

1999 midwest backgammon championships

MIDWEST WIN GIVES KAZAROSS BIG ABT LEAD

Grand Crystal Beaver goes to KG



1999 Midwest Champion Neil Kazaross with finalist Clarine at his side. [All MBC photos by Peter Kalba or Carol Joy Cole.]

It may be over. Neil Kazaross's (IL) impressive victory at the 1999 Midwest Backgammon Championships coupled with his Pittsburgh victory in February may have already won him American Backgammon Tour top honors for the year.

This year's Midwest biggie was held at the Radisson Lisle Hotel 19-21 March. 200 players were in attendance, 175 playing in main tournament events.

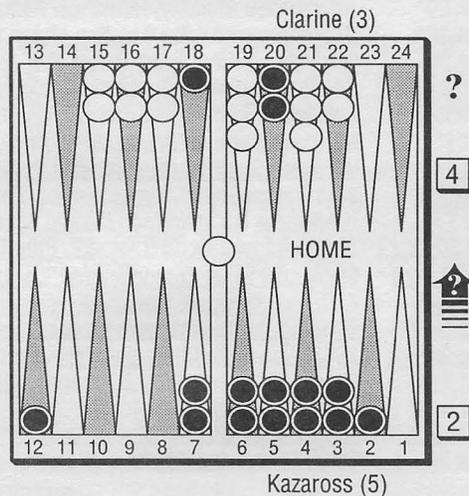
Kazaross marched through a field that included the likes of Sconyers, Ring, Goulding, Ballard, Senkiewicz and other world class players. His current ABT point total (43.17) is already higher than any

other yearly total with the exception of Neil's own record-shattering 77.92 points in 1994.

Following a hard fought victory over rival Bar Point Clubber Steve Mellen (13-8), Neil faced Clarine. A director in Los Angeles, Clarine had been defeated in the opening round of the Lady's Treasure. Not one to sulk, Clarine won four straight matches to find Stuart Hosen (TX) waiting for her in the semifinals. Her big victory over Hosen gave her a spot in the Championship match.

Neil Kazaross describes the action beginning with this position in the 15-point finals:

Position 1. Midwest Championships 15-point finals. Neil Kazaross (Black) leads Clarine (White), 5 to 3. Black on shake. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



"Leading 5-3 against Clarine, I have 19 numbers that cover the 2-point. Five of these shots make a full prime. Clearly, the game can backfire as I have three checkers somewhat blocked and can still lose after covering if she jokers me. However, I felt that my gammon chances from a quick closeout or a prime would make this position at best, a borderline money take (I would have passed for money).

"I redoubled to four. After some thought, Clarine took it. At the time, I estimated the chances of her passing to be around 40%. I felt she probably had a close

[Continued on page 7]



'LADY'S TREASURE' VICTORY BELONGS TO ANTOINETTE-MARIE WILLIAMS

by Larry Strommen



Antoinette-Marie Williams proudly shows off her Kosta Boda trophy upon winning the Lady's Treasure.

[Larry "Diceman" Strommen of Indianapolis, Indiana videotaped both the semifinal and final matches of The Lady's Treasure. This is his report based on what he witnessed live and later reviewed on tape.—Ed.]

We all know that winning a tournament is not easy. Of course skill is a necessary ingredient. But skill alone can't cook up a victory, especially when the competition is keen. Luck is also required. And luck is a two-sided coin. Bad luck can also determine a winner . . . or loser.

It had never been done before and may never be done again. A tournament for the century. A \$35,000 winner-take-all women's challenge event open to the first four ladies to ante up a \$9,000 entry fee—the highest-ever for any organized singles event. The tourney would be part of the 1999 Midwest Championships 19-21 March at the Lisle-Radisson Hotel near Chicago, Illinois.

Laila Leonhardt (Chicago/Denmark), Antoinette-Marie Williams (New York) and Mika Lidov (New York) each plunked down their nine grand within one week of the January 3 invitation mailing. When Clarine (Los Angeles) entered in late February, the elite field-of-four was set.

[Continued on page 6]

Grand Prix de Lugano
1999 August 18-22

LUGANO-SWITZERLAND

Grand Prix de Suisse
1999 October 26-31

CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

EDITOR & PUBLISHER

Bill Davis

3940 W. Bryn Mawr Avenue 504
Chicago, IL 60659-3155

Tel: 773/583-6464 ♦ Fax: 773/583-3264

E-mail: chipoint@interaccess.com

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

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Carol Joy Cole (MI) Laila Leonhardt (IL)
Jake Jacobs (IL) Antonio Ortega (C.R.)
Duane Jensen (MN) Walter Trice (MA)
Danny Kleinman (CA) Kit Woolsey (CA)

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LETTERS

c/o CHICAGO POINT

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

E-mail: chipoint@interaccess.com

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.

