

2000 las vegas open

## BALBI BESTS LIDOV

Attendance Tops 400 in Las Vegas

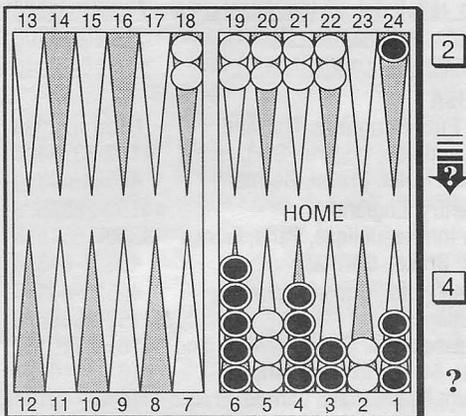
For those of you who think online backgammon will be the death of live backgammon tournaments, think again. Over 400 players (including 74 beginners) reveled in the 29 Nov.–3 Dec. action provided by Nevada Backgammon Association director Howard Markowitz and staff at the 2000 Las Vegas Open. The event was held at Harrah's Hotel/Casino in the heart of the Strip and was clearly the most successful Vegas tournament since Markowitz took over Nevada backgammon in 1991.

The 164-player Championship field was a veritable who's who of backgammon. After seven rounds of play, Brazilian expert Armando Balbi and US master Mika Lidov were still standing.

The 17-point match was initially close. Then in the position shown below, Balbi, trailing 5–6, offered a 4-cube to Lidov. Mika's decision was needless-to-say, critical:

17-point Las Vegas Open finals. Mika Lidov (Black) leads Armando Balbi (White), 6 to 5. White doubles.

### SHOULD BLACK TAKE?



Lidov eventually accepted the dangerous redouble, partly on the strength of her 79–156 racing lead. It turned out to be the wrong decision both according to Snowie and JellyFish computer analyses, but more importantly, with regard to the result: Balbi won a gammon to take a 13–6 lead and



The Las Vegas Open finals: Armando Balbi vs. Mika Lidov. [Photo by Diane Varner of BackgammonCentral.com]

never looked back.

Special congrats to the two \$3,000 Super Jackpot winners: Nack Ballard (CA) and Gyl Savoie (NJ). Results follow. Δ

### LAS VEGAS OPEN

CHAMPIONSHIP (164): 1-Armando Balbi (Brazil), 2-Mika Lidov (NY), 3/4-Thomas Jespersen (Denmark) / Ron Reinhardt (Denmark); 1C-Mike Senkiewicz (NY), 2C-Andreas Martens (Germany), 3C/4C-Rick Barabino (NY) / Peter Sarzynski (Germany); 1LC-Nack Ballard (CA), 2LC-Martine Oules (NV). INTERMEDIATE (149): 1-Curtis Lucas (TX), 2-Cam Trenor (WA), 3/4-Oliver Fink (CA) / Scott Cole (NV); 1C-Moses Magaña (El Salvador), 2C-Simon Woodhead (AUS), 3C/4C-Ralph Eskinazi (UK) / Al Lunder (WA); 1LC-Henning Frick (Germany), 2LC-Justin Bor (NY). BEGINNER (74): 1-Robert Fulop (CA), 2-Kent Allen (CO); 1C-Mario Savan (CA), 2-Martin Short; 1LC-Claudia Imatt (CA), 2LC-Ali Avcioglu (CA). SUPER JACKPOT #1: 1-Nick Ballard (CA), 2-Talmadge Tinsley (TX). SUPER JACKPOT #2: 1-Gyl Savoie (NJ), 2-Mike Svobodny (NY). LIMITED JACKPOT #1: 1-Julian Schulman (NJ), 2-Ernie McCombs (TX). LIMITED JACKPOT #2: 1-Bob Wilensky (GA), 2-Rainer Witt (Germany). SPECIAL SATURDAY \$500 : 1-Dirk Schiemann (Germany), 2-Alan Grunwald (NJ). BLITZ (512) : 1-Mark Ferrin (OR), 2-Sam Ahmed (CA). SENIORS (128) : 1-Andreas Kourouklis (Greece), 2-Bear Reeves (VT). MINI-MATCH (256) : 1-Judy Collins (CA), 2-Kaji Yoshitaka (JPN), 3/4-Jeremy Kirkpatrick (CA) / Henning Frick (Germany). DOUBLES (64) : 1-Bob Glass & Steve Sax (CA), 2-Martin Short & Thomas Hanlon (CT). AFTER TOURNAMENT TOURNAMENT \$50 : 1-David Rockwell (IL), 2-Bob Glass (CA). AFTER TOURNAMENT TOURNAMENT \$20 : 1-Emil Sepasy (CA), 2-Chris Wilson (IL).

## ABT 2000 Player of the Year: Bob Bishop



Bob Bishop of Long Island, New York, coupled two strong finishes in Pittsburgh and Michigan to earn 35.99 points and win 2000 American Backgammon Tour Player of the Year honors. Bishop, a 20+ year veteran of the game, won the title in the closest finish ever when a late surge by Sam Pottle of Madison, Wisconsin fell short of the glory by less than one point.

It was an impressive performance for Bob who entered only three ABT events in 2000. He won the Pittsburgh Championships in February. Then in July, he reached the finals of the biggest ABT event of the year: Michigan Summer Championships to earn a combined total of 35.99 points.

Pottle collected points at the Midwest Championships (1st-Last Chance), Chicago Open (1st-Cons.), and Michigan Summer Championships (3rd/4th-Cons.), before winning the last ABT tournament of the year, the Ace Point Club New Year's event, 30–31 Dec. in snowbound New York City. Sam's victory gave him a total 35.03 points, just 0.96 points short of Bishop's final figure. The record NYC snowfall which cut the Ace Point Open attendance to 24 players, made it impossible for Pottle to win it all.

New York master Mike Senkiewicz finished 3rd earning all of his 27.33 points by defeating Bishop in Michigan.

Asked about his reasons for success, Bob replied: "I was successful probably because I didn't play in a tournament for three years prior to Pittsburgh. When I play too many matches, I lose patience. I believe patience is what is needed to win tournaments."

2000's ABT Top-3 will be honored with marble trophies in Pittsburgh 16–18 February. Pittsburgh director Steve Hast expects another sellout crowd for the 2001 kickoff event as the ABT rolls into its 9th season.

[Final 2000 ABT standings are on page 3.] Δ

# CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

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## LETTERS

c/o CHICAGO POINT

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## SMOKING AD TOO TANTALIZING

As a recent ex-smoker, let me say I was thoroughly perplexed and disappointed to see your inclusion of a 1930's cigarette ad on the back page of the Nov./Dec. CHICAGO POINT. It is tough enough for an ex-smoker to quit and still play a gambling game without the gratuitous inclusion of an attractive 70-year-old ad promoting smoking, especially when it seems that most players are non-smokers and most tournaments now encourage non-smoking policies.

There are many pictures far more worthwhile for that space (mine perhaps). This picture clearly perpetuates the myth that smoking is cool and glamorous. If I start smoking again, it's all your fault! What were you thinking, Chipoint?—*Bob Zavoral, Chicago, IL*

*Bob Zavoral started smoking again in December.—Ed.*

[Continued on page 3]

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR



by Carol Joy Cole

810/232-9731

[cjc@tir.com](mailto:cjc@tir.com)

\* Denotes new or revised listing

American Backgammon Tour events underlined.

### NATIONAL

Jan 11	Flint Area Club 2000 Awards Tournament, Days Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Jan 13*	Rochester Monthly Tournament, Bagel Bin Café, Rochester, NY	716/461-2619
Jan 14*	Menthor Cup 2001, GamesGrid, via computer	<a href="mailto:menthor@4gammon.com">menthor@4gammon.com</a>
Jan 14	New England Club Monthly, Holiday Inn, Somerville, MA	781/938-7852
Jan 14*	Northern Ohio Club Monthly, Thirsty Dog Brewery, Canton, OH	330/966-2811
Jan 18	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Days Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Jan 20*	Redwood Empire Club Monthly, Embassy Suites, San Rafael, CA	707/824-9715
Jan 21*	Milwaukee Club Monthly, John Hawks Pub, Milwaukee, WI	414/355-5562
Jan 27*	Atlanta Awards Tournament, Tony's American Grille, Roswell, GA	770/333-1876
Jan 28*	Ace Point Club Monthly Tournament, Ace Point Club, New York, NY	212/753-0842
Feb 1*	Official GamesGrid Monthly Tournament, via computer	<a href="mailto:tournaments@cyberarts.com">tournaments@cyberarts.com</a>
Feb 3	Springfield Series #4, Ride the Nine, Bloomington, IL	217/528-0117
Feb 3*	Universal Mall Bimonthly Tourney, All the King's Men, Warren, MI	810/558-4790
Feb 4	21st Illinois State Challenge Cup, Ride the Nine, Bloomington, IL	773/583-6464
Feb 4*	Northern Ohio Club Monthly, Thirsty Dog Brewery, Canton, OH	330/966-2811
Feb 11	Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Anyway's Grill, Oakbrook Terrace, IL	773/252-7755
Feb 11	New England Club Monthly, Holiday Inn, Somerville, MA	781/938-7852
Feb 15*	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament, Days Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Feb 16-18	<u>23rd Pittsburgh Championships, Greentree Radisson, Pittsburgh, PA</u>	<u>412/823-7500</u>
Feb 16-18	Vegas Backgammon Madness II, Orleans Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, NV	661/275-5769
Feb 17*	Redwood Empire Club Monthly, Embassy Suites, San Rafael, CA	707/824-9715
Feb 25*	Ace Point Club Monthly Tournament, Ace Point Club, New York, NY	212/753-0842
Feb 28-Mar 4*	Pro-Am Doubles & Amateur Jackpot, MGM Grand Hotel, Las Vegas, NV	702/893-6025
Mar 1*	Official GamesGrid Monthly Tournament, via computer	<a href="mailto:tournaments@cyberarts.com">tournaments@cyberarts.com</a>
Mar 3	Springfield Series #5, Parker's Sports Bar, Springfield, IL	217/528-0117
Mar 3*	Colorado State Championship, Arthritis Office Bldg., Denver, CO	719/574-5598
Mar 4*	Northern Ohio Club Monthly, Thirsty Dog Brewery, Canton, OH	330/966-2811
Mar 17*	Redwood Empire Club Monthly, Embassy Suites, San Rafael, CA	707/824-9715
Mar 18	New England Club Monthly, Holiday Inn, Somerville, MA	781/938-7852
Mar 18*	18th Fleet Underwood Memorial & Benefit, Holiday Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Mar 25*	Ace Point Club Monthly Tournament, Ace Point Club, New York, NY	212/753-0842
Mar 31*	Atlanta Open Doubles/Singles, Tony's American Grille, Roswell, GA	770/333-1876
Mar 23-25	<u>2001 Midwest Championships, Radisson Hotel Lisle-Naperville, Lisle, IL</u>	<u>773/583-6464</u>
Apr 6-8*	<u>47th Gammon Associates Invitational, A.R. Private Club, Los Angeles, CA</u>	<u>818/901-0464</u>
Apr 7*	Springfield Series #6, Ride the Nine, Bloomington, IL	217/528-0117
Apr 8*	Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Anyway's Grill, Oakbrook Terrace, IL	773/252-7755
Apr 21*	Springfield Series Grand Finale, Parker's Sports Bar, Springfield, IL	217/528-0117
May 25-28	<u>22nd Chicago Open, Wyndham NW Chicago Hotel, Itasca, IL</u>	<u>702/893-6025</u>
Jun 27*	Michigan Summer Warm-Up, Novi Hilton, Novi, MI	810/232-9731
Jun 28-Jul 1	<u>Michigan Summer Championships, Novi Hilton, Novi, MI</u>	<u>810/232-9731</u>
Aug 3-5	<u>Thousand Islands Tournament, Pine Tree Point, Alexandria Bay, NY</u>	<u>716/387-0767</u>
Aug 9-12	<u>Georgia State Championships &amp; Peach Cup, Hilton Garden Inn, Atlanta, GA</u>	<u>770/333-1876</u>
Aug 31-Sep 3	<u>49th Indiana Open, Sheraton Hotel &amp; Suites, Indianapolis, IN</u>	<u>317/255-8902</u>
Sep 21-23*	<u>Florida State Championships, Sheraton Suites, Ft. Lauderdale, FL</u>	<u>954/564-0340</u>

