

world backgammon championship

## ONE 'HAL' OF A PERFORMANCE

Canadian Heinrich Wins The Big One In Monte-Carlo

by Haio Forler

Canadian Hal Heinrich, a serious backgammon student who utilizes a computer and hundreds of recorded backgammon matches in his studies, has won the 1990 Monte-Carlo World Backgammon Championship. Heinrich, the 1987 Midwest Champ, bested a tough international



Canada's Hal Heinrich: The 1990 World Backgammon Champion.

field of 217 players who gathered at the Loews Hotel in Monte-Carlo 16-22 July. His payday was a whopping \$65,000.

The event was well organized by Tournament Director James Ballié, Chairman André Rolfo-Fontana and Honorary Chairman Lewis Deyong. International Backgammon Association directors Sue and Les Boyd assisted with Jackpot tournaments.

### The Cocktail Party—Where's Joe?

For most of the North American players, this was the third event on a three week "European Tour" that included the Isle of Man and San Remo. Most of America's big name players were here with two notable exceptions: Alan Steffen and Joe Sylvester. At the welcoming cocktail party on Monday, I was asked about 30 times why Sylvester had decided not to participate at

Monte-Carlo or San Remo. He had played at the Isle of Man two weeks prior and gave the Baron and Baroness of Culcreuch no indication that he wouldn't continue on for the two Riviera events. It was a mystery.

But there were other "stars" to fill the gap. Rick Barabino (I.O.M. Champion), Paul Magriel (I.O.M. Super Jackpot Winner), and Thomas Lumper (San Remo Champion) were all present and they all had a wonderful time.

England's renowned director Lewis Deyong was in fine form, speaking in his usual unabashed fashion. "All matches must be played in the tournament playing room—not in your hotel room, and certainly not on the beach.

"And the only language permitted in the playing room will be English. That means, no Finnish, no German, no Russian and especially no Dutch!"

Both comments were made in reference to last year's problems involving the two Dutchmen Van Eyck and Schreuder, both of whom were in attendance this year.

### The Games Begin

The next day, the warm glow of an evening filled with champagne and laughter was long forgotten for Bill Robertie and Wilcox Snellings. Two of the very best in the world had drawn each other in the opening round of play.

With Sylvester back in Michigan, other opening round crowd-pleasers included Paul Magriel, Billy Horan, Jason Lester, Mika Lidov, Mike Svobodny, Rick Barabino and defending world champion Joe Russell. But it was the legendary Magriel who attracted the largest crowds. Wherever "X-22" laid down his score sheet, a crowd of 20-30 spectators would huddle around the table.

Wilcox Snellings also had a very difficult time keeping any of his matches a secret from the kibitzers. "Of course for \$200 an hour, I'll give away all of my secrets any time," Snellings was quoted as saying. He was eliminated by Robertie 17-12 in the first round.

### The Black-Tie Auction

Following the first two rounds of play on

Tuesday, the field was pared down to 64 competitors that included Magriel, Russell, Horan, Robertie, Lidov, Frank Talbot, Bob Glass, Howard Ring, Emil Mortuk and Hal Heinrich. The survivors were auctioned off at the black-tie gala dinner Wednesday evening at the Monte-Carlo Sporting Club.

As in many previous years, Lewis Deyong presided over the Calcutta. Though

### Monte-Carlo Calcutta Auction Seeded Players

Player	Buyer	Price
Billy Horan (USA)	Jaakko Salava (FIN)	\$7,500
Joe Tissona (ISR)	Gerd Schiesser (GER)	\$5,000
Bill Robertie (USA)	Howard Ring (USA)	\$4,500
Paul Magriel (USA)	Freddie Narboni (FRA)	\$4,000
Mika Lidov (USA)	C. Lestrade (MNCO)	\$4,000
Hal Heinrich (CAN)	Howard Ring (USA)	\$2,500
Frank Talbot (MI)		\$2,000
Robert Zurel (NETH)		\$2,000

Total Calcutta Auction Pool = \$86,500

generally praising the skills of the remaining players, Deyong would occasionally throw in a dose of sarcasm. "Did you know that American author Bill Robertie was also the ghost writer for a lesser known classic: *Europe On Two Checks A Day* by Ron Chronister?"

"What is the bid for Magriel? His wardrobe alone [generally T-shirts and wild hats] is certainly worth more than the total pool of this auction."

I later spoke with Paul Magriel who was not present for the gala dinner and auction. "Tomorrow there will be blood on the table," predicted Magriel. And so there was.

**Mika Dislodged By 'Heinrich Maneuver'** Robertie, Mortuk, Glass and Talbot lost in the third round. American hopes now focused on Lidov, Horan, Russell, Ring and Magriel.

With much of the spotlight on the USA competitors, almost no one seemed to notice the efforts of one other remaining North American: Hal Heinrich of Calgary,

[Continued on page 9]

# CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

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## LETTERS

c/o Chicago POINT  
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## LOEWS GETS HIGH MARKS

The 1990 Monte-Carlo World Championship was far better organized this year than in previous years. The playing area was much more pleasant—just the whole administration of the event seemed better.

James Ballié, Alfred Schwarz, Fabienne Raspail and Patricia Oliver kept things running according to the timetable. This year, their jobs were made easier because everything was held under one roof at the Loews Hotel, thus resulting in better integration of the event as a whole. Also, Loews provided better food and beverage service and didn't impose a late night curfew on backgammon play as has been the case in previous years.—*Julian Wilson, London, England (Director, Teacher's European Open Championships)*

## THANKS FROM GLENDA HEFFNER

My son Richard and I wish to thank the backgammon community for the outpouring of sympathy we have received. Backgammon was a big part of our lives because of David's interest. This was especially

