

8th nevada state championships

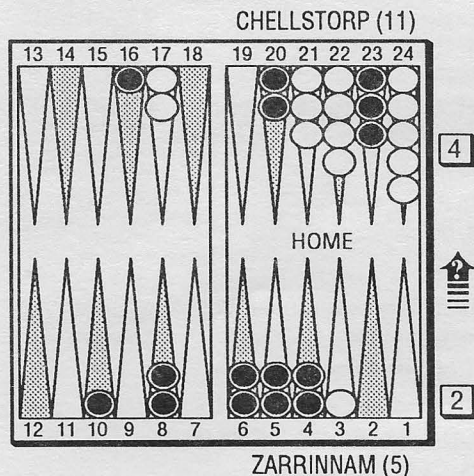
CHELLSTORP WINS WITH DOUBLE 8s

ZALTASH TAKES MASTERS TITLE

Craig Chellstorp, a 38-year-old part time student from San Francisco, CA parlayed back-to-back game wins worth eight points each to capture the 1991 Nevada State Championships. Chellstorp, the 1989 U.S. Open champ, defeated Tom Zarrinnam of Los Angeles 19 to 5 to claim the \$10,000+ first prize. The NNBA's eight annual affair was staged at the Nugget Hotel & Casino in Sparks, NV 30 Jan.-3 Feb 1991. Overall attendance approached 300 players including participation from South America and Europe.

Zarrinnam, who was playing backgammon two years before Chellstorp was born, jumped off to a 5-1 lead in the 19-point finals. It was his last "jump" of the match. Following a double game loss, Tom was gammoned on his own recube to fall behind 11-5. Then it was time for a little déjà vu:

19-point finals. Craig Chellstorp (White) leads Tom Zarrinnam (Black) 11 to 5. **SHOULD BLACK REDOUBLE TO 4?**



Behind 181 to 67 in the pip count, most experts felt that Zarrinnam's redouble was premature. Case in point, Craig was able to slither past danger and bear off unscathed

[Continued on page 9]

RALPH ROBERTS 1913-1991

Ralph B. Roberts organizer and director of the Hoosier Backgammon Club in Indianapolis from 1970 to 1983 is dead. He was 77. Roberts, who had been recently diagnosed as having cancer, went to Florida for the holidays where he took a turn for the worse. He died in Indianapolis 6 Feb. 1991.

In 1970, Ralph Roberts was one of twelve people who formed a corporation to stimulate the growth of backgammon in Indianapolis. Over the years, Roberts would hold tournaments at shopping malls and department stores to introduce new

players to the game during backgammon's heyday. Many will fondly remember the

wonderful Indiana Opens that Roberts directed at the Indianapolis Athletic Club through the 70s and early 80s.

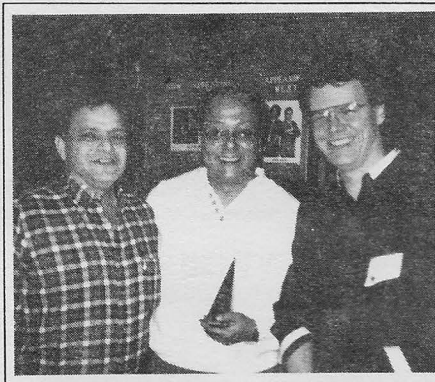
The corporation dissolved in 1980 and Roberts became the sole owner. Three years later, Roberts sold the Hoosier Backgammon Club to Larry Strommen. Butch and Mary Ann Meese took over the club in 1984.

The *Hoosier Backgammon Club* newsletter will eulogize Roberts in their March 1991 issue.



"Don't drink the dice or cast the ice."—Ralph Roberts. [Photo by Doug Roberts first appeared in the Dec. 1981 Las Vegas Backgammon Magazine.]

CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB'S BEST IN 1990



The Awards Night tournament at Pat's Pub (8 Jan.) brought out all of the top ten Bar Point Club players for 1990. From left to right: Photo 1 (Gary Kay-2, Tak Morioka-1, Mark King-3), Photo 2 (Dave Cramer-5, Bruce Wittert-4, Jake Jacobs-9, Yamin Yamin-8, Lucky Nelson-7, Paul Franks-10, Stu Katz-6).

Door prize awards went to: Tak Morioka (Sony TV), Gary Kay (Sharp CD player), Phyllis Smolinski (Sony Dream Machine) and John Demian (Cups by Bob Zavoral).

CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

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LETTERS

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

KIND WORDS FROM THE MAYOR

Thank you for the encouraging remarks expressed in your recent letter and for sending me the precision backgammon dice [last year]. I have enjoyed them tremendously.

I also want to thank you for sharing your newsletter, CHICAGO POINT, and congratulate you on both its circulation and your winning the [1990] Nevada State Backgammon Championship. 1990 was indeed a banner year for you, and I sincerely hope that your success will continue in 1991.

Your continued support is appreciated and valued.—*Richard M. Daley, Mayor of Chicago*

BRAVO TIM

Tim Serges' first person account of his USSR trip to Tblisi and the 1st Open Backgammon Championship of Georgia was one of the most interesting backgammon stories I've ever read. It was amusing, entertaining and informative.—*Yamin Yamin, Deerfield, IL*

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

coming attractions



by Carol Joy Cole
313/232-9731

* Denotes new or revised listing

NATIONAL

Feb 16*	Atlanta Backgammon Association Monthly, Taco-Mac, Atlanta, GA	404/921-0672
Feb 16*	The Garage Door Tournament, Rochester, NY	716/442-8221
Feb 17	Bar Point Mixed Doubles, Braxton Seafood Grill, Oak Brook, IL	312/252-7755
Feb 17	8th Fleet Underwood Memorial Tournament & Benefit, Flint, MI	313/232-9731
Feb 21	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	313/232-9731
Feb 22-24	13th Annual Charity Tournament, Greentree Marriott, Pittsburgh, PA	412/371-5844
Feb 23*	Bayou Club Bimonthly Tournament, Houstonian Hotel, Houston, TX	713/498-4141
Mar 2	Sangamon Valley Monthly Tournament, On Broadway, Springfield, IL	217/789-6275
Mar 3	Cavendish North Monthly Tournament, Southfield, MI	313/642-9616
Mar 3*	IBA Monthly Tournament, Pierce Street Annex, Ft. Lauderdale, FL	305/527-4033
Mar 8-10*	G/A 24th Invitational Tournament, Cavendish West Hollywood, CA	818/901-0464
Mar 10	New England Club Monthly, Sheraton Commander, Cambridge, MA	617/641-2091
Mar 10	IBA Monthly Tournament, Ramada Resort, West Palm Beach, FL	305/527-4033
Mar 10*	Hoosier One-Day Doubles Tournament, Grisanti's, Indianapolis, IN	317/845-8435
Mar 16*	Atlanta Backgammon Association Monthly, Taco-Mac, Atlanta, GA	404/921-0672
Mar 21*	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	313/232-9731
Mar 22-24	1991 Midwest Championships, Marriott Hotel, Oak Brook, IL	312/338-6380
Apr 7*	Cavendish North Monthly Tournament, Southfield, MI	313/642-9616
Apr 13	Spring Connecticut Open, Hall of Fame, Southington, CT	203/755-9749
Apr 14*	Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Fields, Chicago, IL	312/252-7755
Apr 18*	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	313/232-9731
Apr 19-21*	12th Annual Granite State Open, Woodbound Inn, Jaffrey, NH	603/863-4711
Apr 20	College Park Spring Open, Promenade Party Room, Bethesda, MD	301/530-0604
Apr 20*	Atlanta Backgammon Association Monthly, Taco-Mac, Atlanta, GA	404/921-0672
Apr 20-25*	CANCELLED—Queen Elizabeth 2 Cruise Tournament, NY to England	512/267-3968
Apr 21*	New England Club Monthly, Sheraton Commander, Cambridge, MA	617/641-2091
May 3-5	39th Indiana Open, Wyndham Garden Hotel, Indianapolis, IN	317/845-8435
May 24-27*	12th Chicago Open, Westin O'Hare Hotel, Rosemont, IL	708/674-0120
May 24-27*	Boston Symphony Orch. Benefit, Sheraton Commander, Cambridge, MA	617/641-2091
May 30-Jun 2*	Sertoma Spring Invitational tournament, Winn Ranch, Leander, TX	512/267-3968
July 5-7*	Michigan Summer Championships, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	313/232-9731

