

2002 ohio state championships

HICKEY AND HORTON SOAR HIGH IN OHIO

by Bill Davis & Jeb Horton

Charlotte Backgammon Club director Jeb Horton established his Championship ranking at the 2002 Ohio State Backgammon Championships. And Masters champ Mary Hickey bolstered hers. OSBC director Joe Miller and wife Fran welcomed over 70 players to the Radisson Cleveland Hotel in Middleburg Heights, Ohio 12-14 April—an 80% increase over last year’s Thanksgiving weekend attendance.

Ohio State Masters

The 11-point Masters finals pitted CHICAGO POINT and *Gammon Village* contributing editor Mary Hickey from Ohio against Georgia’s Greg Cattanach. In game three with the match tied at 1-1, Mary, a former

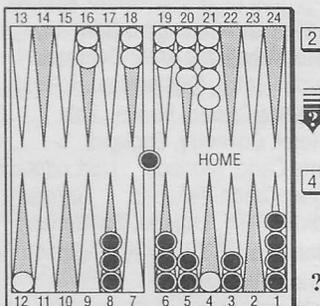


Ohio Masters Champion Mary Hickey ponders a cube decision.

Atlantic Richfield chemical engineer, faced the following recube:

POSITION 1

11-point Masters finals. Mary Hickey (Black) and Greg Cattanach (White) are tied 1-1. White on shake. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**

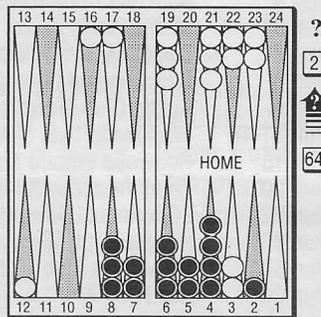


Hickey took the scary 4-cube and was able to turn the game around to gain a 5-1 advantage. According to Snowie, the drop/take decision is a coin toss.

Six games later and leading 9-4, Mary had to decide whether she was too good or not good enough to double:

POSITION 2

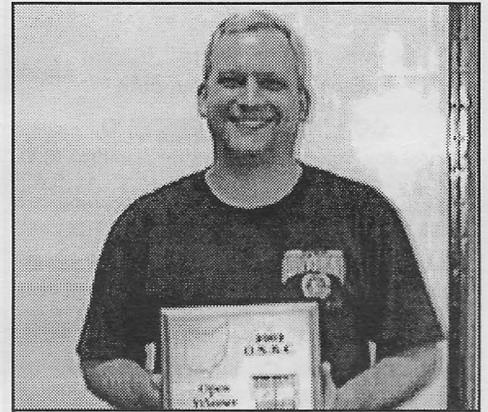
11-point finals. Mary Hickey (Black) leads Greg Cattanach (White) 9-4. Black on shake. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



The double is exactly right here. Even though coming back from a 10-4 deficit is a tough mountain to climb, Greg should pass which is what he did. But no matter. It was over one game later. Mary Hickey claimed the Masters title by the final score of 11-4.

Ohio State Championship

25 players competed for this year’s title



Jeb Horton displays his Ohio State Championship plaque. [Photo by Joe Miller.]

“2002 Ohio State Champion.” One of those players was Jeb Horton, the director of the Charlotte (NC) Backgammon Club. Jeb was gracious enough to provide us with a first person account of the action:

THE OHIO STATE tournament marked my first ABT entry into a Championship division field. I had been contemplating moving up

[Continued on page 6]

SPIDER-MAN SPINS THE CUBE



As mentioned in the January 2002 CHICAGO POINT, Tobey Maguire, aka “Spider-Man” in the recently-released blockbuster movie is a true backgammon lover. And according to an online article by Angela Matusik, “. . . he’s damn good at it.”

So where does Spider-Man play backgammon? Mostly on the web. Δ

CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

EDITOR & PUBLISHER

Bill Davis

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

Tel: 773/583-6464 ♦ Fax: 773/583-3264

E-mail: bg@chicagopoint.com

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Carol Joy Cole (MI) **Danny Kleinman (CA)**
Mary Hickey (OH) **Antonio Ortega (C.R.)**
Jake Jacobs (IL) **Walter Trice (MA)**
Duane Jensen (MN) **Kit Woolsey (CA)**

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

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

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



LETTERS

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

E-mail: letters@chicagopoint.com

DROPPED SUBSCRIPTION

Please remove the pictures of barely dressed women from your website [www.chicagopoint.com]. At a recent tournament, I talked to several players (both male and female) who find them offensive.

I will not be renewing my subscription to the CHICAGO POINT until they are gone.—*John Drexel, director, Grand Rapids Backgammon Club, Michigan*

WELL DONE, BOB Z.

I was pleased to see Bob Zavoral's Problem 279 analysis in the April POINT. Ever since "Who Killed Maggie Misplay?" I've said he should be writing more. Sharpen a pencil for him, give him a shiny new laminated CHICAGO POINT Press Card to stick in the brim of his fedora, and send him off to the front lines. Sure, he may get

[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.

