

Dear prospective member of the European Go Instructors Network,

Thank you for your interest in joining the European Go Instructors Network. To help us understand your qualifications and aspirations as a Go instructor, please complete the following application form. Your responses will be instrumental in building a strong and supportive community of Go instructors in Europe.

### Section 1: Personal Information

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<b>Full Name:</b> Paul Smith
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<b>Contact Phone Number:</b> +44 7503 898934
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<b>Country:</b> United Kingdom
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<b>Town:</b> Cambridge
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<b>Teaching Format:</b> (1) I help to run two weekly clubs [combined with chess] for children, at one of these I do formal teaching every other week (2) I run a school club, and am planning to start more (3) I do private lessons in my house for payment [but currently only 1 student (4) I do some online teaching games in a weekly session (not commercial) (5) With Tony Atkins I do occasional holiday all-day Go teaching sessions (6) I teach the rules to beginners approximately 5 times a year at junior chess events
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### Section 2: Go Instruction Activity

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<b>Number of Active Students (U18 Only):</b>
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- Please provide the number of active students along with a list of their names. Ensure compliance with GDPR measures.

This is not an easy question to answer! I have one student who I teach one-to-one in my house (Stellar Zeng). There are 4 students who fairly regularly come to my online sessions, others come less reliably. There are many students who come to our two clubs but they don't always come every week and they are shared with other Go teachers who come to the club. At the school club I have been doing last term there were 8 students (so those ones are definitely my students!) but until the school lets me know I am not sure if there will be more/fewer players next term and if they will be the same/different players.

### Short History of Your Activity:

. I started teaching Go to children in 1994. Highlights:

- Have been main organizer of Junior Chess & Go Club in Cambridge for nearly 30 years
- About 40 UK ageband Go champions from our club since 1997, also many represented the UK on national youth team and won in other youth events
- Organised children's side event at Cambridge Go tournament about a dozen times
- Organised many tournaments including several editions of the British Small Board tournament, and one Isle of Man Go Festival
- Organised a mind sports festival in Cambridge 3 times
- During Lockdown ran twice weekly online Go sessions for children on OGS (very well attended) and organized four international matches including UK v a team from Hong Kong and UK v a team from China
- Organised the third edition of the European City Youth Go League (see <https://ecygl.eurogofed.org/2023/>)
- Produced a booklet of 30 sets of 6 themed puzzles for use in teaching children
- Have run clubs at 4 different schools
- Have taught beginners to play at many non-Go events including youth chess tournaments
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### Calendar of Organized Events:

. Recently was main organizer of third ECYGL (online). In November organized British Small Board Championship in Pembroke College, Cambridge. In February will organize Mind Sports Olympiad Grand Prix Go events (online) and in March the children's tournament at the Cambridge Go tournament. Later in year will organize Cambridge Junior Chess & Go Club 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary event/tournament..

- List upcoming or recent events you have organized or plan to organize.

### Teaching Structure:

- Lesson Duration: [Average duration]
- Lesson Frequency: [Weekly, monthly, etc.]
- Number of Age Groups: [Specify the age groups you teach]

. At our main Junior Chess & Go Club meeting we have a fortnightly teaching session lasting 45 minutes. We have students aged 6-16, we don't split by age but we split into 3 ability categories (we have 3 teachers), I teach the middle group

. At the school club I run there are weekly meetings lasting 45 minutes, children aged 7-10 years old

. In the private lessons I teach at home, they are 1 hour lessons weekly, I will teach any age children

### **Participation at Other Events:**

- . I played in Go tournaments since 1976. On the EGF database it shows 94 rated tournaments I played in, the most recent was in London this month. My current rating is 1-kyu
  - List your participation in events from the EGF or National Association calendar.

### **Notable Results from Students:**

- . Over the years, junior players from our club won 40 ageband titles in the British Youth Go Championships. Also 3 overall victories in the UK Go Challenge and 9 in the BGA Youth Grand Prix.
  - Provide details of your students' achievements, such as podium finishes at EGF or NA official events, top placements in international championships, etc.

### **Plans for the Future:**

- . Future goals:
  - . Open more school Go clubs locally
  - . Start some kind of local study group for stronger junior players in Cambridge
  - . Work with others to produce reusable teaching materials / curriculum
  - . Hand over things I am doing to others before I get too old to do it myself!- Describe your future plans and goals as a Go instructor.

## **Section 3: Support and Challenges**

### **How Can NA or EGF Help Improve Local Activity:**

- Share your ideas on how the National Association or European Go Federation can support and enhance local Go activities.
- . We really need a curriculum of lessons with supporting puzzles/activities/materials that teachers can use to make their job easier, especially for school teachers who are not used to teaching Go and Go players who are not used to teaching children
- . We need events that our local players can play in. Due to the geographic isolation of the UK this needs to include some online events. The ECYGL is very good for developing our players (we had 17 players play in it!) because even the weaker ones can play and the games are all there online afterwards so we can review them together

### **Challenges Encountered:**

- Detail any challenges you have faced in your role as a Go instructor, such as lack of location, playing materials, human resources, or financial resources.
- . It's difficult to find Go players who are keen on help to teach juniors and run junior events
- . Schools in the UK take a lot of persuading that they want to have a Go club, even when they have existing junior players and keen parents at their school already
- . There is a lack of teaching materials that we can easily use
- . There is a lot of admin in running a club (e.g. insurance, child protection policies ...)

### **Additional Topics:**

- If you have any additional information or topics you'd like to discuss, please share them here.

### **Section 4: Additional Information and Links**

#### **Additional Information:**

- Please provide any additional information or comments you believe are relevant.

#### **Media Links:**

- If available, please provide links to pictures, videos, websites, or social networks related to your Go instruction activities.
- Here's a video I made (with the help of Gerry Gavigan) about empty triangles. As I'm not a strong player I am quite reluctant to produce any teaching materials unless they are at a pretty low level like this <https://youtu.be/oXTKewQwfTs>
- Here's the Cambridge Junior Chess & Go Club facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/camjuniorchessandgoclub/>

By submitting this application, you acknowledge that your information will be used for membership evaluation within the European Go Instructors Network. Membership is granted upon successful submission of this form and providing a yearly activity report is mandatory.

Thank you for your commitment to promoting Go among U18 youth in Europe and for your interest in joining our network. We look forward to welcoming you into our community of dedicated Go instructors.

Sincerely,

[Your Name] [Date] Paul Smith, 27 December 2023

Please submit your completed application form to [\[catalin@eurogofed.org\]](mailto:catalin@eurogofed.org).

