

A History of the Brisbane Go Club

by John Hardy

The sources are varied, and include newsletters, Minutes of BGC and AGA meetings, President and Treasurer Reports from those organisations, books of account, tournament records, AGATHA records, and other documents, plus photos. It shows what a compulsive hoarder I am, and yet I have misplaced (hopefully only that!) a file of later Crosscut newsletters which would have been a rich source of information. Neville Smythe might have some of the old AGA newsletters (I found a copy of #53 but that's all) which might provide bits and pieces of information. A few comments or bits of background have been added from my memory.

There is an outside chance that Bill Leveritt might have some helpful material, but since he moved to an apartment I doubt it. Andrew Lewis might have some records from when he was Secretary, and I would dearly like to get copies of those to fill in some of the missing years. Mark Bell did not keep records but he and other members or former members might possibly be interviewed at some time to retrieve some memories.

Pre – 1977 There had been go players in Brisbane at least from 1974 when Edwin Dowdy mentioned in his October 1977 President's Report that "one or two of us in 1974 had made an unsuccessful approach to the Sports Union". The club got a nice kick – along from a visit by professional players in September 1976 (Shirae 6P, Ito 3P and Miss Kondo 3P). The BGC was formed around October 1976 at the UQ with quite a few of its members being professors or lecturers. Early members included Edwin Dowdy (President and founder), Bill Leveritt (Secretary), Ron House, and Bruce Holliday. I heard about go first in the book "Shibumi" by Trevanian although it did nothing to enlighten me about the game. I had briefly learned go in 1976 when I went to Japan to get married, playing with my father in law. I purchased a go set and a book, Go for Beginners, by Iwamoto, and put them away for future use.

1977 On 7th March 1977 Issue # 1 of the Brisbane Go Club Newsletter was produced (not sure by whom, probably Bill Leveritt). It mentioned an attached list of members, which I have now found and there were 22 members, of whom surprisingly six were women (in fact I confirmed that one of them is a member of my bridge club and well known to me). I don't recall meeting any of them at meetings which I attended. Issue # 2 is dated August 1977 and mentions the professional player instructional tour as below. Some time after September 1977 I joined the BGC which was meeting in various rooms at the UQ. Claus Jehne had introduced me to BGC by inviting me to a lecture by the professional players (Saijo 7P, Nagahara 6P and Miss Tawaka 3P) at the UQ in September 1977. Bill Leveritt was Secretary at this time. Issue # 3 is dated November 1977 and mentions the AGM, and the professional players' visit. As at the end of September 1977, the club had \$41.66 in its bank account with the Bank of New South Wales, and 15c in petty cash.