May 11	May Flower Stakes, Triple Crown Sports Bar, Houston, Texas	281/556-0428
May 16*	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament (Las Vegas), Days Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
May 18	Redwood Empire Monthly, Embassy Suites Hotel, San Rafael, California	707/477-6430
May 18*	Colorado State Championship, JCR Restaurant, Castle Rock, Colorado	707/477-6430
May 19	Backgammon by the Bay Monthly, TGI Friday's, Oakland, California	831/688-9722
May 19	Greater Columbus Club Monthly, Lucky's Grille, Hilliard, Ohio	614/771-0981
May 19	Milwaukee Club Monthly, John Hawks Pub, Milwaukee, Wisconsin	414/962-8549
<u>May 24-27</u>	<u>23rd Chicago Open, Oak Brook Hills Resort, Oak Brook, Illinois</u>	<u>702/893-6025</u>
May 25*	Atlanta Chouette Tournament, Mazzy's Sports Bar, Roswell, Georgia	770/333-1876
May 26	Ace Point Monthly Tournament, Ace Point Club, New York, New York	212/753-8042
Jun 1*	MSN Gammonzone Medallion Monthly, via computer GZMedallion@gammonzone.net	
Jun 1*	Official GamesGrid Monthly Tournament, via computer tournaments@cyberarts.com	
Jun 1	Universal Mall Bimonthly Series #3, All The King's Men, Warren, MI	313/381-6639
Jun 2*	Ohio State Club Monthly, Thirsty Dog Brewery, Akron, Ohio	330/866-2811
Jun 8	Mid-Year Championship, Triple Crown Sports Bar, Houston, Texas	281/556-0428
Jun 9*	<u>NEW LOCATION: Bar Point Sunday, Champs Sports Bar, Oakbrook Terr., IL</u>	<u>773/252-7755</u>
Jun 9	Backgammon by the Bay Monthly, TGI Friday's, Oakland, California	831/688-9722
Jun 9	New England Club Monthly, Holiday Inn, Somerville, Massachusetts	617/491-8710
Jun 9	Austin Club Bimonthly Tournament, JC's Bar & Grill, Austin, Texas	512/261-8518
Jun 11-16	Worldwide Twin Championships, Riviera Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada	702/893-6025
Jun 15	Redwood Empire Monthly, Embassy Suites Hotel, San Rafael, California	707/477-6430
Jun 20*	Third Thursday Bonus Tournament (Georgia), Days Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Jun 22*	30th Annual Hawaii State Championship, Elks Club, Honolulu, Hawaii	808/922-2674
Jun 23*	Hoosier Club Summer Sunday, Arni's Restaurant, Indianapolis, Indiana	317/255-8902
Jun 30*	Milwaukee Club Monthly, John Hawks Pub, Milwaukee, Wisconsin	414/962-8549
Jun 30*	Ace Point Monthly Tournament, Ace Point Club, New York, New York	212/753-8042
Jul 3	Michigan Summer Warm-Up, Novi Hilton, Novi, Michigan	910/232-9731
<u>Jul 4-7</u>	<u>Michigan Summer Championships, Novi Hilton, Novi, Michigan</u>	<u>810/232-9731</u>
<u>Aug 2-4</u>	<u>Thousand Islands Tourney, Pine Tree Point, Alexandria Bay, New York</u>	<u>716/387-0767</u>
Aug 4	Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Anyways Grill, Oakbrook Terrace, IL	773/252-7755
<u>Aug 8-11</u>	<u>Georgia Championships & Peach Cup, Hilton Garden Inn, Atlanta, Georgia</u>	<u>770/333-1876</u>
Aug 17-18*	Summer Sizzler Picnic & Tourney, Zell's (W. Peoria, IL) & location TBA	309/674-0557
<u>Aug 30-Sep 2</u>	<u>50th Indiana Open, Sheraton Hotel & Suites, Indianapolis, Indiana</u>	<u>317/255-8902</u>
<u>Sep 27-29</u>	<u>Towpath Inn Tournament, Towpath Inn, Turin, New York</u>	<u>716/387-0767</u>
<u>Oct 4-6</u>	<u>Florida State Championships, Sheraton Suites, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida</u>	<u>954/564-0340</u>
<u>Oct 11-13</u>	<u>Illinois State Championships, Springfield Hilton, Springfield, Illinois</u>	<u>217/528-0117</u>
<u>Oct 18-20*</u>	<u>Northeast Regional, Comfort Inn Albany Airport, Latham, NY</u>	<u>603/863-4711</u>
<u>Nov 1-3*</u>	<u>Minnesota State Championships, Mystic Lake Casino, Prior Lake, Minn.</u>	<u>763/682-1716</u>
Nov 12	20th Bar Point Club Fall Trophy Tourney, Chicago, IL	773/583-6464
Nov 16-20*	Pro-Am Championship, Riviera Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, NV	702/893-6025
Nov. 20-24*	Las Vegas Open, Riviera Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, NV	702/893-6025
Feb 1-8	BG on Board VI, Ft. Lauderdale/ St. Maarten/St. Thomas, Golden Princess	773/583-6464

OUTSIDE USA

May 9-12	2nd Süddeutscher-Cup, Hotel Seminaris, Bad Honnef, Germany	49711-486190
May 12	Toronto Club Monthly, Smilin' Jack's, Toronto, Ontario, Canada	416/722-9709
May 16-19	1st Velden Open, Casino Velden, Velden, Austria	392-69018168
May 17-20	8th Kaiserbrunnen Cup, Kaiserbrunnen Hotel, Brakel, Germany	49521-64314
May 23-26	2nd Romanian Open, Marriott Grand Hotel, Bucharest, Romania	9723-7516912
May 30-31*	1st Campionato Ticinese, Quartiere Maghetti, Lugano Centro, Switzerland	4179-3374425
Jun 1-2*	2nd Open Air Maghetti, Quartiere Maghetti, Lugano Centro, Switzerland	4179-3374425
Jun 7-9	Austrian Championship Finale, Cafe Laudon, Vienna, Austria	431-9715889
Jun 8-9	Hilton Trophy, Hilton National Hotel, Coventry, England	441522-888676
Jun 9*	Toronto Club Monthly, Smilin' Jack's, Toronto, Ontario, Canada	416/722-9709
Jun 13-20	Backgammon & Bridge Extravaganza, Peligoni Club, Zakynthos, Greece	44798-614800
Jun 14-16	3rd Süddeutscher-Cup, Hotel Mercure, Stuttgart-Gerlingen, Germany	49711-486190
Jun 15-16	Danish Mixed Doubles Championship, Humlebæk BG Klub, Denmark	4520-671995
Jun 15-16	Tournament of Spirits, Europe's Go Cultural Centre, Amstelveen, Holland	3120-4633724
Jul 4-7	14th Venice International Tournament, Venice Casino, Venice, Italy	3941-52111024
Jul 6-7	Keren Di Bona Trophy, Hilton National Hotel, Coventry, England	441522-888676
Jul 8-14	World Championship, Grand Hotel, Monte Carlo, Monaco <i>USA contact: 954/527-4033</i>	
Jul 17-21	4th Czech Open, Corinthia Towers, Prague, Czech Republic <i>Germany: 49911-409505</i>	
Jul 25-28*	7th Grand Prix de Lugano, Hotel Splendide Royal, Lugano, Switzerland	4179-3374425
Aug 3-4	Studio Anne Carlton Trophy, Hilton National Hotel, Coventry, England	441522-888676
Sep 6-8*	14th European Championship, Nova Gorica, Slovenia	392-69018168
Sep 21-22*	Amsterdam Open 2002, Amsterdam, Netherlands	3120-4633724

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

his blots shot off, but someday, in that great press room in the sky, Bob will be able to look the other Chicagoans—Hecht, Royko, Siskel—in the eye, and say “Let’s roll for the Box!”—*Jake Jacobs, Tucson, Arizona*

MIDWEST CHAMPIONSHIP T-SHIRTS

I really liked your free souvenir T-shirts (especially “I Was A Backgammon Ad-dict”) at the Midwest Championships, but all the bigger sizes were gone by the time I got there. Is it possible that you could order

one each of both designs in larger sizes? If that is not doable, could you send contact information, so that I could try?—*Bob Sexton, Chicago, Illinois*

Mark Haley, our T-shirt contact informs us that the 22-year-old Canadian company that produced them has gone bankrupt. If we decide to reprint them, you’ll be informed.—Ed.

THANKS FROM THE DOCTOR

Thanks for everything that you do for the backgammon community. CHICAGO POINT as well as all the Midwest Championship tournaments are strictly class acts.—*Dr. Michael Shanas, St. Louis, Missouri*

STRANGE GATHERING

I gather from your web site that you may be interested in attracting more Jewish customers. If so, I have a proposal for you. I am involved with an interesting and very popular web site which attracts a special Jewish demographic.

