

tournament of the americas

SIZZLING BG ACTION HEATS UP CANCUN

Goulding, Witt & Wilensky Win Big

Big wins by Kent Goulding, Rainer Witt and Bob Wilensky illuminated the 6th Tournament of the Americas 8–12 December at the Westin Regina Hotel in Cancun, Mexico.

Nearly 120 players from across the globe (including Svobodny, Senkiewicz, Magriel, Levermann, Ballard, et al.) soaked up the sun and backgammon action at the Costa Rican Backgammon Association's first venture off their home soil. Bill Davis directed, assisted by Carol Joy Cole, Peter Kalba and Dru Heggen.



The Award's Fiesta: Kent Goulding (left) displays his Master's trophy as Max Esquivel and Bill Davis (right) look on.

The Westin Regina Masters drew 27 competitors at the \$2,000 level to generate a \$51,300 prize pool. After four days of fierce competition, Kent Goulding (US) survived to face 2-time World Champion Michael Meyburg (Germany).

Meyburg, who had won all his matches in the Masters, Open and Blitz, looked unbeatable. Goulding apparently didn't see it that way. Following a 6–6 tie, Goulding took command to win 15–9 and earn over \$25,000—the biggest singles backgammon payday of his life.

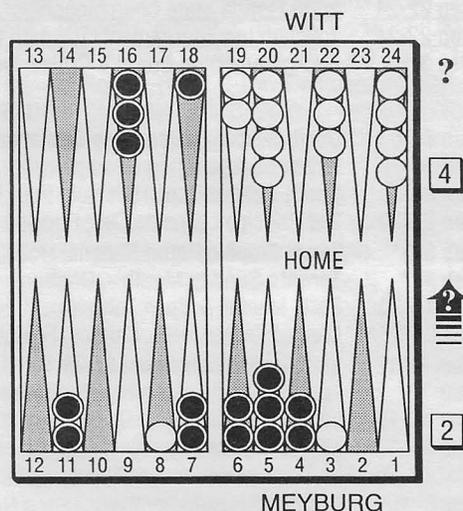
Next came the Open finals and again Meyburg was featured—this time against fellow countryman Rainer Witt. Witt, the



Open Champion Rainer Witt (Germany)

1999 Grand Prix de Suisse champion, remained in relative control of the 19-point finals (a 64-player field of extraordinary strength). However, had Meyburg redoubled to 4 in the following position, things might have been different:

19-point final. Rainer Witt (White) leads Michael Meyburg (Black), 8 to 6. Black on roll. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



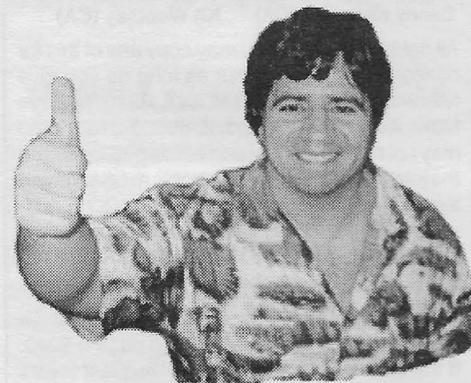
Do you double here? It's aggressive. Michael took a roll, tossed double 5s (18/8*/3*, 16/11). Witt danced. Now Meyburg recubed and Rainer had a trivial drop.

Following the 8–8 tie, Witt's dice got hot and rolled on to a victory worth nearly \$8,000.

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1999 american backgammon tour

EARLY VICTORIES LOCK UP ABT TITLE FOR KAZAROSS



Chicago's Neil Kazaross struck early in 1999. The "An-Neil-ator" won two of the biggest events on the ABT tour and placed in a third to earn 46.59 points and lock up the American Backgammon Tour title before June. With victories in Pittsburgh and at the Midwest Championships, coupled with a 3rd place finish at the Chicago Open, Neil attained the second highest yearly ABT point total ever (his record 72.98 in 1994 still stands) and moved into second behind Art Benjamin on the ABT All-Time Points list. [The list is at www.chicagopoint.com/abttop50.html]

Runner-up for the year was Gary Margosian (MI). Gary earned all of his 29.69 points by winning the Michigan Summer Championships. Third place went to another Chicagoan, John Brussel. John earned his 27.48 points by placing in Pittsburgh and winning the Indiana Open.

The top three finishers for 1999 will be honored with marble trophies at the Pittsburgh Championships 18–20 February—the kickoff ABT event of the new season. Will 2000 be your year? (*Final 1999 ABT standings appear on page 3.*) Δ

In this issue on pp. 5–6. The 2000 listing:

Backgammon Clubs in North America

CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

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LETTERS

c/o CHICAGO POINT

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WESTIN ROOM PROBLEMS IN CANCUN

I went to my first backgammon tournament in Las Vegas last October. Because it was a wonderful experience, I immediately made my reservations for Cancun thinking I was going to a tournament that would be equally well-run. Sadly this was not the case.

I arrived in Cancun on Wednesday and went directly to the Westin Regina. When I checked in at the front desk, I was informed that the Westin was full and I would be moved to a nearby hotel. After telling them I was part of the backgammon group and that I had *confirmed reservations*, they smiled and reaffirmed that I would be staying at another hotel.

I was assured of transportation to-and-from my hotel to the Westin. That would not be the case. Taxi fare was \$6 each way (that being the most minor annoyance of

[Continued on page 3]

coming attractions

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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.

Jan 11	Chicago Bar Point Club Awards Night, Golden Flame, Chicago, IL	773/583-6464
Jan 16*	Austin Bimonthly Tournament, Bombay Bicycle Club, Austin, TX	512/261-8518
Jan 20	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Days Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Jan 22*	Universal Winter Championships, All The King's Men, Warren, MI	810/558-4790
Jan 23*	Pittsburgh Warm-Up, Greentree Radisson, Pittsburgh, PA	412/823-7500
Jan 30*	Ace Point Sunday Tournament, Ace Point Club, New York, NY	212/753-0842
Feb 1*	Official GamesGrid Monthly Tournament, via computer <i>tournaments@cyberarts.com</i>	
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 6*	Northern Ohio Club Monthly, Belden Commons Restaurant, Canton, OH	330/966-2811
Feb 17*	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Days Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Feb 18-20	<u>22nd Pittsburgh Champs/ABT Awards, Greentree Radisson, Pittsburgh, PA</u>	<u>412/823-7500</u>
Feb 27*	Ace Point Sunday Tournament, Ace Point Club, New York, NY	212/753-0842
Mar 1-5*	NEW DATES: Pro-Am Doubles & Amateur Jackpot, Desert Inn, Las Vegas, NV	702/893-6025
Mar 4	Springfield Series #6, Parker's Sports Bar, Springfield, IL	217/483-4028
Mar 5*	Milwaukee Bimonthly, John Hawks Pub, Milwaukee, WI	414/463-2498
Mar 5*	Northern Ohio Club Monthly, Belden Commons Restaurant, Canton, OH	330/966-2811
Mar 12*	Fleet Underwood Charity Tournament, Holidome, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Mar 12*	New England Club Monthly, Holiday Inn, Somerville, MA	781/938-7852
Mar 17-19	<u>2000 Midwest Backgammon Championships, Radisson Hotel, Lisle, IL</u>	<u>773/583-6464</u>
Mar 26*	Ace Point Sunday Tournament, Ace Point Club, New York, NY	212/753-0842
Apr 1	Springfield Series #7, Parker's Sports Bar, Springfield, IL	217/483-4028
Apr 7-9*	<u>45th Gammon Associates Invitational, A.R. Private Club, Los Angeles, CA</u>	<u>818/901-0464</u>
Apr 9*	New England Club Monthly, Holiday Inn, Somerville, MA	781/938-7852
Apr 15	Springfield Grand Finale, Parker's Sports Bar, Springfield, IL	217/483-4028
Apr 20*	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Days Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Apr 25-30*	NEW DATES: International Twin Championships, Desert Inn, Las Vegas, NV	702/893-6025
Apr 30*	Ace Point Sunday Tournament, Ace Point Club, New York, NY	212/753-0842
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>
Jul 28-30*	<u>Y2K Thousand Islands Tournament, Pine Tree Point, Alexandria Bay, NY</u>	<u>716/387-0767</u>
Sep 1-4*	<u>48th Indiana Open, Sheraton-Westin Hotel, Indianapolis, IN</u>	<u>317/255-8902</u>
Sep 22-24*	<u>2000 Florida State Championships, Location TBA, Ft. Lauderdale, FL</u>	<u>954/938-4304</u>
Sep 22-24*	<u>Towpath Inn Tournament, Towpath Inn, Turin, NY</u>	<u>716/387-0767</u>
Dec 3-10	Backgammon on Board V Cruise, New Orleans-Montego Bay-Cozumel	773/583-6464

