

FLASH! Chicago Bar Point Club is moving to a new Tuesday night location July 16, 2002. See page 8 for Grand Opening information.

CHICAGO POINT

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A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

JULY/AUG. 2002

superhead

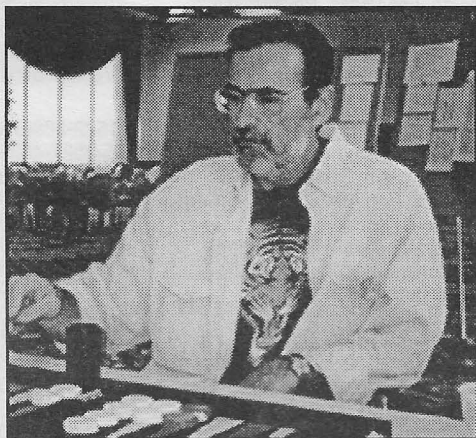
CORBETT WINS THREE EVENTS IN VEGAS

Magriel & Wheeler Also Win Big

Tom Wheeler, Mike Corbett, and Paul Magriel shared the spotlight at the 9th Worldwide Twin Backgammon Championships 11-16 June in Las Vegas, Nevada. The event, staged by the Nevada Backgammon Association and organized by Howard Markowitz, drew an ultra-strong crowd of 250 players to the Riveria Hotel's beautiful penthouse playing room.

19TH NEVADA STATE TOURNAMENT

Dallas Backgammon League director Tom Wheeler enjoyed a \$12,000 payday (biggest of his life) winning the prestigious Nevada State Tournament. Wheeler rallied against New Yorker Rick Barabino (down 5-11 to 13) and then against California's Ray Baker (down 0-11 to 13) to reach the penultimate match against Chicagoan Herb Roman. A thrilling double match-point victory sent Tom into the finals.



Dallas Backgammon League director Tom Wheeler remained in control during his quest for the Nevada State title.

On the other half of the drawsheet, veteran player Ed Bennett from New Mexico was busy shocking Ray Fogelund (CA) and then Ed O'Laughlin (FL) in the semifinals to guarantee his best tournament finish ever.

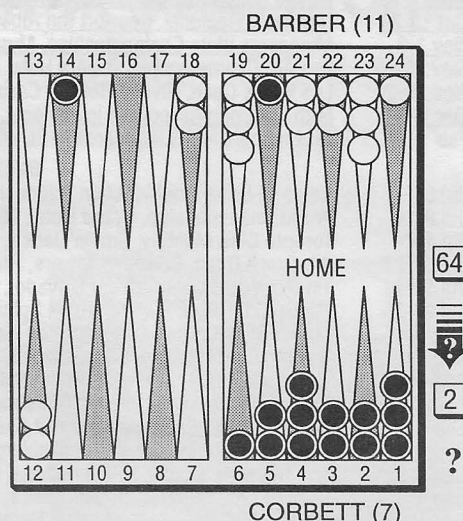
Wheeler was a big favorite in the 15-point Championship match, but Bennett fought valiantly. Then with the score tied at 8-all, Tom took command eventually finishing with a doubled gammon to make the final score 15-9.

9TH INTERNATIONAL CUP

The International Cup was the equity event of the tournament boasting \$10,000 added prize money. The format required players to win a round-of-8 to qualify for the playoffs. When the dust settled, the final-four were Mike Corbett (FL) vs. Bill Robertie (MA) and Brian Barber (IL) vs. Diane Haley (TX). Exciting victories by Corbett and Barber set the stage for the 15-point championship.

Barber, an up-and-coming player fought toe-to-toe with his experienced competitor building up an 11-7 lead in the 15-point finals after 12 games. Then in pivotal game 13:

15-point International Cup finals. Brian Barber (White) leads Mike Corbett (Black) 11 to 7. White on roll. **CUBE ACTIONS?**

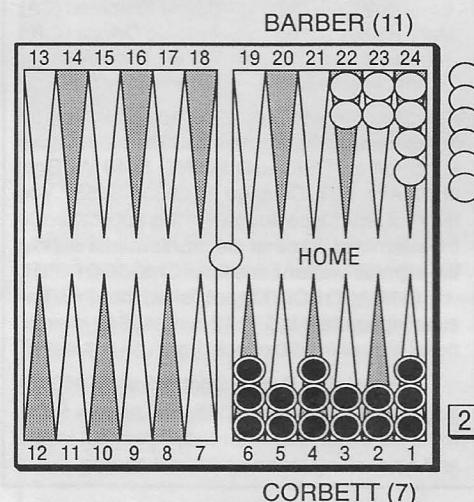


A very risky double by Brian which Mike correctly scooped. Barber then tossed a 3-2 opting to cover his ace rather than hit. Mike rolled 4-1 playing 14/9. Next Brian tossed a crushing 2-2, completing his closed board on Corbett's head.

But it wasn't over. With Corbett dancing on the bar, Brian was forced to leave a back door shot which Mike hit. An awkward

bear-in forced the following position:

15-point International Cup finals. Brian Barber (White) leads Mike Corbett (Black) 11 to 7. **BLACK TO PLAY A '4.'**



Corbett played the very risky 4/off leaving an extremely awkward spare on his 6-point. His 3-2 next let him play 6/1. Then Mike doubled giving Brian an easy take. Mike survived one more blunder in the bear-off to tie the score at 11-all en route to a 15-12 victory.

Corbett made no excuses for his mistakes, but one explanation could be the number of matches he played throughout

[Continued on page 5]



Mike Corbett had a great tournament winning the International Cup, Seniors event, and Doubles Tourney with Danielle Bastarache (shown above).

CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

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LETTERS

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"THE GIRLS" WALLPAPER

"The Girls" makes a great computer background. As soon as I heard about it, I visited chicagopoint.com and "wallpapered" my computer screen.—*Doug Rodgers, Chicago, IL*

Yea! "The Girls" look sharp on my computer. Thanks.—*Tom Wright, director, Houston Backgammon Club*

DOUBLED ABT POINTS?

I checked the newsletter and it looks like my ABT points doubled between April and May. The same is true for all who cashed at the Carolina Invitational last January 2002.—*Glen de Guzman, Pleasanton, CA*

Thanks for the "heads up" which is now corrected, Glen. We inadvertently altered the ABT "totals" formula creating the mix-up.—*Ed.*

[Continued on page 3]

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



by Carol Joy Cole
810/232-9731
cjc@tir.com

* Denotes new or revised listing

NATIONAL

American Backgammon Tour events underlined.

