

worldwide twin championships

GEORGIAN CAPTURES NEVADA STATE TITLE

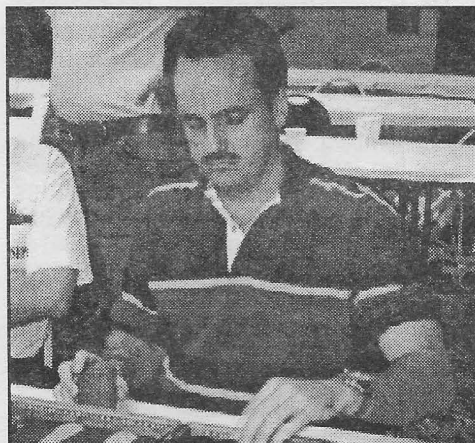
**Snellings over Goulding in Masters
Corbett Wins International Cup**

40 years of playing experience don't hurt! Emzar Laitadze of the Republic of Georgia proved that by defeating Texan Tom Wheeler 13-10 to win the 1997 Nevada State Championship. The long-running tournament, now part of the Worldwide Twin Championships, was held 22-27 April at the Four Queens Hotel in Las Vegas. Howard Markowitz of the Nevada Backgammon Association directed the event assisted by an able staff.

[Continued on page 6]



Linda George presents Nevada State Champ winner Emzar Laitadze his trophy.



Masters victor Wilcox Snellings.

18th chicago open

O'HAGAN DOUBLES UP

Kazaross Takes Masters. Director Joann Feinstein Wins Her Own Tournament

For the second straight year, John O'Hagan of Valparaiso, IN came back from the second chance bracket to win the Chicago Open. The Memorial Day weekend event drew over 120 players to the beautiful Wyndham Hotel in Itasca, IL.

Last year, Kent Goulding (Maryland) was John's victim; this year, the undefeated David Wells (IL) lost two straight to O'Hagan 13-11 and 13-7. John credits much of his playing improvement to JellyFish™.

Neil Kazaross withstood a late charge



Applause for Intermediate winner (and tourney director) Joann Feinstein.

from fellow Chicagoan Harry Cohn to win the Masters bracket 15-11.

Joann Feinstein had an exciting weekend, directing the event (with Howard Markowitz) and defeating Ed Zell (Peoria) in the Intermediate finals 11-1. Congratulations to the other winners shown below: Δ



Memorial Day winners (from left): Open: John O'Hagan, Masters: Neil Kazaross.

18TH CHICAGO OPEN—ABT

CHAMPIONSHIP-ABT (54): 1-John O'Hagan (IN), 2-David Wells (IL), 3-Joe Freedman (DC); 1C-Rob Maier (IN), 2C-Mike Senkiewicz (NY). **INTERMEDIATE-ABT (50):** 1-Joann Feinstein (IL), 2-Ed Zell (IL), 3/4-Bruce Russell (WI) / Jolie Rubin (IL); 1C-Alice Kay (IL), 2C-Phyllis Smolinski (IL). **BEGINNER-ABT (8):** 1-Janet Stam (MN), 2-Tony Garcia (NC). **MEMORIAL DAY MASTERS (32):** 1-Neil Kazaross (IL), 2-Harry Cohn (IL), 3-Ken Arnold, 4-Mike Ungerleider (CA). **OPEN DOUBLES (16 Teams):** 1-Phyllis Smolinski & Bob Zavoral, 2-Fred Kalantari & David Wells. **BLITZ (32):** 1-Frankie Farjood (IL). **MINI-MATCH (128):** Elliott Winslow (CA).

DO YOU KNOW THIS MAN?

Sure you do. It's Fred Kalantari of Edina, Minnesota. Freddie's victory at the Midwest Backgammon Championships made him the POINT's headline story last issue. Unfortunately (and incredibly), we got his name wrong, labeling him Fred Chamanara (who was the winner of many Chicago tournaments in the 1980s).

Sorry for the error, Mr. K. Along with our apologies, you'll also receive a lifetime subscription to CHICAGO POINT.—Ed.



CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

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LETTERS

c/o CHICAGO POINT

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WANTED: MORE PLAY FOR LESS MONEY

I think the letter from Jonathan Bennetts in the April/May CHICAGO POINT expresses the concerns of many of us who compete in backgammon tournaments for the love of playing the game. For example, in a tournament that lasts six days such as the Las Vegas Open, if you lose in the first round of the Main, Consolation and Last Chance brackets and don't compete in the Blitzes and Jackpots, you'll have spent well over \$1,000 on hotel bills, meals, and airfare for about three hours of backgammon. It's not equitable.

So, since you come to play and don't want to stand around watching others, you sign up for a \$40 5-point Blitz match. A couple of unlucky doubles and within a half-hour, you're out 40 bucks. You sign up for more Blitzes; you're spending

[Continued on page 3]

coming attractions

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



by Carol Joy Cole

810/232-9731

E-mail: cjc@flint.org

* Denotes new or revised listing

NATIONAL

American Backgammon Tour events underlined.

Jun 6-8	New York State Championship, New York Chess & BG, New York, NY	800/520-1809
Jun 7*	Greenies Tournament, Greenies Billiards Sports Arena, Pikesville, MD	410/653-7999
Jun 8	Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Anyway's Grill, Oakbrook Terrace, IL	773/252-7755
Jun 8	New England Club Monthly, Sheraton-Commander, Cambridge, MA	508/829-3283
Jun 8*	Northern Ohio Club Monthly, Coffee Configur@tions, Akron, OH	330/966-2811
Jun 15	Backgammon by the Bay, San Mateo Bridge Center, San Mateo, CA	510/838-7789
Jun 19	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Jun 21*	Sweet 16 Invitational, New York Chess & Backgammon, New York, NY	800/520-1809
Jun 20-22	<u>1997 Georgia Championships/Peach Cup, Holiday Inn Select, Atlanta, GA</u>	<u>770/333-1876</u>
Jun 28	Beverly Hills Monthly Tournament, Clarine's, Beverly Hills, CA	310/273-1632
Jul 1-Sep 30*	FIBS 1997 Summer Blitz, via computer modem <davide@sco.com>	408/438-7947
Jul 1*	Lanier's FIBS Monthly Tournament, via computer modem	lanier@cyberbeach.net
Jul 1*	Lanier's GamesGrid Monthly Tournament, via computer modem	lanier@cyberbeach.net
Jul 2	Michigan Summer Warm-Up Tourney, Novi Hilton Hotel, Novi, MI	810/232-9731
Jul 3-6	<u>Michigan Summer Championships, Novi Hilton Hotel, Novi, MI</u>	<u>810/232-9731</u>
Jul 6*	Monthly Masters Tournament, Grant Grill, San Diego, CA	619/457-2273
Jul 12-13	Nation's Capital Summer Open, Promenade, Bethesda, MD	301/530-0604
Jul 17	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Jul 17-18*	Hawaii State Championships, Pacific Club, Honolulu, HI	808/735-5252
Jul 20*	Austin Sunday Bimonthly Tournament, Bombay Bicycle Club, Austin, TX	512/261-8518
Jul 20	Backgammon by the Bay, San Mateo Bridge Center, San Mateo, CA	510/838-7789
Jul 26	Beverly Hills Monthly Tournament, Clarine's, Beverly Hills, CA	310/273-1632
Jul 27*	Sunday Bimonthly Tournament, John Hawks Pub, Milwaukee, WI	414/463-2498
Jul 27	Atlanta Monthly Tournament, Tony's Grill & Tap, Roswell, GA	770/333-1876
Aug 1-3	<u>Thousand Islands Tournament, Pine Tree Point, Alexandria Bay, NY</u>	<u>716/442-8221</u>
Aug 3*	Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Anyway's Grill, Oakbrook Terrace, IL	773/252-7755
Aug 3*	Monthly Masters Tournament, Grant Grill, San Diego, CA	619/457-2273
Aug 8-10	39th Gammon Associates Invitational, Mirage Club, Los Angeles, CA	818/901-0464
Aug 17*	Backgammon by the Bay, San Mateo Bridge Center, San Mateo, CA	510/838-7789
Aug 29-Sep 1	<u>45th Indiana Open, Radisson Hotel, Indianapolis, IN</u>	<u>317/255-8902</u>
Sep 18-21*	Vermont State Championships, Stratton Mountain Inn, Stratton Mtn., VT	954/527-4033
Sep 19-21*	<u>2nd Minnesota State Championships, Minneapolis Athletic Club, MN</u>	<u>612/378-1536</u>
Sep 26-28	<u>Towpath Inn Tournament, Towpath Inn, Turin, NY</u>	<u>716/442-8221</u>
Oct 2-5	<u>Illinois State Champs & America Cup, Holidome, Rolling Meadows, IL</u>	<u>847/945-7801</u>
Oct 10-12	<u>Nation's Capital Championships, Promenade, Bethesda, MD</u>	<u>301/530-0604</u>
Oct 31-Nov 2	<u>Northeast Regional: 4th New England Championships, South Lee, MA</u>	<u>603/863-4711</u>
Nov 3-8	Las Vegas Open, Riviera Hotel, Las Vegas, NV	702/893-6025
Dec 5-7*	<u>40th Gammon Associates Invitational, Mirage Club, Los Angeles, CA</u>	<u>818/901-0464</u>
Dec 27-28	<u>Ace Point New York Holiday Tournament, Ace Point Club, New York, NY</u>	<u>212/753-0842</u>
Jan 9-12*	Backgammon On Board IV, Miami to Bahamas cruise tourney on NCL	773/583-6464

