

BRITISH

GO

JOURNAL





London Open – Kyu-Players' Room



South Manchester – Yangran Zhang (L) wins

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EDITORIAL

journal@britgo.org

Welcome to the 183rd British Go Journal.

In This Issue

Thank you to everyone who sent in entries for the prize crossword, the solution for which can be found herein. The winner was Donald MacLeod who will receive a book from the BGA book stock. Well done Donald.

Paul Barnard's article in the last issue prompted a discussion with Richard Hunter (see Letters) who described exactly the same position in an article from some years ago. We have reprinted Richard's article.

Francis Roads and Jenny Rofe-Radcliffe represented GB in the World Pair Go Championships this year and Francis has written about their trip to Japan. And there is another of John Tilley's Go Jottings inside too, which I always find instructive and entertaining.

Two new contributors find their way into this Spring edition, namely Robin Dews, writing about the extremely successful new Nottingham event, and Mike Medaglia with a personal view of someone new to Go.

The 'Cover Story' is the launch of the new London Go Centre which happened in February – thanks to Tony Atkins for his report on the inaugural tournament – we wish them every success.

Bob Scantlebury

Credits

My thanks to the many people who have helped to produce this Journal:

Contributions: Tony Atkins, Paul Barnard, Tony Collman, Robin Dews, Richard Hunter, Liu Yajie, Toby Manning, Ian Marsh, Mike Medaglia, Francis Roads, and John Tilley.

Photographs: *Front cover*, Cătălin Țăranu at The London Go Centre (Gerry Gavigan). All other photographs in this edition were provided by the article authors or sourced from the BGA website.

Proofreading: Tony Atkins, Rich Bentley, Barry Chandler, Mike Cockburn, Brent Cutts, Martin Harvey, Richard Hunter, Pat Ridley, and Nick Wedd.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Life and Death

Dear Editor,

Following the publication of my “Dame Disaster” in the recent BGJ 182, Richard Hunter kindly pointed out that my analysis of the position was rubbish, although his terminology was a little more gentle. He referred to an article he wrote in BGJ 125 (accessible online here¹), which has exactly the position in question on page 17. Fortunately for my self respect, Richard admits to not having got it fully right when it cropped up in one of his games, despite having seen it before. If a strong dan player can slip up on this, I feel less obliged to suffer anguish and mortification. And also, the positional analysis wasn't really the point of my article - not that that is an excuse for feeding duff information to your readers.

His analysis follows below, for readers not minded to go to the online archive just now. Readers may also be interested in Richard's book, “Key Concepts in Life and Death – Inside Moves and Under the Stones Techniques.” See this page at Sensei's Library for details <https://senseis.xmp.net/?KeyConceptsInLifeAndDeathInsideMovesAndUnderTheStonesTechniques>.

Best regards,

Paul Barnard

paul@psaa.me.uk

Rule leaflets

Dear Sir,

I have just read the article in the BGJ 182 about rules leaflets.

The first BGA rules leaflet was written by myself in 1968, following my co-option to the BGA Committee. It was to be distributed at the Daily Mail New Year Show, the successor to the Daily Mail Boys and Girls Exhibition, at Earls Court. The BGA had been commissioned to staff a Go stall there.

In those days we had no diagramming material at all. I cut the diagrams from an American leaflet, and wrote my own text to suit it. It was printed on a single sheet, bearing the address for John Barrs as contact. I don't think I have a copy anymore, but hope there might be one in the BGA archive.

Jeremy Hawdon, Wayne Walters and myself staffed the stall for the first of two weeks. I can't remember who then took over. The three of us all lived in Enfield, where we founded the Enfield Go Club. These three founder members are still active members of the club's successor, the Wanstead Go Club, fifty years later.

Francis Roads

francis.roads@gmail.com

¹<http://www.britgo.org/files/bgj/bgj125-2.pdf>

FROM: KEY CONCEPTS IN LIFE AND DEATH

Richard Hunter

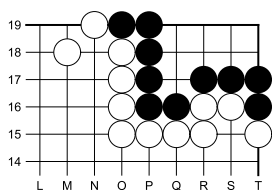


Diagram 2: Safe?

Well, I make blunders too. I'm sure we all do. Here is an example from one of my games. In Diagram 2, I'm White. Black has just connected on the first line in the late endgame. I hope you have alarm bells ringing in your head when you see a position like this. When all the outside liberties are filled, there is almost certain to be some danger of a liberty shortage inside.

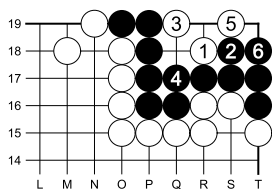


Diagram 2A: Status?

I play 1 in Diagram 2A, expecting to get a seki at the minimum. After 5, I point out to my opponent that he needs to add a move at 6 to avoid a ko in the corner. This is a friendly social game, and I am giving him a three stone handicap. Later, near the end of the game, a kibitzer comments how sad it is that the black corner is dead. "It's not dead, it's a seki," I say. But after a while, I realize that he is right. The black group really is dead. I tell my opponent that since we have agreed that the status of the corner is seki, that status will stand at the end of the game. My hallucination

was to think that White has no move after 6 in Diagram 2A. Neither atari looks useful, but I overlooked the fact that White can fill in the partial eye to make a pyramid four and then increase it to a bulky five. I really should have known better, and I hope to avoid such misconceptions in the future. I hope you will too.

What is really galling is that not long afterwards I found this exact position in a book—and one that I had read before too. Black 2, the move I actually expected, was given as a failure because of the potential ko at 6. And it specifically mentioned 6 as being suicidal, because after 6 in Diagram 2A Black is unconditionally dead.

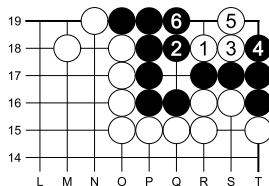


Diagram 2B: Seki

The correct reply is 2 in Diagram 2B. White 5 threatens to start a ko, so Black must add a move at 6 to make a seki.

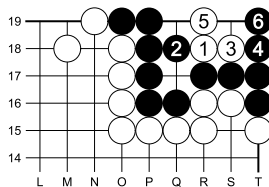


Diagram 2C: Seki

White 5 in Diagram 2C gives an equivalent result.

WORLD NEWS

Tony Atkins

ajaxgo@yahoo.co.uk

European Teams

The fifth round of the B-League of the Pandanet Go European Team Championship on 23rd January saw the UK playing Finland. Yet again our team did extremely well. Bruno Poltronieri won his game against Javier-Aleksi Savolainen by resignation after successfully attacking a weak group and not making any mistakes in overtime. Chris Bryant won a peaceful game against Vesa Laatikainen by 17.5. Mikko Lappeteläinen lost by resignation to Des Cann, failing to spot a ko attack on one of Des's groups. Jamie Taylor also played well and won by resignation against Jari Koivikko to win the match four-nil. As top placed team Netherlands lost to Germany three-one, our team returned to the top spot, on boards-won tie break from Germany, and Netherlands dropped to third.

Just under a month later, on 20th February, it was Austria's turn to play UK. The team won again to stay top. Daniel Hu was our only loss, to the strong player Viktor Lin, after a good attack turned, by one liberty, into a bad loss. Chris Bryant thought he was lucky to beat Martin Unger by a few points after making some mistakes. Jon Diamond outplayed Bojan Cvjetkovic to win by resignation after a group died. Des Cann also won by resignation against Lisa Mayer, when she died inside his moyo.

The seventh round on 13th March was a struggle against Norway, placed fourth. With a staggered start time the match lasted from 19:00 to nearly

23:00 UK time. The match ended in a draw, with Andrew Simons and Chris Bryant winning on the top boards, but Des Cann and Jon Diamond losing on the other two. Andrew used some AlphaGo techniques to beat Jostein Flood by resignation and Chris had the same result against Severin Hanevik by killing a big group. Jon came unstuck against Heming Hanevik, when a group got cut off and killed, and Des ended 3.5 behind against Tomas Hjartnes due to not getting enough profit from saving his weak centre groups. This left the UK in second place with 12 points, as Germany beat Denmark to go clear top with 13 points. The Netherlands drew with Austria to stay third on 11 points. So with just the Netherlands and Sweden to go the UK team was still hopeful of promotion.

Youth Teams

On Saturday 27th January the UK youth team played their third match in the 2017/18 European Youth Go Team Championship. They were playing Romania, who had won their previous match five boards to nil; they were likely to win again, as the UK team was out-graded. Charlotte Bexfield, Josh Gorman and Wenzhou Mei fought hard on the top three boards, but were unable to achieve an upset. Boards four and five were much tighter on paper, but George Han lost a complicated fight by one liberty and Alexander Hsieh ended up behind on territory.

The last match was against Hungary, but a scheduling problem saw them playing on different days of the

week starting 10th February; this distracted from the match element of the fixture. Alexander Hsieh played first and took an easy win. Yueran Wang was next to play, playing on board one, against a 3d; he was unlucky to lose by 2.5 points. Jayden Ng in his league debut was unable to recover from an early mistake and so lost his game. Jianzhou Mei played an exciting game, showing his fighting skill attacking large groups across the board and killing one for a comfortable win. Jack Nolan was expected to lose the deciding board, being 7 grades below his opponent; in quite an evenly played game he ended up second. This narrow loss means the UK finished tenth out of the twelve teams entered, our seeding having meant we played four strong teams, so well done to the team for keeping it close. The League winners were Russia, ahead of Germany and Romania.

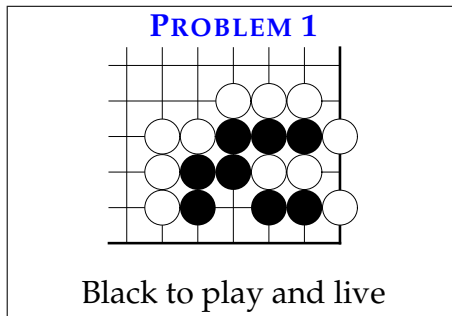
Irish Open

The worst snow in Ireland for 36 years struck during the week leading up to the Irish Go Congress weekend. Helped on by Storm Emma, snow drifts stopped all public transport and flights for about two days, and

many of the 49 possible entrants were unable to arrive. The Irish Rapidplay, scheduled for the Friday evening, was cancelled and the Confucius Cup (Irish Open) was cut from a five-round European Grand Prix event, with 1000 euro prize, to a three round rapid play event all on the Saturday afternoon, 3rd March. It was held, as in recent years, in a top hotel, The Gresham Hotel, on O’Connell Street.

The only top player whose flight arrived okay was Lukas Podpera (7d Czechia). He won the event easily, with America’s Yisheng Wang (5d) in second place. Local French player Geoffrey Crespino (2k) won two, but lost the final to Lukas, to come third. In all twelve Go players took part, and four players took part in a small Chinese Chess tournament.

One group that did arrive was the delegation from Shanghai, invited by the Confucius Institute (the sponsor). This included a master Chinese Chess player, Dong Xubin, the professional Go player Liu Shizhen (7p) and Chen Tianhui (6d), Executive Officer of the Shanghai Go Institute. After the tournament they played simultaneous games, before everyone retired to a restaurant for a well-earned Chinese buffet, thanks to the sponsor.



