

BRITISH **Go** JOURNAL





<http://uk.geocities.com/kisekigo/fridgeplay.html>

Available by post for just £11.80 from Peter Wendes, 13 Stakes Road, Purbrook, Hants, PO7 5LU.

Jackie Chai took this photograph of Francis Roads at the International Amateur Pair Go Championships in Tokyo last year. See Francis' article on page 43 for more details of the trip

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Editorial

Jenny Radcliffe

journal@britgo.org

Welcome to what has somehow turned into a Summer issue of the British Go Journal! Andy Brixey, who's done such a good job over the last few issues, has simultaneously acquired a new wife and a new job, and decided he needs to find time for other things in his life apart from nagging people to contribute to the Journal. So good luck to him, and hello from me!

To introduce myself: I'm currently about 9k; I've been playing for nearly four years; I'm on the Training Committee of Durham (University) Go Club where we do a lot of recruitment of beginners in the student population, and at the moment I'm spending rather too much time playing Go online on KGS.

Future plans for the Journal? I'm hoping to expand things in two ways. Firstly, I hope we'll see more of the "people profiles" we've got in this issue (see page 14 for a profile of BGA President Simon Goss and page 19 for an 80th Birthday Interview with old hand Geoff Gray) - after all, the BGA exists because of an awful lot of people who do an awful lot of voluntary work.

Secondly, I want to bring the "trickle-down" teaching method that works so well in clubs into the Journal - instead of relying on beleaguered Dans and high-single-figure kyus to write all the technical articles, I want articles from anyone and everyone teaching what they know. Obviously I shall then further beleaguer the strong players to error-check, but I ask them to do so within the scope of knowing the article is aimed at a lower level.

So if you're interested in writing articles about anything Go-related at any level, let me know! I'm also keen to recruit more proof-readers, and if any more L^AT_EX- and/or T_EX-perts are knocking around and wouldn't mind me throwing occasional questions at them, that would be great (Note for the curious: L^AT_EX is the software I'm using to edit the Journal!). Additional illustrative contributions would also be welcome - either drawings or photographs.

The deadline for submissions to the next issue will be 31st August, with a planned theme of recruitment and teaching of absolute beginners, particularly students. The issue, which will hopefully take much less time to produce now that I've got to grips with the format, should then come out in time for Freshers arriving at universities, and I hope will inspire all clubs with a nearby university to throw themselves into recruiting there.

I'm very sorry that this issue has taken so long to come out; I have procrastinated perfectionist-ly, and very likely still left a mass of error. I apologise for them, too. Please forgive my mistakes, and please let me know about any problems you notice, particularly if you think they are likely to reappear.

As ever, any comments, queries, moans or groans to journal@britgo.org!

Jenny Radcliffe

USEFUL WEB AND EMAIL ADDRESSES

Journal comments and contributions: journal@britgo.org
Email for general BGA enquiries: bga@britgo.org
BGA website: www.britgo.org/
BGA email list for general discussion and announcements: gotalk@britgo.org
<http://three.pairlist.net/mailman/listinfo/gotalk>
For discussion of how the BGA operates: bga-policy@britgo.org
<http://two.pairlist.net/mailman/listinfo/bga-policy>

UK News and Tournaments

Tony Atkins

ajaxgo@yahoo.co.uk

Milton Keynes

It hardly seemed a year since the last tournament in Milton Keynes. Of course there was the British Go Congress held in the city centre in the Spring, but September soon came round again with the 16th Milton Keynes Tournament. It was held as usual at Walton Hall on the Open University Campus, on the 19th. 48 players attended and enjoyed the lunch in the cellar bar, the mulberry tree and rose-garden next to the playing hall. Different this time was the BGA holding an EGM to consider the accounts that were not audited until after the AGM; they were approved by the 20 members present. In the tournament the unbeaten winner was Alex Rix (4 dan London). Also on three out of three were Matthew Reid (1 kyu Cambridge), Greg Pallis (8 kyu Oxford) and Stuart Patterson (16 kyu Leamington). The Team Prize was jointly won by the Oxford and Leamington teams, both winning two thirds of their games. The side event played on the unique Milton Keynes Go Board was won by William Brooks with 8.5 out of 9; second was Jonathan Englefield with 6.5 out of 8.

IN THE LIGHT

Other Games

www.tradgames.org.uk/

This site has been put together by English game fan James Masters and covers many games in the categories: Board Games, Table Games, Pub Games, Lawn Games and Dices, Cards and Tiles. Of course there is a section on "The sublime game of Go". You can also buy equipment for the games at his online shop.

Wanstead

Wanstead House by George Green in east London was again the venue for the first event in October. 72 players took part on the 9th and near by there were two other Go events taking place. At the Imperial War Museum, Peter and Sheila Wendes were teaching Go in the shadow of a V2 rocket (aided by other BGA volunteers) and at Bill Streeten's flat the fourth game of the British Go Championship was going on. The moves were sent by text message to the tournament and displayed on a demonstration board. The winner of that game was of course Matthew Macfadyen, whereas winner of the tournament was again Young Kim (5 dan Central London). Also winning all four games were Paul Maidowski (1 kyu Cambridge), Steve Bailey (3 kyu West Surrey) and Simon Mader (5 kyu Cambridge). The following won prizes for three out of four: Alex Webb (19 kyu Oxford), Pauline Bailey (16 kyu West Surrey), Rasa Norinkevičiute (12 kyu Eastbourne), Nicola Hurden (9 kyu Bracknell), Xinyi Lu (9kyu Maidenhead), Andy Marden (8 kyu), Mark Todkill (6 kyu North London), Patrick Donovan (6 kyu Eastbourne), Tuong Nguyen (5 kyu CLGC), Chris Goldsmith (5 kyu Cambridge), Philippe Bourrez (4 kyu West Surrey), Martin Harvey (3 kyu Manchester), Simon Goss (2 dan Bracknell), Alistair Wall (4 dan Wanstead) and Joong-hoon Jo (3 dan). Wanstead was also the centre of interest the following month when a Korean TV company visited, along with two lady professionals, Yoon Young-Sun (4 dan) and Kang Seung-Hee (2 dan).

London International Teams

The autumn team event was held at the ISH, home of the Central London Go Club, on 16th

October. The Nippon Club was the team to beat this time and won the trophy by winning 16 games out of 24. They beat three teams and drawing with the fourth. Cambridge was second with 14 wins out of 24. Third were the Globetrotters with 11 out of 22, fourth were Wanstead with 10 out of 24 and Central London were fifth with 7 out of 22. Players winning all four games were Ishikawa and Kikusui from the Nippon Club, Alex Rix from Central London, Young Kim from Globetrotters and William Brooks from Cambridge. As usual all enjoyed a Japanese bento lunch and a prize for taking part.

Fuseki Follow-On

The second Fuseki Follow-On was held in Burpham Village Hall near Guildford, the day after the International Teams. Steve Bailey ran the event again after a gap of five years. More of a training session than a tournament, players had to complete a game of Shusaku starting from move 30. They played twice as black and twice as white against different opponents. 12 players from 1 dan to 18 kyu took part and those winning three games got prizes: Jim Sadler (1 dan Brighton), Brian Brunswick (1 dan Epsom), Ron Bell (4 kyu Reading), Peter Fisher (5 kyu Leicester) and Anna Griffiths (6 kyu Epsom). It was hoped to produce a booklet detailing some of the lessons to be learned from the different ways the game proceeded.

Wessex Tournament

The last day in October was the day the clocks went back for Winter. As usual Bristol Go Club took advantage of the extra hour to allow the four longish rounds of the Wessex Tournament. 82 players took part in the 35th edition held as always in the Town Hall of the ancient Wiltshire market town of Marlborough. The great communal spirit of the event was ever present, with the traditional meal sittings, but gone was the

13x13 tournament as it had become unpopular. The team prize was still awarded however, going to Oxford with 68.75 percent. Tournament winner was Francis Roads (4 dan Wanstead) who had been trying to win for more than 30 years; he beat Alex Rix in round 3 and then T.Mark Hall in round 4 to achieve his victory. Winners of the trophies for the other divisions (some by tie-break) were: 2 Niall Cardin (2 dan Oxford), 3 David M King (1 kyu Swindon), 4 Jackie Chai (3 kyu Bournemouth), 5 Chris Poerschke (4 kyu Bath), 6 Bill Streeten (5 kyu Wanstead), 7 Thomas Brand (7 kyu Brighton), 8 James Birkett (10 kyu Bristol), 9 Eleanor Thomas (11 kyu Bath), 10 Dave Siegwart (15 kyu Winchester). Of these Francis and James were the only ones winning all four games.

British Small Board

The Sunday after Wessex, 7th November, was the date for the national Small Board Championships. Cambridge Junior Chess and Go Club were again the hosts of this event, but this year the event moved back into the city and was held at the Meadows Community Centre. The club was celebrating their tenth year with a bit of a party atmosphere. Their 8th Chess Championship was on at the same time. 23 entered the main Go event and David Ward (4 dan Cambridge) was winner of the national title on 13x13 boards. Second and best Junior was William Brooks (1 kyu Cambridge) and third was Tim Hunt (3 dan Milton Keynes). Players with prizes for five wins out of seven (including handicap games) were Matthew Woodcraft (1 dan Cambridge) and Alistair Turnbull (13 kyu Cambridge). Because the time limits are short (15 minutes) after seven games there was time for a charity doubles Go event for Children in Need. Simon Goss (2 dan Bracknell) and Matthew Harris (22 kyu Cambridge), and Matthew Reid (1 kyu Cambridge) and Simon Matcham (beginner Witchford) won both games. There was also a Chess problems competition for Go players, and

Paul Smith did some Go teaching and ran a 9x9 event for beginners (which was won by Daniel Simons from Witchford).

Three Peaks

Tony Goddard from Sheffield made a welcome return to tournament Go after a few years absence and entered the Three Peaks Tournament on 13th and 14th November as a 4 dan. The tournament was held as usual in the Marton Arms in the beautiful North Yorkshire country, with a chance to walk some of it before the Go starts. 51 players took part, but none could beat Tony Goddard who was the winner for the first time. Teenagers William Brooks (1 kyu Cambridge) and Jonathan Englefield (9 kyu High Wycombe) were among those who won four out of five. Others winning four were David Horan (12 kyu Chester), John Herman (5 kyu Manchester), Roger Murby (4 kyu Cambridge), Baron Allday (1 dan West Wales) and runner up David Ward (4 dan Cambridge).

