Newsletter of the Irish Go Association

Stephen Flinter

October 1994

1. Editorial

It's been quite a while since the last newsletter, and a lot has happened since then. In this issue of the newsletter, we have reports from the Irish Open, held in March, the World Amateur Go Championship and the European Go Congress. All in all, a jam-packed issue!

As per the last IGA annual general meeting, Stephen Flinter is now acting as the IGA newsletter editor (yippie!). Contributions in this issue are from Noel Mitchell, John Gibson and Tony Goddard.

2. Report from the 1994 Irish Open Go Championship

The 1994 Irish Open Go Tournament was held in the Royal Dublin Hotel on St. Patrick's Weekend, between March 19 and 20. It was attended by four English players, and seven players from Belfast, including 5 Chinese, giving a total of 25 players, including 10 dan level players. The eventual winner was Tony Goddard (5 dan), from Belfast. Check out Section 3 for Tony's second round game against our own Noel Mitchell.

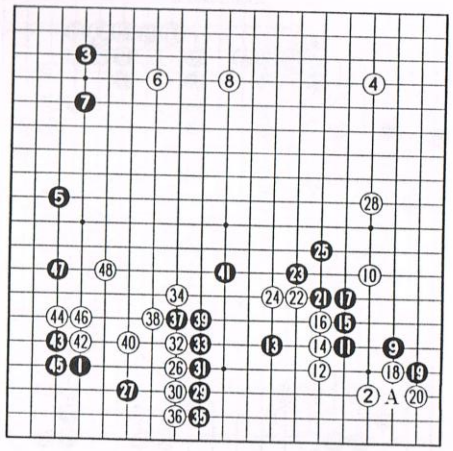
3. Game — Tony Goddard versus Noel Mitchell

Game analysis is by Tony Goddard, with comments by Noel Mitchell.

Event	1994 Irish Open	Round	2
Black	Tony Goddard, 5 dan	White	Noel Mitchell, 2 dan
Date	17.3.1994	Time	1 hour each + 20 seconds byo-yomi
Komi	$5\frac{1}{2}$	Result	Black wins by $10\frac{1}{2}$

3.1 A complex game from the start

Black 13: Black is trying to use 1. This did not work out well. (NM - I agree it didn't work well for black. The contact at A is the normal continuation for black).

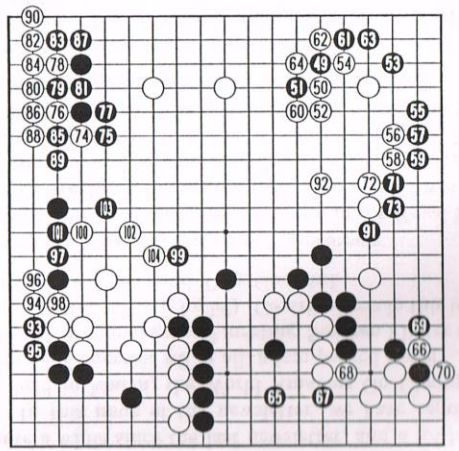


B 1 – W 48

White 28: After this move, the lower side was a big problem. Where is it best to play? and who should play there first? Because the problem is so difficult, it is not urgent.

White 28: White has now taken the right side. The black group on that side is still not 100% stable.

3.2 Black draws level



B 49 - W 104

Black 49: It is difficult to see how to attack white in the bottom-left corner, so black decides to play elsewhere.

Black 53: Black gets far more profit in the following sequence than seems reasonable.

White 60: NM — Probably better at 62. Outside thickness isn't so much use here.

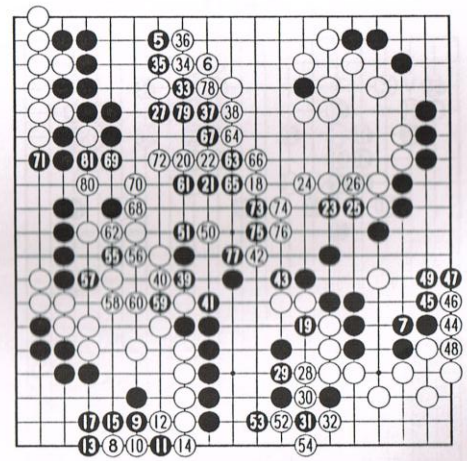
White 64: NM — Annoying to have to play it. Now 60 does look redundant.

