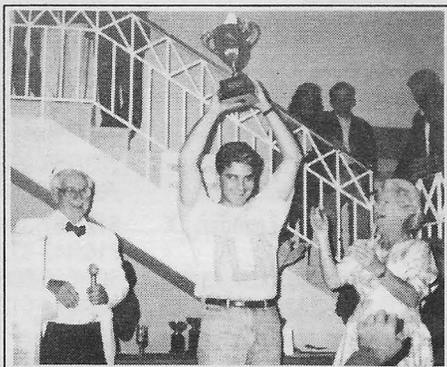


1991 championship of great britain

MARMORSTEIN REIGNS IN SPAIN

German Master Sweeps Top Three Events To Win Over \$40,000



One of three trophies that the Baron and Baroness of Culcreuch (IOM) awarded Germany's Phillip Marmorstein in his sweep of the three major events at the Championship of Great Britain.

The record shows that German backgammon mastermind Phillip Marmorstein lost a match the week of 6-12 May at the 1991 Championship of Great Britain in Spain. No big deal. The 1988 World Champ simply reentered, won the event, won the Championship, and for dessert, won the Viking Kickoff to accomplish one of the greatest single tournament performances in the recorded history of the game.

Outgrowing their Isle of Man accommodations, the Baron and Baroness of Culcreuch moved their annual bash to the exclusive Torrequebrada Hotel & Casino on Spain's Costa del Sol. Worldwide attendance of the event approached 200 with 163 entering the main tournaments.

Marmorstein began his trophy hunt in the Manx-Med King Pot with a \$9,000 double match-point victory over Chicagoan Howard Markowitz. America's Paul Magriel and Ismet Demirel were the other two round-of-8 King Pot victors.

ROAD TO THE FINALS

Four straight wins in the Championship event (two on Thursday and two on Friday)

landed Marmorstein in the semifinals vs. Sweden's Jorgen Granstedt. The Saturday afternoon matchup started as a romp for Germany's best player. Granstedt mounted a comeback, but it was too little, too late. Phillip held on to win 23-18.

34-year-old Berliner Michael Greiner who claims to work as a "roulette scientist," faced a much tougher opponent in his semifinal battle. Peter Siegfried, another of the new breed of German players, received rave reviews from two of his victims: Paul Magriel and Neil Kazaross. Still, Greiner managed to hold on and narrowly defeat Siegfried in the last game.

For most of us, a beautiful weekend of sun, fun and wonderful seafood was nearing an end, but for Marmorstein, there were still some matches to win. It took four 5-point wins in a row to qualify for the 32-player Viking Kickoff finals. While waiting for his Championship showdown, Phillip proceeded to qualify *twice* in the Viking thus guaranteeing himself a bye into the round-of-16. Ho hum.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON, 3:00 PM

The 25-point Championship match began in a comfortable living room-like surrounding just outside the main playing room. The players were seated near a balcony to help accommodate two levels of spectators.

Along with WBF president Alberto da Pra, Harald Johanni, editor of *das Backgammon Magazin* was seated at the table, waiting to begin recording the action. Asked to rate the matchup, Johanni called it even because, "Greiner is louder. He has the brain of a killer. That gives him a great psychological advantage over the quieter Phillip."

There was no doubt that those viewing the action would be treated to two of the finest players in Germany and all of Europe. Greiner was riding a hot streak that included big wins in San Moritz and San Remo. Three weeks prior, Marmorstein had captured the Düsseldorf Open. Contrary to Johanni's opinion, oddsmakers made Phillip the 11-to-10 favorite.

With Marmorstein trailing 2-0, both competitors adjourned to find a larger board and give hotel maintenance time to replace a burned-out light bulb. Twenty

minutes later, they resumed play on a \$1000 backgammon board provided by *Gammon* (DBF) editor Eric Gravgard.

GREINER IS A "TAKER"

Down 4-0, Phillip offered his first double. Most players would have passed, but Greiner took the risky cube. Eventually, Greiner fell into a one point backgame and was able to hit a last shot to turn a four point gammon loss into a two point victory.

One game later, now trailing 7-0, Marmorstein doubled again, this time a little too aggressively. Greiner scooped it up and turned the game around to cube Phillip out for a 9-0 lead. As he set up for the next game, Phillip spotted a lady with an expensive ostrich handbag in the crowd. "I bet your girl friend would like a bag like that," he said in German. "Looks like you may win enough to buy it!" Greiner laughed. It was obvious that the two were friends.

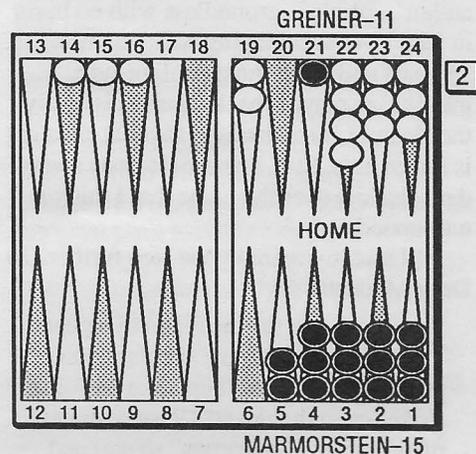
Marmorstein won his first point in the next game by doubling a near-lock position. "Normally I would play on for the gammon, but I don't want to get skunked!"

MARMORSTEIN MAKES COMEBACK

After rallying back to 10-5 down, Phillip took a break. He returned with a Coca-Cola proving that things actually *do* go better with Coke. Six games later, Phillip led 15-11.

But Greiner remained aggressive. After accepting a 2-cube in the next game, he scrambled to the following position:

25 point finals. GREINER TO PLAY 3-2.



[Continued on page 5]

CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

EDITOR & PUBLISHER

Bill Davis
2726 West Lunt Avenue
Chicago, IL 60645-3039
Telephone: (312) 338-6380

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Carol Joy Cole (MI) **Neil Kazaross (CA)**
Harold Branch (KY) **Danny Kleinman (CA)**
Jake Jacobs (IL) **Tak Morioka (IL)**
Duane Jensen (MN) **Kit Woolsey (CA)**

All rights reserved. A word about copying this publication—go ahead. You may copy any of this for noncommercial purposes as long as you give full credit to "CHICAGO POINT, 2726 West Lunt Avenue, Chicago, IL 60645-3039."

CHICAGO POINT is published monthly. The subscription rate is \$20/year (\$30/year overseas airmail in cash or U.S. funds check).

Advertising Rates: 2 3/8" x 3 1/4" = \$25. 1/4 page = \$45. 1/2 page = \$75. Full page = \$130. If the ad is not "camera ready," request typesetting for an additional \$15 charge.

LETTERS

c/o CHICAGO POINT
2726 W. Lunt Avenue
Chicago, IL 60645-3039

REACTIONS TO 'DICE, MINI-MECHANICS, AND YOU'

I'm torn over the article you published regarding Dean Muench's report on Mini-Mechanics (May 1991 CHICAGO POINT). First, if individuals have opinions about a facet of our game, they should be able to express them.

However, in this case, I think the author's article is groundless with no basis in fact. I've been playing backgammon for 25 years and of all the gambling-type games I've played, backgammon is easily the cleanest. That is not to say that cheating is impossible. Still, this article casts a very dark shadow over the game that I think is unfounded.

