

## The Town Crier, Captain Blood, and the Butcher of Barcelona

by Jake Jacobs



**N**aked Breasts! Dead Moose! Excuse me. The foregoing was a shameless (albeit successful) attempt to grab your attention.



However, except for a long weekend

in Michigan (just because I *struck* out in *Flint*, don't expect any *wicked* puns), I've been at home in the U.S.A. for nearly two months, which means that I've tangled with no terpsichorean Thais, collided with no cervine corpses.

Perhaps It's time to discuss some serious, high level backgammon. Fortunately, we don't play that kind here in Chicago. Instead I'll tell you about a few recent games, and perhaps answer these questions: When is it correct to voluntarily break an inner point in an already anemic home board, leaving two blots exposed to 28 return shots at a time when one's opponent owns his best 5-point board? Who is the bravest player in backgammon? What does "Bring on the cows" mean?

First a game to set the stage. I had a partner in the box. We had settled on a nice division of responsibility if anything went wrong: he would blame my moves, and I would blame his rolling. We had, for reasons that elude me, been redoubled a roll or two before, and had a 6-3 to play in Position #1, shown at right.

Since we had the stronger board, not too much ammo trained on us, and no other attractive game plan, it seemed right to run 22/13. After all, I reassured my partner, sharing the losses this way, even getting gammoned was only 32 points apiece. They rolled 6-6; another interesting number, and played 12/18(3), 9/15. We needed a good number; we got a 4-3. Sensing that we might no longer be the favorite, we played it big, 13/6. Their response was 6-5: 15/21, 18/23\*.

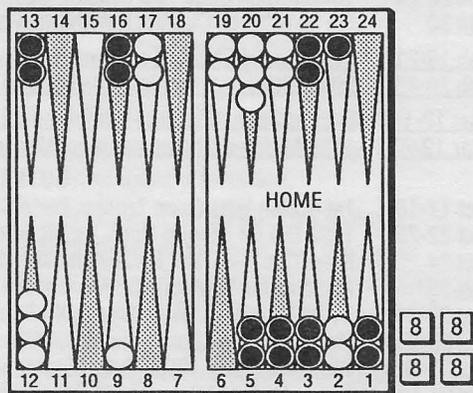
5-1: Bar/24, 16/11. My partner consoled me by pointing out that even if they backgammoned us, it was still only double digits.

5-3: 20/23, 17/22\*.

5-1: rewarded! A short while later we

[Continued on page 6]

Position #1. BLACK TO PLAY 6-3.



illinois state championships & america cup

## ILLINOIS CREAM RISES TO THE TOP

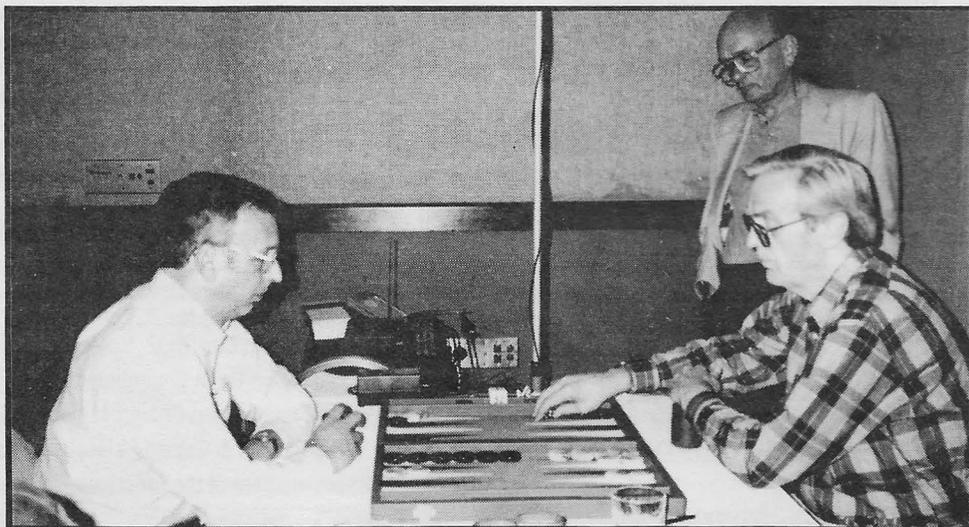
Cohn & Desmond Finish 1-2,  
Combine To Win Battle Of States  
Aussie Tino Lechich Wins America Cup

**I**llinois, the state with the most active backgammon clubs in America, flexed it's muscles to produce a sweep of the Illinois State Championships. Yamin Yamin's party tournament was staged at the Hyatt Deerfield Hotel in conjunction with the America Cup and drew over 120 players from the Americas, Europe and Australia.

Harry Cohn of Buffalo Grove, IL added another midwest title to his collection with a 15-7 win over Don Desmond in the Championship finals. It was Cohn's third major victory since May 1990. And for a little icing on the cake, Cohn and Desmond teamed to win the Battle of the States over New Yorkers Jeff Acierno and the red-hot Ami Tennenbaum.

The Advanced division, arguably the

[Continued on page 7]



Harry Cohn (left) and Don Desmond set up to play the 1992 Illinois State Championships. That's Richard Stawowy kibitzing.

Larry Strommen videotaped the 15 game finals in VHS format. For a copy, send \$15 postpaid (\$25 overseas) to: L.A. Strommen, 6866 Meadow View Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46226. Larry will include a complete list of available matches with each order.

# CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

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## LETTERS

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

## INTERVIEWS, PLEASE!

Congratulations on your excellent publication. It's nice to see Australian events mentioned.

As a suggestion, I would like to see some interviews with the world's top backgammon players.—*Michael Ginat, Denver, CO*

We'll take your suggestion and have a new interview soon. In the meantime, you can purchase reprints of our four previous interviews for \$3 each: *Wendy Kaplan (August 1988), Jack Kissane (June 1989), Phillip Marmorstein (August 1990) and Wilcox Snellings (September 1991).*—*Ed.*

## BACKGAMMON IS SUPPOSED TO BE FUN

Hokey-smoke, Mr. Harvey! No talking, no comments said in jest, no "casino atmosphere"? You paint backgammon on a very black canvas, indeed. Golly zonkers, it doesn't sound like anything I'd want to do. [See "Problems With The Lady" letter by *Lee E. Harvey, Sept. 1992 POINT—Ed.*]

