

23rd pittsburgh championships

## THIS BURGH IS NOT THE PITTS

**Jake Jacobs' first person account of his Pittsburgh victory**

**I**n February 1993, Steve Hast directed the first-ever American Backgammon Tour event—the Pittsburgh Charity Tournament. A total of 70 players attended. This year, Steve welcomed 187 main event players to the 23rd Pittsburgh Championships 16–18 February at the Greentree Radisson Hotel. That's more than both the 2000 Midwest Championships (183) and the 2000 Michigan Summer Championships (184). That's impressive.

This year, along with plenty of camaraderie, there was the usual feast of food provided for a modest \$10 hospitality fee. And there was also some great backgammon. Notably, the Masters Jackpot was captured by Steve Mellen (NY), Bruce Russell (WI) bested Canadian Marianne Gatenby in the Advanced division (but Marianne teamed with John Brussel (IL) to win the Doubles). And the Novice title went to Ron Rogers (NY).

But the most excitement was generated in the Championship finals between Chicagoan Jake Jacobs and Dennis Culpepper (VA). Here is Jake's first person account of his excellent Pittsburgh adventure.—Ed.

“IF I'M EVER ON ‘Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?’ I want you as my lifeline.”

I hear that a lot. I've qualified twice myself, but have never gotten the call telling me to hop a plane for New York. At the recent Pittsburgh Championships, I got my chance, sort of. One of the door prizes at the Saturday Calcutta Auction program was a chance to compete in “Who Wants To Be A Hundredaire?”

The \$50 question asked: “Which of these players was president of the Pittsburgh Backgammon Association, before moving to Chicago: a. Bill Davis; b. Phil Simborg; c. John Brussel; d. Jake Jacobs. Contestant Felix Goykhman of New Jersey used his lifeline to narrow the choices to c. and d. After some thought, he answered



Jake Jacobs (right) secures a 5-anchor in his finals battle with Dennis Culpepper.

“Jake Jacobs.” Bzzzt! “Sorry.”

So that was my debut—as a wrong answer. (Auctioneer John Brussel was the one who asked him this question. Talk about having the correct answer right in front of you, big enough to bite you!)

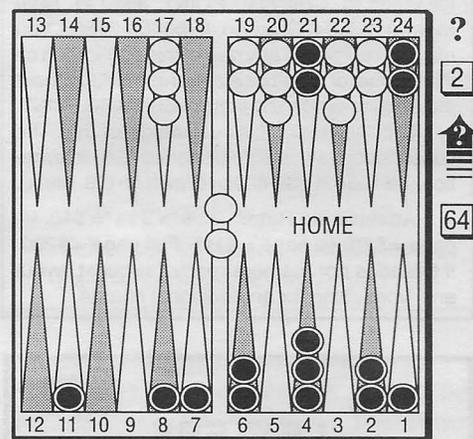
Another Auction program bright spot was 2000 American Backgammon Tour 2nd place awardee Sam Pottle of Madison, Wisconsin, who explained in his acceptance speech that, when the going got tough, he would rub his neck medallion, inscribed “WWJD?” and ask himself “What Would JellyFish Do?”

**THIS WAS MY FIRST TRIP** to Pittsburgh. I mean my first trip ever, let alone the first time in this tournament. I had, at least, built up a reasonable picture in my mind. I imagined everyone in the city looked like Mike Ditka—even the cheerleaders. The city itself, I figured, looked a lot like Gary, Indiana in its heyday, only bigger, with a cheerful yellow sky, and lots of rust all over everything exposed to the acid rain. Well shut my mouth! It wasn't like that. No Mike Ditkas, no smokestacks . . . in fact, the skyline view from the Georgetown Inn, Saturday night's dinner venue, was breathtaking.

I had heard about the hospitality, but it is one thing to hear that “Yes, they have pizzas,” and quite another to see them feed 200 people both nights (on pizzas, then hoagies), plus provide breakfast bagels and doughnuts, snacks, candy . . . Next year, maybe I'll skip dinner if there is that much free food. Even Drew Giovanis, who has lost over 100 pounds the last year, claimed to have gained back 15 pounds in three days. Which puts him back in triple digits, maybe.

If gluttony is a deadly sin, worse perhaps is avarice, since it is also a violation of one of the commandments. (“Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's points!”) Having confessed to gluttony, I may as well own up to two of the worst cube decisions I've made in, well, weeks, any way.

**Pos. 1.** 11-pt. match. Jake Jacobs (Black) doubles Bob Wilensky (White).



[Continued on page 6]

## CASTING AWAY



This time someone used their head. They packed a backgammon board for “Survivor II—The Australian Outback.” The high-rated CBS TV show has featured sporadic backgammon action on a weekly basis—great publicity for our game.

Pictured are Mitchell Olson and Amber Brkich. Mitchell was booted off the island in week 4. Rumor has it that he didn't survive the cutthroat chouettes, either! Δ

# CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

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## LETTERS

c/o CHICAGO POINT

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## CLOCKING THE FINAL FOUR

While I no longer object to the use of chess clocks in backgammon tournaments, I don't understand the logic of using them *only* in the semifinals and finals of the Midwest Championships (Championship and Advanced divisions).—*John Brussel, Director, Canadian Open, Chicago, IL*

In addition to the entire 16-player Grand Crystal Beaver, clocks will also be used in matches that are unduly delaying the tournament. But feelings of punishment often evolve when the clock is imposed in this fashion. The idea is to reduce the negative clock attitude some players have. We believe that clocking matches from the finals on down is the right approach. This way, playing a match with the clock becomes a goal, not a punishment. If feedback is positive, perhaps the final three rounds will be clocked at the 2002 Midwest

[Continued on page 3]

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR



by Carol Joy Cole  
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\* Denotes new or revised listing

