

TENNENBAUM SUICIDE REMAINS A MYSTERY

Why would a man with so much zest for life kill himself?

That's the question tournament backgammon players across the United States continue to ask themselves following the apparent suicide death of Ami Tennenbaum. The 51-year-old Tennenbaum was found dead of carbon monoxide asphyxiation in the garage of his home in Ramsey, New Jersey on 11 December. An autopsy revealed no signs of foul play. There were no bruises on his body or drugs in his system. No suicide note was found.

Tennenbaum is survived by his wife Kay, a daughter and a step-daughter.

doesn't sound right."

But another tournament attendee, Dr. Bob Hill remembers it a different way. "Ami seemed very subdued. In fact, I remember telling Jim Roston 'He's not himself. There's something up with him.'"

Reactions

"I really felt very badly. I knew him for nearly 20 years, and it's just a shame."—Louise Goldsmith, Coterie Club, New York City

"I knew him since the mid-'80s, but we had only been good backgammon friends for the last two or three years. It was just a terrible shock. It came so unexpectedly.

"There are different theories as to why he did it. Some say it was money, but I think it had to be something else. He's going to be missed by a lot of people throughout the backgammon world."—Jeff Acierno, Brooklyn, NY

"It really doesn't matter how he died. The fact that we'll never see him again is devastating."—Joann Feinstein, Prime Backgammon Club of Chicago, who planted a tree in Israel in his memory.

Tennenbaum was born in Poland in 1943. When his Jewish parents were killed in the Holocaust, he was taken via the underground to Israel where after living in two orphanages, he was adopted.

In 1967, Ami migrated to the United States, knowing only a little English. His carpentry talents and drive inspired him to start up the North American Woodworking Corporation. The company flourished, operating as a subcontractor doing ultra-fine woodworking for large general contractors on upscale commercial buildings.

After that, Tennenbaum ventured into real estate with great success. It was a classic case of the American dream: a self-made man who becomes a millionaire

[Continued on page 8]

third turkish open

TURKEY IS DELIGHTFUL FOR ROBERTIE

Defeats Hosen To Claim \$65,000

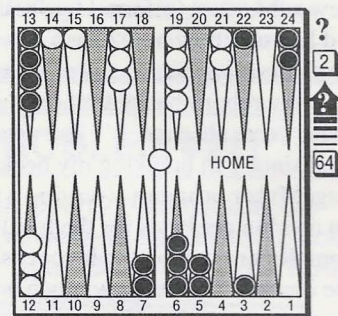
A huge \$50,000 added purse was enough incentive draw 250 backgammoners to Istanbul, Turkey for the Third Turkish Championship. Internationally-known backgammon promoter Abraham Eitan directed the mega-event, staged at the beautiful Conrad-Istanbul Hotel 13-18 December.

In the 130-player Championship division, *Inside Backgammon* editor Bill Robertie (Arlington, MA), who this year was second in Greece and third in Monte-Carlo, broke through to the winner's circle to gain the biggest payday our game has seen in years.

It was tense. In the semifinals against Tony Havens, Bill needed a double on the last roll to win the match. Then in the finals, Robertie came from a 13-6 deficit to defeat Texas expert Stuart Hosen 21-18 to earn a whopping \$65,000.

Up 19-18, Robertie faced the following 2-cube. [Position provided by Stu Hosen.]

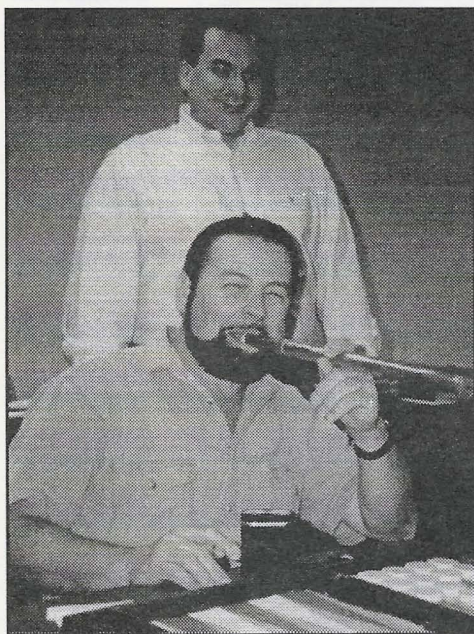
21-point
Turkish finals.
Bill Robertie
(White) leads
Stu Hosen
(Black) 19-18.
Black on
shake. **CUBE
ACTION(S)?**



Hosen's close-out attempt failed, as did his aim at two potentially-winning shots at the end of the game. Hat's off to Bill Robertie for a super backgammon year.

By every indication, this was an outstanding event. The playing room was excellent, the food was exceptional, and Director Eitan even hired a belly dancer to spice up the auction dinner! Congratulations to all those involved in successfully running one of the biggest events of 1994. Δ

[Complete results on page 8]



Close backgammon friend Jeff Acierno (background) watches Ami Tennenbaum ham it up with a two foot long cigar at the July 1994 Indiana Open. Ami won the Championship Consolation there.

"I can't believe this," said New York Chess and Backgammon proprietor Steve Manning when informed of the tragedy. "Come on. I can't believe this. I just don't believe this. He just didn't come off as that kind of guy. He was in great spirits at our last tournament [4 December]. He was smoking a cigar and telling jokes. It just

CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

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LETTERS

c/o CHICAGO POINT
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Chicago, IL 60645-3039

WORDS OF PRAISE

No response is necessary. Just thought as a new subscriber (referred by Jack Kissane), I'd let you know how nice a newsletter you're putting out.

As a reborn backgammon player after many years absence, it's just what I needed. And since I'm breaking my neck with the PageMaker program—writing a newsletter on a volunteer basis for the local library—I compliment you on the layout as much as the content. I know how much work it is, on all fronts.—*Dr. Howard Berg, Dolgeville, NY*

We accept your compliment with thanks, Howard; however, we have to work harder on our proof reading. See the next letter—one of many that we received from attentive readers regarding the embarrassing front page error that occurred last month.—*Ed.*

A 'LOPSIDED' ERROR

I found Dean Muench's December article "The Lopsided Score Paradox" very inter-

[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
810/232-9731

* Denotes new or revised listing

American Backgammon Tour events underlined.