coming attractions

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR



by Carol Joy Cole  
313/232-9731

\* Denotes new or revised listing

1993 American BG Tour events underlined.

### NATIONAL

Oct 15	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	313/232-9731
Oct 17*	Springfield Fall Open, On Broadway, Springfield, IL	217/789-6275
Oct 17*	College Park Fall Open, Promenade, Bethesda, MD	301/530-0604
Oct 21	Rscards Fall Computer Modem Tournament, GEnie	800/638-9636
Oct 30-Nov 1	New Hampshire Fall Classic/Halloween Contest, Sheraton, Bedford, NH	603/863-4711
Oct 31-Nov 7	Backgammon In Paradise, Kea Lani Hotel, Wailea, Maui, Hawaii	702/852-1221
Nov 1*	Bimonthly Sunday Tournament, Crestmoor Downs, Denver, CO	303/388-8849
Nov 7*	Springfield Series #1, Davy Byrnes, Springfield, IL	217/789-6275
Nov 10	BPC 10th Annual Fall Trophy Tourney, Pat's Pub, Norridge, IL	312/338-6380
Nov 14-15	San Diego Fall Gran Prix, Embassy Suites Hotel, La Jolla, CA	619/294-2007
Nov 15	New England Club Monthly, Sheraton Commander, Cambridge, MA	617/262-0173
Nov 19	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	313/232-9731
Nov 20-22*	BG Co-Op Fall Championships, Rocking Horse Ranch, Highland, NY	516/781-3993
Nov 22	14th Annual Flint Area Club Championships, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	313/232-9731
Dec 5*	Springfield Series #2, Davy Byrnes, Springfield, IL	217/789-6275
Dec 6	Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Braxton Seafood Grill, Oak Brook, IL	312/252-7755
Dec 13*	New England Club Monthly, Sheraton Commander, Cambridge, MA	617/262-0173
Dec 17	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	313/232-9731
Jan 16*	CPBC Winter Open, Promenade, Bethesda, MD	301/530-0603
Jan 20	Rscards Winter Computer Modem Tournament, GEnie	800/638-9636
Jan 20-24	10th Nevada State Tournament/Masters Invit'l, Sands Hotel, Las Vegas	708/470-9491
Jan 30	5th Hawthorne Classic, Hawthorne Race Course, Cicero, IL	312/338-6380
<u>Feb 19-21*</u>	<u>15th Annual Charity Tournament, Greentree Marriott, Pittsburgh, PA</u>	<u>412/823-7500</u>
<u>Feb 26-28*</u>	<u>29th Gammon Associates Invitational, Cavendish West Hollywood, CA</u>	<u>818/901-0464</u>
<u>Mar 12-14*</u>	<u>Boston Open, Sheraton Commander Hotel, Cambridge, MA</u>	<u>617/262-0173</u>
<u>Mar 19-21*</u>	<u>1993 Midwest Championships, Marriott Hotel, Oakbrook, IL</u>	<u>312/338-6380</u>

### OUTSIDE USA

Oct 17-18	1st British Isles Open Trophy, Forte Crest Hotel, Eastgate, Lincoln, UK	0522/53 68 36
Oct 22-25	1992 Rio De Janeiro Open, Le Méridien Copacabana Hotel, Brazil	5521/267-6033
Oct 24	Kater Cup 1992 No. 6, Café chantant De Kater, Enschede, Netherlands	3153/353115
Oct 25*	Manchester Tournament, Manchester, England	081/346-9539
Oct 26-30	South American World Cup & XII Tournament, Buenos Aires, Argentina	541/7908177
Oct 29-Nov 1	Swedish Open Championships, O'Henrys Hotel, Stockholm, Sweden	46 8 652 4099
Oct 31-Nov 1	Weisbaden Cup 1992, Hotel Fürstenhof-Esplanade, Wiesbaden, Germany	06122/16124
Oct 31-Nov 1*	Punta del Este International Tournament, Punta del Este, Uruguay	541/794 2544
Nov 2*	CANCELLED—Hong Kong Club Monthly, Ladies Recreation Club	852/846-1923
Nov 2	Victoria Monthly Tournament, Botanical Hotel, South Yarra, Australia	03/822-3730
Nov 5-8	Austrian State Championships, Vienna, Austria	08341/12825
Nov 13-15	Nordrhein-Westfalen Championships 1992, Düsseldorf-Nord, Germany	02151/503591
Nov 13-15*	Dunhill Special Lights Hong Kong Championships, Ladies Recreation Club	852/846-1923
Nov 21-22	BIBA Trophy Tournament No. 4, George Hotel, Solihull, England	0522/721630
Nov 23-Dec 1	Viva Vila Backgammon Cruise, P&O Fairstar, Sydney-to-Vila, Australia	03/726-0222
Nov 28	Weisbaden Cup 1992, Hotel Fürstenhof-Esplanade, Wiesbaden, Germany	06122/16124
Dec 7	Hong Kong Club Monthly Tournament, Ladies Recreation Club	852/846-1923
Dec 7	Victoria Monthly Tournament, Botanical Hotel, South Yarra, Australia	03/822-3730
Dec 9-13	First International Turkish Championship, Hotel Akgün Istanbul, Turkey	3120/6254775
Dec 13	Christmas Open, New South Wales	02/369-3620
Dec 19	Kater Cup 1992 No. 7, Café chantant De Kater, Enschede, Netherlands	3153/353115
Dec 19-20	Weisbaden Cup 1992, Hotel Fürstenhof-Esplanade, Wiesbaden, Germany	06122/16124
Jan 14-17*	2nd Dutch Open Championship 1993, Amsterdam, The Netherlands	3120/6254775
Feb 18-21*	3rd French Open Championship, Hotel Lutetia, Paris, France	1 42 88 66 45
Mar 11-14*	Ted Bassett & Gstaad Palace-Cup, Palace Hotel Gstaad, Switzerland	061/50 58 16
Apr 28-May 2*	Tournament of the Americas, Cariari Hotel/Casino, San José, Costa Rica	312/252-7755

I'm playing backgammon rather than chess these days because backgammon is simply more fun. People talk, glasses clink, friendships develop, romances blossom . . . there's laughter and excitement in the air! I'd call it kind of a "casino atmosphere."

At chess tournaments, people seldom smile and never speak out loud. We're talking *serious*. This sounds more like the game for you, Mr. Harvey.

Let's take a vote. All you backgammon

[Continues]

players opposed to laughter, fun and a "casino atmosphere," please indicate so by wiping that smile off your face.—*Jim Gibbs, San Anselmo, CA*

### PRAISE FOR THE ADVANCED BACKGAMMON EXAM

Disaster! On return from a holiday, there was no sign of CHICAGO POINT issue 49 (August 1992). I daren't read my September issue for fear of accidentally seeing the "Advanced Backgammon Exam" answers from August's competition. Could you please forward the missing issue?—*Phil Churton, London, England*

El "Advanced Backgammon Exam" por Walter Trice me pareció muy interesante. Es

la primera vez que participo en un examen de backgammon.

Tengo una pequeña duda con la respuesta al problema 1, ya que me parece que no es necesario que las blancas tiren 4-4; basta que saquen una ficha del punto 2.—*Antonio Ortega, San José, Costa Rica*

*Contest winner, Antonio writes: "I think the 'Advanced Backgammon Exam' by Walter Trice was very interesting. It's the first time I've participated in a backgammon exam.*

*"I have a little doubt with the answer to problem 1. I don't think it's necessary for white to roll 4-4 [to make the subsequent double a take]; vacating the 2-point with*

*[Continued on page 4]*

### ACIERNO TAKES INDIANA LABOR DAY TOURNAMENT

New Yorker Jeff Acierno's labors were rewarded at the National Labor Day Tournament in Indianapolis, IN 4-7 Sept. 1992. Hoosier Club directors Butch & Mary Ann Meese welcomed over 100 backgammoners from throughout the U.S. and Canada to the Radisson Hotel for the holiday action.

Nicknamed "The Kid" at the Greater New York Backgammon Club (where he is the all-time master point leader, Acierno compiled a 6-2 record to qualify for the playoffs in the Swiss movement format. Abbas Zaltash (PA), qualified for the playoffs undefeated was Jeff's final opponent. Although Zaltash had topped Acierno twice in previous qualifying rounds, The Kid got him when it counted to claim top honors. Complete results: Δ



### 1992 BPC PLAYER OF THE YEAR

COMPILED THRU 30 SEPT.

