



Olympiad News

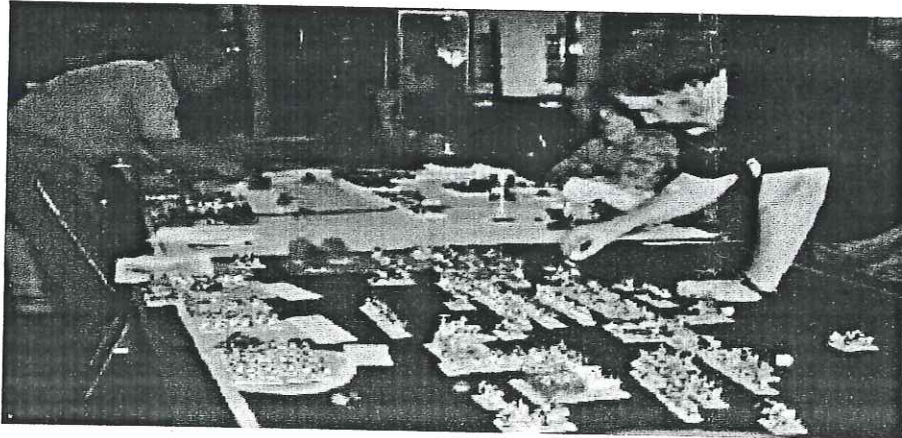
The news bulletin of the 8th Mind Sports Olympiad

Manchester Conference Centre at UMIST

Issue number 1: Saturday August 21st 2004

WAR HITS MANCHESTER

Manchester plays host to the War games for the first time. It is a new event that has linked up with MSO to be held at UMIST hopefully on a regular basis. So why Manchester? Because it is a vibrant city that is home to a multi - cultural diverse population. It is used to holding large events successfully and attracts a lot of recognition worldwide so what is on offer?, we have an ABC guide to all the mind sports that are on offer plus a timetable of all events taking place. We hope you will find this useful. We have more than 120 tournaments and teaching sessions on offer, encompassing more than 40 different Mind Sports. We very much hope that everyone at MSO8 will enjoy the event. May all of you have good fortune in your games! The organisers are hoping to find new talent this year and that past competitors will come back and try and break their own personal scores. The event is open to all and there will be families taking part in the same games trying to outwit each other. Don't worry if you have never heard of some of these games, as there will be experts available during the week to show you how to play and if not just somebody. All the staff whether at the MSO or WARGAMES are here to help and give advice. As part of running this event a small team of volunteers has been drafted in to help everybody make this a successful event. A lot of these volunteers were at the Commonwealth Games and we all know how successful they were! The other things that are happening in Manchester at the moment is a week long Gay Pride Festival with many events happening in the Gay Village on Canal Street



SOME EVENTS HAVE A CASH PRIZE FUND

BRIDGE	£8,000
CHESS	£1,100
DOMINOES	£750
DRAUGHTS	£600
GO	£300.
INTELLIGENCE	£1,000
MEMORY SKILLS	£300
MENTAL CALCULATION	£100
PACRU	£150
SCRABBLE	£350
SNATCH	£150

Other prizes in kind include special trophies for winners of the Amateur Backgammon, Bridge, Chess and Draughts and Poker championships, for those taking part in more tournaments as advertised in entry form.

Please note that cash prizes for Poker and Backgammon require a Gaming Licence, we are not in licensed premises..at UMIST.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I was so bored sitting around waiting whilst my daughter plays chess, I am going to enter into the scrabble event" said Lateefah Messam-Sparks mother from Nottingham!

Joke:

what is green and hairy and goes up and down? Answer "A gooseberry in a lift"

THIS MEANS WAR!!!!

Wargaming is coming to Manchester for the first time!

Yesterday the Chair of the Society, JD McNeil, was interviewed for the Olympiad News. JD as he likes to be known to his friends was first introduced to Wargaming 25 years ago when he was working as an engineer at Wembley Stadium where an event was taking place. He and his son, Ian, aged 6, saw the Battle of Rourke's Drift being re-enacted between the British and the Zulus. This sparked the imagination of his son and he was swept up with the excitement of this Mind game. Ian has since progressed into designing War games for computers and has won many awards.

