

ENDGAME

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Scrabble® Association of India
Volume 1, Issue 1 – March 2021



SCRABBLE
ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

Presenting the new SAI logo, designed by Nidhi Singhvi

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Foreword

Dear SAI Members,

We are pleased to present to you the first edition of Endgame, the quarterly newsletter of the Scrabble Association of India.

Through this new initiative, we intend to enhance the community aspect of Indian Scrabble. We also feel that this newsletter would give the members an opportunity to voice their opinions, reminisce about memorable events and share their wordiness with each other.

With a new normal forced upon us, a plethora of online tournaments and countless friendlies on the ISC (Internet Scrabble Club) played an immense role towards keeping the passion for the game burning within us in the year gone by.

If there was a silver lining amidst all the uncertainty, it manifested itself in the form of such tournaments, online workshops, and innovative incentives from various members, even though the rattling of the tiles was conspicuous by its absence.

It would not be wrong to say that Endgame is also a by-product of this need to keep the pot boiling.

In the past few weeks, we have seen a much-awaited return to live action after nearly a year. As we slowly but surely move towards a semblance of normalcy, we believe that there are brighter days ahead of us.

We hope that you find this first edition enjoyable.

Happy reading!

Best wishes,

Rustom Deboo
Editor

Solace in Scrabble during lockdown limbo

by Rustom Deboo

Scrabble tournaments across the world are occasions highly anticipated by players and organisers alike. They present a great opportunity to be among like-minded members of a close-knit community. The competition is as intense as any other sport, and the 'after-hours' are often replete with events ranging from poker sessions to karaoke gigs.

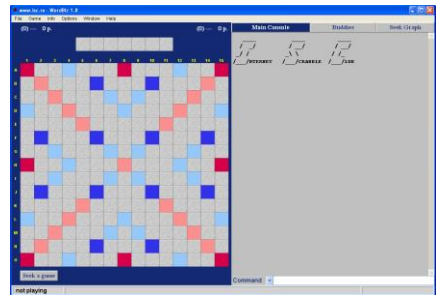
The scene is no different in India, where players from various walks of life and belonging to all possible age groups congregate every other month in different parts of the country. The all-encompassing appeal of Scrabble was delightfully represented by the sight of a seven-year-old taking on a 97-year-old at a tournament in Bangalore last year. These wordsmiths have been pitting their wits against each other on a regular basis, face to face. Until March 2020, that is.

Like almost everything else, the competitive Scrabble scene was brought to a grinding halt by the raging pandemic overnight. Travel restrictions, distancing norms and limits on gatherings combined to signal an indefinite hiatus on live tournaments. This was much to the chagrin of the players, who never had to think twice before throwing their hats in the ring in normal circumstances.

As the global crisis loomed, the foresight of a few contributed greatly towards satisfying the cravings of many a Scrabble-starved soul. The Internet

Scrabble Club (ISC) had long been a platform for virtual Scrabble jousts. But its significance was truly magnified in the wake of the need for online tournaments during the lockdown. It did not take long for the 'new normal' to kick in, and the regular online tournaments soon became a way of life for many.

These online tournaments afforded competitive players a chance to stay in touch with the game. They have also indeed been a source of joy and relief amid gloomy times. Moreover, they have enabled Scrabblers to interact with each other by virtue of the frequent doses of tournament games on the ISC. This has in turn helped maintain a semblance of the community feel that is the hallmark of any in-person tournament.



A standard in-person tournament in India involves a league format resulting in individual standings, generally played over two to four days. An exception is the annual Wordaholix Scrabble League (WSL), modelled on an exciting team format that brings a

refreshing dimension to competitive Scrabble. The WSL is unique, as it generates great bonhomie among the participants. However, the boom in online tournaments, borne out of necessity, has certainly taken the innovation to another level, with a view to keep the players hooked.

Such new ideas for online tournaments have gone a long way in sustaining the players' interest in the game. Multiple editions of a team tournament that introduced the concept of an IPL-style player auction, a 'Casino' tournament that brought in aspects from poker to add to the unpredictability, a knockout tournament that drew over 100 players, a tournament modelled on city-based teams, a tournament exclusively for beginners, as also another for the top-rated players – you name it.

Unsurprisingly, the 'lockdown tournaments' have not just been restricted to India. A major global tournament that had Scrabble addicts glued to their screens was the Virtual World Cup that saw teams from 16 countries, with each team having five players. The Indian Scrabble fraternity had more reason to cheer, as the Indian team made it to the final before agonisingly falling short against the United States.

Many of these tournaments have featured commentary and analysis from expert players, lending Scrabble a touch of being a 'spectator sport'. Even for those not inclined on playing, the tournaments have given a chance to work behind the scenes and consequently stay involved with the

game. They have also been instrumental in attracting newbies who had no prior tournament experience. Thanks to the lockdown tournaments, many have been able to tide over what could have been a much more trying time, had it not been for the warmth of Scrabble.

The online Scrabble scene continues to evolve, with new ideas emerging from various parts of the world. Recently, there has been a much-awaited return to in-person tournaments, which offer experiences that no online tourney could possibly offer. Be it in the form of a family get-together at home or a hard-fought online tournament, Scrabble has undoubtedly been a beacon of hope during these uncertain times.

Endgame Extra: Know the 23 names of countries, both old and new, that are valid words in Scrabble

- (1) BOLIVIA, (2) BRAZIL,
 - (3) CANADA, (4) CHAD,
 - (5) CHILE, (6) CHINA,
 - (7) CONGO, (8) CYPRUS,
 - (9) GREECE, (10) GUINEA,
 - (11) HOLLAND, (12) INDIA,
 - (13) JAPAN, (14) JORDAN,
 - (15) MALI, (16) NIGER,
 - (17) PANAMA, (18) RUSSIA,
 - (19) SPAIN, (20) TONGA,
 - (21) TURKEY, (22) WALES
 - (23) ZAIRE
-

The Wordaholix story

by Mimi Hingorani

In 2003, a bunch of Scrabble lovers in Mumbai got together to find ways of spreading their love of Scrabble in the community. After much brainstorming, Wordaholix was born and so began the Bhatias' & the Hingoranis' journey to fulfill their Scrabble obsession!

Their main aim was to reach out to school kids. Several schools were approached to introduce competitive Scrabble to students, but to no avail. However, Jessie Vaz, then Principal of the Jamnabai Narsee School, encouraged Wordaholix to start classes as part of their after-school activities. A few students signed up with Neeta Bhatia and Varisht Hingorani, who initiated them in weekly classes.



The Indian School Scrabble Championship (Mumbai Zonal Qualifiers) conducted by Wordaholix

Wordaholix also started conducting workshops for children in the basement of Juhu Gymkhana Club, where the Mumbai Scrabble Club used to meet. Workshops were also held at IIT, Powai, for Rotary Clubs, Doctors' Associations, and any institution

where Wordaholix could find interested people.

Interest in Scrabble classes grew at the Jamnabai Narsee School (JNS). When a few children were ready for advanced coaching, private classes started with this handful of students in 2011. The Wordaholix team of Varisht, Neeta, myself, and Sherwin Rodrigues (who joined the team) started advanced batches in Juhu.

Encouraging students to participate in the annual JNS Scrabble Tournaments as well as tournaments in Mumbai, Pune & Goa lead to the first batch heading to the World Youth Scrabble Championship (WYSC) 2013 in Dubai.



Team Wordaholix at the Collins Scrabble for School Championship

The current Principal of JNS, Zeenat Bhojabhoy, has given Scrabble a boost by including it as a hobby subject in the curriculum for students from standards 4 to 7. From in-house tournaments for the past 15 years to hosting the selection tournament for

SAI, JNS has been a pioneer school for Scrabble.

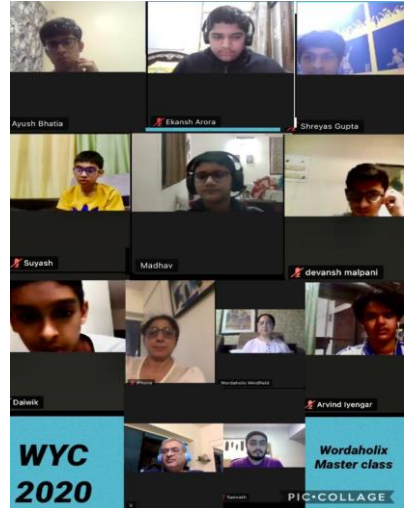
Since 2013, Wordaholix has seen students representing India at the WYSC in Sri Lanka, Australia, France, Malaysia, Dubai and recently at the online WESPA Youth Cup 2020, where two of the six-member Indian squad were Wordaholix kids. Samrath Singh Bhatia finished tenth in Australia in 2015, while Vraj Jain finished eighth in Malaysia in 2018.



The Wordaholix Scrabble League family

In 2015, Wordaholix introduced a team-based Scrabble event, named Wordaholix Scrabble League, in Mumbai. This unique team event, held annually, has gained immense popularity among the Scrabble fraternity. Teams captained by high rated players mentor their teammates, strategise and aim to win the WSL trophy. The WSL family has grown over the years, thanks to the camaraderie, serious Scrabble and partying over three days. Thanks to the efforts of the "unofficial" CEO Harry Bhatia, Wordaholix receives corporate sponsorship to reward all the teams based on their standing. The year 2019 heralded the first ever 'off-site' WSL, held at The Bark in Lonavala.

In the past pandemic year, Wordaholix continued to spread Scrabble through online classes and even held an online Wordaholix Scrabble Speedathon in September 2020.



Wordaholix online training session with Team India for the WESPA Youth Cup 2020

The focus has shifted to online activities with hobby classes for JNS, after-school activity classes for Jamnabai Narsee International School, beginners' batches, advanced batches, and mentoring sessions. Wordaholix also conducted sessions and shared resources with the young Team India participants ahead of the online WESPA Youth Cup (WYC) 2020.

The love for the game has evolved into a passion for Team Wordaholix, and together with their families' support, they continue to spread the Scrabble word.

My first international Scrabble tournament

by Arindam Basu

It is generally said that when the colonial rulers from Great Britain left the shores of India, they left behind two legacies that post-independent India capitalised in the global economy.

The first one is of course cricket, a game that has evolved and is commercially stronger in its shortest format. The second legacy is the English language, in all its forms, that has eventually made India an outsourcing giant of software development work.

Hidden behind the dazzle of commerce there also lies a deep love for both these heirlooms, so to speak, among a large section of population. Scrabble, as a board game that involves word-making, hence has always had natural roots in India although the commercialisation of the game languishes deeper than that found in many other countries.

As far as the tournament scene in India is concerned, the shining glory has been the international tournament sponsored by a major software developer in Bangalore, every January. My first time at an international Scrabble tournament was here in 2016.

