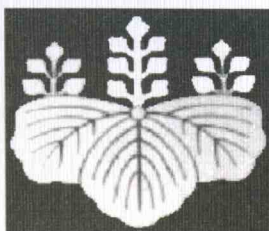


BRITISH

GO

JOURNAL



The famous gold-lacquered goban, from the Momoyama Era (latter half of the 16th century), on which it is said that Ieyasu Tokugawa and Toyotomi Hideyoshi played; along with the Mon, or family crests, of Tokugawa and Hideyoshi, which appear on the bowls. The board is displayed in the Zen Temple, Ryugen-in, at Daitoku-ji, Kyoto. Photograph by Angus Macindoe.

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USEFUL WEB AND EMAIL ADDRESSES

Journal comments and contributions: journal@britgo.org
 Email for general BGA enquiries: bga@britgo.org
 BGA website: <http://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

Tony Atkins

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Maidenhead

The tournament year usually starts with the Maidenhead Furze Platt Tournament. This year was no exception and 71 players made their way to the headquarters of Hitachi Europe for the 15th edition on 21st January. As usual the sponsors paid for a buffet lunch with loads of sandwiches and crisps and generous prizes were awarded to those with two wins as well as those with three. Nobody in the top group won all three, so the winner by second tie-break (sosos) was Piers Shepperson (5 dan Slough). Several players won all three including Tony Atkins (2 dan Bracknell), Sam Aitken (1 dan Warwick), Dylan Carter (1 kyu Cardiff), Neil Moffatt (6 kyu Cardiff), Ian Price (10 kyu Cardiff), Kay Dackombe (15 kyu Farnborough Village) and Chris Chilvers (23 kyu Swindon). A special prize went to Christie Kelly (30 kyu High Wycombe) who won a game at her first tournament. The team winners were Cardiff for a second year and the 13x13 winner was Xinyi Lu (7 kyu Maidenhead) on six out of six; he had been the 9x9 winner last time.

Cheshire

Until two years ago the Cheshire Tournament shared the venue of the Crewe Chess Congress. Last year that was not held, so the Go Tournament visited a school in Wilmslow. This year the Chess was back, but moved to a new venue of the community centre in the old north Cheshire town of Frodsham. Go shared the venue again, but in the new venue occupied its own room, so the noise of Go stones would not disturb the Chess players. 27 players, including again a large and very successful team from Liverpool, attended this, the 9th Cheshire Tournament, on February 11th. Winner of the three-round Open section was Yan-



Andrea and Mark Sullivan play off in the final of the Cheshire Handicap

gran Zhang (3 dan Manchester); second was Tony Atkins (3 dan Bracknell). Winner of the Handicap section was Liverpool's Mark Sullivan (12 kyu) on a perfect five; he beat his sister Andrea Sullivan (11 kyu) in the final. She won four and also on four were Neil Leavesley (8 kyu) and Peter Allen (3 kyu) both also from Liverpool. The 10x10 winners were Dylan Carter (1 kyu Cardiff) with nine wins and Pat Ridley (18 kyu Chester) with eight out of nine.

Oxford

As usual flowers were starting to appear by 18th February and at lunch time in Oxford there is the chance to stroll around the ancient colleges or sample the local student brunch in the now traditional venue of St. Edmund Hall. Prizes were sponsored by Hoyles Games Shop and they were again selling books and equipment in the lobby. 66 players took part this year. Winner was the Chinese player from Milton Keynes, Bei Ge. He was presented with his 4 dan diploma at the prize-giving. He beat Jae-Kyung Shim (5 dan New Malden) in the last round. Last year's winner, Li Shen (6 dan London) was handicapped by train problems causing him and some others to miss the first round. Players getting books for winning all three were John Hobson (2 dan Bath), Paul Tabor (1 kyu Epsom), Matthew Crosby (1 kyu Bristol), David Buckley (5 kyu Leamington), Henry McGuinness (10 Oxford), David Scott (13 kyu Oxford) and Chris Chilvers (23 kyu Swindon).

New Malden

The first New Malden Amateur Baduk Championship was held in a restaurant over two days in late 2004. The second Baduk Championship reverted to a more conventional format of four quite fast rounds on one day, 25th February. It was held in St. John's Church Hall in the South-West London district that has a large Korean population and nowadays the Baduk Salon. The promise of a very tasty Korean buffet lunch and generous refreshments and cash prizes, thanks to the local Korean sponsors, attracted 41 players. Glasgow's Ben He (4 dan) was the unbeaten winner getting the cash prize of £200. Runner up was Li Shen (6 dan London), on tie-break from Piers Shepper-

son (5 dan London). Players winning three out of four were: Simon Goss (2 dan Bracknell), Byungil Suh (2 dan New Malden), Phil Beck (1 dan Cambridge), Paul Margetts (1 kyu Epsom), Hae Kueon Jeong (2 kyu New Malden), Peter Collins (2 kyu Bristol), Geoff Kaniuk (3 kyu London), Roger Daniel (4 kyu London), Edwina Lee (4 kyu Maidenhead), Peter Fisher (6 kyu Leicester), Xinyi Lu (7 kyu Maidenhead) and Jonathan Englefield (7 kyu High Wycombe).

Trigantius

Cambridge's University Centre was again the venue for the Trigantius on Sunday 3rd March. Though it was nice to sit in the sunny caf and look out on the water it was too early in the season for punting. 66 players attended this time. Li Shen (6 dan London) was going for a third Trigantius win running, but he lost to Ben He (4 dan Glasgow) in the last round. This gave Ben He his second tournament win in a week. Only two other players won all three games: best kyu player Paul Tabor (1 kyu Epsom) and Ingrid Jendrzewski (18 kyu Cambridge). All on two wins were acknowledged with a choice of prize and everyone else was allowed to take a prize from the collection of Chinese objects on offer. The team prize went to the combined Harvey and Tabor team, called "Tabveys", with 66 percent. Jenny Radcliffe (Durham) won the continuous 13x13 prize and Anna Griffiths (Epsom) won the origami swan competition. In the room next door a small board Novices' tournament had 18 players of various ages. The tournament winner was Tim Lachlan-Hope. The puzzle-solving prizes went to Varum Footring, Andrew Witcombe-Small and Philip Sansom.

