



# 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

### "EXPERT" WARNING

I recently installed the new PRO v2.1 of Expert Backgammon™ on my IBM PC, along with several other programs including DOS 6.2 update and WordPerfect 6.0.

Following these installations, my computer ran very slowly. I was advised to fdisk everything and start over. After a couple of tries, everything worked properly except Expert Backgammon™.

I called EB program co-author Tom Weaver for advice. Mr. Weaver told me that the program was copy-protected and that in order to get two more installations, I would have to pay \$40.

I don't want two more installations; I want a program I can live with. It is too bad that people have stolen Expert Backgammon™ thus requiring some "hidden" copy protection. But where does this leave me? I had EB v1.6 and enjoyed it very much. The roll-out feature was a real plus. Then I purchased PRO v2.1. Now I have nothing and am out \$300.

[Continued on page 3]

coming attractions

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR



by Carol Joy Cole  
 313/232-9731

\* Denotes new or revised listing

American Backgammon Tour events underlined.

### NATIONAL

Apr 9	Springfield Series #6, Parker's Sports Bar, Springfield, IL	217/528-0117
Apr 10*	Bar Point Club Sunday Tournament, Braxton Seafood Grill, Oak Brook, IL	312/252-7755
Apr 16	College Park Club Spring Open, Promenade, Bethesda, MD	301/530-0603
Apr 17	New England Club Monthly, Sheraton Commander Hotel, Cambridge, MA	617/643-8154
Apr 17	NY/NJ Co-op Regional Tournament, Ramada Inn, Woodbury, NY	718/341-3779
Apr 20	RSCARDS Spring Computer Modem Tournament, GEnie	800/638-9636
Apr 21	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
<u>Apr 22-24</u>	<u>15th Granite State Open, Woodbound Inn, Jaffrey, NH</u>	<u>603/863-4711</u>
Apr 23	Springfield Series Grand Finale, Parker's Sports Bar, Springfield, IL	217/528-0117
Apr 24*	Atlanta Backgammon Monthly, Atlanta, GA	404/682-1969
Apr 30-May 1*	So. Florida Spring Tournament, Big Apple Sports Pub, Ft. Lauderdale, FL	305/785-1282
May 8*	New York Chess & Backgammon Spring Tournament, New York City	212/302-5874
May 15	New England Club Benefit Tourney, Sheraton Commander, Cambridge, MA	617/643-8154
May 19*	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
May 22*	Austin BG Assn. Sunday Tournament, Bombay Bicycle Club, Austin, TX	512/280-5945
<u>May 27-30</u>	<u>15th Chicago Open, Sheraton Suites Hotel, Elk Grove Village, IL</u>	<u>708/674-0120</u>
<u>May 28-30</u>	<u>Spring Gran Prix, Embassy Suites Hotel, La Jolla, CA</u>	<u>619/294-2007</u>
Jun 12*	Bar Point Club Sunday Tournament, Braxton Seafood Grill, Oak Brook, IL	312/252-7755
Jun 12	NEBC Year-End Tourney, Sheraton Commander Hotel, Cambridge, MA	617/643-8154
Jun 16	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Jun 17-19*	32nd Gammon Associates Invitational, Bombay Bicycle Club, Burbank, CA	818/901-0464
Jun 26	NY/NJ Co-op Regional Tournament, Ramada Inn, Woodbury, NY	718/341-3779
Jun 28-29	2nd Annual Bossanova Championship, Mortuk Yacht, St. Clair Shores, MI	810/232-9731
Jun 30	Special Thursday Warm-up Tournament, Novi Hilton, Novi, MI	810/232-9731
<u>Jul 1-4</u>	<u>Michigan Summer Championships, Novi Hilton, Novi, MI</u>	<u>810/232-9731</u>
Jul 16	College Park Summer Open, Promenade, Bethesda, MD	301/530-0603
Jul 20	RSCARDS Summer Computer Modem Tournament, GEnie	800/638-9636
Jul 21*	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
<u>Jul 29-31</u>	<u>42nd Indiana Open, Radisson Plaza Suites Hotel, Indianapolis, IN</u>	<u>317/845-8435</u>
<u>Jul 29-31</u>	<u>Thousand Islands Tournament, Pine Tree Point, Alexandria Bay, NY</u>	<u>716/442-8221</u>
Aug 7*	BPC Summer Cool Tournament, Braxton Seafood Grill, Oak Brook, IL	312/252-7755
<u>Aug 8-14*</u>	<u>16th Green Mountain Festival of Backgammon, Stratton Mountain Inn, VT</u>	<u>305/527-4033</u>
Aug 14-17	Las Vegas Open, Stardust Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, NV	702/893-6025
Aug 28*	Central Illinois Summer Sizzler, Sly Fox Pub, Lacon, IL	309/673-7622
Aug 28*	NY/NJ Co-op Regional Tournament, Ramada Inn, Woodbury, NY	718/341-3779
Sep 5-11	World Cup IV and U.S. Open, Harvey's Addison Hotel, Addison, TX	301/299-8264
<u>Sep 30-Oct 2</u>	<u>Towpath Inn Tournament, Turin, NY</u>	<u>716/442-8221</u>
<u>Oct 5-9</u>	<u>4th Illinois State Championships &amp; America Cup, Woodfield Hilton, IL</u>	<u>708/945-7801</u>
<u>Oct 7-9</u>	<u>Nation's Capital Fall Championships, Promenade, Bethesda, MD</u>	<u>301/530-0603</u>
<u>Nov 11-13</u>	<u>NY/NJ BG CO-OP Big Apple Series, Oritani Hotel, Hackensack, NJ</u>	<u>201/833-2915</u>