INTERNATIONAL PAIR GO CHAMPIONSHIP

Francis Roads

francis.roads@gmail.com

1st – 5th December 2017

After amassing points in ones and twos over about a decade, my Pair Go partner Jenny Radcliffe and I had risen to the top of the table, and were selected to represent Britain at the tournament in Tokyo. I went out to Japan a fortnight beforehand to visit friends and get over jetlag. My Air China flight arrived at Kansai International Airport, which serves Osaka, late on Friday 18th November, so I spent my first night at the airport hotel. I don't recommend Air China. It was cheap, but had few other advantages.

The next day I travelled on to Hirano, a town on the edge of the Osaka conurbation, where my Japanese friend Harumi lives. She invited me to her home for jetlag recovery. It is pleasant to be in a place where you can go for country walks. There is also a nearby onsen, where you bathe naked in hot spring water. During my week there I was able to visit three Go clubs; one held in a traditional Japanese house with tatami mats throughout, one by a local doctors' organisation (no, I have no idea how I get invited), and one in the local community centre.

The following Friday (25th) I took the Shin Kan Sen (bullet train) to Tokyo, where I had booked three nights in a hotel in Shimbashi. Tokyo used to have the reputation of being very expensive. I didn't find it so; my hotel bill including breakfast was £262, which would be hard to match in central London. Food and transport were if anything less expensive than London.

I had been invited to meet another Japanese friend at the Nihon Ki-in at Ichigaya. Easy; just walk back to Shimbashi station and get the subway train. But I had reached the hotel by taxi, and owing to a misunderstanding in the directions I was given at reception, I failed to find the station on foot.

Tokyo has its difficulties in finding your way around, as there are no street names. I ended, somewhat out of breath, at Yurakucho station. I then discovered the hard way that on the Chuo line there are both stopping and express trains. I just about got to Ichigaya on time. My friend took me to his Go Kai Sho, as they call their permanent Go clubs, where we were able to order food. And beer. After some discussion about my grade, I was able to hold my own. More on this subject later.

I had been invited to visit a Go Kai Sho in Shinjuku on the Sunday, where members of the "London Go Masters" meet. This group includes old friends who used to play in London two decades ago. As my directions there were a little vague, I decided to go and case the joint on the day before. Could I find it? I eventually took counsel from Tourist Information. After tapping on their computer for a bit, they directed me to a fried chicken retailer, and I was assured that it was the correct address. It wasn't. I retreated defeated. In the evening I was invited to a fine Japanese repast by my cousin and his family. He runs a language school in Senzoku, but regrettably does not play Go. No one is perfect.

On the Sunday one of my London Masters friends met me at Shinjuku Station (and that took a bit of doing; it's the busiest station in the world), and conducted me to the Go Kai Sho. It was down a (nameless) side street. I would never have found it. Apparently even the Japanese find it difficult to find their way around sometimes, and meeting people at the station is part of their culture. Even with smart phones around.

The club has a continuous tournament going on, in which I was duly entered. You find, or are found, a suitable opponent, and play with the sensible time limits of 45 minutes sudden death, which are more or less universal in Japanese amateur tournaments. To ascertain the correct handicap, which entails variable komi as well as handicap stones, you are given a number; mine was 24. The difference between your number and your opponent's is then read off on a table which shows the appropriate handicap. On this system I won three out of four games.

Afterwards I looked closely at the table, and found that my number corresponded with 7-dan! In Europe I struggle to maintain 1-dan, and play at 3-dan in the USA. For years I have been pleading for an internationally valid amateur grading system, but no one seems to think that it matters.

In the evening no fewer than ten London Masters, some of which I barely knew, took me out for another fine Japanese meal. I love Japanese food; it is one of many reasons why I always enjoy visiting Japan. The sake, shochu and wine flowed freely, and I went back to my hotel feeling merry.

On the Monday I went to the suburb of Asagaya. I had been invited by another Japanese friend to stay

with her for a few days. Devotees of the Isle of Man Go Festivals may remember Kikuyo Nishigawa (now Machinaga) who first came some 20 years ago, and more recently arrived with husband and parents in tow. She met me at the station, having taken two days off work to show me around.

She lives in a typical Japanese detached home. They are of wooden construction, and have no central heating, as they are not expected to last more than 40-50 years. I was placed in a tatami room, which I am used to, but wouldn't suit all Westerners. As well as Go she and I have music in common. She plays Irish traditional music on her fiddle, and together with another friend, and using her spare violin, we had a happy afternoon playing as a trio.

On the next day her parents arrived, both keen to try their luck against me on the Go board. On this occasion I was able to uphold the BGA's honour. Later we all went out shopping. I needed to buy a white shirt, as I had forgotten to pack one for the national costume that we are supposed to wear at the Pair Go. Never before have I been invited to try a shirt on in store. I now possess a fine Japanese shirt.

On Wednesday and Thursday Kikuyo had to work, and on the Wednesday I took things easy, wandering around Asagaya, and conserving my energy for the weekend. On Thursday I was invited to meet my friend the sensei Chizu Kobayashi with her daughter Anna at her Go Kai Sho. I won a game or two there, after the usual debate about grade, and then off for yet another fine Japanese meal. It was here that Chizu looked up details of the Pair Go tournament on her phone, and remarked that my partner was

6-dan. That's what it said. Owing to the free-flowing sake I was reduced to merriment. Fortunately the mistake was corrected before Jenny and I had to start playing.

On Friday I reported to the multi-star Edmont Hotel in Iidabashi, where the Pair Go tournament is held. Needless to say, many friends were there, and in the evening I finally met up with Jenny and husband Mike, who was there for the ride.

Our first commitment was on Saturday, for the welcome ceremony. We then played round 1, and lost to a strong Japanese pair. Following lunch we had to change into "National costume". What is national costume for English people? On previous trips I had donned my Morris dancing kit, but Jenny suggested academic wear. So I appeared in full Oxford B.A. subfusc, while Jenny wore her Masters clobber from Northumbria University. Two people came up to her and said, "Harry Potter".

We were then paired up for a friendly game with randomly chosen opponents. I had a Japanese partner, and played against a Japanese and Thai pair. In accordance with the friendly nature of this game, there were no clocks. Unfortunately one of our opponents was very slow, so that we were never able to finish the game before it was time for the welcome party.

This was started with a large number of speeches from various dignitaries, ably translated into English by John Power, a bilingual Australian who has been resident in Tokyo for most of his life. There was also a performance by a quartet of traditional Japanese musicians (two kotos, shamisen and shakuhachi) of a lengthy piece all played from memory. I loved it, but

I suppose that it might not have been to everyone's taste.

And then there was the pledge. It is the custom to select one Japanese-speaking and one English-speaking pair to stand on the stage, raise a right hand, and read a pledge on behalf of all participants that they will play in accordance with the spirit of Pair Go. Can you guess who was selected to read the pledge in English? Eventually we got to the buffet-style eats. And, in accordance with Japanese custom, there was a time (8pm) when the party was supposed to end, and end then it did.

On the Sunday we were to play the remaining four rounds, but not before an opening ceremony, despite that fact that Round 1 had been played already. This is Japan, where there is a rooted love of ceremony dating back many centuries. Of these four games we won two, against Chile and Switzerland, and lost to two more strong Japanese pairs. We ended 25th out of 32, which may not sound very good, but actually we were pleased to have done that well in a strong field. Jenny claims to be 6 kyu, but she was playing well above that grade.

And then the closing ceremony, when all the prizes were presented, with yet more speeches, a recorded performance of the Pair Go song, which failed to appeal to a musical dinosaur like myself, and finally the eats. I would enjoy these events more were it not for the fact that you have to stand for two hours. I used my initiative and did manage to find a seat eventually.

On the Monday there was a meeting of Pair Go promotion partners, which we were all expected to attend. Once again, Jenny was approached to

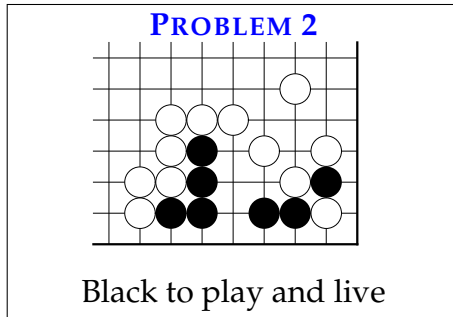
start the ball rolling at that stage when participants were asked to "volunteer" their feelings about the event; which she did to good effect.

The afternoon was free. After tempura lunch with John Power and Andy Okun, the AGA president, I wandered off to a nearby Japanese garden. Their gardens are another reason why I love visiting Japan. In the evening a few friendly games in the "Go room", where boards were available, and then

an early night for a 5.30am start the next day on my journey home.

I have been half of the representative British pair twice now, in 2004 with Jackie Chai, and this year with Jenny. I shall be an old man indeed before I can clock up enough points to go a third time, but I shall continue to play Pair Go whenever there is an opportunity. It is quite different from single player Go. And if you have yet to try it, you are missing a very enjoyable experience.

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DEVELOPING GO IN NOTTINGHAM

Robin Dews

robindews@gmail.com

The past year has seen some positive changes in both the membership and organisation of the Nottingham Go Club, and we thought that the initiatives that brought these changes about were worth sharing.

Like many UK Go clubs, the group of players from the Nottingham and Derby area that make up the Nottingham Go Club have often struggled to find appropriate venues in which we can get together to play and study Go. The challenges I'm sure will be familiar to most readers of the BGJ. We are a loosely constituted group of enthusiasts that has no official structure. We didn't charge any money or ask for contributions from people who want to play Go, in order to avoid putting up barriers to new people discovering and enjoying the game. As a result our default position over the past ten years or so has been to meet in various pubs around the area, where a tolerant or occasionally bemused landlord will permit us to set up our boards and stones in a corner of the bar, so long as we buy the odd pint or cup of coffee.

This creates a problem. A group of often grey-haired men, hunched over their boards muttering about 'joseki', 'tesuji' or 'aji' is not the most enticing prospect for new and younger players! So over a year ago, a small group of us at the Nottingham Go Club decided to try and tackle the problem of attracting, encouraging and retaining new players.

We did a number of significant things:

1. We approached both of the new board game cafés that have opened in Nottingham and asked if they would be willing to host a regular weekly group of Go players.

As some BGJ readers will know, over the past few years, there has been a boom in sales of board games both traditional and new. No-one is quite sure why this has come about, but it seems that a generation of youngsters that grew up with PlayStation, Xbox and Nintendo have now re-discovered the simple pleasure of sitting round a table with friends and saving the world, fighting monsters or conquering new lands!

In response to this growth in game sales, most major UK towns have seen the opening of new board game cafés, which not only sell games, but also provide space for people to play and get together for an evening of social entertainment. It's these young people, now in their twenties and early thirties, who are highly receptive to the excitement and challenge of a game like Go.

Although not a player, the owner of one of the board game cafés knew of Go and said that he'd be happy to provide us with tables and space for no cover charge other than buying cups of tea and coffee and snacks etc. They said that their quietest evening of the week was Tuesday and we would be welcome to come along then. As a result in addition to our Wednesday pub sessions, we added a regular Tuesday evening slot at the 'Dice Cup'.

2. The second move was to seriously engage with social media, most importantly Facebook and MeetUp groups. Although Facebook sometimes gets a bad press, the truth of the matter is that it is a phenomenally simple and powerful communication and promotional tool and is already part of most young people's lives. It allows our group to message, chat and interact in ways that I think would previously have been simply impossible¹.

