

BRITISH

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WELCOME TO THE 1ST UK FESTIVAL OF MINDSPORTS



PHOTO AND SCAN CREDITS

Front Cover

Curtain of a teahouse-inspired gazebo — Peter Wendes

Above

The BGA Team at the London Eye — Jon Diamond

Back row (from the left): Toby Manning, Michael Culver, Natasha Regan, Jenny Radcliffe, Nick Krempel;

Front row: Adán Mordcovich, Oscar Selby

Photographs from the UK Go Challenge were provided by Paul Smith.

The remaining photos were kindly provided by the article authors.

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EDITORIAL

journal@britgo.org

Welcome to the 158th British Go Journal.

This Issue

This time we include three book reviews. Perhaps three is a little 'over-concentrated' but, as readers of last edition's Editorial will know, we are keen to increase the number we publish and we have some catching up to do with recently published books.

At the back you will find our annual update of active UK Go clubs.

Sadly, we include obituaries of two great servants of the British Go community: Gerry Mills and Xinyi Lu. Shortly before going to press, we heard from Christian Scarff that his father, Allan, well known to British Go players, has also died. We hope to carry an obituary for him in our next edition.

Please note the important announcement about the Newsletter in View from the Top and on page [36](#).

British Go Journal on the BGA Website

Copies of the Journal are placed on our website (see the box on page [17](#) for details), but not until a year after the printed version is published. This policy preserves the value of the Journal as a benefit of BGA membership, since the website is open to all.

As it happens, viewing programs for PDF files such as Adobe and Sumatra are capable of recognising external references to web pages and email addresses and making the text 'active', so you can simply click on the text and be taken to that web page or start an email. At least this is true for the more recent Journals (BGJ 119 onwards) where the files have been created from original rather than scanned text, and works most of the time (it seems the recognition algorithms can be fooled). A recent innovation, starting with BGJ 157, is that references to external links are being made explicitly active, so should work all the time. Internal links such as page references are also active, so for example, you will be able click on an item in the Contents page and be taken to the article to which it refers.

Credits

My grateful thanks to the many people who have helped to produce this Journal, including the authors of the articles and letters: Tony Atkins, Pauline Bailey, David Carter-Hitchin, Jonathan Chin, Jon Diamond, Alexandre Dinerchtein, Matthew Macfadyen, Toby Manning, Martha McGill, Neil Moffatt, Alex Rix, Francis Roads, Thomas Streamer, Jonathan Turner, David Ward and our anonymous cartoonist; and our hard-working proof-readers: Tony Atkins, Barry Chandler, Martin Harvey, Neil Moffatt, Isobel Ridley, Edmund Stephen-Smith and Nick Wedd.

Pat Ridley

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BGA policy discussion list: bga-policy@britgo.org (open to BGA members only).

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

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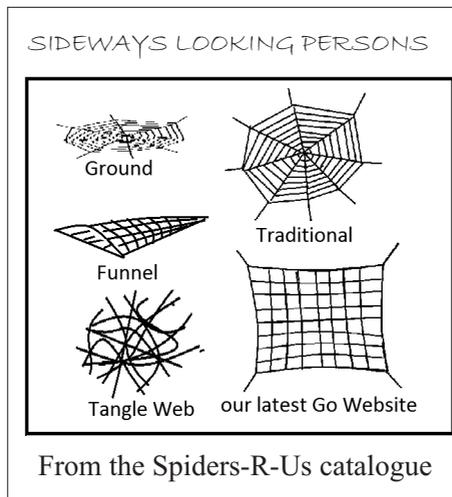
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TRIVIA QUIZ

Five players have appeared three or more times on the front cover of the BGJ, but who has been there the most: Alison Bexfield, Jon Diamond, Iwamoto, Matthew Macfadyen or Natasha Regan?

The answer is on page [17](#).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Kyu for handicap change

Apart from some tweaking of the degree of komi in even games to offset the advantage Black has for playing first, the combination of komi and handicap stones for differently ranked players seems to remain static. I feel that it fails to handicap White enough.

In a game between players ranked one grade apart, the komi is reduced from 5.5 (or sometimes 6.5 or 7.5) to 0.5 points and White plays first instead of Black. This inadequately reflects the rank difference of one stone between the players — where 5.5 points komi would otherwise have been used, Black is in effect given 5 points advantage for the one stone rank difference.

But in reality, this komi adjustment seldom actually helps Black much, being only around half a stone's worth of advantage where a whole stone's worth is needed for equal prospects in the game. The same applies to higher handicaps, of course; Black receives $n - \frac{1}{2}$ stones' worth when playing someone n stones stronger.

In a basic analysis of the last 20 rated games (even and handicap) played by eight randomly selected players at various grades from 9d down to 10k on the KGS server, on average around half of the games were won by resignation, but only a small proportion of games were won on points by Black by virtue of komi. (It is true that some resignations would be as a result of accurate counting where komi was the vital factor, but these are probably in the minority).

At dan level, approximately 5 to 10% of the games were won as a result of

komi. At kyu level, the average was about 5%.

The reality, therefore, is that in the vast majority of games Black does not benefit from a komi reduction to 0.5 points.

The problem is that the conventional handicap system confuses the issue of compensation for playing the second move, i.e. komi, with that of the handicap stones needed to set up an evenly balanced game between players of different strengths.

My belief is that a more meaningful handicap system would employ the same komi value in handicap games as for even games and Black should play first, as he would in an even game.

So for example, a 2k playing a 1k would start with one handicap stone on the board and play the first move, and White would receive komi of 5.5 as usual; a 9k playing a 1k would start with eight handicap stones, with White receiving a komi of 5.5 and Black playing first.

It might stop White from winning so many handicap games, although fear and intimidation may still play major roles of course.

Neil Moffatt

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The Last West Surrey Handicap Tournament

On Saturday, 3rd December 2011 the West Surrey Handicap Tournament was held for the last time. It and its predecessors made 30 years of continuous appearances on the BGA event calendar. The roots of the Tournament were in those organised

by Richard Granville, starting in 1982 (the Black Bull Handicap) near Worcester, moving with him to Farnham in 1987. Steve Bailey ran it for the final 22 years and he had to make the decision that it was no longer viable. The last two years attracted only 12 entries each time, which was very disappointing as well as a financial loss. I find this very sad as the Tournament becomes history after being such a vibrant part of this time of year — a Christmas event and the one Tournament a kyu player stood a chance of winning, but it was no longer supported by sufficient numbers to sustain it.

When it was held over two days, with the teaching day before the Tournament, the weekend was very popular, originally attracting around 50 to the Saturday Teaching Day and upwards of 70 to the Tournament. This was quite a lot of work for Steve over a period of time and the fairly flourishing West Surrey Go Club over the weekend, but most rewarding to see how it was enjoyed. Dan players always seemed willing to teach when approached, but arranging the subjects they taught without overlapping was much harder and time consuming.

Even this lost so much interest and support in recent years that it was decided a one day handicap tournament should replace the weekend. In 2010 the weather was very bad, making travel difficult, but 2011 had no such problems and still few players, kyu in particular, had any interest in what was particularly 'their tournament'. This led to its demise.

On a happier note, here are a few of the venues used over the years to recall happy memories for some of you: Farnham Maltings, a large maze-

like place; Surrey University, where we were very cold; Gosden House School, where the headmaster cooked us bacon butties and was nearly sacked [!!!] by the school cook for using what was meant to be Monday breakfast for the pupils; and finally, Burpham Village Hall, where we had the entire place to ourselves, and the main Hall was always decorated for Christmas and had a festive Christmas tree on the platform. Happy days.

Pauline Bailey

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A web-hosting resource for London Go clubs

A web-hosting resource has been put together to enable Go clubs in London to set up a website and e-mail services free of charge. This came about through a need to host the CLGC website and e-mail lists inexpensively. The costs are in fact so small that I am happy to provide this service effectively free of charge. The BGA offers a similar service to clubs throughout the UK.

The way it works currently is that there is one master domain, londongo.org.uk, from which websites are hosted under 'subdirectories', so the Central London Go Club's website is:

www.londongo.org.uk/clgc

There are differences between a site and a page; a site generally provides a dedicated domain and gives the webmaster of the site complete control over the content and the ability to host multiple pages. There is a possibility to have another dedicated domain registered in the CLGC's name which points to the URL above, but this adds to the costs (but only very slightly!). Complete control is given to the

webmaster of the site, who can upload as many pages and structure the content in whichever way he or she sees fit. The londongo website itself (i.e. without 'clgc') serves a site which is an overview and a guide to playing Go in the capital.

no limit on sub domains, with each incurring an additional £8 charge. The company used is Dream Hosting (www.dream-hosting.co.uk).

I invite any interested London clubs to contact me if they think they would wish to take advantage of this system.

On the current package (£18 per year hosting, £8 domain charges) there is

David Carter-Hitchin

dch888@gmail.com

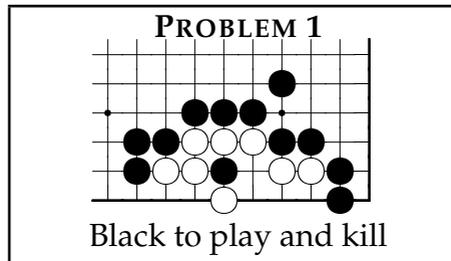
Visit gosensations.com!

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VIEW FROM THE TOP

Jon Diamond

president@britgo.org



Communication, communication, communication. . .

Communication is very important to an organisation such as ourselves, so it is with regret that Council has decided that, given the financial situation and the general move to electronic publication, we can no longer afford the £1,000+ per annum to keep our Newsletter going. The final printed issue is planned to be the April one, but we're planning a regular electronic follow-on four times a year. I'd like to thank all who helped, especially the editors, starting with Francis Roads and ending with Jil Segerman for the last 12 years, for all their efforts over the 30 years of publication.

What is our communications policy now? Well, the printed vehicle is the British Go Journal; we will make all formal announcements there. It will also contain all our News and a Forthcoming Events section. Our website can provide more timely updates and so will be used for all news and other announcements,

such as a summary of each Council meeting shortly afterwards (members can get a copy of the full minutes by contacting the Secretary). So do sign up for our RSS News feed (see 'advert' on page 36. If we want to initiate a discussion on some kind of policy issue then we'll use our bga-policy discussion group, which is for members only — so do join up (for how to do this, see the panel on page 3). So much for us talking to you, but how can you talk to us or other members? Well, if it's about BGA policy you can initiate a discussion on bga-policy. Alternatively you can use the Gotalk group, as we do sometimes, for informal discussions on any topic, since non-members can join. But why don't you talk to one of our Council members if there's something burning or a private issue? Alternatively you can just write to Council — Richard Mullens did so recently and as a result we've reduced our tournament levy charge to nothing for players in their first tournament. You can access all our electronic communications via our website — see our Help page.