Apr 9-11	Nation's Capital Spring Tournament, Promenade, Bethesda, MD	301/530-0604
Apr 10	Springfield Heineken Series #6, Parker's Sports Bar, Springfield, IL	217/483-4028
Apr 11	New England Club Monthly, Sheraton-Commander, Cambridge, MA	781/938-7852
Apr 11	Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Anyway's Grill, Oakbrook Terrace, IL	773/583-6464
Apr 11*	Northern Ohio Club Monthly, Belden Commons Restaurant, Canton, OH	330/966-2811
Apr 15	Third Thursday Bonus (Chicago Open), Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Apr 18	Backgammon by the Bay, San Mateo Bridge Center, San Mateo, CA	831/688-9722
Apr 18*	Crabtown Backgammon Club Grand Opening, Pioneer Pub, Parkton, MD	410/453-0002
Apr 18*	Albany Club Monthly, Romano's Restaurant, Half Moon, NY	518/382-1098
Apr 20-25	International Twin Championships, Four Queens, Las Vegas, NV	702/893-6025
Apr 24	Clarine's Monthly Tournament, A.R. Private Club, Los Angeles, CA	213/822-9745
Apr 25	Ace Point Sunday Tournament, Ace Point Club, New York, NY	212/753-0842
Apr 25	Louisville Monthly Tournament, Oldenberg Grill, Louisville, KY	502/458-9660
May 1*	Official GamesGrid Monthly Tournament, via computer tournaments@cyberarts.com	
May 1	Springfield Heineken Grand Finale, Parker's Sports Bar, Springfield, IL	217/483-4028
May 2*	Northern Ohio Club Monthly, Belden Commons Restaurant, Canton, OH	330/966-2811
May 2	Backgammon by the Bay, The Whole Shabang, Alameda, CA	831/688-9722
May 16*	Albany Club Monthly, Romano's Restaurant, Half Moon, NY	518/382-1098
May 16*	Austin Bimonthly Tournament, Bombay Bicycle Club, Austin, TX	512/261-8518
May 16	Backgammon by the Bay, San Mateo Bridge Center, San Mateo, CA	831/688-9722
May 16	New England Club Monthly, Sheraton-Commander, Cambridge, MA	781/983-7852
May 20	Third Thursday Bonus (Georgia State), Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
<u>May 28-31</u>	<u>20th Chicago Open, Wyndham NW Chicago Hotel, Itasca, IL</u>	<u>847/674-0120</u>
May 29	Clarine's Monthly Tournament, A.R. Private Club, Los Angeles, CA	213/822-9745
May 30	Ace Point Sunday Tournament, Ace Point Club, New York, NY	212/753-0842
May 30	Louisville Monthly Tournament, Oldenberg Grill, Louisville, KY	502/458-9660
Jun 6	Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Anyway's Grill, Oakbrook Terrace, IL	773/583-6464
Jun 6*	Backgammon by the Bay, The Whole Shabang, Alameda, CA	831/688-9722
<u>Jun 11-13</u>	<u>1999 Georgia State Championships & Peach Cup, Atlanta, GA</u>	<u>770/333-1876</u>
Jun 13*	New England Club Monthly, Sheraton-Commander, Cambridge, MA	781/983-7852
Jun 20*	Albany Club Monthly, Romano's Restaurant, Half Moon, NY	518/382-1098
Jun 20*	Backgammon by the Bay, San Mateo Bridge Center, San Mateo, CA	831/688-9722
Jun 26*	Clarine's Monthly Tournament, A.R. Private Club, Los Angeles, CA	213/822-9745
Jun 27*	Ace Point Sunday Tournament, Ace Point Club, New York, NY	212/753-0842
Jun 27*	Louisville Monthly Tournament, Oldenberg Grill, Louisville, KY	502/458-9660
Jul 1*	Michigan Summer Warm-Up Tourney, Novi Hilton Hotel, Novi, MI	810/232-9731
<u>Jul 2-5</u>	<u>Michigan Summer Championships, Novi Hilton Hotel, Novi, MI</u>	<u>810/232-9731</u>
Jul 17	27th Hawaii State Championships, Pacific Club, Honolulu, HI	808/735-5252
Jul 17*	Hawthorne Backgammon Classic, Hawthorne Race Course, Cicero, IL	773/583-6464
<u>Jul 30-Aug 1</u>	<u>Thousand Islands Tournament, Pine Tree Point, Alexandria Bay, NY</u>	<u>716/442-8221</u>
<u>Aug 13-15</u>	<u>Minnesota State Championship, Location TBA, MN</u>	<u>612/378-1536</u>
<u>Sep 3-6</u>	<u>47th Indiana Open, Sheraton-Westin Hotel, Indianapolis, IN</u>	<u>317/255-8902</u>
<u>Sep 24-26</u>	<u>Towpath Inn Tournament, Towpath Inn, Turin, NY</u>	<u>716/442-8221</u>
<u>Sep 24-26*</u>	<u>1999 Ohio State Championships, Comfort Inn, Canton, OH</u>	<u>330/498-9801</u>
<u>Oct 8-10</u>	<u>Illinois Championships & America Cup, Holidome, Rolling Meadows, IL</u>	<u>847/945-7801</u>
<u>Oct 8-10</u>	<u>Nation's Capital Championships, Promenade, Bethesda, MD</u>	<u>301/530-0604</u>
<u>Oct 15-17</u>	<u>1999 Florida State Championships, Days Inn, Ft. Lauderdale, FL</u>	<u>954/938-4304</u>
<u>Nov 26-28</u>	<u>5th Thanksgiving Weekend, Belden Village Holiday Inn, Canton, OH</u>	<u>330/966-2811</u>
OUTSIDE USA		
Apr 10-11	British Open, Stakis Nottingham Metropole, England	441522-888676
Apr 24-25*	Italian Championship Series, Casaleccio, Italy	39338-7187324
Apr 26-May 2	5th European BG News Mayday Tournament, Almeria, Spain	34950-133009
Apr 30-May 2	Oslo Open 1999, Bridgens hus, Oslo, Norway	4722-360966
May 8-9	County Cups Trophy (Swiss #2), Stakis Nottingham Metropole, England	441522-888676
May 14-16*	Carlsberg Helsinki Open, Helsinki Sporting Club, Finland	35850-68061
May 15-16*	Italian Championship Series, Verona, Italy	3933-87187324
May 22-23*	New Dates: bb99 Tournament #2, Great Barr Hotel, Birmingham, Engl.	441522-888676
May 29-30*	Italian Championship Series: 8th Torneo della Riviera Adriatica, Italy	3933-8187324
Jun 2-6	6th German Open, Hotel am Kaiserbrunnen, Brakel, Germany	49521-64314
Jun 5-6*	Hilton Trophy Tournament, Stakis Hotel, England	441522-888676
Jul 3-4*	Bonus Tournament #1, Stakis Nottingham Hotel, England	441522-888676
Jul 8-11	City of Venice Tournament, Casinò Municipale, Lido, Venice, Italy	3941-5900769
Jul 10-11	Monte Carlo Warm-Up Weekend, Loews Hotel, Monte Carlo, Monaco	954/527-4033
Jul 12-18	World Championship, Loews Monte Carlo, Monaco	USA contact: 954/527-4033
Jul 22-25	1st Czech Open, Casino Bellevue, Marienbad, Czech Republic	49911-409505
Aug 21-29	3rd Mind Sports Olympiad, London, England	E-mail: mso@dickson.demon.co.uk
Sep 3-5	European Championship/Mitteuropa Tourney, Nova Gorica, Slovenia	3902-40074658

THE NEW RAGE IN CINCINNATI: SNACKGAMMON

I want to tell you about the game that is catching on big time throughout the backgammon circles in Cincinnati. It's called "Snackgammon."

With Snackgammon, cookies are used instead of checkers. When a player hits his opponent's cookie, he doesn't place it on the bar. Instead, he *eats it*. The opponent now has one less cookie (checker) with which to finish the game. If the player thinks that eating an enemy cookie would help his opponent, then he shouldn't hit. If the hit is forced, that's *tough!*

Care is often taken in choosing cookies to use as checkers so that the calorie count is essentially the same for both sides. Vegetarians and fat-conscious dieters usually request their opponents to play with carrot rounds instead of cookies. (Tater-tots are another alternative for those not concerned about

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LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

cholesterol; raw onion slices are a wicked alternative for those who are.)

For those of you still reading about Snackgammon, I have two words, "April Fool!"—David Moeser, Cincinnati, OH

Snackgammon sounds like a great Midwest Championships side event, David. We'll keep it in mind. And that's no April Fool!—Ed.

A NOTE FROM KATHY MUENCH

Sorry we missed the Midwest Championships. Son Kevin and I had planned to attend but he had other commitments. With backgammon such a big part of Dean's life, I miss hearing the latest backgammon news and how everyone is doing.

Our family is doing much better. We have two new grandchildren since Dean's passing—that makes eight. The loss of Dean was a terrible blow to us, but the "fog" is finally lifting.

Youngest son Max [Maximilian Gammon

Muench] is doing great. Kids seem to spring back fast. He's quite an athlete and keeps me very busy with his sporting activities. He has his father's competitive spirit!

If you get the chance, send some backgammon news my way.—Kathy Muench <uberdean@interaccess.com>, via e-mail, Palatine, IL

WHO IS THAT LADY?

I wonder if you can tell me the issue number or the publishing date of the *Collier's Magazine* that is shown in your ad on page 4 of the Jan./Feb. issue of the *Flint Area Backgammon News*?—Casey Forrest <clf@efn.org>, via e-mail

That is the Collier's Weekly dated April 11, 1931. Maurice Barie is selling reproductions of the cover suitable for framing. See the back page for his advertisement.