### NATIONAL

*American Backgammon Tour events underlined.*

Mar 10-Apr 21*	GammonQuest FIBS Tournament, via computer	e-mail: <a href="mailto:david2@sco.com">david2@sco.com</a>
Mar 11*	Backgammon By The Bay Monthly, TGI Friday's, Oakland, CA	831/688-9722
Mar 15*	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Day's Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Mar 17*	Redwood Empire Monthly, Embassy Suites, San Rafael, CA	707/824-9715
Mar 18	New England Club Monthly, Holiday Inn, Somerville, MA	617/491-8710
Mar 18	18th Fleet Underwood Memorial & Benefit, Holiday Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Mar 18*	Milwaukee Backgammon Monthly, John Hawks Pub, Milwaukee, WI	414/962-8549
Mar 20*	Lincoln Club Monthly, Crane River Brewpub, Lincoln, NE	402/483-7930
<u>Mar 23-25</u>	<u>2001 Midwest Championships, Radisson Hotel Lisle-Naperville, Lisle, IL</u>	<u>773/583-6464</u>
Mar 25	Ace Point Club Monthly Tournament, Ace Point Club, New York, NY	212/753-0842
Mar 31	Atlanta Open Doubles/Singles, Tony's American Grille, Roswell, GA	770/333-1876
Apr 1*	FIBS 2001 Spring Tournament, via computer	e-mail: <a href="mailto:david2@sco.com">david2@sco.com</a>
Apr 1*	Official GamesGrid Monthly Tourney, via computer	e-mail: <a href="mailto:tournaments@cyberarts.com">tournaments@cyberarts.com</a>
<u>Apr 6-8</u>	<u>47th Gammon Associates Invitational, A.R. Private Club, Los Angeles, CA</u>	<u>818/901-0464</u>
Apr 7	Springfield Series #6, Ride the Nine, Bloomington, IL	217/528-0117
Apr 7*	Universal Mall Bimonthly Tourney, All the King's Men, Warren, MI	810/558-4790
Apr 8	Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Anyway's Grill, Oakbrook Terrace, IL	773/252-7755
Apr 8*	Backgammon By The Bay Monthly, TGI Friday's, Oakland, CA	831/688-9722
Apr 19*	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Day's Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Apr 21*	Redwood Empire Monthly, Embassy Suites, San Rafael, CA	707/824-9715
Apr 21	Springfield Series Grand Finale, Parker's Sports Bar, Springfield, IL	217/528-0117
Apr 22*	New England Club Monthly, Holiday Inn, Somerville, MA	617/491-8710
Apr 29*	Ace Point Club Monthly Tournament, Ace Point Club, New York, NY	212/753-0842
May 13*	Backgammon By The Bay Monthly, TGI Friday's, Oakland, CA	831/688-9722
May 19*	Redwood Empire Monthly, Embassy Suites, San Rafael, CA	707/824-9715
May 20*	Atlanta Chouette Tournament, Tony's American Grille, Roswell, GA	770/333-1876
May 20*	New England Club Bonus Tournament, Holiday Inn, Somerville, MA	617/491-8710
<u>May 25-28</u>	<u>22nd Chicago Open, Wyndham NW Chicago Hotel, Itasca, IL</u>	<u>702/893-6025</u>
May 27*	Ace Point Club Monthly Tournament, Ace Point Club, New York, NY	212/753-0842
Jun 2*	Universal Mall Bimonthly Tourney, All the King's Men, Warren, MI	810/558-4790
Jun 10*	Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Anyway's Grill, Oakbrook Terrace, IL	773/252-7755
Jun 10*	Backgammon By The Bay Monthly, TGI Friday's, Oakland, CA	831/688-9722
Jun 10*	New England Club Playoffs, Holiday Inn, Somerville, MA	617/491-8710
Jun 12-17*	8th Worldwide Twin Championships, Treasure Island, Las Vegas, NV	702/893-6025
Jun 27	Michigan Summer Championships Warm-up, Novi Hilton, Novi, MI	810/232-9731
<u>Jun 28-Jul 1</u>	<u>Michigan Summer Championships, Novi Hilton, Novi, MI</u>	<u>810/232-9731</u>
<u>Aug 3-5</u>	<u>Thousand Islands Tournament, Pine Tree Point, Alexandria Bay, NY</u>	<u>716/387-0767</u>
<u>Aug 9-12</u>	<u>Georgia State Championships &amp; Peach Cup, Hilton Garden Inn, Atlanta, GA</u>	<u>770/333-1876</u>
<u>Aug 31-Sep 3</u>	<u>49th Indiana Open, Sheraton Hotel &amp; Suites, Indianapolis, IN</u>	<u>317/255-8902</u>
<u>Sep 21-23</u>	<u>Florida State Championships, Sheraton Suites, Ft. Lauderdale, FL</u>	<u>954/564-0340</u>
<u>Oct 19-21*</u>	<u>Illinois State Championships, Springfield Hilton Hotel, Springfield, IL</u>	<u>217/528-0117</u>
<u>Nov 2-4*</u>	<u>47th Gammon Associates Invitational, A.R. Private Club, Los Angeles, CA</u>	<u>818/901-0464</u>
<u>Nov 24-25*</u>	<u>Ohio State Championships, Akron Holiday Inn, Akron, OH</u>	<u>330/966-2811</u>
<u>Nov 28-Dec 1*</u>	<u>Las Vegas Open, Harrah's Hotel &amp; Casino, Las Vegas, NV</u>	<u>702/893-6025</u>

### OUTSIDE USA

Mar 11-14	37th Championships & Ted Basset Cup, Palace Hotel, Gstaad, Switzerland	4161-2710137
Mar 14-16*	Abu Dhabi Championships, Health Club, Abu Dhabi, UAE	97150-4447743
Mar 15-18	27th Winter Championships, Palace Hotel, St. Moritz, Switzerland	4161-2710137
Mar 23-25*	Trophee Partouche, Palm Beach Hotel, Cannes, France	4161-2710137
Mar 24-25*	2nd Milano Master Cup, Bridge Club, Milan, Italy	39333-4809363
Mar 24-25*	Jyske Mesterskaber, Hotel Royal Casino, Århus, Denmark	4589-437281
Apr 7-8	British Open, Hilton National Hotel, Coventry, England	44152-2888676
Apr 12-16	13th Nordic "Wide" Open, Hotel Marienlyst, Helsingør, Denmark	4533-363601
Apr 21-22*	1st Open Air Tournament, Maghetti, Lugano, Switzerland	4179-3374425
Apr 28-29*	Yahoo Elite Live Tournament, Skcratch, Brossard, Quebec, Canada	418/837-4296
May 1-6	7th EBN May Day Backgammon & Gin Rummy Tourney, San Roque, Spain	34950-133009
May 5-6*	County Cups Trophy, Hilton National, Coventry, England	441522-888676
May 11-13	Oslo Open 2001, Vika Atrium, Oslo, Norway	4722-360966
May 19-20*	Roma Colossuem Cup, Circolo Le Barbu, Rome, Italy	39333-4809363
May 24-27*	Basel Open, Hotel Drei Konige, Basel, Switzerland	41793-205276
Jun 1-4	7th Kaiserbrunnen Cup, Kaiserbrunnen Hotel, Brakel, Germany	49521-64314
Jun 2-3*	Hilton Trophy Tournament, Hilton National, Coventry, England	441522-888676
Jul 5-8	13th City of Venice International Tournament, Lido, Venice, Italy	3941-5900769
Jul 9-15	World Championship, Grand Hotel, Monte Carlo, Monaco	USA contact: 954/527-4033
Jul 16-17*	10th Nice Open, Lido Plage, Nice, France	33493-879436
Jul 18-22*	Czech Open III, Marriott Hotel, Prague, Czech Republic	49911-409505
Jul 18-22	Grand Prix de Lugano, Hctel Splendid Royal, Lugano, Switzerland	4179-3374425
Oct 5-7*	Canadian Open, Le Nouvel Hotel, Montreal, QB, Canada	904/777-8816

# LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

Champs.

Check out the Unified Backgammon Clock Rules online at: <http://www.chicagopoint.com/bgclockrules.html>—Ed.

## THE CLOCK IS POPULAR IN HAWAII

The new Unified Backgammon Clock Rules start out: "On his own initiative or at the request of any participant in the tournament, Director may require both players to use clocks." I was wondering if there is precedent for a director denying a request for a clock when:

- one of the players is slow and the other player requests it,
- there are sufficient clocks,
- a slow match would probably delay the tournament.

We used clocks at our Aloha State BG Club's third tournament, mostly to test out the mechanics of players unfamiliar with clock play. A director or monitor was always present to help both players. All of the players (including the player who was originally most opposed to it) felt that it didn't hamper their enjoyment of the

match. The slowest player felt that it vindicated the fact that he wasn't "too slow;" and most importantly, all of the players realized that dice-reading disputes are effectively eliminated when only one pair of dice is used.

As of today the sentiment seems to be that we should use clocks for all our matches.—Mike Fujita, *Honolulu, HI*

*We normally wouldn't deny use of a clock under the parameters that you specify, but can't speak for other directors.—Ed.*

## HANG IT UP

I really like the results of the Chicago Point Online polling question regarding the use of cellular phones at backgammon tournaments and hope that the majority will rule in this situation.—Jim Price, *Rochester, Michigan*

*The current Art Grater Backgammon Poll question is: What policy would you prefer regarding cell phone use by competitors during tournament play? The results compiled through 4 March 2001 are: Allow-13, Disallow-101, Disallow if either player objects-15, Director's discretion-11, Other-6.*

*This year, the Midwest Championships*

*will not allow competitors to use their cell phones during a match.—Ed.*

## MBC SIDE EVENT QUESTIONS

I had a couple questions about the two backgammon variant events scheduled for Friday, 23 March at the Midwest Champs:

### 3-Dice Backgammon

1. Are doubles allowed on the opening roll? (I assume each player throws one die, then the winner throws one more to make a triple)

2. What are the rules when all of the roll can't be played? Maximize pips used? Use all of the double if there is one? Maximize the number of dice used, or?

