



OLYMPIAD NEWS

Issue 1

Tuesday 19 August

LET BATTLE COMMENCE!

CONTENTS

<i>Let Battle Commence!</i>	1
<i>Maximum Result</i>	1
<i>Age Heresy 1</i>	2
<i>Early Climax</i>	2
<i>Do you want to be on TV?</i>	2
<i>Doing the Knowledge</i>	2
<i>Press Gang</i>	2
<i>Out of this Word</i>	2
<i>The Fibonacci Challenge</i>	2
<i>Phantom of the Opera</i>	2
<i>Interview with Dominic O'Brien</i>	3
<i>Results Section</i>	4
<i>Today's Events</i>	4

'Mind Sports were in danger of being an enclave of those who were intellectually superior, but it's everyman. It is egalitarian. Everyone has a brain - so let's use it' - Tony Buzan, The Guardian



Sir Brian Tovey launched the first ever Mind Sports Olympiad with this rousing cheer, setting in motion the first day of a record-setting 39 international mental events. The Chairman of the MSO mounted the stage of the Royal Festival Hall to the strains of Copeland's *Fanfare for the Common Man*, with cameras from Britain to Japan immortalising the inaugural event.

Sir Brian touched on the history of the Royal Festival Hall, built in the context of the Festival of Britain and 'symbolising the recovery of this country after years of war'. The RFH has hosted events dedicated to music, opera, poetry, art festivals, and now this unique gathering of intellectual warriors from around the world. Sir Brian hoped that the Mind Sports Olympiad, the first of its kind anywhere in the world, would act as a symbol of 'new recovery, and a new source of inspiration'.

Chess Grandmaster Raymond Keene opened the event with a ceremonial first move that also demonstrated the desire to make the Olympiad an instant tradition. The winner of this year's chess competition will close the first MSO with a reply to Keene's move. The game will continue, a pair of moves per year, and all of us here look forward to a long, hard struggle in this particular duel.

The attention of the international press and media seems to justify the organisers' enthusiastic lobbying for the attractions of mental competition. Brain expert Tony Buzan and memory master Dominic O'Brien were besieged by interviewers surprisingly eager to direct their attention above

the neck, and convey the message that cerebral striving is something that everyone can - and should - do. A leader in *The Times* captured and carried the urgency of this message: 'Modern interest in sport and physical fitness borders on the obsessional. We worship at the temple of the body. But the exercise of the mind is as essential to our well-being as our morning score of sit-ups. Honing logic, increasing mental agility and expanding memory, it heightens adaptability and staves off premature senility. The ancient world knew this well. It was for *mens sana in corpore sano* that Juvenal prayed.'

Maximum Result

The first day of the chess event featured the setting of an unbeatable record, though it is more likely to be recorded in Ripley's *Believe It or Not* than the *Guinness Book of Records*. The round one pairing between Nick Faulkes of Bermuda and Alec Aslett ended 1-1, with chief arbiter Stewart Reuben awarding both players a win.

A nervous finish resulted in Aslett convinced he had mated his opponent, while Faulks was equally certain he had won the game on time. Since this conflict was noticed too late to check the evidence at the scene, Reuben judged the most amicable solution would be to award both players the point. This result stands, though the computer pairing program protested vigorously, delaying the second round.



Age Heresy 1

The English veteran Michael J. Franklin ended the first day of play with a perfect score of 3/3, his final victim being England's newest grandmaster, Aaron Summerscale.

Early Climax?

Current British co-champions Matthew Sadler and Michael Adams clash tomorrow morning, giving the MSO the honour of acting as the unofficial final tie-break. Michael Adams moved on to 3/3 with a win against the teenage prodigy Luke McShane, currently the world's youngest international master.

A player who will be well worth keeping an eye on is the youngster Thiruchelvam Thirumurugan, the current British Under-8 Champion. In a busy last week at the British Chess Championships in Ilave, Thiruchelvam also tied for fifth in the British Under-14, despite being handicapped by an early half-point bye. Leonard Barden, chess correspondent of *The Guardian*, *The Financial Times* and *The Evening Standard*, as well as an experienced observer of junior chess, considers Thiruchelvam to be the second biggest talent of his age, after McShane.

Do You Want to be on TV?

Do you watch *Countdown*?

Mark Nyman, a former World Scrabble Champion, is competing in the Scrabble tournament at the Mind Sports Olympiad. Mark is also the producer of *Countdown*, the phenomenally successful TV quiz programme which involves a unique test of both numerical and verbal ability.

On Wednesday afternoon Mark is inviting 50 of the participants and spectators at the MSO to take a test which could result in an appearance on *Countdown*. The organisers of the MSO are also offering ten free places in the World Mental Calculations Championship (to be held on Sunday morning) to the highest

scorers in the numerical part of the *Countdown* test.

Anyone interested in entering the *Countdown* competition, which is free of charge, should fill in a form obtainable from the registration desk. The 50 available places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Entries will only be accepted from UK residents.

Doing the Knowledge

Skandia, the Mind Sports Olympiad sponsors, are well known for their promotion of Intellectual Capital. If you would like to find out more about this revolutionary concept, visit their Knowledge Café on level 3. The café features an Internet link to international brains and games and offers a 'Mind Rest' area to recuperate from mental battle.

The Knowledge Café is open every day during the MSO from 10.00AM to 8.00PM.

Press Gang

First day media coverage of the Mind Sports Olympiad proved to be a sensational success, with numerous TV crews and national newspaper journalists clamouring for copy. Amongst the many TV and radio stations covering the event are: BBC Breakfast News, Newsroom South East, ITN News, CNN, WTN, London Today, TV Tokyo, Nippon TV, British Satellite News, 7 Network Australia, Channel One, BBC Radio One and BBC World Service. An international team of journalists included reporters from: Reuters, Press Association, National News Agency, Rex Features, Ansa, *La Stampa*, *The Daily Mail*, *The Scotsman*, *The Guardian*, *The Daily Telegraph*, *The Sunday Times Magazine* and *The Times*.

Out of this Word

The first day's Scrabble event featured a notable winning margin of 472. This impressive feat was achieved by Harshan

Lamabadusuriya in a game against Peter Horlock which resulted in a score of 574-102. Harshan clearly has an excellent grasp of English, but his mother tongue is Sinhalese!

The Fibonacci Challenge

Thomas Naylor, the inventor of the two-player game Fibonacci, is marketing his brainchild on level 2. As well as taking on all-comers, Thomas is demonstrating and teaching this exciting new mental challenge to games enthusiasts young and old. Also on offer is the £1,000 Fibonacci Challenge which will be awarded to the first person to prove a forced win from the starting position for either the first player or the second player to move. (A forced win is one where no effective defence exists.)

Fibonacci has been described as 'an outstanding abstract game' (Angus Lavery in *Games & Puzzles Magazine*), and 'an intriguing blend of Chess, Backgammon and Go' (Bill Hartston in *The Independent*). If you would like to try your hand at this new Mind Sport, you are welcome to visit the Fibonacci stand on level 2. Thomas Naylor can also be contacted on 0171 352 2911, or the webpage <http://dialspace.dial.pipex.com/town/street/xmx54/>

Phantom of the Opera

The three-dimensional Sculpture puzzles from Really Useful Group consist of fine layers of die cut cardboard, built from the ground up in the form of Rodin's Kiss, Venus de Milo, the head, clock, globe, pharaoh and the new edition - Darth Vader's head. They are produced using the latest scanning technology.

Every day during the Olympiad a Sculpture challenge will be held. The person who completes the Sculpture challenge in the fastest time will win two tickets to *Phantom of the Opera*. Why not try your luck at The Really Useful Group stand on level 2?

Interview with Dominic O'Brien

Dominic O'Brien, the current World Memory Champion, is hot favourite to retain his title this year. Here he talks to the *Olympiad News* production team. What is your impression of the Mind Sports Olympiad? It's a big event! It's also rather worrying - I feel as if I am being fattened up for the kill. But I hope to do the killing myself! Of course the Mind Sports Olympiad is an excellent event.

You're competing in the memory championship, any other events?

No. I am just concentrating on trying to retain the memory title (the competition is on Thursday and Friday) and am directing all my efforts in that direction.

In the future do you fancy your chances in other events?

Maybe the IQ or perhaps the speed reading. I am not fast at the moment but when I have some spare time I will devote my attention to it.

What other events interest you?

Mainly the chess and backgammon but I have spent most of my time doing interviews with for example CNN, *Daily Telegraph*, Newsbeat (Radio 1), *The Scotsman*, BBC 1, GMTV and Sky.

How long have you been preparing for the memory championships?

Six weeks. I have been dealing out lots of cards and flashing lots of numbers up on my computer screen. I have devised my own program to do this.

What other things have you been doing recently?

I have been writing a memory course, comprising four books and 12 audio tapes, which will be published in the autumn by Linguaphone, the language people. They want to get involved in memory and this should be a good vehicle for them. The series will be called Super Memory Power.

How do you see the future for memory competitions?

It seems to me that they could become very popular as they are completely egalitarian - something everyone can do. Anyone can scribble numbers down and try to remember them. You don't need a chessboard, or Scrabble set, or backgammon board. If you know the right techniques anyone can do it. By getting involved in this publishing work I am, in a sense, digging my own grave. I eventually see myself perhaps devoting all my time to teaching, becoming the David Leadbetter of memory.

What did you do before concentrating on memory?

I used to have a job extracting silver from photographic waste. Unfortunately the price of silver plummeted, so I had to do something else.

And what got you started on memory?

About ten years ago I saw Creighton Carvello on *Record Breakers*, memorising a pack of cards in 2 minutes 59 seconds. I thought this was fascinating and looked into it. It took me three months to beat this time, and it was a further four years before it became a profession for me.

What are the practical applications?

If anything is good for the mind, it is memory training. Memory training develops all cortical skills and trains the whole of the brain, using both hemispheres. The techniques of using association, imagination and location employ all elements of the brain.

Are alternative techniques possible?

This is difficult, because the established methods are the most natural (the Greeks were using them 2,000 years ago). You can tinker with the details but the essence of the technique remains the same.

How has your memory work helped you in other areas?

I am generally more switched on and more focused. My concentration is also much improved. I recently had an EEG

on my brain, taken while I was memorising cards, and it reported that my brain went into the alpha state (7hz), which is the perfect learning state. It is also the state achieved when you meditate. I suppose this is logical, because if you are concentrating hard for 38 seconds you can't afford to start wondering if you've left the cooker on.

The events in the 1997 World Memory Championship are as follows:

1. Memorisation of a 4,000 digit number with one hour allowed.
2. Memorisation of 100 names and faces in 15 minutes.
3. Memorisation of 500 random words in 15 minutes.
4. Memorisation of a 300 digit spoken number, one digit every two seconds. This is scored by sudden death. If you get the second digit wrong - you score 2.
5. Memorisation of as many packs of cards as possible in one hour.
6. Memorisation of a random number, five minutes allowed.
7. Memorisation of images on screen: 40 images are shown and memorised. 80 are then shown again and the previously seen ones then have to be identified.
8. Memorisation of a 1,000 digit binary number in half an hour.
9. Memorisation of a 500 word poem, with punctuation, in 15 minutes.
10. A surprise competition, 20 minutes.
11. Memorisation of one pack of cards, in the fastest time possible. The competition world record is held by Andy Bell (41.37 seconds). Dominic's world record (outside competition) is 38.29 seconds.

This event takes place on Thursday and Friday - do you fancy your chances against Dominic O'Brien?

Day One Leaders and Medals

Magic - The Gathering (Final results and medals)

1	S. Dannell (England)	gold
2	C.J. Tongue (England)	silver
3	K. Nicholson (Scotland)	bronze

Backgammon Beginners (Final results and medals)

1	R. Biddle (USA)	gold
2	A. Baron (England)	silver
3	P. Martin (England)	bronze

Chess (30 minutes) (after three rounds)

1-7	M. Adams (England)	3
	K. Arkell (England)	
	M. Franklin (England)	
	J. Hodgson (England)	
	B. Lalic (Croatia)	
	M. Sadler (England)	
	G. Wall (England)	
8-11	J. Emms (England)	2½
	S. Conquest (England)	
	V. Hadraba (Czech.)	
	S. Williams (England)	

Shogi (after three rounds)

1-2	E. Cheymol (France)	3
	T. Hosking (England)	
3-6	A. Van Osten (Holland)	2
	M. Casters (Belgium)	
	S. Lamb (England)	
	M. Sandeman (England)	
7-10	F. Pottier (France)	1
	D. Foster (England)	
	D. Hassabis (England)	
	L. Blackstock (England)	

Draughts 8x8 round-robin (after three rounds)

1	R. King (Barbados)	5½
2	C. McCarrick (Ireland)	4
3	D. Kotin (USA)	3½
4	B. Long	2½
5	D. Harwood (England)	2
6	C. Shaffran (Australia)	½
7	D. Edwards	0

Othello (after three rounds)

1-2	Shaman	3
	Svekuni	
3-10	Cali (France)	2
	Brightwell (England)	
	Andriani (France)	

	Kitajima (Japan)	
	Nakajima (Japan)	
	Tastet (France)	
	Tucci (Italy)	
	Turner (England)	
11-12	Atkinson (England)	1½
	Parsons (England)	

Bridge Pairs (first session)

1	P. Hasenson/D. Sherman	286.0
2	M. Gold/D. Higginson	282.3
3	M. Beyer/Tesselaar	251.8
4	S. Dannell/P. Shepperson	238.0
5	R. Eaton/A. Salam	237.8
6	D. Pearce/N. Anderson	230.6
7	N. Buxton/K. Manners	225.7
8	J. Scott/A. Sandberg	223.9
9	M. Courtenay/S. Mohandes	222.1
10	T. Townsend/N. Sandquist	213.7
11	P. Hecht-Johansen/K. Blakset	210.6
12	Bharat/T.J. Nnando	204.4

Jigsaw Puzzles (after one round)

1	R. Harwood (England)	200
	(1hr. 44 mins)	
2	A. Smith (England)	200
	(2hrs. 12 mins)	

Skat (after 72 deals)

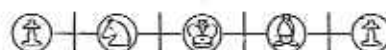
1	Dr D. Beisle (Germany)	1654
2	H.J. Schindler (Germany)	1519
3	N. Schäfer (Germany)	1488
4	K. Poggenklas (Germany)	822

Mind Sports Olympiad Medal Table after Day One

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
England	1	2	1	4
USA	1	0	0	1
Scotland	0	0	1	1



'Nowadays companies are increasingly aware of the importance of their intellectual assets which - though they may not register on the balance sheet - enhance competitiveness.' - *The Times* editorial, 18 August 1997



TODAY'S EVENTS

Abalone	..... am
Backgammon	..... pm
Bridge	..... pm
Chess	..... am
Chinese Chess	..... pm
Draughts (8x8)	..... am
Draughts (10x10)	..... pm
Entropy	..... pm
Fanorona	..... pm
Go (13x13)	..... pm
Go (19x19)	..... am
Hare & Tortoise	..... am
IQ	..... pm
Japanese Chess	..... am
Jigsaw Puzzles	..... am
Lines of Action	..... am
Magic-The Gathering	..... am
Othello	..... pm
Owari	..... pm
Rummikub	..... am
Scrabble	..... am
Skat	..... am
Twixt	..... pm

OLYMPIAD NEWS TEAM

Editor:

Jon Tisdall

Production:

Byron Jacobs and

Andrew Kinsman

(First Rank Publishing)





OLYMPIAD NEWS

Issue 2

Wednesday 20 August

THE MAGUS LUDORUM

CONTENTS

<i>The Magus Ludorum</i>	1
<i>War of the Words</i>	2
<i>Game of the Year</i>	2
<i>Press Gang 2</i>	2
<i>He just can't get enough...</i>	2
<i>Genius in Chess</i>	2
<i>Mensa at the MSO</i>	2
<i>MSO Prize Fund</i>	2
<i>Mark Nyman - Man of Many Words</i>	3
<i>Results Section</i>	4
<i>Medals Table</i>	4
<i>Today's Events</i>	4

'Mind athletes are athletes, every bit as much as runners.' - Tony Buzan, The Times



MSO organiser Raymond Keene bestowed this grand title on Alex Randolph, who describes himself, with modest humour, as an American inventor of games, of ancient demeanour, living in Venice. Randolph has published over 100 games, including one of the events at the MSO, Twixt.

