TOURNAMENT RESULTS

24th London Open Go Congress (EOG), Sponsored by Hitachi

Thursday 1st - Sunday 4th January

140 players from 10 countries attended this at the Highbury Roundhouse in North London. Although part of the European Grand Prix circuit not so many strong players from overseas attended this year. After six rounds the GP points were awarded according to the following ranking: 1 Guo Juan, 2 Shuhei Zhang, 3E. Sim (4 dan Singapore), 4 Matthew Cooke (5 dan UK), 5= Matthew Macfadyen (6 dan UK) and T Mark Hall (6 dan UK), 7 John Richard (4 dan UK), 8 Francis Peoats (4 dan UK), 9 J. Fincke (4 dan D), 10 Caspar Nihuis (4 dan NL). The top two and two at random from the next six played in the semi-finals. Guo beat Richard and Zhang beat Macfadyen. In the final Ms Guo Juan, the 7 dan from Netherlands, beat Shuhei Zhang, the 7 dan living in London, by half a point. Third in the tournament was Cooke on 66. On 56 and fourth on tie-break was Richarand and fifth was Macfadyen. Players lower down winning 78 were Michael Zhang (1 dan China) and Izeles Teles de Menezes (14 kyuu Portugal). On 66 were B. Mason (3I kyuu Belgium) and Anna-Marie van Berkel (10 Kyuu NL). France Ellott (3 kyuu UK) won 596. Also all players who won 596 who stayed to the closing ceremony received a prize, as did three players in the lottery: Dieter Lens, Robin Upton and Shaiten Steiner.

The Lightning was played over two days. The first day saw tables play a five round contest and survivors played another five round on four tables two rounds on the third day. On which Emil Nihuis (5 dan NL) beat Miguel Teles de Menezes (18 kyuu PI on 20 stone handicap, and G. Dickell (3I Kyuu D) beat M. Gonzalez-Carnicer (15 kyuu E) on two stones. In the final Nihuis beat Dickell 79. The night in between was occupied with the rengo where the teams were selected according to height: the winning team was called Sozu. The continuous 13i13 was won by young Philip Marsall (9I Kyuu Isle of Man) with 13 of 18, but they moved to Emil Nihuis for 777 and Ron Bell (9I Kyuu UK) for 577.

Furze Platt Go Tournament, Sponsored by Hitachi

Saturday 24th January

The Furze Platt Tournament was again held at Hitachi Europe's headquarters in Maidenhead. Local knowledge was important this year as a quiz at Berkshire and Furze Platt Go Club was set, winner being Craig's Tony Atkins. 75 players took part in the tournament, down on the previous year as the Manx group were unable to get there. So few a shame as Hitachi's generosity means a free buffet lunch and prizes to all with 2 or more. T Mark Hall (4 dan) won the event again, but had to point out to the organisers that this was not his third win in a row as the trophy quite received to Harold Lee in 1995. Others who won 39 were Stephen Ashing (6 kyuu West Surrey), Francis Weaver (7 kyuu Brakenhale), Tony Lyall (8 kyuu Norwich), Matthew Hagan (12I kyuu Chartist's Armer), Neil Moffat (12I kyuu Shrewsbury), Neil Ings (15I kyuu Brakenhale), Eike Ritter (15I Kyuu D) and Adam Dickson (30I kyuu Brakenhale). Brakenhale's "A Team" of Nicola Hurden (17I Kyuu), Aaron Dickson (39 kyuu) and Shaun Hearne (30I Kyuu won 100 percent to win the team prize. Aaron also won the 999 with 999 and other prizes went to Jiri Keller, Steve Ashing, Peter Fisher and Mike Charles.

The Youth Championships

Sunday 25th January

The day after Furze Platt has choose the date for the Youth Championships. This year the venue moved from Brakenhale to Milton Community Centre Cambridge, a venue that provides good facilities such as windows and lots of grass to relax on about. The hosts were new Youth Coordinator Paul Smith and his wife Andrea and Tim Hunt from Cambridge. The day was run as the usual and again managed to come up with winners in each category. 34 youngsters from age 5 to 10 and 5 to 35 kyuu took part and played six rounds during the day. The battle for the Youth Champion Title was between a 5 and a 8 kyuu; the correct result ensued with Tom Blockley (Worcester) taking the title over Francis Weaver (Brakenhale). Tom also won the under 14 by beating Sam Hughes (15I kyuu Brakenhale). Francis won under 18 ahead of runner up Philip Marsall (9I Kyuu Isle of Man). The under 18 category was won by Paul Hymen (12I kyuu Brakenhale) who beat Anna Griffiths (9I kyuu Furs). The main interest this year was in the under 25 and 10 sections. Here the new Cambridge prodigies battled it out for the trophies newly donated by Paul Smith. Tom Eckersley-Wilkins (13I kyuu) won the under 12 ahead of his twin brother Adam (14I kyuu) reversing last year's under 10 result. In the under 10 section it was just Williams as William Brooks (8I kyuu) I took the title easily beating William Bennett (34I kyuu). Some fateful playing over an under 14 dan played during the day, which ended up with. Under 5 was won by Paul Blockley (Worcester) ahead of Lucy Wolfe (London) and Connor Breslin (Cambridge). Brakenhale kept the Castlefield Team Trophy unchallenged. Prizes were awarded to those who did well in the main event, the 13I13 continuous and for solving go puzzles, with a limit of one prize each, so over three quarters of the goers went home clutching medals. Special mention must go to those on 596: Nola Fairburn (Isle of Man), James Donald (Cambridge) and the two Williams. William Brooks was the best at 500.

