

2001 monte carlo world championship

JÖRGEN GRANSTEDT WINS 2001 WORLD TITLE

**Sallamzy edges Bagai in Super Jackpot
by Harald Johanni**

Sweden's Jörgen Granstedt joined the ranks of Bill Robertie (USA) and Michael Meyburg (Germany) by winning the Monte-Carlo World Backgammon Championship for a second time. A record attendance of 288 international players converged on the Grand Hotel in Monaco 9–15 July for a shot at backgammon fame and glory. Once again, James Ballié of Switzerland directed.



2001 World Backgammon Champion Jörgen Granstedt. [Photo by Harald Johanni.]

The number of players who attempt to win the Monte Carlo event is growing every year. Nevertheless, the two competitors paired against one-another in this year's 26th annual finals looked familiar: 2000 finalist Thomas Holm vs. 1999 champion Jörgen Granstedt.

In the semifinals, Thomas Holm of Denmark beat his fellow countryman, Morten Holm by 23–15 and Jörgen Granstedt defeated the German editor of *Backgammon Today*, Mario Kühl 23–18. According to Snowie's analyses, each

match paired two players of equal skill with the Swedish-German duel played at a higher caliber.

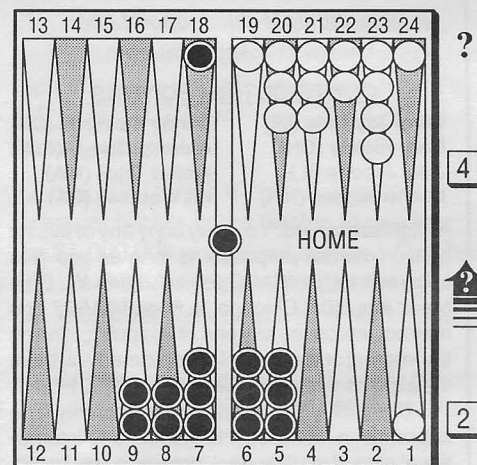
Granstedt and Holm met on Sunday, 15 July in the Salon Lacoste. As usual, the 25-point finals was shown on closed-circuit television with Paul Magriel providing commentary in his incomparable way.

In order to better understand the reasons for Jörgen Granstedt's recent success, take a look at these two interesting cube decisions:

Pos. 1. 25-point match. Granstedt (Black) leads Holm (White) 10–2. Black owns a 2-cube. **BLACK ON ROLL. RECUBE ACTION(S)?** [See Pos. 1 at right.]

Leading 10–2, not many top players would redouble this position. In fact, it is only marginally correct in money game play. Black has only a 2-point board and White can win the race even after being hit by anchoring in Black's home board.

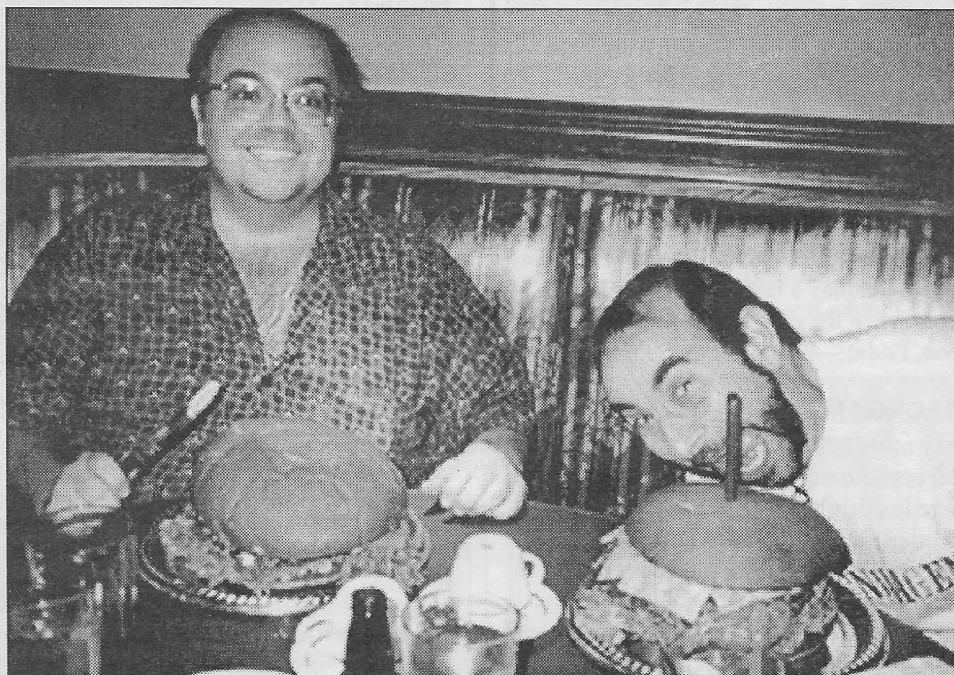
Pos. 1



However, if Black dances, things really get interesting when White redoubles to 8. A third of his wins are gammons.

[Continued on page 8]

'HUGE ROLLS' FOR JAKE & HERB



In July, Chicago's Jake Jacobs and Herb Roman ventured to R-Place in Morris, Illinois to try and eat a four pound hamburger (\$18.00 each) in one hour's time. If successful, the burger would be free. When the ketchup cleared, Jake had downed 50% and Herb ate just over 60%.

If offered a four pound burger, we think the correct action is "drop." Δ

CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

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LETTERS

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REMEMBERING EDDIE

Eddie Petrillo was one of the very finest sportsmen in backgammon. He was always able to display a terrific sense of humor even when the dice were cruel. We miss you, Eddie.—*Nack Ballard, Richmond, CA*

BACKGAMMON IN AUSTIN

My name is Kim. I just recently discovered the opportunities for live backgammon here in Austin, Texas. I am an assistant manager at Boston Market restaurant on Braker Lane and 183. Saturdays are pretty slow in our store, so we would welcome anyone coming in who wanted to play backgammon.

I'm just going to set a standing invitation to come join a new backgammon group/club at Boston Market, Braker Lane & 183 at 4:00 P.M. every Saturday. Ask for Kim. I'll be there most Saturdays at that time. If

[Continued on page 3]

coming attractions

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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

by Carol Joy Cole

810/232-9731

E-mail: cjc@tir.com

* Denotes new or revised listing

NATIONAL

American Backgammon Tour events underlined.

Sep 15	Redwood Empire Club Monthly, Embassy Suites, San Rafael, CA	707/824-9715
Sep 16	New England Club Monthly, Holiday Inn, Somerville, MA	617/491-8710
Sep 20	Labor Day Classic, Triple Crown Sports Bar, Houston, TX	713/567-1639
Sep 20	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament (Canadian Open), Day's Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Sep 21-23	<u>Florida State Championships, Sheraton Suites, Ft. Lauderdale, FL</u>	<u>954/564-0340</u>
Sep 22*	Chess Express Monthly BG Tourney, Chess Express, Ann Arbor, MI	734/665-0612
Sep 22-23	Vietor Invitational, Jon Vietor's residence, La Jolla, CA	858/456-3829
Sep 23*	Austin Sunday Bimonthly, JC's Sports Bar & Grill, Austin, TX	518/261-8518
Sep 23*	Milwaukee Club Monthly, John Hawks Pub, Milwaukee, WI	414/962-8549
Sep 28-30	<u>Towpath Tournament, Towpath Inn, Turin, NY</u>	<u>716/387-0767</u>
Sep 30	Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Anyway's Grill, Oakbrook Terrace, IL	773/252-7755
Sep 30	Ace Point Club Monthly Tournament, Ace Point Club, New York, NY	212/753-0842
Oct 1*	MSN Gammonzone Medallion Monthly, via computer	GZMedallion@gammonzone.net
Oct 1*	Official GamesGrid Monthly Tournament, via computer	tournaments@cyberarts.com
Oct 6*	FIBS 2001 Fall/Winter Tournament, via computer	david@escoffery.com
Oct 6*	Universal Mail Bimonthly Tournament, All the King's Men, Warren, MI	810/558-4790
Oct 14*	Backgammon By The Bay Monthly, TGI Friday's, Oakland, CA	831/688-9722
Oct 14*	New England Club Monthly, Holiday Inn, Somerville, MA	617/491-8710
Oct 14*	T/P Club Monthly Tournament, Java Oasis, Chicago, IL	312/719-1245
Oct 18*	Casket Open, Triple Crown Sports Bar, Houston, TX	713/567-1639
Oct 18*	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament (Ohio State), Day's Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Oct 19-21	<u>Illinois State Championships, Springfield Hilton Hotel, Springfield, IL</u>	<u>217/528-0117</u>
Oct 20*	Redwood Empire Club Monthly, Embassy Suites, San Rafael, CA	707/824-9715
Oct 26-28	<u>Northeast Regional, Comfort Inn Airport, Albany, New York</u>	<u>603/863-4711</u>
Oct 28*	Ace Point Club Monthly Tournament, Ace Point Club, New York, NY	212/753-0842
Oct 28*	Atlanta Chouette Tournament, Tony's America Grille, Roswell, GA	770/333-1876
Nov 2-4	<u>48th Gammon Associates Invitational, A.R. Private Club, Los Angeles, CA</u>	<u>818/901-0464</u>
Nov 4*	T/P Club Monthly Tournament, Java Oasis, Chicago, IL	312/719-1245
Nov 11*	Backgammon By The Bay Monthly, TGI Friday's, Oakland, CA	831/688-9722
Nov 11*	New England Club Monthly, Holiday Inn, Somerville, MA	617/491-8710
Nov 11*	23rd Flint Area Club Championships, Holiday Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Nov 15*	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament (Las Vegas Open), Day's Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Nov 16-18	<u>Minnesota State Championships, Thunderbird Hotel, Bloomington, MN</u>	<u>612/378-1536</u>
Nov 17*	Redwood Empire Club Monthly, Embassy Suites, San Rafael, CA	707/824-9715
Nov 23-25*	<u>Ohio State Championships, Radisson cleveland, Middleburg Hts., OH</u>	<u>330/966-2811</u>
Nov 25*	Ace Point Club Monthly Tournament, Ace Point Club, New York, NY	212/753-0842
Nov 28-Dec 2	Las Vegas Open, Harrah's Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, NV	702/893-6025
Dec 2*	Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Anyway's Grill, Oakbrook Terrace, IL	773/252-7755

