

2001 illinois state championships

ILLINOIS TITLE TO SCHILLER

Sam Pottle Wins Land of Lincoln Masters
Springfield Open to Mark Kaye

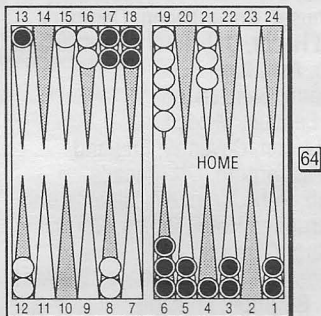
Don Schiller of Bloomington, Illinois can't drive a car. He's legally blind. In good lighting, Don is barely able to read 5/8" dice. Yet it was his opponent's oversight that became the deciding factor in the 2001 Illinois State Championships.

This year's Land of Lincoln joust, held 19–21 October in Springfield (the Illinois capitol) saw main event attendance double from 35 in 2000 to 69 in 2001. Comfortable playing conditions at the Springfield Hilton, coupled with midwest hospitality and a competent tournament staff led by Sangamon Valley Club director Randy Armstrong is the reason.

Don Schiller, a systems analyst for State Farm Insurance, was playing in only his second regional event. Conversely, his opponent in the Sunday finals, Curtis Lucas of Arlington, Texas had plenty of International experience. The 70-year-old retired aircraft engineer, won recent Intermediate titles at the Las Vegas Open (1st Main—Dec. 2000), the Paris Open (1st Cons.—Feb. 2001), and the Czech Open (1st Main—Jul. 2001).

The 15-point match started as a walk-over as Schiller rolled to a 7–0 lead. But Lucas fought back, and trailing 6–7, had an interesting play to make:

Pos. 1. 15-point finals. Don Schiller (Black) leads Curtis Lucas (White) 7-6. **WHITE TO PLAY 5-1.**

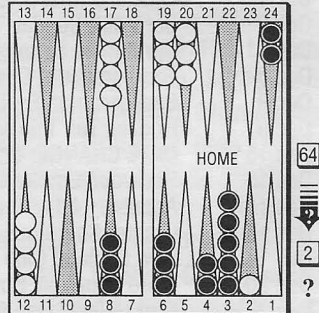


Most players would simply make their 5-point and wait for a later shot. Curtis felt that Don had a blot in his home board and the time for action was now. He hit 8/13*,

and safed up a blot 15/16. The strategy succeeded and Lucas had tied the score 7–7.

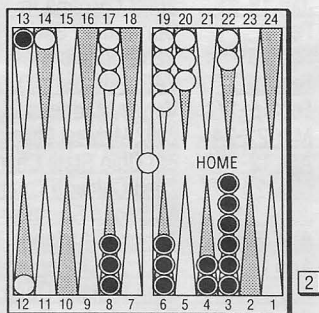
The game that effectively decided the match was next. With a positional advantage, Curtis pushed across a 2-cube:

Pos. 2. 15-point finals. Don Schiller (Black) leads Curtis Lucas (White) 7-6. White on roll. **CUBE ACTIONS?**



Leading the race by 27 pips (113–140), Don had an easy take. The game quickly progressed to the following with Lucas facing the prospect of being redoubled unless he rolled something special:

Pos. 3. 15-point finals. Don Schiller (Black) and Curtis Lucas (White) are tied at 7-all. White

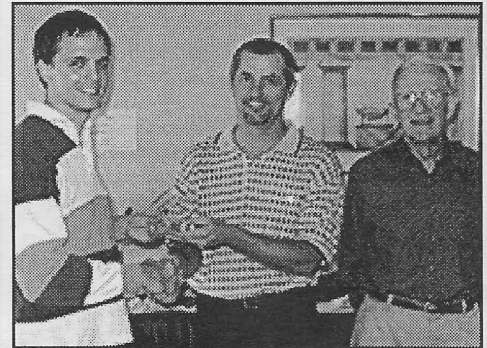


Lucas quickly entered on the ace point and played 12/14 to take his checker out of "harm's way." He simply *didn't see* that he could have hit! On the other hand, Schiller did see that he had a clear recube to 4. Lucas accepted, and Don ran home to take a big 11–7 lead. Don's doubled gammon in the next game made the final score 15–7. Congratulations, Don on a job well done.

After the game, Lucas was confronted with the play, immediately saw the hit and couldn't believe he had missed it. "That's one of the dumbest things I've ever seen," claimed Curtis. "It was an hallucination."

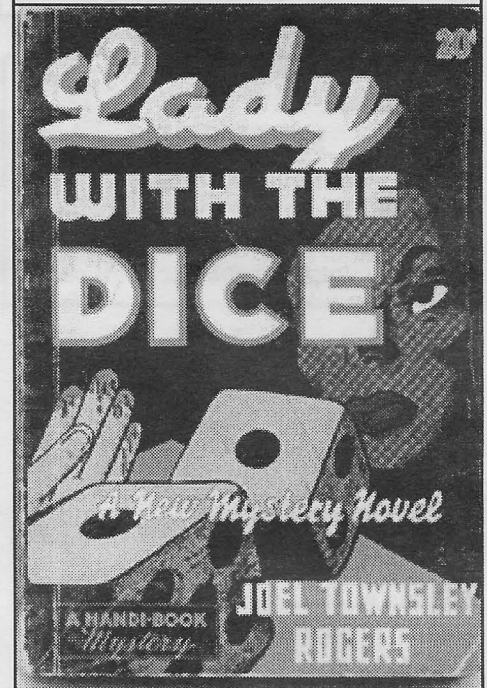
Lucas's very successful tournament was marred by a costly oversight. Everyone makes them, but because Lucas's opponent was sight-impaired, there's a

[Continued on page 5]



Don Schiller (left) accepts the Championship trophy from director Randy Armstrong as runner-up Curtis Lucas looks on. [Photo by Greg Tomlin]

PULP BACKGAMMON



The 2002 Midwest BG Championships (22–24 March 2002) theme will highlight pulp fiction paperbacks from the 1950s.

"The Case of the Deadly Roll" mystery will unfold in the MBC invitation, culminating in an arrest at the Calcutta Auction.

All main event entrants receive a free BG pulp fiction T-shirt. Invitations will be available in December. For more info: 773/583-6464 or bg@chicagopoint.com

CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

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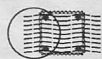
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LETTERS

c/o CHICAGO POINT

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PROBLEMS WITH THE PAYOUT

I had a overall enjoyable weekend at the recent Illinois State Championships with one exception. In the three flight format, I finished in the semifinals of the Main Flight and was paid just 1/29th of the combined prize and Calcutta money distributed in the main draw. That's because the Calcutta Auction only paid four places (1st and 2nd Main, 1st and 2nd Consolation). There is something wrong here. I would have much preferred the chance to compete for the Consolation money instead of losing in the semifinals and going home with money totaling less than my entry and Calcutta outlay. What can be done about this problem?—*Ed Bauder, Lexington, Illinois*

The Main Flight format that progressively feeds losers into the the Consolation

[Continued on page 3]

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



by Carol Joy Cole
810/232-9731
cjc@tir.com

* Denotes new or revised listing

NATIONAL

American Backgammon Tour events underlined.

