

CHICAGO POINT

NUMBER 58

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

MAY 1993

2nd backgammon tournament of the américas

IT'S SENKIEWICZ AND LECHICH IN COSTA RICA

Costa Ricans Win Intermediate, Sweep Novice

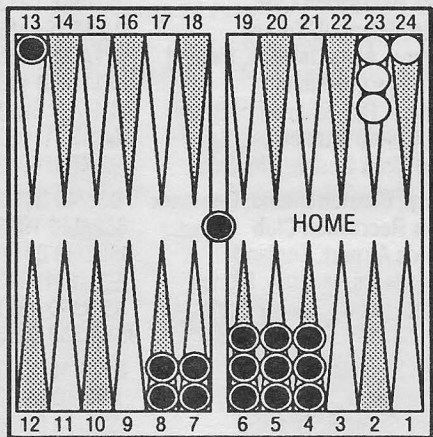
Mike Senkiewicz held off a late charge by Wilcox Snellings to win \$15,000 in the El Cariari event at the Tournament of the Américas 15-11. Your editor directed the event at the beautiful El Cariari Hotel, ably assisted by Carol Joy Cole, Peter Kalba, "Pig Mistress" Dru Heggen and members of the Costa Rican Backgammon Association.

The 28 April-2 May vacation tourney drew a total of 122 international players from five continents and Australia, including one of the strongest 56 player Open fields ever assembled (Magriel, Robertie, Goulding, Sylvester, Kazaross, Kissane, Wachtel, etc.!).

Australia's Tino Lechich, the eventual Open winner, survived the following incredible position in the round-of-32 against CRBA President Mario Madrigal:

Match to 13 points. Tino Lechich (Black) trails Mario Madrigal (White) 12-8 Crawford. **BLACK ON ROLL.**

MADRIGAL-12



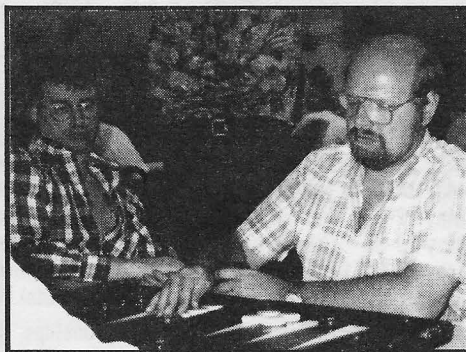
LECHICH-8

Tino missed the ace shot and still won! He rolled 2-2, Mario was forced to expose two checkers, Tino executed the coup classique, then went on to win two more

games and shock Madrigal 13-12. The rest of his matches, including a 17-point finals vs. Hugh Sconyers were a comparative "cake walk."



Tino Lechich on shake in the Open finals vs. Hugh Sconyers.



Mike Senkiewicz makes his comeback vs. Wilcox Snellings in the El Cariari finals. That's Open finalist Hugh Sconyers looking on.

Costa Rica's Walter Montero edged Alberto da Pra in the Intermediate finals. Walter's wife, Ana Segreda (when she wasn't helping at the director's table) found time to win the Novice title. In another CRBA success, Milton Gonzalez teamed with Joe Sylvester to win the Costa Rican Doubles Championship.

Special accolades to Joe Sylvester who provided us with three outstanding seminars, Danny Kleinman who assisted Joe with the finals commentary, and Max Esquivel and Ana Laura who threw an incredible party at their ranch on Monday. Also to sponsors Luis Manuel Chacon (Costa Rican Minister of Tourism),

Heineken Beer, Continental Airlines, Britt Coffee, and all of the players who discovered the magic of Costa Rica. Δ



Walter Montero (left) battles WBF director Alberto da Pra in the Intermediate finals while Walter's wife, Novice champ Ana Segreda (top center) watches intently.

BACKGAMMON TOURNAMENT OF THE AMÉRICAS

EL CARIARI (16): 1-Mike Senkiewicz (US), 2-Wilcox Snellings (US), 3/4-Tino Lechich (AUS) / Tom Zarrinam (US). OPEN (56): 1-Tino Lechich (AUS), 2-Hugh Sconyers (US), 3/4-Ralf Jonas (GER) / Mike Senkiewicz (US); 1C-Dan Cox (US), 2C-Max Esquivel (CR); 1LC-Mike Mooney. INTERMEDIATE (42): 1-Walter Montero (CR), 2-Alberto da Pra (ITA), 3/4-Jeane Eggenberger (US) / Rudy Ryf (SWS); 1C-Peter Zacks (US), 2C-Leslie Lockett (US); 1LC-Zohreh Zafarianian (US). NOVICE (24): 1-Ana Segreda (CR), 2-George Aron (CR); 1C-Tomas Aguilar (CR), 2C-Roberto Aguilar (CR); 1LC-Berna Solano (CR). BLITZ (176): 1-Al Tesoro (US), 2-Joe Sylvester. COSTA RICAN DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP (32): 1-Milton Gonzalez (CR) & Joe Sylvester (US), 2-Udo Geib & Christian Zenkner (GER), 3/4-Ken Cohen & Wilcox Snellings (US) / Antoinette Williams & John Lear (US). SATELLITE DOUBLES (8): 1-Lois Richards & Rageb Shadallah (US). WOMAN'S TOURNAMENT (16): 1-Lee Genud. SPECIAL JACKPOT (16): Rick Barabino (US). TENNIS TOURNAMENT: 1-Baron Vernon Ball (VI) & Peter Kalba (US). GOLF TOURNAMENT: 1-Tina Kaplan (US). PIG PONG: Men-Patrick Gibson (US), Women-Mitzie Wilson (US). PIG-ROLLING: 1-Kevin McDonough (US).

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

KEEP PORNOGRAPHY OUT OF THE POINT

The picture appearing in the "Dear Miss Lonelyblots" column on page four of the April 1993 CHICAGO POINT was, to say the very least, quite offensive to both of us. Printing the obscene photo and article showed very poor taste on your part.

We subscribe to the POINT for our interest and love of backgammon. It surprises us that you would contaminate what is ordinarily an outstanding periodical with garbage. Just because someone else used the picture in a tournament invitation, is no excuse for you to reprint it.

