

WELCOME TO THE THIRTEENTH MIND SPORTS OLYMPIAD!

There has been an explosive growth of physical sports in the first half of the decade. Now, with increased leisure time and more people working from home, MIND SPORTS will be the great growth area of the 21st century. And above all, the Mind Sports Olympiad is great fun for the players and spectators. MSO is a ten day festival of face-to-face boardgames and mental skills, which has been described as the single greatest concentration of intellectual ability in one building anywhere in the world.

- If you are an expert in your particular game or skill, pit your wits against others!
- If you would like to learn a new game, like chess, or Go, or Chinese chess, come along and there will be plenty of people to teach you.
- Stretch your mind by participating in a range of different games. You may be the king of one game, but can you be the king of all – the PENTAMIND CHAMPION?
- If you play a game, but want to move to the next level, MSO is a great opportunity to meet new friends sharing your interests.
- Creative thinking and mental calculations involve immense, but completely different, skills which also attract those who do not play boardgames.

The MSO team welcomes all players of whatever age and level of play.

The full list of competitions is shown on the attached schedule but includes

- Old favourites – such as scrabble and backgammon
- Brand new games showcased by their inventors (such is the skill of the top Mind Sports competitors, that inventors do not always do best at their own games!)
- Abstract games like Entropy, Twixt and Lines of Action
- Proprietary favourites like Mensa's 'Connections' game, Monopoly, and Settlers.

DATES AND VENUE

21 August 2009 (Friday evening) – 31 August 2009 (Monday afternoon).
Royal Horticultural Halls Conference Centre, Greycourt Street, London SW1P 2QD.
Directions and details are attached.

PRICING

Prices for each event range from £8 to £16 and are shown on the schedule. The first price shown is for adults; the second price shown is for juniors (defined as people who have not reached their nineteenth birthday by 21 August 2009).

For a flat fee of £99 (juniors: £85) you may attend any events on any of the days.

Late fee of £5 per event (max £25) is due for entry forms submitted on/after MSO has started.

JUNIORS

Juniors are always most welcome and pay reduced rates for most events. Junior medals are awarded for the best performing juniors providing there are at least four juniors OR the junior achieves at least 50%.

RULES

Rules for non-proprietary games are shown on the A-Z of MSO on www.msoworld.com. Rules of other games are included in the sets supplied.

Except where a difference point count or other method of tie break is in standard use, tie breaks will normally be made based on the score of the tying players in their individual match or their scores against common opponents.

The final decision on the interpretation of the rules of play and tie breaks in all events will be that of the Event Co-ordinator.

PENTAMIND

MSO's supreme champion will be the person whose total **Pentamind points** in their five best events is higher than anyone else's.

To compete in PENTAMIND players must enter tournaments for five or more **different** games / skills. The first two letters of the game code on the schedule show the game /skill. If you enter many events involving the same skill only your best performance in that skill will be eligible.

At least ONE of the five events must be a **long game**; and your best **long game** is therefore automatically included as one of the five events on which your PENTAMIND result is computed, even if it is not otherwise one of your best five games. A **long game** is defined as one scheduled overleaf to last at least two sessions and that in fact does last at least two sessions.

A particular event is eligible for inclusion only if i) it is scheduled overleaf and takes place; or ii) it is organised during MSO, an entry fee of at least £8 is charged and the event co-ordinator accepts it as a viable event, which will not normally be accepted unless there are at least five participants.

A PENTAMIND participant who enters a tournament and then withdraws from it before playing at least half of the games will have that tournament included in his score calculations.

No player may play in tournaments which clash in the playing schedule without the prior approval of the Event Manager or Event Co-ordinator. You risk expulsion from the Pentamind if you break this rule.

Pentamind points for an activity = $100 * (p-n)/(p-1)$

p = number of participants in activity; n = participant's position in activity

DECAMENTATHLON

Comprises paper-based tests in backgammon, Chess, Creative Thinking, Draughts (Checkers) 8 x 8, Go, Intelligence, Mastermind, Memory Skills, Mental Calculations and Othello (Reversi). Each subject weighted equally.

AMATEUR OLYMPIAD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Backgammon: the player who scores the highest aggregate from four events.

Chess: the player with the highest aggregate total Pentamind Points gained in Chess events.

Poker: the best aggregate total of Pentamind Points from any five of the Poker (Pot Limit) tournaments.

Abstract games: the best aggregate total of Pentamind Points from the Specialist Abstract events listed in the schedule. The more non-clashing events in which you play, the better! Special trophies are awarded.

SPECTATORS

Spectators are very welcome to view the events free of charge and maybe learn some new hobbies! Spectators are asked not to disturb participants by approaching them too closely or using flash photography particularly in events requiring significant concentration.

Enjoy the challenge. Enjoy the fun.

