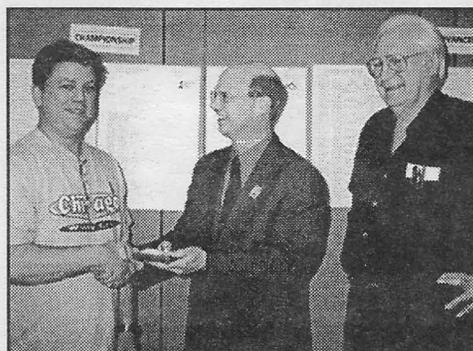


2003 midwest championships

MALCOLM AND ZAVORAL STAR IN THE MIDWEST

MBC Celebrates 20 Years

Malcolm Davis (TX) and Chicagoan Bob Zavoral each won thrilling double match-point victories to capture the top prizes at the 2003 Midwest Backgammon Championships. The annual extravaganza, held March 21–23 at the Wyndham Lisle Hotel on the outskirts of Chicago, celebrated 20 years of MBC tournaments (1984–2003). Chicago Point editor Bill Davis directed, assisted by Carol Joy Cole, Peter Kalba, Dru Heggen, Amy Trudeau, and Greg Tomlin. Well over 200 players attended including 188 in the main tournaments.



Bob Zavoral (left) receives his Grand Crystal Beaver trophy from MBC director Bill Davis. Malcolm Davis (right) placed second in the Beaver and won the Championship.

GRAND CRYSTAL BEAVER

The 16-player \$600 entry fee Grand Crystal Beaver event drew a stellar field including Steve Sax, Kit Woolsey, Jeremy Bagai, Gyl Savoie, and Fred Kalantari. Come Sunday morning, only Malcolm Davis of Dallas, Texas and Chicago's Bob Zavoral remained with the chance to win \$6,000 and the exquisite Swarovski Grand Crystal Beaver Trophy.

40 spectators circled the table to watch the 11-point battle between Davis, the #31 International "Giant of Backgammon," and Zavoral, an outstanding player in his own right, and boardmaker extraordinaire. The



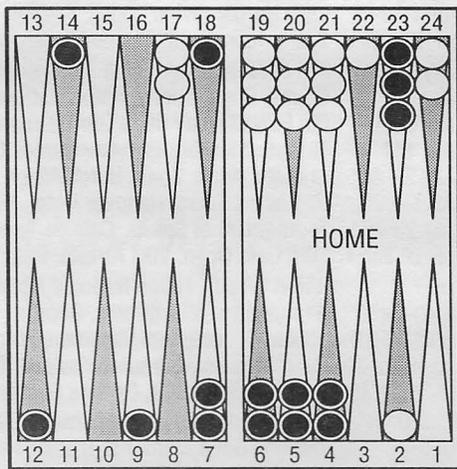
A stylish Midwest Championships staff from left: Greg Tomlin, Dru Heggen, Bill Davis (Director), Carol Joy Cole, Peter Kalba, and Amy Trudeau.

first six games saw the players exchange jabs resulting in a 5–4 Davis edge. Then in game 7, Zavoral threw two sets in the bearoff to win a doubled gammon and take an 8–5 lead.

Some of the spectators were surprised when Zavoral was the one to request a break. They thought it unwise for Bob to disrupt his winning ways thus giving Malcolm a chance to collect his thoughts. It looked like the spectators were right because when play resumed, Davis notched five points in four games to go ahead 10–8 Crawford.

In the next game, Zavoral faced an interesting decision:

11-point Grand Crystal Beaver finals. Malcolm Davis (White) leads Bob Zavoral (Black) 10-8 Crawford. **BLACK TO PLAY 4-1.**



Instead of hitting and securing Malcolm's bar-point, Bob chose to build

the 5-prime (12/8, 9/8). Many kibitzers were certain that sending a second man back and making Malcolm's bar-point was clearly correct. And when Davis tossed a 2-1, coming to the edge of the prime, even Zavoral wondered about his choice. But the next roll, Malcolm failed to roll a 6 and his position quickly deteriorated. (*Snowie rollouts rate Zavoral's play best by a hair.*)

Bob won a point and immediately cubed the next game to set up a double match-point situation. In a photo finish, Zavoral threw double 6s in his second to last roll (he needed 3s or better to stay alive) to win by a nose.

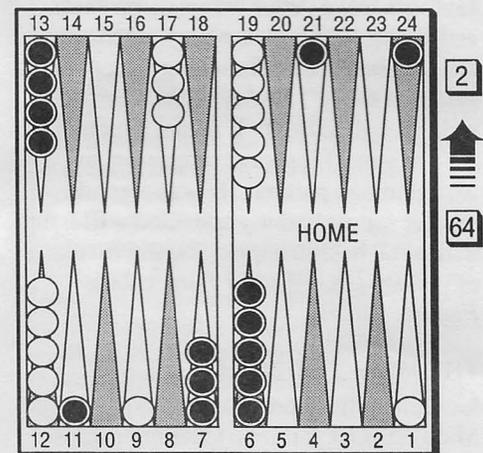
CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS

Malcolm Davis vs. Steve Sax. With two world-class players in the finals, this was bound to be a 15-point barnburner. But it didn't start that way.