3. A third element in our strategy was to set up an online presence on the OGS — the Online Go Server². On that server, there is now a Nottingham Go Club group, where members can get together and play either real-time or correspondence games. We now hold monthly Sunday Afternoon Tournaments where members can get together online to play and observe three games in a quick play McMahon set-up. Equally importantly, both the correspondence and tournament games create game records that then become part of the study conversations at the club the following week.

4. To further support our Facebook and OGS presence, we also established a new club website at www.nottinghamgoclub.com where members can provide links to other Go resources, post games for comments from other players and generally blog and chat about Go. Because 'Nottingham Go' is a relatively rare search term, we now sit at the top of the Google listings and have recently attracted other new players who simply searched for 'Go' and 'Nottingham'.

So what has been the outcome of all this activity?

At our new venue — the Dice Cup café — our original core group of three or four player has now grown to a group of around eight to ten, almost all of whom started out as complete beginners and have quickly advanced to respectable low to mid-teen, double digit kyu players. We believe that if we can continue to grow this number to around twenty players, we will have taken a great step towards building the next generation Go community in Nottingham.

The philosophy and focus behind our weekly sessions is to have fun and learn more about Go. We all like to play and win, but there now are endless opportunities to display your winning Go skills, either online or at official BGA tournaments. Our aim is to play, teach, learn and enjoy Go. However, one of our challenges is that we currently have no low kyu (below 5k) or dan players in Nottingham and this sometimes makes it hard for us to really help the stronger players to develop.

After a year at the Dice Cup, they have asked us if we could pay a cover charge of £1 per player for the use of their venue. After some discussion amongst the members, we now ask a £2 per person contribution £1 of which goes to the club funds to cover the cost of the website and other online activities. Absolutely none of our new players balked at such a modest charge for an evening's entertainment and such is our new confidence that we were able to commit to organising a Kyu Teaching and Tournament Day at the Dice Cup on the 24th February 2018. Supported by teaching from

¹<https://www.facebook.com/groups/nottinghamgoclub/>

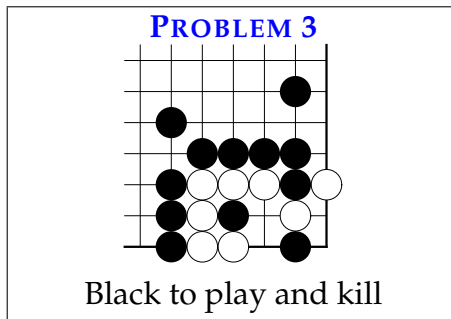
²<https://online-go.com/>

Chris Bryant, Alison Bexfield and Toby Manning this attracted almost thirty players and we believe that the format of a morning's teaching, followed by a thirty minute per player and then sudden death tournament, really supported our philosophy of balancing study and teaching with the excitement and challenge of playing 'live' Go.

So to sum up: if you or your club find

yourselves in the situation with a dwindling group of older players, I would really encourage you to look at one or more of the strategies we have deployed in Nottingham. As we all know, you cannot make people want to learn and play Go! But you can set up your stall where young people and potential new players spend their time and then meet their curiosity and enthusiasm with your own.

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CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE JOURNAL

The copy date for the next issue of the Journal is **28th May**.

Contributions are welcome at any time. Please send them to journal@britgo.org. The Editor will be glad to discuss the suitability of any material you may have in mind.

The BGA website has guidelines at www.britgo.org/bgj/guidelines for those wishing to contribute material.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Toby Manning

president@britgo.org



By the time you read this the BGA AGM will be over, and we will have a new council. The new Officers have been decided – nominations need to be in 2 weeks before the AGM – with the result that I have stepped up to become President, and I am pleased that Richard Wheeldon has taken on the role of Treasurer. Jonathan Chin remains as Secretary. At time of writing the remaining members of council are not known.

For me this is a case of 'déjà vu' having previously served as President for the 4 years 1979 to 1983; but a lot has changed since then. One thing that has not changed, however, is my strength – I was 1 dan then, and I am still 1 dan – though have been up to 3 dan in the interim.

For those who do not know me, I am a retired engineer having spent all my career in the electricity industry. Married to Felicity, who once won a prize as 'most reluctant go player', we are without children.

The BGA does not keep records of its members' ages. However, like many organisations nowadays we seem to have a 'hollow middle', with active members being mostly under 30 or over 50. We all understand the pressures on us in middle age – with a demanding career and, if we have them, children taking priority – so maybe this is inevitable. However, it does mean that Council tends to be dominated by the retired, and although they bring experience and time we always need to be conscious that we do not necessarily represent all demographics.

A good example of this is our web-site which is designed for desktop/laptop computers. We are in the middle of a major project to upgrade our web-site, which will include making it more mobile-phone friendly.

I also suspect we could use social media more; Jonathan Green has run our twitter feed for some time, and we do have a Facebook page, but I am not convinced that this is enough. Comments are welcome. Recently we have seen welcome changes from the standard '3 games in a day' tournament format. To mark the opening of the London Go Centre a tournament with 3 rounds spread over 2 days, interspersed with teaching sessions, was held, while at Nottingham a morning's teaching was followed by a 3 round tournament with 30 minute time limits. At Nottingham there were over 30 entrants, of whom a third were double-digit-kyu players; perhaps this is an answer to the questions posed by Daffyd Robinson in the last BGJ.

GO JOTTINGS 5

John Tilley

john@jtilley.co.uk

The Clumsy Kosumi

Three things have come together over the last few months, all relating to the kosumi – ① in Diagram 1; note that the diagonal shape only constitutes a kosumi if both the two points A and B are vacant. So in Diagram 2, ① is not a kosumi – it's hane at the head of two stones.

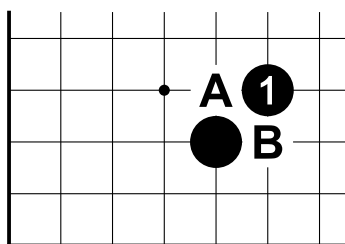


Diagram 1

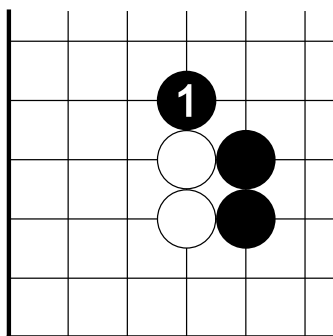


Diagram 2

There are times when the kosumi can be a bad move and when it's bad it can come in for some really strong criticism; I rediscovered this last year, when I was looking at shape and 'suji' and then trying to find a good definition for the Korean term 'haengma'. I found a series on Sensei's Library, about haengma, which covered the basic shapes and surprisingly to me this series criticised the kosumi.

I then remembered that in Awaji¹ 9 dan's book 'Awaji's Aphorisms', he too criticises the kosumi, writing 'it has been stated repeatedly in this book that the diagonal move is slow paced and, therefore, a move without power. If you misuse a diagonal move, you may suddenly be courting failure.'

This awoke a faint memory and eventually I found what I was looking for in one of the Go Super Books – 'Improvement without Tears', written by Kano Yoshinori² 9 dan way back in 1971.

Kano's book is a classic, it contains some 60 Go Proverbs – the one on kosumi is 'The stronger player plays directly, the weaker player plays kosumi'.

Later Kano goes as far as calling it 'hebo no kosumi' – the word 'hebo' can be translated as 'duffer'. He introduces the term 'hebo no Go' (duffer's Go) for people who always

¹Awaji Shuzo 9 dan – 'Changing One's Conceptions – Awaji's Aphorisms' – in English – Hinoki Press 2008

²Kano Yoshinori was a Japanese 9 dan, known to the West not only as the author of 'Graded Go Problems for Beginners' but also for his works on yose, a subject on which he was regarded as the expert. He also wrote two books in the 50 volume 'Go Super Books' series (in Japanese), published in the early 1970s – 'Improvement without Tears' was number 20. This book might be found second-hand on Amazon Japan or Yahoo Auctions Japan.

play atari and peep at cutting points, these are the really basic beginner's no-no in Go, so I was more than a little suprised to see that the kosumi can sometimes be included in this category.

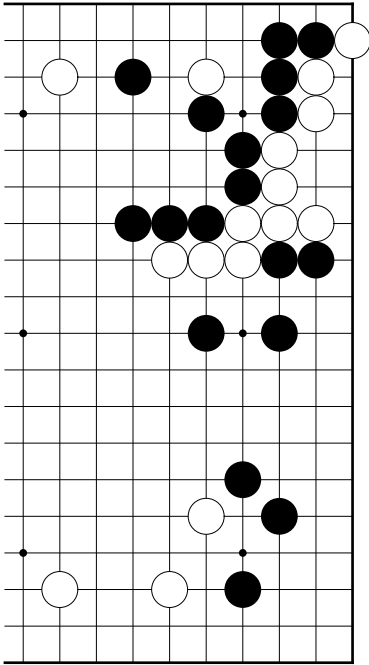


Diagram 3

This example is taken from Kano's book. White's group in the top right corner only has one eye, but it has a route out to the centre. The two Black groups on either side are both strong. So what does White play?

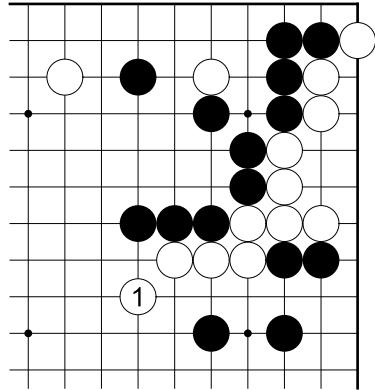


Diagram 4

So what about ① here? – in this case the weaker player plays kosumi when the stronger player would play directly. ① has no impact on any Black stone or group – it's just too slow.

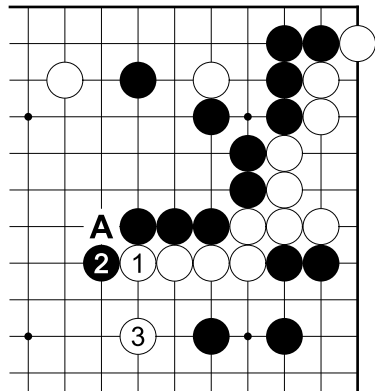


Diagram 5

White should press directly with ① and then jump to ③, making good shape and also leaving the cutting point of A behind. I would back this explanation up with advice from Sonoda 9 dan – 'Don't just attack, don't just defend' – so in the defensive

position of Diagram 3 – make sure you push first, create a weakness and then defend.

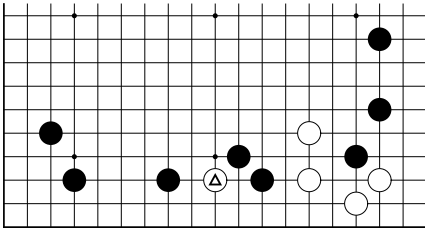


Diagram 6

This example is from 9 dan Mimura³ Tomoyasu's book 'Ishi no katachi' (The Shape of the Stones). White to play – how does he handle his marked stone? Note that in the lower half of the board White has but five stones to Black's eight stones, so White must play lightly and make appropriate shape for his isolated stone. When the stone count to assess relative strengths has a difference of two or more, it tells the player with the lower number that he must fix the shape and NOT start a fight.

