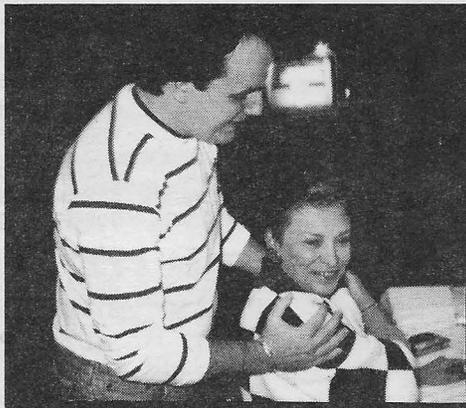


9th nevada state backgammon tournament

LADY 'DI' WEARS A SMILE IN RENO
SYLVESTER OVER SNELLINGS IN BATTLE OF THE MASTERS



Diane Haley (TX) is congratulated by Wilcox Snellings immediately after winning the Nevada State Championship.

Diane Haley, who began playing backgammon with Oswald Jacoby 17 years ago, topped a strong field of 87 Championship players to win the Nevada State Backgammon Tournament. Under new direction in it's ninth year, the event drew over 220 international players to the Peppermill Hotel in Reno 15-19 January.

Ms. Haley, a resident of Dallas, Texas, prevailed over a strong 87 player field to win her first major title and claim prize money exceeding \$13,000. "I had a fairly tough draw in this tournament," proclaimed Haley. "I beat Wilcox Snellings in the round-of-16, Jim Wallace in the round-of-8 and of course Jay Kurzet in the finals. I do remember one easy match though . . . a bye in the opening round."

Diane's 19-point final vs. Jay Kurzet (Seattle, WA) was anything but easy. The Sunday contest began at 11:30 a.m. Haley and Kurzet squared off in a private room while Kit Woolsey, and later Kent Goulding entertained interested spectators via closed circuit pickup.

Kit commented that both competitors

[Continued on page 7]

1992 illinois state challenge cup

TWELVE IS THE CHARM
Pub Club Wins Illinois Challenge Cup

After 11 unsuccessful tries, the Pub Club has won top honors at the 12th Annual Illinois State Challenge Cup. The west suburban club (who play Mondays at Fiddler's in Villa Park) edged out favored Chicago Bar Point Club by a razor-thin 23-22 margin to win the three foot travelling trophy.

The event, hosted by the defending championship Central Illinois Club was held 16 February at the Peoria Pizza Works. 42 players representing seven Illinois backgammon clubs participated, many of them coming down a day early to try their luck in the casino aboard the new Par-A-Dice Riverboat.

After three rounds of play, the Pub Club had built up a four game lead over the Bar Point Club. But in the fifth round, all six BPC competitors swept their matches to cut the lead to just one game. BPC finished the sixth and final round posting a 3-3 record. At that point, The Pub Club had gone 2-3 with one match to complete.

Winnetka Club player Jay Ward had a 4-1 (Crawford) lead over Tim Mabee (Naperville, IL) in event's last-to-be-completed match. At this point, Mabee (in his Pub Club rookie year) was undefeated on the day. If he could pull this match out, the Pub Club would prevail; otherwise a play-off would be required. Mabee did rally, winning 5-4 to gain the trophy and the congratulations of his appreciative team members.

Val "V.W." Zimmnicki, who took over Pub Club director's duties last April, was ecstatic. "It's quite a thrill and I want to share it with all the Pub Club players and previous director Ed Bauder [1982-1991]."

Jeff Henry, the Pub

Club's first director [1979-1982] was also happy. "After 12 years, it's great to see Chicagoland's longest-running backgammon club on top." Henry conceived the Illinois Challenge Cup concept in 1981. Complete results: Δ

PUB CLUB (23-13)

Steve Tennant 5-1	Sarg Serges 2-4
V.W. Zimmnicki 4-2	Kurt Schurect 2-4
Bob Zavoral 4-2	Tim Mabee 6-0

CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB (22-14)

Tak Morioka 6-0	Gary Kay 3-3
Dve Cramer 1-5	Yamin Yamin 4-2
Stu Katz 4-2	Don Desmond 4-2

WINNETKA BACKGAMMON CLUB (20-16)

Trudie Stern 1-5	Steve Katz 3-3
Ed Buerger 3-3	Marty Tatosian 5-1
Andrew Smith 4-2	Jay Ward 4-2

CENTRAL ILLINOIS BG CLUB (19-17)

John McCabe 2-4	Linda Woods 2-4
Camille Ghantous 2-4	Sue Will 5-1
Ed Bauder 3-3	Ed Zell 5-1

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL BG CLUB (17-19)

Gary Daniels 2-4	Wm. Hutchinson 5-1
Lane O'Connor 4-2	Kim McCollom 2-4
Brad Steimel 4-2	Mike Flohr 0-6

PRIME BG CLUB OF CHICAGO (16-20)

Bob Ebbeler 3-3	John Brussel 4-2
Paul Franks 4-2	Bobbie Shifrin 2-4
David Rubin 2-4	Arline Levy 1-5

SANGAMON VALLEY BG ASSOC (9-27)

Gary Schecter 1-5	Jeff Anderson 2-4
Greg Tomlin 2-4	John Jennings 1-5
Mark Kaye 1-5	Ben Zemaitis 2-4



Pub Club champs (Clockwise from left): Steve Tennant, Bob Zavoral, Sarg Serges, Kurt Schurect, V.W. Zimmnicki, Tim Mabee.

CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

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LETTERS

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

NOTHING FUNNY ABOUT A DICE MECHANIC

What planet has Pat McGuire been living on for him to find the controversy over dice mechanics "most amusing," and then define backgammon's purpose to be (in his own words) "...amusement and escape and a relaxing form of mental stimulation. In other words, fun.?"

Pat, *wake up and smell the coffee!* Backgammon is not about *fun*—backgammon is about *money*. And whenever money is involved, so is cheating.

The "control freaks" that Pat speaks of want control not because they cannot bear to lose at *anything*, but because they can't bear to lose *money*.

As a test to see if backgammon is for the pure pleasure of the game, ask any player that if they had the choice of winning one game worth 64 points and losing nine games worth one point versus winning all ten games at one point, which scenario they would prefer. Any sane person would choose the first condition

coming attractions

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



by Carol Joy Cole
313/232-9731

* Denotes new or revised listing

NATIONAL

Mar 7	Springfield Series Monthly, Davy Byrnes, Springfield, IL	217/789-6275
Mar 8*	Milwaukee Club Sunday Bimonthly, John Hawks Pub, Milwaukee, WI	414/463-2498
Mar 15	New England Club Monthly, Sheraton-Commander, Cambridge, MA	617/641-2091
Mar 19	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	313/232-9731
Mar 20-22	1992 Midwest Championships, Marriott Hotel, Oakbrook, IL	312/338-6380
Mar 27-29*	27th Gammon Associates Invitational, Cavendish West Hollywood, CA	818/901-0464
Mar 29*	Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Braxton Seafood Grill, Oak Brook, IL	312/252-7755
Apr 4*	Springfield Spring Open, Davy Byrnes, Springfield, IL	217/789-6275
Apr 4*	Rochester Club Garage Door Tournament, Rochester, NY	716/442-8221
Apr 12	New England Club Monthly, Sheraton-Commander, Cambridge, MA	617/641-2091
Apr 15	Rscards Spring Computer Modem Tournament, GEnie	313/348-0580
Apr 16*	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	313/232-9731
Apr 18	College Park Spring Open Tournament, Promenade, Bethesda, MD	301/530-0604
Apr 24-26*	40th Indiana Open, Ramada Inn South, Indianapolis, IN	317/845-8435
May 1-3	13th Annual Granite State Open, Woodbound Inn, Jaffrey, NH	603/863-4711
May 8-10*	Boston Symphony Orch. Benefit, Sheraton-Commander, Cambridge, MA	617/641-2091
May 9*	1st Annual Mid-Illinois Doubles Tourney, Ride The Nine, Bloomington, IL	309/454-1947
May 9-10*	San Diego Spring Gran Prix, Embassy Suites Hotel, La Jolla, CA	619/294-2007
May 22-25	13th Chicago Open, Westin O'Hare Hotel, Rosemont, IL	708/674-0120
Jun 7*	Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Braxton Seafood Grill, Oak Brook, IL	312/252-7755
Jun 14*	NEBC Yearend Tourney & Club Finals; Sheraton-Comm., Cambridge, MA	617/641-2091
Jun 17-21*	1992 Las Vegas Open, Sands Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, NV	708/470-9491
Jul 11-12*	Riverboat Gambling and CIBC Annual, Peoria/Sly Fox Pub, Lacon IL	309/692-6909
Jul 11-12*	College Park Summer Championships, Promenade, Bethesda, MD	301/530-0604
Jul 24-26*	Michigan Summer Championships, Holiday Inn & Holidome, Flint, MI	313/232-9731
Aug 3-9*	World Cup III & U.S. Open, Harvey's Bristol Suites Hotel, Dallas, TX	301/299-8264