OUTSIDE USA

Jun 14-15*	Berlin Cup & Havel Cup '97, Berlin, Germany	4930-4619624
Jun 19-22	9th "City of Venice" Tournament, Casino Municipale, Venice, Italy	3941-5211029
Jun 26-29	3rd Kaiserbrunnen Cup, Hotel am Kaiserbrunnen, Brakel, Germany	495-2164314
Jun 26-29*	Brazilian Tournament, Leme Tennis Club, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	5521-2478594
Jun 28-29	Hilton Trophy 1997, Hilton Nat'l Hotel, East Midlands Airport, England	441522-546993
Jul 4-6*	Warm-Up Weekend, Monte Carlo, Monaco	416127-10137
Jul 7-13*	Monte-Carlo World Championship, Loews Monte-Carlo Hotel, Monaco	954/527-4033
Jul 14-16	5th Nice Open, Lido Plage Restaurant, Nice, France	334-93879436
Jul 19-20*	Berlin Cup & Havel Cup '97, Berlin, Germany	4930-4619624
Jul 26-27*	BIBA Bonus Tournament, Hilton National, Coventry, England	441522-546993
Jul 31-Aug 3*	Brazilian Tournament, Leme Tennis Club, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	5521-2478594
Aug 8-10	Franken Ganz Open III, Hotel Schwarzer Adler, Nürnberg, Germany	49911-737514
Aug 13-17	5th Tournament of the Americas, Cariari Hotel, San José, Costa Rica	773/583-6464
Aug 14-17	Summer Championships, Badrutt's Palace Hotel, St. Moritz, Switzerland	4161-2710137
Aug 16-17*	Berlin Cup & Havel Cup '97, Berlin, Germany	4930-4619624
Aug 19-24	1st Annual Mind Sports Olympiad, Royal Festival Hall, London, England	44171-4859146
Aug 23-24	S.A.C. Trophy Tournament, Hilton Nat'l, East Midlands Airport, England	441522-546993
Sep 5-7	7th Mitteleuropa Tournament, Casinò Park, Nova Gorica, Slovenia	392-29409743
Sep 19-21*	Piggs Peak Bonanza, Protea Piggs Peak Hotel Casino, Swaziland	2711-4860780
Sep 27-28*	Grand Torneo "Citta' di Bologna," Hotel Zola, Bologna, Italy	3933-87187324
Oct 2-7*	4th German Open, Hotel am Kaiserbrunnen, Brakel, Germany	49521-64314
Oct 3-5*	Asian Backgammon Championships, Ladies Recreation Club, Hong Kong	852-28461923
Oct 17-19*	Swiss Championships '97, Bern, Kursaal, Switzerland	4179-3584825
Oct 18-19	Sandy Osborne Memorial Trophy, Hilton Nat'l, Milton Keynes, England	441522-546993
Oct 23-26*	South American Tournament & 6th World Cup, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	5521-2478594

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

money fast and you still have many days to go. You came to play, but you can't play unless you fork over more money.

I know it costs money to run these affairs, and high entry fees are needed to build a high prize money pot. We all want a chance to win the big money, so I suggest we keep the tournaments as they are, but add a "Poor Man's Blitz" at \$10 a match. This will take extra work for those running the game, but it will give players who lose in the early rounds the chance to continue playing the game they love without costing

them an arm and a leg.

Also, I suggest that in all main events where you're paying \$200 to \$400 entry fees, the match lengths be a minimum of 13 or 15 points. If we're paying for it, we should have a chance to play for awhile. I remember in Nevada at last year's International Cup tournament, the Intermediate fee was \$200 and for that, we only got to play one 9-point match. That's not enough playing time for the investment.

If it were just the money we were after, we could go to the casino and win more playing Blackjack. But we came to play backgammon. It's our love, our passion, and we want to play every possible minute we can during the tournament without it draining us

dry.—Joubert Malouf, Copperopolis, CA

ROUGHED UP BY THE MOB

When you insisted I play my 1927 Midwest Championships quarterfinals consolation match sometime late Saturday night, even though the other bracket was two matches behind, I acquiesced. When your staff banned me from the Blitz tourney because I was still "alive" in the main event, I acquiesced.

When three hours later, at 2:00 A.M. Sunday, I was told by Carol Joy Cole that my match would now be played at 10:00 A.M., I was nonplused. When your staff allowed another "live" player to qualify (and later win) the Blitz, I was puzzled. When I was able to question you Sunday at 10:00 A.M., you had no memory of the match schedule except to say you "would do better next year." I had the impression I was being a bother.

Perhaps I'm not getting into the spirit of this event.—Bob Holyon, Milwaukee, WI

We never insisted that you would have to play the match that evening, Bob; only that you might have to play it. Once it got past 1:00 A.M., Carol Joy made the right decision rescheduling your match for the next day. Yes, you should have been informed as soon as the decision was made. But remember, we were not aware that you thought you had to play the match on Saturday night.

As for your inability to play in the Blitz tournament, that's MBC policy. After Friday night, you may not participate in the Blitz tournament until you are knocked out of the Main and Consolation events.

[Continued on page 4]



AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 1997

Compiled through 26 May 1997 after 5 tournaments
(Coming in June: New York State and Georgia Championships)



Doug Mayfield	35.36	Ray Bills	5.60	Fred Badagnani	3.60	Judy Field	2.08
Fred Kalantari	22.88	Allen Levien	5.28	Bill Phipps	3.59	Jolie Rubin	1.76
John O'Hagan	22.69	Abbas Zaltash	5.28	John Bryant	3.30	Jason Mucklow	1.62
Jon Stephens	15.31	Drew Giovanis	5.28	Bruce Russell	3.26	Brian Menkes	1.56
Steve Klesker	11.44	Alice Kay	5.23	Jay Ward	3.20	Gary Marchenia	1.40
Rob Maier	11.33	Hunter Jones	5.20	Neil Young	2.83	Joe Davidson	1.40
David Wells	11.33	Lee Genud	5.08	Reza Zaltash	2.82	Janet Stam	1.39
Harvey Huie	11.20	Malcolm Davis	4.93	David Levine	2.64	Randy Douthat	1.16
Rich Catalano	10.56	Terry Kayser	4.90	Nayan Shah	2.64	Pete Townsend	1.06
Mike Friedman	10.56	Mike Senkiewicz	4.86	Luisa Sequeira	2.61	Steve Decter	1.03
Nack Ballard	10.45	Hal Heinrich	4.80	Ed King	2.46	Dave Hart	1.00
Steve Sax	9.82	Carlos Hamon	4.66	Gary Stern	2.46	Sam Pottle	0.93
Joann Feinstein	9.61	Ed Zell	4.38	Paul Friedman	2.40	Diane Cyrkiel	0.70
Jim McGirr	9.53	Michael Rayner	4.36	N. Laaly	2.34	Bill Versaw	0.63
Eliot Bean	7.09	Frank Talbot	4.16	Paul Stokes	2.34	Tony Garcia	0.61
Garol Tchalabian	7.09	John Jennings	4.16	Phyllis Smolinski	2.26	Fran Miller	0.60
Andy Palumbo	6.40	Jim Muirhead	4.00	Marty Storer	2.11	Larry Hochman	0.60
Richard Del Furia	5.70	Joe Freedman	3.78	Janice Newman	2.08		



CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB 1997 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

COMPILED
THRU 31 MAY

Neil Kazaross	12.08	Norma Shyer	4.12	Rick Beniack	1.60	Reggie Porter	0.60
Herb Roman	9.68	Peter Kalba	3.96	Joe Wollick	1.28	Barbara Levinson	0.56
Gary Kay	8.96	Ken Bond	3.68	Ed Buerger	1.28	Steve Klesker	0.56
Bill Keefe	7.68	Don Jayhan	3.60	Mary Franks	0.96	Femi Owiku	0.56
Alice Kay	7.48	Paul Friedman	3.36	Jerry Brooks	0.96	Todd Hengsteler	0.48
Bill Davis	7.36	Stu Katz	3.12	Amy Valerio	0.92	Ken Tyszko	0.48
Paul Franks	7.12	Arlene Levy	2.88	Marty Tatosian	0.88	Jolie Rubin	0.40
Phil Simborg	6.48	Fred Badagnani	2.80	Elliott Winslow	0.88	Jay Ward	0.28
Leslie Lockett	6.48	Paul Klein	2.68	Phil Barrett	0.80	Sarg Serges	0.24
Jake Jacobs	6.40	Richard Lloyd	2.56	Tim Helms	0.72	Nan Feiber	0.24
Joann Feinstein	5.64	Bobbie Shifrin	2.24	John Brussel	0.68	Todd Permut	0.24
Harry Cohn	5.44	Phyllis Smolinski	2.16	V.W. Zimnicki	0.64	Romeo Kap	0.24
Tak Morioka	4.76	Rick Beniack	2.16	Wendy Kaplan	0.64	Roz Ferris	0.20
Tim Mabee	4.52	Bob Zavoral	1.88	Roland Dieter	0.64	Mark Murray	0.16
Bob Koca	4.32	Roger Hickman	1.60	David Wells	0.64	Scott Richardson	0.12
John Demian	4.16						

PHIL SIMBORG won two April events and 4.56 points to capture Player of the Month. Jake Jacobs had 3.60—good for second place. Paul Franks was third with 2.84.

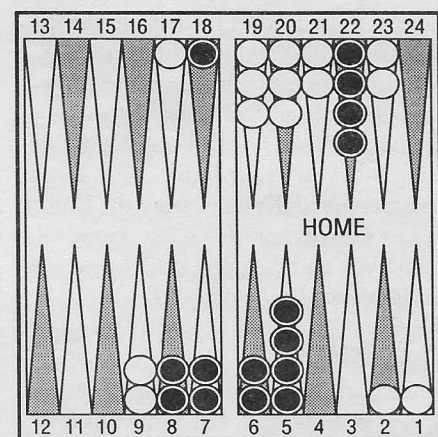
The May point race was much closer with **PETER KALBA** edging Neil Kazaross 2.76 to 2.64 to win monthly honors. Ken Bond and Rick Beniack tied for third with 2.16 each.

your move

PROBLEM #234

to be analyzed by Kit Woolsey

Match to 7 points. Black leads White, 5 to 3. **BLACK TO PLAY 6-6.**



DEAR MISS LONELYBLOTS



© 1997 by Danny Kleinman

A BACKGAMMON BRAIN PUZZLER: IF BLACK AND WHITE ALWAYS MOVE LEGALLY, WHAT'S THE LARGEST NUMBER OF MEN (ONE COLOR OR BOTH) THAT CAN BE ON THE BAR AT ANY TIME?

Dear Miss Lonelyblots: A while back on the Internet in rec.games.backgammon, Keith Duncan asked, "I've checked the 'Frequently Asked Questions' (FAQ) and the rules, and there is no mention of a limit to the number of men that can be on the bar. However, my opponents have conflicting opinions. Any offers?"

Chuck Bower responded, "My vote is 29, although the likelihood of this could spark a heated debate about randomness of computer-generated dice."

What's your answer? If Black and White always move legally, what's the largest number of men (one color or both) that can be on the bar at any time? And

who do you go about solving this problem?
—Maxed Out

DEAR MAXED: I solved this problem like any smart girl solves technical problems beyond her grasp—by consulting boy-friends who are smarter still.

John G. Ommetter: "I measured my checkers and found them each to have a diameter of 1 1/4 inches. Then I measured the length of the center divider on my backgammon board and found it to be 15 inches. It's clear, therefore, that the bar can accommodate at most 12 checkers."

George N. Ginnear: "Those abstract mathematicians are so impractical! Ommetter never thought to stack his checkers, did he? I did, and found that the bar could hold 24 checkers if I handled them gingerly. When I tried to add a 25th, checkers stacked below it invariably toppled onto the playing surface."

Do I detect a bit of jealousy, George?

Richard N. Koadar: "To answer your question, I wrote ParaMecium, a backgammon program instructed to hit whenever possible, otherwise maximize blots and shots. After every 200 rollouts, which take about an hour, ParaMecium prints its highest total so far for the number of men on the bar. I'd been hoping for something

better, but the record has stood at 9 for the last four days. Maybe 9 is the maximum after all."

Confused by the three conflicting answers, I thought to take their mean, but then I remembered I had one more smart boyfriend yet to be consulted.

Paul O. Jishan: "Obviously, by calling the rolls for both sides, I can leave 15 blots for White and arrange for Black to hit them all. Any more than 15 would require men of *both* colors to be on the bar. Consider the last roll prior. Any man hit on that roll had to have been hit by an opposing man reentering from the bar. Thus no increase in the number of men on the bar can have occurred. Only a roller who is not on the bar can increase this number. Therefore 15 is the maximum."

If these aren't enough answers for you, Maxed, you'll just have to ask a girl who has more smart boyfriends than I.—Miss Lonelyblots Δ

Do you have a backgammon-related question for Miss Lonelyblots involving people problems, game etiquette or the play itself? Write: Dear Miss Lonelyblots, c/o CHICAGO POINT, 3940 W. Bryn Mawr Ave. 504; Chicago, IL 60659-3155.

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 3]

The fact that the staffer in letting the "live" Fred Kalantari enter has nothing to do with you.

For future reference, your complaints will fall on much more receptive ears if you wait until a more opportune time to present them than when the Last Chance Draw Sheets are being prepared and posted. But I repeat to you what I said on Sunday: we will try to "do better next year."—Ed.

AT LEAST YOU ENJOYED LAILA

I read about the Midwest Championships in the April POINT. Sounds like a lot of fun. At first I thought your headline story calling winner Fred Kalantari "Fred Chamanara" was an April Fool. Now I'm thinking that you're the fool!

I also enjoyed the letter from the Danish babe. Let's have more from her. Hope all is well with you and the gang in Chicago.—Chris Stanford, Kingwood, TX

DUO-GAMMON

I created a true doubles backgammon game that is really fun. Each player takes turns moving, and there is no consulting on

the moves or anything else except cube action. It moves fast, all players are involved equally, and it is really fun!

David Wells and I played Joe Sylvester and Mike Higatsberger a few matches this way and we all loved it. Obviously, it keeps the "junior" player from being must a robot. We also passed the dice cup to our partner after each roll so there would be no mix-up on who's turn it is to roll and play. I believe that this is the way doubles should be played and I'd love to see it adopted at future tournaments.—Phil Simborg, Chicago, IL

Amazing, Phil! The form of doubles you describe is called Duo-Gammon and we created it in 1970s. In fact, the National Backgammon League held a Duo-Gammon tournament back in 1979. Because of your suggestion, we may hold a high stakes 8-team Duo-Gammon tournament at the 1998 Midwest Championships.

For a copy of Duo-Gammon rules, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: CHICAGO POINT; 3940 W. Bryn Mawr 504; Chicago, IL 60659-3155.—Ed.

SHORTEST GAME

The Guinness Book of World Records lists the shortest backgammon game as one made up of 16 throws and devised by Alan

M. Beckerson (Great Britain) in 1982. If this is so, they why don't we backgammon fans know anything about it?—Jim Milner, San Francisco, CA

The Fall 1982 issue of Backgammon Times (page 26) printed the complete game which Beckerson devised on 11 March 1982. The solution is rather trivial (there are numerous possibilities), but we can't see any way to reduce the number below 16. If any of our readers can do it, we'll submit the info to Guinness.—Ed.

