

# BRITISH GO JOURNAL

碁

Editor: R.D. HAYS, BRISTOL

NUMBER 33

Price: 25p

AUGUST 1976



An item from Dr. Geoffrey Gray's collection of netsuke

(See article by John Pindar, page 6)

ORDERS to:

J.E.Allen,  
B.G.A. Book Distributor  
7 Lordship Road,  
Cheshunt EN7 5DR

Tel: Waltham Cross 24846

SUBSCRIPTIONS, CORRESPONDENCE to:

D.G.Hunter,  
B.G.A. Secretary,  
60 Wantage Road,  
Reading, Berks RG3 2SF

Tel: Reading 581001

## EDITORIAL

For the first time in several years the Journal failed to meet the scheduled printing date for this issue. At the copy date, only 4 or 5 pages of material were available to the editor and it was decided to hold the issue until at least 16 pages could be published. True to form, within two weeks of making this decision a flood of games and articles arrived, giving once more a float of material and allowing a 20-page issue.

A combination of factors seems to have caused the famine, and a number of games sent in recently were out to dan players for comment (which holds good for the future) but it does show the importance of keeping the material flowing in.

On Saturday, 19th June, a meeting took place between members of the B.G.A. committee and the four Bristol Editors to discuss various aspects of the Journal, including future development. From the meeting a recommendation was made that the Editors prepare an article for the Journal entitled 'Notes to Contributors' giving guide lines on the type of articles and games we publish and the form in which it can be presented.

This we shall do in the near future, but don't wait, send in right away anything you think might be of interest, particularly games, which can be sent to dan players for comment if you wish.

Once again we thank the regular contributors to the Journal whose contributions form the backbone of each issue.

\*\*\*\*\*

Copy date for next issue: 29th September, 1976  
Editor: A.H.Smith

### EX-PRESIDENTIAL RUMINATIONS by Francis Roads

An ex-President can say things that would be inappropriate from an incumbent. I believe that the BGA possesses two great assets; exceptionally efficient administration and a highly democratic system of government.

Of course I am as well aware as most of the administrative imperfections that still exist, but before you all rush in with your lists of complaints, may I remind you that the BGA is administered by amateurs (I use the word in its favourable sense) who freely give up precious Go playing time to run our Association for us. Can you think of any similar organisation that is run so efficiently with no professional secretarial or administrative help?

And let us remember that these self-sacrificing amateur administrators help to keep our subscriptions as low as they are, barely covering as they do the cost of producing the Journal. The other services are financed by the sale of books and equipment, another voluntary unpaid activity. Should lack of suitable volunteers ever force the BGA to need to use professional secretarial services, our subscriptions, or the price of books, may well rocket.

I know that there are many people not concerned with the central BGA administration who are also making most valuable contributions to Go organisation, such as the efficient club

secretary struggling to keep up interest and attendance, or the strong player in a weak club giving nine stone handicap after nine stone handicap to beginners. But if anyone, feeling perhaps that he has received more from the Association than he has given to it, is stirred to offer a little help, there are plenty of jobs going. A place can be found on one of the BGA sub-committees for almost any efficient and reliable individual. For those who prefer not to be committed to regular meetings, there are other jobs waiting to be done, such as the organisation of tournaments, leagues, etc. It is not necessary to be a strong player to do any of these jobs.

Quality of administration depends ultimately on the personal qualities of the administrators, so let us hope that there will be a constant supply of enthusiasts coming forward.

I don't think it would be possible for members of such a large and widespread organisation as ours to have much more control over its running. We have a good constitution (shortly to be improved) which embodies the well-proven British system of representative democracy, but more important still our membership takes a keen interest in the running of the Association, and thereby makes the democratic process work. I know of national organisations that have serious trouble in obtaining a quorum for their AGM -- of others where nobody ever thinks of tabling a resolution. Fortunately the BGA's democracy shows no signs of withering through apathy at present.

After my five years in the chairman's seat I would like to offer the following suggestions for making the job of the new President and his committee as easy as possible. If you have a suggestion or complaint, don't sit on it, but communicate it to the committee at once in writing. Remember that committee members make it their business to be aware of factors and circumstances affecting the BGA of which you may be unaware, but should you feel that the committee is really doing something wrong, frame a suitable resolution for the AGM, and have it placed on the agenda in good time. Please use the Extraordinary General Meeting only as a very last resort. The postal voting system involved, though very fair to outlying members, is cumbersome and expensive to organise.

Chairing the AGM is the President's most difficult task. You can make it easier when speaking by exercising the utmost self-discipline in avoiding irrelevance and repetition, and in searching your conscience to ensure that your contribution is really useful, and not merely an opportunity to enjoy addressing a captive audience. Please do not try to bring up under A.O.B. matters of importance which ought to have been placed on the agenda. It is difficult enough for the chairman to budget the available time without finding that important topics of discussion have to be fitted into the last ten minutes, and in any case members have the right to know in advance what topics are going to be discussed.

It is we members who choose our officers and committee, so let us give them the support that they deserve.

### GO REVIEW by John Pindar

Until recently, one of the main problems of "Go Review" was how to get regular copies, but this has now been solved with the aid of Stuart Dowsey. The current annual subscription rates for four issues is £5.00 collected from the Go Centre, and £5.60 posted. Orders should be sent to Stuart at the London Go Centre, 18 Lambolle Place, London NW3 4RG.