



NASPA Bulletin

The monthly news bulletin of the North American SCRABBLE® Players Association

August 2011: Vol. 3, No. 8

NSC Wrap-Up

by Chris Cree

The 2011 National SCRABBLE Championship (NSC) is in the books.

Congratulations to this year's divisional winners: in Division 4, Randy Forrester (Santa Fe, NM); in Division 3, Suhas Rao (Apex, NC); and in Division 2, Richard Spence (Tucson, AZ).

And hearty congratulations to the 2011 National SCRABBLE Champion, Nigel Richards. Nigel is the first player ever to have won back-to-back titles, and now joins Joe Edley as a three-time champion.

This year's event was a much more difficult path for Nigel. Three people ended up with 22–9 records. Kenji Matsumoto and Brian Bowman were mere spread points away from a title. Jim Kramer made it to the final game and came up a post-bingo draw short.

It takes a great deal to put on this event. Inspecting playing space, negotiating the package, making sure all facets of the agreement are being adhered to (by both parties!), handling all problems, attending to those who require attention, scheduling all of the meetings, delivery, set-up, takedown and storage of materials, and well, just the entire production.

Thanks to all who helped make the 2011 NSC a reality:

Check-in assistants: Carolyn Easter, Samantha Nelson, Joyce Stock, Bennett Jacobstein, Amy Krafchick, Cheryl Melvin, Mary Logullo, Becky Dyer, Lila Crotty, Judy Newhouse, Ken Kasney, Mariah Smith, Jean McArthur, Linda Villareal, Regenia Hidalgo, Bryan Pepper.

Data Entry: Chris Wiegand, Reese Daniel, Tim Crotty.

Concierge: Robin Gates.

Division Assistants: Amy Krafchick, John Merlau, Sue Grogan-Johnson, Lynn Sneed, Annette Nelson.

Division Leaders: Dan Stock, Bennett Jacobstein, Dallas Johnson, John Robertson.

Annotators: Dee Segrest, Kate Watson.

Master of Ceremonies: Alan Stern.

Color Commentary and Photography: Sherrie Saint John.

Sponsors: Hasbro, Winning Moves, Merriam-Webster, Southwest Displays, City of Addison, TX, JP Morgan Investments — Private Banking.

Donors: Bob Schoenman, Michael Baron, Paul McCarthy, Bob Gillis.

NSC THANKS continued on p. 2

SPECIAL 2011 NSC EDITION



NASPA Copresidents Chris Cree (right) and John Chew (left) present the winner's check to the 2011 National SCRABBLE Champion, Nigel Richards (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia)

NSC 2011 Highlights

by Sherrie Saint John

This heavily condensed summary of the highlights of Sherrie's commentary and photos at the 2011 National SCRABBLE Championship has been prepared by the Bulletin Committee. Please visit the event website to see the coverage in its entirety.

When I arrived yesterday, the daytime temperature at DFW airport was a bit more than 110 F (43 degrees Celsius, for you Canadians). Let's just say, I was an egg frying on the sidewalk, waiting for a ride to the hotel! But once I pulled up to the Intercontinental, all the hot weather was forgotten. The hotel, under construction on the first floor during last year's event, is now wide open and gorgeously spacious. There are SCRABBLE-worthy tables everywhere. I can't wait to see the players descend and start using the public spaces for games!

Two merchants are set up so far and more are expected as the day progresses. Southwest Displays & Events is a company owned by Brian Cree, brother of NASPA copresident, Chris Cree (Dallas, TX). He and his team have done a bang-up job this year with sig-

NSC HIGHLIGHTS continued on p. 4

Annette Tedesco: Person of the Year

by Rod MacNeil

When asked what the secret is to the many successful tournaments she organizes, Annette Tedesco replied simply "to have compassion, understanding and love of people."

In those heartfelt words are also an appropriate reflection of the Scrabble community's feelings towards her. It is in that spirit that Annette has been honored as the 2010–11 Michael R. Wise Memorial Person of the Year Award, an annual honour bestowed originally by the NSA Advisory Board, now by the NASPA Advisory Board, to recognize individuals who have excelled in their contributions to the competitive SCRABBLE community.

Annette began organizing Scrabble tournaments in 1995 shortly after moving to Stillwater, NY from her native Brooklyn, where she began a job as a family care provider for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Missing her SCRABBLE friends from the city, she contacted her longtime friend, the

ABOUT ANNETTE continued on p. 2

NSC Thanks

from NSC WRAP-UP, p. 1

Computer Central, Ratings, Standings, Statistics, Charts and Coproducer: John Chew.

And, finally, a special thanks to the Director of her last National SCRABBLE Championship: Mary Rhoades. Mary is stepping down from this awesome task and responsibility. She will continue to direct her NASPA Club #248 and the September Mid-Cities event as well as continue her duties as Chair of the Club/Director Committee and as one of NASPA's Trustees.

As a personal aside, thanks so much for taking the leap of faith with me seven or so years ago when the first DO was held and continuing to do so with the Players Championship and these three National SCRABBLE Championships.

Your diligence has made me look good! I cannot thank you enough.

Sincerely and fondly,

Chris Cree

NASPA looks forward to seeing you all next August 11–15 for the 2012 National SCRABBLE Championship at the Loews Royal Pacific Resort at Universal Orlando in Orlando, FL.

About Annette

from ANNETTE TEDESCO, p. 1

late Steve Pfeiffer. The two teamed up to host the first of many annual events in Albany. Annette recalls fondly, “favorite memories are organizing with Steve and also meeting new players who come back to my tournaments on a regular basis.”

And indeed they do, in great numbers. Annette's three annual events, two in Albany (New Year's and Fourth of July weekends) and one in Lake George, are all among the most popular and highest attended on the calendar. Each of them routinely attracts 100 players or more, drawing from all over the northeast United States, eastern Canada, and beyond.

The centerpiece event is undoubtedly her annual Fourth of July tournament, which is now running 17 years strong. The highlight of the weekend is unquestionably the large barbecue that Annette generously hosts at her home, located on the picturesque banks of the Hudson River. Players, family and friends alike are all invited to this holiday celebration of both community and camaraderie, as Scrabblers share food, drink and games well into the night.

When asked what she enjoys most about organizing tournaments, Annette did not hesitate. “I love seeing all my players.” And beyond any doubt, her players love seeing her.

We salute you Annette, for all you have given from your heart and contributed to make our community a better and happier place for all.

The Player Database, Privacy, Finding Players

by the Web Committee

Earlier this month, we released revised versions of three of our web tools to help give members finer control over access to their contact information, and directors an easier way to contact their players. If you go to the Profile Editor in Member Services now, you'll see that you can specify who can view the phone numbers, the email address and the mailing address stored in your profile. You can share each piece of information only with certified NASPA directors; with directors and other players; or with directors, other players and SCRABBLE-related vendors. If you haven't done so recently, please check the Profile Editor to make sure that your contact information is up-to-date and your privacy settings the way you want them.

In Member Services, you'll also find two new versions of the Player Information tool, one for regular members and one for directors, which give you access to any contact information that another player has agreed to share with you.

Mystery Words

by John Chew

The June issue's mystery word was RIDGEL (the same as a RIDGIL or RIDGLING): an animal afflicted with cryptorchidism.

This month, I'm thinking of a pair of words. They both appear in the same scene in the classic movie *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, they are both eight letters long, and they have five letters in common.

MYSTERY WORDS continued on p. 4

Newly Certified Club and Tournament Directors

by Mary Rhoades

The Club/Director Committee is pleased to announce the following list of NASPA members who have been certified as club and tournament directors over the past year. If you are interested in becoming a director too, please consult the Directors section of our website.

- Michael Bassett, Port Clinton, OH
- Chris Lipe, Rome, NY
- Cesar del Solar, Alhambra, CA
- Winter, Houston, TX
- Joseph Neff, Warrington, PA
- Chris Sitler, Dublin, IN
- Randy Morrison, Charlotte, NC
- William Woodward, Saskatoon, SK
- Daniel Blake, Rochester, NY
- Brent Beal, Nacogdoches, TX
- Ken Kasney, Houston, TX
- Jason Randolph, Austin, TX
- Jeremy Hildebrand, Ottawa, ON

Collins SCRABBLE Play

by Nick Ball

This article has been edited slightly from an original version appearing on WESPA's website, and is reprinted with permission.

From just one or two tournaments per year through the 2000s, to 16 in 2010, and now 12 as of mid June 2011, Collins (SOWPODS) play in North America is beginning to take off. While the scene is still small, and many Collins tournaments remain single divisions of just a few players, there is a definite presence that has become established and is unlikely to recede.

A major factor in the rise in tournaments is the decision by NASPA to rate Collins games from 2010 onwards, under the NASPA SOWPODS rating system. While WESPA has rated North American Collins games for several years, the NASPA decision helped to encourage a small but critical mass of interest that made it worthwhile for directors to establish Collins divisions. For directors, the extra work involved is minimal, the main requirement being that the division contains at least 4 people, whether or not WESPA ratings will also be sought, and which challenge rule will be in effect (e.g., 10 points per word for unsuccessful challenge).

Many people have put in a lot of hard work to help establish the scene. In particular, NASPA copresident John Chew works tirelessly on a huge number of different things to do with the game, and this extends to Collins, for example, maintaining the NASPA SOWPODS rating system, and assisting tournament directors interested in rating Collins. Sam Kantimathi likewise never tires of promoting the game, attending a great deal of Collins divisions, and providing help and encouragement, such as ordering the Collins word list for players here, since it is not available in bookstores.

NASPA's other copresident and founder, Chris Cree, established and organized the World Players Championship in Dallas, TX, in 2008 and 2010, and this event has been well attended by many top international players. Travis Chaney established the West Coast World Championship Wordlist Challenge in Ashland, OR, in 2009, which remains one of the largest Collins events in North America.

This is just a sample of the many contributions. Others include John O'Laughlin and Jason Katz-Brown for incorporating Collins into Quackle, Michael Thelen for adding it to Zyzzyva, Chris Lipe's 26-part posting to cgp on the Collins 3s, the work of the directors of all the Collins divisions so far, the many committee members of NASPA and WESPA, and so on. Apologies to those not mentioned!

My own small contribution has been to edit the NASPAWiki pages on Collins in

COLLINS REPORT continued on p. 6

The Rose Award

by Dan Stock

This is an edited version of the impromptu speech Dan gave in presenting this year's Rose Award (donated in the memory of Rose Kreiswirth by Bob Schoenman and Protiles) at the NSC prize ceremony.

The Rose Award was created by Bob Schoenman's Protiles "to honor Rose Kreiswirth's memory. Rose was an expert SCRABBLE player for over 30 years and cherished the game for its educational values. An accomplished player, Rose was as well known for her sense of fairness and her congeniality as she was for her competitiveness. The Rose Award will be awarded each year at the National SCRABBLE Championship to a female player who, in the opinion of the judges, best exemplifies the fierce competitiveness and compassion that we remember Rose for."

Usually, nominations for this award are made by all of the division leaders at the NSC; then those division leaders vote or reach a consensus on who should get the award. This year, upon hearing whom one of the division leaders was planning to nominate, the other three division leaders agreed that no further nominations were needed.

This year's winner is a player who is well known for both compassion and competitiveness. She has been a mentor — and much, much more — to at least two of our upcoming young players. She is a delight to play against and to be with, and she brings a smile and a spirit of happiness with her wherever she goes.

I can't imagine a player being more competitive than she is. For most of us, thirty-one games of Scrabble at the NSC are plenty. But she was there playing the Lunch Bird tourney as well. And she was up early every morning, competing against herself with an intense workout in the exercise room. Finally, she is doing all of this while competing against something much greater, as she is undergoing active treatment for cancer.

It is an honor and a pleasure to award the 2011 Rose Award to Katya Lezin.



Chris Cree presents the 2011 Rose Award to Katya Lezin (photo: Katie Schultz)

2011 National SCRABBLE Championship Winners

by the Championship Committee

Congratulations to all of this year's prizewinners! Abbreviations used below: 4LP (highest-scoring play using up to four tiles, making at least one word of fewer than five letters), BB (Bob's Bible), MB (Mike Baron's Word Book), MWVD (Merriam-Webster's Visual Dictionary), ZPK (Zyzyyva Prize Kit), Z Word: highest-scoring play using a Z. As usual the "Tuff Luck" prize is awarded for losing six games by the smallest combined spread.

Division 1

1st	\$10,000	Richards, Nigel 22-9 +1532	7th	\$350	Peltier, Nigel 20-11 +1118
2nd	\$4,000	Matsumoto, Kenji 22-9 +1186	8th	\$300	Appel, Scott 20-11 +1058
3rd	\$2,000	Bowman, Brian 22-9 +1028	9th	\$250	Mallick, Joey 20-11 +930
4th	\$1,000	Kramer, Jim 21-10 +975	10th	\$200	Jackson, Scott 20-11 +55
5th	\$500	Day, Jesse 21-10 +924	11th	MWVD	Wright, Trey 19-12 +997
6th	\$400	Armstrong, Peter 20-11 +1399	12th	BB	Weinstein, Ian 19-12 +994

High Win	\$25	Fiszbein, Jeff 650-367 vs. Speicher, Gregg
High Loss	\$25	Cappelletto, Brian 508-514 vs. Matsumoto, Kenji
Low Win	\$25	Lipe, Chris -7 vs. Berahovich, Leesa -18
High Play	\$25	Jeff Fiszbein, BREADBOX, Joe Edley, NOVELIZE, 230
Tuff Luck	\$25	Galebach, Brian 50 = 3+6+7+7+12+15
Z Word	ZPK	Joe Edley, NOVELIZE, 230
4LP	MBWB	Ben Schoenbrun, ZIRAM/IS/AL, 107

Division 2

1st	\$2,500	Spence, Richard 25-6 +2207	7th	\$350	Krafchick, Joey 19-12 +1263
2nd	\$1,000	Canik, Matt 23-8 +1430	8th	\$300	Lakernick, Harriette 19-12 +803
3rd	\$600	Citron, Daniel 21-10 +1323	9th	\$250	Rau, Terry Kang 19-12 +783
4th	\$500	Stern, Alan 21-10 +616	10th	\$200	Felman, Robert 19-12 +407
5th	\$450	Sneed, Stephen 20-11 +681	11th	MWVD	Seales, Cynthia 19-12 +201
6th	\$400	Bergmann, Jacob 20-11 +547	12th	BB	Methaset, Arun 19-12 -134

High Win	\$25	Thornton, Paul 657-345 vs. Jeffers, Jeremy
High Loss	\$25	Anstandig, Steve 493-592 vs. Seales, Cynthia
Low Win	\$25	Schneider, Frederick 285-262 vs. Rawlins, Gene
High Play	\$25	Richard Spence, SPAETZLE, 212
Tuff Luck	\$25	Cohen, Joanne 42 = 1+4+6+6+11+14
Z Word	ZPK	Richard Spence, SPAETZLE, 212

Division 3

1st	\$2,000	Rao, Suhas 26-5 +3424	6th	\$250	Wieckowski, Zbigniew 19.5-11.5 +358
2nd	\$800	Randolph, Jason 23-8 +1710	7th	\$200	Dowaliby, John 19-12 +897
3rd	\$400	Lean, Mike 21-10 +1742	8th	MWVD	Ratanapitaksuk, Worapol 19-12 +366
4th	\$350	Lundquist, Doug 21-10 +1325	9th	BB	Barrett, Ted 18.5-12.5 +1380
5th	\$300	Hembrook, Nola 20-11 +849	10th	Letterati	Greenberg, Morris 18-13 +986

High Win	\$25	Lundquist, Doug 593-339 vs. Dixon, Roy
High Loss	\$25	Snoddy, William 479-498 vs. Greene, Lois
Low Win	\$25	Camper, Jacqueline 301-290 vs. Bowman, Tracy
High Play	\$25	Doug Lundquist, YEARENDS, 158
Tuff Luck	\$25	Strick, Richard 63 = 2+6+12+13+15+15
Z Word	ZPK	Suhas Rao, ZLOTIES, 1 35

Division 4

1st	\$1,500	Forrester, Randy 21.5-9.5 +746	6th	\$250	Callaway, Evelyn 19-12 +427
2nd	\$700	Stock, Joyce 21-10 +951	7th	\$200	Titzman, Joey 19-12 +284
3rd	\$400	Davis, Elizabeth 20-11 +818	8th	MWVD	Lieberman, Hannah 19-12 +110
4th	\$350	Abriano, Gerianne 19½-11½ +537	9th	BB	Rivard, Alexander 18.5-12.5 +860
5th	\$300	Hoang, Andy 19-12 +934	10th	Letterati	Postal, David 18-13 +1212

High Win	\$25	Huber, Cecilia 554-220 vs. Engel, Desiree
High Loss	\$25	Adkins, Annie 421-447 vs. Rivard, Alexander
Low Win	\$25	Laris, Jim 285-281 vs. Tyszka, Gene
High Play	\$25	Alexander Rivard, MENTORED, 149
Tuff Luck	\$25	Johnson, Kathy 53 = 2+4+8+10+12+17
Z Word	ZPK	Andy Hoang, ZEATIN, 89

NSC Highlights

from NSC 2011 HIGHLIGHTS, p. 1

nage and color coordination. Each division has color-coordinated tablecloths (!) so there is no confusion as to where to sit! Player CSCs match name badges, match tablecloths, match result score slips.

