

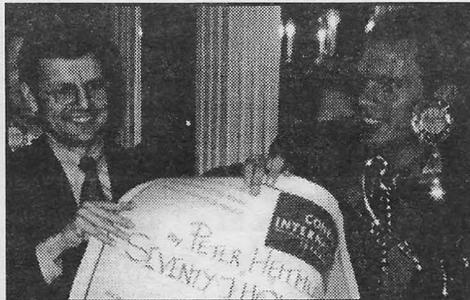
4th turkish open

HEITMÜLLER HANGS ON

Survives Late Charge From Körner to claim \$70,000

Germany's Performance is Awesome

27-year-old Peter Heitmüller of Sulzbach, Germany has been playing backgammon for only four years. Yet at the 4th Turkish Open, 16–21 January in Istanbul, Turkey, Peter played like an experienced master. His unbeatable performance over 165 players earned him the World Cup Challenge title and backgammon's biggest money prize: \$70,000.



World Cup Challenge champ Peter Heitmüller (right) accepts his \$70,000 "paycheck" from a Conrad Istanbul hotel representative. [Photo by Carol Joy Cole]

Director Abraham Eitan welcomed over 300 worldwide rollers to the Conrad International Istanbul Hotel & Casino. The lure of \$50,000 added made the field as tough as any on the planet.

In the second round, *Flint Area BackgammonNews* editor Carol Joy Cole provided Peter with his toughest challenge to reaching the finals. Trailing 11–0 to 15-points, Peter took a break, and then returned to score 15 of the next 16 points and win 15–12.

But it is the 21-point finals against fellow German countryman Matthias Körner that will be long remembered as one of the most extraordinary in the history of recorded backgammon. With Heitmüller leading 20–8 Crawford and apparently coasting to victory, Körner's dice caught fire. As Heitmüller described it, "The finals was a very tough match. I had this big lead

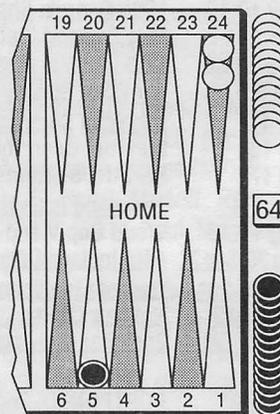
and then a half-hour later, it was 20–19."

With the battle effectively at double match-point (except for Peter's free drop capabilities), the last game would be a biggie. "We did not settle much of the money, so we actually played a 1-point match for \$22,000," Peter explained.

That's pressure, and apparently Körner, the 1995 European Backgammon News Player of the Year, felt it. He simply spaced out and forgot to double!

As the game progressed, it became obvious to closed-circuit commentators Paul Magriel and Joe Sylvester that Matthias would simply never remember to turn the cube. Finally, in the final position of the match, the dice punished his mental lapse:

21-point finals. Peter Heitmüller (white) leads Matthias Körner (Black) 20–19, post-Crawford. Black on roll. (The doubling cube is unturned!)



Körner could still have doubled and claimed a point. But he rolled and out jumped snake eyes (1-1). A painful loss for Matthias, but soothed by nearly \$40,000 in prize money. For Heitmüller, it was a monster payday and instant international backgammon fame.

GERMAN PLAYERS staged a very impressive tournament performance. The captured three of the top four Championship positions, finished 1-2 in the Intermediate division and Team tournament, and grabbed two out of three Super Jackpots. American Frank Talbot (MI) was the other Super Jackpot victor.

EITAN AND STAFF received rave reviews from the Feb. 1996 *Flint Area BackgammonNews* ("...very impressive show")

[Continued on page 4]

18th pittsburgh championships

JAFFE MAKES A NEW NAME FOR HIMSELF

Food & Fun In Pittsburgh

David Jaffe of New Jersey has won the 18th Pittsburgh Championships defeating David Wells and then Wally Watson in the finals en route to the title. Jaffe, an experienced player who went by another name prior to a few years back, won the double elimination format without a loss—a stellar performance considering the strength of the field.

The Pittsburgh Backgammon Club's mega-event drew over 150 shooters to the Greentree Marriott Hotel 16–18 February, a "modern day" record since Steve Hast has taken over the PBA reins. The tourney was one player shy of a sellout in the Open and Advanced divisions only because heavy snow in the east forced late cancellations.

Abdi Zaltash bested a tough Advanced field to capture his first regional title. Keith Jackson won the 19-player Novice title.

Dice supplier and U.S. JellyFish™ distributor Larry Strommen (IN) teamed with Bob Holyon (WI) to defeat Flint



Bob Holyon (right) watches Larry Strommen "bring it home" in the Open Doubles finals.

director Carol Joy Cole (MI) & Atlanta director Dave Cardwell in the 16-team Doubles finals. Jon Stephens (OH) and Bob

[Continued on page 5]

CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

EDITOR & PUBLISHER

Bill Davis

3940 W. Bryn Mawr Avenue 504
Chicago, IL 60659-3128

Tel: 312/583-6464 ♦ Fax: 312/583-3264

E-mail: chipoint@interaccess.com

<http://homepage.interaccess.com/~chipoint/online.html>

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Carol Joy Cole (MI) **Danny Kleinman (CA)**
Jake Jacobs (IL) **Walter Trice (MA)**
Duane Jensen (MN) **Kit Woolsey (CA)**
Neil Kazaross (IL)

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LETTERS

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WE'RE ON THE WEB

Congratulations on your beautiful homepage, "Chicago Point OnLine" on the Internet. I will visit frequently.—*Alberto da Pra, Worldwide Backgammon Fed.*
<<http://alpha.science.uninr.it/students/roberto/home.html>>

Electronic previews of CHICAGO POINT can now be found on the Internet at the URL address <<http://homepage.interaccess.com/~chipoint/online.html>>—*Ed.*

CORRECTING DUANE

I noted a small error in your last issue (No. 86). In Duane Jensen's article, "Preparing For Doubles," he states in the third paragraph on page 7 that: "The impulse to fill the gap with 4/2 . . . is incorrect. You must play 3/1 . . . Double aces play better next roll leaving the final two men on the 3- and

[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

carlcole@alumni.sils.umich.edu

* Denotes new or revised listing

American Backgammon Tour events underlined.