Jul 6	Northwest Indiana Gammon Monthly, VFW Hall, Porter, Indiana	219/785-2082
Jul 13	Firecracker Classic, Triple Crown Sports Bar, Houston, Texas	281/556-0428
Jul 14	Ohio State Club Monthly, Thirsty Dog Brewery, Akron, Ohio	330/866-2811
Jul 14*	South Florida Monthly, Sheraton Suites Hotel, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida	954/564-0340
Jul 16*	NEW LOCATION: Bar Point Tuesday Grand Opening, Blue Angel, Chicago, Illinois	773/583-6464
Jul 18	Third Thursday Bonus (Indiana Open), Days Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Jul 20	Redwood Empire Monthly, Embassy Suites Hotel, San Rafael, California	707/477-6430
Jul 21*	NEW DATE: Backgammon by the Bay Monthly, TGI Friday's, Oakland, California	931/688-9722
Jul 26-28	Tahoe BG Fiesta, Horizons Hotel/Casino, South Lake Tahoe, Nevada	650/323-1111
Jul 27	Georgia Warm-up & Peach Qualifier, Mazzy's Sports Bar, Roswell, Georgia	770/333-1876
Jul 27	Michigan Club Challenge, Box Bar, Plymouth, Michigan	734/981-5706
Jul 28	Milwaukee Club Monthly, John Hawks Pub, Milwaukee, Wisconsin	414/962-8549
Jul 28*	Greater Columbus Club Monthly, Lucky's Grille, Hilliard, Ohio	614/771-0981
Jul 28	Ace Point Monthly Tournament, Ace Point Club, New York, New York	212/753-8042
Aug 1*	MSN Gammonzone Medallion Monthly, via computer	GZMedallion@gammonzone.net
Aug 1*	Official GamesGrid Monthly Tournament, via computer	tournaments@cyberarts.com
Aug 2-4	<u>Thousand Islands Tourney, Pine Tree Point, Alexandria Bay, New York</u>	716/387-0767
Aug 3	Northwest Indiana Gammon Monthly, VFW Hall, Porter, Indiana	219/785-2082
Aug 3	Universal Mall Bimonthly Series #4, All the King's Men, Warren, Michigan	313/381-6639
Aug 4*	NEW LOCATION: Bar Point Sunday, Champs, Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois	773/252-7755
Aug 4	Ohio State Club Monthly, Thirsty Dog Brewery, Akron, Ohio	330/866-2811
Aug 6	Boise "Dinner for the Winner" Monthly, Papa Joe's Pizza, Boise, Idaho	208/342-8865
Aug 8-11	<u>Georgia Championships & Peach Cup, Hilton Garden Inn, Atlanta, Georgia</u>	770/333-1876
Aug 10*	Hot As Hades Open, Triple Crown Sports Bar, Houston, Texas	281/556-0428
Aug 11*	Backgammon by the Bay Monthly, TGI Friday's, Oakland, California	931/688-9722
Aug 11*	South Florida Monthly, Sheraton Suites Hotel, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida	954/564-0340
Aug 17*	Redwood Empire Monthly, Embassy Suites Hotel, San Rafael, California	707/477-6430
Aug 17-18	Summer Sizzler Picnic & Tourney, Zell's, W. Peoria & Sly Fox, Lacon, Illinois	309/674-0557
Aug 18*	Austin Club Bimonthly Tournament, JC's Bar & Grill, Austin, Texas	512/261-8518
Aug 22*	Third Thursday Bonus (Indiana Open), Days Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Aug 25*	Greater Columbus Club Monthly, Lucky's Grille, Hilliard, Ohio	614/771-0981
Aug 25*	Milwaukee Club Monthly, John Hawks Pub, Milwaukee, Wisconsin	414/962-8549
Aug 30-Sep 2	<u>50th Indiana Open, Sheraton Hotel & Suites, Indianapolis, Indiana</u>	317/255-8902
Aug 31*	Northwest Indiana Gammon Monthly, VFW Hall, Porter, Indiana	219/785-2082
Aug 31*	Ace Point Monthly Tournament, Ace Point Club, New York, New York	212/753-8042
Sep 3*	Boise "Dinner for the Winner" Monthly, Papa Joe's Pizza, Boise, Idaho	208/342-8865
Sep 8*	Backgammon by the Bay Monthly, TGI Friday's, Oakland, California	931/688-9722
Sep 8*	Ohio State Club Monthly, Thirsty Dog Brewery, Akron, Ohio	330/866-2811
Sep 8*	South Florida Monthly, Sheraton Suites Hotel, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida	954/564-0340
Sep 14-15	Jon Viator Invitational Cup, Viator residence, La Jolla, California	818/901-0464
Sep 27-29	<u>Towpath Inn Tournament, Towpath Inn, Turin, New York</u>	716/387-0767
Oct 4-6	<u>Florida State Championships, Sheraton Suites, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida</u>	954/564-0340
Oct 11-13	<u>Illinois State Championships, Springfield Hilton, Springfield, Illinois</u>	217/528-0117
Oct 18-20	<u>Northeast Regional, Comfort Inn Albany Airport, Latham, New York</u>	603/863-4711
Nov 1-3	<u>Minnesota State Championships, Mystic Lake Casino, Prior Lake, Minnesota</u>	763/682-1716
Nov 16-20*	Pro-Am Championship, Riviera Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada	702/893-6025
Nov 20-24*	Las Vegas Open, Riviera Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada	702/893-6025
Dec 6-8*	<u>50th Gammon Associates Invitational, A.R. Private Club, Los Angeles, California</u>	818/901-0464
Feb 1-8	BG on Board VI, Ft. Lauderdale/ St. Maarten/St. Thomas, Golden Princess	773/583-6464

OUTSIDE USA

Jul 6-7	Keren Di Bona Trophy, Hilton National Hotel, Coventry, England	441522-888676
Jul 8-14	World Championship, Grand Hotel, Monte Carlo, Monaco	USA contact: 954/527-4033
Jul 14*	Toronto Club Monthly, Smilin' Jack's, Toronto, Ontario, Canada	416/722-9709
Jul 17-21	4th Czech Open, Corinthia Towers, Prague, Czech Republic	Germany: 49911-409505
Jul 19-21	1st Praia de Gaubim Open, Salvador, South Bahia, Brazil	55719-1357820
Jul 25-28	7th Grand Prix de Lugano, Hotel Splendide Royal, Lugano, Switzerland	4179-3374425
Aug 3-4	Studio Anne Carlton Trophy, Hilton National Hotel, Coventry, England	44152-2888676
Aug 11*	Toronto Club Monthly, Smilin' Jack's, Toronto, Ontario, Canada	416/722-9709
Aug 16-18	2nd Aracaju Open, Sergipe, South Bahia, Brazil	55719-1357820
Aug 17-18*	Danish Doubles Championship, Sørlod Backgammon Klub, Denmark	4556-144282
Sep 6-8	14th European Championship, Hit Casino, Park Hotel, Nova Gorica, Slovenia	392-69018168
Sep 7-8*	Munkebjerg Open, Casino Munkebjerg Vejle, Vejle, Denmark	4575-833435
Sep 7-8	Roy Hollands Trophy, Hilton National Hotel, Coventry, England	44152-2888676
Sep 8*	Toronto Club Monthly, Smilin' Jack's, Toronto, Ontario, Canada	416/722-9709
Sep 13-15*	4th Süddeutscher-Cup, Munich, Germany	49711-486190
Sep 21-22	Amsterdam Open 2002, Amsterdam, The Netherlands	3120-4633724
Sep 28-29*	5th Humlebæk Open, Humlebæk Centre, Humlebæk, Denmark	4520-671995
Oct 5-6*	Sandy Osborne Trophy, Hilton National Hotel, Coventry, England	44152-2888676
Oct 10-13*	Austrian Open & Doubles Championship, Hotel Veronika, Seefeld, Austria	43512-287244
Oct 12-13*	Sørlod Open, Sørlod A.B.C., Denmark	4556-124282
Oct 12-14*	8th Japan Open & 32nd Championship, Nakano Sun Plaza, Tokyo, Japan	813-33733814
Oct 18-20*	5th Süddeutscher-Cup, Munich, Germany	49711-486190
Oct 19-20*	Centrebet Åbne Fynske, Odense Backgammon Klub, Denmark	4565-923363
Oct 24-27*	5th Salvador Open, Salvador, South Bahia, Brazil	557191-357820
Oct 26-27*	10th Irish Open, Wynn's Hotel, Dublin, Ireland	3531-6030891
Oct 30-Nov 3*	7th Grand Prix de Suisse & World Doubles, Splendide Royal, Lugano, Switzerland	4179-3374425
Oct 31-Nov 3*	22nd Swedish Open, Quality Hotel Nacka, Stockholm, Sweden	468-189346

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

ON SECOND THOUGHT

Just thought I'd share a cute story with you. We received the June issue of CHICAGO POINT, and I mentioned to my husband David that there were three letters supporting your chicagopoint.com pictures

of sexy women *not* relating to backgammon. I told him that I was glad he didn't agree with the letters, to which he responded, "Now wait, a minute . . . I have a mind of my own!"

After a moment's reflection, he added, "But I don't have a bed of my own. I guess I'm not supporting the letters after all."—
Linda Rockwell, Skokie, IL

POSSIBLE NEW CLUB NEAR PITTSBURGH


I am considering starting a backgammon club in my community, a college town south of Pittsburgh. I have printed off your online tips for getting started, have contacted a business establishment whose owner is interested in hosting, and am fighting a case of the nerves. What I would appreciate, besides a dose of *Tums*, is a copy of your master point system. Any additional suggestions you could make would be very much appreciated.—
Rosanne Yesenosky, via e-mail

Starting a new club is scary for everyone, Rosanne. But that just means you are excited about doing a good job! We're going to send you a copy of the following (for xeroxing): tournament drawsheet, score sheet, chouette sheet, master point sheet. If and when you decide to make a go of it, be aware that attendance takes a long time to build. Just try to always run a tournament so people know that if they come, they will get to play. Good luck!—Ed.