When players register, they get an event tote bag, an event pen, a color coordinated name badge and event folder, and a random game. The random games, Super SCRABBLE, Scattegories card game, and Big Boggle, were all generously donated by Winning Moves Games (see photo below). Since the donation was three different games and not enough to give each player in each division the same game, John Chew ran a number generator and each player was assigned a random number, and so they get the game that coordinates with that number!



Holy Tallness! Joey Krafchick (Roswell, GA) just checked in with Matt Canik (Austin, TX). Joey is now 6'1" tall! And Matt Canik is also growing taller and leaner every day, too! *Outspoken* is an Ontario-based magazine that featured an article by Shauna Petrie (Mississauga ON). She gave me a copy of the publication and I had it splayed out on my table today. Many have stopped to read the piece and have expressed interest in an upcoming cruise that she and her husband, Dave Krook (Mississauga ON) will be running with Tony Leah, a Toronto-area director and SCRABBLE expert.

The Early Bird was small this year, but fun for the group involved. There were four prizes: Finishing undefeated, 4-0 +332, winning \$15: Dan Stock (see photo below, being congratulated by John Chew). Finishing second place, 3-1 +34, winning \$10: Jason Keller (Highland Park, NJ). Winning the prize for highest rating gain (+5), winning \$5 donated by Dan: Lila Crotty (Metairie, LA), 3rd place overall. Dan and Lila played



*Merriam-Webster Editor-at-Large
Peter Sokolowski at his table*

in the last round. Winning the prize for high word (SURMISE, 95): Jason Randolph (San Antonio, TX), 7th place overall.

The new Zyzzyva product line, in support of the upcoming iPhone app, are fun and fantastic. The virtual Zorro Z on everything! And though I missed it, I'm told that the "cutest" registration event happened when we were in a staff meeting. The Thelen family (wife and children, all clad in Zyzzyva shirts of various sizes) visited Michael Thelen (West Jordan, UT) at his vendor table. I'm told it was a Kodak moment that was missed!

Round 2

"My biggest mistake: I found my bingo." So goes my entry into a fun Jan Cardia (Wilmington, DE) vs. Rob Robinsky (Spring Lake Park, MN) game. He opened with OXO, she played MOTOR, then he got down NEEDILY, his first bingo. At this point, she needed to NOT find the bingo that she played, the gorgeous VAPORiSH. If she'd played HOE instead for a few points elsewhere, she could have prevented what happened next, which was essentially the Rob Rob machine in overdrive. He found SLUDGING down the triple lane and then SUBERIZE. Later on he got APRONED with the second blank, he admitted. She also played NATTIER, but it was his big win.

Our youngest full-time event worker ever has to be Reese Daniel, the eldest son of Robin Pollock Daniel (Toronto ON). At 13, he is doing data entry for this event. I asked how his younger brother, Oliver, was doing. He explained that Oliver was at camp and that camp wasn't for him. While Oliver is more sports-y, Reese defines himself as more computer-y. He gestured to his laptop and said, "I belong here." I could have hugged him.

Round 3

Cheryl Tyler (Lubbock, TX) is happy. She started out today with a big win against Joe Edley (Port Jefferson, NY) where she triple-tripled through a V with SWERVING. In

Mystery Words Clue 2

from MYSTERY WORDS, p. 2

Both words are four-four compounds of common words.

MYSTERY WORDS continued on p. 11



Vendor Sam Kantimathi showing his wares

her next game, she earned 238 points, so the SCRABBLE gods give and then the SCRABBLE gods take.

A gorgeous overlap took place in Division 2. Ian Chesser (Houston, TX) played TUATERA for 70. Alongside, Michael Willis (Midlothian, TX) played INTONEr/TI/UN/AT/TO/EN/Re/BAR for only 74, but add 200 style points, for sure! Mike also got down MaLIGNED and Ian made the impressive play of FJELD through the separated F and E! Nice find! Mike's win, 428-344.

Round 4

Astonished, Dallas Johnson, Division 2 leader, slipped a note on my desk. It said, "Kit Morehead (Berkley, MI) and Lynda Finn (Madison, WI) finished their round 4 game before six other games in the division had begun!" I found Kit at the challenge machine. She opened with PEAVIES, later played REFALLEN, and had OVERSTIR challenged. Her win, 543-292. I guess she and Lynda will have nice long lunches!

Steve Glass (Dade City, FL) wants to head out to lunch, I can tell. But, he also really wants to show me his winning game. So, we trudge back across the room to find Cesar Del Solar (Alhambra, CA) with his head in his hands. Ahead by enough, in the end game with only 6 tiles left on his rack, Cesar tosses down a two-tile play in the upper right corner of the board. He totally missed what then happened. Holding IOUMST?, Steve tossed down HUMORISTS through H and first S! This won Steve the game by a mere 6 points. Cesar sat there a very, very long time, just thinking....

NSC HIGHLIGHTS continued on p. 5



*Brian Cree (Southwest Displays & Events)
with brother Chris Cree*

NSC Highlights

from NSC 2011 HIGHLIGHTS, p. 4

Jeff Fiszbein (South Lyon, MI) walloped Mike Baron (Corrales, NM) this round. Instead of talking about the game, we just talked about the clipboard, which has the medicine name Zolofl emblazoned on its large clamp. Jeff confessed that when games got really boring, he'd flip up his scoresheets and start diagnosing his opponents. At the back of the clipboard, there are medical indications for some mental illnesses outlined. Mike found this hysterical and grabbed the clipboard to check out the lists of indications.

Round 8

Eric Tran (Calgary AB) is just a funny guy. Today his shirt says, "I put the STUD in STUDY." At first, the final word was in a fold, so I thought it said STUDLY.

Brian Cappelletto (Chicago, IL) got his crack at Nigel Richards (Malaysia) this round. The board is covered in awesomeness, as expected: OOLITES, LEGATOS, ABETTED, HANDFUL, INCREASE, AUREOLA, PICKING, and KNARRY. I learned that you can have HANDSFUL and HANDFULS, but not HANDSFULS*. It



Dave Wiegand and Joel Sherman shake hands before starting their game was Nigel's win.

David Koenig (Silver Spring, MD) played the word BLANK in his game with Conrad Bassett-Bouchard (Piedmont, CA). Stone-faced and dry as could be, Conrad shot back: Don't forget to designate it.

Round 9

So, delighted at reaching a tie with each other, Sam Dick-Onuoha (Dallas, TX) and John Luebkmann (Richmond, VA) turned in their tie result slip together, each holding one side as they put it into the basket. I walk over to their board and John said, "He has a NASPA word! His bingo, PAISANO, is NASPA plus IO." Sam Dick blocked John's hot X play, so he had to settle for INDEXeS for 89. Sam Dick played PURSUED for 87 and the fun HALERU for 20.

Division 3 leader, Bennett Jacobstein, ran a Trivia contest last night. He is well-known for running successful West Coast events. And last night, he ran into the East Coast winner of all things trivia: Judy Cole (Concord, MA). She was a new name to him, but



Katya Lezin, Noah and Hannah Lieberman

not to me! He had about 40 players show up and his system had all of them answer a 30-question written, multiple choice set. The four that did the best went on to the Jeopardy-like final round. Those four were: Michael Early (Fort Worth, TX), Nathan Benedict (Tucson, AZ), Dee Segrest, and Judy Cole. It was Judy's win! Congrats to them all!

Round 10

Division 1 had a Canadian table at #24. And interestingly enough, only one of them was not on the NASPA Canadian Committee! Randall Thomas (Calgary AB) played Siri Tillekeratne (Calgary AB) and Tony Leah (Ajax ON) played Marilyn Wilkins (Richmond BC), the one not on the committee.

Round 11

I finally happen upon Michael Bassett (Port Clinton, OH), who is playing again after breaking his leg badly on registration day. He is enormously thankful to Robin Gates, our activities coordinator, for getting him from the hospital and to John Chew for helping him get into his chair and plow through his luggage looking for meds, etc. He said he arrived during the second game today, just a few minutes too late to join in that round. So, he said he sat there, closed his eyes and listened to the sounds of the tiles being shaken in their tile bags and he said just the sound made him feel better. I know I speak for us all when I say we're happy to have him back!

Round 12

On the operations side of things, Tim Crotty (Metairie#, LA), husband to Lila Crotty, is the data input person for Division 1, our largest division. Reese Daniel (Toronto, ON), son of Robin Pollock Daniel is



Jesse Matthews and Conrad Bassett-Bouchard

doing data entry for Division 2. And showing that family really is best, Chris Wiegand (Portland, OR), wife of Dave Wiegand, is doing data entry for two divisions: 3 and 4. We thank the three of them for their great work and attention to detail. John Chew has implemented two new tsh features to accommodate their requests. One of them came from Reese. Being, perhaps, the only person to EVER read all the tsh documentation from start to finish (John has never done so himself), Reese noticed a feature he wanted wasn't working. Bryan Pepper (Bedford, TX) happened to have a numeric keypad that can be plugged into the mac laptop and he lent it to Reese. When Reese tried to use the data entry option of using periods instead of spaces (spaces being kind of a drag on a keypad), it didn't work. So, John made it work again and everyone is happy.

Joel Sherman (Bronx, NY) is doing so phenomenally well that he is just sort of above commentary. Check out his games in the annotated game section. He is on fire! This round, his roommate at the event is slated to play him. Ross Brown (Ottawa ON) is in 4th place going into this round and there he is: sitting opposite Joel! Hearty congrats to Ross for his strong showing so far! Wow!



Round 14

Our last game of the day! As expected, the Hoang brothers (see photo above): Andy Hoang (Cary, NC) and Kenny Hoang (Cary, NC) finished their game very quickly. It was a 428-378 win for Andy. Kenny played CRE-TINS for 91 and ENSNARES and Andy got down tRIENES. The key to winning for Andy was careful tracking and knowing he had to catch Kenny with tiles. So, Andy blocked up the board a lot and caught his brother with JOTRQ! Andy ends today 9-5 and Kenny is 8-6. The two played over lunch, too, in a casual game, and that one was won by Kenny. These boys from a North Carolina-based family of four children, three boys and one baby sister. Andy, the oldest, is 13 and is one half of the 2009 School SCRABBLE Championship team (along with Erik Salgado). He's participated in three National School SCRABBLE Championships and has one more year of eligibility, next spring. Kenny, is 12, has been to two NSSCs and is

NSC HIGHLIGHTS continued on p. 8

Collins Report

from *COLLINS SCRABBLE PLAY*, p. 2

North America. These pages are designed for North American players who are familiar with the game using the OWL2 lexicon, who may be interested in trying Collins, or just finding out more about it. In particular, there is a list of Collins tournaments, and two 'cheat sheets', designed to introduce the most useful Collins words in the same way as the NSA's 'Important Words to Raise Your Score' sheet.

Collins Tournaments

Since there have already been 12 tournaments this year, I do not attempt to provide a detailed review, but briefly summarize each one.

The 2011 rated Collins year began in February in Boston, MA, over the weekend of Feb 5-6. Kate and Tim Fukawa-Connelly were the organizers. Brian Bowman went 9-3, to beat out 1995 World Champion David Boys, Richard Buck, Bradley Whitmarsh, and Sam Kantimathi. 1307 rated Prasanth Seetharam went 5-7 to gain 138 ratings points. Kate's blog postings on the event featured some of the fun Collins-only words played.

At the Phoenix, AZ event, February 19-21, Arizona player Nathan Benedict beat Mark Kenas and Marty Gabriel by 4 games to go 19-2. Nathan is one of the highest rated Collins players, moving up to 2075 after this event.

In Charlotte, NC, also Feb 19-21, despite being the lowest seed at 1611, Matthew Bernardino won 15-6, with 1 tie, to beat out Sam Kantimathi and Steve Polatnick, gaining 249 points in a field of average rating 1787.

In Bethesda, MD, March 19-20, organized by Ted Gest, longtime Collins expert and coauthor of *Quackle* John O'Laughlin won with 11-3, beating Richard Buck and another longtime Collins player, Bob Linn. Eighth-placed Puneet Sharma, is, like the author, a player who is enjoying the increase in Collins tournaments, having had similar difficulty unlearning words to play OWL2.

Thanks to the bold initiative and work of Travis Chaney, the West Coast World Championship Wordlist Challenge has become one of the largest Collins events in North America since its inception in spring 2009. Held in the historic Ashland Spring Hotel in downtown Ashland, OR, Mar 25-27, 2005 and 2009 National Champion Dave Wiegang went 17-3 to beat Nathan Benedict and John Chew and go over 2000 in all 3 ratings systems (NASPA, NASPA SOWPODS, and WESPA). The road to victory included the word BEJEEZUS against myself, for 142 points.

The Boston Area Tournament (BAT) is another major tournament each year, having run since the early 1980s, currently organized by Sherrie Saint John and John Chew. Al-

though the main event did not offer Collins, the 'late bird' did, and, uniquely in the tournaments described here, there were two divisions. In Division 1, John O'Laughlin, who had defeated the top 15 other TWL players in the invitational division in the main event, won again, beating Marty Gabriel and Jason Keller; and in Division 2, Chris Lipe beat Puneet Sharma and Prashanth Seetharam. One unfortunate player in Division 2 went 0-6, which is unusual — most Collins players, even 'newbies' just trying it out against a much stronger field, usually manage to win a game or two, so this was unlucky.

In Gatlinburg, TN, April 22-24, organized by Ryan Fischer, Kelly McKenzie went 12-8 to beat Brian Bowman (also 12-8), and Bob Linn.

In Portsmouth, NH, May 14-15, again run by Kate and Tim Fukawa-Connelly, John O'Laughlin won again with 9-3, beating world number 9 David Eldar from Australia, and Chris Lipe. John thus raised his rating to 1981.

The Teeny Tiny Tucson series was really tiny with Collins on May 21, just 4 players opting for the lexicon. Nevertheless, their average rating was 1833, and Laurie Cohen beat Sam Kantimathi, Nathan Benedict, and Jim Lamerand.

In Montreal, QC, May 28-29, David Boys beat John O'Laughlin and 2005 World Champion Adam Logan, going 10-4 to their 8-5-1 and 7-6-1. Andrew Golding is another Collins regular, and despite being lower rated at 1615, won a couple of games against opponents of average rating 1943.