I've heard that some people think we're not very responsive. Sometimes we do make mistakes or are tardy in responding, but we're all volunteers. If you feel that we've not considered your issue properly or soon enough, please contact me and I'll respond directly.

Finally, I have to mention the sad loss of two of our organisers — Xinyi Lu, an ex-Council Member, and Gerry Mills, Bookseller extraordinaire for about 15 years. We shall miss them.

WARRAICH V. MORDCOVICH – UKGC 2011

Alexandre Dinerchtein

backpast@gmail.com



Mazhar Warrach



Adán Mordcovich

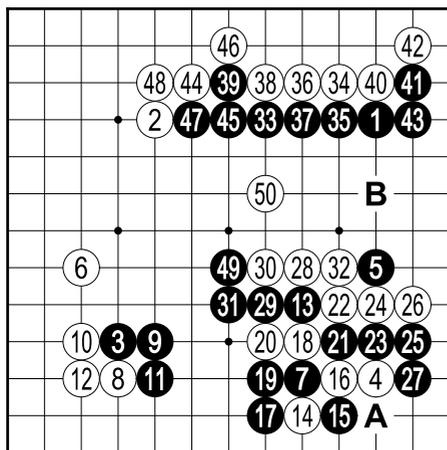


Diagram 1 (1-50)

Event: UK Go Challenge 2011

Date: 26th June 2011

Black: Adán Mordcovich (1k)

White: Mazhar Warrach (1k)

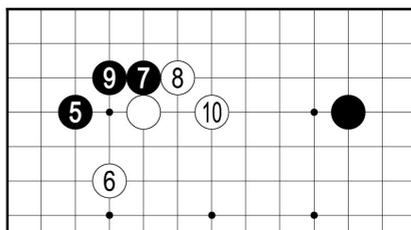
Board Size: 13 x 13

Komi: 6.5

Result: B+17.5

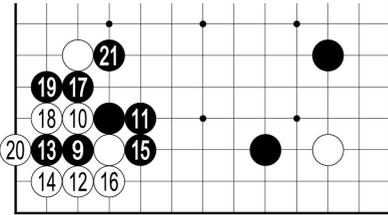
⑤ I don't think that takamoku (5-4 stone) is a good choice for a small board. Your opponent can live inside and the thickness is usually hard to use. As Black I would prefer to punish the takamoku stone directly.

Variation 1 is a typical takamoku joseki, but here it looks bad for White. The thickness is completely useless.

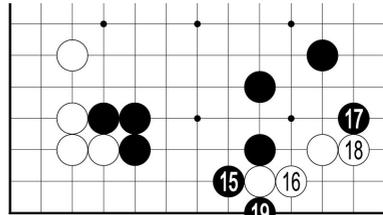


Variation 1 (5-10)

- ⑦ Sharp move! I like it very much.
- ⑧ Unusual, but can be a good idea.
- ⑨ It's more common for Black to play hane — see Variation 2.
- ⑩ Even now this is too soft. I would prefer to cut at the 3-3 point instead.
- ⑫ White's shape is excellent!
- ⑬ But Black's position is still fine.
- ⑭ This attachment is good. Another way to live is to play keima at ⑳.
- ⑮ Sharp plan! If Black hanes on the outside, White should be able to escape because Black position is thin - see Variation 3.

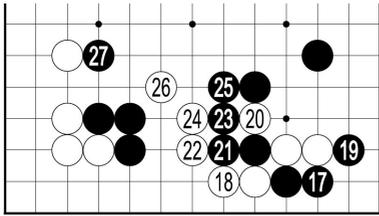


Variation 2 (9-21)



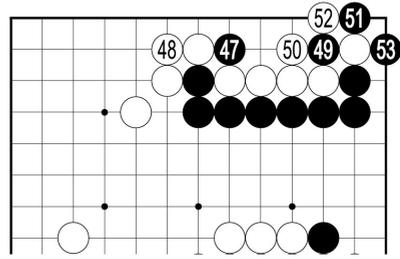
Variation 3 (15-19)

- ⑪ The cross-cut is not dangerous. Black can sacrifice some stones and create a powerful shape.
- ⑫ A successful result for Black.
- ⑬ Another good plan is to push at A — see Variation 4.
- ⑭ Dangerous! The best way now is to live inside by descending at A. White has lot of points on the left, so it should be enough.
- ⑮ Success for Black.
- ⑯ This atari is crude. The normal shape is to extend at ⑳.
- ⑰ Black is winning now and so it's better to play more carefully. A shimari at 36 or 37 would be more solid and give Black a sure lead.
- ⑱ I understand White's desire to invade. He cannot win playing peacefully.
- ⑲ Nice tesuji!
- ⑳ Now White is ahead. The problem is to save the weak group on the right.
- ㉑ A very crude move, better to omit it. There are two reasons: first, Black can invade around 3-3 on the left and live inside; second, there is a good yose-tesuji in reserve — see Variation 5.
- ㉒ Key point.
- ㉓ This is the losing move. Locally White cannot live on the right, but he can try to cut off Black's group and create a semeai (see Variation 6). It's very difficult to predict the result of this fight, but my first feeling is to make the base at B (in Diagram 1), aiming to use the cut in the centre and semeai next.



Variation 4 (17-27)

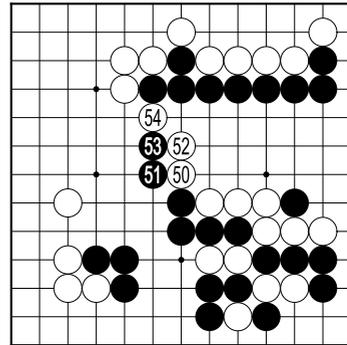
The fight would be promising for Black, but complicated.



Variation 5 (47-53)

This yose is worth about 15 points!

Maybe not directly, but after trying to live on the right side, White can use this cutting point.



Variation 6 (50-54)

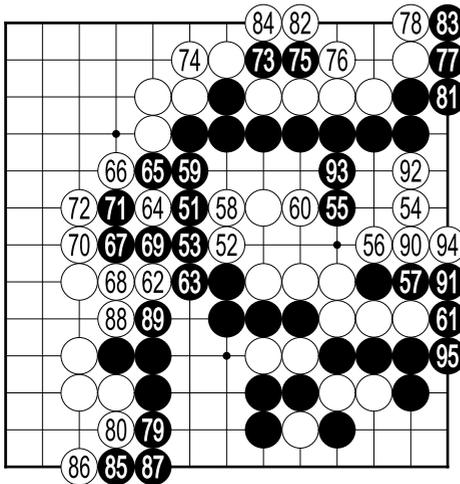


Diagram 2 (51-95)

- 51 Now Black is 100% connected and White is still locally dead on the right.
- 54 I cannot find a way to live.
- 55 Good move!
- 57 Vital point!
- 61 White is dead and the game is over.

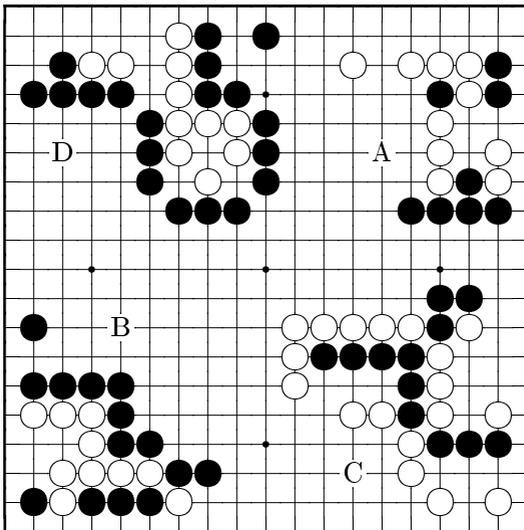
Both players seems to be quite good (close to dan level), but it seems that they have not enough experience of playing on small boards. This game is very different from regular 19x19 Go!

DAVID WARD'S PROBLEM CORNER: PART 5

David Ward

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Four more problems to test you. In each case it's Black to play. In positions A and C, the challenge is to save some stones; in positions B and D, it's to kill. Remember — no kos!



I would recommend that you try without using a board. If you are stuck then try again with a board.

Hints for solving this set of problems can be found on page 24; the solutions are on page 37.

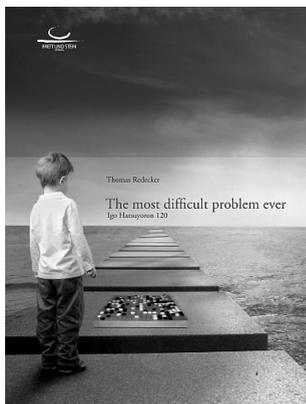


BOOK REVIEW

THE MOST DIFFICULT PROBLEM EVER — IGO HATSUYORON 120

Matthew Macfadyen

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Authors: Thomas Redecker, with Joachim Meinhardt and Harry Fearnley

Publisher: Brett und Stein Verlag¹
ISBN: 978-3-940563-18-7

A Gloriously Implausible Empty Triangle

The Hatsuyoron is a collection of Go Problems created early in the 18th century as reading exercises for top professionals. It might seem that a book devoted entirely to just one of these problems would be rather too high level for an amateur audience. However this is mainly the work of two German kyu players, and the relatively modest playing strength of the authors leads us to discover the point of this book, and indeed of the original source. These problems

were designed to push forward the frontiers of Go technique by presenting the most difficult problems that people could actually solve. The authors have succeeded, by years of painstaking analysis, in discovering some new moves overlooked by professional analysts, and they argue persuasively that several of these should be included in the best line for both sides.

The authors have produced the nearest thing you are likely to meet to a complete analysis of a middle-game Go position. We are not treated to the full analysis of all the failed lines in the book, but to a pretty thorough panorama of the most promising lines. The book is unusual in being bilingual in English and German.

So what is the problem about, and why is it so difficult? The central theme is a bizarre type of semeai (capturing race) called hanezeki, which features a group of stones in atari such that it is bad (locally) to capture them. The composer of the problem has tried to construct a position such that the 'poisoned' group of stones is as large as possible without their capture winning the game. Those who have enjoyed the late Nakayama's 'Treasure Chest Enigma' will remember the problem he quotes from the same

¹www.brett-und-stein.de.

There is a website devoted to the problem at www.dgob.de/dgoz/trmdpe/. See also senseis.xmp.net/?TheMostDifficultProblemEver.

source, where a struggling group of stones wanders all across the board capturing big lumps of stones without ever finding a second eye. This one is in the same spirit.

The feature that makes problem 120 so hard to manage is that it comes down to a position where one side (White, the victim) must choose which of two large capturing races to win. Depending on which of these lines is chosen, small details of order of forcing plays from earlier may gain or lose a few points. And after the decision there is still an endgame to play out, the result of which is close in several lines.

