

chicago fall classic

## ALAN STEFFEN STOPS COHN

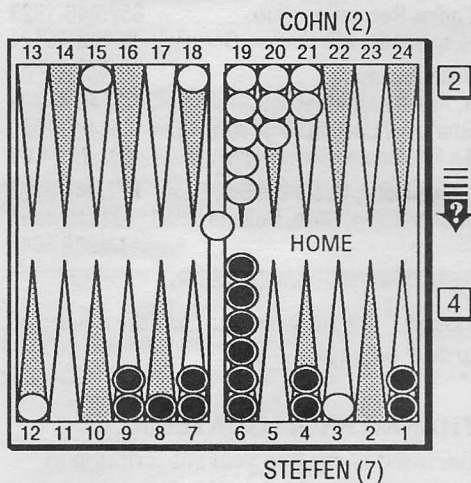
### Steve Potashnick Sweeps Intermediate and Doubles

Internationally known Alan Steffen did something nobody else has ever accomplished. He beat Harry Cohn (Park Ridge, IL) in the finals of a Midwest event. 70 backgammoners in search of Autumn action attended the Chicago Fall Classic 25-27 Oct. at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare in Rosemont, Ill. Howard Markowitz and Joann Feinstein directed, assisted by Mary Ann Meese.

Cohn, the 1991 Michigan Summer Champ, had won every Midwest tournament in which he'd reached the finals. Trailing this 11-point final 3-1, Cohn was bearing off for a doubled gammon victory and a 5-3 lead. Instead, he left a last shot, Steffen hit, and won to stay ahead 5-1.

Down 7-2, Cohn, according to Steffen, made "well-timed" redouble:

Fall Classic 11-point finals. Alan Steffen (Black) leads Harry Cohn (White), 7 to 2. **SHOULD WHITE REDOUBLE?**



Cohn rolled 5-1 and Steffen eventually closed his opponent out to take the title.

CHICAGO'S STEVE POTASHNICK is obviously a fast learner. The 28-year-old country club computer salesman has been playing tournament backgammon for less than two

years. Despite his lack of national experience, Potashnick won the Intermediate title and the Doubles tournament (with partner Jerry Brooks). To add icing to the cake, Steve bought both himself and Championship winner Alan Steffen in the Calcutta Auction. Lucrative weekend. Δ

### CHICAGO FALL CLASSIC

CHAMPIONSHIP (35): 1-Alan Steffen (MI), 2-Harry Cohn (IL), 3/4-Dean Muench (IL) / Doug Roberts (NY)

INTERMEDIATE (35): 1-Steve Potashnick (IL), 2-Jeff Kane (WI), 3/4-Greg Daniel (MO) / Ira Hoffberg (IL)

DOUBLES (32): 1-Jerry Brooks & Steve Potashnick (IL), 2-Linda Bergman & Howard Ring (IL), 3/4-Jill Ferdinand-Brussel & Stu Katz (IL) / John Bashian (OH) & David Harth (WI)

CHAMPIONSHIP JACKPOT (16): 1-Deeb Shalati (IL), 2-Dave Cramer (IL)

LIMITED JACKPOT (16): 1-Lucky Nelson (IL), 2-Miriam Bureson (MI)

## GOULDING ANNOUNCES PROCEDURAL CHANGES FOR KG RATING SYSTEM

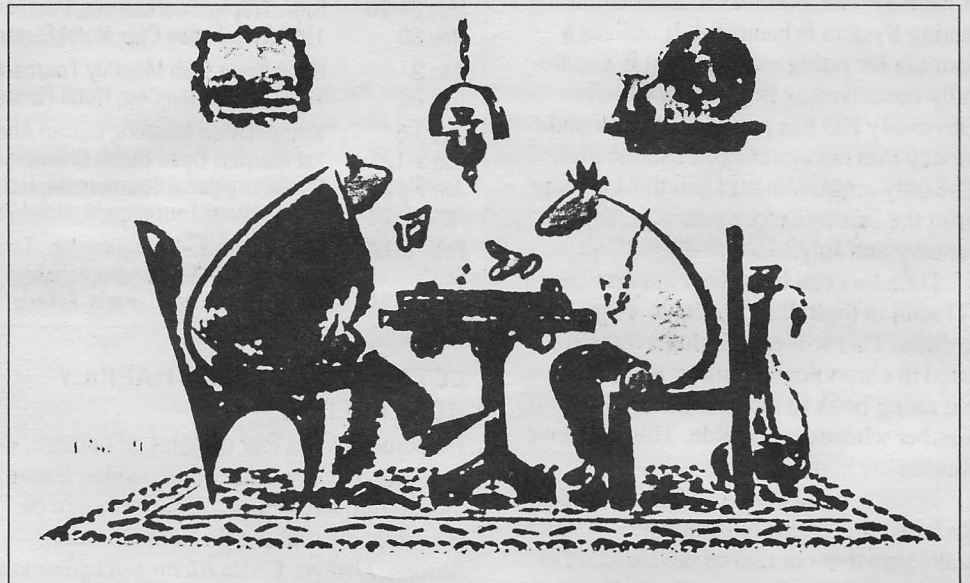
Kent Goulding of Potomac, MD, creator of "Kent Goulding's International Backgammon Rating List," has proposed two significant procedural changes in the administration of his system beginning in 1992.

- (1) Effective 1 January 1992, directors will be required to notify entrants in advance as to exactly which events at their tournament will be rated. The preferred method will be to include this information in the tourney invitation. An advance announcement of exactly which events will be "KG-rated," and/or posting this info at the tournament site will also be acceptable.