### OUTSIDE USA

Jan 18-28	2nd South Pattaya Cup, 19th Hole Super Pub, Nongprue, Thailand	6638-428293
Jan 25-28	Principe Leopoldo 2001 Challenge, Villa Leopoldo, Lugano, Switzerland	4179-3374425
Jan 27-28*	1st & 2nd Ranglistenturnier, Kaiserbrunnen Hotel, Brakel, Germany	49521-64314
Feb 10-11	Jarvis Trophy, Hilton National Hotel, Coventry, England	44152-2888676
Feb 12-18	Paris Master & Open Tournament, Holiday Inn Republique, Paris, France	33607-551516
Feb 16-18*	6th Warsteiner Cup, Kaiserbrunnen Hotel, Brakel, Germany	49521-64314
Mar 3-4*	3rd & 4th Ranglistenturnier, Kaiserbrunnen Hotel, Brakel, Germany	49521-64314
Mar 3-4	Slattery Scottish Open, East Kilbride, Scotland	44152-2888676
Mar 11-14	37th Championships & Ted Basset Cup, Palace Hotel, Gstaad, Switzerland	4161-2710137
Mar 15-18	27th Winter Championships, Palace Hotel, St. Moritz, Switzerland	4161-2710137
Mar 22-25*	Cannes International Festival of Games, Palm Beach Hotel, Cannes, France	4161-2710137
Mar 24-25*	Casino Turnering, Århus Backgammon Klub, Århus, Denmark	4586-196329
Apr 7-8*	British Open, Hilton National Hotel, Coventry, England	44152-2888676
Apr 12-16	13th Nordic "Wide" Open, Hotel Marienlyst, Helsingør, Denmark	4533-363601
May 1-6*	7th EBN May Day Backgammon & Gin Rummy Tourney, San Roque, Spain	34950-133009
May 11-13*	Oslo Open 2001, Vika Atrium, Oslo, Norway	4722-360966
Jun 1-4*	7th Kaiserbrunnen Cup, Kaiserbrunnen Hotel, Brakel, Germany	49521-64314
Jul 5-8*	13th City of Venice International Tournament, Lido, Venice, Italy	3941-5900769
Jul 9-15*	World Championship, Grand Hotel, Monte Carlo, Monaco	USA contact: 954/527-4033
Jul 18-22*	Grand Prix de Lugano, Hotel Splendide Royal, Lugano, Switzerland	4179-3374425

## CRUISE FUN

Just wanted to tell you what a great time Rhonda and I had on the recent Backgammon On Board cruise. As usual, the tournaments were very professionally organized

and directed. Having directed many chess tournaments in my younger days including a Wisconsin State Championship, I know that it is a lot more work than meets the eye and that you can never please everybody,

but I think you came damn close on this one. Now if only I'd had better dice against Kit!—*Fred Gehlhoff, Kingsford, MI*

*Fred finished second to Kit in the Caribbean Jackpot. For more about the cruise, see page 8.—Ed.*

I'm requesting info on backgammon cruises in 2001.—*Cam Trenor, Bellevue, WA.*

*You just missed our most recent one, Cam. Cruise Consultants agent Sue Will is working on a 2002 Backgammon On Board VI with Bermuda as a possible port of call.—Ed.*

## NEW CLOCK RULES

Happy New Year! I visited your website and saw the new Clock Rules for the Bar Point Club [See p. 4—Ed.]. I like most of the changes and will probably incorporate them into our Gammon Associates events.

I am interested in what data you used to determine the clock-table? Are the new numbers (e.g. 54 minutes for a 9-point match vs. the previous 45 minutes) based on tournament experiences, or perhaps from other clubs or events in the US and abroad? I have found that the old numbers have proven to be very fair in our weekly events (5- & 7-point matches).

Also, I am curious as to the impact of your rules that award "2-points" for the first violation of a player's clock vs. our local us of only 1-point for all violations.—*Patrick Gibson, director, Gammon Associates, Los Angeles, CA*

[Continued on page 9]

# AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 2000

Top 100—Final Standings after 15 tournaments  
156 players earned points

<b>Bob Bishop</b> 35.99	Chris Wilson 9.62	Walt Swan 5.47	Wendy Kaplan 3.65
<b>Sam Pottle</b> 35.03	Renée Rosenbloom 9.50	Phyllis Smolinski 5.25	Mike Thundstrom 3.64
<b>Mike Senkiewicz</b> 27.33	Sean Garber 9.10	Mark Anshus 5.20	Steve Michelson 3.53
Paul Weaver 23.53	Sal Chehayeb 8.81	Stan Livingston 5.18	Ellen Allen 3.47
Paul Franks 22.88	Bill Tallmadge 8.78	Scott Sevel 5.18	Jim Slomkoski 3.45
Doug Roberts 21.83	Milad Doueihy 8.41	Ron Sanders 5.17	Ralph Dietz 3.42
Mike Sharp 18.18	Bill Robertie 8.33	Timothy Jaxon 5.00	David Todd 3.42
Mike Ungerleider 16.36	Jack Takala 8.33	Steve Kovach 5.00	Adam Versaw 3.40
Hugh McNeil 16.05	Walter Trice 7.92	Alan Gaarder 5.00	Bob Green 3.30
Len Dangremond 15.98	Doug Mayfield 7.27	Guy Nicosia 5.00	Perry Firooz 3.27
Roy Appy 15.46	Jeff Burdsall 7.27	Matt Reklaitis 5.00	Tom Leahy 3.21
George Barr 15.39	Jeb Horton 7.22	Robert Schumacher 4.75	Jim Price 3.20
Bob Zavoral 13.89	Eliot Bean 6.91	Jake Jacobs 4.68	Ed Johnson 3.00
Herb Gurland 13.64	Dave Wetzell 6.85	Steve Flam 4.60	Abbas Zaltash 2.94
Ed Zell 13.29	Neil Kazaross 6.84	Bob Wilensky 4.60	Jerry Soskin 2.94
Mike Friedman 13.22	Paul Berg 6.75	Steve Bromfield 4.38	Nancy Takala 2.65
Joe Ausmann 11.44	Jona Alexander 6.55	Roz Ferris 4.37	Kate Elmore 2.61
Jeff Kane 11.40	Bob Glass 6.55	Andy Rubien 4.29	Bill Versaw 2.53
Dion Hogan 11.35	Carl Sorg 6.47	Michael Meyburg 4.29	Gary Fries 2.50
Jeremy Bagai 11.35	Drew Giovanis 6.01	Bill Davis 4.20	Phil Michelson 2.50
Fred Kalantari 11.00	Steve Sax 5.88	Bruce Russell 4.20	Richard Armbruster 2.42
Hugh Sconyers 10.92	Jacque Lee 5.83	Laila Leonhardt 4.16	Chris Rosin 2.42
John Grecni 10.75	Steve Maas 5.60	Linda Rockwell 4.16	Elayne Feinstein 2.40
Andy Palumbo 10.59	Richard Del Furia 5.50	Garo Tchalabian 3.78	Gayle Wolf 2.38
Ray Baker 10.40	Art Moore 5.50	Ed King 3.68	James Roston 2.30

## CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB 2000 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

FINAL STANDINGS  
90 players earned pts.

