

BRITISH GO JOURNAL

Editor: ANDREW DALY

NUMBER 13

APRIL 1971

JOHN BARRS

It was with great regret that the Go World learned of the passing of John Barrs, who died suddenly at his home on 31st January, 1971.

John learnt to play Go in 1929 at the age of 15 years, and became the driving force behind British Go in the ensuing years. In the 1930s he formed the Linta House Wei Chi Association and several internationally-renowned chess players were involved with John in Go at this time.

In 1953 John formed the London Go Club, which met regularly in his home until it finally outgrew his premises. At the same time he founded the British Go Association; he remained President of this organisation until his death, and was principally responsible for the great growth of popularity of Go in Britain. An estimated fifteen thousand Go sets have been sold in this country to date. Over the years many visiting Japanese and European Go players have found a warm welcome at John's home.

A past President of the European Go Federation, he took an active role in the unified development of Go in Europe. John represented the United Kingdom in the First and Second International Go Tournaments held in Tokyo in 1963 and 1964. He gained the first sho-dan certificate awarded to an Englishman, and for many years this remained the only one.

He was always full of encouragement for beginners and spent many evenings teaching all levels of kyus. The current British strength of one yon-dan, one san-dan, two ni-dans and eight sho-dans is testimony to this encouragement. In one way or another almost all British Go players owe their opportunities to play the game to John, and his loss is a bitter blow to Go in Britain and Europe.

ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO: BRITISH GO ASSOCIATION
60 WANTAGE ROAD, READING, BERKSHIRE, RG3 2SF. Telephone: 0734 581001

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Editorial

I would like to thank the Bristol Club for keeping me so well informed of their activities, and would encourage other Clubs to do likewise.

I apologise for the delay in the publication of this issue, part of which is due to the postal strike.

Secretary's Notes

Following the tragic death of John Barrs, President of the Association, the Committee have appointed Francis Roads as acting President, until a new President can be elected at the A.G.M. Francis Roads has been proposed for this post, but any other nominations should be submitted to the Secretary, with the names and addresses of the proposer and seconder in writing.

All correspondence should now be addressed to the Secretary at: 60 Wantage Road, Reading, Berkshire, RG3 2SF. Telephone 0734 581001. Cheques for books, subscriptions, etc., which are not normally supplied on credit, should be made payable to the British Go Association.

Subscriptions were due for 1971 on 1st January, at the rate of 20p for registrations through club secretaries, and 30p for unattached members.

Members are reminded that any requests for promotion into or in the Dan grades should be sent to the Secretary, together with evidence in writing.

Annual General Meeting 1971

The Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held on Sunday, 4th April, at the conclusion of the British Go Congress, at Devonshire Hall, Leeds University. The Agenda will be:

- Reading of Minutes of 1970 Meeting
 - Matters Arising
 - Reports of Officers of the Association:
 - Acting President
 - Treasurer (Accounts published on page 12)
 - Secretary
 - Election of Officers and Committee
 - Any Other Business
-

British Go Congress 1971

The Fourth British Go Congress, including the competition for the British Open and National Championships, will be held on Saturday, 3rd and Sunday, 4th April, 1971, at Devonshire Hall, Leeds University.

This year, for the first time, all the competitions will be decided by a McMahon system even game tournament, involving all the players at the Congress in one competition for several prizes.

The postal strike has naturally caused some disruption of applications, but when possible these should be addressed to:

J. D. Thewlis, Methodist International House, Cliff Road, Leeds 6.

European Go Congress 1971

This year, as in 1963, the European Congress is being held in Britain. The site chosen is Badock Hall, one of the Halls of Residence of Bristol University, where accommodation will be available. The Congress will last from 21st August to 4th September, in detail:

- Saturday, 21st August - Arrival 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Dinner 7 p.m.
Opening Ceremony 8.30 p.m.
- Sunday, 22nd August - Tournaments begin
- Friday, 3rd September - Tournaments finish
Prize Giving and Closing Ceremony 8.30 p.m.
- Saturday, 4th September - Departure

Competitions will be arranged according to demand, but will certainly include:-

European Championship (Competitors must have the permission of their National Go Association)

Master Championship

Master Candidates Tournament

European Team Championship (decided on the basis of percentage results in the above three tournaments)

Even Game Tournaments (in graded groups)

There may also be handicap, lightning and other tournaments.