coming attractions

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR



by Carol Joy Cole  
313/232-9731

Aug 7-12	World Cup II and Eastern Open, Sheraton Commander, Cambridge, MA	301/299-8265
Aug 12	Double Door Tournament, Amsterdam, Netherlands	0031 324014734
Aug 13-19	Green Mountain Festival, Ascutney Mtn. Resort, Brownsville, VT	305/527-4033
Aug 16	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Sheraton Inn, Flint, MI	313/232-9731
Aug 16-19	Palace Summer Championships, St. Moritz, Switzerland	061/50 58 16
Aug 19	Summer Cool Tournament, Braxton Seafood Grill, Oak Brook, IL	312/338-6380
Aug 19	5th Japan Backgammon Championship, Yaesu Fujiya Hotel, Tokyo	03-5476-4303
Aug 31-Sep 3	Nat'l Labor Day Tournament, Holiday Inn Union Station, Indianapolis, IN	317/845-8435
Sep 3	Hong Kong Club Monthly Tournament, Ladies Recreation Club	3-689918
Sep 8	Fall 1990 Connecticut Championship, Hall of Fame, Southington, CT	203/755-9749
Sep 9	1990-1991 New England Kickoff Tourney, Sheraton, Cambridge, MA	617/547-4800
Sep 15	2nd Valle De Las Leñas Tournament/Ski Weekend, Mendoza, Argentina	790-8177/4769
Sep 16	Leading Edge BG Club Grand Opening, Sit'n Bull Pub, Maynard, MA	617/863-0012
Sep 20	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Sheraton Inn, Flint, MI	313/232-9731
Sep 21-23	Minnesota Open, Minneapolis Athletic Club, MN	612/521-9532
Sep 28-30	1st Ramada-Cup, Ramada Hotel, Sindelfingen, Germany	07121/470037
Sep 29-30	IV British Nat'l Championships, Morecambe Bay, Lancaster, England	44 61 946-0828
Oct 1	Hong Kong Club Monthly Tournament, Ladies Recreation Club	3-689918
Oct 6	Springfield Fall Open, On Broadway, Springfield, IL	217/789-6275
Oct 7	Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Bagwells, Chicago, IL	312/252-7755
Oct 14	New England Club Monthly, Sheraton Commander, Cambridge, MA	617/547-4800
Oct 14	Double Door Tournament, Amsterdam, Netherlands	0031 324014734
Oct 19-20	De Åbne Jydske Championships, Århus, Denmark	31/22 46 00
Oct 19-21	8th New Hampshire Fall Classic & New England Doubles	603/863-4711
Oct 20	College Park Fall Open, Promenade, Bethesda, MD	301/530-0604
Oct 24-28	Austrian Tournament, Hotel Schloss Seefels, Pörtlach, Austria	0 42 72 23 77
Oct 24-28	Caesars Tahoe Tournament, South Lake Tahoe, NV	702/826-1984
Nov 2-4	NRW German Open, Düsseldorf-Breitscheid, Germany	02151-27775
Nov 5	Hong Kong Club Monthly Tournament, Ladies Recreation Club	3-689918
Nov 6	8th Bar Point Club Fall Trophy Tourney, Pat's Pub, Norridge, IL	312/338-6380
Nov 9-11	Children's Hospital Benefit, Sheraton Commander, Cambridge, MA	617/547-4800
Nov 9-11	14th Crystal Cup Venezia, Casinò Municipale di Venezia, Italy	76 00 37 05
Nov 17	Winter 1990 Connecticut Championship, Hall of Fame, Southington, CT	203/755-9749
Nov 22-25	Valencia Championship, Casino Monte-Picayo, Valencia, Spain	96 142 12 11
Nov 23-25	Holland Casino Open Tournament, Nijmegen	080/564628
Nov 29-Dec 2	Teacher's European Open Championships, Casino Deauville, France	31 98 66 22
Dec 9	New England Club Monthly, Sheraton Commander, Cambridge, MA	617/547-4800
Dec 23	Double Door Tournament, Amsterdam, Netherlands	0031 324014734
Jan 10-13	Seefeld International, Seefeld/Tirol, Austria	08341 12825
Jan 13	New England Club Monthly, Sheraton Commander, Cambridge, MA	617/547-4800
Jan 19	College Park Winter Open, Promenade Party Room, Bethesda, MD	301/530-0604
Jan 30-Feb 3	8th Nevada State Championship, Nugget Hotel/Casino, Reno, NV	702/826-1984

true this past year, as he devoted most of his time to the Northern Nevada Backgammon Association. If fact, he was working on the October Caesars Tahoe tournament the day of his death.

I know that David's spirit will be with you at all future tournaments, not just those run by the NNBA. We hope that the world of backgammon goes on improving as this was his dream. In so doing, you will help keep his spirit alive.

Thanks again for your many expressions of condolence, plus all that you did to make my husband's life a happy one.—*Glenda Heffner, Bridgeton, MO*

## ANOTHER OPINION ON MR. SCHREUDER

In early June, I returned to Los Angeles on business after moving from L.A. to Virginia last year. Within days, I needed a backgammon fix, so a couple of friends and I went to the Cavendish West Hollywood for a tournament. For the opening round, I drew a Dutch gentleman named Rolf Schreuder. As a brand new subscriber to the *Chicago POINT*, it was amazing that the first issue I received contained an article about Mr. Schreuder ["A More Reputable Source" by Danny Kleinman,

[Continued on page 3]

# LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

June 1990] that discussed some of his transgressions at the 1989 Monte-Carlo World Championship.

In the article's closing statement, the author judged Rolf to be "an honorable man," and asked us to offer him "forgiveness and acceptance" for past wrongdoings. He then implied that a man's honor comes with maturity. If this is true, I can tell you that Rolf Schreuder has a long way to go.

Rolf could have beaten me (which he did) without resorting to the tactics he used. He started out by moving his checkers with both hands in a manner that was very difficult to follow. After three or four rolls, I asked him to stop (as it was illegal) and he obliged.

However, he continued to make distracting movements such as loudly slap-

ping the checkers on the board. At one point, on the opening roll, my die came out a 1 and his came out a 3, first bumping my die and turning it to a 4. When he insisted that the 1 stand, I called the director who ruled that my 4 was valid because that was how the dice ended. With all of his international experience, Rolf should have known this rule. My feeling is that he was simply trying to pull a fast one on a novice player.

I felt much better after reading about Schreuder's past, because I now believe my initial assessment of him was right. Although my case is trivial, the pattern is the same. And it's too bad, because Rolf is so intelligent and so handsome. He seems to have everything going for him, except honor.—*Marjorie Kirchoff, Sterling, VA*

*We question the ruling your director made concerning the opening roll. The new U.S. Rules always require a player to roll to the board on his right with no exceptions.—Ed.*

## ROLL-OUTS SHOW A DIFFERENT ANSWER FOR PROBLEM #160

When I first saw Problem #160 posed in the June *POINT*, I didn't see a second choice: 8/3(2)\*, 21/16(2) seemed right. Then when the solution was published in July and Kit Woolsey advocated 21/16, 13/3\*, 8/3, I called Ed O'Laughlin to get another opinion. After rolling out the position, Ed was in agreement with me, as was Kent Goulding.

