

March 2011

South African Go Association



President's report for the year 2010/2011:

2010 was an exciting year for SA Go. Although we are no longer receiving sponsorship for delegates to travel to the World Amateur Go Championships, Lloyd Rubidge was able to represent us, and performed excellently, achieving a remarkable final place of 29th (out of 60), with 4 wins out of 8. Lloyd was the highest placed kyu player, with 15 dan players finishing below him in the ratings.

Welile Gogotshe was selected to represent SAGA at the Korean Prime Minister's Cup. Although all costs to attend the tournament were paid by the Korean Baduk Association, a number of SA go players, most notably David Gale, sponsored his attendance at the International Go Academy in Seoul prior to the tournament. At the tournament, he won three games out of seven, a creditable result in a tournament where almost half of the players were above 5D.

Thanks also go out to the Cape Town players for making it possible for Welile to take part in the SA Closed tournament, especially Andrew Davies, who offered him a place to stay, helped him with luggage and generally kept an eye out for him.

The brand new Julius Paulu African Players' trophy was awarded for the first time at the 2011 SA Open, which was held in Soweto. The winner was John Leuner, who won all of his games, keeping Welile Gogotshe in second place. There was a very strong representation by Soweto players, showing that the effects of the Soweto Schools Go Projects are still continuing.

Sipho Mampe, Welile Gogotshe, Sello Leopeng, Ricky Pilane and some other Soweto Go stalwarts have reconstituted the Soweto Go Club, and intend to hold regular club meetings at the Dobsonville Community Centre, as soon as they have secured the use of the hall, which is a nominal R100 per month.

There was good continuity in the council, with only the tournament director and treasurer's positions changing: John Leuner took over from André Connell as treasurer, and Paul Steyn took over from Ben Gale as Membership secretary. Our special thanks to Andrew Davies for the good work he has done on the tournament portfolio.

The focus areas for SAGA in 2011-2012 will be:

- developing South African Go, increasing awareness of the game and numbers of players. The challenge here is availability of go players who are able to invest significant amounts of time over a sufficient period to develop players and keep their interest, and our abilities to support clubs where there is sufficient interest, but lack of access to the internet and contact with other go players.
- working towards increased opportunities for its members to take part in international competitions, such as the World Mind Sports Games, the International Pair Go Championship and the World Amateur Go Championship. Because it is currently impossible for us to sponsor travel to these events from SAGA funds, the challenge is to secure sponsorships where possible.

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David Richfield

SAGA President