### Back To Attack:

3. I assume you play as if the board is circular, so that if I have a checker on my ace-point and roll a 3, it could go around to the 22-point, right?

4. Can you make this "back to opponent's home" move any time during the game? Can you do it as often as you want? Are you ever required to go back?

5. I assume you can move 1, 2, 3, or 4 checkers on any one roll in this "back to opponent's home" style.—Greg Cattanach, *Doraville, GA*

*The answer to your questions are as follows:*

1. A double is allowed, but a triple is impossible.

2. Just like regular backgammon. You must move all dice if possible. If impossible, the rules say you have to move the larger number. We will translate this into: "You have to move the maximum amount of

[Continued on page 4]



**AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 2001**

### AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 2001

Compiled through 18 Feb. 2001 after one event  
(Coming in March & April: Midwest Champs and 47th G/A Invitational)



**AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 2001**

Jake Jacobs	23.06	Greg Merriman	6.34	Richard Munitz	4.44	Mark Haley	2.27
Chen Fu Yu	12.69	Rob Maier	6.34	Tom Daniel	3.59	Adam Versaw	2.27
Bruce Russell	11.36	Marianne Gatenby	5.11	Ron Rogers	3.56	Connie Tipton	1.78
Dennis Culppepper	10.46	Brian Barber	5.11	Ken Lazar	2.62	Paul Lombardo	1.78
Bob Glass	10.46	Paul Weaver	4.44	Glenn Ramsey	2.27	Lynn Marsella	0.62
Herb Roman	6.69	Howard Shapiro	4.44				



**CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB**

### 2001 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

COMPILED  
THRU 31 JAN.

Bill Bartholomay	5.92	Herb Roman	2.16	Don Marek	1.28	Mark Murray	0.80
Bob Zavoral	4.96	Glenn Martells	2.16	Bill Keefe	1.28	Wayne Weist	0.80
Joe Wollick	4.56	Norma Shyer	2.16	Roger Hickman	1.28	Brian Leventhal	0.64
Tak Morioka	4.48	Bill Davis	2.08	Marc Rosset	1.28	Paul Friedman	0.64
Bob Steen	4.32	Howard Chow	1.92	John Brussell	1.12	Mike Sutton	0.64
Tim Carroll	4.08	Don Jayhan	1.92	Leo Campos	0.88	Roger Blaine	0.64
Jake Jacobs	3.44	Tim Mabee	1.84	Phyllis Smolinski	0.88	Brian Kozin	0.64
Lucky Nelson	2.88	Peter Kalba	1.76	Alice Kay	0.88	Georgina Flanagan	0.64
Joann Feinstein	2.80	Brian Barber	1.28	Bob Katz	0.88	Tom Roberts	0.48
Carter Mattig	2.80	Steve Klesker	1.28	J.A. Miller	0.88	Elaine Kehm	0.48
Scott Richardson	2.80	David Araiza	1.28	Arline Levy	0.88	Joe Szvedo	0.32
Mark Ryan	2.56						

January's Player of the Month was **BOB STEEN** (3.44). Runner's up were Lucky Nelson (2.88) and Joann Feinstein (2.80).

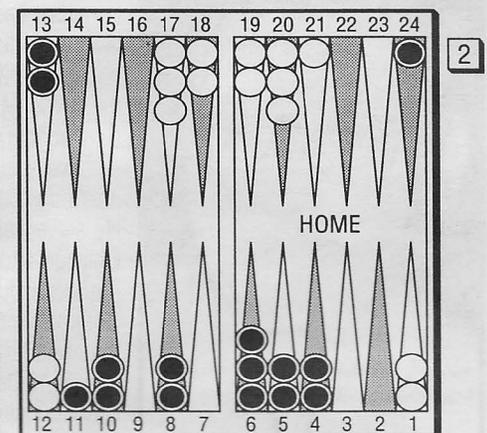
February's Player of the Month was **JOE WOLLICK** (4.56). Tim Carroll (4.08) finished second and Bill Bartholomay (3.36) was third.

your move

## PROBLEM #270

to be analyzed by Kit Woolsey

Money game. **BLACK TO PLAY 5-4.**



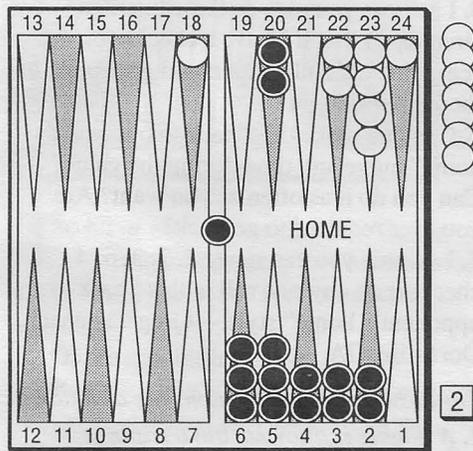
ASK  
DANNY

© 2001 by Danny Kleinman

## A CURIOUS PLAY

**D**ear Danny: I am new to the backgammon tournament scene and can't learn fast enough. Watching good players is very instructive, but I don't always understand their moves. Here's a recent example.

Black trails White 3-4 in a 7-point match. **BLACK TO PLAY 6-5.**



Black almost immediately moved B/19, 6/1. I realize that by running B/19/14, Black does not get a double shot if White rolls double-aces or double-deuces, but these bad rolls for White still yield single shots. In a situation where a gammon loses the match, don't you think it better for Black simply to run?—Confounded

**DEAR CONFOUNDED:** Either Black was not the "good player" you say he is, or you left

something out of your account.

As you tell it, Black faces a difficult choice of 5s after entering B/19. On White's double-deuces next, Black gets 20 shots instead of 12; on White's double-aces (played 3/1, 3/2, 7/6\*), 20 shots instead of 11. Furthermore, on White's 2-1 (a roll you overlooked played 3/1, 3/2), Black gets 20 shots he wouldn't otherwise get. That's a total of 57 extra hits in 1296 games—about a 4.4% increase. Black will have little chance to pick up a second man, and won't always win after hitting. Against that, Black's play wastes five precious pips (far more if White rolls a 1-5) in what figures to be a close race to save the gammon. It's not all that clear, but running looks slightly better to me.

However, in the position you show, a good player would redouble before rolling. Redoubling kills gammons, and thus costs nothing when Black is destined to lose a gammon, as he often will if he doesn't hit a shot. When Black rolls an ace, even without the accompanying 6, 2 or second ace that hits another man, market loss looms. When Black hits with 6-2, 5-2, 4-3 or 4-2, his chance of picking up a second man may also induce White to pass. Black's redouble is clear.

If, as I suspect, Black did redouble, then his play of the 6-5 is also clear, for gammons no longer matter. Many players carelessly neglect to remove extra chouette doubling cubes from their board prior to beginning a match. Are you sure that Black had the "live" cube in his possession when he moved B/19, 6/1?—Yours, Danny Δ

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

## LETTERS...

[Continued from page 3]

pips." But remember that you are never required to go back to your opponent's home board—it is always optional.

**3, 4, 5.** Both players will keep a record of each time they and their opponent recirculates a checker back into their opponent's home table. As the write-up in the invitation states: "Each player has the option to move up to four men from his side of the board back around into his opponent's home board. [Note: the play shown in the invitation is for the roll 5-5 which was inadvertently left out.] So you could move all four of your pieces back into your opponent's home board on one shake if you rolled doubles. But that would end your ability to recirculate.