Undaunted by his tough loss, Malcolm bounced back to face the #20 International "Giant of Backgammon," Steve Sax of Los Angeles. And this time, he came out storming to grab a quick 7–0 lead in the 15-point finals. Sax made the match interesting but still trailed 8–13 after 13 games. Then it was Steve's turn to make a move. Two games later, the match was knotted at 13–13 to set up what would be the last game.

Davis waited a few rolls and then doubled:

15-point Championship finals. Malcolm Davis (Black) and Steve Sax (White) are tied at 13-13. Black doubles.



[Continued on page 5]

CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

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

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

LETTERS

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DON REMEMBERED

Dear Bill Davis, Bill Keefe, Val Zimmnicki, Lucky Nelson, and all the Chicago Bar Point Club backgammoners. Thank you so very much for your support at Don Jayhan's wake. Your words of kindness and caring support were very much appreciated. Thanks also for taking Don to backgammon every Tuesday night when he not well enough to drive. It meant a lot to him.

I'm sorry I lost my companion and backgammon partner. He was a good teacher for me and my son. God's Blessing with good health, happiness, and love to all of you always.—*Dottie Tsitsos, Des Plaines, Illinois*

THE MIDWEST 20TH

Congratulations on your 20th Anniversary Midwest Backgammon Championships. I've never attended any event quite like it

[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.

Apr 11-13	<u>9th Ohio State Championships, Radisson Cleveland, Middleburg Hts., Ohio</u>	330/866-2811
Apr 12	Tax Refund Classic, Sansone's West Oaks Bar, Houston, Texas	281/556-0428
Apr 12*	Northwest Indiana Club Monthly, VFW Hall, Porter, Indiana	219/785-2082
Apr 13	New England Club Monthly, Holiday Inn, Somerville, Massachusetts	617/779-8209
Apr 13*	Backgammon By the Bay Monthly, Shattuck Hotel, Berkeley, California	831/688-9722
Apr 13*	South Florida Monthly, Sheraton Suites Hotel, Fort Lauderdale, Florida	954/564-0340
Apr 17	Third Thursday Bonus (Chicago Open), Days Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
Apr 19	Double Trouble, New York Chess & Backgammon Club, New York, NY	845/373-7272
Apr 19*	Redwood Empire Monthly, Embassy Suites Hotel, San Rafael, California	707/477-6430
<u>Apr 25-27*</u>	<u>Albany Spring Classic, Albany Airport Comfort Inn, Latham, New York</u>	<u>603/863-4711</u>
Apr 26	Atlanta Monthly Tournament, Mazzy's Sports Bar, Roswell, Georgia	770/333-1876
Apr 26	Springfield Series Grand Finale, Wildlife Sports Bar, Springfield, Illinois	217/528-0117
Apr 27	Ace Point Monthly Tournament, Ace Point Club, New York, New York	212/753-0842
Apr 27*	Greater Columbus Club Monthly, Lucky's Grille, Hilliard, Ohio	614/771-0981
Apr 30-May 4	20th Nevada State Tournament, Riviera Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada	702/893-6025
May 1*	Miami Valley Club Monthly, Buffalo Wild Wings Bar, Fairborn, Ohio	937/864-1748
May 1*	MSN Gammonzone Medallion Monthly, via computer GZMedallion@gammonzone.net	
May 1*	Official GamesGrid Monthly Tournament, via computer tournaments@cyberarts.com	
May 4*	Ohio State Club Monthly, Thirsty Dog Brewery, Canton, Ohio	330/866-2811
May 10*	May Flowers Stakes, Sansone's West Oaks Bar, Houston, Texas	281/556-0428
May 11*	South Florida Monthly, Sheraton Suites Hotel, Fort Lauderdale, Florida	954/564-0340
May 15*	Third Thursday Bonus (Wisconsin State), Days Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
May 17*	Double Trouble, New York Chess & Backgammon Club, New York, NY	845/373-7272
May 17*	Grand Rapids Swiss, Garden Room Café, Grand Rapids, Michigan	616/647-9965
May 17*	Redwood Empire Monthly, Embassy Suites Hotel, San Rafael, California	707/477-6430
May 18*	Austin Club Bimonthly Tournament, JC's Bar & Grill, Austin, Texas	512/261-8518
May 18*	Backgammon By the Bay Monthly, Shattuck Hotel, Berkeley, California	831/688-9722
May 18*	Greater Columbus Club Monthly, Lucky's Grille, Hilliard, Ohio	614/771-0981
May 18*	New England Bonus Monthly, Holiday Inn, Somerville, Massachusetts	617/779-8209
<u>May 23-26</u>	<u>24th Chicago Open, Oak Brook Hills Resort, Oak Brook, Illinois</u>	<u>847/674-0120</u>
Jun 6-8	51st Gammon Associates Invitational, A.R. Private Club, Los Angeles, CA	818/901-0464
Jun 7-8	Ace Point Summer in the City, Ace Point Club, New York, New York	212/753-0842
Jun 8	Bar Point Sunday Bimonthly, Champs Bar, Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois	773/583-6464
Jul 2*	Michigan Summer Warm-Up, Hilton Hotel, Novi, Michigan	810/232-9731
Jul 3-6	Michigan Summer Championships, Hilton Hotel, Novi, Michigan	810/232-9731
<u>Jul 25-27</u>	<u>1st Wisconsin State Championships, Radisson Inn, Madison, Wisconsin</u>	<u>608/276-8144</u>
Aug 1-3	Thousand Islands Tournament, Pine Tree Point, Alexandria Bay, New York	585/396-0969
Aug 3*	Bar Point Sunday Bimonthly, Champs Bar, Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois	773/583-6464
Aug 7-10	Georgia Championships & Peach Cup, Hilton Garden Inn, Atlanta, Georgia	770/333-1876
<u>Aug 29-Sep 1</u>	<u>51st Indiana Open, Sheraton Hotel & Suites, Indianapolis, Indiana</u>	<u>317/255-8902</u>
<u>Sep 19-21</u>	<u>Florida State Championships, Sheraton Suites Hotel, Fort Lauderdale, FL</u>	<u>954/564-0340</u>
<u>Oct 10-12</u>	<u>Illinois State Championships, Springfield Hilton Hotel, Springfield, Illinois</u>	<u>217/528-0117</u>

