



## PRESS RELEASE

The British Go Association (BGA) welcomes Michael Redmond, one of the world's top Go Players **on a tour of the UK next week, 30th March to 7th April.**

Michael Redmond was originally born in the USA, but emigrated to Japan in 1977 at the age of 14 to study Go. Since then he has reached the top level of professional players, and he is now the strongest non-oriental player in the world.

This is the first time for many years that we have had the pleasure of welcoming such a prominent Go player to tour the UK to provide us with extensive teaching and we thank the Nihon Ki-in (Japan Go Association) for their sponsorship of this event. This is Michael's second official Go visit to the UK, the first being as a commentator for one of the games for a Japanese professional title match.

His schedule is:

- 30th March 4-6pm Cambridge Junior Chess and Go Club (St Augustine's Hall)  
Teaching, simultaneous and demonstration games for junior players
- 1st-2nd April Cambridge (Doubletree Hotel by Hilton)  
UK top players teaching weekend
- 2nd April 4-10:30pm Swindon Go Club (The Running Horse Pub)  
Teaching and simultaneous games
- 3rd April 4-10:30pm Chester Go Club (The Olde Custom House)  
Teaching, game reviews and simultaneous games
- 4th April 7-10pm Leamington Go Club (Granville Arms)  
Lecture and game reviews
- 5th April 2-6pm Stevenage (Clarion Collection Cromwell Hotel)  
Teaching
- 6th-7th April Stevenage (Clarion Collection Cromwell Hotel)  
Game commentaries during the British Open Championship  
(part of the British Go Congress)

Jon Diamond, President of the BGA said: "It is a great honour to be able to host Michael at so many locations across the UK. While Go is predominately an Oriental game – it is big in Japan, China and Korea, Michael has proved that Westerners can reach the top level and we hope to develop some of our younger players to emulate his success. While none of our UK players have a chance of beating Michael in an even game, we hope to learn from the experience and that he will leave an extensive legacy."

In the future we hope to receive similar tours sponsored by the equivalent organisations in

Korea, China and Taiwan.

### *Notes to Editors*

#### *About Go*

Go is one of the top world mind sports: it was one of the 5 mind sports (along with Bridge, Chess, Draughts and Chinese Chess) played at the First and Second World Mind Sports Games in Beijing (2008) and Lille (2012). Further information is available at the British Go Association web-site [www.britgo.org](http://www.britgo.org)

Go is the oldest mind sport, being about 3,000 years old, and has approximately 60 million players around the world. Whilst roughly 500 professionals are concentrated in the Far East, more than 60 countries are represented annually in the World Amateur Championship. For more information about international play see the International Go Federation website <http://www.intergofed.org>.

Go is also known as Baduk in Korea and Weichi or Weiqi in China.

#### *About Michael Redmond*

Michael Redmond was born in 1963 in Santa Barbara, California, and began playing Go at age 11. At the age of 14, he moved to Japan and became a pupil at the Nihon Ki-in (the Japan Go Association). He reached professional 1 dan (master grade) at age 18. He was promoted to 9 dan (the top grade) in 2000, becoming the first western Go professional to reach 9 dan.

Michael was runner-up in a number of Japanese Go tournaments in the early 1990s. Currently he is a celebrated commentator for a Japanese TV channel. In 2005, he was voted "Best Commentator" for the NHK channel. He is married with two daughters. Some photographs of Michael playing Go are available at <http://www.britgo.org/redmond/photos> .The photographs (high resolution jpegs) may be used freely without attribution.

Photo-opportunities will be available at most of these locations. Please contact us to arrange one.

#### *About the British Go Association (BGA)*

The BGA is the governing body for Go in the UK. It is about 60 years old, with approximately 60 clubs around the country and a wholly voluntary organisation. It organises about 30 events across the country every year, including the British Championship, the British Open and the British Youth Championship. It also publishes its own quarterly magazine and organises teaching events around the country. See [www.britgo.org](http://www.britgo.org).

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