

by Duane Jensen

*Is that a backgammon board next to those bottles of Johnny Walker?" asked the stranger.*

*"Yes it is," said 'Spotty' McDonough, the bartender. "It's been behind the bar for months, but no one knows how to play the game."*

*"Put the board on the bar and I'll show you all how to play. It's really a fun game," said the stranger.*

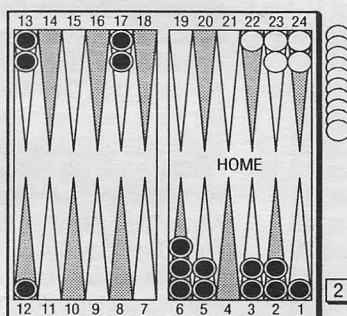
That was how it began for me, an enthusiastic and intimate introduction to backgammon, an exposure that has stuck for years. The stranger was a guy named Larry, about 6'-1", 190 pounds, with blond hair that kept falling into his eyes. We never learned much about him except that he once drove a cab in New York City and that he moved around the country a lot. I don't know how he ended up in a small bar in St. Paul, Minnesota, but we enjoyed his company and appreciated the time he took to teach us this new game called backgammon. He told us about the doubling cube, pip counts, and crossovers. He gave us very simplistic guidelines for playing such as . . .

*"Count the number of crossovers it takes to bring all your men into your home board. If you have one less crossover than your opponent, you should consider doubling. If you have two fewer crossovers than your opponent, you probably have a double and it's probably a take. If you have three fewer crossovers than your opponent, you certainly have a double and it's probably a drop."*

I would later learn that a crossover wasn't just a counting tool, but that it could

be the most important consideration in selecting a checker play. Look at the position below:

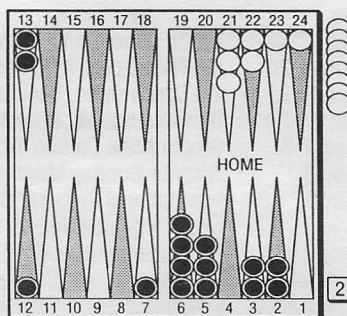
**Pos. 1:**  
Money game.  
Black to play 4-2.



Black is in a desperate position trying to escape the gammon. His only hope is to roll two sets of big doubles. Two sets of doubles give him eight possible crossovers, seven used to bring his men home and one crossover used to bear off a man. Black must play 13/11, 13/9 because it's the only play that gives him two crossovers. There is no "second best" play: all others lose.

**IT ISN'T ALWAYS** the case that the best play is to make the most crossovers. Look at my poor choice in my match with Kent Goulding from a Chicago tournament. I've got a nice 5-5 to play that should get me off the gammon easily . . . if I play it correctly:

**Pos. 2:**  
Money game.  
Black to play 5-5.



I chose 13/3(2) getting four crossovers with my play. In my haste, I missed the point that my goal was to escape the gammon in my next two rolls. A better play would have been 13/8(2), 8/3, 12/7, a position that avoids more gammons.

**LET'S LOOK AT SOMEONE** making the correct play for a change. In this money game Fred

[Continued on page 5]

*1999 michigan summer championships*

## MICHIGANIANS WIN BIG IN MICHIGAN

**Gary Margosian grabs Open title  
Michigan Master is Frank Talbot**

**I**t was the first tournament of his life and he's only been playing two weeks.

So said the new Michigan Summer Champion Gary Margosian of Ann Arbor, Michigan after winning the biggest event on the ABT tour.



*Open victor Gary Margosian and son Michael display Gary's prizes—the 1st place trophy and a Noble Games BG set. [All Michigan photos by Patrick Gibson.]*

Carol Joy Cole's Summer annual (staged at the Novi Hilton and dominated by Michigan players) drew over 200 participants from across the continent for a 4th of July weekend packed with fun,

[Continued on page 7]

**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

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## LETTERS

c/o CHICAGO POINT

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## CLARIFYING FOR "DOUBLING NOVICE"

"Doubling Novice" erred in describing what took place between Neil Kazaross and myself at the recent Chicago Open. Neil and I discussed the position in both match and money terms. In the match context, I didn't evaluate the position to be a "big pass" and Neil didn't say it was a "big take." In money terms, Neil thought it was a much easier take than I did. It turns out that Neil was right based on a Snowie™ rollout.

I applied this Snowie rollout result (500 games, 3-ply, huge, 50%), to Kit Woolsey's (dead cube) match equities. The answer: Pass = 55% match equity, Take = 54.94% match equity.

How "alive" is the cube in this situation? My take point of a Neil redouble to 8 is 15%, so Neil gets a lot less "life" out of the cube than in a money situation. But,

[Continued on page 3]

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR



by Carol Joy Cole  
810/232-9731  
[cjc@tir.com](mailto:cjc@tir.com)

\* Denotes new or revised listing

American Backgammon Tour events underlined.

