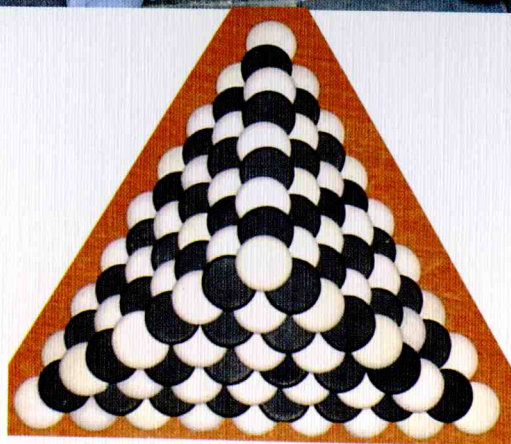


BRITISH

# GO

JOURNAL



# CONTENTS

|   |                          |    |
|---|--------------------------|----|
| EDITORIAL                               | JENNY RADCLIFFE          | 1  |
| LETTERS                                 |                          | 2  |
| UK NEWS                                 | TONY ATKINS              | 4  |
| PERSONAL PROFILE - TIM HUNT             | BILL STREETEN            | 12 |
| REFEREE EXERCISE                        | GEOFF KANIUK             | 14 |
| PAIRS IN JAPAN                          | TONY ATKINS              | 15 |
| GO 'N' GAMES IN CHINA - THE GO          | PAUL MASSEY              | 18 |
| GO 'N' GAMES IN CHINA - THE FOOD        | WILL BROOKS              | 20 |
| OBITUARY: FRANK BERKENKOTTER            | WAYNE WALTERS            | 22 |
| 10 YEARS AGO                            | TONY ATKINS              | 23 |
| REFEREE ANSWERS                         | GEOFF KANIUK             | 24 |
| AN AWAY GAME                            | STEVE AND PAULINE BAILEY | 26 |
| WORLD NEWS                              | TONY ATKINS              | 28 |
| JAPAN DIARY                             | T MARK HALL              | 31 |
| WHAT PROVERBS REALLY MEAN               | NICK WEDD                | 35 |
| RUSSIAN PRO GO CHAMPIONSHIP             | ALEXANDRE DINERCHTEIN    | 36 |
| CORRECTIONS, CLARIFICATIONS AND CREDITS |                          | 47 |
| BGA OFFICIALS                           |                          | 47 |
| UK CLUBS LIST                           |                          | 49 |
| GLOSSARY OF GO TERMS                    |                          | 55 |

## EDITORIAL

Jenny Radcliffe

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Hi folks,

This issue, look for a splendid essay on Chinese food from Will Brooks (page 20), and a more conventional partner description of "Go 'n' Games in China" from Paul Massey (on page 18).

Other exciting content: Alexandre Dinerchtein (1 dan pro)'s perspective of the first Russian Pro Go Championship (page 36), and a useful discussion for us less-strong players on what proverbs mean and how and when to use them, courtesy of Nick Wedd (on page 35).

Playing Go at the top of a mountain on the "Go'n'Games trip in China (see articles on pages 18 and 20.

Editing the Journal is like playing someone really really strong: I think I've got everything tied up and understood, and then some improbable thing happens and everything goes nuts. None-the-less, as I get on top of it, I'm able to ask more and more people to do things. So if you have a spare few minutes and think you might find something interesting, drop me a line! Oh - and don't forget to send me your Go-related photos!

*Jenny Radcliffe*

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<http://two.pairlist.net/mailman/listinfo/bga-policy>

## LETTERS

[journal@britgo.org](mailto:journal@britgo.org)

### Going to the Bar

Bob complains, in his letter to Journal #137, of having to be above the bar, when due to the ravages of time he thinks he has got very much weaker than he used to be. However his strength is a respectable 1.4 dan, according to <http://www.britgo.org/rating/list.html>, so compared to others who have felt it necessary to downgrade, he is not so badly off.

The entry at Barmouth was indeed distorted: 6d, 4d, 3d, 2\*2d, 3\*1d i.e. a skewed bunch of only 8 dans out of a total of 33 players. But since  $8 = 2^3$ , this has to be a Draw Mistress' dream and she correctly set the bar at 1 dan.

Bob suggests that the bar could be set at no more than 3 grades below the top player, in this case 3 dan. Doing this does not solve the problem however!

After two rounds Matthew will have run out of opponents, and is gleefully eyeing those plump danlets just below the rising bar. Bob should have missed Matthew and Alistair in rounds one and two and, because of the particular strength distribution of his fellows, he may well have won his first two games. He would now be ripe for the plucking in an even game! Remember you only get a handicap if both players are below the bar. There is no escaping the bar - resistance is useless!

Every tournament we play in is a serious affair really. We can have easy, fun, or handicap games at our local clubs. In tournament games you are trying your best, and the drawperson is striving to give you even games where ever possible. If this cannot happen because of the nature of the entry and you find yourself playing well above your capability, then in my opinion there are three things you should do. Enjoy the experience; play as hard as you can; and record the game!

You will surely be able to excite the grandchildren with tales of how you got to play Matthew in an even game, and in years to come, you will need the record to remember it all!

May all your stones find the right spot,

*Geoff Kaniuk*

### Lightning Captures

Toby is quite right in his "Rules of Capturing Stones" letter in issue #137; this rule<sup>1</sup> is sometimes used in Lightning tournaments, and normally not applied in Main tournaments.

The reason for mentioning it in my "Referee Notes" article in issue #136 is to highlight the fact that it is folklore, which means it is likely not to be explicitly stated (or forbidden). The British Championship rules are probably unique in this respect - of necessity since here the rules do need to be more precisely spelled out.

<sup>1</sup>That the clock may be stopped if more than three stones are to be captured

So perhaps tournaments should be encouraged to state their rules more explicitly and rely less on folklore.

My apologies for any confusion caused.

*Geoff Kaniuk*

## UK NEWS

**Tony Atkins**

**ajaxgo@yahoo.co.uk**

### Cornwall

There is always a sense of growing excitement as the Great Western train heads west towards Penzance. When there is a Go tournament at the end of the journey, as well as the beautiful Cornish scenery, then there is all the more reason. As ever the weekend was sunny and several games were played in the garden of the Yacht Inn, with the blue sea just across the road. 20 players entered the Cornish Handicap Tournament on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September. Also Alistair Wall joined in the last round so players from 4 dan to 17 kyu, and from a far away as Scotland, took part. Winner of the Go Bowls trophy for the second year running on four out of four was young Jonathan Englefield (7 kyu High Wycombe). He beat another teenager, Jake Finnis (6 kyu West Cornwall), in the final. Winning four out of five were Rob Churchill (17 kyu West Cornwall) and Maria Tabor (11 kyu Epsom). 20 players also took part in the Cornwall Tournament on the Sunday. Winner of the Devon Go Stone for the first time was Ian Marsh (1 dan), who beat Wanstead's Alistair Wall (4 dan) in the final, and so became the last of the regular Bracknell team to win a Cornish title. The players who each won a wooden stone for three out of three were Eric Hall (5 kyu Swindon) and Rob Churchill (17 kyu West Cornwall), but noteworthy was local player Suryan Stettner who won two games at 1 kyu, only losing to the winner.

