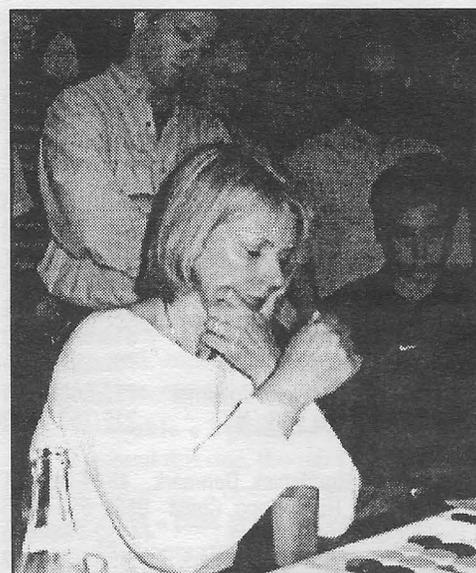


25th monte carlo world championship

## KATIE SCALAMANDRE WINS WORLD TITLE FOR USA

by Harald Johanni

Call it "Women's Week" at the Grand Hotel in Monte Carlo. The low pressure zones that blew over the mountains into Europe 10-16 July, all with women's names, were not the only feminine forces in action. Equally as powerful (over the board) were Intermediate Champ Tanja Lewis of Denmark, and Katie Scalamandre from the United States, winner of the 2000 World Backgammon Championship.



American Katie Scalamandre ponders a tough play en route to the 2000 Backgammon World Championship finals in Monte Carlo. [MC Photos by Harald Johanni]

Katie Scalamandre (the former Katie Wright) has been an active international tourney player for nearly 30 years. She is the third women to earn the title of Backgammon World Champion. (It was 1973 when Carol Crawford won the World Championship in Las Vegas. And in 1981, Lee Gendel won the World Championship in Monte Carlo.)

This year's 267-player Championship field was the biggest since I started attend-

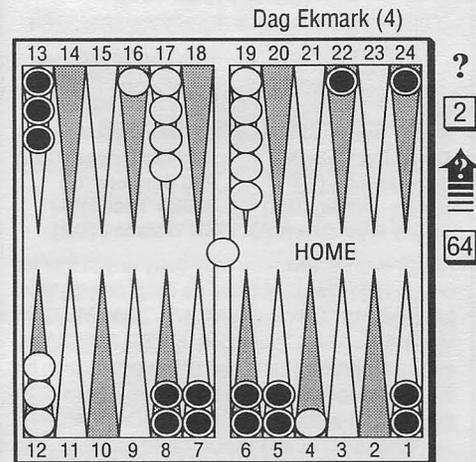
ing the Monte Carlo World Championship back in 1983. It was tougher than ever to survive in this year's international field of excellent players. No surprise that a woman did it. All medical people know that women are the better survivors.

I knew that Katie Scalamandre was tough, because I played her last year in the 2nd Consolation quarterfinals of the World Championship. The match was recorded by a friend of mine and according to the Snowie 3™ analysis, Katie played at a world-class level (4.2).

For this reason, I started recording Katie's matches beginning with the round-of-16. Dag Ekmark from Norway was her opponent in that round. Regarding cube play, Katie had a very low error rate in take decisions and her doubling errors often worked to trap her opponent.

**Position #1.** [See above right.] 21-point round-of-16 match. Katie Scalamandre (Black) leads Dag Ekmark (White), 5-4. Black on roll. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**

Leading 5-4, Katie twice missed



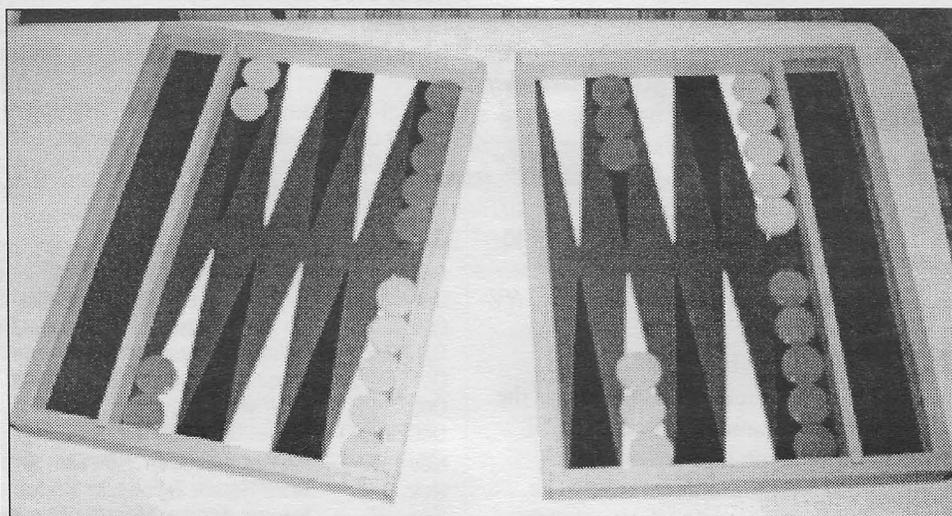
Katie Scalamandre (5)

correct doubling opportunities and then cubed when the position was too good. But against the man from Norway, her late double was no mistake. Dag still accepted and ended up losing a gammon and four points.

In the next game, Katie again offered a double which Dag should have passed.

[Continued on page 5]

## TERRY'S SMALL ERROR



After playing on store-bought sets for 20 years, Terry Leahy decided to make his own backgammon board. It took Terry, who plays at the Bloomington, Illinois club, 20 hours of work to reach the state of completion shown above.

Unfortunately, Terry noticed a mistake he had made that forced him to start from scratch. Do you see his error? [Answer in "Amalgamation."]

# CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

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## LETTERS

c/o CHICAGO POINT

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

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## 'TOGETHER'?

I just had to write and thank Michael Strato for his tip in the June CHICAGO POINT on how to get perfect dice just by thinking the word "together." It's amazing that he would give up his edge by sharing this incredible secret with us.

I assume that when he writes a letter to the editor, what he thinks to himself is "brain-dead." —*Dan Caverly, Las Vegas, NV*

## UNFRIENDLY BEHAVIOR

I am sure you will remember me. I was the new person who came to play in the Chicago Bar Point Club tournament on 15 August—the first tournament of my life. And I am very sorry to say, I was grossly disappointed.

I first played with a woman who made me feel lower than a worm. She was rude, insulting and made me feel most unwelcome.

*[Continued on page 3]*

coming attractions

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR



by Carol Joy Cole

810/232-9731

E-mail: [cjc@tir.com](mailto:cjc@tir.com)

