

CHICAGO POINT

NUMBER 50

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

SEPTEMBER 1992

1992 world cup and u.s. open

SVOBODNY IS WORLD CLASS

O'Laughlin Wins U.S. Open

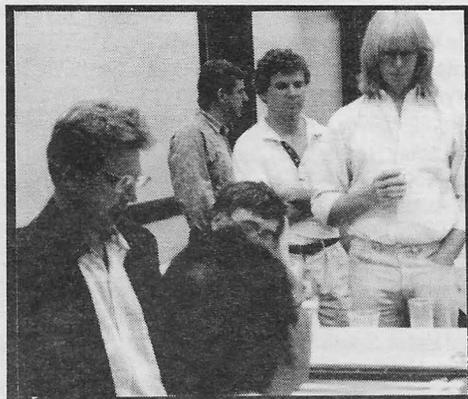
World Cup III in Dallas, Texas 3-9 August was by all reports, the most successful one yet. Mike Svobodny certainly wouldn't disagree. In a 13 1/2 hour marathon series, Svobo edged Hal Heinrich 3-2 in matches to win the toughest test of backgammon skill and stamina in the world.

The biennial event, directed by Kent Goulding and Bill Robertie, was staged at the beautiful Harvey's Bristol Suites Hotel. 150 players attended, up from prior years.

All World Cup matches were best 3-out-of-5 matches to 11 points. For this reason, chess clocks were used with regularity to keep play moving. Even so, 10 hours battles were not uncommon.

The Sunday finals between 1984 World Champ Svobodny and 1990 World Champ Heinrich began at high noon. Play was in a closed room with only Joanne Goulding acting as a scorekeeper/referee.

The first three close matches were finished in eight hours: #1: Svobodny 11-9, #2: Heinrich 11-10, #3: Svobodny 11-7.



World Cup II champ Billy Horan watches Mike Svobodny in the semifinals.

After an hour dinner, the long battle resumed. (Incidentally, no chess clock was used in the finals.) Heinrich needed in win to stay alive and got it 11-10. The next match would decide who would win \$45,000.

Mike fell behind 3-1 before outscoring

[Continued on page 7]

AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR SET FOR 1993

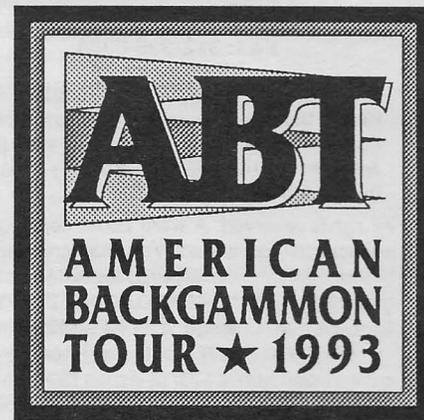
The American Backgammon Tour will be a 1993 master point race patterned after the American Contract Bridge League's master point system. Details of the Tour will be published in the October CHICAGO POINT along with a preliminary schedule of 1993 ABT events.

The following directors have given their initial approval to include results from their 1993 tournament(s) in the ABT:

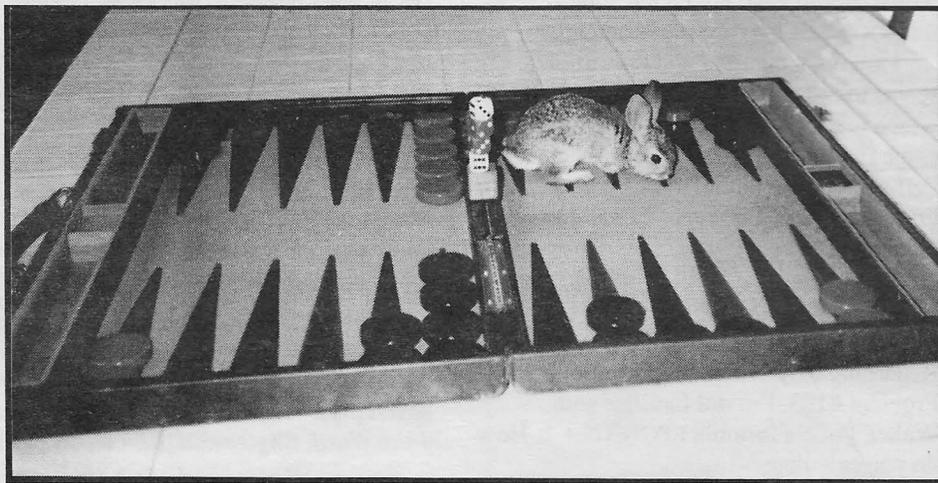
Rick Barabino
Lincoln Bedell
Les & Sue Boyd
Carol Joy Cole
Bill Davis
Patrick Gibson
Steve Hast
Paul McMillan
Butch & Mary Ann Meese
Mark Richardson
Barry Steinberg
Yamin Yamin

New England Backgammon Club (MA)
Granite State Backgammon Club (NH)
International Backgammon Association (FL)
Flint Area Backgammon Club (MI)
Chicago Bar Point Club (IL)
Gammon Associates (CA)
Pittsburgh Backgammon Association (PA)
San Francisco Backgammon Club (CA)
Hoosier Backgammon Club (IN)
Northern Nevada Backgammon Association (NV)
College Park Backgammon Club (MD)
Illinois State Championships (IL)

If you plan to direct a tournament of at least two days in length next year and would like to be part of the American Backgammon Tour 1993, call 312/338-6380 or write to: CHICAGO POINT; 2726 W. Lunt Ave.; Chicago, IL 60645-3039. Fax: 312/338-6384. Δ



BUNNY-GAMMON



Rabbits make excellent backgammon players. Just ask Kalisa and Nick Maffeo of Palm Springs, CA. Daisy is good at hopping over 5-primes, but her real skill is in calculating doubling take points. She's a wizard at multiplying. Δ

CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

EDITOR & PUBLISHER

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

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Harold Branch (KY) **Neil Kazaross (CA)**
Carol Joy Cole (MI) **Danny Kleinman (CA)**
Jake Jacobs (IL) **Kit Woolsey (CA)**
Duane Jensen (MN)

All rights reserved. A word about copying this publication—go ahead. You may copy any of this for noncommercial purposes as long as you give full credit to "CHICAGO POINT, 2726 West Lunt Avenue, Chicago, IL 60645-3039."

CHICAGO POINT is published monthly. The subscription rate is \$25/12 issues (\$35 international airmail in USD check drawn on U.S. bank).

Advertising Rates: 2 3/8" x 3 1/4" = \$35. 1/4 page = \$60. 1/2 page = \$100. Full page = \$180. If the ad is not "camera ready," request layout and typesetting for an additional \$15 charge.



LETTERS

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

PROBLEMS WITH THE LADY

I have been taught that it is never appropriate to make comments concerning play when you are not participating. Last month's "Dancing With The Lady" article seems to condone a comment (even in jest) which should have gotten the author thrown out on his ear by one and all.

I am not a gambler and this article seems to epitomize the casino atmosphere which is sometimes associated with the game (i.e. James Bond in Goldfinger). Perhaps you are inured to this perspective. For me it is a detraction.—*Lee E. Harvey, Excelsior, MN*

QUESTIONS FOR ROY

Another interesting issue, August 1992. Regarding Roy Friedman's solution to Problem #183, I'm not familiar with Walter Trice's formula $EPC = 7N + 1$. How do you calculate N?

