

The Cloning of Joella Feinstein

The Newsletter of the British Othello Federation

January/February 1992

58	41	28	30	40	39	57	56
32	60	25	29	36	33	48	52
37	19	14	6	16	51	47	55
27	9	3	○	●	11	46	53
26	17	8	●	○	1	4	45
13	10	5	2	7	15	21	24
38	59	12	18	20	22	42	44
54	23	50	49	31	34	35	43

Paris Open

28	34	30	54	51	56	58	60
29	23	9	14	55	57	59	53
19	8	3	4	17	18	36	52
20	12	5	○	●	6	35	39
41	13	7	●	○	1	31	32
16	22	11	2	10	33	26	38
48	43	25	21	27	15	50	37
47	44	40	24	42	45	46	49

World Championships

59	58	42	44	43	45	46	54
35	51	38	41	31	40	53	55
27	28	37	36	33	30	29	52
48	24	10	○	●	4	19	15
26	23	12	●	○	3	7	20
49	34	13	9	1	2	5	14
39	50	25	11	8	6	47	21
60	32	22	16	17	18	56	57

Cambridge Xmas Tournament

Question: in each of these recent drawn games, which was the real Joel Feinstein, and which was the clone?

The British Othello Federation is an independent body. Annual subscription costs £5 for the first year's membership (including a copy of the instructional book *Othello: Brief & Basic*) and £3 thereafter. Ten years membership is available for £25. A foreign subscription costs £5 per year, or £45 for ten years. Cheques or postal orders payable to the *British Othello Federation* should be sent to David Haigh. The price of *Othello: Brief & Basic* for existing members is £5.

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Addresses of Officers.

Chairman and Newsletter Editor: Graham Brightwell, Dept. of Mathematics, LSE, Houghton St., London WC2A 2AE. Tel. 071-955-7624 (Work).

Treasurer and Deputy Editor: Peter Bhagat, 1 Parker Street, Cambridge CB1 1JL. Tel. 0223-62323.

Secretary: David Haigh, 62, Romsey Road, Winchester, Hants., SO22 5PH. Tel. 0962-853826.

Publicity Officer: Michael Handel, 43/45 Allesley Old Rd., Allesley, Coventry. Tel. 0203-691228.

Ninth Cambridge International Tournament.

The second tournament of the European Grand Prix is to be held on the 15th/16th of February, at the University Centre, Cambridge. We expect at least six French, a Belgian, two Danes, one Swiss, two Americans other than David Shaman, David Shaman, and some true British players. The entry fee is £10, (£2 for the unwaged, the low-waged, and undergraduate students). This 11-round Swiss tournament is the premier international event in Britain. It is your chance to play against the best, but there is also always a wide range of playing abilities. Paris had 52 players last year: can we beat that?

Contact Pete Bhagat on 0223-62323, or just turn up on Saturday before 9:30am. Play lasts all Saturday and also Sunday morning, with a final and 3rd/4th play-off on the Sunday afternoon. Floor space (at least) is always available, or Pete can book you a guest house room at reasonable rates.

About the Cover by Karsten Switness.

We have recently had several complaints about the number of clones appearing in British Othello tournaments. One of the most blatant instances of cloning has been the appearance on the scene of a so-called Mike Handel, which is really an out and out Feinstein clone. The cover story is that "Handel" was "taught" by Feinstein while both were in "Leeds". A Feinstein clone is particularly hard to disguise, as the style of the master is somewhat distinctive, and when furthermore the two players habitually draw, there can no longer be any doubt.

The cover problem is of course totally impossible: there is no way to tell which player is Feinstein and which is "Handel". In the first game, moves 4, 13, 23, 42 and 48 are all clearly played by Feinstein, or a very close relative indeed. In the second, 23, 24, 27 (pretty, but careless, allowing the sequence 28-30), 37, and the entire endgame are dead giveaways: both players are Joel Feinstein. The third game, while very exciting, is far too normal, and it is in fact a game between Aubrey de Grey and Roy Arnold.

[Editor's note: foreign readers (in space or time) may care to note that there was a recent mini-series entitled *The Cloning of Joanna May* on British television. Whether this excuses the title is at best debatable.]

