

# ENDGAME

**The Quarterly Magazine of the Scrabble® Association of India**  
Volume 3, Issue 4 – December 2023



**SCRABBLE**  
ASSOCIATION OF INDIA



*Team India at the WESPA Youth Cup 2023 held in Trang, Thailand*

## **In this issue:**

- **Scrabbling in Malta**
- **Deccan Cup diaries**
- **Nigel returns to Bangalore**
- **WYC experiences**

# Contents

Foreword	3
Scrabbling in Malta... a thrilling experience <i>by Sunny Bhatia</i>	4
Deccan Cup diaries <i>by Varshini Elangovan</i> <i>by Raghuram Jonnalagedda</i>	8 10
Inter-IIT Scrabble at IIT Kharagpur <i>by Arindam Basu</i>	12
Ascending the seventh heaven of Scrabble <i>by Rahil Parkar</i>	14
Musings from WYC 2023 <i>by Anika Dalwani</i> <i>by Ahana Goyal</i> <i>by Suhaas Khandelwal</i>	16 16 18
In focus: Nigel at Bangalore over the years <i>by Rustom Deboo</i>	19
In memoriam: Romilla Thakur	21
Reading between the tiles <i>by Rustom Deboo</i>	24
Tournament round-up	26
Scrabble around the world	34
Puzzles and quizzes	35
SAI round-up and new members	39
Solutions to puzzles and quizzes	41
Ratings	42
SAI tournament calendar 2024	43

# Foreword

Dear Members,

The year gone by featured a dozen rated tournaments across eight cities, offering Scrabblers of all levels multiple opportunities to stay connected with their sport at the highest level. We also welcomed 34 new members from various parts of the country into our growing tribe, and while the intention is always to convert many more casual players into competitive regulars, the busy tournament calendar and the steady flow of budding enthusiasts bodes well with another year on the horizon.

As has been customary, the first tournament of the new year will also be the biggest, with close to 175 Scrabblers across four divisions set to converge on Bangalore for the KSSA Indian Open over the Republic Day weekend. The four-day showpiece event of the Indian Scrabble calendar will see the return of some of the top international names this year, making the field all the more demanding.

Speaking of returns, the WESPA Youth Cup was held in person after a hiatus of four years in 2023, with Trang in Thailand playing host to the event. Team India's brigade of juniors, comprising WYC old stagers and debutants alike, renewed their on-board rivalry with their formidable fellow subcontinental opponents from Pakistan and Sri Lanka. They will not have to wait too long for their next global youth tournament experience, as the second edition of the Asia Cup Youth Scrabble Championship is slated to be played in Delhi in June 2024.

We are optimistic that Indian Scrabble's collective push towards raising the profile of the sport through higher youth participation at the local level, greater accessibility across levels, increased sponsorship across tournaments, and deeper media reach will continue with greater ardour and diligence going forward.

As always, thanks to all the contributors for shaping yet another edition of Endgame. Here's looking forward to many more scrabbling chronicles in the year ahead.

Wishing you all a happy and Scrabble-filled 2024!

Rustom Deboo  
Editor



# Scrabbling in Malta... a thrilling experience

*by Sunny Bhatia*

The 15<sup>th</sup> Malta International Scrabble Open (MISO15), held in November 2023, was the third overseas Scrabble tournament I participated in after the Causeway Challenge in Malaysia in 2016 and the Niagara Falls Open in Canada in 2019, and it was by far the most enjoyable and eventful of them.

Malta is a picturesque tiny island country somewhere in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea, about 1050 km from Rome. The flight time from Rome was an hour and 40 minutes. With a population of only about half a million, tourism brings in a massive floating population all year round, and is the economy's driving force.



*A title-clinching 488-391 win over former world champion Mark Nyman in the last round of the MISO Early Bird*

The first of four tourneys part of the MISO 2023 was the Early Bird, a one-dayer of nine rounds featuring 48 players. I got off to a flying start, winning the first four games, before losing 350-419 to Vincent Boyle of Scotland – my only loss for the day. I thereafter notched satisfying wins against Lukeman Owolabi of Ireland (464-404) and Brian Po of Hong Kong (459-345), and then went on to beat former world champion, Mark Nyman of England, 488-391 to take the title in the final round.



*With Mark Nyman in Malta*

This was a sweet triumph, as almost all of my opponents had ratings way above mine. I remembered our very own Udayan Grover telling me at my previous tourney that many of the Indian players are underrated in the global rankings, and assured me that I would do well. Contrary to what I believed, shorter tournaments are proving rewarding for me, I guess!

The Main Event was of 25 rounds, played over three days. Fresh from



the great domestic run I had over the past three tourneys in India followed by the Early Bird victory, the law of averages was bound to catch up with me here, and it eventually did. Seeded tenth in a field of 40 participants, I finished a disappointing 16<sup>th</sup>. But there were a few wicked consolations, in that Mark, seeded second with a rating of 1900-plus, finished tenth, and Brian, with an 1800-plus rating, finished 15<sup>th</sup>!



*Beating Mark Nyman 445-357 at the  
MISO Main Event*

I was quite happy to get to play the top seed and WESPAC 2023 finalist Harshan Lamabadusuriya from England, but with the 516-362 thrashing I received, my happiness was certainly short-lived! Harshan, who finished 13<sup>th</sup> at the Early Bird, ended up winning the Main Event with 19 wins, edging out Malaysia's Kong Chock Heng on spread.

There was a one-day breather in between, and what better way to unwind than to go on a group tour for about 30 of us who opted for it, including one Paul Cartman, who flew in from England on a wheelchair to play the eighth Seniors World Championship, slated to start the following day.

The Seniors World Championship was a three-day tourney of 25 rounds and 46 players. The Late Bird, of 16 games over two days, was conducted simultaneously. Notable participants at the Seniors included Rene Chelton (90 years old) and Olga Visser (80 years old) from Australia, Eileen Meghen (70-plus) from Ireland, and Daniel Milton (85-plus) from the USA, against whom I had earlier played at Causeway in 2016.



*At the Ta' Pinu church in Gozo with the  
sprightly 90-year-old Rene Chelton from  
Australia*

Having got the better of Mark once each at the Early Bird and the Main Event, I made it 3-0 against him in round 12 of the Seniors. But not too surprisingly, the veteran came back with two wins in rounds 20 and 25 respectively, leaving me with a pretty pleasing lead of 3-2 head-to-head.



*With the reticent David Webb*

Mark took the Seniors title, finishing ahead of David Webb, another famous player from England and a true gentleman. David played only in the Seniors, with a view to staying fresh and not overburden the brain, which can play funny games when tourneys are back-to-back. I was quite satisfied to finish fifth.



*The spacious playing area at the Golden Tulip Vivaldi Hotel in St. Julian's, Malta*

For me, the game of all the three tournaments put together was the remarkable high-scorer that I played

against David Webb in round 11 of the Seniors – 563-480 in my favour. Here is a move-wise flow of the game:

David		Sunny	
JOBLESS (92+5)	97	PICOTEE (44)	44
FIQUE (37)	134	AUGITE (24)	68
NONFATAL (62)	196	AVERRING (76)	144
AMOEBOID (86)	282	JAPER (36)	180
HUHUS (19+5)	306	GLIME (34)	214
TOAD (31)	337	XYST (66)	280
LADRONES (61)	398	NAZE (70)	350
WEM (36)	434	BIRKIEST (171+5)	526
TOC (5)	439	RAV (27)	553
WAGER (26)	465	NOY (10)	563
DINO (7)	472		
+8	<b>480</b>		<b>563</b>



*Breathing easy with legroom!*

Strangely, I challenged his first move of JOBLESS – probably a natural tendency for a few players when a high-scoring bingo is played, even

though it surely defies all logic! By challenging JOBLESS, David might have believed that this Indian player is a rookie! Another peculiar thing about this game was David's four bingos to my solitary bingo.



*An exhilarating come-from-behind win at the Seniors World Championship – beating David Webb 563-480*

After his fourth bingo, LADRONES, I wanted to play ZA instead of NAZE keeping my only other vowel E. I thought for a couple of minutes, before backing myself to maybe 'do a Sherwin', and played NAZE keeping a dangerous ES for the taking at the bottom triple-triple lane. With a few high-value tiles in the bag, I picked the K, and duly fired BIRKIEST in the next turn for a whopping 176 points – a non-bingo eight-letter word as a nine-timer! This was the highest word score across all the tourneys, and I was super thrilled to take home a beautiful medallion!

Scrabble tourism is a hot prospect and quite naturally attractive. We in

India need to make tourneys more appealing to the foreign players. I strongly feel the need to add on a one-day Early Bird tournament to the existing major tourneys, especially in the metro cities that have better air connectivity. Overall, Malta was one of my most memorable and exciting scrabbling experiences, meeting people from all over the world and making new friends. Amazing what joy this wonderful game can bring to all of us! Here's looking forward to attending another Malta tournament in the coming years.



*Until next time, Malta!*

Cheers and best wishes for 2024!

### **Endgame Extra: Know the 27 seven-letter words having the letters M, A, L, T, and A**

ALAMORT, AMATOLS, AMENTAL, AMYTALS, CALMANT, CLAMANT, GAMETAL, HEMATAL, LACTAMS, LAMBAST, LEMMATA, MALATES, MALEATE, MALTASE, MALTHAS, MALTMAN, MARITAL, MARTIAL, MATILDA, MATINAL, OATMEAL, PALMATE, TAMABLE, TAMALES, TAMBALA, TAMPALA, THALAMI

# Deccan Cup diaries

## A memorable return from Scrabble exile

*by Varshini Elangovan*

My comeback to competitive Scrabble 14 years after my departure from the game started with Rajeev Menon sharing details about the Deccan Cup in Hyderabad and convincing me that everyone has to start (or restart!) somewhere. I had come to watch the games during the 2022 edition, which is how I became acquainted with Rajeev. I then signed up for the KSSA Indian Open in January 2023, but my plans were thwarted by the flu.

Despite my initial hesitation, my participation at the Deccan Cup 2023 turned out to be a highly remarkable experience and reignited my passion for this wonderful game which has always been close to my heart.