The original 1713 book was produced without solutions and early published editions took the wise decision of omitting this problem. It was unearthed and studied by some Japanese professionals in the 1970s and an account appears in *Go World* 29 (1982). Their solution arrives at a two-point win for Black. The discovery of some small improvements in White's play later caused Black's two point margin to evaporate, and the search for better ways for Black eventually led Thomas Redecker to discover his gloriously implausible empty triangle — a move which loses half an eye, attacks no stones and gains no liberties, but

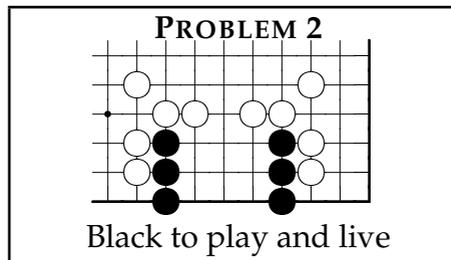
rescues Black's position. It is worth having this book just to marvel at the possibility that such moves exist.

As to the title, this is certainly an extremely rich and bizarre Go position, and certainly very difficult indeed to solve, but the authors have shown that it is humanly possible. I am unconvinced that an ordinary game position around move 100 with no special tactical features would actually lend itself to being completely solved in this way.

And to the question of what strength of Go player it is suitable for, I would be surprised if anyone weaker than about 15k would be able to follow the sequences, but for players stronger than this it is a question of willpower and perseverance rather than actual playing strength.

The book is not an easy read, but it does show what it feels like to know everything about a Go position, and in that feeling lies the possibility of leading your own Go, at whatever level, to move a little closer to complete enlightenment. Players who like to dream about the game of Go and its ultimate possibilities will have a space on their bookshelf for this slim (144 page) volume.

The review copy was kindly provided by Brett und Stein Verlag.

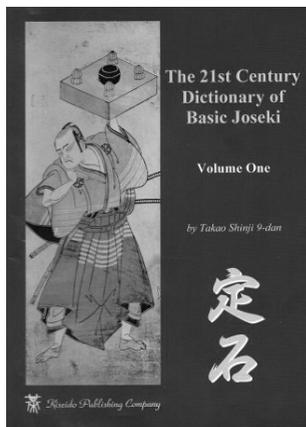


BOOK REVIEW

THE 21ST CENTURY DICTIONARY OF BASIC JOSEKI, VOL. 1

Neil Moffatt

moffatt.neil@gmail.com



Author: Takao Shinji (9p)

Publisher: Kiseido¹

ISBN: 978-4-906574-41-4

This is a welcome and overdue major revision of Yoshio Ishida's 1977 "Dictionary of Basic Joseki Volume 1", which covers the 3-4 point. It is only slightly longer in page count (288 vs 265), but packs more information in those pages by adopting a dense, twin column format, and it has a better table of contents.

Much has changed in the intervening years, with many joseki falling into disuse and new joseki added on a regular basis. Joseki is in a constant state of flux and an immense subject, so this book necessarily aims to limit its scope to 'basic' sequences. It deviates from this, however, with

31 pages on the small and large avalanche joseki, but many will be interested enough in these to justify their inclusion.

The book is divided into five parts: the small knight approach, the one space high pincer, the large knight approach, the two space high pincer, and the rear approach move for the Chinese Opening. It is understandable that chapter 5 is a new addition (essentially covering joseki in a full board context), but bewildering to see that part 2 — the one space high pincer — was not covered at all in the original dictionary.

Before I proceed any further I should point out that I am 5k BGA (3k KGS), so the review is limited to that perspective. To a large extent, I cannot verify that the information presented is perfectly correct (the only error I found was a repeated diagram on page 8), nor that there are any important missing joseki. I did, however, discover some discrepancies between this book and Kogo's Joseki Dictionary (downloadable SGF file²) in some variations of the 5-5 attachment response to the one space high approach. Alexandre Dinerchstein, a European 3p, provides support for Kogo's dictionary and declared that the differences were on an obscure fringe of the main joseki, so not important.

¹www.kiseido.com

²waterfire.us/joseki.htm

This book can indeed steer you into long dark alleys, where most kyu players would struggle to follow or remember the variations — or, more importantly, see the value of each move and the value of the end product. It is clear that many of these 'basic' joseki are not so basic, and more like dan material than ready food for kyu players.

The book is much more valuable as a reference than as something to read sequentially. A good way to use the book is to learn a few variations and try to apply them in your games, returning to the book when your opponent fails to adhere to the 'rules' you are keen to apply. The book earns its stripes admirably with its many discussions of variations that deviate from joseki. These are often as informative as the true joseki.

The book also, helpfully, gives variations to exploit failures to complete josekis. Unfortunately, this is not consistently provided. For example, one comment finishes with "Since Black's extension lacks attacking potential, it's quite common for White to switch elsewhere." But there is no tenuki section to this chapter, so quite what Black should do if White does indeed switch elsewhere is missing.

The book cannot hope to cover all deviations you might encounter in practice, however the narratives frequently explain why moves are made. This is the essential part of joseki study — to understand the rationale behind moves more than the precise sequences: better to learn good style than in parrot fashion. The effect

of studying this book is more that you will acquire a feel for the right moves, much as studying tsumego does for life and death positions.

I spent a few weeks playing the aforementioned 5-5 attachment to the one space high pincer. It was not long before I realised that my instincts were poor when my opponent deviated from the joseki lines, and the book helped me understand why.

I can recommend this book, but feel it is important to point out that there are usability shortcomings that somewhat weaken its value.

Some specific problems and missed opportunities I noted were: labelling of sections not matched to the variations indicated on diagrams; no logical relationship between diagram numbering and variations; not enough forward and backward references; variation stone numbering always starting from 1 instead of continuing from the main sequence.

My feeling is that the sheer scale of work required to construct such a book was already a large enterprise for the potential sales, but by failing to check on usability, all that good work was unnecessarily compromised. I feel strongly enough about this to offer my services to make the changes required. I would strongly suggest that Volume 2 does not suffer in the same way. Volume 1 is a good book, but a book that could have been great.

Volume 2, completing the two-volume set, will be available in early 2012.

The Review copy was kindly provided by Pentangle Puzzles and Games³.

³www.pentangle-puzzles.co.uk

1st UK MIND SPORTS FESTIVAL

Jon Diamond

President@britgo.org



At the Reception

A historic moment for UK Mind Sports was marked on 17th November 2011 with the first festival of all the games represented by members of the [International Mind Sports Association](#).



The View from the Eye

In one capsule, players Michael Culver, Natasha Regan and Oscar Selby were joined by Jon Diamond, Thomas Hsiang (Vice-President of the International Go Federation and Executive Director of IMSA) and some members of the US Mind Sports Association.



Oscar Selby and Michael Culver

The International Federation of Poker had booked the entire EDF Energy London Eye for the evening, for their first international team championship of Duplicate Poker. They invited the other UK games organisations to demonstrate their games to the world media.

The BGA occupied two pods for most of the evening, with players varying in age from 8 to 73.



Natasha Regan and Michael Culver

In the other capsule Toby Manning could only stay for one circuit. However as Jenny Radcliffe, Adán Mordcovich and Nick Krempel were exiting at the end of the evening, they were turned round and had to enjoy a final circuit with a press team filming them playing Go and interviewing them about the game. We look forward to viewing the resulting video!



Thomas Hsiang and Jon Diamond



Thomas and Oscar teaching Amy Handelman (USA Mind Sports Association) how to play Go

Thanks to all the players, the BGA organisers and the Nippon Club Go Section (for lending the sets). Finally, thanks go to Mind Sports Partners, headed by Don Morris, for organising the whole enjoyable event and providing excellent hospitality for all.

The .sgf files for problems and games printed in this journal appear on

www.britgo.org/bgj/current

Links to electronic versions of past issues of the British Go Journal, associated files, guidelines for submitting articles and information about other BGA publications appear on the BGA website at

www.britgo.org/pubs

TRIVIA QUIZ ANSWER

The answer to the Trivia Quiz question on page 3 is:

Iwamoto

Iwamoto¹ has appeared five times, on the cover of BGI issues 28, 29, 43, 109 and 118. All the others have appeared three times (so far).

Why not dig out those old Journals and check for yourself? You are bound to find something interesting in the process.

¹senseis.xmp.net/?Iwamoto

UK NEWS

Tony Atkins

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Cornwall

Usually there is late summer weather to greet the Cornish Go weekend. If you ignored the wet Friday for travelling, then you were not disappointed. Twenty players in all took part, including two from the new Northampton club. On the Saturday morning at the Queen's Hotel in Penzance, Tony Atkins led a teaching session with input from Ian Marsh. Then, after lunch, Arundel's Sue Paterson (4k) won the 17-player Cornish Rapid Handicap. Second with four wins was Peter Collins (3k Bristol). Ian Marsh (1k) won the Cornish Open on the Sunday, beating Bracknell club-mate Simon Goss (1d) in the final. Ian was the only one of the 17 players to win all three games.

Northern

Richard Moulds (3k) won this year's Northern tournament, held as in the last few years in Stockport Masonic Guildhall. This year, however, it was held on the same day as Cornwall, 11th September, because of room booking difficulties. Although there were only 21 players, there were another four prize winners with the maximum of three wins, namely: Ron Bell (4k Borders), Roger Huyshe (5k Shrewsbury), James Brownrigg (7k Chester) and Brian Timmins (9k Shrewsbury). Also noteworthy is the fact that Adán Mordcovich (2k Wanstead), the youngest player to attend, was placed second overall.

Championship

In a fascinating third game in Camden Town on 17th September, Matthew

Macfadyen beat Nick Krempel to take the title of British Go Champion for the twenty-fifth time, by two games to one. Guo Juan (5p) kindly commented all three games and created free audio lectures about them, all available via the championship section of the website. Thanks go to her and all who hosted, refereed and organised the three games.

Swindon

Despite trouble getting the Community Centre unlocked, the Swindon Tournament on 18th September went well and attracted 36 players. Winning again after a gap of six years was Bei Ge (5d), who beat Francis Roads (3d) in the last round. Francis led the Wanstead club to victory for the team prize. The only other player to win all three games was young Aidan Putman (12k) from Swindon, so a special prize went to Adán Mordcovich (2k) for two good wins.

Shrewsbury

The Shrewsbury Tournament took place on 2nd October. The new organiser, Roger Huyshe, unfortunately did not see an increase in numbers, despite a switch of day to Sunday to ease driving and parking problems. The winner this year was Toby Manning (2d) after a long last round struggle with Baron Allday (1k), who creatively made eyes for two wandering dragons only to find his safe corner die as a result. Toby collected his prize at a run and departed to catch a plane to Kosovo, now less of a war zone than the Go

board. Kathleen Timmins (14k) also won three games.