NATIONAL

Jan 18	RSCARDS Winter Computer Modern Tournament, GENie	313/243-3996
Jan 19	Third Thursday Bonus & Flint Club Awards Night, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Jan 22*	Greater New York Club Monthly, Ramada Inn, Woodbury, NY	718/341-3779
Jan 22*	New England Club Monthly, Sheraton-Commander, Cambridge, MA	617/643-8154
Jan 22*	University/Winter Club Tournament, Oakland Holiday Inn, Pittsburgh, PA	412/823-7500
Jan 28	Hawthorne Backgammon Classic, Hawthorne Race Course, Cicero, IL	312/338-6380
Jan 28*	Atlanta Backgammon Assn. Club Championship, CafFeinds, Atlanta, GA	404/682-1969
Jan 29*	Super Bowl Party & Tournament, Field residence, Northville, MI	810/349-1953
Feb 4*	Springfield Series #4, Cummins Family Restaurant, Peoria, IL	217/528-0117
Feb 5*	15th Illinois State Challenge Cup, Parker's Sports Bar, Springfield, IL	217/528-0117
Feb 5	25th Willowbank Invitational, Soule residence, Shelburne, VT	802/658-4711
Feb 7-12	2nd Worldwide Twin Championships, Eldorado Hotel, Reno, NV	702/893-6025
Feb 16*	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Feb 17-19	<u>17th Pittsburgh Championships, Greentree Marriott, Pittsburgh, PA</u>	<u>412/823-7500</u>
Feb 19*	New England Club Monthly, Sheraton-Commander, Cambridge, MA	617/643-8154
Feb 19*	Hoosier Club Awards Tournament, Spats, Indianapolis, IN	317/845-8435
Feb 26*	Bar Point Doubles Tournament, Braxton Seafood Grill, Oak Brook, IL	312/252-7755
Feb 26*	Greater New York Club Monthly, Ramada Inn, Woodbury, NY	718/341-3779
Mar 4	Springfield Series #5, Parker's Sports Bar, Springfield, IL	217/528-0117
Mar 5	11th Fleet Underwood Benefit Tournament, Ramada Inn, Flint MI	810/232-9731
Mar 10-12	<u>33rd G/A Invitational, Grand Slam Bridge Club, Woodland Hills, CA</u>	<u>818/901-0464</u>
Mar 12*	New England Club Monthly, Sheraton-Commander, Cambridge, MA	617/643-8154
Mar 12*	Milwaukee Sunday Bimonthly, John Hawks Pub, Milwaukee, WI	414/463-2498
Mar 19*	Greater New York Club Monthly, Ramada Inn, Woodbury, NY	718/341-3779
Mar 24-26	<u>1995 Midwest Championships, Marriott Hotel, Oak Brook, IL</u>	<u>312/338-6380</u>
Mar 29-Apr 2	<u>Vermont State Backgammon & Ski Festival, Stratton Mt. Inn, VT</u>	<u>305/527-4033</u>
Apr 1	Springfield Series #6, Parker's Sports Bar, Springfield, IL	217/528-0117
Apr 1-2	Nation's Capital Spring Open Tournament, Promenade, Bethesda, MD	301/530-0603
Apr 9	Bar Point Club Sunday Tournament, Braxton Seafood Grill, Oak Brook, IL	312/252-7755
Apr 16*	Greater New York Club Monthly, Ramada Inn, Woodbury, NY	718/341-3779
Apr 19	RSCARDS Spring 1995 Computer Modern Tournament, GENie	800/638-9636
Apr 22*	Springfield Series Grand Finale, Parker's Sports Bar, Springfield, IL	217/528-0117
Apr 28-30	<u>Spring Gran Prix, Embassy Suites Hotel, La Jolla, CA</u>	<u>619/294-2007</u>
Apr 28-30	<u>New England Championship, Oak & Spruce Center, South Lee, MA</u>	<u>603/863-4711</u>
May 26-29	<u>Chicago Open, Hyatt Regency Woodfield, Schaumburg, IL</u>	<u>708/674-0120</u>
Jun 30-Jul 3	<u>Michigan Summer Championships, Novi Hilton, Novi, MI</u>	<u>810/232-9731</u>
Jul 28-30	<u>Thousand Islands Tournament, Pine Tree Point, Alexandria Bay, NY</u>	<u>716/442-8221</u>
Aug 16-20	Las Vegas Open, Riviera Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, NV	702/893-6025
Sep 1-4	<u>43rd Indiana Open, Ramada Inn East, Indianapolis, IN</u>	<u>317/845-8435</u>
Sep 29-Oct 1	<u>Towpath Inn Tournament, Towpath Inn, Turin, NY</u>	<u>716/442-8221</u>
Oct 6-8	<u>Nation's Capital Fall Championships, Promenade, Bethesda, MD</u>	<u>301/530-0603</u>
Oct 11-15	<u>5th Illinois Champs/America Cup, Indian Lakes Resort, Bloomington, IL</u>	<u>708/945-7801</u>
Oct 27-29	<u>Autumn Gran Prix, Embassy Suites Hotel, La Jolla, CA</u>	<u>619/294-2007</u>
Nov 3-5	<u>35th G/A Invitational, Grand Slam Bridge Club, Woodland Hills, CA</u>	<u>818/901-0464</u>
Nov 3-5	<u>Backgammon In The Berkshires, Oak & Spruce Center, South Lee, MA</u>	<u>603/863-4711</u>
Nov 10-12	<u>NY/NJ BG CO-OP Big Apple Series, Oritani Hotel, Hackensack, NJ</u>	<u>201/833-2915</u>

OUTSIDE USA

Feb 2-5	Paradise Island Pro-Am Invitational, Ocean Club, Nassau, Bahamas	301/299-8264
Feb 4-5*	International Tours February Cup, Restaurant Oversten, Malmö, Sweden	4640-300340
Feb 13*	Hong Kong Monthly Tournament, Ladies Recreation Club	852-846 1923
Feb 9-12	6th French Open Championship, Hotel Lutetia, Paris, France	331-41050259
Feb 11-12	Jarvis Trophy Tournament #1, George Hotel, Solihull, England	44522-536836
Mar 6*	Hong Kong Monthly Tournament, Ladies Recreation Club	852-846 1923
Mar 16-19	31st Ted Bassett & Gstaad Palace-Cup, Palace Hotel, Gstaad, Switzerland	061-3315816
Mar 18-19*	2nd Hong Kong Invitational, Ladies Recreation Club, Hong Kong	852-846 1923
Mar 18-19*	Jægers Prisen Cup, Kignæshallen, Jægerspris, Frederiksberg, Denmark	4547-532500
Mar 23-26	21st Winter Championships, Badrutt's Palace Hotel, St. Moritz, Switz	061-3315816
Apr 1-2	British Open, Hilton Hotel, East Midlands, England	44522-536836
Apr 14-17	Nordic "Wide" Open, SAS Scandinavia Hotel, Copenhagen, Denmark	4539-400607
Apr 19-23	4th Tournament of the Americas, Herradura Hotel, San José, Costa Rica	312/252-7755
Apr 28-May 1*	European Backgammon News Labour Day Tournament, Spain	3468-438349
May 27-28*	County Cups Trophy Tournament #2, George Hotel, Solihull, England	44522-536836
Jun 2-5	1995 Swedish Open, Sheraton Hotel & Towers, Malmö, Sweden	46040-74000
Jul 7-9	Monte Carlo Warm-up, Loews Hotel, Monte Carlo, Monaco	305/527-4033
Jul 8-9	Hilton Trophy Tournament, Hilton Hotel, East Midlands, England	44522-536836
Jul 10-16	World Backgammon Championship, Loews Hotel, Monte Carlo, Monaco	3392-162133
Jul 20-23	Riviera's Cup Championship, Hotel Martinez, Cannes, France	33141-050259

esting—so much so that I decided to build a few match equity tables to see if I could learn something about lopsided post-Crawford doubling. What I learned is that as the length of a match increases, the take point for the player with a free drop quickly converges to around 38%. Depending on the assumptions you make about the frequency of backgammons, gammons, and the value of the free drop, the take point could be anywhere from 33% to 42%.

It appears that Dean has made a mistake in interpreting his calculation. Although . . .

$$\frac{99.90234375 - 99.8046875}{100.0 - 99.8046875}$$

does equal 0.50, this corresponds to 50%, not *half* a percent. The 50% take point is a natural result of the approximation Dean is using: by taking, you risk doubling your opponent's winning chances (going from "needing to win 10 games" to "needing to win 9 games") in order to try to reduce your opponent's winning chances to zero. So you are getting 1-to-1 odds, yielding a 50% take point. As it turns out, the approximation isn't quite right, and the true take point is probably somewhere between

36% and 40%.

With respect to the diagrammed position on page one of the Dec. 1994 POINT, Black has a stone cold drop, no matter what assumptions you make in constructing a match equity table.—*David Montgomery, Silver Spring, MD*

Dean Muench responds: Oops! Damn Pentium Chip! Seriously, my apologies to your readers for the big arithmetic error in my last article. This embarrassing oversight has taught me two valuable lessons:

[Continued on page 10]



★ AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★

Top 50 All-Time Point Leaders • 1993–1994



Neil Kazaross	77.92	Bob Holyon	23.68	Rudy Citrom	16.80	George Alessi	13.50
Art Benjamin	52.60	Walter Trice	23.59	Ray Fogelund	16.23	Al Jones	13.32
Marty Storer	47.48	Frank Talbot	22.16	Ken Bond	16.16	Ed Pavilonis	13.31
Doug Roberts	40.37	Jake Jacobs	21.29	Jeff Kane	16.06	John Mansey	13.00
Dean Muench	40.08	Woody Woodson	21.12	Tak Morioka	15.99	Mike Nelson	12.91
Mike Friedman	39.07	Joe Harris	20.83	David Wells	15.89	Ralph Levy	12.87
Arnold Zousmer	37.35	Phil Laak	20.20	Jerry Kane	15.68	Bill Szirtes	12.81
Patrick Gibson	32.00	Kit Woolsey	20.16	Ed Johnson	15.00	Doug Huch	12.16
Paul Stebbing	30.44	Ami Tennenbaum	19.17	Lincoln Bedell	14.96	Maurice Barie	11.58
Howard Markowitz	26.66	Charlie Morrison	18.86	Quint McTyeire	14.53	Lucky Nelson	11.58
Ben Lang	26.00	Andy Palumbo	18.53	David Hochron	14.40	John Stryker	11.56
Abbas Zaltash	25.68	David Williams	17.31	Mike Darooge	14.35	Judy Brown	11.50
Malcolm Davis	25.20	Steve McCormick	16.82				



CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB 1994 PLAYER OF THE YEAR—FINAL

COMPILED
THRU 31 DEC.

