

## Match Equity

## Update

by Roy Friedman

3000 Rollouts Confirm High "Gammonishness" of Starting Position

In the October 1989 CHICAGO POINT, I presented the match-equity table from my book, *World Class Backgammon, Move by Move*. This table showed greater chances for the trailing player than most previously-published tables because it assumed a cubeless gammon rate (CGR) of about 37%—much higher than the rate used in previous tables.

Since match equities depend rather heavily on the assumed CGR, it is vital to have accurate CGR data. A year ago, my CGR data consisted of a few hundred Crawford and post-Crawford games from actual matches. This was enough data to see that the CGR was a lot higher than many people realized, but not enough data to pin down the CGR within a narrow range. To do that requires a much larger data sample—the kind that can be obtained only by rolling out many cubeless games from the starting position. So—you guessed it—I decided to conduct an extensive rollout of cubeless games.

What's the best kind of cubeless game to roll out? The most fruitful match score for calibrating match equities is "needs two VS needs one"—the Crawford game where the trailer needs two points and hence can win the match by winning a gammon. At this score, a given change in the CGR alters match equity by about 25% of the CGR change. (It's easy to see why. When the trailer wins a gammon instead of a plain game, his equity is 100% rather than 50%—an increase of 50%. Since the trailer wins roughly half the games, this 50% increment applies about half the time, producing a net change of about 25%.) "Needs two VS needs one" is the score where match equity is most sensitive to changes in the CGR, so the 25% sensitivity to the CGR at that score is an upper bound on the sensitivity of match equity to the CGR at any score.

During the past year, I rolled out 3000 cubeless games at "needs two VS needs one," including 100 games for each of the leader's and trailer's 15 opening rolls. The rollout results were as follows:

- About 35% of the trailer's wins were gammons, so the CGR was about two percentage points lower than what I found in my original data sample.
- The trailer won 38 more games than the leader, giving the trailer a 50.6% edge in the 3000 total games.

What is the significance of these results? Taken by itself, a CGR of 35% rather than 37% lowers the trailer's match equity at "needs two VS needs one" by about 0.5% (25% of the 2% CGR change), thus reducing the trailer's equity from 34.25% to 33.75%. But that's not the end of the story: the fact that the trailer won more than half

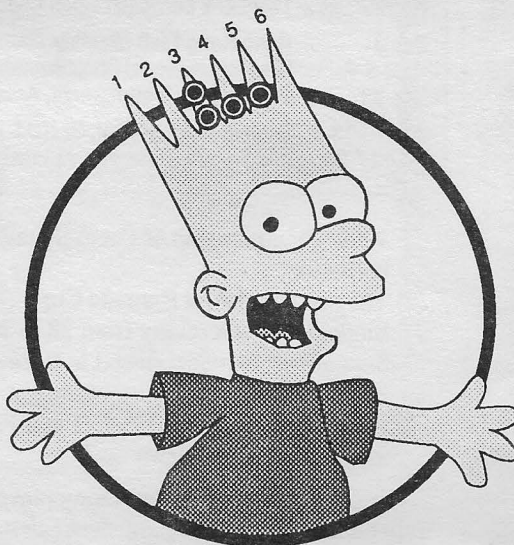
of the rollout games needs to be addressed.

If there were no hypothesis to suggest that the trailer was expected to win more than half the games, the 50.6% result from the rollouts could be dismissed as mere randomness. However, I believe there is a plausible hypothesis. Since the trailer at "needs two VS needs one" cannot lose a gammon (or backgammon), he has a little extra vigorish in deep-anchor holding games where the race to save a gammon would ordinarily be an issue. The trailer can stay back until the bitter end, thereby hitting more shots. And he can build his frontal position more effectively by ignoring crossovers to the inner board.

These advantages for the trailer should not be exaggerated, however. In the opening and middle game, both the leader and trailer must sacrifice some winning chances to steer the game toward their desired kind of position. (The trailer rejects strong, simple positions in favor of somewhat weaker gammonish positions, while the leader avoids strong positions with high gammon risk in order to reach somewhat weaker positions with less gammon risk.) This tug-of-war produces a standoff where neither player enjoys a significant edge.

[Continued on page 6]

### 'YOUR MOVE, HOME BOY.'



Black (playing to get off on his next shake) rolls 2-1. What's the correct move?

Barpoint Simpson read on page 291 of Paul Magriel's *Backgammon* that this is one of the rare cases where bearing the maximum number of men off is *not* correct.

Black must play 5/3, 4/3 to gain double 3s as a winning shake. If Black takes a man off (3/off), double 3s is no longer a winner. Δ

# CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

## EDITOR & PUBLISHER

**Bill Davis**  
2726 West Lunt Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60645-3039  
Telephone: (312) 338-6380

## CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

**Carol Joy Cole (MI)**    **Danny Kleinman (CA)**  
**Jake Jacobs (IL)**     **Tak Morioka (IL)**  
**Duane Jensen (MN)**   **Dean Muench (IL)**  
**Neil Kazaross (CA)**   **Kit Woolsey (CA)**

All rights reserved. A word about copying this publication—go ahead. You may copy any of this for noncommercial purposes as long as you give full credit to "CHICAGO POINT, 2726 West Lunt Avenue, Chicago, IL 60645-3039."

CHICAGO POINT is published monthly. The subscription rate is \$20/year (\$30/year overseas airmail in cash or U.S. funds check).

**Advertising Rates:** 2 3/8" x 3 1/4" = \$25. 1/4 page = \$45. 1/2 page = \$75. Full page = \$130. If the ad is not "camera ready," request typesetting for an additional \$15 charge.



## LETTERS

c/o CHICAGO POINT  
2726 W. Lunt Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60645-3039

## SEVEN YEAR CORRECTION

Just letting your readers know that the next run of my book *How Little We Know About Backgammon* will include an added sentence crediting Harold Branch with the discovery that the position discussed in "The Seven Year Switch" [Sept. 1990 POINT] is a clear take.—*Danny Kleinman, Los Angeles, CA*

Mr. Branch comments: "Thanks, Danny. Your actions swell me up like a poisoned pup!"—*Harold Branch, Louisville, KY*

## NOTIFY THE PRESS OF TOURNAMENT CANCELLATIONS

The practice of formally listing "potential" tournaments, or the failure to immediately inform backgammon publications of tourney cancellations must stop with the help of the specialized press and responsible directors and promoters. During 1990, the cases I am aware of are:

