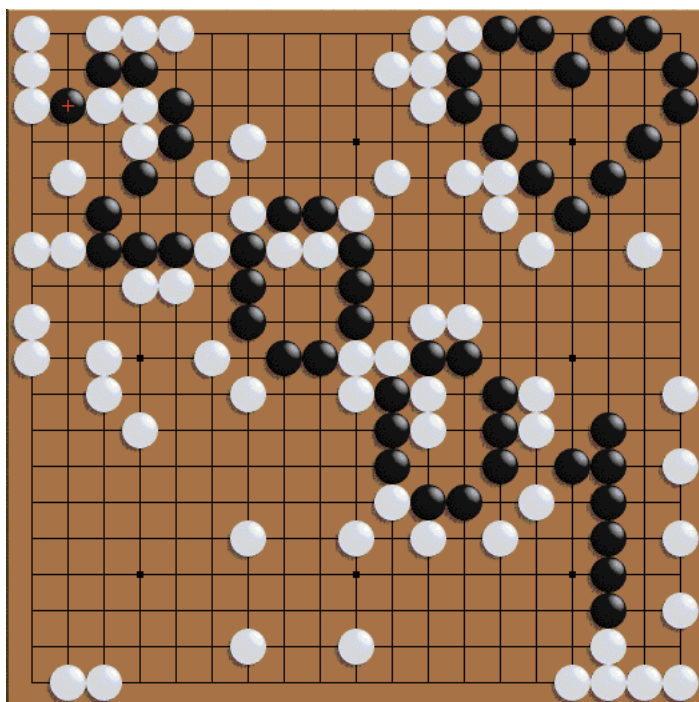


Nordisk Go Blad

1 / 02



*I Svensk-Norsk Go Blad nummer 1/2001
presenterte vi "Ladder of the Millennium 2000".
Her et nytt trappeproblem av samme kategori.*

*Igjen er forfatteren Nakayama Noriuki (6 dan
pro) og igjen er problemet: klarer du å lese ut
trappen som begynner med den merkede stenen?*

*Vi regner egentlig ikke med at noen klarer å ta
dette 177-trekks problemet i hodet, men det å
forsøke å komme seg igjennom hele trappen ved å
legge ut stenene på bordet (uten å måtte ta tilbake
stener, og selvsagt uten se på løsningen som er
gjengitt på side 14) kan vi love gir meget god
trening i å lese trapper !*

Finnish championship 2001 and Finnish GP

An interview with Hane Yasumasa

Innbydelse til Nordisk Mesterskap i Oslo påsken 2002

6 problemer

The Catalin Taranu story

Hikaru No Go

Norgesmesterskapet 2001

Meijin 26:e titelmatch (parti 4 - 6)

Resultat Göteborg Open 2001 och London Open 2002

ISSN 1400-5263

Finnish championship 2001

The Finnish Championship rules were revised for year 2001 and later. 25 players attended the qualifying tournament. The two best, Timo Puha and Lauri Paatero, took place in the Finnish Chamionship A-league and the next six got a place in the B-league therefore competing for the places 7 - 12. The tournament was played 15. -16.9 in Tampere .

The championship leagues were played in Helsinki at the club location Karhunpesä.

After the A-league was finished, Matti Siivola had 4 wins out of 5 and Vesa Laatikainen and Lauri Paatero had three wins. They played a game to decide who would play the best-of-three final with Matti Siivola. Vesa won the final 2-1. The biggest surprise was the new shodan Timo Puha who beat Vesa and Lauri and gained a promotion to 2 dan.

The B-league was finished with Joose Viljanen and Teemu Rovio on 4/5. They played an extra game to decide the 7th place which gives a place to 2002 A-league.

SM 2001 - Final Results, 12.10.-4.11.2001, Helsinki & Vantaa

Time 1h 30min + 60s byoyomi ,komi 6

Plc.	Name	Rk	Club	pts	Po1	1-0	Fp	2-1
1	Vesa Laatikainen	5d	Helsinki	3/5				
2	Matti Siivola	5d	Vantaa	4/5				Fp 1-2
3	Lauri Paatero	3d	Helsinki	3/5	Po1	0-1		
4	Otso Alanko	1d	Helsinki	2/5				
4	Timo Puha	1d	Tampere	2/5				

B-series; Final Results

Time 1h 15min + 30s byoyomi ,komi 6

Plc	Name	Rk	Club	pts	
7	Joose Viljanen	2k	Helsinki	4/5	(*)
8	Teemu Rovio	2k	Tampere	4/5	(*)
9	Teemu Hirsimäki	2k	Helsinki	3/5	
	Ari Karppinen	2d	Vantaa	3/5	
11	Paavo Pietarila	2k	Oulu	1/5	

Finnish GP

A national GP series was started in Finland at the end of 2000. There are three levels or tournaments which give 6, 13 or 25 points to players. The first five places earned prizes.

Matti Siivola 29.5

Lauri Paatero 24

Teemu Rovio 22.5

Vesa Laatikainen 19

Kare Jantunen 9

The complete results can be found at

<http://members.tripod.com/~menashi/GPpoints.html>

and the system (in finnish) at

<http://www.kttl.helsinki.fi/msiivola/go/SuomiGP.html>

An interview with Hane Yasumasa

by Pieter Mioch

Interview from November 2000 with Hane Yasumasa, 9 dan pro at the Central Japan branch of the Nihon Ki-In by Pieter Mioch. English translation by Dieter Verhofstad.

Hane Yasumasa is a professional 9 dan in the Nagoya branch of the Nihon Ki-in. He is most known for his contributions to the Chinese fuseki and for the interest he takes in computers. He was one of the first Japanese pros to use computers as a resource for studying Go. Hane's son, Naoki, who is ranked 8p, counts as one of the major talents in Japan. The professionals of central Japan have paid a visit to their Korean neighbours at the occasion of their annual excursion.

In this interview, Hane gives quite a clear picture of the current state of affairs.

Do you have ten minutes for me ? I'd like to ask you a couple of questions about your trip to Korea.

All right. I'm not busy for the moment. (when seeing the MD recorder) Oh, you're recording it ? If I say something bad about the Ki-in, just cut it out, will you?

Sure. I was mostly interested in the Korea trip anyway, so don't worry. When exactly have you been there ?

We left on the 30th of October and came back the first of November (2000).

It was purely for leisure purposes, wasn't it?

Mmm, leisurely yes, but the journey was organised by the "kishikai", the association of pros in central Japan and not on our own account. The whole association makes one trip each year. This year we went to Korea with the twenty of us.

Only twenty? There must be more pros around here ?

Of course, sure, there are 49 active professionals in Nagoya, but not all of them could take two days off.

So, you went there mainly to enjoy yourself and not as much to tighten the bonds between professionals here and over there?

Exactly, it was a pleasure trip. That does not alter the fact that we combined it this time with a visit to the Ki-in in Seoul.

You played some games, I assume?

Not at all, after all we were there for fun. We got a guided tour and spoke to some officials. It was all very

friendly and relaxed. It is really very impressive to see with our very eyes the vast number of youngsters, secondary school age, in Korea that have so much talent. The kishikai president, Iwata 9 dan

Iwata Tatsuaki is the player in Nagoya who is the highest in esteem. Notwithstanding his age of 75 years, he is still very strong. Last year he scored 18 wins for 13 losses, which is only slightly worse than the considerably younger Takemyia who won 20 and lost 14 games in 1999. Furthermore, Iwata is one of the few active pros that witnessed Go Seigen's glorious era of before World War II. Like 9 dan pro Tsuchida, he is a pupil of the late Kitani Minoru.

observed that it was a joy for the eye to see so many young enthusiasts together. The reply of the representatives of the Hangkuk Kiwon was most intriguing: precisely due to the fact that there are so many strong youngsters, the high Dans can no longer win.

Pardon?! You mean that in Korea the higher Dans can no longer prove to the positive scores they ought to have considering their rank?

Quite so. It is not that the high Dans have received their rank unjustly or that they suddenly started to play worse, no, the young guard is simply out of the ordinary! A few moments of conversation with the officials showed this to be a major concern in Korea. One can hardly expect them to degrade the higher Dans a grade or two. It turns out that the top representatives of the Korean Go world aren't even twenty years old, which seems to bring inevitable trouble.

Unbelievable ! I had no idea things were standing like this. What a difference with Japan, isn't it? I can hardly imagine a comparable situation would be viewed upon as problematic around here ?