### OUTSIDE USA

Apr 1-4	6th Nordic "Wide" Open, Scandinavia Hotel/Casino, Copenhagen, Denmark	4539-40 06 07
Apr 11	Hong Kong Monthly Tournament, Ladies Recreation Club	852-846 1923
Apr 16-17	Aargauer Cup, Villigen/Aargau/Schweiz, Gasthoff Schloßberg, Switzerland	041-56446109
Apr 21-24	Düsseldorf Open, Hotel Antana, Kaarst, Germany	02151-503 591
Apr 27-May 1	3rd Tournament of the Américas, Cariari Hotel, San José, Costa Rica	312/252-7755
Apr 27-May 1*	2nd Portuguese Championships, Hotel Ampalius, Vilamoura, Algarve	4421-440 3428
May 2*	Hong Kong Monthly Tournament, Ladies Recreation Club	852-846 1923
May 11-15	1st Ouzo 12 Greek Championship, Grand Bretagne, Athens, Greece	44624-851045
May 21-22	County Cups Trophy, George Hotel, Solihull, England	0522-53 68 36
Jun 2-5*	6th International City of Venice Tourney, Casin'o Municipale, Lido, Italy	3941-5211029
Jun 6	Hong Kong Monthly Tournament, Ladies Recreation Club	852-846 1923
Jun 30-Jul 3*	European Championship, Menton, France (tentative)	392-48019343
Jul 4	Hong Kong Monthly Tournament, Ladies Recreation Club	852-846 1923
Jul 7-10*	Riviera's Cup Championship, Hotel Martinez, Cannes, France	331-41 050259
Jul 9-10	Hilton Cup, Hilton Hotel, East Midlands Airport, Derby, England	0522-53 68 36
Jul 11-17	World Backgammon Championship, Loews Hotel, Monte Carlo, Monaco	3392-16 20 00
Aug 1*	Hong Kong Monthly Tournament, Ladies Recreation Club	852-846 1923
Aug 27-28	BIBA Ranking Tournament, George Hotel, Solihull, England	0522-53 68 36
Sep 1-4	4th Mitteleuropa Tournament, Casino Park Nova Gorica, Slovenia	392-48019343
Sep 29-Oct 3	First German Open, Sportpark Hotel, Halle, Germany	49521-64314
Oct 15-16*	Sandy Osborne Trophy, George Hotel, Solihull, England	0522-53 68 36
Nov 4-6*	Hong Kong Backgammon Championships, Ladies Recreation Club	852-846 1923

# LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

I hope that if and when Mr. Weaver changes his policy and discontinues copy protection, he will send me a good-working free copy.—Jim Allen, Sparks, NV

After one bad experience with a copy-protected program, we will never load another one onto our computer again. Although it is much slower, Expert Backgammon™ can be run off the master disk and that's what we suggest all owners to do until the current problems are corrected. For more information on EB v2.1 copy-protection difficulties, see the March/April 1994 Hoosier Backgammon Newsletter.—Ed.

## BACKGAMMON IN ASPEN

After many years of owning a home in Aspen but never being able to spend much time here, my wife and I have now officially

moved from Chicago to Aspen and will live here "full time."

Aspen has a weekly tournament on Monday evenings during the summer and winter seasons at the restaurant/bar in the Little Nell Hotel. The contact person is Arlene who can be reached at 303/920-6333 or 303/925-8124. There is a pretty good crowd including a few decent local players. We also get some solid players visiting here from time to time. Hopefully, this letter will inspire a few more to drop by on their next trip here.

Thanks for keeping the POINT coming.—Bart Levin, Aspen, CO

## THANKS FROM THE ACS

On behalf of all of us here, thank you and your Midwest Championship participants so very much for their combined donation of \$2,260 to the Anti-Cruelty Society. Community Relations Manager Laura Weinman said that you had a big crowd at the Charity Auction with everyone bidding

large amounts at auctioneer Peter Kalba's urgings. I guess she was right based on your fabulous total of \$18,100. Good for you!

Again, thanks, Bill. I hope to see you next year at the 12th Midwest Championships.—Jane M. Stern, Executive Director, Anti-Cruelty Society, Chicago, IL

## THE CHESS POSITION ON HEADPHONES

Regarding last month's "Shades of Gray" column, the U.S. Chess Federation has no rule on headphones yet, so it's a matter for local rules. I banned headphones beginning in 1994, in the belief that they represent a potential for cheating way beyond the monitoring resources of tournament directors.

Technology is now easily and cheaply available so that any stereo buff could figure out how to cheat in a high-tech manner. For example, Radio Shack sells an inexpensive device that broadcasts 200 feet to an ordinary radio.

Then there's the factor of irritating the opponent. The headphone user is sending the message that, "I'm so much smarter than you are that I can do several things at the same time!" (Fortunately for the many unsociable personalities in chess, being pompous isn't illegal according to the rulebook!)

The bottom line is that I agree with Backgammon's rule regarding headphones ["Player may forbid his opponent from wearing headphones."] and would go beyond it to advocate banning headphones completely.—David Moeser, Director, Cincinnati Chess Federation Δ



## AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 1994

Completed through 20 March 1994 after 3 tournaments  
(Upcoming in April/May: Granite State, Chicago Open, Spring GP)



Neil Kazaross	29.62	Kent Goulding	6.40	Mariano Rocca	3.59	David Rubin	1.63
Abbas Zaltash	22.88	Ray Bills	5.60	Bruce King	3.58	Tim Kirby	1.63
David Williams	17.31	Mary Franks	5.20	J.A. Miller	3.58	Irving Achtenberg	1.18
Mary Ann Meese	11.44	Nack Ballard	4.80	Frank Dickerson	3.20	Bob Neumann	0.89
Lincoln Bedell	11.20	John Brussel	4.78	Joann Feinstein	2.40	Chris Larsen	0.83
Judy Field	9.61	Richie Adams	4.78	Marc Gray	2.08	Bret Handson	0.81
Paul DiBiase	9.61	Lefferis Moskos	4.19	Ali Rebatchi	2.08	Paul Mangone	0.81
Peter Zacks	7.25	Bob Holyon	4.16	Julie Crandall	2.05	Jerry Wlosinski	0.77
Richard Armbruster	7.25	Doug Mayfield	4.16	Lois Richards	1.91	Kelly Danton	0.77
Todd Doucet	7.21	Jerry Hays	3.59	Tony Pow	1.67		

In January, NEIL KAZAROSS pledged a strong effort to win the 1994 ABT race. A victory by the "An-Neil-ator" in Pittsburgh coupled with his runner-up finish at the Midwest Championships give him the early lead.



## CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB 1994 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

COMPILED  
THRU 31 MAR.

Neil Kazaross	11.80	Marcy Sloan	2.56	Arline Levy	1.04	V.W. Zimnicki	0.48
Allen Zimmerman	7.92	Jolie Rubin	2.44	Don Jayhan	0.96	Tom Walthes	0.48
Tak Morioka	7.56	Norma Shyer	2.40	Roland Dieter	0.96	David Rockwell	0.48
David Rubin	6.64	Phyllis Smolinski	2.32	Bobbie Shifrin	0.88	Earl Risch	0.48
Jake Jacobs	6.12	Joann Feinstein	2.16	Paul Weaver	0.88	Betsy Miller	0.48
Leslie Lockett	5.92	Georgina Flanagan	2.16	Mary Franks	0.88	Amy Trudeau	0.44
Herb Roman	5.12	Peter Kalba	2.08	Glen Garber	0.80	Tom Shields	0.40
Phil Simborg	4.64	Stu Katz	1.92	Alice Kay	0.72	Alex Itkin	0.40
Bill Davis	4.52	Paul Friedman	1.76	Jill Ferdinand	0.64	Peggy Fleming	0.40
Bob Zavoral	4.48	Sarg Serges	1.68	Igor Sheyn	0.64	Dan Braden	0.40
Paul Franks	4.24	Jeff Kane	1.60	Andy Krenitz	0.64	Tim Serges	0.32
Ralph Levy	3.20	Bill Keefe	1.36	Mary Vitale	0.60	Brigid O'Meara	0.32
John Brussel	2.88	Ed Buerger	1.28	Kevin Muench	0.56	Mike Siegel	0.24
Tim Mabee	2.72	Paul Klein	1.28	Marty Tatossian	0.56	Barbara Levinson	0.20

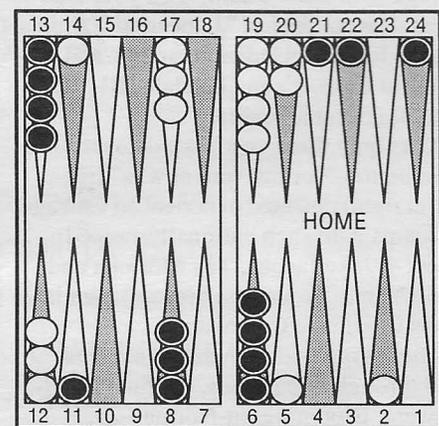
ALLEN ZIMMERMAN placed in four out of five March play dates to achieve his first-ever CBPC monthly accolade. Allen's 4.64 total bested runner's-up Phil Simborg (3.84) and Jake Jacobs (3.20).

Issue 69 of CHICAGO POINT will be mailed 6 June. Remember that your "1 year" POINT subscription entitles you to 12 issues.

your move

## PROBLEM #203

Money game. BLACK TO PLAY 6-4.



# ASK DANNY

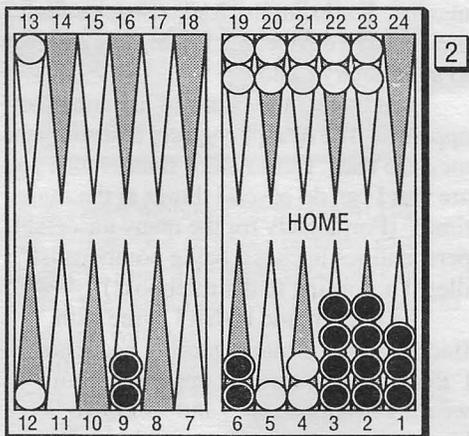


© 1994 by Danny Kleinman

## TWO SHOTS' WORTH

Citing a problem from my *Double Sixes from the Bar*, Alex Caraplis ("Letters," CHICAGO POINT, March 1994) suggested an alternative mentioned neither in the letter from "New Convert" to Miss Lonelyblots, nor in her reply:

Match to 11 points. Black leads White, 8 to 5. **BLACK TO PLAY 4-1.**



Miss Lonelyblots supported New Convert's actual play, 9/5\*, 2/1 (13 shots) against his suggested alternative 9/5\*, 9/8

(14 shots). However, Alex's impulse is to play 9/5\*, 6/5 (15 shots) because Black faces more subsequent shot danger owning the harder-to-clear 6-point than the easier-to-clear 5-point.

Congratulations, Alex, for spotting a "thematic" play. Congratulations, too, for wondering whether it is worth the two extra shots instead of rashly asserting that it is.

To resolve your doubts and mine, I attempted several rough calculations. First, I added to the 13 and 15 immediate hits for White, increments for hits next turn, getting the equivalent of two-and-a-fraction extra hits for each play. But 9/5\*, 6/5 is slightly safer for the next turn than 9/5\*, 2/1, so that the shot totals are about 15.40 and 17.05.

Next, I estimated the relative chances of clearing versus blotting in bear-offs with the 6-point to clear as against the 5-point. With the 6-point, Black has 16 clearing rolls (all rolls not containing a 1 or 2) and 12 blotting rolls (all 6s, 5s, and 4s in combination with 1s and 2s), or 3/7 chance of blotting before clearing. With the 5-point, Black has 25 clearing rolls (all rolls not containing a 1) and six blotting rolls (6-1, 5-1, and 4-1), or a 6/31 chance of blotting before clearing.

Then I estimated the danger of a blot getting hit as 11/36 with the 5-point, but 23/72 with the 6-point (Black's 6-2, 5-2, and 4-2 leave 12 shots instead of 11).

Finally, I estimated the 3-legged parlay of not getting hit on the first two shakes, blotting before clearing, and getting hit after

blotting as  $[(36 - 15.40)/36] \times (3/7) \times (23/72) = 0.078$  for 9/5\* 2/1 and  $[(36 - 17.05)/36] \times (6/31) \times 11/36 = 0.031$  for 9/5\*, 6/5. The difference, 0.047, represents 1.69 shots in 36 . . . a difference in safety beyond the next two rolls just a hair more than the difference in shots during the next two rolls.