- (1) The phantasmic Euro-Champs of Spa, announced from 28 to 30 July in the

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

coming attractions



by Carol Joy Cole  
313/232-9731

\*Denotes new or revised listing

### NATIONAL

Oct 7	Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Bagwells, Chicago, IL	312/252-7755
Oct 13	Springfield Fall Open, On Broadway, Springfield, IL	217/789-6275
Oct 14	New England Club Monthly, Sheraton Commander, Cambridge, MA	617/641-2091
*Oct 14	Cavendish North Monthly Tournament, Southfield, MI	313/642-9616
*Oct 14	BG Co-op Regional, Best Western Oritani Hotel, Hackensack, NJ	201/833-2915
*Oct 18	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	313/232-9731
Oct 19-21	8th New Hampshire International Fall Classic & New England Doubles	603/863-4711
Oct 20	College Park Fall Open, Promenade, Bethesda, MD	301/530-0604
Oct 24-28	Caesars Tahoe Tournament, South Lake Tahoe, NV	702/826-1984
Nov 3	Sangamon Valley Monthly Tournament, On Broadway, Springfield, IL	217/789-6275
*Nov 4	Minuteman BG Club Tournament, Sit'n Bull Pub, Maynard, MA	617/863-0012
Nov 6	8th Bar Point Club Fall Trophy Tourney, Pat's Pub, Norridge, IL	312/338-6380
Nov 9-11	Children's Hospital Benefit, Sheraton Commander, Cambridge, MA	617/641-2091
Nov 9-11	BG Co-op Fall Championships, Rocking Horse Ranch, Highland, NY	201/833-2915
*Nov 11	Hoosier Fall One-Day Tournament, Grisanti's, Indianapolis, IN	317/845-8435
*Nov 15	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	313/232-9731
Nov 17	Winter 1990 Connecticut Championship, Hall of Fame, Southington, CT	203/755-9749
Nov 18	12th Annual Flint Area Club Championships, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	313/232-9731
Dec 1	Sangamon Valley Monthly Tournament, On Broadway, Springfield, IL	217/789-6275
Dec 9	Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Bagwells, Chicago, IL	312/252-7755
Dec 9	New England Club Monthly, Sheraton Commander, Cambridge, MA	617/641-2091
*Jan 5	Sangamon Valley Monthly Tournament, On Broadway, Springfield, IL	217/789-6275
Jan 13	New England Club Monthly, Sheraton Commander, Cambridge, MA	617/641-2091
*Jan 19	Sangamon Valley Monthly Tournament, On Broadway, Springfield, IL	217/789-6275
Jan 19	College Park Winter Open, Promenade Party Room, Bethesda, MD	301/530-0604
Jan 26	3rd Hawthorne Classic, Hawthorne Race Course, Cicero, IL	312/338-6380
Jan 30-Feb 3	8th Nevada State Championship, Nugget Hotel/Casino, Reno, NV	702/826-1984
Mar 22-24	1991 Midwest Championships, Marriott Hotel, Oak Brook, IL	312/338-6380

### OUTSIDE USA

Oct 1	Hong Kong Club Monthly Tournament, Ladies Recreation Club	3-689918
Oct 1-16	Mediterranean Open: Poker/Backgammon, Celebrity Hotels Ltd, Cyprus	021-440 3428
Oct 14	Double Door Tournament, Amsterdam, Netherlands	0031 324014734
Oct 19-20	De Åbne Jydske Championships, Århus, Denmark	31/22 46 00
*Oct 26-28	1990 Tag-Heuer Victorian Open, Hilton Hotel, E. Melbourne, Australia	03/412 3144
Oct 24-28	BG & Tennis Casino Cup, Hotel Schloss Seefels, Pörschach, Austria	0 42 72 23 77
Nov 2-4	NRW German Open, Düsseldorf-Breitscheid, Germany	02151-27775
Nov 2-4	Swedish Open Championship, O'Henry's Hotel, Stockholm, Sweden	08-524099
Nov 5	Hong Kong Club Monthly Tournament, Ladies Recreation Club	3-689918
Nov 9-11	14th Crystal Cup Venezia, Casinò Municipale di Venezia, Italy	76 00 37 05
Nov 22-25	Valencia Championship, Casino Monte-Picayo, Valencia, Spain	96 142 12 11
Nov 23-25	Holland Casino Open Tournament, Nijmegen, Netherlands	080/564628
Nov 29-Dec 2	Teacher's European Open Championships, Casino Deauville, France	31 98 66 22
Dec 3	Hong Kong Club Monthly Tournament, Ladies Recreation Club	852/3-689918
*Dec 5-9	First International Championship of Middle East, Hilton Taba, Egypt	972 3-720683
Dec 23	Double Door Tournament, Amsterdam, Netherlands	0031 324014734
Jan 10-13	Seefeld International, Seefeld/Tirol, Austria	08341 12825
*Jan 17-20	2nd French Open, Hotel Lutecia, Paris, France	331 4772-2810

- (1) The phantasmic Euro-Champs of Spa, announced from 28 to 30 July in the 1990 Championship of Great Britain invitation,
- (2) The cancelled First Ramada Cup, Sindelfingen, Germany from 28 to 30 September, first announced in *Backgammon Zentrale* and innocently reprinted in CHICAGO POINT and *Flint Area Backgammon News*.

This practice must stop. Many players rely on the accuracy of published calendars. I for one must discard a nonrefundable

Superpex air ticket to Germany worth \$250.

In the future, I ask the specialized press to carefully monitor the source of their tournament information. Incidents where promoters fail to *immediately* notify the press upon official cancellation of their event will be submitted to the Disciplinary Committee of the Worldwide Backgammon Federation.—*Alberto da Pra, president of WBF, Mendrisio, Switzerland*

[Continued on page 3]

# LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

## PRINT MORE GAMES

I continue to enjoy the CHICAGO POINT, but how about printing an occasional game? I learn a lot by playing them out.—*Henry Schwartz, Coconut Creek, FL*

We print recorded games in the POINT about once per year. If you want to receive them once per month, order the Hoosier Backgammon Club Newsletter. The Sept.

issue begins a Reno Masters tourney match between Ed O'Laughlin and Joe Sylvester. For a one year subscription, send \$7 (\$12 overseas) to HBC Newsletter; 7620 Kilmer Lane; Indianapolis, IN 46256.—Ed.

## NAME CHANGE

The Manx Backgammon Association is now known as the Championship Of Great Britain Backgammon Association (CGBBA). Our name change will help to avoid any confusion with a group calling itself the UK Backgammon Association organizing the "British Championships."—*Hercules Robinson, Baron of Culcreuch, Isle of Man Δ*

## DOWD SWEEPS MINNESOTA OPEN

Glenn Dowd stopped Yamin Yamin's national tournament winning streak at 15 by winning the 21-23 Sept. Minnesota Open & High Roller Shoot-out. Results:

OPEN (16): 1st Glenn Dowd (IL); 2nd Yamin Yamin (IL); 3rd Tim Lawless (MN)  
 INTERMEDIATE (13): 1st Zoltan Fischer (MN); 2nd Ed King (OH)  
 HIGH ROLLER SHOOT-OUT (8): 1st Glenn Dowd (MN); 2nd Yamin Yamin (IL)  
 9-BALL POOL TOURNAMENT (8): 1st Bill Davis (IL); 2nd Emil Mortuk (MI)  
 DOUBLES (8): 1st Scott Clark & Duane Jensen (MN); 2nd Fred Kalantari & Bud Johnson (MN)  
 BINOMIAL CHECKERS: 1st Yamin Yamin