GARY KAY	17.84	V.W. Zimmnicki	3.84	Andy Argy	1.12
DEEB SHALATI	16.00	Judy Brown	3.44	Graham Sievers	0.96
STU KATZ	15.72	Norma Shyer	3.36	Bob Vining	0.88
DON JAYHAN	14.64	Roland Dieter	3.28	Jeff Gottesman	0.88
YAMIN YAMIN	14.32	George Barr	3.20	Kathy Rudnick	0.88
MARY FRANKS	12.88	Herb Roman	3.20	Ron Stur	0.88
DAVID RUBIN	12.72	Peter Berkman	3.20	Larry Yakowenko	0.88
DAVE CRAMER	12.48	René Wojtysiak	3.12	Ken Bond	0.88
DAVID ROCKWELL	11.92	Ralph Levy	2.80	Gary Hines	0.80
PAUL FRANKS	10.88	Bill Davis	2.80	Jerry Hartsman	0.80
PHYLLIS SMOLINSKI	10.32	Leslie Lockett	2.56	Dan Judd	0.76
HOWARD MARKOWITZ	10.00	Barry Miller	2.56	Patrick Desmond	0.76
DEAN MUENCH	9.52	Devin Dallaire	2.56	Kurt Warning	0.64
JOHN DEMIAN	8.48	Jim Gibbs	2.56	Katy Clark	0.56
BOB ZAVORAL	8.12	Tak Morioka	2.56	Jeff Kane	0.56
JOHN BRUSSEL	7.80	Stan Kucharz	2.44	Larry Lau	0.56
SARG SERGES	7.52	Frankie Farjood	2.36	Marv Arnol	0.52
JOLIE LEWIS	7.40	Steve Katz	2.32	Harold Grote	0.48
HOWARD RING	7.32	Scott Goode	2.16	Fred Gehlhoff	0.44
LENNY LODER	7.20	Lou Salzman	2.08	Elaine Kehm	0.40
Lucky Nelson	6.96	Femi Owiku	2.08	Karen Kertz	0.40
Peter Kalba	6.72	Joe Koucharian	2.04	Earl Risch	0.32
Bill Cox	6.24	James Colen	1.92	John Macaluso	0.32
Reggie Porter	5.92	Wilcox Snellings	1.92	Phil Simborg	0.32
Bob Ebbeler	5.68	Tim Serges	1.88	Joan Hegg	0.28
Alex Itkin	5.52	Fred Feldman	1.76	Betsy Miller	0.24
John Stryker	5.48	Paul Klein	1.76	Bill Gradl	0.24
Chris Stanford	5.28	Harold Seif	1.68	Jeff Durkes	0.24
Arline Levy	5.12	Georgina Flanagan	1.68	Jill Ferdinand-Brus	0.24
Bobbie Shifrin	5.00	Richard Stawowy	1.68	Tad Wilson	0.24
Jake Jacobs	4.96	Les Moshinsky	1.56	Gary Fritz	0.24
Chris Kenik	4.32	Amy Trudeau	1.56	Bill Keefe	0.24
Alice Kay	4.24	Marty Tatosian	1.28	Mark King	0.24
Ed Buerger	4.24	Ray Baker	1.28	Bruce Russell	0.20
Paul Friedman	4.24	Rich Galeba	1.28	J.A. Miller	0.20
Marcy Sloan	4.16	Steve Sacher	1.28	Jeff Peck	0.20
Joann Feinstein	3.96	Don Desmond	1.28	Mike Spiropoulos	0.16
Tim Mabee	3.88	Jerry Brooks	1.20		

Kudos to **DON JAYHAN**, our September Player of the Month. Don's 3.68 points were scored in four out of the five monthly BPC tourneys. Howard Markowitz (3.44) and Jolie Lewis (3.28) finished 2nd/3rd.

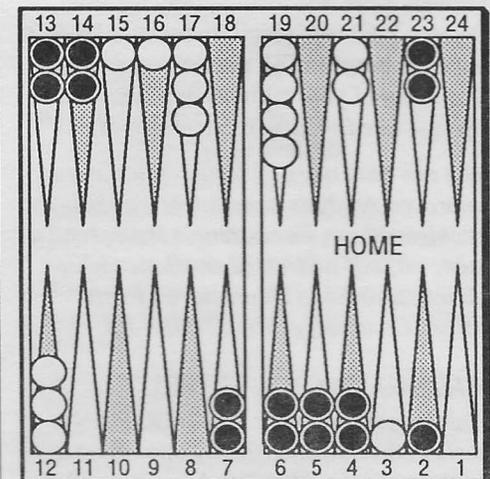
### NATIONAL LABOR DAY TOURNAMENT

CHAMPIONSHIP (31): 1-Jeff Acierno (NY), 2-Abbas Zaltash; 1C-John Brussel (IL), 2C-Ami Tennenbaum (NJ). ADVANCED (41): 1-Hossein Zafarianian (TX), 2-Judy Field (MI); 1C-Larry Whittenburg (IL), 2C-George Barr (FL), 3C/4C-Jeff Baker (IN) / Gabe Stiasny (IN). INTERMEDIATE (21): 1-Don Garner, Jr. (IL), 2-Larry Venaska (MI), 3-Don Garner, Sr. (IL); 1C-Judy McHale (IN), 2C-Marjean Streitmatter (IL). NOVICE (4): 1-Jan Gurvitz (IN). MASTERS (16): 1-Doug Roberts, 2-John O'Hagan. DOUBLES (16): 1-Jan Carlstrom & Abbas Zaltash (PA), 2-Wendy Kaplan & Woody Woodworth (IN).

your move

### PROBLEM #186

Illinois State Championships match. Joe Russell (White) leads Jake Jacobs (Black), 10-5 Crawford. **BLACK TO PLAY 5-5.**



## ASK DANNY

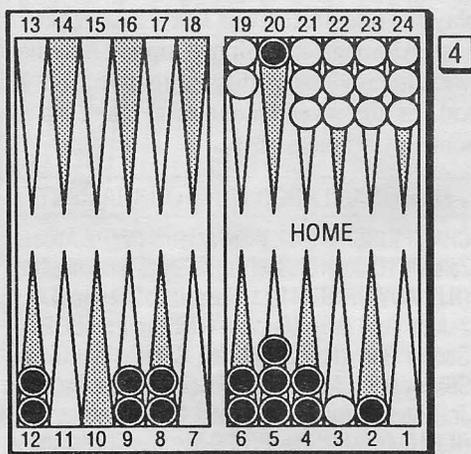


by Danny Kleinman

## A PROBLEM TO WEAR

**D**ear Danny: I bought a Backgammon Tournament of the Americas T-Shirt at the Costa Rican tournament last April. The following position is diagrammed on the back of the shirt:

Money game. **BLACK TO PLAY 5-4.**



*I'm getting tired of turning my back on every player I meet (while they try to figure out the best move). What do I tell them is the correct play?—My Back's To The Wall*

**DEAR WALLED:** Tell them whatever you think. But here's what I'd tell them:

Avoid the loose hit 12/3\* with two blots in your home board. I confess that this bold play was my first impulse: it induces your opponent to crash when he reenters with 1-4, 1-5, 2-4 or 3-5, and gives you an immediate shot at a second man. But your opponent has more rolls which hit without crashing, escape, or hit two men, subjecting you to immediate loss via a cube-turn or (worse) gammon danger if he elects to play on. Never underestimate the power of a five point board combined with a racing lead and more blots in sight.

Avoid also any "safe" move which puts a man out of play on the 1-point or breaks a valuable outer-court point. You need all your blocking points and all the builders you can get, not only for your 3-point, but also for your pivotal bar-point.

Choose instead a quiet, constructive building move: either 20/15, 12/8 or 20/11. These plays give you two active builders for the bar-point (the stripped 8- and 9-points cannot be considered "active" so long as your intended prime includes

them). Your opponent may still crash on 5s. Though his crashes won't leave a second blot for you to target, they will reduce the gammon threat you face with two men on the bar against a five point board, thereby freeing you to hit loose later with reasonable safety.

Meanwhile, your opponent comes under pressure to roll an escaping 4. His double-4s always succeed. His 4-3s leave a double shot. His 4-1s and 4-2s subject him to attack on your bar-point from so many hitters that he may decline to come out.

The biggest difference between 20/15, 12/8 and 20/11 arises on your opponent's 4-5s and 4-6s. His 4-6 wins outright against 20/11 but leaves you 12 hitting rolls if you move 12/15, 12/8. The swing is far greater when he rolls 4-5. If you move 20/15, 12/8, he'll hit and threaten a gammon again. But if you move 20/11, he dare not come out.