### NATIONAL

Jul 15*	NEW VENUE: Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Days Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Jul 17	Hawthorne Backgammon Classic, Hawthorne Race Course, Cicero, IL	773/583-6464
Jul 18	Albany Club Monthly, 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 18*	Austin Bimonthly Tournament, Bombay Bicycle Club, Austin, TX	512/261-8518
Jul 18*	Potomac River BG Picnic, River Bend Park, Great Falls, VA	703/620-3153
Jul 24*	NEW DATE: 1999 Hawaii State Championships, Pacific Club, Honolulu, HI	808/735-5252
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 1*	Official GamesGrid Monthly Tournament, via computer <a href="mailto:tournaments@cyberarts.com">tournaments@cyberarts.com</a>	
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 13-15*	FIBStock '99, Gig Harbor Motor Inn, Gig Harbor, WA	206/838-5486
Aug 14*	Backgammon by the Bay Special, Bloom's Irish Pub, Campbell, CA	831/688-9722
Aug 15	Albany Club Monthly, Fuller Road House, Albany, NY	518/382-1098
Aug 19	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Days Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Aug 21-22	Summer Sizzler Picnic & Tourney, Zell's, W. Peoria & Sly Fox, Lacon, IL	309/674-0557
Aug 28*	Clarine's Monthly Tournament, A.R. Private Club, Los Angeles, CA	213/822-9745
Aug 29*	Ace Point Sunday Tournament, Ace Point Club, New York, NY	212/753-0842
Sep 1*	Lainer's September/October Tournament, via computer <a href="mailto:fibs@lainer.com">fibs@lainer.com</a>	
<u>Sep 3-6</u>	<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 5*	Backgammon by the Bay, The Whole Shabang, Alameda, CA	831/688-9722
Sep 12*	Austin Bimonthly Tournament, Bombay Bicycle Club, Austin, TX	512/261-8518
Sep 12*	New England Club Monthly, Holiday Inn, Somerville, MA	781/938-7852
Sep 16*	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Days Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Sep 19*	Albany Club Monthly, Fuller Road House, Albany, NY	518/382-1098
Sep 19*	Backgammon by the Bay, New location TBA, California	831/688-9722
Sep 24-26	1st Ohio State Champs & NetGammon Festival II, Comfort Inn, Canton, OH	330/498-9801
<u>Sep 24-26*</u>	<u>Towpath Inn Tournament, Towpath Inn, Turin, NY</u>	<u>716/442-8221</u>
<u>Oct 8-10*</u>	<u>Nation's Capital Championships, Promenade, Bethesda, MD</u>	<u>301/593-8030</u>
<u>Oct 15-17</u>	<u>1999 Florida State Championships, Days Inn, Ft. Lauderdale, FL</u>	<u>954/938-4304</u>
<u>Oct 22-24*</u>	<u>Northeast Regional Tournament, Comfort Inn, Albany, NY</u>	<u>603/863-4711</u>
Oct 27-31	1999 Las Vegas Open, Harrah's Casino & Hotel, Las Vegas, NV	702/893-6025
Nov 7-14*	CANCELLED: Classic Games Cruise, Norwegian Line	702/893-6025
<u>Nov 12-14</u>	<u>Illinois State Championships, Hilton Hotel, Springfield, IL</u>	<u>217/528-0117</u>
<u>Nov 26-28</u>	<u>5th Thanksgiving Weekend, Belden Village Holiday Inn, Canton, OH</u>	<u>330/966-2811</u>
<u>Dec 3-5</u>	<u>44th Gammon Associates Invitational, Los Angeles, CA</u>	<u>818/901-0464</u>

### OUTSIDE USA

Jul 12-18	World Championship, Monte Carlo Grand Hotel, Monaco	USA contact: 954/527-4033
Jul 19-20	8th Nice Open, 7 Pd des Anglais, Nice, France	33393-843679
Jul 22-25	1st Czech Open, Casino Bellevue, Marienbad, Czech Republic	49911-409505
Jul 24-25	Danish Doubles, Erhverv & Kulturcenter, Solrød Strand, 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 12-15*	International Summer Champs, Badrutt's Palace, St. Moritz, Switzerland	4161-2710137
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, Olympia, London, England	<a href="mailto:mso@dickson.demon.co.uk">mso@dickson.demon.co.uk</a>
Aug 22	Newcastle Open, Charlestown, New South Wales, Australia	612-49469222
Aug 28-29	Sjællands Open, Ellegården, Farum, Denmark	4544-994242
Sep 3-5	European Championship/Mitteuropa 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 25-26*	2nd Humlebæk Open 1999, Humlebæk Centret, Humlebæk, Denmark	4520-671995
Sep 30-Oct 3	Asian Championships, Ladies Recreation Club, Hong Kong, China	8522-5231306
Oct 2-3*	Sandy Osborne Trophy, Stakis Nottingham, England	441522-888676
Oct 2-3*	3rd Solrød Open, Solrød, Denmark	4556-146836
Oct 7-10*	Backgammon Turnier Seefeld 1999, Austria Casino, Seefeld, Austria	43664-2303940
Oct 15-17*	Swiss Open, Jackpot Spielcasino, Bern, Switzerland	4179-4015811
Oct 16-17*	bb99 Tournament #4, Great Barr Hotel, Birmingham, England	441522-888676
Oct 26-31*	Grand Prix de Suisse 1999, Lugano, Switzerland	4179-3374425
Dec 8-12	6th Tournament of the Americas, Westin Regina Cancún, Mexico	USA: 773/583-6464



## LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

then again, he doesn't have very far to go.—*Perry Gartner, Englewood, NJ*

### BACKGAMMON BOARD TEMPLATE

I saw Michael Schulman's letter regarding his plans to build a backgammon board. *Fine Woodworking* magazine featured an article on this sort of template. The citation is at <http://www.back-gammon.com/biblio.html> under the author "Boyland."—

*Art Grater, Backgammon Portal, Pebble Beach, CA*

### TOURNAMENT QUESTIONS, ON-AND OFF-LINE

I am the Media Coordinator for the Resource Center of the Skirball Cultural Center in Los Angeles. (Check out web site [www.skirball.com](http://www.skirball.com) for more info on the institution.)

We will be hosting a festival celebrating the Sephardic Jewish community on August 1 and as part of the festival, we will be having an informal backgammon tour-

nament. I have an idea to also have an online version that will allow players here to play with people in other countries. (It would be nice if Israel could be one of the countries.) I will have 2-4 computers dedicated to the game. Have you any suggestions who to contact and how I can arrange this?

Thank you for any and all assistance.—*David Greenfield, via Internet, dgreenfield@skirball.com*

We've forwarded your request to Gammon Associates director Patrick Gibson in Los Angeles. Hopefully, he'll be able to help. If any of our readers have any suggestions, e-mail Mr. Greenfield directly.—Ed.

### HOW TO PLAY ACEY DEUCEY


I'm having a heck of a time trying to find the rules for Acey Deucey, a backgammon variation. Can you help or point me in the right direction?—*R. Teeny, via Internet, rteeny@hevanet.com*

*Art Grater, webmaster of the Backgammon Portal (<http://www.back-gammon.com>), supplies the answer:*

*You start with all your checkers off the board and bring them in on your opponent's home board according to the roll of the dice. Otherwise they move just like normal backgammon. You don't have to bring them all in before you move the others, or even bear them off.*

*When you roll Acey Deucey (1-2), you get to play it, play the doubles of your*


[Continued on page 4]



**AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 1999**

**AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 1999**

Compiled through 5 July 1999 after 6 tournaments  
(Next 3 events: 1000 Islands, Minnesota State, 47th Indiana Open)



**AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 1999**

Neil Kazaross	46.59	Steve Hast	6.40	Gyl Savoie	3.69	Gordon Bass	1.94
Gary Margosian	29.69	Art Benjamin	6.11	Jon Stephens	3.69	Jim Johnson	1.94
Paul Franks	20.59	Rudy Citrom	6.11	Neil Young	3.69	George Maloyan	1.75
Frank Frigo	14.87	John Brussel	5.88	Roz Ferris	3.20	Aaron Ashmann	1.71
Lincoln Bedell	14.84	Len Dangremond	5.83	James Roston	3.13	George Barr	1.71
Jeff Burdsall	13.74	Christopher Yep	5.83	Aram Kouleyan	3.05	Rick Johnson	1.53
Phil Undieme	11.65	Niel Borden	5.77	Glenn Swanson	2.95	Fred Ishac	1.45
Paul Weaver	11.65	Gary Marchenia	5.25	Adam Versaw	2.90	Denny Leatherman	1.45
Mike Shanas	11.44	Joann Feinstein	5.20	Pete Lewandowski	2.90	Ramez Abi-Akar	1.44
Matt Reklaitis	11.20	Hugh Sconyers	5.17	Jobey Calitri	2.89	Dirk Hogan	1.34
Carol Falk	11.03	Malcolm Davis	5.17	Gary Fries	2.59	A.J. Fronce	1.05
Alice Kay	10.75	Roger Nellist	5.06	Ralph Levy	2.40	Irv Taylor	1.05
Clarine	10.40	Steve McCormick	4.80	Jerry Kruth	2.22	Mark Haley	0.99
Steve Sax	10.29	Howard Markowitz	4.76	Ed King	2.22	Gilles Blais	0.99
Fred Kalantari	10.29	Harvey Huie	4.41	Lucky Nelson	2.21	Glenn Martells	0.82
Paul Friedman	9.82	Sam Pottle	4.28	Dean Kaloudis	2.17	Alex Shoshoo	0.75
Drew Giovanis	9.65	Leslie Lockett	4.18	Paul Mangone	2.17	Ron Weiner	0.62
Fred Gehlhoff	9.44	Stuart Hosen	4.16	Kerim Urkun	2.14	Bill Chibnik	0.53
Charlie Russell	9.29	Mary Franks	4.12	Sean Garber	2.08	Boris Mindich	0.53
Steve Mellen	7.85	Mike Rezai	4.06	Rudy Langenbach	2.08	Tony Garcia	0.52
Jack Kissane	7.42	Paul Klein	4.06	Vince Frigo	2.00	Gail Newburn	0.22
Andy Palumbo	7.42						



**CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB**

**CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB**

**1999 PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**COMPILED**

**THRU 30 JUNE**

Bob Zavoral	12.56	Ken Bond	4.80	David Araiza	2.48	Sam Pottle	0.74
Steve Mellen	10.32	Carter Mattig	4.40	Georgina Flanagan	2.00	Bill Bartholomay	0.64
Tim Carroll	10.20	Phyllis Smolinski	4.32	Mark Ryan	1.92	Daniel Lillian	0.64
Harold Elgazar	10.00	Gary Kay	4.32	Mary Franks	1.92	Mark Murray	0.48
Neil Kazaross	8.64	Sam Yoyen	3.76	Mark Dalton	1.60	Marty Tatosian	0.48
Ed Buerger	7.88	Tim Mabee	3.48	Elaine Kehm	1.52	Sarg Serges	0.48
Phil Simborg	7.68	Brian Kozin	3.44	Joann Feinstein	1.52	Harry Cohn	0.32
Jake Jacobs	7.68	Laila Leonhardt	3.44	Paul Klein	1.52	Jim Roland	0.32
Joe Wollick	7.12	Norma Shyer	3.36	Peter Kalba	1.32	Tom Machaj	0.30
Paul Franks	6.96	Alice Kay	3.36	George Barr	1.28	Amy Valerio	0.24
Bob Steen	6.88	Jerry Brooks	3.04	Ralph Byrns	1.28	Frank Callea	0.24
Marc Rosset	6.08	Herb Roman	3.04	Richard Stawowy	1.16	Rodney Bell	0.20
Rick Bieniak	6.00	John Jennings	2.88	Ed Zell	0.88	Ken Tyszko	0.16
Arlene Levy	5.36	Don Jayhan	2.64	Glenn Martells	0.88	Sonja Peacock	0.16
Bill Keefe	5.20	Bill Davis	2.56	Jolie Rubin	0.88	Stan Kucharz	0.16
Tak Morioka	5.16	Steve Klesker	2.56	Richard Lloyd	0.88		

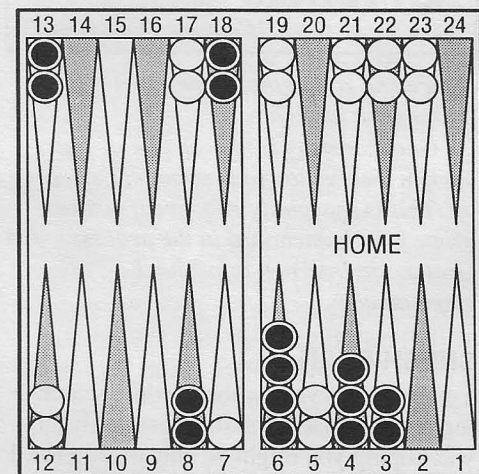
**TIM CARROLL** placed in 5 out of 6 June events to earn his first Player of the Month honors with 4.84 points. Rick Bieniak (4.72) finished a close second, and Tim Mabee placed third earning 3.08 points.

*your move*

**PROBLEM #256**

**to be analyzed by Kit Woolsey**

Match to 5 points. White leads Black, 4 to 3, Crawford. BLACK TO PLAY 2-2.



# ASK DANNY

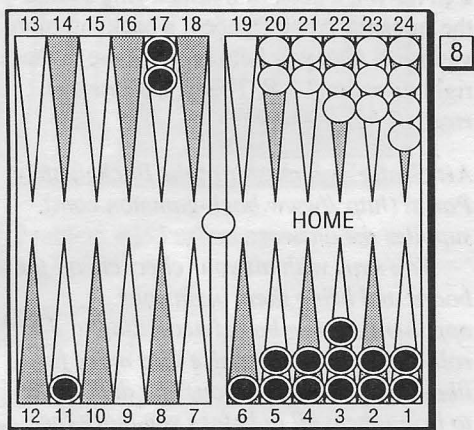
© 1999 by Danny Kleinman



## TO LIFT OR NOT TO LIFT

**D**ear Danny: A number of players at the Deuce Point Club were surprised when Tad Morkan made the following play immediately after giving an 8-cube in a consolation match to 5 points last month:

Match to 5-points. No score between Tad Morkan (Black) and Carver Matley (White). The cube is on 8. **BLACK TO PLAY 4-2.**



Tad played 17/13 with the 4 and surprised many kibitzers by opting for 17/15 with the deuce instead of lifting his 6-blot (6/4). Even though the play worked (Carver fanned and Tad covered with his 6-3 roll), the majority of kibitzers thought lifting the blot was close, but clear.