98 players earned points

Neil Kazaross	28.72	Phil Simborg	6.56	Kevin Muench	2.48	Glen Garber	0.80
Tak Morioka	23.24	Mary Franks	6.44	Ed Bauder	2.24	John Demian	0.72
Herb Roman	22.32	Dean Muench	6.36	Reggie Porter	2.14	Mary Vitale	0.72
Jake Jacobs	21.56	Harry Cohn	6.36	Barry Miller	2.08	Peggy Fleming	0.72
Tim Mabee	16.08	Ed Buerger	6.04	Don Desmond	2.00	Mick Dobratz	0.68
David Rubin	15.60	Bobbie Shifrin	5.80	Frank Dickerson	2.00	Jim Moss	0.64
Alice Kay	13.88	Ralph Levy	5.36	Marc Ingenoso	1.92	Igor Sheyn	0.64
Peter Kalba	13.04	Bob Zavoral	5.12	Mick Nowak	1.88	Jill Ferdinand	0.64
Paul Franks	12.72	Marcy Sloan	4.32	Betsy Miller	1.76	Mike Kaczmarek	0.64
Sarg Serges	11.92	Richard Stawowy	4.04	Earl Risch	1.76	David Rockwell	0.48
Ken Bond	11.48	Alex Itkin	3.92	Marty Tatossian	1.52	Harold Grote	0.48
Joann Feinstein	11.36	Richard Lloyd	3.76	John Meyers	1.40	Tom Walthes	0.48
Paul Friedman	11.32	Paul Klein	3.72	Jerry Brooks	1.28	Brigid O'Meara	0.44
Phyllis Smolinski	11.20	Bill Keefe	3.20	Bob Holyon	1.28	Tom Shields	0.40
Norma Shyer	9.60	John Stryker	3.20	Gregg Westrick	1.28	Barbara Levinson	0.40
Stu Katz	9.44	Rob Silvey	3.20	Wilcox Snellings	1.28	Merrill Schrager	0.38
Allen Zimmerman	9.44	Dan Braden	2.96	Dave Cramer	1.12	Elaine Kehm	0.36
Leslie Lockett	8.96	John Brussel	2.88	J.A. Miller	0.96	Tim Carroll	0.32
Don Jayhan	8.72	Tom Fahland	2.88	Roland Dieter	0.96	Tim Serges	0.32
Gary Kay	8.52	Jeff Kane	2.84	Andy Bittman	0.88	Lou Salzman	0.30
Bill Davis	8.20	Mitch Pomper	2.56	Frankie Farjood	0.88	Mike Siegel	0.24
Georgina Flanagan	8.00	Arlene Levy	2.56	Paul Weaver	0.88	Stan Kucharz	0.20
V.W. Zimnicki	7.20	George Barr	2.56	Rick Janowski	0.88	Judy Feinstein	0.12
Yamin Yamin	6.88	Amy Trudeau	2.52	Scottie Mitchell	0.88	Mike Budz	0.12
Jolie Rubin	6.62	Andy Krenitz	2.48				

ED BUERGER was December's Player of the Month with 3.12 points. Joann Feinstein, Richard Lloyd and Mitch Pomper each scored 2.56.

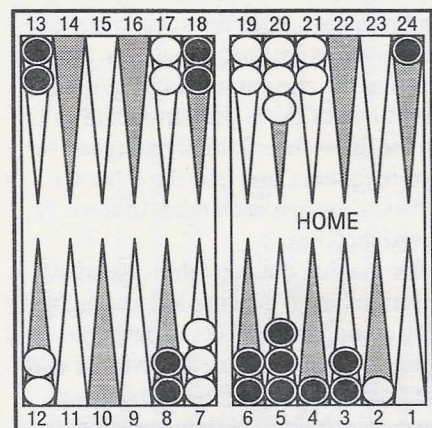
1994 PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

American Backgammon Tour: **Neil Kazaross**
Gammon Associates (CA): **Azzam Masarani**
Atlanta Backgammon Assn. (GA): **Dave Cardwell**
Bloomington-Normal (IL) Club: **Ed Bauder**
Central Illinois Club (IL): **Carl Severino**
Chicago Bar Point Club (IL): **Neil Kazaross**
Prime BG Club of Chicago (IL): **David Rubin**
Pub Club (IL): **Jake Jacobs**
Sangamon Valley Assn. (IL): **Greg Tomlin**
Winnetka Backgammon Club (IL): **Paul Friedman**
Hoosier Backgammon Club (IN): **Chuck Stimming**
Beltway Backgammon Club 93/94 (MD): **Ali Rebatchi**
New England Club 93/94 (MA): **Herb Gurland**
Cavendish North Club (MI): **Sandy Kaplan**
Flint Area Backgammon Club (MI): **Rick Todd**
Plymouth Backgammon Club (MI): **Dean Adamian**
New York Chess & BG 93/94 (NY): **Ron Seaborn**
Pittsburgh Backgammon Assn. (PA): **Abbas Zaltash**
American Backgammon Club (TX): **Kati Pratt**
Milwaukee Backgammon Club (WI): **Marv Arnol**
Argentina Backgammon Assn.: **Jorge Stolkner**
British Isles Backgammon Assn.: **Jim Johnson**
Costa Rican Backgammon Assn.: **Antonio Ortega**
Hong Kong Backgammon Club: **Steve Nelson**

your move

PROBLEM #211

3rd Turkish Open 21-point finals. Bill Robertie (White) and Stu Hosen (Black) are tied at 18-all. **BLACK TO PLAY 5-2.**



SHADES OF GRAY

THE RULINGS CONTEST 2

WIN \$50.00

© 1995 by Danny Kleinman

As a tournament director, how would you rule in the following six difficult situations, most of which actually occurred at U.S. Backgammon tournaments in 1994? Match your multiple choice answers with mine and you could win \$50.

INSTRUCTIONS: Send your solutions to: Backgammon Rulings; c/o CHICAGO POINT; 2726 W. Lunt Ave.; Chicago, IL 60645-3039. Or you can fax your answers to 312/338-6384. One entry per person. Ties will be broken by random draw. Entries must be received by 24 Feb. 1995.

1. First round play in the Championship division of a major national event has been under way for 15 minutes. At this point, it is discovered that eight players have been accidentally left out of the draw so that the number of entrants is not 94 as initially believed, but 102. They are very upset because they have spent a lot of money on airfare and hotel accommodations and demand entry into the tournament. The players with byes are all 15 minutes into their 2nd round (round-of-64) matches. What to do?

- A. Leave the eight out of the tournament and refund their entry fees plus 10% extra to make up for the error.
- B. Void the current round-of 64 matches of the last eight players to have received a bye (regardless of the current score) and require them to play an extra round against the left-out eight in the round-of-128. Refund to the left-out eight an equitable portion of their entry fee for having no chance at drawing a bye.
- C. By random draw, redefine five of the 2nd round matches between initial bye-recipients as 1st round matches without altering the current scores. Randomly insert two of the eight left-outs in slots on the draw sheet initially assigned for bye-recipients, and pair the other six left-outs against each other in three 1st round matches.
- D. After making the equitable refund as described in (B), let the left-out eight play among themselves to determine a winner. Then combine this winner with the final-16 from the main sheet and have a fresh draw with two players

required to play an extra round.

- 2.** Leading 5-3 in a 9-point match, Steve doubles Judy and she accepts the cube. The advantage eventually swings to Judy who ponders doubling. Judy asks Steve, "Have I doubled yet?" to which Steve answers "No."

Judy then reaches for one of the many chouette cubes she keeps in the center of her board, turns it to 2 and says, "I double." Steve chortles and says, "You win one point."

As they are scoring the game, Judy notices the big 2-cube on her side of the board. "My double was really a re-double to 4. You dropped the double. You should lose two points."

Steve replies, "It's your own fault for keeping all those cubes in your board."

When the director arrives, Steve denies he misled Judy. Make a ruling.

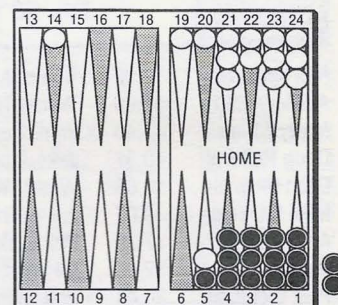
- A. Judy wins one point.
 - B. Judy wins two points.
 - C. Judy must reconsider whether to re-double or keep the cube.
 - D. Judy must redouble, and Steve must reconsider whether to pass or take the cube at 4.
- 3.** Randy rolls double 2s and is moving the checkers in a variety of ways. He then returns the setup to what he thinks was the original position. Mary protests and a director is called. Mary tells the director she is certain that Randy has not moved the checkers back to the way they were, but she is unsure what the original position was. Randy is also unable to reconstruct the original setup. Now what?
- A. Supervise Mary's best-guess reconstruction of the original position consistent with Randy's having restored it incorrectly.
 - B. Flip a coin, and supervise the winner's best-guess reconstruction of the original position.
 - C. Go with the position Randy originally thought was correct.
 - D. Declare an unresolvable position and replay the entire game.
- 4.** Fred and Tom are playing the 15-point semifinals of a masters tournament. White's score card shows 17-points as the match length. Black has not written a match length on his score card. A kibitzer informs the director of the error.

