

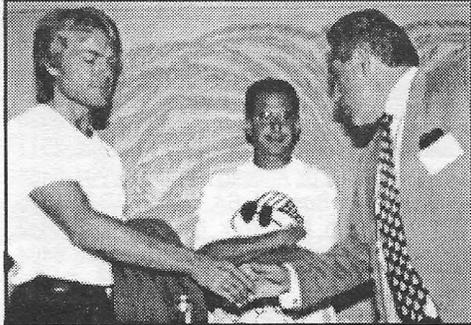
monte carlo world championship

GRANDELL WINS THE WORLD

His 1997 BG Earnings Top \$140,000

By Harald Johanni

Jerry Grandell of Sweden won his second big money event of 1997 capturing the 22nd Monte Carlo World Championship. 213 expert players, almost 30 players more than 1996, registered for the Championship flight in the most prestigious event of the year. Overall, the event,



André Rolfo Fontana congratulates new World Champ Jerry Grandell (left) as runner-up Frédéric Banjout looks on. [Photo by Harald Johanni.]

held once again at Loews Monte-Carlo Hotel in Monaco 7-13 July, attracted nearly 400 players from across the globe.

The traditional welcoming cocktail party was held on Monday. Following the tennis tournament on Tuesday, the first round of Championship play commenced promptly at 2:00 P.M. By late that evening, the final-64 were determined.

There was a break in tourney play on Wednesday. The day was filled with the tennis and golf tournaments as well as sight-seeing for Monte-Carlo first-timers. In the evening, players attended the gala dinner at the exclusive Sporting Club.

Play resumed Thursday at 4:00 P.M. By Saturday morning, the final player, 1988 World Champ Philip Marmorstein of Germany, had reached the semifinals. Another semifinalist was 1996 Olympiad and 1997 Turkish Giant Jackpot winner Jerry Grandell, who beat Rasmus Nohr, a young Danish talent.

[Continued on page 6]

1997 michigan summer championships

A WORK OF 'ART'

Art Benjamin Proves He Can Win Outside of California

Art Benjamin, a math professor from Pasadena, California, proved he knows his numbers by winning the Michigan Summer Championships. An all-time



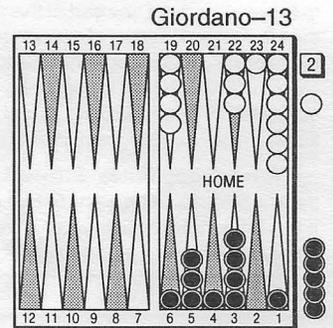
Mike Giordano (left) offers Art Benjamin a 2-cube in the Open finals. Costa Rica's Max Esquivel (center) records the action.

Michigan record Open field of 93 players participated in Carol Joy Cole's annual backgammon bash held at the Novi Hilton Hotel 3-6 July. Overall, worldwide participation topped 200: the best attendance since 1989.

Up until now, Art Benjamin, current all-time ABT leader, had won all his points in California tournaments. This was Art's first ABT tournament outside of his home state and he proved up to the challenge.

In the finals against long-time Michigan player Mike Giordano, the undefeated Benjamin would need to lose two matches to lose the tournament. At 13-all in the first 15-pointer and with the cube on 2, Art became a 20-to-1 bearoff favorite. But two

Michigan 15-point finals. Match #1 tied at 13-13 and Mike Giordano (White) owns a 2-cube. Giordano is on roll.



Giordano-13

Benjamin-13

[Continued on page 9]

"Hard Luck Story" contest.

WIN \$100.00

See page 9.

BAKGAM'ED AGAIN!

Back in July 1992, my vehicle (licence plate BAKGAM) was struck while parked. That damaged vehicle is pictured in POINT issue #48. Now, nearly five years later to the day, while playing tennis with my father, an individual rammed into the backside of my parked car at over 30 mph. Whereas the damage in 1992 was a mere \$3,000, 1997 repairs will cost near \$18,000.

The way I'm getting hit, I should change my vanity plate to "BLOT"!



CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

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LETTERS

c/o CHICAGO POINT

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EXPOSING THE PROBLEM

Good luck with your thievery awareness campaign in the backgammon community. BIBA has had problems with theft as well, but I know that 99% of our members are trustworthy.

I did hear of an unusual thievery that happened at the recent Nordic Open. FIBS tourney winner Stefan Paliwoda had his wallet stolen whilst he was on the stage receiving his trophy!—*Michael Crane, director, British Isles Backgammon Association, Lincoln, England*

I thought your editorial handled the "thievery in backgammon" issue very nicely. Let's hope it does some good.—*Linda Woods, Springfield, IL*

THE CUBE WASN'T FOR THE GENTEEL

First, Congratulations on Issue #100.

[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

E-mail: cjc@flint.org

* Denotes new or revised listing

NATIONAL *American Backgammon Tour events underlined.*

- Aug 8-10* 39th Gammon Associates Invitational, A. R. Private Club, Los Angeles, CA 818/901-0464
 Aug 10* Northern Ohio Club Monthly, Aroma Coffee & Tea, Akron, OH 330/966-2811
 Aug 15-17* FIBStock '97, Federal Way, Silverdale, Tahuya, WA 206/838-5486
 Aug 16* Dr. Bob's "Sweet 16" Invitational, New York Chess & BG, New York, NY 800/520-1809
 Aug 17 Backgammon by the Bay, San Mateo Bridge Center, San Mateo, CA 510/838-7789
 Aug 21 Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI 810/232-9731
 Aug 23 Atlanta Monthly Tournament, Tony's Grille & Bar, Roswell, GA 770/333-1876
 Aug 29-Sep 1 45th Indiana Open, Radisson Hotel, Indianapolis, IN 317/255-8902
 Sep 1* Lainer's FIBS Monthly Tournament, via computer modem *lainer@cyberbeach.net*
 Sep 1* Lainer's GamesGrid Monthly Tournament, via computer modem *lainer@cyberbeach.net*
 Sep 7* Northern Ohio Club Monthly, Aroma Coffee & Tea, Akron, OH 330/966-2811
 Sep 14* New England Club Monthly, Sheraton-Commander, Cambridge, MA 508/829-3283
 Sep 18-21 Vermont State Championships, Stratton Mountain Inn, Stratton Mtn., VT 954/527-4033
 Sep 19-21 2nd Minnesota State Championships, Minneapolis Athletic Club, MN 612/378-1536
 Sep 21* Austin Sunday Bimonthly Tournament, Bombay Bicycle Club, Austin TX 512/261-8518
 Sep 21* Backgammon by the Bay, San Mateo Bridge Center, San Mateo, CA 510/838-7789
 Sep 26-28 Towpath Inn Tournament, Towpath Inn, Turin, NY 716/442-8221
 Sep 28* Atlanta Fall Doubles Tournament, Tony's Grill & Tap, Roswell, GA 770/333-1876
 Oct 1-Dec 31 FIBS 1997 Fall Tournament, via computer modem <davide@sco.com> 408/438-7947
 Oct 2-5 Illinois State Champs & America Cup, Holidome, Rolling Meadows, IL 847/945-7801
 Oct 10-12 Nation's Capital Championships, Promenade, Bethesda, MD 301/530-0604
 Oct 12* Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Anyway's Grill, Oakbrook Terrace, IL 773/252-7755
 Oct 12* New England Club Monthly, Sheraton-Commander, Cambridge, MA 508/829-3283
 Oct 17-19* Florida State Championship, Ocean Manor Hotel, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 954/785-1282
 Oct 31-Nov 2 Northeast Regional: 4th New England Championships, South Lee, MA 603/863-4711
 Nov 11-15 Las Vegas Open, Riviera Hotel, Las Vegas, NV 702/893-6025
 Nov 28-30* Northern Ohio Thanksgiving Tournament, Holiday Inn, Canton, OH 330/966-2811
 Dec 5-7* 40th Gammon Associates Invitational, A. R. Private Club, Los Angeles, CA 818/901-0464
 Dec 20 Atlanta Holiday Festival Tournament, Tony's Grill & Tap, Roswell, GA 770/333-1876
 Dec 27-28 Ace Point New York Holiday Tournament, Ace Point Club, New York, NY 212/753-0842
 Jan 9-12 Backgammon On Board IV, Miami to Bahamas cruise tourney on NCL 773/583-6464

