

1997 las vegas open

GLASS & SENK SHINE
IN LAS VEGAS

By all accounts, the 1997 Las Vegas Open (Riviera Hotel, 11–15 Nov.) was a great tournament [see Joubert Malouf's letter on page 3]. And it was especially great for Las Vegas Open Champ Bob Glass (CA) and Super Jackpot victor Mike Senkiewicz (NY). Congratulations to all the winners and to director Howard Markowitz and staff.



Bob Glass with staffer Amy Valerio at the award ceremony. [Photo by Steve Sax.]

LAS VEGAS OPEN

CHAMPIONSHIP (91): 1-Bob Glass (CA), 2-Doug Mayfield (CA), 3/4-Harry Brown (MI) / Elliott Winslow (CA); 1C-Christian Toth (Brazil), 2C-Kit Woolsey (CA), 3C/4C Gadi Carmeli (NV) / Julian Schulman; 1LC-Mike Fujita (HI), 2LC-Andy Glazer (CA). INTERMEDIATE (109): 1-Jay Giuttari (RI), 2-Jim Bowman (FL), 3/4-Fred Gehloff (WI) / Samra Hadden (GA); 1C-Bert Burkholder (NV), 2C-Patrick Gibson (CA), 3C/4C-Saul Meir (CA) / Joao Alfredo Mendonca (BRAZ); 1LC-Bobbie Shifrin (IL), 2LC-Yahudah Gruenfeld (ISR). BEGINNER (32): 1-Les Robbins (WA), 2-Gideon Laniado, 3/4-Kirke Lashelle / Mohammad Shah; 1C-Bob Schumacher, 2C-Gary Tong (MI); 1LC-Theresa Stanley (FL), 2LC-Gilles Blais (CAN). SUPER JACKPOT (8): 1-Mike Senkiewicz (NY), 2-Ray Glaeser (MI). LIMITED JACKPOT (16): 1-Bob Black (TX), 2-Mark Ferrin. \$500 JACKPOT (16): 1-Herb Gurland (MA), 2-Christian Toth (BRAZ). BLITZ (408): 1-Steve Clark (CA), 2-Ron Karr (CA). LADIES TOURNAMENT (20): 1-Maureen Wasley (CA), 2-Judy Collins (CA). SENIORS TOURNAMENT (64): 1-John Gdowik (FL), 2-Bob Sahagian (NJ). ON-LINE TOURNAMENT - LIVE (32): 1-Steve Sax/steamsax (CA), 2-Mike Fujita/fujita (HI). DOUBLES (32): 1-Ray Baker (CA) & Azzam Masarani (CA), 2-Judy Collins (CA) & Paul Gedigian (CA), 3/4-Tom Schmitz (TX) & Ron Williamson (TX) / Norma Shyer (IL) & Marty Tatosian (IL). OVERFLOW DOUBLES (16): 1-Kati Pratt (TX) & Lois Richards (AZ), 2-Ary Nogueira (BRAZ) & Carlos Pinto (BRAZ). \$50 AFTER-TOURNAMENT TOURNAMENT (16): 1-Elliott Winslow (CA), 2-Pedro Brunzian (BRAZ). \$20 AFTER-TOURNAMENT TOURNAMENT (32): 1-Paul Strasberg (MI), 2-Vergine Kouleyan (CA).

Scanning the
Scandinavians

by Jake Jacobs



Who is the best player in the world? Is it Wil? Nack? Mike? Svobo? Harry Zilli? These days, many people are saying that the best player, match or money, is Jerry Grandell. If you don't know that name, it may be because you are an American and Jerry is not.

There are several methods for selecting the world's best player, all of which are flawed. Stage a World Championship, or a World Cup, and see who wins. Create a rating list which tries to track the tournament performances of players. Still another is Yamin Yamin's biennial "Giants of Backgammon Top 32" survey where top players and tournament directors vote for who they perceive to be the best.

There is a lot of merit to Yamin's method. If you visit Wisconsin, ask the locals and you will learn by unanimous accolade that Wisconsin's finest is Bob Holyon.

But travel west into Minnesota, or south into Illinois, and there may be a split vote. Even if you do find consensus, how does their champ compare with Bob? Outside the US, many feel their top players are given short shrift. Either Neil Kazaross or Thomas Lumper might be the world's best, but Neil, living in Chicago (and being a friend of a certain frequent contributor), will see his name in the CHICAGO POINT far more often than Thomas, who lives in Germany.

Many of my friends, solid players all, happen to come from Sweden. Reviewing past Giant-32 lists, they have complained, "Where are the Swedes?"

To which I would reply, "I've never seen one that could play!" (I would try to time this answer so that I gave it just as I was redoubling them.) Now that Jerry Grandell has won the World Championship, and the World Cup Challenge Super Jackpot, and last year's Backgammon Olympiad in Venice, and all the money Paul Weaver brought to Brazil, and God knows what else, he's a shoo-in to make the Giant-32. In September, I went to Malmö, Sweden to see for myself if there

were any more at home like him.

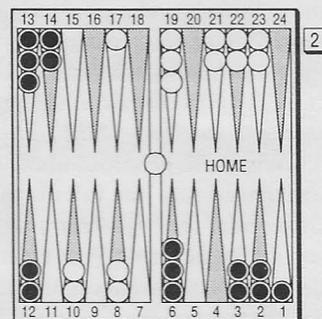
As many of you already know, that event, the 1997 Scandinavian New Hair Clinic Open, was robbed of all its \$30,000 prize fund. Having reported that in the Sept. *Flint Area BG News*, I will not rehash it here. Instead, let's look at a few Scandinavian players.

The two premier events were the Championship, and the SEK 10,000 Jackpot (approximately \$1350). The Jackpot seemed like a fine opportunity to play the elusive Mr. Grandell, but I lost in the first round to Norway's best player, Dag Ekmark. Jerry himself fell before the onslaught of tournament sponsor Thomas Ribohn, head of the New Hair Clinic.

Meanwhile, another local player was making mince meat of my friends. Losing to Jan Clementsson were David Brown (Bali), and Malmö BG Federation President Joachim Johansson. Readers of *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Four-Point!*, especially the articles "Snaky Jake," and "Hustlers," will recall meeting Malmöites Thomas Ribohn, Joachim Johansson, and Lars Hammargren in successive rounds of the first Thai Open. It happens that Sweden has its ratings (similar to KG's), and the highest ranked player in Malmö, indeed the second-highest rated player in Sweden, is none of the above, but rather a young player named Jan Clementsson.

The 13-point Jackpot Final pitted Jan, a professional poker player, against Dr. Ribohn. As I wandered up, Thomas had won a gammon in the Crawford game and now trailed 7–12, post-Crawford. The prospects were daunting, but as a man who makes hair grow from bald heads, Thomas expects miracles. **Here (as Black) he has an interesting 6-2 to play:**

This is a neat problem. I would have played 13/7, 3/1, but Thomas played 14/6. A rollout hates Thomas's play, and



[Continued on page 6]

CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

EDITOR & PUBLISHER

Bill Davis

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

Tel: 773/583-6464 ♦ Fax: 773/583-3264

E-mail: chipoint@interaccess.com

<http://homepage.interaccess.com/~chipoint>

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Harry Cohn (IL)	Danny Kleinman (CA)
Carol Joy Cole (MI)	Laila Leonhardt (DEN)
Jake Jacobs (IL)	Walter Trice (MA)
Duane Jensen (MN)	Kit Woolsey (CA)

All rights reserved. You may copy any of this for noncommercial purposes as long as you give full credit to "CHICAGO POINT, 3940 W. Bryn Mawr Ave. 504, Chicago, IL 60659-3155." You may not reproduce any part of this publication on the internet or via other electronic media without the express-written consent of CHICAGO POINT.

CHICAGO POINT is published monthly. The subscription rate is \$30/12 issues (\$40 international airmail in USD check drawn on U.S. bank).

Advertising Rates: 2 3/8" x 3 1/4" = \$40. 1/4 page = \$70. 1/2 page = \$115. Full page = \$200. If the ad is not "camera ready," request layout and typesetting for an additional charge.

LETTERS

c/o CHICAGO POINT
3940 W. Bryn Mawr Ave. 504
Chicago, IL 60659-3155

E-mail: chipoint@interaccess.com

THE THIEVERY IN SWEDEN

I enjoyed Jake's article on slow play in the November POINT. Very funny. I'll try having seven Kamikazes before breakfast this Saturday.