The director approaches the table and notes that both players' score cards show Black leading 14-13 in what should be the Crawford game. Black has doubled White and is now in a

priming battle. What do you do?

- A. Correct the match length to 15 points and take the doubling cube out of play for this game.
 - B. Correct the match length to 15 points but leave the doubling cube in play.
 - C. Inform both players that the match will officially be played to 17 points.
 - D. Say nothing.
- 5.** Trailing 8-7 Crawford, Robert, bearing off the Black pieces with a White checker on the bar, is forced to leave a back door shot on his 5-point. Sally rolls 6-5 playing Bar/5, 8/14. After White picks up her dice, the board looks like this. What should be done?

9 pt. match.
White leads
Black, 8-7
Crawford.
White has
played 6-5
(Bar/5, 8/14)
and picked
up her dice.



- A. Black may bear off or move the checker off his 5-point on the next turn leaving White on the 5-point.
 - B. Black may roll and bear off checkers from the lower points this turn, but may not move the pinned man on the 5-point. White can then put Black's pinned checker on the bar before her roll and play.
 - C. White must complete her play now and put Black on the bar.
 - D. White must replay the entire roll legally.
- 6.** Frank loses in the third round of a double elimination tournament. He notices that Jane (also in the 2nd chance flight) is one round behind him, but she has a bye and should be advanced. He tells her, "You get a bye and we can play in the next round."
- Jane wins the match, but when she goes to report it, the director tells her that she didn't have a bye and that the winner of her match with Tom is supposed to play Frank. How do you rule?
- A. Jane's victory over Frank is void. The winner of the Jane/Tom match must play Frank.
 - B. If Jane beats Tom, she will also be credited with a victory over Frank; however if Tom beats Jane, he will have to play Frank.
 - C. Frank is out of the tournament. Δ

CHICAGO POINT's 1995 Listing of...

Backgammon Clubs In North America

Information for this listing has been obtained directly from the featured backgammon clubs. Changes are inevitable and we suggest that you always call before attending. As a service to our readers, CHICAGO POINT would like to maintain an accurate listing of Backgammon Clubs in North America. Please send information including updates, club closings and new clubs to: **CHICAGO POINT; 2726 W. Lunt Ave.; Chicago, IL 60645-3039.** Or FAX: 312/338-6384.

WEST

CLUB NAME	LOCATION	CITY & STATE	MEETING ON	TIME	CONTACT	TELEPHONE	MAIL INQUIRIES TO
Backgammon Club of San Diego	Java House	Delmar, CA	Sunday	2:00 PM	Mike Fujita	619/294-2007	P.O. Box 178119; San Diego, CA 92177
Backgammon Club of San Diego	Il Forno	La Jolla, CA	Wednesday monthly	6:30 PM	Mike Fujita	619/294-2007	"
San Francisco Backgammon	Golden Gate Grill	San Francisco, CA	Tuesday	7:45 PM	Doug Adsit	415/931-4600	3200 Fillmore Street; San Francisco, CA 94123
San Francisco Bridge & BG Club	Clubroom	San Francisco, CA	Wed., Fri.	9:00 PM	Augie Hunt	415/776-6949	777 Jones Street; San Francisco, CA 94109
Gammon Associates	Grand Slam Bridge & BG Club	Woodland Hills, CA	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Patrick Gibson	818/901-0464	7641 Orion Avenue; Van Nuys, CA 91406
Gammon Associates	Grand Slam Bridge & BG Club	Woodland Hills, CA	Sunday	2:00 PM	Patrick Gibson	818/901-0464	"
Prime BG Club of Las Vegas	Jockey Club	Las Vegas, NV	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Howard Markowitz	702/893-6025	2620 S. Maryland Pkwy; Box 230; Las Vegas, NV 89109
No. Nevada Backgammon Assn.	Rapscallion Seafood House	Reno, NV	Thursday	7:30 PM	Jim Allen	702/329-1227	449 W. Plumb Lane; Reno, NV 89509
Oregon Backgammon Club	Lacey's	Lake Oswego, OR	1st & 3rd Tuesday	7:00 PM	Henry Moss	503/636-6258	2360 Greentree Road; Lake Oswego, OR 97034
Pacific NW Backgammon Assn.	Shakey's Pizza	Bellevue, WA	Monday	7:00 PM	Chuck Breckenridge	206/778-8181	18204 Olympic View Drive; Edmonds, WA 98020
Puget Sound Backgammon Assn.	European Connection	Seattle, WA	Tuesday	7:30 PM	Guy Thurber	206/244-6737	428 SW 127th Street; Seattle, WA 98146

CENTRAL

Bloomington-Normal BG Club	Ride The Nine	Bloomington, IL	1st, 3rd, 5th Tues.	6:15 PM	Lane O'Connor	309/454-1947	108 Riss Drive; Normal, IL 61761
Games People Play	Alexander's	Chicago, IL	Monday	6:30 PM	J.A. Miller	312/768-5523	P.O. Box 8630; Chicago, IL 60680
Chicago Bar Point Club	Golden Flame	Chicago, IL	Tuesday	6:15 PM	Bill Davis	312/338-6380	2726 W. Lunt Avenue; Chicago, IL 60645
Chicago Bar Point Club	Braxton Seafood Grill	Oak Brook, IL	Sunday bimonthly	12:30 PM	Peter Kalba	312/252-7755	2510 W. Iowa Street; Chicago, IL 60622
Pub Club	Cricket's Pub & Grill	Glendale Hts., IL	Monday	7:30 PM	V.W. Zimnicki	708/924-8632	P.O. Box 72216; Roselle, IL 60172
Prime Backgammon of Chicago	TJ's Lounge/Radisson Hotel	Lincolnwood, IL	Friday	7:00 PM	Joann Feinstein	708/674-0120	8149 Kenton; Skokie, IL 60076
Central Illinois Backgammon Club	Cummins Family Restaurant	Peoria, IL	Thursday	6:30 PM	Ed Bauder	309/686-6662	1115 E. McClure Avenue; Peoria, IL 61603
Sangamon Valley BG Assn.	Parker's Sports Bar	Springfield, IL	2nd & 4th Tuesday	6:00 PM	Randy Armstrong	217/528-0117	2012 N. 20th Street; Springfield, IL 62702
Sangamon Valley BG Assn.	Parker's Sports Bar	Springfield, IL	1st Sat./Nov.-Apr.	11:30 AM	Randy Armstrong	217/528-0117	"
Winnetka Backgammon Club	Winnetka Community House	Winnetka, IL	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Trudie Stern	708/446-0537	4200 W. Lake 302C; Glenview, IL 60025
Summit City Backgammon League	Alumni Club	Ft. Wayne, IN	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Ken Bruck	219/639-6898	P.O. Box 6546; Fort Wayne, IN 46896
Hoosier Backgammon Club	Spats	Indianapolis, IN	Thursday	7:00 PM	Butch Meese	317/845-8435	7620 Kilmer Lane; Indianapolis, IN 46256
Flint Area Backgammon Club	Ramada Inn	Flint, MI	Thursday	7:00 PM	Carol Joy Cole	810/232-9731	3003 Ridgecliffe Drive; Flint, MI 48532
Plymouth Backgammon Club	Box Bar & Grill	Plymouth, MI	Wednesday	7:30 PM	Dean Adamian	313/981-5706	42954 Barchester; Canton, MI 48187
Cavendish North BG Club	Clubhouse	Southfield, MI	Daily except Sunday	1:00 PM	Joe Sylvester	810/642-9616	30065 Greenfield Road; Southfield, MI 48076
Minneapolis Backgammon	Minneapolis Athletic Club	Minneapolis, MN	Monday	5:00 PM	Fred Kalantari	612/682-1716	4701 Valley View Road; Edina, MN 55424
Cleveland Backgammon Club	Boulevard Sports Tavern	Cuyahoga Falls, OH	Wednesday	6:30 PM	Irv Taylor	216/663-7332	P.O. Box 28515; Cleveland, OH 44128
Dallas Backgammon League	Scoreboard	Addison, TX	Wednesday	7:45 PM	Rich Weaver	214/620-7462	2682 Hearthstone; Dallas, TX 75234
Austin Backgammon Assn.	Bombay Bicycle Club	Austin, TX	Monday	7:30 PM	Jackie Seiders-Smart	512/261-8518	30 Hightrail Way, Austin, TX 78738