Also, in estimating White's Effective Gammon Count (EGC), Friedman says, "The average wastage for White to bear off a checker [and save the gammon] is about

coming attractions

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



by Carol Joy Cole
313/232-9731

* Denotes new or revised listing

NATIONAL

- Sep 4-7 National Labor Day Tournament, Radisson Hotel, Indianapolis, IN 317/845-8435
 Sep 13 Monthly 16 Tournament, Greeley's Restaurant, San Francisco, CA 415/387-0429
 Sep 13* New England Season Kickoff, Sheraton Commander, Cambridge, MA 617/262-0173
 Sep 17 Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI 313/232-9731
 Sep 18-20 28th Gammon Associates Invitational, Cavendish West Hollywood, CA 818/901-0464
 Sep 30-Oct 4 2nd Illinois State Championships and America Cup, Hyatt, Deerfield, IL 708/945-7801
 Oct 2-4 Towpath Inn Tournament, Turin, New York 716/442-8221
 Oct 4* Pittsburgh Sunday Bimonthly, Greentree Marriott, Pittsburgh, PA 412/823-7500
 Oct 11* Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Braxton Seafood Grill, Oak Brook, IL 312/252-7755
 Oct 11* Austin BG Association Tournament, Bombay Bicycle Club, Austin, TX 512/280-5945
 Oct 11* New England Club Monthly, Sheraton Commander, Cambridge, MA 617/262-0173
 Oct 15 Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI 313/232-9731
 Oct 17-18 College Park Fall Open & Jackpot Tourney, Promenade, Bethesda, MD 301/530-0604
 Oct 21 Rscards Fall Computer Modern Tournament, GENIE 800/638-9636
 Oct 30-Nov 1 Granite State Open/Halloween Costume Contest, Sheraton, Bedford, NH 603/863-4711
 Oct 31-Nov 7 Backgammon In Paradise, Kea Lani Hotel, Wailea, Maui, Hawaii 702/852-1221
 Nov 10 BPC 10th Annual Fall Trophy Tourney, Pat's Pub, Norridge, IL 312/338-6380
 Nov 14-15* San Diego Fall Gran Prix, Embassy Suites Hotel, La Jolla, CA 619/294-2007
 Nov 15* New England Club Monthly, Sheraton Commander, Cambridge, MA 617/262-0173
 Nov 19* Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI 313/232-9731
 Nov 22 14th Annual Flint Area Club Championships, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI 313/232-9731
 Dec 6* Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Braxton Seafood Grill, Oak Brook, IL 312/252-7755
 Dec 17* Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI 313/232-9731
 Jan 20* Rscards Winter Computer Modern Tournament, GENIE 800/638-9636
 Jan 20-24* 10th Nevada State Tournament & Masters Invitational, Las Vegas, NV 708/470-9491
 Jan 30* 5th Hawthorne Classic, Hawthorne Race Course, Cicero, IL 312/338-6380

OUTSIDE USA

- Sep 7 Hong Kong Club Monthly Tournament, Ladies Recreation Club 852/846-1923
 Sep 7 Victoria Monthly Tournament, Botanical Hotel, South Yarra, Australia 03/822-3730
 Sep 12 Kater Cup 1992 No. 5, Café chantant De Kater, Enschede, Netherlands 3153/353115
 Sep 12-13 BIBA Trophy Tournament No. 3, George Hotel, Solihull, England 0522/721630
 Sep 18-21* Tiber/Birka Backgammon Cruise, Stockholm-St. Petersburg, Russia 021/440-3428
 Sep 26 Weisbaden Cup 1992, Hotel Fürstenhof-Esplanade, Wiesbaden, Germany 06122/16124
 Oct 1-4 11th International Austrian Open, Pörschach/Wörthersee, Austria 08341/12825
 Oct 2-4* 6th British Festival of Backgammon, Morecambe Bay, Lancas., England 4461/9460828
 Oct 2-4 Victorian Open Championship, Botanical Hotel, South Yarra, Australia 03/822-3730
 Oct 5 Hong Kong Club Monthly Tournament, Ladies Recreation Club 852/846-1923
 Oct 10-11 2nd Annual Wansbeck Club Tournament, England 0522/53 68 36
 Oct 17-18 1st British Isles Open Trophy, Forte Crest Hotel, Eastgate, Lincoln, UK 0522/53 68 36
 Oct 22-25 1992 Rio De Janeiro Open, Le Méridien Copacabana Hotel, Brazil 55 21 267-6033
 Oct 24 Kater Cup 1992 No. 6, Café chantant De Kater, Enschede, Netherlands 3153/353115
 Oct 26-30* South American World Cup & XII Tournament, Buenos Aires, Argentina 54-1-7908177
 Oct 29-Nov 1 Swedish Open Championships, O'Henrys Hotel, Stockholm, Sweden 46 8 652 4099
 Oct 31-Nov 1 Weisbaden Cup 1992, Hotel Fürstenhof-Esplanade, Wiesbaden, Germany 06122/16124
 Nov 2 Hong Kong Club Monthly Tournament, Ladies Recreation Club 852/846-1923
 Nov 2 Victoria Monthly Tournament, Botanical Hotel, South Yarra, Australia 03/822-3730
 Nov 5-8 Austrian State Championships, Vienna, Austria 08341/12825
 Nov 13-15 NordRhein-Westfalen Championships 1992, Düsseldorf-Nord, Germany 02151/503591
 Nov 21-22 BIBA Trophy Tournament No. 4, George Hotel, Solihull, England 0522/721630
 Nov 23-Dec 1 Viva Vila Backgammon Cruise, P&O Fairstar, Sydney-to-Vila, Australia 03/726-0222
 Nov 28 Weisbaden Cup 1992, Hotel Fürstenhof-Esplanade, Wiesbaden, Germany 06122/16124
 Dec 7 Victoria Monthly Tournament, Botanical Hotel, South Yarra, Australia 03/822-3730
 Dec 9-13* First International Turkish Championship, Hotel Akgün, Istanbul, Turkey 3120-6254775
 Dec 13 Christmas Open, New South Wales 02/369-3620
 Dec 19 Kater Cup 1992 No. 7, Café chantant De Kater, Enschede, Netherlands 3153/353115
 Dec 19-20 Weisbaden Cup 1992, Hotel Fürstenhof-Esplanade, Wiesbaden, Germany 06122/16124

seven pips." How is this calculated?—A.
John Ward, Englewood, FL

Roy Friedman responds: Walter Trice's 7N + 1 formula is explained in the article "Astounding Backgammon Numbers" in the April 1990 New England Backgammon

Club Newsletter. For a free copy of the article, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to my address given at the end of this response.

The average pip wastage to save a

[Continues]

gammon depends on the location of your outfield men and the open points in your home board. For some simple cases such as the single outfield checker and no open home points, exact formulas have been derived. (The wastage is about 6.25 pips when the single outfield checker is far from home.) In the general case, the exact wastage is not known; one must use roll-outs and "reference positions" to derive reliable estimates.—Roy Friedman; 18 Potter Pond; Lexington, MA 02173

THANKS, JOE

Thank you for printing Joe Sylvester's letter in the August 1992 POINT. As one of the impressionable readers of the POINT, it has not only restored my faith in backgammon, but in all human nature as well.