One thing in the newsletter I didn't understand was Jake's "Winner's Circle" account of the \$30,000 prize money heist at the Scandinavian New Hair Clinic Open in September. Jake apparently believes that the director's and organizer's out-of-pocket replacement of approximately one-half of the prize fund was a generous act. [The story is fully covered in the Sept. Flint Area BackgammonNews—Ed.]

What's so generous about that? An unattended safe box full of cash is stolen from under the organizer's nose. Why should the players be out even one dollar in this instance? As an organizer of the Tournament of the Americas, I know that

[Continued on page 3]

coming attractions

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

BACKGAMMON
1 2 3 4 5 6
7 8 9 10 11 12 13
14 15 16 17 18 19 20
21 22 23 24 25 26 27
28 29 30 31

by Carol Joy Cole

810/232-9731

E-mail: cjc@flint.org

* Denotes new or revised listing

American Backgammon Tour events underlined.

NATIONAL

Dec 5-7	<u>40th Gammon Associates Invitational, A.R. Private Club, Los Angeles, CA</u>	818/901-0464
Dec 6	Springfield Series #2, Ride the Nine, Bloomington, IL	217/782-2439
Dec 7	Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Anyway's Grill, Oakbrook Terrace, IL	773/252-7755
Dec 7	Backgammon by the Bay, San Mateo Bridge Center, San Mateo, CA	408/688-9722
Dec 10*	Milwaukee Club's Christmas Party, Gas Lite North, Milwaukee, WI	414/355-5562
Dec 14	New England Club Monthly, Sheraton-Commander, Cambridge, MA	508/829-3283
Dec 18	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Dec 21	Atlanta Holiday Festival Tournament, Tony's Grill & Tap, Roswell, GA	770/333-1876
Dec 26	Flint Area Club Holiday Tournament, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
<u>Dec 26-28</u>	<u>Ace Point New York Holiday Tournament, Ace Point Club, New York, NY</u>	<u>212/753-0842</u>
Dec 27	Clarine's Monthly Tournament, A.R. Club, Los Angeles, CA	213/822-9745
Dec 28	Nation's Capital Jackpot Tournament, Promenade, Bethesda, MD	301/530-0604
Jan 1-Mar 30	FIBS 1998 Winter Blitz, via computer modem <i>davide@sco.com</i> or	408/438-7947
Jan 3	Springfield Series #3, Parkers Sports Bar, Springfield, IL	217/782-2439
Jan 4*	Milwaukee Sunday Bimonthly Tourney, John Hawks Pub, Milwaukee, WI	414/463-2498
Jan 8	Backgammon On Board Warmup, Biscayne Bay Marriott, Miami, FL	773/583-6464
Jan 9-12	Backgammon On Board IV, Miami to Bahamas cruise tourney on NCL	773/583-6464
Jan 10-11	Nation's Capital Winter Open, Promenade, Bethesda, MD	301/530-0604
Jan 13	Chicago Bar Point Club Awards Night, Golden Flame, Chicago, IL	773/583-6464
Jan 15*	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Jan 18	New England Club Monthly, Sheraton-Commander, Cambridge, MA	508/829-3283
Jan 18*	Austin Bimonthly Tournament, Bombay Bicycle Club, Austin, TX	512/261-8518
Jan 18*	Backgammon by the Bay, San Mateo Bridge Center, San Mateo, CA	408/688-9722
Jan 18*	Bimonthly Winter Tournament, Oakland Holiday Inn Select, Pittsburgh, PA	412/823-7500
Feb 7	Springfield Series #4, Peoria Pizza Works, Peoria, IL	217/782-2439
Feb 8	New England Club Monthly, Sheraton-Commander, Cambridge, MA	508/829-3283
Feb 11-15	Pro-Am Invitational, Turnberry Isle, Aventura, FL	301/299-8265
<u>Feb 13-15</u>	<u>20th Pittsburgh Championships, Greentree Marriott, Pittsburgh, PA</u>	<u>412/823-7500</u>
Feb 15*	Backgammon by the Bay, San Mateo Bridge Center, San Mateo, CA	408/688-9722
Feb 19*	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Ramada Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Mar 1	Springfield Series #5, Parkers Sports Bar, Springfield, IL	217/782-2439
Mar 15	New England Club Monthly, Sheraton-Commander, Cambridge, MA	508/829-3283
Mar 15*	Backgammon by the Bay, San Mateo Bridge Center, San Mateo, CA	408/688-9722
<u>Mar 20-22</u>	<u>1998 Midwest Championships, Radisson Hotel, Lisle, IL</u>	<u>773/583-6464</u>
Apr 4*	Springfield Series #6, Parkers Sports Bar, Springfield, IL	217/782-2439
Apr 11*	Nation's Capital Spring Day Tourney, Promenade, Bethesda, MD	301/530-0604
Apr 18*	Springfield Series Grand Finale, Parkers Sports Bar, Springfield, IL	217/483-4028
Apr 19*	Backgammon by the Bay, San Mateo Bridge Center, San Mateo, CA	408/688-9722
Apr 19*	New England Club Monthly, Sheraton-Commander, Cambridge, MA	508/829-3283
Apr 26*	28th Annual Willowbank Tournament, Soules' Home, Shelburne, VT	802/985-3932
<u>Jun 12-14*</u>	<u>1998 Georgia Championships & Peach Cup, Atlanta, GA</u>	<u>770/333-1876</u>
<u>Jul 2-5</u>	<u>Michigan Summer Championships, Novi Hilton, Novi, MI</u>	<u>810/232-9731</u>
Jul 31-Aug 9	World Cup VI & U.S. Open, Harvey's Hotel Addison, Dallas TX	301/299-8265
<u>Sep 4-7</u>	<u>46th Indiana Open, Radisson Hotel, Indianapolis, IN</u>	<u>317/255-8902</u>
Oct 1-4	Illinois State Champs & America Cup, Holidome, Rolling Meadows, IL	847/945-7801

OUTSIDE USA

Dec 5-8	Santa Claus Tournament, Spielcasino Aachen, Aachen, Germany	4940-8306415
Dec 6-7*	Bornholm Open 1997, Hotel Griffen, Rønne, Denmark	4556-951215
Dec 13-14	11th National Championship, Jarvis International Hotel, Solihull, England	44161-4380966
Dec 13-14	Berlin Cup/Havel Cup '97, Medien-Café/Café Belmont, Berlin, Germany	4930-4619624
Dec 18-21*	Neurenberger Castle Tournament, Neurenberg, Germany	49911-737514
Jan 3-4	Bright 'n Breezy Knockout Tourney, Stakis Brighton Metropole, England	44152-2546993
Jan 3-4*	High Class Competition, Café Florianihof, Vienna, Austria	43664-2303940
Jan 9-12*	World's Giant Jackpot & Warm-up, Conrad International Istanbul, Turkey	972-36727063
Jan 12-18*	World Cup Challenge IV, Conrad International Istanbul, Turkey	972-36727063
Jan 15-18	Thailand Open, 19th Hole Super Pub, South Pattaya, Thailand	6638-429152
Feb 21-22	Grand Torneo "Citta' di Bologna," Hotel Zola, Bologna, Italy	39338-7187324
Feb 26-Mar 1	2nd Warsteiner Cup, Hotel am Kaiserbrunnen, Brakel, Germany	49521-64314
Mar 4-8	Grand Prix de Lugano, Hotel Splendide Royal, Lugano, Switzerland	4179-3374425
Mar 6-8*	Inner Table Tournament #1, Grand Hotel Leicester, England	44152-2721630
Apr 18-19*	Grand Torneo "Citta' di Bologna," Hotel Zola, Bologna, Italy	39338-7187374
Apr 27-May 3*	4th EBN Mayday Tournament, San Juan los Terreros, Almeria, Spain	3450-1330009

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

the Costa Rican BG Association has found itself short substantial prize money on occasion. Despite this, we have always

paid out every penny promised. You pay out the prize money as advertised, period. This should be the policy of every responsible tournament director. Why should the Swedish organizers act differently?