You can send checkers "back to attack" any time during the game, but it looks like good strategy to save a couple of recirculates (as potential hitters) for the endgame. —Ed.

## WHY AREN'T JACKPOTS ABT-RATED?

I'm curious (perhaps because my friend Steve Mellen just won the Masters in Pittsburgh) why Masters Jackpots (and Amateur Jackpots, for that matter) are not included in the American Backgammon Tour point system. The fields are often larger than some ABT events and sometimes tougher. Inclusion would give an even more accurate picture of a player's performance throughout the year.—Bob Zavoral, Chicago, IL

Changing the ABT rules now would effect the all-time standings and individual annual records of the first eight years. Allowing only the main tournament to be ABT-rated helps to regulate the Tour events. Without these standards, the last tournament of the year could run multiple ABT-rated jackpots for the explicit reason of altering the final standings.

The purpose of the ABT is to promote unified tournament backgammon throughout the United States. Masters Jackpots can cost as much as \$1,000 to enter. It would defeat the ABT's purpose if even one player in his attempt to gain points, lost a high entry event and because of it, was unable to attend the next ABT tournament.

We believe the KG System ([www.bg-info.com](http://www.bg-info.com)) which rates both main events and jackpots is better suited for the performance picture you are looking for.—Ed. Δ



## Armen G. Avedisian (1926–2000)

Longtime backgammon aficionado Armen G. Avedisian passed away in Indiana on 20 Nov. 2000, six weeks after open heart surgery. A past member of the Backgammon Club of Chicago in the 1970s, Mr. Avedisian maintained interest in backgammon as a subscriber to Chicago Point and Flint BackgammonNews.

Avedisian was a renowned civic leader and prominent Chicago-area industrialist. His road construction companies built tollways. He served as a governing life member of the Art Institute of Chicago and chairman of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's European tour. In his crowning achievement, as chairman of the Commission to restore the Statue of Liberty, Avedisian was able to raise \$320 million in private funds.

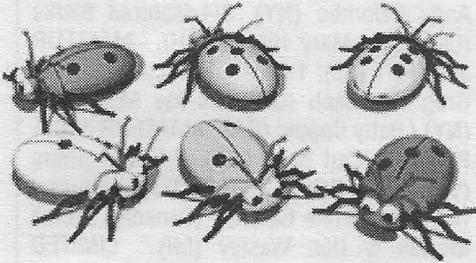
On 13 Dec. 2000, Mayor Daley and members of the Chicago City Council assembled to commemorate his "grace-filled life."

Win \$50.00

# THE Backgammon Bugs CONTEST

**B**ackgammon Bugs were first spotted in the United States in the late 1970s. Scientists suspect that the creatures came across the Pacific in a large shipment of genuine imitation leather backgammon boards from Taiwan.

Most people have never seen the bugs for several reasons. An observer must be desensitized before the bugs become visible. A night-long session of chouettes and a high blood-alcohol content will increase your chances of seeing the backgammon bugs. Finally, you must believe what you're seeing or you will dismiss the tiny bugs as just a product of an active imagination.



We know little about the Backgammon Bugs, but I'll try to fill you in with what I know. The bugs come in all colors and can change color to blend into any colorful backgammon surface. When mature, the bugs develop from one to six black spots on their backs. The females have an even number of spots, the males an odd number. The bug diet is the food and drink spilled onto and around backgammon boards by careless players and kibitzers. The life span of a backgammon bug is unknown although many bugs have expired while waiting for a slow player to make an obvious move.

The backgammon bugs love to watch backgammon games and discuss positions and propositions. Since the bugs spend so much time at the backgammon board, the sex-life of a backgammon bug is merely a small collection of very brief encounters.

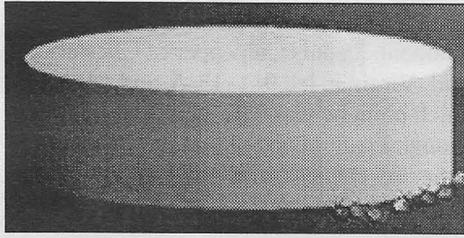
ONE OF THE backgammon bugs, Betty-Blue Bug, presented a position from a recent chouette

to the whole bug colony. This position proved so troublesome that its discussion

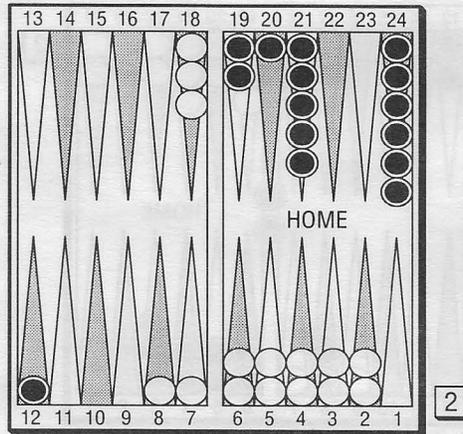


had fatal results.

With Betty Blue Bug's supervision, the other bugs went to work, pushing each checker into place to recreate the position.



When the last checker was in place, the position looked like this:



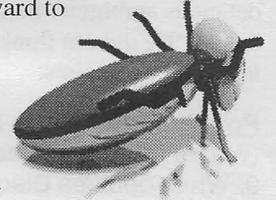
Betty-Blue Bug said, "In this money game, White finally had a winning shot. All he needed was a 6 of any variety, but he didn't roll a 6. After much wailing and whining about not being able to hit, White settled down to think about playing his roll. His opponent encouraged him to look on the bright side. White said 'What bright side? There's no bright side to anything on my side of the board!'"

"His opponent explained that of all the

possible rolls, White had rolled the best roll that did not hit."

Betty-Blue Bug then posed the following question to the colony of bugs gathered around the board: "What was White's best non-hitting roll and how should he play it?"

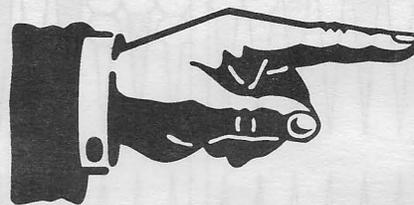
THE GREATEST position evaluator in the colony stepped forward to share her wisdom. Snowie-Gold Bug determined White's best non-hitting roll and proclaimed the 20 best ways to play the roll. The whole colony let out a hushed gasp, amazed at the speed and confidence of Snowie-Gold Bug's evaluation.



Betty-Blue Bug waved a few legs to get Snowie-Gold Bug's attention, and respectfully suggested that there was another possible play, one not even mentioned by the great bug. When Snowie-Gold Bug heard the play offered by Betty-Blue Bug, a highly vexed Snowie-Gold Bug began to twitch, then shake violently, and finally flip over, quite dead. The great bug had been killed by her own bad evaluation, for Betty-Blue Bug had suggested the correct play. Δ

**IN THE POSITION SHOWN AT LEFT, THE CHALLENGE IS TO DETERMINE WHITE'S BEST NON-HITTING ROLL AND THE BEST WAY TO PLAY IT.**

*The winning entry receives \$50. Only one entry per person. Ties will be broken by random draw. Entries must be received by USPS mail or e-mail by 20 April 2001. (CHICAGO POINT; 3940 W. Bryn Mawr Avenue 504; Chicago, IL 60659-3155. bg@chicagopoint.com)*



**Last Minute Info:**

[www.chicagopoint.com/mbchome.html](http://www.chicagopoint.com/mbchome.html)

**or call:**

Bill Davis 773/583-6464

Carol Joy Cole 810/232-9731

# BACK To Attack

## 2001 MIDWEST BACKGAMMON CHAMPIONSHIPS

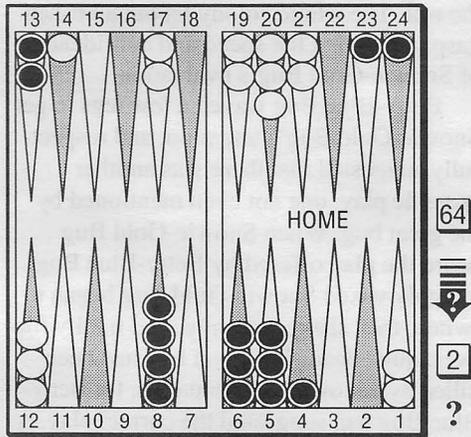
23-25 March 2001  
Radisson Hotel Lisle  
Lisle, Illinois

# THIS BURGHER...

[Continued from page 1]

Hey, it was the beginning of the match! I like to test my opponent's takepoint early. Bob Wilensky . . . I was about to say "passed," but realized that there is a certain delicious ambiguity here. Let me change that to "He did not flunk." I was lucky to lose only two points.