OUTSIDE USA

Sep 15-16*	Amsterdam Open 2001, Café Anders, Amsterdam, The Netherlands	3120-4633724
Sep 29-30*	Humblebæk Open, Baunebjerg Skolen, Humlebæk, Denmark	4520-671995
Sep 29-Oct 3	8th German Open & Poker Tourney, Kaiserbrunnen Hotel, Brakel, Germany	49521-64314
Oct 5-7	Canadian Open, Le Nouvel Hotel, Montreal, QC, Canada	904/777-8816
Oct 5-7	Schwaben-Cup, Hotel Mercure, Stüttgart-Gerlingen, Germany	49711-486190
Oct 6-7	Sandy Osborne Trophy, Hilton National Hotel, Coventry, England	441522-888676
Oct 6-8	7th Japan Open & 31st Championship, Nakano Sun Plaza, Tokyo, Japan	813337-33814
Oct 11-14	4th Austrian Open & Doubles Champs, Casino Seefeld, Seefeld, Austria	431-9715889
Oct 13-14	10th Åbne Fynske Mesterskaber, Bridgehuset, Odense, Denmark	4566-177719
Oct 14*	Toronto Club Monthly, Doghouse Riley's, Toronto, Ontario, Canada	416/722-9709
Oct 27-28*	9th Irish Open, Wynn's Hotel, Dublin, Ireland	3531-6689332
Oct 26-29*	World's Grand Jackpot, Rodos Palace Hotel, Rhodes, Greece	97252-581329
Oct 29-Nov 4*	World's Grand Championship, Rodos Palace Hotel, Rhodes, Greece	97252-581329
Oct 31-Nov 3	Consulting Doubles Championship, Hotel Royal Splendide, Lugano, Switz.	4179-3374425
Nov 2-4	6th Grand Prix de Suisse, Hotel Eden, Lugano, Switzerland	4179-3374425
Nov 2-4	21st Swedish Open, Quality Hotel Nacka, Stockholm, Sweden	468-189346
Nov 10-11*	Town Harbor Trophy, Hilton National Hotel, Coventry, England	441522-888676
Nov 24-25*	Danish Championship 2001, Østerbrohuset, Copenhagen, Denmark	4533-363601
Nov 24-25*	Swiss Championship 2001, Switzerland	4179-4015811
Nov 24-25*	2nd Asti Golden Trophy, Hotel Aleramo, Asti, Italy	39141-907021
Dec 1-2*	19th Open von Thun, Hotel Seepark, Thun, Switzerland	4179-6569700
Dec 4-9	First Cancun Open, Ritz Carlton Hotel, Cancun, Mexico	49911-409505
Dec 8-9*	United Kingdom Finals, Hilton National Hotel, Coventry, England	441522-888676
Dec 13-16*	Championnat de France V, Aviation Club, Paris, France (Residents only)	331-42618080
Dec 28-30*	Schwaben-Cup, Hotel Mercure, Nürnberg, Germany	49711-486190

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

you have any suggestions, send me an e-mail. Hope to see you some Saturday afternoon.—*Kim Hawkins, Austin, TX, kimhawk12@hotmail.com*

GREETINGS FROM THE GAMMONS

I realize the contest is over, but couldn't resist the urge to reply. Our last name is Gammon and we live not far from this by now famous loop. Greetings from Nova Scotia (We live on Gammons Road).—*The Gammons, Nova Scotia, Canada*

See page 4 for the Stan Gammon Loop contest results.—*Ed.*

CHANGE OF HEART

7 July 2001: Regarding the \$1,000,000 World Masters Championships scheduled 4–8 May 2002 in Orlando, Florida, Chris Ternel and I are still confident. The event will go ahead if there are 10 players, 100 or 1000. The prize money will be \$1,000,000. We of course hope that there will be 1024 players, however if we should fall short, this means better equity for the players; but then of course in 2003 we would expect a full field.—*Michael Crane, BIBA director, Lincoln, England*

17 July 2001: IMPORTANT. Due to our financial backer being unable to produce the \$1,000,000 prize fund before 1 October 2001, we have reluctantly had to postpone the World Masters until a new backer can be found.

Anyone with a spare \$1,000,000 please contact me immediately. :-)
—*Michael Crane*

STORY ABOUT NORM

There is an interesting story about former backgammon player and author Norman Zadeh at: www.insidebiz.com/richmond/covers/cover020399.htm.—*Mel Leifer, Gammon Links editor, Germantown, MD*

Norm, a former high-stakes BG player, made his fortune in the stock market and is now publishing a magazine and website (www.perfect10.com) featuring "naturally beautiful" women (no implants).—Ed. Δ



AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 2001

Top 100 compiled through 3 Sept. 2001 after 9 events
(Coming in September: Florida State Champs and Towpath Inn Tourney)



Jake Jacobs	62.93	Adam Versaw	7.17	David Groner	3.90	John Meyers	2.08
Rick Todd	28.00	John Brussel	7.12	Ron Rogers	3.56	Mariano Gonzalez	1.92
Neil Kazaross	24.76	Fred Kalantari	7.00	Steve Goldstein	3.56	Jim Zinkhon	1.83
Bruce Russell	24.13	Glen de Guzman	6.73	Tak Morioka	3.51	Connie Tipton	1.78
Gyl Savoie	21.45	Herb Roman	6.69	Chuck Bower	3.51	Paul Lombardo	1.78
Steve Sax	16.20	Julian Haley	6.60	Masayuki Mochizuki	3.49	Landon Leming	1.56
Richard Del Furia	15.67	Eliot Bean	6.45	Tim Carroll	3.35	Matt Armbruster	1.56
Matt Reklaitis	15.00	Greg Merriman	6.34	Bill Minser	3.35	Ed King	1.53
Dennis Culpepper	14.86	Rob Maier	6.34	Norm Wiggins	3.22	Mark Murray	1.53
Jim Hall	14.21	John Greci	6.08	Doug Roberts	3.22	Saad Ghiso	1.53
Sakura Wells	14.00	Reza Nowbar	6.00	Mark Tremayne	3.20	Glenn Nunez	1.53
Emil Mortuk	14.00	Mary Franks	5.88	Gregg Cattanach	3.05	Vadim Musaelyan	1.47
Bob Wachtel	12.89	Jeremy Bagai	5.88	Jewell Morris	3.05	Doug Johnson	1.47
Chen Fu Yu	12.69	Chris Wilson	5.60	Bill Keefe	2.95	Roger Hickman	1.44
Chuck Stimming	12.35	Tom Daniel	5.22	Will Horton	2.94	Hunter Jones	1.44
Dean Adamian	12.35	Keith Kuligowski	5.20	Dave Cardwell	2.77	Ali Malik	1.34
Carl Sorg	12.15	Marianne Gatenby	5.11	Ken Lazar	2.62	Guy Nicosia	1.27
James Roston	11.44	Brian Barber	5.11	Gary Lohr	2.46	Elayne Feinstein	1.27
François Margot	10.98	Dana Nazarian	4.50	Craig Campbell	2.45	Sam Denno	1.21
Bob Glass	10.46	Paul Weaver	4.44	Mike Flohr	2.40	Ed Buerger	1.13
Tom Machaj	10.20	Howard Shapiro	4.44	Glenn Ramsey	2.27	Walter Hamm	1.10
David Wells	9.94	Richard Munitz	4.44	Mark Haley	2.27	Jeb Horton	1.10
Jane Lewandowski	9.37	Norman Hansen	4.40	Danielle Bastarache	2.20	Bob Sexton	1.06
Paul Stebbing	9.00	Tim Mabee	4.14	Jeff Flowers	2.14	Diane Varner	1.06
Greg Lilley	8.80	David Rockwell	3.90	Steve Maas	2.08	Bob Courtney	1.00



CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB 2001 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

COMPILED
THRU 31 AUG.

Bob Zavoral	24.56	J.A. Miller	4.96	Georgina Flanagan	1.68	Wayne Weist	0.80
Lucky Nelson	18.12	Elaine Kehm	4.72	Jerry Brooks	1.60	Brian Leventhal	0.64
Jake Jacobs	16.52	Joann Feinstein	4.56	Roger Hickman	1.60	Paul Friedman	0.64
Glenn Martells	15.08	Bill Keefe	4.48	John Brussel	1.36	Mike Sutton	0.64
Tim Mabee	14.32	Peter Kalba	4.40	Don Marek	1.28	Roger Blaine	0.64
Joe Wollick	14.04	Alice Kay	4.08	Ken Bond	1.28	Brian Kozin	0.64
Tim Carroll	13.56	Scott Richardson	3.68	Erik Erland	1.12	Beverly Becker	0.64
Brian Barber	12.08	Marc Rosset	3.60	Ken Tyszko	1.12	Reginald Porter	0.56
Bill Bartholomay	10.92	Steve Klesker	3.20	David Donaldson	0.96	Sharon Steffens	0.56
Tak Morioka	10.00	Paul Baraz	2.88	Leo Campos	0.88	Tom Roberts	0.48
Norma Shyer	9.52	Mark Ryan	2.56	Bob Katz	0.88	Barbara Levinson	0.48
Herb Roman	8.96	David Araiza	2.40	Richard Lloyd	0.88	Richard Stawowy	0.48
Bob Steen	7.52	Mark Murray	2.40	Wendy Kaplan	0.88	Joe Szewdo	0.32
Carter Mattig	7.20	Tom Meyer	2.24	Karsten Nielsen	0.88	Scott Zucker	0.32
Phyllis Smolinski	7.20	Ed Buerger	2.20	Gary Kay	0.88	Amy Trudeau	0.32
Don Jayhan	7.16	Joe Auszmann	2.16	Barry Miller	0.88	Tom Roach	0.32
Bill Davis	6.84	Mary Franks	1.84	Paul Franks	0.88	Sakura Wells	0.24
Arlene Levy	5.04	Paul Lombardo	1.76	Jolie Rubin	0.80	Ken Tibbs	0.16
Howard Chow	4.96						

An incredible two month run for **LUCKY NELSON** who amassed 5.12 points in July and 6.56 points in August to win back-to-back Player of the Month titles. Over his past 35 mathees, Lucky's record is 30–5. That's awesome.

