

las vegas open

WOOLSEY IN A ROMP

Nick Maffeo Grabs The Bonanza

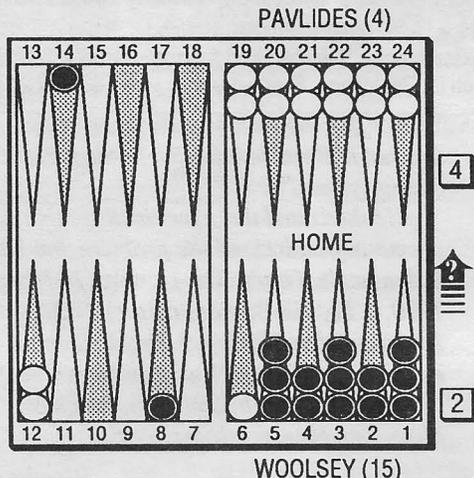
Veronica Mooney Wins Intermediate
As Backgammon Returns To Las Vegas

A believer in the expression "Actions speak louder than words," Kit Woolsey has won the 1991 Las Vegas Open. The Nevada Backgammon Association's premiere event was staged 22-26 Sept. at the Golden Nugget under the direction of Chicago's Howard Markowitz. It was the first major tournament to be held in Las Vegas since 1985. Over 300 players were hungry for backgammon in Vegas—and they feasted.

Woolsey verbally confirms his backgammon knowledge on a regular basis as a guest columnist for CHICAGO POINT and *Inside Backgammon*. This win, his first major title since 1988, reconfirms his *playing* status as one of the best in the world.

"I got a pretty good draw in a very tough field," Woolsey admitted. "I really only played one fine opponent, Farzan Garmroodi (CA), in the third round. That one went to double match-point. In the later matches, I was never in real jeopardy of losing . . . except perhaps in the finals against Paul Pavlides (NC) when I made a very questionable cube decision:

Las Vegas Open. 19 pt. Championship finals. Woolsey (Black) leads Pavlides, 15-4. **SHOULD BLACK REDOUBLE?**



"I recubed and upon reflection, probably don't like my decision," admitted Woolsey. "It depends a lot on how often you think he'll win this position, and what chance you'd give him trailing 17-4 in a 19-point match."

Kit rolled 6-2 and never left a shot. He did like the \$14,000 first place prize money.

Nick Maffeo (CA) returned to the tournament scene in a big way. He won almost \$8,000 in the Bonanza, was a finalist in the Kick-off, and a semifinalist in the Doubles. "He was a promoter's nightmare—alive in three events on the last day!" joked Markowitz.

Congratulations also go to Intermediate champ Veronica Mooney (AZ). Mooney's win of nearly \$7,000 was the biggest U.S. Intermediate award in many years.

Howard Markowitz publicly thanks his experienced staff: John Carrico, Joann Feinstein, Patrick Gibson, Sue Karon, Mary Ann Meese and Marcy Sloan, auctioneers Antoinette-Marie Williams and John Brussel, and closed circuit TV commentator Wilcox Snellings for making backgammon's return to Las Vegas so successful.

It's official. The next Vegas tournament will be 17-21 June. More details to follow. Δ

LAS VEGAS OPEN

CHAMPIONSHIP (117): 1-Kit Woolsey (CA), 2-Paul Pavlides (NC), 3/4-Dean Adamian (MI) / Max Shapiro (CA), 5/8-Jim Baroff (MD) / Mike Corbett (FL) / Don Kandell (NY), Joe Sylvester (MI); 1C-Armen Hovakimian (NY), 2C-Mike Senkiewicz (NY), 3C/4C-James Colen (MA) / Sandy Kaplan (MI); 1LC-Doug Mayfield (CA), 2LC-Ed Pavilonis (NY).

BONANZA (32): 1-Nick Maffeo (CA), 2-Bob Glass (CA)

INTERMEDIATE (127): 1-Veronica Mooney (AZ), 2-Joe Harris (CA), 3/4-Phil Laak (CA) / Shasa Starr (CAN), 5/8-Dan Doherty (CA) / Exxon Feyznia (TX) / Ernest Klein (TX) / Thelma Randall (FL); 1C-H.W. Capel (NETH), 2C-Russ Rosen (CA), 3C/4C-Larry Cooper (NY) / Butch Meese (IN); 1LC-Mehdi Faraji (CA), 2LC-Robert Rossetti (CA).

BEGINNER (40): 1-Kyrrha Bell (CA), 2-Phil Price (CO), 3/4-Joanna Marsala (NV) / Ralph Rubalcava (AZ); 1C-Dianne Cyrkiel (IN), 2C-Marilyn Faller (PA), 1LC-Valeria Trauer (BRAZ), 2LC-Nava Starr (CAN).

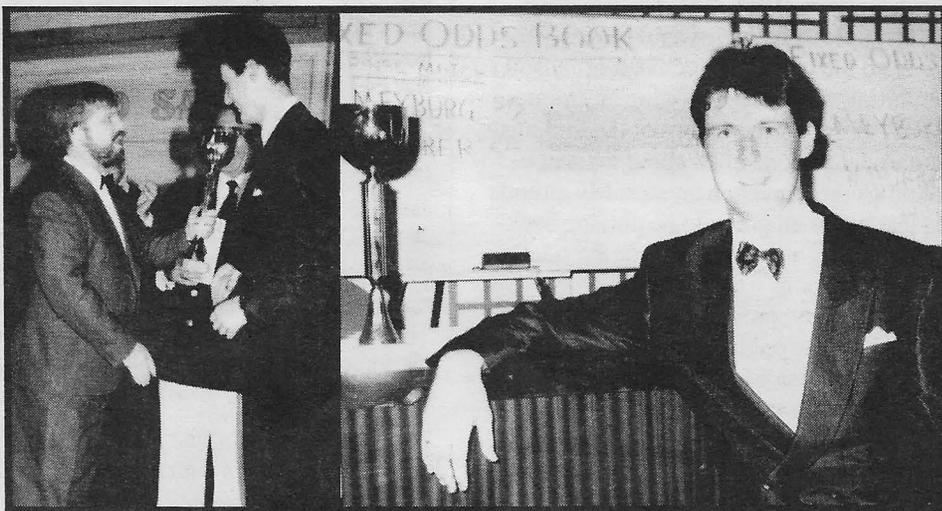
KICKOFF (512): 1-Azzam Masarani (CA), 2-Nick Maffeo, 3/4 Bob Glass (CA) / Kevin McDonough (AZ).

DOUBLES (64): 1-Samra Hadden (GA) & Joe Sylvester (MI), 2-Sandy Kaplan & Carol Starr (MI), 3/4-Nick Maffeo & John Lear (CA) / Ron Coffin & Norm Wiggins (CA).

\$100 JACKPOT (16): 1-Doug Mayfield (CA).

\$50 JACKPOT (32): 1-Ray Baker (CA).

A CHANGE AT THE TOP



1991 World Backgammon Champion Michael Meyburg receives the Champion's trophy from 1990 winner Hal Heinrich (Calgary, Alberta, Canada) at the Monte Carlo Awards Ceremony this summer. 27-year-old Meyburg, a resident of Nürnberg, Germany, hit it big in only the third Championship level tournament of his life. Δ

CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

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LETTERS

c/o CHICAGO POINT
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Chicago, IL 60645-3039

READERS' THOUGHTS ON THE WEAVER EDITORIAL

I've given some thought to Paul Weaver's editorial suggesting ways of improving the rating system [Sept. 1991 CHICAGO POINT]. Personally, I would have addressed the issue of selective tournament reporting without mentioning any names. Regardless of whether or not the findings are true, I'm concerned about the bad feelings this approach creates. My attitude is that we're all going to be playing backgammon for a long time to come, so let's try to get along.