West Surrey Handicap

30 players took part in this edition of the West Surrey Handicap on 5th December, held as usual at Burpham Village Hall. Peter Fisher (5 kyu Leicester) was the winner, beating Jil Segerman (8 kyu Brighton) in the final. Ken Dackombe (22 kyu Bromley) beat his elder sister Kay Dackombe (18 kyu Bromley) in the last round to also win four games. Their father Brian Dackombe (2 kyu Bromley) also won three, as did Greg Bakker (12 kyu West Surrey), Nick Fry (15 kyu Twickenham), Richard Scholefield (13 kyu Milton Keynes), Ed Blockley (2 kyu Worcester) and Brian Brunswick (1 dan Epsom). Ron Bell (4 kyu Reading) won a prize for the third year running in the self-paired 13x13 with three out of six. The 13x13 most wins prize went to Roger Daniel (3 kyu London) with 9 out of 16, and the best percentage was Pauline Bailey (17 kyu West

Surrey) with 71%. Paul Blockley used his school-boy knowledge to win the flags of nations quiz. On the previous day some 24 students attended the annual teaching day. They were taught various Go subjects by teachers Brian Brunswick, Paul Barnard, Tony Atkins, Matthew Cocke and Natasha Regan. The event's organiser, Steve Bailey, was the best at Pits card game and so won one of his own prizes.

Scottish Barlow



The Durham contingent at the Scottish Barlow

30 players gathered at the UCW club in Edinburgh on the 11th December for the 3rd Scottish Barlow. This was a great turnout, being nearly double last year's entry and just about at the limit of the venue's capacity. Entrance included a buffet lunch and the club bar was open. The attendance included a contingent of eight from Durham, all in matching T-shirts. Shodan (1 dan) was the highest grade allowed and it seemed likely that one of them would be the winner. Best of the three shodans and recipient of the whisky was Gordon Guo (1 dan Edinburgh), winning all four games. Second was Jens Andersch (1 dan Newcastle) with three out of four. Nine other players won three, the prizes going to those who travelled from Durham: Jim Cook (2 kyu Edinburgh), Chris Morris (5 kyu Durham), Edwin Brady (5 kyu Durham), Rich Philp (5 kyu Dundee), Jenny Radcliffe (10 kyu Durham), Colin Doherty (12 kyu Dundee), Jennifer Gray (12 kyu Durham), Quinton Connell (14 kyu Glasgow) and Kian Mehrabi (18 kyu

Edinburgh). The top Scottish residents could qualify for the Scottish Championship. It was decided that the semi-finals will be champion Allan Crossman against Rich Philp and Donald Macleod against Jim Cook.

London Open

134 players attended the 31st London Open, coming from many countries in Europe to take part. The event was held again at ISH, Great Portland Street on the last four days of 2004. Again it was run by Geoff Kaniuk and the others from the Central London Club; assisted by the BGA. The main tournament was again a major in the Toyota-IGS-Pandanet European Go Tour. So, as such, two of the top games were being broadcast live on IGS each round. William Wandell came over from the European Go Centre in Amsterdam to lead the broadcasting, with a group of local volunteers with technical support by Mike Nash. The only problem encountered was on the first day when the local Internet was down so no live broadcast could be made; one game was relayed remotely later in the evening.

Day One started after lunch to allow for travelling, but Day Two started with a game in the morning. Pei Zhao, the young Chinese lady from Germany, took the lead beating Chinese boy Li Shen and Britain's Tony Goddard. Tony, a former 5 dan from Sheffield, previously beat Christoph Gerlach (6 dan Germany) in round 3. French teenagers Antoine Fenech and Thomas Hubert completed the group on 3 wins. In the evening a 16-player Pair Go event was won by Finland's Suvi Leppanen (3 kyu) and Teemu Ravio (1 dan) with four out of four. On three wins were Germany's Pei Zhao (6 dan) and Olivier Marteaux (1 kyu), London's Nuo Jia (2 dan) and Hao Wang (1 dan), and Edwina Lec (4 kyu) and "Erik".

Day Three started with the big clash between the German 6 dans: Pei Zhao and Christoph

Gerlach. Pei won this and then beat France's Antoine Fenech (4 dan) in the afternoon. That put her on six wins, two points ahead of the rest. UK's Tony Goddard lost to Fenech in the morning but beat Li Shen in the afternoon. So the group on four wins was Gerlach, Goddard, Shen, Fenech, Nechanicky and Hubert. Jun Tarumi (3 dan) was on four out of four, having missed the second day due to illness. Stephan Kunne (13 kyu France) and Ken Dackombe (22 kyu UK) were still unbeaten. During the evening was the Lightning Tournament. 54 players started in groups, winners going forwards to a knockout. Reaching the semi-finals were George Leach (5 kyu UK) and Radek Nechanicky (6 dan Czechia), but the finalists were Hichem Aktouche (7 kyu France) and Christoph Gerlach (6 dan Germany). It was the 6 dan who won.

On Day Four, Pei Zhao won her seventh game as expected putting her safe on seven wins. Jun Tarumi (3 dan Germany) won his fifth in a row, to earn him the honour of playing Pei in the last round. The Czech 6 dan Radek Nechanicky beat Tony Goddard in the morning and got young Li Shen in the afternoon. Radek won this by 2.5 points. Li had beaten Christoph Gerlach in the morning, who won his afternoon game. As it turned out, in an upset caused probably by tiredness, Pei lost to Jun. However because of his missed games Jun could not earn one of the prize places despite winning six out of six. So the order was: first Pei Zhao (6 dan Germany) with seven out of 8, second Radek Nechanicky (6 dan Czechia) with 6 out of 8, then third Christoph Gerlach (6 dan Germany), fourth Tony Goddard (4 dan UK) and fifth equal Li Shen (5 dan UK) and Antoine Fenech (4 dan France) all with 5 out of 8. These six took the cash prizes and the top Grand Prix points. Winning seven out of eight were George Leach (5 kyu UK), Jan Behrens (6 kyu Germany), Stephan Kunne (13 kyu France) and Ken Dackombe (22 kyu UK). Topping the list of six wins was Jun Tarumi followed by Nuo Jia (2 dan UK). Others on six getting plaques

were from Finland Simo Eerola (1 dan), Esa Seuranen (1 dan), Mikko Lappetelainen (3 kyu) and Sampo Syrjanen, from Poland Grzegorz Markunas (2 kyu), from France Thomas Detournay (5 kyu) and Ronald Kunne (17 kyu), Belgium's Theodore Kokolnikov (1 dan), and from the UK David Upsdale (4 kyu). All those winning 5 got a certificate. Winning the Continuous 9x9 was Hichem Aktouche (7 kyu France) with 28/28 reported at the prize giving (but actually not as amazing), with Arnaud Knippel (2 dan France) getting an honorable mention. Yuki Shigeno, the professional who lives in Milan, was present for the event and was very popular with her tireless analyzing of players games. She analysed some games on the demonstration board before the prize giving, a popular feature of this event. Also popular is the venue with its on-site cheap accommodation, bar, meals and Internet café. Of course there is also the New Year's Eve meal afterwards, this year Italian, followed by the chance to relax at ISH, as the year of the monkey gave way to the rooster.

Maidenhead

The first event of 2005, as usual, was the Maidenhead Tournament on 22nd January. 74 players attended the headquarters of Hitachi Europe for the 14th edition. As well as the usual flexible komi, buffet lunch, bookshop and so on, this year a video was showing of the top board games from last year. Winner for third year running was Chinese boy Li Shen (5 dan London), still only aged 13. Second was Kaissu Hirahara (5 dan) who works for the sponsor Hitachi. Several players won all three and were able to select from a range of interesting gift prizes and wine: Masuo Kikusui (2 dan London), Paul Taylor (1 dan London), Peter Fisher (5 kyu Leicester), Mark Todkill (5 kyu Wanstead), Christopher Price (6 kyu Cardiff), Matthew Scott (6 kyu Oxford), Pauline Bailey (16 kyu West Surrey), Stephen Bashforth (18 kyu Leicester) and Daniel Watson (24 kyu Maidenhead). In addition all on two

wins won a prize thanks to generous sponsorship from Hitachi. Winning the giant cookie for the best team was Cardiff. Self-paired 9x9 winner was Xinyi Lu (8 kyu Maidenhead) on 7 out of 8, with good attempts noted from William Brooks and France Ellul.

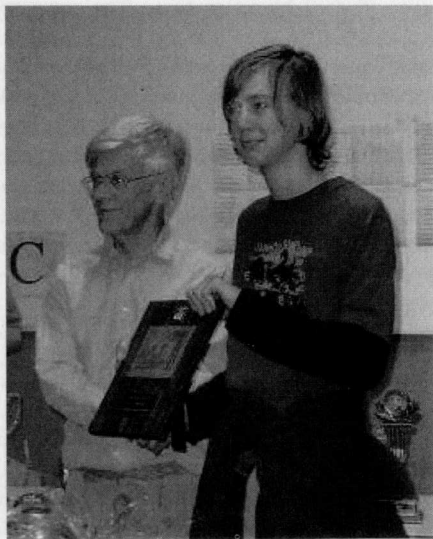
British Youth Go Championships

The day after Maidenhead the British Youth Championships were held at King Edward VI (Aston) School in Birmingham. There were lots of locals, groups from Bloxham, Loughborough, others from many of the new schools around the country and even two players from Hong Kong, so the attendance was a record 73. Simon Goss and assistant Tony Atkins worked the "Smudgy" draw system, and only needed to squeeze in an extra round in the largest category to decide all the section winners. At the request of some of the schools taking part, the players below 30 kyu were split off into a separate 13x13 division. In the morning in a demonstration game on 6 stones, Youth Champion William Brooks (1 dan) beat British Champion Matthew Macfadyen (6 dan) by resignation. The game was then analysed by Matthew for a keen audience during lunchtime. In between rounds there was as usual puzzle sheets provided by Paul Smith, self-pair events and the ever-popular Pool competition run by Brian Dackombe. The Pool competition was won by the Sharks (Ken and Kay Dackombe), ahead of the No Names (Robert Davies and Sadhvik Vijay). Top at puzzle solving were Matthew Hathrell and Heather Dixon.

Winners of the various categories [runners up shown in brackets] were: Overall Champion William Brooks (1 dan Cambridge) [Jonathan Englefield (8 kyu High Wycombe)]; Under-18 Jonathan Englefield (8 kyu High Wycombe) [Alex Zhao (17 kyu Loughborough)]; Under-16 William Brooks (1 dan Cambridge) [Jake Finnis (10 kyu West Cornwall)]; Under-14 Sadhvik Vijay (23 kyu Aston) [Alex Grant (17 kyu Aston)]; Under-12 Chun-Hin Woo (12 kyu Hong Kong)

[Matthew Harris (24 kyu Cambridge)]; Under-10 Chun-Yin Woo (6 kyu Hong Kong) [Ken Dackombe (19 kyu Bromley)]; Under-8 Thomas Meehan (35 kyu Solihull). Winner of the 13x13 group was Duncan Bell (35 kyu Balgowan) [Holly Hathrell (35 kyu Finham Park)].