This year the British National Championships are being held in Manchester.

Each game lasts approx 3 and a half hours and it is based on 3-D Chess.

Wargaming is worldwide and covers all periods of history. The only aspect which is not fully covered is for those periods when gunpowder was used. However the English Civil War and the Napoleonic Wars are covered even though gunpowder played an integral part.

The competitors for this year's event are coming from all over the world. Great Britain is entering two teams, A and B, with 4 players in each team.

Earlier this year, in Rome, Simon Hall of Team A was crowned the World Champion. The 2 teams are due to go to Ghent in September for the European Championships and also Melbourne 2005 for the World Championships.

An army comes in either a 15mm or 25mm size and individual pieces will be on sale at this venue. Each piece is hand painted by the owner after careful research to verify the accuracy of colours and other detail. Check out www.bhgs.co.uk for more information.

The British Historical Games Society which runs the war games was formed as the body in 1996 to further the advancement and tournaments over the UK and with other international links. There are many aims but the first was to re-establish a National War games Championships the premier War games Championship. This year the BHG has linked up with the MSO to a new home at UMIST. The organisers hope that by linking up with the MSO a new permanent home can be established in Manchester at UMIST for the foreseeable future. In actual fact both organisers hope to carry on using UMIST as a venue because it is central and well liked by both competitors and visitors.

TODAY AT UMIST MIND GAMES:

Backgammon Beginners	09.30- 17.30
Backgammon Weekend	09.30 - 17.30
Chess under BCF 160	09.30 - 17.30
Chess Minor Olympiad	09.30 - 17.30
Chess Problem Solving	13.00 - 17.30
Chess Open Olympiad	18.30 - 22.00
Chinese Chess Olympiad	14.00 - 17.00
Cribbage 6 Card	09.30 - 17.30
Diplomacy Intimate	09.30 - 17.30
Draughts Hexdame	14.30 - 17.00
Othello 8 x 8	09.30 - 17.30
Poker 7 Card Stud	18.00 - 22.30

STOP PRESS

Congratulations to the British Men's and Women's Rowing Team who won Gold, Silver and Bronze Today.

Food is available from the Rock Café at the Renold Building plus a small café at the Barnes Wallace Building as well.

IF YOU HAVE ANY NEWS AND VIEWS, EVENTS AND ANNIVERSARIES CONTACT THE NEWS TEAM ON 0161 - 200 - 4094. OR COME TO ROOM F1.

FACT OR FICTION:

A woman in America was playing Bridge with her husband when he led the four of spades and went to the sideboard and pulled out a gun and killed him! He led such a terrible card that is why he was killed.



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Issue number 3: Monday August 23rd 2004

MIND MAPPING MADE EASY BY THE MASTER

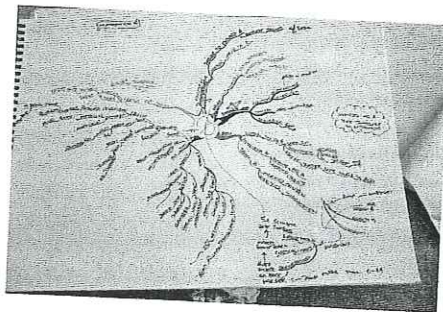


Elaine Colliar is five times Mind Mapping World Champion and has been named as a Grandmaster in the discipline. The World Championship has been held at the Mind Sports Olympiad each year; her five victories have come from five appearances, but now she has retired from competition to act as tournament arbiter.

A teacher first introduced her to Mind Mapping at the age of 14 and she quickly found that her dyslexia caused her no problems. After leaving school, she became a Technical Stage Manager; through this, she met Tony Buzan who taught her to become a Mind Mapping trainer. She has trained students between the ages of 5 and 85 in 24 different countries; as a test, she taught Mind Mapping to 14 A-level students - use of the technique earned them a combined total of 42 A grades!

Mind Mapping is an effective technique for note-taking, mental note-making and speed reading. Mind Mapping has come to the fore over the last 35 years due to a greater scientific understanding of the workings of the brain; Mind Mapping engages both hemispheres of the brain to use it fully and promote long-term memory retention.