### Milton Keynes

65 players attended the Open University for the 17<sup>th</sup> Milton Keynes Tournament on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September. This year a tasty hot buf-

fet was provided in the adjacent lounge, but the organisers struggled to provide enough milk and biscuits to go with the tea and coffee. Alongside the main event, Tim Hunt ran a teaching session for beginners in the morning followed by a mini-tournament in the afternoon. Winner was Ed Murray (Aston) with six out of six, second was Clari Hunt (Milton Keynes) with four wins, and equal third were Zoe Nash and Emma Nash (Woodley). In a back room Matthew Macfadyen and Des Cann were playing the third and final game of the British title match; Matthew won it and retained the title. Ge Bei, the local 3 dan, was the tournament winner; he beat Francis Roads, Alistair Wall and Alex Rix (all 4 dan). Others winning three games were: Mike Cockburn (1 dan St Albans), Phil Beck (1 dan Cambridge), Anna Griffiths (7 kyu Epsom), Xinyi Lu (9 kyu Maidenhead), Elizabeth Abbott (13 kyu Oxford) and Peter Harold-Barry (19 kyu St Albans). The best team was the Forbidden team (Brian Brunswick, Anna Griffiths and Jenny Radcliffe) with 77.7 percent. Of course there was also the usual side tournament played on the MK Go board. As usual William Brooks (Cambridge) won a prize for best percentage (with seven out of nine) and Sadhvik Vijay (Aston) won a prize for most wins (with five out of seven).

### Wanstead

Wanstead House, opposite George Green in East London, was again the venue for the Wanstead Tournament on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October. 42 players attended, fewer than normal, and with a smaller top group there was the possibility of a tie. This seemed more likely when Francis Roads (4 dan Wanstead) lost in round 2, but beat Des Cann (5 dan Milton Keynes) in round 3. However Des survived a nail-biting last round game against Matthew Reid (1 dan Cambridge), to come out first by sum of opponents' scores (SOS) tie-break. Francis came second, with Matthew Reid and also Christian Scarff (1 dan Swindon), winning three out of four. Paul Barnard (1 kyu Swindon) was the strongest player with a perfect four, a score also managed by Xinyi Lu (8 kyu Maidenhead) and Ken Dackombe (15 kyu Bromley). Richard Almond (15 kyu Hastings) narrowly missed getting four as he had a drawn game. Other players winning chocolates or wine for three

wins were: Sam Aitken (1 kyu Warwick), Geoff Kaniuk (3 kyu London), Frank Visser (4 kyu Cambridge) and Ron Bell (5 kyu Reading). The event was the first run by Geoff Kaniuk on the new Windows version (version 6) of Godraw and using the BGA's new laptop and printer; it ran perfectly to time with no technical problems.

## Fife

When Edwin Brady was banished from Durham to the wilds of Scotland, not only did the Durham Tournament survive, but a new event was founded. The first Fife Go Tournament was held in the Age Concern Hall in Cupar on 15<sup>th</sup> October. 20 players, from Scotland, the north of England and even one from Australia, took part. The winner, with a straight five wins, was Robbie Miller (4 kyu Edinburgh). Prizes for four wins went to Stig Vilholm Petersen (14 kyu Dundee) and Eugene Hung Chih Wong (20 kyu Aberdeen). Five others won prizes for three; these were Donald Macleod (3 kyu Glasgow), Chris Barnett (6 kyu Durham), Nir Oren (8 kyu Aberdeen), Donald Spy (15 kyu Dundee) and Zhuo Min Chong (25 kyu Aberdeen).



Zhuo Min Chong with her prize

## Women and Teams

Due to popular demand the Women's Training Weekend was held again on the weekend of 22<sup>nd</sup> October. 12 players from 1 kyu to 20 kyu took part and met at Sally Prime's house near Oxford. The trainer this year was Yuki Shigeno, the 2 dan professional who has been living in Italy, who was flown in specially. Winner of the mini-tournament was Helen Harvey (1 kyu Manchester) who won against Tamsin Jones (1 kyu Chester) and Edwina Lee (4 kyu Maidenhead) and drew with Sue Paterson (3 kyu Brighton). Maria Tabor (10 kyu Epsom) won three games in the handicap section.

On the Sunday in London there was the autumn edition of the London International Teams. This was held with the usual Japanese lunch and friendly atmosphere in the club room at the ISH, home of the Central London Go Club. The Central London and the Wanstead Club teams

proved the strongest and finished tied. Players winning three out of three were Piers Shepperson and Zaid Waqi from the CLGC team and Andrew Jones and Paul Tabor from the Wanstead team.

## Wessex

65 players took part in the 36<sup>th</sup> Wessex held as ever in Marlborough Town Hall, on the day the clocks went back. Possibly, however, it would be the last time for the event in its traditional format, with food provided and Bristol Go Club being the hosts. Changed though was the dropping of the 13x13 competition, but the team prize continued, won by Wanstead. Tournament winner was Alex Rix (4 dan London) who beat John Hobson (2 dan Bath) in the last round. Two division 2 trophies were awarded, to Alan Thornton (1 dan St Albans) and Dylan Carter (1 kyu Cardiff) who were both unbeaten. Winners of the trophies for the other divisions (some by tie-break) were: 3 Mark Todd-kill (3 kyu Wanstead), 4 Malcolm Hagan (5 kyu Winchester), 5 Daniel Debski (7 kyu Maidenhead), 6 David Davies (9 kyu Reading), 7 Paul Blockley (13 kyu Worcester), 8 Pauline Bailey (16 kyu West Surrey). Of these Mark and Dan won four out of four and Pauline scored 3.5.