Obviously, proven cheaters should be brought to the public's attention; however, this issue doesn't fall into that category. It should have been aired at a meeting of the NEBC and/or communicated privately among the backgammon community along with an article discussing any inequities in the current system. I feel this would have been a successful way to address the subject and avoid the angry and defensive letters I expect to see in response to Weaver's editorial.

coming attractions

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



by Carol Joy Cole
313/232-9731

* Denotes new or revised listing

NATIONAL

Oct 3-6	Sertoma Invitational Doubles Tournament, Winn Ranch, Leander, TX	512/267-3968
Oct 4-6	Rochester Club Tournament, Towpath Lodge, Turin, NY	716/442-8221
Oct 5	Springfield Fall Open, Davy Byrne's, Springfield, IL	217/789-6275
Oct 6	Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Braxton Seafood Grill, Oak Brook, IL	312/252-7755
Oct 13*	Hoosier Club's Fall One-Day Tournament, Spats, Indianapolis, IN	317/845-8435
Oct 13	Special Sunday Tournament, Greentree Marriott, Pittsburgh, PA	412/371-5844
Oct 16	Rscards Fall Computer Modem Tournament, GENie	313/348-0580
Oct 17*	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	313/232-9731
Oct 19	College Park Fall Open Tournament, Promenade, Bethesda, MD	301/530-0604
Oct. 25-27	Chicago Fall Classic, Hyatt Regency O'Hare, Rosemont, IL	708/674-0120
Nov 1-3	9th New Hampshire Fall Classic, Sheraton Wayfarer, Manchester, NH	603/863-4711
Nov 2	Springfield Series Kickoff, Davy Byrne's, Springfield, IL	217/789-6275
Nov 5	9th Bar Point Club Fall Trophy Tourney, Pat's Pub, Norridge, IL	312/338-6380
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 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 8*	Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Braxton Seafood Grill, Oak Brook, IL	312/252-7755
Dec 28-29*	Last Tournament of 1991, The Summit, New York, NY	305/527-4033
Jan 15	Rscards Winter Computer Modem 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, The Promenade, Bethesda, MD	301/530-0604
Jan 24-26*	Rainbow Bend Tournament, Rainbow Bend Resort, Marathon, FL Keys	305/527-4033

OUTSIDE USA

Oct 3-6	Rio de Janeiro Open/91, Le Méridien Copacabana Hotel, Brazil	5521/2676033
Oct 4-6*	International Tournament, Grand Hotel Locarno, Switzerland	065/22 24 01
Oct 4-6*	1991 Victorian Open Championship, Regent Hotel, Melbourne, Australia	03/822-3730
Oct 7	Hong Kong Club Monthly Tournament, Ladies Recreation Club	852/846-1923
Oct 7-11	10th South American Tourn., Punta Carrasco, Buenas Aires, Argen.	54 01/790-4769
Oct 12-13	Wansbeck Club's 1st Annual Tournament, Buccaneer Inn, Cambios, UK	0670/812787
Oct 16-20*	Austrian Open, Pörschach, Austria	08341/12825
Oct 21*	Bayern-Cup, Waldwirtschaft Großhesselohe, Munich, Germany	089/791-4788
Oct 26	1991 Wiesbaden Cup, Hotel Fürstenhof-Esplanade, Wiesbaden, Germany	06122-16124
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 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 9-12	1st Marriott Open Dutch Championships, Amsterdam Marriott, Holland	3120/6383832
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

Let's get back to the business of backgammon which is backgammon.—Hal Heinrich, Calgary, Alberta, Canada

The decision to print the inclusion of a documented case in which selective reporting had clearly benefited an individual's rating was a difficult one. Paul Weaver claimed that without a concrete example, this ongoing practice would continue and the backgammon public would "...once again fail to comprehend the potential for

unethical practice inherent in the current rating system."

He then cited three publications that had previously addressed the problem, but had fallen on deaf ears: The Double (26 March 1990, p.12, Bill Barron, editor), NEBC Anchors (May 1990, p. 5, Roy Friedman, editor), and Hoosier Backgammon Club Newsletter (March 1991, p. 6, Butch & Mary Ann Meese, editors).—Ed.

[Continues]

“The Rating System Must Be Improved,” presented highly biased data in order to level an attack on the integrity of Bill Robertie. Readers should be aware that this article was a collaborative effort between Paul Weaver and Roy Friedman and that Paul and Roy were personally motivated to be less than objective in concocting this “exposé.”

Under the guise of wanting to improve the rating system, Paul and Roy selectively chose data and omitted critical information in order to make their case that Bill “selectively reported” New England Backgammon Club (NEBC) tournament results. Consider:

- Contrary to their assertion, Bill *shared* responsibility for submitting tournament results for the 1987–88 season. In fact, drawsheets for that season were personally handed to Kent Goulding by Mike Nelson (an NEBC officer) at the World Cup in August, 1988.

- All results for the 1988–89 season were submitted with the exception of October 1988 and March 1989. Bill was 3–2 in these two tournaments. Paul and Roy credit Bill with a 9–11 record. Why the discrepancy? Roy and Paul reconstructed Bill’s record in *consolation* events and added them to the table even though consolations for this and all previous seasons *had never been* submitted for rating. Informing readers of this would have obviously hurt their argument.
- All results for the 1989–90 season *were* submitted. Bill had a terrible year: he cashed in only the December 1989 and June 1990 tournaments. Including these facts would not have helped their argument, so Roy and Paul chose to omit this season from their table altogether.
- Paul and Roy present Bill’s record as if it was fact. This is not so. The table values

are merely their “best guesses.” Their reconstruction of Bill’s record was based upon (1) a notoriously inaccurate data source—the NEBC point race (Roy himself has complained to me about its inaccuracy), (2) Roy Friedman’s recollection of Bill’s attendance at NEBC tournaments over a four year period (which not surprisingly differs from Bill’s recollection), and (3) a lengthy series of calculations.

It is this work that Danny Kleinman verified. He checked the arithmetic only, and relied heavily on Paul and Roy for any missing information.

I have always known Bill Robertie to exhibit high ethical standards. It’s unfortunate that his reputation has been undermined by this inaccurate and self-serving article. While it is true that our backgammon community would benefit from greater rigor in the reporting of tournament results, we would also benefit from greater rigor on the part of players who publicly attack other’s integrity.—Rick Barabino, vice president, NEBC, Boston, MA

I read with interest, Paul Weaver’s guest editorial regarding suggestions for improving the KG Rating System. Without stating approval or disapproval of the article, I want to commend CHICAGO POINT for offering the backgammon community a forum for discussion.—Arnold Zousmer, San Diego, CA

[Continued on page 4]

CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB **1991 BPC PLAYER OF THE YEAR** **COMPILED THRU 30 SEPT.**

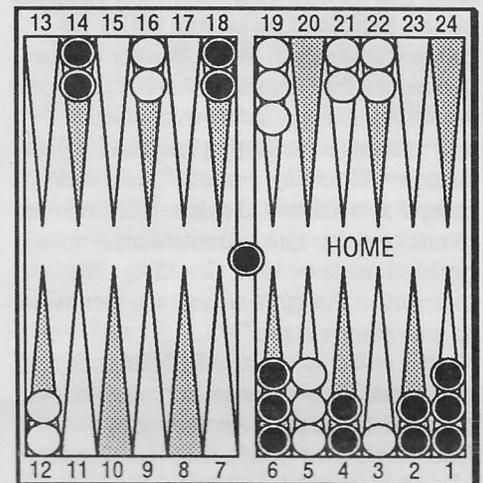
TAK MORIOKA	24.40	Femi Owiku	5.36	David Lynn	1.28
JAKE JACOBS	17.52	René Wojtysiak	5.24	Tim Mabee	1.28
DON DESMOND	16.00	Bobbie Shifrin	5.16	Bob Zavoral	1.28
YAMIN YAMIN	15.20	Mark King	5.12	Jerry Brooks	1.24
GARY KAY	14.96	Alice Kay	4.88	Barbara Levinson	1.24
STU KATZ	14.08	Harold Seif	4.72	Dan Judd	1.04
DAVE CRAMER	13.36	Phyllis Smolinski	4.64	Judy Brown	1.04
JOANN FEINSTEIN	11.28	Arline Levy	4.32	Richard Stawowy	1.00
JOE KOUCHARIAN	10.80	Bill Davis	3.96	Steve Katz	0.96
JOHN DEMIAN	10.36	Marcy Sloan	3.88	Dean Muench	0.96
PAUL FRANKS	10.24	Beverly Klene	3.76	Greg Try	0.92
MARY FRANKS	9.36	Ed Buerger	3.76	Earl Risch	0.88
ALEX ITKIN	9.28	Bob Ebbeler	3.44	Peter Naguib	0.88
DEEB SHALATI	9.28	Alex Caraplis	3.36	Mike Landau	0.88
LENNY LODER	8.80	Peter Kalba	2.72	Craig Chellstorp	0.88
LUCKY NELSON	8.48	Betsy Miller	2.64	Mickey Kaplan	0.80
GEORGE BARR	8.08	Stan Kucharz	2.56	Ron Stur	0.80
HOWARD MARKOWITZ	8.00	V.W. Zimnicki	2.56	Rich Galeba	0.80
BRUCE WITTERT	7.76	Barry Miller	2.48	Kathy Rudnick	0.80
DON JAYHAN	7.72	Adam Kay	2.40	Roland Dieter	0.72
Howard Ring	7.60	Ed Bauder	1.92	Sheila Arnold	0.72
Sarg Serges	7.52	Larry Lau	1.84	David Rockwell	0.72
Steve Potashnick	7.44	David Curd	1.84	Elaine Kehm	0.48
Jolie Lewis	7.36	Jeff Kane	1.80	George Kirkby	0.44
Peter Berkman	6.80	John O’Hagan	1.80	Mike Cohen	0.40
Frank Callea	6.08	Kurt Schurecht	1.68	Kurt Warning	0.40
Norma Shyer	6.08	Walter Schafer	1.68	Jeff Vaughn	0.32
Tim Serges	5.96	David Orman	1.64	Mike Curcio	0.32
David Rubin	5.72	Harold Grote	1.44	Mike Spiropoulos	0.24
Ralph Levy	5.72	Chris Stanford	1.44	Larry Knoll	0.24
Ken Bond	5.60	Bob Holyon	1.36	Bob Vining	0.24
Herb Roman	5.60	Don Marek	1.36	Fred Gehlhoff	0.16
Leslie Lockett	5.36	Paul Friedman	1.28		

Four tournaments in September—four different winners. However, **STUART KATZ** also won 1st Cons. on the last Tuesday of the month to gain top honors with 3.52 points.

The other three Bar Point Club players to win a tournament in September were: Don Desmond (2.56), Howard Ring (2.56) and Peter Kalba (2.40).

your move
PROBLEM #176

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



ASK DANNY



by Danny Kleinman

HIGH GAMMON RATE AND MATCH EQUITIES

Dear Danny: Roy Friedman's finding of a surprisingly high gammon rate has prompted a revision of previous match-equity charts to show the trailer at a smaller disadvantage. I can see why at and after the Crawford Game; but why should frequent gammons favor the trailer before the Crawford Game? And shouldn't a high gammon rate favor the leader who is only two points away from the match-target and can play for a gammon without doubling? —Jack Fagan, St. Louis, MO

DEAR JACK: We could jump through hoops and do elaborate calculations to justify the

conclusions of the chart-revisers. Instead, let's simply magnify the effect we are studying and examine it under the microscope.

Basically, a high gammon rate allows the trailer to catch up or take the lead with fewer favorable events, e.g. a single game in which he gammons the leader at the 2-level and wins four points (instead of two for a plain win) or two quick one-point wins from otherwise premature doubles which the leader must pass for fear of losing four points.

Suppose the match is to 9 points. To magnify the effect of frequent gammons, let's increase the gammon rate to 100%. Then a 7-5 lead is worth only 50% match chances, for the trailer will double at his first opportunity (in an even position, let's say). If the leader takes, he's playing for the match, 50-50. If the leader passes, the trailer simply repeats the immediate double next game to play for the match (or reach a 7-7 tie if the leader passes again).

Likewise, under the microscope, a 7-1

lead, worth 88% match chances under my old assumptions, becomes 75%. The trailer will double immediately in a 50-50 position, and lose the match half the time but equalize (at 7-5!) with a gammon the other half of the time.

Even a 5-1 lead will become less advantageous, for the leader will be subject to cube paralysis. True, a gammon at the 2-level will win the match for him, but if he doubles, the trailer can take and redouble to put the match on the line—or use a virtually free pass (even-numbered points become much less significant when all games rolled to completion produce gammons).

The effect of gammon rates less than 100% but still high isn't nearly as strong, of course. But it is in the same direction.—*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.

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 3]

I applaud Paul Weaver's excellent work in the September 1991 CHICAGO POINT. Obviously, Kent Goulding's current rating system data base should be scraped and a new one started utilizing Weaver's practical recommendations.

It was my hope when I addressed the KG Rating System flaws in the 26 March 1990 issue of the Dallas Backgammon League's newsletter *The Double*, that Goulding would voluntarily correct the problems I identified and begin anew. Since he hasn't, a shadow remains over his international rating system.

In a *Hoosier Backgammon Club Newsletter* March 1990 interview, Kent Goulding clearly explained his current policy for rating tournaments. When Wendy Kaplan questioned him regarding rumors that some selectivity was occurring over which tournaments were getting rated and which were not, Goulding replied: "I rate everything that is submitted to me. The decision to rate or not to rate a tournament is not a decision made by Kent Goulding. The tournament directors decide whether or not to send results to me."

It's unfair to chastise Bill Robertie and the others for tournament submission practices of the past. According to Goulding's own words, they have broken no rules. Instead, it is time for the back-

gammon community to stand together and tell Kent Goulding: "Give us a genuine, verifiable rating system, or we'll follow Paul Weaver's suggestions and start one of our own."—*Bill Barron, Dallas, TX*

Thank you, Paul Weaver, for your illuminating article discussing methods for improving the KG Backgammon Rating System. It takes guts to speak out, and my hat's off to you and Danny Kleinman.

I'm sure that most tournament directors report all results. I know that our director, Patrick Gibson [Gammon Associates] does. (If he didn't, I'd be all over him!) We, the players should make certain that *all* of our club's results are dutifully posted, even though we all abhor first round losses.