OUTSIDE USA

- Aug 8-10 Franken ganz Open III, Hotel Schwarzer Adler, Uttenreuth, 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, Medien-Café/Café Belmont, Berlin, Germany 4930-4619624
 Aug 18-24 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
 Aug 30-31 DM Doubles 1997, Selskabslokalerne, Copenhagen, Denmark 4539-400607
 Sep 5-7 7th Mitteleuropa Tournament, Casinò Park, Nova Gorica, Slovenia 392-29409743
 Sep 6-7* Åbne Jyske Mesterkaber, Vanggårdscentret, Århus, Denmark 4586-243813
 Sep 11-14 Brazilian Tournament, Leme Tennis Club, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil 5521-2478594
 Sep 13-14* Berlin Cup/Havel Cup '97, Medien-Café/Café Belmont, Berlin, Germany 4930-4619624
 Sep 13-14* Schwaben-Cup, Hotel Comfort Inn, Stuttgart-Gerlingen, Germany 4971-1486190
 Sep 19-21 Piggs Peak Bonanza, Protea Piggs Peak Hotel Casino, Swaziland 2711-4860780
 Sep 25-28* 9th Scandinavian New Hair Clinic Open, Interpool, Malmö, Sweden 4640-962151
 Sep 27-28 Grand Torneo "Citta' di Bologna," Hotel Zola, Bologna, Italy 3933-87187324
 Oct 1-5* Asian Championships, Ladies Recreation Club, Hong Kong 852-28461923
 Oct 2-7 4th German Open, Hotel am Kaiserbrunnen, Brakel, Germany 49521-64314
 Oct 4-5 5th Irish Open, Winns Hotel, Dublin, Ireland 3531-6689332
 Oct 11-12* Berlin Cup/Havel Cup '97, Medien-Café/Café Belmont, Berlin, Germany 4930-4619624
 Oct 11-12* De Åbne Fynsmesterskaber, Bridge Unionens Lokaler, Odense, Denmark 4566-106008
 Oct 17-19 Swiss Championships '97, Kursaal, Bern, 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
 Oct 29-Nov 2 Grand Prix de Suisse, Hotel Splendide Royal, Lugano, Switzerland 4179-3374425
 Oct 31-Nov 2* Swedish Open, Amarenten Hotel, Stockholm, Sweden 468-6523033
 Nov 1-2* BIBA Divisional Swiss/League, Hilton National, Bracknell, England 441372-21000
 Nov 1-3 3rd Japan Open 1997, Tokyo, Japan 813-33733814
 Nov 8-9* Frederiksberg Open 1997, Copenhagen, Denmark 4539-400607
 Nov 12-16* 1st Moscow Open, World Trade Center Hotel, Moscow, Russia 795333-6355
 Nov 15-16* Berlin Cup/Havel Cup '97, Medien-Café/Café Belmont, Berlin, Germany 4930-4619624
 Nov 15-16* Grand Torneo "Citta' di Bologna," Hotel Zola, Bologna, Italy 393387-187324
 Nov 22-23 Townharbour TT Trophy, Hilton National Hotel, Milton Keynes, England 441522-546993
 Jan 9-18* World Cup Challenge IV & SuperJackpot, Conrad Istanbul, Turkey 972-36727063

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

A comment about the 1835 miniature drawing room picture in last month's issue where there was a backgammon board but no doubling cube. In past times, doubling was considered gambling and though

gambling among men was acceptable, no such thing would happen in a family setting or among genteel mixed adult company.—*Monica Ripley, Seattle, WA*

MORE COSTA RICA INCENTIVE

The Meliá Cariari Hotel gave us some nice news. The Casino is giving away a new car during the week of our Backgammon

Tournament of the Americas (13-17 August). Any player going to the Casino and spending a little money will be entered into the drawing. Let's hope it's one of our entrants who drives off with the prize.—*Max Esquivel, Costa Rican Backgammon Association*

A GREAT TIME IN LAS VEGAS

I am sure I will be echoed by all the other Brits, Irish and others from my neck of the planet who crossed the Pond to play in the most recent Vegas tournament by saying what a truly splendid and memorable time was had by all!

I won \$120 the first day and beat master player Mike Corbett. Right there, it was worth the \$1700 that it cost me to make the trip—well, almost!

During the wild week, I flew into the Grand Canyon with a few very nice friends, saw the sea battle at the Treasure Island Hotel, and later the magnificent show *Mystère*.

I cruised the Strip in a fast convertible thanks to Peter Kalba. In the process, I got to chat with a beautiful biker chick riding a white Harley ElectraGlide! I had my first craps lesson (thanks Antoinette!). I had some memorable meals. I also missed a quintuple shot playing a 1-2 backgammon and did nothing much the rest of the week of a backgammony nature! Etc., etc., etc...