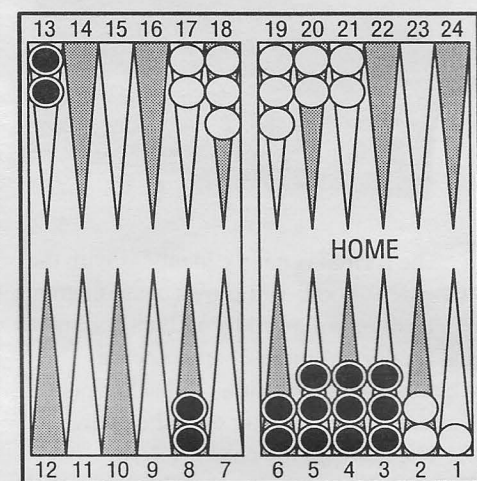
July runner's up were Glenn Martells (4.72) and Jake Jacobs (3.20). In August, the 2/3 finishers were Bob Zavoral (4.32) and Tak Morioka (3.36).

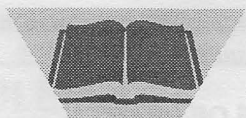
your move

PROBLEM #275

to be analyzed by Antonio Ortega

Tournament double match-point.
BLACK TO PLAY 5-5.





BACKGAMMON WITH THE GIANTS NEIL KAZAROSS

Neil's insightful comments enhance the latest Ortega/Kleinman effort

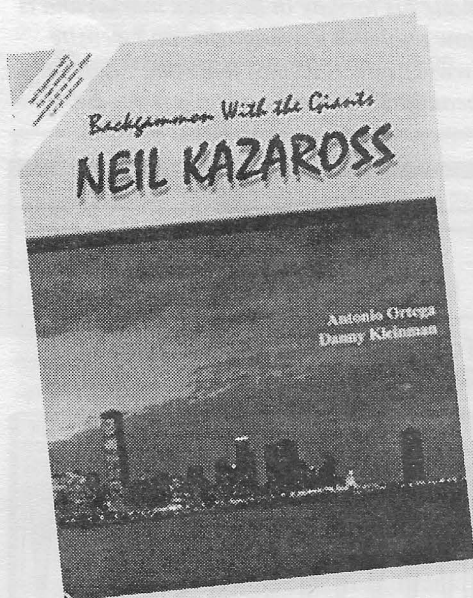
Reviewed by Steve Sax

Backgammon With The Giants: Neil Kazaross ©2001 by Antonio Ortega & Danny Kleinman. Published by the authors. Soft cover, spiral bound, 223 pages. Price: \$40 plus shipping. Available from *Backgammon à la Carte* (Carol Joy Cole), 810/232-9731 – cjc@tir.com.



Antonio Ortega and Danny Kleinman try to do a lot in *Backgammon with the Giants: Neil Kazaross*. Like their previous installment featuring Jerry Grandell, they annotate three matches against a variety of opponents.

This edition includes matches featuring Neil Kazaross vs. European expert Francois Tardieu, longtime champion Malcolm Davis, and New York player Charlie Russell. The diversity of opponents is a plus as it allows the authors to show how Neil handles different types of players.



The format is nearly identical with the "Grandell" book, as it shows clear diagrams of a position followed by authors comments and finally an equity chart showing whether the cube action or checker play was executed correctly over the board.

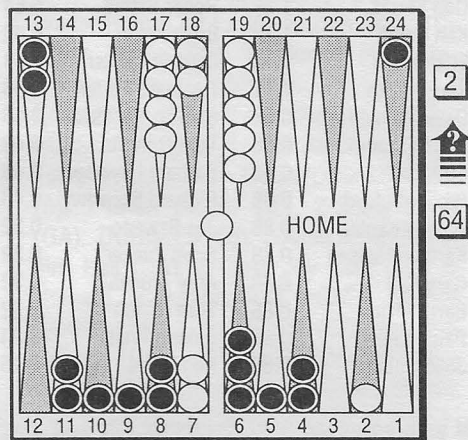
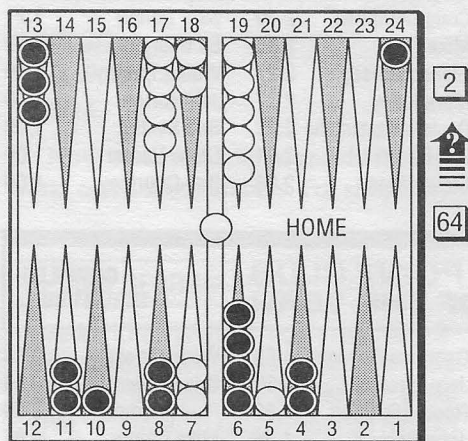
The icing on the cake are Neil Kazaross's comments. He takes you inside

his thought process and emotions. This valuable insight alone is worth the price of the book. Neil speaks about how he attempts to capitalize on his opponent's aggressiveness or timidity and honestly reflects on his own errors, be they tactical, strategic, or mental.

It's true that Ortega/Kleinman try to do a lot, and for the most part, they succeed. However, there are a few instances in which they advocate a play as "best" when it is either an error or equivalent with one or more choices.

I'm not sure who the target market is for this book, but the authors are in the difficult position of educating some without boring others. An example of this is that the diagrams at the top of pages 60 and 61, which advocate not doubling at two-away vs. many-away when two-away has any reasonable gammon chances. This is obvious enough to all but the most uninitiated that a single example would have been more than enough.

The two positions from pages 60 and 61. 15-point match. Black leads White 13–3 and is too good to double in each case. Analyzing both positions is repetitive.



A final criticism is that in both editions, the "expert" wins all his matches. To best learn from a world-class player's expertise,

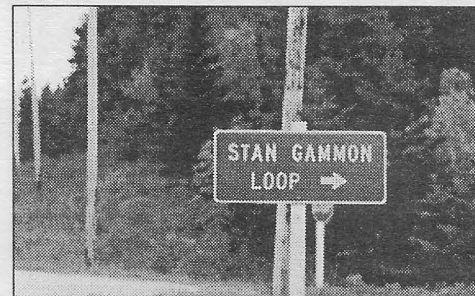
we should study them in all types of match situations including losing ones. If we only see the experts win their matches, how can we learn from them if they rarely struggle with tough decisions resulting from bad dice; and positions and match scores that result in inevitable losses for all backgammon players?

All in all, the analysis is concise and organized, mostly accurate and educational. I look forward to the next Ortega/Kleinman "Backgammon with the Giants," and if our "expert" doesn't lose at least one of his or her three matches (a more than fair ratio for even the best players), look for "Steve Sax's Least Important Matches" at a Barnes and Noble near you.—*Steve Sax* Δ

July contest results

STAN GAMMON LOOP LOCATED

Nobody said it would be easy. Locating Stan Gammon Loop proved to be one of our most difficult contests ever. There



wasn't much to go on. Obviously it was a wooded area, and if you look closely, you would have noticed the stop sign in English in the background.

Using the Internet proved to be helpful, but also misleading. A popular guess was Adelaide, Australia because of the website: www.geocities.com/flopsits/gammons.htm.

Another group of people guessed Idaho Fall, Idaho because a long distance runner named Stan Gammon lives there.

The correct answer could be found by searching the provinces of Canada (a good idea considering the wooded background). Stan Gammon Loop is located east of Port Dufferin in Nova Scotia. It exits off highway 65 and loops around Gammons Pond and Gammons Creek. (See the map at: www.ns.ec.gc.ca/epb/sfish/maps/ns/high/ns110407.jpg).

Sadly, the winner was 2200 miles from the correct site: Idaho Falls, Idaho. By random draw of the correct answers, **Michael Nielsen** of Herning, Denmark wins the one year CHICAGO POINT subscription. Δ

ED PETRILLO

Ed Petrillo, a 20-year veteran of backgammon, succumbed to colon cancer on 10 July 2001. Mr. Petrillo was 49 years old.

A financial planner by profession, Ed's real passion was the backgammon world. His greatest victory was winning the 1999 Nevada State Tournament where he rallied from a 14-1 deficit against Ian Macfarlane to prevail 19-17.



ED PETRILLO

(1999 photo taken at Las Vegas tourney)

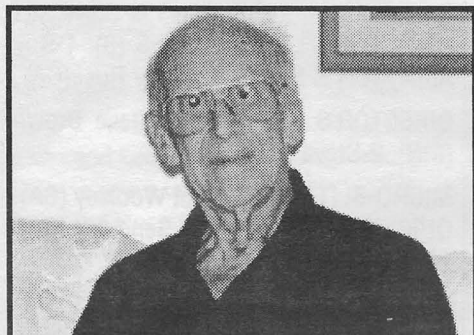
His close companion Karen Mersey says that over the past few years: "Backgammon was not only a help to Eddie, it allowed him to look forward to wonderful venues [like his favorite, Monte Carlo] in which to play.

