

49th European Go Congress Prague 2005

Bulletin 2

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In the next bulletin

- Who won: Catalin – Lee Ki-bong?
- Life and death problems
- Go in Turkey
- Interview with Ms. Liu Ya-jie, 3P

The editors are grateful

We are closing the second issue of the bulletin, while some top games in the fifth round are still going on. But we do know that Alexander Dinerstein already defeated Catalin Taranu, 5P. So Sacha is leading the top group after the first half of the main tournament. Following at his heels are the pack from the Super group with four wins and probably a player of the next MacMahon group, who also won all five games in the first week.

Some candidates for the Championship of Europe will use the weekend to rest and to build up strength for the second week. Others might play in the European masters or in the Weekend tournament.

Some participants will leave us after the first week as their holiday is over. For sure they would like to take the table of results back with them. Unfortunately it takes some more time to enter all game results and compile the rankings after five rounds. Probably we will be able to print a separate table of results soon, so people could take a copy of it for reading on their trip back. The largest group of players, who are leaving us, are the children from Lithuania. Thank you for being with us and welcome to Rome next year!

We are grateful for all interesting articles we received and other help we got from some of our readers. Most of these contributions are in this issue. The rest will be published in the second week. This bulletin brings the solutions of the tsume-go problems of our first issue. The next set of problems will be in the third bulletin. Probably you will be served a double portion ...

Half way the week we moved our editorial office to the cool computer room, number 121. You are welcome to bring your contributions to the issues of next week's bulletins.

Editorial team: Anna Bogusz, Peter Dijkema, Tomas Grosser.

Spirit is Computer Champion

Three programs competed for title of Computer Champion on Wednesday 27. Spectators present enjoyed the games a lot. Piotr Andryszek from Poland won the tournament with Spirit of Go. Dutchman Ivo Tonkes won silver with T360. (We are curious what the name means, the go board has 361 points ...). Neuron won a bronze medal for Alexander Melnikov from Russia. Probably we will publish the record of the deciding game in our next number.



Friday Fight of Titans: Alexandr Dinerstein, 1p v. Catalin Taranu, 5p

Numbers and Nationalities

Are we attending the largest and strongest European Congress ever? We analyzed our data:

At July 28 a total number of 728 had passed the registration desk. In the fourth round of the main tournament 637 people took part. A bit more than one out of six are female, there were 112 women competing. Over ten percent are players over 60 years old, exactly 68 people have reached the age of the wise. One of every 25 players is a child under the age of 12. Our conclusion: impressive numbers of quantity. How about quality?

Well, first there are the three pro strength participants: Catalin, 5P and the 1P's Svetlana and Sasha from Russia. Next we have twelve 7D, fourteen 6D, 24 five-dans, 43 four-dans, 55 san-dans, 41 ni-dans and 58 sho-dans. A total of 250 (two hundred and fifty) players of black belt level! Again: very impressive numbers. And more strong players are expected to arrive for the weekend and the second week. So we are set for new records in numbers and strength of participants in main and weekend tournaments.

So much for the masters – of course, they are outnumbered by the students. As always, the most numerous group is of the 1-kyu players: 69. Next are the 2-kyus – 46 and the 5-kyus – 38, 3-kyus 34, 4-kyus 27, 7-kyus 21, 9-kyus 18, 6-kyus 17, 8-kyus 14. Do you want to read all numbers? There you are: 10 10k, 13 11k, 6 12k, 7 13k, 6 14k, 8 15k, 4 16k, 5 17k, 16 18k, one lonely 19k and as much as 27 20k.

Compared to the old record – also Prague, 12 years ago – we are doing fine. Then also over 600 people participated in some of the tournaments and about 800 we present at the Congress.

As almost always, the Germans – 127 play in the main - are the most numerous national group. That is normal. They invented the EGC some 50 years ago. Next there are many Japanese (67). This is a recent trend. Some Japanese came to take part for the first time many years ago, but their number is growing steadily, after the good press we get every year in “Go Weekly” and other Japanese publications. Next are the Dutch (61), who always show up in large numbers. The Poles (54) probably liked last year’s Congress in Tuchola a lot and decided to come back right away. The same argument explains the seventh ranking position of the young Lithuanians (34). Over the last couple of years the numbers of Koreans (42) is growing very fast. When they show up, they have the habit of winning top prizes - this trend started in 1984 in Porrentruy (CH), when only a certain Mr. Hong and Yoo Jong-su took part, finishing first and second.