As they say in business, it’s all about location, location, location. If you desire more Jewish customers, one of the best places you can be on the Internet today is with Yahoo! Give it a try; with a 10 day free trial, you have nothing to lose.—*Dr. Steven Ruttenberg, via e-mail*

HIGH PRAISE FOR THE GOLDEN PRINCESS

Could you please send me an invitation for the 1–8 Feb. 2003 Backgammon on Board VI cruise tournament? I’ve been on several cruises lately, including your ship, the Golden Princess. We had accommodations with a private balcony. The room was great and the boat was huge. In fact, we couldn’t even tell we were moving 95% of the time—literally. I’ve never had better food, and for the amount of people cruising, the staff did an awesome job of keeping the lines to and from port to a minimum.—*Tanya Rathjen, Chandler, AZ*

We hope that a lot of POINT readers will be able to join us in February for fun at sea. We depart out of Ft. Lauderdale with stops in St. Maarten and St. Thomas. But hurry. An initial \$250 cabin deposit is needed by

[Continued on page 4]



ABT
A MERICAN
B ACKGAMMON
T OUR ★ 2002

AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 2002

Compiled through 28 April 2001 after 6 events
(Upcoming: Chicago Open–May and Michigan Summer Championships–July)



ABT
A MERICAN
B ACKGAMMON
T OUR ★ 2002

Paul Klein	22.88	Sam Yoyen	5.50	Walter Trice	3.55	Luther Lute	1.70
Ed O’Laughlin	22.35	Bill Choi	5.45	Bud Bowers	3.39	Karen Meyer	1.27
Ray Foglerlund	20.45	David Rogers	5.40	Stan Livingston	3.20	Karim Jahangard	1.21
Dennis Culpepper	16.99	Bill Bartholomay	5.29	Rudy Silich	2.76	Pete Esposito	1.20
Emil Mortuk	16.78	Chen-Fu Yu	5.29	Patrick Donelly	2.65	Glen De Guzman	1.18
Jeb Horton	13.65	Jolie Rubin	5.20	Bud Olejniczak	2.50	Stephen Spudic	1.18
Keith Kuligowski	12.50	Jeff Acierno	5.18	Paula Estacolchic	2.42	Karen Chung	1.13
Owen Black	11.44	Dan Grogan	5.11	Bill Papa	2.42	Gil Evans	1.13
Barry Murphy	11.36	Eric Johnson	5.11	Jack Kissane	2.35	Mark Kushinsky	1.13
Fred Kalantari	11.20	Ben Elliott	5.00	Abdi Zaltash	2.27	Ashley Farrow	1.10
Denise Hemingway	10.59	Gary Branton	5.00	Glenn Ramsey	2.27	Shane Joos	1.06
Arman Karamian	10.59	Hank Chesko	4.99	Ray Woo	2.27	Arlene Austin	1.00
Joe Freedman	10.40	Dave Cardwell	4.80	Marc Gray	2.25	Erik D. Erland	0.79
Linda MacLean	10.02	Al Tesoro	4.71	Dale Smith	2.11	Mindla Fajtlowicz	0.78
Vadim Musaelyan	10.00	Tom Green	4.44	Femi Owiku	2.08	Fran Miller	0.71
Bob Wilensky	8.39	Kurt Schurecht	4.16	Jena Rooney	2.08	Tim Johnson	0.68
Greg Lilley	8.39	Frank Talbot	4.16	Bill Chibnik	1.83	Dennis Portell	0.68
Sho Sengoku	8.18	Dana Nazarian	4.09	Rachel Bass	1.76	Marlene Murphy	0.63
Doug Mayfield	8.18	Odis Chenault	4.09	Ed Ratajczyk	1.71	Joe Meyer	0.63
David Rubin	6.25	Boris Mindich	3.76	Charles Walter	1.71	Fran Photias	0.23
Wally Wolf	5.89	Iliia Guzei	3.59	Connie Tipton	1.70	Malak Shirkhani	0.23
Len Dangremond	5.75						



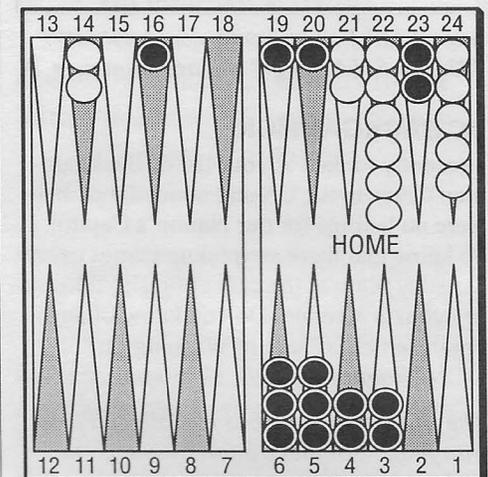
Chicago

CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB 2002 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

COMPILED
THRU 30 APR.

Joe Wollick	9.12	Peter Kalba	3.48	Jon Vietor	1.28	Tia Bailey	0.64
Lucky Nelson	8.40	Tak Morioka	3.44	Bill Sandman	1.28	Terry Weiss	0.64
Steven Coren	8.32	Tim Serges	3.36	Brian Barber	1.28	Bob Steen	0.64
Tim Carroll	8.16	Alice Kay	2.80	Paul Franks	1.20	Roz Ferris	0.60
Herb Roman	7.92	Tom Meyer	2.48	Glenn Martells	1.20	John Stryker	0.60
Tim Mabee	7.44	Joe Auszmann	2.16	Fred Badagnani	1.20	Ronora Stryker	0.60
Paul Baraz	5.68	Wayne Wiest	2.16	Karen Meyer	1.16	Kendra Welsey	0.56
Mike Sutton	5.68	Eric Johnson	2.16	Lindsay Mattig	1.16	Sakura Sugawara	0.56
Carter Mattig	5.04	Ed Buerger	2.16	Femi Owiku	1.04	Erik D. Erland	0.56
Richard Lloyd	4.48	David Araiza	2.16	Bill Keefe	0.88	Reginald Porter	0.56
Bob Zavoral	4.48	Val Zimnicki	2.16	Georgina Flanagan	0.88	Erik A. Erland	0.40
Phyllis Smolinski	4.00	Bill Bartholomay	1.92	Jason Fishbein	0.88	Joe Szvedo	0.40
Mitch Pomper	3.76	David Rubin	1.92	Ken Tibbs	0.88	Bill Davis	0.40
Richard Stawowy	3.76	Paul Lombardo	1.92	John Brussel	0.88	Barbara Levinson	0.24
Don Jayhan	3.76	Arline Levy	1.52	Steve Klesker	0.64	Scott Zucker	0.24
Norma Shyer	3.60	David Wells	1.44				

Tournament double match-point.
BLACK TO PLAY 4-3.



ASK
DANNY

© 2002 by Danny Kleinman

WHAT CAUSES A SLUMP?