TITLE RELINQUISHED

With my recent victory at the April Gammon Associates tournament in Los Angeles, I can relinquish the unofficial crown of "Highest ranked player on the All-Time ABT list that has never won an event." Who would that be now, by the way?—*Ray Foglerlund, Bakersfield, CA*


Looks like that would be Andy Palumbo who ranked 36th at the end of 2001 with 45.31 points.—Ed. Δ



AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 2002

AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 2002

Compiled through 27 May 2002 after 7 events
(Coming this Summer: Michigan, Thousand Islands, Georgia, Indy 50th)



AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 2002

Paul Klein	22.88	Bill Choi	5.45	Stan Livingston	3.20	Luther Lute	1.70
Jeremy Bagai	22.69	David Rogers	5.40	Rudy Silich	2.76	Patrick Donelly	1.32
Ed O'Laughlin	22.35	Bill Bartholomay	5.29	Tim Carroll	2.64	Karen Meyer	1.27
Ray Foglerlund	20.45	Chen-Fu Yu	5.29	Bud Olejniczak	2.50	Karim Jahangard	1.21
Dennis Culpepper	16.99	Jolie Rubin	5.20	Ben Elliott	2.50	Pete Esposito	1.20
Walter Trice	14.88	Jeff Acierno	5.18	Gary Branton	2.50	Karen Chung	1.13
Jeb Horton	13.65	Marianne Gatenby	5.17	Paula Estacolchic	2.42	Gil Evans	1.13
Keith Kuligowski	12.50	Dan Grogan	5.11	Bill Papa	2.42	Mark Kushinsky	1.13
Owen Black	11.44	Eric Johnson	5.11	Jack Kissane	2.35	Shane Joos	1.06
Takis Sakkalis	11.36	Vadim Musaelyan	5.00	Abdi Zaltash	2.27	Arlene Austin	1.00
Barry Murphy	11.36	Hank Chesko	4.99	Glenn Ramsey	2.27	Michael Peters	0.91
Steve Sax	11.33	Neil Kazaross	4.86	Ray Woo	2.27	Rachel Bass	0.88
Fred Kalantari	11.20	Dave Cardwell	4.80	Marc Gray	2.25	Erik D. Erland	0.79
Denise Hemingway	10.59	Al Tesoro	4.71	Tom Green	2.22	Mindla Fajtlowicz	0.78
Arman Karamian	10.59	Bob Wilensky	4.19	Dale Smith	2.11	Fran Miller	0.71
Joe Freedman	10.40	Greg Lilley	4.19	Doug Rodgers	2.09	Tim Johnson	0.68
Linda MacLean	10.02	Kurt Schurecht	4.16	Femi Owiku	2.08	Dennis Portell	0.68
Emil Mortuk	8.39	Frank Talbot	4.16	Jena Rooney	2.08	Marlene Murphy	0.63
Sho Sengoku	8.18	Dana Nazarian	4.09	George Barr	2.06	Glen De Guzman	0.59
Doug Mayfield	8.18	Odis Chenault	4.09	Boris Dekhtyar	2.06	Stephen Spudic	0.59
David Rubin	6.25	Brian Barber	3.78	Bill Chibnik	1.83	Ashley Farrow	0.55
Chris Wilson	6.19	Boris Mindich	3.76	Ed Ratajczyk	1.71	Joe Meyer	0.32
Wally Wolf	5.89	Ilia Guzei	3.59	Charles Walter	1.71	Fran Photias	0.23
Len Dangremond	5.75	Bud Bowers	3.39	Connie Tipton	1.70	Malak Shirkhani	0.23
Sam Yoyen	5.50						



CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB

2002 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

COMPILED
THRU 30 JUNE

Lucky Nelson	14.72	Mitch Pomper	3.76	Rory Pascal	1.80	Ken Bond	0.88
Joe Wollick	11.60	Richard Stawowy	3.76	Arlene Levy	1.52	Michael Peters	0.80
Tim Carroll	10.08	Eric Johnson	3.60	Barbara Levinson	1.36	Steve Klesker	0.64
Steven Coren	9.92	Bill Bartholomay	3.52	Jon Viator	1.28	Tia Bailey	0.64
Mike Sutton	9.20	Tak Morioka	3.44	Bill Sandman	1.28	Terry Weiss	0.64
Herb Roman	9.04	Wayne Wiest	3.44	Brian Barber	1.28	Roz Ferris	0.60
Bob Zavoral	8.48	David Wells	3.36	Kim Smith	1.28	John Stryker	0.60
Tim Mabee	7.44	Paul Lombardo	3.20	Doug Rodgers	1.28	Ronora Stryker	0.60
Peter Kalba	6.76	Glenn Martells	3.00	Paul Franks	1.20	Kendra Welsey	0.56
Norma Shyer	6.64	Alice Kay	2.80	Karen Meyer	1.16	Sakura Sugawara	0.56
Carter Mattig	6.32	Bob Steen	2.72	Lindsay Mattig	1.16	Erik D. Erland	0.56
Don Jayhan	5.84	Tom Meyer	2.48	Ken Tibbs	1.12	Reginald Porter	0.56
Paul Baraz	5.68	Joe Auszmann	2.16	Scott Richardson	1.12	Jim Roland	0.48
Richard Lloyd	5.36	Fred Badagnani	2.16	Femi Owiku	1.04	Erik A. Erland	0.40
David Araiza	5.28	Ed Buerger	2.16	Bill Keefe	0.88	Joe Szvedo	0.40
Val Zimnicki	4.32	Bill Davis	2.16	Georgina Flanagan	0.88	Don Marek	0.40
Tim Serges	4.24	David Rubin	1.92	Jason Fishbein	0.88	Steve Neidecker	0.40
Phyllis Smolinski	4.00	Joann Feinstein	1.92	John Brussel	0.88	Scott Zucker	0.24

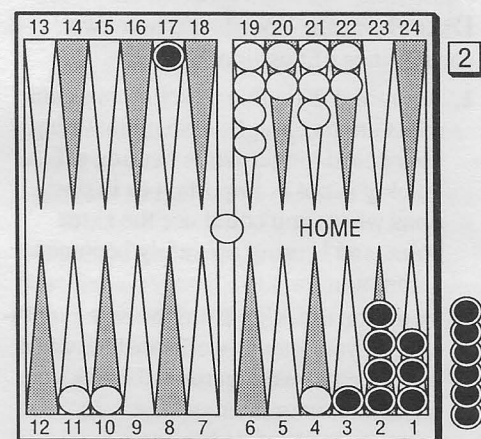
LUCKY NELSON won the last event of the month to boost his June output to 3.76 points—enough for Player of the Month accolades. Bob Zavoral was second with 3.12 and Peter Kalba placed third earning 2.48.

your move

PROBLEM #283

to be analyzed by Walter Trice

Match to 7 points. White leads Black 6-3. **BLACK TO PLAY 5-1.**



ASK DANNY

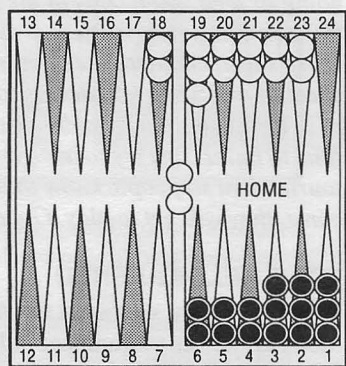


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ODDAGE, STRIPPAGE, AND GAPPAGE

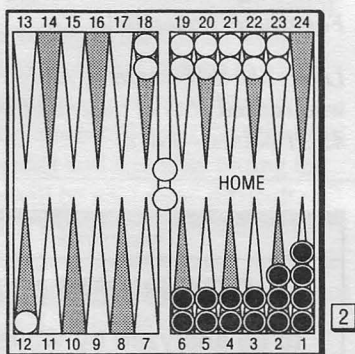
Dear Danny: I've lost a number of games in the final bearoff recently determining which point (if any) to break. The first example was in tournament play at double match-point where I was uncertain whether to break the 6-point, 5-point, or take two off. I opted for bearing off two, but ended up leaving a back door shot to lose the match.