Eastbourne Regional 1991

The last regional of last year was the delayed Eastbourne tournament, held in August. Mike Handel emerged from nowhere (well, Coventry) to win it with 5/5, ahead of David Haigh (4), Roy Arnold (3), Rodney Hammond (2), David Brown (1) and Ashley Hammond (0). Newcomer David Brown is Mike Handel's "step-brother", and great things are expected of him once the cloning takes.

Editorial by *Graham Brightwell.*

“January/February” of course means that the newsletter was due in January, but didn’t get completed until February. Apologies, the fault is entirely mine for not setting a deadline early enough. Anyway, thanks to all those who did provide material. The deadline for the next issue is July 15th: bring it to the Winchester Regional if you like.

By the way, the newsletter is prepared on an IBM PC, and material submitted on a diskette (preferably 3½ inch, but 5¼ will do) would be especially gratefully received. I can also provide an electronic version of the newsletter for any Federation member who sends me a diskette and an s.a.e.: the newsletter is written in T_EX.

I am due to move house sometime before the next newsletter, so it’s probably best if people use my work address and ’phone no. (opposite) until then. Note also that Mike Handel has moved.

At the committee meeting in November, the question arose of exactly who should be eligible to play in BOF tournaments, and represent Britain in the World Championships. Clarifying previous decisions, we ruled that: (1) except for the National final, all our tournaments are open to all, (2) to play in the National final, a non-U.K. citizen has to have been resident in the U.K. for at least 183 days prior to the tournament, (3) to represent Britain in the World Championship, a non-U.K. citizen has to have been resident in the U.K. for at least 183 days prior to that tournament. One consequence of this that readers might care to note is that David Shaman is very likely to be a contender to represent Britain next time round. Sigh. And we thought last year’s British Championship was tough!

Notation.

a1	b1	c1	d	e	f	g	h1
a2							
a3							
4							
5							
6							
7						X	C
8						C	h8

The board is split into eight columns and eight rows. Each column is labelled with a letter, from ‘a’ for the left-hand column to ‘h’ for the right-hand column. Rows are numbered from ‘1’ for the top row to ‘8’ for the bottom. This is the opposite convention to that used in chess. Thus the top left corner is called ‘a1’, and the bottom right is ‘h8’.

A square such as b2, one in diagonally from a corner, is known as an ‘X-square’, and a square such as h7 adjacent to a corner is a ‘C-square’.

Compass directions are sometimes used when describing regions of the board, so for instance the area of the board near to h1 is called the North-East corner, and row 8 is called the South edge.

British National Championships. York, September 28-29.

by *Karsten Switnes.*

1. Joel Feinstein	7/9 (1-0)	Helena Verrill	4.5
2. Graham Brightwell	7 (0-1)	11. John Lysons	4
3. Imre Leader	7	Matthew Selby	4
4. Mike Handel	6	Mark Wormley	4
5. Alex Selby	6	14. Iain Barrass	3
6. Peter Bhagat	5.5	David Haigh	3
Garry Edmead	5.5	Ken Stephenson	3
8. Aubrey de Grey	5	17. Robert Stanton	2
9. Jeremy Das	4.5	18. Roy Arnold	1

The tournament was every bit as tough and tense as it was supposed to be: The main no-show was Guy Plowman, who had to go down to University that day. (He is starting a Physics course at Imperial College, London.) But the number of participants was overall a little disappointing: was it the prospect of a day and a half of competition that put people off?

Round 1 started with an unfortunate incident. Imre Leader and Alex Selby found themselves paired against opponents who hadn’t arrived (and never did). This meant that they scored their point, but their tie-breakers (Sum of Opponents Scores) were doomed thereafter. A glance at the final table shows how important this was. (Brightwell’s SOS was one point better than Leader’s: Handel’s four points better than Selby’s.)

In Round 2, all the top four seeds lost: Leader to Feinstein, Brightwell to Handel, Bhagat to de Grey, and Edmead to Matthew Selby. Bhagat continued to slide after this, losing to John Lysons, then Leader (an up-float), then drawing with Jeremy Das. How his tie-breaker ended up better than Edmead’s is difficult to understand.

