

# **European Championship Proposal**

(by Martin Stiassny)

## **The basic idea of the system**

- 24 Top "European Players" play 4 rounds McMahon, starting with the same McMahon score as in the EGC Open Main-tournament
- After two lost games the players leave the EC and change with their results to the EGC Open main-tournament (one player with two losses might stay in the EC after round 4)
- Top 8 after 4 rounds play rounds 5,6 and 7 with knock-out-system (idea 1-8, 2-7, ... but avoiding pairings already played in the first 4 rounds)
- Champion after 7 rounds (Sun, Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun)
- Exact order from 1 to 8 is possible, if all 8 play rounds 5,6 and 7 (an option for prizes). But probably only top 4 of the EC are wished, so only 4 top European players can't play the weekend-tournament of the EGC.
- Top 8 enter McMahon Main-tournament on Monday (second week) with their score of the 4 McMahon-rounds and the result of round 5. Gamesw played on the weekend don't count for the EGC Open
- Nice PR-event possible by presenting the European Champion in the middle of the EGC (relaxed, no stress like on last Saturday !)

## **Reasoning**

- The European Championship should be played without any influence of games played against "Non Europeans", according to a vote at the AGM 2009
- A two weeks tournament (with two weeks holidays to invest) is no longer appropriate for the European Go-scene. It is too long and too expensive for many top players.
- The result of the (last) EC should be an important criteria for the EGF whenever to decide about a nomination for an international tournament. But it's not fair to force all strong players to invest two weeks only for the EC.
- With the double knock-out system all participants of the EC still can get a final score of 8:2 in the EGC Open Main tournament
- From the 24 starting players only 18 will play round 3, only 12 will play round 4 and only 8 will play round 5 of the EC – so strong players of the EGC Open need not wait so long on strong "European" opponents
- In Round 6 of the EGC Open it might be possible that up to two players of the EC enter with a 5:0 score. So competition with strong non Europeans can start in the second week
- No super-group required, commitment only for playing 7 rounds (instead of 10), not necessary to find the top 8 "Non-Europeans" for the super-group of the (actual) Main-tournament, no deciding games on Wednesday in the second week. No changes to any established schedule (Wednesday keeps free in both weeks)

## **Additional Options (now or in the next years)**

- Game on last Saturday of the EGC between the European Champion and the European Open Champion possible
- Top 8 of the EC are qualified for next year's 24 players
- Wild-cards for "defining" the 24 players for the organizing country and the EGF still possible
- Start at EGC 2014 or EGC 2015. Romania (organizer EGC 2014) has a veto-right if they don't want changes for "their" congress.
- Cancelling of round 10 of the EGC Open to get the Saturday free for "special events" and to enjoy a big social event on Friday evening in the second week
- Workgroup for defining the details ("how to find the 24 players", pairing in the knock-out-rounds, etc) recommended