OUTSIDE USA

Apr 12-13*	Neil Davidson Trophy, Ramada Jarvis Hotel, Gatwick, England	44127-3261073
Apr 13	Toronto Monthly, Bayview Games Club, Toronto, Ontario, Canada	416/722-9709
Apr 17-21	15th Nordic "Wide" Open, Scandic Hotel, Copenhagen, Denmark	4533-363601
Apr 24-27	2nd Velden Open, Casino Velden, Velden, Austria	392-69018168
May 1-4	3rd Città di Jesolo BG & Gin Torneos, Casa Bianca Hotel, Venice, Italy	3932-90513415
May 3-4	County Cups Trophy, Hilton National Hotel, Coventry, England	44152-2888676
May 6-11	9th EBN Mayday BG & Gin Tournament, Costa del Sol, Spain (Tentative)	34950-133009
May 11*	Toronto Monthly, Bayview Games Club, Toronto, Ontario, Canada	416/722-9709
May 22-25*	Arraial d'Ajuda Open, Hotel Village Arraial, Porto Seguro, Bahai, Brazil	5573-5751040
May 23-25	Hi-Rollers Event, Hanover Hotel, Hinckley, Leicestershire, England	44152-2888676
May 23-25*	Tournament of Spirits, Café de Twee Klaveren, Amsterdam, Netherlands	316-55377395
May 30-Jun 1	10th Oslo Open, Vika Atrium, Oslo, Norway	4798-219323
Jun 7-8	Hilton Trophy, Hilton National Hotel, Coventry, England	44152-2888676
Jun 14-15	Gammonitis Tournament, George Hotel, Solihull, England	44127-3261073
Jun 14-15*	"Open Air" Maghetti, Quartiere Maghetti, Lugano, Switzerland	4178-7674600
Jun 19-Jul 3*	Zakynthos Backgammon Festival, Peligoni Club, Zakynthos, Greece	44127-3261073
Jun 24-Aug 15*	Sommer Cup 2003, Odense Backgammon Klub, Denmark	4566-139097
Jul 3-6	15th City of Venice Tournament, Cà Vendramin Palace, Venice, Italy	3932-90513415
Jul 5-6*	Keren di Bona Memorial Trophy, Hilton National, Coventry, England	44152-2888676
Jul 7-13	World Championship, Grand Hotel, Monte Carlo, Monaco <i>USA contact: 954/527-4033</i>	
Jul 14-15*	13th Nice Open, Promenade des Anglais, Nice, France	33493-879436
Jul 16-20	5th Czech Open, Renaissance Marriott Hotel, Prague, Czech Republic	49911-409505
Jul 24-27*	Grand Prix de Lugano, Hotels Splendide & Eden, Lugano, Switzerland	4179-3374425

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

before. The spirit you and your administrators created was something else.

Just wanted to let your readers know that recently, I was appointed by CyberArts as the GamesGrid Director of Marketing. Any directors who would like to contact me regarding the new GamesGrid Club Director's Program (CDP) should call me at (678/580-0638).—*Simon Kennedy-Rose, Lawrenceville, Georgia*

You and your staff ran a wonderful tourney last month. After discovering I won extra money in the Calcutta, I thought I would add to my donation to your tournament beneficiary, the Anti-Cruelty Society. Enclosed find an additional check for \$200.—*Fred Kalantari, Edina, Minnesota*

Thanks for another great tournament. Your auction and clever side games and "qualifying events" are second to none, and it's always fun to look back at the photo albums of last year and 10 years ago. The 20 year retrospective was especially cool.—*Linda Rockwell, Skokie, Illinois*

TEAM TOURNEY PAIRING SHEETS

I've had contact with Frank Frigo who is associated with the Louisville Backgammon Club. I suggested to him that our two clubs could organize a competition against each other once or twice a year. (We're just 175 miles from each other!)

