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The next Newsletter will appear in the British Go Journal. The deadline for contributions is 11th March – please send them to the email address above.

NEWS

For recent news items on the web: see www.britgo.org/views/newsletter See also: Junior News www.britgo.org/junior/news and the 2012 final results for the Youth Grand Prix www.britgo.org/junior/gprix2012 and the DDK Grand Prix www.britgo.org/results/2012/ddk2012

Dan Promotions: Vanessa Wong to 6 dan, Martha McGill and Dylan Carter to 1 dan.

Professional Visit, March 31 - April 7

BGA is pleased to welcome Michael Redmond, Professional 9 dan, who will be visiting the UK for a week: our thanks to the Nihon Ki-in for making this possible. His itinerary will be as follows:-

March 31 – April 1: Michael will host a “Strong Players” weekend in Cambridge. If you would like to attend, please contact Toby Manning at treasurer@britgo.org. Numbers will be limited to about 20 people, and priority will be given to the strongest players. This is Easter Sunday and Monday.

April 2: Lecture/Demonstration in Swindon. Please contact Paul Barnard paul@psaa.me.uk for details

April 3: Lecture/demonstration in Chester. Please contact Pat Ridley patrick.ridley@ntlworld.com for details

April 4: Lecture/demonstration in the Midlands, Leamington. For details please contact Kirsty Healy mshealey@live.co.uk or email Toby Manning treasurer@britgo.org

April 5 – 7 Michael will attend the British Go Congress at Stevenage. On the afternoon of the 5th (Friday) he will give a lecture/demonstration; on the Saturday and Sunday he will provide game analyses on request. Details at the British Congress webpage www.britgo.org/tournaments/bgc2013

BGA ONLINE LEAGUE

The new season of the BGA Online League will be starting in March. If your club (or just a group of Go playing friends) can get together a team, it is very easy to enter. Contact the league organiser John Collins at jmc@xisl.com and we hope to be playing you soon!

If you are not familiar with the league, the basic idea is that games are played on the KGS Server, and three players from your team play in a match. The team can have more members so that not all need to play in each match. There is a lot of flexibility as to when games can be played, and your team does not all have to play their games at the same time. The top division is played without handicaps, but there are handicaps in lower divisions and this works well (our teams have been mostly double digit kyu players but they have had a lot of close games and reasonable percentages of wins). A team can represent a club but it does not have to. Each team has a captain who selects the team for each match but then e-mails are automatically sent to the players

telling them who they are playing so there is not so much organisation for the captain to do. The fee for taking part is £15 per team plus £5 for each non-BGA member.

ISLE OF MAN GO FESTIVAL

The Congress organisers David and Leo Phillips write: We would like to welcome everyone to a week of good Go and good friendly company, in the beautiful surroundings of Port Erin, in the Isle of Man. There will be 5 days of assorted Go tournaments and social activities, and a free day to explore the Isle of Man, possibly using the Steam Railway, which runs between Port Erin and Douglas, sunbathe on the beach, or even play more Go! People who just want to play Go can enjoy wall to wall, floor to ceiling Go, including a DieHard Tournament on the rest day if there are enough players who can't bear to stop playing Go even for one day; everyone else can tailor the week, to play mornings only, afternoons only, or any combination that suits their needs.

We have already had several entries, but there is room for more, so please come back if you have already enjoyed the previous congresses, and give us a try if you've never played Go in the Isle of Man before.

It is important to book your accommodation and travel as soon as possible; the Go Festival is in the same week as the Manx Grand Prix practice week, and though the racing doesn't get anywhere near Port Erin, a lot of the older bikers prefer to stay in Port Erin because it is more peaceful than Douglas. This has not been a problem until recently, but during recent years, several of the Port Erin hotels have closed down, so accommodation is in very short supply this year. Some places are fully booked already, because bikers are well trained to book very early.

However, it is well worth trying to find somewhere to stay, so that you can come and enjoy the Go Festival. It is worth contacting hotels directly, as they may have vacancies or cancellations. At the time of writing, the Cherry Orchard has 3 vacant apartments (email: enquiries@cherry-orchard.com, reservations freephone: 0800 634 4321, other phone 01624 833811). Another option is the Homestay scheme, which operates during the TT and Manx Grand Prix fortnights, and offers reasonably priced, comfortable accommodation, inspected and regulated by the government - info at www.visitisleofman.com/lib/docs/tourism/accommodation/homestaynotesforvisitors.pdf, bookings via www.visitisleofman.com/accommodation/isle-of-man-hotels.aspx.

We hope to welcome lots of Go playing friends, old and new, for our 11th Go event. Our website is now up and running: www.iomgo.org.uk, and for more information, please contact Leo Phillips - leo@manx.net.

Subscribers to GoTalk may remember the following, also from Leo: "We are planning to have a children's tournament on the Wednesday, which is the free day. We thought that this would be a good idea, to avoid any disruption to the adult/older children tournaments, but have had an email from a parent/player to say that they would prefer to have the rest day free for a family day out exploring the Island. What do other

parents think? Would you prefer the children's tournament to be run alongside the other tournaments? Or as we have planned it, on the free day? This is YOUR festival, and we value all your input."