The "Miss Lonelyblots" column usually has little, if any, relationship to the game of backgammon. We both would be just as happy if this column was deleted forever.—
Joan and David Hegg, Kankakee, IL

IT LOSES SOMETHING IN THE TRANSLATION

The outrage over publicity for the 5th Nordic Open (See "Dear Miss Lonelyblots,"

[Continued on page 3]

coming attractions

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

BACKGAMMON						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

by Carol Joy Cole
313/232-9731

* Denotes new or revised listing

NATIONAL

1993 American BG Tour events underlined.

May 15-16	Spring Gran Prix. Embassy Suites Hotel. La Jolla. CA	619/294-2007
May 16	New England Club Monthly, Sheraton Commander, Cambridge, MA	617/262-0173
May 16*	Crestmoor Club Monthly Tournament, Crestmoor Downs, Denver, CO	303/388-8849
May 20	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	313/232-9731
May 23	South Florida Spring Tournament, London Pub, Pompano Beach, FL	305/785-1282
May 23*	New York Chess & Backgammon Club Sunday Tournament, New York, NY	212/302-5874
May 28-31	14th Chicago Open. Sheraton Suites Hotel. Elk Grove Village. IL	708/674-0120
Jun 6*	Crestmoor Club Monthly Tournament, Crestmoor Downs, Denver, CO	303/388-8849
Jun 13	Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Braxton Seafood Grill, Oak Brook, IL	312/252-7755
Jun 13	New England Club Monthly, Sheraton Commander, Cambridge, MA	617/262-0173
Jun 16-20	1993 Las Vegas Open Tournament, Maxim Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, NV	708/470-9491
Jul 1	Flint Club's Special Thursday Tournament, Novi Hilton, Novi MI	313/232-9731
Jul 2-4	Michigan Summer Championships. Novi Hilton. Novi. MI	313/232-9731
Jul 9-11	College Park Summer Championships. Promenade. Bethesda. MD	301/530-0603
Jul 11*	Austin BG Assn. Sunday Tournament, Bombay Bicycle club, Austin, TX	512/280-5945
Jul 15*	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	313/232-9731
Jul 21*	Rscards Summer Computer Modem Tournament, GEnie	800/638-9636
Jul 30-Aug 1	Pine Tree Point Tournament. Alexandria Bay. NY	716/442-8221
Aug 8	Summer Cool Tournament, Braxton Seafood Grill, Oak Brook, IL	312/338-6380
Aug 9-15	Green Mountain Festival of Backgammon. Stratton Mountain Inn. VT	305/527-4033
Aug 27-29	30th Gammon Associates Invitational. Cavendish West Hollywood. CA	818/901-0464
Sep 3-6	National Labor Day Tournament. Radisson Hotel. Indianapolis. IN	317/845-8435
Oct 1-3	Towpath Inn Tournament. Turin. NY	716/442-8221
Oct 6-10*	3rd Illinois State Championships & America Cup. Woodfield Hilton. IL	708/945-7801
Oct 16*	College Park Fall Open, Promenade, Bethesda, MD	301/530-0603
Oct 20*	Rscards Fall Computer Modem Tournament, GEnie	800/638-9636
Oct 29-31	New Hampshire Fall Classic. Sheraton Tara Wayfarer. Bedford. NH	603/863-4711
Nov 2	Autumn Gran Prix. Embassy Suites Hotel. La Jolla. CA	619/294-2007

OUTSIDE USA

May 5-10	CANCELLED—1993 Backgammon In Paradise, Plantation Club, Seychelles	212/687-9766
May 5-11	World Series of Backgammon, Carnival's Crystal Palace, Nassau	800/822-2946
May 7-10	7th Argentine Open, Hotel Las Naciones, Buenos Aires, Argentina	541/790 4769
May 14-17*	1st Interational Greek Islands Cruise Tournament, M/Y Demetra K.	301/9386187
May 22-23*	Danish Doubles, Prime Backgammon Club, Copenhagen, Denmark	039/40 06 07
May 29-30	BIBA Trophy Tournament No. 2, George Hotel, Solihull, England	0522/53 68 36
May 29-30	8th Schwaben-Cup, Bürgerhaus Botnang, Stuttgart, Germany	0711/486 190
May 30-Jun 2	International Balearen-Cup, Hotel Palm Beach Fiesta, Ibiza, Spain	411/381 3117
Jun 1-6	British Invitational Championships, Rock Hotel/International Casino, Gibraltar	52/818926
Jun 5-6*	Danish & LYN Backgammon, Prime BG Club, Copenhagen, Denmark	039/40 06 07
Jun 7	Hong Kong Club Monthly Tournament, Ladies Recreation Club	852/846 1923
Jun 9-13	POSTPONED—2nd Turkish Open, Penta Hotel, Istanbul, Turkey	3120/6254775
Jun 17-20*	Scandinavian Open, Arkipelag Hotel, Mariehamn, Åland Islands, Finland	021/440 3428
Jun 19	9th Schwaben-Cup, Bürgerhaus Botnang, Stuttgart, Germany	0711/486 190
Jun 24-27*	Brazilian BG Assoc. Tournament, Hotel Meridien, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	5521/267 6033
Jun 25-27	5th International City of Venice Tournament, Casinò Municipale, Italy	041/5211029
Jun 30-Jul 4	Mitteuropa Blackjack & BG Tourney, Casino Nova Gorica, Slovenia	392/48019343
Jul 3-4*	Monte Carlo Cup '93, Skjoldgården Restaurant, Charlottenlund, Denmark	039/40 06 07
Jul 5*	Hong Kong Club Monthly Tournament, Ladies Recreation Club	852/846 1923
Jul 10-11	The Hilton National, Hilton Hotel, East Midlands Airport, England	0522/53 68 36
Jul 15-18	European Championships, Hotel des Ambassadeurs, Menton, France	392/48019343
Jul 19-25	18th World Backgammon Championship, Hotel Loews, Monte Carlo	33/9330 9931
Jul 29-Aug 1	Riviera's Cup Championship, Hotel Martinez, Cannes, France	331/4288 6645
Aug 2*	Hong Kong Club Monthly Tournament, Ladies Recreation Club	852/846 1923
Aug 7-8*	Annual Sjællands Championship, Stenløse, Denmark	039/40 06 07
Aug 28-29	BIBA Trophy Tournament No. 3, George Hotel, Solihull, England	0522/53 68 36
Sep 2-5	Brazilian BG Assoc. Tournament, Hotel Meridien, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	5521/267 6033
Sep 6*	Hong Kong Club Monthly Tournament, Ladies Recreation Club	852/846 1923
Sep 23-26*	12th Internat'l Austrian Open, Hotel Schloß Seefels, Pörschach, Austria	08341/12825
Oct. 16-17	Sandy Osborne Memorial Trophy, Hilton National Hotel, England	0522/53 68 36
Oct 21-24	3rd Rio de Janeiro Open Tournament, Hotel Meridien, Rio, Brazil	5521/267 6033
Oct 25-29	2nd S.A. World Cup & XIII Tournament, Las Naciones, Buenos Aires, Arg.	541/790 4769