OUTSIDE USA

Feb 17	South Australian Open, Unley Citizens Centre, Unley, South Australia	08/373 2580
Feb 21-24*	2nd French Open, Hôtel Lutetia, Paris, France	33/4288-6645
Feb 28-Mar 3*	5th International Tournament, Majestic Hôtel, Cannes, France	33/93 39-0101
Mar 4	Hong Kong Club Monthly Tournament, Ladies Recreation Club	852/3 689918
Mar 7-10	27th Ted Bassett & Gstaad Palace-Cup, Palace Hotel, Switzerland	061/331 5816
Mar 14-17	17th Int'l Winter Championships, Palace Hotel, St. Moritz, Switzerland	061/331 5816
Mar 29-Apr 1	Nordic Open, Copenhagen-Vedbæk, Denmark	45/31 22 46 00
Apr 1*	Hong Kong Club Monthly Tournament, Ladies Recreation Club	852/3 689918
Apr 18-21	18th Byblos European Championship, St. Tropez, France	33/9497 0004
Apr 24-28	Australian Open Championship, Hyatt Kingsgate, Sydney, Australia	02/955 7726
May 6-12	Championship of Great Britain, Torrequebrada, Costa del Sol, Spain	44624/851045
May 25-26*	BIBA Trophy Tournament, Post House Hotel, Crick near Rugby, England	0522/721630
Jun 14-16*	3rd International Tournament, Casinò Municipale di Veniza, Italy	041/521 1029
Jul 11-14*	San Remo International Tournament, San Remo, Italy	39/2 76003705
Jul 15-21*	1991 World Championship, Hôtel Loews, Monte-Carlo, Monaco	305/527-4033

Nice article by Tim Serges in last month's POINT. Tim's journalistic flair follows his personality. He should do more.—*Alan Steffen, Kirkland, WA*

The January POINT was a great issue. I especially liked Tim Serges's article on the Russian tournament and Kit Woolsey's succinct analysis of Problem #166. And of course the annual listing of Backgammon Clubs In North America is always valu-

able. Thanks for including Milwaukee backgammon.—*Merrill Schrager, director, Milwaukee Backgammon Club*

PAUL HAD HIS REASONS

Glenn Daily of New York inquires in the January Letters section about what happened to Paul Magriel's old New York Times backgammon columns after 21 June 1979. I became a backgammon buff back

[Continues]

then and devoutly collected Magriel's weekly column. The column ceased for some unknown reason until 4 Nov. 1979 and reappeared weekly thereafter until 13 July 1980.

During the early 80s period, I also subscribed to the now defunct Backgammon Times which was published quarterly between Sept. 1981 and April 1984. The Sept. 1981 issue discussed backgammon columnists and explained the reason why Magriel discontinued his column. The article by Michael Pack appearing on page 2 said in part:

"Paul Magriel says he stopped writing his column because 'it was too much of a drain psychologically to get it in every week,' which is understandable, if regrettable, given his busy schedule.

"Jim Greenfield, assistant managing editor of The Times, confirmed that Paul Magriel left by his own choice. 'I was happy with Paul,' said Greenfield, 'even though he was always late with his articles. I was sorry to see him leave.'"

I hope this answers Mr. Daily's questions.—Francis Charney, Alexandria, VA

REQUEST FOR MORE NEIL

Can we expect to see any more CHICAGO POINT articles by Neil Kazaross in the near future?—Tim Serges, Arlington Hts., IL

Neil has something in the works for Lead-

ingEdge Backgammon, and won't write for us until later this year. In the meantime, why not subscribe to LeadingEdge? Send \$30 (\$45 overseas) to Roy Friedman; 18 Potter Pond; Lexington, MA 02173.—Ed.

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE MISSING CHECKER?

Could you please print the accepted ruling for when a checker is found missing in the middle of the game? This would help solve a dispute here in Toronto.—Constantin Kritsonis, Toronto, ONT, Canada

Rule 4.7 of the U.S. Backgammon Tournament Rules & Procedures states: "An incorrect starting position must be corrected prior to the fifth roll of the game. Thereafter the existing setup becomes official. Players starting with less than 15 checkers in play may still be gammoned or backgammoned."

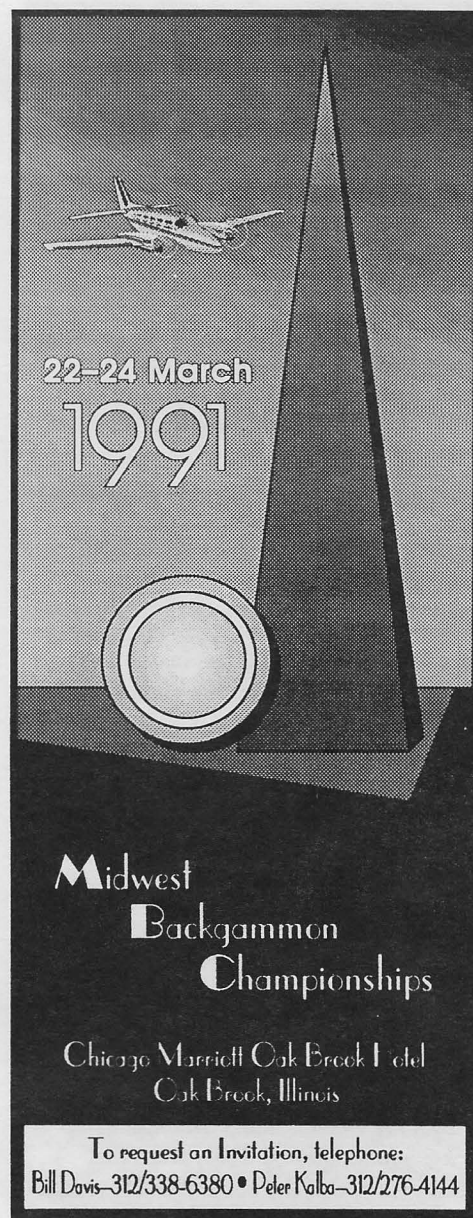
For a copy of the U.S. Rules, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to CHICAGO POINT; 2726 W. Lunt Ave.; Chicago, IL 60645-3039.—Ed.

LIKES THE FLYER

Your invitation to the Midwest Backgammon Championships is excellent—so good, I didn't want to cut out the entry form! See you 22 March.—Jeff Henry, St. Charles, IL

To request an invitation to this "No Smoking" event, write: Chicago Bar Point Club; 2726 W. Lunt Ave.; Chicago, IL 60645-3039.—Ed.