\* Denotes new or revised listing

### NATIONAL

*American Backgammon Tour events underlined.*

Sep 16	Redwood Empire Club Monthly, Embassy Suites, San Rafael, CA	707/824-9715
Sep 16	Southern Connecticut Tournament, Hampton Inn, Milford, CT	203/592-9207
Sep 16*	Atlanta Chouette Tournament, Tony's American Grill, Roswell, GA	770/333-1876
Sep 16-17*	The Victor Invitational, Jon Victor's residence, La Jolla, CA	858/456-3829
Sep 17*	Ace Point Doubles Tournament, Ace Point Club, New York, NY	212/753-0842
Sep 17*	Austin Bimonthly Tournament, Bombay Bicycle Club, Austin, TX	512/261-8518
Sep 17*	New England Club Monthly, Holiday Inn, Somerville, MA	781/938-7852
Sep 21*	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Days Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
<u>Sep 22-24</u>	<u>Florida State Championships, Sheraton Suites, Ft. Lauderdale, FL</u>	<u>954/938-4304</u>
<u>Sep 22-24</u>	<u>Towpath Inn Tournament, Towpath Inn, Turin, NY</u>	<u>716/387-0767</u>
Sep 24	Ace Point Sunday Tournament, Ace Point Club, New York, NY	212/753-0842
Sep 24*	Milwaukee Sunday Bimonthly, John Hawks Pub, Milwaukee, WI	414/463-2498
Oct 1*	FIBS 2000 Fall Tournament, via computer	<i>davide@sco.com</i>
Oct 1*	Official GamesGrid Monthly Tournament, via computer	<i>tournaments@cyberarts.com</i>
Oct 8	Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Anyway's Grill, Oakbrook Terrace, IL	773/252-7755
Oct 8*	Backgammon By The Bay Monthly Tournament, Q Cafe, Palo Alto, CA	831/688-9722
Oct 8*	Northern Ohio Club Monthly, Thirsty Dog Brewery, Canton, OH	330/966-2811
<u>Oct 13-15</u>	<u>Illinois State Championships, Springfield Hilton, Springfield, IL</u>	<u>217/528-0117</u>
Oct 14*	Rocky Mountain Fall tournament, Arthritis Foundation Office, Denver, CO	719/574-5598
Oct 19*	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Days Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Oct 21*	Redwood Empire Club Monthly, Embassy Suites, San Rafael, CA	707/824-9715
Oct 22*	Atlanta Monthly Tournament, Tony's American Grille, Roswell, GA	770/333-1876
Oct 22*	New England Club Monthly, Holiday Inn, Somerville, MA	781/938-7852
Oct 29*	Ace Point Sunday Tournament, Ace Point Club, New York, NY	212/753-0842
Oct 29*	22nd Flint Area Club Championships, Holiday Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Nov 1*	Official GamesGrid Monthly Tournament, via computer	<i>tournaments@cyberarts.com</i>
<u>Nov 3-5</u>	<u>46th Gammon Associates Invitational, A.R. Private Club, Los Angeles, CA</u>	<u>818/901-0464</u>
Nov 4*	Universal Fall Championship, All The King's Men, Warren, MI	810/558-4790
Nov 11*	Atlanta Monthly Tournament, Tony's American Grille, Roswell, GA	770/333-1876
Nov 12*	Backgammon By The Bay Monthly Tournament, Q Cafe, Palo Alto, CA	831/688-9722
<u>Nov 17-19</u>	<u>Minnesota State Championships, Thunderbird Hotel, Bloomington, MN</u>	<u>612/378-1536</u>
Nov 18*	Redwood Empire Club Monthly, Embassy Suites, San Rafael, CA	707/824-9715
Nov 19*	Austin Bimonthly Tournament, Bombay Bicycle Club, Austin, TX	512/261-8518
Nov 19*	New England Bonus Tournament, Holiday Inn, Somerville, MA	781/938-7852
<u>Nov. 24-26</u>	<u>Ohio State Championships, Akron/Fairlawn Holiday Inn, Akron, OH</u>	<u>330/966-2811</u>
Nov 26*	Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Anyway's Grill, Oakbrook Terrace, IL	773/252-7755
Nov 26*	Ace Point Sunday Tournament, Ace Point Club, New York, NY	212/753-0842
Nov 26-Dec 3	Backgammon at Sea Cruise, Ft. Lauderdale-St. Thomas-Bahamas	819/685-2078
Nov 29-Dec 3	Las Vegas Open, Harrah's Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, NV	702/893-6025
Dec 3-10	Backgammon on Board V Cruise, New Orleans-Montego Bay-Cozumel	773/583-6464
<u>Dec 29-31</u>	<u>Ace Point New Year's Tournament, Ace Point Club, New York, NY</u>	<u>212/753-0842</u>

### OUTSIDE USA

Sep 23-24*	3rd Humlebæk Open, Baunebjerg Skolen, Kantinen, Humlebæk, Denmark	4549-222821
Sep 29-Oct 2	2000 Asian Championships, Ladies Recreation Club, Hong Kong, China	8522-523 1306
Sep 30-Oct 1	Sandy Osborne Trophy, Hilton National Hotel, Coventry, England	44152-2888676
Sep 30-Oct 1*	Centrebet Golden Dice Cup, Sportscenter Herning, Herning, Denmark	4586-722622
Oct 8*	Toronto Sunday Monthly, Doghouse Riley's, Toronto, ON, Canada	416/722-9709
Oct 5-8	3rd Austrian Open & Doubles Championship, Casino Seefeld, Austria	431-971 5889
Oct 7-9	6th Japan Open & 30th Championship, Nakano Sun Plaza, Tokyo, Japan	813-33733814
Oct 12-15	Salvador Open, Clube da Bahia, Salvador, Bahia, Brazil	5571-3511478
Oct 14-15*	9th Åbne Fynske Mesterskaber, Bridgohuset, Odense, Denmark	4566-177719
Oct 20-21	Swiss Meisterschaft 2000, Zurich, Switzerland	4179-401 5811
Oct 25-29	Consulting Doubles World Champ. & Grand Prix de Suisse, Lugano, Switz.	4179-337 4425
Oct 28-29*	8th Irish Open, Wynn's Hotel, Dublin, Ireland	3531-6689332
Oct 28-29	Solrød Open, Solrød Backgammon Club, Solrød, Denmark	4566-144282
Nov 1-5	7th German Open, Hotel am Kaiserbrunnen, Brakel, Germany	49521-64314
Nov 11-12	Town Harbor Trophy, Hilton National Hotel, Coventry, England	44152-2888676
Nov 12*	Toronto Sunday Monthly, Doghouse Riley's, Toronto, ON, Canada	416/722-9709
Nov 18-19*	Swiss Meisterschaft 2000, Restaurant Roter Turm, Baden, Switzerland	4179-401 5811
Nov 18-19*	XXV Finnish Open, Scandic Hotel, Espoo, Finland	35840-5433778
Nov 18-19*	Danish Championship, Funke Club, Copenhagen, Denmark	4539-202204
Nov 18-19*	9th & 10th Ranglistenturnier 2000, Hotel Kaiserbrunnen, Brakel, Germany	49521-64314
Dec 9-10*	13th Open von Thun & Swiss Doubles, Hotel Seepark, Thun, Switzerland	4179-656 9700
Dec 9-10*	United Kingdom Finals, Hilton National Hotel, Coventry, England	44152-2888676

# LETTERS...

*(Continued from page 2)*

I sincerely hope the way I was treated this evening is not normally how newcomers are regularly treated. If that were the case, you would hardly have a single person

show up.

Needless to say, I had a thoroughly miserable time, not because I lost (I came eager to learn the finer points of the game), but because the person with whom I was engaged chose to be so ungracious.—  
*Susan Fox-Larkin, Chicago, IL*

*We also felt offended when your opponent arrogantly refused to answer your initial question to her regarding how the opening roll is determined. Rest assured that individuals of this nature are in backgammon's vast minority.*

*We are refunding your \$10 entry fee in hopes that you will give us another try and get to know some of our many friendly members.—Ed.*



## AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 2000

Top 100 compiled through 4 Sept. 2000 after 8 events  
(Coming in Sept. & Oct.: Florida State, Towpath Inn, Illinois State)



Bob Bishop	35.99	Bill Tallmadge	8.78	Ed King	3.68	Ken Ellenberger	1.89
Mike Senkiewicz	27.33	Jeb Horton	7.22	Wendy Kaplan	3.65	Charles Toots	1.89
Paul Weaver	23.53	Dave Wetzell	6.85	Steve Michelson	3.53	Joe Davidson	1.81
Paul Franks	22.88	Neil Kazaross	6.84	Ralph Dietz	3.42	Dee Webster	1.81
Doug Roberts	21.83	Jona Alexander	6.55	Walter Trice	3.42	Andy Natale	1.76
Sam Pottle	20.74	Bob Glass	6.55	David Todd	3.42	J.A. Miller	1.70
Mike Ungerleider	16.36	Steve Sax	5.88	Adam Versaw	3.40	Larry Yudin	1.70
Hugh McNeil	16.05	Mike Friedman	5.72	Eliot Bean	3.27	Cam Trenor	1.70
Len Dangremond	15.98	Steve Maas	5.60	Perry Firooz	3.27	Paul Lombardo	1.58
Roy Appey	15.46	Walt Swan	5.47	Tom Leahy	3.21	Vince Frigo	1.47
George Barr	15.39	Phyllis Smolinski	5.25	Jim Price	3.20	Leon Weiner	1.46
Herb Gurland	13.64	Mark Anshus	5.20	Drew Giovanis	2.94	Diane Varner	1.37
Joe Ausmann	11.44	Ron Sanders	5.17	Abbas Zaltash	2.94	Alan Epstein	1.31
Jeff Kane	11.40	Timothy Jaxon	5.00	Kate Elmore	2.61	Wilder Wadford	1.31
Dion Hogan	11.35	Steve Kovach	5.00	Gary Fries	2.50	Tom Hodous	1.25
Jeremy Bagai	11.35	Alan Gaarder	5.00	Phil Michelson	2.50	Boris Mindich	1.23
Ed Zell	11.20	Guy Nicosia	5.00	Elayne Feinstein	2.40	Wally Wolf	1.18
Hugh Sconyers	10.92	Matt Reklaitis	5.00	James Roston	2.30	Alan Binkow	1.12
John Greci	10.75	Jake Jacobs	4.68	Jim Hickey	2.29	Bud Bowers	1.12
Andy Palumbo	10.59	Steve Flam	4.60	Dennis Culpepper	2.29	Rhonda Young	1.02
Ray Baker	10.40	Bob Wilensky	4.60	Bobbie Shifrin	2.24	Jay Cordes	0.94
Chris Wilson	9.62	Roz Ferris	4.37	Marianne Gatenby	2.23	Bob Sexton	0.90
Renée Rosenbloom	9.50	Laila Leonhardt	4.16	Tom Machaj	2.08	Jacquie Lee	0.88
Sean Garber	9.10	Linda Rockwell	4.16	Don Heinsler	2.08	Fran Miller	0.86
Sal Chehayeb	8.81	Garo Tchalabian	3.78	David Rubin	1.90	John Drexel	0.76

### THE OCTOGENARIAN DISCOUNT

I continue to enjoy CHICAGO POINT to no end. Keep up the good work. Still hoping to visit Chicago and play there.