It is a problem we would welcome with arms wide open. After all, we can use an injection of young blood. It speaks volumes about Go in Korea that so many are so strong at a young age. Only in Seoul they have more than hundred insei and to that you can add the first division of another 100-150 players who ruthlessly try to conquer their place among the insei.

Wow! What a difference with this place!

Say that again. There is a continuous struggle between the lowest ranked insei and the top players of the first division. When the going gets tough... You can tell that the level is very high only from the fact that players of professional strength sometimes tumble back into the first division. The Korean Ki-in moreover suffers from a lack of space to have all those people hosted conveniently. The top floor, which used to serve as a storage room is now also used as a playing venue. Fifty (!) Goban are neatly lined up in this room. When seeing this, one gets really, really impressed.

Do the insei also spend the night there?

No no, all commute between their homes and the Ki-in.

Did you have the impression that the Koreans were very proud of their surplus in talent and that they look down upon the Japanese Ki-in?

You'd probably expect such a thing, but nothing could be further from the truth. None of the Korean officials we got in touch with showed the slightest sign of triumph while explaining their problem of too many strong youngsters. One showed more care about the Japanese pro world than anything else. Furthermore, their worries are not without reason or exaggerated: imagine that their 9 Dans, titleholders included, suddenly can't win anymore of a "toddler" who hasn't got round yet to climb beyond 2 or 3 dan

So, what's the relationship between the ki-in in Seoul and the one in Nagoya ?

None whatsoever. The main reason why we made this year's trip one to Korea is Mrs. Kim's presence in Nagoya. She is of Korean origin and came to Nagoya a

few years ago to study as an insei in Japan. She succeeded and now plays as a professional for the Nihon Ki-in. Armed with her as our guide and interpreter we confidently went to our neighbours in Seoul

Aren't there any "serious" exchanges, say every month, to have our insei play the ones in Seoul or to organise some professional congress or so? I mean, it's two hours travelling from door to door, so it is conceivable, isn't it ?

Other than once in a while on a private basis we don't really visit each other, no.

Don't you think you should?

Mmmm (noise of thinking brains) From the standpoint of organising study exchanges, nothing seems wrong with the idea of intensifying the contact between Japan and Korea. I think however that the ki-in must not start organising it compulsively. As it happens now, on a private basis, it is OK for me. You know, it could turn out to be a very painful event for our insei if regular exchanges were held. As I said, there are *many* young strong players. Only by sheer number we would have to succumb and by strength I'm not too confident either. After our Korean trip there is no room left for doubt. In ten years and odd, no country in the world can match Korea: they have the gifted youth. The future is theirs.

Ten more years and Korea rules, you say. But in Japan there are also very talented players, albeit not as many. Take your own son for example: wouldn't his skill and level compare to theirs?

Naoki is indeed highly established in the Japanese Go world, only, in Korea his level is not all that rare as it is here. There are dozens of players, if not more, of equal strength. We can't put much against that in Japan. And you can well talk about Naoki as the coming man, but he's already 24 years old. Players of comparable calibre in Korea have hardly left school!

A while ago I discussed with BaBa 9p the question where exactly players like Kobayashi Koichi and Cho Chikun would rank in the international Go world. Baba's opinion was that the Japanese top are undoubtedly also world top, but that their homeland schedule is too busy and that they are used to longer thinking time (about 5 hours per player per game) than the rest of the world (Korea typically features 3 hours pppg) which would justify their low performance in international tournaments. What is your opinion on this ?

What Baba is saying is true to some extent, but a heavy schedule is a strange reason for losses abroad. It is, however, absolutely true that the ki-in here doesn't take the international events into account at all, when planning (title) games. Thus it can happen that a player from Japan in the middle of a Kisei match "quickly" goes to China or Korea and back to play a game. It goes without saying that with such a clumsy timetable it is hard for a player to concentrate on the international scene. The difference in thinking time seems no big deal to me. It is a bigger problem that the Ki-in still sees the international matches as "goodwill-games". The way those games are looked upon in China and Korea is much better I think. Their organisation takes it dead serious and adapts their representative's timetable.

Which country holds the best player?

That's impossible to say. You can hardly deny that who wins the "world's strongest player" tournament is also the number one. I think that the question doesn't really matter and will never be answered satisfactorily. I can imagine that it is important for a tournament to launch the cry of "best player in the world" in order to sell it to the public. For a player though, the true purpose is the quest for perfect play, the perfect game. From the crowd's standpoint obviously the country obtaining the most wins in international tournaments counts as the strongest country and accordingly its best player will be seen as the world's best player. There is no argument against that. The reasons you just mentioned are merely excuses and can't count for good reasons. Currently matters are still fairly balanced. Japan doesn't make for many victories but still can hold its own and hangs on to the top. Only, in ten years it will definitely be over: I don't think Japan will then still be able to compete with the Korean talent.

So it is a question of focusing on spreading Go in Japan among the youth.

No doubt about it. Baba is very busy doing so, isn't he? But it is really a tough job to find people who want to spread the game.

I'm volunteering in three basic schools.

Well, that's wonderful, but still you won't find such people easily.

And then again, I teach to children: most of those who show up kind of like it, but their parents don't give it much consideration. Mostly they think English is more important.

Right, that's a big problem. The status of Go, the value it is attributed and the popularity it enjoys are all decisive factors. Go needs a big "boom", a tidal wave of popularity with which we can cross these difficult times. In Korea this is currently more than the case. Everything seems to run in favour of the game. Its status and recognition are tremendous. Lee ChangHo has everything to do with that. As a twenty year old, he conquered the title of World Champion and doing so he brought Korean Go to the status of national top sports. His young age adds to the extraordinary popularity it enjoys with Korean youngsters. Every child now dreams about becoming world number one. Korean parents are only too happy to support their children's wish to become strong at Go.

Do you have a message for the Go players of the world?

My, that's a tough question. All right, I think Go is pre-eminently suitable to be spread around the world. It looks deceptively simple but it is deeper than any other game. Shogi is also a good game, but it is way more difficult for a beginner to learn. I'm confident that Go will also gain popularity outside Asia and that its becoming world game number one is only a matter of time.

That reminds me of something I read on the Internet lately. Someone on the newsgroup observed that one often hears sing the praise of Go because of the beneficial influence it would have on children. Given the fact that I'm teaching children too I'm often asked this question and I'd like to give an unequivocal answer.

Hm, hm, (hums with agreement) The contemporary education of children focuses on transfer of knowledge whether in a pleasing or a boring way. Teachers try to make their pupils to remember as much as possible. Go is THE perfect game to counter this single-mindedness. Think for yourself, make decisions for yourself and experience the consequences of your decisions yourself: that is very important in my opinion. The nice thing about it is that everyone can perform on his own level. The effort remains the same. Weak or strong, gifted or not, Go is a continuous training for everyone in taking decisions independently, which is indispensable to make a child grow to dignified adulthood. It is not about

Innbydelse til Nordisk Mesterskap i Oslo påsken 2002

Oslo Go-klubb ønsker alle hjertelig velkommen til Nordisk mesterskap i Go 2002. Vi har fått leie de samme lokalene som ble benyttet under Nordisk i 1998: tilhørende Sjakkklubben Stjernen i Seilduksgata 11, ca 1.5 km nord for Oslo Sentralstasjon. Turneringen er åpen for alle, men bare spillere bosatt i Norden kan konkurrere om tittelen nordisk mester.

Fredag 29. mars	10:30 Registrering	Lørdag 30. mars	10:00 3. runde
	11:15 Åpning av turneringen		14:00 4. runde
	11:30 1. runde		
	15:30 2. runde	Søndag 31. mars	09:00 5. runde
			13:00 6. runde
			Premieutdeling så snart 6. runde er ferdig.

Turneringsform: 6 runder MacMahon med komi 5 1/2. Betenkningsstid 80 minutter, deretter Canadisk byo-yomi (15 steiner på 5 minutter). Registreringsavgift: 200 NKR

Det er begrenset med muligheter for privat innkvartering. I utgangspunktet kan vi trolig ikke love dette til flere enn de som selv har huset norske spillere i turneringer utenfor Norge.