And Joe, thank you for just being

you.—Stu Katz, Skokie, IL

I also wanted to chastise Kathy Posner for her claim that there is no integrity left in backgammon. My point was, how can she complain about an integrity loss to Yamin Yamin in your newsletter when her letter directly touches two of the most honest people I know?

Hey, Kathy, I like to "do lunch" at Arnie's with you when I'm in town, and I don't play much backgammon anymore, but I don't use "lack of integrity" as an excuse for lost interest.

Also, thanks for answering Joe the way you did: Kathy was a great player and any former great should have the opportunity to air her excuses. But we also have the right to defend the integrity of backgammon.

My suggestion to Kathy: tell her to play

in Peoria!—Darcey Brady Wade—Mapleton, IL

"LOCKUP" AT THE FIRST BACKGAMMON OLYMPIAD

The recent Backgammon Olympiad in Venice, Italy was the most truly international tournament we have ever attended. The presence of parties from Georgia (former USSR), Armenia, Azerbaijan, Rumania and Japan gave it a truly cosmopolitan atmosphere. Our congratulations to Dario de Toffoli and all those involved with the direction of this wonderful event.

An interesting side note: This must be the only tournament where players found themselves locked into the casino and refused permission to go home! By sheer chance, on the first night of the tournament, the local police had arranged to raid the casino as the result of several months of surveillance on a group of "bent" croupiers. Obviously, it had nothing to do with the backgammon tournament. It was very late at night and I think very few players were actually locked in. But it was a big story in the local papers.—Bridget Robinson, Baroness of Culcreuch, Isle of Man

DESERVED CREDIT FOR BPA 4.0

To my knowledge, Dean Muench's Bearoff1 program does not have any match-winning calculations in it. The figure of 32.14% given in last month's Monte Carlo report must have come from BPA 4.0 and used the figure of 35% gammon chances. If the gammon chances

[Continued on page 5]

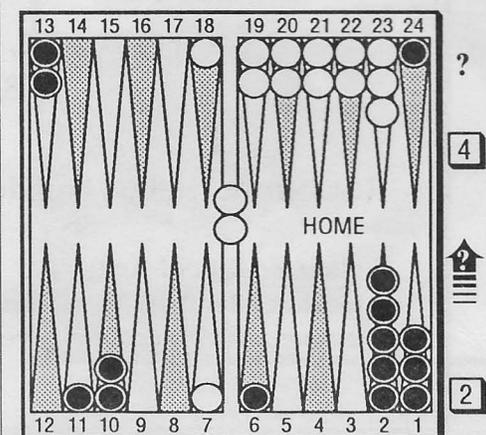
CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB 1992 BPC PLAYER OF THE YEAR COMPILED THRU 31 AUG.

GARY KAY	15.28	Judy Brown	3.44	Don Desmond	1.28
STU KATZ	13.80	George Barr	3.20	Jerry Brooks	1.20
DEEB SHALATI	13.52	Herb Roman	3.20	Graham Sievers	0.96
MARY FRANKS	12.88	Peter Berkman	3.20	Jeff Gottesman	0.88
YAMIN YAMIN	12.48	René Wojtysiak	3.12	Kathy Rudnick	0.88
DAVE CRAMER	12.48	Jake Jacobs	3.04	Ron Stur	0.88
DAVID ROCKWELL	11.92	Norma Shyer	3.04	Bob Vining	0.88
DON JAYHAN	10.96	Ralph Levy	2.80	Amy Trudeau	0.88
DAVID RUBIN	10.80	Bill Davis	2.80	Ken Bond	0.88
PAUL FRANKS	10.24	Leslie Lockett	2.56	Gary Hines	0.80
PHYLLIS SMOLINSKI	9.44	Barry Miller	2.56	Dan Judd	0.76
BOB ZAVORAL	8.12	Devin Dallaire	2.56	Patrick Desmond	0.76
JOHN BRUSSEL	7.80	Jim Gibbs	2.56	Kurt Warning	0.64
DEAN MUENCH	7.60	V.W. Zimnicki	2.56	Lou Salzman	0.56
SARG SERGES	7.52	Tak Morioka	2.56	Jeff Kane	0.56
LENNY LODER	7.20	Stan Kucharz	2.44	Larry Lau	0.56
LUCKY NELSON	6.96	Frankie Farjood	2.36	Marv Arnol	0.52
PETER KALBA	6.72	Roland Dieter	2.32	Harold Grote	0.48
HOWARD RING	6.72	Marcy Sloan	2.24	Fred Gehlhoff	0.44
HOWARD MARKOWITZ	6.56	Femi Owiku	2.08	Larry Yakowenko	0.40
Bill Cox	6.24	James Colen	1.92	Elaine Kehm	0.40
John Demian	5.60	Tim Serges	1.88	Karen Kertz	0.40
Alex Itkin	5.52	Joe Koucharian	1.80	Earl Risch	0.32
John Stryker	5.48	Fred Feldman	1.76	John Macaluso	0.32
Chris Stanford	5.28	Paul Klein	1.76	Phil Simborg	0.32
Arline Levy	5.12	Scott Goode	1.68	Joan Hegg	0.28
Reggie Porter	4.80	Harold Seif	1.68	Bill Gradl	0.24
Bob Ebbeler	4.72	Steve Katz	1.60	Jeff Durkes	0.24
Chris Kenik	4.32	Les Moshinsky	1.56	Tad Wilson	0.24
Alice Kay	4.24	Georgina Flanagan	1.44	Katy Clark	0.24
Paul Friedman	4.24	Marty Tatosian	1.28	Betsy Miller	0.24
Bobbie Shifrin	4.12	Ray Baker	1.28	Jill Ferdinand-Brus	0.24
Jolie Lewis	4.12	Rich Galeba	1.28	Bruce Russell	0.20
Joann Feinstein	3.96	Richard Stawowy	1.28	J.A. Miller	0.20
Ed Buerger	3.92	Steve Sacher	1.28	Jeff Peck	0.20
Tim Mabee	3.88				

DON JAYHAN and YAMIN YAMIN both placed in four out of five August BPC tournaments to share Player of the Month honors with 3.92 points. Phyllis Smolinski placed third earning 3.20 points.

your move PROBLEM #185

Match to 9 points. Don Woods (White) leads Dave Cardwell (Black) 5 to 3. Black (holding a 2-cube) on shake. CUBE ACTION(S)?



SHADES OF GRAY

A RULES AND RULINGS COLUMN

by Danny Kleinman

RULING ON KIBITZERS

Dear Danny: I need your help in a ruling case. Player A rolls 3-3. Looking for the best play, he begins moving his pieces in a number of different ways. Suddenly, a spectator draws his attention to a very good move. Player B legitimately complains that Player A hadn't even considered that move before the kibitzer's action.

What's the correct ruling for the players, and what action should be taken against the spectator?—Claudio Augusto Salamone, tournament director, Argentina Backgammon Association

DEAR CLAUDIO: Third-party actions, such as the kibitzer's in the problem you pose, never permit truly equitable resolution. One or other of the participants invariably suffers: in this case B, if A takes the kibitzer's suggestion; or A, if barred from doing so.

