



**Ian with the Cornwall Go Stone
Cornish Open, 2005**

Ian Marsh, the Bracknell Go Club secretary and Bracknell Tournament organiser from 1997 to 2018, was born in Ilfracombe and grew up in Plymouth, hence became one of those rare but loyal fellows, a Plymouth Argyle supporter. He gained a love of the outdoors through fishing and hiking with the scouts, which also led to a love of nature. After studying at Kingston Poly he took up computing at International Computers Limited (ICL). He was based at their Bracknell offices and an interest in puzzles soon saw him take up Go along with many colleagues at the local club.

He was 9 kyu by the first Bracknell Tournament in 1979, reached 1 kyu in 1985, and was awarded his 1 dan certificate on 10th May 1998. He eventually took over the running of the local club, which had a public meeting on a Tuesday and a private meeting with supper on a Friday. Ian's role on Fridays was to provide the puddings and over the dozens of years that he did so, he never repeated a dessert!

He loved to set puzzles and when he took over running the local tournament each event had several side competitions to keep players amused between games. There was typically a caption contest (based on a photo from a previous tournament), a Go puzzle sheet, a word or logic puzzle, and a paper folding exercise.

He played in local tournaments, such as Maidenhead, Swindon and Arundel, and even had to play in his own Bracknell Tournament to make up the numbers, winning it in 2011. He loved to travel to the longer events such as the Three Peaks, Welsh Open in Barmouth, the Isle of Man and Cornwall. He played the Cornish Open every year since 2002 and won it twice, in 2005 and 2011. It was at these longer events that many players were able to learn of his love for nature and history. At home he was a member of both the local civic and natural history societies, writing tours of historic Bracknell, measuring mature trees, chasing bats or counting damsel flies.

After retiring from ICL, now known as Fujitsu, he kept links by being on the committee of the social club. This meant he could keep the Bracknell Go Club's Table Three quiz team going, attending (and often winning) the social club quizzes, despite nobody working there any longer. If the team was lucky he had saved a couple of clues from that day's Times Crossword, which he tackled every day as a keen cruciverbalist.

He often contributed to the British Go Journal, including the Sideways Looking Persons series of humorous Go cartoons, and was a very patient teacher with lower graded players.

Unfortunately, Ian died suddenly on 27th January. A good contingent of Bracknell Go Club was able to attend his funeral at Easthampstead Crematorium on 16th February. Toby Manning represented the BGA and gave a valedictory speech on Ian's

love of Go. His memory was then toasted in the usual way at the local pub. A very gentle congenial man with a big heart, his contribution to the Go scene will be surely missed.

Tony Atkins

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In homage, a recent forgery in the style of Sideways Looking Persons

