

the **WEEPER** the *Sleeper* and the **Belly Beeper**

by Jake Jacobs

That had to be the most unbelievable parlay! First, I had to leave a shot—only one in 18—then you had to hit, then I had to...

First, a topic sentence, stating his case. Then, the orderly development of his argument; the Weeper's courtroom training was evident.

The Belly Beeper emitted a rude noise in rebuttal. The source of this noise was such that it could not be classified as oral argument, but the Belly Beeper was satisfied with its highly persuasive qualities: "A right good one, it was!"

It was the Beeper's living room, so he was entitled to ventilate it as he saw fit. The room was filled with Oriental artifacts. There were masks from Thailand and three-foot sculptures of Chinese ponies rendered in jade. There were Javan spears, painted tapestries of bare-breasted Balinese maidens, straw weavings from Bicol, and bric-a-brac from Borneo. From Agra to Athens, conservationists wept over the corrosive effects of the poisonous gases in our polluted atmosphere, but the Beeper cared not. They were his antiques. He'd bought 'em, and he could melt 'em if he wanted to.

Fortunately the balcony door was open, though Hong Kong's air was not a great trade. The Beeper paid a lot for his apartment in a very good building in the Mid Levels. The higher one ascended the Peak—with the possibility of spectacular views of Central and Wanchai, and, across the harbor, the lights of Kowloon—the more one paid. The Beeper's flat was on the first floor in the rear, so the breezes were supplied by passing taxis, and the view was of the road, snaking its way up—good asphalt to be sure, but asphalt nonetheless. Still, it was a very good building.

Lovely Song lit a cigarette, and rattled her dice impatiently. She was next up to try to end the Beeper's box run. Lovely's parents named her Mei Li, which could be translated into English as "Beautiful Plum." Western writers love supplying translations for their character's names, so that the reader supposes that the Chinese are all blessed with names like "Bountiful Scholar" or "Delicate Willow." Fortunately, Chinese writers don't try reverse translation for their readers when they write about Western characters with names like "John Carpenter."

In school Lovely was one of nine "Mei Li's" in her classroom—the Western equivalent would be to go through life as Jennifer Johnson. (I have a cousin who went through her entire unmarried life as Jennifer Johnson, and may not speak to me again; but, if the statisticians have it right, everyone in North America and Western Europe has a cousin named Jennifer Johnson. The lone exceptions are the Basques, who speak a Stone Age language that has not intermingled with the tongues of Europe for 6000 years. And who knows? In 6000 more years they, too, may be awash in Jennifer Johnsons.)

The Chinese in Hong Kong generally choose an English name to add to their collection of Chinese names. In the spirit of the designer clothes seen in Tokyo, with words like "The Age of Fresh Gender try now Manchester Rugby Union" written on

20th *chicago open*

FRANKS WINS THE 'BEANS'

Paul Franks downs Fred Kalantari to win the Champ title.

Memorial Master is Elliott Winslow

Chicago's Paul Franks played in the Intermediate Division in Las Vegas two months ago and did nothing. Moving up to the Championship level seemed to agree with him as he rolled over a tough field to win the Chicago Open. The 20th annual Memorial Day weekend event was staged by Joann Feinstein and Howard Markowitz 28–31 May at the beautiful Wyndham Hotel in Itasca, Illinois.



Master's champ Elliott Winslow (left) and Open winner Paul Franks savor their Chicago Open titles.

Franks bested Bob Glass (CA), Perry Gartner (NJ) and Fred Kalantari (MN) to win the undefeated bracket of the double elimination format. But he would need to defeat one more competitor—Fred Kalantari again—to win it all. Kalantari had defeated red-hot Neil Kazaross at double match-point in the second chance bracket finals to earn another shot at Paul.

Franks was up to the challenge and despite a late surge from Kalantari, held on to win the match 13–9 earning the Champion's plaque and over \$5,000.

When asked about his toughest match, Paul said it was against Perry Gartner in the semifinals. Leading Perry 10–6, Paul remembered this particularly painful game:

Grand Prix de Lugano
1999 August 18–22
LUGANO—SWITZERLAND
Grand Prix de Suisse
1999 October 26–31

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CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

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LETTERS

c/o CHICAGO POINT

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BUILDING A BOARD

I want to build my own backgammon board. Any ideas, short of going and buying a cheap one as a template, for how I can get hold of the proper dimensions for a board? There are some nice images on the "net" but not much technical info on building your own.

An architect with a desire to make some small scale beauties.—*Michael Schulman, via Internet, mschulman@dworsky.com*

Master boardbuilder Tak Morioka tells us that he builds his sets after he has purchased the most important item: the checkers. Here are some tips:

Six checkers should span across any quadrant with about 1/8" to spare. Each pip (triangle) should be long enough to hold five checkers. If you lay checkers from

[Continued on page 3]

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



by Carol Joy Cole
810/232-9731
New e-mail: cjc@tir.com

* Denotes new or revised listing

NATIONAL

American Backgammon Tour events underlined.

Jun 10-13	<u>1999 Georgia State Championships & Peach Cup, Holiday Inn, Atlanta, GA</u>	770/333-1876
Jun 13	Bar Point Sunday, Anyway's Grill, Oakbrook Terrace, IL	773/583-6464
Jun 13	New England Club Housewarming Tourney, Holiday Inn, Somerville, MA	781/983-7852
Jun 17	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Jun 20*	Albany Club Monthly, Fuller Road House, Albany, NY	518/382-1098
Jun 20*	Backgammon by the Bay, New location TBA, California	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
Jun 27	Pittsburgh Monthly Tournament, Greentree Marriott, Pittsburgh, PA	412/823-7500
Jul 1*	Official GamesGrid Monthly Tournament, via computer <i>tournaments@cyberarts.com</i>	810/232-9731
Jul 1	Michigan Summer Warm-Up Tourney, Novi Hilton Hotel, Novi, MI	810/232-9731
Jul 2-5	<u>Michigan Summer Championships, Novi Hilton Hotel, Novi, MI</u>	810/232-9731
Jul 10	Backgammon by the Bay Summer Sizzle, Britannia Arms, San José, CA	831/688-9722
Jul 11	Northern Ohio Club Monthly, Belden Commons Restaurant, Canton OH	330/966-2811
Jul 15*	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
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
Jul 18*	Albany Club Monthly, Fuller Road House, Albany, NY	518/382-1098
Jul 18*	Backgammon by the Bay Special, New location TBA, California	831/688-9722
Jul 25*	Ace Point Sunday Tournament, Ace Point Club, New York, NY	212/753-0842
<u>Jul 30-Aug 1</u>	<u>Thousand Islands Tournament, Pine Tree Point, Alexandria Bay, NY</u>	<u>716/442-8221</u>
Jul 31*	Clarine's Monthly Tournament, A.R. Private Club, Los Angeles, CA	213/822-9745
Jul 31-Aug 1	6th Annual Summer Cooker/Pool Party, Hast residence, Pittsburgh, PA	412/823-7500
Aug 1*	Backgammon by the Bay, The Whole Shabang, Alameda, CA	831/688-9722
Aug 8*	Northern Ohio Club Monthly, Belden Commons Restaurant, Canton OH	330/966-2811
Aug 8*	Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Anyway's Grill, Oakbrook Terrace, IL	773/583-6464
<u>Aug 13-15</u>	<u>Minnesota State Championships, Thunderbird Hotel, Bloomington, MN</u>	<u>612/378-1536</u>
Aug 15*	Albany Club Monthly, Fuller Road House, Albany, NY	518/382-1098
Aug 15*	Backgammon by the Bay, New location TBA, California	831/688-9722
Aug 19*	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Aug 21-22*	Summer Sizzler Picnic & Tourney, Zell's (W. Peoria) & Sly Fox, Lacon, IL	309/674-0557
Sep 3-6	<u>47th Indiana Open, Sheraton-Westin Hotel, Indianapolis, IN</u>	<u>317/255-8902</u>
Sep 3-6*	21st Vermont State Championships, Stratton Mountain Inn, Vermont	954/527-4033
Sep 24-26	<u>1st Ohio State Championships, Comfort Inn, Canton, OH</u>	<u>330/498-9801</u>
Oct 8-10	<u>Nation's Capital Championships, Promenade, Bethesda, MD</u>	<u>301/530-0604</u>
Oct 15-17	<u>1999 Florida State Championships, Days Inn, Ft. Lauderdale, FL</u>	<u>954/938-4304</u>
Oct 27-31	1999 Las Vegas Open, Harrah's Casino & Hotel, Las Vegas, NV	702/893-6025
Nov 7-14	Classic Games Cruise, Houston-Cancún-Cozumel-Roatan, Norwegian Line	702/893-6025
Nov 12-14	<u>Illinois State Championships, Hilton Hotel, Springfield, IL</u>	<u>773/583-6464</u>
Nov 26-28	<u>5th Thanksgiving Weekend, Belden Village Holiday Inn, Canton, OH</u>	<u>330/966-2811</u>
Dec 3-5*	<u>44th Gammon Associates Invitational, Los Angeles, CA</u>	<u>818/901-0464</u>