The swing on your opponent's 4-5 is so great that I prefer 20/11 to 20/15, 12/8 despite the extra shots the latter gives you on his 4-3 and the extra builder it activates for your 3-point.—*Yours, Danny*

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

## LETTERS...

[Continued from page 3]

*one checker is sufficient.*—Ed.

I don't play backgammon much nowadays. The POINT my BG life support. I especially enjoyed the Advanced Backgammon Exam which woke a few more brain cells.—*Peter Bennet, London, England*

The "Advanced Backgammon Exam" answers were interesting to say the least. Perhaps I did well precisely because I didn't have the benefit of all the learned analysis that many of your entrants depended upon.—*Lee E. Harvey, Excelsior, MN*

*You can read more of Walter Trice in the improved Anchors newsletter. Walter is the problem editor. For a sample issue, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Anchors editor Evan Diamond, 61 Frost Street, Cambridge, MA 02140.*—Ed.

## BACKGAMMON IS ISRAEL

This is to inform your CHICAGO POINT readers that we have finally opened up a backgammon café in Tel-Aviv. It's called

the Chesscafé (17, Yirmeyahu Street. Telephone: 03-5443617). If backgammon fans happens to be in the area, they are welcome to enjoy our club's atmosphere as well as the kitchen. And they will most likely find a pleasant game if that is their desire.—*Joel Schiff, Ramat-Gan, Israel*

## GET IT IN WRITING

Larry Strommen's letter in the July POINT pointing out an embarrassment that backgammon organizers face when their "special group rates" can be beat by anyone off the street has a simple solution. Organizers should have in their contract, a guarantee that the hotel will close out all other discounted rates during their tournament.—*Mike Wainwright, Sales Manager, Chicago Marriott Oak Brook Hotel, IL*

## A SUNDAY STROLL

At last month's Indianapolis Labor Day Tournament, Alan Tavel planned to play in the Doubles tournament. Arriving early Sunday, he decided to warm up with a little chouette action. And warm up he did!

Entering the box for the first time with plus four points on the score sheet, Tavel rolled up 594 points in eight memorable

games before losing to the player he had initially backgammoned to gain the box. When Alan finally got up, the large throng of kibitzers gave him a loud round of applause. Winning Captain Jon Stephen even asked to take Alan's picture. It was a great show.—*Larry Strommen, Indianapolis, IN*

## THE PACIFIC TOUR

Attached is information about the 1992 Hong Kong Championships scheduled for 13-15 Nov. These dates were chosen because I know that Mark Richardson's Hawaii tournament [Backgammon In Paradise] is scheduled the week before. We're hoping that maybe some of those players may decide to extend their vacation and come to Hong Kong for our event.—*Jerry Godsey, Hong Kong Backgammon Club Δ*

10th Annual Chicago Bar Point Club  
FALL TROPHY TOURNEY

Tuesday Night, 10 Nov. 1992

Pat's Pub, Norridge, IL

Reservations: Bill Davis 312/338-6380

**WINNER'S CORNER**



July-Oct. 1992

**Torneo de Baleares** (San José, Costa Rica; July)... Open (22): 1-Mario Lizano, 2-Jorge Tsao, 3-Mario Madrigal. Intermediate (16): 1-Alberto Jara, 2-Kathy Arava. Novice (8): 1-Ignacio Leytón, 2-Bernard Ortiz. Blitz (64): 1-Milton González, 2-Mario Lizano.

**Torneo de Complices** (San José, Costa Rica; July)... Open (24): 1-Mario Madrigal, 2-Bernardita Solano, 3-Rita Ramirez. Novice (8): 1-Carlos Molina, 2-Alberto Jara. Blitz (64): 1-Jorge Tsao, 2-Mario Madrigal.

**Pint Tree Point Tournament** (Alexandria Bay, NY; 31 July-2 Aug.)... 1-Renée Rosenbloom, 2-Judy Brown, 3-Eden Windish (CAN). Doubles: 1/2-Bruce & Jill Brown / Robert Lessard & Toivo Puhm (CAN).

**Australian Open** (NSW, Australia; 31 July-3 Aug.)... Championship: 1-Alex Falon, 2-Bill Marczak, 3-William Van Praagh, 4-James Thomas... Alex Falon also recently won the Operation Wheelchair tournament.

**Circuito Del Rio De La Plata** (Buenos Aires, Argentina; Mondays in August)... Champ Winners: Marcelo Daich, Gianni Bizzarro, Santiago Hynes, José Safdie. Junior Winners: Martin Villafañe, Clarisa Giamello, Moises Romano, Sandra Cirimello. Novice Winners: Mario Kristal, Estela Acevedo, Marcelo Wajsbrut, E. Hersztenkraut.

**Torneo de Baleares** (San José, Costa Rica;

August)... Open (20): 1-Milton González, 2-Mike Walker, 3-Rita Ramirez. Novice (16): 1-Rolando Araya, 2-Ignacio Leytón. Blitz (64): 1-Mario Lizano, 2-Mario Madrigal.

**Colegio de Ingenieros** (Luis Manuel Chacón, San José, Costa Rica; August)... Open (25): 1-Mario Lizano, 2-Antonio Ortega, 3-Rita Ramirez. Novice (16): 1-Rolando Araya, 2-Ignacio Leytón. Blitz (64): 1-Mike Walker, 2-Milton González.

**15th Annual Bob Hill Classic** (Old Westbury, NY; 2 Aug.)... Championship (24): 1-Jeff Baldino, 2-Alphonse Mekalainas, 3/4-Dave Gustin / Dave Sporn; 1C-Dr. Bob Hill, 2C-Perry Gartner. Intermediate (20): 1-Frank Cupo, 2-Roni Zemsch, 3/4-Bob Bieder / Shirley Joseph; 1C-Randi Sachar, 2C-Bob Molitor.

**2nd Mitteleuropa Tournament** (Slovenia, 28-30 Aug.)... Championship (56): 1-Catherine Bladh-Risselin (SWE) (Also wins Ladies Prize), 2-Giovanni Saladino (ITA), 3/4-Peter Blachian (GER) / Ronald Schenner (AUS); 1C-Carlo Facchetti (ITA), 2C-Claudio Pagano (ITA); 1LC-Ion Ressu (SWIS). Advanced (26): 1-Roberto Baggi (ITA), 2-Jürgen Orłowski (GER); 1C-Antonio Rocca (ITA); 1LC-Peter Huber (GER). Ladies Prize: Iris Walter (GER). Limited (16): 1-Luca Pagano (ITA), 2-Nicoletta Astori (ITA) (Also wins Ladies Prize); 1C-Florian Haussleiter (GER); 1LC-Luca Perozzi (ITA). Warm-Up Tournament: 1-Mario Sequeira (POR), 2-Nicole Taboury (FRA)... Director Marco Fornasir reports a very friendly event with 77 players attending the dinner. 46 cups and plates were awarded as trophies. The Blackjack tournament was won by Nicola De Filippis of Italy. The Haussleiter family swept the Tennis tournaments.

**Circuito Del Rio De La Plata** (Buenos Aires,

Argentina; Mondays in Sept.)... Champ Winners: Adolfo Boverini (2), Carlos Szechet, Fernando Rocha. Junior Winners: Miguel Chakerian (2), Dario Fuks, Javier Wainer. Beginner Winners: Garabed Marcarian, Mario Kristal, Mercedes Villarroel, Jackeline Daich.

**Kater Cup 1992 No. 5** (Enschede, Netherlands; 12 Sept.)... Championship (32): 1-Ernesto Moreno, 2-Jean van Ingen; 1C-Sacha van der Graaf. Beginner (14): 1-Paqui Martinez, 2-André Goossens; 1C-Gert Sikkema. Grote Kater Shootout (50): 1-Frisco Nijboer.