David Levy (Chief Architect)

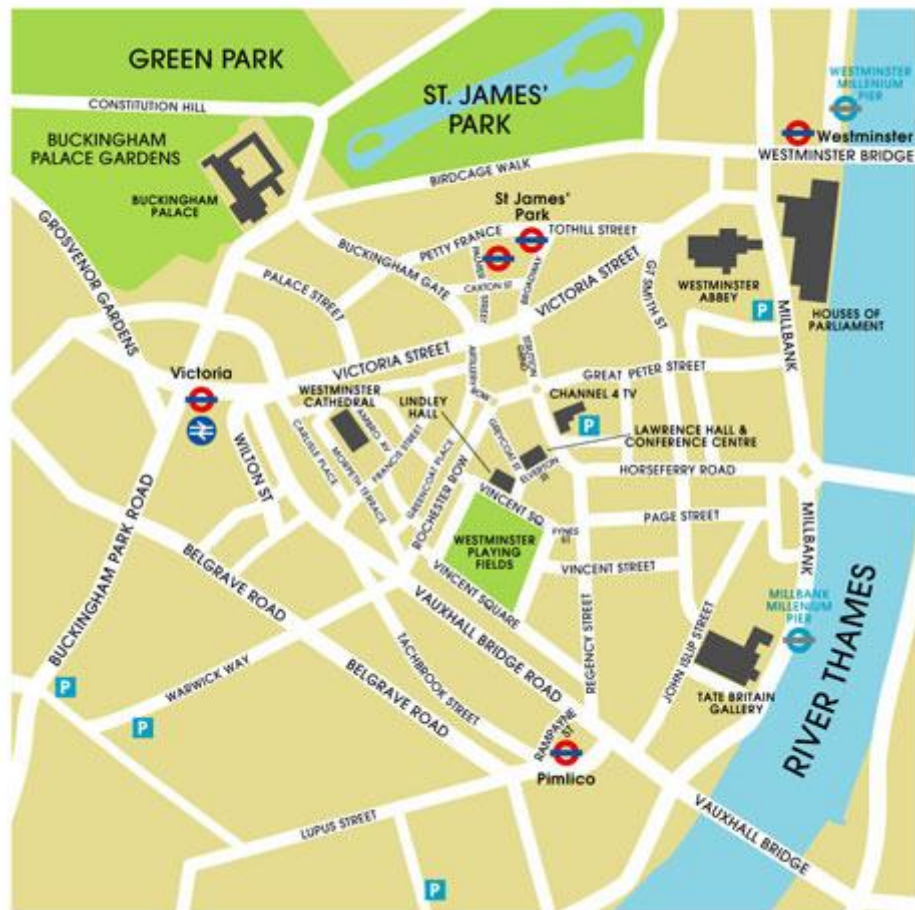
Tony Corfe (Event Manager)

Andrew Havery (Event Co-ordinator)

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HOW TO GET THERE

Venue: Royal Horticultural Halls Conference Centre, Greycoat Street, London, SW1P 2QD



The two nearest main line train stations are Victoria and Waterloo.

From Victoria station (15 mins' walk): Walk along Victoria Street, passing Westminster Cathedral on your right hand side. Continue to the House of Fraser store also on your right and then turn right into Artillery Row. Follow the road until you come to a roundabout on Rochester Row. Turn right at the roundabout and take the first left into Greycoat Street. The Conference Centre can be found 150m on the left hand side.

From Waterloo station: Take the 507 bus from directly outside the station, and alight at the stop on Horseferry Road just after Elverton Street. Walk down Elverton Street, The Conference Centre is on the corner at the junction with Greycoat Street.

Drivers:

From the north, approach from Victoria Street (A302) and turn into Artillery Row.
From the south, take Vauxhall Bridge, or Lambeth Bridge to cross the river. Metered car parking is around the halls, which is free during evenings and weekends.

ENTRY ON THE DAY

Doors will open at 0845. Play begins at 0930. Those who have not registered before the start of round 1 are likely to be defaulted in that round so do enter early. It will take at least 15 minutes to register a newcomer.

Please note that some events may not have enough space for players to enter on the day. We will endeavour to accommodate everyone who enters before 12 August and welcome everyone up to the start of the event...even on the day...but only where space permits.

ACCOMMODATION

Consider using Hotwire.com or Laterooms.com for good value local accommodation but if booking at the last minute it is as possible that hotel room prices will rise rapidly as fall.

Significant numbers of 3* guesthouse rooms are available in the Belgrave Road, Warwick Way and Wilton Road areas about 15 minutes from the venue.

Nearest significant 4* + hotels, which are within 5 minutes, are Grange Rochester Hotel 69 Vincent Square London SW1P 2PA
Tel:+44 (0) 20 7828 6611 Fax:+44 (0) 20 7233 6724 reservations@grangehotels.com; and City Inn Westminster 30 John Islip Street London SW1P 4DD
T: +44 (0)20 7630 1000 F: +44 (0)20 7233 7575 westminster.reservations@cityinn.com

Basic tea and coffee may be available at the site at times when the event is not busy but several pubs, sandwich bars and newsagents selling food are available within 5 minutes' walk.

PATRONS OF THE MIND SPORTS OLYMPIAD

Martin Burroughs, Geoffrey Burton, Tony and Barbara Corfe, Michael Cresswell, Claire Florent, Dan Glimne, Andrew Havery, David Levy, George Miller, Geoffrey and Elizabeth Nunn, Graham Parlour, Richard Pickles, Ben Pridmore, John Reade, and David Sedgwick.

Further donations to maintain the Mind Sports Olympiad should be offered to the event organisers. Thank you.

The 13th Mind Sports Olympiad is run by MSO Limited Company Number 4712990.

Abalone, Blokus, Continuo, Entropy, Lines of Action (LOA), Mastermind, Monopoly, Othello, Pacru, Powergrid, Rummikub, Scrabble and Triolet are all registered trademarks.

The logo on the front cover is a direct copy from a design on an ancient Greek vase.

MSO is a non-smoking event.

The Olympiad Organisers reserve the right to accept or refuse entry either to the premises or to any event to any person(s) without giving a reason.