Youth

The 2006 British Youth Go Championships on 19th March had 38 competitors, down on 2005's record, aged from 8 to 17, with strengths from 3 dan to 32 kyu. The venue was that of the last two years, at King Edward VI School in Aston, Birmingham. Unfortunately the pool table had gone since last time, but there was much to amuse participants between rounds, such as the five-colour Go, the continuous 13x13 (won by Sadvik Vijay from Aston), a set of Go puzzles pinned

on the walls (solved by Matthew Hathrell from Finham Park) and a version of Liar Dice (won by Divyesh Mandania from Aston). Two new faces were a boy from Birmingham, Hai Xia (1 kyu), and a girl visiting from Hong Kong, Vanessa Wong (2 kyu). There were also some new faces from the East Midlands and Berkshire, as well as the usual tournament regulars. William Brooks (2 dan) played a demonstration game against Mr Julius Wong from Hong Kong, which was analysed at lunch time. Unfortunately the games were played at unrated speed (25 minutes), but the new draw program allowed smooth running of the pairings in most cases. Overall Youth Champion was William Brooks from Cambridge. Second was Hai Xia from Birmingham. William Brooks also won under-18, with High Wycombes Jonathan Englefield the runner up. Under-16 winner was Maria Tabor from Epsom, ahead of Astons Kelvin Xu. Hai Xia won the under-14, from Cambridges Matthew Harris. Vanessa Wong won under-12, with Ken Dackombe from Farnborough Village in Kent second. Winner of the under-10s was Dominic Boston from Loughborough, with Thomas Meehan from Solihull winning under-8. Prizes for four wins went to Matthew Harris, James Hoyle, Luke Gymer, Kelvin Xu, Kay Dackombe and Divyesh Mandania, and a special Irish Go Association prize went to Christie Kelly from High Wycombe. Based on a points system the Castledine Trophy went to the home side of King Edward VI School, Aston, and the team with most wins was "Tent from Kent".

Leamington

After a year gap the tournament was back in Leamington Spa on 23rd March. Often in the past the Candidates' Tournament has run in parallel, but after last year when it was run without the local event, the Candidates' has moved away in date and place. 30 players took part in this year's Leamington, held once again at the Oddfellows. Local Go star Matthew Macfadyen (6 dan) gave a teaching lecture at lunch time, but Matthew was not the star of the tournament as he lost in the last round to Bei Ge. Thus the 4 dan from Milton Keynes was the victor, adding another title to his list. Alex Parsons (5 kyu Staines) and Ewart Shaw (8 kyu Leamington) both won perfect threes. The team prize went to the Leamington Beards (John Lowe, Ewart Shaw, Dave

Buckley and Jonathan Green).

Congress

The British Go Congress, this year in Lancaster and ably run by Bob Bagot, started traditionally on a Friday evening with the British Lightning Tournament. This year, 24 players were divided into four groups of six by entry grade to play a round-robin handicap event. The semi-final then pitted Ken Dackombe (13 kyu Farnborough Village) against Ron Bell (5 kyu Reading) and Chris Barnett (5 kyu Durham) against Ben He (5 dan Glasgow), leaving Ken and Ben to play a nerve-racking Final on Saturday. In the face of a nine-stone handicap and a enormous quantity of komi (not to mention a huge audience), Ben pulled off an impressive win.



Outgoing BGA Secretary Bill Streeten takes on incoming BGA Secretary Fred Holroyd



Ben He beats Alan Thornton in the final of the British Open

the reins to Steve Bailey. (For more information on the changeover, see Ron Bell's article on page 13.)

48 players took part in the British Open; Ben He winning that also

with a resounding six wins. Joint second place was taken by Tim Hunt (3 dan Milton Keynes) and Alan Thornton (2 dan St Albans). Philip Ward-Ackland (4 kyu West Wales) won six out of six, and Kay Dackombe (13 kyu Farnborough Village), Jenny Radcliffe (10 kyu Durham) and Brian Timmins (5 kyu Shrewsbury) won five out of six. A Durham team of Edwin Brady, Chris Barnett, Jenny Radcliffe and Rich Bentley took home the Nippon Club Team Trophy, and the Stacey Trophy (for the player who in the previous year has won the most games above the bar in BGA tournaments) was won *in absentia* by Alistair Wall (4 dan Wanstead).

ICH BIN EIN BERLINER

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This year I had two chances to see where JFK made his famous error, in April at the European Pair Go Championships and in January at the Kisei game. Every few years the first game of a Japanese title match is held outside Japan; in 1996 the Kisei started in Amsterdam and in 2002 in London. 2006 was Berlin's turn and as usual there was a host of professionals and a number of activities for the local Go fans. I arrived on the Friday evening with the aim of having an International Go Federation (IGF) meeting. However I was swept off with others to a suburb in the south of the city for a meeting of the Lasker Society. This society has meetings on various subjects and looks after the archive of Emmanuel Lasker, former world Chess champion, which included, I was pleased to see, a picture of him playing Go. So the group was left trying to learn the game Lasker thought better than Chess, whilst we went back to the Intercontinental Hotel for a dinner meeting with the Japanese television producer and others.

On the Saturday, 15th January, the Intercontinental's conference room buzzed with excitement as there was a youth tournament with about 30 kids and a tournament with over 50 players which ended on the Sunday. In addition there was a chance to play simultaneous games with some of the professionals. Pros on hand included Kobayashi Koichi (9 dan) and Kobayashi Satoru (9 dan), Kanda Ei (9 dan), Yuki Shigeno (2 dan) and the game recorders Catalin Taranu (5 dan) and

Makihata Taeko (3 dan). Hane Naoki (9 dan), the defending Kisei, presented the prizes to the kids, declaring the winner, Johannes Obenaus (3 dan) to be Berlin's Junior Kisei.

Whilst all this was going on I attended a meeting with Europe's IGF Directors, Erik Puyt and Martin Stiassny, and new IGF Secretary General, Yuki Shigeno. Later that evening there was the opening reception of the Kisei match on the 14th floor of the hotel, with speeches, good food and drink and wonderful views over the lights of the city.