Would I do it again? You bet! Exactly the same? Probably not as I *never* repeat

[Continued on page 7]



AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 1997

AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 1997

Compiled through 6 July 1997 after 8 tournaments
(Coming in August: Thousand Islands and Nat'l Labor Day)



AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 1997

Doug Mayfield	35.36	Phil Simborg	6.61	Emil Mortuk	3.88	Judy Field	2.08
Art Benjamin	31.00	Mike Senkiewicz	6.58	Joe Freedman	3.78	Gary Marchenia	2.07
Fred Kalantari	22.88	Andy Palumbo	6.40	Fred Badagnani	3.60	Mike McGill	2.02
John O'Hagan	22.69	Richard Del Furia	5.70	Bill Phipps	3.59	Mel Handelsman	1.96
Rob Maier	17.94	Ray Bills	5.60	John Bryant	3.30	Jolie Rubin	1.76
Stuart Hosen	17.09	Allen Levien	5.28	Rick Bieniak	3.29	Jason Mucklow	1.62
Mike Giordano	15.50	Abbas Zaltash	5.28	Bruce Russell	3.26	Brian Menkes	1.56
Ray Foglerlund	15.50	Drew Giovanis	5.28	Jay Ward	3.20	Mike Reza	1.56
Jon Stephens	15.31	Alice Kay	5.23	Ron Bruns	3.19	Larry Yudin	1.56
John Brussel	13.49	Hunter Jones	5.20	Ron Genter	3.19	Joe Davidson	1.40
Harry Tokatljan	12.75	Lee Genud	5.08	Neil Young	2.83	Janet Stam	1.39
Hal Heinrich	12.55	Malcolm Davis	4.93	Reza Zaltash	2.82	Peaches Stewart	1.34
Steve Klesker	11.44	Terry Kayser	4.90	David Levine	2.64	Kim Starbuck	1.34
David Wells	11.33	Carlos Hamon	4.66	Nayan Shah	2.64	Randy Douthat	1.16
Harvey Huie	11.20	David Haddad	4.52	Sonja Peacock	2.64	George Parker	1.10
Rich Catalano	10.56	Ed Zell	4.38	Luisa Sequeira	2.61	Pete Townsend	1.06
Mike Friedman	10.56	Michael Rayner	4.36	Gary Stern	2.46	Steve Decter	1.03
Nack Ballard	10.45	Frank Talbot	4.16	Paul Friedman	2.40	Dave Hart	1.00
Steve Sax	9.82	John Jennings	4.16	N. Laaly	2.34	Simon Kennedy-Rose	0.98
Joann Feinstein	9.61	Jim Muirhead	4.00	Paul Stokes	2.34	Carl Walker	0.98
Jim McGirr	9.53	Elliott Winslow	3.97	Phyllis Smolinski	2.26	Patrick Lewis	0.84
Ed King	8.84	Perry Gartner	3.97	Bobbie Shifrin	2.19	Eric Haber	0.84
Sam Pottle	7.31	Bob Hill	3.88	Curtis Lucas	2.19	Diane Cyrkiel	0.70
Eliot Bean	7.09	Andy Rubien	3.88	Marty Storer	2.11	Bill Versaw	0.63
Garó Tchalabian	7.09	Rick Barabino	3.88	Janice Newman	2.08	Tony Garcia	0.61



CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB

CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB 1997 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

COMPILED
THRU 31 JULY

Neil Kazaross	14.20	Paul Friedman	5.40	Wendy Kaplan	1.24	Reggie Porter	0.60
Rick Bieniak	12.28	Stu Katz	4.88	Jerry Brooks	0.96	Tom Meyer	0.56
Gary Kay	11.40	Tak Morioka	4.76	Jolie Rubin	0.96	Barbara Levinson	0.56
Herb Roman	10.96	Bobbie Shifrin	4.60	Jill Ferdinand	0.92	Steve Klesker	0.56
Harry Cohn	10.92	Ken Bond	4.56	Marty Tatosian	0.88	Femi Owiku	0.56
Paul Franks	10.24	Don Jayhan	4.56	Elliott Winslow	0.88	Todd Hengsteler	0.48
Alice Kay	9.28	Bob Koca	4.32	Chuck Bower	0.88	Ken Tyszko	0.48
Bill Keefe	8.80	John Demian	4.16	John Stryker	0.88	Roz Ferris	0.44
Phil Simborg	8.40	Ed Buerger	3.28	Larry Strommen	0.80	Jodie Feinstein	0.32
Joann Feinstein	7.56	Arline Levy	2.88	Phil Barrett	0.80	Jay Ward	0.28
Bill Davis	7.36	Fred Badagnani	2.80	Tim Helms	0.72	Sam Pottle	0.24
Paul Klein	7.32	Joe Wollick	2.80	Laila Leonhardt	0.72	Sarg Serges	0.24
Jake Jacobs	7.12	Richard Lloyd	2.56	John Brussel	0.68	Nan Feiber	0.24
Leslie Lockett	6.48	Amy Valerio	2.48	V.W. Zimnicki	0.64	Todd Permut	0.24
Bob Zavoral	6.32	Mary Franks	2.08	Mark Murray	0.64	Romeo Kap	0.24
Norma Shyer	6.04	Michael Wilhoyt	1.84	Roland Dieter	0.64	Georgina Flanagan	0.16
Peter Kalba	6.00	Roger Hickman	1.60	David Wells	0.64	Karen Meyer	0.12
Phyllis Smolinski	5.80	John Jennings	1.60	Greg Tomlin	0.60	Scott Richardson	0.12
Tim Mabee	5.40						

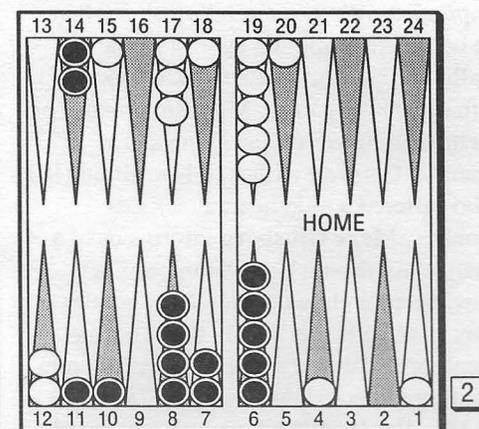
July Bar Point Club play was dominated by **RICK BIENIAK**. Rick won two weekly tournaments and cashed in two others to collect 5.64 points. Harry Cohn (2.68) and Peter Kalba (2.04) were runners-up.

your move

PROBLEM #236

to be analyzed by Kit Woolsey

Monte Carlo 23-point Championship semifinals. Black (Jerry Grandell) leads White (Philip Marmorstein), 22-20.
BLACK TO PLAY 5-4.