Nov 11	Backgammon By The Bay Monthly, TGI Friday's, Oakland, California	831/688-9722
Nov 11	New England Club Monthly, Holiday Inn, Somerville, Massachusetts	617/491-8710
Nov 11	23rd Flint Area Club Championships, Holiday Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Nov 13	19th BPC Fall Trophy Tourney, Golden Flame, Chicago, Illinois	773/583-6464
Nov 15	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament (Las Vegas Open), Day's Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Nov 16-18	<u>Minnesota State Championships, Thunderbird Hotel, Bloomington, MN</u>	612/378-1536
Nov 17	Redwood Empire Club Monthly, Embassy Suites, San Rafael, California	707/824-9715
Nov 18	Greater Columbus Club Monthly, Lucky's Grille, Hilliard, Ohio	614/771-0981
Nov 23-25	<u>7th Ohio State Championships, Radisson Cleveland, Middleburg Hts., Ohio</u>	330/966-2811
Nov 25	Ace Point Club Monthly Tournament, Ace Point Club, New York, New York	212/753-0842
Nov 25*	Milwaukee Club Monthly, John Hawks Pub, Milwaukee, Wisconsin	414/962-8549
Nov 28-Dec 2	Las Vegas Open, Harrah's Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada	702/893-6025
Dec 1	MSN Gammonzone Medallion Monthly, via computer GZMedallion@gammonzone.net	
Dec 1*	Official GamesGrid Monthly Tournament, via computer tournaments@cyberarts.com	
Dec 2	Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Anyway's Grill, Oakbrook Terrace, IL	773/252-7755
Dec 8*	Springfield Series #2, Ride the Nine, Bloomington, Illinois	217/528-0117
Dec 8	Tournament of Champions, Triple Crown Sports Bar, Houston, Texas	713/567-1639
Dec 9	Backgammon By The Bay Monthly, TGI Friday's, Oakland, California	831/688-9722
Dec 9*	Hoosier Fall Tournament, Arni's Restaurant, Indianapolis, Indiana	317/255-8902
Dec 15*	DATE CHANGE: Universal Mall Awards Tourney, Warren, Michigan	810/558-4790
Dec 15	Redwood Empire Club Monthly, Embassy Suites, San Rafael, California	707/824-9715
Dec 16	Atlanta Holiday Tournament, Tony's American Grille, Roswell, Georgia	770/333-1876
Dec 16	Greater Columbus Club Monthly, Lucky's Grille, Hilliard, Ohio	614/771-0981
Dec 16	New England Club Monthly, Holiday Inn, Somerville, Massachusetts	617/491-8710
Dec 20*	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament (Boston Open), Day's Inn, Flint, MI	810/232-9731
Dec 27*	Flint Holiday Doubles Tournament, Days Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Dec 29-30	<u>Holiday Tournament & Ace Point Club Championship, New York, New York</u>	212/753-0842
Jan 1*	MSN Gammonzone Medallion Monthly, via computer GZMedallion@gammonzone.net	
Jan 5*	Springfield Series #3, Parker's Sports Bar, Springfield, Illinois	217/528-0117
Jan 13	New England Club Monthly, Holiday Inn, Somerville, Massachusetts	617/491-8710
Jan 15	Bar Point Club Awards Night, Golden Flame Restaurant, Chicago, Illinois	773/583-6464
Jan 16-21	1st Boston Open & Master's Jackpot, Hyatt Harborside, Boston, MA	781/641-2091
Jan 17*	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament (Pittsburgh), Days Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Jan 18-21	<u>2002 Carolina Invitational, Holiday Inn, Charlotte, North Carolina</u>	704/398-8480
Feb 2*	Springfield Series #4, Peoria Pizza Works, Peoria, Illinois	217/528-0117
Feb 10*	22nd Illinois State Challenge Cup, Location TBA, Chicago area, Illinois	773/583-6464
Feb 15-17	<u>24th Pittsburgh Champs/ABT Awards, Greentree Radisson, Pitt. PA</u>	412/823-7500
Feb 15-17*	Vegas Madness III, Las Vegas Club & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada	702/240-6646
Mar 22-24	<u>2002 Midwest Championships: "Case of the Deadly Roll," Wyndham Lisle, Lisle, IL</u>	773/583-6464
Apr 12-14*	<u>8th Ohio State Championships, Radisson Cleveland, Middleburgh, Hts., OH</u>	330/966-2811
May 24-27*	<u>23rd Chicago Open, Oakbrook Hills Resort, Oakbrook, Illinois</u>	702/893-6025
Jul 4-7*	<u>Michigan Summer Championships, Novi Hilton, Novi, Michigan</u>	810/232-9731
Aug 2-4*	<u>Thousand Islands Tourney, Pine Tree Point, Alexandria Bay, New York</u>	716/387-0767
Aug 8-11*	<u>Georgia Championships & Peach Cup, Hilton Garden Inn, Atlanta, Georgia</u>	770/333-1876
Aug 30-Sep 2*	<u>50th Indiana Open, Sheraton Hotel & Suites, Indianapolis, Indiana</u>	317/255-8902
Sep 27-29*	<u>Towpath Inn Tournament, Towpath Inn, Turin, New York</u>	716/387-0767

OUTSIDE USA

Nov 10-11	Townharbour Trophy, Hilton National Hotel, Coventry, England	441522-888676
Nov 10-11	7th & 8th Ranglistenturniers, Kaiserbrunnen Hotel, Brakel, Germany	49521-64314
Nov 11	Toronto Club Monthly, Doghouse Riley's, Toronto, ON, Canada	416/772-9709
Nov 16-18	21st Swedish Open, Quality Hotel Nacka, Stockholm, Sweden	468-189346
Nov 24-25	Danish Championship 2001, Østerbrohuset, Copenhagen, Denmark	4533-363601
Nov 24-25*	Swiss Championship 2001, Restaurant Hecht, Dübendorf, Switzerland	4179-4015811
Nov 24-25	2nd Asti Golden Trophy, Hotel Aleramo, Asti, Italy	39141-907021
Dec 1-2	19th Open von Thun, Hotel Seepark, Thun, Switzerland	4179-6569700
Dec 4-9	First Cancun Open, Ritz Carlton Hotel, Cancun, Mexico	49911-409505
Dec 8-9	United Kingdom Finals, Hilton National Hotel, Coventry, England	441522-888676
Dec 9	Toronto Club Monthly, Doghouse Riley's, Toronto, ON, Canada	416/772-9709
Dec 13-16	Championnat de France V, Aviation Club, Paris, France (residents only)	331-42618080
Dec 15-16*	9th & 10th Ranglistenturniers, Kaiserbrunnen Hotel, Brakel, Germany	49521-64314
Dec 28-30	Schwaben-Cup, Hotel Mercure, Nürnberg, Germany	49711-486190
Jan 2-6	7th Thailand Open, Style Restaurant, Jomtien Beach, Pattaya, Thailand	6638-303136
Jan 5-6	Bright 'n' Breezy, Brighton Metropole, Brighton, England	441522-888676
Jan 18-20*	Schwaben-Cup, Hotel Mercure Orbis, Munich, Germany	4989-152762
Jan 19-20	Dutch Open 2002, European Go Cultural Centre, Amstelveen, Netherlands	3120-4633724
Jan 24-27	4th Principe Leopoldo Challenge, Lugano, Switzerland	4179-3374425
Feb 1-3*	7th Warsteiner Cup, Kaiserbrunnen Hotel, Brakel, Germany	49521-64314
Feb 8-10*	Schwaben-Cup Finals, Hotel Mercure, Stuttgart-Gerlingen, Germany	49711-486190
Feb 18-24*	3rd Paris Master & Open, Holiday Inn Republique, Paris, France	336-07551516

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

bracket is the same draw sheet that is used in Pittsburgh and at the Midwest Championships. To this date, we have found no equitable way to feed the semifinalist losers into the Consolation bracket; therefore,


they are paid 10% of the prize money allocated to the Main Flight and retired from the tournament.

