

PAIR GO 2000

The Tenth British Pair Go Event



Supported By:

- Japan Pair Go Association
- British Go Association
- British PGPP

The tenth British Pair Go Tournament was held in the Foxcombe Lodge Hotel, Boars Hill near Oxford, on Sunday May 21st 2000. Play took place in a bright and airy marquee, a bit too airy for some as although sunny a cold wind seemed to chill the arms of those who selected short sleeves. As usual a very high standard of dress was adopted by the players, but clear winners in the best dressed competition were Fred Holroyd in a tail-coat with white bow-tie and his partner Jini Williams in a black dress with silver embellishments. Though not playing together, France Ellul and Jackie Chai, and also Lydia and Matthew Macfadyen were awarded colourful windmills or flowers to go with their colourful costumes. All the young children were also given special prizes for taking part.

The tournament was divided into two sections. The strongest eight pairs played in a tournament for which British World Amateur Pair Go Qualification Points were allocated; the other pairs played in a handicap tournament. Because of the way opponents were selected by drawing cards the top group were known as Clubs (willing to bash the other teams for the serious prizes) and the other group as Hearts (playing for the love of the game). Unfortunately the reigning champions were unable to take part as Kirsty Healey was unwell, forcing Matthew Macfadyen into the Hearts with daughter Lydia. Alison Jones was now playing with her new husband Simon Bexfield, so new champions were expected, possibly the British representatives at Euro 2000 Pairs: Jackie Chai and Francis Roads. However they could only manage two wins, as did Oxford's Nick Wedd and Sally Prime, and Natasha Regan and Alex Selby. Surprise winners were Bracknell's 18 year-old Emma Marchant playing as usual with Simon Goss (2 dan). One of three left-handed 8 kyu women players in the UK, Emma rose to the occasion to play to a very high standard with her partner and win the British Pair Go Champions' title and 6 points towards the pairs trip to Japan. The UK sits out for the 2000 tournament so it will be interesting next year to see if Kirsty/Matthew, Jackie/Francis or new champions get to represent the BGA at the World Amateur Pair Go Championships.

Winners of the Hearts section were Fiona Campbell and Jim Edwards from Aylesbury. Elinor Brooks and France Ellul won 2/2, Nicola Hurden and Shawn Hearn of Berks Youth won the Youth Champions title, and prizes went to Epsom's Yvonne and Paul Margetts and Manchester's Jill Segerman and Tony Pitchford for 2/3. Several players were taking part in their first tournament: Annic Hall, Martin Hearn and Laass Jakobsen in the scratch pair, and Norwegian's Lene and Mogens Jakobsen currently living in Croydon who were given a special prize. Garry White organised a side 13x13 pairs tournament which was won by himself in a team called Giraffes.

RESULTS TABLES

Clubs Section (Championship Group)

No.	Players	Av. grade	round 1	round 2	round 3	Wins
1	Emma Marchant/Simon Goss	3.5k	2+	3+	4+	3
2	Jackie Chai/Francis Roads	1.5d	1-	5+	7+	2
3	Sally Prime/Nick Wedd	4.0k	5+	1-	6+	2
4	Natasha Regan/Alex Selby	1.5k	6+	7+	1-	2
5	Alison Bexfield/Simon Bexfield	1.5d	3-	2-	8+	1
6	Sue Paterson/Geoff Kaniuk	1.5k	4-	8+	3-	1
7	Helen Harvey/Martin Harvey	1.5k	8+	4-	2-	1
8	Anna Griffiths/Tony Atkins	3.5k	7-	6-	5-	0

Hearts Section (Handicap Section)