Dear Danny: I seem to be in a slump in my local chouette. Month after month, I keep losing and losing, never winning my share of games. I cannot figure out whether I'm consistently doing something wrong or slumps just happen. Have you ever seen slumps that go on for three months, six months and longer? I'm desperate, and I'd welcome any suggestions you can come up with.—Desperate Player

DEAR DESPERATE: Without observing your games, I cannot tell why you have been losing so consistently, so I can only offer some guesses.

Many explanations are possible, and yes, simple bad luck is one of them. In the heyday of backgammon at the Cavendish West Club two decades ago, one of my hustler friends had enjoyed several years of eking out a living in \$5 chouettes when suddenly, his luck deserted him. His pigeons played as badly as ever, yet the dice kept bailing them out. He lost every month for about a year. He depleted his modest savings and borrowed money from some of the last people you'd want to owe. He whispered to me that this opponent and that were cheating him. When I assured him that they were not, he refused to believe me. Instead he simply stopped playing with those he accused privately, including some of his most lucrative pigeons. Then, just as

suddenly, good luck returned to him. Fortunately, he had not made his suspicions known to the players he had shunned, so he was welcomed back into their games.

Fickle though the dice can be, bad luck is the least likely explanation for a long losing streak. Despite the groundlessness of my friend's suspicions, cheating is a possibility. In chouette, the risk of collusion compounds the risk of cheating, as a Captain in cahoots with the Box can manage to "blunder" in crucial positions. The greed of cheaters knowing no limits, you might spot their handiwork when their underdog doubles, and beavers of cubes that should be passed, invariably turn into wins. Surprisingly, some excellent players have lost thousands of dollars before noticing. The probabilities of cheating and collusion are not subject to calculation, but my guess and hope is that they are small.

Here are some explanations that are much more likely:

1. You got in over your head. Much as you might like basketball, and practice as you might, you could never be athletic enough to play in a league with Michael Jordan. The same holds for backgammon, where few are good enough to bump heads with Michael Svobodny. In basketball, you would know what's happening soon enough, when you see your shots clang off the rim while Jordan's swish through the net. In backgammon, you would not even see the good plays that you miss, and you might not understand why Svobodny chooses the moves and cube actions that he takes.
2. You were good enough to hold your own and then some with the others in your chouette, but you have stagnated

while others have kept improving. Lately, some of us have learned that what we *thought* we knew about backgammon just isn't so, as Jeremy Bagai pointed out so dramatically in his recent book.

3. Perhaps, as you have aged, your backgammon game has deteriorated. This happens to all of us, at different ages and rates. Michael Jordan at age 39 can no longer keep up with young colts like Tracy McGrady and Kobe Bryant. Most mathematicians are past their prime by their late 20s. Fred Hamilton, a fine bridge expert, estimates that he reached his peak some quarter-century ago at 41, when he won his world championship.

One of my saddest experiences at the Cavendish West came when Tobias Stone visited Los Angeles and dropped in at the club. Toby, one of the greats at both bridge and backgammon in an earlier era, was then in his early 60s—hey, that's not really old, I'm older than that now. The "thirty-something" hustlers in the high-stake chouettes greeted Toby with open arms and salivating mouths. I could almost see the wheels turning in Toby's head as he intelligently thought through one difficult play after another. Then, unaccountably, he would ruin his good work with gross blunders in positions that an intermediate would get right. That's what happens to us when we age: we just have lapses.

Could any of these explanations fit your case?—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

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 3]

August 1st! For an invite, contact us at 773/583-6464 or bg@chicagopoint.com. Δ

DC BACKGAMMON

I recently looked at your list of Backgammon Clubs in the US and noticed that there were no listings for our Nation's Capitol. I do know that there are pickup games every Tuesday night at the cafe at Fresh Fields on Wisconsin Avenue. Do you know of any organized clubs here in Washington, DC?—Robinson Davis, via e-mail

The closest listed club is in College Park, Maryland. For more information, go to: www.beltwaybg.org—Ed.

AGE BEFORE BEAUTY

Regarding the Chicago Bar Point Club, I don't know how to politely ask this but I'm 45. I don't just want to play with 40-somethings, but I'd rather not come to your Tuesday night tournament if the average age is 65. Please advise.—David Bogolub, Deerfield, Illinois

The majority of us still have our teeth.—Ed.

A SWINGIN' CHOU

The Peoria Club's annual Picnic will be held at the Zell house August 17 with the Summer Sizzler tournament location on the 18th TBA. Reggie Porter has said he will DJ the picnic, so it should be one swingin' chou. —Ed Zell, director, Peoria Backgammon Club Δ



Sunday Backgammon
Special Location
9 June 2002 at 12:00 NOON



17 W 517 Roosevelt Road
Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois
(1/2 mile East of "Anyways")
Information: 773/583-6464

RACING:



It Don't Get No Respect

by Duane Jensen

"I'm sorry it had to end this way."

Was this . . .

- Warren Beatty speaking to Faye Dunaway during the final shoot-out in *Bonnie and Clyde*?
- Ryan O'Neal talking to a dying Ali McGraw in *Love Story*?
- The winner of a backgammon match apologizing to the loser because their final game was a simple race?

If you said "c" you are correct. Although backgammon is designed to be a racing game, racing gets no respect. It is sort of the "Rodney Dangerfield of Backgammon."

While the game may begin as a race, circumstances change, and you are lured or deflected off the racing pathway. Sometimes your rolls quickly develop a prime and you abandon your thoughts of racing and concentrate on trapping your opponent's men. Other times you get hit so frequently that your racing equity plummets, and you're forced to build a holding game or go into a backgame.

Players don't like to race; they like to be creative. That's where the problem begins for many. They want to slot, hit, or make some sexy play that won't be branded as "simple." One of the advantages that both Jellyfish™ and Snowie™ have over their human opponents is that these backgammon programs cling to a game's racing equity as long as possible. These programs aren't embarrassed to race—they make creative plays only when forced by circumstances.

Early in a game, many players make plays that jeopardize their racing equity. Look at a few examples:

Example 1

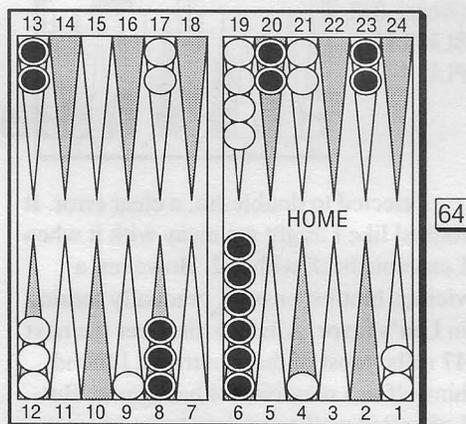
The rolls of 2-1, 4-1, 5-1, and 6-2 are often used to slot a player's 5-point. Although the 5-point is a precious and desirable goal, if the blot is hit, the loss of racing equity is too great to justify slotting. A splitting play is usually better for these opening rolls.

Example 2a

It's not easy to decide when to abandon the

race and switch to "Plan B." Look at an example from a Jerry Grandell match.

Pos. 2a. Early in the match. BLACK TO PLAY AN ACE.

