

EGF President's Report for the Period August 2010 – July 2011

Following the priorities I defined for my work in the EGF (international contacts, sponsors, new projects) here is a short overview:

Tournaments in Europe:

- 1) EGC: Now for the third time in a row it was possible to win Zhuyeqing Tea Company from Chengdu as a sponsor of the European Go Congress, with a rising amount compared to the last years and good chances to continue the cooperation in 2012.
- 2) Pandanet Tour: With the tournament in Paris at Easter 2011 the support of Pandanet the EGF got over many years ended. But in November 2010 the new
- 3) Pandanet Go European Team Championship started, with 30 countries and about 300 players. Compared with 2) Pandanet doubled its support. EGF got very positive responses from different countries, including the message "Best activity the EGF ever started". With the finals at EGC2011 we finished the tournament in Europe combining playing on Internet with face-to-face games.
- 4) Pair Go: The World Pair Go Association supported again our European top Pair Go tournaments (European Pair Go Championship, Pair Go at the EGC).

International Tournaments:

- 1) EGF received invitations for three tournaments, the BC Card Cup (Korea), Fujitsu Finals (Japan) and a Women World Championship (China, new event), where Ilya Shikshin, Artem Kachanovskyy and Rita Pocsai were nominated by the EGF. All over EGF got fewer invitations for tournaments in far-east in this period.
- 2) 32 out of 35 possible players from Europe participated in the last WAGC at Shimane (Japan). Compared with other regions this is an excellent result under the aspect that for the second time travel-expenses had to be covered by the players / the national organisations.
- 3) 10 pairs from Europe were invited to play the 22nd World Pair Go Championship in Tokyo.
- 4) KABA (Korean Amateur Baduk Association) organised again the Korean Prime Minister's Cup, with prize money and covering all costs (travel-expenses included). For the first time our new EGF member, Latvia, was able to send a player to an international event in far-east.

Young Players

- 1) EGF supported the European Youth Championship with some money and material although it's far away from the days where the Ing Foundation sponsored European Go.
- 2) Under the lead of Jana Hricova and Ales Cieply the third Transatlantic Youth Match (Europe vs. USA/Canada, under-18) was played in spring 2011 on the Internet, with the first win (6:5) for Europe.
- 3) Following a meeting in Tampere in July 2010 the EGF got a positive response from Mr Liu Siming, president of China Qi Yuan, for a new project: Young players from Europe get the chance to stay two weeks in China, including travelling to several cities, learning and playing Go, contact with professional players, pupils, families in China, and so on. All costs in China will be covered by China Qi Yuan. Catalin Taranu will be the European project leader for this exciting project, the goal to realise such a trip in August 2012 (as a start for common projects between EGF and China Qi Yuan).

Strong Players

1) With strong support of the Korean Government, both KABA and KBA (Korean Baduk Association) sent very strong players and professionals from Korea to Europe where they work in cooperation with the local Go organisations for many months already. These players help with comments, workshops, individual lessons and ideas to improve the strength especially of strong players in Europe.

2) During the EGC2010 in Tampere many strong players signed a paper that they are looking for / hoping on a development in the direction: more attention, better chances for strong players to keep/get Go as their base of living, better management, ...). Parallel Mr Kim Sung-Rae, representing KBA at the Baduk-Centre in Budapest, analysed the European Go scene and developed some ideas about opportunities for Europe supported by Korea. Many different opinions were discussed in the last months.

3) Referring to 1) and 2) you see an attached paper from KBA where KBA commits a lot of support to European Go if we start a new project:

4) "European Professionals" – organised, managed by a European organisation (sure not the EGF). We are just at the start of this new project and in the first step we need a team for fixing the goals, discussing a constitution, developing financial charts besides other things (legal matters for example). EGF will be the interface between KBA and the new organisation. Many important people from KBA convinced me that Europe has a very good chance and base to establish such a "Pro-scene".

Strategic Aspects:

EGF executive board decided to support the development of the Bucharest Go Club as a second Go Centre in Europe, besides the EGCC in Amstelveen. We are waiting on an offering / opportunity to open a third centre located in the centre of Europe (Czechia, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, for example).

Coming Up Soon:

End of August 2011 we will organise under the lead of Jana Hricova a new tournament on an invitation basis (similar to Ing Cup Tournaments) for 24 European top players in Prague. The winners of this tournament will build a team which will represent Europe at the Sport Accord World Mind Games, a one week event in Beijing in December 2011, similar to the World Mind Sports Games 2008 but much smaller. This is the first time that Europe gets the chance to compete with one team out of six (China, Korea, Japan, Chinese Taipei, USA, European Union) built by professional and amateur players.

This event in Beijing, together with our qualification tournament, is typical for the development of Go worldwide. Go is more or less accepted as sport in all countries, and the international events become more and more important.

Martin Stiassny, July 2011

Korea Baduk Association

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Refer to :

Addresser : Yang Jae-Ho(The Secretary General of Korea Baduk Association)

Subject : The official opinion of the Korea Baduk Association about the Professional System in Europe

1. This is to inform you that we could provide cooperation in the following areas when the European Go Federation(EGF) introduces the Professional System into Europe.
 - We could admit the European professional players who selected by the EGF as honorary players of Korea. The players will have the right to take part in the open tournaments such as Olleh KT Cup, BC Card Cup, LG Cup, Samsung Cup, Korea Myeongin, KTC Cup in which both amateur and professional players participate, on the same condition as Korean professional players. In other words, they would start at the pretournament only for professional players in the open tournaments.
 - We could offer baduk education within our budget to European professional players who could visit Korea at their own expense.
 - We could help you search for sponsors of the tournaments held in Europe.
2. We will appoint Mr. Kim Sung-Rac, president of Hungary Baduk Center as a contact officer between the European Go Federation and us.
3. We would like to send some representatives of the Korea Baduk Association to the European Go Congress to communicate with EGF members at the EGF General Meeting (28th of July).
4. We appreciate your cooperation in advance.

11th of April, 2011

Korea Baduk Association