The biggest surprise was Matthew Selby’s 4-0 start, beating John Lysons, Garry Edmead, Helena Verrill, and brother Alex Selby. He continued to play well after that, but didn’t win any more games. His SOS was higher than, for instance, Brightwell’s.

Feinstein was alone in the lead after 5 rounds, and beat Brightwell in Round 6 to stay a point in front. After 7 of the 9 rounds it was: Feinstein 7, Leader 6, Brightwell 5, Edmead 4.5, . . . Brightwell beat Leader in round 8 to stay in the hunt, but then had to play Edmead in what was essentially a play-off for a place in the top three. Brightwell won it, capping what was perhaps a disappointing tournament for Edmead. Meanwhile, Feinstein had slipped, losing first to Alex Selby and then to Bhagat. Still his tie-break was unquestionably the best, and his qualification for the final was not in doubt.

Brightwell played in the final against Feinstein. You can see the game, with an analysis by the players, below. Imre Leader commented that it was nice to see a well-played final game for once. Feinstein was a worthy winner, for the strength of his play both in this game and throughout the tournament. (I know it always says that, but he was. Really.)

Joel Feinstein becomes the third player to win the title twice, after Alan Woch and Imre Leader (three times). Still nobody has won it two years in a row. Graham Brightwell lengthens his string of top-two finishes to five, but there are no prizes for second.

There was a rather disappointing entry of 4 for the Challengers' tournament. Our congratulations to Phil Marson, who won the event, ahead of John Beacock, Maurice Kent, and Tom Landry.

Thanks are due to: Adelaide Carpenter, who ran the tournament; Sue Bar-rass, who stood in for her at the start; Maurice Kent, who ran the Challengers', and the Viking Hotel, who generously allowed us the use of their excellent function rooms for no charge. Special thanks are due to Mark Wormley, who set the whole event up at fairly short notice, generated an impressive amount of local publicity, organised the Saturday evening meal, and made sure that everything functioned smoothly. Tom Landry, who is new to Othello but has attended draughts tournaments for more years than some of us have been alive, states that this was the best-organised weekend event he has ever been to: some tribute. Mark even wrote us an article.

An Organiser's View by Mark Wormley.

The stage was set—the press coverage had been good, stretching from Teeside (Northern Echo) to Leeds (Evening Post) back to York (Evening Press). The radio and television people had been contacted, and there was even talk of a celeb making an appearance. 65 posters had been distributed in local schools, colleges, libraries, places of work and the Tourist Information offices.

So **where was everyone?** Not even free admission, trophies, prizes and the comfort of the prestige "Viking Hotel" could drag them in. Several reasons were given, including the two-day format, the start of the university term, the weather, and the Ryder cup golf.

Out of the expected 25 finalists, only 18 showed. Several sent apologies, but some didn't. This resulted in these players being included in the draw, and a top player missing out on the final because of Strength of Opposition. The Challengers' tournament was even more poorly attended than last year with only four entrants. Surely there are more Othello players out there who would have liked to take part!

On a more positive note, everyone who did make the trip to York had a great time. An excellent meal was also laid on for the Saturday evening at the Bishop's Restaurant.

A few memories I will take from this experience of organising an Othello final include: Garry Edmead turning up on my doorstep at 11:30pm on the Friday, Othello players in a Beer Garden (drinking, of course) at 10pm on the Saturday, Joel being interviewed by telephone after his victory, and myself enduring several sleepless nights with 25 chess clocks ticking away at me.

Congratulations to Joel and Phil Marson for winning, and many thanks to those who helped me run the event. Not forgetting also the Viking Hotel for providing us with a great venue.