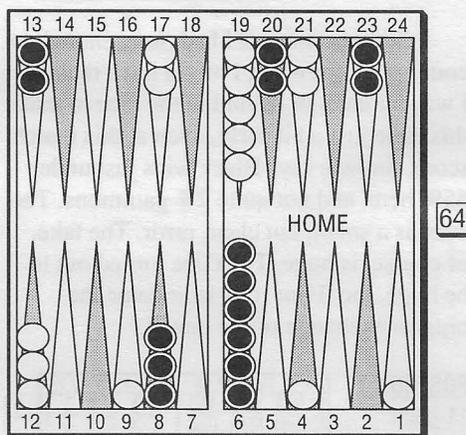


Black has ace to play. With a stack of six checkers on his 6-point, it looks like the best ace is a slot on his 5-point. Slotting the 5-point commits Black to some kind of holding game because he'll probably be hit and lose his racing equity. A better play is to split the back men on the 23-point to make them more useful as runners and hitters. With the race so close, it's too early to settle back into a holding game.

Example 2b

The previous position has been adjusted so Black trails White by an additional 18 pips.

Pos. 2b. Early in the match. BLACK TO PLAY AN ACE.



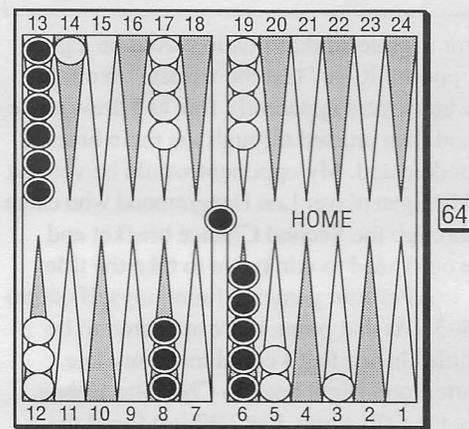
With his racing equity reduced dramatically, Black's best ace is to slot his 5-point.

Black's racing equity is now so low that the cost of being hit is not as great as in Example 2a. Black also feels an urgency to build a blocking point to prevent the last two men from escaping. In this example he can risk the shot in an attempt to make something happen.

Example 3

Here Black is on the bar with no structure.

Pos. 3. Money game. BLACK TO PLAY 5-3.

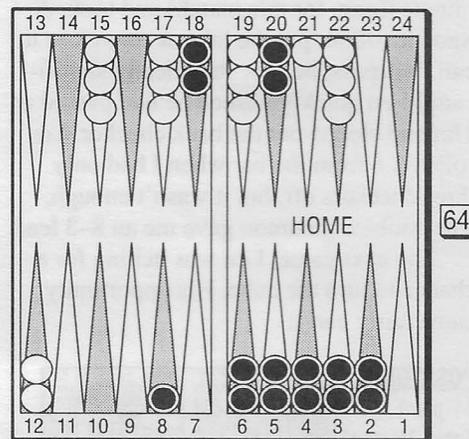


Black came in on his opponent's 5-point and hit with the 3. It's an aggressive, swashbuckling play, but wrong. Black has a lead in the race and should play a quiet 5-3 with Bar/22 and 13/8. For the time being, his best plan is just to race; hitting does little but risk getting a second man hit.

Example 4

You need to monitor the race even when well into the game.

Pos. 4. Money game. BLACK TO PLAY 4-4.



Black has just rolled his second consecutive set of double 4s. For much of this game Black has held White's bar and 5-points hoping for a shot of some kind. Black played 18/14, 18/6 keeping some direct contact with White's midpoint. Black has been focused on his holding game for so long that he doesn't see that this set of 4s has reopened the racing path for him. He should have played 20/16 (2), 18/14 (2), which would give him the best racing chances.

AS RODNEY DANGERFIELD would say, racing "don't get no respect." But if you ignore it, your game will always be a stride short of the best players.—Duane Jensen Δ

OHIO...

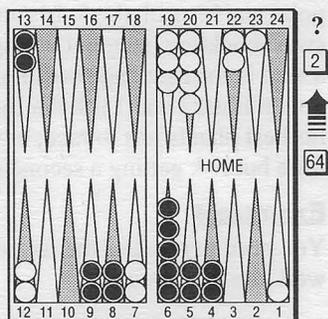
[Continued from page 1]

for a while, and felt Ohio would be a good opportunity to “test the waters.” Well, the waters were apparently fine as I drew a bye and then cruised through the main bracket undefeated. My opponent would be veteran Michigan player Len Dangremond who came through the Second Chance bracket and would need to win twice to take the title.

After four games, I found myself on top 4-3. (At that point, there appeared to be little chance that I could make my late afternoon flight back to Charlotte.) Then, in the fifth game, Len (White) faced the following cube decision:

POSITION 3

11-point Ohio State finals. Jeb Horton (Black) leads Len Dangremond (White), 4-3. Black on roll. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**

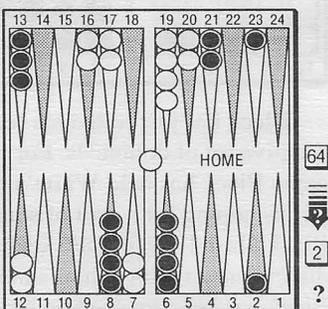


Len thought about this one for about a minute (long, for this match) and took. A Snowie rollout put the take at “too close to call.” (A pass, but not statistically significant.) Len quickly wished he *had* passed as I hit and closed-out the back checker. Len rolled 6-6 from the bar when I had only three checkers off, but it wasn’t enough. The doubled gammon gave me an 8-3 lead.

The next game, Len was itching for a chance to turn the cube. His opportunity came fairly early:

POSITION 4

11-point finals. Horton (Black) leads Dangremond (White), 8-3. White on roll. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**

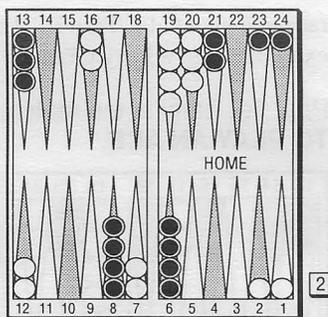


Len didn’t hesitate. Just as my dice were leaving the playing surface, the cube was hitting it. I scooped it almost as quickly, and the blot-hitting contest began.

Len entered with 2-6, hitting twice. I replied 2-1, and Len rolled 3-1, entering with the ace and safetying the blot on his 8-point. That brought up the following setup (Position 4):

POSITION 5

11-point finals. Horton (Black) leads Dangremond (White), 8-3. **BLACK TO PLAY 4-1.**

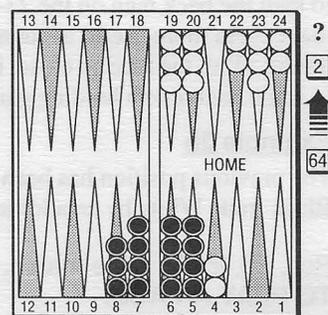


I elected to double-hit, a clear error. It looked like I might get away with it when Len came back with 2-2. However, a vicious blotfest ensued, gradually turning in Len’s favor. After 25 hits over the next 47 rolls (most of them correct), I found himself in a massive 1-4 backgame. But Len rolled well enough to bring home a doubled backgammon earning six points and a 9-8 lead.