- The 1st AGM was held in October 1977 and Bill Leveritt was elected President, Ron House Treasurer and David Anderson Secretary. I am guessing that this is when the first Constitution was created, probably Bill's brainchild.
- Bill Leveritt was an experienced committee man, and I learned a lot about club management from him. In these early years the club only elected three officers and this continued for many years, possibly until the oughties??
- 1978 Newsletter # 4 dated May 1978 discusses a proposed National Tournament. Go equipment was being purchased directly from the Nihon Kiin and members could buy it from the Club.
- Newsletter # 5 is dated September 1978. It mentions that John Hardy, Bruce Holliday, Bill Leveritt and Bruno Martin from Brisbane attended a National tournament (the 1st Australian Go Championship).
- Newsletter # 6 is dated November 1978. I was elected Secretary at the October AGM. Kyu ratings were awarded to four members who attended the Nationals, including John Hardy 2K. This seems to be the first newsletter edited by me, signing off "keep on going". I began to include articles for go improvement, such as proverbs and hand drawn diagrams. The newsletter was roneoed in purple and red coloured ink (very hard to read these days but still legible).
- 1979 Newsletter # 7 January 1979. The Club started a ladder tournament to increase interest. It was during 1978 or 1979 that I began importing the Ishi Press go books. Having purchased a few for myself, leading to rapid progress, I negotiated a deal with Mr. Bozulich to import in quantities. Initially I did this as a fund raising activity for the BGC, which continued for some years.
- Newsletter # 11 July 1979 indicates we were still at the UQ, as we began discussing a "central location above a pub" as a possibility.
- The 1st Qld. Go Championship was held on 1st July 1979 at Bill Leveritt's house. Ten players competed, with Bruce Holliday 1st, and John Hardy and Bruno Martin tied for 2nd. Bill's wife began to get a reputation for providing delicious food for the players, and over the years we utilised Bill's place a number of times.
- Newsletter # 12 November 1979 was the first to be typed as a master and photocopied. It was considerably expanded to seven pages including cut and pasted diagrams and a game record.
- In November I gave a go demo at "Churchie".
- I found an old notebook in which I recorded meeting minutes and other club matters. It seems to indicate that we had agreed to move to the Pancake Manor around October. In the AGM Edwin Dowdy suggested we thank the UQ staff member who organised the room we had been using.
- I believe Bruce Holliday was responsible for organising the move to The Pancake Manor Restaurant through his chess links. The Manor at that time had a people – sized chessboard where the bar is now, and the owner was friendly towards various games. We began meeting at the Manor every Tuesday and never looked back.
- 1980 Newsletter # 14 April 1980 was accompanied by a subscription notice, which, inter alia, said "The new venue at the Pancake Manor has proved highly successful..". There were 17 members at this time.
- Newsletter # 15 May 1980 Vale Bruno Martin, a past member and exciting player. The newsletter was still being produced on foolscap – does anyone now know what that was?

I started the CROSSCUT Newsletter (same old blatant theft of published material, new name) with Issue # 1 in June 1980. Although the masters continue to be typed on foolscap for some time yet, the material occupies A4 size as foolscap paper was not available any more in photocopiers where I worked.

The 2nd Qld Championship was held as a one and a half day event – one hour each, no byo-yomi, at the Pancake Manor. Eight players entered, and John Hardy and Peter Robinson ended with 5-1. John Hardy won the playoff to take the title.

Crosscut # 2 ? 1980

Crosscut # 3 November 1980 The AGM was held in October. I still have an early Constitution dated 30th October 1980, typed on my portable typewriter, which was an amendment of an earlier version.

BGC hosted the Nationals, held at Kings College, University of Queensland, for the first time. A Korean professional attended with two strong Korean amateurs – Mr Kim 7P, Kim 5D and Kim 4D.

We started something like a league handicap tournament. The 1st BGC Handicap Tournament ran from April to September and started with 9 players from 0.6K to 9.0K based on our progressive system that was in place at the time. Bruce Holliday was 1st, John Hardy 2nd.

Early rivals of mine were Bruce Holliday and Peter Robinson. Between us we won quite a few of the early BGC tournaments or came second. Unfortunately both Peter and Bruce did not continue with the game.

Sometimes we had Japanese visitors who were living in Brisbane temporarily. Mitsu Terada still lives in Brisbane, Hiroshi Tonozaiki went back to Japan – I still know them both, a testament to the friendships that go engenders. I remember an elderly Japanese man (Mr. Jitsukawa I think) who came to Brisbane every year to visit his daughter. She would phone me and I would go to her place and play go with him. He was quite strong so I suppose he also contributed to my progress. He loved to play complicated joseki against me so I was often in trouble. From an early stage I was prepared to indulge in go outside the Tuesday night more frequently than most of my fellow members.

1981 The 1980 – 81 Treasurer's Report showed that the BGC had a bank balance of \$104. Reference is made to Kobayashi Chizu's visit as a highlight of 1981. She is certainly the professional that I recall most fondly, probably because she spoke decent English and could really explain what was going on. We were all so weak back then that most instruction flew high above our heads. The Treasurer at this time was David Aiken.

Crosscut # 4 February 1981. Looked forward to Miss Kobayashi's visit.

In February the Training Ship Seiun Maru visited and a Saturday afternoon go match was arranged versus the crew.

The 1st Brisbane Go League was held from April to June. Nine players competed and John Hardy won it with an 8-0 score. Helmut Loiskandl participated and was 4 – 4.