Their amount, of course, is quite large. The players, understanding the situation,

should give them the time needed to pay back the rest of the stolen money. But they should pay it back. All of it.—*Mario Madrigal, San José, Costa Rica*

SECOND THOUGHTS

In the June 1997 Chicago Point, I wrote a letter about the Las Vegas tournaments titled "Wanted: More Play for Less Money." Since then, I have had second thoughts about my critique. I just returned from the 1997 Las Vegas Open and was very pleased with the selection of games and range of entry fees available. There were offerings to satisfy everyone's taste and budget from the \$3,000 Super Jackpot, to numerous \$25 events and even some \$10 Jackpots.

I think the tournaments in Las Vegas, directed by Howard Markowitz, are the best organized and most efficiently run in the country. He has gathered a staff of very friendly and accommodating people who work very hard day and night to keep all the events flowing smoothly. It's a tremendous task, and Mr. Markowitz and his staff do a terrific job.

Another big positive is the location. The tournament in November was held on the top floor of the Riviera Hotel in a huge ballroom. The huge picture windows on both sides provided a magnificent panoramic view of Las Vegas.

And finally, there was a delicious buffet at the Awards Party. I highly recommend that all backgammon players go to Las Vegas and compete in the tournaments directed by Howard Markowitz.—*Joubert Malouf, Copperopolis, CA*

[Continued on page 5]



AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 1997

Top 100 through 2 Nov. 1997. 3 tournaments remain.
(No. Ohio Thanksgiving, 40th G/A Invitational, Ace Pt. Holiday)



Doug Mayfield	35.36	Steve Hast	10.12	Abbas Zaltash	5.28	Andy Rubien	3.88
Art Benjamin	31.00	Steve Sax	9.82	Drew Giovanis	5.28	Rick Barabino	3.88
John O'Hagan	27.75	Joann Feinstein	9.61	Alice Kay	5.23	Emil Mortuk	3.88
Fred Kalantari	27.63	Wally Kuester	9.54	Hunter Jones	5.20	Joe Freedman	3.78
Doug Roberts	23.43	Jim McGirr	9.53	Lee Genud	5.08	Sonja Peacock	3.77
Alex Caraplis	20.78	Bill Davis	9.50	Tim Mabee	5.06	Kurt Schurecht	3.69
Rob Maier	17.94	Reza Nowbar	9.30	Frank Frigo	5.06	Fred Badagnani	3.60
Stuart Hosen	17.09	Sam Pottle	8.96	Milad Doueihy	4.95	Bill Phipps	3.59
Mike Giordano	15.50	Ed King	8.84	Malcolm Davis	4.93	Bruce Hall	3.34
Ray Fogerlund	15.50	Leslie Lockett	8.61	Terry Kayser	4.90	John Bryant	3.30
Jon Stephens	15.31	Bill Counts	8.40	Richard Heinz	4.75	Rick Bieniak	3.29
John Brusse!	13.49	Marty Storer	8.31	Chester Warzel	4.75	Bob Lumbra	3.29
John Mansey	13.11	Eliot Bean	7.09	Tim Lawless	4.75	Bruce Russell	3.26
Harry Tokatlian	12.75	Garo Tchalabian	7.09	Carlos Hamon	4.66	Jim Pascoe	3.22
Hal Heinrich	12.55	Elliott Winslow	7.05	David Haddad	4.52	Jay Ward	3.20
Steve Flam	12.50	Alan Fenster	7.00	Ed Zell	4.38	Ron Bruns	3.19
Wendy Kaplan	12.30	Phil Simborg	6.61	Michael Rayner	4.36	Ron Genter	3.19
Richard Del Furia	11.85	Mike Senkiewicz	6.58	Eden Windish	4.22	David Rockwell	3.08
Peter Kalba	11.79	Rich Munitz	6.58	David Montgomery	4.20	Neil Young	2.83
Steve Klesker	11.44	Jack Kissane	6.49	Frank Talbot	4.16	Reza Zaltash	2.82
David Wells	11.33	Andy Palumbo	6.40	John Jennings	4.16	Marc Gray	2.81
Harvey Huie	11.20	Ray Bills	5.60	Jake Jacobs	4.10	Matt Relkaitis	2.78
Rich Catalano	10.56	Dan Shapiro	5.56	Jim Muirhead	4.00	Tom Penney	2.75
Mike Friedman	10.56	Michael Bureau	5.39	Perry Gartner	3.97	David Levine	2.64
Nack Ballard	10.45	Allen Levien	5.28	Bob Hill	3.88	Nayan Shah	2.64



CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB 1997 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

COMPILED
THRU 30 NOV.

Neil Kazaross	21.96	Jake Jacobs	7.12	Tim Helms	1.60	George Barr	0.68
Gary Kay	17.64	Don Jayhan	7.04	David Rubin	1.52	V.W. Zimnicki	0.64
Herb Roman	17.20	John Demian	6.00	John Stryker	1.44	Mark Murray	0.64
Rick Bieniak	16.76	Stu Katz	5.52	Marty Tatosian	1.44	Dave Cramer	0.60
Harry Cohn	16.32	Wendy Kaplan	5.24	Georgina Flanagan	1.44	Greg Tomlin	0.60
Paul Franks	14.08	Tak Morioka	4.76	Steve Klesker	1.28	Yamin Yamin	0.56
Bill Davis	13.12	Bobbie Shifrin	4.60	Femi Owiku	1.16	Tom Meyer	0.56
Ed Buerger	12.56	Bob Koca	4.32	Jolie Rubin	0.96	Elaine Kehm	0.50
Phyllis Smolinski	11.72	Arline Levy	3.76	Mark Stone	0.96	Todd Hengstler	0.48
Bob Zavoral	11.60	Roger Hickman	3.36	Reggie Porter	0.96	Ken Tyszko	0.48
Alice Kay	11.40	Amy Valerio	3.32	Roland Dieter	0.96	Roz Ferris	0.44
Paul Friedman	10.68	Mary Franks	3.26	Jill Ferdinand	0.92	Jodie Feinstein	0.32
Ken Bond	10.56	Fred Badagnani	2.80	Elliott Winslow	0.88	Jerry Smith	0.32
Leslie Lockett	10.32	Richard Lloyd	2.56	Chuck Bower	0.88	Jay Ward	0.28
Phil Simborg	10.24	Dan Simborg	2.56	Andy Krenitz	0.88	Don Marek	0.28
Bill Keefe	9.68	David Wells	2.56	Howard Ring	0.88	Sam Pottle	0.24
Joann Feinstein	9.32	Dean Muench	2.56	Scott Richardson	0.84	Sarg Serges	0.24
Joe Wollick	9.04	Jerry Brooks	2.16	Paul Baraz	0.84	Nan Feiber	0.24
Steve Mellen	8.28	Bob Steen	2.16	Larry Strommen	0.80	Todd Permut	0.24
Paul Klein	8.20	Frankie Farjood	1.92	Phil Barrett	0.80	Romeo Kap	0.24
Tim Mabee	7.96	Joseph Esfahani	1.92	Barbara Levinson	0.76	Diva Lauren	0.16
Norma Shyer	7.96	Michael Wilhoyst	1.84	Laila Leonhardt	0.72	Marv Arnol	0.16
Peter Kalba	7.76	John Jennings	1.60	John Brussel	0.68	Karen Meyer	0.12

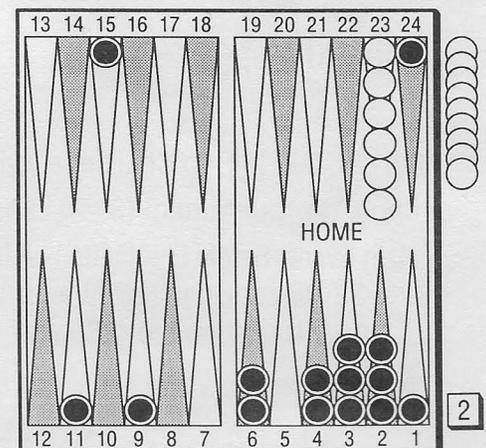
BPC Nov. Player of the Month is Chicago newcomer **STEVE MELLEN**. Steve earned his 2.68 points at Nov. 4 and 11 tournaments. Bill Davis and Dean Muench placed 2/3 with 2.56 each.

your move

PROBLEM #239

to be analyzed by Laila Leonhardt

Match to 7 points. Black leads White, 4 to 0. **BLACK TO PLAY 2-1.**



ASK
DANNY

© 1997 by Danny Kleinman

number as one plays it? Then there would be little need to call out both of the numbers rolled before playing them.