Example 1.
Tournament
double
match-
point.
**BLACK TO
PLAY 3-2.**



I've faced the second example a number of times and I'm still not sure what to do.

Example 2.
Money
game.
**BLACK TO
PLAY 3-1.**



Is there a hard and fast rule for positions of this type?—Baffled in the Bearoff

DEAR BAFFLED: You should note two peculiarities of Position 1.

1. Because it is double match-point, gammons are meaningless, so maintaining your board longer while bearing off quickly is not as important as in positions where you could use the extra point, and bearing off safely becomes paramount.
2. You'll be breaking from the rear eventually, so you may as well consider when it will be more dangerous to break your 6-point: now or later.

If you play 6/3, 6/4 now, you leave

yourself with two men on your 5-point and three men on your 4-point. The rolls that force a blot on your next shake are only the three large doublets.

If you play 5/2, 5/3, you leave yourself only two blotting rolls (6-1 and 5-1). However, the gap you create may lead to further jeopardy in the form of dangerous oddage (three men on your outermost remaining point combined with stripped points next) on 6-2 or 5-2 next and may widen on 4-1 next.

If you play 3/Off, 2/Off now, you leave yourself with a stripped board except for a useless spare on your 1-point. Though you'll have no immediate blotting rolls, you'll have pernicious aces (6-1, 5-1, 4-1 and 3-1) that force you either to leave a gap in your board or create oddage next turn; most of your deuces will play poorly too, generating positions that are harder to clear safely than the one you can achieve by playing 6/3, 6/4 now.

Though it would have been nicer to have rolled a larger number, e.g. 4-3, you should recognize that the 3-2 you rolled allowed you to clear your 6-point with relative safety. Given the uselessness of gammons, you would have done better to have taken advantage of this opportunity to clear your 6-point.

Backgammon is too complex a game to be governed by hard and fast rules, but there are some principles for positions like Position 2. Though you won't go far wrong by counting the immediate blotting rolls left by each of your blotless plays and

letting yourself be guided thereby, you may invoke the following priorities to spare yourself the work of counting, and must invoke them when the numbers of blotting rolls are equal.

- a. Fear oddage most of all.
- b. Fear strippage second most, but only when bearing off against an anchor.
- c. Fear gappage next. The deeper the gap, the more you should fear it, for the more trouble you'll have clearing the points beyond it.
- d. Fear semi-oddage (two men on your highest occupied point, three on your next highest) less than the other blotting-prone conditions.
- e. When all else is nearly equal, choose the play that bears the most men off. That will increase your chance to salvage the game if you get hit later in the bear-off, and your chance to win a gammon if you don't get hit.

In Position 2, you have four non-blotting plays from which to choose. 6/3, 6/5, which creates oddage, leaves eight blotting rolls. 5/2, 5/4, which creates both gappage and semi-oddage, leaves seven blotting rolls and is virtually as bad as 6/3, 6/5. Reject these bad plays.

4/1, 4/3 and 3/Off, 3/2 each create gappage while leaving only two blotting rolls. Between these good plays, choose 4/1, 4/3. Even though 3/Off, 3/2 bears a man off, the gap it creates is deeper and therefore more pernicious.—Yours, Danny Δ



ILLINOIS ACTION



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

Tuesday, 6:00 P.M. at Blue Angel, 5310 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago; 773/631-8700.

Sunday Bimonthly, 12:00 NOON at Champ's Sports Bar, 17 W. 517 Roosevelt Rd., Oakbrook Terrace; 630/932-9323.

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. Rob Farmer (309/821-9766).

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. 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).

50th Edition

Indiana open

Labor Day Weekend
Aug. 30–Sept. 2, 2002

Sheraton-Indianapolis Hotel/Suites
Indianapolis, Indiana



Butch & Mary Ann Meese
(317) 255-8902
meese@worldnet.att.net

CORBETT WINS...

[Continued from page 1]

the weekend. In addition to his \$20,000+ victory in the International Cup, Mike also won the Seniors event, the Doubles with partner Danielle Bastarache (FL), and was a consolation semifinalist in the Nevada State Tournament. Hats off to a remarkable tournament performance!

MASTERS TOURNAMENT

Goulding, Sax, Woolsey, Magriel, O'Laughlin, Corbett, Senkiewicz, Sconyers, Schiemann, Svobodny, Davis, Ballard. And that's only 12 of the 20-player field at this year's Masters Tournament. Imagine coming up with \$3,000 to compete in a shark pool like that!



Paul Magriel makes his move in the Masters finals.

The finals should have been a great match-up between the legendary Paul Magriel and international master Mike Svobodny. But the two are close friends and ended up playing a shortened 9-point match that was not of the highest caliber. At 4-2, Magriel fell into a massive 3-4 backgame and despite a significant blunder,

ended up hitting a last shot, then winning after redoubling to take an 8-2 lead. Final score: 9-2.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL the winners and to the Nevada Backgammon Association staff, particularly Patrick Gibson and Lynn Ehrlich who filled in nicely for the ailing John Brussel and Joann Feinstein. Results: Δ

9TH WORLDWIDE TWIN CHAMPIONSHIPS

19TH NEVADA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP: *Championship (74):* 1-Tom Wheeler (TX), 2-Ed Bennett (NM), 3/4-Ed O'Laughlin (FL) / Herb Roman (IL); 1C-Nick Maffeo (CA), 2C-Tak Morioka (IL), 3C/4C-Steve Sax (CA) / Mike Corbett (FL); 1LC-Doug Roberts (MA), 2LC-Paul Loginoff (CA). *Advanced (100):* 1-Azzam Masarani (CA), 2-Sam Ahmed (CA), 3/4-John Brooks (OK) / Mark Ferrin (OR); 1C-Yoshi Takeuchi (Japan), 2C-David Orandle (FL), 3C/4C-Yoshikazu Hashimoto (Japan) / David Nye (Philippines); 1LC-Rudy Silich (MI), 2LC-Alex Black (TX). *Beginner (31):* 1-Greg Cottle (NV), 2-Saad Henein (CA), 3/4-Fahim Mahboob / Cindy Moss (CA); 1C-Ron Hedington (CA), 2C-Bill Mertes (AZ); 1LC-Anna Estrada (CA), 2LC-Cris Bautista (PHILP). **INTERNATIONAL CUP:** *Championship:* 1-Mike Corbett (FL), 2-Brian Barber (IL), 3/4-Bill Robertie (MA) / Diane Haley (TX). *Advanced:* 1-Al Lunder (WA), 2-Phillip Burns (GA), 3/4-Yoshikazu Hashimoto (Japan) / Farhad Ghedjar (HI). *Beginner:* 1-Anna Estrada (CA), 2-Greg Cottle (NV), 3/4-Steve Spudic (FL) / Okimasu Takeji (Japan).

MASTERS JACKPOT (24): 1-Paul Magriel (LV), 2-Mike Svobodny (LV), 3/4-Aris Hadejiaslanis (Greece) / Dirk Schiemann (Germany).

LIMITED JACKPOT (16): 1-Wayne McClintock (CA), 2-Gadi Carmeli (FL).

DOUBLES (16): 1-Mike Corbett & Danielle Bastarache (FL), 2-Tom Wheeler & Diane Haley (TX). (8): 1-Kit Woolsey (CA) & Tami Jones (ID).

SENIORS (64): 1-Mike Corbett (FL), 2-Norm Wiggins (CA). (32): 1-Andy Natale (IL).

BLITZ (320): 1-Mario Savan (CA), 2-Norm Wiggins (CA).

MINI-MATCH (128): 1-Oliver Fink (CA). (64): 1-Jon Vietor (CA).

AFTER TOURNAMENT TOURNAMENT: *\$50: (24):* 1-Michihito Kageyama (Japan), 2-Al Lunder (WA). *\$20 (24):* 1-Cris Bautista (Philippines), 2-Yoshikazu Hashimoto (Japan).

who did what

WINNER'S CIRCLE



MAY-JUNE 2002

•**Northwest Indiana Monthly** (Porter, IN; 11 May)... OPEN (10): 1-Terry Greaves, 2-John Drexel (MI); 1C-Tom Wade.