### *A 53-point loss in my first game*

Having only ever played the game online occasionally in the past year, I was absolutely thrilled to experience playing across the board. Learning the two-letter words and roughly skimming the threes and a couple of bingo stems, but lacking enough practice, I decided to embrace an impromptu ‘just wing it’ approach. This was after all my first tournament since the 2009 World Youth Cup in Malaysia.



*One of my favourite games, against Suchindra Potnis – a loss despite scoring three bingos*

In my first game of the tournament with Shaik Ahmed, it took me a few turns to get into the hang of the game without succumbing to my nerves,



and yet I believe I put up a good fight despite my eventual loss by 53 points. I managed to play a single bingo with DIARIES against Shaik's DRAGNET and TIARAED. My second game (and loss) was against Pankaj Bolaki, one of the top contenders in the tourney, but I came away with adding new words such as ZERDA, LAZO, and OXER to my vocabulary.

My first win of the tournament was in the third game with a final move of INGESTA, prefixing GAL to EGAL, a complete gamble on my end which turned fruitful! This was probably my bravest move in the tournament, as I even went overtime to figure out the perfect spot and bingo to play, having TISANE + G on my rack.



*The thrill of playing three bingos in a game – TIGRESS, CERTAIN, and DRAINING*

Day 1 concluded with another three victories in my arsenal, positioning me at the 17th rank with a win-loss

ratio of 4:5. My disheartening loss in one of the games that day, with a spread of 253, taught me quite a few lessons, especially with the game play strategies shared by my opponent Selwyn Lobo. I consciously focussed on maximising points per turn rather than fishing for bingos, and I won the next two games, one of them being an enthralling 28-point win after a challenged last move of ARIA.

The second day of the tournament had its ups and downs, with one of my favourite games being against Suchindra Potnis, where I felt I played a clever and well-thought-out approach in pulling off three bingos – TREATIES, GOATIES, and GORILLA – though I did lose in the end.

Another game, where I was defeated by a whopping 301 points with my opponent Mangala Bhandarkar playing five bingos, made me realise that I still have a long way to go and incited a revelation that playing Scrabble is something I absolutely want to continue doing! Day 2 concluded with an equal number of wins and losses overall, and I couldn't help but feel at least a little proud of myself.

With these new insights in mind, the third day of the tourney was definitely my most cherished of them all. In spite of having only two wins that day, I played my best strategies and went neck to neck with a few tough contenders. Performing my best, I was able to handle all the losses in my stride and walk away with a plethora of exciting words in my repertoire. My four games against Mehjabeen

Peeradina were some of the most memorable ones, and with each game I was able to assimilate from her tactics and improve my manoeuvres.



*With my fellow band prize winners*

A few notable bingos I nailed that day were EMULATE, TIGRESS, and TACKLING, with a regrettable miss of not having played BESTIES – as a Gen Z-er, I would have been over the moon had I spotted it!

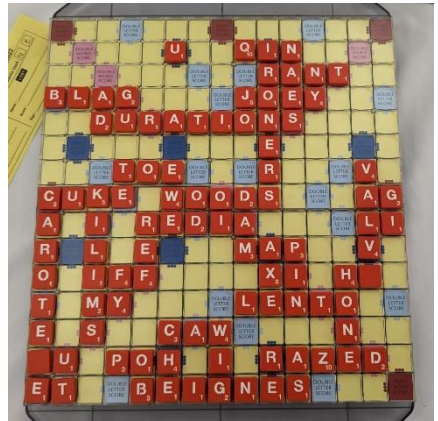
This tournament was certainly a formative experience, having had the opportunity to interact, play with, and receive valuable pointers from the seasoned players. With a total of 11 wins from 25 games, I was pretty happy with my performance, but was pleasantly surprised to find out that I was getting the band prize in my rating category! This win has further energised me, and I'm elated to be back in the game. I eagerly look forward to participating in the upcoming Scrabble tournaments and pursuing this new endeavour starting from 2024!

## Deccan déjà vu

*by Raghuram Jonnalagedda*

On a whim in September 2023, I decided I needed to get back to playing Scrabble for my own sanity. I looked up online for any upcoming tournaments, and found about the IIT Bombay Open. It felt great to get back to Scrabble, and getting back to the Collins lexicon, however challenging, was such a relief. I am glad that there are plenty of Collins tournaments to choose from now in the US.

It was at the IIT Bombay Open where I first heard of the Deccan Cup to be held in Hyderabad in early December. I quickly altered my travel plans to make sure I was able to play in it.



*A first win in three attempts against Sunny Bhatia*

I live in Hyderabad whenever I am in India, but decided to stay at the tournament venue to limit the daily commute and also for a wholesome experience of the event. I was very happy I did that – the venue and food were top notch, and it was stress-free

prior to and post the day's play. The Scrabble players themselves were an easy-going lot, and were really warm in welcoming a new player like me.

One of my peeves while playing Scrabble in the US was the presence of so many different groups and the lack of big sponsors. Having come from that experience, it was very refreshing to see a single organisation (SAI) catering to all tournament Scrabble in India, and a decent chunk of sponsorship money coming in. In general, the atmosphere seemed very cordial and organised. It also made me to briefly consider coming back in January for the four-day KSSA Indian Open in Bangalore.



*Winning the fourth prize at the Deccan Cup 2023*

When I played in Hyderabad the last time, I had won my first trophy (fourth place). This time around, it was indeed a case of Deccan déjà vu, as I won my second trophy – fourth

place again. Overall, while the games were fun, it was more fun meeting and interacting with the participants and playing with some of the top Scrabblers of India. I know I am very much a part of the Scrabble family of India now!

---

### **Endgame Extra**

#### Sevens and eights having the letters D, E, C, C, A, and N

ACCENDS, CADENCE,  
CADENCY, CHANCED,  
ACCEDING, ACCENDED,  
ACCENTED, ACCIDENT,  
ACCINGED, CADENCED,  
CADENCES, CADUCEAN,  
CALCINED, CANCELED,  
CANCERED, CHAUNCED,  
CHICANED, CONACRED,  
CONCAVED, CRANCHED,  
DECANOIC

#### Sevens and eights starting with HYD

HYDATID, HYDRANT, HYDRASE,  
HYDRATE, HYDRIAE, HYDRIDE,  
HYDRIDS, HYDROID, HYDROMA,  
HYDROPS, HYDROUS, HYDROXY,  
HYDYNES,  
HYDATIDS, HYDATOID,  
HYDRACID, HYDRAGOG,  
HYDRANTH, HYDRANTS,  
HYDRASES, HYDRATED,  
HYDRATES, HYDRATOR,  
HYDREMIA, HYDRIDES,  
HYDRILLA, HYDROGEL,  
HYDROGEN, HYDROIDS,  
HYDROMAS, HYDROMEL,  
HYDRONIC, HYDROPIK,  
HYDROPSY, HYDROSKI,  
HYDROSOL, HYDROXYL,  
HYDROZOA

# Inter-IIT Scrabble at IIT Kharagpur

*by Arindam Basu*

I had the privilege of conducting and judging a unique Scrabble event at IIT Kharagpur recently. As part of the Inter-IIT Cultural Meet 6.0, Scrabble was listed under ‘Literary Art’ along with the likes of cryptic crossword and creative writing, among others.

Although 3800 participants from 22 IITs competed in 53 events over four days in this fest in the last week of December 2023, the crowding was hardly noticeable thanks to the sprawling campus of 660 acres and presence of multiple auditoriums. Ideally, Scrabble, as a mind sport, should have been part of the Inter-IIT Sports Meet where chess, another mind sport, is also an event. But I wasn’t complaining.

The multi-purpose hall at the campus’ Technology Students’ Gymkhana was the venue for the Scrabble event, for which 94 participants gathered at 8 a.m. on 27<sup>th</sup> December. Elimination after a written quiz of 15 minutes, which tested the counting, playing, and anagramming skills, reduced the number to a manageable 48. Over the next two days, nine rounds of games (20+2 minutes per player per game) were played. The Swiss pairing was adopted for first seven rounds, and the last two had the inevitable KOTH.

Interestingly, the IITs had initially agreed for a double challenge for the tourney, implying that the penalty for an unsuccessful challenge would be a

loss of turn for the challenger instead of the customary five-point penalty.



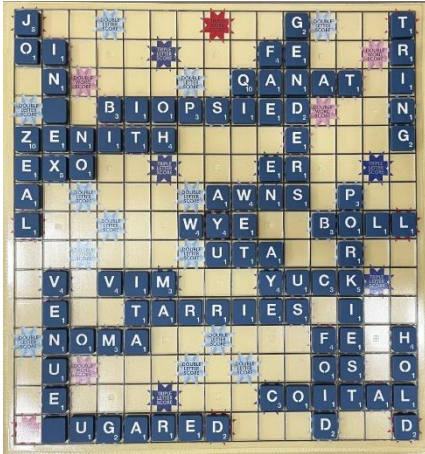
*Games in progress at IIT Kharagpur*

With a double-challenge format at such a basic level of a tournament, I apprehended that the boards would either have all kinds of phoneys in the end or they would be nearly empty. Following a bit of explanation and persuasion at the start, the qualified players agreed to a five-point penalty. I was glad, because throughout the duration of the nine games, there were umpteen challenges that kept myself and two other volunteers totally busy, validating challenged words on our Word Checker apps.

Another interesting scenario in all the events was that names of the IITs did not reflect on the standings sheet. Only the players’ names and their respective IIT codes were mentioned. Presumably, this was to prevent any bias towards any IIT while judging any event. With IIT Bombay having held two rated tournaments in the past, I was expecting students from



Mumbai to do better. IIT Madras (Chennai), I was told, was a strong contender, having organised the Inter-IIT Scrabble tournament the previous year at their campus. IIT Delhi did have an outside chance too.



*A high-scoring game against Anvay Shah on the sidelines – 531-501 in my favour*

After eight games, Anvay Shah from IIT Bombay (having a SAI rating of 809) led the roster with eight wins at a huge spread of +1719, followed by his institute mate Rathin Asodariya and Kavita from IIT Hyderabad, who were also on eight wins but with three-figure spreads. The final at the top board was thus between Anvay and Rathin. It was Anvay's tourney to win; but there was a twist in the tale.