Entry forms have been sent to all affiliated clubs of the BGA, and unattached members can get theirs from the Secretary.

The cost will be £2.40 per day for accommodation (half price for children) plus a Congress fee of £2.00 for all those attending and a tournament fee of £2.75 for those playing in the tournaments.

NEWS

Wessex Go Tournament

The Wessex Go Tournament was held on Sunday, 1st November, when about 30 players from the south of England met in the Town Hall of Marlborough. It is hoped that this will become a regular competition for the trophy presented by Robnor Paints of Swindon.

Also present were the BBC in the guise of a Radio 4 interviewer, who talked to Francis Roads. He seemed to find it hard to believe that intelligent adults could

spend their time in this way but, nevertheless, the interview was broadcast on the Today programme the next morning.

By imposing very strict time limits the organisers managed to fit in four rounds of play. While this proved rather tiring for the competitors, particularly for the heroes who had to leave Cambridge at 6 a.m., it made the journey worth while.

Results:	Division 1 (1dan - 6kyu)			
1.	M. Roberts	(Bristol)	4kyu	4 wins
2.	A. Daly	(Reading)	1dan	3 wins
3.	J. Perring	(Harwell)	6kyu	3 wins
	Division 2 (7kyu - 10kyu)			
1.	P. Prescott	(Cambridge)	7kyu	3 wins
2.	P. Langley	(Bristol)	8kyu	3 wins
		(Cambridge)	8kyu	3 wins
	Division 3 (12kyu - 22kyu)			
1.	J. Searle	(Bristol)	17kyu	3 wins
2.	D. Chandler	(Bristol)	18kyu	3 wins

Thanks are due to Mrs. Chandler and Mrs. Snelgrove, who did the catering, and to Bristol Go Club for organising a very enjoyable day.

Death of Felix Dueball

Go players throughout Europe were saddened to hear last autumn of the death at the age of 90 of Felix Dueball, one of the first Go players in Germany.

Tokyo Newsletter

from Stuart Dowsey

We have a new Meijin, Fujisawa Shuko. This is the second time he has held the title as he was the winner of the First Meijin Tournament in 1962. Since that time he has been eclipsed by Sakata and the rising Rin Kaiho, but now he has emerged again with a convincing win, 4 - 2, in the 1970 series. Fujisawa won the first game, slipped behind when Rin won the next two games, but took the next three in a row to win the title.

For those who already have everything in the Go field, an enterprising company has produced a series of lessons (in Japanese) on an LP record. The first volume is out, and features an introductory course by Sakakibara, 8 dan, who is also the regular beginners' teacher on NHK television.

Among the latest arrivals here in Tokyo is Mark Hall, late of London Go Club. He is working at the British Embassy and will stay $2\frac{1}{2}$ years. In the few months he has been here he has already reached a respectable 3 kyu level. If a few more Englishmen like him and John Tilley could get to Tokyo, the general level of Go in Britain would benefit no end.

Mark Hall and John Tilley both took part in an international goodwill match, in which a team of foreigners resident in Tokyo played a team of Japanese women from the Koyukai group. The foreigners won by 8 matches to 2.

European Congress 1970

Last year's European Congress and Championship, held in Vienna, was notable for the best British performance for some years. John Diamond, with a 3-3 record against 4th and 5th dan opposition, was placed third in the Championship, and on the basis of these results was promoted to 4th dan.

The winner once again was Jurgen Mattern, 5th dan, from Berlin, who has won more times than not in recent Championships, and is probably the strongest player in Europe. Second was last year's surprise winner, Manfred Wimmer, of Austria, and third equal were Diamond, Rebattu and Wiltchek.

Other British players competing were John Barrs, Fred Hall and Tony Cooper in the Shodan section, which Cooper lost only on a countback. Mike Digby played in the 1-2 kyu section.