Touch-move is a bit stickier. There are some who object to it on the grounds that backgammon is a "visual" game. But so is chess, and if touch-move is good in chess, it figures to be equally good in backgammon. Both games involve *visualization* as well as vision.

That something is done a certain way in the Middle East is no recommendation, of course. But if the practice of calling out each number when played is adopted, it should render the moving of checkers back and forth harmless, e.g.:

"Four . . . three. Retracting the three. Replaying the three."

How might we formulate this extended Godsey Rule?

"To aid his opponent in following a play and to protect himself against suspicion of illegal plays, the mover may count each move he plays with a doublet, or call out moves with single numbers as he plays, retracts or replays them. In case of dispute about numbers rolled or played, the presumption shall be in favor of a player calling out those numbers unchallenged."

—Yours, Danny Δ

Questions for Danny Kleinman should be addressed to: Ask Danny, c/o CHICAGO POINT, 3940 W. Bryn Mawr Ave. 504; Chicago, IL 60659-3155.

TOUCH MOVE BACKGAMMON?

Dear Danny: Why are backgammon players allowed to move pieces back and forth before settling on their plays? This practice results in occasional illegal plays, whether by accident or design, and burdens an opponent who must monitor the roller's plays carefully. In chess, "touch move" is the rule. Likewise in the Middle East, backgammon's birthplace.

For further protection of the non-roller, I suggest requiring a player rolling doubles to count out his four moves as he plays them. Can there be any objection to this rule or to touch-move?—Jerry Godsey, president, Hong Kong Backgammon Club

DEAR JERRY: Your proposal for the roller counting out his four moves for doublets is a good one: a natural extension of the "Godsey Rule" for calling out the numbers rolled. But like that rule, this one should be formulated as "permissive" to offer self-protection to the roller.

Why limit the practice to doublets, however? Wouldn't it help prevent disputes as to the legality of a play to call each



THE GREAT ESCAPE

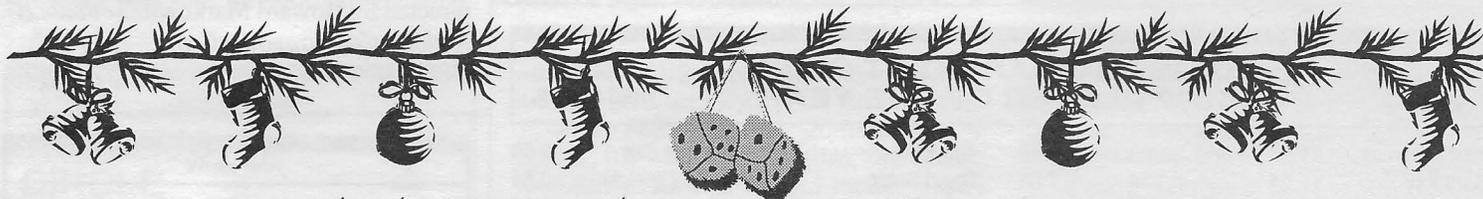
Backgammon On Board IV
Cruise Tournament on NCL
Miami to Nassau and Great Stirrup Cay
9–12 January 1998

Enjoy the fun of a cruise spiced with plenty of backgammon action. Tournament entrants gain free entry into the **CAPTAIN'S TOURNEY**. 1-point matches. First prize: **\$500**.

BOOK PASSAGE TODAY!
Cruise Consultants – 800/478-0433
Info: Bill Davis – 773/583-6464
Peter Kalba – 773/252-7755

Attention Floridians! Don't miss...

Backgammon On Board IV
\$25 Warm-up Tourney
Thursday, 8 January 1998, 7:00 pm
Biscayne Bay Marriott Hotel
1633 N. Bay Shore Dr.; Miami, Florida



Holiday Backgammon Tournament

December 26–28, 1997

Ace Point Backgammon Club

41 East 60th Street, 5th Floor
New York City 10022

Chouettes &
Santa Pots all
Weekend!



- Turkish World Cup Challenge Warmup (\$140 entry)
- Chouette Tournament (\$110 entry with \$50 reentry)
- Main Event (Single Elimination with Progressive Cons.):
32-Player Open (\$350 entry)
16-Player Limited (\$80 entry)

Call or e-mail for your personal invitation:

Alan & Lourdes Steffen

212-753-0842 • ADSLMT@prodigy.net

Reserve early for guaranteed entry and the best accommodations.



Christmas in Manhattan is Beautiful



LETTERS...

[Continued from page 3]

MEMORY BLOCK?

In your article on the Minnesota State Championships, you list Ray Fogerlund and Glenn Dowd as doubles winners. Gee, I thought you would at least remember who, partnered with Ray, beat you in the finals! Hint: he is typing this right now!—*Fred Gehlhoff, Green Bay, WI*

Sorry about that Fred. We must have been blocking the incident from our memory!—*Ed.*

DOOMED

I guess I am doomed. Doomed to a point-less life. I read your fine article (by Duane Jensen) on the Illinois State Championships/America Cup Tournament in Chicago, where the Cup coverage was as follows: "In the America Cup, Hugh Sconyers crushed Ray Fogerlund to claim the beautiful trophy and big prize money." Three lines, period.

By comparison, your win in Minnesota was apparently twice as important (six lines) against 19 players who anted up \$200. I put up \$1500 against 14 players in a particularly difficult field. You or Duane were not entered. I wonder why?

You were clearly better than me in Minnesota! However, I did win two events there (Doubles and Autumn Jackpot)—something that was strangely missing from the article on your second Minnesota win in a row on your birthday.

So, I had a wonderfully successful month of BG and made three finals. How fitting to find all of this chronicled in the finest newsletter in the land: CHICAGO POINT! Ray got "crushed."

Here is the article that you have been asking me for, Bill:

"Wendy Kaplan Won the Illinois State Backgammon Championship in an Electrifying Performance! Bill Davis and Duane Jensen Got Crushed"

Ray Fogerlund, who has been playing some fine backgammon of late was disappointed in that he was unable to participate in this ABT event. For some reason, Yamin Yamin schedules the finals of the America Cup on Saturday, when the ABT event starts. As luck would have it, Ray had made an unlikely comeback against Mike Senkiewicz, who was recently voted the best player in the world by his peers, to make the finals of the prestigious America Cup event. Down 14–2, Ray won a few lucky gammons and prevailed 22–20, in spite of his persistent sniveling and whining.

But that was not even the biggest comeback in the semifinals of the America Cup!

That honor would go to Hugh Sconyers who, without whining, was down 15–2 in his match with the redoubtable Elliot Winslow who has been on a tear of his own this year. Equally notable was that Elliot did not say a word as Hugh mounted his inexorable march to the championship. Clearly a great performance by two championship competitors. This author learned a great lesson, for sure.

Not surprisingly, the champion crushed the whiner in the finals, and I really did not feel all that bad. I have had worse problems than being forced to play BG for 8K (the difference between 1st and 2nd place), and Hugh deserved to win more than I did. He was a more noble competitor. He is a fine champion who carries a 1970 rating on GamesGrid, the best place to play online backgammon. Check it out and play him a game sometime!

The scuttlebutt at the tournament was that Yamin Yamin, in spite of his super generous prize structure and beautiful trophies, is having trouble finding players to enter the America Cup. The entry fee is dropping each year in an effort to get participants. I am of the opinion that this event is failing because there are no winners! Except the winner.

The prize structure is heavily weighted towards the winner of the event. Only two places are paid, and the rate this year was 75–25. Three to one? Why not have first place be \$10,000 and second \$6,000? Why not pay four places, so that eight people play in the "money round"? If one has to win an event against an elite field of competitors to make any money, then one might quite reasonably decide not to play at all. What do you think?

You can keep the free subscription you offered me for writing an article for the POINT, Bill. It seems pointless for me to read it!—*Ray Fogerlund, Taft, CA*

VINTAGE MAGRIEL

20 years ago in 1977, Paul Magriel (X-22) wrote a weekly backgammon column for the New York Times. Each column covered a different principle or technique of the game. For that reason, Magriel's old columns are still interesting today.

In our new *Essential Backgammon Special* (#2), we present the reader with 15 of Magriel's positions together with Paul's conclusions. Then they are reanalyzed using the knowledge and tools available today.