Too close to call? Not quite. For the above calculation did not take Black's transposition prospects into account. Sometimes Black will be able to switch from 6-point to 5-point after moving 9/5\*, 2/1 now. For example, he may roll 5-1 next turn . . . and play 6/1, 6/5. Or during the bear-off, he may roll double aces and move 6/5(2), 1/Off(2) [instead of 2/1, 1/Off(3)].

As a rough general guide, I believe, two immediate decisive extra shots are too much to pay for a modest reduction in future danger. Many events, some unanticipated, may obviate that future danger. I remember a dentist's slogan from early childhood, "Better a small pain now than a big pain later."

Wrong! By the time the "big pain" came along, dental anesthetic technique had improved . . . and so had my own courage and tolerance for pain. Δ

Want more of Danny Kleinman? See page 7 for information on ordering his latest work: *A Backgammon Book For Gabriel*.—Ed.

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

## BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL CLUB SHOCKS SIX ILLINOIS TEAMS IN 14TH CHALLENGE CUP

Two days before Illinois State's 14th Challenge Cup, Prime Club member Yamin Yamin called Bloomington-Normal director Lane O'Connor to rib him about the upcoming team tournament. He left a message with Lane's son: "Tell your Dad his team has no chance." Lane used Yamin's message to rally his team members and on 27 Feb. at Cricket's in Glendale Hts., IL, the dream became reality.

After only three years in existence, Bloomington-Normal "unknowns" (pictured at right) defeated experienced Chicago area teams with such nationally-ranked players as Jake Jacobs, Tak Morioka and Yamin Yamin. It was the biggest upset in Illinois Challenge Cup history.

After being tied with the Prime Club at 20-all through five rounds, the final standings were: Bloomington-Normal-23,

Prime Club-21, 2-time defending champions Pub Club-21, Bar Point Club-18, Winnetka Club-16, Central Illinois Club-15, Sangamon Valley Club-12.

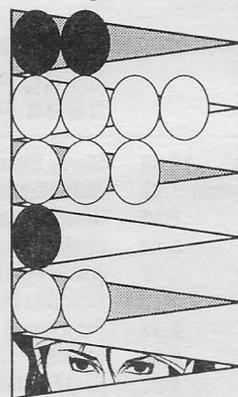
Congratulations to the Bloomington-Normal Club: 1994 Illinois State Champs. Δ



The Bloomington-Normal 1993 Challenge Cup champions gather around their 3-foot trophy. From left: William Hutchison, Lane O'Connor, Gary Daniels, Randy Reiff, Randy Peterson (seated) and Jim Zimmerman. [Photo by V.W. Zimmnick]

## The Best of Summer.

Michigan Summer



Backgammon Championships

July 1-4, 1994

Novi Hilton Hotel

(near Detroit Metro Airport)

June 28-29: Emil's Yacht  
June 30: Thurs. Warm-Up

Carol Joy Cole  
810/232-9731

# Getting HYPER

by Jake Jacobs

One of the events at the Midwest Backgammon Championships last month was Hyper-Backgammon®. As you probably know, Hyper-Backgammon® has nothing to do with Lucky Nelson's bearoff technique, but is instead Hugh Sconyers' new form of backgammon where each player has only three checkers in play. As an experienced Hyper-Backgammon® player, I thought I'd share a few war stories with you.

First, I must apologize if these remarks are less than timely. This article was meant to be published before the Midwest Championships (which also had a Hyper-Backgammon® tournament. As anyone familiar with the latest issues of the *Flint Area BackgammonNews* knows, my work habits are impeccable. However, I've been busy with various backgammon-related activities.

First, there was the division of the "Stake Jake" profits among the players who backed my trip to the Nevada State Championships in December. A microscope was employed.

Then there was Chicago's own Tonya Harding-type scandal. The infamous swashbuckler, Captain Blood, knocked one of his opponents out of competition by cutting off his ears.

Finally, there was my unsuccessful campaign for inclusion in the Giant 32 (published in the *Flint Area BackgammonNews*, Jan. 1994). Privately, I've been told that while I'm not one of the Giant 32, my place among the portly 128 is secure.

MY KNOWLEDGE OF Hyper-Backgammon® play was acquired at the Nevada State Championships. You remember the highlights of the other events. Pittsburgh's Abbas Zaltash, who will continue to remain underrated until he learns to yell "Hayamatas!" like the rest of his chouette-mates, won the International Cup. Hal Heinrich beat Kit Woolsey in the Master's. And Harvey Huie missed a chance to make some "real money" when he lost to Ray Foglerlund in the finals of the Nevada State.

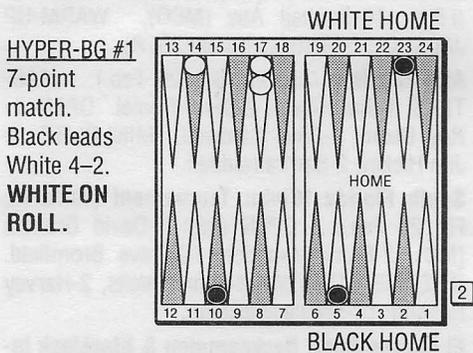
As to Hyper-Backgammon® . . .

I have a chart filled with fascinating and obscure moves: the best plays as determined by computer. For instance, if your opponent correctly plays an opening 6-3 by moving 23/17, 22/19, then, if you roll 5-5, you should play 22/17, 23/8.

However, if your opponent plays his

opening move incorrectly, I have no idea what the computer would recommend. Probably it would scratch its CPU, shrug its CD-ROM, and wind up sitting around playing with its mouse. Anyway, having a choice between spending hours memorizing a complicated chart, or assuming my opponents would misplay, you may be sure I chose wisely.