Aside from giving Black extra protection from a long spell of not rolling a 5, my choice dampers a few great shakes for White (2-2 in particular). I think that in positions like this when you're a big favorite, it's often right to simply take protection against the ways your opponent can joker you out.—*Paul Weaver, Sykesville, MD*

## DANNY WILL NEVER 'PASS' AWAY

Larry Strommen's comments in last month's *POINT* surprise me. The word "dies" isn't the least insulting to the person who has died. But Larry's word "passing" is inappropriate when referring to a backgammon player or promoter, for it has a backgammon meaning. If I were to die and an obituary referred to my "passing," my ghost would be offended. How could it be that someone who always said, "Beaver!" when the Angel of Life came bearing a cube, would "pass" quietly when the Angel of Death approached?—*Danny Kleinman, Los Angeles, CA* Δ

## CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB 1990 BPC PLAYER OF THE YEAR COMPILED THRU JULY 31

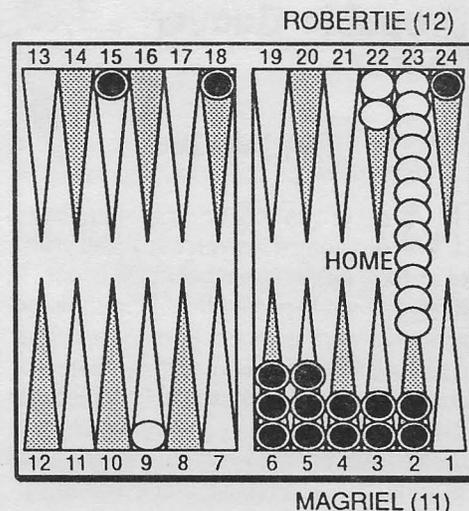
TAK MORIOKA	17.92	Don Jayhan	3.20	Dave Rockwell	0.96
LUCKY NELSON	13.12	Dean Muench	3.04	Randall Witt	0.88
GARY KAY	13.00	Ken Bond	3.04	Sharon Lennon	0.88
YAMIN YAMIN	12.60	Ed Buerger	2.96	Jerry Brooks	0.88
DAVE CRAMER	12.20	Alex Caraplis	2.88	Stan Kucharz	0.88
MARK KING	11.84	Bart Levin	2.80	Joe Wollick	0.80
BRUCE WITTERT	11.12	Bill Hoeflich	2.80	Barbara Levinson	0.76
STU KATZ	10.16	Marcy Sloan	2.80	Grant Dace	0.72
JAKE JACOBS	7.72	Peter Kalba	2.64	Ed Bauder	0.72
ARNOLD ZOUSMER	7.04	Frank Callea	2.64	George Kirkby	0.72
PAUL FRANKS	6.48	Ron Stur	2.60	Bill Hargrave	0.72
BOB ZAVORAL	6.16	Kathy Rudnick	2.60	Harold Seif	0.72
TIM SERGES	5.84	Mike O'Brien	2.56	Hal Heinrich	0.64
BOBBIE SHIFRIN	5.76	Jay Ward	2.28	Mike Fengya	0.64
DEEB SHALATI	5.44	Howard Markowitz	2.24	David Rubin	0.56
BILL DAVIS	5.40	Greg Shore	2.16	Mike Siegel	0.56
RICH GALEBA	4.96	Norma Shyer	1.84	Reggie Porter	0.52
PHYLLIS SMOLINSKI	4.96	Arline Levy	1.80	Alex Itkin	0.48
JOE KOUCHEAN	4.96	Femi Owiku	1.52	Steve Potashnick	0.48
JOHN DEMIAN	4.88	Bill Keefe	1.52	Terry Moskowitz	0.48
Don Desmond	4.72	Mike Spiropoulos	1.44	Betsy Miller	0.40
George Barr	4.56	John Spatafora	1.44	Jolie Lewis	0.32
Judy Brown	4.44	Walt Schafer	1.44	Gabriel Kairouz	0.32
Andy Argy	4.16	Richard Stawowy	1.36	Mike Sutton	0.32
Sarg Serges	4.04	V.W. Zimnicki	1.28	Larry Knoll, Jr.	0.28
Joann Feinstein	3.92	Walter Trice	1.28	Bernie Smuda	0.24
Ralph Levy	3.84	Herb Roman	1.12	Larry Knoll	0.24
Rudy Emmelot	3.64	Mary Franks	1.04	Jeff Ferguson	0.16
Alice Kay	3.40	Bob Holyon	1.04	Jill Ferdinand	0.16
Leslie Lockett	3.28	Harry Cohn	0.96	Ted Mann	0.12

**TAK MORIOKA** holds a 4.80 point lead after seven months of play as a result of winning the last three tournaments in July (for 5.76 points). Tak is riding a 12 match BPC winning streak into August. The club record of 13 is shared by Morioka and Howard Markowitz.

George Barr finished second for July with 2.76 points. Bruce Wittert and Mike O'Brien each collect 2.56 points to tie for third.

## your move PROBLEM #162

1990 Championship of Great Britain. 13 point Consolation match. Paul Magriel (Black) trails Bill Robertie (White), 12 to 11. Crawford game. **BLACK TO PLAY 1-1.**



## DEAR MISS LONELYBLOTS



### A MAN'S GAME?

*Dear Miss Lonelyblots: Why are there so few woman backgammon players? And of the women who do play, why are only a handful of them championship caliber? Do you think it could have something to do with female jeans?—Diceman*

**Dear Diceman:** Only indirectly: "female jeans" and the contours they reveal may attract more men to the game (thus relatively fewer women). But perhaps you mean to ask about female genes.

Genetically, males and females differ only in one chromosome, the sex-determining X (female) and Y (male) chromosome. There is talk among molecular biologists of sequencing the human genome. When this is done, we shall know which genes occur only on the X-chromosome and which on the Y. But even then—if the difference in the predilections of men and women toward backgammon is genetic at all—it may be hard to connect specific bits of DNA with the mental characteristics conducive to backgammon aptitude.

But genes act neither directly nor inexorably. According to the respected sexologist John Money, until about the sixth week of gestation, male and female fetuses look alike. At this stage, he says, all fetuses are female, but I do not quite understand why he doesn't call them neuter if they are undifferentiated. Then, if things

go well, something in the Y-chromosome triggers the production of male hormones, and these in turn alter the further development of the foetus.

Occasionally, however, things go wrong: the hormones which should be produced by the Y-chromosome aren't, or male hormones are produced in the absence of a Y-chromosome. The result? A few babies are born genetically male but anatomically female, or vice versa. I think these embryologic accidents provide a splendid opportunity to segregate effects of male and female genes from effects of different anatomy, physiology, socialization and treatment by others, for the Y-females will look like and be raised as girls and the X-males will look like and be raised as boys.

Now there are known mental differences between boys and girls. More girls are good with words and fine muscle control; more boys are good with numbers and spatial relations. (Need I remind you that these differences are on the whole and on the average, and that the differences within each sex exceed those between sexes?) Careful measurements and collection of statistics may enable sexologists to correlate mental traits, brain structure, and male or female genes, but as far as I know, the research has yet to be done. Because backgammon involves numbers and spatial relations, it is not surprising to find a predominance of males.