I believe in the concept of Kent Goulding's system and back any movement to guarantee complete, accurate and accountable reporting.—*Ray Fogelund, Bakersfield, CA*

[*Kent Goulding and Danny Kleinman offer more opinions on the Weaver editorial in "Point/Counter-Point" (page 5).—Ed.*]

DEAUVILLE CANCELLED FOR 1991

Richard Davis and I regret to inform the backgammon community that there will be no Deauville European Open Championships this year. The reason is that we were unable to obtain a sponsor. In previous years, we set a standard of added prize

money and neither ourselves nor the hotel wanted to compromise that standard.

We have agreed to work together to find a sponsor for 1992 and make Deauville a bigger and better event. We apologize to our supporters of the previous years; however, we believe this was the right thing to do.—*Julian Wilson, director, European Open Championships, London, England*

SNELLINGS IS WELCOME IN GREECE

I enjoyed the interview with Wilcox Snellings and noticed that in the "Personality Snapshot," he mentioned Greece as one place he still wanted to visit. I just want to let Mr. Snellings know that it would be a pleasure to have him visit here.—*J. Caray, Athens, Greece*

WHO IS WALTER L. RICHARD?

I have recently obtained a copy of *Complete Backgammon* by Walter L. Richard, published in 1931. I have in my collection, several books from the 1930s, most of which are of purely historical interest. However, this book is different. The concepts illustrated are advanced and the clarity of the author's reasoning is in its own way, comparable to that of Barclay Cooke or Paul Magriel.

Illustrative examples include:

- A detailed exposition of the odds and

[Continued on page 8]

SAVE IT FOR SALEM

by Kent Goulding

Your front page article by Dean Muench ["Dice, Mini-Mechanics and You," CHICAGO POINT, May 1991] has warned us that space aliens are controlling our dice. (I have taken to coating mine with thin lead paint to make them safe.) Now you inform us that Paul Weaver has spotted Big Foot spoor in the rating system. This is all well and good, but considering it comes in the form of an attack on many years of my charity work for backgammon, as well as a direct attack on the character and integrity of a good friend of mine, I feel compelled to respond. With pooper-scooper in hand, here goes:

Politics in the New England Backgammon Club remind me of a bad soap opera. There is a fair amount of petty squabbling, accusations, complaints, resignations, hard feelings, etc. This is not the sort of thing one talks about in a major publication, except to the degree that it is, I believe, the cause of Mr. Weaver's article.

There are those at NEBC who have some sort of grudge against Bill Robertie. Rather than confront him head on, they have enlisted the help of a stooge and are hiding anonymously in the background. In addition to being required by common decency, it is the American way that Mr. Robertie be allowed to know who his true accusers are. There are other reasons, of course, for anonymity. Weaver's "facts" are not much more than speculation and conjecture.

Weaver has no draw sheets. He has gathered his data from conjecture based on monthly master point awards. If Bill gains no master points, he obviously lost all his matches. (Of course, by informal poll, Weaver *knows* Bill lost his matches, rather than some other explanation, i.e. he didn't play that month.) There is, of course, no chance that there is an error in the master points awarded. I have some of the draw sheets in question (submitted late) and will soon be rating them. I challenged Paul to tell me Bill's results for these tournaments. His guesses were *incorrect* for two out of eight tournaments. Nice try.

Herb Gurland's rating would be 100-150 points higher?? Get serious. Herb could win the World Championship next summer, then follow it up with winning the World Cup and he wouldn't gain 150 points. Many of the missing events are 7-point consolation brackets from three and four years ago. For a long time, I didn't even rate events of such minor significance.

Whose job was it to submit the results in the first place? Weaver claims it was Bill's job. I know for certain that results used to come from other members of the NEBC, not Bill. Bill recently took over, but hasn't had that responsibility for long.

There are currently only *two* missing monthly tournaments for the past two years. Prior to that, most of the missing events are consolations. I have rated *thousands* of tournaments and *hundreds of thousands* of matches in the last decade. To claim a couple of NEBC monthly events skews the over-all system is like trying to create a tidal wave with a bucket of water.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, what is this nonsense about intentional manipulation on Bill's part? Many tournaments are never submitted. Not just from the NEBC. I am missing at least one World Championship, many World Championship Consolation flights, and numerous local and regional U.S. events. I get what I can. I rate all that is submitted. To claim that the only modern two-time World Champion needs to manipulate his rating based on local 7-point matches is preposterous. Weaver is speculating not only on the facts, but on motives as well.

By the way, for the past ten years, I have seen Elvis's face hiding in marbled backgammon checkers. He tells me the best moves to make each turn. Does this mean I must give up my high rating? Δ

AN OPEN LETTER TO KENT GOULDING

by Danny Kleinman

Let us shun personal and metaphorical attacks and criticize only practices and ideas.

Dean Muench's article alleges dice control not by mental acts of space aliens, but by physical actions of the roller. This may be true or false, proved or disproved, or in need of further research; but it is by no means absurd.

Paul Weaver alleges defect in the administration of your rating system without attacking either Bill Robertie or you. Indeed Paul acknowledges a "large debt" to you.

Your work in compiling the rating list is not "charity work": it is compensated by the fees paid for rating events, the prices you charge for your lists, and donations from Teacher's Whisky and others. I'm willing to believe you, however, if you tell me your effort exceeds this compensation.

I know of no grudges against Bill. I'm aware that during the 1989-90 season, some players enjoying success in NEBC tournaments were frustrated by Bill's failure to send in some draw sheets. But this led to a remedy—Roy Friedman sending them in—not a grudge.

I do not believe Paul would front for anyone. The only person I know who has "stooged" for anyone in backgammon is I: to protect an accuser against a murderous criminal.

Paul does not accuse Bill of intentional rigging of ratings, but only of selective reporting, for which there are many benign explanations: (1) Sending you draw sheets was not high among Bill's priorities. (2) Mike Nelson may have been lax in turning draw sheets over to Bill. (3) Bill may have carelessly lost or misplaced some draw sheets. (4) Bill didn't bother sending you draw sheets early in the 1990-91 season because you'd told him you and Joanne were behind and flooded with work already.

Paul's data are not mere "conjecture," but inferential reconstructions from NEBC newsletters. I concur with them roughly, though not 100%. In one instance, for example, Paul attributed seven points to stray wins in weekly tournaments, while I credited Bill with an additional win in a 7-point consolation match.

The discrepancy between Bill's record in rated and unrated events could flow from coincidence or design. I reject the hypothesis of manipulation for two reasons. First, it is the American way to give Bill the benefit of the doubt. Second, Paul's work sheet shows several *unrated* events in which Bill had more wins than losses, including a 2nd, a 3rd/4th and two 2nd-consolations.

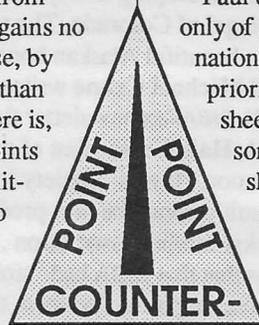
I also reject pure "coincidence." Rather, I think, *unconscious* reactions may have affected Bill's behavior like anyone else's. Most people are more likely to remember to report successes, more likely to forget to report failures: that's the way our brains are built.

Your claim "for a long time" not to have rated "events of such minor significance" as NEBC consolations is refuted by your own stated (and sensible) policy, "I get what I can. I rate all that is submitted." You first proclaimed this policy in your Rating List as of January 15, 1985, and you implemented it for many tournaments prior to the 1987-88 season.

You question the validity of Paul's claim that it was Bill's job to submit results. Both Mike Nelson and Bill himself confirmed this to me.