[Continued on page 5]



22-24 March
1991

Midwest
Backgammon
Championships

Chicago Marriott Oak Brook Hotel
Oak Brook, Illinois

To request an Invitation, telephone:
Bill Davis-312/338-6380 • Peter Kalba-312/276-4144



1991 BPC PLAYER OF THE YEAR

COMPILED
THRU JAN. 31

TAK MORIOKA	9.76	BEVERLY KLENE	1.20	Dean Muench	0.56
DAVE CRAMER	5.04	HOWARD MARKOWITZ	1.20	René Wojtysiak	0.56
GEORGE BARR	2.80	GREG TRY	0.92	Jolie Lewis	0.52
RALPH LEVY	2.52	ALICE KAY	0.88	Bill Davis	0.48
JOE KOUCARIAN	2.44	TIM SERGES	0.88	Herb Roman	0.48
STEVE POTASHNICK	2.40	FRANK CALLEA	0.88	Ken Bond	0.48
ALEX ITKIN	2.24	SARG SERGES	0.88	Lenny Loder	0.48
LUCKY NELSON	2.00	Deeb Shalati	0.84	Mike Cohen	0.40
JAKE JACOBS	1.92	Mark King	0.80	Jeff Vaughn	0.32
BRUCE WITTERT	1.92	Ed Buerger	0.80	Alex Caraplis	0.32
DON DESMOND	1.68	Mary Franks	0.72	Don Jayhan	0.24
BETSY MILLER	1.52	David Rockwell	0.72	Richard Stawowy	0.20
DAVID RUBIN	1.36	Bobbie Shifrin	0.68	Don Marek	0.20
DAVID LYNN	1.28	Phyllis Smolinski	0.64	Mickey Kaplan	0.16
JOANN FEINSTEIN	1.28	Gary Kay	0.64		

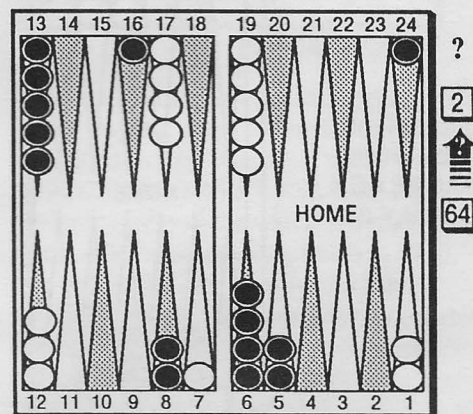
No letup for TAK MORIOKA. Our 1990 Player of the Year came out smoking in January with an incredible 24-3 match-winning record and 9.76 points. That eclipses Gary Kay's 9.28 record total set in August 1989.

Dave Cramer (5.04) and George Barr (2.40) were runners-up.

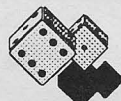
your move

PROBLEM #168

Money game. SHOULD BLACK DOUBLE? IF BLACK DOUBLES, SHOULD WHITE TAKE?



ASK DANNY



by Danny Kleinman

BACKGAMMON AND WAR

Dear Danny: I have always loved backgammon because it is a game of strategy, not unlike fighting a war. Now, with the allied forces locked in a real war with Iraq, I find it increasingly difficult to concentrate on the game. Many have said that winning backgammon strategies can be successfully applied to actual events in life. With that in mind, how should our Commander-in-Chief plan to win this war?—Distracted in Denver

DEAR DISTRACTED: War has in common with backgammon and other games of skill only one element: strategy. Unlike games, it does not have "winning" and "losing": it only has *losing*. In modern war, no "prize" to be won compensates for killing, destruction, waste and other losses incurred in winning. The best strategy, therefore, is for avoiding war.

Alas, the time for avoiding war is long past. It ended on 2 August 1990, when Iraq invaded Kuwait. While we might criticize the bad moves which permitted or encouraged this war, the only sensible objective now is to minimize losses.

Barclay Cooke, in his *Championship Backgammon*, quoted freely from the military advice of the ancient Chinese sage

Sun Tzu. Frankly, I find these quotes of dubious value for backgammon, and perhaps for modern war as well. Two, however, may apply to the Iraqi War:

- (1) *"You should not linger in desolate ground."* This speaks against the deployment of large armies in the Arabian desert.
- (2) *"For to win one hundred victories in one hundred battles is not the acme of skill. To subdue the enemy without fighting is the supreme art of war."* This points to a familiar backgammon strategy: *winning with the cube*. Bear in mind, though, that there is no winning in war, only avoiding a greater loss.

What does the cube represent? A proposal to raise the stakes, and an attempt to win the current stake by threatening the enemy with a greater loss if he takes. By passing, he can limit his loss to 1 point. By taking, he can lose as much as 6 points—a backgammon at the 2-level.

Saddam Hussein was offered a wash. This offer was kept open, despite the loss already suffered by his victims, until 15 January 1991. In my opinion, the settlement offer was far too generous.

Now Saddam can lose 1 point. The threat of a 1 point loss, apparently, was insufficient to induce him to accept a wash. But I wonder how Saddam would view a 6 point loss? I suspect he might pass a double if he could expect to be backgammoned on the current roll.

What is the real-life analog to such a cube-turn?

A threat to use nuclear weapons.

Would such a threat be credible?

You bet. Saddam knows he wouldn't hesitate to nuke Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Iran, the Kurds in Iraq, Israel or the United States if he had the bomb. He won't imagine George Bush to feel differently unless Bush shows that he feels differently.

And so the cube should be offered: "Surrender or be nuked to oblivion."

Just as in backgammon, a player who has been doubled should be given time to ponder his decision. Saddam may be Captain of his Crew, but it is a consulting chouette. Given time, those in Iraq who now support him may persuade him to pass—or wrest the cube decision from his hands.

What if they're all Diana Dialacubes who take everything, or Oblivious Olgas who don't realize how bad their position is? Then they, with Saddam, may take, and any U.S. Commander-in-Chief worth his salt will backgammon them. A take is unlikely but cannot be excluded.

Isn't the terrible destruction wrought by nuclear weapons immoral? Only if we don't consider the alternatives. A long war or a ground war will cause far more suffering, spread among more people over a longer period of time. President Bush can minimize *our* losses, and probably the losses of Iraqis as well, by turning the cube promptly.—Yours, Danny Δ

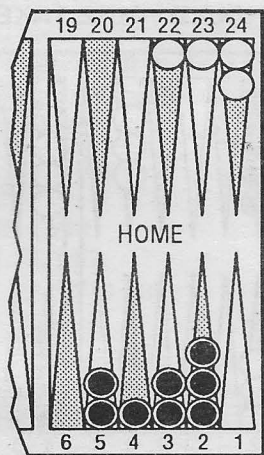
Questions for Danny Kleinman should be addressed to: Ask Danny, c/o CHICAGO POINT, 2726 W. Lunt Avenue, Chicago, IL 60645-3039.

HASTY PLAYS



by Duane Jensen

Tournament double match point. **BLACK TO PLAY 6-1.**



After bearing off the 6, what's the best way to play the 1 in this double match point position?

4/3 is right with the ace. This play gets the most out of double 3s by allowing Black to bear off three checkers.

Black did not make this play. In fact, Black did not make *any* play. After rolling the 6-1, he put down his dice cup and shook his opponent's hand, conceding the match. He hadn't rolled double 5s or 6s, so he surrendered. Admittedly, Black's winning chances after rolling 6-1 were slim (only about 1 in 20,000), but the time required to allow this possible miracle to happen is only a matter of seconds.

Many players concede matches out of frustration. Stop rolling when it's mathematically impossible to win, not when your winning chances are remote. Don't offer your opponent the "hasty handshake." Δ

1990 ILLINOIS PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

Chicago Bar Point Club: **Tak Morioka**
 Pub Club: **Ed Bauder**
 Winnetka BG Club: **Marty Tatosian**
 Central Illinois BG Club: **Doc Rushford**
 Sangamon Valley BG Assn.: **Gary Schechter**



Winnetka Club director Trudie Stern with Marty Tatosian—her club's best in 1990.

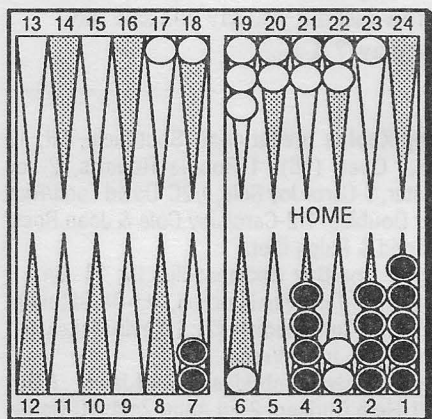
LETTERS...