I'll take my opinion one step further. To Dean Muench I say:

You claim that the dice tend to repeat? Then show me. Drop a standard pair of precision dice into a cup, take only one shake (even though USTR tournament rules require a "vigorous" shake) and give the dice a decent roll. Then try to

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

coming attractions



by Carol Joy Cole
313/232-9731

* Denotes new or revised listing

NATIONAL

Jun 2*	Children's Miracle Network Benefit, Colonial Lanes, Flint, MI	313/742-1727
Jun 9*	Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Braxton Seafood Grill, Oak Brook, IL	312/252-7755
Jun 9	Year-End Tournament & NEBC Finals, Sheraton Com., Cambridge, MA	617/641-2091
Jun 15	Atlanta Association Monthly Tournament, Taco-Mac, Atlanta, GA	404/921-0672
Jun 15*	First Mid-Month Doubles Tournament, The Club, Southfield, MI	313/356-0480
Jun 20	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	313/232-9731
Jun 28-30*	Gammon Associates 25th Invitational, Cavendish West Hollywood, CA	818/901-0464
Jul 4	Special Thursday Bonus Tournament, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	313/232-9731
Jul 5-7	Michigan Summer Championships, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	313/232-9731
Jul 7*	Milwaukee Sunday Bimonthly, John Hawks Pub, Milwaukee, WI	414/463-2498
Jul 13-14*	Nation's Capital Summer Championships, Promenade, Bethesda, MD	301/530-0604
Jul 20*	Atlanta Association Monthly Tournament, Taco-Mac, Atlanta, GA	404/921-0672
Aug 1-4*	Illinois State Championships, Hyatt Hotel, Deerfield, IL	708/945-7801
Aug 2-4	Thousand Islands Tournament, Pine Tree Point, Alexandria Bay, NY	716/442-8221
Aug 4	14th Annual Bob Hill Summer Classic, Hill residence, Long Island, NY	516/334-4833
Aug 12-18	Vermont Festival, Stratton Mountain Inn, Stratton Mountain, VT	305/527-4033
Aug 18	Summer Cool Tournament, Braxton Seafood Grill, Oak Brook, IL	312/338-6380
Aug 30-Sep 2	National Labor Day Tournament, Radisson Plaza, Indianapolis, IN	317/845-8435
Sep 14	Connecticut Open, Hall of Fame Lounge, Southington, CT	203/755-9749
Sep 22-26*	Las Vegas Open Tournament, Golden Nygget Hotel & Casino, NV	708/470-9491
Oct 3-6	Sertoma Invitational Doubles Tournament, Winn Ranch, Leander, TX	512/267-3968
Oct 4-6	Rochester Club Tournament, Towpath Lodge, Turin, NY	716/442-8221
Oct 19	College Park Fall Open Tournament, Promenade, Bethesda, MD	301/530-0604
Oct. 25-27	Chicago Fall Classic, Hyatt Regency O'Hare, Rosemont, IL	708/674-0120
Nov 1-3*	9th New Hampshire Fall Classic, Sheridan Wayfarer, Manchester, NH	603/863-4711
Nov 5*	9th Bar Point Club Fall Trophy Tourney, Pat's Pub, Norridge, IL	312/338-6380
Nov 16*	Connecticut Open, Hall of Fame, Southington, CT	203/755-9749

OUTSIDE USA

Jun 3*	Hong Kong Club Monthly Tournament, Ladies Recreation Club	852/8 461923
Jun 7-10	Australian National Championship, Melbourne, Victoria	03/266-4209
Jun 14-16	3rd International Tournament, Casinò Municipale di Veniza, Italy	041/521 1029
Jun 29*	Wiesbaden Cup 1991, Hotel Fürstenhof-Esplanade, Wiesbaden, Germany	06122-16124
Jul 1*	Hong Kong Club Monthly Tournament, Ladies Recreation Club	852/8 461923
Jul 12-14*	San Remo International Tournament, San Remo, Italy	39/2 76003705
Jul 15-21	1991 World Championship, Hôtel Loews, Monte-Carlo, Monaco	305/527-4033
Jul 27*	Wiesbaden Cup 1991, Hotel Fürstenhof-Esplanade, Wiesbaden, Germany	06122-16124
Aug 5*	Hong Kong Club Monthly Tournament, Ladies Recreation Club	852/8 461923
Aug 15-18	Palace Summer Championships, Badrutt's, St. Moritz, Switzerland	061/50 58 16
Aug 29-Sep 1*	1st Mitteleuropa Tournament, Casino Nova Gorica, Yugoslavia	39 2 48019343
Aug 31-Sep 1	BIBA Trophy Tournament, Post House Hotel, Crick near Rugby, England	0522/721630
Sep 2*	Hong Kong Club Monthly Tournament, Ladies Recreation Club	852/8 461923
Oct 4-6*	Rio de Janeiro Open/91, Le Meridien Copacabana Hotel, Brazil	5521/2676033
Oct 7*	Hong Kong Club Monthly Tournament, Ladies Recreation Club	852/8 461923
Nov 4*	Hong Kong Club Monthly Tournament, Ladies Recreation Club	852/8 461923
Nov 14-17*	British Open Masters Tournament, Empress Hotel, Douglas, Isle of Man	0624/851045
Nov 24-25*	BIBA Trophy Tournament, Post House Hotel, Crick near Rugby, England	0522/721630

toss these "repeaters." Offer me enough vig so that you still remain (in your mind) a money favorite, and you've got yourself a bet.—

Paul Magriel, New York, NY

I am quit sure I was a victim of this type of dishonesty in a recent match. In my narrative, I had no idea such things were possible. It gave me a sinking feeling about the value of the game. Something has to be done about this sort of cheating quickly.

However, I believe Dean Muench's solutions are too far-fetched, too expensive and in any case, too far into the future. I would like to suggest two other solutions:

- (1) use casino style chuck-a-luck cages for generating numbers (smaller, with only one device needed per table); or
- (2) use only large, round dice cups with trip lips and concave bottoms.—

Howard Robinson, Hollywood, CA

[Continued on page 7]

WENDY CLAIMS CHICAGO

Wendy Kaplan confirmed her standing as one of the finest female players in America by beating up on the males at the 12th Chicago Open.

Howard Markowitz (marking his return to directing) and Joann Feinstein staged the 12th annual event 24-27 May at the Westin Hotel O'Hare in Rosemont, IL. Attendance increased for the second year in a row.

Kaplan, who owns a game store in Indianapolis, edged Granite State director Linc Bedell to win the undefeated bracket of the double elimination draw sheet. But Linc earned another shot at her with two victories in the loser's bracket. Wendy dashed Linc's comeback hopes for good with a 13-10 final win to earn the impressive title.

"You wait for the glow and it finally comes." That's how Pub Club director V.W. (Val) Zimnicki described his win in the Intermediate division. V.W. compiled an 8-2 record to reach the final four in the popular 10 match format. It was the first major victory of his life. Complete results: Δ

1991 CHICAGO OPEN

OPEN (39): 1-Wendy Kaplan (IN), 2-Lincoln Bedell (NH), 3-Doug Roberts (NY); 1C-Paul Franks (IL), 2C-Mike Rezai (OH).

INTERMEDIATE (60): 1-V.W. Zimnicki (IL), 2-Riley Harrison (MN), 3/4-George Barr (IL)/James Colen (MA); 1C-Ernest Klein (TX), 2C-Lois Richards (AZ).

\$500 SPECIAL (4): 1-Stu Hosen (TX).

DOUBLES (32): 1-Drew Giovanis & Ed Petrillo (FL), 2-William Wilner & Barry Steinberg (MD), 3/4-Stu Hosen & Marc Poe (TX)/Adam Kay & Gary Kay (IL).

JACKPOT TOURNEY (64): 1-Tak Morioka (IL), 2-Constantine Kritsonis (CAN).