Oxford Go Tournament

Saturday 7th February

From 90 Players that took part, the winner was Matthew Macfadyen. Players with 39 were Simon Shiu (3 dan Bristol), Josh Rettig (2I dan Manchester), Ian Marsh (1 kyuu Bracknell), Mathieu Harvey (2I kyuu Manchester), Mathews Kugelmann (2I Kyuu Birmingham), Peter Shiu (2I Kyuu Loughborough), Yvonne Margaret (12I Kyuu Ipsom Downs), David Pearce (20I kyuu Oxford), Class Roeve (20I kyuu Oxford), Oliver Edwards (26I kyuu High Wycombe). Malcolm Hagan (1I Kyuu Portsmouth) won 239.

NEWS

Promotions: -J-M The Council has approved the following promotions: John Hobson to 2 dan and Nick Mandache to 1 dan.


The Korea National Go Association, who are sponsoring this year's British Congress, are hoping to run a go-tourism holiday from London to support the Young Go Players in Osaka, which will be in May. There will be visits to ancient sites, go clubs, matches and the World Go Amateur. Cost will be approximately £250 + airfares (change rates being negotiated). There will be an article in the forthcoming Journal giving more details. Contact Charles Hurd (Naga) or Tony Atkins.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Candidates' Tournament

Weekend 14th - 15th March

The Candidates' Tournament is the first of the three phases of the British Championship. It will take place in the Nippon Club, 8 St Albans Street, London WC1. (c) Go Congress in Piccadilly on March 14 and 15. It will be a four round Swiss with 30 minutes each and overtime. At least six players, and probably a number of reserves, will be allowed to play in the Challenge's League, this year's number 24 players. All BGA Life members not already in the League are invited to play, together with the following: Bill Aldred, Simon Bodley, Barry Chandler, Jonathan Chin, Paul Clarke, Alison Cross, John Crow, Austen Dicks, Edgard Griest, Kirsly Healy, Steve Jones, Geoff Kanuk, David King (of Brakenhale/Swindon), Chris Kirkham, Niculae Mandache (now 1 dan), Simon Morlow, Ian Marsh, Hermann Marner, A McInerney, Geoff Molloy, Vic Morish, J.S. Park, Christian Scarff, Nick Wedm, Colin Williams, Peter Ym. Please note that (a) all these players will also receive invitations by post (b) only current BGA members may play (c) there is a nationality requirement to take part (British or five years' residence in the UK). For the avoidance of doubt, the following players have already qualified for the Challenge's: Matthew, Tinu, Thompton, Richard, Roads, Holton, Ward, Siby, Rettig. Warg. From the 1997 Challenge's top 12: Zhanag, Diamond, Cook, Goddard, Shaw, Shepperson by 3G grade. TM Hall as first choice WAGC rep in 1997.

Organiser is Geoff Kanuk, phone 0181-874 7562 (home, leave message). Queries on rules and qualification to Charles Matthews. Closing date for entries Wednesday 11th March. All entries with fees and one copy of the entry form by then. There will be a non-refundable entry fee of five pounds. Depending on entry there may be a chance to play in a side tournament (1 and 2 kyuu preferred. Short notice may or may be given, register your interest with Geoff in advance).
BRITISH GO ASSOCIATION

There is a vacancy for the BGA Press Officer, who gets to hold (perhaps I should say use) the BGA fax machine. The job is to fax promptly reports of tournaments to local press unless organisers do it. Contact Tony Atkins if you are interested or would like to know more.

MEMBERSHIP

In the UK only £10 for a year's membership, all UK members receive direct mailing. UK GAPS: Student/Child/Unemployed £4.50. UK Family £15 Overseas: Europe £12 World £15 (plus bank charges). To reduce the impact of bank charges multiple membership of up to five years is possible. Striking cheques or drafts only, VISA / emaill transfer not yet available. USA members may join by sending 25 dollars to the AGA.

