

**The British 8x8 Rating List** *maintained by David Haigh*

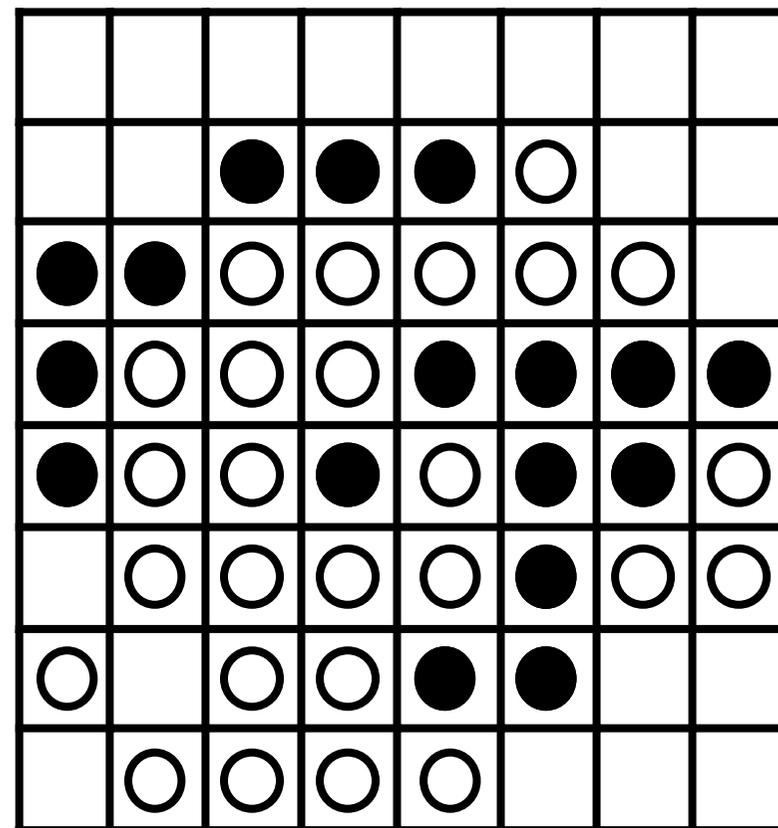
Active ratings after the 2010 Farnborough Regional Tournament

	games	rating
1 Imre Leader	830	1925
2 Michael Handel	569	1828
3 Graham Brightwell	963	1823
4 David Hand	82	1784
5 David Beck	166	1681
6 Iain Barrass	703	1643
7 Geoff Hubbard	639	1595
8 Guy Plowman	428	1575
9 Ian Turner	689	1546
10 Steven Robinson	21	1454
11 Ben Pridmore	447	1429
12 Jeremy Dyer	290	1412
13 Phil Marson	952	1401
14 Stephen Spencer	22	1391
15 Steve MacGuire	42	1370
16 Aidan Robison	127	1363
17 Julian Richens	149	1362
18 Roy Arnold	1199	1330
19 Andrew Burgess	108	1286
20 Robert Stanton	191	1242
21 Stephen Rowe	318	1213
22 Wai-Mond Kong	7	1195
23 Helen Starkey	39	1112
24 Yvette Campbell	102	1089
25 David Haigh	568	1061
26 Alison Turner	195	1006
27 Adelaide Carpenter	250	949
28 Phil Wallis	6	920
29 Marie Lightman	15	879
30 Robert Butler	13	800
31 Richard Ratcliffe	7	766
32 Robert Calladine	42	671
33 Kali Turner	126	609
34 Tani Turner	91	478
35 Hayley James	9	325
Paul Robinson	9	325

# Play to Catch Imre's Interest (and Win)

The Newsletter of the British Othello Federation

July 2010



After 39h4

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**INFORMATION**


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The British Othello Federation is an independent body. With paper version of the Newsletter, an annual subscription for a British resident costs £6 (with the first year's membership including a copy of the instructional book *Othello: Brief and Basic*) or ten years for £55; an overseas subscription costs £8 per year or £75 for ten years. If you would prefer to receive *only* electronic copies of the Newsletter the cost is £5/£45 for national/international. Cheques or postal orders payable to the *British Othello Federation* should be sent to Adelaide Carpenter (address below) or you can pay by credit card at <http://www.britishothello.org.uk/> the BOF web site. The price of *Othello: Brief and Basic* on its own is £6. Additional players living in the same household can become members for only £1 per year (with only one copy of the Newsletter).