NATIONAL

Mar 8-10	36th Gammon Assoc. Invitational, Holiday Inn, Woodland Hills, CA	818/901-0464
Mar 10*	Milwaukee Bimonthly Tournament, John Hawks Pub, Milwaukee, WI	414/463-2498
Mar 17	New England Club Monthly, Sheraton-Commander, Cambridge, MA	617/784-6114
Mar 17*	Austin Bimonthly Tournament, Bombay Bicycle Club, Austin, TX	512/261-8518
Mar 17*	Backgammon By The Bay, San Mateo Bridge Center, San Mateo, CA	510/838-7789
Mar 17*	Northern Ohio Club Monthly Tournament, Andrew's Brew, Akron, OH	216/966-2811
Mar 21	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Mar 22-24	<u>1996 Midwest Championships, The Drake Oakbrook, Oak Brook, IL</u>	<u>312/583-6464</u>
Mar 24*	Atlanta Monthly Tournament, Scores Sports Club, Atlanta, GA	770/441-2074
Apr 1*	FIBS 1996 Spring Computer Modem Tournament, Internet E-mail: davide@sco.com	
Apr 6*	CBOB First Saturday Monthly Tournament, Clubroom, Chicago, IL	312/922-0404
Apr 6*	Midtown "Sweet 16" Invitational Tourney, Midtown Club, New York, NY	212/935-9800
Apr 13	Springfield Series #6, Parker's Sports Bar, Springfield, IL	217/483-4028
Apr 13	Spring Open Tournament, Promenade Cardroom, Bethesda, MD	301/530-0604
Apr 14*	Bar Point Club Sunday Tournament, Braxton Seafood Grill, Oak Brook, IL	312/252-7755
Apr 14	New England Club Monthly, Sheraton-Commander, Cambridge, MA	617/784-6114
Apr 17	RSCARDS Spring 1996 Computer Modem Tournament, GENie	301/294-2212
Apr 18*	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Apr 19-21	<u>Spring Gran Prix, Embassy Suites Hotel, La Jolla, CA</u>	<u>619/294-2007</u>
Apr 21*	Backgammon By The Bay, San Mateo Bridge Center, San Mateo, CA	510/838-7789
Apr 23-28	3rd Worldwide Twin Championships, Riviera Hotel, Las Vegas, NV	702/893-6025
Apr 27	Springfield Series Grand Finale, Parker's Sports Bar, Springfield, IL	217/483-4028
Apr 28*	Atlanta Monthly Tournament, Scores Sports Club, Atlanta, GA	770/441-2074
May 4*	CBOB First Saturday Monthly Tournament, Clubroom, Chicago, IL	312/922-0404
May 10-12	<u>1996 Georgia Championships & Peach Cup, Atlanta GA</u>	<u>770/441-2074</u>
May 19*	New England Club Monthly, Sheraton-Commander, Cambridge, MA	617/784-6114
May 24-27	<u>17th Chicago Open, Woodfield Hyatt Regency Hotel, Schaumburg, IL</u>	<u>708/674-0120</u>
Jun 9*	Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Braxton Seafood Grill, Oak Brook, IL	312/252-7755
Jul 4-7	<u>Michigan Summer Championships, Novi Hilton Hotel, Novi, MI</u>	<u>810/232-9731</u>
Jul 13*	Summer Open Tournament, Promenade Cardroom, Bethesda, MD	301/530-0604
Jul 17*	RSCARDS Summer 1996 Computer Modem Tournament, GENie	301/294-2212
Aug 2-4*	<u>Thousand Islands Tournament, Pine Tree Point, Alexandria Bay, NY</u>	<u>716/442-8221</u>
Aug 11-18	World Cup V and U.S. Open, Harvey's Hotel Addison, Dallas, TX	301/299-8265
Aug 30-Sep 2*	<u>44th Indiana Open, Radisson Hotel, Indianapolis, IN</u>	<u>317/255-8902</u>
Sep 27-29*	<u>Towpath Inn Tournament, Towpath Inn, Turin, NY</u>	<u>716/442-8221</u>
Oct 11-13	<u>Nation's Capital Championships, Promenade, Bethesda, MD</u>	<u>301/530-0604</u>
Nov 29-Dec 1	<u>2nd Thanksgiving Tournament, Best Western Hotel, Akron, OH</u>	<u>216/966-2811</u>

OUTSIDE USA

Mar 4-9*	POSTPONED: 2nd Kenyan Open, Casinò Malindi, Malindi, Kenya	254123-30878
Mar 9-10*	Greek Players Club Tournament, Esperia Palace Hotel, Athens, Greece	301-99 17 707
Mar 13-14*	1st European Pro-Am, Palace Hotel, Gstaad, Switzerland U.S. Fax:	305/937-0761
Mar 14-17*	Le Trophée des Alpes: 32nd Gstaad Tourney, Palace Hotel, Switzerland	4161-271 0137
Mar 15-16*	Third Hong Kong Invitational, Ladies Recreation Club, Hong Kong	852-846 1923
Mar 16-17*	1st Torneo Cortina D'Ampezzo, Hotel Lajadira, Cortina, Italy	3941-590 0769
Mar 21-24*	Le Trophée des Alpes: 22nd St. Moritz Tourney, Palace Hotel, Switzerland	4161-271 0137
Mar 28-31*	Grand Prix de Lugano, Hotel Royal Splendide, Lugano, Switzerland	4189-620 8982
Mar 30-31*	National Spring Cup, Watermill Hotel, Hemel Hempstead, England	441619-453741
Apr 5-8	8th Nordic "Wide" Open, Radisson SAS Hotel, Copenhagen, Denmark	4539-40 06 07
Apr 8-9*	Lew Hoad International BG Tournament, Mijas, Malaga, Spain	3495-247 4850
Apr 13-14	British Open, George Hotel, Solihull, England	441522-546993
Apr 20-27*	CANCELLED: Caribbean Open, Cruise tourney on Mv Zenith	4930-461 9624
May 2-5*	Düsseldorf Open, Senator Hotel, Kaarst/Düsseldorf, Germany	4921-5150 1359
May 4-5*	4th City of Rome Tournament, Bridge Club, Rome, Italy	396-320 8350
May 4-5*	National BG's London Cup, Watermill Hotel, Hemel Hempstead, England	441619-45 3741
May 9-12*	NEW DATES: 2nd EBN Tourney, Apartahotel Las Colinas, Almeria, Spain	34-50 460080
May 25-26	County Cups Trophy Tournament, George Hotel, Solihull, England	441522-546993
Jun 13-16*	Swedish Open, Globe Arena, Stockholm, Sweden	468-652 4099
Jun 25-30	2nd Backgammon Olympiad, Casinò Municipale of Venice, Italy	394-1521 1029
Jun 27-30	2nd Kaiserbrunnen Cup, Hotel am Kaiserbrunnen, Brakel, Germany	495 21-64314
Jun 29-30	Hilton Trophy Tournament, Hilton Hotel, East Midlands, England	441522-546993
Jul 2-4*	Pagano's 2nd Super Cup Villa Condulmer, Venice, Italy	394-2296 9305
Jul 8-14	Monte Carlo World Championship, Loews Monte Carlo Hotel, Monaco	3392-16 21 33
Jul 15-16	4th Nice Open Championship, Nice, France (tentative)	3393-879 436
Jul 18-21	Riviera's Cup Championship, Hotel Martinez, Cannes, France	331-4359 1080

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

4-points rather than two men on the 3-point."

In fact the final two men would be left on the 2- and 4-points.—Larry Strommen, Indianapolis, IN

Thanks Larry. We'll take responsibility for that error. Either we keyed it in incorrectly, or we failed to proof it properly.—Ed.

MORE ANAGRAMS

I read Marty Storer's anagram submittals on O. J. Simpson last month. Did you know that among your contributing editors, you have a leading problem analyst who when doubled, has always TOOK WISELY?—Ray Kershaw, London, England

DID YOUR JANUARY ENVELOPE ARRIVE EMPTY?

Issue No. 86 of the CHICAGO POINT hasn't reached me. The envelope did though. Somewhere out there is a postman

steadily improving his game. Any chance of a spare copy?

Of course we'll send you another copy, Graham. Sorry about that! We had a number of international complaints regarding open envelopes. Must be bad glue . . . or a dry tongue.

Inform us if you never received the Jan./Feb. POINT and we'll send you another issue.—Ed.

WAYS TO LOSE

I believe that I lose backgammon games in five ways and all of them are due to the dice:

1. I never get in from the bar
2. I never hit: my gun has no bullets
3. In races, I never roll any *traveling* numbers
4. I never roll any doubles in the bearoff
5. And worst of all, I roll gap after gap in the bearoff.

Is there anyone who can answer the question that I am often asked: How much of the game is luck and how much is skill?

I have heard that 36% of it is luck.—Al Faller, Pittsburgh, PA

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER

Here's my renewal. Sorry about the delay.