Being my first foray into competitive Scrabble at the international level, I participated in the open division, looking for valuable lessons & tips along the way. And it was an experience worth the entry fee. Since not only did one play with quality players

from India & South Asia (including one from the erstwhile “coloniser”), but one could also meet a large group of like-minded Scrabblers who were agemates, and from both sexes.



Players in action during the international tournament in Bangalore in January 2016

The top seed in the open division was a Sri Lankan player, Indunil Amarasinghe, my online pal. Indu was present with his parents, both competitive Scrabblers. While in the premier division it was the reigning world number one, Nigel Richards, who has played in all the editions of this Indian international tournament.

Giving company to Nigel in the premier division were the likes of Hubert Wee, Marlon Prudencio, Michael Tang, Russel Honeybun, Gerry Carter, Tony Sim and the top Indian players, including the national champion, 26-year-old Sherwin Rodrigues.

Unlike other three-day tournaments, the one in Bangalore is held over four days and features 35 games of Scrabble played in true Swiss format with

the King of the Hill (where one plays with the peers) kicking in on the eve of the penultimate day.

I managed to win 16 games, losing more than a few by margins less than 20, and my feather in the crown was a virtual thrashing given to an heir of the colonisers, a gentle expatriate from Great Britain settled in India for decades. A thank-you note to his ancestors, so to speak. In between I played with Indu, who won 398-379.

Indu went ahead to play a great tournament, finishing runner-up in the open pack of 57 to the eventual winner, Sanchit Kapoor, a school-going Indian-born Dubai resident. Sanchit had to be Gibsonised (meaning that a person is not matched with any opponent if he or she is assured of the top place) on the last day and simply loitered around for a while, and then played (and lost) a friendly game with Nigel, who had to be similarly Gibsonised in the premier division.



During breaks and between games, I did manage to click a few pictures out of which some were of final boards. The one that I liked is pictured here above. Have a look at the 14-letter word in the centre line. The first word put was TENSION, a bingo. That word was extended by a rack having S

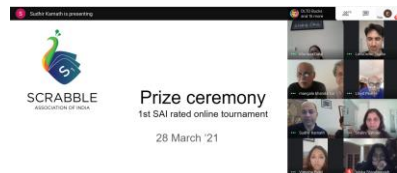
E X O V E R to OVEREXTENSIONS, another bingo. What a play! See if you can also spot URETHRAL, and three more bingos around this great board.

Overall, my first tournament experience left me with a sense of fulfillment and great joy, if nothing else, pursuing words and its jumbles for four consecutive days amidst some of the top players from across the globe.

More power to Scrabble in India, and hopefully schoolteachers who teach the English subject across the length and breadth of the country think of Scrabble as a complementary teaching aid for their students, who can increase their vocabulary and become potential competitive players.

Endgame Extra: The first SAI-rated online tournament

The first SAI-rated online tournament, christened as 'March Forward', was held on ISC from 27th to 28th March 2021. This first-of-its-kind tourney attracted 20 players and featured 15 rounds. Sanjoy Gupta sealed the top spot with a round to spare, followed by youth sensation Madhav Kamath and R Nalini in second and third places. There were also three rating band prizes on offer, which were clinched by Ishika S, Lloyd Pearse and young Triambak Eashwar.



A screenshot from the prize ceremony

The stuff dreams are made of

by Hriday Samtani

An opportunity, a dream, an experience to savour for a lifetime. The writer shares his account of playing against four-time world champion Nigel Richards at the Capgemini International Open in Bangalore.

I am a Scrabble enthusiast, and my excitement knew no bounds – I was going to participate in my first international tournament – the 15th edition of the Capgemini Scrabble Open in Bangalore. My journey with Scrabble began years ago, as a kid, when I played board games with my dad. Since then, my passion for this game has only intensified.

As I boarded my flight to Bangalore a day before the tournament, on top of my mind was not just the tournament, but also the prospect of seeing the four-time world champion Nigel Richards play live, which filled me with nervous energy.

Finally, it began. Bangalore was the place where my dreams were about to take flight. The tournament venue was spacious, with a pleasant breeze calming the players, many of us anxious and yet excited. This year, the games on Table 1 were going to be live-streamed worldwide, with Scrabble experts providing in-game commentary.



In action against the GOAT, Nigel Richards

I was happy to catch a glimpse of my muse. In the company of passionate Scrabblers, there he stood: a phenomenon, a legend, the most brilliant wordmaker the world has ever seen. Nigel Richards.

The four-day tournament was arduous and took its toll. Luck often eluded me, and jangling nerves did not help either. At the end of Day 1, I found myself languishing in the bottom half of an incredibly tough premier division. My favourite words of the day were CHEERIOS, CUDDLERS and CYLIX (all of which scored over 60 points). Some of the day's plays blew my mind. In one of the games, my opponent, a former national champion, played VIZSLA for 50 points, which turned out to be a winning move.

It was Day 2. I was hoping for a turnaround, but my chances of playing against Nigel seemed slimmer. However, some of my moves were rather

good – WHATNOT and SQUINTS for over 100 points and EXODOI for around 50 points helped me clinch a nail-biter of a game.

Day 3 was a tad better, with finally some luck going my way. My favourite words of the day were UNCRATE (95 points), HUMANOID (65 points) and OUTGONE (80 points). For the first 25 rounds of the tournament, there were spot prizes on offer in various categories, e.g., the highest five-letter word, highest bingo score, lowest margin of victory, etc. I managed to win four spot prizes! A good feeling during a tough tournament.

I have to say that, regardless of the outcome of every game, the camaraderie and exuberance among Scrabblers remained high. I was delighted to meet people from around the world: Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia, Thailand and Sri Lanka, to name a few.

On the last day, I was happy to play ZABETA, NOSELITE, and ADROITER. But then, after three days of energy-sapping Scrabble, my tournament experience reached a crescendo. The four-time world champion Nigel Richards had already won the title, but there was one game left to finish. The tournament director called me and asked if I wanted to face Nigel. I was on cloud nine! Gleefully, I accepted the offer. My dream had finally come true!



A game to cherish for a lifetime

Playing Scrabble against a champion I had admired all these years was nothing short of surreal. We were neck and neck through the game, and at the end, I fell short by just 25 points (410 vs 435). I could have won, had I not erred in my penultimate turn! Argh. It was not destined to be a fairy-tale ending, but the experience of sitting across from Nigel was more satisfying than some of my best wins. What an enthralling experience! The stuff dreams are made of.

Endgame Extra: Seven-letter words that contain four Ss

ASSISTS
POSSESS
SASSIES
SISSIES
SISSOOS
SOWSSES
STOSSES
SWISSES

All's well that ends well

by Meena Kalyan

Three years ago, I was participating in my first international Scrabble event in Bangalore. My opponent played a word beginning with G on the double letter square, reaching down to the double word square. I was excited to see the triple word opening on either side. I first thought of RAGGED and DAGGER, with S and C as the rack leave. But as I knew SCRAG, I thought SCRAGGED would be a good play.

Just on a wild gamble, I played my first-ever 9-timer, which sounded plausible. My opponent instantly challenged it, and we went to check its validity. The green tick on the laptop screen was the most amazing sight. I was beaming with excitement! We returned and recounted the score. We asked around how to calculate. A Scrabble veteran at the adjacent table said, "Multiply by 9." So, we multiplied the score by 9, and I jotted down the lovely figure of 117. The game resumed, and I plodded on till the end. I had won my last game of the day.

Several other players participating in the C division came to ask me about my 9-timer. To say I was elated was putting it mildly. When this intelligent kid asked me the score for my 9-timer, I said 117. He felt the score was low for a 9-timer and inquired about the word and board position. I happily explained it, seeing the kid's great enthusiasm. He said, "But

aunty, where are the bingo points?" I looked at him nonplussed. He elucidated, as if to a not-so-smart child: "A 9-timer is also a bingo. You should add 50 points to the total after multiplying it by 9."

I was crestfallen. After submitting the score slips signed by both players, it is over. Having played previous tournaments, I was well aware of the rule. However, this enthusiastic kid dragged me to Ashok sir (Ashok Bhandarkar, the tournament director) as I was too intimidated to ask him.

My child advocated on my behalf and presented the case with complete conviction. Ashok sir was annoyed but intrigued. It meant a lot of work. He found the score slip, checked the rules, and decided he could do nothing without the other player's consent. It was not a case of totalling but missing bingo points. The smart kid, however, did not rest the case. He was shooed away and told to focus on his games. So, I bid goodbye to everyone and my 50 points and went home, dejected.

The following morning, I came early and scanned the groups for my opponent. Another sight to behold rivaling the green tick for my 9-timer was him waiting in the queue for breakfast. I pushed my way towards him and revealed the story. I requested him to meet Ashok sir and listen to him. He understood the story and

agreed that 50 points were left out and could be added. When we met Ashok sir, he told my opponent that as the TD (Tournament Director), it was his duty to advise that there was no need to agree, and it was well within the rules to keep the score unchanged. But my opponent showed great sportsmanship and felt that we must add 50 points. He was willing to sign a new score slip! Wow! I thanked him profusely.

Ashok sir expertly conducted the formalities in his stern yet friendly

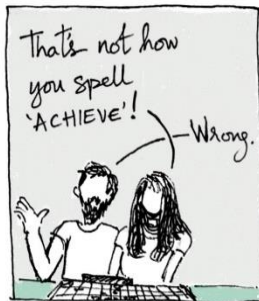
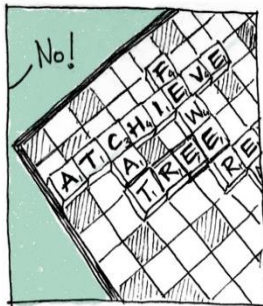
manner – a quality that has cemented his position as a respectable figure in the global Scrabble fraternity. He went through the programme with the revised score and noticed it did not disrupt the draw for the day, which was vital.

I went on to win the band prize for the C Division. As they say, all's well that ends well.

Humour

by Sudharsha, featuring Josh

SPELL



Woogles: A new choice for online Scrabble

by Rahil Parkar

When the pandemic brought Scrabble tournaments to a halt, diehard lovers of the game took to online platforms to organise tournaments. The Internet Scrabble Club (ISC) was the most popular platform, with some tournaments jumping onto the newly launched Scrabble GO app. It did provide a quick fix to players wanting to match wits against their adversaries across the board, but not all were satisfied with the status quo.

Enter the team of Cesar del Solar, Jesse Day, Conrad Bassett-Bouchard, Josh Castellano, BriAnna McKissen, Doug Brockmeier and Will Anderson. A bunch of tech geeks and Scrabble aficionados (three US champions among them), they decided to build a platform that would serve as the go-to place for Scrabble players of all skill levels.

