

turkish world cup IV & giant jackpot

THE 'GRAND' ONE

**Grandell wins big again in Turkey
Johanni over Winslow in Giant JP**

It seems Sweden's Jerry Grandell is not satisfied with \$140,000+ backgammon winnings for 1997. So what better way to kick off 1998 then by winning the Turkish World Cup IV and another \$65,000?!

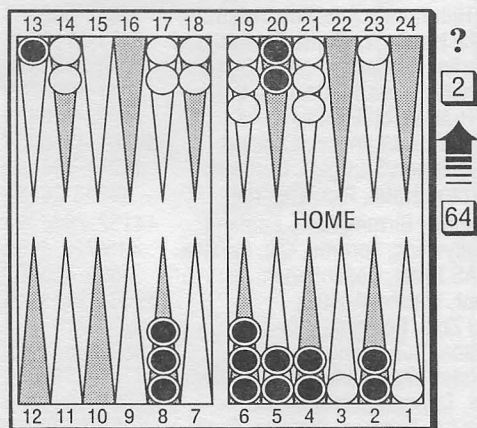
Abraham Eitan's 4th annual mega-tourney attracted over 200 players to the Conrad International Istanbul Hotel/Casino 9-18 January. \$50,000 was added by the Hotel.

Grandell, clearly the hottest player in the world, faced American expert Ray Glaeser in the 23-point finals. Glaeser was no newcomer to big-money matches, either. He reached the finals of the first American World Cup (vs. Joe Sylvester) in 1988.

Ray jumped out to a 7-3 lead over the reigning world champion. But after dropping a double, and then losing 4 points on a Grandell redouble, Ray trailed 8-7.

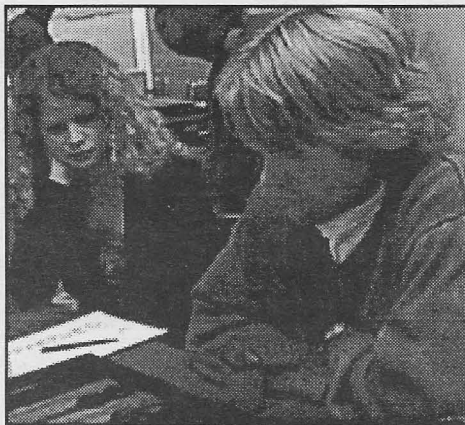
Ray lost six more points in the next three games. Down 14-7, Glaeser tried to make something happen here:

23-point Turkish World Cup finals. Grandell (Black) doubles. **SHOULD GLAESER (White) TAKE?**



The game cost Ray four points. Soon, 18-7 turned into 21-7. Jerry had rattled off 18 unanswered points. Final score: 23-9. A decisive victory for the "Grand One."

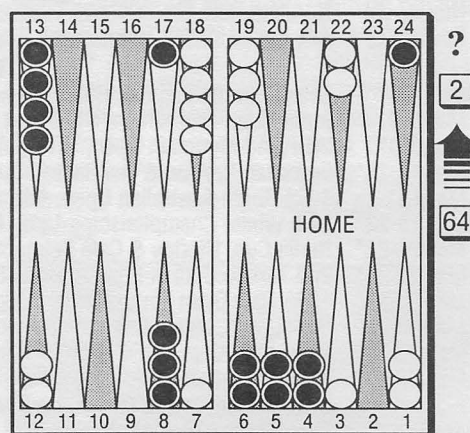
IN THE \$5,000 ENTRY FEE Giant Jackpot,



Turkish World Cup champion Jerry Grandell ponders his next move. [Photo by Elliott Winslow.]

German *Backgammon Magazin* editor Harald Johanni defeated Elliott Winslow (California). Elliott got off to a bad start when Johanni, leading 2-1 in the 25-point finals, doubled here:

25-point Giant Jackpot finals. Johanni (Black) doubles. **SHOULD WINSLOW (White) TAKE?**



With the double hit potential at 25% (6-4, 6-5, 4-1, 5-1, 1-1), this is a very tough take at best. Elliott accepted and got gammoned to fall behind 6-1.

Johanni enlarged his lead to 10-4, then 19-5. Winslow kept it interesting, fighting back to 22-12, but time was running out. A gammon loss and defeat in the Crawford game gave Harald the victory 25-12.

[Backgammon Magazin will have a com-

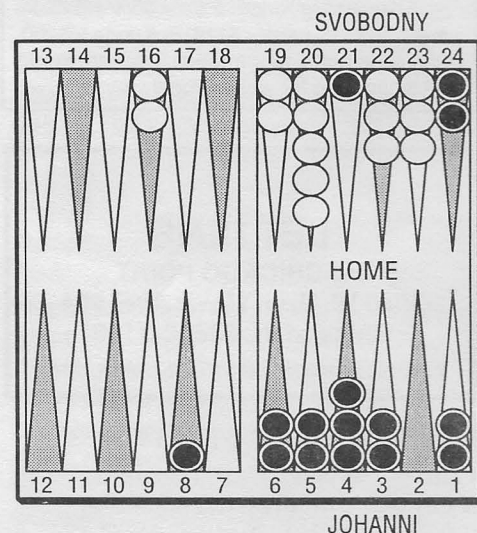
[Continued on page 4]

CONTROVERSY IN TURKEY: JOHANNI FINED \$7,000

Although the prize money for first place in the SuperJackpot was \$70,000, German Backgammon Magazin editor Harald Johanni's victory over Elliott Winslow netted him only \$63,000 due to an ill-conceived joke and a very unusual ruling.

Johanni was locked in a tense battle with American expert Mike Svobodny in the Giant Jackpot 21-point semifinals. With the score tied at 20-all, the following position arose:

Double match-point. **BLACK (JOHANNI) TO PLAY 5-3.**



Johanni had plenty of time to ponder his move. He was leading Svobo on the clock 45 minutes to 4 minutes (all Giant Jackpot matches used a clock). So after much checker-shuffling, Harald played 8/3 for the 5 and then stated loudly for the throng of kibitzers to hear, "Now I will try the 'Kent Goulding Trick.'" Without playing the 3, he hit his clock.

What was the "Kent Goulding Trick"? In the 1996 issue of *Inside Backgammon* (No. 6, Vol. 6, page 19) Goulding had a quiz where he awarded points for the best play. In one particular play, Goulding joked that you could award yourself an additional 5 points if you failed to play the second part of the roll and just picked up

[Continued on page 5]

CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

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LETTERS

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MBC SIDE EVENT STRATEGIES

I am curious about two unusual side events at this year's Midwest Championships (March 20–22 in Lisle, Illinois): "3-Dice Backgammon" and "Backgammon-To-Lose." In 3-Dice Backgammon, the opening roll is the same as in normal backgammon. But after the opening move, both players roll three dice. Doubles move four of the number paired plus the extra roll. Triples move six of the number trebled.

In these 5-point matches, I know the cube strategy is different, but I'm not sure if one should double more aggressively or conservatively. Any suggestions?

The other game is "Backgammon-To-Lose" which is best 2-out-of-3 games and no doubling cube. This is really a wild one. Each player plays a 6-move backgammon game in the worst manner possible

[Editor's note: this has been reduced from

[Continued on page 3]

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.