Your claim that "there are currently only two missing monthly tournaments for the past two years" is irrelevant. Paul's study was based on your Rating Lists where *six* are missing. Five others, from early 1990, appear *belatedly*, in the July 1991 list instead of July

[Continued on page 7]

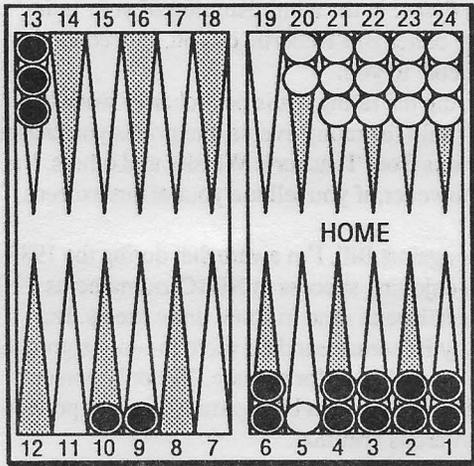


HASTY PLAYS



by Duane Jensen

Match to 9 points. Black leads White 8 to 6. Crawford. **BLACK TO PLAY 2-1.**



In the above setup, Black chose to leave no blots by building his 8-point. White replied with 6-3, making a run for it. "What could I do?" Black wondered as he proceeded to lose the race.

Leading 8-6 Crawford, a better play for Black is 13/11, 6/5*. Since losing a gammon does little to hurt his match-winning chances, Black should not be afraid to leave five blots. Obviously, if White return hits from the bar with a 5 or 6, Black has very slim winning chances. However, if White fails to come in (a 44% possibility), Black becomes a favorite to win the game. He immediately gets 12 rolls to complete a close-out. The remainder build a five point board with the sixth point slotted and many cover numbers should White dance again. In fact, Black closes out the White checker more than 30% of the time if he plays 13/11, 6/5*.

AT DOUBLE MATCH-POINT or when leading by two points at Crawford, your checker play options are increased. Don't necessarily seek out a wild play simply because it is the most gammonish, but realize that you can be more adventuresome than usual. Δ

CHICAGO POINT BACK ISSUES FOR SALE

January 1990-September 1991
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AMALGAMATION

Due to the cancellation of this year's Deauville tournament (see "Letters," p. 4), the British Open Masters Tournament (Isle of Man, 13-17 Nov.) is now the last major International tournament of 1991. Added prize money was £2500 but has been conditionally increased to £5000. For details, FAX the **Baron of Culcreuch**, Great Britain at 0624/627514... Weekly casual play has started up in Cleveland at the Holiday Inn on Wednesday evenings. Phone **Irvin Taylor** at 216/663-7332 for more information... Attending the Chicago Bar Point Club in September: **John Stryker** (OH) in town visiting relatives, and **Al Aki** (FL), in on business... Congrats to **Rich & Donna Galeba** (IL) on the birth of their daughter **Jessica Leann Galeba** on "Friday the 13th" of September. Rich jokes, "If it was a boy, we were going to name him 'Jason.'"... Last month, we received a postcard from eloping newlyweds **Tony & Lynda Siegel** of Colorado. The two were enjoying a beautiful Alaskan honeymoon... An elated **Michael Crane** writes in his Sept. 1991 *BIBAFax* newsletter that on 7 Aug. 1991, **Haig Kessedjian** of the National Backgammon Players' Society lost his two year lawsuit against the non-profit British Isles Backgammon Association. The NBPS claim was that that BIBA had "stolen members by breaking away" to form their own group in Nov. 1989. The judge dismissed the case and slapped Kessedjian with 100% of the court costs... **Wilcox Snellings** informs us that **Aristotle**, as one of his tests for determining acceptance into his Lyceum school of learning, would play backgammon with perspective students to examine their thought processes... Last month's letter from **Michael Flohr** requesting the textbook *Backgammon* has prompted **Carol Joy Cole** (a librarian by profession) to act as "market-maker" for the **Paul Magriel** classic. Call her at 313/232-9731 to receive the latest buy/sell quotes... We have been signed to direct the First International Backgammon Tournament of Costa Rica 8-12 April at the Cariari Hotel/Casino. **Peter Kalba** will also be on staff. If you subscribe to the POINT, you'll be sent an invite... The U.K.'s **Chris Bray** and **Danny Kleinman** (CA) have recently had BG articles published in *Win* magazine. Chris appears in the August issue and Danny (with a piece on cheating) is in October... What's the current street lingo for "dice"? In his latest hit single "Tonite," rap singer **DJ Quik** calls them "snaps." Δ

1991 GOLDEN CIRCUIT STANDINGS

Here are the 1991 International Golden Circuit standings after 12 tournaments. [Courtesy of the Backgammon Gazette of Italy.]

1. Michael Greiner (Germany) 25.13
2. Phillip Marmorstein (Germany) ... 23.20
3. Mike Svobodny (USA) 22.83
4. Gehard Mauerer (Germany) 18.75
5. Christoph Wagener (Germany) 15.14
6. Michel Keller (Switzerland) 14.06
7. Harald Johanni (Germany) 12.47
8. Rolf Schreuder (Holland) 12.19

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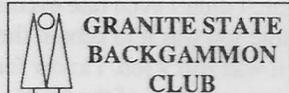
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TAKGAMMON



by Tak Morioka

FOUNDATION

Learning how to play backgammon is one thing. Learning how to play your opponent is another. In this information-saturated activity, strategic concepts that you develop are often shared by others. This being the case, how can you hope to defeat the competition? Perhaps the answer lies in understanding what dictates a play and then learning how to maneuver around the dogmas.

Backgammon is principally a confrontation based on advantages. Although the dice will expose many of your vulnerabilities, other problems are often self-imposed.

Particular weaknesses such as shortsightedness with respect to timing and flexibility are exploitable. More advantage can be gained by elevating the many uncertainties. Selectively probing with intermittent gambles will keep your opponent guessing. This element of unpredictability can cause disarray leading to an unfocused response.

If he is forced to anticipate your wider range of attack, mental fatigue can come into play. This type of erosion will eventually become the ultimate threat. Rather than effectively lose his assets, your opponent might choose a preemptive strike. Should the action be premature, he will be left with an awkward position. That is the vulnerability that is sought. He has entered the trap.

The rest is history. You have just won a battle in positioning, but the war carries on. The question now becomes, "Will the dice allow you a victory, or will they dismantle all of your previous efforts?" Δ



FORTUNE COOKIE

The sins of omission are more terrible than those of commission because the first is a continuing mistake.

OPEN LETTER TO
KENT GOULDING...

[Continued from page 5]

1990. And for the two years before that—for which Paul shows data—10 NEBC monthlies, plus consolations, are missing.

How much higher might Herb Gurland rate if all draw sheets had been submitted? I don't know. The formula is too complex for most people to compute by hand, and I lack the data base. But it is clearly possible to make a 100–150 point rating leap in one year *without* winning the World Championship. Your July 1991 List confirms this: Yamin Yamin to 1696 (from 1560 in July 1990), Alireza Zaltash to 1731 (from 1590), and Walter Trice to 1762 (from 1613) are three examples.

FURTHER EXAMINATION of your rating lists reveals further weaknesses of the system and its implementation.

Your Summer 1987 list, for example, shows only five (but not consecutive) Cavendish West weeklies rated: Oct. 28, Nov. 4, Dec. 2, Dec. 9 and Dec. 23, 1986. Perhaps Ricky Sax submitted only these

tournaments to you. Or perhaps (as she claims) she sent them all to you, in which case the failure to rate them is yours. I don't feel it necessary to determine "blame" for this, nor to impugn either your character or Ricky's. The point is, to reflect performance accurately, any rating system needs *uniform procedures*.