"Being a member of GamesGrid enabled Eddie to concentrate on the positive and play with good friends, even during the worst days of his illness."

Ed Petrillo is survived by his son, Michael. Donations may be sent to: Edward Petrillo Memoriam; Hospice of SW Florida; 5955 Rand Blvd.; Sarasota, FL 34283. Δ

HENRY SCHWARTZ

Longtime Chicagoland backgammon player Henry Schwartz died 20 April 2001 in Pompano Beach, Florida. He was 87.



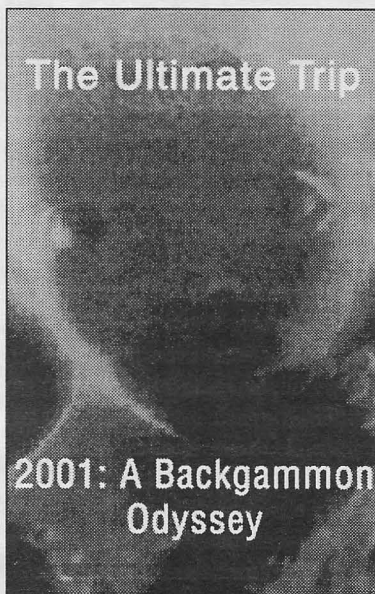
HENRY SCHWARTZ 1913-2001
(1999 photo taken at his home in Florida)

Before moving to Florida more than 10 years ago, Schwartz had amassed 49.21 points between 1975 and 1991—enough to still rank him 101st on the All-Time Chicagoland Master Point list.

Mr Schwartz was a self-employed CPA who enjoyed bridge, chess and canasta. But according to his wife of 29 years, Harriet, "Backgammon was his his first love."

Henry Schwartz is survived by his wife, two step-children (Sharyn Haran & Marcy Hagio), and two grandchildren. Δ

2001 Illinois State Backgammon Championships



October 19-21, 2001

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19

**DEADLY
ROLL**



"A CHALLENGING
TOURNAMENT WITH
A TOUCH OF MYSTIQUE."
—Chicago Bar Point Club

March 22-24, 2002

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
Bill Bartholomay	11	20 Mar 01
Bob Zavoral	14	3 Apr 01
Jake Jacobs	12	22 May 01
Tim Carroll	10	26 Jun 01
Tim Mabee	10	7 Aug 01

Players listed above have won at least 10 matches in a row in Chicago Bar Point Club competition since 1994. Assuming equal competition, the odds against this feat is slightly over 1000 to 1.

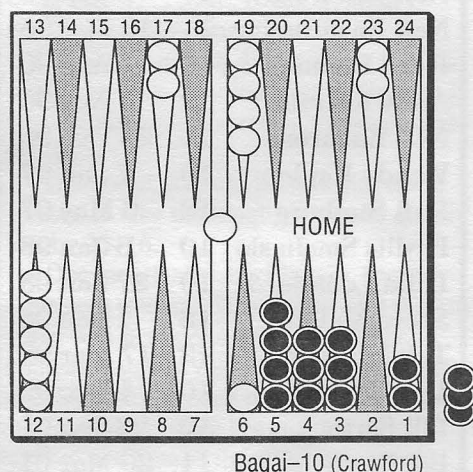
A KAZAROSS KIND OF WEEKEND

Neil wins Indy Open, 2nd in Masters

The An-Neil-ator is back . . . in a big way. Although his job has kept him busy and off the circuit for a few years, Neil Kazaross (Chicago) returned to ABT tournament competition winning the 49th Indiana Open. Hoosier Club directors Butch & Mary Ann Meese staged the Swiss movement format at the beautiful Sheraton Hotel over the Labor Day weekend (31 Aug.-3 Sep.). An impressive crowd of 143 players attended, many of whom enjoyed a Friday afternoon seminar by Bill Robertie.

Neil's 6-2 record in the Swiss format qualified him (along with 11 other players) for Open playoffs where he eventually met Jeremy Bagai (*Classic Backgammon Revisited* author) in the semifinals. With Jeremy leading 8-6, it looked like a gammon win in a racing position would put him over the top. But Neil had other ideas, tossing multiple large sets to save the G. In the next game, Jeremy took command and in the following position, again appeared ready to claim victory:

11-point semifinal. Jeremy Bagai (Black) leads Neil Kazaross (White) 10-6 Crawford. **BLACK TO PLAY 4-1:**



Bagai kept things even on the back points by playing 5/1, 5/4. With Black on the bar, 5/off seems slightly better yielding fewer subsequent shots and more ways to make the 2-point.

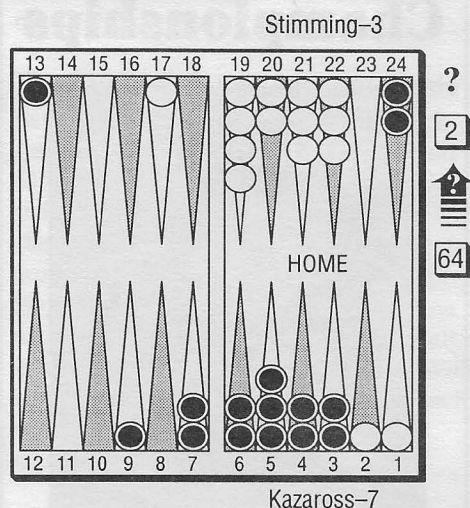
Kazaross danced and Bagai rolled 3-2 moving 4/1, 3/1. (Neil later said he would probably have left a voluntary blot with 5/2, 4/2.) An eventual shot developed which Neil hit. With skilled play and good fortune,

he was eventually able to close Jeremy out and win the incredible game.

Brutally denied victory two games in a row seemed to take the wind out of Bagai's sails. Neil continued his rally, winning the match 11-10.

In the finals, Kazaross faced Chuck Stimming, a perennial top 10 finisher at the Hoosier Backgammon Club. Chuck had edged Chicago's Mary Franks to reach the finals. Although a big favorite over Stimming, Kazaross didn't take him for granted. Leading 7-3 in their 13-point finals, Neil had this interesting doubling decision and follow-up play:

13-point final. Neil Kazaross (Black) leads Chuck Stimming (White) 7-3. Black on shake. **CUBE ACTION(S)?** After double/take, **BLACK TO PLAY 6-4.**



Neil doubled. According to Jake Jacobs, it's a powerful double. Neil has a lead against a weaker opponent. Many experts would take a shake, but Neil opted for increasing the stakes now. Chuck correctly accepted and Neil rolled 6-4. After a thoughtful study, Neil pointed on Chuck's ace-blot (7/1*, 5/1) and volatile action ensued with the cube eventually reaching 16! In the final bearoff, Chuck needed two sets to win. He rolled one of them, but Neil closed the door with a set of his own.

NEIL KAZAROSS failed in his bid for a sweep of the two major events losing 13-2 to David Hochron (CA), in the Indy 300 Masters, but it was still a great weekend. The Open win moves him to within two points of Art Benjamin in the All-Time ABT master point leadership. And two other people also were thrilled with Neil's win: Antonio Orgeta and Danny Kleinman. Their brand new book, *Backgammon with the Giants: Neil Kazaross* couldn't ask for better publicity.



2001 Indiana Open Champion Neil Kazaross (left) and runner-up Chuck Stimming. [Photo by Butch Meese]

Butch & Mary Ann are already inviting everyone to the 50th Indiana Open tournament over the 2002 Labor Day weekend. Mark your calendar, now so you don't miss this celebration. Complete results:

49TH INDIANA OPEN—ABT

CHAMPIONSHIP (73): 1-Neil Kazaross (IL), 2-Chuck Stimming (IN), 3/4-Mary Franks (IL) / Jeremy Bagai (PA); 1C-Dean Adamian (MI), 2C-Jane Lewandowski (MI), 3C/4C-Jake Jacobs (IL) / David Wells (IL).

ADVANCED (50): 1-Tom Machaj (WI), 2-Adam Versaw (PA); 1C-Francois Margot (KY), 2C-Craig Campbell (IA), 3C/4C-Guy Nicosia (MN) / Elayne Feinstein (FL).

INTERMEDIATE (17): 1-Jeff Flowers (IN), 2-Bob Sexton (IL); 1C-Diane Varner (NC). NOVICE (3): Kim Smith (IL). INDY JACKPOT (32): 1-David Hochron (CA), 2-Neil Kazaross (IL), 3/4-Jack Kissane (NY) / Perry Gartner (NJ).

AMATEUR JACKPOT (32): 1-Carter Mattig (IL), 2-Chuck Stimming (IN), 3/4-Shah Dogan (IL) / Larry Taylor (GA).

DOUBLES (32): 1-Linda & David Rockwell (IL), 2-Bob Glass & Steve Sax (CA). OVERFLOW DOUBLES (8): 1-Roy Appy (NY) & Simon-Kennedy Rose (GA).

DIRECTOR'S CUP (23): 1-Steve Brown (MN), 2-Steve Sax (CA).

MICRO-BLITZ (128): 1-Kit Woolsey (CA). QUICKIE #1 (64): 1-Sho Sengoku (CA); #2 (64): 1-Fouad Malouf (IL).

\$200 LABOR DAY JACKPOT (16): 1-Steve Goldstein (SC), 2-Timothy Jaxon (CA). LABOR DAY AMATEUR JACKPOT (8): 1-Mark Rozans (LA).

