

MSA Mini 2 Tournament Report
April 10 and 11, 2010
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MASTERS

The MSA Mini 2 at Berjaya Time Square in Kuala Lumpur saw the return of former World Champion Nigel Richards to the local tournament scene. For the Scrabble grandmaster, who had been busy over the past year notching up wins on the international scene, it was a stroll in the park and he had clinched the Masters title after Round 12, with three games to go. With 11 wins and over a thousand spread points ahead of nearest rival Pui Cheng Wui, who was on 8 wins after game 12, Nigel was Gibsonized and wrongly paired against Jocelyn Lor, who was still in contention for third place, albeit by a long shot. Jocelyn pipped him in that round, keeping things interesting.

The remaining contenders for the second and third prizes were Yeo Kien Hung and Tengku Asri on 8 wins and Tan Jin Chor on 7 wins. Tengku Asri, the first to fall out of contention was matched up against Nigel in the final round, which saw Pui, Yeo, Jin Chor, and Jocelyn battling for the booty.

When the dust settled, it was Jin Chor who emerged second, having succeeded in out-margining Yeo, who had to settle for third, a mere 9 spread points behind.

Masters – Results after Round 15

1	Nigel Richards	13	+1979
2	Tan Jin Chor	10	+417
3	Yeo Kien Hung	10	+408
4	Pui Cheng Wui	9	+571
5	Jocelyn Lor	8	+373
6	Chim Wai Main	8	-65
7	Chang Ching Wei	8	-149
8	Tengku Asri	8	-411
9	Alex Tan Ken Seng	7	+58
10	Sreepathy Iyer	7	-193
11	Yeap Gim Sai	7	-230
12	William Kang	7	-384
13	Marcus Loke	6	+215
14	Ker Ken Wa	6	-697
15	Lee Pao Hsien	5	-127
16	Chang Ching Yet	1	-1765

High game: Nigel Richards 581



Rose among the thorns...but Jocelyn is about to show her woman power!



Nigel and Intermediate participants

INTERMEDIATE

The Intermediate division saw a swell in numbers with the unexpected participation of a contingent of 7 school boys from Pahang, and an even bigger representation - 16 players - from a school in Sg Pelek, Selangor. It was heartening to see the effort these kids had made, travelling from so far away to compete in the Mini. For some of them, it was their very first tourney.

The top seed in this division was Aviel Lee Yuen Bing, followed by Vinnith Ramamurti and the 12-game tournament turned out to be a duel between the two for the No 1 spot. Aviel, who remained unbeaten right up until the King of The Hill, was paired in Round 8 against Vinnith who had only dropped one game. Vinnith took that Round, becoming the new leader due to his superior spread of 1082 next to Aviel's 847. Vinnith won again against Aviel in the following round, maintaining his lead and enhancing his already healthy spread, but Aviel took Round 10, to even up the wins, but not the spread, which now stood at 1074 to 855.

Round 11. With two games to go, the two leaders were now on 8 points each, with Md Syazwan Aidid, Jivan Subramaniam and Bryan Lai Tong Yin in hot pursuit at 7 with margins of 749, 519 and 472 respectively. Aviel, who realistically needed to win both games in order to take the title, was determined to keep the drama going. And he succeeded.

It had now come right down to the wire, with Aviel on 9 wins with a spread of 914 and Vinnith, the highest 8 at 1015. In a dramatic finish, Vinnith executed an edge-of-the-seat 7-point margin deathblow and secured his first Intermediate victory.

The Third, Fourth and Fifth prizes were won by Bryan, Md Syazwan and Jivan respectively.

INTERMEDIATE - Results from round 12

1	Vinnith Ramamurti	9	+1022
2	Aviel Lee Yuen Bing	9	+907
3	Bryan Lai Tong Yin	9	+681
4	Md Syazwan Aidid	8	+681
5	Jivan Subramaniam	8	+544
6	Azlan Adnan	7	+598
7	Md Aizuddin Sukeri	7	+274
8	Prema Maniam	7	+262
9	Muhamad Amirul Azrie	7	+99
10	Wilson Kang WeiChern	7	-162
11	Vignesh Venkitasamy	6	+612
12	Jeihiiin Subramaniam	6	+394
13	Megan Yeoh Li Yuen	6	+51
14	Ahmad Mursyidi TZaka	6	+1
15	Prya Suthan Sathiana	6	-125
16	Muhd Noorafiq Izani	6	-185
17	Siew Qing Wang	6	-236
18	Arunan Sethu	6	-243
19	Vetri ThillaganGuna	5	-69
20	Geetha Maniam	5	-304
21	Arun Maniam	5	-307
22	Ang Wei Kiat	5	-432
23	Mohamad Suhaiqal Azi	5	-624
24	Kogaan Selvaraja	5	-1095
25	Cheah Ken Ween	4	-440
26	Lim Wei Lun	3	-719
27	Thinakaren Batumalai	3	-968
28	Mohd Irfan Md Zamri	2	-217

High game: Md Aizuddin Sukeri 632