ASK
DANNY

© 1997 by Danny Kleinman

MAGRIEL'S THEOREM AND KOCA'S PARADOX

Dear Danny: On page 292 of his Backgammon, Paul Magriel claims it is probably never wrong to bear a man off with an ace in a non-contact bear-off. I tried to prove this myself and came very close but never quite made it. My plan was to show how any position reached after 1/0 can be transposed into the same position as that reached after playing a different ace, or a position demonstrably better. The gap in my proof came at a surprising step. I could not prove that adding an extra checker to the 1-point never improves a position.

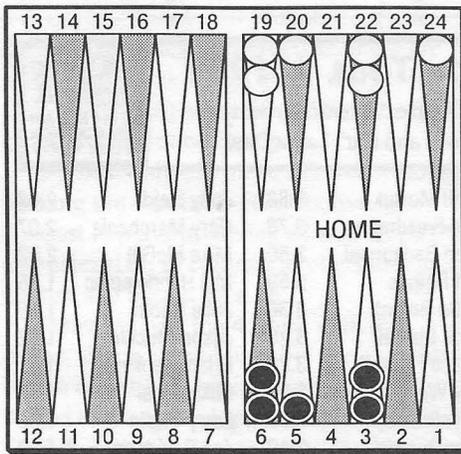
Do you think there is really a way to prove Magriel's Theorem?—Bob Koca, Edinboro, PA

DEAR BOB: Amazing! On page 74 of my *The Other Side of Midnight*, where I sketched an informal proof, I simply treated as obvious without proof the lemma you could not prove.

Consider, for example, the following simple bear-off in which both sides are to

play the same rolls simultaneously. However, White plays each roll, Black can play it also, retaining "near symmetry": symmetry except for White's extra man on the 1-point, or so I thought.

Black and White to bear off the same roll simultaneously. White has an extra checker on the ace point.



Sometimes both sides will bear off at the same time: for example, on double 3s followed by double 5s. Sometimes White will remain with a man on the 1-point after Black has borne off: for example, on double 6s followed by 2-1. So how can White ever bear off *before* Black?

Answer: Black cannot retain near-symmetry when White has exactly *one* man on the 1-point and bears it off with an

ace. Suppose the roll is 6-1. White plays 6/Off, 1/Off. Black plays 6/Off, *and must then play an ace*. Playing that ace *can cost Black an extra shake*.

If Black plays 6/5, 3/2, then he remains with one man after double 3s (taking two off) and 6-1 following; meanwhile White takes *three* off on double 3s and bears his last man off from the 5-point on 6-1 following.

If Black plays 5/4, then he'll move 6/1, 3/Off on 5-3 next, and remain with *three men*; meanwhile White will move 5/Off, 3/Off, leaving only *two men*, on the 6- and 3-points. On 6-3 following, White will take both men off, but Black, who started with one man fewer on the 1-point, will remain with a man there.

In your honor, Bob, I call the following statement *Koca's Paradox*: "No matter how you play it, having to move an ace in a pure race can cost you an extra shake."

In the above and other Koca's Paradox positions, Black bear-off is superior to White's. I still believe Magriel's Theorem, but its proof, as you suspect, involves probabilities . . . and awaits a mathematician better or younger than I.—*Yours, Danny*

Questions for Danny Kleinman should be addressed to: Ask Danny, c/o CHICAGO POINT, 3940 W. Bryn Mawr Ave. 504; Chicago, IL 60659-3155.

AMALGAMATION

If you've never taken a cruise, Nevada Backgammon Director **Howard Markowitz** will try his hand at poker when he directs The Queens Poker Classic Summer Edition IV Tournament 1997, September 1-19 at the Four Queens Hotel & Casino... Flint to Chicago: **Steve Mellen**... **Malcolm Davis** (TX) was so impressed with the new JellyFish 3.0 that he backed the program against **Nack Ballard** (CA) and **Mike Senkiewicz** (NY). After 600 total games, Malcolm broke even on the combined results. Quite a program!... Get well wishes to **Ken Bond** (IL) who suffered a mild heart attack last month... **Merv Ginsberg** informs us of a change in Toronto Backgammon. They now meet for chouette play daily at 6:00 p.m. at W.C. Fields Sports Bar. Tournaments are held every Thursday at 7:00 p.m. For more info, call Merv at 416/789-1238... Bar Point Club visitors last month:

Laila Leonhardt (Denmark), WWW Backgammon Pages Internet author **Stephen Turner** (England), and **Chuck Bower** (IN)... Backgammon expert **Kathy Posner** teamed with **Jake Hartford** 21-25 July on WLS Talkradio (Chicago) while **Don Wade & Roma** were on vacation... Congratulations to **Fred & Barbara Gehlhoff** (WI) who were married 28 June... **Carol Joy Cole** is searching for a new, larger home in her new Oldsmobile Intrigue. She plans to stay in the Flint area... **Mark Emershaw** informs us of his new club in the San Francisco Bay area. The meet Tuesdays (6:30 p.m.) at the Black Thorn Tavern in San Francisco, and first Sunday monthly (3:00 p.m.) at the Mission Ale House. For info, contact Mark at 415/584-3329... If you've never taken a cruise, what better reason: Backgammon on Board IV: Miami to Nassau with **Bill Davis**, **Peter Kalba** and **Amy Valerio**. When 9-12 January rolls around, you'll be happy you signed up now! Call 773/583-6464 for details. We would like your preliminary registration by 1 September. 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 The Clique, 2347 S. Michigan, Chicago. Reggie Porter (773/471-5066).

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL BG CLUB: Tournaments Monday, 6:30 P.M. at Peoria Pizza Works, 3921 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).

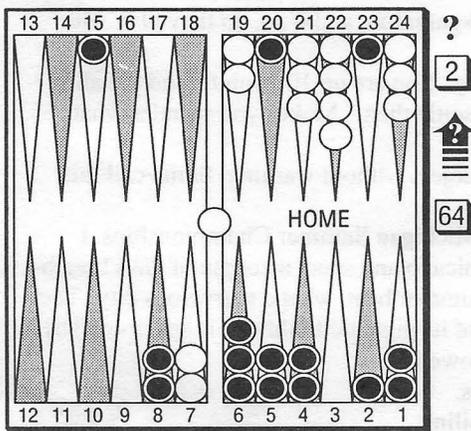
GRANDELL...

[Continued from page 1]

The other two semifinalists were, Neville Eber (South Africa) and Frédéric Banjout of France who defeated Americans Mike Svobodny and Steve Zolotow respectively.