Not a Ghost of a Chance

by
Jake
Jacobs



Two of the articles that caught my eye this week involved airports. One said that O'Hare (from my perspective, the "home team") had reclaimed its title "World's Busiest Airport" from perennial challenger Atlanta/Hartsfield. Some might argue that "World's Most Pleasant and efficient Airport" would be a more worthy goal, but they don't five out titles for that, so each is striving for what is in reach.

The second article concerned Malaysia's main airport in Kuala Lumpur. It seems that prostitutes are infesting KLIA, greeting arrivals, and whisking them off to short-time hotels. The government is against this. Perhaps it takes business away from the shuttle busses? At the end of the article, in what was, I think, not intended to be ironic juxtaposition, it was noted that tourism in Malaysia is up 445 this year. If either O'Hare or Hartsfield, is *really* interested in keeping the lead, I have a suggestion for them . . .

Of course, I might not have paid attention to the article on Atlanta/Hartsfield (I would still have paid attention to Malaysia and it's unofficial greeters) were it not for the fact that I was flying out of there, on the way back from the Georgia Championships (Aug. 9-12 at the Atlanta Hilton). And since I have nearly exhausted my fund of fresh airport lore, I think I'll talk about them.

You readers, by the way, are quite lucky. I was planning, with a witty combination of name of the Masters' event, and a nod to the use of chess clocks in several events, to title this article, "The Peach Pit and the Pendulum." Then director Dave Cardwell told me a story, and so I used the above title. From the title, you might guess that a ghost story is coming, and you would be right. So send the kiddies to bed, bolt the doors and keep your guard dog close. I'm about to spin a tale, just as it has been handed down in Georgia lore these many years.

13 years, to be exact. 13 years ago, in the great state of Georgia, there lived a group of backgammon-playing friends. Now these were all paragons, possessed of great potential, not only as players, but as people. Of all the young stars, the most

luminescent was a man named Frank Blades. Frank was, in the timeworn phrase, "universally beloved." A brilliant surgeon, he chose to sacrifice the big money that might have been his, and opened his practice back home in southern Georgia. In doing so, Frank was a happy and fulfilled man.

In 1988 (13 years ago, for those not up to the math), Frank was invited to be best man at his friend Matt's wedding. After the rehearsal, the friends spent the night chouetting. Near morning, Frank announced that he had to fly home. "Don't do it," his friends pleaded. "It's foggy out."

But Frank had an early surgery scheduled and his patient needed him. Coming in for a landing at his small local field, piloting his private plane through the fog, Frank hit the control tower and did not survive the crash. Since then, the Georgia Open has been known as the Frank Blades Memorial Tournament. Since then, they say, Frank has haunted the event.

I know what you're thinking. The event is held in Atlanta, Sure, down in the swamps they have haints, and geechy women, and all manner of weirdness. Why, the ectoplasm is so thick down there they have to hack through it with machetes on their way to the general store. But ghosts in suburban Dunwoody? In the "New South"? There can't be ghosts; Jane Fonda lives there!

Well I say, "Why not?" As long as Frank brings his credit card, I'm sure the Hilton will let him in.

One of the friends of Frank's that I mentioned without so far naming, was a young lawyer named Jim Hall. Since the accident, Jim has given up backgammon. Except that every year, if possible, he attends one tournament and tries to win the Frank Blades Memorial trophy in honor of his departed friend. This year Jim was scheduled to try a murder case at the time of the tournament. At the last minute, a plea bargain was entered and Jim came up from Valdosta for the tournament. Unfortunately, the event was full. Knowing how much it meant to Jim, Dave Cardwell asked around and found a player willing to drop down to the Advanced bracket. Two days later, Jim was in the finals, and that is where I found myself as part of the story.

Having not lost a match, I was in the enviable position of only needing one win to Jim's two. Two hours after we began the first of our 13-point matches, my position was not quite as enviable. I lost 13-4, but the score is deceptive. It wasn't that close. Put it this way: if Jim's dice were a cat, then I was the squeaky toy it was playing with.

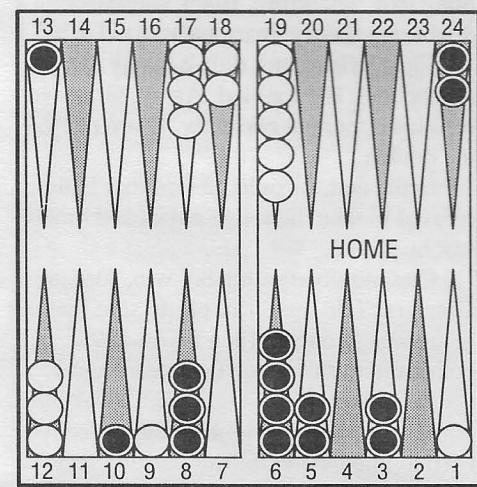
The next match, Jim again grabbed a big lead, going up 7-2. I won a few points, but then he again pulled ahead 10-6. I won three more points to trail 9-10. Meanwhile, the spectators, who know about Frank, noted an ominous fact. Night had fallen, and a storm had brewed. Brewed, and boiled right out of the teapot! Every time I narrowed the gap, lightning flashed outside the windows, thunder rattled the panes, and torrents of water drummed angrily on the roof.

Nine points was as high as I reached. As Jim won three more, and with it, the match, the storm subsided. By the time he was posing for pictures, holding the Frank Blades trophy high and proud, if it hadn't been 10:00 at night, I swear the sun would have come out from behind the clouds. Only when we were en route to a bar afterwards did it resume drizzling on us, just to show who was boss. It was in that bar, over beers, that Dave explained about Frank's ghost.

To which I say, "Poppycock!" I have three problems with crediting Frank Blades with my loss. First, it isn't fair to Frank. I mean, it's been 13 years. Any self-respecting spirit intending to help his friend could have won it for him the first year. Two years, if he needed a practice throw.

Second, it's not fair to me.

2001 Georgia Championships. 13-point finals rubber match. Jim Hall (White) leads Jake Jacobs (Black), 12-9 Crawford. **BLACK TO PLAY 6-3.**



I was the one who decided to play 10/1* instead of making my barpoint because I wanted to "make something happen." Frank had nothing to do with that.

Lastly, it isn't fair to Jim. I mean, Frank has been lolling around in heaven drinking mint juleps all these years, and heaven is supposed to be a pretty nice place, if you

[Continued on page 8]

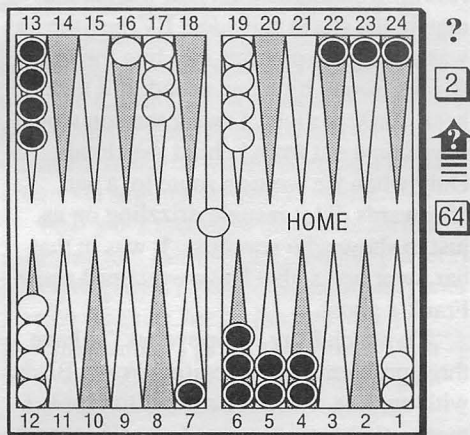
GRANSTEDT...

[Continued from page 1]

The scenario after a redouble is too tough for me. Jörgen Granstedt is tougher. He redoubled . . . Holm passed.

The other situation was in game 20:

Pos. 2. 25-point match. Granstedt (Black) leads Holm (White) 21-12. **BLACK ON ROLL. CUBE ACTION(S)?**



Jörgen Granstedt doubled this position. It's a cube that not many experts would offer. By owning the 24-point anchor, White has almost a 30% chance to win. Black's big advantage is that his gammon-winning chances are higher than White's game-winning chances. However, White will negate the gammon threat by redoubling to 4. Therefore, Black shouldn't double (in theory, marginal).

Jörgen Granstedt didn't worry about a recube to 4. He doubled. Again, Granstedt read his opponent correctly. Holm passed the double.

In the end, it could be said that Holm refused to take the tough cubes and quietly lost by 25-16.

One month after his big win, Jörgen Granstedt told me: "I'm pretty sure that my game was stronger when I won 1999, compared to this year. Two years ago I decided to try to raise my game level and worked two to three hours a day. I really tried to understand the cube action and checker plays at different match scores. It all paid off, I think I played on a very high level that year.

"The last year I didn't play much at all. Before Paris in February, I entered only one tournament in nine months. I think it's impossible to stay away from backgammon for a long time without losing sharpness.

"My error rate is higher now compared to 1999—but my joker rate is higher! For sure skill is an important factor in back-

gammon, but luck also plays a large part. The dice I had this year in Monte-Carlo were amazing. I have to keep up with the hard work to keep my game sharp, because I can't expect to have such good dice in the future."

Humble words of a great player.

But now the facts: Jörgen Granstedt's error rate wasn't higher than in 1999. Additionally the Swede improved his skill in playing humans! No computer program is able to learn from the opponent's errors. Top players like Jörgen Granstedt do! The Swede finds his opponents' weaknesses, reads their emotions and profits from this information. Jörgen recognized Holm's conservative, money game-oriented cube handling and tailored his doubling strategy accordingly. This is the one way for humans to achieve a better tournament performance than computer programs.

The \$100,000 Super Jackpot Finals

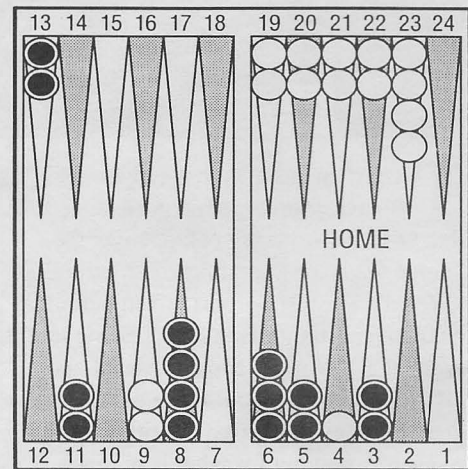
In the other top event of the World Backgammon Championship 128 players paid \$1500 to get into the biggest Super Jackpot field ever. The discussion about using chess clocks at backgammon tournaments arose, when in the 13-point round-of-16, the first game needed more than one hour to complete! At this point, Jerry Grandell insisted on a chess clock and got one. With both players on the clock, the entire match was completed in less time than it had taken to play the opening game.

