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**FOR IMMEDIATE
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Australian Poker Player Made World Scrabble ‘Supremo’

LAS VEGAS, NV (July 26, 2023) – David Eldar, a 33-year-old Australian poker player, has just won \$10,000 playing in the World English Language Scrabble Players Association Championship (WESPAC) hosted by NASPA at the Westgate Hotel in Las Vegas. He defeated Harshan Lamabadusuriya, a 44-year-old paediatrician from England, four games to three, in a best-of-7 finals streamed live on Twitch.

The pair had last faced each other in top-level competition at the World Scrabble Championship in England in 2017, when Eldar had defeated Lamabadusuriya in their best-of-five final series in three straight games.

Eldar played words such as THRIMSAS (seventh-century gold coins minted in Anglo-Saxon England), SOSATIE (a South African dish of skewered meat), and the apt bonus/bingo play SUPREMO on his way to becoming only the second player in history to win the title twice. Lamabadusuriya played such unusual words as TEUCHEST (Scots for ‘toughest’), COYAU (an architectural sprocket), and EPITAXES (crystal growths on seed layers) in his attempt to upset his rival. 132 other players played 32 games each over a four-day qualifying round, the culmination of a fortnight of elite Scrabble with a \$90,000+ prize pool that also saw Canadian Joshua Sokol claim the North American title.

Eldar said “It was nice of [many-time World Champion] Nigel Richards not to come. Those were some brutal games, that could have gone either way.”

Lamabadusuriya said of his opponent, “On the outside, it looks like he’s playing really impulsively, but he’s not really. I need to learn how to do that.”

Since 2009, NASPA has been the governing body for over 19,000 competitive Scrabble players in the United States and Canada.

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Downloadable photos: <https://bit.ly/naspamedia> Event details: <https://bit.ly/DD2023LV>

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