<b>Tim Carroll</b> 24.72	Paul Klein 6.24	Matt Surekci 1.92	George Marasas 0.64
<b>Tim Mabee</b> 23.32	Don Jayhan 6.08	Sakura Wells 1.92	Bobbie Shifrin 0.64
<b>Herb Roman</b> 20.56	Phil Simborg 5.72	Bob Gekas 1.84	Howard Chow 0.60
<b>Jake Jacobs</b> 18.40	Norma Shyer 5.48	Brian Barber 1.80	John Meyers 0.56
<b>Joe Wollick</b> 17.76	Bill Keefe 5.32	Reginald Porter 1.68	Glenn Martells 0.56
<b>Phyllis Smolinski</b> 13.80	David Araiza 5.26	Wendy Kaplan 1.60	Richard Stawowy 0.56
<b>Harold Elgazar</b> 13.32	Bob Stein 5.04	Roger Hickman 1.40	Jeff Fischer 0.48
<b>Tak Morioka</b> 13.12	Joann Feinstein 5.00	John Brussel 1.36	Dimitri Giannakopoulos 0.48
<b>Ken Bond</b> 12.96	Richard Lloyd 4.56	Ralph Byrns 1.28	Mark Murray 0.40
<b>Paul Franks</b> 12.16	J.A. Miller 4.56	Arline Levy 1.28	Sam Pottle 0.40
<b>Marc Rosset</b> 10.76	Georgina Flanagan 4.08	Yamin Yamin 1.28	Roger Blaine 0.36
<b>Bob Zavoral</b> 10.16	Paul Baraz 4.00	Chris Wilson 1.12	Mike Anderson 0.34
<b>Carter Mattig</b> 9.60	Alice Kay 3.84	Jerry Brooks 1.08	Brooke Gottshall 0.32
<b>Mike Sutton</b> 9.36	Bill Davis 3.80	Mike Cyrkiel 0.88	Jim Roland 0.24
<b>Gary Kay</b> 8.48	Romeo Kap 3.76	Dave Cramer 0.88	Joe Szwedo 0.20
<b>Mary Franks</b> 8.00	Paul Lombardo 3.68	Scott Richardson 0.88	Ann Thomas 0.16
<b>Bill Bartholomay</b> 7.92	Peter Kalba 2.96	Shah Dogan 0.88	Brian Kozin 0.16
<b>Sinan Yoyen</b> 7.76	John Jennings 2.80	David Wells 0.88	Jim Anderson 0.16
<b>Steve Klesker</b> 7.68	Elaine Kehm 2.58	Frank Talbot 0.88	Tom Machaj 0.12
<b>Ed Buerger</b> 7.30	Rodney Bell 2.28	Wayne Wiest 0.88	Bob Sexton 0.12
Joe Ausmann 7.12	Andy Natale 2.20	Bridget McCoy 0.80	Steve Neidecker 0.12
Paul Friedman 6.32	Keith Kuligowski 2.12	Jill Ferdinand 0.80	Jon Sion 0.08
Val Zimnicki 6.32	Harry Cohn 1.92		

November's Player of the Month was **TIM MABEE** (5.36). Runner's up were Tak Morioka (3.44) and J.A. Miller (2.76).

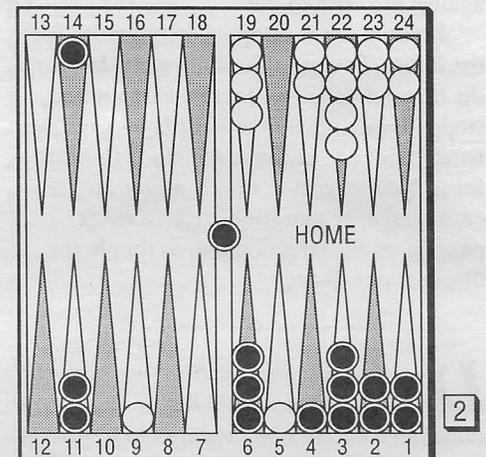
December's Player of the Month was **MARC ROSSET** (3.68). Bill Bartholomay (2.48) finished second and Joe Wollick (2.08) was third.

your move

## PROBLEM #269

to be analyzed by Dorn Bishop

Match to 7 points. Black leads White 6 to 1. **BLACK TO PLAY 5-2.**



# SHADES OF GRAY

## A RULES AND RULINGS COLUMN

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### COCKED DICE AND CELL PHONES

**D**ear Danny: I have a beautiful Tak Morioka backgammon board that I enjoy greatly. However, its padded fabric surface occasionally causes a precision die to land balanced on a beveled corner. That's usually simply another case of "cocked dice," but last night as I reached to pick up such a cocked die, it toppled before my fingers could touch it. Should the die still have been treated as "cocked," or should the roll have counted?

That raises another question. How long may the roller wait for an apparently "cocked" die to fall before judging it cocked? Golfers use a "Ten Second Rule" to wait for a lipped putt to drop. Should we have such a rule in backgammon?—*Aesthetic Esther*

**DEAR ESTHER:** We don't need a "Ten Second Rule" for cocked dice in backgammon. Such a rule would slow the game down unnecessarily for the vast majority of players who do not use a Taki board like yours. Rather, just as in organized baseball, which uses not only rules applicable to all playing fields but "Ground Rules" geared to the eccentricities of particular stadia, you and others who enjoy the beauty of your Taki board should adopt a "board rule" for the unusual cocked dice that occur from time to time.

Lacking such a rule in the case you describe, I would deem the act of reaching for the cocked die to establish it as cocked, thus requiring a reroll. This avoids arguments as to whether a finger, or a shirtsleeve, may have brushed lightly against the cocked die.

If you want to adopt a "board rule" for the future, I suggest the following. Let a die be established as cocked when it has stopped moving, and either player says the word "cocked" or the roller starts to reach for it. Neither player may wait for an earthquake, or vibrations from a truck passing on the street below, to topple the die.—*Yours, Danny*

**D**ear Danny: Should directors bar cellular phones from the backgammon playing room? It's bad enough to be distracted by a kibitzer's ringing phone, but

when my opponent answers his cell phone in the midst of our match, that's too much.

Do you think the rules need to be rewritten to say something about this? When I looked up the rules online at [www.chicagopoint.com/usrules.html](http://www.chicagopoint.com/usrules.html), I found no mention of cellular phones.—*Distractible Don*

**DEAR DON:** Yes and no.

Yes, directors should bar cellular phones, except for use by emergency personnel such as physicians and firefighters. One of the jobs of directors and sponsoring organizations is to provide pleasant and appropriate playing facilities, which means comfortable, well-lit, quiet and smoke-free . . . to the extent practical. However, compromises are often necessary. If for reasons of availability, economy or convenience, a backgammon tournament must be held in a noisy restaurant, bar or clubhouse, that's an unpleasant distraction the players must endure equally. What a director can eliminate are distractions caused by players, and the use of cell phones falls under his purview.

No, Backgammon Tournament Rules should not include a rule so specific. Such a rule is more akin to a "Ground Rule" than a rule of the game, and would require repeated amendment as new devices and technologies proliferated. Moreover, the rule, even with an exception for emergency personnel, would be a bad one. What if a tournament were to be held in a park, on a beach, or in some other locale that could not be reached via ordinary telephone calls? It is desirable that some means of communication with players be available for necessary and reasonable purposes, and no specific rule can be adequate.

Rule 1.7 of the tournament rules you found on the CHICAGO POINT'S website already protects you against kibitzers with cell phones, however. You may request a director to bar a kibitzer who distracts you by making or receiving phone calls, or by any other means.

Notice that the director may exercise discretion in granting such a request. For pretty women are the greatest distraction of all. You wouldn't want an opponent to be able to bar a pretty woman from kibitzing on that ground alone, would you?—*Yours, Danny*

*Have you ever been involved in a questionable ruling? Get Danny Kleinman's opinion. Write to: Shades of Gray; c/o CHICAGO POINT; 3940 W. Bryn Mawr Ave. 504; Chicago, IL 60659-3155 or e-mail: [bg@chicagopoint.com](mailto:bg@chicagopoint.com).*

## BACKGAMMON CLOCK RULES UPDATED

**T**he Chicago Bar Point Club has adopted new Backgammon Clock Rules effective January 2001. The changes were initiated as a direct result of Atlanta Backgammon Association Director Dave Cardwell's September 2000 letter to CHICAGO POINT. All of Cardwell's suggestions have effectively been incorporated into the rules:

**1. The minutes to be placed on each player's clock increase from 5 minutes per point to 6 minutes per point.**

Thus, for a 9-point match, each player will now receive 54 minutes on the clock instead of the previous 45 minutes. Cardwell used a blanket increase of 10 minutes per match; however, this new per-minute scale will lengthen the clock time in proportion to the length of the match.

**2. No player may refuse an opponent's concession for the maximum possible number of points.**

Previously, a player could compel his opponent to roll out a game to completion, even after a particular outcome was certain. This wasted time, thus defeating the purpose of the clock.

**3. In any game whose outcome will always end the match (e.g. double match-point), time limits no longer apply; however, players will continue to hit the clock to indicate completion of a turn.**

This eliminates some clock "gamesmanship" and ensures that close matches will be decided by the play, not the clock.

Perhaps when more people become comfortable with backgammon clock play, the time limits can be reduced to 5 minutes per point again. But for now, with more events utilizing clocks, it's important to create clock rules that don't confuse or intimidate first-time users. We believe Dave Cardwell's tournament-tested revisions are a major step in that direction. [To view the revised clock rules, go to the website: [www.chicagopoint.com/bgclockrules.html](http://www.chicagopoint.com/bgclockrules.html). The 2001 Midwest Championships will use time clocks for all Grand Crystal Beaver matches. A clock will also be used in the semifinals and finals of the Championship and Advanced divisions.—Ed.] Δ

CHICAGO POINT's 2001 Listing of...