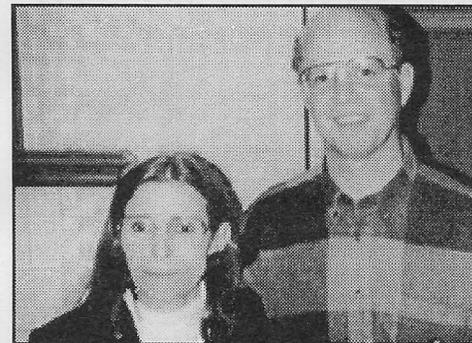
The charge for this special is \$18 for EB subscribers and \$22 for non-subscribers plus \$3 for p&h (\$6 air mail). For more information, contact me at <danfrank@compuserve.com> or write to the address shown below.—*Dan Frank, editor, Essential Backgammon, Vorsteigstr 1, D-70193 Stuttgart, Germany. Δ*

1997 bpc fall trophy tourney

DAVIS & KAY TAKE THE TROPHIES IN CHICAGO

Bill Davis topped Neil Kazaross 7–2 to win the Bar Point Club Fall Trophy Tourney. Effectively the CBPC's Club Championship, the event drew 52 players to The Golden Flame in Chicago 18 November.

Davis and his dice were unstoppable as they crushed the competition with the exception of Paul Klein in the semifinals. At double match-point, Bill needed a set of 3s or bigger on his last roll and tossed 6-6.



Fall Trophy Champs Alice Kay (Int.) and Bill Davis (Open). [Photo by Peter Kalba.]

Alice Kay also won five matches in a row including her defeat of Ed Buerger in the finals to claim the Intermediate trophy. It was a sweet victory for Kay who finished second in last year's event. Results: Δ

14TH CBPC FALL TROPHY TOURNEY

OPEN (32): 1-Bill Davis, 2-Neil Kazaross, 3/4-Howard Ring / Paul Klein; 1C-Bob Steen, 2C-Bob Zavoral. INTERMEDIATE (20): 1-Alice Kay, 2-Ed Buerger, 3/4-Don Marek / Femi Owiku; 1C/2C-Mary Franks / Elaine Kehm.

ILLINOIS ACTION



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

Tuesday, 6:15 P.M. at Golden Flame, 6417 W. Higgins Rd., Chicago; 773/792-0424.

Sunday Bimonthly, 12:00 NOON at Anyway's Chicago Grill & Bar, 5 E. Roosevelt Rd., Oakbrook Terrace; 630/932-9323.

PUB CLUB: Tourn. Monday, 7:30 P.M. at Smithfield's, 300 S. Schmale, Carol Stream. V. W. Zimnicki (630/924-8632).

GAMES PEOPLE PLAY: Tourn. Monday, 6:30 P.M. at The Clique, 2347 S. Michigan, Chicago. Reggie Porter (773/471-5066).

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL BG CLUB: Tournaments Monday, 6:30 P.M. at Ride The Nine, 503 N. Prospect, Bloomington. Gary Daniels (309/452-3034)

SANGAMON VALLEY BG ASSN: Tournaments Wednesday, 6:00 P.M. at Brewhaus, 617 E. Washington, Springfield. Ben Zemaitis (217/483-4028).

WINNETKA BG CLUB: Tournaments Wednesday, 7:00 P.M. at Winnetka Community House, 620 Lincoln, Winnetka. Trudie Chibnik (847/446-0537).

CENTRAL ILL. BG CLUB: Tournaments 1st Thursday monthly, 6:30 P.M. at Peoria Pizza Works, 3921 Prospect., Peoria. Sue Will (309/699-6005).

SCANNING...

[Continued from page 1]

much prefers mine. However, it finds that the *best* play is 13/5. Jan rolled 4-1, hitting twice. Thomas blasted back with a hair-raising 5-5 and gammoned Jan.

The stage was set for the real battle. **With the spotlight and the heat on Jan (White), how should he play 6-5?**

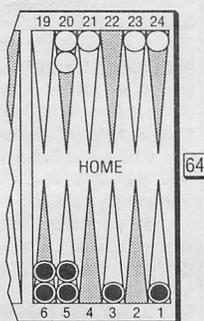
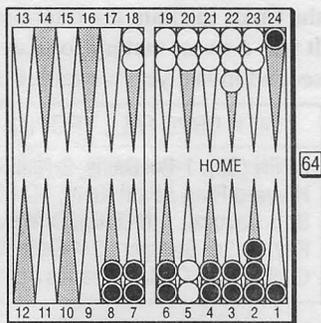
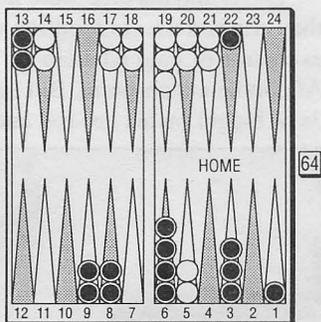
It is seldom right to break a five-prime, and I suspect most players would quickly move 14/20, 14/19 without even dreaming they might have missed something. Jan thought for a minute, then made the excellent play 14/20, 17/22*. Remember, this was in the finals of a big Jackpot, with a crowd of people breathing down his neck, and while his opponent was staging a major comeback. Fine as the play was for the young lad, it may have been wrong, but I'll get to that.

Moving right along, they arrived here:

Hard to lose from here? Even after Jan's (White's) 3-3, he showed no sign of worry. The following roll, 2-2, would have had most players tearing their hair out, and Jan's opponent, Thomas, would want that more than most. Despite the opening, Thomas danced, and Jan ran out with 5-2. Fan again, and he raced around with 5-5, correctly leaving a blot on the 17-point. This did not fare well, as Thomas came in with 6-2. Two rolls later, Jan came in himself with 6-5, was missed, and had the race in hand. Then...

Black is only 28% here, but no one told Thomas, who rolled 6-6. Jan rolled nothing of note, and after 6-4, Thomas reached out to shake hands.

Remember when I told you that Jan's great play may have been wrong? Well, the score



was 12-11, and the cube was still centered! Extra gammon losses mattered, though not if Thomas had remembered to double. The next game was routine, and Jan won the Jackpot 13-12.

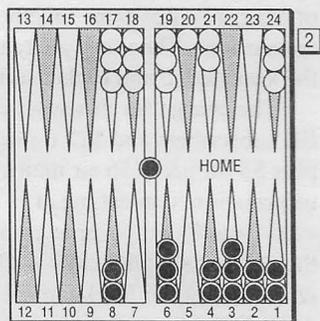
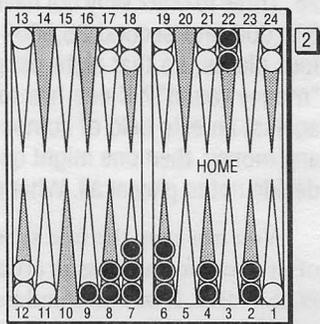
IF THERE IS a number two rated player, there must be a number one. In Sweden, number one is Jörgen Granstedt, known as Jokern. That "n" at the end signifies that he is not just "a joker," but "The Joker"!

The Joker made it to the finals of the main event, the Scandinavian Open Championship. I would have liked to have joined him there. Think of the headline: "The Jaker vs. The Joker." Sadly, it was one of those times when Fate could have used a better editor. The Joker's opponent was not me, but an English player named Ray Tennen. Ray had paid his dues getting here. Prior to this one, he had made the finals of the Nordic Open once, the Scandinavian Open once, and was a semifinalist there one other time.

Ray took a solid lead in the 21-point final. He led 20-14 in the Crawford game. A plain win by Joker made it 20-15. With The Joker needing an even number, gammons were especially valuable to him. This affected the way each player played a key number. **Here the Joker is Black, and must play 6-6:**

At other scores, simply running around to the 10-point would be correct. It wins about 5% more games for Black, and loses a few less gammons. For money, and especially at this score, Black must point on White. The running play wins about 14% gammons, while pointing wins a whopping 47%!

Of course, sometimes they come in right away on one of the high points, and maybe even hit you. Even the English, renowned for good sportsmanship, do sneaky things like that. So Joker found himself enjoying the hospitality in Ray's Heartbreak Hotel. **Now Ray (White) to play 5-2, must try to win the game without getting gammoned.**



Here's a case where knowing about match considerations was an impediment to making the right play. Though no one (I hope) would play 18/20, 19/24, it is easy to talk oneself into making the reasonably pure, blotless, broken five-prime by playing 17/22, 20/22. Unfortunately, the gammon danger risked by 18/20, 17/22 is practically non-existent, while making a solid five-prime and slotting in front of it wins a lot of games. The Joker got a quick 5, won this game and the next. After a take of the cube at 20-19, the match came down to this. **Ray (White) to play 6-4:**

Ray must have felt frazzled by now. Four times in the money in these Norse events, and once more it looked like the title was slipping away. The Joker, in addition to his obvious excellence as a player, plays at a relentless pace, and his advance on the victory seemed inexorable.