In semifinal #1, Neville Eber had very little chance against Frédéric Banjout and lost 23-16. The other semifinal battle was a great one pitting Jerry Grandell against Philip Marmorstein. This match was televised in the Salle d'Or. With Grandell leading 3-2, spectators couldn't believe their eyes as the two began playing a take/pass proposition in the middle of their match!

Proposition (money game style). Black on shake. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



Although Grandell took, JellyFish™ rollouts show this to be a drop ($E = -0.693$). Grandell went on to win 23-20 to earn a place in the world championship match.

On Sunday, the 25-point finals was played. Spectators were able to watch the match via closed circuit; however, on-screen play proceeded in silence as the organizers refused to pay for a commentator.

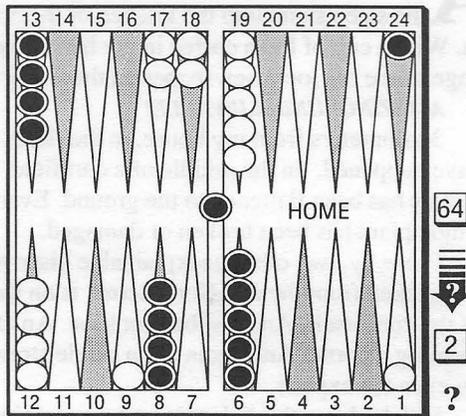
After five games, Grandell, the favorite, had rolled to an 8-1 advantage. Following game 10, Grandell had increased his lead to 13-3. A doubled gammon in game 14 gave Jerry his biggest lead of the match: 18-7.

It looked like a cakewalk, for the Swede. But Banjout kept it interesting for the crowd by outscoring Grandell 10 to 2 over the next eight games to trail by only three points: 20-17. Grandell won the next game to make the score 21-17. The final game (number 24) indicates the skill difference between the two finalists.

25-point World Championship finals. Jerry Grandell (Black) leads Frédéric Banjout (White) 21-17. The last game:

1. 5-4: 24/20, 13/8 6-1: 13/7, 8/7
2. 6-5: 20/9 2-2: 24/16*
3. 6-6: dance Double to 2

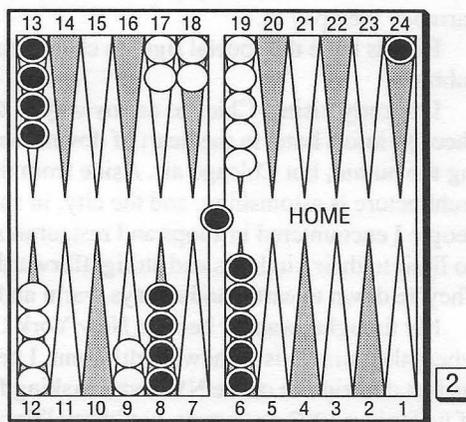
Position 1. White (Banjout) on shake. CUBE ACTION(S)?



No double—too early! Clear take. $E = 0.382$.

4. Take 5-3: 24/16

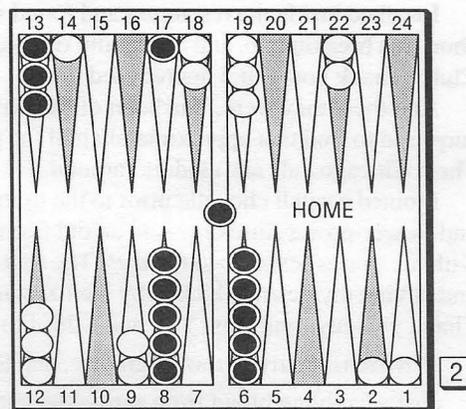
Position 2. BLACK TO PLAY 5-3.



Best is Bar/20, 8/5. Black has to go for both 5-points. Entering on the 22-point is weaker because of less outfield control and less chances to make important points.

5. 5-3: Bar/22, 13/8 3-1: 8/5, 6/5
6. 4-3: 24/17* 3-1: Bar/24, 6/3*
7. 2-1: Bar/22* 2-2: Bar/23, 13/11, 5/3(2)*

Position 2. BLACK TO PLAY 5-2.



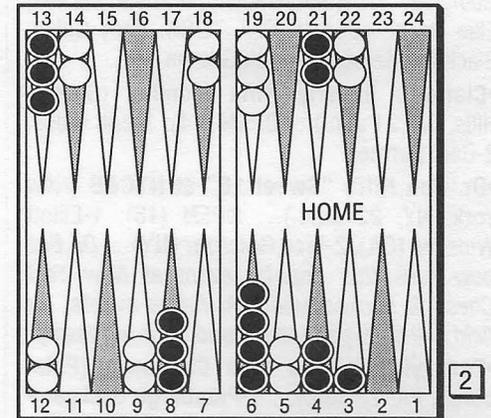
After Bar/20, 17/15, too many rolls work well for White. Black has to take half of White's roll with the hit on the 1-point. Bar/23, 6/1* is best.

8. 5-2: Bar/20, 17/15 4-3: 24/20, 13/10*

11/7 would give Black no more good 6s. 13/10*, 11/7 (not 24/20) is best.

9. 4-3: Bar/21, 8/5* 4-1: Bar/20*
10. 5-4: Bar/21, 20/15* 4-2: Bar/21, 23/21
11. 4-3: 15/8 3-1: 21/20, 21/18
12. 4-2: 8/4, 6/4 4-3: 18/11
13. 4-1: 8/3

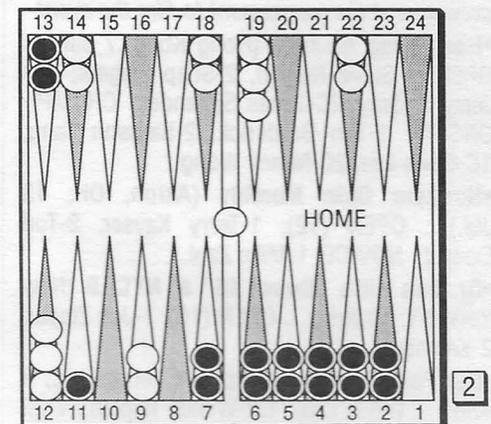
Position 4. WHITE TO PLAY 5-2.



16/14, 16/11 is best, clearing an unnecessary point with no high risk and creating builders for outfield points. Leaving the anchor (20/13) is a BIG mistake (equity difference = 0.15).

13. 5-2: 20/13
14. 3-3: 13/10, 8/5(2)*, 6/3 5-4: dance
15. 4-4: 21/17, 10/2, 6/2 5-3: dance
16. 5-3: 21/13 4-4: dance
17. 2-2: 17/11, 13/11 6-2: dance
18. 4-1: 11/7, 8/7

Position 5. WHITE (ON THE BAR) TO PLAY 1-1.