Have you had any experience running a club-vs.-club tourney? If so, what format worked the best? Any advice would be welcome.—*J. P. White, Director, Nashville Backgammon Club, Tennessee*

Illinois has been running a state Challenge

Cup for 23 years. We have team scoring sheets for from two to seven teams. If you or any other directors are interested in a pairing sheet, contact Chicago Point.—Ed.

ENJOYING OLD PHOTOS

I was looking through Michael Maxakuli's old photos that Darcey told me about at your site [www.chicagopoint.com/maxpix.html]. Great collection of pictures.

We had a tournament Saturday, 15 March and a new player showed up from seeing your link to our club. By the way, we have changed the start time from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm Saturday monthly.

Thanks for listing our club, and for the new player. Every club needs occasional new players as the old ones seem to slowly fade away.—*Charlie Halberstadt, Director, NW Indiana Backgammon Association, Westville, Indiana Δ*



AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 2003

AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 2003

Compiled through 23 March 2003 after 4 events
(Coming soon: Ohio State Champs, Albany Spring Classic, Chicago Open)



AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 2003

Malcolm Davis	22.88	Greg Merriman	5.58	Petko Kostadinov	3.00	Connie Tipton	1.78
Gyl Savoie	22.39	Jeremy Bagai	5.27	Rainer Stachowitz	2.96	Rebecca Marti	1.78
Sam Pottle	15.64	Walter Trice	5.27	Philip Smith	2.73	Ron Zimet	1.61
Brian Barber	13.80	Gregg Cattanauch	5.21	Mike Cyrkiel	2.58	Mary Downing	1.50
Raymond Rickard	12.29	Tom Hodous	5.15	Ben Elliott	2.57	Max Muench	1.25
Hunter Jones	11.15	Marilyn Kubiak	5.15	Bob Green	2.57	Matt Holleman	1.25
David Rubin	10.57	Drew Robinson	4.90	Rich Madzel	2.45	Steve Kovach	1.06
Bill Finneran	10.57	Frank Talbot	4.80	Dixie McGaffick	2.45	Dave Cardwell	1.06
Steve Sax	10.40	Bob Glass	4.73	Terry Seymour	2.45	Neal Uphoff	0.93
Simon Kennedy-Rose	9.00	Vadim Musaelyan	4.50	Wendy Kaplan	2.30	Bill Etue	0.89
Ron Sanders	8.89	Herb Roman	4.44	James Bray	2.24	Betty Coppic	0.74
Curtis Lucas	8.66	Dana Nazarian	4.16	Ray Woo	2.24	Bill Chibnik	0.70
Jeff Kane	6.90	Trina Smith	3.56	Peter Roubicek	2.24	Paul Lombardo	0.61
Mary Franks	6.40	Terry Leahy	3.44	David Rogers	2.10	Kent Williams	0.61
Jim Zimmerman	6.02	Beth Martinson	3.29				



CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB

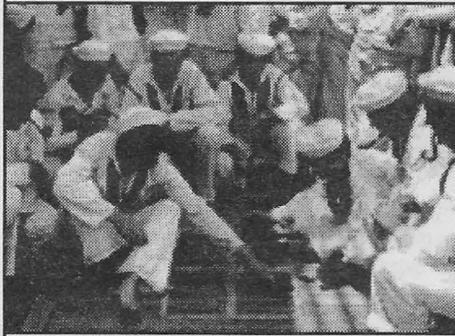
2003 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

COMPILED
THRU 31 MAR.

Bob Zavoral	9.44	Tim Serges	3.14	Arline Levy	1.68	Elaine Andrews	0.72
Tak Morioka	7.30	Val Zimnicki	3.00	Royal Robinson	1.68	Joe Szvedo	0.72
Tim Mabee	6.92	Eric Johnson	2.52	Norma Shyer	1.52	Kathy Sorci	0.72
Michael Peters	6.40	Mark Murray	2.52	Brian Barber	1.44	Richard Stawowy	0.72
Lucky Nelson	5.84	Bob Steen	2.28	Jake Jacobs	1.44	Bill Bartholomay	0.72
Tim Carroll	4.48	Georgina Flanagan	2.20	Roger Hickman	1.20	James Roston	0.72
Bill Keefe	4.40	Howard Ring	2.16	Wendy Kaplan	1.12	Doug Rodgers	0.64
Alice Kay	4.00	Roland Dieter	2.16	Phil Martorelli	1.12	Don Jayhan	0.64
Phyllis Smolinski	4.00	Paul Baraz	2.08	Carol Hooker	1.12	Los Moshinsky	0.64
Carter Mattig	3.84	Paul Friedman	2.00	Rory Pascar	1.08	Ken Tibbs	0.56
Phil Simborg	3.84	Ed Buerger	2.00	Barry Miller	1.04	Gary Kay	0.56
David Rockwell	3.84	Peter Kalba	1.92	Nora Luna-Righter	1.04	Brian Levanthal	0.56
Joe Wollick	3.64	Larry Goldstein	1.92	Linda Rockwell	0.96	Joann Feinstein	0.48
Joe Sylvester	3.40	Barbara Levinson	1.76	Aaron Ashmann	0.88	Bobbie Ivanova	0.48
Herb Roman	3.24	Glenn Martells	1.72	Bill Davis	0.76	Wayne Wiest	0.48

CARTER MATTIG earned 3.12 points in March—just enough to capture Player of the Month honors. Tim Mabee (3.08) and Joe Sylvester (2.68) were runners-up.