OUTSIDE USA

Jan 7-16	Giant Jackpot & World Cup Challenge VI, Hyatt Regency, Istanbul, Turkey	9723-6727063
Jan 19-22	Israeli Backgammon Championship, Red Sea Resort, Eilat, Israel	972-52 581329
Jan 22-30*	South Pattaya Cup, 19th Hole Pub, Nongprue, South Pattaya, Thailand	6638-428 293
Jan 27-30	2nd Principe Leopoldo Cup, Principe Leopoldo Hotel, Lugano, Switzerland	4179-3374425
Feb 5-6*	Jarvis Trophy, Hilton National Hotel, Coventry, England	44152-2888676
Feb 13*	Toronto Sunday Monthly, Doghouse Riley's Toronto, ON, Canada	416/722-9709
Feb 15-20	Paris Master & Open Tournament, Hotel de Castiglione, Paris, France	33060-7551516
Feb 24-27*	Cannes Tournament, Cannes, France	4161-2710137
Mar 11-12*	Slattery Scottish Open, Stakis Hotel, East Kilbride, Scotland	44152-2888676
Mar 12*	Toronto Sunday Monthly, Doghouse Riley's Toronto, ON, Canada	416/722-9709
Mar 16-19	Le Trophée des Alpes Championship & Pro-Am, Gstaad, Switzerland	4179-3374425
Mar 17-19*	NEW DATE: 4th Warsteiner Cup, Hotel am Kaiserbrunnen, Brakel, Germany	49521-64314
Mar 23-26	Le Trophée des Alpes Championship, Badrutt's Palace, St. Moritz, Switz.	4179-3374425
Apr 8-9*	BIBA's 10th Birthday Party, Hilton National Hotel, Coventry, England	44152-2888676
Apr 9*	Toronto Sunday Monthly, Doghouse Riley's Toronto, ON, Canada	416/722-9709
Apr 20-24	12th Nordic "Wide" Open, Copenhagen, Denmark	4533-363601
Apr 29-May 7*	1st Cancun Cup, Hotel Meridien, Cancun, Mexico	USA: 781/641-2091
May 1-4	6th European BG News May Day International Tournament, Spain	34950-133009
May 6-7*	County Cups Trophy, Hilton National Hotel, Coventry, England	44152-2888676
May 20-21*	Copenhagen Open 2000, Frederiksgård Skole, Copenhagen, Denmark	45436-416035
Jul 6-9*	City of Venice Tournament, Casino Municipale, Venice, Italy	3941-5900769
Jul 10-16	World Championship, Monte Carlo Grand Hotel, Monte Carlo, Monaco	USA: 954/527-4033
Jul 19-23*	2nd Czech Open, China Palace Casino, Prague, Czech Republic	49911-409505

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

staying at a hotel six miles from the action).

The same afternoon, I explained to one of the directors (maybe you) what had

happened and your suggestion was that I should ask for a free room night. That response was a far cry from what I would have expected from a seasoned tournament director. I would have expected you to be aware of the lack of rooms available and

that you would have addressed this issue with the hotel in advance to work out an arrangement accommodating to the players.

I look forward to attending more backgammon tournaments in the future, but hesitate to consider any of your future events unless there is some consideration for the inconvenience that this event created for me.—Burrell Shaw, via e-mail



AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 1999

Top 100—Final Standings after 17 tournaments
148 players earned points



Neil Kazaross	46.59	Fred Kalantari	10.29	Walt Swan	5.50	Dale Smith	3.74
Gary Margosian	29.69	Walter Trice	10.20	Gary Marchenia	5.25	Gyl Savoie	3.69
John Brussel	27.48	Paul Friedman	9.82	Gary Wong	5.22	Jon Stephens	3.69
Odis Chenault	22.73	Drew Giovanis	9.65	Harold Elgazar	5.22	Neil Young	3.69
Paul Franks	20.59	Ed Johnson	9.58	Joann Feinstein	5.20	Renee Rosenbloom	3.30
Bruce Brown	16.00	Fred Gehlhoff	9.44	Hugh Sconyers	5.17	Sam Ahmed	3.25
Frank Frigo	14.87	Bill Finneran	9.33	Malcolm Davis	5.17	Roz Ferris	3.20
Lincoln Bedell	14.84	Charlie Russell	9.29	Roger Nellist	5.06	James Roston	3.13
Jeff Burdsall	13.74	Sam Pottle	9.10	Bruce Russell	4.80	Aram Kouleyan	3.05
Frank Talbot	13.09	Ray Fogelund	9.09	Steve McCormick	4.80	Glenn Swanson	2.95
Jim Slomkoski	12.44	Ed Zell	8.80	Howard Markowitz	4.76	Adam Versaw	2.90
Carol Joy Cole	11.95	Steve Brown	8.00	Greg Lilley	4.67	Pete Lewandowski	2.90
Steve Hast	11.80	Mike Friedman	7.90	Danielle Bastarache	4.50	Jobey Calitri	2.89
Madelyn Russell	11.67	Steve Mellen	7.85	Harvey Huie	4.41	Bill Ober	2.67
Phil Undieme	11.65	Ken Bruck	7.65	Randy Reiff	4.40	Gary Fries	2.59
Paul Weaver	11.65	Jack Kissane	7.42	Fouad Malouf	4.40	Ralph Levy	2.40
Mike Shanas	11.44	Andy Palumbo	7.42	Leslie Lockett	4.18	Lee Pflugrad	2.40
Matt Reklaitis	11.20	Len Dangremont	6.83	Stuart Hosen	4.16	Cinda King	2.40
Carol Falk	11.03	Steve Flam	6.67	Mary Franks	4.12	Jay Cordes	2.25
Durb Oldham	10.80	Bill Versaw	6.43	Mike Rezaei	4.06	Jerry Kruth	2.22
David Groner	10.80	Sig Skolnick	6.42	Paul Klein	4.06	Ed King	2.22
Alice Kay	10.75	Rudy Citrom	6.11	Gerald Beck	4.00	Lucky Nelson	2.21
Art Benjamin	10.66	Rudy Langenbach	5.83	John O'Hagan	4.00	Milad Doueihy	2.20
Clarine	10.40	Christopher Yep	5.83	Mario Sequeira	4.00	Dean Kaloudis	2.17
Steve Sax	10.29	Niel Borden	5.77	Paul Mangone	3.80	Kerim Urkun	2.14

Sorry for the problems you experienced with your hotel reservations at the Westin Regina in Cancun. We were unaware (and surprised) that a hotel was permitted to do this. However, Cecilia Pedroza, our official travel agent informed us that the practice is not uncommon, especially at resort hotels in foreign countries. She said hotels, like airlines, overbook their space—but only if they can guarantee accommodations of equal or better value at a nearby hotel. This isn't a big problem for vacation travelers, but backgammon players really need to stay at the tournament site.

My sole function at the event was to direct the tournament. The event was produced and coordinated by Max Esquivel of the Costa Rican Backgammon Association. Mr. Esquivel has lodged a formal complaint with the Westin Regina regarding their failure to honor our players' confirmed reservations. Although there was an understanding that late arrivals would spill over into the Sheraton Hotel, this applied only to players without confirmed reservations.

The Westin Regina made a mess of things by apparently assigning rooms on a

[Continued on page 7]



CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB 1999 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

FINAL STANDINGS
88 Players earned pts.

Bob Zavoral	26.48	Mary Franks	7.04	Harry Cohn	2.24	Daniel Lillian	0.64
Tim Carroll	21.04	Steve Klesker	6.56	Ralf Boettger	2.16	Bill Bartholomay	0.64
Jake Jacobs	19.80	David Araiza	6.28	Mark Ryan	1.92	Mark Murray	0.60
Carter Mattig	19.68	Arline Levy	6.24	Joe Ausmann	1.92	Ron Zimet	0.56
Tim Mabee	14.24	Brian Kozin	6.20	Sam Pottle	1.66	Tom Machaj	0.54
Paul Franks	14.00	Rick Bieniak	6.00	Ken Tyszko	1.48	Amy Valerio	0.52
Herb Roman	13.68	Elaine Kehm	5.70	Romeo Kap	1.44	Stan Kucharz	0.52
Steve Mellen	13.68	Bill Davis	5.68	Richard Stawowy	1.36	Femi Owiku	0.48
Joe Wollick	12.84	Peter Kalba	5.40	Ralph Byrns	1.28	Sarg Serges	0.48
Harold Elgazar	11.76	Glenn Martells	5.08	George Barr	1.28	David Robbins	0.48
Ed Buerger	11.72	Joann Feinstein	4.32	Tim Roberts	1.28	Dave Cramer	0.48
Phil Simborg	11.36	Gary Kay	4.32	David Rockwell	1.28	Jim Pappas	0.48
Bob Steen	10.80	Alice Kay	4.24	Joe Esfahani	1.28	David Rubin	0.48
Laila Leonhardt	9.84	Sam Yoyen	3.76	Brian Barber	1.06	Jim Roland	0.32
Norma Shyer	9.56	Paul Friedman	3.52	Mike Sutton	0.96	Lou Argol	0.32
Marc Rosset	9.36	Paul Lombardo	3.44	Richard Lloyd	0.88	Reginald Porter	0.28
Tak Morioka	9.16	Georgina Flanagan	3.16	Jolie Rubin	0.88	Frank Callea	0.24
Phyllis Smolinski	8.64	Jerry Brooks	3.04	Ed Zell	0.88	Sonja Peacock	0.24
Neil Kazaross	8.64	Mark Dalton	2.96	Peer Seipelt	0.88	Rodney Bell	0.20
Bill Keefe	8.48	John Jennings	2.88	John Stryker	0.88	Howard Chow	0.16
Ken Bond	8.08	Paul Baraz	2.64	Rick Bell	0.88	Rich Gast	0.16
Don Jayhan	7.04	Paul Klein	2.32	Marty Tatossian	0.80	Boris Mindich	0.16

November's Player of the Month was **CARTER MATTIG**—his third such accolade in four months! Carter's 5.12 points bested Bob Zavoral (4.88) and Jake Jacobs (4.04).

