

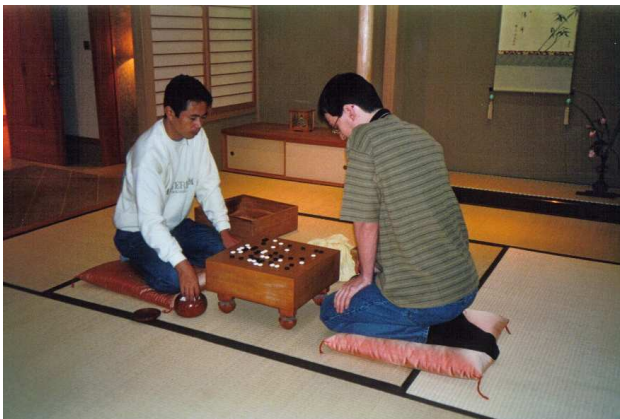
## A brief history of GO

Go is one of the oldest board games in the world. Its true origins are unknown, but it almost certainly started in China over 2500 years ago.

It was in Japan that Go first flourished. Introduced before the 8th century, it gained popularity at the imperial court and, from this auspicious beginning, took root in Japanese culture. In the 17th century the four great Japanese Go schools were founded with state funding and, over the next 250 years, the intense rivalry between them drove Go playing to new heights.

Since then, China and Korea have fought back. In the modern Go scene, with national and international tournaments attracting major corporate sponsorship and a large public following, all three countries compete on equal terms.

It was only in the 20th century that Go spread widely in the West, but it is now well established all over the world. Over 60 countries compete in the annual World Amateur Go Championship, and American Michael Redmond has reached the top level of professional Go in Japan.



## What makes GO special?



As mental exercise, Go is outstanding. The rules are very simple, yet the strategy is complex and the patterns that emerge on the board are beautiful and intricate.

The board starts empty and players alternately place a piece (stone) on the board. The object of Go is to surround more territory than the opponent, so there are very few drawn games. The winner is the player who does this more efficiently by finding the right balance of aggression with prudence, and of intuition with logic.

Each game of Go quickly takes on its own character thanks to the large open board. On such a board it is possible to do badly in one area but still fight back and win the game. While Go has its opening strategies and tactics, repetition for more than a few moves is rare, so players can become strong without memorising complicated openings.

Go also has a very effective handicapping system that allows players of widely differing abilities to play each other on equal terms without distorting the character of the game.

Despite many years of effort by numerous talented programmers, computers still do not play Go to a high level and are easily defeated by human experts.

## The British GO Association

The BGA is a voluntary organisation dedicated to promoting the game of Go in the UK. Membership is open to all on payment of an annual subscription and the BGA supports Go playing at all levels. Benefits of membership include:

- Introduction to your local Go club and to other Go players in your area
- Entry at a discounted rate to an extensive series of tournaments throughout the UK and online
- Access to special teaching events and seminars
- Free subscription to the British Go Journal and a bi-monthly newsletter
- Eligibility to represent the UK at international events
- Books and equipment available at a discount to retail prices

Your membership subscription also helps the BGA introduce Go to young people and adults throughout the UK.



## Join the BGA now

Send this form to the address overleaf. Please make cheques payable to British Go Association.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Post code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Rating (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

Club (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

I heard of the BGA from \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose payment for \_\_\_\_\_ years at £\_\_\_\_\_ per year.

Concessions, please specify:

- unemployed       pensioner  
 under 18       full-time student

I enclose a donation of £.....

The Newsletter is normally sent by email. Please tick if you would prefer it by post

Other Go players may be given my name to help the formation of new clubs. I agree that the BGA may keep a record of this information, on the understanding that it will not be passed on to any other organisation except as required by law.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth (if under 18) \_\_\_\_\_

Family membership (please give the details of all members):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Continue on another sheet of paper if necessary.

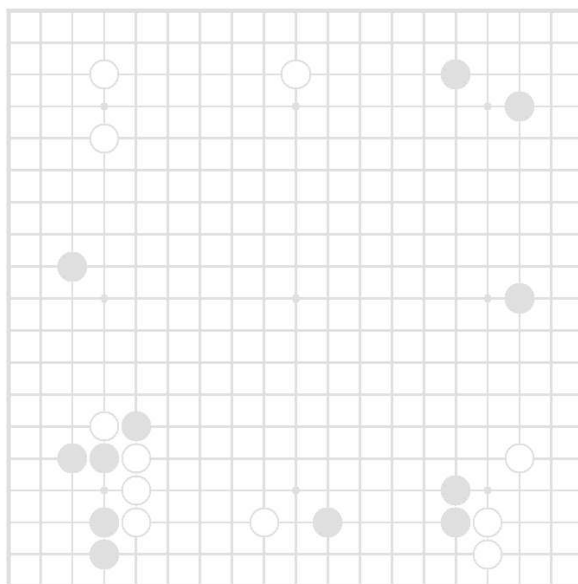
Subscription rates as of January 2010:

Standard: £18.00 Concessions: £11.00 Family: £24.00

Overseas Europe: £20.00 Overseas World: £24.00

Members may join for up to five years at the current rate by paying in advance.

The latest rates can be checked at <http://www.britgo.org/membership>



For further information about how to play Go  
or to find your local club visit

[www.britgo.org](http://www.britgo.org)

or contact the Membership Secretary:

Phil Beck

41 Kingston Street

Cambridge

CB1 2NU

Telephone: 01223 367022

Email: [mem@britgo.org](mailto:mem@britgo.org)

# Play GO



A few simple rules...  
limitless possibilities