Of course the Czech players are numerous – 49, and the French lose only by one point to Lithuania (33). What more do we have: Ten people from Spain! Who bids more? Thirteen Fins and fourteen Italians, who prepare the ground for next years Congress in Rome. Anyone?

Yes, United kingdom: 16. No, Rumania: 24!

That leaves us with only some smaller groups: 9 Russians, 8 Ukrainians, 7 Slowakians. Next we have six-packs from A, B and CH: Austria, Belgium and Switzerland. And there are also six people, who kept their nationality secret. Both Bosnia and Denmark have five each.

A quartet from Sweden and also from Cyprus. They are new. Welcome new members of the European union! Please show up at the editor’s office. We are curious to talk to you!

Trios from Hungary, Slovenia and the USA. Two people from Turkey: miss president and mister national champion. And finally three lonely people: one former Yugoslav, one Croatian and one from Israel. If we forget anyone, please let us know!

13x13 knockout final

On Monday 25 July four kyu players fought their way into the knock-out finals of the 13x13 tournament: Miroslav Šos (6k), Bronislav Snídal (2k), Mika Urtela and a guy called Bertram (both 1k). All others were strong dan players. Of those 12 dans in the knockout stage, the players with the lowest ranking were three san-dans. Wojciech Wiczorek and Petr Nechanický (the younger brother of referee Radek) did not survive the first round of the knockout on Tuesday 26, like all four kyus. One of them lost to Martin Jurek, the only 3dan, who made it to the quarterfinal. Artem Dugin defeated his colleague 4dan Zbyněk Dach, but next lost to Ilya Shikshin (6dan). In the other leg of the playoff, Cho Seok-bin (7dan) won against his countryman Kim Song-min (6dan) and Leszek Soldan (5dan) defeated David Ungaro (4dan). Below we present you one semifinal and the final.

Semifinal:



Black: Leszek Soldan
White: Cho Seok-bin

White wins.

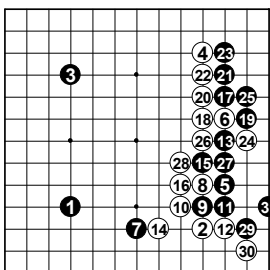


Figure 1: 1-31

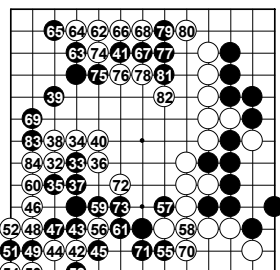


Figure 2: 31-84

Final:



Black: Ilya Shikshin
White: Cho Seok-bin

White wins.

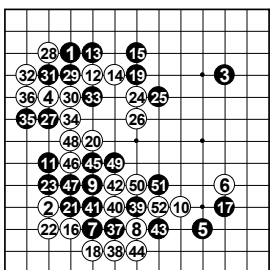


Figure 1: 1-52

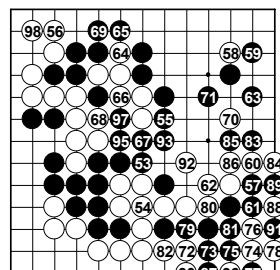


Figure 2: 53-98

94 at 88

Commented Game: Taranu v. Heiser

White: Catalin Taranu, ROM, 5p

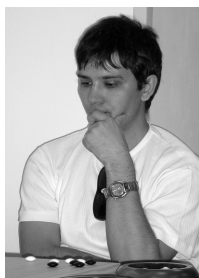
Black: Laurent Heiser, LUX, 6d

Round: 2

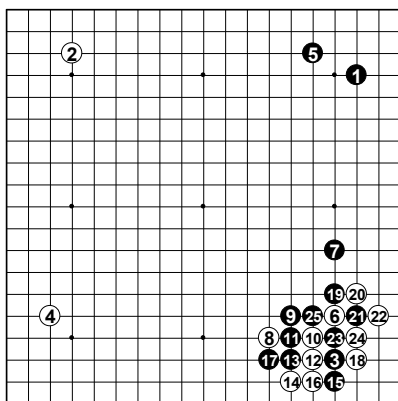
The comment is the result of the postgame discussion by both players together with Enda Hideki 9-dan und Christian Pop.



