

# 19. Tick goes the clock

Francis Roads

Australian traditional sheep-shearing song

C C C F C C D<sup>7</sup> G<sup>7</sup>  
 Stan-ding by the go ban is a mer ry lit tle clock, Brea-king through the si-lence with its cheer ful "tick-a-tock." The  
 C C C F D<sup>7</sup> G<sup>7</sup> C C  
 play-er with the white stones ha-sn't looked at it at all, He's due to get a shock be -cause his flag's a-bout to fall.  
 D<sup>7</sup> G<sup>7</sup> C C F F C G  
 Tick goes the clock, boys, tick, tick, tick. Slow seems the game but the hands move quick. The  
 C C C F  
 play - er with the white stones knows he's played the game too slow, and  
 D<sup>7</sup> G<sup>7</sup> C C [Whistle] G<sup>7</sup> C C  
 cur - ses his op - po - nent who's got half an hour to go. [V.2] Will

Standing by the go ban is a merry little clock,  
 Breaking through the silence with its cheerful "tick-a-tock,"  
 The player with the white stones hasn't looked at it at all,  
 He's due to get a shock because his flag's about to fall.

*Tick goes the clock, boys, tick, tick, tick,  
 Slow seems the game, but the hands move quick.  
 The player with the white stones knows  
 he's played the game too slow,  
 And curses his opponent, who's got half an hour to go.*  
 (Whistle)

"Will somebody keep time for them?" calls out the referee,  
 And each of the spectators thinks, "I hope it won't be me."  
 They suddenly all find that they're all needed somewhere else,  
 And the tournament director has to keep the time himself.  
 (Chorus)

"30, 15, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2."  
 The Tournament Director says, "I'd play if I were you."  
 "The rules say, if you don't,  
 that I must treat your move as 'pass' ".  
 Says White, "Just take that rule and go and stick it  
 up on the notice board."  
 (Chorus)

But now it's Black who's due to get a really nasty shock,  
 It's nearly thirty minutes now since last he pressed his clock.  
 White plays a tricky yose, and it's Black who's got to hurry,  
 And sure enough, he blunders,  
 and frees White from all his worry.

*Tick goes the clock, boys, tick, tick, tick,  
 Slow seems the game, but the hands move quick.  
 The player with the white stones now deserves his great acclaim,  
 But really it's that merry little clock that won the game.*  
 (Whistle)

This song was written before the advent of Canadian overtime. Byo yomi, or second counting, had to be carried out by a third player supplied with a stopwatch or similar. This was by no means always a popular task. [Ed]