

PAIR GO 2001

The Eleventh British Pair Go Event



Supported By:

- ? Japan Pair Go Association
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The eleventh British Pair Go Tournament was held in the Foxcombe Lodge Hotel, Boars Hill near Oxford, on Sunday June 3rd 2001. Play took place on a bright day and it was easy to step out of the playing room on to the terrace to enjoy the air between games. As usual a high standard of dress was adopted by most of the players. Clear winners in the best-dressed competition were Simon Goss in a smart lounge suit and his partner Emma Marchant in evening dress. Young Lasse Jakobsen was awarded a special prize for his dragon motif red trousers. Clothes also featured in the Two of a Kind competition for pairs of original, interesting or beautiful objects. Matthew and Kirsty's oriental costumes won a prize, as did the pair of pairs of furry rabbit ears from Melissa Hearn.

The tournament was divided into two sections as usual. The strongest eight pairs played in a tournament for which British World Amateur Pair Go Qualification Points were allocated; the other pairs played in a handicap tournament. Because of the way opponents were selected by drawing playing cards the top group were known as Clubs (willing to bash the other teams for the serious prizes) and the other group as Hearts (playing for the love of the game). The reigning champions, Emma Marchant and Simon Goss, were keen to repeat their extraordinary feat from the previous year, but competition was harder this year with Kirsty Healey and Matthew Macfadyen back together and Natasha Regan having traded in her partner for a better one. Natasha played with 3 dan Alex Selby in 2000 and at the European Pairs, but this year selected 5 dan, Matthew Cocke. Alison and Simon Bexfield were not there because of their new baby and Luxembourg location. Francis Roads could not make it, so Jackie Chai was able to play with her husband. Sue Paterson selected to play with Granville Wright, both now from Brighton club. Anyway as the results show Sue and Granville picked up two wins as did stalwarts Helen and Martin Harvey. A very exciting final between the top teams showed Pair Go at its best. Natasha showed she was not afraid of Macfadyen's moves, and fought bravely as the game developed often on two fronts (the two Matthews having one battle and the two ladies another). Anyway the weaker team's flag fell as yet another late middle game fight started, thus allowing Kirsty and Matthew to be champions again. It is expected they will represent the BGA at the World Amateur Pair Go Championships in Tokyo.

Winners of the Hearts section were Nicola Hurden and Shawn Hearn of Berks Youth, as last winners Fiona Campbell and Jim Edwards from Aylesbury lost a high handicap game in round 2. Lene and Mogens Jakobsen, the Danish couple from Croydon, were second with two wins. Their son Lasse Jakobsen, playing with Bracknell's Melissa Hearn achieved the same score to win the Youth Champions title.

RESULTS TABLES

Clubs Section (Championship Group)

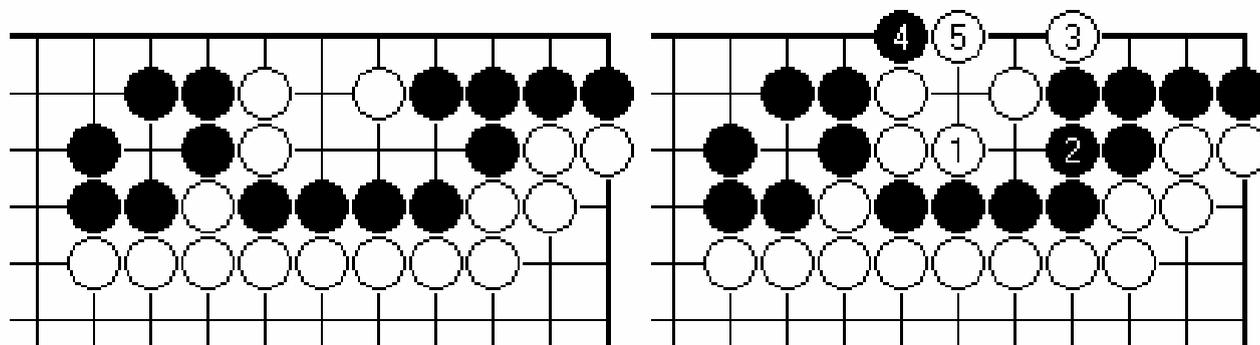
| No. | Players | Av. grade | round 1 | round 2 | round 3 | Wins |
|-----|---------------------------------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|------|
| 1 | Kirsty Healey/Matthew Macfadyen | 3.5d | 8+ | 7+ | 2+ | 3 |
| 2 | Natasha Regan/Matthew Cocke | 2.5d | 3+ | 4+ | 1- | 2 |
| 3 | Sue Paterson/Granville Wright | 1d | 2- | 6+ | 5+ | 2 |
| 4 | Helen Harvey/Martin Harvey | 1.5k | 5+ | 2- | 7+ | 2 |
| 5 | Emma Marchant/Simon Goss | 3k | 4- | 8+ | 3- | 1 |
| 6 | Jackie Chai/John Johnstone | 3.5k | 7- | 3- | 8+ | 1 |
| 7 | Alison Bierman/David Woodnutt | 3.5k | 6+ | 1- | 4- | 1 |
| 8 | Sally/Nick Wedd | 3.5k | 1- | 5- | 6- | 0 |