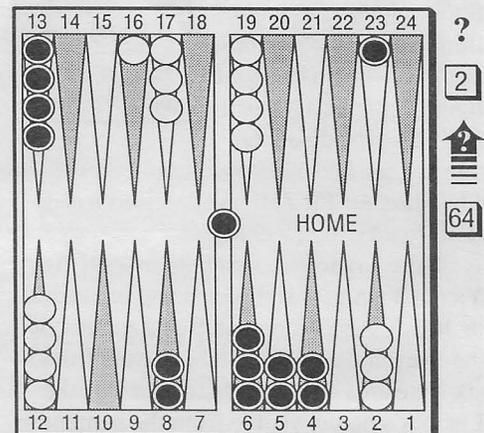
TIM MABEE's 2.80 points earned him top honors for December. Runner's-up were Paul Baraz (2.64) and Bob Zavoral (2.32).

your move

PROBLEM #260

to be analyzed by Kit Woolsey

Match to 7 points. Black and White are tied at 3 to 3. Black (on the bar) to roll. **CUBE ACTIONS?**



SHADES OF GRAY

A RULES AND RULINGS COLUMN

© 2000 by Danny Kleinman

BETTING, HEDGING & DUMPING

No rules in backgammon forbid betting or hedging, nor shall I propose any. Indeed, the usual prizes and Calcutta pools make betting a part of the tournament itself and induce some players to make private agreements to hedge. Do betting and hedging impair the integrity of the sport?

Not if the rules guard against dumping. To some extent, they already do, in the guise of prohibitions against settling games and matches. I would revise the rules to make hedges part of the tournament, just as Calcuttas are, and monitor both to ensure that every player has a financial incentive to win each match.

This issue has arisen in a controversy about a tournament in which a match was settled. I will leave it to others to judge the actions of the players, staff and committee that dealt with the incident. Instead I shall examine a hypothetical set of circumstances that merely resemble the actual events.

Alice, a finalist in the Main Draw, has assured herself of \$5,000 for 1st or \$2,000 for 2nd. Carol beats Bob in the semifinal match, and Ted, who lost to Carol in the quarterfinals, has beaten Jack and Diane in two rounds of the Consolation. Before

Carol sits down to play Alice, however, the director hears a disturbing report from a reputable and disinterested kibitzer:

"I saw Ted and Carol walk out to the corridor at the start of their match. Ted offered to hedge 40% and *dump* the match to Carol. Carol quickly agreed."

The director confers with Carol, who confirms the kibitzer's story, explaining, "It looked like a good thing to do at the time. I'm better than Ted, but I'm less than 60-40 to win a match against him."

The director corrals Ted, who is equally forthcoming:

"It was in my best interest to hedge and lose the match. You see, I had also hedged 40% each with Peter and Paul, two of my previous opponents. 40% of Carol is worth more than 20% of myself. Besides, Carol is a better player and would probably have beaten me anyway."

What should the director do?

Ted and Carol have broken the rule against settlements. The director should forfeit their subsequent matches, Bob taking Carol's place in the finals of the Main Draw, Diane taking Ted's place in the Consolation. (Tough luck, Jack: Diane gets the nod because she won a match in the Consolation while you lost to Ted.)

What should be done with the \$1,000 prize that was slated to go to the loser of Bob's semifinal match with Ted or Carol, and the share of the Calcutta pool that was slated to go to the "owner" of the 4th place finisher?

If no one else were involved, the director could reasonably split the \$1,000

among the 1st-, 2nd- and 3rd-place finishers in the proportion \$625 / \$250 / \$125 and divide the 4th-place Calcutta prize equally among the 5th-, 6th-, 7th- and 8th-place finishers. That is better than giving any money to Ted or Carol, who colluded to break the rules. However, there are some innocent victims: Tom, who bought Ted's winnings in the Calcutta; Cathy, who bought Carol's winnings; Peter and Paul, each of whom had hedged 40% with Ted. Fairness demands the *most favorable plausible outcome* for the *non-offending parties*.

The Calcutta money should be divided between Tom and Cathy in proportion to the equity of Ted and Carol in their quarterfinal match prior to the offense: 50% each, despite Carol's belief and Ted's acknowledgment that she is the better player, for the administration of justice must not presume differences in skill. Likewise, the \$1,000 4th prize should be split between Peter and Paul in proportion to their hedges.

Aren't hedges a private matter, though? Perhaps, but until the rules or tournament brochures make this explicit, Peter and Paul should be protected.—Danny Kleinman Δ

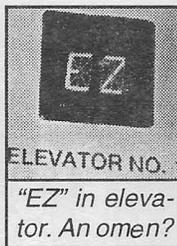
Have you ever been involved in a questionable ruling? Get Danny Kleinman's opinion. Write to: Shades of Gray; c/o CHICAGO POINT; 3940 W. Bryn Mawr Ave. 504; Chicago, IL 60659-3155 or e-mail: bg@chicagopoint.com.

1999 illinois state championship

WINNING THE ILLINOIS STATE TITLE: IT'S EZ!

The express elevator at the Springfield Hilton makes no stops between the 1st and 20th floors. None of us at the Illinois State Championships (12-14 Nov.) could figure out why it flashed "EZ" on the ride up. On Sunday, we had an explanation. Peoria Club director Ed Zell had defeated Randy Reiff to take the 1999 title.

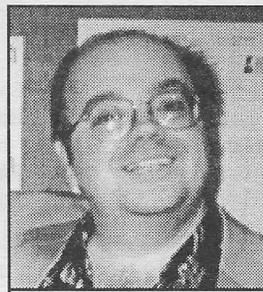
The tournament, first held in 1991 by Yamin Yamin, was directed and organized by Randy Armstrong and Ben Zemaitis of the Sangamon Valley Club. Players from a six-state area attended. Many toured Abe Lincoln's home, visible from the penthouse



Director Randy Armstrong (left) presents the Illinois State Champ trophy to Ed Zell.

playing room and only two blocks from the hotel.

Jake Jacobs (IL) also had a great weekend, winning the Springfield Open, Land of Lincoln Masters and



The Jakester: triple win.

Holding Cell events.

And hats off to Bruce Russell (WI), Madison Backgammon Club director for his big victory over fellow Madison clubber Lee Pflugrad. Complete results: Δ

1999 ILLINOIS STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

CHAMPIONSHIP (22): 1-Ed Zell (IL), 2-Randy Reiff (IL); 1C-Fouad Malouf (IL), 2C-Milad Doueihy (IL); 1LC-Sam Pottle (WI)

INTERMEDIATE (24): 1-Bruce Russell (WI), 2-Lee Pflugrad (WI); 1C-Cinda King (IL), 2C-Jim Zimmerman (IL); 1LC-Jeff Anderson (IL)

LAND OF LINCOLN MASTERS (4): 1-Jake Jacobs (IL)

PRAIRIE STATE DOUBLES (16): 1-Peter Kalba (IL) & Gerry Vangsnæs (WI), 2-Ben Zemaitis (IL) & Jeff Anderson (IL)

CAPITOL PUNISHMENT (32): 1-Mark Kaye (IL), 2-Laila Leonhardt (IL)

HOLDING CELL (16): 1-Jake Jacobs (IL)

SPRINGFIELD OPEN (16): 1-Jake Jacobs (IL), 2-Ed Bauder (IL); 1C-Jeff Anderson (IL), 2C-Dr. Arjmand (IL)

Backgammon Clubs in North America

Information for this listing has been obtained directly from the featured backgammon clubs. Changes are inevitable and we suggest that you always call before attending. As a service to our readers, CHICAGO POINT would like to maintain an accurate listing of Backgammon Clubs in North America. Please send information including updates, club closings and new clubs to: **CHICAGO POINT; 3940 W. Bryn Mawr 504; Chicago, IL 60659. 773/583-6464. Fax: 773/583-3264. E-mail: bg@chicagopoint.com**

WEST

CLUB NAME	LOCATION	CITY & STATE	MEETING DAY & TIME	CONTACT [E-MAIL]	TELEPHONE	MAIL INQUIRIES TO
Phoenix Backgammon Club	George & Dragon Pub	Phoenix, AZ	Tuesday-7:00 PM	David Hilton (davnh@aol.com)	602/265-1992	751 W. Camelback Road; Phoenix, AZ 85013
Backgammon Club of San Diego	Embassy Suites Hotel	La Jolla, CA	Tuesday-6:00 PM	Ed Baize (ebaize@bd.com)	858/457-2273	3430 Via Alicante; La Jolla, CA 92037
Gammon Associates	A.R. Private Club	Los Angeles, CA	Sunday-2:00 PM	Patrick Gibson (pgibson@concentric.net)	818/901-0464	7641 Orion Avenue; Van Nuys, CA 91406
"	Acapulco Cantina	Burbank, CA	Tuesday-6:00 PM	"	"	"
Rocky Mountain Backgammon Club	Cheers	Denver, CO	Sunday bimonthly	Charlie Raichle (charlier@earthlink.net)	719/574-5598	4725 Keith Court; Colorado Springs, CO 80916
Aloha State Backgammon Club	Elks Club	Honolulu, HI	Tuesday-1:00 PM	George Quillin (MikeFujita@hawaii.rr.com)	808/922-2674	2999 Kalakaua; Honolulu, HI 96815
"	Coffee Talk	Honolulu, HI	Friday-6:00 PM	"	808/922-2674	"
Las Vegas Backgammon Club	Elks Lodge	Las Vegas, NV	Tuesday-7:00 PM	Michael Maxakuli (cstarr@lvcm.com)	702/458-9359	311 Pecos Way; Las Vegas, NV 89121
Nevada Backgammon Association	Desert Inn	Las Vegas, NV	March, April & November	Howard Markowitz (howard7@mindspring.com)	702/893-6025	2620 S. Maryland Pkwy, Box 230; Las Vegas, NV 89109
Puget Sound Backgammon Club	European Connection	Burien, WA	Tuesday-7:30 PM	Ruth Robbins (Lerann@foxiinternet.net)	425/226-3120	12611 155th Ave. SE; Renton, WA 98059