# Backgammon Clubs in North America

Information for this listing has been obtained directly from the featured backgammon clubs. Changes are inevitable and we suggest that you always call before attending. CHICAGO POINT would like to maintain an accurate listing of USA Backgammon Clubs online at: [www.chicagopoint.com/usclubs.html](http://www.chicagopoint.com/usclubs.html). Please send club information, including new clubs and club closings and updates to: **CHICAGO POINT; 3940 W. Bryn Mawr 504; Chicago, IL 60659. 773/583-6464. Fax: 773/583-3264. E-mail: [bg@chicagopoint.com](mailto:bg@chicagopoint.com)**

## WEST

CLUB NAME	LOCATION	CITY & STATE	MEETING DAY & TIME	CONTACT [E-MAIL]	TELEPHONE	MAIL INQUIRIES TO
Phoenix Backgammon Club	George & Dragon Pub	Phoenix, AZ	Tuesday-7:00 PM	David Hilton (davnh@aol.com)	602/265-1992	751 W. Camelback Road; Phoenix, AZ 85013
Backgammon Club of San Diego	Embassy Suites Hotel	La Jolla, CA	Tuesday-6:00 PM	Ed Baize (ebaize@bd.com)	858/457-2273	3430 Via Alicante; La Jolla, CA 92037
Gammon Associates	A.R. Private Club	Los Angeles, CA	Sunday-2:00 PM	Patrick Gibson (pgibson@concentric.net)	818/901-0464	7641 Orion Avenue; Van Nuys, CA 91406
"	Acapulco Cantina	Burbank, CA	Tuesday-6:00 PM	"	"	"
Backgammon By The Bay	TGI Friday's	Oakland, CA	2nd Sunday monthly-12:30 PM	Beth Skillman (beth@backgammon.org)	831/688-9722	308 Arthur Avenue; Aptos, CA 95003
Redwood Empire BG Association	Embassy Suites Hotel	San Rafael, CA	2nd Tue-6:30 PM, 3rd Sat-10:30 AM	Timothy Jaxon (jaxon@sonic.net)	707/824-9715	7171 E. Hurlbut Ave., Sebastopol, CA 95472
"	Clo's Parkside Grill	Santa Rosa, CA	Last Tuesday-6:30 PM	"	"	"
Rocky Mountain Backgammon Club	The Arthritis Foundation	Denver, CO	Sunday bimonthly-12:00 PM	Charlie Raichle (charlier@earthlink.net)	719/574-5598	4725 Keith Court; Colorado Springs, CO 80916
Aloha State Backgammon Club	Elks Club	Honolulu, HI	1st Friday monthly-6:00 PM	George Quillin (georgeQ@hawaii.rr.com)	808/922-2674	2999 Kalakaua; Honolulu, HI 96815
"	Coffee Talk	Honolulu, HI	Last 3 Fri. monthly-7:30 PM	"	"	"
Backgammon Club of Las Vegas	Elks Lodge	Las Vegas, NV	Tuesday-7:00 PM	Michael Maxakuli (vpwoman27@aol.com)	702/458-9359	311 Pecos Way; Las Vegas, NV 89121
Nevada Backgammon Association	Various Vegas Strip hotels	Las Vegas, NV	March, June & December	Howard Markowitz (howard1@lvcm.com)	702/893-6025	2620 S. Maryland Pkwy, Box 230; Las Vegas, NV 89109
Puget Sound Backgammon Club	Wizards	Burien, WA	Tuesday-7:30 PM	Ruth Robbins (Lerann@foxiinternet.net)	425/226-3120	12611 155th Ave. SE; Renton, WA 98059

## CENTRAL

Bloomington-Normal BG Club	Ride The Nine	Bloomington, IL	Monday-6:30 PM	Gary Daniels (gdaniels@dave-world.net)	309/452-3034	1708 Johnson Drive; Normal, IL 61761
Chicago Bar Point Club	Golden Flame	Chicago, IL	Tuesday-6:00 PM	Bill Davis (bg@chicagopoint.com)	773/583-6464	3940 W. Bryn Mawr 504; Chicago, IL 60659
"	Anyway's Chicago Pub	Oakbrook Terrace, IL	Sunday bimonthly-11:45 AM	Peter Kalba (bg@chicagopoint.com)	773/252-7755	2510 W. Iowa Street; Chicago, IL 60622
Games People Play	Chatham Computers	Chicago, IL	Monday-6:30 PM	Reginald Porter (hbg@chathamcomputers.com)	708/715-2917	7338 S. Claremont; Chicago, IL 60636
Peoria Backgammon Club	Cheddars	Peoria, IL	Thursday - 6:30 PM	Ed Zell (edzell@home.com)	309/674-0557	2009 W. Clarke Avenue, West Peoria, IL 61604
Sangamon Valley BG Association	Brewhaus	Springfield, IL	Wednesday-6:30 PM	Ben Zemaitis (bzemaiti@fgi.net)	217/483-4028	301 Estes Park Drive; Chatham, IL 62629
"	Parker's Sports Bar	Springfield, IL	1st Sat/Nov to Apr-11:30 AM	Randy Armstrong (rarmstro@fgi.net)	217/528-0117	2012 N. 20th Street; Springfield, IL 62702
Pub Club	Danny's Grill & Bar	Villa Park, IL	Monday-7:00 PM	Joe Wolllick (joe68@mediaone.net)	847/755-0887	2225 Harwinton Place; Hoffman Estates, IL 60194
Winnetka Backgammon Club	Winnetka Community House	Winnetka, IL	Wednesday-7:00 PM	Trudie Chibnik	847/446-0537	740 Ballantrae Drive B; Northbrook, IL 60062
Hoosier Backgammon Club	Neon Johnny's	Indianapolis, IN	Thursday-7:00 PM	Butch Meese (meese@worldnet.att.net)	317/255-8902	1008 Tuckahoe Street; Indianapolis, IN 46260
Flint Area Backgammon Club	Days Inn	Flint, MI	Thursday-7:00 PM	Carol Joy Cole (cjc@tir.com)	810/232-9731	3719 Greenbrook Lane; Flint, MI 48507
Plymouth Backgammon Club	Box Bar & Grill	Plymouth, MI	Wednesday-7:30 PM	Dean Adamian (adamiancan@aol.com)	734/981-5706	42954 Barchester; Canton, MI 48187
Troy Backgammon Club	Troy Community Center	Troy, MI	Monday-6:30 PM	Sal Chehayeb (allthekingsmench@aol.com)	248/219-5624	P.O. Box 99432; Troy, MI 48099
"	All The King's Men Chess	Warren, MI	1st Fri. monthly; Sat. bimonthly	Ed Mandell (allthekingsmench@aol.com)	810/558-4790	All Kings Chess; Univ. Mall; 28760 Dequindre; Warren, MI 48092
Twin Cities Backgammon Club	Pracna on Main	Minneapolis, MN	Thursday-7:00 PM	Steve Maas	612/378-1536	841 20th Ave. SE; Minneapolis, MN 55414
Gateway Gammon Club	Barnes & Noble Cafe	St. Louis, MO	1st & 3rd Sunday-7:00 PM	Phyllis Shapiro (phs@math.wustl.edu)	314/539-6928	7100 Cambridge Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63130

(Continued on opposite side)

**CENTRAL (continued)**

CLUB NAME	LOCATION	CITY & STATE	MEETING DAY & TIME	CONTACT (E-MAIL)	TELEPHONE	MAIL INQUIRIES TO
Ohio State Backgammon Club	Mitch's Lounge	Akron, OH	Wed. & Thur.—6:30 PM	Joe Miller (jm@neo.rr.com)	330/966-2811	6633 Lake-O-Springs; Canton, OH 44718
"	Thirsty Dog Brewery	Canton, OH	Sunday monthly-1:30 PM	"	"	"
Dallas Backgammon League	Denny's Restaurant	Dallas, TX	Wednesday—7:45 PM	Tom Wheeler (tzwheel@aol.com)	972/484-3038	3705 Pageant Place, Dallas 75244
Austin Backgammon Association	Showplace Lanes	Austin, TX	Monday—7:30 PM	Jackie Seiders-Smart (jseiders@mail.utexas.edu)	512/261-8518	30 Hightrail Way, Austin, TX 78738
"	Location TBA	Austin, TX	Sunday bimonthly—12:30 PM	"	"	"
Madison Backgammon Club	J.T. Whitney's	Madison, WI	Tuesday—7:00 PM	Tom Machaj (machaj@charter.net)	608/276-8144	5812 Chesapeake Circle; Fitchburg, WI 53719
Milwaukee Backgammon Club	John Hawks Pub	Milwaukee, WI	Sunday monthly—12:00 PM	Rudy Langenbach (Rudolf.Langenbach@micorp.com)	414/962-8549	PO Box 511671; Milwaukee, WI 53202
"	Y-Not II Bar	Milwaukee, WI	Monday-5:30 PM	"	"	"

**NORTHEAST**

Beltway Backgammon Club	Promenade Cardroom	Bethesda, MD	2nd & 4th Sunday—12:00 PM	Barry Silliman (sillybaz@yahoo.com)	202/777-2648 x4321	800 N. Frederick; Mail Drop 2C133; Gaithersburg, MD 20879
New England Backgammon Club	Holiday Inn	Somerville, MA	Wed-7 PM, Sun mthly-12:30 PM	Brad Mampe (mamps@mindspring.com)	617/491-8710	104 Pearl Street 3; Cambridge, MA 02139
New Jersey Backgammon Club	Bergen Bridge Club	Bogota, NJ	Friday—7:45 PM	Ron Whitney (richardmunitz@iqfinancial.com)	201/530-1894	682 Cedar Lane 3, Teaneck, NJ 07666
Mid Jersey Backgammon Club	Town and Country Inn	Keyport, NJ	Thursday—7:30 PM	Linda Resnicoff (lindares@pobox.com)	732/332-0843	18 Beth Lane; Morganville, NJ 07751
Ace Point Backgammon Club	Clubroom	New York, NY	Daily—12:00 N, Tour. Sun. mthly	Alan & Lourdes Steffen (adslmt@prodigy.net)	212/753-0842	41 E. 60th Street; New York, NY 10022
New York Chess & Backgammon	Clubroom	New York, NY	Daily-11 AM, Tour. Sun.—2 PM	Steve Manning (nycb@interport.net)	212/869-6057	120 W. 41st Street 3; New York, NY 10036
Backgammon Board of Rochester	Bagel Bin Café	Rochester, NY	Saturday monthly	Bob Hoey (bobhoey@onf.com)	716/461-2619	226 Ashbourne Road; Rochester, NY 14618
Cavendish Club of Philadelphia	Clubroom	Philadelphia, PA	Mon, Wed-7PM; Sat-1PM	Howard Cohen	215/878-5777	3801 Conshohocken; Philadelphia, PA 19131
Pittsburgh Backgammon Club	Toby's Restaurant	Forest Hills, PA	Thursday—8:00 PM	Steve Hast (pghsteve1@aol.com)	412/823-7500	3560 Ridgewood Drive; Pittsburgh, PA 15235
Tyson's Corner Backgammon Club	Doubletree Hotel	Falls Church, VA	Monday—7:00 PM	Bill Etue (billetue@aol.com)	703/620-3153	11833 Shire Court 1A; Reston, VA 22043