My subscription expires with issue 132 so please find a renewal check. I turned 80 on August 16, so as per POINT issue 116 ("Letters": Senior Discount), I get half price!

Regards to Peter Kalba and Carol Joy Cole.—*Jim Caray, Athens, Greece*

### ATLANTA ON THE CLOCK

The 2000 Georgia Backgammon Championships were recently held 10–13 August. For the first time in an ABT event, time clocks were used for all matches played in the Championship Division, and it was a huge success. (Full tournament results and photos can be found on our web site: <http://www.angelfire.com/ga/AtlantaBackgammon/gbc.html>.)

We have made a few recent revisions to the Atlanta Backgammon Association Clock Rules & Procedures (which were

*(Continued on page 7)*



## CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB 2000 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

COMPILED  
THRU 31 AUG.

Herb Roman	17.20	Don Jayhan	4.56	Bill Keefe	2.16	Bobbie Shifrin	0.64
Tim Carroll	15.92	Bill Bartholomay	4.56	Bill Davis	2.04	Keith Kuigowski	0.60
Jake Jacobs	12.16	Paul Friedman	4.40	Harry Cohn	1.92	John Brussel	0.48
Ken Bond	11.92	Val Zimnicki	4.08	Matt Surekci	1.92	Dimitri Giannakopoulos	0.48
Tim Mabee	11.72	Paul Baraz	4.00	Reginald Porter	1.68	Roger Blaine	0.36
Harold Elgazar	11.08	Norma Shyer	3.96	Wendy Kaplan	1.60	Howard Chow	0.36
Joe Wollick	9.92	Romeo Kap	3.76	Elaine Kehm	1.32	Mike Anderson	0.34
Phyllis Smolinski	9.20	Paul Lombardo	3.68	Ralph Byrns	1.28	Jerry Brooks	0.24
Paul Franks	7.92	Georgina Flanagan	3.60	Bob Gekas	1.28	Jim Roland	0.24
Tak Morioka	7.84	Steve Klesker	3.52	Andy Natale	1.12	Keith Kuligowski	0.24
Sinan Yoyen	7.76	Paul Klein	3.44	Chris Wilson	1.12	Richard Stawowy	0.20
Bob Zavoral	6.80	Bob Steen	3.44	Mike Cyrkiel	0.88	Joe Szwedo	0.20
Ed Buerger	6.74	David Araiza	3.36	Dave Cramer	0.88	Ann Thomas	0.16
Gary Kay	6.72	Phil Simborg	3.20	Scott Richardson	0.88	Brian Kozin	0.16
Joe Ausmann	6.48	Alice Kay	2.96	Shah Dogan	0.88	Jim Anderson	0.16
Mike Sutton	6.32	Joann Feinstein	2.84	Bridget McCoy	0.80	Tom Machaj	0.12
Marc Rosset	6.12	John Jennings	2.80	Jill Ferdinand	0.80	Bob Sexton	0.12
Carter Mattig	6.00	Peter Kalba	2.64	George Marasas	0.64	Jon Sion	0.08
Mary Franks	5.12	Rodney Bell	2.28	Brian Barber	0.64		
Richard Lloyd	4.56						

Congratulations to **JOE AUSMANN** (2.88), July 2000 Player of the Month. An impressive finish for Joe, who has been a BPC player for only about a year. Placing was second was Gary Kay (2.56). Tim Carroll increased his lead in the overall standings by finishing 3rd in July with 2.16 points.

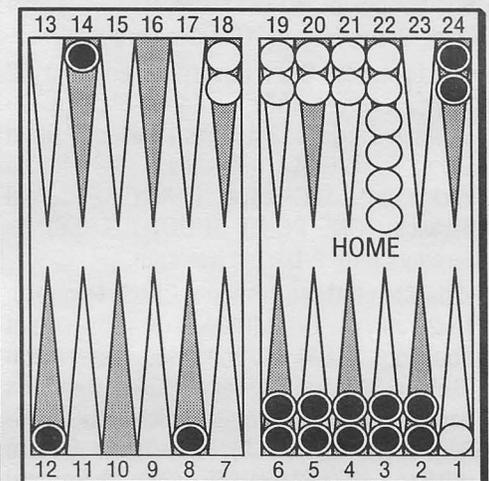
**HERB ROMAN** and **MIKE SUTTON** share Player of the Month honors for August each earning 3.84 points. Runner's-up were Ed Buerger and Marc Rosset with 3.20 points each.

*your move*

### PROBLEM #266

to be analyzed by Kit Woolsey

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



**WINNER'S  
CIRCLE**



July–Sep. 2000

•**12th City of Venice** (Venice, Italy; 6-9 July)... CHAMPIONSHIP (105): 1-Arthur Muradyan (ARM), 2-Michel Serrero (FRA), 3/4-Vittorio Castro (ITA) / ELMAR KOFLE (ITA); 1C-Jorge Alberto Pan (ARG), 2C-Nevrat Dogan (DEN); 1LC-Guiseppa Rigon (ITA), 2LC-Harald Johanni (GER). INTERMEDIATE (76): 1-Jakov Nepomniachtchi (RUS), 2-Christian Zenkner (GER); 1C-Kirik Milchpedersen (NOR), 2C-Albert Reiter (AUS); 1LC-Kolya Mosoyan (ARM), 2LC-Archil Odisharia (GEO). BEGINNER (35): 1-Luciano Rubbi (ITA), 2-Jinelle Girard (CAN); 1C-Marcello Bolognesi (ITA); 1LC-Edith Afchani (GER). WARM UP (154): 1-Michael Higatsberger (AUS). TEAM TOURNAMENT (27): 1-Yan (ARM) Muradyan & Rostomyan & Atoyan. SUPERJACKPOT WINNERS: #1-Phil Laak (USA), #2-Jerby Behnke (GER), #3-Christian Toth (BRZ).

•**Andrew Sarjeant Trophy** (Coventry, England; 8-9 July)... OPEN (46): 1-John Slattery, 2-Bob Parmley, 3/4-Paul Barwick / Salvador Leong; 1C-Tim Cross, 2C-Steve Pickard; 1LC-David Fall, 2LC-Dave Gallagher. SAD LOSERS! (32): 1-John Clark, 2-Stavros Elia. FRIDAY NIGHT KO (16): 1-Keith Robertson, 2-David Nathan. DOUBLES (11): 1-Wright & Righter, 1-Teddy Subbies.

•**Backgammon By The Bay Monthly** (Palo Alto, CA; 9 July)... OPEN (16): 1-Bill Kennedy; 1C/2C-Odis Chenault / Noah Novick. INTERMEDIATE (5): 1-Christian Stoddard. BEGINNER (3): 1-Rushton Hurley.

•**Northern Ohio Monthly** (Canton, OH; 9 July)... OPEN (10): 1-Joe Miller, 2-Bob Green.

•**Redwood Empire @ San Rafael** (San Rafael, CA; 15 July)... OPEN (13): 1-Timothy Jaxon, 2-Rawlin Pullen, 3-Kit Woolsey, 4-Sho Sengoku. INTERMEDIATE (11): 1-Joan Clark, 2-Jim Mason; 1C-Dave Ferguson.

•**5th Liverpool Open** (Liverpool, England; 22 July)... OPEN (56): 1-John Slattery, 2-Brenden Burgess, 3/4-Uldis Lapikens / Brian Lever; 1C-Steve Malins, 2C-Monica Beckerson; 1LC-Steve Hallett, 2LC-Paul Barwick. ONE POINT SHOOTOUT (56): 1-Jeremy Limb, 2-Darren Kerrigan.