Hope you're well and happy. I heard that the BG On Board cruise was a lot of fun. We're all well here. It's quite interesting being a "Domestic Goddess".—Darcey Brady Wade, Mapleton, IL

VACATION BACKGAMMON

Just a short note of thanks for a great backgammon tournament on the M/S Leeward. Irina and I really enjoyed the backgammon, the company, and the excellent organization.

After talking with others, have you considered a backgammon tournament at a Club Med? Perhaps this would make for a fun location. Just a suggestion.—Jim Milner, San Francisco, CA

An interesting idea, Jim. The Chicago Bar Point Club and Cruise Consultants will look into it for 1997.—Ed. Δ



AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 1996

Compiled through 18 Feb. after Pittsburgh Championships
(Coming in March: G/A Invitational, Midwest Champs)



David Jaffe	22.68	Francois Margot	5.67	Ray Baker	3.15	Gary Fries	1.57
Harry Cohn	11.34	David Wells	5.67	Ray Bills	2.84	Wally Wolf	1.57
Wally Watson	11.34	Ray Glaeser	5.67	Jeff Kaiserman	2.84	Harold Roberson	1.19
Abdi Zaltash	11.34	Pete Ryder	3.15	Keith Jackson	2.38	Bruce Ballance	1.19
Reza Nowbar	5.67						



CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB 1996 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

COMPILED
THRU 29 FEB.

Neil Kazaross	7.64	Arline Levy	2.72	Marty Tatosian	1.52	Wendy Kaplan	0.64
Andy Krenitz	5.28	Jeff Kane	2.72	Paul Franks	1.44	Ralph Levy	0.60
Reggie Porter	5.20	Norma Shyer	2.52	Harold Seif	1.28	Ed Buerger	0.60
Paul Friedman	4.48	Mary Franks	2.16	Russell Harris	1.28	Bobbie Shifrin	0.56
Richard Lloyd	4.32	Tim Serges	2.08	Alice Kay	1.12	Tom Fahland	0.40
John Demian	4.16	Tim Mabee	2.04	Georgina Flanagan	1.04	Jerry Brooks	0.32
Leslie Lockett	3.32	Bill Keefe	2.00	Jake Jacobs	0.96	Elaine Kehm	0.32
Phyllis Smolinski	3.04	David Rubin	1.76	Don Jayhan	0.84	Roz Ferris	0.32
Peter Kalba	3.00	Amy Valerio	1.72	Sarg Serges	0.80	Richard Stawowy	0.24
Frankie Farjood	2.80	Bill Davis	1.64	John Stryker	0.72	Bob Koca	0.16
Phil Simborg	2.80	Herb Roman	1.60				

January Player of the Month was **ANDY KRENITZ** with 5.28 points. Reggie Porter (5.20) and Paul Friedman (4.48) were runner's-up.

February Player of the Month was the "Anneilator," **NEIL KAZAROSS** (5.80). Jeff Kane (WI) (2.72) and Leslie Lockett (2.44) places 2nd/3rd.

If you finish in the Top 20 for 1996 (bold names on list), you'll be entered in a drawing for over \$300 worth of valuable merchandise. The higher you finish, the better your winning chances. Individual awards: 1st—Trophy + \$150, 2nd—\$100, 3rd—\$50. 1st through 20th—one ounce solid silver coin. 1st through 6th—Invitation to participate on the Chicago Bar Point Club team in the 1997 Illinois State Challenge Cup.

Swiss Backgammon
Group official
website

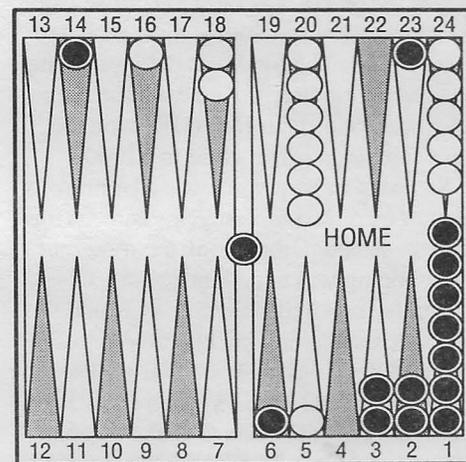
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Raffaello Gatti
rgatti@fivenet.ch

your move

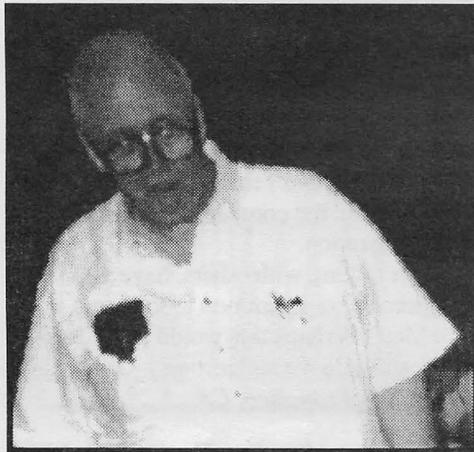
PROBLEM #222

Match to 7 points. White leads Black, 6 to 4 (Crawford). **BLACK TO PLAY 2-2.**



HAROLD BRANCH DIES WHILE PLAYING BACKGAMMON

Harold Branch, Louisville Gammon Gazette newsletter editor and contributing editor to CHICAGO POINT since December 1990, died suddenly in Louisville, KY on 30 January. He was 71 years old.



Harold Branch: 1924-1996

According to former Louisville Backgammon Club director Larry Strasberg, Harold was playing backgammon with Durb Oldham Saturday afternoon, 27 January. When he made a very incorrect move, Durb asked him if he knew what he

had done. Harold never answered and just keeled over unconscious. He was rushed to the hospital where he was diagnosed as having a massive cerebral hemorrhage with no chance of recovery. Branch never regained consciousness.

Strasberg said, "We [in Louisville] are all in deep shock here, having lost a dear friend and a fine man. Backgammon here will not be the same without him."

Born in the Chicagoland area in 1924, Branch, a veteran of World War II, lived in various parts of the country before eventually settling in Louisville in the early 1960s. He worked as a commodities broker for Clayton Brokerage, but his real passion was backgammon. According to his daughter Mary Branch Atcher, Harold played for over 20 years. He is survived by brother Charles, daughter Mary, sons Raymond and Thomas, and seven grandchildren.

Branch's analyses all had one common theme: rollouts by hand to determine a solution. Although unable to match the technical expertise of a Kit Woolsey or a Bill Robertie, Harold's "down-home" style was always entertaining and enlightening.

His last problem analysis from the January *Louisville Gammon Gazette* is printed on page 6. Then go to page 7 for Duane Jensen's tribute to Harold Branch, "Let Me Roll It Out For You." Δ

HEITMÜLLER...