## British Small Board

The Cambridge Junior Chess and Go Club was again the host of this event at the Meadows Community Centre, in the northern suburbs of Cambridge, on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November. 20 entered the tournament, in which was played double elimination for the top players. Alex Selby (3 dan Cambridge) was winner of the national title



Alex Selby playing Tim Hunt at the Small Board tournament

on 13x13 boards. He beat Tim Hunt in the final. Prizes were awarded for best scores out of eight (including handicap games). Greg Pallis (9 kyu Oxford) scored 6.5 and Maria Tabor (9 kyu Epsom) won five. From Cambridge Ben Handley (13 kyu) won six, David Ward (4 dan), William Brooks (1 dan) and Joe Walker (5 kyu) won five. To amuse and educate the 52 Junior Chess players in the parallel event,

Paul Smith ran a teaching table in the lounge and also ran a Go problems competition (won by Tom Daniel) and a beginners' 9x9 event (won by Fraser Roebuck, with Benjamin Marrow second).

### Three Peaks

With beautiful North Yorkshire scenery, walking, fresh air and a cosy pub (the Marton Arms) stocked with ales and malts, some think the Three Peaks the best event of the year. This year it was on the weekend of 11<sup>th</sup> November and attracted 51 players. Tony Goddard (6 dan Sheffield) held on to the title for a second year. He won all five games, including a win over Edmund Shaw (5 dan Bracknell) who was second with four wins. A visitor from the Czech Republic, Martin Klemsa (10 kyu Brno), won all five games. Those winning four were: Jamie Coulthard (8 kyu Sheffield), Tom Coulthard (7 kyu Newcastle), Chris Morris (5 kyu Durham), Edwin Brady (4 kyu St Andrews) and John Walsh (3 kyu Lancaster).

### Swindon



Organiser Paul Barnard presenting the Swindon trophy to Bei Ge

The Swindon Tournament reappeared after a four year break on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November. The 9<sup>th</sup> edition saw a return to the Even Swindon Community Centre, a recent building built on the site of a school, near to the historic railway works site (now the Designer Outlet Village and Steam museum). 44 entered and winner was Bei Ge (3 dan Milton Keynes). He beat Mike Charles (2 dan St Albans) in the last round. Trophies were awarded for three wins to Maria Tabor (9 kyu Epsom) and Nagin Patel (12 kyu Swindon), for two and a half to Neil Moffatt (6 kyu Cardiff) and David M King (1 dan Swindon). The continuous 13x13 event was won by Dylan Carter (1 kyu Cardiff), though nobody could locate the gigantic trophy that was previously awarded for this.

### East of England GGG

The first ever UK Go Challenge Geographic Go Gala took place at Milton Primary School near Cambridge on 27<sup>th</sup> November. This was organised by Paul Smith as the first example of the next stage of expanding the UK Go Challenge concept. 32 children from the East Anglia area took part in a day of teaching and, in the afternoon, 13x13 competition. The best secondary school was Norwich School and best primary school was Milton. Prizes were awarded in age groups. The under-18 champion was Will Brooks. Under-15 was won by Luke Betts and under-13 by Matthew Harris. Oliver Robinson was under-11 champion; Aoife McCaul was champion under-9 and Roella Smith under-7. Owen Walker was the best at the ever popular puzzle competition. Other prizes went to Alice Lincoln, Zai-Chen Lu and Hibiki Kono for four out of five and to Christopher Russell, Christian Roberts, Hugh Simpson, Richard Engel, Sam Smith-Howell and Sam Holman for three.

### West Surrey

Burpham Village Hall near Guildford was again the location for a weekend of Go on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of December. On the Saturday some 22 students were split into four groups by grade and were taught various subjects by teachers Brian Brunswick, Paul Barnard, Tony Atkins and Jon Diamond. Subjects included "Lessons in the Fundamentals" and "Positional Judgement". The day is rather relaxed with only four sessions and plenty of time at lunch to play the Pits card game, at which Tony and Brian were the best. Many of the students came back on the Sunday for the Handicap Tournament, in which 30 players took part. Natasha Regan (1 kyu Epsom) was the winner, beating Brian Dackombe (3 kyu Farnborough Village) in the final. Paul Blockley (13 kyu Worcester) beat Pauline Bailey (17 kyu West Surrey) to also win four games. Winning three and getting prizes were Brian and Pauline, and also Geoff Kaniuk (3 kyu London), Xinyi Lu (7 kyu Maidenhead), Neil Cleverly (8 kyu Bournemouth), Jonathan Englefield (8 kyu High Wycombe) and Edwina Lee (5 kyu Maidenhead). Two prizes were awarded in the 13x13 competition: Paul Margetts (1 dan Epsom) for five out of five and Brian Brunswick (1 dan Epsom) for 60%. A team

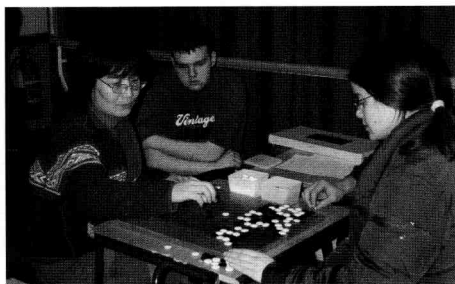
of Londoners formed of Geoff Kaniuk, Natasha Regan and Matthew Selby won the London Underground quiz, correctly naming all the stations inside the Circle Line.

## Scottish Barlow

18 players and 2 kibitzers came to the 4<sup>th</sup> Scottish Barlow on 10<sup>th</sup> December. The new venue of the Quaker Meeting House in Edinburgh, just five minutes walk from Waverley station, proved so excellent (apart from the impossible parking) that it has already been booked for December 2006. Winner of the red wine on four out of four was Neil McLean (2 kyu Elgin). For further prizes Neil kindly provided four copies of Moyo Go, a new game analysis package that he contributed to. These went to Rob Miller (3 kyu Edinburgh) who was second with three wins and to three members of the Aberdeen club on four wins: Nir Oren (7 kyu), Eugene HC Wong (17 kyu) and Eugene KO Wong (17 kyu). The top three Scots (lived there two years) could qualify for the Scottish championship semi-finals. These will be Neil McLean against Rob Miller and Donald Macleod against Allan Crossman, the current champion.

## London Open

152 players from 24 countries, including a large group of Finns, took part in the 32nd London Open. As before, it was held at ISH, Great Portland Street, on the last four days of the year. Again it was run by Geoff Kaniuk and the others from CLGC, and the main tournament was a major in the Toyota - IGS-PandaNet European Go Tour.



Yuki Shigeno reviews Maneula Lindemayer's game

The only problem on day one was a communication problem between the draw computer and printer delaying the start of round one. The top two boards, featuring two of the 7 dans (Yun He from LSE and Hwang In-Seong from Berlin), were broadcast over the Internet using

IGS-PandaNet. Yuki Shigeno (pro 2 dan) was on hand to give game commentaries.