PROFESSIONAL GAME

Shusai v. Karigane, 1926

This game was played in 1926 between two of the leading players of the time, and has been admired ever since as an example of how Go should be played. Shusai, the last of the traditionally-elected Honinbo and Meijin, dominated the Go scene in the first years of the century. Karigane, though not so well known, was the leading player of the Kiseisha Academy.

The game was played as the first of a series of matches between Kiseisha and Nihon Kiin, and as such was of great importance to the academies as well as to the players. They had met twice before in important games, winning once each.

The quality and excitement of the play, as you will soon appreciate as you go

through the game, were more than worthy of the importance of the occasion. After a calm beginning the two masters embark on a seemingly decisive hand-to-hand fight like beginners. Black loses a large group of stones, but the result is still in doubt; the life of nearly every stone on the board is called in question. This is a very exciting as well as a very instructive game.

White: Shusai, Honinbo, Meijin, 9-dan

Black: Karigane, 7-dan

No komi

16 hours each, then byoyomi.

White 2. One of Shusai's favourite moves. Rather unusual.

Black 7-11. This joseki is rather out-of-keeping with his influence-seeking move 5. However, Karigane must have intended to follow this line when he played 5.

White 12. High play because of his low position in the lower left. He should not play in the upper left because of the Black attacks at 'a' and 'b'. Points 12 and 13 are meai (when one player takes one, the other player plays the other, of equal value), so that White gets the excellent point 14.

White 16. Separating the Black stones in preparation for the invasion 22.

White 20. Necessary to complete his security in the corner.

White 22. Prevents Black extension from either side.

Black 25. Cannot play hane, because then White would draw back at 'b' and then play either the cut at 25 or cap at 30.

White 26. A light play.

White 28. He follows the proverb by striking at the waist of the knight's move, and by sacrificing one stone builds a huge moyo (area of influence) in the centre of the board. Shusai also contrives

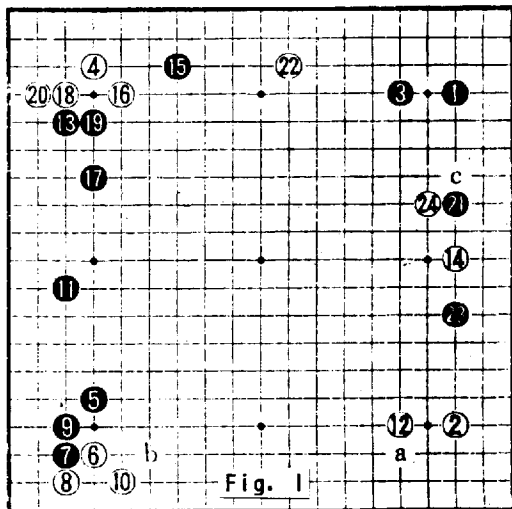


Fig. 1

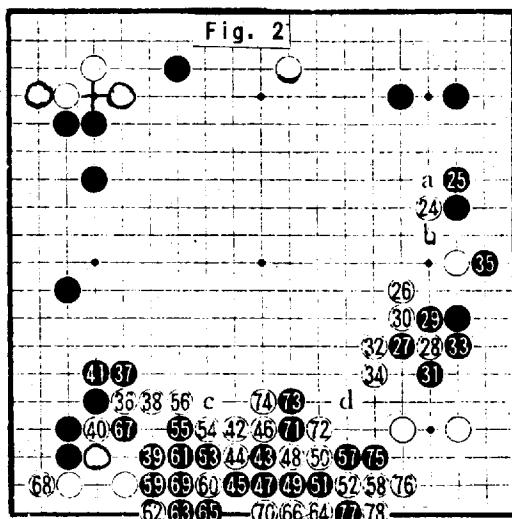


Fig. 2

sente by the threat on the life of the isolated Black group, which must connect with 35.

White 36. Starts to build the other side of his moyo.

Black 39. Allows him to connect at 41 with sente.

Black 43. The White moyo is too big for Black to be content with a small reduction from the outside; he must invade deeply into it.

White 46. If he plays at 60, Black can live easily with the threat at 53.

Black 47. He could play at 48 for a small life after White 60, Black 58.

Black 53. At this point the game was adjourned at the end of the first day's play. The next three moves took two hours - even after the night's analysis.

