

**Flash!**

Midwest Championships  
room rate reduction  
to \$79/night.

# CHICAGO POINT

www.chicagopoint.com

NUMBER 143

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

JAN./FEB. 2002

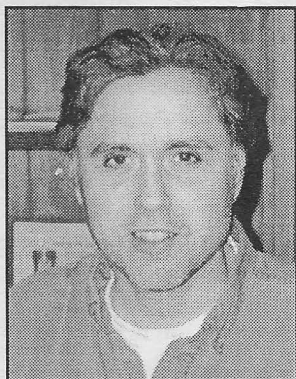
*las vegas open*

## RICK BARABINO AND TORBEN HASSERIIS SHARE VEGAS SPOTLIGHT

*"Backgammon may seem trivial in the light of [September 11], but the camaraderie, community, and competition it provides are more important now than ever. I enthusiastically look forward to the Las Vegas tournament in November: an insistent return to normalcy is the only way that the average citizen can counter this attack. To do otherwise would hand the terrorists a perpetually-renewed victory."—Rick Barabino as quoted in the October 2001 CHICAGO POINT*

More inspiring BG words were never spoken as the gamers of our world converged on Harrah's Hotel & Casino 28 November–2 December to joust over triangularly-marked battlefields in Las Vegas,

Nevada. Following a two month lull in North American tournament attendance, Nevada Backgammon Association director Howard Markowitz and a seasoned staff welcomed over 300 backgammoners



*Rick Barabino cashed in two major events. [Photo by Mika Lidov.]*

back to the sweet sounds of rattling dice.

When the last checkers were borne off, two competitors towered above the others: New York's "Super Nova" Rick Barabino and Danish expert Torben Hasseriis. Barabino, whose office in New York City was less than two blocks from the September 11 attack site, was the big winner, cashing for nearly \$30,000 with a victory in the Super Jackpot and a runner-up finish (to Hasseriis) in the Championship.



*Staffer Linda George presents the Las Vegas Open Championship trophy to Torben Hasseriis. [Photo by Patrick Gibson]*

### The Super Jackpot

After coming from behind versus fellow New Yorker Mike Senkiewicz in the semifinals, Rick faced Minnesota's 2001

*[Continued on page 7]*

## JAKE JACOBS DOMINATES 2001 ABT

Out of the gate with a win at the kickoff Pittsburgh Championships in February, author/analyst Jake Jacobs never looked

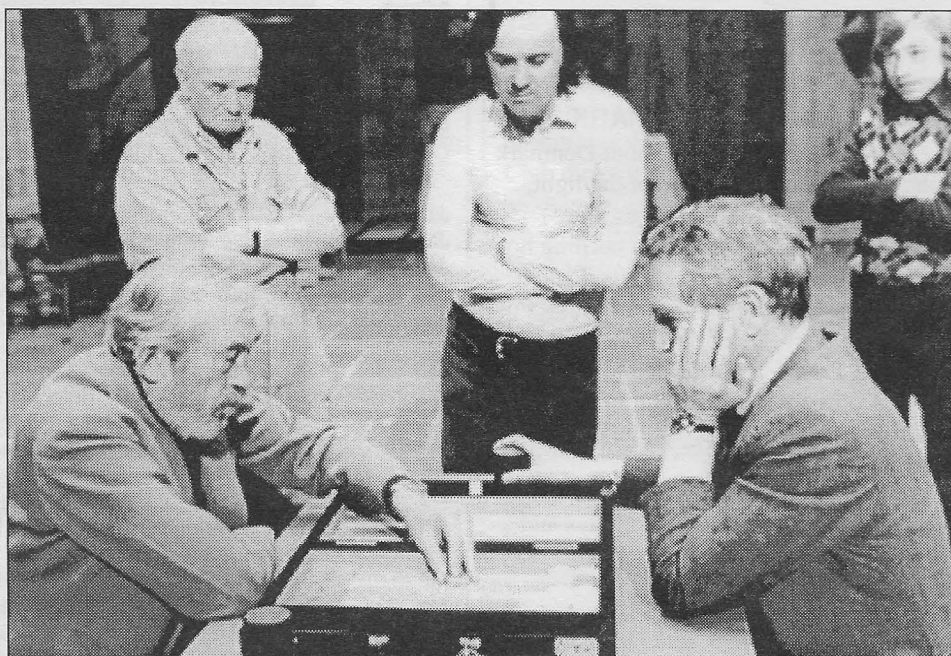


*One of the trophies Jake Jacobs collected en route to winning the 2001 American BG Tour.*

back on his way to becoming the American Backgammon Tour's (ABT) 2001 Player of the Year. The former Chicagoan, now living in Tucson, Arizona went on to take First Consolation at the Midwest Championships, win the Chicago

*[Go to page 4]*

## THE "HUSTLER"?



*Backgammon was a super-popular celebrity pastime in the early 1970s. Here's the caption from this 1973 studio promo shot: "BACKGAMMON BUFFS—Director John Huston and Paul Newman match wits between scenes from Warner Bros.' 'The Mackintosh Man,' filmed in Ireland and Malta."*



# CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

## EDITOR & PUBLISHER

**Bill Davis**

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

Tel: 773/583-6464 ♦ Fax: 773/583-3264

E-mail: [bg@chicagopoint.com](mailto:bg@chicagopoint.com)

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

## CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

<b>Carol Joy Cole (MI)</b>	<b>Danny Kleinman (CA)</b>
<b>Mary Hickey (OH)</b>	<b>Antonio Ortega (C.R.)</b>
<b>Jake Jacobs (IL)</b>	<b>Walter Trice (MA)</b>
<b>Duane Jensen (MN)</b>	<b>Kit Woolsey (CA)</b>

All rights reserved. You may copy any of this for noncommercial purposes as long as you give full credit to "CHICAGO POINT, 3940 W. Bryn Mawr Ave. 504, Chicago, IL 60659-3155." You may not reproduce any part of this publication on the internet or via other electronic media without the express-written consent of CHICAGO POINT.

CHICAGO POINT is published monthly. The subscription rate is \$30/12 issues (\$40 international airmail in USD check drawn on U.S. bank).

**Advertising Rates:** 2 3/8" x 3 1/4" = \$40. 1/4 page = \$70. 1/2 page = \$115. Full page = \$200. If the ad is not "camera ready," request layout and typesetting for an additional charge.

## LETTERS

c/o CHICAGO POINT

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

E-mail: [letters@chicagopoint.com](mailto:letters@chicagopoint.com)

## GREETINGS FROM DENMARK

There is something special about Denmark in the winter. The few hours of daylight, the frozen ground and bare trees, the chilling wind and the fire oven burning hot in the living room. The candles and smell of fresh pine branches with decoration. For some years I have celebrated Christmas Eve alone. Last year I returned to Denmark to spend Christmas with my mom and rediscovered how wonderful the holidays really are.

So from cold and snowy Denmark, I am wishing you the happiest of holidays and a bright New Year.—*Laila Leonhardt, lady@bg-info.com*

*Laila continues to work with the INS on obtaining US citizenship. She will be returning to the states in March and plans on attending the 2002 Midwest Championships.—Ed.*

[Continued on page 3]

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR



by Carol Joy Cole  
810/232-9731  
[cjc@tir.com](mailto:cjc@tir.com)

\* Denotes new or revised listing

### NATIONAL

*American Backgammon Tour events underlined.*

Jan 12*	New Year Special, Triple Crown Sports Bar, Houston, Texas	281/556-0428
Jan 13	New England Club Monthly, Holiday Inn, Somerville, Massachusetts	617/491-8710
Jan 13*	Backgammon By The Bay Monthly, TGI Friday's, Oakland, California	831/688-9722
Jan 13*	Menthor Cup 2002, via computer on GamesGrid	<a href="mailto:info@4backgammon.com">info@4backgammon.com</a>
Jan 15	Bar Point Club Awards Night, Golden Flame Restaurant, Chicago, Illinois	773/583-6464
Jan 16-21	1st Boston Open & Master's Jackpot, Hyatt Harborside, Boston, MA	781/641-2091
Jan 17	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament (Pittsburgh), Days Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
<u>Jan 18-21</u>	<u>2002 Carolina Invitational, Holiday Inn, Charlotte, North Carolina</u>	<u>704/398-8480</u>
Jan 20*	Pittsburgh Championships Warm-Up, Steve Hast's home, Pittsburgh, PA	412/823-7500
Jan 24*	Flint Area Club 2001 Awards Tournament, Days Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Jan 26*	Atlanta 2001 Awards Tournament, Sidelines Grille, Marietta, Georgia	770/333-1876
Jan 27*	Milwaukee Club Monthly, John Hawks Pub, Milwaukee, Wisconsin	414/962-8549
Feb 1*	MSN Gammonzone Medallion Monthly, via computer	<a href="mailto:GZMedallion@gammonzone.net">GZMedallion@gammonzone.net</a>
Feb 1*	Official GamesGrid Monthly Tournament, via computer	<a href="mailto:tournaments@cyberarts.com">tournaments@cyberarts.com</a>
Feb 2	Springfield Series #4, Peoria Pizza Works, Peoria, Illinois	217/528-0117
Feb 2*	Bar Point Club Ground Hog Doubles, Anyways Grill, Oakbrook Terrace, IL	773/252-7755
Feb 2*	Universal Mall Bimonthly Series #1, All the King's Men, Warren MI	313/381-6639
Feb 3*	Gammon Associates Tournament of Champions, Los Angeles, California	818/901-0464
Feb 3*	Ohio State Club Monthly, Thirsty Dog Brewery, Akron, Ohio	330/966-2811
Feb 9*	Valentine's Day Open, Triple Crown Sports Bar, Houston, Texas	281/556-0428
Feb 10*	22nd Illinois State Challenge Cup, Danny's Grill & Bar, Villa Park, Illinois	773/583-6464
Feb 10*	New England Club Monthly, Holiday Inn, Somerville, Massachusetts	617/491-8710
<u>Feb 15-17</u>	<u>24th Pittsburgh Champs/ABT Awards, Greentree Radisson, Pitt, PA</u>	<u>412/823-7500</u>
Feb 15-17	Vegas Madness III, Las Vegas Club & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada	702/240-6646
Feb 21*	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament (Midwest), Days Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Mar 1*	MSN Gammonzone Medallion Monthly, via computer	<a href="mailto:GZMedallion@gammonzone.net">GZMedallion@gammonzone.net</a>
Mar 1*	Official GamesGrid Monthly Tournament, via computer	<a href="mailto:tournaments@cyberarts.com">tournaments@cyberarts.com</a>
Mar 2*	Springfield Series #5, Parker's Sports Bar, Springfield, Illinois	217/528-0117
Mar 3*	Ohio State Club Monthly, Thirsty Dog Brewery, Akron, Ohio	330/966-2811
Mar 9*	Ides of March Open, Triple Crown Sports Bar, Houston, Texas	281/556-0428
Mar 10*	New England Club Monthly, Holiday Inn, Somerville, Massachusetts	617/491-8710
<u>Mar 22-24</u>	<u>2002 Midwest Champs: "Case of Deadly Roll," Wyndham Lisle, Lisle, IL</u>	<u>773/583-6464</u>
Apr 6*	Springfield Series #6, Parker's Sports Bar, Springfield, Illinois	217/528-0117
Apr 7*	Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Anyways Grill, Oakbrook Terrace, IL	773/252-7755
Apr 12-14	8th Ohio State Championships, Radisson Cleveland, Middleburgh Hts., OH	330/966-2811
<u>Apr 26-28*</u>	<u>49th Gammon Associates Invitational, A.R. Private Club, Los Angeles, CA</u>	<u>818/901-0464</u>
<u>May 24-27</u>	<u>23rd Chicago Open, Oakbrook Hills Resort, Oakbrook, Illinois</u>	<u>702/893-6025</u>
<u>Jul 4-7</u>	<u>Michigan Summer Championships, Novi Hilton, Novi, Michigan</u>	<u>810/232-9731</u>
<u>Aug 2-4</u>	<u>Thousand Islands Tourney, Pine Tree Point, Alexandria Bay, New York</u>	<u>716/387-0767</u>
<u>Aug 8-11</u>	<u>Georgia Championships &amp; Peach Cup, Hilton Garden Inn, Atlanta, Georgia</u>	<u>770/333-1876</u>
<u>Aug 30-Sep 2</u>	<u>50th Indiana Open, Sheraton Hotel &amp; Suites, Indianapolis, Indiana</u>	<u>317/255-8902</u>
<u>Sep 27-29</u>	<u>Towpath Inn Tournament, Towpath Inn, Turin, New York</u>	<u>716/387-0767</u>
<u>Oct 4-6*</u>	<u>Florida State Championships, Sheraton Suites, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida</u>	<u>954/564-0340</u>
<u>Oct 11-13*</u>	<u>Illinois State Championships, Springfield Hilton, Springfield, Illinois</u>	<u>217/528-0117</u>

