

*cbpc fall trophy tourney*

## BERKMAN UPSETS KAY

Chicago Bar Point Club's  
9th Annual Draws Full Fields

A sellout crowd of 64 players squeezed into Pat's Pub 5 November 1991 to partake in the Chicago Bar Point Club's 9th annual Fall Trophy Tourney. The one-night shootout attracted players from three states including one player from London,



Peter Berkman (left) receives the Champ trophy from Bill Davis. [Photo by Jolie Lewis]

England: Graham Sievers who happened to be visiting Chicago.

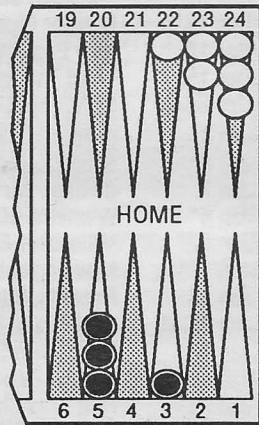
The all-Chicago Championship finals pitted relative tournament newcomer Peter Berkman against the internationally experienced Gary Kay. In a hard-fought finals, Peter prevailed 7-5, but he'd be the first to admit that it took some good fortune.

In the diagrammed position above, Kay



Bobbie Shifrin enters from the bar, hitting Mary Franks in the Intermediate finals.

BPC Fall Trophy  
Tourney finals.  
7 point match.  
Peter Berkman  
(White) leads  
Gary Kay  
(Black), 6 to 5  
(Crawford).  
**BLACK TO  
PLAY 6-2.**



made the best of his 6-2 playing 5/Off, 5-3. As long as Peter didn't roll a double, Gary would be a definite favorite to force the match into a deciding game.

Peter never did roll a double; however, Gary did on his next shake: double 2s! An incredibly bad roll, this was the only number that took no pieces off. Peter went on to win the game and earn the first backgammon trophy of his life.

It took Chicago favorite Bobbie Shifrin 12 games, but she managed to edge Mary Franks 7-6 for the Intermediate trophy. Great work, Bobbie! Complete results: Δ

### BAR POINT CLUB FALL TROPHY TOURNEY

OPEN (32): 1-Peter Berkman, 2-Gary Kay, 3/4-Scottie Mitchell / Harold Seif; 1C-Mark Anshus (WI), 2C-Steve Potashnick.

INTERMEDIATE (32): 1-Bobbie Shifrin, 2-Mary Franks, 3/4-Dave Curd / Joe Koucharian; 1C-Norma Shyer, 2C-Frank Callea.

## COOKE GETS THE HOOK



It's the 29-point finals of the 1974 Dunhill International Backgammon Tournament aboard the Queen Elizabeth II. Barclay Cooke and Charles Benson are tied 28-all. A slightly inebriated Benson rolls a timely double 4 and wins!

The above caricature first appeared in Sports Illustrated. Want a 4" x 5" sticker of the action? Just send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to CHICAGO POINT; 2726 W. Lunt Ave.; Chicago, IL 60645-3039.

# CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

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## LETTERS

c/o CHICAGO POINT  
2726 W. Lunt Avenue  
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### THE 'GODSEY RULE,' CIRCA 1909

In last month's "Shades Of Gray" column, Jerry Godsey suggested a way to end the problem of misreading dice which Danny Kleinman labeled the "Godsey Rule":

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.

Incredibly, R.F. Foster in his 1909 work *Foster's Complete Hoyle*, included the following rule regarding dice rolls: "The caster must announce his throw as soon as made."

Perhaps if the practice of calling one's roll is ever adopted, it should be known as the "Foster Rule."—Rick Janowski, Rochdale, England

### ANOTHER OPTION TO AVOID DICE-READING DISPUTES

A silent system to help avoid dice-reading disputes and cheating (in rare cases) is to lift the dice from the surface of the board with two fingers (I use the thumb and

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

coming attractions



by Carol Joy Cole  
313/232-9731

\* Denotes new or revised listing

### NATIONAL

Dec 6*	Cavendish Club South Grand Opening Tournament, Hallendale, FL	305/454-8000
Dec 6*	L.A. Invitational Backgammon Happening, Merit College, Van Nuys, CA	818/905-6937
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 15*	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*	CANCELLED—Last Tournament of 1991, The Summit, New York, NY	305/527-4033
Jan 4*	Springfield Series Monthly, Davy Byrnes, Springfield, IL	217/789-6275
Jan 5*	Sandy Kaplan Invitational, Cavendish North Club, Southfield, MI	313/642-9616
Jan 7	Chicago Bar Point Club Awards Night, Pat's Pub, Norridge, IL	312/338-6380
Jan 8*	Winnetka BG Club Awards Night, Community House, Winnetka, IL	708/446-0537
Jan 12*	Milwaukee Club Sunday Bimonthly Tournament, John Hawks Pub, WI	414/463-2498
Jan 12*	New England Club Monthly, Sheraton-Commander, Cambridge, MA	617/641-2091
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*	Springfield Series Monthly, Davy Byrnes, Springfield, IL	217/789-6275
Jan 18	College Park Winter Open Tournament, Promenade, Bethesda, MD	301/530-0604
Jan 23*	Flint Area Club Awards Night & Bonus Tourney, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	313/232-9731
Jan 24-26*	CANCELLED—Rainbow Bend Tournament, Marathon, FL Keys	305/527-4033
Jan 25	4th Hawthorne Classic, Hawthorne Race Course, Cicero, IL	312/338-6380
Jan 30-Feb 2*	Pro-Am Invitational Doubles Tournament, Paradise Island, Bahamas	301/299-8265
Feb 1*	Springfield Series Monthly, Davy Byrnes, Springfield, IL	217/789-6275
Feb 9*	Bar Point Doubles Tournament, Braxton Seafood Grill, Oak Brook, IL	312/252-7755
Feb 9*	New England Club Monthly, Sheraton-Commander, Cambridge, MA	617/641-2091
Feb 15*	D.I. Long Memorial Tournament, Holiday Inn, Louisville, KY	502/458-7468
Feb 15-16*	Riverboat Gambling and Illinois Challenge Cup, Pizza Works, Peoria, IL	309/692-6909
Feb 16	Fleet Underwood Memorial Tournament & Benefit, Flint, MI	313/232-9731
Feb 28-Mar 1	14th Annual Charity Tournament, Greentree Marriott, Pittsburgh, PA	412/371-5844
Mar 7*	Springfield Series Monthly, Davy Byrnes, Springfield, IL	217/789-6275
Mar 20-22	1992 Midwest Championships, Marriott Hotel, Oakbrook, IL	312/338-6380
Apr 15*	Rscards Spring Computer Modem Tournament, GENie	313/348-0580
Apr 18*	College Park Spring Open Tournament, Promenade, Bethesda, MD	301/530-0604
Apr 24-26*	40th Indiana Open, Courtyard Marriott Hotel, Indianapolis, IN	317/845-8435