Elaine lectures in speed reading, memory skills and mind mapping all over the world and is using mind mapping to help launch new businesses. One of the new courses she is running is to teach people how to use mind maps to trade on the US stock markets to become investors; you can find out more about these courses on her web sites at www.learning-tech.co.uk and www.investnshare.com. She has a little boy who is four years old but is not really into Mind Mapping at the moment.



The Mind Mapping competition involves the production of three mind maps in 8 1/2 hours. The first of these is based on a 30-minute lecture, the second one on a piece of written text and the third is a creative mind map using spoken, written and creative planning.

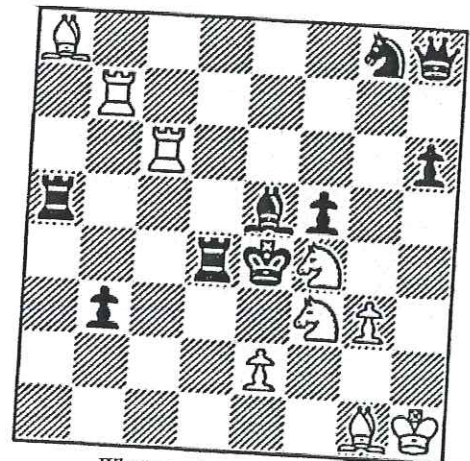
The competition this year was won by Phil Chambers, a 31-year-old mental literacy trainer, with silver and bronze medals going to Kevin Dalley (a business systems manager at Boots) and Faisal Idrees (an ophthalmologist at Great Ormond Street) respectively. Faisal is a first-time competitor, who commented: "I never knew about the Mind Mapping World Championship until a week ago. I am glad I was able to participate and spend about eight hours drawing 3 mind maps, using my imagination while competing with others. It has been inspiring to see their Mind Maps and it shows there is so much more for me to do in the future. I would recommend it for anyone, young and old."

MONDAY'S EVENTS

Backgammon Olympiad	09.30 - 17.30
Chess Olympiad	09.30 - 13.00
Chess Open Evening	18.30 - 22.00
Chinese Chess Olympiad	09.30 - 17.30
Continuo World Champ	14.00 - 17.00
Draughts British Open	09.30 - 18.00
Entropy World Champs	09.30 - 17.30
Othello World Champ	14.00 - 17.00
Othello European Champ	09.30 - 13.00
Poker 5 Card Draw	18.00 - 22.30
Scrabble Evening Olympiad	18.00 - 22.30
TriGames	09.30 - 17.30

(Othello, Boku, Backgammon)

CHESS PROBLEM



White to play, mate in two

This was question two from the Chess Problem championship on Saturday. Are you up to the test? Answer later in the week!

BOKU

Facing your opponent across the Boku board, your task would appear a simple one: to line up 5 of your own marbles in a row to win. Don't be deceived by the simplicity of this challenge; the "Sandwich Rule" makes this one of the most ingenious and addictive strategic games ever invented.



David Pearce, reigning World Boku Champion, has been playing the game for four years; he discovered it when he was playing in the Pentamind competition at MSO 4. His gaming background is from bridge, but it's a game he pays less attention to nowadays in deference to the marble game. Our defending champion hails from London, has Masters and Bachelors degrees in engineering and is currently looking for work in the computer programming sector. He has had broad experience working for QinetiQ., involved with a number of defence contracts.

David has one of the busiest schedules at this year's Olympiad, mind-blowing in its complexity. However, between tournaments, you may well find him teaching newcomers how to play Boku on the giant display board in the registration area.

MATCH OF THE DAY

In yesterday's Othello 8 x 8 European Championship event, the key title contenders were former MSO champion Marc Tastet of France and Imre Leader of England. Moving into the last round of the competition, according to David Edmondson, the tournament arbiter, Marc and Imre were "running neck and neck" for the leadership having won 8 games each. In the last round they were due to meet for their second game, Imre having won the first 35 discs to 29. Imre again was successful by 45 discs to 19 making him favourite for the Championship decider between the 2 leaders of the qualifying event.

Marc, who is based in Paris, has competed at the MSO events in every year except 2001 and won the Gold Medal for the Othello 8 x 8 European Championships in both 2002 and 2003. Imre, from Cambridge, competed in the event in 1999 and 2000, winning the Bronze Medal in 1999 and has clearly shown much improved form this year. He will be eager to deny Marc his third Gold Medal.