From 1 January 1992 to 30 June 1992, there will be a transition period

[Continued on page 3]

## AN AKGULIAN ORIGINAL



Artist Nishan Akgulian (NY) recently landed a very important assignment: doing the illustrations for the 2 Sept. 1991 Sports Illustrated football preview issue. (Nishan's work appears in the article "The No Fun League.")

Here's a 7" x 10" watercolor he did on backgammon for BPC player Marty Tatosian (Wilmette, IL). It seems that Marty's son Sarkis is good friends with Nishan. Lucky Dad!

# CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

## EDITOR & PUBLISHER

**Bill Davis**  
2726 West Lunt Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60645-3039  
Telephone: (312) 338-6380  
FAX: (312) 338-6384

## CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Harold Branch (KY)	Neil Kazaross (CA)
Carol Joy Cole (MI)	Danny Kleinman (CA)
Jake Jacobs (IL)	Tak Morioka (IL)
Duane Jensen (MN)	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:** 23/8" 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

### IN SUPPORT OF THE KG SYSTEM

If it ain't broke, don't fix it. Kent Goulding's Rating System is beautiful. It utilizes a formula for rating matches that is as carefully conceived as is humanly possible. Obviously KG has put a lot of work and money into his system and I salute him. The only improvement I can think of is to print the lists twice per year—perhaps in January and July.

Directors can help Kent in two ways: (1) send in their draw sheets in a timely fashion. This will ensure that events are rated in chronological order; and (2) use an old rating book to include each player's ID number whenever possible. This will save Kent many hours of time.

Finally, those of us calling the loudest for fairness, accountability and justice should make sure that our names are included in Kent's most elite list: his "Honorable Supporters." I'm sending him \$20 for my one-year "subscription" and hope others will do likewise. You can't get something for nothing. Ante up, you hustlers!—Ray Fogerland, Bakersfield, CA

coming attractions

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR



by Carol Joy Cole  
313/232-9731

\* Denotes new or revised listing

### NATIONAL

Nov 1-3	9th New Hampshire Fall Classic, Sheraton Wayfarer, Manchester, NH	603/863-4711
Nov 2	Springfield Series Kickoff, Davy Byrnes, Springfield, IL	217/789-6275
Nov 5	9th Bar Point Club Fall Trophy Tourney, Pat's Pub, Norridge, IL	312/338-6380
Nov 10*	Backgammon Co-Op Regional, Best Western Oritani, Hackensack NJ	201/833-2915
Nov 15-17*	Children's Hospital Benefit, Sheraton-Commander, Cambridge, MA	617/641-2091
Nov 16	1991 Bloomington-Normal Champs, Ride The Nine, Bloomington, IL	309/454-1947
Nov 16	Connecticut Open, Hall of Fame, Southington, CT	203/755-9749
Nov 16-17*	Autumn 1991 Gran Prix, Embassy Suites, La Jolla, CA	619/294-2007
Nov 17	Milwaukee Club Sunday Bimonthly Tournament, John Hawks Pub, WI	414/463-2498
Nov 21	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	313/232-9731
Nov 24	13th Annual Flint Area Club Championships, Ramada Flint, MI	313/232-9731
Dec 7*	Springfield Series Monthly, Davy Byrnes, Springfield, IL	217/789-6275
Dec 8	Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Braxton Seafood Grill, Oak Brook, IL	312/252-7755
Dec 8*	Hoosier Club Sunday One-Day Tournament, Spats, Indianapolis, IN	317/845-8435
Dec 15*	New England Club Monthly, Sheraton-Commander, Cambridge, MA	617/641-2091
Dec 19*	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	313/232-9731
Dec 28-29	Last Tournament of 1991, The Summit, New York, NY	305/527-4033
Jan 7*	Chicago Bar Point Club Awards Night, Pat's Pub, Norridge, IL	312/338-6380
Jan 15	Rscards Winter Computer Modern Tournament, GENie	313/348-0580
Jan 15-19	9th Nevada State Championship, Peppermill Hotel/Casino, Reno, NV	708/470-9491
Jan 18	College Park Winter Open Tournament, Promenade, Bethesda, MD	301/530-0604
Jan 24-26	Rainbow Bend Tournament, Rainbow Bend Resort, Marathon, FL Keys	305/527-4033
Jan 25*	4th Hawthorne Classic, Hawthorne Race Course, Cicero, IL	312/338-6380
Feb 16*	Fleet Underwood Memorial tournament & Benefit, Flint, MI	313/232-9731
Feb28-Mar1*	14th Annual Charity Tournament, Greentree Marriott, Pittsburgh, PA	412/371-5844
Mar 20-22*	1992 Midwest Championships, Marriott Hotel, Oakbrook, IL	312/338-6380