Perhaps backgammon clubs and tournaments need a "Kibitzer Liability Rule" requiring the kibitzer to pay for any swing attributable to his intervention. In a money game, this could be as large as four times

the stakes . . . if the good move converts a gammon loss into a gammon win. In a tournament, the swing might be determined using officially-adopted match equity charts combined with a calculation of the money-equity difference between winning and losing the match.

Of course, if the kibitzer already has a stake in the game—for example as a purchaser of a share in a Calcutta, or as the spouse, lover or business partner of A—then a simple solution is to let A take the kibitzer's good move but award B the kibitzer's share of A's winnings (deemed to be 50% for spouses and lovers).

When a club declines to hold an interfering kibitzer liable financially, the burden falls on the player's conscience.

I bore such a burden during my first or second backgammon tournament back in 1976 or 1977. I had drawn Chuck Papazian as my opponent in a 9-point match. Chuck was famous as a world-class player, while I was relatively inexperienced and unknown. Hence most of our many kibitzers were rooting for me as the underdog, though none had a financial stake in the outcome.

Midway through the match, I was playing a back game, holding the cube on 2. I hit a shot during Chuck's bear-off, but I needed to fill my previously-broken 6-point to cash with the cube. Chuck danced, and I rolled a number which enabled me to slot the 6-point. I thought about it briefly, then

elected simply to bring more builders around. After I lifted my dice, Eli Borok, then one of the Cavendish West's owners, muttered to another kibitzer that I should have slotted.

Similar, though of course not identical, slot-or-build decisions confronted me four or five more times during that game as Chuck would enter, move into the outfield and get hit again. Each time I had to weigh imponderables, such as how many covers I'd have if I slotted, how well I could spread hitters in the outfield if I didn't, and whether I'd have to bury any men.

I decided to protect Chuck's rights by not slotting until and unless the slot became clear, rendering Eli's advice inconsequential. The Backgammon God rewarded me with victory in the game and the match.

In the problem you pose, if unable to impose financial sanctions upon the kibitzer, the director should bar the kibitzer. If the kibitzer had any ties with A, the director should bar the suggest play; if not, the director should ask A whether he honestly thinks he would have discovered and chosen that play.—Yours, Danny Δ

Have you ever been involved in a questionable ruling? Get Danny Kleinman's opinion. Write to: Shades of Gray; c/o CHICAGO POINT; 2726 W. Lunt Avenue; Chicago, IL 60645-3039.

Knight's Financial Roundtable, Inc.

Registered Investment Advisor

"We turn the world inside out for our clients."

For actual performance results on existing accounts:

P.O. Box 637, Deerfield, IL 60015
(708) 945-2060

ROLAND A. DIETER, President

All services: FEES ONLY

Fellow, Society of Actuaries

Associate Member, Investment Analyst Society of Chicago, Inc.

Member, Association for Investment Management and Research



ILLINOIS ACTION



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

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. 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 Chi-Chi's, 4415 N. Rockwood, Peoria. Sue Will (309/692-6909).

PRIME BG CLUB OF CHICAGO: Tourn. Friday, 7:00 P.M. at TJ'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).

Come to the country where it all started.

The Hotel Akgün Istanbul and Casino Imperyal proudly present
the biggest backgammon tournament of the year

1st International Turkish Backgammon Championship

9-13 December 1992

Hotel Akgün
Istanbul, Turkey

featuring
\$30,000
added



Turkish Backgammon Federation
Mayor of Istanbul
Department of Tourism

Conditions:

The sponsors of the tournament, Hotel Akgün and Casino Imperyal request that only players with Hotel Akgün accommodations may take part in this event. Should this pose a problem, please contact the tournament director.

Hotel Facilities:

A five-star hotel with swimming pool, sauna, Turkish bath, fitness room, casino and 24-hour room service. To reserve:

AKGÜN ISTANBUL
Tel: 90-1-5348479
Fax: 90-1-5349126

Special backgammon rates: \$80/night, single or double. (Normal rate = \$140/night.) Mention "Backgammon" to obtain the reduced rates.

The reservation cut-off date is: 18 November 1992. Reserve early!

To receive an invitation, contact:

ABRAHAM EITAN
2° Weteringdwarstraat 43^{II}
The Netherlands
Telephone: 31-20-6254775

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 3]

of 20% were used from the same data tables, the win percentage would have to be 30.89%. But White had only a 17.92% CPW. The value of owning the cube would not come close to the 30+% needed for a correct take.

This is written to clear up any confusion that may have resulted to your readers who own Bearoff1. Happy doubling.—*Larry Strommen, BPA 4.0 author, Indianapolis, IN*

Dean Muench did credit your program when we spoke with him. The oversight was on our part.—Ed.

WALTER ON TARGET

Walter Trice, doubting my conclusion in the July 1992 "Ask Danny" response to Bruce Newberg's question, grouped White's rolls into ten different categories, performed rollouts by category, and obtained estimates of Black's equity in each category if he doubles and if he refrains.

If Black doubles, his equity is slightly less than +0.4. But if he refrains, he gains

nearly an additional +0.1 in equity. This implies that Black shouldn't double in money play. Apparently I overestimated the harm wrought by White's less-than-horrid crashing rolls (rolls other than escaping rolls 6-1, 6-3, 6-4 and 6-5, as well as safe move-up rolls of 3-2, 2-1 and 1-1. These safe move-up rolls roughly equalize the position, as Walter's rollouts indicate.

Though the position is volatile, the cost of losing Black's market isn't as great as I'd thought, and is more than balanced by the benefits to White of owning a 2-cube when she rolls well (frees a man) or middling (moves up safely).—*Danny Kleinman, Los Angeles, CA*

A NOTE FROM JIM RODERICK

I'm letting my subscription to the POINT lapse. Obviously this decision has nothing to do with the quality of your newsletter—it's superb! Rather, and quite honestly, I just don't seem to get around to playing much anymore. Partly responsible for this is my stepped-up teaching and academic schedule. I still play in Reno on Thursday nights when I get the time, and yes, I still very much enjoy the game.

You, Howard [Markowitz], Carol Joy [Cole], Mary Ann [Meese] and many

others are doing a wonderful job in keeping backgammon alive and well in America—keep up the good work! And thanks for your support and friendship over the years.—*Jim Roderick, Reno NV*

Thank you for your kind words, Jim. You, Mark Richardson and Dave Heffner are owed a debt a gratitude from all of us for the formation of the Northern Nevada Backgammon Association and the wonderful tournaments you offered America and the world for nearly a decade. We hope your work allows you to get back-to-gammon real soon.—Ed.

CHICAGO MISSES YOU TOO, GREG

It was great to see you in Monte-Carlo this year. A real pleasure. And a reminder of how much I miss the whole backgammon scene in Chicago. I'm going to make a concerted effort to make it over for Yamin's Illinois State Championships. It turns out I should be reasonably free of work commitments by late September.

Give my best to Yamin, Tak, and everyone else at the Bar Point Club whom I once had the pleasure of playing.—*Gregory Shore, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa Δ*

The Advanced Backgammon Exam

Solved

by Walter Trice

The winner of \$50 in last month's extremely difficult quiz is ANTONIO ORTEGA of San José, Costa Rica. Antonio had only three incorrect answers. FRED GEHLHOFF (Racine, WI), MARIO MADRIGAL (San José, Costa Rica) and DARRELL LEE RIDINGS (Hayward, CA) all tied for 2nd with four wrong. [Editor's note: Everyone received positive credit for #7 which showed only 14 Black checkers in play. The missing man should have been on the bar. My apologies to Walter Trice.]

