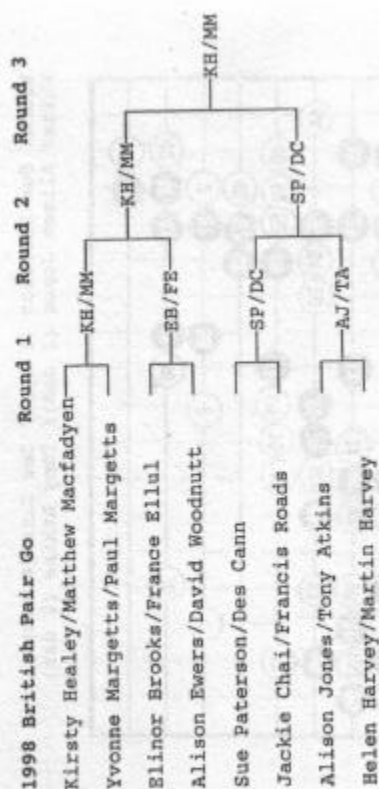


British Pair Go 1998

May 17th at the Crossroads Hotel,
Weedon, Northamptonshire



British Pair Go Champions Matthew Macfadyen and Kirsty Healey deep in thought against France Ellul and Elinor Brooks



British Reps to the World Amateur Pair Go Championships

- 1991 Sue Paterson/Jim Barty
- 1992 Kirsty Healey/Matthew Macfadyen
- 1993 Alison Jones/Andrew Jones
- 1994 Alison Jones/Nick Webber
- 1995 Kirsty Healey/Matthew Macfadyen
- 1996 -
- 1997 Alison Cross/John McLeod
- 1998 Sue Paterson/Des Cann (provisional)



Youngest player this year was Natasha Boddy playing with Paul Smith, here seen playing Pauline Bailey, the oldest

This year the ever popular Pair Go Championships repeated the location and format of the previous two years. The top eight British pairs out of the 17 pairs present played together to determine the Champions and to help select our representatives to the World Amateur Pair Go Championships which are held annually in Japan. As can be seen from the table over the page it was the 1997 Champions who were going to win again. Kirsty Healey and Matthew Macfadyen, the 1 kyu and 6 dan couple from Leamington Spa, won through without too much difficulty, though the weaker pairings did work well together. Especially worthy of note was Alison Ewers who played very well with David Woodnutt, despite only being graded at 12 kyu and only normally playing handicap games against her partner. Former Pair Go Champions Alison Jones and Tony Atkins lost their second round game against Sue Paterson and Des Cann and were placed third; part of the game record is reproduced on the back page. Sue and Des had already beaten the other pair who were third (Jackie Chai and Francis Roads) and only lost to Kirsty and Matthew in the final game. This put three pairs equal top of the points table to determine who would go to Japan, but as Sue and Des had beaten the other two tied pairs the recommendation was that Sue and Des would represent Britain in 1998's Championships.

Mother and son pair from Surrey, Pauline and Steve Bailey, were declared winners of the Handicap section. They won three games out of three despite being late arriving thanks to a faulty petrol tank on Steve's car. Young Hayley Williams of Brakenhale and Alistair Brooks of Swindon were awarded a prize for special effort in the handicap section. It was also good to see some new faces at the event as Natasha Boddy and Ben Morris of the Cambridge Junior Chess and Go Club came to play with Paul and Andrea Smith.

Simon Goss deserves special mention as even though his partner Emma Marchant had gone sick, he still came to act as driver for others of the youngsters from Brakenhale School. To make his day more worth while he was appointed judge in the Best Dressed pair Competition. Because of the hot weather there were a lot of feet visible that lost most pairs points and so he had to enlist the help of Laura Coe and Graham Brooks. Some were impressed by David Woodnutt keeping his tie and jacket on all day. Simon suggested Alison Jones and Tony Atkins could have won apart from Tony's bright socks, and so the winners despite helping the judge were in fact Laura and Graham.



Best dressed pair this year were young Laura Coe and Graham Brooks, here in action against Andrea Smith and Ben Morris

This year the side competition was to suggest "100 things to do with a dead go stone". Some took this liberally and came up with uses for more than one stone, but others concentrated on just one. Paul and Andrea Smith received a prize for their exhaustive list of 101 ideas. Elinor Brooks received another prize for the quality of the ideas on her slightly shorter list. Anna Griffiths still submitted her and Chris Dawson's entry despite not playing due to exam commitment and the other list was from Matthew and Kirsty.

Here are the four top suggestions:

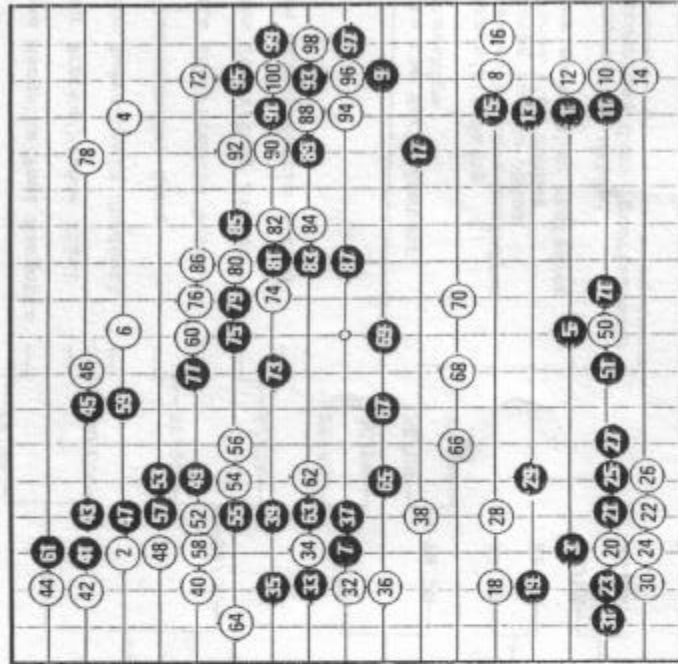
Hide in a haystack as it is easier to find than a needle (AG)

Hide amongst mint imperials to assassinate the eater (MM)

To give to a fellow player who is one short of a full bowl (EB)

To keep your toes apart whilst painting your toe nails (AS)

Black: Sue Paterson (1 kyu) / Des Cann (4 dan)
White: Alison Jones (2 dan) / Tony Atkins (2 dan)



This is the second round game to determine who would play Kirsty and Matthew for the title. The first 100 moves are shown. The lower right joseki is slightly odd as 9 is one line higher than normal. White 20 is interesting in pair go terms as normally it is correct to ignore your partner's play if you cannot see why it was played. However in this case white played 22 losing the group rather than the correct white at 23. White 50 does obey this axiom allowing her partner to cut through at 52 and so on. White adds to their group up to 70, forcing black to play the large move at 71; this white group can still connect under to 64 if needed. After 78 white's top right corner starts to get very big, but some bad shape appears with 88 and 90, forcing white to start a ko at move 100, the last move shown. For the next fifty moves the ko raged on; black won the ko in return for losing the stones at 75 and 79. Unfortunately for black they lost the chance to wedge between 66 and 68 to split off a large lower area. After the ko both sides were in time trouble (only 45 minutes are allowed per side) and the final error was when white played a huge string of stones into atari bringing to the end an exciting and evenly matched game.

Thanks must go to Kirsty Healey, Matthew Macfadyen for arranging the event, to Alison Jones for arranging the finances and to Elinor Brooks and France Ellul for offering to run it next year. Photos and text editing by Tony Atkins, British Go Association.