PONT

NUMBER 108

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

MAY 1998

las vegas worldwide twin championships

KG IN A TWIN WIN. SENK AND FOGERLUND ALSO HIT BIG IN VEGAS

ent Goulding (MD), Mike Senkiewicz (NY) and Ray Fogerlund (CA) were the big winners in Las Vegas at the Nevada Backgammon Association's 5th Annual Worldwide Twin Championships. The 14–19 April event drew over 250 players from across the globe to the Four Queens Hotel/Casino. Howard Markowitz of the Nevada Backgammon Association directed.

Kent Goulding (MD) was a twin winner with victories in the International Cup and the biggest Blitz tournament in history.



International Cup victor and Blitz winner Kent Goulding with Blitz runner-up Laila Leonhardt. Laila placed 4th in the Masters.

Mike Senkiewicz won the Nevada State Championship—generally rated as the largest open tournament in the United States. And Ray Fogerlund grabbed megaprize money by winning the 24-player Masters Invitational.

The International Cup

The first event of the week was the International Cup. Win an 8-player knockout and you qualify for the playoffs. When the smoke cleared, two backgammon greats

[Continued on page 6]

10th nordic "wide" open

'DANEJA VU': THIEVES STEAL 300K IN DENMARK

First person account by Jake Jacobs

Martine Oulès and Malcolm Davis win big. Oulès prize money unpaid

adies and Gentlemen, if you could stop all games, we have an important announcement from the manager of this hotel."

Hotel managers seldom have important announcements to make in the middle of backgammon tournaments. I had a sinking feeling I knew what this was about. It had to be the fight in the disco the night before. It seems a set of sultry seductresses from sunny Siam had staged a scene in the SAS Radisson's swank saloon. Denmark is a peaceful country, not used to such turmoil. The terpsichorean Thais were still practicing dance steps on each others midriffs as security picked them up and carried them bodily from the disco floor. Shortly thereafter, management closed the bar.

This had nothing at all to do with the Nordic "Wide" Open (9–13 April in Copenhagen), the world's largest backgammon tournament. Shortly before the brawl, I had strutted my stuff with a separate set of swaying sirens, but that was the only backgammon-Thai link to be found. Still, what else could the announcement be but some sort of warning to behave—perhaps a suggestion that next year the Open find other, less congenial lodging?

"We regret to inform you that all of the tournament funds were stolen last night." This was an announcement I had heard before, and not too many miles from this site. In fact, it was just across the water in Malmo, Sweden last September that all the prize money was stolen. This, however, was the Nordic "Wide" Open, a much bigger and better run tournament. The announcement had to be some sort of April Fool's Joke!

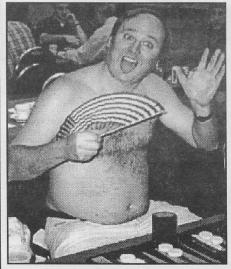
Unfortunately, it was not. About 30

minutes before the fight, while 100 or more people sat at the open lobby bar, or danced in its disco, or came and went from the backgammon room or the casino, a group of professional thieves lifted the concierge's key and slipped into the room containing the hotel's safety boxes. Hats pulled low to hide their faces from the camera, they used a special tool to crack into the guests' boxes. Some 20 boxes were looted before the crooks departed.

It was a half hour later, when Nordic Open Director Chris Ternel came downstairs to add more money to the tournament's box, that the theft was discovered (and the still unsuspecting guests were sent home from the bar). The thieves must have had inside information, as they nailed the tournament box, which contained \$130,000. One of the players had \$70,000

[Continued on page 4]

PHOTO CAPTION CONTEST —WIN \$50—



Doug Roberts, is a big fan of backgammon. What is Dougie trying to say in the picture shown above? Caption the picture in the most humorous way and you may win \$50. Entries will be judged by a panel of national backgammon directors.

MAIL YOUR CAPTIONED ENTRIES BY **24 JUNE 1998** TO: Chicago Point; 3940 W. Bryn Mawr 504; Chicago, IL 60659, or chipoint@interaccess.com. Δ



A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

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CHICAGO POINT is published monthly. The subscription rate is \$30/12 issues (\$40 international airmail in USD check drawn on U.S. bank).

Advertising Rates: 23/8" x 31/4" = \$40.1/4 page = \$70. 1/2 page = \$115. Full page = \$200. If the ad is not "camera ready." request layout and typesetting for an additional charge.



LETTERS

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1999 ILLINOIS STATE DATES SET

I write you to register the Illinois State Championships and America Cup for the weekend of October 8-10, 1999. I have a commitment from my hotel for that weekend.—Yamin A. Yamin, Deerfield, IL

SPENDING HIS WINNINGS

Enclosed find a \$40 check for another great year of CHICAGO POINT. I hope the check arrives in time so I don't miss any issues. I've been a little short on cash lately, but I managed to win some money at a BG tourney. What better way to use the money! -Torkil Espenhain, Farum, Denmark

BACKGAMMON GAME FOR THE PALM PILOT

I just finished a pretty good backgammon game for the Palm Pilot. It currently beats

[Continued on page 3]

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Jul 3-8

Jul 9-12

Jul 10-12

Jul 11-12

Jul 13-19

Jul 20-21*

Jul 26*

Aug 8-9

Aug 13-16

Aug 22-23'