Brain structure? Perhaps. X- and Y-chromosomes? Possibly. But socialization also has something to do with it. Boys are usually encouraged to be competitive, girls to be cooperative. Backgammon and other games are highly competitive. Girls are

more often directed to the arts, music and dance especially, while boys are pushed towards sports and games. No doubt, too, the time girls are encouraged to spend on their personal appearance detracts from the time they spend on other activities.

Are these differences in socialization purely arbitrary, or do they have some basis in biology? The experiments haven't been done to give us answers in which we can have confidence, nor would I recommend subjecting children to such experiments. If girls are biologically drawn to dolls and boys to water pistols, I don't think it would necessarily be beneficial to interfere.

At any rate, men are more often monomaniacs than women, and it may take monomania to produce top backgammon players (or scientists, inventors, artists, social activists, executives, etc.). Men are also more often misfits, more often criminal and violent.

To which I say, *so what?* Why should you, I or anyone care if more men than women enter and win backgammon championships? Let us simply enjoy each other for what we are. I, for one, am delighted to see more men than women at backgammon tournaments. For it makes the competition easier in ways unrelated to backgammon.—  
*Miss Lonelyblots* Δ

*Do you have a backgammon-related question for Miss Lonelyblots involving people problems, game etiquette or the play itself? Write to: Dear Miss Lonelyblots, c/o Chicago POINT, 2726 W. Lunt Avenue, Chicago, IL 60645. The most stimulating query will be answered bimonthly.*

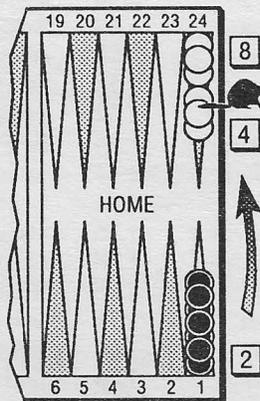
## The Dropable Beaver Teaser

by Jake Jacobs



Most of you will never contemplate dropping a beaver, but because all of us have misanalyzed positions in our lives, it *could* happen. Should the situation arise (i.e. your opponent beavers, and with a sinking heart, you realize his action is correct), remember: DO NOT PANIC! Treat the beaver like a new, separate double and drop or take on its own merits. Bearing this in mind, here is a brain teaser involving a beaver:

Money game.  
Black has seven checkers left and White has six.  
Black doubles.  
White beavers.  
SHOULD BLACK ACCEPT WHITE'S BEAVER?



The checkers were stacked in twos and you thought each of you had *seven* checkers left (which would have made it a four roll-vs.-four roll position). But you miscounted one of your opponent's stacks. Oops! Next time you'll stick with beer

instead of Courvoisier.

Meanwhile, you have to decide what to do with this beaver. To help you avoid being bitten, here are some handy things to keep in mind:

1. This position may be simplified to rolling doubles vs. not rolling doubles to reduce the size of the numbers involved.
2. A three roll-vs.-three roll position is about 79-21 favoring the side on roll.
3. This is a four roll-vs.-three roll position but you are on shake.
4. If you roll a double and your opponent responds with a double, he will never have the opportunity to redouble.

If you wear down the point on your pencil working out this one, maybe the beaver will sharpen it for you.

[Solution on page 9]

**WIN** an \$80 Crisloid Backgammon Set. Tell the Chicago POINT...

# What's Happening?

A Contest Puzzle by Duane Jensen

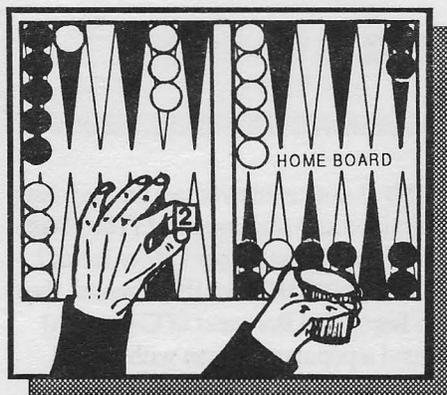
## Instructions

You could win a Crisloid cork and vinyl backgammon set valued at \$80 (supplied by the *Flint Area Backgammon* News "Backgammon À La Carte"). Just use deductive logic and reasoning to correctly answer five questions shown below given the following information:

## The Situation

BLACK won four points in game #4 of the match. After two rolls in game #5, the position shown at right developed.

BLACK reached for the doubling cube saying, "Double. The past four games have ended in gammons. If you lose a gammon in this one, you'll also lose the match."



## Questions

1. In game #5, BLACK won the opening roll. What was it? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Which roll could *not* have been WHITE's first roll? (Select one)  
(a) 2-1 (b) 3-1 (c) 4-1 (d) 4-2 (e) 4-3
3. What was the match length? (Select one)  
(a) 7 pts. (b) 9 pts. (c) 13 pts. (d) 17 pts. (e) 41 pts.
4. What was the score at the start of game #5? (Select one)  
(a) BLACK led WHITE 6-4  
(b) WHITE led BLACK 6-4  
(c) BLACK and WHITE were tied 10-10  
(d) BLACK led WHITE 8-6  
(e) BLACK led WHITE 14-12
5. What type of match were they playing? (Select one)  
(a) Novice division (round robin format)  
(b) Intermediate division (10-match format)  
(c) Championship division (double elimination format)  
(d) Doubles tournament (single elimination format)  
(e) Blitz tournament (multiple reentry format)

## Winning

The entry that correctly answers all five questions wins the backgammon set. Only one entry per person is permissible. A random drawing will be used to break ties.

## How To Enter

Mail in your five answers along with your name and address to: What's Happening; c/o Chicago POINT; 2726 W. Lunt Avenue; Chicago, IL 60645-3039.

## Entry Deadline

Entries must be received by Saturday, 1 September 1990.

who did what

## WINNER'S CORNER



May-July 1990

•**7th Annual South American Tournament** (Buenos Aires, Argentina; 7-10 May)... Championship: 1st Sergio Gelabert; 2nd Ivan Khurlopian; Cons. 1st Leonardo Capella. Intermediate: 1st Edgardo Orfali; 2nd Mará Elena Jalil; Cons. 1st Carlos Moranelli. Beginner: 1st Horacio Vitagliano; 2nd Luis Panzuch; Cons. 1st Haydee Polnoff... With 648 total entrants, this was the world's largest tournament of 1990.

•**2nd "City of Venice" International Tournament** (Venice, Italy; 18-20 May)... Open: 1st Carsten Joh (GER); 2nd Andrea Sirch (ITA); Cons. 1st Marco Lonardi (ITA); LC 1st Benito Garozzo (ITA). Beginner: 1st Ossi Weiner (GER); 2nd Massimo Lizier (ITA); Cons. 1st Martin Birkeneder (GER); LC 1st Paolo Cucchiarelli (ITA). Super Jackpot: 1st Barry Pitt (UK); 2nd Tino Canz (GER)... Dario de Toffoli reports that 179 players from 11 countries participated.