	pages
<b>Contents:</b> Cover puzzle	6
Upcoming tournaments	15
Tournament results	8-13
Game analyses	4-8, 13-14
Chairman's Quote	3
Rating list	16

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**Upcoming Tournaments****July 17: Whitley Bay Regional**

Berkeley Tavern  
Marine Avenue  
Whitley Bay  
Tyne and Wear  
on Saturday 17th July @ 0930

<http://www.britishothello.org.uk/whitleybayregional.html>

September 25 and 26: **Nationals** The 2010 British National Othello Championship, kindly arranged by Helen Starkey

Will be held in the Severn Trent Room in  
Bath Place Community Venture  
The Old Library  
Avenue Road  
Leamington Spa  
Warwickshire

The tournament will be 9 rounds over 2 days (3 + 6) with a 1 game final on Sunday.

The tournament will be preceded by the Annual General Meeting of the British Othello Federation; all members are encouraged to attend. The AGM will begin at 13:00; tournament play is expected to start by 15:00. All British Othello Federation members and other UK residents are qualified to play in this tournament; please let Adelaide ([atc12@mole.bio.cam.ac.uk](mailto:atc12@mole.bio.cam.ac.uk)) or Helen ([helen\\_e\\_starkey@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:helen_e_starkey@yahoo.co.uk)) know if you expect to play so we can have enough sets and clocks available -- if you have failed to pre-register, bring enough sets and clocks with you to cover the number in your contingent. Moreover, the tournament may begin earlier than 15:00 if everyone who has pre-registered is present. Starting Round 1 early can mean that we get an extra round in on Saturday so we may we finish early Sunday; this pleases everyone, so if possible we will do this again.

The top 2 finishers and highest placing female player qualify for the British World Championship Team for the 2010 Othello World Championship, dates and where TBA.

<http://www.britishothello.org.uk/nationalchampionships.html>

**Cambridge Christmas Friendly** will happen sometime around the first of December (TBA), somewhere in Cambridge.

In the sixth round of the London Regional I played against Ben Pridmore. At move 30 it is White to play and this is quite a crucial moment in the game. There are four sensible moves from which White should choose: b7, g4, g5 and g6. Black is somewhat short on options and White's move to b7 is very tempting indeed. The three other moves open things up quite a bit which makes it difficult to look very far ahead, so let's take b7 first.

Three related questions that come to mind are:

- 1) Is this move forcing?
- 2) Do things go horribly wrong?
- 3) Is this the best time for the X-square?

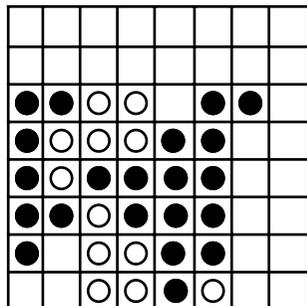
After White's b7, Black doesn't have much choice about how the North is played out; e2 is really the only viable option, either immediately or after the a8 b8 pair. If White continues play up there, the sequences are about as forcing as one could hope for, at least for a few moves.

For what nasty traps, then, should White be looking? The only troublesome swindle is Black's a8 with the b column all non-white; the alternative, b8 with the b column all non-black, can only follow a disaster in the South-East. This would be bad indeed, so can Black manage to extract all of the white discs?

31e2, d2, e1, c2, (d1, b1), e3 is perhaps Black's best shot at working the swindle. With White not having to worry about the b8 swindle, though, a move to b2 is quite natural and play continues out in the East with White having control, albeit in a tight endgame. It is also worth noting that it is reasonably clear that there is no magic move for Black which does allow this swindle so if White doesn't like the idea of 34 c2 ... b2 then there is still the option of safe -- but less forcing -- play elsewhere.

As for the final question, well that all depends on how White chooses to play things out in the East and that is left as an exercise for the reader.

In conclusion, one could ask a computer about perfect play from move 30 (and it may just reply that those four moves score similarly) but, after a bit of thought, White can easily justify playing 30 b7 and there's still an awful lot of time for either player to make mistakes.



