

1999 las vegas open

SCANDAL IN VEGAS

Big Wins by Barabino and Magriel take a Back Seat

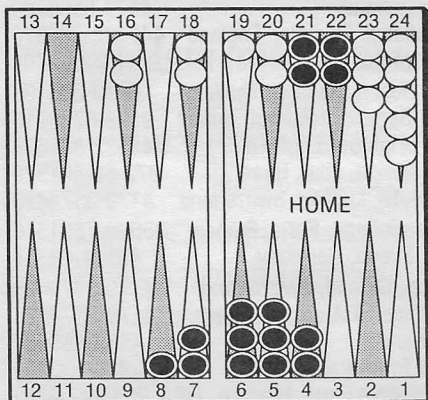
by Jake Jacobs

Have you heard about the scandal?" I was making my way through the playing room at Harrah's, scene of the biggest tournament in Howard Markowitz's multi-decade career as a director, when Martha Ghio stopped me in my tracks. I would stop for Martha anyway, but, if this was about a scandal, I had to stop. You see, Martha lives in New York. If a Boise tells you about potatoes, pay attention, bud! If a Dubuquetant wants to lecture on corn, be all ears. So when a New Yorker finds a scandal worth discussing on, it must be a doozy. And so it was.

"There may not be a Final!" How could there not be a Final? I had been approached earlier to record the Final. A fear that I might miss my flight had prompted me to refuse. The Final did seem to be awfully late in starting. A shame, really, as it promised to be a good one. The final-four had been a truly international group. Mika Lidov, the Manhattan medico, is an Israeli-American, who had surgically removed German *wunder-kind* Dirk Schiemann in the semi's. Meanwhile, Argentinean chess master Leo Fernandez had checked the explosion of Intergalactic Supernova Rick Barabino. No Final?

To get to the bottom of this, back we must go to this critical Quarterfinal position:

David Brown (Black) on roll against Leo Fernandez leading 13-12 to 15.



Rick Barabino (NY) in the process of winning the finals vs. Mika Lidov (NY) after losing the semifinals. [Vegas photos by Patrick Gibson.]

David Brown (Thailand), who was playing the Black checkers, reconstructed this from memory for me. His opponent here was Leo Fernandez. It should be mentioned that quite a few players were following David's Cinderella story as he emerged from obscurity to take his seat at the Quarterfinal table. Partly this was because the buyers of David's field in the Calcutta, taking advantage of an unexpected, but not unwelcome demand for pieces of David's action, had sold more than 100% of David.

It is important to point out that this is in no way improper, but it meant that they would be paying instead of collecting if David won this match, so some of the sweat dripping around the table was theirs. Naturally those who bought "David futures" from them were keenly interested in the match. Also interested were some of David's previous opponents. David, it seems, is a "hedgehog."

A hedgehog, for those who have never encountered one, is a player who spends more time thinking about making hedge bets, than he does about how to play his rolls. My first encounter with this species, many years ago, was in the Finals of a California tournament. Half the room owned part of my opponent from earlier "future action" hedges (they got a percentage of his whatever his take might be) and I threw the place into consternation when, as the natural person to approach to "hedge



Living BG legend Paul Magriel (NV), aka X-22 (right) defeated a dapper Ray Foglerlund (CA) in the Super Jackpot.

out" their position, I announced that I wasn't interested, and they had no one left to hedge with.

One week later found us seated a couple of seats apart at Henry Watson's Amateur Championships. For those too young to recall them, the Amateurs were huge, so the path to the Final was at least 9 to 10 rounds long. It appeared that, if we won our first two, our paths would cross in Round 3. He looked over at me, and stage-whispered "If we meet, let's talk!" David had reportedly managed to hedge as early as Round 1, so now had quite a fan club rooting for him.

On roll in the diagrammed position—an enviable spot, to be sure—David began to buckle under the pressure. Throughout the match, he had pleaded with Leo to hedge, only to be met with indifference. At last he had reached a position of real strength, yet one or two bad rolls from here, and the match, and all the earlier wins, would slip away.

"I need a cigarette!" He announced, and left the room. Leo followed him and, in the hallway, at last agreed to discuss a hedge. Ten minutes later they returned to the table. David threw a hitting number, and, without playing the roll, shook Leo's hand. Leo then reported in as the winner!

The agreement they reached has two parts. Part one dealt with how much David was entitled to. It should be apparent that David was the match favorite even if he missed. They agreed that David should get 60% if he rolled and missed, and 65% if he hit.

The second part was that Leo, not David, should advance. Leo was conceded to be

[Continued from page 7]

CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

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LETTERS

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BIBA OUT IN FRONT

Re, "Make The Baffle Box A Tournament Option" by Laila Leonhardt in the October POINT, the British Isles Backgammon Association (BIBA) already has a rule covering the option to use baffle boxes in our Equipment section. Baffle boxes are given equal status with lipped cups and, if the players can't agree on the rolling medium, they roll dice for their choice. Once again, BIBA leads the world!

Another of our rules that no one else seems to have taken up yet (and we've used it for years now) is the Premature Action rule in which we let all such actions stand with the opponent having the benefit of foresight on his move and decision. Since its inception, I have had hardly any problems with premature rolls—it works very well for us.

Just imagine playing poker with all

[Continued on page 3]

coming attractions

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

BACKGAMMON											
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31					

by Carol Joy Cole

810/232-9731

E-mail: cjc@tir.com

* Denotes new or revised listing

NATIONAL

American Backgammon Tour events underlined.

Nov 12-14	Illinois State Championships, Hilton Hotel, Springfield, IL	217/528-0117
Nov 14	21st Flint Club Championships, Holiday Inn Holidome, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Nov 14	New England Club Monthly, Holiday Inn, Somerville, MA	781/938-7852
Nov 18	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Days Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Nov 21	Austin Bimonthly Tournament, Bombay Bicycle Club, Austin, TX	512/261-8518
Nov 21	Backgammon by the Bay, Marines Memorial Club, San Francisco, CA	831/688-9722
Nov 26-28	<u>5th Thanksgiving Weekend, Belden Village Holiday Inn, Canton, OH</u>	<u>330/966-2811</u>
Nov 27	Clarine's Monthly Tournament, A.R. Private Club, Los Angeles, CA	213/822-9745
Nov 28	Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Anyway's Grill, Oakbrook Terrace, IL	773/583-6464
Nov 28	Ace Point Sunday Tournament, Ace Point Club, New York, NY	212/753-0842
Nov 28	All the King's Men Tourney, Universal Mall, Warren, MI	810/558-4790
Dec 1	Official GamesGrid Monthly Tournament, via computer	tournaments@cyberarts.com
Dec 3-5	<u>44th Gammon Associates Invitational, Los Angeles, CA</u>	<u>818/901-0464</u>
Dec 5	Backgammon by the Bay, The Whole Shabang, Alameda, CA	831/688-9722
Dec 5*	Hoosier Sunday Tournament, Bench Warmers, Indianapolis, IN	317/255-8902
Dec 11	Springfield Series #3, Ride the Nine, Bloomington, IL	217/483-4028
Dec 12	New England Club Monthly, Holiday Inn, Somerville, MA	781/938-7852
Dec 16	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Days Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Dec 19	All the King's Men Tourney, Universal Mall, Warren, MI	810/558-4790
Jan 6	Flint Club Awards Tournament/Party, Days Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Jan 8*	Springfield Series #4, Parker's Sports Bar, Springfield, IL	217/483-4028
Jan 9*	New England Club Monthly, Holiday Inn, Somerville, MA	781/938-7852
Jan 11*	Chicago Bar Point Club Awards Night, Golden Flame, Chicago, IL	773/583-6464
Jan 20*	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Days Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Feb 2-6	Pro-Am Doubles & Amateur Jackpot, Rio Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, NV	702/893-6025
Feb 5*	Springfield Series #5, Peoria Pizza Works, Peoria, IL	217/483-4028
Feb 6*	Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Anyway's Grill, Oakbrook Terrace, IL	773/583-6464
Feb 6*	New England Club Monthly, Holiday Inn, Somerville, MA	781/938-7852
Feb 18-20	<u>22nd Pittsburgh Champs/ABT Awards, Greentree Radisson, Pittsburgh</u>	<u>412/823-7500</u>
Mar 4*	Springfield Series #6, Parker's Sports Bar, Springfield, IL	217/483-4028
Mar 17-19	<u>2000 Midwest Backgammon Championships, Radisson Hotel, Lisle, IL</u>	<u>773/583-6464</u>
Apr 1*	Springfield Series #7, Parker's Sports Bar, Springfield, IL	217/483-4028
Apr 11-16*	International Twin Championships, Harrah's Hotel/Casino, Las Vegas, NV	702/893-0043
Apr 15*	Springfield Grand Finale, Parker's Sports Bar, Springfield, IL	217/483-4028
May 26-29	<u>21st Chicago Open, Wyndham NW Chicago Hotel, Itasca, IL</u>	<u>847/674-0120</u>
Jun 8-11*	<u>Georgia Championships & Peach Cup, Holiday Inn Select, Atlanta, GA</u>	<u>770/333-1876</u>
Jun 30-Jul 3	<u>Michigan Summer Championships, Novi Hilton, Novi, MI</u>	<u>810/232-9731</u>
Sep 1-4*	<u>48th Indiana Open, Sheraton-Westin Hotel, Indianapolis, IN</u>	<u>317/255-8902</u>
Dec 3-10	Backgammon on Board V Cruise, New Orleans-Montego Bay-Cozumel	773/583-6464