## 1990 BPC PLAYER OF THE YEAR

COMPILED  
THRU SEPT. 30

TAK MORIOKA	20.64	Alex Caraplis	3.80	Bob Holyon	1.04
GARY KAY	19.40	Jay Ward	3.28	Dave Rockwell	0.96
LUCKY NELSON	15.52	Leslie Lockett	3.28	Lenny Loder	0.88
MARK KING	15.28	Herb Roman	3.04	Howard Ring	0.88
BRUCE WITTERT	14.32	Dean Muench	3.04	Randall Witt	0.88
YAMIN YAMIN	13.48	Frank Callea	2.96	Sharon Lennon	0.88
STU KATZ	13.36	Norma Shyer	2.80	Jerry Brooks	0.88
DAVE CRAMER	12.20	Bart Levin	2.80	Alex Itkin	0.80
JAKE JACOBS	11.88	Bill Hoeflich	2.80	Joe Wollick	0.80
DEEB SHALATI	9.64	Peter Kalba	2.64	Jeff Kane	0.80
PAUL FRANKS	9.44	Ron Stur	2.60	Kurt Warning	0.72
GEORGE BARR	8.08	Kathy Rudnick	2.60	Harold Seif	0.72
DON JAYHAN	7.88	Jolie Lewis	2.56	Ed Bauder	0.72
MARCY SLOAN	7.76	V.W. Zimmnicki	2.56	Bill Hargrave	0.72
TIM SERGES	7.68	Mike O'Brien	2.56	Hal Heinrich	0.64
ARNOLD ZOUSMER	7.04	Mike Spiropoulos	2.48	Mike Fengya	0.64
BOBBIE SHIFRIN	6.84	Harry Cohn	2.48	David Rubin	0.56
BILL DAVIS	6.52	Howard Markowitz	2.24	Mike Siegel	0.56
ALICE KAY	6.16	Greg Shore	2.16	Reggie Porter	0.52
BOB ZAVORAL	6.16	Barbara Levinson	2.12	René Wojtysiak	0.48
Rich Galeba	6.00	John Spatafora	2.00	Steve Potashnick	0.48
Don Desmond	6.00	Jim Gibbs	1.92	Terry Moskowitz	0.48
Andy Argy	5.88	Arline Levy	1.80	David Lynn	0.40
John Demian	5.84	Mary Franks	1.76	Elaine Kehm	0.32
Femi Owiku	5.84	Gabriel Kairouz	1.68	Mike Sutton	0.32
Joann Feinstein	5.84	George Kirkby	1.60	Larry Knoll, Jr.	0.28
Joe Koucharian	5.80	Betsy Miller	1.60	Jamie Dodge	0.24
Ken Bond	5.60	Grant Dace	1.60	Bernie Smuda	0.24
Phyllis Smolinski	5.16	Bill Keefe	1.52	Larry Knoll	0.24
Sarg Serges	5.08	Walt Schafer	1.44	Jeff Ferguson	0.16
Ed Buerger	4.56	Richard Stawowy	1.36	Jill Ferdinand	0.16
Judy Brown	4.44	Stan Kucharz	1.36	Marv Arnol	0.12
Rudy Emmelot	3.88	Walter Trice	1.28	Ted Mann	0.12
Ralph Levy	3.84				

Credit STU KATZ with Sept. Player of the Month honors. Stu won the 4 Sept. meeting and finished second on 18 Sept. to earn 3.20 points and vault into 7th place for the year.

Just behind Stu were Ken Bond and Gary Kay (moving up on Tak Morioka) each scored 2.56 points each. Δ

If you finish in the Top 20 for 1990 (capitalized names on list), you'll be entered in a drawing for over \$250 worth of valuable electronics merchandise. The higher you finish, the better your winning chances. Individual awards: 1st—Trophy + \$150; 2nd—\$100; 3rd—\$50. 1st thru 20th—engraved brass board tag. 1st thru 6th—Invitation to participate on the Chicago Bar Point Club team in the 1991 Illinois State Challenge Cup.

## BACKGAMMON CO-OP

### Fall Championships

**NOV. 9-10-11**

ROCKING  
HORSE  
RESORT  
RANCH



HIGHLAND,  
NEW YORK

FOR INFORMATION, CALL or WRITE:

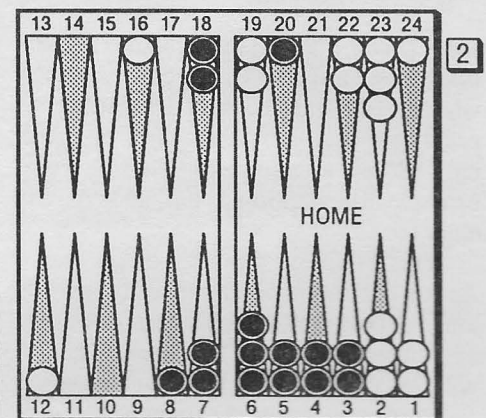
**RON WHITNEY • 201-833-2915**  
279 Glen Court, Teaneck, NJ 07666

or **BOB HILL • 516-334-4833**

your move

## PROBLEM #164

Money game. BLACK TO PLAY 2-2.



## DEAR MISS LONELYBLOTS



## LEARNING SHOULDN'T BREAK YOU

**D**ear Miss Lonelyblots: Last week I screwed on my courage to enter a backgammon tournament for the first time, at a downtown pub. I arrived early, plunked down my sawbuck at the entry desk, and watched a couple of experienced players warming up with a few games before starting time.

Soon I noticed a young man watching me from a distance. He smiled as he approached me, introduced himself as Ed duCater, bought me a drink, proclaimed his desire to encourage new players, told me how pretty I was, and called me by a fond nickname he made up without asking my real name: "Say, Turtle Dove. How about you and me playing a few games for dimes before the tourney? They always start late anyway."

"No thanks, Ed," I replied when he told me 'dimes' meant \$10 per point. "But maybe we'll draw each other in the tournament."

"Fat chance!" cried Ed. "I never waste my time playing for the small change you can win in these little weekly jousts. Besides, you'll never learn anything playing in a tournament. The only way to become good is to play an expert for high stakes. Now I'm no expert, but maybe I'll do."

Because I do want to become good, and Ed was so nice to me, I agreed. You won't believe this, Miss Lonelyblots, but in the 45 minutes prior to the tournament, I lost 49 points—at dimes, almost \$500! The only thing I learned was not to play Ed for dimes any more. But how can I learn any more without playing experts for high stakes and going broke doing so?

I'm embarrassed by all this, so to preserve my anonymity, I'll just sign myself—Turtle Dove

**Dear Dove:** You had the right idea in the first place: enter the "little weekly jousts" which Ed duCater scorns. True, you'll never earn your living that way if first place pays \$80 and second place pays \$40, for example. But your loss is limited to the \$10 entry fee.

You'll improve some just by playing. As you become familiar with different kinds of positions, more and more of the easy plays will become automatic. This will free your mind for the difficult plays.

Don't compare backgammon to, say,

boxing or poker. In these other sports, you must be aware of and defend yourself against an opponent's moves. An expert opponent will confront you with problems you won't see playing against other beginners. But in backgammon, it's largely the positions and the rolls which create the problems. You'll have the same kinds of decisions against weak opponents as strong. You should vary your cube strategy somewhat according to the nature of your opponents. But this has more to do with their cube-taking propensities than their general skill, more to do with temperament than technique.

Nonetheless, unless you're a rare backgammon genius, you can't learn all you need to know just by playing. Read. Discuss problems with other players, even other beginners. Watch experts... at no risk to your purse.