White should fight on! Bar/24, 16/14*/13, searching for counter play, is best. Bar/24, 6/5, 7/5 only waits to get hit on the ace-point and is too passive.

18. 1-1: Bar/24, 7/5, 6/5
 19. 5-3: 11/3 6-2: 13/7, 11/9
 20: 3-2: 7/4, 3/1* 4-3: dance
 21. 6-6: 13/1(2) dance
 22. 5-1: 7/2, 1/off dance
 23. 5-3: 6/3, 6/1 6-6: Bar/19/13, 16/10(2)

Grandell goes on to win a gammon and the match.

Congratulations to the other winners, shown below.—Harald Johanni Δ

1997 MONTE CARLO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

CHAMPIONSHIP (213): 1-Jerry Grandell (Sweden), 2-Frédéric Banjout (France), 3/4-Neville Eber (South Africa) / Philip Marmorstein (Germany); 1Cons.1st.-Mario Sequeira (Portugal), 1Cons.2nd-Christian Lieb-Harkort (Germany), 1Cons.3/4-Ken Bond (USA) / Alberto Rusca (Switzerland); 2Cons.1st-Chuck Papazian (USA), 2Cons.2nd-Perry Gartner (USA), 2Cons.3/4-John Sjölin (Denmark) / Patrick Didisheim (Switzerland); 1LC-Engin Ongel (Turkey/UK), 2LC-Markus Rindisbacher (Switzerl); Ladies' Prize: Anna Binder (Sweden).

INTERMEDIATE (80): 1-Marc Werner (Germany), 2-Freddy Edwards (Denmark), 3/4-Robin Clay (United Kingdom) / Kirsten Schmidt (Germany); 1Cons.1st-Andreas Bugl (Germany), 1Cons.2nd-Izady Baxtadge (Georgia), 1Cons.3/4-Steffen Gerke (Germany) / Demyzi Maglakelidze (Georgia); 2Cons.1st-Arrin Daroudi (Iran), 2Cons.2nd-Michel Loughman (Ireland), 2Cons.3/4-Danny Fogel (Denmark) / Michel Schou (Denmark); 1LC-Ira Siegler (USA), 2LC-Patty Donner-Rubin (USA/UK); Ladies' Prize: Cecilia Pedroza (USA).

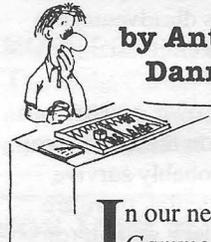
BEGINNER (65): 1-Matthias Boekenkamp (Germany), 2-Mehdi Hassani (Iran), 3/4-Roland Michel (Switzerland) / G. Barragan-Herrera (Mexico); 1Cons.1st-Rasmus G. Hansen (Denmark), 1Cons.2nd-Willibert Kirfel (Germany), 1Cons.3/4-Amber Carlston (USA) / Hayley Eber (South Africa); 2Cons.1st-Aretis Rostomian (Armenia), 2Cons.2nd-Monika Schneider (Germany), 2Cons.3/4-Lars Bentson (Denmark) / Jannica Tornquist (Sweden); 1LC-Henrik Gwinner (Denmark), 2LC-Nima Moghaddam (Iran).

FRED WORLD TEAM EVENT: 1-CASCAIS (José Salema, Miguel D'Almeida, Leo Fernandez (Portugal/Argentina), 2-NIPPON B (Seiichi Nagai, Inoue Yutaka, Higuchi Yasuko (Japan).

SPECIAL PRIZES: Courtesy Trophy-Frank Gonsenhausner (South Africa), Travel Trophy-Leo Fernandez (Argentina), Fidelity Trophy-Robert Willems (Holland), Chairman's Trophy-Les & Sue Boyd (USA), Elegance Trophy for Men-Juri Akopov (Russia), Elegance Trophy for Women-Linda George (USA).

TENNIS TOURNAMENT: Men's Doubles 1st-Mike Corbett & Kuhle, Men's Doubles 2nd-Hakim & Moazed; Mixed Doubles 1st-Narboni & Narboni, Mixed Doubles 2nd-Kuhle & Lehto. GOLF TOURNAMENT: 1-Henrik Gwinner (Denmark), 2-Jacob Jorgensen (Denmark).

Cube Strategies at 2 Away / 2 Away



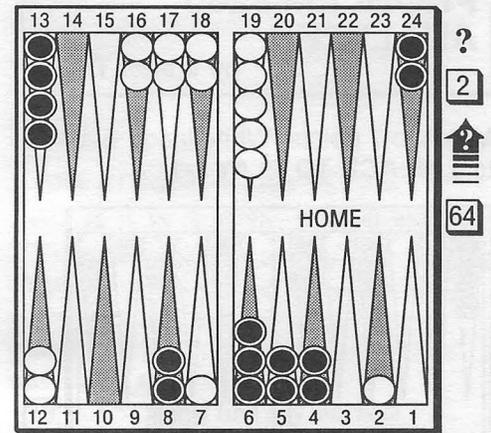
by Antonio Ortega & Danny Kleinman

In our new book *Cubes and Gammons Near the End of the Match*, we discuss several strategies for tie scores when both sides need 2. Since a pass lets the doubled player enter the Crawford Game with 30% match chances, he needs 30% game chances to take—substantially more than the 22% needed to take in money play where the cube is live. Since the cube will die at 2 no matter who turns it, and a favorable sequence may catapult the player on roll beyond his cashpoint, the usual strategy is to double at the first hint of possible market loss.

The following problem arose during World Cup V (Dallas, August 1996) when Black departed from the usual strategy, refraining from doubling at his previous turn despite having a few market-losing sequences, and waiting for further progress in his position. Then he made the 4-point.

We call Black's strategy "Waiting for a Tough Cube." It's rationale is that White, aware that he must be cautious in taking at this score, and perhaps reacting to gammon threats unconsciously, may pass uncomfortable, but still clear, takes.

Match play. Both sides need 2. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



In this position, Black has many market-losing sequences, most of them consisting of a hit by Black and a dance by White. Clearly, Black should double.

Just as clearly, White should take: he has a 4-prime, and Black's two men still on the acepoint aren't near the edge. Though the position is gammonish, gammons are meaningless with the cube at 2. White's game-winning chances are much higher than the 30% he needs to take.

In the match, Black did double. Surprisingly, however, White passed. Even some top players find it hard to react correctly to some doubles at this score. White's misguided pass added substantially to Black's chances in the match. Δ

Editor's note: Neil Kazaross will review *Cubes and Gammons Near the End of the Match* in the September CHICAGO POINT.