Here's a cute position, just for a little warm-up:



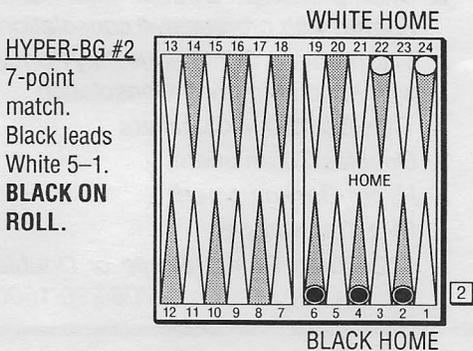
Hard to figure out what's going on? The ever-tricky Tak Morioka (White) is trying to bear in to the upper right quadrant. I'm Black, hoping to slow him down. I lead 4 to 2 in the 7-point match, and own a 2-cube. Lots of play left in this match, right?

Tak rolled 6-6. I responded 5-1, and he failed to throw an ace. I guess the match was shorter than I thought.

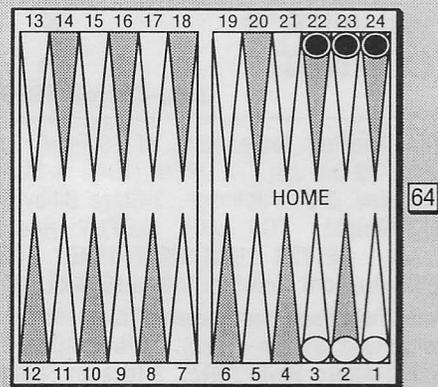
I ENTERED THIS EVENT NINE TIMES and played nineteen 7-point matches the first day. This tied Bill Davis for second most masochistic entrant. But we both trailed the indomitable Mike Mooney, tough as a Saguaro cactus, who ground his way through 10 entries and 23 matches (and won the tournament, always an effective anodyne).

Some faces grew awfully familiar, such as that of Dennis Culpepper. Dennis is also grossly underrated, and too much of a Southern gentleman to even think of yelling, "Hayamatas!"

I faced Dennis in at least five matches (I've lost the exact count). Here are two exciting finishes:



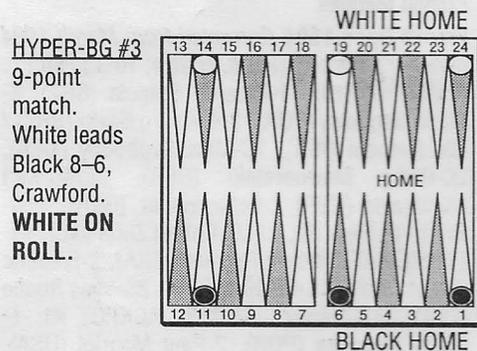
## What Is Hyper-Backgammon®?



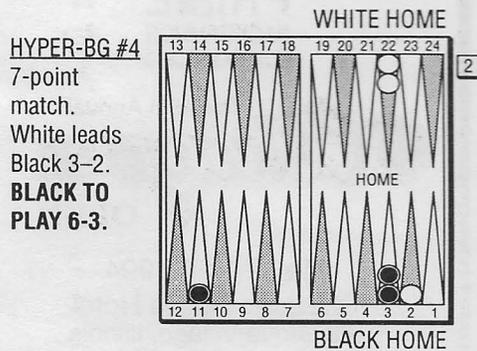
Tournament Hyper-Backgammon® is played like normal backgammon except that the Jacoby Rule is in effect. (Because of the Jacoby Rule, a player cannot win more than one point in the Crawford game). Also, Beavers are legal.

Hugh Sconyers' CD-ROM Hyper-Backgammon® is available for \$39 + \$4 p & h. For more information, contact Carol Joy Cole at 810/232-9731.

I rolled 12 pips exactly, but somehow wound up with one checker still aboard. Then Dennis rolled 2-1.



Here in the last match of the day (actually, my last two matches of the day due to some creative scheduling), Dennis extracted his revenge. He rolled 5-4. I shocked him with 5-5. Then he shocked me right back with a 5-5 of his own.



[Continued on page 9]

who did what

# WINNER'S CORNER



Jan.—March 1993

**BIBA Ranking Tournament #1** (Solihull, England; 29-30 Jan.)... OPEN (104): 1-Stuart Milbourne, 2-Jim Johnson, 3-Steve Bibby, 4-John Wright. TOP LADY TROPHY: Rosalie Money. BETTER LUCK NEXT TIME: 1-Carl Dell... A record crowd for BIBA's 1994 kickoff.

**Swiss Twin Snow Tournament** (Crans-Montana, Switzerland; 31 Jan.-6 Feb.)... CHAMPIONSHIP (31): 1-Alvaro Savio (BRZ), 2-Ricardo Spinola (BRZ), 3/4-Ion Ressu (ROM) / Frederic Rochat (SWZ); 1C-Hermann Drenkelford (HOL), 2C-Oswald Odermatt (SWZ), 3C/4C-Marcel Baquiche (MCO) / Philippe Narboni (SWZ); 1LC-Patrick Didisheim (SWZ), 2LC-Lynn Ehrlich (USA). INTERMEDIATE (21): 1-Nicolas Kitt (GER), 2-Marcel Vogt (SWZ); 1C-Mario Viceconte (ITA), 2C-Claudio Bergnino (ITA); 1LC-Katja Lutzke (GER). BEGINNER (6): 1-Giuseppe Ricciardi (ITA), 2-Annalisa Porcu (ITA); 1C-Alberto De Sancits (ITA). LADIES PRIZES: Lynn Ehrlich (Champ), Luisa Sequeira (Interm.), Annalisa Porcu (Beg.).

**Hong Kong Monthly** (Hong Kong; 7 Feb.)... OPEN: 1-Steve Nelson, 2-Ernest Ho; 1C-Don Rae. CHAMPIONSHIP: 1-Pearl Liu, 2-Richard Goss; 1C-John Bailey. INTERMEDIATE: 1-Leslie McFarlane, 2-Annie Law; 1C/2C-Farshid Gillardian / David Mendes.