Even watching experts, or studying their published games, has its limitations. Everybody errs occasionally. When an expert makes a play you wouldn't, it may be a good play from which you can learn... or a simple blunder. You can't tell just by looking. You must think. Of course expert commentary by a Bill Robertie or Roy Friedman, Kent Goulding or Barclay Cooke, can help you think along fruitful lines

Can you learn by playing against an expert? In a tournament, perhaps. Look at the plays and cubes he takes time to study, and try to imagine his thoughts. You may pay dearly for this, however. It's hard enough to work out your own best plays without worrying about your opponent's problems, and the energy you waste may cost you the match.

In money play, no—especially if you're the pigeon. To a hustler like Ed duCater, time is money. When there's little difference between plays, he won't sweat it out to find a marginally superior move, he'll make a reasonable move quickly. If he has a marginal take of your cube in a back game, he'll pass—or he'll wait until he can double you out when you're playing a back game—just to save time for that extra game where he can double you early in a blitz and win a gammon.

If you *must* practice against an expert, don't play him for \$10 a point. Play him a 9-point match for \$10.

Finally, you can do everything you're supposed to and still never become good at backgammon. One of my sisters tried very hard to learn backgammon 15 years ago. Despite my tutoring, she never advanced beyond what I call (charitably) "experienced beginner." That doesn't mean she's stupid. On the contrary, Josephine scored

13 points higher than me on the Stanford-Binet when our IQs were measured as children, and became a top bridge expert; even though I'm as poor at bridge as she is at backgammon, I still enjoy her "Advice to the Bridgelorn" columns.

Conceivably, you might find your talent—for backgammon, that is—as limited as my sister's. But you still won't go wrong plunking down your sawbuck each week at your local club. There's enough luck in backgammon so that you'll win occasionally. And when you don't, you'll have gotten your money's worth in entertainment, good competition and good company.—*Miss Lonelyblots*

**P.S.:** 49 points in 45 minutes? Possible, of course, because reasonable cube actions by both players can produce 16- and 32-games. More likely, however, most of your loss stemmed from rose-colored glasses which prompted you to turn the cube with the slimmest of advantages and take the cube with the slimmest of hopes. A more sinister explanation is that Ed's dice were other than random.

Regardless, your local director shouldn't let people like Ed duCater hang around when they don't enter his tournaments. Oh, spectators are an asset to any tournament, but hustlers—even honest hustlers—can only drive new players away and harm the atmosphere.—*E.L. Δ*

Have an interesting query? Write: Dear Miss Lonelyblots, c/o CHICAGO POINT, 2726 W. Lunt Ave., Chicago, IL 60645.



## ILLINOIS ACTION



Bill Davis  
312/338-6380  
Peter Kalba  
312/276-4144

Tuesday, 7:00 P.M. at Pat's Pub, 4343 N. Harlem Ave., Norridge 708/457-1166.

Sunday Bimonthly, 12:30 at Bagwells, 4636 N. Cumberland, Chicago 312/625-1717.

**PUB CLUB:** Tournaments Monday, 7:30 P.M. at Fiddler's, 345 W. North Ave., Villa Park. Ed Bauder (708/985-1568).

**SANGAMON VALLEY BG ASSN:** Tournaments Tuesday, 6:15 P.M. at On Broadway, 210 S. Broadway, Springfield. Randy Armstrong (217/528-0117).

**WINNETKA BG CLUB:** Tournaments Wed., 7:00 P.M. at 620 Lincoln, Winnetka. Trudie Stern (708/446-0537).

**CENTRAL ILL. BG CLUB:** Tourn. Thurs., 6:30 P.M. at Pizza Works, 3921 Prospect, Peoria. Sue Will (309/692-6909).

**TULEY PARK BG CLUB:** Tourn. alt. Sat., 12:00 at Tuley Park Fieldhouse, 90th & King, Chgo. J.A. Miller (219/883-6127).

**NORTH CLUB:** Daily side play at 4747 W. Peterson (Room 402), Chicago. Howard Markowitz (312/286-8417).

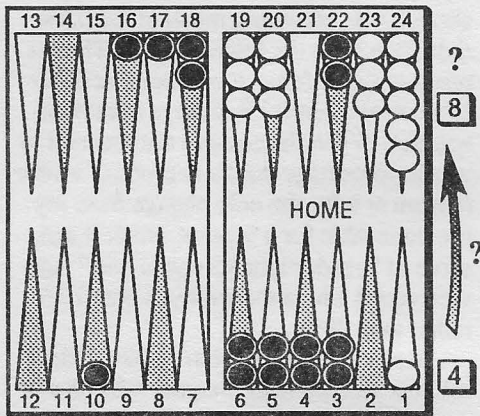
**LINCOLNWOOD CHESS & GAMES:** Daily side play at 3518 Devon Ave., Lincolnwood. Les Bale (708/675-3993).

last month's position

## PROBLEM #163 SOLVED

by Joe Sylvester

World Cup II. Best 3-out-of-5 set finals. 13-point sets. Billy Horan (Black) leads Tino Lechich (White) two sets to one. The fourth set is tied 3-3. **SHOULD BLACK REDOUBLE? IF BLACK REDOUBLES, SHOULD WHITE TAKE?**



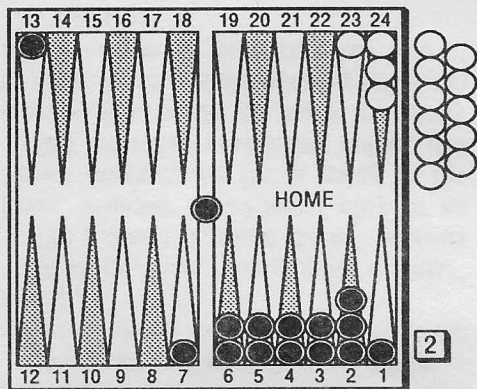
prevention

## HASTY PLAYS



by Duane Jensen

Money game. **BLACK TO PLAY 6-2.**



After hitting, Black covers his 1-point with the 6. Instead, he should make his bar-point. Black should wait until he rolls an ace before closing his board.

White has 11 men off making Black a big underdog. Therefore, Black must create the best bearoff position possible and the extra man on the 2-point is not to his advantage. Black must make an attempt to position his men on the higher (4-, 5- and 6-) points for the most efficient bearoff.  $\Delta$

To determine the cube action in Problem #163, we must first determine the "doubling window" (i.e., the lowest game equity at which Billy Horan may redouble and the lowest game equity at which Tino Lechich may take). Then we can evaluate the given position.

As with all tied scores, Horan may cube with as little as 50% game equity—in theory. I say "in theory" because Horan should only double if there are more market-losing sequences than sequences that stave off the cube on his next turn.

To see why 50% is the doubling point, study the following possible occurrences:

Horan's Situation	Score	Equity*
Doesn't redouble/wins	7-3	74%
Does redouble/wins	11-3	89%

By redoubling, Horan strives to gain 15% in match equity.

Horan's Situation	Score	Equity*
Doesn't redouble/loses	3-7	26%
Does redouble/loses	3-11	11%

By redoubling, Horan risks 15% in match equity.