OUTSIDE USA

Nov 14	Toronto Sunday Monthly, Doghouse Riley's Toronto, ON, Canada	416/722-9709
Nov 19-21	5th Kaiserbrunnen Cup, Hotel am Kaiserbrunnen, Brakel, Germany	49521-64314
Nov 20-21	Finnish Open, Night Club Bubbles, Helsinki, Finland	35850-68061
Nov 20-21	Townharbour Trophy, Hilton National, Coventry, England	441522-888676
Nov 24-25*	Ultima Gran Torneo del Milenio, Sheraton Buenos Aires, Argentina	54-072 7243
Dec 2*	Ultima Gran Torneo del Milenio Finals, Sheraton Buenos Aires, Argentina	54-072 7243
Dec 4-5*	Danmarks mesterskabet 99 Finals, Østerbrohuset, Copenhagen, Denmark	4533-363601
Dec 8-12	6th Tournament of the Américas, Westin Regina Cancún, Mexico	USA: 773/583-6464
Dec 10-12	8th Open von Thun, Hotel Seepark, Thun, Switzerland	4179-6569700
Dec 11-12	United Kingdom Championship Finals, Hilton National, Coventry, England	441522-888676
Dec 12	Toronto Sunday Monthly, Doghouse Riley's Toronto, ON, Canada	416/722-9709
Jan 5-9	5th Thailand Open, Style Restaurant, Jomtien Beach, Pattaya, Thailand	6638-303136
Jan 7-16	World Cup Challenge VI & Giant Jackpot, Hyatt Regency Istanbul, Turkey	9723-6728918
Jan 8-9*	Brighton Breezey, Stakis Brighton Metropole, Brighton, England	441522-888676
Jan 19-22*	Israeli Backgammon Championship, Red Sea Resort, Eilat, Israel	972-52 581329
Jan 27-30	2nd Principe Leopoldo Cup, Principe Leopoldo Hotel, Lugano, Switzerland	4179-3374425
Feb 15-20	Paris Master & Open Tournament, Hotel de Castiglione, Paris, France	33060-7551516
Feb 25-27	4th Warsteiner Cup, Hotel am Kaiserbrunnen, Brakel, Germany	49521-64314
Mar 16-19	Le Trophée des Alpes Championship & Pro-Am, Gstaad, Switzerland	4179-3374425
Mar 23-26	Le Trophée des Alpes Championship, Badrut's Palace, St. Moritz, Switzerland	4179-3374425
Apr 20-24*	12th Nordic "Wide" Open, Copenhagen, Denmark	4533-363601
May 1-4*	6th European BG News May Day International Tournament, Spain	34950-133009
Jul 10-16	World Championship, Monte Carlo Grand Hotel, Monte Carlo, Monaco	USA: 954/527-4033

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

your cards face up and your opponent's cards held close to their chest. You'll never win that way!—*Michael Crane, director, BIBA, Lincoln, England*

IT WILL BE A DISQUALIFICATION IN TURKEY

In the round-of-8 at the recent Las Vegas Open tournament, one player agreed to throw the match to the other in exchange for 65% future equity. The eventual tournament ruling was that *both* of the players received full semifinal prize money shares.

What kind of a ruling is that? These players have cheated. If I am the director, both players are immediately disqualified with no prize money awarded to either.—*Abraham Eitan, Director, Turkish World Cup Challenge*

PROSE OF THE DEFEATED

I lost \$80 to Ralph Byrns one day last month:

He made bad doubles,
He made bad plays,
But the dice god was a prick,
And now I pays.


—*Phil Simborg, Chicago, IL*

Jake Jacobs responds: Dear Phil:

Though playing you is so delicious,
Your poetry is meretricious.
If that's what comes of "pen in hand,"
Next time we meet, you'll be unmanned.

—*Jake Jacobs, Des Plaines, IL*

[Continued on page 6]



AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 1999

AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 1999

Top 100 compiled through 24 Oct. 1999 after 14 events
(Remaining in 1999: Illinois State, Ohio Thanksgiving & G/A Invitational)

Neil Kazaross	46.59	Ed Johnson	9.58	Malcolm Davis	5.17	Glenn Swanson	2.95
Gary Margosian	29.69	Fred Gehlhoft	9.44	Roger Nellist	5.06	Adam Versaw	2.90
John Brussel	27.48	Bill Finneran	9.33	Steve McCormick	4.80	Pete Lewandowski	2.90
Paul Franks	20.59	Charlie Russell	9.29	Howard Markowitz	4.76	Jobey Calitri	2.89
Bruce Brown	16.00	Steve Brown	8.00	Greg Lilley	4.67	Bill Ober	2.67
Frank Frigo	14.87	Steve Mellen	7.85	Danielle Bastarache	4.50	Gary Fries	2.59
Lincoln Bedell	14.84	Jack Kissane	7.42	Harvey Huie	4.41	Ralph Levy	2.40
Jeff Burdsall	13.74	Andy Palumbo	7.42	Leslie Lockett	4.18	Jerry Kruth	2.22
Jim Slomkoski	12.44	Carol Joy Cole	7.40	Stuart Hosen	4.16	Ed King	2.22
Steve Hast	11.80	Sam Pottle	6.90	Mary Franks	4.12	Lucky Nelson	2.21
Madelyn Russell	11.67	Len Dangremond	6.83	Mike Rezai	4.06	Dean Kaloudis	2.17
Phil Undieme	11.65	Steve Flam	6.67	Paul Klein	4.06	Paul Mangone	2.17
Paul Weaver	11.65	Sig Skolnick	6.42	Gerald Beck	4.00	Kerim Urkun	2.14
Mike Shanas	11.44	Art Benjamin	6.11	John O'Hagan	4.00	Dan Grogan	2.09
Matt Reklaitis	11.20	Rudy Citrom	6.11	Mario Sequeira	4.00	Sean Garber	2.08
Carol Falk	11.03	Rudy Langenbach	5.83	Mike Friedman	4.00	Vince Frigo	2.00
Durb Oldham	10.80	Christopher Yep	5.83	Frank Talbot	4.00	Patricia Main	2.00
David Groner	10.80	Niel Borden	5.77	Dale Smith	3.74	Laila Leonhardt	2.00
Alice Kay	10.75	Walt Swan	5.50	Gyl Savoie	3.69	Gordon Bass	1.94
Clarine	10.40	Bill Versaw	5.33	Jon Stephens	3.69	Jim Johnson	1.94
Steve Sax	10.29	Gary Marchenia	5.25	Neil Young	3.69	Mark Denihan	1.88
Fred Kalantari	10.29	Gary Wong	5.22	Renee Rosenbloom	3.30	Dr. Stuart Katz	1.88
Walter Trice	10.20	Harold Elgazar	5.22	Roz Ferris	3.20	Tom Penney	1.88
Paul Friedman	9.82	Joann Feinstein	5.20	James Roston	3.13	Dave Wetzell	1.88
Drew Giovanis	9.65	Hugh Sconyers	5.17	Aram Kouleyan	3.05	George Maloyan	1.75



CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB

CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB

COMPILED

1999 PLAYER OF THE YEAR
THRU 31 OCT.

Tim Carroll	19.76	Mary Franks	7.04	Harry Cohn	2.24	Mike Sutton	0.64
Bob Zavoral	19.28	Steve Klesker	6.56	Ralf Boettger	2.16	Mark Murray	0.60
Carter Mattig	14.56	Arlene Levy	6.24	Georgina Flanagan	2.00	Amy Valerio	0.52
Paul Franks	14.00	Bill Keefe	6.08	Mark Ryan	1.92	Marty Tatosian	0.48
Jake Jacobs	13.84	Rick Bieniak	6.00	Joe Ausmann	1.92	Sarg Serges	0.48
Steve Mellen	13.68	David Araiza	5.32	Paul Klein	1.52	David Robbins	0.48
Harold Elgazar	11.76	Bill Davis	4.80	Paul Lombardo	1.52	Dave Cramer	0.48
Herb Roman	11.36	Brian Kozin	4.32	Richard Stawowy	1.36	Ken Tysko	0.40
Ed Buerger	11.08	Gary Kay	4.32	Ralph Byrns	1.28	Stan Kucharz	0.36
Joe Wollick	10.28	Alice Kay	4.24	George Barr	1.28	Femi Owiku	0.36
Tim Mabee	10.08	Peter Kalba	3.88	Tim Roberts	1.28	Jim Roland	0.32
Phil Simborg	9.92	Sam Yoyen	3.76	David Rockwell	1.28	Lou Argol	0.32
Norma Shyer	9.56	Glenn Martells	3.44	Richard Lloyd	0.88	Tom Machaj	0.30
Marc Rosset	9.36	Elaine Kehm	3.28	Jolie Rubin	0.88	Reginald Porter	0.28
Bob Steen	8.80	Jerry Brooks	3.04	Ed Zell	0.88	Frank Callea	0.24
Neil Kazaross	8.64	John Jennings	2.88	Peer Seipelt	0.88	Sonja Peacock	0.24
Ken Bond	8.08	Paul Friedman	2.80	Sam Pottle	0.86	Rodney Bell	0.20
Phyllis Smolinski	7.64	Mark Dalton	2.72	Brian Barber	0.72	Ron Zimet	0.20
Laila Leonhardt	7.36	Don Jayhan	2.64	Daniel Lillian	0.64	Howard Chow	0.16
Tak Morioka	7.08	Joann Feinstein	2.40	Bill Bartholomay	0.64		

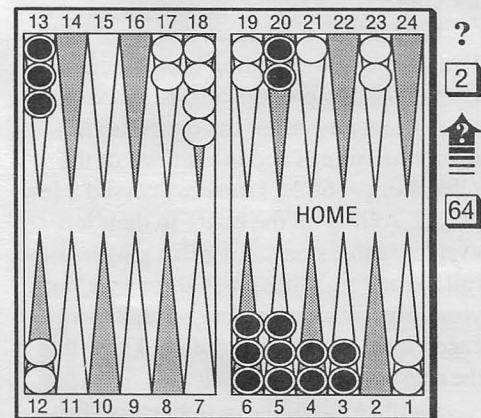
LAILA LEONHARDT returned to weekly BPC competition in October to become Player of the Month with 3.92 points. Tim Carroll's second place total of 3.76 was enough to move him into the 1999 lead. Herb Roman (2.56) finished third.

your move

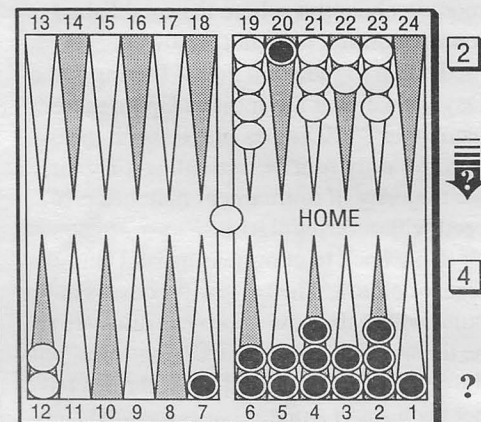
PROBLEM #259

to be analyzed by Antonio Ortega

(a) 25-pt. match. Black leads White 22–15. Black on roll. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



(b) 25-pt. match. Black leads White 22–15. White on roll. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



SHADES OF GRAY

Defending the New Rules— A Response to Danny Kleinman

by Butch Meese

For more than a year, Hoosier Backgammon Club director Butch Meese has organized an uphill effort to update the US Tournament Rules. About four months ago, an anonymous panel of 9 people (made up of directors and players) voted on potential rule changes submitted from many sources including the Internet.

Most of the modifications were minor; however two rule changes are very controversial: the incorporation of legal moves, and the elimination of an appeals committee.

Last month, Danny Kleinman addressed these potential changes in his Shade's of Gray column. Now Butch Meese gets his chance to respond.—ed.

Thanks to Danny Kleinman for summarizing the ongoing process of updating the US Backgammon Rules in the October 1999 POINT. And, yes, all his comments were sent to the panel prior to their voting. Now I would like to shed more light on the subject.

First let me give an overview of what I've seen while attending tournaments. Ever since this process began, I have been more keenly aware of many activities involving rulings and infractions of the rules. For example, I have witnessed a few players rolling on the board to their left even though a rule stating that players must roll to their right has existed for over nine years. Recently, we even had an experienced local player who did not know that the rule existed.

Another thing I have noticed is "fast-rolling" (rolling the dice before one's opponent has actually picked up his dice). I believe this comes from players who play more in chouettes where the established tournament rules are not followed.

But on to the good news! During Labor Day weekend at the Indiana Open, there were over 8000 games played with the need for only four or five rulings. By far, the majority of tournament matches proceed without irregularities.

Now back to commenting on Danny's recent column. The review process is at the point where the new approved rules are to be incorporated into the existing rules, but the details for the new approved rules have not been set in stone. That is the next step.

This may have been my mistake on how I presented the information in the packet I sent to the panel. In particular, it has not been decided whether kibitzers will be allowed to point out misplays. Those types of details are still in the works.

I would like to comment on the rules as a panelist, starting with "legal plays." This change was suggested by more than one person and approved by a majority of the panel made up of players and tournament directors. I believe the suggestion implies that backgammon should be a gentlemen's game.

Instituting legal moves point-blank would surely cause problems and most likely kill the rule. If we honor the process I've started, these changes would slowly be incorporated into the established rules. The exact details of how we add legal plays may be the key.