All of these problems come from *Advanced Backgammon, 2nd Edition* by Bill Robertie, except #2 which appears in the March-April *Inside Backgammon* magazine.

Bill's new book is an outstanding problem collection, and his analysis is generally insightful and accurate. However, backgammon is difficult, and any author who is bold enough to take on interesting problems is going to get some wrong now and then—that's just a fact of backgammon life. I regard many of the problems in Bill's book as intriguing but unsolved. Here are my solutions (AB = *Advanced Backgammon, 2nd Edition*. IB = *Inside Backgammon, March-April 1992*):

1. (AB #166) **BLACK ROLLS 1-2, 1-3, 2-4, 2-5, 2-6, 3-4, 3-5, 3-6 AND WHITE ROLLS 4-4 (PLAYED 23/7)**. Black is probably too good to double, but Bill's assertion that *no* sequence gives White a take next turn is not true. If Black takes off at most two men, leaving three on the 4-point, and White makes her bar point with 4-4, she can accept the cube. If Black then rolls 6-2, 5-2, or 4-2, White will be shooting at two blots with 31 numbers to hit, and she can redouble (Black takes).

There are, of course, other blot numbers and plenty of deferred shot equity. White's 4-4 seems to be required—she needs the 5-prime to take, and must simultaneously unmake the 23-point.

2. (IB #26) **REDOUBLE AND TAKE**. I was surprised by the official solution—no double. White is on the roof behind a 5-prime, and may not be at the edge when she enters. Black has outfield control and White has begun to crash.

Roll-out results show that Black is worth 0.90 (576 trials) with White owning a 2-cube.

3. (AB #84) **BAR/24*, 22/17**. Bill recommends Bar/20, 12/11, disdaining the hit to force White to break anchor. But this is too risky with the loose outfield blots. White is left with 11 hit-and-covers, a double-hit with 5-4, the big doubles as racing jokers, and many hit/miss sequences to start her run for home. It's the horror scenarios that are most significant. How would you like to face double-1s/dance, for instance?

The mundane Bar/24*, 22/17 generally wins without difficulty and produces a fair number of gammons when White dances long enough, or enters and gets hit again. The recommended trap play is a very serious error, giving up at least one point in equity.

4. (AB #143) **NO DOUBLE**. This problem should be contrasted with AB #43 and AB #44. In AB #143, Black is in a priming game with two back men to White's one. Black has a home-board blot that might not get covered, and compared to the earlier pair of problems, White's counter-prime is much further developed. Here Black should not double.

5. (AB #165) **DOUBLE AND TAKE**. In *Lee Genuid vs. Joe Dwek: The 1981 World Championship* (his first book), Bill said that this position was worth 1.67 on a 2-cube. I believe his conclusion resulted from an inadequate roll-out. Close take.

6. (AB #29) **24/16**. Bill recommends 16/8 on the grounds that 24/16 makes a useless point that is difficult to clear, while 16/8 provides a key priming builder. Actually 24/16 has a lot going for it:

- (1) Owning the 16-point provides extra outfield coverage if White runs a checker;
- (2) Constructing a new outfield control base frees up the men on the stripped midpoint;
- (3) Escaping is important. Surely White would rather go for counterplay against the 24-blot than against a point which *might* be hard to clear later. It is, after all, possible to close out or prime the blot.

The two plays seem to be close, and Black's position remains very powerful after either. My roll-outs give 24/16 a slight edge.

7. (AB #185) **BAR/23, 9/8**. [Remember, Black's missing 15th checker should have been on the bar.—Ed.] Bill advocates Bar/22, reasoning that White will scoop all those blots and clear her outside points while Black is dancing. He believes that once White gets her men home, the 1-3 game is much better than the 2-3, though with outfield points to clear, the 2-3 is better.

Actually, whether this is true depends on the distribution of White's spares when she begins bearing off—if the 6-point is stripped, the 2-3 is superior. Even in the most favorable cases, the advantage of the 1-3 is small.

If we accept Robertie's premise, Bar/23, 9/8 is better than Bar/22 because:

- (1) There are fewer blots to scoop;
- (2) Black has both 6s and 5s with which to escape if White doesn't make the 8-point;
- (3) He retains the possibility of a 2-3 (even a 1-2-3) backgame.

Two other plays deserve consideration in this complex problem, though I believe they are both inferior to Bar/23, 9/8. If Black's timing was better, he would play Bar/23, 24/23, relying on the inherent superiority of the 2-3 backgame. If his timing was worse, he would play Bar/23, 14/13*, aiming to use the 17-point as a bridge to the outfield. My preference for Bar/23, 9/8 is based on judgement, and I could be wrong here. It does seem clear though, that Robertie's play is not the answer.

8. (AB #319) This is an important reference position. **REDOUBLE AND PASS**, though it's close. In practice, it often *isn't* close because White's checker play is difficult.

9. and 10. (AB #322A and #322B) I believe that #9 is a **REDOUBLE AND TAKE** but #10 is a **REDOUBLE AND PASS**. I base this on a substantial (432 trials each) roll-out in which all not-contact positions were settled exactly (with computer assistance). It should at least be evident that #10 is better for Black than #9, because in #10, there are no blot numbers and Black bears off faster.

Maintaining a 5-prime for an extra roll is not a plus with three checkers already off. Speed and safety, rather than containment, are the priorities. Δ

WORLD CUP III...

[Continued from page 1]

his Canadian opponent eight to one. But the 9-4 lead would be transformed by the tenacious Heinrich. Now it was down to one game for a \$22,500 swing.

Stuck in a deuce game, Heinrich managed

to hit a 9-shot to increase his winning chances. But it was Svobodny's day (morning?). He crushed Hal back with a 6-1 and never looked back. Around 1:30 a.m., Mike Svobodny was crowned World Cup III champion for 1992.

Good news for BG fans. The entire match was recorded on high quality tape with expert commentary by Kent Goulding, Bill

Robertie and Kit Woolsey. It will be available from U.S. Backgammon Enterprises soon.

Ed O'Laughlin topped Mexico's Rafael Lopez de Lara 25-18 to win the U.S. Open.