*\*All match equities are calculated using the Underwood Sequence.*

Since the risk/reward ratio is 15:15, Horan needs at least this ratio in game equity to justify a redouble. The 50% doubling point is true for all tie scores.

To determine Lechich's take point, we

need to know the following:

Lechich's Situation	Score	Equity*
Pass	3-7	26%
Takes and win	11-3	89%
Take and lose	3-11	11%

By taking, Lechich risks (26% - 11%) = 15% to gain (89% - 26%) = 63%. This 15:63 risk/reward ratio equates to about a 19% take point [ $15/(15 + 63) \approx 19\%$ ]. Therefore the doubling window for Horan is anywhere between 50% and 81% game equity.

Does Horan have at least a 50% chance to win this game? Yes. Massive outfield control and the chance that Lechich may loosen a second checker gives Billy a tremendous edge.

Does Lechich have a take? Yes. Rollouts show that Tino will scramble out a victory nearly 30% of the time.

Does Horan have enough market-losers to cube? Yes. When Horan makes the bar with double 3s, or whenever Lechich strips or breaks his 6- or 5-point (with 5-5, 5-4, 5-3, 5-2, 4-4, 4-3, or 3-3), he loses his market. Conversely, he can only lose his redouble if Lechich rolls 6-6 or 6-x followed by a miss—a much less common occurrence.

*Conclusion:* Horan should redouble and Lechich should take. In the actual match, Horan redoubled. Lechich thought for a while and eventually dropped. Horan went on to win the set and match 13-5.  $\Delta$

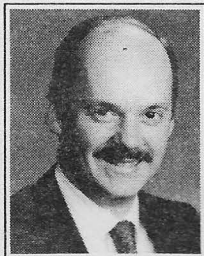
## The Prudential Discovery Annuity

One Year Rate: 8.10%\*\* plus 1% bonus†  
Effective Return: 9.18%\*

- Tax-deferred income & growth
- Liquidity
- No current sales charge
- Avoidance of probate
- Suitable for corporate/pension IRA money
- Guaranteed by The Prudential Insurance Company of America

For more information on Discovery, just call:

Nicholas C. Maffeo, Vice President-Investments  
800/223-3941, ext. 237



- \* Growth on initial deposit over the first year.
- \*\* Rate as of 9/28/90. Subject to change without prior notice.
- † 1% bonus credited to all deposits made in the first 3 contract years. Bonus subject to forfeiture on any deposits withdrawn during the first 6 years.

**Prudential-Bache**  
Securities®

72027 Highway 111, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270

© 1990 Prudential-Bache Securities. Member SIPC.

# UPDATED MATCH EQUITY TABLE

from *World Class Backgammon, Move By Move* by Roy Friedman

## Match Equity...

[Continued from page 1]

Your points NEEDED to win match

### Opponent's points NEEDED to win match

C = Entering the Crawford game.

	1c	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1c		66	75	80	83	87	90	92	94
2	34	50	59	64	72	77	82	85	88
3	25	41	50	56	63	69	74	78	82
4	20	36	44	50	57	63	68	73	77
5	17	28	37	43	50	56	62	66	71
6	13	23	31	37	44	50	56	60	65
7	10	18	26	32	38	44	50	55	60
8	8	15	22	27	34	40	45	50	55
9	6	12	18	23	29	35	40	45	50

Therefore, one would expect the net advantage to the trailer (in cubeless winning percentage) to be relatively small.

Until I obtain evidence to the contrary, I'll assume that the trailer's expected winning percentage at "needs two VS needs one" is 50.6% rather than 50%. Incorporating this change raises the trailer's match equity at "needs two VS needs one" by about 0.4%, offsetting much of the 0.5% reduction from the lowered CGR. The net result is a set of match equities that differ by no more than 0.1% from my previous equities. When the equities are rounded to whole percentage points to produce a table (shown at left), the only change from my previous table for a 9-point match is at a score of "needs eight VS needs four" (and vice versa) where the equity is now 27% rather than 28%.

In summary, data from 3000 cubeless rollouts yields a match-equity table that is essentially the same as the table in *World Class Backgammon, Move by Move* and the October 1989 CHICAGO POINT. It would be nice to have even more empirical data for fine-tuning match equities. Perhaps in the not-too-distant future, we will be able to rely on computer programs to do some of the "grunt" work of producing such data. Until then, I believe that my table is more than adequate for practical purposes. Δ

## BOZO LIEBERMAN

by Duane Jensen

If you're playing a match using red and green dice, which would you prefer: to have both red dice, both green dice, or one of each color? Plymouth Backgammon Club director Dean Adamian said he would select one of each color to protect himself in case one pair of dice was "loaded." But if you knew the dice were not loaded and were perfectly balanced, could it make any difference which dice you used?

It might if you were playing Bozo Lieberman. If you've never played backgammon in Minneapolis, you've probably never met Bozo Lieberman. Each backgammon group around the country has its own Bozo (or Bozette) Lieberman. Bozo whines and complains about every bad roll he gets or good roll his opponent gets. His play is always the *best* play, but his arrogance exceeds his backgammon knowledge. His dice roll is more spasm than roll, causing errant dice to fly off in every direction.

Whenever Bozo wins a game, he cackles, "Winner, winner, chicken dinner!" Whenever he loses a game, he insists on a dice change. Bozo Lieberman makes so many illegal plays that we are beginning to

think it's deliberate.

Why do we play with this clown? Because Bozo is a regular donator to our tournaments and chouettes. Also, in Minneapolis, we don't want to exclude anyone so we can keep the backgammon "gene pool" diverse.

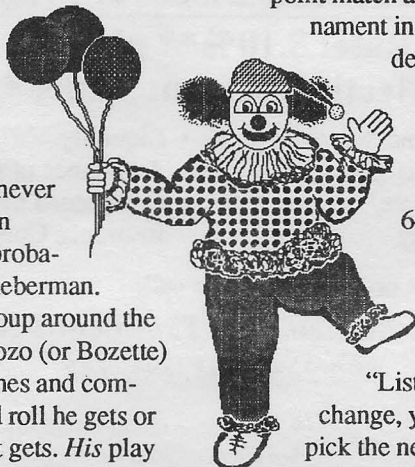
I recently struggled with Bozo in a 7-point match at our regular Thursday tournament in Minneapolis. The match was delayed by Bozo's searches for dice lost in dark corners of the restaurant. I also corrected him on several illegal moves.

After tying the score at 6-6, I was prepared for his demand for another dice change. By now my stoicism had evaporated. In my most stern voice, I said,

"Listen, Bozo, if you want a dice change, you pick the first die and I'll pick the next two dice for myself."

Surprisingly, Bozo agreed without argument. He tossed four dice onto the board and selected a red die. I grabbed the two green dice, leaving him the other red one. I was trying to avoid a confusing situation that could occur at the start of the next game. Why did I choose two green dice instead of one green and one red one?