[Continued from page 3]

DISAGREEMENT WITH A MASTER

I have had the opportunity to read (and to read over again) Bill Robertie's *Advanced Backgammon* and Roy Friedman's *World Class Backgammon, Move By Move*, both of which I consider extremely interesting. However, I have a strong disagreement with one of the problem analyses in Mr. Robertie's book:

Problem #192 from *Advanced Backgammon* by Bill Robertie. **BLACK TO PLAY 2-1.**



Part of the analysis reads: "The last two problems were at least close; Problem 192 is not even that. Hitting and passing with 7/6*/4 leaves White a whopping 10 shots

from the bar. Black does much better to wait with 4/1."

In my opinion, 7/6*/4 at this stage is at least equal to 4/1 and may in fact be better. Let's look at the scenarios following each move:

Black plays 4/1

- Next turn, White will make her 2-point with every roll except 2-1, thus improving her position.
- Looking at Black's next 36 rolls...
 - 14 rolls will leave one blot (6-6, 5-5, 6-2, 6-1, 5-2, 5-1, 4-1, 3-2),
 - 6 rolls leave a double blot (6-4, 5-4, 4-2),
 - 7 rolls postpone the situation for one roll (4-4, 4-3, 3-1, 2-1), and
 - 9 rolls are good for Black (6-5, 5-3, 3-3, 2-2, 1-1).

Black plays 7/6*/4

- If White doesn't roll one of the 10 numbers that allow her to enter and hit, Black will likely be home free and have an improved chance for a gammon.
- If White does hit, Black is by no means dead...
 - White cannot both hit Black and cover any of the blots on her side of the board,
 - Black is a 5-to-4 favorite to enter his next roll with 10 rolls (1-1, 1-6, 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 2-4) hitting one blot and 4 additional numbers whacking two men (2-5, 2-6). Of course, some of these hits will also produce gammon wins.

I feel that these figures show that Black should take his chance now and hit with 7/6*/4.—Antonio Ortega, two-time national backgammon champion of Costa Rica

THANKS, WOODMAN

Allow my subscription to the best backgammon letter to expire?—never! Muchos kudos to you for such a fine publication.—Woody Woodworth, Indianapolis, IN Δ

1991 hawthorne backgammon classic

MORIOKA AND LEWIS IN PHOTO FINISHES

Chicagoans Tak Morioka and Jolie Lewis went down to the wire in their final matches to respectively win the Open and Limited divisions of the Hawthorne Backgammon Classic. The third annual Bar Point Club special event was held at the Hawthorne Race Course in Cicero, IL on 26 Jan. 1991. 42 players from three states participated.

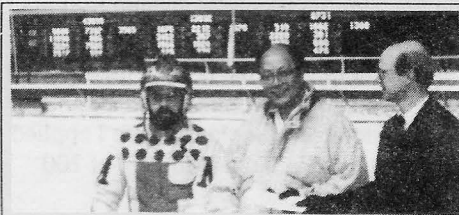
Tak nosed out Howard Markowitz in the Open finals and Jolie came back from a 4-0 deficit to defeat Greg Try 5-4 in the Limited finals.

Thanks to Hawthorne's Caryl Meadows for her assistance in coordinating this fun event. Complete results: Δ

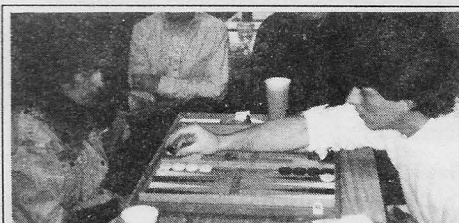
HAWTHORNE BACKGAMMON CLASSIC

OPEN (29): 1-Tak Morioka, 2-Howard Markowitz, 3/4-Don Desmond/Mark King; 1C-Dean Muench, 2C-Dave Cramer

LIMITED (13): 1-Jolie Lewis, 2-Greg Try, 3/4-Richard Stawowy/Bobbie Shifrin; 1/2C-Joe Koucharian/Don Marek



Open winner Tak Morioka (center) pictured with the 7th race winning driver Ron Marsh.



Trailing 4-0, Jolie Lewis begins her comeback vs. Greg Try in the Limited finals.

The Pittsburgh Backgammon Association sponsors the

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HAROLD'S VIEW

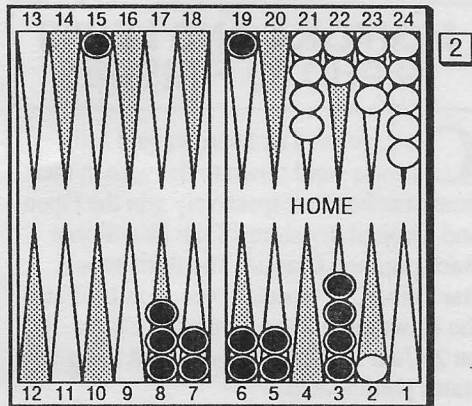


by Harold Branch

WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?

Do you sometimes think that between a couple of alternative moves, your play is more a matter of style than of substance? Look at this sample:

Money game. **BLACK TO PLAY 6-4.**



Study this a few minutes. Line up your alternatives in order of effectiveness. Then come back to the remainder of this piece. Please. It will be worth the trouble.

...

OK. Back again. This is Problem #207 in *Advanced Backgammon* by Bill Robertie. It illustrates a vital point (as do two other positions with the same emphatic theme: *Vision Laughs At Counting* (p. 323) by Danny Kleinman and *Lee Genud vs. Joe Dwek* (p. 166) by Bill Robertie).

The right move is, as Bill says, 15/9 and 8/4, slotting immediately and backing it up. Counter-intuitive, isn't it? The last time I went through the book, I missed it. Again! Did you get it on the first try?

Let's look at four plays where I applied the "Primitive Random Roll-off" of 200 samples to each one.

Play A: 15/5

The most inept of the bunch. It minimizes coverage of the 4-point and coordinates poorly. In total net points, Black won only 4.

Play B: 19/9

Fair. This covers and coordinates better. Better cohesion. Net total for Black 30.

Play C: 19/13, 15/11

The "Prevent." Better still. It double covers the escape routes for this one roll. Then the men are placed fairly well to continue. Black won 56.

Play D: 15/9, 8/4

The "Slot." Best by far. Bill gives the reasons: Two days behind in the race, you have to have the 4-point to win. The deadheads on the 3-point mean you don't have much building material to work with. You will still win a moderate number of games after the slot gets hit. When a point is vital and you have to have it, you *go for it*. Black's net was a "mere" 100.

Look at those startling differences! In this position, at least, our play makes a huge difference.

Suppose for a minute, a really good player missed this move and you considerably brought it to his attention. Would he offer some self-serving, phony alibi? NO. He would be greatly embarrassed; would say that he had made an enormous blunder; that the play was easy, thematic, and stood

out a mile! And he would be right. It's very easy to see, when you see it.

OK, you say. Maybe so. But now, about those blots: how often did Black get himself gammoned?

I was afraid you would forget to ask. In Play A, he took it on the chin three times; Play B, six times; Play C, eight times; Play D, 18 times.

The better the play, the more Black got himself gammoned. The safer the play, the weaker the result. When you fight a war, you have to take some casualties. Most wars aren't very safe. If we would rather play for comfort rather than success, we can play "Stack'em."

I think I'm beginning to see one more reason why I don't do better in competition.

How fast did you say you saw the "right play"? Δ

who did what

WINNER'S CORNER



Nov.-Feb. 1991

•**Holland Casino Open** (Nijmegen, Holland; 23-25 Nov.)... Championship (62): 1-Friedel Brokmeier (GER), 2-Uri Green (ISR); 1C-Mats Carlson (SWE); 1LC-Ralf Jonas (GER). Intermediate (63): 1-Fred Den Hejer (HOL), 2-Claus Weissbarth (GER); 1C-Regina Wulff (GER); 1LC-Ulrich Anhalt (GER). Warm-Up: 1-Ton Kleynen (HOL).