### OUTSIDE USA

Nov 1-2	Dunhill Lights Hong Kong Championships, Ladies Recreation Club	852/846-1923
Nov 1-3	Swedish Open Championship, O'Henrys Hotel, Stockholm, Sweden	468/652 40 99
Nov 2-3	Sandy Osborne Memorial Tournament, Grand Hotel, Lincoln, England	0522/720403
Nov 8-10	1991 NRW-Meisterschaft, Novotel Düsseldorf-Nord, Germany	02151/503591
Nov 8-10	15th Crystal Cup Venezia, Casinò Municipale Di Venezia, Italy	2/76 00 37 05
Nov 11	Bayern-Cup, Waldwirtschaft Großhesselohe, Munich, Germany	089/791-4788
Nov 13-17	British Open Masters Tournament, Empress Hotel, Douglas, Isle of Man	0624/851045
Nov 15-17*	Danish Junior Championship, Hotel Marina, Vedbæk, Denmark	039/40 06 07
Nov 24-25	BIBA Trophy Tournament, Post House Hotel, Crick near Rugby, England	0522/721630
Nov 30	1991 Wiesbaden Cup, Hotel Fürstenhof-Esplanade, Wiesbaden, Germany	06122-16124
Dec 2	Hong Kong Club Monthly Tournament, Ladies Recreation Club	852/846-1923
Dec 28	1991 Wiesbaden Cup, Hotel Fürstenhof-Esplanade, Wiesbaden, Germany	06122-16124
Jan 3-5*	Scandinavian Masters, Casino Austria, Vejle, Denmark	039/40 06 07
Jan 9-12*	1st Marriott Open Dutch Championships, Amsterdam Marriott, Holland	31/3240-14734
Jan 9-12	6th International Tournament, Hotel Klosterbräu, Seefeld/Tirol, Austria	08341/12825
Jan 16-19	International Tournament, Hotel Zürich La Résidence, Switzerland	065/22 24 01
Feb 10-17*	Torrequebrada Championship, Torrequebrada Hotel, Costa Del Sol, Spain	021/440 3428
Feb*	3rd Holland Open Championships, Motel Gilze-Rijen, Gilze, Holland	01615-4951
Feb 20-24*	Third French Open, Paris, France	1/4288 6645

### LETTERS IN SPANISH HAPPILY ACCEPTED

He comenzado a leer el Point de octubre, el cual está muy interesante como todos. Estaré muy atento a los cambios que se harán en el sistema de ranking de Kent Goulding.—Antonio Ortega, Costa Rican Backgammon Association, San José, Costa Rica

Thanks Antonio, for finding the POINT "very interesting as always." Since you will be "very attentive of the changes that will be made in Kent Goulding's ranking

system," we suggest you read the news article on page 1.—Ed.

### THANKS FROM GUATEMALA

Enclosed is my two year subscription to CHICAGO POINT. It will help keep me abreast of backgammon at my new teaching post at Colegio Maya in Guatemala City.

Thanks to your expert contributing editors for their entertaining and informative columns and for your editorial stand for

[Continued on page 3]



## LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

honesty and integrity. It is why I feel the POINT is the best backgammon periodical money can buy!

P.S. Hope to see you at the Costa Rican tournament in April 1992.—*Brian Vance, Guatemala City, Guatemala*

## DOUBLING DOWN

Here's a tough one for your readers. Figure out rules for tournament and/or money play backgammon where the cube starts at 64 (or a different level) and each cube turn reduces the value of the doubling cube by a factor of 50%.—*Brad Zarin, Roslyn, NY*

## JAKE MAKES LEARNING FUN

Levity enhances learning. Jake Jacobs' article "Jake Goes Commercial" was hilarious. Keep the laughs coming.—*Marc Gray, Niskayuna, NY*

## A KING'S VIEWPOINT OF BACKGAMMON

I have Gibbon's *Decline And Fall Of The Roman Empire*—a special three volume set; Heritage Press; New York 1946. On page 1112 is a description of the great Visigothic King Theodoric and his love of backgammon. I thought your readers might find it interesting:

"After Dinner, Theodoric sometimes indulges himself in a short slumber; and, as

[Continued on page 7]

## KG RATING CHANGES...

[Continued from page 1]

where Goulding will continue to rate everything that is submitted. After 30 June, only tournament events abiding by the principles of advance notification will be rated.

- (2) Every attempt will be made to publish rating books twice per year within one to two months following pre-established tourney cut-off dates: 30 June and 31 December.

Rather than continue to chase down drawsheets as he has done since 1983, Goulding seeks to shift the responsibility of submitting this material to the director. "Beginning in 1992, players wishing to see a particular tournament rated should strongly make their feelings known (in advance of the event) to the director rather than me," explained Goulding.



## 1991 BPC PLAYER OF THE YEAR

COMPILED  
THRU 31 OCT.

TAK MORIOKA	24.40	Leslie Lockett	5.36	Paul Friedman	1.28
JAKE JACOBS	19.44	Femi Owiku	5.36	David Lynn	1.28
STU KATZ	18.32	René Wojtysiak	5.24	Jerry Brooks	1.24
DAVE CRAMER	17.84	Marcy Sloan	5.16	Barbara Levinson	1.24
YAMIN YAMIN	17.60	Mark King	5.12	Dan Judd	1.04
DON DESMOND	16.00	Bill Davis	4.84	Judy Brown	1.04
GARY KAY	15.92	Harold Seif	4.72	Richard Stawowy	1.00
JOHN DEMIAN	12.28	Arline Levy	4.64	Steve Katz	0.96
JOANN FEINSTEIN	12.16	Ed Buerger	4.64	Dean Muench	0.96
JOE KOUCHEARIAN	11.44	Bob Ebbeler	4.00	Greg Try	0.92
ALEX ITKIN	11.20	Beverly Klene	3.76	Earl Risch	0.88
DEEB SHALATI	11.04	Alex Caraplis	3.60	Peter Naguib	0.88
MARY FRANKS	10.32	Chris Stanford	3.36	Mike Landau	0.88
PAUL FRANKS	10.24	Stan Kucharz	3.08	Craig Chellstorp	0.88
LENNY LODER	10.08	David Curd	2.72	Mickey Kaplan	0.80
LUCKY NELSON	8.48	Barry Miller	2.72	Ron Stur	0.80
SARG SERGES	8.16	Peter Kalba	2.72	Rich Galeba	0.80
JOLIE LEWIS	8.08	Betsy Miller	2.64	Kathy Rudnick	0.80
GEORGE BARR	8.08	Matthais Pauen	2.56	Roland Dieter	0.72
NORMA SHYER	8.00	V.W. Zimnicki	2.56	Sheila Arnold	0.72
HOWARD MARKOWITZ	8.00	Adam Kay	2.40	David Rockwell	0.72
Don Jayhan	7.96	Jeff Kane	2.36	Elaine Kehm	0.48
Bruce Wittert	7.76	Walter Schafer	1.92	George Kirkby	0.44
Howard Ring	7.60	Ed Bauder	1.92	Fred Gehlhoff	0.44
Ralph Levy	7.52	Kurt Warning	1.88	Bart Levin	0.40
Steve Potashnick	7.44	Larry Lau	1.84	Mike Cohen	0.40
Phyllis Smolinski	7.44	Kurt Schurecht	1.84	Jeff Vaughn	0.32
Peter Berkman	7.36	Tim Mabee	1.84	Mike Curcio	0.32
Bobbie Shifrin	7.32	John O'Hagan	1.80	Mike Spiropoulos	0.24
Tim Serges	6.84	Harold Grote	1.68	Larry Knoll	0.24
Frank Callea	6.72	David Orman	1.64	Bob Vining	0.24
Ken Bond	6.16	Bob Zavoral	1.52	Jill Ferdinand	0.20
David Rubin	5.88	Bob Holyon	1.36	John Myers	0.20
Alice Kay	5.76	Don Marek	1.36	Ken Torrens	0.16
Herb Roman	5.60				

