

BREAKING NEWS: ILYA SHIKSIN IS THE NEW EUROPEAN CHAMPION, SEOK-UI HONG WINS THE OPEN EUROPEAN TITLE

Villach, July 28. Ilya Shiksin is the new European Champion. He followed the example of his older sister Svetlana, who became European Champion last year in Frascati, Italy. Svetlana could not defend her title here, as she gave birth to her first son, Vyacheslav on July 1. The outcome of the European



*Ilya Shiksin, 6d is the new European Champion
Photo: Martin Chrz*

Contents

- 1 Breaking News*
- 1 Main Tournament*
- 10 What a beautiful World*
- 14 EGC2008*
- 17 More on Computer GO*
- 18 Mini Interview*
- 19 Villach and Culture*
- 21 Guo Game Commentary #1*
- 23 Guo Game Commentary #2*

Championship was unclear until the very last game in the top-players room was finished. In the end, Shiksin and Dinershtein had not only the same number of wins, but also identical SOS-points. Shiksin's better SODOS-points, the second tie-breaker, decided on the European Championship. Ilya is only 17 years old and lives in Kazan, Russia. He has several times studied Go in Korea. In the Championship's Main tournament he only lost games to the Korean players Jong-wook Park and Seok-bin Cho and to his compatriote Alexander Dinershtein, manifold European Champion. Ilya Shiksin also lost the final of the European Masters Tournament last weekend in Villach against Alexander Dinershtein. After the last round we spoke to the new European Champion.

- Isn't fun to follow your sister taking the title.?

- With a broad smile: „Yes, of course!“

- Before the start of this Championship, did you think you would stand a good chance?“

- I feel that I improved a lot over the last year, so I thought I would stand a much better chance than last year. Before the tournament got off, I felt my chances were 50-50...“

- Did you study for a long time in Korea, like your sister?

- No, my sister studied there for many years. I only went there three times for stays of one or two months. All together I have studied Baduk there for about five months.“

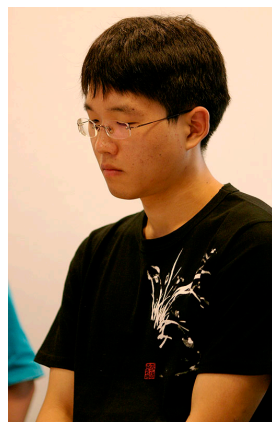
- Congratulations and we look forward to your defense of the title next year in Sweden!“

Seok-ui Hong from Korea won the 51st European Championship's Tournament in Villach. His only loss in ten games was to his countryman Jong-wook Park, who took second place. Leading with seven wins and no losses, Park had fallen ill in the second week and missed two rounds. For the final table of results he was awarded draws for both games, which he was unable to play.

We found a mini-biography of Hong on GoAma, a newsletter by Alexander Dinershtein:

Hong Seokui learned Go at the age of 7. He visited the ordinary Go school for

beginners for a few years. He lived in Chonchu city and was not able to enter the largest Seoul's Go clubs or attend Hankuk Kiwon inseis league. Later he learned Go from books and from real



Hong Seok-Ui, 7d (KR); Photo: Martin Chrz

games. Nowadays he is often playing Go on the Tygem server. He plays Go very fast and his favorite players are Cho Hunhyun, 9-dan and Yoo Changhyuk, 9-dan.

Hong won several important Korean amateur tournaments, including Lee Changho cup-2002, Samsung cup-2005, Yahoo Game cup-2005 (after beating Hwang Inseong, 7-dan, who is very famous in Europe, in the final round).

After winning the Samsung cup he got the right to represent Korean amateurs at the qualification stage of the Samsung World Go Championship. He met Mizokami Tomochika, 8-dan (<http://www.go4go.net/v2/modules/collection/byplayer2.php?pid=180>) in the first round and lost that game.

MAIN TOURNAMENT

SEOK UI HONG GETS UNEXPECTED SHOT AT EGC CHAMPIONSHIP

Jong Wook Park 7d's iron grip on the lead for the 2007 European Go Congress Championship was broken Thursday when he fell ill and missed Round 8, giving Seok Ui Hong 7d a chance to erase Park's 1-point lead. Park was a perfect 7-0 while Hong, 6-1, had only lost to Park and defeated 5-game winner Yoshida Takao 6d in Round 8, improving his score to 7, just half a point behind Park's 7.5, giving him a clear shot at winning the tournament with two more victories. Park, who is expected to remain hospitalized for the remainder of the 10-round tournament, will get half a point for each missed round.

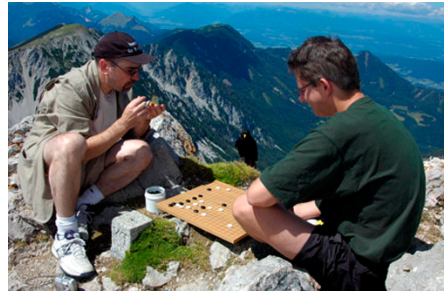
(Quote from the last American Go E-journal, which Chris Garlock sent from Villach, before he left us on Friday morning to reach the American Go Congress in time)

SIDE-EVENTS

reports by Peter Dijkema

On Wednesday many people used the day off from the main tournament for excursions with their friends to the many mountains and lakes in the area. We know of several, who carried their

Go-ban and stones up to the top to play a high level game on the top of the mountain. One of them was Chris Garlock, managing editor of the American Go E-Journal. Unpacking on the top his friend finally understood why his backpack had been so heavy. He had been carrying real stones up the mountain ;-) (see Picture)



On the top of Hochstuhl („Veliki Stol“ means „large table“ Chris Garlock (l) plays tengen against Andreas Hauenstein while an Alpendohle (Pyrrhocorax graculus) kibitzes; Photo: Steffi Hebsacker