•**Bar Point Sunday** (Chicago, IL; 3 June)... Open (17): 1st Bob Zavoral; 2nd Stu Katz; 3rd/4th Sarg Serges, Tak Morioka; Cons. 1st Yamin Yamin; Cons. 2nd Don Desmond. Limited (11): 1st Andy Argy; 2nd David Rubin; 3rd/4th Mike Spiropoulos, Arline Levy; Cons. 1st Don Jayhan; Cons. 2nd Jolie Lewis.

•**New England Club Monthly** (Cambridge, MA; 10 June)... A Div. (20): 1st/2nd Bill Robertie, Rick Barabino; Cons. 1st Rich Sweetman. B Div. (6): 1st E. Adrianzen. A Div. Playoff Champ: Herb Gurland. B Div. Playoff Champ: Marcy Cohen.

•**Father's Day Tournament** (Maynard, MA; 17 June)... Open (8): 1st Gary Garabedian.

•**NY/NJ Co-Op Regional** (Long Island, NY; 17 June)... Open (16): 1st Doug Roberts; 2nd Bob Hill; Cons. 1st Andy Palumbo. Intermediate (10): 1st Bob Molitor.

•**Special Thursday Bonus Tournament** (Flint, MI; 28 June)... \$50 Div. (32): 1st Walter Trice (MA). \$25 Div. (32): 1st Woody Woodworth (IN). Novice (4): 1st Lorraine Freiberger (MI)... A special kickoff event for early arrivals at the Michigan Summer Championships.

•**5th Federal International Tournament** (San Remo, Italy; 13-15 July)... Championship (75): 1st Thomas Lumper (GER); 2nd Evert Van Eyck (HOL); 3rd/4th Gus Contos (USA), Harald Milarch (GER); Cons. 1st Pio Bianchi (ITA); LC. 1st Shimon Kagan (ISR). Intermediate (58): 1st Giorgio Klitsas (GRE); 2nd Richard Menger (GER); 3rd/4th Trish Hegland (USA), Sami Akirov (UK); Cons. 1st Stephan Bohr. LC. 1st Jan McFarlane (BRAZ)... Americans Antoinette Marie Williams and Trish Hegland won the Ladies Prizes. WBF president Alberto da Pra reports \$60,000+ prize money with attendance up 40%.

•**Nation's Capital Summer Championships** (Bethesda, MD; 21-22 July)... Championships (32): 1st Bob Faucon; 2nd Ed Maslansky; Cons. 1st Ben Elliott. Open (36): 1st Howard Robinson; 2nd Andy Palumbo; Cons. 1st Ed Maslansky. Δ

An  
interview  
with



# Phillip The Great



**T**he English translation of the German name Marmorstein is "marble-stone." German backgammon "wundermann" Phillip Marmorstein truly lives up to his name. He is known throughout Europe as a highly polished, rock-solid player.

Although primarily an expert at money and propositional play, Marmorstein is also a successful international tournament competitor. Most recently, he won the Last Chance bracket at this year's Championship of Great Britain (Isle of Man) tournament. Although successful in a number of other European events, Phillip's international fame came from winning the 1988 Monte-Carlo World Championship.

Here is the interview with the man that most world-class American players judge to be the best backgammon player in Europe. It was conducted 5 July 1990 on the Isle of Man in the Baron of Culcreuch's hotel sitting room following a day of play at the Championship of Great Britain.

**POINT:** I notice that you are on the ruling committee at this tournament [The Championship of Great Britain]. Why is that?

**MARMORSTEIN:** Probably because they [the Baron and Baroness of Culcreuch] wanted a popular German with a good reputation.

**POINT:** First, what are your feelings about the reunification of East and West Germany?

**MARMORSTEIN:** Oh, I love it. I really love it.

**POINT:** How old are you?

**MARMORSTEIN:** 28.

**POINT:** So all of your life...

**MARMORSTEIN:** My country has been separated, ya. You know, it's not only what's happening in Germany. But if you look worldwide, things are changing in a peaceful direction now.

I know this deal is costing Germany a lot of money, but they can finance it easily within five years by reducing the "war"

expenses. And worldwide, there's so much you can do for people all over with the money saved on defense.

This is a start. The Berlin Wall was the heart of the Iron Curtain. Now that the wall is down, how much longer can the rest last? It's got to continue. It's getting better and better.

**POINT:** To your knowledge, is there any backgammon in East Germany?

**MARMORSTEIN:** No, I've never heard of any. You know, it was useless to play backgammon for money in East Germany.

**POINT:** Useless?

**MARMORSTEIN:** Ya. What could you do with Eastern money? Nothing. It's like if you would play for rubles. What do you want with rubles?

**POINT:** Eastern money couldn't be traded in West Germany?

**MARMORSTEIN:** No. It was not legally allowed for normal citizens to trade money, and the street rate was horrendous.

**POINT:** You speak English quite well.

**MARMORSTEIN:** I hope so.

**POINT:** Where did you learn to speak it?

**MARMORSTEIN:** In school.

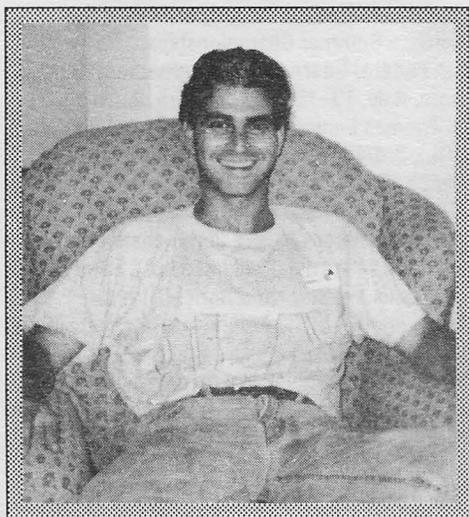
**POINT:** Is that a class that everyone is required to take?

**MARMORSTEIN:** Ya. But to really learn depends on how much you continue speaking. As I travel around the world, I am always practicing.

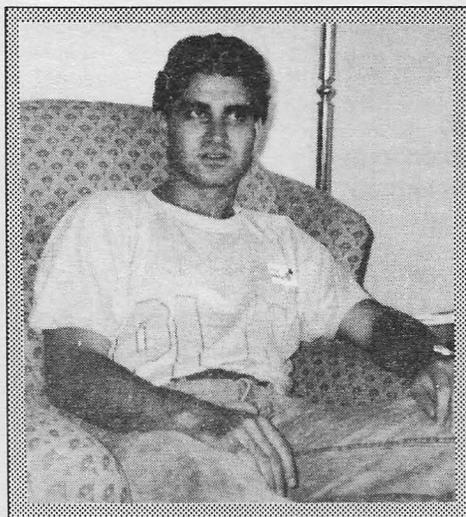
**POINT:** Do you find that English is becoming the universal language at backgammon tournaments? For example, when you play a tourney in France, do you also speak English?