RED HOT TRICE TOPS YAMIN IN INDY

If Yamin Yamin is the hottest player in America, what does that make Walter Trice? "Well, I've won the Granite State Open, The Connecticut Open and now the Indiana Open this past month. Only 47 states to go." So said Trice (MA) after defeating Yamin in the 5 May finals.

84 players attended this year's 39th Indiana Open directed by Butch & Mary Ann Meese at the Wyndham Garden Hotel in Indianapolis. Attendance was down because of a conflict with the Championship of Great Britain.

Undefeated Trice blew an 11-0 lead vs. Yamin to even the double elimination finals. Trice then prevailed 13-3. Results: Δ

39th INDIANA OPEN

OPEN (32): 1-Walter Trice (MA), 2-Yamin Yamin (IL); 1C-Dave Cardwell (IN), 2C-Dean Adamian (MI).

INTERMEDIATE (48): 1-Mick Dobratz (IN), 2-Fouad Malouf (IL), 3-Bobbie Shifrin (IL); 1C-Cinda King (IL), 2C-Mike Charison (MI), 3C/4C Steve Potashnick (IL)/D. Sandler (KY).

NOVICE (4): 1-Glenn Theobald

DOUBLES (32): 1-Jonathan Bennetts (CAN) & Jack Kissane (NY), 2-Jerry Unger (OH) & Yamin Yamin (IL).

OPEN MICROBLITZ (32): 1-Mike Rezai (OH).

LTD MICROBLITZ #1 (64): 1-Peter Kalba (IL). #2 (32): 1-Jonathan Bennetts (CAN).



1991 BPC PLAYER OF THE YEAR

COMPILED THRU 31 MAY

TAK MORIOKA	14.80	Alice Kay	3.84	Dan Judd	1.04
DAVE CRAMER	11.92	Peter Berkman	3.68	Larry Lau	0.96
JAKE JACOBS	10.72	Bill Davis	3.64	Dean Muench	0.96
YAMIN YAMIN	9.44	Paul Franks	3.60	Jerry Brooks	0.92
GARY KAY	8.96	Beverly Klene	3.36	Greg Try	0.92
DON DESMOND	7.84	René Wojtysiak	3.32	Peter Naguib	0.88
BRUCE WITTERT	7.76	Norma Shyer	2.96	Mike Landau	0.88
JOE KOUCHEARIAN	7.48	Phyllis Smolinski	2.72	Mickey Kaplan	0.80
LENNY LODER	6.48	Betsy Miller	2.64	V.W. Zimnicki	0.80
STU KATZ	6.48	Harold Seif	2.56	Stan Kucharz	0.80
JOANN FEINSTEIN	6.00	Mark King	2.48	Ron Stur	0.80
RALPH LEVY	5.72	David Rubin	2.40	Kathy Rudnick	0.80
JOHN DEMIAN	5.72	Adam Kay	2.40	Don Marek	0.80
GEORGE BARR	5.60	Herb Roman	2.40	Rich Galeba	0.80
DEEB SHALATI	5.56	Tim Serges	2.28	Richard Stawowy	0.76
LESLIE LOCKETT	5.36	Alex Itkin	2.24	Sheila Arnold	0.72
DON JAYHAN	5.16	Howard Ring	2.08	David Rockwell	0.72
HOWARD MARKOWITZ	4.96	Ed Bauder	1.92	Barbara Levinson	0.56
LUCKY NELSON	4.56	Arline Levy	1.92	Steve Katz	0.48
MARY FRANKS	4.48	Marcy Sloan	1.52	George Kirkby	0.44
Frank Callea	4.40	Harold Grote	1.44	Mike Cohen	0.40
Steve Potashnick	4.24	Alex Caraplis	1.44	Kurt Warning	0.40
Sarg Serges	4.24	Ken Bond	1.36	Bob Zavoral	0.40
Jolie Lewis	4.16	David Lynn	1.28	Jeff Vaughn	0.32
Bobbie Shifrin	4.12	Barry Miller	1.28	Mike Spiropoulos	0.24
Femi Owiku	3.92	Ed Buerger	1.12	Larry Knoll	0.24

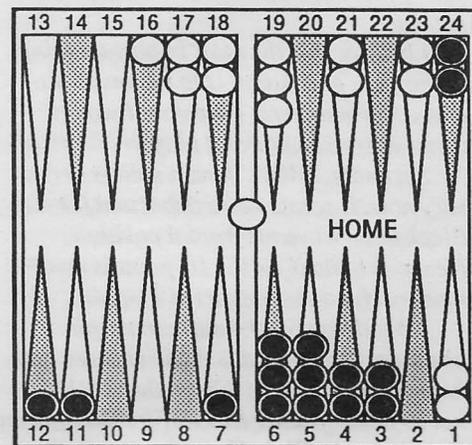
JOHN DEMIAN won BPC tournaments on the 7th and 21st to become Bar Point Club May Player of the Month. John's 3.84 total bested runners-up Dave Cramer (2.80) and Yamin Yamin (2.56).

If you finish in the Top 20 for 1991 (capitalized names on list), you'll be entered in a drawing for over \$300 worth of valuable merchandise. The higher you finish, the better your winning chances. Individual awards: 1st-Trophy + \$200, 2nd-\$125, 3rd-\$75. 1st through 20th-engraved marble paperweight. 1st through 6th-Invitation to participate on the Chicago Bar Point Club team in the 1992 Illinois State Challenge Cup.

your move

PROBLEM #172

Match to 9 points. Black leads White, 8 to 7, Crawford game. **BLACK TO PLAY 4-3.**



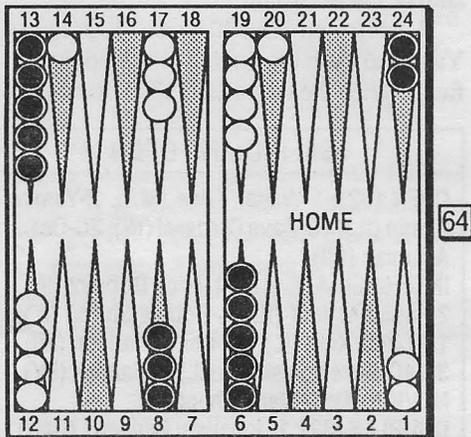
ASK DANNY



by Danny Kleinman

IT'S NOT SO BAD . . . REALLY!

Dear Danny: I have been playing backgammon for about four years. I have read all of the available books and study American and German magazines every month. Despite my efforts, a simple problem like the one shown below confuses me:

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

After scanning the 260+ matches I have on my computer, I found 14 occurrences of the 2-1 opening followed by the 2-1 response:

- 7 times: 13/11, 24/23 (Goulding (2), Magriel, Villa, Senkiewicz, White, Bruns);
 4 times: 6/4, 24/23 (Van Rooy, Senkiewicz, Yu, Kalantari);
 2 times: 6/4, 8/7 (Corbett, Snellings);
 1 time: 13/11, 6/5 (Lester).

The good news is that among these choices, I have the same order of preference. The bad news is that in practice, I would never choose any of these plays! I'm totally convinced that Black's best play is 13/10.

I believe that the most important thing in this type of position is to minimize hit-and-cover numbers. Therefore I would reject every counter-slot play.

Secondly, I don't think a split is necessary now. It seems more important for Black to improve his frontal position. Hence, a builder on the 10-point is much more useful than one on the 11-point.

Nobody makes the move that I am absolutely convinced is right. Is there any hope for me? Please tell me that 13/10 is not so bad.—Rainer Birkle, First Mannheim Backgammon Club, Germany

DEAR RAINER: All right, I'll tell you: 13/10 is not so bad. Though not "totally" or "absolutely" convinced, I think it is Black's second best play. Why, then, is it neglected by all the fine players whose matches you scanned?