On day two Ben He (4 dan Glasgow) beat Yun He (7 dan LSE), but then Yun retired sick. Ben then lost to Cho Seok-Bin (7 dan Hamburg). JK Shim (5 dan New Malden) also won his third game, but then lost to Hwang In-Seong (7 dan Berlin). So the two Korean 7 dans from Germany topped the field. Li Shen (6 dan London) headed the group on 3 win. UK players winning their first four were: William Brooks (1 dan Cambridge), Andrei Sokolov (10 kyu Preston) and Nathanael Chua (12 kyu LSE). In the evening players were able relax a little in the Pair Go tournament, if they so desired. Winners were a pair from Grenoble, France, Dominique Cornuejols (1 dan) and Jean-Loop Naddef (5 kyu). Three pairs were second: Ines and Jose Teles de Menezes (Portugal), Suvi Leppänen and Teemu Rovio (Finland), Antti Tarvainen (Finland) and Drago Pergar (Slovenia).

On day three the two Korean 7 dans clashed in round five. Cho beat Hwang in a spectacular game, to become the favourite to win. At the end of round six Cho was still unbeaten. Hwang was second and Ondrej Silt (6 dan Czechia) was third, both with five points. The other unbeaten player was Teemu Rovio (1 dan). Several UK players were on five out of six and possibly on for prizes. The evening entertainment was the Lightning Tournament. After a group stage eight players were left to play a knockout: Konrad Hoeffner (13 kyu Germany), Paul Blockley (13 kyu Worcester), Markku Juntunen (2 dan Finland), Cho Seok-Bin (7 dan Germany), Rita Pocsai (4 dan Hungary), Ondrej Silt (6 dan Czechia), Hwang In-Seong (7 dan Germany) and Daniel Althans (12 kyu Germany). After two more rounds only Ondrej and Daniel were unbeaten.

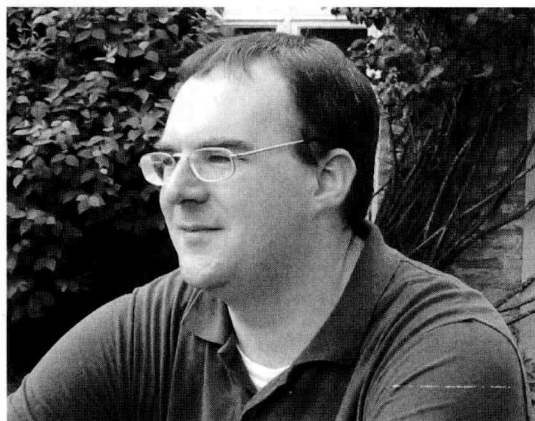
On the final day, Saturday, the two Korean 7 dans won again, seeing off Matthew Cocke (5 dan York) and Ondrej Silt (6 dan Czechia). Ondrej must have been tired as the Lightning final was played at lunch time and moreover he had to give 17 stones. It was the 12 kyu from Potsdam, Daniel Althans, who won the Lightning title. In Round 8 the Korean pair won again (against Li Shen (6 dan London) and David Ongaro (4 dan Germany)). This gave Cho clear first with eight ahead of Hwang on seven. Ben He and Bei Ge managed to win sixth games

to come third and fourth. Li Shen topped the group on five wins in fifth. The last few games in the continuous 9x9 were played and Ken Dackombe (15 kyu Farnborough Village) inched ahead of Lars Kristensen (17 kyu Denmark) under the Leiden square-root formula (563 points to 532) to win. Then Yuki Shigeno helped the 7 dans analyse one of their games on the demo board before the prize-giving. Total attendance was 152 from a record number of countries.

At the prize-giving all on five wins got a certificate and a paperweight went to all on six: Lars Kristensen (17 kyu Denmark), Kay Dackombe (16 kyu Farnborough Village), Nathanael Chua (12 kyu LSE), Miguel Teles De Menezes (10 kyu Portugal), Anders Eriksson (5 kyu Sweden), Jean-Loup Naddef (5 kyu France), Mark Todkill (3 kyu Wanstead), Max Nilsson (3 kyu Sweden), Juho Heikkinen (2 kyu Finland), Milan Jadron (1 dan Slovakia), Teemu Rovio (1 dan Finland), William Brooks (1 dan Cambridge) and Markku Jantunen (2 dan Finland). Matthias Terwey (6 kyu Germany) won a remarkable seven out of eight.

## PERSONAL PROFILE - TIM HUNT

**Bill Streeten**



gaging and interactive web site for the BGA. Unfortunately, I seem to be perpetually busy, and have not made as much progress on this as I would like.

**secretary@britgo.org**

**Bill:** Tell me about yourself.

**Tim:** I am in my thirties. I live alone in Milton Keynes, and work as a software developer for the Open University. I am helping develop the system that lets each OU course (there are hundreds) have its own engaging and interactive web site.

I am the BGA webmaster, so I should also be building an en-

**Bill:** How did you first hear about Go?

**Tim:** It was at school, in the library. I was looking something up in the Encyclopedia Britannica (not something I did very often!) and, on the way there, found the article about Go. From the very brief rules in the article I tried and failed to work out how to play with a friend on a board made of Lego, with marbles for stones.

When I got to University, I saw the Cambridge Go Club at the societies Fair. I recognised the game and decided to give it second chance. Through the Cambridge Go Club, I was introduced to tournaments and then the BGA.

**Bill:** How and why did you join the Council?

**Tim:** I stayed in Cambridge for a long time, culminating in a PhD. I was not a very assiduous PhD student, preferring to spend my time on Go and Tiddlywinks rather than nonlinear dynamics. I took an active part in various online Go communities, and started contributing to the BGA web site and the Journal. This was noticed and I was invited to join council.

**Bill:** How did you become Secretary four years ago?

**Tim:** Tony Atkins wanted a well earned retirement from the Secretaryship after 16 years and no one else looked likely to step forward. At that time, I was looking to make a greater contribution to the BGA, having just left university, got a car, and started attending lots and lots of tournaments.

**Bill:** What have you done for the BGA and British Go in general?

**Tim:** The thing that seems to have given the most innocent pleasure to the most people was turning the European ratings into pretty graphs (<http://www.britgo.org/rating/graph/>).

I have also (helped) organised a score of tournaments and several teaching days.

But the bulk of what I have done is behind-the-scenes administrative stuff: keeping the web site up-to-date; being secretary, championships organiser and tournament coordinator; helping run the Milton Keynes Go Club; and so on.

