

The British Open Go Congress 2015

27-29 March

Prince Rupert Hotel, Shrewsbury

The Congress this year will start at 14:00 on the Friday with a teaching session given by Chi-Min Oh 7th dan, who will also be available during the main tournament for game reviews. On Friday evening there will be the traditional Lightning Tournament for the T Mark Hall trophy. The main event is 6 rounds over the Saturday and Sunday.

The venue is self-contained, enabling attendees to stay on site and participate in group evening meals and enjoy convivial evening go after the scheduled events have concluded. Please book early if you wish to stay at the hotel itself to avoid disappointment.

VENUE

The Congress is being held at the Prince Rupert Hotel in Shrewsbury.
<http://www.princeruprthotel.co.uk/>

The former home of Prince Rupert, the grandson of King James I, the hotel is in the centre of Shrewsbury surrounded by cobblestone streets and Tudor buildings.

The hotel itself is a 4 star hotel with three restaurants and a bar / lounge area for hotel guests. There is also a wide selection of eating places within a few minutes walk.

All guest bedrooms, public areas and conference suites have BT Openzone WiFi.

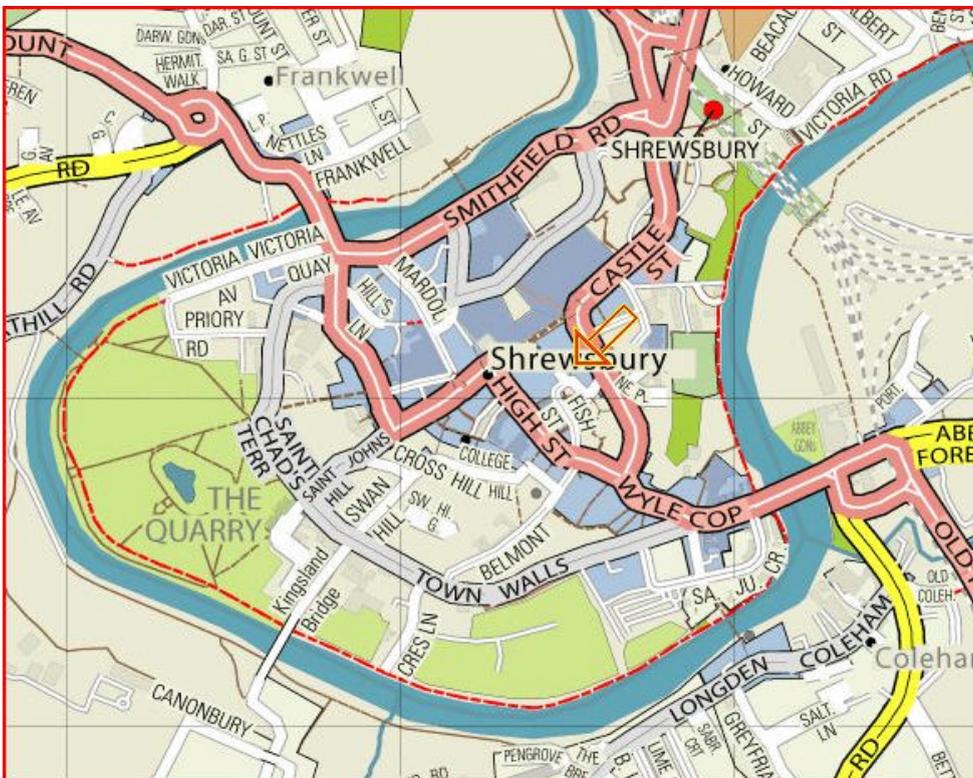


LOCATION

The hotel is a walk of 5-10 minutes from Shrewsbury station. Hotel address : The Prince Rupert Hotel, Butcher Row, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY1 1UQ

For any non-playing guests accompanying go players, the shopping centre boasts a very good range of independent and specialised shops as well as the usual chains, all within an easy walk. Other places of interest nearby are :