**SOUTH**

Suncoast Backgammon Association	New York, New York Lounge	Clearwater, FL	Monday—7:30 PM	Drew Giovanis (dgiovan1@tampabay.rr.com)	727/726-1398	25350 US Hwy 19 N 67; Clearwater, FL 33763
Miami Backgammon Club	Titanic Brewery & Restaurant	Coral Gables, FL	Tuesday-7:30 PM	Carl Kruse (miamigammon@aol.com)	305/793-1821	P.O. Box 440545; Miami, FL 33144
South Florida Backgammon Club	Big Apple Sports Grill	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	Saturday—1:00 PM	Elayne Feinstein (BGinFla@webtv.net)	954/564-0340	659 W. Oakland Park Bl.; Oakland Park, FL 33311
Orlando Backgammon	Mulligan's	Orlando, FL	Tuesday—7:30 PM	David Thomas (dlt@iag.net)	904/736-0502	P.O. Box 803; Deland, FL 32721
Atlanta Backgammon Assoc.	Tony's American Grille	Roswell, GA	Thur-7 PM, Sat or Sun bimthly-12 PM	Dave Cardwell (BGinGA@mindspring.com)	770/333-1876	111 Radford Circle SW; Marietta, GA 30060
Charlotte Backgammon Club	O'Charley's	Charlotte, NC	Mon-6:30 PM	Jeb Horton (jeb@carolina.rr.com)	704/814-0850	1813 Matthews Twsp Pkwy 300-109; Matthews, NC 28105
Nashville Backgammon Club	The Sherlock Holmes	Nashville, TN	Wednesday-6:30 PM	J.P. White (jpwhite3@bellsouth.net)	615/824-9461	114 Dorcas Drive; Hendersonville, TN 37075

**CANADA**

Nat'l Capital Backgammon Club	Lunergan's Pub	Gloucester, ON	1st Sun/Sep to Jun—12:30 PM	Eden Windish (rlessard707@home.com)	613/741-2530	396 Talbot St.; Ottawa ON, K1K 2N6; Canada
Toronto Backgammon Club	Doghouse Riley's	Toronto, ON	Daily-7PM, Tour 2nd Sun mthly-2PM	Vladimir Dobrich	416/722-9709	106 Wells Street; Toronto ON, M5R 1P3; Canada
Kingston Backgammon Club	Curley's Superstar Eatery	Kingston, ON	Monday-6:30 PM	Alex Juskovic (cool@coolcanadian.com)	613/389-4603	17-507 Day's Road; Kingston, ON, K7M 3R6; Canada

# HASTY PLAYS



by Duane Jensen

## “Groundhog Day”



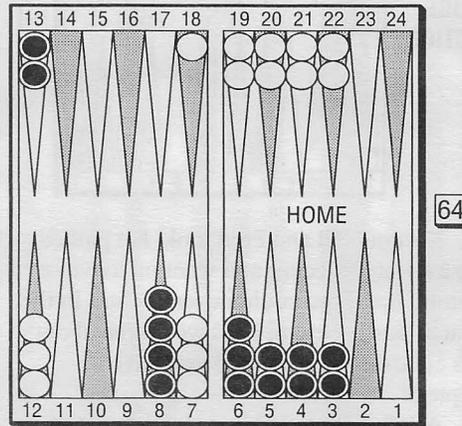
I remember taking my wife to see the movie “Groundhog Day.” I remember because just as we were settling into our seats, she blurted out, “That’s not Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania—that’s Woodstock, Illinois where I grew up!” She was correct. The popular 1993 Bill Murray comedy was actually filmed in Woodstock, not Punxsutawney (the national Groundhog Day celebration site).

In the film, Bill Murray plays Phil Connors, a television weatherman who is

forced to go to Punxsutawney on February 2 to report on the weather prediction of a cuddly groundhog. A snowstorm forces Phil to stay overnight. Upon waking, he discovers that this new day is actually a rerun of the previous one. Phil Connors is stuck in his own personal hell of reliving Groundhog Day in Punxsutawney over and over again.

Some backgammon positions give me that same “Groundhog Day” feeling. I keep seeing the same kinds of positions and situations over and over again with the same *hasty plays* being made. Here are three examples:

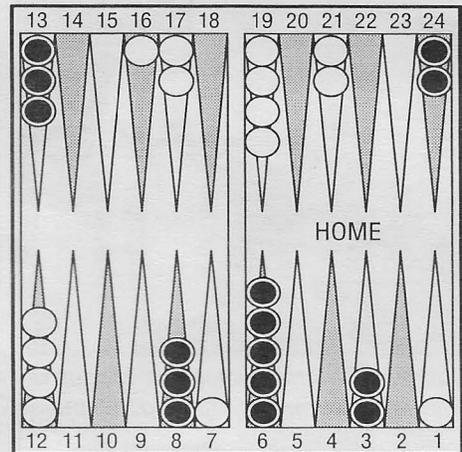
### 1. Money game (Jacoby Rule). **BLACK TO PLAY 5-4.**



The hasty play has already occurred: Black didn’t double the centered cube before rolling the 5-4. With a huge 36 pip lead in the race, he must double.

In these situations, what usually happens to the timid non-doubler is that he rolls a double which clears the midpoint, or he eventually leaves a shot that is not hit. Then he doubles and of course, his opponent drops. The hasty play is in losing one’s market.

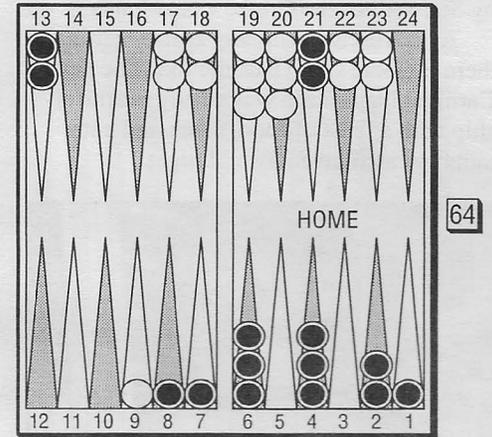
### 2. **BLACK TO PLAY 2-2** trailing 2-away, 1-away (Crawford Game).



Building White’s 5-point with 24/20(2) is too conservative. Hitting with 24/16\* is much better, but the best play of all is 6/4(2), 3/1(2)\*.

We’ve all been told to avoid making the ace point early in a game; however, in this situation, Black can put an enemy checker on the bar while establishing a three point board. This play is promoted by the 2-away–Crawford score and the fact that White has two vulnerable blots. Match-winning gammons are prized, and this play will give Black the most gammons.

### 3. Money game (Jacoby Rule). **BLACK TO PLAY 1-1.**



White just rolled 6-3 from the bar playing Bar/3/9 and now Black has two plays to consider. He can build his 5-point with 8/5, 6/5, or he can hit with 13/9\*. The 5-point is the best play for Black, returning the highest equity... except for a very serious problem on the horizon. After Black makes his 5-point, White will quickly see that she has a double, and of course Black cannot accept.

A better play for Black in this money game is 13/9\*. This hitting play exposes five blots and can easily lose a gammon if some of these blots are hit. But if you take gammons out of the mix, hitting wins *more* games than 8/5, 6/5.

In money games playing the Jacoby Rule (no gammons without a cube turn), you may encounter similar situations where it is correct to make the lower-equity, gammonish play. That’s because with the Jacoby Rule, these gammonish plays hurt only if your opponent doubles and you accept.

Hitting in this situation is a desperate, but can be justified. The roll before, Black’s opponent was on the bar and did not double; maybe she won’t double again. It’s Black’s only hope and he has nothing to lose. His goal is not to make the play with the highest equity; his goal is to try and make a play that won’t be doubled. Δ



## ILLINOIS ACTION



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

**Tuesday**, 6:00 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.

**GAMES PEOPLE PLAY:** Tournaments Monday, 6:30 P.M. at Chatham Computers; 8119 S. Cottage Grove, Chicago. Reginald Porter (708/715-2917).

**PUB CLUB:** Tourn. Mon., 7:00 P.M. at Danny’s Grill and Bar, 345 W. North Ave., Villa Park. Joe Wollack (847/755-0887).

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

**SANGAMON VALLEY BACKGAMMON ASSOC.:** Tournaments Wed., 6:30 P.M. at Brewhaus, 617 E. Washington, Springfield. Ben Zemaitis (217/483-4028).

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

**PEORIA BACKGAMMON CLUB:** Tourn. Thur., 6:30 P.M. at Cheddars, 4027 N. War Memorial Dr., Peoria. Ed Zell (309/674-0557).



## KIT WOOLSEY SAILS TO VICTORY

Wins Both Open and Carribean Jackpot

It's always fun to take a cruise. It's even more fun when a backgammon tournament is involved. Such was the case for the 40 people with Backgammon On Board V.

The one week cruise (3-10 December) sailed on Carnival lines from New Orleans to Montego Bay, Grand Cayman and Cozumel, Mexico. BPC's Bill Davis and Peter Kalba directed with travel arrangements handled by Sue Will of the Cruise Consultants.