Laurent Heiser



Catalin Taranu

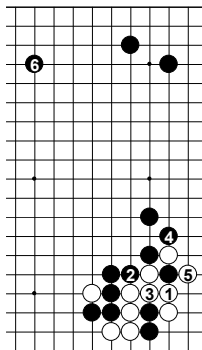


26 at 21

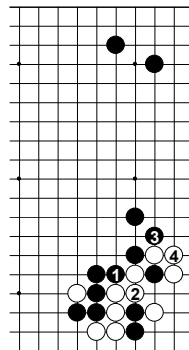
Figure 1: 1-26

22: White 1 in Variation 1 is the normal joseki move, but White didn't like the result.

23: Result in Variation 2 is somewhat bad for black as the right side is now open.



Variation 1



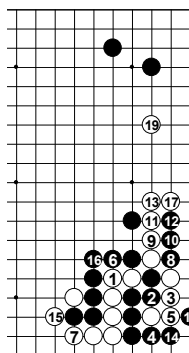
Variation 2

23: Only move in this situation.

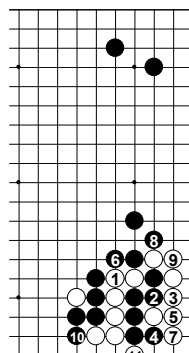
24: Locally this gives black a better result than the joseki.

White 1 in Variation 3 is the strongest move. This variation would be the normal continuation.

The result in Variation 4 is too good for black as he gets both kikashis – 8 and 10 – on the outside.



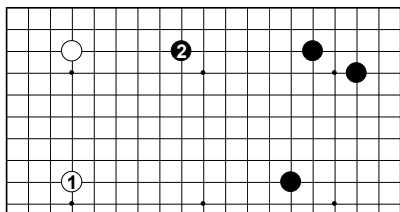
Variation 3



Variation 4

87: Now the game is very difficult for white.

88: White 1 in Variation 10 looks necessary but White thought that the game would then be too easy for black.



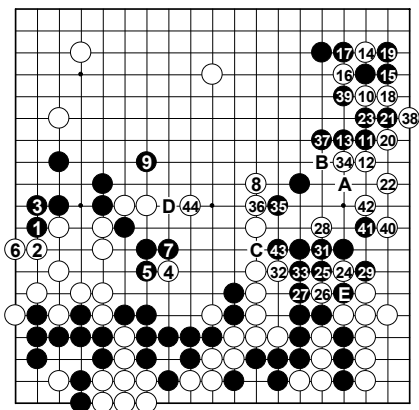
Variation 10

91: Too slow. Should be at A or 93 to attack the white group below.

94: Nobu at 95 would be better.

95: This cut works well for black.

99: Creating a cutting point first making the B-C exchange seems to be better.



30 at E

Figure 3: 100-144

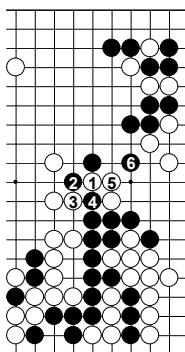
109: Very important point and the game is still very difficult for white.

110: White has to try something...

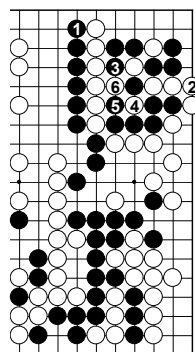
111: Black 116 would be normal but after white A the black group below starts becoming thin.

125: Better at 126 at as gives black a more solid shape.

134: Necessary preparation. Immediately playing White 1 in Variation 11 doesn't work well. At this stage black already entered byoyomi and white a few moves later.



Variation 11



Variation 12

135: A necessary defence.

141: Huge mistake. Must be played at 142, what would be sente and strengthen the black group.

142: Now white gets the vital point and black's shape is very thin.

143: Necessary forcing move but still there remains a cut at B.

144: Do or die move as white thought that white C, black D would again be too simple for black.