**Pos. 2.** 11-pt. match. Andy Palumbo (White) trails Jake Jacobs (Black), 5-9. White doubles Black.



This is an easy money take, but according to Snowie, at this score it is too good to double! I took, and was gammoned.

Have you ever daydreamed about the Perfect Tournament? I have. First, you breeze through the early rounds. Despite the two games cited above, I had a very easy trip to the finals. Hitting shots? Check. Leaping primes? Check. Never dancing? That has to be the best part! I wouldn't even mind losing a match, as long as I didn't spend it on the bar.

An easy finals is *not* part of the day-dream. The perfect finals sees your opponent take a huge lead, and then, in a series of cliffhangers, you gradually recover, to

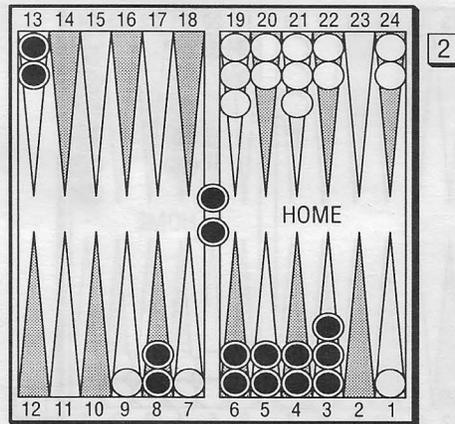


Bruce Russell gives Marianne Gatenby a tough recube to ponder en route to winning the Pittsburgh Advanced finals. Marianne also paired with John Brussel to win the Open Doubles.

reach DMP. The crowd draws close as, once again you find yourself struggling in a losing game, only to suddenly pull it out at the end.

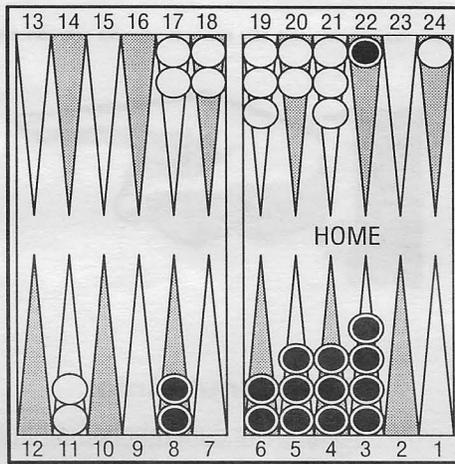
Only in a dream, right? Sometimes, though, dreams come true. My finals opponent, Dennis Culpepper of Chesterfield, Virginia, led 9-1, 13-5, and 14-6, at which point he was 95% to win the match. Though I gammoned him in the Crawford game, my chances were still in single digits here in the next game.

**Pos. 3.** 15-pt. Pittsburgh finals. Dennis Culpepper (White) leads Jake Jacobs (Black), 14-8. **WHITE TO PLAY 4-4.**



Dennis chose 18/14, 6/2 (3) which is slightly worse than 18/2. I was lucky enough to hit a fly shot, and even luckier to roll two sets in the bearoff for a gammon. The next game required *only* a last shake of 5-5 to tie things up. Then, at DMP:

**Pos. 4.** 15-pt. Pittsburgh finals. Dennis Culpepper (White) vs. Jake Jacobs (Black). Double match-point. **WHITE TO PLAY 5-2.**



Snowie said Dennis, play of 8/3\*, 3/1 was a whopping 6% better than 14/7, winning over 71% of the matches, but Snowie couldn't see Steve Mellen, apostle

of "2-6 from the roof!" standing right behind Dennis! My dice were not so near-sighted.

Dennis quickly caught back up in the race, almost, and then the two of us averaged about six pips a roll in the bearoff, nails bitten to the quick, as I eked out a win. Δ

## 23rd PITTSBURGH CHAMPIONSHIPS

**CHAMPIONSHIP (64):** 1-Jake Jacobs (IL), 2-Dennis Culpepper (VA), 3/4-Paul Weaver (AL) / Howard Shapiro (DE); 1C-Bob Glass, 2C-Ricdhard Munitz (NY); 1LC-Herb Roman (IL). **OPEN OVERFLOW (28):** 1-Chen Fu Yu (MD), 2-Greg Merriman (MI); 1C-Rob Maier (WV), 2C-Ken Lazar (PA). **ADVANCED (64):** 1-Bruce Russell (WI), 2-Marianne Gatenby (Canada), 3/4-Glenn Ramsey (PA) / Mark Haley (Canada); 1C-Brian Barber (NY), 2C-Adam Versaw (PA); 1LC-Tom Daniel (GA). **NOVICE (31):** 1-Ron Rogers (NY), 2-Connie Tipton (PA); 1C-Paul Lombardo (IL), 2C-Lynn Marsella (MA). **MASTERS (32):** 1-Steve Mellen (NY), 2-Andy Palumbo (NY), 3/4-Manfred Sierke (Canada) / Mary Hickey (OH). **AMATEUR JACKPOT (32):** 1-Stuart Thomson (GA), 2-Greg Cattneach (GA), 3/4-Jay Mortensen (NY) / Betty Coppic (GA). **AMATEUR JACKPOT II:** 1-Carl Sorg (GA), 2-Bear Lumbra (VT). **OPEN DOUBLES (28):** 1-John Brussel (IL) & Marianne Gatenby (Canada), 2-Emil Mortuk & Dan Wesley (MI). **LIMITED DOUBLES (10):** 1-Dan Mowczan & Sal Chehayeb (MI), 2-Elayne Feinstein (FL) & Herb Jansen (TX). **MICROBLITZ (80):** 1-Tom Daniel (GA). **\$10 QUICKIE (64):** 1-Al Tesoro (FL). **\$20 QUICKIE (64):** 1-John Rockwell (NV).

## ILLINOIS ACTION



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

**Tuesday, 6:00 P.M.** at Golden Flame, 6417 W. Higgins Rd., Chicago; 773/792-0424.

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

**GAMES PEOPLE PLAY:** Tournaments Monday, 6:30 P.M. at Chatham Computers; 8119 S. Cottage Grove, Chicago. Reginald Porter (708/715-2917).

**PUB CLUB:** Tourn. Mon., 7:00 P.M. at Danny's Grill and Bar, 345 W. North Ave., Villa Park. Joe Wollick (847/755-0887).