Calculated on a points system, the Castle-dine Trophy was won again by Aston (Chris Guerin, Alex Grant and Prerak Thompson). The Junior School Trophy went to Jurby, Isle of Man (Jessica Radcliffe, Rebecca Crowe and Jacob Arthur), and Celia Marshall describes their experiences on page 19. The team with the most wins was Cambridge (William Brooks, Matthew Harris and Luke Gymer). Prizes were also awarded for four wins to Edward Murray (30 kyu Aston), Katie Livingstone (33 kyu Ninestiles), Kay Dackombe (17 kyu Bromley), Luke Betts (33 kyu Cambridge), Luke Gymer (33 kyu Cambridge), Wilson Hau (18 kyu Loughborough), Jamie Wall (26 kyu Aston), Prerak Thomson (25 kyu Aston), Chris Emery (17 kyu Leighton Park), Divyesh Mandania (32 kyu Aston) and Jamie Ingram (26 kyu Aston).



Youth Champion Will Brooks being awarded his trophy by BGA President Simon Goss

The Youth Grand Prix ended with the London Open and the trophies and prize money (in memory of John Rickard) were presented at the Youth Championships too. William Brooks managed to hold on to his lead to win with 1423 points. Second was Jonathan Englefield (9 kyu) with 1360 points. A great result at London for Ken Dackombe (18 kyu) saw him making third on 662, ahead of his sister Kay Dackombe (18 kyu) on 644. Fifth was Paul Blockley (13 kyu) on 599 and sixth was Li Shen (5 dan) on 478. A total of 60 young players took part.

Cheshire



Jon Timms receiving the handicap section prize

33 players, including a large and successful team from Liverpool, attended the 8th Cheshire Tournament on 12th February. This had been moved from Crewe to Wilmslow at short notice, because of the Crewe Chess Congress being cancelled, which normally provides the venue. Thanks to local contacts of Martin and Helen Harvey, and to the generosity of the headmaster and head governor (a Go beginner), the hall at Ashdene Primary School was made available and proved a good replacement. As usual the event was split into two divisions, the top eight players being selected by rating for the three-round open group. Winner of the open section was Toby Manning (3 dan Leicester); second was Tony Atkins (3 dan Bracknell). Winner of the

handicap section was Jon Timms (8 kyu Liverpool) with a perfect score of five; beating club mate George Leach (2 kyu) in the final. Also on four wins were Chris Burke (6 kyu Liverpool) and David Biddulph (30 kyu Stockport). Neil Leavesley (25 kyu Liverpool) was best youth player with three wins. The self-paired 10x10 winner was 16-year old Andrea Sullivan (14 kyu Liverpool) with 7 out of 10.

World News

Tony Atkins

ajaxgo@yahoo.co.uk

Tour Events

During the last months of 2004 there were five tournaments in the TOYOTA - IGS-PANDANET European Go Tour. Top players at these compete for cash prizes and points towards the Tour's Grand Prix. As is now the custom, the top games are broadcast live on IGS-PANDANET Go server. 83 players, mostly from Romania, attended the event in Bucharest on 2nd and 3rd October. Cornel Burzo (6 dan) won with a perfect 6. Second was Daniel Cioata (5 dan) with 5. Cristian Pop (7 dan) and Dragos Bajenaru (6 dan) were equal third. Three weeks later the Tour reached the Serbian capital for the Belgrade Tournament. European Youth champion Ondrej Silt (6 dan Czechia) won yet another event with a perfect 6. Diana Koszegi (6 dan Hungary) was second with 5. Two local 5 dans took the third place with 4 wins: Nikola Jetvic and Milos Bojanic. 34 took part. The following weekend it was the turn of Brussels. 108 players took part including five UK players: David Ward (4 dan Cambridge) was highest placed at 11th with 2 wins, and Phil Beck (1 dan Cambridge) was 13th and won a prize for 4 wins. Franz-Josef Dickhut (6 dan Germany) was the winner with 5/5 and second was Pei

Zhao (6 dan Germany). Radek Nechanicky (6 dan Czechia) topped the group on 3 wins. The first weekend in November saw the Tour reach Tampere in Finland. 62 players took part. Diana Koszegi (6 dan Hungary) was the winner with a perfect 6/6. The group of players on 4/6 was topped by Lauri Paatero (3 dan) and Kare Jantunen (3 dan). Fourth were Matti Siivola (5 dan) and Viktor Bogdanov (6 dan Russia). The last of these five events was the UK's Tour entry, the London Open (see UK News).

World Pair Go Championships

Two 7 dan students, Jo Saeblyol and Ri Pongil from North Korea, won the World Amateur Pair Go Championships in Tokyo on 13th and 14th November. They beat South Korea's Kim Ji Eun and Ha Sung Bong in the final. Three Japanese teams and China were placed next. Best placed European teams were Russia's Natalia Kovaleva (3 dan) and Alexei Lazarev (6 dan) in 14th, and Ukraine's Yelyzaveta Gorbunova (2 kyu) and Yriy Plyushch (3 dan) in 15th. Jackie Chai (3 kyu) and Francis Roads (4 dan), representing UK, beat Indonesia in round 2, but lost to Ukraine, New Zealand, one of the Japan teams and Belgium, to take 27th place (see 43 for Francis' report of this trip). In the Japanese professional pairs championship, the RICOH Cup, Aoki Kikuyo (8 dan) and Mimura Tomoyasu (9 dan) won the final, beating Kato Keiko (4 dan) and O Rissei (Judan). Losing semi-finalists were Suzuki Ayumi (3 dan) and Ryu Shikun (9 dan), and Umezawa Yukari (5 dan) and O Meien (9 dan).

Death of Kato Masao

It is with great regret that we announce the death of Kato Masao, pro 9 dan and President of the IGF and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Nihon Ki-in. Mr Kato had been in hospital for a few weeks following a brain haemorrhage

and operation, but passed away at lunchtime (Japanese time) on 30th December. He was 57. This is a double blow as past President Toshimitsu Matsuo also died on 9th November. Mr Kato was well known in the west through his many title wins and two books in English ("Attack and Kill" and "The Chinese Opening"). His 47 titles included the Meijin, Honinbo, Judan, Tengen, Gosei and the Oza (for 8 years in a row). He visited London for the Kisei match in 2001. He had been juggling a professional Go career with the role of Chairman and President since the spring. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.



Other Ancient Stones in Wiltshire

Sheila Wendes

swendes@yahoo.com

The 18th of January found Peter and me pulling up outside Salisbury Cathedral School in the bitter cold. Claire Phillips, Head of Maths, was already waiting at the doors to welcome us warmly. She had stirred up great excitement about Go among the pupils and had given the Head a Fridgego set for Christmas. A poster outside announced our event. Fertile ground indeed!

We set up (to the sound of brass band practice) in the Big School Room, featured in Jonathan Meades' TV programme, and 140 eager children and staff settled down on the floor, benches and every other available perch. After our initial introduction, some very interesting questions, ten minutes of Hikaru to set the cultural scene, and volunteers on the demo board (well done those two members of staff who played that tough and thoughtful game and hugged

each other afterwards as everyone applauded), our audience spread out into three rooms to have a go at first capture. We were kept busy sorting out problems, pointing out prisoners and making impressed and encouraging noises for the next half hour or so. Those who had really got to grips with first capture were given the task of trying to capture at least five or ten stones before their opponent. Everyone was then reassembled to learn about full territorial Go. Peter and I have used the idea of dividing the board up with straight lines of stones into 27 points of territory each and 9 points of dame. This "very fair, but very boring" game is useful in explaining territory, when to end the game and scoring. Then we talk about our thinking while we play a game on the demonstration board. This often covers the idea of staking out more space, the taking of prisoners, the use of corners and edges. At this

early stage it's better to avoid ko - they usually discover it for themselves, seki, and generally too much information.

After a chance to try this out, we scooped them all up again to finish with some housekeeping - where to order equipment, UK Go Challenge, booklets, Go ladder, and feedback. Several pupils hung back to ask even more questions and offer help with carrying things back to the car. Below is what Claire emailed us afterwards. Job done!

"I am so sorry that I have not been in touch

much sooner today but amazingly I have not had a minute to even switch my laptop on. Most of my day (and last night in our boarding house) I have been faced with children playing Go, wanting me to play Go, wanting to know how to order boards... so many questions!!

"It was definitely one of the best afternoons our children have ever had and we have some wonderful photos showing the children playing, children engrossed in listening, and thinking and many photos of children challenging teachers! Last night in the boarding house children were ready for bed and still playing Go..."

BGA Projects and News

Bill Streeten

secretary@britgo.org

Stephen Bashforth is organising a BGA Go-camp this summer at Moretonhampstead in Devon from Saturday 13 August to Friday 19 August. This is mainly aimed at youth, beginners and families but all ages will be welcome. Details and application form on www.britgo.org/tournaments/2005/gocamp/

The London Open Go Congress was held at the International Students House at the top end of Great Portland Street for the fourth time. This is not strictly a BGA affair but it is the main international tournament in the UK and is supported by the BGA to the extent of paying some of the expenses of Yuki Shigeno, the very popular Japanese woman professional who is a good friend of the London Open. During the years that the tournament has been held at the International Students House participation has increased from somewhere in the nineties to 134, but unfortunately the rental for the rooms have also been going up at a rather greater rate. Of the 134 people attending a majority were from

overseas. Moderately priced student accommodation is available on site, and all you British Go players should realise that this is a marvellous opportunity for a trip to the heart of London, as well as a feast of Go.

Matthew McFadyen won the British Championship for the 20th time by defeating David Ward 3-1. As a result of this he was made an Honorary Life Member of the BGA. (See page 12 for more details of the Championship, page 16 for Game One with a commentary by Li Ang (3dan pro) collated by Ron Polak, and page 25 for Game Four commented by Alexandre Dinerchtein (1dan pro). For the other two games plus commentaries, see future Journals!)

Geoff Kaniuk gave a course on how to be a referee at the Isle of Man tournament. This proved very popular and consisted mainly of getting the views of the participants on various aspects of being a referee. (See page 38 for an article about refereeing by Geoff, and page 47 for Simon Goss's views on the same subject.)

British Championship 2004 — Introduction

One interesting highlight of the British Go calendar is the annual British Championship, which seeks to find the strongest British player. It takes place in three stages: the Candidates' Tournament, the Challengers' Tournament, and the Championship itself.