The team named their pet project Woogles and started with a Kickstarter goal of \$15,000 in August 2020 to set up and host their new Scrabble platform. The wider Scrabble community was just as enthused about the prospect of a swanky new platform built with the latest technologies, and the Kickstarter reached its goal within 24 hours. With a total crowdfunding kitty of \$25,300, Woogles was coming to reality.

Woogles was launched on the *woogles.io* domain on 15th October 2020, and the player base has grown steadily since. The project is

completely open source with an active Discord channel, where the Woogles team engages with the community in aligning the platform to their Scrabble needs. Software nerds are encouraged to join and contribute with their expertise. There is no paid membership – Woogles relies on patronage from Scrabble players, so all players have access to the latest features that it has to offer.

The Woogles interface looks much different from that of ISC (whose design is still firmly rooted in the 90s). Players have the option to turn on dark mode that would help with eye strain. The racks are positioned at the bottom of the board and the timer is positioned on the right panel. The tile bag is also always visible, with options to arrange the tiles alphabetically, vowels first or detailed (an interesting layout, surely worth trying out). There is a handy notepad on the left panel where players can jot down their thoughts and candidate plays.

The game settings allow for more than just the single minute of overtime, with options to play on void, 5-point challenge, double challenge and even triple challenge (lose a challenge, lose the game). The USP of Woogles is their advanced game analysis engine, used by their bot player HastyBot. Any player can match the bot with a time and challenge setting of their choice for an instant game.

Woogles has also built tournament rooms where players of a tournament can gather and play their games. Tournament directors can pair games and results can be captured automatically, making the experience of competitive online games quite seamless.

Woogles is still very much a work in progress, with Discord being the channel to stay up to date with new features as well as to suggest improvements to the development team. While Woogles is far from a finished product, it certainly has great potential to become a leading online platform for Scrabble players. Do give it a whirl and write to us about what you like and dislike about Woogles.

Review: Scrabble GO app

by Rajveer Rawlin

This is a review of the Scrabble GO app from a competitive player's perspective. Yes, the ads can be a bit annoying but there is a lot you can do with the app. I am going to review each of the app's features that I have tried many times over:

1) Duels: This is a one-on-one match-up with a random opponent. You usually get 5 turns apiece. Generally, the standard of the competition is low and disconnection by opponents is high. **My rating - 3/5**

2) Arena Games:

a) Rush: This is the equivalent of playing duplicate scrabble with all the users on the site. It is quite fun but the time limit of 1.5 to 3 minutes per round is a bit too short. Useful for testing your strategies within a time constraint. **My rating - 4/5**

b) Word Drop: This requires you to reel off words, mostly 2s, 3s or 4s, in a 1.5-minute round format. Has little relevance for competitive players. **My rating - 1/5**

c) Tumbler: Similar to Word Drop, where you make mostly 2s, 3s or 4s in a 1.5-minute round format. I am not amused. **My rating - 2/5**

3) Puzzle Path: I absolutely love this. This is one thing competitive players must try. Does improve your board vision and strategy. The later rounds are particularly challenging. Particularly good to improve your short game (4-6 letters). **My rating - 4/5**

4) Word Search: This basically makes you guess common anagrams and sub-anagrams of an alphagram. Easy to do. **My rating - 3/5**

5) Adventures: This is a new word builder game with many twists. Interesting and a bit challenging. **My rating - 4/5**

6) Scrabble: The regular game. This is in a void challenge format. So, you miss out on the elements of tile tracking and challenging your opponent's moves. **My rating - 3/5**

People of Scrabble: Ashok and Mangala Bhandarkar

by Ela Ghose

Ashok Bhandarkar (affectionately known as Ashok sir/Ashok ji) is the affable but firm TD (Tournament Director) at every SAI tournament and Mangala, his wife, is an excellent Scrabble player who has won several accolades over the years (having started playing in her early 20s). But apart from that, they are parents to a Scrabble world champion, Akshay Bhandarkar, and a non-Scrabbler, Preeti, who has not escaped the world of words as she works in the field of communications.

When asked to describe each other with a couple of adjectives, regardless of their love for words, they appeared at a bit of a loss. Mangala explained that they had been together for so long, they see themselves as a unit rather than two people and so describing the other in just a couple of words is challenging! Married 45 years on April 26th, the years have flown by happily. This unit is cheerful, friendly, and approachable and they see the Scrabble community as their extended family.

While Ashok enjoys being with people and is gregarious, Mangala is more introverted, preferring one-to-one conversations to dealing with big groups: except when it comes to singing. So, if you want her to address a large group, ask her to sing and she would be happy to oblige. Although

she has no formal training, coming from a musical family where both her father and brother were passionate music hobbyists, Mangala started singing early on with her brother's orchestra. She is happiest singing Geeta Dutt songs (her favourite is "Waqt ne Kiya" from Kagaz ke Phool). Now you know what to request at the next tournament's after-party!

In addition to Scrabble and singing, another 'S' that has kept them busy for the past 13 years is shenanigans with the grandkids. Aged 3 through to 13, they have four grandsons who clearly adore their grandparents. From reading stories and feeding meals through to conversations about Harry Potter, the bond between the new generation and the older one is unmistakable.



Enjoying a sunny day at Dubai Miracle Garden

Mangala loves cooking, and her grandkids compare all the food at

restaurants to her cooking, often finding her mouth-watering meals to be superior. According to Advait – one of her grandsons – her best offerings are fried prawns and chicken curry. Somewhat cheesily, he says he prefers his grandma's cooking to every other sort because it is 'seasoned with love'.

Fellow Scrabbler Selwyn Lobo, who has been a friend for several years, vouches for Mangala's passion for the game as well as her culinary expertise, especially her fish curry and fish fry. "Simply delicious", he says. Her devotion to the game of Scrabble is exemplified by their two-day holiday to Mahableshwar. It turned into a complete Scrabble binge...they played over 24 games of Scrabble while Ashok, a good sport, played TD while enjoying the fresh air. Scrabble is not all they played together though – Selwyn also introduced Mangala to casinos in Sri Lanka and that's when Mangala discovered her penchant for gambling – and she is good at it too! She enjoys poker, and you can find her placing bets with some of the gang post-tournaments.

Mangala is not the only one with varied talents and interests. There is a green thumb in the family, with Ashok being passionate about his garden – in fact, it was one of the main things that brought them to Pune, the promise of a retired life in a house with a garden where Ashok could grow his own produce and tend to gorgeous flowerbeds. He has so far grown a variety of vegetables, fruits, and flowers from broccoli to tomatoes and roses to hibiscus flowers.

Ashok is an architect, so despite having retired, he still brings pencil to paper to sketch still life from time to time. His sketching has kept him busy during the pandemic, as he has produced little creations that have enthralled his grandsons as they hope to learn artistic skills from him.

They are both avid readers, devouring fictional books whenever there is a spare moment to read throughout the day. From old favourites like Agatha Christie books, through to the well-written Jeffrey Archer novels, they make sure they always have a book at hand regardless of whether they are at home or travelling.



Mangala winning the prize for third place in B Division at the 2019 Capgemini International Tournament in Bangalore

While they are now in Dubai with their children's families, they used to be avid travellers pre-pandemic, aiming to visit a new country at least once every couple of years, while also

enjoying exploring India and everything this country has to offer. From sampling local cuisines to participating in different traditions, their love for travel and meeting people from different countries comes above all else. Their adventures so far include a safari in Kenya, navigating the ruins of Angkor Wat in Cambodia, attending a World Scrabble Championship in Washington, and being amazed by the stunning postcard views from atop a hill in Heidelberg, amongst many, many more.



One of Ashok's sketches for his grandkids

They also have an annual tradition of attending Goa for the Goa Scrabble tournament and following it up with a family holiday. Places they have on their wish list are China and Japan – with a cruise thrown in somewhere – and the North Eastern states. With the get up and go these two have, they are sure to tick all this off sooner

rather than later, as soon as the pandemic allows them to resume their travel schedule.

So, how did the couple get into Scrabble? After Mangala married Ashok, she moved to Bahrain where Ashok had already set up base. While she was finding her feet in the Middle East, a friend of hers invited her to Dubai. At her friend's house, she was introduced to Scrabble and was instantly entranced. On her way back home, she was so enamoured with the game that she stopped at a store in Dubai to buy a Scrabble set in case it was not available in Bahrain!



With the Leaning Tower of Pisa

When she got back, she explained the game to Ashok and soon they were playing it at every chance they got. She then joined the Bahrain Scrabble Club, and the rest, as they say, is history. Ashok, who has always been supportive of Mangala, would babysit the future Scrabble World

Champion and his baby sister Preeti whenever Mangala was at the league.

When she realised that Akshay had what it takes to be an extraordinary player, she and Ashok decided that Scrabble should be given as much priority as his studies. Mangala defines the “it” factor as not only ease of spotting words and finding the best play, but also the temperament of a champion.

As Ashok does not play tournaments but is familiar with the rules and was on hand to help (they returned to India in 2009-2010 and settled in Pune), he was persuaded to be a TD. One tournament led to another and soon he became the regular TD for all SAI tournaments. He has also been a TD at tournaments in Dubai and Sri Lanka. In fact, he says one of the perks of being a TD, is to be able to meet each player. When an issue comes up, he is firm but fair – always

explaining the basis for his decision. It helps that he has in abundance the qualities a TD requires: patience, people skills, a good knowledge of the rules and the ability to be firm yet friendly.

When asked what they love most about Scrabble, they both particularly enjoy the company of their Scrabble friends. Coming into a tournament, they are greeted by virtually everyone in the room with friendly hellos and warm hugs. There is no doubt that this warmth and camaraderie that they share with the Scrabble community will continue for a long time to come.

Ela Ghose has been profiling Indian Scrabble players on a Facebook group, and kindly agreed to share this profile for Endgame. You can contact her to get added to the group and have a look at her other profiles.

