

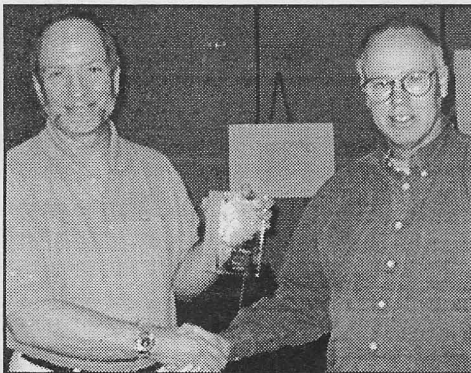
minnesota state championships

3-AWAY AT MYSTIC LAKE

First Person Minnesota State Report

by Greg Cattanach

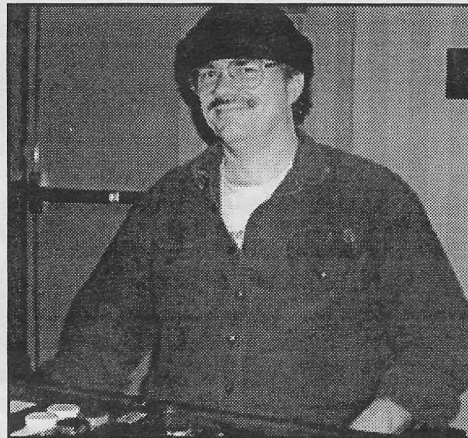
I was fortunate enough to attend the Minnesota State Backgammon Championships at the Mystic Lake Casino in Pryor Lake, Minnesota. The Oct. 31–Nov. 2 tournament was well-run by Twin Cities Club director Steve Brown and staff with the hotel/casino providing a great venue. This event also served double-duty as my wife's family all live in the Minneapolis area.



Gregg Cattanach (left) receives his Masters trophy from tourney director and runner-up Steve Brown.

I had a hot hand this weekend, winning the Masters Jackpot and placing second in the Championship. Winning the Masters on Saturday night was a huge thrill. As Sunday morning evolved my hot dice continued as I was able to defeat the excellent Ilia Guzei (WI), and then top international giant Neil Kazaross (IL). This put me in the finals as the one-loss player in the double-elimination format. I was already assured of taking over fourth place in the 2003 ABT race, but an outright win would move me into second, just behind Malcolm Davis.

In the 11-point finals against Wisconsin's Brad Andersen, I got off to a very slow start. Things changed with Brad leading 8–3, as I fought back to reach DMP. It was an exciting final game with a large throng of spectators enjoying the big swings. In the end, I had to run from my final outpost on the 15-point, Brad hit me with double-1s, remade his 6-point



Minnesota Open winner Brad Andersen.

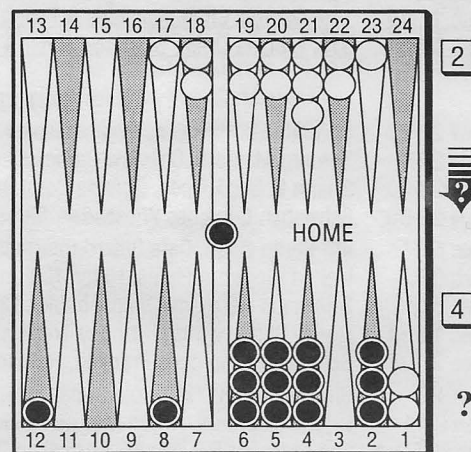
with double-3s and went on to claim the state title. It was very exciting to appear in my first regional finals against Brad Andersen, a worthy opponent and a deserved winner. Well done, Brad!

A Few 3-Away Positions

Here are some of the interesting positions that came up in the Masters and Championship finals, each involving the 3-away score. Either my opponent or I reached the 3-away score in nearly all my matches. This score can often be quite confounding with the hamstrung cube action for the leader.

In round 2 of the Masters, Dana Nazarian and I got to this position that generated a lot of discussion amongst the kibitzers:

Pos. 1. 11-pt. match. Gregg Cattanach (Black) trails Dana Nazarian (White), 0–2. White on roll. **RECUBE ACTIONS?**

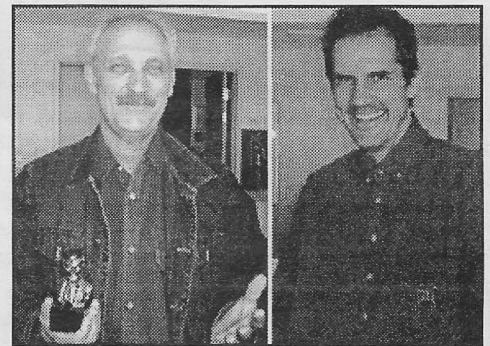


[Continued on page 7]

illinois state championships

MEYER & MARCUS WIN AT ILLINOIS STATE

Tom Meyer of Batavia, Illinois defeated Neil Kazaross in the semifinals and Ilia Guzei 15–12 in the finals to win the Illinois State Championship. 50 players attended the annual event, held at the Hilton Hotel in Springfield, Illinois. Randy Armstrong and an able staff kept things running smoothly.



Illinois State winners David Marcus (Masters) and Tom Meyer (Championship).

Veteran David Marcus proved he "still has it" besting Carolina Invitational director Jeb Horton 11–7 to win the Land of Lincoln Masters title. Congratulations to both players and to all the other winners. Δ

2003 ILLINOIS STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

CHAMPIONSHIP (25): 1-Thomas Meyer (IL), 2-Ilia Guzei (WI); 1C-Sean Garber (IN), 2C-Jeb Horton (NC); 1LC-Bill Davis (IL). INTERMEDIATE (20): 1-Philip Smith (NC), 2-Michael Flohr (IL); 1C-Alan Gold (WI), 2C-Don Marek (IL); 1LC-Lee Pflugrad (WI). NOVICE (4): 1-Sharon Lefferts (IL), 2-Greg Bowman (KS). LAND OF LINCOLN MASTERS (8): 1-David Marcus (IL), 2-Jeb Horton (NC). LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DOUBLES (11 teams): 1- Faddoul Khoury & George Khoury (IL), 2-Tom Machaj & Sonya Sidky (WI). CAPITOL PUNISHMENT (32): 1-Greg Bowman (KS), 2-Ben Zemaitis (IL). MISDEMEANOR PUNISHMENT (16): 1-Terry Leahy (IL), 2-Faddoul Khoury (IL). SPRINGFIELD OPEN (32): 1-Tim Mabee (IL), 2-Robert Nagle (IL); 1C-David Marcus (IL), 2C-Kurt Schurecht (IL). TAKI BOARD GIVE-AWAY: Jena Rooney (IL).

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

www.chicagopoint.com

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Carol Joy Cole (MI)

Danny Kleinman (CA)

Mary Hickey (OH)

Antonio Ortega (C.R.)

Jake Jacobs (IL)

Steve Sax (CA)

Duane Jensen (MN)

Kit Woolsey (CA)

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LETTERS

c/o CHICAGO POINT

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

E-mail: letters@chicagopoint.com

KUDOS TO CAROL

I really liked the "Doubles With Carol" article in the Point last month. I found her 2-1 play pretty quickly, but I guess that was the "easy" one. I never would have seen her 2-2 play, and probably would have insisted on blundering.

Very nice, Carol!—*Jeb Horton, Director, Charlotte (NC) Backgammon Club*

BACKGAMMON AT SCHOOL

I am starting a board game club at my school in Arlington Heights, Illinois and want to include backgammon. Do you have any recommendation on the type of boards to use for a school use, and can I purchase them at a discount?

The US Chess Federation has a special club for schools with recommended chess sets. I was wondering if you knew of anything like this for backgammon.—

Marie Julius, via Internet

[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.

