Gary Oliver(GM)	166	0202	Penny Downer(Exp)	160	0836	Chris Fenwick
177	0338	David Webb(GM)	166	0086	Frankie Mairey	160		Stu Harkness
176	0103	Danny Bekhor	166	1510	Jessica Pratesi	160	1203	Greg Kelly
			166	1714	Karen Richards	159	0789	Alan Bailey

159	1301	Rick Blakeway	153	Jayne Mackenzie	146	Mario Saliba
159		Alan Georgeson	153	Raz Naot	146	0790 Margaret Staunton
159	0463	Helen Harding	153	0986 Robert Pells	146	1189 Martin Taylor
159	0154	Mike O'Rourke	152	0051 Cathy Anderson	145	0228 Adrienne Berger
159	0408	Nuala O'Rourke	152	1046 Paul Ashworth	145	1145 Peter Darby
159	0631	Alison Sadler	152	1210 Graham Bonham	145	0688 Lorraine Gordon
159	0810	Linda Vickers	152	1051 Elizabeth Hull	145	0242 Sheila Green
158	0079	Chris Finlay	152	Christine McKenzie	145	0093 Ruth MacInerney
158	1243	Doj Graham	152	0873 Matthew Pinner	145	1768 Charles Micallef
158		Brian Jones	151	1635 Nick Ascroft	145	1237 Dorn Osborne
158	0281	Steve Perry	151	Chris Downer	145	0895 David Reading
158	0795	Chris Quartermaine	151	Gerard Fox	145	Lesley Trotter
158	0479	Andrew Roughton(Exp)	151	0997 Phil Kelly	144	Abiodun Adeyemi
158	0719	Kate Surtees	151	1743 Naomi Landau	144	0635 Philip Aldous
158	1032	Kevin Synnott	151	0458 Eileen Meghen	144	0835 Maurice Brown
158	0292	Wilma Warwick	151	Russell Smith	144	1466 Suzanne Dundas
158	1459	Ronan Webb	151	0229 Graham Wakefield	144	0713 Trish Matthews
157	1754	Quentin Baker	150	0534 Caroline Atkins	144	1269 Richard Moody
157	0793	Joanne Hiley	150	1404 Chris Harrison	144	0489 Tom Wilson
157	0488	Marion Keatings	150	Sandra Hoffland	144	0637 Val Wright
157	0020	Janet Phillips	150	Timothy Lawrence	143	0252 Steve Balment
157	0476	David Shenkin	150	0837 Peter Liggett	143	0449 Alan Childs
157	1268	Ebi Sosseh	149	0471 Anne Ashmore	143	0923 Teresa Lyes
157		Angela Swain	149	Tony Bearn	143	Brenda Margereson
157	0555	Raymond Tate	149	1412 Melanie Beaumont	143	1732 James Squires
157		Frances Ure	149	0066 Sue Bowman	143	Nicky Vella-Laurenti
157	1674	Ricky Zinger	149	1473 Neil Broom	143	1053 Stephen Wintle
156	1440	Tim Charlton	149	0124 Ivy Dixon-Baird	142	1739 Feroza Bartlett
156	1486	Ashley Coldrick	149	1602 Kim Hands	142	1559 Joe Bridal
156	1211	Ian Coventry	149	0135 David Meadows	142	0399 Louise Brundell
156	1389	Paul{Tranmere} Thomson	148	0732 Wanda De_Poitiers	142	1770 Tia Corkish
155		Olakunle Ajayi	148	1693 Rafal Dominicczak	142	1824 Oliver Garner
155	1608	David Holmes	148	1456 Andrew Eames	142	0933 Ann Golding
155	1380	Anthony Pinnell	148	1217 Carolyn Emery	142	0507 Kathryn Henry
155	0213	Neil Rowley	148	0024 Angela Evans	142	0876 Evelyn Wallace
155	0088	Sandie Simonis(Exp)	148	Mike Evans	141	0738 Margaret Armstrong
155	1279	Ben Wilson	148	0084 Pauline Johnson	141	0254 Ian Burn
154		John Barker	148	Wendy Lindridge	141	1765 Beverley Calder
154		Ed Garrett-Jones	148	0161 Margaret Pritchett	141	1035 Andy Gray
154		Mark Lane	148	1123 Chrystal Rose	141	1050 Yvonne McKeon
154	0268	Donna Stanton	148	Omri Rosenkrantz	141	1744 Mark Murray
154	1649	Paul{Halifax} Thompson	148	0272 Ivan Swallow	141	0028 Lorna Rapley
154		David White	148	1691 Wojtek Usakiewicz	141	0589 Anne Steward
154	0094	Rachelle Winer	147	Ed Breed	140	Martin Bloomberg
153		John Balloch	147	0331 Davina Galloway	140	1020 Derek Bower
153	0530	George Gruner(Exp)	147	1468 Kathy Suddick	140	0003 Laura Finley
153	1514	Victoria Kingham	147	1273 Peter Winnick	140	0232 Iain Harley
			146	Rose Calder	140	0100 David Lawton
			146	0069 Moira Conway	140	0760 Sanmi Odelana
			146	1270 Len Moir	140	Kay Powick

140	0480	Anne Ramsay	134	1519	George Downing	129	0775	Pat Wheeler
140	1457	Amanda Sodhy	134	0470	Norman Smith	128	0419	Michael Baxendale
139	0081	Joyce Cansfield(Exp)	134		Evan Terrett	128	0511	Samantha Beckwith
139	0061	Lorraine Crouch	134	1504	Andrea Waddington	128	1424	Len Edwards
139	0689	Kenneth Gordon	133		Mario Camilleri	128	0570	Jean Gallacher
139		Robert Johnston	133	1005	Verity Cross	128	1054	Barbara Lukey
139	1025	Marion Kirk	133		Annie Hawes	128		Jo Ramjane
139		Jean Rappitt	133	1199	Richard Hitchcock	128	1317	Marjorie Struggles
139	0422	Carol Stanley	133	1533	Colin Kendall	128	0246	Wendy Tiley
139	0099	Josef Thompson	133	0523	Kate Leckie	128		Margaret Yeadon
139	0636	David Williams	133	0423	Alec Robertson	127	1555	Bob Christie
138	1631	Jack Anscomb	133		Martin Sheehan	127	1762	Reeyaz Goolamhossen
138		Nick Baker	133	0632	Carol[Norwich] Smith	127	1257	Mary Hopwood
138	0096	Diana Beasley	133		Richard Woodward	127	0572	Val Hoskings
138	1092	Heather Burnet	132		Brenda Baxter	127	0625	John Mitchell
138	0469	Tony Davis	132	0899	Jake Berliner	127	0904	George Newman
138	0544	Marjory Flight	132		Graham Buckingham	127		Mauro Pratesi
138	1484	Karen Game	132	1455	Angela Burke	127		Pauline Russell
138	0267	Graham Maker	132	0092	Priscilla Encarnacion	127	1003	Sheena Wilson
138		Huw Morgan	132	1670	David Follows	126	0856	Minu Anderson
137	1282	Barbara Goodban	132	1591	Mick Healy	126	0924	Linda[Lincoln] Barratt
137	1479	Bob Jarvie	132	0875	Jim Lyes	126	0992	Geoff Cooper
137	0655	Mary Jones	132	0886	Ruth Marsden	126	0840	Rhoda Gray
137	0150	David Longley	132	1511	Colin Nicol	126	1022	Nicky Huitson
137		Jonny Maitland	132	0690	Maureen Reynolds	126	1293	Dennis Hussey
137	1294	Christine Strawbridge	132	0960	Mary Siggers	126	0537	Carol Malkin
137	1149	Jim Wilkie	131	0639	Esther Bacon	126		Sammy Mangion
137	1206	Sarah Wilks	131	0406	Moya Dewar	126	1315	Tanya Robson
136	1391	Jan Bailey	131	0163	Liz Dunlop	126	1320	Rita Todd
136		Noel Barnes	131	0223	Yvonne Eade	125		Anna Borg
136		Jean Bridge	131	0737	June Edwards	125	1540	Rowan Callaghan
136	1383	Sarah-Jane Jamison	131		Margaret Harkness	125	0718	Pat Friend
136	0035	Lois McLeod	131		Peter Hunt	125	0975	Jill Harrison
136		Marc Meakin	131	0263	Sheila Jolliffe	125	0414	Jill Jones
136	0932	Jill Parker	131	0505	Gordon Procter	125	1509	Heather Laird
136	0802	Patricia Pay	131	0996	Kenneth Ross	125		Ralph Obemeasor
136	0291	Sylvia Swaney	130		Liz[Leicester] Allen	125	0972	Denise Saxton
136	0624	Lesley Watson	130	0822	Jill Bright	125	0477	Malcolm Shaw
136		Michael Zinger	130	0759	John Harrison	124	0603	Linda Bradford
135		Gillian Ashworth	130		Terry Jones	124	0238	Margaret Burdon
135	0330	Viv Beckmann	130		Bryn Packer	124		Terry Corps
135	1413	Geoff Goodwin	130	0177	Henry Walton	124		Jean Crowder
135	1115	Nick Jenkins	129	0557	Janice Bease	124	0964	Phyllis Fernandez
135		Helen Jones	129		Catalin Caba	124	1265	Joy Fox
135		Celine McCart	129	1238	Juliet Green	124	0009	Sheila Hockey
135		Alison Pollard	129		Paul Heasman	124	1146	Leonora Hutton
135	0029	Marlene Skinner	129		Sheila Hinett	124		Josephine Mayo
134	0080	Mary Allen	129		Frankie Latham	124		Gary Pollard
134	1262	Ginny Dixon	129		Malcolm Roberts	124		Mario Seychell
			129	1598	Carmen Toscano			