Many players voted to use clocks. However, I didn't see any players using them except Grandell in the aforementioned match. So it came as no surprise that the Super Jackpot finals were not completed until 3 a.m. Monday morning.

The 13-point match between Jeremy Bagai (USA) and Najib Sallamzy (Germany) was more exciting than the main final as it went down to one double match-point game to see who would win \$100,000.

Bagai, the author of *Classic Backgammon Revisited*, trailed the race by 17 pips (114-97) and was on roll. [See above right.]

Pos. 3. 13-point Super Jackpot finals. Jeremy Bagai (Black) vs. Najib Sallamzy (White). Double match-point. **BLACK TO PLAY 5-2.**



With one eye on Najib's five point board, Jeremy played the passive 8/3, 8/6. Not hitting on the 4-point (6/4*, 8/3) cost him almost 8% game-winning chances. Even in a money game, the hit right. At DMP, gammons don't count. Therefore 6/4*, 8/3 is clearly the best play. Najib Sallamzy punished the man from the States by rolling 5-5 and easily won the race.

Gammon Village Is a Roll Ahead

Some players won trophies, some won a lot of money, but the top performance at Monte Carlo came from Canadian Michael Strato, the editor of Gammon Village (www.gammonvillage.com). Each day, Strato worked hard to finish the daily reports for the backgammon community and then post them on the Internet. Strato either recorded, or paid to have recorded, the most important matches of the week. Then he made them available on the net the following day (or earlier) and provided website visitors with a special "Match Viewer" for replaying the matches. Well done, Michael!

All in all, year by year, the World Championships get more attractive. See you next year.—Harald Johanni Δ

17 months to save.

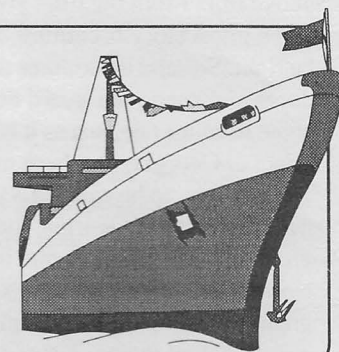
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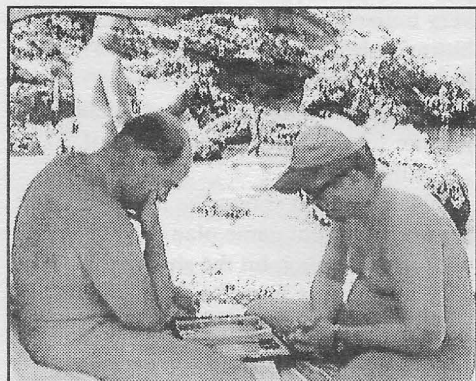


•**Redwood Empire Club Monthly** (San Rafael, CA; 23 June)... OPEN (10): 1-Cindy Moss, 2-Glenn Nunez, 3-Timothy Jaxon.

•**Milwaukee Club Monthly** (Milwaukee, WI; 24 June)... OPEN (10): 1-Bob Holyon, 2/3-Wally Berglund / Rudy Langenbach.

•**2000-2001 New England Championships** (Somerville, MA; Jun.-Jul.)... EXPERT: 1-Seth Towle. A DIV.: 1-Marty Gross. WIZARD OF WED. NIGHT: Alex Zamanian.

•**8th Anglo-Norwegian Nude Backgammon Championships** (Telendos, Greece; 28 Jun.-12 Jul.)... (VERY) OPEN: 1-Karl-Petter Gaustadt (NOR), 2-Mike Shelton (UK)... Read all about it at Michael Crane's website: <http://www.cottagewebs.co.uk/biba/bibancp.html>.



Karl-Petter Gaustadt vs. Mike Shelton in the Nude Backgammon finals. Let's hope the match doesn't get exciting. [Photo from Michael Crane's BIBA website.]

•**10th Danish Mixed Doubles** (Humblebæk, Denmark; 30 Jun-1 Jul.)... DOUBLES (30): 1-*The Odd Couple*: David Reitzin & Michael Samperi, 2-*The Blues Brothers*: Jimmy Dodds & Jimmy the Greek.

•**13th City of Venice** (Venice, Italy; 5-8 July)... CHAMPIONSHIP (82): 1-Jakov Nepomniatchy (RUS), 2-Carlo Melzi (ITA), 3/4-Mario Bonficio (ARG) / Daniel Kuchen (SWIZ); 1C-Ian Macfarlane (BRZ), 2C-Jerry Grandell (SWE), 3C/4C-Rino Mathis (SWZ) / Artur Muradian (ARM); 1LC-Andra Simonetta (ITA), 2LC-Jerzy Benhke (GER). INTERMEDIATE (58): 1-Khacik Melikian (ARM), 2-Luca Lodi (ITA), 3/4-Stefano Cecchi (NOR) / James Bass (UK); 1C-Kaha Natchkebia (GEO), 2C-Valerio Scremin (ITA), 3C/4C-Fabio Cultrera (ITA) / Cyrus Afchani (GER); 1LC-Sigfried Tonzer (GER), 2LC-Ole Friis Iversen (NOR). BEGINNER (45): 1-Stefano Catani (ITA), 2-Ennio Gioppato (ITA), 3/4-

Cesare Nanti (ITA) / Massimo Moretti (ITA); 1C-Franca boscari (ITA), 2C-Paolo Fragiaco (ITA); 1LC-Umberto Vianello (ITA), 2LC-Francesco Frascà (ITA). WARM-UP (139): 1-Sami Akirov (UK), 2-Matthias Körner (GER). SUPERJACKPOT (16): 1/2-Mario Bonficio (ARG) / Sven Rümker (GER). DOUBLES UISP: 1-Gil Galili & Sam Noren (USA/SWE), 2-Vincenzo Riceputi & Lucio Pazzani (ITA). DOUBLES LUGANO: 1-Pavel Bielewicz & Morris Mosseri (SWE/USA), 2-Marcel Liechti & Lise Howard (SWIZ).

•**Keren Di Bona Memorial Trophy** (Coventry, England; 7-8 July)... OPEN (50): 1-Roy Hollands, 2-Emmanuel Di Bona, 3/4-Brian Busfield / Albert Tinker; 1C-John Gale, 2C-Bill Spiers (SCOT). LAST CHANCE (32): 1-Mike Wignall, 2-Peter Bennet. SUICIDE! (32): 1-Dave Motley, 2-Steve Simkin. FRIDAY KO (28): 1-Lionel Stinnerman, 2-Paul Gilbertson. DOUBLES (13): 1-Dog Fight Duo, 2-Negative Equity.

•**Backgammon By The Bay Monthly** (Oakland, CA; 8 Jul.)... OPEN (8): 1-David Montgomery, 2-Kit Woolsey; 1C-Elliott Winslow. INTERMEDIATE (12): 1-Jon Bendz, 2-Murray Work; 1C/2C-Glenn Nunez / Christian Stoddard. BEGINNER #1 (5): 1-Yarrow Kessler. BEGINNER #2 (6): 1-Anna Estrada.

•**Northern Ohio Monthly** (Canton, OH; 8 July)... OPEN (14): 1-Mike Rezai, 2-Bill Versaw.

•**Toronto Club Monthly** (Toronto, Canada; 8 Jul.)... OPEN (16): 1-Peter Walsh, 2-Merv Ginsberg.

•**T/P Club Monthly** (Chicago, IL; 8 Jul.)... OPEN (16): 1-Roger Hickman, 2/3-Brian Barber / Blake Davis.

•**8th Nice Open** (Nice, France; 16-17 Jul.)... CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION (36): 1-Jakov Nepomniachtchi (Russia), 2-Avtetic Rostomian (ARM), 3/4-Tony Lawand (CAN) / Artur Muradyan (Armenia); 1C-Save Hammond (USA), 2C-Frank Talbot (USA), 3C/4C-Ian MacFarlane (BRZ) / Ed O'Laughlin (USA).

•**Master Chouette & Grand Prix de Lugano** (Lugano, Switzerland; 18-22 July)... CHAMPIONSHIP (24): 1-Tobias Hellweg (GER), 2-Arild Idsoe (NOR), 3/4-Hendrik Bodholdt (DK) / Francesco Mauri (ITA); 1C-Rainer Witt (GER), 2C-Alberto Rusca (SWZ); 1LC-Rolf Vetch (SWZ), 2LC-Matthias Körner. INTERMEDIATE (15): 1-Helge Keller (GER), 2-Alex de Vincentis (ITA); 1C-Elena Grigore (ITA); 1LC-Lise Howard (SWZ). AMATEUR (15): 1-Alberto Bertot (ITA), 2-Cucchiano (ITA); 1C-Donat Jaeggli (ITA); 1LC-Simon Bianchi (ITA). CHOUETTE TOURNEY (16): 1-Nodar Gagoua (RUS), 2-Tobias Hellweg (GER), 3-Martin de Bruin (SPA). WARM-UP: 1-Matthias Körner (GER). AFTER

TOURNAMENT TOURNAMENT: 1-Matthias Körner (GER), 2-Bambi de Bruin (SPA).