Mar 8*	Sunday Bimonthly Tournament, John Hawks Pub, Milwaukee, WI	414/463-2498
Mar 15	New England Club Monthly, Sheraton-Commander, Cambridge, MA	508/829-3283
Mar 15	15th Fleet Underwood Memorial & Benefit, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Mar 15	Backgammon by the Bay, San Mateo Bridge Center, San Mateo, CA	408/688-9722
Mar 19	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Mar 19*	Connecticut Monthly Tourney, Stromberg Technologies, Southington, CT	203/592-9207
Mar 20-22	<u>1998 Midwest Championships, Radisson Hotel, Lisle, IL</u>	<u>773/583-6464</u>
Mar 28*	Dr. Bob's "Sweet 16" Invitational, New York Chess & BG, New York City	800/520-1809
Mar 29*	Ace Point Sunday Tournament, Ace Point Club, New York, NY	212/753-0842
Mar 29*	Atlanta Spring Doubles Tournament, Tony's Grille, Roswell, GA	770/333-1876
Apr 1*	GamesGrid Monthly Tournament, via computer modem	<u>tournaments@cyberarts.com</u>
Apr 4	Springfield Series #6, Parkers Sports Bar, Springfield, IL	217/483-4028
Apr 5	Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Anyways Grill, Oakbrook Terrace, IL	773/583-6464
Apr 5*	Northern Ohio Club Monthly, Belden Commons Tavern, Canton, OH	330/966-2811
Apr 11	Nation's Capital Spring Day Tourney, Promenade, Bethesda, MD	301/530-0604
Apr 14-19*	Worldwide Twin Championships, Four Queens Hotel, Las Vegas, NV	702/893-6025
Apr 16*	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Apr 16*	Connecticut Monthly Tourney, Stromberg Technologies, Southington, CT	203/592-9207
Apr 18	Springfield Series Grand Finale, Parkers Sports Bar, Springfield, IL	217/483-4028
Apr 19	Backgammon by the Bay, San Mateo Bridge Center, San Mateo, CA	408/688-9722
Apr 19	New England Club Monthly, Sheraton-Commander, Cambridge, MA	508/829-3283
Apr 25*	Atlanta Club Monthly Tournament, Tony's Grille, Roswell, GA	770/333-1876
Apr 26*	Ace Point Sunday Tournament, Ace Point Club, New York, NY	212/753-0842
Apr 26	28th Annual Willowbank Tournament, Soules' Home, Shelburne, VT	802/985-3932
Apr 29*	Dr. Bob's "Sweet 16" Invitational, New York Chess & BG, New York City	800/520-1809
May 3*	Northern Ohio Club Monthly, Belden Commons Tavern, Canton, OH	330/966-2811
May 3*	Sunday Bimonthly Tournament, John Hawks Pub, Milwaukee, WI	414/463-2498
May 15-17*	<u>41st Gammon Associates Invitational, A.R. Private Club, Los Angeles, CA</u>	<u>818/901-0464</u>
May 22-25	<u>19th Chicago Open, Wyndham Hotel, Itasca, IL</u>	<u>847/674-0120</u>
Jun 12-14	<u>1998 Georgia Championships & Peach Cup, Atlanta, GA</u>	<u>770/333-1876</u>
Jul 2-5	<u>Michigan Summer Championships, Novi Hilton, Novi, MI</u>	<u>810/232-9731</u>
Jul 11-12*	Nation's Capital Summer Open, Promenade Cardroom, Bethesda, MD	301/530-0604
Jul 31-Aug 2	<u>Thousand Islands Tournament, Pine Tree Point, Alexandria Bay, NY</u>	<u>716/442-8221</u>
Jul 31-Aug 9	World Cup VI & U.S. Open, Harvey's Hotel Addison, Dallas, TX	301/299-8265
Sep 4-7	<u>46th Indiana Open, Radisson Hotel, Indianapolis, IN</u>	<u>317/255-8902</u>
Sep 18-20	<u>Minnesota State Championships, Minneapolis Athletic Club, MN</u>	<u>612/378-1536</u>
Oct 1-4	<u>Illinois State Champs & America Cup, Holidome, Rolling Meadows, IL</u>	<u>847/945-7801</u>
Nov 10-14*	1998 Las Vegas Open, Riviera Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, NV	702/893-6025
Nov 27-29	<u>Northern Ohio Thanksgiving Tournament, Belden Holiday Inn, Canton, OH</u>	<u>330/966-2811</u>
Dec 26-27	<u>Ace Point Holiday Tournament, Ace Point Club, New York, NY</u>	<u>212/753-0842</u>

OUTSIDE USA

Mar 4-8	Grand Prix de Lugano, Hotel Splendide Royal, Lugano, Switzerland	4179-3374425
Mar 6-8	Inner Table Tournament #1, Grand Hotel Leicester, England	44152-2721630
Mar 6-8*	WBF 2nd Mountain Open, HIT Casino, Kranjska Gora, Slovenia	392-40074658
Mar 12-15*	European Pro-Am & Ted Bassett Cup, Palace Hotel, Gstaad, Switzerland	4161-2710137
Mar 15*	1998 South Australian Open, Adelaide Hilton Int'l, Adelaide, Australia	412-836266
Mar 19-22*	24th Winter Championships 1998, Palace Hotel, St. Moritz, Switzerland	4161-2710137
Mar 21-22*	Berlin Cup, Uferlos & Café Belmont, Berlin, Germany	4930-2832916
Mar 28-29*	2nd Torneo Città di Cortina, Hotel Splendide Venezia, Cortina, Italy	3941-5900769
Mar 28-29*	1998 Oslo Open Tournament, Bridgen Hus, Oslo, Norway	4722-718425
Mar 28-29*	Spring Cup, Jarvis International Hotel, Watford/London, England	44161-4380966
May 30-31*	Schwaben-Cup Turnier, Comfort Inn, Gerlingen/Stuttgart, Germany	49711-486190
May 30-31*	7th Torneo della Riviera Adriatica, Le Grand Hotel, Riccione, Italy	39543-28453
Apr 4-5	British Open, Stakis Birmingham Metropole, Birmingham, England	44152-2546993
Apr 5*	Toronto Club Monthly Tournament, Scallywags, Toronto, ON, Canada	416/722-9709
Apr 9-13*	10th Nordic "Wide" Open, Radisson SAS Hotel, Copenhagen, Denmark	4539-400607
Apr 11-12	High Class Competition, Café Florianihof, Vienna, Austria	43664-2303940
Apr 18-19	Grand Torneo "Citta' di Bologna," Hotel Zola, Bologna, Italy	39338-7187324
Apr 18-19	Hong Kong Invitational, Ladies Recreation Club, Hong Kong	852-28461923
Apr 24-25*	The London Cup, Jarvis International Hotel, Watford/London, England	44161-4380966
Apr 25-26*	Tampere Grand Prix I, Hotel Rosendahl, Tampere, Finland	35850-5930139
Apr 27-May 3	4th EBN Mayday Tournament, San Juan los Terreros, Almeria, Spain	3450-1330009
May 9-10*	County Cups Trophy, Stakis Birmingham Metropole, Birmingham, England	44152-2546993
May 29-31*	Inner Table Tournament #2, Grand Hotel Leicester, England	44152-2721630
May 30-31*	1997-98 Dal Negro Italian Championship, Le Grand Hotel, Riccione, Italy	44152-2721630
Jun 6-7*	7th Vienna Meisterschaften Finale, Café Florianihof, Vienna, Austria	43664-2303940
Jul 3-8*	5th German Open, Hotel am Kaiserbrunnen, Brakel, Germany	49521-64314
Jul 9-12*	10th City of Venice International Tournament, Venice, Italy	3941-5900769
Jul 13-19	World Championship, Loews Hotel, Monte Carlo, Monaco	USA contact: 954/527-4033

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

the 12 moves per player as specified in the invitation]. After completion of the 12 total moves, the sides are reversed and now each player tries to win with his opponent's pieces.