124	1580	Nigel Sibbett	119	0236	Hazel Parker	114	0782	Richard Pajak
124	1341	Pam Sparkes	118		Shirley Angell	114		Willie Scott
123		Elizabeth{IW} Allen	118	0735	Hilary Birdsall	114	1253	Philip Turner
123	0943	Carol Arthurton	118	1784	Gila Blits	114	1520	Paul Walford
123	0776	Peter Hall	118	0982	Ron Bucknell	114	1276	Evelyn Wansbrough
123	0829	Kim Phipps	118	0915	Shirley Chidwick	113	1263	Barbara Barker
123	0938	Helen Polhill	118	1298	Helgamarie Farrow	113	0107	Joan Caws
123		Michael Thomas	118		Moshe Feingold	113		Maggie Fleming
123		Pauline Weatherhead	118	1169	Yvonne Holland	113		Simon Francis
122		Jean Carter	118	1136	Ted Lewis	113	1007	Margaret Irons
122		Joe Caruana	118		Mark Redhead	113		Gail Jarvis
122	0948	Eileen Foster	118	1738	Heather Roberts	113	1064	June Johnstone
122		Marian Hamer	118	1675	Mark Smith	113	0931	Janet Millford
122	1113	Chris Jackson	118	1683	Janet Southworth	113	1118	Remie Salazar
122	1642	Alan Payne	118	1666	Brid Ui_Bhriain	113	0917	Nicola Staunton
122		Martin Smith	117		Marlene Calleja	112	0761	Mary Adams
121	0922	Barbara Allen	117		Eileen Douglas	112		Georgina Cook
121		Alistair Baker	117	0320	Fay Madeley	112		Carmen Dolan
121		Sue Ball	117	1773	Cody McCormick	112	0420	Marie English
121	0110	Liz Barber	117	1696	Ena McNamara	112		Frans Farrugia
121	0518	Eileen Basham	117	1183	Priscilla Munday	112		Maureen Hoch
121	1049	Ken Bird	116		Hilda Ben-Nun	112	0452	Peter Sime
121		Liam Donnelly	116	1625	Georgie Burchell	112	1478	Vivienne Stokes
121	1027	Margaret Firmston	116	0725	Paul Cartman	112		Jo Tebbutt
121	0381	Michael Harley	116	0565	Ann Coleman	112	0356	Pamela Windsor
121		Sharon Hewitt	116	1331	Carol Grant	112		Albert Zammit
121	0715	Barbara Hill	116	1222	Bronagh Kenny	111		Linda Beard
121		David Lavender	116		Pete McCosh	111	1403	Emma Brown
121	1574	Ken McGinness	116	1089	Vivienne Newman	111		Cecilia Cotton
121	1066	Barbara Morris	116	0169	Sue Thompson	111		Marjorie Gardner
121		Brenda Northcott	116	1442	Gordon Winter	111		Margaret Herbert
121		Marie Perry	115	1503	Maureen Barlow	111		Sylvia McCulloch
121		Tom Sharp	115	0106	Ian Caws	111		Jane Weston
121		Sally Twine	115	1667	Mary Doyle	111		Carole Wheatley
121		Maureen Underdown	115	1577	Esther Kasket	110	1373	Stany Arnold
121		Yair Yehuda	115		Paul Mifsud	110	1669	Andrea Bailey
120	0427	Peter Ashurst	115		David Mills	110	0743	Nora Bain
120		Linda Bird	115		Judy Monger	110		Gill Carr
120		Pat Broderick	115	0211	Philippa Morris	110		Peter{Prtsmth} Edwards
120	0868	Christine Gillespie	115	1823	Elizabeth Ramsay	110		Agnes Gunn
120	1654	Ian Kendall	115		Cyndy Walker-Firth	110	0442	Doreen Jarvie
120	0077	Joy Lloyd	115	0864	Margaret White	110	1480	Helen Sandler
120	0185	Lou McMeeken	114	1532	Lyn Allcock	110		Vera Sime
120		Brenda Rodwell	114	1752	Carol Bartlett	110	0451	Elizabeth Terry
120	0248	Jean{Cardiff} Williams	114	1653	Tim Butcher	110	0826	Nova Williams
119	0682	Janet Bonham	114	1200	Caroline Elliott	110	1640	Judy Young
119	1119	Anne Darby	114	0941	Audrey Harvey	110		Sheila{Rmfrd} Anderson
119		Lorna Franks	114	1575	Margaret Marshall	109	1259	Syd Berger
119		Annemarie Holland	114		Ann McDonnell			
119	1656	Damian O'Malley	114	0626	Martha Mitchell			

109		Dominic Borg	103		Eve Dwyer	97		Kathryn Allen
109	0928	Iris Cornish	103	1306	Margaret Emmott	97	1544	Anne Atherton
109	0405	Peter Ernest	103		Barbara Etheridge	97	1168	Brian Beaumont
109	0736	Molly Lane	103		Joyce Frost	97	0827	Ann Clark
109	0952	Jean Owen	103	0791	Rosemary Jordan	97	1465	Doreen Clayton
109	1450	Christine Tudge	103		Anne Lyng	97		Amos Fabian
108	0953	Peter Bailey	103		John Ryan	97		Sandra Harrap
108		Lena Cook	103	0692	Margaret Seabrook	97	1112	Peter Johnson
108		Jill Dyer	103	0357	Jean Shaw	97		Sandy MacLeod
108		Pamela Vahed	103		Moreen Shillitoe	97		Renee Paine
107		Matthew Denby	103	0483	Peter Terry	97	1252	Ruth Turner
107	1212	Marjorie Gillott	102		Eileen{Rdng} Anderson	96		Anne Connolly
107	0374	Joy Hodge	102		Madelaine Baker	96	1207	Hannah Corbett
107	1410	Hilbre Jenkins	102		Rona Falconer	96	1073	Jenny Harris
107		David Paine	102		Jean Mainwaring	96		Jean Jacobs
106	1686	Angele Andrews	102		Maria Marczak	96		Beryl Shoesmith
106		Mark Bradley	102	1304	Linda Moir	96		Claire Violett
106	1489	Anne Cheesman	102	1786	David Phillips	95	1808	Juliet Collins
106		Maisie Culpin	102	1009	Jenny Sakamoto	95	1289	Kerry Constant
106	0668	Ceridwen Davies	102		Maria Treadwell	95	1643	Rhoda Farrington
106	1525	Caroline Foy	102		Sheila Tutt	95		Sally Hanson
106		Pawlu Frendo	101	0709	Betty Benton	95	1781	Carol Joahill
106		Barbara Kent	101	1471	Scott Bowman	95	1496	Margaret Keeper
106	0798	Peter Lindeck	101		Bridget Busk	95	1134	Dorothy Kemlicz
106	1445	Jean Robinson	101		Alan Everitt	95		Yvonne Lambert
106	1812	Colin StHill	101	1742	Lee Fisher	95		Ovidiu Tamas
106	1171	Susan Thorne	101	1657	David Garland	95	1454	Janet Watson
106	1552	Charles Tollit	101		Marina Mehta	95	0935	Ian Whyte
106		Sandra Walton	101	1587	Irene Newberry	95		Isla Wilkie
105	1038	Jacquie Aldous	101	1633	Robert Peters	94	1548	Viv Bishop
105		Paul Grimshaw	101	1820	Rosemary Wood	94	0474	Eileen Bradshaw
105	1644	Kenneth Lovell	100		Nancy Alroy	94	1225	Lena Glass
105	1726	Duncan MacFarlane	100		Moses Azzopardi	94	1492	Peggy Moore
105		Barbara McLaren	100	1704	Paul Carter	94	1560	June Peck
105	0927	Audrey Medhurst	100		Shirley Cave	94		Joan Rees
105	0976	Adrian Noller	100	1248	Margaret Coleman	94		Susan Richardson
105	1084	Rod Winfield	100	1261	Jo Holland	94	1501	Brenda Young
105		Alfred Xuereb	100	1554	Vicky Owen	93		Rosemarie Howis
104		Elisabeth{Clvlnld} Allen	99		Joan Everitt	93		Gwen Linfoot
104		Jenny Corps	99	1828	Mel Maltz	93	0872	Jacqui White
104	1340	Paula Docherty	99	0818	Rose Wall	92		Peter Basham
104	0298	Mavis Harding	99		Trevor Warwick	92	0985	Carmen Borg
104	1779	Joseph Knapper	98		Jean Buckley	92		Agi Brener
104		Jeanne Rossiter	98		Florence Davies	92	1804	Fay Goble
104	1085	Betty Simmonds	98	1524	Malcolm Davis	92		John McCart
104	1788	Julie Tate	98	1694	Florence Fontaine	92	1506	Gill{Norwich} Thompson
104		Thelma Wood	98	1729	Paul Harding	91	0030	Ruby Flood
103	1630	Ted Anscomb	98	1502	Cathy Poacher	91	1148	Renee Gilbert
103		Joyce Ashmore	98	0844	Jan Vokes-Taylor	91	1008	Yvonne Goodridge
103	0384	Mabel Choularton	98		Chris Wide			