### OUTSIDE USA

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 6*	Hong Kong Club Monthly Tournament, Ladies Recreation Club	852/846-1923
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
Jan 25-26*	BIBA Trophy Tournament No. 1, George Hotel, Solihull, England	021/711 2121
Feb 10-16	Torrequebrada Championship, Torrequebrada Hotel, Costa Del Sol, Spain	021/440 3428
Feb 7-9*	3rd Holland Open Championships, Motel Gilze-Rijen, Gilze, Holland	01/615-4951
Feb 14-16*	6th Cannes International Tournament, Palais des Festivals, France	061/331-5816
Feb 20-23*	Third French Open, Paris, France	1/4288 6645
Mar 12-15*	28th Ted Bassett & Gstaad Palace-Cup, Palace Hotel, Switzerland	061/331-5816
Mar 17-22*	18th Winter Championships, Palace Hotel, St. Moritz, Switzerland	061/331-5816
Apr 8-12*	Tournament of the Americas, Cariari Hotel/Casino, San José, Costa Rica	312/252-7755
Apr 23-26*	19th Byblos European Championship, St. Tropez, France	33/9497-0004

forefinger) and pause before throwing them back into the cup. This way, if the opponent does object, the player can set his dice back down on the table showing the numbers that he just rolled.

When I referee the World Championship in Month Carlo, I always inform the finalists to use this very simple system. Thus far, there has not been a dispute in

reading the dice.—Alberto da Pra, president, Worldwide Backgammon Federation, Mendrisio, Switzerland

*The "two-finger lift" is a good practice for honest players, but beware of an untrustworthy individual adept at sleight-of-hand. Upon lifting the dice, he could easily give*

[Continues]



them a quarter turn to match what he claims to have rolled.—Ed.

## HERE WE GO A-CAROLING

Full of the Christmas spirit and seasonal cheer, I submit the "Backgammon Christmas Carol." Sing it to any tune that comes to mind . . .

On the first day of Christmas, my true  
luck gave to me,  
A beaver in a chouette.

On the second day of Christmas, my true  
luck gave to me,  
Two sets of ducks,  
And a beaver in a chouette.

On the third day of Christmas, my true  
luck gave to me,

Three box runs,  
Two sets of ducks,  
And a beaver in a chouette.

On the forth day of Christmas, my true  
luck gave to me,  
Four steaming birds,  
Three box runs,  
Two sets of ducks,  
And a beaver in a chouette.

On the fifth day of Christmas, my true  
luck gave to me,  
FIVE - TRIPLE - SHOTS!  
Four steaming birds,  
Three box runs,  
Two sets of ducks,  
And a beaver in a chouette.

Thanks for a year's worth of enjoyable

CHICAGO POINT reading, and Happy Holidays to all "Backgammonists" far and wide!  
—Ray & Barbara Fogeland, Bakersfield, CA

## WANTS TO OBTAIN A 'NISHAN'

Can you provide me with more information about the artist featured on the November cover. I want to buy one of his pieces for my club.—Michael Valentine, director, Ace Point Backgammon Club, New York, NY

Nishan Akgulian is in Europe. We'll be in touch with him when he returns.—Ed.

## PRAISE FOR JAKE

Jake Jacobs' "The Naked And The Dead" was one of his best ever. Lots of laughs.—Carol Joy Cole, editor, Flint Area BackgammonNews, Flint, MI

## A REQUEST TO EUROPE

Please ask your European readers to notify British Isles Backgammon Association (BIBA) of any and all forthcoming tournaments. At the moment, I cull this information from your publication and the Flint Area BackgammonNews.—Michael Crane; BIBA; 44 Carral Close; Lincoln LN5 9BD; England.

## DO THEY MAKE POINTS AT WEST POINT?

It seems that every few years, I experience déjà vu as I hear someone mention that backgammon is a "required course" at West Point Military Academy. Whenever I inquire as to the speaker's source of information, the response is always vague. Can anyone out there verify this strange claim?—Marc Gray, Niskayuna, NY Δ

## CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB 1991 BPC PLAYER OF THE YEAR COMPILED THRU 30 NOV.

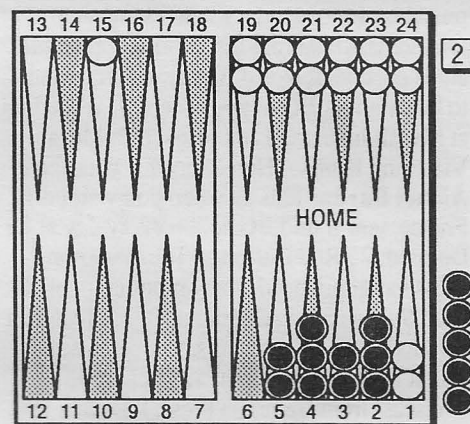
TAK MORIOKA	24.40	David Rubin	5.88	Don Marek	1.36
DAVE CRAMER	21.68	Alice Kay	5.76	Mark Anshus	1.28
JAKE JACOBS	19.44	Harold Seif	5.60	David Lynn	1.28
YAMIN YAMIN	18.48	Arline Levy	5.52	Jerry Brooks	1.24
STU KATZ	18.32	Marcy Sloan	5.16	Barbara Levinson	1.24
GARY KAY	17.20	Mark King	5.12	Steve Katz	1.12
DON DESMOND	16.00	Bill Davis	4.84	Dan Judd	1.04
JOANN FEINSTEIN	13.04	Bob Ebbeler	4.64	Judy Brown	1.04
DEEB SHALATI	12.96	Ed Buerger	4.64	Roland Dieter	0.96
JOHN DEMIAN	12.28	Beverly Klene	3.76	Dean Muench	0.96
MARY FRANKS	12.24	Alex Caraplis	3.60	Greg Try	0.92
JOE KOUGHARIAN	11.88	Stan Kucharz	3.56	Scottie Mitchell	0.88
ALEX ITKIN	11.20	Chris Stanford	3.36	Earl Risch	0.88
PAUL FRANKS	10.24	David Curd	3.16	Peter Naguib	0.88
JOLIE LEWIS	10.24	Barry Miller	2.72	Mike Landau	0.88
LENNY LODER	10.08	Peter Kalba	2.72	Craig Chellstorp	0.88
PETER BERKMAN	9.92	Betsy Miller	2.64	Mickey Kaplan	0.80
HOWARD MARKOWITZ	9.92	Matthais Pauen	2.56	Ron Stur	0.80
BOBBIE SHIFRIN	9.48	V.W. Zimnicki	2.56	Rich Galeba	0.80
PHYLLIS SMOLINSKI	8.72	Adam Kay	2.40	Kathy Rudnick	0.80
Norma Shyer	8.64	Jeff Kane	2.36	Sheila Arnold	0.72
Lucky Nelson	8.48	Paul Friedman	2.16	David Rockwell	0.72
Sarg Serges	8.16	Reggie Porter	1.92	Ken Torrens	0.48
Steve Potashnick	8.08	Walter Schafer	1.92	Elaine Kehm	0.48
George Barr	8.08	Ed Bauder	1.92	George Kirkby	0.44
Don Jayhan	7.96	Kurt Warning	1.88	Fred Gehlhoff	0.44
Bruce Wittert	7.76	Larry Lau	1.84	Bart Levin	0.40
Frank Callea	7.60	Kurt Schurecht	1.84	Mike Cohen	0.40
Howard Ring	7.60	Tim Mabee	1.84	Jeff Vaughn	0.32
Ralph Levy	7.52	John O'Hagan	1.80	Mike Curcio	0.32
Tim Serges	6.84	Harold Grote	1.68	Mike Spiropoulos	0.24
René Wojtysiak	6.52	Richard Stawowy	1.64	Larry Knoll	0.24
Leslie Lockett	6.24	David Orman	1.64	Bob Vining	0.24
Femi Owiku	6.24	Bob Zavoral	1.52	Jill Ferdinand	0.20
Herb Roman	6.24	Bob Holyon	1.36	John Myers	0.20
Ken Bond	6.16				

November's Player of the Month is **DAVE CRAMER**. Wins on 12 and 26 Nov. earned Dave 3.84 points in his drive to overtake Tak Morioka (who will not play in December).

Peter Berkman was runner-up with 2.56 points—his award for winning the Fall Trophy Tourney. Jolie Lewis and Bobbie Shifrin tied for third with 2.16 points each.

## your move PROBLEM #178

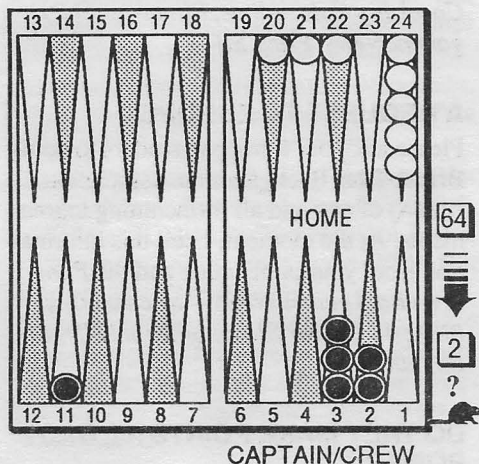
Money game. BLACK TO PLAY 3-1.





**D**ear Miss Lonelyblots: A few months back at my local club, I was one of the "crew" in a four-handed chouette when the box doubled us in the following position:

## THE BOX



Two good rolls later, I asked the captain to hold his roll as I recubed to 8. The other team members followed suit, redou-

*This was quite upsetting to me, Miss Lonelyblots. First of all, I don't rate to be alive in the year 3000. Secondly, I have always considered this individual to be a person of high integrity and this incident has shaken my view. I'm just writing to get your opinion of the whole affair.—Kal Q. Later, Indianapolis, IN*

**DEAR KAL:** The kibitzer's contract to play 200 games doesn't mean "later": it means

If the kibitzer refuses your generous offer, I'm afraid you have no legal redress. So reproduce your letter to me, calling the kibitzer by name and deleting the last paragraph, and post it conspicuously in view of the others at your club. Don't bother calling him a "liar" or a "thief": let his actions speak for themselves.—*Miss Lonelyblots* Δ

*Do you have a backgammon-related question for Miss Lonelyblots involving people problems, game etiquette or the play itself? Write: Dear Miss Lonelyblots, c/o CHICAGO POINT, 2726 W. Lunt Avenue, Chicago, IL 60645-3039.*

## AMALGAMATION

Arlington, MA 02174... Visiting the Bar Point Club in November: **Kelly Williams** (Denver) ... Backgammon on a circular playing field? That's "Passim." For more info, see the "Games 100" listing in the Dec. 1991 *Games* magazine... Regarding the Chicago Bar Point Club's new Tuesday night policy of restricted smoking effective Jan. 1992, **Greg Tomlin** (Springfield, IL) wants to know: "Will it still be O.K. to steam?"... The WBF and **Dario De Toffoli** are jointly announcing the 1st Backgammon Olympiad to be held at the Casinò of the Lido in Venice, Italy 30 June-5 July. Minimum guaranteed prize money will approach US \$100,000. Details to follow... **Sue Will** and **Cinda King**, Central Illinois Club directors (defending Illinois Team Challenge Cup champs) will host seven state clubs at the 1992 Cup at Peoria Pizza Works 16 Feb. And you won't want to miss the Saturday 15 Feb. evening event—a 2 1/2 hour

cruiZe on Peoria's new "Par-A-Dice" casino riverboat. Perhaps former Pub Club director **Ed Bauder** will be dealing craps that evening... New York to Chicago: **John Brussel**. New Jersey to Minneapolis: **Ray Glaeser**. Virginia to Florida: **Myrtle Brickman** who recently published her last issue of the *Senior's Money Alert* investment newsletter... For those Argentines who get a "charge" out of backgammon, the Argentina Backgammon Association is supplying them with the card. It's a Visa (see inset at right)...

Chicago's **John Demian** cautions us about backgammon: "This game is Prime-Evil."... Happy Holidays from CHICAGO POINT. Δ







# THINKING ABOUT BACKGAMMON

by Chris Bray

See if this sounds familiar . . .

Before sitting down to play for the evening, you have mentally rehearsed your game plan. You will play at a relaxed pace, carefully consider all plays and cube decisions, remain calm if your opponent turns around a game with a 17-to-1 shot, not swear or complain about your bad luck . . .