[Solution at right]



I chose two green dice because Bozo is a borderline liar and cheat, as well as an erratic dice-roller. On the opening roll of the next game, if both Bozo and I roll dice of the same color, the following confusion could occur:  
 My opening roll is a 6. An instant later, Bozo's opening roll bounces onto my side of the board, settling next to my die. He has rolled an ace, but I tell him to reroll on his side of the board to make it legal.  
 "No problem," says Bozo as he picks up my 6 leaving his ace on my side of the board!  
 "Hold on, Bozo. You grabbed my die!"  
 "No I didn't. I rolled the 6!" screams Bozo. Whether a deliberate ploy or an honest mistake, the fur is going to fly.  
 Had we rolled contrasting colors, this confrontation would be much less likely to occur. Once past the opening roll, I can see no reason for preferring fair dice of the same color. Δ

NOITUTOS

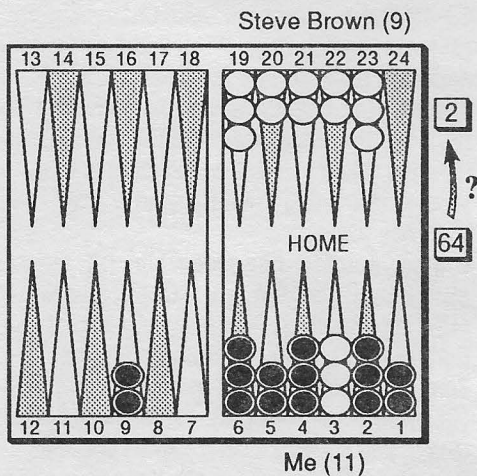
# Too Many Market Losers

by Jake Jacobs



It was near the end of the tournament when every checker casts a long shadow, every number is a mortal challenge, and you know that later, in your sleep, the ghostly cries of the pips you have wasted will call to you from the graveyard of your dreams. It was the finals of the Consolation. This was the decision that confronted me:

1990 National Labor Day Consolation Championship finals to 13 points. I led Steve, 11 to 9. **SHOULD I DOUBLE?**



Sigh. They always come to me with the tough ones.

I looked about for clues. Across from me sat my opponent, Steve Brown. I wondered whether he'd fold if I showed him a flash of hot plastic. I doubted it. He seemed like one tough cookie.

Behind him, Duane Jensen stood. I'd have to question him later—he looked like he knew something.

Off to the side, Bob "The Gambler" Holyon and Abbas Zaltash (half of Pittsburgh's feared Zaltash brothers hit team) were betting on my decision.

It was awfully close—his take point was 17%. His shot equity was probably 17-20%, plus a few more percent for the race—call it 22% in all.

Did I have any market losers? Lots. All doubles except 6-6, plus 3-4, 3-5 and 4-5; also 6-1 or 6-2 followed by a miss. He gained only on the immediate hits; otherwise the position was pretty static.

What the hell. I shot from the hip. In moments, my opponent floated dead in the water. Bob "The Gambler" sighed and

hoped the football season would be kinder to him. The olive in the bottom of Abbas's drink stared at me accusingly. Was it justifiable homicide?

I needed an informant. I considered Howard "The Ringleader" Ring, but he was busy plotting his takeover of the Windy City so I decided not to bother him. I tracked down Dean "The Dream" Muench. It wasn't hard—he was in my room. "Got any tips on this one, Dreamer?"

"Well, it's an automatic redouble, so my formula for minimum give points in dead cube matches applies":

NDL = Your match-winning chance (%) after no double and lose  
 DDL = Your match-winning chance (%) after double and lose  
 DDW = Your match-winning chance (%) after double and win  
 NDW = Your match-winning chance (%) after no double and win  
 GP = Give Point = Minimum winning % necessary to give the cube

$$= \frac{NDL - DDL}{(NDL - DDL) + (DDW - NDW)}$$

At this score: NDL = 60%, DDL = 0%,  
 DDW = 100%, NDW = 83%

$$GP = \frac{60 - 0}{(60 - 0) + (100 - 83)} = \frac{60}{77} = 77.9\%$$

With some stoolies, you've got to slap them around to get them to sing. But Dean wasn't called "The Dream" for nothing.

"Let me get this straight," I continued. "If I win more than 77.9%, I should double?"

"No, the formula can only tell you if it's *wrong* to double. Figuring out if the double is right is a different formula."

She was the slipperiest dame of all, truth was. Sometimes she hid by revealing too little; other times by revealing too much. It was time for some spade work.

I rolled the position out 180 times, five times for each of the 36 possible numbers. The nondoubling variation was resolved by a double-out within a few rolls 100% of the time. Aha! It was the point of last take. White only won one race, and came close one other time. I felt like I had taken it on

the chin from my opponents in this sort of race more often than that, but maybe I was just hearing footsteps in the fog.

Black gained some unforeseen market losers on White's rolls of 2-2, 3-3, and 4-2. While White won games that Black could have doubled him out of a roll or two later, the converse happened only once. All together, the doubling Black lost 34 out of 180, and the nondoubling Black lost 20 out of 180. The doubling side won:  $100\% \times [(180 - 34) / 180] = 81.1\%$  of his matches, and the nondoubler won:

$$\frac{(160 \times 83\%) + (20 \times 60\%)}{180} = 80.44\%$$

Now for some ratiocination, as my colleague Sherlock used to say. I had to hurry. My client would be here soon.

"Did you find it?" he asked. "I must have it for my *Chicago Point* collection."

"The *Rara Avis*? Of course." I slid it over to him. The ink on my alterations was already dry. "See there, the nondoubler loses 20, and the doubler loses 36 out of 180. The doubler wins 80% of his matches, whereas the nondoubler wins 80.44%, so the position is not a double."

"That's not so unusual."

"Wait. The ratio of volatile market losing rolls is 8-to-1 favoring Black; but reduce the ratio to 3-to-1, from 89% down to 75% market losers favoring Black. Now, not doubling wins:

$$\frac{(3 \times 83\%) + (1 \times 60\%)}{4} = 77.25\%$$

This position is a true *Rara Avis*: a non-gammonish position which has too many market losers to double."

"Excellent work! Especially after the disastrous activities of my last two agents. First Brigid O'Shaughnessy betrayed me by taking up with Captain Jacoby Rule. Then Joel Cairo found the Maltese Beaver, but dropped it."

"What did you do?"

He smiled ominously. "I cancelled their subscriptions." Clearly a dangerous man.

He left clutching his prize. It helped having a reputation as one who shot first and asked questions later. He had never questioned my doubling a position that I had just demonstrated was not a double. I wondered what he'd find when he scraped off the glossy surface I had put on things to examine the core of his *Rara Avis*: would it be gold or lead?

Oh, well. It was a killer of a position and deserved to take the fall. How I felt about it, or it about me didn't matter a hill of beans in this crazy world. But if it was twenty years before I saw it again, I knew I'd wait.  $\Delta$

## DECIDE PLAYER ELIGIBILITY THROUGH DIRECTORIAL COMMITTEE

Last month, Marc Gray of Niskayuna, New York sent an open letter to tournament directors in the backgammon community regarding one of his opponents at the 1990 Eastern Open. Marc complained about having been "trounced" twice by Mike Rezaï (Madison, Ohio) in the Intermediate division. "Mike has earned a rating in Kent Goulding's most recent international listing of 1613!" Marc wrote. In fact, this would be enough to rank him 69th in the world except that he has only 317 experience points and 1000 points are required for "active player" status.