OUTSIDE USA

Mar 8*	1992 South Australian Open, Citizens Centre, Unley, South Australia	08/373 2580
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
Mar 28	Weisbaden Cup 1992, Hotel Fürstenhof-Esplanade, Wiesbaden, Germany	06122/16124
Mar 28-29*	New South Wales Open, Valley View Bowling Club, Chatswood, NSW	02/369-3620
Apr 3-5*	1992 Düsseldorf Open, Novotel Düsseldorf Nord, Germany	02151/503591
Apr 4-5*	Sandy Osborne Memorial, Forte Crest Hotel, Eastgate, Lincoln, England	0522/721630
Apr 6	Hong Kong Club Monthly Tournament, Ladies Recreation Club	852/846-1923
Apr 6*	Victoria Easter Tournament, Botanical Hotel, S. Yarra, Australia	03/822-3730
Apr 8-12	Tournament of Américas, Cariari Hotel/Casino, San José, Costa Rica	312/252-7755
Apr 16-20	Nordic Open, Hotel Marina, Vedbæk, Denmark	039/40 06 07
Apr 23-26	Brazilian Circuit, Le Méridien Copacabana, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	5511/843-8664
Apr 23-26	19th Byblos European Championship, St. Tropez, France	33/9497-0004
Apr 25	Weisbaden Cup 1992, Hotel Fürstenhof-Esplanade, Wiesbaden, Germany	06122/16124
May 4*	Victoria Monthly Tournament, Botanical Hotel, S. Yarra, Australia	03/822-3730
May 17-21*	Vanuatu Tournament, Radisson Royal Palms, Port Vila, Australia	02/369-3620
May 23-24	BIBA Trophy Tournament No. 2, George Hotel, Solihull, England	0522/721630
May 25-29*	4th Championship of Great Britain, Empress Hotel, Isle of Man	0624/626148
May 28-29*	4th Bar Point Open, Hotel Fürstenhof-Esplanade, Wiesbaden, Germany	06122/16124
May 30-31*	Weisbaden Cup 1992, Hotel Fürstenhof-Esplanade, Wiesbaden, Germany	06122/16124
Jun 1*	Hong Kong Club Monthly Tournament, Ladies Recreation Club	852/846-1923
Jun 5-8*	Mats Jonasson Australian Nat'l Championship, Regent Hotel, Melbourne	03/822-3730
Jun 25-28*	Brazilian Circuit, Le Méridien Copacabana, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	5511/843-8664
Jun 30-Jul 5*	First Olympiad of Backgammon & 4th City of Venice Tournament, Italy	041/521-1029
Jul 9-12*	7th Federal International Tournament, Casino of San Remo, Italy	392/76003705
Jul 14-19*	1992 World Championship, Monte Carlo, Monaco	305/527-4033

because it results in a net *money* gain of 55 points versus 10 points even though the player would have lost 90% of the games.

Backgammon is not about winning one game or even the most games. Backgammon is about winning the most *money*.

I quit backgammon because the integ-

riety of some players had sunk to such a low level that I did not want to spend all my time trying to figure out the cheating trick "du jour" instead of actually concentrating on my plays.

I would suggest that Pat should take his

[Continues]

own advice and start playing solitaire, because then at least, he would know when he was being cheated.—*Kathy Posner, Communications 2000 Chicago, IL*

A COUNTER OPINION FROM MAX

The January/February issue of CHICAGO POINT was excellent. I especially liked the North American club listings.

Pat McGuire's letter was very good. It was what I tried to say so many times in the *Las Vegas Backgammon* magazine, but never quite as eloquently. I guess that's why he makes his living as a journalist.—*Michael Maxakuli, Las Vegas, NV*

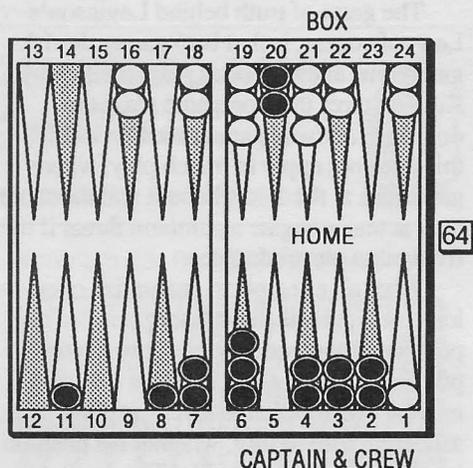
COMPUTER CONFUSION

In the Jan./Feb. 1992 CHICAGO POINT, Marc Gray analyzes three plays for the following problem using Tom Johnson's "Expert Backgammon" computer program. [See diagram above]

In 324 structured (all initial rolls equally represented) cubeless rollouts for each play, the program produces:

- (#1) 11/8, 6-2 Black plain wins: 161; Black gammons: 11; White plain wins: 139; White gammons: 13
- (#2) 8/4/1* Black plain wins: 137; Black

Money game. BLACK TO PLAY 4-3.



- gammons: 22; White plain wins: 126; White gammons: 39
- (#3) 11/7, 8/5 Black plain wins: 164; Black gammons: 23; White plain wins: 115; White gammons: 22.

This amounts to per-game equities of (#1) +0.056 for Black, (#2) +0.071 for White, and (#3) +0.157 for Black.

Gray asks whether White, the Box, should offer a wash before Black, the Captain in a consulting chouette, chooses his move, and cites the computer rollouts in

answering "No." He claims the game is "nearly a toss-up" unless Black chooses play (#2), in which case White's "equity will be clearly positive."

But the computer results belie this conclusion. White's equity if Black chooses the (presumably) weakest play (#2) is virtually the same as Black's equity by playing the conservative play (#1) he favors prior to the Crew's prompting. And Black, by choosing among plays (#1), (#2) and (#3) at random, obtains per-game equity of +0.047. The only equity that is not close to zero is Black's equity if he chooses the strongest play (#3).

Therefore, given the computer results Gray cites, White would do well to get a wash. I do not believe these results, however. 324 rollouts constitute too small a sample, and the computer program may contain "bugs." Computer rollouts can only supplement, not replace, analysis.

Compare plays (#2) and (#3). Each incurs a gammon danger by leaving shots: (#2) leaves 13 extra shots (all 1s and 5-6) while (#3) leaves 11 shots (direct 4s). The two extra shots and one extra blot tend to make (#2) more gammonish than (#3). But in compensation, 9 of the 13 shots (all 1s except 1-4) left by (#2) fail to escape from the acepoint and compel White to move destructively on his side of the board.

If play (#3) exposes Black to 22 gammons in 324 games, then I would not expect play (#2) to incur a greater gammon

[Continued on page 9]

CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB 1992 BPC PLAYER OF THE YEAR COMPILED THRU 29 FEB.

DEEB SHALATI	6.96	STU KATZ	2.24	Tim Mabee	1.08
MARY FRANKS	6.80	ALEX ITKIN	2.16	Paul Friedman	1.04
GARY KAY	6.40	JOHN BRUSSEL	2.16	Leslie Lockett	0.96
CHRIS STANFORD	5.28	Sarg Serges	1.92	Arline Levy	0.96
LUCKY NELSON	5.04	Bob Ebbeler	1.92	Ralph Levy	0.88
HOWARD RING	4.80	Don Jayhan	1.92	V.W. Zimnicki	0.88
REGGIE PORTER	4.00	Ed Buerger	1.92	Patrick Desmond	0.76
LENNY LODER	3.84	Harold Seif	1.68	Dan Judd	0.76
DAVE CRAMER	3.68	René Wojtysiak	1.68	Bob Zavoral	0.72
PAUL FRANKS	3.44	Alice Kay	1.60	Tak Morioka	0.64
PETER BERKMAN	3.20	Les Moshinsky	1.56	Kurt Warning	0.64
DEAN MUENCH	3.12	Jolie Lewis	1.56	Bill Davis	0.56
DAVID RUBIN	3.12	Howard Markowitz	1.44	Larry Lau	0.56
PHYLLIS SMOLINSKI	2.80	Bill Cox	1.36	Georgina Flanagan	0.40
CHRIS KENIK	2.80	Richard Stawowy	1.28	Amy Trudeau	0.24
PETER KALBA	2.72	Steve Katz	1.28	Betsy Miller	0.24
YAMIN YAMIN	2.40	Judy Brown	1.20	J.A. Miller	0.20

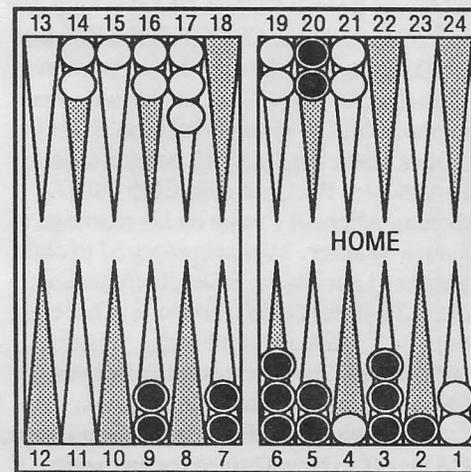
January's Best: 1984 Bar Point Club Player of the Year CHRISTOPHER STANFORD with 3.84 master points. Deeb Shalati and Dean Muench placed 2nd/3rd.