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



**Tim:** My greatest Go ambition is to earn the right to represent the UK in the World Amateur Go Championship. However, at my current rate of earning Japan points, that won't happen any time soon.

In the nearer term, I would like to implement all the good ideas I have for making the BGA website better.

**Bill:** What other hobbies do you have?

**Tim:** I play one other game seriously besides go. That is tiddlywinks, which I also learned to play at university. Organised winks does not only exist to parody other sports; it is, when played according to the official rules, a very good game (especially after a few pints of beer). I am currently 14<sup>th</sup> in the tiddlywinks world ratings.

I also play the bassoon in two orchestras, a bassoon quartet, and (as anyone who reads my email signature will know) the band for the Steeple Bumpstead village pantomime. Yes, I am delighted to report that England really does possess a village called Steeple Bumpstead. Unfortunately, the story of how I got involved in providing the musical accompaniment is too long to repeat here. If you are not yet familiar with the range of beautiful sounds a bassoon can make, you owe it to yourself to listen to someone really good playing the Weber bassoon concerto.

## REFEREE EXERCISE

**Geoff Kaniuk**

**kui@kangeo.plus.com**

Each of the following describes a scene that the referee may have to deal with. Remember, you will need to be quite quick in responding to these problems, and will probably need to be able to explain your reasoning.

- 5 A game between Shodans had entered the late yose stage. Black counted very carefully, writing down the sizes of territories on a piece of paper. Black got up from the table with the paper, walked over to friends who had finished and showed it to them. After some discussion Black returned to resume the game. What would you have done if White had called the referee?

- 6 A close game between a 3k and a 4k has just finished. Both players have passed. The 4k then notices some small yose. They consult the referee.

- 7 During Canadian overtime a player has been using stones from the bowl instead of the 20 stones counted out, but playing very quickly. Neither player noticed this, but when the flag falls both players agree that more than the 20 stones had been played. They decide to consult the referee.

- 8 A player who has about 2 seconds left passes, thinking the game is over, but forgets to press the clock. His opponent thinks there is a valid dame point left and as she is about to play notices that the flag has fallen - so says that the first player has lost, and claims the game. The first player is upset, having passed, and they decide to call the referee.

What do you do? Ideal answers are on page 24.

## PAIRS IN JAPAN

**Tony Atkins**

**ajaxgo@yahoo.co.uk**

As described in the article "Go Six Miles High" (issue #135 p64), flying by JAL on a 777 has the advantage of being able to play Go (and Shogi) on the seat back console. Go was top of the list of games to select and I certainly wasn't the only one playing. After twelve hours, I arrived in Japan for my sixth visit, staying again in the Edmont Hotel where I had stayed on my previous jaunt as Guest Official back in 1998 (issue #114 p32). But in true Japanese style it has gained an extra wing doubling its size since then and the uninterrupted view across the building site to the railway was long gone. I had a couple of days to fill before the event and still managed to find some different museums to visit: the open air historic building museum and the underground railway museum. Lack of time meant I have had to save the international luggage museum until next time. One new museum definitely on the list was the Nihon Kiin's Hall of Fame. This is in the basement of the main Kiin building at Ichigaya, but starts with

some pictures and a small library in the lobby. On my first visit I no sooner arrived in the lobby, than Yuki Shigeno came out of the lift and whisked me off for dinner. On my second visit I ran into Yukari Umezawa and Mr Okada, but I did manage to see the museum.

Unfortunately the Hall of Fame is entirely in Japanese, but I could usually work out what something was, though I had no chance with the historic scrolls from the 16th Century. There were cases devoted to particular professionals – all very famous such as Iwamoto and Shusaku – with busts, photos, Go boards and so on. Most poignant were the displays in memory of Kato and Hans Pietsch, both of whom died tragically young recently. There was a time line, prints, books and surprisingly a set of BGA sticky numbers. These were attached to the actual thin Go board that Dan Barry had used to play Go with on the Space Shuttle and given to Dan especially for that purpose.



The "Go In Space" exhibit, incorporating the familiar BGA stickers.

Eventually the international teams arrived for the Pair Go Championships. Only 21 different countries took part as Cuba was unable to attend through sickness. New countries taking part were Mexico and Azerbaijan. As always one round is played on the first day. Europe was guaranteed two unbeaten teams as Poland got to beat Turkey and Slovakia got to beat Serbia. In fact we got three teams unbeaten as Pei Zhao and Christoph Gerlach from Germany beat a Japanese pair by 4.5 points after a time scramble finish. The Swiss got ripped off by Thailand and the other countries lost: Italy and Azerbaijan to Japanese and Czechia to China. The second event as always was the International Friendship game. All the competitors wore national dress and other guests and profes-



John Power of the Nihon Kiin watches Germans Pei Zhao and Christoph Gerlach

sionals got to join in. Partners were picked at random. I played, as in 1999, with a lady in a pretty kimono, whereas Jana Hricova from Czechia got to partner Mike Redmond. This was then followed by the opening party and then a trip to local restaurant to stock up with calories. Those who declared they were not suffering from jet lag went off dancing in Roppongi until the early hours.

The Sunday was the big day when the hundreds of Japanese Pairs arrived for their championship, while the Championship continues. In round 2 Germany lost to Korea, Poland lost to China and Slovakia to a Japanese team. Australia got their only win over Serbia. In round 3 the Chinese continued their winning run, Germany had a good win over Taipei, and Jana Hricova and Ondrej Silt from Czechia started a run that saw them beat Switzerland, Malaysia and Thailand. In round 4 Germany beat Singapore to give them three wins. Meanwhile in another room there was a novice's tournament with a vast variation in strength from 5 kyu to beginner. This was being organised by Yuki Shigeno, and as there was an odd number of pairs I got to be her partner. We won a couple of games, one where our opponents refused any handicap and the other where a girl of only a week's experience was playing with her father. Anyway I won a blue 13x13 board as a prize as a consequence. Then the battle was on for the top prizes. At the end the best placed European teams were Germany and Czech Republic in 8th and 14th, which ignoring duplicate Japanese teams is 4th and 6th best countries. Li Nian-Nian and Liu Fan from China beat the Hiraokas from Japan in the final to take the title. When the tie-break for second was applied the losing finalists were only fourth behind another Japanese pair and the Koreans in second. The Italians won the Best Dressed Prize.