Although 'Twixt, which started as a game for pencil and paper in 1958 - since when it has been in constant circulation - ranks as a classic, Alex doesn't rate it as one of his most successful. His best-seller (over two million copies) is the family game Sagaland and a small children's game called Snails, another popular favourite. Snails reflects a great deal of his philosophy about games.

Snails requires only that a contestant can count to two. Six snails of different colour advance after a throw of a pair of dice. Each face on each die is the colour of a snail, so the snails can never advance more than two squares in any one turn. The player who helps the first snail over the finish line wins, as does the one who helps the *last* snail. 'For snails it is customary and proper to go slowly,' he smiles. Despite its simplicity, the game contains two vital elements, tensions and rules, both of which he believes children dislike. He secretly credits part of the success of this game to the physical snails themselves, which he suspects 'the children use as missiles'.

Some of the brightest spots in a games inventor's calendar are the special fairs, and in particular the oldest and grandest, the Essen Games Fair, held every autumn. Nothing is sold here, but people - 125,000 at the

last one - pay to have a chance to play board games. He calls this 'the most gratifying moment of the year, watching an avalanche of people running to get tables and play.'

A new edition of Mad Mate is one of four Randolph games that will be unveiled at Essen this year. This knits two classics, chess and shogi (Japanese chess) by redesigning the western pieces so that they may be used by either player, and so redeployed for oneself after their capture.

Randolph's game philosophy embraces these ideas: to be successful a game must have tension. This means it must 'be absorbing and create an atmosphere when you enter the game that nothing else exists'. The rules should be absolutely clear and unequivocal. Ideally, there should be an element of simplicity - the rules should be quickly learned and easily remembered. And just in case there arises any doubt, he has two very fine guidelines: 'Anything that is not forbidden is permitted,' and 'The most amusing solution is the right one.'

While discussing their game from the shogi competition at the MSO, tournament leader Eric Cheymol (France) discovered who Alex Randolph was. Cheymol was overjoyed - he has a copy of the Randolph game Veleno, a strategy game for three players who must both cooperate and compete - but without a set of the rules. After years of suspense, this mystery has now been solved!



War of the Words

Here are just some of the words that were challenged in the first five games of the Scrabble tournament. How many do you recognise?

Aal; Aegirite; Arricross; Atoks; Bivia; Cornu; Cruve; Disherit; Emf; Gothite; Grum; Iceboats; Iazo; Meng; Mcsail; Nauplii; Neum; Obcaahing; Oulong; Pandects; Plongs; Pooter; Rundlets; Scolion; Skry; Snottery; Subidea; Vittac; Vozhd; Weber; Zenanas; Zobu.

All of these words are allowed!

Former World Scrabble Champion Mark Nyman has three wins from six games so far but recorded the highest winning total so far (712) in his sixth-round game against David Pearce.

Game of the Year

Dan Glimne of Sweden has just won the Game of the Year Award in Sweden for *Svea Rike*. Dan is a games inventor and writer and can

be seen arbiting the Othello tournament, as well as Hare & Tortoise, Lines of Action, and 'anything else they ask me to do'.

Press Gang 2

Chinese TV Network, France 2, MBC (Middle Eastern Broadcasting) and Quality Time TV (working on a series of documentaries on the brain) were today's notable additions to the media attention focused on the MSO.

He just can't get enough

13-year-old George Hassabis, who made chess headlines as long as seven years ago, seems to be bidding to become the MSO's most active player. He has already gotten off to a strong start in Rummikub, is competing in Othello and is trying to enter as many other events as possible. Today he was spotted entering Twixt. He will now be racing between levels two and six in the

afternoon to fit everything into his schedule.

Genius in Chess

This afternoon Grandmaster Jonathan Levitt, one of Britain's leading chess authors, will be giving a lecture on *Genius in Chess*, to tie in with his latest book, published by Batsford. Jonathan will discuss 'Intelligence, creativity and genius' and demonstrate some of the many original tests from the book. The lecture starts at 3.00PM on level 5, area O.

Mensa at the MSO

Why not join members of Mensa on level 2 (by the bar!) at 7.30 this evening for a special reception hosted by Mind Sports Olympiad founders Tony Buzan, Raymond Keene and David Levy. Musical entertainment will be provided by concert pianist Elena Konstantinov and cellist Oliver Gledhill. All are welcome - the event is free.

Mind Sports Olympiad Prize Fund

Event	Prize	Event	Prize
Abalone	MSO Medals	Magic - the Gathering	MSO Medals
Backgammon	MSO Medals	Mah Jongg	MSO Medals
Bridge	MSO Medals & £9,500	Mastermind	MSO Medals & £425
Chess	MSO Medals & £10,000 & Concorde ticket	Memory	MSO Medals & £2,000
Chess Problems	MSO Medals	Mental Calculation	MSO Medals & £700
Chinese Chess	MSO Medals & £5,400	Othello	MSO Medals & £7,000
Computer Programming	MSO Medals & £1,250	Owari	MSO Medals & £250
Continuo	MSO Medals	Rummikub	MSO Medals & £3,500
Countdown	n/a	Scrabble	MSO Medals & £5,400 & Concorde ticket
Creative Thinking	MSO Medals & £750	Shogi	MSO Medals & £5,400
Crossword Puzzles	Prizes supplied by <i>The Times</i>	Skat	MSO Medals
Decamentathlon	MSO Medals	Speed Reading	MSO Medals
Draughts (8x8)	MSO Medals & £1,100	Stratego	MSO Medals & £2,500
Draughts (10x10)	MSO Medals & £5,900	Twixt	MSO Medals
Entropy	MSO Medals & £500	Zatre	MSO Medals & £700
Games Workshop	n/a	Pentamind	MSO Medals & £750 & Concorde ticket
Gin Rummy	MSO Medals	Cash part of prize fund	£73,000
Go	MSO Medals & £8,300	Total value Concorde tickets	£24,000
Hare & Tortoise	MSO Medals & £175	Total value book prizes	£3,000
IQ	MSO Medals & £1,500 & Concorde ticket	Total value prizes offered by <i>The Times</i>	£10,000
Jigsaw Puzzles	MSO Medals	Total value prizes offered by Heart Radio	£3,000
Lines of Action	MSO Medals	Grand Total	£113,000

Mark Nyman – Man of Many Words

Mark Nyman, the 1993 World Scrabble Champion, is producer of the highly popular television quiz show *Countdown*. This programme was the very first to be broadcast on Channel 4 (on 2 November 1982) and in April of this year celebrated show number 2,000. *Countdown* is currently on its 37th series.

Mark is at the MSO to compete in the Scrabble event and interview prospective *Countdown* contestants.

How long have you been playing Scrabble?

About 16 years, but not continuously!

Have you won any other Scrabble World Championships?

The 1993 event (played in New York) was only the second ever championship. I did play in the previous one, but only entered at the last minute. The next championship is in Washington in November. I'll be playing there, as will two other players who are here at the Mind Sports Olympiad.

Is there good prize money?

The MSO event has the best prizes ever for a UK Scrabble competition. However, the World Championship is worth \$25,000 to the winner. There is also a \$10,000 first prize in Thailand.

What useful techniques will improve your game?

For beginners, the main stepping stone is to memorise as many two and three letter words as possible.

What are your memorable Scrabble moments?

My highest scoring word was 'conquest' for 284. I once scored 203 for 'excreted', which led to a quote in a Scrabble magazine that 'Mark Nyman excreted 203'.

How did you become involved in Countdown?

I was a contestant in third series (in 1983) and became the first Champion of Champions. In fact, I was runner-up in the actual series but they invited back all the winners and runners-up from the previous four years for a grand final, and I won this event. I was then asked to help out, initially part-time, with the programme and went full-time in 1990.

What were you doing before Countdown?

I completed a maths degree at university and then spent a couple

of years in the Civil Service between graduation and full-time work on *Countdown*.

What does your work on Countdown entail?

I work in the light entertainment department at Yorkshire TV where I am a producer on the show. *Countdown* runs all year round, so it keeps me busy. Each programme lasts 25 minutes and normally takes less than 35 to record. We do six shows per day, which is a fairly hectic schedule.

What can you tell us about the presenter, Richard Whiteley?

Richard is great. He's become something of a cult figure amongst older viewers and students. The rapport between him and Carol Vorderman is one of the great strengths of the show.

Why else do you think the show is so popular?

It has many appealing features. It is a family show and it fits in to the tea-time break. Also the audience can compete directly against the contestants and they are able to say 'I'd have won today!' The show has a simple and original formula with the format being unchanged since inception, apart from a few slight tweaks. The show is unusual in that we haven't made any attempt to move forward with new technology.

Why change a winning formula?

Has anyone ever lost their temper on the show?

One guy did utter one or two obscenities when he was losing to a child prodigy – one of the main fears of contestants. The other main fear is that they might score zero, which has only happened once when a contestant lost 80-0.

Does Carol work out her calculations in real time?

Yes, Carol is brilliant. The show is made pretty much as you see it.

Do people freeze on the show?

Yes, it happens. Some performances are unrecognisable from those given at the interview. My job is to minimise the chances of this happening, but you can never be completely sure.

Is the show international?

Yes, it originated in France where it has been going for 30 years. It also comes out in Spain and Italy, but it was knocked back in the United States for being 'too cerebral'. We hope to hold an international competition one day.

Who has impressed you most?

Harvey Freeman, the winner of last year's Supreme Championship is the most talented I have seen.

However, I beat him in a friendly contest when *Countdown* was featured on *The Big Breakfast* on Channel 4. I would like to play him head to head one day, as I was unable to compete in the Supreme Championship, due to being an organiser. The hardest worker I have come across is Allan Saldanha, who was only ten when he originally appeared on the show and was later runner-up to Harvey in the Supreme Championship.

How many people appear in each series?

Sixty new contestants are selected from approximately 360 interviewees. This week I am interviewing about 150 people and hoping to find 25-30 contestants.

How do you interview – do you look for charismatic contestants?

The main criteria is how good they are at the game. It is a cerebral show, and we are looking for all-round numerical and verbal ability. We only consider a contestant's character in borderline cases. Great personality is all well and good, but it is not much use if all you are saying is 'Consonant please, Carol.'

Day Two Leaders and Medal Winners

Draughts 8x8 round-robin (Final placings and medals)

1	R. King (Barbados)	gold
2	C. McCarrick (Ireland)	silver
3	D. Harwood (England)	bronze

Hare & Tortoise (Final placings and medals)

1	C. Dickson (England)	gold
2	B. Croucher (England)	silver
3	S. Tavener (England)	bronze

Chess (after six rounds)

1	M. Adams (England)	5½
2-4	J. Hodgson (England)	5
	M. Sadler (England)	
	A. Summerscale (England)	

Draughts 10x10 (after seven rounds)

1	H. Wiersma (Holland)	10/14
2-4	G. Valneris (Latvia)	9
	W. Van Beek (Holland)	
	B. Neven (Holland)	

Chinese Chess (after four rounds)

1-2	F.Z. Chen (China)	3½
	W.W. Cheung (France)	
3-4	H.S. Ty (China)	3
	P.L.B. Young (England)	

Shogi (after six rounds)

1-2	A. Hosking (England)	6
	E. Cheymol (France)	
3-5	A. Van Osten (Holland)	4
	M. Sandeman (England)	
	S. Lamb (England)	

Scrabble (after six rounds)

1	E. Simpson	5 (579)
2	D. Webb	5 (362)
3	A. Killilea	4 (482)
4	H. Lamabadusuriya	4 (457)
5	M. Thompson	4 (209)
6	R. Dowse	4 (172)
7	A. Cook	4 (42)
8	B. Iancu	4 (-128)

Othello (after six rounds)

1	Suekuni (Japan)	6
2	Nakajima (Japan)	4½
3-7	Brightwell (England)	4
	I. Iandell (England)	
	Shaman (USA)	
	'Tastet (France)	
	Turner (England)	

Go 13x13 (after nine rounds)

1-2	G. Zuan	6
	S. Zhang	

Abalone (after five rounds)

1	'Tastet	5
2-3	Cottogni	3
	Perelson	

Backgammon (qualifiers, to date, for Friday's gold section)

J. Balmforth, M. Barkwill, M. Jahانبani, J. Kwec, S. Paliwoda, L. Powell, P. Rastan, A. Robertson and R. Sheehan.

Entropy (after three rounds)

1-2	S. Tavener (England)	2
	R. Wikman (Finland)	

Bridge Pairs (second session)

1	M. Beyer/J. Tesselaar	578.8
2	M. Gold/D. Higginson	552.3
3	R. Eaton/A. Salam	542.8

Jigsaw Puzzles (after two rounds)

1	R. Harwood (England)	400
	(3 hrs. 39 mins)	
2	A. Smith (England)	400
	(4 hrs. 56 mins)	

Lines of Action (after three rounds)

1	F. Kok (Holland)	3
2	R. Wikman (Finland)	2
3	Bharat (England)	1
4	J. Bosley (New Zealand)	0

Rummikub (after eight rounds)

1	M. Naito	294
2	O. Omodera	209
3	S. Nakaya	194
4	H. Kitajima	167



Mind Sports Olympiad Medal Table after Day Two

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
England	2	3	3	8
Barbados	1	0	0	1
USA	1	0	0	1
Ireland	0	1	0	1
Scotland	0	0	1	1



TODAY'S EVENTS

Abalone	..... am
Backgammon	..... pm
Bridge	..... pm
Chess	..... am
Chinese Chess	..... pm
Draughts (8x8)	..... am
Draughts (10x10)	..... pm
Entropy	..... pm
Go (13x13)	..... pm
Go (19x19)	..... am
Hare & Tortoise	..... am
IQ	..... pm
Japanese Chess	..... am
Jigsaw Puzzles	..... am
Lines of Action	..... am
Magic-The Gathering	..... am
Othello	..... pm
Owari	..... pm
Rummikub	..... am
Scrabble	..... am
Skat	..... am
Twixt	..... pm

OLYMPIAD NEWS TEAM

Editor:

Jon Tisdall

Production:

Byron Jacobs and Andrew

Kinsman

(First Rank Publishing)

MIND SPORTS OLYMPIAD

PO Box 13388, London

NW3 2ZF

Fax: 0171 482 0672

<http://www.mindsports.co.uk/>





OLYMPIAD NEWS

Issue 3

Thursday 21 August

OUT OF AFRICA

CONTENTS

<i>Out of Africa</i>	1
<i>Chess and Bridge go Live</i>	2
<i>The MSO Art Gallery</i>	2
<i>Press Gang 3</i>	2
<i>Late Play-Off</i>	2
<i>Entrants by Country</i>	2
<i>Going for Gold</i>	3
<i>Results Section</i>	4
<i>Medals Table</i>	4
<i>Today's Events</i>	4

Delbeck Champagne Prize Draw Challenge:

Submit your answers to the registration desk on level 2. Check *Olympiad News* for future questions!

