

*the reno tournament*

## WOOLSEY "MASTERS" U.S. OPEN

by Hal Heinrich

The Northern Nevada Backgammon Association has consistently hosted tournaments with multiple events, high equity, big names and large cash payouts. Their June 16-19 U.S. Open in Reno (with \$12,500 added) was no exception.

Advertised as "Competition at its highest level," the Masters Invitational was just that. I was one of the sixteen players invited to participate in the event. The entry fee was \$1500 making for a \$24,000 prize pool.

The participants (ordered by their purchase price in the Calcutta) were: Mike Corbett, Nack Ballard, Joe Sylvester, Billy Horan, Sandy Lubetkin, Mike Senkiewicz, Kit Woolsey, Alan Steffen, Hal Heinrich, Howard Markowitz, Joe Russell, Wendy Kaplan, Frank Talbot, Murray Henderson, Dean Muench, and Al Jones.

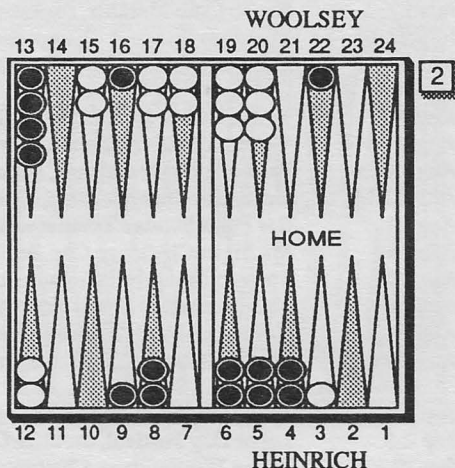
The Masters tournament was held at a pace of one round a day which gave us a chance to recharge our batteries after tough matches. Match lengths started at 19 points, progressing to a 23 point final. Matches were played in a separate room near the main playing area which presented the players with few distractions while allowing interested observers easy access.

Last year, Kent Goulding (Maryland) won the Masters and finished second in the Open tournament. Kit Woolsey of Kensington, CA duplicated that feat this year, defeating yours truly in the Masters final and losing to Malcolm Davis (Texas) in the Open final.

My final match with Kit couldn't have been closer. The position that follows occurred in the second to last game.

Instead of simply playing 22/16, 13/11, I chose to make my bar with 13/7, 9/7. I felt that by keeping contact with Kit, I would have my best chance to pick up and trap another checker and go for a match-winning gammon. My gammon strategy didn't work, but at least I won the game to tie the score at 22-all.

23 point Masters finals. Woolsey (White) leads Heinrich (Black), 22-20. BLACK TO PLAY 6-2.



The last game was an anti-climactic double bar holding game that Kit ended with a couple of timely sets. Final score: Woolsey-23, Heinrich-22. Δ

## 1988 RENO U.S. OPEN RESULTS

**Masters Invitational (16):** 1st Kit Woolsey (CA); 2nd Hal Heinrich (CAN).

**Championship (83):** 1st Malcolm Davis (TX); 2nd Kit Woolsey (CA); 3/4 Neal Kazaross and Chuck Giallanza. 1st Cons. Joe Russell; 2nd Cons. Hal Heinrich.

**Intermediate (81):** 1st Michael Shadkin (MI); 2nd Vern Ausherman (CA); 3/4 Kathy Bauder and Marsha Lynn. 1st Cons. Saab Henein; 2nd Cons. Henry Kimble.

**Beginner (31):** 1st Greg Daniel; 2nd George Foster. 1st Cons. Haiea Mojdehi.

**Doubles (64):** 1st Ami Tennenbaum & Sid Schneider; 2nd Howard Markowitz & Nikki Markowitz; 3/4 Fred Kalentari & Bob Schachter; 3/4 Nack Ballard & Mike Senkiewicz.