•**Toronto Club Monthly** (Toronto, Canada; 12 May)... OPEN (16): 1-Peter Walsh, 2-Moe Hunter, 3/4-Johathan Bennetts / Mike Friedman.

•**Greater Columbus Club Monthly** (Hilliard, OH; 19 May)... OPEN (11): 1-Drew Robinson, 2-Brandon Moore.

•**Backgammon by the Bay Monthly** (Oakland, CA; 19 May)... OPEN (6): 1-Rawlin Pullen, 2-Brian Farr; 1C/2C-Richard McIntosh / Beth Skillman. **INTERMEDIATE (20):** 1-Vlad Kuznetsov, 2-Comet; 1C-Ted Chee, 2C-Glenn Nunez.

•**2nd Romanian Open** (Bucharest, Romania; 23-26 May)... OPEN (32): 1-David Davidian (ISR), 2-Christoph Wagener (GER), 3/4-David Ben-Zion (ISR) / Matthias Körner (GER); 1C-Mario Kühl (GER), 2C-Arther Muradyan (ARM), 3C/4C-Owen Black (USA) / N. Fargun (ISR). **INTERMEDIATE/BEGINNER (26 + 6 reentries):** 1-Kolya Mosoyan (ARM), 2-Marc Bodin (FRA), 3/4-Dani Bachan (ISR) / Raffael Oved (ISR); 1C-Anatoly Machulsky (RUS), 2C-Andranik Harutunian (ARM); 1LC-Raluca Dumitrache (RUM), 2LC-Vladimir Georgiev (BUL). **\$1,000 SUPER JACKPOT:** 1-David Ben-Zion (ISR), 2-Shimon Kagan (ISR). **DOUBLES (13):** 1-Abraham Eitan (ISR) & Lewis LaBrosse (SEY), 2-Mia Nielsen & Morten Nielsen (DEN).

•**Atlanta Chouette Tourney** (Roswell, GA; 25 May)... OPEN: 1-David Cohen, 2-Steve Kovach.

•**South Florida Sunday Monthly** (Ft. Lauderdale, FL; 2 Jun.)... OPEN (8): 1-Al Tesoro, 2-Chris Stanford. **INTERMEDIATE (8):** 1-David Menkes, 2-Don Heinsler.

•**Houston Club Mid-Year Championships** (Houston, TX; 8 Jun.)... OPEN (12): 1-James Bray, 2-Bill Riles; 1C-Gary Fomby, 2C-Daniel Verduzco; 1LC-Craig Mallinson.

•**Hilton Trophy Tournament** (Coventry, England; 8-9 Jun.)... OPEN (48): 1-Julian Fetterlein, 2-Mike Greenleaf, 3/4-Nigel Briddon / Paul Gilbertson; 1C-Brian Lever, 2C-John Renicks; 1LC-Paul Christmas, 2LC-Tony Fawcett. **SUICIDE (32):** 1-David Fall, 2-Dave Motley, 3/4-Kevin White / Arthur Williams. **FRIDAY NIGHT KO (18):** 1-Paul Sambell, 2-Brian Busfield. **DOUBLES (8):** 1-By Royal Appointment & Spiderman, 2-Blind But Still Ranking.

•**Bar Point Sunday** (Oakbrook Terrace, IL; 9 Jun.)... OPEN (10): 1-Bill Bartholomay, 2-Joe Wollick; 1C-Bill Davis, 2C-Jim Roland. **INTERMEDIATE (10):** 1-Eric Johnson, 2-Don Marek; 1C-Steve Neidecker, 2C-Ken Tibbs.

•**30th Hawaii State Championships** (Honolulu, HI; 22 Jun.)... OPEN: 1-Carver Wilcox, 2-Fred Collins, 3-Joli Quentin Kansil... *Joli Quentin Kansil announced his retirement as the director of this annual event. Fred Collins will assume director duties in 2003. Δ*

CALL HIM UNLUCKY



Mike Svobodny took three phone calls during the Las Vegas Masters finals vs. Paul Magriel and (apparently) not one of them was lucky. Svobo lost 9-2.

HITTING WITH 4-1

by Paul Weaver



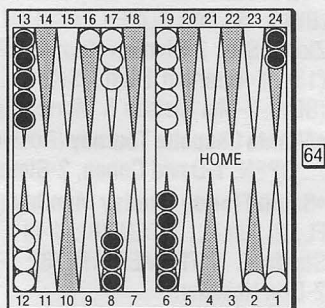
In the early game, when your opponent has split her back checkers with an ace (24/23) or a four (24/20), it may be correct to hit two checkers, only one, or perhaps none with 4-1. All twelve positions have these three options.

When a Snowie rollout of sufficient sample size indicates that the difference in equity of two checker plays is less than 0.01, then I will say that the plays are "very close." In such a case we probably cannot know for sure which of the two plays is better.

When the the rollout indicates that the difference in equity of two checker plays is between 0.01 and 0.02, I will say the plays are "close." If the difference is greater than 0.02, I will call it a "clear margin."

Assume that all positions are for money with the cube in the center.

Pos. 1. Roll sequence: 4-1, 4-1

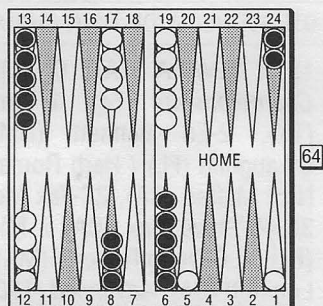


White opened with 4-1 in Position 1 and played 24/23, 13/9. Black's 4-1 response should be played 6/2*/1*. With only eight checkers in the zone, he should not expect to successfully execute a blitz. Black's objective in hitting two checkers is to minimize the chance of White's establishing a key point on her next roll.

If White had opened with 2-1 (24/23, 13/11), then 6/2*/1* would once again be the correct play by a clear margin for Black's 4-1.

When White opens with 5-1 (24/23, 13/8), she has fewer good numbers on her next shake if left alone, and Black therefore has less motivation to attack. 6/2*/1* and 13/8 were exactly tied in my long rollout.

Pos. 2. Roll sequence: 5-4, 4-1



White opened with 5-4 and played 24/20, 13/8 in Position 2. If Black does not hit White, then 30 of her numbers (all but 2-1, 3-2, and 5-1) make an advanced anchor or key offensive point or escape a checker to at least her midpoint. Black must hit to impede White's progress.

After hitting on his 5-point, Black has an option in Position 2 that he did not have in Position 1. He should leave his 5-point slotted, hoping for the parlay that White will miss and he will cover. After correctly playing 6/5*, Black must choose 24/20 or 13/9 with the 4.

In Position 2 White, on her side of the board, has added only one checker to her 8-point from her starting position. Black therefore feels no pressure to split. He can use the 4 constructively on his own side of the board. After playing 13/9, 6/5*, if Black is missed, the builder on his 9-point will give him 30 covers instead of 24 for his 5-point.

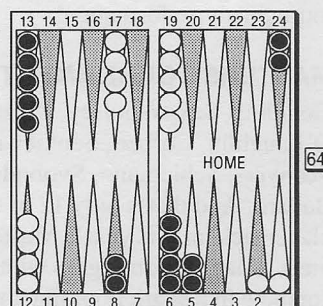
13/9, 6/5* beat 24/20, 6/5* by a very close margin in the rollout. 6/5*/1* was close but wrong.

Assume that White opened with 4-3 (24/20, 13/10) instead of 5-4. Mentally

move White's fourth checker on her 8-point in Position 2 back to her 10-point. This builder improves White's offensive potential enough to give Black more motivation to split with his 4 than in the original Position 2. He can split in relative safety while simultaneously putting White on the bar.

24/20, 6/5* is correct. Both 6/5*/1* and 13/9 6/5* are close.