I suggest that local clubs adopt legal plays and work out the problems here before being adopted nationally. In fact, there are already a few clubs and many chouettes that are already using legal plays. So it may not be that much of a stretch after all.

I have recorded many matches and estimate that on average, there is only one misplay every 1500 moves at the expert level. Matches should not be won or lost because of misplays.

Requiring legal moves would help an existing problem plaguing backgammon: what to do when a player puts his own checker on the bar. Finally, note that the opponent does not have to wait until the dice are up to correct an illegal move or misplay.

I now address the appeals issue. The current appeals process is not perfect. In any big-time situation, the player who is ruled against will often call for an appeals committee in hopes of improving his

situation. Putting together a committee delays the match and the tournament and sometimes inflames the situation to something bigger than it really is.

Occasionally, committees have incorrectly reversed the director's ruling. Since the judgment of the committee is final, the player not asking for the committee has no recourse against the new ruling. At this point, the director is also powerless to do anything the way the current rule is written. This has caused one tournament director to remove the appeals committee from his rules. If the rule about the appeals committee is not taken out, it must be improved.

The current lot of directors running major US tournaments has over a 150 years of experience. It is in a director's best interest to make correct and fair rulings, otherwise that director risks losing attendance at future events. If directors don't feel comfortable making a ruling on their own, they can create their own committee for input. I do this for most rulings since I'm on my feet for 16 hours a day during a tournament.

Some readers may wonder about the two suggestions prompting in part this updating process. The first is when two players play to the wrong match length. I believe there are too many variables here to write a rule to cover all situations. The second is when a player misplays and places his own checker on the bar. Suggestions for both were made and subsequently voted down by the panel.

Danny's sincere observations are appreciated. However, there are more issues and concerns than he has indicated. I hope my clarification will alleviate some of the consternation felt by US tournament backgammon players regarding any new rule changes. Δ



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by Jake Jacobs

It was Plato who said: "You can learn more about a man by playing with him for one hour than you can from a year's conversation."

So quoted our auctioneer, John Simon. Obviously Plato never played with me, or he'd know one can combine the two.

Plato aside, John was doing a fine job with the auction. For a bracket of 32, John cajoled, duped, and sometimes threatened the bidders into coughing up over 150,000 dollars. Those were Hong Kong dollars, of course, but this *was* Hong Kong, so even the cabbies took 'em.

It was the Asian Championships, after all, and there was a tradition to uphold. Hong Kong auctions are legendary, and while this year's total was down 50% from the peak hit two years ago before the crash, it was still several times what larger fields generate back in the States. Also, by tradition, the auctioneer was sold last, and by further tradition, for the highest price. (You are welcome to travel to Hong Kong next year and try to sell yourself for more.) A good buy he turned out to be, as John won the Consolation this year.

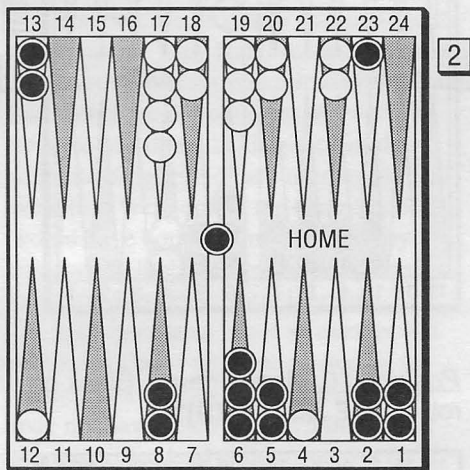
Though the Philippines had no representatives this year, Singapore, Bali, and Thailand were present, as well as a large delegation from Japan. It was nearly an all-Thailand final four, with Tom Grant losing to finalist Gerhard Schulze, while Champion Harold Sespa defeated the one non-Thai, Masayuki "Mochy" Mochizuki of Japan in the other semifinal.

Hong Kong had to concentrate on the Consolation (and the side events), with Dr. John surgically removing Patrice Hattu, the pride of Lan Kwai Fong, from contention.

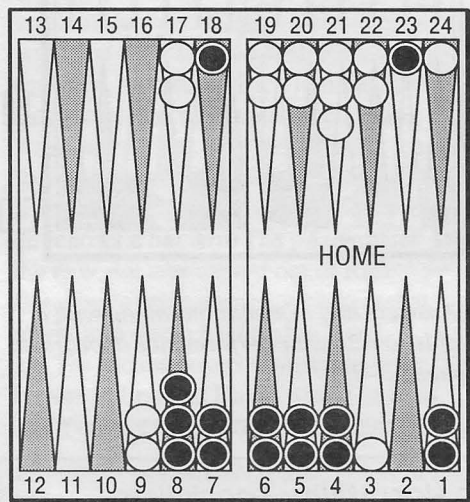
I couldn't bring you all souvenirs, so I brought back some positions instead. Here they are, in quiz form. Do well, and next

year, I'm sure, Director Steve Nelson and his staff (Hi, Koko!) will be willing to accept your entry fee. [Answers on page 9.]

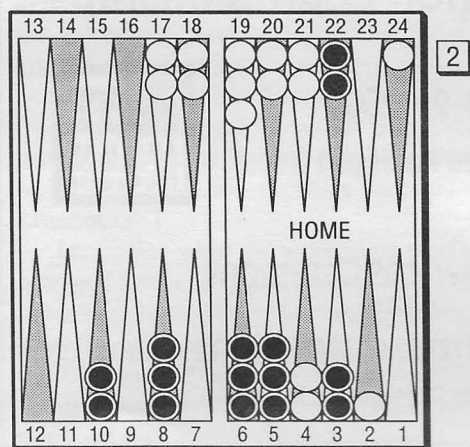
Position 1. 21-point match. White leads Black, 9-2. **BLACK (ON THE BAR) TO PLAY 4-2.**



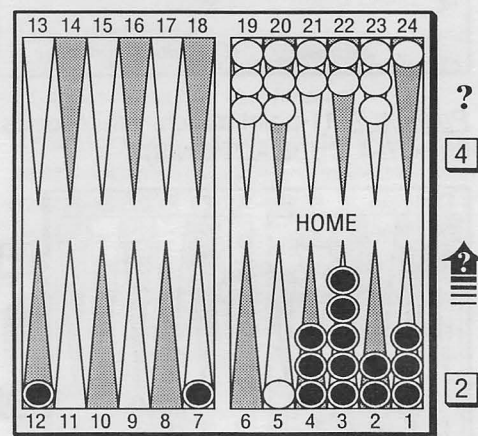
Position 2. 5-point match. White leads Black, 4-2 Crawford. **BLACK TO PLAY 6-6.**



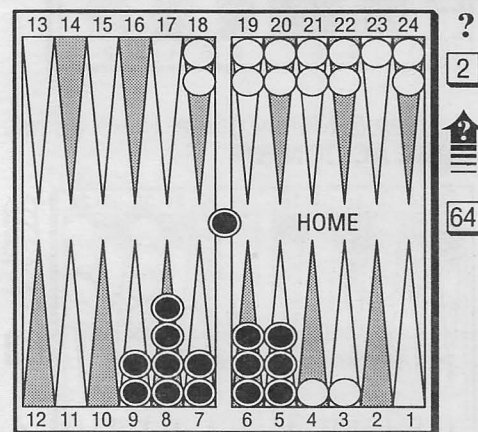
Position 3. Tournament double match-point. **BLACK TO PLAY 3-1.**