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

April 1993) is due to a simple mistranslation. Instead of "...without a stitch," the copy should have read "...without dropping a stitch."

The photograph that caused so much controversy was one of my maternal grandmother, Mrs. Ethel Stalin Lee, shown after winning the 1993 Danish Speed Knitting finals in Copenhagen. She was pictured in the photograph after two celebratory Tia Marias and Coke, attempting to floss her teeth with a pair of surgical stockings.

The photograph was taken by my grandfather whose gait has recently acquired a certain spring.—*Martin Lee, West Yorkshire, England*



AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 1993

Standings through 2 May 1993 after 6 tournaments
(Includes Indiana Open & Granite State Open)



MARTY STORER	23.83	Ed Pavilonis	5.21	Michael Sharp	2.50	Lance Jenkins	1.29
FRANK TALBOT	22.16	Lila Swan	5.21	Holly Stowe	2.41	Johnnie Roberts	1.25
WOODY WOODSON	21.12	Rich Sweetman	5.21	Ed Zell	2.40	George Photias	1.00
Quint McTyeire	14.53	Larry Lau	5.20	Walter Trice	2.12	Gardner Soule	1.00
David Hochron	14.40	Carol Falk	4.95	Wally Watson	2.12	Randy Peterson	0.93
Ralph Levy	11.44	Dean Muench	4.65	George Barr	2.08	Ed Nyitray	0.88
Arnold Zousmer	10.85	Dean Adamian	4.03	Larry Strommen	2.08	Tony Pascuzzi	0.88
Perry Gartner	10.84	Joe Sylvester	4.03	Miriam Bureson	2.00	Alex Perry	0.88
Mike Nelson	10.44	John Rockwell	3.96	Arkady Kuperman	1.87	Marc Poe	0.88
Felix Yen	10.44	Norm Wiggins	3.96	Jerry Padova	1.87	Jamie Curtis	0.74
Jake Jacobs	10.07	Karl Adamec	3.76	Jill Ferdinand	1.76	John Miranda	0.70
Jorgen Granstedt	9.69	Sam Hanna	3.76	Mark Damish	1.73	Zita Samuels	0.70
Ira Hoffberg	8.40	Belle Pronman	3.73	Bob Howington	1.61	Lance Weesner	0.70
Herb Gurland	7.88	Carol Joy Cole	3.60	Mike Lawless	1.50	Nancy Isaac	0.67
Frank Frigo	7.24	Jerry Ungar	3.53	Allen Levien	1.35	Dan Bloch	0.65
Dave Orandle	7.20	Randall Witt	3.53	Ray Fogelund	1.32	Josh Schwartz	0.61
Ron Weingrad	7.20	Mark Donaldson	3.29	Farzan Garmroodi	1.32	Amy Trudeau	0.61
Gabe Stiasny	7.18	John Lear	3.20	David MacBryde	1.32	Mary Vitale	0.51
Bob Holyon	6.20	Denny Leatherman	2.90	Peter Zacks	1.32	Ed Baker	0.35
Marty Kohler	5.85	Nayan Shah	2.90	Javad Farjood	1.29	Margot Jacqz	0.35
Mike Shanas	5.60						

A 2nd Consolation finish at the Granite State Open was enough to propel Marty Storer (NH) back into the top spot after six tournaments. May events: Spring Gran Prix and Chicago Open.



1993 CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB PLAYER OF THE YEAR

COMPILED
THRU 30 APRIL

NEIL KAZAROSS	11.20	Herb Roman	2.80	Steve Grubart	1.60	Mike Spiropoulos	0.56
YAMIN YAMIN	8.76	Stu Katz	2.56	Tony Schroeder	1.56	Dick McCall	0.56
DAVID RUBIN	8.28	Allen Zimmerman	2.56	Alice Kay	1.56	Richard Beagarie	0.56
JAKE JACOBS	7.92	Ed Buerger	2.40	Andy Krenitz	1.36	Joe Koucharian	0.48
GARY KAY	7.60	Bill Keefe	2.36	Jill Ferdinand	1.28	Graham Sievers	0.48
DEEB SHALATI	6.96	Femi Owiku	2.24	Richard Stawowy	1.28	Jerry Brooks	0.48
TAK MORIOKA	5.84	Georgina Flanagan	2.24	Joann Feinstein	1.28	Roland Dieter	0.48
PHYLLIS SMOLINSKI	5.56	Jolie Lewis	2.20	Peter Kalba	1.12	Frank Callea	0.44
DON JAYHAN	5.28	Paul Franks	2.20	Larry Strommen	1.12	John Meyers	0.40
JOHN BRUSSEL	4.48	Sarg Serges	2.16	Marty Tatossian	1.00	Steve Katz	0.36
BOBBIE SHIFRIN	4.32	Alex Itkin	2.16	Dave Rockwell	0.96	Harry Hayward	0.32
MARY FRANKS	4.32	Leslie Lockett	1.96	Tad Wilson	0.96	Jay Ward	0.32
PAUL FRIEDMAN	4.24	Chuck Olson	1.92	J.A. Miller	0.96	John Stryker	0.32
DANNY DEROCHE	3.84	Phil Simborg	1.84	Howard Ring	0.88	Katy Clark	0.32
TIM MABEE	3.44	Howard Markowitz	1.84	Lou Salzman	0.88	Greg Try	0.32
DAVE CRAMER	3.44	Ralph Levy	1.84	Reggie Porter	0.80	Andy Argy	0.24
KEN BOND	3.20	Arlene Levy	1.76	Amy Trudeau	0.64	Joe Mangine	0.24
STAN KUCHARZ	3.16	Bob Ebbeler	1.76	Dan Judd	0.64	Mark Kay	0.24
NORMA SHYER	3.12	Tim Serges	1.76	Larry Yakowenko	0.64	Mary Vitale	0.20
JOHN DEMIAN	3.12	Bill Davis	1.68	Greg Roland	0.60	Barry Epstein	0.16
Marcy Sloan	3.04	Don Desmond	1.60	Kurt Schurecht	0.60		