Endgame Extra: Know the 39 seven-letter words starting with END

- | | | |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1. ENDARCH | 15. ENDLANG | 28. ENDRINS |
| 2. ENDARTS | 16. ENDLEAF | 29. ENDSHIP |
| 3. ENDCAPS | 17. ENDLESS | 30. ENDUING |
| 4. ENDEARS | 18. ENDLONG | 31. ENDURED |
| 5. ENDEMIC | 19. ENDMOST | 32. ENDURER |
| 6. ENDERON | 20. ENDNOTE | 33. ENDURES |
| 7. ENDEWED | 21. ENDOGEN | 34. ENDUROS |
| 8. ENDGAME | 22. ENDOPOD | 35. ENDWAYS |
| 9. ENDGATE | 23. ENDORSE | 36. ENDWISE |
| 10. ENDINGS | 24. EN- | 37. ENDYSES |
| 11. ENDIRON | DOWED | 38. ENDYSIS |
| 12. ENDITED | 25. ENDOWER | 39. ENDZONE |
| 13. ENDITES | 26. ENDOZOA | |
| 14. ENDIVES | 27. ENDPLAY | |

Club history: Bangalore (KSSA)

with inputs from Radhika Mahalingaiah, Rex D'Souza, Lennie D'Souza, Stephen Remedios and Hema Shah

In 1998, Rex D'Souza, a retired Merchant Navy captain, happened to be in Hyderabad, where he came across a competitive Scrabble tournament for the first time. He saw the game being played in an altogether different manner and with an aggressive spirit.

On returning to Bangalore, Rex spoke about the experience to his wife Lennie, who duly decided to organise a two-day tournament at St. Joseph's English High School that year itself. This drew an encouraging response of about 100 participants. Buoyed by the same, they started the Karnataka State Scrabble Association (KSSA) for avid Scrabblers.



The pioneers: Rex and Lennie D'Souza

Interest in Scrabble picked up gradually in Bangalore, with many enthusiasts turning into regulars at the club. Quite a few people from the city who had resided in the Middle East especially took to Scrabble, as they had already been well-versed with the competitive scene. Members of the club also started playing in parks, coffee shops, trains, and planes to catch the eye of potential Scrabblers.

Indeed, Cubbon Park became a hotspot for Scrabble sessions. The regulars included Syed Habibur Rahman, Aleemullah Khan (collectively called the 'Sheiks'), Radhika Mahalingaiah, Lennie, Stephen Remedios and his sister Karen. This 'Cubbon Park Crew' played on benches early in the mornings, much to the amusement of the walkers. Radhika, who had played in that first tournament in 1998, was the connector in the early days, getting journalists to write about the games at Cubbon Park.

The club encouraged players to travel to tournaments outside the city by covering half the tournament fees. Members also made it a point to travel to international tournaments and create awareness about the Scrabble scene in Bangalore. With time, the KSSA started attracting corporate sponsorship for city-level and state-level tournaments, projecting Scrabble as a novel mind sport.

The first half of the following decade saw a significant milestone for the club. Radhika, along with Rex and Manju Sood, took up the mantle of persuading IT company iGate to sponsor an international tournament in Bangalore. Their efforts bore fruit, as the first iGate International was held at the iGate campus in Whitefield in January 2005.



Regular members of the KSSA at a club meet-up in 2015 (source: Deccan Herald)

Over the years, the iGate International (Capgemini International since 2017 and MuSigma Scrabble Tournament in 2020) has gone on to become the most coveted tournament on the Indian calendar, what with top players from across the world participating in it every January. The tournament took place for 16 years running until the pandemic caused an unavoidable hiatus this year.

The latest edition in 2020 saw close to 130 players battle it out across four divisions. It is the only tournament in India that is played over four days. It is attended every year by the GOAT (Greatest of All Time) Nigel Richards, who has pocketed the premier division title on the last 11 occasions. It has also been a debut tournament for

many players, both Indian and international, who have risen through the ranks.

In addition, the KSSA has also been organising a national three-day tournament since 2018 and had been organising regular one-day tournaments in normal circumstances until March 2020. Recently, it organised the first SAI-rated tournament since the lockdown, a one-dayer on 14th February 2021.



Action during the 2015 Capgemini International Tournament in Bangalore

During the lockdown, the KSSA realised the value of online events to reach a larger audience more frequently. It has been conducting regular online tournaments, workshops and quizzes, including the popular monthly 'Scrabble Shrabble' since March 2020. Today, KSSA offers online tournaments, learning events and memberships to anyone interested, both inside and outside Karnataka, and currently has 130 members on its roster.

Did you know?

- To sustain the initial momentum from the first tournament in Bangalore, smaller groups of people would meet at each other's houses to play between four to six competitive games in a session.
- The first revenue source for KSSA was an updated version of the lexicon that was photocopied and shared among the founding members till the nth copy was hardly readable.
- Syed Habibur Rahman (who used the initials SHR when he kept score) was nicknamed "The P Master" for his uncanny ability to make bingos whenever he picked the P.
- Aleemullah Khan (referred to as AK47) wore his trademark cap while the going was good. If he took his cap off and placed it on the table, it implied he had been successfully put under pressure. In a matter a of few moves the whole board would then be blocked off!
- The annual international tournament in Bangalore every January is the only tournament in India that is played over the course of four days and across four divisions.

Endgame Extra: ADEINOT?

Words that can be formed if you get a rack of ADEINOT and a floater:

+B
OBTAINED

+C
ACTIONED
CATENOID

+I
IDEATION
IODINATE
TAENIODE

+L
DELATION

+M
DOMINATE
NEMATOID

+N
ANOINTED
ANTINODE

+P
ANTIPODE

+R
AROINTED
DERATION
ORDINATE
RATIONED

+S
ASTONIED
SEDATION

+T
ANTIDOTE
TETANOID

+V
DONATIVE

A matter of expurgation

Background: What is the issue?

Over the last year, there has been a movement to remedy historical racial wrongs, and one of the offshoots of this movement has been a demand to remove some words from the Collins Scrabble Words (CSW) 2019 dictionary. This expurgation has been hotly debated by Scrabblers on Facebook, email, and other forums. Mattel, as the owner of the Scrabble trademark, has decided that the box rules of Scrabble will be changed to remove "hate words" (just like the box rules disallow capitalised words and abbreviations).

The World English-Language Scrabble Players Association (WESPA) had engaged with Mattel, but essentially Mattel said that it has the sole right and decided that it was going ahead with the move (it may have had its own legal, PR or regulatory reasons for deciding). Mattel has also got Collins to agree on publishing a new word list with the words removed. WESPA has a licence from Mattel to use the trademark "Scrabble", and Mattel made it clear to WESPA that if the latter wants to retain the licence, then like all other licensees it must follow the new list of words (when-ever it is produced). As per the current WESPA constitution, WESPA is obliged to do so.

Within the WESPA Executive Committee, this matter was debated, and one option mooted was to change the

WESPA constitution. This would have implied giving up the Mattel licence and therefore the right to call our tournaments as "Scrabble" tournaments; they would be called "cross-word game" tournaments or by some other such name instead. This would have also meant maintaining a word list separate from Collins, based on the 2019 edition.

This change in the constitution would have required the consent of 75% votes cast at a general body meeting. WESPA's Executive Committee sent SAI an email that this would be discussed at a special general body meeting. For reference, SAI currently has no nominee on the WESPA Executive Committee and has about 3% voting power in the general body meeting.

What action was taken by SAI and why?

The SAI Managing Committee discussed this, and all seven members felt that what Mattel was asking for (following the new dictionary with the removal of 400-odd words) was a small request compared to the consequences of losing the right to use the trademark "Scrabble", and possibly other copyright-related issues.

Incidentally, the SAI constitution clearly says that its objective is to promote and play "Scrabble", not generic word games, so as per the current SAI constitution too it was untenable for SAI to vote for the WESPA proposal. SAI therefore decided to vote against

the proposal to change the WESPA constitution.

On the original question of whether words ought to be deleted, opinions are divided; but the question before SAI was not that – it was simply "should we change the WESPA constitution to remove the word "Scrabble" and lose Mattel's association, in return for retaining those words"?

Outcome

The said WESPA general body meeting happened on 27th February 2021. A total of 47% (among those who voted) voted for the proposed change, as against the required threshold of 75%. A total of 53% (including SAI) voted against the change. Therefore, there is set to be no change to the constitution, and the new expurgated list of words proposed by Mattel will be accepted by WESPA when it is ready, probably a few months from now. WESPA will provide an initiation kit, having a list of words added or deleted. SAI will keep members updated when this takes place.

What do SAI members feel about it?

I think the game should be bereft of such social concerns at the tournament level at least. That a word is offensive does not mean that it should not be part of the language. The game's innate connection to the English language should not be controlled in this way. Scrabble, like chess, should ideally be devoid of such social and commercial issues. Instead of truncating the wordlist, it

is perhaps best to create a family friendly wordlist that is devoid of rude words altogether. – Josh P

A word is a word for a game. Whatever is included in the CSW list is from the basic English language and dictionary. By removing words, we will not be able to remove hatred from the hearts. I do not see any point in this exercise. – Jayant Sastry

Scrabble is a word game. Knowledge of meaning is inessential. We play words that help us score higher and win a game. No player displays any attitude about choosing words to deliberately disparage any person for colour or sex or religion. This being so, why remove certain words? Can we correct societal prejudice by striking out words in a game when the attitudes go unchecked? There is no end to one group or another demanding cancellation of words as they mean offence. Let the games be fun with words. Scrabble brings together all colours of skin and flags. Keep it that way. – Meena Kalyan

Every Scrabble word has a meaning, but can a word by itself offend someone or some group? It can surely do so if it is addressed to someone or formed into a sentence. Expurgation of words from the Scrabble dictionary would hardly resolve this issue. We are fortunate that in Scrabble we play a word without having to learn the meaning. A Scrabble player must only concentrate on maximising his score with the available letters and is not burdened with what it means. Who will decide what is offensive or not? After all, we are not

living in an ideal world. Where do we draw the line? I would follow the dictum 'Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words cannot hurt me', more so while playing Scrabble. In my humble opinion, this discourse about whether a word is offensive or not does not bode well for the future of Scrabble. – Cecil Fernandes

I do not feel that certain words excluded or included should be of any concern to players, as often enough, insertions, deletions and at times variations have taken place. I think this is a deliberate attempt by certain vested interests to malign Mattel because they (Mattel) are associated with this deletion. Just as all games have rules, so does Scrabble. However, it would certainly be an ideal proposition if a finite set of words is the "For Always" words of Scrabble. – Lloyd Pearse

How some of the member associations voted at the said WESPA general body meeting:

Voted for:
Pakistan
Nigeria
New Zealand

Voted against:
India
United States and Canada
United Kingdom
Australia
Sri Lanka
Malaysia
Singapore

Abstained:
Thailand

Endgame Extra: Know your Qs without the Us

Except for those with an asterisk, all words can be pluralised by adding S:

QI	QAJAQ	QINTAR	MBAQANGA
QAT	QANAT	QWERTY	QABALISM
QIN	QAPIK	SHEQEL	QABALIST
	QIBLA	YAQONA	QAIMAQAM
CINQ	QORMA	INQILAB	QALAMDAN
FIQH	TALAQ	KAMOTIQ	QINDARKA*
QADI	TRANQ		QINTARKA*
QAID	NIQAAB	QABALAH	SHEQALIM*
QOPH	QABALA	QAWWALI	TSADD-
WAQF	QASIDA	TSADDIQ	IQIM*
	QAWWAL	TZADDIQ	TZADDI-
FAQIR	QIGONG		QIM*
NIQAB	QINDAR		

Tournament round-up

Bangalore One-dayer

by Radhika Mahalingaiah

The 14th of February was indeed a day of celebration for a few of the Bangalore tournament regulars. It was the eagerly awaited day when we could lock the unforeseen Covid-infested 2020 behind bars and throw the key away in a swamp.