•**2nd Chech Open** (Prague, Czech Republic; 19-23 July)... CHAMPIONSHIP (86): 1-Kent Goulding (USA), 2-Johannes Levermann (GER), 3/4-Mario Sequeira (POR) / Dimitrios Pappas (GRE); 1C-Denis Jersov (RUS), 2C-Rageb Shadalla (USA); 1LC-Gianni Bizarro (ARG). INTERMEDIATE (28): 1-Gerhard

Fabian, 2-Peter Winkler (AUS); 1C-David Aspland (SWE); 1LC-Kenneth Staarup (DEN). BEGINNER (13): 1-Camilla Plum; 1C-Yunilda Esquivel (CR); 1LC-Martin Schwartz (GER). SUPERJACKPOT (16): 1-Michael Higatsberger. DOUBLES (25): 1-Danielle Bastarache & Mike Corbett (USA). TEAM TOURNEY (16): 1-Shimodaira, Kazuhiro & Shadalla. WARM-UP: 1-Karsten Nielsen (DEN).

•**6th Kaiserbrunnen Cup** (Brakel, Germany; 27-30 July)... MASTERS (49): 1-Johannes Levermann, 2-Peter Gelpke (NL), 3/4-Peter Heitmüller / Volker Sonnabend; 1C-Werner Hertel; 1LC-Klaus Schicks. CHAMPIONSHIP (32): 1-Klaus Bergmann, 2-Wolfgang Tönnies; 1C-Manfred Hubert; 1LC-Alexander Mentrup. INTERMEDIATE (10): 1-Charlie Gouw (NL), 2-Frank Baumgarten. BLITZ (50): 1-Johannes Levermann, 2-Dirk Schiemann. SUPER JACKPOT: 1-Michael Schmidt, 2-Johannes Levermann. MINI-GOLF: 1-Chris Ternel. ARCHERY: 1-Volker Sonnabend.

•**Y2K Thousand Islands Tournament—ABT** (Alexandria Bay, NY; 28-30 July)... OPEN (19): 1-Renée Rosenbloom (NY), 2-Bill Tallmadge (NY), 3-Mike Friedman (CAN). DOUBLES (4): 1-John Mansour & Rich Reasin (NY)... *A nice win for Renée on her birthday weekend.*

•**Bar Point Sunday** (Oakbrook Terrace, IL; 6 Aug.)... OPEN (12): 1/2-Bill Davis / Peter Kalba, 3/4-Tim Mabee / Joe Wollick; 1C-Jake Jacobs, 2C-Jim Roland. INTERMEDIATE (11): 1/2-Reginald Porter / Mike Anderson, 3/4-Jim Anderson / Ed Buerger; 1C-Keith Kuligowski, 2C-Bob Sexton.

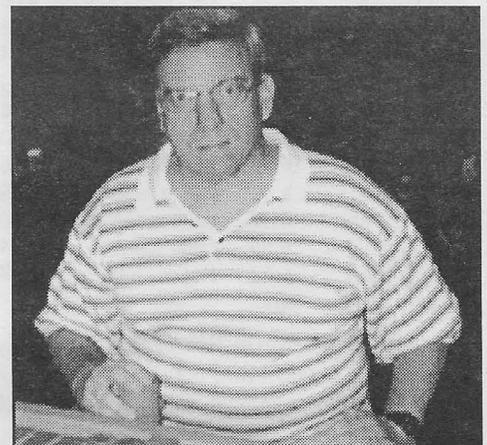
•**Georgia State Championships & Peach Cup—ABT** (Atlanta, GA; 11-13 Aug.)... CHAMPIONSHIP (23): 1-Hugh McNeil (Canada), 2-Steve Flam (FL), 3/4-Jim Hickey (GA) / Dennis Culpepper (VA); 1C-Bob Wilensky (GA). ADVANCED (26): 1-Ron Sanders (NC), 2-Kate Elmore (GA), 3/4-Alan Epstein (GA) / Wilder Wadford (NC); 1C-Jeb Horton (NC). LIMITED (8): 1-Diane Varner (NC), 2-John Youngblood (GA). PEACH CUP: 1-Steve Mellen (NY), 2-Dennis Culpepper (VA). DOUBLES: 1-Bill & Patrice Robertie (MA), 2-John Brussel (IL) & Betty Coppic (GA). SUPER-BLITZ: 1-Carl Sorg (GA), 2-Vadim Musaelyan (NC); 3/4-Doug Johnson (NC) / Gregg Cattanach (GA). CHARITY TOURNAMENT: 1-Jim Hickey (GA), 2-Gregg Cattanach (GA), 3/4-Jake Jacobs (IL) / Stuart Thomson (GA). LAST CHANCE: 1-Karen Michele (GA), 2-Steve Kovach (GA), 3/4-Phillip Smith (NC) / John Graas (CA). ABSOLUTE LAST CHANCE: 1-Zia Afshani (GA), 2-John Brussel (IL). DICE CUP THROW: 1-Kate Elmore (GA).

•**Backgammon By The Bay Monthly** (Palo Alto, CA; 13 Aug.)... OPEN (14): 1-Sho Sengoku; 1C/2C-Robert Caradien / Rawlin Pullen. INTERMEDIATE (6): 1-Cindy Moss. BEGINNER (5): 1-Ernesto Nassau.

•**Central Illinois Summer Sizzler Tourney** (Lacon, IL; 20 August)... OPEN (32): 1-John Jennings, 2-Rob Farmer, 3/4-Greg Feller / Dave Cornwall; 1C-William Hutchison, 2C-Bob Zavoral... *Always a fun summer Sunday in Illinois prefaced by a pool party at Ed & Lisa Zell's house. Once again, Cliff Mayoh cooked up the steaks.*

•**Ace Point Sunday** (New York, NY; 27 Aug.)... OPEN (15): 1-Ron Appy, 2-Richard Munitz; 1C-Boris Golubov. INTERMEDIATE (9): 1-Henry Byzinski, 2-Larry Liebster; 1C/2C-Fred Fado / Angelika Algara.

•**48th Indiana Open—ABT** (Indianapolis, IN; 1-4 Sep.)... CHAMPIONSHIP (58): 1-Paul Weaver (AL), 2-Dion Hogan (MI); 1C-Jeremy Bagai (PA), 2C-Steve Sax (CA), 3C/4C-Drew Giovanis (FL) / Abbas Zaltash (PA). ADVANCED (46): 1-Len Dangremond (MI), 2-Sal Chehayeb (MI); 1C-Jeb Horton (NC), 2C-James Roston (NY), 3C/4C-Ed King (OH) / Wally Wolf (MI). LOW INTERMEDIATE (13): 1-Vince Frigo (MI), 2-John Drexel (MI); 1C-Rhonda Young (MI). INDY 300 JACKPOT (29): 1-Walter Trice (MA, 2-Jeremy Bagai (PA); 1C-Frank Frigo (KY), 2C-Herb Gurland (MA). AMATEUR JACKPOT (32): 1-Bill Versaw (PA), 2-James Roston (NY), 3/4-Paul Berg (MI) / Denny Leatherman (PA). \$200 LABOR DAY JACKPOT (16): 1-Bob Zavoral (IL). DIRECTOR'S CUP (16): 1-Bill Davis (IL), 2-John Brussel (IL). MICRO-DOUBLES (16) Hugh McNeil/Chester Warzel (CAN/IN). OVERFLOW DOUBLES (8): 1-Mary Ann Meese/Ray Foglerlund (IN/CA). OPEN MICROBLITZ (128): Ted Kirit (NY). LIMITED MICROBLITZ (16) Brian Barber (CA). \$20 QUICKIE #1 (64): Kate Elmore (GA). \$20 QUICKIE #2: (32) Jan Carlstrom (PA). THURSDAY KICKOFF (31): 1-Jeremy Bagai (PA), 2-Butch Meese (IN). Δ



Indy Open Champion Paul Weaver.

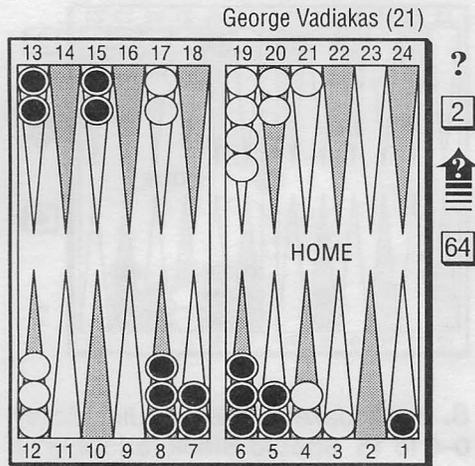
# KATIE WINS...