JOHN BRUSSEL won nine straight matches to end the month of April. Those back-to-back tournament victories earned him 4.48 points and top monthly honors. Ken Bond (2.72) and Dave Cramer (2.56) placed 2nd and 3rd respectively.

DANISH BACKGAMMON FEDERATION RESPONDS

We have seen the controversy that two advertisements in the invitation to our 5th Nordic Open have created. As it has never been our intention to embarrass, disgust or offend anyone, we have decided to impose an advertisers' code that will exclude such types of ads in future DBF material. The letter to Miss Lonelyblots and her reply does, however, call for a reply.

First of all, we would like to make it absolutely clear that "the BG promoter" that it is criticized in the article is the Danish Backgammon Federation—not a private profit-seeking individual. DBF is a democratic and government-recognized organization with a leadership that is elected by the members. The Federation has more than 11,000 registered players (out of a total population of 5,000,000 Danes) and our pride, the "Carlsberg Backgammon Cup," has more than 4,300 players.

The DBF has backgammon ambitions and optimistic plans that hopefully will set standards for other countries. We try hard to constantly improve and to initiate new and popular activities. In these attempts, we sometimes make mistakes and occasionally show bad judgment. However, you don't get ahead if you just follow others.

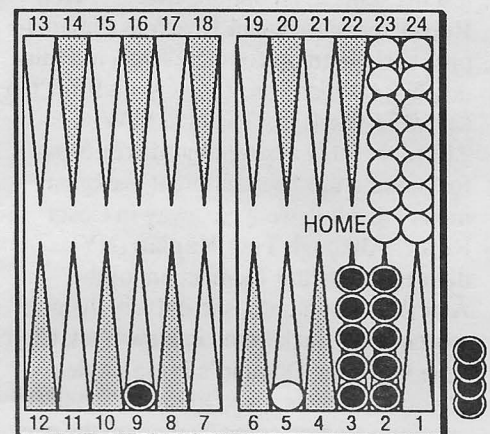
This year in order to save money on

[Continued on page 4]

your move

PROBLEM #193

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



ASK DANNY



by Danny Kleinman

USING YOUR FREE PASS

Dear Danny: Suppose you are leading 6 to 5 in a 7-point match and that it is after the Crawford game. Are there any opening rolls which are so bad for you that you should pass when your opponent doubles?—Gary Daniels, Normal, IL

DEAR GARY: I would have thought not. Even the poor opening rolls accomplish something useful: running a back man to relative safety, splitting the back men, bringing builders or slotting. All but 2-1 give you a small lead in the race, and 2-1 plays constructively if you slot your 5-point and put a builder on your 11-point.

Why use your "free pass" and start another game in which your opponent may win the opening roll?

Then I examined the statistics collected by Hal Heinrich for his "Opening Roll Survey" (CHICAGO POINT, December 1990). I confess the results surprised me. For I found several rolls that led to more losses than wins for the opening mover.

It came as no real shock to see that 5-2 (played 13/8, 13/11) was a net loser. After all, 5-2 was my (and probably others') nominee for Worst Opening Roll. But 6-2 (played 24/18, 13/11) and 3-2 (played either 24/21, 13/11 or 13/10, 13/11) were also net losers.

So I'll conjecture that you should use your free pass after any of those three opening rolls.

Could I be wrong? Could Heinrich's results for 6-2 and 3-2 be flukes?

Conceivably, yes. But I suspect these results reflect a deep truth about the opening in backgammon. Do you see what 6-2, 5-2 and 3-2 have in common with each

other and with no other opening rolls? Each brings a builder to the 11-point without slotting the 5-point. Perhaps, then, the 11-point is overrated as a place for a builder. A man on the 11-point is a builder for no inside point other than the 5-point. In tandem with a slot on the 5-point (as after an opening 2-1 played in the usual way), a man on the 11-point is an asset. Otherwise, it is almost useless.

A final word of caution: my advice to use your free pass after rolling an opening 6-2, 5-2 or 3-2 applies only when your free pass is about to expire. Leading 6-3 or 6-1 post-Crawford, you should save your free pass for a truly rainy day: when your opponent wins a very good opening roll and you fail to equalize with your reply.—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

Congratulations to **Kim & Don McCollom** on the March 18 birth of their son **Connor McCollom**... **Tony White** (Cincinnati) had a tournament-packed weekend 16-18 April in Indianapolis. On Saturday morning, he won the National Senior Judo Championship (78 kg Masters Class) and was still on time for the Indiana Open Calcutta at 11:00 A.M.... While staying at the Beverly Hilton last month, **Don Desmond** (Chicago) met Rodney Dangerfield and told him, "It may be true of you in comedy, but when it comes to backgammon, I don't get no respect!... Good luck to **Seth Towle**, new President of the New England Backgammon Club. Seth replaces **Rick Barabino** who moved to New York City to test his skills as an options trader... **Ken Reiver** replaces **Norm Rosen** as Philadelphia backgammon contact. When in Philadelphia, contact Ken at the Cavendish Club (215/473-9564)... Thanks to **V.W. Zimnicki** (ably assisted by **Marcy Sloan**) for running the Tuesday night backgammon club while we were away in Costa Rica... Although **Tina Kaplan** (NY) didn't place at the Tournament of the Americas last month, she did win the golf tournament. Back home in New York City, Tina wrote the Domino's Pizza jingle ("Nobody knows, like Domino's") and is currently singing some backup on the new