(Chairman's Note: On behalf of the BOF, I would like to apologise for the problems caused by the pairings for the first round of this year's Nationals. Undoubtedly we made a mistake. From next year, any players who have not arrived by the time the draw for the first round is announced will not be paired, and may well be defaulted in the first round. Thus this problem will not arise again. (A different one undoubtedly will.) Also from next year, the tie-breaker in the National Final (only) will be the so-called Brightwell Quotient (BQ) with C = 7. This should be thought of as Disc-Count plus 7 times SOS, but allowance is made for a bye or win by default. Thus this problem really and truly will not arise again. (The committee is currently considering a document from David Haigh setting out in full the BOF's procedures for tournament play. Once this is approved, it will be published in the newsletter.)

Joel Feinstein Annotates.

Here are some of my games from the British Championship.

54	51	49	46	47	56	58	59
55	53	50	48	13	44	57	60
43	20	15	1	6	12	23	52
26	18	10	○	●	14	27	45
25	17	2	●	○	4	34	36
24	38	20	7	3	5	9	30
42	37	16	19	11	8	33	31
41	39	40	28	21	22	35	32

Leader 24 Feinstein 40

but I have millions of discs.

Here is the game Leader-Feinstein from round 2 of the nationals. Note that Imre had had a bye in round 1. Having achieved a position which was a clear win, I ran out of imagination. Fortunately the position didn't really need any.

My play in the South West corner is suspect: a massive piece grab may be more appropriate.

I think my edge-grabbing was pretty effective, though! 44 sets a rather pretty, if obvious trap, but Imre wasn't having any. In the end, I lose parity in the North-west through incompetence,

45	40	28	43	35	30	49	54
34	42	25	16	15	36	46	60
41	27	6	1	4	7	12	32
31	20	29	○	●	5	10	19
26	13	2	●	○	9	18	37
33	51	39	3	8	23	17	21
56	53	44	14	11	24	47	38
57	55	50	52	22	58	48	59

Joel 56 Aubrey 8

56	58	49	52	24	27	59	60
43	47	54	22	14	17	50	35
42	12	3	4	13	8	16	25
37	26	5	○	●	6	15	51
48	32	31	●	○	1	20	18
36	29	28	2	9	7	21	34
46	41	19	33	10	11	57	53
44	45	37	30	39	23	40	55

Edmead 27 Flukey F. 37

48	40	52	31	37	36	39	59
51	43	35	12	27	53	54	60
24	18	3	5	34	21	19	47
23	22	4	○	●	2	44	38
26	15	7	●	○	14	17	46
29	25	8	6	1	11	32	45
30	58	10	9	13	28	50	49
57	42	41	16	33	20	56	55

Alex 40 Joel 24

loss, so I tried to complicate things with g2. This is clearly much worse!

Note from a computer: Joel is right about 46 a1 being a win: but it seems that the diagonal is not what it is all about. I give perfect play sequences after 47h5, 47a2 and 47h3 (best):

47 h5 h7 a2 c1 a8 b7 g7 h1 f2 h2 h3 g2 g8 h8 26-38

47 a2 c1 a8 b7 h5 h7 g7 h1 g8 g2 f2 h8 h2 h3 26-38

47 h3 c1 h5 h1 a2 h2 a8 b7 f2 h7 g7 g2 g8 h8 29-35

Here c1 seems rather surprising!

That was very annoying! I did something even more bizarre against Pete Bhagat in round 9, by which time I reckoned I had clearly run out of Othello.

My game against Aubrey in round 3 is notable mainly for some weird-but-good moves. Unfortunately, he didn't play as well as usual in the second half. Someone should tell me the right moves for black sometime. I think 11 is supposed to be wrong.

The sequence 19-21-23 may be good: 25-27-29 certainly is good. 35 gains access to h5, which then kills. Not really a top class game, though.

My win against Garry may have been deserved in some sense, but I was about the luckiest I have ever been after allowing 53 h7 while in time trouble. The early part of the game is exciting, as the advantage appears to change hands again and again. After white's huge swindle on the West it should be easy, but I made it hard for myself (50 is badly mistimed: I blame time trouble).