- 1) Who holds the world record for speed reading?
- 2) Who prayed for *mens sana in corpore sano*?
- 3) What is the children's version of Oware being played at the MSO called?

'People nowadays tend to exercise their bodies. I feel that it's just as important to exercise the mind. Sex appeal and beauty go out the window if there's nothing in the head.' – Dani Behr, Evening Standard Hot Tickets magazine



The promotion of the ancient game of Oware is one of the many success stories of the MSO. I hardly a soul passes by this area without pausing in fascination at the players seated on ornately carved wooden stools. These players mysteriously distribute tokens, which at first glance look like olives, among the hollows in an attractive standing board. The visual beauty of the entire display rivets spectators and TV crews, at least as much as the action of the competition.

Sadly, the Oware team competition failed to take place due to scheduling problems. But Seth Bonti and Glenda Trew of the Oware Society have transformed this misfortune into an opportunity, using the free time to introduce over 300 newcomers to the charms of the game. When top players Ian Paquette of Dominique, Sakili Richards of Antigua and Kofi Bonsu of Ghana ('devastating players' warns Bonti) arrive for the weekend, they may find a surprisingly large contingent facing them.

Bonti agrees that Oware has capitalised on its attractions. 'The game has an obvious aesthetic appeal, and it is so simple to play and learn. If this event were taking place in Africa there would be over 1,000 entrants, but now instead we're making new converts.'

A few questions about the background of Oware produces a mind-boggling wave of facts. Even the name can be confusing. The game has its roots in the ancient civilisations of Ethiopia and Egypt well over 3,000 years ago, and can be found under a bewildering number of guises around the world. The word Oware stems

from Ghana, where it includes three versions (Abapa, Nam-Nam and Nampoudo), with similar variations proliferating from country to country.

How many countries play Oware? Bonti manages 'Ghana, Nigeria, the Ivory Coast, Antigua, Barbados, Malaysia, Indonesia, Egypt, the Philippines, Ethiopia...' before I stop him. Suddenly he is off on a list of the different names for the game – Ayo, Bao, Kalak...

Here at the MSO they are playing a version with six hollows (houses) in front of each player, and two bowls on the side. Seth informs me that seven houses each is popular in Asia, and five is known as well. As we go around the display area I spot an unusual flat board with 32 houses, two of them square instead of round, and only one dish. To explain the difference between this and the more classic forms, Bonti only offers 'It's complex,' obviously recognising that I am now adrift in an ocean of information. Luckily, Oware is far easier to play than research. To learn, visit the Oware Society on level 2.

Where can you ...
Find out if you are a Pitta, Vata or Kapha mind/body type?
Challenge Chessmaster 5000?
Take a quick tour of the Internet?

Answer
At the Skandia Knowledge Café on level 3. Why not take a look!



Skandia

Chess and Bridge go Live

The Mind Sports Olympiad online is virtually here! On Saturday 23 August 1997 at 9.00PM the first MSO virtual chess tournament will be launched. The event is open to all ages and all levels with great prizes to be won. The tournament will consist of five rounds of five-minute chess, with play-offs to be arranged if necessary. Entry is free. Enter by e-mail to mso@chessworks.com.

The host of this prestigious event is the Internet Chess Club <http://www.chessclub.com>. Free software is also available from the site for anyone who wants to play in the tournament.

The companion Virtual Bridge individual championship will be held from Friday to Sunday, play starting at 2.00PM and 7.00PM. Bridge has been growing in cyberspace for some time and this tournament will link players around the globe. The event will use the sophisticated Bridge Player Live! software. Full details on website www.bridgeplayer.com.

Here is an interesting bridge hand from Tuesday's play.

♠ A 8 5 3		♠ 0 6
♥ A 3 2		♥ 8 7 6 5
♦ K 0		♦ A J 8 7 5
♣ K 10 7 5		♣ 3 2
♠ 10 7 4	N W E S	♠ K J 9 2
♥ K J 10		♥ 0 9 4
♦ 9 6 4 2		♦ 10 3
♣ 0 J 9		♣ A 8 6 4

Gerald Haase was declarer, partnering Victor Silverstone.

They reached the contract of 4♠ after the following auction:

N	S
1♣	1♠
3♠	4♠

A diamond was led and returned. The problem facing South is that he has four losers which he must collapse into three. Gerald accomplished this by drawing trumps, and following up with the play of A, K and another club. West was thus endplayed and had to lead from the ♥K. The defence heart trick vanished!

The MSO Art Gallery

If you are lucky, you may meet artist Barry Martin on your visit to the MSO's gallery on level 6. Martin has assembled an impressive collection, some of which are for sale, with a varied approach to the common theme of games.

The first piece literally stands out from the others, a three-dimensional work by Dov Ben Chaim that reveals glimpses of different games when you slowly rotate it. 'Ben Chaim was taught by Vasarely, the procreator of Op Art,' says Martin, and goes on to explain some of his ideas behind the exhibition.

'Some of the works have a direct, explicit, approach to the games shown. Others were chosen because they have shapes - configurations - like puzzles in their own right. They are all flat surfaces so there is an immediate rapport with games - all are essentially two-dimensional boards.' He hopes that the more abstract works strike a chord by evoking a type of pattern and shape recog-

nition shared by board games.

Unsurprisingly, there are tales and details behind most of the exhibits. There is a Marcel Duchamp which looks like a financial certificate. It is. 'Duchamp did this to raise money for a roulette system he devised, and sold them to his friends. This is a sort of IOU note.' Duchamp, a keen chessplayer, appears at the top, a shadowy, demonic figure that seems to be sporting horns. 'The horns are his hair, moulded with shampoo, Martin reveals.

Martin himself bridges the chess and art world. After much detective work, he was appalled to find Howard Staunton's burial plot, completely unmarked, near the pauper's row in Kensal Green Cemetery. Martin's most recent achievement was unveiled last month, a granite memorial finally honouring Staunton's place of rest.

Press Gang 3

Coverage of the MSO continues to expand. The BBC World Service for Latin America and Brazilian TV company Globo arrived today to spread the message even further.

Late Play-Off

The highlight of the chess has been the clash between Britain's two highest-ranked players, Michael Adams and Matthew Sadler. Last week at the British Championships in Hove, these two players finished joint first and the MSO has provided the opportunity for a 'play-off'. In a fierce struggle, Adams eventually repulsed a vicious sacrificial attack and won on time.

Mind Sports Olympiad - Entrants by Country

Antigua	3	Canada	3	Germany	47	Italy	16	Poland	4	Uganda	1
Armenia	10	China	18	Guadeloupe	1	Japan	23	Russia	3	Ukraine	27
Australia	15	Croatia	5	Holland	69	Kenya	8	Scotland	4	USA	18
Azerbaijan	15	Czech Rep.	16	Hong Kong	1	Latvia	2	Sierra Leone	1	Uzbekistan	2
Bangladesh	1	Denmark	2	Iceland	1	Lithuania	2	South Africa	5	Vietnam	1
Barbados	3	England	576	India	7	Malaysia	14	Sri Lanka	2	Wales	1
Belarus	3	Estonia	2	Iran	4	Mongolia	17	Switzerland	2	Zambia	2
Belgium	4	Finland	7	Ireland	16	New Zealand	9	Turkey	1	Unknown	7
Bermuda	4	France	24	Israel	10	Nigeria	4	Turkmenistan	2		

GOING FOR GOLD!

One of the most popular events at the Mind Sports Olympiad so far has been the backgammon tournament, the gold finals of which will be held on Friday. *Olympiad News* asked Chief Arbiter Haig Kessedjian, who runs the National Backgammon Players Society, about the growing backgammon scene in the UK and overseas.

How did you become interested in backgammon?

Well, although I have been based in the UK for about 30 years, I was born in Egypt, where there is a very strong backgammon tradition. Nowadays I run my own small construction company, playing backgammon and organising tournaments in my spare time.

How have things been going at the Mind Sports Olympiad?

We have had a fantastic response from both newcomers who have read about the event in the national press and from experienced players who are delighted to find something going on. We had about 90 players here on the first two days and are anticipating many more at the weekend.

How is backgammon organised in this country?

Most players join associations and societies and play in local events. There are dozens of small groups around the country, but not as many as for chess and bridge.

Are there many tournaments?

Yes, more and more. The highlight of the UK calendar is the national championship, which is held over a weekend and usually attracts around 80 players. Unfortunately, however, we are not allowed to offer prizes in tournaments as in the UK backgammon is classified as a 'game of chance' (bridge used to have the same problem but extensive lobbying led to a reclassification some years ago). This restriction has certainly hampered the development of the game over here.

Are prizes allowed in other countries?

Yes, the most prestigious tournament is the annual World Championship in Monte Carlo, which has been held for about 20

years. The first prize is around £35,000 and entry fees are £400.

The championships, run on a knockout basis, last for one week and there are 'consolation flights' (plate tournaments) for players who are eliminated in the early rounds. There is no qualifying procedure for this - anyone can turn up and play. The element of chance means that nearly every year someone different wins.

So how does chance affect the results in backgammon?

There is a large element of luck, but over a very long playing period, skill will always triumph. If a match lasts five days, then the more skilful player certainly wins. However, the element of chance can cause considerable fluctuations in a player's ranking. In contrast, chess rankings are much more stable. Here for example, on Tuesday, a player who has won several national competitions struggled to qualify for the finals.

What are the big backgammon-playing countries?

The game is very popular in the USA, particularly in New York. The Americans have internationalised it, and introduced the crucial innovation of the doubling cube.

The Danes also love to play and their experience offers a blueprint for how the game could advance in the UK. They have achieved two important breakthroughs: an understanding between backgammon and the law which allows games to be played publicly, particularly in cafés; and a sponsorship deal with Carlsberg which enables them to promote the game extensively.

What about the gambling element?

This is really a myth - backgammon can be a gambling game, but it is perfectly possible to play

for fun. After all, if you want to gamble you can do so on tennis, golf, whatever, even though these are pure skill events. However, the development of backgammon has suffered due to a misplaced association with gambling.

What format do you use in events?

Although in international tournaments a knockout system is used, here in the UK we have adapted the Swiss format from chess. This was brought in to keep the interest of players who might otherwise be on their way home after one defeat. No matter what their results, under the Swiss system at least the players know they will have plenty of games.

What are your thoughts on computer programmes for backgammon?

These are now very strong and make backgammon accessible for players who do not have easily accessible opponents to play against. However, playing a machine is not a substitute for the thrill of live action.

How strong are the computers?

Pretty good. I would guess that the best program would be ranked approximately 10th in the UK.

Are there big gambling games?

Yes, but they are played privately and writing about these is not permitted. It is curious that you can write about the strategy of backgammon, the tournaments, etc, but not about money games. Although you can't write about it, you are allowed to play for money in your home or even in prison!

Anyone interested in joining the National Backgammon Players Society, which is affiliated to the Worldwide Backgammon Federation in Switzerland, should write to: 27 Moorfield Road, Manchester M20 2UZ (Tel: 0161 438 0966).

Day Three Leaders and Medal Winners

Abalone (Final placings and medals)

- 1 M. Tastet (France) gold
- 2 A. Perelson (S. Africa) silver
- 3 G. Cottogni (Italy) bronze

Entropy (Final placings and medals)

- 1 M. Heasman (England) gold
- 2 P. Horlock (England) silver
- 3 S. Tavener (England) bronze

Lines of Action

(Final placings and medals)

- 1 F. Kok (Holland) gold
- 2 R. Wikman (Finland) silver
- 3 J. Bosley (New Zealand) bronze

Twixt (Final placings and medals)

- 1 A. Randolph (USA) gold
- 2 D. Hassabis (England) silver
- 3 G. Hassabis (England) bronze

Chess (after nine rounds)

- 1 M. Adams (England) 8
- 2-4 K. Arkell (England) 7
- H.J. Plaskett (England)
- M. Sadler (England)
- 5-7 J. Hodgson (England) 6½
- B. Lalic (Croatia)
- A. Summerscale (England)

Draughts 10x10 (after ten rounds)

- 1-3 I. Kirzner (Ukraine) 13
- G. Valneris (Latvia)
- H. Wiersma (Holland)

Chinese Chess (after six rounds)

- 1 F.Z. Chen (China) 5½
- 2 W.W. Cheung (France) 5

Shogi (after nine rounds)

- 1 F. Cheymol (France) 9
- 2 A. Hosking (England) 8
- 3-4 M. Sandeman (England) 7
- S. Lamb (England)

Scrabble (after nine rounds)

- 1 M. Thompson (England) 7 (507)
- 2 A. Killilea (England) 6 (669)
- 3 E. Simpson (England) 6 (575)
- 4 H. Lamabadusuriya (Sri Lanka) 6 (469)
- 5 D. Webb (England) 6 (278)
- 6 A. Cook (England) 6 (165)

Skat (after 180 deals)

- 1 H.J. Schindler (Germany) 4028
- 2 Dr D. Beise (Germany) 3555
- 3 N. Schäfer (Germany) 3444
- 4 K. Poggenklas (Germany) 2084

Othello (after ten rounds)

- 1 Suckuni (Japan) 9
- 2 T. Nakajima (Japan) 7

Go 19x19 (after three rounds)

- 1-2 Z. Guo (Holland) 3
- E. Cali (France)

Go 13x13 (after seven rounds)

- 1-2 G. Zuan 6
- S. Zhang
- 3 M. Holton (England) 4

Jigsaw Puzzles (after three rounds)

- 1 R. Harwood (England) 506
- 2 A. Smith (England) 502
- 3 P. Wood (England) 310

Rummikub (after twelve rounds)

- 1 G. Hassabis (England) 320
- 2 M. Naito (Japan) 299
- 3 H. Kitajima (Japan) 286
- 4 O. Omodera (Japan) 71

Backgammon (qualifiers, to date, for Friday's gold section)

J. Balmforth, M. Barkwill, N. Carol, J. Clark, D. De Tuffoli, R. Hellman, M. Jahanbani, J. Kwee, S. Paliwoda, L. Powell, P. Rastan, S. Rimmer, A. Robertson and R. Sheehan.