Black 61. Ignores the chance of playing ko at 69.

White 66. Black now has no life.

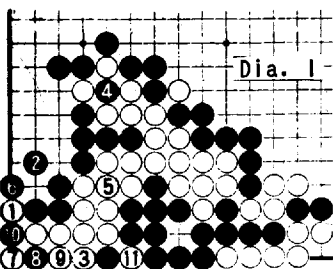
Black 67. Karigane spent three hours on this move, deciding how best to attack the encircling White stones.

Black 71. The attack begins. Every move up to 100 is forced.

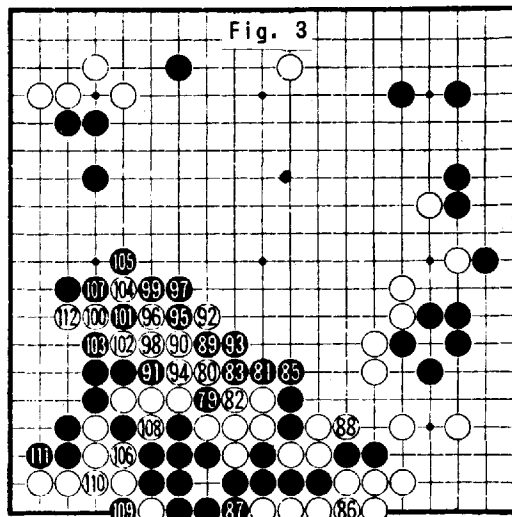
White 74. The only answer to the dual threat of 'c' and 'd'.

Black 101. Leads to the ko. The game enters the most difficult and decisive stage.

White 112. A daring and tough play. He could follow Dia. 1 to kill the Black group by double ko, but then there would be no weakness in the outer wall.



White 120. A good move. Black (Karigane) thought after the game that he should have played here with 115.

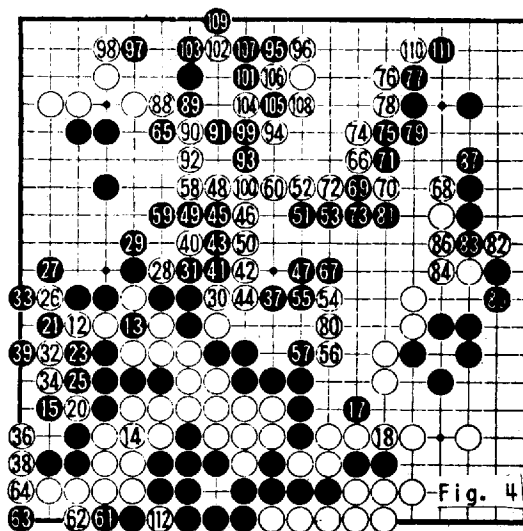


White 136. The result he hoped for at 112, and made possible by 120, has come about. Black can no longer attack at 164, and will have problems with his central stones.

White 152. White builds moyo again, while attacking the central Black stones.

White 158. Extracts the last ounce of profit from his sacrifices at 128 and 140.

By this stage Karigane was seriously short of time, and made several mistakes through the pressure on him. He eventually had to give up when his 16 hours were finished. Commentators felt, however, that the game was already won for Shusai at this stage, and that the margin would have been around 5 points.



Handicaps in a Japanese Go Club

A Japanese friend kindly gave me the details of the handicapping system used in the Okubo Go Club. The system will be of interest to British players not only for the way in which they adjust the handicaps of their players, but also for the way in which professional players are matched with amateurs.

The strength of professional players is normally judged on the basis of the results of games in competition, on which they spend 10 or 12 hours each. Of course many amateurs cannot give so much time to a single game, and so their strength is on a somewhat different basis.

This means that, although the true strength of top professionals might be about 200 on the index number list on the right, when they play with amateurs their strengths are taken at

Index Number	Equivalent Strength
200	Professional players
190	
180	
170	Top amateurs
160	
150	Amateur 5-dan
140	4-dan
130	3-dan
120	2-dan
110	1-dan
100	1-kyu
90	2-kyu
80	3-kyu
70	4-kyu
60	5-kyu
50	6-kyu
40	7-kyu

about 190. Mr. Okubo, 9-dan, who comes to every meeting of the club, is assessed at 180 for the purpose of teaching games.