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

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

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

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

# WINNER'S CIRCLE

Dec. 2000–Mar. 2001



- Springfield Series #2** (Peoria, IL; 2 Dec.)... OPEN (23): 1-Randy Reiff, 2-Faddoul Khoury; 1C-John Jennings, 2C-Michael Flohr; 1LC-Sean Garber.
- Double Fives Club Christmas Tournament** (London, England; 7 Dec.)... Open (20): 1-Chris Brya, 2-Tom Townsend, 3/4-James Browning / John Clark.
- Redwood Empire Monthly** (San Rafael, CA; 16 Dec.)... OPEN (9): 1-Jim Gibbs, 2-Bill Landry, 3-Timothy Jaxon. INT. (8): 1-Cindy Moss, 2-Tracy Galloway.
- 6th Thailand Open** (Pattaya, Thailand; 3-7 Jan.)... OPEN (43): 1-Michael Burkart (GER), 2-Karsten Nielsen (DK), 3/4-Vichai Kwatra (THAI) / Casper van der Tak (NL); 1C-Joachim Johansson (SWE), 2C-Ryan Jones (AUSL); 1LC-Jake Jacobs (USA), 2LC-Lars Hammargren (SWE). SUPER JACKPOT (16): 1-Joachim Johansson (SWE), 2-Jurek Sarzynski (GER). 10,000 JACKPOT (16): 1-Tom Grant (UK), 2-Joachim Johansson (SWE). 3,000 JACKPOT (8): 1-Dutch Paul, 2-Khun Kim (GER).
- Springfield Series #3** (Springfield, IL; 6 Jan.)... OPEN (24): 1-Milad Doueihi, 2-Michael Flohr; 1C-Wally Kuester, 2C-Jeff Anderson.
- Bright'n Breezey** (Brighton, England; 6-7 Jan.)... OPEN (100): 1-Helen Helm-Sagar, 2-Chris Bray, 3/4-David mathan / David Robbins; 1C-Albert Tinker, 2C-Arthur Musgrove, 3/4-Andreas Giannopoulos / Erik Sorensen; 1LC-Chris Jeans, 2LC-Paul Lamford. TIDAL WAVE (64): 1-Fintan O'Boyle, 2-Karl Simpson, 3/4-Francine Brandler / Colin Talbot. FRIDAY NIGHT KO (39): 1-Chris Jeans, 2-Nick Check, 3/4-Tony Lee / Anthony Patz (S.AFR).
- Dutch Open 2001** (Amsterdam, NL; 7 Jan.)... OPEN: 1-Philip Vischjager, 2-Sander Hommel, 3/4-Arthur Braacx / Joris van Vuure; 1C-Peter Pappot, 2C-Jeroen Wismeijer; 1LC-Ed Baars.
- Backgammon by the Bay Monthly** (Oakland, CA; 14 Jan.)... OPEN (10): 1-David Montgomery, 2-Elliott Winslow; 1C-Kit Woolsey. INTERMEDIATE (6): 1/2-Pia Winslow / Sally Woolsey. BEGINNER (3): 1-Derrick Roberts.
- NEBC Sunday Monthly** (Somerville, MA; 14 Jan.)... EXPERT/A/B (28): 1-Herb Gurland, 2-Marty Storer (NH), 3/4-Michael Greenberg / Marty Gross; 1C-Jerry Padova (NH), 2C-Connie Machakos.
- Northern Ohio Club Monthly** (Canton, OH; 14 Jan.)... OPEN (12): 1-Farhad Forudi, 2-Don Sloan.
- Redwood Empire Monthly** (San Rafael, CA; 20 Jan.)... OPEN (13): 1-David Montgomery, 2-Tom Leslie, 3-Paul Albert, 4-Nack Ballard. INTERMEDIATE (9): 1/2-Peter Baumhoefer / Gerry Spalding, 3-Christian Stoddard.
- Milwaukee Club Monthly** (Milwaukee, WI; 21 Jan.)... OPEN (8): 1-Rudy Langenbach, 2-Jeff Kane; 1C/2C-Wally Berglund / Bernard Staller.
- Lugano 2001 Challenge** (Lugano, Switzerland; 25-28 Jan.)... CHAMPIONSHIP (44): 1-Dirk Schiemann (GER), 2-Matthias Körner (GER), 3/4-Mads Andersen (DK) / Johannes Levermann (GER); 1C-Christian Liebe-Harkort (GER), 2C-François Tardieu (FRA); 1LC-Mike Svobodny (USA), 2LC-Vittorio Castro (ITA). INTERMEDIATE (22): 1-Daniel Schiediger (SWIZ), 2-Henning Frick (GER),

3/4-Chiva Tafazzoli (IRAN) / Felix Wirth (SWIZ); 1C-Curtis Lucas (USA), 2C-Alberto Rusca (ITA); 1LC-Werner Süßli (SWIZ), DOUBLES: 1-Robert Almieda & José Salema (POR), 2-Matthias Körner & Ron Reinhardt (GER).

- Atlanta 2000 Awards Tourney** (Rosewell, GA; 27 Jan.)... OPEN (13): 1-Dave Cardwell, 2/3-Don Faix (NC) / Stuart Thomson.
- Ace Point Super Bowl Tournament** (New York, NY; 28 Jan.)... OPEN (15): 1-Jens Averkamp-Peters (DK), 2-Rick Barabino, 3/4-Coco Brown / Steve Nelson (HK); 1C-Roy Appy. INTERMEDIATE (5): 1-Michael Cazal, 2-Robert Regan; 1C-Marc Freeman.
- Springfield Series #4** (Bloomington, IL; 3 Feb.)... OPEN (36): 1-Michael Plog, 2-John Jennings; 1C-Tak Morioka, 2C-Randy Armstrong; 1LC-Randy Reiff.
- Universal Mall Bimonthly Series #1** (Warren, MI; 3 Feb.)... OPEN (30): 1-John Herron, 2-Carol Joy Cole.
- Northern Ohio Club Monthly** (Canton, OH; 4 Feb.)... OPEN (9): 1-Bob Smith, 2-Bob Green.
- Michigan Challenge Cup** (Plymouth, MI; 10 Feb.)... RESULTS: 1-Plymouth Club, 2-Flint Club.
- Paris Master 7 Open Tournament** (Paris, France; 12-18 Feb.)... CHAMPIONSHIP: 1-Jorgen Granstedt (Sweden), 2-Dennis Jersov (Lithuania), 3/4-George Vadiakos (Greece) / Mike Svobodny (USA); 1C-Elliott Winslow (USA), 2C-Mario Kuehl (Germany), 3C/4C-Gyl Savoie (Canada) / Mads Andersen (Denmark); 1LC-Jakov (Russia), 2LC-Slava Pryadkine (Ukraine); *Lady's Prize*-Melody Rae (Hong Kong). INTERMEDIATE: 1-Damial Plesec (Slovenia), 2-Abe Mosseri (USA), 3/4-Marie Akerob (Switzerland) / Chabrol (France); 1C-Vincent Versteeg (Netherlands), 2C-Curtis Lucas (USA), 3C/4C-Chris Groutsos (Greece) / Manchnsky; 1LC-Ortak, 2LC-Gordon Markotich (Croatia); *Lady's Prize*-Marie Akerob (Switzerland). MASTERS: 1-Ralf Jonas (Germany), 2-Morten Holm (Denmark). DOUBLES: 1-Johannes Levermann & Dirk Schiemann (Germany). SUPER-JACKPOT #1 (16): 1-Dirk Schiemann (Germany), 2-Joel Schiff (Israel). SUPER-JACKPOT #2 (8): 1/2-Michael Meyburg (Germany) / Aris Hadjiaslanis (Greece).
- 6th Warsteiner Cup** (Brakel, Germany; 16-18 Feb.)... MASTERS: 1-Norbert Lisiecki, 2-Jürgen Bud-Monheim, 3-Ekrem Basdas, 4-Charley Frank; 1C-Volker Sonnabend, 2C-Kiki Kirchoff; 1LC-Andreas Reichel. CHAMPIONSHIP: 1-Jimmy Anywar, 2-Wolfgang Tönnies, 3-Ray Langenfeld, 4-Uwe Klene; 1C-Markus Reinhard, 2C-Gerhard Linguau; 1LC-Thorsten Haase. INTERMEDIATE: 1-Heiko Leuchtmann, 2-Hendrik Böhm, 3-Andrea Müller. SUPER JACKPOT: 1-Peter Heitmüller, 2-Timo Vaatainen (FIN).
- Milwaukee Club Monthly** (Milwaukee, WI; 25 Feb.)... OPEN: 1-Rudy Langenbach, 2-Marv Arnot; 1C-Tom Machaj.
- Ace Point Monthly** (New York, NY; 25 Feb.)... OPEN (16): 1-John Jemmott (PA), 2-Mark Megalli; 1C-Steve Elkin. INTERMEDIATE (8): 1-Brian Barber, 2-Joseph Jemal; 1C-Stuart Katz.
- Pro-Am Doubles & Amateur Jackpot** (Las Vegas, NV; 28 Feb.-4 Mar.)... Doubles (20 Teams): 1-Nack Ballard (CA) & Harvey Huie (TX), 2-Mike Senkiewicz (NY) & Mike Sherman (CA). Amateur Jackpot (11): 1-Fred Kalantari (MN), 2-Henrik Gwinner (Denmark). Δ

