

The Irish Go Association

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NEWSLETTER NUMBER 7

THE IRISH OPEN GO TOURNAMENT

The big news this letter is the imminent Open Tournament. It is to be held this Saturday at Power's Hotel, Dublin. It is on the corner of Nassau Street and Kildare Street, around by the side of Trinity College. The competition will run from 10.00 until about 19.00. There will be three rounds at 10.30, 14.00 and 16.30 approximately. There will be an entry fee of \$2.00 to play in the tournament. Visitors are welcome at no charge, however. Each game will allow 1 hour per player with 20 seconds byo-yomi (time per move) after your clock runs out.

THE IRISH CHAMPIONSHIPS

As mentioned in the last letter, the Irish Championship was held in January to decide who would represent Ireland at the World Amateur Go Championship (WAGC) this year. It is to be held in Kanazawa, Japan (and not Nagoya, as I mistakenly mentioned last time). Four people met in the first round to decide the final two, who would have a best of three rounds playoff. These were Noel Mitchell (1-kyu) and Damien Lynch (3-kyu). Noel won the first two games and is therefore off to Japan in May to do battle across the Go board with all the other leading amateur players. We wish him the best of luck.

THE LONDON GO CONGRESS (by Noel Mitchell)

The London Open Congress is the British Fujitsu European Grand Prix Tournament, and was held from 29th December to 1st January. This year, it was expanded to include a rapid-Go tournament, with the assistance of sponsorship from Asahi and Japanese Air Lines. The rapid-Go tournament was a 1 day event of four rounds with half an hour per player. It was won by S. Zhang, a 6-dan from China. The main tournament was an eight round event, held over three days, with an hour and a quarter per player. The winner was I. Detkov, a 6-dan from the USSR. A couple of novel ideas were introduced. The first was that byo-yomi (a fixed time per move after elapsed clock time) was replaced by overtime (familiar to chess players) in which a certain number of moves must be made in a given time (e.g. 20 moves in 5 minutes). The other novelty was bidding komi (the score compensation white receives to make up for moving second) to decide colour - the player offering most taking black.

The weekend attracted nearly 200 participants from 17 countries, including many top European players. There was a particularly strong Soviet delegation (3x6-dan, 3x5-dan and a 4-dan), and also many East Europeans who haven't been free to travel in the past. The tournament was well organised with a very good atmosphere, and featured a couple of party evenings including, of course, New Year's Eve. It's always good to meet the British players again, and I had a thoroughly enjoyable trip.

[Noel's own results were as follows (entered as a 1-kyu):

Rapid-Go: 2 out of 4
Main tournament: 3 out of 8]

ISHO'S DEPARTURE

Isho Toshima will be returning home to Japan at the end of this month. He has been living in Dublin for the past three years principally to learn English. He has given much of his time to teaching both Japanese and the game of Go to any who care to learn. It would not be a great exaggeration to call him the 'Father of Irish Go', and all we Go players owe him a great deal of gratitude. The open tournament will be among the last occasions when it will be possible to see him and to compete against him.

IGA ORGANISATION

The IGA is looking for more involvement in the organisation of Go events by players in different areas of the country. For instance, organising inter-club matches, helping clubs to manage themselves and co-ordinating national events and travel abroad to foreign events. To this end, we would encourage one or two players from each area (e.g. Dundalk, Trim, Bray, TCD, central Dublin) to form an elected executive committee. There should be time for some discussion on this matter on Saturday for anyone who is interested.

IGA SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions to the IGA are due over the next few weeks. The charge is \$3.00 per person, per annum. This money is mostly spent on the newsletters and on the venue for the annual Open Tournament. You will have an opportunity to pay at the tournament, but if you will not be there and you want to receive the next newsletter, please send a cheque or money order payable to 'The Irish Go Association' at the above address.

GO VENUES

No changes since last time. In case you have forgotten:

- i) The White Horse Inn, Burgh Quay, Dublin 2. Second and Fourth Wednesday evening of every month. This venue may be changing in the near future, so ring Eugene Mallon, 01-6792406, in advance.
- ii) Wednesday OR Thursday evening at Brogan's Hotel, Trim, Co. Meath. Phone Justin Wallace, 0475-57155.
- iii) You can arrange a game in Dublin at other times by ringing one of the numbers at the head of the newsletter. Don't be shy about doing this - the best way to improve is by playing.

UPCOMING EVENTS

There are a number of foreign events this summer that may attract the attention of some Go players. Contact us for more details on any of the following:

- i) British Go Congress. 5-7 April. Canterbury, Kent.
- ii) Moscow-Kazan-Moscow luxury boat trip. 30 June to 11 July.
- iii) European Go Congress. 27 July to 11 August. Namur, Belgium.
- iv) Isle of Man Congress/Holiday. 18-24 August.