DAVE CRAMER's win on the last Tuesday of the month was just enough to edge him past Stu Katz (4.48 to 4.24) for October honors. Phyllis Smolinski was third, adding 2.80 to her total.

With two months remaining in 1991 and Tak Morioka on a sabbatical from the game, the BPC Player of the Year race is up for grabs.

## NOW SEND YOUR BACKGAMMON 'FAX' TO CHICAGO POINT

In an effort to improve our communications with the world of backgammon, CHICAGO POINT has purchased a FAX machine and secured a 24-hour telephone number solely for FAX receptions:

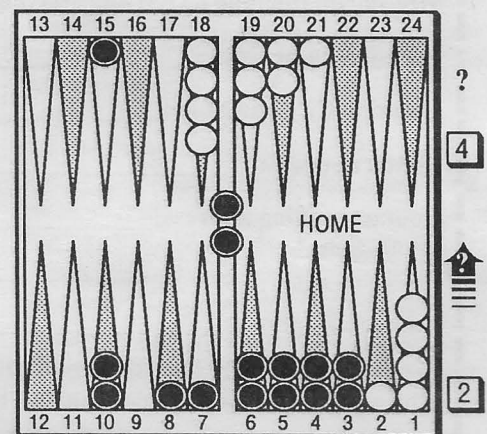
**312/338-6384 for FAX**

The number is almost identical to our telephone number 312/338-6380. Just remember the 4 at the end is "for FAX."

your move

## PROBLEM #177

Match to 9 points. No score. **SHOULD BLACK REDOUBLE? IF BLACK REDOUBLES, SHOULD WHITE TAKE?**



# SHADES OF GRAY

## A RULES AND RULINGS COLUMN

by Danny Kleinman

### HOW TO 'CALL' YOUR ROLLS

**D**ear Danny: The roller plays his numbers quickly and lifts his dice. His opponent says he moved the wrong numbers, e.g. playing a 3-1 to make his 5-point when the dice were actually 3-2. If there are no witnesses to settle the issue, directors usually rule to have the two players "roll for it." This gives a roller deliberately playing illegally a 50-50 chance to convert his poor shake into a good one; or a lying opponent a 50-50 chance to convert the roller's good shake into a poor one. I think this is wrong.

To remedy current practice, I suggest requiring the roller to call out his numbers. This would force the roller to look at his numbers carefully. It would also give his opponent a chance to object while the dice were still down.

Most of the players I know see no problem with such a rule, but some may protest the extra effort of calling out one's numbers during a tough match. I don't see the extra effort as excessive: after all, we

already require the roller to shake his dice vigorously, which consumes extra energy. What do you think?—Jerry Godsey, president, Hong Kong Backgammon Club

**DEAR JERRY:** A "Godsey Rule" would be a godsend, but we need to exercise some care in formulating it. If we say merely, "Each player shall call out the numbers he rolls," then we must specify a remedy for infractions of this rule. I think it too harsh to penalize a player who neglects to call out his numbers.

Instead, I suggest the Godsey Rule should be stated as an option for the roller to protect himself: "In case of dispute about the numbers rolled, the presumption shall be in favor of a player who calls out those numbers and is not challenged promptly."

Note that this formulation also permits the non-roller to call out the roller's numbers, offering prophylaxis against "free shots" by either side. But in games between players who know and trust each other, I would expect neither to take the precautions necessary when playing the few bad eggs in backgammon.

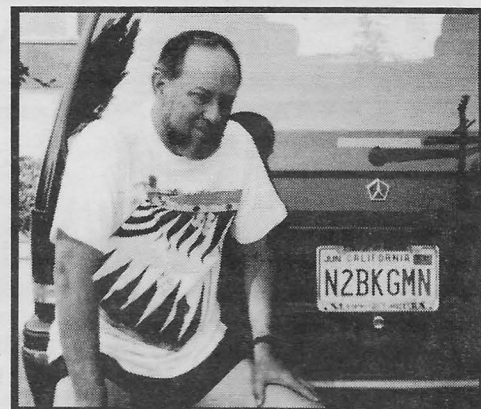
Though I approve your rule, I see less urgency in it than you do. Perhaps that is because I favor harsher remedies for those attempting "free shots." I'm greatly influenced by the Laws of Contract Bridge. May I quote the second paragraph of those Laws?

"The Laws are not designed to prevent dishonorable practices and there are no penalties to cover intentional violations. In the absence of penalty, moral obligations are strongest. Ostracism is the ultimate remedy for intentional offences."—Yours, Danny Δ

Get Danny Kleinman's ruling opinions. Write to: Shades of Gray; c/o CHICAGO POINT; 2726 W. Lunt Avenue; Chicago, IL 60645-3039.

