



Alan hailed originally from Montreal in Canada and, despite living in Europe for fifty years, was a very proud Canadian at all times.<sup>1</sup> He studied accountancy, but switched first to nuclear physics and then to general relativity. This subject took him via London and Pittsburg to the University of Bern in Switzerland.

Here he settled down and met his wife Viva Blochlinger, who survives him. He continued in research and teaching and was editor of the *Journal of General Relativity and Gravitation*;

he was an expert on Einstein and his work at Bern.

His other great love, of course, was Go. Starting with promotion and organisation through the local club in Bern, he moved on to help promote Go throughout Europe. He was on the executive of the European Go Federation for more than ten years as Secretary (1988-1990), President (1990-1997) and Vice-President (1997-1999).

British players would remember him from the European Go Congress at Canterbury in 1992 (pictured) and other European events, such as the Irish Open (winning five at 3k in 2000).

As part of his EGF responsibilities, he visited Japan and he was fascinated by their culture, also being a black belt at Aikido. He also loved to welcome the Japanese and other pros to Europe. His contribution to the development of European Go should not be forgotten.

**Tony Atkins**

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<sup>1</sup>See also the obituary in the Montreal Gazette, [montrealgazette.remembering.ca/obituary/alan-held-1086967754](http://montrealgazette.remembering.ca/obituary/alan-held-1086967754).