Tony with Europe's IGF Directors and Yuki Shigeno

The Sunday saw the start of the title game in which Yamashita Keigo (9 dan) was challenging Hane. The game took place in a rear meeting room that had been hastily converted into a tatami-matted Japanese room, at least the parts the cameras could see. Live really was patched through to the conference room and from time to time professionals dropped in to give commentaries. Kobayashi Satoru's commentaries were the best as he tried to grapple with Yamashita's unusual style. Yamashita was accused of playing like an amateur and Kobayashi promised to take the next plane home if Yamashita played a certain move (he did and Kobayashi did not). The local tournament was won easily by local Korean Go teacher Hwang In-Seong (7 dan), with former UK residents Michael Marz (3 dan) in third and Ian Meikeljohn a bit lower down. After the game finished for the day, a group of us walked from the hotel (next to the zoo), through the park and the Brandenburg Gate to a restaurant near the old East German parliament building, in sub-zero temperatures, and then back via the new Sony Centre. When we returned we stopped off at the press room to warm up, where we were pleased to see some of the Japanese television crew learning Go.

The game continued on the Monday with more live commentaries, and also a moments silence to commemorate the anniversary of the death of Hans Pietsch, the German professional who had died three years earlier in Guatemala. I left by a midday flight and so missed the exciting end of the game, which Hane lost whilst in time trouble. This

did not bode well for the Kisei as Yamashita went on to win the best of seven series by four games to nil.

My second trip to Berlin coincided with the weekend of the British Go Congress in Lancaster (see the report on page 6, but my European loyalties are now stronger than my British, even though I was in Berlin to play and not for meetings this time! A total of 42 pairs from 12 countries, including 4 pairs from the UK, took part in the European Pair Go Championships held at Humboldt University on 7th to 9th April. For the two days before the competition, Hwang was doing some teaching session advertised for the Garderobe room. When we found him it was true, he really was in the cloakroom, but the largest cloakroom I had ever seen. The tournament was in the large Senate Room on the front of the Humboldt building looking out across to the other Baroque buildings and statues on the grand street that is Unter den Linden. We had a few hours before the opening ceremony so it was off on another walking tour, a bit warmer than Januarys, in mostly spring sunshine. Some local Japanese ladies did the catering for the opening, and continued for the rest of the weekend at very cheap prices for delicious Japanese dishes. Afterwards the first game was held before retiring to the hostel they had booked for us, near Alexander Platz.

There were three games on the Saturday, followed by dancing to a live band. However the UK team was conspicuous by its absence at the dancing as half of us were late setting off to find an uncrowded German restaurant and the others went up the television tower at Alexander Platz, with the rest of us attempting to meet them before it closed at midnight. I did not mind missing the view as



The British Pairs: IngridJendrzejewski and Alex Selby, Tony Atkins and Anna Griffiths, Matthew Macfadyen and Kirsty Healey, and Matthew Cocke and Natasha Regan

I had already seen similar in January, though from slightly lower.

The final two games were on Sunday, with an early finish to allow folk to catch evening flights. The winners on a perfect six were Russians Natalia Kovaleva and Oleg Mezhov. Second on five were local players Daniela Trinko and Marco Firnhaber. Third on tie-break were the UK's Natasha Regan and Matthew Cocke. France topped the group on four wins, followed by Czechia and Hungary. UK's official pair, Kirsty Healey and Matthew Macfadyen, was 11th with 4 wins. I will not give the result of myself and Anna Griffiths, but we ended up alongside the fourth UK pairing of Ingrid Jendrzejewski and Alex Selby in the handicap section.

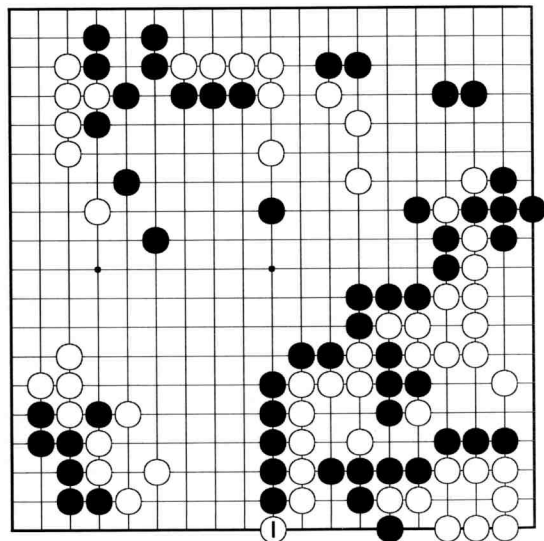
A 9 DAN BLUNDER

Li Shen

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This shape occurred in a recent professional game between the world's top player, Lee Changho 9 dan professional (black), and Choi Wongyong 4 dan professional (white).

There is a life and death problem in the bottom right corner. How to solve this problem affects the outcome of the game. In the real game, white played 1 to try to extend liberties in order to kill the bottom right black group. Now, how should black respond?



(clue: the most obvious move may not be the answer)

The answer and analysis are given on page 18.

THE SHODAN CHALLENGE

Stephen Bashforth

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The near unquenchable desire to get stronger is the force within each of us which drives us to strive to play better Go. How to nurture and direct this aspect of our human nature was one question which led to the BGA Shodan Challenge. Another founding idea was that a BGA Shodan Chal-

lenge which utilises the skills and knowledge of our experienced players to improve the playing standards of our members becomes a strong differentiator from playing on the internet and a reason to join the BGA. So, the BGA Shodan Challenge was born. The BGA has further supported the Shodan Challenge by organising a series of talks one during the lunch breaks of each of four tournaments throughout the year. Each talk has addressed a specific idea: openings, seeing the big and the urgent moves; learning from professional games; and cutting and connecting. We have had three talks so far, and each has been well received.