The letter also discussed Ron Stur and Ira Hoffberg as being previously "singled out as sandbaggers" in the CHICAGO POINT. Marc closed his letter with the viewpoint that "Tournament directors have every right to be financially rewarded for their efforts. When I'm facing a 20% rake, I accept it; but it is unjust for me to have to topple superior players in my passionate quest for a trophy."

Eastern Open director Kent Goulding wrote the POINT to take exception with Mr. Gray and explain his reasons for permitting Rezaï to enter as an Intermediate. "Bill Robertie and I decided . . . to use 1600 as a rough guideline for a maximum allowable rating to enter the Intermediate division. Two players with ratings greater than 1600 signed up to play as Intermediates. Both players have 'provisional' ratings with far fewer than 1000 experience points. We carefully reviewed the ratings of both players. We also consulted our other directors, including Carol Joy Cole and Butch Meese. Based on what we knew about the

### Why did past issues of the POINT print the impressive Intermediate tournament records of Chicago Bar Point Club players Ron Stur and Ira Hoffberg? For everyone to see.

players in question, one of them should probably play Open [and eventually did], and Mr. Rezaï would be acceptable as an Intermediate. He may be an above average Intermediate player, but should not be forced out."

Why did past issues of the POINT print the impressive Intermediate tournament records of Chicago Bar Point Club players Ron Stur and Ira Hoffberg? For everyone to see. If it made Ron, Ira, or any of the directors who continued to accept their Intermediate entries uncomfortable, then it was for them to determine the reason for their feelings.

We now believe there's a better way to decide upon player eligibility so that Intermediates with excellent records no longer need to be "put on display." As soon as Kent Goulding can compile enough Intermediate results, his *Teacher's International Backgammon Rating List* will be a very valuable tool for helping to gauge player strength. But even Kent would agree that his ratings should not be the sole determining factor. Experience, tournament prize money won, local club results, money play reputation and other intangibles should all be weighed to determine an individual's correct level of play.

In the coming month, the Chicago Bar Point Club will select a five-member Midwest Directorial Committee for the 1991 Midwest Championships (22-24 March in Oak Brook, Illinois). If there are complaints involving the presumption of a player's over-qualification in a particular division, the committee will vote on that player's eligibility based on *all available information*. Three or more votes against the player will restrict him from competing in that division at the 1991 MBC.

Is this system the answer to all player eligibility problems? Highly doubtful. To quote Kent Goulding, "Realize that there will *always* be some players on the edge." But relying on the judgment of an open-minded committee is clearly better than any black-and-white eligibility rules where the law is easy to enforce, but the justice in applying the law (in certain cases) is questionable. Δ

## WINNER'S CORNER



Aug.-Sept. 1990

- Bar Point Sunday** (Chicago, IL; 5 Aug.)... Open (26): 1st Paul Franks; 2nd Jake Jacobs; 3rd/4th Harry Cohn, George Barr; Cons.1st/2nd Tak Morioka, Jeff Kane (WI). Limited (9): 1st Jay Ward; 2nd Don Jayhan; Cons.1st Andy Argy.
- 13th Bob Hill Summer Classic** (Long Island, NY; 5 Aug.)... Championship: 1st Bob Bishop (NY); 2nd Howard Shapiro (NJ); 3rd/4th Al Hodis (NY), Leon Marini (NJ); Cons.1st/2nd Doug Roberts (NY) and Jeff Acierno (NY). Limited: 1st Sherrie Nelson (NY); 2nd Sally Mara (NY); Cons.1st David Posmantier (NY).
- Green Mountain Festival** (Brownsville, VT; 13-19 Aug.)... Vermont State Championship (35): 1st Herb Gurland (MA); 2nd Ami Tenenbaum (NJ); 3rd/4th Bill Ellis (FL), Al Tesoro (FL). U.S./Canadian Championship (20): 1st Jim Gibbs (CA); 2nd Bill Ellis (FL). Doubles (8): 1st Herb Gurland (MA) & Paul Weaver (MD); 2nd Trish Hegland & Neil Kazaross (CA).
- Palace Summer Championships** (St. Moritz, Switzerland; 16-19 Aug.)... Championship (43): 1st Alberto da Pra (ITA); 2nd Michel Cordier (BEL); Cons.1st Rassoul Shaffaf Zomorodi (GER); L.C.1st M. Hollenderer (GER). Intermediate (28): 1st Claudia Utinger (SWI); 2nd Mr. Cok (GER); Cons.1st Luisa Sequeira (PORT); L.C.1st Mr. Kappeli... A big win for Alberto da Pra, president of the Worldwide Backgammon Federation.
- Summer Cool Tourney** (Oak Brook, IL; 19 Aug.)... Open (28): 1st Deeb Shalati; 2nd Marcy Sloan; 3rd/4th Harry Cohn, Ed Buerger; Cons.1st Bill Davis; Cons.2nd John Spatafora. Limited (15): 1st Femi Owiku; 2nd Mary Franks; 3rd/4th Alice Kay, Phyllis Smolinski; Cons.1st Bobbie Shifrin; Cons.2nd Rich Galeba.
- Fall Connecticut Championship** (Southington, CT; 8 Sept.)... Championship (16): 1st Joe Dinardo (CT); 2nd Jim Pascoe (CT); 3rd/4th Jim Roston (NY), Marcy Kossar (CT). B Div. (8): 1st Steve Kossar (CT); 2nd Art Langlais (CT). Last Chance (8): 1st Gil Evans (NH).
- '90-'91 New England Kickoff** (Cambridge, MA; 9 Sept.)... A Division (30): 1st Rick Barabino; 2nd Gary Garabedian; 3rd/4th Linc Bedell, Walter Trice; Cons.1st Roy Friedman; Cons.2nd Tibby Herman. B Division (11): 1st Andy Latto; 2nd Brian Hall; Cons.1st Paul Farrand.
- Minuteman Club Grand Opening** (Maynard, MA; 16 Sept.)... Open (8): 1st Mike Nelson; 2nd Ed Igoe. Intermediate (3): 1st Ernesto Adrianzen. Δ



## TAKGAMMON



by Tak Morioka

## ANATOMY OF A SIMPLE PLAY

**W**hat do I do with this roll? Is this my play or is there another? How do I determine which one is better?

Did you ever notice how often these questions pop up when you're not sure? Relax! There is no wrong play to worry about. It's only the logic behind the play that's in error.

A play is the offspring of whatever mental process conceived it. What happens to this action when guesswork replaces reason? In this cerebral baby, the play is the flesh and the rationale its skeleton. Without some framework, it becomes a formless mass of skin that can slide into the dark crevices of superstition or be regimented into that unconscious morass called the "automatic play." Structure, however uncertain, has to be there to give the play its form.

There are two kinds of plays in backgammon: cube and checker plays. Both require more than just dice rolls to determine the correct action. Cube decisions use equity as their guide—the 25% rule in money play and probability for matches. You are a trader in this equity marketplace. Whether you cube or recube or take or drop depends on the best available deal at the time. The next question is, "How much of a bargain hunter are you?"

Checker moves are driven by three fundamental concerns:

- FLEXIBILITY—the dice rolls;
- TIMING—the positional speed of the game; and
- VULNERABILITY—the danger inherent to making a particular play.