(Continued on opposite side)

CENTRAL (continued)

CLUB NAME	LOCATION	CITY & STATE	MEETING ON	TIME	CONTACT	TELEPHONE	MAIL INQUIRIES TO:
American Backgammon Club	Vickery Feed Store	Dallas, TX	Sunday	6:00 PM	Kati Pratt	214/827-8403	5631 Ellsworth; Dallas, TX 75206
Houston Backgammon Club	Abdallah's	Houston, TX	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Jack Butler	713/774-9439	5931 Reamer Street; Houston, TX 77074
San Antonio Backgammon	Dad's	San Antonio, TX	Friday	9:00 PM	Marcel Mommers	210/606-0025	3812 Greenridge Drive; Cibolo, TX 78108
Milwaukee Backgammon Club	Gas Lite North	Milwaukee, WI	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Marv Arnol	414/355-8805	9031 N. 70th Street; Milwaukee, WI 53223
Milwaukee Backgammon	John Hawks Pub	Milwaukee, WI	Sunday bimonthly	11:30 AM	Merrill Schrager	414/463-2498	9043 W. Grantosa Drive; Milwaukee, WI 53225

NORTHEAST

Beltway Backgammon Club	Promenade Cardroom	Bethesda, MD	2nd & 4th Sunday	12:00 N	Barry Steinberg	301/530-0604	5712 Quebec Street; Berwyn Hts., MD 20740
Cavendish Club of Boston	Clubroom	Brookline, MA	Thur. & Sat.	1:00 PM	Carl Saldinger	617/734-2230	111 Cypress Street; Brookline, MA 02146
New England Backgammon Club	Sheraton Commander Hotel	Cambridge, MA	Sunday monthly	12:30 PM	Seth Towle	508/486-0668	29 Robinson Road; Littleton, MA 01460
New England Backgammon Club	Sheraton Commander Hotel	Cambridge, MA	Monday	7:00 PM	Seth Towle	508/486-0668	"
New Jersey Backgammon Assn.	Best Western Oritani Hotel	Hackensack, NJ	Tues. & Fri.	7:45 PM	Ron Whitney	201/833-2915	279 Glen Court; Teaneck, NJ 07666
Ace Point Backgammon Club	Clubroom	New York, NY	Daily	3:00 PM	Michael Valentine	212/753-0842	41 E. 60th Street; New York, NY 10022
Coterie	Clubroom	New York, NY	Daily	1:00 PM	Louise Goldsmith	212/371-5151	Private club. Telephone for information.
New York Chess & Backgammon	Office Building	New York, NY	Daily, Tour. Sunday	12:00 N	Steve Manning	212/302-5874	120 W. 41st Street 3; New York, NY 10036
Saratoga Backgammon Club	Waterfront Restaurant	Saratoga Springs, NY	Friday	1:00 PM	Lee Hoge	518/584-1714	P.O. Box 563; Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
Greater New York BG Club	Woodbury Ramada Inn	Woodbury, NY	Sunday monthly	12:30 PM	Dr. Bob Hill	718/341-3779	194-22 115th Road; Jamaica, NY 11412
Cavendish Club of Philadelphia	Clubroom	Philadelphia, PA	Mon., Wed., Thu., Sat.	7:00 PM	Ken Reiver	215/878-5777	3801 Conshohocken Avenue; Philadelphia, PA 19131
Pittsburgh Backgammon Assn.	Murphy's Tap Room	Pittsburgh, PA	Tuesday	8:30 PM	Steve Hast	412/823-7500	3560 Ridgewood Road; Pittsburgh, PA 15235

SOUTH

Suncoast Backgammon Assn.	New York, New York Lounge	Clearwater, FL	Monday	7:00 PM	Drew Giovanis	813/726-1398	25350 U.S. Hwy 19 N. 67; Clearwater, FL 34623
South Florida Backgammon	Big Apple Sports Pub	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	Sunday	1:00 PM	Elayne Feinstein	305/785-1282	2621 NE 7th Terrace; Pompano Beach, FL 33064
Backgammon Club of N.W. Florida	Olde English Pub	Lynn Haven, FL	Tuesday	7:30 PM	Rick Bieniak	904/773-2013	P.O. Box 416; Wausau, FL 32463
Orlando Backgammon	Coach's Locker Room	Orlando, FL	Tuesday	7:30 PM	David Thomas	904/736-2844	P.O. Box 803; Deland, FL 32721
Backgammon Society of Sarasota	Bath & Racquet Club	Sarasota, FL	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Frank Schank	813/792-3992	5320 86th Street W.; Bradenton, FL 34210
Atlanta Backgammon Association	Cabo Wabo Bar & Grill	Atlanta, GA	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Dave Cardwell	404/682-1969	P.O. Box 956547; Duluth, GA 30136
Atlanta Backgammon Association	CafFeinds Coffee Bar	Atlanta, GA	Sunday monthly	12:00 N	Dave Cardwell	404/682-1969	"
Louisville Backgammon Club	Encore Restaurant	Louisville, KY	2nd & 4th Tuesday	6:30 PM	Quint McTyeire	502/896-9783	4906 Crofton Road; Louisville, KY 40207
Raleigh Backgammon Club	Western Bowling Alley	Raleigh, NC	1st & 3rd Friday	7:30 PM	Frank Bommarito	919/552-2291	401 St. John Court; Holly Springs, NC 27540

CANADA

Vancouver Backgammon	Jo-Anne's Place	Vancouver, BC	Tuesday	8:00 PM	Marty Jensen	604/688-8317	1339 Burnaby St. 402; Vancouver, BC V6E 1R2; CANADA
Nat'l Capital Backgammon Club	Lunergan's Pub	Vanier, ON	1st Sun./Sep.-Jun.	12:30 PM	Eden Windish	613/741-2530	396 Talbot Street; Ottawa, ON K1K 2N6; CANADA
Le Gammon	Clubroom	Montreal, QB	Daily	3:30 PM	Michel Merlitti	514/845-8370	552 St. Catherine East; Montreal, QB H2L 2E1; CANADA

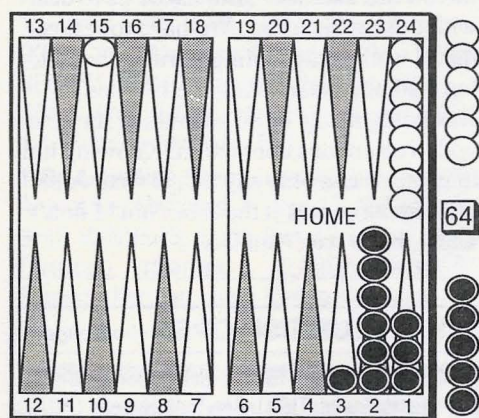
A Quarky Match Cube

by Jake Jacobs

This is the case history of Kurt S., a brilliant young computer scientist, and rising star of Chicago backgammon. I call him Kurt S. to protect his identity, and also because even his co-workers at Fermilab are unable to spell "Schurecht." The last time I tried to spell it phonetically, the postal authorities got after me.

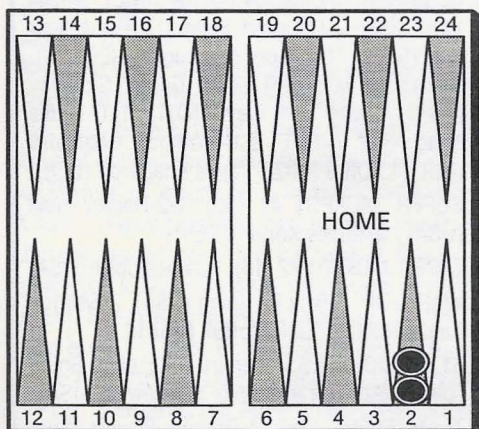
Last night, during a match, Kurt S. misplayed a 2 in this position:

Match to 7 points. Kurt S. (Black) is ahead 4-3. **BLACK TO PLAY A 2.**



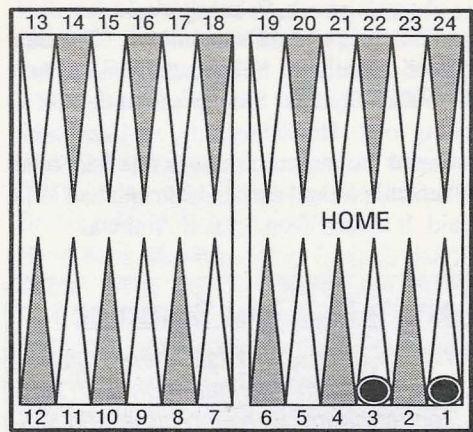
Kurt S. noticed that if he bore off, a set of double aces would then bear off only three checkers, and so played 3 to 1.

