

8. Marlborough town

Francis Roads

English traditional

As I was going to Marl-borough town, Play ka-ka-ri, don't for-get shi-ma-ri, I met a man with his
head hung down, Can't you see te-su-ji? He said he'd lost four games that day, With
Dia - mond, Sta - cey, Bates, and May. Play ma - ga - ri, it's
bet - ter than a - ta - ri, If you choose good moves, you'll ne - ver lose.

The game with Diamond started well,
Play kakari, don't forget shimari,
He was winning as far as he could tell,
Can't you see tesuji?
He looked round when he heard a cough,
When he looked back, he'd been ripped off.
Play magari, it's better than atari,
If you choose good moves, you'll never lose.

Now Stacey caused no consternation,
Play kakari, don't forget shimari,
He'd win with a little concentration,
Can't you see tesuji?
But his concentration finally broke,
When, all of a sudden, Terry spoke.
Play magari, it's better than atari,
If you choose good moves, you'll never lose.

Young go players, hearken to my song,
Play kakari, don't forget shimari,
The Marlborough tournament's rather long,
Can't you see tesuji?
Against four losses there's no insurance,
It's simply a test of physical endurance.
Play magari, it's better than atari,
If you choose good moves, you'll never lose.

A loss with Bates he could not stand,
Play kakari, don't forget shimari,
So a carefully thought out game he planned,
Can't you see tesuji?
But Jim frustrated his good intentions,
By insisting on playing in five dimensions.
Play magari, it's better than atari,
If you choose good moves, you'll never lose.

Against Frank May he took no rest,
Play kakari, don't forget shimari,
The opening and middle game were his best,
Can't you see tesuji?
But it left him in his final fog,
When Frank left the yose to his dog.
Play magari, it's better than atari,
If you choose good moves, you'll never lose.

Jon Diamond is a former British Champion, with a reputation for tenacity, and winning the game in the later stages.

Terry Stacey, another former British Champion, lost his life tragically in a road accident in 1988. He was not noted for loquacity, though always willing to offer help to weaker players.

Jim Bates is now resident in Australia. He has a reputation for inventing new rules for games, and generally making them as complicated as possible.

Frank May is often seen in the company of a friendly and well-behaved sheepdog. [Ed]