Nov 15	Redwood Empire Monthly, Embassy Suites Hotel, San Rafael, California	707/477-6430
Nov 15-19	2003 Backgammon Pro Am, Riviera Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada	702/893-6025
Nov 16	Greater Columbus Club Monthly, Lucky's Grille, Hilliard, Ohio	614/771-0981
Nov 16	New England Bonus Tourney, Holiday Inn, Somerville, Massachusetts	617/779-8209
Nov 19-23	Las Vegas Open, Riviera Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada	702/893-6025
Nov 20	Third Thursday Bonus (Boston Open), Days Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Nov 22	Atlanta Fall Doubles Tournament, Mazzy's Sports Bar, Roswell, Georgia	770/333-1876
Nov 22	Battle of Bull Run, Swim & Racquet Club, Manassas, Virginia	703/577-1927
Nov 23*	Hoosier Sunday Before Turkey Day, Arnie's Indianapolis, Indiana	317/255-8902
Nov 30*	Ace Point Monthly Tournament, Ace Point Club, New York, New York	212/888-2231
Dec 1*	MSN Gammonzone Medallion Monthly, via computer	GZMedallion@gammonzone.net
Dec 1*	Official GamesGrid Monthly Tournament, via computer	tournaments@cyberarts.com
Dec 4*	Miami Valley Club Monthly, Holiday Inn Sugars Lounge, Fairborn, Ohio	937/864-1748
Dec 5-7	<u>52nd Gammon Associates Invitational, A.R. Private Club, Los Angeles, CA</u>	<u>818/901-0464</u>
Dec 6	Bar Point Saturday Bimonthly, Champs Bar, Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois	773/583-6464
Dec 6*	Universal Mall Bimonthly #6, All the King's Men, Warren, Michigan	313/330-7803
Dec 7*	Austin Club Bimonthly Tournament, JC's Bar & Grill, Austin, Texas	512/261-8518
Dec 13*	Tournament of Champions, Sansone's West Oaks Bar, Houston, Texas	281/556-0428
Dec 13*	Backgammon By the Bay Monthly, Peking Express, Berkeley, California	831/688-9722
Dec 14*	Greater Columbus Club Monthly, Lucky's Grille, Hilliard, Ohio	614/771-0981
Dec 14*	New England Club Monthly, Holiday Inn, Somerville, Massachusetts	617/779-8209
Dec 14*	South Florida Monthly, NorthRidge Raw Bar, Fort Lauderdale, Florida	954/564-0340
Dec 18*	Third Thursday Bonus (North Carolina), Days Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Dec 20*	Atlanta Holiday Tournament, Mazzy's Sports Bar, Roswell, Georgia	770/333-1876
Dec 20*	Redwood Empire Monthly, Embassy Suites Hotel, San Rafael, California	707/477-6430
Dec 26-28	<u>Ace Point Holiday Tournament, Ace Point Club, New York, New York</u>	<u>212/753-0842</u>
Jan 11*	New England Club Monthly, Holiday Inn, Somerville, Massachusetts	617/779-8209
Jan 13*	Chicago Bar Point Club Awards Night, Clarion Hotel, Chicago, Illinois	773/583-6464
Jan 15*	Third Thursday Bonus (Pittsburgh), Days Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Jan 15-19	3rd Boston Open & Masters Jackpot, Hyatt Harborside, Boston, MA	781/641-2091
Jan 16-18	<u>4th Carolina Invitational, Holiday Inn-Woodlawn, Charlotte, NC</u>	<u>704/814-0850</u>
Jan 22*	2003 Flint Club Awards Tournament, Days Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Jan 24*	Atlanta Awards Tournament, Mazzy's Sports Bar, Roswell, Georgia	770/333-1876
Feb 8	BPC Doubles Club Championship, Champs Bar, Oakbrook Terrace, IL	773-583-6464
Feb 8*	New England Club Monthly, Holiday Inn, Somerville, Massachusetts	617/779-8209
Feb 19*	Third Thursday Bonus (Midwest Championships), Days Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Feb 21*	Southern Open Warm-Up, Mazzy's Sports Bar, Roswell, Georgia	770/333-1876
Feb 13-15*	<u>26th Pittsburgh Championships, Greentree Radisson, Pittsburgh, PA</u>	<u>412/823-7500</u>
Feb 26-29*	<u>Southern Open, King & Prince Beach & Golf Resort, St. Simons, Georgia</u>	<u>770/333-1876</u>
Mar 19-21*	<u>2004 Midwest Championships, Wyndham Lisle Hotel, Lisle, Illinois</u>	<u>773/583-6464</u>
Apr 16-18*	<u>10th Ohio State Championships, Radisson Cleveland, Middleburg Hts., OH</u>	<u>330/866-2811</u>
May 28-31*	<u>25th Chicago Open, Oak Brook Hills Hotel & Resort, Oak Brook, Illinois</u>	<u>847/674-0120</u>
Jul 1-4*	<u>29th Michigan Summer Championships, Sheraton, Novi, Michigan</u>	<u>810/232-9731</u>
Jul 30-Aug 1*	<u>Thousand Islands Tournament, Pine Tree Point, Alexandria Bay, NY</u>	<u>585/396-0969</u>
Jul 30-Aug 1*	<u>Wisconsin State Championships, Radisson Hotel, Madison, Wisconsin</u>	<u>608/516-9109</u>
Aug 12-15*	<u>11th Georgia Championships & Peach Cup, Hilton Garden Inn, Atlanta, GA</u>	<u>770/333-1876</u>
Sep 3-6*	<u>51st Indiana Open, Sheraton Hotel & Suites, Indianapolis, Indiana</u>	<u>317/255-8902</u>

OUTSIDE USA

Nov 22-23*	CANCELLED: Hi-Rollers Event, Hanover Hotel, Daventry, Northants, England	44152-2888676
Nov 23*	Toronto Masters, Bayview Games Club, Toronto, Ontario, Canada	416/722-9709
Nov 23-30	Sharm El Sheik Open, Domina Coral Bay Resort, Sharm El Sheik, Egypt	39041-52111029
Nov 29-30*	Schwaben-Cup goes Wiesbaden, Ramada Hotel, Miedernhausen, Germany	49711-486190
Dec 5-7*	4th Berlin Open, Cafe Billard International, Berlin, Germany	4930-8833912
Dec 6-7	United Kingdom Finals, Hilton National Hotel, Coventry, England	44153-2888676
Dec 6-7	SBA goes Germany/Open/Doubles Championship, Thun, Switzerland	4179-4552439
Dec 13-14	Rosey Bensley 50th Birthday Trophy, Grange Hotel, Bristol, England	44163-4304908
Dec 27-28*	Schwaben-Cup goes Franken, Ramada Hotel, Nürnberg, Germany	49711-486190
Jan 1-6	9th Thai Open, 19th Hole Super Pub, South Pattaya, Thailand	6638-251461
Jan 9-11	Bright 'n' Breezy, Hilton Metropole Hotel, Brighton, England	44152-2888676
Jan 30-Feb 1	2nd Cotswold Fireside BG & Hold'em Poker, Crown Inn, Blockley, England	44145-3821479
Feb 7-8*	Jarvis Trophy, Hanover Hotel, Hinckley, England	44152-288-8676

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

We are forwarding your letter to Backgammon Boutique proprietor Carol Joy Cole who might have a distributor contact that can help you. Good luck with your club.—Ed.

BAFFLED

What's the rule on the use of baffle boxes in tournament play? Specifically, if one person wants to use them, but the other does not. And I'm not presenting any reasons, I'm just saying that I want to use them.—Bruce Russell, Madison, Wisconsin

If both people agree to use them, or at the discretion of the director, that's fine. But the current US Backgammon Tournament Rules do not require a match to be played with a baffle box at the request of one player.—Ed.

ABT ONLINE

Is it possible to have access to all of the American Backgammon Tour information online? Your web site shows the top 25 people but with over a

100 players getting points annually it would be great to see a list of everyone.—Ilia Guzei, McFarland, Wisconsin

We understand your concern, but if we publish everything online, nobody will subscribe to the POINT. We want to maintain a free website, so for now, you'll have to subscribe to view the current ABT Top 100.—Ed.

GREETINGS FROM MARIO

Thank you very much for sending me The Point. It reminds me good old times.