Chess Major Olympiad:

Chris Vassilov was a full point clear after 3 rounds. However two draws in the last 2 rounds enabled David Jameson to share 1st Place on 4pts. Chris did win the gold medal with David awarded Silver.

Chess Open Olympiad:

Robert Taylor took a clear lead in the open by breaking top seed Paul Platt in the 3 rounds. He started the 2nd day on 3/3. He only scored ½ point on the Sunday-losing to Dennis Owen in round 4. Dennis finished on 3 ½ to share 1st Place but Robert won gold.

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY

Chess Major Olympiad

Gold: Chris Vassilou (England)
Silver: David Jameson (Welsh)
Bronze: Karl Biswas (England)

Chess Open Olympiad

Gold: Robert.K.Taylor (England)
Silver: Dennis Owen (England)
Bronze: Paul Plant (England)

Chess Minor Olympiad

Gold: Joey Ho (Hong Kong)
Silver: Latefa Messah-Sparks (England)
Bronze: Martin Lau (England)

Skat

Gold: Thomas Wojtkun (Poland)
Silver: Martin Jonas (Germany)
Bronze: John McLeod (England)

Cribbage Olympiad Pairs

Gold: Tony Wilkinson
Alex Wilkinson (England)
Silver: Steve Brayshaw
Alan Brayshaw (England)
Bronze: Josef.V.Koller
Madeline Heppell (England)

OTHELLO BLITZ CHAMPIONSHIP

Gold: Marc Tastet (France)
Silver: Imre Leader (England)
Bronze: Geoff Hubbard (Australia)

MIND MAPPING

Gold: Phil Chambers (England)
Silver: Kevin Dalley (England)
Bronze: Faisal Idrees (England)

BACKGAMMON WEEKEND TOURNAMENT

Gold: Connor Dickson (Scotland)
Silver: Uldis Lapikens (England)
Bronze: Dario De Toffoli (Italy)

DRAUGHTS FRISIAN OLYMPIAD

Gold: Hein De Vris (Netherlands)
Silver: George Miller (England)
Bronze: David Kolin (Belarus)



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Issue number 4: 24th August 2004

MEDAL FOR MAUREEN FINALLY !!!

Maureen Hiron continues on her way through the games world, coming out with a new fourth version of Continuo. The game was first designed in 1982 and is now sold in over 40 countries. It took her exactly two seconds to design the original and five months to get it into the shops. It is reputed that you can learn how to play this game in just ten seconds. Maureen has led a very eventful life and has overcome some barriers. She told me her teaching background gave her an insight and special awareness for children with maths problems and this was shown on the BBC. Maureen has worked on the game show "Krypton Factor" designing many of the games herself. She has been lucky enough this year to win an MSO silver medal for the first time. Another thing Maureen likes to do is play Bridge; she writes a daily column and has been known to represent the UK as an international player. She currently resides in Spain and loves it there for its warm climate. Over the years there has been tragedy in her life, especially when she was pensioned off from teaching when the school roof fell in on her. Her resilience and tenacity have seen her rise to "Business Woman of the Year", to help getting funding for the Royal Marsden Hospital, Chelsea. She tried unsuccessfully to take over Spears but due to family circumstances the bid had to be withdrawn. She now lives a very full life designing games; she is responsible for 40 board games worldwide! In her spare time when she is not playing bridge or travelling to bridge tournaments, she loves playing tennis and soaking up the sunshine. I would love to have spoken to this lady a lot more but time was against us. I wish her safe journey back to Spain.



Our new Trigram competitions test players in three games. However, one pair of entrants found three games insufficient and instituted a fourth event; David Kotin (Belarus) and David Cariolaro (Italy) tested their physical muscles as well as their mental ones with impromptu displays of machismo that delighted spectators.