This year, Illinois paid only 6% to the losing semifinalists and director Randy Armstrong said he will increase that payout next year or find a fair way to make the feed. As for this year, we hope you hedged

in the semifinals!—Ed.

GET BACK INTO THE GAME, BUDDY!


Just a note to inform you of my new mailing address in Alberta, Canada. I still enjoy CHICAGO POINT very much even though I rarely ever play backgammon anymore.—Buddy Ashmore, St. Albert, AB, Canada Δ



AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 2001

AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 2001

Top 100 compiled through 28 Oct. 2001 after 13 events
(Remaining: 48th G/A-LA, Minnesota State, Ohio State, Ace Pt. Holiday-NY)



AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 2001

Jake Jacobs	66.41	Paul Stebbing	9.00	Marianne Gatenby	5.11	Gregg Cattanach	3.05
Rick Todd	28.00	Greg Lilley	8.80	Brian Barber	5.11	Jewell Morris	3.05
Neil Kazaross	24.76	Adam Versaw	7.17	Dana Nazarian	4.50	Bill Keefe	2.95
Bruce Russell	24.13	John Brussel	7.12	Paul Weaver	4.44	Will Horton	2.94
Gyl Savoie	21.45	Charile Martin	7.06	Howard Shapiro	4.44	Dave Cardwell	2.77
Steve Sax	16.20	Curtis Lucas	7.05	Richard Munitz	4.44	Donny Lomuto	2.76
Richard Del Furia	15.67	Dave Hochron	7.05	Norman Hansen	4.40	Carl Adamec	2.75
Matt Reklaitis	15.00	Fred Kalantari	7.00	Tim Mabee	4.14	Walter Trice	2.75
Dennis Culpepper	14.86	Glen de Guzman	6.73	David Rockwell	3.90	Ken Lazar	2.62
Jim Hall	14.21	Herb Roman	6.69	David Groner	3.90	Gary Lohr	2.46
Don Schiller	14.11	Julian Haley	6.60	Ron Rogers	3.56	Craig Campbell	2.45
Sakura Wells	14.00	Eliot Bean	6.45	Steve Goldstein	3.56	Mike Flohr	2.40
Emil Mortuk	14.00	Greg Merriman	6.34	Tak Morioka	3.51	Glenn Ramsey	2.27
Mike Corbett	13.89	Rob Maier	6.34	Chuck Bower	3.51	Mark Haley	2.27
Bob Wachtel	12.89	J.A. Miller	6.20	Masayuki Mochizuki	3.49	Danielle Bastarache	2.20
Chen Fu Yu	12.69	John Greci	6.08	Sean Garber	3.48	Jeff Flowers	2.14
Chuck Stimming	12.35	Reza Nowbar	6.00	Tim Carroll	3.35	Steve Maas	2.08
Dean Adamian	12.35	Mary Franks	5.88	Bill Minser	3.35	John Meyers	2.08
Carl Song	12.15	Jeremy Bagai	5.88	Norm Wiggins	3.22	Eden Windish	2.00
James Roston	11.44	Chris Wilson	5.60	Doug Roberts	3.22	John Mansour	2.00
François Margot	10.98	Mike Friedman	5.56	Fabricio Schaffrath	3.22	Ed Johnson	2.00
Bob Glass	10.46	Larry Taylor	5.56	Joe Griffith	3.22	Mariano Gonzalez	1.92
Tom Machaj	10.20	Wally Watson	5.50	Mark Tremayne	3.20	Jim Zinkhon	1.83
David Wells	9.94	Tom Daniel	5.22	Stan Livingston	3.10	Connie Tipton	1.78
Jane Lewandowski	9.37	Keith Kuligowski	5.20	Don Marek	3.10	Paul Lombardo	1.78

BG RETURNS TO NW INDIANA

Just wanted to let you know that backgammon is coming back to northwest Indiana. We meet at the VFW Hall in Porter, Indiana about once a month. For more information, contact our director Charlie Halberstadt at chbug@yahoo.com. BTW, Charlie says the bartenders are friendly.


P.S. I was thrilled to read of Neil Kazaross's successful return in Indiana. Also, please don't let Jake Jacobs move to Arizona. He was my best dinner date ever! Finally, say hello to Peter Kalba for me.—Darcey Brady Wade, Hobart, Indiana

Jake Jacobs officially moves to Tucson in mid-November.—Ed.

DICE PLATES

With the holidays approaching, I thought your readers might be interested in an unusual gift: dice plates. They are available at Restoration Hardware or can be purchased online at www.restorationhardware.com. Here's what they say about them:

[Continued on page 7]



CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB

2001 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

COMPILED
THRU 31 OCT.

Bob Zavoral	28.20	Bill Keefe	5.28	Tom Meyer	2.24	Paul Franks	0.88
Glenn Martells	20.52	Arline Levy	5.04	Joe Auszmann	2.16	Jolie Rubin	0.80
Lucky Nelson	19.80	Howard Chow	4.96	Georgina Flanagan	1.68	Brian Leventhal	0.64
Tim Carroll	19.64	Alice Kay	4.96	Jerry Brooks	1.60	Paul Friedman	0.64
Jake Jacobs	18.96	Joann Feinstein	4.56	Roger Hickman	1.60	Mike Sutton	0.64
Tim Mabee	18.64	Peter Kalba	4.40	John Brussel	1.36	Roger Blaine	0.64
Joe Wollick	14.04	Ken Bond	4.40	Don Marek	1.28	Brian Kozin	0.64
Brian Barber	13.52	Paul Lombardo	4.00	Bob Sexton	1.28	Beverly Becker	0.64
Tak Morioka	13.44	Ed Buerger	3.88	Erik Erland	1.12	Reginald Porter	0.56
Bill Bartholomay	11.88	Paul Baraz	3.76	Ken Tyszko	1.12	Sharon Steffens	0.56
Herb Roman	10.24	Scott Richardson	3.68	Ed Bauder	1.04	Tom Roberts	0.48
Norma Shyer	10.16	Marc Rosset	3.60	David Donaldson	0.96	Barbara Levinson	0.48
Bob Steen	10.08	Wayne Wiest	3.60	Rob Farmer	0.96	Richard Stawowy	0.48
Carter Mattig	9.44	Gary Kay	2.80	Leo Campos	0.88	Joe Szvedo	0.32
Phyllis Smolinski	8.08	John Jennings	2.72	Bob Katz	0.88	Scott Zucker	0.32
Don Jayhan	8.04	Mary Franks	2.72	Richard Lloyd	0.88	Amy Trudeau	0.32
Bill Davis	6.84	Mark Ryan	2.56	Wendy Kaplan	0.88	Tom Roach	0.32
Elaine Kehm	6.48	Ralf Boettger	2.56	Karsten Nielsen	0.88	Sakura Wells	0.24
Steve Klesker	6.24	David Araiza	2.40	Barry Miller	0.88	Ken Tibbs	0.16
J.A. Miller	5.92	Mark Murray	2.40				