At the Candidates' Tournament, those members of the BGA who are either British or have been resident in Britain for the last five years, and who have qualified by tournament play (the rules for which are given at www.britgo.org/bchamp/), and who wish to take part, compete, with the top five going forward to the Challenger's Tournament.

At the Challenger's Tournament, the top three competitors from the previous year's Challenger's, along with the five selected from the Candidates', play each other (in an all-play-all, seven-round event) to produce one Challenger.

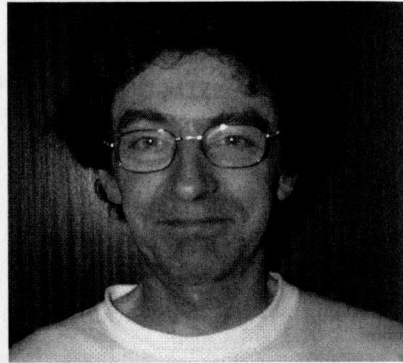
That Challenger then plays a match over the course of the summer with the previous year's Champion: five games, with long limits.

Last year, the 2003 Champion was Matthew Macfadyen; the 2004 Challenger was David Ward. They played four games, since after the fourth Matthew had won three games and therefore the match; these four games were each commented by a Professional for the BGA. In this issue of the Journal, we've got Game 1 commented by Li Ang (3 dan pro) (starts on page 16 and collated by Ron Polak, and Game 4 commented by Alexandre Dinerchtein (1 dan pro) (starts on page 25). For the other two games, see the next issue of the Journal!

The reigning champion - Matthew Macfadyen

Matthew R. Macfadyen hardly needs an introduction being the top British player for the last

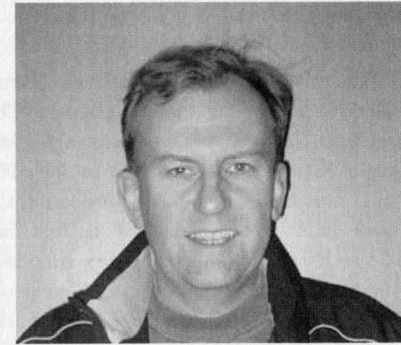
25 years. Born on 27th October 1953 in Abingdon, his father taught him and his brother Chess. They acquired a Go set via a colleague who had made friends with some Japanese academics and this started Matthew off, though casually at first. He really got hooked on Go when studying Physics at Oxford.



Afterwards he moved to Reading to work at the Met Office, and at about this time became the BGA secretary. In 1982 he left work to become a semi-professional Go player, having reached 6 Dan the previous year. He lived in London and Cornwall and then Leamington. In between studying Go and playing in tournaments around Europe, for a while he sometimes did a bit of building work and even drove the Games Workshop van. He is currently working as an electrician and lives with his wife Kirsty Healey and their two teenage daughters in the village of Barford near Leamington, with an island in the River Avon at the bottom of the garden! Matthew's hobbies are bird watching, owning a narrow boat and card games, such as Tarock and old Austrian games. Since 1978 he has been British Champion 20 times and in the 1980s won the European Championship four times. He has represented the UK in the World Amateur several times with best place of 5th, and together with Kirsty has finished second in

the European Pairgo championship twice. He was made an Honorary Member of the BGA in 2004.

The challenger - David Ward



David Martyn Ward was born in London on 19th May 1957 and has been one of the most improving dan players of the last few years, as getting to be the challenger has shown. He came across Go in a pub at Ayot St. Lawrence in Hertfordshire sometime in the early 80's, watching soon turned into playing, unfortunately as

Ten Years Ago

Tony Atkins

The 25th Wessex was won by John Rickard from Cambridge and the second Swindon was won by T.Mark Hall who was runner up at the event before. Birmingham restarted and was won by Simon Shiu from Teesside. The second Three Peaks expanded to two days and into the community centre, as it was expected the Marton Arms would be too small. The turnout was actually lower than expected and Toby Manning was the winner. Paul Margetts won Epsom Club their first trophy at the West Surrey Handicap in Wey House School.

Hitachi sponsored the London Open at the

closing time intervened the anonymous teacher claimed to have won and disappeared into the night.

David's younger brother Chris was the next to encounter Go, Chris learnt while on an assignment at MOD Malvern with Richard Granville. David won a challenge game at which point Chris immediately gave up the game (younger brothers being such bad losers!). Chris's Go set had a reference to the BGA and London Club at Covent Garden. David attended and despite playing out a losing ladder to Mr A Grant was soon hooked. After a few months and reaching 9 kyu he contacted the North London club which at the time appeared to consist only of Matthew Macfadyen. He was minced on 9 stones, but resolved to try harder next time. He was a regular at the Central London Club and advanced to President and an organiser of the London Open.

In 1998 David moved to Cambridge. He works for Brady plc as Business Development Manager. His hobbies include golf (5 handicap on a very good day), Tai Chi and attending local "acting for fun" classes.

ajaxgo@yahoo.co.uk

end of 1994. 129 players from 13 countries took part at the Highbury Roundhouse. Top player was Guo Juan from the Netherlands, who brought her son along. Second was Pei Zhao (Germany) and third was UK's Matthew Macfadyen. Equal fourth were Mark Boon (Netherlands) and Matthew Cocke. Pei Zhao won the Lightning and in a special youth tournament David King beat the sponsors son to win for Brakenhale School a large television. Brakenhale also won the Schools' Championship at home in Bracknell, but Commonweal from Swindon won a new Schools' Lightning.

Hitachi also supported Furze Platt by allowing use of their offices in Maidenhead; T.Mark Hall beat Macfadyen on the way to winning it. But Matthew Macfadyen won at Wanstead and Coventry. Cambridge moved back into the city and held the Trigantius at the University Centre; it was won by Matthew Cocke. South London was won by Alistair Wall (Wanstead). Wanstead Club was the host for 75 players at the British Go Congress and held it at Felstead School in Essex. Ulf Olsson (Sweden) won the Open, but lost the British Lightning to young Mark Harrod (12 kyu) from Brakenhale.

In February 1995 the Chinese Pingding Mountain Coal Go Team visited the UK, accompanied by professionals Wang Dongliang (4 dan) and Feng Yun (7 dan). They visited London, Edinburgh and Devon and were interviewed for television.

In Europe Guo Juan won Brussels, Victor Bogdanov (Russia) won Gothenburg and Rob van Zeijst (Netherlands) won Zurich. In the Fujitsu Finals in Amsterdam, Guo beat van Zeijst in the final to win. Early in 1995 Matthew Macfadyen won Prague for the fifth time and

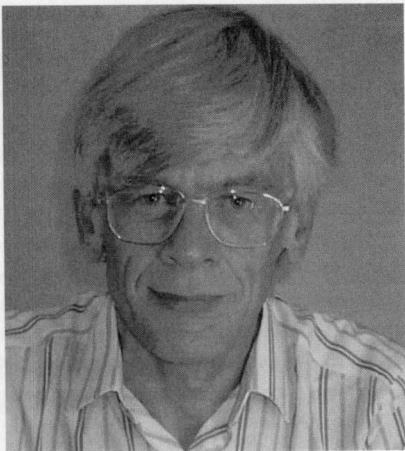
tied the Ing Cup with Catalin Taranu (Romania) and Shen Guangji. The 6th Irish Open, held just after St. Patrick's Day, was also won by Matthew Macfadyen. Des Cann was second and Tony Goddard traveled down from Belfast to take third. Shutai Zhang from London won Paris, and event in which Francis Roads did well too.

In Japan, at the end of 1994, Ryu Shikun beat Rin Kaiho to win the Tengen and Cho Chikun beat Kato Masao to win the Oza. Kobayashi Satoru challenged Cho in the 1995 Kisei title match and won 4-2 despite losing the first game in Atlanta; this added his first major title to his NHK Cup title. Ma Xiaochun won the Mingren in China, beating 17-year old Luo Xihe, and beat Kobayashi Koichi in the Japan-China Mingren/Meijin play-off. In Korea Yi (Lee) Chang-ho won five titles, mostly by squashing his teacher Cho Hun-hyun. Rui Naiwei won the first Bohae Cup, making her World Women's Champion; she beat Feng Yun in the final. All these were reported by "Go World", which from issue 73 was produced by the new company Kiseido and not Ishi Press.

Personal Profile - the BGA President, Simon Goss 2d

Bill Streeten

secretary@britgo.org



Bill: How did you first hear about Go?

Simon: In 1974, Go boards started appearing on desks during the lunch hour in the ICL office in Bracknell where I worked, and I asked a colleague about it. He tried to teach me, but I didn't understand his explanation at all!

In those days, there was a copy of D.B.Pritchard's *Go - A Guide to the Game* in W.H.Smith, and I bought it. It's an old-fashioned book that you don't see around any more, but it did a good job for me. After a week or two just playing in the lunch hours, I joined the Bracknell club.

Bill: How did you discover the BGA?

Simon: Through the Bracknell Club. When I joined, it was a section of the ICL Sports and Social Club and all its members were ICL employees. We paid an annual subscription and ICL added a contribution. The two together provided for purchase of equipment and books and also BGA memberships. I probably first noticed it when I received my first Journal (number 26, January 1975).

Bill: How and why did you join the Council?

Simon: Alex Rix asked me to stand in 1999. Having taken early retirement the previous Summer, I had time available and was happy to do it. My only plans at the time were to find out what went on and see what would come up.

Bill: How did you become President?

Simon: A new one was needed when Alison and Simon Bexfield moved to Luxembourg. The other Council members encouraged me to stand. It surprised me, as there were other people on Council who knew far more about how the BGA works than I did, but perhaps once again it was because I had time. Early retirement is a very dangerous thing - people take pity on you and give you things to do.

Bill: What have you done for the BGA?

Simon: Apart from my constitutional duties of chairing meetings and representing the BGA to other organisations, what I hope I've done is to be an effective midwife for the big projects that people have undertaken, and to avoid messing with the parts that already work well.

The big developments during my four years in office have been, in no particular order, the introduction of the BGA ratings system, its application to the revised system for awarding dan

certificates, the huge increase in Go teaching, especially in schools, and the creation of the UK Go Challenge.

The only one of these that I initiated was the review of the dan certification system (but Tim Hunt did most of the work on it). The others were initiated and led by other people. My role in such things is to see how they fit into the BGA's overall scheme of things and to champion them by, for example, asking Council to allocate funds, appoint a new official and/or to approve some publication as a BGA official publication.