The first game goes well and you win 2 points. In game two you have cubed and look to be winning a gammon. You reach a critical position where you have the choice between two moves, A and B. After much deliberation you choose B, get hit by a 17-to-1 shot, stay on the bar against a three point board for four rolls, accept the recube and eventually lose an 8 point gammon.

In the third game you are cubed and make a perfectly valid take, get gammoned and lose 4 points. After this, your play rapidly deteriorates. You can be seen grabbing for any cube that moves, rolling before your opponent has picked up his dice, doubling prematurely, etc.

At the close of play, you are down 40 points. You're aware that you've been steaming, but vowing it will all be different next week when you *really will* stick to your plan.

THE PRECEDING DESCRIBES a very common

occurrence in money play backgammon. The same happens in tournaments to a lesser degree. Players often play the first game of a match very slowly (the first game of the first World Cup final lasted 25 minutes) and then inevitably speed up.

I belong to the school of thought that believes backgammon is an extremely complex game (taking some lessons from Paul Magriel last summer has very much reinforced this view) and that you should not just play the first move that comes to mind.

How then can you regulate your pace of play so that it remains relatively constant over an entire session? How should you make the best use of the limited thinking time available to you? For me, will-power alone is insufficient. Over the last few months, I have tried to develop a number of memory aids based on key-words as follows:

## CUBE

Before every roll I think of the word "Cube." This reminds me that *every roll is a cube decision*. (Apologies for infringement of copyright, Mr. Woolsey!) If it is centered or owned by me, then I may have a difficult decision to make, or I may be able to quickly dismiss any action prior to this roll. If it is owned by my opponent, it reminds me that my checker plays may need to reflect this. Whatever happens, I am *always* aware of the position of the doubling cube.

## DOUBLET

This only applies if I have thrown a double. If so, I think of the word "doublet" and mentally count to three, purely to remind myself that there are likely to be a large number of candidate plays.

## CANDIDATES

As Kent Goulding has often said, the majority of errors in backgammon are not made by choosing incorrectly between play A and play B, but by completely overlooking play C. "Candidates" reminds me that I should try to identify all reasonable candidate plays. (What is reasonable to one player may not be reasonable to another—the source of many a chouette argument. That will depend upon each player's perception of his model of backgammon. Evaluation of candidates, however, goes beyond the bounds of this article.)

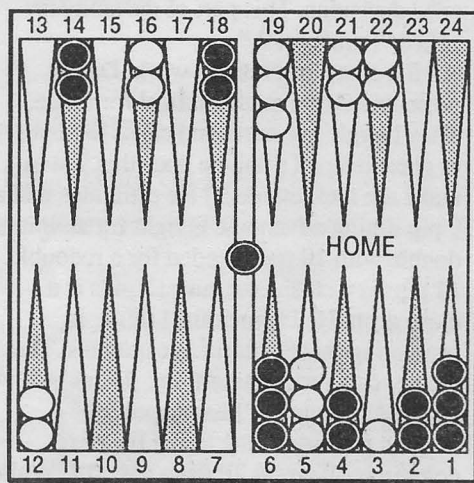
If I correctly identify all the candidates and then choose the wrong move because my "backgammon" model is incorrect, I will be happier than if I completely overlook the right move. In the former case, I will attempt to refine my model because of the error; in the latter, I will not be aware

that my model has an error.

Many positions are apparently straightforward with the candidates limited to one move. This will sometimes be true, but not as often as many players think. And in reality, there is far more to any position than is readily apparent. A little thought can pay very high dividends.

Identifying the candidates will enable you to take time on the difficult moves and play the simple moves quickly—the hallmark of a strong player. Nearly anybody can play an opening 3-1 quickly and correctly, but a position such as Problem #176 requires a great deal of analysis—I started with seven candidates and gradually refined that selection, but I'm still not sure I eventually selected the best move.

Problem #176. Tournament double match point. **BLACK TO PLAY 5-1.**  
[Analyzed in 11/91 POINT by Kit Woolsey.]



## IN SUMMARY

Applying these key-words rigorously over a long session is not easy. Like everything else, it requires practice. I have gradually been improving my application over the last few months, but still have some way to go before I'm happy. It has, however, had the desired effect of regulating the pace of my play.

In the heat of battle, it is difficult to stick to a disciplined code of thinking. If you can do it naturally, congratulations. If not, consider the use of key-words, mine or your own—it doesn't matter, to discipline your approach and regulate your pace of play. Even if it only saves you one steaming gammon with a 4-cube, it will be worthwhile.

This article has suggested things to think about when you are on roll. How to use the rest of your time efficiently whilst at the board will be covered in a subsequent article. Δ



## ILLINOIS ACTION



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

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

**Sunday Bimonthly, 12:30 P.M.** at 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).

# HAROLD'S VIEW



by Harold Branch

## LET'S ROLL

In Danny Kleinman's book, *...But Only The Hogs Win Backgammons* [\$37 from: Danny Kleinman; 5312 1/2 Village Green; Los Angeles, CA 90016], he is studying timing as it relates to full primes on pages 12, 13 and 14. He is working on some of Paul Weaver's ideas.

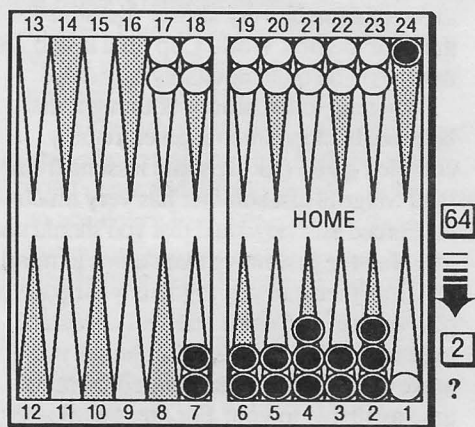
On pages 13 and 14, Danny works specifically with mutual primes—7-point through 2-point—with one hostile unit trapped behind each prime. The positioning of the other two checkers for each side reflects the differences in timing. These differences are converted into criteria for cube decisions. This part of the study is called "Paradigm 2."

It's close, impressive work. Danny presents several mathematical formulae. They boggle my mind and cause my eyes to glaze over. (I think he does this just to make me feel retarded!) He estimates that a 9 pip timing advantage is right for an initial double with 10 pips needed for a redouble. 11 pips is a close take, and 12 pips is a close drop. He is gracious, I think, in presenting these criteria as estimates. They are not categorical assertions. There is no implied attitude of "I have spoken!"