## BG VANITY

Send a photo of you and your vanity backgammon license plate to BG Vanity; CHICAGO POINT; 2726 W. Lunt Ave.; Chicago, IL 60645-3039.



Patrick Gibson; director, Gammon Associates; Van Nuys, California

Help us create the 1992 listing of...

## Backgammon Clubs In North America

It's almost that time of year. In January, we'll be updating the listing of Backgammon Clubs in North America, and WE NEED YOUR HELP! Please have your area backgammon representative send us information about backgammon in your vicinity. It might be an organized club, or perhaps just a weekly public meeting place for side and/or chouette play. Here's what we need:

Club/Group Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organized? Yes No                      Were you listed in 1991? Yes No

Meeting on [include day(s) and starting time]: \_\_\_\_\_

Location name: \_\_\_\_\_

Location City and State: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact person: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Send this form by 20 Dec. 1991 to: CHICAGO POINT Listings; 2726 W. Lunt Ave.; Chicago, IL 60645-3039. You can FAX it: 312/338-6384, or phone it in: 312/338-6380.



## ILLINOIS ACTION



**CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB**  
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 Braxton Seafood Grill, 3 Oakbrook Center Mall, Oak Brook 708/574-2155.

**PUB CLUB:** Tournaments Monday, 7:30 P.M. at Fiddler's, 345 W. North Ave., Villa Park. V.W. Zimmicki (708/378-5205.)

**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, 6:15 P.M. at Ride The Nine, 503 N. Prospect, Bloomington. 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).

**PRIME BG CLUB OF CHICAGO:** Tourn. Friday, 6:45 P.M. at T.J.'s Lounge, Hyatt Hotel, 4500 W. Touhy, Lincolnwood. Joann Feinstein (708/674-0120).

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





## The Naked and The Dead

by Jake Jacobs



In September, Jake Jacobs spent three weeks in Southeast Asia. Here's his unabashed story.

“Time for the topless show!”

I looked up. It was true. The dancers had shed their bikini tops. At the moment, however, I was preoccupied with trying to save a gammon.

Bad news for visitors to Bangkok is that the Thai Backgammon Club no longer meets at the Vinothek Wine Cellar. Good news is that the former director, Mr. Werner Kubesh, entrepreneur and backgammon internationalist, is ever eager to help travelers find a game, even in some pretty unlikely places.

“Where will you be later?” he asked me. Werner runs a garment export business that keeps him working well past the hour that most men would depart their offices. I allowed as how I thought I might visit Patpong (the notorious “entertainment” district) purely for anthropological purposes.

“Fine. King’s Castle, anytime after eleven?”

The King’s Castle has been featured in the international press at least twice. In 1985 it was profiled in *Newsweek* as one of the world’s 10 best bars. A year before, it received somewhat different publicity when Margaret Thatcher’s daughter, touring Bangkok with some fellow journalists, held a few balloons as targets for a young lady with a blowgun.

“PM’s Daughter in Patpong Sex Show” screamed the headlines. These days, one has to visit the upstairs bars to see sharpshooting and other edifying divertissements. So except for the occasional naked breast, there was little to distract us from a good game of backgammon.

In fact, if I may digress for a moment, Bangkok has cleaned itself up. The day I arrived, the lieutenant general who heads the police department announced that there were no brothels in Bangkok. He knew this because “brothels are illegal” and thus his police couldn’t possibly be receiving bribes from them. A few days later he clarified his remarks. What he really meant was that there were no brothels like the ones he remembered from his boyhood—the kind with spittoons. He said there might be a few places that currently circumvented the law by masquerading as tea rooms and such. Mmm! Nothing like a cup of Oolong to start the day off right.

Anyway, Werner and I located each other without any trouble, and had a nice game right there in the bar. One of the mamasans gave me a massage while we played; and to a loose, relaxed rolling arm, I attribute all my success that evening.

One minor complaint. The patpong bars are air conditioned to the point that they no longer need coolers for the beer. The dancers, recognizing in backgammon an activity far more interesting than their daily grind, surrounded us and used this opportunity to huddle close for warmth. Ordinarily, I don’t like people crowding my rolling arm. But the sight of all those goose bumps tapped a deep wellspring of pity, and I submitted stoically, no matter how closely they pressed.

WHILE IN BANGKOK, Werner apprised me of an upcoming tournament in Hong Kong to which Dunhill is adding around 40,000 HK dollars. The tournament is 1–2 November. And don’t, like Phineas Fogg, forget that Hong Kong is across the dateline from the states.

It’s easy, overseas, to get confused by foreign currency. The first time you pay ₩500 for a Coke in Seoul, you freak out, then discover that ₩500 is not so much money after all. Then you come around to realizing that all foreign currency is just funny looking paper, to be disposed of with aplomb. “You mean, if I give her two pictures of castles, and one of a guy in a uniform, she’ll give me four bananas?” And you begin to spend it quickly before the natives catch on to their own foolish ways!

¥20,000 for a cab in Tokyo? No problem. A beer in a London pub? “How much? Never mind. Here’s twenty pounds—keep the change.” You come home broke, but that was inevitable. Far better to go broke blithely.

