

To all leaders of the Scrabble community:

I would like to set the record straight about something. I understand that there's a narrative out there in the Scrabble community that I have somehow turned other players against David Koenig - that because of some deep-seated anger or hatred that I feel, I've led some sort of campaign of ostracism to keep him out of the Scrabble community.

That narrative is false. I would like to unequivocally state for the record what I have done to DK consistently over the last five years:

Nothing.

The truth is, I have tried very hard to avoid doing anything at all to antagonize DK. I've grappled for the last five years with the fact that he deliberately and maliciously sought to harass and threaten my once-partner, now-wife, Jennifer - behavior that he's openly admitted to in writing, in fact. But rather than malign him for this behavior, publicly or privately, I have held back for five years. I've avoided attacking his character; I've avoided exposing his misdeeds to the world. I've avoided weighing in on the petty squabbles on Facebook about who was unfair to whom. I made a conscious choice years ago not to dignify any of it with an answer. I've never cared about winning this argument; all I've ever wanted is for my wife and myself to be left alone.

The most hostile thing I've done to DK, if you could even call it that, is remain silent. I made a decision in early 2017 that I would no longer exchange pleasantries or shake hands with DK when I saw him at Scrabble tournaments. My reasoning for this was simple, and it's the exact same reasoning that I apply to Sam Kantimathi - I reserve pleasantries and handshakes only for people I respect, and I have no respect for a man who abuses women. There is zero doubt in my mind that DK is that.

My hope all along has been, if I just ignored DK for long enough, he would eventually lose interest and go away. This has not turned out well.

- In 2018, he attempted to register for a house tournament that Jennifer and I were hosting. Jennifer refused his entry, citing his history of harassment and threats. I remained silent.
- In 2019, he threatened to go public with his grievances against Jennifer and me, sending messages through intermediaries such as Steve Pellinen. I remained silent.
- In 2020, he actually did go public with his grievances, publishing a 24,000-word rant that was filled with distortions and lies about my actions and my character. I remained silent.
- In 2021, when Scrabble was virtual due to the pandemic, he tried to play in our online Scrabble club, even though he knows he is not welcome to play Scrabble events that we direct. Three other co-directors of that club (not Jennifer or myself) unanimously came together to ban him. I remained silent.
- In 2022, I learned that he has spent hours and hours discussing his intent to kill me, including specific details about the weapon he'd use and the method he'd employ.

I refuse to be silent any longer.

My hope was that staying quiet would defuse the situation - that eventually, this would all just fizzle out. To my horror, the opposite has happened. The situation has escalated to the point where this man is now openly discussing how to murder me in cold blood. And all this time, what I've done to provoke this is... nothing.

The truth is, I have worked hard to avoid provocation. At every opportunity, I've shied away. I regularly ignore emails and texts from friends who mention DK - I don't want to talk about him. When I hear his name mentioned in an in-person setting, I leave the room. All I've ever done is stay out of this conflict. And for that, I'm repaid with the knowledge that he may kill me.

I'm not alone, either. I've been around this man for 14 years now, and I've seen countless examples of him turning nasty, threatening, or downright horrifying in confrontations with other Scrabble players. I'm still shocked to this day by the vile threats he issued to Darrell Day in 2020.

I am not interested in hearing his explanation for any of this. I already know that he'll respond with a combination of lies, distortions, and excuses.

I'm not interested in an apology, either. I already know it wouldn't be sincere - the rant he published in 2020 revealed that the last apology he sent Jennifer was a lie and he wasn't actually sorry.

If this man continues to be allowed anywhere near Scrabble, he is a clear threat not only to my wife and to myself, but to everyone else in the game as well.

After all, he's expressed his urge to shoot up a Scrabble tournament. What more needs to be said?

Respectfully, I am asking for his banishment for life from our community. I truly believe that is the only way to deal with this threat once and for all.

Thank you for your consideration.

Evans Clinchy