9X9-TOURNAMENT

Still many entered one of the events. The 9x9-tournament over eight rounds attracted forty players ranging from a handful of 20-kyus up to a handful of 4- and 5-dans. Games were with full handicaps, adding a point komi for every grade difference. In the end two dan-level contenders did best. Young Mateusz Surma, a sho-dan talent from Poland lost in round 6 to the only other unbeaten participant, Ulrik Bro-Joergensen, 4-dan from Denmark. In the

next round Ulrik lost to Andrey Cheburakhov (5-dan, Russia). Both Mateusz and Ulrik won the rest of their games, but Mateusz (11 years) took first place with a one point better Sum of Opponents' Scores. Mateusz' younger brother Bartosz (9 years, 10-kyu) landed on third place, ahead on SOS of Francesco Marigo (Italian 4-dan), Andrey Cheburakhov and Bernd Radmacher. Polish trainer Krzysztof Giedrojcz (4d) is pretty sure Mateusz' results here will earn him a promotion to ni-dan. Bartek learned to play not so long ago and is also improving fast. The Surma brothers live in Silezia in the South of Poland. Krzysztof is teaching in two clubs in Warsaw, one is OKO, the other is right in the centre of town. Oko is actually an abbreviation, but it reads like the word for 'eye' in polish. Krzyszpek can be reached at www.sensei.tws.pl

TEAM COMPETITION

Like our opening event, the Party Go tournament, the team competition is meant to meet many new and different people. That is why teams could collect a maximum of five bonus-points for mixing in strength, nationalities and age, and for including a female and registering with a name. Not everybody found out in time, so they only got the point for the name, like EuroGoTV, KGS Dutch Windmill (both from the Netherlands), Team M, Dieing in Gote and Haloumi Glory. Fourteen teams took part. They

played five matches. A won match yielded a point and a draw half a point.

Team M only drew in the first round with Cabikova Cepicka and won the rest of their matches. Without the bonus-rules they would have won the tourney. But with help of the bonus-points they only finished on an equal sixth place with G1 (a team of young players from France and Holland (two each: Antoine Fenech (5d) and Claire Rioualin (14k) with Floris Barthel (3d) and Jelger de Wit, a 12-year old 4k), International Friendship (they drew three matches) and Overplay.

The winners are Crazy Horse. They only scored half of the possible amount of matchpoints, but no other team could match their bonus-total of four points. Equal second were Cabikova Cepicka (4+2) and Fighto (3+3). G2.5 (a pun on G1, NL) and The Corner Team came to a total of five (2+3) each. Dieing in Gote and KGS Dutch Windmill finished on four (3+1) each.

Here are the winners' names:

1. Crazy Horse: Kazuo Yoshihara (5d), Michiyo Furuyama (10k, both from Japan) with Hubertus Putlitz (3k, Germany) and Elisabeth Anderson (8k, Austria).
2. Tied: Cabikova Cepicka and Fighto. Cabikova Cepicka (CC) are all from Czechia. The name means: Csaba's (Merő, 6d, Hungary) little cap. Csaba had been wearing a large orange cap, which se-

veral people had ,borrowed‘ from him

...

CC (CZ) were Tomas Kozelek (3d), Ondrej Kruml (2d), Martina Simunkova (1d) and Jitka Bartova (3k). Fighto were Soeren Ohlenbusch (Danish 2d), Stefan Kwasnitza (German 1d), Manuela Leitner (Austrian 4k) and Marilena Geugjes (German 7k). Congratulations!

All four of Crazy Horse got a € 20 voucher each. Those tied for second place a € 10 voucher each.

KILL ALL TOURNAMENT

Thursday the ,kill all‘ tournament was held. Black occupies all first lines. White should try to live, which should not be possible by correct play by black. The initiative for this special tourney was from Andre Ay (1st kyu) from Leipzig in Germany. Six players took part. A total of eleven games were played. Remarkable was that white won ten games. This proves that kyu-level players should practise more using influence to attack and kill!

Harry Weerheijm, managing editor of EuroGoTV and sho-dan, won the tournament. Harry lost only one game, it was the only game, where black won. Black was Andre, who reported the results to us. In fact, both Harry and Andre won four games each. But Andre was the tournament director, so he took part out of competition.

RAPID TOURNAMENT

Hong Seok-ui (Korean 7 dan) won the rapid tournament, despite missing one round. He won all seven of his games. Antti Törmanen from Finland finished on second place with six wins from eight games. Shared third in the top MacMahon-group were Miyazaki Nobuyashi, Kazuo Yoshihara Yoshida Takao (all from Japan) and Robert Jasiek (Germany). Only the latter two played in all rounds.

Mateusz Surma (11 year young sho-dan from Silezia, Southern Poland)) for sure will earn himself a ni-dan grade before his next birthday in September. He only lost in the last round, to Miyazaki, 5d. But he defeated two 4-dans on his way to the top! Two more sho-dans did very well: Albertus Petrauskas (Lithuania) and Ilkka Mattila (Finland) won six. Suvi Leppanen (fist kyu, Finnish) finished also with six wins.

Peter Smolarik (Slovakian 4-kyu) became two stones stronger during the Congress. In the rapid rounds he won all eight games! Another 4-kyu, Mitko Prodanov (Hungary) lost only one game, but also missed one, so he scored six wins. Andras Kosztzy (5-kyu, also from Hungary) did likewise: six out of seven. And Jan Harms from Germany, another 5-kyu, also won six games. Jose TeleMenezes, a 5-kyu from Portugal won all his games, but played only three.

Vigor Grego (Croatian 7-kyu) won seven times, losing only in the opening round. Justinas Kuras, a 7-kyu from Lithuania won six games, just like Tom Sattelkau, a German 8-kyu.

Valeria Costea (Rumanian 11-kyu) had a great tournament, she won seven. Ondrej Jurasek (Czech 12-kyu) won six. His countryman Petr Zelina (14-kyu) was the only player from the 200, who entered the rapid, to win all eight games! He finished with two wins over 10-kyus, so improved about four stones in two weeks time. This showed how useful all the workshops and lectures from the professionals were. Evaldas Nariunas (Lithuanian 15-kyu) lost only to unbeatable Petr and scored seven wins. Congratulations to all of you, especially to all those youngsters among you!

LIGHTNING TOURNAMENT

Compared to earlier EGC's the lightning tournament in Villach progresses in a relaxed pace, with a game a day and not even every day. In the old days there would be a complete tourney every week with qualifying groups on one evening and a final on the next night. Next to that, there used to be an ongoing open tournament, where one could play as many fast games as you would want, not playing more than two games with each of your opponents. There would be prizes for the highest number of wins, the best winning percentage and for the highest number of games

played. Perhaps this formula will come back next year, when we expect that the weather will be less hot...