Teams

Kobayashi Chizu (5p)¹ visited the UK in the middle of October with her daughter Anna. Her visit to the Oxford club on Monday ended with a very enjoyable Chinese meal, attended both by local players and others such as Matthew Macfadyen. The following day in London she met with officials from the BGA in her position as Overseas and Publications Director of the Nihon Ki-in. Prior to those visits, on Sunday 22nd October, she gave two interesting game reviews to the players at the Autumn London International Teams match at the Nippon Club. Wei Wang led the China A team to victory in the open division, winning all four matches. Shinichi Nao also won all his games to help Japan take second. In the handicap division there were five teams, which meant there were byes and also an unfortunate forced rematch. South London's first team won three matches on number of wins tie-break from St Albans. South London's Patrick Batty and Luke Humphrey, and Paul Taylor and Jonathan Green of St Albans, won all their games.

Wessex

Yunlong Liu (3d), a temporary student in Scotland, won the 42nd Wessex Tournament. It was held again on the day the clocks went back (30th October) in the old St Mark's church in Bath and again featured doughnuts, as well as the usual coffee and biscuits. Yunlong beat the defending champion Andrew Kay (4d) by two points in the final. The only other player of the 30 participants to win

all three games was Dylan Carter (2k) from Cardiff.

East Midlands

The rockets of the National Space Centre were appropriate for 5th November, but luckily none were fired during the East Midlands Go Tournament. Chong Han (5d) from Loughborough was the winner, beating Francis Roads, Jon Diamond and Tony Atkins along the way. Two others among the 40 players won all three games, namely Chris Bryant (9k St Albans) and Paul Reade (14k Leamington). Francis Roads and Alistair Wall were awarded plaques for supporting the small small-board side tournament, though not many games were played.



Andrew Kay — winner at Three Peaks and Coventry

Three Peaks

The Three Peaks Tournament was held the following weekend, again in the Commodore Inn in Grange-over-Sands. However different from the previous year was the absence of the organiser, Bob Bagot, on the Saturday. His stand-in, Tony Pitchford, was awarded with a special prize in thanks for his help.

¹senseis.xmp.net/?KobayashiChizu

In the 38-player tournament, Andrew Kay (4d) stopped the run by Matthew Cocke (5d) of three titles in a row. Andrew beat Matthew in their fourth-round game to increase his concurrent titles to four. Andrew Simons (3d) also won four games to come third, only losing to Matthew. Other players winning four out of five were Chris Kirkham (4k Manchester), Ron Bell (4k Borders), and Adrian Abrahams (10k) and Eggert Fruchtenicht (13k), both from the local Lancaster Go club.



**Matthew Macfadyen
and Sin Voon Chin**

Other players getting prizes for winning all three were David Killen (5k Cheltenham), James Brownrigg (6k Chester), Brent Cutts (9k Nottingham) and Reg Sayer (13k Stafford). Local University club members Anees Ahee (18k) and Ross Woodruff (25k) also won all three games. Forty-seven players took part.

Coventry

Andrew Kay stopped Matthew Macfadyen's run of three titles in a row at the Coventry Tournament. This was held as usual on the campus of the University of Warwick on the 19th November.



Andrew Jones and Chu Lu

Andrew Kay (4d) beat Matthew Macfadyen (6d) in their third-round game to allow Andrew to further increase his concurrent titles to five. Matthew won the prize for second and Chu Lu (5d), from the University club, was third.

Edinburgh

The Edinburgh Christmas Tournament on 3rd December was not plagued by wintry weather, unlike the 2010 edition, which had been forced to reschedule to February 2011. Chinese student Yunlong Liu (3d) was the best of the 24 players at the Quaker Meeting House, winning all four games. Local player Boris Mitrovic (1k) lost to him in the final and was runner up. Two other bottles were taken away by Eggert Fruchtenicht (13k) for four wins and Rob Payne (7k) for three. With falling numbers and increasing venue costs, the organisers stated that the future of this tournament would be reviewed.

West Surrey

Held on the same Saturday as Edinburgh, the West Surrey Handicap at Burpham was also announced as having been struggling to survive and it has been decided to stop². The last winner, after a ten year gap, was Malcolm Hagan (7k) from Winchester. He beat Roger Daniel (6k) from London into second in the final. Others winning three were Ed Blockley (5k) from Worcester and Colin Maclennan (10k) from Twickenham. Co-organiser Pauline Bailey (16k) won the 13x13 competition with eight wins, Tony Atkins won the lunch time Pits card game and Sue Paterson won the

competition for writing 26-word passages where each word starts with a different letter with the following:

“At Burpham cheerful devotees enjoy friendly Go handicaps. Inevitably, Jil kills (literally) my necessary (or possibly quite random) stones. TERRIBLY UPSETTING! Vanquished with x-ray youthful zeitgeist.”

(and Tony modestly failed to include his own entry: *“Xinyi Lu, thirteen board king, is no more. Happy days over goban, josekis played wistfully, zealously concentrating, very quickly scanning for rip-offs. You are enjoying Utopia!”* — not in alphabetical order and placed second — Ed.).

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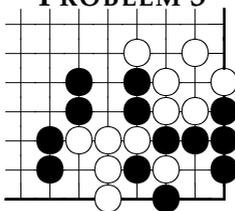
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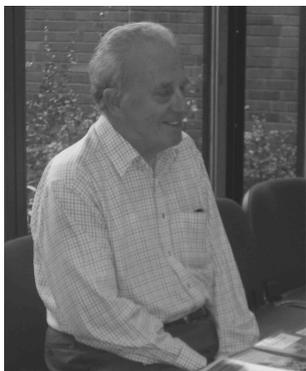
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PROBLEM 3



Black to play and
win the capturing race

²See also Pauline Bailey's letter on page 4



It is with great regret that we announce that Gerry Mills died on Monday 14th November after a year battling cancer.

Gerry was born in 1930 and went to Jesus College, Cambridge after completing his National Service. While there he became a “Wrangler” (i.e. he obtained a 1st Class Honours degree in Mathematics) and was awarded a half-blue for table tennis, but this was before the advent of the Cambridge University Go Society and it was not until 1976 that he discovered Go. He was introduced to the game by his friend and colleague John Hall, ably assisted by articles in the magazine “Games and Puzzles”. I have fond memories of playing him and his son, Quentin, at the Bristol Go Club, initially with nine stones handicap, and seeing both of them rapidly improve. Gerry reached 1d in 1986.

Before then he had set up his own computer company, Mills Associates. This was in the days when computers needed their own air-conditioned room and input was via a long roll of paper tape with holes punched in it. In 1994 he took over responsibility for the BGA Bookshop from Bob Bagot,

running it for 16 years. There was a detailed article about this by Gerry himself in BGI 153, so I will not repeat that information here. Suffice it to say that his contribution was so great that he became, literally, irreplaceable.

He was an indefatigable attender of tournaments, attending 220 in 15 years. His last tournament was Shrewsbury, only 6 weeks before his death.

Gerry was a keen athlete, playing both cricket and squash in his younger days. He also enjoyed mountain walking, having climbed over 100 “Munros”, and he shared the hope with his other son, Simon, that together they would climb Foinaven, a mountain 911 metres high in the far North West of the Scottish highlands. Alas, this never happened, but Simon intends to scatter his ashes on the top of Foinaven during 2012; if any Go players would like to accompany him they would be very welcome (contact me for details).

All those who met Gerry will remember him for his kindness, help and unflinching good humour — he will be missed.

Toby Manning

Alex Rix adds:

I was saddened to hear of the passing of Gerry Mills. He displayed extraordinary energy and dedication as the bookseller over many years, going far beyond the call of duty and providing a first class service with an ever growing collection of books. I remember also the formation of BGA Books as a separate company to sell books and equipment to non-members. This venture took on a life

of its own and generated significant profit to support the work of the BGA, as well as directly supporting the spread of Go in this country. Despite being a very busy person, I cannot

recall an occasion when he said no to anything. He was always a pleasure to deal with and his vibrant personality, enthusiasm and generous nature will be sorely missed.

XINYI LU

1984-2011



It is with great sadness that we announce the death of keen Go player Xinyi Lu at the untimely age of 26.

He died under tragic circumstances at a national park whilst enjoying a holiday in China, falling off an unguarded platform onto rocks below. This came as a great shock to all who knew him and our thoughts are with his family, friends and colleagues as they try to come to terms with this dreadful and unnecessary loss.

Xinyi was a gentle, modest, thoughtful, caring and kind person who devoted a lot of his time to promoting Go in the UK. He worked tirelessly to raise awareness of tournaments and improve the Go scene. He was a member of the BGA Council from 2007-2010, being responsible for "clubs and membership". He set up the BGA Facebook group in 2007, which he

continued to update regularly with useful tournament reminders. In 2010 Xinyi became a member of the Central London Go Club Committee, remaining an active member until his death.

As well as attending Central London and Maidenhead Go clubs regularly, Xinyi played in over 50 tournaments during his short life. He was a good Go player, providing a stern challenge and making steady progress towards dan level; he was 3k when he died. Many will remember him for his friendly smile and the gracious manner in which he played games.

Xinyi worked as a Senior Audiologist in the Royal Free Hospital, where he was also making steady career progress. British medicine has lost a great medic, and the British Go community a great ambassador, but most importantly his family have lost someone of whom they can be very proud. He will be sorely missed by everyone whose lives he touched.

There is a tribute website for Xinyi at sites.google.com/site/tributetoxinyi/home where you can find more information about his life, the circumstances of his death, and his parents' campaign in search of justice for Xinyi and raising awareness for safety standards in public places in China.

Jonathan Turner and Toby Manning

DAVID WARD'S PROBLEM CORNER: HINTS

David Ward

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Here are the hints for the problems on page 11.

General tips to solving problems: First try to reduce eye space from the outside, and only when that doesn't work look for placements. If the obvious placement almost works then treat it as a clue — perhaps it will work with a preparatory forcing move.

Specific tips

A: this looks impossible, but if you can find a move that threatens two things at once the problem is solved.

B: the obvious attempt fails due to shortage of liberties, once you discover this fact then the solution should not be too hard to find.

C: surprisingly difficult and easy to miss in a real game. Black has only three liberties so you need to be fast — if no inspiration then there are only a limited number of possibilities to try.

D: in my opinion, this is both beautiful and difficult — here are a few hints:

1. try reduction as the starting point.
2. the proverb “there is death in the hane” helps here.
3. is the eye in the centre always unconditional?

If you manage to solve the problem then reflect on what you have found out; perhaps you will look upon impossible life and death problems differently!

The solutions are on page 37.

COPY DATE FOR THE NEXT JOURNAL

The copy date for the Spring issue of the Journal is 18th February.

Please send your contributions to journal@britgo.org.

The Editor will be glad to discuss the suitability of any material you may have in mind.

WORLD NEWS

Tony Atkins

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PGETC

The Pandanet Go European Team Championship started again with Britain's first B-League match on 27th September. The potential team was a lot stronger than the first year, as more time had been available to organise it. The team members for 2011 to 2012 are Matthew Macfadyen, Bei Ge, Vanessa Wong, Chong Han, Simon Shiu, Des Cann, Alex Selby, Jon Diamond, Nick Krempel, Andrew Simons, David Ward and David Lee.