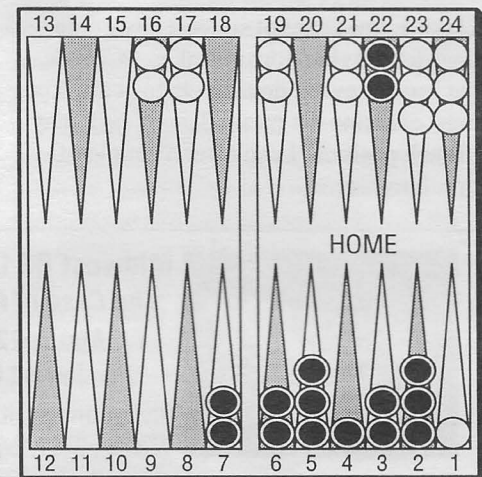
2000 Player of the Year **TIM CARROLL** had two outright victories in October en route to a 6.08 total and monthly honors. Bob Zavoral (3.64) and Steve Klesker (3.04) were 2nd and 3rd.

your move

PROBLEM #277

to be analyzed by Mary Hickey

Match to 9 points. White leads Black 8-7 Crawford. **BLACK TO PLAY 4-2.**



ASK DANNY

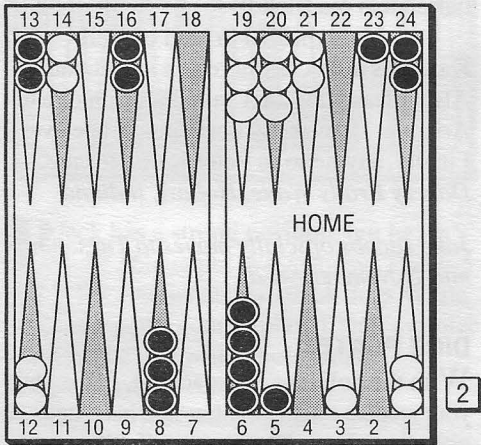


© 2001 by Danny Kleinman

HANDLING THE HORROR SHAKE

Dear Danny: I've been playing backgammon about two years and have enough confidence to play in the dime chouette game at my club. However, last week, I faced a problem that jarred my confidence. I was in the box holding three 2-cubes against three seasoned opponents.

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



What a horrible roll! I felt like a complete beginner—and the money pressure of holding three 2-cubes didn't help matters, either. I couldn't even find a duplication play and eventually played 23/18, 8/4 hoping for help from my opponents. Help never came. Chalk up minus 12 points on my scoresheet.

What would you have done here, Danny? Can you suggest any guideposts when horror shakes are staring you in the face?—*Less Experienced Than I Thought*

DEAR LESS: I cannot suggest any guidelines for playing horror shakes. "Choose the least of evils" does not help at all. You must examine the particulars of each play in each position. I can offer a couple of tips, however.

(1) So long as you must leave blots and shots aplenty, ask yourself where your opponent's hits will do the least damage and leave you best placed to recover.

23/18, 8/4 virtually guarantees that your opponent will hit (often two blots). His only missing number is 5, and even double-5s play well for him, letting him make his 3-point. When he hits only one man, you will have no chance to make a second anchor. When he hits two men, including the man you have moved to his bar-point, he has three active builders trained upon his open 2- and 3-points, making it difficult for you to make a second anchor. Your opponent's bar-point is not a good place to put a blot in this position, for when he hits there, he becomes a favorite to make his bar-point, a key point for keeping you locked up and stopping you from recirculating back men. 23/18, 8/4 offers little hope for you.

(2) So long as you must leave blots and shots aplenty, look for a play that gives your opponent some bad rolls. That's often a hitting play.

Here 8/3*, 13/9 is such a play, for it creates bad 6s for your opponent. Obviously, double-6s from the bar will not be good for him. When he dances, you'll have builders poised to cover your slotted 5- and 3-points. Other 6s (6-4, 6-2 and 6-1) will also play poorly for him. And when he hits, you will still have a good chance to make a second anchor, while the hit will not come on his pivotal bar-point.

I hope these small tips can help you, but I would be derelict in my duty if I didn't ask you this pointed question:

What are you, who have been playing for only two years, doing in a "dime" (by which I suppose you mean \$10 per point) chouette with three seasoned opponents?

Playing in tournaments, or with your peers for lower stakes, will give you a lot more "confidence."—*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 or send e-mail to: bg@chicagopoint.com

**Chicago Bar Point Club
1000-to-1 Club**

Name	Wins in a Row	Date Completed
David Rubin	11	1 Feb 94
Neil Kazaross	10	8 Feb 94
Phil Simborg	11	5 Apr 94
Frankie Farjood	11	25 Apr 95
Harry Cohn	11	9 May 95
Neil Kazaross	10	19 Sep 95
Neil Kazaross	11	12 Dec 95
Herb Roman	10	11 Aug 96
Andy Krenitz	12	5 Nov 96
Neil Kazaross	10	23 Dec 96
Wendy Kaplan	10	7 Jan 97
Phil Simborg	12	6 May 97
Phyllis Smolinski	10	6 Jan 98
Laila Leonhardt	10	27 Jan 98
Steve Mellen	12	1 Feb 98
Tak Morioka	12	17 Mar 98
Don Jayhan	10	14 Dec 99
Bill Bartholomay	12	23 Jan 01
Bill Bartholomay	11	20 Mar 01
Bob Zavoral	14	3 Apr 01
Jake Jacobs	12	22 May 01
Tim Carroll	10	26 Jun 01
Tim Mabec	10	7 Aug 01
Tim Carroll	10	16 Oct. 01

Players listed above have won at least 10 matches in a row in Chicago Bar Point Club competition since 1994.



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). Phone before attending.

PUB CLUB: Tourn. Mon., 7:00 P.M. at Danny's Grill and Bar, 345 W. North Ave., Villa Park. Joe Wollick (847/942-2068).

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).

T/P BACKGAMMON CLUB: Tournaments Wednesday, 6:30 P.M. and Sunday monthly, 11:45 A.M. at Java Oasis; 2240 S. Michigan, Chicago. J.A. Miller (312/719-1245).

PEORIA BACKGAMMON CLUB: Tourn. Thurs., 6:30 P.M. at Peoria Pizza Works, 3921 Prospect, Peoria. Ed Zell (309/674-0557).



**Midwest BG Championships
"The Case of the Deadly Roll"**

March 22-24, 2002

Wyndham Lisle in Illinois

Invitations available in December
773/583-6464 • bg@chicagopoint.com



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Pittsburgh Schedule of Events

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2002

1:00 pm Registration Opens
2:00 pm Early Masters & Amateur Jackpot
2:30 pm Backgammon Bingo & MicroBlitz
6:00 pm Doubles Tournament
7:00 pm Amateur Jackpot (2nd section)
7:30 pm Masters Jackpot (2nd section)
9:30 pm Pizza (play continues)
11:30 pm Registration Closes

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2002

9:00 am Bagels & Coffee. Regist. Opens
10:00 am Registration Closes
10:15 am ABT Awards Presentation, Door Prizes, Calcutta Auction (Champion & Advanced Divisions)
12:00 pm Play Begins (Champion & Advanced)
1:00 pm Novice Event Begins
5:00 pm Dinner Break
7:15 pm Play resumes
8:00 pm BG Bingo. Regist. for Carlstrom Cup
10:00 pm Hoagies (play continues)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2002

9:30 am Doughnuts & Coffee
10:00 am Tournament play resumes
11:00 am Carlstrom Cup
11:30 am 8-Player Jackpots, BG Bingo
12:00 pm Micro Blitz Playoffs (time approx.)
1:00 pm Finals—Main Event (time approx.)