I was curious about Jake's recent article (Problem #293). Is he still writing the hilarious articles he used to?—Mario Madrigal, San José, Costa Rica

Jake still rights amusing articles. Check out his monthly column at Gammon Village. Look for more of Jake "as you like him" in next year's POINTS.—Ed. Δ

The next issue of CHICAGO POINT will be mailed in January along with an invitation to the 2004 Midwest Championships (19–21 March, 2004).



AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 2003

Compiled through 2 November 2003 after 16 events
Remaining 2003 events: G/A Invitational (LA), Ace Point Holiday (NYC)



Malcolm Davis	37.88	Ben Elliott	10.57	Jeff Kane	6.90	Eden Windish	4.50
Dean Adamian	28.67	David Rubin	10.57	Tom Machaj	6.86	Herb Roman	4.44
Ray Foglerlund	27.65	Bill Finneran	10.57	Emil Mortuk	6.73	Ed Ratajczyk	4.28
Gregg Cattanach	25.66	Richard Reasin	10.00	Perry Firooz	6.73	Bob Zavoral	3.94
Gyl Savoie	22.39	Tom Meyer	10.00	Pat McCormick	6.63	Stuart Katz	3.93
Bob Glass	19.06	Beth Martinson	9.29	Terry Leahy	6.44	Hy Halpern	3.93
Mike Ungerleider	16.81	Tak Morioka	9.18	Daniel Dorinbaum	6.41	Greg Feller	3.93
Ed Bennett	16.73	Simon Kennedy-Rose	9.00	Carol Joy Cole	6.41	Martha Ghio	3.90
Ilia Guzei	16.38	Ron Sanders	8.89	Mary Franks	6.40	Chris Stanford	3.61
Brad Andersen	16.27	Philip Smith	8.82	Larry Arnold	6.30	Russell Sands	3.61
Sam Pottle	15.64	Wally Wolf	8.66	Jim Zimmerman	6.02	Kit Salisbury	3.61
Bruce Russell	15.60	Curtis Lucas	8.66	David Rogers	6.00	Al Tesoro	3.58
Dave Cardwell	15.01	Sho Sengoku	8.36	Michael Flohr	5.55	Doug Mayfield	3.58
Matt Reklaitis	14.33	Betty Coppic	8.29	Chuck Bower	5.29	Trina Smith	3.56
Faddoul Khoury	14.15	Greg Merriman	8.03	Jeremy Bagai	5.27	Dan Mowczan	3.55
Howard Markowitz	13.82	Gary Fries	7.80	Walter Trice	5.27	Karen Davis	3.53
Brian Barber	13.80	Al Jones	7.80	Paul Stebbing	5.20	Jon Vietor	3.37
Adam Versaw	13.53	Dana Nazarian	7.74	Tom Hodous	5.15	Bruce Dimattia	3.37
Steve Sax	13.18	Phil Simborg	7.33	Marilyn Kubiak	5.15	Bob Wilensky	3.19
Alan Fenster	13.00	Abbas Zaltash	7.18	Sean Garber	5.00	Steve Mellen	3.19
Petko Kostadinov	13.00	Ray Woo	7.14	Barry Gittleman	4.87	Carol Falk	3.10
Paul Weaver	12.79	Drew Robinson	7.08	Doug Johnson	4.85	Karen Meyer	3.00
Raymond Rickard	12.29	Neil Garvie	7.08	Bill Davis	4.75	Rainer Stachowitz	2.96
Frank Talbot	11.98	J.A. Miller	7.08	Gayle Wolf	4.73	Brian Farr	2.95
Hunter Jones	11.15	Neil Kazaross	6.94	Vadim Musaelyan	4.50	Alain Azoulay	2.95



CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB 2003 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

COMPILED
THRU 31 OCT.

Bob Zavoral	25.68	Eric Johnson	7.40	Tim Serges	3.14	Ken Tyszk	1.12
Tim Mabee	20.68	Bob Steen	7.36	Wayne Wiest	3.04	Mark King	1.12
Lucky Nelson	17.40	Georgina Flanagan	7.00	Wendy Kaplan	2.80	Spencer King	1.04
Joe Wollick	16.84	Richard Stawowy	6.56	Royal Robinson	2.64	Barry Miller	1.04
Phyllis Smolinski	14.80	Paul Franks	6.44	Mike Sutton	2.60	Kathy Sorci	0.96
Herb Roman	14.72	Steve Klesker	6.32	Larry Goldstein	1.92	Linda Rockwell	0.96
Phil Simborg	14.08	Norma Shyer	5.96	Mitch Pomper	1.84	Richard Lloyd	0.96
Carter Mattig	13.76	Howard Ring	5.52	Mary Franks	1.76	Aaron Ashmann	0.88
David Rockwell	13.08	Bill Bartholomay	5.12	Glenn Martells	1.72	James Roston	0.72
Tak Morioka	13.06	Ed Buerger	4.96	Rory Pascal	1.64	Elaine Andrews	0.72
Gary Kay	12.64	Bill Keefe	4.88	David Araiza	1.52	Mike Wolock	0.72
Alice Kay	12.44	Paul Friedman	4.88	Jake Jacobs	1.44	Paul Klein	0.72
Mark Murray	12.00	Nora Luna-Righter	4.48	Sakura Sugawara	1.44	Don Jayhan	0.64
Paul Baraz	11.96	Roland Dieter	4.48	David Marcus	1.44	Los Moshinsky	0.64
Ken Bond	11.92	Tim Carroll	4.48	Ken Tibbs	1.36	Brian Levant	0.56
Bill Davis	11.88	Doug Rodgers	4.36	Joe Szvedo	1.28	Don Garner	0.56
Michael Peters	11.04	Barbara Levinson	4.24	Dan Cox	1.28	Roz Ferris	0.56
Roger Hickman	9.60	Brian Barber	4.04	Phil Martorelli	1.12	Bobbie Ivanova	0.48
Val Zimnicki	8.96	Elaine Kehm	3.68	Carol Hooker	1.12	Lloyd Esses	0.48
Peter Kalba	8.60	Joann Feinstein	3.52	Rodney Gonzalez	1.12	Frank Ley	0.48
Arline Levy	7.44	Joe Sylvester	3.40				

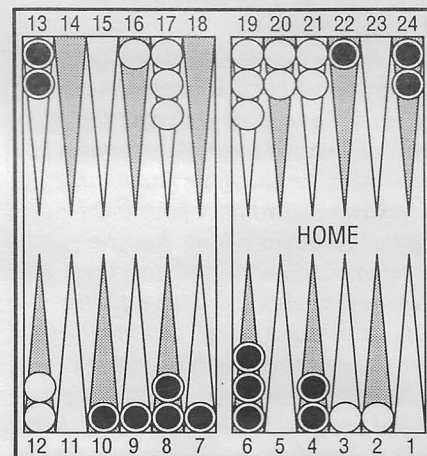
October Player of the Month honors go to **NORA LUNA-RIGHTER** (3.44). That's quite an achievement for someone "just visiting" from Boston. Runner's-up were Herb Roman (3.36) and Dave Rockwell (2.88).

your move

PROBLEM #295

to be analyzed by Ray Foglerlund

Match to 7 points. Black leads White 1 to 4. **BLACK TO PLAY 1-1.**



SHADES OF GRAY

A RULES AND RULINGS COLUMN

© 2003 by Danny Kleinman

CURSED BY THE DICE, OR BY YOUR OPPONENT?

Dear Danny: There always used to be some unsavory characters in backgammon, but at least most of us knew who they were. Nowadays, though, it seems it's the quiet, unassuming people that you have to watch out for.

I was playing in the semifinals of a regional Masters event. Leading 9-6 to 11, and holding a 4-cube, there were two rolls left in bear off. I had four checkers on my deuce point, and my opponent had three on his ace and one on his 3-point. Barring any unfortunate consequences, I was about to guarantee myself at least a few thousand dollars in equity.

Now we all know that sometimes you sit there and silently pray for your opponent to throw his bad numbers. But not this man, who I had been told was a professional person, and a "nice guy." Right in the middle of my shake and roll, he loudly calls out: "Let's see if you can roll a f***ing ace!"