Bridge Pairs (qualifiers for today's final)

M. Beyer/J. Tesselaar, R. Eaton/A. Salam, P. Hasenson/D. Sherman, M. Gold/D. Higginson, D. Pearce/N. Anderson, S. Dannell/P. Shepperson, P. Hecht-Johansen/K. Blakset and P. Beckenham/D. Ettlinger.



Mind Sports Olympiad Medal Table after Day Three

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
England	3	5	5	11
USA	2	0	0	2
Barbados	1	0	0	1
France	1	0	0	1
Holland	1	0	0	1
Finland	0	1	0	1
Ireland	0	1	0	1
S. Africa	0	1	0	1
Italy	0	0	1	1
New Zealand	0	0	1	1
Scotland	0	0	1	1



TODAY'S EVENTS

- Backgammon.....pm
- Bridge.....pm
- Chess.....am
- Chinese Chess.....pm
- Draughts (10x10).....pm
- Go (13x13).....pm
- Go (19x19).....am
- IQ.....pm
- Japanese Chess.....am
- Jigsaw Puzzles.....am
- Mastermind.....day
- Memory Skills.....day
- Othello.....pm
- Owari.....pm
- Rummikub.....am
- Scrabble.....am
- Skat.....am
- Stratego.....day
- Zatre.....day

OLYMPIAD NEWS TEAM

Editor:

Jon Tisdall

Production:

Byron Jacobs and

Andrew Kinsman

(First Rank Publishing)

MIND SPORTS OLYMPIAD

PO Box 13388,

London NW3 2ZF

Fax: 0171 482 0672

<http://www.mindsports.co.uk/>





OLYMPIAD NEWS

Issue 4

Friday 22 August

MEMORY MATTERS

CONTENTS

<i>Memory Matters</i>	1
<i>Young and Old,</i>	
<i>Masters and Beginners</i>	2
<i>Perfect Pairings</i>	2
<i>Side-Show</i>	2
<i>Poker Prevented</i>	2
<i>Games of Old</i>	2
<i>Draughts Large and Small</i> ...	2
<i>Delbeck Champagne</i>	
<i>Prize Draw Challenge 2</i>	2
<i>Games People Play</i>	3
<i>Results Section</i>	4
<i>Medals Table</i>	4
<i>Today's Events</i>	4

'The Mind Sports Olympiad is a threshold event on the hinge of history. The 21st century will be dominated by brainpower. Gaming and competence in games such as those at the MSO will become a very important aspect of wealth creation in the future.' – Keith Bradley, Professor of International Management, Director of Business Research, The Open University Business School.



One of the media darlings of the MSO has been reigning World Memory Champion Dominic O'Brien. His amazing skills are readily accessible to the public – everyone can understand the magnitude of the feats performed in this event. O'Brien started today's championships with a record-breaking performance. At the same time, rival Andy Bell made it clear that this year's Memoriad will be a vicious battle.

The first of the 12 challenges is the memorisation of a multiple digit number in an hour. This year the test number totalled 4,000 digits since the customary 2,000 was considered too low(!). O'Brien shattered his own world record of 1,392 by raising the mark to 1,512. Incredibly, Bell took an early lead in the competition by toppling Dominic from this list for the first time – the world record is now 1,620 digits!

O'Brien then resumed his customary spot at the head of the leader table by winning the 100 names and faces event, as well as the 500 random words (with another world record). Bell moved closer by winning the 300 spoken numbers – another O'Brien speciality – and another double world record, Andy raising the bar in this competition to 228.

The tension escalated as these titans continued to vault over earlier mental landmarks. In the one hour recall of packs of playing cards another double world record ended in a new theft of an O'Brien speciality. Bell managed an astonishing 1,170, eclipsing Dominic by over 200 cards. Nevertheless, O'Brien managed to extend his slender lead with an unmatched world record in the speed numbers.

After the seventh event, the recall of screen images, the first day of competition ended, and the warriors could retire to tend to their aching brains. O'Brien took another first, and must still be the overall favourite. Nevertheless, with Bell scoring remarkable successes in some of O'Brien's favourite events, tomorrow should provide further drama. As O'Brien remarked somewhat shakily early today: 'I'm a good each-way bet, but I wouldn't put any money on the nose.'

'I memorise ten packs of cards a day. When it's over, I usually have a headache.' – Dominic O'Brien, The Daily Express

We want to do even better!

We are delighted at the response to the Mind Sports Olympiad that we have received from many of you who are here as participants or spectators. Next year we would like to make the Olympiad even bigger and at the same time to make it even more enjoyable for the participants. Can you help us?

Please write to us after the Olympiad to tell us all the things that you liked about our event and any suggestions that you have to improve the Olympiad for next year. Please send your comments by letter to: Mind Sports Olympiad Ltd., PO Box 13388, London NW3 2ZF; or by fax to: 0171 482 0672; or by email to DavidL@intrsrch.demon.co.uk.



Skandia

Young and Old, Masters and Beginners

One of the delightful aspects of Mind Sports is that there is no ageism. The young and old can compete side by side on equal terms. The oldest player at the Olympiad is Henry Gilmour from Ross-on-Wye who, at the age of 88, is competing in the creative thinking event. The youngest person involved at the MSO is Nathanael Lutton, aged six, who is helping out the chess control team.

The range of playing strength in the chess event is quite extraordinary. Competing alongside Michael Adams and Matthew Sadler – the top two ranked players in the country – are players who have never played competitively before. Thanks to the Swiss pairing system, all players are able to compete in every round, regardless of their score.

Perfect Pairings

Arranging the pairings using the Swiss system is a complex task, as there are many intricate rules. However, this task has been simplified thanks to the programming skills of Robert Rozycki. Robert, a software engineer at NEC Australia, has developed a powerful package ('Swiss Perfect') which is able to compile pairings and tabulate results in seconds – a great help bearing in mind the hectic timetable that often accompanies such events. Special features have been developed specifically for this event to handle the great variety of games being played. The DOS version is available free of charge, while the Windows95 version has just been released at a cost of \$49. If you want to take the hard work out of running a Swiss pairing event, see Robert's homepage on www.ozemail.com.au/~tourney.

Side-Show

Tucked away on the 'red' side of the Royal Festival Hall on level 2 is a fascinating exhibition area of games inventors and proprietary

board games. There you can find a wide array of stands devoted to David Pritchard's *Encyclopedia of Chess Variants*, astral(!) games, 3-D sculptures and Save the President! – a game with a fine pedigree having been played by no less than President Clinton. A large selection of second-hand games and many out-of-print games can also be found here. So don't end your visit to the MSO without a walk on the red side!

Games of Old

Now that the curious are visiting the MSO Art Gallery in greater numbers, we should mention that another attraction awaits on level 6. R.C. Bell's collection of historical games paraphernalia is on display along the balcony adjoining the Gallery. The exhibition features equipment dating from as far back as the Old Kingdom of Ancient Egypt (2686-2181BC), and as varied as Inuit betting tools and bark Ubo cards from the Philippines.

Poker Prevented

The Mind Sports Olympiad organisers were highly enthusiastic about the prospect of including poker in the Olympiad, but were thwarted by the Gaming Act. There is often a difficulty with games which have a perception of being associated with gambling, as we saw with backgammon in yesterday's *Olympiad News*. It would have been possible to play poker for points, but the serious players may well have found it difficult to compete without their usual financial incentive.

One person who was particularly disappointed by this was Stewart Reuben, one of the chess arbiters. Stewart is a leading poker player and has recently published *Pot Limit and No Limit Poker*, which can be purchased from the Chess & Bridge bookstall on level 2.

Draughts Large and Small

One of the most international events at the MSO is the 10x10

draughts, which features a wide variety of nationalities and includes three former World Champions, Grandmasters Wiersma, Gantvarg and Valneris. The 10x10 ('international') game is particularly popular in Holland, France and in the former Soviet countries. This version evolved from 8x8 draughts some time in the 17th century. Perhaps surprisingly, the approach required in the two games is very different – the 8x8 version being mainly tactical, while the 10x10 version is more strategic in scope. For example, Ron King, the World and MSO 8x8 Champion, is a relative novice in the sister game. Nevertheless, he has impressed the 10x10 community with his talented and tricky play.

The MSO event which is being run by Paul Visser, an international arbiter, has a £2,000 first prize, an attractive reward for a draughts tournament.

Delbeck Champagne Prize Draw Challenge 2:

Submit your answers to the registration desk on level 2. Check *Olympiad News* for future questions!

- 1) Who is the only player to hold all major shogi titles (seven) in one season?
- 2) Who invented Twixt?
- 3) By what name is the Chinese game *wei ch'i* better known?

Yesterday's quiz answers:

- 1) Sean Adams, USA, 3,850 words per minute! (from *Buzan's Book of Mental World Records*)
- 2) Juvenal
- 3) Nam-Nam

The winner of the Delbeck Champagne is Alf Lawrie. Congratulations!

Where can you ...

- learn how to juggle?
- learn how to map your mind?
- learn how to grow younger?

To find out, visit the Buzan Centres stand on level 2.

GAMES PEOPLE PLAY

MSO director David Pritchard is a leading games expert. He has been a freelance games consultant for the past 16 years, was editor of *Games & Puzzles* magazine from 1972 to 1981 and has written more than 20 books. He has also umpired a wide range of games. David's chief role at the Olympiad has been the selection of the Mind Sports.

How did you become involved in games?

Games have always fascinated me. I started with chess and reached a reasonable standard, being ranked seventh in the UK. However, I did not regard myself as an especially good player and could foresee other players moving past me. I therefore decided to become involved in other games.

What sort of freelance work do you do?

I test games, write the rules and advise inventors on how to protect and market their creations. For example, in the UK you can publicise your game as being 'Game of the Year', regardless of who made this award. In Germany, there are much stricter criteria. The awards are government sanctioned and judged by a panel including a high court judge.

How many games can you play?

I have written a book on chess variants, which included 1,450 different games, all of which I have played. When I was editor of *Games & Puzzles* magazine, I looked at approximately 1,000 games each year, most of which I played only once. I have some regulars, such as Rummikub, but I don't have a favourite game.

How did you select the games for the Mind Sports Olympiad?

I was asked to become involved in this capacity in November last year. I wrote to all my contacts around world (I regularly correspond with games buffs), and asked for lists of suggested games. From these lists, I selected games that appeared frequently. I then balanced the list with the inclusion of one or two others. The choice of some games was obvious, e.g. chess, bridge, backgammon, etc; the difficulty was lower down, as there are literally thousands of

games out there. Germany produces six times the number of games that the UK does and the US even more.

What are the big games-playing countries?

In Germany, games are very big business. Their main annual games fair runs for four days in Essen in October and typically receives 125,000 visitors. Essen is the Mecca for games players. However, it took them many years to build up the event up to its present size. When they started it was relatively small scale; they had two modest sized halls. Now they use eight or nine very big halls. This year's fair will be held from 23-26 October.

What are the key ingredients for a successful game?

First and foremost, originality, which is also just about the most difficult thing to achieve. You must have a popular theme, a good title, attractive packaging and a careful balance between luck and skill. Games should be based on a theme that everyone is interested in and can relate to. So, hang-gliding, for example, would not be a great choice. The luck/skill balance is important. In a family situation one player will, naturally, be more skilful than others. If they win all the time, the game becomes boring and predictable. If they win most of the time, but the weaker players know that they can also win if the luck is with them, it makes the experience much more interesting.

Are there fashions in games?

Yes, and as with everything else, these fashions can change. At the moment the key features that are sought in games are interaction and decision-making. Interaction is currently seen to be very important. In a turn-taking game such as Ludo, you sit around most

of the time waiting for your go - you can fall asleep. In an interactive game you have to be aware constantly for chances to interrupt or challenge or whatever. People also like to make their own decisions, even if they are trivial ones such as whether to go left or right. It is more interesting to make your own choices rather than have them determined by a roll of the dice or the turn of a card. Trivial Pursuit, for example, although highly successful, is perceived by games aficionados as very old-fashioned.

What are the other big games success stories of recent years?

The story of Professor Rubik of Hungary is remarkable. He came over with his invention and was turned away by everybody. Eventually someone gave him a break, and the rest is history. Bizarrely, in Hungary, the number of copies sold exceeded the entire population, because the Germans came over with lorries to ship the game back across the border. The Canadian inventor of Trivial Pursuit also ran into a brick wall at first, but managed to persuade some friends to put up \$1,000 each to promote the game. Some of them were last seen relaxing on their yachts in the Mediterranean.

What is the current favourite?

Magic - The Gathering is a huge game, with 30,000 tournaments being held every year and many professional players. It is a wonderful game and fits perfectly the criteria given above for success. Is the title of a game important? It is absolutely crucial. I once participated in a meeting to decide the one-word title for a game. The host company flew in executives from all over the world and put them up at great expense in five-star hotel. All to decide one word!