The 2nd BGC Handicap Tournament started with 11 players and was won by John Hardy 1D 9-1. The problem with these events was that some players never finished all their games, and the organiser (me) was always chasing people to finish. That's why they petered out.

Crosscut # 5 April 1981 was full of my experiences in Japan at the 3rd WAGC as Team Official. I also described my visits to Japanese go clubs.

A number of players visited the Consul – General Mr Iwasaki’s residence for an afternoon of go playing, followed by a buffet meal. As far as I know this was the only time this ever happened, and I missed out, being in Japan at the time. There was a proposal to charge fees at club evenings, which was discussed prior to the AGM.

Crosscut # 6 May 1981 Bruce Holliday had been selected in an Australian team to play New Zealand in an international match and his result was 1-3. The match was drawn. The International Go Federation was formed with Australia as a founding member.

Crosscut # 7 June 1981

Crosscut # 8 July 1981 The Consul General Mr. Iwasaki visited the go club. I recall playing him and winning the game. I was still purchasing from Ishi Press on behalf of the Club. A new go meeting began on Monday nights at Pizza Hut, Kedron with Bill Leveritt as convener, but I don’t think it continued for very long.

Crosscut # 9 August 1981 The BGC held a Special General Meeting to discuss proposed changes to the AGA Constitution put forward by Bruce Hatfield of Melbourne. The changes would have resulted in concentrating all power of the AGA in Sydney and Melbourne, and the nationals would only be held in Sydney or Melbourne. The meeting voted unanimously to reject the changes and B. Leveritt and I took proxy forms to the AGA meeting that year.

Interestingly enough, the SGM also passed a resolution that the Consul General of Japan and all future Consuls General be an Honorary member of the BGC. (We forgot about this but I don’t think this is binding on us in the oughties).

Crosscut # 10 September 1981 Farewell to Japanese member Hiroshi Tonozaki who returned to Japan.

Crosscut # 11 October 1981

The 3rd Qld Go Championship at Bill Leveritt’s place was won by Bruce Holliday after beating John Hardy (on time) and Hiroshi Tonozaki in a playoff. There were eight players and four rounds and it was a one day event, so a playoff was held later.

The 3rd BGC Handicap Tournament was held from October to December - there was momentum! Bruce Holliday 1.0 D was 1st, Peter Robinson 1.2D 2nd, John Hardy 1.8D 3rd. Peter beat John in a playoff for 2nd. Possibly for the first time, time limits were set but were optional – 1hr15min each, no byo-yomi. The 1980/81 AGA President’s Report (N. Smythe) stated that two new clubs had been formed in Brisbane, one of which is a school club. I don’t know or remember anything about the school club, but I presume the Pizza Hut meeting was one of them.

In August 1981 I failed at my first attempt to join the AGA Committee. Two positions were available and three people nominated.

1982 The BGC introduced a new fee structure of \$8 per year for membership (of which \$6 went to the AGA) plus \$0.50 per attendance. The President noted that this meant “the Secretary and myself no longer have to lend money to the club”. (Noted from the AGA Financial Report for 1982 that Brisbane already contributed the highest income from members to the AGA.)

We also had purchased a couple of good quality go sets – prior to this people had to bring their own set.

I was active in organising various competitions on the Tuesday evenings, and these were well received. During this year we had a Japanese amateur 5 dan, “Mal” Ohno, as a regular member. He spent many evenings at my place for dinner and go playing. I don’t think I ever won a game, but I must have learned a few things. He won the 4th Qld Go Championship 4-0 that year before returning home. John Hardy 1D did not place. This was the first time I ever recorded ranks for the players, and apparently the “Korean Points Scheme” was used to determine the results. H. Loiskandl 6K participated. In the AGA President’s Report of August 1982 he said “...hasten the day when we are strong enough to hold State Championships in every State”.

In those days we used to maintain contact with the Consul General of Japan – I attended some lovely parties at the residence over the years. One of the office holders was Mr. Iwasaki, who was a go player, but he only attended the club once or twice. He was quite generous with prizes for our tournaments, such as a bottle of whisky or whatever. Through the Consulate office we received invitations to visit the Japanese training ships which berthed in Brisbane to play go with the crew. A few of us would head down to Hamilton for an afternoon of go playing and usually some tasty Japanese snacks. On this occasion they presented us all with go fans.