**MARMORSTEIN:** No, I speak French.

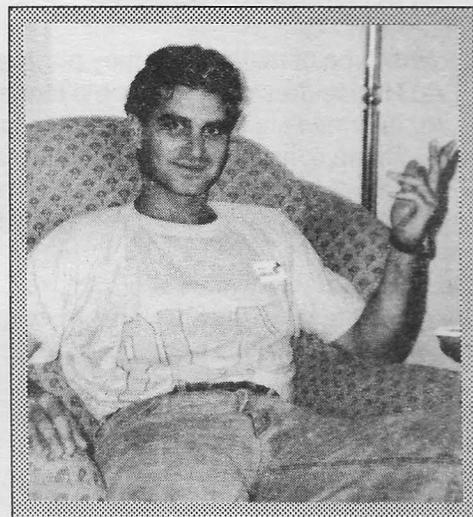
**POINT:** Oh, you speak French as well. What other languages do you speak?



"It's like this. I'm a gambler, so I like games involving action."



"In backgammon, you never get to a point where you absolutely know what to do."



"As far as I know, I would rank myself in the top five for money play in the world."

**MARMORSTEIN:** Some Spanish, some Italian, a little Hebrew...

**POINT:** [Chuckles] Very impressive. I'm still struggling with English! [Pauses for a new question] Is there a woman in your life?

**MARMORSTEIN:** Yes. I've been married for two years and we have one son—Tommy.

**POINT:** Where do you live?

**MARMORSTEIN:** Munich.

**POINT:** Do you presently have an actual full-time job?

**MARMORSTEIN:** No, no. I used to have two camera shops. I worked hard for three years and was very successful. But I gave it up and now I'm able to live on the money I saved and some family money. We're not what you would call wealthy, but we're comfortable. And if I happen to win playing backgammon, it makes life even easier.

**POINT:** When did you start playing backgammon?

**MARMORSTEIN:** About eight years ago. It's like this. I'm a gambler, so I like games involving action. Whenever I see something new, I go up to the people and say, "Can you explain me the rules?" or "Can I get into your game?" or whatever. I'm just fascinated by gambling. I like it.

I remember the first time I played backgammon for money with a friend. We played for two German marks [about \$1 U.S.] a point. I lost 60 points and couldn't believe how and why. So I got interested and tried to improve.

**POINT:** What are some of the other games you've played?

**MARMORSTEIN:** Rummy, some poker, billiards. I started to play golf two years ago which is a new disease now for me.

**POINT:** [Laughs] What do you find so intriguing about backgammon?

**MARMORSTEIN:** Oh, that it's bending your mind. Ya. You never reach an end. If you start to play, let's say, billiards. O.K.—you have to train, but you get to a certain point where you know exactly what to do and how to do it. You mustn't think about it again. It's only the execution where you can make a mistake. Theoretically, you know what to do. But in backgammon, you never get to a point where you absolutely know what to do.

**POINT:** Do you prefer match or money play?

**MARMORSTEIN:** It depends. I like both.

**POINT:** Which do you think you're more skilled at?

**MARMORSTEIN:** Money.

**POINT:** Have you read any books?

**MARMORSTEIN:** Ya. I've studied the Magriel and Robertie and Kleinman.

**POINT:** Tell me who makes your top five list of the toughest backgammon players in the world?

**MARMORSTEIN:** My personal list?

**POINT:** Yes. Let's say in tournament play.

**MARMORSTEIN:** It's a little bit tricky for me to judge because I don't know all the American guys too good, so the list couldn't be complete. Of the people I know which I like, I would say Magriel...

[Pauses] you know it's... [Still groping for other names]

**POINT:** Maybe there are some Europeans that you're impressed with as well.

**MARMORSTEIN:** O.K. The only European who is very good, I would say is Gerard Duguet-Grasser [France]. If you ask Michael, ya? If you ask Svobodny who were the best in Europe, he would say Gerard and me. Ya. So Gerard's stronger for match play and I'm stronger for money.

**POINT:** You've mentioned Magriel. Is Svobodny also a good player?

**MARMORSTEIN:** Ya, sure. He's very complete.

**POINT:** And you've mentioned Duguet-Grasser...

**MARMORSTEIN:** Well he is for Europe. I wouldn't rank him top five in the world.

**POINT:** So, Magriel, Svobodny...

**MARMORSTEIN:** Ya. And Wilcox [Snellings]. I also like Jason Lester and maybe Billy Horan.

**POINT:** You picked a great list—all New York-based players. Now what about money play?

**MARMORSTEIN:** Money play? Ah, that's completely different because there you have to know people even better. You have to know their psychology. How do they react when they're winning or losing? How do they treat the "customer"? How are they playing if they have an edge?

But it's certainly, it's ahh... [Pauses] If you just make it a plain economic definition in productivity, then I would say, Wilcox, Svobo and then it's going to be difficult because I have not seen so many Americans play for money. But as far as I know, I would rank myself in the top five for money play in the world.

**POINT:** Have you played any tournaments in the United States?

**MARMORSTEIN:** No.

**POINT:** Will we be seeing you at any events soon?

**MARMORSTEIN:** Ya. Boston this year [The World Cup in August].

## PHILLIP MARMORSTEIN PERSONALITY SNAPSHOT



**Favorite Movie:** The Blues Brothers  
**If I Had To Leave Germany, I Would Move To:** Côte d'Azur, France

**Favorite Musical Performer:** Tracy Chapman

**Favorite Color:** Blue

**Superstitions:** None

**Favorite Spectator Sport:** It's not cricket!

**For Exercise:** I swim in the summer and ski in the winter.

**Favorite Food:** Whatever is in front of me.

**POINT:** That should be interesting. Of course you'll be facing a lot of Americans there. What is the difference in the American and European style of play?

**MARMORSTEIN:** The Americans are in general much more, I'd say technical. Ya. Their attitude over the board is much better. They're much more relaxed and concentrated at the same time.

**POINT:** Do you see improvement among the Europeans?

**MARMORSTEIN:** Ya. Definitely.

**POINT:** And which country in Europe is producing the strongest players?

**MARMORSTEIN:** It's Germany.

**POINT:** Which is the second country in Europe?

**MARMORSTEIN:** Ahh... [Looks into the distance] It would be between France and England, I'm not sure. But I could say there are very good German players and I could name 10 or 15. Ya. In France and England, you have only a few of this quality. Germany is by far ahead.