The Arden Cup is a major tournament held over Memorial Day weekend, May 28-30, in Skokie, IL, north of Chicago. After hosting the WSC qualifier in 2009, this year, there was a Collins division in its own right for the first time, and Sam Kantimathi saw off all-comers to win 14-4 and gain 99 ratings points. 2001 World Champion Brian Cappelletto also made a return to the international lexicon, placing second at 12-6, and expert Collins regular Mark Kenas was third.

Finally, the North American SCRABBLE Tour (NAST) final in Revere, MA held a one day Collins event on the Sunday after the main event on June 5th, both directed by Sherrie Saint John. Bradley Whitmarsh won on 5-1, with Richard Buck, Carl Durdan, and Mark Kenas all on 3-3.

Other venues have offered to hold Collins divisions if there was sufficient interest, but have so far fallen short. Of note is Austin, TX, where the monthly one day tournament has offered Collins since January. According to organizer Geoff Thevenot, 3 Texas players are interested, but they need a fourth for the division to go ahead. Likewise, Connie Creed in Philadelphia, PA, has offered divisions, but so far there have not

FUTURE OF COLLINS continued on p. 7

¡Viva la Diferencia!

by Geoff Thevenot

Last weekend my friend Jean and I got to see something live that not many American scrabblers have seen: a tournament in Spanish. A groundbreaking one, at that: the first sanctioned international Spanish tournament held in the United States. There were 14 players — seven from the U.S., six from Mexico and one from Costa Rica. The tournament was held at the home of one of the players who lives here in Austin. We came to be there because one of the players, Travis Chaney (Ashland, OR), is also an expert tournament player in English and one of my good friends in the scene. He came down from Oregon for the occasion. We dropped by around lunchtime and got to meet everyone and see a little bit of the tournament in progress.

Why would Austin be a prime location for a Spanish tournament, you may wonder? The answer is that there are only two Spanish SCRABBLE clubs in the U.S., and one of them is here. The other is in Miami. The big Spanish SCRABBLE countries are Argentina, Venezuela and Spain, I gather. Most other South American countries have some presence in the game, Mexico has some but not that much yet, and there are a few Caribbean players.

A lot of what I saw and heard reminded me of what I've read about the early days of tournament SCRABBLE play in English. For the most part, Spanish play has evolved independently of the much larger English tournament scene. The common point of origin is the box-top rules most people are familiar with, but tournament play by necessity expands and modifies those rules quite a bit.... I should add here that, while English play has had the benefit of 20-25 more years of polishing its rules and practices and it seems clear that Spanish SCRABBLE would do well to take a look at how we've refined our game, there's nothing wrong with doing many or even most things a little differently. As long as the players are happy and the competition is fair, viva la diferencia!

Some observations:

- Many things that have been around a long time in the English scene are fairly new to Spanish. For example, Spanish Protiles only recently became available. Before the advent of Protiles, Spanish players had the rule that you couldn't count for yourself how many tiles were left in the bag; you had to call over a director or helper to do that for you.

- Spanish SCRABBLE play allows each player 30 minutes on the clock instead of the 25 used in English. Overtime costs 10 points per minute, just like in English.

- The sequence of a turn is different. In Spanish, you do everything before you hit the SCRABBLE EN ESPAÑOL *continued on p. 10*

The Future of Collins

from COLLINS REPORT, p. 6

been enough takers. Other venues offering divisions included Kelowna, BC (Jesse Matthews), Wilmington, DE (Richard Popper), and Hancock, MA (Annette Tedesco). Thus, the majority of offered Collins venues have attracted sufficient players, but there are a significant number which have not.

At the time of this writing, over 30 further tournaments or divisions are scheduled (or offered) for the remainder of the year, including Albany, NY, Bethesda, MD (again), Akron, OH, Victoria, BC, Old Greenwich, CT, the 'Lunch Bird' at the Nationals in Dallas, TX in August, Dover, DE, Seattle, WA, Stamford, CT, and several in Austin, Philadelphia, and Toronto, including the Toronto International Open in September. With a minimum first prize of \$3000, this latter event expects to attract many top players. Tournaments are also beginning to appear for 2012, in particular, Sam Kantimathi is organizing a large event in Las Vegas in February.

The Future of Collins

Given the increasing number of tournaments, the next year will be a very interesting one for Collins play in North America.

It is notable that a significant fraction of North America's top rated players (e.g., 6 of the top 10, 11 of the top 25, as of June 16th, 2011), are already regular Collins players. If a few dozen more were to switch, it is plausible that the Collins division at many tournaments would become the de facto Division 1, as happened in Britain back in the late 1990s when SOWPODS (as it was then) became rated.

It remains to be seen how much Collins will percolate through the North American scene. In the author's (biased) opinion, the essential problem is that players are happy as they are, and have no desire to try and play two lexicons, even if they are interested in principle.

And who can blame them? It was similar in Britain in the 1990s: most people were against switching, and the change was driven from the top. Whether or not this will happen here is not clear. Many players are also likely intimidated by the high average ratings of the Collins divisions.

For the lexicon itself, the current messages coming from the dictionary committees are also, unfortunately, discouraging. The NASPA committee has announced that the OWL3 is currently scheduled for publication in 2013. Given the date of Jan 1st 2012 for the update to CSW12, such a publication would outdate the CSW12 list after just one year, leaving the international lexicon with an incomplete incorporation of the North American list for the first time since the lexicon was first devised at the Inaugural World Championships in 1991, and providing a

significant disincentive to switching. Hopefully, this situation will be avoided.

Despite this uncertainty, these are exciting times for North American players interested in the international lexicon. For the first time, a viable scene exists, and, although it remains to be seen how quickly it will grow, a core of regular Collins attendees frequents the tournaments, and many more have tried out the game. The Causeway Grand Slam promises to take the game to a new level internationally, which should encourage more players to try the lexicon.

The original article also included a table of results of all NASPA SOWPODS-rated events this year; NASPA members can more easily find this on our website.

AB Emeritus Member Robert Kahn

by Chris Cree

Mr. Robert Kahn has stepped down from his day-to-day duties as an Advisory Board member after approximately 22 years of service to the tournament SCRABBLE playing community and has been named NASPA Advisory Board Member Emeritus joining Matthew Hopkins as the only other person with that honor.

NASPA has Robert to thank for incredible amounts of volunteerism and diligence in getting NASPA incorporated 2½ years ago and helping throughout the formative process. John D. Williams, Jr., Executive Director of the NSA adds:

Of the thousands of people who've participated in the organized Scrabble scene over the years, few have made more important contributions than Robert Kahn.

In addition to a quarter century of competitive play as a top expert, Kahn has also been a key behind-the-scenes figure in the running of the National SCRABBLE Association (NSA) and, more recently, its sister organization, the North American Scrabble Players Association. Kahn, an attorney with both corporate and private practice experience, has been the NSA's volunteer legal advisor for nearly 20 years. He was also the longest serving member of the NSA Advisory Board in the organization's history. In both capacities, he has helped guide the group through various legal situations, crafted legal and general organizational policies and proved himself to be a vital contributor in any situation in which he participated. Scrabble players everywhere owe Robert Kahn a huge debt of gratitude for being one of the premier caretakers of our beloved game.

John D. Williams Jr.

Executive Director
National SCRABBLE Association

Thanks so much, Robert.

Simple Site Selection

by Lisa Kessler

For all NASPA Tournament Directors and Organizers:

Imagine putting together your wish list of everything you'd like for your next tournament: your location, the playing room, the set up, the players' needs, etc. Seriously. Make your list, with every last detail itemized of what you desire. Now, imagine having all of that looked after, negotiated and arranged — and not having to do any of that work yourself! And, still fantasizing? — imagine that it won't cost you a thing!

That pretty much describes my recent experience working with Dana Gaccione, a Global Accounts Manager of HelmsBriscoe Associates. I was about to start planning the 27th Kingston Cup, the annual Toronto vs Montreal interclub face-off. Planning this event has not been without its problems: having very little to spend, an expensive University town, inflexible hotel operators who don't seem all that interested in my small-potatoes group...and then, Dana's name was passed on to me.

According to HelmsBriscoe promotional literature:

Since 1992 HelmsBriscoe has helped our clients do more with less. Regardless of how big or small your next event may be, HelmsBriscoe Associates will help you streamline the process and deliver a successful event anywhere in the world.

HelmsBriscoe will research, evaluate and present the ideal venue for your event based on your specific needs. We send the Request for Proposals, track down the answers, follow-up with the hotels and manage the entire process on your behalf. Not only will you save valuable time, you will benefit from our purchasing power and industry relationships, which often times translates into better availability and pricing. And there is no cost to our clients for our services.

Obviously, I had nothing to lose... so I sent Dana an email, detailing everything I wanted, as well as some history of the frustrations I'd encountered in the past. Within the week, I'd received a beautiful spread sheet highlighting 4 hotels and all their particulars. In short order, with my communications with Dana, and hers with the hotels, we had that narrowed down to two, and then, the final choice. Contract delivered, ready to be signed. Ironically, we're back at the same hotel we've been to for several years, but, this time, with all of my conditions met — and, most satisfying for me, with none of the aggravation I'd experienced before!

I can't imagine planning another off-site tournament and *not* using Dana's services! For more information, or to contact Dana directly, check out www.helmsbriscoe.com or Dana Gaccione <dgaccione@helmsbriscoe.com>

NSC Highlights

from *NSC 2011 HIGHLIGHTS*, p. 5

happy to report that he has two more years of eligibility.



Nigel Richards and Joel Sherman at Board 1

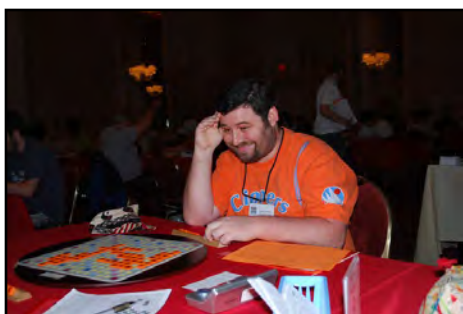
In the midst of all these stories, it is well worth mentioning that Joel Sherman (Bronx, NY) is the only undefeated person left in this event and he's doing this in Division 1, mostly at the annotated top table. If you have never checked out the annotated game section, you really should. His run is impressive and his fans elated: Go Joel!

Round 15

Last night, Division 1 leader, John Robertson, headed the NASPA director's meeting. It was a 90-minute gathering attended by 55 or so NASPA directors. Topics discussed ranged from attracting new players, keeping existing players, growth of NASPA overall, Code of Conduct consistency, and so much more. Look for minutes soon! The meeting was fun, but the reception afterwards was even better. A salon on the first floor was opened just for directors and their guests. Light appetizers were offered on doily-lined silver trays and an open bar with soft drinks and wine was made available.

The two best dressed players in Division 1 this round squared off against each other. It was the battle of the blue pinstripes. As it turns out, Robert Quigley (New Haven, CT) had the better game this round, defeating Chris Cree (Dallas, TX), 402-376.

And so, the giant has fallen. And to an earth science graduate student from Berkeley. Jesse Day (Berkeley, CA) did what no one has been able to do for two days: defeat Joel Sherman (Bronx, NY). Dan Stock wrote



The very orange Jason Keller



Chris Cree and Mad Palazzo

a second tableau for Joel, where it mentions his 14-game winning streak. As he put it up this morning, he said to himself, "I sure hope this doesn't jinx Joel..." So, Joel has someone he can blame now! Anyway, of this win, Jesse said "I have been the luckiest human being on this planet." Joel jokingly said, "Yeah, he's a Lou Gehrig for sure!" Jesse won, 478-387 and has been averaging 457 per game at this NSC. Please do check out their game in the annotated section of the web site!

Phenom Jack Overby (Rosemount, MN) just beat Sam Rosin (Bernardsville, NJ), 567-372. Holding AEEINTT, he found ORIENTATE from the OR, a nice 9!

Round 19

I hear a sweet Southern voice, "Sherrie, I was trying to find you! I played PEROXIDE for 194!" I look up and see Marlene Milkent (Hattiesburg, MS). She just loved her last game! She got to play FILATURE as a double-double and DEVONIAN. She won with a 569. Her opponent, Sandy Nang (Malibu, CA) said she was happy for Marlene.

Round 20

Division 3's second table, Suhas Rao (Apex, NC) vs. Jason Randolph (San Antonio, TX). A high-scoring game all the way around, Suhas played INFLATER for 86, REPAYiNG for 140, RETINOL for 63, and QI/QI for 60ish. Jason played AMNIOTES for 90 and lost, 400-530. Suhas has taken over first place in their division. Of this last game, his score, his place in the event, he smiles wide and shakes his head in disbelief.

Round 21

Chris Cree (Dallas, TX) and Dave Wiegand (Portland, OR) are sitting at their com-



Robert Felman and Brian Galebach

pleted board. About 95% of the games are done at this point. The two of them keep looking down, Chris looks up, he sighs. I move in... and dare to ask how it went. Chris said, "I lost, 482-483, with no blanks and no Ss." Chris played a 149-point triple-triple, EMIGRANT.



The podium at the Town Hall

Round 22

About thirty players gathered in a corner of the Crystal Ballroom foyer last evening at 7:30 to hear a gorgeous performance of Mozart's Clarinet concerto. Brian Galebach (Columbia, MD) was on piano and Robert Felman (Nokomis, FL) was on clarinet.

Around 125 people showed up for last night's Town Hall meeting, which took place in the playing room. The National SCRABBLE Association's John D. Williams, Jr., was an early speaker, discussing the state of School SCRABBLE (great stuff!). Peter Sokolowski, Editor at Large at Merriam-Webster also spoke briefly and said he'll be around the next two days, sitting with the NSA's Katie Schultz. Then, representatives from the NASPA committees spoke briefly about what their committees have been up to. They have been so busy! Our 2012 NSC will be held at the Royal Pacific Resort in Orlando, FL, so watch the NASPA page for more details on that! John Fultz (Springfield, IL) was at the Town Hall, typing away as he does, so I'm sure minutes of the meeting will soon be available.

One of the biggest contributors to the success of our trip in Dallas has been Robin Gates. For the second time in two years she has helped us make the off hours better. This year she spent all day Friday at the airport, more than 10 hours, helping people get onto shared shuttles to the hotel. The DFW airport is enormous, too, it has its own zip code. No idea how she managed that. For the ride back to the airport, she has scheduled larger vans/busses that can take groups of 20! That will be great.

She's gotten groups together on Saturday and Sunday evenings to take in Rangers vs. Cleveland Indians games and helped groups get tickets for the Little Shop of Horrors show. She's sent people to the Addison Circle

NSC HIGHLIGHTS continued on p. 9

NSC Highlights

from NSC 2011 HIGHLIGHTS, p. 8

Park and Water Feature and given families free passes to the Dallas Museum of Art and Nasher Sculpture Center courtesy of JP Morgan Investments – Private Banking. Some players wanted to visit outlet malls and she sent them to ones in Allen and Grapevine. She’s made restaurant reservations and recommendations and she’s helped secure media to interview the players. On top of this, she’s taken on the side jobs such as running to Staples and providing hospital shuttle rides!



Jack Titzman

Channel 11 News interviewed Jack Titzman (Magnolia, TX), Joey Titzman (Magnolia, TX), and Stefan Fatsis (Washington, DC) between rounds 22 and 23. Yesterday, Channel 33 was here and they interviewed Jack, Alan Stern (Shadow Hills, CA), and Carl Johnson (Beaverton, OR). Robin Gates arranged these interviews and we thank her!

[Ed.: We are delighted that Robin will be with us again next year in Orlando!]

Miss Andrea Ciliberti (Van Nuys, CA) is a new player. She told Division 4 assistant Amy Krafchick that she won no games day 1, one game day two, and three games day 3. She is excited! A budding actress, she came to the event a bit underprepared. One of her opponents suggested she learn her 2s overnight and she did. She arrived this morning having committed them to memory. So, watch out for her!