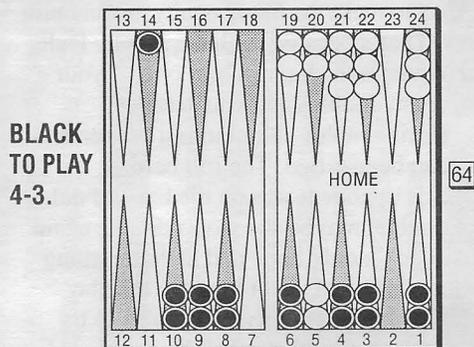
As is the case with any cruise, getting there is (more than) half the fun. The new Carnival Inspiration was a truly beautiful ship with a feast of food, drink and entertainment available day and night.



Kit Woolsey had his hands full at the post-tourney Award's Party aboard the ship.

As for the backgammon, games expert Kit Woolsey (CA) was the big winner. In the Open division, 23 players generated 28 4-player jackpots. Kit qualified on his first attempt and used that entry to go all the way. Here's an interesting position from the finals vs. Dennis Culpepper (VA):

5-point Open finals. Kit Woolsey (Black) trails Dennis Culpepper (White) 1-3.

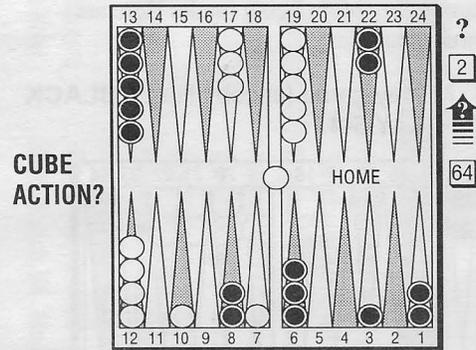


Kit left a volunteer shot with 14/7 instead of the safe 14/10, 4/1. Dennis has a racing lead of 86-89. Attackwise, look how much better off Kit is when Dennis must run with a 6 (except 6-2).

The strategy worked. Kit eventually won a doubled game and went on to win 5-3.

In the Caribbean Jackpot, Woolsey was paired against Michigan's Fred Gehlhoff in the 13-point finals. Kit is on shake here:

13-point Caribbean JP finals. Kit Woolsey (Black) leads Fred Gehlhoff (White), 8-2.

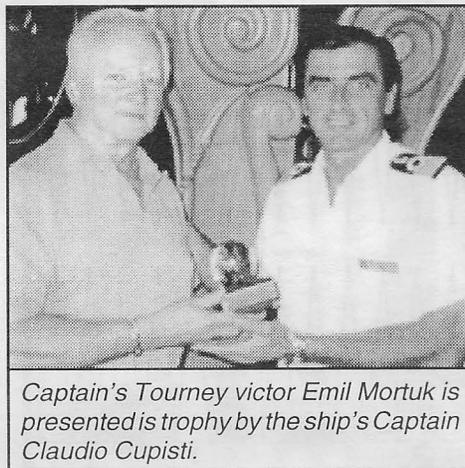


Kit doubled and Fred took. Kit picked up a second checker and went on to win a gammon as Fred could never anchor. In the match post-mortem, Fred wondered about his cube decision. Would you have accepted?

A JellyFish Level 7 evaluation shows that Fred's take was not only correct at this score, it was trivial. In fact, Kit's double was the suspect action. JellyFish called it "no double" at the given score, but a "double/take" for money.

Regardless, it was smoothing sailing for Kit the rest of the way as he collected another trophy, making his first cruise with wife Sally even more enjoyable.

Emil Mortuk returned to the tournament scene by winning the free entry Captain's Trophy and a \$500-added first prize. He even received his trophy from the ships captain, Claudio Cupisti.



Captain's Tourney victor Emil Mortuk is presented is trophy by the ship's Captain Claudio Cupisti.

Sue Will is looking at different ports for Backgammon On Board VI, perhaps to be held 2002. Next time it will be *your* reason to take a cruise! Complete results: Δ

### BACKGAMMON ON BOARD V

OPEN (23 players generating 112 entries): 1-Kit Woolsey (CA), 2-Dennis Culpepper (VA); 1LC-Elayne Kehm (IL).

CARIBBEAN JACKPOT (8): 1-Kit Woolsey.

CAPTAIN'S TOURNEY (23): 1-Emil Mortuk (MI).

### 2000 PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

#### NATIONAL (Alphabetized by State)

- 2000 American BG Tour: *Bob Bishop (NY)*  
 Phoenix Backgammon Club (AZ): *Doug Amenda*  
 Gammon Associates (CA): *Steve Sax*  
 San Diego Backgammon Club (CA): *Bruce Haight*  
 BG By The Bay (CA): *Robert Caradien*  
 Rocky Mountain BG Club (CO): *Lawrence Wilson*  
 South Florida BG Club (FL): *Gary Garabedian*  
 Atlanta Backgammon Assn. (GA): *Dave Cardwell*  
 Chicago Bar Point Club (IL): *Tim Carroll*  
 Pub Club (IL): *Joe Wollick*  
 Games People Play (IL): *Reginald Porter*  
 Peoria Backgammon Club (IL): *John Jennings*  
 Winnetka Backgammon Club (IL): *Dave Rockwell*  
 Sangamon Valley BG Assn. (IL): *John Jennings*  
 Bloomington-Normal BG Club (IL): *Ed Bauder*  
 Hoosier Backgammon Club (IN): *Butch Meese*  
 New England BG Club (MA): Expert: *Belle Pronman*,  
 A Div.: *Brad Mampe*, Wed. Wizard: *Alex Zamanian*.  
 Flint Area Backgammon Club (MI): *Paul Berg*  
 Plymouth Backgammon Club (MI): *Ralph Dietz*  
 Twin Cities BG Club (MN): *Steve Brown*  
 Gateway Gammon Club (MO): *John Scott*  
 Las Vegas Backgammon Club (NV): *Tony Anton*  
 Charlotte Backgammon Club (NC): *Don Faix*  
 New Jersey BG Club (NJ): *Feliks Goykhman*  
 Ace Point Backgammon Club (NY): *Roy Appey*  
 Ohio State Backgammon Club (OH): *Mary Hickey*  
 Pittsburgh Backgammon Club (PA): *Abbas Zaltash*  
 Nashville Backgammon Club (TN): *Bruce Dimattia*  
 Dallas Backgammon League (TX): *Tom Wheeler*  
 Austin Backgammon Assn. (TX): *Chris Davis*  
 Puget Sound BG Club (WA): *Al Lunder*  
 Madison Backgammon Club (WI): *Mark Tremayne*

#### INTERNATIONAL

- European Champion: *Harald Johanni (Germany)*  
 National Capital BG Club (Canada): *Robert Lessard*  
 British Isles Backgammon Club: *John Slattery*  
 Lincoln Backgammon Club (England): *Jeff Ellis*  
 Amsterdam BG Club (Netherlands): *Rop Meijer*

**TIM CARROLL IS 2000  
CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB  
PLAYER OF THE YEAR**



He was 30th in the 1998 Bar Point Club standings. He finished 2nd to Bob Zavoral in 1999. And this year, Tim Carroll has climbed the mountain. He is the Chicago Bar Point Club's 2000 Player of the Year.

It wasn't a cake walk by any means. In fact, Tim didn't have the lead in the CHICAGO POINT standings until July. Good August and September months moved

perennial contender Herb Roman into the lead. But not to be denied, Carroll rolled to outstanding October results (5.44 points).

Although Tim Mabee cut Carroll's lead to a slim 0.20 points to start December, Tim Carroll hung on. The final three totals: Tim Carroll—24.72, Tim Mabee—23.32, Herb Roman—20.56.

In November, the mild-mannered Carroll described his trek to the top as a mission. We'll go a step further and call it "mission accomplished." Well done, Tim!

Tim Carroll, Tim Mabee, Herb Roman and the rest of the Top 20 for 2000 will be honored at the Chicago Bar Point Club Awards Night 9 January at the Golden Flame in Chicago. Δ

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**Carol Joy Cole**

810/232-9731 • [cjc@tir.com](mailto:cjc@tir.com)

**BACK  
To Attack**

**2001 MIDWEST  
BACKGAMMON  
CHAMPIONSHIPS**

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Carol Joy Cole: [cjc@tir.com](mailto:cjc@tir.com)  
[www.chicagopoint.com/mbchome.html](http://www.chicagopoint.com/mbchome.html)

**LETTERS...**

[Continued from page 3]

We will be working with backgammon directors in 2001 to improve the backgammon clock rules. The points you make will definitely be in the discussion. Patrick.—Ed.

I just learned (on the GammOnline discussion board) about the new modifications to the backgammon clock rules. I'm delighted that the time control is being lengthened; this should increase acceptance of clock use by those who don't have much experience with them, which at this point is most of the US tournament community. I still prefer putting "5n + 10" minutes on each clock (where n = length of match) used at the World Cup and some places in Europe, for its effect on shorter matches. But the new "6n" control works out about the same for the usual tournament match lengths (9 to 13 points).

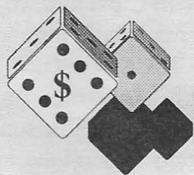
The last two rounds of the Ace Point Club New Year's Tournament were clocked. I see the Midwest Championships in March will follow suit this year.—Sam Pottle, Madison, WI Δ

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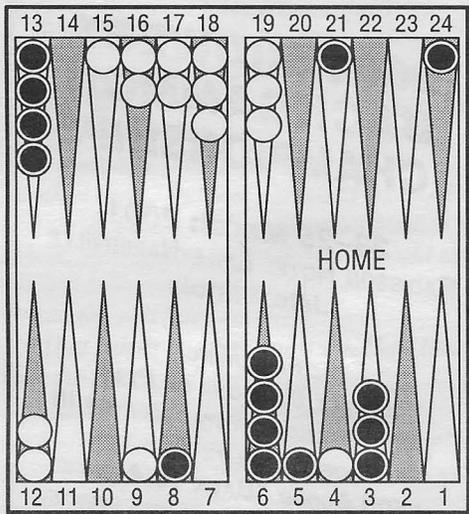
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★ Monday, February 19 is President's Day! ★

## PROBLEM #268 ANALYZED

by Kit Woolsey

Match to 11 points. Black leads White, 10–9 Crawford. **BLACK TO PLAY 4-1.**



**B**lack has rolled a great number. For starters, Black must use this number to attack. The defensive play of 24/20, 21/20 is far too passive. It leaves White a double shot and complete control of the game. It is true that at the match score, Black should lean more toward non-gammonish positions since White can use a gammon but Black cannot. However, anchoring on the 20-point would be carrying the safety principle too far. Black still has to play to win and that means putting White on the bar.