In the hot seat Demis Hassabis, Current Pentamind Champion

Demis is 28 years old and a games veteran, having started playing chess at the age of four. Within months he was beating his father, and has not looked back since! He is the three times world champion at Entropy, and he is defending that title here today. He plays nearly all the games that are represented at MSO, with his favourites being chess, poker, Diplomacy and Entropy, the last being possibly his single favourite. Entropy was invented by Eric Solomon in the 1970s and is played between two players, one representing Order and the other Chaos. Order tries to create patterns and Chaos to destroy them. The game starts when Chaos pulls one of the game's 49 counters (seven in each of seven colours) out of the bag and places it anywhere on the board. Order gains points by creating patterns of two or more colours either vertically or horizontally. Like football, it is a "game of two halves" and after fifteen minutes the players change roles and try to beat the existing score. Demis is the five times Pentamind Champion, and overall has won around 65 medals at MSO. On Saturday he added the Intimate Diplomacy Gold to his collection. Demis is London-based and runs his own games company (elixir-studios.co.uk) which invents and markets a variety of computer games. The latest, Evil Genius, is due out in September. Demis Hassabis hasn't lost a game in this competition for the last 4 years - his brother George was the last person to beat him in 1999!



Spotlight John Glynn (Volunteer)

John Glynn is a volunteer helping out in the office with the results service. John was a volunteer at the Commonwealth Games. His job was to drive VIP's around to all the different venues. He thoroughly enjoyed himself. He had unfortunately to give up full time work due to health reasons. The reason he liked volunteering at the Games was there was no pressure. After the games he became a tutor in Information Technology and tutors 3 days a week. He works at Pecket Well Community College teaching IT skills to adults of all abilities. He also helps adults with reading difficulties and organises drop-in sessions where students who are attending other courses can get some back up expert tuition. He also works for N.E.R.I.S., an organisation that works with ex-offenders, alcoholics, drug users and people with learning difficulties. He has always enjoyed playing board games but find it hard to play with adults as he has small children. A typical family game can last 20 minutes with an inquest afterwards lasting 40 minutes. If the children are winning the game is played to the end. If he is winning the board is shut / finished with the statement "it is a daft game this!". John has managed to learn some new games while here and hopes to get back some of his competitive edge which he has lost over the last few years. M.S.O. wishes him much success in the future.....

In play today

Backgammon BIBA	0930-1730
Bridge (Ladies Pairs)	1900-2300
Bridge (Men's Pairs)	1900-2300
Bridge (Senior Pairs)	1400-1700
Chess - Olympiad 25 mins	0930-1300
Chess Open 40 mins	1830-2200
Chinese Chess	0930-1730
Draughts 8x8 Brit Open	0930-1800
Lines of Action World	0930-1300
Othello 10x10 World	1400-1700
Poker 7-card Stud	1800-2230
Scrabble Olympiad	1800-2230
Trigames	0930-1730

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY

SCRABBLE - OLYMPIAD CHAMPIONSHIP

Gold:	Wayne Kelly	England
Silver:	Eleanor Dobson	England
Bronze:	Martin Thompson	England

OTHELLO - 8 x 8 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

Gold:	Marc Tastet	France
Silver:	Imre B. Leader	England
Bronze:	Geoff Hubbard	Australia

CONTINUO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

Gold:	Victoria Westnedge	England
Silver:	Maureen Hiron	England
Bronze:	Matthew Cordell	England

ENTROPY (7 X 7) WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

Gold:	Demis Hassabis	England
Silver:	Peter J. Hilton	England
Bronze:	Carl Ragnarsson	Sweden

CHINESE CHESS (XIANG QI) OLYMPIAD CHAMPIONSHIP

Gold:	Chin Lee Lim	Malaysia
Silver:	Karl Biswas	England
Bronze:	Alexander Meynell	England

CHESS PROBLEM SOLUTION

Yesterday, we posed you a problem from the Chess Problem Solving competition. White's winning first move is Rc3, intending checkmate with Re3 next time; Black has no way to counter Rc3. Possible unsuccessful defences for Black include:
1. Rc3 Rd3 2. Rb4++
1. Rc3 Bxf4 2. Re7++

Unsuccessful first moves for White are
1. Rc4 (countered by 1. ...Bc7)
1. Rb4 (countered by 1. ...Bd6)
1. Rxb3 (countered by 1. ...Bc7)

By Talip Amikrov in *The Tablet* in 1966.