White to play at 30

### A Quote from the Chairman *by Geoff Hubbard*

'Tis distance lends enchantment to the view,  
And robes the mountain in its azure hue.  
\* Thomas Campbell, Pleasures of Hope, part i, line 7.

For the first time in almost 10 years, distance has kept me from playing in any of the UK Regional tournaments, so I'll have to get someone else's name engraved on the Greaves shield before I hand it back. Congratulations to Iain Barrass who has managed to win the 2010 Grand Prix with one tournament to go. Even though the Grand Prix is won, I encourage everyone to try to make it to Newcastle on July 17th for the regional by the azure waters of Whitley Bay. I hope to see you all again at the British Nationals in the enchanting town of Leamington Spa September 25-26.

Also winning a grand prix with one leg to spare, Imre Leader has won the 2010 European Grand Prix with wins in Rome, Cambridge and Stockholm and a second place finish in Copenhagen. Congratulations to Imre!

In other international news, the World Othello Federation rules committee has returned with its proposal for a revised set of rules for the World Championships. Many of the changes are tweaks to reflect the changes that have occurred since the last set of rules was written down. There are also several proposals which will slightly change the way things work, and these will be voted on individually so please let me know what you think so I can take that into account when casting the British vote. (Even if it's to tell me you don't care.)

Details and discussion can be found in the archives of the BOF Mailing list on yahoo groups:

[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/British\\_Othello](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/British_Othello)

You can view the messages without having to register at all, but if you wish to post to the list (everyone is welcome to contribute, including our international readers) you'll need to sign up; you don't need to have a yahoo account to do this.

There is no news yet on the World Championship location, but I believe the wheels are in motion and expect that it will occur in its usual late October/early November timeslot. I'll post to the mailing list when I hear more.

Until then, keep practising.

Geoff Hubbard  
geoff@instihost.com

**Stockholm 2010**

*by Imre Leader*

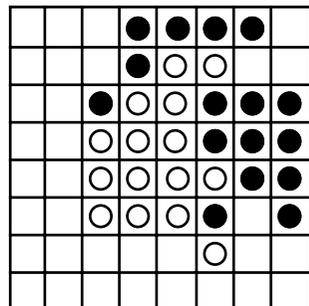
The Stockholm leg of the European Grand Prix was held in June. There were the usual legendary features, like Benkt and Anna's hospitality (they always have at least 5 players staying at their house) and the amazing barbecue. There was one substitution; the usual Saturday-night watching of the Eurovision Song Contest was replaced by a Saturday-night watching of England's goalkeeping skills against the USA. I'm not sure which of these I prefer.

Oh, and there were also some Othello games. Here are two of the most interesting. They are both from the Swiss part of the tournament; the first is my game against Caroline Sandberg, and the second is the game between Simon Ingelman-Sundberg and Erwin van den Berg.

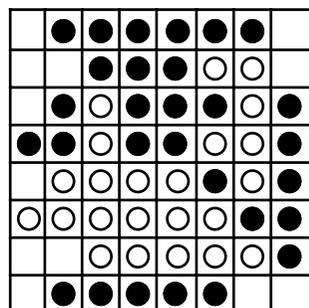
I was Black against Caroline, and we played down a line of the FAT. Around moves 24-28, the game is revolving around access (to be precise: my lack of access) to g6. After the sequence 28c1 29b1 30c2, please don't ask me why I didn't play to g6. The reason is that I had been so sure that 'I will not get access unless I cut the diagonal' that it simply did not occur to me that I had access there thanks to the b1 disc!

After that, I was still ahead, and after my 41 to f8 I felt the game was moving in my direction. But then Caroline found the beautiful idea of 42e8 43b8 44c7. This lovely sequence leaves me with no access to g8, and she has g7 to come. Of course, I will be able to meet g7 with h7, but the point is that I will not be gaining a tempo. My feeling now was that the game was very close.

After move 48, what is going on? Black will have the North and East edges, but White gets the South and also has parity. But what happens in the West will be crucial, because if White has to sacrifice a1 (for parity) then things look good for Black. For example, after White sacrifices the a1 corner then at the end Black will be able to play 59h2 60h1, getting huge numbers of discs from row 2 (note that at the



After 27g1



After 48a6

tournament and didn't give away corners until she was forced to, picking up solid numbers of discs against Ali (16), Roy (16), Julian (14) and Stephen (15).

