

# Mind Sports Olympiad Goes Global

By **Alexander Baron** - May 4, 2015

---

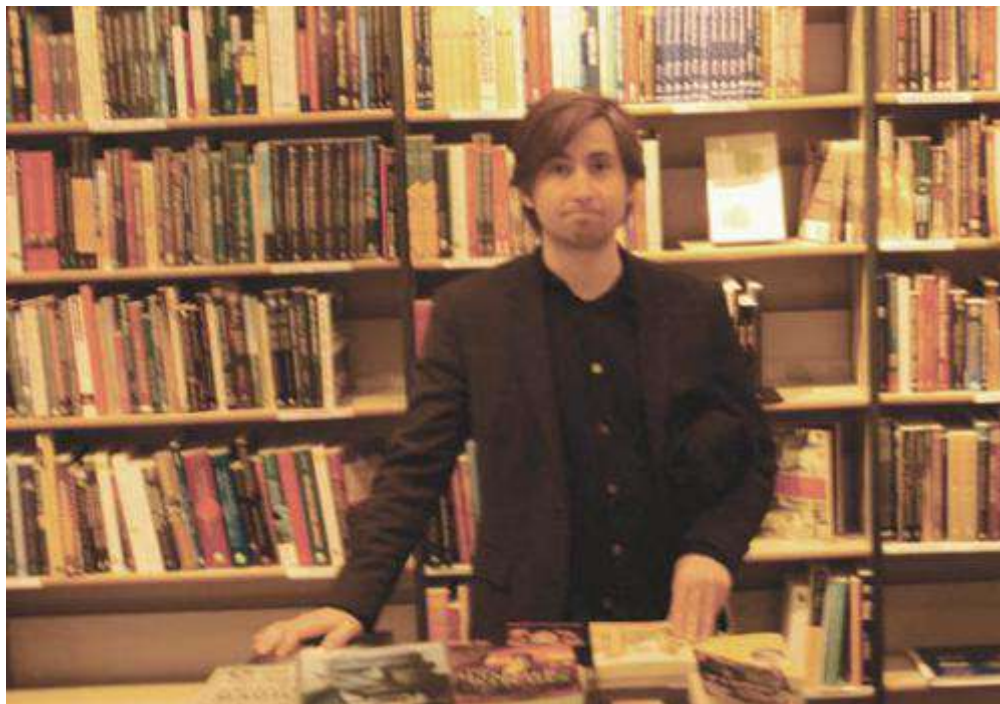


**1**  
SHARE

The first Mind Sports Olympiad was held in London from August 18-24, 1997. For the next three years the event looked as though it would become truly enormous. For reasons that need not be discussed here, that didn't happen. Over the next few years it was scaled down, reaching its nadir in 2007 when it was held in a church hall at Potters Bar. Since then it has slowly crawled back thanks to the dedication of a small but dedicated team: the man who first conceived the event, David Levy; chess organiser Tony Corfe; Etan Ilfeld; and a few others.

As well as regular games like backgammon, bridge, chess, cribbage and scrabble, the MSO has never been shy about introducing new ones, like continuo and lines of action. Continuo has been around only since 1988. An even newer game is diving chess, which is quite as bizarre as it sounds. It was invented by Etan Ilfeld, who became its first world

champion, in 2011. Last year he had to settle for a silver medal; this year the event will be held in July, a month ahead of MSO proper. This will take place in North London from August 23-31; registration is already open, and details can be found on the [official website](#).



*Etan Ifeld*

Even though the British Empire crumbled with the trifle, there are those who still regard London as the centre of the Universe, but for Asian and Anzac players there are now events closer to home. A two day event will be held in Korea over the solstice, June 20-21, and the winner of the Pentamind will received free entry to the London main event. This is far from the first time Korea has hosted an MSO, and now there is an event in New Zealand, from May 30 to June 7. This will also include a Pentamind event.

The MSO also has a [Facebook page](#) and [YouTube channel](#).

**1**  
SHARE