Note that he didn't just say, "Perhaps you can roll an ace here." He used the most profane adjective possible, and said it loudly enough that all the kibitzers could hear (one old woman almost fainted). And of course, nobody was too surprised, least of all me, when the dice landed on the board showing 2-1.

Immediately I tossed the dice cup towards my opponent. I know that was wrong, but it was a knee-jerk reaction to what was clearly the most underhanded of all tricks. What he had done had totally broken my concentration. I have been playing this game for a long, long time, and tournament directors all over the world know that although I am a pretty good player, it is my being "in tune" with the dice when rolling that has gotten me where I am today.

I asked for a ruling, and the committee said that although my opponent was clearly

in error for opening his mouth, the roll would stand. Ha!

There is no room for this kind of behavior in our game. People are given penalty points, and even disqualifications, for similar behavioral infractions in other games and sports. For example, imagine if we were playing tennis, and I'm second-serving at match point. While I'm tossing the ball in the air, my opponent yells across the net: "Let's see if you can serve a f***ing double fault!" and then I slam the ball right into the net. At the very least, the umpire would rule "no serve" and a do-over. Why should this situation be any different?

Of course, what I should have done was just remained calm and thrown a doublet on my last roll to win the game and teach Mr. Rude Pottymouth a lesson. And in my younger days, that's probably what I would have done. But I am older now, and not as mentally strong as I used to be. I just couldn't muster up the force to do it. Naturally, after losing and dropping behind 9-10, I lost the next game and walked away empty-handed.

Maybe the dice gods were punishing me for making a loose initial double at this score. But regardless, my opponent should not have been allowed to get away with his actions unpunished. At the very least, this man's prize money should have been put back in the pool for the other remaining players to divide.

The lost equity is not even the issue here. These days, I play more for fun than for money. But the whole situation so annoying that it took most of the fun out of the rest of my weekend. I think the tournament committee was weak for not taking more aggressive action against this person, and I will refuse to attend any more tournaments where this type of behavior is allowed to go unpunished.—1980 WABC

DEAR WABC: In order to make a fair judgment on this situation, I really need to hear your opponent's side of the story as to why he reacted the way he did.

For example, here's one conjecture. By you "getting into your rolls," he may have thought, you were taking inordinately long before casting your dice. If so, then your opponent should have summoned a director to forbid you from taking more time than necessary to shake the dice adequately before rolling. Instead he erred by letting his irritation grow.

Your opponent was certainly rude and unsportsmanlike in exclaiming anything while you were rolling, and he earned a warning for this behavior. His use of the word "f***ing" was offensive not because

of the obscenity per se, but because of the hostile tone that he undoubtedly used in saying it. You figure to win from the position you describe slightly more than half the time, and whether he said "f***ing" or "abracadabra" had no effect on the dice, despite your superstitious belief that it did. So your roll stands.

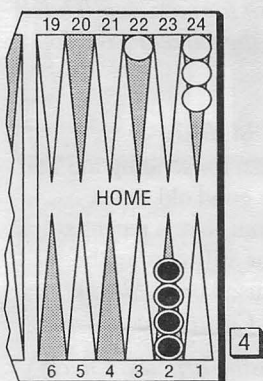
Hurling the dice cup at your opponent, being violent rather than merely oral, was a worse offense than what your opponent did. However, because of the provocation, I have some sympathy for your action and would let you off with a warning, just as I would your opponent.

Your analogy to tennis is inept. A tennis player is supposed to try to produce a powerful and accurate serve, not a random placement of the ball in his opponent's court. Any action of his opponent that disturbs his concentration while serving justifies letting him serve again. A backgammon player is not supposed to try to produce any roll but a random roll. Because you cannot produce anything but random rolls however many mental gymnastics you try, you are not a cheater.

Paradoxically, if we were to believe in the theories you espouse, we would consider you a cheater, convicting you by your own words.—Yours, Danny

Have you ever been involved in a questionable ruling? Get Danny Kleinman's opinion. Write to: Shades of Gray; c/o CHICAGO POINT; 3940 W. Bryn Mawr Ave. 504; Chicago, IL 60659-3155 or e-mail: bg@chicagopoint.com.

Black on shake.



ILLINOIS ACTION



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

Tuesday, 6:00 P.M. at Clarion Hotel, 5615 N. Cumberland Ave., Chicago; 773/693-5800.

Saturday Bimonthly, 12:00 NOON at Champs Sports Bar, 17 W. 517 Roosevelt Rd., Oakbrook Terrace; 630/691-1888.

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

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL BACKGAMMON CLUB: Tourn. Monday, 6:30 P.M. at Damon's Place For Ribs; 1701 Fort Jesse Road; Normal. Michael Flohr (309/662-7967)

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).

Which are the Good Doubles?

by Bill Davis

When should you make an initial double? When you can gain equity by cubing whether your opponent takes or drops, then it is right to double. In match-play, score considerations critically effect your decision. For example, when you're ahead 2-away/4-away, handle the cube with care. If you double, your opponent doesn't need much (just over 17% winning chances) to take and recube for the match.

In match-play, sometimes its right to leave the cube in the center and play on for a gammon. In money games, the Jacoby Rule (no gammons unless the cube has been turned) precludes this consideration.

Here's some good advice that even Snowie doesn't know about. In both match-and money-play, if you think there is some chance that your opponent may drop, then it is proper to double with slightly less than you need. Equitywise, you lose a little when the double is accepted, but you gain a ton when it is incorrectly passed.

Evaluate the following five problems and determine which doubles you would make. **THEN CHECK YOUR ANSWERS AGAINST 720-ROLL 3-PLY FULL SNOWIE ROLLOUT RESULTS SHOWN ON PAGE 9.**

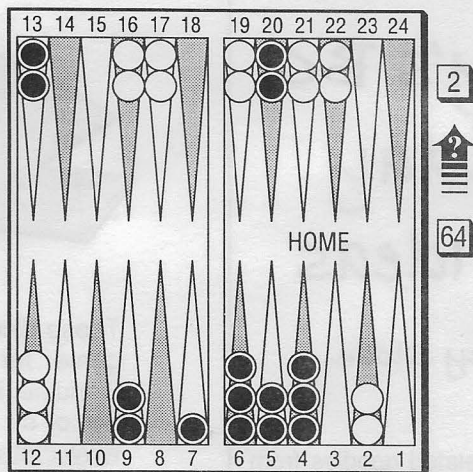
GARY KAY AND VAL ZIMNICKI CAPTURE BPC FALL TROPHIES

60 players, including a large group from Wisconsin were in attendance for the Bar Point Club's 21st Fall Trophy Tourney. The big winners were Gary Kay (who is having a record-breaking year) and former Pub Club director Val Zimnicki. Congratulations to all the winners listed at right. Δ

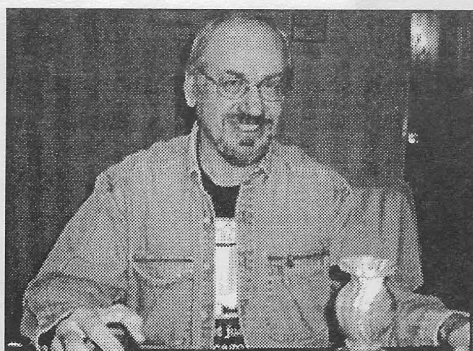


Winner Gary Kay with director Bill Davis.

No. 1. Money game. Should Black double?



No. 2. What action do you take?