The headline Shodan Challenge would suggest the only challenge is to get to BGA Shodan (1 Dan, with a rating of 2035 points). Whilst this is level of skill (and beyond) is the goal of kyu players, in practice we need to set ourselves SMART objectives: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time-bound. The Shodan Challenge allows each kyu player (in consultation with the Mentor) to set a target grade – perhaps lower than 1 dan – to be achieved by the start of the 2007 BGA Go Congress. For a 16-15 kyu player the target could be stronger than 10 kyu, and for a player in the single kyu grades, the challenge could be to get 5 stones stronger. This activity has captured the imaginations of many – people have joined the BGA to be part of the challenge. To date 38 people have signed up to join the Shodan Challenge – quite an achievement when you consider that the AGA had 50 people out of a membership of 2000 join its Shodan Challenge.

The techniques and technologies used by the mentors and their pupils

reflect the breadth of our range of skills: some use on-line teaching games, some teach with dialogue using Skype (telephony over the internet), some provide game analysis by e-mail, others by face to face over the board teaching and analysis. All told what is happening is a pouring forth of experience and encouragement into our kyu players.

The challenge is to achieve the desired strength by the start of the 2007 British Go Congress - there are 6 months to go. Thank you to all those mentors who give freely of their time without whom we could not have this activity, and to those who have taken up the challenge we wish you success in your endeavours, and remember: Go is really a game of life and death, sente and gote. How well we understand what is sente and what is unconditional life ultimately determines our progress.

One BGA member who started out unranked and has taken up the challenge writes that his aim is reaching 15kyu by April 2007. His experience of entering the BGA Shodan Challenge has been good. His teacher has been patient and always available and the coaching has been a mixture of game reviews, games over the internet and across the board, and lessons with a single purpose, for example reducing territorial frameworks, to put more weapons and concepts into his armoury of available techniques. The majority of the teaching has been done over the web, using KGS augmented by Skype to give an audio commentary and this has worked well. He reports that the most productive time has been face to face games and teaching where he feels that he has not made enough of the opportunity due in part to the nearest Go Club being an 80 mile round trip, which takes a real effort. "I feel that I have managed to raise my game and undoubtedly the teaching has been an important part of this; I just have not played enough games and so far managed to enter only one tournament where I gained a rank of 18kyu. I still hope to reach 15kyu in the next 6 months."

In future issues, we will be seeing some of the reviews that Shodan Challenge Mentors have provided for their "mentees".

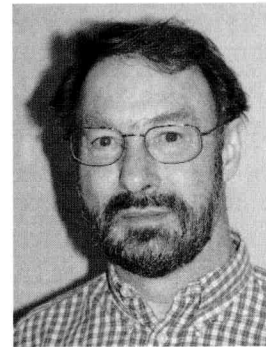
For more information about the Challenge, see

<http://www.britgo.org/events/shodan/>

RON BELL, THE NEW BGA PRESIDENT

Ron Bell

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Go has been one of the passions of my life for over 40 years since a fellow Physics undergraduate at Oxford University taught me the game in about 1964. Until 1997, I played only occasionally - mostly against my old friend Fred Holroyd (current BGA Secretary) who was always a lot better than me. But then I attended my first go tournament - absolutely loved it - and reached 5 kyu in 2001 - at which grade I have languished ever since!

My greatest passion in life is my wife, Jane, who has been with me for 14 years now. I have a step-son who is a Royal Engineer and a step-daughter who is about to go to Leeds University. Neither they nor Jane play go - but I also have a grown-up son (Alex Bell) from my first marriage who is around 2 dan - but who doesn't attend enough tournaments to get into the BGA ratings. I didn't teach him everything he knows about the game but I did teach him to play in the first place!

My other passions in life are photography and hill walking. The latter, particularly, occupied a large part of my time until 15th July last year (2005). This was my 60th birthday and also the date that I had set myself to complete the ascent of all the Munros. For those who don't know, these are all the mountains in Scotland over 3000 feet high and there are 284 of them. In 2002, I realised that, if I was going to make it by my target date, I was going to have to increase the rate of climbing by a factor of four. So I took early retirement from my job as a scientific supercomputer specialist with IBM, got a 3-day a week job at a government lab, and spent a huge fraction of my time travelling to and from Scotland during the resulting 4-5-day weekends and propelling myself up hills. I duly finished with a big party on top of The Cairnwell in Glen Shee and am now officially "Munroist No. 3518".

Anyway, enough about me! What about the BGA?

My predecessor as President, Simon Goss, guided the BGA with quiet authority and is a hard act to follow. He made my life much easier by

passing on an association in excellent health.

It has taken me most of my time so far just to understand how the BGA works and my overwhelming feeling is one of amazement at just how much excellent work is done by the "officials" of the BGA. This word "official" is used to cover all the people who voluntarily give of their time to help the BGA and the promotion of go in Britain. The BGA has no paid officials - and I have no plans to change that. One of the things I did feel is that the officials were working as individuals and that there would be benefits in grouping them into teams. To some extent, this had happened already - there has been a Youth Committee in existence for some years. But I read the Constitution of the BGA (<http://www.britgo.org/const.html>) and the committee structure described in that seemed ideally suited and Council has now adopted the idea. By the time this appears in print, the grouping of the BGA officials into committees should be in place on the web site and announced on "GoTalk" (<http://three.pairlist.net/mailman/listinfo/gotalk>). Mostly the roles of existing officials are unchanged but the exercise has led to the identification of a number of gaps and a call for volunteers to fill them.

The areas that are a priority for Council and myself into the future are:-

Journal

We now have a chairman of the new Journal and Newsletter Committee in the person of Brian Timmins, who is a very experienced editor of the journal. Brian will work with Jenny Radcliffe, the current editor, and a number of new officials including Barry Chandler, with the objectives of getting the journal publishing frequency back to four a year and strengthening the content.

Player Development

The Shodan Challenge was an excellent innovation introduced last year by Stephen Bashforth (as described in the article on page 11). As well as continuing with this, we would like to enhance the services offered by the BGA in the area of direct teaching. We have been discussing with Matthew Macfadyen whether we could use his

teaching material and Tony Atkins, the committee chairman, who also provides teaching services, has been asked by Council to work with his team to make it happen. One of the things they will consider is whether the BGA should offer chargeable teaching services.