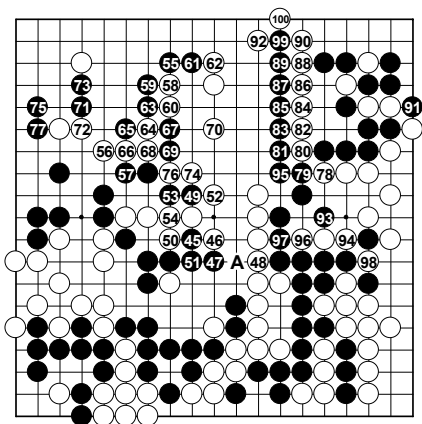


Figure 4: 145-200

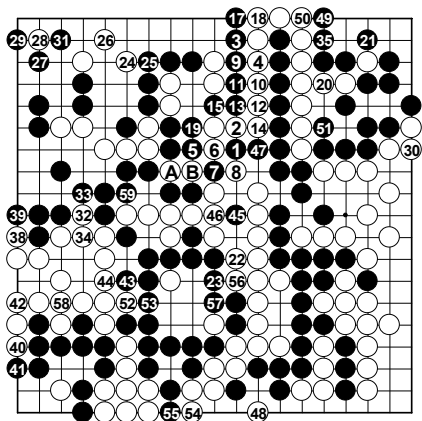
145: Black 148, White A, Black 146 would be better.

154: Now black's group became thin and a reinforcement at 156 seems to be necessary.

155: Overplay! Finally leading to a huge exchange.

157: Painful for black.

191: Necessary. See Variation 12 (on previous page).

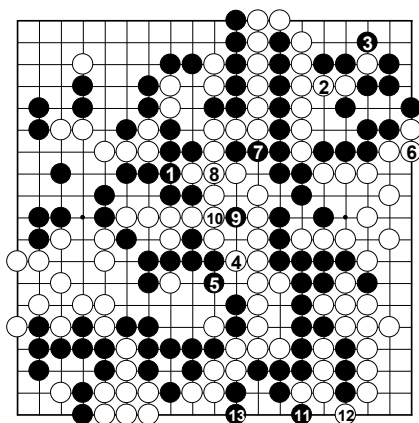


16 at B, 36 at 7, 37 at A

Figure 5: 200-259

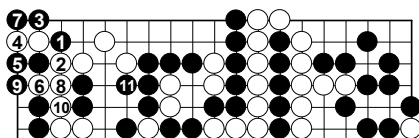
218: Even though a huge exchange has happened the game is very close.

219: Maybe the final losing move as white gets sente. If black had played at A white needs to connect at 207 (see Variation 13), so black gets sente to take the last large point at 230. In Variation 13 both groups have one eye and though white has more liberties he needs to add many moves to take the black stones off the board.



Variation 13

229: Leaves too much bad aji. Black 1 in Variation 14 is strongest move. The white group would be dead.



Variation 14

In the end Catalin was amazed that he won by two and a half points.

Groningen in the Netherlands bids to hold the 53rd EGC in 2009

Bulletin 2 was being printed on Friday evening, while the annual general meeting of the European Go Federation during this Congress was still going on. The participants will decide on the venue for the European Go Congress in 2009 by the principle of one country, one vote. Candidate countries are the Netherlands with Groningen, Belgium with Leuven (both cities are old university towns) and Serbia and Montenegro.

Next year the jubilee 50th EGC will be held in Frascati near Rome, Italy. Its main organiser, Gionetto Soletti will write about his plans in one of our next issues. In 2007 the 51st EGC is in Villach, Austria and in 2008 the 52nd EGC will be held in Sweden, probably somewhere on the countryside in South Sweden.

The team, which prepared the Groningen bid for EGC 2009, showed its quality by presenting a beautiful folder. It contains all major information, including a budget. The following lines come from this folder.

The Go Club Groningen and the Dutch Go Association would like to organize the 53rd European Go Congress in 2009. The Netherlands is one of the first countries in Europe where the game of go was played and still one of the largest go-countries today. In 2009, the go association celebrates its 50th anniversary. This provides them with the perfect opportunity to combine the EGC with their anniversary activities.