February's Best: Steady MARY FRANKS placed in four out of five events to garner 4.00 points: enough to edge out Lucky Nelson and Deeb Shalati (who both scored 3.84.)

If you finish in the Top 20 for 1992 (capitalized names on list), you'll be entered in a drawing for over \$300 worth of valuable merchandise. The higher you finish, the better your winning chances. Individual awards: 1st—Trophy + \$200, 2nd—\$125, 3rd—\$75. 1st through 20th—engraved board tag. 1st through 6th—Invitation to participate on the Chicago Bar Point Club team in the 1993 Illinois State Challenge Cup.

your move PROBLEM #180

1992 Reno Masters Invitational Finals. Joe Sylvester (Black) vs. Wilcox Snellings (White). Double match point. BLACK TO PLAY 4-2.



ASK DANNY



by Danny Kleinman

BACKGAME TIPS

Dear Danny: Some backgammon books caution against sending a fourth enemy man back, because then your opponent may be able to make two anchors and play a backgame. I realize that backgame equities vary according to the particular position, but I wonder: Just how good, in general, are the chances of the backgame player? With good timing, is he a favorite?—Henry Schwartz, Coconut Creek, FL

DEAR HENRY: In essence, you answer your own question by admitting that all depends on the particular position.

It is tempting to try to generalize. For example, it seems plausible that backgames entail one-way gammon threats. Yet the opponent of the backgame player (let's call him the "frontgame" player) may strip his bar- and 8-points and leave double shots before completing his bear-in, creating a gammon danger just as serious as that faced by the backgame player. In extreme cases, the backgame player becomes not just a favorite but a doubling favorite.

Such phenomena rebut the advice of the late Johnny Levinson, whose "Levinson's Law" says, "Never let your opponent play

a backgame undoubled."

The germ of truth behind Levinson's Law, of course, is that backgames do risk gammons, and in money play, the Jacoby Rule requires the frontgame player to double to *activate* gammons. Obviously, this does not apply to match play, where gammons at the 1-level count and the score may actually negate a gammon threat if the frontgame player doubles.

What all attempts to generalize overlook, however, is that a backgame isn't a position but a sequence of many related positions arising as each player rolls and moves. The frontgame player must ask himself, from turn to turn, whether his position is strong enough to double. The usual trigger for a proper double is the backgame player's imminent timing collapse.

Timing can be very fragile. This is one reason a deuce-trey backgame is superior to an ace-deuce or ace-trey. If an unlucky set of large doublets forces the backgame player to abandon his furthest-advanced anchor, the deucepoint game then faced by the deuce-trey player is stronger than the acepoint game faced by the ace-deuce or ace-trey player.

The play in backgames can be very delicate. I know one expert who offers to alternate sides in a particular ace-deuce-trey backgame he rates as worth about +0.30 to the frontgame player. He comes out ahead, even against a better expert, because he has a superior sense of timing, acquired partly through extensive backgame experience. And against a lesser expert, he

comes out ahead while playing the backgame side of the proposition as well as the frontgame side.

Should You Hit A Fourth Man?

Usually, yes, though of course it depends on particular features of the position as well as on your alternatives to hitting. Often you *must* hit to keep the backgame player from making a key point, such as your own bar-point, which can serve as a channel for recirculating other back men. Though two anchors are (usually—not always) better than one, hitting a fourth man doesn't guarantee that the backgame player will make another anchor. An extra man back may also enhance your gammon threat.

In general, you shouldn't worry about improving your opponent's timing by hitting until he's already committed to a backgame. All too often, I've seen players refrain from forcing opponents to play a backgame only to be confronted with a highly positional game in which they have little, if any, advantage.

Perhaps the best way to study backgames is through annotated matches. You might read Barclay Cooke's *Championship Backgammon* (pp. 259–295) or my own ... *But Only the Hogs Win Backgammons* (pp. 193–201).—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.

AMALGAMATION

It takes luck to win nine 5-point matches in a row. Just ask Reno Kickoff winner Mike Senkiewicz (NY). But Mike was even luckier to win a four-figure poker machine jackpot the same weekend. Gene Chait (CA) and Bobbie Shifrin (IL) also hit poker jackpots... Ohio to Chicago: John Stryker ... Congrats to Pittsburgh Backgammon Club director Steve Hast and his wife Fern on the February birth of their son Brandon James Hast. And here's a belated toast to British Isles Backgammon Club (BIBA) director Michael Crane on his marriage to Laura Walker. Michael proposed to club member Laura at the 6 Dec. backgammon club Christmas dinner and married her eight days later. Talk about a blitz!... Visiting BPC in Feb.: Jeff Gottesman (Denver, CO) and Jim Botwin (Palm Springs, CA) ... Although Arnold Zousmer (San Diego, CA) is off to New Guinea for an exotic

vacation, he'll still be back in time for the Midwest BG Championships (20–22 March at the Chicago-Oak Brook Marriott)... South of the Border: Chicagoans Joann & Jerry Feinstein, Mary & Paul Franks, Betsy Miller and Bobbie Shifrin are all vacationing in Acapulco as we go to press... The April 1992 *Games* magazine has an ad on page 19 for a combination Backgammon, Poker and Blackjack IBM compatible computer program from Villa Crespo Software: \$59.95. To order, call 1-800-521-3963 ... Condolences on the recent passing of two backgammon aficionados: Brian Boes (Ottawa, Canada) who died earlier this year in a plane crash over Hawaii; and Paul Colpo (Pittsburgh, PA) who died suddenly of a brain aneurysm... As a result of his fall visit to Chicago, Graham Sievers (London, England) wrote a glowing review of backgammon in our area for the February *BIBAFax* newsletter. Thanks, Graham... The National Backgammon Players Society of Great Britain is currently working to get

a series of televised programs about backgammon on-the-air in England. They also plan to hold an international tournament in Britain some time in 1992... A recent post card from POINT columnist Jake Jacobs confirms that he's alive and well vacationing in the Philippines... The Saratoga Backgammon Club now meets every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. at the Spa City Diner in Saratoga Springs. For more info, call Lee Hoge at 518/584-1714... "Dating Game" department: When she lived in New York in the 1960s, Chicago's Judy Brown dated Art Carney. And Jill Ferdinand-Brussel was once asked out on a date by "Bonanza" T.V. star Pernell Roberts—and turned him down! ... In general, why are men better board game players than women? According to a recent *Time* magazine study on the differences between the sexes, men "...do excel at thinking in three dimensions. This may be due to ancient evolutionary pressures related to hunting, which requires orienting oneself while pursuing prey." Δ

ADVANCED BACKGAMMON (2ND EDITION):

Improving On A Good Thing

Reviewed by Neil Kazaross



Advanced Backgammon (2nd Edition) by Bill Robertie. Published in two volumes by The Gammon Press, P.O. Box 294; Arlington, MA 02174. Soft cover. Price: \$30 for each volume.

In 1984, Bill Robertie published the first edition of his superb *Advanced Backgammon*. This text was a major step forward for instructional backgammon books. The original work was a diverse collection of about 230 backgammon problems which served to greatly enhance the reader's knowledge. Some of the original problems were controversial and a few of the solutions were proven wrong. However, most of them have stood the test of time.

Advanced Backgammon (2nd Edition) is Robertie's just-published, revised and expanded two-volume set of his classic work. About 200 of the previous edition's problems are combined with 200 additional problems to comprise the two-volume set.

Excellent Organization—Superb Analysis
The first thing that impressed me about the second edition is its excellent organization. Volume 1—"Positional Play" contains 200 problems dealing with opening and middle game strategy, blitzes, priming games, and back games. Volume 2—"Technical Play" contains another 200 problems covering end games, races, and bearoffs. Every chapter is prefaced with a well-written introduction.

I feel that a backgammon book is best judged by the technical depth of the information it contains and by the correctness of that information. The problems in Volumes 1 and 2 range in difficulty from those which would teach weak intermediates, to those which would challenge and intrigue experts. Let's look at two problems where Robertie does a superb job.