I also feel we should aim to develop players at all ability levels and I'd like to suggest we group go players into five ranges: Beginners (up to 30ish kyu), Novices (30ish to 20ish kyu), Double Figure Kyus (20ish - 10 kyu), Single Figure Kyus (9-1 kyu), and "Dans". Beginners and novices will either improve rapidly or lose interest; but we need to recognise that Double and Single Figure Kyus include quite a few people who are quite happy playing go at that level and who are not striving to improve their grade. We want to improve the attractiveness of tournaments and other events particularly to Double Figure Kyus who are under-represented at the moment. Consequently, Peter Wendes has joined the Tournament Committee as a Double Figure Kyu support official.

Web Site

The BGA Web Master, Tim Hunt, has drawn up a plan for an overhaul of the web site to give it a new look and feel and to significantly improve navigability - that is, the ease with which information can be found. This has been adopted by the Web Site Committee as the "Web Renewal Project" with Anna Griffiths as project manager and Brian Brunswick and Barry Chandler working with Tim on the technical side. We plan to complete this by Congress 2007.

Clubs and Membership

Membership has declined over the last couple of years and reversing this is an important priority. In addition, we see students as being a key group of people who might be attracted to playing go and Edwin Brady has accepted a "Student Development" official role.

Finally, if you have any positive suggestions for improving the BGA please contact me or any other Council member at any time.

STONES IN THE DESERT.

Peter and Sheila Wendes

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ZEN MACHINE in Palm Springs California March 2006

<http://www.zenmachine.co.uk>

This trip grew out of an exchange of emails Sheila had with the California Association for the Gifted (CAG) in late 2005. At one point they had said 'It's a shame you won't be here in March, when we have our Annual Conference.' We are travelling increasingly further abroad these days, and so we thought this might be a good opportunity to add the US to our list of destinations, along with Japan, Holland, France and Turkey which are already on our list. The Conference is a big one, with some 3000 delegates, all of whom will have an opportunity to read about Go in the brochure, so even a modest seminar group was worth running because of the fringe publicity.

We usually take an estate car full of kit to our events, with a range of cultural materials, wooden 9x9 and 13x13 tabletop boards and one or two gobans as well as two large magnetic teaching sets and a highly 'modded' X-box. We have plastic stones in lidded pots, and often a slate and shell set in wooden bowls as well. Flying to a venue forced a drastic reduction, and we settled for retaining the plastic stones and pots, but replaced the wooden boards with heavyweight paper 9x9 ones. We thought it best to take our 9x9 teaching set, despite the weight. Last year we decided to produce a low cost starter set to sell at our workshops, based on a full-scale 9x9 on an A4 sheet, which then has room for information we can tailor to individual needs.

We also needed a 19x19, for us to play on during the trip and for demonstrating the various cultural and historical aspects of the full size board. We settled for brown wrapping paper, and transferred the lines by gently rubbing the imprint of the raised lacquer lines of our Japanese goban onto the paper, then going over the impressions with a black pen, which saved a lot of time marking out.

The flights, first to Atlanta, then on to San Diego were an uneventful slog on very crowded planes, but as we were going the 'right way'

around the earth it just felt like a very long day. We found security at a much higher level than the last time we flew, to Japan, at one point actually going through two sets of checks of baggage and person, down to the shoes. Sheila regretted wearing lace-up boots. We were met by brother-in-law Steve, and whisked away to their ranch in a very splendid pickup.

We set off for the conference in Palm Springs CA the next day, driving across the mountains and into our first California sunshine, as it had looked more like Wales when we arrived. We drove through a valley filled with wind generators, very striking in the empty desert, and on into Palm Springs down a long avenue of very impressive palms. The architecture of the Conference Centre was stunning – vast bastions of natural stone with sweeping curves running through. We checked in, collected goodie bags and water, and made our way to the hotel next door which was the workshop venue. Checking in we met an educational psychologist from San Diego who decided to join our workshop after we told her about our work in the UK.



The workshop was very well received. We had 20 participants from a wide variety of establishments, and they took to the challenge with interest and enthusiasm. Many asked if we could come back to run workshops in their schools, so we're looking to see if that would be

viable for November 06 or Spring 07. Everyone took away Andreas Fecke's cartoon introduction to Go, which Simon Goss has translated into English, and one of our starter boards (with AGA contact details). We'd be delighted to talk to any California Chapter members who might be interested in offering their expertise at local schools.

IN THE DARK

The scene: a game between 7 dan players on KGS.

Player 1 [15k?]: W G8?

Player 2 [1d]: you cannot really hope to understand 7d game if you suggest g8

white plays g8

A 9D BLUNDER - THE ANSWER

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This is the solution to the problem on page 10.

In the game, Lee Changho played at 1 in Diagram 1. It is the obvious move, but after several forced exchanges, the group died.

This is a huge and unusual mistake. There is a move Lee didn't find.

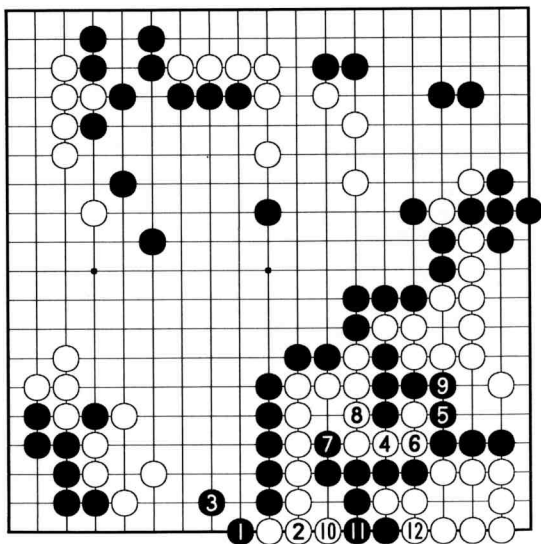


Diagram 1: The moves played in the actual game

Black 1 in Diagram 2 is the right move to play. White has to connect at 2, then moves 3-9 are the same as the real game. The difference is that White will find he is one liberty short of killing when he plays at 10. A ko forms due to Black 1. The game goes on. In the real game Lee lost because he overlooked this simple move.

