

Newsletter

Announcing Game winners

Well done to everyone who played the Game and made it to the end. This in itself is an achievement, so give yourself a pat on the back, regardless of your results.

For this Game:

- The All Ordinaries (XAO) was down -2.03%
- The best performing sectors were industrials up 12.3% followed by utilities up 7% and energy up 6.6%
- The worst performing sector was telecommunications down -8.2% followed by Financials down -6.7%
- The top stocks were WOR – WorleyParsons up 51.1%, AGI - Ainsworth Game Tech, NXT - NextDC and A2M - A2 Milk all up over 40%
- The worst performing stocks were QIN - Quintis down -79.2% and the TRS - The Reject Shop down over -52.7%.

How did Game players go?

- 46% of syndicates finished in profit with the average portfolio value being \$49,964.

It was a very close finish, in fact there was only a difference of \$1,303 between 1st and 5th place.

We asked the top players about their Game plan. They used a variety of strategies, so read on to discover what they did. Please remember, the strategies that the winners employed are not necessarily the same strategies they or you should employ when it comes to investing real money.

NATIONAL 1ST

Alby – Albert from Queensland

Portfolio: \$65,478

Albert bought and held for the period of the Game. The stocks he purchased were AAD – Ardent Leisure, BAL – Bellamy's, ORE – Orocobre and NEC – Nine Entertainment.



1. **Have you played the Game before?** No
2. **How many hours a day did you spend on the Game – including research etc.?** I spent a couple of hours per day for several days researching which stocks to buy for a long-term (in the context of the Game) hold.
3. **How did you select your companies?** I investigated stocks that had recently had a fall. I then researched why they had fallen to try determine if it would just be a short-term effect.
4. **What was your strategy?** I knew I would not have the time to compete against day traders, so I elected for a buy-and-hold strategy.
5. **Did you stick to your plan?** Yes
6. **What if any charting Software did you use?** None, I used the pricing chart histories provided in the Game.
7. **How did you handle market volatility?** By accepting it with a buy-and-hold strategy.
8. **Were you tempted to deviate from your plan?** No, due to my time constraints I knew there would be little point in trying to change my strategy.
9. **What was the biggest lesson you have learnt?** The market often reacts speculatively to corporate events, so there is opportunity if you can pick out the knee-jerk reactions.

NATIONAL 2ND

SunlyBuffett – Isaac from NSW

Portfolio value - \$64,889

Isaac bought and sold multiple times, selling out of all of his holdings toward the end of the Game.

1. **Have you played the Game before?** I played briefly last Game, but only traded a few times as I wasn't taking it too seriously. I believe I barely made a profit.
2. **How many hours a day did you spend on the Game – including research etc.?** I would only check it once a week, but this became more frequent (up to 30 mins/day) as I realised I was doing well and climbing ranks. Overall, probably only about 15 minutes on average per day.
3. **How did you select your companies?** I chose companies that were close to support - especially those that had dropped

considerably recently. I usually excluded companies if they were more than \$10 per share as I did not think their (percent) change in price would be considerable, when considering the short timescale of the Game.

4. **What was your strategy?** I maintained a watch-list of companies that satisfied the above criteria, and purchased as soon as they rose in price on two consecutive days. I would then sell on the day that the share price stagnated or began to drop. This was typically a week timescale between buy and sell.
5. **Did you stick to your plan?** Yes and no. In the last few days I attempted to solidify first place by applying the same strategy but on an hourly timescale. Unfortunately I was unsuccessful, lost some money and dropped in the placings.
6. **What if any charting Software did you use?** I only used the in-Game charting, usually with candle format.
7. **How did you handle market volatility?** I typically avoided it by only making weekly trades, although one might suggest my strategy exploits volatility through purchasing at support after a market overreaction to a bad announcement.
8. **Were you tempted to deviate from your plan?** Yes. I was very tempted to buy a few stocks which had broken through resistance (hoping they would keep climbing), but when I looked at how far they might drop back to resistance, I quelled the temptation.
9. **What was the biggest lesson you have learnt?** While I learn a few lessons about strategy, I think the big take-away for me was that it IS possible to make money on the sharemarket without a finance background. I was always interested in the sharemarket but assumed I needed to read finance books and learn how to read company reports etc, but it is possible to make a tidy profit by some simple charting strategies. That's not to say I won't still be reading those books though. :)

NATIONAL 3RD

MeMeQ – Melanie from WA

Portfolio value - \$64,319

Melanie mostly bought and held, she sold only once. The stocks she purchased were BHP, NST - Norther Star, TLS - Telstra Corp, MQA - MacQ Atlas Roads, SBM - Santa Barbara and ORE - Orocobre.

1. **Have you played the Game before?** No, this is my first time. I am new to the share market and went in to the Game quite blind.
2. **How many hours a day did you spend on the Game – including research etc.?** I did a few hours research at the commencement of the Game to choose the companies I wanted to buy. During the Game, I would check my portfolio value and ranking every few days.
3. **How did you select your companies?** I actually chose a few gold mining companies that I'd heard of in my local area, NST & SBM, which turned out to be two of my biggest performers. Also, with the talk on Lithium at the time I invested here too with ORE. A few of my 'safer' options in BHP & TLS turned out to be my downfall.
4. **What was your strategy?** I went with a buy and hold strategy, with very limited spare time to 'play' the Game this was my only option.
5. **Did you stick to your plan?** Yes, I purchased all at the start of the Game and held them until the end.
6. **How did you handle market volatility?** My portfolio was quite steady throughout the Game so I had no concern.
7. **Were you tempted to deviate from your plan?** A few times I was tempted to trade just for the experience but decided against it.
8. **What was the biggest lesson you have learnt?** ...I'm really surprised to have performed as well as I did as I went in to the Game not knowing much at all about the sharemarket. So if you are a beginner, enter the next Game and give it a go, and learn along the way...

You can view player portfolios here

League Winners

Under10 League Winner - BAINOFURLIFE

1. **What was your motivation to create a league?** We both joined together in a league to see how each other were performing. It also made the Game a bit more interesting and competitive knowing the other person you are competing with.
2. **Did you find that it helped you both?** I think it helped a lot bringing a good bit of sibling rivalry to the competition. It was more important to finish with more money than my sister, than winning. This is properly why I finished with the best result I have achieved.
3. **And anything else you think would help others– whether playing in a league or playing the Game?** Join a league as it brings some else to the Game to motivate you to do well and spend more time researching before making decisions.

Over 11 League winner - Asset Traders

1. **What was your motivation to create a league?** We are always encouraged at Telstra, specifically our Asset Transfer BU management team, to look for ways to build strong team moral through different initiatives like "The Sharemarket Game".
2. **Did you find that it helped you as players?** This was all about fun and a bit of team building for us as a group. It gave the team a bit of friendly competition to talk about other than work, this created a healthy balance of work and social interaction.
3. **And anything else you think would help – whether playing in a league or playing the Game.** Playing as a team helped as our players could share tips on what shares were good and what ones were bad. I highly recommend playing the share