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5th Brock Tournament

Article by Thomas Wolf
Edited by Nicholas Zacharewicz

With 30 players from Toronto, Rochester, Hamilton, London, Waterloo and St. Catharines we had the largest Brock Tournament so far this past year. Participation was free, and players had free food and drinks. This year's prizes were donated by Beate Wolf, along with artistic certificates for everyone. Thanks go to James for running the pairings.

The day started with a miracle. When the organizer (T. Wolf) came in the morning with a trolley full of Go equipment, food, drinks, prizes, the computer, etc., he noticed that he had forgotten the kettle. On a second thought, he realized that if the kettle had been in the cupboard where all the other Go stuff is stored, he would have noticed and brought it, so he figured it must have been lost. But then - surprise! - on the end of the sideboard where the food was to be prepared was our kettle, obviously having been left there since our last Go tournament a year ago, freely accessible to everyone on a public floor where several hundred students are passing by each and every day! This time we made sure to take it back to our Go Club cupboard.

Here are the winners in each division (players with a * won all their games):

Place	Dan Division	3k-5k	8K-10K	12K-15K	18K-25K
1	James Sedgwick	Avery Thompson	Musa - Al Hasa *	Kyle Cutler *	Chris Fontein
2	Nicholas Prince	Thomas Wolf		Owen Sedgwick	Daniel Oppewall
3		Dave Keenan			



Musa waving his arms in bewilderment at how awesome the event is!



(Far left) John Dew wondering how much of a beating he can take from (Centre) James.
(Below) Philip Wonder clashes in an epic battle.



Pictured left:
(Left) Avery Thompson vs Nick Prince.
(Right) Andy vs Thomas Wolf.



Pictured left:
(Centre) Steve Colborn from Rochester New York faces his opponent.

36th Winter Cup

Article by Jean-Sébastien Lechasseur

Edited by Nicholas Zacharewicz

With 64 players, this year's Winter Cup was the fourth largest ever organized (there were 65, 66 and 69 players in 1995, 1996 and 2004, respectively). A big thanks to all the players who participated. It's because of you that the event was a success.

Also, a huge thank you to donors +Georges Nehmé, +Cory Clouston and +Lydia Gallant, without whom we would not have been able to offer cash prizes. We also want to thank Guo Juan 5p and +Go Game Guru who supported us with generous sponsorship. We are also very grateful for the commentary of the first game offered by Diana Koszegi 1p and Kim Seung-jun 9p on +Online Go. Finally the great pictures below are a courtesy of +Mickael Rolland-Dery. Thank you!

You can view the results and the kifu of the three games of table 1 here: <http://goo.gl/G1Ba0J>

We hope to see you all at the Quebec Open in May!

36e tournoi d'hiver

C'est samedi dernier qu'a eu lieu la 36e édition du tournoi d'hiver. Avec 64 joueurs, il s'agit du 4e plus gros jamais organisé (il y a eu 65, 66 et 69 joueurs en 1995, 1996 et 2004). Nous tenons à remercier tous les joueurs qui ont participé. C'est grâce à vous que l'événement a été un succès et que nous redoublerons d'efforts pour organiser les prochains.

Un énorme merci aux donateurs, +Georges Nehmé, +Cory Clouston et +Lydia Gallant, sans qui nous n'aurions pas pu offrir de tels prix en argent. Nous voulons aussi remercier Guo Juan 5p et +Go Game Guru qui nous ont supporté avec de généreuses commandites. Nous sommes aussi très reconnaissant pour le commentaire de la première partie offert par Diana Koszegi 1p et Kim Seung-jun 9p sur +Online Go. Finalement, les superbes photos ci-dessous sont une gracieuseté de +Mickael Rolland-Dery. Merci beaucoup!

Vous pouvez consulter les résultats ainsi que les kifus des trois parties de la table 1 ici: <http://goo.gl/G1Ba0J>

On espère vous revoir en grand nombre pour l'omnium en mai!