No.	Players	Av. grade	round 1	round 2	round 3	Wins
1	Fiona Campbell/Jim Edwards	12k	3+4st	6+2st	4+7st	3
2	Elinor Brooks/France Ellul	4.5k	-	5+7st	6+5st	2.5
3	Jill Segerman/Anthony Pitchford	8k	1-4st	9+12st	7+3st	2
4	Yvonne Margetts/Paul Margetts	4.5k	10+20st	8+15st	1-7st	2
5	Nicola Hurden/Shawn Hearn	11.5k	9+9st	2-7st	8+8st	2
6	Jini Williams/Fred Holroyd	10k	7+0k	1-2st	2-5st	1
7	Lydia/Matthew Macfadyen	11k	6-0k	11+7st	3-3st	1
8	Melissa Hearn/Matthew Selby	20k	11+2st	4-15st	5-8st	1
9	Lene Jakobsen/Mogens Jakobsen	20.5k	5-9st	3-12st	10+4st	1
10	Annie Hall/Garry White	24.5k	4-20st	12+10st	9-4st	1
11	Charlotte King/David King	18k	8-2st	7-7st	12+17st	1
12	Laass Jakobsen/Martin Hearn	35k	-	10-10st	11-17st	.5

Grades are specified so as to show which sides received handicaps (where more than 9 stones shown 10 komi per grade over 9 was given).

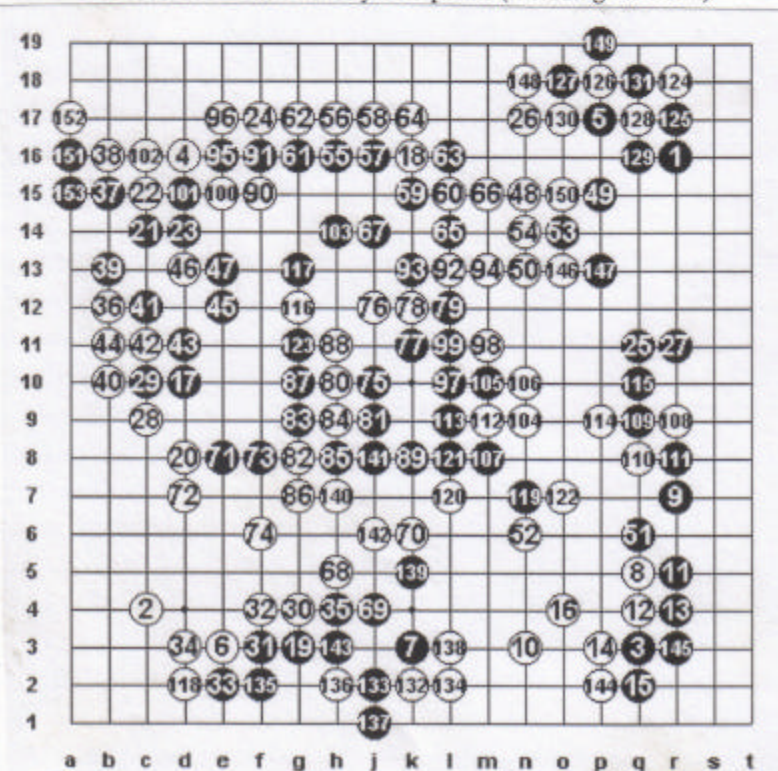
GAME RECORD

Round One, Clubs Section

Black: Helen Harvey (1, 5, 9, etc) & Martin Harvey (3, 7, 11, etc)

White: Anna Griffiths (2, 6, 10, etc) & Tony Atkins (4, 8, 12, etc)

153 moves recorded. Black wins by 13.5 points (including 5.5 komi).



British
Pair Go Promotion Partners
2000

Tony Atkins	Francis Roads
Alison Bexfield	Simon Bexfield
Kirsty Healey	Matthew Macfadyen

10th International Amateur Pair Go Championships

The tenth anniversary of the International Amateur Go Championships was celebrated by a change in format and a special friendship match. Gone was the special handicap group that countries played in if they lost in round 1 and in was a five round Swiss system that was welcomed by the participants. The special guests who formerly played in the special group either played in the main Araki Cup event or took part in the friendship match. The format of the match was a surprise on the day. Partners and opponents were drawn at random. I played with a go reporter in a very beautiful pink kimono against the girl from Thailand and a former Amateur Honinbo. This gave interesting games to many, as among the special guests were several professionals such as Kobayashi Chizu, Inori Yoko, Kobayashi Satoru and Ryu Shikun. Flown in specially were top Chinese player Chang Hao and top Korean player Lee Chang-ho, though it was not clear whether the latter was really enjoying the event like the rest of the players. The downside of splitting up the teams was that there was no chance to appreciate the National Dress (the British in pin-striped business wear), apart from as individuals. However it was the Czechs who made the most impression as they were selected to make the promise at the opening ceremony, still in their costumes. The man from Chile and the Russian girl also looked very good. After the game there was a chance to chat to the other players and the pros at the welcome party.