ILLINOIS...

[Continued from page 1]

lesson to be learned: Vision is more than about seeing ; it's also about comprehension and awareness. Complete results: Δ

2001 ILLINOIS STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

CHAMPIONSHIP (38): 1-Don Schiller (IL), 2-Curtis Lucas (TX), 3/4-Ed Bauder / Tom Meyer; 1C-Dave Hochron (CA), 2C-Jake Jacobs (IL); 1LC-Sean Garber (IN).

INTERMEDIATE (31): 1-J.A. Miller (IL), 2-Stan Livingston (WI); 1C-Don Marek (IL), 2C-Jena Rooney (IL); 1LC-Iliia Guzei.

LAND OF LINCOLN MASTERS (8): 1-Sam Pottle (WI), 2-Jake Jacobs (IL).

CAPITOL PUNISHMENT (32): 1-Emil Mortuk (MI), 2-Ben Zemaitis (IL).

HOLDING CELL (16): 1-Ed Bauder (IL), 2-Randy Armstrong (IL).

MONOLITHIC DOUBLES (16): 1-Butch & Mary Ann Meese (IN), 2-William Hutchison & Dan Eatherington (IL).

SPRINGFIELD OPEN (29): 1-Mark Kaye (IL), 2-Tom Meyer (IL); 1C-Stan Livingston (WI), 2C-Ben Zemaitis (IL).

GENDER BENDER LADIES TOURNEY (13): 1/2-Alice Kay (IL) / Phyllis Shapiro (MO).

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Illinois State 2001 Quiz



by Jake Jacobs

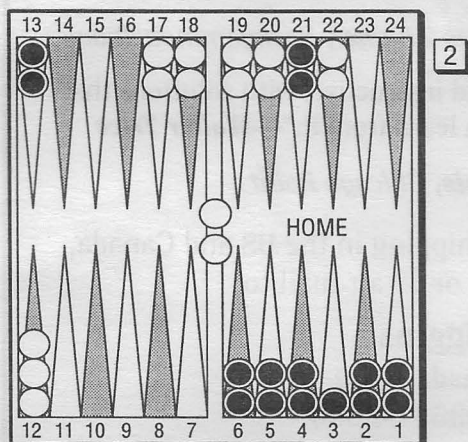
When Barry Bonds was closing in on the one-year home run record, he said that he didn't care whether he broke it, as long as his team won the championship. They tell me I am closing in on the one-year American Backgammon Tour (ABT) record, but like Barry, as long as my team wins . . . Wait! I don't have a team. Might as well go for it.

One place I went for it was Springfield (the Illinois state capitol—there are other "Springfields" out there.) On October 19–21, The Sangamon Valley Club hosted the Springfield Open, Land of Lincoln Masters, and the Illinois State Championships. Second place finishes in the Masters, and in the Consolation bracket of the State Championship did not reap enough points to break Neil Kazaross's 72.98 point record (only the State tourney paid ABT points), but they did yield a rich crop of positions.

For those who snubbed Springfield as not sufficiently "big time" to include on the circuit, try your hand at these little beauties, if you dare.—*Jake Jacobs*

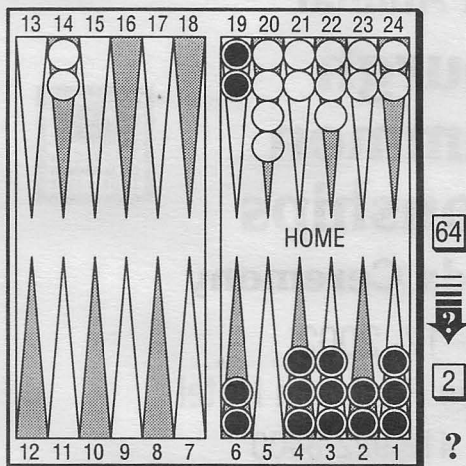
DIRECTIONS: Write your answers in the box below each diagram. Correct answers and scoring can be found on page 9.

1. Score tied at 4-4 to 11. Black to play 3-3.



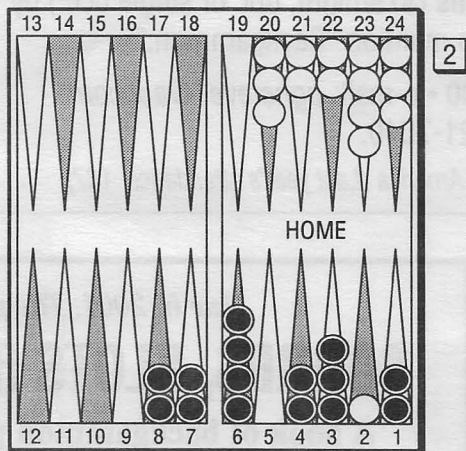
1.

2. White on roll trailing 7–8 to 11. Should White double? If doubled, should Black take?



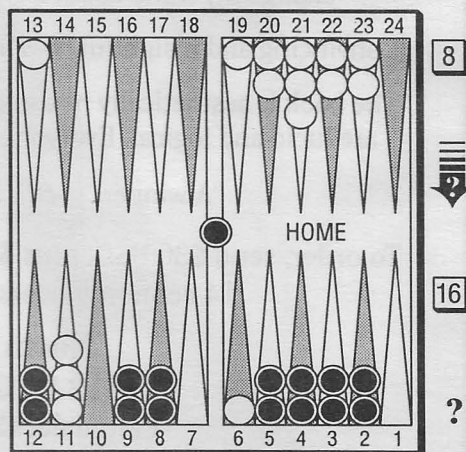
2.

3. Black, trailing 8–9 to 11, to play 6-3.



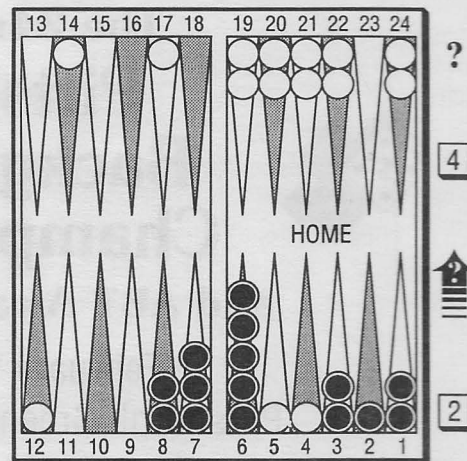
3.

4. Money game. white on roll. Should White redouble? If redoubled, should Black take?



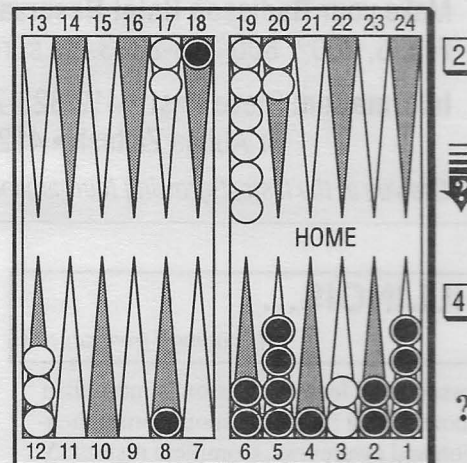
4.