**MegaBLITZ (256):** 1st Mike Corbett (FL).

**Chouette Tourney (28):** 1st Mike Cyrkiel (IN).

**Open Derby (15):** 1st Tom Walthes (IL).

**Intermediate Derby (16):** 1st Ron Bruns.

**\$500 High Noon Winners:** Mike Corbett, Phil Price, Mike Razar, Ralph Stowell, Yamin Yamin.

## PRACTICE MAKES PURRFECT



Joe Sylvester (the Cat) and Kit(ten) Woolsey warm up for the 13th Annual World Backgammon Championship to be held this month in Monte-Carlo (July 11-17).

Photo by John Demian.

# CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

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

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## LETTERS

c/o Chicago POINT  
2726 W. Lunt Avenue  
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### Rave Reviews For The POINT

Thank you for sending me the premiere issue of *Chicago POINT*. I really enjoyed it: a great mix of gossip, information and entertainment in a first class layout.—*Ray Kershaw, London, England*

The POINT looks sharp. Best newsletter around!—*Bob Zavoral, Chicago, IL*

That's a great computer you have. Fine graphics in a neat presentation. Your newsletter changes are great.—*Larry Strommen, Indianapolis, IN*

The POINT is produced on a Macintosh SE computer with "PageMaker" software.—*Ed.*

### But Miss Lonelyblots' Reviews Are Mixed

The letter to Miss Lonelyblots about how to play strip backgammon was an incredibly inappropriate article lacking both humor and substance. It fell into another world.—*Bill Robertie, New England Backgammon Club, Boston, MA*

I thought the Lonelyblots sisters answered "Hot to Slot's" strip backgammon question perfectly. A very spicy satire.—*Phyllis*

## coming attractions

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR



by Carol Joy Cole

July 8-10	San Remo International Tournament, Hotel Royal, Italy	0184/7-99-91
July 10	Toronto Monthly Tournament, Le Spot, Ontario, Canada	416/267-2815
July 10	Cavendish North Monthly Open, Southfield, MI	313/642-9616
July 11-17	13th Monte-Carlo World Championship, Place du Casino, Monaco	305/527-4033
July 16	Flint Olympian Games BG Tournament, Public Library, MI	313/232-9731
July 16-17	Nation's Capital Summer Tourney, Promenade, Bethesda, MD	301/530-0604
July 17	Bi-monthly Sunday, Bombay Bicycle Club, Austin, TX	512/928-1321
July 21	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Sheraton Inn Flint, MI	313/232-9731
July 22	Bayou Club Monthly Tournament, Houstonian, Houston, TX	713/681-9671
July 22-24	Michigan Summer Championships, Sheraton Inn, Flint, MI	313/232-9731
July 29-31	Thousand Islands Tournament, Pine Tree Point, Alexandria, NY	716/442-8221
Aug 3-7	World Cup & Eastern Open, Sheraton Hotel, Cambridge, MA	301/942-4365
Aug 8-14	Vermont Festival, Ascutney Mt. Resort, Brownsville, VT	305/527-4033
Aug 11-14	Palace Summer Champs, Badrut's Hotel, St. Moritz, Switzerland	061/50-58-16
Aug 12-14	Hessische Championship, Massa-Hotel, Weisbaden, W. Germany	040/270-1166
Aug 14	Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Bagwells, Chicago, IL	312/252-7755
Aug 14	Michigan Challenge Cup, McMasters, Southfield, MI	313/642-9616
Aug 14	Toronto Monthly Tournament, Le Spot, Ontario, Canada	416/267-2815
Aug 18	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Sheraton Inn Flint, MI	313/232-9731
Aug 21	Cavendish North Monthly Open, Southfield, MI	313/642-9616
Aug 26	Bayou Club Monthly Tournament, Houstonian, Houston, TX	713/681-9671
Sep 2-5	Labor Day Weekend Tourney, Ramada Inn East, Louisville, KY	502/451-3950
Sep 2-5	Labor Day Festival, Stouffer Concourse Hotel, Los Angeles, CA	818/905-6937
Sep 10-11	Baden Württemberg Championship, Stuttgart, W. Germany	040/270-1166
Sep 11	Toronto Monthly Tournament, Le Spot, Ontario, Canada	416/267-2815
Sep 18	NEBC Monthly, Sheraton Commander Hotel, Cambridge, MA	617/547-4800
Sep 23	Bayou Club Monthly Tournament, Houstonian, Houston, TX	713/681-9671
Sep 25	Jim Flora Memorial, Mayflower Hotel, Plymouth, MI	313/349-1953
Sep 27-Oct 2	Caribbean Championship, Treasure Island Resort, St. Maarten	702/826-1984
Sep 29-Oct 2	International Casino Cup, Schloss Seefeld, Pörschach, Austria	0032/26489349
Sep 30-Oct 2	Victorian Open, Melbourne, Australia (Tentative)	03/578-7983
Oct 7-9	5th Indiana Classic & Indy \$500, Viscount Hotel, Indianapolis, IN	317/845-8435
Oct 7-9	North Rhein-Westfalen Open, Novotel, Düsseldorf, W. Germany	040/270-1166
Oct 14-16	European BG/Golf Combo Championship, Zell am See, Austria	0 8341/12825
Oct 16	NEBC Monthly, Sheraton Commander Hotel, Cambridge, MA	617/547-4800
Oct 21-23	North-German Open, Hannover, West Germany	040/270-1166
Oct 26-30	International Backgammon Tournament, Hyatt-Lake Tahoe, NV	702/831-1111
Oct 28	Bayou Club Monthly Tournament, Houstonian, Houston, TX	713/681-9671
Nov 4-6	Bad Zwischenahn, Spiel-Casino, West Germany	040/270-1166
Nov 17-20	European Championship, Bad Salzschlirf, West Germany	0 8341/12825
Nov 24-26	Children's Hospital Benefit, Sheraton Hotel, Cambridge, MA	617/547-4800
Dec 2-5	Backgammon On Board III, Tropical Cruise: Miami to Nassau	312/338-6380
Dec 18	NEBC Monthly, Sheraton Commander Hotel, Cambridge, MA	617/547-4800