It is difficult at first to see what difference the two plays make. At Fermilab they bombard things with tiny particles to see what sort of sub-atomic critters they can flush out. Borrowing their technique, I have bombarded the positions with tiny doubles: 1-1 followed by 2-2. After Kurt S.'s play, we have:



This is known in the trade as the "atomic pile." If instead we initially bear

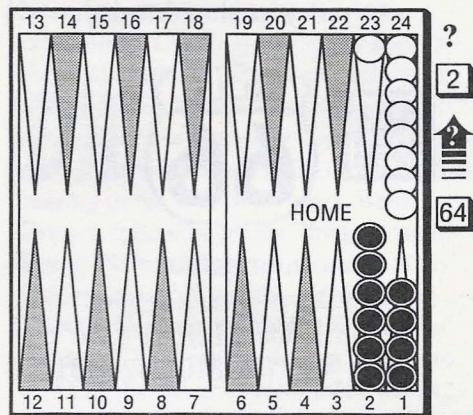
off the deuce, we have:



Here we have the "split atom." We need release no further energy to see that failure to bear off may blow up in our face. That a talented player like Kurt S. got this wrong may be attributed to some personal quark.

After the spectators gasped over his misplay (I was the only spectator, and so may speak for all of us), his opponent rolled double 2s, bringing us to the nucleus of this article. What is the proper cube action for Black here?:

Match to 7 points. Kurt S. (Black) is ahead 4-3. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



This is what may be called an "everyone knows" situation. Everyone knows that the proper time to double in the bearoff is when both sides need four rolls. What everyone knows is wrong, which is why some of us win slightly more than our fair share.

In this particular case, the score is the central feature to be considered. 3-away/4-away is tricky because the leader's take is lower than normal, and the trailer's is quite a bit higher. We'll use the following match equities: 83% for 1-away/4-away, 68% for 2-away/4-away, and 60% for 2-away/3-away. The scores 3-away/3-away, 0-away/3-away, and 0-away/4-away are relevant too, but if you need me to supply those

match equities, I suspect this article may not be for you. Just look at the pictures.

If Black doubles and White passes, White has 32% match equity. Can she do better by taking? If White's strategy is to take and immediately redouble, her match equity is equal to her cubeless probability of winning this position: 30.5%. Recent articles have discussed the great recube leverage White enjoys at this score. (She has little else to enjoy!) Can White do better by waiting to redouble? Can she move the world with her powerful cube leverage, or is that too simple a machine to use on this physicist?

Sort of, no, and yes. The real leverage occurs only when one arrives at a position wherein Black's cubeless probability of winning is greater than 25%, his "money take," but less than 40%, his takepoint of a recube at this score. If White waits to roll a double before recubing, Black will always have less than 25%, a pass both at this score, and for money.

White can cash the position 33.8%. Her match equity then is the sum of 60% of 33.8% and 17% of 66.2%. When I was figuring that out in the shower this morning, I came up with 31.694%. This is better than 30.5%, but still less than the 32% available by passing. So next time Kurt S., avoid confusion and bomb him with the doubling cube. Δ

A READER REPLIES: Just read "A Quarky Match Cube." In the words of Queen Victoria: "We are not amused." Anticipating a flood of irate letters over this one, and hoping to surf in ahead of the first wave, here are my objections.

1. Jokes about Fermilab. Once you accept physical humor into your publication, it's a short and slippery slope down to pratfalls and other debased forms of humor.
2. "Kurt S." Despite the attempt to disguise the name, any fool can figure out that this is a personal attack on Newt Gingrich. (I did.)
3. Mr. Jacobs clearly has no concept of how to handle the cube at this match score. White, the taker, has a redoubling window that opens at 30%. If Black rolls a double after double, White must hold the cube, otherwise she properly redoubles (as an underdog).

Following this strategy, White's match equity after taking Black's double is equal to 100% x 55.5% (Black rolls a non-double not including an ace) x 34.3% (White's cubeless winning chances) + 100% x 27.8% (Black rolls

[Continued on page 9]

TENNENBAUM...

[Continued from page 1]

through his own hard work. Then about five years ago, the real estate market took a big drop which happened to coincide with a serious breach of faith by a trusted partner in his business dealings. Demands on his capital grew to a point where he had recently been forced to take action in order to protect his financial holdings.

New Jersey Backgammon Club director Ron Whitney remembers a gradual change in Ami: "As we look back over the last five years, there were indications of stress. Just the way he took care of himself. He put on a little weight. He stopped wearing immaculate clothes. Basically, he showed some signs of fraying around the edges.

"The suicide was not simply a matter of being financially devastated. At our club two days before his death, he had won 23 points for quarters. He lived in a beautiful home and was leasing a new Toyota 4x4. I feel that psychologically, he was suffering from a negative image of himself. He was no longer career-satisfied. He was losing

faith. The possibility for clinical depression existed."

Looking back, Whitney could see certain clues to Ami's intentions. "The day before the suicide, he repeatedly asked his wife Kay what her Sunday schedule was going to be. He had recently told her about some of the important things that had to be taken care of and certain bills that had to be paid. It almost seemed as if Ami was

preparing Kay for his departure . . . but not in such a way that she would suspect anything was wrong.

"Suicide is such a selfish act. Think of the family he left behind. But as Dr. Bob Hill reminds me, when you're in a clinical depression, you're not thinking about other people. You're not thinking about how you can help yourself. You're only thinking about ending the pain."

Ami was cremated on 13 December. Wife Kay Tennenbaum organized a memorial service on 17 December in Ridgewood, New Jersey. Backgammon friends Ron Whitney, Steve Jacobson, Bob Bishop, Art Shulman, Jerry Kane and Jeff Acerno attended.

At the service, Whitney ended his eulogy by saying that everyone deals with life on life's terms. "Ami asked us to deal with this on his terms. We have to respect that. I walk away feeling terrible about it, but I do understand Ami well. When he was going to say or do something, he acted with tremendous conviction. Knowing him that way, I can only say this is what Ami wanted. Now was it the *real* Ami? I don't know, but it was Ami." Δ

Ami's Red Hot Summer

In the Summer of 1992, there was nobody hotter in backgammon than Ami Tennenbaum. Between June and August, he won the following events:

1. NY/NJ Co-Op Regional Open,
2. Las Vegas Open Super Jackpot,
3. Michigan Summer Championships World Cup Qualifier,
4. Vermont State Championships.

Also that Summer, Ami reached the semifinals of the Monte-Carlo Super Jackpot and was a finalist in the World Cup Rifleman Shootout (TX).



The 1995 Midwest Backgammon Championships

March 24-26, 1995

Chicago Marriott Oak Brook Hotel
Oak Brook, Illinois

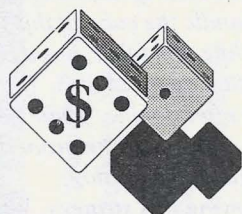
The tournament that literally borrows from tomorrow to put *you* ahead today.



Information:

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Peter Kalba: 312/631-8350
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THIRD TURKISH OPEN (from page 1)

CHAMPIONSHIP (130): 1-Bill Robertie (USA), 2-Stuart Hosen (USA), 3/4-Tony Havens (RSA) / Simon Naim (ISR); 1C-Malcolm Davis (USA), 2C-Michael Greiner (GER), 3C/4C-Alan Steffen (USA) / Jorma Tattari (FIN); 1LC-Richard Ciecioro (FRA), 2LC-Georg Steinherr; LADIES PRIZE-Antoinette Williams (USA).

INTERMEDIATE: 1-Kia Chenizie (GEO), 2-Teimairaz Silcharouldze (GEO), 3/4-David Ben-David (ISR) / Rasmus Nohr (DEN); 1C-Matti Haaksila (FIN), 2C-Suilev Todorov (BUL), 3C/4C-Klaus Feirstein (GER) / Guy Michalek (FRA); 1LC-Hakan Nilsson (SWE), 2LC-Akaki Kihal (GEO); LADIES PRIZE-Brigit Scheuerling (GER).

BEGINNER: 1-Dimitrov Hastov (BUL), 2-Tziki Verdi (ISR), 3/4-Levert Isirin (TUR) / Holger Eng (GER); 1C-Zahpo Yupehugze (GEO), 2C-Giora Goldreich (ISR), 3C/4C-Nurhen Gidutyon (TUR) / Leon Van Weyl (NTH); 1LC-Vigdis Knag Hoff (DEN), 2LC-Vladimir Georgyiev (BUL); LADIES PRIZE-Vigdis Knag Hoff (DEN). SUPER JACKPOT #1 (32): 1/2-Harvey Huie (USA) / Matthias Körner (GER).