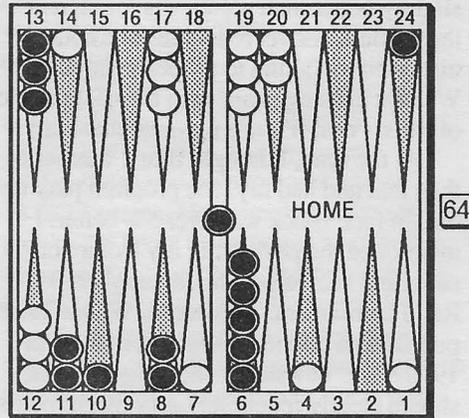
In Problem 73, Black has a very good yet difficult 1-1 to play. [Shown above]

Robertie lists the three best moves:

- (A) Bar/24, 8/7*, 6/4*
- (B) Bar/24, 6/5 (2), 8/7*
- (C) Bar/24, 11/10, 8/7* (2)

For each of these plays, the analysis categorizes White's 36 responses and estimates Black's winning chances for each

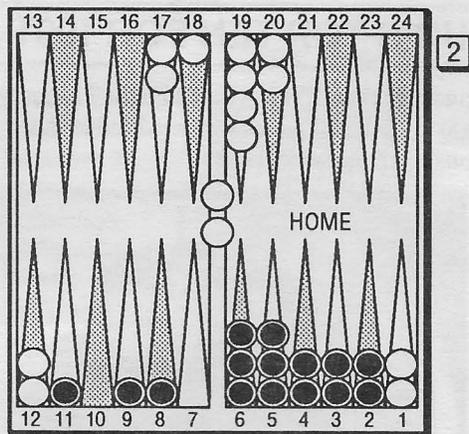
Problem 73. BLACK TO PLAY 1-1.



category. The chances are then summed up to result in Black winning 16 1/2 games out of 36 for Play B, and only 15 games out of 36 for Plays A and C. As Robertie writes, "A slight edge to Play B, investing in the permanent asset of the 5-point." I agree and would also make Play B here. Great analysis.

Problems 230-232 are extremely valuable since they clearly and accurately illustrate the five "goals" for Black in these recurring type of bear-in problems. Let's look at Problem 230:

Problem 230. BLACK TO PLAY 4-3.



Without repeating Bill's superb discussion, I'll just say that his play of 8/4, 6/3 is best. (Yes, I like it better than 11/7, 6/3 which doesn't blot on 5-5 but might cause awkward problems with a stripped 4-point.)

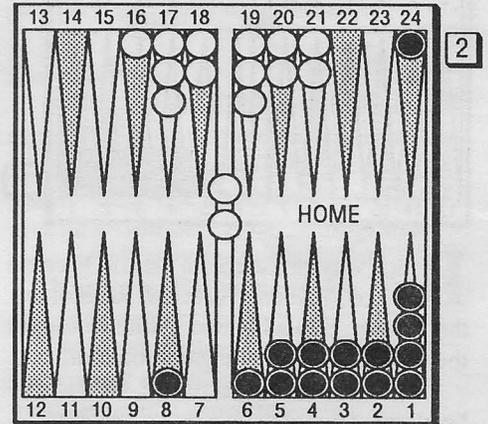
Problems 231 and 232 show how

Black's play of the same roll can change with respect to an alteration of White's timing and board situation. They too, are accurately analyzed.

A Few Errors Still Remain

In the new *Advanced Backgammon*, there are a few problems where I might make a different play, but I certainly would not say with absolute certainty that the author's play is wrong. However in my opinion, there are at least two definite errors:

Problem 142. BLACK TO PLAY 4-1.

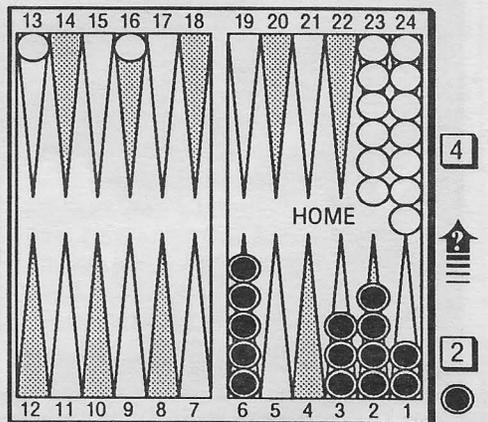


In Problem 142, Robertie says Black's 4 is "forced" (!) and after playing 6-2 he has a choice of aces with 8/7 best since it leaves 12 numbers to get to the edge of the prime and diversifies 1s for pick-and-pass numbers in case White enters one man.

In fact, Black's 4 is *not* forced. Black should play 8/4, 6/5 killing 6s and 5s. With Robertie's play, a subsequent roll of 6-4, 6-3, 5-4, 5-3, and 4-3 would break another point in Black's home board. That is far worse than what is gained from the parley of White entering one man followed by Black rolling one of his 9 pick-and-pass numbers.

The second error is in Problem 351:

Problem 351. SHOULD BLACK RECUBE?



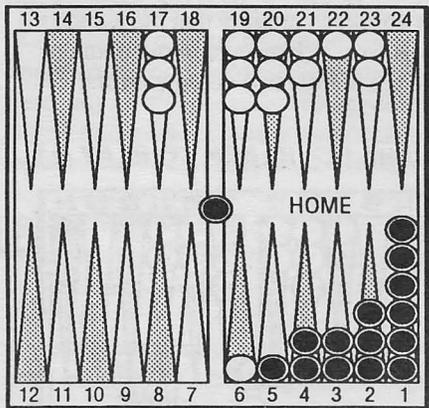
[Continued on page 6]

HASTY PLAYS



by Duane Jensen

9 point match. Black leads White, 7 to 5. **BLACK TO PLAY 4-3.**



Black was pleased with the roll because he could hit and “safe up” his blot on the 5-point. He had feared White would hit the second checker and gammon him.

Black’s fear is misdirected. He should be alarmed by what he may do to himself, not by what White may do to him.

Black must come out with the 4, playing 22/18. By playing 5/1, he can easily shoot himself in the foot if he doesn’t roll a 4 or 6 on his next shake.

Experienced players (those with numerous bullet holes in their feet) know that now is the correct time to run with the four; the blot on the 5-point will take care of itself on a succeeding roll. Δ

ADVANCED BACKGAMMON...

[Continued from page 5]

This position was incorrectly analyzed by a guest columnist in the May 1988 *New England Backgammon Club* newsletter. The analysis stated that Black is only slightly better than a 2-to-1 favorite, and thus should not yet redouble. The columnist erred by failing to properly judge White’s missing chances in the next couple of rolls. (Yes, *White’s* missing chances.)

At the time, I thought Black was better than that and had my race program play it out. In fact, Black was over 5% better. I mentioned the position in my lecture on races and bearoffs at the January 1990 Reno tournament. As a result, Walter Trice published a corrected analysis in the April 1990 *NEBC* newsletter showing that Black should clearly redouble. Larry Strommen’s “Bearoff Position Analyzer” program confirms that Black is a 73.5% cubeless favorite and thus Problem 351 is a redouble.

As far as typographical errors, I didn’t make an extensive search, but I did run across a few. However, if the reader uses a bit of thought, he can figure out what the writer actually meant. Obviously, more thorough proofreading would have corrected this type of error.

The Bottom Line

What’s the bottom line for the second edition of *Advanced Backgammon*? Is it worth the \$60 price tag? I say yes. The

price is small compared to the prize money that can be won playing backgammon. Players of all levels will find both books interesting and instructive. Intermediates—especially those who don’t own the first edition—will learn a tremendous amount.

After careful consideration, I give *Advanced Backgammon (Second Edition)* a grade of B+. If Problems 142, 351 and the typographical errors had been corrected, if we had more new material instead of reprints from old newsletters, and if more rollout results for the especially difficult cube decisions and plays had been included, the book would have received an A+. Δ



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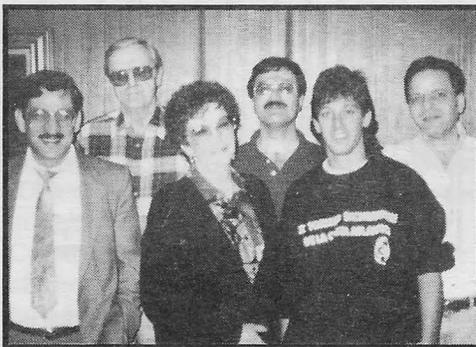
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CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB’S TOP TEN FOR 1991

50 players were in attendance at the Chicago Bar Point Club Awards Night 7 January at Pat’s Pub in Norridge, IL. Over \$1,000 in cash and prizes was awarded to the Top 20 master pointers for 1991. Congratulations to all the winners. Δ



The Top 3: (Left to right) Dave Cramer (2), Tak Morioka (1), Stu Katz (3).



Players 4-10: (Left to right) Deeb Shalati (10), Don Desmond (7), Joann Feinstein (9), Yamin Yamin (5), Alex Itkin (8), Gary Kay (4). Not pictured: Jake Jacobs (6).



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RENO...

[Continued from page 1]

were usually a roll late with the cube which slowed scoring. In fact, Haley didn't accept any of Kurzet's doubles until the 20th game of the match. At that point, Haley was on top 12-11 in the seesaw battle. But the loss of a doubled gammon saw Kurzet take a 15-12 lead and Haley take an *Anacin* 3.

Kurzet extended his advantage to 17-12 before Diane fought back to tie the match at 17-all. Then the competitors traded games to bring about a crowd-pleasing double match point finish. "How's your one point match cube strategy?" Jay quipped.