•**Teacher's European Open** (Deauville, France; 29 Nov.-2 Dec.)... Championship (98): 1-Stephan Tornros, 2-Michel Serrero, 3/4-Furch/Guillabert; 1C-Sushil Ong, 2C-Bob Wachtel, 3/4C-Gilbert/Chris Ternel; 1LC-Jurek Sarzynski, 2LC-Karl Laubmeier... Entries in all divisions totaled 158 players with a \$45,000 prize fund.

•**Sangamon Valley Monthly** (Springfield, IL; 1 Dec.)... Open (23): 1-Ed Bauder, 2-Lane O'Connor; 1C-Dick Nelson, 2C-Carl Severino; 1LC-Patrick Jaeggi.

•**Bar Point Sunday** (Chicago, IL; 9 Dec.)... Open (30): 1/2-Herb Roman/Bob Zavoral; 3/4-Jeff Kane (WI)/Steve Potashnick; 1C-Gary Kay, 2C-Bill Davis. Limited (15): 1-Joe Koucharian, 2-Darcey Yamin, 3/4-Joann Feinstein/V.W. Zimnicki; 1C-Stan Kucharz, 2C-Joan Hegg.

•**NEBC Monthly** (Cambridge, MA; 9 Dec.)... A Div. (36): 1-Seth Towle, 2-Jim Colen, 3/4 Mike Nelson/Garbis Zerdelian; 1C-Evan Diamond, 2C-Bill Robertie. B Div. (11): 1-Patrice Pisano, 2-Paul Farrand; 1C-Jim McKenna; 1LC-Andy Latto.

•**NY/NJ Co-op Long Island Regional** (Long Island, NY; 16 Dec.)... Open (20): 1/2-Jeff Acierno/Antionette-Marie Williams; 1C-Bob Bishop, 2C-Jeff Baldino. Limited (12): 1-Otto Reisman, 2-James Roston; 1C-Harry Levy, 2C-Roni Zemsch.

•**Sangamon Valley Monthly** (Springfield, IL; 5 Jan.)... Open (14): 1-Dick Nelson, 2-Greg Daniel; 1C-Ed Bauder; 1LC-Larry Whittenberg... An ice storm cut attendance.

•**Sandy Kaplan Invitational** (Southfield, MI; 13 Jan.)... Open (16): 1-Robbie Roberts, 2-Joe Sylvester, 3-Carol Joy Cole; 1/2C-David Todd/Rick Todd. Doubles: 1/2-Carol Joy Cole & Joan Ross/Rick Todd & Ralph Dietz.

•**Hoosier One-Day** (Indianapolis, IN; 13 Jan.)... Open (12): 1-Terry Kuchenbrod, 2/3-David Smith/Don Woods. Intermediate (7): 1-Kevin McLeaster. Novice (7): 1-June Werner.

•**NEBC Monthly** (Cambridge, MA; 13 Jan.)... A Div. (28): 1-Herb Gurland, 2-Ed Abou-Zeid; 1C-Garbis Zerdelian, 2C-Charlie Stathis. B Div. (19): 1-Greg Jundanian, 2-Brian Hall; 1C-Andres Corredor; 1LC-Russ Nahigian.

•**D.I. Long Memorial Invitational** (Louisville, KY; 19 Jan.)... Open (30): 1-John Cox, 2-Bill Rudd; 1C-Butch Meese (IN), 2C-Julius Kozlove.

•**College Park Winter Open** (Bethesda, MD; 19 Jan.)... Open (32): 1-Bob Williamson, 2-Harry Zilli; 1C-Greg Lilley; 1/2LC Joseph Freedman/Kent Goulding.

•**Sangamon Valley Monthly** (Springfield, IL; 19 Jan.)... Open (18): 1-Dick Nelson, 2-Dave Wallace (MO); 1C-Carl Severino, 2C-Larry Whittenburg; 1LC-Lane O'Connor.

•**IBA Monthly** (W. Palm Beach, FL; 20 Jan.)... Open (16): 1-Arnold Cohen. Intermediate (16): 1-Barbara Ramsey.

•**Georgia Backgammon Championships** (Atlanta, GA; 26-27 Jan.)... Championship: 1-Steve Zucker, 2-Jim Hickey, 3-Jim Topping. Advanced: 1-Tom Little, 2-David Green, 3-Jim Wilson. Novice: 1-Chris Cashdollar, 2-Doris Whitlock. Doubles: 1-Dave Cardwell & Richard Weems, 2-Tom Little & Terry Mangold. Blitz: 1-Howard Ring... Over \$2,000 was raised for the Dr. Frank Blaydes Memorial Fund including a large donation by Zucker.

•**Sangamon Valley Monthly** (Springfield, IL; 2 Feb.)... Open (16): 1-Dave Wallace, 2-Mark Kaye; 1C-C. Severino, 2C-Don Marek; 1LC-Gary Schechter.

•**21st Willowbank Invitational** (Shelburne, VT; 3 Feb.)... Open (32): 1-Bob Lumbra, 2-Linc Bedell, 3/4-Jim Kilday/Gardner Soule; 1C-Peter Wilson, 2C-Pat Parsons; 1LC-Julian Harrison, 2LC-Ivan Van Blarcom... Gardner & Sallie Soule report that good times were had by all. Δ

TAKGAMMON



by Tak Morioka

THE CURE

You're in trouble. You've just rolled a horrible number. What's the right play? Does any reasonable action exist?

Looking at the roll, you may want to just surrender. You react to the subsequent pressures by trying to minimize damage. As plays become locked into automatic, the nicety of options is lost. It's much too late to change directions now. What's even the point? There appears to be no escape. The best possible play will likely fail, yet you still search for it. You ask yourself, "How did I get into so much trouble? Where did I go wrong?"

This critical moment captures the drama of the conflict. The problem has been so often depicted that finding a solution to it is the acumen of a great player. What we tend to disregard is that the situation is probably an impressive attempt to correct some previous underlying mistakes.

Fundamental plays are rarely appreciated when they're made. They might be as simple as establishing an anchor or as subtle as splitting the back men for future flexibility. Preventing problems does not reap the glory associated with solving them. I wonder if sometimes we create these challenges merely to show others that we are capable of finding the cure. Δ



Fortune Cookie

The most effective players are rarely involved in flamboyant plays.

flashback

THE 1972 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP—UNFORGETTABLE

by Gardner Soule

The 1972 World Championship of Backgammon was held 17-21 January at the Tropicana Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada. It was directed by Prince Alexis Obolensky and chaired by none other than "Mr. Crawford Rule" himself, John R. Crawford. Sponsored by Seagram's 100 Pipers, the international event was the first major tournament I ever entered.

My wife Sallie and I flew out from Vermont with a plane change in JFK. On the second leg of our flight, we met many other entrants, easily identifiable by their attaché-type boards in the carry-on luggage. The dice were rolling all the way out on the 5 1/2 hour flight to Las Vegas. I learned en route that everyone would be entering the Championship flight, so this untried guy from Vermont abandoned the Intermediate mindset and went all out along with 128 others.

The event was truly an eye-opener. Here assembled were hundreds of people

who loved the game the way I do, and win or lose, it was an experience to be there. My eyes opened even wider when the auction, lead by John Crawford, reached \$93,000 (and these were 1973 dollars).

I won my first match against London Playboy Casino manager Victor Lowmes. His boss, Hugh Hefner, was nearby, playing a friendly game with my next opponent Oswald Jacoby. The legendary gamesman, four-time winner of this event since its 1967 inception, seemed preoccupied with his side play. As a newcomer, I got lost and waited to be paged. Eventually the match began.