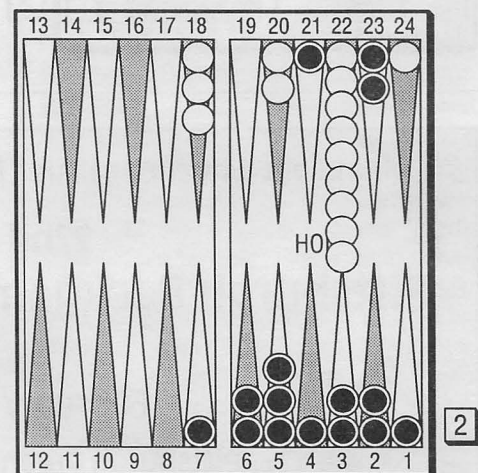
Position 4. 7-point match. Black leads White, 2-1. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



Position 5. 7-point match. White leads Black (on the bar), 5-4. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



Position 6. 11-point match. White leads Black, 5-1. **BLACK TO PLAY 6-2.**



[Continued on page 6]

The last **ABT** Event of 1999
44th Gammon Associates Invitational

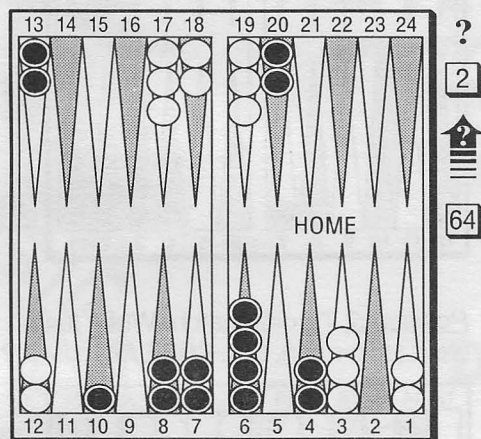
December 3-5, 1999
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KONG KONG QUIZ

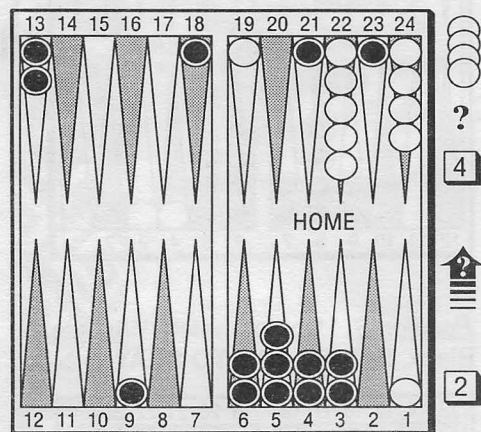


[Continued from page 5]

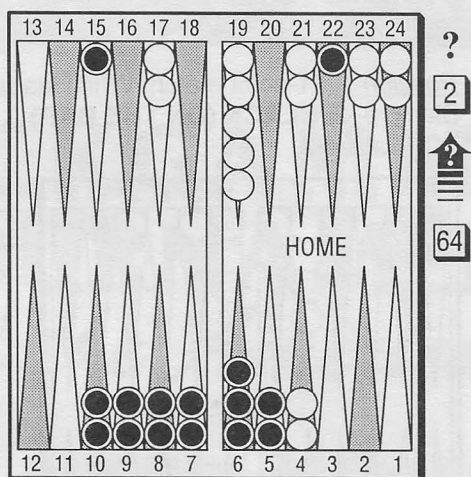
Position 7. 11-point match. White leads Black, 7-4. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



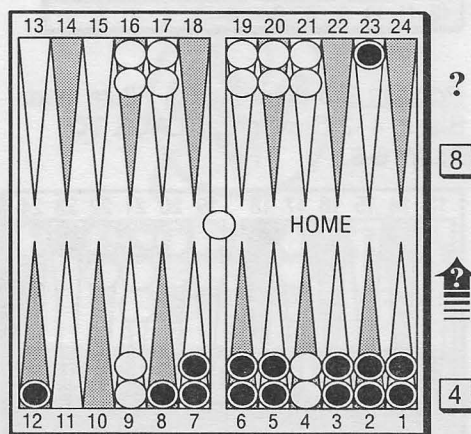
Position 8. Money game. Black on roll. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



Position 9. Money game. White is on the bar. Black on roll. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



Position 10. Money game. Black on roll. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



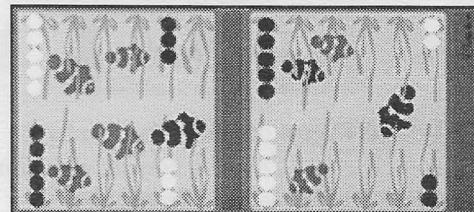
[Answers and explanations along with a table to rate your performance appears on page 9.—JJ]

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 3]

ARTISTIC SURFACES

I am a German artist and designer and have created some very cute backgammon playing surfaces you might be interested in seeing. You can find them all at my site: www.artmundi.com. What do you think?—Doris Chiandussi, via Internet, nin-nin@cu-muc.de



One of Doris Chiandussi's artistic backgammon surfaces.

Different!—ed.

JAKE'S BOARD

Normally, I am a great fan of Jake Jacobs, whom I consider one of the *huge* writers of backgammon. But I have a bone to pick with him about his latest article. Although, in the past, I have admired his occasional (natch) use of hyperbole, in "Nigi Nigi Nu Noo's," when he says "... I have schlepped my backgammon board ..." I had to take exception.

As a boardmaker, which he nicely plugs in the article [*Thanks, Jake ... pay you later*], I have tried for years to get him to buy a backgammon board, so I know for a fact he doesn't own or travel with one. This is really ironic, considering he lives in Chicago where two of the finest boardmakers in the world live: myself (self-promotion is good for the soul) and Tak Morioka.

So I admonish you, CHICAGO POINT, to keep Jake on the straight-and-narrow and to edit his articles with a keen eye for factualness (not to mention relevancy). Also, please tell Jake if he wishes, in truth, to buy a backgammon board, I can be reached at imtrex@worldnet.net and Taki can be reached in the ethereal realm.—Bob Zavoral, Chicago, IL

The good news is your letter goaded Jake into buying a board, Bob. The bad news is, he bought an Aries set!

A good choice, Jake, but we still prefer the work of our Chicago artists. Those in the market for a high quality board should contact Bob Zavoral at the e-mail address shown above, or Tak Morioka at 773/465-0675.—Ed. Δ

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SCANDAL...

[Continued from page 1]

the stronger player, and not susceptible to pressure. Thus he was the better man to advance what was now their mutual cause.

Reader's may notice that, other than selecting Leo as his champion, David's hedge was very much *not* favorable to him. (I personally have hedged with David, and believe me, he has done worse.) The proper odds are closer to 63% if he missed, and 77+% if he hit. Then again, "proper" is the wrong word to use. There is nothing wrong with hedging, *per se*, but there is something wrong with hedging based on anything other than the outcome of the match itself as the hedge may now influence that outcome. Even worse, it is completely illegal to "throw" a match.

Pressure removed, David went on to win two rounds in the consolation, but still finished out of the money. Leo, as mentioned, beat Barabino. Meanwhile, astounded kibitzers were spreading the word as to what had happened. However, the most outraged were those who "owned" David. Confronted, David admitted it hadn't occurred to him that he had undercut their position, and he promised to "make it right." With Leo in the Final, David's "position" was worth between \$5,000–\$17,000, depending on whether Leo won. Think David wanted to hedge?

That was how it all came to light. David worked the room, trying to find someone willing to take a \$5000 bet on Mika. [For those who have never hedged, David's share if he lost was approximately \$5000, and \$17,000 if he won. If he bet \$5000 on Mika to win, then, if Mika won he would get \$5000 for his Leo holdings, and win \$5000 more from his Mika bet, netting \$10,000. If Leo won, he would collect \$17,000, but lose \$5000 on his Mika bet, netting an even better \$12,000.] Finally, word of his financial interest in Leo reached the Director.