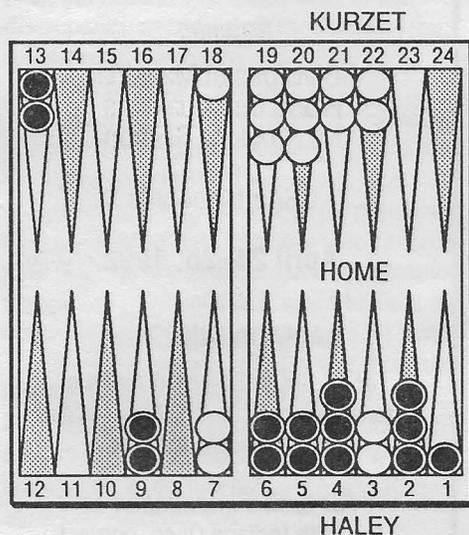
"If you double, I'm taking," replied Diane.

With that exchange, Kurzet took a washroom break; however Diane remained at the table. She poured herself a Coke refill and then applied some lipstick. Was she preparing for a "victory smile"?

Before Kurzet returned, Wilcox Snellings popped into the room to wish Diane good luck and offer his one point match strategy in two words: "Stay pure."

The final game began 4 1/2 hours after the opening roll of game one. Haley jumped off to a quick start and eventually forced Kurzet into a holding position. Diane's 15th move of the game required her to make a decision:

19 point Championship finals. Double match point. **DIANE HALEY (BLACK) TO PLAY 4-2.**



Diane chose to leave a voluntary shot with 13/9, 13/11. Match commentators Woolsey and Goulding preferred to break the 6-point, but Masters finalists Joe Sylvester and Wilcox Snellings liked Haley's play.

Kurzet rolled a 3-1, hitting. However Haley hit the last shot, a flyer from the bar, to win anyway. A great victory (and a bright smile) for the lady from Dallas.

SYLVESTER HAS A HAPPY BIRTHDAY

The Masters Invitational saw 16 of North America's finest players pay \$2500 to knock heads with each other. Former world champs Joe Russell and Hal Heinrich were eliminated in the first round. Two-time world champ Bill Robertie was knocked out in round two.

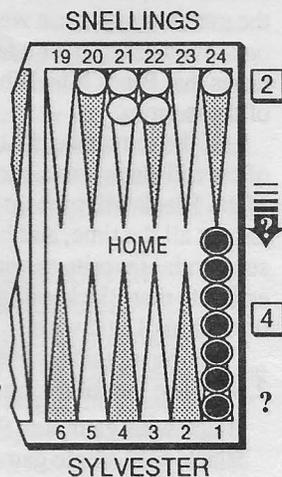
By Saturday night, the 16 were pared to 4: Malcolm Davis vs. Wilcox Snellings and Jack Kissane vs. Joe Sylvester.

Snellings was able to corral Davis 23-13 in 17 games. However Joe Sylvester's path to the finals wasn't quite as straightforward. Trailing 22-21, it would take the Michigan Wizard over 1 1/2 hours to win the next two games against a determined Kissane... and the last game was not to be believed. In fact, at one point, Joe's position was so hopeless that this reporter penciled in a Kissane victory and went to bed! [Editor's note: This incredible match was recorded and has been annotated by Kit Woolsey. To purchase it, see the MATCHQIZ ad on page 10.]

The Sunday finals started directly after Diane Haley scored her victory. Snellings and Sylvester are good friends and although there was a lot of tension in the T.V. viewing room, the players remained loose and jovial throughout the entire match.

Although Joe jumped out to an early lead, Wilcox fought back and seemed to be on the verge of winning his first major title. Leading the 25-point finals 17-10, Snellings went for the knockout punch with the following recube:

25 point Masters finals. Wilcox Snellings (White) leads Joe Sylvester (Black) 17 to 10. White doubles. **SHOULD BLACK TAKE?**



Joe took, and proceeded to watch Wilcox waste. A few rolls later, Joe was faced with rolling a double or falling behind 21-10. He shook them well and out



Joe Sylvester (left) receives the Masters trophy from NBA director Howard Markowitz.

spun double 1s!

Should Joe have cubed to 8 like he did in a similar situation trailing 23-15 vs. Ray Glaeser in the 41-point 1988 World Cup finals? "No," said Sylvester. "I couldn't give an 8-cube here because the points were too efficient for my opponent."

It was a turning point for Joe, who went on to win a close 25-22 battle.

"My 30th birthday is just a few days from now," added Joe. "This makes for a great present!" Complete results: Δ

9th NEVADA STATE TOURNAMENT

CHAMPIONSHIP (87): 1-Diane Haley (TX), 2-Jay Kurzet (WA), 3/4-John Valenti (IL) / Salomon Zonana (MEX), 5/8-Gary Kay (IL) / Phillip Nutting (CA) / Jim Wallace (CAN) / Antionette Williams (NY); 1C-Kent Goulding (MD), 2C-Mike Corbett (FL), 3C/4C-Mike Mooney (AZ) / Doug Roberts (NY); 1LC-Talmadge Tinsley (TX), 2LC-Mark Mortuk (MI)

INTERMEDIATE (101): 1-Ron Bruns (CA), 2-George Foster (CA), 3/4-Tom Johnson (CA) / Cyrus Youseffi (CA), 5/8-Ernest Klein (TX) / Azzam Masarani (CA) / Gary Oakes (CA) / Sasha Starr (CAN); 1C-Harry Tokatlian (MI), 2C-Sirka Stormbom (FIN), 3C/4C-Ken Freeman (NV) / Murry Work (CA); 1LC-George Photias (CA), 2LC-Ary Nogueira (CA)

BEGINNER (31): 1-Reid Vogelmann (CA), 2-Tami Sylvester (MI), 3/4-John Buckler (NV) / Gary Eames (CA); 1C-Walter Reed (CA), 2C-Jim Masterson (CA); 1LC-Mac McCann (WA), 2LC-A.G. Krichner (NV)

MASTERS INVITATIONAL (16): 1-Joe Sylvester (MI), 2-Wilcox Snellings (CA), 3/4-Malcolm Davis (TX) / Jack Kissane (NY)

BONANZA (32): 1-Jim Colen (MA), 2-Talmadge Tinsley (TX), 3/4-Ismet Demirel / Kent Goulding (MD)

KICK-OFF (512): 1-Mike Senkiewicz (NY), 2-Jim Hickey (GA), 3/4-Art Benjamin (CA) / Steve Sax (CA)

DOUBLES (64): 1-Mike Horri (WA) & Jim Wark (WA), 2-Steve Allen (WA) & Stuart Hosen (TX), 3/4-Jim Allen (NV) & Jim Roderick (NV) / David Tividar (CA) & Pete Tividar (CA)

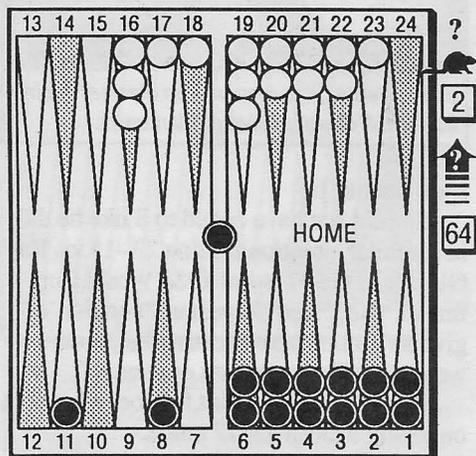
CHAMPIONSHIP JACKPOT (16): 1-Howard Shapiro (NJ), 2-Doug Wilson (CA)

INTERMEDIATE JACKPOT (32): 1-Mike Rezai (OH), 2-Wally Wolf (MI), 3/4-Doug Amenda (AZ) / Peter Kalba (IL)

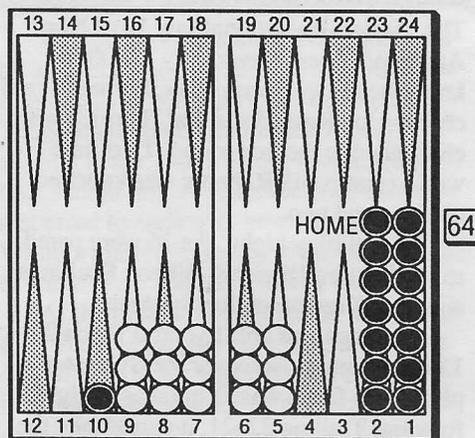
PROBLEM #179 SOLVED

by Kit Woolsey

Money game (with Jacoby). **SHOULD BLACK DOUBLE. SHOULD WHITE TAKE? SHOULD WHITE BEAVER?**
 [Position submitted by Rick Janowski.]



Kauder Paradox example. Problem 146 from Bill Robertie's *Advanced Backgammon* (p. 183). **BLACK SHOULD DOUBLE AND WHITE SHOULD BEAVER.**



What about when he misses?

If Black flunks, now White will double and Black will have a clear pass. If Black enters with a non-hitter (1-3, 1-4, or 1-5), he *might* have a take, but let's assume he doesn't. Consequently, if Black fails to turn the cube, he wins one point 14 times and loses one point 22 times for a net result of -8 in 36 trials.