- Attractive walks along the loop of the river Severn
- Regimental Museum and Laura's Tower – above the railway station
- Attingham Park – 5 miles
- Wroxeter Roman city and vineyard – 6 miles
- Ironbridge gorge and museums – 15 miles



TRAVEL

By road:

From M6 south: exit at junction 10a onto the M54 towards Shrewsbury. Follow the M54 until it joins the A5. Follow the A5, then the A49 following the signs for the town centre. Cross the English Bridge and bear right up Wyle Cop. Continue for a short distance and turn right after the post box into Fish Street (narrow, cobbled, uphill; be careful not to miss it). Continue for a further 150 metres until the hotel entrance is visible. Valet parking for hotel guests is provided to the hotel's private car park.

Parking

The hotel provides parking for staying guests only. There is very limited on-street parking and drivers not staying at the hotel are advised to plan before arrival. Reasonably priced large car parks are at Frankwell and at Abbey Foregate opposite Shrewsbury Abbey. The multi-storey park at Raven Meadows is also convenient but more expensive.

By rail:

The train station is within 5-10 minutes walk of the venue and has a taxi rank. There are some direct trains to the Southeast but it is common to need to change at Birmingham. On foot you head uphill on Castle Gates towards the town centre, continue straight into Pride Hill pedestrian area and half way down turn left into Butcher Row.

By air:

Birmingham airport is 56 miles away and has train services which directly connect to Shrewsbury. From London Heathrow, players will need to travel into central London and take a train from Euston.

SCHEDULE

Friday 27 March	12:00 – 14:00		Registration open
	14:00 – 17:00		Teaching session (with break during session) by Chi-Min Oh, 7d.
	18:00 – 19:30		Registration for lightning tournament
	19.30 – 22:00		British Lightning Tournament
	22:00		Social games and drinks
Saturday 28 March	09:00 -10:00		Registration
	10:15 – 12:45	Round 1	
	13:30 – 16:00	Round 2	
	16:15 – 18:45	Round 3	
	19:00 – 20:00		AGM of British Go Association
	20:00 – 21:30		Congress group meal option
	21:30		Social games and drinks
Sunday 29 March	09:30 – 12:00	Round 4	Note clocks have gone forward for British Summer Time
	12:00 – 13:00		Buffet meal option
	13:00 – 15:30	Round 5	
	15:45 – 18:15	Round 6	
	18:15		Prize ceremony – will start as soon as all games are over.

RULES

The British Open Congress will be using official BGA Rules.

Players are expected to enter at their EGF rank, without a compelling reason why it should be different.

The Congress rules are:

Playing time	60 minutes each
Canadian overtime	20 moves in 5 minutes, then 30 in 5 minutes, then 40 in 5 minutes etc
Komi	7.5 points
Handicap	McMahon difference -1 (where required)

PRIZES

The top two places will receive money prizes – amount will depend on level of entries. The overall winner will also receive the British Open trophy to hold for one year.

There will be divisional prizes available for the best results in the following entry grade categories:

1 dan – 3 dan

1 kyu – 4 kyu

5 kyu – 8 kyu

8 kyu – 11 kyu

12 kyu upwards

There will be prizes also for the British Lightning Tournament. The overall winner will also receive the British Lightning trophy to hold for one year.

CONGRESS FEES

The fees for the Congress are set out below. We encourage people to enter early. Not only does this assist the organisers (and the hotel) but it also can encourage other hesitant players to commit as they can see the grade range likely to be attending. The fee structure rewards early entries.

We expect you to pay in pounds sterling at registration but we also welcome cheques in advance (provided that these are received by 22 March 2013) made payable to the British Go Association. (Advance payment helps us cover venue booking fees which are payable prior the event.) Advance fees should be sent to the BGA Treasurer, Toby Manning, 26 Groby Lane, Newtown Linford, LE6 0HH.