SAILOR'S GAME



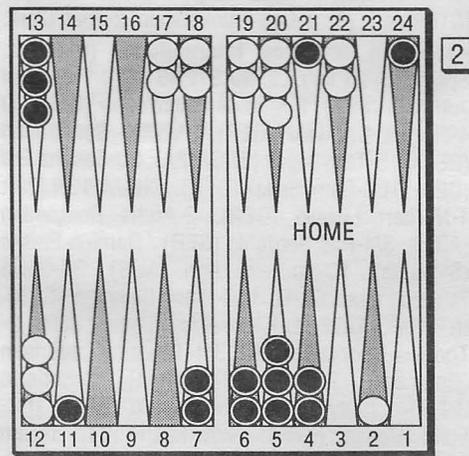
Acey Deucey is known as the Sailor's Game. Here's some action circa 1917.

your move

PROBLEM #289

to be analyzed by Antonio Ortega

Match to 7 points. White leads Black, 5 to 3. **BLACK TO PLAY 5-3**



SHADES OF GRAY

A RULES AND RULINGS COLUMN

© 2003 by Danny Kleinman

THE GRAND FINALE

Dear Danny: Our club runs a series of six small (\$30 entry-fee) tournaments each year, and awards rating points to those who win or place. To encourage regular attendance, we hold a Grand Finale at the end of each year. As stated on the flyers, the Grand Finale is open to the 16 players who accumulate the most rating points while entering at least three tournaments. Our patrons consider it an especially attractive event, for we take 15% from the prize pool in each of the six small tournaments and add it to Grand Finale prize pool.

In the past, when the end of the year approached, some players who accumulated ample points for the top 16 while playing in only two of the previous five tournaments have asked to pay the \$30 entry fee without entering the sixth tournament—just to qualify for the Grand Finale. We have always rejected such requests as contrary to the spirit of the competition.

This year, Angles McGillicuddy, one of our best players, found a way around our

rules. Having won the third tournament and finished second in the fifth (the only two in which he played), he gave \$30 to his cousin Cornelius with instructions to enter him in the sixth tournament, saying that he would arrive in time for his first match but too late for the Calcutta that preceded the draw. Irma Ingenue “bought” him, but Angles never arrived to play. When Angles forfeited, poor Irma was out the \$60 she had paid in the auction.

I consider Angles’ ploy an affront to the sanctity of the game, but what can we do? Must we permit him to enter the Grand Finale? If not, must we return the \$30 that Cousin Cornelius paid on his behalf?—
Puzzled Director

DEAR PUZZLED: Sanctity has nothing to do with it, equity and fairness have everything to do with it. Paying an entry fee is not the same as entering a tournament. To pay an entry fee with the intention of forfeiting affects others: the opponent who draws the player in the first round favorably; others, especially “buyers” in the Calcutta, adversely.

Your club has no obligation towards Angles, who may have deceived Cornelius and surely deceived and disrupted the tournament. Your Grand Finale eligibility rules are your own business, not part of backgammon tournament rules. Angles

would have no legitimate complaint were you to refuse him entry in the Grand Finale and keep his \$30. Because your flyer may not have made your rules explicit enough, however, and in consideration of Irma, I suggest that Angles be permitted to enter the Grand Finale, under the condition that any prize money he wins be split with Irma, and with a warning not to repeat his ploy.

I suggest also that you find other ways to encourage participation in your small tournaments, and open your Grand Finale to all. Tie-in sales (which, in effect, is what your tournaments are) are never fair. To subsidize the Grand Finale by depleting the prize pools of your other tournaments shortchanges patrons who for one reason or another cannot or do not play on certain dates. Do you really want to discourage participation by visitors from out of town, or by others who can play in only one or two tournaments a year? Restore the 15% you remove from the prize pools, and deliver the benefits you offer as an incentive to enter any of your tournaments during that tournament itself.—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.

who did what

WINNER'S CIRCLE



Feb.—Apr. 2003

•**Toronto Club Monthly** (Toronto, Canada; 9 Feb.)... OPEN (13): 1-Larry yudin, 2-Frode Tiegan, 3/4-Norm Franks / Hugh McNeil.

•**Northwest Indiana Monthly** (Porter, IN; 15 Feb.)... OPEN: 1-Tom Wade, 2-Terry Greaves.