Et rimelig boalternativ som ble benyttet av mange spillere under Nordisk i 1998 (med priser fra NKR 175,- per person per døgn inkludert frokost), er Oslo Vandrerhjem Haraldsheim, Pboks 41 Grefsen, N-0409 Oslo +47 22222965, <http://www.haraldsheim.oslo.no/>

Liste over hoteller samt annen turistinformasjon om Oslo kan finnes på internett via <http://www.oslopro.no/>

En engelskspråklig invitasjon vil snart bli lagt ut på internett med mer detaljert informasjon om hvordan man finner fram til spillestedet.

Påmelding til

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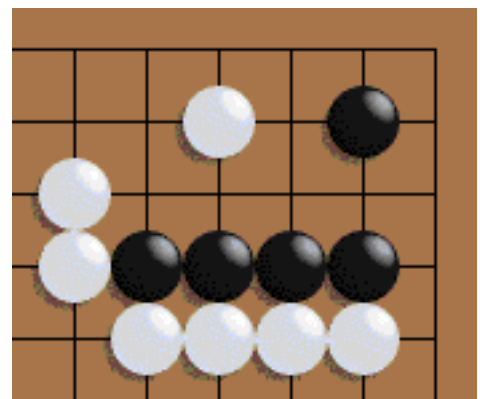
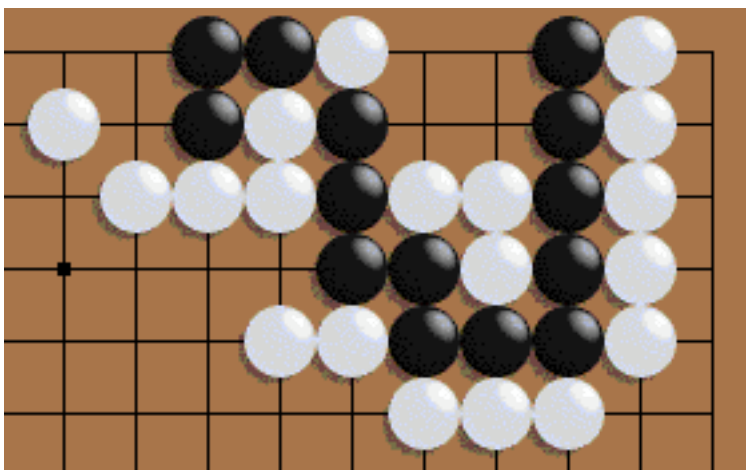
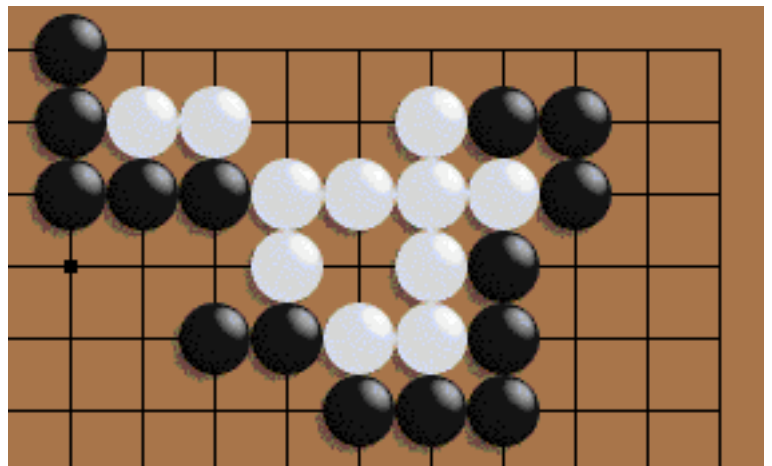
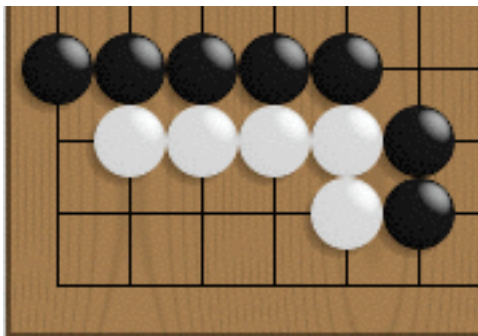
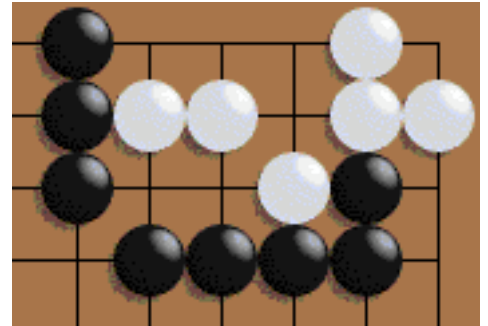
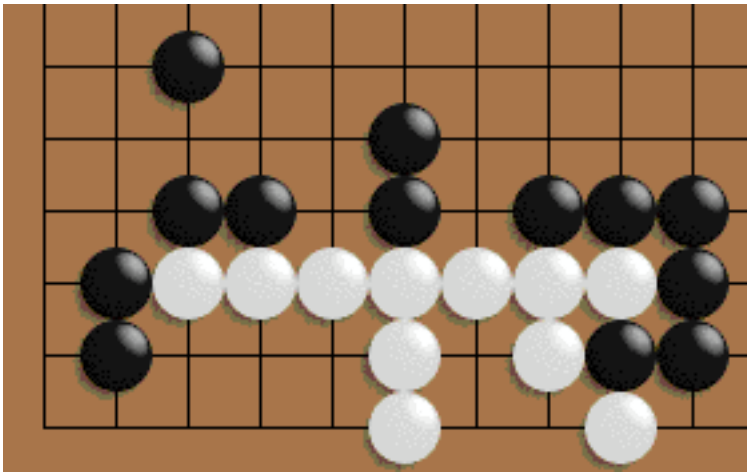
eller

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stuffing with knowledge, but about stimulating and exercising thinking for oneself. To this amounts the fact that Go is played by two, which learns you that things do not always happen nicely according to plan. Learning how to deal with misfortune is also an important point. No game qualifies as well as Go to be

taught to children. Trying to make children play as well as possible is not what counts: Go has a beneficial effect, whatever the level. Go players mainly use the right half of the brain. This seems to be quite rare in our contemporary society.

6 problemeser Sort i trekket i alle 6 problemene.



Lösningar på sista sidan

The Catalin Taranu story

by Pieter Mioch

Catalin Taranu, a 28 years old Rumanian who succeeded in becoming a pro in Japan, has been promoted to 5-dan in June of 2001. This means that he entered the ranks of the 'strong' pros. In his favourite bar/ pub he tells Pieter Mioch about himself, Rumania, and his life in Japan.

Pieter: As a background for the Carpathian mountains in the North, turning into the Transsylvanian Alps, Rumania finds its place / accommodates itself in South East Europe between Ukraine, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, and the Black Sea. In spite of the beautiful nature and the many ideal ski resorts, the outside world, indulging in movies, knows Rumania mainly because of 'The son of the dragon'. This cruel young man, Vlad 'Pole Man' Tepes, was born in the 15th century in the town of Sighisoara. Usually he is referred to by his family name, Dracula. As far as we know he is no ancestor of Catalin Taranu.

Catalin was born in the town of Gura Humorului in the district of Bucovina on March 31st of 1973. In the mountainous North of Rumania his father was politically active in the Communist Party. Before he retired he filled among others the post of mayor of Gura Humorului and later of Vatra Dornei. The mother of the Taranu family teaches biology in school. Catalin's elder brother, as far as we know not a go player, is named Cristian. Because of his father's political career, they needed to move house every once in a while, and when Catalin was seven years old, this made him end up in the city of Suceava, in the region of the same name.

Catalin: "Moving around all the time wasn't much of a problem for me. Of course, right after moving it is difficult for some time, but I always welcomed the chance to meet new people and make friends. When you're young, that's easy."

Before Catalin went to Japan, he lived in Vatra Dornei, and this town with less than thirty thousand inhabitants meant an opportunity to get acquainted with the game that would change Catalin's life dramatically.

"Why the go players from Vatra Dornei are so strong? Well, that's because of the fresh mountain air, of course, "

Catalin tells with a smile over a glass of wine. And believe it or not Vatra Dornei turns out to be indeed a kind of spa where one can enjoy medicinal baths and clean air.

Catalin played his first game of go in April of 1989, due /owing to his mathematics teacher Cristian Cobeli (also assistant professor at the Rumanian Academy of Bucharest). Cobeli, a man of mathematical consequence, had reasonably successfully set up a little go class. It was here that Catalin learnt about the game from China; he played with Cobeli and 'first generation' students Marcel Crasmaru and Petru Oancea.