Confronted, both players freely admitted that they had made the deal described. They said that such deals were common "where they came from" (Asia and South America), and had no idea they were doing anything wrong. David said that after speaking with his auction buyers, he understood how he had damaged them, but had already promised to make it right.

Director Markowitz's initial ruling was that both offenders were out of the tournament, forfeiting all prize money. He then agreed to allow a committee to make a final ruling.

Players representing three continents were assembled: Nack Ballard for North America, Morten Holm for Europe, and Ary Nogueira for South America. In part, this was to address the possibility that "that's how we settle back home."

After long and difficult deliberation, the committee accepted at least part of the players' defense, that they had acted without ill intent. They had thrown in the match in front of a half dozen kibitzers, and David had then gone on to inform the world of what he had done, in his quest for the ultimate hedge. Had they tried to conceal what they were doing, the committee would have boiled them in oil, but by conducting their affairs so openly, it was believed they really were ignorant.

Still, ignorance is not an excuse, as I reminded David while he waited on the verdict. If a drunk runs over a child, he may not have acted with evil intent, but there is still a dead child to answer for. I told him I thought that the committee might be merciful, but that anything less than expulsion and forfeiture should be taken by him as a real reprieve.

It turned out that the committee was much more merciful than I would have predicted. Leo's match with Rick was canceled, advancing Rick into the Final. David and Leo were then given losing semifinalist slots, in effect creating a new "money" position, so that, including Dirk, who lost the other Semifinal, there were three losers, not two. The prize money for the new slot was carved out of Rick Barabino's prize money, whatever that might turn out to be after the Final.

The auction buyers were not so lucky. The buyers of Leo and David would have to share the auction prize for one Semifinalist.

I EXPECT THAT THE EDITORIAL PAGES of the various newsletters will be full of outraged letters denouncing this ruling. I admit that, with plenty of hindsight, I would have given David and Leo *one* Semifinal prize to share, *after* deducting a share to match the auction pot, so that none of their buyers, nor Rick Barabino, was in any way penalized for the actions of the two players. [What happened with David's earlier hedgers—I assume he paid them—or his 65/35 split with Leo—probably canceled—I cannot say.]

I hope that when the writers pen their outraged letters, they will keep in mind that the committee members are not the villains here. I would not have wanted to serve, as I think it was a difficult and thankless job. I believe they did their best to be conscientious and fair, and for that deserve our

thanks far more than our criticism.

Fair warning to anyone who thinks that this clement ruling gives him a license to steal: *don't expect "ignorance" to excuse your action, and expect the next ruling to be as harsh as this was lenient.*

IT SEEMS A SHAME to report the results of an otherwise marvelous tournament as a footnote, instead of a lead, but so it must be. Rick Barabino defeated Mika Lidov in the Finals, becoming perhaps the only player to win the Final after losing the Semifinal.

In the Super Jackpot, the legend himself, X-22 (Paul Magriel), prevailed over perennial finalist Ray Fogerlund (CA). I am sure the five of us will not let this incident stop us from returning next Spring to see if we can top this year's 325 player attendance record. I hope you'll all join us. Δ

1999 LAS VEGAS OPEN

CHAMPIONSHIP (123): 1-Rick Barabino (NY), 2-Mika Lidov (NY), 3/4-Dirk Schiemann (Germany) / David Brown (Thailand) & Leo Fernandez (Argentina); 1C-Johannes Levermann (Germany), 2C-Dennis Culpepper (VA), 3C/4C-Harry Cohn (IL) / Tom Zarrinam (CA); 1LC-John O'Hagan (IL), 2LC-Bob Glass (CA). **INTERMEDIATE (149):** 1-Shoichiro Sengoku (CA), 2-Lise Howard (Switzerland), 3/4-Joe Moore (MA) / Guy Thurber (WA); 1C-Ted Boughton (CA), 2C-Mark Damish (MA), 3C/4C-Dave Orandle (FL) / Hugo Spangenberg (Brazil); 1LC-Jim Bowman (FL), 2LC-Mike Colgan (CA). **BEGINNERS (53):** 1-Carol Robinson (IL), 2-Andrew Gordon (PA), 3/4-Jacqueline Lee (CA) / Paulo Torres (Brazil); 1C-Michael Boughton (CA), 2C-Kirke LaShelle (CA); 1LC-Bruce Sinclair (CA), 2LC-Jeannie Tater (CA). **SUPER JACKPOT #1 (16):** 1-Paul Magriel (NV), 2-Ray Fogerlund (CA), 3/4-Rick Barabino (NY) / Mike Senkiewicz (NY). **#2 (8):** 1-Mads Andersen (Denmark), 2-Leo Fernandez (Argentina). **LIMITED JACKPOT #1 (16):** 1-Ron Weinstock (NY), 2-Paul Gibbons (CA). **#2 (8):** 1-Morten Holm (Denmark), 2-Danilo Sahione (Brazil). **SENIORS TOURNAMENT (128):** 1-Gene Chait (CA), 2-Shel Segal (MN). **BLITZ (424):** 1-Justin Bor (CA), 2-Doug Mayfield (CA). **2-POINT MINI-MATCH (256):** 1-Charlie Russell (NY), 2-David Hennessy (Australia). **DOUBLES (32 teams):** 1-Martha Ghio (NY) & Hugh Sconyers (TX), 2-Lise Howard & Marcel Liechti (Switzerland). **OVERFLOW DOUBLES #1 (8 teams):** 1-Claudia & Jose Salema (Portugal). **#2 (8 teams):** 1-Andy Palumbo (NY) & Paul Polatov (NY).

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AMALGAMATION

Despite designing the Illinois State Champ invitations, **Greg Tomlin** (IL) will not be attending the tournament (12–14 Nov. in Springfield, IL). He was high bid on a radio program for two tickets to the Who Concert 12 Nov. at Chicago's House of Blues... Voting continues on the 1999 version of **Yamin Yamin's** "Giant's of Backgammon." Results will appear in the Flint Area News after the first of the year... Don't forget that there is Bar Point Club Sunday Backgammon at Anyway's on 28 November—that's Thanksgiving weekend... Visiting the Bar Point Club: **Jim Pappas** (Las Vegas), **Tom Cox** (San Diego)... **Stephen Turner**, webmaster of the WWW Backgammon Pages, tells us that all his "mirror sites" are gone, the pages can still be reached at: www.statslab.cm.ac.uk/~sret1/backgammon... Good luck to BIBA director **Michael Crane** (Lincoln, England) who has become the backgammon consultant for the new MSO (Mind Sports Olympiad) website... **Giancarlo Impiglia's** hand-signed serigraph "Backgammon" is being sold by Ro Gallery (www.rogallery.com)



for \$1,350, but we've seen it cheaper on eBay... Still considering the Dec. tournament in Cancun? Call **Mary** at Apple Vacations (773/880-0030) for some very reasonable last-minute prices... Interested in tourney action in Sacramento, California? Contact **Ira Ofsink** (bigira@aol.com) for the details... Atlanta Backgammon Association director **Dave Cardwell** sadly informed us of ABA regular **Bob Belk's** passing. Condolences to family and friends... Recuperating from surgery: British BG author/columnist **Christopher Bray**... Looking for a nice Christmas gift for a friend? Consider the "Backgammon Watch." \$30 + \$2 P&H (\$3 overseas). Order from CHICAGO POINT; 3940 W. Bryn Mawr 504; Chicago, IL 60659-3155. A

HONG KONG QUIZ ANSWERS



[Quiz on page 1 and 5]

Position 1. BAR/21, 23/21—5 POINTS.

This was not, however, what was played in the finals. Gerhard Schulze, trailing Harold Sespa, tried "for the gammon" with Bar/21, 6/4*. He got gammoned, all right! The audience made my job as commentator easy, by providing their own commentary after Gerhard hit. The race is too close, and the builders are too lacking for Gerhard's play.