Black 73: NM — After this move, white has fallen slightly behind. With 74 - 90 white lives inside, destroying the black territory, but black has sente to take 91: very large and secures his groups below.

White 74: White leaves the right side, and tries to split black on the left. It is optimistic, because the stones in the lower left can still become targets of attack.

Black 91: A welcome chance to connect, even if it did mean giving up a corner. White seems to have missed something.

3.3 The game slips away from white



B 105 - B 181

(116) *at* (111)

White 8: NM — Even though black gets 7, the monkey jump of 8 is very big.

Black 17: NM — After this move, white is about 10 behind on the board, but has sente and a $5\frac{1}{2}$ point komi. The game will now be focussed on the central territory and the two stones 22 and 24.

Black 19: So, black gets the connection at 7, and the cut of 19, and white did nothing but defend in the last few moves.

White 30: NM — It is difficult to choose between 30 and 79. Probably, the latter would have been bigger, although 52 to followup is large.

White 36: This move is better played at 79.

Black 71: Black had made a miscalculation. Any attempt to capture 22 and 24 would allow white to play at 80, which catches a few stones. Nevertheless, black wins easily from this position.

White 72: NM — White is 10 points behind on the board — so the game is effectively over at this point. Moves after 81 not shown.

4. Report from the 16th World Amateur Go Championship — John Gibson

The 16th World Amateur Go Championship was held in the beautiful and historic city of Kyoto from May 24th to 27th. There was a record entry of 44, including new countries Turkey, Ukraine and South Africa.

Hiraoka (Japan) won with 8/8, beating Chou (Chinese Taipei) in round 6. The top western player was John Lee (USA) in 5th, and the top European was Robert Mateescu (Rumania) finishing in 6th. At the bottom, I scraped into the group with 3 points, and finished a better-than-expected 38th.

In Kyoto we met many famous players, including Miyomoto and Rin Kaiho, and visited famous sites, including the Jakkoji Temple, home of the first Honinbo. We also went to Osaka to play professionals of the Kansai Ki-in. I met all our go friends in Japan: John Kenny and Montse, Kumagai-san, Shiotsuki-san and Isao and Yoko Toshima, who all helped to make the visit the trip of a lifetime.

See Section 5 for one of John's games from the championship, against Korsak Chairasmisak (5 dan) from Thailand.

5. Game — John Gibson versus Korsak Chairasmisak (Thailand)

Game analysis is by Noel Mitchell.

Event	1994 World Amateur	Round	2
Black	John Gibson, 2 kyu	White	Korsak Chairasmisak, 5 dan
Date	25.5.1994	Time	90 minutes each + 60 seconds byo-yomi
Komi	$5\frac{1}{2}$	Result	White wins by resignation

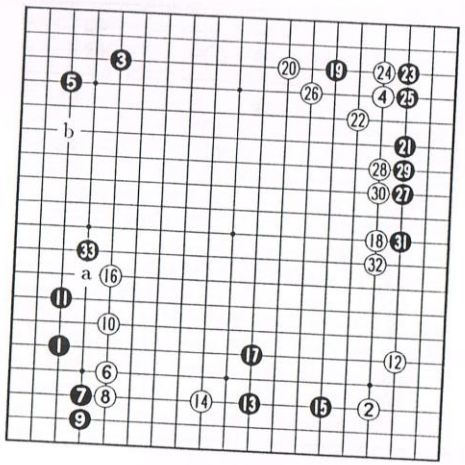
5.1 Black opens up a sizeable lead

White 16: May be possible as a pressing move at a.

Black 17: Maybe black should leave this for the moment and play 33 imediately or take the top hoshi point.