Suppose Black doubles and White doesn't beaver. We have already agreed that if Black doesn't hit, White can claim with the cube. Out of the 14 times that Black hits, what happens? There is a small chance that Black will hit with 1-1, 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, or 2-4, and fail to ever leap White's 4-prime, allowing White to win.

Also, even if Black escapes, White will have a long shot chance to hit a shot which Black may be forced to leave while bearing off. I would estimate that White will win the game one of these ways approximately one time in 10. So let's say that of the 14 times that Black hits, White will win 1 1/2 of these times.

Of the remaining 12 1/2 times, how often will Black win a gammon? Pretty often. Black will pick up a second checker almost all the time, and he will then be a substantial favorite to win a gammon. Let's estimate that Black will win a gammon on 9 1/2 of his 12 1/2 wins.

Putting all this together with the cube at 2, we have the following results:

- Black wins gammon: $9.5 \times 4 = +38$
- Black wins single game: $3.0 \times 2 = +6$
- Black loses single game: $23.5 \times 2 = -47$.

Total equity for Black equals -3 out of 36 trials. consequently White should beaver since he is the favorite. However, even if White correctly beavers, Black's

equity is still -6 out of 36 trials, which is better than the -8 equity he would have had if he had not doubled. Therefore, it appears that this position may well fit the conditions of the Kauder Paradox.

IT SHOULD BE APPARENT that there is a very small window for which a position can be a double and a beaver. Any slight deviation from the estimates I have used can easily change the odds so that either Black should not double or White should not beaver.

I will admit that I chose my estimates for Black's gammons, single wins, and losses carefully in order to demonstrate that the position might be a proper double and beaver. However the estimates seem reasonable and there is no particular reason for me to think that they are not accurate.

This theme is not of much practical value, but it is an interesting concept. Kudos to Rick Janowski of Lancashire, England for his construction of a "normal-type" position that appears to meet the criteria of a true Kauder Paradox. Δ

The *Jacoby Rule*, commonly used for money play, specifies that a gammon cannot be won or lost unless a player has doubled the game. This rule speeds play (and therefore action) because no one is able to waste time playing for a gammon at the one-level.

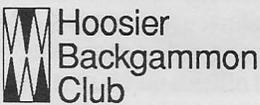
The Jacoby Rule brings up the possibility of a theoretically correct double and beaver. This would otherwise be impossible since if the beaver were correct, than the side being doubled would have the advantage; hence the double could not be correct. However, if the doubling side has some very powerful gammon possibilities but is otherwise a clear underdog, such a situation can exist. It is called the *Kauder Paradox*.

It is difficult to construct a position that satisfies Kauder Paradox conditions. One such position, which I first constructed years ago and is published in Bill Robertie's *Advanced Backgammon* is shown at the top of the next column. [See diagram]

This is a very unlikely position to be sure. However a little analysis will show that it fits the necessary conditions: it is correct for Black to double and correct for White to beaver.

Problem #179 is a far more normal position and seems to be a very good Kauder candidate. Let's check further to see if it fits the bill.

First, suppose Black doesn't double. After rolling one of the 14 hitting numbers, he will immediately double White out.



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LETTERS...

[Continued from page 3]

danger. I would believe that Black might lose 22, even 23 or 24 gammons, after play (#2), but not 39. The magnitude of the discrepancy would cause me to reject the rollout results entirely.

What might the problem be?

Conceivably, the program is neglecting to hit on White's non-escaping 4s (4-1 and 4-2) after play (#3). Conceivably, the program has a bug far worse. Or conceivably I, like the Crew member who favored play (#2), have underestimated the gammon danger incurred by Black when he fails to cover the slotted 1-point and gets hit later.

How can anyone tell? By watching the rollouts as the program performs them. Fortunately, Tom Johnson has included a feature in "Expert Backgammon" which allows you to do just that.—*Danny Kleinman, Los Angeles, CA*

Neil Kazaross also wrote in to point out that after play (#3), Black's actual equity is over 0.40 ppg because if White fails to roll a 4, Black can double White out.—Ed.

Marc Gray responds: *Mea culpa. An "apologia" is in order. An Intermediate player*

should invest his time in learning from experts, not trying to teach them. There is no excuse for poor scholarship, but I will endeavor to correct and clarify some things as I tread water in a deluge of criticism.

I said that "cube ownership . . . is worth a great deal . . . perhaps 2% or more." What I meant to say was in terms of (cubeless) equity, it is worth perhaps 0.20 points.

I said that 1/4 point cubeless equity is "barely advantageous." This is completely misleading. I should have said if the Box (on shake) is indeed a significant favorite, an initial cube turn would be premature at this point since the Box has few market-losers. If the Box had cube possession, a recube would certainly be unrealistically optimistic.—Marc Gray, Schenectady, NY

MORE INFO ON ORIGIN OF DOUBLING AND CHOUETTES

In my study of old backgammon books, I have come across more information on the invention of doubling in the game of backgammon. Chapter 3 of Grosvenor Nicholas's *Modern Backgammon* (1928) gives this historical background:

"It is said that the doubling, which has so greatly increased the possibilities of the game, as well as its popularity, was first originated on the continent of Europe in

connection with the game of golf."

Regarding a "chouette" derivation:

"In the French *ecarté*, a card game for two players, one of the players sometimes made a side bet with one or more of the spectators or, as we sometimes express it, 'took an extra.' When this was done, the one playing single-handed was said to be playing 'la chouette.' From this the name *chouette*, for backgammon with three or more players, appears to have been derived."

Also, do you have a backgammon bibliography?—*Rich Janowski, Rochdale, Lancs, England*

Back in the early 1980s, the Las Vegas Backgammon magazine published two backgammon bibliographies compiled by V.H. Yanko. We don't think former editor Michael Maxakuli would mind if we distributed them to interested parties. Send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the CHICAGO POINT (\$1 overseas) and we'll mail you both copies.—Ed.

CALLING OLD MAGAZINES

I'll pay cash for old copies of *Las Vegas Backgammon Magazine*, *Gammon*, and *Backgammon Times*. If you wish to sell any of these publications, call me collect at 505/672-1380.—*Tom Kluegel, Los Alamos, CA*



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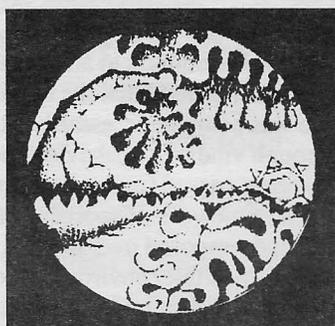
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A TALK WITH TAK

Chicago's Backgammon Ambassador of Good Will explains his reasons for leaving the game



Tak Morioka (left) enjoys a break in the action with David Todd and Joe Sylvester (right).

For more than a decade, 44-year-old Tak Morioka has dominated the Chicagoland backgammon club scene. He's also written a regular "Takgammon" column for CHICAGO POINT continuously since 1987. But now, Tak (who earned a BFA from the Chicago Academy of Fine Arts in 1972) has discontinued regular tournament play in order to channel his full energy into art.

CHICAGO POINT talked with Tak on 8 February 1992. Here's the account:

POINT: Why have you stopped playing backgammon?

TAK: I wanted to see if I could stay away from the game long enough to explore my interests in art. In a way, I've turned myself into a hermit.

I have a compulsive personality and to devote my full energy into painting, I had to take away backgammon. This way, I can't fall back on the game for an ego boost or a "quick fix."

POINT: Have you actually "retired" from backgammon?

TAK: I'd be happy to play backgammon again some day.

The people are great. I enjoy the camaraderie. However at this stage of my life, I feel the need to focus on my own career.

POINT: With the tough competition in Chicago, how were you able to win Bar Point Club "Player of the Year" in five out of the last six years?

TAK: Hmm... [Pauses] Basically, a lot of people have a different philosophy of how to play backgammon. Many people play only by the book. They understand nothing more than what is the "right play."

There's another aspect of the game... another dimension. Of course you must first learn how to play backgammon. But then you have to learn how to play backgammon *players*.

If your opponent is playing only "by

the book," you know what to expect from him; you understand the vulnerabilities of logical predictability. In fact, if they are very readable, I can get a step ahead of them by taking calculated risks—in effect, leaping beyond their game plan.

POINT: You can play that way against knowledgeable players, but what about the beginners whose games are so unpredictable and often cautious?

TAK: Beginners? [Chuckles] When you play weaker players, you can't let your prejudice get in the way. Many players have the feeling that they should beat a weaker player by so much of a margin: that's their *entitlement*.

But you're not entitled to anything unless you make all the right plays. Fail to play correctly against anyone and you'll lose your edge.

No matter who my opponent is, I always rate my winning chances at 50–50. For me, the 60–40 advantage doesn't exist. Look at how dice effect this game. If you can't get your opponent to make a mistake, how much "advantage" do you really have?

Many Intermediates who are trying to make the transition into the Open division have this impression that Open players are in another world. That's nonsense. It's just another form of prejudice that distorts their reality.