*Smolinski, Chicago, IL*

"Dear Miss Lonelyblots" was not in the best of taste. You could have chose a more enlightening column for your premiere issue.—*Carol Joy Cole, Flint Backgammon Club, Flint, MI*

Lonelyblots was very funny. If it offends anyone, that's their problem.—*Betsy Miller, Arlington Hts., IL*

*Miss Lonelyblots (and her sisters) live in*

*California. She will continue to answer backgammon-related questions involving people problems and etiquette on a bimonthly basis. She will not be edited.—Ed.*

### Breaking The Code

On my mailing label to the right of my name, what does the number 89.05 mean?—*Rick Bieniak, Panama City, FL*

*Your subscription expires with the May, 1989 issue.—Ed. Δ*



## TAKGAMMON



by Tak Morioka

## IMPROVEMENT

A player's difficulty in improving is a result of the changes required to make simple concepts work. It takes about two years to develop a competitive game and many more to adjust to the aspects of innovative backgammon.

Most players develop an efficient game from scratch. But faced with tough competition, their structural problems tend to surface. Often a player will have a blind spot and never see the problem—a testament to complacency. This game is built on reasons upon reasons and when one of the bricks is faulty, it can have an unstabilizing effect on the others. Changes in one area do affect another, and if you fail to discover the interconnected nature of backgammon, your game can run into problems.