[Continued from page 1]

Again, Ekmark lost a gammon giving Scalandre a 13-4 lead. She went on to win the match 21-17.

In the quarterfinals, Claude Marbleu of France took Katie to double match-point before falling. Semifinalist opponent George Vadiakas of Greece was also tough. With the score tied at 21-21 in the 23-point match, Katie doubled a little bit late (Position #2).

**Position #2.** 23-point semifinal match. Katie Scalandre (Black) and George Vadiakas (White) are tied at 21-all. Black on roll. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



George Vadiakas (21)

Katie Scalandre (21)

George correctly realized that he needed at least 31.5% winning chances to accept this double. His winning chances were actually about 29% here, so his pass was correct. The following game, Katie Scalandre showed how World Champions roll. Seven doubles (2-2, 6-6, 5-5, 2-2, 4-4, 3-3, 6-6) in 16 rolls powered Katie into the finals.

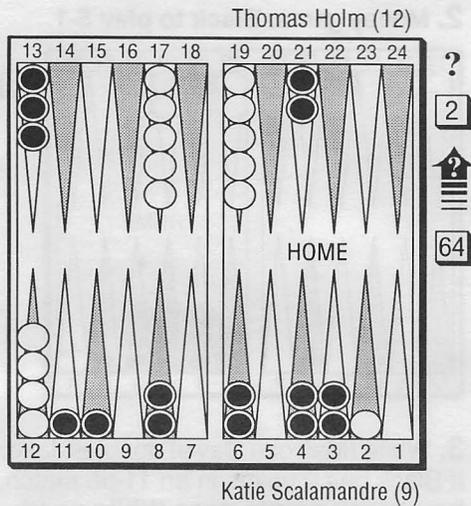
In the other semifinal, 23-year-old Dane Thomas Holm defeated young German Christian Liebe-Harkort.

## THE CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH

THE TELEVISED FINAL between Scalandre and Holm was played Sunday 16 July in the early afternoon. Paul Magriel provided the closed-circuit commentary and had a lot to get excited about.

Leading 11-3, Thomas Holm made the mistake of trying to protect his lead by passing takes. Position #3, with Holm ahead 12-9, is the third example of this.

**Position #3.** [See top right.] 25-point final match. Katie Scalandre (Black) trails Thomas Holm (White), 9-12. Black on roll. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



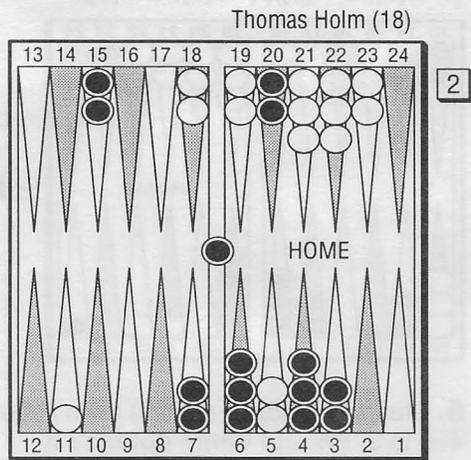
Thomas Holm (12)

Katie leads the race by only one pip (144-145) and has a double only because of her attacking chances. Thomas is able to win about 36% of the games (cubeless) and should have accepted this cube.

Holm's gifts allowed Scalandre to tie the score at 18-all. In the following game (#25), Katie doubled and Thomas was able to turn the game around after a correct take.

When the Dane's position improved to a near-redoubling advantage, Thomas missed a nice conceptual play:

**Position #4.** 25-point final match. Katie Scalandre (Black) and Thomas Holm (White) are tied at 18-all. **WHITE TO PLAY 5-4.**



Thomas Holm (18)

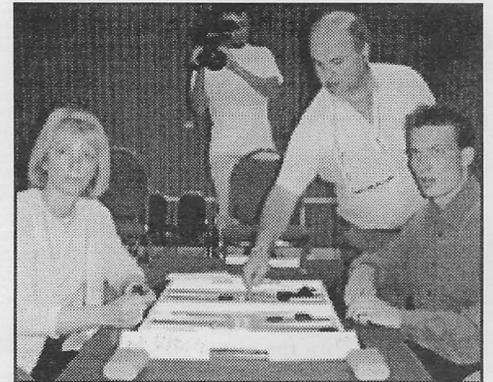
Katie Scalandre (18)

Thomas's game plan is to come home with his three back checkers as quickly as possible. He should walk home with his three checkers together as a team. The team is strong and one lonely man left back is weak and can easily become a punching ball for Katie.

Black has an isolated outfield point and one checker on the bar. Therefore, if she hits a blot in the outfield, she will likely have to break the outfield point, thus

leaving two blots. The more checkers Thomas has distributed in the outfield, the more return shots he has if he is hit. For two conceptual reasons (control and team power) 20/15, 20/16 is Holm's best play by far.

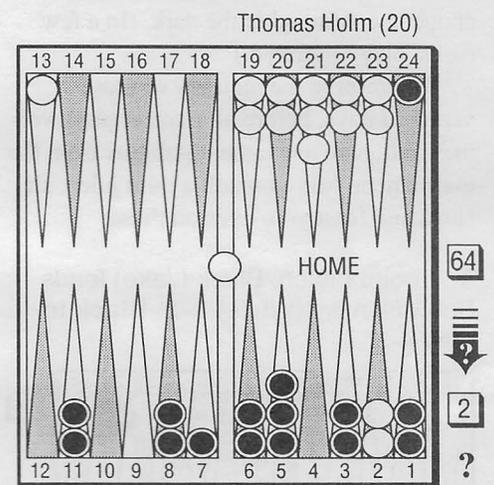
Instead, Holm left one checker in Katie's board, playing 20/11. Following a dance by Katie, Thomas rolled 2-2, failing to escape the back man and forcing him to give up outfield control. Katie then rolled a number (5-2) that entered from the bar and hit Holm's outfield blot. She went on to win this important game.



Katie Scalandre and Thomas Holm sit down to do battle in the 2000 World Backgammon Championship match.

In game #30, with Katie leading 23-20, Thomas Holm studied the setup shown in Position #5 for a long time trying to decide whether or not to double:

**Position #5.** 25-point final match. Katie Scalandre (Black) leads Thomas Holm (White), 23-20. White on roll. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



Thomas Holm (20)

Katie Scalandre (23)

This is an interesting setup that can be used as a reference position. The rule-of-thumb says: Gammonish doubles are most powerful when winning the gammon wins the match.

[Continued on page 9]

# A PEACHY LITTLE QUIZ

by Jake Jacobs



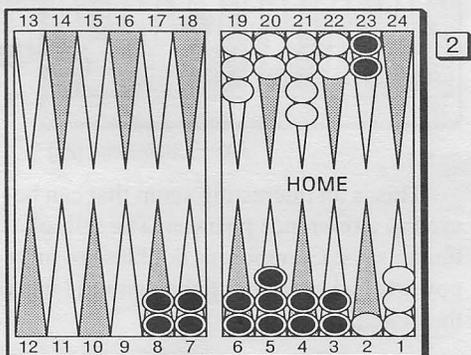
I'd like to report that I went through the field at the Georgia State Championships (11–13 August in Atlanta) with the rapacity of Sherman. If I marched all the way to the sea, what the heck, I'd packed a bathing suit. However, I can't report that. Hugh McNeil (Toronto) won the Championship, and Dennis Culpepper (of the Virginia Culpeppers) surrendered the Peach Cup to New Yorker Steve Mellen. Damn carpetbaggers! Other than that, I'd have to say that Dave Cardwell and his staff showed us some real Southern hospitality. [Complete results on page 4—Ed.]

The hotel, and the city itself drew appreciative comments. While the use of chess clocks for the Open was controversial, those of us who liked the clocks already still liked them, while some of those resistant to the idea were won over. Certainly no one complained about waiting for a match. Heck, I was *hoping* to face slow players!

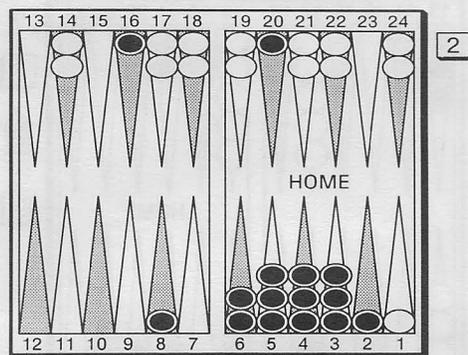
Even my bathing suit didn't go to waste. On Sunday Betty Coppic hosted a pool party, and the chouettes lasted long into the night. In fact, when the Chicago contingent reluctantly withdrew at midnight, a sudden power failure struck that section of Atlanta, and the consolidated chouette continued in the dark. (In a few cases, play improved.)