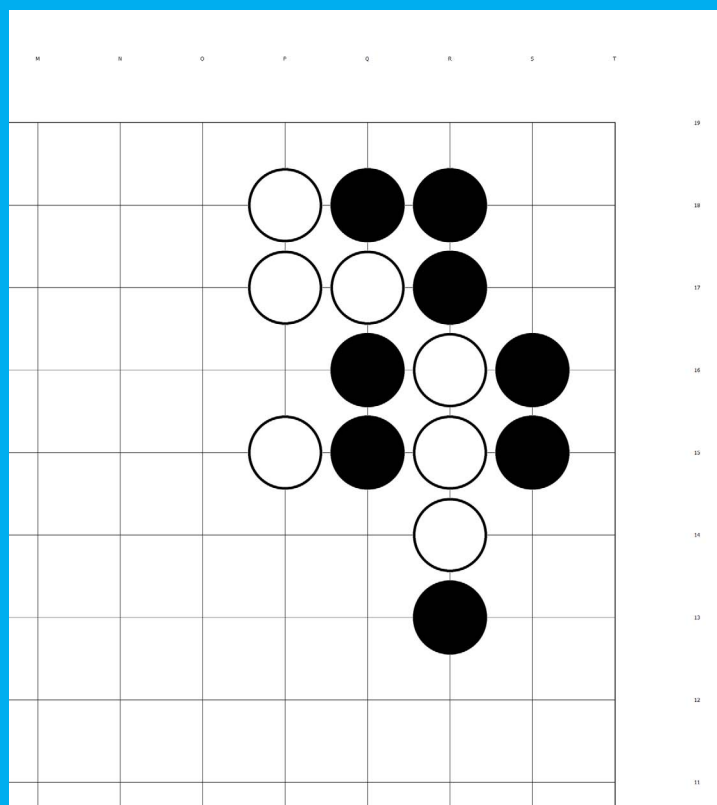
Article To The Readers

With great grind I am pleased to present the newsletter for this quarter. Starting now the CGA newsletter will be released every four months. The newsletter team would like to thank Irene Sha for her Go problems, James Sedgwick for his multiple articles on the CGA progress, Thomas Wolf for his article on the Brock Tournament, and Jean-Sébastien Lechasseur for the article on the 36th Winter Cup. We at the CGA continue to make strides on the website and encourage you to provide feedback and suggestions. The deadline for the next newsletter is July 15th 2015. As usual your contributions are very welcome. Please submit your articles and materials to newsletter@go-canada.com. We look forward to hearing from you and hope you enjoy the newsletter as we do making it. We at the CGA would like to thank all our donators over the years and our most recent donators - Minsung Suh and David Lu Fan for their generous donations of 800 and 100 dollars.

Matthew Mennie
CGA Newsletter Head Of Operations

Go Problems - Beginner Problem

By Irene Sha



Black To Play and capture. Solution attached
as SGF.

New CGA Website Now Live

Article by James Sedgwick and Edited by Nicholas Zacharewicz

First, for those who didn't read last year's newsletter (or have forgotten) recall the "CGA website" is really two sites:

1. A site using the content management system WordPress. This site can be edited by anyone with the WordPress login information;
2. A site using dynamically generated pages coded in C#, where the view of the site is controlled by whether or not you are logged in to the site, and if so the specific permissions of the currently logged in user.

Until late February the primary site <http://go-canada.org> was the WordPress site. The C# based dynamic site was <http://members.go-canada.org>. We have now changed it so that:

1. The primary site <http://go-canada.org> is now the C# dynamic site;
2. The word press site is now <http://info.go-canada.org>.

Here are some examples of things you would look at on the main site:

1. Tournaments/Events
2. Clubs
3. Member lists
4. Ratings
5. CGA league play pages;

And examples of things you would look at on the info site:

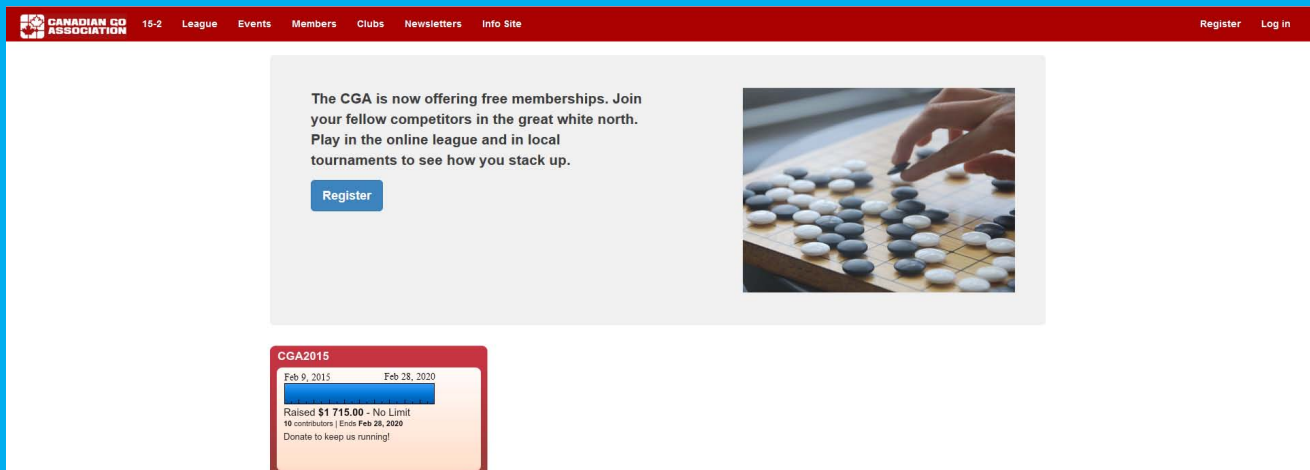
1. News letters
2. CGA rules/policies (like international selection)
3. Archived documents
4. CGA contact info.

As the dynamic site has added functionality, we now believe it to be the site users will want to access most of the time. Thus, the move to make this the primary site made sense.

Aside from the swapping and renaming of the sites, the other big changes users will notice is that the club functionality is now live. Any CGA member can go to the club page and create a club. We hope every place to play Go live in Canada will be listed on this page. Even if you meet only intermittently, or it is a class and not really a club, just go ahead and create a listing. You can list some form of contact (email/website/facebook group/google group/etc.) and at least people can reach out to you and find your group.

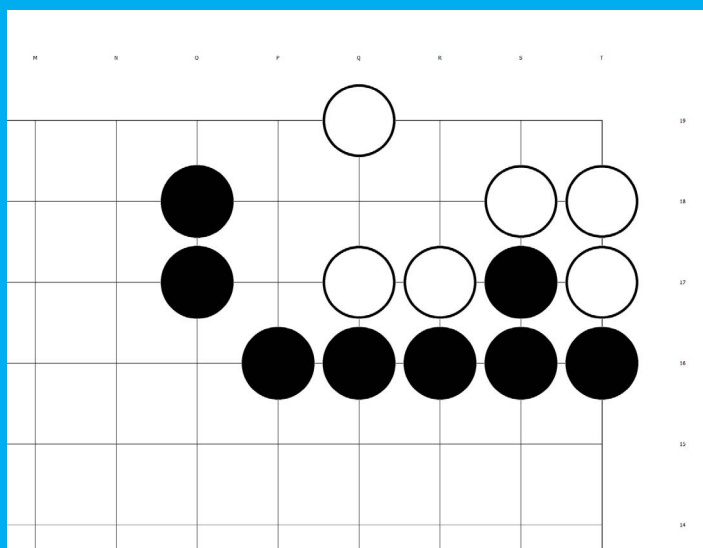
Once the club is created, any CGA member can go to your club page, and click "Join". The club's admins get access to the email of those that have joined the club, so announcements (like meeting cancellations) can be sent to the club. Initially the only club admin is the club creator, but they have the power to mark other club members as admins. Admins can also edit the page with the club information.

Thanks to our donors who made this work possible. Next up will be to add a bit of polish to the changes already made. Once that is done, we'll be taking stock of what should come next, and what we have funds available for. Internally we still have a long list of improvements we'd like to see made to the CGA site.



Go Problems- Intermediate Problem

By Irene Sha



Black To Play and capture. Solution attached
as SGF.

CGA 2014 League Prizes

By James Sedgwick

Edited by Nicholas Zacharewicz

Perhaps as a sign of things to come, Ryan Li dominated the league play in 2014. In the first session of play, he earned his way into the dragon match for round two (with a 4-0 score). In the next five sessions, playing for the championship in all of them, he then went 15-2 with one of the two losses being a forfeit. Wang Zi was the only player to take a game from him on the board.