Coca-Cola commercials... Attention high rollers: **Emil Mortuk** is looking to fill a 16 player \$1000 Jackpot aboard his yacht 29-30 June, just prior to the Michigan Summer Championships. For more information, call **Carol Joy Cole** at 313/232-9731. And remember: CJC's 2-4 July tournament is in Novi, Michigan (a suburb of Detroit) this year... **Julius High** (Director, Memphis Backgammon Club) is now publishing a very nice 4-page monthly newsletter. And you can't beat the introductory subscription rate: *free*. To get on the mailing list, write Julius at 5044 Pheasant Run; Memphis, TN 38115... **David Rubin** won the 3-Checker Gammon tournament at this year's Midwest Championships. But even David would have to say "uncle" if he sat down to play **Hugh Sconyers'** new 3-Checker Gammon game entitled "Hyper-Gammon." Hugh has programmed the CD-Rom game to play absolutely perfect 3-Checker Gammon. \$39 plus shipping from Carol Joy Cole (313/232-9731)... Muchas Gracias to **Claudio Salamone** of the Argentina Backgammon Association who conducted an interview with us for his club's weekly publication *Monday, Monday* (12 April). Naturally, we have the English translation. For a copy, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to **Bill Davis** interview; c/o CHICAGO POINT; 2726 W. Lunt Ave.; Chicago, IL 60645-3039... And finally, from Hugh Prather: "There is a time to let things happen and a time to make things happen." Δ



MICHIGAN SUMMER
BACKGAMMON
CHAMPIONSHIPS

July 2-4, 1993

Novi Hilton
Novi, Michigan

Thursday Bonus Tourney—July 1
(Novi is about 20 miles west of Detroit)

Carol Joy Cole 313/232-9731

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 3]

printing and mailing expenses, we engaged an advertisement agency with instructions to bring in as many ads as they could. Denmark is a very liberal country where naked women can be seen every summer on our beaches. Hence, we do not have quite the same set of moral codes as might be found in North America. (It is my understanding, however, that sex is also practiced in North America. In Denmark we just don't make a big deal trying to deny the fact.)

It is my hope that many players from all over the world will visit Denmark to experience Danish hospitality. Many Danish members have expressed the wish to host foreign backgammon players when they visit Denmark. If you call our federation in advance (tel. +45 39 06 07) we can inform you of backgammon activities during your stay. There are BG tournaments every day in Copenhagen.

Lastly, I want to thank the editor for his clever title to last month's Miss Lonelyblots' column. The name "Nordic Wide Open" is here to stay. Next year over the Easter weekend, the Danes will welcome you with wide open arms. Come and see for yourself what we call the Danish Miracle!—*Erik Gravgaard, President, Danish Backgammon Federation, Birkerød, Denmark*

CORRECT ME IF I'M WRONG

Kit Woolsey is the greatest, but I think he may have blown it on his analysis of Problem #190. First of all, I'm not convinced that 10/4, 3/1* is correct in any situation, match or money play. Second, the recommended 21/13 looks very suspect to me. If White rolls a 6, don't we actually want to get hit? I think so.

21/13 is only hit by 6-3 and 6-6 (three shots). 21/19, 18/12 gets hit by 6-3, 6-5 and 6-6 (five shots). That's my play. What do you think, Kit?—*Jim Gibbs, San Anselmo, CA Δ*

CAROL, "JOY" BUZZER?



Ever-playful Carol Joy Cole gives Midwest Backgammon Wheel-of-Fortune champ Lenny Loder a congratulatory handshake with a trick joy-buzzer... or at least it appears that way.

CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB TUESDAY NIGHT BACKGAMMON HAS A NEW HOME

The Chicago Bar Point Club has a new home for Tuesday night backgammon: The Golden Flame Restaurant, 6417 West Higgins Road, Chicago. The move was necessitated when Pat's Pub, BPC home for ten years, informed us in early April that they would remain open on a month-to-month basis.

The Golden Flame complex has a 24-hour restaurant with outstanding banquet facilities and a roomy parking lot. The reasonably-priced food and drinks are excellent. And Rose Gecht, our faithful Pat's Pub waitress, has made the move to the Golden Flame with us! In short, we look forward to a warm relationship with the Leberis family at our new location.

A Grand Opening tournament was held 4 May with 55 players in attendance. Results:

\$15 OPEN (32): 1/2-John Demian / Don Jayhan, 3/4-Herb Roman / Gary Kay; 1C/2C-Tak Morioka / Ron Stur.

\$10 OPEN (17): 1/2-Jolie Lewis / Allen Zimmerman, 3/4-Amy Trudeau / Femi Owiku; 1C-Ed Buerger, 2C-Wm. Frierson.



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SANGAMON VALLEY BG ASSN: Tournaments Tuesday, 6:00 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), Chicago. Greg Defotis (312/286-8417).

WINNER'S CORNER



Mar.-May 1993

Campeonato Argentino 1993 (Buenos Aires, Argentina; Mondays in Mar.)... CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS: Oscar Franco, Mario López Ameghino. JUNIOR WINNERS: Carlos Uberto, Jorge Boada. BEGINNER WINNERS: Wilmar García, Mario Kristal.

Torneo de Cariari. (San José, Costa Rica; 22-23 Mar.)... OPEN (23): 1-Jorge Tsao, 2-Antonio Ortega, 3-Klaus Ehrhard, 4-Mario Lizano, 5-Walter Montero. INTERMEDIATE (8): 1-Oscar Charpentier, 2-Ignacio Leitón. NOVICE (16): 1-George Aron, 2-Rosendo Arguedas.