"Tom Johnson's *Expert Backgammon* program has really helped my game a lot," said O'Laughlin. "The roll-out feature is very good. I'm going to roll everything out!" Δ

WORLD CUP III & U.S. OPEN

WORLD CUP III (39): 1-Mike Svobodny (NY), 2-Hal Heinrich (CAN), 3/4-Nathan Jones (TX) / Joe Sylvester (MI); 1C-Malcolm Davis (TX), 2C-Billy Horan (NY)

U.S. OPEN (76): 1-Ed O'Laughlin (VA), 2-Rafael Lopez de Lara (MEX), 3/4-Bill Barron (TX) / Sandy Lubetkin (TX), 5/8-Dick Cather (TX) / Sassan Kamali (CA) / Carmen Tomlinson (TX) / Tom Zarrinam (CA); 1C-Erik Seidel (NY), 2-Gary Kay (IL)

INTERMEDIATE (47): 1-Joe Harris (CA), 2-Ron Williamson (TX), 3-Dennis Cupp (OH); 1C-David Simpson (CO), 2C-Hossein Zafarani (TX), 3C/4C-Paul Albert (CA) / Chuck Stimming (IN)

RIFLEMAN'S SHOOTOUT (20): 1-Malcolm Davis (TX), 2-Ami Tennenbaum (NJ)

GOLD RUSH I (32): 1-David Ben-Zion (ISR), 2-Joe Russell (CA), 3/4-Christian Lestrade (Monaco) / Howard Markowitz (IL)

GOLD RUSH II (16): 1-Drew Giovanis (FL), 2-Howard Ring (IL)

ARMADILLO CHASE (128): 1-AI Hodis (NY), 2-Kent Goulding (MD)

ROUND-UP: Open (16): 1-Dan Cox (NY), 2-Howard Ring (IL). Intermediate (8): 1-Jorge Tsao (Costa Rica), Frank Van Beak (TX)

MICROBLITZ: Open (64): 1-Tom Wheeler (TX), 2-Jim Hickey (GA). Limited I (64): 1-Hossein Zafarani (TX), 2-Bob Zavoral (IL). Limited II (32): 1-Jorge Tsao (Costa Rica), 2-Bob Wright (FL)

AMALGAMATION

Chicago Bar Point player **Frankie Farjood** and his wife **Laura** welcome a new baby boy into their family: **Armaan Michael Farjood** born 27 July... Visiting BPC in August: **Graham Sievers** (England) and **Paul Farah** (Flint, MI)... **John Brussel** has signed on to work for Comm2, a Chicago public relations and consulting firm on Van Buren Street. **Don Desmond** and **Kathy Posner** are partners in the venture... Another honor for **Carol Joy Cole**'s son **Chris Cole**. Last month in Canada, Chris added to his racquetball fame by pacing the U.S. team to the International Federation World Championship. Individually, Chris's singles victory ranks him as the best amateur player in the world... **Jeff Kane** of Kenosha, WI is exploring the possibility of holding a backgammon tournament at the Dairyland Greyhound Track in his city. It would be patterned after the Hawthorne Classic tournament scheduled for 30 January 1993 at the Hawthorne Race Course in Cicero, IL.... San

Francisco to Philadelphia: **Neil Kazaross**... Last call for a copy of the current issue of *das Backgammon Magazin*, the German language publication featuring over 30 pages of international experts' recorded games. If you're interest in an issue (post-paid), send \$13 to CHICAGO POINT... Spotted vacationing in Los Angeles by **Patrick Gibson**: former American Backgammon Players Association director **Sidney Jackson** with is wife **Donna**. Sid is currently teaching high school in Florida... The 6th British Festival of Backgammon (2-4 Oct. 1992) in Morecambe Bay, England, will honor **Hercules and Bridget Robinson**, Baron and Baroness of Culcreuch in recognition for their outstanding contributions to backgammon. For more information, contact National Backgammon Players Society at 44 61 946 0828... Beautiful silk backgammon ties are on sale from the Land's End catalogue for \$26.50. Call 800/356-4444 and ask for item 1700-8U12. Specify red or teal. Yes, they ship internationally... Finally, this definition from Worldwide Backgammon Federation president **Alberto da Pra**: "Backgammon is a 'Sport of Mind.'" Δ

Ace Point Backgammon Club

Michael Valentine, Director

41 East 60th Street

(Between Park Avenue and Madison Avenue)

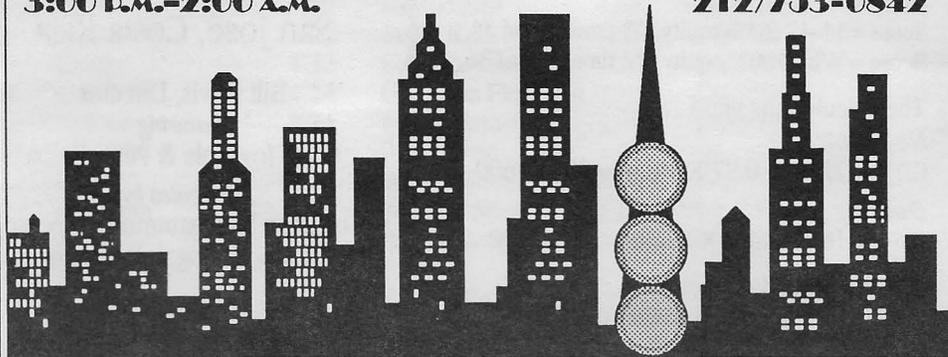
New York City

Open Daily

3:00 P.M.-2:00 A.M.

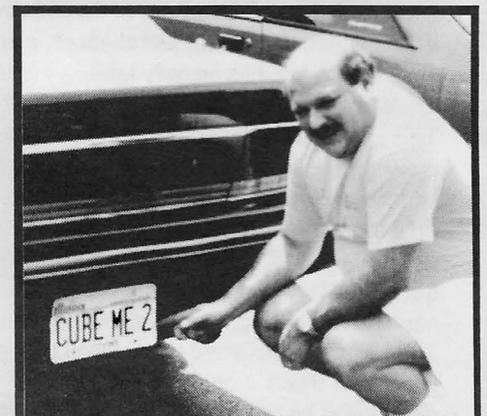
Information

212/753-0842



BG VANITY

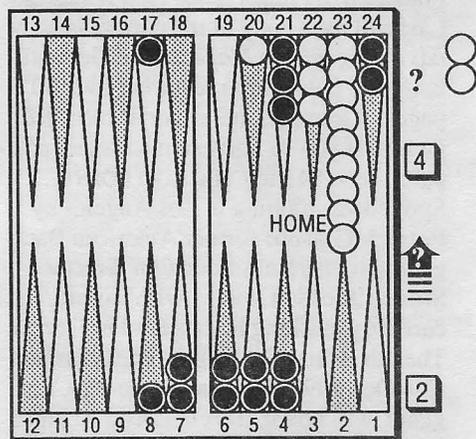
Send a photo of you and your vanity backgammon license plate to BG Vanity; CHICAGO POINT; 2726 W. Lunt Ave.; Chicago, IL 60645-3039.



John Brussel; Arlington Heights, IL
[Photo by Jill Ferdinand-Brussel]

**PROBLEM #184
SOLVED**

by Kit Woolsey

19-point match. White leads Black, 14-8. Black on roll. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**

This is a straightforward problem involving match equities and assessment of the position. In order to get started, first we will collect the relevant data. From my match equity table (published in *Inside Backgammon*) for a 19-point match, we find:

- Black leading 18-8 (Crawford) = 97%
- Black leading 16-8 = 90%
- Black leading 14-10 = 73%
- Black leading 14-12 = 63%

First question: If Black doubles, should White take? If White passes, she is ahead 14-10 for 73% equity. If she takes and is right, she is ahead 18-8 for 97% equity (actually better since most of White's wins will be gammons), and if she takes and is wrong, her lead is 14-12 for 63% equity.

Consequently, by taking, White is risking 10% to gain at least 24%, so she is getting 12-to-5 odds on the take. Since Black only hits 20 times out of 36 and even if Black hits, White still has chances, it is clear that White has an easy take.