Aug 24-30

Aug 29-30*

Sep 19-20*

Sep 25-27*

Sep 4-6*

Sep 5-6*

Oct 1-4*

Oct 7-11*



by Carol Joy Cole 810/232-9731

E-mail: cjc@flint.org

		an. ojo e min.org
* Denotes new	or revised listing NATIONAL American Backgammon Tour	events underlined.
May 15-17 May 17 May 17 May 17* May 21	41st Gammon Associates Invitational, A.R. Private Club, Los Angeles, CA Backgammon by the Bay, San Mateo Bridge Center, San Mateo, CA New England Bonus Tournament, Sheraton-Commander, Cambridge, MA Austin Bimonthly Tournament, Bombay Bicycle Club, Austin, TX Connecticut Monthly Tourney, Stromberg Technologies, Southington, CT	818/901-0464 408/688-9722 508/829-3283 512/261-8518 203/592-9207
May 21 May 22-25 May 30 May 31 May 31	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI 19th Chicago Open, Wyndham Hamilton Hotel, Itasca, IL Dr. Bob's "Sweet 16" Invitational, New York Chess & BG, New York City Ace Point Sunday Tournament, Ace Point Club, New York, NY Atlanta Club Monthly Tournament, Tony's Grille, Roswell, GA	810/232-9731 847/674-0120 800/520-1809 212/753-0842 770/333-1876
May 31* Jun 1* Jun 5-7 Jun 7 Jun 12-14 Jun 14*	Louisville Monthly Tournament, Oldenberg Grill, Louisville, KY Official GamesGrid Monthly Tournament, via computer tournaments Empire State Championship, Red Men's Party House, Rochester, NY Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Anyway's Grill, Oakbrook Terrace, IL 1998 Georgia Championships & Peach Cup, Atlanta, GA New England Club Monthly, Sheraton-Commander, Cambridge, MA	502/458-9660 @cyberarts.com 716/663-7447 773/583-6464 770/333-1876 508/829-3283
Jun 18* Jun 18* Jun 20* Jun 21* Jun 28* Jun 28*	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI Connecticut Monthly Tourney, Stromberg Technologies, Southington, CT Dr. Bob's "Sweet 16" Invitational, New York Chess & BG, New York City Backgammon by the Bay, San Mateo Bridge Center, San Mateo, CA Louisville Monthly Tournament, Oldenberg Grill, Louisville, KY Ace Point Sunday Tournament, Ace Point Club, New York, NY	810/232-9731 203/592-9207 800/520-1809 408/688-9722 502/458-9660 212/753-0842
Jul 1 <u>Jul 2-5</u> Jul 11-12 Jul 18 <u>Jul 31-Aug 2</u> Jul 31-Aug 9	Michigan Summer Warm-Up Tourney, Novi Hilton, Novi, MI Michigan Summer Championships, Novi Hilton, Novi, MI Nation's Capital Summer Open, Promenade Cardroom, Bethesda, MD Hawthorne Backgammon Classic, Hawthorne Race Course, Cicero, IL Thousand Islands Tournament, Pine Tree Point, Alexandria Bay, NY World Cup VI & U.S. Open, Harvey's Hotel Addison, Dallas, TX	810/232-9731 810/232-9731 301/530-0604 773/583-6464 716/442-8221 301/299-8265
Sep 4-7 Sep 18-20 Sep 25-27 Oct 2-4 Oct 9-11 Nov 10-14 Nov 27-29 Dec 26-27	46th Indiana Open, Radisson Hotel, Indianapolis, IN Minnesota State Championships, Minneapolis Athletic Club, MN Towpath Inn Tournament, Towpath Inn, Turin, NY Illinois State Champs & America Cup, Holidome, Rolling Meadows, IL Nation's Capital Championships, Promenade, Bethesda, MD 1998 Las Vegas Open, Riviera Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, NV Northern Ohio Thanksgiving Tournament, Belden Holiday Inn, Canton, OH Ace Point Holiday Tournament, Ace Point Club, New York, NY	317/255-8902 612/378-1536 716/442-8221 847/945-7801 301/530-0604 702/893-6025 330/966-2811 212/753-0842
	OUTSIDE USA	
May 28-31 May 29-31 May 30-31* May 30-31 Jun 5-8* Jun 6-7 Jun 7* Jun 13-14 Jun 20-21*	Schwaben-Cup Pfingstturnier, Comfort Inn, Gerlingen/Stuttgart, Germany 7th Torneo della Riviera Adriatica, Le Grand Hotel, Riccione, Italy 2nd Vergina Tournament, Vergina Hotel, Thessaloniki, Greece macedon 7th Vienna Meisterschaften Finale, Café Florianihof, Vienna, Austria Toronto Monthly Tournament, Scallywags, Toronto, ON, Canada	35850-68061 44152-2721630 49711-486190 39543-28453 @the.forthnet.gr 43664-2303940 416/722-9709 44152-2546993 3941-5900769
Jun 27-28	British Open, Jarvis International Hotel, Watford/London, England	44161-4380966

5th German Open, Hotel am Kaiserbrunnen, Brakel, Germany 49521-64314 10th City of Venice International Tournament, Venice, Italy 3941-5900769 M-C Warm-Up Tourney, Loews Hotel, Monte Carlo, Monaco USA contact: 954/527-4033 Bonus No. 1, Stakis Birmingham Metropole, Birmingham, England 44152-2546993 World Championship, Loews Hotel, Monte Carlo, Monaco USA contact: 954/527-4033 7th Nice Open, Lido Plage, Nice, France 33493-879436 1998 Newcastle Open, Mattara Hotel, Charlestown, NSW, Australia 612-49469222 Studio Anne Carlton Trophy, Stakis Birmingham Metropole, England 44152-2546993 Franken ganz Open IV, Hotel Schwarzer Adler, Uttenreuth, Germany 49911-737514 Jarvis Trophy, Jarvis International Hotel, Watford/London, England 44161-4380966 2nd Mind Sports Olympiad, Royal Festival Hall, London, England 44171-4859146 Sjællandsmesterskaberne, Roskilde BG Klub, Roskilde, Denmark 4539-400607 8th Mitteleuropa Tourament, Casinò Park, Nova Gorica, Slovenia 392-40074658 Bonus No. 2, Stakis Birmingham Metropole, Birmingham, England 44152-2546993 6th Irish Open, Camden Court Hotel, Dublin, Ireland 3531-6689332 Inner Table Tournament #3, Grand Hotel Leicester, England 44152-2721630

Asian Championships, Ladies Recreation Club, Hong Kong

2nd Moscow Open, World Trade Center Hotel. Moscow, Russia

852-28461923

Spain: 3450-133009

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

me (and some other testers) 40% of the time. It doubles quite well and plays fast. POINT readers with Internet access and Palm Pilot can download free software and sample the game for two weeks. Thereafter the charge requires registration to activate. We are at http://www.standalone.com/PalmOS/Backgammon/content.html—Erik Wiessmann; Stand Alone, Inc.

FAT!SO?

I'm currently finishing up a book titled Fat!So?—because you don't have to apologize for your size. Due out in January, it's a book that questions common stereotypes and prejudices about fat people using humor and wit.

In one chapter, I suggest that anyone who diets might do better to choose another hobby, one that is more productive. Backgammon is one of the pursuits I will recommend. And I'll be sure to include

information on CHICAGO POINT.— Marilyn Wann, San Francisco, CA

Thanks, Marilyn. Sounds like your book will be a "heavyweight" hit.

For more information on "Fat!So?," go to www.fatso.com, or write: Fat!So?, PO Box 423464, San Francisco, CA.—Ed.