## PEORIA WINS CLOSEST ILLINOIS STATE CHALLENGE CUP EVER

**Hail Peoria!** The backgammon club from Central Illinois has captured the 2001 Illinois State Challenge Cup in an incredibly close battle. Seven teams converged on Bloomington, Illinois at Ride The Nine to fight 4 February. Their mission was to win the 21-year-old massive trophy and claim Illinois backgammon club superiority.

Trailing the Chicago Bar Point Club by three wins after five rounds of play, Peoria captured 7 out of 10 matches to edge both the BPC and Winnetka by one victory: 22 to 21 to 21.



Peoria Challenge Cup victors clockwise from left: Cliff Mayoh, John Jennings, Fouad Malouf, Doc Rushford, Milad Doueihi, Ed Zell.

A 3-way tie was averted in the final round when Fouad Malouf tossed a timely set of double 6s in the bearoff of the deciding match to win it for Peoria.

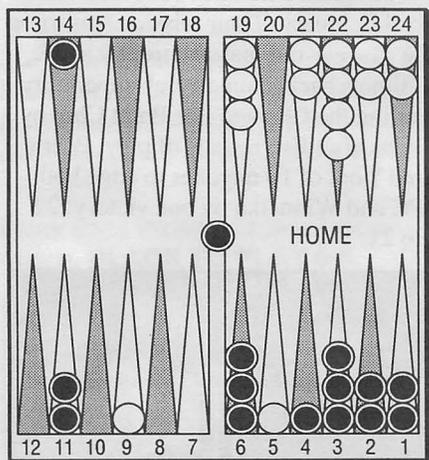
Special congratulations to Tak Morioka of the BPC who was the only player to go undefeated (6-0). Complete results:

- 1. PEORIA (22-14):** John Jennings (3-3), Ed Zell (4-2), Fouad Malouf (4-2), Milad Doueihi (4-2), Cliff Mayoh (3-3), Doc Rushford (4-2).
- 2/3. CHGO BAR PT. CLUB (21-15):** Tim Carroll (3-3), Tim Mabee (3-3), Jake Jacobs (4-2), Phyllis Smolinski (3-3), Tak Morioka (6-0), Marc Rosset (2-4).
- 2/3. WINNETKA (21-15):** Dave Rockwell (5-1), Joe Ausmann (2-4), Mark Ryan (5-1), Linda Rockwell (3-3), Josh Riddell (5-1), Ed Buerger (1-5).
- 4. BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL (18-18):** Ed Bauder (2-4), Mike Flohr (3-3), Rob Farmer (5-1), William Hutchison (2-4), Jim Zimmerman (2-4), Dave Cornwall (4-2).
- 5. GAMES PEOPLE PLAY (17-19):** Reginald Porter (2-4), Femi Owiku (2-4), Roger Hickman (2-4), Brian Barber (3-3), Kenneth Tibbs (3-3), Bill Davis (5-1).
- 6. SANGAMON VALLEY (16-20):** Randy Armstrong (4-2), Greg Tomlin (3-3), Michael Plog (1-5), Ben Zemaitis (4-2), Mark Kaye (1-5), Jeff Anderson (3-3).
- 7. PUB CLUB (11-25):** Joe Wollick (2-4), Mark Murray (4-2), Val Zimnicki (0-6), Mike Sutton (2-4), Keith Kuligowski (1-5), Chris Wilson (2-4).

## PROBLEM #269 ANALYZED

by Dorn Bishop

Match to 7 points. Black leads White 6 to 1. **BLACK TO PLAY 5-2.**



To hit or not to hit with the 2. That is the question. To play to win or to play not to lose a gammon. That is another question.

Of the non-hitting plays, the two standouts for Black's deuce are 6/4 and 20/18. Other choices like 14/12 or 3/1 just reduce flexibility or leave additional shots with no compensating benefit.

Black trails by 11 pips after this roll, so his best game plan for winning is to hit one of White's checkers. When that hit happens, Black would much prefer to have a five-point board with no home-bound blots instead of a four-point board with one straggler. After all, hitting one of White's checkers will do little good unless White is polite enough to stay on the roof while Black scampers home. Indeed, unless Black covers that blot on his 4-point, hitting one of White's checkers might actually do more harm than good if White hits that blot from the bar.

So making a five-point board with 6/4 now has a lot to be said for it. The main drawback is that it leaves a blot on White's 5-point, turning otherwise bad small numbers like 1-1, 1-2, and 1-3 into great pick-and-passers for White. All in all, 6/4 gives White 23 hitting numbers, with only indirect return shots for Black. Each of those hitting numbers is cause for concern given the strength of White's board and the virtually doubled cost of gammons at this match score. Another drawback of 6/4 is that it takes away Black's only spare on the 6-point at a time when Black would like to

preserve what little flexibility he still has. 20/18 is a much safer play than 6/4. It avoids the pick-and-pass dangers discussed above, and leaves only 18 hitting numbers. But it does not make a five point board and leaves a nagging blot on Black's 4-point. Besides, if one of Black's outfield checkers is hit, Black would probably rather have a blot on White's 5-point in order to form an anchor in case he rolls a 5 from the bar.

So do the play-to-win advantages of 6/4 outweigh the play-not-to-lose-a-gammon advantages of 20/18? Hard to say, but Snowie rollouts give the edge to 6/4. In fact, they indicate that Black may actually lose fewer gammons by playing 6/4 than by playing 20/18.

If the somewhat risky play of 6/4 wins out among non-hitting plays, can going full-blown *banzai* with 11/9\* be better still? To quote Mr. Owl from the old Tootsie Roll ads, "Let's find out." Since each gammon for White is the equivalent of two plain game losses, we can roughly estimate Black's net wins from 6/4 and 11/9\* to see if one or the other is a clear winner. In case of a photo finish, we may need to consider backgammons as well.

**11/9\*:** In 16 out of 36 games where we hit, White will fan. For the sake of simplicity, let's say Black wins 11 of those games (Black gains +11 units), while White wins 3 plain games (-3 units for Black) and 2 gammon (-4 more units), yielding a net gain for Black of 4 units. In 7 out of 36 games, White will anchor on Black's 5-point and not hit for the time being. White is still in good shape, though, and probably still a favorite. Let's give White 3 plain games (-3) and 1 gammon (-2), and give Black 3 wins (+3), yielding a net loss for Black of 3 units.

In 9 out of 36 games (all 4s except 5-4 and 4-1, plus 5-1), White will hit one of Black's checkers on his next roll. Black has some counter-play, but is still in big trouble. Black will win approximately 3 of those games (+3), lose a plain game 2 times (-2), and lose four gammons (-8), yielding a net loss of 7 units for Black.