### OUTSIDE USA

Jan 12-13*	DATE CHANGE: Bright 'n' Breezy, Brighton Metropole, Brighton, England	441522-888676
Jan 12-13*	1st & 2nd Ranglistenturniers, Kaiserbrunnen Hotel, Brakel, Germany	49521-64314
Jan 13*	Toronto Club Monthly, Smilin' Jack's, Toronto, Ontario, Canada	416/722-9709
Jan 18-20	Schwaben-Cup, Hotel Mercure Orbis, Munich, Germany	4989-152762
Jan 19-20	Dutch Open 2002, European Go Cultural Centre, Amstelveen, Netherlands	3120-4633724
Jan 24-27*	4th Lugano Challenge, Hotel Splendide Royale, Lugano, Switzerland	4179-3374425
Feb 1-3	7th Warsteiner Cup, Kaiserbrunnen Hotel, Brakel, Germany	49521-64314
Feb 8-10	Schwaben-Cup Finals, Hotel Mercure, Stuttgart-Gerlingen, Germany	49711-486190
Feb 9-10*	Jarvis Trophy, Hilton National Hotel, Coventry, England	441522-888676
Feb 10*	Toronto Club Monthly, Smilin' Jack's, Toronto, Ontario, Canada	416/722-9709
Feb 18-24	3rd Paris Master & Open, Holiday Inn Republique, Paris, France	336-07551516
Feb 23-24*	Studentenbar Cup, Århus Backgammon Klub, Denmark	4540-611789
Feb 28-Mar 3*	Groupe Partouche Trophy, Palm Beach Casino, Cannes, France	334-92594120
Mar 9-10*	Slattery Scottish Open, Garforth Hilton, Leeds, England	441522-888676
Mar 9-10*	3rd & 4th Ranglistenturniers, Kaiserbrunnen Hotel, Brakel, Germany	49521-64314
Mar 10*	Toronto Club Monthly, Smilin' Jack's, Toronto, Ontario, Canada	416/722-9709
Mar 17-21*	1st Bali Championship, Kudeta Restaurant, Bali, Indonesia	USA Contact: 212/222-7177
Mar 28-Apr 1*	14th Nordic "Wide" Open, Hotel Marienlyst, Helsingør, Denmark	4533-363601
Mar 29-Apr 1*	1st Süddeutscher-Cup, Hotel-Pyramide, Fürth, Germany	49711-486190
Apr 6-7*	British Open, Hilton National Hotel, Coventry, England	441522-888676
Apr 30-May 5*	8th EBN Mayday Tournament, Casino San Roque, Costa del Sol, Spain	34950-113009
Jul 4-7*	14th Venice International Tournament, Venice Casino, Venice, Italy	3941-52111024
Jul 8-14*	World Championship, Grand Hotel, Monte Carlo, Monaco	USA Contact: 954/527-4033

## LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

### GRID LOCK

Ed Bauder is right. Equity was pretty poor at the Springfield Tournament in the Open

Division. [See "Letters," Issue 142.] The grid used forces you to pay seven places and for 39 players, produces poor equity. My rule-of-thumb is to pay prizes to 10% of the number of players entered which would have been four places (two in the Main, one in the Consolation and one in the

Last Chance).

And while it is true the grid works great for Chicago and Pittsburgh, it's because they are used with 50-64 players.

There is another problem when having 33-47 player. The players who did not get a bye in the Main Flight, also did not get a bye in the Consolation. But some players who did get a bye in the Main, also got a bye in the Consolation.

I know your grid was used in Springfield and do not want to degrade the help you provide. We all need help to put on a good show. I volunteer to help if you would like me to.—*Butch Meese, director, Hoosier Backgammon Club, Indianapolis, Indiana*

*The equity at the Springfield Open was very reasonable (85% return). The prize money structure was the problem and the Springfield directors have promised changes in 2002.*

*With regard to byes in a 3-flight tourney, they are randomly drawn in the Main Flight. Players then enter the Consolation based on when they lose in the Main and the chips fall where they may. The value of a player's bye should not be taken away in the Consolation when he loses in the Main. The same player might also receive a bye in the Last Chance event, but that is the luck of the draw.*

*We are always happy to accept help and review new methods in an effort to give the player a better tournament. Sean Garber (IN) has sent us two drawsheets for 33-40 players and 41-48 players that offer*

[Continued on page 4]



## AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 2001

Top 100—Final Standings after 17 tournaments

171 players earned points



Jake Jacobs	66.41	David Wells	9.94	Mike Friedman	5.56	Tak Morioka	3.51
Rick Todd	28.00	Jane Lewandowski	9.37	Larry Taylor	5.56	Chuck Bower	3.51
Richard Del Furia	25.67	Paul Stebbing	9.00	Paul Berg	5.50	Barry Murphy	3.50
Neil Kazaross	24.76	Greg Lilley	8.80	Wally Watson	5.50	Masayuki Mochizuki	3.49
Bruce Russell	24.13	Ray Baker	8.36	Ron Kompelien	5.25	Sean Garber	3.48
Gyl Savoie	21.45	Odis Chenault	8.36	Tom Daniel	5.22	Tim Carroll	3.35
Sho Sengoku	20.91	Adam Versaw	7.17	Keith Kuligowski	5.20	Bill Minser	3.35
Steve Sax	16.20	John Brussel	7.12	Marianne Gatenby	5.11	Jim Pascoe	3.30
Matt Reklaitis	15.00	Charile Martin	7.06	Brian Barber	5.11	Norm Wiggins	3.22
Dennis Culpepper	14.86	Curtis Lucas	7.05	Art Moore	5.00	Doug Roberts	3.22
Jeremy Bagai	14.55	Dave Hochron	7.05	Sam Pottle	5.00	Fabricio Schaffrath	3.22
Jim Hall	14.21	Fred Kalantari	7.00	Steve Maas	4.71	Joe Griffith	3.22
Don Schiller	14.11	Glen de Guzman	6.73	Dana Nazarian	4.50	Mark Tremayne	3.20
Sakura Wells	14.00	Herb Roman	6.69	Paul Weaver	4.44	Stan Livingston	3.10
Emil Mortuk	14.00	Julian Haley	6.60	Howard Shapiro	4.44	Don Marek	3.10
Mike Corbett	13.89	Eliot Bean	6.45	Richard Munitz	4.44	Gregg Cattanach	3.05
Bob Wachtel	12.89	Greg Merriman	6.34	Norman Hansen	4.40	Jewell Morris	3.05
Chen Fu Yu	12.69	Rob Maier	6.34	Reza Rezaei	4.33	Bill Keefe	2.95
Chuck Stimming	12.35	J.A. Miller	6.20	Peter Zacks	4.19	Will Horton	2.94
Dean Adamian	12.35	John Greci	6.08	Oliver Fink	4.18	Marc Freeman	2.80
Carl Sorg	12.15	Reza Nowbar	6.00	Tim Mabee	4.14	Andy Rubien	2.80
James Roston	11.44	Mary Franks	5.88	David Rockwell	3.90	Dave Cardwell	2.77
François Margot	10.98	Jacquie Lee	5.69	David Groner	3.90	Donny Lomuto	2.76
Bob Glass	10.46	Chris Wilson	5.60	Ron Rogers	3.56	Carl Adamec	2.75
Tom Machaj	10.20	Phil Laak	5.60	Steve Goldstein	3.56	Walter Trice	2.75



## CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB 2001 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

FINAL STANDINGS  
86 players earned pts.