Day Four Leaders and Medal Winners

Bridge Pairs (Placings and medals)

- 1 M. Gold/D. Higginson
(both England) gold
- 2 P. Hecht-Johansen/K. Blakset
(both Denmark) silver
- 3 M. Beyer/J. Tesselaar
(both Holland) bronze

Mastermind (Placings and medals)

- 1 R. Coull (England) gold
- 2 D. De Toffoli (Italy) silver
- 3 B. Croucher (England) bronze

Owari Juniors (Placings and medals)

- 1 T. Low Ten Que (Eng) gold
- 2 N. Low Ten Que (Eng) silver
- 3 M. Cornelius (Eng) bronze

Rummikub (Placings and medals)

- 1 M. Naito (Japan) gold
- 2 G. Hassabis (England) silver
- 3 H. Kitajima (Japan) bronze

Shogi (Placings and medals)

- 1 E. Cheymol (France) gold
- 2 A. Hosking (England) silver
- 3 S. Lamb (England) bronze

Chess (after twelve rounds)

- 1 M. Adams (England) 10½
- 2 M. Sadler (England) 9
- 3-6 K. Arkell (England) 8½
D. Gormally (England)
K. Harman (England)
B. Lalic (Croatia)

Draughts 10x10

(after twelve rounds)

- 1 H. Wiersma (Holland) 18/24
- 2-3 I. Kirzner (Ukraine) 17
G. Valneris (Latvia)

Chinese Chess (after seven rounds)

- 1 F.Z. Chen (England) 6½
- 2 W.W. Cheung (France) 6

Scrabble (after twelve rounds)

- 1 M. Thompson (England) 9 (609)
- 2 E. Simpson (England) 8 (834)
- 3 A. Killilea (England) 8 (629)
- 4 H. Lamabadusuriya
(Sri Lanka) 8 (428)
- 5 D. Webb (England) 8 (399)

Memory Skills (after seven rounds)

- 1 D. O'Brien (England) 714.12
- 2 A. Bell (England) 556.70
- 3 D. Thomas (England) 448.05
- 4 T. Groves (England) 320.67

Othello (after twelve rounds)

- 1 Suekuni (Japan) 12
- 2 T. Nakajima (Japan) 9
M. Tastet (France)

Go 19x19 (after four rounds)

- 1-2 Z. Guo (Holland) 4
E. Cali (France)

Go 13x13

- 1 S. Zhang (China) 13
- 2 G. Zuan (China) 10½
- 3 D. Ward (England) 9

Not all players have played the same number of games.

Jigsaw Puzzles (after four rounds)

- 1 R. Harwood (England) 710
- 2 A. Smith (England) 706
- 3 P. Wood (England) 490

Backgammon (qualifiers, to date, for Friday's gold section)

J. Balmforth, M. Barkwill, N. Carol,
J. Clark, C. Cornwall, D. De Tuffoli,
R. Hellman, M. Jahanbani, J. Kwee,
O. Omodera, S. Paliwoda, L. Powell,
P. Rastan, S. Rimmer, A. Robertson,
R. Sheehan, J. Verdion and W.M.
Yoon.

Stratego (after six rounds)

- 1-2 P. Van Bodegom
(Holland) 31
W. Sikteoeboen
(Holland)
- 3-4 Y. Botturi (Italy) 25
A. Pols (Holland)

Zatre (after ten rounds)

- 1-2 D. Steuerwald (Germany) 9
S. Ludwig (Germany)
- 3-4 P. Basedow (Germany) 8
G. Ditrich (Germany)

Mind Sports Olympiad Medal Table after Day Four

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
England	6	8	8	22
France	2	0	0	2
USA	2	0	0	2
Holland	1	0	1	2
Japan	1	0	1	2
Italy	0	1	1	2
Barbados	1	0	0	1
Denmark	0	1	0	1
Finland	0	1	0	1
Ireland	0	1	0	1
S. Africa	0	1	0	1
New Zealand	0	0	1	1
Scotland	0	0	1	1

TODAY'S EVENTS

Backgammon..... pm
 Bridge day
 Chess..... am
 Chinese Chess pm
 Draughts (10x10)..... pm
 Go (13x13)..... pm
 Go (19x19)..... am
 IQ..... pm
 Jigsaw Puzzles..... am
 Mastermind day
 Memory Skills..... day
 Othello..... pm
 Owari..... pm
 Rummikub..... day
 Scrabble am
 Skat..... am
 Stratego..... day
 Zatre..... day

OLYMPIAD NEWS TEAM

Editor:

Jon Tisdall

Production:

Byron Jacobs and

Andrew Kinsman

(First Rank Publishing)

MIND SPORTS OLYMPIAD

PO Box 13388,

London NW3 2ZF

Fax: 0171 482 0672

<http://www.mindsports.co.uk/>





OLYMPIAD NEWS

Issue 5

Saturday 23 August

THE £1 MILLION BRAIN

CONTENTS

<i>The £1 Million Brain</i>	1
<i>UK Chess Challenge</i>	2
<i>Chess Drama</i>	2
<i>Press Gang 3</i>	2
<i>Vocabulary Test</i>	2
<i>Girls on Top</i>	2
<i>Memory Lapse</i>	2
<i>Delbeck Champagne</i>	
<i>Prize Draw Challenge 3</i>	2
<i>What the Butler Saw</i>	3
<i>Results Section</i>	4
<i>Medals Table</i>	4
<i>Today's Events</i>	4

'Yes, I was worried - I was worried before the event and I was worried after the first round. But when I went home after the first day, after Andy (Bell) had crashed out, I knew I was safe. Andy knew he couldn't win then. You just can't crash out and still win.' - Dominic O'Brien

Help us to help you!

Please write to us after the Olympiad to tell us all the things that you liked about our event and any suggestions that you have to improve the Olympiad for next year. Please send your comments by letter to: Mind Sports Olympiad Ltd., PO Box 13388, London NW3 2ZF; or by fax to: 0171 482 0672; or by email to DavidL@intsrch.demon.co.uk

Dominic O'Brien retained his title as World Memory Champion yesterday after a tough battle. His win was celebrated in great style when the sponsors, Skandia, presented him with a certificate insuring his brain against accident for a year, to the tune of £1,000,000. Dominic accepted the award in evening dress and a blue crash helmet, demonstrating both elegance and due care for his valuable equipment.

This year O'Brien had to fend off a determined challenge from Andy Bell, who set three new world memory records before stumbling in the sixth event, speed numbers. Until this moment Bell and O'Brien had been neck and neck, but when O'Brien set another record here and Bell crashed out, the duel was effectively over.

Bell explained that he had lost his rhythm in the speed numbers (five minutes to recall as many digits as possible), having accomplished after three minutes what he felt he should have managed in one. Andy refused to post a low score: 'On the spur of the moment I walked out. I was very disappointed.' He added that he felt he would have moved ahead of O'Brien here.

Asked if he had concentrated his training on his rival's specialities, Bell offered a flat 'no'. 'That's just the way the cards fell. I think I could have done even better; there is huge room for improvement. It wouldn't surprise me if someone new came out of the blue next year and won this event at their first attempt. All it takes is a good technique.'

Watching the final event, speed cards (one deck, best of two attempts), it

was clear that the rivals were both straining to set a new world record but, sadly for the spectators, both fell short.

This event illustrated a clear contrast in style between these two great memorisers. O'Brien speeds through the deck methodically, rarely pausing. When finished, Dominic sits with his eyes closed as he burns the sequence into his brain. Bell does bursts of several cards at a time, repeating this after a brief delay. He appears to fix his images while staring into space.

'Yes, I do them three at a time, Dominic does two,' Bell explained. 'I form an image like a kangaroo through a pineapple, and then assign a location to it.'

Record-Breakers

Six new records were set at the MSO:

One hour random numbers

A. Bell 1,620 digits; D. O'Brien 1,512 (Old Record: 1,392 D. O'Brien)

500 words

D. O'Brien 155 words

Spoken number

A. Bell 228 digits; D. O'Brien 207 (OR: 200 D. O'Brien)

One hour multiple decks of cards

A. Bell 1,170 cards; D. O'Brien 936 (OR: 780 D. O'Brien)

Speed numbers

D. O'Brien 240 digits (OR: 200 D. O'Brien)

Binary number

D. O'Brien 2,385 digits; A. Bell 2,058 (OR: 1,926 D. O'Brien)



Skandia

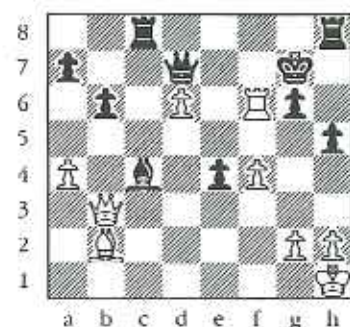
UK Chess Challenge

The concluding stages of one of the largest Mind Sports events ever to be organised are taking place at the Royal Festival Hall today. The UK Chess Challenge – a competition for schoolchildren jointly sponsored by Rotary Clubs, Kasparov Chess Computers and Save the Children – initially started out in spring this year with 24,000 children from 730 schools. By May these had been whittled down to 2,500, and then to 400 by July. Now, in the Terafinal, only the 16 finalists remain.

The reward for the winner will be £500 plus the Rotary Cup, while other prizes include £250 for the top Under-11, £250 for the top girl and even the first-round losers will receive £50 each. Spectators will be able to gauge the situation in the games thanks to free commentary from Grandmaster Daniel King, the TV personality from the Channel 4 World Championship programmes.

Chess Drama

The 30-minute chess was wrapped up in fine style yesterday by Britain's number one ranked player, Michael Adams, who held the lead throughout the event, and was rarely troubled. Michael scoops the £2,000 first prize plus a Concorde ticket. Here are two critical moments from the event:



Sadler-Adams

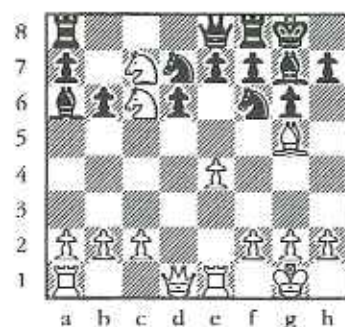
Here, in the battle of the joint British Champions, Sadler has sacrificed a rook for a strong attack. He should now have continued 30 ♖c3, which offered excellent

attacking chances. After the inferior 30 ♖g3 Black managed to consolidate and White lost on time on move 48.

Two of the toughest grandmasters in the chess event were Bogdan Lalic and ex-British Champion Julian Hodgson. However, their individual clash was decided by a brilliant piece of opportunism by the Croatian.

Lalic-Hodgson

1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♘xd4 ♘f6 5 ♘c3 g6 6 ♖c4 ♖g7 7 0-0 0-0 8 ♗e1 b6 9 ♖g5 ♖b7 10 ♘d5 ♘bd7 11 ♖a6 ♖xa6 12 ♘c6 ♗e8 13 ♘c7 (and if 13...♗c8 14 ♘xc7 +)



The black queen is trapped! White went on to win easily.

Press Gang 3

CBS (USA), Canadian BC (TV), Berlin PMTV, Australian BC Radio, Associated Press, Stern and Der Spiegel have joined the major media covering the Mind Sports Olympiad.

Vocabulary Test

An A-Z of unsuccessful challenges in the Scrabble this week: atok (a species of skunk); bonxie; cruve; dicentra; eltchi (a Turkish ambassador); fritz; gohite; hijabs; iceboats; jasp; knur; lazo; maelid (an apple nymph); nauplii (larval form in many crustacea with one eye and three pairs of appendages); obangs; pooter (an entomological collecting bottle); quaich (a drinking cup); rundlets; scolion (a drinking song); tupiks (Eskimo animal skin tents); urachi; vozhd (a supreme leader in Russia); weber; xu; ygoe; zobu.

Girls on Top

Women took to the stage in numbers today, with Andrea Smith earning a silver in the jigsaw puzzle competition and Sigrid Ludwig capturing the gold in Zatre. One of the day's most remarkable achievements was that of ten-year-old Aysha Choudhary who took a bronze medal in the British Rummikub Championship. However, the female star of the day was Shutai Zhang who took medals in both the 13x13 and 19x19 Go. Additionally Shutai was part of an avalanche of Dutch winners today. The Dutch contingent was seen celebrating in the bar late into the night and may well not add to their tally today!

Memory Lapse

A delegate to the 1991 World Conference on Memory was forced to ring organisers at Lancaster University after he forgot which days he had booked to attend. A similar embarrassing lapse afflicted Tom Morton, who has instant recall of over 20,000 phone numbers, decks of cards and all Olympic medal winners for the past century. He forgot which day he was due to appear on Granada TV to demonstrate his skills, and turned up a week early. – *The Fortean Times Book of Life's Losers*

Delbeck Champagne Prize Draw Challenge 3:

Submit your answers to the registration desk on level 2.

- 1) Who holds the world record for speed memorisation of a single deck of cards (in competition)?
- 2) Who invented Magic – The Gathering?
- 3) Who designed the Howard Staunton memorial?

Yesterday's quiz answers:

- 1) Habu Yoshiharu
- 2) Alex Randolph
- 3) Go – the Japanese name.

The winner of the Delbeck Champagne is Lizette Hodgson. Congratulations!

WHAT THE BUTLER SAW

Robert Sheehan has been bridge correspondent of *The Times* newspaper for the past three years, but is nevertheless competing in the backgammon section of the Mind Sports Olympiad. He has just completed a compendium of his bridge articles from *The Times*, which will be published by Batsford next month.

Are you a keen backgammon player?

Bridge is obviously my main game, but I used to play a lot of backgammon. However, I don't play so much these days.

What other games have caught your interest at the Mind Sports Olympiad?

Stratego is a very good game, as is gin rummy. However, the problem with gin rummy, as with other games such as backgammon and poker, is that the best players are unlikely to compete without the inducement of a chance to win big money. For example, in the world series poker in Las Vegas you have to pay a sizeable entry fee, but if things go your way and you capture first prize, you can win a million dollars.

What are the origins of bridge?

It was invented by the millionaire Harold S. Vanderbilt in the 1920s. Together with some friends, Vanderbilt worked out the rules during some experimental games on a sea journey. He was soon infatuated with his creation and became so worried that a situation would arise where no fourth player was available to play, that he even taught the new game to his butler. However, when the butler was called upon to fill in, the social convention of the time dictated that he should remain standing throughout the game.

Is bridge growing in popularity?

It certainly is at the moment. A lot more people seem to be taking up the game than previously. Regular weekend events are held at hotels around the country and these typically result in 400-500 entries. A small difficulty with bringing new blood into the game is that tournament players are often quite aggressive. After a while you get used to it, but such behaviour can

be off-putting for newcomers to the tournament scene.

Some Mind Sports are currently rather male-dominated. Is this the case with bridge?