**French Open 1994-Corrected from March 1994 "Winner's Corner"** (Paris, France; 10-13 Feb.)... CHAMPIONSHIP: 1-Ricardo Spinola (BRZ), 2-Mario Sequeira (POR), 3/4-Alvaro Savio (BRZ) / Elio Hamoui (ISR); 1C-Mike Svobodny (USA), 2C-Philip Marmorstein (GER), 3C/4C-Karl Laubmeier (GER) / Peter Huber (GER); 1LC-Evert Van Eijck (NL), 2LC-Robert Zurel (NL). INTERMEDIATE: 1-Eric Pecquet (FRA), 2-Frédéric Banjut (FRA); 1C-Nic Kitt (GER), 2C-Yves Roche (FRA); 1LC-Nadjar. SUPER JACKPOT #1: 1-Mario Sequeira (POR), 2-Paul Magriel (USA). SUPER JACKPOT #2: 1-Gérard Duget-Grasser (FRA), 2-Gérard Schiesser (GER). SUPER-HYPER: 1-Oswald Odermatt (SWZ), 2-Kazuhiro Shino (UK).

**NIBC Sunday Monthly** (Cambridge, MA; 13 Feb.)... EXPERT (19): 1-John Mansey, 2-Evan

Diamond, 3/4-Herb Gurland / Andy Latto; 1C-Albert Steg, 2C-Walter Trice. A DIV. (16): 1-Ken Newman, 2-Ray Mosher, 3/4-Andres Corredor / John Leonard; 1C-Larry Yeager, 2C-Michael Zehr. B DIV. (11): 1-Hon-Ming Eng, 2-Tim Spencer; 1C-Jim Sullivan, 2C-Ruth Moss.

**8th International Games Festival** (Cannes, France; 17-20 Feb.)... CHAMPIONSHIP: 1-Eric Guedi (FRA), 2-Roger Barbier (FRA), 3/4-Matthias Körner (GER) / Lucien Orsini (FRA); 1C-Michel Snequal (MCO), 2C-Luigi Villa (ITA); 1LC-Freddy Narboni (SWZ). INTERMEDIATE: 1-Leonard Connery (ITA), 2-Robert Franschi (FRA); 1C-Souhail Atie (MCO). WARM-UP JACKPOT: 1-Matthias Körner (GER).

**ABA Monthly** (Atlanta, GA; 26 Feb.)... MASTERS: 1-Jim Hickey, 2-Gerry Daniel. OPEN: 1-Roy Dixon, 2-Dave Cardwell. MINI-BLITZ: 1-Jim Hickey, 2-Samra Hadden.

**South Florida Winter Tournament** (Tamarac, FL; 27 Feb.)... OPEN (29): 1-David Orandle (MD), 2-Rami Mansoor; 1C-Steve Bromfield. INTERMEDIATE (26): 1-Lynne Wells, 2-Harvey Henann; 1C-Myrtle Brickman.

**El Dorado Hotel Backgammon & Blackjack Invitational** (Reno, NV; 28 Feb.-2 Mar.)... OPEN (16): 1-James Colen (NY), 2-Mike Sherman (NV). DOUBLES (8): 1-Jim Scott (TX) & Wilcox Snellings (NV). SUPER JACKPOT (8): 1-Wilcox Snellings (NV). BLACKJACK: 1-Kit Woolsey (CA), 2-James Colen (NY)... Organizer Howard Markowitz says this 16-player high-roller invitational may be expanded to 32 players next year.

**Gammon Assoc. 31st Invitational-ABT** (Los Angeles, CA; 4-6 Mar.)... OPEN (44): 1-David Williams (17.31), 2-Richard Armbruster (7.25), 3-Mariano Rocca (3.59); 1C-Peter Zacks (7.25), 2C-Jerry Hays (3.59). LIMITED (13): 1-Tim Kirby (1.63), 2-Bret Handson (0.81); 1C-Paul Mangone (0.81). SPECIAL-16 #1: 1-Gus Contos, 2-Mike Fujita. SPECIAL-16 #2: 1-John Rockwell, 2-Jerry Reynolds. DOUBLES (16): 1-David Hochron/self, 2-Ray Baker & Clarine... This was the first-ever Gammon Associates non-smoking event. The policy will continue.

**Hong Kong Monthly** (Hong Kong; 7 Mar.)... OPEN: 1-Steve Nelson, 2-Jerry Godsey; 1C-Gregg Westrick. CHAMPIONSHIP: 1-Nancy Wong, 2-Ed Cartledge; 1C-Steen Knudsen (DEN). INTERMEDIATE: 1-Farshid Gillardian, 2-

Leslie McFarlane; 1C-Hans Schmid.

**Torneo Yamin Yamin** (San José, Costa Rica; 7 Mar.)... OPEN: 1-Mario Madrigal, 2-Victor González... America Cup director Yamin Yamin sponsored the event with T-shirts and visors. The Costa Rican BG Assoc. added other goodies.

**14th Opre Invitational** (Downers Grove, IL; 12 Mar.)... OPEN (8): 1-Yamin Yamin, 2-Joann Feinstein. DOUBLES (4): 1-Jim Opre & Yamin Yamin... By all reports, another fun party hosted by Jim & Carmel Opre.

**NIBC Sunday Monthly** (Cambridge, MA; 13 Mar.)... EXPERT (18): 1-Herb Gurland, 2-Jay Giuttari, 3/4-Albert Steg / Mike Nelson; 1C-Dan Chicoine, 2C-Garbis Zerdelian. A DIV. (15): 1-Mark Damish, 2-Joe Moore, 3/4-John Koulopoulos / Sakura Sugawara; 1C-John Leonard, 2C-Ernesto Adrienzen. B DIV. (10): 1-Dan West, 2-Nate Grove; 1C-Zita Samuels, 2C-Ruth Moss.