Hearts Section (Handicap Section)

| No. | Players | Av. grade | round 1 | round 2 | round 3 | Wins |
|-----|--------------------------------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|------|
| 1 | Nicola Hurden/Shawn Hearn | 9.5k | 3+15st | 2+5st | 4+2st | 3 |
| 2 | Lene Jakobsen/Mogens Jakobsen | 15k | 5+8st | 1-5st | 8+7st | 2 |
| 3 | Melissa Hearn/Lasse Jakobsen | 25k | 1-15st | 4+13st | 5+18st | 2 |
| 4 | Fiona Campbell/Jim Edwards | 11.5k | 7+7st | 3-13st | 1-2st | 1 |
| 5 | Jil Segerman/Anthony Pitchford | 7k | 2-8st | 6-2st | 3-18st | 0 |
| 6 | Elinor Brooks/Garry White | 9k | - | 5+2st | - | 1 |
| 7 | Elinor Brooks/France Ellul | 4.5k | 4-7st | - | - | 0 |
| 8 | Garry White/France Ellul | 7.5k | - | - | 2-7st | 0 |

Grades are specified so as to show which sides received handicaps (where more than 9 stones shown 9 komi per grade over 9 was given).

GAME POSITIONS



This is the position between where one of the players was rated as 35 kyu. White played 1 and his first opponent spotted the snap back to connect at 3. The 35 kyu played the consistent move at 4, though playing at 5 is better. After 5 white has an eye and the position should be seki or ko (black chooses, playing either the 2-1 or 3-1 point). Playing 4 at 5 would have killed white. However later in the game the white eye was filled (not by the side with the 35 kyu) and white died. Apart from filling the eye, commendable moves all round!

Here is a position from the final. Have a look at the yose in the corner.

White at A looks like a big yose move that will get an answer to save the corner for black, but it eliminates the threat of the sequence shown to start a ko. As the game ended by a time loss we will never know what would have been played!

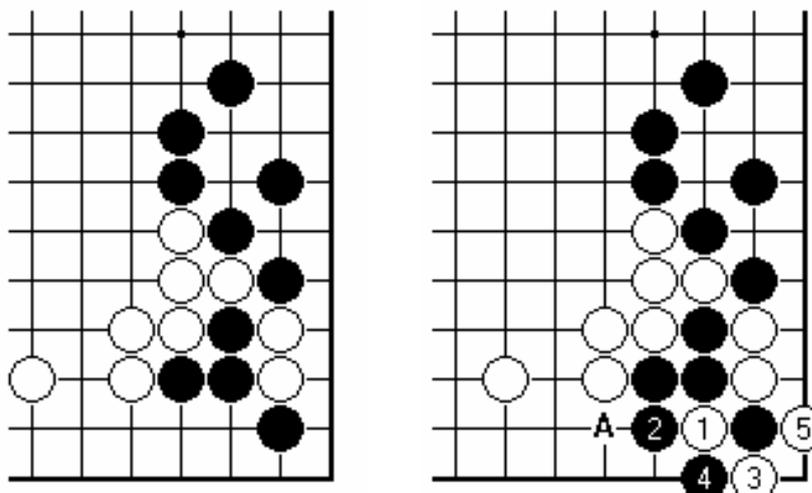


PHOTO GALLERY

Pair Go Youth Champions 2001: Lasse Jakobsen and Melissa Hearn



Second best pair: Natasha Regan and Matthew Cocke (seen in battle with Sue Paterson and Granville Wright)



Thanks must go to Elinor Brooks and France Ellul for arranging the event, for Tony Atkins for doing the draw, to Jill and Roger for running such a pleasant hotel, and the pair go supporters/sponsors. Photos and text editing by Tony Atkins, British Go Association, June 2001.

11th International Amateur Pair Go Championships

The 11th International Amateur Pair Go Championships saw Croatia, Bosnia, Cuba and Columbia there for the first time. As usual 32 teams from 22 countries took part. On the Friday evening a friendship match was held with local guests, including a few professionals. The overseas players were expected to wear National Costume. Highlights were: Rob Kok's too short trousers and lack of big enough clogs, Cuba and Columbia's cigars, East Europe's pretty skirts and hats, and Germany's 18th century costumes.