I also take on quite a few one-off jobs, which often turn out to be authoring. I did the English translation of Andreas Fecke's wonderful cartoon introduction to Go, created the UK Go Challenge web site, and wrote and maintain some pages like the BGA policies and the ratings FAQ.

Bill: What do you hope to do in the future?

Simon: I hope to hand over the reins in a year or two. It's in the BGA's interest to have a fresh set of ideas from time to time and, for myself, I'd like to spend less time in front of the computer, more in front of the piano, and get outdoors more often.

I hope the BGA will continue the momentum we've built up for outreach. It's important to get out and teach Go to as many people as we can. The UK Go Challenge has huge potential but still needs a lot of work to fulfil it. It would be nice, too, to support something of a similar nature for universities and colleges.

Bill: Thank you very much, Simon, for taking the time to give us a bit of background to your Go life.

British Championship 2004 — Game 1

Commentary by **Li Ang** 3 dan pro summarised by **Ron Polak**

The opening match of the British Championship was an exciting event. A huge audience was packed live at the Crucible stadium for sports, and the holographic projection of the sensei was respected by many. Well this can't be true, but with the aid of many people, the game was broadcast on the KGS server, where a reasonable number of people took a peek at this first game. Now let's look at what really happened...

Black: Matthew Macfadyen - defending champion

White: David Ward - challenger

Komi: 6.5

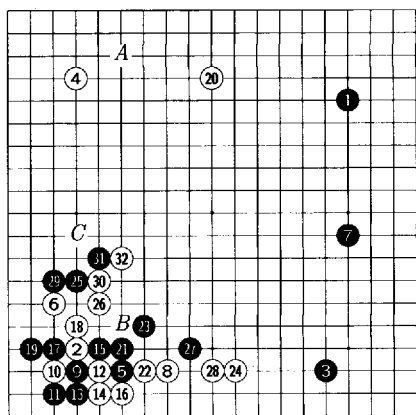


Figure 1: 1-32.

- 7: **Li Ang** This opening of black is amusing, not often seen.
- 9: Considered too early, taking the corner doesn't combine very well with the moyo-strategy Black has chosen on the right side of the board. Probably A in figure 1 would have been best.
- 14: During the game the variation of diagram 1 was discussed and considered better.

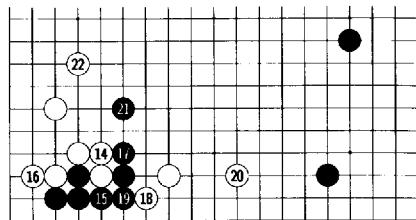


Diagram 1: Variation from move 14; an improvement for Black.

- 20: A surprise; the audience had expected the honte at B for White to be the best move. Matthew immediately started a fight with 21.
- 25: **Li Ang** This is a good move, very keen.
- 29: Most online discussion voted for black to play at 34 and leave 29 as aji.
- 31: Should have been at C, but fighting is Matthew's trademark it seems.

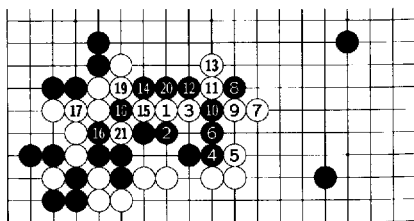


Diagram 2: Variation from move 33.

If White keeps surrounding, Black can't break through the white lines, and he will end up in a huge ko. After black 20 in diagram 2 White will take the ko, and Black won't have any suitable ko-threat.

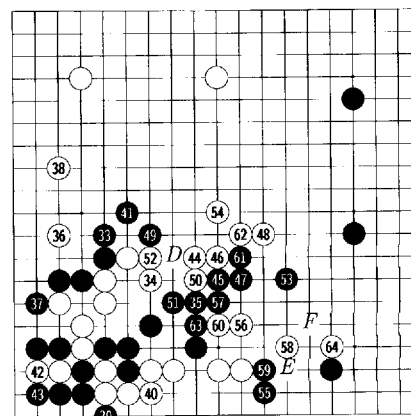


Figure 2: Moves 33-64

- 34: Could have been played at 51. Diagram 2 shows what could then have happened. This move was too patiently waiting to punish black for all his overplays.
- 41: Could have been better at D.
- 50: Would be slightly better at 51.
- 54: Also very surprising, most people thought of White to play E then.
- 55: Immediately seized the attack; however killing this white group on the lower side won't work so 63 had to be at F.
- 64: The sealed move, and almost all the audience was agreeing on the fact that this was the move that had to be in the envelope.

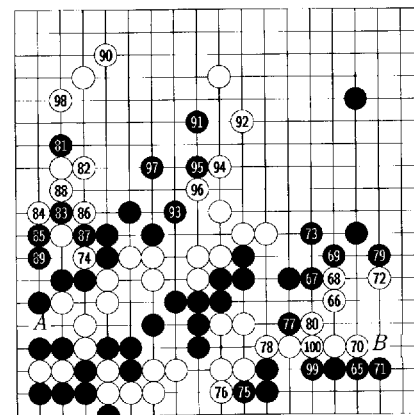


Figure 3: Moves 65 - 100.

- 66: Could have pushed at 70, on which Black plays 71 and next comes an aggressive white 69, but such a daring attack is hard to read accurately, so White calmly played at 66 to get life for his group. The fact that Black ends 73 in gote is already some sign that White is doing well in this game.

- 74: Was severely criticized, the way we saw it after the game goes as follows: White should have played at A instead of 74, since eyeless groups, corpses, should be nicely wrapped in a body bag. Imagine instead the stench that cutting in to these corpses would create.

- 79: was played too hasty, Black should have played at 80 first, then he could have taken B in sente too, before making this move at 79.

- 80: Makes David's group alive so the focus of the game shifts to the upper left. Matthew made a surprising 81 there. After the game, Li Ang, the Chinese teacher showed us diagram 3 where black 19 makes a nice separation of the white forces.

- 89: Secures the cut, and he will be fairly safe with his group now, since White can't cut at A anymore.

- 94: Not best. Diagram 4 shows a sequence of natural flow, smooth writing as the Chinese call it.

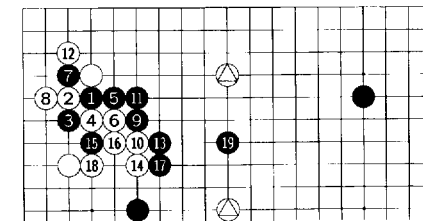


Diagram 3: Variation from Move 81.

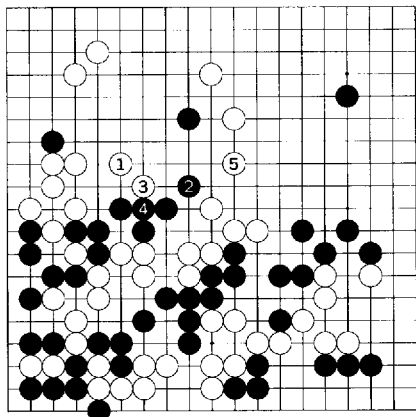


Diagram 4 Variation from move 94 showing "smooth writing"

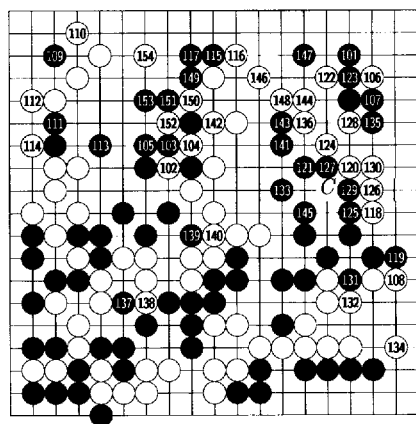


Figure 4: Moves 101 - 154

110: Played on the wrong side; see diagram 5 in which black dies in the corner.

119: Should be at 129, but as the tension over the game grows and the time-pressure starts mounting the players go for a more

vicious variation in an attempt to kill each other outright.

120: Not best. Should have been played at C.

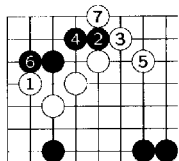


Diagram 5:

Variation from move 109

The audience was asking regularly at this time who was ahead and I recounted the game many a time, however I was still using the sizes of the left and lower side of the board without white 134 being played, and thus I claimed that Black was ahead. Perhaps I was too excited by the overwhelming interest in this match, and I was getting hungry too.

137: [Li Ang] the losing move, it loses an eye.

Now, after the match, while writing this article, I can see more clearly that David Ward has played a reasonably good game; it is a good token for the years to come.

The online available game record continues to move 287 and the unrecorded yose played out to the end. When counted, each player had 29 points on the board, so White won by the komi of 6.5. At the end of the game, Black had two minutes left on the clock; White had played about 80 stones in overtime.

David rounds off the commentary telling us that "In game one my initial thought was not to play so badly as to be embarrassing. I had played in the US Open the week before and played myself into atari, so I wanted to avoid that fate!"

IN THE LIGHT

How to Teach Go

www.sentex.net/~mmcadams/teachgo/index.html

American player Mindy McAdams has put up this site based on the Yasuda method she learnt from Bill Cobb and Bill Camp. It teaches Capture Go, then Capture Three, before moving on to Counting Territory. It has linked pages with animated graphics. This method is used by many teachers in the UK and elsewhere.

Jurby School Adventure

Celia Marshall

celia@manx.net

Five intrepid adventurers from Jurby Primary School, a tiny isolated community in the north of the Isle of Man, travelled down to the Go Youth Championships in Aston. They travelled down on Saturday by car, ferry, taxi, coach, local train and Virgin Intercity train, arriving in time for a fish and chips supper. Mike Lynn had arranged excellent accommodation at St Swithan's house in Barston, where the team met up with other young adventurers from the Cedarwood Primary School in Ipswich.

The tournament was a tremendously rewarding and exciting experience for the children, with lots of side events as well as the main competition. The icing on the cake was for Jurby to win the trophy for Best Junior School Team.

The school is indebted to the Castledine-Barnes Trust and the IOM Go Club for their financial assistance, and to Mike Lynn for all his support to make the adventure possible.

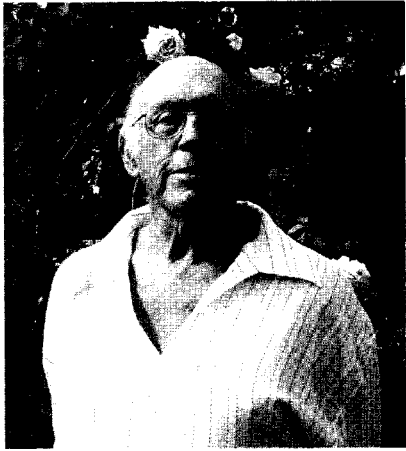
Interview with Geoff Gray

Nick Wedd

nick@maproom.co.uk

Many years ago, Dr. Geoffrey Gray was a familiar figure among British Go players. He left Britain for his native Australia almost thirty years ago, so he will not be known to many of today's British players. He is still keen on Go, and you can find him on the Kiseido Go Server almost every day, playing under the name of 'aussiemate'.