Improving your game is similar to souping up a race car. When you put a more powerful engine into your car, you also have to improve the support structures. Δ



Fortune Cookie

*A gallant player achieves honor  
even in defeat.*



## 1988 BPC PLAYER OF THE YEAR

COMPILED  
THRU JUNE 30

RICH SWEETMAN	17.12	Peggy Fleming	2.80	Harry Hayward	0.72
TAK MORIOKA	15.04	Bob Zavoral	2.76	Marty Tatosian	0.72
YAMIN YAMIN	13.68	Dave Cramer	2.76	Don Marek	0.64
JOHN DEMIAN	11.32	Bill Davis	2.68	Tom Walthes	0.64
KATHY BAUDER	11.32	Dan Judd	2.20	Arlene Levy	0.56
DEEB SHALATI	8.64	Andy Suszczyk	2.16	Betsy Miller	0.56
PETER KALBA	8.48	George Panagakis	2.08	Mark Hicks	0.52
IRA HOFFBERG	7.68	Joe Koucharian	2.04	Paul Reiner	0.40
ANDY ARGY	6.88	Gary Keyes	1.92	Roland Dieter	0.40
SARG SERGES	6.28	Jeff Henry	1.92	Ron Stur	0.40
BOBBIE SHIFRIN	6.20	Kevin Muench	1.88	Al Meinecke	0.32
STU KATZ	6.16	Ralph Levy	1.84	Howard Markowitz	0.32
ARNOLD ZOUSER	5.64	Rich Siebold	1.72	Kevin Bryant	0.32
JOANN FEINSTEIN	5.52	Gene Chait	1.68	Marcy Sloan	0.28
NORMA SHYER	4.60	Chris Kenik	1.64	Don Pearson	0.24
DAVID LIBCHABER	4.08	Jeff Kane	1.32	Ida Zeman	0.24
ED BUERGER	4.00	Ed Bauder	1.28	John Spatafora	0.24
DON JAYHAN	3.64	Jim Sargent	1.28	Les Berg	0.24
BILL KEEFE	3.36	Dean Morehouse	1.16	Rudy Emmelot	0.24
DEAN MUENCH	3.28	Jeff Vaughn	1.16	Chuck Evers	0.20
Don Muellner	3.28	Larry Guzan	0.96	Sharon Hegg	0.20
Phyllis Smolinski	3.24	Barry Epstein	0.92	Dave Lehrer	0.16
Ron Garber	3.24	Bob Holyon	0.88	Chris Hegg	0.12
Neil Banoff	2.96	Ken Bond	0.88	Dave Shifman	0.12
Connie Sychowski	2.80	Larry Strommen	0.88	David Hegg	0.12
Greg Shore	2.80	Carol Mennis	0.80	Jay Bleiman	0.08

June was Yamin Yamin's month at the Bar Point Club. Tournament victories on June 16 and June 28 helped him earn 3.52 points. Stu Katz (2.88) and John Demian (2.84) also deserve recognition.

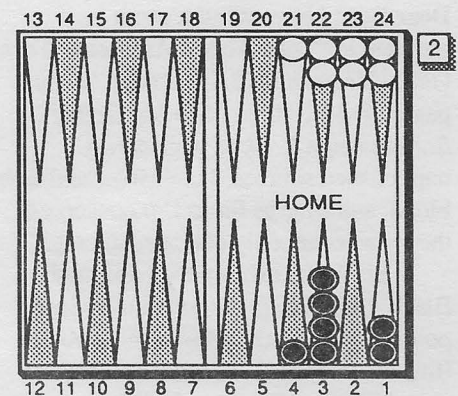
If you finish in the Top 20 for 1988 (capitalized names on list), you'll be entered in a drawing for over \$200 worth of valuable merchandise including a pair of Nikon binoculars. The higher you finish, the better your winning chances. Individual awards: 1st—Trophy + \$150; 2nd—\$100; 3rd—\$50. 1st thru 20th—1 troy oz. bar of silver. 1st thru 6th—Invitation to participate on the Chicago Bar Point Club team in the 1989 Illinois State Challenge Cup.

## INVERSION

by Larry Strommen

When bearing off, some positions must be carefully played so that a leading edge is maintained or a bad position is not further eroded. One beginner strategy to remember is the "Inversion Principle."