[Continued from page 1]

and *European Backgammon News* ("...exceptional job"). High praise was given to casino manager Jim Geddes and the Conrad Istanbul Hotel as well. Every indication is that this event will be back in 1997, bigger and better than ever. Complete results Δ:

4TH TURKISH OPEN/ WORLD CUP CHALLENGE

CHAMPIONSHIP (165): 1-Peter Heitmüller (GER), 2-Matthias Körner (GER), 3/4-Harald Johanni (GER) / Mika Johnsson (FIN); 1C-Dov Fichmann (ISR), 2C-Engin Öngel (TUR), 3C/4C-Steve Nelson (HK) / Tapio Palmroth (FIN); 1LC-Odis Chenault (US), 2LC-Johannes Levermann (GER); LADIES PRIZE: Carol Joy Cole (US). INTERMEDIATE (56): 1-Christian Liebe-Harcort (GER), 2-Dirk Schelhove (GER), 3/4-Fred Dardashti / Haydar Urugoglu (TUR); 1C-Bob Ebbeler (US), 2C-Klaus Kalkhorst (GER), 3C/4C-Dalreh Caregözyan (ARM) / Detlev Uter (GER); 1LC-Marienne Petersen (GER), 2LC-George Devlin (SWIZ); LADIES PRIZE: Talmar Hkinkiladze (GEO). BEGINNER (67): 1-Giora Goldreich (ISR), 2-Mark Werner (GER), 3/4-Levoh Kamalyan (ARM) / Gayle Wolf (US); 1C-Nadim Yardimnci (TUR), 2C-Dami Plesec (SLOV), 3C/4C-Andreas Schmitt (GER) / Katja Sommaro (GER); 1LC-Basri Varli (TUR), 2LC-Ruben Martizosyan (ARM); LADIES PRIZE: Josephine Baker (US). SUPERJACKPOT #1 (64): 1-Frank Talbot (US), 2-Alan Steffen (US); #2 (32): 1-Phillip Marmorstein (GER), 2-Michael Meyburg (GER); #3 (32): 1-Walter Busato (GER), 2-Ralf Jonas (GER). KICK-OFF: 1-Ricardo Spinola (BRAZ), 2-Dag Ekmark (NOR), 3/4-Malcolm Davis (US) / Mika Lidov (US). TEAM TOURNAMENT (39): 1-"Snake Eyes" (GER): S. Bohr / W. Scherer / D. Siegfried, 2-"No Work Team" (GER): G. Cross / C. Joh / M. Pauen.

backgammon on board III

NCL's LEEWARD IS A 'FUN SHIP' FOR GENUD & PRATT

Good Times On The High Seas

Backgammon On Board III, directed by Chicago Bar Point Club (Bill Davis, Peter Kalba, Amy Valerio) and coordinated by the Cruise Consultants sailed 19-22 Jan. from Miami to Key West to Great Stirrup Cay. All agreed it was a vacation to remember.

Nearly 50 people, 35 of them BG players enjoyed the NCL's new Leeward cruise ship. The rooms were spacious—most included sitting rooms. The food was delicious. The shows were top notch. And even the bingo parlor was kind: Jean Hatt (UK) won the ship's top bingo prize: close to \$1000.

Saturday in Key West was adventurous. Some of us rented motorcycles and "terrorized" the island. Others took the train tour. The shopping was excellent.

Sunday on Great Stirrup Cay island, there was snorkeling, backgammon, lots of sun, and a delicious cookout. Marta Hilworth captained the "BG Bashers" team (Bill Davis, Kelvin Downey, Oksana Gribakova, John Jennings and Greg Tomlin) in the *Island*

Olympics madness. We navigated hula hoops and balloons well enough to take second.

In the tournament, former world champion **Lee Genud** (FL) defeated **Donald Hatt** (UK) to take the Championship title. And American BG Club (TX) director **Kati Pratt** won a \$500 bill in the Captain's tourney (all 1-pt. matches) by defeating Central Illinois Club director **Linda Woods**.

The next time a Backgammon On Board tournament is offered, don't miss it! Δ



Lee Genud is presented the Championship trophy from Backgammon On Board director Bill Davis.



Kati Pratt receives the Captain's Trophy and a \$500 bill from Captain Ragnar Nilsen aboard the M/S Leeward.

CHALLENGE CUP TO BAR POINT CLUB

After a five-year hiatus, the Illinois State Challenge Cup has returned to Chicago Bar Point Club possession. The CBPC edged out the Central Illinois (Peoria) club by only one victory to capture the massive trophy. Pub Club, the defending champions, finished third.



Winning Chicago Bar Point Club members pose around the Challenge Cup. From left: Herb Roman, Tim Mabee, Harry Cohn, Tak Morioka, and Neil Kazaross. Missing from the picture: John Demian. [Photo courtesy of Peaches Stewart.]

The 16th Illinois State Club Championships was held 25 February at Cricket's Pub and Grill in Glendale Heights, IL. Seven active Illinois backgammon clubs (the most of any state in the nation) fielded teams made up of the top club point-getters for 1995. New this year was J. A. Miller's squad, "Games People Play."

Pub Club director and tournament host Val Zimmnicki opened the event with some nice words about Challenge Cup founder (and former Pub Club director) Jeff Henry who graciously donated additional plaques to the Cup. The massive trophy will now accommodate winning teams through the year 2008!

Central Illinois (CIBC) jumped of to a quick lead with nine victories after two rounds. But the Bar Point Club and Pub Club kept pace throughout the contest. After five rounds with only one round remaining, The score was BPC-20, Pub Club-20, CIBC-19.

The final round saw BPC gather four wins, just enough to edge CIBC by one victory, 24 to 23. Special recognition must be paid to Bar Pointers Harry Cohn and Tim Mabee who each won all six matches. Pub Clubber Kurt Schurecht also had a perfect record. Complete results at right. Δ

16th ILLINOIS STATE CHALLENGE CUP

- (1) CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB (24-12): Neil Kazaross (5-1), Harry Cohn (6-0), Tak Morioka (4-2), John Demian (1-5), Herb Roman (2-4), Tim Mabee (6-0).
- (2) CENTRAL ILLINOIS BG CLUB (23-13): Milad Doueichi (4-2), Cliff Mayoh (3-3), Fouad Malouf (4-2), Dick Nelson (3-3), Ed Zell (5-1), Linda Woods (4-2).
- (3) PUB CLUB (21-15): Val Zimmnicki (2-4), Kurt Schurecht (6-0), Tom Fahland (4-2), Mark Murray (3-3), Andy Bittman (2-4), Ed Bauder (4-2).
- (4) GAMES PEOPLE PLAY (16-20): J.A. Miller (5-1), Phil Barrett (2-4), Femi Owiku (2-4), Reggie Porter (3-3), Peaches Stewart (2-4), Elijah Miller (2-4).
- (5) BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL BG CLUB (15-21): Jim Zimmerman (2-4), Randy Reiff (3-3), William Hutchison (3-3), Mike Flohr (4-2), Gary Daniels (2-4), Don Schiller (1-5).
- (6) WINNETKA BACKGAMMON CLUB (14-22): Paul Friedman (0-6), Ed Buerger (1-5), Jay Ward (4-2), Trudie Stern (4-2), Neil Banoff (3-3), Barbara Levinson (2-4).
- (7) SANGAMON VALLEY BG ASSN. (13-23): Larry Whittenburg (2-4), Greg Tomlin (1-5), Bill Davis (1-5), Jeff Anderson (0-6), Randy Peterson (5-1), John Jennings (4-2)

PITTSBURGH...

[Continued from page 1]

Glass (CA) were Masters Jackpot victors. Maurice Barie (MI) defeated Peter Kalba (IL) to grab the Amateur Jackpot.

For the third straight year, the tournament was the kickoff event for annual American Backgammon Tour and played host to the 1995 ABT Awards Ceremony. Joe Russell (CA), Doug Roberts (MA) and Abbas Zaltash (PA) were honored for their 1-2-3 finish.



