

CIMB JUNIOR SCRABBLE CIRCUIT (JOHOR) 2011

30 April 2011, Maktab Sultan Abu Bakar, Johor Bahru

By Lim Mao Fong

I arrived at the venue , which was my own school pretty early in the morning and honestly did not expect a big turnout at the circuit . I had overlooked the possibility of players from other states coming, many of which I had met at the ASCI in Kuala Lumpur. This year's turnout was definitely better than last year's with many new players from schools around Johor Bahru . All of us should owe part of this increase to Harendraraj , formerly of Maktab Sultan Abu Bakar , who defaulted to SMK Sultan Ismail , where he formed yet another coven of scrabble players . Also present were players from SMK Aminuddin Baki and SMK Taman Molek . Not forgetting our youngest participant, Pang Rickson, of SK Impian Emas, who is only 10! (No prizes for guessing who he's related to) . Favourites to win were of course Pang Xynna , champion of the Melaka JC ,Sharsindra and Benjamin Choo , of Maktab Sultan Abu Bakar. (Yes, I was not in the picture!)

The first game went according to custom , that was where the heavyweights pummelled the newbies and weaker players for vulgarly high spreads. The problem with most of the weaker players is intimidation . They just don't dare to challenge anything, even phony bingos which they have never and will never come across anywhere. My first game was against Rudy Tan of SMK Aminuddin Baki . Phony-free spread of 284.

While the players with spreads of 300- 400 ++ played among themselves (Sharsindra , Xynna , Harendraraj) , I was up against Arunan Sethu of SMK Sg. Pelek (the Term-Mights) . Arunan took the lead with RANGERS and BOONIES , with me playing desperate catch-up . Just when I thought I had finally bridged the gap with ZETA , for 81 points , he struck back with APPLYING (2 blanks!) , which ended the frustrating match, in which I lost by a spread of 34.

The top five players had unbeaten records and I went on to play Priyanka Sethu , of , yes , SMK Sg. Pelek and YES, Arunan 's sister. Fearing the worst, I went on to play one of my luckiest and best games of my life (apologies , I'm not really a very good player so yes, that was quite a big thing for me) , in which I played my first ever nine-timer , WALLINGS , for 158 points right after she opened up the triple word area with COAL . I went on to play ATTENDER and OVEREAT (by chance) and won the game by 308 with a score of 609 (my personal best, nothing compared to the likes of Jen Ho , William and the rest) .Meanwhile , Harendraraj was up against Pang Xynna (if I'm not mistaken) and lost , having overlooked a bingo (Open D, FEAUNT?).

My fourth round was against Kuhan Anandan of SMK Sultan Ismail and again luck was on my side. I managed to play LOCKERS , followed by a phony bingo which I wasn't sure of and he did not challenge , OUTRISEN (ROUTINES!!) . Scored big with OPAQUE , with a leave of R. (Yes , OPAQUER is a word) and won with a spread of 236.

During the fifth round, Pang Xynna was up against Benjamin Choo , while Sharsindra was playing against Harendraraj . I played against Arun Maniam , from SMK Sg. Pelek , a Form1 student with a lot of potential . We had one bingo each , STAINER for him and KERNELS for me. Managed to win by 154. Benjamin successfully defeated Xynna while Sharsindra and Harendraraj emerged from their game laughing with Sharsindra being the victor.

Round 6 for me was against Benjamin , while Xynna played against Sharsindra. The top 5 all had 5 wins , with my spread being the highest. Managed to play PUDGIER while Ben played UNDATES , which was challenged off and later replayed as UNSTEADY , which really caught me off guard . Later in the game I played INTRUDE . Benjamin replied with DORKIER . I was lucky to get REGIONS during the last few turns and I won by a spread of 197.

Sharsindra managed to win Xynna by a small spread and we thought that I would be playing against Sharsindra . Much to his unnecessary relief, I played against Shiideshwar , who also had 6 wins . It seemed that my luck was really running out as I was struggling to catch up after he played STEERING . I caught up 3 turns later and stayed in the lead until he played SLOWING. Fortunately , I managed to catch up and win by 17 points ! I was really relieved after this game.

Sharsindra beat Benjamin, which reduced his spread , pushing him out of the top 5. Xynna managed to beat her opponent , replenishing her spread and bringing her up to 4th place. Harendraraj made a comeback at 3rd place and Sharsindra clinched his desired spot in the top 5 at 2nd place. Some of the top 15 had already qualified in earlier JC's , however the other players out of the top 15 did not get a chance to qualify . Interestingly , despite a number of non - Johor players , the top five were born and bred in Johor Bahru , thus proving the namesake of the CIMB **JOHOR** Junior Scrabble Circuit. Cheers!

Results

1 Lim Mao Fong	6 +1200
2 K.Sharsindra	6 +559
3 Harendraraj Mohanraj	5 +873
4 Pang Xynna	5 +806
5 Shiideshwar	5 +600
6 Prema Maniam	5 +439
7 Priyanka Sethu	5 +318
8 Benjamin Choo	5 +290
9 Kuhan Anandan	5 +41
10 Kuhan Bathmanaban	4.5 +243
11 S. Krishnapriya	4 +494
12 Manfred John	4 +433
13 Arun Maniam	4 +374
14 Arunan Sethu	4 +348
15 Kong Sian Jhieh	4 +230

16 Colin Low Zhi Yeong	4 +83
17 Pavithran Angumuthu	4 -4
18 Nicolas Fernandez	4 -122
19 Praveen Naidu	4 -160
20 Melvin Tan Jun Hao	4 -161
21 Foo Sze Kay	4 -283
22 Farah Zainal Abidin	3.5 +239
23 Hanif Abdul Rahim	3.5 +52
24 Aananada Varmaa Setu	3.5 +21
25 Adam Ho Mohammad Ho	3 +108
26 Mohamad Lukman Aidid	3 -2
27 Wong Chen Yuan	3 -54
28 Rudy Tan Li Xiong	3 -217
29 Chua Kay Li	3 -239
30 Jasmine Gan Ju-hsien	3 -239
31 Rai Mattheus Towle	3 -294
32 Mudar bin Moiz	3 -405
33 Goh Min Yi	3 -440
34 Radha Mohanraj	2.5 -478
35 Raveendran Veenorth	2.5 -482
36 Siva Nyanamani	2 -37
37 Tham Jo Yee	2 -287
38 Kee Ling Ling	2 -335
39 Avienash Vilet	2 -339
40 Pang Rickson	2 -574
41 Low Chiow Hui	2 -606
42 Lee Le Yi	1.5 -465
43 Moo Khai Mun	1.5 -753
44 Lee Sin Yee	1 -775

High game: Lim Mao Fong 609
High word: WALLINGS 158