I was convinced my future would be in mathematics. To me, the world consisted of digits and variables; I was all taken by mathematics and Cobeli was a very good teacher and coach. Until my 15th at least my whole life revolved around mathematics and my preparation for the national mathematics Olympiad, in which I participated several times. This Olympiad is in a number of rounds; it starts at school, next regionally, then in provinces, and if you're very good you can enter the nation wide finals. Catalin never managed to reach the national finals and probably the go world can call itself lucky. Had he ever attained such a high mathematical level, he might have never indulged in go so much.

“The big minus of being so completely absorbed by mathematics is the loneliness. Studying and preparing for a meeting becomes the main focus of your life, and the bottom line is that you do that all by yourself. Although I was completely taken with mathematics, I never enjoyed that loneliness. Especially not when you study your head off for a year with as your only goal to perform well in the Olympiad, and not make a mess of things on the great day in all of three hours' time. Go at least is a two person thing; that was quite an improvement for my social life, going from one to two. From the moment on that I came into contact with go, mathematics soon took second place. This is not to say that I wouldn't have stopped it anyhow, because of the antisocial character of a mathematical career. Whatever, all the passion I ever had for numbers easily transferred to go. I was totally crazy about go.”

“From my twelfth my life 'really' started. Vatra Dornei was much more interesting than the places I had lived before. Cobeli taught part time at the school I attended at the time. Teaching in the middle of nowhere was a way for him to concentrate on his own studies; he was well on his way to become a professor in mathematics. Cobeli was a cool breeze at school, and I often visited him after lessons to borrow new books. I think that at the time Cristian Cobeli was about shodan in strength. In April of 1989 I played my first game of go. I don't exactly know why, but I remember that period well. The first two months were agony. Although I thought I understood the rules and the game certainly captivated me, I really didn't know what exactly to do. I gave it a shot and hoped I'd become a little better fast.”

“ I think this is the only weakness of go, that starting period in which beginners get the rules explained but can't really do anything with them at all. The two months it took me to get a grasp of what really was the general idea, are no exception. Only people slightly obsessed with the game will come out on the other end of this. In that respect chess players are a lot better off, there may be more rules but the goal and the way of playing become clear much sooner than with go. “

Catalin's mathematics teacher meant a goldmine of mathematical wisdom and new ideas for Vatra Dornei. Many a teacher will envy how much Cobeli managed to achieve with his pupils. In Catalin's period there were certainly not dozens of go players-to-be. The number remained under ten, but strange enough all of Cobeli's wards fairly easily reached dan level. After the first generation of players already mentioned before (Marcel Crasmaru, now a Tokyo resident, and Petru Oancea) came generation number two, probably now still the strongest Rumanian

twosome, Christian Pop and Catalin Taranu. After Catalin had been living in Japan for some time, Christian Pop moved in with him and stayed for a year. He almost also made pro, Catalin and Pop used to play even in practice games. Pop was very close to professional strength, when he decided to pack it in and went homeward bound.

Hardly six months after Catalin's learning the noble game, he played his first tournament in Eforie Nord ('not a city, only a resort') at the Black Sea. The occasion was the Rumanian championship Catalin also participated in, in the 10-4-kyu group.

“The top eight participants played the final for the championship, after that there was a group from 4-dan to 4-kyu, and below that was my group. No one really knew what kind of grade to pin on me and I believed I played as a 6-kyu. Imagine the surprise when I won all my games, eight in a row! I won my group and you can understand this was a great encouragement for my go career. I was sixteen at the time and quite happy with my result, it gave me an enormous confidence. It earned me my 4-kyu ranking and from that moment on I started playing all kinds of tournaments. “

In Rumania the rankings seem to be distributed rather severely and it is not so simple, even at the kyu level, to adapt one's own ranking. This explains why, being undoubtedly much stronger, in a tournament in September 1990 Catalin was still playing as a 4-kyu.

“Yeah, that was a nice tournament, the 'Rumanian Cup'. I played as a 4-kyu there without a worry in the world. For the high dan players it was different, of course; they took the tournament and their games extremely serious. Of the six rounds, in the third or fourth I was paired with a Rumanian 4-dan, Robert Mateescu. Holding black I played the game of my life (I thought at the time) and I sort of overthrew the tournament with a half point win! “

Just before Catalin defeated a Rumanian top player in The Romanian Cup of 1990 as a 4-kyu, he had been playing an international tournament. This was in Prague the same year. He tells what things were like at the time in Rumania, the country once known under the name of Dacia and constituting a province of the great Roman Empire.

“At the time it was a golden age for the Rumanian go federation, because we were always assigned a sizeable amount by the government. This grant was among other things used to sponsor players and have them play in tournaments. Originally I was meant to participate in the youth world championship in Prague, but I discovered on the spot that I was already too old for that. I was still seventeen all right, but my eighteenth birthday was before the date the tournament was going to be held. Tough! I comforted myself by playing the regular tournament and did not bad in it, 4 out of 5 I believe, but it may also have been 5 out of 6. “

“After that it was the Romanian Cup, after which (at last) I was promoted to 1-dan immediately. Promotions come a little faster now, but then they were quite slow. The Ing Cup tournament in Amsterdam, held in March of 1991, was my first tournament

'really' out of the country, out of Eastern Europe. It was in a period of revolutions and great changes in all kinds of respects, not only on the map of Europe. The stable support the Rumanian go world had enjoyed, threatened to disappear, and to top it all off the secretary and great support of the federation, Georgi Stihi, stepped down. He was the one who made things actually happen, and without him chaos threatened. Entering the West with Eastern European currency is not much of an option, and it looked like nobody cared any more whether participation of Rumanian talent in tournaments out of the country was still sponsored. I then first accosted Stihi myself. Unfortunately he was so frustrated with certain people in our little go circle, that in spite of a few promises nothing happened. There was nothing else to do but try with the bureau that was occupied with federations and mind sports. I don't exactly know who it was I met, but I think it was even a secretary of state, someone who had been a very famous handball player once. I arranged that a few phone calls were made and soon after everything was settled. Though it was a pity all formalities took some extra time and I ended up missing the first round, which brought me a loss by default. “

“The go circle in Rumania and the adjoining countries was an almost ideal surrounding to become stronger. Most people knew each other, and because usually the government arranged accommodation for the participants, at night we also were together to play go and to study. It was an extremely pleasant surrounding, that fitted very well with my go madness. In Amsterdam this was quite different; I knew nobody and didn't feel at home; I clearly didn't belong there. All the same I jumped at the chance to compare strengths with others in the West. I always got along fine with my math friends or my Rumanian go acquaintances, but basically I was (and am) a bit shy and don't start a chat with a total stranger that easily. One time Guo walked over to me and started a conversation and was very friendly, but I just stood there. After all I was fairly isolated in Amsterdam, and although staying over I still enjoyed the Amsterdam hospitality, I didn't really make new friends, that was only later. “

Catalin didn't play very well in the third Ing Cup, he ended sixteenth, but he did beat Ralph Spiegl (5-dan, Austria) and Rudi Verhagen (then still 4-dan). Not at all bad for a recently promoted 4-dan, especially considering Catalin only played the game for less than two years. What can you do but jealously shake your head and once more take a book of life-and-death problems from the dustiest shelf and open it?

To rub it in once more, a quote from one of Catalin's Rumanian go friends, Radu Baciuc: 'We once were a small group of Rumanian go players at the Belgrade Grand Prix tournament. Among us, we were all of 4- to 5-dan strength and we also had a freshly promoted 1-dan named Catalin Taranu. He achieved the best result by just winning the tournament. In Rumania we didn't trifle at all with promoting people at the time. That's why his convincing result only brought him a 2-dan diploma. There was nobody in our group who doubted that Catalin was a go prodigy. All we wondered about was how much he would accomplish and how long it would take him. By the time we were back in Bucharest, Catalin didn't allow any doubt about what things were like. Within a few months he was promoted to 3- and then to 4-dan. Catalin

performed a feat nobody in Rumania had ever yet managed: steaming from kyu level to 4-dan within a year.'