When he celebrated his eightieth birthday late last year, someone suggested that I should interview him for this Journal.



Nick: I know you lived in London in the 1970s, and in Australia now. Were you born in Britain? When did you move to Australia?

Geoff: I was born in Australia in 1924, and first visited GB, landing on Boxing Bay 1950 and leaving 1956. Then I revisited GB in 1958 and left in 1976 for Australia where I have been ever since.

Nick: How were you first introduced to Go?

Geoff: I was introduced to Go by some drug addict patients who were taught the game by their psychiatrist to keep them occupied while they were in hospital drying out and having psychotherapy. I was interested in their progress so used to visit them and they taught me the game. My interest continued so I visited a local shop that was Far East orientated and which had several books on the subject. They also had the address of the London Go Club, and I used to visit the club at its weekly meetings generally held in upstairs rooms at pubs.

Nick: Who was active in the UK Go scene at that time?

Geoff: My memory is poor but I do recall John Barrs who was the main person inorganising the club as well as the British Go Association. Jon Diamond and Tony Goddard were the

strongest players. There was John Tilley, maybe T Mark Hall, Francis Roads and Jim Bates. Alan Stout was another member as well, perhaps, as Stuart Dowsey who may have come later. I can't recall at the moment who else there was.

Nick: I have heard that you taught Go to Rod Stewart.

Geoff: I taught Rod Stewart the game when I was the accompanying doctor on his tour of Australasia, Hong Kong and Japan in 1974, as he was interested in knowing about it.

Nick: Why does a band need a doctor on tour? Was it your duty to help them recover from their excesses?

Geoff: The band did not really need a doctor on tour with them. They really took me along as I was friends with all of them and their manager. As it happened I was helpful on several occasions with medical problems.

Nick: How good was he?

Geoff: I doubt if his interest was maintained so that he never, as far as I know, attained any proficiency.

Nick: I believe you took part in a visit to mainland China to play Go in the 70s. Can you tell me about that? Who else went?

Geoff: A group from Great Britain was invited to visit mainland China in the late 70's. I had left the UK by that time, but they asked me to go as insufficient numbers were available. The only players I can remember with any certainty were Stuart Dowsey and Jim Bates though there were certainly others. We visited a number of cities and played the local clubs. They were expecting all strong players so had their strongest members play us. The only game we won was by Jim Bates.

Nick: Why were they expecting strong players? Didn't you tell them your grades?

Geoff: It was automatically assumed by the Chinese players that the team was of strong players since they did not realise that we were paying

our own expenses to and from China. The Chinese Go Association, if there was such a thing, picked up the expenses once we were in China.

Nick: Do you still play Go in a local club?

Go for Blind Players

Guy Whitehouse

guy.whitehouse1@ntlworld.com

Hi! My name is Guy Whitehouse and I am one of Peter's first blind adult recruits to the game of go.

I came across a reference to go on the website of British Blind Sports while searching for links to chess organisations. I was intrigued so pursued the web link and eventually found Peter's email address and made contact. He sent me a 9x9 go set which eventually reached me after a considerable postal delay (nothing new there)!

I have been very fortunate in not encountering many of the obstacles which could get in the way of a blind person who wants to play go. First there is a club within reasonable distance, important for someone who does not have their own car, and one of the club members is happy to give me a lift back which cuts down on transport costs. Next, the club is friendly and doesn't seem to mind playing someone who can, for the moment at least, only turn up with a 9x9 set. I am also very lucky to have a colleague at work who is happy to give me a game over lunch breaks (when we're not working through what is supposed to be our lunch break, that is).

There are of course other more general obstacles to overcome before go can become really rooted in the blind adult population as a whole.

Geoff: I occasionally play in Sydney on my infrequent visits, but I am getting a bit old for travelling. Usually I play on KGS.

John Barrs and the Birth of the BGA

Bob Hitchens



bob@hitchens10.freemove.co.uk

presence of his many foreign friends. He was single-minded, abrasive and possessive, and his acquaintances fell into three camps: his many friends, a considerable number who could tolerate him, and some individuals who could not and were generally lost to Go. But all the time he had been devoted to publicising Go and finding more players.

Ambitions of this sort are bound to start slowly but he got a club going in London ("The Wei-Chi Club") in 1930 that survived until 1936. I can offer nothing more on his pre-war efforts. An alternative interest did rear its head: he was an official in the U.K. Weightlifting Team at the 1948 Olympics. He had his team blazer to prove it, but I don't recall him otherwise mentioning this subject. It was already history before the B.G.A. was born. He also had had time to qualify as an optometrist and he practised over his family's chemist shop in Kensington.

In the fifties John ran an informal Go circle in London. He also played chess at the West London Chess Club. He was in contact with the American Go Association, and on a visit by Edward Lasker took him to the chess club as a Trojan horse to try and infect chess players with the Go bug. He had some success; in particular he converted Neil Stein who rose to be the strongest British player before Jon Diamond. Other chess clubs in London were visited, but in the end the chess players reacted and John and company were ejected. C.H.O'D Alexander, chess correspondent for the Times at the time of John's death was one of those involved. I contacted him to try to get a mention of John's passing: the reaction was hostile.

His contacts with American Go circles gave him access to the Nihon Ki-in and to European players. The first European Go Congress was held in 1957 and John was not there. All par-

ticipants were German other than two Austrians, a Dutchman and an American. Possibly the latter sent a report to the American Go Journal and John found out about the European Congresses from that. He did not attend before 1958 or 1959. He enjoyed himself, not least for his quick thinking in what he would see as a national adversity. In the middle of the congress, the European Go Federation had its annual meeting. John was not to be admitted. "On what grounds? I am the President of the British Go Association." Knowing the personalities involved, there will have been further arguments, but John got in and the B.G.A. was born.

John was so proud of this story, and it is so in character, that I have no doubt at all that it is true. I do have a reference, from something John later wrote, that the BGA was founded in "1953." I am sure this is John developing a history to cover his tracks.

A significant "first" for British Go occurred in 1961 when Kensaku Segoe visited Britain. A match was arranged at John's flat for B.B.C. television but lack of space in the flat meant that the camera had to be placed on scaffolding outside to film through the window!

I spent a year in the R.A.F. in the Aden Protectorate (i.e. South Yemen) in 1960-61. A fifty-man camp, miles from anywhere, amusing ourselves was a challenge. One chap heard about a book on "the most difficult game in the world" and sent off for it. When it arrived, he couldn't cope with it and gave it to me. It was "Go and Go Moku" by Edward Lasker. On my return to the U.K. I taught a chess playing friend, David Diamond. We obtained the Arthur Smith book and played each other for two years. Then David found a go set in Hamley's which contained a booklet referring to the B.G.A. Contact was made.

At this time the B.G.A. consisted of John Barrs and a book in which he noted the funds.

These consisted of subscriptions (I think these were 2 shillings a year) and expenses (mainly postage). He also kept a list of British Go players. I think there were 40 names on this list. Living in London, of course, we were welcomed into the Go circle. It worked like this: on Fridays at lunchtime you phoned John's shop and he told you where we were meeting that evening: John's shop, John's flat in Wembley, Neil's flat in Hammersmith or the Nippon Club.

That first night it was the Nippon club. John gave David nine stones and I found myself facing Mr. Akiyama, who also gave me nine. Mr Akiyama was a great friend to London go as he spent (I think) three extended periods working there. He was 3 dan (4 dan on a later visit). David and I did alright and were assessed as grade 40 and grade 39 respectively. These were not kyu grades but the old European grading system created by the Germans around 1920, and current in Europe until the mid 1960s.

Within a couple of weeks two important things happened. First we were told of a promising schoolboy Barrs had met. It was a while before he was able to come to the club; he was Jon Diamond, then 5kyu. Then it was decided that critical mass had been attained and it was time to get premises. The London Go Club was founded at the Cumberland Arms in Soho; John Barrs chairman, Neil Stein secretary and Bob Hitchens treasurer (the only job that involved work). I don't recall any voting.

John was President of the E.G.F. in the early 1960s and he and Stein usually persuaded some other players to join them at the European Go Congresses (my first was Scheveningen, Holland in 1964) but then an invitation came from the Nihon Ki-in to send a team of two players and a leader (a commissar for the benefit of communist countries) to the first International Go Tournament in Tokyo. Barrs (1 dan) and Stein (1 kyu) were the players and Ted Clarke the "official". In practice, the British players were at least two stones weaker than the other Europeans, and had no chance against the Orien-

tals. But John won one. Legend has it that he "ripped off" Vuksanovic of Yugoslavia in byoyomi, and that emotions had risen. Maybe, but I have seen the record of this game and Vuksanovic self-destructed at the end of the game, possibly through falling asleep for he was far ahead. John was innocent, but I recall that he was very relieved that the Yugoslav did not appear at the second tournament in 1964. We sent the same players (Jon Diamond was not available), this time with me as "leader". No games were won.

The B.G.A. (John) decided that the way to get some funds and establish Britain on the Go map was to run a European Go Congress and this was organised for 1966. Banking had to be formalised and Neil and I became secretary and treasurer for that reason. We booked a hall of residence of University College, London about a year in advance. In spring 1966, the college reneged on the deal. We demanded compensation and got £200. (1966 pounds - the first real money the B.G.A. had had) We managed to book a college in Eltham and while John and Neil played I ran the tournament single-handed. The worst part was afterwards trying to reconcile the players' game records for publishing by the E.G.F.

Around this time an article on Go by Dr.

Good of Oxford appeared in the New Statesman and attracted much attention. In particular a group of students from Oxford University joined the B.G.A. (Francis Roads, Derek Hunter, Andrew Daly and others) and very properly insisted on a proper constitution and active committee. Derek became secretary with John and I continuing as before. Neil, having lacked much opportunity to gain promotion to 1 dan over several years dropped out of active Go. Jon Diamond was simultaneously building up Go skills at Cambridge. Annual British Go Congresses and the Championship were introduced and new clubs were mushrooming around the country. The B.G.A. was importing Go books for the benefit of members and this Journal was started. It must have been very gratifying for John who had found that letting go of a little control was not so painful!

And then in 1970 we lost him, most unexpectedly at the age (I think) of 56. Committee members were shocked, but Francis Roads took over the chair and over the ensuing years the Association's funds grew, enabling further initiatives to be undertaken. The 1970's B.G.A. already had a reasonable resemblance to today's.