No, not at all. It is true that the high stakes rubber bridge games are still largely a male preserve, but the lower stakes games probably have more women playing than men. Also players in duplicate bridge are split more or less 50/50 between the sexes. In the UK we have a very strong women's team – they recently ran out as winners of the European Championships, while in the men's event the British finished seventh.

Is there much luck in bridge?

There is not a great deal in the duplicate events. In the World Championship finals, matches are played over two days and this is long enough for the stronger teams to overcome the vagaries of luck. Sometimes you do get big swings that are based on luck – such as a correctly bid grand slam failing on a 50/50 finesse – but in these long matches 90% of the time, the better team will win.

Can you explain about the different bidding systems used in bridge?

All sorts of systems are allowed but you must disclose the system you are using to your opponents before the start of the game. Furthermore, you are allowed, at any time during the auction, to ask the meanings of their bids.

Bridge obviously involves communication with a partner – do players try to exploit this by cheating?

In some games it can happen but, at a high level, the introduction of a physical barrier between the players has completely prevented this. Additionally, there is no verbal communication, all bids

being made with the use of bidding boxes. Although this is wonderful for eliminating the possibility of cheating, it does create a rather strange impression for the lay public. In social games, cheating can easily happen – the most common method being grumbling at a partner's lead.

How is bridge conveyed to the public at tournaments?

At the big tournaments big television screens are used to relay the bids and plays throughout to the theatre. Commentators are employed to help explain what each bid means in order to overcome the problem that people who don't play regularly will have little real idea what is going on.

How strong are bridge-playing computers?

They are very good at bidding, which is relatively easy to program. However, there are some difficulties with card play, and this has proved difficult for the programmers to crack. Attempts have been made to use similar algorithms to those which have proved so successful in chess, but the programs can never go more than five or six ply deep. A new program known as Goren in a Box has recently been introduced, and it is possible that this will become strong.

You are also a shareholder in the spread betting company IG Index. Do you envisage that betting on Mind Sports will become popular?

IG have already made markets in chess events, such as Kasparov-Short, Kasparov-Anand and Kasparov-Deep Blue. Interest in spread betting is increasing at a phenomenal rate and it is perfectly possible that our Mind Sports coverage will increase in the future.

Day Five Leaders and Medal Winners

Bridge Swiss Pairs

(Placings and medals)

- | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|--------|
| 1 | M. Beyer/J. Tesselaar
(Holland) | gold |
| 2 | G. Horscroft/M. Walsh
(England) | silver |
| 3 | M. Gold/D. Higginson
(England) | bronze |

Chess (Placings and medals)

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------|--------|
| 1 | M. Adams (England) | gold |
| 2 | M. Sadler (England) | silver |
| 3 | D. Gormally (England) | bronze |

Chess Juniors (Placings and medals)

- | | | |
|-----|------------------------|--------|
| 1 | L. McShane (England) | gold |
| 2-3 | K. Chakraborty (India) | silver |
| | D. Tan (England) | silver |
| 4 | G. Jones (England) | bronze |

Chinese Chess (Placings and medals)

- | | | |
|---|------------------------|--------|
| 1 | W.W. Cheung (France) | gold |
| 2 | F.Z. Chen (England) | silver |
| 3 | P.L.B. Young (England) | bronze |

Draughts 10x10

(Placings and medals)

- | | | |
|---|----------------------|--------|
| 1 | H. Wiersma (Holland) | gold |
| 2 | G. Valneris (Latvia) | silver |
| 3 | I. Kirzner (Ukraine) | bronze |

Go 13x13 (Placings and medals)

- | | | |
|---|-------------------|--------|
| 1 | S. Zhang (China) | gold |
| 2 | G. Zuan (Holland) | silver |
| 3 | D. Ward (England) | bronze |

Go 19x19 (Placings and medals)

- | | | |
|---|----------------------|--------|
| 1 | Z. Guo (Holland) | gold |
| 2 | S. Zhang (China) | silver |
| 3 | A. Goddard (England) | bronze |

IQ (Placings and medals)

- | | | |
|---|----------------------|--------|
| 1 | A. Walker (Scotland) | gold |
| 2 | M. Isaac (England) | silver |
| 3 | J. McLeod (England) | bronze |

Jigsaw Puzzles (Placings and medals)

- | | | |
|---|----------------------|--------|
| 1 | R. Harwood (England) | gold |
| 2 | A. Smith (England) | silver |
| 3 | P. Wood (England) | bronze |

Memory Skills (Placings and medals)

- | | | |
|---|----------------------|--------|
| 1 | D. O'Brien (England) | gold |
| 2 | A. Bell (England) | silver |
| 3 | D. Thomas (England) | bronze |

Othello (Placings and medals)

- | | | |
|---|---------------------|--------|
| 1 | M. Suekuni (Japan) | gold |
| 2 | T. Nakajima (Japan) | silver |
| 3 | M. Tastet (France) | bronze |

Rummikub (Placings and medals)

- | | | |
|---|-------------|--------|
| 1 | A. Burley | gold |
| 2 | J. Marchant | silver |

- | | | |
|---|--------------|--------|
| 3 | A. Choudhary | bronze |
|---|--------------|--------|
- British Championship - does not count for medal table*

Skat (Placings and medals)

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------|
| 1 | H.J. Schindler (Germany) | gold |
| 2 | N. Schäfer (Germany) | silver |
| 3 | Dr D. Beise (Germany) | bronze |

Stratego (Placings and medals)

- | | | |
|---|------------------------------|--------|
| 1 | P. Van Bodegom
(Holland) | gold |
| 2 | G. Franka (Holland) | silver |
| 3 | E. Van den Berg
(Holland) | bronze |

Stratego Juniors

(Placings and medals)

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------|--------|
| 1 | R. Becks (Holland) | gold |
| 2 | P. Mullenders (Holland) | silver |
| 3 | F. Poppelaars (Holland) | bronze |

Stratego Team (Placings and medals)

- | | | |
|---|---------|--------|
| 1 | Holland | gold |
| 2 | France | silver |
| 3 | Germany | bronze |

Zatre (Placings and medals)

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------|--------|
| 1 | S. Ludwig (Germany) | gold |
| 2 | W. Witkowski (Germany) | silver |
| 3 | D. Steuerwald (Germany) | bronze |

Scrabble (Placings and medals)

- | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|--------|
| 1 | E. Simpson (England) | gold |
| 2 | H. Lamabadusuriya
(Sri Lanka) | silver |
| 3 | M. Thompson (England) | bronze |



Mind Sports Olympiad Medal Table after Day Five

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
England	11	15	18	44
Holland	7	3	3	13
France	3	1	1	5
Germany	2	2	3	7
Japan	2	1	1	4
USA	2	0	0	2
China	1	1	0	2
Scotland	1	0	1	2
Barbados	1	0	0	1
Italy	0	1	1	2
Denmark	0	1	0	1
Finland	0	1	0	1
India	0	1	0	1
Ireland	0	1	0	1
Latvia	0	1	0	1
S. Africa	0	1	0	1
Sri Lanka	0	1	0	1
New Zealand	0	0	1	1
Ukraine	0	0	1	1



TODAY'S EVENTS

- Backgammon..... day
 Bridge day
 Chess day
 Chess Problem
 Solving.....pm
 Chess Terafinal..... day
 Chinese Chess day
 Computer
 Programming..... day
 Creative Thinking ..am
 Decamentathlon.....am
 Draughts (8x8).....pm
 Draughts (10x10).....am
 Gin Rummy..... day
 Go (19x19)..... day
 IQpm
 Japanese Chess.....am
 Mah Jongg..... day
 Mastermindam
 Othello..... day
 Scrabble day
 Speed Readingpm

OLYMPIAD NEWS TEAM

Editor:

Jon Tisdall

Production:

Byron Jacobs and

Andrew Kinsman

(First Rank Publishing)

MIND SPORTS OLYMPIAD

PO Box 13388,

London NW3 2ZF

Fax: 0171 482 0672

<http://www.mindsports.co.uk/>





OLYMPIAD NEWS

Issue 6

Sunday 24 August

INTELLECTUAL CAPITAL

CONTENTS

<i>Intellectual Capital</i>	1
<i>Creative Thinking</i>	2
<i>Ten of the Best</i>	2
<i>Go, Gao, Zhang</i>	2
<i>Learn and Play</i>	2
<i>Tough Puzzles</i>	2
<i>Delbeck Champagne</i>	
<i>Prize Draw Challenge 4</i>	2
<i>Bigger and Better</i>	3
<i>Results Section</i>	4
<i>Medals Table</i>	4
<i>Today's Events</i>	4

*Opened as usual with 1 e4, but was rather surprised when he replied with 'n15' and told me this was the go tournament. Thinking quickly, I played T23 and informed him that I had sunk his battleship, which would have been fine if he hadn't passed me the doubling cube and used all his seven letters in forming the word NO-TRUMP on a triple word score. Luckily for me, he fell down a snake the next move and I was back in the game.' - William Hartston in *The Independent**

I've entered two events, but I'm not sure which ones they are.' - overheard at the registration desk.

Leif Edvinsson - Skandia's Father of Intellectual Capital

Behind the cute T-shirt message 'IC the future' lies an original and enterprising economic concept that sponsors Skandia equate with their past - and future - success. IC stands for Intellectual Capital, a phrase designed to define the intangible, yet very real, human assets behind an enterprise. Edvinsson's pet metaphor portrays IC as the roots of a tree bearing future fruit.

Skandia were approached by the MSO on the strength of an IC annual report that utilised consistent and detailed chess imagery. Unlike many corporations that simply borrow these icons, Skandia had a real commitment to the power behind the symbols which they translated to financial support. Edvinsson's reaction to the Mind Sports Olympiad concept: 'Brilliant - it is the embodiment of a new training approach of human capability, the embodiment of a new knowledge era.'

Edvinsson easily conjures up a network of associations linking all kinds of game-playing to potential and practical applications. 'The business world sees a measurable and growing intelligence gap - with need for intellectual expertise constantly expanding. Available talent is decreasing even though the population is increasing. Being bombarded with information - be it in Nintendo or shogi - and being able to process it, find patterns etc., is a vital skill. One way to increase this talent potential is through games.'

He points out one area that already bridges playful entertainment and

serious business is a simulator. This kind of software program provides clear real world gains - 40 hours of simulation training can create a licensed Boeing 777 pilot.

Even those computer game-playing skills which are not yet respected as intellectual pursuits earn his respect. He sees the abilities honed here as being applicable to multimedia work and the software industry, and considers software building to be the most critical technological ingredient today.

An emphasis on finding new ways to approach and link apparently unrelated input is a basic ingredient of IC, and even in a brief interview subjects continually merge and interweave. IC as a concept has established a foothold extremely rapidly. Edvinsson's book, *Intellectual Capital*, has already been translated for markets in China, Portugal, S. America, South Korea and Israel. The topic shifts to Mandarin as a virtual, symbolic language, and the evidence that this stimulates both sides of the brain.

Suddenly he presents me with the new business cards for the Skandia Future Centers - a fascinating series of bound, coloured cards with an evolving discussion of 'contactivity' on the top of each page and a visually linked sequence of coloured graphics on the back. He smiles as I slowly examine this from various angles. 'You see the difference? My conventional card went straight into your pocket...'



Skandia

Creative Thinking

The questions in this event set by *The Independent's* nimble wit, Bill Hartston were:

Q1: List as many possible uses as you can think of for a soft-boiled egg. (One competitor earned a bonus point for *not* listing 'eat it')

Q2: Here are two objects (a large and a small conch) I found on the beach on holiday. What should I do with them?

Q3: List as many similarities as you can think of between the Princess of Wales and an orange.

Q4: List as many differences as you can between zips and buttons.

Q5: At the start of 1998, a new labour-saving device was launched. Within six months, one was to be found in 97 per cent of the homes in the UK. Describe it.

Q6: Everyone agreed that the Creativity competition at the 1998 Mind Sports Olympiad was far superior to that of the 1997 event. What do you think the tasks given to the contestants might have been? The scoring was as follows:

Fecundity (quantity) - of distinct ideas.

Originality - scores double (50% of the total)

Breadth - the number of different dimensions employed in the answers - for example, texture, size, colour, etc.

Ten of the Best

A highly intriguing event at the Mind Sports Olympiad is the decamentathlon. In the spirit of the Olympic decathlon, this event consists of a tough four-hour examination in ten separate Mind Sports challenges. The events are: memory, mental calculation, IQ, bridge, chess, Othello, go, draughts (8x8), Mastermind and creative thinking. This proved to be an intriguing test of all-round Mind Sports knowledge and could, in future years, develop into one of the most competitive events.

Many of the competitors excelled in one or two disciplines but were let down by a lack of ability in others. The secret of success in this

testing challenge is to score well in all events. The first decamentathlon gold medal was deservedly won by Andrew Dyson who, in addition to being a very strong bridge and chess player, is also clearly very knowledgeable in other Mind Sports. The silver was scooped by Demis Hassabis who, as one of the most active competitors in the Olympiad, is also pressing hard in the Pentamind. The bronze medal went to international chess master Byron Jacobs, who took the morning off from his usual role of *Olympiad News* production.

Go, Guo, Zhang!

The *Olympiad News* did not quite manage to unravel the go results yesterday. Our results table was reasonably correct, but ... To put the record straight, Shutai Zhang was not part of the emergence of female and Dutch success yesterday - since he is a Chinese man! Zuan Guo was the name we were looking for, but she appeared with her name reversed in the 13x13 table. Apologies for the confusion, and congratulations to the duo, who took one gold and one silver each in the go championships. As there were other problems in the medal placings, the go awards ceremony will be restaged on Sunday.

Learn and Play

This morning starting at 10.00am there is a games workshop on level 3 on the Hungerford side of the Royal Festival Hall. The idea of the workshop is that participants will learn up to eight new games. The plan is to spend 30 minutes teaching each of the following games: 10.00AM Chess; 10.30 Fanorona; 11.00 Entropy; 11.30 Mastermind; 12.00 Oware; 12.30 Othello; 1.00 Go; 1.30 Bridge. (These details are subject to change.)

In the afternoon, starting at 4.00PM, the participants will be able to choose their preferred Mind Sport and be matched with

another participant who would like to play the same game. Alternatively, there may be an opportunity for workshop participants to play in one of the MSO afternoon tournaments.

Tough Puzzles

Try your hand at the following tough puzzle.

B	B	G	Y	W	14
W	G	Y	W	B	16
Y	G	B	W	Y	17
Y	R	R	B	G	14
R	R	W	W	B	11
					14 15 15 14 14

The numbers 1 to 5 inclusive have been allocated randomly to the colours blue, green, red, white and yellow, which are represented in the diagram by their initial letters. The numbers next to each row and column refer to the sums of the numbers in those rows and columns. Can you work out each colour's number?