For my opening six moves, what strategy should I follow to destroy my position?—Michael Zehr, Cambridge, MA

Danny Kleinman answers: I know nothing about 3-Dice Backgammon, but logic does suggest some changes you should make to your usual doubling strategy.

With more numbers to play on every roll but the opening roll, you have better chances of doing very good things. For example, suppose that any direct or indirect 6 will hit an enemy blot or cover your own slot. In ordinary backgammon, your chances are 47%, but in 3-Dice, they're 85%. Or consider your chances of making your 5-point in reply to an opening roll: in ordinary backgammon, they're 14%, but in 3-Dice, they're 36%.

As a result, 3-Dice positions tend to be more volatile. A strong position can improve more greatly from one turn to the next. If you have a halfway decent board and can hit two blots, for example, your opponent may not be able to recover. If he enters only one man, you may soon point on that man and finish closing your board.

Increased volatility means greater market-loss chances, wider doubling windows, and quicker (lower percentage) doubles.

Though I've accumulated some experience in Backgammon-to-Lose, I'm not certain about the best strategy. However, you figure to do well by avoiding the good things we usually seek to do in backgammon—a doing the bad things against which our best authorities warn.

DON'T make key points like your 5-point, 4-point, and bar-point.

DON'T make an advanced anchor.

DON'T hit your opponent's blots anywhere but deep in your own home board.

DO bury checkers on the 2-point whenever you can.

DO stack many spares on the same point.

DO separate your armies: if you must keep your men in communication with each other, place them exactly six points apart.

DO keep those back men on the ace-point as long as possible, not only to avoid escape, but also to keep your opponent from burying his own checkers there.

As you and others acquire more extensive experience with "Backgammon-to-Lose," you'll undoubtedly develop more sophisticated principles than these. Please keep me posted when you do.—Danny Kleinman

QUESTIONS ON PROBLEM 239

Despite the editor's warning of mathematics involved in Laila Leonhardt's solution to Problem #239, I wasn't scared off. What I found were a few significant errors.

The results of the rollouts for staying gave Black a 5.2% figure for BGs lost. That is too much. The main variation is any White double except double 1s (5/36), followed by Black rolling a number that can't exit White's home board (9/36), followed by White bearing off his two checkers on the 2-point (26/36).

This total is 2.5%. (I neglect minor variations.) So the new figures for Gammons lost is: 88.8% + 2.5% = 91.3%, and for BGs lost: 5.2% - 2.5% = 2.7%.

So all in all, for 4-0 in 7-point match, the total match equity for staying is: 50.7185%. This is better than total match equity of 50.450% for leaving.

And for 4-1 in 7-point match, the total

[Continued on page 6]



AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 1998

Compiled through 15 Feb. after 1 tournament
(Upcoming in March: 1998 Midwest Championships)



Bob Glass	17.42	Denny Leatherman	4.80	John Mazur	2.81	Ken Lazar	1.40
Mike Rezaei	9.59	Mike Hendrikson	4.72	Linda Resnicoff	2.39	Mark Larios	1.40
Art Benjamin	8.71	Rob Maier	4.36	Matt Reklaitis	2.39	Ray Bills	1.08
Mike Fujita	7.97	Dave Orandle	4.36	Hunter Jones	2.36	Jennifer Waller	0.63
Jeff Acierino	5.19	Paul Dibiasse	3.99	James Roston	2.16		



CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB 1998 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

COMPILED
THRU 28 FEB..

Steve Mellen	9.20	Joseph Esfahani	1.92	Barry Miller	0.96	Steve Rota	0.56
Laila Leonhardt	5.60	Paul Baraz	1.76	Ed Zell	0.96	Sam Pottle	0.48
Joe Wollick	4.36	Paul Franks	1.76	Andy Krenitz	0.88	Ed Buerger	0.48
Gary Kay	4.08	Paul Klein	1.68	Tak Morioka	0.88	Rich Gast	0.32
Bill Keefe	3.28	Herb Roman	1.40	Wendy Kaplan	0.84	Sonia Peacock	0.32
Rick Bieniak	3.24	Paul Friedman	1.28	Neil Kazaross	0.80	Barbara Levinson	0.24
Harry Cohn	3.20	Norma Shyer	1.28	Phil Simborg	0.80	Georgina Flanagan	0.24
Richard Stawowy	2.40	Phyllis Smolinski	0.96	Alice Kay	0.80	Arlene Levy	0.18
Tim Carroll	2.40	Marty Tatossian	0.96	Roland Dieter	0.64	Joann Feinstein	0.18
Bill Davis	1.92	Jerry Brooks	0.96	Reginald Porter	0.56		

Michigan transplant **STEVE MELLEN** compiled a 15-2 record to win 6.00 points and January Player of the Month honors. Laila Leonhardt (3.92) and Gary Kay (2.16) were 2nd/3rd.

Wins on Feb. 3 and Feb. 17 earned **JOE WOLICK** 3.48 points and February Player of the month status. Steve Mellen and Harry Cohn tied for 2nd place with 3.20 each.

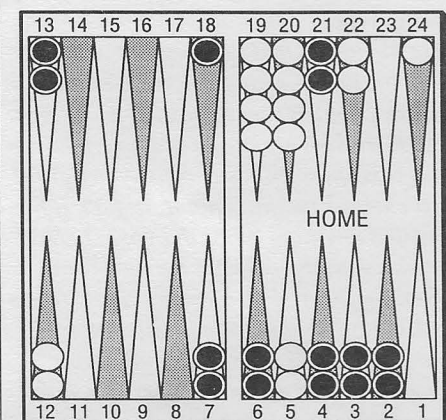
If you finish in the Top 20 for 1998 (bold names on list), you'll be entered in a drawing for over \$300 worth of valuable merchandise. The higher you finish, the better your winning chances. Individual awards: 1st—Trophy + \$150, 2nd—\$100, 3rd—\$50. 1st through 20th—one ounce solid silver dollar. 1st through 6th—Invitation to participate on the Chicago Bar Point Club team in the 1999 Illinois State Challenge Cup.

your move

PROBLEM #241

to be analyzed by Walter Trice

Pittsburgh Championship 13-point semifinals. Sam Orandle (Black) trails Art Benjamin (White), 11 to 9. **BLACK TO PLAY 4-2.**



DEAR MISS LONELYBLOTS



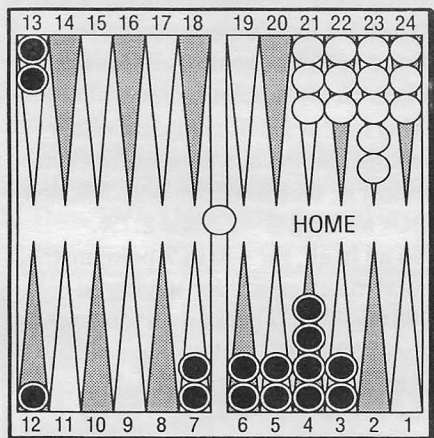
© 1998 by Danny Kleinman

FROSTED FLAKE

Dear Miss Lonelyblots: Did anyone ever tell you that backgammon is a cruel and frustrating game?