Just because you roll a 6, it doesn't mean you have to (or should) bear a singleton checker off the 4- or 5-point. First look at what the smaller number does for you. If it doesn't bear off a man, it could be right to play it down from the highest number and use the 6 to bear off a man from a lesser number. The following position is such a case. **Black to play 4-2:**



Only one man can be borne off here. A beginner error frequently seen is to use the four to bear off the checker on the 4-point and then move 3/1 with the 2. *Shame!* An even number of men remain and it's important to maintain coverage of as many points as possible to avoid gaps and attempt to assure two men off on each of the next three shakes. This is best done by using the 2 to move 4/2 and then playing 3/Off. I call this the "Inversion Principle." Remember to check for it during the bear-off. Δ

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## ASK DANNY



by Danny Kleinman

**D**ear Danny: During the bear-off in a money game, White has managed to hit a shot and close out one Black checker. How many men must Black have borne off in order for the game to be rated 50-50? What is the minimum doubling point for White and minimum take point for Black in terms of Black men borne off? Finally, what are the proper cube actions when it's Black who has enough checkers borne off to double from the bar?—Bob Holyon, Milwaukee, WI.

Dear Bob: I have written about your problem in "Three Heads Are Better Than One" (*Meanwhile, Back at the Chouette*, pages 38-39). There I cite Lee Genuid's *Backgammon Book* as well as two unpublished sources, Tom Miller and Bob Floyd, and state as far as I'm concerned, the answers are only educated guesses.

With White owning the cube, and Black's remaining checkers on his low points, I'd make the game almost 50-50 (tiny edge to Black) when Black has already borne off 9 men. With only 4 men off, Black should pass White's redouble; but with 5 men off, Black can take. White should redouble if Black has 6 men off. But if Black has 7 men off, White can afford to wait until he has started to bear off safely—Black will still be able to take.

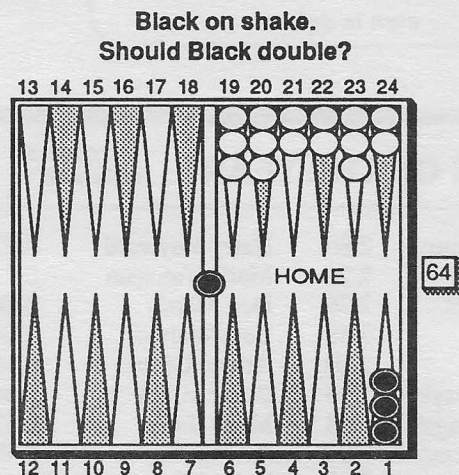
Bill Robertie addressed your problem more recently (*Advanced Backgammon*, page 266) and stated conclusions which agree with mine substantially. Bill notes that the question, "How many men off make it a toss-up?" is of no practical importance, but thinks that your opponent is a favorite if he has 9 men off. When should you redouble? Bill offers a useful rule of thumb: Redouble if your opponent is still on the bar and has borne off at most 5 more men than you.

This seems to suggest that you should wait until you have borne at least 1 man off if your opponent has borne off 6, but with a closed board, you will eventually reach Bill's suggested redoubling point—or overshoot it by rolling an opportune doublet. That's why I think Bill's criterion should be interpreted more liberally here.

Of course, you should temper every

cube turning decision by knowledge of your opponent's psychology. Diana Dialacube, and Stanley Steamer when he's minus on the backscore, will still take from the bar against your closed board when they have 6 men off and you have 3. Wait to redouble them until you have already borne off at least 1 or 2 men. Colonel Whiteflag, and Unlucky Ursula when the dice or her horoscope have indicated to her that tonight isn't her night, will pass your cube even if they have 7 men off. Technically, your redouble against them would be "premature," but psychologically, the time is exactly right.