Danny, I could roll this one out on JellyFish or Snowie to get a solution, but that doesn't teach me how to think over the

board. What is your thought process in solving a problem like this?—*Searching for Reasons*

**DEAR SEARCHING:** For most decisions, I can do no better than follow the procedure of S.J. Simon in his 1946 book *Why You Lose At Bridge*. I'll reformulate Simon's "three key questions" as two:

1. How often and how much can a play gain?
2. How often and how much can it lose?

Left unstated by Simon was the question "compared to what?" For our basis of comparison we may take the "safe" 17/13, 6/4. If Black lifts the blot, he has a small advantage, White's 16-pip lead in the race being more than negated by the fact that he is on the bar against a five point board and must traverse a hitter-infested outfield if he reenters.

### 1. What can leaving the blot gain?

White's 25 dancing rolls give Black 22 rolls with which to cover. On these 550 sequences, Black goes from the modest favorite he would otherwise be after White dances to a virtual lock with a closed board. I'd guess this increases Black's game-winning (and match-winning) chances by about 30%.

### 2. What can leaving the blot lose?

White's 11 hitting rolls do not all represent a loss for Black because double-6s mean victory for White and 6-5 leaves White an overwhelming favorite regardless. The swing arises on White's eight other hitting rolls, which turn White from perhaps a small underdog into an overwhelming favorite. I'd guess this decreases Black's chances by about 50% also. Eight hitting rolls translate to  $36 \times 8 = 288$  hitting sequences.

Clearly, the "bold" 17/13, 17/15 succeeds more often than it fails, by 550 to 288 sequences. We learned this simply by

counting. What is less clear are the gain from success and the loss from failure, which I estimated at 30% and 50% swings in winning chances respectively. Multiplying the frequencies and sizes of gain and loss, we get 30% of 550 = 165 extra wins versus 50% of 288 = 144 extra losses from leaving the blot.

Since the net is positive ( $165 - 144 = 21$ ), I agree with Black's play. Were a *live cube* available to Black, I would favor leaving the blot strongly and unequivocally, for Black doesn't need to roll one of his 22 covering numbers to gain: if White dances, Black can cash with the cube. As it is, I'm uncertain, for my guesses about winning chances may be inaccurate, and I've ignored the small loss when White rolls 6-5.

Note that as Black's winning chances *without* closing his board increase, gains from leaving the blot decrease and losses increase. If White dances and Black isn't able to cover, Black will usually do better to lift the blot next turn.

For this problem, voluminous cubeless JellyFish or Snowie rollouts would be useful. To use these programs properly, you should first confirm what I say about lifting the blot next turn on various non-covering rolls for Black. Does the program always lift? If so, does lifting produce more wins even on small rolls like 2-1? (Rollouts of 15/12 vs. 6/4, 13/12 would help.)

After verifying that the program makes subsequent decisions correctly, you can trust its rollouts of 17/13, 17/15 versus 17/13, 6/4 more than the fallible opinions of the kibitzers . . . or me.—*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](mailto:bg@chicagopoint.com)

## LETTERS...

[Continued from page 3]

choice and roll again. If the extra roll is 1-2, you get it all again.

Good strategy is to keep one of your back in reserve for your opponent's bear-off. This is especially effective if you can prime your homeboard in the process.—*Art Grater, via Internet, info@backgammon.com*

### SHESH-BESH

I came across your website while searching for information about shesh-besh and was hoping you might be able to help me. I know my grandparents used to play the

game of backgammon, and shout out words for the combinations on the dice. Do you know what these words are? Some people say they are Farsi for the numbers on each die; some say they are Kurdish. Do any of your readers know?—*John K., via Internet, jak@gis.net*

Shesh-besh means 6-5, John. It's also the name given to the game. However, we will defer to one of our Middle Eastern readers for the particulars.—*Ed.*

### REAL PEOPLE

I live in Hanover, Pennsylvania. We are about 40 miles south of Harrisburg and 70 miles north of Baltimore, Maryland. Do you know of any clubs or places where real

people show up to play backgammon?—*M.W. Krieger, Jr., via Internet, mwkpak@netrax.net*

We're certain that Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania director Steve Hast or Beltway Club (Maryland) director David Montgomery can help you, Mr. Krieger. But we hope that your request for "real" people doesn't stump them.—*Ed.*

### PRAISE FOR JAKE

I thought Jake Jacobs' June article in the POINT ("The Weeper, the Sleeper and the Belly Beeper") was an excellent piece of story-telling. Well done, Jake.—*David Rubin, Skokie, IL Δ*

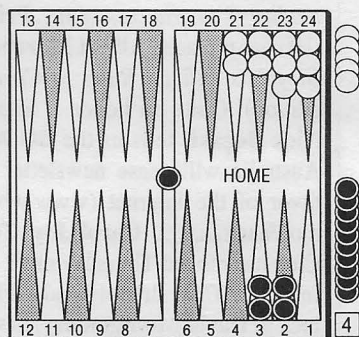


## Crossovers 101...

[Continued from page 1]

Kalantari has a 6-1 to play (from the bar):

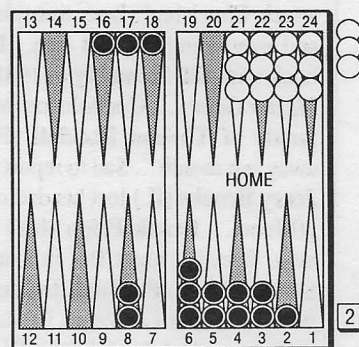
Pos. 3:  
Money  
game.  
Black to  
play 6-1.



After entering, Fred could play 19/18 getting a crossover, or he could play 2/1. With little hesitation, Fred split the men on his 2-point. This fine little ace play gives him good distribution when he brings home his straggler for the bearoff. The ace is more valuable in creating good distribution than in moving his straggler one pip closer to home.

FINALLY, LOOK AT a simple position that gives many people problems. Black is trying to avoid another gammon. He wants to bring his men into his home board as efficiently as possible (usually to his 6-point). How should he play 3-2?

Pos. 4:  
Money  
game.  
Black to  
play 3-2.



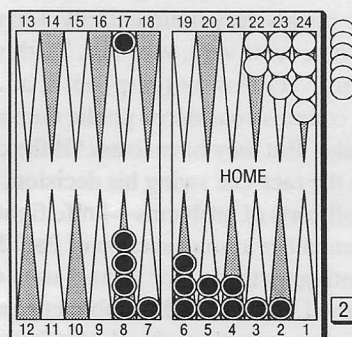
He will certainly play the 2 from 8 to 6, but what about the 3? Should he play 8/5 getting a valuable crossover or should he move one of his other men in the outfield? Black should use the 3 to move one of the three outfield checkers, playing 18/15 or perhaps 16/13 (but definitely not 17/14 as this would duplicate 2s as an efficient crossover in both outer tables).