I was in the finals of my regular club tournament. My opponent proposed that we split the prize money, but because he is only an intermediate and I am championship calibre, I refused. I had nothing but bad luck in the 9-point match but was still tied at 6-6 going into the following game (which I was fortunate enough to turn around via a back-door shot):

Match to 9 points. Black and White are tied 6 to 6. **BLACK TO PLAY 5-3.**



After careful thought, I slotted the 8-point with 13/8 and played 12/9 with the 3. Of course the luckbox rolled 6-2 (hitting), I danced and he picked up another checker to win a fluke gammon and steal the match.

"Why did you give me that voluntary shot?" he asked.

Well that really frosted me. Here's an intermediate asking questions that show he had no concept of the game, and he ends up winning. What a joke!

He obviously had no clue that when he was on the bar, his only rolls that could cause me problems were those containing a 2 or 1-1. And on every one of those 12 shakes (except 6-2), I was clearly better off with a checker on the 8-point. In fact, if he had rolled anything other than 6-2, I could have won with the cube on my next turn.

Getting joked by a rookie really frosts me, Miss Lonelyblots. What relaxation techniques do you use to "dry off" your feelings when the game showers you with unfairness?—Frosted in Frisco

DEAR SNOWMAN: Yes, Barclay Cooke told me and the world more than 20 years ago that backgammon is the "cruellest game." I've heard far more frustrating tales than yours. Parlays with odds more than 5000-to-1 ("He rolled two double 5s and a double 6 to beat me in a race I thought I couldn't lose!") abound. The odds against "2-6 from the bar" are only 17-to-1, so losses like yours are commonplace. What no whiner seems to realize is that to reach the position from which his opponent "joked him out," he needed some good luck of his own. It's not "unfair" when an opponent also has good luck. If that "frosts" you, switch to chess or checkers.

To avoid feeling "frosted," you need not "relaxation techniques," but a new attitude. Here's how I might "dry off" in the circumstances you describe.

First I'd compliment my opponent. Even if I couldn't find any of his moves or cubes to praise, I could say (sincerely), "Congratulations!" or "Nice match."

Second, I'd feel flattered that the player who had just beaten me respected me enough to inquire about my thinking. At the minimum, I'd answer his question with "I thought I needed more firepower for the 2-point," or "I hoped to complete my prime with a 4 next turn."

Third, I'd acknowledge my own fallibility. I might say:

"Perhaps I shouldn't have left the fly shot. Though you're five times as likely to enter on my 2-point without leaping out to my 8-point, it's much more damaging when you enter and escape.

"I left myself only 6-4 and 5-4 in reply to your possible 2-6 from the bar. 16/11, 12/9 gives me 20 shots at the 8-point as well as plenty of loose hits if you enter on my 2-point without escaping, but does nothing to extend my prime. In retrospect, the compromise play 12/7, 16/13 looks best. Not only does it leave me 15 shots at the 8-point, but it activates a new builder for the 2-point, letting me hit loose on 5s without breaking my bar-point. Even if I fail to hit immediately, I'm a favorite to get a whack at you on the 2-point next turn, for you still need a 6 to escape.

"All that may be hindsight, however. Speaking of hindsight, I might have doubled before rolling that 5-3. Would you even have taken?"

Finally, I'd confess, "Perhaps I was overconfident and overestimated my chances in the match. Why, oh why, didn't I accept your offer to split the prize money?"

Last time I looked, backgammon was still a game. Nobody gets the warm fuzzies

from losing. However, a gracious attitude and gracious behavior may bring warm relationships. After all, the others at your club are not only your opponents, they are your playmates.—Miss Lonelyblots

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 CHICAGOPOINT, 3940 W. Bryn Mawr Ave. 504; Chicago, IL 60659-3155.

TURKEY...

[Continued from page 1]

plete review of the Turkish World Cup & Giant JP. E-mail <harald.johanni@nuernberg.netsurf.de> for order information, or call 49911-269567.—Ed.]

Complete results are shown below: Δ



Harald Johanni

TURKISH WORLD CUP CHALLENGE IV

GIANT JACKPOT (21): 1-Harald Johanni (Germany), 2-Elliott Winslow (USA), 3/4-Mike Svobodny (USA) / Doug Mayfield (USA).

WORLD CUP CHALLENGE IV: Championship (129): 1-Jerry Grandell (Sweden), 2-Ray Glaeser (USA), 3/4-Leonid Riskin (Germany/Russia) / Emil Mortuk (USA); 1C-Chris Ternel (Denmark), 2C-Mike Senkiewicz (USA), 3/4-Elliott Winslow (USA) / Braemer Jensen (Denmark); 1LC-Engin Öngel (GB/Turkey), 2LC-Gordon Cross (Germany). **Intermediate (38):** 1-Karsten (Denmark), 2-Özdal Kapmas (Turkey), 3-Haydar Orngogly; 1C-Ricardo, 2C-Artur Mouradyan, 3/4-Stefan Bobenhausen / Kakhuber; 1LC-P. Lego Fersund, 2-Hasan Tiryaki. **Beginner (32):** 1-Hasan Ali Panahzat, 2-Harun Satir, 3/4-Murat Ates / Archil Odisharia; 1C-Norik Kalantaryan, 2C-Uri; 1LC-Anna Maria Höskuldson (Denmark), 2LC-Khacik Melikian.

KICK-OFF: 1-Mike Svobodny (USA), 2-Gaby Menascherov (Israel), 3-Walter Graml (Germany).

\$1000 SUPER JACKPOT #1: 1-Aramndo Balbi (Brasil), 2- Karlson. **SUPERJACKPOT #2:** 1-Mike Senkiewicz (USA), 2-Joel Shiff (Israel). **SUPERJACKPOT #3:** 1-Shimon Kagan, 2-Amshel Nadjar.

DOUBLES (39): 1-Shiff & Omrad, 2-Frank Talbot & Peter Van Rooy.

1-POINT TOURNAMENT #1 (64): 1-Matthias Körner (Germany), 2-Shimon Kagan. **1-POINT TOURNAMENT #2 (64):** 1-Artur Mouradian, 2-Matthias Körner (Germany).

TEAM TOURNAMENT: 1-"Yerevan" (Kalantarian/Rostomyan/Mouradyan), 2-"No Work Team" (Gordon Cross/Carsten Joh/Markus Michel).

CONTROVERSY...

[Continued from page 1]

your dice. This is exactly what Johanni did.

Paul Magriel, who had been defeated by Mike Svobodny in the prior match, immediately hit Svobo's clock, thus re-starting Johanni's clock. Johanni, upset that an outsider had interfered with the match, rehit his clock and told Magriel that only Svobodny could touch the clock.



Giant Jackpot semifinals: Mike Svobodny (center) vs. Harald Johanni. Paul Magriel is seated by the clock. Phil Laak records the match. [Photo by Elliott Winslow]

Mike said nothing. Either he didn't see what had happened, or he felt that Johanni could have improved his position if requested to play legally. [In fact, Larry Strommen's level 6 JellyFish rollouts show Johanni's illegal play to be superior to the second best play of 8/3, 24/21 by a slim margin of 26.5% to 25.3%—Ed.]

