

YOUTH GO NEWS supported by DeepMind

This is our new youth newsletter for youth go players. The aim is to publish this on a monthly basis. It will contain news of recent tournaments and events involving our youth players, as well as news from our youth clubs around the country and details of future events. We will also include a series of problems for beginner levels as well as more experienced players and the occasional feature on rising players.

If you have any suggestions for inclusion in future newsletters please email them to: ynews@britgo.org

News of past events

2017 Summer Residential Go Camp



In August we held a summer go camp at Caythorpe Hall, an outdoor activity centre near Grantham, Lincolnshire. 19 go players, aged 10 to 17, spent the mornings improving their go playing with teachers from the British Go Association. Attendees ranged from 30kyu+ through to 5kyu. The afternoons were spent on outdoor activities, (orienteering, archery, raft building, rock climbing), before the evening when go and other games were played.



We plan to hold a further event in August 2018.



UK Youth Go Squad

Each year the UK enters a team in the European online youth go championships and also encourages youth players who have reached an appropriate standard to attend the European Youth Go Championship. This event is the biggest youth go event in Europe and UK players who have attended it in previous years have enjoyed it immensely. This year it will be in Kiev (see later article). To be considered for the UK youth go squad you need to reach at least 20 kyu. Those players competing for the UK in either event are eligible to wear a UK Youth Go Squad hoody.

The European Online Youth Go Championship is a team event of four rounds. We field five players in each round (one U20, two U16 and two U12 players). Mrs Bexfield is our team manager. We have selected 14 players for the online team (from which we select five players for each match):

U20: Zaki Betesh (4k), Tom Bradbury (5k) and Charlotte Bexfield (6k)

U16: Yueran Wang (3d), Oscar Selby (5k), Edmund Smith (5k), Josh Gorman (5k), Jack Nolan (12k), Wenzhou Mei (12k) and Aidan Wong (12k)

U12: George Han (3k), Alexander Hsieh (9k), Jianzhou Mei (15k) and Zoe Walters (18k)

The team play their first match against Germany on 11 November at 2pm. You can follow their games live on the KGS go server. Our players will be Tom, Yueran, Josh, George and Alexander.

Future events

Saturday 18 November 2017: British Youth Go Championships This year's BYGC will be held at King Edward VI Aston School, Frederick Road, Aston, Birmingham, B6 6DJ.

Youth titles at U8, U10, U12, U14, U16 and U18 will be contested, in addition to the titles of overall British Youth Champion and British Schools Team Champions. A mixture of even and handicap games. Beginners and those new to the game will be made particularly welcome. More information and an entry form can be found on the British Go Association website.

Sunday 26 November 2017: Online youth team training tournament Many of our stronger youth players are spread around the country. So we are trying a new online tournament. It will run on KGS between 2pm and 6pm with three rounds. For games that finish early we will try some online commentary to help players improve. All our youth squad players are encouraged to participate, as well as any other players aiming for the youth squad who are approaching 20 kyu (or better). Please email ynews@britgo.org with your name if you wish to enter this event. And tell anyone about it who may not have seen this youth news edition.

26-31 March 2018: European Youth Go Tournament The 2018 European Youth Go Championship (EYGC) is scheduled for Kiev, in the Ukraine during the Easter holidays. This is the biggest youth competition in Europe. There are three age groups U12, U16 and U20. The BGA is planning for a UK group of juniors to attend. Entry is open to anyone birth year 1998 or later who holds a British passport and has reached at least 20 kyu in strength. Age cut offs for U12 and U16 will be taken as at 31 August of 2006 and 2002 respectively. The first three days include lectures, coaching and excursions and the last three days are the tournament. It is possible to attend just the tournament.

The BGA has appointed Martin and Helen Harvey as coaches. They will travel with the team, and will be present to help with any problems. They are both experienced go players; Martin was our Coach at the 2016 tournament in Grenoble. If you would like more information please contact Martin at martin.harvey@britgo.org Further details on the event can be found on the European Go Federation website. All British entrants will receive a team "hoodie" and a travel grant of £50, courtesy of the Castledine-Barnes Trust. Additional financial support may be available: please email (in confidence) sue@castledinebarnestrust.org.uk.

Life and Death problems (20-25 kyu)

Understanding when groups of stones are alive or dead is an important skill. Practising life and death problems will help you become a stronger go player.

These five problems are all black to play and kill. The middle problem is the warm up one.

For the other problems, the key is to work out where white needs to play to make two eyes and then plan how to prevent that happening. That should give you a clue to the black moves.

For some of the problems you may need to plan a sacrificial black stone.