We are currently searching the Internet for the complete issue. (Maurice only has the cover). Thus far, all searches have proved fruitless. If anyone can find the April 11, 1931 Collier's in decent condition, we will pay \$60 for it.—Ed.

NEW CLUBS "SPRINGING" UP

Just to let you know that the Albany Club is up and running. We meet at Romano's Family Restaurant in Halfmoon, New York the first and third Sunday monthly. For additional info, call me at 518/382-1098 or e-mail: flash@localnet.com—Marc Gray, Schenectady, NY

We want to inform you of the grand opening of the Crabtown Backgammon Club. Our first meeting will be Sunday, April 18 at the Pioneer Pub in Parkton, Maryland. Interested parties should e-mail: divdeman@home.com or call 410/453-0001.

Your Internet page on tips for starting a new club is super. Thanks for the guidance.—Richard Warnk, Reisterstown, MD

Hi! I'm going to be starting a club in Charlotte, North Carolina and have no idea how to set up a master point system. Any suggestions would be greatly appreciated.

I have already read your tips online at Stephen Turner's website. They have been extremely helpful!—Jeb Horton <jeb@carolina.rr.com>, via e-mail

We'll send you the Bar Point Club master point system, Jeb. Also check with Carol Joy Cole <cjc@flint.org> on her system—or create your own!

The Internet site with club tips is at: <<http://www.gamesdomain.com/backgammon/clubs/howto.html>>. No Internet access? Send your name and address and we'll mail you a copy.—Ed. Δ



AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 1999

AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 1999

AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 1999

Compiled through 21 March 1999 after 3 tournaments

(Upcoming: Chicago Open, Georgia State Championships)

Neil Kazaross	43.17	John Brussel	5.88	Paul Klein	4.06	Sean Garber	2.08
Jeff Burdsall	13.74	Niel Borden	5.77	Roz Ferris	3.20	Rudy Langenbach	2.08
Mike Shanias	11.44	Alice Kay	5.60	James Roston	3.13	Paul Mangone	1.45
Matt Reklaitis	11.20	Gary Marchenia	5.25	Aram Kouleyan	3.05	Ramez Abi-Akar	1.44
Carol Falk	11.03	Joann Feinstein	5.20	Glenn Swanson	2.95	Dirk Hogan	1.34
Clarine	10.40	Roger Nellist	5.06	Jobey Calitri	2.89	A.J. Fronce	1.05
Paul Friedman	9.82	Steve McCormick	4.80	Dean Kaloudis	2.89	Irv Taylor	1.05
Drew Giovanis	9.65	Howard Markowitz	4.76	Gary Fries	2.59	Glenn Martells	0.82
Charlie Russell	9.29	Leslie Lockett	4.18	Ralph Levy	2.40	Ron Weiner	0.62
Steve Hast	6.40	Steve Mellen	4.16	Jerry Kruth	2.22	Bill Chibnik	0.53
Art Benjamin	6.11	Stuart Hosen	4.16	Ed King	2.22	Boris Mindich	0.53
Rudy Citrom	6.11	Mike Rezaei	4.06	Kerim Urkun	2.14		



CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB

CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB

1999 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

COMPILED

THRU 31 MAR.

Steve Mellen	6.64	Marc Rosset	3.44	Mark Ryan	1.28	Marty Tatosian	0.48
Harold Elgazar	5.60	Tak Morioka	3.36	Ralph Byrns	1.28	Sarg Serges	0.48
Tim Carroll	5.36	John Jennings	2.88	Alice Kay	1.20	Sam Pottle	0.44
Joe Wollick	4.96	Don Jayhan	2.64	Norma Shyer	1.20	Harry Cohn	0.32
Bob Zavoral	4.88	Carter Mattig	2.64	Bill Keefe	1.12	Georgina Flanagan	0.24
Neil Kazaross	4.56	Jerry Brooks	2.56	Bill Davis	0.88	Amy Valerio	0.24
Arline Levy	4.16	Phil Simborg	2.56	Laila Leonhardt	0.88	Mark Murray	0.24
Paul Franks	4.16	Steve Klesker	2.56	Glenn Martells	0.88	Frank Callea	0.24
Ed Buerger	3.76	David Araiza	2.48	Richard Lloyd	0.88	Sonja Peacock	0.16
Sam Yoyen	3.76	Herb Roman	2.16	Peter Kalba	0.72	Ken Tyszko	0.16
Phyllis Smolinski	3.68	Bob Steen	1.28	Mark Dalton	0.64	Richard Stawowy	0.12
Brian Koziin	3.44	Gary Kay	1.28	Daniel Lillian	0.64		

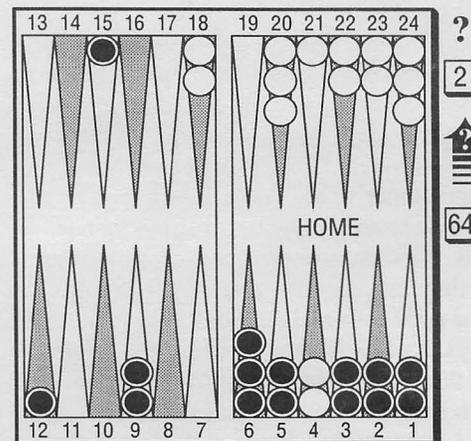
April's Player of the Month is **JOE WOLLICK**. Joe earned a respectable 4.24 points including an outright win on 9 March. Runner's up were Ed Buerger and Sam Yoyen, each with 3.76 points.

your move

PROBLEM #253

to be analyzed by Alex Caraplis

1999 Midwest Championships match to 11-points. Hugh Sconyers (White) leads Steve McCormick (Black), 9 to 8. Black on shake. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



DEAR MISS LONELYBLOTS



© 1999 by Danny Kleinman

PLAYING UNDER PRESSURE

Dear Miss Lonelyblots: Last month, I attended the Midwest Championships in Lisle, Illinois where I witnessed the \$35,000 Lady's Treasure event. Antoinette-Marie Williams (the eventual winner), Mika Lidov, Clarine, and Laila Leonhardt were exciting to watch.

The matches were pressure-packed with a monitor and 20 or more spectators always present. The format was best two-out-of-three 9-point matches. Chess clocks were used and the ladies shared one pair of dice which they rolled through a baffle box. The matches were videotaped by Larry Strommen, and flash photos were taken by the dozens.

Tension was incredible for me as a spectator. I can't begin to imagine how these women could keep their cool under the intense scrutiny I have described to you. And that's my problem.

I'm a competent open level player on the Internet, but it seems impossible for me to compete at this level in public because I choke whenever anyone (especially an expert) watches me play. And when a camera is pointed in my direction while I'm thinking, forget about it—I freeze like a deer in headlights.

I've been to about four tournaments and my problem has not improved. Miss Lonelyblots, how can I gain the confidence to play "live" backgammon at least as well as I do on the Internet?—Petrified in Public

DEAR PETRA: I sympathize fully. Until a couple of years ago, I suffered from performance anxiety, too. Whenever cameras, spotlights or expert eyes were focused on my play, I froze with fear: what if they caught me in a mistake and realized that my game wasn't as good as it was cracked up to be? Then my friend David invited me to the Monday night tournaments at the "Legal Moves" Club. There I saw how other women coped with the problem.