**POINT:** Well the last question I have here is: If backgammon was forbidden right now, what would you do?

**MARMORSTEIN:** What I would do?

**POINT:** What would you do now?

**MARMORSTEIN:** O.K. It's now the fifth of July. It's thirteen minutes to eight. I'd say I would go on the golf course at ten o'clock in the morning...

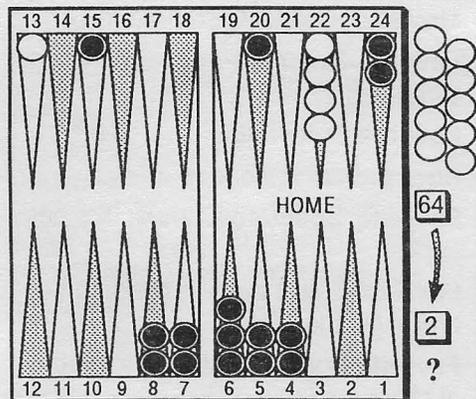
**POINT:** [Laughs]

**MARMORSTEIN:** ... which I can't because I have to play a match tomorrow! Δ

# PROBLEM #161 SOLVED

by Dean Muench

Match to 9 points. White leads Black, 4 to 0. White doubles. **SHOULD BLACK ACCEPT?**



Here is a table of the possible scores and the match-winning percentages (MWP) for each side in this 9-point match. It was generated using my match-winning chance formula that has been revised to yield results between Danny Kleinman's and Roy Friedman's theoretical numbers.

Score		White's MWC (%)	Black's MWC (%)
White	Black		
5	0	77.5	22.5
6	0	83.0	17.0
7	0	88.5	11.5
8CR	0	95.0	5.0
9	0	100.0	0.0
4	2	63.0	37.0
4	4	50.0	50.0
4	8CR	15.0	85.0

$$MWP = 50\% \pm \frac{L(20-D)\%}{2}$$

MWP = Match-Winning Percentage

L = Lead in points

D = Difference between trailer's score and match length

Note: The MWP equation is not valid for Crawford and post-Crawford games and in long matches when  $D > 11$ .

If Black simply drops this double, the score will be 5-0 and he will retain a 22.5% chance to win the match. In order to determine if Black should take the 2-cube, we must calculate his average match-

# TAKGAMMON



by Tak Morioka

## THE CALCUTTA

What's wrong with the Calcutta? It seems that this romantic venture is terminally ill. Ironically, it is dying through effectiveness versus anything else. The Calcutta is at the height of fairness, beating up on everyone equally. It reduces ability to chance and then takes all chance away.

If you view the Calcutta auction as a long-term proposition, you may see its problem. By handicapping through money odds, the winning potential for all players becomes the same. The venture is thus a nonevent with everyone breaking even; harmless entertainment if it were not for one key factor: the rake. A ten percent (10%) loss of capital on each and every offering, to be exact. The only question is not *if* you will go broke, but *when*.

The tournament is learning what predators discovered many thousands of years ago. Retract your claws to avoid the impression of wanton destruction, or risk frightening off the prey. Δ



Fortune Cookie

The play may define the player, but good and bad plays are often relative and rarely absolute.

winning chances (%) for each of his possible courses of action. Then we can compare the MWP of his best choice to 22.5%. To calculate these MWP's, we must first find out how often Black will hit one or more of White's checkers and win.

- (a) 494/1296: Hits existing blot on his next roll x 70% wins = 345.8/1296.
- (b) 20/1296: Residual hits of existing blot on 2nd roll x 70% wins = 14/1296.
- (c) 124/1296: Hits a later blot while White has three men left x 75% wins = 93/1296.
- (d) 136/1296: Hits a later blot while White has less than three men x 10% wins = 13.6/1296.

Note: b, c, and d hitting figures are approximations.

Adding up the four cases shows that Black hits a White blot 774/1296 to yield game-winning chances of 466.4/1296 = 35.99%.

Now let's break the game down from White's perspective:

- (e) 307.6/1296 (= 23.73%), White wins a normal game after being hit.
- (f) Of the remaining 522/1296 where White does not get hit:

- (1) If Black has redoubled to 4, then all 522/1296 (= 40.28%) of White's wins are backgammons at the 4-level.

- (2) If Black has not yet redoubled, then White wins 417.6/1296 (= 32.22%) gammons and 104.4/1296 (= 8.06%) backgammons at the 2-level.

Black's choices of action after taking the double are:

- (g) Black never redoubles to 4. Black's average MWP = 18.96%;
- (h) Black redoubles when shooting at the first exposed blot. Black's average MWP = 19.18%;
- (i) Black redoubles after hitting the first exposed blot. Black's average MWP = 20.79%;
- (j) Black redoubles when shooting at a second blot after hitting the first exposed blot. Black's average MWP = 18.16%;
- (k) Black redoubles after hitting a second blot. Black's average MWP = 16.27%.

Note: g, h, i, j and k are approximations. Calculations are available upon request.

Even with Black's best course of action (i—redoubling after hitting the first blot), he is still short of the 22.5% match-winning percentage that he retains by dropping the double. Therefore, Black should pass.



Now I will leave you with a question...

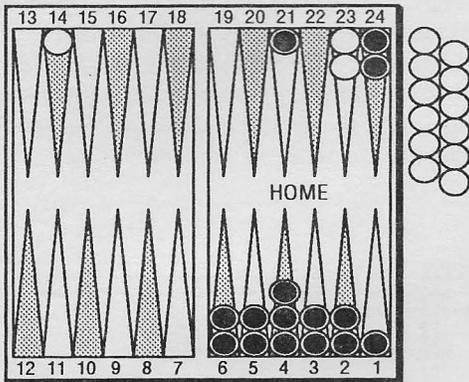
In this position, do you think that White should have offered the initial double? Δ

## HASTY PLAYS



by Duane Jensen

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



**B**lack played 24/22 and 4/1, closing his board. His play is the best one for picking up White's blot (Black hits 48%), but not the best play for winning the game.

A better move is 24/21 and 4/2, not closing the board. Once hit, White must be given the chance to enter and roll another ace, exposing more blots. Although this play hits the current blot less often (only 40% of the time), it is superior because it keeps alive the opportunity to hit and close out *additional* checkers.