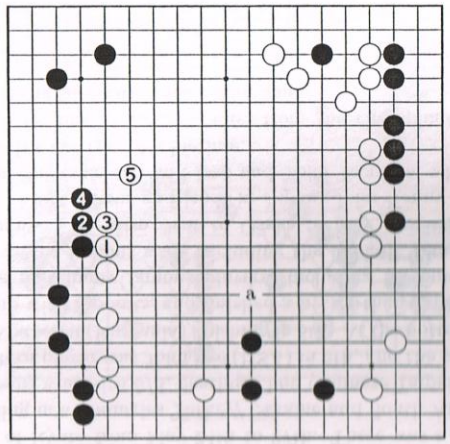
White 18: I would have thought that the right direction would be along the top rather than this side.

Black 27: At 28 is better probably. It's important that white doesn't connect to 18 which would make him very thick.



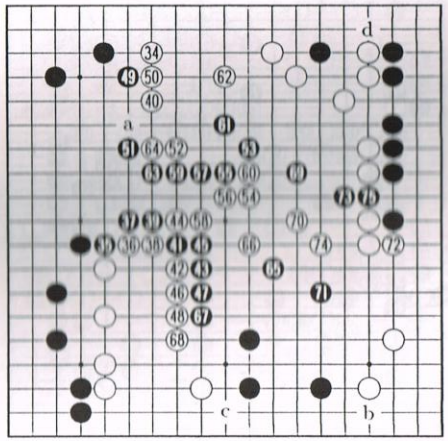
B 1 – B 33

White 32: Pushing down and then connecting would seem more normal (then white has no cutting points and would probably get sente).
Black 33: An excellent point. White's dilemma is how to use his thickness to make some territory in the centre, but there are no weak black groups to attack. White could try invading at b but the attack on the resulting group would nullify the right side thickness. Permitting black to push up with 35 is very painful; I think white's best strategy would be as shown but it gives black a large left side territory. Black is definitely looking good here, mostly because white allowed him sente to take 33.



B 1 – B 33

5.2 Black consolidates, but ultimately loses his lead
White 40: Large but gote and not urgent. 41 – 47 is great for black - it's sente all the way and helps the group at the bottom too.
Black 51: 51 seems better one space higher at a.
Black 53: This is very deep and could lead to unnecessary complications for black.



W 34 – B 75

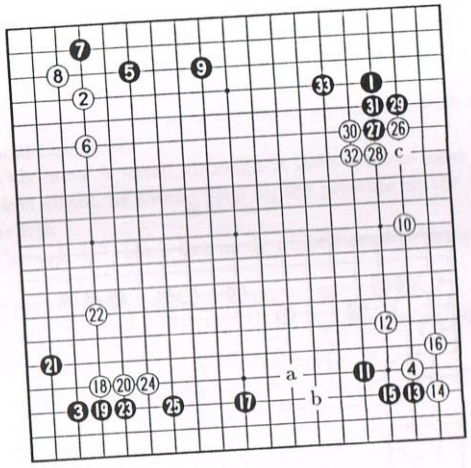
Black 55: A simpler strategy for black would be to play 55 at 57 (giving up 53 and capturing white 44 cutting stone.
White 60: Pointless. Play at 67.
White 62: Very defensive. How about at 67?
Black 63: Also very defensive. Stronger to play at 67 or 65.
White 64: This move is gote although it does set up some aji for pushing through a small bit.
Black 69: Black is ahead by about thirty on the board at this stage. 69 is much better played at 72 or at b. At a would really secure the left side.
Black 73: Again. this move isn't so useful. Black should make sure of the left side or start on the edges like at b, c or d.
Black 75: Unfortunately no further moves are recorded but the game was a win for white surprisingly. He managed to push through the left side and capture some stones.