With the last game starting at the same time as another event, Anvay decided to move there for a while. When he returned, his clock had already run down by 14 minutes. He somehow managed to complete the game, but lost by a mere two points, meaning that Rathin was the eventual

champion. Kavita won his final game to finish second, while Anvay ended up third. The final top five standings, IIT wise, were as follows: 1) IIT Bombay, 2) IIT Hyderabad, 3) IIT Bhilai, 4) IIT Madras, 5) IIT Kanpur.

Personally, I was glad to conduct the tournament successfully over two busy days, along with the help of two volunteers, the event head Riddhima Biyani, and the event coordinator Sanchay Mahato. In between, I had a few games too, against participants idling due to byes on the second day, when a couple of players dropped out. One such game with Anvay totalled a whopping 1032 points, which I won by a slender margin of 30. Anvay put the best bingo, BIOPSIE(D), right after I had played Q(A)NAT.



*Receiving a 'Thank you' plaque from Riddhima Biyani, the event head*

Hopefully, we shall be seeing more budding players from the IITs taking part in SAI-rated tournaments in the years ahead, as Scrabble steadily gains popularity among the institute's students. In fact, two students from IIT Madras have already registered for the forthcoming KSSA Indian Open to be held in Bangalore.

# Ascending the seventh heaven of Scrabble

*by Rahil Parkar*

Scrabble can be summarised simply as a game where you have to score more points than your opponent. While scores of 500-plus are usually sufficient to win almost all games, top players who have pored over the dictionary and spent hours refining their strategy are constantly looking for ways to surpass their personal best scores.

I had the fortune of achieving my best-ever Scrabble score (over 700 points) at the Wordaholix Scrabble League (WSL) IX in October 2023, and here is the story of how that marvel unfolded. WSL is a team event where equally balanced teams made up of players face off individually and compete cumulatively. In round 12, I faced off against my opponent who was ranked third in his team of seven.

The game started slowly, with me trailing my opponent by 25 points after three moves each. My play in the second turn, FAGOT, was challenged by my opponent, who suspected it might not be valid after the CSW21 dictionary update. Nevertheless, the adjudicator turned up green, and I chatted with my opponent about how the word was not meant to be a slur, but a word for a bundle of sticks.

In the fourth turn, I landed PREASES hooking onto MOWA for 78 points. My opponent challenged both words, netting me an extra ten points. While PREASES was not in my cardbox yet, it was a calculated guess from having

studied PREASING (anagrams – REAPINGS, SPEARING).

I immediately picked up a blank, and two turns later, I played OLIGeMIA. I had learned this word just a couple of months before the tournament, and was thrilled to spot and play it for 80 points on the triple word line. My opponent elected to challenge this play as well, which added five points to my total.

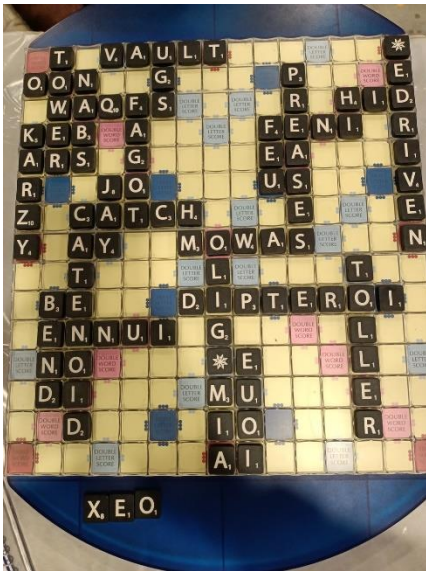
My opponent made a brave opening by playing HID, placing the D in the triple-triple lane to give himself a fighting chance. I had the fortunate pickup of ADEINOT, which gave me quite a few options across the board, such as IDEATION, IODINATE, ACTIONED, DOMINATE and NEMATOID. I eventually settled to play CATENOID, which fetched me the most points. Following another challenge, I scored 84 points to take a 201-point lead.

My opponent was struggling, as the next two turns saw him play eight tiles of which seven were vowels. I had balanced my rack in one move to land on DEIOPRT. While the four valid seven-letter words were not playable, I spotted DIPTEROI in the middle of the board for 65 points, which also drew another five points from a challenge.

Luck was on my side as I picked the second blank after this move. One balancing play later, I was at 484

points, with a lead of nearly 300 points. The outcome of the game was beyond doubt, but even I did not suspect that I was about to notch my highest-ever score.

The penultimate move of the game was critical in catapulting this game into notable territory. With my rack reading ?EEINRV, I was able to spot rEDRIVEN, which scored 158 points and another five added on with my opponent's challenge.



*The final board of the game – a 473-point spread!*

I emptied the bag by picking the last seven tiles, which had a couple of the power tiles, X and Z. In my final play, I played KARZY for 65 points, which drew yet another challenge and yet another five-point addition.

I could not play the X though, and the game ended with a mammoth 717 points against my name, and an

equally massive 473-point spread – both being personal records of my Scrabble career.

# WORDAHOLIX SCRABBLE ACADEMY

Round No.: 12

Table No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: <u>RAHIL</u>		
Word	Score	Total
MINDFUL	18	
WINDY/END	41	
WINDY/END	12	69
WINDY/END	15	71
WINDY/END	30	103
WINDY/END	20	123
WINDY/END	20	143
WINDY/END	20	163
WINDY/END	20	183
WINDY/END	20	203
WINDY/END	20	223
WINDY/END	20	243
WINDY/END	20	263
WINDY/END	20	283
WINDY/END	20	303
WINDY/END	20	323
WINDY/END	20	343
WINDY/END	20	363
WINDY/END	20	383
WINDY/END	20	403
WINDY/END	20	423
WINDY/END	20	443
WINDY/END	20	463
WINDY/END	20	483
WINDY/END	20	503
WINDY/END	20	523
WINDY/END	20	543
WINDY/END	20	563
WINDY/END	20	583
WINDY/END	20	603
WINDY/END	20	623
WINDY/END	20	643
WINDY/END	20	663
WINDY/END	20	683
WINDY/END	20	703
WINDY/END	20	723
WINDY/END	20	743
WINDY/END	20	763
WINDY/END	20	783
WINDY/END	20	803
WINDY/END	20	823
WINDY/END	20	843
WINDY/END	20	863
WINDY/END	20	883
WINDY/END	20	903
WINDY/END	20	923
WINDY/END	20	943
WINDY/END	20	963
WINDY/END	20	983
WINDY/END	20	1003

Name: _____		
Word	Score	Total
CASTLE	30	
WINDY/END	30	60
WINDY/END	20	80
WINDY/END	10	90
WINDY/END	10	100
WINDY/END	10	110
WINDY/END	10	120
WINDY/END	10	130
WINDY/END	10	140
WINDY/END	10	150
WINDY/END	10	160
WINDY/END	10	170
WINDY/END	10	180
WINDY/END	10	190
WINDY/END	10	200
WINDY/END	10	210
WINDY/END	10	220
WINDY/END	10	230
WINDY/END	10	240
WINDY/END	10	250
WINDY/END	10	260
WINDY/END	10	270
WINDY/END	10	280
WINDY/END	10	290
WINDY/END	10	300
WINDY/END	10	310
WINDY/END	10	320
WINDY/END	10	330
WINDY/END	10	340
WINDY/END	10	350
WINDY/END	10	360
WINDY/END	10	370
WINDY/END	10	380
WINDY/END	10	390
WINDY/END	10	400
WINDY/END	10	410
WINDY/END	10	420
WINDY/END	10	430
WINDY/END	10	440
WINDY/END	10	450
WINDY/END	10	460
WINDY/END	10	470
WINDY/END	10	480
WINDY/END	10	490
WINDY/END	10	500
WINDY/END	10	510
WINDY/END	10	520
WINDY/END	10	530
WINDY/END	10	540
WINDY/END	10	550
WINDY/END	10	560
WINDY/END	10	570
WINDY/END	10	580
WINDY/END	10	590
WINDY/END	10	600
WINDY/END	10	610
WINDY/END	10	620
WINDY/END	10	630
WINDY/END	10	640
WINDY/END	10	650
WINDY/END	10	660
WINDY/END	10	670
WINDY/END	10	680
WINDY/END	10	690
WINDY/END	10	700
WINDY/END	10	710
WINDY/END	10	720
WINDY/END	10	730
WINDY/END	10	740
WINDY/END	10	750
WINDY/END	10	760
WINDY/END	10	770
WINDY/END	10	780
WINDY/END	10	790
WINDY/END	10	800
WINDY/END	10	810
WINDY/END	10	820
WINDY/END	10	83

*The road to 717, my highest Scrabble score – a scoresheet to cherish*

While I looked back upon this game, I realised the value of mastering the eight-letter bingos – four out of the five bingos I scored in this game were eights, and the solitary seven was another word I guessed from an eight. My opponent also challenged a fair bit, hoping that I might have made a misstep, which netted me a handy 35 additional points to break beyond the 700-point barrier.

Notably, I achieved this 700-plus score for the first time in my seventh year of playing competitive Scrabble. Here's hoping the eighth year brings an 800-plus score!

# Musings from WYC 2023

## My first WESPA Youth Cup experience

*by Anika Dalwani*

A tiny colourful charm, all the way from Sri Lanka, hangs on my door rack. It was a token of appreciation from a friend I made at the WESPA Youth Cup 2023. This goes to show that the WYC 2023, while being the focal point of many new words learnt and many new strategies devised, was also a motherlode of memories.

The WYC 2023 was my first in-person international tournament. At this tourney, my eyes were not on the prize, but on the path to the prize – the learning experience. Not only did I learn words in one game and play them in the next, but I also mastered and identified setup plays.



I understood the strategies used by players from different countries. For instance, I noticed one Pakistani player blocking the board with the Vs and Cs once he realised that I was fishing, and the only time he opened the board, he regretted it. The free challenge was an interesting twist – it made phoneying impossible and manipulating your opponent easier.

Just as important, as I mentioned earlier, were the memories we made, and the exposure to people of many different countries and cultures – Thai, Hongkonger, Pakistani, Kenyan, Romanian, and so many more.