SUPER JACKPOT #2 (16): 1-James Colen (USA) WARM-UP: 1-Rick Barabino (USA), 2-Shimon Kagan (ISR), 3-Emil Mortuk (USA).

\$1,000 DOUBLES: 1-Sandra & Kazuhiro Shino (UK), 2-Billy Horan & Mike Senkiewicz (USA).

TEAM EVENT (25): 1-Dragon Players-Hong Kong (Jerry Godsey, Steve Nelson, John Simon), 2-Bosphores Team-Turkey.

WINNER'S CORNER

Nov. 1994-Jan. 1995



Louisville Fall Classic (Louisville, KY; 19-20 Nov.)... OPEN: 1-Bill Tate, 2-Durb Oldham, 3-Chuck Stimming (IN).

Townharbour Trophy Tourney (Ranking #4) (Solihull, England; 19-20 Nov.)... OPEN (98): 1-Barry Williams, 2-Tim Wilkins, 3-Mike Grabsky, 4-Thomas Connor. TOP LADY: Anna Michael Price. BETTER LUCK: David Clarke. FREE WEEKEND KO (22): 1-Dale Taylor, 2-Rick Janowski. DOUBLES (16): 1-1/2-Steve Bibby & Tim Cross / Michael Crane & Ken Staines.

First Kenyan Open (Malindi, Kenya; 23-27 Nov.)... CHAMPIONSHIP (21): 1-Jorge Figuiredo (POR), 2-Andreas Kleovoulou (CYP); 1C-Avner Alfi (ISR), 2C-Valerio Bucciarelli (KEN); 1LC-Wolfgang Griesse (GER). BEGINNER/INT (16): 1-Thomas Persche (KEN), 2-Wally Wolf (USA); 1C-Bergit Marini (KEN); 1LC-Roberta Romeo (KEN).

1994 Argentine Championship (Buenos Aires, Argentina; Mondays in Dec.)... CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS: Hugo Bistolfi, Daniel Hazan, Fernando Iribarren. JUNIOR WINNERS: Eduardo Kerman, Juan Carlos Gonzalez. BE-

GINNER WINNERS: Juan Colombet, Adolfo Galimidi, Ana Maria Garayalde.

Hilton Int'l Adelaide Summer Tournament (Adelaide, South Australia; 4 Dec.)... OPEN: 1-Justin Freytag, 2-Nick Begakis, 3/4-Don Schulz / Justin Pengelly. SIDE TOURNEY: 1-Angelo Ali.

New York City Open (New York, NY; 4 Dec.)... OPEN (21): 1-Andy Rubien, 2-Greg Shore; 1C-Dr. Bob Hill, 2C-Rageb Shadallah.

Hong Kong Monthly (Hong Kong; 5 Dec.)... OPEN: 1-Avry Ben-Zeev, 2-Jonathan Barnes; 1C-Gregg Westrick, 2C-Ernest Ho. CHAMPIONSHIP: 1-John Schneeberger, 2-Sunil Balani; 1C-Richard Goss, 2C-Ronni Nutzati.

GNBYC Monthly (Woodbury, NY; 18 Dec.)... CHAMPIONSHIP: 1-Mike Nelson, 2-Jay Fried; 1C-Rex Jackson. INTERMEDIATE: 1-Jeff Schwarz, 2-Marc Simon; 1C-Donny Lomuto.

Cavendish Special Sunday (Southfield, MI; 8 Jan.)... OPEN (28): 1-David Todd, 2-Bud Olejniczak, 3-Carol Joy Cole... First prize included a free entry into the Nevada State Championships.

Armbruster's Friday The 13th Tourney (Los Angeles, CA; 13 Jan.)... DOUBLES (8 Teams): 1-Ray & Barbara Fogelund, 2-Azzam Masarani & Judy Collins. OPEN (16): 1-Carla Gibson, 2-Norm Wiggins... Richard Armbruster hosts this party event every Friday the 13th.

AMALGAMATION

Notice: The next POINT will be mailed 6 March... "Things To Come" Department: The Midwest Championships 24-26 March in Oak Brook, IL) will require the use of chess clocks in the semifinals and finals of the Advanced and Championship division. We expect chess clocks to become a part of all tournament play before the end of the century... **Ed Bauder's** (IL) winning streak at the Bloomington-Normal Backgammon Club was finally stopped at 16 wins last month. Against equal competition, the odds against this are 65,535-to-1. Who do you know that has a longer match winning streak in organized tournament play? Also, we wish both Ed and **Linda Woods** the best of luck as they assume directorial duties of Peoria's Central Illinois Backgammon Club... Backgammon history was made 15 January at the New York Chess & Backgammon Club's Sunday afternoon tournament. Proprietor **Steve Manning** reports that his 23-player field included an out-of-state participant. **Dave Simpson** (user name "Yogi") entered the New York City tournament from his home in Denver, Colorado via the First International Backgammon Server (FIBS). Also at NYC&B, players can

now play international opponents over the Internet on FIBS under the user name "Overdog." The charge is \$5 per hour: a reasonable way to expose yourself to the backgammon "wave of the future."... Condolences to *Louisville Gammon Gazette* editor **Harold Branch** (KY) on the 17 Nov. passing of his wife of 43 years, **Beulahmae Branch** following a long illness. Also to **Lucky Nelson** (IL) on the passing of his father earlier this month... Visiting the CBPC in December: **Martin & Claudia Brown** (TX), **Tom & Sharon Casaletto** (CA)... The *BibaFax Newsletter* writes, "Now you've all heard about the Irish gardener who thought **Eartha Kitt** was a set of garden tools. Well, he's taken up Backgammon and thinks **Kit Woolsey** (CA) is do-it-yourself knitwear!"... Congratulations to **Bobbie Shifrin** (IL) who was in Las Vegas earlier this month and hit yet another big-money jackpot. This time, a straight flush in Caribbean Poker for \$10,000... Can you believe it? Our CBPC Golden Flame hostess **Rose Gecht** (IL) is a grandmother! All best wishes on the Dec. birth of her grandson **Daniel Richard Gecht**... And finally, a quote for all you chouette players from **Herbert Yardley**: "Look around the table. Find out who's the victim. If you can't tell, it's you." Δ

Quarky...

[Continued from page 7]

a non-double including an ace) x 35.9% (White's cubeless winning chances) + 13.9% (Black rolls a double other than 1-1) x 5.3% (White's chances of winning owning the cube) x 60% (White's match equity at 2-away/3-away) + 2.8% (Black rolls 1-1) x 27.3% (White's chances of winning owning the cube) x 60% (White's match equity at 2-away/3-away) + 13.9% (Black rolls a double other than 1-1) x 94.7% (White loses) x 17% (White's match equity at 4-away/Crawford) + 2.8% (Black rolls 1-1) x 72.7% (White loses) x 17% (White's match equity at 4-away/Crawford) = (I'm sure that all loyal readers of the POINT are already screaming out the answer) 32.5%. This is greater than 32%, so White should take.

Since I can't imagine anyone failing to work this out at the table, I can only conclude that Mr. Jacobs' article was pointless, as well as being unfunny. Next time, instead of being in such a hurry to fly off to Seoul or Manila or Bloomington, Illinois, or some other glamorous place, he should take more time to get it right!—Yours truly, Jake Jacobs



ILLINOIS ACTION



CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB
Bill Davis
312/338-6380
Peter Kalba
312/631-8350

Tuesday, 6:15 P.M. at Golden Flame, 6417 W. Higgins Rd., Chicago; 312/792-0424.

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 Cricket's Pub & Grill, 602 W. North Ave., Glendale Hts. V. W. Zimmnicki (708/924-8632).

GAMES PEOPLE PLAY: Tourn. Monday, 6:30 P.M. at Alexander's, 3101 E. 79th St., Chicago. J.A. Miller (312/768-5523).

SANGAMON VALLEY BG ASSN: Tourn. 2nd & 4th Tuesday, 6:00 P.M. at Alexander's, 3101 E. 79th St., Chicago. J.A. Miller (312/768-5523).

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL BG CLUB: Tourn. 1st, 3rd, 5th Tuesday, 6:15 P.M. at Parker's Sports Bar, 2801 Peoria Road, Springfield. Randy Armstrong (217/528-0117).

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. Ed Zell (309/673-7622).