•**Redwood Empire Monthly** (San Rafael, CA; 15 Feb.)... OPEN (8): 1-Mike Colgan, 2-Bob Stringer. INTERMED. (8): 1-Carl Blumenstein, 2-Joan Clark.

•**Open de Mallorca International** (Mallorca, Spain; 18–23 Feb.)... MASTERS (27): 1-Carsten Joh (GER/SPA), 2-Marcus Faltermann (GER), 3/4-Jurgen Orłowski (GER) / Volker Sonnabend (GER); 1C-Tom Jayes (ENG/SPA), 2C-Sascha Ertl (GER); 1LC-Sami Sallak (GER). CHAMPION (29): 1-Norbert Lisecki (GER), 2-Aretis Rostomian (ARM), 3/4-Piet Berdehle (GER) / Damien Plesec (Slovenia); 1C-Andreas Agh (AUS), 2C-Chiva Tafazzoli (Iran/GER); 1LC-Peter Blachian (GER). INTERMEDIATE (17): 1-Helge Mueller (GER), 2-Thomas Unholzer (GER), 3/4-Thommy Laudrisen (Denmark) / Taheri Maryam (Iran); 1C-Roberto del Toro (Italy), 2C-Heimo Tauern (SPA); 1LC-Edith Afchani (GER). WARM-UP (64): 1-Tom Jayes (ENG/SPA), 2-Sascha Ertl (GER); 1C-

Henning Frick (GER), 2C-Gunther Holzinger (GER). SUPER CUP (64): 1-Kolya Mosoyan (ARM), 2-Arthur Muradian (ARM); 1C-Peter Naguib (GER). COUNTRY CLUB TROPHY (63): 1-Carlos Szechet (ARG), 2-Kolya Mosoyan (ARM). INSELRADIO CUP (62): 1-Marc Steyvers (BEL), 2-Bertl Keil (GER); 1C/2C-Kiki Kirchoff (GER) / Arjang Nowtash (Canada). MALLORCA ZEITUNG CUP (56): 1-Martin Schubert (GER/SPA), 2-Peter Naguib (GER). 5-POINT KICK-OFF (64): 1-Daniel Bruni (SWZ). GOLDEN DOOR 1-POINT KICK-OFF (64): 1-Jacqueline Lange (SPA). TEAM CUP (15 teams): 1-Saturday Night Fever: Martin de Bruin (USA/SPA), Ingrid & Volker Sonnabend (GER).

•**Everyman Mindsports Trophy** (Solihull, England; 22-23 Feb.)... OPEN (28): 1-John Broomfield, 2-Harvey Bernstein, 3-Nicky Check; 1C-John Clark, 2C-Gavin Crawley. BUY-BACK KNOCKOUT: 1-Mark Dixon, 2-Peter Bennet.

•**NEBC Sunday Monthly** (Somerville, MA; 23 Feb.)... EXPERT (17): 1-Belle Pronman, 2-Marty Storer, 3/4-Joe Moore / Howard Rosenthal; 1C-Bill Whitney, 2C-Ernie Pittelli. A/B DIV. (10): 1-Dean Carmeris, 2-Doug Meyers; 1C-Anne Bidner; 2C-Mark Kushinsky.

•**Hoosier Awards Tournament** (Indianapolis, IN; 23 Feb.)... OPEN (14): 1-Larry Strommen, 2/3-Gabe Stiasny / Chuck Stimming.

•**Paris Master & Open International IV** (Paris,

France; 25 Feb.–2 Mar.)... MASTER (26): 1-Alain Babillon (FRA), 2-Amschel Nadjar (FRA), 3/4-Howard Markowitz (USA) / Jean-Philippe Rohr (France). OPEN (64): 1-Eric Guedj (FRA), 2-David Wells (USA), 3/4-Kristian Larsen / Amschel Nadjar (FRA); 1C-Gil Galili (USA), 2C-Maria Krancheva (BUL), 3C/4C-Sean Casey (IRE) / Christoph Wagener (GER). Lady's Prize: Maria Krancheva (BUL). INTERMEDIATE (33): 1-Zhivko Stamov (BUL), 2-Paul Baeyens (BEL), 3/4-Sam Chabansky (FRA) / Mr. Yoko (FRA); 1C-Kolya Mosoyan (ARM), 2C-Marcel Van Toor (HOL), 3C/4C-Lie Man (HOL) / Pascal Loret (FRA); 1LC-Serge Nadjar (FRA), 2LC-Guillaume Talhairdat (FRA). Lady's Prize: Nadya Marinova (BUL). BEGINNER (32): 1-Andranik Harutyanyan (ARM), 2-David Sneaual (FRA), 3/4-Mr. Lucien (FRA) / Mrs. Wolf (FRA); 1C-Mr. Ledun (FRA), 2C-Mr. Andrieux (FRA), 3C/4C-Mr. Nafis (FRA) / Scarlett Serrero (FRA). Lady's Prize: Mrs. Wolf (FRA). SUPERJACKPOT (32): 1/2-Pawel Bielewicz (SWE) / Matvey “Falafe” Natanzon (ISR), 3/4-Didier Assaraf (France) / Johannes Levermann (GER). WARM-UP (96) : 1-Patrick Didisheim (SWZ), 2-Mr. Jones (FRA). RE-BUY BLITZ: 1-Morten Nielsen (DEN), 2-James Vogl (ENG), 3/4-Morten Holm (DEN) / Slava Pryadkin (UKR). GAMESGRID NACKGAMMON (16): 1-Elliott Winslow (USA), 2-Jacques Elbilila (FRA), 3/4-Mr. Jones (FRA) / Eric Sfez (FRA). CONSULTATION