OUTSIDE USA

Jun 12-13	Hilton Trophy Tournament, Stakis Hotel, England	441522-888676
Jun 12-13	Mixed Doubles, Humlebæk Backgammon Klub, Humlebæk, Denmark	4549-222821
Jun 13	Toronto Sunday Monthly, Doghouse Riley's Toronto, ON, Canada	416/722-9709
Jun 18-20*	Casablanca-Cup, Billardcafé Casablanca, Witten, Germany	49172-4707330
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, Monte Carlo Grand Hotel, Monaco	954/527-4033
Jul 11*	Toronto Sunday Monthly, Doghouse Riley's Toronto, ON, Canada	416/722-9709
Jul 12-18	World Championship, Monte Carlo Grand Hotel, Monaco <i>USA contact:</i> 954/527-4033	
Jul 17-18*	CANCELLED: bb99 Tournament, Great Barr Hotel, Birmingham, England	441522-888676
Jul 19-20	8th Nice Open, Lido Plage Restaurant, Nice, France	33393-843679
Jul 22-25	1st Czech Open, Casino Bellevue, Marienbad, Czech Republic	49911-409505
Jul 24-25	Danish Doubles, Solrød/Dansk BG Forbund, Denmark	4533-363601
Aug 7-8	Studio Anne Carlton Trophy (Swiss #3), Stakis Nottingham, England	441522-888676
Aug 8*	Toronto Sunday Monthly, Doghouse Riley's Toronto, ON, Canada	416/722-9709
Aug 18-22	Grand Prix de Lugano, Hotel Grand Eden, Lugano, Switzerland	4179-3374425
Aug 21-22	Studentenbar cup, Studenterbaren, Århus, Denmark	4586-154458
Aug 21-29	3rd Mind Sports Olympiad, London, England <i>E-mail:</i> mso@dickson.demon.co.uk	
Aug 22*	Newcastle Open, Charlestown, New South Wales, Australia	612-49469222
Aug 28-29*	Sjællands Open, Farum Backgammon Klub, Denmark	4544-994242
Sep 3-5	European Championship/Mitteleuropa Tourney, Nova Gorica, Slovenia	3902-40074658
Sep 11-12*	Bonus Tournament #2, Stakis Nottingham, England	441522-888676
Sep 12*	Toronto Sunday Monthly, Doghouse Riley's Toronto, ON, Canada	416/722-9709
Sep 30-Oct 3*	5th Kaiserbrunnen Cup, Hotel am Kaiserbrunnen, Brakel, Germany	49521-64314
Sep 30-Oct 3*	Asian Championships, Ladies Recreation Club, Hong Kong, China	8522-5231300
Dec 8-12	6th Tournament of the Americas, Cancun, Mexico <i>USA contact:</i> 773/583-6464	

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

one side to the other, the board should accommodate 11 2/3 checkers. To allow for stackage, make your open board depth slightly over two checker thicknesses.—Ed.

BUMMER

As far as I'm concerned, the May issue was a bummer! Discussions of positions and problems were very technical. Plus even I saw mistakes in the commentary. For example, in the solution to Problem #253, Alex Caraplis stated "And even when Black is hit, his numbers are nicely diversified with 4s and 6s entering and 2s and 5s hitting . . ."

If Black is hit, he can't enter with 2s and 5s.—Henry Schwartz, Pompano

Beach, FL

You misunderstood Alex's wording, Henry. Black can enter White's home board with 4s and 6s, and if he does, then Black could use 2s and 5s on his other die to hit the White blot in his own home table.—Ed.

LOVE AT FIRST BACKGAMMON BYTE

I am Michael Zehr's fiancée and we are getting married 5 June in Boston. We have a wedding page at <http://www.michaelz.com/wedding> that you can take a look at. We met on FIBS. You can see from the "How We Met" area, that backgammon was central to our meeting and to the continuation of our relationship.

Just between you, me and the rest of the world (just not Michael—it's a surprise), I have asked the Ritz-Carlton to create

probably the best groom's cake any backgammon and chocolate lover could ever ask for. It will be a huge sheet cake in the form of a backgammon board. The icing will be French hand-made and rolled white, milk and dark chocolate. The playing pieces will be chocolate and vanilla French cookies. The dice and doubling cube will be molded sugar wafers with chocolate dots and numbers.

Since our talks were long distance for some time, we had numeric pagers. We created a numerical code that translated into "I love you" and other niceties. On the backgammon board cake, the playing pieces will be in a "special position" that in terms of pipcount, translates into "I love you, always forever." When he cuts the cake, I'll ask him, "What's the pipcount," and in half a second I'll bet he'll kiss me! :-)

I'll be sure to get the photographer to take pictures of the cake-cutting. Then after the wedding and honeymoon, we'll send you a photo of the cake and the chocolate-addicted groom.—Linda Villarreal, via Internet, falcon@yours.com

It all sounds wonderful, Linda. Best wishes to you and Michael from CHICAGO POINT.—Ed. Δ

AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 1999

Compiled through 31 May 1999 after 4 tournaments
(Coming in June & July: Georgia Champs, Michigan Summer, 1000 Islands)