In a calendar year members receive 4 British Go Journals and 6 news letters, can purchase books and equipment and reduced tournament entry fees. Contact: Alison Jones, 29 Forest Way, Woodford Green, Essex, IG8 OQF 0181-504-6644. Email: bgajoenj@bga.com

ADRESSES

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20th - 23rd March

9th Irish Open in Dublin (EGP)
Location: Teachers club, 36 Parnell Sq, Dublin 1. Yukie Shigeno, 2 Dan Pro will be in attendance.
Events: Irish Rapid: 5 rounds, Friday 20th 7pm. Grand Prix: 5 rounds MacMahon, start Saturday 21st 10am finish Sunday 22nd 4pm.
Irish handicap: 3 rounds. Monday 22nd 10am.
Fees: Open = 5, Rapid = 6, handicap = 0. A limited amount of private accommodation is available.
Contact: John O'Brien 0351-406877 (home), 0351-421646 (work), 0351-455-422 (mobile). Email: abigail@bga.com

Bournemouth Go Tournament
Location: As last year, West Parley Memorial Hall (BS03), Bournemouth. Registration by 10:30. 3 round McMahon.
Fees: In advance, BGA members £6, non members £7 concessions £3. On the day extra £2. Places to eat and beds (free) park are nearby.
Contact: Marcus Bennett, 24 Copwer Road, Moordown, Bournemouth BH9 2UJ. 01202-512555. Email: zima@bga.com

31st British Go Congress at Chester
Sponsored by: British Aerospace, Korea National Tourism Organisation.
Location: British Aerospace Building, Broughton, Chester. Registration by 10:30 on Saturday.
Events: The British Open will be held on Saturday 29th on McMahon. The British Lightning will be held on Friday evening at 19:30.
The Women's Championship will be incorporated in the British Open. The AGM will be held on Saturday evening.
Contact: Tony Pitchford, Meadow Brook, Taperny Road, Whitley, Warrington WA4 4DS. 01925-730563 Fax: 01925-730563. Email: tony@bga.com

Bar Low Tournament at Cambridge
Location: University Centre, Grants Place, Milton, Cambridge. Registration by 10.
Events: The Bar Low Tournament is designed to appeal to kei players in fact day players are strictly forbidden. The time limit of 35 minutes and no overtime means that if you get 5 rounds in the day and since the McMahon bar will be set no higher than 3.5k (was 5.5k last year) it might be your chance to win a tournament outright. There will be prizes for the first 3 and maybe others.
Fees: £3. Cash payment only. BGA and Cambridge entry after 16th March.
Contact: Tim Hunt, 63 Panton Street, Cambridge CB3 1ET. 01223-350780. Email: t.j.hunt@cam.ac.uk

European Go Congress 1998 at Marmara in Romania
Location: Marmara is a holiday resort on the Black Sea adjacent to Constantza. Contact: robert@efsl.ro

US Go Congress 1998 in Santa Fe in New Mexico
Location: The University in the state capital. High altitude makes the weather pleasant. Contact: Grant H Franks gfranks@clark.net

Mind Sports Olympiad at London
Web: http://www.mindsports.co.uk
Dates for your diary:
Cambridge (1 Mar), Candidates @ London (14-15 Mar), Women's Coaching Weekend (18-20 Mar), Bournemouth (4 Apr), British Congress @ Chester (17-19 Apr), Challengers @ London (2-4 May), Bar Low (3 May), Knockout (9 May), Pairs (16 May), Leicester (13 Jun), Barmouth (27-28 Jun), Norwich (8 Aug), Mind Sports (34-35 Aug), Milton Keynes (16 Sep), Shrewsbury (4 Oct).
FUJITSU EUROPEAN GRAND PRIX TOURNAMENTS FOR THE 1997/98 SEASON
DUBLIN (21-22 Mar), Vienna A (27-29 Mar), Paris F (11-13 Apr), Bled SCL (17-19 Apr), Milan I (25-26 Apr), Budapest HUN (9-10 May), Amsterdam NL (21-24 May), Hamburg D (30-31 May), Zagreb CRO (13-14 Jun), Warsaw PL (20-21 Jun), Helsinki SF (27-28 Jun), St Petersburg RUS (4-5 Jul), European Go Congress ROM (25 Jul - 7 Aug).
For European GP events see: http://www.ze restoration.com/ez/ezg/go-gp/tourney.html
For European Calendar see: http://www.vin.tue.nl/cm/ffg/angb/gos/calendar.html
For American Calendar see: http://www.usgo.org/usga/tournaments.html