STARTING A NEW CLUB

I am the director of sales for the Ramada Hollywood Hotel in Los Angeles. The owners of the hotel are professional backgammon players and play the world over. They have asked me to find out how to set up a local club and if any professional computer software is available on this subject. They are hoping to develop worldwide exposure and hold tournaments at our hotel. Can you make any suggestions?—

George Munch, Director of Sales and Catering, Ramada Hotel, Hollywood, CA

Go to: http://www.gamesdomain.com/backgammon/clubs/howto.html and you'll find tips on how to form and operate a local backgammon club.—Ed.

THEY'RE NOT DANCING SHOES

The attached picture if from my daughter Amber's "modeling shoot" in Chicago last year. Maybe if I wore those shoes I wouldn't dance so long.—Randy Armstrong, Sangamon Valley Club, Springfield, IL



Amber near Michigan Ave. in Chicago.

GERMAN PLAYBOY

I was at Borders Books on Michigan Avenue and noticed that the April 1998 German issue of *Playboy* has an article on the recent World Cup Backgammon Tournament in Istanbul. I bought the issue, even though I don't understand German. Certainly there are a number of POINT subscribers who are fluent in German. I was wondering about *Playboy's* description of the tournament.—*Steve Migala, Chicago, IL*

One good thing about Playboy in any language: the pictures translate beautifully.—Ed. Δ

AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR * 1998

American Backgammon Tour ★ 1998

Compiled through 22 March 1998 after 2 tournaments (Coming in May: 41st Gammon Assoc.; 19th Chicago Open)



Steve McCormick	22.88	Mike Cyrkiel	5.60	Paul Dibiase	3.99	Mark Larios	2.15
Bob Glass	17.42	Bill Keefe	5.20	Merrill Schrager	3.20	Bruce Russell	2.08
Frankie Farjood	11.44	Jeff Acierno	5.19	Kim Haubert	3.15	Lenny Loder	2.08
David Wells	11.20	Joe Freedman	4.80	Butch Meese	3.00	Rob Keast	1.55
Mike Friedman	10.40	Denny Leatherman	4.80	John Mazur	2.81	Ken Lazar	1.40
Mike Rezai	9.59	Mike Hendrikson	4.72	Walt Swan	2.40	Tom Machaj	1.35
Art Benjamin	8.71	Dave Orandle	4.36	Linda Resnicoff	2.39	Ray Bills	1.08
Mike Fujita	7.97	Rob Maier	4.36	Matt Reklaitis	2.39	Boris Mindich	0.70
Bob Holyon	7.00	Chuck Bower	4.16	Hunter Jones	2.36	Jennifer Waller	0.63
Howard Markowitz	6.40	John Brussel	4.16	James Roston	2.16		

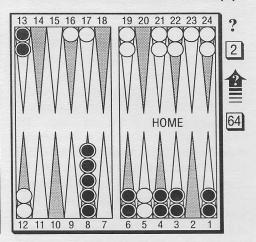
CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB		CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB 1998 PLAYER OF THE YEAR				COMPILED THRU 30 APR.	
Steve Mellen	12.92	Tim Carroll	3.24	Paul Baraz	1.76	Sam Pottle	0.72
Joe Wollick	9.60	Jake Jacobs	3.04	Andy Krenitz	1.76	Roland Dieter	0.64
Tak Morioka	8.52	Alice Kay	2.88	Phil Simborg	1.68	Reginald Porter	0.56
Laila Leonhardt	8.44	Marty Tatosian	2.80	Ken Bond	1.44	Steve Rota	0.56
Paul Friedman	7.32	John Demian	2.72	Romeo Kap	1.28	Rich Gast	0.32
Harry Cohn	5.76	Don Jayhan	2.52	Val Zimnicki	1.16	Sonia Peacock	0.32
Neil Kazaross	4.48	Ed Buerger	2.48	Jerry Brooks	0.96	Jannica Tornqvist	0.32
Mary Franks	4.28	Richard Stawowy	2.40	Barry Miller	0.96	Barbara Levinson	0.24
Gary Kay	4.08	Paul Franks	2.40	Ed Zell	0.96	Georgina Flanagan	0.24
Paul Klein	3.52	Norma Shyer	2.24	Tim Mabee	0.96	Marc Rosset	0.24
Herb Roman	3.40	Bill Davis	1.92	Steve Klesker	0.88	Arline Levy	0.18
Phyllis Smolinski	3.36	Joseph Esfahani	1.92	Dave Cramer	0.88	Joann Feinstein	0.18
Bill Keefe	3.28	Elaine Kehm	1.92	Wendy Kaplan	0.84	Frankie Farjood	0.16
Rick Bieniak	3.24						

April's Player of the Month is **JOE WOLLICK**. Joe collected his 4.36 points with victories on April 14 and 21, coupled with a consolation victory on April 28. Runner's up were Paul Friedman (3.28) and John Demian (2.72).

your move

PROBLEM #243 to be analyzed by Antonio Ortega

13 point match. White leads Black, 11 to 10. Black on roll. CUBE ACTION(S)?



SHADES OF GRAY

A RULES AND RULINGS COLUMN

© 1998 by Danny Kleinman

SHADES OF BLACK AND WHITE: CHOICE OF SEATS

Dear Danny: Can you offer an opinion on a recent ruling I had to make?
Player A has two slipped discs (not too

serious) and is able to get around all right, but is unable to comfortably sit in a chair without full back support. Physiotherapy will help but at the moment, she is still awaiting a hospital appointment.

Player B is fit and well and can sit anywhere without discomfort.

When paired up to play an 11-point match, Player A told Player B that she was willing to let him choose colour of checkers, direction of play and what dice and board to use as long as she was able to sit on the bench seat she currently occupied. Player B refused this offer and suggested they roll dice to determine seating positions. Player A couldn't accept this and requested a ruling.

I asked Player A her reasons for not wanting to roll the dice to decide seating. She said that if she were to do so and lose, she couldn't sit where Player B would place her.

I then asked Player B his reasons for not letting Player A sit where she requested due to her back problem. His answer was, "Because it's in the rules." When asked to give another reason, Player B stuck to his assertion that, "It's in the rules, and that is sufficient reason on it's own."

The rules he was referring to are the British Isles Backgammon Association Rules of Play that state:

3-2. PREFERENCE. If necessary, the direction of play, choice of checker colour and seat location shall be decided by the roll of the dice prior to commencement of play.

I felt that Player A had a valid reason for seating preference and the fact that she was willing to concede colour, board, dice and direction to Player B weighed in her favour. I concluded she was not attempting to gain an unfair advantage from her refusal to accept an uncomfortable seating position.