How does 650 sound for a score!? Gregg Speicher (McKinney, TX) calls me over to his losing game to a happy Jeff Fiszbein (South Lyon, MI), 367-650. Jeff played ROILIEST,



Sherrie Saint John at work



Subas Rao demonstrates his over-the-top tile drawing technique

but the rocket engine to his score was the one-two punch of BREAKAGE, hooking the B in the triple lane, followed by BreADBOX for 230 points! GULP! No slouch, Gregg played DEAREST and the fun TZIGANES through the N.

Round 23

Merriam-Webster has donated four of their gorgeous visual dictionaries for us to give as prizes in the event. I wish I were playing!

An incredible game between Brian Cappelletto (Chicago, IL) and Kenji Matsumoto (Aiea, HI) took place at Division 1’s table 3. The board was WIDE open. No idea who played what but: WIMBLED, RIOtOUS, REUNION, ACARIDS, NAIVETES, POLEMISTS, EXTERNE, BROACHES. It was so close, too! A 514-508 win for Kenji. I walked over to get a photo and the board had been moved a lot to see if Brian could have eked out a win. Kenji kindly put the tiles back so I could get a shot. They joked about how impossible it was to shut it down, it was that open.

Round 24

Orry Swift (Houston, TX) sits down opposite me as I’m gazing over a completed game (not his), contemplating if I could find even one of the plays. He looked dejected. I asked how it went. He said “I lost by 10 to Nigel Richards (Malaysia). I ran out of time. It was an incredible game, fascinating analysis; was crazy. I passed 7 with 8 in the bag because his play told me that he had the N but not the S because he played the J for 11. In the pass, I threw away three Is and got



The rest of the NSC staff



SCRABBLE future: youth players at the NSC

the S. Nigel blocked the spot. I had only 30 seconds left on my clock and I just couldn’t work it out in time. If I’d had five minutes...” He went on to describe that the midgame required complex analysis and each turn took 3-4 minutes to work out. Orry did get down NIHILIST as a 90-point double-double, which put him back into the game, but Nigel came back with a blank/S bingo and he could never build a lead.

Round 25

Former National and World SCRABBLE champions, Joel Sherman (Bronx, NY) and Brian Cappelletto (Chicago, IL) squared off this round. I spotted EPHOrAL, TAE-nIAE, UNITAGES, GOBONY, DIURON, and DONZEL on the board. The air was so tense, I stood about 10 feet away. Only when it was long over did I get near. They had done a recount and Brian won by 2 points, 370-368. wow.

Round 28

Joey Mallick (Cape Elizabeth, ME) has now won 9 games in a row: wow Joey. Similarly, Joe Edley (Port Jefferson, NY) won all his games today, so he’s at 7 in a row, hav-



Stefan Fatsis signs copies of the new edition of Word Freak (above), and reads from it (below)



SCRABBLE en Español

from MYSTERY WORDS, p. 6

clock: place your tiles, add up and announce your score, write your score down, draw new tiles, THEN hit the clock. If an opponent wants to challenge the play, he or she must do so before you draw a replacement tile, as in English. As was the case in English play early on, the Spanish game has yet to adopt the “hold” rule. There’s one more pertinent rule in here: once you place your first tile on the board for a play, you must play in that spot — you can rearrange transposed letters and such, but you can’t take your play back or decide to play it somewhere else on the board. This is necessary because otherwise there would be no way to challenge — a player challenged could just take the play back.

- As for writing the score down, I’m not absolutely sure about this, but it appears to be a requirement that you write down the main word formed by the play as well. I would support that rule for English play, to be honest — score checks and recounts are much harder when the players don’t write the words down along with the scores.

- Spanish play is free challenge, so there are a lot of challenges. They have a novel way of addressing the problem of challenging plays frivolously just to buy time to think, which is a problem with free challenge. As is done in England and some other places, but not in North America, challenges are handled by runners. When the runner comes over to take the challenge slip to the computer, he or she brings a piece of square cardboard the size of the game board and covers the board with it so the players cannot study the board while the challenge is being adjudicated. (They also must put their tiles facedown when on neutral time, as we do.)

- Weird rule: score sheets aren’t allowed to have the tile distribution preprinted on them. However, there’s nothing prohibiting a player from writing the distribution on his or her score sheet manually once the game starts, and most of the better players do so. That sounds alien to an English player now, but in the earliest days of English play it was debated whether tracking sheets should be allowed and what rules should govern them.

- Spanish play does have an authoritative list of words like our OWL or CSW, but that’s a recent development. The word source has been and still is the Diccionario de la Real Academia Española, but before the list, there were a whole bunch of guidelines in their rule book for how to judge from the dictionary whether a word was valid for SCRABBLE play or not. I guess that was true in English in the early days, too.

- Spanish play has fewer words from 2-5 letters than English does, but many more at longer lengths. I gather this has mostly to do

with all the verb conjugations in Spanish — the French list is about like the Spanish one in terms of how many words of each length there are. The effect on the game: more bingos (called “scrabbles” in Spanish lingo, which makes more sense, I guess; what does “bingo” have to do with SCRABBLE play?) and, at the other end, more racks where exchanging is the right play. There are eleven single-instance tiles in Spanish (we only have JKQXZ), and having an unplayable tile in the endgame is much more common than in English. The supply of vowels is very important, since a rack full of consonants is usually a disaster...Travis says that, in his experience, the English game is markedly more strategy-oriented, though top Spanish players can and do deploy effective strategy and tactics where the situation calls for it.

- Tournaments in Spanish are small and about all of them are opens. There’s a huge gap between the top players and everyone else, both in ability and in the way they prepare and play. The stronger players play studiously, but the rank and file players tend not to do so — most of them don’t even track tiles, for example. From what I’ve heard, the same split existed in the early days of English play also.

- The big tournament in Spanish is their World Championship, an annual event, unlike our biennial English-language event (to be held in Warsaw this October). It was in Costa Rica last year, and will be in Mexico City this year.

- It seems like pairing methods are a work in progress in the Spanish game. I saw on a laptop there what looked to be pairing software, but I think it must have been more just record-keeping software. The tournament was re-paired manually after each round. I think they were using some sort of Swiss pairings, but I’m not sure. Maybe one of the tournament software programs used in tournaments in English can be fitted for use in Spanish tournaments too. [Ed.: tsh is currently available in English, German, Norwegian, Polish and Thai, but no one has yet asked for a Spanish edition.]

Travis finished the tournament 6–4 (“not bad for a gringo”, he added), which should be enough to qualify him to be one of the U.S. representatives at the Spanish World Championship. He went last year as well and finished quite respectably for a non-native speaker who’d only been playing the Spanish game for a year or so. What he’s doing here is very difficult — I switch-hit between two English word lists, and that’s challenging, but at least the smaller list is a subset of the bigger one, so when I play the bigger one I can play every word in the smaller one. And the differences between OWL and Collins are nothing compared to the differences between either one and a list in an entirely different language. Travis did say that he gets tripped

up in Spanish play by his English knowledge sometimes. No surprise there.

Anyway, I really enjoyed getting to see the game and meet everyone, and I’d like to see the English and Spanish scenes get closer. I talked with a couple of people there about the possibility of arranging some joint activity in Austin.... I’ll be interested to see where that might lead.

A fuller version of this article appeared originally on Geoff’s blog: <http://scrambledand-unscrambled.blogspot.com/2011/08/spanish-scrabble.html>

New Record: Lowest-Scoring Game

by the Ratings & Recognition Committee

For a few days earlier this month, Chris Lipe (Rome, NY) and Leesa Berahovich (Berkeley, CA) were holders of one of the odder official records listed in NASPAWiki: lowest-scoring game.

On August 8, in Round 15 of the National SCRABBLE Championship in Dallas, Leesa began the game by playing ZONAS* keeping CN. As she hoped, Chris challenged it off; he did not however go on to make a play using the A or E she needed for CANZONAS or CANZONES. Instead, he fished a U from ELORSTU. (Collins players may need to be told that none of their three bingos in this rack are playable in TWL.) Leesa then reasoned that Chris must surely now have a bingo with an A or an E, and that she now really needed her bingo not to fall behind, so she passed. Chris drew an R, and tossed it back in. Leesa passed. Chris now had TOLLERS, but rather than risk beginning the game with it, he passed. Under NASPA rules, six consecutive scoreless turns end a game, so he won by a score of -7 to -18, a total of -25.

After the record was announced, it was reported that Denise Mahnken (Long Beach, NY) had won a game against Marie Gier (Gainesville, FL) in Atlanta, GA on May 29, 2010 by a score of -10 to -16, a total of -26, and the records page was updated again.

Liability Insurance Update

by the Executive Committee

If you are the director of a NASPA-sanctioned club or tournament and your venue requires proof that you carry liability insurance for your activity, please note that we have received a new annual insurance certificate and posted it to our website as of this month. You can find it in the Director Services section of NASPA Member Services; it is in Adobe Acrobat (PDF) format, so you might need to install a reader for that format to view and print this document.

Canadian Committee Elections

by John Robertson

As always at this time of year, the annual nomination period for two of the six seats on NASPA's Canadian Committee (CC) will begin on September 1. This period extends to October 15.

The CC is comprised of six members who determine policies that pertain specifically to NASPA's Canadian players. The CC creates policies to determine, among other things, the qualification process for the Canadian National Scrabble Championship, and the Canadian teams for various international Scrabble events. Members each serve staggered three-year terms, with two members' terms expiring on December 31 of each year. This year the terms of David Boys and Siri Tillekeratne both expire. David Boys had indicated he will be taking a hiatus from the CC and therefore won't run for reelection.

The two vacant seats are filled by a November election in which all Canadian NASPA members may vote online or by paper ballot. (Last year 70 Canadians cast ballots in which John Robertson and Jeff Parsons were both reelected.) If you wish to nominate someone for election or enter the electoral process yourself, please contact the CC through the email link on the NASPA website.

Advisory Board News

by the Advisory Board

The NASPA Advisory Board (AB) convened for its annual in-person meeting at the National SCRABBLE Championship in Dallas, TX on August 6.

The following newly elected members were welcomed to the board: Siri Tillekeratne (Calgary, AB) and Jan Cardia (Wilmington, DE). Tillekeratne had been acclaimed in the Western District. Cardia with 31% of the vote, defeating fellow contenders Shelley Ubeika (28%), Betsey Wood (25%) and Doug Brockmeier (16%).

The following newly appointed members were welcomed: Kate Fukawa-Connelly (Kittery, ME) and Shelley Ubeika (Mississauga, ON). The following outgoing members were thanked for their service: Betty Bergeron (Calgary, AB), Rod MacNeil (Cambridge, MA) and Lynda Wise (Toronto, ON). Robert Kahn (Plantation, FL) was thanked for his service and awarded emeritus board member status (see page 7). The board agreed on principles for a monthly schedule of conference calls for the coming year, and the schedule has since been distributed to the board.

Lastly, the board voted unanimously to rescind its Cruise Control ruling of January 18, 2010; SCRABBLE cruises and tours are henceforth subject to the same separation requirements as any other tournaments.

Review: "How a hobby can shape cognition..."

by John Chew

As psychologists delve into how exactly the human mind performs the task of reading, we SCRABBLE players have been catching their interest for our highly specialized approach to learning words. One paper in *Memory and Cognition* recently drew a lot of media attention: in their paper, "How a hobby can shape cognition: visual word recognition in competitive Scrabble players", four researchers from the University of Calgary, Ian S. Hargreaves, Penny M. Pexman, Lenka Zdrzilova and Peter Sargios report on their testing of hypotheses related to word recognition using tournament SCRABBLE players vs. control subjects.

It is currently thought that the activity of word recognition involves recall of three different types of information: spelling, sound and meaning. This is supported by testing involving the so-called Lexical Decision Task (LDT), where subjects are asked to decide as quickly as they can whether or not a string of letters spells an acceptable word. It turns out, for example, that words with concrete meanings (e.g., TRUCK) are easier for people to quickly recognize than abstract words (e.g., TRUTH). To measure how the visual appearance of the spelling of a word affects the LDT, the researchers recruited SCRABBLE players from NASPA Club #374 in Calgary. They hypothesized that SCRABBLE players ought to be faster than average at recognizing words spelled vertically.

The results of the tests were as follows. SCRABBLE players are generally faster at LDT than control subjects; everyone finds vertical words harder to recognize than horizontal words, but SCRABBLE players are slowed down less; and everyone finds concrete words easier to recognize, but SCRABBLE players are slowed down less by abstract words as well.

The authors conclude that SCRABBLE players may be able to train themselves to read vertically, and that brains may in general be capable of such adaptation. (As a native reader of Japanese, which is often written vertically, this brings to my mind American military research conducted during WWII into the edibility of raw fish.) They cite research suggesting that the reason why concrete words are easier to recognize is that our brains recognize both the meanings and appearances of words, and a word which has both such cues easily retrievable can be remembered more quickly than one which has just one. They suggest that this model needs to be expanded to account for people like SCRABBLE players who associate other cues with words (presumably, like alphagrams).

Thanks to Prof. Pexman for providing us with a preprint copy of this interesting paper.

Know the Rules

by John Robertson

One of the interesting things about Scrabble, from a director's point of view, is that the games are largely self-officiated. Directors generally intervene only when summoned by a player. However, there are some situations stipulated by the rules where a director is required to intervene.

Rule II.C. lists five situations where directors can intervene in a game without being summoned. It is important to note that in all these cases, observers (such as players at nearby games) are also permitted to intervene to rectify a problem. Here are the five situations:

(1) you may suggest a player request a second opinion if you think a ruling or word judge adjudication is incorrect;

(2) you may prompt a manual word judge to refer to Long List to adjudicate a word that is 10-letters long or longer;

(3) you should intervene when you notice a rack with more than seven tiles or a board containing disconnected tiles;

(4) you should inform the players of stray tiles in their area; and

(5) you should inform the players if you notice a game in progress where neither player's clock is running.

Regarding word adjudications, since computerized word judging is the norm practically everywhere, scenarios 1 and 2 rarely come up any more. However, the other three scenarios come up quite frequently. The purpose of the rule is to ensure the game proceeds fairly so that neither player unfairly benefits from an irregularity.

It is also important to realize when directors and/or others are not allowed to intervene. For example, if the wrong player's clock is running, it should not be mentioned. Likewise, if someone observes a scoring error, it should not be mentioned either. Both those scenarios are considered "game awareness" situations, so only those players involved in the game may catch the errors and correct them. Along those same lines, once a game has ended, if the players forget to account for overtime penalties or tiles left on the rack, nothing should be said until the result slip has been signed and submitted.

Players watching another game must also be mindful not to influence its outcome by making comments or engaging in actions that might prompt or suppress a challenge. If you want to check the validity of a word during a game in progress, step well away from the board — out of the sight of both players — before doing so.

Mystery Words Clue 3

from MYSTERY WORDS, p. 4

Both words are names of weapons.

MYSTERY WORDS continued on p. 12



Chris Cree and Thai association head Amnuay Ploysangngam

NSC Highlights

from NSC 2011 HIGHLIGHTS, p. 9

ing defeated Trey Wright (Sierra Madre, CA) this round, 434-425. It was a great moment, when their game wrapped up. Joe and Trey were deep into an endgame analysis, many tiles on the sides of the board, Trey's hair raked between his fingers. The only kibbitzers were Brian Cappelletto (Chicago, IL) and Dave Wiegand (Portland, OR). It was a fun NSC winner consultation moment!

Round 29

After games were over last night, several of us gathered to listen to Stefan Fatsis (Washington, DC) talk about *Word Freak* in the Crystal Ballroom foyer. He started off thanking everyone for taking him into the game,



Nigel Richards congratulates Kenji Matsumoto

glanced over the standings and read off the names of folks he knew that were playing due to the book. He spoke about meeting Mike Lean (Washington, DC) on Amtrak, hearing from School SCRABBLE kids who play in adult tournaments due to the book, and receiving Facebook messages from casual players everywhere. He read a portion of the new chapter that has been added to this 10th anniversary printing. We quickly sold out of the 75 copies of his book that Penguin Books had kindly rushed us for the reading.