With Hong Kong’s added money, the prize pools should be nearly as large as those found in Flint or Chicago or Indy; however, the attendance (and competition) will be down

[Continued on page 7]

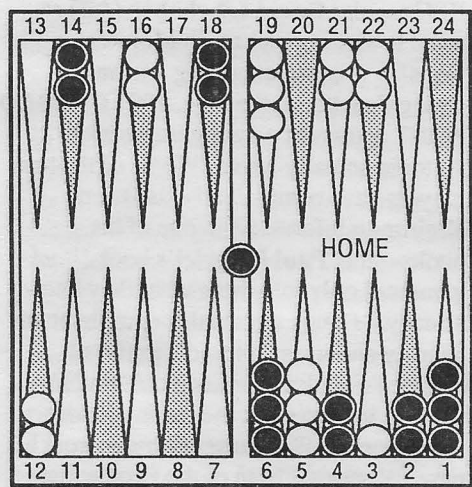
## AMALGAMATION

Visiting Chicago Bar Point Club in October: **Jean Van Ingen** (Netherlands), **Matthais Pauen** (Germany), **Graham Sievers** (England), **Ed Rybak** (OR), **Pete Lewandowski** (MI), **Howard Levine** (MI), **Marc Ringuette** (PA), and former BPC regular **David Libchaber** (AZ) en route to visiting parents in Montreal... Oops! A mistake in editing **Antonio Ortega’s** letter in the Sept. 1991 CHICAGO POINT conveyed a wrong impression. Antonio actually wrote, “Some of the best players have complained—as **Danny Kleinman** informs us in one of his books—that **Paul Magriel’s** book [*Backgammon*] only told them what they knew already.” Danny rejects this complaint and heartily endorses Antonio’s praise of Magriel’s book as a classic... Think about it: “The less you bet, the more you lose when you win.”—**James Garner** from his new TV series, “Man of the People.”... That was Chicago’s **Bill Bartholomay** doing the “Tomahawk Chop” in the Atlanta Braves VIP box with **President Jimmy Carter**, **Ted Turner** and **Jane Fonda** at game 5 of the World Series 24 October... **Kent Goulding** and **Bill Robertie** have announced the location and date for World Cup III and the U.S. Open: 3–8 August 1992 in Dallas, TX... **Barbara Levinson** tells us her niece **Kendra Pohn** is a skater with Ice Capades. The former New Trier High School graduate (Winnetka, IL) is only 18 years old—youngest on the team... **Kathy Posner** appeared on national TV 22 October on the new **Jenny Jones** show. She was part of a panel discussing the topic: “Are Men Intimidated by Intelligent Women.”... At last year’s Championship of Great Britain is Spain, The Manx Backgammon Association tested a rule advocated by **Danny Kleinman**: “All premature rolls shall stand if otherwise valid. An opponent who has yet to complete his turn may then do so with foreknowledge of the premature roller’s numbers.” For its British Masters Open (13–17 Nov., Isle of Man), MBA will revert to the standard USTR rule: “A premature roll must be rerolled.”... A long backgammon layoff didn’t hurt **Nick Maffeo** (Palm Springs, CA). Last month at the Las Vegas Open, Nick won the Bonanza and cashed in two other events. How he tune up for the tournament? “I played 40 5-point matches with my wife **Kalisa**... We can’t all be good in sports, but we can all be good sports. The same holds true for backgammon. Δ

# PROBLEM #176 SOLVED

by Kit Woolsey

Tournament double match point.  
BLACK TO PLAY 5-1.



Black's position is stretched very thin and after this poor roll, something will have to give. The question is, what?

Black would like to keep as many men in play as possible, retain his inner board (which is his main strength), keep control of the outfield, and prevent White from doing too much damage. There are seven legal plays and all of them are worth looking at.

- (1) Bar/24, 6/1. This is in a sense, the purest play. Black keeps all of his points, leaving White nothing to attack. However, burying the man on the ace-point is a big disaster. Black would like to build a fifth point in his inner board in order to make progress. The spare on the 6-point is needed for this. If it is squandered, Black will be very awkwardly placed for the rest of the game.
- (2) Bar/20, 2/1. This can be rejected for largely the same reason. Black cannot afford to bury another man on the ace-point. It keeps a spare man on the 6-point; however it breaks an inner board point, buries a checker, and gives White a blot to attack on the 5-point. Unacceptable.
- (3) Bar/20, 4/3\*. This interesting move is not so bad. Black keeps all his men in play, and by putting White on the bar, he makes it difficult for her to launch an immediate attack. However it does break up Black's board, and if White return hits, Black will have a tough time putting Humpty-Dumpty back

together again.

In addition, White gets some double hit numbers and Black would certainly not be happy to have two men on the bar with White threatening to build her 5-point.

- (4) Bar/24, 18/13. The big problem with this play is that it releases Black's main defensive anchor—the enemy bar-point. This game figures to go on for a while and during the interaction, Black is likely to be hit. In these instances, White's bar-point provides an excellent means of escape. If White can make her bar-point, Black will be in danger of being primed. Black cannot take this risk.
- (5) Bar/20, 18/17. Same objections, only worse. Now White can attack on all the points she wants to make.
- (6) Bar/20, 14/13. Seems reasonable since it holds the important points. The only problem is that it gives White too many good things to do. White has three blots to shoot at. If she can double hit (including the blot on the 5-point) and Black does not roll a five back, Black will be in big trouble.
- (7) Bar/24, 14/9. This must be right. Black keeps his game in one piece, and doesn't give White anything important to attack. Sure, White figures to pick up a blot or two. But that's no big deal since White will not be threatening to make any important points in the

process. And if hit, Black should have some tasty return shots from the bar with his four point board hanging over White's head.

If things go bad, Black will still be in decent shape. He has the better board and keeps the enemy bar-point for defense.

The man on the 24-point is out of harm's way: White cannot afford to attack that deep in her inner board. Yet that man has a ready-made escape valve to the bar-point. In addition, if the 9-blot survives, it is well-placed to go after the 3-point which is Black's next offensive objective. By any standards, this play must be far better than any of the other choices, and by a wide margin.