The country-wise parade was great, with each participant waving their country's flag as they marched up three floors, and each country having gorgeous cheerleaders leading the way. The award ceremony, despite being in un-understandable Thai, was worth it when we got to be on stage and put all of India's prizes in a line.

My most cherishable memory was the time I spent with the other Indians – at lunch, all of us disappeared into a smaller room inside the lunch hall, where we ate our meal without being disturbed. After the games, we met up for dinner in one of their rooms, and following the tourney, some of us went snorkelling in the stunning azure sea.

The WYC 2023 was an experience worth the time, and I can't wait for WYC 2024.

---

## WYC 2023: My Scrabble journey to Trang

*by Ahana Goyal*

WYC is not just a competition, but also a platform to interact,



Play Scrabble, and make friends with  
people from foreign lands...

I felt proud to represent my country  
this year,  
Holding the flag high, “INDIA,  
INDIA”, we cheered!

The journey to Trang was long and a  
bit of pain,  
But when I reached, there was no  
more tiredness and strain...

The pure air, the clean and peaceful  
roads were a bliss,  
The five days I spent there are what  
I’m always going to miss!

The venue was amazing, and the  
arrangements the best,  
The spacious arena and two hundred  
players made it look like a foreign  
fest...

The opening and closing ceremonies  
were so well planned,  
The trophies, medals, and the prize  
money were truly grand!

Triple words and doubles, clocks and  
challenges,  
Strategising moves, scoring, and tile  
exchanges...

The stress, the silence, and the spirit  
of learning,  
This ‘scrabbly’ vibe is always worth  
remembering!

Twenty-four rounds, seventy tables,  
and thousands of jingling tiles,  
Every hour, a new set of result sheets  
that piles...

A different player, a fresh mind, and a  
totally new game to play,

The clock starts ticking at the  
scheduled time, without any delay!



*A moment to cherish – winning the Best  
Female Player prize at WYC 2023*

Compete inside the arena, and shake  
hands outside,  
The post-game giggles and the  
discussions were loud and wide...

Words, words, words; all day long,  
Patience, stamina, and short coffee  
breaks kept us strong!

Someone wins and the other loses,  
it's all a part of the game,  
No matter what, positivity and  
teamwork should be the aim...

What I take along with me is a  
strengthened bond of friendship,  
WYC has made me a better player  
and improved my sportsman spirit!

Thank you, Team WESPA and SAI!!

-----

## My memorable WYC debut

*by Suhaas Khandelwal*

I have been interested in Scrabble since the last four years, and have been studying seriously towards competitive Scrabble in the last year. This year I got an opportunity to represent India at the WESPA Youth Cup. I was mentored by Mr. Sanjoy Gupta, who is one of India's top Scrabblers. To help me prepare, he played a daily game with me and analysed it. During these sessions, I listed my mistakes and then tried to work on them.

Finally, 28<sup>th</sup> November arrived. My classmates and teachers wished me luck. My father accompanied me for the trip to Trang, Thailand, where the tournament was taking place. We departed to Bangkok, where we arrived next morning, and then took a flight to Trang. Since there was no Scrabble on the first day, I decided to tour the town with my father. Trang is a small sleepy town about 800 km from Bangkok. We saw a church and had a bit of a walk in the rain. The next day had a warm-up event, where I won five out of six games.

On the first day of the main event, I was off to a bad start and lost the first few games, but then managed to come back and beat a Malaysian player. Overall, I ended the day on three wins from nine games.

There was a grand ceremony and a parade planned on the second day, where we had to hoist Indian flags – I felt really patriotic. After the parade, two children from each country were

selected for a photograph with the chief guest, who was the Governor of Trang. I was lucky enough to be selected along with my team mate Vihaan. Day 2 was much better, as I won five out of eight games.



On the third day, I got to play some tough games with a few older players and had a few close losses, including a loss by a golden bingo. I ended up with 11 wins out of 24 games, which I felt was a good showing, considering this was my first WYC. I was able to bingo in almost every game, and finished 89<sup>th</sup> out of 142 players in the rankings. Although the atmosphere was tense, I enjoyed every bit and learnt from my mistakes.

The experience of representing my country was awesome. The Indian team had a great party on the last day. The challenge was finding vegetarian food, and we had to limit to tofu curry and rice on most days.

I built good friendships with my fellow team members and also a few players from Sri Lanka and Pakistan. Overall, it was a worthwhile effort to play, and most importantly, enjoy the tournament. I'm thankful to SAI for this opportunity, and to our coach Ms. Neeta Bhatia for all the guidance.

---

# In focus: Nigel at Bangalore over the years

*by Rustom Deboo*

The KSSA Indian Open, sponsored by Mu Sigma, is set to kickstart the 2024 Indian Scrabble calendar in the last week of January. Notably, this edition will mark the return of the great Nigel Richards to the tournament after a gap of four years. The New Zealander, who is the world's highest ranked and most prolific Scrabbler, has been, by far, the most successful campaigner at the annual Bangalore international tournaments over the years, with a whopping run of 11 consecutive titles from 2010 to 2020 under his belt.



*Nigel Richards in action at Bangalore in 2020 – the last time he played (and won) India's biggest tourney (source: KSSA)*

## Nigel's Bangalore debut

The first time Nigel appeared at the Bangalore international tournament was in its fifth edition in 2009, when it was called the iGATE International Scrabble Tournament. He entered this tournament as the defending world champion, having won the 2007 World Scrabble Championship in Mumbai.

This remains the only time that he did not end up winning the title in the

12 editions of India's showpiece Scrabble tournament he has played till date – with the last round being a decider, he lost 405-434 to Thailand's Pakorn Nemitrmansuk. Interestingly, Pakorn would also go on to beat Nigel in the finals of the 2009 edition of the World Championship in Johor Bahru.

## The dream run begins

The 2010 Bangalore tournament saw Nigel embark upon his remarkable winning streak. As was the case in 2009, the last round featured him battling it out against Pakorn for top honours. However, Nigel prevailed this time, by 520-370, to commence a decade of dominance in Bangalore.

## In a league of his own

Nigel produced a scorching display at the 2011 edition, even by his own lofty standards. He won the first 19 games straight to seal the deal, and ended with 25 wins from the stipulated 26 games – no other player could reach even 20 wins. His average score at the tourney read an astonishing 495.23. In contrast, he had four losses in his first 13 games in 2012, but that did not stop him from eventually netting the title four wins clear of the pack.

The number of games increased to 35 in the 2013 edition, but Nigel was only starting to get his grip around the Bangalore tournament. Having just successfully defended his world title in Prague later in 2013 (following

up on his 2011 triumph in Warsaw), he duly made it five on the trot in 2014, when he won 29 out of 35 games. The 2015 title win was even more convincing, as he won 30 and lost only three games.



*Nigel receiving the winner's trophy at the 2016 Bangalore international tournament (source: Gerry Carter)*

### **If it's Bangalore, it's Nigel**

In 2016, he lost five games, four of which were to Singapore's Hubert Wee, whom he played eight times. Nevertheless, he finished three wins clear of Hubert to extend his title run to seven. Come 2017, the tournament was rechristened as the Capgemini International; but it was business as usual for Nigel, who kept making the Bangalore tournament his own by adding the 2017 and 2018 titles to his collection of silverware.

In 2019, Nigel was provided with a stern challenge for his tenth title by Singapore's Goutham Jayaraman, before getting Gibsonised in the penultimate round. The duo faced off as many as ten times, claiming five wins apiece. A year later, with Mu Sigma now the title sponsor, the tournament witnessed the Scrabble

wizard – who was coming off title wins at the 2019 editions of the WESPA Championship, held in Goa, as well as the World Championship in Torquay – win his 11<sup>th</sup> title with two rounds to spare, and complete ten years of triumphs in Bangalore. The tourney was not held in 2021, while at the 2022 and 2023 editions, Nigel was conspicuous by his absence.



*The juggernaut rolls on: Nigel with his trophy at the 2018 edition (source: KSSA)*

### **Back after four years**

Nigel recently won the adult side tourney at the WESPA Youth Cup in Trang, and will no doubt start as the favourite to take his Bangalore tally to a dozen. His current WESPA rating of 2158 is nearly 200 points higher than that Hubert (1970), the second seed. Nigel and Hubert have faced off 82 times in WESPA tourneys, with Nigel leading 46-36. Their head-to-head at the Bangalore tournament reads 19-7 in Nigel's favour. It remains to be seen whether Nigel can mark his comeback to Bangalore with another customary title win, or whether any of his challengers can defy history.

*(The tournament statistics have been sourced from the WESPA archives)*



## In memoriam: Romilla Thakur



*Romilla Thakur*  
13-09-1941 to 19-12-2023

### ***‘Always exuding enthusiasm’***

When Meena Kalyan wrote about the Pune Scrabble Club’s silver jubilee tournament and celebrations, she started her article with the dark clouds in the Pune skies... sadly, the dark clouds cast a shadow on our Pune Scrabble Club when we lost our dear ‘Romidi’, as she was fondly called by those close to her.

Romilla was a Puneite to the core, or rather a ‘Camp’ girl, as she was brought up in the cantonment area. She studied at St. Anne’s and then graduated in Economics from Wadia College. Her great organisational skills were honed by working as a secretary for reputed companies like Ruston and Hornsby, Formica, Century Goenka, and Alfa Laval – a skill set that was put to good use after

she retired. She ran, among other things, a company called ‘Finishing Touch’, training young executives in polishing their social skills. It was also a great boon for our Scrabble club, as she trained youngsters (one of them being Aditya Iyengar), to improve their game as well as being one of the main organisers of our annual Pune Club Championship.

A list about all I admired in Romidi would be too long... but there are vivid images that flash to my mind when I think about her... her hair styled in a stylish French roll... driving around in her white Fiat... always elegantly dressed... her yum chocolates and cheesecake...

Ticking Manju Pai and me off just like an older sister would... our many Scrabble trips to various places, like Hyderabad, Lonavala, Bangalore, Mumbai, Goa, where we had such fun times together... our Scrabble picnics in various outdoor locations... always exuding enthusiasm and positivity for whatever she put her hand to!