Pos. 3. Roll sequence: 3-1, 5-1, 4-1

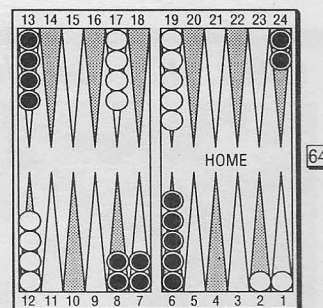


Although White cannot anchor with 4-3 in Position 3, she still has enough point-making numbers for Black's 4-1 to be a close choice.

13/8 beat 6/2*/1* by a very close margin in the rollout. In playing 13/8, Black brings a welcomed ninth checker into the zone, hopefully to be used in the near future for either priming or attacking. Both 13/9, 6/5 and 13/9, 24/23 leave too many shots for too little gain.

Assume now that the sequence is 3-1, 4-1, 4-1 or 3-1, 2-1, 4-1. Mentally move White's fourth checker on her 8-point in Position 3 back to her 9-point or 11-point. In either case, this new builder gives White several more constructive numbers than she had in the original Position 3. Black must play 6/2*/1* to prevent White from developing her position. No other play is close.

Pos. 4. Roll sequence: 6-1, 5-1, 4-1



When Black opens with 6-1, his position is much less conducive to attacking than after opening with 3-1. However, he is only one point away from turning his anemic 3-prime into a powerful 4-prime. Black should not change his game plan from priming to attacking without a good reason.

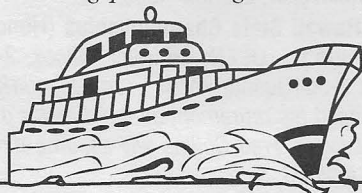
Although the attacking play (6/2*/1*)

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Paul Weaver is ranked 19th on the 2001 worldwide "Giants of Backgammon" listing and has won numerous events, most recently the "Grand Crystal Beaver" Masters tournament at the 2001 Midwest Championships. In 2002, he will give seminars at three American Backgammon Tour events: Carolina Invitational (January), Georgia Championships (August), and Florida State Championships (October).

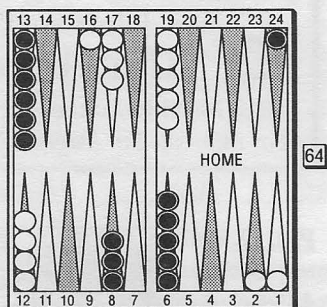
Mr. Weaver is currently spending a few weeks in Mexico teaching backgammon.

with 4-1 was close in Position 3, the quiet 13/8 is best by a clear margin in Position 4. 24/20, 24/23 is second best, and 6/2*/1* is third.

Assume that the sequence was 6-1, 4-1, 4-1 or 6-1, 2-1, 4-1. Mentally move White's fourth checker on her 8-point in Position 4 back to her 9-point or 11-point. In either case, this new builder gives White more numbers that make key points, and the attacking play becomes more reasonable.

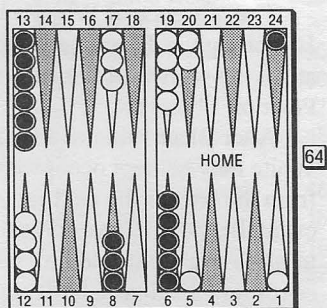
6/2*/1* beat 13/8 by a close margin in 6-1, 4-1, 4-1 and by a very close margin in 6-1, 2-1, 4-1.

Pos. 5. Roll sequence: 6-5, 4-1, 4-1



Sometimes you have to be man enough to play the checkers like a wimp. In Position 5, Black has escaped a checker and has a modest lead of 11 pips after playing safely. The correct play with 4-1 is 13/8, although 6/2*/1* is close.

Pos. 6. Roll sequence: 3-1, 6-5, 5-4, 4-1

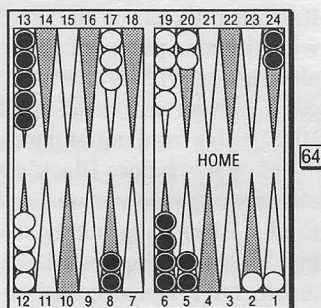


In Position 6 White, if left alone, has 30 numbers that make an advanced anchor or key offensive point, or escape a checker to

at least her midpoint. Black has a lead of only 3 pips if he plays his 4-1 without hitting.

Even though White now has her 5-point, the case for Black's attacking is stronger in Position 6 than in Position 5. 6/5*/1* is correct by a clear margin over 13/8.

Pos. 7. Roll sequence: 3-1, 3-1, 5-1, 4-1



When White has her 5-point, Black should be much more reluctant to attack. In Position 3, with White lacking her 5-point, the attacking play was marginally wrong. White owns her 5-point in Position 7; therefore, 6/2*/1* is wrong by a clear margin.

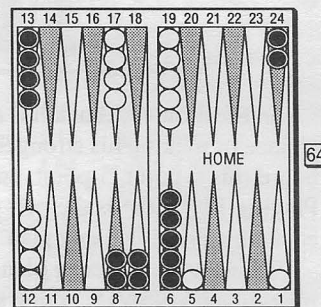
13/8 is best with 4-1 in Position 7, 13/9, 6/5 is a close second, and 6/2*/1* is a distant third.

Assume that the sequence was 3-1, 3-1, 2-1, 4-1. Mentally move White's third checker on her 8-point in Position 7 back to her 11-point. This modification slightly improves White's offensive potential. With Black's 4-1, 13/8 is still correct, and 6/2*/1* is now a close second.

Consider the sequence 3-1, 3-1, 4-1, 4-1. Mentally move White's third checker on her 8-point in Position 7 back to her 9-point. This modification gives White more numbers that make her 4-point or 3-point than she had in either 3-1, 3-1, 5-1, 4-1 or 3-1, 3-1, 2-1, 4-1. She has additional numbers that cover her 9-point, a part of her potential prime.

Black therefore has more motivation to attack in 3-1, 3-1, 4-1, 4-1. 6/2*/1* is correct by a clear margin over 13/8.

Pos. 8. Roll sequence: 6-1, 5-4, 4-1



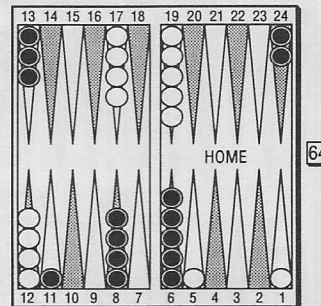
Compare Position 8 to Position 2. Once again, 13/9, 6/5* and 24/20, 6/5* are the

two candidates.

After Black hits with 6/5* in Position 8, White will have some bad entries from the roof (1-6 and 2-6) that she did not have in Position 2. Splitting with the 4 will enable Black to better exploit these awkward entering numbers.

24/20, 6/5* beat 13/9, 6/5* in the rollout by a very close margin.

Pos. 9. Roll sequence: 5-2, 5-4, 4-1

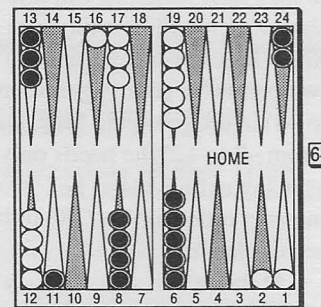


Black opened with 5-2 and played 13/11, 13/8 in Position 9. White responded with 5-4 and incorrectly played 24/20, 13/8 (correct was 13/8, 13/9). With 4-1, Black for the first time has the option of making a new point.

Although making the bar-point is tempting, it would make White's life too easy. 28 of White's numbers (all but 2-1, 5-1, 3-2, and 6-2) would either anchor on Black's 5-point, escape to at least her midpoint, or make a key offensive point. Black must hit with the ace.

The blitz will have a greater chance of success when Black has ten checkers in the zone instead of eight. 6/5*/1* is correct, with 11/7, 8/7 and 24/20 6/5* both close.

Pos. 10. Roll sequence: 5-2, 4-1, 4-1



Black opened with 5-2 and played 13/11, 13/8 in Position 10. White responded with 4-1 and played 24/23, 13/9 (13/9, 6/5 is a very close alternative). With 4-1, Black again has the option of making his 7-point.

White's two back checkers on Black's 24- and 23-points in Position 10 do not pose the same threat that they did in Position 9 on the 24- and 20-points. The double hit is therefore unwarranted.