Neil Kazaross	46.59	Art Benjamin	6.11	Paul Klein	4.06	Sean Garber	2.08
Paul Franks	20.59	Rudy Citrom	6.11	Roz Ferris	3.20	Rudy Langenbach	2.08
Jeff Burdsall	13.74	John Brussel	5.88	James Roston	3.13	George Maloyan	1.75
Mike Shanas	11.44	Niel Borden	5.77	Aram Kouleyan	3.05	Aaron Ashmann	1.71
Matt Reklaitis	11.20	Gary Marchenia	5.25	Glenn Swanson	2.95	George Barr	1.71
Carol Falk	11.03	Joann Feinstein	5.20	Jobey Calitri	2.89	Ramez Abi-Akar	1.44
Alice Kay	10.75	Roger Nellist	5.06	Gary Fries	2.59	Dirk Hogan	1.34
Clarine	10.40	Steve McCormick	4.80	Ralph Levy	2.40	A.J. Fronce	1.05
Steve Sax	10.29	Howard Markowitz	4.76	Jerry Kruth	2.22	Irv Taylor	1.05
Fred Kalantari	10.29	Harvey Huie	4.41	Ed King	2.22	Glenn Martells	0.82
Paul Friedman	9.82	Sam Pottle	4.28	Lucky Nelson	2.21	Alex Shoshoo	0.75
Drew Giovanis	9.65	Leslie Lockett	4.18	Dean Kaloudis	2.17	Ron Weiner	0.62
Fred Gehlhoff	9.44	Steve Mellen	4.16	Paul Mangone	2.17	Bill Chibnik	0.53
Charlie Russell	9.29	Stuart Hosen	4.16	Kerim Urkun	2.14	Boris Mindich	0.53
Steve Hast	6.40	Mike Rezaei	4.06				

CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB 1999 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

COMPILED
THRU 31 May

Bob Zavoral	10.00	Phyllis Smolinski	4.32	Mary Franks	1.92	Bill Bartholomay	0.64
Steve Mellen	9.04	Gary Kay	4.32	Bill Davis	1.80	Marty Tatosian	0.48
Harold Elgazar	8.16	Sam Yoyen	3.76	Mark Dalton	1.60	Sarg Serges	0.48
Neil Kazaross	7.76	Carter Mattig	3.52	Joann Feinstein	1.52	Mark Murray	0.48
Phil Simborg	7.68	Brian Kozin	3.44	Mark Ryan	1.28	Sam Pottle	0.44
Jake Jacobs	7.68	Alice Kay	3.36	Ralph Byrns	1.28	Tim Mabee	0.40
Marc Rosset	6.08	Ken Bond	3.28	Rick Bieniak	1.28	Harry Cohn	0.32
Bob Steen	5.60	Jerry Brooks	3.04	Peter Kalba	0.96	Richard Stawowy	0.28
Tim Carroll	5.36	John Jennings	2.88	Laila Leonhardt	0.88	Amy Valerio	0.24
Arline Levy	5.36	Don Jayhan	2.64	Glenn Martells	0.88	Frank Callea	0.24
Ed Buerger	5.20	Steve Klesker	2.56	Richard Lloyd	0.88	Sonja Peacock	0.16
Bill Keefe	5.20	David Araiza	2.48	Jolie Rubin	0.88	Ken Tyszko	0.16
Tak Morioka	5.16	Norma Shyer	2.48	Paul Klein	0.88	Stan Kucharz	0.16
Paul Franks	5.04	Herb Roman	2.16	Daniel Lillian	0.64	Elaine Kehm	0.12
Joe Wollick	4.96	Georgina Flanagan	2.00				

May's Player of the Month is **JAKE JACOBS**. Jake cashed in all four May events (including two wins) to earn 6.00 points. Runner's up were Bill Keefe (3.44) and Gary Kay (3.04).

New and improved!

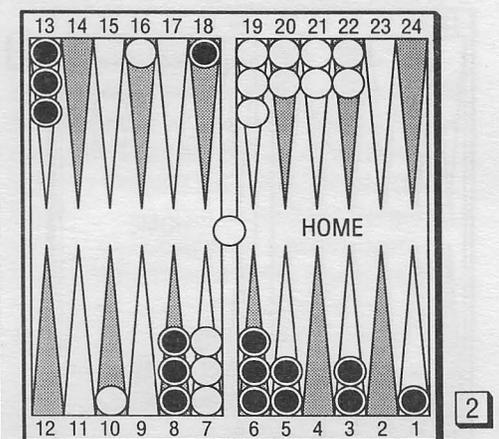
www.chicagopoint.com

your move

PROBLEM #255

to be analyzed by Walter Trice

1999 Lady's Treasure. Best 2-out-of-3 sets to 9 points. First set. Mika Lidov (BLACK) leads Antoinette-Marie Williams (WHITE) 5 to 3. **BLACK TO PLAY 4-4.**



ASK DANNY

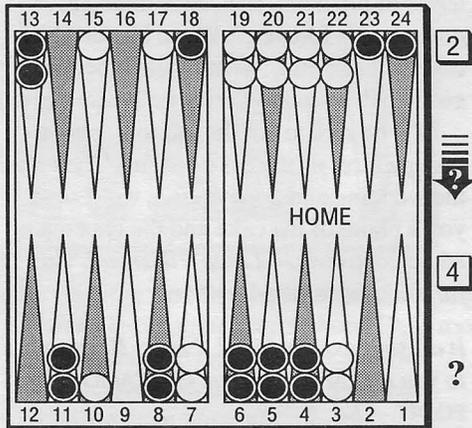


© 1999 by Danny Kleinman

A DIFFERENCE OF OPINION

Dear Danny: In a late round of the Chicago Open, Neil Kazaross (IL) was playing Perry Gartner (NJ) when the following position arose.

13-point match. Neil Kazaross (Black) leads Perry Gartner (White), 3-0. White on shake. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



Perry thought for a while, then redoubled to 4. Neil accepted the cube and was eventually able to turn the game around.

Following the game, there was a major difference of opinion. Perry evaluated the position to be a big pass and Neil thought it

was an easy take. I could run this on Jelly-Fish™ or Snowie™, but that wouldn't teach me much about how to evaluate offered doubles

Would you take or drop this cube . . . and why?—Doubling Novice

DEAR NOVICE: I would certainly take the cube, though I'll regret it if I dance on Perry's four point board after he hits. Hit he will, if not on his bar-point, then loose inside or by switching points. However, I'll anchor or hit back about 55% of the time, and then I'll be very much in the game. I have a sound structure on my own side of the board, and superior outfield control. Perry will have trouble bringing his back men around. Though the hit-and-dance threat gives Perry a sound double, he has too few men on his own side of the board, and too much work to do with his other men, to induce me to pass.

You may notice that I state neither winning and gammon chances nor equities. The real criterion for passing is equity less than -1.00 after a take, but to gauge equity accurately is beyond human capacity in all but the simplest positions. Unlike JellyFish (JF) and Snowie, which you mention, I could only guess wildly.

I more than anyone appreciate JF creator Fredrik Dahl's achievement, for 23 years ago I created "Jack Gammon" (the first backgammon program) and I know how much better JF plays than Jack. Of course Jack used an Altair computer with 16 kilobytes, while JF runs on modern computers with many megabytes.

At first Jack, programmed in Bill Gates' early version of BASIC, took minutes to play many rolls. I could not afford to take Gates' offer of \$10-an-hour wages to come to Albuquerque for six weeks and finish the speedier version he had started, so I rewrote Jack's program in machine language to bring Jack up to human speed. Even that required shortcuts: for example, counting hitters instead of shots.

Now JF can play a thousand games in less time than Jack took for one. Though you won't learn the *whys* of cube actions, you can run 46,656 representative JF rollouts to verify the *what*. JF plays well enough so that results showing less than -1.05 equity after a take would convince me I'm wrong.