Each member of the club has a strength assessment in terms of the index numbers, which might either be an exact equivalent of a kyu or dan grade or a halfway position, such as 115 - between 1 and 2 dan.

Index Number	Equivalent Strength
30	8-kyu
20	9-kyu
10	10-kyu
0	11-kyu
-10	12-kyu
etc.	"beginners"

To calculate the handicap for a particular game, the two index numbers are subtracted, and one stone given for every ten points difference. When an exact division is not possible, Black is given 5 points komi. A special ruling for a difference of only 5 in the index numbers gives White 2.5 points komi, not the 5 komi he gets when the strengths are equal.

It is interesting to compare this system with the old "European" system used in Britain until two years ago. The European system gives half a stone more than the Okubo system for every handicap game and thus favours the Black player. A further advantage to Black is in the method of calculating intermediate handicaps, by giving komi.

Competitions and Handicap Adjustment

The Okubo Club play a 'round' of matches lasting about a month, after which the scores of all those members who have played in more than 12 matches are compared. The winner is the one with the highest percentage of wins.

Handicap adjustment is also based on the percentage of wins. Those with percentages over 65 are advanced by 5 points in index number, and those who do worse than 35% are demoted 5 points. For players above strength 150 (5-dan), two consecutive months of over 65% or below 35% are required before a change is made.

Why 19 x 19 ?

An interesting feature of the game of Go is that, unlike many other board games, altering the size or even the shape of the board has only a slight effect on the style of the tactics of the game. Is there any special reason why 19 x 19 is the accepted standard?

In the History section of an old Go Review there is mentioned a period when Go was played on a 17 x 17 board in a region of China. As this version of the game died out, one may assume that the choice of the 19 x 19 board is based partly on experience and not merely on tradition.

Most of us have experienced playing on the 13 x 13 and 10 x 10 boards, and I think many people would agree that, especially in the latter case, the usual approximate equivalence of territory gained below the third line and the influence of stones on the fourth is upset - the territory being of greater value. Whereas on the full board an opening san-san (3:3) move is regarded as defensive and biased towards territory rather than influence, on the 10 x 10 board it is a well-balanced move, while the mokuhadzushi (3:5) and takamoku (4:5) openings seem much too high to be useful.

One possible reason for the 19 x 19 standard, then, is that it is the size which best preserves the subtle balance between third-line territory and fourth-line influence, whereby initially the value of the territory seems greater, but, if the player with stones on the fourth line is able to extend his wall beyond three or four stones in length, while the other player continues to crawl along the third line, the value of the outward influence often becomes greater.

Another reason could be that the 19 x 19 board enables the handicap stones to be placed at a distance equal to the maximum safe extension along the side, i.e., a five-line extension from a four- (or more) stone wall. This is, of course, a quantity independent of board size and, therefore, if one assumes that the fourth line is to be used for handicap stones and that the side stone is to be five lines from the corner stone, the 19 x 19 board is predicted.

However, clearly there is room for experiment with different board sizes and possibly also with rectangular boards. I suggest that such experiments should set out to answer such questions as (i) Which full board joseki become invalid on larger or smaller boards, and which (if any) are valid irrespective of board size; (ii) How exactly are the relative values of the third and fourth lines (and the second and fifth ones, for that matter) related to board size; (iii) What is the effect of different board sizes on extensions along the edge?

I would be interested to hear from anyone who has views or experience on this topic to pass on.

Francis Roads.

BGA ACCOUNTS FOR 1970

Income and Expenditure Account for year ended 31.12.70

<u>1969</u>	£ s d	<u>1969</u>	£ s d
43 Sundry Expenses	34. 0. 2	78 Subscriptions	67. 7. 6
4 EGF Affiliation Fee	2. 3. 3	188 Surplus on sale of sets literature, etc.	161.14. 5
96 Journal Expenses	64.10. 0	27 Interest on Deposit	<u>33.16. 7</u>
<u>150</u> Surplus for year	<u>162. 5. 1</u>		
293	262.18. 6	293	262.18. 6