Other deviations from uniform procedure appear in your lists when—on many occasions—*earlier* tournaments are rated *after later ones*. Furthermore, the timing of your lists themselves is neither uniform nor random. You've often published them just after a major victory for yourself . . . or Bill.

Once again, Kent, I do not "blame" you for this. It's human nature for you to think, after taking pride in your tournament victory, "Hey, it's been a while since I've put out a rating list, hasn't it?"

Now as I understand it, *when* a tournament is rated affects the number of points won or lost by the participants. If you win a tournament in March, for example, a player beating you in May will earn more points than the same player beating you in February—if the March tournament has been rated in the interim.

I suggest uniform procedures to elimi-

PROOF WE LACK A PROOF READER

Those of you who carefully read CHICAGO POINT can expect to find 4–6 typos and/or careless errors each month. Such is the case without the services of a qualified proof reader. However, two of the errors in the Sept. issue fall into the "intolerable" category. Public apologies to Kit Woolsey and Danny Kleinman are in order:

- In Mr. Woolsey's analysis of Problem #174, change the first part of the second paragraph to read:
"1) THE RACE. This is the big consideration. If White was substantially ahead, it would be clear for Black to maintain contact with 6/1."
- In the "Ask Danny" column, the printed board diagram is slightly different from the one in which Mr. Kleinman based his article. White's spare checkers should have been placed on the 6-, 5- and 1-points, *not* the 6-, 5- and 4-points.

Wilcox Snellings spotted the error, noting that with White spares on the 6-, 5- and 4-points, the position is actually a "small pass." Snellings concurred with Kleinman that with White's spares on the 6-, 5- and 1-points, the position is a take. Δ

nate any bias in the ratings, and to render irrelevant any speculation whether the bias is deliberate or inadvertent:

- Establish fixed periods for ratings: e.g. every January 1, or every January 1 and every July 1.
- Simplify the rating formula (even at slight cost of accuracy).
- Apply the formula to the ratings of players and opponents as of the previous publication.
- Rate either all tournaments of a certain class (e.g. NEBC monthlies or Cavendish West weeklies) or none, thus putting pressure on directors to submit all.

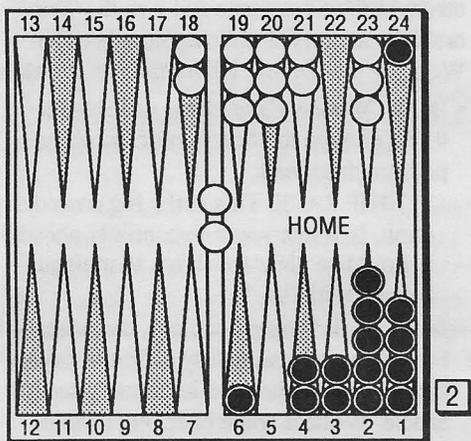
Implementing these procedures will enable each player to check his own rating.

It will also prevent the distortions of haphazard reporting . . . distortions which you have encouraged, Kent. Yes, I know your problems and I sympathize. You've had trouble getting draw sheets submitted at all. And so you've told complaining winners to make sure their wins are reported, even if they must send them in themselves. I blame neither you nor the players who have cooperated with you. I understand your legitimate interests.

All I ask is that the system be changed. Δ

**PROBLEM #175
SOLVED**

by Tom Johnson

Money game. **BLACK TO PLAY 5-2.**

This is a highly complex problem that was suggested by Tom Weaver of Dallas, Texas. Of the players that I surveyed, many expressed a clear preference for the incorrect play.

On the surface, it looks simple. Following 24/22/17, Black gets hit on his 6-point 11 times in 36 which is highly undesirable. Compare this to 24/22, 6/1. Now Black is unable to immediately leap White's 4-prime 16 times in 36: apparently not a disaster.

Let's examine in detail the three primary branches of this problem.

1. WHITE COMES IN ON THE 6-POINT.

When Black gets hit, he becomes a big underdog with an equity of -1.028 points. However it is very important to realize that Black retains possession of the cube, White must bring another checker in against a four point board, and she is also behind in the race. Black still manages to win 29% of these games.

In case #1, Black is quite happy that he made the lifting play as his equity is very favorable at $+0.864$ points. With the cube at 2, this is insufficient for a redouble.

2. WHITE COMES IN ON THE 5-POINT. When Black leaves the blot, he can (and should) put White back on the bar with all 1s. (You can see how this position leads to another interesting problem: should Black hit with a subsequent 5-1?) This not only greatly increasing his gammon chances, but also his overall winning percentage. This is one of the critical swing factors that many overlook. All other numbers either lift the blot or make a stronger board (6-5). Black's equity here is a very strong $+1.36$ points—a clear double!

With the lifting play, Black loses a small percentage compared to the first possibility, due to a few more shots by White, but retains a respectable equity of $+0.826$ points.

3. WHITE STAYS OFF WITH BOTH CHECKERS. When this situation occurs, which position would you choose? While the equity difference is significant ($+2.48$ points vs. $+2.19$ points), you can easily double from either position. If White foolishly takes the

cube, I would much rather be in the outfield. With the running play, you should also take a few rolls to try for a gammon which is not a good idea when primed.

Summary:

By running, Black can correctly redouble 69% of the time vs. 38% after lifting. Don't make the mistake of simplifying the position, thinking that getting hit loses and that safetying the blot insures no further hits. When Black fails to escape, his board gets weaker, possibly revealing a blot. In turn, he may be stuck for several more rolls.

Overall, Black's cubeless equity when escaping is $+1.92$ points vs. $+1.31$ points after lifting!

WHERE DID I COME UP WITH the figures used in this analysis? I added a new feature to *Expert Backgammon™ v.2* (released in September 1991) that allows a 2-ply cross-section of possible dice combinations. For each position rolled out, the dice start at 1-1 and cycle through all 36 possibilities (1-1, 1-2, 1-3, . . . 6-6) and also 36 possible responses, or 1296 variations (36×36). This gives far more accurate results than just random dice generation.

This combined with a three times speed improvement over previous versions of *Expert Backgammon™* allowed me to run the position overnight and collect the data in the morning. I use my program not to do the thinking for me, but as a time-saving tool to add validity to my hypotheses. Δ

[Tom Johnson is the author of *Expert Backgammon™* for the Macintosh.]

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 4]

chances of backgammon including the probability of bearing off the last two men.

- A lucid explanation behind the basic mathematics of the doubling cube with a clear derivation of the 3-to-1 odds criterion for accepting.
- A table of opening rolls which compares favorably with the results of Hal Heinrich's data base. Similarly, a table of responses to the opening rolls.
- An emphasis on the importance of making both 5-points and the establishment of advanced anchors in general.
- An emphasis on maintaining race equity which is more in line with modern thinking on the game than the 1970s "pure" style of play. In this respect, Mr. Richard

is closer to the style of Robertie than to that of Cooke.

- Three example games which illustrate the author's concepts and technical strengths.