Although Player B was correct in his knowledge of the rules, I felt he was being unreasonable in his use of them. He had no valid reason for his insistence other than it was a rule, and at his own admission, sitting anywhere else was not a disadvantage to him.

My decision was in favour of Player A. Player B (a very experienced tournament player) totally refused to accept this decision, repeating his former contention. Consequently the match wasn't played.

Another player, Player C (also a very experienced tournament player), sided with Player B citing the same reason, "It's in the rules." Surely the fact that something is in the rules doesn't mean that it has to be applied rigidly at the expense of another, does it? What would your ruling have been?—Michael Crane, Director, BIBA.

DEAR MICHAEL: Rules, no matter how well written, demand intelligent interpretation. In the rule you cite, about rolling for seats, "if necessary" is the key clause. Clearly, it is not necessary to roll for seats when one of the players requires a particular seat for physical reasons and the other does not.

Player A's offer to let Player B choose checkers, dice and direction of play was gracious but irrelevant.

You say that you ruled "in favor of Player A," but you also say that when Player B refused to accept your ruling, "the match wasn't played." From your account, I can't tell if you ruled correctly. You were wrong if you finessed the issue by reassigning Players A and B to other opponents. You were right if you scored Player A as the winner and Player B as the loser by forfeit.

I feel strongly about this. Mark (2:27) quotes Jesus as saying, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath." Similarly, laws are designed to promote justice; it is a mistake to define justice as adherence to law.

For this reason, even were the key clause "if necessary" to have been omitted from your rules, I would insist, in the interest of substantive rather than merely formal justice, that Player A be given choice of seats.— $Yours, Danny \Delta$

Have you ever been involved in a questionable ruling? Get Danny Kleinman's opinion. Write to: Shades of Gray; c/o CHICAGO POINT; 3940 W. Bryn Mawr Ave. 504; Chicago, IL 60659-3155.

AMALGAMATION

CLUB NEWS: Michael Maxakuli (NV) tells us Las Vegas Backgammon Club weekly tournaments will now be held Tuesdays at the Elks Lodge at 4100 Charleston... Michael Valentine (NV) was forced to close his Las Vegas games club "Oasis." He recently had serious shoulder surgery and is going to be out of commission for three months of intensive therapy... Louisville BG Club is now running last Sunday monthly games at the Oldenberg Grill. For the details, contact Frank Frigo (KY) at 502/458-9660... The Granite State Club now meets Wednesdays at the Nashua (NH) American Legion Hall. Contact Marcus Hermansen (NH) 800/ 200-1457 for details... Charlie Raichle (CO) has started the Rocky Mountain BG Club in Denver, CO at Cheers. Call Charlie at 719/574-5598... The Bear Republic BG

Club meets Mondays at 7:00 at Bear Republic Brewing Company in Healdsburg, CA. Donald Cook (CA) is the contact: 707/ 525-5595... Ray Bills (MN) is the contact for the Rochester, Minnesota BG Club. They meet Wednesdays at the Greenhouse. Ray can be reached at 507/280-8956..... The Mining Company website http://boardgames.tqn.com/msub10.htm recently reviewed Chicago Point OnLine thusly: "Irreverent backgammon newsletter that pitches wildly from the excruciatingly twee to the gruesomely politically incorrect. Weird but fun." We'll take it!... The winner and finalist of Tuesday Chicago Bar Point Club tournaments in June will win a NetGammon T-shirt courtesy of Heather Noreen (France) and NetGammon online BG server (www.netgammon.com)... Dr. Larry Liebster (NJ) is always in the pool. That's because he was 1946 New York Public School breast stroke state champ... Visiting the BPC in April: Harold Seif

(NV) and Nigel Vann (MD)... Good news for those who saved the Beanie BabyTM handout from the 1997 Midwest Champs. Bucky the Beaver is retired and now selling for as much as \$30... Congratulations to Jason & Anna Cole (MI) who were married last month. That's why mom Carol Joy Cole (MI) missed the Vegas tournament!... Chicago to New York City: Harry Cohn for a contract programming job. He'll be gone at least six months... We wish a speedy recovery to Jodie Kraft (IL) who broke her clavicle in an auto accident last month. Linda Woods (IL) will fill in for Jodie as a staffer at the Chicago Open this Memorial Day... Good luck to Bar Point Club hostess Rose Gecht (IL) who was bitten by a monkey on her Acapulco vacation last month. We hope she won't need the shots... And finally, a nice thought from Eran Glago (CA): "God does not deduct from our allotted life spans, the time spent playing backgammon." Δ

'DANEJA VU'...

[Continued from page 1]

in his box, and several others were reporting losses of \$5000.00 each. That would push the total loss up near \$300,000.

Box holder after box holder, asking if theirs was on the list, received a grim nod from Hotel Security Chief Tommy Gosch. "Box 74? No, that's not on the list." Phew! I'd much rather offer sympathy than empathy.

Three hours later, while I was playing a StopPot match, came the page: "Will the owner of box 74 please report to the front desk." I've been trying for a door prize at every tournament for the last 20 years, and *now* they call my number?! As I feared, my box had been hit.

"All I had in there was \$1300." (Good thing I entered the Super Jackpot, or they'd have really nailed me. If I had had their number, I would have called the thieves and apologized for disappointing them.) "But if you don't mind, I'd like to get my passport, plane ticket, and credit card out of the box."

Tommy shook his head sadly. "You don't understand. They took everything."

Luckily, I was booked into Copenhagen until the Thursday after the tournament, so I had time to obtain an emergency passport before continuing onward. (Doesn't everyone return to Chicago from Denmark via Asia?) My airline ticket was on SAS, so the hotel did all the legwork there, and I only had one credit card that needed canceling.

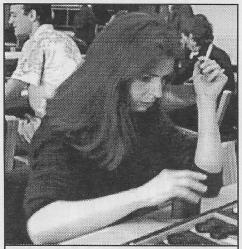
The SAS hotel has announced that their insurance will cover all losses, so unlike the ill-fated Scandinavian Open winners from last year, this year's winners should collect their full prize money—and quite quickly, I'm told. I should be able to judge the speed myself, as they are supposed to reimburse my \$1300 as well.

Martine & Malcolm Win Big

Saturday morning, a big crowd of spectators was watching a Championship match. 'Who was it?,' I wondered. Lo and behold, it was Paul Magriel's significant other, Martine Oulès of Paris, France. Martine, the only woman in the 118 player Championship field, completed a big comeback in that match. Now people wanted to see her next one.