91	1176	Gordon Lamb	84		Judith Puttick	74	1086	Margaret Webb
91	1648	Irene Lawes	84	1527	Brian Rowell	74		Reno Zammit
91		Mona Nobil	84	1397	Christine Silvester	73		Pat Carr
91		Esme Norris	84	1332	Sheila Wyatt	73		Tom Creed
91		Maria Scicluna	85		Michael Murray	73		Frank Goodier
91		Avril Shaw	85		Doreen Searles	72		Hilda Bristow
90	0726	Christine Cartman	83		Alison Stilwell	72		Jane Craig
90	0783	Barrie Hall	83		John Winick	72		Mary Harris
90	1448	Joy Rowe	82		Kate Carney	71	1759	Margaret{Edbgh} McGhee
90	0851	Sheila{Newcastle} Smith	82		Yvonne Delia	71	1599	Margaret{Fife} McGhee
90	1398	Jill Warren	82		Kevin Macdonald	70		Kay Faust
89	1453	Anne Corpe	82	1745	Linda Marguy	70	1399	Carol Russell
89	1068	Lionel Millmore	82		Douglas Morris	69	0908	Ted Anderson
89		Mary Pugh	82		Grace Peel	69		Margaret Cooke
89	1699	Nick Stone	82		Joyce Watson	69		Dorothy Jackson
89	1523	Kath Williams	81	0359	Vera Allen	69	1774	Margaret Smith
88	1677	Mary Baty	81		Hazel Boddy	69		Helen Thompson
88		Norah Cole	81		Sheila Bromly	68		Bob Horne
88	0683	Mavis Ernest	81	1553	Brenda Keast	68	1334	Catherine McMillan
88		Jan Gibson	81	1541	Marjorie Lunn	67		Charlotte Perlin
88		Marcia Hall	81	1727	Anne Lynas	66		Michael Slow
88	0799	Cindy Hollyer	81	1588	Angela Rigley	63		Brigitte Brath
88	1734	Olive Martin	80		Pauline Cilia	63		Edna Lindeck
88	0828	Moira Metcalf	80		Gil Hunter	63	1805	Marion Loewenstein
88	1232	Brett Scaife	80	1135	Sylvia Oates	63		Shirley Stokley
88		Margaret Speight	80	1769	Jennifer Payne	61	0541	Pamela Brown
88	0485	Ann Toft	80		Audrey Shergold	59	1316	Veronica Baker
87		Margaret Aldous	79	1390	Maria Raffaelli	59		Emma Flynn-Davies
87	1235	Rita Barton	78	0563	Fred Burford	59	0949	Barbara Horlock
87		Beryl Basey	78	0410	Myra Copleston	59	1028	Peggy Lavender
87		Sybil Berrecloth	78		Dorothy Henry	58	1741	Bill Croft
87		Dorothy Clark	78		Patricia Parton	55		Gusta Gross
87	1267	Margot Montgomery	78		Alison Peters	55	1474	Carol Mouncey
87		Doreen Murphy	77	1782	John Fyfe	54		Judy McBride
87		Hazel Packham	77	1795	Valery Jansen	53		Sonia Russell
87	0900	Amabel Winter	77	1719	Eileen Johnson	53	1748	Connie Walton
86	1039	Dorothy Edwards	77		Sheila Johnston	52	1740	Zandra Begg
86	1787	Natasha Pratesi	77		Margaret Scamell	50		Elisheva Auerbach
86	1629	Maggie Shutt	77		Lydia Sharkey	50		Beate Holder
86	1174	Peter Trembath	76		Margaret Barratt	50	1614	Simon Rosenstone
85		Joyce Hoffbrand	76	1767	Martin Byrne			
85		Olive Matthew	76		Ann Duncan			
85		Rena Waddell	76	1121	Ann Gregson			
84		Pat Evans	75	1834	Peggy Fehily			
84	1749	Craig Gurney	75	1616	Iris Grover			
84	0998	Jean Hendrick	75	1229	Eileen Hunter			
84	1709	Linda Hopley	75		Steve Wilkinson			
84		Lionel Howard	74		Jean Geldard			
84	1822	Pat Johnson	74	1710	Sandra Richards			
			74	1792	Dan Smith			

# prize puzzle

This puzzle is intended to be within the capability of all OnBoard readers (the answer is not obscure, although possibly a bit more challenging to find than last issue!).

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 that scores exactly 78 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.

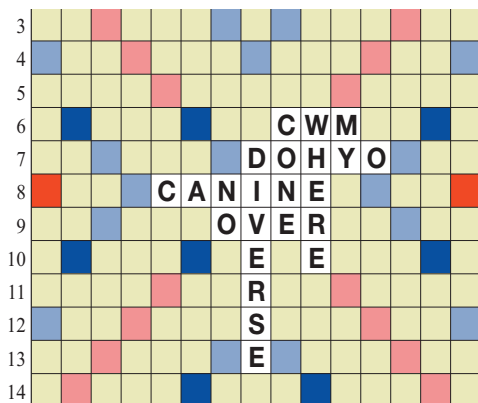
or email: [editor@absp.org.uk](mailto:editor@absp.org.uk)

Closing date January 5th 2011.

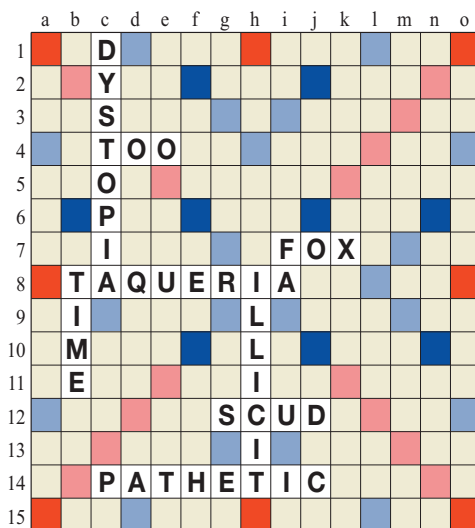
This puzzle was created for OnBoard by Stewart Holden; similar challenges by the same author can be found in The Guardian's Weekend magazine every Saturday.

The winner of last issue's problem was Michael Jessop from Nelson in Lancs who found the correct solution of CWM at i6a.

Entrants ranged from an 8 year old member to a grandmaster.



The answer to the Connoisseur puzzle was ASAFOETIDA at k3d. The solution was found by Brett Smitheram.



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# dusting off the archives

A stroll down Memory Lane with Robert Richland

## 20 years ago

APSP Newsletter, December 1990, editor Clive Spate

The Newsletter was printed in stapled A4 format.

- Clive Spate wrote on the front page that a remarkable Scrabble year had come to an end, with the NSC switching from high-score to matchplay, APSP membership passing the 200 mark, the first sponsored tourney (the infamous one in Folkestone that December), and, above all, the announcement of the inaugural WSC to take place in London in September 1991.
- OSW2 was about to replace the original OSW. The shortest new word was WYN, with REPO and RHYS disappearing (although REPO has returned since). OSW2 came about in order to iron out the myriad misprints in the 1st edition. The Chambers Dictionary wasn't due for an update until 1995.
- Brian Sugar discussed tactics in the article *A Bonus Behind*.
- The National Club Tournament was won by Milton Keynes (Mike & Karen Willis, Barrie Knox) 5–4 against Tyne & Wear (Pete & Laura Finley, David Brook).

Recent tourney wins: Terry Kirk (Llangollen), Jackie McLeod (Redbridge), Mark Nyman (Isle of Wight), Clive Spate/Evan Simpson (London Round Robin)

Top 3 ratings: There was no ratings list with this Newsletter, but there was one sent to me by Terry Hollington (Ratings Officer) soon after the Folkestone tourney as follows: Gareth Williams 197; Allan Simmons 196; Pete Finley 192.

## 15 years ago

APSP Newsletter, issue 45, December 1995, editor Hartley Moorhouse

- The headline was *Sherman Tank Destroyed By Canadian Boys*. 31 year-old David Boys from Montreal was the new WSC champion. In the best-of-five Final in London, he won 3–2 against 33 year-old New Yorker Joel Sherman and in the process received US\$11,000. Amongst the UK players, Allan Saldanha finished highest in 9th, with Phil Appleby in 12th and outgoing WSC champion, Mark Nyman, finishing 17th. A full report of the WSC was in this Newsletter, with all words that were OSPD-only printed in a different typeface (SOWPODS divisions in domestic tourneys were still a year or so away!)
- The Folkestone Defence Fund (formed in the event of last June's 'Goldman case') had reached its target of £14,000 within six months. Allan Simmons, on behalf of the APSP Committee, gave a big thank you for the generosity of all who donated.
- An amusing story, *Groucho Plays Scrabble*, set in the summer of 1952, by Australian Scrabbler John Holgate, was featured.
- Two members, Ken Heaton & Debbie Williams tied the knot on Nov 4th, and a daughter, Rebecca, was born to proud parents Mike & Karen Willis, a few days before the Milton Keynes tourney which Mike was running! Not mentioned in the Newsletter was the birth of Jessica Pratesi to Diane and Mauro on December 16th.