CENTRAL

Bloomington-Normal BG Club	Illinois Brewing Company	Bloomington, IL	Monday-6:30 PM	Gary Daniels (gdaniels@dave-world.net)	309/452-3034	1708 Johnson Drive; Normal, IL 61761
Chicago Bar Point Club	Golden Flame	Chicago, IL	Tuesday-6:00 PM	Bill Davis (bg@chicagopoint.com)	773/583-6464	3940 W. Bryn Mawr 504; Chicago, IL 60659
"	Anyway's Chicago Grill & Bar	Oakbrook Terrace, IL	Sunday bimonthly-11:45 AM	Peter Kalba (bg@chicagopoint.com)	773/252-7755	2510 W. Iowa Street; Chicago, IL 60622
Peoria Backgammon Club	Peoria Pizza Works	Peoria, IL	Thursday - 6:30 PM	Ed Zell (edzell@worldnet.att.net)	309/674-0557	2009 W. Clarke Avenue, West Peoria, IL 61604
Sangamon Valley BG Association	Brewhaus	Springfield, IL	Wednesday-6:30 PM	Ben Zemaitis (bzemaiti@fgi.net)	217/483-4028	301 Estes Park Drive; Chatham, IL 62629
"	Parker's Sports Bar	Springfield, IL	1st Sat/Nov to Apr-11:30 AM	Randy Armstrong (rarmstro@fgi.net)	217/528-0117	2012 N. 20th Street; Springfield, IL 62702
Pub Club	Danny's Grill & Bar	Villa Park, IL	Monday-7:00 PM	Joe Wollick (joe68@mediaone.net)	847/755-0887	2225 Harwinton Place; Hoffman Estates, IL 60194
Winnetka Backgammon Club	Winnetka Community House	Winnetka, IL	Wednesday-7:00 PM	Trudie Chibnik	847/446-0537	740 Ballantrae Drive B; Northbrook, IL 60062
Summit City Backgammon League	Mickie & Billie's	Ft. Wayne, IN	Tuesday-7:00 PM	Ken Bruck (bruckshire@iexpress.net)	219/639-6898	P.O. Box 6546; Fort Wayne, IN 46896
Hoosier Backgammon Club	Bench Warmers (Holiday Inn N)	Indianapolis, IN	Thursday-7:00 PM	Butch Meese (meese@worldnet.att.net)	317/255-8902	1008 Tuckahoe Street; Indianapolis, IN 46260
Flint Area Backgammon Club	Days Inn	Flint, MI	Thursday-7:00 PM	Carol Joy Cole (cjc@tir.com)	810/232-9731	3719 Greenbrook Lane; Flint, MI 48507
Plymouth Backgammon Club	Box Bar & Grill	Plymouth, MI	Wednesday-7:30 PM	Dean Adamian (adamiancan@aol.com)	734/981-5706	42954 Barchester; Canton, MI 48187
Cavendish North BG Club	Clubroom	Southfield, MI	Daily except Sunday	Bud Olejniczak	248/552-0300	17348 W. 12 Mile Rd., Suite 12; Southfield, MI 48076
Twin Cities Backgammon Club	Pracna on Main	Minneapolis, MN	Thursday-7:00 PM	Steve Maas (smaas11@aol.com)	612/378-1536	841 20th Ave. SE; Minneapolis, MN 55414
Gateway Gammon Club	Layton's Bar	St. Louis, MO	1st & 3rd Wednesday-7:00 PM	Phyllis Shapiro (psh@math.wustl.edu)	314/539-6928	7100 Cambridge Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63130
Northern Ohio Backgammon Club	Aroma Coffee & Tea	Akron, OH	Wednesday-6:30 PM	Joe Miller (jm@neo.rr.com)	330/966-2811	6633 Lake-O-Springs; Canton, OH 44718

(Continued on opposite side)

CENTRAL (continued)

CLUB NAME	LOCATION	CITY & STATE	MEETING DAY & TIME	CONTACT (E-MAIL)	TELEPHONE	MAIL INQUIRIES TO
Dallas Backgammon League	Jo Jo's Restaurant	Addison, TX	Wednesday-7:45 PM	Tom Wheeler (tzwheel@aol.com)	972/484-3038	3705 Pageant Place, Dallas 75244
Austin Backgammon Association	Bombay Bicycle Club	Austin, TX	Mon.-7:30 PM, Sun. bimonthly-12:30 PM	Jackie Seiders-Smart (jseiders@mail.utexas.edu)	512/261-8518	30 Hightrail Way, Austin, TX 78738
Madison Backgammon Club	J.T. Whitney's	Madison, WI	Tuesday-7:00 PM	Tom Machaj (machaj@itis.com)	608/276-8144	5812 Chesapeake Circle; Fitchburg, WI 53719
Milwaukee Backgammon Club	John Hawks Pub	Milwaukee, WI	Wednesday-7:00 PM	Marv Arnol (marching@execpc.com)	414/355-5562	9031 N. 70th Street; Milwaukee, WI 53223
"	John Hawks Pub	Milwaukee, WI	Sunday bimonthly-11:30 AM	Merrill Schragger (marching@execpc.com)	414/463-2498	9043 W. Grantosa Drive; Milwaukee, WI 53225

NORTHEAST

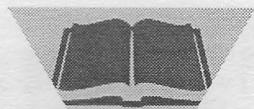
Beltway Backgammon Club	Promenade Cardroom	Bethesda, MD	2nd & 4th Sunday-12:00 NOON	David Montgomery (davidmontgomery@netzero.net)	301/593-8030	713 Dryden Street; Silver Spring, MD 20901
New England Backgammon Club	Holiday Inn	Somerville, MA	Wed-7 PM, Sun mthly-12:30 PM	Walter Trice (wgt@world.std.com)	508/829-3283	549 Wachusett Street; Holden, MA 01520
Granite State Backgammon Club	Chop House	Manchester, NH	2nd Wed monthly-7:00 PM	Linc Bedell (marcus.hermansen@snhmc.org)	603/863-4711	South Road; East Lemster, NH 03605
New Jersey Backgammon Club	Bergen Bridge Club	Bogota, NJ	Friday-7:45 PM	Ron Whitney (richardmunitz@iqfinancial.com)	201/487-9002	682 Cedar Lane 3, Teaneck, NJ 07666
Mid Jersey Backgammon Club	Seagull Restaurant	Hazlet, NJ	Thursday-7:30 PM	Linda Resnicoff (lindares@pobox.com)	732/332-0843	18 Beth Lane; Morganville, NJ 07751
Albany Backgammon Club	Comfort Inn	Colonie, NY	3rd Sunday monthly-1:00 PM	Marc Gray (flash@localnet.com)	518/382-1098	1486 Nott Street; Schenectady, NY 12308
Ace Point Backgammon Club	Clubroom	New York, NY	Daily-12:00 N, Tour. Sun. mthly	Alan & Lourdes Steffen (adsllmt@prodigy.net)	212/753-0842	41 E. 60th Street; New York, NY 10022
New York Chess & Backgammon	Clubroom	New York, NY	Daily, Tour. Sun.-2:00 PM	Steve Manning (nycb@interport.net)	212/869-6057	120 W. 41st Street 3; New York, NY 10036
Cavendish Club of Philadelphia	Clubroom	Philadelphia, PA	Mon, Wed, Thu-7PM; Sat-1PM	Ken Reiver	215/878-5777	3801 Conshohocken; Philadelphia, PA 19131
Pittsburgh Backgammon Club	Niki's Pizza	Pittsburgh, PA	Tuesday-8:00 PM	Steve Hast (pghsteve1@aol.com)	412/823-7500	3560 Ridgewood Drive; Pittsburgh, PA 15235
Tyson's Corner Backgammon Club	Doubletree Hotel	Falls Church, VA	Monday-7:00 PM	Bill Etue (billtue@aol.com)	703/620-3153	11833 Shire Court 1A; Reston, VA 22043

SOUTH

Suncoast Backgammon Association	New York, New York Lounge	Clearwater, FL	Monday-7:30 PM	Drew Giovanis (dgiovan1@tampabay.rr.com)	727/726-1398	25350 US Hwy 19 N 67; Clearwater, FL 33763
Miami Backgammon Club	Call for location	South Miami, FL	Thursday-8:00 PM	Carl Kruse (carl@alumni.princeton.edu)	305/793-1821	P.O. Box 440545; Miami, FL 33144
South Florida Backgammon Club	Big Apple Sports Pub	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	Saturday-1:00 PM	Elayne Feinstein (BGINFla@webtv.net)	954/938-4304	2020 NE 56th St. 206; Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33308
Orlando Backgammon	Mulligan's	Orlando, FL	Tuesday-7:30 PM	David Thomas (dlt@iag.net)	904/736-2844	P.O. Box 803; Deland, FL 32721
Atlanta Backgammon Association	Tony's American Grille	Roswell, GA	Thur-7 PM, Sat or Sun mthly-1 PM	Dave Cardwell (BGINGA@mindspring.com)	770/333-1876	111 Radford Circle SW; Marietta, GA 30060
Charlotte Backgammon Club	O'Charley's	Charlotte, NC	Monday-6:30 PM	Jeb Horton (jeb@carolina.rr.com)	704/814-0850	1813 Matthews Twsp Pkwy 300-109; Matthews, NC 28105