To maintain a reasonable control over all these factors, you must make adjustments when the balance swings off center. Mistakes are commonplace in this trial and error study. Yet something can be learned from these mistakes. Correcting them often creates more insight than a brilliantly conceived notion. Δ



Fortune Cookie

*Start to worry when you see an apparent truth,  
for it may blind you with its brilliance.*

## WANTED: BACKGAMMON PLAYERS

\$2  
DAILY FEE



## HOURS

Mon. thru Fri.:  
6:00 pm–midnight  
Sat. & Sun.:  
9:00 am–midnight

3518 Devon Ave., Lincolnwood, Illinois 60659  
(708) 675-3993 Les Bale, proprietor

*"Everyday Action in a Clean & Comfortable Surroundings"*

## AMALGAMATION

Rooms for the 24–28 Oct. Caesars Tahoe Tournament are sold out for two reasons: (1) a record tourney crowd is predicted, and (2) Caesars Tahoe is providing closed circuit coverage of the 25 Oct. World Heavyweight Championship fight between **Buster Douglas** and **Evander Holyfield**. For alternate hotel information, call **Mark Richardson** at 702/826-1984 (2:00–5:00 p.m. Pacific) or 702/852-1221 (evenings/weekends)... San Francisco's **Mike Labins** is engaged to be married to **Je Ju Wang**. Our best to the both of them. And yes, he's teaching her to play backgammon... Condolences on the passing of Officer **Mike Spiropoulos**'s mother on 2 Sept.... The *Merriam-Webster Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary* lists the date of earliest recorded use in English for the word "backgammon" as 1645 and "dice" as the 14th century... Former Chicagoan **Arnold Zousmer** and family are settling down in San Diego. He's played at the San Diego BG Club and has a couple of new neighbors: **Pete Roselle** and **Janet Jackson**... Condolences to **Paul Magriel** whose father died last month. **Paul Magriel, Sr.**, well known in New York City as an art collector, connoisseur and former tour guide at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, died of a heart attack. He was 84... Moves: Chicago to Branson, Missouri—**Rudy & Marlies Emmelot**, Las Vegas to Chicago—**Lenny Loder**... The Milwaukee Backgammon Club enjoyed a two-page write-up in the 30 August *Milwaukee Journal*. Organizers **Merrill Schrager** and **Marv Arnol** were quoted along with former Milwaukee player **Bob Holyon** who said backgammon was like "...chess with dice. It's simple enough to play, yet complicated enough to waste a lifetime playing."... Visiting Chicago in Sept.: **John Koonman** (NY) and **Bob Green** (OH)... A number of BPC players sampled **Malcolm Davis**'s Chateau Texas non-alcoholic, super-gourmet pure grape juice at the club 28 Sept. and found it to be delicious. \$3.99 per bottle with a 15% case discount. Call 501/468-2741... And congratulations to Worldwide Backgammon Federation president **Alberto da Pra** on the premiere issue of his new *Backgammon Gazette of Italy*. But we have one question about a bizarre bulletin (no. 7) appearing in the 10 Sept. issue of his other newsletter, the *Official Worldwide Backgammon Gazette*. Why does the WBF officially ignore the terms "Crawford," "Holland," "Jacoby," "Chouette," "Beaver" and "Raccoon"? Δ

# TEACHER'S

## EUROPEAN OPEN BACKGAMMON CHAMPIONSHIPS II



*Casino de Deauville*

DEAUVILLE, FRANCE

29<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER–2<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER 1990

### 100.000 FF ADDED PRIZE MONEY (\$19,000 USD)

- Main Flight, Intermediate & Jackpots
- Special Rates on all facilities
- Five Star Accommodations from 560 FF (Single), 840 FF (Dbl) per night
- Credit card booking on request
- Easy access from London or Paris
- Casino: Roulette, Blackjack, Chemin de Fer, Craps
- Special Rates on Riding, Golf, Tennis, Swimming
- World's Largest Biotherm Spa
- Regine's Disco

TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR: Julian Wilson (UK)  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: Fabian Raspail (France)

*Recognized WBF  
Golden Circuit  
Tournament*

### ENTRY FEE SCHEDULE

Main Flight .....3,000 ff (\$570 USD)  
Intermediate .....1,000 ff (\$190 USD)  
Registration Fee .....500 ff (\$95 USD)

*(Registration Fee includes Welcoming Drink, Gala Dinner, Prize-giving cocktails and buffet. All fees will be collected 28th–29th Nov.)*

### HOTEL INFORMATION

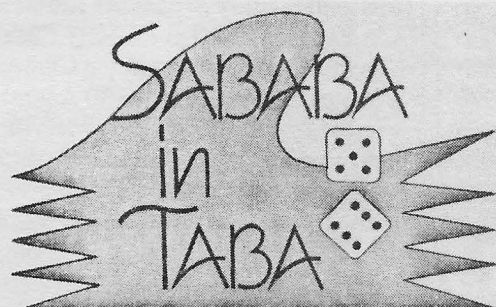
SIMON FERNIOT  
HOTEL NORMANDY  
RUE JEAN-MERMOZ  
14800 DEAUVILLE, FRANCE  
Tel. 31.98.66.22

*Credit card booking on request.*

### INQUIRIES

Direct telephone inquires to  
Julian Wilson (England):  
071-261 1077.

Direct dial from the United  
States: 011 44 71-261 1077.



**HILTON 90**

## ✧ FIRST INTERNATIONAL BACKGAMMON CHAMPIONSHIP ✧ OF THE MIDDLE EAST

**HILTON TABA HOTEL**

**DECEMBER 5TH–9TH, 1990**

### ENTRY FEES

Championship—\$500  
Intermediate—\$250  
Super-Jackpot "Sababa"—\$1000

### PRE-REGISTRATION FEE

\$50 (until Nov. 1st, 1990)  
\$100 (after Nov. 1st, 1990)

**100% of all Entry Fees will be returned to the Player's Prize Pool!**

Information regarding a Special Package Deal including Charter Flights is included in the Tournament Brochure. For More Information or to request a Brochure and Registration Form, please write immediately to:

**Joel Schiff / Vivi Lukmish**  
c/o ZABAR TOURS LTD.  
60 Kazenelson Street  
Giva'taim, Israel 53276

**Fax: (3)311903**  
**Or Call: (3)720683 (3)5714213**  
*For direct dial from USA,  
prefix numbers with: 011 972.*

**A**t the northern tip of the Red Sea, in the alluring resort city of Taba, the First International Backgammon Tournament ever to be held in the Middle East will take place December 5th–9th, 1990. All backgammon players around the globe are welcome to participate in this very special exotic event.

Come and enjoy our "mid-winter sun," have a scuba-diving adventure at some of the most enriched and colorful coral and fish zones in the world, and experience the Hilton Taba's first class oriental hospitality at very low rates.

- ✧ Luxurious ★★★★★ Accommodations
- ✧ Swimming Pool and Spa Resort
- ✧ Nonstop Tournament Activities: Round-The-Clock Jackpots, Warm-up Tournament, Chouette Room, etc.
- ✧ Registration Fee includes Welcoming Cocktail Party, Auction Dinner, and Farewell Prize-Giving Party.

**COME JOIN US AS WE BEGIN A NEW BACKGAMMON TRADITION.**