**ABA Monthly** (Atlanta, GA; 27 Mar.)... OPEN: 1-Dave Cardwell, 2-Todd Brown. Δ

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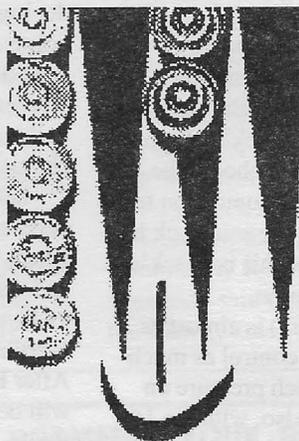


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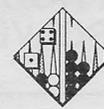


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## AMALGAMATION

Best wishes to **Neil Kazaross** (IL) and **Laura Relkin** (IL) who will become husband and wife sometime in April. A courthouse wedding in Skokie, Illinois is planned... Congratulations to **Paul & Robbie Klein** (IL) on the birth of their son **Brice Klein** 3 March. And also to **Howard & Linda Ring** (IL) who had a baby girl 21 March: **Julia Rose Ring**... Tough luck for **Malcolm Davis** (TX) who broke his knee prior to playing in the Reno El Dorado Backgammon & Blackjack Invitational... Another lesser accident: **Wilcox Snellings'** (CA) trip back to the states following the Bahamas Pro-Am Doubles tournament was delayed due to a motorbike mishap... The Louisville League Play champ is **Quint McTyeire** (KY)... Visiting the Chicago Bar Point Club in March: **Igor Sheyn** (MA), **Dan Braden** (TX) and **Paul Weaver** (MD)... Condolences to **Roz Ferris** (IL) on the passing of her father... New York City backgammon club updates: The New Pair-O-Dice Club meets Thursdays at Grazio's Restaurant. Call **Antoinette Williams** at 212/222-7177. Also, the Mayfair Club (51 E. 25th Street) is alive and well. **Jay Columbo** has the details at 212/779-1750... If you subscribe to the Internet computer service, check

out **Mark Damish's** backgammon postings... That was **Kathy Posner** (IL) on the podium when **Maria Pappas** (IL) made her concession speech for Cook County Board President 15 March. Although Pappas lost, Posner did an admirable job in her first political public relations assignment... We received a postcard from **Chris Stanford** (NJ), visiting Abu Dhabi on business. Chris reports that he was almost arrested there for chewing gum in public!... Look for **Richard Armbruster** (CA) in an upcoming White Castle commercial... **Jon Vietor** (CA) taped the 1994 Midwest Championships 15-point

finals between **Abbas Zaltash** (PA) and **Neil Kazaross**. For a copy of the match, send \$30 + \$3 p&h (\$5 overseas) to: **Jon Vietor**; 355 Bryant St. 403; San Francisco, CA 94107... **Mike Siegel** (IL) has a truly interesting job. He's president of International Lottery and Gaming and effectively "runs" the lottery in the former Soviet Republics... Here's one beaver you don't want to take. According to an Associated Press story from last month, a monster beaver is stalking marina docks in the Illinois Quad Cities area. Reports say the beaver, nicknamed "**Nessie**" is 5 feet long and weighs 80 pounds! Δ

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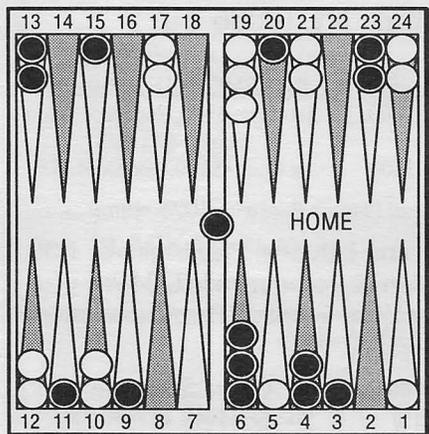
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**PROBLEM #202  
SOLVED**

by Kit Woolsey

Match to 5 points. The score is 0-0.  
**BLACK** (on the bar) **TO PLAY 5-5.**



**W**hat a nightmarish problem! How does one go about tackling something like this? The usual procedure of listing the candidate plays doesn't seem to work too well here. There are so many possibilities that it might take the whole article just to list them. Instead, let's look in general at what Black is trying to accomplish and then evaluate each of the points he might own after his play.

This is going to be a long positional struggle. Outfield control is of prime importance. In addition, White has built a three point board including her ace point. A defensive Black anchor is more valuable than usual because it stops White's closeout blitz. This in turn, devalues White's 1-point to nothing more than two men out of play.

In addition to the 6- and 4-points which Black obviously won't release, there are eight possible points Black might wind up with after his play. Let's look at each of them and evaluate their strengths and weaknesses.

The **23-point** is far more valuable than usual. Since White has made her ace point, Black's checkers on the 23-point are in little danger of ever being primed. This point will serve as a great "last resort" if things start going bad. In addition, White will have great difficulty bringing the position home as long as Black maintains his deep anchor.

While **20-point** is always important, it isn't vital in this position. Black doesn't need it as a stepping stone to freedom since his 23-anchor is not under threat of prime. Furthermore, Black has excellent outfield

control with or without the 20-point (which White seems unlikely to build in the near future anyway).

The **18-point** is even less valuable here. While it does control the outfield, pressuring the checkers on White's midpoint, it doesn't help in case White gets a blitz going. It will not function well in conjunction with the 20-point since it covers the same territory. All things considered, staying back on the 23-point is superior to making the 18-point here.

The **15-point** looks key. It sits squarely in the middle of White's outer board, disrupting her smooth flow of checkers. In addition, it is an effective restraining point for the White checkers on Black's 10-point (currently White's deepest anchor). The 15-point provides vital communication for any Black checkers which are sent back in the future. My guess is that this is Black's most valuable point right now.

The **midpoint** (13-point) is almost as good; however, it doesn't control as much vital territory or put as much pressure on White's deepest anchor. Also, with the 15-point under control, the midpoint loses a lot of its importance.

The **8-point** has only moderate value. White doesn't have any deep anchors, so the point won't have any great restraining value. In practice, any checkers on the 8-point will be used as builders for inner board points.

The **3-point** would be nice. Black already owns his 4-point, so making the trey would improve his offensive board considerably.

The **ace point**? Forget it! That's the last thing Black should want to make in this type of long positional struggle. He definitely cannot afford to bury two checkers out of play now.

**NOW THAT WE KNOW** what Black's best points are, let's suppose that Black can play without regard to leaving blots or concern for where White's checkers are and just concentrate on putting his men where they belong. (This approach is actually a good way to look at any complex positional battle.) From what we have said, Black would want to play Bar/15, 13/3. Although this play undoubtedly builds the most valuable points, leaving four blots against White's three point board is just too reckless.