He should not waste even a *single* pip by bringing a man in from 8/5. He gets gammoned by not rolling enough "pipage" to bring home those three men still in his opponent's outfield. Losing even that one pip can become huge when it comes to

Black's final roll. Also, there are still several rolls left in this game, and Black will probably roll another deuce which he could play economically to his 6-point.

I think some players confuse the position above with the one below. Once again Black is trying to get off the gammon. (I'd suggest not playing with the black checkers

Pos. 5:  
Money  
game.  
Black to  
play 3-2.



—they're very unlucky!) How should Black play this 3/2? ... 8/6, 8/5, or 8/6, 17/14?

Although similar to the previous position, it is markedly different. Black has only a single distant straggler to bring home, but has fewer rolls with which to save the gammon. If he plays 17/14, the next large numbers on the die (the 4s, 5s, and 6s) will be used to bring the straggler closer to home leaving a cluster of about four checkers on the 7-, 8- and 9-points. From this point, any future large numbers will be wasted—used only as crossovers. To put it another way, since you'll probably end up wasting pips as you bring in men from your 7- and 8-points, you may as well use the 3 as a crossover and waste only one pip. Black doesn't have the luxury of time to wait for other 2s to come along to be super efficient and pile up his crossovers on his 6-point.

AND WHAT EVER HAPPENED to the stranger named Larry, the guy who first introduced me to backgammon and crossovers? About two weeks after he taught us our first backgammon lesson, he wanted us to play him for \$5 a point. Nobody bit. This was twenty-five years ago, and \$5 was a lot of money then. Even now I won't walk past \$5 bill if I see it on the sidewalk.

Larry was not the altruistic Johnny Appleseed of backgammon. He didn't go from bar to bar teaching backgammon for the amusement of the patrons. Larry was planting a crop he hoped to harvest. After Larry failed to get anyone to play him for money, Larry vanished, either to another bar or another town down the road. We never saw him again. Larry the Stranger is remembered as Larry the Hustler. Δ

A CHICAGO POINT Contest Puzzle

## GO FIGURE

by Joe Wollick

**1ST PRIZE: 2-year subscription to Chicago Point or \$25.00**

Here's a neat puzzle for all you number crunchers out there. Simply determine which numbers are represented by the letters shown in the puzzle below:

CUBE  
x ME  
GAMMON

Note that all of the first letters (C, M, G) cannot equal 0, and that each letter represents one particular number throughout the equation.

The winner will be determined among those players who solve the problem. Ties will be broken by those who find *both* possible solutions. Further ties will be broken by random draw.

To enter, send your name and address along with your solution(s) to:

**Go Figure**  
c/o Chicago Point  
3940 W. Bryn Mawr Ave. 504  
Chicago, IL 60659-3155

or e-mail: [bg@chicagopoint.com](mailto:bg@chicagopoint.com)

Answers must be received by 1 Sept. 1999. Good luck. This is tougher than it may appear! Δ



## ILLINOIS ACTION



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

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

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

**PUB CLUB:** Tourn. Mon., 7:00 P.M. at Danny's Grill and Bar, 345 W. North Ave., Villa Park. 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).

# Backgammon Players Don't Count

by Bob Zavoral

I would like to talk about something nobody ever talks about any more: counting pips. As in "How to..."

I suppose most chouettes in the world are like ours in Chicago. One person counts pips very fast and accurately, while everyone else counts very rudimentarily. I have had the great pleasure of playing with Jake Jacobs who counts very, very fast. To this day, he still counts very fast and everybody else still counts very slow or (gasp) not at all.

This works because in our game, the pip count is considered public domain. If anyone wants to know the count, they simply asks Jake. But they have to ask! If the captain is considering a difficult move where knowing the race can swing his decision, no one can volunteer the info. To do this would lead to all sorts of problems—knife fights and the like.

So how do they count so fast? I barely remember a small section of Paul Magriel's *Backgammon* in which he discusses pip counting methods. For years, I used one of those called "comparison counting." With this method, I would add or subtract pips by comparing the two positions and come up with a number, say -9 or +8, which of course was meaningless on its own. So to make an informed decision, I would count both sides from scratch. Kind of unwieldy, but it worked . . . well, sort of. We all know how many big tournaments I've won.

With the advent of online backgammon and the "bots," I have noticed something very strange. I play better over the Internet. So I thought and pondered and wondered why. Because I can sit at home, smoke all I want, watch TV, read a book and sit in my underwear, swear and curse all I like? Probably.

After much rumination, I came to the conclusion that always having the pip count conveniently at my disposal made a great difference in my play. Such a small thing. So with this awareness, I set out to improve my over-the-board pip counting abilities.

As fast as Jake counts, "...there is another." (A little *Star Wars* lingo . . . I had to throw it in. Anybody know from which movie?) Anyway, it's Jack Kissane of Albany, New York. Jack counts so fast (*How fast is he?*) that when he plays JellyFish™, JF asks *him* for the count.

At a Midwest tournament years ago, Jack was apparently suffering jet lag. He slept through our chouette all weekend. Every 15 minutes or so, we would nudge him. "Jack, what's the count?"

He'd wake up for a microsecond and say, "122 to 110," then go back to sleep. "Best chouette I ever had!" he later confided.

So we had to ask him how he counted so fast. "Clusters," he said.

According to an article he wrote for CHICAGO POINT back in November 1992, Jack memorizes certain positions on the board that occur again and again and knows through hard work and practice what the count is. For example, two men on the 8-point and two on the bar point is 30 pips. Or two on your opponent's 5-point is 40 pips. You can get very fast with this method.

Personally, I like to count in groups of 10. That is, find two points on the board that when added, equal a multiple of 10. 6- and 4-points = 10, mid- and bar-point = 20, two on the 10-point = 20, two on the 3-point and two on the 2-point = 10.

The idea is to find groupings, or clusters that equal an easy-to-remember amount during your count, and practice, practice, practice. After this, counting pips will become second nature. Simple.

After you become proficient at this, *you* will be the one called on in your chouette for the pip count, which is really fun when you're wrong. Imagine a player redoubling to 8 on your mistaken count, then getting beavered! Time for a vacation.