Next question: Should Black double? This is a bit trickier. First of all, if Black misses, he is likely to be gammoned when he loses. (Not guaranteed since he might hit a late shot, but as a first approximation, it is a reasonable assumption.) Consequently, Black is risking only 3% in match equity by doubling, and he stands to gain 10%. Thus, if this were the last roll of the game (i.e. Black would always lose a gammon if he missed and always win if he hit), then Black could double being as much as a 10-to-3 underdog. Since Black hits over half the time and when he hits he

is a considerable favorite, it is clear that doubling is a serious candidate.

However, this is not the whole story. If White still has a take even after Black hits, then it would be silly for Black to double since he could not lose his market. He would simply be throwing away 3% in equity as well as the opportunity to make a pressure double later if he hit (since by doubling now he would have to play the game to conclusion). If Black does lose his market by hitting, it may well be correct to double now.

Suppose Black doesn't double, hits, and White does nothing special. If Black now doubles, can White take? As we have seen, White is getting 12-to-5 odds on his take. It doesn't look good enough. Black appears to be a big favorite to contain the hit checker since his board is already in pretty good shape, and if he does build a prime, he will then be a huge favorite to win. Consequently, it looks like Black can lose his market by a fair amount, so doubling is definitely in the ball park.

Let's suppose for a first approximation that if Black doesn't double and hits, he will always be able to claim with the cube. (This is not quite true since White might pop out immediately after which she could take Black's double.) Thus, Black has 20 immediate winners. Now let's say that of the 16 misses, he will still win two times by hitting a later shot. Thus, let's say that Black will win 22 times out of 36 if he doesn't double.

Suppose Black doubles. Now he cannot claim with the cube, so White will have some chances to win if hit. Let's estimate that Black will win 80% of the time if he hits, thus giving him 16 wins out of the 20 hits. In addition, Black still has the two late shot winners, giving him a total of 18 wins out of 36.

Putting all this together with the match equities, we have White's equity as follows:

No double:

Score = 14-10 (73% equity) 22 times out of 36.

Score = 18-8 (97% equity) 14 times out of 36.

Double:

Score = 14-12 (63% equity) 18 times out of 36.

Score = Win (100% equity) 18 times out of 36.

The calculations yield . . .

No double:

$0.73 \times 22/36 + 0.97 \times 14/36 = 2964/3600$

Double:

$0.63 \times 18/36 + 1.0 \times 18/36 = 2934/3600$

This is really too close to call since there were a lot of approximations and guesses, but if these figures are to be believed, it looks like Black does a bit

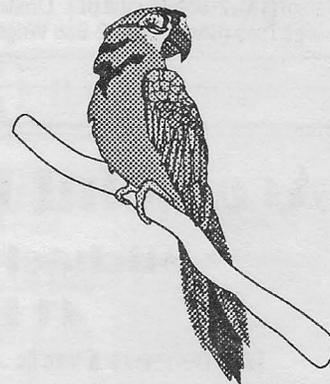
better by doubling.

I realize that I have not taken all the possibilities into account (e.g. if Black hits and White later leaps over the prime and escapes, Black may scramble off the gammon), but these considerations will not affect the final result by much. The big figure in question is the 80% estimate for Black's winning chances if he hits. Raise it to 85% and the double would be clear; drop it to 75% and the result would probably swing the other way.

THE CLOSENESS OF THIS DECISION will probably surprise a lot of players (it certainly surprised me!) who would instinctively think that the double at this match score is automatic. The key appears to be that Black figures to have a fairly efficient redouble when he hits. If Black had already completed his prime (thus giving him a near claim if he hit), then his redouble would be inefficient and there would be no question about doubling now. Δ

Plan Ahead.

BACKGAMMON TOURNAMENT *of the Americas*



28 April-2 May, 1993

Cariari Hotel & Casino
San José, Costa Rica

Bill Davis, Director

featuring

Carol Joy Cole & Peter Kalba

Presented by

Costa Rican Backgammon Association

Mario Madrigal, President

Information:

Peter Kalba 312/252-7755



Florida Chicago Point subscribers relate their recent experience with Hurricane Andrew.

Hurricane Andrew, perhaps the worst natural disaster in American history, wreaked havoc with residents of southern Florida. Chicago Point telephoned a few subscribers in the area to see how they fared. Here are their paraphrased first-hand experiences.

Les Boyd (Ft. Lauderdale)

This is my fifth hurricane. I was in the eye of one on a small boat 38 years ago in Rhode Island. So I'm afraid of the damn things. Basically, nothing happened to Sue and I. We lost a tree. The pool pump went out, electricity was out for a day, but absolutely nothing compared to those poor people in Miami.

We had spent the entire day preparing for it—putting things away, tying up our 24 foot boat. The damage comes from flying objects.

Mike Corbett (Ft. Lauderdale)

We had a little wind and some storm and stuff. It was just an inconvenience for me. For a lot of people it was terrible. It missed us by about 40 miles, but we didn't know that so I boarded my place up and ran west.

A lot of people think that a hurricane is fun. You know, "Let's have a hurricane party!" and all that. But it was no fun for the people who live in South Miami. It went through there and smashed them to bits.

We had constant 60+ mph winds. It lasted from dusk until about 9:00 A.M. We lost power for a couple of days. I got a hotel on the beach until they got the power back. Some people were not so lucky.

Earlier in the day, we had been told to prepare for evacuation so I had several options. You can get in your car and outrun a hurricane as long as you know which roads are clear, so I had that in mind as well.

Howard Robinson (Hollywood)

Nothing happened to me. I stayed in my

house, the wind blew and it blew over. For us, it sounded worse than it was. No damage to my building. We lost electricity for a day and a half. Not that bad. It was much worse further south.

Lee Genud (Dania)

Even though it was an evacuation zone, I stayed. Now I feel like a stupid person, but I didn't want to leave my cats.

We were very, very lucky here because I live near the beach and it was expected to be the eye. I have to sort of climb a tree to get into my front door. We lost electricity for a couple of days. One tree fell on my car but overall, there was nothing major. I'm functioning very well.

Lily Gross Rubin's apartment fared worse. She has a very expensive high rise on the beach in Turnberry. All of her windows were blown out. She lost most of her furniture and some expensive art pieces. Her \$12,000 sofa flew out the window and fell 21 floors into the swimming pool. Fortunately, she was up in Long Island at her summer home when Andrew hit.

Jeff Seidel (South Miami)

It's pretty primitive, pretty much flattened here. The eye wall passed right over us. We experienced 160 mph wind gusts. I'd say my condo was about 15 minutes away from failure.

I was watching TV and dozed off on the couch. The next thing I knew, the sliding glass door was bulging in. I felt like 'Man, that pane's going to go pretty soon.' The only place without windows was a large walk-in closet, so I just dove in there with a radio. I was in there all night. It's like when you're a little kid and you're scared about the monster under the bed. I've never been that scared in my life.

Earlier, I had offers to go to friends houses but decided to hang out here. I was very lucky: the friends house is gone. In fact, within a half mile of my condo, houses are not there any more. And the Dade County Construction Codes are the toughest in the nation: 120 mph wind loading.

It's worse further south. In Key Biscayne, the only connection with reality is a radio. There are no trees left. It looks like somebody took a gigantic lawnmower and just ran over the whole island.

The next hurricane, I'm getting a plane out of here. There's no way I'd go through this again. It was probably the most intense event of my life, except for one of your tournaments.