After the long closing ceremony, raffle and party, there was time to nip over to Shinjuku for another restaurant trip, before collapsing into bed. The Monday had the traditional debriefing luncheon, where news on Pair Go is passed on, and also a not too successful demonstration of Pair Go on IGS-PandaNet. Formalities over, it was then off to the Nihon Kiin again to visit the shop or watch the pros. Three of the ladies got to play simultaneous games against Mr Abe (9 dan). Then there was just time for another quick word with Yukari before

a souvenir shopping trip to Asakusa, followed by dinner and some friendly Go in the hotel. The next morning a small earthquake rocked me out of bed in time for breakfast and checkout, before I took the train to the airport and the flight home, full of happy Pair Go memories.

## GO 'N' GAMES IN CHINA - THE GO

Paul Massey

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Last year I decided it was time I saw some more of the world. I wanted somewhere with a totally different culture and that involved playing some Go, so I started looking at trips to the East. I found some nice trekking deals, but nothing quite felt right. Then one day, completely out of the blue, I was idly chatting on KGS when someone randomly pasted a web-link (<http://gongames.com/china/>) in one of the chat rooms. Normally, I wouldn't click such an anonymous link, but for some reason I did.

The website detailed a two month Go study trip to China with Go lectures almost everyday, weekly sightseeing trips and much more. I fell in love with the trip and immediately told the stranger on KGS that I wanted to go. Nine months later, I was on a plane to Beijing!

The first week of the trip was a bit of blur. The weather was outrageously hot (around 40° C) and uncomfortably humid. This combined with severe jetlag and a significant change in diet meant most people fell ill and a few had some hospital visits. Of course it didn't stop the Go playing, and for me it marked the transition into a different world.

At home, I get to play 2-3 games a week, from a selection of around six go players. Whereas here I was, playing Go every day with an endless supply of Go players. There were always Go teachers to hand to answer any questions we had. The Go playing was broken up by Go lectures and an inspiring selection of Go events. This was Go paradise!

The western Go players ranged from 20 kyu to 5 dan. Around 20 of the 45 participants were from Sweden (where the organisers are from); the others were from Germany, Norway, Finland, France, Italy,

Holland, Mexico, USA, Poland, and probably others I've forgotten. The average age was about 22 years, as most of the people who could afford that much time away were students.

The teachers ranged from 5 dan to Bao Yun. Bao Yun is a former 2 dan professional player, and I'd never witnessed anything like it! Although he didn't seem to take Go playing so seriously any more, he provided infinite Go wisdom and endless entertainment. For example, one evening we watched him play on KGS. He played against a 7 dan, gave him 2 stones and ran circles around him; call me geeky, but this was fun. Somewhat more impressively, he also played two games of blind Go, simultaneously!

Bao Yun gave two of the strongest western players three and four stones handicap - as if a blindfold wasn't enough of a handicap! We were given commentary in an adjacent room by one of the other teachers, although we could go and watch provided we were quiet. Bao Yun won the first game by resignation, and lost the second by 4.5 points. Amazingly, he plays the all dame points (necessary with the Chinese counting) and could count the score accurately. It was truly amazing.

Bao Yun had many contacts in the Chinese Go scene. This got us to see some special things. We were privileged enough to be able to go and watch a round of a professional lightning tournament - and actually wander around and look over the professionals' shoulders. We even had a 9 dan professional give us a commentary on his game, after he had whipped a mere 7 dan professional! Through Bao Yun's links we were also invited to a publicity event at [ourgame.com](http://ourgame.com), where we met Nie Weiping, and watched him play Go and Chinese Chess against the Chinese Chess champion.

Of course, we did take the occasional break from Go. We visited the Great Wall, which was an amazing experience. We had a trip to the country and stayed a few days in a small rural village. Sadly, I was only on the trip for the first month because there was no way I could take two months off work. So I had to miss some other great trips, including a visit to the Terracotta Army and a visit to a Shaolin Temple. Still, that leaves plenty to do on my next visit!

The trip was perfect. We had all the freedom to do what we wanted.

We had the safety-net of the Chinese people around us, in case there were problems. We had the Go club, the Go events and the Go lessons. We had the arranged sightseeing trips. And best of all we were surrounded by many like-minded people. I made so many new friends - people that I am sure I will stay in touch with for a long time. In fact, I think that is what made the trip so perfect for me.

Of course, I've only mentioned the Go-related highlights of the trip here. Will goes into more detail about the social aspects in the next article, but to really appreciate this great experience, you'll have to go yourselves! Visit <http://gongames.com/china/> for the details of the 2006 trip.

## GO 'N' GAMES IN CHINA - THE FOOD

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This summer, I went on the Go'n'Games trip to China for one month. The trip is a chance to improve at Go with teaching almost every weekday from very strong, friendly and sociable Chinese teachers in a very nice Go club situated close to our Western-standard apartments. Beside Go, there are very many cheap restaurants serving a wide variety of local food, which the teachers are very happy to help order

for you (chicken and peanuts were very popular and I got very fond of spicy meat sticks). Portion sizes are such that even I rarely finished a meal, costing only about £2, but don't worry as the shops will pack it up for you to take away. There are also a lot of street vendors who do great breakfasts (a long way from cereal), although most Chinese food is spicier than British "Chinese" food so be warned. One word of advice is do not try food preceded by the line "just try this, then I'll tell you what it is..." as you may find yourself eating anything from chicken feet to snake's heart. On the other hand it is well worth being adventurous if you are into exotic food.

My photo appeared in an issue of "World of Weiqi" magazine alongside an article about this year's trip.

Aside from Go, of which there is a lot (see Paul's article on page 18 for more details), there are many activities to keep people occupied, and you can have a really fun time on a small budget. There are computers with internet access in the main rooms so you can check your email easily. Beer costs about 10p for a bottle on the streets or as much as £4 in a bar. Karaoke is very popular in China, and whether you want to sing or just watch others, this can be a great night out. Shopping is plentiful and you can buy a wide variety of counterfeit goods from clothes to watches, or for those really obsessed there is the chance to buy very cheap Go equipment. Tourist trips allow you to visit the Great Wall, Terracotta statues and the Shaolin Temple as well as a visit to the Beach to cool off. Watch out as people at tourist places will attempt to sell you things at up to 10 times their normal price so be prepared to barter hard or alternatively bring someone who can barter for you. However, not all Chinese people are out to con you and I had a great experience when I lost my wallet: the driver of the minicab where I'd dropped it searched through my wallet, discovered my address from a pizza delivery receipt and returned it to my apartment. Also, for the first time in my life, I got a bank error in my favour, when they paid me \$100 for a \$50 traveller's cheque (very like Monopoly).

This year's trip will take place from June 20 - August 20 and you can attend for 1 or 2 months or shorter time periods can be arranged at request. For more information, visit <http://gongames.com/china/> or email Michael Yao on [china@gongames.com](mailto:china@gongames.com)

# OBITUARY: FRANK BERKENKOTTER

Wayne Walters

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Frank and Marilyn

Those of you who knew Frank Berkenkotter will be sad to learn that he died on 16th December 2005 from cancer.