The position at the top of the next column is Diagram 2P from page 14. White has 12 pips of timing advantage and doubles. (Black's two pips of time are considered too worthless to count as he will break immediately anyway.) Danny's opinion: "Black has a marginal pass."

My curiosity and interest in learning

Diagram 2P from *...Only the Hogs Win Backgammons* (p. 14). White doubles. SHOULD BLACK TAKE?



something led me to work on this position. I was a little chagrined to see that I came up with a different result.

After a double and a take, I make White's advantage out to be about 2-to-1, not 3-to-1. On the first 200 rollouts, White grabbed 67% of the total points floating around. I did 200 more—got 66%.

Are 400 samples enough? I think so. Let's rephrase the question. In a compact, simple position like this, will the basic truth of the position remain hidden throughout 400 rollouts? Probably not.

I rattle, roll and tabulate. I don't calculate. I use no short cuts. The only concession to subjectivity involves the redouble when the game turns around. I try—subjectively of course—to redouble as close to the drop-take point as I can. Then I award that individual result to the redoubler (Black).

I think Danny might want to lengthen the pip advantage slightly for the redouble and the drop. The table below is what my notebook looks like, breaking the results down into eight groups of fifty samples each.

About 2-to-1. Double and take. Right? Δ

**TABLE 1.**

Tabulated findings for 400 rollouts of Diagram 2P (fifty rolls per group).

Group	White Points Won			Black Points Won			Net Pts.		% of Total Pts. White
	2	4	6	2	4	6	White		
1	33	1		16			38 < 50		69
2	31	1		18			30 < 50		65
3	31	4		14		1	44 < 50		70
4	30	2		18			32 < 50		65
Sub Tot	125	8		66		1	144 < 200		67
5	31	1		18			30 < 50		65
6	29	2		19			28 < 50		63
7	30			20			20 < 50		60
8	37	1		12			54 > 50		76
Sub Tot	127	4		69			32 < 200		66
Total	252	12		135		1	276 < 400		66.7

# HASTY PLAYS

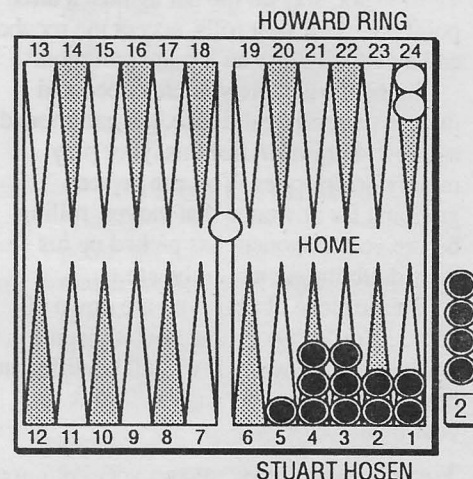


by Duane Jensen

Stuart Hosen (TX) playing the Black pieces, hit a desperation shot to escape the gammon and close out Howard Ring's (IL) White checker. During the bearoff, Stu tried to achieve two contrary objectives: maintain his inner board points while bearing off men efficiently.

As Stu took more checkers off, it became more difficult to hold points and thus prevent Howard from entering his man from the bar. That brings us to the problem:

## Money game. HOW SHOULD STUART HOSEN (BLACK) PLAY 6-1?



The first instinct for many players is to play 5/Off and look for the best ace to play. In fact, the correct play is 5/4, 4/Off "wasting" the ace by playing it first. This play is not the safest (5/Off, 4/3 is safer), nor is it the most aggressive (5/Off, 1/Off is bolder).

The advantage of 5/4, 4/Off is that it extends the life span of Stu's four point board while still making it possible for him to bear off a checker or two on his next roll. Δ

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Beginners .....	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	\$ 50	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 65

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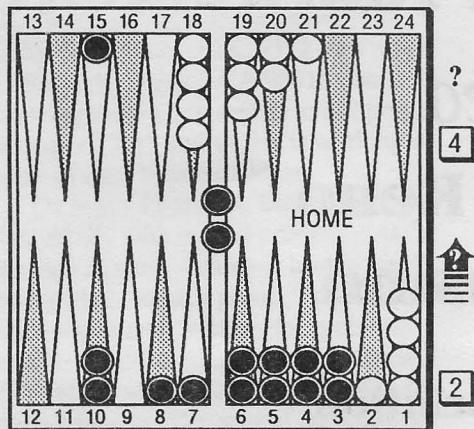
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*For more information or to request an invitation, phone Howard Markowitz • (708) 470-9491.*

# PROBLEM #177 SOLVED

by Neil Kazaross

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



This very dynamic position arose in the semifinals of the 1991 Michigan Summer Championships. The Black team, playing for a doubled gammon, is hit twice from the bar by White's 1-1. Now Black must decide what to do with the cube.

My first impression was that White has a clear take of the redouble. Black has only

14 good numbers (the 12 numbers that hit, plus double 1s and 3s which should be used to make the bar-point). White has 20 shots at Black's outfield blots after Black's 22 misses. Thus about one-third of the time, White is immediately on course towards turning the tide of this game.

Although White will often get blitzed here, she can always fall back on an ace-point game and if lucky, might even salvage an ace-deuce backgame. These factors caused quite a few strong players to immediately doubt whether Black should even redouble. However, a deeper look at this position reveals that White has lasting problems:

- Her checkers on Black's ace-point are very awkwardly placed.
- Black is threatening to make the bar and hopelessly trap at least five enemy men behind a 5-prime.
- Black has a four point board and outfield control.
- White's ten front checkers are far forward and very isolated from her rear men. Thus timing problems make it very hard for her to play any kind of backgame.

Hence, this action position meets four of my requirements for a clear redouble:

- 1) I'm not absolutely positive White even has a take,

- 2) Black has quite a few clear market-loosing sequences,
- 3) Black is rarely worse than even-money in this game, even if he dances with both men, and
- 4) The position is volatile and Black has good gammon chances: criteria for aggressive cube action.

WITH NO SCORE in the 9-point match, can White take this cube? First of all, here are my relevant match equities:

Leading 2-0	60.5%
Leading 4-0	72%
Leading 8-0	94%

To help me evaluate a match cube at any given score, I ask myself the following three important questions:

- 1) *What is White's take point (TP)?* It's 26%, just slightly more than the standard 25% money TP.
- 2) *What's the gammon price (GP)?* The GP after White takes the 4-cube is

$$\frac{94 - 72}{72 - 28} = \frac{22}{44} = 1/2$$

This is just like the money game price of 1/2, so from an equity standpoint, it's no worse to get G'd at this match score than it is for money.