Where can you...

win a jeroboam of champagne?
pick up a free copy of Britain's toughest puzzle magazine?
...and save £5 on a year's subscription?

To find out, visit the Tough Puzzles stand on level 2 near the Foyer Bar.

Delbeck Champagne Prize Draw Challenge 4:

Yesterday's quiz answers:

- 1) Andy Bell (41.37 seconds)
- 2) Richard Garfield
- 3) Artist Barry Martin

Today, taking our lead from the Creative Thinking event, the champagne prize will be awarded to the entrant coming up with, in the opinion of the *Olympiad News* team, the best three questions. Entries to the registration desk before 5.00PM please.

BIGGER AND BETTER!

Everyone agrees that the 1st Mind Sports Olympiad has been a tremendous success. *Olympiad News* asked two of the directors, Raymond Keene and David Levy, how they view their creation and what their future plans are.

Can you explain how the concept of the MSO was devised?

(RK) The genesis of the Mind Sports Olympiad stems from several years ago. David Levy approached me after the 1986 Kasparov-Karpov World Championship match in London and described the idea. Then I met Tony Buzan who said, that with his interest in the brain and all things cerebral, he had often dreamt of a global Mind Sports contest. So it seemed natural that the three of us should come together to work on the MSO.

(DL) I used to play in a lot of international chess tournaments and the one event which I enjoyed above all others was the Chess Olympiad, where people play for fun and for the honour of representing their country. Inspired by this, I thought about creating an event which would multiply the pleasure for everyone simply by multiplying the number of different games. The concept is, if you like, a gigantic games festival. **When did the real preparations begin?**

(RK) The ball really started to roll in an incredibly short space of time. On 31 August 1996 we decided, after years of toying with the project, that it was actually going to happen. Having made that decision, it was extraordinary how quickly everything fell into place. I approached the Royal Festival Hall, who quickly agreed to provide the venue, and Tony Buzan approached Skandia who, with their drive for Intellectual Capital, also made an amazingly swift decision to support us. Meanwhile, David Levy, ably supported by David Pritchard, one of the great games gurus, accessed a worldwide nexus of contacts to attract players. The organisational team was finally completed when

Don Morris, an experienced events organiser, joined the group. Dr Louise Guthrie volunteered to set up our Internet operations and Sir Brian Tovey accepted the role of company chairman with Lady Mary Tovey acting as company secretary. Sir Brian's appointment was singularly appropriate, given that he used to be head of Government Intelligence at GCHQ.

Has the MSO matched up to your expectations?

(RK) The success of the event as we reach the conclusion has exceeded everything we could have hoped for. The press coverage has been massive and, with nearly 2,000 competitors from 53 countries, we have truly established a global intellectual battlefield.

Will we all be back next year?

(RK) Many people have asked me this question. Of course! Next year's MSO will take place from August 24-30, and we hope to be back here at the RFH. So book your slot now - we expect at least twice as many entries next year.

How do you foresee the Olympiad developing?

(RK) Although we are delighted with this year's competition, there is naturally still plenty of room for improvement. It is my ultimate ambition to bring all the great champions of the major thinking sports to the event. This year we already have 16 separate World Championships being contested. World Champions present include World Memory Champion Dominic O'Brien and the World 8x8 Draughts Champion Ron King, while the 10x10 Draughts section is packed with former World Champions (Harm Wiersma, Anatoli Gantvarg and Guntis Valneris). For the future, I would like to see the entrants include World Chess Champion Garry Kasparov, the Deep Blue

chess and Chinook draughts programs, and Oriental champions such as Habu, the shogi genius from Japan. An event in which the premier championship of every major thinking sport in the world took place at one and the same time would be fantastic. Can you imagine it? - I can!

(DL) We could make the next Computer Olympiad part of the Mind Sports Olympiad. The Computer Olympiad started in 1989 and has attracted as many as 100 programs competing in tournaments for 15 or more different games. In the Computer Olympiad we only allow programs. There is no Human vs. Computer competition. We feel that, at the moment, it would change the spirit of the MSO too much to allow programs to compete in our tournaments.

However, it is quite possible that in the future we may stage challenge matches between strong programs and leading human players at various Mind Sports. **What are your Internet plans?**

(DL) As more and more homes become connected to the Internet, it will be possible for a much larger number of players to participate in the MSO. Ideally, we would have people playing from their own home, but it is impossible to police such a situation and, given the strength of programs such as Fritz (chess) and Jellyfish (backgammon) some people would find it tempting to receive a little assistance. However, there is a way around this. We envisage competitions run from Internet cafés, where players could be watched by arbiters as they competed. If we are able to secure sponsorship we could then award prizes in each tournament - perhaps a free air ticket and hotel room in London for the MSO.

Day Six Medal Winners**Backgammon (Placings and medals)**

1	J. Clark (England)	gold
2	M. Barkwill (England)	silver
3	M. Barron (England)	bronze

Bridge Swiss Teams (Placings and medals)

1	S. Burn/P. King/T. Townsend/ N. Sandqvist	gold
2	S. Dannell/P. Shepperson/ M. Beyer/J. T'esselaar	silver
3	R. Eaton/A. Salem/Bharat/ T. Nnando	bronze

Chess 10-minute (Placings and medals)

1	W. Watson (England)	gold
2	K. Arkell (England)	silver
3	J. Plaskett (England)	bronze

Chess 5-minute (Placings and medals)

1	M. Adams (England)	gold
2	M. Sadler (England)	silver
3	S. Conquest (England)	bronze

Chess 10-minute juniors (Placings and medals)

1	G. Jones (England)	gold
2	D. Edwards (England)	silver
3	S. Ghasi (England)	bronze

Chess 5-minute juniors (Placings and medals)

1	D. Tan (England)	gold
2	T. Dougherty (England)	silver
3	N. Frost (England)	bronze

Chess Problem Solving (Placings and medals)

1	S. Conquest (England)	gold
2	M. Pein (England)	silver
3	K. Chakraborty (India)	bronze

Chess Terafinal (Placings and medals)

1	R. Cleveland (Wales)	gold
2	N. Timms (England)	silver
3	R. Jones (Wales)	bronze

*Non-Olympiad event***Chess Challenges (Placings and medals)**

1	D. Hodge (England)	gold
2	L. D'Costa (England)	silver
3	L. Broomfield (England)	bronze

*Non-Olympiad event***Creative Thinking (Placings and medals)**

1	P. Bateman (S. Africa)	gold
2	B. Birchall (England)	silver
3	D. Holloway (England)	bronze

Decamentathlon (Placings and medals)

1	A. Dyson (England)	gold
2	D. Hassabis (England)	silver
3	B. Jacobs (England)	bronze

Draughts 8x8 10-minute (Placings and medals)

1	R. King (Barbados)	gold
2	C. McCarrick (Ireland)	silver
3	P. Raivis (Latvia)	bronze

Draughts 10x10 10-minute (Placings and medals)

1	A. Gantvarg (Belarus)	gold
2	G. Valneris (Latvia)	silver
3	I. Kirzner (Ukraine)	bronze

Gin Rummy (Placings and medals)

1	M. Kelly (Ireland)	gold
2	J. Bosley (New Zealand)	silver
3	R. Hellman (England)	bronze

IQ (Placings and medals)

1	R. Charisse (England)	gold
2	B. Pridmore (England)	silver
3	P. Smith (England)	bronze

IQ juniors (Placings and medals)

1	W. Lo (England)	gold
2	D. Leaf (England)	silver
3	N. Eskuarzi (England)	bronze

Japanese Chess 15-minute (Placings and medals)

1	M. Sandeman (England)	gold
2	Y. Sumi (Japan)	silver
3	D. Hassabis (England)	bronze

Mastermind 10-minute (Placings and medals)

1	O. Omodera (Japan)	gold
2	Y. Sumi (Japan)	silver
3	R. Franzkeit (Germany)	bronze

Speed Reading (Placings and medals)

1	A. Jones (England)	gold
2	M. Isaac (England)	silver
3	I. Stewart (England)	bronze

Mind Sports Olympiad Medal Table after Day Six

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
England	22	26	30	78
Holland	7	3	3	13
Japan	3	3	1	7
France	3	1	1	5
Germany	2	2	4	8
Barbados	2	0	0	2
USA	2	0	0	2
Ireland	1	2	0	3
China	1	1	0	2
S. Africa	1	1	0	2
Scotland	1	0	1	2
Belarus	1	0	0	1
Latvia	0	2	1	3
India	0	1	1	2
Italy	0	1	1	2
New Zealand	0	1	1	2
Denmark	0	1	0	1
Finland	0	1	0	1
Sri Lanka	0	1	0	1
Ukraine	0	0	2	2

TODAY'S EVENTS

Backgammon..... day
 Bridge day
 Chess day
 Chinese Chess day
 Computer
 Programming..... day
 Continuo day
 Crossword Puzzles... pm
 Draughts (8x8)..... am
 Draughts (10x10)..... pm
 Games Workshop... day
 Gin Rummy..... day
 Go (9x9)..... pm
 Go (19x19)..... am
 Japanese Chess..... am
 Mah Jongg..... day
 Mastermind pm
 Mental
 Calculations am
 Othello..... day
 Scrabble day

OLYMPIAD NEWS TEAM*Editor:*

Jon Tisdall

Production:

Byron Jacobs and

Andrew Kinsman

(First Rank Publishing)

MIND SPORTS OLYMPIAD

PO Box 13388,

London NW3 2ZF

Fax: 0171 482 0672

<http://www.mindsports.co.uk/>



OLYMPIAD NEWS

Issue 7 (Final Results)

Sunday 24 August

ALL GOOD THINGS...

CONTENTS

<i>All Good Things</i>	1
<i>Mind Sports Olympiad</i>	
<i>Final Medal Table</i>	1
<i>Mind Sports Olympiad</i>	
<i>Roll of Honour</i>	2-3
<i>Missing in Action</i>	4
<i>Back to the Future</i>	4
<i>Dominic Insured</i>	4

We want to do even better!

We are delighted at the response to the Mind Sports Olympiad that we have received from many of you who are here as participants or spectators. Next year we would like to make the Olympiad even bigger and at the same time to make it even more enjoyable for the participants. Can you help?

Please write to us after the Olympiad to tell us all the things that you liked about our event and any suggestions that you have to improve the Olympiad for next year. Please send your comments by letter to: Mind Sports Olympiad Ltd., PO Box 13388, London NW3 2ZF; or by fax to: 0171 482 0672; or by email to: DavidL@intsrch.demon.co.uk.

Make a Date!

2nd Mind Sports Olympiad
24-30 August 1998

A week of frenetic activity drew to a close with the final medal ceremony honouring the many winners of the first Mind Sports Olympiad. There have been 65 events, 39 disciplines, and over 2,000 competitors from 58 countries. Players from age 6 to 88 have taken part, watched by television crews from Brazil to China.

Indeed, media coverage of the MSO has exceeded all expectations. One of the many Americans helping to keep the wheels turning and adding to the international flavour of the event is Wilma Ward. Wilma and her harried (yet charming) staff at Yemeyah Communications have had the tough job of managing the often tumultuous press room and ensuring that the multitude of reporters and TV crews get what they want.

'Yemeyah is an African name; it stems from the Yoruba language and means Goddess of water. It was chosen because it gives a sense of no boundaries, fluidity - and the flow of creative ideas.' Clearly an ideal name for the publicity branch of the MSO!

The sporting aspect of the event has attracted the most attention, but hopefully enjoyment, the sheer pleasure of playing, has been preserved as well. The philosophy behind the scenes has accentuated the healthy exercise of the mind, with equal emphasis on Olympiad competition and the fun of games.

The human element is perhaps best captured by one of the final disciplines. In an age of increasing competition between man and machine, Fujitsu have sponsored a more egalitarian event - computer programming. This competition emphasises interaction with technol-

ogy rather than confrontation.

Although the MSO has experienced one or two predictable labour pains, it has emerged healthy and with prospects for a bright future. Plans are already well advanced for future event(s), and the organisation welcome the impressions and suggestions of all of those who helped to make the inaugural event such a success.

Mind Sports Olympiad Final Medal Table

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
England	29	40	40	109
Holland	9	3	4	16
Japan	4	5	1	10
USA	4	0	0	4
France	3	1	1	5
Barbados	3	0	0	3
Germany	2	2	4	8
China	2	2	1	5
Wales	2	0	1	3
Belarus	2	0	0	2
Ireland	1	2	0	3
S. Africa	1	1	0	2
Scotland	1	0	1	2
Antigua	1	0	0	1
Cyprus	1	0	0	1
Hong Kong	1	0	0	1
Latvia	0	3	1	4
Finland	0	2	1	3
New Zealand	0	2	1	3
India	0	1	2	3
Italy	0	1	1	2
Denmark	0	1	0	1
Guadaloupe	0	1	0	1
Malaysia	0	1	0	1
Sri Lanka	0	1	0	1
Ukraine	0	0	3	3
Czech Rep.	0	0	1	1
Estonia	0	0	1	1
Ghana	0	0	1	1



Skandia



MIND SPORTS OLYMPIAD

Abalone Championship

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------|
| 1 M. Tastet (France) | gold |
| 2 A. Perelson (S. Africa) | silver |
| 3 G. Cottogni (Italy) | bronze |

Backgammon Championship

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------|
| 1 J. Clark (England) | gold |
| 2 M. Barkwill (England) | silver |
| 3 M. Barron (England) | bronze |

Backgammon Beginners

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------|
| 1 R. Biddle (USA) | gold |
| 2 A. Baron (England) | silver |
| 3 P. Martin (England) | bronze |

Backgammon Weekend

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------|
| 1 G. Christofides (Cyprus) | gold |
| 2 S. Rimmer (England) | silver |
| 3 L. Geoghegan (England) | bronze |

Bridge Duplicate Pairs

- | | |
|---|--------|
| 1 M. Gold/D. Higginson
(England) | gold |
| 2 P. Hecht-Johansen/K. Blakset
(Denmark) | silver |
| 3 M. Beyer/J. Tesselaar
(Holland) | bronze |

Bridge Swiss Pairs

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------|
| 1 M. Beyer/J. Tesselaar
(Holland) | gold |
| 2 G. Horscroft/M. Walsh
(England) | silver |
| 3 M. Gold/D. Higginson
(England) | bronze |

Bridge Team Ch'ship (Sat)

- | | |
|---|--------|
| 1 S. Burn/P. King/T. Townsend/
N. Sandqvist | gold |
| 2 S. Dannel/P. Shepperson/
M. Beyer/J. Tesselaar | silver |
| 3 R. Eaton/A. Salem/Bharat/
T. Nnando | bronze |