Back Row: 3rd from left Claus Jehne; 4th David Aiken; 5th Bill Leveritt
Front Row: 1st on left Bruce Holliday; 2nd unknown; 3rd Peter Robinson; 5th
yours truly

In the 2nd Brisbane Go League, seven players fought to determine the challenger to the previous year’s winner. Three were seeded from the previous year, one seeded player could not play, so four new entrants made up to seven. Bruce Holliday was the winner, and was defeated 2-0 by the holder, John Hardy.

The 1st AGM Handicap Tournament was held as a one day event to attract players to the AGM. John Hardy 1.9D won, with Bill Leveritt 5.4K 2nd. This signals the approximate start of the progressive handicap system used by the BGC.

The 4th BGC Handicap Tournament was held from April to July. Seiji Yamamoto 1.0D was 1st, Mitsu Terada 3.6K was 2nd, and Mal Ohno 5.0D was 3rd.

The 5th BGC Handicap Tournament was held from August to November. The time limit was 1hr each no byo-yomi. Geoff Nimmo 12.1K was 1st with Junzo Sono 1.0D 2nd.

The 1st BGC Weekend handicap Tournament was held on an April Saturday. John Hardy 2.2 D won, only four players attended.

The 2nd BGC Weekend Handicap Tournament was held in July and attracted 7 players. Mal Ohno 5.0D was 1st.

The Commonwealth Games handicap Tournament was held on Saturday 2/10/82 – any old reason! Geoff Nimmo 11.8K was 1st and Junzo Sono 1.2D was 2nd.

During this year both the President and I had given talks on go at a number of schools without any great success.

The Treasurer's Report showed that we had 24 members. Despite this, it seems 1982 was one of the great years for the BGC, and I do acknowledge that I had a hand in that, a finger in every pie, so to speak.

In September 1982 I was elected to the Committee of the AGA as Membership Registrar. I received a 1D diploma from the Korean Baduk Association.

1983 The BGC reported a healthy financial condition as a result of the new fee structure, with a balance of about \$500. Monthly competitions continued to be popular, and we were able to give prizes of a couple of bottles of wine each month. A number of one – day handicap competitions were held throughout the year, with 8 – 10 attendees. The 5th Queensland Championship was won by Gillbert Kim 2 dan after winning a play-off with Harrie Hendrikx. For the first time I noted that we used a Swiss with first round advancement. There was a solid increase to 39 members, and Tuesday night attendances were about 10 – 15 people. The President noted that BGC was the largest club in Australia. The 3rd Brisbane Go League produced Peter Robinson as challenger, who defeated John Hardy for the title 2-0.

The 2nd AGM Handicap Tournament was won by Geoff Nimmo 8K, 2nd was Helmut Loiskandl 9K beating Bill Leveritt in a playoff. After a brief appearance the progressive handicaps of the previous year were not used. This tournament was played using the “Korean Points System”.

1984 The BGC continued in a solid financial condition, although membership decreased from the all time high of the previous year. Monthly competitions continued as before. I introduced a new ladder type handicapping scheme. We hosted the 7th Nationals at Southport on the Gold Coast and 24 people attended. Mark Brough was first in the kyu division, and got 2nd in the Lightning Tournament as well. The 6th Queensland Championships was won by Gillbert Kim 5 dan. There was an unusually large entry of 14 players from 5D to 15K. Harry Harte won the 4th Brisbane Go League 7-0, and the title by default, the holder having left Brisbane.

The 3rd AGM Handicap Tournament was won by Gillbert Kim 1050. G. Nimmo 960 was 2nd. The “Korean Points System” was used. There was a record ten entries. We began to use tie breaking methods instead of playoffs (in this case cumulative score). Instead of ranks like kyu or dan, the progressive

rank generated in our club system was used to determine handicaps in this event, but it was not to last.