CANADA

Halifax Backgammon Club	Tomfoolery's Alehouse	Halifax, NS	Day/time varies. Call ahead.	Terry Henley (henley@globalserve.net)	902/876-7718	90 Maplewood Dr.; Timberlea, NS B3t 1G1; Canada
Nat'l Capital Backgammon Club	Lunergan's Pub	Gloucester, ON	1st Sun/Sep to Jun-12:30 PM	Eden Windish (rlessard707@home.com)	613/741-2530	396 Talbot St.; Ottawa ON, K1K 2N6; Canada
Toronto Backgammon Club	Doghouse Riley's	Toronto, ON	Daily-7PM, Tour 2nd Sun mthly-2PM	Vladimir Dobrich	416/722-9709	106 Wells St.; Toronto ON, M5R 1P3; Canada



JERRY GRANDELL

His Most Important Matches

Reviewed by Neil Kazaross

Jerry Grandell: His Most Important Matches
© 1998 by Antonio Ortega & Danny Kleinman.
Published by the authors. Soft cover, 214
pages. Price: \$40.00.

Once again, two of backgammon's best analysts, Antonio Ortega, and Danny Kleinman have collaborated to produce a great work. This book analyzes three of Jerry's most important matches in detail while presenting three additional matches in which only major errors are flagged.

First Impressions

The book looks great. The front cover has a dramatic view of Istanbul while the back cover features an aerial panorama of Monte Carlo. The book contains 214 pages with little wasted space. An appendix reviewing equities near the end of a match is included.

As far as the subject matter is concerned, suffice it to say that Jerry Grandell was the most successful player on the international circuit during the last half of the 1990's. A detailed study of his matches and play certainly is a great way to study backgammon.

The Book's Analysis

The authors used extensive JellyFish™ rollouts to aid them in determining errors made by both players throughout the six matches. In the three detailed matches, any error of more than 0.03 is discussed, as are doubling positions and some other critical positions. Snowie™ and Hugh Sconyers' bearoff databases were also used at times.

Each error is flagged by a cute little cartoon guy resembling a dice cup overlooking a backgammon board which gives the book a friendly feel.

At the end of each game, there is a table summarizing the costs of each players'

cube and checker errors. Several times during each match, these tables show cumulative errors made up to that point.

The authors also point out plays which are likely to be very slightly superior or may have been made in a reasonable attempt to steer the position and follow-up cube due to a lopsided score.

Any good match analysis book should enable players who are casually reading it without a board to get much of the benefits of the subject matter. By including many diagrams, this fine book makes it easy to study critical positions. At the end of each match is a summarized discussion of the types of errors made by both players. I wish someone would do that for some of my matches as they might aid me in figuring out whether I'm making some systematic errors or just simply blowing a play here and there.

My Opinion of the Book

The authors really have done a fine job and have produced a stellar analysis of three matches while not over-analyzing to the point that more casual readers will be overwhelmed. I really like this book. Its subject matter and organization are superb and its backgammon analysis is very good.

These two authors make a good team when it comes to instructively discussing a position or cube action. I give the book a grade of A. It is well worth the \$40 price tag. Intermediate players will benefit greatly from playing out the games to see how plays are made in nonstandard positions and how games flow from one position type to another.

Minor Criticisms (How The Book Could Have Received A+)

I would like to have seen major errors (blunders) flagged differently from minor errors. This would allow easy differentiation between a small error costing 0.034 and a serious blunder costing 0.212.

I also think that the authors should have used Snowie™ for rollout and analysis in lopsided matches where the score differential causes cube actions and/or checker plays different from those when the match is close. I believe that with its rollout at match score feature, Snowie™ can aid us in more accurate actions in lopsided matches.

The authors do a fine job of discussing match-oriented cubes. However, I believe some data from Snowie™ rollouts of those situations would help show either the closeness or clarity of the decision. That is all that is lacking from making this superb effort a true masterpiece.

Bottom Line: Buy this book and study it again and again to improve your game. —
Neil Kazaross Δ

CANCUN...

[Continued from page 1]

The Mayan Warrior Blitz created constant action for the many BG junkies present. During the week, 54 eight-player Blitzes were held generating a mammoth winner-take-all \$12,000 prize pool. Late Sunday afternoon, only one soldier was left standing: Atlanta's Bob Wilensky.

Congratulations to Intermediate champ Moses Magaña. Moses made a 20 hour bus ride from El Salvador to compete in the first backgammon tournament of his life. It was certainly a memorable one.



Intermediate champ Moses Magaña & C.J.C.

More congrats to Novice champ Donna West (CA). Ray Fogerlund tutoring paid off.

Kudos to Max Esquivel and Mario Lizano for their efforts in organizing this event. The location was well-received as were the two fiestas and Calcutta breakfast (both complimentary) and Dos Equis Beer girls! Complete results: Δ

6TH TOURNAMENT OF THE AMÉRICAS

OPEN (64): 1-Rainer Witt (Germany), 2-Michael Meyburg (Germany), 3/4-Leo Fernandez (Argentina) / Paul Franks (IL); 1C-Jim Pasko (CA), 2C-Azzam Masarani (CA); 1LC-Christian Toth (Brazil).

INTERMEDIATE (39): 1-Moses Magaña (El Salvador), 2-Michael Snow (TX), 3/4-Richard Armbruster (CA) / Henning Frick (Germany); 1C-Dannia Esquivel (Costa Rica), 2C-Judy Collins (CA); 1LC-Sam Ahmed (CA).

NOVICE (10): 1-Donna West (CA); 1C-Allison Olim (GA); 1LC-Edith Afchani (Germany).

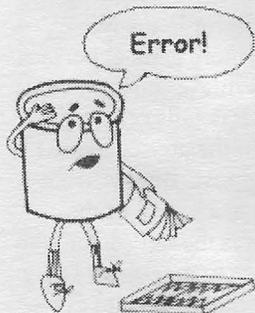
\$2,000 MASTERS JACKPOT (27): 1-Kent Goulding (MD), 2-Michael Meyburg (Germany), 3/4-Mads Andersen (Denmark) / Christian Toth (Brazil).

\$500 LIMITED JACKPOT (16): 1-Larry Taylor (GA), 2-Harry Demetriou (England).

GARRAFON DOUBLES (32 teams): 1-Malcolm Davis (TX) & Olivier Egger (Switzerland), 2-Matt & Richard Armbruster (CA), 3/4-Rafael Dana & Carlos Roccatagliata (Argentina) / Bob Glass & Steve Sax (CA).

MAYAN WARRIOR BLITZ (432): 1-Bob Wilensky (GA), 2-Tom Wheeler (TX).

\$500 JACKPOT (8): 1-Paul Magriel (NV).
PIG-ROLLING: 1-Henning Frick (Germany)



The book designates errors this way.

The *Best Play* I Ever Made

by Phil Simborg



Some people think Doug is the rudest, meanest man they have ever known. Ed's theory is he's hard of hearing, and that's why he usually ignores people when they talk to him. But I know he's neither rude nor hard of hearing. With an I.Q. off the charts, at any given moment Doug may simultaneously be thinking about a most complicated theory of quantum mechanics, how to conjugate the verb "sniff" in fourteen Swahili dialects, and trying to remember the name of his ninth goldfish.

All I cared about at the moment was how he was going to play the 6-1 as my partner in the non-consulting chouette where our opponent held a 16-cube for more dollars-per-point than I could afford, in a game where the outcome might well decide if I would be forced to move in with Claudia so as to have a roof over my head.

While Claudia was a far cry better to take than my previous, almost-human girlfriend, she did have some traits that might be "cute" for an evening, but would surely grate on a daily basis. I had almost gotten used to her ugly habit of spitting whenever she spoke a word containing the letter "T" by anticipating and jerking my head away, but even that was becoming most annoying given her renewed interest in totalitarian dictators. (You can understand why I didn't point out the tautology of the topic.)

So it mattered more than a little to me how Doug was going to play the 6-1, as breaking the prime and hitting, while increasing gammon odds about 25%, would certainly increase our odds of losing the game by at least 10% and maybe more, depending on how aggressive Andy was going to play the bearoff. At the same time, making the prime would still get us a fair number of gammons as well.

Everyone knows that there is nobody better than Doug in calculating these odds, and since the gammon chances surely increased more than twice the chance of losing, the horrible feeling in the pit of my stomach made it painfully clear that Doug was going to make THE BIG PLAY. For my

part, once the cube gets past about 4, I'm not at all unhappy to sacrifice a few gammons to ensure the win. I was literally praying that Doug might come to the same conclusion, even though my stomach was telling me otherwise.

Finally, Doug reached for the checker on the bar and placed it gently on his opponent's ace point and thought about the rest of the move. I could see the tension in Andy's face, wondering just what decision Doug had made, and probably hoping he was going to hit, as Andy's pockets were deep and he would have been glad to see his game-winning chances go up even if it did increase his chance of being gammoned.