Ray's 6-4 above looks practically forced, but Ray found the "newsletter play." A newsletter play is one that, let's face it, screams to be printed in a newsletter. Well, I cannot ignore its agonizing shriek! He did it: 5/11, 19/23*. The Joker fanned with 5-3, then Ray rolled 6-4. The Joker fanned with 2-2, and it was all over. (Results merchants might plug those numbers in after the stodgier 5/15 and decide if it made any difference.)

Seconds later, at the bar, there was vigorous discussion over the merits of Ray's play. Jan Clementsson and I tried to arrange a small test with one Swedish defender of Ray's choice, our research funds against his. He backed off, pointing out that we couldn't properly duplicate the conditions as "You dance more at double matchpoint"!

Congratulations to all the winners [Printed in the November POINT], especially Ray and Jan. Thanks to Director Paul Lautrup and Malmö Backgammon President Joachim Johansson for hospitality above and beyond the call of duty. (And thanks to the lovely Lak for the Thai buffet. I really did like it better than the dinner at the Four Seasons.) See you all at the Thai Open in January. Δ

Jake Jacobs is an expert backgammon player and the author of two books. You can order them through Carol Joy Cole's "Backgammon À La Carte" by calling 810/232-9731.

'HARD LUCK STORY' CONTEST WINNERS

Rhonda Monroe wins \$100.00

Here they are. The top three hard luck stories submitted in our contest as voted by a panel of international backgammon directors/promoters.

Rhonda Monroe of Beverly Hills, Michigan wins \$100 for her submission that earned 33.5 votes from our panel. 2nd place with 31.5 votes goes to Walt Swan (Newark, NJ). In 3rd place with 27 votes is Ray Foglerlund (Taft, CA). The two runner's up will receive a one year subscription to CHICAGO POINT.

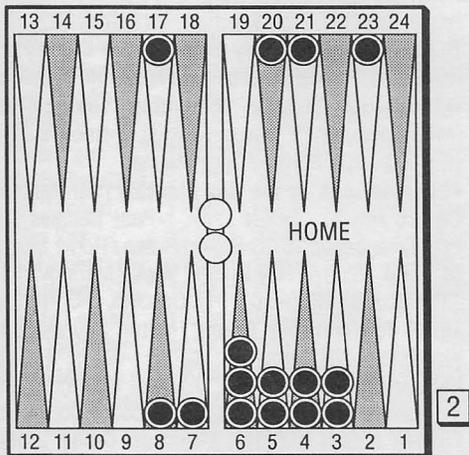
So here they are in reverse order:

3RD PLACE submitted by Ray Foglerlund

This particular story occurred in Turkey in a consolation match. I always like to tell it when folks start waxing philosophical in regards to their worst-ever hard luck backgammon story, and it always holds its own!

I had been lucky. In a Coup Classique*, I had hit both of my opponent's blots. [*A Coup Classique is where your opponent gets down to three checkers on his 2-point, you have one on his ace-point. Then he rolls a single ace to expose two checkers and you pick them both up.—Ed.] I was leading 7-4 in a 9-point match. Now, with a great chance to win the game and match, we reached the following position:

9 point match. Black (Ray Foglerlund) leads White, 7 to 4. White on roll.

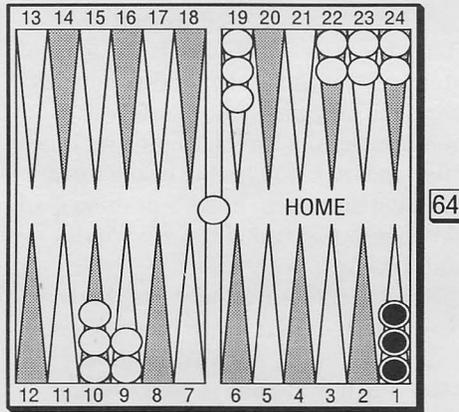


From here, White backgammoned me for the match in three rolls (2-2, 6-6, 6-6)! Note the efficiency with which he wins after this sequence. the most frustrating loss of my life!

2ND PLACE submitted by Walt Swan

Linda MacLean, playing the Black pieces, lost this position at the 1997 Michigan Summer Championships. What really makes it a hard luck story is that her opponent was on roll!

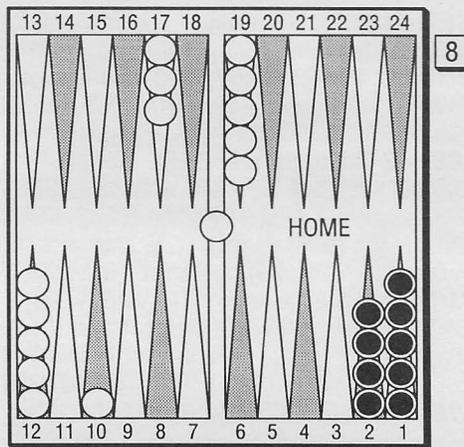
1997 Michigan Summer Championships. Linda MacLean (Black) has three checkers to bear off. White to roll.



1ST PLACE submitted by Rhonda Monroe

This hard luck story can be verified by dozens of players at the Cavendish Club in Southfield, Michigan. Joanie Ross was never in this money game against Jeff Starr, having been closed out in short order. Here's the approximate position with Joanie on roll:

Money game. Jeff Starr (Black) vs. Joanie Ross (White). White to roll.



Joanie danced, and danced, and danced, and danced while Jeff continued to bear off two men at a time until only one black checker remained. Joanie hit and was able to contain and close Jeff out. She later reshipped Jeff a painful 16-cube which he had to take.

Jeff Starr quit playing after losing this game. Many speculate that he has never played since. Δ

15 WAYS

TO IRRITATE YOUR OPPONENT

By Phil Simborg

We all know that an irritated, distracted opponent tends to play worse. Here are some "advanced" tips for you:

1. Call his worst rolls for him.
2. Call your second best roll, and if you roll your best roll, complain.
3. If he wins a game or match, tell him how lucky he was.
4. If you win a game or match, tell him how amazing it was you won with all those bad rolls.
5. Whenever he's thinking about a tough play or counting pips, tap the table impatiently, sigh heavily, and keep shaking your dice to distract him.
6. Whenever you get a perfect roll that closes him out or ends the game, pretend you don't see it right away and make the play very slowly, acting like you're thinking about doing something else.
7. Whenever he makes a daring play, like leaving a voluntary shot, or gambling for a gammon instead of doubling, and it doesn't work, be sure to tell him, "I wouldn't have done that."
8. If you gammon him, tell him he was very lucky not to get backgammoned.
9. Whenever he rolls a repeater, even when it's a terrible roll, remind him that he really should shake his dice.
10. When it's your turn and the position is critical, try to roll cocked dice three or four times in a row.
11. If you are sure you are not going to double, finger the doubling cube for a while and then change your mind.
12. Yell "YES!" whenever he rolls a really bad number.
13. Especially if you are playing with his board, eat something really messy while you play and drip food all over the checkers and the board. (If you smoke, ashes look lovely on an opponent's board.)
14. Whenever he has a forced play, tell him it's forced and move his checkers for him.
15. And lastly, if you win, be sure to report it to the tournament director in the loudest possible voice.

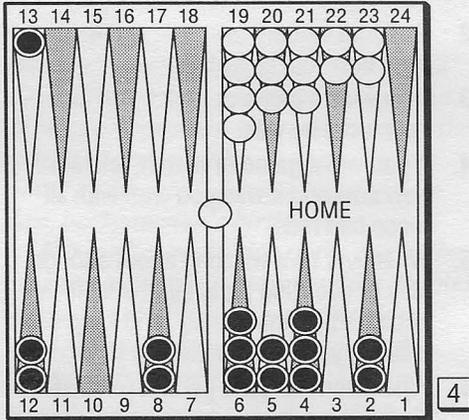
I CAN GUARANTEE you that if you use the above strategies, two things are certain:

1. You will irritate the hell our of your opponent, and;
2. You will need a good dentist. Δ

**PROBLEM #238
ANALYZED**

by Kit Woolsey

Match to 7 points. Black leads White, 4 to 1. Black has a 4-cube. **BLACK TO PLAY 3-2.**



Containing that last slippery checker can be quite difficult.