Frank was ever-present at the European Go Congress where I first met him in Prague in 1993. For the last 10 years his partner Marilyn accompanied him and the two of them were usually engaged in a game of backgammon when Frank wasn't playing Go.

Frank was a professor of fine art and taught lithography before he decided to buy an almond farm on which he built his own house. The trees had ceased being productive in the late 80s and Frank then concentrated on his writing. When he met Marilyn

they started a relationship that centred on their respective houses in San Francisco and Davis, near Sacramento.

Frank was a founder member and enthusiastic supporter of the Davis - Sacramento Go club where I know he gave a lot of his time in keeping the club going and arranging several tournaments a year.

He stayed with me during his trip to the Dublin Congress and poor Marilyn had to sleep on the floor as my double bed was too small to accommodate the vast frame of Frank and that of the much smaller Marilyn.

Together with my wife we visited Frank and Marilyn two years ago and were there for his 65<sup>th</sup> birthday. He was then becoming ill again and had a bone marrow transplant shortly after to no avail.

Frank was strong and brave fighting this recurring illness for the last 6 years with characteristic droll humour.

European Congresses will not be the same without him. Farewell Frank.

# 10 YEARS AGO

Tony Atkins

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In autumn 1995, the Northern at Allen Hall, Manchester, was won by T.Mark Hall on tie-break from John Rickard. As expected Matthew Macfadyen won the Milton Keynes Tournament at the Open University and also the Shrewsbury at its venue alongside the River Severn. T.Mark won again at the Wessex. In November the third Three Peaks Tournament went ahead despite host Tim Hazelden's death in a car accident in September; John Rickard was the winner.

72 players, including Chinese 6 dans Shutai Zhang and Fei-Fei Niu, attended the Pair Go Championships in the Compleat Angler Hotel in Marlow. The winners were Matthew Macfadyen and Kirsty Healey. Shutai and Matthew were at the time locked in combat in the British Championship title match. Shutai won the deciding game during the Swindon Tournament at the Allied Dunbar Club; Francis Roads won the Swindon title. Matthew was also at the West Surrey Teach-In presenting material from the European Training. The following day, also at Burpham Village Hall, Jay Rastall won the handicap event.

In Europe there were a great number of Grand Prix tournaments, as Ukraine and Serbia joined the Fujitsu circuit. Guo Juan beat Shutai Zhang to win the Obayashi Cup at the EGCC and she also won Brussels. Christoph Gerlach won Copenhagen; Vladimir Danek won both Gothenburg and Bratislava. The Irish Handicap was won by Tony Goddard, beating fellow Belfast club player Paul Donnelly into second. In the Fujitsu Cup, Matthew Macfadyen won two games before going out to Guo Juan in the semi-finals. She went on to beat Rob van Zeijst in the final.

The 22nd London Open was sponsored by Hitachi as part of the Grand Prix, with the points being awarded after six rounds. The top four were then selected for a knock-out stage. In the semi-finals Guo Juan beat Miyakawa Wataru and Shutai Zhang beat Christoph Gerlach. Zhang then reversed their earlier result by beating Guo to win. Miyakawa took third but did however win the Lighting Tournament by beating Zhang in the final. Jamie Harrod (22 kyu) from Brakenhale was the only player to win all eight games.

In China 19 year-old Chang Hao was winning the men's championship, whilst in Korea Yi Chang-ho was still dominating the titles. In Japan the old order was still playing in the Kisei. Takemiya beat Kobayashi Koichi stopping his long grip on that title. In the FOST World Computer Go Championships, UK's Michael Reiss came second with his program Go4++; the winning program was Handtalk.

## REFEREE ANSWERS

Geoff Kaniuk

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See the questions on page 14

- 5 A player may make notes, but if asked, is obliged to explain the meaning. Don't ask friends for advice during a game - they can't help!

If White had called the referee, you should find out whether

1. White has actually asked for an explanation of the notes and been refused, or
2. White is complaining about the discussion?

In this case White has not asked for an explanation, but if White had, then Black is obliged to explain and you could now ask Black to do so.

In the second case, again you need to discover what the discussion was about, and the best way to do that is to ask Black to explain in White's presence. After all they may have been discussing where to dine that evening. If Black was discussing the position then that is of course unsportsmanlike and Black should be firmly requested not to repeat this behaviour.

The real life event on which this example is based had an amusing end. White had said nothing during the game but found out afterwards that Black had showed the score to his friends and asked for advice. He was told he is a bit behind and better seize sente as soon as possible. So he ignored a White 2 point sente move to play a Black 4 point sente move instead. White followed up the 2 point sente move to kill a group and Black had to resign.

- 6 Can the players agree to resume?

Although they have asked for advice it is still best to get the players to resolve the issue themselves. The simplest thing really, is just to carry on from the last pass and play the situation out.

It is important not to get involved in any reading exercises on your part. You are probably already harassed by this, and may make mistakes. It is best to get the players to just carry on and let them finish the game on their own!

If they decide to resume the game, then the clocks will need to be set to appropriate times.

(Remember from Simon Goss' "Japanese Rules OK" article in issue #136, that "If a player requests resumption of a stopped game, the opponent must oblige and has the right to play first." Of course, that first play may be a pass!)

- 7 Remind players to cover bowls with lids in Canadian overtime.

Both players have agreed that 20 stones were played within the allotted time so they should just reset the clock and carry on. Since they have consulted you, take the opportunity to remind them to cover their bowl with the lid *and* move the bowl out of harms way.

It is not a brilliant idea to leave the prisoners in the lid as you have already encountered in Scenario 3 (in issue #137)! You can always cover the bowl with another lid from a finished game.

- 8 Players are responsible for pressing their clocks.

The best you can do here is sympathise - things go wrong under time pressure. But the mechanics are simple: either you play and press the clock; or you clearly say Pass and press the clock.

The lesson to be learned here, is that it is the pressing of the clock that completes the move, and until that happens time marches on!

## AN AWAY GAME

Steve and Pauline Bailey

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It all started in summer 2005 at the European Congress in Prague. We had been chatting with some Finnish friends and they said they would probably come to the London Open because there were easy Ryanair flights from Tampere to Stansted. Then they asked why we didn't go to the Tampere tournament in the Autumn.

We treated this as a bit of a joke, especially since it conflicted with the Swindon tournament, but I looked up the prices and times of the Ryanair flights and it worked out, including taxes, at about £60 a head return. Of course there were the parking fees at Stanstead (£25) and accommodation in Tampere to consider but...