All Andy ever thinks about is keeping the box—probably a throwback to his childhood where, as the youngest of four sons, he rarely got to keep anything. (Many believe Andy had something to do with the gas leak that killed all of his brothers while he and his parents were tied up in a conference with his nursery school teacher to discuss his habit of setting little girls' skirts on fire if they tried to take his toys.)

Well, there probably couldn't have been a worse time for the waitress to come over and ask if anyone wanted another drink. Naturally, Doug completely ignored her, but being a new waitress, the young lady took it personally and wouldn't just walk away.

So deep in thought at that moment, Doug's complex brain simply couldn't process such simple words as "Sir, I asked you if you would like another beer." If she had said something like, "I have heard that if you combine two parts of calcium with one part chloride you will get an acid so strong that a single drop would burn through an 8-inch steel plate," he would have jumped wide awake and responded, "That is a silly myth originating from a typo in a University of Kentucky graduate student's Doctoral thesis in 1986 that was picked up by a Central American underground extremist newspaper and distrib-

uted in various parts of Miami and the Keys in the early 90's."

Just as I was about to tell the waitress to please come back later, her hand reached out and tapped Doug on the arm. I knew, at that moment, that her gentle nudge would doom me to spend the next several months with Claudia and her unfortunately ill-named cat, Tattoo.

Doug jerked his head up, completely surprised that someone would dare touch him or even try to get his attention in a non-consulting chouette. All eight of us around the table gazed with fear and wonder, as to what would happen next. It was then, that I got what was perhaps one of the most brilliant and daring ideas of my life.

All eyes were on Doug as his face turned a bright red, his eyes widened, and his mouth began to slowly open in what we all knew was likely to be a tirade that would be heard miles away, and remembered for months to come. Our eyes turned also toward the poor young waitress who, seeing the madness in the face before her, was beginning to realize the depth of the Pandora's Box she had just inadvertently opened.

As the waitress tried to withdraw, Doug grabbed her arm, holding it firmly in his steel grip. We all held our breath and waited. Everyone's eyes were riveted on Doug's face.

Everyone, that is, except mine.

Quickly and quietly I reached down to the board and completed Doug's play, making the prime. Then just as quickly and quietly, I picked up the dice and placed them back into Doug's cup. While I knew the risk I was taking, it all happened so fast that I really didn't have time to fully consider the consequences of what I was doing.

In the world of money backgammon, your word and your honor must be impeccable or you are simply an outcast forever. My entire future as a money backgammon player hinged on whether or not anyone caught those two quick motions during those few seconds of terror in the bar.

Sensitivity for the more genteel persons who might be reading this account prevents me from giving the full details of Doug's tirade and the extent of the abuse lathered on the poor young waitress. But suffice it to say, that if they made a movie of the scene, Jack Nicholson is the only actor who could have done justice to the role of Doug.

Finally, things settled down, and as we all turned our attention back to the board, everyone stared with looks of confusion and amazement. I held my breath, waiting for Doug's reaction.

He looked up at Andy and stated with authority, "Your roll." Δ

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 3]

first-come basis. This is unfair and contrary to our agreement. As a result, Mr. Esquivel has requested full reparations for you and all other affected players.

We hope that other directors are made aware of this overbooking trick that hotels can employ and protect against it when drawing up their contracts.—Ed.

DAN'S 'FRANK' OPINION ON VEGAS

Regarding the scandal in Vegas, I believe how players agree to share current and future prize money (by means of "hedging") is a private matter. But when the agreement involves the obviously stronger player advancing by means of dumping or throwing the match, this is cheating.

What occurred in Las Vegas was cheating. If the committee's final ruling with almost no penalty is taken as a precedent for future similar rulings, the results could be catastrophic. Though "the committee members are not the villains here" (Jake Jacobs' words), they have ruled in a totally unacceptable and irresponsible fashion.—Dan Frank, *Essential Backgammon Editor, Germany*

LAS VEGAS—A COMPLEX PROBLEM

I had to read Jake Jacobs' "Scandal in Vegas" twice last month because it had so many layers of complexity. Then I looked at the 1990 U.S. *Tournament Rules* and found:

4.9 COMPLETION: Games must be rolled to completion, unless ended by a pass of a double or redouble, or conceded in a no-contact position as a single game, gammon or backgammon loss. No game may be cancelled and replayed or settled. Matches must be played to the appointed length.

It is clear to me that what actually occurred in Las Vegas was in violation of this rule. Now suppose the players had continued playing, but in such a way that the same outcome was guaranteed? Would this have clearly been in violation of the *US Tournament Rules*?

One of the strengths of the *US Rules* is its brevity. But brevity should not be an excuse for poor and/or unwritten wording. If "throwing" a match is against the rules, then that should be spelled out explicitly. It should not be on the shoulders of the players to interpret "No game may be . . . settled" to mean that throwing a match (for apparent mutual compensation of the combatants) is illegal.

Finally, Jake, I respond to your last few paragraphs: "I expect that the . . . various newsletters will be filled with outraged

letters denouncing this ruling." On the contrary, I applaud the committee for its wisdom. Furthermore, does this well-reported incident now call for reconsideration of the proposed deletion of Rule 6.3: APPEALS, allowing a player to appeal Director's ruling by formation of a three-person committee?—Chuck Bower, *Bloomington, IN*

Hoosier Club director Butch Meese responds: Howard Markowitz's Las Vegas Backgammon Rules do not contain the APPEALS rule. I know this because I helped him reformat his rules last year. Therefore, in the given situation, no actual appeal was considered.

The director should have the power to form a committee on his own when special situations like this occur. The problem Markowitz faced was a case where 3 or 5 heads are better than one.—Butch Meese, Director, Hoosier (IN) Backgammon Club

BIBA'S VEGAS VIEWPOINT

I totally agree with Abraham Eitan's letter in the Nov./Dec. POINT regarding the eventual ruling on the scandalous actions in Las Vegas. Both involved players should have been disqualified with no prize money awarded. Greed was the motive there. Winning money became more important than winning the tournament. That's a shame.

What sort of impression do our lower division players get when Championship level players behave this way? The actions of the two offending players only serves to harm backgammon and the reputation of the director when his correct decision is not only overturned, but the culprits aren't

really penalized at all, thanks to a poor committee decision.

Surely the two players violated international backgammon rules which state "No game may be cancelled, replayed or settled." Since they clearly settled on who would advance, they had broken the rules.

Ignorance of this rule is not a defense that any director worth his salt would accept, either. After all, aren't copies of the rules posted or made available to the players when they register? They are at British Isles Backgammon Association (BIBA) tournaments.

We either have rules of play and enforce them, or we just throw away the rules and let the players decide what they would like to do.—Michael Crane, *Director, BIBA*

MORE ON THE DOUBLING CUBE

In the October POINT, you inquire about the origin of the doubling cube. The late Oswald Jacoby was a close friend of mine. When I asked him this very question, he said the origin was unknown, but that it was introduced in the mid-1920s, about the same time that Contract Bridge was invented by Harold S. Vanderbilt.

When the cube first came out, it was alternatively called the "doubling block." I have such a block from the 1930s. It is not cube-shaped, rather 1 1/4" x 1 1/4" x 1/2" with "64" and "32" on the two large faces.

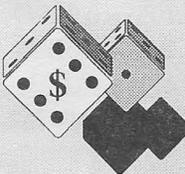
There have been many variants in doubling cube design, including the use of Roman numerals. Some cubes now appear with a "1" replacing the "64" which makes a lot more sense.—Prince Joli Quentin *Kansil, Honolulu, HI Δ*

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22nd Annual Pittsburgh Backgammon Championships

February 18–20, 2000

Pittsburgh Greentree Radisson Hotel
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Pizza, Hoagies, Munchies, Soft Drinks, Coffee/Tea all weekend for \$15
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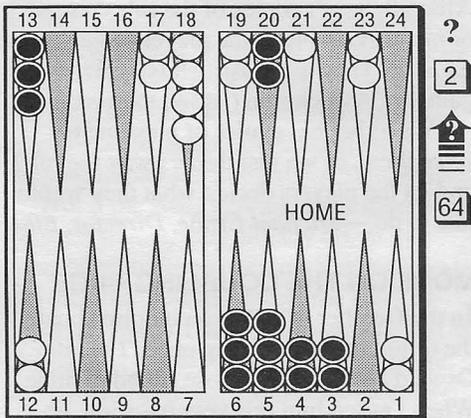
For an invite, contact: Steve Hast at (412) 823-7500 • PghSteve1@aol.com

★ Monday, February 21 is President's Day! ★

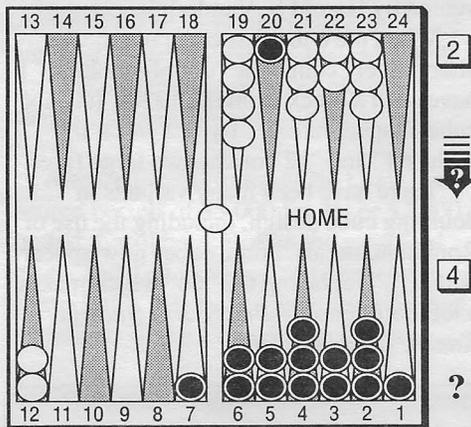
PROBLEM #259 ANALYZED

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)?**



These two related positions arose in game 17 of a 25-point quarterfinal match of the World's Giant Jackpot (Istanbul, January 1999), one of six matches included in the just-published book by myself and Danny Kleinman: *Jerry Grandell: His Most Important Matches*.