After six of the planned ten rounds only two players were leading with 5-1 each, Pekka Lajunen, a Finnish shodan and Maros Kral (Slovakian 1-kyu). Pekka had already lost to Maros. They were followed by five with four wins: Manuela Marz (German 3d), Miika Nikula (Finnish 2d), Sjoerd Kuperus (Dutch 1st kyu) and Manuela Leitner (Austrian 4th kyu). Cho Seok-bin won his first four games – one of them over Maros - but dropped out of the competition. Only 33 players bothered to take part, but a mere 11 played in all ten rounds. The tournament is Swiss with full handicap below 3-dan, but not more than 9 stones.

Maros incurred his second loss to Krzysztof Giedrojcz in round 9, where also we noted the re-appearance of Cho, after missing 4 rounds. However Maros Kral won again in the final round, keeping ahead of Krzysztof Giedrojcz (Polish 4d), who didn't show up in time for the 1st round and missed the 2nd. Later he explained that he had been unable to find the hotel he had booked in time. On the board the Polish player lost only one game, against Hong Seul-ki, which turned out to be the only game Hong played in this tournament...

Final result: 1. Maros Kral, 8; 2. Krzysztof Giedrojcz, 7. Manuela Marz, Miika

Mikula, Sjoerd Kuperus and Uwe Bowerski (German 5k) all won 6 out of 10 games. Cho Seok-bin won all 6 games he played!

will be awarded by the EGF.

Any other tournaments just non-cash-prizes.

PRIZES

Money prizes for top 10 of Open European Championship

- 1.) € 3.000,-
- 2.) € 1.800,-
- 3.) € 1.000,-
- 4.) € 900,-
- 5.) € 800,-
- 6.) € 700,-
- 7.) € 600,-
- 8.) € 500,-
- 9.) € 400,-
- 10.) € 300,-

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sum € 10.000,-

Bonus for top 5 EGF members
(nationality must be one of the EGF member countries) (cumulative!)

- 1.) € 1.600,-
- 2.) € 1.300,-
- 3.) € 1.000,-
- 4.) € 700,-
- 5.) € 400,-

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sum € 5.000,-

Any other prizes will be non-cash

Prizes for European Masters (Weekend)

FREE BOOKS FOR LOSERS?

by Peter Dijkema

Wednesday evening someone in Bacchus-bar remarked that not the winners should be rewarded with a voucher to be spent in the bookshop, but only people with no wins. Obviously, winners already know how to play well and losers not. I thought it was a great idea, but immediately I got curious about the results of the man with this brilliant idea. This resulted in the following dialogue:

- „I didn't win yet in the main, but won one in the rapid.“

- „So you are only pleading your own case. You are the one, who needs books.“

- „No, I don't need books. I have many of them, but not enough time to read.“

- „Who are you anyway, what's your strength, where you're from. How many game did you play (or lose, for that matter)?“

- „I'm a 10-kyu from Germany. I only arrived on Monday...“

- „Now I understand, I think your case is not hopeless yet“ ;-)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

We didn't get hold of the minutes of this meeting yet, but Congress regulars

basically want to know where the next Congresses will be. The French proposition won clearly in the voting over Poland for the EGC 2011. It will be near Nice, in an University – Sophia Antipolis, which is only 5 kilometers from the Mediterranean Sea and an equal distance from the mountains. For 2012 only Germany came up with a proposition. Voting on it will be during next year's EGC in Leksand, Sweden. Poland, Czechia and Cyprus stated their interest in hosting the EGC in 2013 and for 2014 Russia is a candidate. (PD)

MEDIA COVERAGE

Our Congress was visited by reporters from different media. A lady from Austrian public radio talked to many people. She also came up the editors' room, recording small quotes from Chris Garlock, Tobias Berben-Golisch of the Deutsche Go Zeitung and your humble editor-in-chief. Regional public television shot material here, which was broadcasted on July 15. It is still available on YouTube: www.youtube.com/watch?v=xj41PDB55-I.

Next Monday Austrian-wide Kurier newspaper will publish an interview with one of the young girls playing here in the childrens' section. The girl is Liina Laitikainen, of course. We remember her from the Pair tourney.

Also our own media reached wide audiences. The American Go E-Journal is

read by more than 10.000 people. The numbers of clicks on the hundreds of video's at www.EuroGoTV.com keeps rising steeply day by day. An enormous success for the initiative of Harry Weerheijm. All issues of this bulletin were reprinted. Over 500 copies of the first issue were printed. The following issues were all reprinted and sold about 250 copies each until Friday. (PD)

LECTURES AND WORKSHOPS

An innovation by the organisers of our Villach Congress were the numerous workshops and lectures. They were an enormous success, attracting large audiences. The workshops were aimed at different categories of participants, each group getting dedicated training according to their playing level, from double-digit-kyus, single-digit-kyus to dan-level. Those workshops would draw a public of at least fifty up to a hundred people. Lectures in the main hall were meant for a wider audience, which they got: up to twohundreds.

Judging by the loud applause, which could be heard all through the Congress Center every time, all lectures and workshops were a huge success.

Congress' chief organiser Simon Gemel explained: „The main reason for people to come to a Go Congress is their wish to improve. Usually a lot of pro's came to the EGC, but their schedule was relatively loose. Some stay only a couple of days, half for teaching, half

for their private tourism. That is why we decided to set up a tight program for those pro's, who came to teach us the full two weeks, with fixed hours for lectures and workshops. People usually plan their Summer holiday in Winter. That's why we made sure to announce our plans much earlier, so people would know what they could expect at the Villach Congress". (PD)

THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH!