<u>Black</u>	<u>White</u>
3-1 (7/5, 6/5)	2-1 (24/21)
5-5 (13/3 [2])	2-1 (8/5)
6-6 (13/1 [2]*)	2-1 (Bar/23, 6/5)
4-4 (8/4 [2]*, 6/2 [2]*)	
6-6 (24/18 [2], 13/1)	
5-4 (18/13, 18/14)	
6-6 (14/2, 13/1)	
1-1 (2/1, 1/off [3])	
6-6 (6/off [2], 5/off [2])	
	2-1 (no entry)
4-4 (4/off [2], 3/off [2])	
	2-1 (no entry)
2-2 (2/off [2], 1/off [2]) Δ	

Fit to be THAIed

by Jake Jacobs



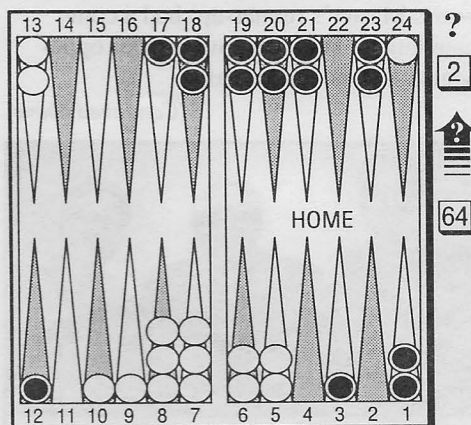
To the surprise of few, I came back from Thailand earlier this year with an infection. To the surprise of many, it was in my ear. Perhaps I got it from aural sex? Anyway, thanks to a diet of curried eel and raw beetles I am otherwise healthy and ready to report on events in Southeast Asia.

In January, I went to the Thailand Open. This year saw a 50% increase in entrants, or at least in applicants. Some late withdrawals kept the field down to 32, but I am sure there will be over 40 next year. The entry fee is expected to rise to \$300, so I think that the combined prize and auction pool will reward next year's winner with seven or eight thousand clams (which can be converted to dollars at a reasonable rate).

The 1997 Thailand Open winner is Goran Hasselquist, erstwhile Asian Champion, and Thailand Open tournament director. His victory was over Bernd Schmude of Germany. The Super Jackpot found Hong Kong's Robin Swaffield defeating Carsten Linder-Emden of Germany.

I held the distinction of being a lightning rod for side bets. After losing in the money round of two different qualifiers, I entered the Super Jackpot directly, and soon found myself leading in the money round:

Position #1. 13-pt. match. Jake (White) leads Sweden's Lars Hammargren (Black) 10 to 5. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**

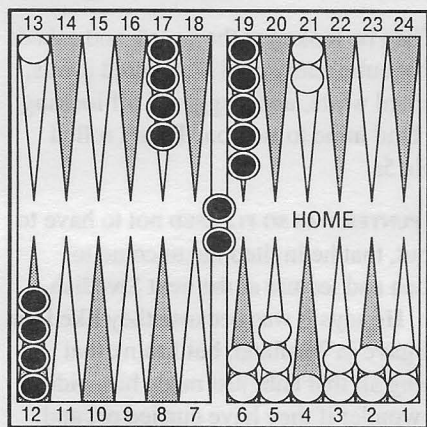


Lars and I are old friends, having met in the finals of the Thai Open last year. This is

a strong double at money, though the take is clear. Perhaps at the score, I should have rolled on, but some players might drop and the gammon swings seem pretty much one way. Lars is not a dropper.

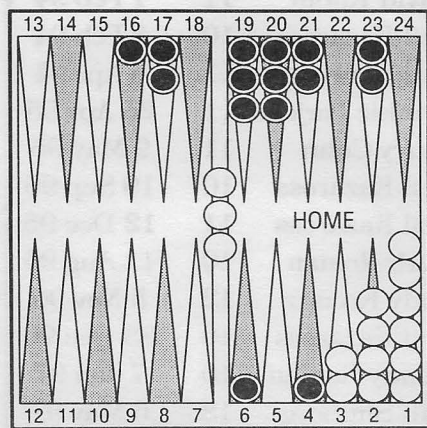
I rolled a 6-2, which is not one of the rolls I had included on my Christmas list. I hit with my 6, then played 8/6 with my 2. This is slightly better than stepping up, especially when Lars' next roll was 4-5. I now followed through with 6-6. Lars hit two, and I was lucky enough to only lose two points. Next came this:

Position #2. 13-point match. Jake (White) leads Lars (Black) 10 to 7. White is on roll.



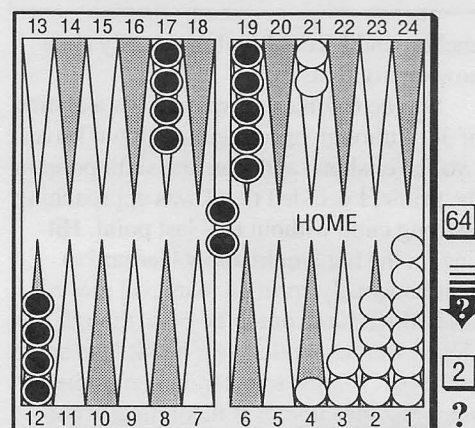
At this point, I had so much match equity it was oozing off the board and spectators were slipping in the puddles of it forming on the floor. Here the picture has changed slightly, just five turns later:

Position #3. 13-point match. Jake (White) leads Lars (Black) 10 to 7. White is on roll.



Treat this as a puzzle: find your way from Position #2 to Position #3. The solution is simple: one of us rolled a 4-4 on each of the five turns. Here (after I had used up my quota of double-4s) is the doubling position that transpired along the way:

Position #4. 13-pt. match. Jake (White) leads Lars (Black) 10 to 7. Black is on roll. **SHOULD BLACK DOUBLE?**



At this score the double is . . . intrepid. I would still wait. The question is: is it a money beaver?

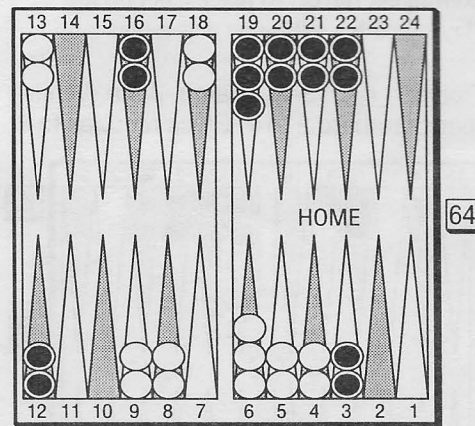
"Yes," said Paul Weaver, and won 76 points from an international consortium.

"No," said auctioneer David Brown, the infamous "Bali Blaster," and blasted his way to a 58 point win his way.

"Yes, beaver," cries *JellyFish*, but I am not sure this position is Jelly's doughnut. I say it is a beaver, but I think that against the right opponent this could be winnable from both sides.

LARS WENT ON to win game and match, but two days later I had my revenge in the consolation semi's. Then, I squared off against Berlin nightclub owner Gerhard Schulze in the consolation final. The fireworks came early:

Position #5. 13-pt. match. Jake (White) leads Germany's Gerhard Schulze, 2 to 1. **WHITE TO PLAY 6-3.**



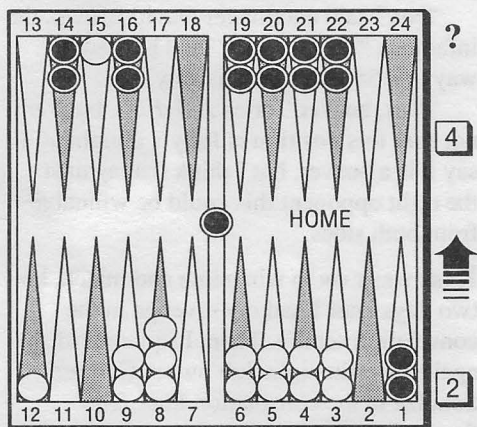
Only a maniac would break the 18-point, but what about clearing the 8-point? I decided that in too many variations Gerhard would clear his own 9, shuffle checkers inside, or even run from the

[Continued on page 6]

anchor, and I would find the smelly shoe now on my foot.