Now let's look at the situation when Black has the advantage and is able to turn the cube. Here, for example, Black has 11 men off and is clearly the favorite:



First we should notice that Black cannot plausibly own the cube here, since he would long since have turned it, and White would not have had a sound redouble afterward. Obviously, there are tournament match scores which would justify exceptions to this, but then Black wouldn't want to redouble with only 11 men off at such scores anyway. So we may assume that the cube is centered; and that it is the start of a long tournament match and Black left the cube in the center because he was trying for a gammon.

Even so, the problem is implausible. Why? Because after hitting a late shot, White has progressed to a closed board with a smooth bear-off. White couldn't have been certain of doing so. Therefore, immediately after getting hit, even if closed out, Black had a stronger position than he has now. If he's close to doubling now, he had a better double earlier.

The chart on page 38 of *Meanwhile, Back at the Chouette* suggests that when

Black has 11 men off, he has a redouble and White can still take. A 12th man off would give Black a redouble out.

Since the difference between a minimum double and a minimum redouble may be just one extra Black man off, does this mean that with only 10 men off, Black should double here?

I think not. Why? Because Black is in no danger of losing his market so long as White retains a closed board. So Black can afford to wait until White opens up to see how White opens up. Clearly, if White bears off perfectly smoothly, coming down to a closed board without spares, and then rolls 6-6, Black will not want to double.

I'll go a step further and say that even with 11 men off, as in the sample position above, Black should wait to double—for the same reasons as with only 10 men off. Here, however, Black need not wait until White actually opens up. Black can double (or redouble) as soon as White reaches a slightly awkward bear-off.

To see why, just imagine that White rolls badly: 4-3, which strips all his high points without getting a man off. White will still have a take if Black then doubles. Some prospect of market-loss is always necessary to justify turning the cube.—  
*Yours, Danny.*

Questions for Danny Kleinman should be addressed to: Ask Danny, c/o Chicago POINT, 2726 W. Lunt Avenue, Chicago, IL 60645. Danny will answer the most interesting questions bimonthly. Δ



"My invitation still stands."

### MICHIGAN SUMMER BACKGAMMON CHAMPIONSHIPS

July 22-24, 1988

Sheraton Inn—Flint, Michigan

Last Minute Info: 313/232-9731

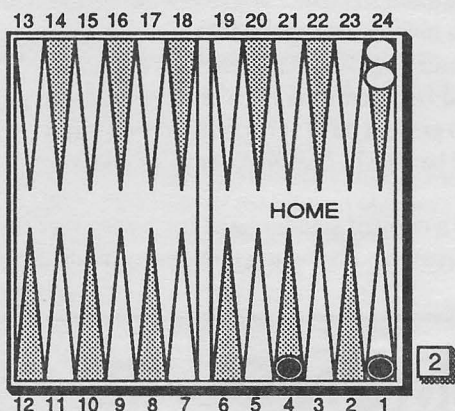


## UNDERSTANDING EQUITY

by Ed Bauder

When it comes to match equity principles, a little knowledge can be a dangerous thing. Misusing the knowledge you have could even be worse than guessing in seemingly simple situations like this:

**Match to 7 points. Black leads White 4 to 2. Should Black redouble to 4? Should White accept?**



Assuming Black redoubles and White accepts in this one-roll situation, he misses with 7 numbers (1-1, 2-1, 3-1, 3-2). His other 29 numbers win. Hence, Black wins  $29/36 = 80.56\%$  of the time, leaving White with 19.44% game victories. If White instead drops the 4-cube, she will trail 6-2 Crawford and (according to the tables) have only 15% match equity. Must be a take then, right? *Wrong!* Here's why.

If White takes on 4, her 7 victories are not all match-winners. She'll lead 6-4 Crawford and be a 70% match favorite. In the other 29 games, White loses the match. To figure White's overall chances, we do this:  $(7 \times 70\%) + (29 \times 0\%) = 490$ . Divide 490 by 36 and we get 13.61% match equity following White's take. This makes Black's redouble to 4 a drop by 1.4%.