Bei, Des, Alex and Andrew battled hard against Belgium, but only won on board four. The first of two draws for the team was against Austria on 18th October. Andrew won again, as did Bei, but a no show on board two and a loss for Alex on board three saw the match tied. There had been some delay on completion of the match caused by Pandanet server maintenance. The Mitic brothers from Serbia dominated the next match on 15th November. Dusan had beaten Matthew a week earlier and Nikola beat Bei on the night by half a point. Des and Jon both beat their opponents in close games to earn the BGA eighth place in the table, by tie-break. Full match details, including game records are available on the website¹.

Ireland is again in the C-League. This was restarted after only two matches were played in the first month and two countries pulled out. This did allow Norway (who seem to be winning every match), Belarus and new Go-playing nation Kazakhstan to join in. So far Gavin Rooney, Ian

Davis, James Hutchinson, Eoghan Barry and the rest of the team have drawn with Cyprus and Belarus, but lost to Turkey.

KPMC

Based on results at recent British Go Congresses, Andrew Kay (4d) was selected to represent the UK at the sixth Korea Prime Minister Cup International Amateur Baduk Championship in Pohang, Korea. He beat the players from Morocco, Slovenia and Hong Kong, but lost to France, Canada and Thailand. With three out of six, he ended in 22nd place. Also winning three, below the dan bar, was Ireland's Rory Wales in 49th place. Anson Ng, who has played in youth events for the UK, won five representing Hong Kong and finished 17th.

EC

The European Cup season, which started in the summer, continued at Brno in the Czech Republic, a level five event (the highest tournament status); Csaba Mero was the first to take the maximum of 18 points² in the new Cup, winning on tie-break from Jan Prokop. Rudi Verhagen won the Cup event in his own country in Delft and Carlo Metta did likewise in Pisa. Pal Balogh was the winner at Balatonfüred in Hungary, whilst Israel's Ali Jabarin won in Istanbul and Lukas Kraemer won in Bochum. The Brussels Tournament was a level four event and became the second Cup tournament win for Csaba Mero,

¹www.britgo.org/events/euroteams2011.html

²The points system is described at www.eurogofed.org/ecup/index.htm

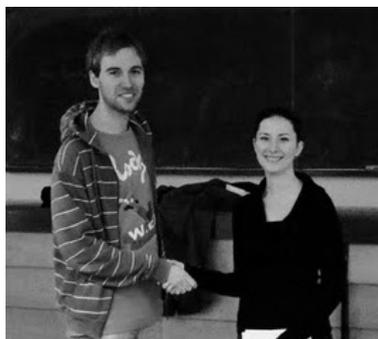
again on tie-break. T Mark Hall finished tenth, the highest placed of the four Brits present. Sweden's Martin Li won the level four event in Gothenburg to complete the autumn season, with Csaba leading the points table on 33, ahead of Martin Li on 21. The next event will be the London Open level five tournament.

IAPGC

The 22nd International Amateur Pair Go Championship was held as normal in Tokyo on 19th and 20th November. Britain had scored enough points to get a place again and our pair of Alison and Simon Bexfield topped the group on two wins to come seventeenth. They won their first two games by beating pairs from the Philippines and Spain, but lost to Korea in round three and then to two Japanese pairs. For the sixth time in a row Korea won. They beat the middle school pupils of Chinese Taipei in the final. The top European pairs were Rita Pocsai and Pal Balogh of Hungary in ninth and Jitka Bartova and Jan Hora of Czechia in twelfth, both with three wins.

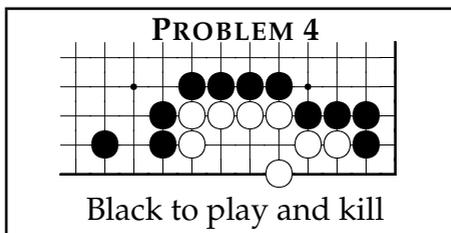
UCC

The same weekend, 23 players graced Cork with their presence. The tournament took place in the rather beautiful main campus of University College Cork. Top player was Kim Ouleleen (3d) from Amsterdam, with a perfect five wins.



Cork winner Kim Ouleleen with organiser Justyna Kleczar

In second place was Ian Davis (1d), edging out Spain's Matei Garcia (4k) on tiebreak, despite him scoring five. Also scoring five was Thomas Shanahan (15k) from Galway. With four wins were Arthur Cater (9k), Marek Gutkoski (10k) and Kevin Doherty (15k).



BGA PRIORITIES FOR 2012

Jon Diamond

president@britgo.org

We are continuing our regular activities, such as Membership Administration, the Youth Grand Prix and the BGJ, however Council has been discussing what our development activities for 2012 should be and how to prioritise them. This is what we've come up with:

- **Club Development**

Quite a number of our clubs are just about hanging on, a few have given up recently and some are reported as not being terribly friendly to novices.

We will be focussing on trying to spread best practice from the active clubs to less active ones. We will also be trying other methods of encouraging clubs not just to play more, but also to recruit and teach new players.

We also need to know what the BGA can provide additionally to help clubs. An online ladder system might be useful, but are there others?

- **Making the BGA relevant to online players**

We believe that the total number of Go players in the country isn't going down, but that an increasing number are only playing online.

We need to understand what they need over and above playing on servers as they do currently, and set out to provide it!

We also need to market ourselves better and persuade more

online players to play in our tournaments.

- **Membership Drive**

Since BGA membership has been gradually falling we thought this quite important!

So, we're starting initial planning for a membership drive in September/October, to coincide with the start of the students' new academic year.

- **Youth Development**

This year we're trying to consolidate where we are. One obvious thing we need to do is improve our communication with school Go clubs.

However, we are really short of people to help in this area and are looking for volunteers to lead some other projects in Youth Go. Help is needed NOW!

- **Double Figure Kyus**

We need to nurture these better, providing specific teaching and assistance to help them improve, and to encourage them to play more often in tournaments.

Additionally, we want to help tournament organisers focus more on attracting these players to their tournaments.

Your thoughts on these priorities are always welcome, as are volunteers!

ANOTHER GAME FROM THE US CONGRESS

Francis Roads

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Continuing from my article about the 2011 US Congress in the previous Journal, here is the game I played in Round 6. The comments are again based on those of Yilun Yang (9p).

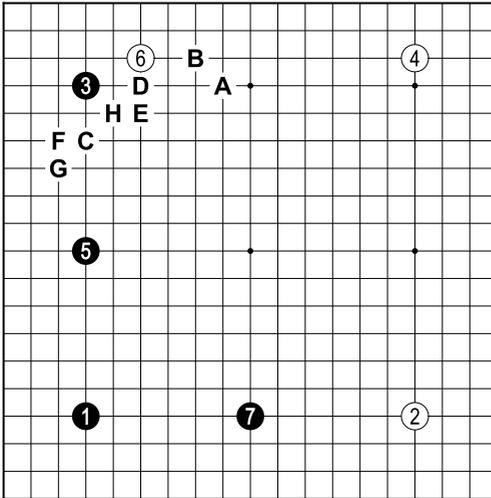


Diagram 1 (1-7)

White: Ryan Smith 4d.

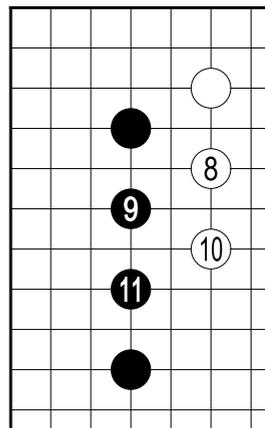
Black: Francis Roads 4d.

Event: US Open 2011, Round 6.

Result: W+R

7 For many years I have played A in this sort of san ren sei situation. Mr Yang doesn't like this: he recommends the move which I played here, rather than the familiar A, B, C, D or E. F and G are right out. The only local move that he recommends is H.

White can play this way if he wants to limit the moyo. In retrospect you can see that 8 (E in the main diagram) was the vital point for both sides for controlling the development of the game.



Variation 1 (8-11)

⑭ See Variation 2.

⑮ This move was OK. However, it was still safe to invade at A, and this is where Black has the most potential. White should jump in because it will be harder the longer he waits.

⑯ This was adjudged wishy-washy. B apparently was better, a move which I didn't consider.

⑰ Right idea, but still the wrong side. As long as it is safe, White should invade where he has more potential. (Ryan was too worried about letting Black consolidate some of his territory while attacking his weak invading group.)

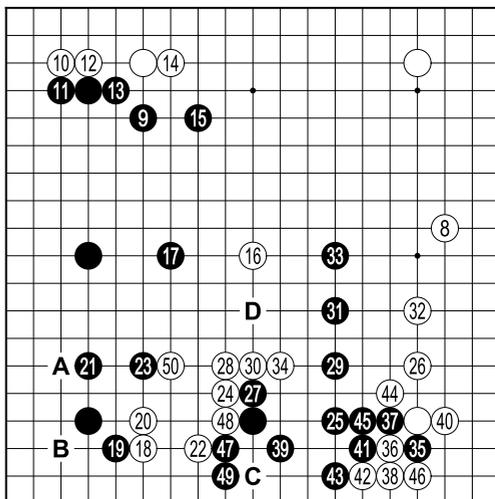
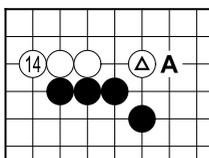


Diagram 2 (8-50)



Variation 2 (14)

This joseki choice is better for White here than the move played (at A). Ryan had a few misgivings about the aji of the marked stone, but Yang felt this is the only way since White can either get sente or a start on reducing the moyo.

⑱ This should be at C. This is bigger than every move White played for the next 10 moves or so. White has invaded and should seek safety. Once he has this, Black is floating and White can act with impunity.

⑲ This move is slack; it should be at 27, to keep up pressure on the white group.

⑳ Once again, this should be at C. Ryan was worried about a double attack by Black on the corner at 26, and reasoned that he was already safe without C.

㉑ Good for weakening my group and strengthening his.

㉒ I'd have done better to leave out 35-38. Following ⑳, playing at 46 would be better.

㉓ D is the only move. White can now peep for eyes or move out. Having eyes is nice, but White makes Black so much stronger with the sequence in the game that it's unplayable.