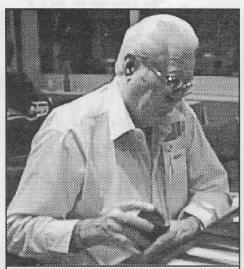
As she kept winning, she became the player of destiny. Magriel was her nervous coach, barely able to stand the suspense of watching her matches.

Come Monday, Oulès found herself in the finals against Mario Kühl of Germany, with Paul doing the live (and unashamedly biased) commentary! In the hard-fought eight hour battle, Martine needed one last comeback (this time from a 15–3 deficit) to win the double match-point thriller, 25–23. Congratulations to Martine on her valiant performance.



Martine Oulès was unstoppable in winning the Danish 'Wide' Open. [Danish photos by Elliott Winslow.]

Texan Malcolm Davis was doubly fortunate in Copenhagen. He won the Super Jackpot, and unlike, Martine, he got paid! Malcolm finished the tournament with 22 unanswered points. He scored 13 against Armando Balbi (defeating him 13–0), and 9 more against me in the 13–point semifinals. I was up 6-4 and never scored again.



Super Jackpot winner Malcolm Davis (TX) was one of the lucky ones who was paid his winnings prior to the robbery.

In Summary...

Mishaps like what happened here, especially so soon after Malmo, may scare off players from attending the Nordic "Wide" Open next year. I hope it isn't so. Subscribers to the Garp theory that one should buy the struck house, as the odds of a *second*

airplane crashing into it are astronomical (or at least aeronautical), may rest assured that the chance of three Scandinavian tournaments being robbed are about as small as the chances of everyone in my favorite chouette passing a double.

Moreover, with one's losses fully insured, there can be no real loss. (I will try to find out if this coverage includes chouettes.) For the pessimists in the crowd, look at it this way:

- Last year, amateurs swipe \$30,000,
- This year, pros steal \$300,000,
- Next year, expect uzis in the elevator, swat teams on the stairs, and Bruce Willis rappelling from the roof. Great entertainment, at reasonable rates.

Seriously, Chris and his staff run one of the world's finest tournaments. Over 500 people played in five divisions this year. It would be a shame if that number weren't even greater next year. I'll be there. I hope you will, too. Complete results: Δ

10TH NORDIC "WIDE" OPEN

CHAMPIONSHIP (118): 1-Martine Oulès (FRA), 2-Mario Kühl (GER), 3/4-Mads Andersen / Oliver Egger (DEN); 1C-Peter van Rooy (HOL), 2C-Ion Ressu (SWS), 3C/4C-Marc Anders (GER) / Peter Lego Fursund (DEN); 1LC-Christian Plenz (GER), 2LC-Ray Tannen (ENG).

ADVANCED (121): 1-Theo Bruns (GER), 2-R.M. van der Bruin (HOL), 3/4-Mads K. Madsen (DEN) / Anne Dahlin (DEN); 1C-Andreas Märtens (GER), 2C-Henning Roschberg (SWE), 3C/4C-Stein Welle (NOR) / Paul Trunbull (ENG); 1LC-Nkiael Jensen (DEN), 2LC-Leo L. Hansen (DEN).

INTERMEDIATE (147): 1-Jyri Lammi (FIN), 2-Siri Thorsland (NOR), 3/4-Vadim Michiagin (DEN) / Shahin Azami (SWE); 1C-Peter Petersen (DEN), 2C-Morten Andersen (DEN); 1LC-Ingrid Øhlenschläger (DEN), 2LC-Morten Black (DEN). NOVICE (94): 1-Jan Jacobowich (GER), 2-Erik Sørensen (DEN), 3/4-Andreas Ohrbæk (DEN) / Jan Vogel (DEN); 1C-Johathan Kaplan (US), 2C-Iben Due (DEN), 3C/4C-Morten Tvergaard (DEN) / Martin Reeh (DEN); 1LC-Jacob Hoffmeyer (DEN), 2LC-Søren Friis Jensen (DEN).

BEGINNER (45): 1-Aco Stankovic (DEN), 2-Jacob Dahl; 1C-Peter Switon, 2C-Annie Friberg (DEN); 1LC-Federico D'Onofrio (ITA), 2LC-Lars B. Andersen (DEN).

\$2000 SUPER JACKPOT (16): 1-Malcolm Davis (US), 2-Armando Balbi.

TEAM EVENT (35 Teams): 1-"Mistery"-Ehlers/ Levermann/Schiemann (DEN/GER/GER), 2-"MAF"-Serrero/Nadjar/Tardieu (FRA).

DOUBLES (70 Pairs): 1-Kasper Andersen & Enrik Sorel (DEN), 2-Udo Hansen & Bo Faurholt (DEN).

UNDER 21 (17): 1-Kasper Poulsen (DEN), 2-Anna-Marie Höskuldsson (DEN).

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: *Men:* Sweden 3, Denmark 2. *Ladies:* Sweden 3, Denmark 2.

5

VEGAS TOURNAMENT...

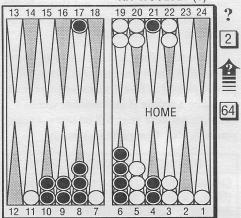
[Continued from page 1]

were still on their feet: Kent Goulding and Kit Woolsey (CA).

The 13-point finals was a treat for the spectators. Goulding took the first two games via 2-cubes. Ahead 4–0, KG tested Woolsey with this double:

13-point International Cup finals. Kent Goulding (Black) leads Kit Woolsey (White), 4–0. Black to roll. **DOUBLE?**

KIT WOOLSEY (0)



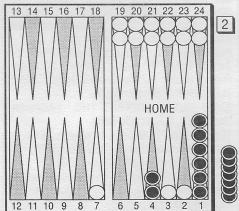
KENT GOULDING (4)

Even though he had 7 men back, there was no way Woolsey can pass. However, Kit's timing quickly deteriorated and he found himself playing an unattractive 2-3-5 backgame with his inner board checkers crashed down to the 1-, 2-, and 3-points.