**BIBA Tournament #3** (Solihull, England; 12-13 Sept.)... Open (68): 1-Crispin De Nys (S AFR), 2-Jim Johnson, 3-Danny Cohen, 4-Robin Clay, 5-Paul Lamford, 6-Paul Money. Top Lady: Rosalie Money. Better-Luck-Next-Time Trophy: Liz Morgan.

**NEBC Monthly** (Cambridge, MA; 13 Sept.)... Expert: 1-Rich Sweetman, 2-Dan Chicoine; 1C-Jay Giuttari. A Div.: 1-Mike Rogosin, 2-Gil Evans; 1C-Jerry Padova.

**Gammon Assoc. 28th Invitational** (West Hollywood, CA; 18-20 Sept.)... Open (32): 1/2 (split)-Scott McKenzie / Joe Russell, 3/4-Joe Harris, Jonathan Schroer. Special 16 (16): 1-Save Sax, 2-Mel Shafa. Limited (8): 1-Ken Ellenberger, 2-J.L. Carter. Doubles #1 (8 teams): 1-Ed & Arthur Maslansky, 2-Patrick Gibson & Paul Ladanyi. Doubles #2 (8 teams): 1-Ed Feldmann & Paul Gedigian, 2-Odis Chenault and & Jon Vietor.

**Towpath Inn Tournament** (Turin, NY; 2-4 Oct.) ... Open: 1-Gary Jay (NY), 2-Ray Leger (CAN), 3-Judy Brown (NY). Doubles: 1-David J. Felingo & Karim Nowbar, 2-Judy Brown & Rich Reasin. Δ

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**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 (708/378-5205.)

**SANGAMON VALLEY BG ASSN:** Tournaments Tuesday, 6:00 p.m. at On Broadway, 210 S. Broadway, Springfield. Randy Armstrong (217/528-0117).

**BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL BG CLUB:** Tourn. 1st/3rd/5th Tuesday, 6:15 p.m. at Ride The Nine, 503 N. Prospect, Bloomington. 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 Chi-Chi's, 4415 N. Rockwood, Peoria. Sue Will (309/692-6909).

**PRIME BG CLUB OF CHICAGO:** Tourn. Friday, 7:00 p.m. at TJ's Lounge, Radisson Hotel, 4500 W. Touhy, Lincolnwood. Joann Feinstein (708/674-0120).

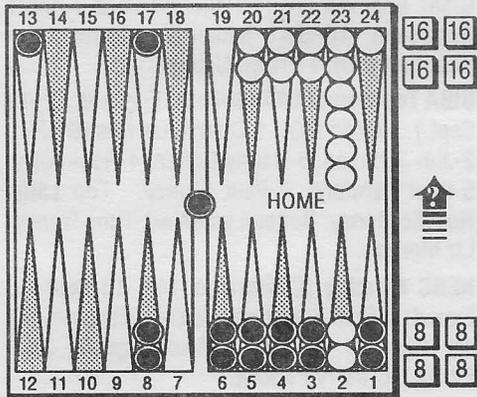
**NORTH CLUB:** Daily side play except Sunday at 4747 W. Peterson (402), Chgo. Howard Markowitz (312/286-8417).

# THE TOWN CRIER...

[Continued from page 1]

reached Position #2 and redoubled out all but the captain:

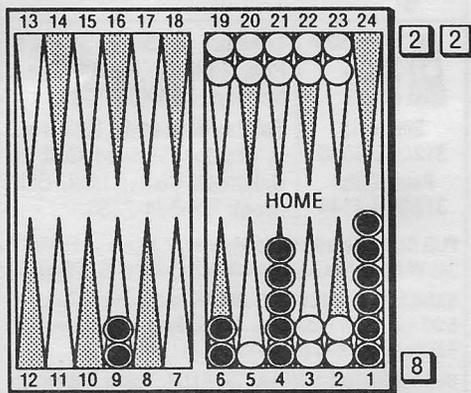
## Position #2. CUBE ACTION(S)?



Once the game turned around, one of the crew, let's just call him the Town Crier since whenever he plays, everyone in the bar knows the ongoing results of the chouette, began screaming, "Bring on the cows! Bring on the cows!" No one questioned him. After all, he was certainly within his rights to scream anything he wanted. There were no Hindus present who might take offense, and compared to some of the plays he advocated, it was one of the more sensible things he had said all night.

Time to answer the first question, shown here in Position #3:

## Position #3. BLACK TO PLAY 6-1.

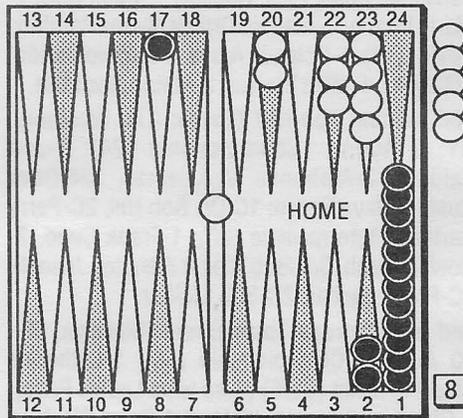


We had already banked two drops, had two others who were takers, and, as the 8-cube on our side of the board attests, one player's antenna was obviously picking up a different broadcast. Then we rolled 6-1. With no way to play a six, our alternative to hitting on the 5-point was to break the 9-point leaving 35 shots.

We were lucky enough to make an

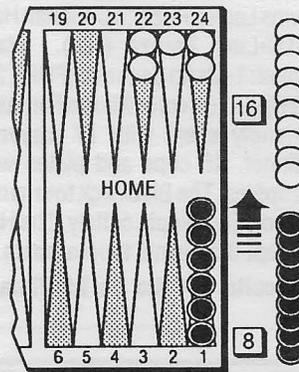
acepoint game of it, though our timing was a bit suspect. We hit our shot, leaving Position #4 with White on the bar:

## Position #4. WHITE TO PLAY 5-4.



He broke his 5-point to stay back (though would he really want to hit?). The operation was successful (we rolled 6-5 leaving a shot) but the patient died. Those wasted four pips led to Position #5:

## Position #5. BLACK RECUBES TO 16.

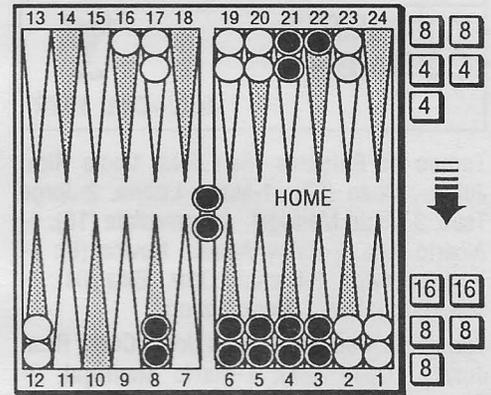


He took the recube to 16, which, might have worked (17.52% of the time), but didn't. My partner and I were almost ashamed to accept the points—*Not!*

**FINALLY, MY LAST EXHIBIT.** Fittingly, it was the last game of the night. One unlucky fellow, after losing 71 points, found himself in the box for the first time all night. He offered everyone automatics, got himself gammoned, and down 111 points, pleaded to remain in the box. The second game was a repeat of the first, so, down 151 points, in the box in the last game of the night, he redoubled Position #6 (shown at the top of the next column).