My loss to Alex in round 8 is quite interesting: I worked out a master plan for the endgame involving seizing the a1-h8 diagonal. Unfortunately I got the timing wrong again. This is another example of taking strange edges to exert pressure. Alex and I were both very happy with our positions all the way through until I realized my master-plan was faulty. 46 a1 is surely an easy win. But after h5, my move to c1 flips the e3 disc: disaster! And now, proceeding with the g7 plan is just wrong. At 54 I counted h1 to be a

Game Analysis by Graham Brightwell and Joel Feinstein.

This is an analysis of the Final game in this year's British Championship. Joel won the game and the tournament to be the second person ever to win the title two years out of three. (Alan Woch won twice in the late 1970s.)

54	48	20	24	26	33	42	53
41	45	9	23	25	21	55	50
34	8	3	4	14	12	22	49
19	11	5	○	●	6	13	30
28	17	7	●	○	1	36	31
29	16	18	2	10	15	39	32
56	57	27	37	35	38	46	52
58	59	60	43	40	44	51	47

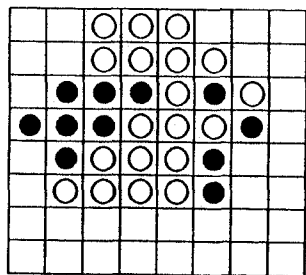
Brightwell 26 Feinstein 38

Anyway, Graham chose to take his chances with 11b4 12f3 13g4. Apparently, unbeknownst to Graham, this had been tried by Kozuka against Imre Leader in Paris, and by Imre against Joel earlier in this tournament. Indeed, Imre had tried to tell Graham about this, but Graham wasn't listening. All three games continued 14e3 15f6, but Leader had failed to find 16b6 against Kozuka. There seems to be general agreement that White is now ahead.

After 10b6.

Black has nothing to the South, and so it is now between 21d2 and 21f2. White is nice and centralised, but he is in some danger of just collapsing. The moves on the West all have pleasant replies, so White is left with 22g3 or g5. He chose the former. Now Black has the interesting option of 23d1. This is very complicated, but White seems to be ahead after 24f1 25b1 26a3 (or 26a5): once Black has to break the White wall, the edge structures are going to hurt him. The alternative was 23d2, among other things setting up c7. After 24d1, 25e1 26e2 27f1 was possible, but Graham preferred 25e2. Now 26e1 was fairly necessary, to prevent

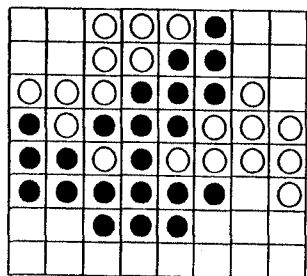
Black from going there and gaining access to g5.



After 26e1.

The position is still very tight. Black would very much like to go to g5, but it is annoyingly hard to organise access (going to g1 at any stage is not worth contemplating). Meanwhile, White has taken an edge, but hasn't yet had to take a move to the West.

Next, Black played 27c7, threatening to take a move to the West himself. An interesting possibility now is 28a6 29a5 30a3, when Black is under a lot of pressure. Joel chose 28a5 instead, and Graham was effectively forced to reply 29a6 to deprive White of access to d7. Now White took his move to h4, and Black decided to extend the edge with 31h5 32h6. Now the only option seemed to be 33f1. We both felt that White should act to avoid Black taking both of e7 and d7: perhaps 34g5 35g6 36e7, though this is far from a clear-cut win. This may well be preferable, but POLYGON informs us that Joel's chosen move, 34a3, is a win. After 34a3 35e7 (it would be nice to say that Black had set this up, and White had decided to allow it, but life isn't always like that) 36g5 (36e8?) 37d7, Black has some centre at last.

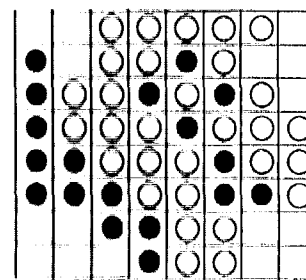


After 37d7.

POLYGON assures us that White is still winning, and that the obvious 38f7 is a way to do it, but it is clear that the game is far from over. Black is going to have to take an edge sometime soon, and the natural inclination is to go to a2, not turning along the diagonal.