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

my mistakes: I just find *new* ones!

Tournaments like these are a little like going on holiday where you have the chance to return far richer than when you started: not the normal holiday for sure. Of course you do your best, you try to win; but above all you have a great time and sod the cost!—Martin Lee, *West Yorkshire, England*

IN THE BEGINNING...

Do you know the origin of the name of the game Backgammon? Also, who created the game?—Faye Dloogoff, *Coconut Grove, FL*

According to *The Backgammon Book* by Oswald Jacoby and John Crawford, the most ancient possible ancestor of the game to be found so far dates back some 5000 years to the ancient civilization of Sumer

which flourished in southern Mesopotamia in what is now Iraq.

The game has had many names including "Tables," and "Tricrac." The earliest recorded use of the word "Backgammon" was in 1645. The *Oxford Universal Dictionary* says the modern game of Backgammon was invented in England in the early 17th century.

In Welsh, "bach" means small, and "cammaun" means battle. Another middle english source: "baec" means back, and "gamen" means game.

To order *The Backgammon Book*, contact Carol Joy Cole at 810/232-9731 or e-mail <cjc@flint.org>—Ed.

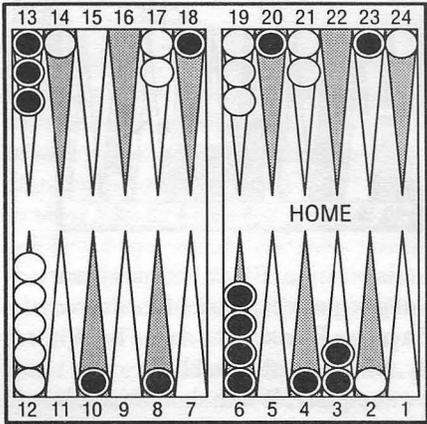
CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to CHICAGO POINT and its contributors on the 100th issue. Keep up the good work with your important contribution to the BG world.—Claudio Salamone, *Argentina Backgammon Association* Δ

PROBLEM #235 ANALYZED

by Walter Trice

Match to 7 points. White leads Black 5 to 3. **BLACK TO PLAY 2-1.**



64

First clue: Offense is better than defense. Not that any offensive play is better than every defensive play in all situations, but in general, offense is better. Offense tries to win the game; defense tries to equalize. Early on, a defensive play is one that will merely maintain the status quo—if it works.

Second clue: Constructive plays are better than plays that do nothing.

These two principles may seem trivial, but they point to the correct play in Prob-

lem #235. What is difficult here is not finding the play, but realizing that nothing else going on in the position makes a difference. One must see that in spite of all his exposed blots, Black's disadvantage is small, so he should not be emphasizing defense.

White has blots of her own, and her two point board with the blot on the ace is weak enough that Black will probably survive the coming attack. In particular, there are many sequences where Black will hit (or even double hit) next roll and turn the game around immediately.

So Black should make his own 4-point. Making the 4-point is constructive, in contrast to plays involving a loose hit (4/2*), and offensive, in contrast to plays that just anchor and button up a bit.

After making the 4-point with the deuce, Black should base his ace on duplication of White's hitting numbers. 8/7 would exchange a duplicated hitting 6 for a fresh 5, so it can be ruled out. The blot on the 23-point should also stay put, duplicating 6s and 4s. This leaves 10/9 as the best available ace.

The match score increases the edge that 6/4, 10/9 has over the best

defensive play (20/18, 4/3). In spite of the fact that White could

win the match with an undoubled gammon, increasing the gammon potential for both sides is extremely advantageous to Black. When either side touches the cube, White's gammon wins lose all significance.

Black will be doubling very aggressively, while White will usually wind up waiting until she can cash the game. Even in the games where White is destined to win a gammon, she will normally first get to a position where her winning percentage is in the low- to mid-80s and cashing is correct.

Black should actually have doubled before rolling his 2-1. The rule-of-thumb I use at 4-away/2-away is that if I'm not losing and my chance of winning a gammon is greater than it was at the start of the game, I double. A 6480-game JellyFish rollout of the position has Black winning a plain game 33% of the time and winning a gammon 20% of the time. This would give him a match equity after doubling of $33\% / 2 + 20\% = 36.5\%$.

Since he started the game with a match equity of 32% and would be cashing at 40%, he should have sent the cube over. (Of course, for money it would be no double/beaver.)

I had JellyFish™ roll out the two main candidate plays 12,960 times each yielding the following results:

6/4, 10/9—Black wins 45%, 16% gammon wins, 24% gammon wins for White

20/18, 4/3—Black wins 43%, 12% gammon wins, 18% gammon wins for White

These results confirm what common sense suggests. At double match-point, 6/4, 10/9 would be right. At 4-away/2-away, the extra gammons it generates makes it even "rightier." Δ

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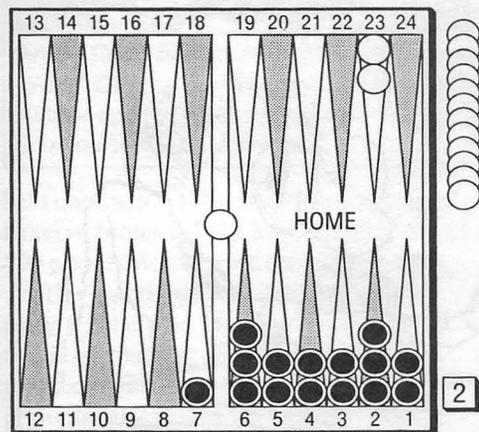
In honor of last month's 100th issue of CHICAGO POINT, we offer our readers the chance to win \$100.

Everyone has a hard luck story. We hear them at all the tournaments. The best hard luck stories involve more than just a long-shot parlay such as "he needed to roll four double 6s and I had to roll all 2-1s to lose."

When and/or where we lose can be a factor. For example, losing in the finals (with big money on the line) is certainly more painful than losing in the first round.

But money isn't everything. Sometimes it's who we lose to, or the way we lose. For example, I will never forget my worst loss. It happened in a Chicago area National Backgammon League \$13 Friday night tournament on 16 February 1979. It's my toughest loss, not from a money standpoint, not because of some incredible long-odds parlay, but just because:

9-point tournament match. Bill Davis (Black) leads Michelle Marcus (White), 5 to 4. **BLACK TO PLAY 3-1.**



I decided to give myself a chance to trap another checker by playing 7/4, 1/off. The only problem was that I put the borne off checker on the bar. Michelle hit me with 1-5. I then rolled 4-2, bringing only one man in. She then rolled 6-6, bearing off a checker. I could escape only one man from her home board, and she tossed 1-1 to backgammon me for the match!

