

Newsletter number 2 15-1-90

The Irish Go Association
Dodona, Blackwood Lane,
Malahide, Co. Dublin.

2-11
'90-'94

Greetings Go enthusiasts

In this newsletter we have information on playing venues, some proposed events for the new year, news on international events and Go problems.

THE NIHON KI-IN'S REPLY

Recently we wrote to the Nihon Ki-in (Japanese Go Association) to ask their advice on several matters relating to the development of Go in Ireland. Their reply was prompt and very informative. They provided addresses of all affiliated Go clubs in Europe and the rest of the world. The number of clubs on the continent is impressive, Germany in particular having several hundred registered Go clubs. Anyone going abroad who wants to meet people and play Go during their visit can get the addresses of local Go clubs from Isao Toshima.

We also recieved details of several international Go events, one of the more prominent of which is the World Amateur Go Championship (WAGC). This is held each May and one representative per country can compete. In 1989 in the 11th WAGC 38 countries played, 21 of them from Europe. Last November saw the first ever Women's World Go Championship which was attended by 14 countries and looks set to become an annual event. We hope to send the first Irish representatives to these events in 1991, putting Ireland on the map as an active participant in the international Go arena.

ISLE OF MAN CHALLENGE

Following a recent letter by Noel Mitchell in the British Go Journal, we were contacted by the Isle of Man Go club. Their club consists of 6 players, the strongest being 1 Kyu. They suggested a match with us in Dublin this spring followed by a second match in the Isle of Man in the summer. Anyone wishing to be considered for either team should speak up soon, as selection games may be necessary. Anyone who can help in putting up the Isle of Man visitors during their stay, please let us know.

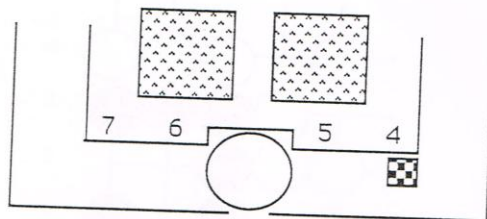
LEPRECON X

November saw us setting up shop at Leprecon X, a Trinity College organised board games convention. As with Gaelcon the people looked at us a little strangely initially. Where were all our multisided dice, plastic dinosaurs, killer androids and other such essentials? All we seemed to have on offer were wooden boards marked with grids (rectangular not hexagonal- oh my!) and bowls of small black and white objects that some people took to be peppermint sweets. Presently playing started, the demonstration board was set up and people began to get the idea that this was something "serious". Curiosity soon emerged however and we were pleased to find many of the people we played at Gaelcon returning to play. Several protested at our choice of Thursday night for meetings and other suggestions were heard (see Go venues section).

Day two offered much more comfortable conditions and play went on into the evening. Judging from the response we recieved it appears that Go is a very welcome addition to the diet of the more analytically inclined board games enthusiast and we can hope to see many of them develop into capable and challenging Go players in the near future.

GO VENUES

It appears that many people have experienced difficulty in attending the Thursday night Go sessions, so by popular demand we will be starting Saturday morning sessions from 10 am to 2 pm, from Saturday 20th of January, in the Board Games room on the top floor of house 4, front square Trinity College. Feel free to bring a friend.



Trinity College Main Entrance, College Green.

AN APOLOGY

To Francis Roads for misspelling his name in our last newsletter. On returning to London, after helping us at Gaelcon, Francis put pen to paper and jotted down his impressions of his first visit to Ireland. We look forward to his next. Anyone wanting to see what he thought (and what he wrote about them) should have a look at December's British Go Journal.

COMPUTER GO

We now have two Go playing programmes for the Macintosh computer. Copies are available as shareware. If anyone has any IBM Go programmes we would be delighted to hear from you.

P.S. Does anyone have a Dragon Go joseki library.

PROVISIONAL CALENDER OF EVENTS FOR 1990

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|-------------|---|
| March | The Irish Open incorporating the Isle Of Man Challenge and the 1990 Irish Go Association committee elections.
(St. Patrick's weekend) (Venue to be decided, suggestions welcome) |
| April 6-8 | The British Go Congress (A must for all Go enthusiasts). |
| April-May | Dublin vs. Dundalk (Proposed). |
| May | The 12th World Amateur Go Championships.
Hiroshima - Japan. |
| July-August | The Isle of Man Challenge. Round 2. |
| November | The Irish 1991 WACC qualifying tournament. |

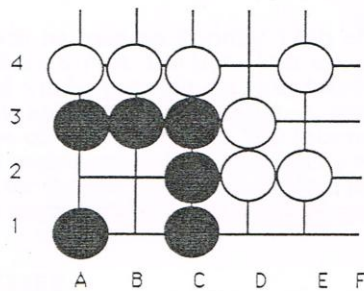
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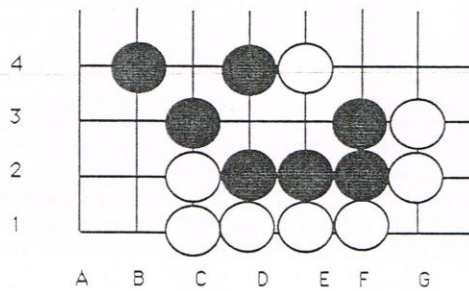
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GO PROBLEMS

- 1) This diagram contains a critical point. Black must play on this point to form two "eyes" and live.



- 2) After white plays F4 where must black play.



Answers to newsletter number 1 problems.

- 1) No it is an illegal move.
 2) White plays on the point below the single black stone. Even though this stone may be captured, black is now unable to form two "eyes" and is himself captured.