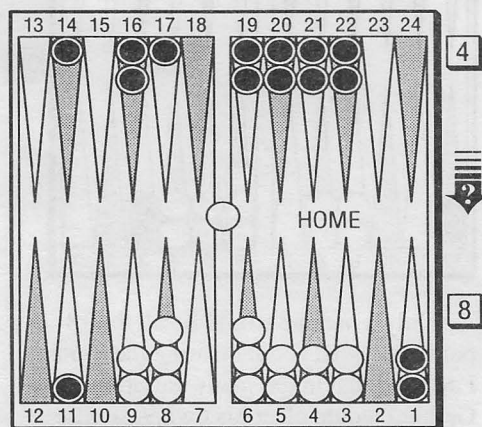
So, the 6 comes down, and it's a choice of 3s. Although bringing both down leaves two fewer shots, and slots the sixth point in the prime, I decided that I was approaching a strong cube without that last point. Hitting on the bar would allow Gerhard to simultaneously spring a man, so I played 13/4 which turns out to be best (though it's close). Gerhard rolled 4-1; he hit, and split to the bar. I failed to enter and he offered a venturesome cube. It is theoretically correct to wait, but Gerhard was looking for some action. Here came the action:

Position #6. 13-pt. match. Jake (White) leads Gerhard 2 to 1. White redoubles. **SHOULD BLACK TAKE?**



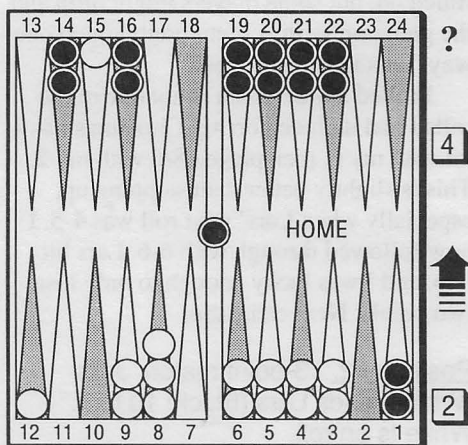
I didn't expect him to take this one. I really didn't expect him to slurp when he did it! At this point, one of the Swedish contingent ran off to place a bet on me (laying odds). While he was gone:

Position #7. 13-pt. match. Jake (White) leads Gerhard 2 to 1. Black recubes to 8.



And by the time he arrived to announce: "I just bet 50,000 on you!"

Position #8. 13-pt. match. Jake (White) leads Gerhard 2 to 1. White on roll.



Then he looked at the board, and asked: "Is that cube really on 8?" Assured it was, he turned white, and staggered off looking for a land mine to step on. Then I rolled double 5s.

THE PUNTER WAS SO PLEASED not to have to pay out, that he invited me to come to Sweden and lecture at the next Swedish Open. He says it was because they liked the talk I gave in Thailand, but I think that winning all that baht just made him giddy.

I wonder if they have curried eel and raw beetles in Sweden? When I find out, I'll let you know. Δ

Chicago Bar Point Club 1000-to-1 Club

Name	Wins in a Row	Date Completed
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
Herb Roman	10	11 Aug 96
Andy Krenitz	12	5 Nov 96
Neil Kazaross	10	23 Dec 96
Wendy Kaplan	10	7 Jan 97
Phil Simborg	12	6 May 97

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 (courtesy of Larry Strommen) to honor their achievement.

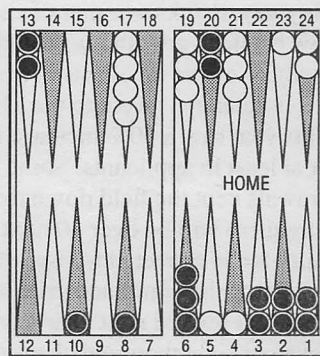
...NEVADA STATE

[Continued from page 1]

Laitadze, twice Georgian Champion in 1989 and 1995, was also a Consolation semifinalist at the 1992 Monte Carlo World Championships. But those results don't compare to the \$12,000+ prize money he collected winning here.

Leading Tom Wheeler 11-4 in the 13-point finals, Emzar helplessly watched the top-rated Texan whittle his lead down to 11-10. But then at 12-10 Crawford, Laitadze finished off his stubborn opponent with a big play:

13-pt. Nevada State Finals
Laitadze (BLACK) leads Wheeler (WHITE) 12-10 Crawford.
BLACK TO PLAY 5-4.



Wheeler danced and Laitadze (the 1952 Georgian Table Tennis champ) went on to close his home board and bear off safely for the victory.

Floridian Mike Corbett's collected some five-figure prize money as well after defeating Ian MacFarlane (Brazil) 13-8 in the International Cup event. Corbett never trailed in the match.



Mike Corbett.

The Master's event was a classic battle between two of the very best players in the world: Wilcox Snellings and Kent Goulding. After four games, Snellings (last year's Master's runner-up) had a commanding 8-0 lead. But when your opponent is KG, no lead is safe.

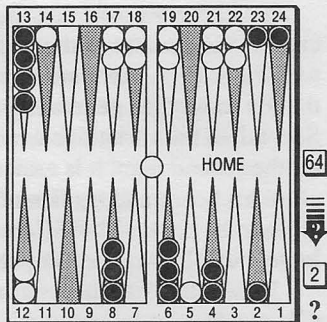
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A Chicagoland sweep in the Intermediate (from left): George Baar (1st Cons.), Peter Kalba (1st), Paul Friedman (2nd).

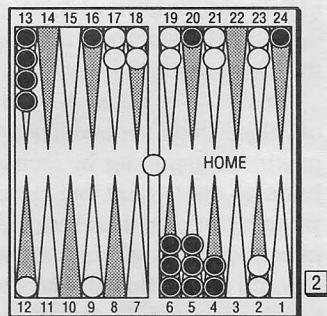
In fact, after 12 games, Goulding had gone in front 12-11. But the 13th game would be an unlucky one for KG. [Thanks to Hal Heinrich for providing CHICAGO POINT with the match transcript.] On the seventh move, Goulding faced the following cube decision:

23-pt. Masters
Finals
Goulding
(White) leads
Snellings
(Black) 12-
11. White on
roll. CUBE
ACTIONS?



Looks like a close (maybe early) double. The take is clear, however. Goulding threw an excellent 1-1, hitting two; but despite this, Snellings stayed in the game. On the 12th move, Kent made a misplay:

23-pt. Masters
Finals
Goulding
(White) leads
Snellings
(Black) 12-
11. WHITE TO
PLAY 3-1.



Goulding hit with the 3, 17/20* and that's too big here. Better to just button up (9/12) and wait. Two moves later, the positional advantage had switched to Snellings who recubed. Goulding took and ended up getting gammoned to lose 8 points. He never could recover and eventually lost the match 23-17. Complete results: Δ

AMALGAMATION

The KG rating list is not completely dead, but according to **Kent Goulding** (MD), "it's in a coma." Ever since last year's data crash, no tournament info has been entered. Right now, it's "very doubtful" that a 1997 KG rating book will be printed... Visiting the BPC in April: **Michael Hignatsberger** (Austria), **Wally Swan** (NJ), **Dr. Bob Hill** (NY), **Elliott Winslow** (CA), **Bob Koca** (PA), **Jon Vietor** (CA)... Two well-known backgammon figures recently passed away: **Cheryl Silvers** (San Francisco) and **Lila Swan** (New York City). For a number of years, Cheryl was the San Francisco contact for the "BG Clubs in North America" listings. She also was on staff at Northern Nevada BG Association tournaments in the 1980s. Lila was a fine player (she reached the final-4 of last year's U.S. Open) and also chaired the Regency Club charity events in the 1980s... Chicago Point OnLine <<http://homepage.interaccess.com/~chipoint>> is visited around 50 times per day. But that's nothing compared to **Stephen Turner's** WWW Backgammon Pages <<http://www.gamesdomain.com/backgammon>>. Stephen's homepage has had over a quarter-million hits since July 1994... *Birth Announcements:* The *European Backgammon News* reports that **Paul Magriel** (now residing in Paris) and **Martine Oulés** are the proud parents of a new baby... Congratulations to "Backgammon On Board" cruise coordinators **Scott & Holli Will** (The Cruise Consultants) on the 18 Feb. birth of daughter **August Adriana Will**. Congrats also to **Seth & Lou Ann Towle** (MA) on the 16 April birth of daughter **Sara Jessica Towle**... Atlanta Backgammon Assn. director **Dave Cardwell** (GA) reports that

