

AGA President's Report for the 30th AGM, Sydney
September 2007

During my second term as President, my focus has been mainly on internal issues of managing the AGA. Neville Smythe ably and quickly completed the new AGA website which has proved a great boon for communicating with the outside world, and with the Australian go community. However, Neville already bears a great burden as Secretary, and we must look for a suitable person to take on the role of webmaster. Other internal issues which have arisen during the year include the revival of the KAC, invitations to participate in overseas events, and the use of the McMahon system for the first time in AGA Tournaments. On communications, during the year the Sydney Go Journal began publication as an adobe file. This is the first attempt for a long time to publish Australian go material and is obviously welcome.

There was little on the national scene as far as international visits to Australia. An informal group of Koreans visited some cities on a vacation trip and played with locals where possible. The Yokosuka Internet Friendship Match was held in July 2007, with Melbourne as a participating city, although this is not really an AGA event. I have no news as to the success or otherwise of this event. In Brisbane, we hosted the fourth annual visitation of a group of strong Japanese players, old boys of the Keio University. This local event benefits the Brisbane players, but as some of these men have influence in the Japanese go world, eventually there may accrue benefits at a national level.

As far as visits by Committee to overseas associations, clearly Yiming Guo has been busy and successful in China, obtaining a number of invitations for Australians to attend various tournaments. Neville Smythe as our new IGF Director attended a meeting in Japan, and will of course present his own report. Although I had intended to continue my overseas contacts with a visit to China, I have had to put that plan on hold for work and financial reasons. However, I hope to meet with the Nihon Kiin at least during my visit to Japan in November 2007 as one half of Australia's pair go team.

The KAC was revived with some pushing from the Korean side, and the Committee considered the structure, timing, etc and approved a model for future years. The issue of the host city was left on review, and at present Sydney is the holder. This event is therefore firmly on the tournament calendar.

The McMahon system was used in this year's KAC, and the Committee selected a small group of able and interested people to prepare a proposal for its use in future AGA tournaments. The proposal was duly prepared and approved by the Committee, and I leave it to the group leader, Neville Smythe, to give details if needed – or read it on our website.

We received a number of invitations from overseas go associations to send representatives. The Nanning Invitational and the 2nd World Chinese Youth Go Championship in Hong Kong were examples where we were unable to take part. Issues included short notice (the youth event) and that participants in these particular events had to pay their own airfares. The first is a management issue and we intend to address it in the coming year. The cost issue may be able to be addressed or alleviated

by sponsorship, and our Treasurer, David Ormerod has some ideas to share with you about that. We were successful in taking advantage of the emergency invitation to send a pair to the IPGA event in Tokyo. I will be attending with Amelia Gray, a young player and a member of the BGC Committee. This of course is an all expenses paid opportunity, but in future we intend to be ready for such windfalls rather than being called to panic stations.

The tournament scene continues to be moderately successful, and I thank all of the able tournament organisers for their efforts. The premier event is the Australian Go Championship, which was held in October 2006 by the BGC, but sadly attracted a rather low attendance. The annual NEC Cup in Melbourne achieved a great attendance in 2007. This year various State tournaments were held – ACT, NSW and QLD. The 2nd Korean Ambassador's Cup was ably organised by Raphael Shin, but attracted a relatively low attendance. I also advise that the 4th Toyota & Denso Cup will be held in Brisbane in January 2008 and preliminary details are available.

I wish to thank all Committee members for their service to the organisation. I especially mention the unstinting effort put in by Neville in the onerous Secretary position (and acting as webmaster as well). Please hang in there Neville, while we look for someone to give you a break. Thanks is all I can offer as even basic expenses incurred by Committee members are mostly borne by them.

I look forward to another year of successful AGA activities.

John Hardy