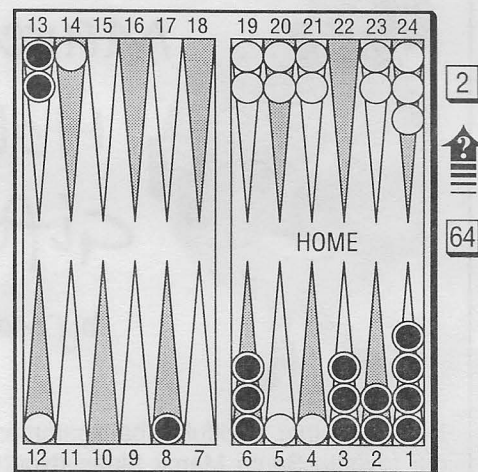


Intermediate winner Val Zimnicki

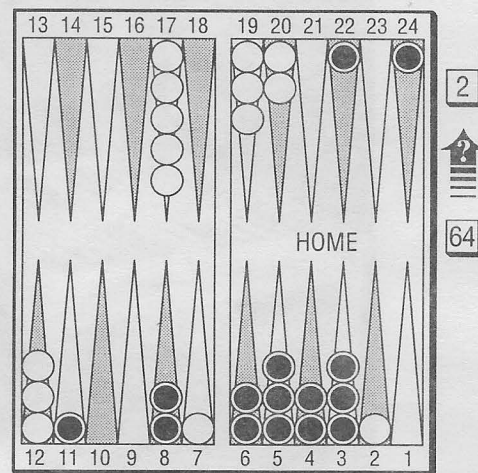
BPC FALL TROPHY TOURNEY

OPEN (32): 1-Gary Kay, 2-Bob Zavoral, 3/4-Ilia Guzei (WI) / Tak Morioka; 1C/2C-Bob Holyon (WI)/David Rubin. INTERMEDIATE (26): 1-Val Zimnicki, 2-Ken Tyszko, 3/4-Roland Dieter / Bill Keefe; 1C-Jolie Rubin, 2C-Neville Kerr (WI). 1-POINT TOURNEY (32): 1-Yamin Yamin. ZAVORAL BOARD KO (8): 1-Phil Simborg.

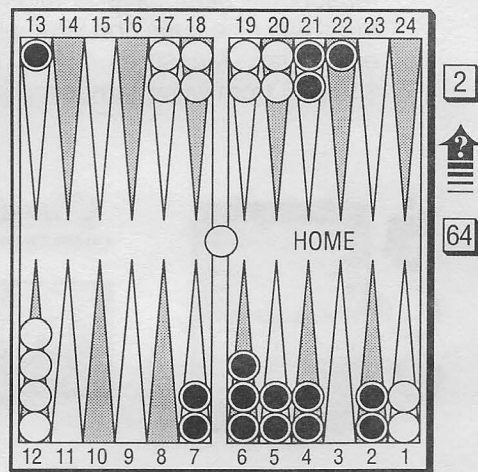
No. 3. 5-point match. Black leads White, 3 to 2. Is this a cube for Black?



No. 4. 5-point match. No score. Should Black double or play on for a gammon?



No. 5. Money game. What is Black's proper cube action?



Did you get at least three right? Check out the answers on page 9.



Marcy's BG Holiday Gift Ideas

by Marcy Sloan

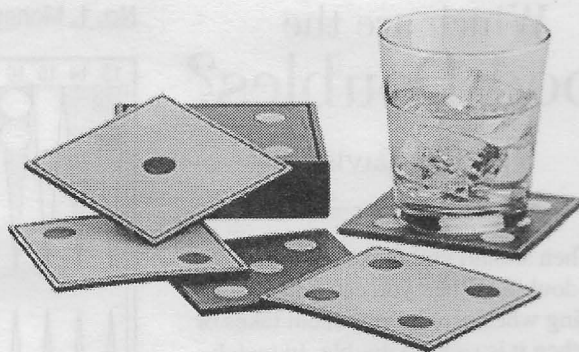
Here's another sackful of backgammon-related goodies from our favorite Santa Marcy Sloan (Northbrook, IL). Everything here can be purchased at the Internet address shown.—Ed.



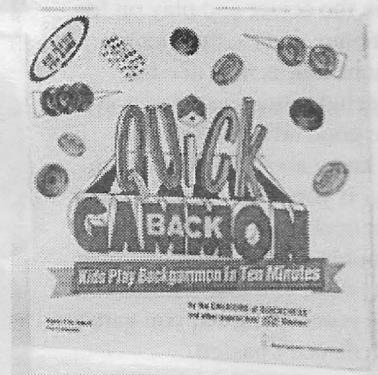
This solid oak backgammon table provides a reasonable alternative to fold-up sets. Features oak dice cups and large plastic men for easy play. Measures 28" x 28" x 27"H. \$199.96 from www.gamesimported.com.



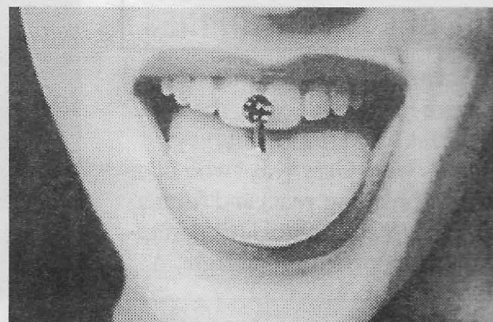
Backgammon Keychain. This is backgammon in its smallest, playable format. Contains miniature, magnetic game pieces that store inside the game unit. \$3.99 from www.ultimatekeychains.com.



These dice coasters in red and ivory leather are game for cocktails and other refreshments. Genuine leather with reverse accent stitching. Set of six (4" x 4") in storage box. \$21.95 from www.crateandbarrel.com.



Quick Backgammon is the perfect game for beginners. First game is played on a smaller mat until players learn how the pieces move. Then game is played on a full-sized game board. Children as young as five will learn to play backgammon in just ten minutes. \$11.95 from www.boardgamesexpress.com.



Need something to distract your opponent? Here you go! This 10 gauge 5/8" tongue jewelry has a black & white die for the top ball. The straight barbell is made of implant grade surgical steel and completely safe for any tongue. \$39.99 from www.bewild.com.

3-AWAY...

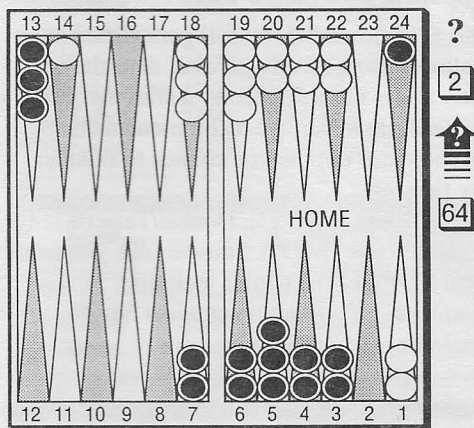
[Continued from page 1]

Trailing 0-2, Dana quite rightly turned the cube to 4 and let me try to "figure out" if there is a way to take this. He's favored to make a 6-prime with me on the roof and then stroll home to a gammon, scooping up blots on the way. On the down-side his 6s and 2s are duplicated and he's not certain to cover his 2-point blot or later release his two back men. I saw some difficult problems if he rolls some 4s and 3s, so I took.

A Snowie rollout has it as a small pass at 1.060 if I take, which Dana vindicated by rolling one his worst with 4-3, correctly playing 8/1. I tossed a 2-3, played bar/23*, 8/5. Dana then rolled 5-3, making the right play with bar/22, 7/2*. I responded with the super-joker 2-2 hitting on the 23-point, making my 3-point, and leaving him with two men on the roof. I eventually won a redoubled gammon to reach 3-away.