After the pair 39g6 40e8, Graham couldn't see any point in playing further to the South, and went for the 41a2 edge-grab. It is probably fair to say that this is not as good as it looks: the NW region may be odd, but White is very likely to be able to organise access to a1 by sacrificing against the five. Meanwhile, after White takes g1, Black might reasonably hope to at least gain a tempo by playing b2, sacrificing against White's five, but that will make the b-file all black, leading to a swindle. One might almost think that Black would prefer to flip b3 when playing to a2, but then White would probably respond by going to b2 himself. Similarly, 41b1 would doubtless have been met by 42b2.

However White could hardly afford to let Black grab another edge with b1, taking him off access to h7 in the process, so 42g1 was necessary. Now after 43d8 44f8, Black could try 45g8, turning b3 and threatening b2.



After 44f8.

and b1.

Graham was frightened of 45g8 46g7!, and indeed the likely continuation would be 47b2 48b1 49h2 50h3 51a1 52h1 53h8 54h7 55g2 56b8 57c8 58a7 and 29-35 either way. He can't remember how much of that he saw, but it was enough to persuade him not to play it. In fact, White can win in a number of ways after 45g8: any of 46b8, 46g7, 46h7 win, although 46c8 loses. Another winning plan is to allow Black to move to b2, then play b8 and c8: if Black takes a8, then White simply wedges with a7 and gets the swindle with a1

Unfortunately for Graham there weren't many other choices, and it seems clear that his desperate move 45b2 was the best shot. The idea of course is that White can't easily cut either the a1-h8 or b1-h7 diagonals. Both players were in a little time trouble now, and a delicate manoeuvring game had just blown up into a tactical scrap requiring precise calculation—this is very common. Joel applied his "principle of the opposite X-square": the way to cut an uncuttable diagonal is to go to the opposite X-square. Hence 46g7.

Like all good rules, the principle of the opposite X-square has exceptions, and this is one of them. Both 46b8 and 46c8 are wins, and 46g7 is only a draw, and potentially a difficult one too. After 46c8, best play is 47b7, and now White plays g7: play is similar to the perfect play line of the game, with a difference that White has access to a8 at a key moment. The line after 46b8 is described by POLYGON as "slightly amusing": 46b8 47c8 48b7 (just a tempo, really, but pretty convincing) 49h2 50h3 51h7 52g7 53h8 54g8 55a7 56a8 57g2 and White takes the last three for 27-37.

Back to the game. White's 46g7 assured him of getting both b1 and a1, but the cost is that he will lose most of the Eastern half of the board. 47h8 48b1 is correct and clear enough, but what should Black do now? 49h2 50h3 51h7 52g8 is hopeless, so it's between 49h3 and 49g8. Graham's choice, 49h3, didn't quite work. The play was perfect thereafter: 50h2 51g8 52h7 53h1 54a1 55g2, and only now did it dawn on both players that White had enough to win. The natural sequence 56a7 57b7 58a8 59b8 60c8 gave 27-37. The only drama came when Joel stopped and thought at move 58, but even this was "well-judged", as he had a good five seconds left at the end. Like the line given after 45g8 46g7, it seems that the opportunity to play out the five squares in the SW at the end is worth a lot to White.

	○	○	○	○	○	○		
●	●	○	●	●	○			
●	●	●	○	○	●	○		
●	●	●	●	○	○	○	○	
●	●	○	●	●	○	○	○	
●	●	●	○	●	●	○	○	
		●	●	○	●	●		
			●	●	●	●		

After the hypothetical 49g8.

Back to 49g8. 50h7 stands out a mile, but Black can then play 51g2, turning back the key g7 disc at the cost of a corner. White has 52h1 53h3 54h2, with a lot of control, but then what? He cannot get a wedge at a7 without playing b7, turning b2. This would have been an agonising finish for Joel, but there really is nothing there. 50h7 is a loss. Joel had been worried about this line at the time, but would probably have played 50h7 anyway: Graham hadn't looked any farther down the line than 54h2, so rejected it.