Through careful play, Woolsey managed to rebuild his home board just in time for the following:

13-point International Cup finals. Kent Goulding (Black) leads Kit Woolsey (White), 4–0. **BLACK TO PLAY 6-1.**

KIT WOOLSEY (0)



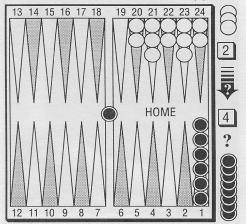
KENT GOULDING (4)

Goulding played 4/off, 4/3 leaving Woolsey 19 shots. The alternative play,

4/off, 1/off, leaves 20 shots but bears off an extra man. Woolsey rolled a hitting number and minutes later:

13-point International Cup finals. Kent Goulding (Black) leads Kit Woolsey (White), 4–0. White on roll. **REDOUBLE?**

KIT WOOLSEY (0)



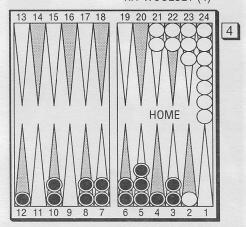
KENT GOULDING (4)

Now Kent may have wished he had borne off that extra checker. He took the recube and ended up losing four points to tie the score at 4-all.

Kent turned around a Kit cube in the fourth game to go ahead 6–4. Then in game 7, there was action at the 4-level:

13-point International Cup finals. Kent Goulding (Black) leads Kit Woolsey (White), 6–4. **BLACK TO PLAY 5-4.**

KIT WOOLSEY (4)



KENT GOULDING (6)

A tricky 5-4. Rather than play the "safe" 8/4, 8/3, Kent went for six points in a row, playing 12/3. Kit missed the shot, KG completed the prime and rolled it home to take a big 10–4 lead. Kit was unable to recover and four games later, KG had won 13–6.

Blitz Tourney

KG also managed an exciting victory over Laila Leonhardt in the Blitz finals to grab another \$10,000. With 85 eight-player qualifiers, the Blitz proved to be the most popular event of the tournament.

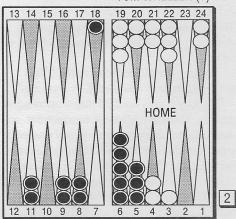
Improvements are necessary in this event, however. As it worked out, players who qualified once were given a bye into the round-of-64, while those who won twice were required to play themselves in the round-of-128 in order to advance. Director Markowitz vowed to correct this inequity in future Blitz's.

Nevada State Championship

The 1998 Nevada State Championship pitted Tom Wheeler, last year's runner-up, against Mike Senkiewicz, last year's consolation victor and one of the top-5 players in the world. Wheeler got off to a bad start in the first game of the 17-point finals:

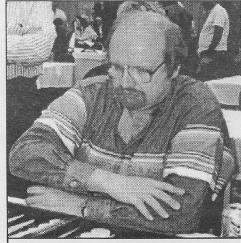
17-pt. Nevada State finals. No score. Mike Senkiewicz (Black) vs. Tom Wheeler (White). **WHITE TO PLAY 5-3.**

TOM WHEELER (0)



MIKE SENKIEWICZ (0)

Wheeler played 19/24, 4/7. Stepping out to the bar point now is very risky. Mike immediately recubed to 4. Tom accepted and was lucky not to get gammoned. Senkiewicz–4, Wheeler–0.



Another trophy into Mike Senkiewicz' case: 1998 Nevada State Champion. Senk also finished 3rd in the Masters.

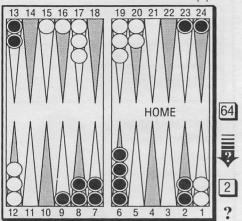
6

Senk won the next five points to give himself a big 9–0 lead. But this is backgammon. Four games later, the match was tied at 9–all.

Mike got back on track, taking the lead 12–9 after 10 games. Game 11 would decide the match:

17-point Nevada State finals. Mike Senkiewicz (Black) leads Tom Wheeler (White) 12–9. White on roll. **DOUBLE?**

TOM WHEELER (0)

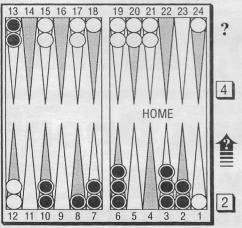


MIKE SENKIEWICZ (0)

Wheeler opened up a slight positional advantage and decided to take the cube for a spin based on a small timing advantage and the chance to get a bar-building roll. A bit later:

17-point Nevada State finals.Mike Senkiewicz (Black) leads Tom Wheeler (White) 12–9.White on roll. **REDOUBLE?**

TOM WHEELER (0)



MIKE SENKIEWICZ (0)

Despite Mike's 12–9 lead, this looks like a good redouble. He's ahead in the race 99–124 with numerous ways to build his 5- or 4-point. Wheeler accepted.

Mike rolled 4-1 playing 10/6, 8/7. With very little to lose and the chance to make big gains if he could roll a 9, Wheeler shipped an 8-cube. Senkiewicz accepted and was able to safely bring the game

home to capture the Nevada State title.

Masters Invitational

A strong field of 24 players anted up \$2600 each in this year's Masters Invitational. The event was set up in three 8-player qualifiers. This would generate three winners who would draw for a bye in the later round.

Ray Fogerlund reached the final-3 by shredding Malcolm Davis (TX) 13–0 in his round-of-8. The other two qualifiers were Mike Senkiewicz and Dean Muench (IL). Now to draw for the ever-important bye.

It was decided that the winner of the bye would pay the other two players \$2000 each. Dean Muench was the lucky victor. Fogerlund would face Senkiewicz in the "semifinals."

Ray was down 6–zip to Senk when his dice caught fire. And it was one blaze that the fireman from Taft, CA did not want to extinguish. When the smoke cleared, Ray was on top 15–7.

Ray's final victim was Dean Muench. After six games, Dean got as close as 5–6 down before Ray got put his steamroller in gear for 11 straight points. Another crushed victim. Fogerlund had won the Masters title and over \$30,000 in very convincing fashion.



An emotional Ray Fogerlund accepts the Master's Invitational winner's trophy with runner-up Dean Muench at right.

Congratulations Also...

To Kit Woolsey who collected \$10,000 of added money for winning the most matches (26) during the tournament. Steve Sax (CA) finished second with 24 wins.

Also to Howard Markowitz and staff (Ed Bauder, John Brussel, John Carrico, Joann Feinstein, Linda George, Mary Ann Meese and Linda Woods for a very fine affair. Next year, this event will be staged at the Riviera Hotel which should make for even a bigger event. Complete Results: Δ

WORLDWIDE TWIN CHAMPIONSHIPS

NEVADA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP: Championship (93): 1-Mike Senkiewicz, 2-Tom Wheeler, 3/4-Emil Mortuk / Dean Muench; 1C-Nick Ballard, 2C-John O'Hagan, 3C/4C-Fred Kalantari / Hossein Zafaranian; 1LC-Art Benjamin, 2LC-Carmen Tomlinson. Intermediate (95): 1-Chris Rosen, 2-Jim Rudig, 3/4-Tom Leslie / Reza Rezaian; 1C-Bill Piland, 2C-Kati Pratt, 3C/4C-Julian Haley / Paul Franks; 1LC-John Ritchie, 2LC-Mark Ferrin. Beginner (48): 1-Karsten Busch, 2-Archil Odisharia, 3/4-Robert Schumacher / Martin Ronek; 1C-Sonny St. James, 2C-Einar Tryggvason; 1LC-Gilles Blais, 2LC-Glenn Nunez.