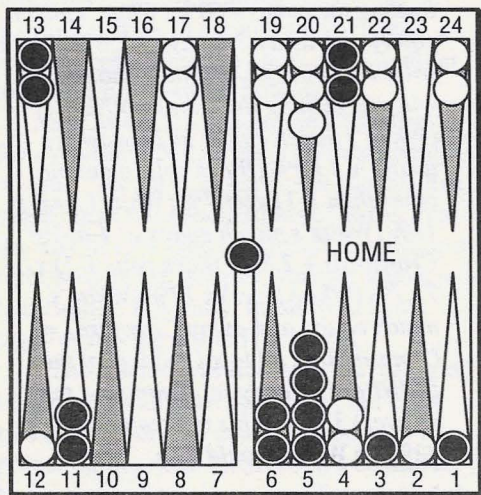
PRIME BG CLUB OF CHICAGO: Tourn. Friday, 7:00 P.M. at TJ's Lounge, Radisson Hotel, 4500 W. Touhy, Lincolnwood. Joann Feinstein (708/674-0120).

NORTH CLUB: Daily side play except Sunday at 4747 W. Peterson (402), Chicago. Greg Defotis (312/286-6719).

PROBLEM #210 SOLVED

by Kit Woolsey

Match to 9 points. Black leads White 8-7 (Crawford). **BLACK TO PLAY 3-2.**



The good news is that Black entered from the bar. The bad news is that he has to play his whole number. Anything he does is pretty risky, leaving at least a double shot and significant gammon danger. At the given match score, losing a gammon is more costly to Black than

usual. Therefore his move should focus on reducing the gammon danger if possible. At the same time, he still must leave himself with decent game-winning chances if things go well.

Bar/23, 21/18 is the first play to be discarded. Right now, Black's main defensive asset is his 4-anchor, and if he gives that up, it will be open season for White to attack with both barrels. In addition, the defensive anchor is vital for game-winning and gammon-saving chances later on if things go badly. The 4-anchor must be held above everything else.

Bar/23, 13/10 and Bar/23, 10/8 both fall into the category of breaking an important outfield point and leaving multiple blots. Neither play makes any sense. Black's main strength is his outfield control; if he gives that up, his game falls apart. Both of these plays leave White far too many good hitting numbers.

The safest play is Bar/23, 6/3. This leaves White only one blot to shoot at on Black's side of the board, and may well be the best play to avoid being gammoned. The problem with this play is that if Black gives up his 6-point now, he may have a difficult time recovering it, which will place him at a serious disadvantage for all contact during the rest of the game. The play might be the lesser of evils, but if there is something better, it should be tried.

B/23, 5/2* may look wild, but relatively speaking, it isn't really any more dangerous than the other plays. True, it leaves White a triple shot from the bar, but White doesn't rate to pick up more than one or two of these blots. If White happens to miss, Black is now in decent shape to make a third inner board point and join in the battle on relatively equal terms.

On the positive side, the hitting play doesn't cost Black any of his precious assets: the major downside of all the other plays. Even if Black is sent to the bar, he still retains all his offensive, defensive, and midfield points, and these points will hinder White's attempt to blast Black off the board. In the long run, this play probably won't lead to being gammoned any more than B/22, 6/3, and it certainly offers far better winning prospects. B/23, 5/2* must be the best play, and it shouldn't be particularly close.

Kent Goulding has often said that when you are confused about which play to make, ignore your opponent's pieces and see which play leaves your side with the prettiest position. In this problem, there is no question that unstacking the 5-point leaves Black with a much better structure than any of the alternatives. When everything is risky, make the play that gives you the best long-term chances if you survive the immediate attack. Δ

LETTERS...

(Continued from page 3)

- (1) Don't be the only one to proof your material; and
- (2) When a paradox seems "To good to be true," it probably is.—Dean Muench

SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM V.W.

Happy Holidays to you and readers of CHICAGO POINT! May all your opening rolls be 3-1s. And remember these words to live by as we move into 1995: When the camel dumps, the caravan still moves on.—Val W. Zimmnicki, director, Pub Club, Roselle, IL

"SANTA CLARA" BAR POINT CLUB?

We just wanted to drop you and Peter Kalba a quick note to thank you both for the hospitality you showed us last Tuesday night at the Chicago Bar Point Club. We had a great time and even learned a thing or two about backgammon. Have you ever thought of moving your club out to the West Coast!—Tom & Sharon Casaletto,

Santa Clara, CA

INTERNET NETS PLAYERS

I suggest that club directors pay attention to the Internet. I am networking to pick up one to two players per tournament.—Eddie Pavilonis, Director, Greater New York Backgammon Club, Wantagh, NY

CONGRATS TO NEIL

Please pass on my congratulations to Neil Kazaross on his *sensational* year in backgammon!—Harry Zilli, Tampa, FL

MORE ON WASTAGE

Enclosed is a response to Paul Weaver's article on wastage (Nov. 1994 POINT). I believe it is an informative and interesting article and I hope you publish it in a forthcoming issue. For example, the data I have shows that (000456) is not the second, but in fact the eighth most efficient bear off. (001257) is second.—Chuck Giallanza, Las Vegas, NV

We liked the article, Chuck; however we are not prepared to use any more space on the wastage topic. For readers who would

like to obtain a copy of Chuck's 2-page study, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope (\$1 overseas) to: CHICAGO POINT; 2726 W. Lunt Ave.; Chicago, IL 60645-3039.

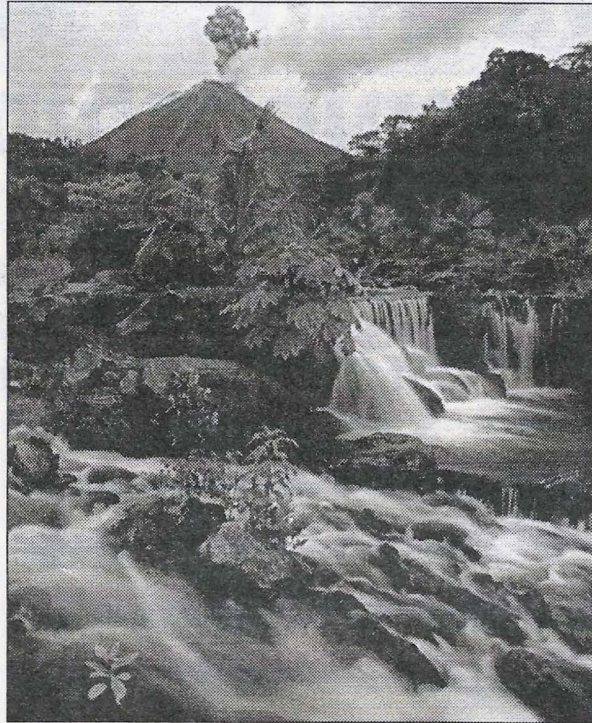
A ROCKIN' REQUEST

A friend of mine is collecting items from Hard Rock Cafés. In his visit to the United States, he neglected to pick up the guitar pin from Chicago's Hard Rock Café. Could you please send two of them to me?—Harald Johanni, editor, Backgammon Magazin, Nürnberg, Germany

Sounds like the perfect friendship, Harald. Your friend "rocks" and you "roll." The pins are included.—Ed.

WE GET LETTERS...

I am thinking about starting my own backgammon publication and calling it *Outside Backgammon*. The cover would have an etching of a well-kibitzed backgammon match occurring outdoors in a drenching rain. Do you think Bill Robertie and Kent Goulding would sue me?—Lee E. Harvey, Excelsior, MN Δ



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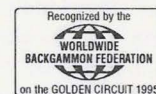
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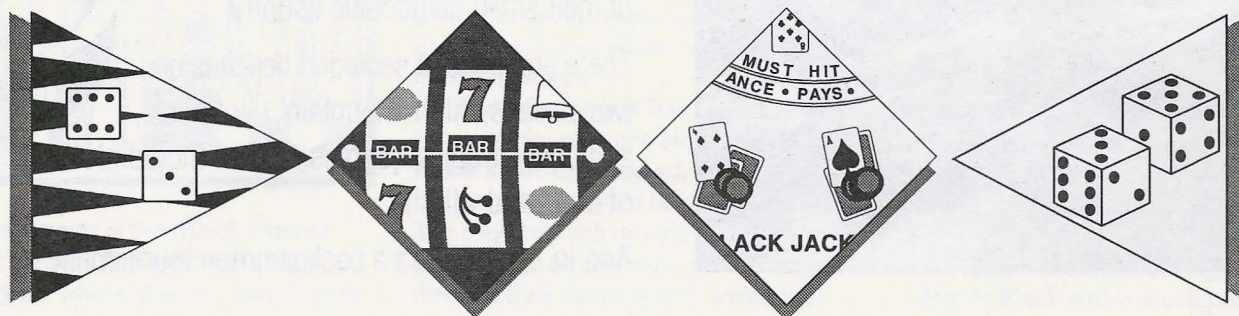
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