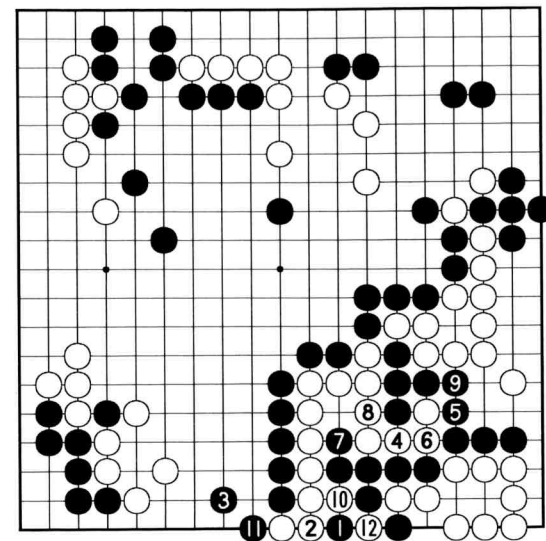


Diagram 2: The correct moves

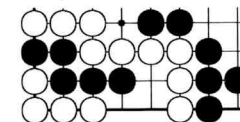
REFEREE EXERCISE

Geoff Kaniuk

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This is the final installment of Geoff's exercises stemming from his initial article for Referees in BGJ#136. The editor would be interested to know if people would like to see more exercises in similar vein ...

9 A close game was in the 1 point in gote stage. White has four stones arranged in a bent four shape as in the diagram with live outside stones.



Both players have passed, White thinking that "bent-four-in-a-corner is dead". Black is a self taught rapidly improving player and she passed thinking "I've captured 4 stones on the edge and so I am alive". Having passed, they now discover that they have differing views on the corner situation. They call the referee.

10 A 2k and a Shodan sit down to a game with 6 komi, and the Shodan playing black places 6 stones in White's bowl as komi.

The game is very long, hard fought, and close. They count up. Black: "you have 63 points." White: "you have 64, so with komi, I win by 5." Black: "I thought I had given you the komi at the beginning?" White: "I didn't see that!" The referee is called.

- 11 A game between a Chinese national playing White and a British 3d at a UK international tournament is counted giving the result that Black wins by 1 point. White is crestfallen, because she had a group with one (false) eye in seki. She calls the referee.
- 12 A game between two 5 Kyu has achieved the state of having a triple ko on the board, and both players are grimly hanging on to the ko fight. You are watching the game and note that Black is two points ahead even if White wins the ko. They decide to consult you.
- 13 One way of resigning is to clearly place two stones together inside your opponent's territory. Sometimes one wishes that one's opponent would resign, because the situation is clearly hopeless. Some think that you can signal in this case by placing a stone at the 1-1 point in your own territory. Two Shodans had got into this state, but both thought they were well ahead. Black placed a stone at the 1-1 point. White took this as a resignation, stood up and shook Black's hand. They cleared the stones away, and then each separately reported a win by resignation to the Draw Master who was sitting at a table collecting results. The referee was called by the Draw Master.

What do you do? Ideal answers are on page 25.

10 YEARS AGO

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1996 started with Harold Lee winning the Furze Platt tournament in Maidenhead at Hitachi (who had also sponsored the London Open). Matthew Macfadyen won at Wanstead. Oxford moved out of the university and held their event at Freud's Cafe, a converted church. A record 98 attended and Edmund Shaw and Piers Shepperson ended up joint winners. Cambridge started a beginners' event with 16 players, alongside their Trigantius Tournament; the latter won by local player John Rickard. Matthew Macfadyen lectured on Pair Go at his local Coventry Tournament, but won it alone. Reading Go Club won both the Thames Valley Team Tournament and the Nippon Club Trophy at the British Go Congress in Durham. Alex Rix was the British Open winner, and T.Mark Hall winning the Lightning final delayed the AGM. Francis Roads took home the Stacey Trophy. T.Mark also won the Candidates' in Cambridge, which was held the same weekend as a tournament to mark the closure of the IVC in central London. The Youth Championships were held at Brakenhale and local David King was the winner. Anna Griffiths won under-16, while Emma Marchant won under-14. Under-12 winner was Tom Blockley and Sophia Ellul won the Under-10 category.

In January, Amsterdam was the venue for the first game in the Kisei title match between Cho Chikun and Kobayashi Satoru. Go fans were able to watch the game relayed on screens at the European Go Centre, though with only 42 moves on each day it was not exactly fast moving. The professional dan count there was 78; this included Iwamoto, the Go Centre's founder. Cho lost the first game, but went on to win the title 4 games to 3. The Irish Open was held over Saint Patrick's Weekend and was an easy win for Shutai Zhang, newly promoted to 7-dan. Shutai also won the event at a Japanese cultural festival in Freiberg in Germany. Andrew Jones was a creditable third in Milan, behind Radek Nechanicky and Victor Bogdanov. The 213-strong Paris Tournament was won by local Japanese Miyakawa Wataru. Guo Juan beat Shutai into second at the European Ing Cup in Romania, with Matthew Macfadyen coming fifth. Antoine Fenech and Csaba Mero

were the winners at the European Youth Championship.

Many were saddened by the death on 16th March of Kobayashi Reiko (6 dan), daughter of Kitani, wife of Koichi (9 dan) and mother of Izumi; she was 56. Yoda defeated O Rissei to defend his Judan title. Internationally, Yi Chang-Ho of Korea, who had been promoted to 9 dan, beat Ma of China in the final of the Tong Yang Cup.

WORLD NEWS

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Toyota-Denso World Oza

The World Oza, sponsored by Toyota and Denso Corporation, is held every two years and starts with a series of events around the world to select the players who get to play the oriental professionals in the final stages in Japan. The first events of the third edition were the two qualifiers held in the United States in the middle of January 2006. The Eastern event held in New York was won by Feng Yun, the former Chinese professional 9 dan, as in 2004. She saw off a group of 7 dans to make her victory. In the Western event in Las Vegas, Mingjiu Jiang, also Chinese pro 9 dan, was the winner. He saw off Jie Li (9 dan) and Xuefen Lin (pro 1 dan).