Quite a legacy for John Barrs!

IN THE LIGHT

GoGoD

www.gogod.demon.co.uk

This site is the work of BGA members John Fairbairn and T.Mark Hall. Its main purpose is to advertise "GoGoD" (Games of Go on Disk). Their game collection reached 30000 by the end of 2004 and the site details how to order the CD. It contains sample pages of the non-game sections which cover a vast range of Go topics.

Problem: the right defence?

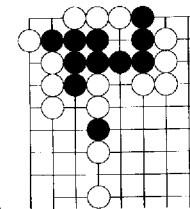
Ian Marsh

ian.marsh@uk.fujitsu.com

The other night in our Go Club we were playing through a book problem when someone spotted what seems a better defence than that given in the book. I hasten to add that the basic solution to the problem was correct.

The basic problem is on the right, with black to play and live.

The book's solution is on page 31 and the solution we devised on page 56



IN THE LIGHT

Youth Go

www.britgo.org/youth/

The last journal detailed the BGA's junior pages (which have recently had a revamp), but the new youth section is the place to go for information for youth go teachers and leaders. There are links to all the relevant parts of the BGA site, such as rules, go teachers, advice, tournaments for children and so on.

British Championship 2004 — Game 4

Alexandre Dinerchtein 1 dan pro

In this game, Matthew took White and David took Black. Komi was 6.5 as before.

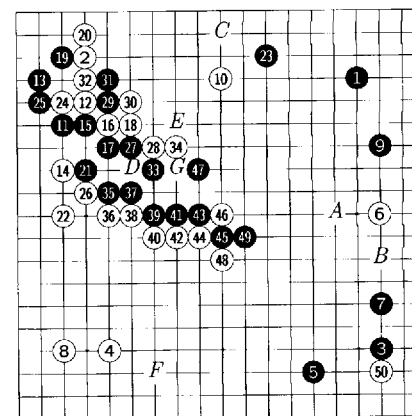


Figure 1: moves 1-50

- 7: A new move, but I cannot believe that the plan is logical. Dia. 1 is the most common pattern. If Black wants to play actively, he can think about the attachment in dia. 2, playing from both sides.
- 8: Tenuki is rather strange too. Normally White has to extend to 9, creating a base.
- 9: is an excellent point. Now it would be passive for White to defend the stone directly by jumping to A or extending to B.

12: As usual, Matthew is playing for influence.
The territorial approach would be diagram

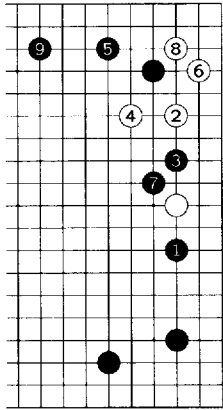


Diagram 1:
(variation from move 7)

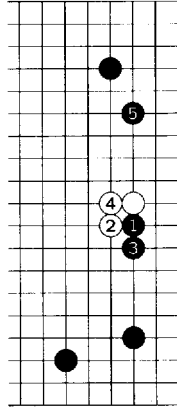


Diagram 2:
(variation from
move 7)

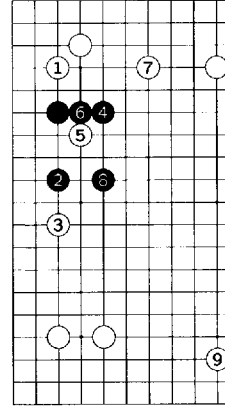


Diagram 3:
(variation from
move 11)

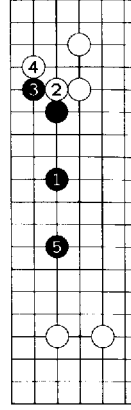


Diagram 4:
(variation
from move 12)

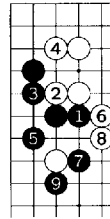


Diagram 5:
(variation from move 15)

- 13: Black can avoid complicated josekis by extending as in diagram 4.
This plan was invented by Lee Changho a few years ago.
- 14: The most popular pattern, but White 16 is rare. Diagram 5 is the classic joseki, which is really popular nowadays.
- 20: It is better to cut off the central stone. The result after 21 looks favourable for Black.
- 23: The largest place on the board.
- 24: It would be passive for White to defend the side at C.
- 29: A nice probe.
- 32: Now the aji is bad for White.
- 33: The wrong shape, as White is happy to defend the cutting point with 34. The right development is Black D - White E - Black F, after which Black's advantage would be clear.
- 35: Another thank you move. It is still better to connect at D, keeping the left side invasion in reserve.
- 38: Now the left territory is huge, and Black's shape is still poor.
- 39: Again the shape is wrong. Black must push at G instead.
- 44: White's moyo is getting bigger and bigger.
- 45: For sure, Black must be angry.

48: The most peaceful way. White is winning and is trying to keep the game simple.

50: The probe is dangerous, but Black 51 missed a good chance to take the lead. After diagram 6, it would be difficult for White to reduce the opponent's moyo.

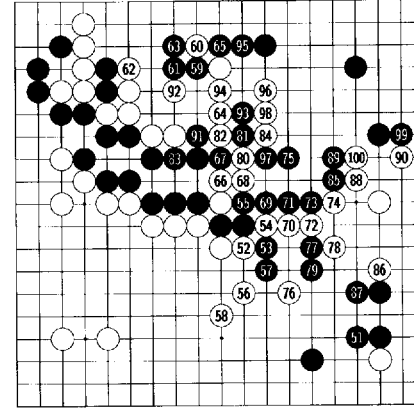


Figure 2:
moves 51-100

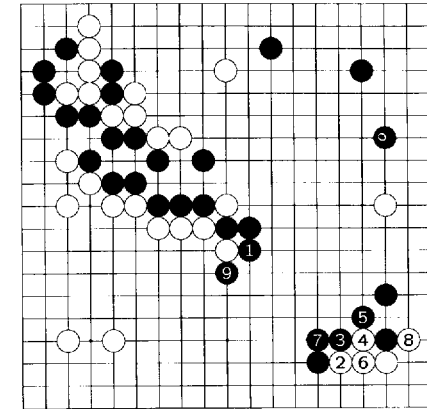


Diagram 6:
(variation from move 51)

- 59: An interesting idea. It is not easy for White to find the answer, because the aji of the marked stones is bad.
- 65: The invasion is successful.
- 68: The wrong order. White must play at 70 first.
- 71: Now the three stones including white 66 and 68 are heavy.
- 74: An overplay. White must be afraid of the cut. But Black 75 is too passive! Diagram 7 would be terrible for White
- 76: Another dangerous move. White must connect at 78.
- 77: This is the losing move. If he cuts as in diagram 8, it would be difficult for White to save the stones.
- 82: An excellent tesuji. It is not easy for Black to defend. For example, in diagram 9 Black's upper side group is in trouble, while in diagram 10 his corner ends up captured.
- 90: White's group is alive and now he has a clear lead in territory.

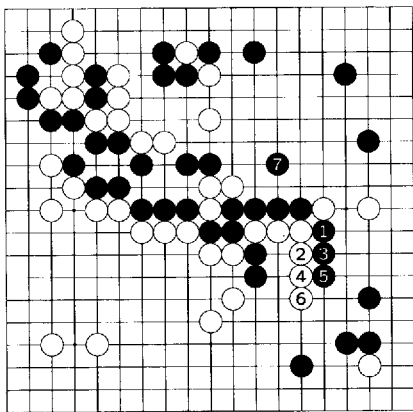


Diagram 7:
(variation from move 74)

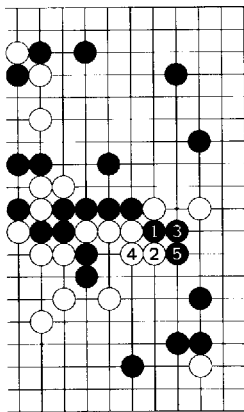


Diagram 8:
(variation from move 77)

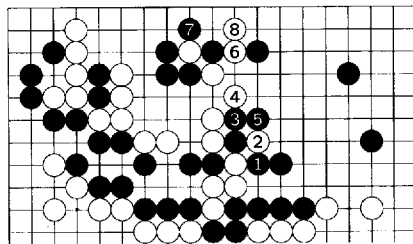


Diagram 9:
(variation from move 83)

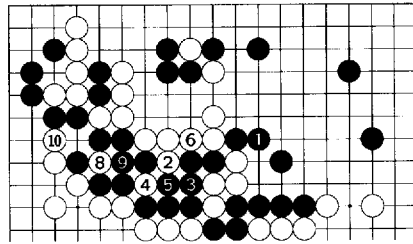


Diagram 10:
(variation from move 83)

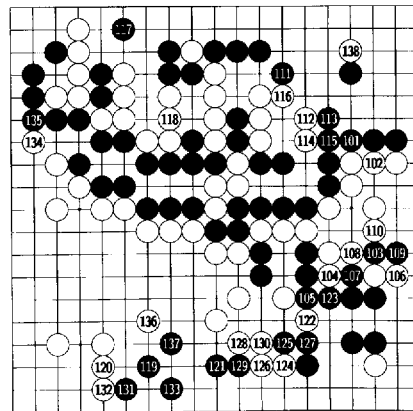


Figure 3: move 101-138

102: It is better to defend at 106, preparing the corner invasion at H.

120: The most solid answer. White can try to kill the invader with diagram 11, but the plan would be risky.

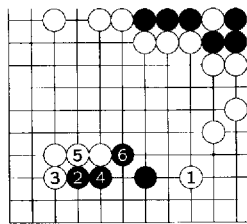


Diagram 11:
(variation from move 120)

124: A tesuji.

137: Black's group is alive, but anyway he is more than 10 points behind.

138: It is not necessary for White to invade the corner but Matthew is probably thinking about the next game. The opponents must be afraid of his power!

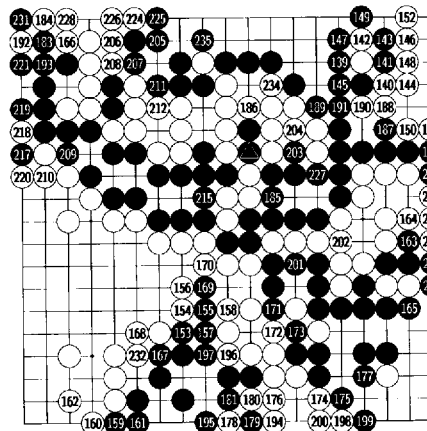


Figure 4: Moves 139-237

(216 at 216; 229 at 218; 230 at 179; 231 at 192)

237: White wins by 11.5 points.