Ignacio Benavides (Key Biscayne)

[Telephone unavailable as of 29 August.] Δ

who did what

WINNER'S CORNER



July-Aug. 1992

Monthly 16 Tourney (San Francisco, CA; 12 July)... Open (14): 1-Neil Kazaross, 2/5-Redmond Woodson/David McBride/Jim Gibbs / David Montgomery.

Circuito Del Rio De La Plata (Buenos Aires, Argentina; Mondays in July)... Champ Winners: Rafael Dana, Rodolfo O. Aguirre, Juan Rosa, Juan Carlos Gostanian. Junior Winners: Elena Dorin, Julia Estacolchic, Diego Heidenreich, Alberto Daich. Novice Winners: Pablo Suero, Enrique Fabrega, Daniel Kozak, Rosana Gamburd.

RSCARDS Summer Modern Tournament (Genie Computer Service; July-August)... Open (27): 1-Kurt Schurecht (IL), 2-Jim Wilson (MI), 3/4-David Montgomery (CA)/Douglas Johnson (NC).

Monthly 16 Tourney (San Francisco, CA; 9 Aug.)... Open (15): 1-Chris Osborne, 2/5-Odis Chenault / Marv Porten / Rob Rossetti / John Bazigos.

XI South American Tournament (Buenos Aires, Argentina; 10-14 Aug.)... Championship: 1-Rafael Silva y Cobo, 2-Jorge Pan, 3-Andranik Safarian, 4-Horacio Anitaua. Junior: 1-Luis Turco, 2-Marcelo Daich, 3-Oded Minond, 4-Alexandra Bandshan. Beginner: 1-Gustavo Daich, 2-Fabian Goyhman, 3-Alejandro Goldkorn, 4-Douglas Whitaker.

Green Mt. Festival of Backgammon (Stratton Mt., VT; 10-16 Aug.) Vermont State Open: 1-Ami Tennenbaum (NJ), 2-Bob Bishop (NY), 3/4-Irwin Zamore (NY) / Jeff Acierno (NY); 1C-Hersel Namdar (NJ). Intermediate: 1-Bob Lumbra (VT), 2-Carol Feldman (FL), 3/4-Eli Turgell (FL)/Larry Liebster (NJ). Canadian Open: 1-Mike Carson (PA), 2-Ed Pavilonis (NY); 1C-Fred Berliner (FL). Intermediate: 1-Jerry Padova (NH), 2-Hunter Jones (MD); 1C-Gil Evans (NH).

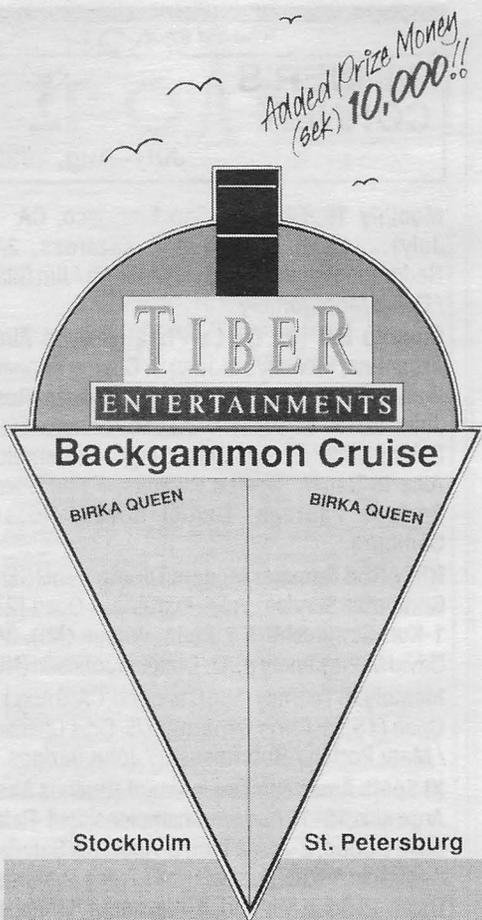
CIBC Summer Sizzler (Lacon, IL; 16 Aug.)... Open (13): 1-Yamin Yamin, 2-Milad Doueih; 1C-Carl Severino. Intermediate (18): 1-J.A. Miller, 2-Mike Flohr; 1C-Mark Kaye, 2C-Tom Wade. Novice (5): 1-Connie Pullig... As always, Sue Will (with able assistance from Ed Zell) put on a good show.

Summer Cool Tournament (Oak Brook, IL; 23 Aug.)... Open (25): 1-Gary Kay, 2-Yamin Yamin, 3/4-Don Desmond / Howard Ring; 1C/2C-John Brussel / Stu Katz. Intermediate (15): 1-Bobbie Shifrin, 2-Tim Mabee, 3/4-Frankie Farjood / Fred Gehlhoff; 1C-Lou Salzman, 2C-Don Jayhan. Δ

Go Back.

All back issues (June 1988-present) of CHICAGO POINT now available. \$3 each/pp.

CHICAGO POINT; 2726 W. Lunt Ave.;
Chicago, IL 60645-3039.



**Luxury 3-day Backgammon Cruise
Tournament Aboard the Birka Queen
Stockholm to St. Petersburg, Russia
18th-21st Sept. 1992**

Tournament Directors:

Chris Ternel & Erik Gravgaard
Danish Backgammon Federation

Booking Information:

BIRKA CRUISES
08-714 55 20 • Fax 08-714 98 30

The following information will be required when you contact the Booking Agent:
Name, Date of Birth, Passport number, Cabin Category, Excursion Reservations, Credit Card information.

Be sure to quote "Backgammon" when making your reservation to gain the 50% Cruise discount.

ACT TODAY! All money for the Cruise *must* be received by BIRKA CRUISES one week *before* the sailing date.

Excursions to St. Petersburg available.

For additional information, contact:

COLIN ROBERTS
65 Balsall Heath Road
Degboston, Birmingham B5 7NQ, England
(21) 440 3428 • Fax: (21) 440 6769



**After Columbus*

Join us this Fall when we celebrate the 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus's historical journey to the New World.

**america cup
backgammon
challenge**

**illinois state
backgammon
championships**



Sept. 30-Oct. 4, 1992

at the

Hyatt Deerfield Hotel

1750 Lake Cook Road
Deerfield, Illinois

(A 15 minute drive from Chicago's O'Hare Airport)

SPECIAL ADDED BONUS

Finalists in the America Cup Backgammon Challenge and the Illinois State Backgammon Championships (champ division) will receive **A COMPLIMENTARY VIDEO** of the match.



WARNING:

1. Pack your vitamins. This event offers continuous action and daily parties above and beyond those mentioned in the brochure.
2. Make your Hyatt Deerfield Hotel reservations by Sept. 16 to ensure accommodations. Rooms will be more difficult to book after that date *and we mean it!* (708) 945-3400 or (800) 233-1234.
3. Do not forget the Byzantine Auction Dinner on Wednesday, Sept. 30 at which time we will inaugurate the prestigious America Cup. Everyone is welcome. Dinner is free for qualifiers and \$25 for guests.
4. Send your entry deposit (\$25 Main events, \$100 America Cup, \$25 Byzantine Dinner Ticket) no later than Sept. 21 to:

Yamin Yamin
1145 North Waukegan Road
Deerfield, IL 60015
(708) 945-7801