5. Black leads 6–2 to 9. Should Black redouble? If redoubled, should White take?



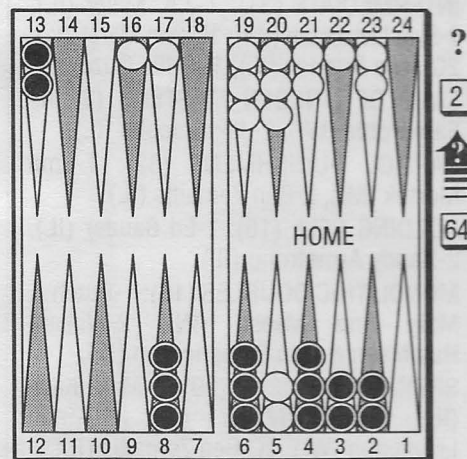
5.

6. White trails 1–4 to 9. Should White redouble? If redoubled, should White take?



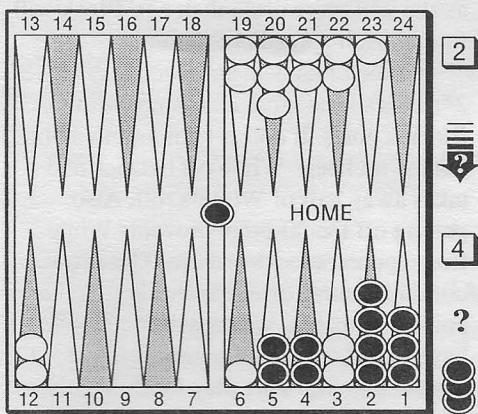
6.

7. Black leads 7–3 to 9. Should Black double? If doubled, should White take?



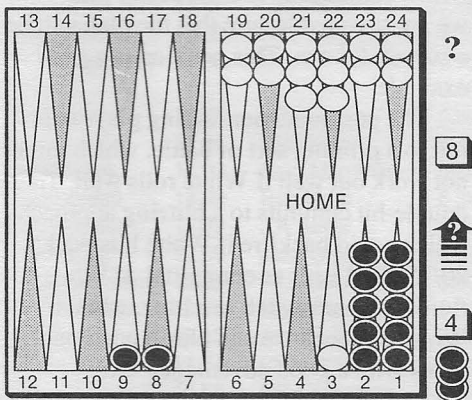
7.

8. White trails 0–1 to 9. Should White redouble? If redoubled, should Black take?



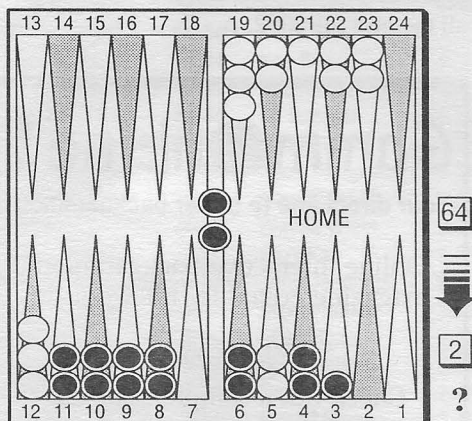
8.

9. Black leads 1–0 to 9. Should Black redouble? If redoubled, should White take?



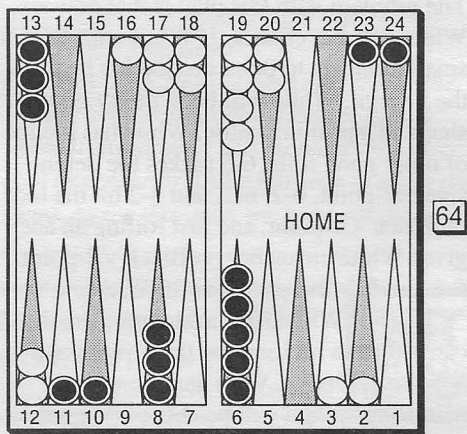
9.

10. A hustler has quickly put this position in Snowie. Level-3 evaluation says it is too good to double and a huge pass. Would you as Black take a cube on 2 if (a) White paid 6 points for five games; (b) He offered to pay you a 50% bonus, but only if you were “plus” after five games; (c) He would pay triple on YOUR gammon wins; (d) All of the above; (e) None of the above.



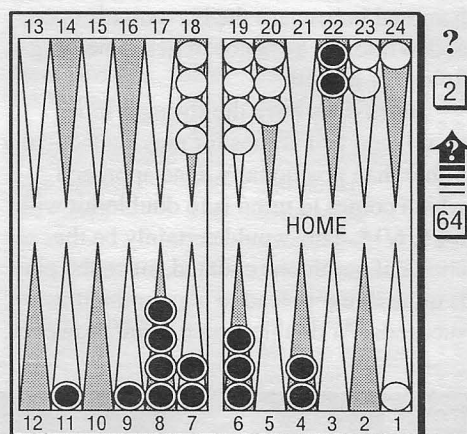
10.

11. Black leading 5–3 to 11 to play 6-4.



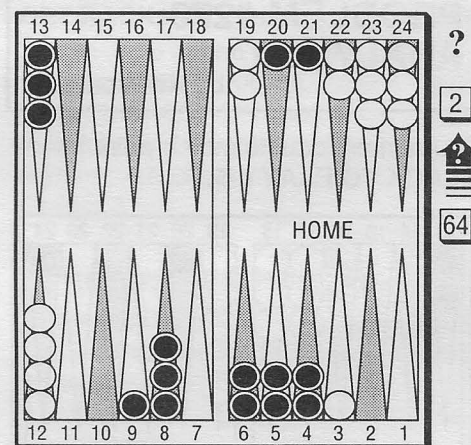
11.

12. Black trails 8–9 to 11. Should black double? If doubled, should White take? If it goes double/take, how should Black play 4-4?



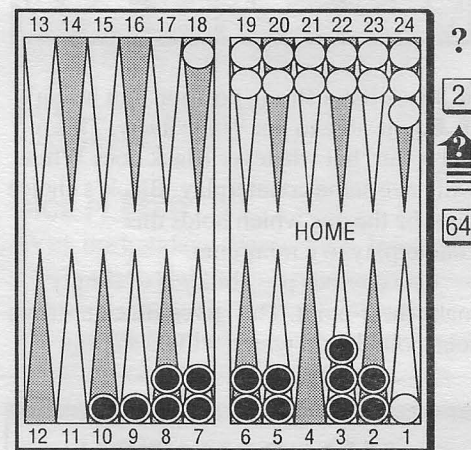
12.

13. Black trails 5–7 to 11. Should Black double? If doubled, should White take?



13.

14. Black leads 8–7 to 11. Should Black double? If doubled, should White take?

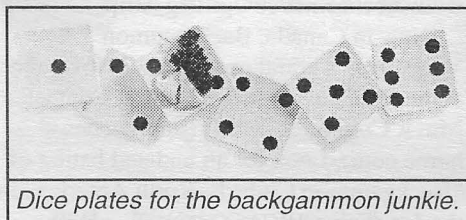


14.

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 3]

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—Marcy Sloan-Sorenson, Northbrook, Illinois

SLAPGAMMON

I recently purchased the SlapGammon backgammon program for my Handspring Visor Prism palm device and must say that it is an excellent product. It is far and away the best BG program for the Palm OS platform. The program can play in money game or match mode (up to 25 points in length), and it plays a championship level game.