•**Czech Open III** (Prague, Czech Republic; 18-22 July)... CHAMPIONSHIP (82): 1-Volker Sonnabend (GER), 2-Leonid Riskin (RUS), 3/4-Asger Kring (DK) / Johannes Levermann (GER); 1C-Neville Eber (SAF), 2C-Dod Davies (UK); 1LC-George Klitsas (GRE). INTERMEDIATE (54): 1-Curtis Lucas (USA), 2-Siegfried Tonzer (GER), 3/4-Kim Schmidt (DK) / George Volejnik (SWZ); 1C-Melf Haack (GER), 2C-Gordan Markotic (CRO); 1LC-Leonardo Jerkovic (CRO). BEGINNER (34): 1-Jiri Vit (CZE), 2-Ingrid Sonnabend (GER); 1C-Annette Arnstedt (DK), 2C-Kenneth Straampe (DK); 1LC-Denise Frederiksen (DK). \$1000 SUPERJACKPOT (16): 1/2-Howard Markowitz (USA) / Dimitrios Pappas (GER). \$2000 SUPERJACKPOT (8): 1/2-Jerry Grandell (SWE) / Paul Magriel (USA). WARM-UP (68): 1-Daniel Murphy (USA/DK), 2-Gil Galili (USA). LADIES CUP (32): 1-Martha Ghio (USA), 2-Liz Johansson (SWE). DOUBLES (16): 1-Torsten Haase (GER) & Thomas Zimmer (GER), 2-Ryan Jones (NZ/CZE) & Shinichiro Kaneko (JPN). TEAM EVENT (16): 1-Malcolm Davis (USA) & Shinichiro Kaneko (JPN) & Hugh Sconyers (USA), 2-James Vogl & Paul Lamford & Dod Davies (UK).

•**Houston Club Firecracker** (Houston, TX; 19 Jul.)... OPEN (13): 1-Jack Erwin, 2-Duncan Cooper; 1C-Kerry Blodgett, 2C-Dwayne Lee.

•**Redwood Empire Club Monthly** (San Rafael, CA; 21 Jul.)... OPEN (8): 1-Rawlin Pullen, 2/3-Nack Ballard / Glenn Nunez. INTERMEDIATE (5): 1-Peter Baumhoefer.

•**Milwaukee Club Monthly** (Milwaukee, WI; 22 Jul.)... OPEN (6): 1-Wally Berglund, 2-Mark Murray.

•**Georgia BG Championships Warm-up** (Rosewell, GA; 28 July)... OPEN: 1-Zia Afshani, 2-George Foster (TN). PEACH CUP QUALIFIER (8): 1-Samra Hadden.

•**Ace Point Monthly** (New York, NY; 29 Jul.)... OPEN (14): 1-Larry Liebster (NJ), 2-Roy Appay; 1C-Karen Davis. INTERMEDIATE (13): 1-Ray Javadi, 2-Bill Wasley; 1C-Leonardo Almeida (BRZ).

•**Thousand Islands Tournament—ABT** (Alexandria Bay, NY; 3-5 Aug.)... OPEN (30): 1-Matt Reklaitis (PA), 2-Paul Stebbing (Canada), 3-Reza Nowbar (NY). DOUBLES (8): 1-Doug & Wanda Roberts (MA), 2-Roger Baff (NY) & Stuart Thomson (GA).

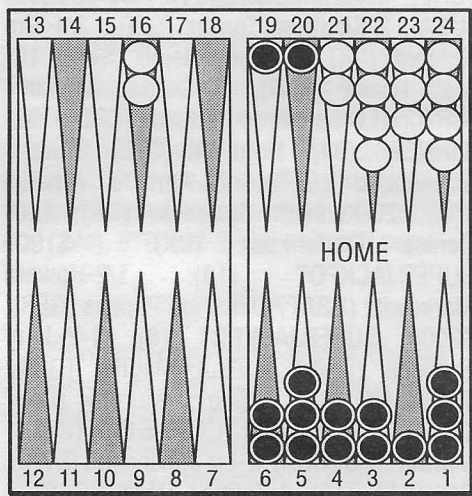
•**Studio Anne Carlton Trophy** (Coventry, England; 4-5 Aug.)... OPEN (66): 1-Salvador Leong, 2-Lawrence Powell, 3-Brian Lever,

[Continued on page 11]

PROBLEM #274 ANALYZED

by Kit Woolsey

Tournament double match-point.
BLACK TO PLAY 4-1.



Our game plan is very easy to see. It is as follows:

- 1) Get a shot.
- 2) Hit the shot.
- 3) Contain the hit checker.
- 4) Win the race.

That part was easy. Now, all we have to do is carry it out.

There are three ways we can position

our back checkers. We can leave them where they are, we can make White's 6-point, or we can run the lead checker. We shall first find the best way to follow each of these themes, and then we will examine the three candidates.

If we choose to leave the back checkers alone, I believe the best way to do so is the odd looking 5/1, 2/1. Normally, such a play would be absolutely repulsive. Here, however, it fits in with our game plan. We don't need to complete our home board and close out a checker. We merely need to hit a checker and detain it. If we break our 6-point, White merely needs to enter with a 6 to be on her way. However after 5/1, 2/1, White needs both to enter and then roll a 5 or a 6.

If we make the 19-point, we might as well play 6/2 with the 4. We can't expect to make the 2-point if we play 5-1, and we don't want to leave the blot sitting there to be hit. It is better to leave no gaps, so we can lift from the 6-point if we hit next turn.

Running from the 19-point is another story. Now we do have hopes of making the 2-point, so we should leave the blot alone. 19/14 looks best.

So, our candidates are narrowed down to:

- a) 5/1, 2/1;
- b) 20/19, 6/2; and
- c) 19/14.

Now we have to dig in and do the dirty work: count shot numbers. For simplicity

we will worry only about direct shots—the indirect shots are a minor consideration.

If we play 5/1, 2/1, White leaves a direct shot on: 6-1, 6-2, 6-3, 6-4, 5-1, 5-2, and 5-4. That's 14 numbers. However 6-1, 6-2, 5-1, and 5-2 leave double shots. We can (almost) count them as double—counting 7 out of the 8 gets us up to the equivalent of 21 shot numbers.

If we play 20/19, 6/2, White leaves a direct shot on: 6-1, 6-2, 6-3, 5-1, 5-2, 5-3, 4-1, 4-2, and 4-3, which comes to 18 shot numbers.

If we play 19/14, White leaves a direct shot on 6-1, 6-2, 6-3, 6-4, 5-1, 5-2, 5-3, and 5-4, which comes to 16 shot numbers.

20/19, 6/2 is clearly inferior to 5/1, 2/1. Not only does it get us fewer shot numbers, but it also gives up the blocking 6-point.

19/14 has two things going for it. It is better for the race, and it keeps open the possibility of making the 2-point. However, these are minor considerations compared to the extra shot numbers. We are very unlikely to win the race without hitting a shot, and we don't need to make the 2-point to win the game if we do hit a shot. 21 shot numbers vs. 16 shot numbers is quite significant. The ugly play of 5/1, 2/1 is the winner.

This problem shows the importance of forming the right game plan and sticking with it. Get a shot, hit the shot, contain the checker, and run home to win—that's the game plan. 5/1, 2/1 is the play which follows that game plan.—Kit Woolsey. Δ

GHOST...

[Continued from page 7]

can stand the harp music. Meanwhile, it was Jim who had to actually play nine matches, winning eight of them. And Jim, by the way, was also on the winning doubles team. Having played my share of doubles matches, I can assure you they are no part of heaven. Jim won fair and square, and I know that Frank would rather die than claim the credit.

Just one thing: I plan to return to the Georgia Championships next year. Frank, you are welcome to kibitz. But when you are watching my game, keep your wings in your pockets! (Complete results at right.)
—Jake Jacobs Δ

Jake Jacobs' runner-up finish in Georgia gives him an almost insurmountable 59.99 point total in the 2001 ABT race. In his spare time at the tournament, Jake also won the Peach Cup Masters event.—Ed.

2001 GEORGIA CHAMPIONSHIPS

CHAMPIONSHIP (32): 1-Jim Hall (GA), 2-Jake Jacobs (IL), 3-Steve Goldstein (SC); 1C-John Brussel (IL), 2C-Jeremy Bagai (PA). ADVANCED (22): 1-Norman Hansen (GA), 2-Danielle Bastarache (FL), 3/4-Walter Hamm (FL) / Jeb Horton (NC); 1C-Julian Haley (SC), 2C-Simon Kennedy-Rose (GA). LIMITED (5): 1-Petko Kostadinov (NC), 2-Gail Newburn (GA). PEACH CUP (16): 1-Jake Jacobs (IL), 2-Larry Taylor (GA). DOGWOOD LIMITED (8): 1-Brian Barber (IL), 2-Scott Sevel (GA). DOUBLES (16): 1-Allen Joffe (FL) & Jim Hall (GA), 2-Carol Joy Cole (MI) & Howard Markowitz (NV). CASA Charity Benefit (14): 1-Jon Vietor (CA), 2-Steve Kovach (GA). SPEEDGAMMON BLITZ I (16): 1-Mike Corbett (FL), 2-Steve Kovach (GA). SPEEDGAMMON BLITZ II (8): 1-Stuart Thomson (GA). PEACH PITZ (8): 1/2-Carol Joy Cole (MI) / Doug Johnson (NC). LAST CHANCE (16): 1-Steve Kovach (GA), 2-Gregg Cattanach (GA).



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). Phone before attending.

PUB CLUB: Tourn. Mon., 7:00 P.M. at Danny's Grill and Bar, 345 W. North Ave., Villa Park. Joe Wollick (847/942-2068).

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).

T/P BACKGAMMON CLUB: Tournaments Wednesday, 6:30 P.M. and Sunday monthly, 11:45 A.M. at Java Oasis; 2240 S. Michigan, Chicago. J.A. Miller (312/719-1245).

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

WINNERS...