Round 1 of the main competition took place on Saturday night. Some all-Western matches meant some Western teams would be unbeaten at the start of the Sunday. France (Marie-Claire Chaine and Farid Ben Malek) beat Germany (Ursula Harbrecht and Jens Vygens), Bosnia (Visnjica and Dragan Barisic) beat Cuba and USA (Gina Shi and Joey Hung - the youngest pairing) beat Thailand. Austria (Sieglinde Gruber and Helmut Wiltschek - the longest playing pairing at 76 years) beat Canada (Yimei Cao and Zhiqi Yu). China (Xi and Yang) beat Hungary (Diana Koszegi and Gabor Szabics), who were expected to do well, despite a game involving several move order errors. The Russians (Natalia Kovaleva playing with her school teacher Evgueni Panioukov) narrowly lost to a Japanese pair. Last year's winners from Japan, Taka Bungo and Goto Naoko, lost a very tense game against another Japanese pair, the Hiraokas.

Sunday's round 2 saw France and Bosnia lose to Japanese, Austria to Koreans and USA to China. The Germans, in their 18th Century dress after making the pledge, beat a Japanese pair. Netherlands (Renee Frehe and Rob Kok) beat Russia by 3.5. Round 3 saw the Latin American clash when Columbia (Giovanna Puerta and Jorge Sanz) beat Cuba (Ivonne Diaz and Rafael Torres). France beat Austria, Poland (Aleksandra and Jan Lubos) beat Germany, Croatia (Jasmina and her father Zoran Mutabzija) beat Canada, the Netherlands lost to Chinese Taipei (Chen and Yu) in a controversial game and China lost to Japan Hokkaido, Sato Momoko and Shimohashi Koichi.

Round 4 saw Austria beat Germany and Poland beat Croatia. The semi-final games saw Bae and Lim of Korea beat Sato and Shimohashi and Kwon and Rim of DPR Korea beat the Hiraokas. The final round was round 5. France did to Netherlands what they did to UK last year and beat them to score 3/5. Germany beat Thailand to score a second win only and Croatia failed to get third win losing to a Japan pair by 3.5. Poland lost to the Hiraokas to end on 3 and Hungary ended on three beating the Kanais from Japan. The final game was played in a closed room with a public commentary in Japanese. It was won by DPR Korea. Kwon Mi-Hyon and Rim Hyon-Chol, both students, took the title to the north of Korea for the first time.

So first was DPR Korea, then five teams on 4/5: 2nd the Hiraokas (Japan), 3rd Sato/Shimohashi (Japan), fourth Korea, fifth Chinese Taipei and sixth Goto/Taga (Japan), sorted by SOS. France were 13th, Poland 14th and Hungary 16th.

224 Japanese pairs took part in the A, B and handicap C groups of the Araki Cup. This was played alongside the IAPGC on the Sunday. Also 12 pairs in the beginners group, mostly in their 20s and 30s from a local club, played on 13x13. The crowds were further swelled by spectators (from as far away as the UK), reporters and cameramen, officials and some famous professionals. Ishida, Ogawa, Umezawa, Rin, Takemiya and Redmond were all present. With such a large number of people it was no surprise the food soon ran out at the closing party. For the overseas players, however, the last event was the lunch meeting with Mrs Taki where news and views on Pair Go around the world were exchanged. Finally some souvenir presents were handed out, thanks to the sponsors and organisers, and the players went away with happy memories of one of the top events of the international go calendar.

European Pairs 06/04/01-08/04/01

Seven Pairs, mostly from east Europe took part in this year's European Pairs. Hosts this year were Bosnia and a very posh hotel in Banja Luka was used. Actually Boy George was staying there at the time and the British Party managed to get to see him, but failed to get to teach him Go. European Pairs Champions this year were Martina Simonkova (2 dan) and Jan Hora (4 dan) from Czechia (5/5). Second were Liliana Iacob (3 kyu) and Iulian Toma (3 dan) from Romania (3/4). Third were Ann (8 kyu) and Jan Lubos (4 dan) from Poland (3/5). Fourth were Natasha Regan (1 kyu) and Alex Selby (3 dan) of the UK with 2/4 beating two 5 dan/5 kyu pairs - Bosnia and Croatia. The UK were welcomed as the only non-east European country, the rest maybe put off incorrectly by Bosnia's war-torn past.

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| British Pair Go Promotion Partners | |
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| Tony Atkins | Francis Roads |
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