John Chew reports that one of his kids asked him this morning, "Daddy, why is this tournament so short?" I daresay he is the only one that finds this tournament short!

Suhas Rao (Apex, NC) has just won Division 3! By defeating Jason Randolph (San Antonio, TX), 390-279, he is now Gibso-

nized. Hearty congratulations to the 12-year-old champ!

Round 30

A recount is going on at Division 1's table 2. RESULTED, ESTRONE, VAUNTIE, GA?ARENE, BRAINED, CHANNELS are on the board. They are interrupted by Jesse Day (Berkeley, CA). He lost by more than 300 to Nigel Richards (Malaysia) at table 1 and he was sure it would be Nigel and Kenji at board 1 for the marbles. Kenji was sure that it wasn't him. He'd lost, if the recount held up, to Jim by 110. This made Kenji 10 points short of playing Nigel. Jim won, 447-342, if it held up.

The gears are turning tightly in Division 2. Matt Canik (Austin, TX) has to win his game against Richard Spence (Tucson, AZ) to keep in the fight for first. And two more youngsters are fighting it out at table 2: Daniel Citron (Chicago, IL) vs. Stephen Sneed (Fort Worth, TX). I find out later that Richard won the game this round and won the tournament. He admits to having incredible tiles in the game. Matt played RESENTS for 71 and Richard got down DownSIZE for 90, TEGUmINA for 82, AJEE for 54, and REQUIN for 79. This relentless scoring led to a 488-343 win for Richard. In the last round today, Matt will have to play Daniel.

Chris Cree (Dallas, TX) stood around joking with Nigel Richards (Malaysia) and he congratulated Richard Spence (Tucson, AZ) on his impressive win. Richard won Division 4 at last year's NSC, so this is beginning to be a habit. Nigel joked, "looks like you'll be playing with us next year." Richard smiled sheepishly and nodded in agreement.

Round 31

A beaming Joyce Stock (Rocky River, OH) just lost this last round game to Randy Forrester (Santa Fe, NM), 335-397. This means that Randy wins 1st place in their division! Joyce says, "We played four times. He won two and I won two. He just won the one that counted!"

Awards Ceremony

We started the ceremony a bit before the posted hour with certificates from the NASPA Recognition Committee. Many of the recipients were not at the NSC and of the ones who played in the NSC, only a few were present. Chris Cree (Dallas, TX) handed out certificates and posed with the players there that included Richard Spence (Tucson, AZ), Cheryl Melvin (Muskegon, MI) (twice!), and Sam Kantimathi (Sacramento, CA).

Joe Edley (Port Jefferson, NY) took the microphone and helped to present the Rose Award (donated for Rose Kreiswirth, a beloved SCRABBLE champion no longer with us) to Katya Lezin (Charlotte, NC). She was overcome with emotion for the award and hugged Chris Cree (Dallas, TX) for a long time in front of the big board. She finally

NSC HIGHLIGHTS continued on p. 13



From top to bottom: Chris Cree congratulating Division 2 winner Richard Spence; Chris Cree congratulating Division 3 winner Suhas Rao; Chris Cree congratulating Division 4 winner Randy Forrester; Peter Sokolowski (left) of Merriam-Webster presenting a copy of his company's Visual Dictionary to Hannah Lieberman for her eighth-place finish in Division 4, Chris Cree looks on.

Mystery Words Clue 4

from MYSTERY WORDS, p. 11

The five letters common to both words are BILPW, and the words you're looking for are the only two eight-letter words that have those five letters. What are the words? Answer to appear next issue.

NSC Highlights

from NSC 2011 HIGHLIGHTS, p. 12

pulled away, saying, "This is getting awkward." However, she was anything but awkward, smiling through a veil of tears, thanking everyone. It was certainly an emotional highlight of the ceremony!

In addition to cash prizes for top finishers and auxillary prizes (\$25 for high win, high loss, low in, high play, tuff luck), players received a bunch of swag from Zyzzyva for the High Z Word, and those just below the money received donated copies of Letterati in divisions 3 and 4; Bob's Bible; and Merriam-Webster's Visual Dictionary.

Everyone photographed in the Awards Ceremony photos was there to receive his/her award, and those not in attendance should contact NASPA about receiving those prizes. All large top-finishing prize monies would be sent out in the mail within a few days. Each division winner received a lovely plaque when they posed in front of the big board!

At the end of the ceremony, Chris awarded more plaques for Lifetime Achievements (playing 5000 tournament games) to Siri Tillekeratne (Calgary AB), Sam Kantimathi (Sacramento, CA), and Jan Cardia (Wilmington, DE); others were sent out by mail.

It was fun to celebrate all the excellence. Though we couldn't get the shy Nigel Richards (Malaysia) to talk to us, he did pose for many photos in front of the big board with other winners and attendees.

Thanks to Mary Rhoades on her remarkable work again this year. We will miss her running our championships, but she promises she will attend if she can, so we'll see her!

See you in Orlando!

In Memoriam

by the Bulletin Committee

The competitive SCRABBLE community recently lost two much-loved players.

Esla Ewida (Jersey City, NJ) died in a four-alarm fire that gutted her house and spread to three neighbouring buildings on July 31st. People wrote of her "she was deeply involved in programs for the church, and well loved in the community", "I feel sorry for anyone who never got to spend any time with Esla... or better yet, play poker with her", "this was a woman who truly loved life and having fun", "a delightful lady, always cheerful, smiling and friendly", "perfect at making people feel welcome and glad to be there". She was a player committed to giving back to the game, involved in the discussions that led to the 2007 Players Championship (and therefore to NASPA itself), where she volunteered as division assistant in Division 2.

Stan Williams (West Chester, PA) died suddenly in hospital on August 14th soon after developing severe abdominal pain. Players reacted with shock online, describing him variously as "the picture of health", "smart, kind and had a great sense of humor", "a great guy and fun to be with", "a real gentleman, funny and a good SCRABBLE player", "one of the nicest and most sportsmanlike people in our community", "I wish there were more people like Stan in both SCRABBLE and the world". In addition to being a familiar sight on the tournament circuit, Stan volunteered coaching SCRABBLE as part of the After School Activities Partnerships (ASAP) programme. His daughters Donna Gotshall and Lisa Schmoyer have kindly shared a memorial flyer (see below) that they prepared for their father.

Top Active Players

The following are the top 50 active rated members in the NASPA (TWL) rating system, as of August 1, 2011.



Nigel Richards, Adam Logan, David Gibson

1. 2140 Richards, Nigel (MYS)
2. 2082 Logan, Adam (ON)
3. 2075 Gibson, David (SC)
4. 2043 Cappelletto, Brian (IL)
5. 2033 Wiegand, Dave (OR)
6. 2019 Johnson, Carl (OR)
7. 2004 Thevenot, Geoff (TX)
8. 2000 Swift, Orry (TX)
9. 1999 Appel, Scott (NJ)
10. 1994 Mallick, Joey (ME)
11. 1991 Wapnick, Joel (QC)
12. 1988 Benedict, Nathan (AZ)
13. 1986 Stern, Rafi (WA)
14. 1973 Sherman, Joel (NY)
15. 1971 Tiekert, Ron (FL)
15. 1971 Weinstein, Ian (FL)
17. 1970 Matsumoto, Kenji (HI)
18. 1967 Leong, James (BC)
19. 1966 Edley, Joe (NY)
20. 1964 Bassett-Bouchard, Conrad (CA)
21. 1963 Tran, Eric (AB)
22. 1958 Cohen, Laurie (AZ)
22. 1958 O'Laughlin, John (MA)
24. 1948 Nemitrmansuk, Pakorn (THA)
25. 1936 Walton, Noah (OR)
26. 1935 Luebkekmann, John (VA)
27. 1933 Berofsky, Evan (ON)
28. 1928 Okosagah, Sammy (MD)
28. 1928 Sujjayakorn, Panupol (THA)
30. 1922 Meyer, Nick (CA)
31. 1918 Epstein, Paul (MI)
32. 1917 Brockmeier, Doug (FL)
33. 1911 Dackman, Joe (NV)
34. 1909 Daniel, Robin Pollock (ON)
34. 1909 Macneil, Rod (MA)
36. 1907 Day, Jesse (CA)
37. 1902 Glass, Steve (FL)
37. 1902 Idalski, Jason (MI)
39. 1901 Clinchy, Evans (MA)
39. 1901 Mancine, Dominick (CO)
41. 1897 Saldanha, Dean (BC)
42. 1896 Cree, Chris (TX)
43. 1892 Rosin, Sam (NJ)
44. 1891 Leah, Tony (ON)
44. 1891 Robinsky, Rob (MN)
46. 1887 Armstrong, Peter (WI)
47. 1884 Mead, Jeremiah (MA)
48. 1881 Le, Cecilia (MA)
48. 1881 Lerman, Jerry (CA)
50. 1877 Withers, Ben (TX)

Stanley Edward Williams

August 29, 1941 – August 14, 2011

Mr Stan as he was known at Blankenburg Elementary school - Consistent supporter in so many ways helped start the Scrabble program, helped in many classrooms and with after-school programs, assisted with the basketball and track teams, chaperoned field trips. Had a positive impact on so many kids!

Read all of the time Always had a book or two or more nearby – Good thing for the Kindle. Was all about continuous and self education.

Scrabble enthusiast – an understatement always studied his 1000s of word cards, practised daily online and on paper continued to study Scrabble strategy was a regular in a few Scrabble clubs and on the Scrabble tournament circuit.

The QUALITY of life was of the utmost importance.

Athletic – from marathoner to tri-athlete walked 4+ miles/day to the end Participated in all kinds of sports Avid Phillies fan.

Never wanted to be a burden on anyone. Always generous and supportive in his own way.

Donna, Lisa and our families greatly appreciate everyone's condolences and support. Memorials can be made to the following organizations **THANK YOU !!!**



West Chester Public Library
415 North Church Street
West Chester, PA 19380

After School
Activities
Partnerships

ASAP

<http://www.phillyasap.org/Donate.aspx>



BLANKENBURG ELEMENTARY

Blankenburg Elementary School
c/o Sandra O'Keefe
4600 West Girard Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19131-4697



Top Players

from *TOP ACTIVE PLAYERS*, p. 13



Nigel Richards

Philip Nelkon, Nathan Benedict

The following are the top 20 active rated members in the NASPA (CSW) rating system, as of August 1, 2011.

- 2155 Richards, Nigel (MYS)
- 2080 Nelkon, Philip (GBR)
- 2056 Benedict, Nathan (AZ)
- 2042 Cappelletto, Brian (IL)
- 2037 May, Chris (AUS)
- 2028 Nemitrmansuk, Pakorn (THA)
- 2019 Wiegand, Dave (OR)
- 2014 Eldar, David (AUS)
- 1998 Logan, Adam (ON)
- 1989 O'Laughlin, John (MA)
- 1985 Boys, David (QC)
- 1962 Thevenot, Geoff (TX)
- 1956 Adamson, Tim (MN)
- 1932 Bowman, Brian (KY)
- 1931 Cohen, Laurie (AZ)
- 1925 Johnson, Carl (OR)
- 1908 Wapnick, Joel (QC)
- 1907 Leah, Tony (ON)
- 1907 Whitmarsh, Bradley (MA)
- 1902 Macneil, Rod (MA)

Monthly Leaders

by the Ratings and Recognition Committee

This section lists the players with the best results in July 2011.

Most Rated Wins

- 43 Galebach, Brian (MD)
- 41 Whitmarsh, Bradley (MA)
- 39 Brockmeier, Doug (FL)
- 35 Lipe, Chris (NY)
- 33 Gauthier, Kevin (NY)

Most Games Played

- 74 Melvin, Cheryl (MI)
- 69 Galebach, Brian (MD)
- 68 Whitmarsh, Bradley (MA)
- 61 Lipe, Chris (NY)
- 58 Gauthier, Kevin (NY)

Most Games Undeclared

- 8 Gradus, Larry (FL)
- 6 Berofsky, Evan (ON)
- 6 Saia, David (TX)
- 4 Sheppard, Christopher (OH)

Biggest Rating Gains

- +177 = 1564 Ginzberg, Adam (PA)
- +153 = 1312 Slavin, Margy (CA)
- +138 = 1122 Saia, David (TX)
- +138 = 1341 Gauthier, Kevin (NY)
- +127 = 1830 Sherman, Larry (NY)

Highest Initial Rating

- 1350 Milton, Daniel (VA)
- 894 Beverly, Earl (TX)
- 800 Randolph, Greg (TX)
- 751 Abrahams, Elena (CT)
- 698 Koziol, Clay (NE)

Recent Results

by the Ratings and Recognition Committee

This section lists all players who finished in the top three places in their division in a rated tournament ending in July 2011, together with their wins, losses, cumulative spread, old and new ratings. Out-of-state winners are identified with their home state (or province).



Rich Baker, Doug Brockmeier, Bradley Whitmarsh

Mekong River Cruise: June 27 — July 4

(4 PLAYERS)

- | | | | |
|-----------|------|------|------------------------|
| 10-2 +951 | 1864 | 1867 | Baker, Rich (CA) |
| 6-6 +226 | 1715 | 1665 | Goodwin, Daniel (WA) |
| 5-7 -467 | 1100 | 1145 | Muhling, Vivienne (ON) |

Albany, NY: July 1

16th Annual Nor'easter SCRABBLE® Tournament

DIVISION A (8 PLAYERS)

- | | | | |
|----------|------|------|-----------------------|
| 5-1 +416 | 1917 | 1941 | Brockmeier, Doug (FL) |
| 4-2 +350 | 1832 | 1849 | Lipkin, Seth (MA) |
| 4-2 +89 | 1901 | 1911 | Clinchy, Evans (MA) |

DIVISION B (8 PLAYERS)

- | | | | |
|----------|------|------|----------------------|
| 4-2 +593 | 1670 | 1681 | Galebach, Brian (MD) |
| 4-2 +227 | 1568 | 1592 | Lewis, David (CT) |
| 4-2 +22 | 1658 | 1671 | Ubeika, Jason (ON) |

DIVISION C (7 PLAYERS)

- | | | | |
|----------|------|------|-------------------|
| 5-1 +417 | 1442 | 1478 | Larsen, Mona |
| 5-1 +143 | 1366 | 1407 | Cole, Judy (MA) |
| 4-2 +28 | 1334 | 1349 | Lezin, Katya (NC) |

DIVISION D (8 PLAYERS)

- | | | | |
|----------|------|------|---------------------|
| 5-1 +313 | 1252 | 1312 | Melvin, Cheryl (MI) |
| 4-2 +293 | 1334 | 1350 | Keras, Lydia (QC) |
| 4-2 +74 | 1312 | 1330 | Rosenthal, Judy |

DIVISION E (8 PLAYERS)

- | | | | |
|----------|------|------|-----------------------|
| 5-1 +480 | 1178 | 1270 | Heinrich, Sam (MA) |
| 4-2 +188 | 1192 | 1214 | Blanchard, Susan (NC) |
| 3-3 +91 | 1203 | 1202 | Gauthier, Kevin |

DIVISION F (8 PLAYERS)

- | | | | |
|----------|------|------|-------------------------|
| 5-1 +566 | 1015 | 1058 | McKinstry, Russell (MA) |
| 5-1 +243 | 1108 | 1134 | Pearl, Elouise (VT) |
| 3-2 +158 | 998 | 1009 | Lieberman, Hannah (NC) |

DIVISION G (12 PLAYERS)

- | | | | |
|----------|-----|-----|--------------------|
| 5-1 +418 | 861 | 883 | Hipenbecker, Les |
| 4-2 +298 | 849 | 859 | Aery, Glenn |
| 4-2 +67 | 714 | 738 | Rodriguez, Suzette |

Albany, NY CSW: July 1

(6 PLAYERS)