The final results were neat and tidy with no cycling or results going against players higher in the final standings.

- 1: 7 pts [358] BARRASS Iain (2047) {GB} (wins British Grand Prix)
- 2: 6 pts [293] TURNER Ian (2036) {GB}
- 3: 5 pts [255] RICHENS Julian (2088) {GB}
- 4: 4 pts [225] ROWE Stephen (2091) {GB}
- 5: 3 pts [223] ARNOLD Roy (2006) {GB}
- 6: 2 pts [164] TURNER Alison (2033) {GB}
- 7: 1 pt [106] TURNER Tani (2097) {GB}

And so Iain won the British Grand Prix with one Regional (Whitley Bay) still to go. He won four of the tournaments outright and was joint winner of the other, and his record this year is played 33, won 29, drew 3, lost 1 -- pretty darn impressive, all round!

**Am I Going to Look Silly Playing There?** *by Iain Barrass*

Over the course of the British Grand Prix this year there were many interesting games and positions. I'm sure the editor wouldn't object to a long article going into the details of all of those games but I'm going to be more focused here.

Last issue (Whose Move? January 2010), Imre Leader wrote about looking ahead and gave a board at move 44. The question was: in what order should the moves be examined? A forcing sequence there meant that seeing right to the end of the game was quite plausible. Inspired by that discussion I present something similar.

Monopoly game and microbrewery. The first round had two of the expected players absent (Richard Ratcliffe and Ben Pridmore); Iain Barrass drew the bye. Richard, according to Facebook, decided to play in a charity football game and Ben did turn up late (without his board) and inflicted Iain's first defeat in 22 games (35-29). The Turner family improvised with a mobile phone to cover for the one board short. Ben's joy was short-lived because he lost the next two rounds to Roy Arnold (22-42) and Stephen Rowe (31-33) while Iain started winning and Ian Turner continued winning. Ian and Iain faced each other in the fifth round and drew. The penultimate round saw Ben beat Ian 48-16 (after wiping out Ian's wife Ali in the previous round). The final round saw Andrew (the burglar) steal a win 45-19 against Roy.

Results: 1= Iain Barrass, Ian Turner (both 5.5, Iain wins on tie-break); 3= Andrew Burgess, Ben Pridmore (both 5); 5= Roy Arnold, Ali Turner (both 4); 7. Stephen Rowe 3; 8. Rob Butler 2; 9. Kali Turner 1; 10. Tani Turner 0.

June 19, Farnborough

Sorry, but I never go to Farnborough. It's a really long way, and I always seem to have something else important to do when that Regional comes along. This year the super-important thing was watching the World Cup, but I normally have a better excuse. I'll go to next year's, maybe. Anyway, it seems that seven people took part, that Iain once again beat everybody, and that, if there were any interesting stories coming from the tournament, none of them have reached me. Iain Barrass 7, Ian Turner 6, Julian Richens 5, Steve Rowe 4, Roy Arnold 3, Ali Turner 2, Tanith Turner 1.

Farnborough Regional *by Ian Turner*

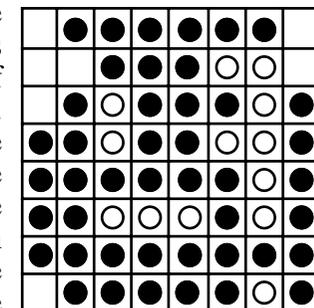
The 2010 Farnborough Regional took place at the Romsey Associates offices, mainly because we can use it for free. With 7 players turning up it was an all-play-all round robin with a bye in each round. Tani got the bye in the first round and took an early lead in the tournament, only to be caught when Iain Barrass, Julian Richens and Stephen Rowe won their first games. Iain Barrass's win against Ian Turner proved to be the decisive moment for the tournament because these two players went on to win all their remaining games.

Julian Richens and Stephen Rowe put up strong performances and came third and fourth respectively; Stephen in particular posed significant problems for Ian Turner in his game in round 4 -- the fact that Ian had been to the pub for lunch and Stephen had taken the more sensible option of avoiding the pub may have contributed. Tani also had a very strong

moment this will not work; if h2 h1 then White gets the North edge). Also, a White sacrifice of a1 cannot involve the b2 x-square, since then row 2 would be all White, giving Black both of h2 and h1.