Bob Zavoral	30.76	Bill Keefe	5.28	David Wells	2.24	Bob Katz	0.88
Tim Carroll	26.84	Tom Meyer	5.28	Joe Auszmann	2.16	Wendy Kaplan	0.88
Tim Mabee	23.28	Arlene Levy	5.04	Howard Ring	2.00	Karsten Nielsen	0.88
Glenn Martells	21.80	Howard Chow	4.96	Georgina Flanagan	1.68	Paul Franks	0.88
Lucky Nelson	20.68	Alice Kay	4.96	Barry Miller	1.68	Kendra Wesley	0.88
Jake Jacobs	20.08	Wayne Wiest	4.96	Jerry Brooks	1.60	Anthony Lombardo	0.84
Brian Barber	17.92	Paul Lombardo	4.88	Roger Hickman	1.60	Richard Stawowy	0.80
Tak Morioka	17.28	Joann Feinstein	4.56	Mike Sutton	1.52	Chris Traynor	0.76
Joe Wollick	14.76	Peter Kalba	4.40	Barbara Levinson	1.44	Paul Friedman	0.64
Bill Bartholomay	13.16	David Araiza	4.08	John Brussel	1.36	Roger Blaine	0.64
Herb Roman	12.80	Ed Buerger	3.88	Don Marek	1.28	Brian Kozin	0.64
Bob Steen	12.08	Scott Richardson	3.68	Bob Sexton	1.28	Beverly Becker	0.64
Phyllis Smolinski	12.00	Marc Rosset	3.60	Erik Erland	1.12	Reginald Porter	0.56
Norma Shyer	12.00	Mary Franks	3.28	Ken Tyszko	1.12	Sharon Steffens	0.56
Carter Mattig	9.44	Brian Leventhal	3.12	Femi Owiku	1.12	Eric Johnson	0.56
Don Jayhan	9.00	Jolie Rubin	3.04	Tom Roberts	1.12	Joe Szvedo	0.32
Ken Bond	7.76	Gary Kay	2.80	Ed Bauder	1.04	Scott Zucker	0.32
Elaine Kehm	7.76	John Jennings	2.72	David Donaldson	0.96	Amy Trudeau	0.32
Bill Davis	7.64	Mark Ryan	2.56	Rob Farmer	0.96	Tom Roach	0.32
Paul Baraz	6.40	Ralf Boettger	2.56	Harold Elgazar	0.96	Sakura Wells	0.24
Steve Klesker	6.24	Mark Murray	2.40	Leo Campos	0.88	Ken Tibbs	0.16
J.A. Miller	5.92	Richard Lloyd	2.32				

**November Player of the Month:** **TIM CARROLL**'s 6.24 points was the best single monthly total of 2001. Tak Morioka finished 2nd with 3.12. Bob Zavoral and Herb Roman each collected 2.56.

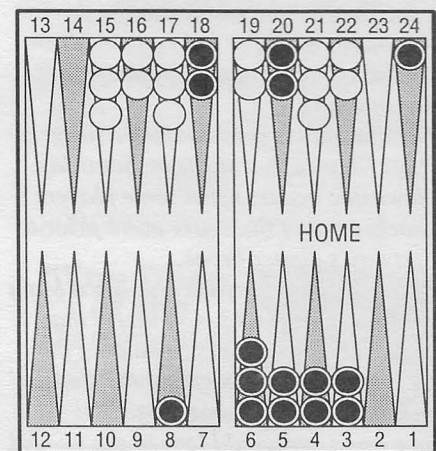
**December Player of the Month:** **TIM MABEE** rallied for 3.80 points to capture 3rd place for the year. Tom Meyer was December runner-up with 3.04. Brian Barber had 2.72.

your move

## PROBLEM #278

to be analyzed by Kit Woolsey

Money game. **BLACK TO PLAY 6-3.**





ASK  
DANNY

© 2002 by Danny Kleinman

PROTECTING YOURSELF FROM A  
SUSPECTED DICE MECHANIC

**D**ear Danny: What rights do I have when I am playing a tournament match against a particular opponent who many strong players suspect of being a dice mechanic? Do I have the right to say, "Dice check" after he shakes and before he rolls to ascertain that both of his dice are actually in his cup?

I am suspicious of this player because of what I've heard from reliable sources: About six years ago, a well-known dice mechanic visited his home town for a few weeks and the two apparently became friendly. I believe that during this time, Mr. Suspect was trained by the experienced mechanic and that he probably uses a technique of holding one die outside the cup in his hand or fingers prior to rolling the dice.

More suspicions: Mr. Suspect's Snowie™ error rate in his recent matches places his skill level well below the average Championship player. In spite of his lack of checker play and cube skills, he enters the Open and Masters divisions of major tournaments and does quite well.

I realize that my case against Mr.

*Suspect is entirely circumstantial, and would not hold up in a court of law; however, the feelings I have are still distracting. What should I do the next time I face him over the board?—Very Suspicious*

**DEAR SUSPICIOUS:** I'm afraid you have no rights other than to cease patronizing the tournament and the organization that permits players you suspect of cheating to play. I say this from sad experience.

Those who cheat at bridge tournaments, where no money is at stake, are merely despicable. Those who cheat at backgammon and at high-stakes gin rummy, where substantial money is at stake, are criminals who would have no scruples about breaking your legs, killing you, or using their mob connections to put out a "contract" on you, if they thought you jeopardized their money-making. Paradoxically, the only ones you can safely accuse of cheating are honest players, who will confront you with protestations and proofs of their innocence, not death threats and the cheaters' queries "Who told you?" and "Who else knows?"

At the Cavendish West Club (now long defunct) in the 1970s and 1980s, I was warned by a friend with Mafia connections not even to walk by a certain backgammon table, lest I observe things that might get me killed. Eventually I noticed that certain patrons of the club simply stopped coming, whispering to me privately that they realized they had been cheated at gin rummy and complaining could get them killed. Just a few days after a club employee told me

how the cheaters operated and cautioned me against complaining, one victim did complain and did get killed (a murder never "solved" by police and prosecutors with mob ties).

I'm not saying that all clubs and organizations that tolerate cheating are in cahoots with the cheaters. Some directors and other officials fear for their own lives, some merely fear the defamation lawsuits with which lawyers for cheaters threaten them. Ask officials of the American Contract Bridge League about the multi-million dollar lawsuits the ACBL has faced from those accused of cheating (including some who were caught red-handed and confessed). So no matter how well-founded your reputation for honesty and accuracy, nor how strong the evidence you might gather against Mr. Suspect, a director to whom you complain may say, "It's your word against his," (as I've been told) or find some other pretext to take no action.

Unless and until backgammon players, directors, promoters, club owners, and yes, even publishers of backgammon newsletters, lose their understandable fears of lawsuits, violence, and death, it's cheaper and less life-threatening simply to walk away when you suspect cheating.—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*

## LETTERS...

[Continued from page 3]

very equitable ways of feeding the semifin-  
alist losers into a progressive Consolation.  
The problem is time. The losing Consola-  
tion finalist (who receives no money) must  
first play five Main and three Consolation  
matches before he can be sent to the Last  
Chance. That's a tall order for one day of  
play if you are going to hold a fresh draw  
for the Last Chance of non-winners on  
Sunday morning.

The alternative is to conduct a progres-  
sive Last Chance that starts on Saturday.  
The downside occurs when some players  
get knocked out of the entire event prior to  
the first day's dinner break.

Butch, if you or anyone else has a Main  
Flight drawsheet for 33–48 players that  
progressively feeds losers (including the  
losing Main semifinalists) into the Conso-  
lation and still allows time for a Last  
Chance event, we would love to see it.—Ed.

## BLURB FOR MOLLY

I managed to earn enough points to cinch  
our Player of the Year competition in late  
December. I am happy about that, but wish  
the player I beat, my good friend Molly  
Anderson's name could also be published.  
—Ruth Robbins, director, Puget Sound  
Backgammon Club, Renton, Washington

Hopefully, this will suffice.—Ed.

## MAYBE ANOTHER TIME

After several years of subscribing to the  
POINT, it is with deep regret that I am not  
going to renew. It may sound wierd, but I  
just can't afford it anymore. I have too many  
kids and other things to pay for (a new house  
for example), so more than 400 Danish Kr.  
is too much right now. Maybe another time.  
—Torkil Espenhain, Farum, Denmark Δ

Sorry to lose you, Torkil. Although we  
haven't raised the subscription fee to  
CHICAGO POINT since 1996, we can  
understand your priorities.—Ed.

## JAKE WINS ABT

[Continued from page 1]

Open, place 2nd In Georgia, and cash in  
Consolation events at the Indy Open and  
Illinois State. Jake's 66.41 points was the  
second best annual total ever just behind  
Neil Kazaross with 72.98 in 1994.

The race was closer for 2nd and 3rd.  
Rick Todd won the biggest ABT event of  
the year, Michigan Summer Championships,  
earning 28 points. It was just enough to  
capture 2nd place. And Richard Del Furia  
edged out Neil Kazaross for 3rd by taking  
the Minnesota State Championships in  
November. Richard also earned points at  
the MBC (1st LC) and the Chicago Open  
(2nd) to bring his final 2001 total to 25.67.

The slate is wiped clean for the kickoff  
2002 ABT event, the Carolina Invitational  
in Charlotte, NC 18–21 January. Then come  
to the Pittsburgh Championships 15–17  
February for the ABT Awards Ceremony  
where the 2001 winners will be honored. Δ



CHICAGO POINT's 2002 Listing of...

# Backgammon Clubs in North America

Information for this listing has been obtained directly from the featured backgammon clubs. Changes are inevitable and we suggest that you always call before attending. CHICAGO POINT would like to maintain an accurate listing of USA Backgammon Clubs online at: [www.chicagopoint.com/usclubs.html](http://www.chicagopoint.com/usclubs.html). Please send club information, including new clubs and club closings and updates to: **CHICAGO POINT; 3940 W. Bryn Mawr 504; Chicago, IL 60659. 773/583-6464. Fax: 773/583-3264. E-mail: [bg@chicagopoint.com](mailto:bg@chicagopoint.com)**