In my semifinal Masters match against the always-tough Ray Foglerland (CA) we reached this position:

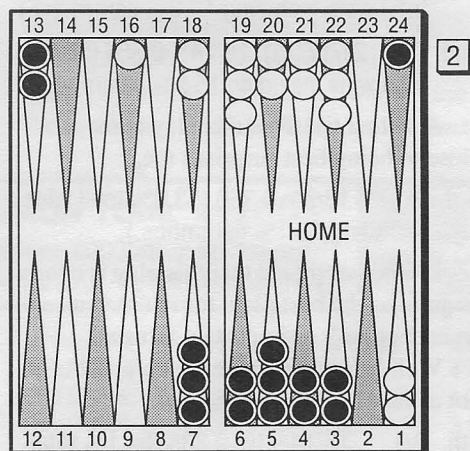
Pos. 2. 11-pt. match. Gregg Cattanach (Black) leads Ray Foglerlund (White), 8-4. Black on roll. **CUBE ACTIONS?**



For money, this is a solid double and easy take. At 3-away, 7-away it is quite different for several reasons. First, I don't get full value from any gammons won. Most importantly, Ray can redouble as a substantial underdog, canceling my gammons and putting 4 or even 8 points at stake when I only need 3. It is quite an error to double at this score—Snowie shows it about a 0.130 mistake to give up the cube. My thoughts were, "I'm winning by a lot, the timing is all my way and I have only one man back to his two," so I turned the cube. My thoughts were wrong for the given match score.

Two shakes later we were here and I rolled my worst:

Pos. 3. 11-pt. match. Gregg Cattanach (Black) leads Ray Foglerlund (White), 8-4. **BLACK TO PLAY 5-5.**



So much for my timing. I also compounded my bad roll by making a large blunder playing 13/8(2), 8/3, 7/2. This looks pure and clever and actually wins slightly more single games. However, it ups my gammon losses from 8% to 12%. This may seem like a small amount, but with a 4-cube coming my way and Ray winning the match with a gammon, the simpler 13/3(2) is dramatically better.

Ray then properly turned the cube. He only wins 39% single games and 12% gammons, but at this score he can double as a decided underdog, especially with gammons to be won. It is right by 0.053 to redouble to 4. Because of powerful recubes, this is a great demonstration of how hard it is to give an initial cube from the center in a volatile position at 3-away, many-away. A trivial take, of course.

The dice had no punishment for my bad 5-5 play. Ray brought a 5-3 played 9/1*, I rolled 6-1 played bar/24*, 8/2, Ray fanned and I rolled another 6-1 to leap his 5-prime and come around, leaving no shots in the bearoff and winning the match. Clearly if Ray is the one rolling 6-1, he often wins a gammon and the match. (I had room 610 in the hotel. Maybe that helped!)

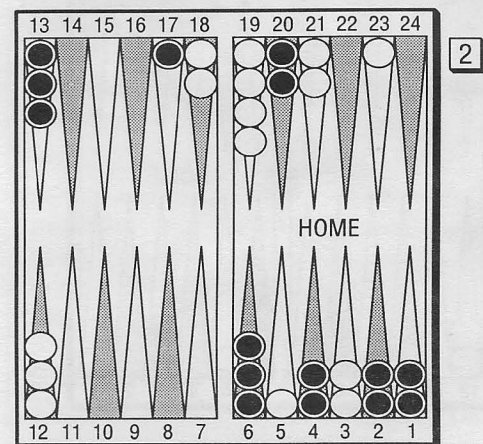
Director Steve Brown and I got to play our Masters final match just after midnight on Saturday. What an effort by Steve: run a successful event and reach the Masters final! We had a see-saw match and again I got to 3-away! The score was 3-away, 9-away, but Steve had other plans and scrambled back to make it 3-away, 4-away. I announced to the room in general, "I'm sick of being 3-away!"

I found a new solution for this problem in the next game. I got a good blitz going with the cube centered and eventually had four of Steve's checkers stuck on my ace point. I never left a shot and we got to the position with me having three checkers left

on my 2-point and Steve with a single blot on my 1. I rolled 6-2, and Steve found the ultimate anti-joker 3-2 to let me win a backgammon and the Masters title.

IN THE FINALS with Brad Andersen, he was the fortunate player with the 3-away score and I had another 5-5 to play:

Pos. 4. 11-pt. match. Gregg Cattanach (Black) trails Brad Andersen (White), 5-8. **BLACK TO PLAY 5-5.**



With me needing six points and Brad only getting partial credit for his gammons, the super aggressive 20/5*, 13/8 is right by a small margin, only because the extra gammon losses aren't as costly. If it was 6-away, 4-away, the more solid but less gammonish 20/10(2) would be right. My play was rewarded, but I still lost the match at DMP.

THIS WAS BY FAR my most exciting tournament to date, and I want to thank Steve Brown, Fred Kalantari and their staff for putting together a most enjoyable event. The casino is lots of fun, the full-time coffee/soft drinks/water service was great, and a good time was had by all. We're definitely returning next year!—Gregg Cattanach Δ

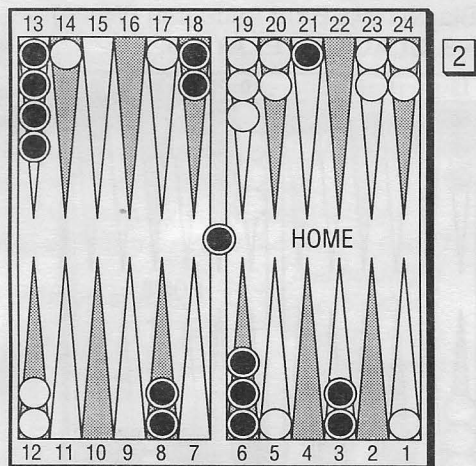
MINNESOTA STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

CHAMPIONSHIP (30): 1-Brad Andersen (WI), 2-Gregg Cattanach (GA); 1C-Larry Arnold (MN), 2C-Shel Segal (MN). **INTERMEDIATE (28):** 1-Tom Machaj (WI), 2-Jim Pokela (MN); 1C-Jeff Barrows (ND), 2C-Georgina Flanagan (IL). **NOVICE (13):** 1-Arlene Austin (PA), 2-Tony Dephia (MN); 1C-Judy McCullah. (MO). **MAS-TERS JACKPOT (12):** 1-Gregg Cattanach (GA), 2-Steve Brown (MN). **DOUBLES (16 teams):** 1- Steve Maas & Dave Wetzel (MN), 2-Colleen Hitchcock (MN) & Judy McCullah (MO). **BLITZ (64):** 1/3-Jacques Ach (MN) / Art Moore (CA) / Dana Nazarian (CA). **MINI-MATCHES (32):** 1-Art Moore (CA), 2-Sho Sengoku (CA).

PROBLEM #292 ANALYZED

by Danny Kleinman

Match to 7 points. Black trails White 2 to 5. **BLACK TO PLAY 4-4.**



[Editor's note: Special thanks to Danny Kleinman who fills in for Kit Woolsey this month. Kit was in Monte Carlo for a bridge tournament.]

At this score, with the cube already turned to 2, losing a gammon costs Black nothing but winning a gammon brings Black to Crawford-odd, a very favorable score indeed. Black can afford to play with nearly reckless abandon in an attempt to gammon White. Hitting two men is essential. Maintaining an anchor on White's 4-point is not as important as it is when losing a gammon costs something, but is still desirable, for it keeps White from making that valuable fifth inside point.

As Black would greatly like to make his own 5-point and to keep White from anchoring there, the thematic play is B/21, 13/5*, 18/14*. Its only drawback is that it leaves an inside blot, and if White counters with a 5, Black's attack will be slowed by having to reenter against a four point board. That would be a serious drawback at a score where gammon losses were costly and gammon wins less valuable to Black. Then, as in money play, the prudent B/21, 18/14*, 21/17*(2), which maximizes overall winning chances while reducing gammon-loss danger greatly but sacrifices some gammon-winning chances, would be best.

It has become *de rigueur* for backgammon problem-solvers to cite Snowie rollout results in support of their solutions. I do not use (or own) Snowie, but editor Bill Davis reports that his 720 Snowie rollouts (3-ply)

yield these results:

- 1st. B/21, 18/14*, 13/5*: 0.358 (53.5% total wins including 18.9% gammons.)
- 2nd. B/21, 21/17*(2), 18/14*: 0.356 (56.2% total wins including 15.5% gammons.)

A virtual tie! That this play comes so close to being best surprises me.

- 3rd. B/17*, 13/5*: 0.350 (53.0% total wins including 19.1% gammons.)