Casino de Vilamoura Portuguese Championship (Vilamoura, Portugal; 23-28 Mar.)... CHAMPIONSHIP (15): 1-José Salema (POR), 2-Manuel Capucho (POR); 1C-Martin de Bruin (SPA). INTERMEDIATE (4): 1-Bambi de Bruin (SPA), 2-Susanne Lassen (DEN). NOVICE (4): 1-Joke Schretlen (NETH), 2-Nathalie de Bourgeois (ARG)... A very disappointing turnout. Of the 23 total entries, six were tournament officials. The tourney started two days late to accommodate a group of ten players from Portugal that never showed up.

Campeonato Argentino 1993 (Buenos Aires, Argentina; Mondays in Apr.)... CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS: Raúl Timmerman, Sergio Roldán, Mario López Ameghino, Carlos Roccatagliata. JUNIOR WINNERS: Walter Katz, Osvaldo Tundis, Julio Grynberg, Pedro Raimundo. BEGINNER WINNERS: Karina Pattis, Beatriz Fernández, Ely Agüero, Pedro Katopodis... Current AAB master point leaders through 26 April: Mario López Ameghino (Champ) and Osvaldo Tundis (Junior).

Torneo de Colegio de Ingenieros (San José, Costa Rica; 1-2 Apr.)... OPEN (22): 1-Antonio Ortega, 2-Rolando Coto, 3-Jorge Tsao, 4-Mario Lizano, 5-Bernardita Solano. INTERMEDIATE (8): 1-Esteban Oreamuno, 2-George Aron. NOVICE (16): 1-Juan A. González, 2-Esteban Oreamuno.

British Isles Open Championship 1993 (Lincoln, England; 3-4 April)... OPEN (54): 1-Nigel Merrigan, 2-John Broomfield, 3/4-Don Hatt / Richard Howes; 1C-Rick Janowski, 2C-Phil Churton; 1LC-Mike Loughman. SUICIDE! EVENT: 1-Robin Clay, 2-Jim Johnson.

4th Carlsberg Cup (Copenhagen, Denmark; 3 Apr.)... PLAYOFFS (214): 1-Stefan Christensen, 2-René Mortensen, 3-Morten Christensen; 1C-Flemming Glæsnér; 1LC-Sven Norup.

Crestmoor Club Monthly Tournament (Denver, CO; 4 Apr.)... OPEN: 1-Duane Eshima; 1C-Naram Azraq.

Nordic Wide Open (Elsinor, Denmark; 9-12 Apr.)... CHAMPIONSHIP (57): 1-Alan Steffen (US), 2-Jens Lauridsen (DK), 3/4-Benjamin Lund (DK) / Cyrus Vafa (SWE); 1C-Roland Ekström (SWE), 2C-Jörgen Granstedt (SWE); 1LC-Kjetil Hansen (NOR), 2LC-Rageb Shadallah (US). ADVANCED INTERMEDIATE (56): 1-Ted Rosenberg (SWE), 2-Teddy Vendersbo (DK), 3/4-Monica Hytmark (SWE) / Henrick Knudsen (DK); 1C-Freddy Edwards (DK), 2C-Bengt Arne Ekh (SWE); 1LC-Mogens Knudsen (DK), 2LC-Derek Matheson (GB). INTERMEDIATE (125): 1-Steen Ørnvig (DK), 2-Niels Laursen (DK), 3/4-Pia Fagerholt (DK) / Anders Raft (DK); 1C-Lars Raft (DK), 2C-Rolf Anderson (DK); 1LC-Lise Cabbie (DK), 2LC-Søren Lolle (DK). BEGINNER (72): 1-Kent Skov (DK), 2-Hans Kangsted (DK), 3/4-Mike Hüskes (GER) / Enrik Sørrel (DK); 1C-Søren Lolle (DK), 2C-Jacob Svaneholt (DK); 1LC-Henrik Veje (DK), 2LC-Karin Knopper (DK). WARM-UP (270): 1-Garret Bell (GB), 2-Kurt Klifoth (DK). TEAM EVENT (33): 1-W1112/658 [Wolfgang Wellhausen (GER) & Sanne

41ST INDIANA OPEN: LOTS OF DIVISIONS AND DIVERSIONS

by Jake Jacobs

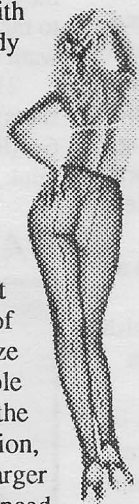
Last month I played in the 41st Indiana Open and wanted to share my reactions with you. Unlike most other tournaments, Indy offers four divisions instead of three. While I am not completely sold on this approach, its drawbacks are not as severe as I first thought.

Specifically, it was feared that smaller prize pools might discourage people from travelling to Indy. Actually, while attendance was somewhat low (perhaps partly due to the number of tournaments this spring), the first prize in the Open division was a reasonable \$2,500. Butch Meese is flexible with the number of places he pays in each division, reasoning that Open players prefer larger prizes, while Intermediate or Advanced players welcome more chances to cash.

I went to Indy worried about the potentially low attendance, but found nothing to discourage me from returning next year. In fact, the well-run tournament offered a number of diversionary enticements:

1. This was the 41st Indiana Open. That means the first one was played back when horses and buggies were still entering the Indy 500.
2. There are Hoosiers down there. It has been reliably reported that the term comes down to us from pioneer days. One of Indiana's first settlers, James Whitcomb Strommen, was chouetting, and after a particularly stunning turnaround, the kibitzers, to a man, remarked: "Hoo? Sure was a deep take!"
3. There are splendid cultural opportunities. Some of my friends found a blues band in Broad Ripple called Bangkok Rooster that was as fine as any in Chicago.

I, myself, joined a group of culture-



hungry lads, and went to see a dance show. It proved to be, not ballet, but a more modern form of dancing known as "Table." My friends decided this style was better than ballet because it's too hard to stuff dollar bills into a tutu.

4. Finally, there are Steak 'n Shakes, the greatest of all hamburger joints. Sure, the food is just as bad for you, and if you strip the bib overalls off them, you'll find the same sorts hanging around Steak 'n Shake at 3:00 A.M. as nod off in Dunkin' Donuts. But still... it tastes more elegant.