6. Report from the European Go Congress

The European Go Congress was held this year in Maastricht, a beautiful city, best known as the site of the signing of the EU treaty, in southern Limburgh. in The Netherlands. The event was held between Saturday July 23 and Sunday August 7, and attracted over 300 visitors from around Europe, and indeed the world. Ireland's representatives at the congress were Noel Mitchell. declaring at 2 dan. Stephen Flinter at 3 kyu and Paul Donnelly at 6 kyu.

The congress had numerous events, including the main 10 round competition. There was also an afternoon rapid tournament. a weekend tournament. 13x13. 9x9. lightning. continuous lightning. pair go and rengo. The main tournament was won by Guo Juan (6 dan) from Holland, an ex-pro, originally from China. She won a trip to Korea to participate in the Tong Yang Securities Cup. a professional Korean tournament. The Irish trio finished as follows: Mitchell — 2.5-7.5; Flinter — 6-4; Donnelly — 7-3 (winning a prize).

Overall. the congress was extremely enjoyable. The weather was great. raining only once or twice during the two weeks (you can see how an Irishman abroad judges the weather!). This event is the perfect cure for you go addicts who can't get an adequate fix here in Ireland! Playing abroad is great experience. and great craic too. The next European congress will be held in Poland. and anybody who can make it. even if just for the weekend. would be well advised to do so.



B 1 – B 33

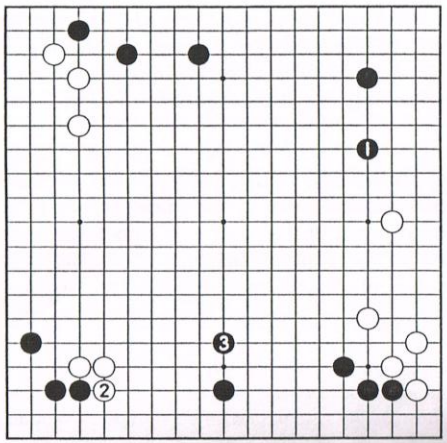
7. Game — Noel Mitchell versus Soerensen (Denmark)

Game analysis by Mr. Wang Guan Jun (8 dan) and Mr. Chen Zhi Gang (6 dan) at the European Go Congress (see sections 9 and 6).

Event	1994 European	Round	8
Black	Noel Mitchell (2 dan)	White	Soerensen (2 kyu)
Date	4.8.1994	Time	2 hrs each + 30 secs byo-yomi
Komi	8	Result	Black wins by resignation

7.1 A reasonably balanced fuseki

NM — I was doing poorly enough in the tournament at this stage to be drawn against a 2 kyu.
White 12: Much better played as a pincer at a.
Black 17: Too wide an extension. should be one or two spaces to the right. White could invade here immediately at b.
Black 23: This is too low a position. Should play in the upper right corner as shown in Figure 7.1.
Black 25: Again. black should play tennuki.



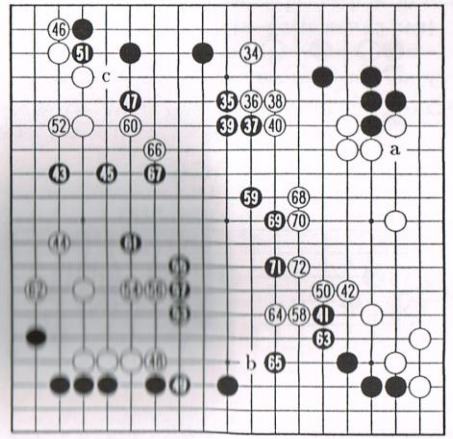
Alternative B 23

White 26: White gets in the good point of 26.
Black 33: Capturing the stone immediately (at c) is also possible.