If counting still presents a problem, remember that it won't be long before us boardmakers get off our collective duffs and start to build boards that count for you. Hey, not a bad idea! Δ

*Bob Zavoral is currently the number one ranked player at the Chicago Bar Point Club. He is also a backgammon board craftsman. Look for his sets on display at the National Labor Day Tournament in Indianapolis.—Ed.*

## AMALGAMATION

Wendy Kaplan (IL) is stage manager of "Bye Bye Birdie," playing at Gilson Park in Wilmette through 24 July. To attend, contact Wendy at: [madkap@interaccess.com](mailto:madkap@interaccess.com). . . **Prince Joli Kansil** (HI) has replaced **Albert Morehead** as editor of *Bicycle's Official Rules of Card Games* (88th edition). Quite an honor. . . Sign of the times: **Nick Begakis** tells us the BG Assoc. of South Australia will cease newsletter distribution in favor of the Internet ([www.wbf.net/backgammon/australia](http://www.wbf.net/backgammon/australia))... **Carol Joy Cole's** Flint BG Club has moved Thursday night action to Day's Inn, G-2207 W. Bristol Road in Flint, MI... Good luck to **David Montgomery**, new Beltway Club contact ([www.cs.umd.edu/~monty/bbc.htm](http://www.cs.umd.edu/~monty/bbc.htm)) who will be directing his first major event, the Nation's Capitol Champs, 8-10 Oct.... **Linda Resnicoff** (NJ) informs us that the Mid Jersey Club has a new Thursday location: the Seagull Restaurant in Hazlet, NJ... It's great to lose pounds (unless you're playing in a London chouette!). Congrats to **Glenn Martells** (IL) who has shed 130 pounds and **Bob Glass** (CA), who has dropped 70 pounds... Best wishes to **John Stryker** (IL) and **Ronora Smith** who are newly engaged... Kudos to Carol Joy Cole and her online site: "Mark Your Calendar: Alive!" ([www.chicagopoint.com/calendar.html](http://www.chicagopoint.com/calendar.html)) The informative site earned an "Editor's Choice" award from Netscape... Legendary gamer **Chuck Papazian** died in New York on 22 June. The 52-year-old who played many games at the expert level, died of a heart attack. Chuck had a heart transplant six years ago and everything seemed fine. He authored one book with **Bill Kennedy** in 1981: *Backgammon Master Games*... Condolences to the friends and family of **Thelma Randall** (FL) who passed away last month... Sad to report that BPC player **Jerry Brooks** (IL) lost his dad on Father's Day, 20 June.... **Frank Frigo** (KY) tells us that for now, Tuesday night BG in Louisville is off... Surprise Dept.: **Paul and Diane Friedman** (IL) were married in Las Vegas 10 March in a no-frills ceremony. And don't blame Diane for his June black eye! Paul actually got hit by a stray golf ball and needed nine stitches to close the wound... End of an era: BPC player **Brian Kozin** (IL) closed the No-Exit Café (Rogers Park, Chicago) on 30 June. Brian owned the famed chess/games/music coffee house for 22 of its 40 year existence... Pub Club director **Joe Wollick** (IL) invites you to the new Monday night location, Danny's Grill & Bar in Villa Park... Did you see Florida BG player **Kit Salisbury** on Jeopardy 7-8 June? He won \$12,200 the first day, losing on day two. Jeopardy host **Alex Trebek** (who is a BG player himself), asked Kit about his backgammon. Kit said he mostly played on the Internet. Then Alex gave Kit this tip: "The best way to learn to play backgammon well is for money." Δ



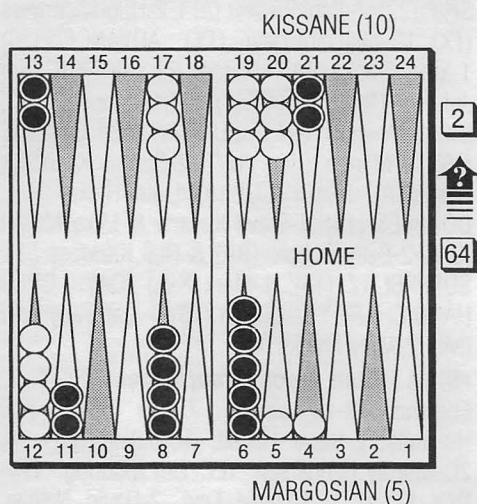
## MICHIGANIANS...

[Continued from page 1]

games, and with this year's champion, some wild action!

The 47-year-old Margosian, who CJC nicknamed "Rambo" in her March 1995 newsletter, came back from a 12-6 deficit in the 13-point semifinals against Linc Bedell (NH) to get a shot at New York's Jack Kissane in the undefeated bracket finals. Jack, who claims to have a "good record" against weaker players (and Jack was clearly the betting favorite here), played a steady, almost overly-cautious match against Gary and after 10 games, lead the 13-point contest 10-5. Not too many rolls into the next game, Gary decided to "make something happen."

13-point finals of the undefeated grid. Jack Kissane (White) leads Gary Margosian (Black), 10 to 5. Black on roll. **SHOULD BLACK DOUBLE?**

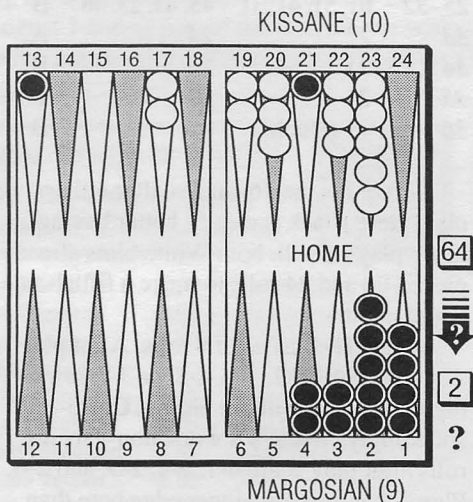


Certainly not a double in this or any other galaxy. Jack took with a smile on his face. But when Gary tossed 4-4 putting two

men up, then closed Jack out within five rolls to win a gammon, Jack's smile was gone.

Perhaps aware that Gary was a loose cannon, Jack made a hawkish double in the next game:

13-point finals of the undefeated grid. Jack Kissane (White) leads Gary Margosian (Black), 10 to 9. White on roll. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



With the race tied at 62-all, Margosian properly accepted. Jack hit loose with his 4-3, Gary responded with 4-6 hitting back. Jack danced with 4-1 and Gary redoubled Jack out.

The tide had turned. Gary won the next game eliminating Kissane 13-10 to become a huge favorite to win it all.

Second chance victor Linc Bedell would have one more shot at Gary. The Northeast Regional director would have to win two in a row against Margosian, a fearless warrior armed with good dice and aggressive play.

Gary's first game set the match tone. He opened with a 4-2 and on his next turn, threw Linc a 2-cube. Linc "took the bait" and was hooked for a gammon on the first cast. Linc ended up losing the match 13-2 in just over 1/2 hour. Congratulations to Gary Margosian on his memorable win.