We, your editorial team, think this Villach innovation was a great idea and very successful. So we hope that it will become a standard for future Congresses! We thank the organisers and their helpers for their tremendous job. We are very grateful, especially for all what we have learned here from the professionals. Some of the participants of the Congress became even two stones stronger in just two weeks! (PD)

FIVE MINUTES WITH: RAINER STOWASSER, PRESIDENT OF THE AUSTRIAN GO FEDERATION *by Chris Garlock, quoted from the American Go E-Journal*

Austria, one of the original places in the West where go first took root and flowered over 100 years ago, is now in the midst of a very modern Go boom. "We've seen a six-fold increase in activity thanks to Hikaru No Go," Austrian Go Federation President Rainer Stowass-

er told the EJ Tuesday night as the hurried but always cheerful EGC organizer grabbed yet another smoke outside the Congress Center. A former Aus-

trian youth champion, the 37-year-old 2-kyu works for the Austrian Science Board and has been playing go for two decades. Stowasser says the Gote Go Club in Vienna alone has over 100 members now, many of them young players who have come to the game through exposure to Hikaru and playing on the Internet. There are an estimated 3-4,000 Go players in Austria, nine clubs in Graz, Linz, Krems and Vienna, "where you can play Go every night." Stowasser also credits the presence of professional go player Kobayashi Chizu 5P, who's teaching weekly classes and helping inspire a new generation of players. Indeed, Stowasser reports, that new generation has begun to assume the reins of leadership as youngsters like Victor Lin 1d (16), Lothar Spiegl 3d (23), and Thomas Kerbl 2d (24) push their way into the top ranks of Austrian players. Following up on hosting this year's European Go Congress, the next big step for the Aus-



**Rainer Stowasser, President
of the Austrian GO Federation**
Photo: Chris Garlock

trian Go Federation is re-establishing their own Go center in Vienna after a 10-year hiatus. Details are still being worked out, but Stowasser promised the EJ we'll be the first to know when plans are finalized.

STATISTICS

The organisers provided us with some statistics about attendance at the Villach Congress. As always, the largest group of players are the Germans and the Japanese tour-group is also very numerous. Here is the full list:

Germany 168, Japan 74, Netherlands 61, Austria 60, Lithuania 48, Finland 30, Czech Republic 27, France 26, Hungary 23, Russian Federation 22, Great Britain (UK) 22, unidentified 20, Romania 16, Poland 16, Italy 15, Cyprus 12, Slovak Republic 10, Korea (South) 10, Denmark 9, Belgium 8, Sweden 8, United States 7, Switzerland 6, Ireland 6, Bosnia and Herzegovina 5, Ukraine 5, Moldova 5, Serbia 4, China 4, Croatia 4, Spain 4, Luxembourg 3, Slovenia 3, Azerbaijan 3, Turkey 2, Israel 1, Portugal 1, Norway 1, Morocco 1, Bulgaria 1.

NUMBERS OF PLAYERS AND PARTICIPANTS IN THE VILLACH CONGRESS

The number of players in the first week is 497, in the weekend 458 and in the second week 506. The total number of registred players is 643, while a total of

752 participants registred at the Congress. Among the 643 registred players, 127 are female and 516 male. The number of children (born after 1994) is 38 and the number of youth (born between 1986 and 1994) players is 147.

WHAT A BEAUTIFUL, IDEAL WORLD

*by Simon Gemel,
Chief Congress Organiser*

In order to organise a good Congress, we had to be aware of possible problems in advance. I thought that there might be some problems with the police because of some partying from the participants very late at night, disturbing the neighbours. Therefore I warned the mayor of Villach that such problems may arise, and in order to avoid unnecessary conflicts, such cases should be reported to us to be taken care of before it would be passed onto the police.

Fortunately the mayor agreed to this suggestion, and this was a big relieve for me. Until today (Thursday 26th July 2007), we have not been told that such incidents occurred. The owner of "Moby Dick" (a pub located near the venue, where many Go players gathered together in the evening) was thankful for the business, hence she would have not found it too bad having to pay for the noise late at night. It would have been worse to have lost the potential income

by being told by the police to close at regular times.

However we were not able to predict every single problem. I would like you to take a look at what happened behind the curtains.

Just a few days before the Congress started, we were shocked to learn that 20 Koreans cancelled their trip, including their confirmed accommodation, for which we had already guaranteed full payment. Since we wanted to be as helpful as possible, we accepted their wish to pay the fee on spot. Due to their absence we are responsible for the whole cancellation penalties.

We put in a lot of effort preparing for the Congress, however things turn out to be different, when it actually happens. If our preparation could be considered as Fuseki, then it seems as though if we were already in Byo-yomi when the middle game started. The organisation team was put into massive stress before the opening of the Congress. Team members were hardly able to find time to sleep – Outcome: one team member spends a night in the hospital.

When I think about the speech I held at the opening ceremony, it seems as if it had happened 5 years ago. I was just about able find some time to take a shower (instead of sleeping) on the

night before the ceremony.

There is still no time to catch up with the sleep I need. Some unregistered Go-players paid a surprise visit at 3 o'clock in the morning, expecting to be told where they could find their accommodation. We created name tags with original fonts for each participant (who had filled in the appropriate column on the online registration site) from different countries in order to bring in an international flair. This was not an easy task for the IT team. Unfortunately 5% of the English (German) letters were not decoded properly, thus they had to be removed from the tags. This had been a big problem for one participant. He requested to reprint his name tag with proper Slovakian spelling and got upset by the fact that the registration team could not take care of this problem immediately. (When this happened the team was overloaded with work, and at the same time had to solve the communication problem regarding breakfast for 20 – 30 people).

“The game of Go brought great people together and you could feel safe at EGC”... No... there is a pick-pocket among us. It is very likely (99%) that 3 wallets were stolen at the congress centre. We have already warned the next EGC organisers.

People should be very careful before deciding to write an invitation (a neces-

sary procedure) for somebody wishing to apply for a Visa. This is something I have not told my team until now... Our website has been accessed over 100 times by a Russian immigration platform located in USA...

But let's go back to the things which had actually happened and stop talking about things which "could have" happened. We have already faced enough trouble...

A group of French participants puking out of the window late at night, some Koreans ruining the wooden floor while taking a shower (different system to that of which they are used to...) And even one of our Dutch helpers went mad late at night, shouting and damaging some private belongings of the accommodation and leaving Villach without returning his room key. The worst bit for me was to get out of bed and to go out onto the streets to try to calm him down at 03:30 in the morning after working 14 hours each day without sufficient sleep.

Some people seem to think that a Go Congress is an open market. For example: the organisers found out through an internet forum that a British programmer is selling his newest program at the venue without informing anyone of us. This became a problem as he occupied the space we needed for our shop. He simply declared that

he was there in the beginning, hence he did not want to move.

One Ukrainian participant decided to sell Go books. Unfortunately some of his offers were already in the stock of our official shop, though packed in a box. He demanded us to prove him that we really have the same books.