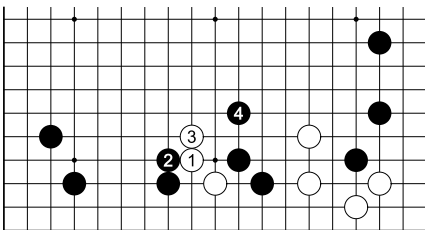


Diagram 7

The kosumi of ① here is a bad move – Mimura uses Kano's terminology

³Mimura's book is ISBN4-8399-293-1, 304 pages in Japanese. There are some 40 problems on katachi, arranged in 9 sections. Key diagrams have 'smileys' – a 1, 2 or 3 stone happy smiley or sad smiley – which makes the book more accessible to those with just some knowledge of written Japanese.

of some 35 years previously and describes it as the 'duffer's kosumi'. White is just creating a weak group – not recommended!

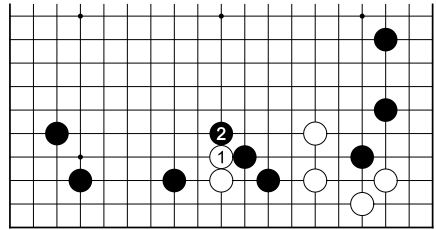


Diagram 8

① here is correct – Mimura quotes 'The stronger player plays directly' – however you need to be able to read out the ensuing sequence.

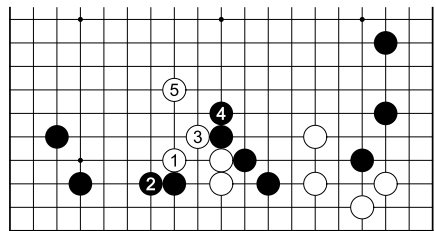


Diagram 9

After this ②, the key move to make sabaki is ③ here – a hanging connection which makes good shape and the small knight's move of ⑤ completes the perfect shape for this position.

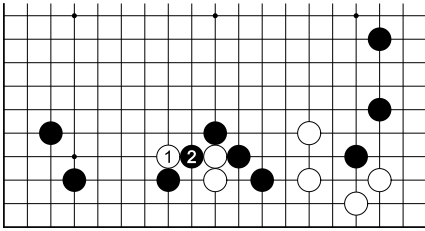


Diagram 10

You do need to know how to handle ② in Diagram 10 – there is nothing to worry about though. White can play atari and capture two black stones as in Diagram 11.

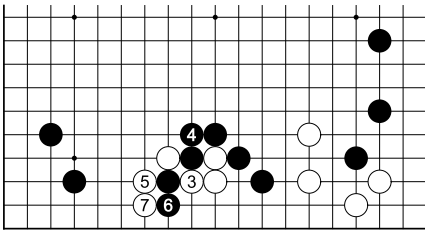


Diagram 11 – Good for White

White does of course have an opportunity to play a bad move – there are a couple of possible bad moves to choose from!

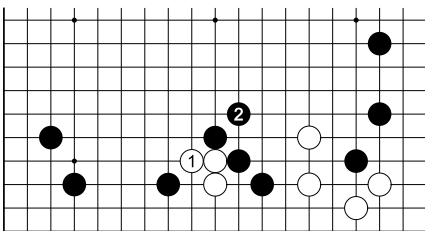


Diagram 12

The empty triangle of ① in Diagram 12 is terrible – White’s shape is worse than Diagram 7.

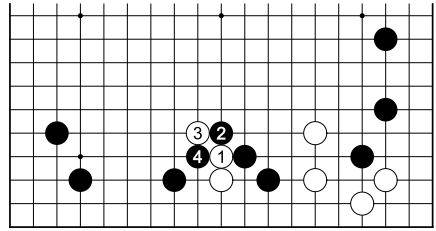


Diagram 13

Playing at ③ in Diagram 13 is also bad; once Black has cut with ④, White will struggle.

Go back to Diagrams 7 & 9 – look at the ‘duffer’s kosumi’ and the direct play, understand how the the hanging connection makes good shape. This is all about fundamental shape – the sequences are not difficult, so play them out on a board; demonstrate this example to your friends at your club.

I think this is something a SDK (say 6 kyu or so) should be able to play, but based on my experience probably wouldn’t. I suspect many SDK would play the duffer’s kosumi during a game, although when presented as a problem they would probably play correctly. Interesting, perhaps an example of the proverb ‘The onlooker is eight stones stronger’.

I must say that I like Mimura’s book, it costs 1600 yen (just over £10 plus postage), first published in May 2006. It can be found new on Amazon Japan.

I started this column by mentioning that I had found a most interesting series of articles on ‘haengma’ on Sensei’s Library⁴.

The author states that ‘in Go, all stones want to develop (grow, flow) along straight lines if possible. When

⁴<https://senseis.xmp.net/?HaengMaTutorialForBeginners>

they are aligned in straight lines, they are stronger and more powerful than stones aligned in diagonal lines.'

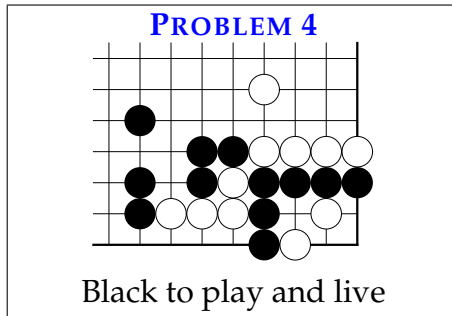
The six chapters of this 'Haengma Tutorial' were written by an amateur 6 dan from Korea – so don't dismiss them, read them – the author says that they are aimed at the DDK – but the SDK at the Winchester Club found them interesting. If you are a strong SDK or dan player, you may well find them to be good teaching material.

I strongly recommend the fifth chapter

on 'Ja Choong Soo' or 'self-filling liberties' moves and the way it looks at 'Where is the worst move on board?' If you can understand why a move is really bad, then maybe you can find the good move – remember the proverb 'the good move and the bad move are next to each other'.

Finally, try and remember that the kosumi is not always 'a bad move' but rather 'sometimes the kosumi is a bad move' – so next time you are about to play a kosumi, ask yourself is this a good kosumi or a bad kosumi?

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LONDON GO CENTRE LAUNCHED

Tony Atkins

ajaxgo@yahoo.co.uk

The new London Go Centre was launched on the weekend of 17th and 18th February with an event that featured teaching, a tournament and more.

The previous London Go Centre was in Lambolle Place in London's NW3 and open between 1975 and 1978, when it closed as it was sadly not financially viable. It had long been a dream of several London players to have a London Go Centre again, and when T Mark Hall left his estate to fulfill this aim a rebirth seemed a possibility. Various options were investigated by the trust set up in his name. These included acquiring a building for use as a Mind Sports Centre in conjunction with others such as Chess. However the Young Chelsea Bridge Club in West London was starting to be used as a venue for Go events, such as the Candidates' Tournament, and had become home to the West London Go Club, so it seemed natural to take up the space in the week when it is not used for Bridge for Go.

Gerry Gavigan and Richard Wheeldon made sure the opening weekend was a good one. With the help of Matt Marsh from the BGA, and various strong players who acted as teachers, a three-round event was played over two days with teaching in between. As the star teacher was Cătălin Țăranu (5p), who had flown in from Romania, the rounds were slightly staggered so each group could get a chance to learn from the professional, including the teachers. Teachers included Matthew Macfadyen, Daniel Hu, Andrew

Simons, Toby Manning, Alex Rix and others.

Thirty-six players took part in the tournament. As advertised the top four players battled for the right to play a game with the professional in the final round. Daniel Hu (5d Cambridge) won two games and got to play Cătălin, who proved rightly that 5p is better than 5d. Tiger Xunrui Zhao (2d London) was second on tie-break from Andrew Simons (4d Cambridge). Matt Marsh (3k Sheffield) and Ryan Carson (14k London) both won three games. Leading the group of kyu players on two wins was Sam Bithell (1k) from Cambridge.

It had been hoped that John Fairbairn from the T Mark Hall Trust would be there to mark the occasion, but a problem with the trains to Euston coupled with the planned closure of the underground at local station Goldhawk Road meant he did not make it. However Alex Rix said a few words of welcome on behalf of the Trust at the start and more encouraging words were said at the close.

After a buffet on the Saturday most of the players settled down for an emotional showing of the AlphaGo movie, an appropriate feature of a great opening weekend for the Centre.

Future events planned for the Centre include the Candidates and Bar-Low during the May Day bank holiday weekend and a three-day Not The London Open at the end of May.

REFLECTIONS ON GO FROM A BEGINNER

Mike Medaglia

I have been playing Go for almost a year now. Though still not quite sure what rank to claim, I am surely a DDK.

After seeing two men playing Go in the corner of my local games shop in Reading every Monday night, I eventually got up the nerve to ask if I could join in. And that was the beginning of my love/hate relationship with Go.

To supplement my weekly game (or perhaps I should say my weekly defeat!) I have been reading Go books, studying problems and playing games online. I have also become fascinated with the historical side of the game and have been reading fiction books that feature Go, watching documentaries or reading journalists' accounts of famous historical games.

One thing that keeps coming up in almost every single book, film or article is that we end up seeing ourselves, as individuals, on the Go board. This thought has been echoing through my head over the past few months.

Who am I? And can a game really help me answer that question?

From my games so far I would say this is me: I am unable to focus on the bigger picture, I constantly make dumb decisions that have negative consequences, I don't protect the good things I already have and I am greedy!

Although this is me on the board, it doesn't sound like me off the board. So are these actions just beginners' mistakes? Or my true self? They sound like me when I was much younger, but I like to think I have grown out of such ways of being. Maybe Go starts us back at the beginning of our emotional selves, no matter what age we start to play.

But then there are other, rarer, moments while playing. Moments when I see things clearly. I may make a wise decision that helps to nurture growth of my existing territory; of areas I am meant to be protecting. There are moments of efficiency; of creatively using less resources to achieve more. I also see kindness when my opponent plays a lovely move and I smile because I am happy for them and happy to have seen it played.

Then I inevitably make a stupid error and go back to feeling self-doubt mixed with a touch of self-loathing! A true love/hate relationship.

Anyways, all this to simply ask: can a game really tell us who we are? And if so, is it still just a game? Or is it also a tool to help us unlock our true potential and, maybe, become more compassionate to ourselves and others along the way.

I don't know the answer but I'm excited to find out.

□

UK NEWS

Tony Atkins

ajaxgo@yahoo.co.uk

London Open

Again the London Open was held over the last four days of the year at International Student House (ISH) in London. As well as the usual main and side events, as last year it featured the teaching of Cătălin Țăranu (5p), and an Italian meal and relaxed game-playing session on New Year's Eve to finish.

Of the 94 players from the UK and abroad that played in the Open, it was the large group of Chinese players living in the UK that dominated the event. However there were also two Belgian players in the top five, Lucas Neiryndck (5d Pantin) in third with five wins and Thomas Connor (3d Pantin) in fifth with four wins. The UK's top player, hence winning the David Ward Trophy, was Daniel Hu (5d Cambridge) in fourth place with four wins also. In the end it was Weijin Chen (5d London City) who ended unbeaten with seven wins who took the trophy and top cash prize. Second place went to Ho Yeung Woo (5d) who only lost in round four to Chen.