Twenty years ago, a whole generation went off to small town colleges and came back proclaiming: "After a night of beer drinking, I'd rather throw up Steak 'n Shake than White Castle!"

I HOPE THE FOREGOING convinces people to join me in Indy next year. Like many good things in life, it's better shared.

In the Open division, Quint McTyeire of Louisville won for a second straight year by defeating fellow Louisville Backgammon Club player Frank Frigo. Complete tournament results: Δ



41ST INDIANA OPEN—ABT

CHAMPIONSHIP (29): 1-Quint McTyeire, 2-Frank Frigo, 1C-Perry Gartner.
ADVANCED (32): 1-Gabe Stiasny, 2-Jerry Unger; 1C-Randall Witt, 2C-Jill Ferdinand.
INTERMEDIATE (10): 1-Holly Stowe, 2-Lance Jenkins; 1C-Javad Farjood.
NOVICE (5): 1-Jamie Curtis, 2-Mary Vitale.
MASTERS (16): 1-Marc Poe, 2-Rick Bieniak.
DOUBLES (16): 1-Carol Falk & Dean Adamian, 2-Mark King & Randall Witt.
MICROBLITZ OPEN (64): 1-Tim Mabée.
MICROBLITZ LIMITED (8): 1-Judy McHale.

Rossen (DK) & Laila Azoulay (DK)], 2-Klaps III [Jes Bondo (DK) & Ilan Scheffelowitz (DK) & Thomas Jespersen (DK)]. INTER-NATION MATCHES: "A" Team (Denmark 5, Sweden 0), Ladies Team (Denmark 2, Sweden 1)... Danish Backgammon Federation Director Chris Ternel provided plenty of action for the 310 players attending including 171 Jackpot tournaments. **Springfield Series \$1000 Bonus Tourney** (Springfield, IL; 17 Apr.)... PLAYOFFS (15): 1-Greg Tomlin, 2-John McCabe; 1C-Carl Severino, 2C-Larry Wittenburg, 3C-Jim Zimmerman... The culmination of the Sangamon Valley Backgammon Assn. season. Only the top 16 '92-'93 master point leaders were invited to participate.

College Park Spring Open (Bethesda, MD; 17 Apr.)... OPEN (31): 1-Ed O'Laughlin, 2-Ali Rebatchi; 1C-Bill Pow; 1LC-Karen Davis.

Le Meridien Open Tournament (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; 29 Apr.-2 May)... CHAMPIONSHIP: 1-Eduardo Kourtophian (ARG), 2-José Alves Pereira (BR), 3-David Chalom (BR). INTERMEDIATE: 1-Julia Estacoich (ARG), 2-José Masculo (BR), 3-Jaime Correa (BR). BEGINNER: 1-Selim Romano (BR), 2-Jader Alves (BR), 3-Bruno Coelho (BR)... Results submitted by Alvaro Savio, President, Brazilian Backgammon Association.

14th Granite State Open—ABT (Jaffrey, NH; 30 Apr.-2 May)... OPEN (22): 1-Herb Gurland, 2-Carl Adamec, 3/4-Walter Trice / Wally Watson; 1C-Sam Hanna, 2C-Marty Storer. INTERMEDIATE (8): 1-Miriam Bureson, 2-George Photias; 1C-Gardner Soule. BEGINNER (4): 1-Nancy Isaac, 2-Mark Damish. NEW ENGLAND TEAM EVENT (8): 1-Jeff Aciermo & Mike Nelson & Ed Pavilonis, 2-Sam Hanna & Marty Storer & Doug Roberts. Δ

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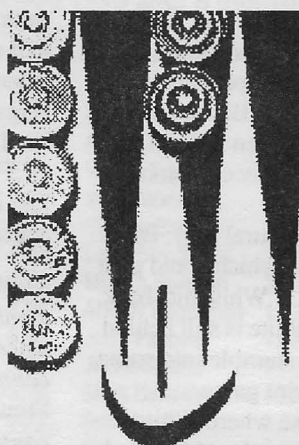
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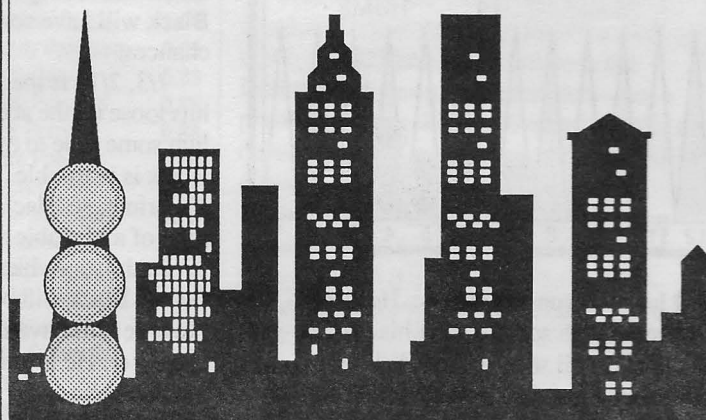
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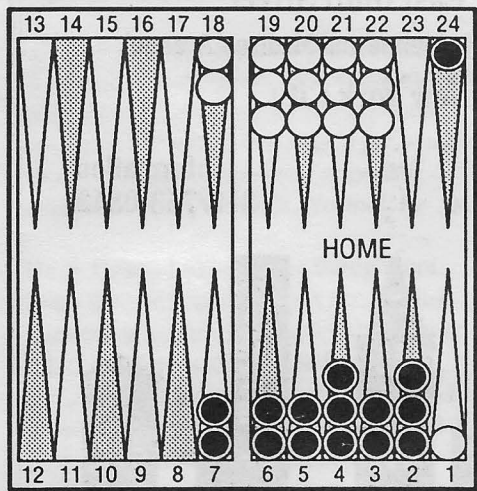


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**PROBLEM #192
SOLVED**

by Kit Woolsey

Tournament double match-point.
BLACK TO PLAY 4-1.