"I'm a little ahead in a close match," Jacoby told his wife Mary Zita as she stopped by to ask the score. He was ahead 14-9 in a 17 point match. Shortly thereafter, it was 15-all. Ossie was muttering to himself quite audibly when he realized I was bearing off for the win and he had three men on my inner board. (See diagram at right).

I played (7/1, 4/2), opting to give him only one shot which he hit. I came in with a 1-6 only to get nabbed (of course) on my route home. He signed the score card: "Thank God, Ossie Jacoby."

In the Consolation, I faced John Crawford and lost, but my heart wasn't really in it.

Say What?

The following are four unusual quotes from four well-known backgammon personalities. Match the quote with the individual who said it.

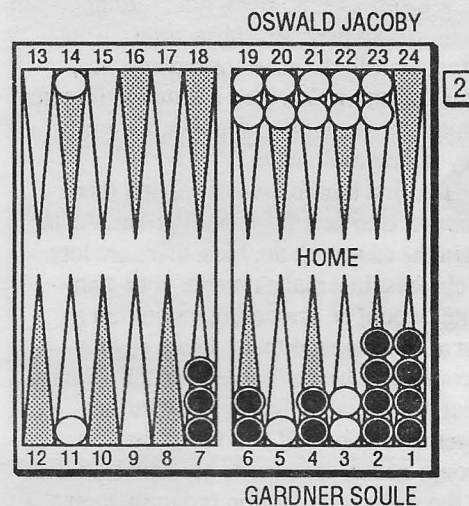
A. Gaby Horowitz **C. Oswald Jacoby**
B. Paul Magriel **D. Joe Dwek**

1. "[Calculating probabilities] plays virtually no part whatsoever in making a good backgammon player."
2. "I think backgammon is just plain luck. Nothing more to it."
3. "There's no such thing as playing any game for mere joy. If you don't have something to lose, you tend not to care. It spoils the game."
4. "This type of myopic assessment of a position is the hallmark of the dilettante player."

ANSWERS:

A-4 (Sept. 1979 Las Vegas BG Magazine), B-1 (1975 BG Magazine), D-2 (1975 Backgammon Illustrated), C-3 (Dec. 1981 Las Vegas Backgammon Illustrated).

1972 Las Vegas World Championship. Round two. 17 point match tied at 15-all. **BLACK TO PLAY 6-2.**



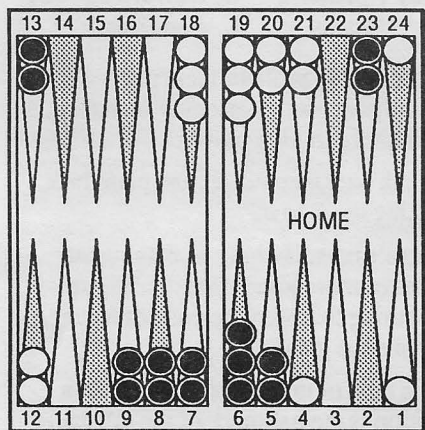
John's future wife, Carol Slotkin, met Louis Deyong in the Championship finals, described by Mr. Deyong in the January 1990 CHICAGO POINT. Carol, the big underdog, played the match at a snail's pace. After nearly putting Louis to sleep, she eventually prevailed for the title.

For Sallie and I, it was an unforgettable experience. We flew home to Vermont, contemplating our next event in St. Maarten. We were hooked. Δ

PROBLEM #167 SOLVED

by Jake Jacobs

Money game with Jacoby Rule in effect. **BLACK TO PLAY 3-3.**



When I was first approached to analyze this problem, I was hesitant. After all, I'm from Chicago. In Chicago, unlike some other parts of the country, we play "consulting" chouettes. In other words, we talk throughout the game. Consequently, our priorities are skewed. Skillful play is not as important as the ability to skillfully insult your fellow players.

We don't spend much time rolling positions out here. All those hours spent doing the rollouts are hours spent away from the action. It's hard to find intelligent comments about the game, but it's pretty easy to find a chouette.

The first hurdle toward solving this problem is to determine our options. As is often the case with doubles, there are lots of choices. In a real chouette, your teammates would be screaming moves out as fast as they spotted them: being right is secondary to being first. Fortunately, I have a list of suggested moves from various experts. A priori, all but one of these are wrong; and as the experts are now shielded by the witness protection program, their suggestions are herewith presented anonymously:

- (a) 13/1*
- (b) 13/4*, 13/10
- (c) 7/4* (2), 13/7
- (d) 7/4* (2), 13/10 (2)
- (e) 7/1* (2)

Eyeballing the list, it seems as though we face a daunting task assessing the relative merits of these plays as they affect Black's priming, timing and blitz potential. This is

not really so. Currently, the cube is centered. As is often the case, this short term factor overwhelms any long term considerations.

Of course by now in a Chicago chouette, this game would have doubling cubes perched on both sides of the board at various altitudes (though probably not my own). That's because there are two types of Chicago players: "The Astronauts" and "The Ground Crew." I align myself with the latter group. While others' cubes are wafting around in the stratosphere, I prefer to steal my points early so that I can concentrate on more important things like flirting with the cocktail waitress or wandering around insulting the players in other chouettes.

Fortunately, even players who would rather pass a kidney stone than a doubling cube will drop one just to shut me up. Accordingly, the play we choose will be the one that leads to the most cube turns. Here's the review:

- (a) No double after any 1, or after 2-2, 3-3, 4-4, 2-3, 2-4 and 3-4. I haven't bothered to analyze beyond these twenty. Jockey Jake's touting report says, "This nag won't make it out of the starting gate."
- (b) No double after 18 return shots, but a double-out otherwise. Jockey Jake says, "A fast start, but could tire early."
- (c) 17 cube-savers might turn into a real slugfest on 15 return shots, and 3-2 is a respectable miss. Still, there are 19 immediate wins. Jockey Jake says, "Here's a sprinter that wouldn't mind running in the mud."
- (d) A very pure play. Only nine winners, but well placed otherwise. White has no really strong immediate response. Jockey Jake says, "This one has no speed rating. Bet on it, but only to place or show."
- (e) 21 immediate winners! 1-1, 1-5, 1-6, 5-5, 5-6, 6-6, 3-1, 3-5, 3-6, 4-1, 4-5 and 4-6. Six more double-ins: 2-1, 2-5 and 2-6. No double, but a strong position after 2-3, 2-4 and 3-4. Even the three entering doubles are hardly crushing rejoinders. Jockey Jake says, "Here's the pick for your daily double."

Not that Jockey Jake wants to stir up trouble by saddling you with a play that makes the dreaded guff. Actually, the trickiest part of this play is getting someone else to suggest it so that afterwards you can razz them for making the ace-point. Not to worry, though. In Chicago, someone always wants to make the ace-point. Δ

THE CHICAGOLAND ALL-TIME TOP 50

1974-1990 Inclusive

1 Howard Markowitz 430.21	26 Peter Kalba 123.82
2 Tak Morioka 389.14	27 John Demian 108.63
3 Bill Davis 340.35	28 Phyllis Smolinski 103.15
4 Yamin Yamin 248.82	29 Steve Tennant 100.06
5 Chris Stanford 232.64	30 Brooks Robinson 96.82
6 Don Desmond 222.57	31 Jim Gibbs 94.05
7 Bobbie Shifrin 207.65	32 Jeff Henry 93.12
8 Ed Bauder 203.76	33 Frederick Grand 80.00
9 Randy Cone 199.94	34 Dale Barker 75.56
10 Kent Maynard 177.97	35 Sam Hakimi 74.66
11 Gene Chait 170.14	36 Stu Katz 71.80
12 Barry Epstein 169.58	37 Ken Bond 70.95
13 Phil Martorelli 163.47	38 Charles Peres 69.87
14 Ron Garber 158.98	39 Don Jayhan 69.22
15 Earl Risch 158.60	40 Marlene Weinstein 68.53
16 Dave Cramer 154.15	41 David Libchaber 68.52
17 Kathy Rudnick 153.94	42 Lenore Steelman 68.43
18 Dean Morehouse 153.92	43 Paul Larson 67.73
19 Joann Feinstein 151.35	44 Mike Siegel 67.18
20 Sarg Serges 148.13	45 Greg Shore 67.08
21 Deeb Shalati 148.06	46 Gary Kay 65.68
22 Harry Cohn 142.00	47 Ollie Mullenbach 65.13
23 Lucky Nelson 139.22	48 Ed Buerger 62.72
24 Ira Hoffberg 130.80	49 Marty Tatosian 62.32
25 Ida Zeman 130.56	50 Dean Muench 59.60