Winner: Weijin Chen (seated, R)

The top three players below the bar also won prizes: Mathis Isaksen (2d Copenhagen) from Denmark, Gong Xiaoyu (3d UK) and France's Stephan Kunne (1d Orsay). In the kyu-player room, prizes went to Mikkel Kragh Mathiesen (3k Copenhagen) for six wins, and the top three double-digit players: Jan Adamek (11k Czechia), Jason Brown (11k Cheadle Hulme School) and Ben Murphy (10k Billericay). All players with four or five wins also obtained a certificate, but six-year-old Yue Wen (9k Guildford) received a special fighting spirit prize.

On the second evening the London Pair Go was held with fourteen pairs taking part. After an exciting last round, the winners were Joanne Leung (2d) and Ho Yeung Woo. Beaten into second were Belgium's Marie Jemine (1d Pantin) and Lucas Neiryndck. This latter two also did well in the Lightning the following evening. Thirty players played five rounds in four groups (plus a play-off in one group), followed by semi-finals and a final. Marie was one of the losing semi-finalists along with Peikei Xue (2k UCLU); Lucas reached the final, where he was beaten by the event-winner Yousun Yang (3d).

After the prize-giving there was a small Rengo Tournament. Twelve teams competed and it ended in a draw between the Waffels and the Finns. Vincent Lochen (4k Pantin), Juliette Brault (14k Pantin), Thomas Connor and Lucas Neiryndck (Waffels) and Juuso Koskinen (1k Kanpai) and Olli Ervela (1d Kanpai) (Finns) each took away an event tee-shirt as their prize.

Grand Prix

Whereas the Stacey ends at the British Open, the London Open was the last event in the Double-Digit Kyu Grand Prix and the Junior Grand Prix. Alan Stokes from Manchester won the former with 718 points ahead of Tom Bradbury of Cheadle Hulme School (CHS) on 530 and Neil Sandford from Edinburgh on 469. Next placed was Amy Upton (CHS), on 340 points, who won the 20k-and-under section. As in the previous year, Edmund Smith (5k Cambridge) won the latter competition with a massive 1112 points. Second was Tom Bradbury (5k) with 776 points and Amy Upton (17k) was third with 622. Eighty-three youngsters took part in qualifying events during 2017.

Maidenhead-Hitachi

Tim Hunt (2d Milton Keynes) led his team to victory in the 27th tournament in Maidenhead, on 20th January. He beat Jim Clare (1d Reading) in the final to win the tournament and his Milton Keynes team won the team competition. All players on three wins received an envelope and the choice of a game or a bottle prize, and those on two wins had a choice of one out of the three. The numerous prizes, the great location and the free buffet lunch are all thanks to long-term event-sponsor Hitachi Europe. Those on three wins were Geoff Kaniuk (5k Cambridge), Joel Barrett (6k Manchester) and Robert Scantlebury (8k Sheffield). The 13x13 side event prize was not awarded.

Cheshire

Yangran Zhang (3d Manchester) won the 20th Cheshire Tournament on 3rd February in Frodsham. A record 46 players took part, thanks to a large group from Cheadle Hulme

School (CHS), as well as players from Liverpool, Manchester and other local clubs. Yangran beat Gong Cheng (3d London City), Mark Baoliang Zhang (1k Manchester) and Alistair Wall (1d wanstead) to take the title. Also winning three games were Ai Guan (7k Lancaster), Chun Yin Wong (11k Lancaster), Andrew Boyd (13k Liverpool), Gordon Hall (20k Whaley Bridge) and Elliott Barlow (30k CHS). Hugo Ryan (35k CHS) won the Fighting Spirit prize, Ben Howe (27k CHS) won six out of ten in the 13x13 and Elliott Barlow won another prize for winning all nine in the 13x13.



Yangran Zhang (in white jacket)

Nottingham

Twenty-nine players enjoyed the first Kyu-Player Teaching and rapid tournament at the Dice Cup board game cafe in the centre of Nottingham on 24th February. Teaching in the morning was given in three ability groups, by Chris Bryant, Toby Manning and Alison Bexfield; it was very much appreciated by the students. In the evening after the event, some retired to a pub and then to an Indian restaurant.

A three-round McMahon tournament was held in the afternoon, with

only thirty minutes per player and no overtime; this caught out a few (including one of the organisers). Winning the tournament was Jonathan Green (4k Leamington) who received his prize from Toby Manning. Winning three games out of three were Daffyd Robinson (13k Lincoln) and Gustavo Schafaschek (11k Birmingham).

South Manchester

Despite freezing temperatures on 3rd March, this year saw the South Manchester retain its attendance from last year's inaugural event. As before, Cheadle Hulme School (CHS) and teacher Mike Winslow kindly provided the venue, with thirteen of the pupils taking part in the two events. The Main Tournament, run by Chris Kirkham, attracted twenty players and Yangran Zhang (3d Manchester) retained the title. Also winning all three rounds were Jack Nolan (13k CHS) and Rohan Neelala (16k Manchester Grammar School). The parallel Fast Tournament was won by Cate Howe (36k CHS) who won all her six games. The only other player to win more than three games was Rowan Borrow (19k CHS) who won four. There was also a Fighting Spirit prize, awarded to one of the school's year seven competitors, Megan Upton (18k CHS); she not only played all three rounds of the Main, but also three of the six rounds in the Fast. Afterwards some of the players ended the day with a fine Indian meal in Cheadle Hulme centre.

Skye

The Isle of Skye had beautiful weather on the weekend of the 3rd March, while a lot of areas further south suffered from snow. Although 33 players registered, just 19 (many

already in the area for a holiday) managed to take part in the event, held as usual at the Tongadale Hotel in Portree. One player from Poland got as far as London, one player did not arrive until the Saturday evening and the two possible draw masters from the south of Scotland could not get there at all. This nearly meant Nick Wedd having to do a manual draw, but in the end John Collins, despite computer compatibility and update issues, managed to produce the pairings, for which he got a special prize.



Skye: playing room

On the Friday evening a 9x9 event was held in three leagues. The A League was a four-way tie; the main organiser Carel Goodheir won B and John Collins won the C League. On the Saturday evening twenty players enjoyed the event dinner.

The main event winner was Rab Fulton (1k Glasgow), winning five games out of six. Niall Paterson (5k Glasgow) and Alasdair Clarke (5k Aberdeen) also won five. Sue Paterson (4k Arundel), Philip Smith (4k Winchester) and Carel Goodheir (9k Skye) each won four. There were enough prizes to reward everyone, thanks to the several firms and individuals who donated prizes. In particular thanks went to Diageo who

gave a bottle of Talisker for the fifth time and the sweet shop two doors down who donated leftover Christmas speciality chocolates.

Trigantius

The 42nd Trigantius took place on 10th March in a spring-like Cambridge. Again it was held at the University Social Club in Mill Lane, but a recent record of 56 players (including two ghosts) meant the event got off to a late start. In addition in the afternoon there was a 28-player Novice's Tournament run by Paul Smith, making it feel even busier. This number included four adults and a large group of pupils from Harpenden Academy. In the evening a group of more than a dozen players met for a well-earned curry in Mill Road.

The tournament saw the return of Sam Aitken (3d) who won all three, including securing a win against Andrew Simons (4d Cambridge),

to become this year's holder of the Trigantius Trophy. Other players on three wins were Alison Bexfield (1k Letchworth), Matthew Reid (1k Cambridge) and Sebastian Pountney (8k). The organisers also awarded a prize for the next best-placed single-figure kyu-player, Chenyi Li (1k Winchester), on two wins and for the best-placed double-figure kyu-player, Neil Sandford (15k Edinburgh), also on two wins. In addition the Novices' organiser rewarded three junior players who won two in the main tournament (Hilary Bexfield (18k Letchworth), David Baldwin (20k Letchworth) and Zoe Walters (18k Cambridge Junior Chess Go)).

The winner of the 13x13 side tournament was Hilary Bexfield, with four wins. The Novice's winner was Neil Bai (aged 10) and the runner up was Yanyi Xiong (aged exactly six), both from Cambridge. Third place was a three-way tie between Yize Gao (Cambridge), Monty Ives-O'Brien (Harpenden) and Ben Lindsey (Letchworth).

PROBLEM 5

Black to play and save the marked stones. A ko will do.

BGA ANNOUNCEMENTS

FUTURE EVENTS

For the next six months, the Tournament Calendar (www.britgo.org/tournaments) features:

Candidates' Tournament Saturday 5th– Monday 7th May

Bar-low, London Go Centre, Sunday 6th May

Bracknell, Wokingham, Sunday 13th May

Welwyn Garden City, Saturday 19th May

Challengers' League, Saturday 26th – Tuesday 29th May

London Go Centre, Not the London Open, Saturday 26th – Monday 28th May

British Pair Go Championships, Hatfield, Saturday 2nd June

Durham, Saturday 9th – Sunday 10th June

Scottish Open, Edinburgh, Saturday 23rd – Sunday 24th June

Welsh Open, Barmouth, Saturday 30th June – Sunday 1st July

5th Annual World Collegiate Wei-Chi Championships, Cambridge,

Wednesday 11th – Thursday 12th July

UK Go Challenge Finals, Cambridge, Saturday 14th July

Arundel, Saturday 18th August (provisional)

Mind Sports Olympiad, London, Sunday 19th – Monday 27th August

Youth Training Residential, Grantham, Wednesday 29th – Friday 31st August

Cornwall, Penzance, Saturday 8th – Sunday 9th September

Sheffield, September

Swindon, September

Northern, October

Wessex, October

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OFFICIAL VACANCIES: CAN YOU HELP?

Vacant posts are listed at www.britgo.org/positions/vacancies.

We need volunteers for:

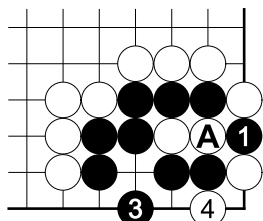
- Regional Youth Representatives (Scotland, North East)
- Deputy Webmaster

If you are interested in any of these, please contact our President: (president@britgo.org), or any member of Council.

SOLUTIONS TO THE NUMBERED PROBLEMS

The SGF files for these problems, showing a fuller set of lines, are to be found at www.britgo.org/bgj/issue183.

Solution to Problem 1



② at A

Diagram 1a (failure)

- ❶ Taking the stones looks obvious, but Black dies.
- ❷ One eye only.

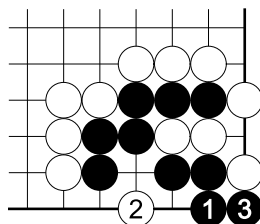
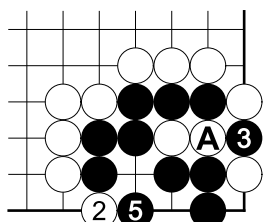


Diagram 1b (correct)

- ❶ The empty triangle is the trick here.
- ❷ This fails.



④ at A

Diagram 1c (correct – variation)

- ❷ This is atari but does not kill.

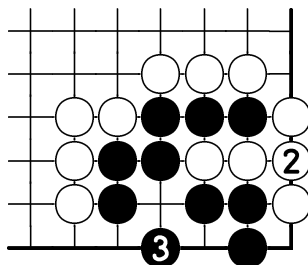


Diagram 1d (correct – variation)

- ❷ This saves the two white stones.
- ❸ Black easily lives.