To preserve the memory of those vanished days, before all trace is gone with the wind, here are some highlights from the tournament. Mix yourself a mint julep, sit back, and feast your eyes on these:

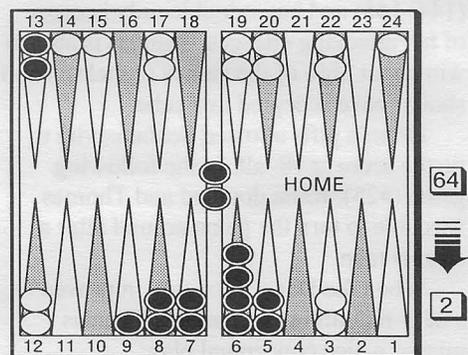
**1.** 7 point match. Black (Jake) leads Bob Wilensky (White) 4–2. **Black to play 4-3.**



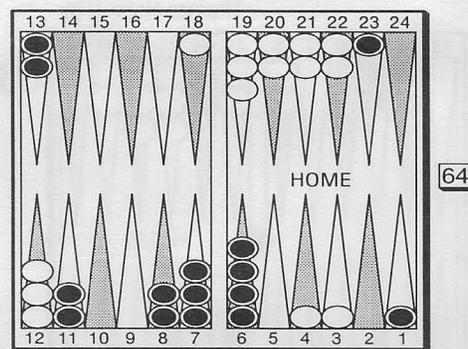
**2.** Money game. **Black to play 5-1.**



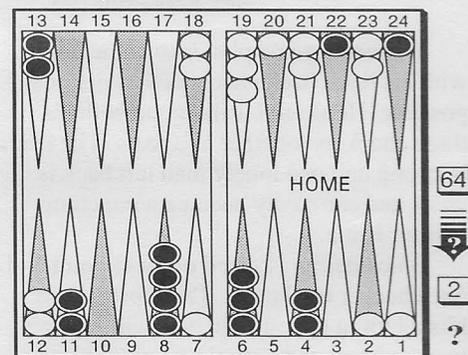
**3.** White (Malcolm Davis) doubles Jake. If Black has 0 points in an 11-pt. match, **how many points does White need before Black should consider taking?**



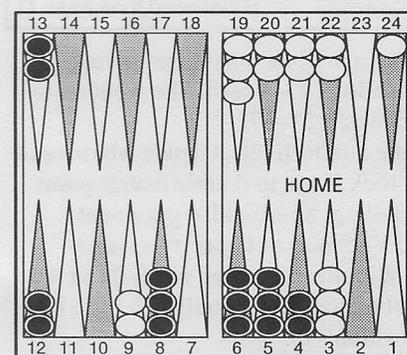
**4.** Black (Jake) leads Stuart Thompson 5–2 to 9. **Rank these 5 plays** for Black's 2-2: (11/5, 7/5); (13/9[2]); (7/3\*, 3/1, 6/4\*); (11/9[2], 6/4\*[2]); (7/5[2], 6/4\*[2]).



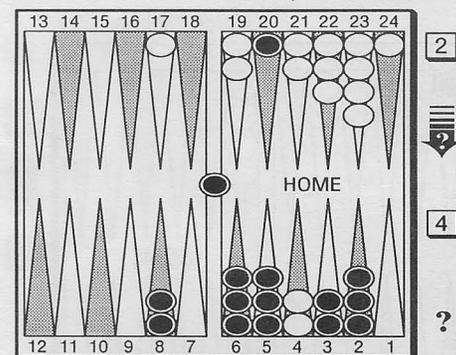
**5.** Stuart Thompson (White) trails Jake 4–6 to 9. **Should White double? If double, should Black take?**



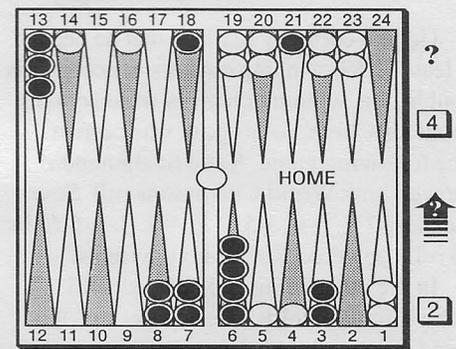
**6.** Black (Jake) trails Stuart Thompson 6–8 to 9, Crawford. **Black to play 6-5.**



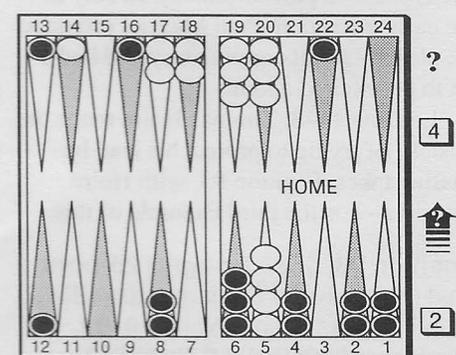
**7.** Bill Robertie (White) trails Malcolm Davis 4–6 to 11. **Should White redouble. If redouble, should Black take?**



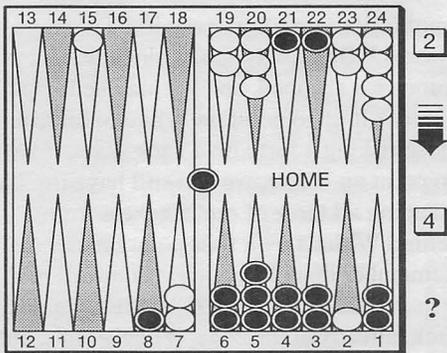
**8.** Black (Jake) is tied with Jim Hickey 0–0 to 15. **Should Black redouble? If redouble, should White take?**



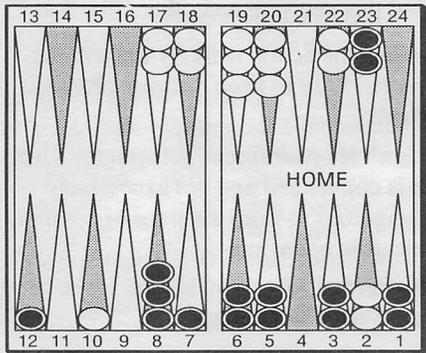
**9.** Black (Jake) trails Dennis Culpepper 5–12 to 15. **Should Black redouble? If redouble, should White take?**



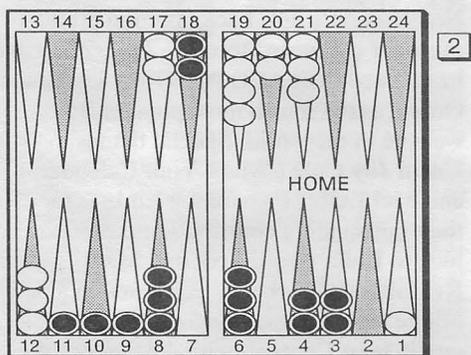
**10.** 15 point match. Samra Hadden (White) is tied with Jake 0-0. Assuming for this problem that you are Black, **If White redoubles, what should you do if White is a player of equal strength? Stronger? Weaker?**



**11.** Tournament double match-point. Hugh McNeil (Black) vs. Paul Franks. **Black to play 2-1.**



**12.** 11 point match. Hugh McNeil (Black) trails Dennis Culpepper 4-6. **Black to play 2-2.**



[Answers on page 9]



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## LETTERS...

[Continued from page 3]

originally based on the Chicago Bar Point Clock Rules). These rule changes have been made to help eliminate the possibility of the time clock interfering with the "normal" flow of backgammon play. Here are the changes (paraphrased, with my comments) in the September 2000 ABA revision:

**"Flags that fall at double-match point incur no penalty, and play continues on."** This rule helps stop players from altering their play for a time-generated victory versus playing for an actual win on the backgammon board. It also allows the outcome of double-match point games to always be determined "on-the-board" versus "on-the-clock."

**"Concession offers for the maximum possible point value may not be refused."** This rule prevents players from actually prolonging the length of the match by refusing a reasonable concession offer. By not allowing players to force a game to be played to completion with the sole purpose of using the opponent's time clock, the rule meets the spirit and purpose of the clock rules: to speed up play, not to prolong it.