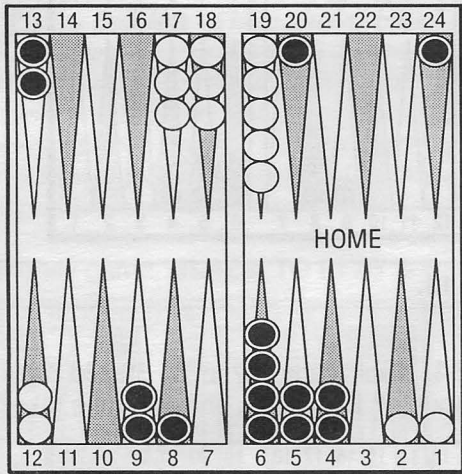
But the best feature is the ease of inputting positions for study and computer analysis. SlapGammon’s analysis engine does interactive rollouts and although it’s not at the level of Snowie, it’s quite accurate. Additionally, the recorded positions (you can store well over 20,000 should you desire) can be downloaded into your PC for later analysis in Snowie or JellyFish.

SlapGammon’s website address is: nekosoft.com/sg/index.html —Mark Kaye, Springfield, Illinois

PROBLEM #276 ANALYZED

by Kit Woolsey

Tournament double match-point.
BLACK TO PLAY 6-5.



Black has a strong position, but he isn't quite able to put White away. This 6-5 roll is fair, but whatever Black does White will have some counterplay. Black's choice must be the one which holds this counterplay to a minimum.

One obvious possibility is to simply make the 3-point. This gives Black a strong four-point board which will be staring

White in the face for the rest of the game. The problem with this play is that now White gets her chance. If White rolls two small numbers to point on Black's head on the 5-point, White will be in pretty good shape in a priming battle. White has plenty of other good rolls. 6-5 makes the defensive bar-point, 6-2, 6-1, and 5-2 hit the blot on Black's 9-point, and just rolling an ace gives White an anchor on Black's 2-point. 6-6 and 5-5 also play fine for White.

Even if White rolls a bad number, she can afford to hit loose on the 5-point and hope to get lucky. With gammons not mattering, White will be able to take some chances. It appears as though making the 3-point is too passive.

A different positional approach is to make the 8-point and jump out with 20/15, 13/8. Leaving the double-shot isn't too costly, and the 8-point is a good blocking point. The problem here is that Black may lose the initiative. White's checkers aren't hemmed in because the bar-point is open, and White has a chance to get something going for herself.

Black does have the stronger inner board, and that argues for playing tactically rather than positionally. One approach which comes to mind is to double-hit with 8/2*, 6/1*. This would certainly be the choice if gammons counted, since the play is quite likely to lead to a gammon if it succeeds. At double match-point, however,

it is not so clear. Black is short on ammunition for a full blitz, and if White hits back as she will more often than not, Black will find himself spread pretty thin.

A quieter tactical approach is 20/15, 8/2*. This seems more consistent with Black's goals. It doesn't commit to a blitz, but the hit keeps White off balance and takes away half of White's roll. Also, getting off the 20-point prevents White from counterattacking there. The extra outfield control from the checker on the 15-point is valuable. White will pretty much have to roll two small numbers to get anything going. This play looks like the right sort of compromise to me.

One of the features which makes backgammon interesting is that we don't know what the future dice rolls will bring. For this reason, we want to avoid a play which commits us to a particular plan until we are reasonable sure that the plan will be a successful one. This position is a good example.

The positional non-hitting plays commit to a priming sort of battle, which might not work out well if White rolls well. The double-hit commits to a blitzing approach, which could backfire if White hits back. 20/15, 8/2* isn't as committal. If White flunks we can switch to a blitz, while if White hits back we can play a positional game with a good advantage.—*Kit Woolsey* Δ

AMALGAMATION

Space remains in the Bar Point Club Fall Trophy Tourney (Open and Intermediate) 13 November at the Golden Flame in Chicago. Hope to see you there... Get well wishes to **Harry Cohn** (IL) who was recently hospitalized with appendectomy problems... Visiting the Bar Point Club in October: **Pat McCormick** (CA)... **Roz Ferris** (IL) filled in for **Joe Wollick** as Pub Club director 29 October. All entrants received a complimentary one month GamesGrid membership... A serious effort is being made to standardize the international tournament rules of backgammon. The laws of play are also being tackled. **Danny Kleinman** (CA), **Mark Driver** (Australia), **Michael Strato** (Canada), **Michael Crane** (England), **Bill Davis** (IL), **Carol Joy Cole** (MI), **Walter Trice** (MA), and **Nack Ballard** (CA) are the names currently involved... A 1988 strip backgammon program was discovered on the Internet. The problem is that it is in 8-bit



graphics format and probably only works on the ancient Commodore 64 computer! For those of you who want to try and download "Strip Tavla," the address is: www.hechee.net/c64/girls/g_strip_tavla.zip ... New in Canada: Backgammon Vancouver's grand opening is 7 November at the Vancouver Bridge Centre. Contact **Mark Cohen** for details (jmarkcohen@home.com). Look for an undated listing of "Backgammon Clubs In North America" in the Jan./Feb. CHICAGO POINT... **Will Edison** sent us a press release regarding his new Backgammon4Money website. Play-

ers can play against live opponents for money online. For details, go to: www.backgammon4money.com. Also online, **Leonard Shneyder** invites you to check out GameColony. Another place to play tournament backgammon for money. The address is www.gamecolony.com... Look for the next POINT with your invite to the 2002 Midwest Championships to be mailed in early January... As the holidays approach, CHICAGO POINT wishes you all the best for 2002. Δ

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WINNER'S CIRCLE



SEP.—NOV. 2001

•**First Romanian Open (Bucharest, Romania; 5–9 Sep.)... CHAMPIONSHIP (37):** 1-David Ben-Zion (ISR), 2-Chris Ternel (DEN); 3/4-Paul Magriel (US) / Avetis Rotomian (ARM); 1C-Andreas Märtens (GER), 2C-Dag Ekmark (NOR); 1LC-Emil Mortuk. **INTERMEDIATE (25):** 1-Kolya Mosoyan (ARM), 2-Hazi Davidian (ISR); 1C-Gordan Markotic (CRO); 1LC-Silviu Anghel (ROM). **BLINDO KICKOFF:** 1-Sven Rümcker (GER). **SUPER JACKPOT:** 1-Matthias Körner (GER). **DOUBLES:** 1-Republic of Georgia.

•**NEBC Bonus Tourney (Somerville, MA; 16 Sep.)... EXPERT (16):** 1-Alex Zamanian, 2-Mark Damish, 3/4-Joe Moore / Ed Ahola; 1C-Bill Robertie, 2C-David Menkes. **A/B DIV. (4):** 1-Martha Reed, 2-Patrice Robertie.