Position 2. 18/6, 8/2 (2)—10 POINTS. I

was Black, playing Cosmo Tanaka—webmaster, Shinto priest and tennis pro. The man had me covered in the virtual, spiritual, and physical worlds! The best I could do was to build a better board. For you "results merchants," he rolled 5-1, then I fanned with 5-5.

Position 3. 10/7, 8/7—7 POINTS. From the Blitz playoffs, against Pearl Liu. It is important to lock in the back checker.

Position 4. DOUBLE—5 POINTS,

PASS—5 POINTS. From the Jackpot, against Jonathan Barnes. Only six numbers leave a direct shot, which is why one should double, and also why one should pass. White cannot redouble-in often to justify taking. (White should redouble on-the-come when presented with a direct shot, but otherwise loses his market by a wide margin.)

Position 5. DOUBLE—6 POINTS,

TAKE—1 POINT. I hope no one would pass this. Well, I hope that, if they did, it was only against me. For money, an entering deuce might not lose the market (see Position 9), while at the score, it certainly would. Meanwhile, White can never redouble. In the actual game, Jonathan would have gammoned me anyway.

Position 6. 23/21, 7/1—8 POINTS; or 21/19, 7/1—7 POINTS. I made the best play, but my opponent, Hashimoto-san of Osaka, rolled 4-3, clearing his 5-point. I fanned, and he had no trouble bringing it home.

Position 7. DOUBLE—4 POINTS,

PASS—7 POINTS. Also against Hashimoto. Despite having two men back, Black has a double, even for money. As is often the case, a gammonish money double becomes a clear pass for the leader.

Position 8. REDOUBLE—3 POINTS.

TAKE—8 POINTS. When the Box doubled, most players dropped. "Only four men off, and probably two men sent back" was the reasoning. There is still a lot of play to this game. A hit of the second man is by no means a guaranteed win, and if Black should miss, he is not thrilled to have doubled.

Position 9. DOUBLE—2 POINTS,

TAKE—7 POINTS. Another double that scared off the ribbon clerks. White has a racing lead and escapes often enough after Black's prime goes to justify his take.

Position 10. REDOUBLE—5 POINTS,

TAKE—5 POINTS. White was stuck three rolls earlier when he redoubled everyone. He was steaming now, after fanning all three turns. With six 8-cubes coming his way, he visualized "–96" on the scoresheet, and passed. If he had visualized entering while black was still primed, he would have realized this was a bare take.

SCORING

The maximum score is 88 points, 88 being the luckiest number in Hong Kong.

88–78 points:	Emperor
77–60 points:	Mandarin
59–40 points:	Civil Servant
39–25 points:	Ribbon Clerk
24–0 points:	Barbarian



ILLINOIS ACTION



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

Tuesday, 6:00 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 BACKGAMMON CLUB: Tournaments Monday, 6:30 P.M. at Ride The Nine, 503 N. Prospect, Bloomington. Gary Daniels (309/452-3034)

SANGAMON VALLEY BACKGAMMON ASSOC.: Tournaments Wed., 6:30 P.M. at Brewhaus, 617 E. Washington, Springfield. Ben Zemaitis (217/483-4028).

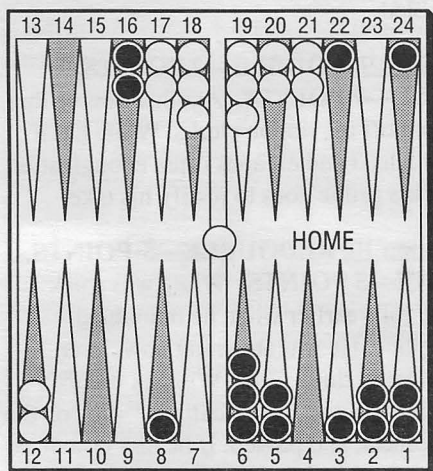
WINNETKA BG CLUB: Tournaments Wednesday, 7:00 P.M. at 620 Lincoln, Winnetka. Trudie Chibnik (847/446-0537).

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

PROBLEM #258 ANALYZED

by Kit Woolsey

Money game. **BLACK TO PLAY 1-1.**
[Submitted by Phil Simborg.]



64

What is the cube doing in the middle? White clearly had a powerful double last turn, one which Black probably would have to pass. Given that White didn't double, we can pretty much assume that White will virtually never double, so we can ignore the cube for this discussion.

The big question is whether Black should cover the blot on his 3-point or

make the anchor at the edge of the prime and lift the blot. Making the anchor would be nice, of course. This would keep Black in the game for a while whatever happens. However it is not necessary.

While Black does need to eventually escape his back checkers, it is not urgent to prepare to do so now. Black already has one checker at the edge of the prime and two checkers in White's outer board to play with, so Black is in little danger of crunching. In addition, Black doesn't have to worry too much about being attacked, since he has the stronger board and White doesn't have too much ammunition at present.

Making the offensive 3-point is huge. This improves on Black's main asset: his stronger board. The difference between a four-point board and a five-point board when your opponent is on the bar is big. That fifth point cuts White's entering numbers down from 20 to 11. Black's main game-winning plan is to scramble his checkers out and around while White is stuck on the bar. Black needs that fifth inner board point to have a decent chance to carry out that plan. Making the 3-point is very clear.

Now, what about that fourth ace? Offhand it doesn't seem too important. Holding the 16-point looks correct to guard against 4-4 and 4-3. 6/5 cuts down on future flexibility, and 8/7 gives White a hitting 4-3 when 4-4

would be strong anyway. 24/23 doesn't cost anything, and that looks like the natural choice—almost certainly what I would have done at the table.

A little extra thought shows that there is more to this ace than meets the eye. Holding the 16-point really isn't too important. 4-4 and 4-3 will be strong rolls for White whatever Black does. More important is when White rolls 4-5 or 4-6. White will certainly keep the back checker moving, since he can't afford to expose another blot. If this happens, it will be very important for Black to have played 16/15! This split will give Black a direct shot at his nine point if White rolls 4-5, and a double shot at his ten point if White rolls 4-6. In addition the split is superior if White fans. It avoids crunching with 4-4, and the extra flexibility may allow Black to position his checkers better next turn.

Also if White flunks, Black will be breaking the 16-point next turn anyway unless he rolls a six, and if he rolls a six, he will have the 16-point back after splitting. In particular, if Black rolls 6-4 he will be quite happy about splitting.

16/15, 6/3 is not a natural looking play, and is one which most players would dismiss pretty quickly over the board. However analysis shows that it is probably superior. This problem illustrates the importance of carefully examining all candidate plays and their consequences. Δ

WINNER'S CIRCLE



Sept.–Oct. 1999

•**Newcastle Open** (Charlestown, NSW, Australia; 12 Sep.)... OPEN (36): 1-Steve Clarry, 2-tony Walker, 3/4-Carol Wakelin / Steve Wood; 1C-Barry Bennett, 2C-Steve Bird.

•**Backgammon by the Bay** (Alameda, CA; 3 Oct.)... OPEN (16): 1-Sam Ahmed, 2-Sho Sengoku.

•**Nation's Capital Championships** (Bethesda, MD; 8–10 Oct.)... OPEN (14): 1-Bill Finneran (VA), 2-Greg Lilley (VA). LIMITED/INT (16): 1-Bill Versaw (PA), 2-Bill Ober (MD). SWISS WARM-UP (13): 1-Steve Hast (PA), 2/3-Ed Maslansky / Bill Pow (VA). DOUBLES (8 teams): 1-Ed Oates & Tom Jarvis (MD). AFTER TOURNAMENT: Open (8): 1-Eric Lippincott (MD). Limited (6): 1/2-Charlie Leckinger (MD) / Scott Navitsky (MD).