Balance Sheet at 31st December 1970

<u>1969</u>	£ s d	<u>1969</u>	£ s d
Fund A/c. at 1.1.70	630. 1. 2	111 Stock	104. 0. 0
Add surplus for year	<u>162. 5. 1</u>	179 Advance for books, etc.	0. 0. 0
630	792. 6. 3	10 Deposit re 1971 Bristol Congress	10. 0. 0
Deposited from		538 Deposit a/c	772. 0. 1
200 Magazine a/c.	200. 0. 0	113 Current a/c	<u>118.14. 7</u>
20 Subs. in advance	12. 1. 0	0 Cash in Hand	<u>10. 9. 0</u>
<u>101</u> Sundry Creditors	<u>10.16. 5</u>		
951	1015. 3. 8	951	1015. 3. 8

Magazine Account - Income and Expenditure

<u>1969</u>	£ s d	<u>1969</u>	£ s d
21 Stock at 1.1.70	14. 0. 0	57 Subs. in advance 1.1.70	26.12. 0
<u>88</u> Purchases 1970	<u>72.18. 4</u>	<u>121</u> Cash Received	<u>103. 3. 0</u>
108	86.18. 4	178	129.15. 0
14 Less Current Stock	25. 0. 0	Less Subs. in advance	
		27	31.12.70
	<u>61.18. 4</u>	151	<u>100. 7. 0</u>
95	61.18. 4	0 Due from Cambridge UGC	<u>4. 4. 0</u>
13 Sundry Expenses	9.15. 8		
<u>43</u> Surplus for year	<u>32.17. 0</u>	151	104.11. 0
151	104.11. 0		

Balance Sheet

<u>1969</u>	£ s d	<u>1969</u>	£ s d
116 Reserve Fund at 1.1.70	160.11. 1	14 Stock	25. 0. 0
<u>43</u> Surplus for year	<u>32.17. 0</u>	200 Deposit with General A/c.	200. 0. 0
160	193. 8. 1	0 Due from Cambridge UGC	4. 4. 0
72 Due to Nihon Kiin	145.16. 8	46 Cash in hand & bank	141.16. 9
0 Due to London GC	2. 8. 0		
<u>26</u> Subs. in Advance	<u>29. 8. 0</u>		
260	<u>371. 0. 9</u>	260	<u>371. 0. 9</u>

Price List for 1971

The following books are normally available from the Secretary at 60, Wantage Road, Reading, Berkshire, RG3 2SF.

Learn to Play Go	<i>by John Barrs and Akio Matsui</i>		25p
Go Proverbs Illustrated	<i>by K. Segoe</i>		£1.75
Vital Points of Go	<i>by K. Takagawa</i>		£1.75
Modern Joseki and Fuseki	<i>by E. Sakata</i>	Volume 1	£1.75
		Volume 2	£1.90
Basic Techniques of Go	<i>by Haruyama and Nagahara</i>		£1.90
Matsuda Go Letters	<i>by T. Matsuda</i>		£5.00
Joseki (in Japanese)	<i>by E. Sakata</i>		60p
Tesuji Problems (in Japanese)	<i>by Maeda</i>	10 to 4kyu	50p
		5 to 1kyu	50p
		3kyu to shodan	50p
Subscription to 'Go Review' for current year			£4.20
Back copies of 'Go Review'	£1.20/dozen	or each	20p
Back copies of British Go Journal		each	5p

Go Boards

A carpenter in Bristol has started to make Go boards, and has been producing several very attractive types. I have examined these boards very closely, and they seem to be very good value for money and very attractive in themselves.

They are available from the Bristol Go Club at the address below. Cheques should be made payable to the Bristol Go Club.

BOARDS

Shallow board (42cm x 45cm x 3.2cm) in transparent polyurethane or an oak stain	£1.50
Folding board (42cm x 45.6cm x 1.8cm). Folds down the middle to half width. Oak grain.	£1.50
Deep board (42cm x 45cm x 20cm) A very attractive board.	£2.50

BOWLS

Bowls (15cm diameter x 7cm deep) with closely fitting lids, light sycamore/birch or dark Sapele/mahogany	£1.35
Very dark and highly polished	£1.50

EXTRAS

Felt base for the deep or shallow board (red or green)	50p
Legs for the deep board (alternative to felt)	75p
Algebraic lettering round board edges ... two edges	50p
four edges	85p

Stones remain a difficult problem, but the Bristol Club are hoping to arrange for some to be manufactured shortly.