To see the specific wording of the new revision, please reference the "ABA Clock Rules & Procedures" posted on our web site: <http://www.angelfire.com/ga/AtlantaBackgammon/clockrules.html>

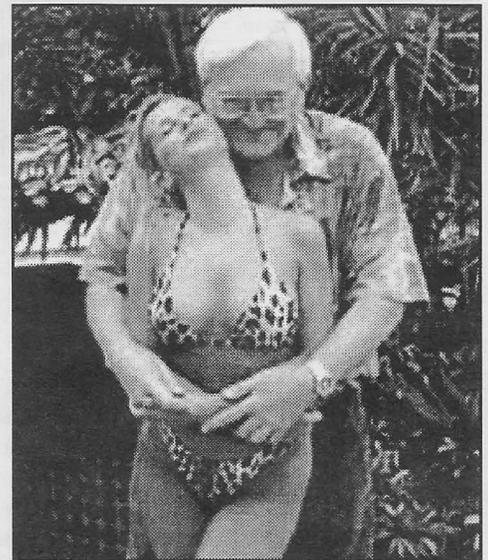
You may wish to consider adding these changes to the Chicago BPC Clock Rules as well.—*Dave Cardwell, Director, Atlanta Backgammon Association*

*We like both your rule changes, David and will incorporate both of them when we use clocks at our Midwest Championships "Grand Crystal Beaver" event in March 2001.—Ed.*

### OLD MAN PAWING

I was going to order the CHICAGO POINT newsletter and was interested in the Bar Point Club until I visited your website [[www.chicagopoint.com](http://www.chicagopoint.com)]. What's with the bikini-clad model on the home page? And what about those pictures of the old man pawing the young woman? What kind of backgammon publication is this?—*Dona Knight, Chicago, IL*

*That's Peter Kalba with the lovely Rachelle Royer in the Costa Rican setting at [www.chicagopoint.com/beauty.html](http://www.chicagopoint.com/beauty.html), and it*



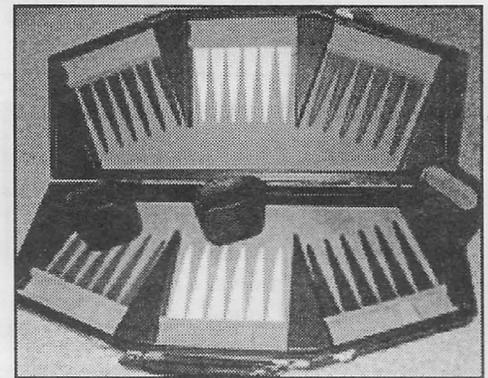
*Peter Kalba with beauty Rachelle Royer in Costa Rica.*

*doesn't appear that she is too offended by his actions.*

*Peter responds: "You've heard of the movie 'Dead Man Walking'? I'm working on the sequel: "Old Man Pawing."—Ed.*

### TRIGAMMON

In the July CHICAGO POINT, you ask: "What is a 3-player backgammon board?" Gammon Links [<http://www.chicagopoint.com/links.html>] can lead you to the answer which is at [[http://www.patents.ibm.com/cgi-bin/viewpat.cmd/US04496157\\_](http://www.patents.ibm.com/cgi-bin/viewpat.cmd/US04496157_)].



To find this on the Gammon Links page, click on "Divisions," then under "Chebache," click on the "patent collections" link. Once at the Patent page, type in "backgammon" and you'll find the 3-player link.

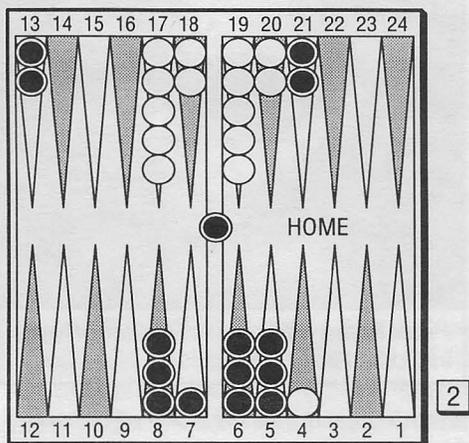
Right above the "Chebache" section on the Gammon Links page, there is a direct link to "TriGammon" with the rules in German.

There are a surprisingly large number of unique patents related to backgammon equipment. You may want to do a POINT article on this topic.—*Mel Leifer, Chicago Point Gammon Links, Germantown, MD Δ*

**PROBLEM #265  
ANALYZED**

by Mary Hickey

Money game. Black on roll with a man on the bar. **BLACK TO PLAY 6-3.**



No matter how we play this, we remain underdogs to win the game. White is ahead of us in the race and has no awkward points to clear, so if she can just get Junior home from the 21-point, she has a probable walk. However, since we own the cube, we can make our best play without fear of being doubled or redoubled after a bad sequence.

That brings us to our best game plan: to waylay Junior and prevent his getting home quickly or easily. If he stays in our board another roll, we want to point on him, and

if he escapes, we want to send him back ASAP.

This game plan narrows our choices to just two plays: Bar/22/16, which gives maximum outfield coverage; and Bar/22, 13/7, which makes a four point block and avoids leaving a direct shot.

The strengths of Bar/22/16 include excellent outfield coverage, keeping the still-useful midpoint, and bringing a checker into play that was of no particular use where it was on the 22-point. If White fails to escape, our chances of pointing on her are as good as with the other play. The big problem is that White has all those 3s to hit with. Even 6-3, which forces her to spring another checker loose, is a roll she would not send back.

On the other hand, if we are hit, we will have numerous return shots from the bar in every case. Even if we get hit and then miss, the midpoint plus the checker waiting on the 16-point may still allow us another whack on the following roll.

The advantages of the other play, Bar/22, 13/7, are that it does not leave White a direct shot, and that it forms a four point block that could later be extended into a powerful 5- or even 6-prime.

The drawbacks of this play include the killer indirects it leaves (if White rolls a 5-4 or 6-3, we are most likely toast unless we roll a 3, which isn't all that great anyway), plus the numerous other escape numbers that leave us what will probably be our one last call for breakfast. And speaking of 6-3, White's 5-3, 3-3, and even her 4-3 play

pretty well, too. They point on the man we left behind on the 22-point, at least in part for the greater "safety" we would have by not leaving the 3-shot. Add 4-4 and 2-2 to her pointing rolls, and we have to wonder if this play is actually any safer!

A less obvious weakness is the awkward follow-up for us even if the play "works." Our newly-made block will be somewhat stripped, and we may be forced to break it up to point on White or hit her loose risking a fourth man back. Even if we do point on White, we can still have trouble escaping all three of our checkers from behind White's own four point block. Remember that old saying, "Four in a row is more than you think"? Against one man back, already at the edge, it likely isn't, but against three or more, it could prove to be quite true.

On balance, Bar/22/16 gives us our best chance to carry out the game plan with the best prospects here. The general principles behind this decision and others like it are:

- When the action is likely to be in the outfield, try to keep a strong presence there;
- Don't let your forces get split up when it is convenient and not excessively dangerous to keep the lines of communication open; and
- Beware of four point blocks when you have several men back.

Well Captain, that is my take on this play. Now the decision is up to you! Δ

**AMALGAMATION**

On 30 September, **Sue Will** (IL) must return the two remaining Backgammon On Board cabins to Carnival Cruise Line for resale. If you want to join us 3-10 December from New Orleans to Montego Bay to Cozumel, call Sue today at 309/699-6005... **J.P. White** is director of the new Nashville Backgammon Club. It meets every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. at Sherlock Holmes Pub (2206 Elliston Place, Nashville). For more info, contact J.P. at [jp.white@nashville.com](mailto:jp.white@nashville.com)... Best of luck to former BPC player **Fred Bagdagnani** who is running for congress in Texas as a Libertarian candidate... **Marcy Sloan** (IL) plans to wed **Marty Sorenson** next year, probably in Las Vegas. A happy Marcy writes: "I always wanted to get married by an Elvis impersonator, but I'm not sure if there are any rabbi Elvis impersonators."... We are in possession of the article "Inlaid