INTERNATIONAL CUP: <u>Championship:</u> 1-Kent Goulding, 2-Kit Woolsey, 3/4-Alex Barsel / Marianne Rosen. <u>Intermediate:</u> 1-Marc Lowe, 2-John Graas, 3/4-Ron Bruns / Cyrus Afshani. <u>Beginner:</u> 1-Archil Odisharia, 2-Arsalan Najafi, 3/4-Karsten Busch / Thomas Taylor.

MASTERS INVITATIONAL (24): 1-Ray Fogerlund, 2-Dean Muench, 3-Mike Senkiewicz. LIMITED JACKPOT #1 (16): 1-Laverne Wendell, 2-Doug Mayfield. #2 (16): 1-Mario Bonfico, 2-Michael Ungerleider.

BLITZ TOURNAMENT (85 X 8): 1-Kent Goulding, 2-Laila Leonhardt.

SENIORS TOURNAMENT (64): 1-Perry Gartner, 2-Emil Sepasy.

\$20,000 BONUS MONEY MOST WINS: 1-Kit Woolsey (26 wins), 2-Steve Sax (24 wins), 3/4/5-Dean Muench / Tom Wheeler / Ken Cohen (23 wins each).

SLOT MACHINE TOURNAMENT: 1-Nicole Taboury (FRA), 2-Mary Ann Meese (IN), 3-John Brussel (IL). Δ



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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 The Old Main Inn, 2330 N. Main St., Wheaton. V. W. Zimnicki (630/924-8632).

GAMES PEOPLE PLAY: Tourn. Monday, 6:30 P.M. at The Clique, 2347 S. Michigan, Chicago. Reginald 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 620 Lincoln, Winnetka. Trudie Chibnik (847/446-0537).

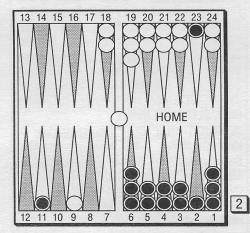
PEORIA BACKGAMMON CLUB: Tourn. Thurs., 6:30 P.M. at Peoria Pizza Works, 3921 Prospect, Peoria. Ed Zell (309/673-7622).

last month's position

PROBLEM #242 ANALYZED

by Kit Woolsey

7-point match. Black leads White, 6 to 3 (post Crawford). **BLACK TO PLAY 3-2.**



Black has two possible approaches. He can hit White's outfield checker and leave a blot in his inner board, or he can shift in his inner board leaving no direct shots.

If Black leaves the inner board blot, 11/9*, 9/6 seems to be the route to take. This play leaves one fewer blot in case of disaster. Also Black turns a bad 4 into a good number. If White misses, Black is very likely to escape, cover, lift, or find a way to shift safely.

11/9*, 6/3 cuts down on Black's flexibility and duplicates his aces to cover and aces to lift. 11/9*, 5/2 (shifting the blot) gives Black the best structure if White misses, but costs Black the 4-prime which might be his lifeline if White hits.

When Black shifts, 4/2, 4/1 seems superior to 5/3, 5/2. Dumping a fourth checker on the ace point is not as negative as White's extra shots from 6-5 and her totally crushing 5-5. Otherwise, there doesn't seem to be much difference between the plays.

Thus, the choice is between 11/9*, 9/6 and shifting 4/2, 4/1. Which should it be?

The "safe" shift isn't 100% safe. White hits with 4-2, 4-4, and 4-5. Granted, Black will still have a direct shot back if he is hit loose in White's inner board, but he sure won't be happy.

What happens if White enters and doesn't hit? Black is in fairly bad shape anyway. He pretty much has to immediately escape the back checker or risk being attacked, and he still has his other outfield blot to worry about. Even if he does escape the back checker, that checker will have a

long and dangerous trip home.

Now suppose Black shifts and White flunks. Black will be in great shape if he can escape or hit the second blot. If he is unable to do either, he will have to move his outfield checker, losing his chance at the second blot. If White is then able to enter, Black is back in big trouble.

Now let's look at hitting and leaving the inner board blot. No question about it—Black is in trouble if White enters and hits. Black will be on the bar against a 5-point board . . . but so will White.

Even if Black enters, he still has to get over a 5-prime, while White need only leap a 4-prime. Still, Black has plenty of chances. That 4-prime may be sufficient to hold White and force her to crack in the variations where White enters first. Black will probably be at a greater gammon risk than if he makes the safer shifting play, but he still has winning chances if he is hit.

If White flunks, it is another story. Black can escape, cover, or lift the blot with most of his rolls. If Black completes the closeout he will probably have several rolls to throw a 6. Even if Black's board starts to crumble, White will have two men on the bar which have to enter before Black escapes. And in the variations where Black is unable to make his 2-point and White enters on the next turn (perhaps hitting), that 4-prime may still see Black to victory. Black is in very good shape if he hits and White flunks.

The conclusion is that Black gains a lot from the hit when White flunks, while he

doesn't lose too much (relative to the shifting play) when he hits and White enters. Since White will flunk more often than she enters, it is clear that 11/9*, 9/6 is the superior play.

It is scary to leave a direct shot when the opponent has a 5-point board. However, when the alternative isn't all that great anyway, it is worth taking a chance if you get something worthwhile when you get away with it. Δ