Bridge Team Ch'ship (Sun)

- | | |
|--|--------|
| 1 S. Burn/P. King/T. Townsend/
N. Sandqvist | gold |
| 2 S. Mohandes/A. Bowles/
D. Stoev/I. Iukovici | silver |
| 3 M. Gold/D. Higginson/
M. Beyer/J. Tesselaar | bronze |

Chess 30-minute

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------|
| 1 M. Adams (England) | gold |
| 2 M. Sadler (England) | silver |
| 3 D. Gormally (England) | bronze |

Chess 30-minute Junior Ch'ship

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------|
| 1 L. McShane (England) | gold |
| 2-3 K. Chakraborty (India) | silver |
| D. Tan (England) | silver |
| 4 G. Jones (England) | bronze |

Chess 10-minute (Sat)

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------|
| 1 W. Watson (England) | gold |
| 2 K. Arkell (England) | silver |
| 3 J. Plaskett (England) | bronze |

Chess 10-minute juniors (Sat)

- | | |
|------------------------|--------|
| 1 G. Jones (England) | gold |
| 2 D. Edwards (England) | silver |
| 3 S. Ghasi (England) | bronze |

Chess 5-minute (Sat)

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------|
| 1 M. Adams (England) | gold |
| 2 M. Sadler (England) | silver |
| 3 S. Conquest (England) | bronze |

Chess 5-minute juniors (Sat)

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------|
| 1 D. Tan (England) | gold |
| 2 T. Dougherty (England) | silver |
| 3 N. Frost (England) | bronze |

Chess 10-minute (Sun)

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------|
| 1 S. Conquest (England) | gold |
| 2 M. Adams (England) | silver |
| 3 M. Hebden (England) | bronze |

Chess 10-minute juniors (Sun)

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------|
| 1 G. Jones (England) | gold |
| 2 M. Broomfield (England) | silver |
| 3 T. Hebbes (England) | bronze |

Chess 5-minute (Sun)

- | | |
|------------------------|--------|
| 1 M. Hebden (England) | gold |
| 2 M. Adams (England) | silver |
| 3 J. Hodgson (England) | bronze |

Chess 5-minute juniors (Sun)

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------|
| 1 T. Hebbes (England) | gold |
| 2 T. Dougherty (England) | silver |
| 3 D. Tan (England) | bronze |

Chess Problem Solving

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------|
| 1 S. Conquest (England) | gold |
| 2 M. Pein (England) | silver |
| 3 K. Chakraborty (India) | bronze |

Chess Terafinal

- | | |
|------------------------|--------|
| 1 R. Cleveland (Wales) | gold |
| 2 N. Timms (England) | silver |
| 3 R. Jones (Wales) | bronze |

Non-Olympiad event

Chess Challenges

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------|
| 1 D. Hodge (England) | gold |
| 2 L. D'Costa (England) | silver |
| 3 L. Broomfield (England) | bronze |

Non-Olympiad event

Chinese Chess Championship

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------|
| 1 W.W. Cheung (France) | gold |
| 2 F.Z. Chen (England) | silver |
| 3 P.L.B. Young (England) | bronze |

Chinese Chess Euro Ch'ship

- | | |
|-----------------------|------|
| 1 Say Ty Hua (France) | gold |
|-----------------------|------|

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------|
| 2 Woo Wei Cheung (France) | silver |
| 3 Fa Zuo (England) | bronze |

Non-Olympiad event

Computer Programming Ch'ship

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------|
| 1 M. Gardner (England) | gold |
| 2 S. Smith (New Zealand) | silver |
| 3 Hai Ying Liang (China) | bronze |

Continuo Championship

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------|
| 1 O. Omodera (Japan) | gold |
| 2 M. Nellthorp (England) | silver |
| 3 J. Kwee (England) | bronze |

Creative Thinking Ch'ship

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------|
| 1 P. Bateman (S. Africa) | gold |
| 2 B. Birchall (England) | silver |
| 3 D. Holloway (England) | bronze |

Crossword Puzzles

- | | |
|-----------------|--------|
| 1 D. Howell | gold |
| 2 A. Sutherland | silver |
| 3 M. Wareham | bronze |

Non-Olympiad event

Decamentathlon

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------|
| 1 A. Dyson (England) | gold |
| 2 D. Hassabis (England) | silver |
| 3 B. Jacobs (England) | bronze |

Draughts (8x8) Championship

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------|
| 1 R. King (Barbados) | gold |
| 2 C. McCarrick (Ireland) | silver |
| 3 D. Harwood (England) | bronze |

Draughts (8x8) 10-minute (Sat)

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------|
| 1 R. King (Barbados) | gold |
| 2 C. McCarrick (Ireland) | silver |
| 3 P. Raivis (Latvia) | bronze |

Draughts (8x8) 10-minute (Sun)

- | | |
|------------------------|--------|
| 1 R. King (England) | gold |
| 2 D. Harwood (England) | silver |
| 3 H. Jahu (Estonia) | bronze |

Draughts (10x10) Championship

- | | |
|------------------------|--------|
| 1 I. Wiersma (Holland) | gold |
| 2 G. Valneris (Latvia) | silver |
| 3 I. Kirzner (Ukraine) | bronze |

Draughts (10x10) 10-minute (Sat)

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------|
| 1 A. Gantvarg (Belarus) | gold |
| 2 G. Valneris (Latvia) | silver |
| 3 I. Kirzner (Ukraine) | bronze |

Draughts (10x10) 10-minute (Sun)

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------|
| 1 A. Gantvarg (Belarus) | gold |
| 2 G. Valneris (Latvia) | silver |
| 3 I. Kirzner (Ukraine) | bronze |

Entropy Championship

- | | |
|------------------------|--------|
| 1 M. Heasman (England) | gold |
| 2 P. Horlock (England) | silver |
| 3 S. Tavener (England) | bronze |

ROLL OF HONOUR 1997



Gin Rummy Championship

- 1 M. Kelly (Ireland) gold
- 2 J. Bosley (New Zealand) silver
- 3 R. Hellman (England) bronze

Go (9x9) Championship

- 1 Z. Guo (Holland) gold
- 2 D. Ward (England) silver
- 3 P. Margetts (England) bronze

Go (13x13) Championship

- 1 S. Zhang (China) gold
- 2 Z. Guo (Holland) silver
- 3 D. Ward (England) bronze

Go (19x19) Championship

- 1 Z. Guo (Holland) gold
- 2 S. Zhang (China) silver
- 3 A. Goddard (England) bronze

Go (19x19) Weekend

- 1 Z. Guo (Holland) gold
- 2 S. Zhang (China) silver
- 3 V. Danek (Czech Rep.) bronze

Hare & Tortoise Championship

- 1 C. Dickson (England) gold
- 2 B. Croucher (England) silver
- 3 S. Tavener (England) bronze

IQ Championship

- 1 A. Walker (Scotland) gold
- 2 M. Isaac (England) silver
- 3 J. McLeod (England) bronze

IQ 1-day

- 1 R. Charisse (England) gold
- 2 B. Pridmore (England) silver
- 3 P. Smith (England) bronze

IQ 1-day juniors

- 1 W. Lo (England) gold
- 2 D. Leaf (England) silver
- 3 N. Eskuarzi (England) bronze

Japanese Chess Championship

- 1 E. Cheymol (France) gold
- 2 A. Hosking (England) silver
- 3 S. Lamb (England) bronze

Japanese Chess 15-minute (Sat)

- 1 M. Sandeman (England) gold
- 2 Y. Sumi (Japan) silver
- 3 D. Hassabis (England) bronze

Japanese Chess 15-minute (Sun)

- 1 M. Sandeman (England) gold
- 2 T. Shiose (Japan) silver
- 3 P. Smith (England) silver

Tie not broken - two silvers awarded

Jigsaw Puzzles Championship

- 1 R. Harwood (England) gold
- 2 A. Smith (England) silver
- 3 P. Wood (England) bronze

Lines of Action Championship

- 1 F. Kok (Holland) gold
- 2 R. Wikman (Finland) silver
- 3 J. Bosley (New Zealand) bronze

Magic - The Gathering Ch'ship

- 1 S. Dannell (England) gold
- 2 C.J. Tongue (England) silver
- 3 K. Nicholson (Scotland) bronze

Mah Jongg Championship

- 1 P. Leung (Hong Kong) gold
- 2 A. Tan (Malaysia) silver
- 3 R. Zuiverloow (Holland) bronze

Mastermind Championship

- 1 R. Coull (England) gold
- 2 D. De Toffoli (Italy) silver
- 3 B. Croucher (England) bronze

Mastermind 10-minute (Sat)

- 1 O. Omodera (Japan) gold
- 2 Y. Sumi (Japan) silver
- 3 R. Franzkeit (Germany) bronze

Mastermind 10-minute (Sun)

- 1 K. Wilshire (Wales) gold
- 2 R. Wikman (Finland) silver
- 3 W. Lo (England) bronze

Memory Skills Championship

- 1 D. O'Brien (England) gold
- 2 A. Bell (England) silver
- 3 D. Thomas (England) bronze

Mental Calculations Ch'ship

- 1 K. Galle (USA) gold
- 2 R. Fountain (England) silver
- 3 K. Wilshire (Wales) bronze

Mental Calculations Junior Ch'ship

- 1 Hao Wu (China) gold
- 2 D. Summers (England) silver
- 3 J. Keval (India) bronze

Othello Championship

- 1 M. Suekuni (Japan) gold
- 2 T. Nakajima (Japan) silver
- 3 M. Tastet (France) bronze

Othello Weekend

- 1 D. Shaman (USA) gold
- 2 T. Murakami (Japan) silver
- 3 G. Edmead (England) bronze

Owari Championship

- 1 J. Richards (Antigua) gold
- 2 I. Pacquette (Guadeloupe) silver
- 3 K. Bonsu (Ghana) bronze

Owari Junior Championship

- 1 T. Low Ten Que (England) gold
- 2 N. Low Ten Que (England) silver
- 3 M. Cornelius (England) bronze

Pentamind Championship

- 1 K. Wilshire (Wales) gold
- 2 D. Hassabis (England) silver
- 3 R. Wikman (Finland) bronze

Rummikub Championship

- 1 M. Naito (Japan) gold
- 2 G. Hassabis (England) silver
- 3 H. Kitajima (Japan) bronze

Rummikub British Championship

- 1 A. Burley gold
- 2 J. Marchant silver
- 3 A. Choudhary bronze

British Championship - does not count for medal table

Scrabble Championship

- 1 F. Simpson (England) gold
- 2 H. Lamabadusuriya (Sri Lanka) silver
- 3 M. Thompson (England) bronze

Scrabble Weekend

- 1 P. Appleby (England) gold
- 2 A. Saldanha (England) silver
- 3 A. Fisher (England) bronze

Skat Championship

- 1 H.J. Schindler (Germany) gold
- 2 N. Schäfer (Germany) silver
- 3 Dr D. Beise (Germany) bronze

Speed Reading Championship

- 1 A. Jones (England) gold
- 2 B. Mapp (England) silver
- 3 M. Isaac (England) silver
- 4 I. Stewart (England) bronze

Stratego Championship

- 1 P. Van Bodegom (Holland) gold
- 2 G. Franka (Holland) silver
- 3 E. Van den Berg (Holland) bronze

Stratego Junior Championship

- 1 R. Becks (Holland) gold
- 2 P. Mullenders (Holland) silver
- 3 F. Poppelaars (Holland) bronze

Stratego Team Championship

- 1 Holland gold
- 2 France silver
- 3 Germany bronze

Twixt Championship

- 1 A. Randolph (USA) gold
- 2 D. Hassabis (England) silver
- 3 G. Hassabis (England) bronze

Zatre Championship

- 1 S. Ludwig (Germany) gold
- 2 W. Witkowski (Germany) silver
- 3 D. Steuerwald (Germany) bronze

Missing in Action

In the 10-minute chess tournament yesterday, nine-year-old Gawain Jones was drawn to play *The Daily Telegraph* chess correspondent, Malcolm Pein, in the first round. However, due to a misunderstanding Malcolm failed to appear. He had in fact entered the chess problem solving competition instead. The irony is that earlier this Gawain set the world record as the youngest player to defeat an international master in tournament play. His victim – the very same Malcolm Pein!

Back to the Future

One of the highlights of the 1st Mind Sports Olympiad was the Skandia Knowledge Café. Gunilla Nordqvist, who was responsible for much of the construction of this fascinating site,

explained the thinking behind it. 'Our main aim was to inform people about Skandia's products and especially about their concept of Intellectual Capital. Skandia is a very forward-looking company and so we set out to establish a techno-café to fit in with this image. Of course, it should also be fun!

'The brain is infinite in scope and so we wanted to create a "mind rest" area incorporating a listening wall, a massage facility and relaxation chairs, which have been specially designed by Back2 for stressed executives, housewives and anyone in need of revitalisation. The mind rest area acts as a perfect recuperation site for the competitors' hard-worked brains.'

Below: Skandia's insurance policy for a memorable brain!

THE MSO WOULD LIKE TO THANK

Skandia
Fujitsu/ICL Computers
The Times
British Airways
Silicon Graphics
Mensa – the high IQ society
Delbeck Champagne
Buzan Centres
Intelligent Research
The Brain Foundation
Chess and Bridge
Hamleys
Kasparov Chess
Save the Children
Rotary International (UK)
The Royal Festival Hall
Cresswell Associates
I.G.I
The Brain Trust
Yemeyah Communications
WTN
Glass Distinction
and, especially, all the staff and arbiters who have worked so hard to make this event a success.

OLYMPIAD NEWS TEAM

Editor:
Jon Tisdall
Production:
Byron Jacobs and
Andrew Kinsman
(First Rank Publishing)

We hope you have enjoyed our coverage of the Mind Sports Olympiad. If you have any feedback or suggestions for next year's *Olympiad News*, please write to: First Rank Publishing, 5 Rochester Gardens, Hove, Sussex BN3 3AW. Or e-mail: byronjacobs@compuserve.com

MIND SPORTS OLYMPIAD

PO Box 13388,
London NW3 2ZF
Fax: 0171 482 0672
<http://www.mindsports.co.uk/>

BRAIN INSURANCE



SKANDIA INSURANCE COMPANY
INSURES THE BRAIN OF

DOMINIC O'BRIEN

.....
AGAINST ACCIDENT FOR ONE YEAR
INSURED VALUE

£1,000,000

.....
Lars-Eric Petersson, CEO
LONDON, 21 August 1997