After 49g8, White can tie (and win the Championship) in two entirely different ways. One way is to delay h7 by one move: 50c8 51b8 52h7 53g2 54h1 55h3 56h2, and now Black has unwanted access into the odd region, so 57b7 58a8 59a7 60a1 32-32. That is a very rare animal: a (correct) feed into an odd region. Alternatively, White can play the five-square region out now for a tempo: 50b8 51c8 52a7 53a8 54b7 55h2 56h7 57h3 58a1 59g2 60h1. Parity here and there, plus the a1 corner eventually, draws the day.

Was this a well-played game? Close analysis reveals two definite errors at 46 and 49, but there were no outrageous blunders. Joel deserved to win (writes Graham), for his play both in this game and in the rest of the tournament.

The 1992 Regionals *compiled by Peter Bhagat.*

The Othello year starts again. The British Othello Federation organises Regional Tournaments each year to find qualifiers for our National Championships. All are welcome to enter as many times as they wish.

To become World Champion, you start by entering a regional. In each regional, the top three who haven't yet qualified will go forward to the Nationals, held in September. The top three there will qualify for the World Championships. Your only other route is to take up Madagascan citizenship.

The committee has decided that the National Champion should automatically qualify for the next year's National Championships. Therefore two people have already qualified—Joel Feinstein and Phil Marson as the winner of the Challengers Tournament last September.

Please take advantage of the extra opportunities to play and turn up to as many regionals as possible. Whoever turns up to the most regionals this year can expect an honourable mention in the newsletter. For those of you who aren't aiming for a place in the National final, we have some prizes this year: Peter Pan Playthings have kindly donated some pocket sets, which will be awarded to the

best "novice" at each Regional. (The definition of "novice" will be left at the discretion of the organiser.)

It helps if you ring up before turning up to a regional as it allows the organiser to cater for the number of players expected. You can also be told of any last minute changes and/or given directions. In particular, some of the events have venues which are yet to be finalised (marked as "TBA"), so obviously you'll have to ring the organiser there. (If you can't get hold of the organiser, try one of the Federation officers.) As ever, the Federation would like to thank all those who give up their time and energy to run a Regional.

All events start at 9:30am.

EASTBOURNE. Saturday 14th March. Organiser: Rodney Hammond, 70, Percival Road, Hampden Park, Eastbourne, 0323 502167. Venue: TBA.

EDINBURGH. Saturday 21st March. Organiser: Willie Hunter, 95, Bankton Park East, Murleston, Livingston, West Lothian, EH54 9BN. 0506 33386. Venue: Alton Hotel, Grosvenor Crescent, Edinburgh.

WELLINGBOROUGH. Saturday, 4th April. Organiser: Margaret Plowman, 137, Torrington Crescent, Wellingborough. 0933 678886. (Work: 0933-278000.) Venue: Victoria Centre, Palk Road, Wellingborough.

CAMBRIDGE. Saturday May 2nd. Organiser: Peter Bhagat, 1 Parker Street, Cambridge, CB1 1JL. 0223 62323. Venue: Wolfson Party Room, Trinity College, Cambridge.

NOTTINGHAM. Saturday 16th May. Organiser: Phil Marson, 31, Claremont Road, Sherwood Rise, Nottingham, NG5 1BH. 0602 606234. Venue: Nottingham Mechanics, Birkbeck House, Trinity Square, Nottingham.

MANCHESTER. Saturday 6th June. Organiser: John Lysons, 5, Ashlands Drive, Audenshaw, Manchester, M34 5EF. 061 320 8467. Venue: TBA.

LONDON. Saturday 28th June. Organiser: Graham Brightwell, Dept. of Mathematics, LSE, Houghton St., London WC2A 2AE. 071 955 7624 (W). Venue: TBA.

WINCHESTER. Saturday 11th July. Organiser: David Haigh, 62, Romsey Road, Winchester, Hants., SO22 5PH. 0962 853826. Venue: Westgate School, Cheriton Road, Winchester.

DONCASTER. Saturday 27th July. Organiser: Eileen Forsyth, 49, Balmoral Road, Doncaster, DN2 5BZ. 0302 364626. Venue: St Johns Ambulance Brigade Headquarters, St. Sepulchre Gate West, Doncaster.