## WEST

CLUB NAME	LOCATION	CITY & STATE	MEETING DAY & TIME	CONTACT [E-MAIL]	TELEPHONE	MAIL INQUIRIES TO
Phoenix Backgammon Club	George & Dragon Pub	Phoenix, AZ	Tuesday-7:00 PM	David Hilton ( <a href="mailto:resaleman@qwest.net">resaleman@qwest.net</a> )	602/265-1992	751 W. Camelback Road; Phoenix, AZ 85013
Imperial Valley Backgammon Club	Downtown Chiropractic	El Centro, CA	Tuesday-6:00 PM	Doyle Pritchard ( <a href="mailto:drbackjack@hotmail.com">drbackjack@hotmail.com</a> )	760/353-3045	707 State Street; El Centro, CA 92243
Sacramento Backgammon Club	Player's Sports Pub & Grill	Fair Oaks, CA	2nd & 4th Tuesday-6:30 PM	Doug Wilson ( <a href="mailto:dbwilson@pacbell.net">dbwilson@pacbell.net</a> )	530/756-4872	3016 Bryant Place; Davis, CA 95616
Backgammon Club of San Diego	Embassy Suites Hotel	La Jolla, CA	Tuesday-6:00 PM	Ed Baize ( <a href="mailto:ebaize@bd.com">ebaize@bd.com</a> )	858/457-2273	3430 Via Alicante; La Jolla, CA 92037
Gammon Associates	A.R. Private Club	Los Angeles, CA	Sunday-2:00 PM	Patrick Gibson ( <a href="mailto:pgibsonmfc@adelphia.net">pgibsonmfc@adelphia.net</a> )	818/901-0464	7641 Orion Avenue; Van Nuys, CA 91406
"	Acapulco Cantina	Burbank, CA	Tuesday-6:00 PM	"	818/901-0464	"
Backgammon By The Bay	TGI Friday's	Oakland, CA	2nd Sunday monthly-12:30 PM	Beth Skillman ( <a href="mailto:beth@backgammon.org">beth@backgammon.org</a> )	831/688-9722	308 Arthur Avenue; Aptos, CA 95003
Redwood Empire BG Association	Embassy Suites Hotel	San Rafael, CA	3rd Saturday monthly-10:30 AM	Timothy Jaxon ( <a href="mailto:jaxon@sonic.net">jaxon@sonic.net</a> )	707/477-6430	7171 E. Hurlbut Avenue, Sebastopol, CA 95472
"	Third Street Aleworks	Santa Rosa, CA	Last Tuesday monthly-6:30 PM	"	707/477-6430	"
Aloha State Backgammon Club	Elks Club	Honolulu, HI	Tuesday-2:00 PM	George Quillin ( <a href="mailto:georgeQ@hawaii.rr.com">georgeQ@hawaii.rr.com</a> )	808/922-2674	2999 Kalakaua; Honolulu, HI 96815
"	Coffee Talk	Honolulu, HI	Friday-7:30 PM	"	808/922-2674	"
Boise Backgammon Club	Papa Joe's Pizza	Boise, ID	Tuesday-7:00 PM	Tami Jones ( <a href="mailto:boisebackgammon@hotmail.com">boisebackgammon@hotmail.com</a> )	208/342-8865	812 E. Bannock A; Boise, ID 83712
Backgammon Club of Las Vegas	Elks Lodge	Las Vegas, NV	Tuesday-7:00 PM	Michael Maxakuli ( <a href="mailto:vpwoman27@aol.com">vpwoman27@aol.com</a> )	702/458-9359	311 Pecos Way; Las Vegas, NV 89121
Nevada Backgammon Association	Various Vegas Strip hotels	Las Vegas, NV	<a href="http://www.nvbg.com">www.nvbg.com</a>	Howard Markowitz ( <a href="mailto:howard1@lvcm.com">howard1@lvcm.com</a> )	702/893-6025	2620 S. Maryland Pkwy, Box 230; Las Vegas, NV 89109
Puget Sound Backgammon Club	Wizards Restaurant/Casino	Burien, WA	Tuesday-7:30 PM	Ruth Robbins ( <a href="mailto:ruthles5@attbi.com">ruthles5@attbi.com</a> )	425/226-3120	12611 155th Ave. SE; Renton, WA 98059

## CENTRAL

Bloomington-Normal BG Club	Ride The Nine	Bloomington, IL	Monday-6:30 PM	Gary Daniels ( <a href="mailto:gdaniels@dave-world.net">gdaniels@dave-world.net</a> )	309/452-3034	1708 Johnson Drive; Normal, IL 61761
Chicago Bar Point Club	Golden Flame	Chicago, IL	Tuesday-6:00 PM	Bill Davis ( <a href="mailto:bg@chicagopoint.com">bg@chicagopoint.com</a> )	773/583-6464	3940 W. Bryn Mawr 504; Chicago, IL 60659
"	Anyway's Chicago Grill & Bar	Oakbrook Terrace, IL	Sunday bimonthly-11:45 AM	Peter Kalba ( <a href="mailto:bg@chicagopoint.com">bg@chicagopoint.com</a> )	773/252-7755	2510 W. Iowa Street; Chicago, IL 60622
T/P Backgammon Club	Java Oasis	Chicago, IL	Wednesday-6:30 PM	J. A. Miller	312/719-1245	P.O. Box 8630; Chicago, IL 60680
Peoria Backgammon Club	Peoria Pizza Works	Peoria, IL	Thursday - 6:30 PM	Ed Zell ( <a href="mailto:bg@thezells.com">bg@thezells.com</a> )	309/674-0557	2009 W. Clarke Avenue, West Peoria, IL 61604
Sangamon Valley BG Association	Brewhaus	Springfield, IL	Wednesday-6:30 PM	Ben Zemaitis ( <a href="mailto:bzemaiti@fgi.net">bzemaiti@fgi.net</a> )	217/483-4028	301 Estes Park Drive; Chatham, IL 62629
"	Parker's Sports Bar	Springfield, IL	1st Sat/Nov to Apr-11:30 AM	Randy Armstrong ( <a href="mailto:rarmstro@fgi.net">rarmstro@fgi.net</a> )	217/528-0117	2012 N. 20th Street; Springfield, IL 62702
Pub Club	Danny's Grill & Bar	Villa Park, IL	Monday-7:00 PM	Joe Wollick	847/942-2068	268 Kosan Circle; Streamwood, IL 60107
Winnetka Backgammon Club	Winnetka Community House	Winnetka, IL	Wednesday-7:00 PM	Trudie Chibnik	847/446-0537	740 Ballantrae Drive B; Northbrook, IL 60062
Hoosier Backgammon Club	Neon Johnny's	Indianapolis, IN	Wednesday-7:00 PM	Butch Meese ( <a href="mailto:meese@worldnet.att.net">meese@worldnet.att.net</a> )	317/255-8902	1008 Tuckahoe Street; Indianapolis, IN 46260
Northwest Indiana BG Association	VFW Hall	Porter, IN	3rd Saturday monthly-1:30 PM	Charlie Halberstadt ( <a href="mailto:chbug@yahoo.com">chbug@yahoo.com</a> )	219/785-2082	P.O. Box 84; Westville, IN 46391
Flint Area Backgammon Club	Days Inn	Flint, MI	Thursday-7:00 PM	Carol Joy Cole ( <a href="mailto:cjc@tir.com">cjc@tir.com</a> )	810/232-9731	3719 Greenbrook Lane; Flint, MI 48507
Grand Rapids Backgammon Club	Garden Room Cafe	Grand Rapids, MI	Tuesday-7:00 PM	John Drexel ( <a href="mailto:info@grbg.org">info@grbg.org</a> )	616/453-4648	2738 Walker Ave. NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49544
Plymouth Backgammon Club	Box Bar & Grill	Plymouth, MI	Wednesday-7:30 PM	Dean Adamian ( <a href="mailto:Dean3491@hotmail.com">Dean3491@hotmail.com</a> )	734/981-5706	42954 Barchester; Canton, MI 48187
Troy Backgammon Club	Troy Community Center	Troy, MI	Monday-6:30 PM	Sal Chehayeb ( <a href="mailto:allthekingsmench@aol.com">allthekingsmench@aol.com</a> )	248/219-5624	P.O. Box 99432; Troy, MI 48099
Universal Backgammon Series	All The King's Men Chess	Warren, MI	Saturday bimonthly-11:00 AM	Ed Mandell ( <a href="mailto:allthekingsmench@aol.com">allthekingsmench@aol.com</a> )	810/558-4790	All Kings Men Chess; Univ. Mall; 28760 Dequindre; Warren, MI 48092
Twin Cities Backgammon Club	Little Wagon	Minneapolis, MN	Thursday-7:00 PM	Steve Brown ( <a href="mailto:scbrown@visi.com">scbrown@visi.com</a> )	651/699-6758	1369 Scheffer Avenue; St. Paul, MN 55116
Ohio State Backgammon Club	Mitch's Lounge	Akron, OH	Wednesday-6:30 PM	Joe Miller ( <a href="mailto:jm@neo.rr.com">jm@neo.rr.com</a> )	330/966-2811	6633 Lake-O-Springs; Canton, OH 44718
"	Thirsty Dog Brewery	Canton, OH	Sunday monthly-1:30 PM	"	330/966-2811	"

(Continued on opposite side)

**CENTRAL (continued)**

CLUB NAME	LOCATION	CITY & STATE	MEETING DAY & TIME	CONTACT (E-MAIL)	TELEPHONE	MAIL INQUIRIES TO
Greater Columbus Backgammon Club	Lucky's Grille	Hilliard, OH	Mon.-7:30 PM; Sun. mthly-1:30 PM	Michael Haney (gcbc@columbus.rr.com)	614/771-0981	5289 Bonner Drive; Hilliard, OH 43026
Oklahoma City Backgammon Club	Henry Hudson's Pub	Oklahoma City, OK	Monthly-6:00 PM	Kathy Lamandia (KathyL59@aol.com)	405/524-1885	1507 NW 43rd Street; Oklahoma City, OK 73118
Dallas Backgammon League	Denny's Restaurant	Addison, TX	Wednesday-7:45 PM	Tom Wheeler (zwheel95@worldnet.att.net)	972/484-3038	3705 Pageant Place, Dallas 75244
Austin Backgammon Association	JC's Bar and Grill	Austin, TX	Mon.-7:30 PM; Sun. bimthly-12:30 PM	Jackie Seiders-Smart (jseiders@austin.rr.com)	512/261-8518	30 Hightrail Way, Austin, TX 78738
Houston Backgammon Club	Triple Crown Sports Bar	Houston, TX	2nd Saturday monthly-2:00 PM	Tom Wright (tomw64@hotmail.com)	713/567-1639	14147 Lost Meadow Lane; Houston, TX 77079
West Texas Backgammon Club	Big Daddy's	Odessa, TX	1st & 3rd Saturday-12:30 PM	Joe Tucker (wtxbc@yahoo.com)	915/366-1631	3313 Sherbrook Road; Odessa, TX 79762
Madison Backgammon Club	J.T. Whitney's	Madison, WI	Tuesday-7:00 PM	Tom Machaj (machaj@charter.net)	608/276-8144	5812 Chesapeake Circle; Fitchburg, WI 53719
Milwaukee Backgammon Club	John Hawks Pub	Milwaukee, WI	Wed.-7:00 PM; Sun. mthly-12 PM	Rudy Langenbach (milwbg@webtv.net)	414/962-8549	PO Box 511671; Milwaukee, WI 53202