The next game, I was the one looking to give an early cube, but I could never get enough advantage. Finally, 12 turns in, there was an opening:

POSITION 6

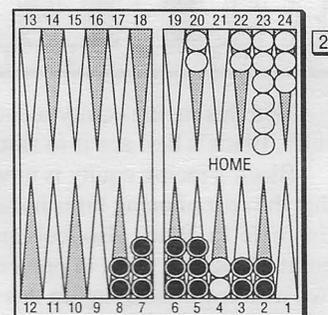
11-point finals. Horton (Black) trails Dangremond (White), 8-9. Black on roll. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



I didn’t hesitate. If I had (long enough to count pips, anyway), I might have realized I was far enough behind in the race to make this cube just a bit early, even at this match score. Snowie says Black wins just under 65% here, and not quite 2% gammons. The cube is a small, but clear, error. The take, of course, is huge. The cube turned out to be huge, too. Four rolls later came the biggest exchange of the match:

POSITION 7

11-point finals. Horton (Black) trails Dangremond (White), 8-9. **WHITE ON SHAKE.**



After Len was forced off the anchor, I rolled 5-3, correctly playing 8/3, 7/4*. Len fanned. I then rolled 6-4, covering the blot

on the 4-point, but leaving blots on the ace and the seven. Len missed the shot and I covered, closing out the checker.

At that point, I was still less than 10% to win a gammon. But Len had trouble coming in, and I rolled perfectly to win a doubled gammon.

After the abrupt conclusion, I raced off to catch the hotel shuttle to the airport and arrived minutes before boarding. I was able to enjoy the flight back with David Rogers, also from Charlotte, who had earlier made it a North Carolina sweep by winning the Advanced Division.—*Jeb Horton* Δ

8th OHIO STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

CHAMPIONSHIP (25): 1-Jeb Horton (NC), 2-Len Dangremond (MI); 1C-Bud Olejniczak (MI), 2C- Sam Yoyen (IL).

ADVANCED (24): 1-David Rogers (NC), 2-Rudy Silich (MI); 1C-Wally Wolf (MI), 2C-Pete Esposito (OH).

NOVICE (17): 1-Ed Ratajczyk (OH), 2-Karen Meyer (IL), 3/4-Karen Chung (MD) / Marlene Murphy (OH).

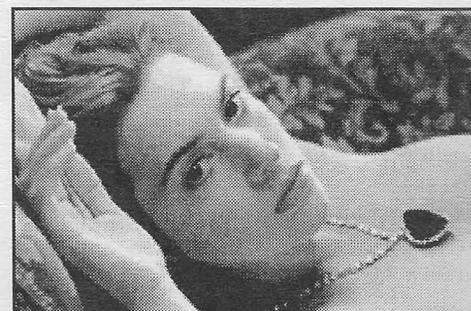
OHIO STATE MASTERS (10): 1-Mary Hickey (OH), 2-Gregg Cattanach (GA).

DOUBLES (11): 1-Jennifer Waller (OH) & Jerry Wlosinski (MI).

BLITZ (44): 1-Tom Meyer (IL).

BACKGAMMON CAN'T SAVE WINSLET'S MARRIAGE

TITANIC STAR Kate Winslet’s honeymoon started on a backgammon note, but now it appears she is ready to admit that the marriage is a “drop.”



'Titanic' star Kate Winslet's marriage now looks like a drop.

Kate and Jim Threapleton wed in her local church with their wedding reception at an Oxfordshire village pub. According to an Internet report, they honeymooned in the Yorkshire Dales where they were seen playing backgammon in the public bar of the nearest hostelry. Δ

New Location. Same Good Times!

The 23rd Annual
Chicago
OPEN



Tournament Events

- Δ *Championship (Double Elimination), Intermediate & Beginner Divisions (Continuous Play Format with Match Money)*
- Δ *\$400 Memorial Day Masters*
- Δ *Doubles, Blitz, 2-point Mini-Matches, Calcutta Auction*

**Memorial Day Weekend
May 24-27, 2002**

**Oak Brook Hills Hotel/Resort
Oak Brook, Illinois**

(800) 445-3315

(630) 850-5555

\$89 room rates, single/double

Call by May 10 to guarantee accommodations.

Tournament Directors

JOANN FEINSTEIN

(847) 674-0120

HOWARD MARKOWITZ

(702) 893-6025

howard1@lvcm.com

Call or e-mail for an invitation.

Part of Chicago/Vegas/Michigan Bonus

Get more information online at: www.nvbg.com/chicN.htm

The NEVADA BACKGAMMON ASSOCIATION proudly presents

**THE 9TH WORLDWIDE
TWIN BACKGAMMON CHAMPIONSHIPS
\$10,000 Added Money**

Hotel Reservations

The Riviera Hotel is offering BG players a special room rate of \$79 single or double occupancy. All reservations must be made by Monday, May 22, 2002. 800/634-6753 • 702/734-5110. Please mention "Backgammon"

Discount Air Travel

For travel discounts, contact Pedroza Travel Center, 369 N. Fairfax Avenue, Suite 7, Los Angeles, CA 90036. 800/237-1597 • 323/651-1931

June 11-16, 2002

RIVIERA
Hotel & Casino
Las Vegas, Nevada

Tournament Information

Howard Markowitz, Director
Nevada Backgammon Association
3342 S. Sandhill #9, P.O. Box 423
Las Vegas, NV 89121
702/893-6025 • Fax: 702/893-0043
E-mail: howard1@lvcm.com
www.nvbg.com

Tournament Events

9th International Cup
19th Nevada State Tournament
Masters Invitational, Limited \$1000 JP
Blitz, Mini-Match, Doubles Tourney
Seniors Tournament
After Tournament Tournament

Chicago/Vegas/Michigan Bonus

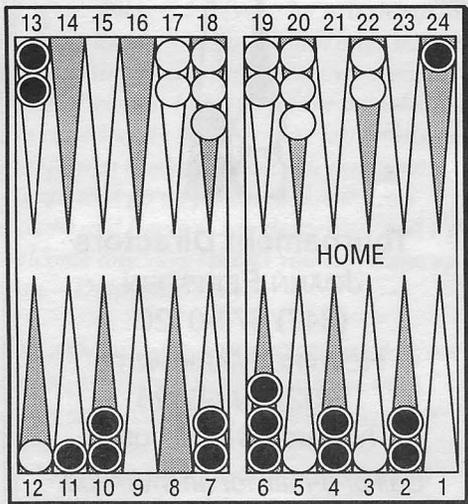
\$1,500 Added Prize Money
100% return of entry fees
Attend two of the following events (Chicago Open, Vegas Twin Championships, Michigan Summer Championships) and you can enter the \$1500 added tournament in Michigan. Details in brochure.

last month's position

PROBLEM #280 ANALYZED

by Kit Woolsey

Match to 7 points. Black leads White, 6 to 3, Crawford. **BLACK TO PLAY 4-2.**



If this were an even match score with gammons counting for Black there would not be a problem. Hitting two checkers with 7/5*, 7/3* would be very clear. This puts two White checkers on the bar, taking the initiative away from White completely. If White fails to hit back, Black would have a commanding advantage, and even if White does hit Black

has enough ammunition in range to continue the fight. No other play would even be worth consideration.