7.2 Black takes the lead

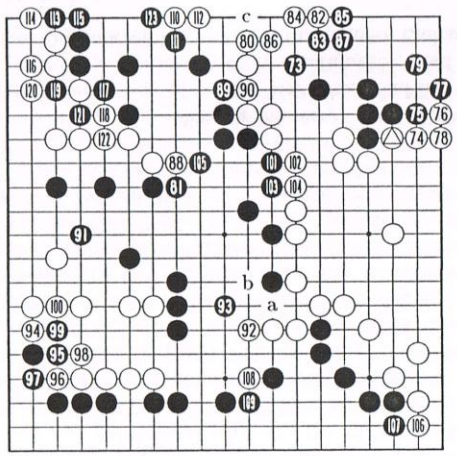
Black 35: Black should capture the stone by playing at a. Defending this stone or invading at 34 are miai, so now black needs to defend the corner by capturing the stone (which is large in itself) - otherwise there's serious weakness at the 3-3 point.
White 40: Better one space to the right (kosumi).
Black 41: A very big point for both sides.
Black 47: Played at 60 instead would seal white in.
White 50: Should be at b, as maybe white can then cut off 41. Instead, 50 provokes a response from black to defend this potential territory. Black should defend immediately at 64.
Black 53: The point at c is now double sente, and so important for both.
Black 59: This is dangerous. The lower right needs defending.

7.3 Black seals his victory



W 34 - W 72

Black 73: A move is needed at a (which is sente) — otherwise white has



B 73 - B 123

White 86: This move is better at c, aiming at an invasion with 88 at 111.

White 94: Should be at 95.

Black 105: This move is small although it does remove some aji. Even though black is ahead, he should keep up the pressure on the weak white group on the left.

Black 117: Through 117, black has made white's monkey jump (110) gote now.

White 118: This crreates a problem in the corner.

Black 123: Black leads by more than 20 on the board. No further moves were recorded. Black wins by resignation.

8. Collegians Club Championship

8.1 Preliminary Groups

1.

Gibson	X	1	0
Walsh	0	X	0
Debains	1	1	X

2.

Gallagher	X	1
McBrien	0	X

3.

Mitchell	X	1		1
Flinter	0	X	1	
McDonnell		0	X	
McGrath	0			X

4.

Palmer	X	1	1
Rafferty	0	X	
Brabizon	0		X

8.2 Final

A Debains, Gallagher, Mitchell, Palmer

B Gibson, McBrien, Flinter & Rafferty or Brabizon

C Walsh, McDonnell, McGrath & Rafferty or Brabizon

	Played
Mitchell *v* Delains	1-0
Flinter *v* Gibson	1-0

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9. Visit by Chinese Professionals

On Friday, August 12 we had a visit by two Chinese professionals on a tour of Britain and Ireland following from the European Go Congress in Maastricht. Mr. Wang Guan Jun (8 dan) and Mr. Chen Zhi Gang (6 dan) were on a goodwill visit of Britain and Ireland, sponsored by the European Go Federation.

Friday evening began with a meal (chinese, of course!) in Kingsland. From there we went on to the Pembroke, and began to play. The usual die-hards were in attendance, and getting sound lessons in the difference between amateur and professional play. On the Saturday afternoon, we started, once again, in the Pembroke, with both Mr. Wang and Mr. Chen well recovered from the previous evening's exertions (and a sight-seeing trip around the city with Bernard). That evening, the entire club was extended an invitation to attend a reception at the Chinese Ambassador's residence. Our hosts layed on a sumptuous spread of Chinese food and wine, and all there had a very enjoyable time. The Ambassador was kind enough to lend us an interpreter for the evening. Not content with their contribution, and heedless of their early start the following morning, the two pros insisted on returning to the Pembroke for a few late pints and games of go. Despite this, our two friends managed to make an early flight back to China, via Heathrow.

We would like to thank all involved in this very special visit, especially the Chinese Ambassador, and of course, Mr. Wang and Mr. Chen. We very much hope that their trip to Ireland was enjoyable, and that it will encourage closer ties between the club and the Chinese Embassy.