KENT GOULDING HAS OFTEN STRESSED that when faced with a choice of plays in a positional struggle, ignore your opponent's men and look for the play that puts your pieces where you want them. If you pretend that White's men aren't on the board and look at only Black's position, it is clear that Bar/24, 14/9 leaves a much more desirable position than any of the other plays. Black can claim maximum flexibility, coverage of all four quadrants, the strongest offensive board, and maintenance of a defensive anchor.

Since this play also limits the amount of forward progress White can make, there is no question that it is the winner. Δ

## Sexual Harassment AND BACKGAMMON

by Jim Opre



In order to avoid any charges of sexual harassment at the backgammon table, and also to comply with all of the existing and potential EEOC guidelines, I propose the following changes to be incorporated into the "U.S. Backgammon Tournament Rules and Procedures":

1. Henceforth, the 15 things you move around the board will be referred to as *checkers* (not *men* or *pieces*).
2. Playing one of your checkers onto a point occupied by a female opponent's single checker will be described as *recycling* (not *hitting on*) your opponent.
3. When a female opponent recycles you, and you recycle her back, the exchange will be called *retribution* (not *tit-for-tat*).
4. In chouettes, the person playing alone against all the other players will be said to be *in the cubicle* (not *in the box*).
5. In money play, the action of immediately redoubling an opponent's cube while retaining possession will no longer be called a *beaver*. Rather, it will be referred to by its proper Latin genus: *Castor fiber*.



## LETTERS...

[Continued from page 3]

soon as he wakes, he calls for the dice and tables, encourages his friends to forget the royal majesty, and is delighted when they freely express the passions which are excited by the incidents of play.

At this game, which he loves as the image of war, he alternately displays his eagerness, his skill, his patience, and his cheerful temper. If he loses, he laughs; he is modest and silent if he wins. Yet, notwithstanding this seeming indifference, his courtiers choose to solicit any favour in the moments of victory; and I myself, in my applications to the King, have derived some benefit from my losses."

I especially like the phrase, "...the image of war." Backgammon, it seems to me, is a much more realistic model of warfare than chess. In chess, the more skillful player nearly always wins. But in backgammon, like in war, chance as well as "generalship" determines the outcome of any particular contest.

With regard to chance, I liken bad rolls in good positions to plagues among the troops, flooded rivers that must be forded unexpectedly during the dry season, and other disasters armies face that can turn conquest into surrender.—*Dr. John Douglas, Eureka, CA*

### A BACKGAMMON ARISTOCRAT

When I entered this year's Indiana Open (in May), I wanted to play in the Doubles, but didn't have a partner. Jack Kissane (NY) was referred to me. I didn't know him very well except by his reputation as a very fine player.

I have had several bad experiences asking for partners, the most notable being a world-class player who wanted me to pay his entry fee. In exchange, I would receive only 10% of any winnings. Generous of him. I declined.

Another "hot shot" said that he'd play with me, but I would have to pay for his time. Again, I declined. Yes! Yes! There is a venal streak—even in the aristocracy of the backgammon world.

However, to my delighted surprise, Jack welcomed me as his partner. He consulted with me, he deferred to my decision on the cube twice and he had fun, laughing a great deal whilst we played. I learned from his skill and was impressed by his marvelous and friendly spirit. Let me, through your paper, salute a true aristocrat of the backgammon world.

It was a privilege to play with you Jack, and I thank you so much.—*Jonathan Bennetts, Toronto, Ontario, Canada*

*Jack and Jonathan made an excellent partnership, winning the tournament.—Ed.*

### WHO IS 'BCKGMMN'?

Maybe one of your Chicagoland readers might know if the Mercedes 280 SL I spotted in Southern Lake county recently belongs to a tournament backgammon player. The plates were BCKGMMN (Illinois).—*Roland Dieter, Deerfield, IL*

*If that driver sends us a picture of himself and his "BG Vanity" plate, we'll print his picture in the POINT. See page 6.—Ed. Δ*

## WATCH FOR CHRISTMAS!

### The Backgammon Wristwatch

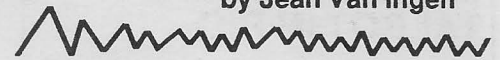
\$25 + \$3 p&h (\$5 p&h overseas)

Money-back guarantee.

Backgammon Watch  
c/o CHICAGO POINT  
2726 W. Lunt Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60645

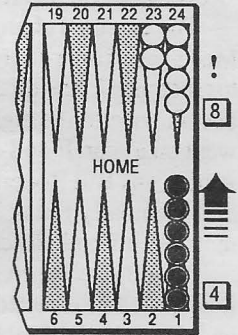
## A SICK SWING

by Jean Van Ingen



When Peter Van Rooy and I play money backgammon, we settle up after every 10 points. Late into one session, I glanced at the score and noticed I was up 6 points holding a 4-cube. "Redouble him, cash the 10 points, and quit for the evening," I thought.

Money game in Amsterdam. Jean Van Ingen (Black) redoubles Peter Van Rooy (White). If Peter drops, it's the last game. Peter takes!



Peter had other ideas. In fact he took—a slightly incorrect decision. However, this time that decision ended up costing me a 10 point payout! What happened?

### SOLUTION

In a truly sick swing, I took two off, Peter rolled 1-1 (4/Off), I took two more off, Peter redoubled to 16. I accepted and Peter then rolled 3-2. Ouch! Δ

## The Naked and The Dead

[Continued from page 5]

scaled, and the entry fees will be 30–50% less. Not worth a special trip; but if you happen to be in Asia . . .