It got even more exciting. Nakayama Sensei from Nihon-Kiin arrived. Surprisingly he presented a Japanese letter, stating who would be financing his stay in Austria. This matter could have been clarified in advance, through a letter written in English.

Announcement: "Doctor! Please come to the reception urgently!" A Japanese child hit her head, fell unconscious. After 20 seconds of silence, she started screaming. Doctors' advise: "Go to hospital for observation". The ambulance arrived 5 minutes later. One of our team members accompanied the family to the hospital.

Before the event started, a German player known as a Japanese interpreter, as well as a Children Go Operator offered his interpretation service at EGC. I declined his offer since we were low on budget and we had enough staff who could speak Japanese. He made a second attempt with another team member, who ironically knew the story through the same Email correspondence. Meanwhile I got to know th-

rough one professional Go player that we should not work together with him because of two reasons. Firstly, his Japanese is not the best and secondly, he lacks respect and manners. Apparently he tried to convince the professionals that he would do them a great favour by interpreting their lectures. He acts friendly, though at the same time tells them that their English is not good enough for the audience, which is not true. I stuck to my decision and did not accept this suspicious and expensive offer. Therefore he took revenge on the people who were in charge of the work he wanted to do.

While Nakayama Sensei was giving a lecture, he told some Japanese audience that the interpretation of our Japanese speaking staff was totally wrong. Besides that, he told some EGC participants that the whole event is an absolute mess. He even suggested people not to take part in our arranged tours such as the Salzburg trip, telling them that it would be far too expensive (€ 99,- Villach-Salzburg-Villach, with guide and entrance fees included... As a comparison, the return train ticket costs approx. €60,-). He seems to try to convince everybody that no Go Congresses could be arranged properly without his help.

Our Japanese speaking staff (interpreter) is born in England, raised bilingual, and has been managing her own com-

pany (incoming tour operator mainly for the Japanese market) over 5 years. Her Go skill is at a high kyu level (near Shodan) therefore she is capable for serious interpretation with specific Go language.

By the way, the “Interpreter/Child Go Operator” from Germany was interfering with the above mentioned incident – “the child being carried to the hospital”.

1. As the incident happened, he was stroking the head of the child who was brought to the hospital later for hitting her HEAD.
2. We asked him to stop this action, however he replied with “Shut up” in Japanese.
3. Then he tried to snatch the screaming child away from her own mother.
4. He pointed his finger to our Japanese speaking staff, telling her “you go along as a translator”, though everything had already been organised before he even mentioned this.

Further, he complained about a team member, who was holding a beginners workshop, claiming that she does not qualify to teach the rules of Go.

Some participants were not satisfied with the prizes we have prepared (€ 15,000 in total for the main tournament). Two Korean winners of the weekend tournament complained about the fact that they only got vou-

chers as a prize. They asked for cash in hand instead.

We are happy to announce that Jong Wook Park did not suffer from tuberculosis. Therefore we do not have to halt the Congress due to emergency. He has already left hospital, and we all wish him a fast recovery.

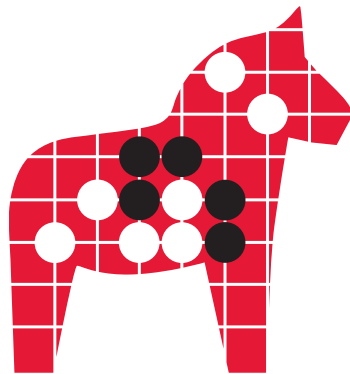
Please do not worry about the trouble and disasters which happened behind the curtains. Dear friends, I really wish you a good time. 70% of my vision I had for “European Go Congress 2007” has been fulfilled. This project means a lot to me, and I would be very happy to know that you have been enjoying it to the fullest.

THE EUROPEAN GO CONGRESS IN LEKSAND 2008: A STATUS REPORT AS OF JULY 2007

by Henric Bergsåker and Leif Pettersson

The 52nd European Go Congress will take place in Leksand, Sweden, July 26th – August 9th 2008. The site selection was a long process, which ended happily about a year ago in the choice of Leksand, by Lake Siljan, a pleasant little town in a characteristic part of Sweden, about 3h by car or train North-West from Stockholm, (so Lek-

sand 2008 will be the most northern Congress ever, it is even more to the North than St. Petersburg). Leksand is well known to nearly 300 players from all over Europe, who have already participated in the Leksand Open tournament, which is organised every year since 2001. Nice aspects about Leksand as a Congress site are that it is beautifully situated and offers plenty of opportunities for tourism, relaxing vacation



52nd EUROPEAN
GO CONGRESS
LEKSAND SWEDEN 2008

26th JULY - 9th AUGUST

and side activities in the surrounding area. The town council has been very helpful and will welcome this event heartily. For instance, we are going to have lots of space at our disposal in a couple of schools and other premises belonging to the town. Much of this enthusiasm is due to the fact that Go actually fits well in to the cultural profile of Leksand: the town is twinned with

Japanese Tubetsu (on Hokkaido island) and has an intensive exchange program with Japan, including frequent visits, yearly Japan days in Leksand, teaching of Japanese language in Leksand secondary school, a Japanese garden in Leksand and so on. A Japanese company is also established in nearby Insjön and is already sponsoring the Leksand tournament since many years. So, Leksand wants to build on the Japanese connection during EGC 2008. Obviously we want to arrange some special things in honour of the Chinese and Korean guests next year as well.

Since last year a lot has been achieved and many important aspects of the organisation are already well in hand. We have recruited a very competent team of organisers, at the moment around 30 people, including a number of experienced Germans, who were involved in organising the 2000 EGC in Strausberg. We have made reservations of attractive accommodation at different price levels which can be booked through us, EGC organisers, with a capacity of more than 600 sleeping places. Additionally, participants who bring their own cars have a very large choice of nice accommodation in the area if they search themselves. In particular there is a wide selection of nice cottages, in group as well as private houses, provided that reservations are made early (have a look at <http://www.siljan.se>). We think that we have found good

solutions for economic meals and for indoor and outdoor space for social activities. A website with some info has been up for about a year now, but since a few weeks a new site with much more information, maps, photos etc. is up at <http://egc2008.eu> . To make it convenient to register we are going to allow easy online payment with credit card or bank transfer at the EGC website. Unfortunately the technicalities are not quite ready for that yet, but the online registration will be working very soon. Meanwhile we have been collecting both pre-registrations and proper registrations during the Villach congress. More than 80 people are already fully registered for EGC 2008 and some 150 more pre-registered.

