



# British Go Association

## Extraordinary General Meeting 17 June 2026 at 19:00

### Statement by Toby Manning

I have been playing Go for over 50 years, and for nearly half of that time I have been involved with the administration of the BGA. I have been on the Council/Board for the last 18 years, many of them as either Treasurer or President, and have a good understanding of how the BGA works. I am aged 73, but this is still younger than both candidates for President of the USA in 2024 (although this may not be a comparison many people would make).

Members are being asked to choose the BGA President for the next 12 months. I thought I would share what I consider to be the important aspects of the BGA Presidential role.

A large number of people voluntarily give up their time to administer the BGA, and the President's role is to act as the leader of this large army of volunteers: to co-ordinate effort, to ensure that jobs get done, and to provide good communication throughout the organisation, while always remembering that one is dealing with volunteers. The President can also initiate policy changes, but such changes will only happen if he has the full support of the organisation.

It is therefore important for the President to get out and about, to meet with members and discuss ideas. In the last year I have attended 15 tournaments around the country (although regrettably none in Scotland or Northern Ireland) which has given me the opportunity to talk to members: if my appointment is confirmed I will continue to attend many tournaments.

When one looks at successful Go clubs – I think of Cambridge, Durham, Nottingham, Cheadle Hulme School and doubtless others – these have all been successful due to the work and effort put in by local organisers. The Board can help, by providing advice, etc. but the work has to be done locally.

If you vote to confirm me as President then I will continue to work in a cooperative way to develop and enhance the BGA.

Toby Manning.