Owing to promotions at work, both the President and Secretary had curtailed their promotional activities.

Bank balance was \$517 at the end of 1984.

- 1985 Roy Matthews replaced David Aiken as Treasurer. An effort was made to appoint a Coaching Director, but the meeting failed to agree on who that should be and there were no volunteers. It seems that I started producing the Crosscut Newsletter this year, containing club news, sometimes go problems or game records, and in the first issue a review of the progressive handicap system. These newsletters were typed on a typewriter and go diagrams were either cut and pasted, or various other laborious methods used. I recall buying a special set of punch out numbers which could be stuck in the correct place on a board diagram to create a game record.

The 7th Queensland Go Championship was won by Peter Robinson 1D, with John Hardy 2nd. We got prizes from the Consul General of Japan.

The 4th AGM Handicap Tournament was won by G. Nimmo 3K, still using the “Korean Points System” which we had embraced with great gusto.

In July we held a public film evening showing a film about the life of Takagawa Shukaku which we borrowed from the Consul – General of Japan. Players continued to compete in the monthly tournaments and John Hardy 2D played 82 games for a 55% winning record. Mark Bell 5K played 47 games (46.8%). “Nick” Nicol 16K played 105 games, more than anyone else.

Bank balance was \$670 at the end of 1985.

- 1986 John Hardy replaced Bill Leveritt as President. Member numbers and go activity had not changed much from the previous year, although it was noted “we have lost some long – standing members, and all our Japanese players (but) .. we have our first female member in many years”. I gave demonstrations in the Central City Library and an article was published with a photo of the librarians “playing” go. I think that was the time that Professor Hahn amazingly dropped in on my demonstration so I was able to introduce an Australian Go Champion.

Two professional players from the Kansai Kiin visited Brisbane. Tokimoto-san and Konagai-san spent a weekend teaching us to play better. They brought a gift of a quantity of go sets, and we also received a demonstration go board courtesy of the Japan Foundation (we still have the demo set and some of the go sets).

This year we also received a visit from a number of Korean amateurs led by the Australian Champion, Dae Hahn.

We endeavoured to hold some Saturday afternoon teaching sessions but poor attendance caused the idea to be dropped.

The 8th Qld Go Championship was won by Peter Robinson 2D 3-0, with John Hardy 2nd. This was still a one day event with only three rounds.

The 5th AGM Handicap Tournament was won by David Aiken 12K. The “Korean Points System” was used. The winner was the lowest ranked player, and the 3rd lowest ranked player got 2nd place. All the top players got nowhere this time. There was a record 12 entrants.

Bank balance was \$681 at the end of 1986.

- 1987 6th AGM Handicap Tournament won by John Hardy 3D with a rare blitz score of 400 in the “Korean Points System”. Mark Brough came 2nd.

I noted in my President's Report that although we had lost some long – standing players, a number of new beginners were working their way up the ranks.

1988 7th AGM Handicap Tournament was won by Roy Matthews 9K. Top ranked players again came nowhere in this tournament using the “Korean Points System”.

At Expo '88 the Club was invited to give demonstrations outside the Japanese Pavilion on at least one occasion. They paid us a tidy little sum each for doing that. Sadly, it did not result in a surge of membership.

The Qld Go Championship was held at the home of Bernie & Naoyo Harvey. Seok-man Kwon 1st P. Robinson 2nd J. Hardy 3rd.

1989 The Treasurer reported that membership increased to 43, the highest for some years. The bank balance was a healthy \$1,200. A major expense was for hosting the Australian Go Championship, held at a recently built city skyscraper, Central Plaza 1 in Queen Street, designed by a famous Japanese architect. We were sponsored by the building owners, even to the extent of paying to fly Mr Wu 9P to an open day of go teaching. We received commemorative go sets especially made in Australia – I still have one for the club. The AGA AGM was held in the boardroom with drinks and snacks provided by the sponsor – yippee! There were three Japanese professionals in attendance at the Nationals – Shusaku Inoue, Muraoka Shigeyuki and Hayashi Kozo. This was the one and only time we ever received television coverage for go. I was interviewed by a charming young reporter (I forget the name) and this appeared on the 6.00pm news (I never saw it myself but my wife did).