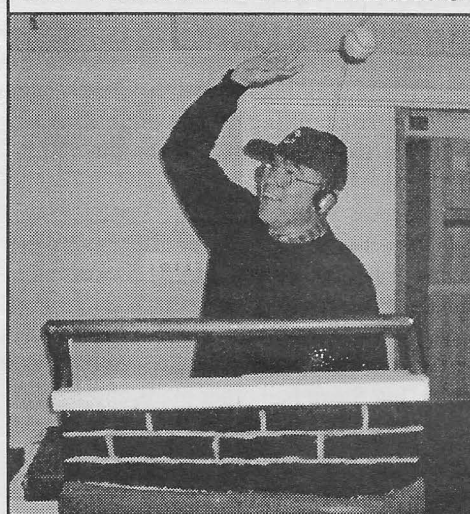
I'm not surprised that this play is nearly as good as the best play, for maintenance of an anchor isn't as important as usual.

Well behind the three best plays, but not as far behind as I expected:

- 4th. B/17*, 18/14*/10: 0.338 (54.1% total wins including 17.0% gammons.)
- 5th. B/17*, 18/14*(2): 0.324 (55.4% total wins including 14.5% gammons.)
- 6th. B/17*, 18/14*, 13/9: 0.321 (53.2% total wins including 17.0% gammons.)

I must confess that in practice, I wouldn't consider any but the first two plays. The first play *dominates* the third, as keeping White's 4-point is surely better than keeping his bar-point. The second play *dominates* the fourth, fifth and sixth, as it creates a useful outpost on White's 8-point that the others do not. Computer programs may operate by evaluating *all* possible plays, but human beings do best to conserve their brain power and time by examining only the *best play of each kind*.—Danny Kleinman Δ

BAD MEMORIES FOR CHICAGO



It's Mike Sutton in costume at the Chicago Bar Point Club the Tuesday after Halloween dressed as Steve Bartman, the man who may have cost the beloved Cubbies a pennant.

"Good Doubles" Answers...

[From quiz on page 5]

One of the doubles is illegal and the rest are improper. Let's review the findings of Snowie's 720 game full rollouts (3-ply, percise). Remember that Snowie classifies a move as an "error" when it differs from the correct action by 0.030 or more.

No 1. This is no double by a margin of 0.047.

No Double (0.647), Double/Take (0.600). Snowie says you can win 65.9% of the games including 15.7% gammons. Your opponent wins 34.1% with 5.4% gammons.

No. 2. Although very fine at first glance, this double is not legal until June 13, 2004.

No 3. This is not a double by a margin of 0.065. The score is a factor with undoubled gammons winning the match for you.

No Double (0.798), Double/Take (0.733). Snowie says you can win 71.5% of the games including 15.4% gammons. Your opponent wins 28.5% with 2.9% gammons.

No 4. This position is too good to double by a margin of 0.026.

No Double (1.026), Double/Pass (1.000). Snowie says you can win 73.1% of the games including 54.2% gammons. Your opponent wins 26.9% with 5.5% gammons.

No 5. Following 2160 full game Snowie rollouts played 3-ply percise, data showed that this is not a double by a slim margin of -0.009. However, we recommend a double, giving your opponent a chance to blunder by passing.

No Double (0.723), Double/Take (0.714), Double/Pass (1.000). Snowie says you can win 61.4% of the games including 30.3% gammons. Your opponent wins 38.6% including 7.1% gammons. Δ

october contest results

TO BEAVER OR NOT TO BEAVER RESULTS

Joe Wollick's backgammon poem puzzle received solutions from as far away as France. Bruce Haight of La Mesa, CA wins the random draw extending his Chicago Point subscription by one year.

A careful reading of the puzzle found that:

1. Player one had two checkers on the 3-point.
2. Player two (narrator) had a checker on the 4- and 2-point, or a checker on the 5- and 1-point.
3. Player one rolled 3-1 or 1-1.
4. Player two rolled 1-1. Δ

WINNER'S CIRCLE



Sep.-Nov. 2003

•**Michigan Club Challenge** (Plymouth, MI; 14 Sept.)... 1-Flint Area Club, 2/3-Grand Rapids Club / Plymouth Club, 4-Troy Club. SINGLES (10): 1-Lilly Undieme, 2-Pete Lewandowski.

•**Norwegian Championship** (Oslo, Norway; 4-5 Oct.)... OPEN (63): 1-Anders Skjelde, 2-Eirik M. Pedersen; 1C-Jørn Nesdal, 2C-Karl Frogner; 1LC-Harald Sæther. INTERMEDIATE (34): 1-Jim-Remy Nesdal, 2-Zoran Krogstad; 1C-Rolf Eknes, 2C-Stig Thomas; 1LC-Håvard Hafskjold. BEGINNER (8): 1-Jon Magnusson, 2-Axel Lupton. TEAM EVENT: 1-Asbjørn Arntzen, Trond Dalhaug, Arne Nordhei, 2-Hanna Nilsson, Frank Stenersen, Odin Spillum Svendsen.

•**Sandy Osborne Trophy** (Coventry, England; 4-5 Oct.)... OPEN (36): 1-Nigel Briddon, 2-Ray Tannen; 1C-Amir Mossanen, 2C-Jim Johnson; 1LC-Andrew Darby. SUICIDE! (32): 1-Pt Holly, 2-Jane Oxley. £100 JACKPOT (8): 1-Julian Minwalla, 2-Dave McNair.

•**Austrian Open & Doubles Championship** (Seefeld, Austria; 9-12 Oct.)... MASTERS: 1-Thomas Lumper (GER), 2-Wolfgang Kargl; 1C-José Salema (POR), 2C-Elman Kofler; 1LC-Gunther Hegglin (GER). CHAMPIONSHIP: 1-Stefan Parlow, 2-Hans Klein; 1C-Michael Sader (SUD), 2C-Margit Iller (GER); 1LC-Thomas Low (GER). CONTINENTAL DOUBLES: 1-Laura Nobile & Daniel Scheidiger (SWZ), 2-Andreas & Alexander Reichel (AUS). BLITZ: 1-Marcus Faltermann (GER). LADIES TOURNEY: 1-Yvonne Ketteler (GER), 2-Riebler Andrea, 3-Petra Ketteler.

•**Houston Club Fall Championship** (Houston, TX; 11 Oct.)... OPEN (27): 1-Gonzalo Molina, 2-Ira Hessel, 3-Tom Wright, 4-Jorge Salazar; 1C-Sam Sansone, 2C-Al Johnson.

•**33rd Japanese Championship & Tokyo Open** (Tokyo, Japan, 11-13 Oct.)... Championship (128): 1-Masahito Yamamoto, 2-Makoto Shimada. INTERMEDIATE (120): 1-Noriyuki Hosaka, 2-Gen Yoshida. BEGINNER (128): 1-Eitetsu Nishikawa, 2-Takanobu Kabasawa. TOKYO OPEN (45): 1-Yoshimichi Fukamizu, 2-Masahito Yamamoto, 3/4-Kiyokazu Nishikawa / Cosmo Tamada. FIRST CONS.: 1-Hirohisa Tezuka. SECOND CONS.: 1-Shunsuke Hasegawa. OTHELLO'S QUIZ CONTEST: 1/4: Kazuya Nagai / Michihito Kageyama / Seiichi Nagai / Shinichi Kaneko; 5/6-Jake Jacobs (USA) / Kiyokazu Nishikawa.

•**South Florida Monthly** (Ft. Lauderdale, FL; 12 Oct.)... OPEN (8): 1-Don Heinsler, 2-Fred Berson.