- | | | | |
|----------|------|------|-------------------------|
| 6-0 +714 | 1907 | 1961 | Whitmarsh, Bradley (MA) |
| 4-2 +171 | 1783 | 1787 | Buck, Richard (MA) |
| 3-3 +32 | 1493 | 1494 | Josko, Michal |



David Boys, Joey Mallick, Rachel Knapp

Albany, NY CSW: July 1-4

Part of the 16th Annual Nor'easter

(11 PLAYERS)

- | | | | |
|------------|------|------|----------------------|
| 18-2 +2108 | 1985 | 2009 | Boys, David (QC) |
| 18-3 +2061 | 1901 | 1938 | Kantimathi, Sam (CA) |
| 17-3 +2047 | 1908 | 1935 | Wapnick, Joel (QC) |

Albany, NY: July 1-4

Part of the 16th Annual Nor'easter

DIVISION A (22 PLAYERS)

- | | | | |
|------------|------|------|-------------------------|
| 15-6 +956 | 1994 | 2009 | Mallick, Joey (ME) |
| 14-7 +1019 | 1839 | 1879 | Hill, Marlon (MD) |
| 14-7 +421 | 1801 | 1853 | Whitmarsh, Bradley (MA) |

DIVISION B (48 PLAYERS)

- | | | | |
|-----------|------|------|----------------------|
| 15-6 +933 | 1618 | 1668 | Tier, Steve |
| 15-6 +779 | 1681 | 1708 | Galebach, Brian (MD) |
| 15-6 +599 | 1592 | 1633 | Lewis, David (CT) |

DIVISION C (44 PLAYERS)

- | | | | |
|-----------|------|------|-----------------------|
| 15-6 +383 | 1165 | 1288 | Talaid, Virgil |
| 14-7 +721 | 1167 | 1220 | O'Connor, Matthew |
| 14-7 +636 | 1214 | 1250 | Blanchard, Susan (NC) |

San Antonio, TX: July 2

DIVISION A (6 PLAYERS)

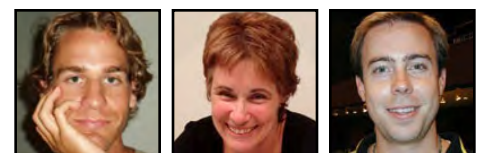
- | | | | |
|----------|------|------|-------------|
| 4-2 +299 | 1736 | 1754 | Stone, Greg |
| 4-2 +73 | 1717 | 1742 | Kasney, Ken |
| 3-3 +63 | 1632 | 1642 | Dyer, Becky |

DIVISION B (6 PLAYERS)

- | | | | |
|----------|------|------|-----------------|
| 4-2 +240 | 1444 | 1461 | DeWalsche, Matt |
| 4-2 +168 | 1609 | 1607 | McArthur, Jean |
| 3-3 +135 | 1336 | 1344 | Randolph, Jason |

DIVISION C (8 PLAYERS)

- | | | | |
|----------|------|------|------------------|
| 6-0 +670 | 1278 | 1308 | Donegan, Michael |
| 4-2 +422 | 1309 | 1300 | Gordon, Edward |
| 4-2 +174 | 1152 | 1159 | Sanders, T A |



Doug Brockmeier, Jan Cardia, Jason Bednarz

Laguna Woods, CA: July 3

Monthly one-day

(6 PLAYERS)

- | | | | |
|----------|------|------|---------------|
| 7-0 +918 | 1721 | 1742 | Knapp, Rachel |
| 4-3 +243 | 1379 | 1375 | Moss, Gary |
| 3-4 +117 | 1056 | 1067 | Postal, David |

Albany, NY: July 4

Part of the 16th Annual Nor'easter

(28 PLAYERS)

- | | | | |
|----------|------|------|-----------------------|
| 5-1 +908 | 1945 | 1946 | Brockmeier, Doug (FL) |
| 5-1 +626 | 1665 | 1688 | Ubeika, Jason (ON) |
| 5-1 +468 | 1708 | 1732 | Galebach, Brian (MD) |

MORE RESULTS continued on p. 15

More Results

from *RECENT RESULTS*, p. 15

Alaska Cruise: July 8–15

(6 PLAYERS)

11-4 +704	1747	1797	Cardia, Jan (DE)
9-6 +327	1772	1776	Berahovich, Leesa (CA)
8-7 +357	1640	1658	Rand, Larry (AZ)

Lubbock, TX: July 9

DIVISION A (6 PLAYERS)

5-1 +47	1028	1127	Major, Wendy
4-2 +358	1522	1517	Tyler, Cheryl
4-2 +101	1467	1471	Hagel, Keith (ME)

DIVISION B (5 PLAYERS)

5-1 +183	723	763	Weston, Kay
4-2 +125	837	838	Harper, Sandi
3-2 +69	698	704	Johnson, Max

Bethesda, MD: July 9

NASPA Club #171's 11th Annual Tournament

DIVISION A (14 PLAYERS)

7-1 +581	1859	1883	Bednarz, Jason
6-2 +595	1866	1874	Koenig, David
6-2 +388	1469	1534	Jacobson, Jeffrey (PA)

DIVISION B (13 PLAYERS)

6-2 +354	1310	1329	Mast, Ted
6-2 +230	1107	1160	Stinson, John
6-2 +93	1279	1311	Oliva, Linda

DIVISION C (16 PLAYERS)

7-1 +307	800	901	Tillson, Carol
6-2 +441	947	983	Wright, John (VA)
5-3 +504	1060	1065	Kagan, Cheryl

DIVISION D (13 PLAYERS)

6-2 +400	720	758	Pierce, Harrison
6-2 +222	702	725	Reistrup, Tat (VA)
5-3 +199	605	621	Berger, Betty



Matthew Ridout, Stephen Knapp, Evan Berofsky

Omaha, NE: July 9–10

River City Wrangle

DIVISION A (14 PLAYERS)

10-3 +855	1558	1551	Ridout, Matthew (IA)
9-4 +806	1393	1390	Daly, Aaron (SD)
9-4 +557	1551	1525	Asaka, George

DIVISION B (17 PLAYERS)

11-2 +858	762	862	Heck, Daniel (IA)
11-2 +849	742	800	Wagner, Mike (SD)
10-3 +601	662	739	Zimmerman, Cindy

Strongsville, OH: July 10

DIVISION A (12 PLAYERS)

6-2 +520	1603	1638	Knapp, Stephen (MI)
6-2 +373	1595	1624	Steffy, Heather
5-3 +236	1489	1518	Ravichandran, Carol (MI)

DIVISION B (8 PLAYERS)

6-2 +230	1248	1268	Scouloukas, Dean
5-3 +164	1085	1110	Konicki, Walter
5-3 -10	1223	1224	Joseph, Diane

Guelph, ON: July 10

Monthly one-day

DIVISION A (6 PLAYERS)

6-0 +723	1933	1970	Berofsky, Evan
4-2 +268	1824	1833	Kaufman, Zev
4-2 +173	1822	1834	Gauthier-Shalom, Gabriel (QC)

DIVISION B (7 PLAYERS)

6-1 +112	1353	1385	Bowman, Joseph
5-2 +587	1395	1402	Lobo, Yvonne
5-2 +356	1346	1358	Ubeika, Shelley



Jesse Day, Mark Kenas, Sam Dick-Onuoha

Berkeley, CA: July 10

DIVISION A (6 PLAYERS)

5-1 +404	1907	1929	Day, Jesse
4-2 +261	1689	1719	Ward, Bruce
3-3 +29	1881	1873	Lerman, Jerry

DIVISION B (8 PLAYERS)

5-1 +390	1373	1439	Demeter, Jon
4-2 +216	1600	1605	Karris, John
4-2 +98	1513	1527	Frodyma, KC

DIVISION C (6 PLAYERS)

5-1 +556	1283	1284	Diener, Pat
4-2 +224	911	929	Joseph, Lynn
3-3 -179	1000	979	Mocine, Joan

Independence, OH LCT: July 12

(10 PLAYERS)

4-0 +174	1174	1192	Sheppard, Christopher
3-1 +538	1555	1557	Zeigler, Pete
3-1 +173	1624	1624	Steffy, Heather

Akron, OH CSW: July 15–17

U.S. WSC Qualifying Tournament

(14 PLAYERS)

15-5 +1217	1860	1916	Kenas, Mark (WI)
15-5 +1094	1689	1828	Lipe, Chris (NY)
12-8 +970	1872	1888	Kramer, Jim (MN)

Dallas, TX: July 16

Monthly one-day

DIVISION A (6 PLAYERS)

5-1 +646	1764	1791	Dick-Onuoha, Sam
5-1 +74	1600	1663	Burlant, Jim
4-2 +171	1644	1664	Early, Michael

DIVISION B (6 PLAYERS)

5-1 +290	1276	1339	Rhoades, Mary
4-1 +343	1483	1496	Redding, John
3-3 -41	1308	1308	Donegan, Michael

DIVISION C (6 PLAYERS)

6-0 +461	984	1122	Saia, David
4-2 +227	1082	1088	Sanchez, Pat
3-3 +189	1033	1028	Hiller, Patricia

Toronto, ON: July 16–17

Annual summer tournament

DIVISION A (10 PLAYERS)

9-3 +563	1833	1852	Kaufman, Zev
8-4 +100	1809	1818	Cornelis, Lou
7-5 +468	1675	1687	Ubeika, Jason



Zev Kaufman, Joe Petree, Michael Baker

DIVISION B (14 PLAYERS)

9-3 +487	1385	1427	Smylie, Jackson
8-3 +340	1119	1220	Rawlins, Gene
8-4 +165	1177	1246	Wise, Lynda

DIVISION C (7 PLAYERS)

9-3 +720	1087	1095	Gram, Bruce
9-3 +446	1142	1142	Ozorio, Sophia
7-5 +438	617	667	Smylie, Tara

Philadelphia, PA: July 17

DIVISION A (16 PLAYERS)

6-1 +424	1600	1677	Petree, Joe
6-1 +293	1653	1717	Krafchick, Joey (GA)
5-2 +400	1892	1896	Rosin, Sam (NJ)

DIVISION B (16 PLAYERS)

6-1 +551	1387	1456	Ginzberg, Adam
6-1 +466	1450	1502	Bodrazic, Erica Norris
5-2 +402	1463	1484	Roth, Edwin

DIVISION C (16 PLAYERS)

5-1 +221	1300	1329	Strieb, Jay
5-2 +231	1236	1265	Piazza, Jim (NY)
5-2 +186	1134	1205	Weinstein, Seth (NY)

DIVISION D (15 PLAYERS)

6-1 +603	971	1004	Thompson, Celia Dayrit (NJ)
6-1 +141	700	775	Blood, Karen (MD)
5-2 +345	801	831	Avener, Margaret

Victoria, BC: July 22

Summer SCRABBLE Tournament

DIVISION A (6 PLAYERS)

6-0 +668	1718	1782	Baker, Michael (OR)
4-2 +63	1645	1662	Hamilton, Ruth (OR)
3-3 +224	1534	1545	Levesque, Marc

DIVISION B (5 PLAYERS)

5-1 +49	1176	1208	Bissonnette, Jane (WA)
4-2 +127	1083	1102	Bissonnette, George (WA)
3-3 +161	1136	1131	Campbell, Jordan

DIVISION C (8 PLAYERS)

5-1 +559	1040	1053	Douglas, Helen B
4-2 -57	823	836	Pelfrey, Audrey
3-3 +219	806	803	Pearn, Linda (MB)

Old Greenwich, CT: July 22

Summer SCRABBLE in the C.T.

DIVISION A (6 PLAYERS)

4-1 +192	1757	1796	Schoenbrun, Ben (NY)
3-2 +112	1809	1815	Clinchy, Evans (MA)
3-2 +17	1736	1750	Galebach, Brian (MD)

DIVISION B (6 PLAYERS)

3-2 +538	1456	1472	Ginzberg, Adam (PA)
3-2 +121	1598	1601	Berg, Verna Richards (NY)
3-2 +111	1561	1567	Barkman, Peter (NY)

DIVISION C (6 PLAYERS)

4-1 +240	1361	1398	Barrett, Ted (NJ)
3-2 +75	1432	1437	Horn, Judy (MA)
2-2 +90	1299	1306	Wancel, Linda (NY)

MORE RESULTS continued on p. 16

More Results

from *RECENT RESULTS*, p. 16



Ben Schoenbrun, Jesse Day, John O'Laughlin

DIVISION D (6 PLAYERS)

3-2 +193 1101 1116 Wood, Betsey (MA)
3-2 +185 1223 1227 Melvin, Cheryl (MI)
3-2 -33 1270 1269 Heinrich, Sam (MA)

DIVISION E (5 PLAYERS)

4-1 +176 931 942 Morese, Scott
4-1 +171 937 948 Shapiro, Ida Ann (NY)
3-2 +50 868 864 Kaufman, Bill (NJ)

Nocal V. Socal, San Luis Obispo, CA: July 22-24

DIVISION A (14 PLAYERS)

10-5 +798 1929 1940 Day, Jesse
10-6 +261 1873 1888 Lerman, Jerry
10-6 +190 1772 1813 Schonbrun, Lester

DIVISION B (14 PLAYERS)

13-3 +951 1701 1760 Levitt, Judy
12-4 +548 1676 1714 Milan, Mark
11-5 +1059 1680 1719 Morgan, Chris Patrick

DIVISION C (14 PLAYERS)

13-3 +801 1159 1312 Slavin, Margy
13-3 +750 1375 1437 Moss, Gary
10-6 +452 1380 1358 Valentine, Keith (WA)

Old Greenwich, CT CSW: July 22-24

(4 PLAYERS)

11-5 +795 1989 1992 O'Laughlin, John (MA)
10-6 +454 1931 1932 Cohen, Laurie (AZ)
8-8 +874 1828 1813 Lipe, Chris (NY)



Kate Fukawa-Connelly, Doug Brockmeier, Randy Greenspan

Old Greenwich, CT: July 22-24

DIVISION A (18 PLAYERS)

13-3 +1096 1865 1931 Fukawa-Connelly, Kate (ME)
10-5 +473 1966 1971 Edley, Joe (NY)
10-6 +454 1638 1711 Meller, Mack (NY)

DIVISION B (22 PLAYERS)

13-3 +832 1472 1564 Ginzberg, Adam (PA)
11-5 +562 1601 1619 Berg, Verna Richards (NY)
10-6 +589 1441 1473 Townsend, Adam (NY)

DIVISION C (20 PLAYERS)

12-4 +1049 1220 1260 O'Connor, Matthew (NY)
11-5 +687 1094 1152 Lutts, Tim (MA)
11-5 -10 1246 1264 Sikorski, Steve (NY)

Pinellas Park, FL: July 23

(12 PLAYERS)

6-2 +711 1946 1941 Brockmeier, Doug
6-2 +151 1493 1526 Abbate, Elspeth
5-3 +481 1297 1316 Miller, Brian

Fort Lauderdale, FL: July 23

DIVISION A (6 PLAYERS)

6-2 +517 1821 1843 Greenspan, Randy
5-3 +384 1971 1958 Tiekert, Ron
4-4 +207 1634 1642 Pistol, Howard

DIVISION B (12 PLAYERS)

8-0 +875 1428 1478 Gradus, Larry
6-2 +311 1149 1211 Reed, Irving
6-2 +171 1156 1222 Riff, Marla

DIVISION C (10 PLAYERS)

7-1 +707 1017 1046 Brown, Mitchell
7-1 +486 927 967 Wise, Tim
5-3 +201 885 896 Lenzen, Polly



Winter, Joe South, Kevin Leeds

Victoria, BC: July 23-24

DIVISION A (8 PLAYERS)

9-5 +576 1830 1826 Winter (TX)
9-5 +471 1435 1536 Weber, Murray
9-5 -111 1803 1804 Williams, Chris

DIVISION B (10 PLAYERS)