on page 8 of **Patricia Cornwell's** latest novel, *Hornet's Nest*, there is a reference to the "World Championship Backgammon Tournament at the Radisson Hotel" in Charlotte, NC. Dave says, "That's news to me. I didn't think anyone in Charlotte even played the game."... Nothing but bad luck for auctioneer **John Brussel** (IL) who lost his voice prior to the Nevada State Calcutta Auction. Then to make matters worse, the microphone went dead. Now that's tough on the throat... **Sally & Kit Woolsey's** (CA) son **Philip Nutting** is moving to Chicago after securing a job with **Leo Burnett Advertising**... Our condolences to Madison BG Club director **Bruce Russell** (WI) on the passing of his father in May. Also to **Arnold Zousmer** (CA) who lost his father in April... Nevada State Intermediate champ **Peter Kalba**, (IL) was accidentally awarded the Championship division trophy at the April tourney. But tracking down Champ winner **Emzar Laitadze** to make the exchange will be tough. Emzar lives in Soviet Georgia... **Malcolm Davis** (TX) is scheduled to play an exhibition match against the computer program *TD-Gammon* 29-31 July at the 14th International Conference on Artificial Intelligence in Providence, RI. Many other computer games and top human players will be represented. More at: <<http://www.aaai.org/Conferences/National/1997/champions.html>>... Elliott Winslow (CA) scraped his leg and wrenched his thumb in a motorcycle accident last month. Believe it or not, cyberfreak Elliott was online reporting his accident to friends before the police arrived! ... Kudos to Michigan director **Carol Joy Cole** who rattled off 19 wins in a row at her Flint Area Club between 20 March and 17 April. Assume equal competition, and the odds on this occurrence are over 500,000-to-1... **Marcy Sloan** (IL) reports that **Andy Krenitz** (IL) recently won a Chicagoland radio contest. What was his prize? Parachuting lessons. GERONIMO!... The Tucson Backgammon Club now meets at Jeff's Pub (6722 E. Tanque Verde) Sundays at 4:00 p.m. For more info, contact **Terry Valentine** at 888/490-7600... The Mid-Jersey BG Club recently opened in Aberdeen, NJ. The club meets Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. Contact **Linda & Mort Resnicoff** (908/332-0843) for the details... Although New York's Midtown Club closed last month, Dr. Bob Hill now runs his Saturday monthly "Sweet 16" Tournaments at New York Chess & Backgammon (800/520-1809)... **Reggie Porter** takes over for **J.A. Miller** as director of the Chicago-based "Games People Play" Club... Finally, **Dave Weinbaum** writes: "While it's important to win, it's imperative to compete." Δ

WORLDWIDE TWIN CHAMPIONSHIPS

NEVADA STATE TOURNAMENT: CHAMPIONSHIP (87): 1-Emzar Laitadze (GEORGIA), 2-Tom Wheeler (TX), 3/4-Mark Adkins (ENG) / Bob Glass (CA); 1C-Mike Senkiewicz (NY), 2C-Jim Painter (MO), 3C/4C-Neil Young (FL) / Richard del Furia (MN); 1LC-Drew Giovanis (FL), 2LC-Don Jayhan (IL). **ADVANCED** (88): 1-Peter Kalba (IL), 2-Paul Friedman (IL), 3/4-Dante Baines (CA) / Paul Tanenbaum; 1C-George Barr (IL), 2C-Jay Guittari (RI), 3C/4C-Samra Hadden (GA) / Steve Mellen (MI); 1LC-Dan Chicoine (MA), 2LC-Diego Lewi (CA). **BEGINNER** (42): 1-Morris Fox (NV), 2-Susie Staples (NY), 3/4-Matthew Maguire (IL) / Bert Zamanigian (CA); 1C-Lisa Brooks (OK), 2C-Ron Bernstein (VA); 1LC-Amir Noorishad (CA), 2LC-Karsten Busch (GER).

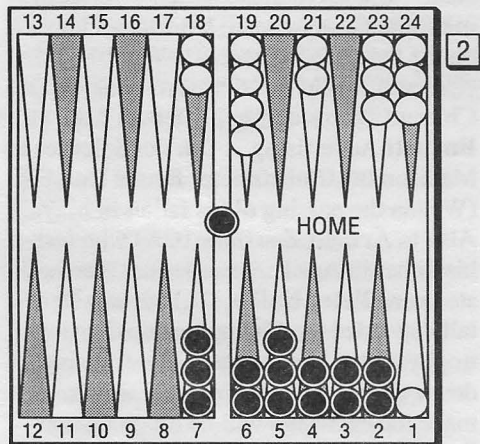
INTERNATIONAL CUP CHAMPIONSHIP: 1-Mike Corbett (FL), 2-Ian MacFarlane (BRAZ), 3/4-Nack Ballard (CA) / Jake Jacobs (IL). **ADVANCED:** 1-Azzam Masarani (CA), 2-Nicholas Check (ENG), 3/4-Brendan Burgess (IRE) / Jacques Trivodic (CAN). **BEGINNER:** 1-Randall Zandstra (NJ), 2-Karsten Busch (GER), 3/4-Bob Schumacher (MN) / Jim Mason (CA).

MASTERS INVITATIONAL (16): 1-Wilcox Snellings (NV), 2-Kent Goulding (MD), 3/4-Nack Ballard (NV) / Stu Hosen (TX). **LIMITED JACKPOT "A":** 1-Abe Mosseri (NY), 2-Bob Glass (CA). **LIMITED JACKPOT "B":** 1-Neil Young (FL), 2-Norm Wiggins (CA). **DOUBLES** (32): 1-Abe Mosseri and Tony Golubchik (NY), 2-Mike Corbett and Danielle Bastarachi (FL). **BLITZ** (51 Rounds-of-8): 1-Doug Mayfield (CA), 2-Frank Talbot (MI). **LADIES TOURNAMENT** (32): 1-Thelma Randall (FL), 2-Judy Collins (CA). **SENIORS TOURNAMENT** (64): 1-Andy Palumbo (NY), 2-Bob Sahagian (NJ). **AFTER TOURNAMENT TOURNAMENT \$50 DIVISION** (32): 1-Aram Kouleyan (CA), 2-Kit Woolsey (CA). **\$20 DIVISION** (22): 1-Wally Wolf (MI), 2. Karsten Busch (GER).

PROBLEM #233 ANALYZED

by Harry Cohn

Danish Open. Match to 9 points. Perry Gartner (White) leads Mike Svobodny (Black) 7 to 6. **BLACK TO PLAY 3-2.**



Bar/22 is forced for the 3 and there are three reasonable choices for the 2: 22/20, 5/3, and 7/5.

At first glance, this appears to be a problem in determining how strongly Black should play for a gammon. By staying back on the 22-point, Black may get some immediate shots at a second checker which could lead to more gammons. However, some losses may occur when White can maintain a 4-prime and Black is forced to break his prime.

Staying back also means that the 2 must be played in the inner board, either 7/5 or 5/3, both of which worsen the home board distribution. This in turn reduces Black's gammons gained from recirculating checkers and increases Black's losses from leaving a shot while bearing in or bearing off.

HERE'S HOW I WOULD ANALYZE this problem over the board.

First, I would determine how much the gammon is worth at this match score. If Black wins the game with no gammon, his match equity leading 8-7 Crawford is around 70% according to most match equity tables. If Black wins a gammon, he wins the match; if Black loses the game, he loses the match. Therefore Black gains 30% match equity from the gammon but loses 70% match equity whenever he loses. This means that Black needs seven gammons for every three losses—about the same as for normal money play (two gammons are needed for every loss at money play). Hence, Black should not be overly aggressive in going for the gammon.

Next I would estimate the number of extra gammons gained by staying back. Staying back gets a direct shot on White's 6-4, plus an indirect shot on 4-3. Staying back also gains potential future shots on 4-3 and 4-4 when Black can dance for a roll or two while White breaks his 6-point. Out of 36 rolls for White, Black gets a direct shot on two rolls. Let's estimate that he gets a direct shot about 1/2 of the time on 4-3 and 4-4. This yields 3.5 direct shots out of 36 rolls which computes to 3% hits $[(3.5/36) \times (1/36)]$. In turn, this generates at most 1.2% extra gammons (closing out two men with good distribution gets the gammon about 40% of the time and Black still has work to do to get the closeout). A few (under 0.3%) more gammons are gained in variations where Black can wait on the 22-point for one more roll.