Leading 22-15, Black opened with 3-1, and rolled 4-4 soon after, obtaining a quick advantage. A few rolls later, Black reached Position 259(a) shown above—a powerful cashing position for money or in a close match.

[Refer to Position 259(a)]

Leading 22-15 in a 25-point match, Black has only a minimal double. The decision is close because White's doubling window is narrow; with moderate gammon threat, he may do better to play for an undoubled gammon than to risk a 4- or 8-point loss by doubling.

On the other side, White does well to take, for she enjoys tremendous cube vigorish with a 2-cube. A well-timed redouble will kill not only the cube, but any gammons that Black may win, and will make one of the two additional points that Black can win superfluous.

Several rolls later, White reached the critical position diagrammed in Position 259(b).

[Refer to Position 259(b)]

When White took the double, she was undoubtedly thinking of redoubling soon, killing Black's gammons. Is this the time, or is she not good enough?

Cubeless JellyFish™ rollouts show White winning 13.1% plain games, 5.9% gammons and 0.4% backgammons, while Black wins 61.7% plain games and 18.9% gammons or backgammons. Clearly, White is a big underdog, but she does have some market-losers: 1-1 or 1-6 from the bar, as well as other aces when Black dances.

The best way to look at redoubles by the trailer when she is an underdog in the game but faces possible market loss is to weigh what the redouble risks against what it gains. Our match equity chart shows:

White's score	White's match-winning chances
17-22	0.195
19-22	0.285
21-22	0.411
23-22	0.598
15-24 Crawford	0.029

White's risk in redoubling is simply the loss of her 0.029 match-winning chances the 61.7% of the time that Black wins a plain game, which comes to 0.01789. White's gain comes when she wins a plain game (0.285 match chances instead of 0.195), gammon (0.598 match chances instead of 0.285) or backgammon (winning the match instead of 0.411 match chances). Doing the arithmetic:

$$\begin{aligned}
 &13.1\% \text{ of } (0.285 - 0.195) = 0.01179 \\
 &5.9\% \text{ of } (0.598 - 0.285) = 0.01847 \\
 &0.4\% \text{ of } (1.000 - 0.411) = 0.00236 \\
 &\text{Total} = 0.03262
 \end{aligned}$$

Thus White risks about 1.8% to gain about 3.3% by redoubling. A fine "underdog redouble" and of course an easy take!

In the actual match, White redoubled and Black took. If you want to know the outcome of the game and the match, buy the book! Δ

[Editor's note: *Jerry Grandell: His Most Important Matches* is now available. Order from Carol Joy Cole: 810/232-9731 or cjc@tir.com.]

AMALGAMATION

Make your Midwest Champs (17-19 Mar.) reservations today! Details in the brochure, available at 773/583-6464... Action in Vegas: The Pro-Am is 1-5 Mar. and the International Twin Championships is 25-30 April. Both will be held at the Desert Inn. Contact **Howard Markowitz** (702/893-6025) for details... Visiting the Bar Point Club in Nov./Dec.: **Pierre Vandebossche** (Belgium), **Bobbie Shifrin** (NV), **Jim Pappas** (NV)... Thanks to *Games Magazine* (Feb. 2000) and **Michael Sontchi** for including us in their "2000 Calendar of Games"... Oops! boardmaker **Bob Zavoral**'s e-mail address was printed incorrectly in Nov. Reach Bob at: imtrex@worldnet.att.com... The current movie about **Andy Kaufman** ("Man On The Moon") features **Susan Smith** (now also deceased) as the woman Andy wrestled on Saturday Night Live. **Michael Maxakuli** (NV) reminds us that former Playboy Playmate Smith was featured on his Dec. 1981 *Las Vegas Backgammon* magazine cover... Good luck to **David Montgomery** (Maryland) who begins a Beltway BG Club newsletter this month... Congrats to **Michael & Veronica Mooney** (AZ, Mexico) who recently celebrated 25 years together! And best wishes to **David & Linda (Woods) Rockwell** who were married in Peoria, IL 20 Nov. They will live in Skokie, IL. Also, a friendly welcome to **Yamin & Roulla Yamin's** (IL) new baby girl, **Jennifer Yamin** who was born 26 Dec.... Have you seen **Michael Strato's** "Gammon Village" Internet website (www.gammonvillage.com)? It's incredible... Effective in 2000, **Dan Frank**, German editor of *Essential Backgammon* will publish only in English at the reduced rate of \$25/year. E-mail Dan at Dan.Frank@okay.net for details... **Kent Goulding** (MD) confirms there will be no World Cup & US Open tournament in 2000. Happy New Year from CHICAGO POINT. Δ

ZAVORAL CBPC CHAMP FOR '99



Congratulations to Bob Zavoral: Chicago Bar Point Club's 1999 Player of the Year.

WINNER'S CIRCLE



Oct.-Dec. 1999

•**Third Moscow Open** (Moscow, Russia; 12-27 Oct.)... MASTERS (32): 1-Olivier Egger (SWZ), 2-Johannes Levermann (GER), 3/4-Ian Ressu (SWZ) / Michael Meyburg (GER); 1C-Melia Nodar (GEO), 2C-Peter Heitmüller (GER); 1LC-Carsten Joh (GER). INTERMEDIATE (22): 1-Avitisyan (ARM), 2-Kamalyan (ARM); 1C-Shtaingardt (RUS); 1LC-Nadir Guseinov (AZER). BEGINNER (21): 1-Artur Gambaryan (ARM), 2-Nugzar Chachrava (GEO); 1C-Peter Malkov (RUS); 1LC-Alex Askuraya (GEO). DOUBLES (16): 1-Martin de Bruin (USA/SPA) & René van der Pluijm (HOL). WARM-UP (64): 1-Atoyan (ARM).

•**Grand Prix de Suisse** (Lugano, Switzerland; 26-31 Oct.)... CHAMPIONSHIP (41): 1-Rainer Witt (GER), 2-Olivier Egger (SWZ); 1C-Michel Serrero (FRA); 1LC-Oliver Werthmueller (SWZ). INTERMEDIATE (26): 1-Pio Domeniconi (SWZ), 2-Davide Boldini (SWZ); 1C-Andrea Togni (ITA), 1LC-Elena Grigore (ITA). WARM-UP: 1-Bill Robertie (USA). SWAROVSKY: 1-Bill Robertie (USA). RAYMOND WEIL: 1-André Tribert (FRA).

•**19th Swedish Open** (Stockholm, Sweden; 5-7 Nov.)... CHAMPIONSHIP (69): 1-Johan Moazed, 2-Per Hildebrand, 3/4-Edy Heinz (AUST) / Thomas Rönn; 1C-Jerry Grandell, 2C-Marc Cristensen (DEN). INTERMEDIATE (52): 1-Robert Olsson, 2-Hans Liby (NOR), 3/4-Björn Andersson / Johan Sylvan; 1C-David Asplund, 2C-Eirik Johansen (NOR). BEGINNER (22): 1-Björn Ekström, 2-Ulrika Hammarström; 1C-Jan Fjellstedt SUPER JACKPOT (16): 1/2-Max Enqvist / Thomas Rönn. 1000 JACKPOT (16): 1/2-Bo Adler / Hannu Lyyjynen (FIN). 1000 JACKPOT (8): 1-Edy Heinz (AUST). REBUY BLITZ (74): 1-Josef Kolbert, 2-Leonid Riskin (USR).

•**Backgammon by the Bay Monthly** (Alameda, CA; 7 Nov.)... OPEN (13): 1-Richard McIntosh, 2-Glenn Nunez.

•**Milwaukee Sunday Bimonthly** (Milwaukee, WI; 7 Nov.)... OPEN (9): 1-Gary Hines, 2-Bob Holyon; 1C-Wally Berglund.

•**Bar Point Club Fall Trophy Tourney** (Chicago, IL; 9 Nov.)... OPEN (26): 1-Tak Morioka, 2-Bob Zavoral, 3/4-Bob Steen / Paul Friedman; 1C/2C-Paul Klein / Laila Leonhardt. INTERMEDIATE (25): 1-Georgina Flanagan, 2-Ken Tyszko, 3/4-Ron Zimet / Phyllis Smolinski; 1C-Glenn Martells, 2C-Mark Dalton... *Tak Morioka's 3rd Fall Trophy win.*



Chicago Bar Point Fall Trophy Champs Tak Morioka & Georgina Flanagan.

•**Flint Area Club Championship** (Flint, MI; 14 Nov.)... OPEN (29): 1-Carol Joy Cole, 2-Carol Falk, 3-Rick Todd. INTERMEDIATE (29): 1-Steve Grob, 2-Dave Brotherton, 3/4-Dirk Hogan / Lilly Udieme. NOVICE (9): 1-Fran Miller (OH), 2-Tony Roberts.

•**NEBC Sunday Monthly** (Somerville, MA; 14 Nov.)... EXPERT (22): 1-Ed Abou-Zeid, 2-Mary Hickey, 3/4-Herb Gurland / Marty Storer; 1C-Garbis Zerdelian, 2C-Tomas Girnius. A/B DIV. (9): 1-Larry Yeager, 2-David Menkes, 3/4-Jose Alvarez / Andrew Schuman; 1C-Marcus Hermansen, 2C-Rob Papp.