[Continued from page 9]

4-Jeff Barber. TOP INTERMEDIATE: Liz Barker. FRIDAY KO (30): 1-Michael Crane, 2-Jim Johnson. DOUBLES (18): 1-Too Good, 2-Heavy Hitters.

•**Bar Point Sunday** (Oakbrook Terrace, IL; 5 Aug.)... OPEN (12): 1-Tak Morioka, 2-Tim Mabee, 3/4-Mark Murray / Lucky Nelson; 1C-Bill Davis, 2C-Jerry Brooks. INTERMEDIATE (7): 1-Sharon Steffens, 2-Amy Trudeau.

•**Toronto Club Monthly** (Toronto, Canada; 12 Aug.)... OPEN (16): 1-Jonathan Bennetts, 2-Al Jones.

•**Backgammon By The Bay** (Oakland, CA; 12 Aug.)... OPEN (9): 1-Sam Ahmed, 2-Elliott Winslow; 1C-Bob Stringer. INTERMEDIATE (8): 1/2-Devin Skoll / Ed Rosenblum; 1C-Mark Antranikian. BEGINNER (8): 1-Eric Barr, 2-Chris Clark, 3-Comet.

•**5th Mind Sports Olympiad** (London, England; 18-27 Aug.)... FINALS (16): 1-Jysen Qwt, 2-Andrew Kindler, 3-Liz Barker. CHAMPIONSHIP (34): 1-John Slattery, 2-Peter Bennet, 3-Jysen Qwt, 4-Mashiro Yamaguchi. BEGINNER (20): 1-Liz Barker, 2-Ronald Somekh, 3-Osamu Omedera. ENGLISH OPEN (34): 1-Oliver Riordan, 2-Martin Barkwell, 3-Mashiro Yamaguchi. BACKGAMMON WEEKEND (35): 1-John Broomfield, 2-Peter Bennet, 3-Andrew Kindler.



MSO Olympiad double medalist Liz Barker (UK). "Whenever Liz plays, she attracts a crowd. Opinion is divided over the reason: her playing ability or her low top." [Quote & photo courtesy of Michael Crane.]

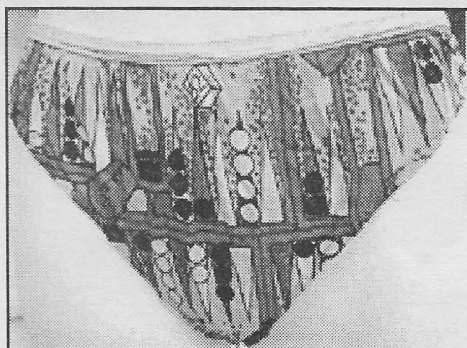
•**Central Illinois Summer Sizzler** (Lacon, IL; 19 Aug.)... OPEN (32): 1-Randy Armstrong, 2-Jim Zimmerman, 3/4-Wendy Kaplan / Cliff Mayoh; 1C-Mike Flohr, 2C-Tak Morioka. ADVANCED (13): 1-Roger Hickman, 2-Sue Oliver; 1C-Scott Rudebeck,

2C-Scott Richardson... *Always a fun weekend beginning with a Saturday picnic/chouette bash at Ed & Lisa Zell's home in Peoria. As usual, Cliff Mayoh cooks up the steaks.*

•**Ace Point Monthly** (New York, NY; 26 Aug.)... OPEN (14): 1-Perry Gartner, 2-Stuart Dunkin; 1C-Ray Javadi. INTERMEDIATE (6): 1-Robert Regan, 2-Donald Gaggai; 1C-Eydie Noble. Δ

AMALGAMATION

As the Chicago Bar Point Club points race heats up, remember Sunday backgammon on 30 September at Anyways in Oakbrook Terrace is for double points. Call **Peter Kalba** for details at 773/252-7755... The upcoming Las Vegas Open (28 Nov.-2 Dec.) is trying something new with their \$10,000 added money. They will give it away in a random drawing to those attending the Calcutta Auction. And you don't even have to bid to be a winner!... Get well wishes go out to Illinois players **John Heggen** who suffered a cracked vertebrae in a biking accident, and **Chris Wilson** who is on the mend following a heart attack... Condolences to **Ed Buerger** (IL) who after a successful July knee replacement, lost his wife in August... **J.P. White** (615/824-9461) informs us of a location change for the Nashville Backgammon Club. They now meet at Sam's Place, 1803 21st Ave. South, Mondays and Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.... A new club in Idaho has opened. **Tami Jones** is directing the Boise Backgammon Club. The play-day is Tuesday (7:00 p.m.) at Papa Joe's Pizza, 4091 W. State Street. For more info, call Tami at 208/342-8865... The eBay website proves that "everything backgammon" is for sale. Recently, a pair of *used* bikini panties commanded a final bid of \$5.51...



These backgammon bikini panties were advertised as "used," but still generated two bids. Must be an interesting position.

Jon Viotor (CA) is a real jazz aficionado. His CD reviews for Amazon.com are

extremely popular. Check out his review for **Antonio Carlos Jobim's** "Wave"... Congrats to **Bob Zavoral** (IL) who attained the coveted #1 rating spot on NetGammon this summer... Best wishes to Pittsburgh director **Steve Hast** and **Barbara Sutton** who have announced their engagement. A wedding is planned some time in 2002... **Larry Strommen** (IN) has temporarily suspended his precision dice manufacturing in favor of other business interests. **Carol Joy Cole** (MI) still has a good supply, however. She can be reached at 810-232-9731 or cjc@tir.com... Visiting the Bar Point Club over the summer: **Fred Badagnani** (TX), **Pat McCormick** (CA), **Tom Roach** (TX), **Vichai Kwatra** and **Kandra Manchanda** (Thailand), and **Osman Guner** (CA)... Hawaiian backgammon expert **Prince Joli Kansil's** latest game invention is Indochine-2000. It's a solitaire game based on the card game Klondike. For more info, e-mail him at jk001@hotmail.com... Participants in the CBS TV reality series "Big Brother 2" are giving backgammon a lot of publicity. With nothing else to do in the house, the board is almost always in use... **Jake Jacobs** (IL) mentions a movie backgammon sighting in "Baby Boy." Jake expects to move from Illinois to Arizona some time in October. Our loss is their gain... Finally, **Bernard DeVoto** wrote that "History abhors determinism but cannot tolerate chance." The same can be said for some backgammon players. Δ

Mall the competition.

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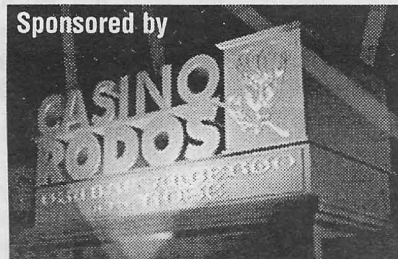
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World's Grand Jackpot \$5,000 Entry Tournament Schedule

Friday, 26 October

14:00–24:00 Non-stop Quarter entries

Saturday, 27 October

13:00 Quarter entries continues

17:00 Late registration

18:00 Start of Grand Jackpot

Sunday, 28 October

13:00 Grand Jackpot continues

Monday, 29 October

13:00 Grand Jackpot continues

Saturday, 3 November

16:00 Grand Jackpot Final

World's Grand Championship Main Tournament Schedule

Monday, 29 October

13:00–19:30 Registration

20:30 Welcome cocktails and reception

22:00 Rodos Casino Kickoff starts

\$5,000 Added. Free entry (re-entries)

Tuesday, 30 October

13:00 Public draw

14:30 Main tournament starts: all divisions

Wednesday, 31 October

13:00 \$1,000 Super Jackpot

Rodos Casino Kickoff continues

20:00 Gala dinner & auction (Jacket & tie)

22:00 Super Jackpot and Rodos Casino
Kickoff continues

Thursday, 1 November

13:00 Consolations start (progressive)
Main Flights continue

Friday, 2 November

13:00 Team Tournament (\$300 per team).
\$3,000 Added

18:00 Doubles Tournament (\$500 per
team). \$3,000 Added

Saturday, 3 November

13:00 All events continue

18:00 Final World's Grand Jackpot
(Closed circuit TV with commentary)

Sunday, 4 November

13:00 Last chance starts

14:00 Finals start (Closed circuit TV with
commentary)

21:00 Awards Ceremony & farewell cocktails

Entry Fees (Reg. Fees)

World's Grand Jackpot ... \$5,000 (\$350*)

*Includes main tourney registration fee

Championship \$800 (\$150)

Intermediate \$400 (\$150)

Beginner \$200 (\$150)

\$5,000 Added Kickoff Free

Social Guest Registration Fee \$100

5★ Rodos Palace Hotel Rates

Single room \$89

Double room \$109

Junior Suite Single \$130

Junior Suite Double \$180

For hotel info: www.rodos-palace.gr

Hotel Reservations (Important)

All players (except Rhodes residents)
MUST STAY at the Rodos Palace Hotel
and make their reservations through
KAPCO TRAVEL SERVICES.

Tel: +30-241-78756

Fax: +30-241-33760

E-mail: kapco@otenet.gr

To register, the following is needed:

1. Mention "Backgammon"
2. Full name and address
3. Fax # and/or e-mail address to confirm
4. Arrival & departure dates
5. Room type
6. Credit Card details (type, card #, expiration date, signature if sent by fax)

Travel Arrangements

Traveling to Rhodes will likely involve
booking a connecting flight. Let a pro-
fessional assist you in getting the best
last-minute price. Call Bob Hawkins at:

VISTA TRAVEL

19W062 Barbizon

Oakbrook, IL 60523 USA

(800) 413-3483

(630) 493-0800

Fax: (630) 493-1185

To Request An Invitation ...

Bill Davis: bg@chicagopoint.com

Carol Joy Cole: cjc@tir.com

Mario Kühl: info@backgammon-today.de