[Continued on page 9]

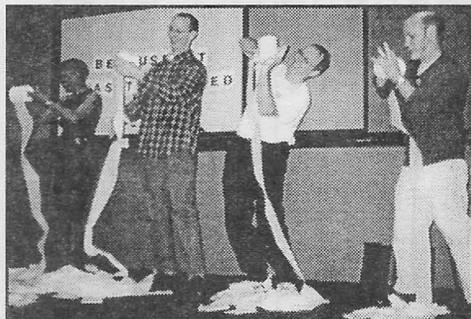
MIDWEST CHAMPS...

[Continued from page 1]

Faced with playing this game for the match or passing to trail 13-14 Crawford, Steve grabbed the cube. The game was uneventful as Davis rolled on to become the 2003 Midwest Champion and take the lead in the 2003 American Backgammon Tour.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

It wouldn't be a Midwest Championships without some craziness. This year's 20th Anniversary celebration was no exception with hundreds of dollars in cash, gold, and electronic merchandise awarded. Roger Hickman (IL) became the 20th inductee into the "Hog of Fame" by winning the 20th annual Pig-Rolling Championship. Hoosier Club director Butch Meese (IL) was just greedy enough to win "Greed Dice." "Ring the Seal" was captured by Mark Murray (IL) who out-tossed Laila Leonhardt (Denmark) in the finals. And in an unraveling experience, Greg Merriman (MI) was the first one to the tube in the "Toilet Paper Roll" (a real crowd-pleaser) at the Calcutta Auction.



Greg Merriman (2nd from right) was the big winner in the "Toilet Paper Roll." [Photo by Sue Oliver]

But the big side event winner of the weekend was Josh Riddell (IL). On Saturday, each match victory in the main tournament earned the winner a playing card. The best 3-card poker hands qualified to play for the MBC 20th Anniversary Taki-Retro backgammon board (valued at \$1250 and supplied by Tak Morioka) in an Ultimate Backgammon Tournament. Upon winning, Josh immediately threw his ragged \$12 board in the garbage. Talk about an upgrade!

IN OTHER EVENTS

Congrats to \$150 Open champion Brian Barber (IL), Advanced winner Raymond Rickard (FL), and Limited victor Beth Martinson (WI). Also to Doubles champions Paul & Mary Franks (NV), Battle of the Sexes winner Kit Woolsey, Blitz



Big, bad Kit Woolsey topped Tracy Galloway in "Battle of the Sexes."

winner Bill Minser (WI) and Quickie champ Dan Cramer.

20 YEAR VETS

Only five players have attended all 20 Midwest Championships: Marv Arnol (WI), Tak Morioka (IL), Jim Opre (IL), Richard Stawowy (IL), and Larry Strommen (IN).

At the Calcutta Auction, these gentlemen were honored with special diamond trophies and quarter-eagles of gold.



Josh Riddell upgraded from a \$12.50 piece of junk board (right) to the \$1,250 Taki-Retro in Ultimate Backgammon.



More MBC winners (from left): Brian Barber (\$150 Open), Raymond Rickard (Advanced), and Beth Martinson (Limited).

Every person who ever worked on Midwest Championships staff was also remembered with a special keepsake, and the three administrators who have served for 20 years, Carol Joy Cole, Peter Kalba, and Dru Heggen, also received diamond trophies and gold coins.

MONEY TO THE ANIMALS

Due to generous bidding in the Calcutta Auction, donations throughout the week-

end and special checks from Fred Kalantari, Arnold Zousmer, and Judy Field, the tournament was able to raise \$3000 for the Anti-Cruelty Society of Chicago. Since 1986, MBC participants have raised \$30,200 for the animals.

THANKS

Thanks to Jeff Henry of Jim Henry, Inc. for supplying the MBC with beautiful trophies for 20 years. Thanks also to Barb Levinson of Barbara's Balloons who donated magnificent balloon decorations for the playing room. And thanks to all the club directors and individuals who donated prizes to our Auction program.