Oh, the memories are many, and I cannot find the words to do her justice. All I know is that I have lost a friend, a mentor, and an older sister.

Farewell, my dear friend – the memories we made together will always hold a special place in my heart.

*May the road rise up to meet you;  
May the wind be ever at your back;  
May the sun shine warm upon your*

*face, and the rain fall softly on your fields... and until we meet again, may God hold you in the hollow of his hand... (Irish blessing)*

**(by Neena Shahani)**

***‘First at the club every Tuesday’***

Although from the same school and house, she never told me which year she passed her school boards...

Although an expert cheesecake and chocolate maker, she never showed me her process...

Although an expert soft skills and life coach, she never allowed me to attend her lectures...

But she always praised all my wins and scolded... “How you lost? Why you lost?”

Always a go-getter, she was at the helm of the Poona Club tournaments and their arrangements.

Always first at the Club every Tuesday enthusiastically, so that she could open the room and the cupboards, ready for the games...

Always a student, ready to learn something new, in all dimensions of life...

And always a teacher...

The one and only Romilla Thakur...

**(by Priya Karkhanis)**

***‘Saw the Scrabble spark in me’***

It wouldn't be a stretch to say that I would've been nowhere near Scrabble

had it not been for Romilla aunty pushing a ten-year-old kid who showed a bit of a spark during a summer camp at a Pune bookstore. From there, to being personally coached for about a year and adopted into the Poona Club community, Romilla aunty saw me grow not only as a player but also as a human – as I graduated into the big league.

Even after I moved out of Pune, I would continue to remain connected with her – she would offer her words of counsel, being my only formal Scrabble ‘coach’ till date. Almost always the first to congratulate me on every tournament victory, usually remarking that ‘I did Pune proud’, Romilla aunty always embodied the Scrabble community spirit, one of the strongest reasons why most of us still play the game.

**(by Aditya Iyengar)**

***‘Godmother of our club’***

Romilla was the Godmother of our Pune Scrabble Club! She would call me and message me relentlessly to come for the weekly sessions and the upcoming tournaments, long after I had discontinued playing due to other commitments! She made sure that the Pune Scrabble Club was more enticing than even Hotel California!

**(by Milon Nag)**

***‘Will be immensely missed’***

A tribute to a dear friend, as her name suggests:  
R for resourceful  
O for organised

M for mischievous  
I for individual with integrity  
L for lovable  
L for loads of fun  
A for affable

She was always very helpful, kind and fun-loving. It's been a pleasure to have known her for more than two decades, and she will be immensely missed. I will always remember you with fondness, dear friend!

*(by Meena Bakhru)*



*Romilla in Goa during WESPAC 2019*

***‘Always exhorted me to learn’***

Scrabble is a game of words, but despite that, I am at a loss to find ones that would befit the loss of Romi to the Pune club.

Our last encounter at the one-day tournament in October 2023 was a good close game. I won and scraped past... but the exhilaration of winning against her has dimmed with the knowledge that we shall spar no more.

For my limited skills, a game with her was always challenging. I learnt not

to challenge her threes and fours to save points. She always exhorted me to learn, and was ever ready with tips on strategy that helped my game.

Adieu, my friend. I am sure you are scrabbling wherever you are!

*(by Meena Kalyan)*

***‘Always put me at ease’***

I had known Romilla aunty since 1996, when I had joined the Scrabble group. She was a very nice lady and it was always comfortable playing with her. When I was a beginner, she put me at ease and helped me with my bingos. We at the club shall definitely miss her a lot... till we meet again.

*(by Priya Kshirsagar)*

***‘The club’s driving force’***

Romilla was the driving force behind the Pune Scrabble Club. She was dynamic, and always held the group together. Newcomers were welcomed warmly, and she always did her best to encourage them and advise them on how to study and improve.

Preparing for a tournament, she was the backbone of the event, tirelessly seeing to every detail and leaving no stone unturned.

Romilla, you will be loved and dearly missed by us, the Pune Scrabble group, because of your fantastic ability to always include everyone and make us feel like one big family.

*(by Caryl Gonsalvez)*

-----

# Reading between the tiles

*by Rustom Deboo*

Here are 24 bibliophilic bingos to help you book a solid spot in your next tournament:

**ACROSTIC** – a poem in which certain letters taken in order to form a word or phrase

**ALLEGORY** – a story presenting a moral principle

**ALMANAC** – an annual publication containing general information, also **ALMANACK**

**AUTOCUE** – a device that displays words for people to read

**BOOKLORE** – book learning

**COLOPHON** – an inscription placed at the end of a book

**FANZINE** – a magazine written by and for enthusiastic devotees

**FASCICLE** – one of the parts of a book published in separate sections

**FLYLEAF** – a blank leaf at the beginning or end of a book

**GRIMOIRE** – a book of magic spells

**HAMARTIA** – the tragic flaw of the protagonist in a literary tragedy



*Grimoire*

**HORNBOOK** – a book that covers the basics of a subject

**LIBRETTO** – a book containing the words of an opera

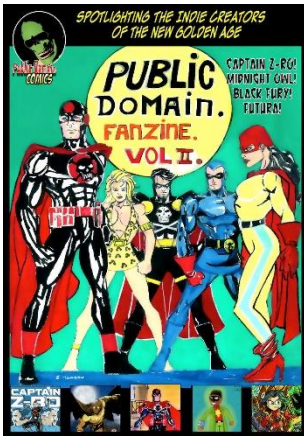
**LONGUEUR** – a tedious passage in a work of literature

**MACHZOR** – a Jewish prayer book

**NOVELLA** – a short novel

**OFFPRINT** – to reprint an excerpt or an article

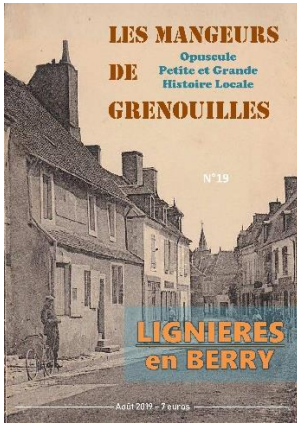
**OPUSCULE** – a literary work of small size



*Fanzine*

**DOUBLURE** – the lining of a book cover

**EXEMPLAR** – a copy of a book



*Opuscule*

PERICOPE – an extract or selection from a book

PROLUSION – a short introductory essay preceding the text of a book

TRIGLOT – a book in three languages

WHODUNIT – a mystery story

Continuing with the theme... here's a bookish board featuring all 100 tiles:



Finally, here are the 69 sevens and eights starting or ending with the letters BOOK:

BOOKBAG, BOOKEND,  
BOOKERS, BOOKFUL,  
BOOKIER, BOOKIES,  
BOOKING, BOOKISH,  
BOOKLET, BOOKMAN,  
BOOKMEN, BOOKOOS,  
BOOKSIE

BOOBOOK, DAYBOOK,  
FLYBOOK, LAWBOOK,  
LOGBOOK, NETBOOK,  
NONBOOK, PREBOOK

BOOKABLE, BOOKBAGS,  
BOOKCASE, BOOKENDS,  
BOOKFULS, BOOKIEST,  
BOOKINGS, BOOKLAND,  
BOOKLESS, BOOKLETS,  
BOOKLICE, BOOKLIKE,  
BOOKLORE, BOOKMARK,  
BOOKRACK, BOOKREST,  
BOOKSHOP, BOOKSIER,  
BOOKWORK, BOOKWORM

BANKBOOK, BILLBOOK,  
BLUEBOOK, CASEBOOK,  
CASHBOOK, CHAPBOOK,  
CODEBOOK, COOKBOOK,  
COPYBOOK, DATEBOOK,  
FACEBOOK, FLIPBOOK,  
GAMEBOOK, HANDBOOK,  
HORNBOOK, HYMNBOOK,  
JESTBOOK, NOTEBOOK,  
OVERBOOK, PASSBOOK,  
PLAYBOOK, SONGBOOK,  
STUDBOOK, TEXTBOOK,  
VIEWBOOK, WORDBOOK,  
WORKBOOK, YEARBOOK



# Tournament round-up

## WESPA Youth Cup 2023

*by Neeta Bhatia*

Finally, we got to witness a physical WESPA Youth Cup (WYC) after three years of its virtual avatars due to the pandemic.



*Team India posing in their team jerseys at the WESPA Youth Cup 2023*

The WYC is the premier international youth Scrabble event, organised by the World English-Language Scrabble Players Association (WESPA), which not only encourages the growth of the game, but also provides the budding youth players with a platform to develop their skills, make new friends, and learn about different cultures.

WYC 2023 took place in Trang, a quaint and sleepy province in Thailand. The tournament featured 142 youth aged between six and 17 from various countries including India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Australia, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Nepal, Romania, Hong Kong, Kenya, the Philippines, the

United Kingdom and the United States.

Twelve youth from India, some veterans of earlier WYCs and some first timers, donned their Team India jerseys and jackets with pride to represent their country at the tourney that ran from 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2023. This was the first time that the Indian team travelled with an official team coordinator and coach, and I am hugely grateful to SAI for having partly sponsored my travel as the team coordinator.



*Proud to be part of Team India!*

The team's initial arrival in Trang posed a few very tricky challenges, what with the hotel assigned for the Indian team being on the outskirts of an already sleepy town, with all the convenience stores and restaurants shut by 7 p.m.! The very judicious habit of Indians travelling with theplas, khakhra, ready-to-eat meals, cakes and cookies, amongst

other goodies, saved the day, as this was dinner for the very weary team who had reached Trang after long journeys of ten to 16 hours from India (there are no direct flights to Trang, hence connecting flights had to be taken). We finally managed to move the team to the main venue hotel a day later. Language was a huge hurdle, and even though detailed requests had been submitted in advance, arranging vegetarian food options for our players proved to be a challenge.

The tournament itself ran smoothly with very high-quality games played in a fiercely competitive field of players. Our youth did India proud, with as many as six of the players finishing in the top 25.



*India's award winners at the WYC 2023*

India's leading youth Scrabble player **Madhav Gopal Kamath**, from Delhi, finished **fifth overall** with 16 wins at a spread of +1946... his impressive spread was the best for any player in the tourney. Notably, he

was also awarded the **first prize in the under-14 age category**.