Mike rolled 6-1 and played 16/22, 20/21*. Harald then rolled 4-2, hitting on the 21-point and slotting his own 2-point. Svobo danced and Johanni tossed 3-1 which closed his home board.

Before he could play the 3, one or more unidentified spectators began yelling "cheat!"

The director was summoned and a ruling panel acceptable to both players was formed. Harold Johanni admitted during the inquiry that he had publicly announced and then played "Kent's trick" as a joke to break the tension. He also admitted that he hadn't corrected the play after Paul's intervention because he "was angry," although his original intention was to do so. But he remained very repentant of his wrongdoing. He had been willing to accept any ruling, including replaying the game from the point where he had made his illegal move.

The panel decided that the game would stand, but Johanni must be penalized. 10% of whatever prize money he won would be taken from him and placed in the soon-to-

begin Turkish World Cup event, to be divided amongst the winners. Johanni's eventual victory netted him \$70,000 less \$7,000 that was added to the World Cup winner's pool.

In making the ruling, the panel stated that there needs to be a very hard set of guidelines to prohibit players from making deliberate misplays, thereby taking precious seconds off of an opponent's clock.

The panel had also had meant to fine kibitzer Magriel for his actions on behalf of Svobodny, but that fine was never imposed.

How would our "Shades of Gray" ruling columnist Danny Kleinman have ruled? As follows:

Black and White

"The Laws are designed to define correct procedure and to provide an adequate remedy whenever a player accidentally, carelessly or inadvertently disturbs the proper course of the game, or gains an unintentional but nevertheless unfair advantage. An offending player should be ready to pay a prescribed penalty graciously. These Laws do not deal with dishonorable practices; ostracism is the ultimate remedy."

THE PARAGRAPH QUOTED ABOVE opens the *Laws of Contract Bridge* (1993 edition), following the Table of Contents and preceding the Laws themselves. It makes no mention of bridge, and applies with equal force to backgammon.

In the absence of evidence of intention to seek advantage, Black's failure to play the 3 would be deemed inadvertent. Then the kibitzer's hitting the clock would be a breach of the Laws.

Black's difficulty in finding an acceptable 3 to play and subsequent remark about the "Kent Goulding trick" shows clearly that the illegal play was deliberate. Was it meant as an "ill-conceived joke"? Conceivably Black was about to hit White's clock, smile, and say, "Just kidding. I still have a 3 to play."

Suppose White had rolled before anyone could hit his clock. Then it would have been too late to interpret Black's deliberate illegal play as a joke.

The kibitzer's prompt intervention ensured Black an out. Had Black thanked the kibitzer and said, "Now I'd better find the best 3," no one could prove that he hadn't been joking. When Black hit his clock and chastised the kibitzer, however, any claim of humorous intention was no longer credible.

The kibitzer was blameless. Any interpretation of the kibitzer's hitting White's clock as intervention on White's behalf

presumes that Black played illegally to seek advantage. Black condemned himself by this interpretation.

Black's deliberate illegal play was clearly in pursuit of unfair advantage. Any 3 would be destructive: 4/1 buries a checker, 21/18 reduces contact, 24/21 switches from the better anchor to the worse. From a rules standpoint, it would make no difference even if moving 21/18 (for example) turned out to be superior to not playing the 3 at all. Such deliberate misplay falls under the category of *dishonorable practice*.

For a first offense, ostracism would be too harsh. An appropriate penalty would be to forfeit the match to the offender's opponent.

I disagree with the panel's statement that "there needs to be a very hard set of guidelines to prohibit players from making deliberate misplays": there are already very clear rules specifying how rolls must be played (as much of the roll as possible; if either but not both of two numbers can be played, the larger of the two).

What we do need is a prescribed penalty for *inadvertent* illegal plays. Then nobody would be tempted to move illegally, whether as an unfunny "joke," or to gain advantage. By penalizing inadvertent misplays, we avoid having to judge intention. (Suppose Black had not mentioned the "Kent Goulding trick" at all.)

Here's a penalty that might be suitable: if you play your roll illegally, the position is restored and "Jack Gammon" (Level 0) replays the roll for you. "Jack Gammon" (Level 0) sues a simple algorithm: play the larger of two numbers first if possible, moving from the rear. In the position at issue, the rearmost 5 is 8/3; then the rearmost 3 is 24/21—not a bad play.

Is this penalty too mild? In this case, yes. However, were the position slightly different, with White's outside point being the 8-point instead of the 9-point, the required play would be the anchorless 21/16, 24/21.—Danny Kleinman Δ

Last Call!

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BAR POINT CLUB WINS 18TH CHALLENGE CUP

Peoria Club charge falls short

Steady play helped the Chicago Bar Point Club win the 1998 Illinois State Challenge Cup. The seven active Illinois BG clubs sent their 1997 top six players to The Old Main Inn in Wheaton, Illinois to do battle at the 18th annual affair on 31 January.

After two rounds of play, the Winnetka Club had a 9-8 lead over the BPC. But following four wins in round 3, the Bar Pointers never looked back.



Bar Point Club team members celebrate winning the 18th Illinois State tournament. Clockwise from center: Phyllis Smolinski, Gary Kay, Herb Roman, Harry Cohn, Bill Davis & Paul Franks. [Photo by Henry Gray.]

The Peoria Club mounted a late surge to trail 20-19 after the 5th round, but wins by Gary Kay, Herb Roman, Phyllis Smolinski and Paul Franks in round 6 brought the BPC win total to 24. Peoria finished second

with 22 victories followed by Sangamon Valley (21), Winnetka (18), Games People Play (14), Bloomington-Normal (14) and the defending champion Pub Club (13).

Congratulations to Bar Point Club representatives Gary Kay, Herb Roman, Phyllis Smolinski, Harry Cohn, Paul Franks and Bill Davis. It must be noted that Franks and Davis were appointed to the squad when 1997 top-6 finishers Neil Kazaross and Rick Bieniak were unable to attend. Complete Challenge Cup results: Δ

18th ILLINOIS STATE CHALLENGE CUP

(1) CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB (24-12):

Gary Kay (5-1), Herb Roman (5-1), Phyllis Smolinski (2-4), Harry Cohn (5-1), Paul Franks (5-1), Bill Davis (3-3).

(2) PEORIA CLUB (22-14): Dick Nelson (4-2), Cliff Mayoh (5-1), Ed Zell (3-3), Greg Feller (5-1), Marjean Streitmatter (4-2), Greg Tomlin (1-5).

(3) SANGAMON VALLEY (21-15): Mark Kaye (2-4), John Jennings (4-2), Ben Zemaitis (3-3), Randy Armstrong (4-2), Linda Woods (4-2), Michael Plog (4-2).

(4) WINNETKA CLUB (18-18): Paul Friedman (2-4), Marty Tatosian (4-2), Ed Buerger (3-3), Trudie Chibnik (1-5), Boris Mindich (4-2), George Barr (4-2).

(5) GAMES PEOPLE PLAY (14-22): Ferni Owiku (4-2), Reginald Porter (0-6), Roger Hickman (2-4), J.A. Miller (3-3), Phil Barrett (2-4), Henry Gray (3-3).

(6) BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL (14-22): Jim Zimmerman (5-1), Wm. Hutchison (3-3), Mike Flohr (4-2), Gary Daniels (0-6), Randy Reiff (1-5), Randy Peterson (1-5).