(1594 names on file)

JUNIOR MASTER-3 MASTER-10 ADVANCED MASTER-25
SENIOR MASTER-50 ADVANCED SENIOR MASTER-100
GRAND MASTER-200 CHICAGOLAND LIFE MASTER-300

Current area clubs awarding sanctioned Chicagoland master points: Chicago Bar Point Club, Pub Club, Winnetka BG Club.

Past clubs included in all-time listings: National Backgammon League, House of Backgammon, Pub Club West, Gammon's of Chicago, Cubicle. Δ



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 P.M. at Fields, 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).

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL BG CLUB: Tourn. 1st/3rd/5th Tuesday, 6:30 P.M. at Bennigan's, 115 Veteran's Parkway, Normal. Lane O'Connor (309/454-1947).

WINNETKA BG CLUB: Tournaments Wednesday, 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: Tourn. alt. Sat., 1:00 P.M. at Tuley Park Fieldhouse, 90th & King, Chgo. Reggie Porter (312/471-5066).

NORTH CLUB: Daily side play except Sunday at 4747 W. Peterson (402), Chgo. Howard Markowitz (312/286-8417).

CHELLSTORP WINS...

[Continued from page 1]

for another redoubled gammon and the Nevada State title.

CALL HIM "MASTER" ZALTASH

"I needed to win this to cover my losses in the casino!" So claimed Pittsburgh restaurateur Ali Zaltash after defeating Seattle's Jay Kurzet 25-22 to win the Masters Invitational. 16 of the best players in North America (including European Golden Circuit champ Thomas Lumper of Germany), anted up \$2,000 each to participate in this fifth annual major side event.

In the semifinals, Zaltash had his hands full with Chicago's Howard Markowitz, but managed a come-from-behind win. Kurzet, a professional poker player with 11 years backgammon experience, was locked in an equally difficult semifinal battle vs. top-seeded New Yorker Wilcox Snellings. Zaltash and Kurzet both received the lowest bids in the Calcutta; hence, Kurzet's win set up an "underdog" finals.

The 25-point match began at 3:00 p.m. with Bill Robertie and Kit Woolsey on hand to analyze both players' games for the closed circuit TV audience. Ali won the first game and Kurzet the second. Then Ali won a doubled gammon for a 5-1 lead. Following six more games (all one-pointers), Zaltash was on top 7-5.

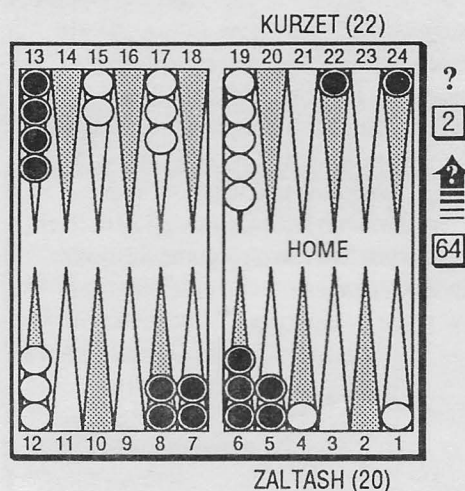
"Kurzet is playing super-tight with the cube," commented *Inside Backgammon* editor Robertie. "I would say his long-term outlook isn't very good. Perhaps the gammon loss in game three made him timid." Woolsey (a semifinalist this year) agreed, also preferring Zaltash's more aggressive style.

Both competitors continued to trade punches with Kurzet getting the best of it. Zaltash offered eight cubes and Kurzet turned five of them around. Perhaps Zaltash was offering doubles a bit early. The first break was taken with Jay Kurzet ahead 20-13.

Following the break, Zaltash sat down with two bottles of Heineken beer. Perhaps he remembered Billy Horan's success in buying Tino Lechich a Heineken at the 1990 World Cup [See Sept. 1990 CHICAGO POINT]. In this match, however, Zaltash drank alone.

Ali had sliced Jay's lead to 22-20 when the following position arose in the 30th game of the match:

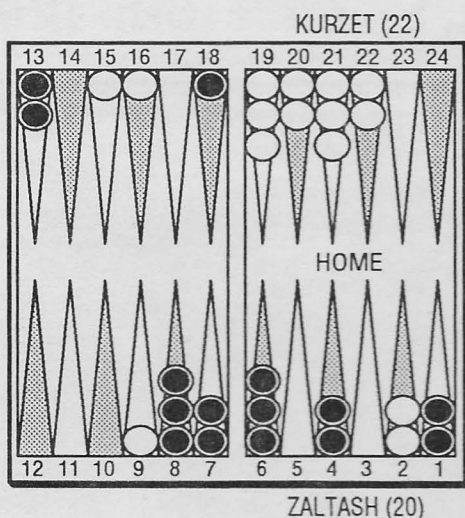
25-point finals. Jay Kurzet (White) leads Ali Zaltash (Black) 22 to 20. **SHOULD BLACK DOUBLE? IF BLACK DOUBLES, SHOULD WHITE TAKE?**



Zaltash cubed and Kurzet deliberated for a minute before taking. After the fact, it turned out to be the wrong decision. Ali tossed a timely double 4 and Kurzet never saw daylight, losing a gammon and the lead 24-22.

In the last game, Zaltash faced an interesting play:

25-point finals. Ali Zaltash (Black) leads Jay Kurzet (White) 24 to 22. **BLACK TO PLAY 3-1.**



After much deliberation, Ali made his 5-point. Kurzet hit the 18-blot with 6-2, and Ali effectively nailed the coffin shut with a return 6-1 (Bar/24/18*). \$22,000 to Zaltash.

IN THE OTHER MAIN EVENTS...

Trish Hegland (CA) was the "cream of the crop" in the Intermediate division. And teenager Geronimo Timerman brought a

Novice first place trophy back to Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Elsewhere, Germany's Thomas Lumper started his American tour on an up-note defeating Wilcox Snellings in the \$500 Bonanza. On the strength of double 2s, this reporter topped NNBA co-director Jim Roderick to win the Kickoff tournament. Jim Pasko and Roy Springer (CA) bought a block of eight entries and won three matches in a row to take the Doubles. Ron Bruns and Julia Handberry (CA) made a splash in the Midnight Mixed Doubles. And Frank Frigo (CA) and Mike Sherman (NV) respectively won the Open and Intermediate Jackpots. The complete results: Δ

8th NEVADA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

OPEN (104)

MAIN: 1-Craig Chellstorp (CA), 2-Tom Zarrinam (CA), 3/4-Kit Woolsey (CA)/Arno Strombom (FIN), 5/8-Chuck Giallanza (NV)/Jack Kissane (NY)/Farzan Garmroodi (CA)/Bob Wachtel (CA). CONSOLATION: 1-Richard Love (CA), 2-Don Kandel (NY), 3/4-Thomas Lumper (GER)/Florrie Snyder (PA). LAST CHANCE: 1-Howard Ring (IL), 2-Ralph Stowell (MN).