Recent tourney wins (apart from the WSC): Pete Finley (Newcastle), Chris Hawkins (East London), Andrew Perry (Avon), Di Dennis (Letchworth), Marion Keatings (Glasgow), Ivan Swallow (Isle of Wight), Andrew Cook (Milton Keynes).

Top 4 ratings: Clive Spate 199; Allan Saldanha 197; Mark Nyman and Allan Simmons 195



## 10 years ago

The Last Word, issue 75, December 2000, editor Paul Allan

- More than three months after the event, a picture of new BMSC Champion David Acton graced the front page. Interesting to note that, at the time, there were actually two top divisions at the BMSC; Division A (OSW-only) and the World Dictionary Division. David played in the latter division. The winner of the OSW-only Division A was Gary Polhill.
- With *The Way Forward* about to come into operation in 2001 (that is, the 12-month transition to the World Dictionary in all ABSP tourneys), Pete Finley reminded us that each challenge sheet has to have either OSW or WD written clearly at the top, to avoid confusion.
- Raymond Tate wrote an interesting letter which mentioned recent coverage of the Poker Million Challenge on radio and TV that had \$1,000,000 as the top prize. Raymond had no doubt that poker would take off (and it most certainly did three years later with its internet boom in 2003) and felt that, like poker was just starting to do back then, the ABSP should (in one of their main aims) be seeking substantial sponsorship. Fast forward to 2010 and the international Scrabble scene is burgeoning, so maybe that substantial sponsorship isn't so far away now.
- Lucy White (of Cardiff SC) had passed away at 93 after a short illness. There were two glowing tributes to her from Peter Basham and John/Beryl Brown. Peter called her 'one of the great personalities of the Scrabble world'.
- In *Edgeways*, Stewart Holden gave us a long list of Scrabblers alongside the longest word (aided by LeXpert) produced from the letters of their names. Examples included: David Shenkin (SKINHEAD), Moira Conway (AIRWOMAN), Darryl Francis (FAIRYLAND), Sandie Simonis (DIMENSIONS) and Robert Richland (ABHORRENT) ! Amongst other notable people were William Shakespeare (SLEEPWALKER), Chris Tarrant (ANARCHIST) and David Beckham (DICKHEAD).

Recent tourney wins included: Nuala O'Rourke (BMSC Ladies), Mark Nyman (Masters), Karl Khoshnaw (Bournemouth), Lewis Mackay (Middlesbrough), Moya Dewar (Elgin), Barry Grossman (Doddinghurst), Maureen Rayson (Hope Holiday), Anne Ramsay (Glasgow), Paul Allan (Winter Matchplay - OSW), Andy Cook (Winter Matchplay - WD).

Top 3 ratings (Nov 27th 2000) Brett Smitheram 200; David Webb 200; 3 Mark Nyman 199.

## 5 years ago

The Last Word, issue 105, December 2005, editor Ben Wilson

- Canadian Adam Logan was the new WSC Champion. The runner up (as in 2003) was Thailand's Pakorn Nemitrmansuk. Adam won the Final 3-0 at the Marriott Regent's Park Hotel in London in November.
- The new NSC champion was Wale Fashina. He won the 12-game weekend tourney with 10 wins (half a win ahead of David Webb). The Final took place in Birmingham..
- The online auction site eBay had an oddity up for sale; a Scrabble tile with what looked like the Greek letter  $\pi$  worth 11 points! In reality it was a tile that was struck twice with both a T and the figure 1. It eventually went for 31 US dollars (about £18).
- Scotland were the winners of this year's Four Nations (held in Chester in October). Their team consisted of Paul Allan, Allan Simmons, Neil Scott and Wilma Warwick.

Recent tourney wins included: Sarah Wilks (Norwich), Martin Thompson (Middlesbrough), Di Dennis (Stafford), Raymond Tate (Edinburgh), Ben Tarlow (Bournemouth), Brett Smitheram (Masters), Steve Perry (Southend), Chris Hawkins (Lincoln), Amy Byrne (Elgin), Peter Darby (Weston SM.), Elie Dangoor (IOW) Chris Keeley (Luton), Austin Shin (Winter Matchplay)

Top 3 ratings: Adam Logan 211; Harshan Lamabadusuriya 201; Helen Gipson 200.

*Editor: One problem with being the editor of OnBoard is that I find myself needing to write much of its content myself - and I do not consider writing to be one of my talents (if, indeed, I have any talents at all). However, I do have the internet as a source of advice and inspiration, and this is where I went in search of assistance. Serendipitously, I stumbled across a blog written by an American freelancer of fiction and poetry called Amanda Hoving, who has a clear desire to encourage the writing art in others - particularly teenagers and young adults. The following appeared on Amanda's blog in October.*

## === applying scrabble strategy to life === (or, a time to gloat)

My husband and I have been playing Scrabble since our high school courtin' days. He's the "Numbers Guy," and I'm (supposedly) the "Words Girl." Guess who wins at Scrabble almost every time? I'll give you a hint — it's not me.

But, I've learned exactly why I come out behind — lack of strategy. I'm usually the over-eager player who puts down any word that appears on my rack, regardless of points. However, my husband's competitive nature (and endless chanting of, "I'm the champion!") finally got to me. I played our last game with patience and calculation, and...I won!

As I kicked butt and took names, I realized the same strategies could also be applied to everyday life, as well as the process of writing. A few tips to share...

Keep your eyes open, and increase your vocabulary. Study the Scrabble dictionary, and your chances of winning will go up, up, up – the game can turn around with one great word.

**Everyday Life:** Never stop learning. When you stop growing as a person, you might as well just...stop. **Writing Life:** There's always room for improvement. Don't be satisfied with having a beginning, middle, and an end to your story if it doesn't sing.

Exchange your letters when you're stuck. Yeah, you lose a turn, but better to snag some usable letters than try to find imaginative ways to place those seven I's.

**Everyday Life:** Unhappy at work? Update that resumé and start looking. Friendship full of drama? Time to get out. Kids driving you crazy? Trade them in. Wait...um...never mind about that one. **Writing Life:** Edit, edit, edit. When a piece still isn't working after drenching amounts of sweat, it may be time to move on to a different project.

Avoid placing your "Z" and "X" on an unmarked square. Unmarked squares mean no extra points. It's a waste that (almost) brings my husband to tears.

**Everyday Life:** Utilize your talents. There's something you were meant to do here — figure it out, and get to it! **Writing Life:** Write with purpose. Write for money, or joy, or therapy. But, if you choose to write, don't waste time whining about it – just write.

Plan one turn ahead. Try not to open up a triple word score for your opponent, or trap yourself in a corner.

**Everyday Life:** From daily errands and weekly dinner menus, to school and retirement funds — planning ahead can save many (many) headaches down the road. **Writing Life:** Do your research, and know the market. Find the agent, magazine or publishing company that best fits your topic and style. Blindly submit into the dark publishing void, and you will get burned.

Don't put down the first word that comes to mind. Take your time, and choose wisely for the highest possible points.

**Everyday Life:** This means patience, and lots of it. Patience when you have a thirty minute wait at the doctor's office. Patience when you're on your fourth round of chauffeuring the

kids for the day, and patience with yourself — expecting perfection can be self-defeating. **Writing Life:** Be patient with your work, and your output. Accept the process — checking email 1,058 times a day will not make an editor's response come any quicker. And, don't beat yourself up when the words don't flow.

Proceed carefully, but get rid of those hard-to-place letters when you can. Put that “K” down ASAP, or you'll be minus 5 at the end of the game.

**Everyday Life:** Grab those opportunities before they disappear – the available babysitter, a ticket to a sold-out concert, or a chance to volunteer. **Writing Life:** Determine when your work is ready for submission, and then let it go.

And last, but not least...

When you finally win at Scrabble, write a blog post about it (*or write to OnBoard*) so you can really rub it in. And, that's all I have to say about that one.

*Many thanks to Amanda for her permission to reproduce the above. Her blog is always a good read which you can find at [amandaswrinkledpages.com](http://amandaswrinkledpages.com)*

## Beat the Champ

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

**DEIRSTT**

The NSC Final between Mikki Nicholson and Mark Nyman was played to a fantastically high standard. However, there was an early slip by Mikki which gives everyone a chance do better than the Champ. Move 2 of Game 1 for Mikki and he played T(E)D at i4d. What should he have played? (*Answer at back*)

## Endgame Challenge

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

**ELMORSV**

Your opponent has just emptied the bag and holds ACHOOTY. You are 23 behind it's you to play.