Go and chess themed foyer of Central Plaza 1
Yours truly vs Paul Clay in foreground

We received a visit from a group of about fifteen elderly amateur players, led by an older lady professional, Shiratori Sumiko 5P. She gave me a lovely gift of a doll – like figure playing a stone on a goban, which I still display in our home.

We took an ad in the Yellow Pages using my phone number.



Japanese group vs BGC



Receiving gifts

Mark Bell (L), yours truly (R)

1990 Treasurer noted that the healthy bank balance of \$1,500 should enable us to keep the annual fee at \$4 and the attendance fee at \$0.50. Thanks were offered to Mrs. Leveritt for her hospitality in allowing the go players to use her home, which reminds me that we did in fact play quite a few events at Bill's place during the early years. Others who had allowed their homes to be used for events include Roy Matthews, Mark Bell and Naoyo Harvey, and after 2002, John Hardy. There were 27 members on the list. Four Chinese names appear on this list, including Cecil Kuo. This may be the start of increased Chinese participation in the BGC, as in earlier years, the main foreign players were Japanese, with the occasional Korean.

It was probably this year that signalled the end of my participation in BGC organisation until my return in 2002 to organise the Toyota Denso Cup. I have little information or knowledge about BGC activities from 1990 to 2001.

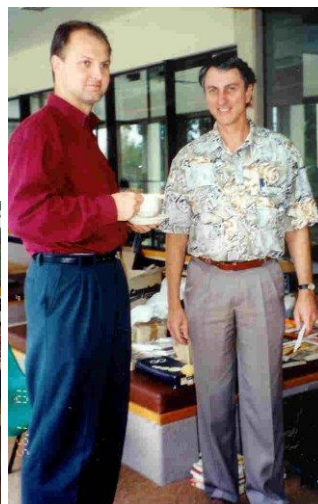
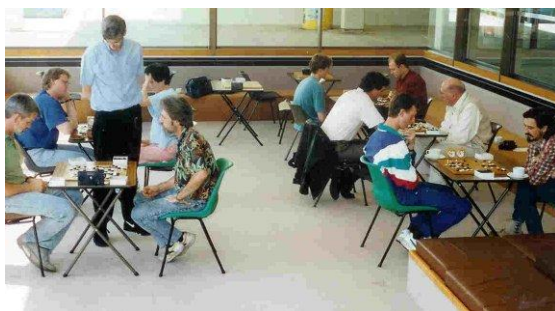
1991

1992

1993 The 1993 statements were typed, I don't know who the treasurer was. At the end of '93 the bank balance was \$1,100.

1994 The 1994 statement was handwritten, possibly by Alan Reid. Apparently we purchased four chess clocks, but I don't know what happened to them. At the end of '94 the bank balance was \$585.

1995 There was a loss on our hosting the Nationals, which was held at Griffith University. I was the TD.



BGC members on left at '95 Nationals Simon Harder (President ?) and yours truly selling go stuff

At the end of '95 the Club had about \$280 in the bank.

1996 I am guessing that Edwin Clarke took over as Treasurer this year possibly from Alan Reid, as the format changed from hand written to typed statements.

At the end of '96 the Club had about \$511 in the bank.

1997 At the end of '97 the Club had about \$970 in the bank.

1998 Apparently two professional players visited the Club (I don't know their names).

At the end of '98 the Club had about \$700 in the bank.

1999 Qld. Go Champs attracted ten entries and was won by Andrew Chi 7D.

I think we discontinued the Yellow Pages entry due to the cost. I don't think it ever generated much contact for us.

At the end of 1999 the Club had about \$1,070 in the bank.

2000 At the end of 2000 the Club had about \$1,400 in the bank.

2001 At the end of 2001 the Club had about \$1,300 in the bank.

2002 John Hardy replaced Edwin Clarke as Treasurer. At the end of 2002 the Club had \$2,300 in cash. At this time I also started producing a balance sheet and keeping track of assets other than cash.