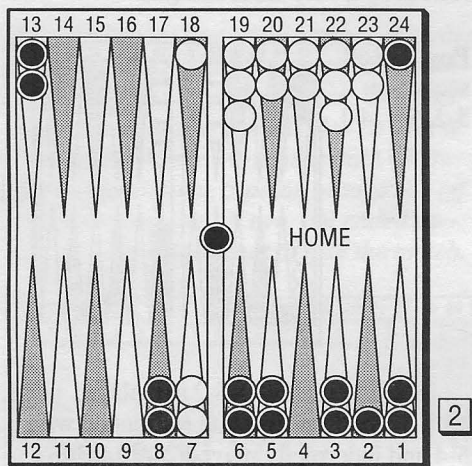
11/7, 8/7 is correct in Position 10. No other play is close.

[Continued on page 8]

PROBLEM #282 ANALYZED

by Kit Woolsey

Match to 11 points. Black leads White 8 to 7. **BLACK TO PLAY 6-1.**



For once we have limited candidates. The only two legal plays are Bar/18* and Bar/24, 8/2.

If this were normal money play or if it were early in a match, it wouldn't be a contest. Bar/18* would be very clear. This play will get gammoned more, but the increase in win percentage is significant. Black does have a four-point board, and if he can keep White on the bar for a roll, Black will have a decent chance to barrel the position home via brute force.

If Black plays Bar/24, 8/2, he will have to hit a later shot and win after hitting the shot, which will be a lot more difficult. Since Black is risking only an additional two points by getting gammoned (from -2 to -4) in order to gain four points if he wins (from -2 to +2), he needs only to get half as many extra wins as he loses extra gammons in order for Bar/18* to be correct. It seems clear that he will get these extra wins.

At the match score, it may be another story. All points are not of equal value. Four points puts White out exactly, so losing a gammon is more costly than usual. Let's see what kind of odds we are talking about:

- Black wins: Ahead 10-7 (1-away, 4-away) Crawford, 83% equity.
- Black loses single game: Behind 9-8 (3-away, 2-away), 40% equity.
- Black loses gammon: loses match, 0% equity.

Thus, Black is risking 40% in order to gain 43% by making the big play. Of course Black will win a few gammons also which will give him 100% equity, but that

won't happen too often. Black will need to find almost as many extra wins as he has extra gammons in order to justify Bar/18*.

How dangerous is Bar/18*? White hits back with all 2s, as well as 5-4 and 4-4. Black will have a chance to survive if he can reclaim his anchor quickly, but if he doesn't, he is in big trouble. On the other hand, Bar/24, 8/2 isn't exactly gammon-free. If White rolls an ace and hits the blot, Black will still be in plenty of gammon danger, although he will always have the ace point game in reserve. Even if White misses, Black is far from out of gammonland.

How much does Black's winning chances improve with the hit? If White flunks, Black is definitely alive and kicking. His 6s are duplicated, which is unfortunate, but if he can cover the blot on the 2-point he will have a decent chance of scrambling the other back checker out before White is able to enter. If White enters without hitting, Black can get right in the game if he can roll a 6 quickly.

Can Black win after playing Bar/24, 8/2? Yes, he definitely can. White's next play may be very awkward if she doesn't roll an ace. 6-2, 6-3, and 6-4 all force White to break off the anchor and leave multiple blots, giving Black a chance to scoop up these blots and escape while White is stuck on the bar. White can play safe on other rolls, but she may be squeezed off the anchor soon. Of course even if Black gets something going he will still have a lot of work to do, with an open 4-point and two checkers stuck behind a five-prime. Also,

Black will at least wind up with an ace point game when things go badly. The ace point game won't be the greatest since Black has been forced to make his own ace point, but Black can still win or scramble off the gammon from the ace point game.

So, what's the bottom line? I'm not really sure, but at the table I would play Bar/18*. It is risky, but at least I can see a direct path toward winning the game. After Bar/24, 8/2, the route to a win is going to be far slower. My play will get gammoned more, but it is easy to get gammoned after Bar/24, 8/2. As long as both plays are going to lead to plenty of gammons, it is best to make the play which gives Black something for his money if it works.

This is a difficult decision due to the match score. It is always scary to make a play or cube decision which will cost the entire match if it backfires. Many players will tend to take the conservative path and live to see another day. Here, however, the conservative path has no guarantees of surviving. In this case, it is best to assume that the cup is half full, not half empty, and to go directly for the win.—Kit Woolsey Δ

Chicago Bar Point Club
announces a NEW LOCATION and a
GRAND OPENING TOURNAMENT

Tues., July 16 at 6:15 P.M.



Blue Angel



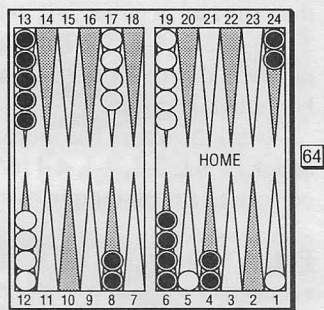
5310 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago
For info, call Bill Davis: 773/583-6464

HITTING WITH 4-1...

[Continued from page 7]

Pos. 11. Roll

sequence:
4-2, 5-4, 4-1

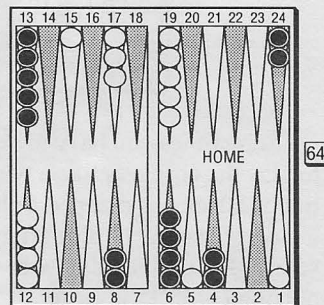


In Position 11, Black has an excellent chance of making his strongest 3-point board (his 6-point, 5-point, and 4-point). Playing 13/9, 6/5* is the best play to execute this priming game plan.

Another viable game plan for Black is blitzing with 6/5*/1*, taking advantage of his 2-point board.

13/9, 6/5* beat 6/5*/1* in the rollout by a close margin. 24/20, 6/5* was a distant third.

Pos. 12. Roll
sequence:
4-2, 4-3, 4-1



The presence of White's builder on her 10-point gives Black a stronger case for attacking with 4-1 in Position 12 than in Position 11.

After Black initiates a blitz with 6/5*/1*, White may be kept occupied trying to enter from the bar for the next few rolls. In this event, Black will have additional chances to hit White's outfield blot before she can cover it or use it as a builder.

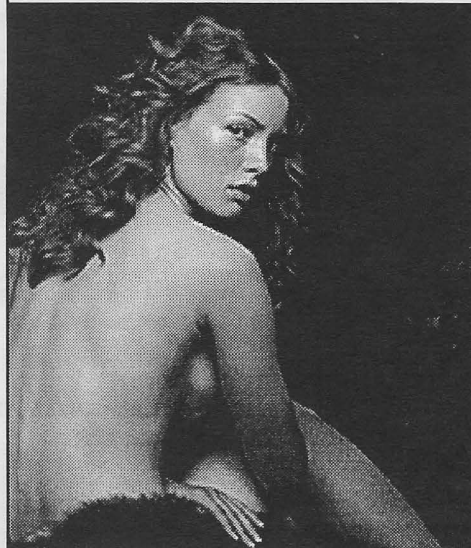
In Position 12, 6/5*/1* is best, 13/9, 6/5* (going for the strongest 3-point board) is a close second, and 24/20, 6/5* is a distant third.—Paul Weaver Δ

AMALGAMATION

Our prayers go out to renowned Calcutta auctioneer **John Brussel** (IL) who was diagnosed with cancer last month. An e-mail (sprout@interaccess.com) or letter would boost his spirits. Write John at: 5701 N. Sheridan Road 17H; Chicago, IL 60660... Visiting the Chicago Bar Point Club in June: **Sam Pottle** (WI). Our last tournament at the Golden Flame will be July 9. The location was sold and will become a CVS pharmacy. Thanks to the **Leberis** family for our 9 year relationship. See you July 16 at Blue Angel for our Grand Opening event. Details on page 8... Former backgammon expert **Kathy Posner** (IL), appearing on **Bruce Dumont's** "Beyond the Beltway" talk show, says she has retired from public relations following the September 11 attack. Health issues were also a consideration. Kathy now does volunteer work... According to a report on the Internet, "Don't be too quick to brag about your backgammon skills on your CV. Job coaches, recruiters and hiring managers interviewed by Vault.com are divided over the benefits of listing extracurriculars..." "When the Clock Runs Out," is **Bill Lyon's** look at the accomplishments of 20 great NFL stars following retirement. According to Lyon,