Based on this, 49a5 seemed to be the right move; White cannot play a3 because then Black has parity (50a3 51h8 52g8 53b7 is lethal) so has to play b7 instead. I now take my discs with 51h8 52g8 53a7, and it is White to play.

What should White do? The move to a8 has the advantage that when Black plays to b2 (as he has to, either now or after h1 h2) then a White reply of a3 gets all of row 3, so this is very tempting indeed. But even better than 54a8 is 54a2! This has the drawback of giving Black the last move of the game, because after 55a3 56a8 57h1 58h2 he cannot play, but it does give White the b column (as opposed to just part of the b column with the 54a8 move). And indeed this b column makes the difference; 54a8 is a draw while 54a2 wins 33-31. Caroline only had about 40 seconds left at move 54, and to my mind a8 is the 'instinctively obvious' move, but Caroline spent 20 seconds thinking and got it right -- very impressive!



After 53a7

60	29	28	23	22	26	27	57
54	59	30	21	19	18	36	58
55	38	3	5	14	15	16	17
45	39	4	○	●	2	11	25
49	37	20	●	○	9	10	24
48	35	8	6	1	7	32	13
53	50	44	33	31	12	46	47
56	43	40	34	42	41	52	51

Leader 31 Sandberg 33

Zebra reveals two things. One is that I could have won at move 51, with 51b2. This seems utterly suicidal, since after 52a1 53h1 54h2 I have to play 55a2, to get access to h8, but now White can just play 56h8 instead, keeping a3 for later. But this has the amusing feature of making row 7 White, so I can get both of a7 and a8 and win.

That is almost impossible to spot, unless one has really looked down the whole tree of possible sequences. But, in contrast, there is an earlier plan that surely *was* findable by a human: and that is at move 49. Recall that, as discussed, White really cannot sacrifice the a1

corner and is relying on parity to win. Based on this, there is the gorgeous 49h8 50g8 51a7! The idea is that if White grabs the corner then Black replies with a5. White then cannot play to b7, so Black plays there himself, leaving White dead. And if White does not take the corner straightaway, playing 52a5, then Black just replies 53a3. Why is this good? Well, it means that the West edge is complicated: so after 54a8 55b7 a move of 56a2 gives up the a1 corner! Given that Black is searching for some way to get a1 (or parity), this wonderful sequence is findable -- I just wish that I had found it.

The other game, between Simon and Erwin, was notable for play involving a Stoner trap. Simon was Black and played the Peasant move 5 against Erwin's diagonal. White is quite comfortably ahead until move 18, where a4 is much too passive; it allows Black an extra move at b4 (after taking back at a3). A move to g5 would have worked out better, setting up moves of f8 and d8 for the next two White moves. Actually, going back

		○	○	○	○		
●	●	○	●	●	●		
	●	○	●	●	●		
		●	○		●		
				○			

After 15 a5

a move earlier, an even more clear-cut way for White to proceed would have been to play 16b8.

This aggressive edge-grab pretty much forces 17e3, to stop White playing 18e7 -- but then 18b4 leaves Black in a mess, with lots of opportunities for White to give Black a horrible position in the West and North.

Anyway, after 16e7 17c8 18a4 White's position began to deteriorate, and Black kept the pressure on nicely. By move 35, Black is threatening a Stoner trap at b2, so 36h6 prevents this for the moment. But 37f3 38g3 39h4 elegantly sets it up again, because the f6 disc is back to black. This is actually where I began watching the game as a spectator. I looked at the Stoner and thought 'OK, so White has to play 40f8 to stop the Stoner, but then 41g7 sets it up again, and then maybe White has some swindle chances but they are never going to work'. So I was on the point of walking

		●	●	●	○		
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●	○	○	○	●	●	●	●
●	○	○	●	○	●	●	○
	○	○	○	○	●	○	○
○		○	○	●	●		
	○	○	○	○			

After 39h4

off to watch another game when Erwin played, and not to f8! He played 40f1. I thought 'but that is about the same as resigning'. And then I stayed to watch!