- 3) *How much recube value does White have?* Since Black's TP for the (virtually dead) 8-cube is 25.5%, White has a bit more cube value here than for money where Black's recube value would typically result in a 22% cubeless

[Continues]

Respond by 20 December. 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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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.

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Jim Wallace; Calgary, AB, Canada



percentage of winning and a bare take. However, in a 9-point match, White has little gammon value after Black takes the 8-cube and thus loses some of her slight extra cube value. So in my opinion, the slightly added cube value balances out White's fractionally higher TP.

But there's one other minor factor here: backgammons! Equitywise, getting BG'd with the cube on 4 hurts White more in money play. If White loses an eight point gammon, the match is practically over anyway. Thus if we equate most of White's BG losses to gammon losses, we can, in my opinion, say that her match take point is equivalent to a money game decision.

I conducted an exhaustive, controlled (and often settled) 144 game rollout to help assess this cube decision. I controlled much more than just Black's first roll (e.g. White's shots from the bar, escaping numbers, and both sides' entering-and-hitting rolls). The results showed with White owning a 4-cube:

- White won 43% single games.  
(Note that White won no gammons.)
- Black won 23% single games.
- Black won 29% gammons.
- Black won 5% backgammons.

The net result is a loss of 2.12 points per game for White. Even after 144 carefully controlled games, this is too close to be definitive, but White probably has a close pass for money.

The rollouts indicated that:

- White is indeed in serious trouble any-time she's hit and dances.
- If Black succeeds in making his bar-point, White almost *never* wins going forward.
- Most of White's 1-2 backgames crashed, but White won a few, anyway.
- White won quite a few ace-point games, some well-timed and some that were crashed.
- The majority of White's wins came from quickly going forward by hitting and escaping several men while Black was busy trying to enter White's board. However, even in the immediate excellent variation for White where Black misses and White hits-and-covers with 6-2, 5-2, 6-3, or 5-3, Black still retains excellent chances.

IF WE ADJUST THE ROLLOUT results slightly to account for the fact that winning a BG here gains Black less equity than for money, the decision to take becomes a toss-up. Behold, the perfectly efficient redouble! White has virtually equal match chances whether she takes or passes. Δ

inner game

## TAKGAMMON



by Tak Morioka

### LIFTING THE COVER

I thought I played much better than that. I gave it my best shot but it still wasn't enough. Maybe I just ain't got it—what it takes to compete with the big boys. The minute I thought I was Mr. Big, they had me by the short hairs.

Did I give it away? Get rattled and choke? It's hard to tell. You don't always see those things when your head is being handed to you.

My eyes are open now. Can't crawl into a shell and quietly die. Got to get my act together; get down to the do's and don't's. Time to kick some ass. Forget the crap. From now on, I'm doing it by the numbers.

You're only as good as what you deliver. I forgot that for a while. Some dummies never learn.

This party doesn't last forever. I'm buying into everything now because it feels so good.

... Or am I just being fattened up for something new? Δ



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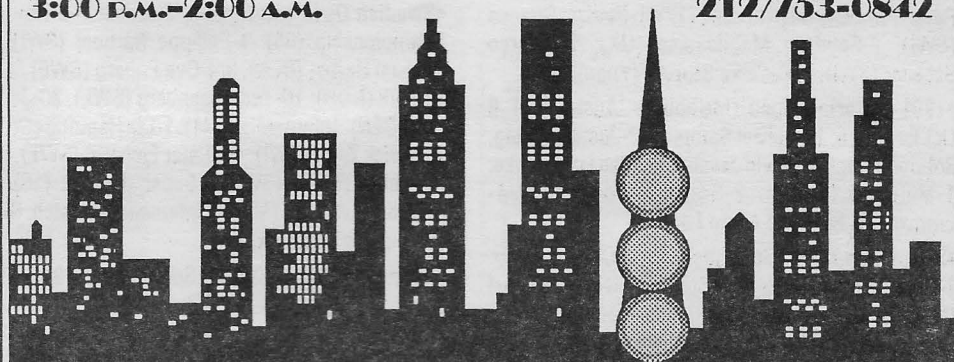
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## WORLDWIDE BACKGAMMON FEDERATION GOLDEN CIRCUIT 1991

Compiled through 14 tournaments

1. Michael Greiner .....	Germany .....	25.13	11. Claude Marbleu .....	France .....	10.36
2. Phillip Marmorstein .....	Germany .....	23.20	12. John Koonman .....	USA .....	9.38
3. Mike Svobodny .....	USA .....	22.83	13. George Vadiakas .....	Greece .....	9.38
4. Gehrard Maurerer .....	Germany .....	18.75	14. Bob Wachtel .....	USA .....	8.60
5. Christoph Wagener .....	Germany .....	15.14	15. Heinz Haussleiter .....	Germany .....	7.74
6. Michel Keller .....	Switzerland .....	14.06	16. Martin Bigler .....	Switzerland .....	7.44
7. Harald Johanni .....	Germany .....	12.47	17. Mario Sequeira .....	Portugal .....	7.44
8. Rolf Schreuder .....	Holland .....	12.19	18. Thomas Lumper .....	Germany .....	7.32
9. Jerry Grandell .....	Sweden .....	11.18	19. R. Ekstroem .....	Sweden .....	6.96
10. Mike Senkiewicz .....	USA .....	10.94	20. Robert Hutchinson .....	England .....	6.45

# WINNER'S CORNER



Sept.—Nov. 1991

•**Torneo de Baleares** (San José, Costa Rica; 4, 5, 11 Sept.)... Open (25): 1-Rolando Coto, 2-Mario Lizano, 3-Antonio Ortega. Novice (8): 1-Harold Bach, 2-William Charpentier. Kickoff (32): 1-Gladys Trukoski (USA), 2-Roberto Salas.

•**NEBC Monthly** (Cambridge, MA; 15 Sept.)... Expert (27): 1-Dan Chicoine, 2-Evan Diamond; 1C-Seth Towle. A Division (14): 1-Bob Mojahed, 2-Ed Miller; 1C-Gil Evans. B Division (12): 1-John Kouloupoulos, 2-Patrice Robertie; 1C-Grant Gibian.