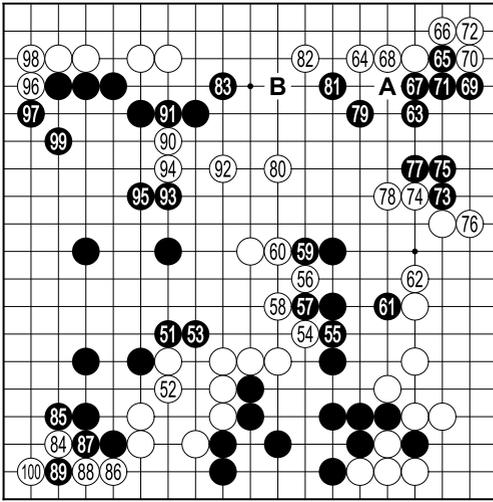


Diagram 3 (51-100)

- ⑤3 A good shape-taking move.
- ⑤4 Peeps are OK in this special case because the right side is so strong and further away.
- ⑥4 This is bad because it puts no pressure back on Black. A is better.
- ⑥9 In the ensuing sequence, the group ⑥3 to ⑥9 becomes heavy. I needed a move around B.

⑩2 A is larger yose ...

⑩3 ... which I noticed.

Mr Yang's commentary stops around here.

⑭7 Ryan and I agreed that B would be larger.

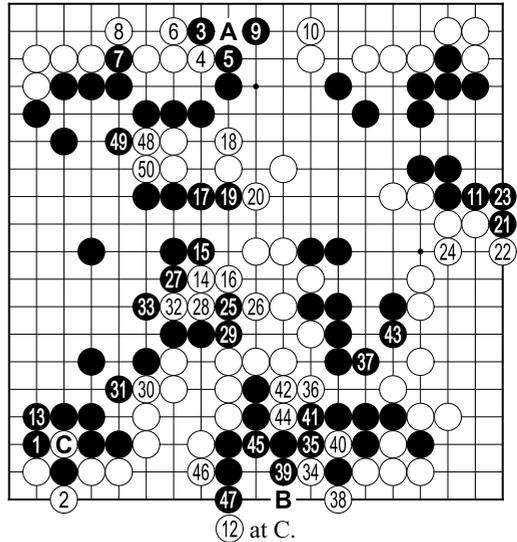


Diagram 4 (101-150)

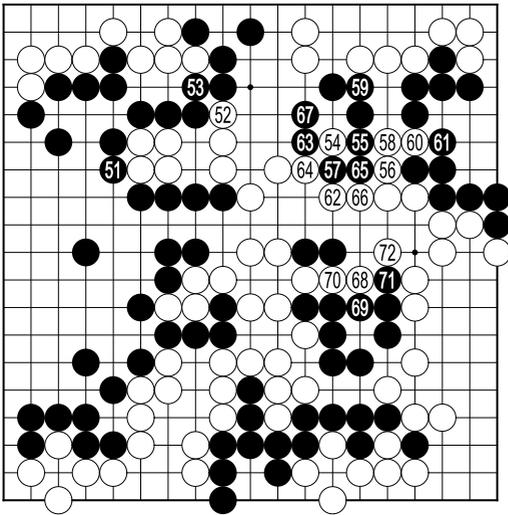


Diagram 5 (151-172)

- Ⓜ67 The game-losing blunder.
- Ⓜ68 Threatening to play at 169 or 170. I resigned a few moves later.

PROBLEM 5

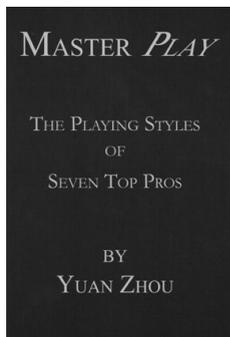
Black to play
and capture some stones

BOOK REVIEW

MASTER PLAY: THE PLAYING STYLES OF SEVEN TOP PROS

Martha McGill

martha.mcgill@hotmail.co.uk



Author: Yuan Zhou

Publisher: Slate and Shell¹

ISBN: 1-932001-50-6

'The Playing Styles of Seven Top Pros' is the latest addition to Yuan Zhou's Master Play series, which now numbers six books (all of commented professional games). I've enjoyed the other books in the series, but they all struck me as being somewhat on the short side; I was excited to see that this latest book is more than twice as long as any of the others, with its fourteen games spanning 269 pages.

The commentary is lighter than in the other Master Play books — I think the games took me an average of about an hour to play through. Nonetheless, there's plenty in here, and the length feels about right — the book is satisfying without being exhausting. Slate and Shell are selling it for \$24, which makes it significantly more expensive than the other works in the

series; however, you are undoubtedly getting more for your money.

The seven top pros included in the book are Sakata Eio, Takagawa Kaku, Fujisawa Shuko, Rin Kaiho, Nie Weiping, Ma Xiaochun, and Cho Hunhyun. Zhou provides brief biographical information for each in turn, along with a pair of particularly representative games.

His book illustrates how very personal Go is, and how widely professional styles can range. We discover, for example, the 'honte' style of Takagawa, which led Hashimoto Uтарo to declare that playing him was "like drinking warm water". Ma Xiaochun's psychological Go is tailored to each opponent; a move which is good against Nie Weiping "naturally" would not be played "against a player like Kato Masao". Deserving of a special mention is the 'double-waisted' Go of Rin Kaiho (this is a term borrowed from sumo, meaning 'very hard to defeat'); 3-0 behind in a best-of-7 Meijin title match against Ishida Yoshio, he manages to eke out a half-point win in a dramatic game (Ishida was just one ko threat short), before going on to win the title. As might be expected, the games abound with impressive tesujis, ingenious plans, and examples of terrifyingly deep reading.

Something that I've always liked about the Master Play books is that

¹www.slateandshell.com/

they favour simplicity. The moves are explained according to basic, straightforward principles, with little focus on the most mind-numbingly complex sequences. I'm usually happy to be tricked into believing that top-level Go isn't utterly beyond my understanding. However, over the course of these fourteen games, I actually began to grow slightly frustrated by Zhou's approach. In general, he focuses on one particular stylistic aspect for each professional (whole-board thinking, honte moves, keeping the opponent uncomfortable, flexibility...).

Of course, there are advantages to this method. The comments are clear and easy to follow, and I did close the book with a sense that several basic principles had been even more deeply drummed into me. However, the commentary occasionally feels somewhat forced. Many questions are left unanswered, and at times it seems like this is simply because they do not pertain to Zhou's overall message for the game. Moreover, few variations are provided for complex sequences. Zhou is not aiming to help the reader to understand all of the ins and outs of a game, but rather to use certain features to make a broader point.

As in earlier books, Zhou has reviewed these games in conversation with a 4k (Bill Cobb). Occasionally his questions, along with Cobb's answers, are included (they mark useful moments for the reader to pause and consider the game). I get the impression that Zhou pitches his commentary very effectively to his audience, and I would definitely recommend this book for players around Cobb's strength — and, indeed, for any player in the region

of 10k-1k. I imagine that the clear, straightforward approach will appeal particularly to weaker players who have little experience of pro games: this book is a gentle introduction! Of course, stronger players will also benefit from studying the games. However, I suspect that dan players will not learn a huge amount from Zhou's commentary. He does an excellent job of making the games accessible to Single-Digit Kyus (SDKs), but this inevitably entails leaving out some higher-level nuances.

Finally, although in general the book is reasonably well-presented, it could have benefited from more thorough proof-reading. There are multiple typing errors — I spent longer than I'd care to admit trying to find the definition of 'athesente'! Moreover, being a pedant, I get a little annoyed about careless inconsistencies such as the (clearly unintentional) use of varying fonts in the contents page. However, the diagrams themselves are accurate — I didn't come across any mistakes that make Zhou's points unclear. Furthermore, there's a certain warmth and enthusiasm in Zhou's tone that shines through despite the occasional errors: he succeeds in recreating much of the drama and excitement of the games.

Overall, I've enjoyed this book a lot, and have certainly learned from it. For players outside the SDK range, there may be more useful ways to spend \$24. However, this is one of those books that reminds you of how exquisite Go can be; there's a lot to be said for that.

The Review copy was kindly provided by Slate and Shell.

SETTING UP A NEW GO CLUB

David Carter-Hitchin

dch888@gmail.com, 0781 266 2536

Brief History

In May 2010 we held the first meeting of the City of London Go Club in the Melton Mowbray pub in Holborn, London from 6pm until closing time at 11pm, and we have been playing there every Friday since. We have had players of all strengths from 6d or 7d to complete beginner and now have on average about ten to fifteen players. In the early days we didn't have these kind of numbers, and for many months we often had around five players each week. I play at around 5k but I have never found this a problem — you don't need to be a dan player to set up a club!

Setting up

All in all, the process of setting up the club was very easy. The pub was only the second one I had approached and was very amenable and accommodating to the idea. Having the club meet in a pub is a sly piece of free marketing for the club itself and Go in general, and it also makes for a relaxed atmosphere. Some people find the pub music distracting, but I think on the whole a lively pub setting helps to give players somewhere to unwind with a drink and some food on a Friday night after a week of hard graft. Personally I like playing Go with background music playing, and do not find it distracting. I would say that the success of the club is directly linked to this informal atmosphere, which is a sharp contrast to other clubs that meet in quieter surroundings. We have started a library to encourage learning, although this resource relies

on donated books so has been a little slow in starting up. This will run on a deposit scheme, so there is less risk of losing books.

Promotion

To promote the club I have used a flier given to libraries and restaurants, and put up on any notice board I can find. I also set up a website www.citygoplayers.org.uk, and the majority of newcomers say they learnt about our club via this whilst searching on the Internet for playing Go in London. We get quite a few tourists and English language students this way, who are in the capital briefly but want to play a couple of games in the evening. I also strongly encourage people to tell all their friends, colleagues, family and acquaintances about the club, since word of mouth is perhaps the most powerful form of advertising.

Beginners

We treat beginners with the highest priority since they are the future of Go. I will spend all evening with a new player if necessary to ensure that they are not left out. Mr Shinichi Nao (6d) sometimes hosts his Japanese language-based Go school "AmiGo" at our club. Mr Nao also strongly believes in encouraging beginners.

Costs

We charge £1 for a board fee, and I ask people to buy a drink to acknowledge the kind help of the pub landlords. This fee has already paid back the money I invested initially to buy five

sets and a box of fliers, which were bought for about £300. Fees are now paying back the costs of the Blitz tournament (shield and other prizes) and will then build to buying another five sets, costs of future tournaments and other events.

Events

We will hold two tournaments a year; a fun Blitz tournament in the Autumn, and an A-class tournament in the Winter. Our first blitz was held in October and was a lot of fun, with Andrew Kay taking the top prize, followed closely by Matthew Cocke and Roger Daniel. The Summer offers the possibility of open-air events like Go picnics, which again are free

advertising for our club and Go in general.

Conclusion and Thanks

The whole process of setting up the club took a moderate amount of organisation and a small monetary investment to set the ball rolling. The main thing was to just keep going even if there were some quiet weeks; it takes time to build the momentum. The club promises to go from strength to strength. I would like to thank all those people who have helped in the last eighteen months: too numerous to mention everyone, but in particular Mr Tanaka and Tony Atkins.

I welcome anyone to contact me with any questions about setting up a club.

