

1970-POINT ONE-MOVE SCRABBLE

JEFF GRANT

Hastings, New Zealand

In the May 1979 issue of *Word Ways* I modified Ron Jerome's 1961-point single-move Scrabble score using open sources, adding another point to it. Then in the August 1979 issue further modifications enabled another three points to be eked out. By altering four of the scoring words, I have now been able to push the total up to 1970 points, which may be approaching the limit for the best known base-word BENZOXYCAMPHORS.

The key term in this new solution is PURSEWEB, a tubular web of silk used as a dwelling by spiders of the genus *Atypus*. This is listed in Hunter's Encyclopedic Dictionary (Supplement) with a hyphen; however, Karin Henry of Merriam-Webster Inc. states 'I can only assume it is solid-form as it is in the style of the source to syllabify its main entries with a hyphen'. In other words, Hunter's Encyclopedic Dictionary has main entries like 'cat-fish', 'black-board' and 'anch-or-age', and because there is no distinction between a real hyphen and one used to indicate syllabification, the decision is a matter of reasoned choice. There is ample evidence to support the acceptance of PURSEWEB in solid form. Webster's Third Edition lists 'purseweb spider', and the book *Fascinating Spiders* by Olwyn Green and Mavis Lessiter, published in 1987, in a section on web types illustrates the orbweb, lineweb, sheetweb, ladderweb, tunnelweb and nurseryweb!

Below is the final board layout, and the moves used to reach it. The letters with an asterisk represent the two blanks.

				S					J					
				Q					I					
				U				V	N					
				F	A			A	N					
				O	N		R	G	Y					
		V	E	I	R	D	E	A	R					
P		I		G	E		D	B	I					
U		O		E	R		O	O	C					
R		L		I	T	M	O	*Q	U	I	N	K		
S		E		F	A			*N	D	S				
E		T		U	N			D	A	H				
W		T		L	I		O	I	E	G	A			
E	L	E	E	T	L	A	T	A	T	I	E	W		
B	E	N	Z	O	X	Y	C	A	M	P	H	O	R	S

In theory this is considered a solitaire game, so all one hundred tiles have been used.

MOVES

1. er 2. squander 3. squandermania 4. veird 5. itmo
 6. lata 7. forgetfull, fa, on, ge, er, fa, un, li 8. violette
 9. eleet 10. to, ox 11. le, en, en 12. pursewe 13. ta, am, amp
 14. oam, oie 15. tiew, et 16. redoundet 17. io 18. quink
 19. vagabond 20. vagabondage 21. rickshaw, ar, bi, oc, ds, ah, ga
 22. jinnyrickshaw, vn, an, gy 23. benzoxycamphors (1593),
 purseweb (45), violettez (31), forgetfully (21), squandermaniac
 (84), redoundeth (18), vagabondager (20), jinnyrickshaws (108)
 + 50-point bonus = 1970 points.

Beside PURSEWEB, the new words include LATA and OAM from Webster's Second Edition, ELEET and OIE from the English Dialect Dictionary, and FORGETFULL (forgetful, 1, 1601 quot.), PURSEWE (pursue), QUINK, REDOUNDET (redound, v 5b, c1400 quot.), REDOUND-ETH (redound, v 9, 1605 quot.), VEIRD, VIOLETTE, and VIOLETTEZ (violet, sb 1, 1c, a 1425 quot.), all from the Oxford English Dictionary.

QUERY

Susan Thorpe of Buckinghamshire, England has identified three five-letter words composed of five consecutive letters of the alphabet: STRUV (past tense of 'strive'), FEIGH (to cleanse, polish) and BACED (past tense of bace, to beat or flog). Can anyone find a six-letter word of this nature?