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IN THE LIGHT

How to find Go Clubs

www.britgo.org/clublist/clubsmaph.html

The BGA web site has an easy way to find your nearest club (rather than reading through the list at the back of the journal). It has a map of Britain with the location of all the 65 Go clubs, marked with colour coded blobs for the day of the week of the meeting. You can click on each blob to jump to the correct part of the alphabetic list of clubs. If a club has its own page then it is linked (if a club does not have a page the BGA can provide it with space for one). Also there is a map of Europe here which links to the member associations of the European Go Federation.

A Referee Writes

Nick Wedd

nick@maproom.co.uk

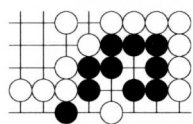


At the end of last year, I acted as referee for the London Open Go Congress.

In most sports, the duty of the referee is to spot, and deal with, infringements of the rules. In Go, and I think generally in mind sports, this is not so - it is the duty of the players to ensure that their opponents obey the rules. However, disputes can arise, both about matters of fact, and about application of the rules. It is the duty of the referee to try to resolve such disputes.

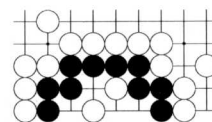
Of course, it is rare for the rules of Go to be broken. As it happened I did observe this once in the London Open. The result is shown in the photograph - can you see what has happened? (Answer on page 56.)

In fact, I was lucky, I had no disputes to deal with. I was able to help with correct application of the rules in a few cases. While wandering around the playing rooms looking at the games in progress, I tried to anticipate where my help might be needed.



For instance, on the high-numbered boards, I found any number of positions like that shown in this diagram.

Now, worrying as it is to contemplate, this position is not going to be a problem for the referee. Maybe one of the players will wake up and notice that this group is unsettled. Or maybe, neither will ever notice, but eventually they will get around to playing the surrounding yose, and it will end up, either as clearly dead, or as clearly two-eyed. Whatever happens, it will not be a problem for the referee. The only result of the referee of looking at such positions is to overload his brain, causing tiredness and headache. A referee should try to ignore it when he sees something like this.



On the other hand, the position here may well end up as a problem. Maybe, before the players pass, one of them will

notice what the status of the black group is (see page 56 for the answer). But if they don't, it is still going to be like that after the small yose, the dame-filling, and the passing. It is then quite likely that a referee will needed to help score it correctly. And it is not easy to say how it should be scored (again, the answer is on page 56). It is good if the referee can spot such positions in advance, and arrange to be present in case he is needed at the end of the game.

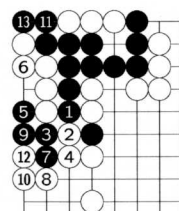
In the course of watching all the games, I observed two things about the difference between 6-dans and other players. One is that 6-dans are much better than other players at count-

ing out their 20 overtime stones. When a 6-dan has counted out 20 stones, they are perfectly arranged in rectangles, and no onlooker can have any doubt that there are exactly 20 stones there. When a mere 2-dan has counted out 20 stones, there are indeed 20 stones there, but you have to count them to make sure. And when a 10-kyu has counted out 20 stones, there may be 20 stones there, there may be 19, or there may be 22; you are never going to know, because they are in a messy heap and you have no hope of counting them.

On the other hand, 6-dans are significantly worse than other players at turning up on time for the start of their games. One day, ten minutes after I had ensured all the clocks had been started, 60-odd games were in progress, but at three boards nothing had happened because Black had not turned up. These three boards were numbers 1, 2, and 3.

What is the right defence?

Part 2



Continuing from the problem set on page 25, we find that the solution given in the book is as follows. The moves to 9 on the left are the natural sequence. The four black stones form a classic "under the stone shape".

Play proceeds as in the diagram to move 13, at which point white cannot capture the four stones as black will play at 3, capturing six white stones and making a second eye.

The question asked at the club was whether white has a better move than 10.

Solution on page 56

GO ASIDES

Tournament Clock Etiquette?

How is it best to set your clock for a tournament? Surely the obvious way is to set it so that time runs out at 12:00? But no — Nick Wedd points out that this is in fact the worst possible position for the hour hand, as it will then be in the way, making the clock harder to read, at the critical moment.

It is best to arrange for the hour hand to be at six when the time is up - out of the way of the important action.

Meetings with Remarkable Men and Women

Peter and Sheila Wendes pwendes@hotmail.com and swendes@yahoo.com

With Yasuda sensei and Morino sensei.
Japan November 2004

The seeds for our inspirational Go tour of Japan were sown in July 2003 when Yuki Shigeno 2p stayed with us during her visit to the UK. We had some very interesting conversations, and Yuki kindly accompanied us on some of our school visits. When we saw her off at Heathrow, she said 'This is not goodbye, just the first move on the board!'

My wife Sheila and I had realised the growing need for us to visit Japan to see some of the pioneering work being done there by Yasuda sensei. His book 'Go as Communication' had arrived in the UK at a very good time for us, as we were starting to introduce Go to schools here and were very encouraged to read of his passionate and innovative work in Japan. When we finally met, Yasuda sensei said he thought that starting with a 'blank canvas' as he called it was perhaps easier than overcoming the negative feelings about Go that he had encountered, for instance that it was an 'old man's game', not something for children or people with special needs. However, the response we received in the UK was quite slow at first, and it was only with the successful completion of the Hampshire Go Project, with the kind assistance of the Ing Foundation in late 2002 that we felt confident enough to embark on promoting Go full-time. Certainly, Yasuda Sensei seems to be overcoming any resistance towards his ideas as, when people see him in action, with such positive results, they cannot fail to be convinced.

We stayed in contact with Yuki by email, discussing various topics, including Go for the Visually Impaired (see page 21). Yuki had shown us photographs of blind people using adapted sets, and had said that she had a few which had been provided by Morino sensei 9p in Osaka. She offered to send us one, as we had also thought it

would be interesting to try to develop this aspect of Go in the UK. I was later able to obtain more sets from Morino sensei through Minister Takeuchi of the Japanese Embassy in London.

In July 2004 Yuki emailed me to say that Yasuda sensei had invited us to Japan to be with him on his Fureai-Igo tour of Kashiwa City and Nagano. This was obviously the opportunity of a lifetime, and we decided that we must go if it was possible to get help with the funding. I approached Tony Atkins, President of the European Go Federation who kindly gave the matter his attention, together with Simon Goss, President of the British Go Association who would receive the funding on our behalf, and they were able to confirm that an Ing grant would be available to support the project. In the meantime, Yuki had been able to arrange a meeting with Morino sensei, so we would also need to travel to Osaka, and Long Island University in Kyoto asked us to visit after a well-received workshop we had run at their London Centre. We now had the framework of an itinerary!

After some hours on the Internet and some help from Yuki finding a hotel in the right part of Tokyo, the trip was arranged.

On our first full day, we met up with Yuki and went with her to the Nihon Ki-in to meet the Director, Mr Fujisawa, and Mr Yamamoto and Mrs Uechi of the Overseas Department. Mr Fujisawa kindly presented us with fans and copies of his father's book and we showed them photographs of our recent work in the UK. We were privileged to be invited to watch part of a professional game being played in the tatami room upstairs. Downstairs the Museum of Go Exhibition was beginning to take shape. We promised to keep the Overseas Department in touch with our promotional activities in the UK.

The following day, Friday, we finally met Ya-

suda sensei, and Mrs Matsuo, the deputy Mayor, and Yuki at Kashiwa Station. We had lunch with the municipal officials before setting off for our first school visit. It was very interesting seeing Go taught in a very different cultural setting from the UK. Yasuda sensei was keen to put the children at their ease as the education system in Japan is quite formal, and his main purpose in introducing Go is to help people of all ages and abilities to communicate and break down barriers - hence the term 'Fureai-Igo, 'Communication Go'. As visitors we were asked to show the children something- I taught them a few English Go terms, and Sheila stood on her head to the delight of the whole school! The enthusiastic team games of Go were played on large tarpaulins with picnic plates as stones- something which would work very well with young children in the UK too.

After Kashiwa we travelled, in a large group by now, up into the beautiful mountains to Nagano by bus to visit a welcoming, positive, creative day centre for people with learning difficulties where Go had been introduced and was already popular, and then a community centre, where Yasuda Sensei contentedly observed people with various disabilities successfully playing large scale Capture Go with young children, helpers and visitors. Everyone interacted with energy and interest, and finally a team emerged as winner of the tournament to lively applause. Among the many friendly people we met was Dr Masatsugo Tsujii from Chukyo University, who specialises in Autism. Through him we met some students who were training to be special needs teachers and spent some time talking with them, and sharing experiences. There followed some group discussions about people's life experiences. We were grateful to Mr Kawamoto and Michiko Kumagai for translations.

We arrived at Kawanishi Ikeda to be met by Yuki's friend, the delightful and hospitable Harumi, and Manja and Micha from the German Go Federation, who had come over to be with Yasuda sensei too. We left them off at a Go

Club in Osaka, full of splendid characters, and walked from Harumi's house to the local corner shop, where to our great surprise there was a range of wonderful sushi. We enjoyed a pleasant evening of Go talk; about Yasuda Sensei's work, activity in India and elsewhere, and optimistic plans for the future.

On Wednesday we visited a kindergarten for children with autism, Aspergers, Downs, and other learning and behavioural difficulties. Ten visitors, representing Croatia, Germany, UK and Japan met up here. We introduced ourselves and sang songs. Fair hair and blue eyes seemed an entertainment in themselves! After this the children took turns in placing 'stones' on the huge 'board'. Capture Go had been introduced to the children and their parents previously, to encourage self expression and fun, and help the parents to relax and enjoy time with their children rather than attempting strict control.

This marked the halfway point of our trip. We then took the train with Yuki to Kyoto, checked in to our hotel beside the river in a lovely quiet part of town, and then set off again to meet with Morino sensei and his wife that evening. The Morinos have done much to promote Go, and have a special interest in Go for the blind. Morino sensei sent the adapted sets to me via the Embassy, and is involved with a number of projects, including the Paralympics. We were treated to a fabulous meal on the 30th floor of the Osaka skyscraper where he has his Go club, and Yuki did fantastic work, as always, translating the energetic discussion. When Morino sensei heard that I was interested in Sen no Rikyu and Zen he kindly offered to take us on a tour of Kyoto - temples, teahouses and shrines, including some with Go connections. A date was made for the Friday.

On Thursday we visited Long Island University East Asia Centre with Yuki to introduce Go to the bright young people on the Friends Programme. The Centre is based in a traditional Japanese house, with tatami and paper screens, a perfect setting for Go. The Director, Barbara