The next play that can be eliminated is

the double-hit: 13/9\*, 5/4\*. It's not that the double-hit is so bad. The problem is that Black badly needs a third inner board point. He simply can't play with a bunch of blots strewn around and nothing to show for it.

8/4\*, 6/5 might be possible if it were Black who needed the gammon. Starting the 4-point produces the best position when White flunks. However, the match score definitely dictates against this play, since the main gain from it is the gammon potential. Leaving a direct shot from the bar is not a good idea here. So, the only real candidates are 13/9\*, 6/5 and 8/4\*, 5/4.

13/9\*, 6/5 is the more natural-looking play. It hits the farthest advanced White blot and unstacks the heavy 6-point. In addition, it eliminates the possibility of White completing the 5-prime by rolling a 6. The builder distribution is great for continuing an attack if White flunks. The big downside to this play is the blots left in the outfield.

How serious are these blots? Pretty serious. After 13/9\*, 6/5, White hits back with 1-4, 1-5, 2-4, 2-5, 4-4, and 5-4, as well as the various numbers which hit on the other side of the board. While getting hit is far from fatal (since White doesn't have any inner board points other than the 6-point), having another checker behind White's blockade will slow Black down quite a bit. Even if White doesn't hit something, Black will have a lot of cleaning up to do.

The other problem with 13/9\*, 6/5 is that this play gives White an opportunity to anchor on the 4-point. White would like very much to get some stability in her

defense so she can work on improving her board without risking a major disaster.

If Black plays 8/4\*, 5/4, White cannot anchor. Black has that spare checker on the 3-point, and that checker can be used only for attacking. If White anchors on Black's 4-point, the checkers on the 3-point are out of play. Also, 8/4\*, 5/4 has the advantage of compactness and safety. White cannot do much damage from the bar after this play.

But 8/4\*, 5/4 has plenty of weaknesses. It makes an inferior point, as compared to the 5-point. It fails to send a second checker back. It gives White more numbers with which to complete the 5-prime. While making the 5-prime would be far from conclusive since Black has those outfield checkers to play with, it would be quite a nuisance.

The pluses and minuses for each of these plays are strong, and both may well be quite close. Let's get back to that match score. The way Black gets gammoned is to have a bunch of checkers sent back.

Granted, the immediate gammon danger isn't great since White has no board, but toss some checkers behind a moving prime and anything can happen. Also, 13/9\*, 6/5 is the play which is most likely to produce a gammon for Black, since if White flunks, Black will be poised to continue with an attack on the 4-point.

13/9\*, 6/5 is the play which produces more gammons for both sides at a match score where only White can use a gammon. For this reason, I would prefer 8/4\*, 5/4.

It is dangerous to let the match score affect your decisions too much. You still have to win the game. However, when two plays appear close—as they do here—the match score might be the deciding factor. Δ

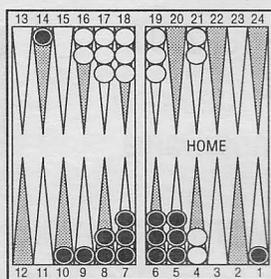
## AMALGAMATION

The backgammon community is saddened by the passing of British author **Robin Clay** on 29 November. Mr. Clay, the author of numerous books and articles (Teach Yourself Backgammon—1977, Backgammon In A Week, 1992), was an active BIBA member. A tribute to Mr. Clay by BIBA director **Michael Crane** can be found online at: [www.msoworld.com/mindzine/news/classic/bg/obituaries/clay\\_intro.html](http://www.msoworld.com/mindzine/news/classic/bg/obituaries/clay_intro.html)... Despite an article online at the American Contract Bridge League website ("Moving from Bridge to Backgammon" at [www.acbl.org/nabc/Birmingham/BirmBul05.htm](http://www.acbl.org/nabc/Birmingham/BirmBul05.htm)), **Laila Leonhardt** (Planet Earth) has not completely given up BG. But she certainly has become popular in the bridge world... This year's spotlight event at the 2001 Midwest Championships (23–25

March in Lisle, IL) is "Back To Attack" where you will be able to recirculate up to four checkers

from your home back into your opponent's home board. For example, a legal move for 5-5 in the diagram shown at right would be: 14/9, 1/20/15/10!... Visiting the Bar Point Club in Nov/Dec.: **Carol Joy Cole** (MI), **Frank Talbot** (MI), **Mary Malone** (IN), **Jeff Kane** (WI), **John Meyers** (WI)... Get well wishes to **Marv Arnol** (WI) who is recovering from hip surgery... Congrats to one of our Bar Point Club staffers **Elayne Kehm** (IL) who

"Back to Attack" game. **BLACK TO PLAY 5-5.**



recently became a bridge Life Master... Effective in 2001, **Harald Johanni's** (Germany) subscription match service will no longer be available... Chicago to Arizona: **Jake Jacobs**. Although we will miss the Jakester at our Tuesday BPC events, we're hoping that we will still read about his escapades in the pages of CHICAGO POINT... Congrats to **George and Marianna Barr** (IL) who were married prior to the Christmas holiday... There are many new clubs and directors for 2001. The updates are on pp. 5–6 of this issue... If you are attending the Pittsburgh Championships this year (16–18 Feb.), director **Steve Hast** suggests going over to watch Three Rivers Stadium get blown up Sunday morning before the explosive tournament action... It was famed football coach **George Allen** who said: "Winning is living. Every time you win, you're reborn." Happy New Year from CHICAGO POINT. Δ

# WINNER'S CIRCLE



Oct.–Dec. 2000

•**9th Åbne Fynske Mesterskaber** (Odense, Denmark; 14-15 Oct.)... OPEN (28): 1-Lars Trabolt, 2-Michael Weile, 3/4-Jørgen Lindgaard / Troels Troelsen; 1C-Daniel Sørensen, 2C-Karsten Bredahl. INTERMEDIATE (41): 1-Kenneth Olesen, 2-Maibritt Rørmand, 3/4-Jakob Løvschall / Johnny Pedersen; 1C-Lars Bønding, 2C-Erik Hansen. BEGINNER (16): 1-Jacob Smith, 2-Martin Kaltoft, 3-Svend Pedersen. CODE-BLITZ: 1-Torben Hasseriis, 2-Martin Toudal.

•**Redwood Empire Club Monthly** (San Rafael, CA; 21 Oct.)... OPEN (13): 1-Elliott Winslow, 2-Nack Ballard, 3-Unes Gollestani. INTERMEDIATE (9): 1-Jacqueline Lee, 2-Sally Woolsey, 3-Joan Clark.

•**Atlanta Club Chouette Tournament** (Roswell, GA; 22 Oct.)... OPEN: 1-Stuart Thomson, 2-Gregg Cattanach, 3/4-Dave Cardwell / Randy Sloan.

•**New England Club Monthly** (Somerville, MA; 22 Oct.)... EXPERT/A/B (21): 1-Herb Gurland, 2-Jon Weinstein; 1C-Bill Robertie, 2C-Alex Zamanian.

•**Consulting Doubles World Championship & Grand Prix de Suisse** (Lugano, Switzerland; 25-29 Oct.)... DOUBLES: Paul Magriel (USA) & Victoria Sminova (RUS), 2-Denis Jersov & Andrej Melnik (RUS), 3/4-Mike Svobodny (USA) & Morten Holm (DEN) / Michel Siegel (FRA) & Freddy Narboni (SWITZ). CHAMPIONSHIP: 1-Harald Johanni (GER), 2-Paul Magriel (USA), 3/4-Maurice Djemal (ISR) / Dennis Carlston (USA); 1C-Vittorio Castro (ITA), 2C-Denis Jersov (RUS); 1LC-André Nicoulin (SWITZ), 2LC-Mike Svobodny (USA). INTERMEDIATE: 1-Jerzy Behnke (GER), 2-Damian Plesec (SLO); 1C-Lorenzo Laganà (ITA); 1LC-George Magdassian (ENG). AMATEUR: 1-Roland Michel (SWITZ), 2-Lorene Carlston (USA). SUPERJACKPOT: 1-Vittorio Castro (ITA), 2-Arthur Stein (USA). FAIR PLAY PRIZE: Mike Svobodny (USA).

•**Sølrød Open** (Sølrød, Denmark; 28-29 Oct.)... Open (26): 1-Kristian Larsen, 2-John Bazigos, 3/4-Niels Mondrup / Taus Lund Bøytler; 1C-John Hansen, 2C-Thomas Holm. INTERMEDIATE (42): 1-Lars Nielsen, 2-Christian Skjæran, 3/4-Lars Bønding / Michael Høge; 1C-Bjarne Nielsen, 2C-Michael Henriksen. BEGINNER (21): 1-Henrik Løber, 2-Casper Nancke, 3-Maria Krebs, 4-Jesper Hansen.

•**Townharbour Trophy** (Coventry, England; 11-12 Nov.)... OPEN (68): 1-Erik Sorensen, 2-Peter Bennet, 3-Stuart Mann, 4/6-Mike Waxman / Andrew Sarjeant / Steve Simkin. FRIDAY NIGHT KO (23): 1-Tim Cross, 2-Geoff Conn. DOUBLES KO (17): 1-Wolfgang, 2-The Teddy Tubby Twins.