Two greedy souls had accepted double automatics, which explains the 16-cubes. It was at this moment that one of my crew mates distinguished himself as the bravest player I know. Up 60 points, the night's big winner, this swashbuckler, whom I will call Captain Blood because he practices the

## Position #6. WHITE REDOUBLES.



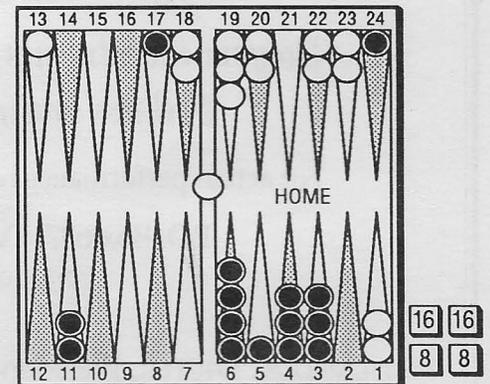
same profession as the Errol Flynn character (no, he's not a pirate) passed the redouble. This despite the fact that we promised him that if he did, his exploit would be revealed in the pages of the *Chicago Point*, a threat that generally terrifies them from here to Boston! (This pass may be part of his ongoing campaign to remain in the intermediate division. If so, tournament directors may wish to consult our chouette for character references.)

Anyway, before anyone beavered, and while the Town Crier was trying to acquire Blood's game, the box (White) rolled 6-5, hit and made his 3-point. The next few rolls were:

- 4-1: Bar/21, Bar/24
- 3-2: 12/15, 16/18
- 2-1: Bar/24, 8/6
- 3-1: 15/18, 12/13
- 2-2: 8/4, 5/3(2)

Ouch! Captain Blood just smiled and stroked his mustache. But we weren't dead yet. The box was not stuck 151 points without reason, and soon we found ourselves in Position #7:

## Position #7. BLACK ON ROLL.



However, our next roll was 5-5 (17/7, 11/6(2)) and his next was 5-2. Double ouch. We made a 4-point game, but our Captain averaged 5 pips a roll coming

[Continues]

around. Including Blood's four point pass, this gammon netted the box 100 points. As we limped towards our gory fate, the Town Crier again began screaming at the Captain:

"Bring on the cows! Bring on the cows!"

"All right, Crier, I've got to ask, what does 'Bring on the cows' mean?"

"It means—bring on the cows, he'll butcher them too!"

I HAVE OTHER POSITIONS from the chouette, but I have to cut this short. There is another chouette tonight, and I need dinner before the game. I have this strange craving for beef . . . Δ

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Elisabeth Armstrong (BACK) & Lindsay Buhr (GAMMON); Springfield, IL.

## ILLINOIS STATE...

[Continued from page 1]

most difficult field ever assembled for a midwest event, was a total Illinois sweep with Tim Serges defeating Marty Tatosian in the Main event and Fouad Malouf besting Ron Stur in the Consolation bracket.

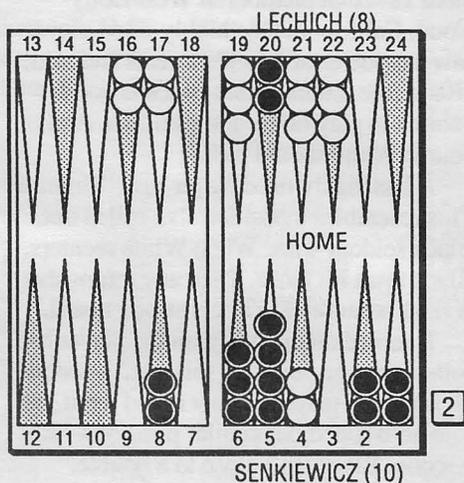
Lou Salzman completed the total Illinois triumph with his win in the Limited division.

### America Cup Finals A Letdown

Four exciting rounds of America Cup play yielded a Mike Senkiewicz (NY)/Tino Lechich (Melbourne, Australia) finals. Yamin purchased outstanding trophies worth hundreds of dollars for the finalists of the 25-point battle which Larry Strommen was set to video tape. Unfortunately both competitors saw little importance in the title. In order to partake in a lucrative chouette, they split the five figure prize money and played a quick 11-point blitz match for the trophies.

Leading 10-8 in the abbreviated finals, Senkiewicz rolled a 5-4 and had a decision:

America Cup 11 point finals. Mike Senkiewicz (Black) leads Tino Lechich (White), 10-8. **BLACK TO PLAY 5-4.**



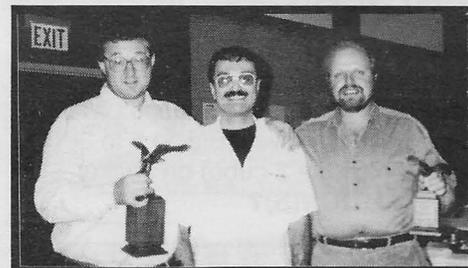
Rather than play the waiting game with 6/1, 5/1, Senk ran (20/11). Tino rolled 3/1\*, Mike danced, Tino picked up the second checker with 6/1\* and it was the beginning of the end. Minutes later, Senk returned to his chouette with a runner-up trophy.

After the match, Senkiewicz admitted to Lechich, "I may have made the wrong play." Tino agreed.

### Three Cheers To Yamin And Staff

Once again, Yamin put his heart into the preparation of a wonderful event. An increase in attendance of over 25% makes

it clear that the players like what he does. John Brussel, Cinda King, Sue Will and Ed Bauder should also take a bow. Δ



America Cup Winner Tino Lechich (left) with Yamin and Mike Senkiewicz.



From left: Master's finalist Peter Naguib and friend, Advanced winner Tim Serges, Yamin and auctioneer John Brussel.

### ILLINOIS STATE CHAMPS / AMERICA CUP

America Cup (24): 1-Tino Lechich (Australia), 2-Mike Senkiewicz (NY), 3/4-Ed O'Laughlin (VA) / Howard Markowitz (IL)

Illinois State Championship (53): 1-Harry Cohn (IL), 2-Don Desmond (IL), 3/4-Malcolm Davis (TX) / Jay Whitehead; 1C-Bob Holyon (WI), 2C-Nathan Jones (TX)

Advanced (60): 1-Tim Serges (IL), 2-Marty Tatosian (IL), 3/4-Frank Dickerson / Ira Hoffberg (IL); 1C-Fouad Malouf (IL), 2C-Ron Stur (IL)

Limited (11): 1-Lou Salzman (IL), 2-Don Garner, Jr. (IL); 1C-Joshua Smith, 2C-Sanne Rossen (Denmark)

Masters (32): 1-Jeff Acierno (NY), 2-Peter Naguib (Germany)

Battle of States (15): 1-Don Desmond & Harry Cohn (IL), 2-Jeff Acierno & Ami Tennenbaum (NY)

Team Tournament (8): 1-Frank Talbot / Ismet Demirel / Tim Serges, 2-Bob Holyon / Jeff Kane / Ray Bills

Parlay From Hell (32): 1-Ron Howe

Kick-Off (32): 1-Dave Thomas

MicroBlitz (64): 1-Dave Thomas

MiniBlitz (64): 1-Wally Wolf (MI)

Last Chance I: 1-Mike Darooge

Last Chance II: 1-Howard Ring (IL)

High Performance: Championship-Mario Madrigal (Costa Rica), Woman's Championship-Marilyn McMaster (MI), Advanced-Carl Severino (IL), Woman's Advanced-Bobbie Shifrin (IL)

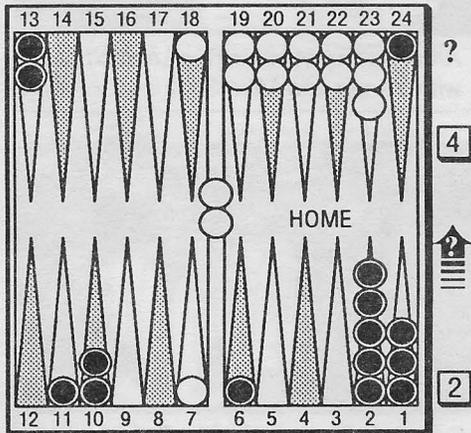
Columbus Quiz: 1/2-Asger Kringer (Denmark) / John Stryker (IL)

Columbus Path: Rolf Jonas (Germany), Asger Kringer (Denmark), Peter Naguib (Germany)

# PROBLEM #185 SOLVED

by Danny Kleinman

Match to 9 points. Don Woods (White) leads Dave Cardwell (Black) 5 to 3. Black (holding a 2-cube) on shake. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



## THE THIRD GLANCE

At first glance, Black appears hardly to have an advantage, let alone a redoubling advantage. He has a two point board while White has a five point board. His two points are the worst, while White's are the best—a 5-prime behind which Black still has a man. Black's four dead men mean that he will never be able to close White out, and will have difficulty constructing even a five point board. Meanwhile, Black has a blot in his home board at which White will be swinging. What does Black have going for him anyway? How can he even think of redoubling?