Solution to Problem 2

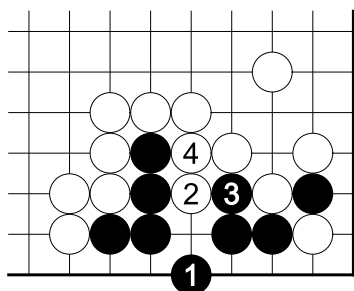


Diagram 2a (failure)

- ❶ This is sometimes an eye-making play.

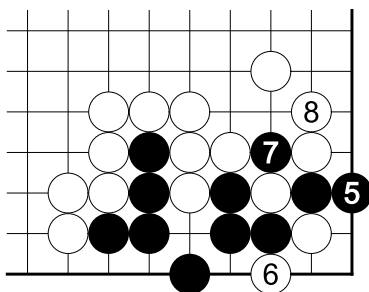


Diagram 2b (failure – continuation)

- ❺ Black could try here.
- ❽ This is still only one eye.

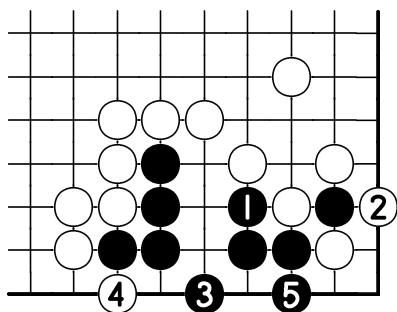


Diagram 2c (correct)

- ❶ This is the correct first play.
- ❸ Now this point works.

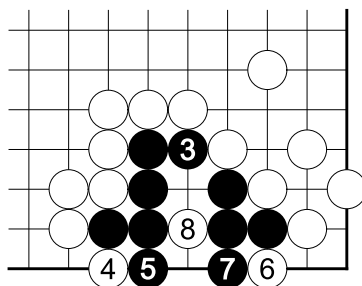


Diagram 2d (failure)

- ❸ However, this is wrong.

Solution to Problem 3

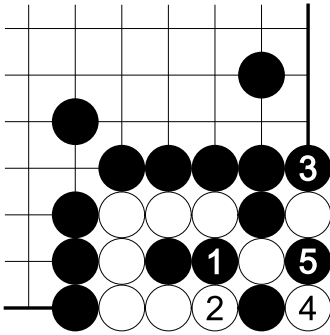


Diagram 3a (failure)

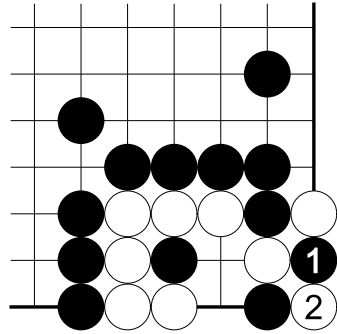


Diagram 3b (failure)

- ❶ This looks like a clever play.
- ❺ But it ends in ko.

- ❷ This is also ko.

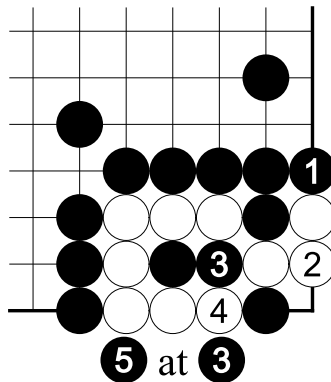


Diagram 3c (correct)

- ❶ This is the correct first play.
- ❸ Now this is the clever play.
- ❺ Whichever stone White takes leaves a snap-back.

Solution to Problem 4

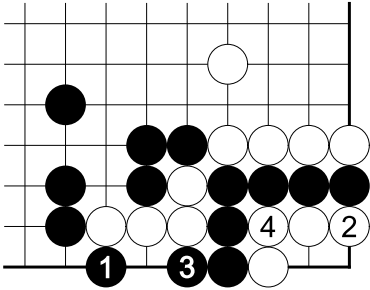


Diagram 4a (failure)

- ❶ Black needs to capture the four white stones to escape.
- ❷ However, White plays here and Black is short of liberties.

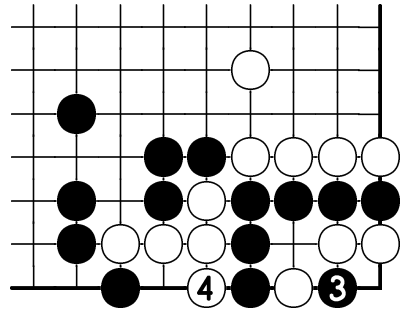


Diagram 4b (failure)

- ❸ Snap-back.

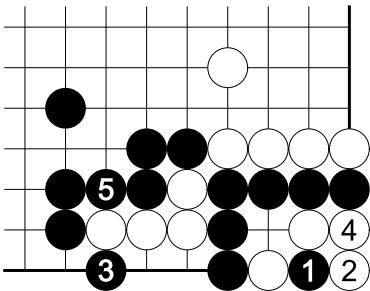


Diagram 4c (correct)

- ❶ This is the key play.
- ❷ Now it is White that is short of liberties.

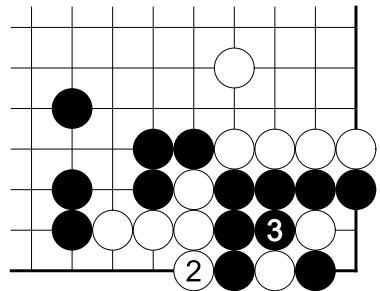


Diagram 4d (correct - variation)

- ❸ This is two eyes.

Solution to Problem 5

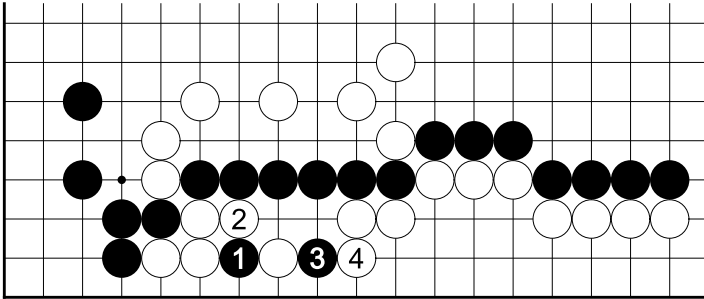


Diagram 5a (failure)

- ❶ This first move fails.
- ❷ White can play here.

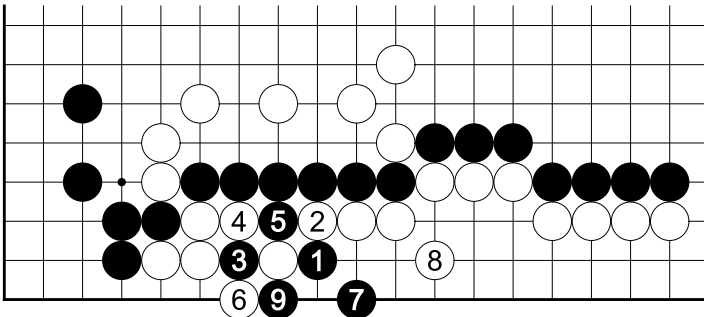


Diagram 5b (correct)

- ❶ This is the correct move.
- ❷ If White defends here...
- ❸ ... then Black can start a ko.

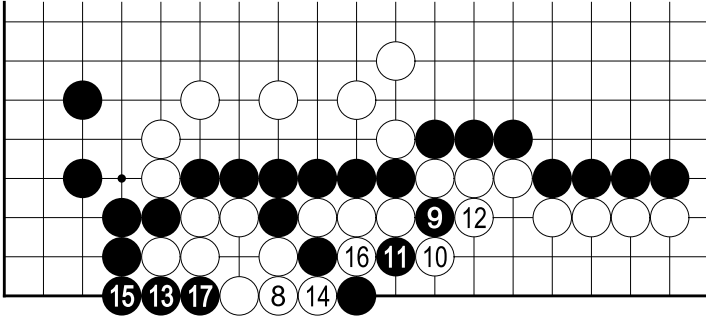


Diagram 5c (correct – variation)

- ⑧ If White plays here Black can capture something.
- ⑰ White cannot save the four stones.

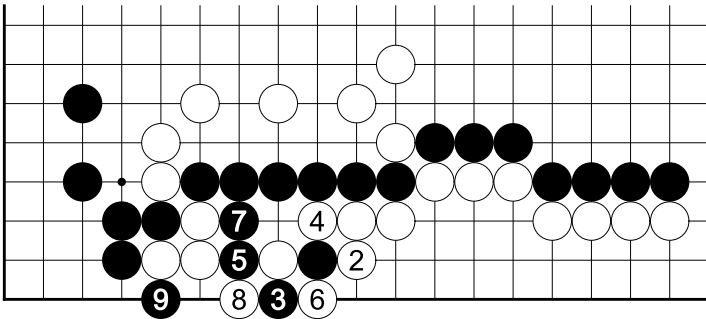


Diagram 5d (correct – variation)

- ② This doesn't work for White either.

BGA CROSSWORD No.2 SOLUTION

by Sphinx

The eight undefined answers are the names of players who lost in the AlphaGo Online Series on Tygem and Fox, Dec 2016 – Jan 2017, where AlphaGo played as Master (and in some games, e.g. vs Xie Erhao, as Magister), i.e. they were mastered by Master (O1'ed by O1):

Visual archive of all games in series:

<http://www.alphago-games.com/#tygemfox>

All games in series (zipped sgfs):

<http://www.alphago-games.com/static/games/agvsag/agvsag.zip>

AlphaGo lead programmer David Silver explains what's new about AlphaGo Zero (2'14''):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tXlM99xPQC8>

Tim Kington explains AlphaGo Zero (23'26'')

<https://youtu.be/XuzIqE2IshY>

DeepMind Blogpost:

<https://deepmind.com/blog/alphago-zero-learning-scratch/>

Paper in Nature (subscription only):

<https://www.nature.com/articles/nature24270>

Elucidation of crossword answers available on request to the Editor.



UK AND IRELAND CLUBS LIST

For current meeting and contact information and links to club web pages please visit britgo.org/clubs/map

The list below is of active Go clubs. Any player turning up at the venue at the advertised time can be reasonably sure of a game, but it's advisable to check first. (The list on the website also includes 'inactive' clubs, which may meet by arrangement if you make contact.)

Anyone not within easy reach of an active Go club can be put in touch with any Go players in their area by our Membership Secretary.