The following day saw round 1 of the tournament proper. 21 over seas teams joined 11 Japanese teams this time. Chile, Malaysia, Israel, Belgium and Yugoslavia were there for the first time, together with a selection of the other go playing countries. Gone was the need for a good draw in round one because of the system change, however drawing a Japanese side always meant you got off to a bad start. The UK nearly beat Taiwan and the Russians with young Dina Burdakova and Alexei Lazarev and also the USA team of youngsters James Chien and Louisa Chan got off to a good start.

The Sunday was the main day for the event and the day when 432 players turned up to play in the prestigious Araki Cup. As well as the three normal sections there was an extra section for beginners playing on 13x13 boards. As the event grows every year it has had to leave its traditional venue of the Edmont Hotel in Iidabashi and this time moved further out of town to the larger Hotel Metropolitan in Ikebukuro district. From the restaurant on the 25th floor a panoramic view of Tokyo and distant mountains could be seen and there were good facilities including the large ballroom where most play took part. Four rounds of Pair Go is very hard work if you are normally used to three and the Araki Cup time limits were slightly shorter meaning the room got very busy towards the end of the rounds. Also you had to be very carefully about how you placed your stones as you never knew whether the person standing behind you was a pro or was a man holding a very large television camera! The game to decide the championship was played in a separate room and a lecture hall was packed to hear the public commentary. The winners were from Osaka: Goto Naoko (wife of the professional) and Taga Bungo. They beat the Japanese pair from Kyushu, Tanaka Yumiko and Komori Shoji. Korea were allowed third and China sixth but otherwise the top 10 were all Japanese. Taiwan was 11, USA 12 and top Europeans were Monika Reimpell and Frans-Joseph Dickhut from Germany at 13. 14 was North Korea, 15 New Zealand, 16 Astrid Gaultier and Gilles Zemor from France (who beat UK in round 5) and 17 Russia. The other European teams were 22 Poland, 23 Czech, 24 UK, 25 Romania, 26 Belgium, 28 Yugoslavia.

The other hotly contested competition is of course that for the best dressed pair. Yugoslavia's Slavica Stankovic and Dragan Mitic took a prize here, whereas Alison Jones and Tony Atkins were handicapped by the fact the wrong photo was placed on the finals board and by not acquiring a buttonhole flower until after Mrs Taki and Ms Ogawa had done their judging (though we are sure they got top marks from Umezawa Yukari). After the long prize giving ceremony, including a speech by the Israeli Ambassador, there was a minor banquet and then the infamous raffle, bringing an end to a tiring but very enjoyable day.

The final events for the overseas players was an introduction to IGS on Panda Net, which is run by the same organisation as the Pair Go, and a lunch where Mrs Taki was able to hear the latest pair go news, such as the announcement of the first International Open Pair Go Championships to be held at the Mind Sports Olympiad in London on 27th August 2000: an event worth attending no doubt.

INTERNATIONAL OPEN PAIR GO CHAMPIONSHIPS

at the

MIND SPORTS OLYMPIAD

Alexandra Palace, London

August 27th 2000

PRIZES: £600, £400, £200; Entry fee £13 each

info see <http://www.msoworld.com/Olympiad/details-oriental.html>

PHOTO GALLERY



Pair Go Champions 2000:
Emma Marchant and
Simon Goss



Best dressed pair Jini and
Fred (centre left and right)
receive fans from hoteliers
Roger and Jill



Windmills and flowers
Jackie, Matthew, Lydia
and France

Thanks must go to Elinor Brooks and France Ellul for arranging the event, for Tony Atkins for doing the draw, to Jill and Roger for running such a pleasant hotel, and the pair go supporters/sponsors.
Photos and text editing by Tony Atkins, British Go Association