After the obvious 41b2, White played to f8. Now, this does deny Black access to a6, while getting on the a1-f6 diagonal. However, it can be met with 43g7 -- and now the Stoner cannot be taken away, because Black has guaranteed access to

50	58	60	59	44	40	53	55
57	41	25	31	35	32	54	56
19	24	34	30	29	37	38	46
18	23	8	○	●	6	26	39
15	13	7	●	○	1	27	28
45	14	10	4	3	2	33	36
20	52	11	9	16	5	43	49
51	22	17	21	12	42	47	48

Ingelman-Sundberg 30  
van den Berg 34

						○	
	●	●	●	○	○		
●	●	●	○	○	○	○	
●	○	○	●	●	○	●	●
●	○	○	●	●	○	●	○
	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
○		○	○	○	○		
	○	○	○	○	○		

After 42f8

May 22, Sheffield

From my blog on the day: I hadn't considered it before, despite it being my ancestral homeland, but the 'hill' part of Hillsborough is probably because there're lots of ups and downs there. Anyway, it was to the Hillsborough area of Sheffield that ten Othello players flocked this morning for the latest regional tournament. I flocked rather later than the others, not having got out of bed in time to get the early train, and I also didn't bring my Othello set as I'd promised because I couldn't find one of the boxes of discs (no good ever comes of tidying up your flat for the benefit of Japanese TV crews). I didn't think that'd be a problem, though, since we always have enough boards, but it turned out that this was the one tournament where we didn't.

Lately we've become very uncoordinated at getting boards, clocks *etc.* to the people who can bring them to the next event; this is almost certainly Geoff's fault for moving to Denmark and leaving the uncoordinated British to their own devices. Still, we improvised with three good boards, one rubbish titchy Character board and one i-phone Othello app. There also weren't any transcript sheets, so we weren't able to preserve our games for posterity.

I arrived in time to find Iain waiting for our game; we played it inside while the rest of the gang were out in a conservatory where the light was too bright to see anything and the temperature was somewhere in excess of 100 degrees, and I ended up winning. I'm not sure how, exactly, but it's the end result that counts. That's the first game Iain has lost in a regional this year, after draws with me in Oadby and Ian in London.

The tournament moved inside before everyone melted, to the main room of the pub. We weren't paying anything for the venue, but we did have to put up with the general background noise. I proceeded to lose to Roy and Steve, as I generally do far more than I really should, while Ian drew with Iain again to head the leaderboard at lunch. After that, I beat Kali, wiped out Ali again as I had in London, and then followed that by beating Ian in a completely awesome game that I wish I'd written down! I made lots of moves of the kind that common sense dictates would eventually go horribly wrong but never did. It was either a moment of inspired genius or the kind of game that would make the Othello program wZebra swear at me and call me an idiot. Then I came alarmingly close to losing to Rob but somehow managed not to, to finish with five wins out of seven, and third place half a point behind the Ia(i)ns. Which is really quite cool. Iain Barrass and Ian Turner 5.5, Ben Pridmore and Andrew Burgess 5, Roy Arnold and Ali Turner 4, Steve Rowe 3, Rob Butler 2, Kali Turner 1, Tanith Turner 0.

Sheffield Regional by Roy Arnold

The 6th Sheffield Regional took place in its sixth different venue, this being the Hillsborough Hotel, a board games-friendly pub with a

a pairings program and everything we could possibly have needed.

Except transcript sheets. The tournament director brings transcript sheets for people to fill in, and nobody had so much as mentioned this on any of the internet forum discussions, so nobody had thought to bring any with them. Still, it turns out that modern technology allowed us to create them and print them out at a place down the road from the Sun, so all was well in the end.

We had nine players, which is exactly the worst possible number for a seven-round Swiss-system tournament. There's a bye, which nobody likes, and everybody plays all but one or two of the other players, which is just silly. But with not enough time to make it a nine-round round-robin, we just had to put up with it. And it all went very smoothly, we finished in ample time and there was a lot of excitement and intriguing results. Iain tightened his grip on the George Greaves Plate with another unbeaten performance, drawing with Ian and beating everyone else, but things might have been very different had Roy not made a game-losing flipping error at the end of their first-round game and Ali a game-losing penultimate move against him in the second. Roy also beat Ian, who owed his runner-up spot to Ali beating Roy in round 4.