This position comes from an Allan Simmons online game. Alan asks “What move gives you the best chance of winning because it makes it most difficult to spot your winning play?” (*Answer at back*)

# 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.

## Turnover Troublesome Racks

When you have reasonable letters on your rack, it's not too strenuous to find a good play that also leaves some potential behind. Conversely, as you'll know from experience, when the rack consists of a jumble of incompatible letters finding any satisfactory play can be hard work. Often you'll be resigned to playing whatever you can find, praying the tile gods are kind with your pickup to resolve the problem. However, a bit of extra effort to find a play that uses as many letters as possible (high turnover), irrespective of score, can be a good investment. The strategy is likely to improve scoring in subsequent plays without being entirely at the mercy of the bag. Often, there will be words that you know will solve the problem but, because they don't leap out from the rack, require more thought and anagramming dexterity.

Take this example rack:

C I I O U V W

Using the board below, have a think about what you might play and why. Look for the best scores and then also consider alternative moves with higher turnover. Read on for some suggestions when you're ready.

Can you also find a play that dumps five of the letters from this tricky rack? (Answer on back page)

C G I I I O Y

The more obvious scoring play from that first rack is to play either AVOW at J5a (20) keeping CIU, or WO at K5d (22) keeping CIUV. There's also a neat spot for the V at K10 (17). In all cases too many poor letters are being retained.

With more specialised Scrabble vocabulary, other plays include OW at G10a (25) or FUCI (a plural of FUCUS, a type of seaweed) at J4a (18). Even these give unsatisfactory rack leaves.

VICIOUS at D6a (18) is the best play for the rack, turning over six tiles and keeping just the useful W which could still score well at K5 the next turn if the spot remains available.

	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m	n	o
1	Red			Blue				Red				Blue			Red
2		Red				Blue				Blue				Red	
3			Red				Blue		Blue				Red		
4	Blue			Red				Blue		F		Red			Blue
5					Red					A		Red			
6		Blue				Blue				S				Blue	
7			Blue				Blue			T			Blue		
8	Red			Blue					W	I	E	L	D		Red
9			Blue				D	Z	O	N	I		Blue		
10		Blue				Blue				E	E		Blue		
11				Red						D	O	T			
12	Blue			Red				Blue			M	E			Blue
13			Red					Blue		A	M	I	D	E	
14		Red				Blue				T			Red		
15	Red			Blue				Red			S	C	E	A	T

## The Twelve Plays of Christmas

*It's the festive season so here's something Christmassy to help set the mood:*

On the *first* day of Christmas the Scrabble bag gave to me a Q without a U, so I quickly played **QINDAR**

On the *second* day of Christmas the bag gave to me two Ps, and I was able to play the poetic **EPOPOEIA**.

On the *third* day of Christmas the bag gave to me all three Gs. Agog, I promptly downed an **EGGNOG**.

On the *fourth* day of Christmas the bag gave to me all four lovely Ls, so I rang up the points with **BELLPULL**.

On the *fifth* day of Christmas the bag gave to me the only five-point letter, aka the K, so I extended QINDAR into its plural, **QINDARKA**.

On the *sixth* day of Christmas the bag gave to me all six Ts tantalisingly, but I managed to play them in two turns with **TUTTY** and **TATT**.

On the *seventh* day of Christmas the bag gave to me seven letters for a bonus word scoring 77, but what was it?

**DFSAEEO**

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

On the *eighth* day of Christmas the bag gave to me an eight-point X which scored excellently with **EXEEM**.

On the *ninth* day of Christmas the tile bag gave to me the rest of the nine As. Amazingly, despite two Vs, I was able to play **AVADAVAT**.

On the *tenth* day of Christmas the bag gave to me a ten-point Z and onlookers were abuzz as I played **ZEBU** on a triple-word.

On the *eleventh* day of Christmas the bag gave to me a rack worth eleven points:

**DIINSUW**

Although it certainly isn't the best play, using some of the tiles, I found a move that scored exactly eleven points through the A at M6. What was it?

On the *twelfth* day of Christmas the bag gave to me a great rack with two blanks that yielded exactly twelve seven-letter words:

**IO HRY**

Most of the words were not playable, but can you see how many you can find. Some are obscure, so six is a good target to try and reach. (*Answers on the back page*)

### Some definitions:

ATT old Siamese coin  
 AVADAVAT Indian songbird  
 EPOPOEIA epic poetry

EXEEM to exempt (Scots)  
 QINDAR an Albanian coin  
 SCEAT an Anglo-Saxon coin  
 TUTTY crude zinc oxide  
 ZEBU humped ox

**David Sutton** wonders if he is coming up against the limits...

I spent some time this summer going through all the nine-letter words in CSW, an activity which for the true word enthusiast is like opening a large new box of chocolates. It has had some positive results – recently I rather impressed myself by playing ISOPOLITY round a floating OL – but has also had its drawbacks in that on completing the task I found that in accordance with some ‘first in, first out’ principle operated by my overcrowded brain I had become a little unsure of some of the threes. This was alarming, and I decided to raise the matter with said brain.

‘What’s the problem, Brain?’ I said. ‘I thought you had pretty well infinite storage’.

‘Oh, hark at him’, said Brain. ‘What does he think it is in here, Hilbert’s bloody Hotel? I tell you, mate, I’m chock-a-block.’

‘Can’t you just create a few more neurons?’ I asked.

‘And put them where exactly?’ said Brain. ‘Tip of the left ear-lobe, maybe? I mean, you’ve only got an average-sized head, you know.’

‘But surely there must be room somewhere’ I persisted. Brain sighed.

‘Section chiefs report in’, he said. ‘Cerebellum?’

‘Busting a gut back here, boss’ came a hoarse voice from the rear. ‘It’s all I can do to keep the guy from tripping over his shoelaces.’

‘Stem?’

‘Excuse me, but I’m doing some pretty basic stuff too. He does want to go on breathing, right?’

‘Neocortex?’

‘Sorry, boss, I’d help normally but the old frontal lobes are bang up against the skull already, and he wonders why he gets headaches.’

And so it went on.

‘OK’, I said, ‘if there’s no room for any new neurons can’t you just create a few more connections, what d’you call them, synapses, between the ones I’ve already got?’.

‘Listen, mate’ said Brain. ‘Have you got any idea what the wiring’s like in here? If Health and Safety could see it they’d have closed it down years ago. It’s all I can do to keep track of what there is without making it any more complicated’.

‘I still don’t get it’, I persisted. ‘Cardinal Mezzofanti back in the nineteenth century was said to be fluent in over thirty languages. If we say that to be classified as fluent in a language you’re going to need a vocabulary of at least twenty thousand words, that’s six hundred thousand words. And of course there’s a lot more to knowing a language than just knowing the words, there’s grammar, idioms, all that stuff. So why should I have such trouble remembering a piddling two hundred thousand words or so of my own language?’

‘What you’ve got to remember’, said Brain, ‘is that things were a lot simpler for Cardinal Mezzofanti. For a start, he wasn’t at the same time trying to remember the plot of the last seven series of ‘24’ and ‘Desperate Housewives’. How’s that going, by the way? Have you remembered yet whether Tony was alive or dead at the end of series seven, and why Mike was in jail?’

‘About that...’ I began.

'No' said Brain firmly. 'I am not going to tell you. I've told you, if you insist on cluttering me up with all that rubbish I won't be responsible.'

'Point taken', I said. 'But I know, what about dumping some stuff I don't really need any more?'

'Hm', said Brain. 'Can be a bit tricky, deleting stuff. Remember the kerfuffle you got into last August when you totally forgot that it was your wedding anniversary? Do you really want to go there again? Tell you what, though – is it really necessary to know the meaning of every word you play in Scrabble? I mean, old B\_ S\_ and old M\_ N\_ probably know the actual meanings of about ten words between them, and they don't seem to do too badly.'

'Sorry', I said, 'but that's just non-negotiable. What I do has to be meaningful in a real-world context. What do you think I am, a mathematician?'

We seem to have reached an impasse. Then suddenly I had a brainwave.

'I do wish you wouldn't do that', said Brain. 'You know I get motion sickness.'

'No, but listen', I said. 'This business of men thinking about' – I lowered my voice – 's-e-x once every ten seconds. Say we cut that down to once a day. I mean, now I'm getting on for sixty-seven there starts to be less point, if you know what I mean. What kind of savings might we be talking about?'

'Hm, now you're talking' said Brain. It did some calculations. 'At a rough count, that would free up about ten billion neurons', it said. 'Certainly enough to deal with a few more updates of the word list. But would you really do that for the game?'

'I am a Scrabble player', I said simply. 'I will do what it takes.'

And so it was agreed, and so began Operation Galahad, with the immediate dramatic effect that I have remembered all the threes again. What can I say to my opponents next year? 'Be afraid. Be very afraid'.

## How often does 5+2 make 7?

**Barry Grossman:** We've all done it. You play off two letters, hold onto a promising five, only to have your hopes dashed by picking two unhelpful letters. So do you play them off again, maybe for a small score, or do you break up the promising five?