(7) PUB CLUB (13-23): Joe Wollick (1-5), Kurt Schurecht (1-5), Val Zimnicki (2-4), Mark Murray (3-3), Don Marek (2-4), Ken Tyszko (4-2).

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
Phyllis Smolinski	10	6 Jan 98
Laila Leonhardt	10	27 Jan 98
Steve Mellen	12	1 Feb 98

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.

BAR POINT CLUB TOP FINISHERS FOR 1997 HONORED ON AWARDS NIGHT

Chicago Bar Point Club honored its Top 20 players for 1997 at Awards Night 13 Jan. with nearly \$1,000 in cash and prizes. Congratulations to all the winners and a special tip of the hat to Phyllis Smolinski whose 5th place standing made her the top female finisher in club history.

Thanks to BPC co-directors Peter Kalba and Amy Valerio, the Leberis family for providing us with Tuesday night playing facilities at the Golden Flame, and to hostess Rose Gecht for another great year. Δ



Top BPC female finisher Phyllis Smolinski warns 5-time Player of the Year Neil Kazaross: "Watch your back!"

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 3]

match equity for staying is 41.0415% which is better than total match equity of 41.0075% for leaving.

Therefore, the new conclusion is: stay one extra turn in order to get a hit and pick up a blot (8.5%).—Pierre Zakia; Pau, France

MASTER POINTS

I was at Stephen Turner's massive backgammon website the other day and saw your article about forming and operating a local backgammon club <<http://www.gamesdomain.com/backgammon/clubs/howto.html>>. How does your master point system work? It would be nice if you could send me a copy?—Stefan

Krumscheid, via Internet

The system we use was created by the Chicago-based National Backgammon League founders in 1974. It awards a set amount of points to the four highest finishers in the main event and two highest finishers in the consolation event. The more players in the tournament, the higher your master point award.

Carol Joy Cole's Flint Backgammon Club also awards points for each match one. (Contact her at 810/232-9731.)

You can follow a previously-established system, or start your own. The important thing is to be consistent. If you would like a copy of the CBPC master point system, send your name and address to: CHICAGO POINT; 3940 W. Bryn Mawr 504; Chicago, IL 60659-3155, or e-mail us at: <chipoint@interaccess.com>.—Ed. Δ

GLASS SHATTERS BENJAMIN

Laila over Yamin in the Masters

Two red-hot Californians battled it out in the Pittsburgh Championships. Bob Glass, hot off his big Las Vegas Open win, bested American Backgammon Tour Player of the Year Art Benjamin to win the 1998 ABT kickoff event.

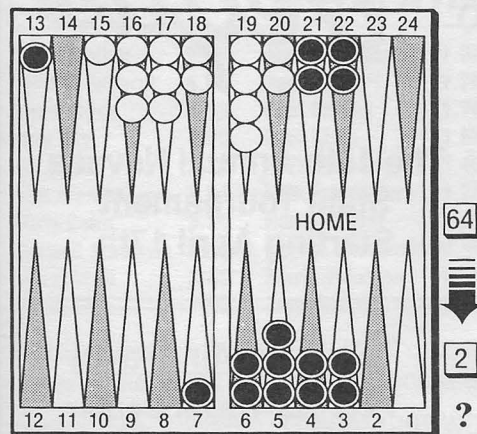


Pittsburgh champ Bob Glass (left) with director Steve Hast and tourney runner-up Art Benjamin. Art was awarded his ABT Player of the Year trophy at the Calcutta.

Steve Hast directed the 20th anniversary addition, complete with 'round-the-clock food including pizza, sub sandwiches, chips, pretzels, doughnuts, chocolate, and unlimited pop and coffee. The Greentree Marriott was the venue for the 13-15 February affair.

In the 15-point finals, Glass jumped out to a quick 4-0 lead on the strength of a doubled gammon. Art rallied to within one point: 7-8. But back-to-back doubled gammon losses sealed Art's fate. Here, Art, trailing 12-7, faces what would be his final cube decision of the match:

15-pt. Pittsburgh finals. Bob Glass (White) leads Art Benjamin (Black), 12 to 7. White doubles. SHOULD BLACK TAKE?



Art ran out of timing and was forced to defend with only a high anchor. He eventually lost a gammon and the match, 15-7.

LAILA LEONHARDT proved herself a blond to be reckoned with as the only woman among 19 men captured the Master's

Jackpot. Laila's victim in the finals, Yamin Yamin, found himself trailing in the 13-point match 11-7 when Laila took a bad double. Yamin went on to knot the score at 11-all, but couldn't capitalize on the error. Laila grabbed the next game to win 13-11.



Masters champion Laila Leonhardt.

"Man, I should have dropped that cube," said Laila after the match. "I was thinking to myself, 'Now take it easy, girl. Don't take any gammonish cubes.' It was a huge drop."

Other than the one oversight, Laila played a solid match against her seeded opponent and proved herself very capable in competition at the highest level. Results: Δ

20TH PITTSBURGH CHAMPIONSHIPS

CHAMPIONSHIP (52): 1-Bob Glass (CA), 2-Art Benjamin (CA), 3/4-Rob Maier (IN) / Dave Orandle; 1C-Mike Fujita (HI), 2C-Paul Dibiase (WV); 1LC-Jeff Acierno (NY). INTERMEDIATE (59): 1-Mike Rezai (OH), 2-Denny Leatherman (PA), 3/4-Linda Resnicoff (NJ) / Matt Reklaitis (PA); 1C-Mike Hendrikson, 2C-Hunter Jones; 1LC-James Roston (NY), 2LC-Ray Bills (MN). NOVICE (25): 1-John Mazur, 2-Ken Lazar; 1C-Mark Larios (IN), 2C-Jennifer Waller (OH). MASTERS JACKPOT (20): 1-Laila Leonhardt (Denmark/IL), 2-Yamin Yamin (IL). AMATEUR JACKPOT (32): 1-Matt Ozbek (NY), 2-Ron Whitney (NJ), 3/4-Hunter Jones (MD) / Nayan Shah (PA). DOUBLES (16): 1/2-Art Benjamin (CA) & Mike Fujita (HI) / William Counts & Andy Palumbo (NY). MICROBLITZ #1 (32): 1/2-Frank Frigo (KY) / Frank Talbot (MI). #2 (32): 1-Don Faix (NY). \$10 QUICKIE (64): 1/2-Denny Leatherman (PA) / Mary Ann Meese (IN). \$20 QUICKIE (32): 1-Laila Leonhardt (Denmark/IL).