NO DOUBT YOU HAVE EXPERIENCED some truly hard luck stories of your own. Why not try to make some money off it? Just abide by the rules as follows:

WORK OF 'ART'...

[Continued from page 1]

sets of timely doubles by Giordano gave him match #1.

The 15-point rubber match was another tight one. Art jumped out to a 5-0 lead only to watch it dissolve. After game 15, Mike was on top 12-9. But Art rallied to take the match, 31 ABT master points, and thousands of dollars in prize money. Final score: 15-13.

Highlights of the weekend included 100% return in the Open division, special backgammon boards to the divisional winners, and two delicious chocolate trays, all donated by tourney sponsors Rhonda & Joe Monro, Sanford Kaplan, Victor George Oldsmobile, Noble Games and the Flint Area BG Club.

Congratulations to the other divisional winners, Michigan's Harry Tokatlian



More Michigan winners: Harry Tokatlian (Intermediate) & Sonja Peacock (Novice).

1. **THE STORY MUST BE TRUE.** If requested, you must be able to supply a witness who will collaborate your story. The decision of whether to accept or reject the story is solely up to CHICAGO POINT.
2. Include the appropriate board diagrams.
3. Limit your entire write-up to 200 or words or less.
4. CHICAGO POINT Contributing Editors are ineligible.
5. CHICAGO POINT will select the 5 best stories. These stories will be presented to a panel of directors who will vote for the most incredible hard luck story. Ties will be broken by CHICAGO POINT.
6. All entries must be received by 13 September 1997. The winning story will appear in the October POINT.

To enter, send your name and address along with your hard luck story (200 words or less), to: CHICAGO POINT; 3940 W. Bryn Mawr 504; Chicago, IL 60659-3155.

You can also fax your entry to the POINT fax line: 773/583-6464. Or you can e-mail us at: <chipoint@interaccess.com>.

(Intermediate) and Sonja Peacock of Wisconsin (Novice). And congratulations also to CJC and staff who turned the 4th of July into another bang-up weekend! Complete results: Δ



Happy Michigan staffers (from left): Mary Ann Meese, Butch Meese, director Carol Joy Cole, John Carrico, David Todd.

1997 MICHIGAN SUMMER CHAMPIONSHIPS

OPEN (93): 1-Art Benjamin (CA), 2-Mike Giordano (MI), 3-Hal Heinrich (Canada), 4/5-Dr. Bob Hill (NY) / Andy Rubien (NY); 1C-Ray Fogelund (CA), 2C-Stuart Hosen (TX), 3C/4C-Emil Mortuk (MI) / Rick Barabino (NY). INTERMEDIATE (70): 1-Harry Tokatlian (MI), 2-Ed King (OH), 3-Ron Bruns (CA), 4/5-Mike Rezai (OH) / Larry Yudin (Canada); 1C-Sam Pottle (WI), 2C-Ron Genter (PA). NOVICE (24): 1-Sonja Peacock (WI), 2-Peaches Stewart (IL); 1C-Kim Starbuck (OH), 2C-Gary Marchenia (MI). \$1,000 BOSSANOVA WEDNESDAY WARM-UP (8): 1-Malcolm Davis (TX), 2-Frank Talbot (MI). \$50 WEDNESDAY WARM-UP (30): 1-Art Benjamin (CA), 2-Laila Leonhardt (Denmark). \$30 WEDNESDAY WARM-UP (16): 1-Bobbie Shifrin (IL), 2-Dave Pink (MI). \$20 WEDNESDAY WARM-UP (24): 1-Abdul Alchalabi (MI), 2. Sal Chehayeb (MI). EARLYBIRD OPEN (16): 1-Bob Zavoral (IL), 2-Ray Baker (CA). EARLYBIRD LIMITED (16): 1-Ron Genter (PA), 2-Arline Levy (IL). FLINT \$500 #1 (16): 1-Ray Glaeser (MI), 2-Bob Glass (CA). FLINT \$500 #2 (16): 1-Dean Muench (IL), 2-Jake Jacobs (IL). OPEN DOUBLES (32 teams): 1-Maurice Barie & Jack Takala (MI), 2-Max Esquivel & Antonio Ortega (Costa Rica), 3/4-Bob Glass & Steve Sax (CA) / Don & Florrie Smolen (PA). OVERFLOW DOUBLES (8 teams): 1-Mike Cyrkiel (IN) & Rhonda Monro (MI). LIMITED DOUBLES (11 teams): 1-Sal Chehayeb & Dan Mowczan (MI), 2-Dan Loughren & Gary Marchenia (MI). SUMMER FREEZE-OUT (32): 1-Ray Baker (CA), 2-Lisa Brooks (OK). \$1,000 HIGH-ROLLERS (8): 1-Mike Senkiewicz (NY). \$300 LOW-ROLLERS #1 (16): 1-Jan Carlstrom (PA), 2-Andreas Born (Germany). \$300 LOW-ROLLERS #2 (16): 1-Ray Glaeser (MI), 2-Dean Muench (IL). \$100 LIMITED JACKPOT (16): 1-John Bashian (OH), 2-Ted Harrington (MI). MICHIGAN BLITZ (128): 1-Abbas Zaltash (PA), 2-Steve Mellen (MI). \$20 DETROIT QUICKIES #1 (64): 1-Mike Senkiewicz (NY). \$20 DETROIT QUICKIES #2 (32): 1-Andy Palumbo (NY). \$10 DETROIT QUICKIES (64): 1-Sean Garber.

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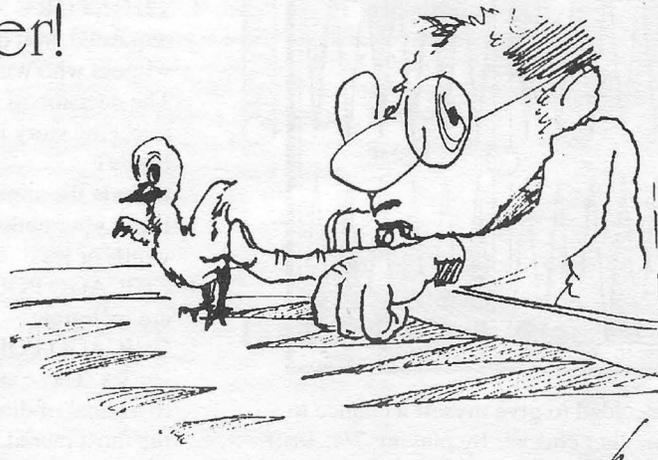
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