You have nothing to fear from female eyes. Nowadays women are so wrapped up rooting for each other that they'll cheer your good rolls and overlook your bad plays. And with male eyes, the trick is to get them to stop looking at the backgammon board and look only at you. That's not hard if you realize that they think with their

dumbsticks instead of their brains.

Brassy Elaine wears V-neck sweaters cut so low as to leave little to men's imaginations. Classy Nell wears blouses up to her neck but unbuttons and rebuttons the top two buttons, an even more effective tactic that keeps men's imaginations working overtime. Curvy Renée stands up and waggles her hips every third or fourth roll.

Waifish Ally, exploiting her only asset, wears short miniskirts and plays with her right leg crossed over her left. Ling drapes her head over her home board while moving, letting her long black hair caress the checkers.

Vonda, with less to show, takes advantage of her sultry voice by chanting "Hnnnn, yooing yooing yooing" while shaking her dice in difficult positions. I've taken to borrowing Ally's skirts for Monday nights; luckily, we're the same size.

The result? We women play with confidence, knowing that our mistakes won't be noticed, and win most of the tournaments at the Legal Moves Club. And when we play our final or semifinal matches, there are always a few male tongues hanging out—Richard, John, Greg, and yes, Billy too, even though he's married.

The operative Lonelyblottism? If you don't have what it takes, take what you have.—Miss Lonelyblots

DEAR PETRIFIED: I must take issue with my sister. She's become just as nutty as her friend Ally, and in her new female-bonding craze, she made the unwarranted assumption that you are a woman. Disregard her advice. Forget trying to affect the reactions of others: that is the root of your problem, not its cure. Instead, focus all your attention on the game you are playing—as I understand it, an intellectual game—treating each position as if it were an academic problem.

The anxiety you describe is a form of stage fright. Many suffer from it, but most become deconditioned with practice (four tournaments are not enough).

Some can never be at ease in the limelight, however. Psychologists have discovered two dimensions of personality—extraversion vs. introversion, and emotionality—that are as largely genetically determined and unalterable as intelligence. Combine emotionality with extraversion and you get a craving for attention with enhanced performance under pressure. Combine emotionality with introversion and you get shyness: shunning of attention with folding under pressure.

There is no "cure" for shyness, nor

should there be. For in many ways, shy people are admirable. However, if you find that repeated exposure to the limelight fails to diminish your anxiety, hypnosis may help you. The hypnotic suggestions "Ignore the pressure!" and "Don't be nervous!" won't work; the hypnotist must find a positive suggestion that creates an illusion of being alone and unobserved.

I say that hypnosis *may* help, not that it will. People vary in the degree to which they are hypnotizable. About 15% cannot be hypnotized at all, and even if you are in the other 85%, success may depend on finding the right hypnotist for you; not all hypnotists and subjects have rapport. A good hypnotist can train you to hypnotize yourself, so you will not have to keep paying for treatments.

For further information, read *Fact and Fiction in Psychology* and *Sense and Nonsense in Psychology* by H.J. Eysenck, one of my professors in graduate school.—*Dr. Antoinette G. Lonelyhearts, Ph.D.*

PS: It's nice to know that my namesake won the "Lady's Treasure" tourney—AGL Δ

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



PRIZE
BACKGAMMON
CLUB OF CHICAGO

The 20th Annual
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Wyndham Hotel
Itasca, Illinois

Featuring
\$400 Memorial Day Masters
Doubles Tournament
Blitz Tournament
\$20 Mini-Matches

Info: Joann Feinstein
847/674-0120





Goodwill Ambassador

by Jake Jacobs

It was a typical group of Chicago backgammon players: Paul and Mary Franks, Joann Feinstein, Bobbie Shifrin, Andy Krenitz, Marc Rosset, myself. One detail was atypical for a February tournament: we were wearing bathing suits. Actually not true; I made that up (dramatic license and all that).

Paul was still wearing his blue plastic waterproof money holder around his neck. He loves that thing, though as a fashion accessory it looks like someone braided him a necklace from a canister of Ice Blue Secret. Otherwise we had changed into our best formal shorts and T-shirts, ready for a night out in Old Acapulco. What? You didn't think we'd been swimming in Chicago in February?

It was a Wednesday, and Wednesday is tournament night at Kycho's. Formerly of Puerto Vallarta, Kycho had moved his restaurant and his tournament to the big city: Acapulco. We had eaten his dinner, we had been drinking his liquor, and now we were ready to snatch his prize money, should the dice be so kind.

The tournament was running quite late. Kycho had politely waited for the visitors (us) to finish dinner before holding the draw. We were running late from the start, and then we slowed down to a crawl. A double elimination tournament is fine when you have a weekend to complete it, but . . .

There were 14 players in the tournament, and after losing my first round match to Andy, I found I had seven rounds to go. Meanwhile, the winner's bracket was not supplying the quick and steady stream of losers that should be flowing downstream into the loser's bracket. It seems that one of the locals was ordering a celebratory round before each roll!

While waiting for my round-of-16 match in the second chance, I was approached by an Acapulconian. "They tell me you are the World Champion. I must play you."

I explained that someone had been padding my resume, but he was undeterred. By now it was 2 a.m., and I was not eager to play a 3-point match for \$10. However, I also think it is important to encourage new players whenever possible. I owed it to the game to make him welcome.

We rolled for the opening, both of us rolling in the quadrant to my right. Imitation may be the greatest form of flattery, but I explained that this did not extend to rolling on my side, and handed him his

errant die. He apologized, and rolled on the proper side. I won the toss, and played. Now, he rolled, once again on my side.

Patiently, I picked up his dice, and explained the etiquette. Just as patiently, he pointed something out. A something I had noticed, but somehow had not deemed relevant.

"Excuse me," he said, "I have no right arm. Would it be all right if I rolled on the left?"

Well, if you put it that way! Not only was I embarrassed, but I was also not sure how to apologize. His English was good, but I was pretty sure the next taco chip I munched on would have my toenails attached to it. I muttered something about not seeing the forest for the trees (I almost said I was *stumped* for a reply). The game continued.

It seemed that all was forgiven. Trying to keep the conversational dice rolling, I asked: "What do you do for a living?"

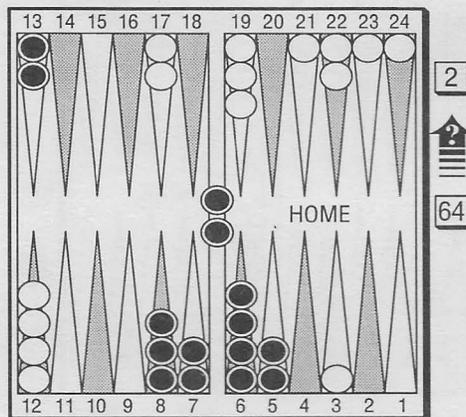
"Well, since the accident that took my right arm, and nearly took my life, I haven't done much of anything."

Fortunately, the field finally narrowed to a group of us already planning to spend the next afternoon together, so play was adjourned before I could do any more for international relations. (Future visitors to Acapulco take note. Wednesday tournaments will be starting earlier, and the double elimination format is up for revision, so expect them to end in a more timely fashion. Then again, what have you got to get up for?)