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

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

AMALGAMATION

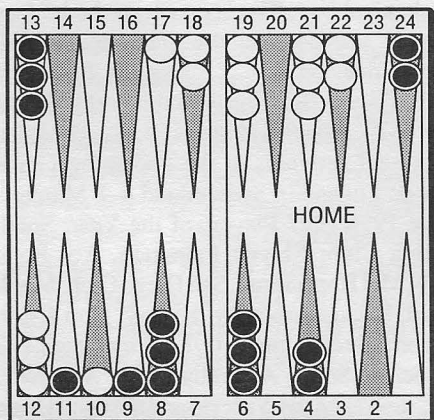
Everybody gets a fair shake at New York Chess & Backgammon, thanks to their new "Baffle Boards." Director **Steve Manning** (212/302-5874) says his new non-folding board baffles the dice without the use of a mechanical box. The secret is in the bouncy playing surface—yet the dice slide beautifully. Price: \$375... Visiting the Bar Point Club: Tucson BG Club director **Terry Valentine** (AZ)... **Neil Kazaross** (IL) is scheduled to present seminars at the upcoming Grand Prix de Lugano in Switzerland 4-8 March... More 1996/1997 Players of the Year: South Florida Club: **Elayne Feinstein**, Ace Point Club: **Mel Rappaport**, San Diego Club: **Mark Land**, Backgammon by the Bay: **Ron Karr**, National Backgammon (UK): **Tim Cross**, BG Assoc. of South Australia: **Alex Athans**... BPC director **Amy Valerio** and husband **Hugo** (IL) are happy to announce the birth of their daughter **Ashley Lacey Valerio** on 23 February. **Mark & Christine King** (CA) also had a baby daughter: **Elizabeth Anne King**, 16 February. Mark says when she is hungry, she even sounds like a BG player: "lots of whining!" And **Bobbie Shifrin** (IL/NV) became a grandmother again with the 30 January birth of granddaughter **Alana Hirsch**... In honor of events transpiring at the White House, the Pittsburgh Championships renamed their 1-point matches "**Clinton Quickies**."... Worldwide Backgammon Fed. president **Alberto da Pra** is currently conducting WOC 97, the WBF Internet Championship. Beginning in the fall, there will be a WOC 98. To learn more, go to: <http://users.iol.it/dapra/WOC97.html>... Good luck to Pittsburgh Masters winner and GamesGrid staffer **Laila Leonhardt** (Denmark/Illinois). Laila is petitioning the US government to become the first person to receive USA resident status as a result of her backgammon skills... Changes abound for the Central Illinois BG Club (IL). It's now the Peoria BG Club, **Ed Zell** (309/673-7622) replaces **Sue Will** as director, and they now meet weekly at the Peoria Pizza Works... Condolences to the family and friends of Backgammon by the Bay player **Tom Henson** (CA)... We don't see much of **Sakura Sugawara** (IL) at the Chicago Bar Point Club these days. She seems to be concentrating her energies at the Mardi Gras riverboat poker room... Did you know that Backgammon on Board winner **Hossein Zafarianian** (TX) was the Iranian national chess champion back in 1956? Later, his country referred to him as their "**Bobby Fischer** of chess."... When **Steve Mellen** (IL) is not "on the bar," he's studying for it! Despite his recent bookwork for the Illinois Bar Exam, Steve is leading the CBPC points race through February by a wide margin. Δ

last month's position

PROBLEM #240 ANALYZED

by Kit Woolsey

Match to 7 points. Black leads White, 4 to 0. **BLACK TO PLAY 6-1.**



Clearly Black must hit something. If he just quietly makes the 5-point, White will be in good shape to bring the position home safely. Black must make his move to win frontwards now.

If Black chooses to hit the checker on the 10-point, he has to go all out to contain it. Thus, 13/7, 11/10* gets the nod over the

safer 11/10*, 10/4. Black will be very well-placed to improve his board if White doesn't hit a fly shot, and Black will have a good chance of containing the checker. He won't like it if he is hit, but since White has only a three point board and Black has an anchor, Black may still be able to survive.

Thus we are left with two entirely different hitting plays: 24/17*, and 13/7, 11/10*. Which should it be?

24/17* certainly has a lot going for it. The play gains considerably in the race, rips away a valuable builder, and springs one of the back men. Getting off the 24-point is especially valuable since White owns the offensive bar point.

The big downside of 24/17* is all those blots and return shots. White does have the bigger board, so Black will be at a disadvantage in a blot-hitting contest. White hits back happily with aces and 5s, and will be willing to hit loose on the ace point with 6s and 3s. In addition, 24/17* releases the anchor, considerably upping the gammon danger. This is always important, and at this match score—with gammons winning the match for White—it is even more important than usual.

13/7, 11/10* aims toward constructing a prime and containing the hit checker. Is this a realistic approach? Black will certainly

have the builders in position to put together a strong blockade if White doesn't escape quickly.

The question is, how will the timing go with Black having two checkers stuck on the 24-point and White owning the offensive bar point. Probably not badly. White's 5-point is open, and White will be short on builders to make that point. White is well ahead in the race, so even though Black has two men back to White's one man back, Black will still have a decent chance in a priming battle. In addition, White has that spare checker on the 4-point which is somewhat out of play, hurting her chances in a priming battle.

That is probably the deciding factor. Put that checker back on the midpoint, for example, and 24/17* would be superior, but with White this far advanced, Black should go for the priming battle rather than leave all the indirect shots and risk getting wiped out in a blot-hitting contest.

This is a pretty difficult problem, since there are several conflicting themes involved. However the overriding theme is to play on your strengths and your opponent's weaknesses. Here White's strength is her stronger board, while her weakness is that she is a bit advanced. This is what leads us to find Black's correct play. Δ

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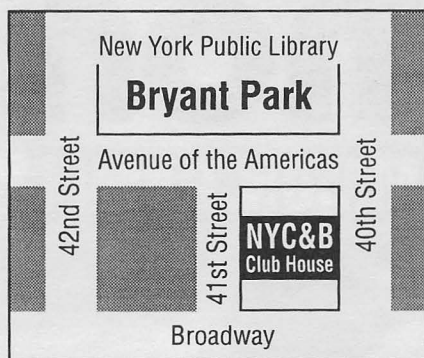
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who did what

WINNER'S CIRCLE

Dec. 1997–Feb. 1998



•**1997 Argentine Championship** (Buenos Aires, Argentina; Mondays in Dec.)... CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS: Rafael Dana, Carlos Szechet. JUNIOR WINNERS: Marcos Kaprielian, Pablo Fontana. BEGINNER WINNERS: Juan Pablo, Palacio Hardy, Aldo Benencio (2).

•**NEBC Sunday Monthly** (Cambridge, MA; 12 Dec.)... EXPERT (19): 1-Herb Gurland, 2-Evan Diamond, 3/4-Walter Trice / Bob Mojahed; 1C-Marty Storer, 2C-Linc Bedell. A DIV. (17): 1-Alix Pasquet, 2-John Lorenz, 3/4-Joe Moore / Jim Glover; 1C-Alex Zamanian, 2C-Jim Sullivan.

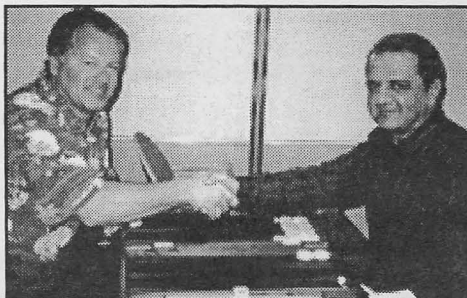
•**Nation's Capital Jackpot Tourney** (Bethesda, MD; 28 Dec.)... OPEN (18): 1-Mark Davis, 2-Barry Steinberg.

•**Springfield Series #3** (Springfield, IL; 3 Jan.)... OPEN (17): 1-William Hutchison, 2-Jim Zimmerman; 1C-Greg Tomlin, 2C-Gary Daniels; 1LC-Dave Cornwall.