Next I would estimate the number of extra losses Black incurs by staying back. At this point we must separate the two possible waiting plays. First let's look at 5/3.

If staying back is the choice, then 5/3 is the more natural choice for the 2 since it keeps better diversification in the inner board. However, 5-3 pays off to the immediate parlay of White not breaking the 18-point (17/36) and Black rolling 4-3 or 4-4 (3/36). Chalk up about 4% immediate times that Black's prime cracks. White then immediately escapes about 30% of the time (1.5% of all games). At this point, White must be at least even money thus gaining at least 0.75% wins.

Moreover, there are the variations where White escapes on the second or third roll after Black cracks. I would estimate White's total extra wins in this variation between 1.0% and 1.5%. Black would therefore need from 2.33% to 3.5% extra gammons to compensate for the losses and they just aren't there. Therefore this play must be ruled out.

Now let's look at 7/5. This is somewhat of an unnatural play but has the benefit of leaving no immediate numbers that crack the prime. There are some two-roll parlays that crack, but I would estimate those at less than 0.5% with associated losses at under 0.2%. This is well within the acceptable loss limit for the estimated 1.2% of gammons that we gain by staying back.

Now we must compare the immediate gains of 7/5 with the secondary negatives of poorer inner board distribution. This is very difficult to do over the board. My approach over the board would be that immediate gains usually outweigh future potential and I would therefore play 7/5.

I would be wrong.

Doing hand rollouts reveals the true

nature of the position. The extra gammons gained by staying on the 22-point are an illusion. Maintaining the best possible inner board distribution not only yields the lowest number of losses, but also yields the most gammons! Over 90% of Black's gammons come from recirculating one or more checkers.

Better inner board distribution increases the number of these gammons in two ways. First, there are more numbers that hit loose thus generating more shots. Second, in the variations when Black does hit the second man, it is easier for Black to close his board and his bearoff distribution tends to be better. The differences are not large, but 22/20 is the clear choice.

JellyFish™ rollouts confirm this. (Thanks to Jake Jacobs and Neil Kazaross for the JellyFish rollout data.) Level 5 rollouts with 25,920 trials yield 96% wins and 7.5% gammons for 22/20, while yielding 95.4% wins and 6.8% gammons for 7/5. 1296 Level 5 rollouts of 5/3 yielded 92.7% wins with 7.4% gammons. (These results have a higher standard deviation due to lower number of trials; but the lower win rate is significant.)

It should be noted that current versions of JellyFish do not understand how to maximize gammons by recirculation (it hits loose on the 1-point, but closes the board when it can) and therefore the gammon rates shown for all plays are low. However I would expect that all plays would be equally affected. I estimate that the gammon rate for all plays ranges between 9% and 10%. Δ



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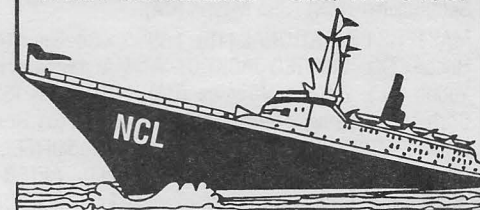
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WINNER'S CIRCLE



Feb.-May 1997

•**Cannes Festival of Games** (Cannes, France; 27 Feb.-2 Mar.)... CHAMPIONSHIP: 1-João Borges (POR), 2-Mike Svobodny (USA). INTERMEDIATE: 1-Richard Menger, 2-Phillip Vouhe. WARM-UP: 1-Tom Schmitz (USA), 2-Phillip Vouhe.

•**1st Warsteiner Cup** (Brakel, Germany; 27 Feb.-2 Mar.)... CHAMPIONSHIP: 1-Gordon Cross, 2-Peter Heitmüller; 1C-Mario Kühl, 2C-Leonid Riskin; 1LC-Thomas Töpfer. INTERMEDIATE: 1-Paulus van Rooyen (NL), 2-Anja Ewers; 1C-Thomas Welge, 2C-Uwe Köller; 1LC-Georg Minicki. BEGINNER: 1-Torsten Maier, 2-Rogier van Gemert (NL). SUPER JACKPOT: 1-Uli Koch. GO-KARTS: 1-Peter van Rooy (NL), 2-Andreas Märten. NINEPINS: 1-Wolfgang Stroetges, 2-Gabi Stroetges.

•**Tampere Open** (Tampere, Finland; 28 Feb.-2 Mar.)... OPEN (32): 1-John Rizaew, 2-Matti Tienari, 3/4-Nemo Vilpponen / Velimatti Laine; 1C-Mika Makinen, 2C-Velimatti Laine. WARM-UP(17): 1-Hannu Ojanen, Matti Haaksila, 3/4-Mika Inkien / Arto Katjos. LAST CHANCE (11): 1-Artro Schendo, 2-Tomi Huovonen... *Results e-mailed in by Tapio Palmroth.*

•**1996 Argentine Championship** (Buenos Aires, Argentina; Mondays in Mar.)... CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS: Juan Rosa, José Perel, Carlos Szechet. JUNIOR WINNERS: Andrés De Donato, Héctor Fresco, Andrea Glancspigel, Natalia Arena. BEGINNER WINNERS: Gritzko Gadea, Sebastian Okner, Patricio Borda, Carlos Carbajo.

•**Easter Tournament** (Hahndorf, So. Australia; 29 Mar.)... OPEN (16): 1-Jim Aslanidis, 2-Val Logins.

•**1996 Argentine Championship** (Buenos Aires, Argentina; Mondays in Apr.)... CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS: Mauricio Mudric, Alberto Fernández. JUNIOR WINNERS: Atilio Verón, Pablo Brandwein, Manuel Nogueira, Sergio Czemerinsky. BEGINNER WINNERS: Sergio Alvarez, Claudio Esses.

•**South Florida Open—ABT** (Ft. Lauderdale, FL; 11-13 Apr.)... OPEN (19): 1-Jim McGirr, 2-Lee Genud, 3-Neil Young, 4-Brian Menkes. INTERMEDIATE (16): 1-Michael Rayner, 2-Luisa Sequeira (Portugal), 3-Steve Decter. OPEN DOUBLES (13 Teams): 1-Jon Vietor (CA) & Brian Menkes, 2-Mario & Luisa Sequeira (Portugal).

•**Nation's Capital Spring Open** (Bethesda, MD; 12-13 Apr.)... OPEN: 1-Ed Maslansky, 2-Neil Berkman; 1C-Mark Davis; 1LC-Sam Orandle.

•**British Open Tournament** (East Midlands Airport, England; 12-13 Apr.)... OPEN (97): 1-David McNair, 2-Richard Granville; 1C-Alistair Hogg, 2C-John Wright; 1LC-Jeff Ellis, 2LC-

Mark Leah. SUICIDE! (60): 1-Dave Coyne, 2-Martha Littlehailes.

•**NEBC Sunday Monthly** (Cambridge, MA; 13 Apr.)... EXPERT (21): 1-Evan Diamond, 2-John Mansey, 3/4-Connie Machakos / Walter Trice; 1C-Bob Mojahed, 2C-Ernesto Adrienzen. A DIV. (12): 1-Paul Sciaraffa, 2-Jim Williams, 3/4-Richard Bennett / John Lorenz; 1C-Richard Bennett, 2C-Fred Ferguson.

•**Hong Kong Monthly** (Hong Kong; 7 Apr.)... OPEN: 1-John Simon, 2-Steve Nelson; 1C-Dan Rae, 2C-Marc Mostacci. CHAMPIONSHIP: 1-Asdis Gudmann, 2-Harry Turner; 1C-Taha Ebrahim, 2C-Franz Kockendahl.

•**4th Hong Kong Invitational** (Hong Kong; 18-19 Apr.)... OPEN (16): 1-Paul Weaver (US), 2-Melody Rae; 1C-Avry Ben-Zeev. CHAMPIONSHIP (5): 1/2-Max Modesti / Nancy Wong.

•**Springfield Series Grand Finale** (Springfield, IL; 19 Apr.)... OPEN (15): 1-Greg Tomlin, 2-John Jennings; 1C-Mike Flohr, 2C-Larry Whittenburg; 1LC-Ben Zemaitis.