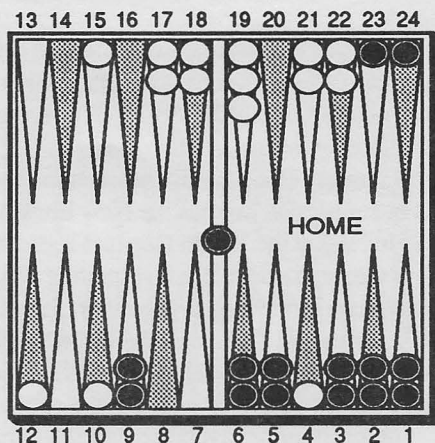
The biggest mistake possible is for Black not to redouble. Black's 29 wins make him an 85% favorite at 6-2 Crawford and his 7 losses leave him with a 50% chance at 4-4. Therefore:  $(29 \times 85\%) + (7 \times 50\%) = 2815$ . Dividing by 36 yields 78.19% match equity—a loss of nearly 7% vs. the redouble and drop.  $\Delta$

problem #136

## LAST MONTH'S SOLUTION

by Kit Woolsey

1988 Chicago Open. Joe Sylvester (Black) vs. Gene Chait (White). Double match point. **BLACK TO PLAY 5-1.**



Black has three possible choices here. He can make the natural play of Bar/24, 9/4\*, the conservative play of Bar/20, 24/23, or the all-out play of Bar/20, 5/4\*.

The conservative play of Bar/20, 24/23 must be rejected. This will likely lead Black into a badly timed 2-point game with poor winning chances. White has the timing advantage, but Black has the better

board. Black must use that better board to attack.

The all-out play of Bar/20, 5/4\* has some superficial appeal. Black will have to get to the 20-point in order to escape, so it is attractive to go there now and hope that White fans. However, this bold play leaves White 20 entering numbers. If she rolls one of them, Black's game becomes a shambles and (with the 5-point now open) will not be easy to put back together. Even if Black gets away with it, he still has a lot to do on the next roll, and remains a couple of rolls away from closing his board.

The natural play of Bar/24, 9/4\* is by far the best play. Black has 5's to cover and 3's and 4's to start the escape. So if White fans, most of Black's numbers will be good. With the chance of closing the board and escaping, Black is in a very commanding position. On the other hand, White has only 11 escaping numbers, and even if she rolls one of them, Black still has a solid five point board with some chance to regroup and continue to fight.

If White had a solid five point prime, it might be correct for Black to do something unnatural to get to the edge of the prime. But a broken five point prime such as White actually has is not that difficult to escape from. Black need not potentially wreck his position to prepare an immediate escape. As is so often the case in backgammon, the obvious and natural play is clearly the best one.  $\Delta$

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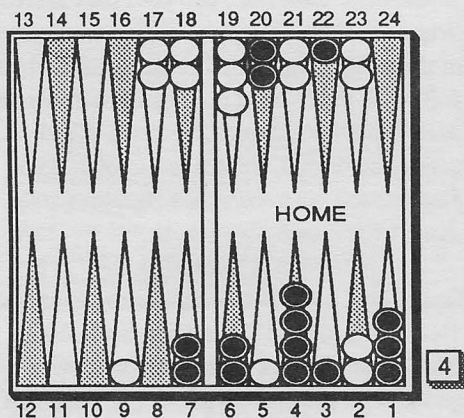
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## PROBLEM #137