**NORTHEAST**

Beltway Backgammon Club	Promenade Cardroom	Bethesda, MD	Twice Sunday monthly-12:00 PM	Barry Silliman (sillybaz@beltwaybg.org)	202/777-2641 x1375	P.O. Box 612; Walkersville, MD 21793
New England Backgammon Club	Holiday Inn	Somerville, MA	Wed-7 PM, Sun mthly-12:30 PM	Brad Mampe (mamps@mindspring.com)	617/779-8209	185 Chestnut Hill Avenue 2; Brighton, MA 02135
New Jersey Backgammon Club	Bergen Bridge Club	Bogota, NJ	Friday-7:45 PM	Ron Whitney (richardmunitz@iqfinancial.com)	201/530-1894	682 Cedar Lane 3, Teaneck, NJ 07666
Mid Jersey Backgammon Club	Town and Country Inn	Keyport, NJ	Thursday-7:30 PM	Linda Resnicoff (lindares@pobox.com)	732/332-0843	18 Beth Lane; Morganville, NJ 07751
Ace Point Backgammon Club	Clubroom	New York, NY	Daily-1:00 PM, Tour. Sun. mthly	Alan & Lourdes Steffen (asteffen@nyc.rr.com)	212/753-0842	41 E. 60th Street; New York, NY 10022
New York Chess & Backgammon	Clubroom	New York, NY	Daily-11 AM, Tour. Sun.-2 PM	Steve Manning (bg@newyorkchessandbackgammon.com)	212/869-6057	120 W. 41st Street 3; New York, NY 10036
Backgammon Board of Rochester	Bagel Bin Café	Rochester, NY	Saturday monthly	Bob Hoey (bobhoey@onf.com)	716/461-2619	226 Ashbourne Road; Rochester, NY 14618
Pittsburgh Backgammon Club	Toby's Restaurant	Forest Hills, PA	Thursday-8:00 PM	Steve Hast (pghsteve1@aol.com)	412/823-7500	3560 Ridgewood Drive; Pittsburgh, PA 15235
Cavendish Club of Philadelphia	Clubroom	Philadelphia, PA	Mon, Wed-7PM; Sat-1PM	Howard Cohen	215/878-5777	3801 Conshohocken; Philadelphia, PA 19131
Harrisburg Backgammon Club	Knight Club/Cent. Penn. College	Summerdale, PA	1st Sunday monthly-12:00 N	Steve Shoemaker (nls132@mindspring.com)	717/545-4546	6261 S. Highlands Circle; Harrisburg, PA 17111
Tyson's Corner Backgammon Club	Doubletree Hotel	Falls Church, VA	Monday-7:00 PM	Bill Etue (billetue@aol.com)	703/620-3153	11833 Shire Court 1A; Reston, VA 22043

**SOUTH**

Suncoast Backgammon Assoc.	New York, New York Lounge	Clearwater, FL	Monday & Friday-6:00 PM	Drew Giovanis (dgiovan1@tampabay.rr.com)	727/726-1398	25350 US Hwy 19 N 67; Clearwater, FL 33763
Miami Backgammon Club	Titanic Brewery & Restaurant	Coral Gables, FL	Tuesday monthly-7:30 PM	Carl Kruse (miamigammon@aol.com)	305/793-1821	P.O. Box 440545; Miami, FL 33144
South Florida Backgammon Club	Sheraton Suites	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	Saturday-1:00 PM	Elayne Feinstein (BGinFla210@aol.com)	954/564-0340	659 W. Oakland Park Blvd.; Oakland Park, FL 33311
Orlando Backgammon	Mulligan's	Orlando, FL	Tuesday-7:30 PM	David Thomas (dlt@iag.net)	386/736-0502	P.O. Box 803; Deland, FL 32721
Atlanta Backgammon Association	Sidelines Grille	Marietta, GA	Thur-7 PM, Sat or Sun bimthly-12 PM	Dave Cardwell (BGinGA@mindspring.com)	770/333-1876	111 Radford Circle SW; Marietta, GA 30060
Louisville Backgammon Club	Utopia International Café	Louisville, KY	1st & 3rd Thursday-6:30 PM	Quint McTyeire (hnm@gdm.com)	502/896-9783	4906 Crofton Road; Louisville, KY 40207
Charlotte Backgammon Club	O'Charley's	Charlotte, NC	Monday-6:30 PM	Jeb Horton (jeb@carolina.rr.com)	704/814-0850	1813 Matthews Twnshp Pkwy 300-109; Matthews, NC 28105
Nashville Backgammon Club	Sam's Place	Nashville, TN	Wednesday-6:45 PM	J.P. White (jpwhite3@bellsouth.net)	615/824-9461	114 Dorcas Drive; Hendersonville, TN 37075

**CANADA**

Backgammon Vancouver	Vancouver Bridge Club	Vancouver, BC	Wednesday-7:00 PM	Mark Cohen (markcohen@shaw.ca)	604/261-2345	6207 Balsam Street, Vancouver, BC V6M 4C4, Canada
Nat'l Capital Backgammon Club	Bobby's Bar & Restaurant	Gloucester, ON	1st Sun/Sep to Jun-12:30 PM	Eden Windish (rlessard707@rogers.com)	613/741-2530	396 Talbot St.; Ottawa ON, K1K 2N6, Canada
Toronto Backgammon Club	Smilin' Jack's	Toronto, ON	Daily-7PM, Tour 2nd Sun mthly-2PM	Vladimir Dobrich	416/722-9709	106 Wells Street; Toronto ON, M5R 1P3, Canada
Café Ludik Chess & Gammon Club	Chez Ludik	Montreal, QC	Daily from 1:00 PM	Alexandra Dubé	514/844-1139	552, Ste-Catherine E; Montreal, QC, H2L 2E1, Canada



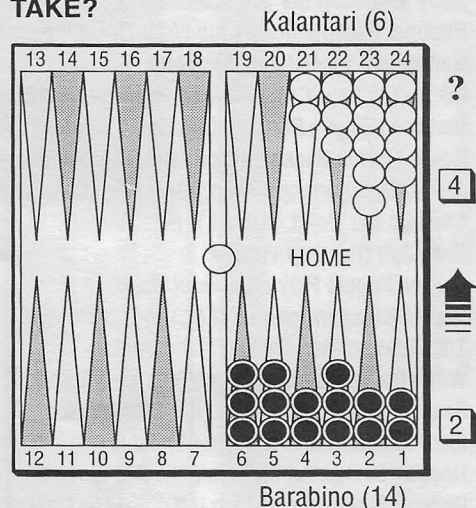
## LAS VEGAS...

[Continued from page 1]

Player of the Year Fred Kalantari. A big winner at the Vegas Pro-Am event in February, Kalantari had defeated Brazil's Armando Balbi to get his chance at the \$23,000 payday.

Both the dice and skill level favored Barabino who jumped out to a 14-6 lead. But Freddie was not about to roll over and play dead:

**POS. 1.** Las Vegas Super Jackpot 17-point finals. Rick Barabino (Black) leads Fred Kalantari (White), 14-6. Black redoubles. **SHOULD WHITE TAKE?**



A close choice, but most experts felt that Kalantari's action of taking and reshipping to 8 was correct. The roll-off was not what Freddie had hoped for and Rick won 17-6.

### The Championship

117 players paid the \$500 entry fee to take their chance at the title of Las Vegas Open Champion-2001. Saturday's semifinals paired Torben Hasseriis vs. expert Dennis Culpepper (VA), and Rick Barabino vs. Douglas Zare, a math professor at Columbia University (NY). Hasseriis, who captured the Last Chance at the EBN Spain tournament earlier this year topped Culpepper to earn a seat in the finals. The Barabino/Zare match would decide his opponent.

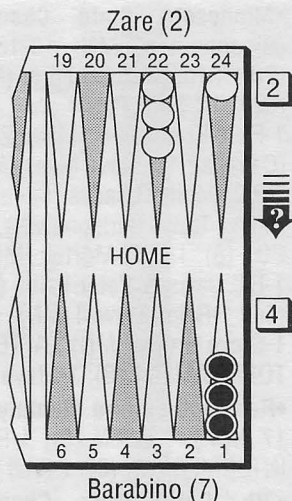
A relative newcomer to the big-time tourney scene, Zare played well up until the following cube decision in the 15-point semifinals [See position above].

If the score were 11-11, White should redouble because the cube would be dead and White wins from this position slightly more than half the time. But at the given match score, White's recube is wrong. That's because of the efficient 8-cube

### POS. 2.

Las Vegas Open 15-point semifinals. Rick Barabino (Black) leads Douglas Zare (White), 7-2. White on shake.

**SHOULD WHITE REDOUBLE?**



Black can offer after White rolls something-deuce.

In the actual game, White redoubled to 4, Black accepted, and White rolled 4-2. Black redoubled to 8 and the cube eventually reached 16 with White failing to roll double 2s or better on his last shake. Final score: Barabino over Zare, 15-2.

Hasseriis was behind most of his 17-point final match vs. Barabino. But trailing 14-11 and holding a 2-cube, things changed. Torben gammoned his opponent to go ahead 15-14.

With Torben now leading 16-14 Crawford, Rick appeared ready to force a final game to determine the victor. However, some fancy rolling gave the Dane a first place trophy and \$22,000 in prize money.

It was a great win for Torben Hasseriis who according to two-time World Champion Michael Meyburg, has a bright future.

Congratulations to Chicago's own Brian Barber. Barber, a relative newcomer to the national tourney scene, won the Limited Jackpot and was a semifinalist in the 143-player Intermediate tournament.

## NOT ENOUGH BG TO MAKE "TRIP ACES" WORTHWHILE

"Trip Aces" is a new 206 page soft-cover novel by Brian Glubok. Penned under the name "Julius Avedon," Glubok explores the seedy world of sex, drugs, rock-'n-roll and gambling among college dropouts in New York City in the late 1980s.

Actual BG player names (including Paul Magriel and Jason Lester) are sprinkled throughout the backgammon passages which make up about 5% of the book.

With over 20 pornographic photos and very little backgammon-related material, the book can't be recommended. But if you have \$20 in your pocket and curiosity gets the best of you, the author can be reached at 212/233-5942 or glubok@hotmail.com.—BD

And kudos to Howard Markowitz for his innovative use of the \$10,000 added money: giving it away via random draw at the Thursday Calcutta Auction. To say that the \$35,000 Auction was exciting (and well-attended) is an understatement! Results: Δ

### LAS VEGAS OPEN

**CHAMPIONSHIP (117):** 1-Torben Hasseriis (DEN), 2-Rick Barabino (NY), 3/4-Dennis Culpepper (VA) / Douglas Zare (NY); 1C-Leonid Riskin (GER), 2C-Alex Zamanian (MA), 3C/4C-Carter Mattig (IL) / Paul Money (GRE); 1LC-Dod Davies (UK), 2LC-Mike Corbett (FL).

**INTERMEDIATE (143):** 1-Michael Bernstein (CA), 2-Patrick Gibson (CA), 3/4-Brian Barber (IL) / Hunter Jones (MD); 1C-Niel Borden (CA), 2C-Gary Fries (VA), 3C/4C-Yoshito Takeuchi (JPN) / Charles Toots (CA); 1LC-Roger Gabrielson, 2LC-Thomas Fuglheim (DEN).

**BEGINNER (49):** 1-Robert Gold (NV), 2-Nabil El-Ramby (NV), 3/4-Arlene Austin (PA) / Jim Mason (CA); 1C-Philip Smith (NC), 2C-Alisa Schmitz (AZ); 1LC-Steve Spudic (FL), 2LC-John Scully (CA).

**SUPER JACKPOT #1 (16):** 1-Rick Barabino (NY), 2-Fred Kalantari (MN), 3/4-Armando Balbi (BRZ) / Mike Senkiewicz (NY). #2: 1-Leo Fernandez (ARG), 2-Harvey Huie (TX).

