



Australian Go Association

Secretary

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AGA Secretary's Report for the 29th AGM, Brisbane

At the last AGM, Doug Buckser was elected Secretary. Unfortunately due to pressure of other commitments, Doug had to resign in January, so I took up the reins once again.

It has been quite a busy time in fact. Apart from the usual correspondence from other Associations (we receive newsletters from the British and American Go Associations and occasional news from European Go associations) and monitoring AusGo membership and bulletins, I have spent considerable effort dealing with invitations for representation at various international Go tournaments.

The organisers of the 2nd International Martial Arts Tournament in North Korea included a Go competition and invited an Australian team to participate. The international situation at the time was some concern, but eventually three players, Raphael Shin, Yangil Jin and Sang Dae Hahn were selected and participated; it evidently was a successful event, although Australia was outclassed by the only two other countries, China and North Korea, which took part.

The Korean Amateur Baduk Association has initiated a major new international event, the Prime Minister's Cup, inviting all member countries of the International Go Federation to send a representative. There will be parallel events including the KABA Cup, team Go championships, and academic seminars on Baduk. It is expected to become an annual event. It replaces the previously planned Korean Ambassador's Cup, and so on this occasion Australia was invited to send more than one player, following on from our KAC tournament. Unfortunately because of the short timing two of the KAC place winners were not able to attend (in fact the tournament clashes with two regional tournaments in China to which Australia was also invited, although these are at participant's own expense). Wei Qian will represent Australia in the 1st PMC, and Carl Jiang will play in the KABA Cup.

Neville Smythe
27 September 2006

IGF Director's report

Brad Melki, after a number of years representing Oceania (Australia and New Zealand) on the Board of the International Go Federation, decided to stand down this year. It was New Zealand's turn to nominate a Director for a two year term, and I am grateful to the NZGA for my selection; I was elected at the last IGF AGM.

A matter of concern of the IGF recently was the proposal of the KABA for an international Go championship. While fully encouraging such additions to the Go calendar, the original name proposed for the event appeared to be in conflict with the WAGC. After negotiation the KABA settled on the designation of the Prime Minister's Cup, and the IGF is pleased to support and promote the event in partnership with the KABA.

The IGF continues to lobby for Olympic recognition of Go. To this end, the IGF has joined with the peak bodies for Chess, Bridge and Checkers (Draughts) to form the International Mind Sports Association (IMSA), and has also been granted full membership of the General Association of International Sports Federations (GAISF). A Mind Sports Olympiad event in Beijing 2008 is being actively pursued.

Neville Smythe
27 September 2006