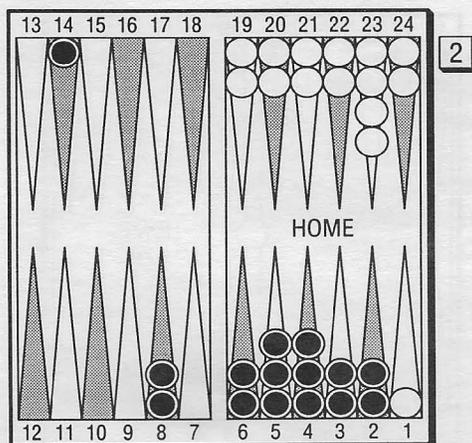
Why not -1.00? Because JF bases its *redoubling* on equity alone, *cashing* when the redoubler's equity exceeds a specified threshold. This undervalues cube ownership, which permits *redoubling in* when market loss looms. Lowering JF's cashpoint won't help, for the *equity* needed to redouble in varies with the *volatility* of the position: proper redoubling depends on *both*. Until JF and Snowie improve their *cube-turning* algorithms, their rollout results for taking cubes will leave significant room for error.—Yours, Danny Δ

Questions for Danny Kleinman should be addressed to: Ask Danny, c/o CHICAGO POINT, 3940 W. Bryn Mawr Ave. 504; Chicago, IL 60659-3155 or send e-mail to: bg@chicagopoint.com

FRANKS...

[Continued from page 1]

Chicago Open 13-point semifinals. Paul Franks (Black) leads Perry Gartner (White) 10 to 6. **BLACK TO PLAY 3-2.**



Paul correctly hit with the 3 and played 8/6 with the deuce to maximize covers. Computer rollouts showed 14/12 to be slightly better because fewer blots cut down Franks' chances of getting a second checker hit should Perry enter with a 1-6. Gartner did roll the 1-6, was unable to pick up another blot and gammoned Paul anyway to tie the score at 10—all. Franks went on to win, but it was tough all the way.

The Master's title was taken by Elliott Winslow over Nick Ballard. Elliott also defeated Nick in entry fee money spent. He won it all on his first entry whereas it took Nick two reentries to reach the finals.

Fred Gehlhoﬀ (MI) bested Sam Pottle (WI) in the Intermediate division. And George Maloyan was victorious over Alex Shoshoo in the all-Chicago Beginner finals.

Other Chicago winners included Alice Kay (Intermediate 1st Cons.), Steve Mellen (2-point Mini-match) and Lucky Nelson (Blitz). Complete results: Δ

20TH CHICAGO OPEN

CHAMPIONSHIP (49): 1-Paul Franks (IL), 2-Fred Kalantari (MN), 3-Neil Kazaross (IL); 1C-Steve Sax (CA), 2C-Harvey Huie (TX).

INTERMEDIATE (49): 1-Fred Gehlhoﬀ (MI), 2-Sam Pottle (WI), 3/4-Aaron Ashmann (IL) / George Barr (IL); 1C-Alice Kay (IL), 2C-Lucky Nelson (IL).

BEGINNER (11): 1-George Maloyan (IL), 2-Alex Shoshoo (IL).

MEMORIAL DAY MASTERS (32): 1-Elliott Winslow (CA), 2-Nick Ballard (CA), 3/4-Mads Anderson / Jes Bondo.

DOUBLES (16): 1-Wanda & Doug Roberts (MA), 2-Howard Markowitz (NV) & Martha Ghio (NY).

2-POINT MINI-MATCH (128): 1-Steve Mellen (IL).

BLITZ (64): 1-Lucky Nelson (IL), 2-Paul Franks (IL).

THE WEEPER...

[Continued from page 1]

them, the Hong Kongers have been creative with their choices. Not for them “Bob” or “Mary.” The locals have great names like “Marmalade Lim,” and “Radiator Grille Wong.” So Song Mei Li became Lovely Song, an especially euphonious combination.

The Beeper shifted in his chair, the better to serenade her with an especially euphonious composition of his own. As a gastroenterologist, he could fairly claim to be advertising. Just then, he shook a bad roll, his first in nearly an hour.

“Why you...!” He had a few choice words for his dice. Listening to him, one wondered whether, instead of an Eton lad, he was a Borstal boy. Or perhaps he had graduated medical school on Parris Island.

Pulling quickly out of his one roll slump, he turned Lovely’s song into a dirge. She silently vacated the Captain’s chair, but the Weeper would not let her go without a eulogy. “Lovely, if you’d only made the 5-point instead of hitting! Still, I think my double was okay. We had 14 numbers that hit from the bar, and even if we missed ...”

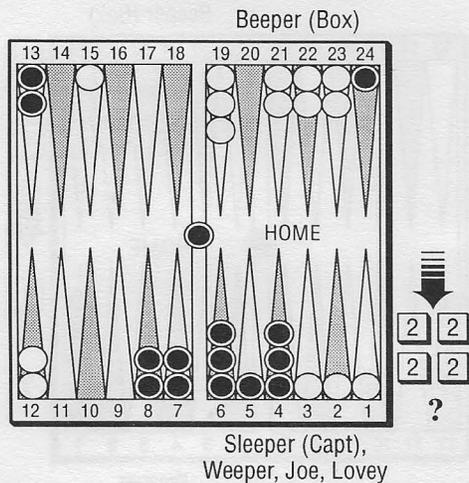
The new Captain, the Sleeper, was the only one really listening to the Weeper. He had a mathematical mind and found himself compulsively tallying the Weeper’s misfortunes. So far, negative swings had cost the Weeper 1937 points. That was only since 8:00 P.M., when the Sleeper arrived. According to the Weeper, things had been much worse in the afternoon, and he promised to get together for coffee, and tell the Sleeper *all* about it tomorrow.

Subtracting the Weeper’s actual score from his unlucky swings, the Sleeper concluded that, had the dice been fair, the Weeper would have been up 1910 points. He himself had won 689 of them. The Sleeper was stuck 10 on the scoresheet himself—the Beeper was the only winner—so he wondered who had his other 679 points and how he could get them back.

The game developed quickly, with each side starting to build a prime. The phone was a momentary interruption, as the Weeper’s wife called to check up on him. “*Wo shule ershi qi!*” A benefit to knowing a second language that the Weeper’s tutors had overlooked—one could complain to a billion more listeners.

Then, the Sleeper picked a bad time not to enter:

Position 1. Beeper cubes the captain and crew to 2. **TAKE OR DROP?**



“Now I’ve got ‘em!” cackled the Beeper, and shipped over the cubes.

“Drop and give!”* cried the Weeper, before the cubes hit the leather. He wanted to speed up the game, though why he, self-confessed unlucky roller, was so eager to touch the dice again was a mystery.

“Drop and give. You disgusting animal!” Said Mighty Joe Yeung, the fifth player in the game. The second half of Joe’s comment was directed at their host, who was beeping again.

“Just drop.” Lovely never gave extras, though she had taken more than anyone in Hong Kong, and so was presumed to understand the mechanics.

**To “Drop and give” means you are so sure the position is a drop, that if anyone on your team takes, you will pay them the value of the cube prior to doubling, and they must take another cube against you. You are not permitted to assist the box in play. However, you are free to act on any future cube decisions.—Ed.*

The Sleeper paused to consider. He was very tired after the previous long night of wine and women in wicked Wanchai, so it was hard to bring the game into focus. Things weren’t so bad. He had a prime, sort of. He had an anchor, sort of. Goulding would take this. So, he took. Hong Kong rules require that to take alone, he must take all offered extras, so he took Joe’s and Weeper’s cubes as well, chalking up two points for himself on the scoresheet.

The take may not have been so good, but the next sequence was. Beeper rolled 6-1—even in Hong Kong, they call that an “air ball”—and played it 12/18, 15/16.