The full list of 2014 winners (10 dollars or more) is as follows:

Ryan Li : 175
Bill(Tianyu) Lin : 75
Aaron Ye : 50
Wang Zi : 41.67
Jin(Sarah) Yu : 25
David Lu : 23.34
James Sedgwick : 15
Andrew Huang : 10

Ryan has showed no signs of letting up in 2015, taking the first session with a 3-0 score, though he has indicated he may retire shortly from league play, having now turned pro.

Pro Match Sponsorship Request

By James Sedgwick

Edited by Nicholas Zacharewicz

Given that we now have two professional players in Canada that have been certified through the American Go Association/ Canadian Go Association (AGA/CGA) professional certification process, the thought of a match between them comes to mind. However as they are professionals, there should be game fees/prize money involved.

The CGA executive may look for corporate sponsors as we can, but it's more likely funding for such an event would need to come from CGA members. The executive doesn't feel that such a match would be enough in keeping with our mission to serve the full Canadian community that we could fund it directly from general donations, but we thought it worth inquiring if there are interested sponsors out there among the membership. Donors could specify:

1. I'd like to make a donation to the CGA, and I'd be happy to see the funds used for such a professional match (particularly for a small donation this would make sense); or
2. I'd like to make a donation just to fund this event.

Please email president@go-canada.org if you have any interest in funding this match.

Canadian Internaional Representative Update

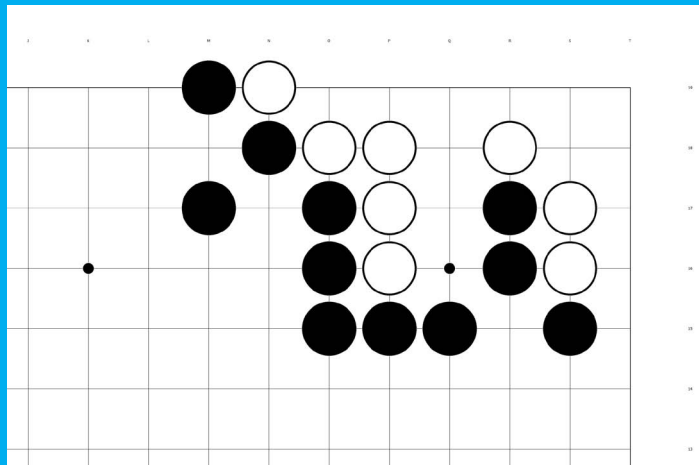
By James Sedgwick

Edited by Nicholas Zacharewicz

- For the World Amateur Championship in Thailand in June, Juyong Koh will replace Ryan Li as Ryan is no longer eligible due to his new status as a professional player.
- In the World Youth Senior division (under 16), Melissa Zhang will attend. David Lu was the top placing youth at the last Canadian championships, but he went last year and hopes to go next year. Since twice in five years is the limit for any one player, David has declined his spot this year. Melissa placed second among our under 16 youth players at the 2014 Canadian Open.
- Selection for the attendee for the Prime Ministers Cup in Korea in September is pending (emails will be going out to international selection point holders soon). As the Canadian open was moved back to Labour day weekend this year and the Prime Ministers Cup was moved forward to September from it's traditional November time slot, we cannot wait until the Canadian open to select a representative for the Prime Ministers Cup. All the same, the points earned at this years open will factor in to future Prime Ministers Cup selections.

Go Problems- Advanced Problem

By Irene Sha



Black To Play and capture. Solution attached as SGF.

The New Canadian Pro Ryan Li - Interview

By James Sedgwick
Edited by Nicholas Zacharewicz

Hi Ryan. Here are some questions for you:

1. Can you tell us about your training in China? How much did you study, who taught you, what were your classes like, etc.?
2. When you were in China were you hoping to become pro there?
3. What age were you when you came to Canada?
4. How have you studied Go since you arrived here?
5. Does turning pro change your plans for the future? Do you plan to study or compete in Asia as Gansheng has done? Do you plan to teach in Canada/North America?

Ryan's reply:

I didn't exactly "train" in China. My dad taught me how to play Go at age 5. He sent me to a weekend Go school lead by a top Chinese amateur named Shao Guang. After a few weeks, I really started to enjoy going to Go class. Classes were divided into rank differences of 2, and consisted of simul games, group lectures, and playing other students. When I left for Canada in 2002, at age 8, I was at 4 dan. I traveled back to China in 2005 in the summer to study under my previous teacher again, when I achieved 5 dan.