San Francisco 49er star **John Brodie** turned to other forms of competition: bridge, dominoes, golf, and backgammon... Congratulations to **Mr. and Mrs. Bill Mertes** (AZ) on their 50th wedding anniversary this year... West Texas Club director **Joe Tucker** is the leading player for the second quarter of 2002 tourney play. Runner's-up are **Yervand Hmayakyan** and **Alexis Stephens**... **Richard Lloyd** (IL) faced some truly bad luck in the Limited Jackpot at the Vegas Worldwide Twin Championships. His room clock stopped for nearly two hours, then restarted so that Richard was unaware of the problem. When he arrived in the playing room 90 minutes late, he had been forfeited out of the quarter-finals... Nevada Backgammon Association director **Howard Markowitz's** cool demeanor at the tournament was in spite of the fact that his home air conditioning unit broke down. With nighttime temps near 90, sleeping must have been a real challenge... Who is organizing the Monte Carlo World Championships? **Sue & Les Boyd** (FL) report that invitations did not reach them for US distribution until four short weeks before the event... **Wendy Kaplan's** (IL) summer production is "Hair" (July 19–August 10) She invites all her BG friends to attend. Price: \$16/ticket. Call (847) 432-7469 to order... Happy summer. The next issue of CHICAGO POINT will be published in early September. Δ

NICE BACK GAME



At 26, Alicia Witt has already appeared in a dozen movies and TV series including Mr. Holland's Opus, Urban Legend, and last year's Vanilla Sky. Yet Ms. Witt still finds time to play backgammon—especially Internet Backgammon.

"I know it's very nerdy. Backgammon is really a gambling game, so you want to make money—at least to give to charity," says Witt. "At the end of the [TV] season for Cybill, I was owed over \$400. Actually, I'm still waiting to collect."

South Florida Backgammon Club presents

2002 FLORIDA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

October 4–6, 2002

Sheraton Suites Cypress Creek
Fort Lauderdale, Florida



DIRECTORS

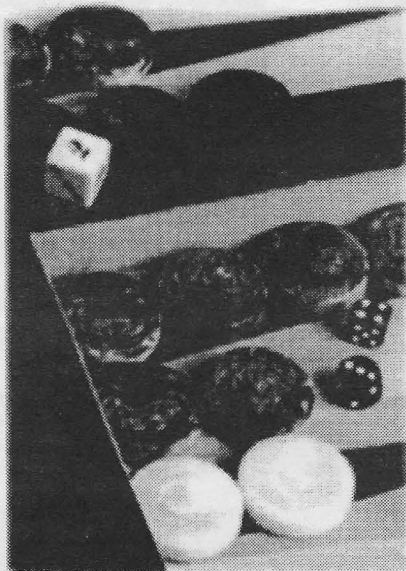
Elayne Feinstein / Don Heinsler

EVENTS

- Open, Intermediate, Novice
- Early Bird tournament
- \$500 Royal Palm Classic
- Doubles
- 4-Man Blitz
- Free Gator Roll. Win \$100!

ACCOMMODATIONS

Sheraton Suites (888-627-8250) is offering a special rate of \$75 per night, single or double. Reserve by Sept. 16.



SPECIAL ATTRACTIONS

- Open Division Winner will be awarded a **\$600 ZAVORAL BACKGAMMON BOARD**.
- Friday 4:00 pm **PAUL WEAVER BACKGAMMON LECTURE**.
- \$10 Hospitality fee includes subs on Friday evening, pizza on Saturday evening. Coffee, donuts & bagels for breakfast. Also soft drinks and munchies all weekend long.

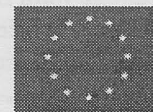
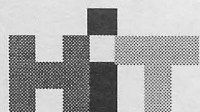
FOR MORE INFORMATION

Elayne Feinstein: 954/564-0340
BGinFla210@aol.com

The Worldwide Backgammon Federation is proud to present the

14th European Backgammon Championship

12th Mitteleuropa Backgammon and Black-Jack Tournament



HIT Casinò Park Nova Gorica (Slovenia)

6-8 September 2002

Backgammon week & Black-Jack 2-8 September 2002

20.700 Euro
Guaranteed
Backgammon Prize Money

Entry Fees

Master (13-pt) 500 Euro
Champion (11-pt) 200 Euro
Intermediate (7-pt) 50 Euro
Black-Jack Tournament 40 Euro
Quarter-entries offered in main tournament.

Registration Fees

2002 WBF members 25 Euro
Non-members 35 Euro
Includes Friday Cocktail & Sunday Gala Dinner.

Tournament Committee

*To be announced at the tournament
under the Presidency of*

Alberto da Pra

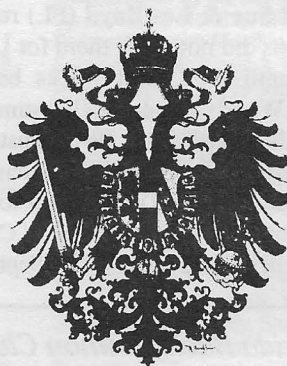
President of the
Worldwide Backgammon Federation

Supported by Slovenian Ministry of Economy
Represented by State Undersecretary for Tourism

Valid for the official titles of:

WBF European Championship 2002

WBF Italian Championship 2002



PROGRAM

Monday, September 2

19:30-20:00 Registration Backgammon
Tournament at Park Hotel
20:00 Black-Jack Tournament at Casino.
*Guaranteed prize money will be
10.000 Euro with 250 entrants*
22:30 Quarters, Jackpots, and One
Point Matches

Tuesday, September 3

10:30 Excursion
19:30-20:00 Registration at Park Hotel
20:00 Black-Jack Tournament at Casino
22:30 Quarters, Jackpots, and One
Point Matches

Wednesday, September 4

10:30 Excursion
19:30-20:00 Registration at Park Hotel
20:00 Black-Jack Tournament at Casino
22:30 Quarters, Jackpots, and One
Point Matches

Thursday, September 5

17:30 Public draw for Warm-up Me-
morial Heiner Haussleiter (free
to registered players)
18:00 Warm-up begins. Quarters, Jack-
pots and One Point matches
20:00 Black-Jack Tournament at Casino.
Public draw for Sperti Trophy (free
entry—only for WBF supporters)
20:00-22:30 Break for Dinner
22:30 Start of Sperti Trophy

Friday, September 6

17:00 Warm-up, Sperti Trophy, Quar-
ters, Jackpots, and One Point
matches
19:00-20:00 Registration at Park Hotel
20:00 Welcoming cocktail: Park Hotel.
Black-jack Tournament at Casino
Last Registration
22:00 Public draw
22:30 Start of play. Quarters, Jack-
pots, and One Point matches

Saturday, September 7

16:00 Main tournament continues.
Start of Progressive Consolation
tournament
17:00 Quarters, Jackpots, and One
Point matches
20:00 Black-jack Tournament at Casino
20:00-22:30 Break for Dinner
22:30 Start of Franz Josef Super-Jack-
pot. Tournament play continues

Sunday, September 8

14:30 Last Chance tournament
15:00 Finals, Quarters, Jackpots, and
One Point matches
17:00 Black-jack Tournament at Casino,
final rounds
20:30 Schönbrunn Dinner Party &
Awards Ceremony at Park Hotel

*The organization reserves the right to change the
program in any of its parts. Changes will be an-
nounced in advance and posted on the Notice Board.*

The HIT Park Hotel has agreed to offer two nights free of charge in the Hotel for players who stay one full week (arrival date Sept. 2, departure date Sept. 9, 2002) . . . 100% return of the entry fees . . . Trophies for Main events, Ladies Prize, Memorial Heiner Haussleiter, One Point Matches, Black Jack tournament. Special WBF trophies for European & Italian Championship 2002. Nova Gorica is in the country renowned for good food and wine. Air temperature in September is 15°-25° C.