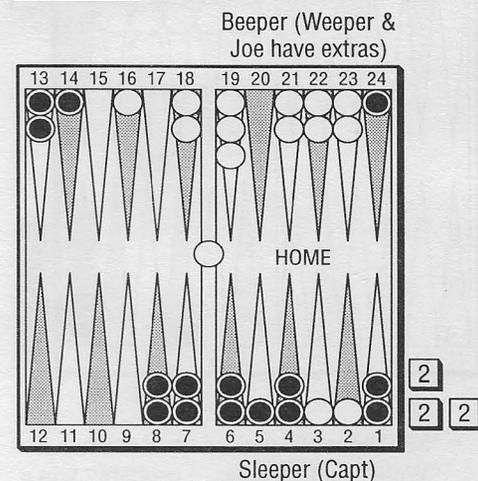
Sleeper came in with 4-1: definitely not an air ball. He was tempted to split to the 20-point, but since all 36 of Beeper’s

numbers hit at least one, he tried the more prudent Bar/24, 5/1*.

Beeper rolled 5-6, entering, and making his own bar. Sleeper came back with a 1-1. He hit all three inner board points, and made his ace-point. The Beeper fanned.

The Sleeper, being sleepy, had already forgotten that he was holding three cubes, not just the Beeper’s, so he did not re-double. He rolled 6-4, and ran one man out. The Beeper entered two men with 2-3, and while the proper action is double/take, Sleeper rolled again. This time he got a 5-3. Covering with the 3 was clear—should he hit with the 5, or make a 5-prime?

Position 2. BLACK TO PLAY 5-3.

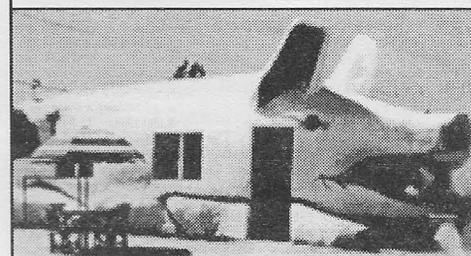


He opted to cover 13/5, and the Beeper fanned again. Now the Sleeper woke up and recubed. Mighty Joe and the Weeper passed, and the Weeper immediately began explaining to Mighty Joe just exactly how unlucky they had been, in case Joe had been rendered catatonic by the Beeper’s aromatic exudations, and so missed seeing it for himself.

“It’s not a take. Of course it isn’t a take.” So declaimed the Beeper. “All right, go on, I takes!”

[Continued on page 6]

NO TRUTH



There’s no truth to the rumor that Midwest Backgammon Championships Pig-rolling mistress Dru Heggen has purchased this summer home. Absolutely no truth.

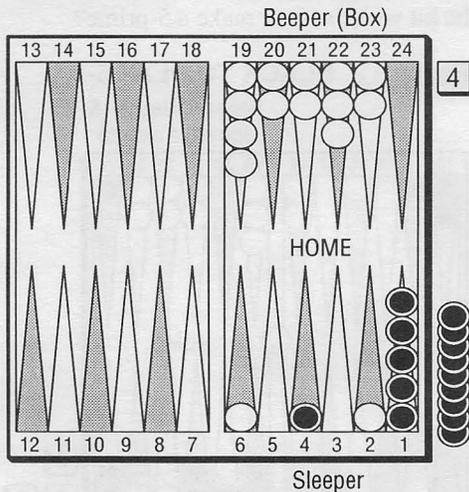
THE WEEPER...

[Continued from page 5]

Sleeper rolled 4-4, coming out, hitting on the 16-point, and making his own 3-point. Now, even Beeper might have passed.

The Beeper rolled a deuce, quickly enough to give him some small chance in the game. But the Sleeper was lucky and careful, and the first shot appeared here.

Position 3. WHITE ON SHAKE.



"Settlement?" queried the Beeper.
 "Well," said Sleeper, "I probably win a gammon half the time you miss, so that's 12 gammons + 12 singles, and on the 12 times you hit, I'm still a favorite—call it 4 more—that's 40/36 of the cube. Give me 4 1/2."

Something was wrong. Just looking at the position, it seemed like he should be getting 5 or 6, but he was too tired to recalculate.

"I'll pay 2," said Beeper.

"Give me 5," countered Sleeper, figuring there was no way they would actually settle.

"I'll give you 4 1/2," offered the Weeper.

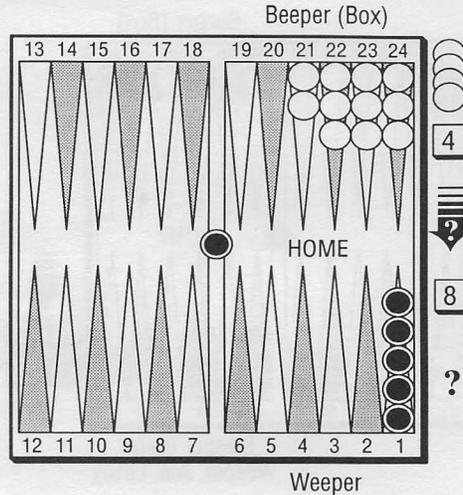
"All right." The Sleeper had said he take 4 1/2, and was a man of his word.

Weeper took over his game. "I wonder if I should preempt? Naw, go on!" Beeper wasn't taking cubes just to pay 4 1/2.

The Beeper hit, and quickly closed his board. He bore off to the position shown in the next column (above).

After chanting an arcane incantation in which the name "Robertie" occurred several times, he redoubled to 8, and the Weeper took, the first mutually rational cube decision of the game, if not the entire day. Good things failed to happen, and Beeper won.

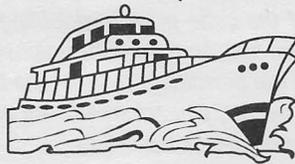
Position 4. White on shake. CUBE ACTION(S)?



Beeper was happy; he had won 12 points, and kept the Box. Sleeper was happy; he had won 3 each from Joe and Weep on their extras, and another 4 1/2 from Weeper on the buyout, so he was in the plus column. Weeper had lost 17 1/2 points. That was 2 initially by dropping Beeper (they had an extra every game), then 3 more to Sleeper when the game turned around. Then, he had paid another 4 1/2, for the privilege of losing 8. This dwarfed all previous hard luck tales, as he had lost the same game three times from two different directions!

So the Beeper, the Sleeper, and the Weeper, each in their own fashion, lived happily ever after. Δ

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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).

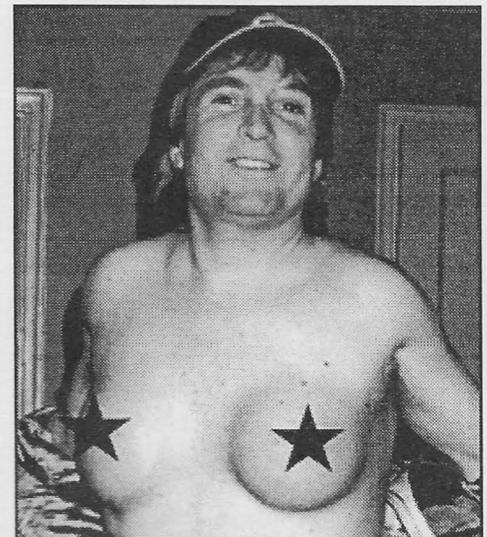
WINNETKA BG CLUB: Tournaments Wednesday, 7:00 P.M. at 620 Lincoln, Winnetka. Trudie Chibnik (847/446-0537).

PEORIA BACKGAMMON CLUB: Tourn. Thurs., 6:30 P.M. at Peoria Pizza Works, 3921 Prospect, Peoria. Ed Zell (309/674-0557).

AMALGAMATION

John Brussel, auctioneer at many tournaments across the country, was hospitalized last month with a very serious illness. His kidney has been removed and he is in for 6 weeks of recovery. You can cheer him up with a get-well card to: 5701 N. Sheridan Road 17H, Chicago, IL 60660...