I would like to know more about Walter L. Richard. I believe that he must have been a key figure in the development of our game—a forerunner to Jacoby, Cooke, Magriel, Kleinman, Robertie, Goulding, Friedman and other leading analysts. Can anyone provide me with more information about this man?—Rick Janowski, Rochdale, Lancs., England

A TIP OF THE HAT TO DEYONG

I loved the front page article, "Warm Memories of Monte Carlo" by Lewis Deyong last month. He ran a great show for many years and I can well understand his reasons for stepping down.—Gardner Soule, Shelburne, VT

ADDRESSING A PROBLEM

Enclosed are three of my recent mailing addresses. For a long time, address #1 was valid. Then it became invalid, and my address was #2, a mail-forwarding company that I wanted to receive my mail and ship it to me periodically while I was temporarily a resident of San Diego. This didn't work out, so after a very short time, address #2 also became invalid and now my only valid address is #3. No more changes are foreseen for the next several months.—Robert Fox, San Diego, CA

Does the Pony Express still operate in San Diego?—Ed.

ANY WITHDRAWAL SYMPTOMS?

Last year I stayed in Austria without playing backgammon. Now I'm back. Please reinstate my subscription.—Antti Lehmusvirta, Tampere, Finland Δ

JAKE GOES COMMERCIAL

by Jake Jacobs

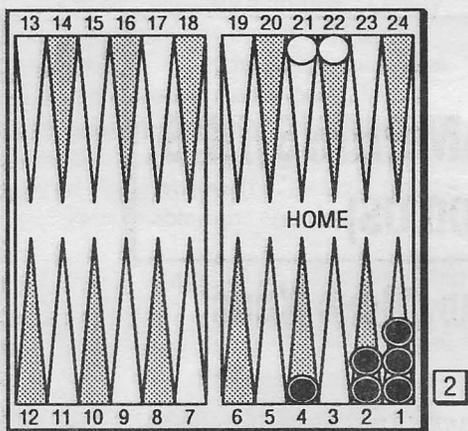


Recently, and not so recently, friends have tried to acquaint me with my own impracticality, underdeveloped business sense, and general lack of gumption. Since they have closets full of nearly-new Amway Starter Kits, and whole shelves of books with titles like *Mail Order Millions!* (which they purchased through the mail), I concede their expertise in these matters.

Accordingly, instead of another article on "Undroppable Beavers" or some such profitless piffle, I submit this article with the rapacious intent of converting some of my backgammon expertise into cold, hard cash.

Here is my notion: I will teach you the correct move for a position—as it happens, the one you see in the diagram shown below—and you will send me money equivalent to your expected gain each time it comes up. You are on the honor system, so those of you who have no intention of living up to this agreement, *stop reading right now.*

Match to 7 points. White leads Black, 4 to 1. **BLACK TO PLAY 1-1.**



Are we alone now? Good! Let's begin. If you have already examined the position, you have probably noticed that bearing off three checkers must be correct; only the fourth ace concerns us. Doubtless you then chose to split 2/1 with the final ace, but this is incorrect. You must move 4/3.

To see why, we observe the only relevant parlay. First, White must roll 2-1, then you (Black) must roll a number containing a 1, but not 1-1. Then you must play 3/2, 2/Off, and not 3/Off (or 2/Off, 2/1). Up

to this point, your plays have been irrelevant; but now your foresight pays its dividend: redouble!

At this match score, White's proper take point is 28.5%. Here White has but 27.8% game equity. Although fewer than 10% of your opponents both can and will work out the match equities and properly pass, a more sizable proportion will drop because:

- (a) "It's a 4-cube,"
- (b) "It's a short match," or
- (c) "The precise chance of winning here is—uhm—not very good."

Still, most intermediates recognize this as a money take—perhaps 1/3 of your opponents will take on this basis. Admittedly, their taking amounts to only a small part of your (hoped for) win. Also, I'm sure that checker plays subsequent to 1-1, you would have worked out for yourself. So here is all I'm asking: 10% of your expected earnings, regardless of the actual result, each time you reach the previously-diagrammed position and make my recommended move.

How much is involved? Well, in the Tuesday night tournament that I regularly attend, entry is \$10.00 with an optional \$5.00 side pool. The entry is raked 20%, so winning a match is worth $[(\$10.00 \times 80\% + \$5.00) \times 2] - (\$10.00 + \$5.00) = \$11.00$. The parlay of rolling 2-1, followed by any ace except 1-1, followed by 2-1 is 40-in-46,656 or 1-in-1,166.4. The match equity gain is 0.7%. We will estimate the chance of error at 1-in-3. So the combined estimated equity gain is 499,684.76-to-1. We're friends—let's call it 500,000-to-1. Now 10% of \$11.00 is \$1.10. \$1.10 divided by 500,000 is 0.00022 cents. So that's the amount you should forward.

It's true this play won't come up very often. Calculating the results of a position are hard enough, but calculating the chances of getting into that position in the first place are even harder. Through techniques too specious to reveal to the general public, I have decided that this position arises about once in 100,000,000 times. At least, those experts I discussed it with agreed that this number was no further from the truth than my reputation would already permit. However, none would go on record (cowards!), so you will have to accept my word alone.

This figure, 1-in-10⁸, is of course before the roll. 1-1 tumbles out 1-in-36 (more if you're trying to save a gammon), so the complete position (cube location and match score already included) with roll comes up 1-in-3.6 billion.

On the bright side, while circulation

figures for CHICAGO POINT are better guarded than the formula for Coca-Cola®, my informants assure me there are at least 500 readers out there. Now, 90% of you will not finish this article, 70% of the remainder will forget the play every time it comes up, and 20% of this further remainder are scalawags who won't forward my fee. That still leaves a dozen of you ready to put my words into practice.

So get busy guys, I'm counting on you! If you play 125 matches a year, that's 1500 matches. At 1-in-3.6 billion, that's about 1 every 24 million years. No reason you can't hit a few of them early, and each time you do, another 0.00022 cents is rung up just like the jackpot on a slot machine.

Send your checks to me in care of CHICAGO POINT. My editor has promised to forward them. I consulted with him about opening a special Post Office Box, but he wants to wait a bit. His exact words were: "Let's see what sort of response we get."

While waiting, I've worked out my yearly earnings from this project. They should be at least 8.332×10^{-12} cents per year. I'm not ashamed to admit I'm getting goose bumps thinking about it. All I need is four or five more setups like this working for me and I could be the most prominent "position pimp" in Chicago.

ONE FINAL WORD. If you want to teach this position to your friends so you can collect some big bucks for yourself, I understand. Just send me 10% of your end.

—Jake Jacobs Δ



ILLINOIS ACTION



Bill Davis
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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. Zimnicki (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).

who did what

WINNER'S CORNER



June-Sept. 1991

•**Torneo de Baleares** (San José, Costa Rica; 3, 5, 10 June)... Open (30): 1-Carlos Jimenez, 2-Mike Walker, 3-Antonio Ortega, 4-Mario Lizano, 5/6-Roberto Salas / Carlos Gurdíán. Novice (32): 1-Walter Montero, 2-Amalia Aguilar, 3-Flory Zuñiga. Kickoff (64): 1-Mario Madrigal, 2-Antonio Ortega.

•**Australian National Championship** (Melbourne, Vic., Australia; 7-10 June)... Mats Jonasson National (64): 1-Jay Deva, 2-Peter Susman, 3/4-Bill Marczak, Colin Tyte. Open: 1-Ross Hancock, 2-Tad Irlight. Regent Mel. Golden Handshake: 1-Dave Georgeson, 2-Tom Chrysostomou. Silver Handshake: 1/2-Eva Bitel / Tony Hutton.