Finishing in **tenth place** was Bangalore's **Suyash Manchali** (also with 16 wins, at a spread of +717), who has been another Scrabble prodigy on the rise. He also won the **third prize in the under-16 category**.

Delhi's **Ahana Goyal** not only finished a creditable **17<sup>th</sup> overall**, but also won the award for the **Best Female Player** as well as the **third prize in the under-14 category**.

Bangalore's ten-year-old **Samarth Manchali** placed **19<sup>th</sup> overall** and additionally won the **second prize in the under-12 category**.

Chennai's **Triambak Eashwar** and Delhi's **Ekansh Arora** finished **24<sup>th</sup>** and **25<sup>th</sup>** respectively.



*The grand parade at the opening ceremony of WYC 2023*

This commendable display was another testament to India's growing profile on the international youth Scrabble scene.

Besides these six players, the Indian contingent also comprised Mumbai's

**Anika Dalwani, Aarush Jotwani** and **Ishika Poddar**; Jaipur's **Vihaan Singhvi**, Bangalore's **Suhaas Khandelwal** and Delhi's **Shiv Talwar**. Another encouraging result was **Samaira Jotwani** winning the **second prize** in the two-day **under-13 WESPA Youth Plate** event.

Sri Lanka took home the top three positions, with Hivin Dilmith being the champion. India and Pakistan had six players each in the top 25; Sri Lanka had five; Malaysia, Thailand, and Singapore two each; Australia and Hong Kong one each.

There were quite a few firsts at the tournament .... the days began early with breakfast at 7 a.m., games at 8 a.m. sharp, lunch served between 11 a.m. and noon, and dinner at 5 p.m.! Games continued post dinner till 8 p.m., making it a really long day, but our young troopers followed this exhausting schedule without much complaint.

Ironically, the opening ceremony took place on Day 2 of the tourney. The team parade, from the ground floor of the hotel till the second floor, with country flags being waved with pride, was spectacular and brought a smile to everyone's faces. The final prize distribution ceremony was quite an elaborate affair, with the trophies awarded being as big as some of the players themselves!

Nigel Richards, the world's most decorated Scrabbler, agreeing to pose with the team only doubled the pride and excitement of our youth players,

having won a bunch of trophies. The icing on the cake was when Nigel handed over his own trophy (for winning the side tournament) to the bewildered Samarth, who could not believe what had just happened!



*Team India posing with the trophies won by them, along with Nigel Richards*

Some of the families used the last day to unwind and go on a four-island cruise. The picturesque beauty of the islands, the fun and laughter at the late-night dinner binges put together by the vegetarian families in the hotel rooms, the pep talks and huddles of the team, and the bonding between our youth as well as the families... are all lasting memories of our travel to Trang, making us already look forward to the next WYC!

### Final standings – Top 25

	Player and country	Wins	Spread
1	Hivin Dilmith: SRL	19	1149
2	Adheesha D: SRL	18	1686
3	Kavindu M: SRL	18	1080
4	Ali Salman: PAK	17	1388
5	Madhav Kamath: IND	16	1946
6	Bilal Asher: PAK	16	1702
7	Affan Salman: PAK	16	1076
8	Ahmed Salman: PAK	16	1054
9	Ahmad Azhan: MYS	16	835

10	Suyash M: IND	16	717
11	Lee Jin Yih: SGP	16	559
12	Krissanapong: THA	15.5	787
13	Ilham Irshad: SRL	15	919
14	Monis Khan: PAK	15	844
15	Ronnie Bennett: AUS	15	742
16	Nathan Tan: MYS	15	738
17	Ahana Goyal: IND	15	558
18	Archana P: SRL	15	513
19	Samarth M: IND	15	504
20	Misbah R: PAK	15	378
21	Adem Ng: HKG	15	239
22	Nicha C: THA	15	144
23	Ariel Wong Zi: SGP	14.5	79
24	Triambak E: IND	14	1522
25	Ekansh Arora: IND	14	941

QUETSCH (a distilled spirit),  
SAZERAC (a whisky cocktail), and  
VOUVRAY (a French wine).

The 42 registered participants were assigned to six equally balanced teams of seven players each, led by our very able captains – AQUAVIT was captained by Udayan Grover, CERVEZA by Sherwin Rodrigues, EISWEIN by Sunny Bhatia, QUETSCH by Rahil Parkar, SAZERAC by Samrath Bhatia, and VOUVRAY by Ishika Shivalingaiah.

## Wordaholix Scrabble League (WSL) IX

*by Neeta Bhatia*

The eagerly awaited Wordaholix Scrabble League returned to The Bark, a lovely boutique art hotel in Lonavala, from 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> October 2023 for its ninth edition.



*Team EISWEIN – winners of WSL IX*

To lift our spirits, we decided to base our team names on various alcoholic beverages this time... thus, our six unique teams were named AQUAVIT (a Scandinavian spirit), CERVEZA (a beer), EISWEIN (a German wine),



*Games in progress at WSL IX*

We began the tournament on a solemn note with a small tribute in remembrance of Collin Pereira, an avid Scrabbler whom we lost last year. The tourney itself began on a topsy-turvy note, with no less than four upsets favouring the underdogs – four captains fell to the seventh placed player of the opposing teams! Aruna Grover beat Udayan, Gaurav Bhargava beat Sherwin, Ritu Chadha beat Ishika, and Karan Khanna beat Rahil... phew, what a beginning! The Eisweins took an early lead, with the Vouvrays and the Sazeracs not too far behind, at the end of eight rounds on the opening day.



As is synonymous with the WSL, you compete hard during the day and party even harder at night. Bollywood quiz night was a laugh riot, with fierce competition amongst the teams to outsmart the others. The Quetsches were the overwhelming leaders, with the Sazeracs a close second. The karaoke session that followed, till late into the night, had us all humming and dancing away to romantic and nostalgic numbers. Amongst some good singing talent (and some not so much!) were the undisputed queen and king of karaoke, Vimisha Patel and Sumeet Sachdev respectively.



*Halloween at WSL IX*

An early start on Day 2 meant that ten rounds were played through the day, at the end of which the Eisweins maintained their lead, but with the Vouvrays only a point behind them – both teams clearly ahead of the rest of the field going into the final day.

The Halloween themed night party had the lawns of The Bark looking their eerie best, with innovative decorations, props, and lighting put up by our affable hostess, Ritu, who ensured that the spooky ambience was complimented with her artistic

talent, as she personally painted the faces of the scrabbling bunch to look their spookiest. The DJ music and the spirits (of all kinds) flowed freely till the wee hours.

After an early breakfast and the customary team photographs, the final six games on Day 3 saw the teams rising to the challenge for the last hoorah, trying to better their standings. Even though the Vouvrays gave a tough fight, the Eisweins emerged champions with impressive performances by their entire team, while the Aquavits finished third.



*The six team captains at WSL IX*

The highlight of the spot prizes was Sherwin playing EXOGAMIC for 217 points to claim the highest X word. Some other worthy winners of the spot prizes were Aruna for JONTIES (93 points – highest J word), Varisht Hingorani for QUIETING (127 points – highest Q word) and Vignesh S for ZEATINS (144 points – highest Z word). Bhushan Pradhan won the spot prize for using W, S, and L in one word by playing WADDLES (96), and Samrath played BREAKAGE (89) to win the spot prize for using all the letters in the word BARK.





*The participants of all teams at WSL IX*

The heady cocktail of words, team spirit, and camaraderie is indeed the mainstay of any WSL, and we look forward to our tribe growing further with planning already underway for WSL X!

#### Final team standings

Team	Wins	Spread
1 EISWEIN	95.5	1615
2 VOUVRAY	93	1746
3 AQUAVIT	89.5	1135
4 QUETSCH	77	-560
5 SAZERAC	76	-2624
6 CERVEZA	73	-1312

#### Final individual standings

Player	Wins	Spread
1 Sherwin Rodrigues	21.5	2668
2 Varisht Hingorani	20	2458
3 Udayan Grover	18.5	1353
4 Ishika Shivalingaiah	18	2012
5 Samrath Bhatia	18	1514
6 Sunny Bhatia	17.5	1405
7 Selwyn Lobo	17	911
8 Rahil Parkar	16	1984
9 Shaik Ahmed	16	839
10 Anand Buddhdev	15	1022
11 Sumeet Sachdev	15	426
12 Sujana Somasekar	14	1155
13 Vimisha Patel	14	578
14 Sanjay Bijlani	14	-47
15 Vignesh S	14	-189
16 Rohaina Tanveer	13.5	63
17 Siddharth Nithyanand	13	30
18 Nikheel Ruparel	13	-41
19 Karan Khanna	13	-870
20 V Ramachandran	12	525
21 Ela Ghose	12	-49

22 Radhika M	12	-148
23 Neeta Bhatia	12	-344
24 Harvinderjit Bhatia	12	-422
25 Meena Kalyan	12	-482
26 Danish Shahna	12	-493
27 Sushanto B	11	-414
28 Bhushan Pradhan	11	-471
29 Ritu Chadha	9	262
30 Abhijit Shilotri	9	-760
31 Virendra Braganza	8	-486
32 Aarush Jotwani	8	-599
33 Viji Ramachandran	8	-1061
34 Aruna Grover	8	-1231
35 Asha Kamath	7	-1097
36 Shalini Sahdev	7	-1118
37 Sonal Merchant	7	-1189
38 Saraswathi R	7	-1231
39 Neena Shahani	6	-2041
40 Gaurav Bhargava	5	-1183
41 Zeba Sultan	5	-1692
42 Neelanjana Bid	3	-1547

High game: Rahil Parkar 717

## Deccan Cup, Hyderabad

*by Swagat Nukala*

The 2023 edition of the Deccan Cup was held at the Hotel Deccan Serai in the heart of Hyderabad's HITEC City from 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> December. It was held in the spacious ballroom of the hotel, which was easily among the roomiest venues across tournaments in the country. The food and the hospitality also came in for immense praise.