Order from: A. H. Smith, Esq.,
Secretary to Bristol Go Club,
55, Heath Road, Downend, Bristol.

Delivery should take 2 to 4 weeks, and a small charge for post and packing will be payable on delivery.

List of Go Clubs affiliated to the British Go Association for 1971.

LONDON GO CLUB;

Royal Oak, 88 Bishops Bridge Road, London W2.

IMPERIAL COLLEGE GO CLUB;

Imperial College Union, Prince Consort Road, London SW7.

DULWICH COLLEGE GO CLUB;

c/o M.K. Jones, Esq.,
35 Highfield Drive, West Wickham, Kent.

ENFIELD GO CLUB;

c/o F.M. Roads, Esq.,
61 Malmesbury Road, London E18.

READING GO CLUB;

c/o A. Henrici, Esq.,
ICL, Reading Bridge House, Reading RG1 8PN.

HARWELL GO CLUB;

c/o Dr. J.K. Perring,
TP8.9 Atomic Research Establishment, Harwell, Didcot, Berks.

CHELTENHAM GO CLUB;

c/o M. Parker, Esq.,
20 Beaumont Drive, Cheltenham, Glos.

BRISTOL GO CLUB;

c/o A.H. Smith, Esq.,
55 Heath Road, Downend, Bristol BS16 6HD.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY GO SOCIETY;

c/o A. Tate, Esq.,
Brasenose College, Oxford.

SHEFFIELD AREA GO CLUB;

B.L. Shaw, Esq.,
Ranmoor House, Shore Lane, Sheffield S10 3AY.

MIDDLESBROUGH GO CLUB;

c/o R.H. Vie, Esq.,
31 Walton Avenue, Linthorpe, Middlesbrough.

DAIGAKU GO CLUB;

University of Bradford Union, Richmond Road, Bradford 7.

STAFFORD GO CLUB;

c/o R.G. Sayer, Esq., 96 Wordsworth Avenue, Stafford.

NOTTINGHAM GO CLUB;

c/o R.G. Wareing, Esq.,

31 Sandringham Drive, Beeston, Nottingham NG9 3ED.

MANCHESTER GO CLUB;

c/o C. Irving, Esq.,

34 Richmond Walk, Radcliffe, Manchester M26 0JN.

NATIONAL GIRO GO CLUB;

c/o Mrs. Muriel Holmes,

AMB3, National Giro Centre, Bootle, Lancs.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY GO SOCIETY;

c/o J.S. Robinson, Esq., St. John's College, Cambridge.

BEECHAM RESEARCH LABS. GO CLUB;

c/o D.A. Love, Esq., 36 Wimbourne Avenue, Redhill, Surrey.

BOURNEMOUTH GO CLUB;

c/o D.L. Clarke, Esq.,

17 Colville Road, Boscombe, Bournemouth, Hants.

UNIVERSITY OF EAST ANGLIA GO SOCIETY;

Students Union, Wilberforce Road, Norwich, NOR 77H.

GLASGOW UNIVERSITY GO SOCIETY;

c/o A. Marshall, Esq., 468 Great Western Road, Glasgow W2.

EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY GO CLUB;

c/o J.E. Allen, Esq., 40 Bryce Crescent, Currie, Midlothian.

JOHN RIGBY GRAMMAR SCHOOL GO CLUB;

c/o G.H. Bold, Esq.,

102 Kentmere Ave., Carr Mill, St. Helens, Lancs. .

LIVERPOOL UNIVERSITY GO CLUB;

New Students Union, 2 Bedford Street North, Liverpool 7.

NEWCASTLE GO CLUB;

C.H. Gardner, Esq.,

11 The Ridgeway, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE43 4LP.

LEEDS UNIVERSITY GO SOCIETY;

c/o J.D. Thewlis, Esq., MIH, 55 Cliff Road, Leeds LS6 2HB.