Participants at the Bangalore one-dayer

The first SAI-rated in-person tournament after more than a year was held at the pavilion area of Patel's Inn Resort, a wide and open area. Tables were five feet apart, smartly equipped with sanitiser bottles along with boards and timers. The KSSA organisers Suchindra Potnis (the tournament director) and Pankaj Bolaki made sure that strict Covid protocols were in place.

Covid, the scary monster, kept many players away, but 16 did turn up braving the challenge, including little Suhaas Khandelwal, Arnav Keshwani and Keshav A. It was encouraging to

see the enthusiasm in the young brigade.



A game between Hemanth Achaya and Vidya Goggi saw 999 points (518 v 481)

There were eight games in all, starting at 9 a.m. and diligently winding up at 5 p.m. Manju Sood, KSSA Vice President, arrived for the prize distribution, fretting that she could not play owing to a family obligation.

Ishika S emerged as the winner with a W/L of 7/1, followed by yours truly in second place with 6/2. Pankaj, Yash Potnis and Abid Hussain (5/3 each) rounded off the top five.

Incidentally, the last SAI-rated tournament before this was also a one-dayer in Bangalore, back on 8th March 2020.

Round 8 Standings				
Rank	Won-Lost	Spread	Player	Last Game
1	7-1	+963	[shika S (#4)]	1W 409-405 #3
2	6-2	+316	Radhika Mahalingaiah (#5)	2W 381-304 #2
3	5-3	+586	Pankaj Bolanki (#3)	2L 405-409 #4
4	5-3	+406	Yash Potnis (#1)	2W 501-362 #6
5	5-3	+269	Abid Hussain (#2)	2W 403-369 #8
6	5-3	+246	Dinankar Chatterjee (#2)	1L 304-381 #5
7	5-3	+3	Suchindra Potnis (#6)	1L 362-501 #1
8	4-4	+161	Abhijit Shilotri (#9)	2W 409-379 #10
9	4-4	-189	Hemanth Acharya (#8)	1L 369-403 #7
10	4-4	-281	Mayank Khandelwal (#12)	1W 328-306 #16
11	3-5	-36	Vidya Gogoi (#10)	1L 379-409 #9
12	3-5	-384	Yaseen Mohammed (#11)	2W 411-280 #15
13	3-5	-545	Keshav A (#16)	2L 306-328 #12
14	2-6	-345	Suhas Khandelwal (#13)	2W 400-300 #14
15	2-6	-577	Shaheer Farooq (#15)	1L 280-411 #11
16	1-7	-762	Arnav Keshwani (#14)	1L 300-400 #13

The final standings

All the players, including a couple of first timers, enjoyed the ambience and hoped that this would proclaim the end to the Covid-induced famine.

V3 Tournament, Goa

by Vimisha Patel

Amidst the uncertainties owing to the pandemic, the V3 Scrabble Tournament – the first SAI-rated multi-day tournament since the lockdown – was held from 25th to 27th February at the Caravela Beach Resort in Varca, Goa.



Participants at the V3 Tournament

The tourney saw 15 participants battle it out at the beach resort with the sound of waves soothing their senses.

There was a round robin phase followed by nine rounds of KOTH.

For Sherwin Rodrigues, it was business as usual, as he secured the title with three rounds to spare, getting ‘Gibsonised’ in Round 21. He ended up with a dominating W/L of 22/1 and recorded the high score of 685. Douglas Lobo was the runner-up, assuring second place for himself in Round 23, with a W/L of 17.5/5.5.



A sketch by Sudharsha, one of the participants, depicting the proceedings

Sunny Bhatia (17/7) see-sawed his way to the third position. Rahil Parkar, who doubled up as the tournament director, and Samrath Singh Bhatia finished fourth and fifth respectively.

Abhijit Shilotri prevailed in the race for sixth place, closely followed by Savio Rebello at seventh.

The eighth place (along with a band prize) belonged to the tournament organiser, yours truly, who had to climb up from the very bottom at the start of the final day.



Sherwin Rodrigues with the trophy

Daiwik Bansal, at 11 years the youngest participant, held his ground well to earn a band prize.

The V3 Tournament marked a memorable return to live competitive Scrabble for almost all the participants and shall be reminisced about by everyone involved in it.

Goa V3 Scrabble Tournament

Round 24 Standings

Rank	Won-Lost	Spread	Player	Last Game
1	22-1	+3269	Sherwin Rodrigues (#1)	bye
2	17½-5½	+1875	Douglas Lobo (#5)	bye
3	17-7	+1525	Sunny Bhatia (#4)	1W:529-312:#2
4	16-8	+1720	Rahil Parkar (#3)	1W:499-244:#11
5	16-8	+968	Samrath Singh Bhatia (#2)	2L:312-529:#4
6	12-12	-613	Abhijit Shilotri (#8)	1W:442-346:#6
7	11-13	-182	Savio Rebello (#10)	2W:400-311:#7
8	11-13	-270	Vimisha Patel (#11)	2L:244-499:#3
9	11-13	-545	Archana Aggarwal (#9)	2W:423-413:#15
10	11-13	-641	Nikheel Ruparel (#6)	2L:346-442:#8
11	11-13	-799	Danish Shahna (#7)	1L:311-400:#10
12	10-14	-512	Daiwik Bansal (#13)	2W:415-410:#14
13	10-14	-1331	Josh P (#15)	1L:413-423:#9
14	9-15	-182	Sneha Thadhani (#14)	1L:410-415:#13
15	5½-17½	-1748	Sudharsha Subbiah (#12)	bye

The final standings

Delhi One-dayer

by Marisha Sharma and Ela Ghose

Delhi Scrabblers played their first in-person Scrabble tournament after a year on March 21, '21!

With everyone keen to resume face-to-face plays, an open-air venue with a cafe and ample seating was chosen. The picturesque Alchemy Café at the Gnostic Centre provided the perfect setting – playing in nature's lap, nestled under tree-high cascades of multi-coloured bougainvillea, with ample distancing between tables.



Participants at the Delhi one-dayer

The day began at 9 a.m. with friendly chatter over a breakfast of eggs, toast, poha and tea. Old friendships were rekindled, and new ones were formed as several new faces made their in-person debut, having joined the group online during the lockdown.

Top-notch players like Sunny Bhatia, Pramit Kamath, Sumeet Sachdev and Sudhir Kamath (the tournament director) played side by side with youngsters like Madhav Kamath, Ekansh Arora, Shreyas Gupta and Mudit Gupta. We had first timers like Sarbani Rath, a Vedic astrologer who has been playing on ISC; Amrita Dasgupta, with no prior online or offline playing experience (but a very impressive natural game) and Neelanjana Bid, a happy-go-lucky geologist who started playing with Lloyd Pearse's online tournaments.



Playing under a waterfall of bougainvillea

A special mention to Raymond, from Nigeria but currently studying for his masters in Greater Noida, who played his third tournament in Delhi!

The café's day-long service of cool beverages along with pastas and pizzas turned the day into one long party. The happiness quotient remained high due to multiple spot prize winners in every round!

1 * Madhav	6 +706
2 Sunny	6 +537
3 * Sudhir	6 +513
4 Pramit	6 +510
5 Ekansh	5 +239
6 * Sumeet	5 -63
7 Sarbani	4.5 +60
8 * Archana	4.5 -87
9 * Ela	4 +503
10 Shreyas	4 +162
11 Shalini	4 -182
12 * Amrita	3.5 -248
13 Siddharth	3 +43
14 * Akshay	2.5 -379
15 Raymond	2.5 -496
16 * Mudit	2.5 -902
17 Marisha	2 -135
18 * Neelanjana	1 -781

The final standings

The day ended at 6 p.m. with a prize distribution. The top five winners got cash prizes. Much to everyone's delight, 11-year-old Madhav Kamath won the tournament with the elder Kamaths following closely at third

and fourth places, the ranks being broken only by Sunny at second place. Ekansh scooped up the fifth prize, while Sarbani won a tile-set, sponsored by Vimisha Patel, for the highest rank among the newbies.

WESPA Youth Cup 2020

with inputs from Neeta Bhatia

The 2020 edition of the WESPA Youth Cup (WYC) was held online on Woogles from 22nd January to 7th February 2021. The tournament involved teams from 16 countries, each comprising of six under-18 players.

To decide the Indian team for the WYC, a qualifier was held on Woogles on 9th and 10th January. The players who qualified were Madhav Kamath, Ekansh Arora, Ayush Bhatia, Suyash Manchali, Devansh Malpani and Daiwik Bansal, with Arvind Iyengar and Shreyas Gupta as reserves.

In the first round, India coasted to a 29-7 win against Indonesia. In the second round, they recorded a 23-13 win against the UK. In the third round, they beat Singapore 21-15 to finish on top of Group B. Madhav dominated the individual standings by winning all his 18 group games.

The quarterfinal against Malaysia saw India win by 19-17, with Devansh winning five of his six games. India finished fourth after losing to Thailand by 27-9 in the semifinal, with Ekansh winning four games. Thailand won the tourney, beating Pakistan in the final. Sri Lanka finished third.

Game annotation

by Udayan Grover

Game: Douglas Lobo (blue) v Mohan Chunkath (red), Double Round Robin Tournament on ISC, 17th February 2021

Scores: **Mohan 398-378 Douglas**



NAME, RACK, PLAY, SCORE/TOTAL

1. D: AAGILMV – VAGAL (H4) 26/26

It is a close call between VAGAL and MALVA. Both score the same. I prefer the leave of MI to GI just marginally as G can be clunky, although VAGAL exposes the A to the DLS.

1. M: LMNRSW? – MAWN (7G) 16/16

Consonant-heavy, and MAWN seems best.

2. D: DEILMRT – MALTED (5G) 18/44

The best play scores 32, for DILATER or TRIALED at 5E for a non-bingo 4x.

2. M: BLRSSZ? – BLESS (K3) 17/33

I prefer BELS for 16, retains an S and scores a point lesser than BLESS; still no vowels but you keep the Z for insurance in case you cannot bingo next turn.

3. D: EIIRRT – RIG (6F) 13/57

He sets up TRIG in row E, keeping the slightly vowel-heavy ORITE.