*The spacious venue at Hotel Deccan Serai in HITEC City, Hyderabad*

There was a single division with 25 players from different parts of the country. Having a good number of participants from Hyderabad itself was encouraging. Ashok Bhandarkar was the Tournament Director, and did a great job as always.



*The podium at the Deccan Cup*

At the end of 25 rounds, Sherwin Rodrigues won the tournament after having been Gibsonised prior to the penultimate round, while Sanjoy Gupta sealed the second place before the last round.

While the organisers were much appreciated for the venue, the food, and the hospitality, there was some valuable feedback and lessons learnt as well. Around prize money splits and having different divisions, the feedback is well received, and the

organisers would do better to ensure that the divisions and prize splits are announced clearly, covering all the possible scenarios, ahead of time.



*The trophies on offer at the Deccan Cup*

Similarly, feedback was shared around the tsh configuration used. This also highlighted the need for having a standard template of tsh configuration, which can be shared by SAI with tournament organisers to ensure a more consistent experience across tournaments.



*Participants from Hyderabad at the Deccan Cup*

### Final standings

	Player	Wins	Spread
1	Sherwin Rodrigues	18 (+2)	1813
2	Sanjoy Gupta	17 (+1)	620
3	Ishika Shivalingaiah	16	734
4	Raghuram J	16	158
5	Selwyn Lobo	15	336
6	Pankaj Bolaki	14	890
7	Sunny Bhatia	14	773



# Scrabble around the world

Here is a round-up of some of the key WESPA-rated tournaments and Scrabble happenings from around the world in the past three months:



## Thailand

The WESPA Youth Cup returned in its in-person form after a gap of four years, as the premier global youth Scrabble tourney was held in Trang, Thailand from 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

After 142 players battled it out over 24 rounds, it was a Sri Lankan sweep on the podium, with Hivin Dilmith (19 wins from 24 rounds at a spread of 1149) winning the title ahead of his compatriots Adheesha Dissanayake and Kavindu Malawaraarachchi, both of whom finished with 18 wins.

Sri Lanka finished as the best team at the WYC 2023 (adjudged on the basis of the three best finishers), followed by Pakistan and India in second and third place respectively.

There was a side tourney for adults as well, where 62 players took part.

Nigel Richards of New Zealand won 17 out of 22 rounds to secure the top spot; his average score being 496.30.

## Malta

The 15<sup>th</sup> Malta International Scrabble Open (MISO15) Main Event was held from 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> November. England's Harshan Lamabadusuriya, who was the top seed, finished on top after 25 rounds with 19 wins at a spread of 1661. Kong Chock Heng (Malaysia) finished second, while Mohamed Kamara (Sierra Leone) finished third. A total of 40 players took part, with another 28 playing in Division B.

The one-day Early Bird (having 48 players) that preceded the Main Event was won by India's Sunny Bhatia, with eight wins from nine games, while the two-day Late Bird was won by Hong Kong's Brian Po.

The eighth edition of the Seniors World Championship (SWC) was also held in the same week between 46 contenders, with England's Mark Nyman (19 wins from 25 games) coming up trumps by half a win more than his countryman David Webb.

## Nigeria

The 2023 West African Scrabble Championship, which was played in Lagos over 28 rounds from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> November, was won by Nigeria's Doko Oluwatimilehin (19 wins at a spread of 1163). Thirty players from West African nations such as Nigeria, Ghana and The Gambia took part.

# Puzzles and quizzes

## Anagram quiz – Name the sportsperson

*by Rustom Deboo*

In this anagram quiz, the clue in each question is the meaning of a seven-letter word valid in Scrabble, with the corresponding letter in brackets denoting a letter in the said word, which, when removed from the said seven-letter word, results in the six remaining letters being the jumbled letters of a six-letter last name of a well-known Indian sportsperson.

For instance, if the seven-letter word is found to be MARSHAL and the corresponding letter is L, then the last name of the sportsperson in this case would be Sharma. You can send in your answers to [indianscrabble@gmail.com](mailto:indianscrabble@gmail.com) by 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024. One entry getting all sportspersons right will win a cash prize of Rs. 500 in a lucky draw.

Congrats to V Sridev for winning the lucky draw prize for the quiz featured in the September 2023 edition.

- |                                               |                           |
|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1) Inside the line of a vessel's bulwarks (O) | 5) Shorter epic poems (E) |
| 2) A container for pouring molten metal (T)   | 6) Quite pale (N)         |
| 3) A mixture of egg and water (G)             | 7) A kind of pastry (U)   |
| 4) A ruler of a district (T)                  | 8) An edible flatfish (L) |
|                                               | 9) A Maori assembly (U)   |
|                                               | 10) A type of porch (R)   |





Find the best play

by Hriday Samtani

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

1

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

↓

D

E

I

I

S

V

↺

1

2

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

↓

A

E

G

O

R

T

↺

2

36

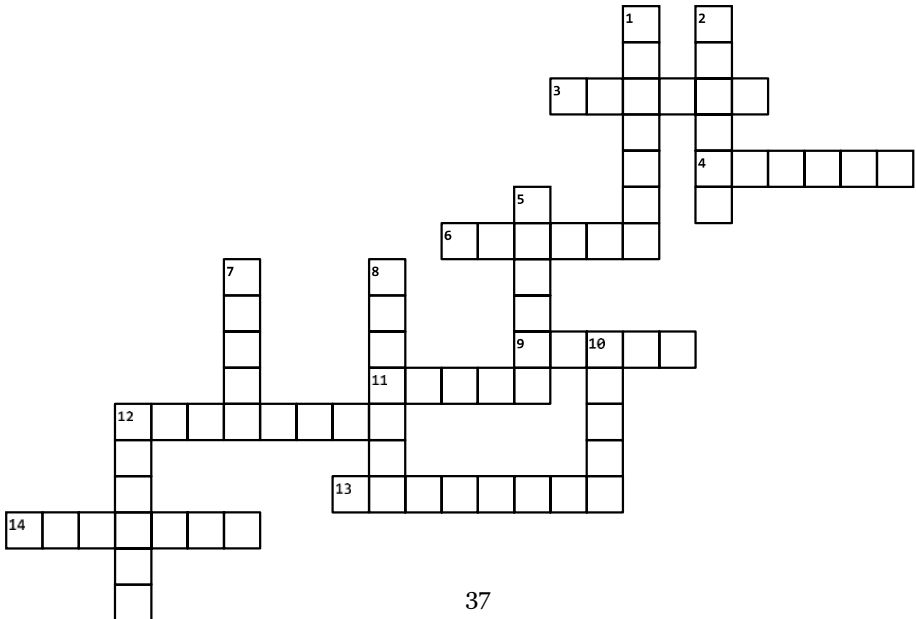


3

## Identify the Japanese word

by Shubha Shivashankar

The objective of this quiz is to replace the numbers with letters corresponding to their point value in Scrabble in order to get a valid word, and fill them in the grid. For example, 1-1-1-2-1-3-1 would correspond to ORIGAMI. Each of the words mean a Japanese word or a word of Japanese origin, with the hint given in brackets.



**Across**

- 3) 5-1-3-1-1-1 (Traditional attire)  
 4) 4-1-1-1-3-1 (Horseradish)  
 6) 8-1-2-1-2-1 (Sport costume)  
 9) 5-1-1-8-1 (Pictorial script)

- 11) 3-1-3-4-1 (Confection made of rice)  
 12) 4-1-5-1-10-1-1-1 (Champion wrestler)  
 13) 1-1-1-1-4-1-5-1 (Dish of meat or shellfish)  
 14) 8-1-8-1-1-1-1 (Art of self defence)

**Down**

- 1) 1-1-3-1-1-1-1 (Warrior)  
 2) 4-1-1-1-4-1 (Clay sculpture)  
 5) 1-2-10-1-5-1 (Bean)  
 7) 3-1-1-1-1 (Meal packed in a box)

- 8) 1-2-1-3-1-3-1 (Soybean)  
 10) 1-1-1-4-1 (Pear)  
 12) 4-1-5-1-10-1 (Gangster)

---

**Alphagram quiz – Eight-letter words**

*by Rustom Deboo*

Given below are 14 ‘alphagrams’ (the letters of a word arranged into alphabetical order – note that ALPHAGRAM\* by itself is a money!) of eight-letter words valid in Scrabble. Test yourself on how many you can get right, and within how much time.

- |             |              |
|-------------|--------------|
| 1) AFIMNORT | 8) AEHINRSW  |
| 2) EEIILNNR | 9) AIMORSSU  |
| 3) AGINORTV | 10) EEINOPTY |
| 4) ADEILMPR | 11) ALNOPRTY |
| 5) EEGORSTU | 12) AHILOORT |
| 6) AEHIORTU | 13) AGLLPRSU |
| 7) BCDEOORT | 14) CDEEIKLN |

# SAI round-up

- **Six Indian players finish within the top 25 of the WESPA Youth Cup 2023**

The WESPA Youth Cup (WYC) 2023 was held in Trang, Thailand from 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> December. Six of the 12 Indian players finished in the top 25, with Madhav Gopal Kamath (fifth place) and Suyash Manchali (tenth) finishing within the top ten. Neeta Bhatia was the coach and coordinator for Team India at the tournament.

- **The 2024 SAI tourney calendar takes shape**

The year ahead will see at least a dozen SAI-rated tournaments across at least eight cities, with a few of them having already locked in their dates. The 2024 tournament calendar, as it stands, can be found on page 43 of this edition.

## New members

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

1. **Raghuram Jonnalagedda** (Hyderabad, based in the US) played Scrabble for the first time when he was about

eight years old, on cardboard and sliding score tracker (90s kids will know this). But he was introduced to the competitive Scrabble scene during his undergrad in Chennai, when he was looking for a Scrabble club and found the likes of Mohan Chunkath and Ranganthan Chakravarthy to play with. He moved to the US in 2001, and began playing with the TWL lexicon after unlearning what was then SOWPODS. Over the last few years, he moved away from Scrabble as his attention shifted to poker, but he is getting back to Scrabble now. And, he is super happy to get back to Collins – for him, more the words, more the fun!