We had been to Finland before, Helsinki for 2 days, en route to the St Petersburg Congress. That was mid-summer and hot; November would be different. Somehow as the weeks went by it changed from a joke to a serious suggestion. We contacted Matti and Sinikka Siivola to check if they were going to be there, and Sinikka was enthusiastic, saying they could arrange a room for us in the same hotel as them and that she would have a car and could take us on a little sight-seeing. So we booked.

We bumped into Ian Davis in the check-in queue - 3 Brits for the tournament. Check-in went smoothly except for the "sharp items" bit. Unfortunately the checkin desk attendant cannot have read the sentence from her card, she must have ad libbed it. "Do you have no sharp items?" This is a negative question, so I answered "Yes" (I have no sharp items.) She of course wanted the answer "No". This added a couple of minutes to the check-in process whilst it was sorted and she never did understand what the problem was.

The flight was fine and we were met at the airport by the Siivolos. The area had a fine dusting of snow everywhere and we noticed that all the Finns drove with suitable care. It was the sort of weather that in the UK would have ground everything to a halt, yet in Finland it had no effect. A Finnish burger (not a US chain) on the way back to the hotel, whose restaurant had closed earlier, was the evening meal. A

good hotel room, a drink in the bar and going to sleep whilst watching "The Day of the Jackal" in English on TV finished the day.

Suvi and Teemu had organised the event in the giant reception area of the Hervanta Technical University. It all went well. There were far more student aged players than we have been getting at British tournaments recently, so I guess things are looking good for the future of Finnish Go. I won't say much about the Go, except that they don't appear to believe in handicap go, all games being even despite a draw resulting in a large grade disparity. I got 1/5, Pauline 2/5 and Ian 2/5.

For whatever reason, the tournament had been organised with long gaps between the rounds, allowing us long enough to go and see the area. This was great for us, with Sinikka as tour guide and driver but I suspect those carless were a little frustrated.

Tampere is Finland's 3<sup>rd</sup> biggest city - think of it as Manchester. It is on the rapids between two lakes which have driven mills in the past and now generate electricity. Hervanta is a neighbouring "new town" to the south east, effectively part of the same urban sprawl, whilst adjacent to the West is the city of Nokia - you may have heard the name before.

Over the Saturday lunch break, we went up the Näsinneula tower, a bit like the BT Tower, with great views (and a restaurant at the top - we didn't eat there though). We then had a quick pizza in the city centre before round 2.

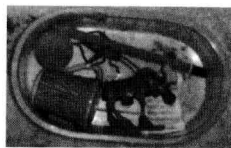


By the late afternoon break, it was dark. However I had researched a geocache and wanted to find it. Sinikka had no idea why I wanted to visit a local water tower or what I was talking about, but went along with me. Did you know that there are thousand of "ice cream tubs" hidden all around the world<sup>2</sup>? In Britain you are rarely more than 5 miles from one. They have been hidden by geocachers and are filled with (cough cough) "treasure". When you find one, you sign the log book, choose an item of treasure and leave some new treasure. You look the

<sup>2</sup>[http://www.geocaching.com/seek/cache\\_details.aspx?wp=gchv38](http://www.geocaching.com/seek/cache_details.aspx?wp=gchv38)

catches up on the geocaching website where they give you the latitude and longitude.

Then you use a GPS receiver to get within 10m of the right spot and search - although in this case we were doing it without a GPS receiver since the clues were very good. Despite the dark we found the tub under a couple of rocks within 5 minutes. We signed the log book, took a "plastic nodding moose" and left a miniature torch for some later hunter.



Matti had gone back to Helsinki for a friend's party, so after the last round Sinikka, Pauline and I had a meal in the hotel and played three-player go (sometimes called Zen Go). In this you play alternately as black and white - light hearted and fun and every time I have played it, the game has been close. This one may even have been a jigo.

At the end of the tournament we had a couple of hours to spare, so several Finns agreed to show all three Brits a bit more Tampere by night. We saw views from the hill at the top of the "old town" with its dense wooden buildings, looked at the rapids and lakes and saw two locals go in for a brief swim, had a final meal and got a lift back to the airport.

No problems returning home. I was in bed by 1 am and up for work the next day.

## WORLD NEWS

Tony Atkins

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### European Go Tour

In the autumn there were four events in the TOYOTA - IGS-PandaNet European Go Tour, not including our own London Open. For the fourth year running the Czech event was held in Brno during the first weekend in September. The attendance was slightly less than in 2004 at 145. Three players ended at the top with five out of six. Romania's Cristian Pop was placed first, losing only to fellow countryman Cornel Burzo. Joint second were Cho Seok-Bin, the Korean 7 dan living

in Germany, who only lost to the winner and Cornel Burzo who only lost to Cho.

On the 8th October, the Casino Tournament in Bratislava attracted 94 players to Slovakia. This included six 6 dans and two 7 dans. Unbeaten on five wins was the Cho Seok-Bin. Second on four wins was Hungary's Pal Balough, with Pop topping the group on three wins in third place. A week later Copenhagen was only a small event with 23 wins. Cho won again. Second with four wins was local 4 dan Ulrik Bro-Joergensen, with fellow Dane Thomas Heshe close behind. UK players were Mark Todkill and Vincent Corlaix (who won three games at 3 kyu). On 19th November, 67 players attended the Kiev Tournament. The top players were all Ukrainian. Dmitrij Bogatskij headed the group of four out of five to take first place (for more on Bogatskij's play, see Alexandre Dinerchtein's article on page 36). There were also 14 players in a children's tournament; this was won by Irina Izotova with 7/7, who also managed to win 5/5 in the main event, obviously a name to watch.

### European Women

The European Women's Goe Championship took place in Taucha near Leipzig in Germany at the beginning of October. 24 women from nine countries took part: Hungary, Russia, Germany, Czech Republic, Lithuania, France, Belgium, Ukraine and Denmark. Before the event there were two days of lessons and workshops lead by Japanese professionals Haruyama (9 dan) and Yuki Shigeno, and also by Svetlana Shikshina. A handicap lightning tournament also took place in which Rita Pocsai (Hungary) finished first, ahead of Daniela Trinks (Germany) and Géraldine Paget (France). Rita also did well in the main event beating Svetlana Shikshina to become joint European Champion with her and Zhao Pei. Manuela Lindemeyer (3 dan) was a noteworthy fourth being the joint organiser with Michael Marz.

### European Students

The first ever European Student Go Championships was held in Helsinki on the weekend of 23rd October. 36 students from 15 countries