Of course, there are still things to prepare and a lot of work remains for the coming year. Actually we have discovered that local people in Leksand are very helpful, interested and constructive about this project. Preliminary plans for various nice side events are developing, the congress schedule is taking on concrete form and so on. For sure there will be rapid Go, pairgo and a nice computer event. Another idea that is being pursued is to have a more or less scientific conference on Go history during EGC 2008, a number of potential participants, an university department and possible sponsors have expressed interest. We think that Leksand 2008 will be attractive for families, so we want

to provide good facilities for them.

We have not found any new international main sponsor yet, but we have good local support. As we are eager to see Saijo sensei in Leksand 2008, we have started a collection to contribute to the expenses, participants can optionally make a small contribution to Saijo's participation.

EUROPEAN GO CONGRESS 2009: GRONINGEN, THE NETHERLANDS

by Herman Hiddema, 3-dan

In 2009, the 53rd European Go Congress will be held in the city of Groningen in the Netherlands. At almost 200.000 inhabitants, this is one of the larger cities in the Netherlands. The fact that it has a large university with some 40.000 students makes for a city with a young population and an active nightlife. As organisers of the 2009 congress, we – Rene Goedhart, Erik van den Broek and Herman Hiddema - showed up in force for this one in Villach, spreading promotional material and talking to people about our congress.

We have been very busy the last two years, and we are happy that we have this much time left. Organising a Congress is no small task, so having plenty of time is a big plus. Right now, the biggest thing happening for the organisers is the fact that we managed to book our playing venue just in time for

promoting it at the Villach Congress. The event will be held in a professional congress center at the edge of town, which includes some 100 hotel rooms available to the participants.

The Congress Center is located about 3 kilometers from the central train station, which borders the city center. At the back of the building is a large lake where people can swim, sunbath or rent canoes or sailing boats. The venue is also an excellent starting point for cycling or walking the countryside around Groningen. All the fields around the venue allow us to organise many activities directly around the building, so people can play football, volleyball, badminton, etc. We will also set up many sheltered tables for people to play on after their tournament games.

Apart from the hotel rooms in the congress center itself, people can also choose to book a room in one of the many accommodations in and around the city center. A little further along the lake at the back of the building is a scouting location where cheap accommodation will be provided for those who do not have the funds to stay in a hotel. This location also allows us to provide cheap meals. But of course no trip to Groningen can be really complete without a visit to the cities many bars and restaurants.

We hope to see you all in two years

in Groningen, for those of you who want to know more, please visit our website at <http://www.egc2009.nl/> or contact us by email at the address team@egc2009.nl

MORE TOURNAMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

European Youth Go Championship 6-9 March, 2008 in Mikulov in the Southern Moravia region of the Czech Republic addresses: www.mikulov.cz www.go-web.cz and <http://visitmikulov.com>

PANDANET GO EUROPEAN CUP MAJORS:

Bratislava International: October 5-7 www.igoweb.sk/casino
London Open Go Congress 28-31 December: e-mail: london-open@britgo.org
register online at <http://www.eurogo-fed.org/gotour/calendar.htm>

Another useful address is for € 1 audio-lectures in English by Guo Juan, 5P:
www.audiogolessons.com

MORE ON COMPUTER-GO *by Peter Dijkema*

Several days at our Congress, the new Go-playing program „Suzie“ was available for testing. Unfortunately its authors, Peter Woitke and Chrilly Don-

ninger could not be present and the scheduled lecture had to be cancelled. Stefan Mertin was operating Suzie for anyone willing to play. Suzie plays on all grids. On the smallest grid it has a strength of about 5-kyu. On the first days mostly kyu-level players challenged Suzie, adopting komi just like in the 9x9-tournament. On day 1 it scored even, 3-3 and day 2 it won more than it lost, 4-2. On day 3, while the 9x9-tournament was going on, several very strong players tried it. Victor Bogdanov felt he could give Suzie three stones and still win. Indeed he did. Next Alexander Dinerchtein tested it on four stones. That proved too much. Halfway the middle game Suzie played a pass and not long after that Alexander resigned. Every day the challenge was a „Earn Your Beer“ competition. Gamefee was € 1. The first one to win takes the full pot.

Donninger is a Chess-programmer for the Nimzo-machine. His new work is on the Hydra chess project, which is currently one of the strongest programs. In his free time he wanted to try to apply programming strategies, which are effective and successful in Chess, for our game of Go. Woitke is a Go-programmer. His ‚Go-Ahead‘ finished second on the 19x19-board during the Computer Games Olympics in Graz (Austria) in 2001.

Kai Naoyuki (6d, Japan) told us that

once a Go-program from North-Korea took part in a computer-tournament in Japan, where it had very good results. According to Kai, also Shogi programs from North-Korea are very strong. Later Stefan Mertin showed us some results from those GiFu tournaments in Japan, where KCC Igo from North-Korea indeed won a few times. However, after 2001 the strongest programs did not take part there. Yamashita Hiroshi is a strong Shogi-Pro. His Shogi-program YSS is almost unbeatable. He also wrote a Go-program, AYA, which is available for free on the internet. Mertin also showed us some links on the net with useful pages about Computer-Go. Nick Wedd from the UK did a page with past and future Computer-Go tournaments: www.computer-go.info and <http://dir.gmane.org/gmane.games.devel.go> gives many pages with discussions between Go-programmers.

The closing quote for our article on Computer-Go is from a small section of corrections to Chris Garlock's American E-Journal: Guo Juan 5P tells the EJ that the bottom line on her series of 9X9 games with MoGo is that "Without komi, the computer is stronger, but with komi the computer is weaker."