Going to the Michigan Championships 4th of July weekend? **Carol Joy Cole** (810/232-9731) advises you to make your room reservations by 11 June to ensure a room...



Zembic and his two friends. [Maxim Mag.]

Congratulations to **Brian and Anita Zembic** who were married in Emeryville, CA 15 May. Brian, a New York backgammon player, gained fame by winning a

[Continues at right]

Unsportsmanlike Conduct in Backgammon



by Phil Simborg



I don't know if anyone has yet written a definite code of conduct for backgammon, but it is sorely needed. And it's needed not just because there are some jerks with poor ethics and courtesy, because there are some of those in every game and sport. It's also needed because many of us just don't realize how certain things can be perceived as unkind, or rude unless we are made aware of them. That is my hope here.

So, for what it's worth, here are my "Do's" and "Don'ts" of live and on-line backgammon play.

The DO's:

1. Always greet your opponent in some friendly manner. Say "Hi," shake hands, wish him luck, wish him a good match, tell him where you are from, or whatever. Don't just sit down and start rolling the dice.
2. When a match is over, always say "Good-bye," "Thanks for playing," or whatever you are comfortable with.
3. Both parties should keep score. You should announce the score or acknowledge your opponent's announcement of the score after each game. If it's the Crawford Game, announce this at the start and take the cube off the board.
4. Always shake your dice at least three times before rolling them out of the cup. But only shake when it is your turn to play.
5. Be quiet and still while your opponent is thinking or playing.

The DON'Ts:

1. (My #1 peeve.) Don't point out your opponent's luck, or lucky rolls, either during or after a match. Whether you

mean to or not, pointing out your opponent's luck suggests that he is winning or has won due to that luck and not due to his skill. Even if he was unbelievably lucky, it's poor form and bad sportsmanship.

Remember that most players tend to overlook their own lucky rolls as well as their opponent's horror shakes. This is human nature. Most players also forget that the better you play, the luckier you seem to be, because you have positioned yourself for more good rolls and protected against more of the bad ones.

When a player tells me how lucky I was just after I've beaten him, I calmly say "Yes, I was lucky to have drawn you as my opponent."

2. Don't call out bad rolls for your opponent, or good rolls for yourself. It's irritating and capricious.
3. Don't handle the doubling cube unless you mean to double. In fact, this could even be (consciously or unconsciously) a form of cheating as you are able to preview his reaction to an offered double without actually cubing.
4. Don't roll until your opponent has picked up his dice. Rolling too soon, or while he's in the process of picking up his dice, can only create conflict as to whether or not the roll counted, or whether or not the player had truly finished thinking about his play. And quick rolling unfairly makes the opponent feel rushed.
5. Don't laugh, chortle, or giggle when your opponent gets a bad roll, and do not vocally rejoice when you get a good one. It's irritating and impolite.
6. Don't play like a turtle. It's fine to sit and think about a really tough play or cube decision. Even the top experts need time to consider all the variables. But if you have a simple choice between two plays early in the game, taking more than a few seconds to make the choice is

really inconsiderate.

We all agree that longer matches are a better test of skill (the better player is more likely to win), but we are often discouraged from having longer matches because some people just take too long. It ruins the fun, as well as the fairness of the game.

If I had an hour to look at every move, I am sure I would make less mistakes. But it would be a horrible game to play or watch. (When playing on-line, it is particularly unsportsmanlike to take a long time, as that time could be used to run the position through a computer program such as Snowie™ or JellyFish™. Even if that's not done, it's not fair to make your opponent worry about such a possibility.)

7. Don't engage in conversations with kibitzers or people at the next table. Don't talk on your cellphone, wear headphones, or anything else but give your full, polite attention to the match.
8. If you wish to stop and copy a board position for later analysis, first ask your opponent if he would mind. Do it quickly and don't do it too often.
9. Don't say "Nice roll," or "Good game," after every good roll and after every game. Complimenting your opponent's rolls is just another way of telling him he's lucky. If you want to compliment him on a play, or cube decision, or well-played game after the match is over, that's fine.

HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED any of the above? Of course you have. Is it because your opponent is a bad sport? Not always. Often, people just don't realize that these things are offensive.

Feel free to copy this article and make it available to the members of your club. When people play backgammon in a sportsmanlike manner, everyone wins. Δ

\$100,000 bet from another BG player. He had to get breast implants (and keep them). The event was written up in *Maxim* magazine July 1998 issue. Watch for the movie!... **Kit Woolsey's** GammOnline, an online BG publication is now offering free previews at: www.gammoline.com. The subscription rate will be \$36/year... Here's two more websites to check out: **Art Grater's** BG Portal <<http://www.backgammon.com>> and **Webby's** Backgammon Site <<http://marina.fortunecity.com/frog/303/BGHome.htm>>... Backgammon By

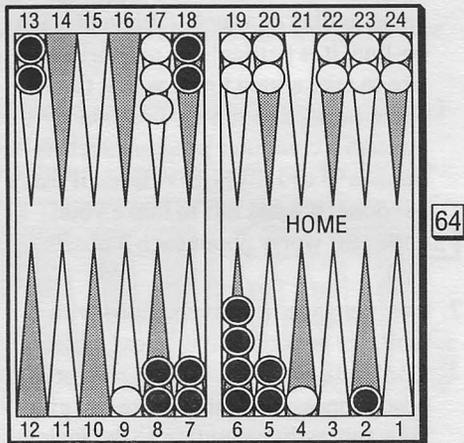
The Bay's home, the San Mateo Bridge Center abruptly closed it's doors on 31 May leaving them homeless for now. Contact **Beth Skillman** for the latest (831/688-9722)... The New England Backgammon Club moves to the Holiday Inn in Somerville, MA with a "Housewarming Tourney" on 13 June... Diamond anniversary congratulations to **Wally Wolf** (MI) on his 75th birthday 29 May celebrated at the Chicago Open. Wife **Gayle** surprised him with cake for all attendees following the Calcutta auction... **Barry Steinberg**

has stepped down as director of the Beltway Backgammon Club (MD). **David Montgomery** will serve as acting director. Also, **Bill Etue** has replaced **Bill Pow** as Tyson's Corner (VA) BG Club director... Get well wishes go out to **Sarg Serges** (IL) who is recovering from a hernia operation... **Steve Brown** (MN) finally ended his Twin Cities Club winning streak at 21 straight matches and 6 tournaments in a row... **Elliott Winslow** and **Pia Rasmussen** are tying the knot in Copenhagen, Denmark 22 June. Best wishes! Δ

**PROBLEM #254
ANALYZED**

by Kit Woolsey

1999 Nevada State Championships 19-point finals. Ed Petrillo (Black) leads Ian Macfarlane (White) 17 to 16. **BLACK TO PLAY 6-4.**



Like it or not, Black must hit something and leave some return shots. He is too far behind in the race to play safe with 7/3, 7/1. The question is, which hit is best? There are three possibilities:

- 1) 13/9*, 13/7
- 2) 13/9*, 8/2
- 3) 8/4*, 8/2.

We can quickly eliminate 13/9*, 13/7. This leaves 20 return shots: way too many. Holding the four-prime would be the right idea only if Black had a reasonable chance of forcing White to crunch. That is not the case. Black must cover the blot on the two point and play an attacking game, not a priming game.

The other two plays each leave 13 shot numbers. Since they are equal in that respect, we can examine the other plusses and minuses for each of the plays.

