

Season 12 - PLAYOFF Mini-tourney - 24/12/04

It was a cold, rainy Friday morning, when the top sixteen players from the Tel-Aviv Scrabble Club got together to play the first Playoff mini-tourney in our club's 12-season history, the first of many!

The contestants: The top 8 players in each division competed for the title of Division Champion. In Zyzzyva, the division champion would have the added bonus (?) of moving into Aardvark.

The format: Two groups (determined by the standings) of 4 in each division played a round robin. The final two games were strict King-of-the-Hill in each division.

The report: After two rounds in Aardvark, Shmuel and Evan were the only unbeaten players. Joe and Gila reigned supreme in Zyzzyva, as they too were undefeated going into game #3. And then came game #3. Liliane, who hadn't won a game, decided to spoil Shmuel's record, creating an interesting situation going into game #4 - Shmuel and Evan would play. If Evan won, the title would be his. If Shmuel won, he would play Evan again, and the winner would take the division title. In Zyzzyva, Jayne spoiled Joe's perfect record and Seymour gave Gila her first loss (and took his first win!).

Then came round #4. Evan emerged victorious, taking the title after the 4th game, but leaving the battle for 2nd wide open - no fewer than 5 players - Liliane, Viva, Naomi, Shmuel and Michelle, were competing for the runner-up title. In a crazy turn of events, Liliane, who'd been last after round #2, shot ahead and took 2nd. In Zyzzyva, Joe and Chaya, in 1st and 2nd after round 4, had to battle it out for the division title in game 5. Chaya won, securing her return to Aardvark. Joe's loss cost him - he dropped into 4th and Seymour (who'd been 0-2 after two games, in last place!) shot forward and just managed to snatch the runner-up position from Gila.

Strangely, two players who'd been in the bottom-most position after game #2 finished off as runners-up...

Well, congratulations to Evan and Chaya, Liliane and Seymour for the achievements. Well done, all!

Other achievements:

Best Bingo: Gila - ALOPECIA Runner-up: Evan - CONIINES

Best phoney: Joel - DETONES* (DENOTES would have gone just as well!)

Runner-up: None! Only one phoney bingo was reported.

Highest Winner: Evan - 482 (to Shmuel's 291)

Highest Loser: Julie - 379 (to Omri's 382)

Lowest Winner: Naomi - 339 (to Viva's 259)

Lowest Loser: Joel - 244 (to Evan's 423)

AARDVARK DIVISION

Rank	Name	W	L	Cum. Differential
1.	Evan Cohen	5	0	592
2.	Liliane Servier	3	2	131
3.	Michelle Moshelian	3	2	78
4.	Naomi Landau	3	2	-44
5.	Shmuel Sussman	3	2	-89
6.	Viva Press	2	3	-137
7.	Joel Bailey	1	4	-284

ZYZZYVA DIVISION

Rank	Name	W	L	Cum. Differential
1.	Chaya Amir	4	1	375
2.	Seymour Rosen	3	2	129
3.	Gila Blits	3	2	46
4.	Joe Guter	3	2	1
5.	Julie Collins	2	3	126
6.	Omri Rosenkrantz	2	3	-139
7.	Jayne Robinson	2	3	-219
8.	Amos Fabian	1	4	-309