On second glance, Black has a lot going for him: two White men on the bar and tempo. Look at what Black threatens on the current shake:

- 6s hit the blot on White's bar-point and escape;
- 5s and 4s (direct or indirect) cover the 6-point;
- 3s (direct or indirect) hit the blot on Black's bar-point.

That accounts for all 36 rolls. Some rolls accomplish two of these objectives. A high cube favors the trailer at this score. White cannot return the 4-cube if he takes it, and gammons work only for Black. Picture the position *after* Black's roll: typically, Black will have a third inside point and White will have a third man on the bar.

Only 5 rolls leave the blot still on the 6-

point: 2-1 (which hits a third man), 6-3 (which hits *two* men), and 3-3 (which hits a third man and makes the 4-point).

Of the other rolls, only 13 fail to *both* hit and cover: 5-5 (which makes *two* inside points); 5-4, 5-2, 4-2 and 3-2 (which cover the 6-point); 5-1 (which makes the 5-point) and 6-2 (which makes the 4-point).

It is easy to envision White with four men on the bar, each subject to pointing or pick-and-pass rolls upon reentry. Black's lone back man can escape only on a 6, but White's anticipated dance marathon coupled with all the pips playable by Black's five outfield men figure to give Black ample time to roll that 6.

To what conclusion do these insights lead? None, really. I don't know how often White will anchor. I don't know how often White will hit a winning shot after anchoring . . . or bringing all his men in from the bar. I don't know how often Black will win a gammon. I don't know how often Black will be so occupied building a board and keeping White's men on the bar that he neglects to escape, and crashes further when he fails to roll a 6 in time.

LOADED WITH SUCH A RICH STOCK of ignorance, I posed this problem to several experienced players at Pat Gibson's 28th Gammon Associates Invitational tournament 18–20 September in West Hollywood, California. One highly-rated player saw the power of Black's threats and said, "Redouble. I don't think Black is good enough to play on for the gammon. And of course White should pass."

A less highly-rated player said, "Hmmm. This resembles a position I've rolled out. Black seldom wins. When White reenters, Black must hit loose. Then any return shot is fatal because of White's strong board."

It turned out the position the player had rolled out was precisely this one. A second highly-rated player had not rolled it out, but said he'd rolled out similar positions. "It's a scoop. Black isn't close to a double." Neither of the two players claiming to know from their rollouts, however, could say *why* the position yielded the results they obtained.

One Cavendish West regular offered to play it as a proposition—not at this match score (which makes a big difference)—but for money, claiming that it was a pass. Soon I saw two others playing the proposition. I noticed that playing the Black side requires the greater skill by far, and the player taking Black's side wasn't exercising that skill. He was hitting loose when he didn't have to, and failing to hit loose when essential.

One feature of the position which escaped some of the players who spoke to me was the greater value of the *lower* points to Black than the higher. Thus, one asked me which was right if Black rolled 5-1: 11/6, 13/12 or 11/6, 10/9—ignoring entirely the play I favor, 10/5, 6/5.

STILL FEELING IGNORANT, I decided to roll out the position (with White owning a 4-cube) several hundred times. So far, I've spent three long sessions rolling it out until my arm ached, or my mind wearied and I started making illegal plays. I'd need about fifteen more such sessions before I could feel confident about any statistics I compiled. By then, the publication deadline for this issue would be long past.

Nonetheless, the rollouts have led me to a conclusion, based on the third glance at the position they have afforded.

Do you remember my initial appraisal of this position, which pointed out Black's weaknesses? That "first glance" contained an error, which my experience in rolling out the position corrected. I saw Black's five men on the 2-point and three men on the 1-point as "four dead men." They are really *eight* dead men. True, four of the eight form two points. But the only numbers playable from either of those two points are aces. That means Black will be playing, essentially, with only *seven* men (*six* until his back man enters the fray).

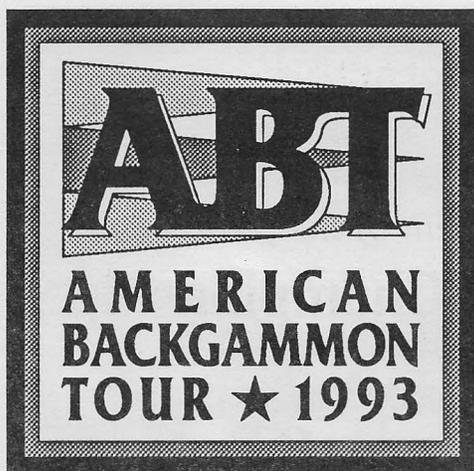
Have you ever played a *positional* game with only seven men? It isn't easy. You have very little flexibility. Fewer men mean fewer places from which you can move, and you cannot deploy these men (as you can when you have fifteen) as *sparcs* on already occupied points. At every turn you face a dilemma: to *spread* your men as builders and hitters, or to *bunch* your men to keep them safe.

Here Black must do both: spread to make key inside points and keep White from anchoring, bunch to avoid being sent back behind White's formidable board and prime.

My rollouts (though still far too few to suit me) illustrate this severe difficulty for Black. 6-5 and 6-4 are both good rolls: escaping while hitting a third man, and covering the slotted 6-point. At first I thought 6-4 the better of the two rolls, for it kept builders on two points in Black's outer court instead of one. But those builders make an inside point only on 6-5 next, while they're exposed immediately to White's double-3s, 4s and 5s.

I now believe (and my limited rollouts confirm) that 6-5 is the better roll for Black. The more Black spreads men in his

[Continued on page 9]



## TOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

*Next year, look for the American Backgammon Tour (ABT) to spice up the national tournament scene. A combination of dedication and skill will be required to earn the most master points and become the 1993 American Backgammon Tour champion. Here are the particulars:*

### Why hold a tour?

To promote unified tournament backgammon throughout the United States in a fashion similar to what the "Golden Circuit" is doing for backgammon in Europe.

### What's it all about?

The proposed master point race is patterned after the American Contract Bridge League in that master points are earned by placing in an event. Once earned, they can never be taken away. So the ABT winner will likely be an individual who has attended and placed in a good number of 1993 tournaments. In effect, a combination of skill and supportive attendance will be required to win.

### What will it cost?

There is no additional charge for players.

Tourney directors will pay a \$10 rating fee per event. All proceeds will be used to purchase trophies for the winners at year's end.

### What are the rules?

1. In order to qualify for sanctioning, the tournament must be of at least two days in length. No club may sanction more than two (2) tournaments per calendar year.
2. Only the main events of the tournament are included in the master point race. Special high stakes events held in conjunction with main event tournaments (e.g. World Cup, America Cup, Master's Invitational, Bonanza) will not be included. For calculating master points, divisions receive the following Divisional Multiplication Factors (DMF):

- a. Highest Division: (Championship, Open, Open Overflow, or A Division) = 1
- b. Middle Division(s): (Advanced, Intermediate or B Division) = 0.5
- c. Lowest Division: (Limited, Beginner, Novice or C Division) = 0.25

3. Calculating master points uses the following simple formula:

$$MP = DMF \times NP \times M$$

DMF = Divisional Multiplication Factor  
 NP = Number of Players in Division  
 M = Prize money won divided by Total Prize money awarded.