At the actual match score, gammons are worthless for Black. To make things more interesting, gammons have extra value for White. If White wins a gammon, she gets to 2-away with the next game deciding the match. Thus, Black should tend toward plays which are less likely to win a gammon, more likely to win the game, and less likely to lose a gammon.

In the actual position, Black has two such candidates. Moderately conservative is 11/5*, which at least puts White on the bar, maintains the bar point, and leaves only one blot on Black's side of the board. Even more conservative is 11/7, 6/4, which leaves no blots on Black's side of the board but gives White complete freedom to play her whole roll. There is no question that the more conservative the play, the less likely either player is to win a gammon. What must be evaluated is what happens to Black's winning chances after making a more conservative play versus the double hit.

Suppose Black goes super-conservative with 11/7, 6/4. This is an ugly play, taking the valuable spare from the 6-point. It might be okay if Black had all his checkers out, but that is not the case. Black has a lone checker on White's ace point which is in jeopardy of being primed or attacked if White is permitted to play her full roll. In addition, if White anchors on Black's 5-point, it will be difficult for Black to win

the game. Note that 2s are not a number White needs on the other side of the board, so White will have excellent diversification. 11/7, 6/4 is just too passive.

The partial attack of 11/5* at least stops White from anchoring on Black's 5-point or making the offensive 4-point. The problem is that it gives White too many good numbers. 5s to hit, 3s to anchor, and other hitting numbers such as 1-2, 1-4, or 2-3. 11/5* is better than 11/7, 6/4, but still too passive. Black needs to play to win rather than play not to lose.

Let's again examine the double hit. Yes, it wins more gammons, but it also wins more games! If White doesn't hit back, Black will be a huge favorite. If White hits one of the blots but doesn't get the other checker in, Black will still have a good chance to continue the attack with his stronger inner board and ample supply of builders. Only if White gets both checkers in will Black regret the double-hit; but even if this happens Black will still be right in the game. At least he will have prevented White from making progress on the offensive front. It is likely that the double-hit will lose more gammons than the more conservative plays, but the play will win often enough to justify the risk.

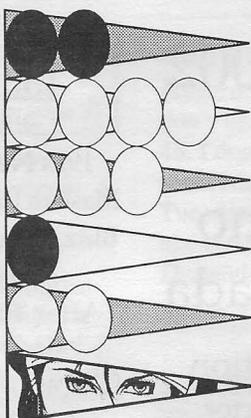
You can't afford to crawl into a shell just because you are ahead in the match. While a certain amount of conservatism may be called for, you still have to play to win. If that means taking some calculated risks, go for it.—Kit Woolsey Δ

Michigan Summer Fun

Tons of Action

- Open - Intermediate - Novice with **100% RETURN** in the Open division
- \$15,000 Michigan Masters
- Open & Limited Doubles
- Firecracker Jackpots
- GamesGrid Blitz Tourney with minimum **\$1000 ADDED**
- Chicago-Vegas-Michigan **\$1500 ADDED** Bonus Event
- 2-point Quickies
- Summer Freeze-Out
- ... and More!

Michigan Summer



July 4-7, 2002

(Wednesday Warm-Up - July 3rd)
Hilton Novi • Novi, Michigan
 Michigan Masters - Thurs., July 4th

Backgammon Championships

Accommodations

Make hotel reservations by June 14 to ensure getting a room at \$75. On Sunday only, July 7, the rate is \$69.
 800/445-8667
 248/349-4000

Information

Direct questions regarding this event to the tournament director **Carol Joy Cole:**
 810/232-9731
 cjc@tir.com



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 Champs Sports Bar, 17 W. 517 Roosevelt Rd., Oakbrook Terrace; 630/691-1888.

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. 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).

WINNER'S CIRCLE



MAR.-APR. 2002

•**Redwood Empire Monthly** (San Rafael, CA; 16 Mar.)... OPEN (8): 1-Timothy Jaxon, 2/3-Vukodin Milojevic / Tom Leslie (split). INTERMEDIATE (10): 1-Jim Mason, 2-Fred Herrera, 3-Christian Stoddard.

•**1st Bali Championship** (Bali, Indonesia; 17-21 Mar.)... CHAMPIONSHIP (12 + 4 reentries): 1-Nagai Seiichi (JPN), 2-Thomas Christensen (DEN); 1C-Jan Bloxham (ENG/DEN), 2C-Tim Chambers (Australia); 1LC-Joachim Leibig (Bali). INTERMEDIATE/BEGINNER (13 + 3 reentries): 1-Michiyo Suzuki (JPN), 2-Adrian Crookenden (ENG/HK); 1C-Susum Mizutani (JPN), 2C-Lucio Brissolese (ITA); 1LC-Tunc Hamarat (Australia). BLITZ: 1-Jan Bloxham. LADIES PRIZE: Arij Oreibi (Libya/SWZ)... *Results provided by Jake Jacobs*

•**Ace Point Monthly** (New York, NY; 31 Mar.)... OPEN (13): 1-David Sporn, 2-Steve Elkin; 1C-Richard Munitz. INTERMEDIATE (9): 1-Ray Javadi, 2-Joe Grue; 1C-Robert Regan.

•**Springfield Series #6** (Springfield, IL; 6 Apr.)... OPEN (17): 1-Cliff Mayoh, 2-Jena Rooney; 1C-Mark Kaye, 2C-Sean Garber; 1LC-Mike Flohr.

•**British Open** (Coventry, England; 6-7 Apr.)... OPEN (110): 1-Murat Imamoglu, 2-Hubert de l'Epine, 3/4-Brendan Burgess / Tony Lee; 1C-Connor Dickinson, 2C-Simon K. Jones, 3C/4C-Anthony Coker / Stephen Drake; 1LC-Sean Casey, 2LC-Eddie Barker. SUICIDE! (128): 1-Kevin White, 2-Ray Tannen, 3/4-Michael Crane / Gerry Smith. FRIDAY KO (37): 1-Vincent Versteeg, 2-Ray Tannen, 3/4-Jim Johnson / Kevin Stebbing. DOUBLES (28): 1-The Weakest Vink, 2-Batgirl & Boy Blunder.

•**Bar Point Sunday** (Oakbrook Terrace, IL; 7 Apr.)... OPEN (16): 1-Joe Wollick, 2-Herb Roman, 3/4-Richard Stawowy / Tim Mabee; 1C-Bill Sandman, 2C-Tim Mabee. INTERMEDIATE (13): 1-Femi Owiku, 2-Erik D. Erland, 3/4-Joe Szewo / Erik A. Erland; 1C-Reginald Porter, 2C-Eric Johnson.