1995 ABT champs honored in Pittsburgh. From left: #2-Doug Roberts (MA), #1-Joe Russell (CA), #3-Abbas Zaltash (PA).

The event was (as usual) great fun with a feast of food throughout the weekend. A \$15 hospitality fee entitled players to unlimited coffee, soft drinks, snack food, bagels, donuts, pizza and submarine sandwiches, the latter two supplied by the Zaltash brothers' restaurant. Next year, we predict a sure sellout for the Pittsburgh Championships, regardless of the weather. Complete results Δ:

18TH PITTSBURGH CHAMPIONSHIPS

OPEN (63): 1-David Jaffe, 2-Wally Watson, 3-David Wells; 1C-Harry Cohn, 2C-Ray Glaeser, 3C/4C-Pete Ryder / Ray Baker. ADVANCED (63): 1-Abdi Zaltash, 2-Reza Nowbar, 3-Ray Bills; 1C-Francois Margot, 2C-Jeff Kaiserman, 3C/4C-Gary Fries / Wally Wolf. NOVICE (19): 1-Keith Jackson, 2-Harold Roberson; 1C-Bruce Ballance. MASTER'S JACKPOTS-#1 (16): 1-Jon Stephens, 2-Fred Kalantari. #2 (15): 1-Bob Glass, 2-Elliott Winslow. AMATEUR JACKPOTS-#1 (16): 1-Maurice Barie, 2-Peter Kalba. #2 (4): 1-Alex Perry. OPEN DOUBLES (16): 1-Bob Holyon & Larry Strommen, 2-Carol Joy Cole & Dave Cardwell. LIMITED DOUBLES (4): 1-Phil Ritt & Jerry Brown. MICROBLITZ-#1: 1/2 (64)-Renée Rosenbloom / Jim Hickey. #2 (64): 1-John O'Hagan. QUICK BLITZ (16): 1-Jeremy Bagai.



ILLINOIS ACTION



Bill Davis
312/583-6464
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 (312/734-9430).

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

SANGAMON VALLEY BG ASSN: Tourn. Wednesday, 6:00 P.M. at Brewhaus, 617 E. Washington, Springfield. Ben Zemaitis (217/483-4028).

WINNETKA BG CLUB: Tournaments Wednesday, 7:00 P.M. at 620 Lincoln, Winnetka. Trudie Stern (847/446-0537).

CENTRAL ILL. BG CLUB: Tourn. Thurs., 6:30 P.M. at Uncle Bill's Smokehouse, 7929 N. Knoxville Ave., Peoria. Linda Woods (309/686-6662).

CHICAGO BOARD OF BACKGAMMON: Daily except Sun., 12:00 to 9:00 P.M. Tourn. 1st Sat., 12:00 at 175 W. Jackson (Suite 1103), Chicago. Dean Muench (312/922-0404).

NORTH CLUB: Daily except Sunday, 1:00 P.M. at 4747 W. Peterson (Suite 2), Chicago. Greg Defotis (312/286-6719).

HAROLD'S VIEW

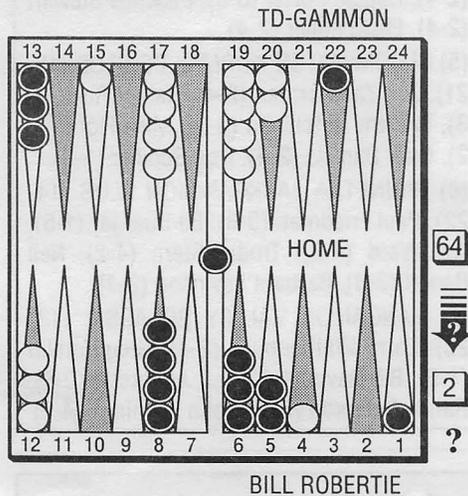


by Harold Branch

BUT IS IT A DROP?

In Bill Robertie's book, "Man versus Machine," Bill records his games against TD-Gammon. Page 9. The program is White:

Bill Robertie (Black) vs. TD-Gammon (White). White doubles. **SHOULD BLACK TAKE?**



TD-Gammon doubled. Bill accepted—and lost. He charged himself with a cube

error, saying that it was, in fact, a drop.

Bill makes a strong case. White's racing lead is 136 to 147 (counting 25 pips for Black's man on the bar). The key, he says, is that White has only one blot on an advanced inside point poised to escape. And he says that escaping that blot is big.

I was almost totally persuaded. A drop. But by about how much? Frank Frigo contributed the Analyzer's opinion from his JellyFish™ program. Black's equity after taking shows a negative 0.60, which would make it a drop with the cube on one. I understand positions better after I work with them. To see where the "truth" would lead, I started rolling. Random rolls. 200 samples. Bunches of 50. [See Set #1 Results below.]

On average, White wins more points when Black drops (200 vs. 16)? What is this!? Am I missing something? Is it a take? Was I aggressive enough with White? Let's do it again. 200 more. [See Set #2 Results.]

So it looks to me like Bill's first battling instinct to take is correct. We all notice how spooky things happen in this addictive game of ours.

How did I play White's initial rolls? (Beautifully!) Probably about as you would expect. Probably not bad enough or erratic enough to seriously effect the results. I broke the moves up into four groups:

Point-outs

- 5-5 = 8/3 (2), 6/1 (2)
- 5-3 = 8/3. 6/3
- 3-3 = 6/3 (2), 10/7, 8/5

Hit and Bring

- 6-6 = hit, 13/7
- 3-1 = hit, 10/9
- 6-3 = hit, 13/7
- 5-4 = hit, 13/9
- 5-2 = hit, 13/11
- 4-3 = hit, 13/9
- 3-2 = hit, 13/11

Positional

- 4-2 = 8/4, 6/4
- 6-4 = 10/4, 8/4
- 6-2 = 10/4, 6/4
- 4-4 = 8/4 (2), 6/2 (2)
- *6-1 = 13/7. 8/7
- 1-1 = 8/7 (2), 10/9, 6/5
- *4-1 = 13/9, 10/9
- 6/5 = run
- 2-2 = 6/4 (2), 13/9

Note: The asterisk (*) means I was not really consistent. Sometimes this, sometimes that.

Loose Hit

- 2-1 = hit
- 5-1 = hit

I seemed to press the attack a little faster in the second group.

I did my best. The second group suggests that in some of the difficult plays, the positional approach is a little better for White than a headlong attacking approach.

We sort of knew that, didn't we? Δ

SET #1 RESULTS. (Four trials of 50 games each)

Trial #	White Plain Wins	White Gammons	Black Plain Wins	Black Gammons	Net White Points Won When Black Takes
1	20	11	19	0	46<50
2	16	12	19	3	30<50
3	24	12	14	0	68>50
4	27	3	18	2	22<50
					166<200
					0.83<1.00

SET #2 RESULTS. (Four trials of 50 games each)

Trial #	White Plain Wins	White Gammons	Black Plain Wins	Black Gammons	Net White Points Won When Black Takes
1	14	13	22	1	32<50
2	26	6	16	2	36<50
3	19	11	19	1	40<50
4	12	14	21	3	26<50
					134<200
					0.67<1.00

\$1,000.00 REWARD

To the first person to demonstrate a significant mathematical error which would invalidate the claim of

DOUBLE ... now?

The path to scientific backgammon.

\$20 in U.S.; \$26 overseas
(Price includes shipping & handling)

For more information on collecting the reward or to order the book, contact:



James Lortz
111 N. Church Street
Salmon, ID 83467
Tel.: 208/756-4010

"Let Me Roll It Out For You"

A Tribute to Harold Branch

by Duane Jensen

Harold Branch was a gentleman. He was pleasant to everyone. Harold was enthusiastic, upbeat, humble, and often self-effacing. I think these characteristics are admirable in anyone but rarely found as a collection in a backgammon player. Harold's death is a loss to those who knew him and to those who never got to meet him.