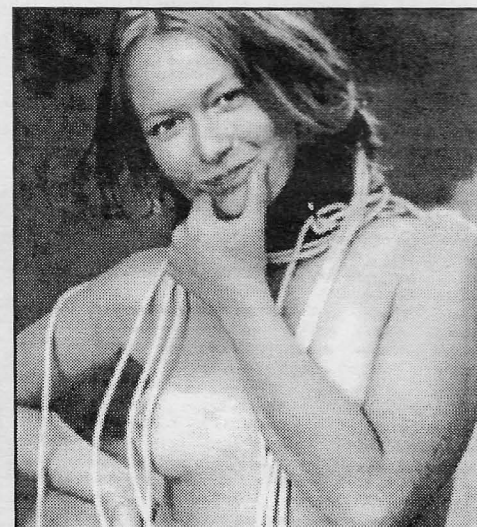
**LIMITED JACKPOT #1 (16):** 1-Brian Barber (IL), 2-Sven Rumcker (GER). #2 (16): 1-Paul Money (GRE), 2-Joe Freedman (VA).

**SATURDAY SPECIAL JACKPOT #1 (16):** 1-Hugh McNeil (CAN), 2-Sho Sengoku (CA). #2 (8): 1-Serge Rived (FRA).

**2-PT. MINI-MATCH (256):** 1-Dod Davies (UK). **SENIORS TOURNAMENT (64):** 1-Shel Segal (MN), 2-Larry Arnold.

**BLITZ (384):** 1-Dod Davies (UK), 2-John Broomfield (UK). **DOUBLES (64):** 1-Paul Money (GRE) & Dod Davies (UK), 2-Ken Arnold (CA) & Gabriella (NJ).

**AFTER TOURNAMENT TOURNAMENT \$50 (17):** 1-Norm Wiggins (CA), 2-Sho Sengoku (CA). **\$20 (32):** 1-Robert Gold (NV), 2-Nabil El-Ramby (NV)



A tame photograph from "Trip Aces."

# WINNER'S CIRCLE



NOV.—DEC. 2001

•**48th Gammon Associates Invitational—ABT** (Los Angeles, Ca; 2-4 Nov.)... OPEN (46): 1-Sho Sengoku, 2-Ray Baker, 3-Oliver Fink; 1C-Odis Chenault, 2C-Peter Zacks. ADVANCED(24): 1-Jacquie Lee, 2-Tim LeGlaire; 1C-Charles Toots, 2C-Karim Jahangard. SUPER 32 (32): 1-Doug Mayfield, 2-Eliot Bean, 3/4-Paul Gedigian / David Taniguchi. DOUBLES (16): 1-Azzam Masarani & Patrick Gibson, 2-Joseph Bina & Yahyah. ONE POINT BLITZ (96): 1-Saul Meir, 2-Matt Armbruster, 3-Bill Papa.

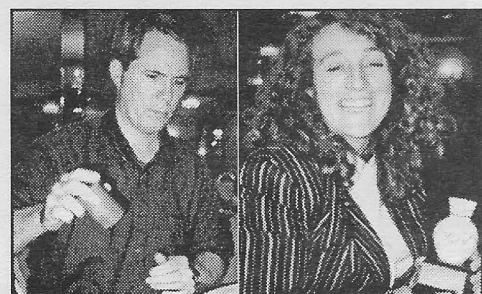
•**Townharbour Trophy Tourney** (Coventry, England; 10-11 Nov.)... OPEN (66): 1-Mardi Ohannessian, 2-Graham Brittain. FRIDAY KO (16): 1-David Nathan, 2-Peter Bennet. DOUBLES (16): 1-R. Swyter, 2-By Royal Appointment.

•**23rd Flint Club Championships** (Flint, MI; 11 Nov.)... OPEN (32): 1-Jim Slomkoski, 2-Judy Field, 3-Rick Todd, 4/5/6-Ralph Dietz / Gino Dinardo / Harry Tokatlian. INTERMEDIATE (32): 1-Jewell Morris, 2-Rudy Silich, 3/4-Dave Emerson / Scottie Flora, 5/6-Nancy Ishac / Walt Smith. NOVICE (8): 1-Fran Miller (Ohio), 2-Dan Clark.

•**Backgammon by the Bay Monthly** (Oakland, CA; 11 Nov.)... OPEN (8): 1-Bob Gekas, 2-Doug Wilson; 1C-Dana Nazarian. INTERMEDIATE (11): 1-Murry Work, 2-Sean Holcolme; 1C/2C-Stuart Edwards / Mike Flashner. BEGINNER (7): 1/2-Frank Berkenkotter / Hideo Tateno.

•**NEBC Sunday Monthly** (Somerville, MA; 11 Nov.)... EXPERT (24): 1-Herb Gurland, 2-Brad Mampe, 3/4-Dan Chicoine / Seth Towle; 1C-Marty Storer, 2C-Ed Ahola. A/B DIV. (11): 1-Ahmet Bayder, 2-Rich Waddington; 1C-Ken Weissman, 2C-Alex Myers.

•**Bar Point Club Fall Trophy Tourney** (Chicago, IL; 13 Nov.)... OPEN (27): 1-Tim Carroll, 2-Phyllis Smolinski, 3/4-Richard Lloyd / Tak Morioka; 1C-David Wells, 2C-Jake Jacobs. INTERMEDIATE (28): 1-Jolie Rubin, 2-Femi Owiku, 3/4-Barbara Levinson / David Araiza; 1C-Norma Shyer, 2C-Eric Johnson. ONE POINT TOURNEY (32): 1-Keith Kuligowski, 2-Paul Baraz.



2001 Bar Point Club Fall Trophy Champions Tim Carroll (Open) and Jolie Rubin (Intermediate).

•**Minnesota State Championships—ABT** (Bloomington, MN; 16-18 Nov.)... OPEN (20): 1-Richard Del Furia (MN), 2-Art Moore (CA); 1C-Sam Pottle (WI). ADVANCED(21): 1-Ron Kompelien (MN), 2-Quentin Krueger (Canada); 1C-Steve Maas (MN). NOVICE (6): 1/2/3: Jenifer Loades (Canada) / Molly Brown (MN) / Travis Carlson (MN). AUTUMN JACKPOT (8): 1-Emil Mortuk (MI). DOUBLES (8): 1-Bill Davis & Peter Kalba (IL). MINIMATCH (64): 1-Ralph Stowell (MN). MICROBLITZ (16): 1-Steve Brown (MN). AFTER TOURNAMENT TOURNAMENT (8): 1-Steve Maas (MN).

•**Redwood Empire Monthly** (San Rafael, CA; 17 Nov.)... OPEN (6): 1-Roger Gabrielson. INTERMEDIATE (6): 1-Fred Ciaramaglia.

•**7th Ohio State Championships—ABT** (Middleburg Hts., OH; 23-25 Nov.)... OPEN (11): 1-Paul Berg (MI), 2-Jim Pascoe (CT); 1C-Mary Hickey (OH). ADVANCED(14): 1-Barry Murphy (OH), 2-Joan Hac (KY); 1C-Bonnie Rogoff (OH). NOVICE (12): 1-Nick Murphy (OH), 2-Lois Merriman (MI); 1C-Marlene Murphy (OH). OHIO MASTERS (6): 1-Emil Mortuk (MI). LIMITED DOUBLES (5): 1-Pete Esposito & Barry Murphy (OH). BLITZ: 1-Jim Slomkoski (MI).

•**Ace Point Monthly** (New York, NY; 25 Nov.)... OPEN (12): 1-Henrik Gwinner, 2-Alix Pasquet; 1C-Philippe El-Asmar. INTERMEDIATE (8): 1-Eydie Noble, 2-Boris Dekhtyar; 1C-Jonas Sjolander.

•**Bar Point Sunday** (Oakbrook Terrace, IL; 2 Dec.)... OPEN (11): 1-Tom Meyer, 2-Tim Carroll; 1C/2C-Joe Wollick / Tak Morioka. INTERMEDIATE (8): 1-Tom Roberts; 1C-Richard Stawowy, 2C-Barbara Levinson.

•**First Cancun Open** (Cancun, Mexico; 4-9 Dec.)... OPEN (32): 1-Hugh Sconyers (USA), 2-Sakura Sugawara (USA), 3/4-Bob Wachtel (USA) / Ken Arnold (USA); 1C-Morten Holm (DEN), 2C-Morten Nielsen (DEN); 1LC-Mads Andersen (DEN). INTERMEDIATE (18): 1-David Hennessy (AUS), 2-Kate Elmore (USA); 1LC-Claus Berggreen (DEN). MASTERS (16): 1-Morten Holm (DEN), 2-Paul Magriel (USA). SUPER JACKPOT: 1-Howard Markowitz (USA), 2-Arman Karamian (GEO). LADIES CUP (8): 1-Kate Elmore (USA), 2-Hanna Nielsen (NOR). DOUBLES (8): 1-Nielsen & Schmucki.

•**Houston Club Tournament of Champions** (Houston, TX; 8 Dec.)... OPEN (16): 1-Gary Fomby, 2-Duncan Cooper; 1C-Paul Marshall, 2C-Rod Sprouse; 1LC-Bob Rucoba.

•**Springfield Series #2** (Bloomington, IL; 8 Dec.)... OPEN (23): 1-Greg Tomlin, 2-Sean Garber (IN); 1C-Randy Armstrong, 2C-William Hutchison; 1LC-Michael Plog.

•**Double Five Club Tournament** (London, England; 16 Dec.)... OPEN: 1-Murray Sharp, 2-Engin Ongel, 3/4-AI Hogg / Jim Johnson.

•**Pattaya Christmas Tournament** (Pattaya, Thailand; Dec. 22-23)... OPEN (32): 1-Wills Brunings (HOL), 2-Markus Michels (GER),

3/4-John Slattery (UK) / Bruno Orsuni (ITA); 1C-Tom Grant (UK).

•**Flint Club Holiday Doubles** (Flint, MI; 27 Dec.)... OPEN (13 teams): 1-Jack Takala & Jewell Morris.