POINT: Generally speaking, how do you view the future of backgammon?

TAK: My belief is that eventually, parity will become more and more of a certainty. In terms of knowledge, there won't be much difference. However, when it does happen, there will still be something to separate the good players from the bad.

The person who isn't dogmatic and keeps an open mind will be more adaptive to changing conditions. Hence that person (even though he will have no more knowledge than his opponent) will be the more capable competitor.

I think the game will come down to character above everything else.

POINT: How do you learn how to apply "character"?

TAK: Character is not a one-dimensional attribute that you can put on when you're under pressure. There are unsung heroics. It takes dedication to come to terms with basic backgammon. This is something you can't teach. I could give you all the information on how to play, but if you don't know how to apply the information, it would be worthless.

Lets say a slotting play requires thinking about the fundamentals of the game. If you slot your 5-point, you're giving on average 15 shots. For that risk, you'll get about 24 numbers to cover. You risk nearly even money to become a 2-to-1 favorite to cover.

If you try to build the 5-point naturally, you have to bring down multiple builders. It could take four rolls to build the same point. So in terms of time, taking a risk now could save you three plays down the line. That's a good bargain. In effect, the move is purely an "odds play."

POINT: Why do you think you haven't had more success on the national level?

TAK: Compare my national performance with my local successes and I've been embarrassingly ineffective. It's more the domination that's lacking than my relative performance. I have a highly leveraging style that capitalizes on my opponent's mistakes. In Chicago, I know the players; nationally, I don't. Without a profile of tendencies, my game proves somewhat lackluster.

POINT: Finally, what was your motivation for the "Takgammon" column?

TAK: I started the column to address a particular issue. I found that the brutality of this game was being unnecessarily exasperated. Through vindictive behavior, rudeness was being passed from person from person. If a framework of sportsmanship could be super-imposed over the ego, I thought that a healthier environment could be fostered. I would rather let mutual benefit reign over the dictates of self-interest.

POINT: Thanks Tak, for all of your submissions to CHICAGO POINT and for being a model of sportsmanship and good will for so many years at the Chicago Bar Point Club and across the nation. Δ

Here's Tak's favorite Fortune Cookie—Ed.

FORTUNE COOKIE The Black-and-White view Of a field that's grayed, Will see the difference, But not the shade.



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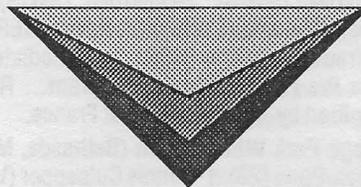
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WINNER'S CORNER



Nov. 1991–Feb. 1992

Torneo de Baleares (San José, Costa Rica; 4, 6, 11 Nov.)... Open (25): 1-Antonio Orgeta, 2-Randall Fernandez, 3. Milton Gonzalez. Kickoff (32): 1-Mario Madrigal, 2-Milton Gonzalez, 3-Walter Montero. Novice (12): 1-Ronald Infante, 2-Kathy Araya, 3-Ana Segreda.

NY/NJ Co-Op Regional (Hackensack, NJ; 10 Nov.)... Championship (24): 1-Ami Tennenbaum, 2-Andy Palumbo; 1C-Ralph Goldberg, 2C-Perry Gartner. Open (19): 1-Sally Marra, 2-Otto Reissman; 1C-Roni Zemsch, 2C-Harriet Klein.

Danish Championship (Vedbæk, Denmark; 15–17 Nov.)... Championship (64): 1-Arendt Luntz, 2-Kioomaars Mostafavi, 2-Chris Ternel, 4-Michael Herbst. Intermediate (64): 1-Lars Jørgensen, 2-Peter Gøtze, 3-Morten Sørensen, 4-Jacob Marcussen. Beginner (64): 1-Simon Reusch, 2-Lars Olesen. Juniors (20): Michael Bo Hansen, 2-Anders Raft.

Torneo de Cawi (San José, Costa Rica; 23, 26, 27 Nov.)... Open (25): 1-Antonio Ortega, 2-Mike Walker, 3-Jorge Tsao. Kickoff (32): 1-Jorge Tsao, 2-Mario Madrigal, 3-Milton Gonzalez. Novice (8): 1-Juan Ulate, 2-José Chasis, 3-Ana Segreda.

Hong Kong Club Monthly (Hong Kong; 2 Dec.)... Championship: 1-Steve Nelson, 2-Ian Boyce; 1C-Gregg Westrick. Int.: 1-Glynnis Crossman, 2-Chris Roberts; 1C-Cynthia Roberts.

Torneo de Baleares (San José, Costa Rica; 2, 4, 9 Dec.)... Open (24): 1-Mario Lizano, 2-Rita Ramirez, 3-Mario Madrigal. Heineken Jackpot (16): 1-Ana Segreda, 2-Antonio Ortega, 3-Mario Madrigal.

L.A. Invitational Happening (Van Nuys, CA; 6 Dec.)... Open (12): 1-Jona Alexander, 2-Arthur Benjamin. Amateur (14): 1-Kevin Boylan, 2-Carolyn Zacks.

Bar Point Sunday Tournament (Oak Brook, IL; 8 Dec.)... Open (21): 1/2-John Brussel / Jeff Kane (WI), 3/4-Howard Markowitz / Larry Strommen (IN); 1C-Leslie Lockett, 2C-Dave Cramer. Limited (14): 1-Bob Ebbeler, 2-Kim McCollom, 3/4-Scott Richardson (IN) / Marv Arnol (WI); 1C-John Stryker, 2C-Jill Ferd-Brussel.

1991 Kater Cup #5 (Enschede, Netherlands; 14 Dec.)... Championship (22): 1-Peter van de Bruck (GER), 2-Axel Reinhard (GER); 1C/2C-Ed Rink (NL) / Reenze van Brug (GER). Beginner (10): 1-Cordula Thieß (GER); 2-André Goossens (NL); 1C-Volker Wenzlaff (GER). "Grote Kater" Shootout (32): 1-Marcel van Schriek (NL)... With his victory, Peter van de Bruck won the Kater Cup 1991 title.

NEBC Monthly (Cambridge, MA; 15 Dec.)... Expert (20): 1-Herb Gurland, 2-Garbis Zerdelian; 1C-Peter DeWolf. A Div. (12): 1-Jamie Sarkissian, 2-Ray Mosher; 1C-Joe Moore. B Div. (5): 1-Michael Zehr.

Last Hoosier Tourney of 1991 (Indianapolis, IN; 15 Dec.)... Open (16): 1-Larry Strommen. Intermediate (7): 1-John Jennings.

GNYBC Doubles Tournament (Woodbury, NY; 3 Jan.)... Open (32): 1/2-Jeff Acierno & Roni Zemsch / Jim Pascoe & Mark Taylor.

First Marriott Open Dutch Championship (Amsterdam, Netherlands; 9–12 Jan.)... Championship (100): 1-Jaap Vischraper (NL), 2-Dov Melo (FRA), 3/4-E. Guedj (FRA) / Claud Marbleu (FRA); 1C-Hans Van Capel (NL), 2C-Erik Gravgard (DEN); 1LC-Alan Steffen (US). Intermediate (72): 1-C. Muskens (NL), 2-M. Nowack (GER), 3/4-Ricardo Paz / M. Putman (NL); 1C-Mark Adkins (UK), 2C-T. Weidt (GER); 1LC-Jerry Wismeyer (NL). Warm-Up Tournament (128): 1-Mark Adkins (UK), 2-Mario Sequeira (PORT). Team Tournament: Jambo Jets (FRA)... Tourney staff member John Brussel (IL) reports from Amsterdam: "A Dutch backgammon tournament with no 'Holland Rule'? Incredible! Nevertheless, the First Marriott Open Dutch Championship was a great success. Organizers Peter Bouman and Abraham Eitan judged it to be '...one of this year's largest European events.'"

Milwaukee Sunday Bimonthly (Milwaukee, WI; 12 Jan.)... Open (10): 1-Bob Holyon, 2-Yamin Yamin (IL); 1C-Sam Sansone. Limited (10): 1-Lenore Holyon, 2-Burt Grinyer; 1C-Fred Gehloff... Jeff Kane was awarded a trophy for being the Milwaukee Backgammon Club's 1991 Player of the Year.

NEBC Monthly (Cambridge, MA; 12 Jan.)... Expert (22): 1-Ed Guleserian, 2-Mike Nelson; 1C-Gary Garabedian. A Div. (16): 1-Andy Latto, 2-Mo Mojahed; 1C-Bob Mojahed. B Div. (8): 1-Ron Picardo, 2-Andres Corredor; 1C-Lee Shapiro; 1LC-Igor Sheyn.

RSCARDS Winter 1992 Modem Tournament (GEnie Computer Service, 15 Jan.–Feb.)... Open (26): 1-Kurt Schurecht (IL), 2-Dan Shirley (NY), 3/4-Blake Sorem (MD) / Dave Montgomery (CA).