INTERMEDIATE (122)

MAIN: 1-Trish Hegland (CA), 2-Tom Leslie (CA), 3/4-Sirkka Strombom (FIN)/Al Senter (CA), 5/8-Jim Colen (MA)/Joe Ingargiola (NV)/Cinda King (IL)/Leslie Lockett (IL). CONSOLATION: 1-Doug Amenda (AZ), 2-Scott Cole (CA), 3/4 Carla Gibson (CA)/Forest Winningham (CA). LAST CHANCE: 1-Ziyad Ghabra (CA), 2-Peter Kalba (IL).

NOVICE (38)

MAIN: 1-Geronimo Timerman (ARG), 2-Lynette McCann (WA), 3/4-William Jastrow (CA)/Linda Calvey (CA). CONSOLATION: 1-Ed Lopez (CA), 2-Brett Baer (CA), 3/4-Diana Piansko (MI)/William Werner (CA). LAST CHANCE: 1-Luciano Timerman (ARG), 2-Joanna Marsala (NV)

MASTERS INVITATIONAL (16)

1-Ali Zaltash (PA), 2-Jay Kurzet (WA)

BONANZA (40)

1-Thomas Lumper (GER), 2-Wilcox Snellings (NY), 3/5-Emil Mortuk (MI)/Florrie Snyder (PA)/Kit Woolsey (CA)

KICKOFF (512)

1-Bill Davis (IL), 2-Jim Roderick (NV), 3/4-Ray Baker (CA)/Perry Gartner (NJ)

DOUBLES (57)

1-Jim Pasko & Roy Springer (CA), 2-Ira Hoffberg (IL) & Doug Mayfield (CA), 3/4-Joe Harris & Azzam Masarani (CA)/Arthur Benjamin & Trish Hegland (CA)

MIDNIGHT MIXED DOUBLES (4)

1-Ron Bruns & Julia Handberry (CA)

OPEN JACKPOT (64)

1-Frank Frigo (CA), 2-Samra Hadden (GA)/Howard Robinson (FL)

INTERMEDIATE JACKPOT (64)

1-Mike Sherman (NV), 2-Peter Panagotacos (CA), 3/4-Ira Hoffberg (IL)/Mark King (IL)

AMALGAMATION

Nevada Tourney Nuggets: NBA directors **Mark Richardson** and **Jim Roderick** announced that their next event will very likely be held 16-20 Oct. at a deluxe hotel/casino in Costa Rica with five-figure added prize money. The event will be run in conjunction with **Mario Madrigal** and the Costa Rican BG Association... Chicago's **Howard Markowitz** used the Calcutta Auction at the recent Nevada State Championships to announce is return to directing backgammon tournaments. Mr. Markowitz will co-direct (with **Joann Feinstein**) two Chicago area events in 1991: the Chicago Open in Rosemont (24-27 May) and a tournament at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare (25-27 Oct.)... Although BPC player **Leslie Lockett** did well at the Nevada State Championships (Intermediate quarterfinalist), she did even better at the slot machines hitting the \$4,400 jackpot... There's no truth to the rumor that Nugget hotel security had to use a crow bar to pry **Phyllis Smolinski** off the Pai-Gow Poker

table..... "She never met an opinion she didn't have."—That's how New Jersey director **Ron Whitney** describes New York's **Antoinette-Marie Williams**... Oops! The winner of the Georgian Open Backgammon Championships was **Faik Guseinov**, not *Guspinov* as incorrectly reported in last month's POINT... Visiting the Bar Point Club in Jan.: **Steve Hughes** (NY), **Tom Roach** (TX) and **Larry Deckel** (WI)... Welcome to Chicago: **Peter Berkman**, who recently moved here from Massachusetts... British game designer **David Greenacre** sent us the rules to a new game he calls American-Backgammon™. For information on how to obtain a copy of the 59 page rule book, write David at 3422 Durocher St. (7); Montreal, QB H2X 2E2; Canada... **Alberto da Pra** of the Worldwide Backgammon Federation reports that **Thomas Lumper** of Germany is the Golden Circuit European Champion of 1990... According to an ad in the December *Travel & Leisure* magazine, British Airways' new economy class, "World Traveller" offers patrons (among other amenities) backgammon boards to help pass the flying time... In this time of

war, what is the lure of backgammon and other games? Loyola University professor **Victor Edmonds** says, "It's the way they create order in a chaotic world. We want to spend time inhabiting a nice little world where all the rules are clear and everybody's playing by them. It's a simplified reality where the definition of success is very clear and we're all agreed on it. That kind of frees us up to have the fun."... Congratulations to **Jeff & Charlene Henry** on the birth of their daughter **Renata Nicole Henry** on 22 January 1991... Bagwells, the Bar Point Club location for Sunday bimonthly backgammon, was sold last month. The new restaurant is called Fields. But not to worry: Fields manager **Harry Bockos** says we will be able to continue playing backgammon there... Attention backgammon players in Rogers Park, Chicago. Beachview Pub owner **Bill Behles** informs us that he loosely organizes backgammon play Tuesday nights at 9:00 P.M. (7638 N. Rogers). If you can't make it on Tuesdays, the Beachview offers Turtle Races Thursdays. [Sounds like **Carol Joy Cole**'s kind of bar!] Δ

1991 Championship of Great Britain

Costa del Sol, Spain † 6th-12th May 1991



EVENTS

- Championship Div. £350
- Intermediate Div. £120
- Novice Division £60

Tournaments include 1st & 2nd Consolations and a Last Chance (100% to Winners).

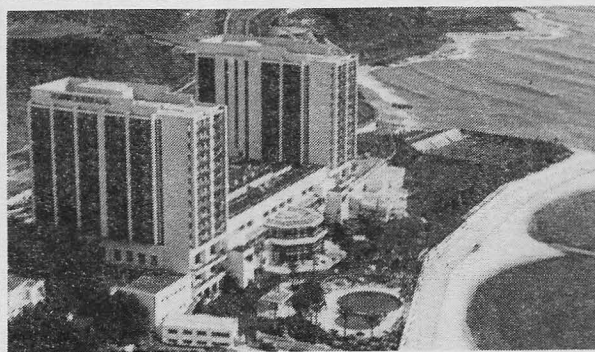
REGISTRATION

Player £60
Guest £50 also...

- £25,000 Manx-Med King Pot (7th-12th May)
- Mini-Jackpots
- Super-Jackpots
- Calcutta Auction
- WBF Golden Circuit event

Registration includes Seminars by Bill Robertie and Joe Sylvester, Welcoming Cocktail Party, Gala International and Spanish Cabaret and Prize-giving Cocktail Party.

Isle of Man goes Mediterranean



The 1991 Isle of Man Championship of Great Britain will be held on the Mediterranean coast at the new Hotel Torrequebrada. The Torrequebrada has a fine casino, luxury rooms, many restaurants, private beach on the Mediterranean Sea, tennis and a health club.

This new luxury resort on the Costa del Sol is only about 7 miles from Málaga International Airport, with very easy direct access from most major cities or via Madrid. Join us!

Hercules, Baron of Culereuch
DIRECTOR

TORREQUEBRADA BACKGAMMON PACKAGE RATES

Including breakfast, service fees and all taxes

Twin Room £50 per person/night
Single £85 per night
Suite On Request

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Send your reservations to:

Hotel Torrequebrada
Attention: Alexandra
29630 Benalmadena
Costa del Sol, P.O. Box 67
SPAIN

Or: Tel. (952) 44.60.00
Fax (952) 44.57.02
(USA prefix: 011 34)
Telex 77528 KSNO E

INQUIRIES/BROCHURES

Colin Roberts, GTP
65, Balsall Heath Road
Birmingham B5 7NG
ENGLAND

In North America, telephone:
Bill Davis (312/338-6380), or
Carol Joy Cole (313/232-9731).