

# SCRABULARY

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2016



## HONG KONG NATIONAL SCRABBLE CHAMPIONSHIP 2016 A WHOLE NEW UNIQUE SCRABBLE EXPERIENCE FOR HONG KONGERS

Hong Kong Scrabble Players Association is organsing 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 divers 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 event-ful 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

Γitles:

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 6

#### 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 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: Keiichiro 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

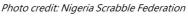
Each region in Nigeria send their best (usually 4)

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)









CARSON IP

## 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

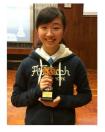
It's the first National and my first big tournament, so I don't really have any expectations except that it will be a long tiring day! My basic goal is to win at least 6 games. More than that will depend on the luck of the draw and of the tiles. Felix Kwok is the only person I've played (several times) 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

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

## <u>U12</u>

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

## <u>U16</u>

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

#### <u>U18</u>

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