It's worth remembering that if the five letters were so wonderful, the two you had with them in the first place might have been expected to make a seven. If they didn't, that should put you on your guard that the 5 might not be as good as you think.

I decided to find a few statistics on this subject, and a bit of OSL checking yielded up the following:

ASTER has a 76.4% chance of making a 7-letter word with 2 of the other 95 letters.

ISTER, which I would have thought slightly better than ASTER, manages only 72.9%

OSTER, predictably, is weaker still, but not by much, at 70.3%.

Move onto ANTER and the result, I think, is rather surprising. The chance of picking a 7-letter word with a start of ANTER is just 53.7%, little more than half.

INTER + 2 is slightly better at 55.6%. So with RENT, an I is slightly better than an A, but with REST, an A is slightly better than an I, but there's not much in it in either case. But whatever the 5th letter is, REST is significantly better than RENT.

Other combos like ASTEN, ISTEN, ESTER and USTER might be worth looking at, but I'll leave that up to you, as the Grossman 5+2 Research Lab is now closed for the foreseeable future.

# SCRABBLE® LOGOLOGIC

Compiled by Allan Simmons

Your challenge is to recreate the Scrabble game using all the 15 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 37 points with this rack?

P R A C T L Y

No.		4	1	5	8	6	6	3	4	1	3								
	Val.	4	1	1	1	1	4	9	7	7	1	6							
5	9																		
2	2																		
4	7																		
4	7																		
1	4																		
1	1																		
6	7																		
2	5																		
4	1																		
	0																		
6	8																		
3	6																		
3	4																		

B U G D A W N E V E R H E E L  
 I N T O O F F E R O N E O R F E  
 O V A O W N R A V E R E D A T E  
 R O B R O O K W H E E



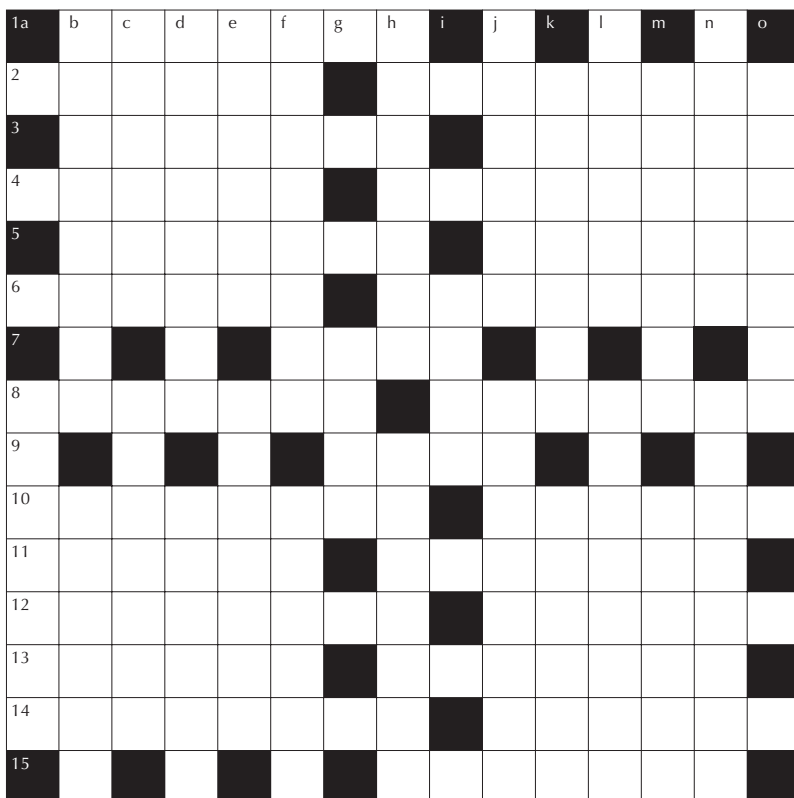
# cryptogram

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

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
			<b>U</b>									

# anagrid



## Horizontal clues:

1. SAMGEES
2. CIRATI - PALFRAES
3. VIARTAL - ALTEEN
4. INAVER - DANNIEM
5. ENERDIC - STREGO
6. SHREAP - RERENESS
7. SAET
8. NOISEIT - APPONDI
9. ERIL
10. CATSTILE - WURPED
11. SLEINT - ONERYAN
12. AITCHIER - REPUTA
13. ATTUSE - RIPIENS
14. SISTERDS - SAETRE
15. MORSESS

## Vertical clues:

- a. HIATJID
- b. AITCHMAN - SCIAIN
- c. TERRIE - STOLLIE
- d. RAGSNADD - ESCREU
- e. VIASRE - AITMIET
- f. TACIRESS - ESSERT
- g. ELES
- h. TEELISE - MICTASE
- i. AINO
- j. GEDDRE - SUPERSUN
- k. PREFUAL - APSPOP
- l. MOGRAL - EYTRIOID
- m. EDESIAN - ARREER
- n. NOPEER - RESTREAV
- o. TOTNESS

# another scrabble song?

Well okay! This one probably doesn't challenge Lorraines Feather's song printed in the last issue of OnBoard, but perhaps this is one for the New Year's Eve Scrabble party. (I wonder if there is such a thing!).

It was sent to me by Juliet Green who wrote: "I didn't intend to write a song, it just kind of 'happened', when I was at the Coventry Triple in October. I was sitting around with a few other people, when one chanced to mention that, in her last game she'd changed 5 vowels, and got 5 more out (not a remarkable feat, since we've all managed that!). A little rhyme popped into my head, which I sung out loud, and a few minutes later had extended into a whole verse and chorus. Several people said 'You should send that to OnBoard'. Anyway, it has now grown to 3 verses plus chorus, which are sung to the tune of 'The Hokey Cokey'.

## That's What Scrabble's all About

(words by Juliet Green, aided and abetted by  
Sue Bowman, Barbara Goodban and Margaret Marshall)

You put five vowels in, You get five vowels out,  
You pick up the bag and shake it all about  
Then your opponent says "Seventy-two and out!" \*  
That's what Scrabble's all about.  
(Yeah, Yeah)

*Chorus:* Oh, how we love to Scrabble, Oh, how we love to Scrabble,  
Oh, how we love to Scrabble  
That's what Scrabble's all about.

You put consonants in, You get consonants out.  
If you'd get a vowel 'Hurray!' you'd nearly shout.  
Opponent plays a bonus, but you've scored nowt,  
That's what Scrabble's all about.  
(Yeah, yeah)

Chorus

So why do people play this most frustrating game?  
Well, if you're really good you can win money and fame.  
You meet some lovely people and enjoy lots of fun -  
A really great time,  
even when you've not won!

Chorus

*\* Obviously not the very next move, as there would still be tiles in the bag, after the change.*

OnBoard wishes its readers a very happy and  
successful New Year

# 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

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## Twixmas (15 games)

Wednesday 29th – Thursday 30th December

Contact Amy Byrne  
Telephone: 0131 6613869

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## UK Open Warm-up (18 games)

Monday 3rd – Tuesday 4th January 2011

Contact Len Moir  
Telephone: 01913 880033

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## UK Open (48 games)

Wednesday 5th – Sunday 9th January 2011

Contact Len Moir  
Telephone: 01913 880033

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## West Berks (7 games)

Saturday 15th January 2011

Contact Ian Burn

Telephone: 0118-984-5045

Venue The Barn, Beech Road,  
Purley-on-Thames, Berks,

Registration 9.30

First game 10:00 Departure 18.30

Tea/Coffee available throughout the day  
Entry costs: £13.00 for ABSP member  
£15.00 for Non-ABSP member  
Deduct 50p if bringing a clock  
Cheques payable to West Berks Scrabble Club  
Tournament A/c and sent to Ian Burn  
Valley View, 92 Purley Rise,  
Purley-on-Thames, Berks, RG8 8DH

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## Pitlochry 3 day (14 games)

Sunday January 16th –

Wednesday January 19th 2011

Contact Alan Sinclair  
Telephone: 0131 6697316

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## Pitlochry 2 day (9 games)

Wednesday January 19th –

Friday January 21st 2011

Contact: Alan Sinclair  
Telephone: 0131 6697316

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## Peterborough 5 point penalty (7 games)

Saturday January 22nd

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 throughout the day.  
Entry costs: £14.50 for ABSP member  
£16.50 for non-ABSP member  
Please note players entering both this and the  
free challenge 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 7Y

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## Northern Ireland – Belfast (13 games)

Saturday 22nd – Sunday 23rd January

Contact: Sarah-Jane Jamison

Telephone: 02890 289355

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## Chester (17 games)

Friday January 28th –

Sunday January 30th 2011

Contact Kathy Rush  
Telephone: 01928 73565

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### **West Sussex (6 games)**

Sunday 30 January 2011

Contact: Peter Hall

Telephone: 01903-775396

Emergency number on day only

Telephone: 07724-545641

Venue The Woodland Centre,  
Woodlands Avenue, Rustington,  
West Sussex, BN16 3HX

Registration 10:00

First game 10:20 Time of departure 17.45

Tea/Coffee available throughout the day

Entry costs: £13.00 for ABSP member

£15.00 for Non-ABSP member

Deduct 50p if you bring and are  
prepared to lend a clock

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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### **Nottingham Nomads**

Saturday 5th – Sunday 6th February

Contact Clive Spate

Telephone: 0115 9200208

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### **Scottish Masters (12 games)**

Saturday 12th–Sunday 13th February

Contact Neil Scott

Telephone: 01224 639291

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### **Corby (7 games)**

Sunday 20th February 2011

Contact J. Carmen Toscano

Telephone: 01536 461156

Venue Best Western Hotel,  
Rockingham Road  
Corby, NN17 1AE

Registration 09:00

First game 09.45 Departure 18.30

Tea/Coffee available mid-morning and mid-  
afternoon

Entry costs: £15.00 for ABSP member

£17.00 for non-ABSP member

Deduct £1.00 if bringing clock  
which you are prepared to lend.