The following weekend the Oceania qualifier was held in the Ecocentre in Brisbane, Australia. Winner of the top division was Sana Lee, the sister of top Korean professional Lee Sedol (the pro who beat Europe's Catalin Taranu in the recent Chunlan Cup). Second by tie-break and earning the qualification was Yuming Guo. Remarkably third place was taken by 10-year old Joanne Missingham, who is already 6 dan. UK's David Ward (4 dan) won Division Two and its prize of AU\$500. 83 players took part including Geoffrey Gray, now in his 80s.

The European qualifying event was held at the Go Centre in Amsterdam on the weekend of February 12th. It was attended by 73 players, plus more in the family events, and various professionals who did some teaching. After four rounds the best players were selected for

three knockout groups, with some top seeded players, in order to select the three representatives from Europe for the World Oza. Ireland's representative, Noel Mitchell (2 dan), did not win any (his weakest opponent was 4 dan), but Britain's Matthew Macfadyen got to the knockout stage. There he beat Geert Groenen, but lost to Guo Juan in the semi-final. The three group winners were Alexandre Dinerchtein (beating Merlijn Kuin), Guo Juan (beating Alexei Lazarev) and Ilia Shikshin (beating Frank Janssen).

Barcelona

The weekend after the Oza was Spain's event in the Toyota/IGS-PandaNet European Go Tour. As usual Barcelona attracted several strong players, with 109 players in total. The two Koreans studying in Germany dominated the top group, though their result was the reverse of London. Hwang In-Seong (7 dan) from Berlin was the winner with a straight five. Second was Cho Seok-Bin (7 dan) from Hamburg on four wins. Losing to both the top two and having to take third was Fan Hui (7 dan) from France, who topped the group on three wins (ahead of Burzo, Noguchi and Danek). Best of the small UK team was Mark Todkill (2 kyu) who won three.

World Student

Sixteen representatives from several continents took part in the fourth World Student Oza Championships. Sponsored by the Nikkei Newspaper it was held at the Nihon Kiin in Tokyo the same weekend as Barcelona. Winner was Emura Kiko from Japan; he beat Chang of Taiwan in the final (placed third). Second place went to Jie Li of the USA, the best western result ever in this event. Best placed of the three European players was Jan Hora from Czechia who won two out of four. The others who had qualified at the European Student Championship were Csaba Mero from Hungary and Klara Zaloudkova from Czechia, who replaced Manuela Lindemeyer as female player at short notice due to illness.

Irish Open

The 17th Irish Open was this year part of the Toyota/IGS-PandaNet European Go Tour. It was held the weekend before Saint Patrick's to avoid the crowds, but the Scottish rugby fans were in town and so it was a little busy with many kilts to be seen; luckily the trips to Korean and Japanese restaurants were not crowded out. The venue was the normal one of the Teachers' Club in Parnell Square. Held on the Friday evening was the 19-player Irish Rapid. Ian Davis (2 kyu Belfast) was the unbeaten winner, with Dylan Carter (1 kyu Cardiff) and Claas Roever (2 kyu Dublin) second on four out of five. 33 players took part in the Open.

Hwang In-Seong (7 dan), the Korean ex-student professional living for a year in Berlin, won with a perfect five. Five players ended on three wins and were split by sos and sosos tie-breaks. Second was young Chinese player You Xiaochuan (Sean) from Galway. Third was Korean J-K Shim (5 dan New Malden). Fourth was Yu Zhong Nan (4 dan), a Chinese girl from Dublin. Fifth was Noel Mitchell (2 dan) and sixth was Tony Atkins (3 dan Bracknell). Joerg Abendroth (4 kyu) from Munich won all five games and Czech player from Dublin Martin Klemsa (5 kyu) won four. There were prizes for all, in various categories, including for side events such as Liar Dice. Best prize for most, however, was the chance to have an hour-long study class with Hwang after the prize giving.



Hwang In-Seong with the Irish Open trophy

Ing Memorial

24 of Europe's top players travelled to the Sinaia in Romania for the Ing Memorial. The event was held in the mountain resort of Sinaia on the weekend of 19th March. First for a second year was Fan Hui (from China but living in France), this time with a clean six wins. Second was Alexandre Dinerstein (Russia) with five wins. The group on four out of six was headed by Dragos Bajenaru. Representing the UK, Matthew Cocke won one game to place 22nd.

European Youth

The European Youth Go Championships took place in Saint Petersburg in Russia over four days ending 26th March. The venue was the university in Peterhof, the venue of the 2003 Congress. 66 under-18s and 68 under-12s took part. Winner with a perfect six was Russia's Ilya Shikshin (6 dan). Second was Rita Pocsai (4 dan) from Hungary. UK's William Brooks (1 dan Cambridge), supported by team captain Nick Wedd, won two games. Best under-12 was Mateusz Surma (1 kyu) from Poland, on tie-break from Joshua Chao (3 kyu) from the Netherlands, on five wins. Chun Yin Woo (3 kyu), from Hong Kong and representing the UK, was sixth with four out of six, having chosen the European over the British youth event this year.

REFEREE ANSWERS

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See the questions on page 19.

9 "Bent Four is Dead" is no longer a Rule.

You can ask the players if they know the rules about game resumption; and you will probably end up having to explain it. The game has stopped because both players have passed, but now there is uncertainty concerning the lower left groups. The game is therefore unfinished in the sense that there are legal moves left which would affect the result. What the players can now do is this:

Whoever passed last, presses the clock and now it is the opponent to play. All moves are allowed including ko. Thus the players just play out the situation and so resolve the uncertainty.

Of course in the meantime while you have been explaining this, the players will have re-read the situation correctly, and you may now find that no one wants to resume! The way to resolve the issue is to apply the following in the order stated:

A Players agree to follow the rule as above i.e. continue from the last pass.

B Players decide for themselves who is to play first.

C Record the result as an Unresolved Game.

In the UK, option C means that each player gets a half point for the purposes of the draw for the next round, but this would not count as points towards prizes. In European tournaments the players might score zero. Again this implication will need to be explained.

If the players do go for Option B, then you might give them say 5 minutes to decide between themselves who is to play first. This discussion is of course pursued away from the board.

In the end, the moral of this story is to play out your game to completion, including all the dame to avoid unresolved issues! Then pass and be happy!