KING THE COMPUTER

Checkers has been solved, according to an online report in the journal Science on July 20. An improved version of the

Chinook program cannot ever lose, scientists at the University of Alberta who developed the program reported. "In essence, that reduces checkers to the level of tic-tac-toe," reported Kenneth Chang in the New York Times. "Checkers — or draughts, as it is known in Britain — is the most complex game that has been solved to date, with some 500 billion possible board positions, compared with the 765 possibilities in tic-tac-toe." You can play Chinook online, <http://www.cs.ualberta.ca/~chinook/play/> but the best you'll get, the scientists have proven, is a draw. (From the American Go E-Journal)

MINI-INTERVIEW WITH YOON YOUNG-SUN, 5P

by Peter Dijkema



*Yoon Young-Sun, 5p
Photo: Martin Chrz*

PD: Ms. Yoon, Please tell us a bit more about the two Korean finalists for the 1st Dali-Cup Female worldtitle.

YYs: Both were my juniors and they came from a different school. So I don't know them very well. Ms. Park was born in 1983 and Ms. Kim in 1986. The latter is considered to be a rising star.

PD: Seeing games from a new female Worldtitle and being a former female World-Champion yourself, you probably miss competition with your colleague female professionals a lot...

YYs: Yes, sometimes I miss playing in the World Tournaments. Now, when I'm resident in Europe, I study differently from in Korea. Here I study as a teacher. To stand a chance in such tough competitions, I should study harder...

PD: When did you win the title and didn't you also play in such a final the year after that?

Yys: Let's have a look at my name-card. Here is one for you.

PD: Thank you very much. Oh, I see, at the back it states:

1994-1998: Won Female Kuksu Tournament four times

2002: Won Hojak Female World Championship

2003: 2nd at Jung gwan jang Female World Championship

Editor's note:

The Kuksu title is an open title with a long tradition in Korea. The Female Kuk-su is a separate yearly tournament.

The Hojak-Cup was played in China. The jung gwan jang (a Ginseng-brand) Cup was in Korea.

VILLACH AND CULTURE

Jaap K. Blom presented us with his article, which contains two poems, both in German. He also found some quotes on tourism in Carinthia.

On the street where I live.

In my home town the Counter-Image Foundation initiated a project to have a hundred poems painted on walls of houses by Jan Willem Bruins, and on the street where I live the house on the nearest corner sports a poem by Ingeborg Bachmann. Ingeborg Bachmann was a prominent Austrian poet, radio play writer, and novelist, who lived from 1926 to 1973. In order to attract my attention, it was presumably erroneously reported to me that she was born in Villach. Other sources recount, that she was the eldest of three children of a Klagenfurt head master. She studied philosophy and language and wrote a Ph.D. thesis on Heidegger.

Apart from her own works, of which I can't judge the translations into Finnish by Kyllikki Villa, I have been recommended the reading of Karen R. Achberger: *Understanding Ingeborg Bachmann* (1995). And a definitely promising title carries Christine Koschel & Inge von Weidenbaum (eds.): *Wir müssen wahre Sätze finden* (1991).

Wahrlich

-Für Anna Achmatova

Wem es ein Wort nie verschlagen hat,
und ich sage es euch,
wer bloß sich zu helfen weiß
und mit den Worten -
dem ist nicht zu helfen.
Über den kurzen Weg nicht
und nicht über den langen.
Einen einzigen Satz haltbar zu machen,
auszuhalten in dem Bimbam von Worten.
Es schreibt diesen Satz keiner,
der nicht unterschreibt.

*(Ingeborg Bachmann, Klagenfurt, 25
Juni 1926 – Rom, 17 Oktober 1973)*

Inspired by this poem, Jaap wrote the following lines:

Liebe Ingeborg,

Such' nicht Dein Heil in lauter schönen
Sätzen die als nur menschliches vor Augen
schweben:
verlass' Dich lieber auf Naturgesetze
die später als Geschichte weiterleben.

Von Zügen wird viel strenger Übernommen
wenn sie erreichen ihre kurze Rast,
ob sie rechtzeitig oder früher kommen:
sie werden letztenfalls öfter verpasst.

Die Steine recht sorgfältig zu plazieren:
das Wo und Wann erweist sich auf dem
Brett; wie wir der Sprache Wörter selektieren.
Und damit kamst Du immer

aus, ganz nett.

Ein Mangel hat den Spass Dir doch verdorben:
Du bist wie Hans de Jong nicht alt gestorben.

A note from the editor:

Hans de Jong was a Go-player from Groningen. He took part in several EGC's, for instance in Nis (YU,1989)

What to see

„The real lover of Rothenberg or La Rochelle knows that each lover of the open road must find a Carinthia of her own.“

From: Mrs. Parkinson's Law, page 166

and:

„The strange, numinous beauty of this ancient land.“

From: Kampioen (6 - NL), June 2007, page 48: „De Grote Dolomietenroute“



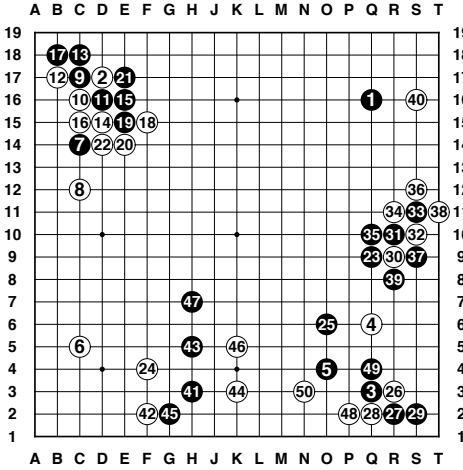
Ingeborg Bachmann (1926 – 1973)

Guo Juan, 5p Game Commentary

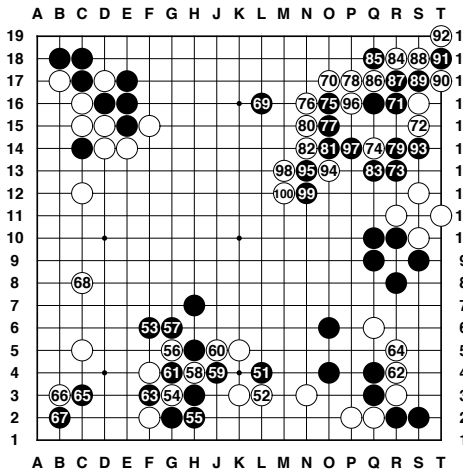
Csaba Mero, 6d (b) vs. Pal Balogh, 6d (w)

European Masters, Round 2/ Board 2, played on 22.07.07

Komi: 6,5; Result: Black wins by 5,5



(1-50)



(51-100)

B29: very severe move.