Cheques payable to Corby Scrabble Club and  
sent to

J C Toscano, 14 Corfe Close, Corby, Northants,  
NN18 8PQ

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### **Grand Hampshire Open - Andover (6 games)**

Contact Alan Bailey

Telephone: 02392-384360

Emergency number on day only

Telephone: 07763-894738

Venue: Sports Hall, John Hanson School,  
Floral Way, Andover, SP10 3PB

Registration 09:15

First game 10:15 Departure 17:15

Tea/Coffee available throughout the day.

Entry costs: £13.50 for ABSP member

£15.50 for non-ABSP member

Cheques payable to Andover & District  
Scrabble Club and sent to Alan Bailey,  
84 East Lodge Park, Portsmouth, PO6 1AQ

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### **Leicester (6 games)**

Saturday 26th February 2011

Contact: Alison Sadler

Telephone: 01509-550797

Emergency number on day only

Telephone: 07773-629118

Venue: St. Peter's Church Hall,  
Church Road, Glenfield,  
Leicester. LE3 8DP

Registration 09:15

First game 10:00 Departure 17:45

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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### **Kinross (13 games)**

Saturday 5th–Sunday 6th March

Contact Peggy Wilma Warwick

Telephone: 0131 6697316

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**New Malden (7 games)**

Saturday 5th March 2011  
Contact Elizabeth Terry  
Telephone: 01483 3474011  
Emergency number on day only  
Telephone: 07995-090101  
Venue Christ Church Centre, Coombe  
Road, NewMalden, KT3 4RE  
Registration 09:15 – 09:45  
First game 10:00 Departure 17:45

4/5 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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**Cambridge (14 games)**

Friday 11th – Monday 14th March

Contact Viv Beckmann  
Telephone: 0191 2742420

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**German Open – Mannheim  
(14 games)**

Friday 11th – Sunday 13th March

Contact Peggy Fehily  
Telephone: 0049 7131 744990

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**New Malden (7 games)**

Saturday 5th March 2011  
Contact Elizabeth Terry  
Telephone: 01483 3474011  
Emergency number on day only  
Telephone: 07995-090101  
Venue Christ Church Centre, Coombe  
Road, NewMalden KT3 4RE  
Registration 09:15 – 09:45  
First game 10:00 Departure 17:45

4/5 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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**Swindon (7 games)**

Sunday 13th March 2011  
Contact: Steve Perry  
Telephone: 01367-244757  
Venue St Joseph's Catholic College,  
Ocotol 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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**Peterborough free challenge  
(7 games)**

Saturday 19th March 2011  
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 7YT

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**Coventry Double (22 games)**

Saturday 26th – Sunday 27th March

Contact Len Moir  
Telephone: 01903 880033

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### **Pitlochry (23 games)**

Sunday 27th – Wednesday 30th March

Contact Amy Byrne  
Telephone: 0131 6613869

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### **Southsea (14 games)**

Friday 1st – Sunday 3rd April

Contact Viv Beckmann  
Telephone: 0191 2742420

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### **Aylesbury (7 games)**

Saturday 2nd April 2011

Contact: Janet Bonham

Telephone: 01296-483717

Venue Stoke Mandeville Village  
Community Centre, Eskdale Park,  
Eskdale Road, Stoke Mandeville  
HP22 5UJ

Registration 9:15

First game 10:00 Departure 17:45  
3/4 divisional tournament  
Tea/Coffee available 9.30 onwards  
Entry costs: £13.00 for ABSP member  
£15.00 for non-ABSP member  
Cheques payable to Aylesbury Scrabble Club  
Tournament Account, and sent to  
Janet Bonham, 14 Earlswood Close, Aylesbury,  
Bucks, HP21 7P

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### **Sutton Coldfield (7 games)**

Saturday 9th April 2011

Contact Rick Blakeway

Telephone: 0121 603 8623

Emergency (on day only)

Telephone: 07849 404283 or 07904 757244

Venue: Stonnall Village Hall, Main Street,  
Stonnall, Staffs WS9 9DY

Registration 9.15  
First game 10.00 Departure 18.00  
Tea/Coffee/Biscuits available throughout the  
day.  
Entry costs: £12.00 for ABSP member  
£14.00 for non-ABSP member  
Cheques payable to R. T. Blakeway and sent to  
325 Rednal Road, Kings Norton, Birmingham,  
B38 8EE

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### **Southampton (6 games)**

Sunday 10th April 2011

Contact Alan Bailey

Telephone: 02392-384360

Emergency number on day only

Telephone: 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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### **Havering Evergreens – Over 50's (7 games)**

Saturday 16th April 2011

Contact: Cindy Hollyer

Telephone: 01277-822050

Venue: St John's Church Hall, Church Rd,  
Mountnessing, Brentwood, Essex,  
CM15 0RH

Registration 09:30

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, Doddinghurst, Brentwood,  
CM15 0RH

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### **Easter (Gloucester)**

Friday 22nd Monday 25th April

Contact Ronnie Reid  
Telephone: 01256 895690

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**Bournemouth Spring (7 games)**

Sunday 8th May 2011

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 memberCheques payable to Bournemouth Scrabble  
Tournament and sent to Ruth Marsden, 27  
Spencer Road, Canford  
Cliffs, Poole, BH13 7ET

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**Harrogate (14 games)**

Friday 13th – Sunday 15th May

Contact Viv Beckmann

Telephone: 0191 2742420

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**Anglesey (14 games)**

Friday 10th – Monday 12th June

Contact Viv Beckmann

Telephone: 0191 2742420

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**Brighton & Hove (6 games)**

Sunday 12th June 2011

Contact: Doj Graham

Telephone: 01273 699811

Emergency number (on the day)

Mobile: 07743 317565

Venue: The Woodland Centre,  
Woodlands Avenue, Rustington,  
West Sussex, BN16 3HB

Registration 09:30

First game 10:15 Departure 17:30

3 divisional tournament

Tea/Coffee available throughout the day

Entry costs: £13.50 for ABSP member  
£15.50 for non-ABSP memberCheques payable to Brighton & Hove Scrabble  
Club and sent to Doj Graham, Flat 2,  
8-9 Hanover Crescent, Brighton BN2 9SB

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**New Malden (7 games)**

Saturday 18th June 2011

Contact Elizabeth Terry

Telephone: 01483 3474011

Emergency number on day only

Telephone: 07995-090101

Venue Christ Church Centre, Coombe  
Road, NewMalden KT3 4RE

Registration 09:15 – 09:45

First game 10:00 Departure 17:45

4/5 divisional tournament

Tea/Coffee available throughout the day

Entry costs: £14.00 for ABSP member  
£16.00 for non-ABSP memberDeduct 50p if bringing clock which you are  
prepared to lendCheques payable to Elizabeth Terry  
Tournament a/c and sent to Elizabeth Terry,  
114 Hermitage Woods Crescent, Woking,  
GU21 8UF

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**Romford (7 games)**

Saturday 2nd July 2011

Contact: Cindy Hollyer

Telephone: 01277 822050

Venue: Kelvedon Hatch Village Hall,  
School Road, Kelvedon Hatch,  
Brentwood, Essex, CM15 0DL.