10. Rating Scheme for WAGC

The IGA committee has decided to implement a rating scheme to determine Ireland's candidate to the World Amateur Go Championship (WAGC). In the past we have simply sent the winner of the national tournament (invariably Noel Mitchell). Last year, the decision was made to disallow any player going two years running. This decision opened up the field, and John Gibson won through the qualifiers with a score of 6/7. This year, we wanted to introduce a points system, similar to those in operation in many other national organisations in Europe. There were a number of reasons for deciding to do this:

- In the last year or two, most players have improved, to the point where we now have at least a half-dozen players in the 1–3 kyu area.
- With a points system, players are encouraged to persist, and can see some reward in the future. If anybody participates for long enough, they are guaranteed of a trip to Japan eventually.

The proposal which has been adopted is:

1. An eight player round-robin will be run, as usual, for the national championship, with the top two finishers playing a best-of-three final.
2. The Irish champion (i.e. the winner of the Irish Championship) gets 10 points each year.
3. Second to eighth get seven down to one point respectively.
4. The player with the most total number of points after the top 8 event is offered the Japan trip; this is subject to conditions 4, 5 and 7.
5. No player may travel to Japan in consecutive years.
6. The player going to Japan loses all their points; all other players accumulate their points.
7. If two or more players tie on points, the tied player who scored most in that year's championship qualifies.
8. The top four players from one year's competition qualify directly into the following year's top 8. A separate tournament will decide the other four places.
9. Top 8 games not finished within 6 months are cancelled, and a loss recorded for both players.

11. Latest IGA Ratings

This is the list of promotions which have taken place since the last newsletter. Any players seeking promotions should contact the committee.

Stephen Flinter 1 kyu
Paul Donnelly 2 kyu
John Gibson 2 kyu
Don McBrien 10 kyu

four places. The venue is yet to be decided.
November 13–14 — Irish Handicap Open Go Championship. Venue is the Royal Dublin Hotel. The format will be a 6 round swiss, with full handicaps.
December 3–4 — First rounds of Top 8 Tournament. Subsequent rounds are by arrangement.
December 28–January 1 — London Open. This is one of the biggest and best attended British tournaments.
March 17–19 — Irish Open Championship. Following a decision made at the European Go Congress, this event will now be an event on the European Grand Prix circuit. The format will be a 5 round McMahon, and will also include many side events during the weekend.
August 20–25 — Isle of Man Go Congress. One of the better events on the British go calendar. Well worth attending, if you have a week to spare.
July 25–August 5 — European Go Congress. This is *the* go event in Europe. Expect an attendance approaching 300, with players from around Europe, North America and Japan. There will also be a number of Japanese (and possibly Chinese pros) in attendance, performing simuls, and game analysis. The 1995 EGC is to be held in Tuchola, Poland, which is a mountain resort, about 3 hours from Warsaw. If you have a couple of weeks to spare during the summer, you can spend it no better way (assuming you're not going to Japan, that is!).

13. To Look Forward to in the Next Issue

In the next issue, we will have a report from Irish Open Handicap tournament, with at least one game from it. Also, we will include one more of John Gibson's games from the World Amatuer Go Championship, and possibly, if you're really lucky, one of Stephen Flinter's games from the European Go Congress. Also, we will have a report about Mr. Kumagai's (5 dan) visit while on business here from Japan, as well as one game which Noel played with him. Finally, we will have news from the weekend qualifier for the Irish Championship event, and, of course, anything else which may crop up in the meantime.

8pm on Monday and Wednesday evenings, rather than 9. For those who have forgotten the location, we meet at *The Pembroke Inn, Pembroke St., Dublin 2.*

So, now you have no excuse for not attending! If you have been neglecting your go duties of late, **now** is the time to dust off those life and death books, those joseki dictionaries, to retrieve that goban from the top of the cupboard, and START PLAYING GO!! We look forward to meeting you again in the Pembroke.

Finally, we have had a request for correspondance go. The postcard we received reads:

Dear Sir,
Please could you contact me with go players of your country for playing go correspondance games with me? Preferably 13x13 go / 10–20 kyu strength.
Yours sincerely,
Fred Kok,
Pelikaanhof 36,
1945 RS Beverwijk,
The Netherlands

Any takers should contact Fred directly.