"I grew stronger by leaps and because at the time (early nineties) the strongest player in Rumania was a 4-dan, I often played among the top boards in tournaments. I remember well that Sorin Gherman was regarded as by far the strongest Rumanian player; he was the first to be promoted to 5-dan. When I played him as a 2-dan in his first tournament after the promotion, I creamed him up. But that shouldn't make you think I could win every game I played; most of the time I had reasonable results, but for example the two times I entered the Romanian Cup, I only scored 3 out of 6. I lost to Robert Mateescu, whom I had beaten only a year before. I also was no match for Mihai and Chattar. Weeks after those games I still met them in my dreams or remembered them suddenly in the daytime, far from a nice experience! "

In 1991 Catalin left Vatra Dornei for Bucharest to study information theory. (Part I has wrongly that Catalin lived in Vatra Dornei till 1995.) Until then his parents hadn't paid much attention to their son's go fanaticism, but gradually they started to worry about Catalin's academic achievements. They had ample reason to do so. Catalin only grew more fanatical, with his mathematical interest for the first victim. After 1990 he played in every tournament he could get to and at university with Cristian Pop for a room mate it was also go that came first. There was a small go club there with a number of fanatical players. So Catalin spent his time excellently, albeit not at university.

"When I had to double a year at university my parents didn't like it. They worried what should become of me. I must say though that both my father and my mother never asked me to give up go or tried to force me to do so. By the way, I also was the strongest chess player of my age in the vicinity of Vatra Dornei. I even played in a few tournaments and got reasonable results without any study of openings and the like. But my chess was never serious and once I started playing go it was over. "

Did you always play to win?

"Of course. I was young and ambitious. Winning wasn't everything but it was very important. I stopped feeling that fire and that ambition at all lately; probably that is the cause that I lost a couple of games."

Does that have to do with age?

No, I don't really think so; I have the idea that it has more to do with what kind of a person you are, with your character.

Were you satisfied with your own play during tournaments, and could you really feel yourself growing stronger? Did you study a lot for tournaments?

“My play was reasonable, but certainly not perfect. Nevertheless I really felt progress by the tournament and that in turn again confirmed my confidence. May be you know those opening books by Sakata, I often used them and I picked up much from it. I studied a lot of joseki then, now I hardly do. It helps if you have a good memory for go. Situations on the board I can fairly easy remember if I have a good look at them. I have a friend who has a very good memory for stories and jokes and the like, but for that kind of things my memory is a sieve.”

Saijo Sensei is a fairly well known figure in the international go world. This good-humoured 8-dan pro seems to be most content if he can tell about the game of go, is given a chance to teach beginners the rules, or can give advanced players a few pointers about shape and tesuji. Catalin met Saijo for the first time in Prague at the 1993 European championship. Catalin played here as a 5-dan and with 7 out of 10 earned sixth place. His results and opponents were, in that order:

- 1+ Peter Zandveld, 4d
- 2+ Sorin Gherman, 5d
- 3+ C. Nishimura, 5d
- 4- Alexei Lazarev, 6d
- 5+ Farid Ben Malek, 5d
- 6+ Frédéric Donzet, 5d
- 7+ Laurent Heiser, 6d
- 8- Naoyuki Kai, 6d
- 9+ Andras Göndör, 5d
- 10- Rob van Zeijst, 6d

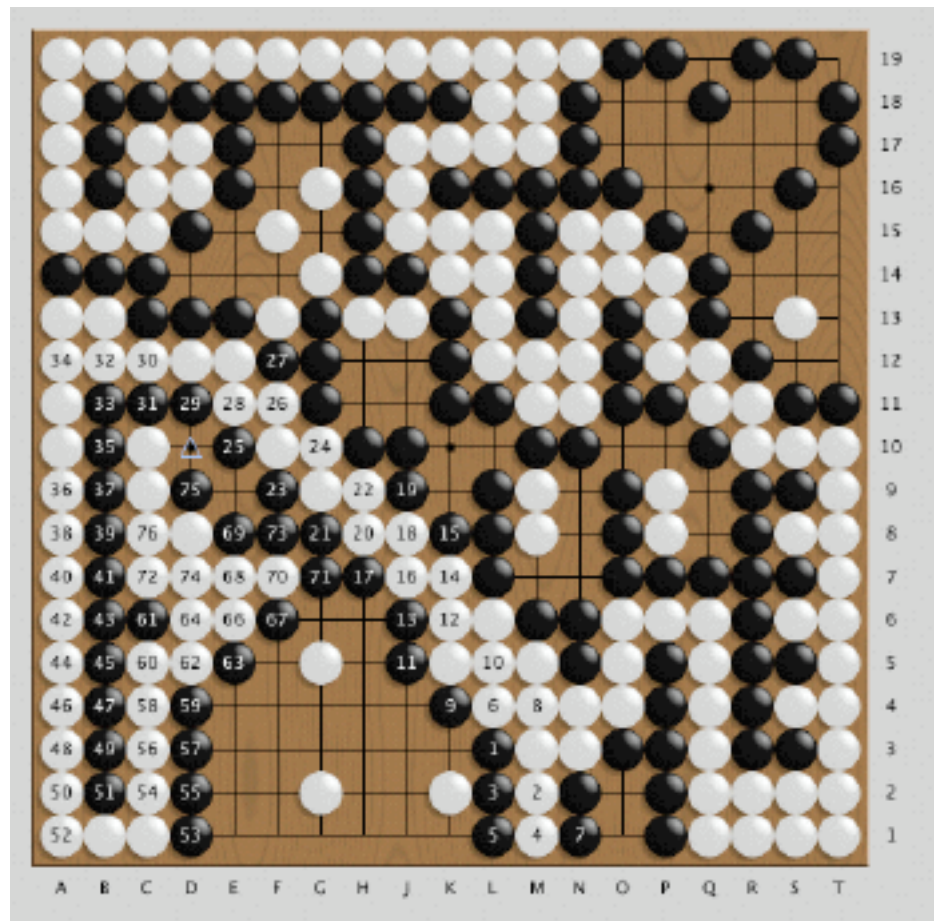
All in all a convincing result. In Prague however a possible position as a candidate professional in Japan wasn't brought up yet. This only came about the year after in Maastricht. 'Saijo sensei has always been very nice, but he was certainly not a talent scout who picked out people that appealed to him. One moment I gathered my courage and accosted him to ask the direct question. His answer was a diplomatic: 'Hmm, that might be difficult, but I'll have a look.' So much for that approach.'

Though Catalin didn't play so strongly in Maastricht and had to settle for fourteenth place, he did well in a two stone handicap game against Saijo. He got the better of Saijo and at the same time could convince him of his dedication to go.

How well Catalin had succeeded in this appeared rapidly:

“You can imagine what I felt like when shortly after Maastricht I got a message that I was welcome in Japan, and that Saijo had arranged a spot for me as an insei! “

Lösning på problemet på omslagssidan.



Hikaru No Go

På webbsiten "www.toriyamaworld.com" finns ett stort antal japanska serier översatta till engelska, bl.a. serien om Hikaru som vi skrev om i förra numret: 3/01.

Sju stycken böcker av "Hikaru no Go" finns här på engelska. Tillsammans omfattar de 57 kapitel. Varje kapitel består av drygt 20 sidor.

På de följande sidorna har vi tagit med de fyra första sidorna i kapitel 1 där Hikaru för första gången möter anden Sai.

Därefter finns slutet av kapitel 22 där Hikaru, med Honinbo Shusakus hjälp, utmanar en go-mästare för att vinna tillbaka sin kamrats pengar.

Notera att på varje sida läses rutorna från höger till vänster. Och i varje ruta läses prattbubblorna från höger till vänster!

Så här ser Toriyamaworlds egen presentation ut:

AK of Troy: Founder/Owner of All

The owner of the site and the main translator.