11 point match. Black leads White, 6 to 3.  
**BLACK TO PLAY 5-4.**



## AMALGAMATION

Carol Joy Cole will expand her July 22-24 Michigan Summer Championships Open division to accommodate 80 players this year. There's a strong possibility that another World Cup qualifier will be added as well. Call (313) 232-9731 to register..... Murray Henderson, a British cabaret performer really livened up the auction at the U.S. Open in Reno NV last month. Murray's entertaining style helped him raise over \$22,000 in the Open division alone!..... Milwaukee's Bob Holyon wisecracks: "The Atlanta Double is when you double after making both bar points with 6-6. Have you heard of the Chicago Double? That's when you double before you roll 6-6 so you don't lose your Southern market!"..... Condolences to Hoosier Backgammon Club director Mary Ann Meese on the passing of her father last month..... Rich Sweetman reports on a beautiful wedding for Mark and Julie Harlan in Peaceful Valley, CO on June 25. The couple will honeymoon in Alaska..... Long-time player Peter Wagner, working as an options trader in California, has legally changed his name to Beef Jerky. That commune living will do it to you every time!..... Finally, from Michigan's Mike Keener... Can you honestly say: "Life is too good to me right now. I have no time to play backgammon." If not, support your local tournaments. Δ

## LET'S STANDARDIZE THE RULES OF BACKGAMMON

**H**ave you ever wondered why nearly every regional backgammon tournament has its own version of rules? Bridge and Chess tournaments use standardized rules at all of their events. Why not backgammon?

One of the major hang-ups involves the use of the Holland Rule. Developed by former world champion Tim Holland in the 1960's, the rule states that after the Crawford game, the trailer must wait at least four moves before he can turn the cube—the opening roll counting as the first of the four. The reason for this is to offer the leader a small amount of protection against the flash cubes that are sure to come his way for the duration of the match.

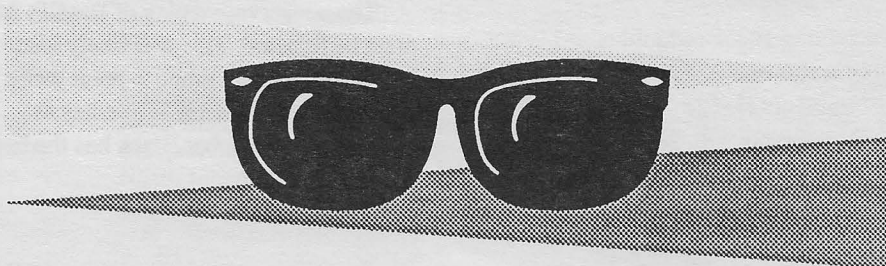
Chicagoland backgammon clubs, the Northern Nevada Backgammon Association and the Twin Cities (Minneapolis) Backgammon Club are a few organizations currently using the Holland Rule. The Hoosier (Indianapolis) Backgammon Club is contemplating implementation of the rule this fall.

But many clubs remain hesitant to use the Holland Rule. The Flint Backgammon Club has never used it; nor has the New England Backgammon Club. And there are no plans to use Holland at the World Cup and Eastern Open in Boston August 3-7.

If the Holland Rule is a stumbling block to unifying our rules, then let's make a decision on it one way or the other. Standardized backgammon rules are too important to our community. This year, the Midwest plans to present their version of unified rules. Hopefully, once the Midwest is unified, we will be able to combine our rules with other major organizations throughout the country.

Backgammon players are entitled to receive a copy of standardized rules wherever they play. It is the responsibility of all tournament directors to come together and provide them. Δ

## VALUED GAMMON GEAR.



Now you can enjoy the fun and sun of a tropical cruise and still get all the backgammon you want. The Chicago Bar Point Club invites you to Backgammon On Board III on **December 2-5, 1988.**

The prices are really a bargain—from **\$449** (per person, double occ.) including **free round trip air fare** from most Midwestern and Eastern cities (Western states slightly higher).

This year, aboard the NCL S/S Sunward II, we'll cruise from Miami to Nassau to Great Stirrup Cay. And you'll find out why they say, "Getting there is half the fun."



So make 1988 your year to join us for high times on the high seas. Pack light, but remember to bring along your backgammon board ...and your sunglasses.

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