Black has run out of time. He must relinquish some part of his prime while he is still stuck behind White's blockade. How should he go about it? There are four logical candidates:

- a) 24/23, 7/3
- b) 7/3, 7/6
- c) 7/3, 2/1*
- d) 24/23, 5/1*

24/23, 7/3 is the direct approach to winning the prime-vs.-prime battle by hoping White never rolls a 6. Although White's hand is forced, nearly all her numbers play well. 6s escape, and everything else (except 3-3, 4-4 and 5-5) points on Black securing at least a 5-prime. The plan will only work if White fails to roll a 6 before she is forced

to crash her board. (Remember, to Black's advantage, he will be on the bar and not have to move any more checkers.) The problem is that White figures to have several chances to roll that 6, and when she does, it's virtually "game over."

7/3, 7/6 is a modified version of the same plan. Now if White rolls the 6, she will not be hitting, so Black still has a chance if he can squirm his back man out. Small numbers will complete the prime for White, but Black will not have to play 6s, so he might be able to hold the fort for an extra roll and force White to break. 5s are the worst for White. She will probably have to point on Black. Now Black will be on the bar facing White's open 2-point, so Black will have some very decent winning chances.

7/3, 2/1* is the most natural play. Black hits loose on the ace point, which could gain him some time to escape. If White hits back, Black is in trouble. But White is still behind the prime, so Black may stumble into some kind of a playable ace point game.

In the more likely case where White flunks, Black will be able to close his board. Now he will have to escape before White can enter. He is not a favorite to do so, but he may have a few rolls to get up and over while White remains stuck on the bar. Even if Black can just get up to the 23-point by the time White enters, White will have to scramble some to complete the prime.

24/23, 5/1* is the most unusual play. Black attempts to win by brute force. If White flunks, Black will have very decent chances, since he should be able to cover at least one of his blots next roll. Then all he has to do is shake a 6 before White can enter. However, if White enters and hits, Black is pretty much gone.

So which shall it be? Any of the four approaches could work, but I would be

inclined to make the natural play of 7/3, 2/1*. If Black completes his closeout, most of his board will hold up for a few rolls, which may be all the time he needs. If White hits, Black will still have some winning chances in the priming battle. Any of the other plays just gives White too many rolls to "gin" the position. After 7/3, 2/1*, it may be Black, not White, who is threatening to claim the game on a good roll.

It is often wrong to hit when involved in a priming battle. However, hitting an enemy checker off the edge of the prime will often gain time rather than lose it. By advancing the prime, Black essentially gives himself 12 pips leeway, which may be all he needs to escape.

From a thematic standpoint, the natural looking play is very often the best one. This appears to be the case with Problem #192. Δ

Kit Woolsey has been analyzing the even-numbered problems for CHICAGO POINT since March 1989. Kit is also a frequent contributor to Inside Backgammon and the Flint Area BackgammonNews, and he continues to annotate matches for Hal Heinrich's "Matchqiz" computer program. For information on purchasing "Matchqiz," contact Carol Joy Cole at 313/232-9731.

**CHICAGOLAND HONORS
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Over 30 friends gathered at Joann and Jerry Feinstein's home in Skokie, Illinois on 10 April for Howard Markowitz's going away party. Nevada Backgammon Association director Markowitz moved his home base to Las Vegas in mid-April. His accomplishments were remembered with the following plaque:

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Monday, 28 June

- 7:30-8:00 P.M. Registration (Blackjack and BG) at Park Hotel.
- 8:00 P.M. Welcoming cocktail in Park Hotel lounge.
- 10:30 P.M. Slovenian *BLITZ*. Jackpots & Speedy Mini-Jackpots.

Tuesday, 29 June

- 10:30 A.M. Excursion.
- 7:30-8:00 P.M. Registration at Park Hotel.
- 8:00 P.M. Cocktail in Park Hotel lounge.
- 10:30 P.M. Friuli-Venezia Giulia Cup. Jackpots & Speedy Mini-Jackpots.

Wednesday, 30 June

- 10:30 A.M. Excursion.
- 5:30-6:00 P.M. Final registration: Blackjack tournament (200.000 Italian Lire + 30.000 reg. fee).
- 6:00-9:00 P.M. Blackjack tournament at the Casino.
- 9:00 P.M. Blackjack cocktail in Park Hotel lounge.
- 10:30 P.M. Jackpots & Speedy Mini-Jackpots.

Thursday, 1 July

- 10:30 A.M. Casino Nova Gorica Tennis Cup (players and friends).
- 5:00 P.M. City of Gorizia Trophy.
- 7:00-8:00 P.M. Registration at Park Hotel.
- 8:00 P.M. Tennis cocktail in Park Hotel lounge.
- 10:00 P.M. Public draw for BG Warm-up tourney (Free event).
- 10:30 P.M. Warm-up tournament commences. Super-Jackpot (3% deduction). Jackpots & Speedy Mini-Jackpots.

Friday, 2 July

- 10:30 A.M. Casino Nova Gorica Tennis Cup continues.
- 5:00 P.M. Jackpots & Speedy Mini-Jackpots.
- 7:00-8:00 P.M. Backgammon registration at the Park Hotel.
- 8:00 P.M. Welcoming cocktail in Park Hotel lounge.
- 10:00 P.M. Final registration: Main Backgammon tournament (Open-400.000, Advanced-150.000, Limited-50.000 Italian Lire).
- 10:30 P.M. Public draw and start of play. Jackpots & Speedy Mini-Jackpots.

Saturday, 3 July

- 10:30 A.M. Casino Nova Gorica Tennis Cup continues.
- 4:00 P.M. Main tournament continues (progressive consolation).
- 5:00 P.M. Jackpots & Speedy Mini-Jackpots.
- 8:00 P.M. Backgammon cocktail in Park Hotel lounge.
- 8:00-10:30 P.M. Scheduled dinner break.
- 10:30 P.M. Franz Josef Super Jackpot. Main tournament continues.

Sunday, 4 July

- 3:00 P.M. Last Chance tournament. Finals: all divisions. Jackpots & Speedy Mini-Jackpots.
- 8:30 P.M. Schöbrunn Dinner Party and Awards Ceremony at Park Hotel.

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