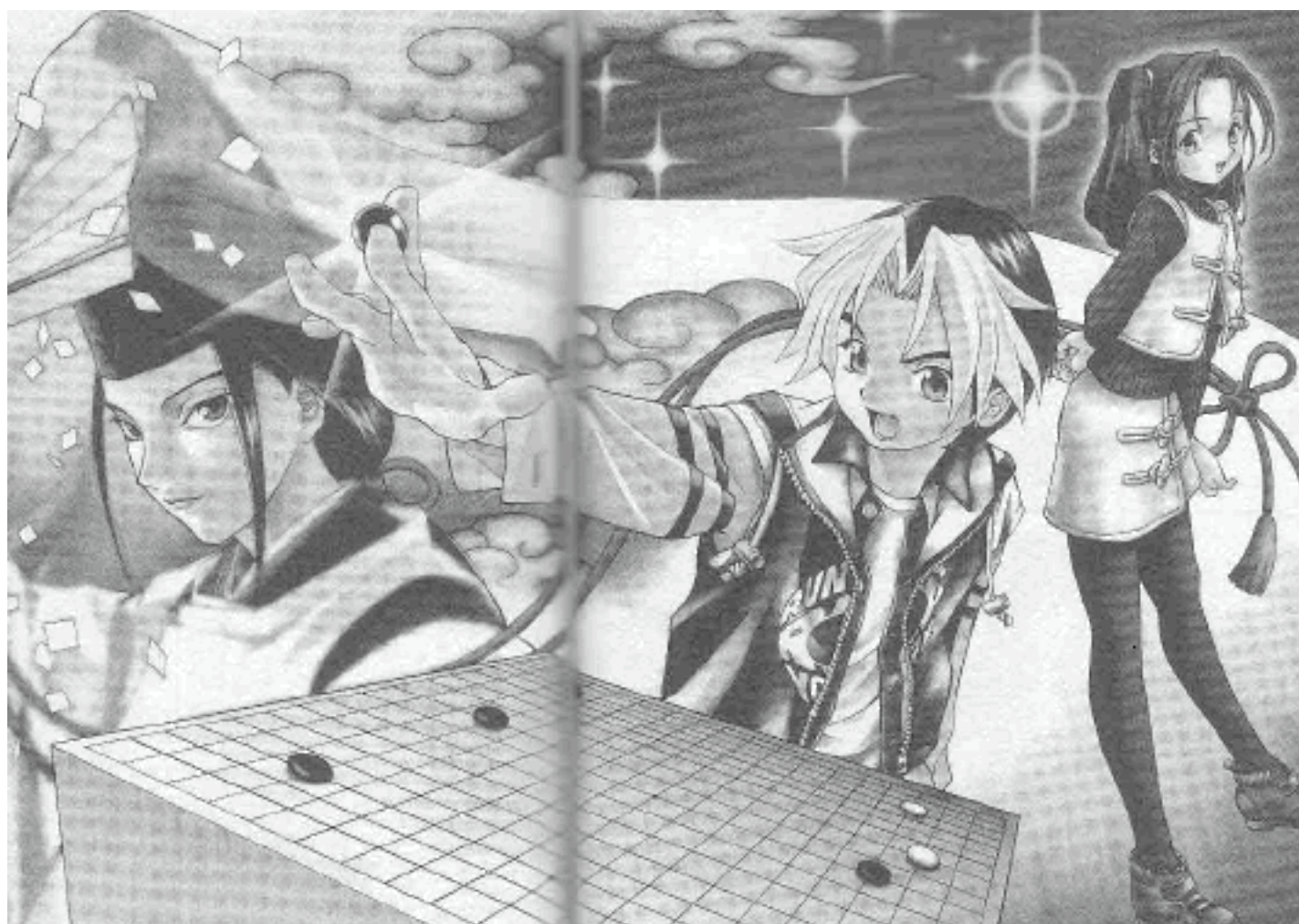
His main job is to push the other staff members around until they cringe in pain.

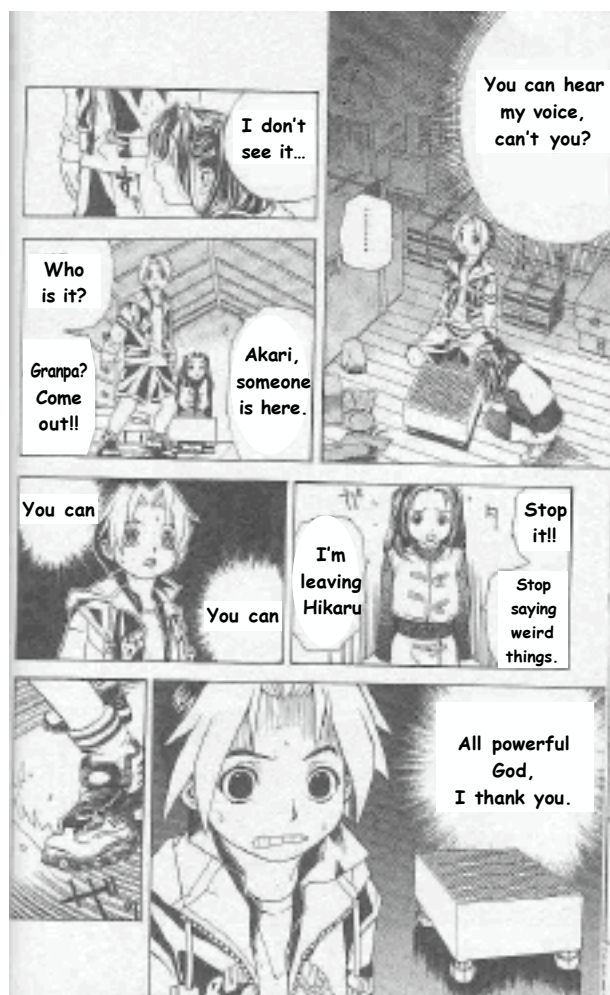
Gotenks253/Mike: Founder/Bum

The super genius Mike has been with TW since the beginning. Using his awesome mind control powers, he has convinced AK not to worry about him when he does absolutely nothing. Well, not really. Mike's an excellent translator and master of Go.

mr_ryo: Webmaster/El esclavo

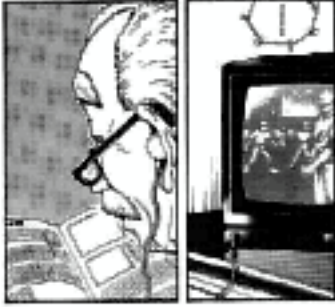
Ryo takes care of just about everything on the website. From content updates to manga scanning and editing, he's there to do the job no one else wants. He enjoys the manga Hikaru no Go, as well as pizza and long walks on the beach on Sundays. Huzzah!







ヒカルの碁図



135



6



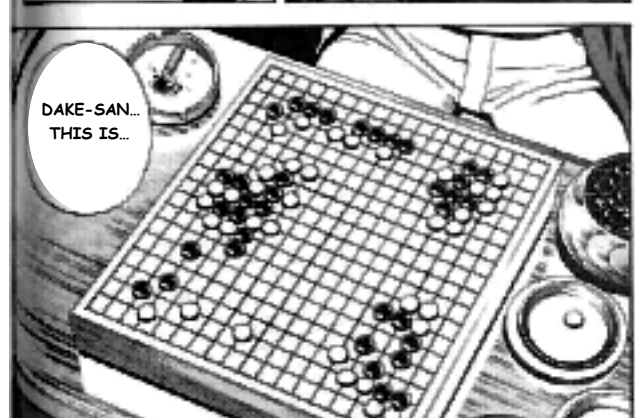
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8

HONINBO...
SHUSAKU...

7



Norgesmesterskapet 2001, 20-21 Oktober i Oslo

Før eller siden måtte det vel skje: Med unntak av en liten glipp i 1989, har Jostein vunnet alle NM han har deltatt i siden 1987, normalt ved å vinne samtlige av sine partier. Også i år så alt ut til å gå oppskriftsmessig for ham; etter første dag var han den eneste ubeseirede i toppgruppen. Men to tap andre dag gjorde at Jostein denne gang måtte nøye seg med 3. plass.

Vinner ble Lin på bedre SOS enn Kong, til tross for at han tapte sitt første parti mot nettopp Kong. Kong var likevel godt fornøyd, i og med at dette resultatet innebærer at han vil representere Norge i neste års verdensmesterskap for amatører.

Det er første gang på svært mange år at NM er blitt avgjort på SOS. Hadde for øvrig Jostein vunnet sitt siste parti, ville han ha endt opp med samme SOS som Lin, og vi hadde måttet ty til lynparti mellom disse to for å kåre mesteren: slik er de vedtatte reglene!

Lenger nede på resultatlisten merker vi oss Tore Sandmark, som i sin første go-turnering klarte meget respektable 4 poeng. Trolig et tegn på at 8 kyu var en underrangering. Tore er for øvrig leder av den nystartede klubben i Trondheim. Eller skal vi heller si gjenopplivede? For noen år tilbake hadde vi et aktivt miljø der som dessverre døde hen da ildsjelen den gang, Henning Mortveit, flyttet til USA. Den forseggjorte hjemmesiden til Trondheim Go Klubb (<http://www.pvv.org/~fvlarsen/trhm-go/>) tyder på bra aktivitet, så neste år forventer vi flere spillere fra Trondheim i NM!