Part of the answer is psychological, of course. It is clearly a small play and there is a certain "macho" element in the style of almost every expert. But part of the answer is technical. It is the sound instinct of experts to seek plays which do two things rather than just one. Thus "build and split," "slot and split," "slot twice" and "build and slot" all appeal more than a simple "build" play. Slotting plays in the early game also appeal to those experts who place a high value on flexibility, for slotting unpiles the heavy 6-point while attempting to build one's own board or prime quickly.

Obviously duplication has a lot to do with the predominance of 6/4, 24/23 and 6/4, 8/7 among the slotters. Yet this concept can be overworked. Duplication can also bring devastation (in the form of the hit-and-cover rolls you fear) and it can be subtle (in the form of duplicated combinations). Thus 6/4, 24/23 not only duplicates direct 3s, but also 2-1. The apparently non-duplicating 13/11, 6/5 chosen only by Jason Lester duplicates 4-2, 2-2, 3-1 and 1-1 while permitting devastation only on 6-4, 4-4, 4-3 and 4-1 (seven rolls). The doubly-duplicating 6/4, 8/7 permits devastation on 6-6, 6-3, 6-1, 3-3, 3-1 and 1-1 (nine rolls). Because it slots the more important point and risks less devastation, the non-duplicating slot 13/11, 6/5 may be superior to either duplicating slot.

Even early in the game, however, it's unwise to give your opponent as many as seven hit-and-cover rolls . . . if constructive alternatives exist. That's why I and many others prefer a non-slotting play. So let's

Even early in the game, however, it's unwise to give your opponent as many as seven hit-and-cover rolls . . . if constructive alternatives exist.

compare your 13/10 with the plurality choice of 13/11, 24/23. They have in common the builder-bringing 13/11. Which is better, the advance 11/10 or the split 24/23?

You call the 10-builder "much" more useful than the 11-builder. Both provide equal opportunities to make the 5- and bar-points (though on different rolls), but the 10-builder creates four more rolls to make the 4-point. However, the split adds four rolls (6-5 and 3-2) good for another purpose: making an advanced anchor.

Meanwhile, almost all of White's rolls work to make her 5-point. If she were certain to make her 5-point, I'd favor the advance rather than the split, for the advance preserves two of Black's own jokers (6-6 and 3-3) while two of the good rolls created by the split (6-5) also work fairly well if Black just runs to the midpoint. This outweighs the extra danger from White's 3-3.

But sometimes White won't cover her 5-point. Then the split threatens her slot with a second hitter. That second hitter may also threaten a blot in White's outer board indirectly. For this reason, I like 13/11, 24/23 slightly better than 13/10.

Why am I "totally" convinced by neither your arguments nor my own? Because each leans on indecisive concepts like "important," "necessary" and "desirable." I may agree that splitting isn't "necessary" but still think it "desirable." I may agree that it's "more important" to improve your point-making than anchoring chances without knowing *how much* more important. I may acknowledge dodging White hit-and-cover rolls as "the most important thing" without being able to say *how much* point-making potential should be sacrificed in the interests of safety.

It's this which makes backgammon a difficult and interesting game and causes me to reject neither your intelligent alternative nor the big slotting plays with anything resembling certainty.—Yours, Danny Δ

Questions for Danny Kleinman should be addressed to: Ask Danny, c/o CHICAGO POINT, 2726 W. Lunt Avenue, Chicago, IL 60645-3039.



ILLINOIS ACTION



Bill Davis
312/338-6380
Peter Kalba
312/276-4144

Tuesday, 7:00 P.M. at Pat's Pub, 4343 N. Harlem Ave., Norridge 708/457-1166.

Sunday Bimonthly, 12:30 P.M. at Braxton Seafood Grill, 3 Oakbrook Center Mall, Oak Brook 708/574-2155.

PUB CLUB: Tournaments Monday, 7:30 P.M. at Fiddler's, 345 W. North Ave., Villa Park. V.W. Zimnicki (708/961-1989.)

SANGAMON VALLEY BG ASSN: Tournaments Tuesday, 6:15 P.M. at On Broadway, 210 S. Broadway, Springfield. Randy Armstrong (217/528-0117).

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL BG CLUB: Tourn. 1st/3rd/5th Tuesday, 6:30 P.M. at Godfather's, 1546 E. College Ave., Normal. Lane O'Connor (309/454-1947).

WINNETKA BG CLUB: Tournaments Wednesday, 7:00 P.M. at 620 Lincoln, Winnetka. Trudie Stern (708/446-0537).

CENTRAL ILL. BG CLUB: Tourn. Thurs., 6:30 P.M. at Pizza Works, 3921 Prospect, Peoria. Sue Will (309/692-6909).

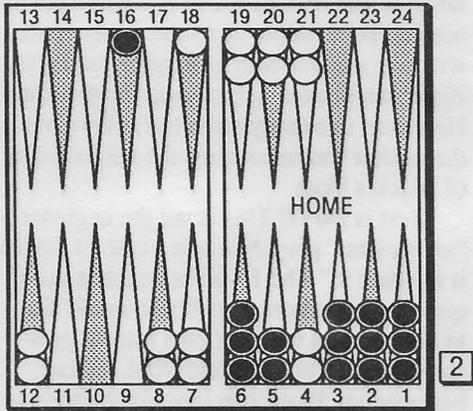
NORTH CLUB: Daily side play except Sunday at 4747 W. Peterson (402), Chgo. Howard Markowitz (312/286-8417).

HASTY PLAYS



by Duane Jensen

Match to 9 points. Ms. White leads Mr. Black, 5 to 1. **MR. BLACK TO PLAY 5-5.**



The correct move for the double 5 roll is 16/1, 6/1 preparing to clear the 6-point as the first step in going for the gammon. However, this is not our Mr. Black's choice. You see Mr. Black is a wimp and will recube if there exists any possibility of leaving a shot on his next turn.

If Mr. Black plays 16/1, 6/1, a subsequent roll of 6-2 will expose a blot. The unlikely probability of leaving that shot combined with a hit for White would seem a "certainty" to Mr. Black. Hence, fearing the immediate 58-to-1 parlay, Mr. Black would simply recube and chalk up two points.

A move Mr. Black can live with is 16/6, 5/Off(2). Although this leaves a potentially dangerous gap on the 5-point, Mr. Black can roll at least once more without fear of exposing a checker. And if he should roll doubles, 2-1, 3-1 or 3-2, he can continue rolling for the gammon in 100% safety. If left with an unattractive position which could leave a shot (such as three checkers on his 6-point), Mr. Black can then re-double White out.

Some players pass over the mathematically proper moves and select other plays that better fit their personality and playing style. For these individuals, the correct play appears to be the hasty play! Δ

CHICAGO POINT BACK ISSUES

Nov. 1989-May 1991 / \$3 per issue
Chicago Point; 2726 W. Lunt Ave;
Chicago, IL 60645

MARMORSTEIN...

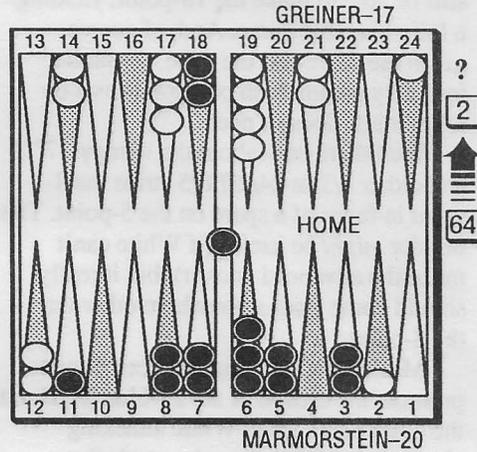
[Continued from page 1]

Greiner made the big play: 9/4*. Marmorstein danced, and was recubed out.