Lunch in the pub was interesting, too -- the pub 'does food', limited to a choice of pizzas or baguettes, but it turns out that when you order the pub phones up a pizza place down the road and orders a delivery for you. This unnecessary middleman did lead to us getting completely different pizzas from the ones we'd asked for, but never mind, pizza is always good food. Final results: Iain Barrass 6.5, Ian Turner 5.5, Roy Arnold 5, Ben Pridmore and Jeremy Dyer 4, Andrew Burgess, Steve MacGuire and Ali Turner 3, Kali Turner 1.

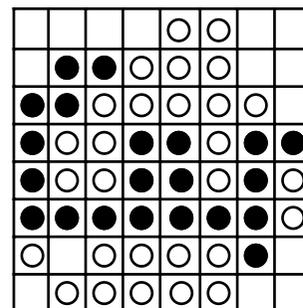
#### May 1, Cambridge

This year's Cambridge Regional was held in the now-traditional venue of the Big Glass Cube attached to the Wolfson buildings at Trinity College as part of the Cambridge MSO. Turnout was somewhat disappointing, possibly because of a clash with the Copenhagen EGP, possibly because of the pleasant spring weather, the upcoming general election, the exciting end to the football season, the important work towards engineered negligible senescence or (in my case) potential competitors not having finished the preparation for the memory competition they were running the following day and having to stay at home and print out pages of numbers, words, names and faces *etc.* for people to memorise.

So, four people took part, and Iain beat everyone else twice over as part of a double round-robin. Not having been there, I can't tell you much more about it. Results: Iain Barrass 6, Roy Arnold 3, Steve Rowe 2, Helen Starkey 1.

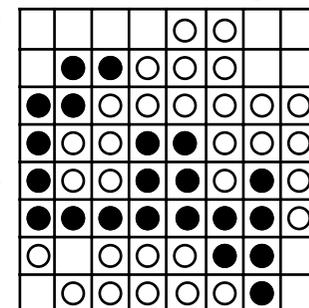
a6 at the next move. So I still could not see the point of that 40f1.

But now White played 44e1, and suddenly I saw the point. Yes, White is being Stonered. But he is setting up a horrible swindle of his own, since if he plays to h3 then he will be threatening to take the h8 corner without Black having access to h7! So after 45a6 (to complete the Stoner) and 46h3, Black has to play 47g8 or else lose two of the three moves in the h8 corner region (plus giving White the East edge). And if one takes a look at the board after 47g8 what does one see? One sees a completed Stoner trap, certainly, but one also sees a White parity win! And indeed Erwin now played out a safe choice of such a win.



After 45a6

What is amazing about the Stoner is that it failed. And not that it failed for the usual tactical reason (somehow White denies Black access to the key square and so gets the corner and keeps the Stoner edge), or for the usual strategic reason (Black succeeds in his Stoner but has to play loud moves to do it, opening up the board and giving up control), but rather because a curious tactical feature (the h8 corner region) meant that the Stoner simplified the game down to a parity win for White. This is fantastic play from Erwin: farsighted and inventive!



After 47g8

Let us look back in the game to see how Black could have prevented this. It is clear that all his problems stem from the g7 move; it was through this that he was forced to play g8 (after White's h3 move), leaving just a parity win. So what happens if Black does not play g7 after all? In other words, what if Black allows his Stoner to fail?

For example, suppose Black just plays 'anywhere else, leaving the h8 region intact', for example 43h3. Since Black now has access to a6, White must play to h1 immediately (otherwise Black will get a6, a8 and b7). Then Black can play to c1 or to d1; which one to play? They both look absolutely fine for Black, since there will be some moves played out in the North followed by a clinching Black move to h7, but actually only one of them works. The one that fails is 45d1; after 46b1 47h7 White has the ludicrous 48c1 49e1 50g2, removing Black's access to most places and forcing 51g7 52h8, with Black unable to get two of the three moves around h1 because of this same lack of access! 45c1 does not have this problem; the discs White flips (after 45c1 46b1 47h7) with g2, whether or not after d1 and e1 are played out, are not of any access-denying form. However, I would say that

this choice (d1 versus c1) is very hard for a human to understand in real time, unless he is expressly looking for such things.