•**Atlanta Club Monthly** (Roswell, GA; 12 Nov.)... OPEN: 1-Betty Coppic, 2-Stuart Thomson.

•**Backgammon By the Bay Monthly** (Palo Alto, CA; 12 Nov.)... OPEN (7): 1-Richard McIntosh, 2-Mike Swedelson; 1C-Rawlin Pullen. INTERMEDIATE (20): 1-Clint McClintic, 2-Bear Reeves; 1C-Richard Christison. BEGINNER I (5): 1-Mark Antranikian, 2-Comet. BEGINNER II (5): 1-Frank Berkenkotter, 2-Loretta Bowen.

•**Bar Point Club Fall Trophy Tourney** (Chicago,

IL; 14 Nov.)... OPEN (32): 1-Tak Morioka, 2-Yamin Yamin, 3/4-Bob Steen / Frank Talbot (MI); 1C-Steve Klesker, 2C-Tim Mabee. INTERMEDIATE (27): 1-Andy Natale, 2-Glenn Martells, 3/4-Jeff Fischer / Bill Keefe; 1C-Ed Buerger, 2C-Brian Barber.



4-time BPC Fall Trophy Tourney champ Tak Morioka (Open) with Andy Natale (Int.)

•**Minnesota State Champs—ABT** (Bloomington, MN)... OPEN (22): 1-Fred Kalantari, 2-Richard del Furia; 1C-Art Moore (CA). INTERMEDIATE (19): 1-Robert Schumacher, 2-Stan Livingston (WI); 1C-Gayle Wolf (MI). Beginners (3): 1-Steven Andrews (IA). AUTUMN JACKPOT (8): 1-Steve Brown, 2-Ralph Stowell. DOUBLES (8): 1-Dave Minikus & Dave Wetzell. 2-PT. MINI-MATCH (64): 1-Glenn Dowd. MICROBLITZ: 1-Fred Kalantari. AFTER TOURNAMENT (8): 1-Dion Hogan (MI).

•**Redwood Empire Club Monthly** (San Rafael, CA; 18 Nov.)... OPEN (11): 1-Unes Gollestani, 2-Timothy Jaxon, 3-Nack Ballard. INTERMEDIATE (7): 1-Christian Stoddard, 2-Joan Clark.

•**Denmark Speed Tournament** (Copenhagen, Denmark; 18-19 Nov.) OPEN (20): 1-Christian Raith, 2-Mogens Knudsen, 3-John Bazigos, 4-Jan Ebbe Jensen. Spurtpræmie: Søren Larsen.

•**Swiss Meisterschaft 2000** (Baden, Switzerland; 18-19 Nov.)... OPEN (64): 1-Roland Ekström, 2-Rino Mathis, 3/4-Ronald Reinhardt (GER) / Marcel Vogt; 1C-Claus Weissbarth (GER), 2C-Marcel Liechti, 3C/4C-Rudolf Keller / Beat Tännler; 1LC-Lise Howard, 2LC-Asghar Naghizadeh. BEGINNER: 1-Konrad Rötliberger, 2-Dora Koster. Team Tournament (12 teams): 1-*Titelverteidiger Zürich*: Kindler, Kuchen, Mathis, 2-*Tell Boys Bützberg*: Gerber, Rötliberger, Schär. 1-POINTER TOURNAMENT (64): 1-Halil Tulan, 2-Michael Hager (GER).

•**XXV Finnish Open Championships** (Espoo, Finland; 18-19 Nov.)... OPEN (29): 1-Jyri Lammi, 2-Matti Haaksila; 1C-Janne Kaipainen, 2C-Toni Nylund. INTERMEDIATE (13): 1-Mikko Tuominen, 2-Reijo Silomaa... *Reported by Tapio Palmroth.*

•**New England Club Bonus Tournament** (Somerville, MA; 19 Nov.) – EXPERT (21): 1-Ed Abou-Zeid, 2-Joe Moore, 3/4-Alex Zamanian / Walter Trice; 1C-Mary Hickey (OH), 2C-Gil Evans (NH). A/B DIVISION (8): 1-John Smidt, 2-Marty Gross; 1C-Ahmet Baydar.

•**Ohio State Championships—ABT** (Akron, OH; 24-26 Nov.)... OPEN (15): 1-Paul Berg (MI), 2-Jim Slomkoski (MI); 1C-Bob Green (OH), 2C-Ken Fischer (TX). ADVANCED (23): 1-Scott Sevel (CO), 2-Nancy Takala (MI); 1C-Bill Versaw (PA), 2C-Gary Hofmann (OH). NOVICE (7): 1-Laura Marzolf (WA), 2-Bob Smith (OH), 3-Charlene

Britton (OH). OPEN DOUBLES (7 teams): 1-Abbas Zaltash (PA) & Bill Versaw (PA). ADVANCED DOUBLES (7 teams): 1-Dan Mowczan (MI) & Farhad Forudi (OH).

•**Danish Championship 2000** (Copenhagen, Denmark; 25-26 Nov.)... OPEN (128): 1-John Bazigos (GRE), 2-Henrik Veje, 3/4-Mogens Knudsen / Klaus Rydeng, 5/8-Tobias Christensen / Thomas Holm / Jens Neregaard / Brian Pedersen; 1C-Michael Fardan, 2C-Bjarke Skovgaard, 3C/4C-Mark Larsen / Peter Toftso.

•**Ace Point Thanksgiving Tournament** (New York, NY; 26 Nov.)... OPEN (16): 1-Roy Appey, 2-Mark Megalli, 3/4-Morten Holm (DK) / Thomas Jespersen (DK); 1C-Mario Kühl (GER). INTERMEDIATE (8): 1-Fred Fado, 2-Ted Kirit; 1C-Robert Regan.

•**Bar Point Sunday Tournament** (Oakbrook Terrace, IL; 26 Nov.)... OPEN (13): 1-Bill Davis, 2-Carter Mattig; 1C-Joe Wollick, 2C-Tim Carroll. INTERMEDIATE (10): 1/2-David Araiza / Elaine Kehm; 1C-J.A. Miller, 2C-Roger Hickman.

•**Asti Golden Trophy** (Asti, Italy; 2-3 Dec.)... Championship (17): 1-Gordan Markotic (CRO), 2-Francesco Mauri. Intermediate (18): 1-Marco Nasi, 2-Giuliani Turturiello... *Carlo Faccio's report.*

•**Sydney's Mill Hill Christmas Tourney** (Bondi Junction, Australia; 3 Dec.)... OPEN (32): 1-Robert Disney, 2-David Reitzen, 3/4-Barry Bennett / Steve Clarry. INTERMEDIATE: 1-Adill Fathulla, 2-Chris Ward... *Reported by Sydney's Mark Driver.*

•**13th Open von Thun** (Thun, Switzerland; 9-10 Dec.)... OPEN (26): 1-Roland Ekström, 2-Matthias Körner (GER), 3/4-Christian Liebharkort (GER) / Marcel Liechti. WARM-UP: 1-Rino Mathis, 2-Gogonou (RUS). SWISS DOUBLES (9 teams): 1-*Süddeutschland*: Hendrik Muysers & Christian Liebe Harkort (GER), 2-*Monasel*: Roland Ekström & Lise Howard.

•**Trømso Open 2000** (Trømso, Norway; 9-10 Dec.)... OPEN (22): 1-Frode Bull Jaeger, 2-Erik Svendsen, 3/4-Samson Højgaard / André Larsen; 1C-Sven Nilssen, 2C-Karl Frogner.

•**United Kingdom Finals 2000** (Coventry, England; Dec. 9-10)... OPEN (64): 1-Mardi Ohannessian, 2-Peter Bennet, 3/4-John Gale / John Slattery; 1C-Leslie Singleton, 2-Kevin White, 3/4-Steve Hallett / Roy Hollands. FRIDAY NIGHT KO (23): 1-David Nathan, 2-David Hale, 3/4-Sarah Rosich / Mike Wignall. SUICIDE! (64): 1-Andrew Sarjeant, 2-John Gale, 3/4-Tim Moorling / Karen Proto. CHAMP OF CHAMPIONS (8): 1-Erik Sorensen, 2-Richard Granville. DOUBLES KO (16 teams): 1-Errrrrr's, 2-Gordon Bennet.

•**Backgammon By the Bay Monthly** (Palo Alto, CA; 10 Dec.)... OPEN (6): 1/2-Cornelius Wendler (GER) / Simon Woodhead (AUSL). INTERMEDIATE (4): 1-Claudia Imatt, 2-Michael Austin. Beginners (6): 1/2-Jon Bauer / Anna Estrada.

•**Atlanta Club Monthly** (Roswell, GA; 17 Dec.)... OPEN: 1-Michael Meyburg (GER), 2/3-Gregg Cattanach / Betty Coppic.

•**New England Club Monthly** (Somerville, MA; 17 Dec.)... EXPERT (24): 1-Seth Towle, 2-Herb Gurland, 3/4-Gil Evans (NH) / Alex Zamanian; 1C-Joe Moore, 2C-Ernie Pittelli.

•**Ace Point Club New Year's Tournament—ABT** (New York, NY; Dec. 30-31)... OPEN (24): 1-Sam Pottle (WI), 2-Andy Rubien (NY); 1C-Michael Meyburg (Germany), 2C-Alex Rasic (NY). Δ

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8.30 - 9.30 pm Registration  
10.15 pm Double Tournament  
**Friday 26<sup>th</sup>**  
2.30 pm Continuation of the game  
5.00 - 6.00 pm Welcome Cocktail  
5.00 - 5.45 pm Registration  
6.00 pm Drawing  
6.15 pm The Challenge starts  
**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup>**  
2.00 pm Consolation starts  
2.30 pm Quarter final  
4.30 pm Semi - final  
10.30 pm Super Jackpot  
**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup>**  
12.00 am Last Chance  
2.00 pm Finals  
3.30 pm After tournament -  
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