Racks like this one, such as IRATE or TENIA, seem tempting to hold on to and often do not yield a bingo. I may consider playing ORBIT at 3I to open the board.

3. M: IIORYZ? – BIZ (3K) 28/61

I prefer SIZY for 27 at 6K, as retaining the Y may delay your bingo by another turn.

4. D: EEHIORT – HEIR (N2) 29/86

I like HERIOT at N2 for 37. Doug likely played HEIR to set up the T hook in column 1 to make THEIR. Although TOE is not a bad leave, with 4 Ts unseen to him, it does not seem necessary.

4. M: EIORRY? – EYRIR (O5) 26/87

Nice play, takes out the triple file and

draws 5 tiles hoping to bingo.

5. D: ENOPTUV – VOTE (1L)

41/127

The T hook stays available, and Doug's gamble pays off, although UPVOTE would be the better play (it was added to CSW '19)

5. M: ACHORS? – LORCHAS (N8) (challenged) 79/166

Mohan finally draws into a bingo. He plays from a bunch of available bingos at the same spot, all scoring the same. Only OCHREAS at N9 scores 7 points more, but that opens a 9x file.

6. D: EFNOPQU – QUOP (E3)

37/159

Seems best in terms of score and rack leave. QUOPS at 14J for 36 is a close second but better to leave that spot open, as a potential bingo there would only be for a face value score.

6. M: ACEEGII – GI (F2) 18/184

This is a tough rack to score and balance with. CIG (26) at F2 scores the most. TANGIE (15) at J5 seems the best play, as it sorts out the rack with a leave of ICE – but it is a tricky word to be sure of. ACHE at 12L has a vowel-heavy leave but opens 2 vertical bingo lanes on the board. I may even consider the low scoring CAGIER (11) at 11I for turnover and ridding the rack of duplicates.

7. D: DDDEFNO – FOUO (4C)

21/180

FOUD keeps a reasonably synergistic leave; DOF at O13 achieves the same with 5 more points. FONDUE at 4A followed by FONDU are best and

score the most. I do not see a way to get rid of 2 Ds without sacrificing a good score.

7. M: AACEEEE – CAECA (11K)

18/202

A surfeit of vowels due to a vowel-heavy leave in the previous turn. CAECA is a fine play and manages to rid the rack of 3 of them. Again, TENIAE at J5 cleans up the rack, but is a tough find.

8. D: DDEENOS – DON (G1)

21/201

Doug draws the last S, and it is a rack you want to bingo with the next turn. EDH (21) at 12L gets rid of duplicates and keeps a strong bingo-oriented 5-letter set (NODES). His play scores well but the rack leave of NODES is superior to SEED.

8. M: AEEEEIOR – EE (H1) 19/221

Interestingly, Mohan's dump of 2 Es features in the top 3 choices, but the only risk with it is the possibility of picking more vowels. This board is a test of one's board vision and AERIE (28) at O11 seems the best play.

9. D: DEEFSTU – DUFF (C2)

22/223

FEESE (45) at M9 with 4 overlaps scores the most but is not an easy spot. Doug plays a balancing move that retains 2 Es, but I prefer FEU at M13, which keeps the stronger TEDS and blocks the lower right quadrant at the same time.

9. M: AEIIRU – RIA (O13)

13/234

This rack calls for an exchange in

view of the goodies still unseen to Mohan, which include an S, a blank, and an X. If the idea is to block the S bingo lane, I would prefer to play URAEI (10) at L9.

**10. D: EENSTTY – YEH (12L)
30/253**

Doug's move is the best on this board. Although he would have also liked to play off a T ideally, there is no reasonable spot for it.

**10. M: EIJOTU? – JO (B1)
24/258**

Mohan finally draws into a balanced rack and plays the aggressive JO to open the top row for a potential bingo. I prefer JUDO (24) at 2A, as J is tougher to play through and keeps a more balanced rack.

**11. D: EEKNSTW – KOR (9M)
12/265**

I like EWK (23) at B5 retaining the superb leave of NEST. I do not like KOR as too few letters combine with NEWEST to bingo on this board. It is to be noted that SPRIG at C6 is a hook available for the taking.

* The simulation generates ESKAR (38) and SEWAR (34) at 13K as the top 2 choices, but both are tough spots.

**11. M: EGITTU? – GUTTIES (A2)
79/337**

Best play. GUTTIER slightly more defensive from the perspective of a counter bingo in the row below.

**12. D: EEENSTW – SWEETEN
(D6) 80/345**

Doug draws the E and slots a bingo of

his own at the right spot as players go into endgame.

**12. M: AABILNP – PIBAL (C9)
39/376**

Optimal play by Mohan to go ahead. It also removes the X threat at E11.

**13. D: INNOTUX – NIX (E11)
33/378**

NIX seems the candidate play here, and Doug would hope to find a spot to finish with TOUN/UNTO.

**13. M: AANO – XOANA (13A)
14/390
+8 (NOTU) 398**

Great spot by Mohan to go out; do not think Doug saw that coming, but he had to score with the X the previous turn anyway. I do not see a sequence of play for Doug to win.

So, Mohan plays his last 3 moves perfectly to eke out a narrow win, while Doug falls agonisingly short.

No bingos missed by either player, just a few marginal errors in the intermediate plays by both.

Endgame Extra: Know the 12 seven-letter words with three Us

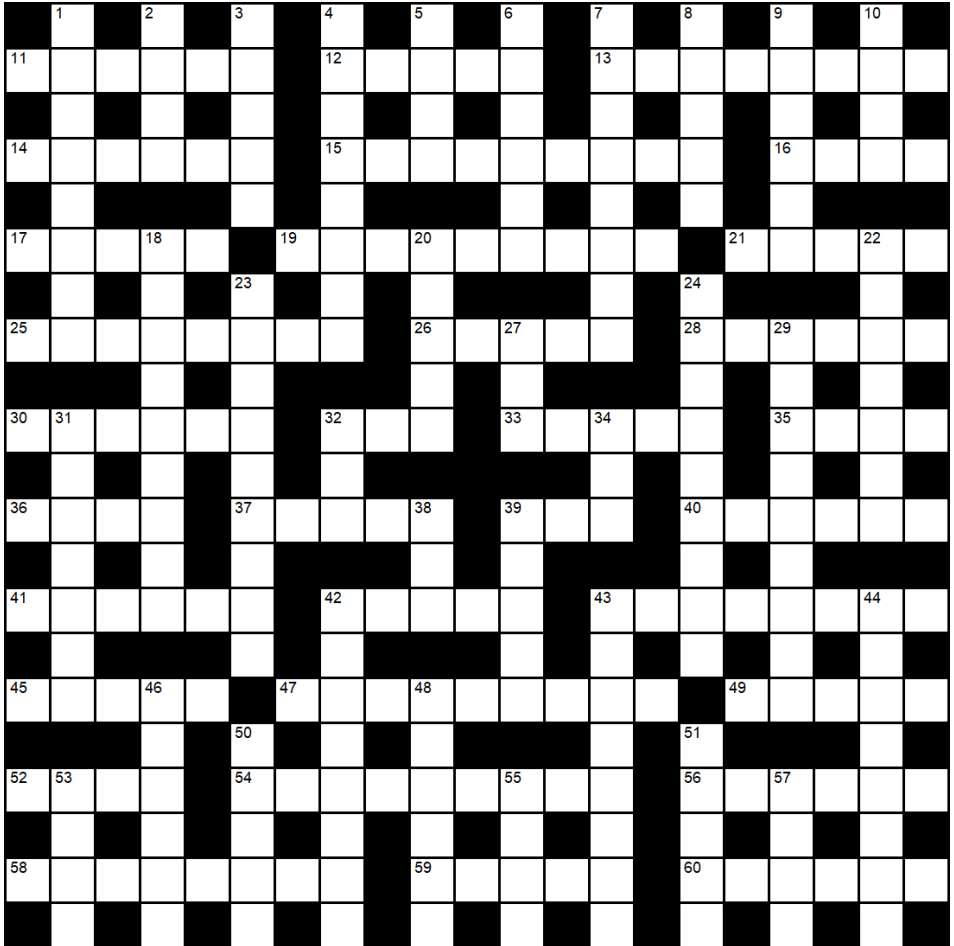
- (1) BUSUUTI, (2) CUMULUS,
(3) FUMULUS, (4) JUGULUM,
(5) JUJUTSU, (6) MUTUUMS,
(7) MUUMUUS, (8) TUMULUS,
(9) UBUNTUS, (10) UMLUNGU,
(11) UNUSUAL, (12) USUROUS
-

Puzzles and quizzes

SAI Crossword #001 (JQXZ words)

by Mohan Chunkath

Solve the clues to complete the grid. Each answer contains either J, Q, X or Z



Across

- 11** Weighs (6)
- 12** A board with signs and letters on it- used with a planchette to receive alleged messages from the dead (5)
- 13** Divides into units (8)
- 14** To inquire or question (6)
- 15** Paper size (9)
- 16** A Chinese figure of a god (4)
- 17** Computer folder in which incoming messages are stored and displayed (5)
- 19** Type of fish (9)
- 21** Loss of muscular coordination (5)
- 25** A bryozoan- a moss or liverwort (8)
- 26** To mix or commingle (5)
- 28** To protrude (6)
- 30** To praise highly (6)
- 32** To change course sharply (3)
- 33** A small vessel used off the Spanish coast (5)
- 35** A long covered portico or court used by ancient Greek athletes for exercises (4)
- 36** Pasta in the form of small pieces like rice or barley (4)
- 37** Strange or to spoil or put someone in a difficult position (5)
- 39** Cousin (3)
- 40** Coveralls worn by Muslim women (6)
- 41** Polish monetary units (6)
- 42** Unsettled (5)
- 43** A confection of ground almonds- egg whites- and sugar (8)
- 45** Tibetan cattle (female) (5)
- 47** Quality of being double (9)
- 49** Brought back- revived- restored etc. (5)
- 52** An interjection expressing consternation (4)
- 54** Freelance photographers (9)
- 56** To put a decorative band on the top edge of a wall (6)
- 58** In Jewish cooking- a small dumpling (8)
- 59** A sudden blast of air or mucus expelled from the mouth and nose (5)
- 60** Hypothetical subatomic particles (6)

Down

- 1** A small guitar (8)
- 2** An old person (4)
- 3** As part of a musical direction- fairly (5)
- 4** To steer a racing rowboat (8)
- 5** To bring bad luck (4)
- 6** In Iran- volunteer vigilantes who enforce strict Islamic behaviour and dress code- esp. on women (6)
- 7** An arrangement of five things (8)
- 8** Chinese monetary units (5)
- 9** A small airplane used for business (6)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 10 To fasten straps to a hawk's legs (4) | 39 A manuscript (5) |
| 18 Figures of speech in which apparently contradictory terms appear in conjunction (9) | 42 A building having four units (8) |
| 20 Crossing out (5) | 43 Told a traditional story (8) |
| 22 Abnormal dryness of the hair (7) | 44 Adorning (8) |
| 23 Seminars (9) | 46 Misfortunes (6) |
| 24 Used as a mild oath expressing astonishment, dismay, disbelief (9) | 48 An organ of the respiratory tract (6) |
| 27 Misery (3) | 50 To lapse into a state of incompetence (5) |
| 29 Set of practices to improve libido (9) | 51 Irrigation channels- esp. in Oman (5) |
| 31 Developing in a dry area (7) | 53 An exhibition or public showing (4) |
| 32 The letter Z, also ZED (3) | 55 Zeds (4) |
| 34 The second tine of a deer's horn (3) | 57 A flowering plant of South Africa (4) |
| 38 Short for a Native American reservation (3) | |
-

Mixed anagrams – Indian cities

by Rustom Deboo

Below are ten anagrams, each of which has the names of two Indian cities jumbled in it. The point value for each is mentioned in brackets, with the total value of the set being 20. You can send in your answers to indianscrabble@gmail.com by 30th April 2021. One entry scoring full points will win a cash prize of Rs. 500 in a lucky draw.