Finally, in 4 out of 36 games (5-4 and 4-1), White will send two checkers to the bar. Miracle saves and victories are roughly balanced out by catastrophic backgammon losses. Let's give White all four wins and assume that they will all be gammons, yielding a net loss for Black of 8 more units.

Combining the net results from the four categories discussed above, we have 4 +

(-3) + (-7) + (-8), for a grand total of -14 units. The actual figure may be one or two units lower because White will win one or two match-ending backgammons instead of gammons.

**6/4.** After Black plays 6/4, White still has a significant advantage: she is aiming at Black's blots and is on roll leading 80 to 91. In the 23 of 36 games where White hits one or two of Black's checkers, Black is in big trouble. My guess is that Black will win about 4 of those games (+4), lose a plain game 11 times (-11), and lose a gammon 8 times (-16), yielding a net result of -22 units.

In the 13 of 36 games where White misses, Black will probably still only win about half of those, although he is unlikely to be gammoned. So let's give Black seven wins (+7) in those 13 games, and give White 5 plain game wins (-5) and one gammon (-2), all of which evens out to 0 units. So Black's grand total after playing 6/4 is -22 net units.

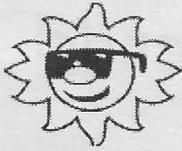
Notwithstanding how crude these over-the-board estimates may be, they reflect that hitting is clearly right, even at this match score.

So when in doubt, hit. And play to win. Δ

## Chicago Bar Point Club 1000-to-1 Club

Name	Wins in a Row	Date Completed
David Rubin	11	1 Feb 94
Neil Kazaross	10	8 Feb 94
Phil Simborg	11	5 Apr 94
Frankie Farjood	11	25 Apr 95
Harry Cohn	11	9 May 95
Neil Kazaross	10	19 Sep 95
Neil Kazaross	11	12 Dec 95
Herb Roman	10	11 Aug 96
Andy Krenitz	12	5 Nov 96
Neil Kazaross	10	23 Dec 96
Wendy Kaplan	10	7 Jan 97
Phil Simborg	12	6 May 97
Phyllis Smolinski	10	6 Jan 98
Laila Leonhardt	10	27 Jan 98
Steve Mellen	12	1 Feb 98
Tak Morioka	12	17 Mar 98
Don Jayhan	10	14 Dec 99
Bill Bartholomay	12	23 Jan 01

Players listed above have won at least 10 matches in a row in Chicago Bar Point Club competition since 1994.



Join us in Sunny Sunny Spain!



# 7<sup>th</sup> EBN May Day

## Backgammon & Gin Rummy Tournament

May 1-6, 2001

Casino San Roque, Spain

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### Costa del Sol Area

San Roque is a historic, typical Spanish town dating back to the 15th century. It overlooks the Straits of Gibraltar and the Bay of Algeciras. Don't miss the duty-free shopping in Gibraltar. For golfers, Costa del Sol offers 30+ beautiful courses.

### Hotel Information

Mention "Backgammon" when reserving. Free transportation from hotels to Casino San Roque (10 minute ride)

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Fax: +34 956 678 600  
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Fax: +34 956 785 159  
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www.royalgolfhoteles.com

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\$80/double occupancy  
clubmar@arrakis.es  
www.sotograndearea.com

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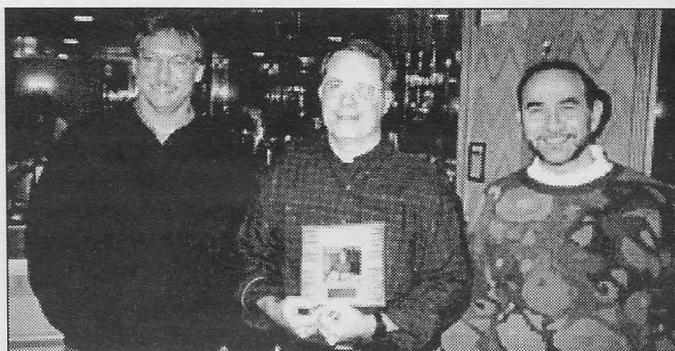
Schedule of events available at:  
[www.backgammon.ch/ebn/debruin1.html](http://www.backgammon.ch/ebn/debruin1.html)

## AMALGAMATION

Check out the new invitations for the Chicago Open and you'll notice that **Joann Feinstein's** name is missing. After 12 years, Joann has decided to retire from directorial duties in favor of playing. **Howard Markowitz** of the Nevada Backgammon Association will continue to direct the event... Director **Rudy Langenbach** (WI) tells us that his Milwaukee Club and the Madison Club are discussing the prospects of holding the first Wisconsin State Championships in the Summer of 2002, perhaps in Madison, the state capitol... We welcome another California club. The Sacramento Backgammon Club meets 2nd & 4th Tuesdays monthly (6:30 pm) at the Player's Sports Pub in Fair Oaks. For details, call **Doug Wilson** at 530/756-4872. And backgammon is now back in Kentucky. The Louisville Backgammon Club meets every 1st and 3rd Thursday (6:30 pm) at the Utopia International Café. **Luke Clippinger** (812/285-9047) has the particulars. Finally, **John Drexel** (616/453-4648) invites you to attend the Grand Rapids (Michigan) Club at the Garden Room Cafe Tuesdays at 7:00 pm... Visiting the Bar Point Club in Jan./

Feb.: **Brian Barber** (NY), **Larry Harbin** (TN), **Roger Blaine** (IN)... **Laila Leonhardt's** (PA) bridge server at [www.swangames.com](http://www.swangames.com) hosted an exhibition match on 14 February: "Bridge in the Name of Backgammon." When all the tricks were taken, **Jake Jacobs** (IL) and **Kit Woolsey** (CA) had defeated **Kent Goulding** (MD) and **Danny Kleinman** (CA)... **Mel Dragicevic** has taken over publishing duties of Gammon Village, the outstanding online site at [www.gammonvillage.com](http://www.gammonvillage.com)... Chicago's own **John Brussel** will direct the 1st Canadian Open (sponsored by Netgammon), 5-7 October in Montreal. Save this weekend. It should be a fun one... Congrats to **Yamin and Roulla Yamin** (IL) on the birth of their second

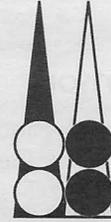
daughter. **Elizabeth Yamin** was born on Valentine's Day, 14 February... Check out the new Unified Backgammon Tournament Clock Rules that can be found online at: [www.chicagopoint.com/bgclockrules.html](http://www.chicagopoint.com/bgclockrules.html). The new rules were jointly developed with input from Chicago Bar Point Club, Atlanta Backgammon Club, Danny Kleinman, Kit Woolsey and **Patrick Gibson** (CA) and will be used at the upcoming Midwest Championships 23-25 March... Our prayers go out to **Ernest Klein** (TX), longtime backgammon player who recently had a stroke... Look for a **Walter Trice** (MA) review of **Norm Wiggins'** (CA) new book, *Boards, Blots and Double-Shots* in the April CHICAGO POINT. The intermediate-level book was edited by Danny Kleinman... The Bar



Point Club Awards night was held 9 January at the Golden Flame in Chicago. The BPC Top 3 for 2000 are pictured from left to right: **Tim Mabee** (2nd), **Tim Carroll** (1st) and **Herb Roman** (3rd) ... Finally, remember that "Behind bad luck comes good luck."—old Gypsy proverb. Δ

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**Tournament Director**

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702/893-6025  
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Get more information online at: [www.nvbg.com/chicago.html](http://www.nvbg.com/chicago.html)

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Nevada Backgammon Association  
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