It took Greiner two more games to regain a 16-15 match lead. The countrymen traded blows the next four games with Phillip regaining a 20-17 advantage.

In what would be the next to the last game, Greiner faced this cube decision:

25 pt. finals. **MARMORSTEIN DOUBLES. SHOULD GREINER TAKE?**



An easy give for Marmorstein and a tough take to say the least. But Greiner stayed true to his playing style and accepted the 2-cube with little hesitation. This time there would be no last shot salvation. Marmorstein won four points here and one in the next game to win the Championship of Great Britain 25-17.



Phillip Marmorstein extends his hand to a dejected Michael Greiner upon winning the Championship of Great Britain.

TWO DOWN, ONE TO GO

After accepting his loving-cup at the prize-giving ceremony, Marmorstein was off to play his 5-point Viking Kickoff final rounds. He just couldn't lose. In one match vs. Michigan's Harry Brown, Marmorstein had 13 checkers buried on his 1- and 2-points and his other two men on the bar vs. Harry's closed board. Without hitting a shot, Phillip

ended up *winning the race!*

And so it went all the way to his final Viking victory over England's Chris Bray. Marmorstein's final tournament scorecard: one loss followed by 22 wins in a row and \$40,000+ total prize money. Historic.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT...

...there were a few events that Phillip Marmorstein didn't win. Jens Sjörgen (Sweden) topped Derek Matheson (England) in the Intermediate finals. Klaus Schicks (Germany) was best among the Novices.

Flint BackgammonNews editor Carol Joy Cole defeated Antoinette-Marie Williams (New York) to win the woman's Queen Pot. Congratulations to Wanda Mortuk of Michigan, the highest finishing lady in the Championship division (5th/8th). And special accolades to Joe Sylvester and Neil Kazaross whose daily seminars were as entertaining as they were informative. The complete results: Δ

1991 CHAMPIONSHIP OF GREAT BRITAIN

CHAMPIONSHIP (87): 1-Phillip Marmorstein (GER), 2-Michel Greiner (GER), 3/4-Jorgen Granstedt (SWE)/Peter Siegfried (GER), 5/8-Bill Davis (USA) / Tom Jayes (SPA) / Frank Kirschner (GER) / Wanda Mortuk (USA); 1st Cons.1-Roland Ekstrom (SWZ), 1st Cons.2-George Sulimirski (GB), 1st Cons.3/4-Hervé Pietraru (FRA) / Herb Roman (USA); 2nd Cons.1-Jurgen Schartt (GER), 2nd Cons.2-Rolf Schreuder (NETH), 2nd Cons.3/4-Karl Laubmeier (GER) / Mario Sequeira (PORT); LastChance1-Joel Schiff (ISR), LastChance2-John Broomfield (GB).

INTERMEDIATE (54): 1-Jens Sjörgen (SWE), 2-Derek Matheson (GB), 3/4-Herbert Keil (GB)/Elli Nache (USA), 5/8-Mats Karlhom (SWE)/Jean King (GB)/George Klitsas (GRE)/Afshar Navidi (DEN); 1st Cons.1-Mark Adkins (UK), 1st Cons.2-Joseph Cohen (ISR), 1st Cons.3/4-Richard Armbruster (USA)/Graham Sievers (GB); 2nd Cons.1-P. Feierstein (GER), 2nd Cons.2-H. Gröning (GER); LastChance1-Wally Wolf (USA), LastChance 2-R. Menger (GER).

NOVICE (22): 1-Klaus Schicks (GER), 2-Henrick Witt (DEN), 3/4-Zoe Gianoloulou (GRE)/Michael Ellerby (GB), 5-Melanie Brown (GB), 6/8-Jeff Ellis (GB)/Willibert Kirfel (GER)/Wilfred Skinner (GB).

MANX-MED KINGPOT (3 flights of 8: 3 winners): #1-Ismet Demirel (USA), #2-Paul Magriel (USA), #3-Phillip Marmorstein (GER).

MANX-MED QUEENPOT (10): 1-Carol Joy Cole (USA), 2-Antoinette-Marie Williams (USA).

VIKING KICKOFF (512): 1-Phillip Marmorstein (GER), 2-Chris Bray (GB).

£250 SUPERJACKPOT (4): 1-Howard Markowitz (USA).

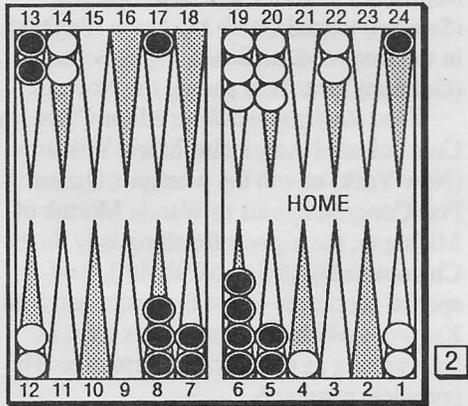
HIGHEST-FINISHING LADIES: Championship-Wanda Mortuk (USA), Intermediate-Jean King (UK), Novice-Melanie Brown (GB).

WORLD TEAM CONTEST: 1-Germany, 2-USA.

PROBLEM #171 SOLVED

by Walter Trice

Match to 5 points. White leads Black, 2 to 1. **BLACK TO PLAY 4-3.**



Before rolling his 4-3, Black should have been appropriately “match-conscious” and redoubled. Match equity tables (assuming a 30% cubeless gammon rate) show that White needs a 41% chance of winning this game from this position in order to accept the 4-cube.

Black leads in the race and has three White checkers behind a 4-prime with growth potential. White’s stripped and isolated outfield points are a positional liability, and her threats against Black’s laggards on the 17- and 24-points are not particularly impressive, given the amount of escape and clean-up work she is faced

with. Therefore, it’s not at all clear that White could have even accepted Black’s redouble!

But there was no cube turn, so we must evaluate several candidate plays for the 4-3. Aggressive players will undoubtedly consider 8/4*, 7/4 first. If this play works, Black will have improved his board, gained time, preempted an anchor, and built a 5-prime (assuming he can remake the 7-point). Unfortunately, it probably *won’t* work unless White fans. 2-1 is White’s only weak entry number—everything else hits somewhere at a time when Black has three vulnerable blots. If the counterattack doesn’t immediately succeed, White may still be able to make the 18-point, yielding a fully playable game. And, of course, given the score and the cube, a volatile, mutually gammonish position is exactly what Black doesn’t need.

Well then, how about the wimpy 17/13 and either 8/5 or 24/21? 8/5 strips the 8-point in favor of a spare on the 5-point. The builder *might* be useful (if White can’t make the advanced anchor), but it really should come from somewhere other than the 8-point.

Meanwhile, nothing has been done to promote the escape of the 24-blot. 24/21, on the other hand, gives White attacking chances at a time when she needs them.

None of these weak plays makes any attempt to capitalize on White’s stripped outfield. The stripped outfield is a common positional theme. In general, when playing against it:

1. Let your opponent play. Allow his big numbers to destroy his

2. Avoid giving him attacking chances which will permit him to break his points *constructively*;
3. Put pressure on the outfield points;
4. Look for hits that produce awkward reentries.

The 4th principle suggests 24/21, 8/4*, when White rolls of 6-1 or 6-2 will force an outfield concession, and some other entries will take away White’s escaping 5s and 6s. Black might even get to cover the 4-point. However, this (truly atrocious) play gives a direct shot and maximizes the vulnerability of Black’s blots.