NORTHAMPTON GO CLUB

Tom Streamer

tommyst@gmail.com



Although Internet Go has allowed us to play people all over the world, I think most will agree that it is no substitute for playing face to face. Go clubs are probably the best and most social way for us to play a range of different opponents in this way and so, naturally, I hoped to find one in my local area. I soon realised that if I wanted to attend any I would need to travel out of town, and so it seemed sensible to try and set one up locally.

There were a couple of people nearby who I had introduced to the game and were interested, so this seemed like a start at least. I was very lucky in that I knew a venue near the town centre that would let us use a room free of charge, so attending our club would be free.

Equipment could have been an issue (the fact you can print a 9x9 board on a piece of A4 paper was a lifesaver initially) but as the club has grown, thanks largely to word of mouth, we have pooled our resources to make sure we have what we need.

We started in May and currently have five regular members.

You can find out about the club and where we meet at: northamptongoclub.moonfruit.com.

Did you know?

- The “news” in the Newsletter could be more than two months old by the time it reaches your letterbox.
- Posting out the Newsletter costs about half a membership subscription – nearly £9 per recipient per year!
- Everything[†] written in the Newsletter, and sent with it, is available online.

3, 2, 1, ... Gone!

We're really grateful to all the people who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes to bring the Newsletter to you six times a year for the past thirty years. Sadly, it just isn't financially viable to continue posting it out. So:

Publication of the Newsletter will cease with the April edition.

Fear not, we intend to continue to email an electronic version of the Newsletter midway between issues of the Journal. If you don't want to wait that long:

Read up-to-the-minute news online

- On the BGA website: www.britgo.org/views/news
- Or on Facebook: facebook.com/BritishGoAssociation
- Or subscribe to our RSS feed: www.britgo.org/rss.xml



RSS feeds are easy to use

RSS feeds let your computer check for news automatically and add it to your email or display it in your web-browser, so you don't need to go looking for it.

Support for RSS is widespread – Firefox, Internet Explorer, Safari, Apple Mail, Gmail, Microsoft Outlook/Live Mail and Thunderbird (to name just a few).

Want more detailed instructions? Have a look through our webpage of tips contributed by other BGA members: www.britgo.org/helpRSS

Still feeling overwhelmed? Please email me and I'll help you to get started.

No Internet access? You won't be able to view our website. We're very sorry about that. However, the most important news and the calendar of forthcoming events will be included in the Journal, printed regularly four times a year.

HELP NEEDED: we want to find out more about how you access our news, so please can you fill in the survey on this page: www.britgo.org/newssurvey

Jonathan H N Chin
secretary@britgo.org

[†]Actually, not *quite* everything, but very nearly.

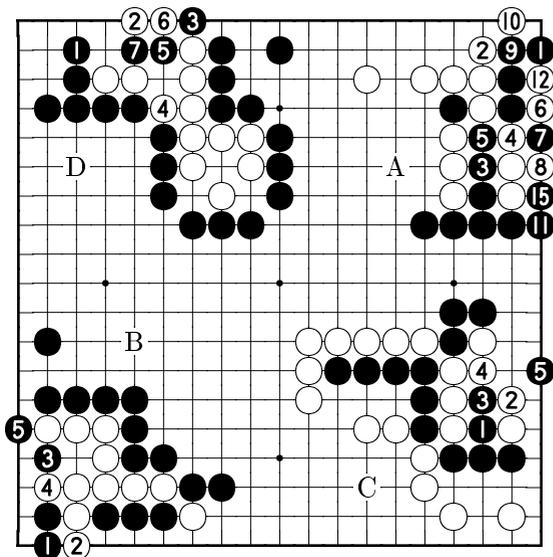
The rest will be available online soon, or will be included in the Journal.

DAVID WARD'S PROBLEM CORNER: ANSWERS

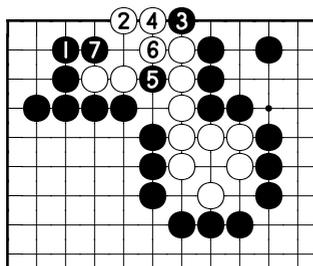
David Ward

dward1957@msn.com

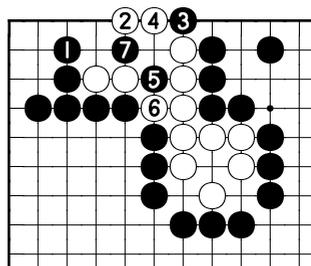
Here are the solutions to the problems on page 11.



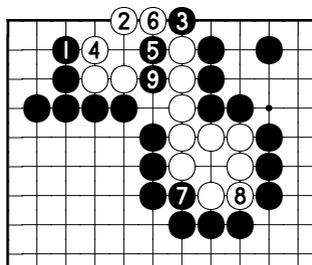
A: 13 at 7, 14 at 6.



Variation D1



Variation D2

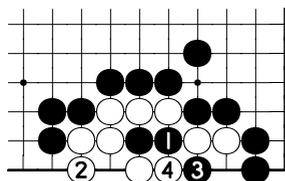


Variation D3

SOLUTIONS TO THE NUMBERED PROBLEMS

The .sgf files for these problems, showing a fuller set of lines and including failures, are to be found at www.britgo.org/bjg/issue158.

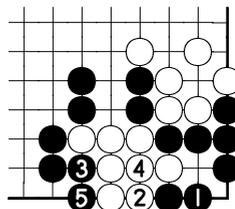
Solution to Problem 1



Dia. 1

This is one of the Nihon Ki-in drinks mat problems. In Dia. 1 the first move of sacrificing a second stone is the only move that works. After white 4, Black plays back inside at 1 to make a snap back shape if White takes the edge stone, or the edge stone escapes if White takes the other. If White takes the two stones instead of descending, again Black throws in at 1 to create the snap back.

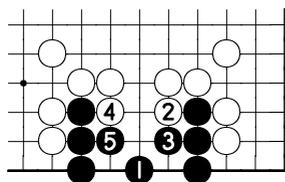
Solution to Problem 3



Dia. 3

This is from the Nihon Ki-in playing cards. In Dia. 3, this black move is the only way to win the fight by making the eye in the corner. Black can fill the outside liberties without White ever managing to atari the corner black stones. Any other first move ends in death or an unfavourable ko.

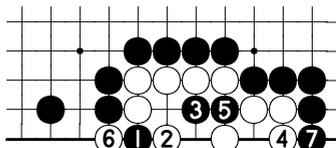
Solution to Problem 2



Dia. 2

This is from the Nihon Ki-in proverb hanky. Dia. 2 is the only way to live — the proverb is play at the centre of symmetry, but this time it is also playing on the edge which is unusual. Any higher move or asymmetric move fails.

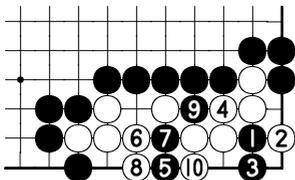
Solution to Problem 4



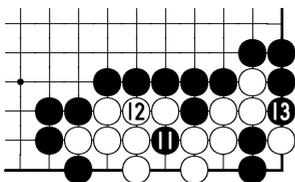
Dia. 4

The hane in Dia. 4 is the correct start. If White plays the atari then Black can take the vital point; quickly White runs out of liberties. There is nothing else White can do to stop Black killing him. If Black plays 1 at 3, then White can play at 4 and is not short of liberties.

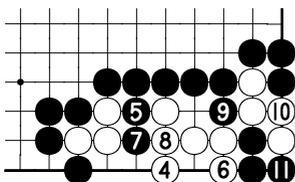
Solution to Problem 5



Dia. 5



Dia. 6



Dia. 7

The 2-2 point is the key to starting this problem, adding a second stone in the corner before switching to the vital point to the left, as shown in Dia. 5.

In Dia. 6 White is caught short of liberties and all the stones are dead.

However White can choose to save some of his stones by not playing at 4 in Dia. 5. White should play 4 as in Dia. 7 and Black should then capture the three white corner stones by playing 5 at 4 in Dia. 5.

If Black instead plays at 5 in Dia. 7, White can give up three stones and live in the corner using the 'under the stones' method to make a corner eye, by playing 12 to the left of 10 after Black has taken the stones on the right with 11.

SIDWAYS LOOKING PERSONS



So you see dots before your eyes,
your index and middle fingers itch,
and you react whenever you hear a
click I am afraid that you have
got 'Repetitive Go Syndrome'
and there is no known cure.

UK CLUBS LIST

For current meeting and contact information and links to club web pages please visit britgo.org/clublist/clubsmap.html

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.

Anyone not within easy reach of an active Go club can get contact details of any Go players in their area from our Membership Secretary. Also, lots of players looking to form clubs are listed at igolocal.net so, if there is nothing listed near you on the BGA site, why not look there?

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

ABERDEEN Kilau coffee shop, Little Belmont Street; Friday 18:15 to about 22:30.
Aidan Karley 07808 581 890 (doesn't work if offshore)
aberdeen-go-owner@yahoogroups.com

ABERGELE The Departure Lounge, 9 Market Street, Abergele, North Wales;
Thursday evenings; Michael Vidler 01745-870353 michael.vidler@hotmail.com

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

BARMOUTH Tuesday; Baron Allday 01341 280365, Philip Ward-Ackland
wardackland@yahoo.co.uk

BATH The Dolphin Inn, 103 Locksbrook Road; Tuesday 19:30;
Paul Christie 01225 428995 paul@widcombe.me.uk

BELFAST Function Room, Belfast Boat Club, Table Top North society;
Monday 19:00; Ian Davis 07597 070201 ian.davis29@btinternet.com

BILLERICAY 42 Mons Avenue, Billericay, Essex; Monday 19:30 in term-time;
Guy Footring 01277 623305 Guy@Footring.net

BIRMINGHAM Starbucks cafe in the International Convention Centre (ICC);
Saturday 14:30; Mark Winters brungo@onewingedangel.co.uk

BOURNEMOUTH 24 Cowper Road, Moordown; Tuesday 20:00

BRACKNELL The Green Man, Crowthorne Road; Tuesday 20:00;
Ian Marsh 01344 422296 ianmarshgo@aol.com,
Laurence Anderson 01276 686333 laurence.anderson@ntlworld.com

BRADFORD The Noble Comb, Quayside, Salts Mill Road, Shipley;
Wednesday 19:30; Ewen Pearson 01274 598980 ewen_pearson@hotmail.com

BRIGHTON Swan Inn, Middle Street, Falmer; Wednesday 20:00 ; Jil Segerman
07920 865065 or 01273 470346 jil.segerman@gmail.com, Sue 07549 898376
<https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/brightongo>
brightongo@googlegroups.com

BRISTOL King George VI, Filton Av, (Corner of Station Road) Filton; Wednesday 19:30; Paul Atwell 0117 9861206 (home) Paul5Bristolgo@aol.com, 07811 195364, Bob Hitchens bob@hitchens10.freeserve.co.uk

CAMBRIDGE CITY CB1, 32 Mill Road; Friday 18:00-21:00 Saturday 17:00 onwards, Sunday 18:00-20:00; Simon Mader mader.simon@gmail.com