Match of the day Draughts

The match of the day was between two old rivals, known to have had many close competitions not only on the board game field of play but football and rugby as well, the old match Scotland v England. We focus upon Colin Young who lives in Aberdeen and plays regularly at the draughts club every Thursday. He tells me that he "only plays one style"; he has had many matches against George Miller and the score seems to be even. He came to the sport when he replied to an advert in the local paper. In the past he has been champion of Eastern Scotland Champion six times and champion of Western Scotland twice. Each game takes an hour to play; each match sees two games, with players alternating start. The score today was 1 - 1. His opponent is George Miller, and has played draughts since the age 4 and has been playing for 42 years. He plays all over the world including the UK, Ireland and USA. He is currently ranked in the top 50 in the world. His rivalry with Colin Young is an ongoing battle, and today there seems to be no difference in their score. George also plays many different styles, including Italian, Czech, Frisian and Pool to name a few. He has won many MSO medals over the years including gold, silver and bronze. His daughter is a good poker player and likes playing "losing checkers". As George said "The gap between an adult playing and a child is normally very easy to see, but in Losing Checkers the gap is narrow". George loves poker first and foremost and checkers second and intends to defend his titles while in Manchester. The match did not turn out to be the classic we thought but after a delayed start both players managed to get into the game. The draw was a fair result.

BRAINTEASER

What is the solution to this puzzling equation?

U.M.I.S.T. + V.U.O.M. = ?

(SOLUTION TOMORROW)

OVERNIGHT SCORES

British Open Draughts Championship leading scores after round 2:

Tony Boyle	7/8
George Miller	6/8
Ken Lovell	6/8
Colin Young	6/8

Chess Olympiad Championship leading scores after round 5:

David Shaw, Alan Smith, David Knox 5/5



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Issue number 9: Sunday 29th August 2004

23 competitors participate in the 2004 World Memory Championships from nine countries: Austria, England, Germany, France, Singapore, South Africa, USA, Norway and Sweden. The competitors from China sadly missed the event due to visa difficulties.

In an event one, memorisation of a non-rhyming poem with correct punctuation and capitalisation, two Austrian juniors were in the top four places: Joachim Thaler and Corinna Drashci. Joachim beat the entire field to achieve the Millennium Standard, the Silver Medal and a score of 310.5. Gold Medal went to the cool Astrid Plessl who, sitting quietly at the back of the room, achieved 312 points and the Millennium Standard.

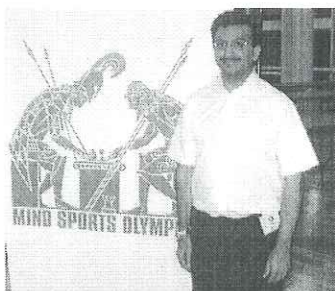
The second event was memorising a string of binary digits – 1s and 0s. Junior star Joachim held his own in fifth place with a score of 2106. Reigning champion Andi Bell was moving up with 2553 and Astrid had 2715. While the world record had been smashed by Dr Gunther Karsten with an impressive score of 3384, that was only enough for a Silver Medal; with a truly amazing score of 3705, Ben Pridmore had left the entire field standing with a new, new world record. Things were indeed hotting up.

The final event of the day was One Hour Cards. For the second time in a row, England's Ben Pridmore won the event with 1144 cards (22 packs) correctly memorised. Silver went to Astrid Plessl with 18.6 packs; bronze was won by Steffen Buetow with 16 packs.

So at the end of Day One the World Championships leader boards were as follows:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Ben Pridmore, 2807 | 4. Gunther Karsten, 2049 | Teams: 1. Austria, 6311 |
| 2. Astrid Plessl, 2545 | 5. Andi Bell, 1973 | 2. England, 5919 |
| 3. Joachim Thaler, 2116 | 6. Alisa Konrad, 1843 | 3. Germany, 5695 |

If the Mind Sports Olympiad is, as its organisers consider, an event for the participants, then Bharat would be the type of man that they had in mind when MSO 1 was run in London in 1997. He has attended every MSO event to date; although not a regular medal winner, he enters as many of the games as is practical and aims to learn at least one new game each year. He says that this year's new game is Lost Cities and his peak performance came in the Twixt Olympiad Championship when he won the Silver Medal. As well as extending his knowledge, he also enjoys being involved in the competitive games and having the opportunity of socialising with old and new friends.