10-4 +492 1136 1204 Reece, Rhonda
9-5 +314 1292 1304 Ross, Reuvena
9-5 +224 1131 1179 Campbell, Jordan

DIVISION C (10 PLAYERS)

10-4 +593 1053 1065 Douglas, Helen B
10-4 +421 846 958 Marshall, Julie
9-5 +721 867 903 Szwet, Julia

Akron, OH: July 28

(9 PLAYERS)

5-1 +337 1598 1624 South, Joe
4-2 +223 1557 1570 Zeigler, Pete
4-2 +141 1470 1477 DeBacco, Stephen

Akron, OH: July 28

(9 PLAYERS)

4-0 +212 1624 1658 South, Joe
3-1 +242 1643 1651 Stock, Daniel
3-1 +79 1087 1140 Johnson, Dallas

Clarksburg, WV: July 30

(12 PLAYERS)

6-1 +431 1106 1142 McGuffin, Aaron
5-2 +116 1106 1125 Rizzo, James (PA)
5-2 +82 764 824 Green, Lisa

Austin, TX: July 30

DIVISION A (6 PLAYERS)

5-1 +170 1642 1706 Leeds, Kevin
4-2 +162 1676 1701 Canik, Matt
3-3 +166 1877 1864 Withers, Ben

DIVISION B (6 PLAYERS)

5-1 +306 1607 1635 McArthur, Jean
4-2 +295 1601 1607 Dalton, John
3-3 +348 1550 1545 Cook, Tony

DIVISION C (6 PLAYERS)

5-1 +379 1028 1080 Hiller, Patricia
4-2 +333 1308 1307 Donegan, Michael
3-3 +10 1008 1014 Titzman, Joey

Findlay, OH: July 30-31

(14 PLAYERS)

11-4 +587 1803 1845 Bowman, Brian (KY)
11-4 -86 1651 1752 Stock, Daniel
10-5 +577 1638 1695 Knapp, Stephen (MI)

Elmhurst, IL: July 30-31

DIVISION A (8 PLAYERS)

11-1 +1564 1941 1977 Brockmeier, Doug (FL)
7-4 +36 1635 1676 Slankard, Lisa
7-5 -29 1708 1721 Schwartzman, Peter

DIVISION B (12 PLAYERS)

11-1 +1281 1262 1375 Kofoed, Jonathan
8-4 +248 1334 1352 Koselke, Phyllis (IN)
7-5 +577 1445 1417 Terkell, Dan

DIVISION C (21 PLAYERS)

10-2 +447 867 952 Williams, Brad (WI)
9-3 +411 959 987 Levine, Ellen
8-4 +762 986 989 Edwards, Faye

Upcoming Tournaments

by the Tournament Committee

SEPTEMBER 2-5, PORTLAND, OR:

Early Bird: Fri: 9:00 AM, 8 RDS. EF: \$40.
Round robin groups of 8. Registration closes 10 minutes before game time. Main Event: Sat: 9:00 AM, 8 RDS. Sun: 9:00 AM, 8 RDS. Mon: 9:00 AM, 4 RDS. EF: \$110. **Registration deadline is noon, FRI., Sept. 2, 2011.** Late Bird: Mon: 2:30 PM, 4 RDS. EF: \$15. **2 DIVS. of approx. equal size. Registration closes 10 minutes before game time.** Red Lion Hotel, Portland Convention Ctr, 1021 NE Grand, Portland OR 97232, 503-235-2100. HP: RM.rate \$85/night & mention "Portland Scrabble." Free parking for all tournament participants. CT. Dave Johnson, 269 N. Hayden Bay Dr., Portland, OR 97217, 503-283-8515, <TheProf2@aol.com>. HA.

SEPTEMBER 3-5, ATLANTA, GA: Sat:

9:00 AM, 8 RDS. Sun: 9:00 AM, 8 RDS. Mon: 9:00 AM, 4 RDS. EF: \$100. **Entry fee increases to \$120 after August 3, 2011. 3 DIVS.: 1600+; 1200-1599; <1200.** The Embassy Suites, 5955 North Point Parkway, Alpharetta, GA 30022, (678) 566-8800. HP: SCRABBLE Rate of \$84/night incl. BK. and parking. CT. Ryan Fischer, 1316 Bonnie Lane, Charlotte, NC 28213, <ryan@charlottescrabble.com>. HA.

SEPTEMBER 3-5, BURLINGTON, MA:

Sat: Noon, 6 RDS. Sun: 9:30 AM, 8 RDS. Mon: 9:30 AM, 4 RDS. R-R/K-H. EF: \$100. **TWL — Equal DIVS. DIV. sizes and cutoffs will be determined at the Director's discretion based on number of participants. Collins — DIV. will be offered if there are at least 8 players. NASPA/WESPA rated. 5-point challenge rule.** Boston Marriott Burlington, One Burlington Mall Road, Burlington, MA 01803, 781-229-6565. CT. Judy Horn, <jhornx2@

STILL MORE RESULTS continued on p. 16

Still More Results

from *MORE RESULTS*, p. 17

aol.com> or Judy Cole, <judithcole@msn.com>. HA.

SEPTEMBER 3-5, TAMPA BAY (PINELLAS PARK), FL: Sat: 9:00 AM, 8 RDS. Sun: 9:00 AM, 8 RDS. Mon: 9:00 AM, 4 RDS. R-R/K-H. EF: \$70. **Must pre-register. Registration deadline: August 29, 2011. No refunds after September 1, 2011.** The Auditorium, 7690 59th St. N., Pinellas Park, FL 33781 (Located next to the Pinellas Park Police Station). HP: No host hotel. See tournament flyer for nearby hotels. CT. Stefan Huber, 4618 South Datura Avenue, Tampa, FL 33611, 813-389-3192, <stfnhbr@gmail.com> or JC Green. HA.

SEPTEMBER 4, LAGUNA WOODS, CA: Sun: ? EF: \$45. **Late Fee \$10, after Fri before event. Modified round robin. Prizes: 1st \$90; 2nd \$50 in every group of 8.** Laguna Woods Village, Clubhouse 5, Rm 1, 26252 Punta Alta, Laguna Woods, California 92637. CT. Gary Moss, (949) 510-1673, <jftsoi.moss@gmail.com>. HA.

SEPTEMBER 10, BALTIMORE (CANTONVILLE), MD: Sat: 10:30 AM, 7 RDS. R-R/K-H. EF: \$30. **FORMAT: 6 round robin followed by 1 King-of-the-Hill round — seven games total.** University of Maryland Baltimore County, Sky Light Lounge, The Commons, third floor, Catonsville, Maryland. CT. Linda Oliva, Linda Oliva, UMBC, Department of Education, 1000 Hilltop Circle, Baltimore, Maryland 21250, 443 340-8469, <lindainlisbon@gmail.com>. HA.

SEPTEMBER 10, DALLAS, TX: Sat: 10:30 AM, 6 RDS. EF: \$30. **Round robin groups (with director discretion predicated upon mix of field). LUN. after 2 games. Walk-ins o.k.** Crowne Plaza Suites — Dallas Park Cntrl., 7800 Alpha Rd, Dallas, TX 75240. CT. Chris Cree, 3708 Bryn Mawr Dr., Dallas, TX 75225, 214-701-4681, <chris.cree@yahoo.com> or Carla Cree, 3708 Bryn Mawr Dr., Dallas, TX 75225, 214-701-4680, <cc.cree@yahoo.com>. HA.

SEPTEMBER 11, BERKELEY, CA: Sun: Noon, 6 RDS. EF: \$30. **Entry fee incl. buffet LUN.** The Viceroy Indian Restaurant, 21 Shattuck Square, Berkeley, CA 94704. CT. Pat Diener. HA.

SEPTEMBER 11, GUELPH, ON, CAN: Sun: 2:30 PM, 6 RDS. EF: \$30 (CAN). **DIVS. of 6-11 set at director's discretion. Pairings based on number of entrants.** Squirrel Tooth Alice's, 649 Scottsdale Drive, Unit 5, Guelph, ON. CT. Andy Saunders, 82 Clairfields Drive West, Guelph, ON, N1G 5H8, (416) 668-7500, <andy@andysthoughts.com>. HA.

SEPTEMBER 11, NORWALK, CT: Sun: 9:00 AM, 8 RDS. EF: \$60. **Reduced entry fee of \$40 for first-time players.**

Main Event 2: Sun: 9:00 AM, 4 RDS. EF: \$20. **Youth DIV. (restricted to players under 18 as of January 1, 2011).** Main Event 3: Sun: 2:00 PM, 4 RDS. EF: \$20. **Youth DIV. (restricted to players under 18 as of January 1, 2011).** Chess Club of Fairfield County, 710 West Avenue, Norwalk, CT, 06850, 203-644-3037. CT. Cornelia Guest, 203-244-5324, <corneliastguest@gmail.com>. HA.

SEPTEMBER 13, LCT — INDEPENDENCE, OH: Tue: 6:00 PM, 4 RDS. EF: \$4. **Sponsored by NASPA Club #164 (Independence, OH). Pay at the door.** Angie's Pizza, 6932 Hillside Road, Independence, OH 44131. CT. Christopher Sheppard, <mshp@core.com>. HA.

SEPTEMBER 14, LCT — PHILADELPHIA, PA: Wed: 6:00 PM, 4 RDS. **Pairings based on number of entrants. Limited number of players due to size of venue. Must contact director in advance to register.** Harrison College House, Heyer Sky Lounge, 3910 Irving Street, Philadelphia, PA. CT. Connie Creed, <partygrl@verizon.net>. HA.

SEPTEMBER 16-18, CHARLESTON, WV: Early Bird: Fri: 6:00 PM, 4 RDS. R-R/K-H. EF: \$15. **RR groups of 4 with KOTH final round.** Main Event: Sat: 9:00 AM, 9 RDS. Sun: 9:00 AM, 4 RDS. EF: \$69/\$59/\$49/\$39. PRZ: \$90%. **Format TBD based on number of entries. 4 DIVS., split at 1550/1250/950.** Charleston House Hotel, 600 Kanawha Boulevard East, Charleston, WV, 304-344-4092. HP: \$79 plus taxes and parking, single or double (by September 2 — mention Scrabble rate). CT. Brad Mills, 3607 Naylor Ave., Charleston, WV 25302, 304-345-0484 (evenings), <wvscrabble@gmail.com>. HA.

SEPTEMBER 16-18, IRVING, TX: Mid-Cities Scrabble Tournament. Early Bird: Fri: Noon, 6 RDS. R-R/6+KOTH. EF: \$25. **Pre-registration required by 9/6/11. Mandatory Check-in 10-11 a.m.** Main Event: Sat: 11:00 AM, 7 RDS. Sun: 9:00 AM, 5 RDS. Mod.Swiss. EF: \$80/\$75/\$70/\$65. **Pre-registration required by 9/6/11. Mandatory check-in 9-10:30 a.m. 4 DIVS.: 1700+; 1400-1699; 1100-1399; <1100.** Westin Hotel, 4545 W. John Carpenter Freeway, Irving, TX 75063, 972-939-4500. HP: \$79 for 2 people — \$89 for 3-4 people (ask for Scrabble rate). Free Parking. Free Hotel Shuttle from DFW Airport (call ahead to reserve). CT. Mary Rhoades, PO Box 211993, Bedford TX 76095, 817-718-3115, <mrhoadestx@gmail.com>. HA.

SEPTEMBER 17, BAYSIDE QUEENS, NY: Sat: 9:00 AM, 8 RDS. EF: \$64. **Entry fee including player participation fee, deli lunch, coffee & tea all day, room rental & prizes.** ADRIA Hotel & Conference Center, 22117 Northern Blvd, Bayside Queens, NY,

1-800-27-ADRIA. CT. Ginger White, 631-399-2579, <kewlcatz@optonline.net>. HA.

SEPTEMBER 17-18, HUDSON, OH: Sat: Noon, 7 RDS. Sun: 12:30 PM, 4 RDS. EF: \$55. **Pay \$5 more at door (cash) or \$15 more at door (check).** Clarion Inn, 240 Hines Hill Rd., Hudson, OH 44236. CT. Christopher Sheppard, 2237 Fairway Blvd., Hudson, OH 44236, (330) 656-2476, <mshp@core.com>. HA.

SEPTEMBER 18, PHILADELPHIA, PA: Sun: 11:00 AM, 7 RDS. R-R/6+KOTH. **Equal DIVS. — sizes and cutoffs will be determined at director's discretion based on number of participants. EF: \$50. \$10 entry fee for 1st time tourney players only — Must be a member of NASPA. With advance notice, new players can join NASPA online or on site, \$15 for six month Trial Membership.** Univ of Pennsylvania Houston Hall, 3417 Spruce Street Philadelphia in the Hall Of Flags. CT. Connie Creed, 233 South 6th Street, #2502, Philadelphia, PA 19106, 215-238-1880, <partygrl@verizon.net>. HA.

SEPTEMBER 22-25, COLLINS — TORONTO, ON, CAN: Toronto International Scrabble Open. Thu: 1:00 PM, 6 RDS. Fri: 9:00 AM, 8 RDS. Sat: 9:00 AM, 8 RDS. Sun: 9:00 AM, 4 RDS. EF: \$250 (CAN)/\$250 (US). **Early bird bonus: deduct \$20 if paid or postmarked by May 1, 2011. Late fee: add \$20 if paid after September 15, 2011. Guaranteed Minimum First Prize of \$3,000. Limited to the first 100 entrants.** Bond Place Hotel, 65 Dundas Street East, Toronto, Ontario M5B 2G8, Canada, 1-800-268-9390. HP: Call the hotel and specify Toronto International Scrabble. Std rm with 2 twin beds for \$79 a night; deluxe rm with 1 queen and 1 double bed, or 1 queen and 2 twins for \$99 a night (for 2 ppl, addtl persons are \$20/night) plus local taxes. Book by 8/22/11. CT. John Chew, <jjchew@math.utoronto.ca> or Tony Leah, 416-274-1875, <Tony.Leah@caw.ca>. HA.

SEPTEMBER 23-25, TORONTO, ON, CAN: Michael Wise Memorial Scrabble Tournament. Early Bird: **Leah Katz Memorial SCRABBLE Tournament.** Also unrated speed and pairs events. Bond Place Hotel, 65 Dundas Street East, Toronto, Ontario M5B 2G8, Canada, 1-800-268-9390. CT. John Chew, <posflit@gmail.com>. HA.

SEPTEMBER 24, AUSTIN, TX: Sat: 10:30 AM, 6 RDS. EF: \$20. **In addition to TWL DIVS.(s), a Collins DIV. will be offered provided that there are at least 4 players in the Collins DIV. 10 point challenge penalty will be used in Collins DIV.** Salvation Army Corps Community Center, 1001 Cumberland Road, Austin TX 78704, 512-442-3212. CT. Geoff Thevenot, <gwthevenot@gmail.com> or Jean McArthur. HA.

MORE TOURNEYS continued on p. 18

More Tournaments

from *UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS*, p. 17

SEPTEMBER 24, FORT LAUDERDALE, FL: Sat: 9:00 AM, 8 RDS. EF: \$35. **Add \$5 late fee after September 12, 2011. Round robin pairings — 2 to 4 DIVS., determined by number of entrants.** Fort Lauderdale Bridge Club, Holiday Park, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304. CT. Tim Wise, 954-942-6319, <wise9778@gmail.com>. HA.

SEPTEMBER 24, TCC — CHEHALIS, WA: Sat: 9:30 AM, 7 RDS. **Interclub challenge between Portland and Seattle clubs. No outside food.** Kit Carson Restaurant, Chehalis, WA. CT. Mike Baker, <mikebob@pacifier.com>. HA.

SEPTEMBER 24-25, REGINA, SK, CAN: Sat: 9:00 AM, 8 RDS. Sun: 9:00 AM, 6 RDS. R-R/K-H. EF: \$55. **Entry fee incl. 1 LUN. Must be pre-registered, deadline for entries is September 22, 2011. DIVS. based on Number of Players and Ratings.** Regina Duplicate Bridge Club, 349 Albert Street, Regina, SK. CT. Michael Bray, 2-31 Angus Rd, Regina, SK S4R 3K9, (306) 543-8961, <mdbray@accesscomm.ca>. HA.