B39: very good result for black in the lower right corner, black got so very many points.

B51: too late.

W60: severe.

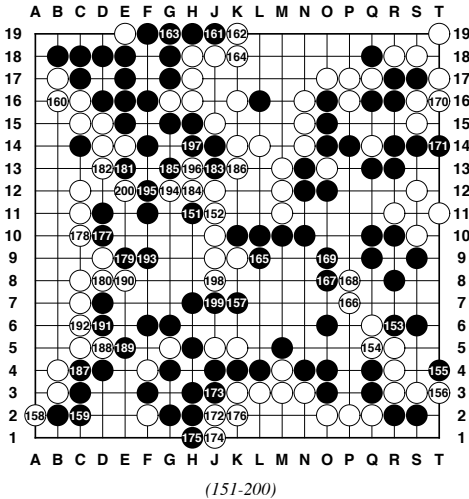
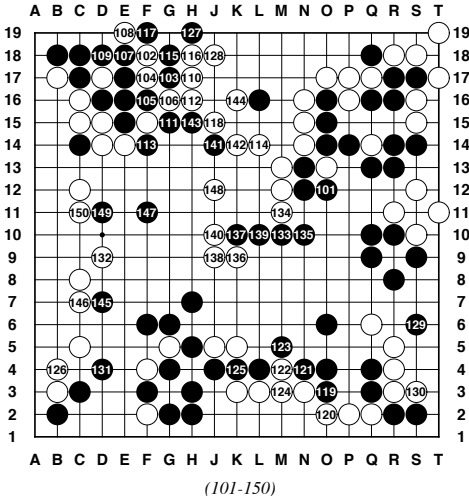


Csaba Mero (above) and Pal Balogh



B155: little better.

Game Credits: comments by Guo Juan 5p; game record by Hu Bin; Game diagrams created in Smart-Go by Chris Garlock, with thanks to E-Journal Assistant Editor Bill Cobb for technical assistance

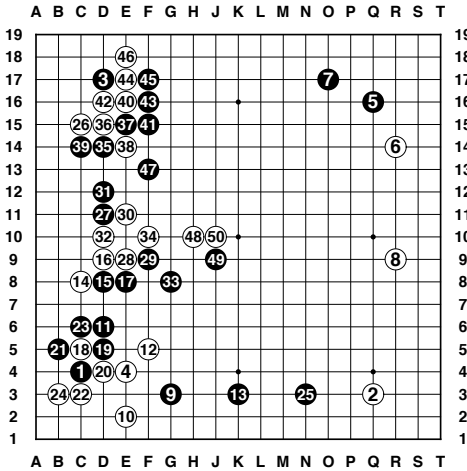


Guo Juan, 5p Game Commentary

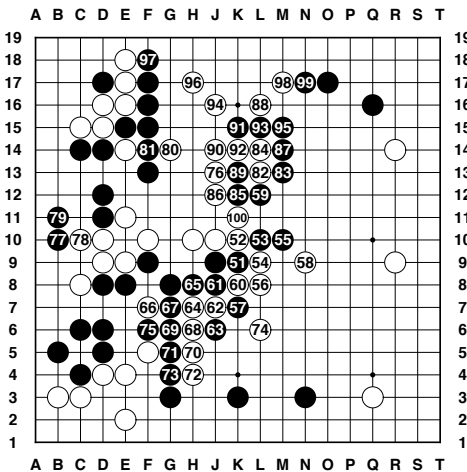
Alexander Dinerchtein, 1p (b) vs. Pal Balogh, 6d (w)

European Masters, Round 1/ Board 1, played on 21.07.07

Komi: 6,5; Result: Black wins by Resignation



(1-50)



(51-100)

W26: went too far.

B27: severe

B53: this is painful for white.

W54: not really severe because white group is not alive.

W62: severe cut.

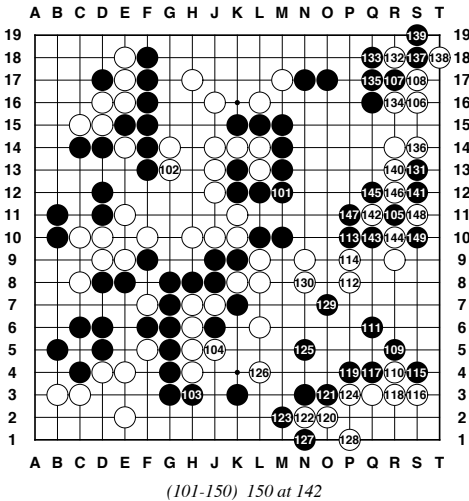
B75: White got good result in the center, but his big group is in danger. Still hard game for white.

W88: too far.

B89: severe.



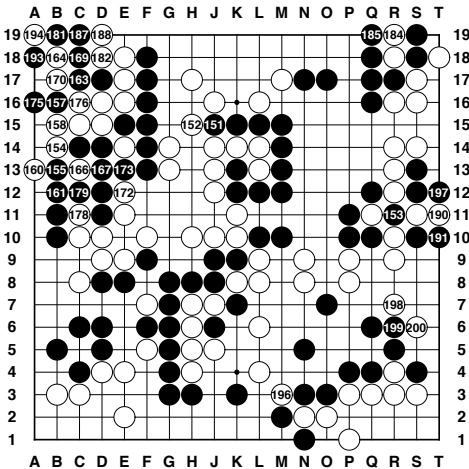
Alexander Dinerstein (l.), Pal Balogh (r.)



W104: the situation is good for black now. White upper left corner is not really big since black hasaji left there, black has very strong position that white will suffer a lot on the right side.

B149: white is in danger although he has this ko, because black is too strong, and this ko black can lose but white not. I believe it is very hard for white to win this game now.

Game Credits: comments by Guo Juan 5p; game record by Thomas Weniger; Game diagrams created in SmartGo by Chris Garlock, with thanks to E-Journal Assistant Editor Bill Cobb for technical assistance



KO: 156@Q11, 159@153, 162@Q11, 165@153, 168@Q11, 171@153, 174@Q11, 177@153, 180@Q11, 183@153, 184@R19, 185@Q19, 186@Q11, 187@C19, 188@D19, 189@Q11, 190@T11, 191@T10, 192@Q11, 193@A18, 194@A19, 195@Q11, 196@M3, 197@T12