The 1st Toyota & Denso Cup was held at Griffith Uni. I was the main organiser, and Andrew Pullin was the co – organiser and TD. Brad Melki of Melbourne (organiser of the NEC Cup) emailed me as he had not wanted to take it on, and apparently no – one else in other cities did either. I jumped at it and this is what brought me back to the BGC. The rest is history. This event resulted in a major boost to the BGC in terms of membership and assets. I myself celebrated a return to go by attending the 6th NEC Cup in Melbourne and winning Division 2.

The Qld Go Champs attracted 14 entries and was won by Steve Carson 3D. This was probably played at Griffith Uni in the library, as we used that for a number of years when entries were small.

It may have been this year that I created a web page for the BGC, as part of my own business website. It proved quite useful in attracting new members.

2003 The AGM Handicap Tournament (City Library) attracted 20 players and was won by Chullho Rhee 5D with James Chown 10K taking the second division. We had lined up the Pancake Manor, but on arrival, we found it shut due to damage from nearby construction works. Luckily we were able to use the City Library (then in William St) to conduct the event.



The Qld Go Champs, played at Griffith Uni Library, attracted 14 entries and was won by Raphael Shin 7D. James Chown 8K won the kyu division.

Photo: Foreground (L) Raphael Shin vs Arthur Mullins.
Background Steve Carson (L) vs Andrew Lewis

In July the club brought Wu Songsheng 9P up to Brisbane for a teaching weekend.

We started the Wednesday night meeting downstairs at the Pancake Manor towards the end of 2003. Jason Mackay-Dwyer was one of a group of high schoolers who came to learn the game (with myself as teacher). They had learned about go through the Hikaru no Go manga, and found the club on the internet. From this time on, the BGC has managed to attract many more young people including a number of children. The Committee decided on the policy of making membership for Under 16s free. Sadly, from this time on, various of the long term members started dropping away.

At the end of 2003 the club had about \$1,600 in cash.

2004 At the AGM the issue of Public Liability was discussed but no action was taken.

The 2nd Toyota & Denso Cup was held in January. I was the organiser, Andrew Pullin was the TD.



2nd Toyota Cup 2004.

From Left: Wu Songsheng 9P, yours truly, Andrew Pullin (TD) and Ryo Kitano 7P from the Nihon Kiin

The AGM Handicap Tournament (downstairs at the Manor) attracted 26 players and was won by Lauren Bull 5k. We tried the “Korean Points System” again after it had fallen into disuse. Our strongest Korean member, Mr. Rhee, said he had never heard of it and was not very impressed with the system. Incidentally we used the downstairs room at the Pancake Manor, even though it was very crowded, and ordered lunch to give the PM some business. This was before the renovations – it was just an open area with trestle tables and church pews.

The Qld Go Champs, played at Griffith Uni Library, attracted 27 entries and was won by Raphael Shin 7D. (a suggestion to make this a 3 day event on Anzac weekend was scotched). Klaus Fuhrman 7k won Kyu Division 1, and Claire Daniel 23k won a small Under 16 Division, the first time the club had ever held one.

The 1st Keio Old Boys visit was held in May.

Around August the club started a room on Kiseido Go Server (KGS) called BGC Online. For a while there was sufficient interest to run a ladder tournament but this did not last long. The room remains open however.

A Christmas Social was held at my place.

At the end of 2004 the club had about \$2,800 in cash.

2005 The membership was over 50 and Tuesday nights after attracted 15 – 20 players. A new Constitution was adopted, updated to fit modern times. The possibility of starting weekend playing sessions was discussed and a sub – committee formed. Nothing came of it though.



Photo: Tuesday night at the Pancake Manor

The AGM Tournament attracted 19 entries and was won by Chullho Rhee 5D. Horatio Davis 12K won the kyu division.

Fourteen Korean go players visited Brisbane, led by Dae Hahn. Friendly matches were arranged at the QCBC.

It was probably sometime in 2005 that the PM redeveloped its downstairs room and the Wednesday night meeting transferred to the QCBC for a while. I don't recall that it lasted all that long, certainly no more than a year.

The 2nd Keio Old Boys visit was held.