•**Japan Open (Tokyo, Japan; 6-8 Oct.)... OPEN (28):** 1-Hironobu Yazawa, 2-Ed "Shep" Rogers (USA), 3/4-Kiyokazu Nishikawa / Hugh Sconyers (USA); 1C-Jake Jacobs (USA), 2-Michihito Kageyama. **INTERMEDIATE (112):** 1-toshikatsu Ejiri, 2-Kanta Terao. **BEGINNER (56):** 1-Yutaka Mitsuishi, 2-Koudai tonosaki. **ROUND ROBIN 1 (27):** 1-Akiko Kudou. **ROUND ROBIN 2 (45):** 1-Atsushi Teramoto. **BEGINNER'S CUP (40):** 1-Yosikazu Tobita, 2-Syunji Terao. **CHAMPIONSHIP (128):** 1-Jordan Lampke (USA), 2-Masayuki Kohno, 3/4-Keiichi Hashimoto / Mashiro Yamaguchi. **MOGAMI SUPERJACKPOT (16):** 1-Michihito Kageyama, 2-Katsuyuki Takahashi, 3/4-Max

Modesti (HK) / Kiyokazu Nishihikawa. **U18 (17):** 1-Munernori Handa, 2-Yu-yu Satoh. **JBL MEMBERS (64):** 1-Uoshihiro Usuda. **MIXED DOUBLES (32):** 1-Seiichi Nagai & Hisako Nisizawa, 2-Naka Shinjirou & Tomoko Yamaguchi. **DOUBLES #1 (8):** 1-Steve Sax & Hugh Sconyers (USA). **DOUBLES #2 (8):** 1-Shinichirou Kaneko & Mashito Yamamoto. **LADIES TOURNAMENT (32):** 1-Hisako Nishizawa, 2-Kazuko Numazawa. **1-POINT MINI-MATCH (128):** 1-Syunsuke Hasegawa. **TEAM EVENT (10):** 1-Wandering Gamblers (Japan). **OTHELLO QUIZ:** 1-Hugh Sconyers (USA).

•**Sandy Osborne Memorial Trophy (Coventry, England; 6-7 Oct.)... OPEN (63):** 1-Jim Johnson, 2-Julian Fetterlein, 3/4-James Vogl / Paul Lamford; 1C-Brian Lever, 2C-Peter Chan, 3C/4C-Kevin Stebbing / Bill Pope; 1LC-Mardi Ohannessian, 2LC-Cliff Connick. **SUICIDE! (64):** 1-Uldis Lapikens, 2-David Startin. **FRIDAY KO (26):** 1-Ray Kershaw, 2-Jim Johnson. **DOUBLES (16):** 1-Blunderbusters, 2-Bell Bottom Boys.

•**4th Austrian Open & Doubles Championship (Seefeld, Austria; 11-14 Oct.)... MASTERS (53):** 1-Akaki Kikaleishvili (GEO), François Tardieu (FRA), 3/4-Norbert Lisiecki (GER) / Thomas Lumper (GER); 1C-Michael Meyburg (GER), 2C-Mike Svobodny (USA), 3C/3C-Dario de Toffoli (ITA) / Matthias Körner (GER); 1LC-Daniel Kuchen (SWZ), 2LC-Marcel Liechti (SWZ). **CHAMPIONS (45):** 1-Georg Siegel (GER), 2-Sami Sallack (GER), 3/4-Claus Berggreen (DEN) / Paolo Gruppioni (ITA); 1C-Udo Kindler (SWZ), 2C-Albert Reiter (AUS); 1LC-Herbert Höllriegl (GER), 2LC-Artur Piccinini (AUS). **KICKOFF:** 1-Roberto

Terenziani (ITA), 2-Martin de Bruin (SPA). **CONTINENTAL DOUBLES:** 1-Thomas Kristensen & Morten Vogt Nielsen (DEN), 2-Christian Zenkner & Udo Geib (GER). **SUPERJACKPOT (16):** 1/2-Mads Andersen (DEN) / Leonid Riskin (GER). **LADIES TROPHY:** 1-Tanja Skanstom (DEN), 2-Lise Howard (SWZ).

•**American Eagle Open (Houston, TX; 18 Oct.) ... OPEN (21):** 1-Dan Lamont, 2-Gary Fomby.

•**9th Irish Open (Dublin, Ireland; 27-28 Oct.)... OPEN (57):** 1-Brian Lever, 2-Peter Christmas, 3/4-Jeff Ellis / Frank Conway; 1C-Paul O'Kelly, 2C-Simon K. Jones, 3C/4C-Alan White / Asger Kring. **SUPER JACKPOT (13):** 1-rosemary Bensley, 2-Brian Lever, 3/4-David Sheehy / Julian Minwalla. **TEAM EVENT:** 1-Paul Waters, Peter Chan & Robert Phelan, 2/3-Brendan Burgess, Philip Reddin & Mark Flanagan / Juliette Fennell, Jim Moore & Stuart Mann... *Results reported by Sean Casey.*

•**Northeast Regional—ABT (Albany, NY; 26-28 Oct.)... OPEN (11):** 1-Wally Watson (NY), 2-Carl Adamec (NY); 1C-Walter Trice (MA). **INTERMEDIATE (11):** 1-Donny Lomuto (NY), 2-Mark Kushinsky (MA); 1C-Ray Woo (NY). **NOVICE (7):** 1/2: Arlene Austin (PA) / Sue Foster (NY). **DOUBLES:** Wally Watson & Carl Adamec (NY), 2-Doug & Wanda Roberts (MA).

•**Ace Point Monthly (New York, NY; 28 Oct.)... OPEN (16):** 1-Chris Trencher, 2-Roy Appey; 1C-Ira Siegler. **INTERMEDIATE (5):** 1-Stuart Katz, 2-Dave Posmantier.

•**Springfield Series #1 (Springfield, IL; 3 Nov.)... OPEN (18):** 1-Milad Doueih, 2-Greg Feller; 1C-Greg Tomlin, 2C-Sean Garber; 1LC-William Hutchison. Δ

ILLINOIS STATE QUIZ ANSWERS

[The quiz appears on pp. 6-7]

1. **13/10(2), 6/3(2)—3 points.** Getting hit here is not recommended. I switched points, but he rolled 6-6!
2. **No double—6 points; take—2 points.** I passed because of the open 5-point, but it isn't even a double!
3. **7/1, 7/4—3 points.** Fives are good for him anyway.
4. **Redouble—1 point; take—6 points.** But have your checkbook handy!
5. **No redouble—2 points; take—4 points.** At the table, both players thought White had less than 9%, and it went double/pass. White wins 14%.
6. **Redouble—4 points; take—2 points.** A money beaver, but at the score, a strong redouble.
7. **No redouble—2 points; take—2**

points. Black is in his window, but does better to bring one home, then cash. As easy take.

8. **Redouble—2 points; take—6 points.** You did notice that Black had three men off?
9. **Redouble—3 points; pass—5 points.** White wins not quite 20%, which is not quite enough.
10. **(D) All of the above—10 points.** After a rollout on the highest settings, this is, depending upon whether you trust Snowie's live cube function, a small pass, or even a skinny take!
11. **8/2*, 6/2—6 points.** He has the prime; you should to for the attack.
12. **Double—5 points; take—1 point. 11/7, 9/5, 8/4(2)—5 points.** At the score, the double is proper, but the take is trivial. Slotting is slightly better than the attacking 7/3(2), 9/1*.
13. **Double—4 points; pass—4 points.** The things we do for the score!

14. **Double—6 points; pass—6 points.** On the cutting edge of backgammon theory. This one will be in my book. Knowing this to be an easy money take, you would be hard pressed to find an expert who would pass this, or even double it, at the score. however, taking is predicated upon one's ability to use the cube efficiently. It seems that in this position, good redoubling opportunities don't arise often enough, and without them, the takepoint is quite high.

As always, scoring is based upon my own questionable methods:

- 81–100** A capitol score, governor!
- 61–80** You are qualified to represent us.
- 41–60** Not quite a winner. Where'd they add your score, Florida?
- 21–40** Someone has to be a Senate page.
- 0–20** There ought to be a law against it!

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