Bharat, long-standing MSO friend

Bharat was born in Uganda, came to England in 1972 and now lives in Leicester. He works as a senior information assistant in De Montfort University library. His principal game is Bridge and he plays regularly at the Leicester Bridge Centre. He currently is a member of the Leicestershire County Third Team; in 2002, he and his partner, Jenny Grant, won the "Children in Need" simultaneous pairs national event. Bharat says that he relishes the opportunity presented by the MSO Bridge events to play against players of international standing and improve the level of his own game. His partner at MSO 8 is Tige Nnando, with whom he used to play regularly in Leicester. Tige is now lives in Manchester, so that with MSO located at UMIST, they have opportunity to resume their partnership and also to meet socially. Bharat says that their enjoyment of Manchester's night life coupled with full days of competition mean that sleep has been at something of a premium. For Bharat, life is clearly meant to be lived to the full and playing games to the best of his ability is an integral part of gaining the enjoyment which life can give.

MSO TODAY

LATEST RESULTS

British Open Draughts Championship

- | | | |
|---------|---------------|------------|
| Gold: | Colin Young | (Scotland) |
| Silver: | George Miller | (England) |
| Bronze: | Tony Boyle | (England) |

Go 13x13 Olympiad Championship

- | | | |
|---------|--------------------|--------------|
| Gold: | Carl J. Ragnarsson | (Sweden) |
| Silver: | Tim Hunt | (England) |
| Bronze: | Ian Davis | (N. Ireland) |

Go 13x13 Olympiad Championship Junior

- | | | |
|-------|---------------------|-----------|
| Gold: | Jonathan Englefield | (England) |
|-------|---------------------|-----------|

Lost Cities Olympiad Championship

- | | | |
|---------|------------------|-------------|
| Gold: | Bijan Mehdinejad | (England) |
| Silver: | Kenneth Ho | (Hong Kong) |
| Bronze: | Matthew Cordell | (England) |

Lost Cities Olympiad Champ: Junior

- | | | |
|---------|---------------|-------------|
| Gold: | Kenneth Ho | (Hong Kong) |
| Silver: | Theo Sharrock | (England) |
| Bronze: | Joey Ho | (Hong Kong) |

SPOT THE 5 DAN



You'd expect Piers Shepperson, former British Go champion, to be playing in the Northern Go Tournament this weekend, it being our main Go event. However, Piers spent last week at the Isle of Man Go Congress and the two weeks before that at the European Go Congress in Poland – quite enough Go for one month. Given that he can find Go tournaments anywhere but has only ever played a Settlers of Catan tournament once before at the MSO in Cambridge, he chose to play the game he uses to relax in the evenings while at Go tournaments. Can you imagine anything like this happening anywhere else apart from the MSO?

SPOTLIGHT ON POKER

The game of poker has grown tremendously; a recent Ladbrokes survey concluded that the number of Internet poker players increased more than five-fold in 2003, and this year's World Poker Championship in Las Vegas drew an incredible 2,576 entrants – each of whom put up the required buy-in of \$10,000. Heads-up play (poker between two players) has spawned its own competition; we're now introducing it at this year's MSO and will be playing it as a two-day tournament.

Today at 6 pm, over 40 players will square off in the Heads-Up Texas Hold'em No-Limit Championship, competing against each other two by two, with the winner advancing to the next round. Each winner will take along those chips which he or she has taken from the opponent in the match, or previous matches, until the final match on Monday afternoon, when the two surviving players, each with a cartload of chips, will go heads-up against each other for the coveted title.

"No-limit" means just that; any player can, at any time, shove all the chips in front of him or her into the pot – as a stone-cold bluff, on a whim, or as a calculated play to once and for all break the opponent and take him out of the game. As the slogan for the film *The Highlander* had it: "There can be only one!" On Monday afternoon, when the smoke clears, we will know who it is. It could even be you...

MATCH OF THE DAY: CARIBBEAN DOMINOES

It's not just that calypso feel and the noise level which are different about Caribbean Dominoes – the essential difference is "coding". Eat your heart out, bridge players, because establishing a secret code with your partner is not just allowed – it's the key to the game. Each pair develop their own series of gestures to convey what they hold in their hand without the opposition being able to read these signals. The very way in which a piece is laid down conveys a message.