•**Bright'n Breezy 1998** (Brighton, England; 3-4 Jan.)... OPEN (107): 1-Willy Stanton, 2-Brian Busfield; 1C-Gerry Cornish, 2C-Cato Fordham; 1LC-Roy Hollands, 2LC-Martin Barkwill. TIDAL WAVE (64): 1-Bob Atkins, 2-Graham Sievers. CRACKSHOT (107): Ergin Ahmet. FRIDAY KNOCKOUT (39): Rachel Thodes... *Michael Crane reports that Paul Magriel's seminar was well received.*

•**Backgammon On Board Warm-up** (Miami, FL; 8 Jan.)... OPEN (13): 1/2-Mervin Berger / Bill Davis; 1C/2C-Al Tesoro / Jerry Soskin.

•**Backgammon On Board IV** (Miami to Nassau; 9-12 Jan.)... OPEN (18 + 34 reentries): 1-Hossein Zafaranian (TX), 2-Bill Davis (IL). CAPTAIN'S TOURNEY (18): 1-Marty Weber (VA), 2-Hossein Zafaranian (TX)... *More vacation/backgammon fun on the high seas. Directed by Chicago Bar Point Club's Bill Davis & Peter Kalba. Thanks to the Cruise Consultants for putting it together.*



BG on Board Captain's Tourney victor Marty Weber (left) shown with Main tournament winner Hossein Zafaranian.

•**1998 Thailand Open** (South Pattaya, Thailand; 15-18 Jan.)... CHAMPIONSHIP (29): 1-Ramon Eleazar (PHIL), 2-Penti Haaksila (FIN).

•**NEBC Sunday Monthly** (Cambridge, MA; 18 Jan.)... EXPERT (25): 1-Jim Pascoe, 2-Michael

Urban, 3/4-Ivan Birn / Herb Gurland; 1C-Dan Chicoine, 2C-Bob Mojahed. A DIV. (15): 1-Doreen Johnson, 2-Alex Zamanian, 3/4-Gil Evans / Al Mason; 1C-Gil Evans, 2C-Mo Mojahed.

•**Backgammon by the Bay Monthly** (San Mateo, CA; 18 Jan.)... OPEN (16): 1-Kit Woolsey, 2-Doug Wilson; 1C-Nick Ballard, 2C-Roger Gabrielson. INTERMEDIATE (10): 1-Brian Farr, 2-Joan Clark; 1C/2C-Mo Wasley / Nigel Vann. BEGINNER (4): 1-Bill Landry, 2-Hristo Zahov.

•**Windy City Open** (Chicago, IL; 19 Jan.)... OPEN (19): 1/2-Reginald Porter / Marvin Dandridge, 3/4-Paul Klein / Laila Leonhardt; 1C-Steve Mellen, 2C-Arthur Clay.

•**Paul Gedigian's Super Bowl Bash** (Pasadena, CA; 25 Jan.)... OPEN (16): 1-Rudy Citrom; 1C-Bob Glass, 2C-Patrick Gibson.

•**1997-98 Dal Negro Italian Championship** (Mestre, Italy; 25 Jan.)... OPEN (35): 1-Andrea de Zandonati, 2-Giulio Alessandri, 3/4-Dario De Toffoli / Bruno Fanan; 1C-Mattia Ballarin, 2C-Elmar Kofler. LIMITED (18): 1-Piero Nardi, 2-Massimo Trovo; 1C-Sandro Mescola, 2C-Paolo Fragiaco. GRAN TROFEO AMBASCIATORI (16): 1-Ennio Gioppato, 2-Lorenzo Laganà. SUPERJACKPOT (8): 1-Bruno Fanan, 2-Guido Flamigni.

•**Clarine's Beverly Hills Monthly** (Los Angeles, CA; 31 Jan.)... OPEN (16): 1-Joe Russell, 2-Randy Douthat.

•**Bar Point Sunday** (Oakbrook Terrace, IL; 1 Feb.)... OPEN (24): 1-Gary Kay, 2-Barry Miller, 3/4-Steve Mellen / Harry Cohn; 1C-Ed Zell, 2C-Jerry Brooks. INTERMEDIATE (24): 1-Marty Tatosian, 2-Sam Pottle (WI), 3/4-Rich Gast / Sonia Peacock (WI); 1C-Ed Buerger, 2C-Barbara Levinson.

•**Gammon Assoc. Tournament of 1997 Champions** (Los Angeles, CA; 1 Feb.)... OPEN (16): 1-Peter Zacks, 2-Ray Baker... *Competition between the top 16 G/A players of 1997.*

•**Jarvis Trohpy 1998** (Birmingham, England; 7-8 Feb.)... OPEN (112): 1-John Clark, 2-Nigel Gibbons. FRIDAY KNOCKOUT (24): 1-Bob Atkins. DOUBLES (20): 1/2-Taylor's Dummies / You Can't Be Serious. TOP LADY: Kerry Jackson. BETTER LUCK NEXT TIME: Joanna Datschewski.

•**Springfield Series #4** (Springfield, IL; 7 Feb.)... OPEN (20): 1-John Jennings, 2-Ed Zell; 1C-Mark Kaye, 2C-Michael Plog; 1LC-Milad Doueihy.

•**Northern Ohio Club Monthly** (Canton, OH; 8 Feb.)... OPEN (13): 1-Pete Leis, 2-Mike Rezai.

•**Pro-Am Invitational** (Turnberry Isle, FL; 12-15 Feb.)... DOUBLES (16 teams): 1-Phillip Marmorstein (GER) & Ralf Ludwig (SWIT), 2-Jose Salema (POR) & Leonardo Fernandez (ARG), 3/4-Paul Magriel (USA/FRA) & Steve Zolotow (NV) / Elliott Winslow (CA) & Howard Markowitz (NV).

•**Backgammon by the Bay Monthly** (San Mateo, CA; 15 Feb.)... OPEN (10): 1-Emil Malek, 2-Paul Albert; 1C/2C-Carmi Brandis / Richard McIntosh. INTERMEDIATE (11): 1-Dan Doherty, 2-Marc Lowe; 1C/2C-Mo Wasley / Ted Chee. BEGINNER (7): 1-Hristo Zahov, 2/3-Kathy May / Jean Amster. Δ

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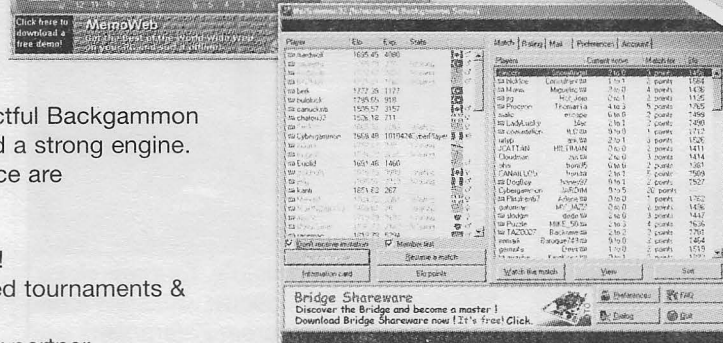
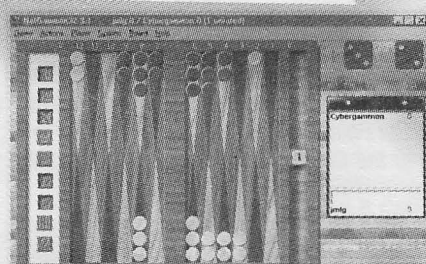
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