RSS FEED

Paul Smith writes: "Instead of using FeedMyInbox to get the RSS feed from the website sent to their e-mail, people can now use Blogtrottr (blogtrottr.com/) instead. I think all people have to do is put in their e-mail address and then www.britgo.org/rss.xml It is free and very easy to use."

YOUTH GO

We would very much like to hear from any BGA members who are teaching in schools in the UK. We need some help in working out which Go Servers can be accessed and used by schools, and we could also do with some advice on how to make our publicity material more interesting to schools. If you can help please contact Paul Smith by e-mail or phone (contact details below).

There will be a British Youth team in the next season of the BGA Online Go League which will be starting shortly. We want to get together any strong or keen players in the under-16 age group to play in this, and we will be arranging some KGS teaching sessions for the same group of players, similar to the very successful ones run recently by Matt Crosby. We hope that we can help this group of players to improve rapidly, which in turn should mean that we have the best chance of having a strong UK youth team for the next World Mind Sports Games, scheduled for 2016. If you were under-16 at the start of the school year, around 15-kyu or stronger (or you could be a bit weaker if you are still at primary school), and are interested in taking part in the online team or the teaching sessions, please contact Paul Smith (details below).

Entries have started to come in for the 2013 UK Go Challenge. Schools can run their own heat of this event, and then their players can compete against other juniors in the national final. Full details are at www.ukgochallenge.com/. If you are a junior player, parent or teacher – please let us know if you are interested in being involved.

The British Youth Go Championship is in Birmingham on Sunday 17 March. All junior players are welcome, including beginners. The entry form is at www.britgo.org/files/youthentryform13.pdf.

We are planning to hold a workshop fairly soon for any Go players who are interested in learning about teaching Go to children. There will be the chance to be accredited by the BGA as a Go teacher. Please contact us if you are interested in this.

We need some volunteers to help with two particular Youth Go activities. Firstly, we are looking for someone to look after the UK Youth team which we will be entering in the next season of the BGA Online League. We would like someone who can be the non-playing captain of the team and who can co-ordinate some online training sessions for the team (we have already got some volunteers to do the training). There may also be opportunities to organise some international matches like the recent one against France. Secondly we need someone to look after the Youth pages on the BGA

website. This could be as simple as posting news stories on the site from time to time, but we are happy to see any ideas to improve these pages.

And finally if you are a junior, parent or teacher interested in Go, please join the BGA's Youth Go mailing list. There are instructions at lists.britgo.org.uk/cgi-bin/mailman/listinfo/youth-go on how to join. This list has not been active recently but we will be starting to use it more to publicise what we are doing. There are also some youth pages on the BGA website, at www.britgo.org/junior

For more information on any of the above, please contact Paul Smith at paul.smith25@ntlworld.com or phone 01223 563932

FUTURE EVENTS, March to August.

Full details are in the BGA Tournament Calendar www.britgo.org/tournaments/

Confucius Cup (Irish Open), Friday 1st - Sunday 3rd March. Dublin
Trigantius, Sunday 10th March. Cambridge
British Youth, Sunday 17th March. Birmingham
Training Day with Cornel Burzo, Saturday 23rd March. Fareham, Portsmouth
Thames Valley Team Tournament cancelled - for Mike Redmond's Professional Visit
British Go Congress, Friday 5th April to Sunday 7th April. Stevenage. Includes BGA Annual General Meeting, 19:00 Saturday 8th April
International Teams Spring Match, Sunday 14th April.
Birmingham, Saturday 20th April.
Candidates' Tournament, Saturday 4th May to Monday 6th May, Edinburgh
Bar-Low, Sunday 5th May, Cambridge
Bracknell, Sunday 12th May
Challengers' League, Friday 24th May to Monday 27th May (provisional)
Scottish Open, Saturday 25th May - Sunday 26th May. Glasgow
Arundel, Saturday 1st June (provisional).
British Pair Go Championships, Sunday 9th June. Boars Hill, Oxford, OX1 5DP
Durham Saturday 15th – Sunday 16th June (provisional)
Welsh Open, Saturday 22nd – Sunday 23rd June. Barmouth
UK Go Challenge Finals, June (provisional)
Milton Keynes, July
Mind Sports Olympiad, Saturday 17th – Sunday 25th August. London
Isle Of Man Go Festival, Sunday 18th - Friday 23rd August
MSO Small Board, Saturday 24th August. London
MSO Open, Sunday 25th August. London

CANDIDATES TOURNAMENT: Call for entries.

The Candidates' Tournament (the first round in the British Go Championship 2013) will take place in Pleasance, 48-60 Pleasance, Edinburgh, EH8 9JT, on the 4th-6th May 2013. Players who are (a) BGA members, (b) either eligible for a UK passport or who have been resident in the UK for the last five years and (c) have finished all rounds of an EGF-rated tournament with a GoR of at least 1900, between 1st April 2012 and

31st March 2013, are eligible to play, and should contact jenny@durge.org if they wish to play.

ERROR in BGJ 162

In "UK and Ireland Clubs List" page 41. The Dublin Go Club meets from about 8:30 onwards on both playing days (not from 20:30 to 21:00).