•**5th Kaiserbrunnen Cup** (Brakel, Germany; 19-21 Nov.)... MASTERS: 1-Dirk Schiemann, 2-Mario Kühl; 1C-Henning Frick; 1LC-Dieter Hirte. CHAMPION: 1-Jens Wolf, 2-Dirk Werner; 1C-Danny Cohen (GB); 1LC-Stefan Bobenhausen. INTERMEDIATE: 1-Gerhard Lingnau, 2-Axel Schürmann; 1C-Sandra Eisfeld; 1LC-Jörg Umhey. SUPER JACKPOT: 1-Dirk Schiemann, 2-Mario Kühl.

•**20th Opre Invitational** (Downers Grove, IL; 20 Nov.)... CHAMPIONSHIP (8): 1-Bill Davis, 2-Joann Feinstein. DOUBLES (4): 1-Jeff Henry & Chris Stanford, 2-Tom Walthes & Peter Kalba... *Another great time at Jim & Carmel Opre's annual backgammon tourney/dinner party.*

•**XXIV Finnish Open** (Helsinki, Finland; 20-21 Nov.)... CHAMPIONSHIP (34): 1-Jyri Lammi, 2-Toni Nylund; 1C-Timo Väättäinen, 2C-Jaakko Salava; 1LC-Kari Salonpää.

•**Townharbour Trophy Tournament** (Coventry, England; 20-21 Nov.)... OPEN (76): 1-Roy Hollands, 2-John Clark. FRIDAY KO (15): 1-Brian busfield, 2-John Broomfield. DOUBLES (8): 1-Christmas Crackers.

•**Backgammon by the Bay Monthly** (San Francisco, CA; 21 Nov.)... OPEN (14): 1-Beth Skillman, 2-Brian Farr; 1C-Bill Landry. INTERMEDIATE (11): 1-Johathan Tredwell, 2-Michael Austin; 1C-Richard Christison. BEGINNER (3): 1-Serg Taller.

•**5th Thanksgiving Weekend—ABT** (Canton, OH; 26-28 Nov.)... OPEN (17): 1-Ken Bruck (IN), 2-Mike Friedman (Canada); 1C-Ray Kershaw (UK), 2C-Steve Kovach (GA). ADVANCED (22): 1-Bonnie Rogoff (OH), 2-Len Dangremond (MI); 1C-Sal Chehayeb (MI), 2C-Bill Versaw (PA). NOVICE (2): 1-Charlene Britton (OH). OPEN DOUBLES: 1-Ken Bruck & Greg Varbanov (IN). ADVANCED DOUBLES: 1-Bruce King & Marty Kohler (OH), 2-Adam Versaw & Bill Versaw (PA). 1-POINT BLITZ: 1-Jim Slomkoski (MI).

•**Bar Point Sunday** (Oakbrook Terrace, IL; 28 Nov.)... OPEN (20): 1-Herb Roman, 2-Sam Pottle, 3/4-Ken Tyszko / Laila Leonhardt; 1C-Carter Mattig, 2C-Bob Zavoral. INTERMEDIATE (11): 1/2-Elaine Kehm / Brian Barber, 3/4-Rich Gast / Stan Kucharz; 1C-Tom Machaj, 2C-Femi Owiku.

•**Gammon Assoc. 29th Invitational—ABT** (Los Angeles, CA; 3-5 Dec.)... OPEN (50): 1-Odis Chenault, 2-Frank Talbot (MI), 3-Art Benjamin; 1C-Ray Foglerlund, 2C-Carol Joy Cole (MI). ADVANCED (13): 1-Sam Ahmed, 2-Charles Toots; 1C-Paul Mangone. LIMITED (9): 1-Jay Cordes, 2-Larry Burkhardt; 1C-Nan Spector. SUPER-32 (32): 1-Dorn Bishop, 2-Bob Glass, 3/4-Odis Chenault / Steve Sax. DOUBLES (16): 1-Saul Meir & John Rockwell, 2-Grisha Moradian & Ceci Pedroza. 1-POINT BLITZ (48): 1-David Marona.

•**Springfield Series #3** (Bloomington, IL; 11

Dec.)... OPEN (24): 1-Ed Zell, 2-Ed Bauder; 1C-Randy Reiff, 2C-Dave Rockwell; 1LC/2LC-Laila Leonhardt / Dave Cornwall.

•**United Kingdom Finals** (Coventry, England; 11-12 Dec.)... MAIN (16): 1-Sean Casey, 2-Danny Cohen. CONS. (63): 1-Brian Lever, 2-Paul Lamford. SUICIDE! (64): 1-Stefanie Rhon, 2-Jeff Barber. CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS (6): 1-Roy Hollands, 2-Dod Davies. FRIDAY KO (25): 1-John Slattery, 2-Jim Johnson. DOUBLES (8): 1-Wirri Ficarri.

•**NEBC Sunday Monthly** (Somerville, MA; 12 Dec.)... EXPERT (16): 1-Herb Gurland, 2-Jon Weinstein, 3/4-Gil Evans / Marty Storer; 1C-Jim Pascoe, 2C-Ed Abou-Zeid. A/B DIV. (9): 1-José Alvarez, 2-Rob Papp, 3/4-Jim McKenna / Brad Mampe; 1C-Brad Mampe, 2C-Dave Ferron.

•**Double Five Club Christmas Tourney** (London, England; 19 Dec.)... OPEN (24): 1-Faro Moazed, 2-Ronald Reinhardt, 3/4-David Robbins / Ray Tannen. Δ

1999 PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

NATIONAL (Alphabetized by State)

- 1999 American BG Tour: *Neil Kazaross (IL)*
 Gammon Associates (CA): *Steve Sax*
 San Diego Backgammon Club (CA): *Ed Baize*
 BG By The Bay (CA): *Jonathan Weinstein*
 Miami BG Club (FL): *Leo Bueno*
 South Florida BG Club (FL): *Mark Kormienko*
 Atlanta Backgammon Assn. (GA): *Steve Kovach*
 Chicago Bar Point Club (IL): *Bob Zavoral*
 Pub Club (IL): *Joe Wollick*
 Games People Play (IL): *Reg. Porter/Henry Gray*
 Peoria Backgammon Club (IL): *Fouad Malouf*
 Winnetka Backgammon Club (IL): *Ed Buerger*
 Sangamon Valley BG Assn. (IL): *John Jennings*
 Bloomington-Normal BG Club (IL): *Ed Bauder*
 Hoosier Backgammon Club (IN): *To be announced*
 Beltway BG Club (MD): *David Montgomery*
 New England BG Club (MA): Expert: *Ed Ahola, A Div.: Jim Sullivan, Monday Monarch: Seth Towle*
 Flint Area Backgammon Club (MI): *John Carrico*
 Plymouth Backgammon Club (MI): *Dean Adamian*
 Twin Cities BG Club (MN): *Steve Brown*
 Las Vegas Backgammon Club (NV): *Tony Anton*
 Charlotte BG Club (NC): *Jeb Horton*
 New Jersey BG Club (NJ): *Rich Munitz*
 Ace Point Backgammon Club (NY): *Alex Rasic*
 Northern Ohio BG Club (OH): *Mary Hickey*
 Dallas Backgammon League (TX): *Dan Allen*
 Austin Backgammon Assn. (TX): *Sam Karimi*
 Puget Sound BG Club (WA): *Ruth Robbins*
 Madison Backgammon Club (WI): *Gary Hines*

INTERNATIONAL

- European Champion: *Mario Sequeira (Portugal)*
 National Capital BG Club (Canada): *Scott Douglas*
 Carlsberg Rating (Finland): *Heikki Rantalaiho*
 British Isles BG Champs: Swiss: *Roy Hollands*, Knockout: *Dod Davies*, Ranking: *Dod Davies*



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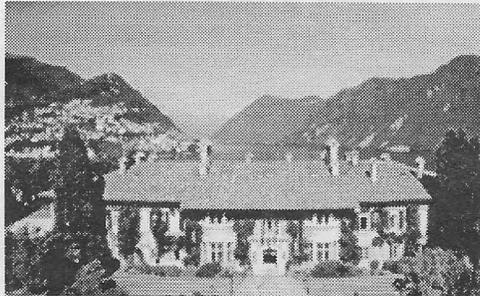
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1'500.-val.for the Chouette winner (week-end x2 at the Principe Leopoldo)
200.- val.Champagne Jacquart

director

James Ballié

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Deutch	James Ballié	3205276
Français	Fabrizio Sommaruga	6022401
English	Raffaello Gatti	3374425

registration

Wednesday 21.00 21.30
Thursday 21.30 22.00
Friday 18.00 19.00
no fax, no phone registrations!
late arrival according to availability

programme

Wednesday 26th
21.45 Double Consulting
00.00 Chouette

Thursday 27th
16.00 Play resumes
22.00 Warm-up
00.00 Chouette

Friday 28th
15.00 Play resumes
18.30 Welcome Cocktail
21.15 Public Draw
21.45 Start of Tournament

Saturday 29th
14.00 Quarter finals
16.00 Consolation
23.00 Superjackpot

Sunday 30th
14.00 Finals & L.Chance
19.00 Ceremony &Cocktail

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Intermed.	280.-	+ 70.-
Chouette	270.-	+ 30.-
Double p.p.	300.-	+ 50.-
Superjackpot	1'500.-	
Social Guest	10.-	

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