Also, when Black makes White's 4-point, he creates two bad rolls for her—6-1 and 5-2—which expose more blots. If White should happen to roll one of these horror shakes, Black will win more than 40% of the time. This scenario in itself offsets Black's fewer shots at the blot when he makes White's 4-point. Δ

**Backgammon  
Players  
Welcome** ! ●



ANGIE KLEINSASSER, Mgr.  
3 Oakbrook Center Mall  
Oakbrook, Illinois  
708/574-2155

## HEINRICH WINS...

[Continued from page 1]

Alberta, Canada. (Deyong at the auction: "Hal's very anxious to win here because he lacks the trophies for all his space.") All of the sudden, the masses took notice as Heinrich faced New York's Mika Lidov, the last U.S. hope, in a 21-point quarter-final match on Friday.

With the score tied at 2-all, Heinrich managed a gammon victory on a 2-cube to grab a 6-2 lead. At 8-2, Lidov took her first break.

Lidov, last year's tournament runner-up returned to trim Hal's lead to 9-7. The match seemed quite even. But in three games, things drastically changed as Mika was rolled off the board by a player that the spectators were now well aware of. Heinrich was in command 17-7.

At this point, Hal requested a break. Because he had already used his two allotted breaks, Lidov requested and then insisted that he play on. Directors were summoned and after a short discussion, agreed to permit Heinrich one more 10 minute break. Mika's tough attitude had no effect on Heinrich's dice. Upon returning, he finished her off 21-12.

### Narboni On A Roll

With four remaining players in the finals—Joe Tissona (Israel), Jan McFarlane (Brazil), Freddie Narboni (France) and Heinrich—Hal was still not the favorite in the eyes of most European spectators. Tissona, and especially Narboni, the other eventual finalist, were. First of all, Narboni, a Franco-Italian, was the local favorite and had most of the crowd support. Second, at this tournament, he seemed to be an expert at winning matches, especially where he trailed by 10 or more points!

Narboni faced Matthias Pauen (Germany) in the quarterfinals and trailed the 21 point match by the score of 12-0. No problem for Narboni. Final score: 21-19, Freddie's way.

In the semifinals, Narboni shocked Tissona more than once. In three out of four consecutive games, Narboni needed double 5s or better on the last roll—and got them in all three games! So after rolling like this, how could anyone in the betting office make Heinrich the favorite in the finals?!

### The Title Match

The 25 point championship took place in a private room. Expert commentary via closed circuit television was provided by Neil Kazaross, Joe Russell and Howard

Ring. Kazaross was especially good, showing great knowledge and sovereignty.

All three commentators agreed that Hal Heinrich was the better player and deserved to win. Nevertheless, the partisan crowd cheered every time Narboni rolled 2-1 or higher. But the cheers seemed to fall on deaf ears. Once again, Narboni found himself trailing by the score of 12-0.

Even at this score, I heard several gamblers say, "Now Narboni is ready to play. He only seems comfortable coming from behind." Despite Heinrich's huge lead, there were still a few suckers placing \$300 and more on Narboni to win—and these were *even money bets!*

Once again, things seemed to go their "normal" way and Narboni made an exciting comeback. But after battling back to a 24-20 deficit, Narboni ran out of dice. Hal Heinrich won 25-20 to become the 1990 World Backgammon Champion. Δ

*HAIO FORLER is editor of the German language Backgammon Magazin. To sample a copy, send \$5 (USD) cash to: Verlag Backgammon Magazin; Römerstraße 17; 5300 Bonn 1; West Germany.*

### 1990 MONTE-CARLO WORLD BACKGAMMON CHAMPIONSHIP

CHAMPIONSHIP (217): 1st Hal Heinrich (CAN); 2nd Freddie Narboni (FRA); 3rd/4th Joe Tissona (ISR), Jan McFarlane (BRAZ); 5th/8th Mika Lidov (USA), Matthias Pauen (GER), David Ben-Zion (ISR), Martin King (UK). 1Cons. 1st L. Ravenzwaaj (NETH). 2Cons. 1st M. Hollederer (GER). LC. 1st G. Karmeli INTERMEDIATE (107): 1st I. Omrad (ISR); 2nd B. Argyros; 3rd/4th T. Robinson (CAN), A. Fichera (ITA). 1Cons. 1st Y. De Preux. 2Cons. 1st Z. Shahaff (ISR). LC. 1st R. Ryf  
BEGINNER (95): 1st Alici Giler (TUR); 2nd R. Stemmler (GER); 3rd/4th P. Thelin (SWE), T. Lux (GER). 1Cons. 1st H. Wieland (GER). 2Cons. 1st T. Wied (GER). LC. 1st G. Dalgaard (DEN)  
SUPER JACKPOT (55): 1st Mike Svobodny (USA); 2nd Berdj Abadjian (FRA); 3rd/4th Sushil Ong (NETH); Gerard Duguet-Grasser (FRA)  
FRED JEWELLERS WORLD TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP: 1st Finland (Petri Pietilä et. al.); 2nd USA (Gino Scalamandre, Talmadge Tinsley, Harry Huie)

### Dropable Beaver Teaser Solved

[From page 4]

It is true that your opponent cannot redouble any sequences that begin with your rolling a double (although he wins some of those games). But the other 83.33% of the time, he can redouble you out, so you should drop your opponent's beaver.

I hope you didn't really wear out a pencil on this one.

## AMALGAMATION

Wedding bells will ring for two-time world backgammon champion **Bill Robertie** and **Patrice Pisano** who plan a Feb. wedding in the Boston area... Speaking of Bill, he'll return to editing the NEBC's *Anchors* newsletter this month. And **Roy Friedman** will begin publishing *Leading Edge*, a bi-monthly newsletter beginning in November... **Jerry Tallackson** popped the question to BPC player **Elaine Kehm** on Valentine's Day, he gave her the ring on St. Patrick's Day, and the wedding is planned just

before New Year's Eve. Talk about celebrating the holidays!... Directors **Michael Crane** and **Jim Moore** proudly inform us that their British Isles Backgammon Association has grown to a membership of over 80 since the club was formed in December 1989. That's especially impressive because all competition is for fun and trophies—the law forbids prize money. For more info, call 0522 537938... We welcome **Alex Itken** to Chicago. Alex, a former resident of Buenos Aires, lived in Los Angeles a couple of years prior to settling in Chicago... Visiting the BPC 24 July: **Howard Levine** in from Flint, MI on Business...

**Dave Rockwell** hasn't been playing much backgammon this summer. He's practicing for the Othello national championships in September in Washington, D.C. Last year, Dave finished third in the nation... A 19-point match from the 1990 French Open between **Gary Kay** and **Paul Magriel** is recorded and annotated in the July *das Backgammon Magazin*. To obtain a sample copy, send \$5 (USD) cash to editor **Harald Johanni**; Hochstr. 7; 8500 Nürnberg 80; Germany... The Midwest will miss **Bob & Lenore Holyon** who move from Milwaukee to Seattle this month. Lenore, who just got her license, will do all the driving! Δ



CAESARS  
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