NOVEMBER 1ST IS OPENING DAY for another tournament—the 9th Annual New Hampshire International Fall Classic. Few will have noticed him, inconspicuous fellow that he is, but there is a backgammon player from New Hampshire named Linc Bedell. Linc has invited me to come to his tournament and partake with him of some "Flaming Vikings," which he assures me are a type of drink and not the subject of a Mapplethorpe photograph.

Anyway, while in Seoul, I clipped something pertinent from the *Pacific Stars and Stripes* which I will share with him (and anyone else reading this). A story on the AP wire datelined Concord, NH reads in part:

"Gina C. Newhouse, 37 of Newport, RI, was the fourth person killed in auto-moose collisions on New Hampshire roads this year."

Major Henry Mock of the State Fish and Game Department added that 152 moose had been killed in traffic accidents in the state this year.

Linc, I won't be attending your November tournament. I have survived Malaysian cab drivers and tubercular bar girls, Typhoon Mirielle and a cholera epidemic (it's been a busy week), but I won't tempt fate by tangling with kamikaze moose.

I know what you'll say—I shouldn't let a few bad moose spoil things for everyone. Sure, most New Hampshire moose are gentle and well behaved. But Linc—152? That's more than a few bad apples . . . that's a campaign of terror.

Until this tragic situation is resolved, till we see a softening of the Granite State, I'll remain here in quiet and safe Chicago. One day, Linc, when you've curbed your cervidae, I'll travel to bucolic New England and join you in tossing back a couple of Flaming Vikings. Maybe we'll have a few drinks, too. Δ

## MEDEIROS SHOCKS TALBOT IN RIO

by Georges Khouri

The Rio De Janeiro Open, 3-6 October at the Le Meridien Copacabana Hotel, was a grand success for the Brazilian Backgammon Association. However, Frank Talbot might remember it as a horror movie:

"Revenge of the Double 4s."

The eventual champion, José Luiz Medeiros of host country Brazil, won all of his matches in the qualifying rounds to become one of the eight finalists. Then he went on a search-and-destroy mission of Americans Bill Robertie, Wilcox Snellings and eventually Frank Talbot in a final match that Frank describes as "a stunner."

"At double match point in the 21-point finals, Medeiros rolled one set of double 2s and three sets of double 4s in his last seven rolls to beat me in what was the worst finals loss I've ever experienced," said Talbot.

Curiously double 4s had been the downfall of Wilcox Snellings, too. In his semifinal match against Medeiros, Snellings 4-4 roll forced him to open his board and leave a blot which Medeiros hit to turn the game around and advance to the finals.

Complete results:

## RIO DE JANEIRO OPEN

CHAMPIONSHIP (67): 1-José Luiz Medeiros (BRZ), 2-Frank Talbot (USA), 3-Wilcox Snellings (USA), 4-Luiz Carlos Torres (BRZ), 5-Daniol Sahione (BRZ), 6-Bill Robertie (USA), 7-Ricardo Nogueira (BRZ), 8-Eduardo Vaneskehian (ARG)

INTERMEDIATE (60): 1-Frederico Savio Dabus (BRZ), 2-Paulo Neto (BRZ), 3-Joao José Oliveira (BRZ), 4-Joao Henrique (BRZ), 5-Georges E. Khouri (BRZ), 6-Gilberto Cintra (BRZ), 7-Carlos Pinto (BRZ), 8-Marcelo Savio Dabus (BRZ)

BEGINNER (50): 1-Francisco Japiassu (BRZ), 2-Alfredo Unes (BRZ), 3-Wilfried Grisshammer (GER), 4-Lydia Valansi Moura (BRZ)

LADIES TOURNAMENT (32): 1-Lydia Valansi Moura (BRZ), 2-Vanda Galiazzi (BRZ)

NOVICE-14 yrs. old & under (32): 1-Gabriel Balassa (BRZ), 2-Ingrid Sombra (BRZ)



**A Treat In Buenos Aires:** Bill Robertie (left) and Wilcox Snellings (right) conducted an informal Question-and-Answer session with Raúl Timerman (center) providing Spanish translation.

## ROBERTIE IS "JAMBO'D" IN BUENOS AIRES

by Raúl Timerman

Rassoul "Jambo" Zomorodi (Germany) bested Bill Robertie (USA) 21-15 to win the 10th South American Championship in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Over 400 players attended the Argentina BG Association's mega-event 7-11 October at Punta Carrasco.

## 10TH SOUTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP

CHAMPIONSHIP: 1-Rassoul Zomorodi (GER), 2-Bill Robertie (USA), 3-Lazaro Kopoussian (ARG), 4-Sergio Gelabert (ARG)

INTERMEDIATE: 1-Pablo Grinberg, 2-Krikor Kabakian

BEGINNER: 1-Fernando Aguirre, 2-Graciela Hoyos

INDIVIDUAL TEAM CHALLENGE: USA (Bill Robertie, Alan Steffen, Frank Talbot) defeats South America (Hugo Ergueta, Alvaro Savio, Sergio Gelabert). Steffen and Talbot pace USA to a 2-1 win.

BOARD TEAM CHALLENGE: Argentina (Bizarro, Khurlopian, Briones) defeats Europe (Sequeira, Kallensee, Zomorodi). Argentina wins the consulting 3-player team match 15-13.

# ¡VAMOS A COSTA RICA!

**U.S. \$10,000  
ADDED**



**THE PERFECT  
VACATION  
TOURNAMENT**

*Bill Davis, Peter Kalba and Carol Joy Cole, along with the Costa Rican Backgammon Association invite you to join them at the*

## TOURNAMENT OF THE AMERICAS

APRIL 8-12, 1992

Hotel & Casino

HOTEL  
cariori

For more information, contact Peter Kalba (312) 252-7755 or Carol Joy Cole (313) 232-9731.