•**Ace Point Club Holiday Tournament—ABT** (New York, NY; 29-30 Dec.)... OPEN (24 +8): 1-Jeremy Bagai (PA), 2-Reza Rezai (NY), 3/4-Bill Finneran (VA) / Eric Haber (NY); 1C-Phil Laak (NY), 2C-Marc Freeman (NY); 1LC-Andy Rubien (NY). ONE POINT MATCH (32): 1-Noah Siegel. PARIS SATELLITE (8): 1-Eric Haber (NY). Δ

## 2001 PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

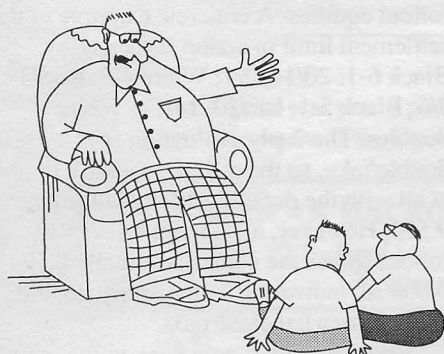
### NATIONAL (Alphabetized by State)

2001 American BG Tour: *Jake Jacobs* (AZ)  
Phoenix Backgammon Club (AZ): *Doug Amenda*  
Gammon Associates (CA): *Steve Sax*  
BG By The Bay (CA): *Elliott Winslow, Cindy Moss*  
Redwood Empire BG Club (CA): *David Montgomery*  
South Florida Backgammon Club (FL): *Al Tesoro*  
Atlanta Backgammon Assn. (GA): *Greg Cattanach*  
Chicago Bar Point Club (IL): *Bob Zavoral*  
Pub Club (IL): *Joe Wollick*  
Games People Play (IL): *Femi Owiku*  
Peoria Backgammon Club (IL): *Milad Doueihy*  
T/P Backgammon Club (IL): *J.A. Miller*  
Winnetka Backgammon Club (IL): *Ed Buerger*  
Sangamon Valley BG Assn. (IL): *Michael Plog*  
Bloomington-Normal BG Club (IL): *Ed Bauder*  
Hoosier Backgammon Club (IN): *Jim Curtis*  
Beltway Backgammon Club (MD): *Ed Maslansky*  
New England BG Club (MA): Expert: *Seth Towle*, A Div.: *Marty Gross*, Wed. Wizard: *Alex Zamanian*.  
Flint Area Backgammon Club (MI): *Rick Todd*  
Grand Rapids BG Club (MI): *Michael Darooge*  
Plymouth Backgammon Club (MI): *Dean Adamian*  
Troy Backgammon Club (MI): *Sal Chehayeb*  
Universal Backgammon Series (MI): *Cornel Radu*  
Twin Cities BG Club (MN): *Fred Kalantari*  
Charlotte Backgammon Club (NC): *Jeb Horton*  
New Jersey BG Club (NJ): *Robert Sahagian*  
Ace Point Backgammon Club (NY): *Boris Golubov*  
Ohio State Backgammon Club (OH): *Mary Hickey*  
Pittsburgh Backgammon Club (PA): *Abbas Zaltash*  
Nashville Backgammon Club (TN): *Bruce Dimattia*  
Austin Backgammon Assn. (TX): *Jackie Seiders-Smart*  
Dallas Backgammon League (TX): *Tom Wheeler*  
Houston Backgammon Club (TX): *Gary Fomby*  
Puget Sound BG Club (WA): *Ruth Robbins*  
Madison Backgammon Club (WI): *Bill Minser*

### INTERNATIONAL

European Champion: *François Tardieu* (France)  
Denmark Champion: *Lars Bonding*  
Finland Champion: *Teppo Salo*  
Italian Champion: *Roberto Terenziani*  
National Capital BG Club (Canada): *Robert Lessard*  
British Isles Backgammon Club (UK): *Paul Lamford*  
Double 5s Backgammon Club (UK): *Engin Ongel*  
Lincoln Backgammon Club (UK): *Jeff Lees*





## UNCLE JAKE PUTS IT IN PERSPECTIVE

by Jake Jacobs

"You mix a mean Margarita, Nicko."

"May I taste it, Uncle Jake?"

"You're too young, Nick. Wait until you're twelve, or in 7th Grade, whichever comes first. That's an incentive to skip grades, like your Uncle Jake."

"Weren't you going to tell us about Las Vegas Uncle Jake?"

"I was indeed. I just needed a cocktail in hand, to put me in the Vegas mood. Let's see . . . It was last month, at the fall tournament at Harrah's. It was the Super Jackpot, the semifinals . . ."

"Is that good, Uncle Jake?"

"That's very good, Alex. The players still alive were very good, too. One of them was Rick B. Years ago someone called him an 'Intergalactic Super Nova.'"

"Why did they call him that?"

"He's an up and coming young player, and 'Intergalactic Super Nova' is better than 'Rising Star.'"

"If they called him that years ago, how can he still be young?"

"He's a star, Nick. They have their own time frame."

"So if he's the star, is he going to win?"

"Where's the suspense Alex? Wait and see. Besides, he was playing a very tough guy. A very tough guy."

"Who was that, Uncle Jake?"

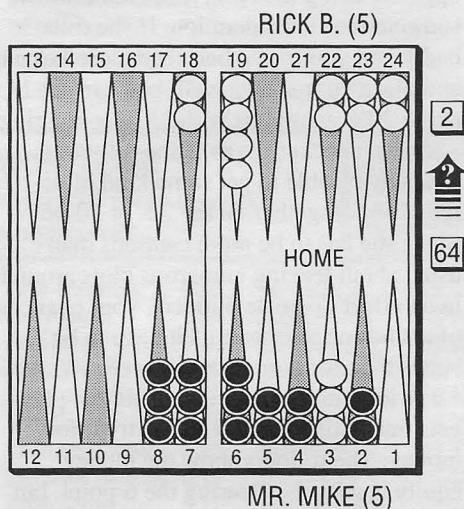
"They call him 'Mr. Mike.' Mr. Mike is so tough the players in New York sacrifice virgins to him, just to keep him from redoubling."

"Awesome!"

"What's a virgin?"

"A virgin is . . . someone in a different story, Alex. Anyway, Mr. Mike was ahead 11-5 to 15, and about to roll in the follow-in position:

Las Vegas Super Jackpot 15-point semifinals. Mr. Mike (Black) leads Rick B. (White), 11-5. **SHOULD BLACK DOUBLE?**



"He should double! Right Uncle Jake?"

"Good call, Nick. But Mr. Mike is pretty smart. Even though the robots say double, he noticed that with almost anything he rolled, he could cash next time, so he had a free shot at playing for a gammon."

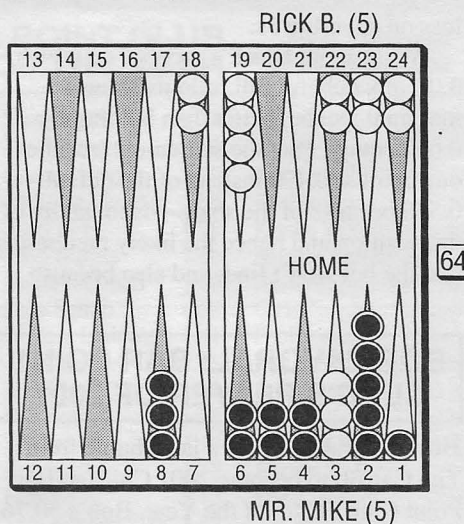
"Did he roll almost anything?"

"Nope, he rolled something else. He rolled 5-5."

"Was that bad?"

"See for yourself."

Mr. Mike (Black) has just rolled and played an ugly 5-5.



"Thomas!"

"Yes Alex, his 2-point looks like one of Thomas the Tank Engine's trains. We'll call it his two-two point. And about now Mr. Mike was feeling like a caboose! Then Rick B. rolled 2-1, and made his 5-point."

"So Mr. Mike was in trouble?"

"Not really. It was like shooting a rhino

with a bow and arrow—it just made Mr. Mike mad!"

"So what did he do?"

"He doubled."

"Did Rick B. run home crying? That's what Kevin, in my class, always does."

"Intergalactic Super Novas don't cry. Besides, Rick B. is also a pretty smart guy. He saw that Mr. Mike had lots of bad 5s and 6s, so he took. Mr. Mike rolled a bad six, a 6-2. Rick B hit with 4-1, and Mr. Mike fanned."

"Did Rick B. redouble?"

"He sure did, Nick!"

"And then did Mr. Mike try sacrificing a virgin?"

"What's a virgin?"

"No he didn't, Nick. That's a later story Alex. Anyway, it turns out to be a very close decision. He wins about 29%, with nearly 5% being gammon wins, but he loses around 4% gammons, so it really is a tossup. Anyway, he took, and he lost four points."

"Then Mr. Mike wasn't so tough after all?"

"Let me tell you a story . . ."

"I thought you were telling us a story."

"This is another story! Do you think I only have one story?"

"No Uncle Jake. We never think that!"

"Harumph! There was a married couple. They were in Las Vegas. The wife tells her husband she just lost \$100 playing the slots. He's really upset. He says, 'How could you lose \$100? What's the matter with you?' She says, 'But honey, last night you lost \$4000 playing craps.' He says, 'Yeah, but that's because I know how to gamble!'"

"I don't get it, Uncle Jake."

"It's simple, Nick. Look at the first position I showed you. Any beginner could win one point there. It takes a really great player to lose four!"—Jake Jacobs Δ

## 2002 Midwest Championships Wyndham Lisle Rate Cut:

\$79/night (single or double occ.)

\$89/night with breakfast for 2.

Reserve today:

800/WYNDHAM or 630/505-1000

**"The Case  
of the  
Deadly Roll"**

Solve the mystery!

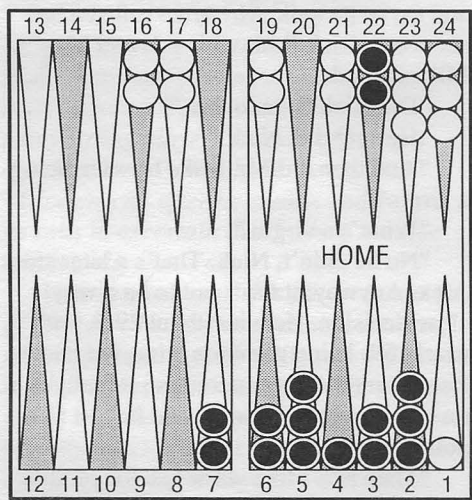
Info: 773-583-6464



# PROBLEM #277 ANALYZED

by Mary Hickey

Match to 9 points. White leads Black 8-7 Crawford. **BLACK TO PLAY 4-2.**



There are five reasonable moves to consider here, representing four different approaches to this problem.

One approach is to split the back checkers and let White play, hoping she'll be forced to open up another man for you to hit and possibly gammon her for the match. For money, the best play along these lines would be 22/18, 4/2, since the "double split" of 22/18, 22/20 would give White a few too many hitting numbers that could lead to you being the one getting gammoned. The double split also takes away your defense, however tenuous, on the 22-point, quite possibly for good.

However, the double split deserves a longer look at this can't-get-gammoned score. It does have the key advantage of maximizing your chance to make a 6-prime, which would practically lock the game up without eliminating your chance to get a second checker, either with a shot from the back now or by later recirculation. Another factor in its favor is that the ace you need to complete the prime is a number you can't use either to re-enter if you're hit or to leap if you're not.

Another approach is hit White on the ace point, hoping to freeze her on the bar but keeping some options with the back checkers if that fails. 5/1\*, 4/2 is the safest play toward this end. This doesn't give up completely on the gammon, but with the 4-point open, little wood in the zone, and a buried spare, you'll probably need a second checker to win one.