With White on the bar, Black's strong position makes him the solid favorite. Still the race is close, and if White enters quickly, it will be important for Black to build up his board. In addition, things may be complicated by the score where Black gets punished severely if he gets gammoned.

There are three obvious approaches. Black can play safe, he can slot the 9-point,

or he can slot the bar point. The best safe play must be 13/10, 12/10. 13/8 is far less flexible. If Black slots the 9-point, 13/11, 12/9 looks to be slightly better than 12/10, 12/9 simply because it gives Black some good 4s to make the bar point. After 12/10, 12/9, no 4s are good. So, the candidates are:

- 12/7
- 13/11, 12/9
- 13/10, 12/10

12/7 works very well when it works. Black has almost no bad rolls and a ton of numbers to make the bar or 3-point next turn. The only problem is those four shot numbers the slot leaves. Getting hit is near fatal, and may well lead to losing a gammon and the match. Black's position is so strong now that taking this kind of risk just isn't justified.

13/11, 12/9 leaves only two shot numbers instead of four which is considerably safer. In addition, when White throws the joker 3-6, it isn't quite as dangerous. If White next rolls a 6 without hitting, she is forced to overrun the other blot. Thus, Black will not be gammoned as often if hit compared to when he slots the bar point.

Slotting the 9-point also leaves four builders for the 3-point, which is the "big point" to make. Making the bar point will be more difficult, of course, but 13/11, 12/9 also leaves four builders for the bar point, and the nice diversification gives Black many good rolls next turn. Clearly this must be better than slotting the bar point.

The question remains: Is it necessary to leave anything at all?

13/10, 12/10 has the merit of being completely safe next roll. Black already has a decent advantage, and unless White enters immediately, it may not be necessary for Black to contain the checker. However this safe play suffers from the defect of duplicating all of Black's good numbers: aces, 3s and 5s to make the 3-point, and the same numbers to make the bar point. Granted he can probably continue to play completely safe for a while, but if White enters quickly, White can easily win the race if she gets away.

Putting it all together, it looks like we must give the nod to 13/11, 12/9. The considerable extra flexibility this play gets us more than makes up for the 17-to-1 shot White gets. Black can't just play "not to lose;" he has to play to win. 13/10, 12/10 doesn't make enough progress toward putting White away.

This problem is a good example of taking a small risk to secure a more solid advantage, while avoiding a more dangerous risk which will almost certainly win the game if it works. If Black was further ahead in the race, the safe play would be more prudent. If White had the racing lead and her board was crunched (permitting easy Black reentry), then it might be right to go all out by slotting the bar point.

In this position getting hit is fatal, but containment is still pretty important. The somewhat risky compromise play is best. Δ

**WINNER'S
CIRCLE**

Oct.-Nov. 1997

•**NEBC Sunday Monthly** (Cambridge, MA; 12 Oct.)... EXPERT (18): 1-Herb Gurland, 2-Jim Pascoe, 3/4-Norman Humer / Ed Ahola; 1C-Nora Luna, 2C-Linc Bedell. A DIV. (13): 1-Jim Glover, 2-John Lorenz, 3/4-Jim Williams / Jerry Padova; 1C-Doreen Johnson / Larry Yeager.

•**Tampere Open** (Tampere, Finland; 17-19 Oct.)... CHAMPIONSHIP (24): 1-Kai Kanerva, 2-Petter Bengtsson (SWE), 3/4-Mika Mäkinen / Tapio Palmroth. CONSOLATION (22): 1-John Rizaew, 2-Tapio Palmroth, 3/4-Jari Hämäläinen / Hannu Lyyjynen. SUPERJPT (10): 1-Mika Mäkinen, 2-Mika Inkinen, 3/4-Teppo Salo / Matti Hynninen. WARM-UP (10): 1-Marcos Giuzelis, 2-Jyri Penttilä.

•**Grand Prix de Suiss** (Lugano, Switzerland; 29 Oct.-2 Nov.)... CHAMPIONSHIP (54): 1-Ronald Reinhardt (GER), 2-Mario Sequeira (POR), 3/4-Andrea Sirch (ITA) / Giovanni Saladino (ITA); 1C-Jacques Torrione (SWIT), 2C-Carsten Joh (GER), 3C/4C-Leonid Riskin (RUS) / Dirk Schiemann (GER); 1LC-Giorgio Falcomer (ITA), 2LC-Sandro Mazza (ITA). INTERMEDIATE (23): 1-Luisa

Sequiera (POR), 2-Stephan Ackermann (SWI), 3/4-Bambi De Bruin (SPA) / Rolf Vetsch (SWIT); 1C-Demi Plesec (SLOV), 2C-Reto Arrigoni (SWIT); 1LC-Roberto Gobbo (ITA), 2LC-Richard Klein (GER). SUPERJPT (16): 1-Hendrik Muysers (GER), 2-Dirk Schiemann (GER). CONSULTING DOUBLES (8): 1-R. Klein & K. Weissbarth (GER), 2-H. Muysers & C. Leibe-Harkort (GER). TEAM EVENT (8): 1-"Sharazade" (V. Castro & C. Facchetti & Y. Akopov), 2-"Bambi" (R. Michel & M. De Bruin & B. De Bruin. VITO VIAGGI (32): 1-Olivier Egger (SWIT), 2-Sandro Mazza (ITA). SWAROVSKY (23): 1-Christian Liebe-Harkort (GER), 2-Rolf Vetsch (SWIT). 1ST MOSCOW OPEN WARM-UP (32): 1-Gianmichele D'Onofrio (ITA).

•**4th New England Championships—ABT** (South Lee, MA; 31 Oct.-2 Nov.)... OPEN (28): 1-John Mansey, 2-Jack Kissane (NY); 1C-Dan Shapiro, 2C-Doug Roberts. ADVANCED (23): 1-Rich Munitz, 2-Bob Lumbrá; 1C-Marc Gray (NY), 2C-Wally Wolf (MI). INTERMEDIATE (7): 1-Ralph Balsler, 2-Hank Antonelli. NOVICE (13): 1-Yoav Elinevsky, 2-Ruth Solomon; 1C-AI Mason.

•**BG Assoc. of South Australia 20th Anniversary** (Adelaide, S. Australia; November)... OPEN (48): 1-Chris Benham, 2-Nick Begakis, 2-Cathryn Scott ... *Nick Begakis says the next event in this "series" will be when the Association is 25 years old (2002).*

•**Springfield Series #1** (Springfield, IL; 1 Nov.)... OPEN (17): 1-Ed Zell, 2-Ed Bauder; 1C-Larry Whittenburg, 2C-Randy Armstrong; 1LC-Patrick Jaeggi.

•**19th Flint Area Club Champs** (Flint, MI; 2 Nov.) ... OPEN (28): 1-Paul Berg, 2-Norm Rivkin, 3/4-Harry Brown / Emil Mortuk. INTERM. (22): 1-Troy Longman, 2-Rudy Silich, 3-Sal Chehayeb. NOVICE (8): 1-Adam Stebbing (CAN), 2-Phil Udieme.

•**Milwaukee Sunday Bimonthly Tournament** (Milwaukee, WI; 2 Nov.)... OPEN: 1-George Barr (IL), 2/3-John Meyer / Tom Machaj.

•**Backgammon by the Bay Monthly** (San Mateo, CA; 16 Nov.)... OPEN (14): 1-Patti Beades, 2-Paul Tanenbaum; 1C/2C-Rawlin Pullen / Roger Moss. INTERM. (8): 1/2-Roy Dixon / Vesko Marinov; 1C-J.C. Dill. BEGINNER (6): 1-D. Dacosta, 2-G. Nunez.

•**BIBA Townharbour Trophy** (Milton Keynes, England; 22-23 Nov.)... OPEN (92): 1-Paul Lamford, 2-James Waite, 3-Mardi Ohannessian, 4-Thomas Connor. TOP LADY: Rosalie Johnson. FRIDAY NIGHT KO (16): 1-Michael Crane, 2-Jim Johnson. DOUBLES KO (18): 1-"Michael Hutchence & the Undertaker," 2-"Choetty Bollucks". BETTER LUCK NEXT TIME: Carl Dell.