•**NEBC Sunday Monthly** (Somerville, MA; 7 Apr.)... EXPERT (15): 1-Nora Luna, 2-Herb Gurland, 3/4-Joe Moore / Roger Rondeau; 1C-Dan Chicoine, 2C-Alex Zamanian. A/B DIV. (6): 1-Marc Kushinsky, 2-Martha Reed, 3/4-Dean Carmeris / Jim McKenna; 1C-Brian Cullen, 2C-Dean Carmeris.

•**Tax Refund Classic** (Houston, TX; 13 Apr.)... OPEN (25): 1-Bill Kiehnhoff, 2-Ed Chambers; 1C-Susan Kiehnhoff, 2C-Tom Wright.

•**Austin Sunday Bimonthly** (Austin, TX; 14 Apr.)... OPEN (16): 1-John Bird, 2-Ira Hessel, 3-Joe Howard, 4-Dave Kettler, 5-

Marty Brown.

•**Springfield Series Grand Finale** (Springfield, IL; 20 Apr.)... OPEN (15 Qualifiers): 1-Faddoul Khoury, 2-Greg Tomlin; 1C-Ramez Abi-Akar, 2C-Mike Flohr; 1LC-Randy Armstrong.

•**49th Gammon Associates Invitational—ABT** (Los Angeles, CA; 26-28 Apr.)... OPEN (45): 1-Ray Fogerlund, 2-Sho Sengoku, 3-Dana Nazarian; 1C-Doug Mayfield, 2C-Odis Chenault. ADVANCED (23): 1-Bill Choi, 2-Paula Estacolchic; 1C-Bill Papa, 2C-Karim Jahangard. LIMITED (5): 1-Mindla Fajtlowicz, 2-Fran Photias (NV); 1C-Malak Shirkhani. SUPER-32 (32): 1-Sho Sengoku, 2-Doug Mayfield, 3/4-Ken Arnold / Jake Jacobs (AZ). DOUBLES (16): 1-Steve Sax & Oliver Fink, 2-Barry Corchnoy & Cecelia Pedroza. ONE-POINT BLITZ (32): 1-Pat McCormick, 2-Norm Wiggins, 3-Steve Sax.

•**Granite State Championships—ABT** (Latham, NY; 26-28 Apr.)... OPEN (8): 1-Walter Trice, 2-Jack Kissane (NY); 1C-Dale Smith. INTERMEDIATE (9): 1-Marc Gray (NY), 2-Gil Evans; 1C-Mark Kushinsky. NOVICE (6): 1-Arlene Austin (PA), 2-Karen Chung (MD). DOUBLES (8): 1-Jerry Padova & Gil Evans.

•**Ace Point Monthly** (New York, NY; 28 Apr.)... OPEN (9): 1-Richard Munitz, 2-Perry Gartner. INTERMEDIATE (8): 1-Donald Gabbai, 2-Boris Dekhtyar; 1C-Ellen Titler. Δ

AMALGAMATION

We know that nice weather is here, but when February rolls around, you'll be happy you signed for Backgammon On Board VI now. The initial deposit is due by 1 August, so hurry! Call **Sue Will** (IL) of the Cruise Consultants at 309/699-6005 for details and an invitation... **Michael Maxakuli** (NV) sent us a newspaper clipping about former California real estate broker **Stan Herman** who died earlier this year at the age of 67. Herman, along with **Hugh Hefner** founded the Beverly Hills Pips Club, the upscale celebrity disco/backgammon hangout of the 1970s... There's a change of venue for the upcoming 9 June Bar Point Sunday tournament. Because *Anyways* was booked with Summer parties, we have moved 1/2 block east to *Champs Sports Bar* (17 W 517 Roosevelt Road in Oakbrook Terrace)... The long-awaited 9 June heavyweight showdown between **Lennox Lewis** and **Mike Tyson** in Memphis, Tennessee is a record-breaking sell-out. In his recent

Playboy interview (sent to us by **Maurice Barie**), Lewis talks about regularly playing backgammon with **Woody Harrelson**.

"I'm a better player, but he's a great cheater..." Talks are in the works between the Milwaukee and Madison clubs regarding a weekend Wisconsin State tournament for 2003. Stay tuned... Visiting the Chicago Bar Point Club in April: **Fred Badagnani** (TX)... **Gayle Wolf** (MI) informs us that former player **Pete Ryder**'s wife **Jane** has passed away after a long illness... According to a study by PC Data Online, women have edged out men when it comes to playing online games—50.4% to 49.6%... **Frank Talbot** (MI) recently completed reading "Batavia's Graveyard." The book describes the trips that European sailors would embark on to bring back spice from the Spice Islands, circa 1600. Page 75 states that one of the sailor's favorite shipboard pastimes (next to drinking) was playing backgammon... **Leonard Shneyder** (CA), proprietor of the online playsite GameColony.com tells us attendance is growing in the head-to-head daily money game rooms. The website (www.gamecolony.com) also offers chess,

checkers, gin rummy, cribbage, and dominoes... Madison Backgammon Club player **Charlie Walter** (WI) has written a very nice article for GammonVillage.com entitled "Intuitive Vs. Scientific Play." The level of the article makes us wonder why Walter bothered to enter the Limited Division at the recent Midwest Championships... Finally, from Frank A. Clark: "It's hard to detect good luck—it looks so much like something you've earned." Δ



The Mayfair

\$1,000.00

Only available online at:
chicagopoint.com/mayfair.html

SECOND ROMANIAN OPEN BACKGAMMON CHAMPIONSHIP

23-26 May 2001

GRAND
CASINO



BUCHAREST
Marriott
GRAND HOTEL

Bucharest, Romania



\$15,000
ADDED



The BUCHAREST MARRIOTT is a 5-star hotel with 402 rooms including 23 suites. Five attractive food and beverage outlets (including American, Italian and International cuisine) offer tempting menus. A world-class health academy with an indoor pool, whirlpool, and sauna is on site. For gambling enthusiasts, the hotel also offers a luxury casino. And check out the Bucharest attractions and landmarks, many of them within walking distance from the hotel.

Tournament website: www.playmaker-world.com/backgammon/tournament.dhtml

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

Stay at one of the very best hotels in Bucharest for only \$125/night. To reserve a room at this special rate, telephone or e-mail the hotel directly. Be sure to mention "backgammon."

Phone: (+401) 403-1007

Fax: (+401) 403-0001

E-mail: bucharest@marriott.com

TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

Abraham Eitan, *Tournament Director*

CHAMPIONSHIP – \$800

INTERMEDIATE – \$400

BEGINNER – \$150

Registration fee all divisions – \$150

Contact Abraham Eitan for an invitation:

(+972) 52-581329 • Fax: (+972) 3-7516912

E-mail: eitanbg@zahav.net.il