10 **Never, ever give komi at the beginning of the game**

First of all, since the stones are on the board the players should be able to ascertain that komi was indeed given (if they played the dame in turn that is!). Under Japanese rules, prisoners are retained, so the total number of White stones on the board should be less than the total number of Black stones by the amount of komi.

Be that as it may, White would continually have added the komi when estimating scores during the game, not realising that komi had already been given. Yes, White should be able to calculate how many prisoners were captured and so realise that komi had been given. But White, being so excited about taking the lead against a shodan, lost track of that arithmetic.

By giving komi at the end, one avoids this kind of confusion. Strictly speaking there is no need to actually place komi stones on the board. It is easy enough to add the komi to White's score at the end of the game - however placing stones seems to have become the norm!

In this case the game goes to White.

11 **Be clear about the rules of play.**

The tournament is being played under Japanese rules like every major international tournament in Europe, except for the European. You will need to be sympathetic here, for people will naturally play according to the rules with which they are familiar.

Firstly, you will need to point to a statement in your displayed tournament rules which says that Japanese rules are being used. Secondly, you will probably need to explain that the main difference between Chinese and Japanese counting is that in the latter, points in seki do not count towards anyone's score. You should also explain the difference in the rules of capture i.e. in Japanese counting prisoners are NOT returned to the bowl.

All of these difficulties can be avoided if your published rules state which method is in use, and how they differ.

12 **Cycling round a triple ko produces an unresolved result, usually counted as a half point each in the UK.**

Firstly, ensure that the clock is stopped. It is quite important to establish exactly what it is they are asking. Have they been making other ko threats as well as taking stones in the triple ko, or just cycling round the triple ko? It could be useful to ask: what kind of answer do you want from me?

The players have decided to consult you, presumably because they are not sure what to do about the triple ko. You could explain the rule and then wait for the player's reaction. They might ask you for the score and this you should decline. However you could allocate a small amount of extra time for an accurate count - say two minutes each should be plenty, and then let them get on with it.

13 **Resign by saying in a clear voice: I resign!**

It apparently does happen in Japan that a play on the 1-1 point signifies a resignation by the player, but it never signifies: "I wish you to resign". Every move in Go has a meaning, but never is a move so rude as to ask your opponent to resign. We therefore

cannot recognise a move on the 1-1 point as anything other than a possibly bad move.

In order to get a result, we can ask the players to come to an agreement by replaying the game under supervision if there is time.

Interestingly enough, at the IOM referee course there was a wide spread of answers to this one: No answer – 27%; Jigo – 19%; Void – 27%; Black Wins – 27%; White Wins – 0%

My own view is that because of the mutual lack of communication, the game deserves to be recorded as void i.e. double loss.

BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIP

Li Yue and Ron Polak

This is the first of the 2005 Championship games between Des Cann and Matthew Macfadyen. It was played in Oxfordshire in July 2005. It was broadcast on KGS with the assistance of an anonymous “BGA admin” who kept the audience informed on the clocks as well as the moves.

White: Des Cann 5d

Black: Matthew Macfadyen 6d

④ *Ron Polak:* Oh. Matthew opens komoku, that surprises me!

④ *Li Yue:* no 6-4 point :-)

⑥ *Li Yue:* A higher point is better in the moyo game but in such a territorial opening A, on the third line, might be better.

⑨ *Li Yue:* It would be better to play as in Diagram 1.

⑩ *Ron Polak:* White emphasises the centre with this fourth-line move

⑪ *Ron Polak:* Black now has two sides to solve his eye-shape problems.

⑫ *Li Yue:* This is not good shape against ⑪; it exerts less pressure on ⑦ than the variation in Diagram 2 would, and later a move at 38 will break White’s own eyeshape. Playing as in Diagram 2 would give White thick shape and make Black worry about B and C.

⑭ *Li Yue:* This move is a little slow; it seems that lack of eyeshape made White reluctant to play the more aggressive forcing move at 18. This move, though, does nothing to support ②.

⑮ *Li Yue:* However, this is not good shape either.

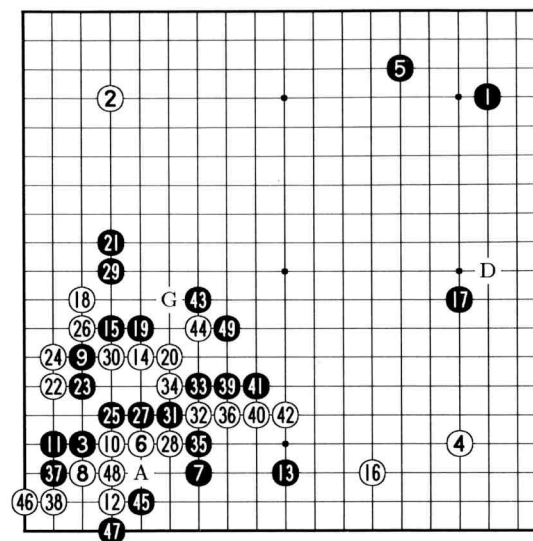


Figure 1: Moves 1–49

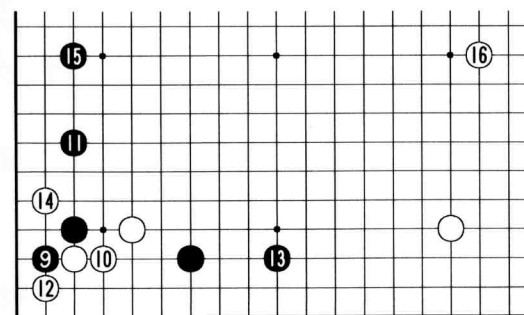


Diagram 1: Variation from move 9

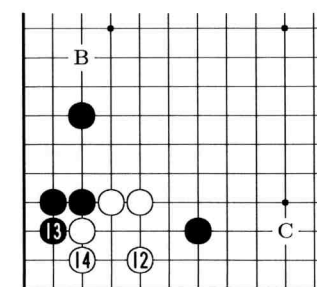


Diagram 2: Variation from move 12

⑯ *Ron Polak:* The left-hand side was still urgent and probably White should have played somewhere there rather than this big move.