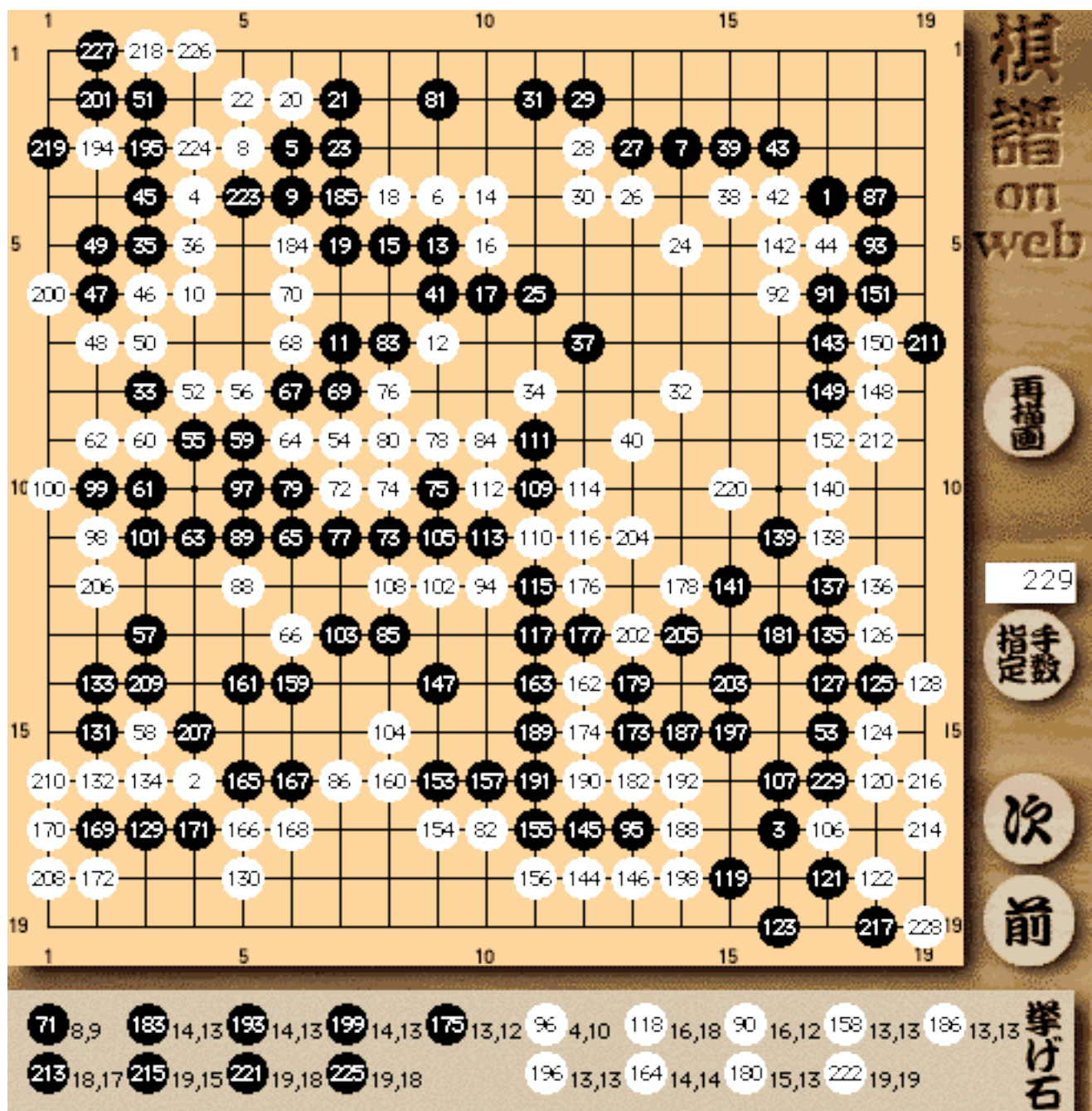
Pl.	Name	Str	Cl.	MMS	Pt	SOS	1	2	3	4	5
1	Xia Jie Lin	5d	Osl	34	4	164	2 -	4+	7+/w1	3+	5+
2	Kong Fan Nian	4d	Osl	34	4	162	1+	6+	3 -	5+	8+
3	Flood Jostein	5d	Osl	33	3	165	5+	7+/w1	2+	1 -	4 -
4	Sannes Pål	4d	Osl	33	3	161	6 -	1 -	11+/w3	8+	3+
5	Ofstad Morten	3d	Osl	32	2	164	3 -	11+/w3	6+	2 -	1 -
6	Xia Jie Li	3d	Osl	32	1	159	4+	2 -	5 -	0=	0=
7	Malinowski Aleksander	1k	Osl	31	2	159	10+/w3	3-/b1	1-/b1	9-/w3	11+/w2
8	Xia Jie Rong	3d	Osl	31	0	157	0=	0=	0=	4 -	2 -
9	Røe Per	4k	Lil	29	3	141	11 -	13-/w3	10+/b1	7+/b3	14+/w3
10	Seehusen Fredrik	4k	Osl	29	3	140	7-/b3	12+	9-/w1	14+/w2	0+
11	Thorstensen Trond	4k	Osl	28	2	145	9+	5-/b3	4-/b3	13+/w2	7-/b2
12	Skogen Tor Birger	5k	Osl	27	2	134	14+/w1	10 -	0=	0+	13-/w2
13	Sandmark Tore	8k	Tro	26	4	126	0+	9+/b3	14+/b1	11-/b2	12+/b2
14	Angeltveit Vigleik	6k	Osl	25	1	130	12-/b1	0+	13-/w1	10-/b2	9-/b3