Along this same line is the all-out hit-

and-split approach, 5/1\*, 22/20. This play would be insane if White's gammons mattered and yours didn't, but with the opposite being the case, it has to be worth some serious consideration. If she rolls badly and you freeze her, then close her out and place your spares well, you can get about 20% gammons without ever bagging a second checker. Even if she rolls well, you may be able to get some kind of defense back together on the 22- or 20-point. Since she has to be more cautious than usual about leaving numerous blots around in an effort to create builders, your chances of anchoring after being hit have to be better than for money at this score.

A little digression here: This last play gets interesting quickly if you try it for money. The rollouts show the money equity is with the clearing the 6-point, but your opponent might try this play instead if she's the sort who thinks stratospheric cubes are one of life's greatest thrills. Can you then (legitimately) double from the bar? Certainly not if you own the cube already, but with the Jacoby Rule in force, cubeful rollouts suggest a marginal center cube that could actually be that former Blarney Stone of BG, the correct center double/beaver! The rollouts show White winning 20-21% gammons when Black owns the cube, and his market loss with unanswered 4s is serious. With the cube centered, if White doesn't double, Black will do so if White fans, not because of the Jacoby Rule but because of his big market loss on covering 3s.

What about Black's recube? JellyFish 3.0 1-ply cubeful full rollouts show a marginal recube, better than holding by 0.042 equity. I set the settlement (recube-out) limit at 0.490 instead of the default of 0.550 because of the sharp-edged nature of the position and hence the likely recube-ins that the bot won't find, and also because

JellyFish had been consistently evaluating these positions a little lower than the rollout equities. A concrete example of this settlement limit in action is the parlay Black 6-1: 20/14, 2/1; White 4-3: bar/21\*, 9/6; Black 5-1: bar/20, 14/13; White doubles. The 2-ply evaluation says +0.501, double/take, so the rollout wouldn't double at all with the default settlement limit of 0.550. However, a 720-trial full 2-ply rollout shows the equity is actually 0.594 at 0.008 sd, indicating a mandatory double and a somewhat close pass.

Enough of that; now back to the main problem:

Finally, if you don't care for either hitting or splitting, there's always the conservative 6/2, 6/4, good for generating shots at a second checker as long as the opponent doesn't roll a 5. This play might be best for money, especially if the cube is still centered. White has many rolls that spring a second checker loose, giving you a center double with a bit of bluff potential in some cases, such as following a 2-1 by her. (A recube would still be a peach or two short of a pie because of your missing 6-point.) If instead White does roll a 5, in most cases you'll have enough remaining equity in your stranded 22-anchor game to take a cube from her next turn. At the actual score, this approach has the shot-producing benefit noted above plus the preservation of your remaining race equity, which isn't negligible even though you're still eight pips behind after your play.

My first impression was that clearing the 6-point would be best for money, but that 5/1\*, 22/20 hit-and-split was best at the score. This was JellyFish's first impression also. For money, its 3-ply evaluation gave first place to clearing the 6-point by 0.048 (+0.020 versus -0.028 for 22/18, 4/2). At the score, it moved 5/1\*, 22/20,

[Continued on page 11]

## BOB ZAVORAL: BAR POINT CLUB'S PLAYER OF 2001

Bob Zavoral survived a late charge from Tim Carroll to become 2001 Chicago Bar Point Club Player of the Year. Bob's 30.76 total was enough to hold off Carroll (2000 BPC's Top Player) who went from 7th and 11 points behind in October to 2nd and just 3.94 back at year's end. Tim Mabee finished 3rd.

A great year for Zavoral as he accumulated the 4th highest point total in BPC history. Bob, a master boardmaker, also had the highest-ever Netgammon ranking in 2001.

The top 20 finishers will be honored at BPC awards night 15 Jan. at the Golden Flame. Δ





## PROBLEM 277...

[Continued from page 10]

which it had rated a blunder for money, into first place by 0.015 (+0.153 for 5/1, 22/20 versus +0.138 for 22/18, 4/2 and +0.137 for 6/2, 6/4). At the score, the double split came in fourth at +0.111.

I felt that rollouts for a position with differences this fine needed to be handled with caution, so I ran 2880 full cubeless 2-ply trials for each of the five serious candidate plays. I then calculated the match equities at the score the same way I would try to do over the board—by adding the gammons to the win rate and dividing by two, which is equivalent to adding up the equity components separately but requires less mental arithmetic. Finally, since the differences among the three leading contenders were still quite small, I ran some signal cases to see whether the bot would play key positions that might arise in such a way as to maximize equity.

In a photo finish, the conservative 6/2, 6/4 with 28.15% match equity edged out the double split 22/18, 22/20 with 28.0%, based on the 2-ply rollouts. Close behind in third place was all-out hitting play, 5/1\*, 22/20, which gave 27.85% match equity. Trailing all of these were the two plays that tried to hedge by saving the blot on the 4-point: 22/18, 4/2 gave 26.6% match equity, and 5/1\*, 4/2 gave only 25.95%. For money, the conservative 6-clearing play was clearly best, with all other plays being blunders, despite the potentially profitable immediate cube actions we saw above following 5/1\*, 22/20. Clearing the 6-point play was also best at double match-point (49.8% wins versus 47.4% for the next contender, the all-out 5/1\*, 22/20), and in gammon-save situations.

Do these numbers show the conservative play to be better than the next two contenders at this gammon-go score also? Maybe, though with 2-ply rollout standard deviations all in the 0.004–0.005 range, the significance of these small differences leaves plenty of room for doubt. If it can be shown that the bot makes signal errors in the play of the games following any of the top plays, this could swing the equity enough to widen, eliminate, or even reverse these small differences.

The play for White following 6/2, 6/4 is quite straightforward, and I can't see where JellyFish would have any problems with it. I did, however, spot a glitch in the follow-up to the double split, and occasionally the hit-and-split as well. The bots are well-known to close their boards quickly after

forming a full prime, rather than try to recirculate and get a second checker. This turned out to be true here when I ran cases where Black made his prime, hit on the ace, then had to choose between covering the ace point with a 6, or leaving it slotted in an effort to pick up another checker. White had left open in his board. JellyFish covered at the first opportunity on its 1- and 2-ply play levels, but “found” the waiting play on 3-ply. Since the rollouts are 2-ply, I have to assume it made this error every time the situation arose.

Though it doesn't happen a great deal, and the error isn't huge either, it doesn't take much to swing a match equity difference of only 0.15%. Since I don't perceive any canceling effects favoring the other play, my conclusion here is that within boundaries of our uncertainties, 6/2, 6/4 and 22/18, 22/20 must both be considered equally good solutions to this problem.

Given how close a contender the third-place play, 5/1\*, 22/20, turned out to be, is its concept completely wrong? Does JellyFish make any signal errors comparable to those we found with the double split? Or does that dillied builder on the deuce point leave you just overextended enough to make it a little too hard to bring the game home? I'm not aware of any repeating errors in the bot's follow-up play, other than once in awhile closing the board too soon, as with the double split. To see the effect of the dilly builder, I tried a few cases where the builder from the 2-point instead starts on the 5-point with the other one. This makes it much easier for Black to cover his 4-point next roll if the slot survives, plus it opens up the possibility of his getting an immediate full prime after the hit-and-split as well as after the double split play. This change makes the hit-and-split clearly correct at this score (gammon go) and also double match point, since it wins the most games and also the most gammons. However, the gammons it loses keep it from being best for money, where 5/1\*, 4/2 (hit-and-hedge?) now comes out in front, or at gammon save, where the blot-free 6/2, 6/4 is best once again.

The concept may be reasonable, but it seems the third-place play remains slightly worse than the top two choices. The correct answer is a tie between two very different approaches—the waiting play of 6/2, 6/4 and the more volatile and forcing double split, 22/18, 22/20. Much of the skill in backgammon involves deciding whether potential gains are commensurate with the risks involved in attempting to achieve them, and here it appears they are in perfect balance.—*Mary Hickey* Δ

## AMALGAMATION

We're happy to report on a room rate reduction to \$79 (\$89 with breakfast for two) at the Wyndham Lisle for the 2002 Midwest Championships (22–24 March). Reserve today. Rates are guaranteed until 8 March... Recent Bar Point Club visitors: **Nick Hamar** (UK), **Bob Gekas** (CA), Good luck to **Dr. Martin Short** (ND) who takes over maintenance of the WWW Backgammon Pages from **Stephen Turner** (UK). Check out [www.gammoned.com](http://www.gammoned.com) today... Longtime backgammon director **Mike Maxakuli** (NV) collapsed at the recent Las Vegas Open and was taken to the hospital. The good news was that it wasn't a stroke or heart attack and Max is fine now... Lots of club changes have occurred over the past few months, all of which can be found in the new 2002 listing of Backgammon Clubs in North America (pp. 5–6)... Condolences on the passing of **Tim Helms** who was hit by a car while riding his bicycle in mid-November. At the time of his death, Tim was actively trying to build a backgammon club in Lincoln, Nebraska. Also to **Allen Zimmerman** who died of a heart attack in October. Allen was active in Chicagoland backgammon 1993–1995. Finally, we offer our sympathy to **Roz Ferris** of GamesGrid who lost her husband on 15 November... **Paul Baeyens** (Belgium) sent us an e-mail about his new Antwerp Backgammon Club. For more details, go to [www.backgammon.be](http://www.backgammon.be)... **Tom Wright** (TX) received a nice gift from his club members following a successful first year as director of the Houston Backgammon Club. The effort was organized by **Greg Schmidt** (TX)... Milwaukee director **Rudy Langenbach** (WI) continues his work in an effort to hold a 2002 Wisconsin State Championship later this year. Stay tuned... Former Pub Club director **Val Zimnicki** (IL) is executive producer of a new production just opened at the Theatre Building in Chicago (1225 W. Belmont): “Penis” Responses to the Vagina Muse.” For reservations and info, call 773/327-5252... After two years as a free Internet site, GammonVillage is readying to charge subscription fees. According to an e-mail by **Mel Dragicevic**, “We’ve now reached a crucial stage in our growth where we need to create some revenue in order to continue our mission and we are counting on your support.” Details are at [www.gammonvillage.com](http://www.gammonvillage.com)... **Tobey Maguire**, soon to star in the summer blockbuster “Spiderman” loves backgammon. According to an online article by **Angela Matusik**, “It doesn't take long to realize that this is no random pastime for the 24-year-old. In fact, he's damn good at it. His real skill is making his opponents feel comfortable with their inevitable defeat.” Δ

Members of the Ace Point Club have generously donated to the Twin Towers Fund:

<http://www.ci.nyc.ny.us/html/em/twintowersfund.html>

Thanks to the hundreds of firefighters and police officers  
who work so hard to make this city safe.

## Ace Point Club NYC

*Alan and Lourdes Steffen wish you happy games in 2002.*

41 East 60th Street, New York City, USA 10022

212-753-0842 • [asteffen@nyc.rr.com](mailto:asteffen@nyc.rr.com)