**MICHIGANIANS** won the other big events as well. Frank Talbot topped Ken Arnold in the \$15,000 Michigan Masters finals. More Michigan winners included Intermediate victor Phil Undieme, Novice champ Vince Frigo, Open Doubles winners Karen Davis (NY) and Pete Lewandowski, and Intermediate Doubles champs Len Dangremond & Dan Grogan.

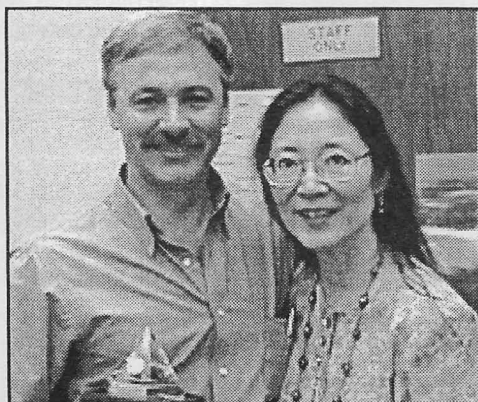
Congrats to all the winners and to Carol Joy Cole and company for another job well done. Complete results at right. Δ



Michigan Master's Champ Frank Talbot.

### 1999 MICHIGAN SUMMER CHAMPIONSHIPS

**OPEN (89):** 1-Gary Margosian (MI), 2-Linc Bedell (NH), 3-Jack Kissane (NY), 4/5-Gyl Savoie (MI)/Jon Stephens (OH); **1C-Frank Frigo (KY)**, 2C-Andy Palumbo (NY), 3C/4C-Steve Mellen (IL)/Neil Young (FL). **INTERMEDIATE (64):** 1-Phil Undieme (MI), 2-Len Dangremond (MI), 3-Adam Versaw (PA); 1C-Christopher Yep (OH), 2C-Pete Lewandowski (MI), 3C/4C-Fred Ishac (MI)/Denny Leatherman (PA). **NOVICE (18):** 1-Vince Frigo (MI), 2-Mark Haley (CAN); 1C-Gilles Blais (CAN), 2C-Tony Garcia (NC). **MICHIGAN MASTERS (32):** 1-Frank Talbot (MI), 2-Ken Arnold (CA). **SUMMER FREEZE-OUT (32):** 1-Rob Maier (IN), 2-Peter Zacks (CA). **OPEN DOUBLES (32):** 1-Karen Davis (NY) & Pete Lewandowski (MI), 2-Jeff Acierno (NY) & Andy Palumbo (NY), 3/4-Bill Davis (IL) & Tak Morioka (IL)/Bob Hill (NY) & Larry Liebster (NJ). **LIMITED DOUBLES (13 teams):** 1-Len Dangremond (MI) & Dan Grogan (MI), 2-Gilles Blais (CAN) & Claude LeDuc (CAN). **MICHIGAN BLITZ (128):** 1-Jim Hickey (GA), 2-Dean Adamian (MI). **FIRECRACKER JACKPOT \$1000 (8):** 1-Mike Senkiewicz (NY). **\$300 (16):** 1-Roger Gabrielson (CA), 2-John Gamalielson (OR). **\$100 (16):** 1-Chester Warzel (IN), 2-Denny Leatherman (PA). **\$20 DETROIT QUICKIES #1 (64):** 1-Jim Hickey (GA), 2-Steve Mellen (IL). **#2 (64):** 1-Jeff Acierno (NY), 2-Bob Hill (NY). **\$10 DETROIT QUICKIES (64):** 1-Sean Garber (IN), 2-Tony Garcia (NC). **THURSDAY WARM-UP \$50 (32):** 1-Jim Pascoe (CT), 2-Ray Glaeser (FL), 3/4-Timothy Jaxon (CA)/Jon Stephens (OH). **\$30 (29):** 1-Peter Kalba (IL), 2-Rick Todd (MI), 3/4-John Gamalielson (OR)/Jim Slomkoski (MI). **\$20 (29):** 1-Len Dangremond (MI), 2-Gayle Wolf (MI), 3/4-Tice Brown (MI)/John Herron (MI). **EARLYBIRD JACKPOT \$50 (16):** 1-Patrick Gibson (CA), 2-Herb Roman (IL). **\$25 (16):** 1-Jeb Horton (NC), 2-Pete Lewandowski (MI).

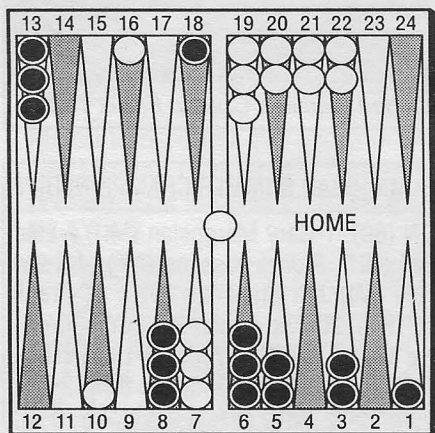


Intermediate champion Phil Undieme receives his trophy from tourney director Carol Joy Cole.

# PROBLEM #255 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.**



**P**roblem #255 offers up two plays to consider:

A. 18/10\*, 8/4(2)

B. 13/1, 18/14

Black can win the match with a gammon by closing out two checkers. Play A hits the second checker and starts the fifth home board point, so it advances this simple plan farther than play B. For this reason it is the natural choice, and the only possible objection is that it might be too risky.

My feeling is that the risk is relatively small and entirely justified. Black leaves a blot on the ace point with play A, but reduces the impact of a hit by picking up a second checker. If Black gets hit, in most cases *both* players will then be on the bar against a four point board. But by virtue of having the roll, as well as a big lead in the race, Black will still have the upper hand.

Play B is safer in the short run, leaving only four immediate shots. In the long run, Black may have to give repeated indirect shots or hit loose in her home board. Worse still, White might anchor or get a good bar-point holding game.

The state of the match calls for aggressive play. Black owns the cube at 2, but will never redouble any position with prospects for a match-winning gammon. Hence the game has to be played out, and "overkill" is not an issue. The gammon price is high (19/31 by Woolsey's table) and a gammon win gains slightly more than a gammon loss would cost.

The most convincing way to see the advantages of play A is to rank White's responses after each play and do a roll-by-roll comparison. Since most of the rolls fall into well defined groups, this method would be feasible over the board.