The following article is dedicated to his memory.—Duane Jensen

Years ago before electronic calculators and computers, mathematical calculation was a tedious ordeal done with pencil and paper. This difficulty did not prevent some patient individuals from spending years calculating tables of prime numbers or determining pi to many decimal places. In *Recreations in the Theory of Numbers*, Albert Beiler addresses these persistent calculators:

"There is something sublime in . . . these efforts, expended for their own sake, unsullied by all lucrative hope or desire . . . Contemplating such efforts within the frame of a world troubled by war and ceaseless unrest, it seems that the men who spent so large a part of their lives in this kind of work, must have found the secret to inner peace and happiness that all men crave but that no exigent clamorer for worldly goods can ever attain."

Backgammon has its counterparts to these stoic calculators from years past. Some players enjoy rolling out positions again and again to determine the correct checker play or cube decision. The motivation for such tireless effort is not financial reward. Perhaps they've found the "secret of inner peace" Beiler wrote about.

Recently, many players have been using the JellyFish™ computer program to "roll out" backgammon positions. Computers may relieve some of the tedium of rolling out positions, but it won't stop the die-hards from spending hours and days rolling out positions for themselves. No computer solution to a backgammon problem would satisfy a player possessed by the backgammon demon. He must roll it out for himself.

Backgammon has an addictive quality which lures and holds many of us. The camaraderie and bickering in a chouette, the tension and adrenaline rush in a close tournament match, the miracle finish, the unjust loss, the colorful boards, the sounds of rattling dice and clacking checkers all nourish the compulsive backgammon addict.

For these backgammon fanatics who roll out positions, the quest for the solution is more satisfying than the solution itself. Δ

1995 CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB WINNERS

Chicago Bar Point Club honored its Top 20 players for 1995 at Awards Night on 16 Jan. Thanks to BPC co-directors Peter Kalba and Amy Valerio, the Leberis family for providing us with playing facilities at the Golden Flame, and to our faithful hostess Rose Gecht for another great year.



From left: Harry Cohn-2nd, Neil Kazaross-1st, Tak Morioka-3rd.



Front: J. Feinstein, M. Franks, A. Kay, P. Simborg. Middle: E. Buerger, H. Roman, R. Lloyd, J. Jacobs, D. Jayhan. Back: J. Demian, P. Klein, T. Mabee, D. Rubin, R. Porter.

AMALGAMATION

Fredrik Dahl's masterpiece JellyFish™ 2.0 is now available in three variations: Player (\$50), Tutor (\$110), and Analyzer (\$250). Upgrades from 1.x to 2.0 are substantially discounted. For details on ordering, call **Larry Strommen** (IN) 317/545-0224 or **Carol Joy Cole** (MI) 810/232-9731... Read our new rights and permissions notice in the CHICAGO POINT masthead on page 2... Condolences to the family of **Agop Tokat** (IL) who passed away 24 Jan. Agop was Winnetka BG Club's 1995 runner-up Player of the Year... Winnetka (IL) director **Trudie Stern** informs us that due to a rent increase, the WBC Wed. night entry fee is now \$10...

Ed and Lisa Zell (IL)

are beaming about their 3-year-old daughter **Clare** who on 9 Feb., sang the American and Canadian national anthems at the Peoria rivermen IHL hockey game... As **Yamin**



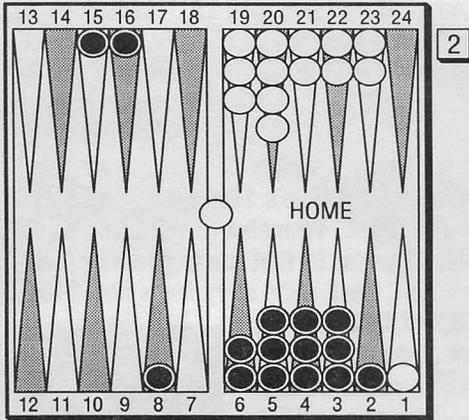
Clare Zell singing the anthem

Yamin promotes his new game, "Chicago Wheelers," he continues to get a lot of media exposure. On 7 Feb., the *News-Sun* (IL) ran a half page article about him with color photos... The new Southwest Florida BG Assoc. meets Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. in Bonita Springs FL. For more information, contact **Daniel Gourvil** at 941/992-3412... On 15 Jan., **Rick Todd** (MI), a carpenter by trade, fell 30 feet off a roof and broke 100s of bones. Doctors estimate it will be six months before he can walk. But he's already played a few backgammon games! Get well, Rick... Congratulations to **Nora Luna** (MA) who is now certified to do court translation work, English to Spanish... Sweden's 1995 Player of the Year was **Ulf Ring**... Great news for **Cinda King** (IL) who recently became a grandmother!... Condolences on the passing of Midwest Champs staffer **Dru Heggen's** (IL) mother who died 27 Jan.... **Dean Muench** says that effective 2 March, CBOB will hold their \$250 added events (with brunch) first Saturday monthly... Make note of Hoosier BG Club directors **Butch and Mary Ann Meese's** new address and phone: 1008 Tuckahoe Street, Indianapolis, IN 46260-2215. The new HBC Hotline is: 317/255-8902... Also, Peter Kalba <pappyx@concentric.net> and Carol Joy Cole <carlcole@alumni.sils.umich.edu> have new e-mail addresses... Finally, from **F. Scott Fitzgerald**: "Never confuse a single defeat with a final defeat." Δ

PROBLEM #221 SOLVED

by Neil Kazaross

Match to 7 points. White leads Black, 3 to 0. **BLACK TO PLAY 6-2.**



This 6-2 roll presents Black with many possible plays. However, there really are only two decisions to be made: one tactical, and the other technical.

The tactical decision is obviously the first decision here. Should Black make the big play and hit loose with 8/2, 3/1? Assuming Black chooses not to hit loose, he must make the second, and relatively minor technical decision of which non-hitting play to make.

This problem occurred during a local doubles tournament where the Black team felt it was too risky to hit loose vs. White's strong five point board. They seriously wondered whether hitting was even a consideration. However, most of the strong players at the Chicago Bar Point Club felt (some rather emphatically) that Black should send a second White checker to the bar. I sided with the minority citing the danger of the loose hit.

Obviously, this looked like a great candidate to be "solved" by JellyFish™ rollouts (assuming JF could play it correctly and consistently). I checked a few positions and saw that if the safe non-hitting play was made this turn, Jelly would not hit loose in following turns. Then I confidently fed a non-hitting play vs. the "big play" into JF for a few thousand game rollout. The results were clear: Black should not hit loose here.

Both Black's cubeless equity and money game equity with White holding the cube were about 0.1 point higher after not hitting loose. "Hey, wait a minute. This is a match," you might say. Yes, it is, but that shouldn't have much bearing on this play

since it is only slightly more important for Black to win a gammon at this score than for money. It is also slightly more important vs. money play for Black to avoid getting gammoned and loosing the match with no overage to White.

I also considered cubeless results since White often won't have effective recubes at this score since Black's take point is 16% and some of White's wins will be gammons. In comparing the results of 8/2, 16/14 vs. the loose hit over a subsequent 25,920 game rollout, the loose hit wins 6.9% more gammons but loses 6.3% more total games of which 4.0% were match-ending gammon losses. Only at a score like 5-6 Crawford to 7, would Black be able to gain a bit of match equity by hitting loose.

This problem shows the enormous benefits of a having a strong computer program to do rollouts. This type of problem has occurred for as long as we have played backgammon. Apparently, the majority of expert opinion has been wrong.

