



SCRABULARY

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**HONG KONG
NATIONAL**
SCRABBLE CHAMPIONSHIP

2016

HONG KONG NATIONAL SCRABBLE CHAMPIONSHIP 2016

A WHOLE NEW UNIQUE SCRABBLE EXPERIENCE FOR HONG KONGERS

Hong Kong Scrabble Players Association is organising the first-ever Hong Kong National Scrabble Championship to select the official Hong Kong Scrabble Champion and create a precious opportunity for Hong Kong Scrabble players of all levels to compete with each other. The tournament is WESPA-rated and HKSPA-rated.

The Hong Kong National is only open to Hong Kong Permanent Residents. To cater for the large school Scrabble field in Hong Kong, school team prizes and individual age group prizes are set up.



The Main Round of the National will be a one-day nine-game event on 24 April 2016 (Sunday). After the Main Round, the top 4 players will play a race-to-five Semi-Final and Final for the title of Hong Kong Scrabble Champion and the Lion Rock Trophy.

The Championship attracted 76 entries, with both novices and experienced players. 15 of them have an existing WESPA rating. There are 51 under-18 players in total, but only 2 of them are under-12s.

A big thanks to all the participants, helpers and organisers! We, together, created a new page of Hong Kong Scrabble!

Group Photo of Hong Kong Scrabble Challenge 2015



WORDS FROM CHEAH SIU HEAN, THE SECRETARY OF WESPA

It is my great pleasure to offer hearty congratulations to the Scrabble players of Hong Kong on reaching an important milestone in the growth of their competition scene: the staging of Hong Kong's inaugural National Scrabble Championship.

There will always be other competitions, some will be bigger than the Nationals, some with bigger prizes, and international events with possibly a more diverse and stronger field. But a National Championship is special. The title of 'national champion' in almost any competitive endeavour tends to carry weight even among those who know only the bare minimum about the game.

Many years down the road, your successors will be able to look back over the long and eventful history of this event. By then there will have been many different players and winners. There will be young prodigies who burst on the scene, and those who capture the elusive crown only after years of trying, those who dominate over a long period, and one-shot wonders, famous rivalries, and much frustration and elation both in the tournament itself and also behind the scenes.

All of that needs to start somewhere, and those of you playing, officiating or organizing at the 1st Hong Kong National Championship will have been there at the start.

The Scrabble fraternity outside Hong Kong have over the last few years observed the rapid and heartening development of Scrabble in Hong Kong, from tentative early steps to active participation by her players in major international events, and now the first of hopefully many National Championships. I know from ongoing experience the trials and tribulations involved in putting on these tournaments. Your organizers deserve a round of applause.

At the end of the tournament there will only be one winner. But it takes all the participants to make it a championship, so all of you, try your darnedest to win. Make your National Champion worthy of the name. And those who don't win, try again next time.

Enough. Empty boards and full bags await you. Let the games begin.

**Posts:**

Secretary of WESPA

President of Scrabble Association, Singapore

Titles:

Grandmaster (awarded by Scrabble Association, Singapore)

2 times (2002, 2004) Australian Scrabble Champion

1 time (2009) Singapore Scrabble Champion

CHEAH SIU HEAN

NATIONALS AROUND THE WORLD

In this section, we will take a look at the Nationals around the world.

AUSTRALIA

AUSTRALIAN SCRABBLE CHAMPIONSHIP

Since 1986

Open to everyone in the World

Current Champion (2016): Trevor Halsall (Australia)

Most successful player: John Holgate (Australia)
(4-time winner)



Trevor Halsall, Champion of the Australian Scrabble Championship 2016

Photo Credit: Nick Ivanovski, WESPA

UNITED KINGDOM

THE ABSP NATIONAL SCRABBLE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Since 1989

For qualified players

Current Champion (2015): Craig Beevers

Most successful player: Mark Nyman (4-time winner)



The ABSP National Scrabble Championships 2015

Photo credit: Mauro

SINGAPORE

SINGAPORE NATIONAL SCRABBLE CHAMPIONSHIP

Since 2002

For Singapore Permanent Residents

Current Champion (2016): Toh Weibin

Most successful player: Tony Sim (3-time winner)



Singapore National Scrabble Championship 2015



Tony Sim (right), winner of the Singapore National Scrabble Championship 2004



Michael Tang, the winner of the Singapore National Scrabble Championship 2009



Winners of the first-ever Singapore National Scrabble Championship
Photo credit: Cheah Siu Hean

JAPAN

JAPAN NATIONAL SCRABBLE CHAMPIONSHIP

Held annually in summer

One-day seven-game tournament in September with 8 to 10 players joining in recent year

Also as qualifying tournament of WESPA Championship

For players who reside in Japan

Most successful player: Keiichi Hirai, an information system engineer living in Saitama
(won about 10 times since 2000)

Current Champion (2015): Ed Miliano

Other successful players: Adrian Ovidiu Tamas, a teacher from Romania;

Warodom Geamsakul, Japan's representative at WESPA

Championship 2015



Participants of the Japan National Scrabble Championship 2015



Japan National Scrabble Championship 2014



Photo credit: Warodom Geamsakul from Japan Scrabble Players Association

CANADA

CANADIAN NATIONAL SCRABBLE CHAMPIONSHIP

Since 1996

For Canadian citizens or permanent residents only

Current Champion (2015): Adam Logan

Most successful player: Adam Logan (4-time winner)

NIGERIA

THE ASAPH ZADOK NATIONAL SCRABBLE CHAMPIONSHIP

Since 1986

Each region in Nigeria send their best (usually 4) players to represent them at the nationals after going through a qualifying tourney

Current Champion (2016): Olatunde Oduwole

Most successful players: Ayo Fasheiro, Segun Durojaye, and
Wale Fashina (2-time winner)



Photo credit: Nigeria Scrabble Federation

PRE-MATCH INTERVIEWS

We interviewed 3 players who are going to compete in the first-ever Hong Kong National. Let's check out their expectations, targets, and the player they want to avoid most!

