ICT Penang Open Scrabble Tournament 2011

17 – 19th June, City Bayview Hotel, Georgetown Penang

Commentary by Chuah Sim Swee

City Bayview Hotel again played host to the prestigious ICT Penang Open Scrabble Tournament which was held from 17th till 19th June. Thanks to the groundwork done in the previous years by PSC and CIMB bank, the **novice** category attracted a record number of participants and a limit of 50 participants had to be set by the organizers so as not to be overwhelmed.

Novice Winner: Samatha Loh with Dr Adele

Novice 1st runner-up: Choo Zi Wei

Novice 2nd runner-up: Chew Shin Liang

Novice participants enjoying their games.

The **masters** category attracted 48 competitors with the largest foreign contingent from Australia (12 participants) and Singapore (8 participants). Malaysians comprised half the participants but sadly, with the absence of A.Ganesh, there was no local player who would have a good shot of unseating the reigning scrabble champ, Nigel Richards of New Zealand, from his throne.

Fortunately, Nigel's reputation did not faze the rest of the field to have a go at him and have the pleasure of taking a game off the champion. It was great scrabbling from the very first game as everyone gave their best. The quality of the field was evident as Nigel Richards did not rise to the top of the table at the beginning with players like Sam

Kantimathi of USA, Shim Yen Nee of Singapore, Marlon Prudencio of the Philippines as well as Aaron Chong and Henry Yeo of Malaysia maintaining their perfect scores and winning by bigger margins.

By game 10, Mr. Richards had stamped his authority and it was up to the chasing pack to try and bring him down. He would go on to lose three games , one of them to Shim Yen Nee of Singapore, the only female to hover in the top five but, by game 17, it was evident that he had won the tournament. Henceforth, he was 'gypsonized' and the rest of the field fought it out for the rest of the top positions. After a sumptuous buffet lunch, game 20 saw Sam Kantimathi happily pipping Henry Yeo Kean Hung for second position. Shim Yen Nee of Singapore was a well deserved fourth and Liew Kean Boon came in fifth.

The full results after game 20 is as follows:

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Rank	Player	Wins	Mar
1	Nigel Richards	17	1706
2	Sam Kantimathi	14	1012
3	Yeo Kien Hung	13.5	587
4	Shim Yen Nee	13	950
5	Liew Kian Boon	13	700
6	Marlon Prudencio	13	568
7	Cheah Siu Hean	12.5	294
8	Toh Weibin	12	628
9	Tony Sim	12	486
10	William Kang	12	345
11	Martin Teo	12	231
12	Jocelyn Lor	11	858
13	Aaron Chong	11	657
14	Rocky Sharma	11	322
15	Leonora Labog	11	289
16	Dianne Ward	11	34
17	Liz Fagerlund	11	6
18	Rod Talbot	11	-31
19	John Barker	11	-56
20	Alex Tan Ken Seng	11	-109
21	Ricky Purnomo	10	657
22	Chuah Sim Swee	10	426
23	Bob Jackman	10	421
24	Christian Oktavius	10	62
25	Zeenath Ariff	10	26
26	Heather Long	10	-75
27	Goutham Jayaraman	10	-108
28	Tengku Asri	10	-134
29	Cheong YiHua	10	-159
30	Yeoh Eiu Jyn	10	-721
31	Karen Richards	9.5	118
32	Yeap Gim Sai	9	102
33	Olga Visser	9	32
34	Cheong YiWei	9	17
35	Adele Tan	9	-67
36	Ng Chee Eng	9	-180
37	Peter Bauer	9	-804
38	Seshi Ramanathan	8	309
39	Cedric Stewart Lewis	8	182

40	Paul Richards	8	-283
41	Amery Seow	8	-456
42	Yeoh Sue Ann	8	-599
43	Lee Yee Fun	7.5	-416
44	Nabena B Hemalatha	7	-569
45	James Chin	7	-1196
46	Hendy Yohanes	6	-957
47	Nicolas Choo	5	-1269
48	Dorcas Choo	1	-3836

HIGH GAME: Nigel Richards 663
HIGH WORD: Cedric Stewart Lewis 212
"AZOTISED"

Masters Winner : Nigel Richards (New Zealand)

1st runner-up: Sam Kantimathi (USA)

2nd runner-up : Henry Yeo (Malaysia)

4th position: Shim Yen Nee (Singapore)

5th position : Liew Kian Boon (Singapore)

6th position: Marlon Prudencio (Philippines)

7th position : Cheah Siu Hean (Singapore)

8th position: Toh Weibin (Singapore)

9th position : Tony Sim (Singapore)

10th position: William Kang (Malaysia)