Please send corrections and all new or amended information to the website maintainers at web-master@britgo.org

ABERDEEN Hardback Cafe, Aberdeen University "Sir Duncan Rice Library", Bedford Road, Aberdeen AB24 3AA; Saturday 11:00 every second one from 19/04/14, but check website; Neil McLean aberdeengoclub@gmail.com
<http://aberdeengoclub.yolasite.com/>

ARUNDEL 1 Town Quay, River Rd, Arundel, West Sussex BN18 9DF; Sunday - last in month, but please ring first to confirm; Sue Paterson Tel: 07549 898376
suepat812@btinternet.com

BATH Meets various places - check club web site. BA1 3EN; Tuesday 19:30 ; Paul Christie Tel: 01225 428995 paul@widcombe.me.uk <http://www.bathgo.org/>

BELFAST Function Room, Belfast Boat Club, 12 Lockview Road BT9 5FJ; Monday 19:00; James Hutchinson james8hut@hotmail.com
<http://belfastgo.yolasite.com/>

BELFAST 86 Stranmillis Road BT9 5AW; Thursday 18:30; James Hutchinson james8hut@hotmail.com <http://belfastgo.yolasite.com/>

BILLERICAY 42 Mons Avenue, Billericay, Essex CM11 2HQ; Monday 19:30 in term-time; Guy Footring Tel: 01277 623305 Guy@Footring.net
<http://www.goclub.footring.net/>

BIRMINGHAM Starbucks cafe in the International Convention Centre (ICC) B1 2EA; Sunday 14:00; Andrew Russell <http://www.brumgo.co.uk/>
ar41284@yahoo.co.uk <http://www.facebook.com/groups/182999955074295/>

BOURNEMOUTH 24 Cowper Road, Moordown BH9 2UJ; Tuesday 20:00 ; Marcus Bennett Tel: 01202 512655

BRACKNELL Tuesday 20:00 meets by arrangement only; Ian Marsh Tel: 01344 422296 bracknell@kisekigo.com <http://www.britgo.org/clubs/bracknell>

BRADFORD The Noble Comb, Quayside, Salts Mill Road, Shipley BD18 3ST; Wednesday 19:30; Ewen Pearson Tel: 01274 598980 ewen_pearson@hotmail.com
<http://www.britgo.org/clubs/bradford>

BRIGHTON Druid Arms, 79-81 Ditchling Rd BN1 4SD; Wednesday 20:00; Felix Shardlow tel: 07940 973406 John Allen aka "Yogi" Tel: 01273 383254 or 07854 218920 Jil Segerman Tel: 07920 865065 or 01273 470346 felix37@gmail.com
<https://sites.google.com/site/brightongo/>

BRIGHTON The Southover Pub, Southover St BN2 9UF; Monday 20:00; Felix Shardlow 07940 973406 <https://www.facebook.com/groups/brightongoclub/>
<https://sites.google.com/site/brightongo/>

BRISTOL Bristol County Sports Club, 40 Colston Street, Bristol BS1 5AE; Wednesday 19:00; Luke Oram bristolgoclub@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/BristolGoClub/>

CAMBRIDGE CITY Devonshire Arms, 1 Devonshire Road, Cambridge CB1 2BH; Sunday 18:00-22:00; Simon Mader mader.simon@gmail.com

CAMBRIDGE CITY Relevant Record Cafe, 260 Mill Road, Cambridge CB1 3NF; Thursday 19:00 - 21:30; Simon Mader mader.simon@gmail.com

CAMBRIDGE JUNIOR CHESS AND GO St Augustine's Church Hall, Richmond Road CB4 3PS; Wednesday 18:00-19:30; Paul Smith Tel: 01223 563932 junclub@chessgo.org.uk <http://www.chessgo.org.uk/>

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY Clare College, Trinity Lane, Cambridge CB2 1TL; Monday 20:30 during University terms; James Wood jdww74@cam.ac.uk
<http://cugosoc.soc.srcf.net/>

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY University Centre, Mill Lane CB2 1RU; Thursday 19:00-21:00; Peter Rootham-Smith peter.rootham@alofmethbin.com
<http://cugosoc.soc.srcf.net/>

CANTERBURY Chocolate Cafe in Canterbury, 1 Guildhall Street, Canterbury CT2 2JQ; Wednesday evenings from about 7.00pm; Andy Renshaw andy@religoran.co.uk

CARDIFF Cafe area of Chapter Arts Centre, Market Road, Cardiff CF5 1QE; Tuesday 19:00-23:30; Dylan Carter welshgoplayer@gmail.com
<http://www.cardiffgo.com>

CHELTENHAM Thursday 19:30 ; David Killen 07979 375727 CheltenhamGo-Club@killen.fastmail.fm

CHESTER Ye Olde Custom House Inn, 65-67 Watergate Street CH1 2LB; Wednesday 20:00 - players are normally present from 19:30; Tony Pitchford Tel: 07870 893153 pitchtony@gmail.com <http://www.britgo.org/clubs/chester>

CORK (UCC WEIQI CLUB) Cork Cricket Club, Mardyke Walk 51.896337,-8.492080; Sunday 20:00; corkgo@gmail.com

DUBLIN (COLLEGIANS CHESS AND GO CLUB) Toners Pub, 143 Lower Baggot Street, Dublin 2 53.336883,-6.248860; Wednesday about 20:30-21:00 until midnight Monday about 20:30-21:00 until midnight most weeks; dublin@irish-go.org <http://www.irish-go.org/clubs-tournaments/Dublin/>

DUNDEE Mennie's, aka the Speedwell Bar, 165-167 Perth Road DD2 1AS; Monday from 20:00 during University terms; Rich Philp Tel: 01382-666129 Peter Clinch Tel: 01382 665322 richphilp@hotmail.com
<http://www.personal.dundee.ac.uk/pjclinch/dundeegoclub/>

DURHAM The Bar, Ustinov College, Howlands Farm DH1 3TQ; Monday 20:00-22:00 during term time; Andrew Ambrose-Thurman andrew@ambrose.thurman.org.uk
<http://www.dur.ac.uk/go.club/>

DURHAM The Elm Tree pub, Crossgate DH1 4PS; Thursday 20:00-22:00 during term-time; Andrew Ambrose-Thurman andrew@ambrose.thurman.org.uk
<http://www.dur.ac.uk/go.club/>

EDINBURGH Edinburgh Games Hub, 101 Lauriston Place, Edinburgh EH3 9JB; Thursday 18:30 - 22:00; edinburghgoclub@gmail.com
<https://edinburghgoclub.wordpress.com/>

EPSOM Epsom KT19; Occasionally; Matthew via mobile: 07752 - 301 096
MatthewJSelby@aol.com

ESSEX see Billericay

EXETER White Hart Inn, South Street EX1 1ED; Monday 19:00; David Storkey
Tel: 01392 461182 DaveStorkey@netscape.net

GALWAY Westwood House Hotel bar 53.289630,-9.075140; Wednesday 20:00 - players normally present from 19:30; Richard Brennan richardkbrennan@eircom.net

GLASGOW Curler's Rest (upstairs), 256 Byres Road, Glasgow, G12 8SH; Thursday 19:00; Seigfried Leher glasgowunigo@gmail.com
<http://www.dcs.gla.ac.uk/jtod/go/>

GREGSON see Lancaster

HULL 12 Fitzroy St, Beverley Rd HU5 1LL; Thursday 20:00; Mark Collinson Tel: 01482 341179 micollinson@micollinson.karoo.co.uk

HURSLEY see Winchester

ISLE OF MAN 4 Ivydene Ave, Onchan IM3 3HD - Phone/email to check if meeting 54.181267,-4.465648; Sunday 20:00; David Phillips, 4 Ivydene Ave, Onchan IM3 3HD Tel: 01624 612294, 07624 459944 davidp@manx.net

LANCASTER Gregson Community Centre, 33 Moorgate LA1 3PY; Wednesday 20:00 - players normally present from 19:30; Adrian Abrahams Tel: 01524 34656 adrian7k@live.co.uk

LEAMINGTON 22 Keytes Lane, Barford, Warwickshire CV35 8EP; Thursday 19:30, not Easter Thursday; Matthew Macfadyen Tel: 01926 624445 mrmac-fadyen@gmail.com

LEEDS UNIVERSITY The Faversham, 1-5 Springfield Mount, Leeds LS2 9NG; Tuesday 17:30-20:30; Jitse Niesen jitse@maths.leeds.ac.uk
<http://www.maths.leeds.ac.uk/jitse/lugc.html>

LEICESTER Stephen Bashforth's house, Mayfield, Station Road, Kirby Muxloe LE9 2EN; Thursday 19:45; Toby Manning Tel: 01530 245298 ptm@tobymanning.co.uk
<http://www.leicestergoclub.org.uk/>

LETCHWORTH GO CLUB The Cultivo Lounge, 32 Leys Ave, Letchworth Garden City SG6 3EW; Tuesday 20:00; Aorja Harris hedkandi05@gmail.com
<http://www.lethworth-go.org.uk>

LETCHWORTH JUNIOR CHESS AND GO CLUB Central Methodist Church, Norton Way South SG6 3TR; Thursday 18:00-19:30 during term-time; Alison Bexfield alison@bexfield.com <http://www.letchworth-go.org.uk>

LINCOLN The Wig and Mitre, Steep Hill LN2 1LU; Monday 19:00-22:00 (1st Mon); Richard Leedham-Green richard.leedham-green@ntlworld.com

LIVERPOOL Liverpool Go Club's Facebook group 'Sugar & Dice' Board Game Cafe - <http://sugaranddice.co.uk> . It's at 33a Cornhill. L1 8DP; Tuesday 19:00-22:00; Peter Allen peter.allen@gmail.com

LONDON CITY The Inn of Court pub, 18 Holborn EC1N 2LE; Monday 18:00-23:00; Richard Mullens richard.mullens@gmail.com <http://www.citygoplayers.org.uk/>

LONDON, CENTRAL The Inn of Court pub, 18 Holborn EC1N 2LE; Saturday 14:00-19:00; Jonathan Turner Tel: 07968 538881 (mobile). je_turner@hotmail.com <http://www.britgo.org/clubs/london>

LONDON, EAST Wanstead House, 21 The Green, Wanstead E11 2NT; Thursday 19:00 except August; Francis Roads Tel: 020 8505 4381 wayne@thewalters.eclipse.co.uk <http://www.britgo.org/clubs/london>

LONDON, IMPERIAL COLLEGE Imperial College, Prince Consort Road SW7 2BW; Kalle Timperi <https://www.facebook.com/groups/430381293756773/>

LONDON, KINGS COLLEGE Facebook group Philosophy Bar (aka Sports and Social Bar); Wednesday 16:00-18:00 in term-time; Joanne Leung joanne.leung@kcl.ac.uk <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1793365934279863/>

LONDON, NIPPON CLUB IGO KAI London, Central; Kiyohiko Tanaka Tel: 07956 594040 KGS: matta_tanaka@gokichi.org.uk

LONDON, NORTH Allatson Room, Parish Church, Church Row, Hampstead NW3 6UU; Tuesday 19:30; Michael Webster nlgoclub@gmail.com <http://www.britgo.org/clubs/london>

LONDON, TWICKENHAM The Alexander Pope Hotel, Cross Deep, Twickenham, West London TW1 4RB; Usually second Wednesday of the month at 19:30. See website for date of next meeting.; Colin Maclennan Tel: 020 8941 1607 colin.maclennan@btopenworld.com <http://www.britgo.org/clubs/london>

LONDON, UCL UCL south quad pop-up learning space room 101 WC1H 0AY; Check the Facebook page; Mingyuan Zhang <https://www.facebook.com/events/163751410880333/>

LONDON, WEST London Go Centre, c/o Young Chelsea Bridge Club (behind Sainsbury's), 54 Goldhawk Road, W12 8HA 51.502837,-0.227045; Wednesday 19:00; Gerry Gavigan wlgc@londongo.club <http://www.britgo.org/clubs/london>