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1) AN OLD ROBE AGAIN (2) | 7) A SKA TOUR TALK (2) |
| 2) HAIL RICH END (1) | 8) NIOBIUM DREAM (1) |
| 3) PLUG IN A MARSH (3) | 9) MURKY PERSONA (3) |
| 4) A NATURE PRISM (2) | 10) CHOIR HAD BAD KEY (2) |
| 5) RAN AT A GAP (1) | |
| 6) AND A HAVOC RAINED (3) | |
-

Find the best play

by Hriday Samtani

Find the best/highest-scoring play on offer in each of three board situations below:





Pyramid quiz

by Rustom Deboo

Starting with a two-letter word, can you name the seven valid Scrabble words from the given clues using the letters of the previous word plus one new letter?



Anagram quiz – Proper and common

by Rustom Deboo

In this quiz, each question has two clues, the first for a word that is a proper noun (invalid in Scrabble) and the second for a common word (may or may not be a noun, valid in Scrabble) that is an anagram of the proper noun. You can send in your answers to indianscrabble@gmail.com by 30th April 2021. One entry getting all answers right will win a cash prize of Rs. 500 in a lucky draw.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) i. A country in Europe
ii. An infectious disease | 6) i. Name of a Bollywood actress
ii. A metallic sulphide |
| 2) i. A river in India
ii. To push roughly | 7) i. A liquor brand
ii. A predatory beetle |
| 3) i. An automobile manufacturer
ii. A large open-air space | 8) i. Surname of a popular head of state
ii. A short trip for a purpose |
| 4) i. A watch brand
ii. Unpredictable | 9) i. Name of a tennis legend
ii. Trait of a scholar |
| 5) i. An African city
ii. Places of confinement | 10) i. An electronics company
ii. A line on a map |

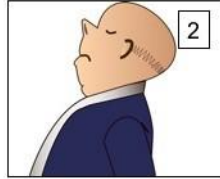
Quiz Time with KSSA

by Karnataka State Scrabble Association

KSSA conducts a monthly online meet where apart from playing “Scrabble with a Twist”, members have a go at a quiz based on the Club Monthly Study Challenge. Here are two quiz questions selected from the last few months.
Think laterally to decode the images.

Membership of the KSSA is open to Scrabble lovers worldwide. Follow the KSSA on Facebook at www.facebook.com/groups/BangaloreScrabbleClub.

1. ANTI bingos – Spot the ANTI bingos represented by the pictures.
ANTINUK and ANTIQUE are examples of ANTI bingos.



2. LIKE bingos – Spot the LIKE bingos represented by the pictures.
ARMLIKE and BEADLIKE are examples of LIKE bingos.



SAI quarterly round-up

The new SAI Managing Committee (MC) was elected by the SAI members on 21st November 2020 for a two-year period. Following is the constitution of the Managing Committee:

Sudhir Kamath – President
 Rahil Parkar – Vice President
 Harry Bhatia – Treasurer
 Rajiv Antao – Secretary
 Rustom Deboo – Joint Secretary
 Udayan Grover – Executive Member
 Vimisha Patel – Executive Member

Given below is a synopsis of the various areas on which the Managing Committee has focussed in the last four months:

- **Formation of various sub-committees**

Considering the various areas and tasks, it was decided to form different sub-committees, each of them having two to three MC members, with a view to attain a better focus on the activities under the concerned sub-committees.

- **Introduction of new monitoring system for online tournaments**

With uncertainty still prevailing over the return to regular in-person tournaments, it was considered necessary to put in place a more fool-proof anti-cheating system

for online tournaments. The said monitoring system, set up through the OBS Ninja platform and involving constant surveillance of the players by observers (instead of the simple camera system that was used for earlier lockdown tournaments), was tested by the MC members in the second week of December. A trial tournament using this system was duly conducted in the last week of December.

- **Online ratings and first rated online tournament**

With no clarity on the return to the normal tournament calendar, it was decided to create a separate online rating system for rated online tournaments. Accordingly, the first SAI-rated online tournament was successfully held on the Internet Scrabble Club from 27th to 28th March.

- **Conducting of qualifying tournament for WESPA Youth Cup along with Wordaholix**

A three-day tournament to determine the Indian team for the WESPA Youth Cup (WYC) 2020, which was held online on the Woogles platform later in January, was

conducted in conjunction with Team Wordaholix in the second week of January. The said qualifying tournament was also held on Woogles, using the new monitoring system. Team India reached the semi-final stage of the WYC. A report on the WYC can be found on page 29.

- **Fresh update of the SAI members database and creation of new mailing group**

The need was felt to undertake a fresh update of the SAI members database. In view of the same, essential details were requested for from all members to build the database. Also, since Yahoo Groups ceased to be in existence in mid-December, the erstwhile Yahoo mailing group for SAI members was replaced by a new Google mailing group for the same purpose.

- **Revamp of the SAI Facebook page and welcome email for new members**

With a view to enhance engagement through social media, efforts were initiated to make the SAI Facebook page more active. Also, a new welcome email, consisting of all essential details and with links to key resources, was introduced to be sent to

every new SAI member upon induction.

- **Proposed collaboration with Mattel**

SAI has been constantly engaging with Mattel with a view to develop a mutually beneficial collaboration that would provide a boost to the Scrabble scene in India.

- **Introduction of the SAI quarterly newsletter**

It was decided to introduce a SAI quarterly newsletter, with a view to enhance the community feel and to provide members with an avenue to voice their thoughts and share their experiences.

- **Issue of expurgation of words by Mattel**

One of the key issues faced by the global Scrabble community this year has been the matter of expurgation of certain words from the official dictionary at the behest of Mattel. A detailed write-up on this matter and the stand of SAI on the same can be found on page 23.

- **Go-ahead for resumption of in-person tournaments**

Considering the pandemic situation in the country at

the start of the year, it was decided to allow for resumption of SAI-rated in-person tournaments with all necessary precautions in place. So far, three in-person tournaments, i.e., in Bangalore on 14th February, in Goa from 25th to 27th February, and in Delhi on 21st March have been rated by SAI this year.

- **New SAI logo**

It was decided that a new SAI logo be finalised, mainly with a view to explore the possibility of introducing merchandise in the near future. For the same, SAI members were invited to submit their designs, which were then voted upon by SAI members. The winning logo was accordingly selected.

New members

The following members were welcomed into SAI in the last three months:

1. **Shiv Talwar** (Delhi)
2. **Pravesh Saha** (Mumbai) classifies himself as the typical corporate 'slave' looking for an out. He hails from Delhi and has recently moved to Mumbai. Passionate about board games like chess, Go and Risk, he

decided to take up Scrabble seriously after his wife kept winning against him for a while and he wanted to make amends.

3. **Jyoti Budhia** (Chennai)
4. **Sagarika Siddarth** (Chennai) is a 11-year-old who was introduced to Scrabble by her grandmother during the lockdown. She gradually developed an interest and started playing online under the guidance of Ranganathan Chakravarthy, whom she considers as her inspiration. She has recently started training to play competitive Scrabble under A. Krishnan.
5. **Atif Kazi** (Mumbai)
6. **Khurshed Dordi** (Mumbai) is a banker by profession. He has been playing Scrabble and word games for the past 25 years. An avid reader, he likes to use his vocabulary to think on his feet and feels hooked by pitting his skills against the best of opponents. He has mostly played online, but is looking forward to play on the nostalgic board.
7. **Armene Bharucha** (Mumbai)

8. **Madhulekha Barkakati** (Guwahati)
 9. **Chitra Murugesan** (Coimbatore) credits Scrabble in helping her lay a foundation in the English language in her formative years, brick by brick. She joined SAI with a view to revive her passion for Scrabble that had been dormant for decades.
 10. **Daiwik Bansal** (Bangalore)
 11. **Chitrakshi Bhandari** (Mumbai) is 10 years old and started playing Scrabble over the last few months as options for outdoor games got limited due to the current situation. She enjoys playing the game and wants to pursue it more.
 12. **Mariam Dalal** (Mumbai) is an arts graduate and homemaker and has been involved with admin duties for most of her life. She started playing Scrabble in a small ladies' Scrabble club about five years ago, when she was living in Uganda.
 13. **Arhav Thakkar** (Mumbai)
 14. **Pramit Rao** (Mumbai)
-

Endgame Extra: The SAI logo contest

The SAI logo contest was held in February, inviting submissions from SAI members and their relatives. As many as 44 logos were received, of which 18 were shortlisted for the final poll. The top three as voted for by the SAI members were:



The winning logo – Nidhi Singhvi



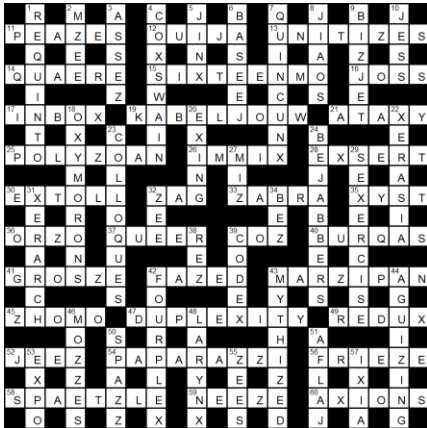
Second prize – Abdullah Parkar



Third prize – Nidhi Singhvi

Solutions to puzzles and quizzes

SAI Crossword #001



Find the best play

1



Five best moves:

- 5E - EFTSOON - 52 (K)
- 5E - KNOT - 33 (EFS)
- 5C - TSK - 36 (EFNO)
- 10M - AFT - 27 (EKNOS)
- 11I - FENKS - 35 (OT)

2



Five best moves:

- 15A - BUTEONINE - 33 (DIR)
- 1C - DINNER - 28 (I)
- 14B - NEVI - 22 (DINR)
- C5 - DINNER - 15 (I)
- K2 - DINNER - 14 (IN)

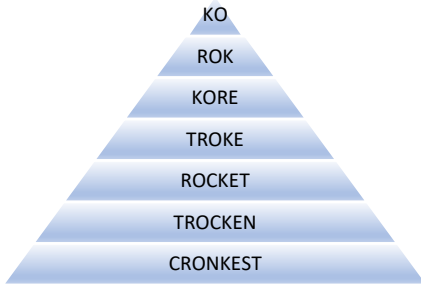
3



Five best moves:

- H1 - EXARCHIST - 116
- M3 - XI - 38 (ACEHR)
- O6 - AXE - 47 (CHIR)
- O1 - AX - 36 (CEHIR)
- 15A - XI - 31 (ACEHR)

Pyramid quiz



Quiz Time with KSSA

ANTI bingos:

1) ANTIPOLE, 2) ANTISNOB, 3) ANTIWAR/ANTIGUN, 4) ANTIROLL, 5) ANTIJAM, 6) ANTIWEED

LIKE bingos:

1) STARLIKE/TAGLIKE, 2) TIDELIKE, 3) GOATLIKE, 4) MINTLIKE, 5) JAWLIKE, 6) DOORLIKE

Endgame Extra: A reverse alphabetical challenge

SAI members Ritu Chadha and Sudhir Kamath sponsored an impromptu contest in which SAI members had to form a sentence with words starting from Z to A in sequence as much as possible. The winning entries were as follows:

First prize to Savio Rebello: Zestful, Youthful, Xylophone-loving Wife, Vividly Understanding, Thoughtful Silky Reginal Queenly Poise, Overtly Nuanced Motherly Love, Kissing Jocularly, Intimately Honest, Girlish Flirting Eyes, Dancing Cherublike, Belle Accomplished.

Second prize to Bhushan Sarmalkar: Zirconium, Ytterbium and Xanthanides, Wolfram, Vanadium and Uranium, Titanium, Stannum or Rubidium, all can carry charge Q, all except Phosphorous, Oxygen and Nitrogen have M L K shells, Joules relates to Inertia as Hydrogen to Gram atom, Force relates to Energy and Displacement, but Carbon doesn't to Boron and least to Aurum.

Third prize to Caryl Gonsalves: Zoom past Your Xanax and never Worry Very much about Useless Tenets and instead Serve Rustic Queues Positioned On Nearby Maidans and Lanes, even maybe Kiss Jokers In Hindsight and Go For Edible Duck Curry By the Art gallery.

Special mention (A-Z sequence) to Srushti Gandhi: A Bombay Chai Doesn't Ever Forget Good Hospitality. It Just Kindles Life, Masters Nostalgia, Overcomes Problems, Quietly Recharges Senses; To Upraise Verifiably What's Explicitly Your Zest!

Ratings

Below are the SAI top 80 as on 30th March 2021. To view the full rankings, please visit indianscrabble.com.

	Name	Club	Rating	Games
1	Sherwin Rodrigues	MUM	1869	1540
2	Eeshan Malhotra	MUM	1809	451
3	Akshay Bhandarkar	OSI	1806	540
	Irfan Siddiqui	OS	1743	314
4	Goutham Jayaraman	OSI	1732	461
5	Ralph Lobo	OSI	1695	218
6	Udayan Grover	PUN	1682	1878
7	Mohan Chunkath	CHN	1681	1086
8	Nakul Prabhu	MUM	1673	1526
9	Ranganathan Chakrav	CHN	1648	935
10	Aditya Iyengar	PUN	1637	522
11	Varisht Hingorani	MUM	1601	1197
12	Sanjoy Gupta	BLR	1597	1261
13	Samrath Singh Bhatia	MUM	1596	832
14	Charles Carneiro	OSI	1587	787
15	Rajveer Rawlin	BLR	1572	494
16	Nidhi Singhvi	OSI	1558	950
17	Prashanth Seetharam	OSI	1552	369
	Puneet Sharma	OS	1549	170
18	Mohsin Ahmed	BLR	1537	264
	Michael Tang	OS	1534	434
19	Rahil Parkar	MUM	1521	561
20	Douglas Lobo	GOA	1510	1397
21	Sunny Bhatia	DEL	1497	984
22	Irineu Gonsalves	DEL	1495	998
23	A Krishnan	CHN	1464	513
24	Manju Sood	BLR	1428	829
25	Jose de Abreu	MUM	1426	931
26	Selwyn Lobo	OSI	1420	251
27	Mangala Bhandarkar	PUN	1419	1490
28	Vraj Jain	MUM	1411	568
29	Pramit Kamath	DEL	1394	473
30	Hriday Samtani	MUM	1392	503
31	Sudhir Kamath	DEL	1391	891
32	Carolann Pais	MUM	1387	1592
33	Bhushan Pradhan	MUM	1382	1766
34	Yash Potnis	BLR	1360	529
35	Anuj Shetty	BLR	1356	284
36	Shaik Ahmed	HYD	1350	1694
37	Mehul Arora	DEL	1332	264
38	Amit Sood	PUN	1328	368
39	Madhav Gopal Kamath	DEL	1327	508
40	Rajeev Menon	HYD	1324	701
41	Sanjay Bijlani	MUM	1292	510
	Rohaina Tanveer	OS	1288	520
42	Cecil Fernandes	OSI	1275	464

	Name	Club	Rating	Games
43	Ishika S	BLR	1272	191
44	Dipankar Chatterjee	BLR	1268	509
45	Pankaj Bolaki	BLR	1256	223
46	Sridhar Paidikondala	HYD	1243	793
47	Lennie D'Souza	BLR	1236	1189
48	Vedika Hingorani	MUM	1229	589
49	V Ramachandran	MUM	1194	1281
50	Neelam Agrawal	BLR	1186	306
51	Kala Ganesh	MUM	1185	1101
52	Rajiv Antao	GOA	1183	993
53	Radhika Mahalingaiah	BLR	1180	875
54	Sumeet Sachdev	MUM	1179	469
55	R Nalini	BLR	1172	876
56	Nupur Sood	BLR	1171	557
57	Rehet Singh Bhatia	MUM	1166	839
58	Brian D'Souza	MUM	1151	210
59	Meena Bakhru	PUN	1147	350
60	Suchindra Potnis	BLR	1136	328
61	Marie Fernandes	OSI	1132	512
62	Siddarth Raman	BLR	1123	388
63	Rustom Deboo	MUM	1122	356
64	Arindam Basu	KOL	1118	350
65	Abid Hussain	BLR	1110	252
66	Krtin Juneja	MUM	1107	426
67	Karthik Ganesan	DEL	1100	185
68	Shubha S	BLR	1093	251
69	Mazher Qureshi	MUM	1092	472
70	Hyder Quraishi	HYD	1085	1346
71	PC Jose	MUM	1074	1383
72	Alan DeMello	MUM	1060	154
73	Nikheel Ruparel	MUM	1059	929
74	Hemanth Achaya	BLR	1058	267
75	Nitya Chagti	DEL	1054	123
76	Priya Karkhanis	PUN	1050	597
77	Jacky Fernandes	GOA	1040	957
78	Sujana Somasekar	BLR	1040	276
79	Suyash Manchali	BLR	1036	198
80	Joe Rodrigues	GOA	1031	976

Key:

BLR – Bangalore (KSSA)

CHN – Chennai

DEL – Delhi

GOA – Goa

HYD – Hyderabad

KOL – Kolkata

MUM – Mumbai

PUN – Pune

OSI – Indian national residing overseas

OS – Overseas foreign player (no rank)

Scrabble Score Sheet

First Player: _____

Date: _____

Second Player: _____

1st Played Blank:

2nd Played Blank:

Word(s) / Rack	Score		Move	Word(s) / Rack	Score	
	+		1		+	
	+		2		+	
	+		3		+	
	+		4		+	
	+		5		+	
	+		6		+	
	+		7		+	
	+		8		+	
	+		9		+	
	+		10		+	
	+		11		+	
	+		12		+	
	+		13		+	
	+		14		+	
	+		15		+	
	+		16		+	
	+		17		+	
	+		18		+	
	+		19		+	
	+		20		+	
Overtime Penalty				Overtime Penalty		
Unplayed Tiles				Unplayed Tiles		
Total Points				Total Points		

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

TWS			DLS				TWS			DLS			TWS	1
	DWS				TLS				TLS			DWS		2
		DWS				DLS	DLS					DWS		3
DLS			DWS				DLS				DWS		DLS	4
				DWS						DWS				5
	TLS				TLS				TLS				TLS	6
		DLS				DLS	DLS				DLS			7
TWS			DLS			*				DLS			TWS	8
		DLS				DLS	DLS				DLS			9
	TLS				TLS				TLS				TLS	10
				DWS						DWS				11
DLS			DWS				DLS				DWS		DLS	12
		DWS				DLS	DLS					DWS		13
	DWS				TLS				TLS				DWS	14
TWS			DLS				TWS			DLS			TWS	15
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O



ENDGAME

Let us know your feedback

What did you like about this first edition of Endgame? What would you like to see more of in future editions? Would you like to contribute content for the next edition? Do you have any suggestions for improvement? We await your valuable feedback and submissions, which you can send across to indianscrabble@gmail.com.

About SAI

The Scrabble Association of India (SAI) is the apex governing body for Scrabble players in India and oversees the organisation and conduct of several tournaments in the country. It maintains a tournament rating system for every SAI-rated tournament and accords a SAI rating to all its members. It is affiliated to the WESPA (World English-Language Scrabble Players Association), the global body that oversees the competitive English-language Scrabble scene throughout the world.

How to become a SAI member?

If you are a Scrabble enthusiast or know someone who is, we welcome you to join SAI. Becoming a SAI member is easy. All you need to do is visit the SAI website and apply for membership at indianscrabble.com/join-us/. You can either become a life member or an annual member. We invite Scrabble lovers of all ages to join us.

Contact us

For details about Indian Scrabble, you can visit our website at indianscrabble.com.

For general inquiries about anything related to Indian Scrabble and feedback and submissions for Endgame, you can reach out to us at indianscrabble@gmail.com.

You can also follow the Scrabble Association of India page on Facebook for updates.

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