•**1st Lucien Barrière Open** (Enghien-les-Bains, France; 15-19 Oct.)... CHAMPIONSHIP (90): 1-Lars Bønding (DEN), 2-François Tardieu (FRA), 3/4-Sean Casey (IRE) / Joel Schiff (ISR); 1C-Olivier Decultot (FRA), 2C-Tobias Hellwag (GER), 3C/4C-Arild Idsoe (NOR) / Serge Rived (FRA); 1LC-Matti Haaksila, 2LC-Volker Sonnabend (GER). INTERMEDIATE (33): 1-Avertis Rostomian (ARM), 2-Rogier van Gemert (NETH), 3/4-Gunther Lansch (GER) / Eric Pecquet (FRA); 1C-Arut Martirosian (ARM), 2C-Artur Muradian (ARM), 3C/4C-Gabriel Andersen (DEN) / Jean-Claude Bensaid; 1LC-Frederic Andrieu (FRA), 2LC-Frank Conway (IRE). AMATEUR (23): 1-Lise Howard (SWT), 2-Liz Barker (ENG), 3/4-Alexandra Morel (FRA) / Etienne Nicaise (BEL); 1C-Guillaume Castille (FRA), 2C-Selçuk Azeri (TUR); 1LC-Miki Suzuki (JPN). SUPERJACKPOT #1 (8): 1-François Tardieu (FRA), 2-Howard Markowitz (USA). #2 (16): 1-Eric Sfez (FRA), 2-Jörgen Granstedt (SWE). #3 (8): 1/2-Howard Markowitz (USA) / Leonid Riskin (UKR/GER). CONSULTATION DOUBLES (21 teams): 1-Jan Andrew Bloxham & Judy Olsen (UK/DEN), 2-Emil Mortuk & John O'Hagan (USA). WARM-UP (68): 1-Serge Rived (FRA). GAMESGRID NACKGAMMON BLITZ (32): 1-Hardy Janotta (GER), 2-Kenji Shimodaira (JPN). ONE-POINT PRESIDENT'S TOURNAMENT (64): 1-John Broomfield (UK).

•**Gammonitis 1st Birthday Tournament** (E. Grinstead, England; 25-26 Oct.)... OPEN MAIN: 1-Andrew Darby, 2-Peter Bennet, 3/4-John Clark / Dave McNair. OPEN CONS.: 1-Liz Park, 2-Ray Tannen, 3/4-Peter Fallows / Ray Kershaw. TEXAS HOLD'EM POKER: 1-John Leavey, 2/3-Paul Lamford / Ray Tannen. FRIDAY JACKPOT: 1/2-Brian Busfield / John Clark. SATURDAY JACKPOT: 1-David Markwick, 2-Peter Bennet.

•**25th Flint Club Championships** (Flint, MI; 26 Oct.)... OPEN (29): 1-Paul Berg, 2-Gary Margosian, 3-Joel Gittleman, 4/6-Eion Hogan / Jim Price / John Salomon. INTERMEDIATE (25): 1-Lilly Undieme, 2-Nancy Takala, 3-Sam Denno, 4/6-Stewart Kelman / Charlotte Mowczan / Phil Undieme. NOVICE (6): 1-Mark Van Poucker, 2-Akemi Ota.

•**Ace Point Monthly** (New York, NY; 26 Oct.)... OPEN (13): 1-Matvey Natanzon, 2-Karen Davis; 1C-Toni Wuersch. INTERMEDIATE (6): 1-Glen de Guzman, 2-Donald Gabbai. NOVICE (2): 1-Jigar Shah.

•**11th Irish Open** (Dublin, Ireland; 1-2 Nov.)... OPEN: 1-Grahame Powell, 2-Natalie Guez. CONSOLATION (64): 1-Roland Herrera, 2-Tony Lee, 3/4-John Batty / Blaine Buchanan. TEAM EVENT: 1-Ralph Eskinazi's Team. SUPER JACKPOT: 1-Eric Guedj, 2-Paul O'Kelly. Δ

AMALGAMATION

The *Indy Star* Reports that Indianapolis Colts players **Troy Walters** and **Brandon Stokley** are passionate BG players. Said Walters: "I vowed to... just beat Stokley's head in, in this backgammon game. It's just as good as winning games on Sunday."... When 83-year-old U.S. Supreme Court Justice **John Paul Stevens** retires, he says he'll spend time swimming and playing backgammon... **Elaine Kehm Tallickson** and husband **Jerry** have left Chicago for five months to enjoy their new winter home in Palm Desert, CA... The "Plimpton Cup" World Amateur Championship was held in Las Vegas 1978-1985. **George Plimpton**, an author who wrote about his experiences playing with the pros in boxing, football, etc., served as chairman. Plimpton died in New York City 25 September. He was 76... Get well wishes go out to **Bob Glass** (CA) who was hospitalized last month due to diabetes complications... Director **George Sulimirski** reports that the London-based Double 5s BG Club is closed until further notice... **Jake Jacobs** (AZ) chatted with Benihana Japanese Steakhouse owner **Rocky Aoki** (NY) last month. Aoki has been a backgammon aficionado for many years... Happy Holidays from CHICAGO POINT. See you in January. Δ

RON WHITNEY DIES



Ron Whitney [1988 photo above], former New Jersey backgammon director is dead. Whitney, who worked as a limousine driver, was found dead in his apartment in Teaneck, New Jersey 28 October. The apparent cause of death was heart failure.

Whitney and Jay Rabinowitz took over directorial duties of the New Jersey Backgammon Club from Dan Caverly in 1986. Whitney remained at the helm until 2002. He also organized a number of regional events including some at the Rocking Horse Ranch, followed by four "Big Apple" ABT tournaments (1993-1996).

125 attended Ron Whitney's funeral 31 October in Hackensack, New Jersey including 12 backgammon players. He is survived by his father, three brothers, and seven nephews and nieces.

The Charlotte Backgammon Club presents the 4th Annual

Carolina Invitational

- Open, Intermediate and Novice divisions of play
- \$300 Queen City Cup
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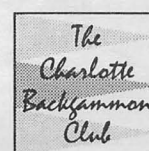


Book your room by
January 2 to make
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704-814-0850

jeb@carolina.rr.com



*The Carolina Invitational will be the first stop on the 2004 American Backgammon Tour.
Enjoy Charlotte's beautiful weather while getting an early jump on the ABT points race!*

For complete information including a printable flyer, visit our website:

<http://home.carolina.rr.com/backgammonclub/ABT.html>

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The 26th Annual Pittsburgh Backgammon Championships

and ABT Awards Ceremony

February 13–15, 2004

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Featuring: Hospitality all weekend (food, drinks, munchies), Pittsburgh Memorial Cup (remembering John Brussel), Master & Amateur Jackpots, Backgammon Boutique, Blitz & Women's-Only Blitz, "Be My Valentine" Doubles, Early Elimination Tournament with added money.

Make your **Radisson Hotel Reservations** (\$79/night, dbl. or single occ.) by Feb. 5, 2004. 800/333-3333. Be sure to mention "Backgammon."

Information: Steve Hast • 412/823-7500 • e-mail: pghsteve1@aol.com

Join us for a weekend of backgammon excitement. Monday, February 16 is President's Day

Pittsburgh Schedule of Events

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2004

- 12:30 pm Registration Opens
- 2:00 pm Early Masters & Amateur Jackpot
- 2:30 pm Open Doubles (Early Section) & Blitz
- 6:00 pm Doubles Tournaments
- 6:30 pm Amateur Jackpot (2nd section)
- 7:00 pm Masters Jackpot (2nd section)
- 9:30 pm Pizza (play continues)
- 11:30 pm Registration Closes

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2004

- 9:00 am Lox & Bagels w/Coffee. Regist. Opens
- 10:00 am Registration Closes
- 10:15 am ABT Awards Presentations, Door Prizes, Calcutta Auction (Champion & Advanced Divisions)
- 12:00 pm Play Begins (Champion & Advanced)
- 1:00 pm Novice Event Begins
- 5:00 pm Dinner Break
- 7:15 pm Play resumes
- 8:00 pm Pitt. Memorial & 3 Rivers Cup entries accepted
- 10:00 pm Hoagies (play continues)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2004

- 9:30 am Doughnuts & Coffee
- 10:00 am Tournament play resumes
- 11:00 am Pittsburgh Memorial Cup & 3 Rivers Amateur Cup tournaments
- 11:30 am 8-Player Jackpots
- 12:00 pm Micro Blitz Playoffs (time approx.)
- 1:00 pm Finals—Main Events (time approx.)