We have already decided that the 15-point is key and that making the 8-point isn't too crucial. So it might be right to hold both outfield points. If we are going to do this, there doesn't seem to be any need to leave the odd checker on the 20-point

(we really aren't trying to make that point anyway). That checker will be better placed as a spare on the 15-point, so Black will be able to play comfortably next roll. Thus, it looks like Bar/15, 20/15 should account for three of the 5s.

For the fourth one, 11/6 is better than 9/4 for several reasons. First of all, it leaves fewer shots. Secondly, putting a spare on the 4-point may be going in too deep. The fourth checker on the 6-point is not overstacking, since these checkers can be deployed to make any other inner board points. Thirdly, the checker on the 9-point is a builder for both the 5- and the 3-points, whereas the checker on the 11-point is a builder only for the 5-point. Thus my choice is: Bar/15, 20/15, 11/6.

Let's review Black's status if White is unable to hit one of the remaining blots. Black will have a builder on the 9-point and a spare on the 15-point to handle awkward numbers, and two spares on the 6-point to use to help complete his board. After Black has used up these spares, he will be able to break his midpoint, holding the 15-point as a restraining point against White's deep anchor. The last-ditch 23-point makes it difficult for White to build his board safely.

If things go well, it looks like Black will be able to build his board in reasonable comfort, while White will be scrambling for the rest of the game. If the blot on the 9-point is hit, life won't be so easy, but Black will still have the spare on the 15-point to play. He'll just have to try to bring the hit checker in and out to the outfield where the battle is taking place.

**IT SURE LOOKS LIKE** an impossible task to wade through all the possibilities in such a complex position. However, as is often the case in backgammon, if you keep your eye on the main goals and choose the right game plan for the position, and your plays will come automatically.  $\Delta$

*More great Kit Woolsey analysis is available in Heinrich & Woolsey's MATCHQIZ—Vol. 4. To order, use the form on page 10.—Ed.*

The end of April is  
the beginning of fun.

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# HYPER...

[Continued from page 5]

In this one, Karate master Jon Stephens, who is only too happy to yell "Hayamatas!", threw me to the mat and stomped me into submission with incredible dice throws he learned from Oriental Masters. I hit him on the 2-point, and by the time the counter-punching was over, I was gammoned for the match. For some time, I wondered if bearing a man off, leaving a voluntary double shot but saving the gammon, was right. A series of rollouts convinced me my first play was correct.

DESPITE MISHAPS LIKE THE ABOVE, I made it to the money round, and playing to 13, enjoyed a 10-9 lead over the redoubtable Kent Goulding. Then KG offered me this poisoned apple:

**HYPER-BG #5**  
13-point match.  
Black leads  
White 10-9.  
White on roll.  
**CUBE**  
**ACTION(S)?**

This may be a bad take in theory. I

know it was a bad take in practice.

**HYPER-BG #6**  
13-point match.  
Black leads  
White 10-9.  
**BLACK TO PLAY 2-1.**

From here, my 2-1 may fairly be described as a feeble effort. In the end, I couldn't do, so here I am teaching.

WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED about this game? I'll let Mike Svobodny, the only player to have won both the World Championship and the World Cup, sum up the state of expert Hyper-Backgammon® knowledge.

In Position #7, I cubed Mike. [I later polled numerous experts (well, three) and found them split right down the middle on this one (painful for the odd man). Each side was very sure of his choice of action.] Mike thought long and hard, then announced with the insight of a truly great player: "I'm either beavering, or dropping!"

Well said, Mike. Any further comment would be superfluous. Except, *Hayamatas!* Δ

*Jake Jacobs was a semifinalist at the March Midwest Championships Hyper-BG event.—Ed.*

**WHITE HOME**

**HYPER-BG #7**  
7-point match.  
Black leads  
White 4-0.  
Black on roll.  
**CUBE**  
**ACTION(S)?**

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# ZALTASH WINS...

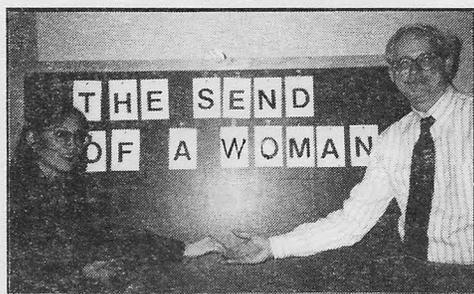
[Continued from page 1]

Farjood was best in the Blitz tourney. Mike Cyrkiel prevailed in \$1,000 Added Hyper-Backgammon®, and David Rockwell rushed past Nack Ballard 5-2 to win America's first Speed-Gammon tourney despite being down over one minute on the clock.

This year's Calcutta Auction of \$18,100 was the biggest in Chicago since the 1977

Chicago Cup (\$25,800). That meant a record \$2,260 to the Anti-Cruelty Society of Chicago.

OUR THANKS TO MBC STAFF Peter Kalba, Carol Joy Cole, Amy Trudeau and John & Dru Heggen. Also to Mike Wainwright (Oak Brook Marriott), Itasca Wiggins (Chicago Tribune), John Petergal (Fast Track Printing), Jeff Henry (Jim Henry Trophies), the Costa Rican Backgammon Association, Hugh Sconyers (Hyper-Backgammon®) and the many others who donated their time and gifts to make this the biggest MBC ever. Δ



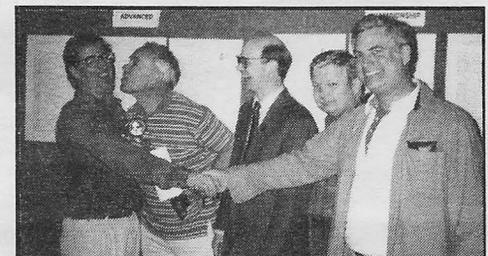
Carol Joy Cole awards BG Wheel of Fortune champ Mark Anshus a 1/4 oz. of gold for solving: "How Al Pacino would describe a double by Wendy Kaplan."



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