

12th WESPA Youth Cup : 27 to 29 November, 2017: Malaysia

This is the twelfth event run by WESPA Youth Committee, and will be the largest yet. We retain the free-entry quota of ten players for each WESPA country, but encourage you all to send many more than this. In order to attract more players, the entry fee for Non-Quota players has been reduced to US\$80 for this year.

Date: 12:30pm Monday 27th November to 4pm Wednesday 29th November, 2017

Location: Johor Bahru, Malaysia (accessible by flying into either Singapore or Johor Bahru, or flying into Kuala Lumpur, and then taking a bus/train.) Transport can be arranged from Singapore airport, as required.

Venue: Berjaya Waterfront Hotel, Johor Bahru <http://www.berjayahotel.com/johorbahru> (this is the same hotel Michael Tang has used for many years, for the Causeway Challenge)

Accommodation: Accommodation deals will be offered within the hotel (details available soon). We encourage participants to stay there, if possible. Other venues will require taxis to and fro, and may incur traffic delays and late arrivals.

Meals: Every player must pay AU\$45 (approx. US\$30), which will cover the cost of three meals – Monday evening, plus Tuesday and Wednesday lunch. These buffet meals will be served in the playing area, saving time during breaks. This applies whether or not you are staying at Berjaya Waterfront Hotel, and whether or not you actually eat these meals.

Format:

Dictionary Collins Scrabble Words 2015 (**CSW15**)

Rules: WESPA v 3

Free Challenge (ie no penalty for challenging a correct word)

Modified Swiss Draw, with resets. Some games will be lagged, to allow for short wait times between games. Gibson Rule applies

24 games (Monday to Wednesday) : Mon - 7 games, Tues - 11 games, Wed - 7 games

Quotas: Any country that is not a WESPA member may send 2 players, without paying an entry fee. Additional players pay an entry fee of US\$80 or equivalent. The host country, Malaysia, may send 20 players, without paying an entry fee. **All WESPA countries have 10 free entries.** We welcome players in excess of quotas, who will pay US\$80 entry fee. National associations will advise the organisers which players gain free entry, and who will be required to pay the entry fee.

Cost of WESPA Youth Cup: All players and parents/ chaperons are responsible for booking and payment of their own transport and accommodation. There is no entry fee for players who have been entered by their national Scrabble association, as part of national quotas. However, they still need to pay for transport, accommodation, and meals.

Entry fee: For non-quota players (Cup) – **US\$80** (approximately 360RM)

If entry is submitted late, there is also a **late fee** of US\$40 (approx. 180RM), making total fees of US\$120/approx. 540RM. Entry fees are payable before play commences (i.e. at registration, or earlier). If payment is made in Ringgit, the conversion rate at the time of payment will apply.

Late fee: Players entered after 15th October pay a late fee (equivalent of **US\$40**). This may be in addition to non-quota fees. Payment must be received before play commences.

Qualifying: National associations will establish local qualifying criteria (which vary between countries, but are often based on a rating system). Countries should set their own criteria and quotas for those receiving subsidies/ sponsorship, and advise organisers of any “non-qualifying” players, who have to pay an entry fee.

Non-qualifying (or non-quota) players: Anyone may enter, even if they do not enter through a National Association. However, an entry fee will be charged (US\$80 or equivalent). **They must also convince organisers, that they have sufficient experience to compete.**

Players who have not qualified in the free quota, according to their countries' selection criteria, are designated with “NQ” next to their names in the souvenir booklet and website listings, but receive the same benefits, e.g. t-shirt, and play in the same event as everyone else. They are eligible for all prizes, including the team prize, if they finish in the top three for their country.

Beginners: Coaches/parents are asked to prepare players properly for high-level competition (The best way is to compete in normal tournaments, against adults, before attempting this event). At past events, a few inexperienced players caused holdups and disruptions. They were slow, consistently scored inaccurately or could not agree on final scores, and were unfamiliar with basic rules. Some displayed bad sportsmanship,

including a loud verbal argument during play (that sometimes happens with adults too!) An important Scrabble tournament is no place to “turn on the waterworks”. Other players should not be required to cope with the tears of an immature child - crying is considered manipulative, as is any other form of intimidation. For the sake of everyone else, please ensure your child can score accurately. They must understand basic rules (eg how to challenge) and display good sportsmanship. If they appear to be floundering, they may be asked to sit out some games, to facilitate smooth running of this tournament.

Prize Structure:

Trophies (plus in some cases, prize-money) for:

Placing – top 10 finishers

Age Group Champions – best player born 1/1/2002 or later, 1/1/2004 or later, 1/1/2006 or later, 1/1/2008 or later, and 1/1/2010 or later (players may receive more than one award, e.g. an age award as well as an overall placing)

Encouragement Award – youngest player to finish in the top 25 (usually aged around 12)

High Word and High Game

Most improved player over the past year: Results from WYSC 2016 will be compared with the results from this year, and the player who has jumped up the most number of places, will be awarded this new trophy.

(# new award)

Best Novice - not competed in this event before.

Best Player from a New Country (ie from country which has not competed before)

Best National Team – results will be collated from the top 3 finishers from each country.

Those with fewer than three players will not be included

Prior to WESPA YC:

Princess Cup (Thailand) Friday to Sunday 24, 25, 26 November

There is a flight from Bangkok to Johor Bahru on Sunday night, and many flights from Bangkok to Singapore, both Sunday evening, and Monday morning. (flight time approximately 2 hours)

Other events during WESPA YC:

**Please bring equipment if possible*

For adults, there are also two Side tournaments during WESPA YC

Monday pm and Tuesday – 2 day tournament, 16 games, free challenge.

Open, modified Swiss Draw, with reset/s (ie some repeats)

Wednesday am – 7 game tournament (round robins), free entry, 5 point penalty challenge for the top group/s.

After WESPA YC: There is a strong possibility of an Open event, for both adults and youth, over three or four days

Details of all tournaments will be posted on WESPA website www.wespa.org under “tournaments”.

Entry: To enter, contact * karendrichards@gmail.com

A deposit of (AU\$45) is payable at the time of entry (Cup players).

The easiest way to pay this is via Pay Pal – please specify the amount in Australian dollars, not US dollars. The full amount will be refunded for **cancellations** advised prior to 10 November. This amount will cover the compulsory meal costs.

***Ensure that you use my correct email address**, as shown above (maybe copy and paste, as some people omit the middle “d”, meaning your money will go to someone else with a similar name, and you will still have to pay me)

Email your entry by October 15th, 2017, or pay a late fee.

Late entries are not guaranteed acceptance, due to lack of equipment etc.

Once correctly entered, you will receive a form to complete promptly, asking for information about yourself and your playing experience. Some of this will be included in the **souvenir booklet. This is required by 31st October.**

Plan to be there – catch up with old friends, or make new friends from all over the world.

Karen D Richards

Chair, Youth Committee

WESPA (World English-language Scrabble Players Association)