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WINNER'S CIRCLE



Mar.-Apr. 1998

- •Cannes Festival of Games (Cannes, France 26 Feb–1 Mar.)... CHAMPION-SHIP: 1-Mario Sequeira (POR), 2-Gianmichele D-Onofrio (ITA), 3/4-Luigi Villa (ITA) / S. Reus; 1C-P. Swart, 2C-L. Orsini (FRA); 1LC-M. Siegel. INTER-MEDIATE: 1-A. Sammonds, 2-S. Cheikhard, 3/4-S. Tournois / M. Fossati; 1C-A. Vincent, 2C-E. Kapuano; 1LC-M. Markotic.
- •European Pro-Am & Ted Bassett Cup (Gstaad, Switzerland; 12-15 Mar.)... CHAMPIONSHIP: 1-Barry Pitt (UK), 2-Mario Sequeira (POR), 3/4-Aldo Peretti (ITA) / Aris Hadjiaslanis; 1C-Ron Rubin (US), 2C-Fred Chamanara (US); 1LC-Mauro Fenocchio (ITA), 2LC-Freddy Narboni (SWI). INTERMEDIATE: 1-A.M. Zerb, 2-S. Hisrch; 1C-K.C. Carlston, 2C-S. Gould; 1LC-D. Heyman, 2-A. Grössl.
- •NEBC Sunday Monthly (Cambridge, MA; 15 Mar.)... EXPERT (16): 1-Marty Storer, 2-Bob Mojahed, 3/4-Ed Abou-Zeid / Herb Gurland; 1C-Seth Towle, 2C-John Mansey. A DIV. (20): 1-Howard Clouse, 2-Joe Moore, 3/4-Jim Glover / Jim McKenna; 1C-John Lorenz, 2C-Alex Zamanian.
- •24th Winter Championships 1998 (St. Moritz, Switzerland; 19-22 Mar.)... **CHAMPIONSHIP** (38): 1-Ronald Reinhardt (GER), 2-Gianmichele D'Onofrio (ITA), 3/4-Dragan Mitrovic (GER) / Ron Rubin (US); 1C-Rolf Stern (GER), 2-Carlo Facchetti (ITA); 1LC-José Salema (POR), 2LC-A. Naghizadeh. INTERMEDIATE (25): 1-Stephan Ackermann (SWI), 2-Daniel Tretzer (SWI); 1C-Christoph Michel (SWI). 2C-Grigore; 1LC-Micoletta Astori (ITA), 2-Knezeric. WARM-UP (42): 1-Phillip Marmorstein (GER), 2-Harald Johanni (GER). JACKPOT #1: 1-Phillip Marmorstein (GER), 2-Ron Rubin (US); JACKPOT #2: 1-Karl Laubmeier (GER), 2-Jörg Weber (FIN). •Atlanta Backgammon Association Monthly (Atlanta, GA; 29 Mar.)... DOUBLES: 1-Sally Winter & Stuart Thomson, 2-Steve Kovach & Larry Taylor. SINGLES: 1-Kate Elmore, 2-Kelly Williams, 3/4-Dave Cardwell / Carl Sorg.

- •1998 Argentine Championship (Buenos Aires, Argentina; Mondays & Wednesdays in Apr.)... CHAMPION-SHIP WINNERS: Rafael Dana, Hugo Erqueta, Daniel Buzzella, Daniel Priani. **JUNIOR** WINNERS: Ezequiel Silberleib, Ashot Simonian, Ricardo Panno, Jimmy Fouguet. BEGINNER WINNERS: Marta Funes, Martin Seminario, mabel Mateo, Diego Patiño. •Springfield Series #6 (Springfield, IL: 4 Apr.)... OPEN (13): 1-Greg Tomlin, 2-Mike Flohr; 1C-Mark Jennings, 2C-John Jennings; 1LC-Jim Zimmerman.
- •British Open (Birmingham, England, 4-5 Apr.)... OPEN (106): 1-John Broomfield, 2-Phil Charlton, 3/4-Mardi Ohannessain / Paul Turnbull; 1C-Dave McNair, 2C-Steve Pickard, 3C/4C-Dave Coyne / Lawrence Powell; 1LC-Stewart Wilson, 2LC-Brian Lever. SUI-CIDE! (58): 1-Phil Caudwell, 2-Nigel Hudson, 3/4 -Chris Evans / Julian Hayhurst. FRIDAY KO (13): 1-Dave McNair, 2-Patrick Campbell. DOUBLES (24): 1-Blood, Chouette & Tears, 2-You Can't Be Serious.
- •Springfield Series Grand Finale (Springfield, IL; 18 Apr.)... OPEN (13): 1-William Hutchison, 2-Dave Cornwall; 1C-Ed Zell, 2C-Randy Reif; 1LC-Mark Kaye.
- •Backgammon by the Bay Monthly (San Mateo, CA; 19 Apr.)... OPEN (8):

- 1-Ron Karr, 2-Odis Chenault; 1C-Antoine Azzaria. INTERMEDIATE (5): 1/2-Bill Caplan / Hristo Zahov. BEGINNER (5): 1-Brad Vogt, 2-Kathy May.
- •NEBC Sunday Monthly (Cambridge, MA; 19 Apr.)... EXPERT (20): 1-Linc Bedell, Jim Pascoe, 3/4-Peter DeWolf / Michael Zehr; 1C-Ivan Birn, 2C-Norm Humer. A DIV. (18): 1-Marty Gross, 2-Paul Chatalbash, 3/4-John Lorenz / Joe Moore; 1C-John Lorenz, 2C-Marcus Hermansen.
- •Tampere Grand Prix I (Tampere, Finland; 24-26 Apr.)... OPEN (22): 1-Mika Inkinen, 2-Heikki Rantalaiho, 3/4-Luis Rico-Ruiz / Sampo Niskanen; 1C-Teppo Salo, 2C-VeliMatti Laine. SU-PER JACKPOT (8): 1-Mika Makinen, 2-Matti Haaksila. LAST CHANCE (11): 1-Arto Katjos, 2-Matti Haaksila.
- •Clarine's Beverly Hills Monthly (Beverly Hills, CA; 25 Apr.)... OPEN (8): 1/2-Eliot Bean / Steve Sax.
- •Atlanta Backgammon Association Monthly (Atlanta, GA; 25 Apr.)... OPEN: 1-Jim Hickey, 2-Dave Cardwell, 3/4-Kate Elmore / Kelly Williams.
- •28th Willowbank Invitational (Shelburne, VT; 26 April)... OPEN (30): 1-Jim Pascoe (CT), 2-Fred Bement (VT); 1C-Gilles Blais (CAN), 2C-Dan Kimbell (VT); 1LC-Paul Bertocci (VT), 2LC_Charlie Kimbell (VT). JUNIOR CHAMP: Abigail Kimbell (age 8). Δ

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15:30-2	20:00	Registration
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22:00 Warm up 23:30 Superjackpot

Friday, 10th July

14:00 FIBS Party 15:00 FIBS Cup

15:30–19:30 Registration

17:30 Team Tournament

21:00 Public Draw

22:00 Tournament begins

Saturday, 11th July

14:00 Tournament continues

16:00 Progressive Consolation

21:00 Football on wide screen

23:00 Superjackpot

Sunday, 12th July

13:00 Last Chance

15:00 Finals

19:00 Prize-giving & Cocktail

21:00 Football on wide screen





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