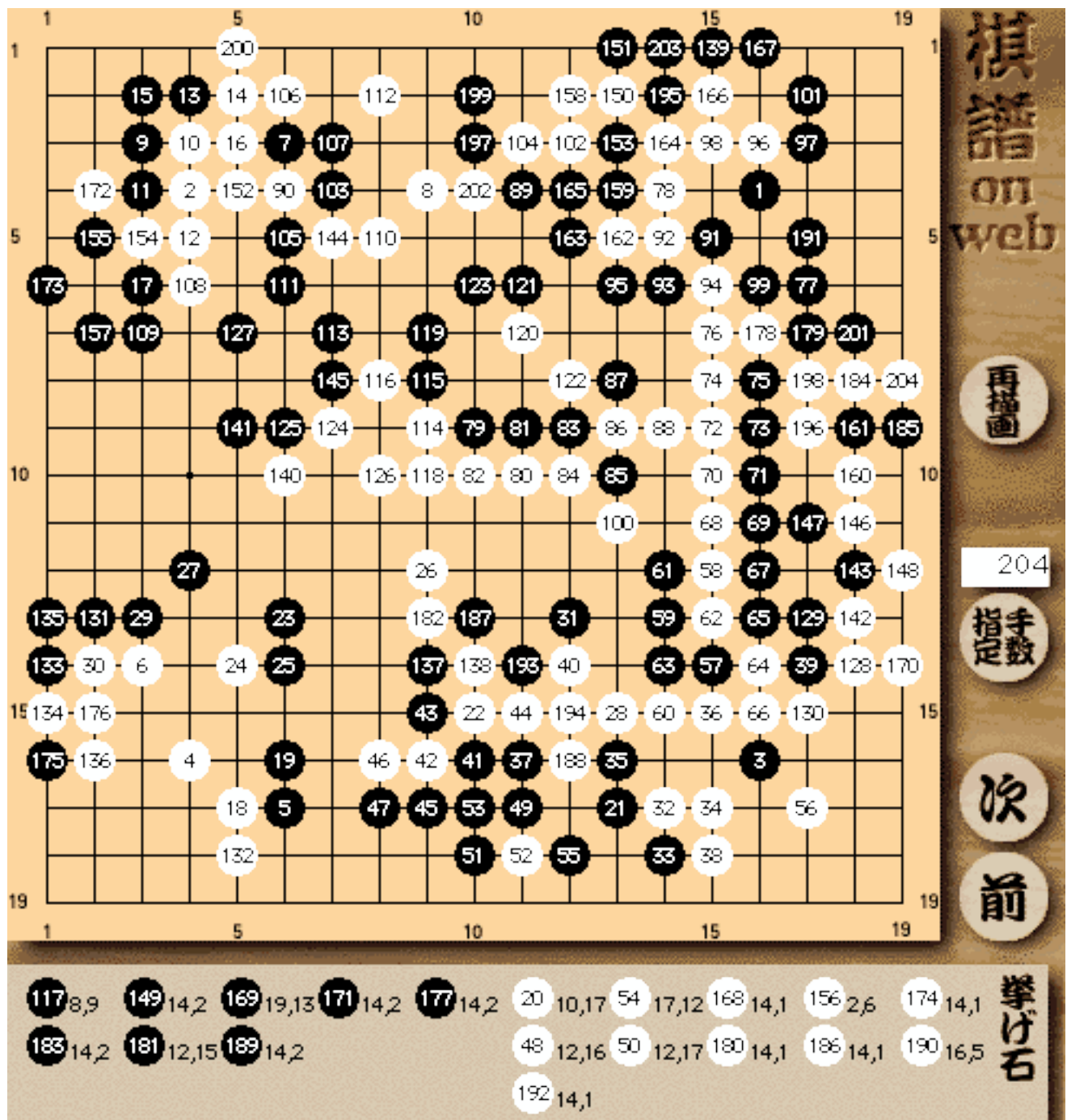
Meijin 26:e titelmatch

I förra numret hade vi med de tre första partierna i titelmatchen. Här kommer de tre avslutande!

Title Match Players	1st Round 09-04,05 Seoul Korea	2nd Round 09-19,20 Iwamizawa Hokkaido	3rd Round 09-26,27 Innoshima Hiroshima	4th Round 10-10,11 Shuzenji Shizuoka	5th Round 10-17,18 Kofu Yamanashi	6th Round 10-31,11-01 Yokohama Kanagawa	7th Round 11-07,08 Izu-Nagaoka Shizuoka
Yoda Norimoto Meijin	B+2.5	W+0.5			B+R	W+R	
Rin Kaiho 9dan			W+0.5	B+5.5			







Göteborg Open 2001

Pl.	Name	Str	Cl.	MMS	1	2	3	4	5	Pt	SOS
1	MacFadyen, Matthew	6d	Lea	16	8+	6+	9+	2+	4+	5	68
2	Li Xiaodong	6d	Bei	15	10+	3+	4+	1-	7+	4	71
3	Li, Martin	4d	Bor	15	7+	2-	6+	5+	8+	4	68
4	Olsson, Ulf	4d	Göt	14	5+	15+	2-	11+	1-	3	681/2
5	Pedersen, Torben	3d	Köb	14	4-	7+	8+	3-	10+	3	68
6	Sannes, Pål	4d	Osl	13	9+	1-	3-	10-	13+	2	69
	Abrahamsson, Jörgen	2d	Mal	13	3-	5-	12+	9+	2-	2	69
	Fahl, Gustav	2d	Sto	13	1-	11+	5-	12+	3-	2	69
9	Ekholm, Erik	3d	Sto	13	6-	10+	1-	7-	11+	2	67
	Bäcklund, Staffan	2d	Sto	13	2-	9-	13+	6+	5-	2	67
11	Boman, Tomas	1d	Lin	12	14+	8-	15+	4-	9-	2	631/2
12	Thulin, Mikael	1d	Upp	12	15-	14+	7-	8-	16+	2	601/2
13	Ouchterlouny, Erik	1k	Lin	12	17+	18+	10-	15+	6-	3	591/2
14	Giardino, Rafaella	1d	Köb	12	11-	12-	16+	--	--	1	55
15	Gustavsson, Mattias	1d	Göt	11.5	12+	4-	11-	13-	--	1	60
16	Gustafsson, Marcus	1k	Göt	11	18-	17+	14-	21+	12-	2	56
17	Strand, Krister	1k	Väs	11	13-	16-	21+	20+	19-	2	54
18	Bergsåker, Henric	1k	Sto	11	16+	13-	20-	--	--	1	51
19	Yinggang, Li	3k	Göt	11	20+	21-	23+	24+	17+	4	48
20	Abrahamsson, Roger	2k	Mal	10	19-	25+	18+	17-	21-	2	51
	Evensen, Pelle	3k	Sto	10	24+	19+	17-	16-	20+	3	51
22	Poulsen, Brian	5k	Köb	9	26+	23-	27+	25+	24+	4	37
23	Norén, Magnus	4k	Upp	9	25-	22+	19-	28+	27+	3	36
24	Christiansson, Tomas	4k	Lun	8	21-	26+	25+	19-	22-	2	45
25	Möller, Niklas	4k	Sto	8	23+	20-	24-	22-	30+	2	37
26	Alfredsson, Mattias	6k	Lin	7	22-	24-	30+	29+	28+	3	23
27	Svanström, Mattias	8k	Lin	5	29+	28+	22-	30+	23-	3	24
28	Hjalmarsson, Mats	9k	Sto	3	30+	27-	29+	23-	26-	2	24
29	Rosengren, Stefan	9k	Sto	2	27-	30-	28-	26-	free	1	17
30	Li, Dan	12k	Bor	1	28-	29+	26-	27-	25-	1	25

London Open 2002

Posn.	No.	Name	grade	nation	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Wins	MMS	SOS
1	1	Gbor Szabics	5D	Hungary	32+	2+	6+13+	4+11+	5-	9+			7	10	59
2	2	Pal Sannes	4D	Norway	27+	1-26+	9+	7+	4+11+	3-			6	9	59
3	3	Seong Jun Kim	6D	UK	12-	18+	4-17+	26+	10+	6+	2+		6	9	58
4	4	Taiko Nakamura	5D	Japan	28+	10+	3+11+	1-	2-	9-	5+		5	8	62
5	5	Matthew Cocke	5D		13-	14+	19+	12+	11-	7+	1+	4-	5	8	61
6	6	Young Kim	5D	UK	38+	12+	1-	7-14+	9+	3-	8+		5	8	60
7	7	Jens Vygen	4D	Germany	26-	38+	27+	6+	2-	5-10+	13+		5	8	53
8	8	Francis Roads	4D	UK			15+	10-	32+	14+	20+	6-	4	8	41
9	9	Ralf Hohenschurz	4D	Germany	16+	13+	11-	2-12+	6-	4+	1-		4	7	63
10	10	TMark Hall	4D	UK	14+	4-	12-	8+13+	3-	7-	11+		4	7	61
10	11	Arnoud van der Loeff	4D	Netherlands	15+	26+	9+	4-	5+	1-	2-10-		4	7	61
12	12	Ulf Olsson	4D	Sweden	3+	6-	10+	5-	9-	17-	27+	20+	4	7	58
13	13	Jaekyung Shim	5D	Korea	5+	9-	32+	1-	10-	26+	17+	7-	4	7	57
14	14	Filip Vanderstappen	5D	Netherlands	10-	5-	38+	27+	6-	8-	16+	17+	4	7	54
15	15	Matti Siivola	5D	Finland	11-	27-	8-	16+	17-	32+	28+	25+	4	7	50
16	16	Anton Grzeschniok	3D	Germany	9-	51+	18+	15-	29+	19+	14-	27+	5	7	48
17	17	Piers Shepperson	5D	UK		29+	28+	3-	15+	12+	13-	14-	4	7	47
18	18	Alex Selby	3D	UK	21+	3-	16-	29-	39+	43+	26+	28+	5	7	45
18	19	Neil Symes	3D	UK	30+	39+	5-	28-	21+	16-	29+	26+	5	7	45
20	20	Jim Clare	3D	UK	29-	30+	31+	38+	27+	28+	8-	12-	5	7	44
42	42	Krister Strand	1K	Sweden	69+	36-	47+	37-	45+	52+	35+	30-	5	4	32
82	82	Brian Poulsen	4K	Denmark	73-	79+	83+	63-	71-	84+	72-	75-	3	-1	4
92	92	Mogens Jakobsen	9K	Denmark	95-	93+	65+	88-	96+	97+	91-	99+	5	-4	-31
103	103	Lasse Jakobsen	14K	Denmark	02-	97-	06+	04+	99-	00-	05+	07+	4	-10	-92

Lösning på problemen på sidan 7.