•**1997 Twin Cities Club Championship** (Minneapolis, MN; 23 Nov.)... OPEN (11): 1-Richard Del Furia, 2-Jeff Nitschke. INTERMEDIATE (16): 1-Phil Biesanz, 2-Brian Leer. Δ

An Ode to Peter

by Laila Leonhardt

A man and a woman, husband and wife; a unity that had peacefully lived as their parents had, and their parents before, found themselves caught in the terror of war in the Ukraine.

Ihor, the husband's brother was killed by the Germans in 1941. The young couple fled down through Europe until they reached Austria. In Vienna, the first beams of happiness shone upon them: a baby girl.

Within a few years the war ended and Europe was left scattered and scarred. People separated from their families; people without a home. Nothing to go back to. The young couple from the Ukraine sought refuge in a displaced persons camp in the small city of Elvangen, Germany.

In poverty and statelessness, another beam shone upon them. A baby boy. They could offer him nothing but their love and a name: Peter Roman Ihor Kalba.

Ukrainian Priests in America sought sponsorship in even the most remote communities. Eventually, a Baptist church in Iowa took the little Kalba family under their protective wing. So the one-year-old boy child

grew up in the little town of Logan in western Iowa. It was a big happening for Logan. The Kalbas brought the little town up to an even 1000 citizens.

In 1954, the Kalbas became American citizens. Six-year-old Peter Kalba raised his hand for the oath and received a little American flag. Today Peter has gotten over his disappointment of only being able to become vice-president. "Vice-president is probably better—you don't get blamed for everything," he says, with a Kalbainian twinkle in his eye.

The little family moved to Omaha, Nebraska and then finally settled down in Denver, Colorado. Peter recalls his first love with a deep sigh. "Linda," he says softly; the last name Italian. In third grade, the cute little Italian girl conquered Peter's heart. And after seeing her at his 30-year high school reunion last year, Peter says that she's still just as cute.

The weakness for little Italian girls never

ended. Peter recalls a ballerina from high school with a smile. Now if your mother is Italian, and you seem to recognize that Kalbainian twinkle in your eye, then maybe it is time to step forward and say the long awaited word to Peter, "PAPA!"

Despite his dalliances, Peter has never been married nor has he proposed. "I was never mature enough," as he so openheartedly puts it.

The university didn't bring much challenge into the young Kalba's life. He studied as little as possible and in 1971, for the first time, he journeyed back to Europe and back to his birthplace in Elvangen.

In 1974 he moved to Chicago. After vollyball in the park, he would venture to the bars close to the park. In one of these bars, he

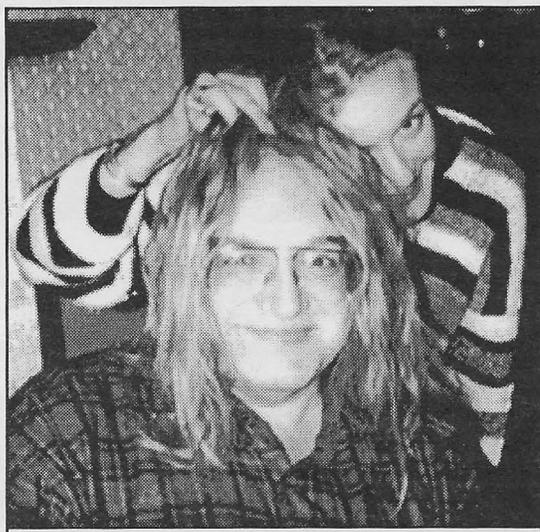
was introduced to the love of his life: backgammon. With a burning intensity, Peter describes the little bar and his first encounter with a backgammon board in 1975. "I was instantly hooked!"

Backgammon has given Peter Kalba the most memorable times of his life—the traveling, the people, the excitement. The first

Costa Rica tournament (where he was on the tournament committee) is among his most-treasured memories. The wonderful treatment and hospitality made such an impression on Peter that getting him to change the subject was a true challenge.

Also memorable was conducting the Calcutta Auction in Athens, Greece. There he used some key Greek phrases and even donned a fez to put the local players in a relaxed mood. What a surprise to see his picture on the front page of Athen's largest newspaper the next day!

Peter sighs with a satisfied look on his face, as his mind wanders back on all the many wonderful memories backgammon has given him. Peter Kalba is not just an everyday mortgage broker from Chicago. He is a bon vivant, a dreamer who lives his dream, an adorable guy who adds more than a little extra to the world backgammon scene. Δ

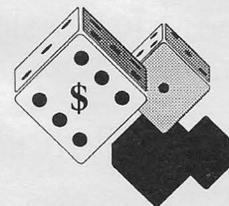


It's Peter Kalba, hiding under Laila's hair!

AMALGAMATION

Visiting the Bar Point Club in November: **David Groner** (IN)... Oops! **Harry Cohn's** excellent analysis of Problem #237 was marred because your editor typed "Black to play 6-5" instead of "Black to play 5-5." Hope you readers were able to figure it out... Wisconsin to Ohio: **Mick Dobratz**. Chicago to Las Vegas (for 1/2 year): **Bobbie Shifrin**... Because Arlington Race Track is closed, Hawthorne Race Track will be taking over the summer card. That means no Hawthorne Backgammon Classic this January. It will be shifted to the summer months... Best wishes to **Phyllis Smolinski** as her husband continues to recover from a heart attack... The US Tournament Rules and Procedures have not been altered since 1990. Now **Butch Meese** is collecting suggestions for a 1998 update. Call (317/255-8902) or e-mail (meese@worldnet.att.net) with your ideas by 15 December... **Bob Neumann** (RAN) dice cups are considered tops in the United States. Now **Svilen Todorov** (Bulgaria) claims he makes the world's best cups and he'll award a free pair of dice cups for useful suggestions. E-mail Svilen Todorov at gammon@mbox.digsys.bg or fax him at 359-2-723612 for the details... Kudos to **Peter Kalba** who gave a great interview to the Chicago Sun-Times regarding the Bar Point Club and it's players on 28 Nov... Cruise in January! See page 3 for details. Δ

Find out why they call us
"The Hospitality Specialists."



**20th Annual Pittsburgh
Backgammon Championships**

February 13-15, 1998

Pittsburgh Greentree Marriott Hotel

Featuring 1997 ABT Awards Ceremony



For an invite, call:

Steve Hast
(412) 823-7500

pghsteve@telerama.lm.com

Get Ready for the World's Best Tournament!

The Conrad International Istanbul Hotel & Casino proudly presents...

WORLD CUP CHALLENGE IV 1998 BACKGAMMON CHAMPIONSHIP

12-18 January 1998

Conrad International Istanbul Hotel & Casino
Istanbul, Turkey

World's Highest Added Money Prize

\$50,000.00 Added

Estimated First Prize: \$80,000.00

Visit our tournament website: <http://homepage.interaccess.com/~chipoint/turkey.html>

World's Giant Jackpot

and Warm-up Tourney

9-12 January 1998

Giant Jackpot 1st Prize: **\$100,000.00***

**Based on 32 entries at \$5,000 per entry.*

Tournament Particulars

World Cup IV Entry fees:

Championship \$800

Intermediate \$400

Beginner \$200

Discount Travel Rates

PEDROZA TRAVEL CENTER

Cecilia Pedroza, President

369 Fairfax Avenue, Suite 7

Los Angeles, CA 90036

800/237-1597 • 213/651-1931

Fax: 213/651-1982



Tournament Director

Abraham Eitan

Tel.: 972-3-672 7063

Fax: 972-3-672 8918

Mobile: 972-52-581329

To receive an invitation, telephone

CHICAGO POINT at 773/583-6464.

E-mail: chipoint@interaccess.com

Conrad-Istanbul Hotel & Casino

- The finest hotel in Istanbul, Turkey
- Superb rooms and facilities
- Health club, indoor/outdoor pools
- Award-winning restaurants
- High action Casino

Reduced Room Rates

\$125/night, single or double occ.*

(Please mention the tournament. The regular room rate is \$220/night.)

**\$120 room rates available if you reserve at least 30 days in advance of tournament.*

Registration must be made directly through the Conrad-Istanbul Hotel:

Tel: 90-212-227 3000

Fax: 90-212-259 6667