A party of Chinese players visited Brisbane led by Yiming Guo. Friendly matches were arranged at the QCBC.

The 1st Tuesday night Knockout Competition was won by Chullho Rhee 5D.

The Qld Championship, played at Griffith Uni Library, attracted 25 players and was won by Jong Hwa Shin 5D, a strong Korean who lived in Brisbane for twelve months, and did his best to raise the standard of BGC members.

Rene Hexel 5k won Kyu Division 1, and Johnson Chung 16k won Kyu Division 2.

2006 The 3rd Toyota & Denso Cup was held at Griffith Uni Ecocentre. I was the organiser and TD. Murakami 1P attended from the Nihon Kiin.

A group of about fifteen Korean players led by Prof. Hahn visited in January and a friendly match was organised at the QCBC.

At the AGM (held at QCBC) Rene Hexel was elected Secretary replacing Andrew Lewis. Cecil Kuo was granted Honorary Membership for life.

The Qld Championship, held at the Qld Contract Bridge Club, attracted 12 entries and was won by Mark Bell 3D. Rodney Topor 5K won the kyu division.

Horatio Davis suggested the BGC purchase the internet domain go.org.au and this was duly done.

The 3rd Keio Old Boys Visit was held.

BGC hosted the 29th Australian Go Championship at the BBC.



Photo: Larry Wen (L) vs Sam Nakagawa at the Nats. Watching, from left, are Andrew Lewis, David Bofinger, Neville Smythe and Rick Lush.



Photo: Yours truly as TD at the Nats.

Cash at the end of 2006 amounted to \$5,160.

2007 The Sunnybank Hills Library meeting was conceived by Larry Wen. Held on the last Saturday of each month, right in the Brisbane Chinese heartland, it became an instant success and provided a great boost to member numbers. The Qld Go Champs, held at Brisbane Bridge Centre, attracted 26 entries, and was won by Akira Tamura 4D. Amelia Gray 4K won kyu division 1, and Jeremy Wen won kyu division 2.

From this year the AGM was to be held in the lunch break of the Qld Champs, so the AGM Tournament which had run for so many years was discontinued, to be replaced by a Christmas function. Horatio Davis was elected Secretary replacing Rene Hexel.

The 4th Keio Old Boys visit was held.

Some time during the year the Chermside Library Meeting commenced with Horatio Davis as convener. This superseded an earlier meeting at Sandgate ?? organised by Horatio. There were four or five regular attenders.

A Christmas party was held in December at the QCBC.

2008 The 4th Toyota Denso Cup was held at Central Bardon.

The 1st Aspiring Stars Remax Cup was held at BBC, attracting 21 entries.

David Na 5D won the first division and Jeremy Wen 6K won second division.

The tournament was a cooperative effort with the Mainland Chinese Society of Qld as part of an annual cultural festival. Remax Real Estate was the sponsor.

The Committee decided to put the case for incorporation of the BGC to the AGM, on the suggestion of Horatio Davis. This was carried, and the club became The Brisbane Go Club, Inc. in April, the first Australian go club to take this step.

The Qld Go Champs, held at Brisbane Bridge Centre, attracted 19 entries, and was won by Kevin Jiang 5D. Erli Qiu 3K won the kyu division.

The BGC website was completely rebuilt (Andrew Gray webmaster, Horatio Davis host) and transferred to brisbane.go.org.au.

The 5th Keio Old Boys visit was held.

In June the BGC finally ended its long association with the Pancake Manor. The situation had been building for a number of years as the PM became busier and busier. I negotiated with the QCBC to transfer our Tuesday night meeting to there and certainly it is much more conducive to playing go than the noisy PM had been.

I think it was July that the Chermside Library Meeting folded and was replaced by the Northside Meeting, held at Amelia Gray's place. Five people attended the first meeting. There was fudge.

A Fun Tournament (handicap) was held at BBC in July on a Sunday. Twelve people joined, and Sam Nakagawa 2D won the dan division, while Wilson Huang 9K won the kyu division.

Larry Wen developed a Chinese version of the BGC website.