•**27th Willowbank Invitational** (Shelburne, VT; 20 Apr.)... OPEN (24): 1-Gardner Soule, 2-Marc Tischler; 1C-Gilles Blais, 2C-Puddy Davis; 1LC-Heather Vanblarcom, 2LC-Fred Bement... *Host Gardner Soule's first victory since 1990. First held in 1971, this is the longest-running continuous BG tournament in the U.S.*

•**Backgammon by the Bay Monthly** (San Mateo, CA; 20 Apr.)... OPEN (24): 1-Dan Epstein, 2-Michael Derylo, 3/4-Carmi Brandis / Paul Tanenbaum; 1C-Elliott Winslow, 2C-Kevin Mansfield. INTERMEDIATE (15): 1-David Escoffery, 2-Michael Mitzenmacher; 1C/2C-Jim Rice / Maureen Wasley. BEGINNER (11): 1-Steve Pait, 2-Lorien Phippeny; 1C-Bill Caplan.

•**3rd EBN International May Day Tournament** (Almeria, Spain; 1-7 May)... CHAMPIONSHIP (27 + 5 buy-backs): 1-Dag Ekmark (NOR), 2-Gordon Cross (GER); 1C-Carstan Joh (GER), 2C-Christian Lieb-Harkort (GER); 1LC-Teppo Salo (FIN). INTERMEDIATE (11): 1-Richard Menger (GER), 2-Rainer Witt (GER). SUPER JACKPOT (8): 1-Dag Ekmark (NOR), 2-Matthias Körner (GER). WARM-UP (64): 1-Eduardo Valero (SPA), 2-Christian Liebe-Harkort (GER). GIN RUMMY (32): 1-Philip Swart (UK), 2-Peter Bouman (NL). HOLE-IN-ONE: 1-Elli Nache (USA). LADIES PRIZE: Alicia Nanji (SWIZ).

•**South Australian Open** (Adelaide, So. Australia; 4 May)... OPEN (32): 1-Angelo Ali, 2-Terry Efthimiou, 3/4-Val Logins / Don Schulz.

•**1st Championship of France** (Paris, France; 15-19 May)... CHAMPIONSHIP (33): 1-Thierry Manouck (FRA), 2-Guy Michalet (FRA), 3-Paul Magriel (USA); 1C-Francios Tardieu (FRA), 2C-Serge Nadjar; 1LC-Rony, 2LC-Ahmet Baydar. BEGINNER (18): 1-Legrand, 2-Francios Tissot; 1C-Wainberg, 2C-G. Cohen.

•**County Cups Trophy Tournament** (East Midlands Airport, England; 17-18 May)... OPEN (104): 1-Ralph Eskinazi, 2-Dod Davies, 3-Brian Lever. FRIDAY NIGHT KO (23): 1-Julian Hayhurst, 2-Jeff Ellis. DOUBLES (29): 1-Blood,

Chouette & Tears, 2-Bark & Mill. TOP LADY: Monica Beckerson. BETTER LUCK NEXT TIME: Rachel Rhodes.

•**Backgammon by the Bay Monthly** (San Mateo, CA; 18 May)... OPEN (21): 1-Daniel Murphy, 2-Kit Woolsey, 3/4-Steve Clark / Elliott Winslow; 1C-Ron Karr, 2C-Tom Henson. INTERMEDIATE (8): 1-Roger Gabrielson, 2-Unes Gollestani; 1C-Michael Mitzenmacher. BEGINNER (8): 1-Mark Hein, 2-Lorien Phippeny; 1C-Bill Landry.

•**NEBC Sunday Monthly** (Cambridge, MA; 18 May)... EXPERT (22): 1-Herb Gurland, 2-Marty Storer, 3/4-James Pascoe / John Mansey; 1C-Mark Damish, 2C-Alex Perry. A DIV. (16): 1-Marty Gross, 2-John Koulopoulos, 3/4-Fred Ferguson / John Lorenz; 1C-Roy Chatalbash, 2C-Kevin Flick. Δ



ILLINOIS ACTION



Bill Davis
773/583-6464
Peter Kalba
773/252-7755

Tuesday, 6:15 P.M. at Golden Flame, 6417 W. Higgins Rd., Chicago; 773/792-0424.

Sunday Bimonthly, 12:00 NOON at Anyway's Chicago Grill & Bar, 5 E. Roosevelt Rd., Oakbrook Terrace; 630/932-9323.

PUB CLUB: Tourn. Monday, 7:30 P.M. at Harpo's, 290 S. Schmale, Carol Stream. V. W. Zimnicki (630/924-8632).

GAMES PEOPLE PLAY: Tourn. Monday, 6:30 P.M. at Mr. Ricky's Note, 118 E. Cermak, Chicago. Reggie Porter (773/471-5066).

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL BG CLUB: Tournaments Monday, 6:30 P.M. at Ride The Nine, 503 N. Prospect, Bloomington. Gary Daniels (309/452-3034)

SANGAMON VALLEY BG ASSN: Tournaments 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 Winnetka Community House, 620 Lincoln, Winnetka. Trudie Chibnik (847/446-0537).

CENTRAL ILL. BG CLUB: Tournaments 1st Thursday monthly, 6:30 P.M. at Peoria Pizza Works, 3921 Prospect, Peoria. Sue Will (309/699-6005).

*This message, though brief,
Has a special warm touch,
For it comes from the heart:
Thank you all very much.*

Joann, Howard, John & Jody



Thanks again for your support.

9th International Backgammon Tournament

CITY OF VENICE

Casinò Municipale • Lido of Venice

19–22 June 1997

ADDED PRIZE: LIT. 10,000,000 • 1st PRIZE MINIMUM GUARANTEED: LIT. 20,000,000

	Entry Fees	Registration
Master	750,000	80,000
(Quarter entry	200,000)	
Championship	250,000	50,000
Intermediate	70,000	30,000
Doubles	200,000	30,000
Team	300,000	50,000

\$1 = Lit. 1,700 (approx.)

Prizes

- 100% of all entry fees will be returned
- Free pass to the Casino rooms
- Over 40 trophies to be awarded

Conditions

- Tournament Director: DARIO DE TOFFOLI
- Assistant: Alfonso Sara
- Jackpot Man: Dario Zaccariotto
- Recognized by the WBF
- Precision Dice: available at the tournament
- A playing room will be open until 5:00 am

INFORMATION: studiogiocchi

S. Polo 3083 - 30125 Venezia
tel. +39-41-5211029 fax +39-41-5240881
mobile 0336/359225
e-mail: dariodet@mbox.vol.it

Thursday, 19th June

16:00–20:00 Registration
16:00 Jackpot Programme
18:00 Quarter Entries
22:00 Warm up
23:00 Superjackpot

Friday, 20th June

15:00–19:30 Registration
16:00 Consultation Doubles
22:00 Tournament begins

Saturday, 21st June

15:00 Tournament continues
15:30 Progressive Consolation
18:00 WBF's supporters event (3-point)
22:30 Superjackpot

Sunday, 22nd June

13:00 Last Chance
15:00 Finals
17:00 Team Event
20:00 Prize-giving
21:00 Jackpots Program continues

Moreover:

- Beginner / Intermediate Jackpots
- One-point tournament & Stopots



**CASINO
MUNICIPALE DI
VENEZIA**

studiogiocchi

DAL NEGRO

OFFICIAL SUPPLIER

During the event, the new
OLYMPIC BOARD will be shown.

BACKGAMMON TOURNAMENT *of the Americas*

August 13–17, 1997

**Meliá Cariari Hotel & Casino
San José, Costa Rica**

\$7,000 Added Prize Money

*For more information, or to request
an invitation, contact:*

Bill Davis: 773/583-6464

Carol Joy Cole: 810/232-9731

Peter Kalba: 773/252-7755

**or e-mail Max Esquivel at:
bgammon@sol.racsa.co.cr**

Michigan Summer Backgammon Championships

July 3–6, 1997

**Novi Hilton Hotel
Novi, Michigan**



Featuring 100% Return in the Open Division.
The biggest ABT point award of the year.

To request an invitation, call:

Carol Joy Cole 810/232-9731

e-mail: cjc@flint.org

Visit our tourney website at:

<http://homepage.interaccess.com/~skatz/fmsc.html>