Best is 24/17! This is not the beginner’s “safety-first” play. Nor is it a case of “make it to break it.” The 17-point happens to be quite valuable here, and Black would like to keep it for a while. It puts intense pressure on the White outfield. And, having buttoned up, Black can turn his attention to attacking, or extending his prime. He will be entirely willing to give up his midpoint in order to use the checkers there for these purposes. Even if White manages to anchor on Black’s 4-point, her strippage will present a continuing problem for several rolls—if Black keeps the 17-point.

24/17 happens to be ideal for the given match situation. Black leaves no blots and will redouble any response, cashing those that don’t anchor. But I feel that making the 17-point is sufficiently superior to the other plays to make it correct for all match scores and money game situations, regardless of the cube location. Δ

CARLSBERG CUP WINNERS CROWNED IN DENMARK

Danish Backgammon Federation (DBF) directors Chris Temel and Eric Gravgaard have announced the winners of Carlsberg Cup 1991: 1-Kim Salomonsen, 2-Poul Levin, 3-Claus D. Jensen. All three players win travel to and accommodations at the Monte-Carlo World Championship, \$500 cash and free entry into the main event.

The tournament, sponsored by Carlsberg Beer, ran early this year at 199 cafés throughout Denmark. Matches were 5-points long to give everyone a chance. The winner from each café received a “Cafémaster sweatshirt and baseball cap and qualified for the 26 March finals in Copenhagen.

A grand total of 3674 entrants made this one of the largest events in backgammon history. Congratulations to the winners and to the Danish Backgammon Federation! Δ

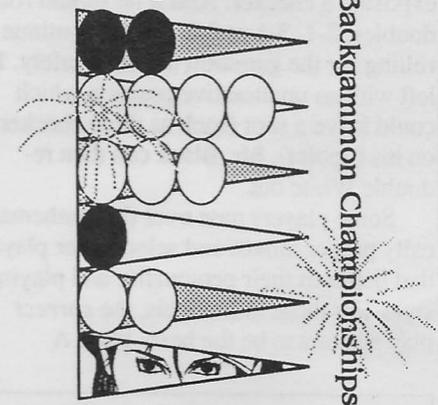
WBF GOLDEN CIRCUIT RANKINGS

1991 Top 20 through seven tournaments.

Mike Svobodny	..... USA	..... 22.83
Michael Greiner	..... Germany	..... 18.17
J. Grandell	..... Sweden	..... 11.18
Claude Marbleu	..... France	..... 9.46
Robert Wachtel	..... USA	..... 8.60
Heinz Haussleiter	.... Germany	..... 7.74
Martin Bigler	..... Switzerland	..... 7.44
Barry Pitt	..... England	..... 6.02
Rolf Schreuder	..... Holland	..... 5.76
Sneoual	..... Monaco	..... 4.74
Simon Naim	..... Israel	..... 4.32
Mario Sequeira	..... Portugal	..... 4.08
Gerd Schiesser	..... Germany	..... 3.75
Staiger	..... Switzerland	..... 3.48
Tarnen	..... England	..... 3.12
Siolin	..... Denmark	..... 3.12
David Hershleder	.... USA	..... 3.00
Braun	..... Germany	..... 2.88
Wilcox Snellings	.... USA	..... 2.88
Thurzo	..... Austria	..... 2.64

The Fireworks Begin July 5th.

Michigan Summer



July 5-7, 1991

Flint Ramada Inn, Michigan
Carol Joy Cole 313/232-9731

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

I was rather shocked to read "Dice, Mini-Mechanics and You," last month's front page article by Dean Muench. I had heard Dean make similar claims in conversation, but had not taken them too seriously.

"Dice-paranoia" is common among backgammon players, after all. The afflicted player wonders, "Why don't I win more?" and the obvious reason—that he doesn't play well enough—is unacceptable because it hurts his ego. So he looks for other reasons. Perhaps he was born under a bad sign. Perhaps a sorcerer has put a spell on him. Perhaps his opponents are "dice mechanics."

No one is completely immune to such irrational ideas, and a certain (small) amount of bitching about one's bad luck is normal and acceptable. But to state in print that cheating with the dice goes on—that in fact it is commonplace—is altogether different. One who makes such a claim incurs a very heavy burden of proof, and Dean's article does not even come *close* to meeting the requirement.

The author's contention that a "blanket roll," which can be executed on a soft surface (a blanket or sandy soil) with hand-held dice, can also be done (unintentionally, no less) out of a lipped dice cup onto a hard-surfaced backgammon board, is quite incredible and contrary to common sense. Yet he offers no evidence except for his own "insight." I think that Dean should either give us a more convincing argument or retract his entire article.

One of The author's claims—that dice have a natural tendency to repeat both numbers—is not hard to check out. There is plenty of data available on how dice "behave" in tournament backgammon in the form of recorded matches. I happen to have about 300 matches stored on disk in my computer. When I read Dean's article, I decided to carry out a study of the rolls in these matches, hoping to either confirm or refute the hypothesis that rolls tend to repeat.

The opening roll of the game, when each player rolls one die, was excluded from my study. In addition, I had to exclude rolls which could not be completely played. Most rolls containing unplayable numbers involve a player on the bar dancing with part or all of his roll. Often, dancing rolls are not recorded at all, and when they *are* recorded they are likely to be inaccurate.

inner game

TAKGAMMON



by Tak Morloka

THE SPECTOR OF AN ADVANTAGE

How often I've heard that the justification for a play (or the lack of it) was based on the "opponent factor" and very little else. There appears to be an presumption that tailoring one's game to the individual is advantageous and therefore necessary. How much truth is there in this supposition?

The entire presumption seems illogical from my point of view. A typical analysis such as: "I would have cube a good player, but my opponent is *so* bad that I rolled on to avoid giving him any lucky chances" has implications of irrationality. If giving the experienced player a tough cube decision makes sense, not giving that difficult choice to a player whose judgment is in question seems ridiculous. Allowing more playing time for the weaker player to find a winning path effectively surrenders one's competitional advantage.

There is no comfort in claiming to be a good player if you selectively fail to deliver the goods. In backgammon, you are what you do. People's opinions about your game don't win any trophies. Δ



FORTUNE COOKIE

It's not enough to know the right plays.

Otherwise, the procedure was straightforward. Since I was tabulating repetitions and non-repetitions, consecutive pairs of rolls were of interest. Any pair of consecutive rolls by the same player was a candidate provided it fell within the previously stated parameters. I tabulated doubles and non-doubles separately. The computer program to carry out the study was easy to write. Here are the results:

	Candidates	Repeaters	Repeat Ratio	Expected
Doubles	10,623	256	2.41%	2.78%
Non-Doubles	56,386	3,175	5.63%	5.56%

What's this? Non-doubles tend to repeat more often than expected, but doubles repeat *less* often than expected? No, the deviations from the expected ratios can be explained as biases introduced by the exclusion process. What happens when a roll-pair consists of a non-double followed by a double? If the player has been hit between the two rolls, there is an excellent chance that he will dance (1/6 on a one point board!). Since the roll-pair then can't be used, the aggregate result is that these non-repeating pairs are preferentially excluded, and the non-double repeat ratio is artificially *inflated*. Similarly, the repeat ratio for doubles is *deflated*. (And doubles are under-represented in the sample of candidates.)

Can we conclude anything from this study, given that it involves systematic biases that are practically impossible to quantify? Actually, yes. We know the

direction of the biases. If not their magnitude. We can conclude that the probability that a non-double repeats is less than 5.63%. How much less, we really don't know, but the difference between the observed and the expected ratio—0.07%—is so small to begin with that I think we can fairly say that the alleged tendency to repeat is either insignificant or nil.—Walter G. Trice, Holden, MA

Last month, Harold Branch of Louisville, KY conducted a live roll-out experiment to test the validity of Dean's claims. He used precision dice and a thin cup. Harold happily reports "...the dice show no conspicuous tendency to repeat."—Ed.