Indeed, I believe the rollout. It is too dangerous to hit loose here. White has a very strong five point board. If she hits and subsequently enters her other checker before Black can enter and counter-attack, she'll still have 13 spare pips to play before crashing. Over the board, the only way to decide whether to hit or play safe is from experience, judgment, or remembering a rollout result. Let's assume we chose to play safe at the board. Before examining more JF rollouts, let's try to select our safe play from many plausible alternatives:

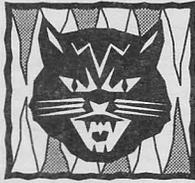
- A. **8/2, 15/13.** Bears directly on the bar if White throws 6-1, but leaves a shot on 6-6 no matter what White throws. Gains 4-4 as closeout number.
- B. **8/2, 16/14.** No blot on 6-6, but no added closeout numbers and no direct shot at bar.
- C. **8/2, 4/2.** No blot on 6-6. Gains 11 as closeout number, but places spare checker deep in board which slows bearoff slightly and results in a bit more shot-leaving chances in bearoff.
- D. **8/2, 5/3.** No blot on 6-6, but only two builders for ace point. Seems clearly worse than plays A, B and C. Do not roll out.
- E. **4/2, 15/9.** No blot on 6-6. Double coverage for bar point but only two builders for close out.
- F. **4/2, 16/10.** No blot on 6-6. Double coverage for bar point but only two builders for close out. Like E, this is probably slightly inferior to A, B, and maybe C.

Logically, it looks like a close choice between A and B. Now let's look at the JellyFish™ rollout results of 25,920 games for all plays and an additional 25,920 games (51,840 total) for A and B:

Play	Cubeless Eqty	Eqty w/Cube
HIT 8/2, 3/1*	0.955	0.916
A. 8/2, 15/13	1.047	1.014
B. 8/2, 16/14	1.053	1.020
C. 8/2, 4/2	1.023	0.986
D. 8/2, 5/3	<i>(Not rolled out. Inferior.)</i>	
E. 4/2, 15/9	1.014	0.978
F. 4/2, 16/10	1.027	0.992

Well it looks like the nod goes to play B, 8/2, 16/14, avoiding the admittedly unlikely problems of 6-6. However, the result is very close and the standard deviation is 0.004 for a 51,840 game rollout. Admittedly, there could be some slight playing errors to affect the results. However, one thing is clear . . . *Don't hit loose!* Δ

BLACK CAT



LAST MEOW!

For more Information:
Bill Davis
312/583-6464

1996 Midwest Championships
22-24 March 1996
The Drake Oakbrook (IL) Hotel

Chicago Bar Point Club
1000-to-1 Club

<u>Name</u>	<u>Wins in a Row</u>	<u>Date Completed</u>
David Rubin	11	1 Feb 94
Neil Kazaross	10	8 Feb 94
Phil Simborg	11	5 Apr 94
Frankie Farjood	11	25 Apr 95
Harry Cohn	11	9 May 95
Neil Kazaross	10	19 Sep 95
Neil Kazaross	11	12 Dec 95

The named players listed above have won at least 10 matches in a row in Chicago Bar Point Club competition and have earned an engraved doubling cube to honor their achievement.

WINNER'S CORNER



Jan.-Mar. 1996

•**Pattaya Club New Year's Tournament** (Thailand; 1 Jan)... OPEN (19): 1-Theo Swiatkowski (GER), 2-Glen Gill (UK), 3/4-Khun Kim / Hans Kramer; 1C-Berno Pasternak (GER), 2C-Börje Sundbom (SWE)... *Results submitted by Pattaya Club director Goran Hasselquist via Jake Jacobs.*

•**Hong Kong Monthly** (Hong Kong; 6 Jan.)... OPEN: 1-Gregg Westrick, 2-Shep Rogers; 1C/2C-André Hoffman / Robin Swaffield. CHAMPIONSHIP: 1-Lesley McFarlane, 2-Pearl Liu; 1C-Peter Wong, 2C-Tim Frank.

•**Pattaya Club Monthly Tournament** (Thailand; Jan.)... OPEN (24): 1-Berno Schmube, 2-Vichai Kwatra, 3/4-Peter Schneider (AUSTRIA) / Werner Mühlmeil (GER); 1C-Khun Kim, 2C-F. Fabrice (FRA).

•**Mary Rose Trophy** (Portsmouth, England; 6-7 Jan.)... OPEN (87): 1-Paul Money, 2-Simon K. Jones, 3/4-Simon Osborne / Phillip Ward-Ackland; 1C-Chris Bray, 2C-Martin Barkwill; 1LC-Rod Jones, 2LC-Alison Jones. SUICIDE! (59): 1-Tony Lee, 2-Dave Raynsford, 3/4-Nick Check / John Thomas.

•**Lasseter's Casino Round Robin Championships** (Alice Springs, S. Australia; 13-20 Jan.)... OPEN (20): 1-Bill Toubakaris, 2-Ian Chapman, 3-Ian Dunstan, 4-Gordon Neilson, 5-Sean Johnston.

•**Milwaukee Sunday Bimonthly** (Milwaukee, WI; 14 Jan.)... OPEN (8): 1/2-Bobbie Shifrin (IL) / Rosalyn Ferris (IL); 1C-Bruce Russell.

•**NEBC Sunday Monthly** (Cambridge, MA; 14 Jan.)... EXPERT (24): 1-Tom Costigan, 2-Walter Trice, 3/4-Andy Latto / Rich Sweetman; 1C-Evan Diamond, 2C-Roy Friedman. A DIV. (7): 1-Joe Moore, 2-Ming Lee, 1C-Zita Samuels. B DIV. (4): 1-Al Mason, 2-Tony D'Elia.

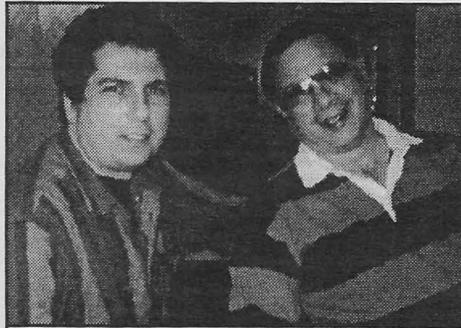
•**RSCARDS Winter 1996 Tournament:** (GEnie computer service, 17 Jan.)... OPEN (7): 1-Sтивен Pleva (CT), 2-Greg Tomlin (IL)

•**Backgammon On Board Warm-Up** (Miami Beach, FL; 18 Jan.)... OPEN (13): 1/2-Lenny Dove / Bob Paris; 1C/2C-Peter Kalba / Mervin Berger. LIMITED (11): 1-Gail Latter, 2-William Wilner; 1C-Elaine Kehm, 2C-Rick Cutler.

•**Atlanta Backgammon Assn. Monthly** (Atlanta, GA; 21 Jan.)... MASTERS: 1-Jim Hickey, 2-Rick Bieniak. OPEN: 1-Alan Epstein, 2-Dave Cardwell.

•**8th Annual Hawthorne Classic** (Cicero, IL; 27 Jan.)... OPEN (15): 1-Andy Krenitz, 2-Mary Franks, 3/4-Tom Fahland / Tim Mabee; 1C-Wendy Kaplan, 2C-Herb Roman. INTERMEDIATE (16): 1-Paul Friedman, 2-Elaine Kehm, 3/4-Reggie Porter / Amy Valerio; 1C-Roz Ferris,

2C-Arline Levy... *After the tournament, 16 participants went to Chicago's Greek Town for a great meal. Thanks again to Caryl Meadows and Hawthorne Race Course for providing the playing facilities.*



Hawthorne victors (from left): Andy Krenitz (Open) and Paul Friedman (Int.)