If instead Black plays 43d1 (with the same theme of 'leave the h8 corner region alone'), then again 44a1 is forced, and then 45c1 is a close win (for the same reasons as with the 43h3 line) -- or alternatively Black can bravely play 45a6 46a2 47b2 and then sacrifice at h8 and win by getting both of a8 and b7. This is certainly human-findable.

### Cambridge EGP 2010 *via Aubrey de Grey*

Ranking of the 24 players after round 11:

- 1: 10. pts [874] LEADER Imre (79) {GB} plus 2/2
- 2: 9. pts [840] HAND David (2357) {GB} plus 0/2
- 3: 8. pts [824] KASHIWABARA Takuji (839) {F} plus 2/3
- 4: 7.5 pts [835] MARCONI Francesco (36) {I} plus 1/3
- 5: 7. pts [892] BERG Matthias (5301) {D}
- 7: 6. pts [809] HUBBARD Geoff (804) {AUS}
- [846] VAN DEN BERG Erwin (5198) {NL}
- [795] BECK David (6437) {GB}
- [771] SCHMIDT Sebastian (5336) {D}
- [701] ROBISON Aidan (2094) {GB}
- [663] ROSSLER Daniel (70002) {D}
- 12: 5.5 pts [775] HOBBO Roel (5071) {NL}
- [761] TURNER Ian (2036) {GB}
- [694] DE GRAAF Jan C. (4012) {NL}
- 15: 5. pts [720] ROBINSON Steven (100005) {GB}
- [715] SNEEK Marcel (5083) {NL}
- [699] FRANSEN Martin (5239) {NL}
- [678] PRIDMORE Ben (4019) {GB}
- [674] ARNOLD Roy (2006) {GB}
- [663] STARKEY Helen (100002) {GB}
- 21: 4. pts [570] TURNER Alison (2033) {GB}
- 22: 2. pts [530] DE GRAAF Corrie (5062) {NL}
- 23: 1. pt [437] TURNER Kali (2352) {GB}
- 24: 0. pt [394] TURNER Tanith (2097) {GB}

### The 2010 Regionals -- as reconstructed from *Ben Pridmore's* blog and unreliable memory

March 13, Oadby

This was the eighth Oadby Regional; it's now a long-established feature as the first regional on the Othello calendar. As always, the event was superbly run by Stephen Rowe in the lobby of the Oadby Baptist Church, and there was an excellent pub lunch in The Old Library just down the road. And we managed to put an end to the Oadby tradition of everybody forgetting to bring clocks, too! We had oodles of the things! Certainly more than we needed for the eight players who came to play (also an improvement on the low turnouts of the last couple of years). These included brand-newcomer Rob Butler, who enjoyed himself greatly and won against Robert Calladine too. Robert, who's still looking for his first win after six tournaments and 42 games, had a great time as well, which is the important thing.

I was actually the reigning Oadby Regional Champion, although I didn't remember that at the time and only noticed it today while writing this article, and I got off to a good start by drawing with Iain Barrass. The two of us held the joint lead all the way through the tournament until I lost to Andrew Burgess in the last round. Final results: Iain Barrass 6.5, Ben Pridmore 5.5, Andrew Burgess and Roy Arnold 5, Steve Rowe 3, Helen Starkey 2, Rob Butler 1, Robert Calladine 0.

April 10, London

David Beck had booked the Sun public house for this year's London Regional: a new venue, but it turned out to be an improvement on previous London pubs we've visited, because there was somebody there to let us into the building when we arrived! David, having booked the room, was then unable to be there to act as tournament director, so there had been a bit of a flap on the mailing list for the past week about who was going, whether it was worth having the competition at all, how we'd get clocks and boards there, *etc.* (The British Othello Federation does own lots of boards and clocks, but it has yet to invent a good system of arranging to leave them with somebody who can bring them to the next tournament -- when last heard of, half the clocks were in Imre's office and the other half in Steve Rowe's house.) But everybody and everything that had been worried about turned up at the Sun. Lots of boards and pieces, lots of clocks (albeit most of them old-fashioned analogue ones and not the groovy digital clocks that we prefer), enough players to exactly cover the cost of the room hire (this is inconvenient for me, because it means I don't have to bank any money, and so when I come to put together the BOF's accounts in the Autumn I'll think I've lost the London Regional's profits somewhere, forgetting that there weren't any), a laptop with