Groningen is the main city of the north of the Netherlands, about 2 hours from Amsterdam. The city of Groningen started its life in 1040 AD as a small village. It was part of group of seven villages, which were, ironically, known as the “Go”. Since then it has grown to become the 6th largest city of the Netherlands, with a population of over 180 000. Home to one of the largest and oldest universities of the country, it houses about 40.000 students. The Groningen go club has found an excellent location for the EGC 2009 at the modern, multi-purpose Martini-plaza congress centre. The Martini-plaza is located close to the city centre and immediately adjacent to the largest of many parks in the city.

The club can provide accommodation in all price classes:

- at the camping site in the park adjacent to the playing hall – EUR 5 pp
- in student facilities, youth hostels and cheap hotels - EUR 15 to 25 range
- luxury rooms, including those at the 4 star Mercure hotel, adjacent to the Martiniplaza – EUR 30-40.

Interview with Guo Juan, 5P

Guo Juan, I remember your first visit to Europe. In 1985 you came to teach at the EGC at the island of Terschelling in the Netherlands.

Q: When did you come to stay in Europe?

A: In 1988, Philippe Bizard from France came to look for me in China. He wanted me to teach in France. On that trip I also taught in Switzerland and Holland. After that I went to Canada, where my brother lives. Next I went back to China to pick up my son. With him I settled for good in Holland in 1990.

Q: In Europe you won many tournaments and titles. But here you came only to teach. Do you still play in any tournaments?

A: Hardly. I won so many titles: I won the European Championship four times in a row and Fujitsu-Cup also four times. I was Champion of Holland 7 times. I am not sure how many European Ing-Cups I won, 7 or 8...? Now I am over 40 and I mostly changed the direction of my career. I devote almost all my time to teaching, traveling to hold workshops in Europe and in America, and to promotion of Go in general. Also here many people come to my lectures. I think over 50 people already attended. I teach really a lot on the net. It is very easy to find my site. Just type my name in Google and you will get the address. Recently I am investing in the development of a new teaching system. Now I am testing it and after Summer it will be available. This is something really for the promotion of Go. It is very cheap, so everybody can afford it. Please, dear reader, check it out yourself real soon!



Guo Juan and her students

Go Business Card

The editors received, via the hands of Harald Kroll, the business card from a participant from Japan. It shows that Mr. Michiyoshi Oikawa is Plumbing Designer and his Go ranking is 3D.

Next it has fourteen different flags and a Tsume-go problem. The flags are from the countries represented at this Congress. So, for sure Mr. Oikawa has designing business cards as a second hobby. The card is really nice and very colorful with all those flags. Apparently he tried to include all flags of countries he thought would present during this European Congress. I guess that he specially developed his card for this occasion. The flags are, from left to right: European Union, Germany, Czechia, Sweden, Switzerland, Korea, Austria, Netherlands and/or Luxembourg, Russia, France, Great Britannia, Croatia, Denmark and Japan. We guess that he expected to meet players from those countries over the board here. Probably he already had finished his card before dan-level players from Spain or Serbia had pre-registered on the net.



Peter Dijkema

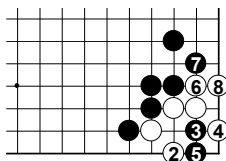
New World Championship Tournament: for Amateur Teams

Here is some recent news taken from gobase.org:

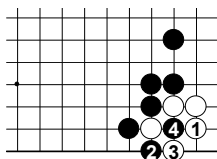
The Korea Amateur Baduk Association will organize a new event: the International Baduk Team Championship. From all over the world 16 teams consisting of 3 players each will be invited to come to Korea to play the championship on 25-27 October 2005 in Seoul, Korea. From Europe The Netherlands, Germany and Russia will be invited, from America the USA and Argentine. We will keep you up to date.