•**Torneo de Cawi** (San José, Costa Rica; 21, 24, 25 Sept.)... Open (25): 1-Antonio Ortega, 2-Jorge Tsao, 3-Klaus Erhard. Novice: 1-Fiorella Puliese, 2-Rodrigo Fumero. Kickoff: 1-Tomás Aguilar, 2-Jorge Tsao.

•**5th British Festival of Backgammon** (Morecambe, England; 28–29 Sept.)... Championship (63): 1-Dale Taylor, 2-Tom Connor, 3-Graham Powell.

•**Rscards Fall Tournament** (Genie Computer Modern; Oct.–Nov.)... Open (22): 1-Glenn Daily (NY), 2-Paul Enriquez (FL), 3/4-Lane O'Connor (IL) / A. Praven, 5/8-Greg Klemke (CAN) / Greg Daniel (MO) / Kurt Schurecht (IL) / Rich Galeba (IL).

•**Torneo de Baleares** (San José, Costa Rica; 2, 3, 9 Oct.)... Open (27): 1-Max Esquivel, 2-Klaus Steimetz, 3-Mike Walker. Novice (10): 1-Rodrigo Fumero, 2-William Charpentier. Kickoff (32): 1-Luis Vargas, 2-Milton González.

•**1st International Tournament of Locarno** (Switzerland; 4–6 Oct.)... Championship (45): 1-Roland Ekstroem (SWED), 2-M. Rindisbacher (SWI), 3/4-Herbert Bornand (SWI) / Roberta Vignola (ITA); 1C-Harald Milarch (GER), 2C-Alberto Rusca (SWI); 1LC-Peter Gombert. Intermediate (17): 1-Patrizio Strauss (SWI), 2-Gaydzag Magdassian (UK); 1C-Marco Scheller (SWI); 1LC-Velko Stojkov (Yugo).

•**1991 Victorian Open** (Melbourne, Australia; 4–6 Oct.)... Open: 1-Michael Sampieri, 2-Justin Freytag, 3/4-John Daglas / Kevin Jessup. Golden Handshake: 1-Malcolm Hutson, 2-Sonja Heydeman, 3/4-Emmanuel Sideridis / Tino Lechich.

•**Springfield Open** (Springfield, IL; 5 Oct.)... Open: 1-Greg Tomlin, 2-Kim McCollom; 1C-Greg Daniel (MO), 2C-Ben Zemaits; 1LC-Linda Woods.

•**Bar Point Sunday** (Oak Brook, IL; 6 Oct.)... Open (21): 1-Stu Katz, 2-Deeb Shalati, 3/4-Jeff Kane (WI) / Peter Berkman; 1C-Yamin Yamin, 2C-Bart Levin. Limited (14): 1-Tim Mabee, 2-Stan Kucharz, 3/4-Jill Ferdinand/John Myers; 1C-Fred Gehlhoff (WI), 2C-Kurt Schurecht.

•**HBC Fall One-Day** (Indianapolis, IN; 13 Oct.)... Open (15): 1-Larry Strommen, 2-Jim Curtis and Dave Sandler (KY) (tie). Intermediate (8): 1-Scott Richardson, 2-Judy McHale.

•**NEBC Monthly** (Cambridge, MA; 13 Oct.)... Expert (20): 1-Ed Guleserian, 2-Ed Abou-Zeid; 1C-Rick Barabino. A Division (11): 1-John Smidt, 2-Larry Yeager; 1C-Ed Miller. B. Division (8): 1-John Kouloupoulos, 2-Andres Corredor; 1C-Lee Shapiro.

•**Torneo de Cariari** (San José, Costa Rica; 14–16

Oct.)... Open (25): 1-Mario Madrigal, 2-Jorge Tsao, 3-Max Esquivel. Novice (17): 1-William Charpentier, 2-Kathy Araya. Kickoff (48): 1-Mike Walker, 2-Milton González.

•**12th Opre Invitational** (Downers Grove, IL; 19 Oct.)... Open (8): 1-Yamin Yamin, 2-Tom Waltheis. Doubles (4): 1-Peter Kalba & Tom Waltheis; 2-Bill Davis & Joann Feinstein... Thanks to Jim & Carmel Opre for another wonderful party/tournament. And thanks to Carmel, Steffi Waltheis and Joann Feinstein for some great eats!

•**CPBC Fall Open** (Bethesda, MD; 19 Oct.)... Open (25): 1-Rami Tal, 2-Paul Weaver; 1C-William Counts, 1LC/2LC-Ed Maslansky / Abbas Zaltash.

•**Dunhill Lights Hong Kong Championships** (Hong Kong; 1–2 Nov.)... Championship (29): 1-Man Lam Wong, 2-Virgilio Lim (PHIL), 3-Roger Choi, 4-Steve Nelson; 1C-Klaus Paatsch, 2C-Rageb Shadallah (US); 1LC-Gregg Westrick, 2LC-Thomas Kong. Intermediate (25): 1-Ching Hopeman, 2-John Fowler, 3-Alan Armitage, 4-Laurent Megret; 1C-Christine Cheung, 2C-Chris Gawan-Taylor; 1LC-Peter Soo, 2LC-Danny Quant. \$125 Jackpot: 1-John Simon. \$65 Jackpot: 1-Werner Kubesh (THAI)... Director Jerry Godsey rated the Dunhill Lights-sponsored tournament "a huge success" with participation from five countries and a total prize pool exceeding US \$18,000. He was also proud of his Hong Kong Club's showing

•**New Hampshire Fall Classic** (Manchester, NH; 1–3 Nov.)... Open (31): 1-Herb Gurland (MA), 2-Roy Friedman (MA), 3/4-Fred Badagnani (FL) / 2C-Joe Dinardo (CT); 1C-Mark Teitelbaum (CAN), 2C-John O'Hagan (IN). Intermediate (13): 1-Gil Evans (NH), 2-Burt Zahlar (VT); 1C-Jim Symth (MI). Granite State \$500 (8): 1-Hurb Gurland (MA), 2-Sam Hanna (MA). Doubles (16): 1-Al Tesoro & Jim Roston (NY), 2-Roy Friedman (MA) & Marc Gray (NY)... The Sheraton Wayfarer provided excellent food and lodging for Linc Bedell's 9th Annual.

•**Swedish Open** (Stockholm, Sweden; 1–3 Nov.)... Championship (65): 1-Philippe Narboni (SWI), 2-Michael Herbst (DEN), 3/4-Ove Friberg (SWE) / Dag Ekmark (NOR); 1C-Ted Rosenberg (SWE), 2C-Jeppe Juhl (DEN). Intermediate (41): 1-Ola Hamring (SWE), 2-Patrick Zekri (SWI); 1C-Peter Eichardt (SWE), 2C-Kenneth Wulcan (SWE). Super Jackpot (16): 1-Christian Lestrade (MON). International Match: Sweden defeats Denmark, 3–2.