Zurich International Tournament (Zurich, Switzerland; 16–19 Jan.)... Championship (30): 1-Kurjakovic (SWIS), 2-Odermett (SWIS), 3/4-Herbert Bornand (SWIS) / M. Paven (GER); 1C-Manfred Hollenderer (GER). Intermediate (22): 1-Da Pra (ITA), 2-Cross; 1C-Bram... Results submitted by Ahmet Baydar of France.

College Park Winter Open (Bethesda, MD; 18 Jan.)... Open (28): 1-Dennis Culpepper (VA), 2-Roger Williamson; 1C-Ben Elliott (NC); 1LC-Blake Sorem.

Par O' Dice Club Grand Opening Tournament (Norridge, IL; 24 Jan.): 1-Chris Kenik, 2-Don Desmond; 1C-Mickey Kaplan... The Par O' Dice Club donated a free entry into the Hawthorne Classic for the winner.

Hawthorne Backgammon Classic (Cicero, IL; 25 Jan.): Open (19): 1-Howard Ring, 2-Yamin Yamin, 3/4-Howard Markowitz / Dean Muench; 1C-Harold Seif, 2C-Gary Kay. Limited (19): 1-Patrick Desmond, 2-Paul Friedman, 3/4-Reggie Porter / René Wojtysiak; 1C-Judy Brown, 2C-J.A. Miller... This annual Super Bowl eve event mixes backgammon and horse racing at the Hawthorne Race Course.

Pro-Am Invitational Doubles (Paradise Island, Bahamas; 30 Jan.–2 Feb.)... Championship (20 teams): 1-Joel Silverman & Bill Ellis, 2-Malcolm Davis & Talmadge Tinsley (TX).

1992 Kater Cup #1 (Enschede, Netherlands; 1 Feb.)... Championship (25): 1-Ralf Sudbrak (GER), 2-Markus Nowack (GER); 1C-Ria Driessen (NL). Beginner (15): 1-Alex Slegt (NL), 2-Niek Bennink (NL); 1C-Michael Vogt (GER). "Grote Kater" Shootout (43): 1-Olaf Brunke (NL).

Bar Point Doubles (Oak Brook, IL; 9 Feb.)... Open (20 Teams): 1/2-Paul & Mary Franks / Gary & Alice Kay, 3/4-Bill Davis & Larry Lau / Chris Stanford & Sarg Serges; 1C-Judy Brown & Deeb Shalati, 2C-Don Jayhan & Phyllis Smolinski.

22nd Annual Willowbank Invitational (Shelburne, VT; 9 Feb.)... Open (32): 1-Burton Zahler, 2-John Van Blarcom; 1C-Bob Lumbr, 2C-Dan Kimbell; 1LC-Janet Greene, 2LC-Art Kimbell... Gardner & Sallie Soule's fun tourney.

D.I. Long Memorial (Louisville, KY; 15 Feb.)... Championship (19): 1-Terry Kuchenbrod, 2-Jim Maier; 1C-Larry Strommen (IN), 2C-Frank Frigo.

Fleet Underwood Memorial (Flint, MI; 16 Feb.)... Open (25): 1-Joe Sylvester, 2-Takis Sakkalis, 3/4-Carol Falk / Bill Kane. Intermediate (28): 1-Bud Olejniczak, 2-Dick Nelson. Novice (7): 1-Debbie McKenna, 2-Jerry Wlosinski.

A Black & White Tournament (Hartford, CT; 15–16 Feb.)... Championship (24): 1-Bill Robertie (MA), 2-Herb Gurland (MA); 1C-Doug Roberts (NY), 2C-Walter Trice. Intermediate (16): 1-Angelo Larceri (NY), 2-Jamie Sarkisian (MA); 1C-Bob Bieder (NY), 2C-George Sackley (CT). Novice (5): 1-Robin King (NY), 2-Fred Townsend (CT)... Trailing 4–1 in the 19-pt. match, Robertie gammoned Gurland with the cube on 16! Δ



ILLINOIS ACTION



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Tuesday, 6:45 P.M. at Pat's Pub, 4343 N. Harlem Ave., Norridge 708/457-1166.

Sunday Bimonthly, 12:30 P.M. at Braxton Seafood Grill, 3 Oakbrook Center Mall, Oak Brook 708/574-2155.

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

SANGAMON VALLEY BG ASSN: Tournaments Tuesday, 6:15 P.M. at On Broadway, 210 S. Broadway, Springfield. Randy Armstrong (217/528-0117).

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL BG CLUB: Tourn. 1st/3rd/5th Tuesday, 6:15 P.M. at Ride The Nine, 503 N. Prospect, Bloomington. Lane O'Connor (309/454-1947).

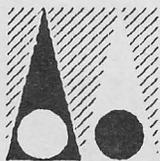
WINNETKA BG CLUB: Tournaments Wednesday, 7:00 P.M. at 620 Lincoln, Winnetka. Trudie Stern (708/446-0537).

CENTRAL ILL. BG CLUB: Tourn. Thurs., 6:30 P.M. at Pizza Works, 3921 Prospect, Peoria. Sue Will (309/692-6909).

PAIR O' DICE BG CLUB: Tourn. Friday, 7:00 P.M. at Flat Tops Sports Bar, 7320 W. Irving, Norridge. Gary Kay (312/819-1122).

PRIME BG CLUB OF CHICAGO: Tourn. Friday, 7:00 P.M. at T.J.'s Lounge, Radisson 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).



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Chris Ternel

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Super Jackpot	US \$1000/500	2 1/2% Deduction
Jackpots	from DKK 100-1500	5% Deduction
Beginners Jackpots	DKK 50	10% Deduction

Program

Thursday, 16th April

11 - 21.00 Registration for all events, Hotel Marina
13.00 Viking Kick-Off
18 - 24.00 Jackpots
21.00 Super Jackpot \$500

Friday, 17th April

12.00 Warm-Up all Flights
12 - 19.00 Late Registration
16.00 Final Viking Kick-Off
12 - 24.00 Jackpots
20.00 Start of Nordic Open in all Flights

Saturday, 18th April

13.00 Auction of last 32 Championship Flight
14.00 Tournament continues last 32 all Flights
14 - 24.00 Jackpots
16.30 Consolation all Flights (excl. last 16)
15 - 24.00 Registration Team Event
21.00 Super Jackpot \$1000

Sunday, 19th April

11.00 Denmark - Sweden, Inter Nation
Team Challenge Match, (Open & Ladies)
14.00 Start Quarter-Finals all Flights
14.00 Start Team Event
15 - 24.00 Jackpots
20.00 Semi-Finals all Flights

Monday 20th April

12.00 Last Chance all Flights
14.00 Finals Main and
Consolation all Flights
21.00 Prize giving Awards by the Baroness of
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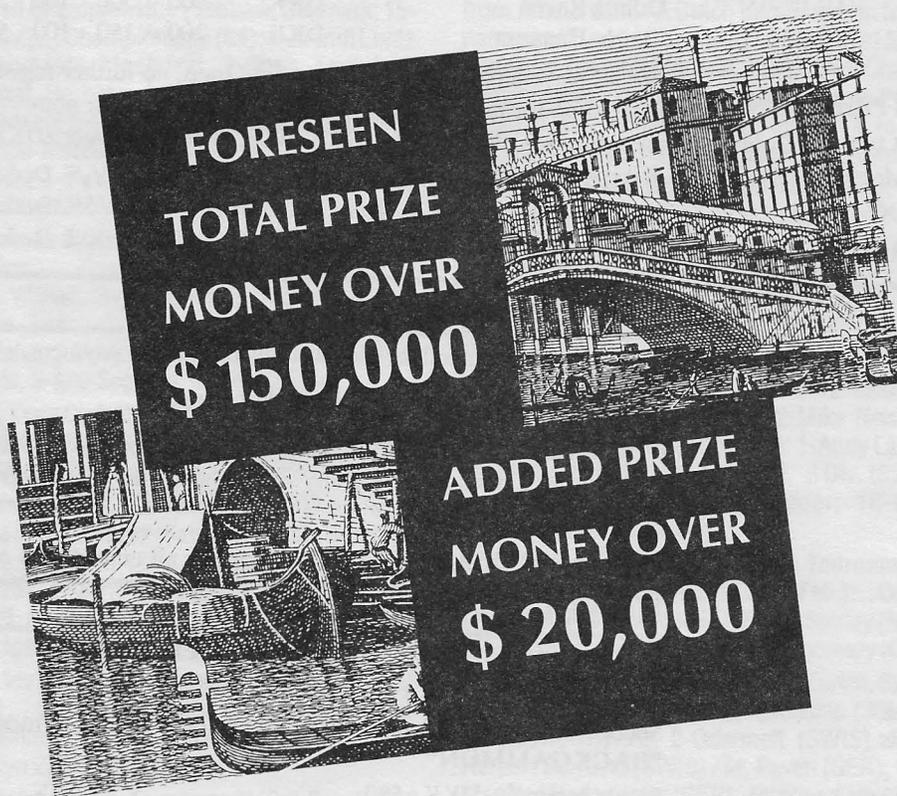
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