Solution of tsume-go problems in EGC Bulletin #1

Easy

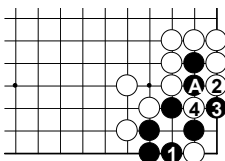


*This is right for White.
White group is alive.*

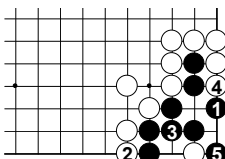


*This is wrong. Now Black
can start the ko.*

Intermediate

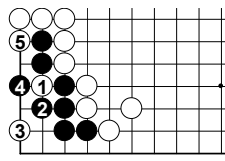


*5 retakes 4.
Black group is now safe.*

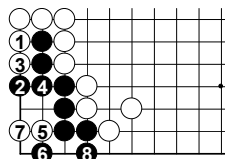


*Wrong for Black. Now
White got the ko.*

Advanced



*White should cut first, next
take the vital point and
finally kill the group.*



*When white starts pushing
in immediately, Black can
still make two eyes.*

Invitation to Town Team Tournament in Guilin City

Ms. Liu Yajie, 3P, visited us in our new office – room 121 – to bring an invitation from the Weiqi Association of Guang-xi Province for a town team tournament in the city of Guilin.

It is scheduled for October 11-15. First day is for check-in. Next three days of competition and the last day is for sightseeing. A town team has two players. We quote some rules:

Contestants must be amateurs. No limits to level or sex. Time for each match is 90 minutes.

Expenses: the teams are responsible for their travel expenses. Other costs, including accommodation are for organizers. The venue is 4-star Ronghu Hotel in Guilin.

Contact to inscribe by fax Mr. Hang Ning in Nanning: (0771) 5890608

Life and death problem on a beautiful beach

On the morning of the free Wednesday we wanted to go to the lake with our French friends. However, first we were still busy with this bulletin, so we decided to join them later. In the afternoon we walked for over two hours almost all around the lake to find them. We did not see them on the nude beach, so perhaps at the other side of the lake? We looked there as well until we arrived at a guarded part of the beach. Wonderful: large trees gave some shade, on a terrace food and drinks were available. Time to rest and relax. We sat down on the lawn under a tree at the shore next to a young family.

Soon I discovered groups of people right across the lake, the only part of the shore, which we did not check yet. So I left for another inspection tour. Of course, I did not meet our French 'fries'. But I did meet one Go player there, who assured me that on the last hundred meters, which I had not checked yet, there were no French Go players at all. Time to return to my beautiful wife on the wonderful beach.

On my return to the safe guarded part of the beach I noticed that my wife had moved a couple of meters back to catch more sun. Also the young family had disappeared, although their things were still there. My wife explained: the kids came hungry back from the lake, so their father decided to buy them some food on the terrace. Finally, I also sat down to rest a bit. No for long though. Soon I heard loud cracks coming from the trees above me. Bad aji - I thought and I moved a couple of meters away to join my wife in the sunshine. I left our bags and things at the stem of the tree ... No minute to late. Before I could sit down again, I heard another very loud crack. Two big branches fell down on the place, which I had evacuated. I had escaped sudden death by a minute and the young family by a quarter.

Afterwards the family had some difficulties retrieving their things from underneath those big branches, but we survived ... As usual, life at the Congress is full of surprises!

The best exchange office in Prague!

eXchange

Corner of Kaprova Street and Old Town Square
No commission, very good exchange rates

Re-import of the culture

Masako Kawamura, 2dan, Japan

It has been more than 10 years since I participated in European Go Congress for the very first time. I have been impressed with so many things that cannot be seen in Japan: the numbers of youngsters participating, the mingled matches between advanced players and kyu-level players, their cheerfulness and their talents for making up new games just for fun. Since none of them were very much familiar to Japanese people, I have been introducing them through a Japanese newspaper and magazines up till now.

I was also very much impressed with “Rengo” (“Triple Go”) that had never existed in Japan before. I think this is a wonderful game that was created from the talents mentioned above. Three people playing together could be much better and much more comfortable (and relaxing) comparing to “Pair Go” since Kyu players tend to hesitate or shrink at the level differences when they play with the advanced players one-on-one. So, I really wanted to introduce it to Japanese people and I have been making an effort for it.

First of all, I named it “Triple Go” since it is very confusing from traditional “Rengo” that has been played at the occasional parties/events to congratulate any matters – people split up in two teams and play one-by-one at a time. Secondly, in order to popularise it in Japan, I made a rule to include at least one Kyu player in each team and give a prize for the most unique team name. Finally, I introduced “Triple Go” back in December 2003 after looking for the sponsors: 100 players participated in it and told me that it is much more fun than “Pair Go”. Also, in December 2004, 150 people participated in “Triple Go”, and it was actually introduced as “re-import of the culture” in the general newspaper called “Asahi Shinbun”.