We resumed the next day at Andy's hotel, the Mayan Palace. I outrolled one Franks, but nobody outrolls both in one day. I finished 3rd behind Paul, who went on to beat Isaac Lemke (previously undefeated) and claim the title "Wizard of Wednesday Night."

No BG article would be complete without a position or two. Here they come. Both were played poolside at the Hyatt.

Poolside chouette. Captain and Crew (Black) on roll vs. the Box (White). **CUBE ACTION(S)?**

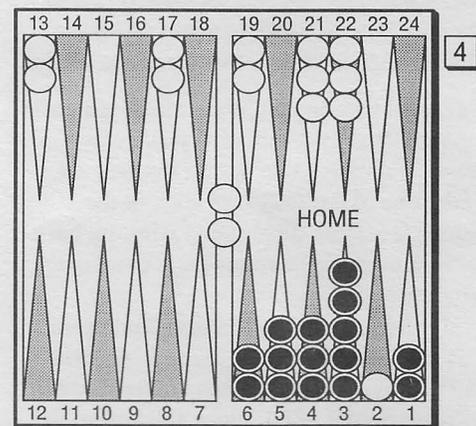


We were on roll here as Black. This is obviously not a double, but we doubled anyway. Before you decide our brains were baking in the tropical sun, I will point out that Paul collected a point (we were not playing equal action, so the Box was permitted to take only one cube, while dropping Paul).

Paul and I knew he would win a point. I doubled because I felt there was some chance the Box would pass me too, and because, even if taken, my opponent might "play it into a double." I never got to find out if he could screw it up. I rolled 6-6. He rolled 5-5, which was no prize either. Then I rolled 6-3, and he rolled the cube my way.

One more that's kinda' cute!

Poolside. **JAKE (BLACK) TO PLAY 4-1.**



Sad to say, I wimped it up. Here is a rare bearoff where it is right to volunteer the shot by pointing. In fact, JellyFish™ prefers hitting loose to my actual play of 5/ off. My poor play cost me the gammon, though I salvaged the win. Δ



ILLINOIS ACTION



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

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

PUB CLUB: Tourn. Mon., 7:30 P.M. at Tortilla Flats Cancun, 290 S. Schmale, Carol Stream. Joe Wollick (847/755-0887).

GAMES PEOPLE PLAY: Tourn. Monday, 7:00 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, 6:30 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 (309/674-0557).

LADY'S TREASURE...

[Continued from page 1]

Friday, 19 March, 8:00 P.M.

Tension among the participants was at an incredible level prior to Friday's opening round of play. To reach the finals, a lady would need to win a match consisting of two-out-of-three 9-point "sets." Chess clocks, baffle boxes, match monitors and the use of overhead video cameras placed additional pressure on the women, and could be felt by the dozens of spectators on hand.

In the first semifinal match, Antoinette-Marie pulled in front of Clarine on a doubled gammon in game one and never looked back. Antoinette ended up winning the first set 9-3. But the second set went down to the wire with Williams eventually eking out a 9-8 decision to advance to the finals.

THE OTHER SEMIFINAL match between Laila Leonhardt and Mika Lidov was even closer. Trailing Mika 5-0 in the first set, Laila, one of the fastest players in the world, accelerated her game winning back-to-back doubled gammons and eventually winning 9-6.

In the second set, additional pressure was placed on Lidov. Trailing 7-4, Mika had just over eight minutes on her clock to win five points. If her clock fell before the end of the set, Laila would be granted two points and Mika's clock reset to five minutes. But gaining two points here would make Laila the winner of the set and thus the match. So Mika's strategy was to double at her first opportunity and go all out to win a gammon.

Mika moved in rapid fire sequence, relying on quick thinking only. Try as she might, Laila could not avoid falling into a gammonish position. As Mika began bearing off, Laila had two men on the bar and 30 additional outfield pips. Laila eventually lost a gammon, but not before missing a match-winning blot on the 3-point. Mika had taken an 8-7 Crawford lead.

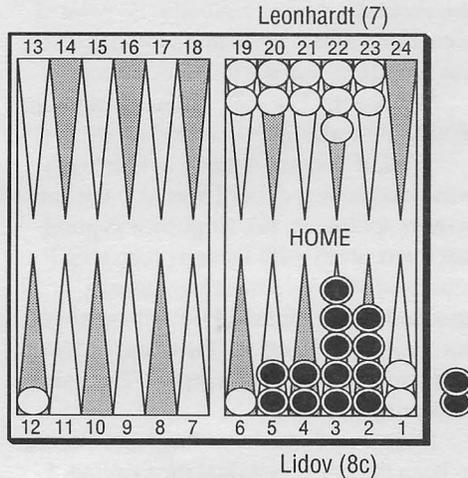
In the next game, Position 1 (shown above) came up with Mika on shake.

Mika rolled 6-4, forcing her to leave two blots. Bad luck for Mika.

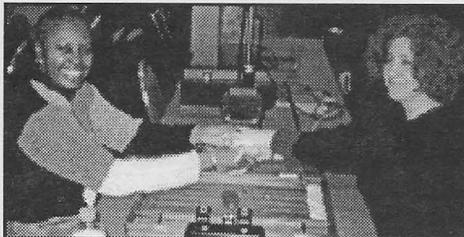
Laila now needed a 3 or a 4 to stop Mika and likely extend the set to a final game—a game that might very well end with Mika's flag falling. Bad luck for Laila as she rolled 6-6. Laila had two additional single shots on this bear-off, but missed them also. Set number two to Mika.

Lidov went on to win the third set 9-5 setting up an all-New York City finals on Sunday.

Position 1. Lady's Treasure semifinals. 9-point Set 2. Mika Lidov (Black) leads Laila Leonhardt (White) 8-7 Crawford. **BLACK ON SHAKE.**



Sunday, 21 March. 12:30 P.M.

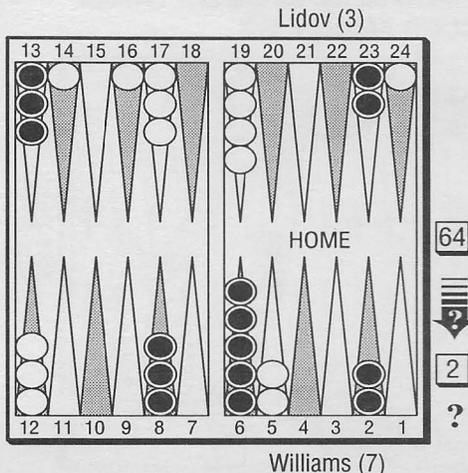


A friendly handshake between Williams (left) and Lidov preceded the \$35,000 Lady's Treasure winner-take-all finals.

Mika Lidov vs. Antoinette-Marie Williams. Mika roared off to win the first set 9-3. During a break, Antoinette wondered out loud why she had lost so handily. At that point, she became determined to start a run. She won the second set 9-7 highlighted by a lot of key "dance steps" from Mika.

