

CIMB Junior Scrabble Circuit 2010

Melaka

St Francis Institution Melaka was the first school to host a Scrabble Competition when the game was introduced in the historical city back in 2003. This venue also carries bountiful histories of producing promising Scrabble players such as Gan Yi En, Leroy Ong and Martin Teo. In the recent years, players such as Cedric Stewart Lewis and Gan Han Yang took centre stage as they kept the Malacca bloodline going.

Unlike the other junior circuits, the Melaka State Junior Circuit (held on 3rd April 2010) was undeniably the toughest so far with a handful of very experienced players among the flock of 60 from 11 schools. WYSC representatives, Markus Loke (SMK King George V) and Jagan Narayanan (SMK Seafield, Subang Jaya) started off as top seeds while the Malaccans' hopes were saddled by St Franciscan, Gan Han Yang.

It was unfortunate for Markus as he was drawn to play Jagan in the second round after both players butchered their opponents by almost +500 spread in the first game. Jagan winning was almost cracked by Gan Han Yang in Game 4. Even though Gan was leading by a sumptuous score in the beginning of the game, YONS* costed Gan the game which could change the entire battlefield. Jagan prevailed and won the game by a mere +9 point. The extra boost of confidence won Jagan all 7 games en route to clinching first place.

Gan Han Yang who lost to Jagan for the second time in the last round fell to 4th place. Nikhil Theva Raj from SMK King George V stole the limelight from his seniors by emerging as first runner-up, dropping only one game to Jagan. Yang Yiqin from SMK Gajah Berang became the sole female survivor as she overtook a more veteran Gan Han Yang and Markus Loke to grab the 2nd runner-up spot.

There were quite a number of 100-point bingo words being played in the tournament. Among those who caught most attention was FUMBLING (101) and CHIRPED (105). Markus Loke however became the 'wordmaster' of the day, finding the very low probability THIEVERY (the act of stealing) and DIQUATS (a herbicide) as well as playing a beautiful ODALIQUE (a female slave in a harem). However, it was Nina Premila who stole the show when she played a beautifully rare yet invalid word which was left unchallenged. With a AEHHJOV rack, who would have thought that she could find *JEHOVAH in it?

The top ten players are :

Rank	Player	Wins	Margin
1	Jagan Narayanan	7	+1133
2	Nikhil Theva Raj	6	+656
3	Yang Yiqin	6	+595
4	Gan Han Yang	5	+1018
5	Markus Loke	5	+880
6	Johnston Tan Ee Jun	5	+751
7	Nishant Theva Raj	5	+699
8	Dzul Afleq Zulkifli	5	+500
9	Ignatius Wong Chen Siong	5	+161
10	Joshua Chee Yik-ren	5	+123