•**Springfield Series Kickoff** (Springfield, IL; 2 Nov.)... Open: 1-Ed Bauder, 2-Ed Zell; 1C-Milad Doueih, 2C-Linda Woods; 1LC-Larry Whittenburg... The first of six Saturday monthly events in the 91/92 series.

•**British Masters Open** (Isle of Man; 13–17 Nov.)... Championship (50): 1-Bob Wachtel (US), 2-Alan Steffen (US), 3/4-Pedro Matos (PORT) / Dale Taylor (GB); 1st Cons. 1-John Broomfield (GB), 1st Cons. 2-Ibrahim Shousha (EGY); 2nd Cons. 1-P. Ward Ackland (GB), 2nd Cons. 2-Murray Henderson (GB); 1LC-Rick Janowski (UK), 2LC-Rassoul Zomorodi (GER); Best Lady: Trish Hegland (US). Second Division (24): 1-Luisa Sequeira (PORT), 2-Ulric Wilson (IOM); 1st Cons. 1-John Jones (GB), 1st Cons. 2-David Kneale (IOM); 2nd Cons. 1-M.A. Jennings (GB), 2nd Cons. 2-J. Soles (GB); 1LC-J. Lanoe (FR), 2LC-George Rolf (NETH); Best Lady: Luisa Sequeira (PORT). Viking Kickoff: 1-Barry McAdam (GB). Super Jackpot Winners: Doug Mayfield (US) won two, Emil Mortuk

(US), Bob Wachtel (US), Trish Hegland (US), Barry McAdam (GB)... Tourney Chairman Hercules, Baron of Culcreuch reports the local press headlined the tournament: "Americans Sweep The Board." Seven countries were represented. Most players found the Empress Hotel to be comfortable and pleasant.

•**Children's Hospital Benefit** (Cambridge, MA; 15–17 Nov.)... Championship: 1-Tom Costigan, 2-Jim Colen; 1C-Seth Towle, 2C-Rick Barabino. \$500 (4): 1-John Koonman (NY).

•**Bloomington-Normal Championships** (Bloomington, IL; 16 Nov.)... Championship (21): 1-John McCabe, 2-Mark Kaye; 1C-Cinda King, 2C-Gary Daniels. Limited (4): 1-Steve Gottleabek.

•**BCSD Autumn Gran Prix** (La Jolla, CA; 16–17 Nov.)... Open (38): 1-Nick Maffeo, 2-John Mansey, 3/4-George Alessi / Mike Fujita. Novice (3): 1-Carolyn Zacks. MegaBlitz I (32): 1/2-Treena Bouque / Arnold Zousmer. MegaBlitz II (32): 1-Julian Velovan, 2/3-J. P. Gourgues / Ed Lopez. Doubles: 1-Mike & Veronica Mooney (AZ), 2-Treena Bouque & Kalisa Maffeo.

•**Milwaukee Sunday Bimonthly** (Milwaukee, WI; 17 Nov.)... Open (14): 1-Yamin Yamin (IL), 2-Merrill Schrager; 1C-Rich Siebold and Jeff Kane (tie). Ltd (9): 1-Lowell Barkan, 2-Marv Arnol; 1C-John Meyers.

•**BIBA Trophy Tourney No. 4** (Crick, England; 23–24 Nov.)... Open (66): 1-Rick Janowski, 2-Mark Adkins, 3-Steve Bibby, 4-Derek Matheson, 5-Peter Ozanne. "Top Lady" Trophy: Kate Hilton. "Better Luck Next Time Trophy": Paul Edwards... The final tournament of the season drew the biggest field of the year. The 1991 BIBA Club Champ is Tom Connor.

•**13th Flint Area Club Championships** (Flint, MI; 24 Nov.)... Open (24): 1-Dean Adamian, 2-Rick Todd, 3-Takis Sakkalis. Intermediate (30): 1-Jim Smyth, 2-Sylvia Huddleston, 3-Jeane Eggenberger, 4/5/6-Mike Charison / Lois Davenport / Ernie Denenfeld. Novice (5): 1-Lorraine Lince, 2-Debbie McKenna... Johnny Salomon of The Great Put On donated a satin jacket to the champion. Δ

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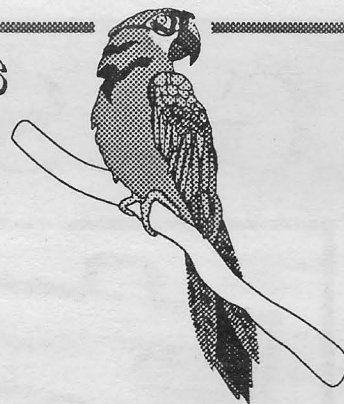
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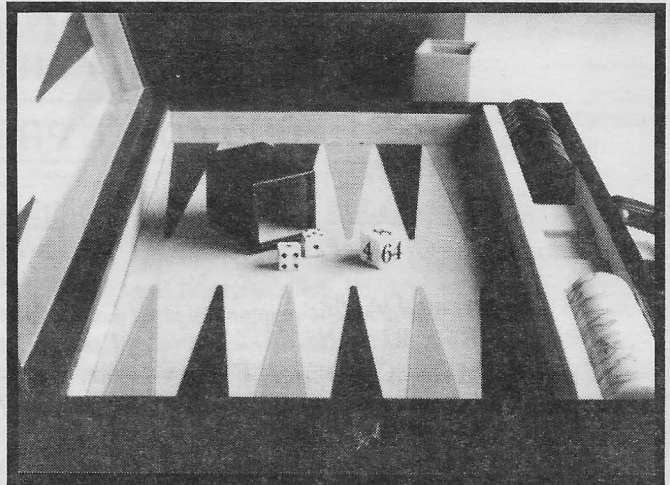
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Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Order Form

Send Me \_\_\_ Backgammon Sets @ \$199 each

☐ Ivory/Gray ☐ Ivory/Brown

Shipping & Handling:

USA & Canada: \$10.95 ea.

Overseas shipping: call

Overnight delivery: call

Total Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### 4. Mail To:

BACKGAMMON SET  
c/o CHRISTIAN WEBER  
2079 Wantagh Avenue  
Wantagh, NY 11793