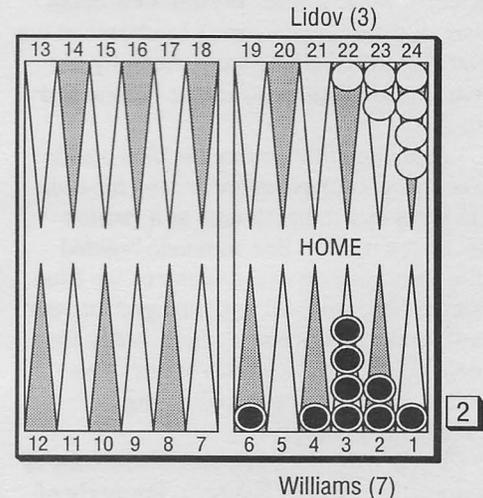
In the rubber set, with Antoinette leading 7-3, this position materialized:

Position 2. Lady's Treasure finals. 9-point Set 3. Antoinette-Marie Williams (Black) leads Mika Lidov (White) 7-3. Lidov on shake. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**

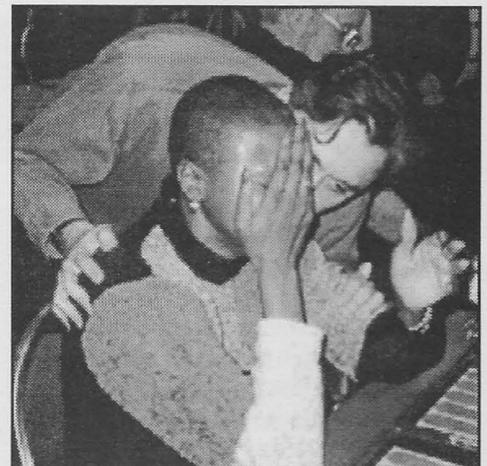


Mika decided to put the match on the line by doubling. After a bit of thought, Antoinette accepted. Later, the game transformed into a race:

Position 3. Lady's Treasure finals. 9-point Set 3. Antoinette-Marie Williams (Black) leads Mika Lidov (White) 7-3. **BLACK ON SHAKE.**



Here, Mika has a win probability of 97.8% cubeless. But fortunes favored Antoinette-Marie who was lucky enough to roll a set of boxcars and go on to win this game, set and match.



Rick Barabino was the first to congratulate Antoinette following her stunning victory.

ALL FOUR LADIES did great justice to themselves in this unique tournament. While only one player could be crowned Champion, all played like Champions. Δ

The Lady's Treasure		
Antoinette Williams	Williams	
Clarine	9-3, 9-8	Williams
Laila Leonhardt		3-9, 9-7, 9-3
Mika Lidov	Lidov	
	6-9, 9-7, 9-5	

NEIL WINS MIDWEST...

[Continued from page 1]

take at this score. I covered, escaped and rolled a double on the last roll to gammon her and take a huge 13-3 lead.

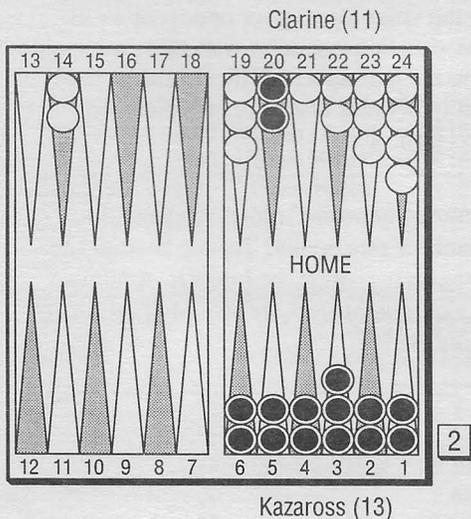
"After the match, several players told me I won because of Clarine's bad 4-cube take. Clearly, I was sure that she hadn't sacrificed much equity by taking here.

"A 250,000 game, 1-ply Snowie rollout for the given match score surprised me. It said that Clarine had an *easy* take and that I actually sacrificed a quarter of a percent of match equity by doubling! However, the position rolled out as a money pass!

"I haven't done the analysis (or higher ply rollouts) to understand how slight changes in doubling, takepoint and gammon costs and values can turn a pass for money into "not good enough to recube to 4" at this score! Suffice it to say, Clarine has an easy take here and my redouble is in doubt. It certainly helps to get lucky!

"**AGAINST CLARINE**, I found out that a 13-3 lead is not so commanding. She fought back to trail 13-11 aided by good cube strategy. I had been cubed in the holding game shown below and now must break either my 20-point or my board:

Position 2. Midwest Championships 15-point finals. Neil Kazaross (Black) leads Clarine (White), 13 to 11.
BLACK TO PLAY 5-1.



"Board-breaking clearly reduces my winning chances after a hit. I don't have the luxury of cubing her out after a dance or two like I would for money. Breaking her anchor exposes me to a few joker sequences which will allow her to skate home with minimal shot danger. If I follow with dancing rolls, I may actually get gammoned out of the match after her very

best sequences.

"Fortunately, I had seen almost exactly this same situation before, thanks to (I think) a Jake Jacobs' rollout, and I instantly played the risky looking 20/15, 3/2 to preserve my board. One cannot live in fear of the ghosts of gammon when they are unlikely to appear. Clarine replied with a disastrous double blotting 6-5 and after joking about dancing forever and losing the match, I yelled 'Bang!' just before my tourney winning '5' appeared on table.

"Snowie 3-ply analysis doesn't think my play garners enough extra wins to compensate for the gammons lost. My gammon cost is 1. However, Snowie rollouts show my play winning almost 1% extra matches than either reasonable board-breaking play. I must say it helps when you "know" the best play from having seen previous rollout results . . . and then you can hit a double shot!"

ALL WEEKEND, the Lady's Treasure event had everyone buzzing. Congratulations to Antoinette-Marie Williams on her terrific performance. [See the write-up of this special event on page 2.] Congrats also to Kent Goulding (MD) who thumped Harvey Huie (TX) 11-7 to win the coveted \$200 Swarovski "Grand Crystal Beaver" trophy.



Kent Goulding accepts his \$200 Swarovski 'Grand Crystal Beaver' from director Bill Davis as finalist Harvey Huie looks on.

In other main division events, Paul Friedman stopped Leslie Lockett in the \$140 Open all-Chicagoland finals. The 64-player Advanced division saw Mike Shanias (St. Louis) come out of tourney "retirement" to defeat Chicago's Joann Feinstein. And Glenn Swanson (IL) won his first Limited title by defeating Dirk Hogan (MI).

This year's Calcutta Auction was especially action-packed. Heavy bidding helped to generate a donation of \$1850 for Anti-Cruelty Society Animals.

Between the Advanced and Championship auction, Laila Leonhardt surprised many players by performing three jazz standards accompanied by pianist Steve

Sandner. Laila and Steve have performed professionally in Chicago at Andy's Jazz Club and the Hotel Intercontinental.



Advanced division winner Mike Shanias (right) with runner-up Joann Feinstein.



Glenn Swanson ponders a tough move in the Limited Division finals.