MAIDENHEAD ; Friday 20:00; Iain Attwell, Norhurst, Westmorland Rd, Maidenhead, SL6 4HB Tel: 01628 676792 wintergarden@talktalk.net

MANCHESTER Manchester Go Club's Facebook group page Nexus Art Cafe, 2 Dale Street, Manchester, M1 1JW - opposite the "Vinyl Exchange". Tel. 0161 - 236 0100. Please see <http://www.nexusartcafe.com/visit.html> M1 1JW; Sunday 14:00-18:00 Various other days, by arrangement.; Chris Kirkham Tel: 0161 - 903 9023 cckirkham@btinternet.com <http://www.britgo.org/clubs/manchester>

MANCHESTER Manchester Go Club's Facebook group page The Shakespeare pub, 16 Fountain Street M2 2AA; Thursday 17:00-23:00 Various other days, by arrangement; Chris Kirkham Tel: 0161 903 9023 cckirkham@btinternet.com <http://www.britgo.org/clubs/manchester>

MANCHESTER UNIVERSITY Facebook page The Cube near The SU bar, but check the facebook page ; Wednesday 18:30-late in term time; <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1979173719028952/about/>

MID-CORNWALL Penhalurick Barton, Penhalvean, Redruth, Cornwall TR16 6TG 50.198643,-5.218773; Tuesday 20:00; Paul Massey Tel: 07966 474686

MID-CORNWALL Bluefruit Software, Gateway Business Centre, Barncoose, Redruth, Cornwall TR15 3RQ 50.228835,-5.247745; Friday 13:00 - 14:00; Paul Massey Tel: 07966 474686

MILTON KEYNES The coffee bar in the Catering Hub, The Open University, Walton Hall MK7 6AA; Tuesday 12:15-13:15; Tim Hunt Tel: 07850 119939 T.J.Hunt@open.ac.uk <http://www.britgo.org/clubs/mk/>

MILTON KEYNES Wetherspoons, 201 Midsummer Boulevard MK9 1EA; Tuesday 18:15; Tim Hunt Tel: 07850 119939 T.J.Hunt@open.ac.uk <http://www.britgo.org/clubs/mk/>

NEWCASTLE The Carriage pub NE2 1DB; Thursday 19:00; Tom Coulthard tomcoulthard@nhs.net

NORTHAMPTON Blackcurrent Centre, St Michaels Avenue, Abington, Northampton (www.blackcurrentcentre.org.uk) NN1 4JQ; Wednesday 19:00; Thomas Streamer 07926357826 tommyst@gmail.com <http://northamptongoclub.moonfruit.com>

NOTTINGHAM The Last Post, Chilwell Road, Beeston NG9 1AA; Wednesday 19:30-22:00; Brent Cutts brent.cutts63@gmail.com <http://games.groups.yahoo.com/group/nottsgoclub/>

NOTTINGHAM The Dice Cup, 68-70 Mansfield Road, Nottingham NG1 3GY; Tuesday 19:30; Brent Cutts brent.cutts63@gmail.com <http://games.groups.yahoo.com/group/nottsgoclub/>

OPEN UNIVERSITY see Milton Keynes

OXFORD CITY Freud's Cafe Restaurant, 119 Walton Street OX2 6AH; Tuesday 19:30-23:00; Harry Fearnley, 38 Henley Street, Oxford OX4 1ES Tel: 01865 248775 (day/eve) harryfearnley@gmail.com http://www.britgo.org/clubs/oxford_c

OXFORD UNIVERSITY 4 Queen Street, OX1 1EJ ; Wednesday 19:30-22:30 - wks 1-8 Oxford Univ term ; Temitope Ajileye Tel/Text: 0759 8178129 temitope.a@live.it http://www.britgo.org/clubs/oxford_u

PENZANCE see West Cornwall

PORTSMOUTH see Purbrook

PURBROOK Mostly at Peter Wendes's house PO7 5LU; Thursday evenings - most weeks; Peter Wendes Tel: 02392 267648 pwendes@hotmail.co.uk
<http://www.britgo.org/clubs/purbrook>

READING Eclectic Games, 5 Union Street, Reading RG1 1EU; Monday 18:30 except bank holidays; Jim Clare Tel: 0118 950 7319 jimclarego@gmail.com
<http://www.britgo.org/clubs/reading>

SEAFORD 149 Princess Drive, Seaford BN25 2QT; Thursday 19:00-21:30 (not every week); Karen van den Zyl tel: 01323 351473 kvandenzy1@outlook.com

SHEFFIELD Old Queens Head, 40 Pond Hill, Sheffield, South Yorkshire S1 2BG; Sunday 19:30; Phil Barker Tel: 0114 255 1440 (home) pandjbarker@virginmedia.com
<http://sheffieldgoclub.org.uk>

SHEFFIELD Old Queens Head, 40 Pond Hill, Sheffield, South Yorkshire S1 2BG; Wednesday 19:00; <http://sheffieldgoclub.org.uk> pandjbarker@virginmedia.com
<http://sheffieldgoclub.org.uk>

SHEFFIELD UNIVERSITY GO SOCIETY Usually Students Union, The Zone (level 3) - check FB S10 2TG; Friday 18:00-21:00 in term-time check FB; Nicolas Goldstein <https://www.facebook.com/groups/sheffieldgosoc/>

SKYE Givendale Guest House, Heron Place, Portree, Isle of Skye IV51 9GU; Tuesday 19:30; Carel Goodheir Tel: 01478 611763. Jurriaan Dijkman Tel: 01478 612183, 07554 434215 carelgoodheir@gmail.com

SOUTH EAST WALES see Cardiff

ST ALBANS The Garibaldi, 61 Albert Street AL1 1RT; Wednesday 20:00 until pub closing; Secretary: Brian Ellis 01727 872575, Mike Cockburn 01727 834035 brianparkstreet@aol.com <http://stalbans-go.org.uk/>

ST ANDREWS Aikman's Cellar Bar, 32 Bell Street KY16 9UX; Tuesday 19:30-23:00; Edwin Brady edwin.brady@gmail.com

SUSSEX UNIVERSITY see Brighton

SWANSEA also Cardiff, The Mill Pub, 75 Brynymor Road SA1 4JJ; By arrangement; Dylan Carter welshgoplayer@gmail.com <http://www.swanseago.com>

SWINDON Windmill Pub, Freshbrook Village Centre, Worsley Road SN5 8LY; Wednesday 19:30; David King, 21 Windsor Rd, Swindon Tel: 01793 521625 secretary@swindongoclub.org.uk <http://www.swindongoclub.org.uk/>

SWINDON The Beehive, Prospect Hill SN1 3JS; Sunday evening; David King, 21 Windsor Rd, Swindon Tel: 01793 521625 secretary@swindongoclub.org.uk <http://www.swindongoclub.org.uk/>

TEESSIDE ; Meets by arrangement; Matthew Holton M.D.Holton@tees.ac.uk

TONBRIDGE 4 Ives Road TN9 1XJ; Tuesday 19:30; Michael Pickles mjpickles@gmail.com

WANSTEAD see London, East

WARWICK UNIVERSITY Room R3.25 on campus (see website for details) CV4 7AL; Wednesday 17:00 during University term ; Jonas Egeberg
J.Egeberg@warwick.ac.uk <https://www.warwicksu.com/societies/GoSociety/>

WEST CORNWALL John Culmer's house, Rose-in-Vale, Gweek, Helston TR12 7AD; Thursday 20:00; John Culmer Tel: 01326 573167 johnculmer@btinternet.com
<http://www.jj-uk.com/go/wcgc.html>

WINCHESTER The Black Boy Public House, 1 Wharf Hill, Bar End SO23 9NQ; Wednesday 19:30; John Tilley 07824-163776 john@jtilley.co.uk
<http://www.britgo.org/clubs/winch>

YEOVIL Mason's Arms, 41 Lower Odcombe, Odcombe BA22 8TX; Thursday 19:45; Julian Davies Tel: 01935 423046 GoStone@gmail.com

YORK Moroccan Room, El Piano (www.el-piano.com), 15 - 17 Grape Lane, York YO1 7HU; Tuesdays 19:30 check on Twitter @yorkgoclub; Chris Maughan
goclub.york@gmail.com <http://yorkgoclub.org/>

YORK UNIVERSITY University of York Go Society V Bar, Vanburgh College, University of York, Heslington YO10 5DD; Tuesday 18.00 - 21.00; Leonardo Sandoval gosociety@yusu.org

ASSOCIATION CONTACT INFORMATION

Association contact page: britgo.org/contact

Email for general BGA enquiries: bga@britgo.org

Acting President: Toby Manning president@britgo.org

Secretary: Jonathan Chin secretary@britgo.org

Membership Secretary: Chris Kirkham mem@britgo.org

If by post: 201 Kentmere Road, Timperley, Altrincham, WA15 7NT

Newsletter Editor: newsletter@britgo.org

Journal comments and contributions: journal@britgo.org

Our Facebook page: facebook.com/BritishGoAssociation

Follow us on Twitter: twitter.com/britgo

Gotalk general discussion list: gotalk@britgo.org (open to all).

Youth Go discussion list: youth-go@britgo.org, intended for junior players and their parents, Go teachers, people who run junior Go clubs and tournaments, and youth Go organisers.

Use the links on the Help page of our website to join these lists.

COLLECTING GO XXXVI: WESTERN ART

Tony Atkins

ajaxgo@yahoo.co.uk

Many Go fans are aware of oriental art that features Go, for instance the Japanese woodblock prints seen on magazine and book covers. There also exists quite a lot of Western Go art. Often this has been seen on posters and flyers for Go events or clubs, on Go postcards and on Go magazines. Quite often it features dragons or other oriental motifs, such as that for Swansea Go club on the cover of journal 165¹.

London-based artist Jiri Keller is renowned for his portraits of Go players. Many famous oriental players have featured on covers of British Go Journals and many readers will remember the portrait of our long-time book seller Gerry Mills; this appeared on the cover of journal 154².

Sometimes prizes for a tournament have been commissioned from an artist. In 1992 London's Annie Newman was commissioned to produce some hand-painted metal plates for the Canterbury European Go Congress, that reflect her oriental roots, as shown here.



The German Go magazine often features artwork on the cover and many players will be familiar with the cartoons featuring Go stones by Andreas Fecke. However it is a young Slovakian player, who goes by the name of Chidori, who produces perhaps some of the most attractive western Go art. Those who visit the European Go Congress and other events will probably be familiar with her work. Shown here is a panel from a calendar produced by the European Go Cultural Centre^a for their twentieth anniversary in 2012 (another was shown in journal 174^b). Her other artwork and cartoons, often featuring a graphic version of herself, can be seen at her Empty Triangle website^c.



^a<http://www.go-centre.nl>

^b<http://britgo.org/files/bgj/bgj174zaq.pdf>

^cwww.emptytriangle.com

¹<http://britgo.org/files/bgj/bgj165.jpg>

²<http://britgo.org/files/bgj/bgj154.jpg>

A new artist on the Go scene, who you can read about elsewhere in this journal, is Mike Medaglia³. Mike is from Canada and is working over here as an illustrator and produces his own comics. He has promised to provide illustrations for future journals. Here is his first — now used as a poster for Reading Go Club — enjoy!



³<http://mikemedaglia.com>