

British Go Journal

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Tournament Calendar

Coventry: 26 March. Mike Lynn, 01675 442753.

Irish Open: 31 March – 3 April. John Gibson, +353-1-4908779 (home), +353-1-2843486 (work), john@mhg.ie

Bournemouth: April.

British Go Congress: Ipswich, 29-30 April

Barlow: Cambridge, May.

Bracknell: Moose Hill, community hall, 13 May. Clive Hendrie, 01344-475741.

Pair Go: 21 May.

Scottish Open: May.

Challenger's: 26-29 May. By qualification.

Leicester: 10 June.

Anglo-Japanese: June. By invitation.

Barmouth: 24-25 June.

Portsmouth: July.

Norwich: August.

Northern Go Congress: Manchester, September.

Milton Keynes: September.

Shrewsbury: 1st October.

International Teams Trophy: October.

Wessex: Marlborough, October.

Three Peaks: Thornton in Lonsdale, November.

Swindon: November.

West Surrey Handicap: December.

Anglo-Japanese: December. By invitation only.

London Open: December

Youth Championships: January.

Furze Platt: January.

School Teams: January.

Oxford: February.

Trigantius: Cambridge, March

International Teams: March.

For the next three or four months details of tournaments are given, but only if confirmed.

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Front cover: Postcard portrait of the late Iwamoto Kaoru (see page 53) by kind permission of the artist, Jiri Keller. First used on the front of Issue 109. (This postcard and others of famous players are available from the BGA bookseller.)

Editorial

After eleven and a half years I have decided to relinquish the job of editor, and anyway it is probably time that somebody else took over with new ideas. It is hard to believe now that when I started, with Issue 72, we were still sticking numbered disks on squared paper to hand in to the printers! Technology has moved apace, has made the work easier and at the same time made it possible to produce more.

However, the quality of the journal obviously rests upon the quality of its articles, and I should like to thank all those contributors, both occasional and regular, who have sent in an abundance of good material over the years.

Many thanks also to Ian Sharpe, without whom I should have been lost in the spate of software improvements.

Thanks are also due to my wife Kathleen for patiently reading every word and playing through every move, marking out countless errors; and to the two diagram producers, Steve Bailey and Paul Smith, who would have done far more than I asked of them.

Finally, best wishes for the future to the new editor, David Woodnutt; I am he sure will receive as much willing support as I did.

Tenth International Amateur Pair Go Championships

by Tony Atkins

In November, Japan was honoured by the visit of two distinguished presidents. Not presidents of countries mind you, but the BGA and the CLGC Presidents, though one of them did once claim to be President of the United Kingdom. Accompanying them was the BGA secretary and the purpose of the visit was to take part in the 10th anniversary of the International Amateur Pair Go Championships. Alison Jones was partnering Tony Atkins, both making return visits to Japan, and Simon Bexfield joined the party for his first trip to the land of sake and go.

Skilfully arriving early to recover from jet lag there was some time before, and between the go playing, to see of the delights of Tokyo. Museums, shops, parks and the Nihon Kiin could be easily visited using the efficient train system (though one day there was a train running 5 minutes late). Best trip however involved getting up early to visit the fish market where men with sharp knives and speeding trolleys carved and moved huge tuna and the like.

From there it was a short walk to a park complete with tea house in the middle of a lake and from where a water bus can be caught for a ride up the Sumida River to Asakusa and its temples and market.

The Pair Go's 10th anniversary was celebrated by a change in format and a special friendship match. Gone was the special handicap group that countries played in if they lost in round 1 and in was a five round Swiss system that was welcomed by the participants. The special guests who formerly played in the special group either played in the main Araki Cup event or took part in the friendship match. The format of the match was a surprise on the day. Partners and opponents were drawn at random. Tony played with a go reporter in a very beautiful pink kimono against the girl from Thailand and a former Amateur Honinbo, for instance. This drawing gave interesting games to many, as among the special guests were several professionals such as Kobayashi Chizu, Inori Yoko, Kobayashi Satoru and Ryu Shikun. Flown in specially were top

Chinese player Chang Hao and top Korean player Lee Chang-ho, though it was not clear whether the latter was really enjoying the event like the rest of the players. The downside of splitting up the teams was that there was no chance to appreciate the National Dress the overseas players had been asked to wear, apart from as individuals. The Czech pair, Lenka Snepova and Karel Dach, made the most impression in their typical East European costume, as they were selected to make the promise at the opening ceremony, still wearing their costumes. The man from Chile, Juan Carlos Carrillo, with a great hat and the Russian girl, Dina Burdakova, in her pretty red dress also looked very good. The British Pair had struggled to find out what the British national dress was and eventually decided on pinstripes, FT, broly and briefcase, with some Union Jacks to wave for effect; unfortunately the splitting of the Pairs meant this was all a bit of a waste. After the game there was a chance to chat to the other players and the pros at the welcome party.

The following day saw round 1 of the tournament proper. Twenty-one overseas teams joined 11 Japanese teams this time. Chile, Malaysia, Israel, Belgium and Yugoslavia were there for the first

time, together with a selection of the other go-playing countries. Gone was the need for a good draw in round one because of the system change, however drawing a Japanese side always meant you got off to a bad start. The UK nearly beat Taiwan, a pair of teenagers where the girl was not so good. However the position in Diagram 1 came up whilst ahead. Tony nearly cut at A but played the marked stone instead as a big point and making the cut worse. The Taiwanese man immediately played at 1, leaving the position with White to play and blunder. After the blunder the

cut at A had gone and the stones had a harder time to live than before, leading to the British losing by a small amount. The Russians with young Dina Burdakova and Alexei Lazarev, and also the USA team of youngsters James Chien and Louisa Chan, got off to a good start winning their games.

The Sunday was the main day for the event and the day when 432 players turned up to play in the prestigious Araki Cup. As well as the three normal sections there was an extra section for beginners playing on 13x13 boards. As the event grows every year it has had to leave its traditional venue of the Edmont Hotel in Iidabashi and this time moved further out of town to the larger Hotel Metropolitan in Ikebukuro district. From the restaurant on the 25th floor a panoramic view of Tokyo and distant mountains could be seen and there were good facilities including the large ballroom where most play took part. Four rounds of Pair Go is very hard work if you are normally used to three and the Araki Cup time limits were slightly shorter meaning the room got very busy towards the end of the rounds. Also you had to be very careful about how you placed your stones as you never knew whether the person standing behind you was a

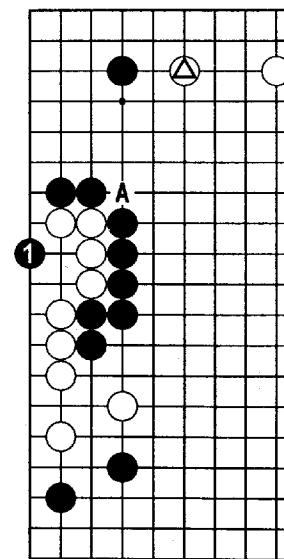


Diagram 1
White to play and blunder!
Solution on page 7