Special thanks to administrators Peter Kalba, Carol Joy Cole, Dru Heggen, Elaine Kehm and Greg Tomlin; also to Harry and John at Fast Track Printing; Sheri Buchette and the Radisson Hotel staff; Jeff Henry (Jim Henry Trophies); Maurice Barie (*Collier's* artwork and backgammon history) and everyone else who helped to make the 1999 Midwest Backgammon Championships (16th annual) one of our most successful of the 20th century. Complete results appear on page 9. Δ

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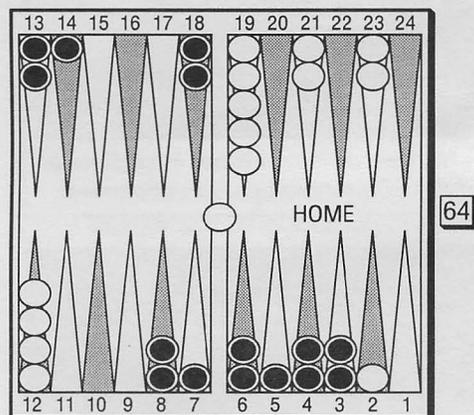
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**PROBLEM #252
ANALYZED**

by Kit Woolsey

15-point Pittsburgh Championships. Neil Kazaross (Black) leads Charlie Russell (White), 7 to 3. **BLACK TO PLAY 4-1.**



In most backgammon positions, the cube is not a relevant consideration when determining the best play. Occasionally, however, cube access becomes a major factor. This problem illustrates one of these situations.

Black's two logical choices appear to be lifting the blot with 14/10, 5/4, or shifting and going for the blitz with 6/5, 6/2*. Plays which leave the 5-point slotted such as 14/10, 7/6 or 7/2* simply leave White too many good rolls without the compensation of putting the second checker on the bar; and playing super-safe with 7/3, 5/4 is too harmful to Black's structure.

If Black did not have access to the cube, I would be fairly confident that 6/5,

6/2* is the correct play. Putting the second checker on the bar while leaving only one shot increases Black's gammon chances while cutting down on White's good numbers. The safer 14/10, 5/4 makes any entering number for White reasonable, while after 6/5, 6/2*, if White doesn't hit or otherwise enter both checkers, Black will have a formidable position.

The cube location sheds a different light on the position. Going into this roll, Black was playing on for the gammon. (White clearly had a very easy pass if Black had doubled.) This was a reasonable decision by Black. Had he covered his 5-point, he would have had very good gammon chances. And, more important, it would be impossible for White to spring back into contention in one roll. However Black failed to cover his 5-point, so he must rethink things.

Suppose Black makes the shifting play, and White hits. Black is no longer in such great shape. Both players will be on the bar against three-point boards, and Black still has some blots strewn around the board. Black could still consider doubling, but it looks like White has a pretty easy take. If White hits and enters with both checkers, now it isn't clear who the favorite is. Thus, by playing 6/5, 6/2*, Black runs a serious risk of what I call "gaining his market," i.e. going from where he had a cash on the previous roll to where his opponent now has a clear take.

Suppose instead that Black plays 14/10, 5/4 and White enters without hitting. Let's say White makes the defensive anchor on the 2-point. Black's gammon chances go way down, but he still has a good position. Now he can double, and it is a very powerful double. White might or might not have

a take depending on exactly what she enters with, but it looks like White will have a close decision. Thus, in a lot of scenarios, Black will wind up with a very efficient double.

Note that after either play, if White rolls badly from the bar, Black will be able to continue to play on for the gammon if he chooses. However if White rolls well from the bar, Black will be able to cash (or be very close to it) if Black makes the safe play, while if Black shifts and White hits the shot, Black won't be close to a cash.

It is true that the shifting play will produce more gammons, but that is not the number one priority right now. It may seem paradoxical, but often when you are playing on for the gammon, it is correct to make a play which gives you smaller gammon chances in order to maximize your probability of claiming with the cube if things start to go badly. Because of the cube access, I believe Black should play 14/10, 5/4.

This situation is somewhat analogous to the more common type of position where, with the cube in the center, you roll a joker which will probably give you a game-winning cube next turn unless your opponent rolls well. When this happens, you often don't make the most aggressive play unless you are planning on playing on for a gammon. You may make a more conservative play which is not the best play in a vacuum, but which limits your opponent's good rolls so you can cash next turn.

In other words, you want to cut down on the volatility of your opponent's roll. The situation is similar with this problem. You are willing to sacrifice some overall equity in order to ensure an efficient cube next turn. Δ

AMALGAMATION

Join us for tourney play at the Bar Point Club Sunday Bimonthly 11 April at Anyway's Grill in Oakbrook Terrace, IL. Game time is 12:00 noon... BG player **Andy Glazer** has written a very entertaining and informative book titled *Casino Gambling The Smart Way* (Career Press). Both **Wilcox Snellings** (NV) and **Jake Jacobs** (IL) praise the book on its back cover... The next time you see the 1999 Midwest Backgammon Advanced Champion **Mike Shanas** (MO), you might not recognize him. Mike promised his son if he won the tourney, he would shave off his beard!... Congrats to Chicago Bar Point

Club player **Carter Mattig** (IL) and bride **Ericka Hladun** who were married in Cañon City, CO on 14 March. Also to **Mario Madrigal** who took a bride in Costa Rica March 27: **Patricia!**... Get well wishes go out to **Gayle Wolf** (MI) who is recovering from eye surgery... **John O'Hagan**'s job has moved him from Indiana to Sauk Village, Illinois... **Mike Fujita** (HI) e-mailed us regarding some great Southwest Airline \$99 fares throughout the US. You can travel between 6 April and 4 August, but you must purchase your tickets by 27 April... **Jeb Horton** invites you to his new Charlotte Backgammon Club. They meet Mondays at 6:30 p.m. at East Side Mario's. For more info, contact Jeb at 704/814-0850 or jeb@carolina.rr.com ... Want to find some very unusual back-

gammon items including 100 year old boards or rare books? Try the auction site www.ebay.com on the Internet. A number of gammon players are scooping up bargains there. Δ

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WINNER'S CIRCLE



Feb.-Mar. 1999

•**Backgammon by the Bay Monthly** (Alameda, CA; 7 Feb.)... OPEN (14): 1-Jonathan Weinstein, 2-Paul Albert.

•**NEBC Sunday Monthly** (Cambridge, MA; 7 Feb.)... EXPERT (18): 1-Dan Chicoine, 2-Ivan Birn, 3/4-Jim Pascoe (CT) / Walter Trice; 1C-Joe Moore, 2C-Alex Zamanian. A DIV. (12): 1-Jim Sullivan, 2-Tom Girnius, 3/4-Jim Glover / John Leonard; 1C-Marcus Hermansen, 2C-Marty Gross. B DIV. (4): 1-David Kahn.

•**Backgammon by the Bay Monthly** (San Mateo, CA; 21 Feb.)... OPEN (15): 1-Paul Albert, 2-Nicky Niknam; 1C-Roger Gabrielson, 2C-Beth Skillman. INTERMEDIATE (8): 1-Richard Gibson, 2-Sho Sengoku; 1C-Chris Bradford. BEGINNER (3): 1-Avo Sadakian.