Divisions according to entries

Registration 9.15

First game 10.00 Departure 18.00

Tea/Coffee and biscuits available before the  
start and between gamesEntry costs: £13.50 For ABSP members  
£15.50 for non-ABSP memberDeduct 50p if you are able to bring and lend a  
timerCheques payable to Romford Scrabble Club  
c/o Cindy Hollyer, 78 Peartree Lane,  
Doddington, Brentwood, Essex, CM15 0RH

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**Southport (14 games)**

Friday 22nd – Sunday 24th July

Contact Viv Beckmann

Telephone: 0191 2742420

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**Nottingham Nomads**

Saturday 6th – Sunday 7th August

Contact Clive Spate

Telephone: 0115 9200208



<p><b>Havering (7 games)</b>  Saturday 3rd September 2011  Contact: Cindy Hollyer  Telephone: 01277-822050  Venue: Kelvedon Hatch Village Hall,  Kelvedon Hatch, Brentwood,  Essex  Registration 09:15  First game 10:00 Departure 18:00</p>	<p>Tea/Coffees/squash &amp; biscuits 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, Doddinghurst, Brentwood, Essex, CM15 0RH</p>
<p><b>Morecambe (14 games)</b>  Friday 9th – Monday 12th September</p>	<p>Contact Viv Beckmann  Telephone: 0191 2742420</p>
<p><b>Leamington Spa (14 games)</b>  Friday 23rd – Monday 26th September</p>	<p>Contact Viv Beckmann  Telephone: 0191 2742420</p>
<p><b>Norwich (7 games)</b>  Sunday 25th September  Contact: Jacquie Aldous  Tel: 01362 638320  Venue: Hethersett Village Hall, Back Lane,    Hethersett, Norwich, NR9 3JJ  Registration 09.30</p>	<p>First game 10:00 Departure 18.00  2 or 3 divisional tournament depending on entries  Tea/Coffee/cakes provided (but not lunch)  Entry costs: £12.00 to ABSP members  £14.00 to non-ABSP players  Cheques payable to Norwich Scrabble Club and sent to Jacquie Aldous, 4 Rump Close, Swanton Morley, Dereham, NR29 4NH</p>
<p><b>Bournemouth Autumn (7 games)</b>  Sunday 2 rd October 2011  Contact: Ruth Marsden  Telephone: 01202 707148  Emergency number on day only  Mobile; 07720 949 825  Venue: Rooper Hall, 5 Victoria Park  Road, Moordown, Bournemouth</p>	<p>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</p>
<p><b>Oxford (14 games)</b>  Friday 14th – Sunday 16th October</p>	<p>Contact Viv Beckmann  Telephone: 0191 2742420</p>
<p><b>Bourne (7 games)</b>  Sunday 16th October 2011  Contact Betty Benton  Tel 01778-425234  Venue Bourne Corn Exchange, 3 Abbey Road,  Bourne, Lincs, PE10 9EF  Registration 09:15</p>	<p>First game 10:00  3 divisional tournament  Entry costs: £13.00 for ABSP member  £15.00 for non-ABSP member  Cheques payable to Bourne &amp; District Scrabble Club and sent to Betty Benton, Walnut Farm, Twenty, Bourne, Lincs PE10 0BH</p>
<p><b>Harrogate (14 games)</b>  Friday 2nd – Sunday 4th December</p>	<p>Contact Viv Beckmann  Telephone: 0191 2742420</p>

## Beat the Champ (page 24):

Mikki should have played THIRSTED (or THRISTED) from j4 down

## Endgame Challenge (page 24):

It looks like the game is lost because you are 23 points behind and you can see good scores for your opponent, eg CAHOOT A4d (50), YACHT J3a (38), CAHOOT A1a (38), YAH M15a (36). So you need to play out in two and either score enough to outscore the opponent's best score. So you will need 50 plus 23 (existing deficit) minus 8 (the unused Y) plus 1 (to win by 1) = 66. Your best scoring play is difficult to spot but is key: RADOMES E5a (44).

That leaves you 22 points short – the most you can get with your next move after CAHOOT A4d is VOL C3a (18). So you need to block CAHOOT at A4d but good scores there (eg VERSO A4d (42) do not leave a good-scoring second play to outscore YACHT.

The winningest play is therefore to block CAHOOT with VOL A7d (26) leaving the RADOMES outplay which wins against YACHT and the A1a CAHOOT. The opponent has to spot RADOMES which is difficult and not intuitive because the VOL play is not suspicious and does still leave outplays with EMRS albeit not high-scoring (eg MERES E8d (19)).

CHAY B3a is the play the opponent needs to play.

In the actual game the opponent played CAHOOT A1a and RADOMES won the game comfortably.

## Scrabble Tips Solutions (page 24):

Turnover Troublesome Racks - IDIOCY F8d (14)

## Twelve Plays of Christmas

SEAFOOD UNSAID J6a (11)

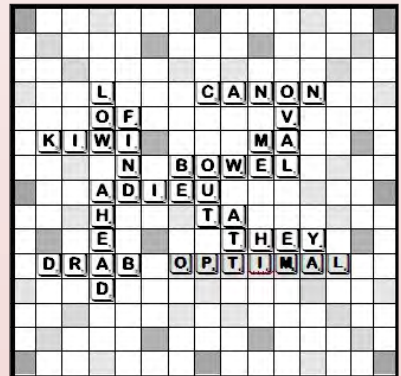
The rack HI??ORY gives the following sevens:

CHICORY DROICHY HICKORY HISTORY  
 HOARILY HORNILY HORRIFY HORSILY  
 HOSIERY HYDROID ROYNISH THYROID

## Anagrid



## Logologic



## Cryptogram

1=H, 2=C, 3=T, 4=Y, 5=F, 6=D, 7=B, 8=Q,  
 9=K, 10=S, 11=O, 12=G, 13=A, 14=V, 15=M,  
 16=Z, 17=U, 18=J, 19=I, 20=N, 21=P, 22=W,  
 23=X, 24=E, 25=R, 26=L.

# calendar

Date	Event	Games	Organiser	Telephone
Dec 4th	Newhaven	7	Alan Sinclair	0131 669 7316
Dec 29th-30th	Twixmas - Daventry	15	Amy Byrne	0131 661 3869
<b>2011</b>				
Jan 3rd-4th	UK Open Warm-Up	18	Len Moir	01913 880033
Jan 5th-9th	UK Open	48	Len Moir	01913 880033
Jan 15th	West Berks	7	Ian Burn	0118 984 5045
Jan 16th-19th	Pitlochry	-	Alan Sinclair	0131 669 7316
Jan 19th-21st	Pitlochry	-	Alan Sinclair	0131 669 7316
Jan 22nd	Peterborough 5PP	7	Chris Hawkins	01733 223202
Jan 22nd-23rd	Northern Ireland Championships	13	Sarah-Jane Jamison	02890 289355
Jan 28th-30th	Chester	17	Kathy Rush	01928 733565
Jan 30th	West Sussex	7	Peter Hall	01903 775396
Feb 5th-6th	Nottingham Nomads	18	Clive Spate	0115 9200208
Feb 12th-13th	Scottish Masters	-	Neil Scott	01224 639291
Feb 20th	Corby	7	Carmen Toscano	01536 461156
Feb 20th	Andover	6	Alan Bailey	023 9238 4360
Feb 26th	Leicester	6	Alison Sadler	01509 550797
Mar 5th	New Malden	7	Elizabeth Terry	01483 474011
Mar 11th-13th	German Open - Mannheim	22	Peggy Fehily	0049 7131 744990
Mar 11th-14th	H-B Holidays - Cambridge	14	Viv Beckmann	0191 2742420
Mar 12th	East Sussex	6	Ed Breed	01424 219334
Mar 13th	Swindon	7	Steve Perry	01367 244757
Mar 19th	Peterborough Free Challenge	7	Chris Hawkins	01733 223202
Mar 26th-27th	Coventry Double	22	Len Moir	01913 880033
Mar 27th-30th	Pitlochry	23	Amy Byrne	0131 661 3869
Apr 1st-3rd	H-B Holidays - Southsea	14	Viv Beckmann	0191 2742420
Apr 2nd	Aylesbury	7	Janet Bonham	01296 483717
Apr 9th	Sutton Coldfield	7	Rick Blakeway	0121 603 8623
Apr 10th	Southampton	6	Alan Bailey	023 9238 4360
Apr 16th	Havering Evergreens Over 50s	7	Cindy Hollyer	01277 822050
Apr 22nd-23rd	Glevum Matchplay - Gloucester	8	Ronnie Reid	01256 895690
Apr 23rd-25th	Gloucester Matchplay	21	Ronnie Reid	01256 895690
May 8th	Bournemouth	7	Ruth Marsden	01202 707148
May 13th-15th	H-B Holidays - Harrogate	14	Viv Beckmann	0191 2742420
Jun 10th-12th	H-B Holidays - Anglesey	14	Viv Beckmann	0191 2742420
Jun 12th	Brighton & Hove	6	Doj Graham	01273 699811
Jun 18th	New Malden	7	Elizabeth Terry	01483 474011
Jul 2nd	Romford	-	Cindy Hollyer	01277 822050
Jul 22nd-24th	H-B Holidays - Southport	14	Viv Beckmann	0191 2742420
Aug 6th-7th	Nottingham Nomads	18	Clive Spate	0115 9200208
Sep 3rd	Havering	7	Cindy Hollyer	01277 822050
Sep 9th-12th	H-B Holidays - Morecambe	14	Viv Beckmann	0191 2742420
Sep 23rd-25th	H-B Holidays - Leamington Spa	14	Viv Beckmann	0191 2742420
Sep 25th	Norwich	7	Jacquie Aldous	01362 638320
Oct 2nd	Bournemouth	7	Ruth Marsden	01202 707148
Oct 14th-16th	H-B Holidays - Oxford	14	Viv Beckmann	0191 2742420
Oct 16th	Bourne	7	Betty Benton	01778 425234
Dec 2nd-4th	H-B Holidays - Harrogate	14	Viv Beckmann	0191 2742420

Fuller details within magazine

**Mikki Nicholson - National Champion**