VERY, VERY HAPPY TO ACCOMMODATE

I am a very, very good backgammon player and as such, would greatly appreciate a free copy of your newsletter!—Dan Townsend, Asheboro, NC

NEW NUMBER FOR HONG KONG

I appreciated seeing last month's letter from Pierre and Patricia Zakia concerning their participation in one of our monthly tournaments. We enjoyed having them. However, the Hong Kong Backgammon Club has a new telephone number. Our director Steve Nelson can be reached at 852/8 461923. Please make a note of it.—Jerry Godsey, president, Hong Kong Backgammon Club Δ

AMALGAMATION

REPORTING FROM SPAIN: Former Playboy exec and Chicagoan **Victor Lownes** surfaced at the Championship of Great Britain last month. And there was nice scenery for the men: Victor was accompanied by his wife, the former **Marilyn Cole** (1973 Playmate of the Year)... Tourney staff member **Jim Moore** showed us new green British Isles Backgammon Association flight bags. They're really sharp: about \$40 plus postage. For ordering instructions, write to **Michael Crane**, BIBA, 44 Carral Close, Lincoln LN5 9BD, England... Michigan's **Harry Brown** found the Spanish location very convenient. He happened to be in Europe on the pro golf tour working as a caddy. Harry has caddied for nearly all the top golfers including **Tom Watson**... **BACK IN THE U.S.A.:** Good luck to **Lee Hoge** who has recently formed the Saratoga Backgammon Club in Saratoga Springs, New York. The club meets Fridays at 7 p.m. at the Adirondack Trust Branch. For more info, call Lee at 518/584-1714... Next, from the mind of Planet Earth's **Jake**

Jacobs: the "Totally Recalled" gimmick road rallye. The event is set for 10 August at the Woodfield Mall in Schaumburg, IL. For more info, phone Jake at 708/824-2466 ... "59 West" (at 59 West Grand Avenue) is advertised as Chicago's newest and hottest three star restaurant and nightclub. If you're a backgammon player and would like a free pass into the club, call the special events director **Phelicia Krakow** at 312/464-0059... She hit a \$4,400 jackpot at the Nevada State Championships four months ago. Now, Chicagoland's **Leslie Lockett** has just won \$500 in US99 "Song of the Day" radio contest (15 May). What's next? The lottery?... Get well wishes to **Nick Maffeo** (Palm Springs, CA) who is recovering from a car accident... **Yamin Yamin's** Illinois State Championships is reserving a table at the ultra-exclusive Le Francais Restaurant (Wheeling, IL) on Thursday, 1 August. If you're interested in experiencing what many rate as one of the top three gourmet restaurants in America, call ISBC social director **Darcey Brady** at 708/945-7801... Relocating: **Bob & Lenore Holyon** (Seattle back to Milwaukee), **Larry Deckel** (Milwaukee to South Carolina) and Louisville director **Scott Arche**

(Louisville to Lexington, KY)... Want to find out about the New York backgammon scene? *The Greater New York Backgammon Club* newsletter is your best bet. The six page May issue proclaims **Andy Palumbo** as "GNYBC 1990-1991 Player of the Year" and **Sally Marra** as "#1 In Attendance." For a sample copy, send \$1 to: GNYBC Newsletter; Box 410; Commack, NY 11725 ... Chicago backgammon pioneer **Valerie Valentine** was the *Chicago Sun-Times* "Chicago Profile" in the 26 May edition. Did you know the former Backgammon Club of Chicago founder is a descendant of the Wright Brothers and was one of the first American women admitted into the Peoples Republic of China? Valerie's philosophy: "Look for new opportunities. Do better than you think you can."... Visiting the Bar Point Club in May: **Jim "Frisco" Gibbs** (San Anselmo, CA)... In your next match, remember this excellent bit of philosophy from **Robert Hurl**: "The first principle of winning is not to lose."... Good luck to the Chicago Bulls in their quest for the NBA Basketball Championship. **Michael Jordan** would make a great backgammon player. He knows how to make points and plays a great running game! Δ

Year after year, we lead the way to Monte-Carlo.

Each year, more and more backgammon players begin their Monte-Carlo World Championship experience with us. The reasons are obvious. We're on the Italian Riviera only 40 kilometers from Monte-Carlo; our event concludes just prior to the start of the World Championship; and we're part of the Worldwide Backgammon Federation's "Golden Circuit." This year, make us your "opening roll."

DIRECTORS

Marco Fornasir and Alberto Lessana
(WBF recognized. Alberto da Pra, pres.)

ENTRY FEES

Championship Lit. 800.000 (\$650 U.S.)
Intermediate Lit. 300.000 (\$250 U.S.)

REGISTRATION FEE

WBF 1991 members Lit. 70.000
Non-members Lit. 100.000

PRIZES

100% return. Minimum guaranteed first prize: Lit. 25.000.000 (about \$20,000 U.S.) and a weekend in Venice kindly offered by **Hotel Amadeus**.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Royal ★★★★★ Ph. 184 5391
Villa Mafalda ★★★★★ Ph. 184 572572
Lolli Palace ★★★ Ph. 184 531497
Villa Maria ★★★ Ph. 184 531422

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Marco Fornasir
via Frua, 16-20146; Milan, Italy
Telephone or FAX: 39-2-48019343

The WORLDWIDE BACKGAMMON FEDERATION
sponsored by the Swiss Bank Corporation presents the

6th Federal International Backgammon Tournament



Casino of Sanremo, Italy

Friday 12th July to Sunday 14th July 1991

Mini-Jackpots begin Thursday 11th July

Minimum guaranteed prize money:
60.000.000 Italian Lire (about \$50,000 U.S.)

PROGRAM

Thursday, July 11th

17:00 Start of Mini-Jackpots: Hotel Royal
22:30 Main Jackpot and Mini-Jackpots

Friday, July 12th

16:00 Speedy Mini-Jackpots and registration (until 19:30): Hotel Royal
22:00 Public draw: Municipal Casino
22:30 Start of play: Municipal Casino

Saturday, July 13th

15:00 Main Tournament continues:
Municipal Casino
16:30 Start of Consolation Tournament
17:30 Start of Speedy Mini-Jackpots
22:30 Start of Saturday Super-Jackpot

Sunday, July 14th

15:00 Start of Last Chance Tournament:
Municipal Casino
16:00 Start of Speedy Mini-Jackpots
16:30 Finals: Municipal Casino
20:00 Prize-giving: Municipal Casino

YOU GO YUGOSLAVIA!

1st Mitteleuropa Backgammon Tournament

Casino Nova Gorica, Yugoslavia

30 August–1 September 1991

(Warm-up tournament 29 August)

Minimum guaranteed prize money: 30.000.000 Italian Lire

Entry Fees:

Open: Lit 300.000 + Intermediate: Lit 100.000

For more on this Backgammon Adventure:

Marco Fornasir
via Frua, 16-20146
Milan, Italy

Telephone or FAX: 39-2-48019343

EAST EUROPEAN BACKGAMMON ORGANIZATION

ILLINOIS STATE BACKGAMMON CHAMPIONSHIPS

Proudly presented by

Yamin A. Yamin

August 1–4, 1991

Hyatt Deerfield Hotel
Deerfield, Illinois

Featuring...