•**Torneo del Gran Hotel** (San José, Costa Rica; 25-28 June)... Open (37): 1-Dennis Rutkowski (USA), 2-Antonio Ortega, 3-Mario Lizano, 4-William Romero, 5-Mike Walker. Novice (32): 1-Alex Bolaños, 2-William Charpentier, 3-Ben Simms. Kickoff (64): 1-Milton Gonzalez, 2-Rita Ramirez. Doubles (16): 1-Gladis Trukowski & Antonio Ortega, 2-Mario Madrigal & César Hernández, 3-Dennis Rutkowski & Max Esquivel.

•**Rscards Computer Summer Tourney** (GENie Modem Service; July-Aug.)... Open (33): 1-Kurt Schurecht (IL), 2-Marc Ferguson (CA), 3/4-Doug Johnson (NC) / Andre Sergeon (MD)... For more info about GENie services, call 800/638-9636.

•**Hoosier One-Day** (Indianapolis, IN; 28 July)... Open (17): 1-Ken Bruck, 2/3-Gino Agresti / Jeff

Baker. Intermediate (7): 1-Scott Richardson, 2-Cyrus Mobed. Novice (4): 1-Lara Simsic.

•**Thousand Islands Tournament** (Alexandria Bay, NY; 2-4 Aug.)... A Div. (24): 1-Don Sloan, 2-Rick Grutka, 3-Takis Sakkalis (MI). B Div. (4): 1-Jim Dickson. Doubles: 1-Rich Reasin & Stuart Thomson.

•**14th Bob Hill Classic** (Long Island, NY; 4 Aug.)... Open (30): 1-Dr. Bob Hill, 2-Arthur Shulman, 3/4-Bob Bishop / Kevin Ryan; 1C/2C-Howard Shapiro / Ami Tennenbaum. Limited (26): 1-Angelo Larceri, 2-Mark Simon; 1C/2C-David Posmantier / Peter Wilder... The *Greater New York BG Newsletter* reports that besides the tournament, Dr. Bob's (the tourney host) swimming pool saw plenty of action.

•**6th Argentine Open** (Buenos Aires, Argentina; 5-9 Aug.)... Championship: 1-Hugo Ergueta, 2-Juan Rosa. Junior: 1-Carlos Szechet, 2-Jorge Hernandez. Beginner: 1-Patricia Stier, 2-Javier Mendez... AAB director Claudio Salamone reports attendance over 330. Prizes included a Fiat auto (Champ.) and trips to Paris (Jr.) and Miami (Beginner).

•**Vermont Festival** (Stratton Mt., VT; 12-18 Aug.)... Stratton Mt. Open: 1-Jeff Acierno (NY), 2-Al Tesoro (FL), 3/4-Walter Trice (MA) / Dave Sporn (NY); 1C-Bob Bishop (NY), 2C-Jeff Baldino (NY). Canadian Open: 1-Ami Tennenbaum (NJ), 2-Paul Weaver (MD); 1C-J.P. McGirr (FL), 2C-Alan Steffen (WA). Intermediate: 1-Fred Bement (VT), 2-Tom Green (NC).

•**Palace Summer Championships** (St. Moritz, Switzerland; 15-18 Aug.)... Open (39): 1-Thomas Lumper (GER), 2-Mario Sequeira (POR), 3/4-Nicola Pagano (ITA) / Balestrieri (SWI); 1C-Cristiano Russo (ITA), 2-Roberto Caprio (ITA); 1LC-Karl Laubmeier (GER), 2LC-Ed O'Laughlin (USA). Intermediate (34): 1-Schirazi, 2-Raphael Colombo (ITA); 1C-Schmid, 2C-Marco Lonardi (ITA); 1LC-

Hayden, 2LC-Brigitta Wacker (GER)... The results were gleaned from *Backgammon Gazette of Italy*.

•**BPC Summer Cool Tournament** (Oak Brook, IL; 18 Aug.)... Open (30): 1/2-John O'Hagan (IN) / Jeff Kane (WI), 3/4-Larry Lau / Tak Morioka; 1C-David Orman (WI), 2C-Don Desmond (IL). Limited (16): 1-Bob Ebbeler, 2-Don Jayhan, 3/4-Arlene Levy / Bobbie Shifrin; 1C-David Curd, 2C-Fred Gehlhoff (WI).

•**26th Gammom Associates Invitational** (Hollywood, CA; 23-25 Aug.)... Open (32): 1-Gene Chait, 2-Robert Glass, 3/4-Ray Spehar / Z. Vered. Limited (8): 1-Alex Blaine, 2-Jarrell Carter. Special 16: 1-Farzan Garmroodi, 2/3-Steve Sax / Wilcox Snellings. Doubles (8): 1-R. Armbruster & Azzam Masarani.

•**1st Mitteleuropa Backgammon Tournament** (Nova Gorica, Slovenia; 29 Aug.-1 Sept.)... Championship (24): 1-Heinrich Hanssleiter (GER), 2-Roberto Caprio (ITA); 1C-Marco Lonardi (ITA); 1LC-Bruno Fanan (ITA). Intermediate (14): 1-Diana Sulimirski (UK), 2-Maurizio Bevilacqua (ITA); 1C-Andrea Gatto (ITA); 1LC-Alfredo Sperti (ITA). Warm-up: 1-Ray Tannen (UK)... WBF president Alberto da Pra informs that Yugoslavia has now become Slovenia and despite the fighting in that country, the tournament was successfully held drawing participation from four continents.

•**BIBA Trophy Tournament No. 3** (Crick, England; 31 Aug.-1 Sept.)... Open (54): 1-Paul Money, 2-Tom Conner, 3-Bill Brierley, 4-Dale Taylor. "Top Lady" Trophy: Kim Grais. "Better Luck Next Time" Trophy: Anne Gamsby.

•**Milwaukee Bimonthly** (Milwaukee, WI; 15 Sept.)... Open (15): 1-Larry Strommen (IN), 2-John O'Hagan (IN); 1C-Don Desmond (IL). Limited (9): 1-Lenore Holyon, 2-Bruce Russell; 1C-Mike Lawless. Δ

Dunhill Lights

HONG KONG BACKGAMMON CHAMPIONSHIPS

\$40,000 HK ADDED (OVER \$5,100 US)

LADIES RECREATION CLUB, 10 OLD PEAK ROAD, HONG KONG
1-2 NOVEMBER 1991

Directed under the auspices of the HONG KONG BACKGAMMON CLUB

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, 1 November

6:30 P.M. Buffet Dinner
7:15 P.M. Calcutta Auction and Draw
8:30 P.M. Play begins: Main Draw

Saturday, 2 November

1:30 P.M. Play resumes: Main, Conso-
lation, Last Chance
6:30 P.M. Lucky Draw: Door prize drawing
8:00 P.M. Finals: Championship and Inter-
mediate Divisions

ENTRANCE FEES

Championship: \$950 HK + \$100 HK non-
members = \$1050 HK (approx. \$135 US)

Intermediate: \$450 HK + \$50 non-members
= \$500 HK (approx. \$65 US)

THE LADIES RECREATION CLUB

Situated in the the center of Hong Kong, this first class social club offers you tennis courts, swimming pool, fine restaurant and comfortable meeting room facilities.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Mr. Jerry Godsey	Mr. Steve Nelson
Macau Industrial Ltda.	c/o Baker & McKenzie
P.O. Box 182	14th/F Hutchison House
Macau, Via Hong Kong	Central, Hong Kong
(853) 234-567	(852) 846-1923 (Direct)
FAX (853) 233-413	FAX (852) 845-0476

Notification of your attendance is requested by 24 October 1992. Payment will be in Hong Kong dollars at the time of the event.