I would like to keep introducing “Triple Go” in Japan and make further developments in the future.

Saying thanks

Team of organizers want to say big thanks to company Vodárny a kanalizace Karlovy Vary, a. s. for borrowing printers for registration room and technical support of computer network.

Go Moon

Twelve years ago, during the last EGC in Prague, was the last time that the magazine “GO MOON” was for sale at a European Go Congress. What was “GO MOON” and how came it into being? I will tell you all about it.

Half way the 80ies I started to write for the Dutch magazine “GO”. They received free copies of several Japanese – “Go Weekly”, “Igo Club”, etc. - and later also Korean, Chinese and Taiwanese magazines in exchange for copies of our publications. Soon I became editor of the foreign desk and keenly I selected the most interesting professional games from those magazines for publication in Dutch. However we got much more interesting games than we could publish in “GO”. At one hand I understood the policy of “GO” of printing not only pro games but also materials for beginners or middle ranked players, at the other hand I noticed how eager ambitious and stronger players were to study as many professional games as they could get. At the same time I was already writing also in English for publications like the “Ranka Yearbook”. So the combination of two conceptions: serving stronger players with mostly pro games - in English - was an easy idea. However, there was a third motive, which explains the title. Most of my ambitious go friends already were subscribers of the beautifully edited quarterly “Go World”. However, almost everybody in Europe got it after overseas transport. Which meant that on average you could finally replay games of the Honinbo-match about a year after it had been played. How nice it would be to receive fresh games from Asia almost every month!

The try-out issue of “GO MOON” I planned to present during the Amsterdam tournament in '88, which started when in Paris the first game of the Honinbo match was going on. That was the first time that the opening game of a major best-of-seven Japanese match was being held in Europe! Dutchman Frank Janssen was among the invitees to attend the game. He came back with the game-record and less than two days later I published the game on the front page of “GO MOON” and sold it at this Amsterdam tournament.

Peter Dijkema



Seo Neung-uk, 9p – simultaneous games against 30 opponents



Triple go – rengo tournament – Koch's family team



Go-training



Go-picnic



Chief-organizer of computer tournament Nick Wedd

Vocabulary – Slovníček – Goi - Oe hui

<i>English</i>	<i>Czech</i>	<i>Japanese</i>	<i>Korean</i>
Good Morning	Dobré ráno	Ohayoo gozaimasu	An young ha sae yo
My name is ...	Jmenuji se to mooshimasu	Je irum un ... im ni da
Have a nice game	Pěknou hru	Onegai shimasu	Chal tu get sum ni da
Can I offer you something?	Mohu vám něco nabídnout?	Nanika nomimasu ka?	Mu eul teu shi get sum ni ka?
Yes	Ano	Hai	Ne
No	Ne	Iie	Anio
A weak group	Slabá skupina	Yowai ishi	Kon ma
Please	Prosím	Doozo	Chae pal
Thank you	Děkuji	Doomo arigatoo gozaimashita	Gam sa ham ni da
Your eye is false!	Tvoje oko je falešné!	Kakeme da yo!	Ok jip im ni da!
Your eyes are beautiful.	Máš krásné oči.	Anata no me ga kirei!	Nun yi yae pu naeyo.
I want to kiss you.	Chci tě políbit.	Anata ni kissu o shitai.	Popo ha go sip po yo.
I want to kill you.	Chci tě zabít.	Anata o koroshitai.	Chu gi go sip po yo.
Good bye	Nashledanou	Sayoonara	An young hi kae sae yo
One	Jedna	Ichi	Il
Two	Dva	Ni	Yi
Three	Tři	San	Sam
Four	Čtyři	Shi/yon	Sa
Five	Pět	Go	O
Six	Šest	Roku	Yuk
Seven	Sedm	Shichi/nana	Chil
Eight	Osm	Hachi	Pal
Nine	Devět	Kyuu	Ku
Ten	Deset	Juu	Sip
Hundred	Sto	Hyaku	Paek
Thousand	Tisíc	Sen	Cheon