•**3rd Warsteiner Cup** (Brakel, Germany; 26-28 Feb.)... CHAMPIONSHIP: 1-Ronald Reinhardt, 2-Stefan Bohr, 3/4-Jean v. Ingen (NL) / Hendrik Muysers; 1C-Christian Liebe-Harkort, 2C-Vedat Düzgün; 1LC-Tobias Hellweg. INTERMEDIATE: 1-Manuel Priego, 2-Jerzy Behnke, 3/4-Marianne Petersen (DK) / Reinhard Dreger; 1C-Roland Sauter, 2C-Raymond Langenfeld; 1LC-Jörg Glettenberg. BEGINNER: 1-Jürgen Vosmer, 2-Frank Baumgarten, 3-Sanne Rossen (DK). SUPER JACKPOT: 1-Othmar Wulf, 2-Johannes Levermann.

•**Clarine's Monthly** (Los Angeles, CA; 27 Feb.)... OPEN (14): 1-Jim Pasko, 2-Eddi Yamini.

•**Ace Point Monthly** (New York, NY; 28 Feb.)... OPEN (25): 1-Chuck Papazian, 2-Phil Laak (CA); 1C-Larry Cooper, 2C-Abe Mosseri. INTERMEDIATE (8): 1-Henry Byzinski, 2-Anna Binder; 1C-Ray Javadi. NOVICE (4): 1-Robert Regan; 1C-Roger Baff.

•**Gammon Associates Invitational—ABT** (Los Angeles, CA; 5-7 Mar.)... OPEN (29): 1-Jeff Burdsall (NV), 2-Art Benjamin; 1C-Rudy Citrom, 2C-Aram Kouleyan. ADVANCED (26): 1-Niel Borden, 2-Jobey Calitri; 1C-Dean Kaloudis, 2C-Paul Mangone. SUPER 32 (22): 1-Ron Bruns, 2-Clarine, 3/4-Doug Mayfield / Elli Nache. DOUBLES (8): 1-Judy Collins & Paul Gedigian, 2-Saul Meir

& John Rockwell. ONE POINT BLITZ (88): 1-Jona Alexander, 2-Norm Wiggins.

•**Springfield Series #5** (Peoria, IL; 6 Mar.)... OPEN (20): 1-Linda Woods, 2-Sue Will; 1C-Milad Doueih, 2C-Ben Zemaitis; 1LC-Randy Armstrong... *If not for a heavy snowfall, the tourney might have filled at 32.*

•**Ryddale Scottish Open** (Glasgow, Scotland; 6-7 Mar.)... OPEN (27): 1-Sean Casey (Ireland), 2-Paul Arnott; 1C-Dave Gallagher, 2C-Murray Henderson; 1LC-Paul Lamford. FRIDAY KO (14): 1-John Broomfield, 2-Paul Lamford. DOUBLES (8): 1-Come On Inter, 2-The Persuaders. SUNDAY NIGHT WIND-DOWN (8): 1-John Gale. SUICIDE! (32): 1-Simon K. Jones, 2-Bob Parmley... *Results by BIBA's Michael Crane.*

•**Fleet Underwood Memorial** (Flint, MI; 7 Mar.)... OPEN (28): 1-Gary Fritzsche, 2-Harry Brown, 3-Mike Giordano, 4/5/6-Carol Joy Cole / Dan Smith / Rick Todd. INTERMEDIATE (27): 1-John Lopetrone, 2-Joe Miller (OH), 3/4-Dave Brotherton / Bill Norris, 5/6-Troy Longman / Chester Warzel (IN). MOVIE (7): 1-Sam Denno, 2-Clay Fenstermaker, 3-Fran Miller (OH)... *A great showing considering the heavy snow over the weekend.*

•**Colorado State Championship** (Denver, CO; 13 Mar.)... OPEN: 1-Lawrence Wilson, 2-Duane Eshima; 1C-Peter Allikian.

•**NEBC Sunday Monthly** (Cambridge, MA; 14 Mar.)... EXPERT (20): 1-Mark Damish, 2-Felix Yen, 3/4-Ed Abou-Zeid / Ernie Pittelli; 1C-Walter Trice, 2C-Herb Gurland. A DIV. (12): 1-Tom Girnius, 2-Marty Gross, 3/4-Marcus Hermansen / John Leonard; 1C-Tom Meyer, 2C-Paul Chatalbash.

•**Hong Kong Invitational** (Hong Kong, China; 19-20 Mar.)... OPEN (15): 1-John Simon, 2-Melody Rae; 1C-Steve Nelson... *Results reported firsthand by Chicago's Jake Jacobs.*

•**Albany Club Monthly** (Halfmoon, NY; 21 Mar.)... OPEN (8): 1/2-Wally Watson / Linc Bedell. INTERMEDIATE (8): 1/2-Chris Krystallis / Joe Shapiro.

•**Clarine's Monthly** (Los Angeles, CA; 27 Mar.)... OPEN (14): 1/2-Elli Nache / Zev Vered.

•**Ace Point Monthly** (New York, NY; 28 Mar.)... OPEN (18): 1-James Pascoe (CT), 2-Phil Laak (CA); 1C-Herb Meadow. INTERMEDIATE (7): 1-Ray Javadi, 2-Eydie Nobel; 1C-Larry Leibster (NJ). NOVICE (2): 1-Morty Wolberger. Δ

1999 Midwest Backgammon Championships Complete Results

CHAMPIONSHIP (64): 1-Neil Kazaross (IL), 2-Clarine (CA), 3/4-Steve Mellen (IL) / Stu Hosen (TX); 1C-Matt Reklaitis (PA), 2C-Steve McCormick (MO); 1LC-Steve Hast (PA). \$140 OPEN (14): 1-Paul Friedman (IL), 2-Leslie Lockett (IL).

ADVANCED (64): 1-Mike Shanas (MO), 2-Joann Feinstein (IL), 3/4-Sean Garber (IN) / Rudy Langenbach (WI); 1C-Alice Kay (IL), 2C-Ralph Levy (IL); 1LC-Roz Ferris (IL).

LIMITED (33): 1-Glenn Swanson (IL), 2-Dirk Hogan (MI), 3/4-Bill Chibnik (IL) / Borks Mindich (IL); 1C-Ramez Abi-Akar (IL), 2C-Ron Weiner (WI); 1LC-Glenn Martells (IL).

LADY'S TREASURE (4): 1-Antoinette-Marie Williams (NY).

GRAND CRYSTAL BEAVER (16): 1-Kent Goulding (MD), 2-Harvey Huie (TX).

CHAMPIONSHIP DOUBLES (32): 1-Jack Takala (MI) & Gyl Savoie (Canada), 2-Gary & Alice Kay (IL), 3/4-Steve Maas & Guy Nicosia (MN) / Don Jayhan & Norma Shyer (IL).

NACKGAMMON (32): 1-John Ritchie (KS), 2-Steve McCormick (MO), 3/4-Mary Hickey (OH) / Dion Hogan (MI).

BAZOOKIE-GAMMON (16): 1-Steve Hast (PA), Bob Zavoral (IL).

JIGSAW-GAMMON (13): 1-Paul Freidman & Ed Zell (IL).

PIG-ROLLING: 1-Tak Morioka (IL).

DOG DICE: 1-John Stryker (IL).

BEAVER PITCH: 1-Steve Hast (PA).

BG WHEEL OF FORTUNE: 1-Ron Weiner (WI).

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