---White's roll after---			
Rank	Play A	Play B	Better result:
1-16	Dance	Dance	A
17-24	62, 52, 42, 32	41, 21, 25, 26	A
25-32	61, 51, 41, 31	45, 43, 23, 46	B
33	22	24	A
34	21	24	B
35	21	22	B
36	11 (Ouch!)	44	B

Group I is the 16 dances after either play. Here Black is clearly better having made play A, with both White blots already picked up and 24 rolls to make a fifth home board point.

Group II consists of 8 rolls. After play A, White rolls 6-2, 5-2, 4-2, or 3-2, bringing in one man without hitting. Correspondingly, White's 8 worst non-dancing rolls after play B are 4-1, 2-1, 2-5, and 2-6. Play A has an even bigger edge here than in Group I, since White still has a checker on the roof and Black's fifth point is "almost" made.

Group III also consists of 8 rolls. After play A, White rolls 6-1, 5-1, 4-1, or 3-1, hitting but bringing only one checker off the bar. The corresponding rolls for play B are 4-5, 4-3, 2-3, and 4-6. In this group Black gets hit after play A, but play B gives him a race lead against a holding game in which White usually (the exception being 4-6) still has a vulnerable blot. B works better here. But, as noted above, Black is still the favorite after the weaker hits resulting from play A, so the edge for B in this group can't be huge.

Group IV consists of four stray jokers after either play. For play A, the jokers are the rolls that bring in both men, three of which also hit on the ace point. For play B, they are the rolls that come in and hit (2-4, 2-2, and 4-4.) If White rolls his 4th best number, which is 2-2 after play A, and 2-4 after play B, then play A is better. 3rd and 2nd best will make you wish you had made play B, but the difference isn't overwhelming (compare A: 2-1 with B: 2-4 or 2-2.) White's 4-4 after B is strong, while 1-1 after A (hitting twice) is downright nasty.

We see, then, that A beats B in 25 of the 36 ranked roll-pairs, and leaves White only one super-joker. Coupled with the fact that correct match strategy is to play the checkers aggressively and go for the gammon, this makes it clear that A is the play. Δ

# WINNER'S CIRCLE

Apr.-July 1999



•**Oslo Open 1999** (Oslo, Norway; 30 Apr.-2 May)... OPEN: 1-Carlo Melzi (ITA), 2-Jens Kerte (DEN); 1C/2C-Karsten Bølge (DEN) / Asger Kring (DEN); 1LC-Johan Aschan (SWE). INTERMEDIATE: 1-Michael Spang (DEN), 2-Peter Andersson (SWE); 1C-Odin Svendsen (NOR); 1LC-Svein Dybvik (NOR). BEGINNER: 1-Karen Nielsen (DEN), 2-Olav Corneliusen (NOR).

•**New England Backgammon Club Season Playoffs** (Cambridge, MA; 5-6 June)... EXPERT (7): 1-Ed Ahola, 2-Alex Zamanian. A DIV. (7): 1-Jim Sullivan, 2-Marty Gross... *The final tournament at the Sheraton-Commander Hotel for the NEBC. Monarch of Monday Night was Seth Towle.*

•**Backgammon by the Bay Special** (Alameda, CA; 6 June)... PLAYERS DIVISION (16): 1/2-Michael Labins / Elliott Winslow.

•**Georgia Championships & Peach Cup—ABT** (Atlanta, GA; 10-13 June)... CHAMPIONSHIP (22): 1-Paul Weaver (AL), 2-Hugh Sconyers (TX); 1C-Malcolm Davis (TX). ADVANCED (16) 1-Mary Franks (IL), 2-Gordon Bass (NC); 1C-Jim Johnson (NC). NOVICE (7): 1-Rick Johnson (GA), 2-Gail Newburn (GA). SUNDAY LAST CHANCE (16): 1-Martha Ghio (NY), 2-Simon Kennedy-Rose (GA). PEACH CUP (8): 1-Jim Hickey (GA). DOUBLES (16): 1-Steve Kovach & Mike McGill (GA), 2-Betty Coppic (GA) & Neil Kazaross (IL). SUPERBLITZ (16): 1-Mark King (GA). OPEN HAND CHARITY TOURNEY (16): 1-Carol Joy Cole (MI), 2-Mary Franks (IL).

•**BIBA Hilton Trophy Tournament** (Bradford, England; 12-13 June)... OPEN (53): 1-Roy Hollands, 2-Steve Hallett; 1C-Julian Hayward, 2C-Murray Henderson; 1LC-Tim Mooring. FRIDAY KO (21): 1-David Levi, 2-David Nathan. DOUBLES (8): 1-Battersea Dogs. SUICIDE! (32): 1-John Clark, 2-Peter Chan.

•**Bar Point Sunday** (Oakbrook Terr., IL; 13 June)... OPEN (11): 1-Carter Mattig, 2-Bill Davis; 1C/2C-Peter Kalba / Tim Mabree. INTERMEDIATE (10): 1/2-Tom Machaj (WI) / Sam Pottle (WI); 1C-Rodney Bell. •**Albany Club Monthly** (Albany, NY; 20 June)... OPEN (8): 1-Marc Gray, 2-Linc Bedell... *This event was held at Jack & Jeri Kissane's home and included a poolside barbecue.*

•**Ace Point Monthly** (New York, NY; 27 June)... OPEN (16): 1-Walt Swan, 2-Martha Ghio; 1C-Steve Sax. INTERMEDIATE (9): 1-Jim Vancio; 1C-Karen Michelle. NOVICE (2): 1-Brian Zimmet.

•**BIBA Bonus Tournament #1** (Coventry, England; 3-4 July)... GOLD (25): 1-Kevin McDonnough (USA), 2-John Clark. SILVER (16): 1-John Collings, 2-David Nathan. BRONZE (16): 1-James Weston, 2-Dod Davies. FRIDAY KO (12): 1-John Collings. DOUBLES (7): 1-The Winners. SUPER JACKPOT (4): 1-John Clark. Δ



# BACKGAMMON TOURNAMENT *of the Américas*

**Cancún, México  
December 8-12, 1999**

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Carol Joy Cole

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the Presidency of Alberto da Pra, president  
of the Worldwide Backgammon Federation

**Entry 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  
**65**  
as minimum guaranteed combined money prize  
(33.570 Euro)

**Tournament Director**  
**Marco Fornasir**  
Sanctioned by the Worldwide  
Backgammon Federation.  
WBF Tournament rules will apply

**Accommodation**  
**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), per person  
Rates valid for direct reservations only. Fax  
reservation by August 16 to 386-65-22381.  
Attn: Reception. Mention "Backgammon".

For more information Marco Fornasir  
ph. +39-02-40074658 - fax +39-02-40073420 - fornasir@iol.it - www.wbf.net

**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 Schönbrenn 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