13/9*, 8/2 is the strongest play to win the game. Sending the second checker back is very important, since it will be necessary for Black to contain at least one of White's checkers in order to win the game. This play distributes Black's builders well for the future attack. Not only will Black win more games than if he plays 8/4*, 8/2; he will also win more gammons. The downside, and it is a big one, is leaving three blots.

8/4*, 8/2 has the advantage of leaving only one blot. That is important, both for recovering from a hit and for avoiding getting gammoned. However the follow-up if missed isn't so easy. Black will need a perfect roll to cover the blot on the 4-point without leaving any other shots.

All things considered, if we don't take the cube and the match score into consideration, it appears that the bold 13/9*, 8/2 is the winner. However, the cube and the match score may make a difference.

It may look like gammons are valuable

for Black, since he needs two points to win the match. However, that does not take the cube into account. If White knows what he is doing on his next turn, HE WILL TURN THE CUBE REGARDLESS OF BLACK'S PLAY!

White is the favorite, and the volatility is in the sky. If White hits a shot, he will lose his market by a mile. Black has a take, of course, but White has a very clear double. This means we can totally discount any gammon value for Black. White's gammons don't carry full weight since White needs only three points to win the match, but they are definitely worth something.

Is the match consideration sufficient to change the play? I believe that it is. I know that if I were White behind 3-away, 2-away, I would love seeing all those blots strewn around knowing that I had a clear double on the come. In addition, there is always the chance the White will err and fail to double if Black plays the more conservative 8/4*, 8/2. It is inconceivable that White would fail to double after 13/9*, 8/2. All things considered, it appears that under the match conditions Black should play 8/4*, 8/2.

It is important to take the match score into consideration when choosing between close plays. The different value of gammons for the players can easily be enough to turn an apparently correct play into a losing action. Knowing when to make the necessary adjustments is an important factor for being a winning tournament player. Δ

**WINNER'S
CIRCLE**

Apr.-May 1999

•**1999 Argentine Championship** (Buenos Aires, Argentina; Mondays & Wednesdays in Apr.)... **OPEN WINNERS:** Jimmy Fouquet, Manuel Arce, Alberto Esmerian, Graciela Hoyos. **LIMITED WINNERS:** Jorge Santoro, Alejandro Verna (twice), Vivian Luka.

•**11TH NORDIC WIDE OPEN** (Copenhagen, Denmark; 1-5 Apr.)... **CHAMPIONSHIP** (107): 1-Anders Nielander (DEN), 2-Jonas Sjolander (SWE), 3/4-Klaus Rydeng (DEN) / Michael Brereton (IRE); 1C-Jerry Grandell (SWE), 2C-Yves Negre (FRA), 3C/4C-Stuart Hosen (USA) / Steve Wood (DEN); 1LC-Achim Müller (GER), 2LC-Jurgen Grandstedt (SWE). **ADVANCED** (100): 1-Nicolai Skov (DEN), 2-Michael Loughman (IRE), 3/4-Nicoulin Andre (SWIS) / Brendan Burgess (IRE); 1C-Timo V. (FIN), 2C-Niels Frey (DEN), 3C/4C-Johnny Pedersen (DEN) /

K. Aronsson (SWE); 1LC-Johnny Tennesen (NOR), 2LC-Tobias Hellwag (GER). **INTERMEDIATE** (124): 1-Aco Stancovic (DEN), 2-Jurgen Krarup (DEN), 3/4-Jan Greco (SWE) / S. Larsen (DEN); 1C-Michael Hüge (DEN), 2C-Mattias Oscarson (SWE), 3C/4C-Preben Larsen (DEN) / Martin Reeh (DEN); 1LC-R. Kock Larsen (DEN), 2LC-Mattias Strumph (GER). **NOVICE** (87): 1-Poul La Cour (DEN), 2-John Due (DEN), 3/4-Irina Hansen (DEN) / Jess Smergel-Krogh (DEN); 1C-Clement Breum (DEN), 2C-Martin Poulsen (DEN), 3C/4C-Preben Guldborg (DEN) / Jens Raith; 1LC-Lennart Staarup (DEN), 2LC-J. Thyssen (DEN). **BEGINNER** (47): 1-Marcus Vickery (DEN), 2-Bent Christensen (DEN), 3/4-Michael Bentzen (DEN) / Flem. Rasmussen (DEN); 1C-Gholam Olesen (DEN), 2C-Sabine Jahn (DEN), 3C/4C-Jerry Hansen (DEN) / Ole Hansen (DEN); 1LC-Lars Markussen (DEN), 2LC-Martin Hansen (DEN). **\$2000 SUPERJACKPOT** (8): 1-Michael Meyburg (GER), 2-Nick Ballard (USA). **\$1000 SUPERJACKPOT** (16): 1-Michael Meyburg (GER), 2-Phil Laak (USA).

\$1000 SUPERJACKPOT (8): 1-Nick Ballard (USA), 2-Dirk Schiemann (GER). **DOUBLES** (62): 1-Jens & Christian Raith, 2-Leonid Riskin & Jakov. **TEAM:** 1-GamesGrid Guide 1999 (Jens Neregaard, Shinichiro Kaneko, Kenji Shimodaira), 2-East Coast Hustlers (Henrik Gwinner, Seong Lee, Thomas W. Hansen). **UNDER 21 EVENT** (15): 1-Peter Switon. **FIGHTER PRIZE:** Ken Bang Henriksen (DEN). **DANISH PLAYER OF THE YEAR:** Rasmus G. Hansen (DEN).

•**Nation's Capital Spring Open** (Bethesda, MD; 9-11 Apr.)... **OPEN:** 1-Bill Finneran, 2-Joseph Freedman, 1C-Chen Fu Yu, 4-David Montgomery.

•**5th European BG News Mayday Tournament** (Murcia, Spain; 26 Apr-2 May)... **CHAMPIONSHIP** (32): 1-Rolf Vetch (SWI), 2-Stefan Bohr (GER), 3/4-Markus Michel (GER) / Werner Hertel (GER); 1C-Dag Kemark (NOR), 2C-Carstan Joh (GER); 1LC-Luis Rico Ruiz (FIN), 2LC-Daniel Scheideger (SWI). **\$8000 SUPER JACKPOT:** 1-Markus Michel (GER), 2-Ronald Reinhardt (GER).

[Continued on page 9]

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Conditions

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- Assistants: Alfonso Sara, Dario Zaccariotto
- Precision Dice: available at the tournament
- Dal Negro Tournament BOARDS
- Last 16 will play with chess clock
- NIGHT: playing room open till 4:00 am
- SNOWIE 2: challenge the new version on display at the tournament

Thursday, 8th July

15:30-20:00 Registration
16:00 Jackpot Programme
18:00 Quarter Entries
22:00 Warm up
23:00 Superjackpot

Friday, 9th July

15:30-19:30 Registration
15:30 Seminar by Neil Kazaross
17:30 Team Tournament
21:00 Public draw
22:00 Tournament begins

Saturday, 10th July

14:30 Seminar by Neil Kazaross
16:00 Tournament continues
Progressive Consolation
23:00 Superjackpot

Sunday, 11th July

13:00 Last Chance
15:00 Finals
19:00 Prize-giving and cocktails

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OFFICIAL SUPPLIER

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WINNERS...