•**Diva Cup** (Tampere, Finland; 9–10 Oct.)... OPEN (15): 1-Tuomas Laibert, 2-Tapio Palmroth, 3/4-Teppo Salo / Risto Pönniö; 1C-Risto Pönniö, 2CMika Mäkinen, 3C/4C-Petri Pietilä / Teppo Salo.

•**5th Japan Open / 29th Japan Championships** (Tokyo, Japan; 9–11 Oct.)... JAPAN OPEN (32): 1-Katsuyuki Takahashi, 2-Robin Swaffield (HK);

1C-Sroussi. CHAMPIONSHIP (128, with reentries): 1-Yukio Nakamura, 2-Shinichiro Kaneko. BEGINNER (82): 1-Yoshitaka Kaji, 2-Shimako Tezuka. NOVICE (42): 1-Harue Kuribayashi, 2-Harumi Sugamo. DOUBLES (16): 1-Hisako Nishizawa & Seiichi Nagai. MOGAMI CUP (32): 1-Phillipe. BEGINNER'S CUP (24): 1-Daisuke Kokubu. LADIES (12): 1-Miki Naito. UNDER 18 (5): 1-Kanta Terao... *Results by Jake Jacobs.*

•**3rd Moscow Open** (Moscow, Russia; 12–17 Oct.)... CHAMPIONSHIP: 1-Olivier Egger (Switzerland), 2-Johannes Levermann (Germany).

•**Swiss Open/Championship** (Bern, Switzerland; 15–17 Oct.)... SWISS CHAMPIONSHIP (54): 1-Oliver Werthmueller, 2-Christian Liebe-Harkort (Germany), 3/4-Daniel Kuchen / Udo Kindler; *Ladies Prize:* Sybille Altermatt. TEAM TOURNAMENT (13): 1-Zuerich (D. Kuchen, U. Kindler, R. Mathis), 2-Houdini (D. Bruni, S. Carrese, J. Zimmermann). 1-POINT (128): 1-Werner Rupp, 2-Marc Badertscher. *Swiss Open:* CHAMPIONSHIP (21): 1-Roland Ekstrom, 2-Daniel Scheidiger, 3/4-Hendrik Muysers (Germany) / Roland Klein (Germany); 1C-Ruedi Keller, 2C-Tulan Halil. INTERMEDIATE (37): 1-Marcel Liechti, 2-Curtis Lucas (USA), 3/4-Tom Meyer / Eric Thiemermann (Germany); 1C-Jong Kim; 1LC J. Zimmermann. BEGINNER (16): 1-Frank Roth,

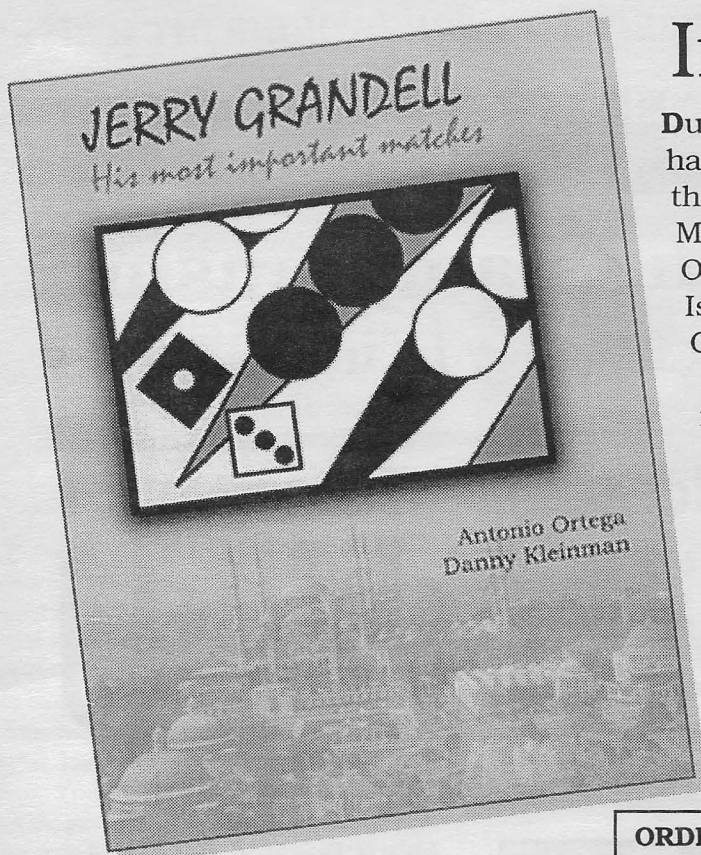
2-Kim Soltermann; 1C-Bruno Way; 1LC-Michael Juillard.

•**1999 Florida State Championships—ABT** (Ft. Lauderdale, FL; 15–17 Oct.)... OPEN (20): 1-Madelyn Russell (FL), 2-Steve Flam (FL), 3-Jim Pascoe (CT). INTERMEDIATE (15): 1-Danielle Bastarache (FL), 2/3-Fabricio Schaffrath (FL) / Raymond Rickard (FL). DOUBLES (16 teams): 1-Danielle Bastarache & Mike Corbett (FL), 2-Lee Genu & Neil Young (FL).

•**Backgammon by the Bay Monthly** (San Francisco, CA; 17 Oct.)... OPEN (13): 1-Roger Gabrielson, 2-Elliott Winslow; 1C-Sho Sengoku, 2C-Nick Ballard. INTERMEDIATE (13): 1/2-Windy / Danilo Dacosta; 1C-Sam Ahmed. BEGINNER (6): 1-Cindy Samucha, 2-Frank Berkenkotter, 3/4-Joseph Jermal / Anna Estrada.

•**Northeast Regional—ABT** (Albany, NY; 22–24 Oct.)... OPEN (16): 1-Walter Trice (MA), 2-Mario Sequeira (Portugal); 1C-Mike Friedman (Canada). ADVANCED (15): 1-Dale Smith, 2-Mark Denihan; 1C-Dr. Stuart Katz. LOW INTERMEDIATE (6): 1-Joe Sullivan, 2-Alan Kane; 1C-Howard Peelie.

•**Ace Point Halloween Tournament** (New York, NY; 31 Oct.)... OPEN (10): 1-Alan Grunwald, 2-Andy Rubien; 1C-John Jennings (IL). INTERMEDIATE (9): 1-Donald Gabbai, 2-Laurent Colli; 1C-Roy Appey. NOVICE (3): 1-Ron Critchlow. Δ



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Important Reading.

During the last three years, Jerry Grandell of Sweden has enjoyed an astounding run of success. He won the Olympiad in Venice (1996), Istanbul (1997), Monte Carlo World Championship (1997), Dallas US Open (1998), and both of the biggest events in Istanbul, the World's Giant Jackpot and the World Cup Challenge (1999).

So that players at all levels may study and learn from Grandell's play, we have compiled six of his most important matches. As an innovation, in every match, we have counted the errors of each player, measured their magnitude and studied which kinds of errors are most typical.

This book is a must for players wishing to learn.

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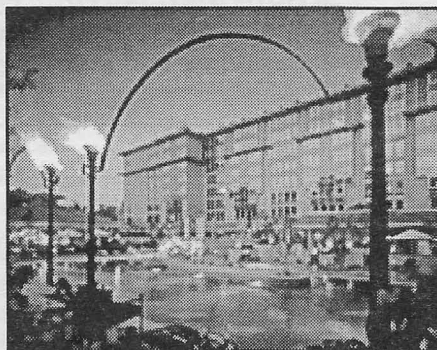
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