•**Greek Players Club Tournament** (Athens, Greece; 27-28 Jan.)... OPEN: 1-Thanoopoulos Pavios, 2-Meimaris Theodoros; 1C-Valianos Yannis, 2C-G. Papaioannou.

•**Paradise Island/Atlantis Pro-Am** (Paradise Island, Bahamas; 1-4 Feb.)... PRO-AM DOUBLES (21 teams): 1-James Colen (NY) & Joe Thomas Ingargiola (NV), 2-Phillip Marmorstein (GER) & Ron Rubin (FL), 3/4-Tony Goble (NY) & Tommy Valenti (FL) / Chip Reese (NV) & Mike Svobodny (CA). \$4000 JACKPOT (8): 1-Harry Madoff (NY), 2-Nick Ballard (CA). SATELLITE DOUBLES (8): 1-Perry Gartner (NJ) & Wilcox Snellings (NV), 2-Jason Lester (NY) & Harry Madoff (NY). \$5000 SUPER JACKPOT (8): 1-Paul Magriel (NY), 2-Ron Rubin (FL).

•**Midtown "Sweet 16" Invitational** (New York, NY; 3 Feb.)... OPEN (16): 1/2-Bob Bishop / Elliott Winslow. OVERFLOW (8): 1-Chuck Papazian, 2-Charles Sedge... *Dr. Bob Hill reports a very successful grand opening bash for his new backgammon club.*

•**Springfield Series #4** (Peoria, IL; 3 Feb.)... OPEN (21): 1-Carl Severino, 2-Greg Tomlin; 1C-Mike Flohr, 2C-Randy Peterson; 1LC-Milad Doueihy.

•**Jarvis Trophy Tournament** (Solihull, England; 10-11 Feb.)... OPEN (122): 1-Paul Lamford, 2-Neil Clarke, 3-Simon Baker, 4-Geoff Oliver, 5-Ray Pelly, 6-Brendan Burgess, 7-Stephen Turner, 8-Richard Granville... *Michael Crane reports on a wonderful turnout of 122 players. The only negative: thieves stole 12 bottled of wine earmarked for the winners. But member Tim Cross came to the rescue, replacing all 12 bottles at his own expense.*

•**Bar Point Doubles Tourney** (Oak Brook, IL; 11 Feb.)... OPEN (20): 1-Neil Kazaross & Leslie Lockett, 2-Jeff Kane & Sarg Serges, 3/4-Paul Franks & Phyllis Smolinski / David Rubin & Bobbie Shifrin; 1C/2C-Ed Buerger & Ralph Levy / Peter Kalba & Amy Valerio.

•**Backgammon by the Bay Grand Opening** (San Mateo, CA; 18 Feb.)... OPEN (22): 1-Dave Simpson, 2-Larry Mohr, 3/4-Vlad Dobritch / Patti Beadles; 1C-Nick Ballard, 2C-Sally Woolsey. INTERMEDIATE (14): 1-Brad Lewis, 2-Tom Henson, 3/4-Jeremy Silman / Marv Porten; 1C-Curtis Lucas, 2C-Linda Landre. BEGINNER (9): 1-Glen Lipska, 2-Steve Rubin; 1C-Stan Bromberg... *Retrieving long-forgotten backgammon boards from cobweb-covered closet corners, and prying themselves from their pc's, 45 Bay Area gamesfolks (at least 21 of them FIBS vets) ventured to a very pleasant venue for the premiere Backgammon by the Bay tournament. The inferior comparison of Famous Amos cookies to Joan's brownies were the only bumps in an enjoyable outing for all of those in attendance. Our thanks for making it so. [Reported by director Joan Clark]*

•**10th Cannes International Festival of Games** (Cannes, France; 22-25 Feb.)... OPEN: 1-Herve Pietraru (FRA)... *Reported by Raf Gatti*

•**Springfield Series #5** (Springfield, IL; 2 Mar.)... OPEN (17): 1-John Jennings, 2-Greg Tomlin; 1C-Ben Zemaitis, 2C-Milad Doueihy; 1LC-Ed Zell.

•**CBOB First Saturday Monthly** (Chicago, IL; 2 Mar.)... OPEN (18 including reentries): 1/2-Dean Muench / Yamin Yamin. Δ

CHICAGOLAND BACKGAMMON ALL-TIME TOP 25

Feb. 1975-Dec. 31, 1995

(1764 players have earned points)

Players who would like their individual rating may call Bill Davis at 312/583-6464

1.	Tak Morioka	509.46
2.	Howard Markowitz	467.01
3.	Bill Davis	376.31
4.	Yamin Yamin	354.80
5.	Bobbie Shifrin	263.63
6.	Don Desmond	260.97
7.	Chris Stanford	244.88
8.	Joann Feinstein	223.71
9.	Ed Bauder	220.06
10.	Sarg Serges	217.39
11.	Dave Cramer	199.95
12.	Randy Cone	199.94
13.	Harry Cohn	199.78
14.	Deeb Shalati	190.82
15.	Jake Jacobs	186.40
16.	John Demian	185.41
17.	Earl Risch	183.26
18.	Kent Maynard	177.97
19.	Stu Katz	177.08
20.	Gene Chait	170.14
21.	Barry Epstein	169.74
22.	Gary Kay	166.28
23.	Phil Martorelli	163.47
24.	Phyllis Smolinski	163.15
25.	Peter Kalba	162.50

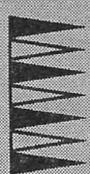
Grand Prix de Lugano



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Backgammon
Tournament
March 1996
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The Swiss Backgammon Group

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e-mail: backgammon@fivenet.ch

<http://www.fivenet.ch/backgammon>



GRAND HOTEL EDEN
LUGANO

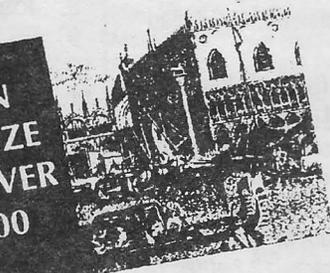
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25/20 June 1996, Casinò Municipale, Venice Lido

THE 2ND BACKGAMMON OLYMPIAD VENICE 1996

FORESEEN
TOTAL PRIZE
MONEY OVER
\$ 150,000

ADDED PRIZE
MONEY OVER
Lit. 30,000,000
(about \$ 20,000)



The 2nd Backgammon Olympiad is organized by studiogiocchi, under license from the Worldwide Backgammon Federation and on behalf of the Casinò Municipale di Venezia.

- Warm Up, Venice Kickoff
- Olympic Individual Tournament
- 8th International Tournament "City of Venice"
- Progressive Consolation with Last Chance
- Olympic Team Tournament
- Jackpots & Superjackpots
- One point Tournament
- Backgammon School
- Over 70 Trophies plus Internet FIBS Trophy
- Speed Gammon with chess clock
- Backgammon Lectures with Bill Robertie
- Tournament Director: Dario De Toffoli
- Coordinators: Alfonso Sara & Marco Fornasir
- Tournament Committee under Alberto da Pra
- Dal Negro Tournament Boards & Precision Dice
- Closed Circuit Television
- Cocktails & Gala Dinner

studiogiocchi
30125 Venezia, San Polo 3083
tel. +39-41-5211029
fax +39-41-5240881
e-mail: dariodet@mbox.vol.it



Brochures will be sent in April.