For example, you hold a 29 player Intermediate tournament and pay prize money to six places in the following percentages: 1st (35%), 2nd (21%), Semi's (7% each), 1st Cons. (21%), 2nd Cons (9%).

Given this information, the ABT spreadsheet will calculate and award master points to all of the money-winners:

1st —  $0.5 \times 29 \times 0.35 = 5.08$  master points, where 0.5 is the Intermediate multiplication factor, 29 is the number of players in

the tournament and 0.35 is the percentage of prize money earned.

2nd —  $0.5 \times 29 \times 0.21 = 3.05$  master points. Etc.

4. All events will abide by the "United States Backgammon Tournament Rules & Procedures."

5. For publicity purposes, the *Chicago Point* will immediately forward results to *Flint Area Backgammon News*, *Hoosier Backgammon Club Newsletter*, *Anchors* and other monthly publications that might have an interest in printing the results.

6. Awards at the end of the year will consist of three very high quality trophies. All collected rating fees will be used to purchase the trophies without deduction.

7. A tentative calendar of events is printed below. New events can be added to the Tour at any time as long as the Chicago Point is able to announce the event with at least two month's lead time.  $\Delta$

## PROBLEM #185...

[Continued from page 8]

outer court to make the 5-, 4- and 3-points (and keep White from anchoring), the more he subjects himself to fly shots while White is still on the bar, and the less able he is to bring all blots to safety after White anchors.

White won substantially more often than Black in the games I rolled out and close to half the wins for each side were gammons (meaningless for White when the cube is at 4). In a money game, Black wouldn't be close to a double and White would have a strong beaver.

The match score, however, offers a strong incentive for Black to redouble. By doing so, he kills White's gammons (which are potent match-winners when the cube is still at 2), while keeping his own gammon threat. Indeed, were the Backgammon God to forbid Black to turn the cube unless he did so at this turn, it would be right for Black to redouble.

But Black will have future opportunities to redouble, and his "redoubling window" is very wide. Black has to become a clear favorite (at least 60-40 even with a strong gammon threat) before White is forced to pass. There is no need for Black to redouble as an underdog (at least 60-40 the other way) in a position as stable as this one. For after the next roll, Black will still have at best a mediocre board and White will still have strong chances to anchor and win.

No redouble. Easy take.  $\Delta$



## American Backgammon Tour Events—1993 Tentative Schedule

Watch this schedule for Tour additions and/or changes.

Feb 19-21	15th Annual Charity Tournament, Greentree Marriott, Pittsburgh, PA	412/823-7500
Feb 26-28	29th Gammon Associates Invitational, Cavendish West Hollywood, CA	818/901-0464
Mar 12-14	Boston Open, Sheraton Commander Hotel, Cambridge, MA	617/262-0173
Mar 19-21	1993 Midwest Championships, Marriott Hotel, Oakbrook, IL	312/338-6380
Apr 30-May 2	14th Granite State Open, Woodbound Inn, Jaffrey, NH	603/863-4711
Jul 9-11	CPBC Summer Championships, Promenade, Bethesda, MD	301/530-0603
July ?-?	Michigan Summer Championships, Holiday Inn & Holidome, Flint, MI	313/232-9731
Jul 30-Aug 1	Thousand Islands Tournament, Pine Tree Pt. Resort, Alexandria Bay, NY	716/442-8221
Sep 3-6	National Labor Day Tournament, Indianapolis, IN	317/845-8435
Oct 1-3	Towpath Inn Tournament, Towpath Inn, Turin, NY	716/442-8221
Oct 6-10	3rd Illinois State Championships & America Cup, Hyatt Deerfield, IL	708/945-7801
Oct 16-17	CPBC Fall Open, Promenade, Bethesda, MD	301/530-0603
Oct 29-31	New Hampshire Fall Classic, Sheraton Tara Wayfarer, Bedford, NH	603/863-4711

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Department of Tourism

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### Tournament entry fees:

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Special backgammon rates: \$80/night, single or double. (Normal rate = \$140/night.) Mention "Backgammon" to obtain the reduced rates.

The reservation cut-off date is: 18 November 1992. Reserve early!

## AMALGAMATION

Jerry Padova of E. Lempster, NH received a nice ½ page write-up in the *Newport Argus Champion* newspaper following his Intermediate division win in the Canadian-U.S. Open tournament at Stratton Mt., VT... Nick & Kalisa Maffeo just returned from Santa Fe, NM celebrating their 10th anniversary of marriage... *Cigar Aficionado* magazine's premiere issue contains an interesting article entitled "High States Backgammon In Europe" featuring a photo of New Yorker Antoinette-Marie Williams. Send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to CHICAGO POINT for a copy... Do you have the new 104-page July 1992 Kent Goulding International Rating List? It's yours for a \$10 contribution to Kent at 9201 Marseille Drive; Potomac, MD 20854. Add extra for overseas airmail... Those attending Howard & Linda Ring's Labor Day Weekend wedding at Chicago's Ritz Carlton Hotel said it was beautiful... Chicago's next BG wedding: Mark King & Christine Sullivan on New Year's Eve... "Expert Backgammon for the IBM PC" is quickly becoming a best seller (Model 286 or faster and VGA monitor required). The program, coauthored by Tom Johnson and Tom Weaver, is con-

sidered the best commercial backgammon program in the world. To order yours, send a U.S. funds check for \$100 (plus \$5 p&h, or \$10 overseas) to Tom Weaver; 8063 Meadow Road 108; Dallas, TX 75231... Chicago welcomes Neil Kazaross—a great addition to our backgammon scene. Neil will be working at the Chicago Board of Options Exchange... Outrageous department: One of the entrants in the \$1,250 America Cup tournament at the recent Illinois State Championships actually tried to buy himself back in the auction with food stamps!... Visiting the Bar Point Club in September: Jerry Hartsman (GA), Jon Vietor (CA), Wilcox Snellings (CA) and Doug Roberts (NY)... Kudos to BPC player Dave Rockwell who was a semifinalist at the U.S. National Othello Championship in Washington D.C. 19-20 September... Welcome back to Andy Argy who can play BPC backgammon each week because of his one year sabbatical from teaching duties at Western Michigan University... Chicago area POINT subscriber Bruce Endzel is organizing a corporate 8-ball league in conjunction with the American Poolplayers Assoc. Call Bruce at 312/527-4260 for info... Did you know that many Civil War soldiers are buried in Chicagoland cemeteries? Jerry Feinstein gave a tour of the area gravesites for his

Civil War club 4 Oct... Effective immediately, the *Hoosier Backgammon Club* newsletter goes bimonthly. Editors Butch & Mary Ann Meese cite printing and postage costs, and time constraints as the reasons. Bigger and better issues are promised... Former Las Vegas Backgammon Club director Michael Maxakuli reports that the 17 Sept. issue of *U.S.A. Today* ran a front page profile of Rudy Maxa in the money section. Rudy was a regular contributor to Lewis Deyong's backgammon magazine and did many features about backgammon for the *Washington Post*. Among other things, the profile said that he is addicted to backgammon and even named his son Gammon... Robin Clay, a fine backgammon player from England has written a new start-up text: *Backgammon In A Week*. Published in full color, the book uses in a unique seven day learning format. Price: £5.99 plus postage and handling. For information on ordering, contact Bronwen Riley in England at 0732-450111... Hawthorne Race Course director of sales Caryl Meadows has confirmed 30 Jan. 1993 as the date for the Hawthorne Backgammon Classic (Cicero, IL). But don't wait till then to visit Hawthorne. Thoroughbred racing runs from 10 Oct.-31 Dec. with Harness racing beginning in January. Δ