Some of the tables in our beautiful Caribbean style dominoes hall

The Afro-Caribbean Dominoes League is sponsored by Guinness, in kind of course, so perhaps the noise and excitement are to be expected. The League has fortnightly team fixtures plus a few National events each year – of which the Mind Sports Olympiad is one. Last year's MSO event was sponsored by Western Union and the players have still got the tee-shirts to prove it.

This year's referee, Lester Burke, explained that he has to keep a sharp eye on play because a little skulduggery is not unknown – for instance, players may try to pass pieces under the table. Bridge players, don't start getting ideas!

AND THEN THERE WAS ONE

MSO archivists like to keep a close eye out for perennial MSO medal winners. At least five people won a medal in each of MSO 1 to MSO 5: Pentamind specialists Demis Hassabis and Dario de Toffoli, mental calculator Robert Fountain, speed reader Anne Jones and backgammon star John Clark.

Demis was too busy running his software company to attend MSO 6; Anne Jones had her event there cancelled when she was the only entrant. John Clark wasn't at MSO 7 here in Manchester and we hear that unfortunately Robert Fountain has had to reluctantly cancel his scheduled appearance at MSO 8 due to ill health. (The entire MSO team wishes you all the best for a swift recovery, Robert.) This means that we believe there's only one person who has won a medal at every event from MSO 1 to MSO 8: Dario de Toffoli. We salute you, Dario!

IN PLAY TODAY

Acquire Olympiad Ch	09.30 – 17.30
Backgammon English Open	09.30 – 17.30
Bridge: Green Pt. Swiss Teams	12.00 – 17.00
Carcassonne Olympiad Ch	18.30 – 22.00
Chess: Fischer Clock Blitz	14.00 – 17.00
Chess Novice Olympiad Ch	09.30 – 17.30
Chess: Time Variable Blitz	09.30 – 13.30
Creative Thinking World Ch	14.00 – 17.00
Caribbean Draughts Pairs Ch	10.00 – 18.00
Czech Dama Draughts Ch	09.30 – 13.00
Northern Go Tournament	09.30 – 17.30
Othello 10x10 Quickplay World	09.30 – 13.30
Poker: Heads-Up Texas Hold'Em	18.00 – 22.30
World Memory Championship	09.30 – 17.30

LATEST RESULTS CONTINUED

Pot-Limit Texas Hold'Em Poker

Gold:	Joey Ho	(Hong Kong)
Silver:	Paco G. de la Banda	(Spain)
Bronze:	Andrew Higgins	(England)

Pot-Limit Texas Hold'Em Poker: Junior

Gold:	Joey Ho	(Hong Kong)
Silver:	Andrew Higgins	(England)
Bronze:	Alex Wilkinson	(England)

Pot-Limit London Lowball Poker

Gold:	Matthew Cordell	(England)
Silver:	Chris Carter	(England)
Bronze:	Alexander Baron	(England)

Pot-Limit London Lowball Poker: Junior

Gold:	Alex Wilkinson	(England)
Silver:	Ankush Khandelwal	(England)
Bronze:	Jonathan Miller	(England)

Snatch World Championship

Gold:	Tim Hebbes	(England)
Silver:	Martin Thompson	(England)
Bronze:	David Pearce	(England)

Trigames: Othello, Boku, 1-pt. Backgammon

Gold:	David Kotin	(Belarus)
Silver:	Jan Palmgren	(Sweden)
Bronze:	Alain Dekker	(South Africa)
Bronze:	Ben Pridmore	(England)

Trigames Junior

Gold:	James Heppell	(England)
Silver:	Joey Ho	(Hong Kong)
Bronze:	Charles Heppell	(England)

Trigames: Continuo, Oware, 9x, Go

Gold:	Paul Smith	(England)
Silver:	Alain Dekker	(South Africa)
Bronze:	Hana Kvapilova	(Czech Republic)

CORRECTIONS

We note that Frisian Draughts bronze medal winner David Kotin had his name spelled incorrectly in issue 3 of Olympiad News; in addition, our claim that Alan Smith, Chess Olympiad Championship winner, has Georgian nationality is incorrect. Alan's nationality should have been listed as English. Our apologies to both competitors.