Since I came to Canada, I mostly played on Pandanet, and, afterwards, Tygem. I was only 3d on pandanet then, so I improved mostly by myself at that level. At that time I first tried life and death problems, they were very difficult. But I realized when I took a break, either by skipping it or playing a game online, I could come back and develop new intuition. Solving Go problems became a hobby, and my dad started to complain about the massive weight of Go books every time he traveled back to China. Eventually, I was able to win easily against other people of the same rank.

After talking with other Go players in North America, it seems most of them don't take life and death problems very seriously. Either they would say that life and death problems don't deal with other aspects of the game, or they just don't consider doing problems as part of improving Go. I disagree. Although life and death problems do not directly help with opening or end game, those aspects are improved indirectly; such as reading a corner and deciding if you can tenuki, or choosing the best sequence locally to benefit the most. Life and death problems are essential to improving Go in every aspect, directly or indirectly - that is how I improved.

Turning professional caught me by surprise, to be honest, as I did not see it coming at all. Though my primary focus is studying, I do plan on attending some professional tournaments like the Samsung Cup, given that there is no conflict with my schedule. Unfortunately, I will miss out on the great opportunity to study Go in Korea due to a research opportunity. I taught on and off on The KGS Go Server as 'Crazywind' in the past, giving private lessons and reviews. I will continue to give private lessons as 'Lurk' to any interested students.

We look forward to Ryan Li's accomplishments and congratulate him
in becoming Pro under the AGA Pro system!

Teaching Go To Kids

By James Sedgwick
Edited by Nicholas Zacharewicz

I'm lucky enough to have an eight year old at home with an interest in Go. This led to an invitation to spend one period teaching the game to his class, and one evening teaching his Cub group. For those who haven't encountered Cubs before, it is the precursor to Boy Scouts, for boys ages 8-10. Regular Scouts is ages 11-14. Typically Cubs meet once a week, in addition to a few special events through the year (most commonly assorted camping trips). Each group had 16-20 kids. For the Cub night I had two 12 year old volunteers from the Toronto Go club, Liam Hinzman and Yu Liu, helping out; they were a big help.

The 1.5 hour, once a week schedule works very well with an introduction to Go. The cub leaders are always looking for possibilities to fill in one of these slots, and were very receptive to Go when my wife mentioned it to them.

For both groups, I started with a 10 minute or so talk. About half of the talk was on the history of the game. Here's a summary of that part of the talk:

- From China, 3000+ years ago
- One of the four classic arts of a cultured person in China: calligraphy, painting, music, Go
- Played in Japan from 900 AD, Go schools from 1500 AD, played in front of the Emperor each year
- Ranking system like the martial arts
- Top players can make a living at the game
- Handicap system used, so players of all levels can play fun games together

The other half of the talk was on the rules. I used a large 9x9 demo board to demonstrate them, and didn't even go as far as Ko rules. Though one or two kids got introduced to Ko as it came up naturally on their board of play. After the rules, the kids started playing capture Go. I gave cheap Go sets as prizes for 1st- 3rd place (I can buy them for \$10 per set in Chinatown). Kids who wanted to could switch to regular Go (9x9) later in the session. Its amazing how many capture Go games kids can play in an hour, they averaged about 10 games each, and some played more than 15 (not sure if this will count towards their "thousand games until shodan:)) But anyway, they all enjoyed playing; for both sessions the kids were very focused, playing more games until the last minute they were permitted to do so.

At the end prizes were awarded and I distributed an information sheet with ideas on where the kids can go to learn more about Go. The information sheet I used is available at http://info.go-canada.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/North_Toronto_Go_Options.ppt.

I think there is a big opportunity here for others to get out and introduce other Cub groups to the game in the same way. Particularly because Cub leaders struggle to fill all their weekly time slots as it is. Anyone interested can go to <http://www.scouts.ca/ca/find-your-local-council> and inquire about local Cub/Scout groups. Girl guide groups may also be interested, since they have a similar structure. Although these days girls may join Cubs/Scouts as they see fit, many still choose to stay with the girls only organization.