Backgammon Board Easy to Make" from the January 1931 *Popular Mechanics* magazine. The board is made of wood and is for 1 1/4" checkers, but could be modified for different sizes by proportionally modifying the dimensions. If you would like a copy, send a stamped, self-address envelope to CHICAGO POINT... Speaking of making a BG board, from page 1, here's the mistake that **Terry Leahy** (IL) made in constructing his board: count the pips in each quadrant!... **Chris Ternel** (Denmark) reports from Monte Carlo that although **Andre Rolfo Fontana** plans to retire as chairman of the World Championships, Chief Executive **Patricia Oliver** responds that a new Chairman will be appointed in due course. The proposed plans for MC 2001 include increased entry fees... New Monte Carlo World Champion **Katie Scalandre** (NY) also won the "Woman's Prize" for the female who advanced furthest in the tournament. When a woman wins it all, why not award a "Men's Prize"? ... Good luck to former Netgammon spark

plug **Heather Noreen** (France) who is now working as an export manager for GOTO. Netgammon's new backgammon product manager is **Pierre Dreull**... [Links2Go.com](http://Links2Go.com) has ranked CHICAGO POINT Backgammon Online as the fourth most popular BG website in the world. Special thanks to **Carol Joy Cole** ("Mark Your Calendar") and **Mel Leifer** ("Gammon Links") for their outstanding contributions... Good luck to **Laila Leonhardt** and **Matt Reklaitis** (PA) who are partnered in a new bridge server at [swangames.com](http://swangames.com)... Finally, credit **Jean Cocteau** with the quote: "We must believe in luck. For how else can we explain the success of those we don't like?" Δ

**BACK**  
To Attack

3.23.01

# PEACHY QUIZ ANSWERS...



[From quiz on page 7]

1. **8/4, 5/2\* - 5 points.** Don't make the mistake that I did of not hitting. The best way to win is to clear him off the edge of your prime.
2. **20/15, 16/15 - 3 points.** Slightly better than 20/15, 2/1\*. Gammons go both ways.
3. **1 point - 6 points.** It's right on the border trailing 11-away, 10-away. That was our actual score. After the game our actual score was 11-away, 6-away.
4. **7/3\*, 6/4\*, 3/1; 11/9(2), 6/4\*(2); 7/5(2), 6/4\*(2); 13/9(2); 11/5, 7/5.** 3 points for getting the first one right, 1 point for each of the others that you had correctly ranked, and a 3 point bonus for getting them all right. Only the second (my play) and third plays were close in rank.
5. **Double - 4 points. Take - 2 points. Pass - minus 4 points.** A scoreboard double. The take is trivial.
6. **13/8, 13/7 - 6 points.** The safe play is too stripped. My daring play, 13/7, 12/7, was a distant third.
7. **Double - 4 points. Take - 4 points.** Only the score makes this a redouble. Black has too much going for him to pass.
8. **No Double - 3 points. Not doubling Jim - minus 3 points. Pass - 2 points. Take - minus 3 points.** Proving once again why he is the most exciting player in backgammon, Jim took my redouble. We each got what we wanted: Jim, his ace-deuce backgame, and me, my 12-point lead. [Hi Jim! :-)]
9. **Redouble - 2 points. Pass - 7 points.** I missed this one, though I thought about rewhipping. I never dreamed this was already a pass at the score. I missed a golden opportunity, as I hit with 6-2 and won a gammon (Dennis is prudent, but, c'mon, did anyone *really* know this was a pass?), but lost at dmp to send Dennis to the finals. (And what's a Mellen doing winning a Peach Cup anyway?)
10. **Drop or take - 1 point. Take - 3 points. Take - 6 points.** The first one is scored so low, because it's right on the border, so you really can't get it wrong. The second two parts are trickier. Against a strong player (I know, there is no player stronger than you, but this is purely hypothetical), you want to take because the skill disparity dictates it, and because Black's plays are fairly easy. The only big decision on the horizon might be

## KATIE WINS...

[Continued from page 5]

At 5-away vs. 2-away, a correct double by the underdog should include at least 20% gammon-winning chances. A gammon win makes the underdog a 68.5% favorite to win the match, but doesn't win the match outright.

At 4-away vs. 2-away, the underdog needs about 5% less gammon wins to make a double the correct cube action, because the underdog wins the match by winning a gammon.

In Position #5, White is able to win a gammon only about 15% of the games (with about 48% game-winning chances)—not quite enough for a double. However, at 4-away vs. 2-away, "double-take" would be the marginally correct cube action.

Thomas Holm decided to double and

Katie immediately (and correctly) took.

Thomas entered (6-2: Bar/23, 12/6), Katie escaped, hid her blot with 6-1 (24/18, 7/6), never left another shot and won the game, match and 2000 World Championship.

According to a Snowie 3™ analysis of the final, Katie Scalandre's play made her the favorite to win the match. Well done and congratulations, Katie! You are a worthy World Champion of the new Millennium.

**THERE IS ONE OTHER THING** I want to mention. Obviously Internet backgammon playsites have not killed the real-world backgammon tournaments like many backgammon players feared a few years ago. Backgammon's popularity is rising with the number of participants growing. I hope we have 300 Championship players in Monte Carlo next year. See you there!—  
*Harald Johanni* Δ

### 2000 MONTE CARLO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

CHAMPIONSHIP (267): Main Flight 1-Katie Scalandre (USA), 2-Thomas Holm (Denmark), 3/4-Christian Liebe-Harkort (Germany) / George Vadiakas (Greece); First Consolation 1-Thomas Vahab (Israel), 2-Hannie Lyyjynen (Finland), 3/4-Mika Lidov (USA) / Mario Sequeira (Portugal); Second Consolation 1-Edy Heinz (Austria), 2-Faik Gousseinov (Georgia), 3/4-Neil Kazaross (USA) / Paul Magriel (USA); Last Chance 1-Robert Almeida (Brazil), 2-Paul Lamford (England). Ladies Prize: Kati Scalandre (USA).

INTERMEDIATE (114): Main Flight 1-Tanya Lewis (Denmark), 2-Oli Lehto (Finland), 3/4-Oliver Decultot (France) / Robin Neumann (Denmark); First Consolation 1-K. Natchebia (Georgia), 2-L. Kamalian (Armenia), 3/4-T. Schoop (Germany) / Kim Brusgaard (Denmark); Second Consolation 1-Lynn Ehrlich (USA), 2-K.N. Nielsen (Denmark), 3/4-J.M. Henrion (France) / Hans Libby (Norway); Last Chance 1-Marcel van Toor (Holland), 2-Oliver Werthmuller (Switzerland). Ladies Prize: Tanya Lewis (Denmark).

BEGINNER (51): Main Flight 1-Axel Sturmer (Germany), 2-Michelle Mannu (Italy), 3/4-Jurgen Lindgaard (Denmark) / Marion Eber (South Africa); First Consolation 1-Boris Gourov (Russia), 2-Thomas Hollander (Denmark), 3/4-Marianne Husum (Norway) / Ryan Eber (South Africa); Second Consolation 1-Thomas Meyer (Switzerland), 2-Henrik Hansen (Denmark), 3/4-M. Meesha (Russia) / Eli Mograbi (Israel); Last Chance 1-Lasha Kikvadze (Georgia), 2-Robert Willems (Holland). Ladies Prize: Marion Eber (South Africa).

\$1000 SUPERJACKPOT (128): 1-Peter Heitmueller (Germany), "Falafel" Natanzon (USA). FORTIS TEAM TOURNAMENT: 1-Strüller (Kühl/Meyburg/Groetsch), Georgian Caps (Odisharia/Vachkebia/Magaldadie). COURTESY TROPHY: Fleming Glæsner (Denmark). TRAVEL TROPHY: Ryan Jones (Australia). FIDELITY TROPHY: Oli Letho (Finland). CHAIRMAN'S TROPHY: Chris Ternel (Denmark). WOMEN'S ELEGANCE TROPHY: Vera Rachevski (Monaco). MEN'S ELEGANCE TROPHY: Raviv Schevach (Israel).

whether to hit inside your five-point board. This is you; you'll get it right. The last part, against a weaker player, is the part that everyone gets wrong. White has some tough choices in the bear-in. Should she hit loose, or pick and pass? Should she leave some fly shots, or play ultra-safe? Unless a player is truly terrible (There comes a point below which it is almost impossible to misplay) they give up equity with their play faster than you gain it by adjusting your cube.

11. **23/21, 8/7 - 5 points.** Nice play, Hugh!
12. **11/7, 9/7, 8/6 - 4 points.** Running 18/14 is too loose (and too committal - you aren't up that many pips), and 18/16, 11/9, 10/8 doesn't do enough escaping or enough priming.

### Scoring

**0-25 points:** The Pits!

**26-60 points:** Tomorrow is another day.

**61-77 points:** As God is my witness, you'll never go hungry again! Δ

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*"My thanks to all the players who have supported the Nevada Backgammon Association since 1991."*

*—Howard Markowitz, Director*