Fees	Full	Concession	Junior (U18)
Early bird rates (apply to entries received before 31 January 2015)			
British Congress (main event)	£20	£12	£8
British Lightning	£2	£1	£1
Teaching (Friday)	£5	£4	£1
Standard rates (apply to entries received between 1 February and 22 March 2015)			
British Congress (main event)	£25	£17	£13
British Lightning	£2	£1	£1
Teaching (Friday)	£5	£4	£1
Late entry rates (apply to entries received after 22 March 2015)			
British Congress (main event)	£30	£22	£18
Lightning tournament	£2	£2	£2
Teaching (Friday)	£6	£5	£1
Surcharge	£5 if you are not a member of the BGA or your national Go Association		
Note :	If we can confirm attendance of a professional, the fee for the teaching session will increase.		

Concessionary rates apply to UK residents who are:

- Under-26 and studying full time at a UK approved educational establishment
- Receiving an unemployment, disability or Pension Credit benefit

Junior rates apply to those who are under 18 on 31 August 2015.

ACCOMMODATION

The hotel provides a mixture of rooms including single, twin, double and family rooms. The hotel has reserved a number of rooms for Congress attendees. The rates are £110 for a double or twin and £70 for a single room per night. This includes breakfast, VAT.

Rooms are reserved for at least up to the end of the year and you are advised to book before then, which you should do direct with the hotel quoting "Go Event" to obtain BGA rates. The Hotel telephone number is: 01743 499955) E-mail: reservations@prince-rupert-hotel.co.uk

We will maintain a list of people looking for a sharing partner which we will email out to people on request. If you wish to be added to this list let us know.

We are encouraging people to use the hotel as we believe that staying on site will contribute to a better tournament experience. However we do recognise this will not suit everyone. There is a Premier Inn within walking distance for example and other options further out.

The website for Shrewsbury Tourist Information centre is

<http://www.visitshrewsbury.co.uk/contact-visit-shrewsbury.html> and they can be contacted at

Tel: 01743 258 888 Fax: 01743 258 880 Email: visitorinfo@shropshire.gov.uk

GROUP MEALS

We will add more details on both these options as we finalise discussions with the hotel. In the meantime we are asking early entrants to register interest (or not) in these options to help us to estimate the level of likely demand. Registering interest does not commit you at this stage.

We are discussing with the hotel a menu for a group meal on the Saturday. This is likely to be a three course hot meal in a reserved area of the main restaurant to be served immediately after the AGM. Price is expected to be £25 a head with drinks available separately priced from the bar.

We have also arranged a cold buffet option on the Sunday lunchtime help speed the schedule for those that need to leave early.

ENTRY

The preferred method of entry is via the [Online Entry Form](#), whereupon your name will appear in the list on the same website page. If that does not happen (and you may have requested the private option), you can email us.

- You may also enter via:
- Email: britishopen@britgo.org
- Post: BGA Treasurer, Toby Manning, 26 Groby Lane, Newtown Linford, LE6 0HH.

If you have any problems during the Congress days please contact us on 07771 881939. If you need advice on local facilities, use the email just above.

If you are not entering online, please print out the entry form and supply all the required detail.

McMAHON SCORE

By default, your initial McMahon score (MMS) will be set from your European Go Rating (GoR) after your last pre-Congress tournament. This is to even out discrepancies and so avoid very uneven games. Your initial McMahon score determines who you will play in the first round.

If you have never played in a tournament before, we will use the grade you give us when registering to estimate your GoR. And if you do not think your GoR is accurate – if, for example, you are a quickly improving kyu player who hasn't played in any recent tournaments – please state this in the Notes box on your entry form, or contact us.

PLAYER LIST

If you wish your name and grade NOT to appear on the online list of players please indicate this in the [Online Entry Form](#). The default is that your name is on the list unless you explicitly ask for

it not to appear. If you wish your name to be removed or added after submitting your entry, then please just email us at britishopen@britgo.org

QUESTIONS

Contact us on britishopen@britgo.org (preferred) or only if urgent 07771 881939.

Last updated 19th March 2015