2. **Jayakishore Satla**

(Bangalore) is a newbie to Scrabble. Kishore to his friends, he loves wordplay and word puzzles, and is a marketer by education. Growing up, he was exposed to Scramble in the Sunday edition of the Indian Express as well as Crossword in The Hindu, inspired by a friend's dad who took math tuitions in high school. A word game he has recently enjoyed playing is Letterpress.

3. **Sherral Joseph** (Chennai) loves writing, and managed to transform this hobby into a profession. Over the past five years, she has been working as a professional writer for various companies. She loves Scrabble and the way it engages her mind completely. She first played the game with friends while working in Singapore. When she was living in Doha, her passion for Scrabble grew further. Recently, she got to take part in a tournament in Chennai, organised by Ranganathan Chakravarthy, and is looking forward to more Scrabble experiences and meeting her fellow Scrabble lovers.
  4. **Shabnam Sahay** (Hyderabad)
  5. **Pooja Mehta** (Mumbai)
  6. **Varshini Elangovan** (Hyderabad) is a software engineer by profession. She started playing Scrabble as an eight-year-old in Qatar with her brother, and under the guidance of Judith Britten, represented her then country at the World Youth Scrabble Championship in 2009. Having drifted apart from the game in the midst of schooling, she returned to Scrabble at the Deccan Cup in 2023. She has a penchant for bingos and loves the exhilarating thrill of being engrossed in a game.
  7. **Padma Nalini** (Hyderabad)
  8. **Mohit Goyal** (Bangalore) is a software engineer working in India's silicon valley. He has always been interested in word games, and one of his co-workers introduced him to Scrabble around four years ago. Since then, he has been playing it online and offline whenever possible. Before joining SAI, he also participated in and won the newbie division at the 2023 KSSA Indian Open. He looks forward to playing higher rated players to learn their strategies and gain more word knowledge.
  9. **Sharv Jain** (Delhi) is eight years old and has always been a reading enthusiast. He started playing Scrabble when he was four years old, but it was during the Covid times that he really got hooked to the game. He loves finding new words in his books and using them while playing. He wishes that the love he has for Scrabble keeps on growing further.
-



# Solutions to puzzles and quizzes

## Find the best play



### 1) Three best moves:

12B – V(ER)Sified – 78

E4 – DIS(QUIET) – 36 (EIV?)

12A – VI(ER)S – 27 (DEI?)



### 2) Three best moves:

11E – pRO(PA)GATE – 94

15A – nEGATOR(Y) /  
cATEGOR(Y) – 86

15A – GEOLATR(Y) – 83



### 3) Three best moves:

5C – KLEZM(E)RS – 96

5F / B8 – KL(E)ZMERS – 96

B5 – KLEZM(E)RS – 75

## Identify the Japanese word

Across: 3) Kimono, 4) Wasabi,  
6) Judogi, 9) Kanji, 11) Mochi,  
12) Yokozuna, 13) Teriyaki,  
14) Jujutsu

Down: 1) Samurai, 2) Haniwa,  
5) Adzuki, 7) Bento, 8) Edamame,  
10) Nashi, 12) Yakuza

## Alphagram quiz

1) NATIFORM, 2) LINENIER,  
3) GRAVITON, 4) IMPARLED,  
5) UROSTEGE, 6) THIOUREA,  
7) CODEBTOR, 8) SHERWANI,  
9) OSSARIUM, 10) EYEPOINT,  
11) PATRONLY, 12) LOTHARIO,  
13) SPURGALL, 14) NICKELED

# Ratings

Below are the SAI official ratings (top 80) as on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023. Please visit [indianscrabble.com](http://indianscrabble.com) for the full rankings.

	Name	Club	Rating	Games
1	Sherwin Rodrigues	MUM	1806	1794
2	Akshay Bhandarkar	OSI	1757	612
3	Aditya Iyengar	PUN	1733	751
4	Madhav Gopal Kamath	DEL	1638	828
5	Rahil Parkar	MUM	1597	723
6	Sanjoy Gupta	BLR	1585	1537
7	Prashanth Seetharam	OSI	1564	384
8	Mohan Chunkath	CHN	1554	1144
	Puneet Sharma	OS	1553	202
9	Samrath Singh Bhatia	MUM	1545	1101
	Irfan Siddiqui	OS	1535	380
10	Udayan Grover	PUN	1534	2342
11	Charles Carneiro	OSI	1533	870
12	Variseth Hingorani	MUM	1532	1336
13	Ishika Shivalingaiah	BLR	1526	617
14	Suyash Manchali	BLR	1517	294
15	Sunny Bhatia	DEL	1512	1458
16	Nidhi Singhvi	OSI	1483	998
17	Rajveer Rawlin	BLR	1477	574
18	A Krishnan	CHN	1476	568
19	Douglas Lobo	GOA	1460	1470
20	Hriday Samtani	MUM	1443	683
	Shaila Amalean	OS	1443	307
	Raghuram J	OS	1420	41
21	Vraj Jain	MUM	1391	593
22	Pramit Rao	MUM	1382	89
23	Sumeet Sachdev	MUM	1381	673
24	Selwyn Lobo	OSI	1381	423
25	Rajeev Menon	HYD	1355	959
26	Amit Sood	PUN	1352	587
27	Bharath Balakrishnan	BLR	1352	133
28	Pankaj Bolaki	BLR	1343	488
29	Sujana Somasekar	BLR	1336	709
30	Anuj Shetty	BLR	1328	341
	Rohaina Tanveer	OS	1308	576
31	Sudhir Kamath	DEL	1284	1202
32	Manju Sood	BLR	1279	936
33	Yash Potnis	BLR	1277	562
34	Mangala Bhandarkar	PUN	1260	1830
35	Sanjay Bijlani	MUM	1254	672
36	Rajiv Antao	GOA	1248	1099
	Supriya Devnani	OS	1242	106
37	Rustom Deboo	MUM	1236	720
38	Ekansh Arora	DEL	1234	193
39	Arindam Basu	KOL	1229	527
40	Sridhar Paidikondala	HYD	1217	940
41	Shaik Ahmed	HYD	1188	2043

	Name	Club	Rating	Games
42	Shubha Shivashankar	BLR	1183	346
43	R Nalini	BLR	1181	1004
44	Sushanto B	DEL	1174	591
45	Bhushan Pradhan	MUM	1168	2186
46	Aaradhya Srivastava	MUM	1166	98
47	Kala Ganesh	MUM	1163	1546
48	Rehet Singh Bhatia	MUM	1158	990
49	Shreyas Gupta	DEL	1155	89
50	Karthik Ganesan	DEL	1154	210
51	Pramit Kamath	DEL	1143	548
52	Suchindra Potnis	BLR	1142	562
53	Danish Shahna	BLR	1135	772
54	Prithwiraj Mukherjee	BLR	1135	385
55	Siddharth Nithyanand	BLR	1130	464
56	Abid Hussain	BLR	1124	512
57	Joe Rodrigues	GOA	1114	1058
58	Radhika Mahalingaiah	BLR	1104	1006
59	Alan DeMello	MUM	1103	195
60	Rajnikant Singh	KOL	1101	289
61	Amogh Bhamerkar	GUJ	1095	80
62	V Ramachandran	MUM	1089	1458
63	Neeta Bhatia	MUM	1089	555
64	Meena Bakhru	PUN	1083	404
65	Ela Ghose	DEL	1081	233
66	Srikrishnan TK	BLR	1074	65
67	Archana Aggarwal	DEL	1072	657
68	Vimisha Patel	GUJ	1069	678
69	Harsh Sood	BLR	1068	183
70	Vignesh S	BLR	1062	556
71	Dipankar Chatterjee	BLR	1058	680
72	Nikheel Ruparel	MUM	1056	1183
73	Brian D'Souza	MUM	1055	235
74	PC Jose	MUM	1030	1408
75	Jyoti Budhia	CHN	1019	106
76	Hemanth Achaya	BLR	1013	299
77	Sneha Thadhani	GUJ	1005	152
78	Jacky Fernandes	GOA	999	1046
79	Lennie D'Souza	BLR	998	1293
80	Savio Rebello	GOA	994	241

BLR – Bangalore (KSSA)

CHN – Chennai

DEL – Delhi

GOA – Goa

GUJ – Gujarat (Vadodara)

HYD – Hyderabad

KER – Kerala

KOL – Kolkata

MUM – Mumbai

PUN – Pune

OSI – Indian national residing overseas

OS – Overseas foreign player (no rank)

## SAI TOURNAMENT CALENDAR 2024

Month	Tournament	Organiser	Place	Dates	Days	Divisions	Confirmed
JAN	KSSA Indian Open	KSSA	Bangalore	25-28	4	4	Yes
MAR	Kaizen All-India Open	Udayan Grover	Pune	15-17	3	2	
MAR	Women's Day	The Bark	Lonavala	TBD	1	1	
APR	Goa Open	Goa Club	Goa	19-21	3	TBD	Yes
MAY	National Scrabble Championship	Mumbai Scrabble Club	Mumbai	17-19	3	2	Yes
JUN	Asia Cup Youth Scrabble Championship	SADel and Wordaholix	Delhi	4-6	3	1	Yes
JUN	GAIL Cup	SADel	Delhi	7-9	3	3	Yes
JUL	Pune Club Championship	Poona Club	Pune	12-14	3	1	
AUG	August Tournament	KSSA	Bangalore	TBD	2	1	
AUG	Vadodara All-India Open	Vadodara Scrabble Club	Vadodara	15-17	3	TBD	Yes
SEP	IIT Bombay Open	IIT Bombay	Mumbai	TBD	3	2	Yes
OCT	Wordaholix Scrabble League	Wordaholix	Lonavala	20-22	3	League	
DEC	Deccan Cup	Hyderabad	Hyderabad	13-15	3	TBD	

-----

*The tournaments and dates highlighted in green are confirmed, while the rest are tentative as of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023. Please note that the calendar is subject to changes.*

-----



# ENDGAME

## **Let us know your feedback**

What did you like about this 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](mailto: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/](http://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](http://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](mailto:indianscrabble@gmail.com).

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

---

*Scrabble® is a registered trademark of JW Spear & Sons, England, under licence in India to Mattel India Pvt. Ltd.*

---