- Δ \$55/night room rates
- Δ 3 Divisions of Play
- Δ Parlay From Hell
- Δ Team Tournament
- Δ Kickoff & Blitz Tourney
- Δ \$500 Masters Event
- Δ Good Times

To receive an invitation:

Yamin Yamin 708.945.7801
Cinda King 309.694.2947

Ask about the Thursday group dinner
at Chicagoland's famous Le Francais!

who did what

WINNER'S CORNER



Mar.–May 1991

•**New England Club Monthly** (Cambridge, MA; 10 Mar.)... A Division (33): 1-Walter Trice, 2-Rick Barabino; 1C-Jay Giuttari. B Division (18): 1-Lee Shapiro, 2-Brian Hall; 1C-Bob Mojahed; 1LC-Andy Latto.

•**1991 Easter Bunny Tournament** (Richmond, Australia; 25 March)... Open: 1-George Comopoulos, 2-Michael Ginat, 3/4-Fay Fitt/Malcolm Hutson.

•**Nordic Open** (Copenhagen, Denmark; 29 Mar.–1 Apr.)... Championship (69): 1-Jerry Grandell (SWE), 2-Ray Tannen (GB), 3/4-Emil Mortuk (USA)/David Wrang (SWE); 1C-John Sjölin (DK), 2C-Henrik Østergaard (DK); Warm-Up Winner-David Hershleder (USA/GB). Intermediate (59): 1-Michael Meyburg (GER), 2-Henrik Witt (DK), 3/4-Bruno Le Milinaire (FRA)/Anne Jensen (DK); 1C-Peter Jes Thopsen (DK), 2C-Bertil Södeberg (SWE); Warm-Up Winner-Max Engquist (SWE). Beginner (109): 1-Lars Jørgensen (DK), 2-Norbert Wiebusch (GER); 1C-Poul Helmer (DK); Warm-Up Winner-Henrik Andersen (DK). Little Mermaid Gold Kick-Off (112): 1-Neil Kazaross (USA), 2-Christian Schou (DK). Little Mermaid Silver Kick-Off (128): 1-Mark Adkins (GB), 2-Leroy Malachinski (DK). Super Jackpot 1-Jerry Grandell (SWE). Super Jackpot 2-Ralf Jonas.

•**12th Granite State Open** (Jaffrey, NH; 5–7 Apr.)... Championship (20): 1-Walter Trice

(MA), 2-Sam Hanna (MA); 1C-Wally Watson (NY). Advanced (8): 1-Sharon Rochon (RI), 2-Eileen Braverman (MA). Team Championship (8): 1-Bob Bishop (NY) & Jerry Padova (NH) & Ami Tennenbaum (NJ).

•**Springfield Open** (Springfield, IL; 6 Apr.)... Open (19): 1-Greg Daniels, 2-Randy Armstrong; 1C-Gary Schechter, 2C-Ben Zemaitis, 1LC-Cinda King.

•**Düsseldorf Open** (Düsseldorf, Germany; 12–14 Apr.)... Championship (71): 1-Phillip Marmorstein, 2-D. Rosenberg, 3/4-Martin Bigler (SWIS)/R. Schavemaker (NETH); 1C-Harald Johanni (GER), 2C-L. Wolf (GER); 1LC-H. Luttenkirchen. Intermediate (78): 1-H. Jantzen (GER), 2-T. Töffer (GER); 1C-F. Siepmann (GER); 1LC-B. Kaiser (GER). Beginner (49): 1-M. Michel (GER), 2-M. Doettlaff; 1C-B. Reisinger (GER); 1LC-T. Welling (GER).

•**Bar Point Sunday** (Chicago, IL; 14 Apr.)... Open (31): 1/2-Bill Davis/John Demian, 3/4 Jake Jacobs/Gary Kay; 1/2C-Larry Lau/Howard Markowitz. Limited (15): 1-Joe Koucharian, 2-Mickey Kaplan, 3/4-Don Jayhan/Jolie Lewis; 1C-Mary Franks, 2C-Stan Kucharz.

•**Minuteman Monthly** (Maynard, MA; 14 Apr.)... A Div. (15): 1-Herb Gurland, 2-Bill Barrows; 1C-Mike Nelson. B Div. (5): 1-Ernesto Adrianzen.

•**18th Byblos European Championship** (St. Tropez, France; 18–21 Apr.)... Championship: 1-Ahmet Baydar (FRA).

•**GNBYC 3rd Club Championship** (Manhasset, NY; 19 Apr.)... Championship: 1-Jeff Acierno, 2-Jay Fried. Mini-Blitz (64): 1-Dr. Bob Hill, 2-Dave Gustin.

•**College Park Spring Open** (College Park, MD; 20 Apr.)... Open (30): 1-Jim Baroff; 1C-Ron Genter; 1LC-Peter Marzea.

•**Central Illinois Spring Annual** (Lacon, IL; 21 Apr.)... Open (16): 1-Yamin Yamin, 2-Gary Kay; 1C-Bill Davis, 2C-Ed Bauder. Intermediate (25): 1-David Hegg, 2-Greg Daniel; 1C-Cliff Mayoh, 2C-Fouad Malouf. Beginner (6): 1-William Hutchinson, 2-Mike Mockler... Always one of the best one-day tournaments in Illinois. Directors Sue Will and Cinda King are looking into the possibility of offering a riverboat gambling excursion in conjunction with next year's event.

•**NEBC Monthly** (Cambridge, MA; 21 Apr.)... A Div. (35): 1-Herb Gurland, 2-Paul Sullivan; 1C-Walter Trice. B Div. (18): 1-Brian Hall, 2-Bob Mojahed; 1C-Russ Nahigian; 1LC-Chung Ng.

•**Spring 1991 Gran Prix** (La Jolla, CA; 18–19 May)... Open (34): 1-Neil Kazaross, 2-Veronica Mooney, 3/4-John Vietor/Ben Lang. Blitz (32): 1-Treena Bouque. Doubles: 1-Mike Fujita & Karl Zobell.

•**Milwaukee Sunday Tournament** (Milwaukee, WI; 19 May)... Open (15): 1-Yamin Yamin (IL), 2-Larry Strommen (IN); 1C-Jeff Kane (WI). Limited (13): 1-Larry Deckel, 2-Burt Grinyer; 1C-Fred Gehlhoff... John Hawks Pub is a great place to hold a tournament—overlooking the Milwaukee River—and beginning 5 June (at 7:00 p.m.) will host Wednesday night backgammon as well.

•**Boston Symphony Orchestra Benefit** (Cambridge, MA; 24–27 May)... A Div. (22): 1-Bill Robertie, 2-Walter Trice; 1C-Rick Barabino, 2C-Karen Davis. Doubles: 1-Walter Trice & Mike Nelson, 2-Rick Barabino & Brian Hall.

BACKGAMMON LAS VEGAS

Your two favorite things are together again.

The NEVADA BACKGAMMON ASSOCIATION

Howard Markowitz, Director

presents

The Las Vegas Open Backgammon Tournament

Golden Nugget Hotel & Casino

September 22-26, 1991

Featuring three divisions of play with a *Guaranteed Prize Fund*

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

Fly American Airlines to the tournament. Las Vegas Open participants and their guests receive 40% off American's regular coach fare plus 5% off any discounted rates.

We suggest that you reserve your flights through: Edgewater Travel, Inc.; 5701 North Sheridan Road; Chicago, IL 60660. Telephone 800/284-0887 or 312/784-3400. Ask for Sandy.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Special room rate: **\$52/night** (double or single occ.)
Call the Golden Nugget today: 800/634-3454.
(Request "Backgammon Tournament" rates.)

INVITATIONS AVAILABLE JUNE 30

For more information, contact the
NEVADA BACKGAMMON ASSOCIATION at
708/470-9491