SEPTEMBER 25, NEWARK, DE: Sun: 10:00 AM, 8 RDS. R-R/8+KOTH. EF: \$55. **18% of entry fees go to the Kristol Center as a rental fee/donation, the rest after expenses will go to the prize pool.** Kristol Center for Jewish Life, University of Delaware, 47 W. Delaware Ave., Newark, DE 19711. CT. Daniel Horowitz, 223 Waverly Road, Wilmington, DE 19803, (302) 655-7346, <dhorowit@alumni.law.upenn.edu>. HA.

SEPTEMBER 30 — OCTOBER 2, BLOOMINGTON, MN: Fri: 2:00 PM, 7 RDS. Sat: 9:00 AM, 8 RDS. Sun: 9:00 AM, 5 RDS. EF: \$125. **One open DIV. Pairing system will vary based on number of entrants.** Hyatt Place Minneapolis Airport-South, 7800 International Drive, Bloomington, MN. HP: Discounted RM rate of \$109/night (mention tournament when making reservations) available until 9/9/11 and for FRI. and SAT. night only. CT. Scott Jackson, 612-860-8130, <scjackson36@gmail.com>HA.

OCTOBER 1, BERLIN, NJ: Sat: 10:00 AM, 7 RDS. R-R/K-H. EF: \$59. **Registration fee incl. continental BK. and LUN. RSVP to Wayne Ollick, 117 Washington Ave., Berlin, N.J. 08009. 6 rounds of round robin plus 1 round KOTH, in groups of 8 or more.** Bud Duple Senior Center, 33 Cooper Folly Road, Atco, NJ. CT. Herb Lewis, <herblewis1@comcast.net>, Wayne Ollick, <scrabbler1@comcast.net> or Betty McDaniel, 856-728-9446. HA.

OCTOBER 1, CAMBRIDGE, ON, CAN: Sat: 9:00 AM, 7 RDS. **LUN. incl. in entry fee. DIVS. of 16 players. "Boxed Fours" format. Limited to the first 80 entrants.** Calvary Pentecostal Assembly, 127

Hespeler Road, Cambridge, ON. CT. John Robertson, 17 Fourth Avenue, Cambridge, Ontario N1S 2C9, 519-621-6432, <jgrob-ertson@sympatico.ca>. HA.

OCTOBER 2, BERKELEY, CA: Sun: Noon, 6 RDS. EF: \$30. **Entry fee incl. buffet LUN.** The Viceroy Indian Restaurant, 21 Shattuck Square, Berkeley, CA 94704. CT. Pat Diener. HA.

OCTOBER 2, LAGUNA WOODS, CA: Sun: ? EF: \$45. **Late Fee \$10, after Fri before event. Modified round robin. Prizes: 1st \$90; 2nd \$50 in every group of 8.** Laguna Woods Village, Clubhouse 5, Rm 1, 26252 Punta Alta, Laguna Woods, California 92637. CT. Gary Moss, (949) 510-1673, <jftsoi.moss@gmail.com>. HA.

OCTOBER 2, PHILADELPHIA, PA: Sun: 11:00 AM, 7 RDS. R-R/K-H. EF: \$50. **\$10 entry fee for 1st time tournament players only. DIV. sizes and cutoffs will be determined at the Director's discretion. Collins DIV. will be offered.** University of Pennsylvania — Houston Hall, Hall of Flags, 3417 Spruce Street, Philadelphia, PA. CT. Connie Creed, 233 South 6th Street, #2502, Philadelphia, PA 19106, 215-238-1880, <parttygrl@verizon.net>. HA.

OCTOBER 6, LCT — AKRON, OH: Thu: 6:00 PM, 4 RDS. **Free event. Typically paired with 3 rounds of modified Swiss and 1 round of KOTH, minimizing repeats as much as possible.** The Highland Square Apartments, Party Room (1st Floor — Room 101), 733 W. Market Street, Akron, OH 44303. CT. Dallas Johnson, 330-676-1723, <dallas@neoscraable.com>HA.

OCTOBER 8-9, ORLANDO, FL: Sat: 9:00 AM, 8 RDS. Sun: 9:00 AM, 6 RDS. R-R/K-H. EF: \$80. **Check-in at 8:00 a.m. DIVS. of approx. 14, based on attendance.** Holiday Inn Express, 8686 Palm Parkway, Orlando, FL 32836. HP: RM.Rate \$79/night, BK. incl. NO HIDDEN RESORT FEES. Ask for Scrabble tournament rate, or book online: <http://www.hiexpress.com/hotels/us/en/orlando/mcopp/hoteldetail?for mErrorCode=1013572125698580880>. CT. Art Moore, 407-733-2095, <lazyart@earthlink.net>. HA.

OCTOBER 9, GUELPH, ON, CAN: Sun: 2:30 PM, 6 RDS. EF: \$30 (CAN). **DIVS. of 6-11 players set at director's discretion. Register by 11:30 AM on day of tournament. Food purchase strongly encouraged.** Squirrel Tooth Alice's, 649 Scottsdale Drive, Unit 5, Guelph, ON. CT. Andy Saunders, 82 Clairfields Drive West, Guelph, ON, N1G 5H8, (416) 668-7500, <andy@andysthoughts.com>. HA.

OCTOBER 12-16, CALGARY, AB, CAN: Western Canadian Scrabble Championship. Early Bird: Wed: 9:00 AM, 8 RDS. R-R/K-H. 3 equal-sized Divs based on the latest ratings. EF: \$50 (CAN)/\$50 (US). Early Bird 2: Thu: 9:00 AM, 8 RDS. 3 Divs.

divided at 1500 & 1100 ratings. No playups except to even out Divs. EF: \$50 (CAN)/\$50 (US). Main Event: Fri: 9:00 AM, 8 RDS. Sat: 9:00 AM, 8 RDS. Sun: 9:00 AM, 5 RDS. R-R/K-H. 4 Divs. Divided at 1600, 1300 and 1000 ratings. 100 pt. playup permitted. EF: Div. 1: \$110 (CAN)/\$110 (US), Div. 2: \$90 (CAN)/\$90 (US), Div. 3: \$70 (CAN)/\$70 (US), Div. 4: \$50 (CAN)/\$50 (US). Radisson Hotel, 2120 16 Ave. NE, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, (403) 291 4666, toll free 1 800 333 3333. HP: \$124 + tax, single/double. CT. Siri Tillekeratne, 16 Cedarwood Pl. SW, Calgary, Alberta, T2W 3G6, Canada, (403) 281 2459, <sirit@shaw.ca>. HA. The Director reserves the right to make adjustments to avoid extreme DIV. size or pairing discrepancies.

OCTOBER 13-16, LAKE GEORGE, NY: Early Bird: Thu: Noon, 8 RDS. EF: \$50. **8 fully-rated games; format determined by number of entries (Pay at Door Only). Registration from 11:00 a.m. — Noon. Early Bird 2: Fri: Noon, 5 RDS. EF: \$35. 5 fully-rated games; format determined by number of entries (Pay at Door Only). Registration from 11:00 a.m. — Noon. Main Event: Fri: 8:00 PM, 3 RDS. Sat: 10:00 AM, 7 RDS. Sun: 9:30 AM, 5 RDS. EF: \$85. Commuter fee: \$15. COMM. fee applies if not on the hotel package. Registration from 7 — 8 p.m. on FRI.** The Tiki Resort, 2 Canada Street, Lake George, NY. HP: RM.rates are: \$126/person double occupancy; \$177/person single occupancy; \$106/person triple occupancy. Package incl. all taxes and gratuities, two deluxe continental BK. (incl. toast), and a full-buffet DIN. on SAT. night. CT. Annette Tedesco, 41 Ferry Lane, Stillwater, NY 12170-1350, 518-664-1619, <101ted@nycap.rr.com>, John Robertson or Ross Brown. HA.

OCTOBER 15, DALLAS, TX: Sat: 10:30 AM, 6 RDS. EF: \$30. **Round robin groups (with director discretion predicated upon mix of field). LUN. after 2 games. Walk-ins o.k.** Crowne Plaza Suites — Dallas Park Cntrl., 7800 Alpha Rd, Dallas, TX 75240. CT. Chris Cree, 3708 Bryn Mawr Dr., Dallas, TX 75225, 214-701-4681, <chris.cree@yahoo.com> or Carla Cree, 3708 Bryn Mawr Dr., Dallas, TX 75225, 214-701-4681, <cc.cree@yahoo.com>. HA.

OCTOBER 22, FORT LAUDERDALE, FL: Sat: 9:00 AM, 8 RDS. EF: \$35. **Add \$5 late fee after October 10, 2011. Round robin pairings — 2 to 4 DIVS., determined by number of entrants.** Fort Lauderdale Bridge Club, Holiday Park, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304. CT. Tim Wise, 954-942-6319, <wise9778@gmail.com>. HA.

OCTOBER 22, NORWALK, CT: Sat: 9:00 AM, 8 RDS. EF: \$60. **Reduced entry fee of \$40 for first-time players.** Main Event 2: Sat: 9:00 AM, 4 RDS. EF: \$20.

MORE TOURNAYS continued on p. 19

More Tournaments

from *UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS*, p. 18

Youth DIV. (restricted to players under 18 as of January 1, 2011). Main Event 3: Sat: 2:00 PM, 4 RDS. EF: \$20. **Youth DIV. (restricted to players <18 as of January 1, 2011).** Chess Club of Fairfield County, 710 West Avenue, Norwalk, CT, 06850, 203-644-3037. CT. Cornelia Guest, 203-244-5324, <corneliastguest@gmail.com>. HA.

OCTOBER 22, YORK, PA: Sat: 9:30 AM, 7 RDS. R-R/K-H. EF: \$60. **Entry fee incl. LUN. Registration begins at 8 a.m. 4 DIVS.: ratings cut-offs based on attendance (we will attempt to have no more than a 250 point rating spread for DIVS.). Registrations received after October 17 are not guaranteed a spot.** B.P.O. Elks Lodge #213, 223 N. George Street, York, PA 17401. CT. Don Hake, 18 S. George Street #44, York, PA 17401, 717-764-0792, <donhake@comcast.net>. HA.

OCTOBER 22-23, ASHEVILLE, NC: Sat: 9:00 AM, 8 RDS. Sun: 9:00 AM, 6 RDS. EF: Div. 1: \$100, Div. 2 and lower: \$80. **DIV. One for those rated 1700 and higher, play up if within 100 points. Four lower DIVS. at directors' discretion. Pairing system: Modified Round Robin with KOH & Gibson rule.** Senior Opportunity Center, 36 Grove Street Asheville, NC 28801. CT. Bill Snoddy, 828-252-8154, <williamrsnoddy@gmail.com> or JoAnn Goddard, 828-252-4895, <artichokes58@yahoo.com>. HA.

OCTOBER 23, ELK HORN, IA: Sun: 9:00 AM, 8 RDS. R-R/K-H. EF: \$25. Town Hall, 4212 Main St., Elk Horn, Iowa 51531-8018, (712) 764-5512. CT. Kirk Troutman, H: 402-592-3951 or C: 402-216-5571, <ktroutman@cox.net>. HA.

OCTOBER 28-30, SAN FRANCISCO, CA: 4th Annual California Open. Fri: 8 RDS. Sat: 8 RDS. Sun: 4 RDS. EF: \$100. Commuter fee: \$25. **This is an OPEN tournament with 1 DIV. Pairing system TBD. Entries must be received by October 15.** Parc 55 Hotel, 55 Cyril Magnin St., San Francisco, CA, 419-392-8000. HP: Scrabble tournament rate of \$139/night. More info to come. CT. Ed DeGuzman, 415-335-6926, <edwardd@gmail.com> or Chris Patrick Morgan, 415-573-5926, <xpmorgan@gmail.com>. HA.

OCTOBER 29, AUSTIN, TX: Sat: 10:30 AM, 6 RDS. EF: \$20. **In addition to TWL DIVS.(s), a Collins DIV. will be offered provided that there are at least 4 players in the Collins DIV. 10 point challenge penalty will be used in Collins DIV.** Salvation Army Corps Community Center, 1001 Cumberland Road, Austin TX 78704. HP: 512-442-3212. CT. Geoff Thevenot, <gwthevenot@gmail.com> or Jean McArthur. HA.

OCTOBER 29, SOUTH LYON, MI: Sat: 9:00 AM, 8 RDS. EF: \$50.

Challenge Contest 6

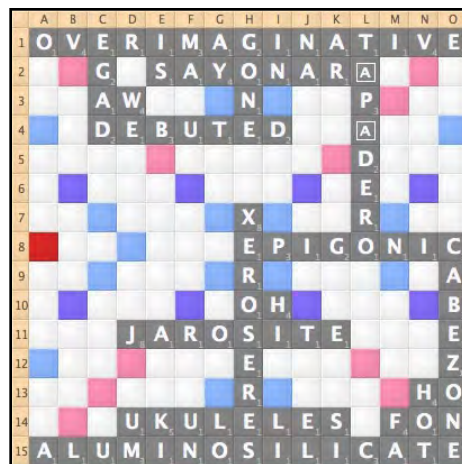
by the Bulletin Committee

This month's challenge is to construct the highest-scoring solitaire game as follows. The first play is unrestricted, but thereafter all plays must be eight-letter words whose first four and last four letters are each acceptable on their own. (That is, they look like 4-4 compound words, even if they are not semantic compounds.) As usual, every play must be able to withstand a OTCWL2+LL challenge. You do not need to use up all the tiles, and any left in the bag should not be deducted from your final score. In the sample solution, the words played score 385 points.



To enter the contest, enter your game into Quackle (assigning alternate moves to each player), and save and upload a .gcg file through NASPA Member Services, before midnight EDT on the evening of September 15th. The winning solution will be published in the next issue of the Bulletin, and the winner will receive a year's membership renewal. Ties will be broken in favour of the solution which is received first.

We asked last month for the highest-scoring solitaire game involving only words which alternate vowels (AEIOU) and consonants (all other letters). The winning submission used two triple-triple-triples to score a net 2386 points and gets Tony Rasch a year's NASPA membership renewal.



Submissions Wanted

by the Bulletin Committee

Greetings to all! Do you have a great photograph from a recent tournament, an interesting SCRABBLE-related story, an unbelievable phoney, a mind-boggling bingo, a cartoon, a photograph, or a really great scoring combination that you would like to share? Email us at the Bulletin at info@scrabbleplayers.org, and you may find yourself front and center of the next issue! We want to hear from you!

Game Position

by the Bulletin Committee

The position showed below occurred in Round 30 on August 10th, 2011 at the National SCRABBLE Championship in an annotated Board 1 game between Jesse Day (Berkeley, CA) and Nigel Richards (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia). Jesse led the field, with a one-game and 257-point lead over third-place Nigel, but was trailing 202-139 after playing OWED. Nigel held ?GIKRST and wanted to win this game with large spread. What did he do?



Last month's answer to the position from the King's Cup tournament was to play SENaTOR as a seven-tile overlap on the bottom row, from TENURE-S to FA-R.

Copyright ©2011 NASPA. SCRABBLE® is a trademark of Hasbro, Inc. in the United States and Canada, and of Mattel, Inc. elsewhere. The NASPA Bulletin is available exclusively to NASPA members online during the first week of publication, and can be publicly downloaded from <http://www.scrabbleplayers.org> in later weeks. Comments concerning and submissions to the Bulletin may be emailed to info@scrabbleplayers.org.

The NASPA Bulletin is designed, typeset (in Adobe Garamond 10/10.5 with heads in Gill Sans) and edited by John Chew and Kristen Pederson Chew of Posfit Press; graphic design by Alice Ching-Chew.