[Continued from page 8]

GIN RUMMY (64): 1-Stefan Borg (GER), 2-Jerzy Benke (GER), 3/4-Martin de Bruin (SPA) / Walter Jarc (CAN). WARM-UP (32): 1-Luis Rico Ruiz (SPA), 2-Carstan Joh (GER), 3/4-Walter Jarc (CAN) / Markus Michel (GER)... *The original \$23,000 Added event in Almeria was cancelled in early April when the tourney sponsor Ali Nanji was arrested for murder. The replacement venue (Murcia Casino) added \$4,000.*

•**Backgammon by the Bay Alameda** (Alameda, CA; 2 May)... OPEN (15): 1-David Nordlinger, 2-Lorien Armstrong.

•**Milwaukee Sunday Bimonthly** (Milwaukee, WI; 7 May)... OPEN (9): 1-Bruce Russell, 2-Rudy Langenbach; 1C/2C-Bob Holyon / Sam Pottle. LIMITED (4): 1/2-Ron Weiner / Lee Pflugrad.

•**County Cups Trophy** (Nottingham, England; 8-9 May)... OPEN (62): 1-Dod Davies, 2-John Slattery. FRIDAY KO (17): 1-John Gale, 2-Brian Lever. DOUBLES KO (13): 1-Skip To The Loo, 2-Foxy F*ckers. SUPER JACKPOT (8): 1-John Gale, 2-Paul

Lamford. TOP INTERMEDIATE: David Nathan.

•**Carlsberg Helsinki Open** (Helsinki, Finland; 14-16 May)... CHAMPIONSHIP (22): 1-Jörgen Granstedt (SWE), 2-Tapio Palmroth, 3/4-Jonas Sjölander (SWE) / Konstantin Nedrassov (RUS); 1C-Ollivier Egger (SWI), 2C-Heikki Rantalaiho. INTERMEDIATE (7): 1-Lari Mattila. NEW PLAYERS (8): 1-Riku Molander, 2-Reijo Silomaa. DOUBLES (10): 1-Petter Bengtsson (SWE) & Hannu Lyyjynen, 2-Johanna Pönniö & Jorma Tattari. SAUNABLITZ (16): 1-Lari Mattila, 2-Matti Tiernari. LAST CHANCE (10): 1-Jakov Nepomnotachiy (RUS), 2-Ray Tannen (UK).

•**NEBC Sunday Monthly** (Cambridge, MA; 16 May)... EXPERT (16): 1-Jerry Padova, 2-Walter Trice, 3/4-Felix Yen / Evan Diamond; 1C-Ed Ahola, 2C-Nora Luna. A/B DIV. (19): 1-Yoav Elinevsky, 2-Joe Moore, 3/4-Marty Gross / John Leonard; 1C-Tom Girnius, 2C-Paul Farrand.

•**Backgammon by the Bay Monthly** (San Mateo, CA; 16 May)... OPEN (19): 1-David Marona, 2-Jonathan Weinstein, 3/4-Odis Chenault / Brian Farr; 1C-Timothy Jaxon, 2C-Kit Woolsey. INTERMEDIATE (10): 1-Bill Landry, 2-Christian Stoddard; 1C-David

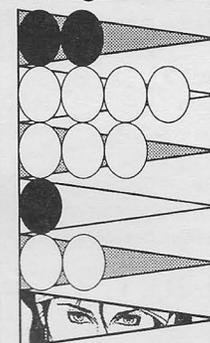
Feinberg. BEGINNER (5): 1-Michael Austin, 2-Jen Wickboldt.

•**Albany Club Monthly** (Halfmoon, NY; 23 May)... OPEN (8): 1-Linc Bedell, 2-Marc Gray.

•**Ace Point May Flowers Tournament** (New York, NY; 23 May)... OPEN (12): 1-Alex Rasic, 2-Anna Binder, 3/4-Phil Laak / Jes Bondo; 1C-Steve Elkin. NOVICE (5): 1-Charles Hughes, 2-Jenny Reddock; 1C-Robert Regan. Δ

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11th European Backgammon Championship 9th Mitteleuropa Backgammon - and Black-jack - Tournament

HIT Casinò Park of Nova Gorica (Slovenia)

from Friday 3rd to Sunday 5th September 1999

supported by the Slovenian Ministry of Tourism
and valid for the official title of WBF European Championship 1999

Valid also of the 1999 WBF official Italian Championship

Tournament Committee

To be announced at the Tournament under the Presidency of **Alberto da Pra**, president of the Worldwide Backgammon Federation

Tournament Director

Marco Fornasir
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Entries Fees

MASTER (13 pt) 750.000 Lire (38 7,34 €)
CHAMPION (11 pt) 250.000 Lire (129,11 €)
INTERMEDIATE (7 pt) 100.000 Lire (51,65 €)

Registration Fees

1999 WBF MEMBERS 30.000 Lire (15,49 €)
NON MEMBERS 50.000 Lire (25,82 €)

million Italian Lire
as minimum guaranteed combined money prize
65
(33.570 Euro)

Accommodations

HIT PARK HOTEL
Delpinova 5 - Nova Gorica (ph. 386-65-28225)
Single Double
about 124.000 Itl about 90.000 Itl
(64 €) (46,48 €)
per night (+ 2.200 Itl. taxes)
Rates valid for direct reservations only. Fax reservation by August 16 to 386-65-22381.
Attn: Reception. Mention "Backgammon".

Monday, August 30

19:30-20:00 Registration
Backgammon Tournament at Park Hotel
20:00 Black-jack Tournament
at the Casino
22:30 Quarter-entries, Jackpots,
Minijackpots and Speedy Mini-Jackpots

Tuesday, August 31

10:30 Excursion
19:30-20:00 Registration at Park Hotel
20:00 Black-jack Tournament
at the Casino
22:30 Quarter-entries, Jackpots,
Minijackpots and Speedy Mini-Jackpots

Wednesday, September 1

10:30 Excursion

19:30-20:00 Registration at Park Hotel

20:00 Black-jack Tournament
at the Casino
22:30 Quarter-entries, Jackpots,
Minijackpots and Speedy Mini-Jackpots

Thursday, September 2

17:30 Public draw for warm-up
(free of charge)
18:00 Start of play Warm-up, Quarters,
Jackpots, Minijackpots and Speedy
Mini-Jackpots
20:00 Black-jack Tournament at the
Casino; Public draw for Sperti Trophy
(free of charge - only for WBF
supporters)
20:00-22:30 Break for Dinner
22:30 Start of Sperti Trophy

Friday, September 3

17:00 Warm-up, Sperti Trophy, Quarters,
Jackpots, Minijackpots and Speedy
Mini-Jackpots continues
19:00-20:00 Registration at Park Hotel
20:00 Welcome cocktail in hotel lounge;
Black-jack Tournament at the Casino
22:00 Last registration
22:30 Public draw
23:00 Start of play, Quarters, Jackpots,
Minijackpots and Speedy Mini-Jackpots

Saturday, September 4

16:00 Main Tournament continues and
start of Progressive Consolation
Tournament
17:00 Quarters, Jackpots, Minijackpots
and Speedy Mini-Jackpots

20:00 Black-jack Tournament
at the Casino

20:00-22:30 Break for Dinner
22:30 Saturday Franz Josef Super-
Jackpot and play continues

Sunday, September 5

15:00 Start of Last Chance Tournament,
Finals, Quarters, Jackpots, Minijackpots
and Speedy Mini-Jackpots
17:00 Black-jack Tournament at the
Casino Semifinals and finals
20:30 Schönbrunn dinner party and
awarding ceremony at Park Hotel

The organization reserves the right to change the program in any of its parts. Changes will be announced in advance and posted on the Notice Board. The Trophies will be presented only during the awarding ceremony.



HIT HOTEL CASINO PARK

Hotels Casinos Tourism