CAMBRIDGE JUNIOR CHESS AND GO St Augustine's Church Hall, Richmond Road; Wednesday 18:00-19:30; Paul Smith 01223 563932 andreapaul@ntlworld.com

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY The Buttery, Clare College; Monday from 20:00 during University terms; 3rd floor, the University Centre, Mill Lane; Thursday 19:00-21:00; John Richardson jwr38@cam.ac.uk

CARDIFF Ocean Palace Chinese Restaurant, 48 Tudor Street, Riverside; Tuesday 19:00-23:00; Neil Moffatt 029 2041 2539 neil.moffatt@ntlworld.com

CHELTENHAM Thursday 19:30; Adam Watts 07403 475573

CHESTER Ye Olde Custom House Inn, 65-67 Watergate Street; Wednesday 19:30; Tony Pitchford 01925 730583 tony@towbarsdirect.co.uk

CORK (UCC WEIQI CLUB) Boole 5, Boole Basement, UCC (University College Cork); Thursday 19:00; goclub@umail.ucc.ie

DUBLIN Larry Murphy's, Corner of Baggot Street and Fitzwilliam Street; Monday about 20:30-21:00 except Bank holidays, Wednesday about 20:30-21:00; dublin@irish-go.org

DUNDEE Mennie's, aka the Speedwell Bar, 165-167 Perth Road; Monday from 20:00; Rich Philp 01382-666129 richphilp@hotmail.com, Peter Clinch 01382 665322 j.clinch@dundee.ac.uk

DURHAM The Bar, Ustinov College, Howlands Farm; Monday 20:30, The Elm Tree pub, Crossgate; Thursday 19:30; Jenny Radcliffe jenny@durge.org, go.club@dur.ac.uk

EDINBURGH Meadow Bar, 42-44 Buccleuch Street; Monday 19:00; Phil Blamire 0131 663 0678 contact@edinburghgoclub.co.uk

EPSOM Paul and Yvonne's house; Wednesday 19:00-22:30; Paul Margetts 020 8393 2627 Paul.Margetts@cognex.com

ESSEX See: Billericay

EXETER upstairs at Georges Meeting House, South Street; Tuesday 19:00; David Storkey 01392 461182 DaveStorkey@netscape.net

GALWAY Westwood House Hotel bar; Wednesday 20:00; Richard Brennan richardkbrennan@eircom.net

GLASGOW The Blind Pig, Byres Road; Thursday 20:00; John O'Donnell 0141 339 0458 (home) 0141 330 5458 (work) jtod@dcs.gla.ac.uk

GREGSON See: Lancaster

GRIMSBY Thursday; Scott Tyrrell 01472-314911 sdtyrrell@hotmail.co.uk

GUILDFORD See: West Surrey

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

HURSLEY See: Winchester

ISLE OF MAN; Sunday 20:00; Leo and David Phillips, 4 Ivydene Ave, Onchan IM3 3HD; 01624 612294, 07624 473688 leo@manx.netcelia@manx.net

LANCASTER Gregson Community Centre, 33 Moorgate; Wednesday 20:00;
 Adrian Abrahams 01524 34656 adrian7k@live.co.uk

LEAMINGTON 22 Keytes Lane, Barford, Warwickshire; Thursday 19:30 (not Easter); Matthew Macfadyen 01926 624445 mrmacfadyen@googlemail.com

LEEDS UNIVERSITY The Faversham, 1-5 Springfield Mount, Leeds; Tuesday 17:30-20:00; Jitse Niesen jitse@maths.leeds.ac.uk

LEICESTER Stephen Bashforth's house, Mayfield, Station Road, Kirby Muxloe; Thursday 19:45; Richard Thompson richard@leicestergoclub.org.uk, Toby Manning 01530 245298

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

LONDON CITY Melton Mowbray pub, Marlborough Court, 14-18 Holborn; Friday 18:00; David Carter-Hitchin david@carter-hitchin.clara.co.uk

LONDON, CENTRAL Nippon Club Salon, 2nd floor, Samuel House, 6 St Albans Street, (off Jermyn Street); Saturday 14:00-21:00; Jonathan Turner 07968 538881 (mobile) je.turner@hotmail.com

LONDON, EAST Wanstead House, 21 The Green, Wanstead; Thursday 19:00 (not August); Ken Kneller 020 8853 3749 sec@wansteadgoclub.org.uk

LONDON, NIPPON CLUB IGO KAI See: London, Central and London City; Kiyohiko Tanaka 07956 594040 KGS: matta tanaka@gokichi.co.uk

LONDON, NORTH Gregory Room, Parish Church, Church Row, Hampstead; Tuesday 19:30; Michael Webster nlgoclub@gmail.com

LONDON, SOUTH The Balham Bowls Club, 7-9 Ramsden Road, Balham; Monday 19:30; David Cantrell david@cantrell.org.uk

LONDON, TWICKENHAM The Alexander Pope Hotel (formerly the Pope's Grotto hotel), Cross Deep; Wednesday 19:30; Colin Maclennan 020 8941 1607 colin.maclennan@btopenworld.com

MAIDENHEAD Iain Attwell 01628 676792 Friday 20:00

MANCHESTER The Shakespeare pub, 16 Fountain Street; Thursday 19:45; Chris Kirkham 0161 903 9023 chris@cs.man.ac.uk

MID-CORNWALL Glenview Farm, Wheal Buller, Redruth, Cornwall; Tuesday 20:00; Paul Massey 07966 474686

MIDDLESBROUGH; Matthew Holton; M.D.Holton@tees.ac.uk

MILTON KEYNES The coffee bar in the Catering Hub, The Open University, Walton Hall; Tuesday 12:15-13:15; Wetherspoons, 201 Midsummer Boulevard; Tuesday 18:15; Tim Hunt 07850 119939 T.J.Hunt@open.ac.uk

NORTHAMPTON Blackcurrent Centre, St Michaels Avenue, Abington, Northampton; Wednesday 19:00; Thomas Streamer 07926357826 tommyst@gmail.com

NOTTINGHAM The Last Post, Chilwell Road, Beeston; Wednesday 19:30-22:00; Brent Cutts 0115 959 2404 brent.cutts@boots.co.uk

NOTTINGHAM UNIVERSITY Trent building, University Park; Tuesday 19:30-22:00, term-time; Ben Haines ben-haines@hotmail.co.uk

OPEN UNIVERSITY See: Milton Keynes

OXFORD CITY (Maybe temporarily) Freud's Cafe Restaurant, 119 Walton Street; Tuesday 19:00-23:00 and Thurs 19:00-23:00; Harry Fearnley 01865 248775 (day/eve) harryfearnley@gmail.com

OXFORD UNIVERSITY Stapledon Room, Exeter College, Turl Street; Tuesday 19:00-23:00 - wks 1-8 Oxford Univ term; Chris Hydon 07948 448287 christopher.hydon@st-annes.ox.ac.uk.

PENZANCE See: West Cornwall

PORTSMOUTH See: Purbrook

PURBROOK Mostly at Peter Wendes's house; Thursday evenings - most weeks; Peter Wendes 02392 267648 pwendes@hotmail.com

READING Eclectic Games, 36 Market Place; Monday 18:30 (bank holidays); Jim Clare 0118 950 7319 jim@jaclare.demon.co.uk

SHEFFIELD Hillsborough Hotel, 54-58 Langsett Road, Hillsborough; Sunday 19:45; Phil Barker 0114 255 1440 (home) pandjbarker@virginmedia.com

SKYE Givendale Guest House, Heron Place, Portree, Isle of Skye; Tuesday 19:30; Carel Goodheir 01478 612909 carelgoodheir@gmail.com, Jurriaan Dijkman 01478 612183, 07554 434215 givendale@gmail.com

SOUTH EAST WALES See: Cardiff

ST ALBANS The White Lion, 91 Sopwell Lane; Wednesday 20:00 - players normally present from 19:30, please phone to confirm; Alain Williams 0787 668 0256, 01923 676157 (home), Alan Thornton 01442 261945, Mike Cockburn 01727 834035 cockburnm@yahoo.co.uk addw@phcomp.co.uk

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

SUSSEX UNIVERSITY See: Brighton

SWINDON The Check Inn, 79 Woodland View, North Wroughton; Wednesday 19:30, The Beehive, Prospect Hill; Sunday evening; David King 01793 521625 secretary@swindongoclub.org.uk

TEESSIDE See: Middlesbrough

WALSALL Can cover Birmingham to Wolverhampton and points above & below; By arrangement; Paul Trebbett 01922 429349; paultrebbett@blueyonder.co.uk

WANSTEAD See: London, East

WARWICK UNIVERSITY Room B2.03 on campus (see website for directions); Wednesday 17:00-20:00 during University term; Anees Ahee go@uwcs.co.uk

WEST CORNWALL John Culmer's house, Rose-in-Vale, Gweek, Helston;
Thursday 20:00; John Culmer 01326 573167 johnculmer@btinternet.com

WEST SURREY Monday 19:30-22:00 first in month except bank holidays;
Pauline Bailey, 27, Dagley Farm, Shalford, Guildford GU4 8DE; 01483 561027
pab27@stocton.org

WEST WALES See: Barmouth

WINCHESTER The Black Boy Public House, 1 Wharf Hill, Bar End;
Wednesday 19:30; Alan Cameron 01794 524430 alan.cameron@iname.com

WORCESTER AND MALVERN 27 Laugherne Rd, Worcester; Wednesday 19:30;
Edward Blockley 01905 420908 ed_go_2004@yahoo.co.uk

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

YORK El Piano, 15 - 17 Grape Lane, York; Tuesdays 19:30;
Chris Maughan goclub.york@gmail.com

COLLECTING GO XI: MEMORABILIA

Tony Atkins

ajaxgo@yahoo.co.uk

This time we look at some of the other Go collectables that do not fit into distinct categories. Lots of these were produced to celebrate a particular event, such as a European Go congress, some especially to promote a sponsor. Others were produced as prizes and an excess meant they were also available for purchase. Some items have just been produced to help promote Go in an interesting fashion.

European Go Congresses have long produced larger items, such as the tee-shirts seen last time and bags. Smaller items that are collectables have included pens, beer mats, paper weights and decorative items like the Go horse from Sweden.



Our annual competition for schools, the UK Go Challenge, produces items suitable as prizes, both for winning a number of games and as the overall prize. Each year a new design of fridge magnet has been produced for those winning three games or more, whereas all winning two games get a smaller prize such as a bookmark or the Go book rubber. In the first year, a heat winner won the black Go cap.

Items that promote Go can be purchased at the Go shop in the Nihon Ki-in in Tokyo. They have not been readily available in the UK. Items have included hankies, playing cards, drinks mats, key-rings and tie clips. Other useful items available there include pens, especially two-colour pens for recording games.