PAUL CHRISTENSEN ORGANIZER OF THE HONG KONG SCRABBLE MEETUPS

HKSPA RATING: 1964 (RANKED 3RD)

HAS BEEN PLAYING SOCIALLY FOR OVER 40 YEARS AND COMPETITIVELY FOR 2 YEARS



It's the first National and my first big tournament, so I don't really have any expectations except that it will be a long tiring day! My basic goal is to win at least 6 games. More than that will depend on the luck of the draw and of the tiles. Felix Kwok is the only person I've played (several times) but never beaten in tournaments, so that would be tough. I'm looking forward to the National, but I still haven't decided whether (for the first time) to do any studying for it!

WYSC 2015 SIDE TOURNAMENT A BEST NOVICE
HIGHEST RANKED HONG KONG PLAYER IN WESPA RATINGS
WESPA RATING: 1193 (RANKED 649TH) HKSPA RATING: 2165 (RANKED 1ST)
HAS BEEN PLAYING FOR 13 YEARS

CARSON IP



I hope I could win 7 games with good spread to go into top 4. I need some luck to get there. I would want to avoid Euclid, Felix, Kelvin and Jason because they are the strongest. But I would definitely want to play them in playoffs if I could proceed to that stage. I can't wait to see this historical moment of Hong Kong Scrabble development. While our playing levels are still not comparable other nations with rich Scrabble history, we have been quickly improving and I would expect very strong plays from my opponents in the event. I look forward counter their plays and make them high-quality games. Lastly, special thanks to Owen and Chris, who have spent the most effort to make this extraordinary event happens!

HILTON CHENG STUDENT FROM ST. FRANCIS' CANOSSIAN COLLEGE

FIRST PLAYED SCRABBLE IN THE INTER-SCHOOL SCRABBLE CHAMPIONSHIP 2016 - SECONDARY (NOVICE)



My expectation towards the National is improving my Scrabble skills. As this is the first time for me to join such a large-scale competition, I am worried that I cannot perform to the best of my ability because of nervousness. I hope that I can keep calm and try my best to play every game no matter how powerful the opponents are. I want to avoid the Hong Kong Scrabble Team members because they have plentiful experiences and they may play phoneys which I dare not challenge. However, I still have the bravery to face them as I know that playing with them can improve my skills and I can learn more words to bring me up to another level. I am looking forward to the Championship and I hope that I can show the best of me in front of everyone.

PLAYER LIST

Adrian FUNG

Amelia TSE

(HKSPA Ratings: 1681)

Carson IP

(HKSPA Ratings: 2165,
WESPA Ratings: 1193)

CHEUNG Chi Cheung

CHOW Ka Yue

Coby LAM Hoi Ying

Douglas TSANG

(HKSPA Ratings: 1905,
WESPA Ratings: 835)

Euclid HUI

Felix KWOK

HUI Hung Kit

Kelvin LAM

LAU Kwun Shing

(HKSPA Ratings: 1641)

Paul CHRISTENSEN

(HKSPA Ratings: 1964)

Pinky CHEUNG

Ryan WONG

Terence LI Yik Hong

YIP Tsz Hin

U12

CHOY Chi Yan

Julian WONG Tsz Yu

U14

CHO Si Yui

CHUNG Pak Him

FUNG Tsz Hin

HEUNG Tsz Fung

HO Cheuk Yiu

HONG Yik Shing

KWOK Ka Lun

KWOK Sheung Kai

Thomson LAW Long Yin

Wesley CHOW Wing Chi

WONG Nam Chun

WONG Tsz Tung

YEUNG Cheuk Ying

YU Sin Yi

U16

Barua SHANGJUTY

Boris CHUNG

(HKSPA Ratings: 1888)

Brian PO

Calvin MA

CHAN Long Kei

CHAN Tak Wai

CHEUNG Cheuk Yin

HEUNG Tsz Kit

James NG Tsz Kit

Kelvin NG Man Ho

KWOK Ka Ming

LAU Wai Keung

LEUNG Chun Hei

LI Ka Ki

LIM Chi Sang

MA Wing Yi

Natalie SEE

SIU Yan Yee

Sophia TSANG So Wah

Sophie YAU

TAI Yat Yin

TSANG Pak Shing

WONG Wang Pok

Zoe CHEUNG

U18

Emika CHAN

Hilton CHENG

HO Chun Hung

Kiki CHUNG Wing Sze

KWOK Chun Hin

LAI Cheuk Ying

LAI Ka Ki

LAM Chi Ho Anson

LI Pun Wang

NG Cheuk Wing

NG Ka Wing

NGAN Fu Ting

Rana Fawad AHMAD

TAM Pok Hin

TAM Yuen Wai

TING Tsz Hin

TSANG Wai Yin Jason

WONG Shu Ting

Wynter HAU

HELPER LIST



Tournament Director:

Ken Kum

Helpers:

Chloe Lam, Clara Chan, Edwin Chan

Ho Man Kai, Kevin McCardle

Miles Wong, Von Liu, Zarek Chow



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