See you 19-21 March 2004 at the Wyndham Lisle for the 21st Midwest Championships.—Bill Davis Δ

2003 MIDWEST CHAMPIONSHIPS

CHAMPIONSHIP (64): 1-Malcolm Davis (TX), 2-Steve Sax (CA), 3/4-Dana Nazarian (CA) / Curtis Lucas (TX); 1C-Sam Pottle (WI), 2C-Frank Talbot (MI); 1LC-Mary Franks (NV). \$150 OPEN (23): 1-Brian Barber (IL), 2-Jeff Kane (WI), 3-Wendy Kaplan (IL). ADVANCED (64): 1-Raymond Rickard (FL), 2-Greg Merriman (MI), 3/4-James Bray (TX) / Ray Woo (NY); 1C-Jim Zimmerman (IL), 2C-Mike Cyrkiel (CA); 1LC-Terry Leahy (IL). LIMITED (37): 1-Beth Martinson (WI), 2-Mary Downing (IL), 3/4-Paul Lombardo (IL) / Kent Williams (IL); 1C-Ron Zimet (IL), 2C-Bill Chibnik (IL); 1LC-Neal Uphoff (IL). GRAND CRYSTAL BEAVER (16): 1-Bob Zavoral (IL), 2-Malcolm Davis (TX). ACEY DEUCEY (16): 1-Josh Riddell (IL), 2-Chris Stanford (TX). BATTLE OF THE SEXES (26 men & 14 women): 1-Kit Woolsey (CA), 2-Tracy Galloway (CA). MIDWEST DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP (32 teams): 1-Paul & Mary Franks (NV), 2-Dr. Bob Hill & Ray Woo (NY), 3/4-Gary & Alice Kay (IL) / Bob Holyon (WI) & Larry Strommen (IN). SATELLITE DOUBLES (8): 1-Fred Kalantari (MN) & Dana Nazarian (CA). BLITZ (128): 1-Bill Minser (WI), 2-Bill Finneran (VA). QUICKIE (128): 1-Dan Cramer (MN), 2-Dana Nazarian (MN), 3/4-Laila Leonhardt (Denmark) / Dave Rogers (NC). ULTIMATE BACKGAMMON (16): 1-Josh Riddell (IL). PIG ROLLING: 1-Roger Hickman (IL). GREED DICE: 1-Butch Meese (IN). RING THE SEAL: 1-Mark Murray (IL). TOILET PAPER ROLLOFF: 1-Greg Merriman (MI). BACKGAMMON WHEEL OF FORTUNE: Timothy Jaxon (CA).

A 'THAI'NY QUIZ

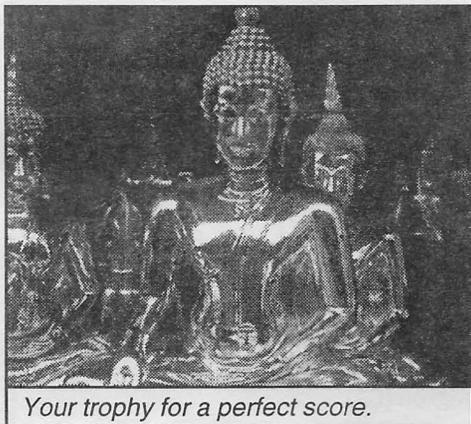
by Jake Jacobs

It looks like New Year's Day is now the regular starting date for the Thai Open. This year's began on January 1 and according to the Thai website (www.geocities.com/thaigammon/newsinfo.html) the 9th Thai Open will commence on Thursday, January 1, 2004.

Morten Daugbjerg walked off with this year's Open trophy. Fortunately, he had won it, so there was no need to get the police involved. Morten is now living in Pattaya. Perhaps he inspired his neighbors as Pattayans captured most of the trophies. Bruno Orsuni won the consolation, beating Philippe Meunier, while Gerhard Schulze came out on top of Khun Tiva in the last chance. Michael "Baby" Burkhart is now "Baby Crocodile" Burkhart after winning the Crocodile Catcher event. (Baby isn't exactly a Pattayan, but he spends almost half his time, and almost all his money there, so he holds honorary citizenship.) Only in the Desperado Cup were the locals shut out, with John Slattery of Scotland topping Hong Kong's Max Modesti.

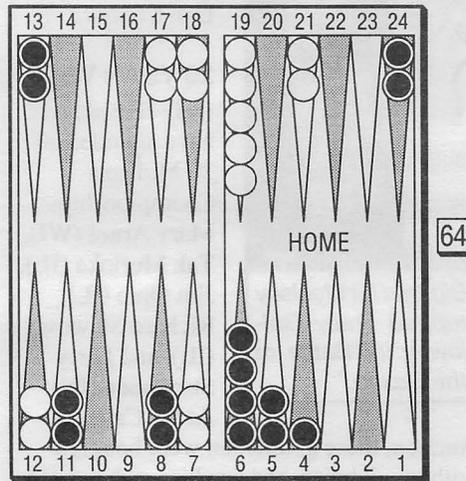
That leaves the Super Jackpot, and it too stayed in Pattaya, as Gerhard "Backjoker" Schulze defeated Jørgen "The Joker" Grandstedt in a hard fought final match. I was lucky enough to obtain a copy of the match to run through Snowie. (Both players were "World Class.") I found a number of positions quite interesting, and thought I would present them. So, for those who can't wait for 2004, or who want to experience vicariously the thrill of playing in Thailand in 2003, here is a little, nay, a 'Thai'ny quiz.

ANSWERS ON PAGE 9.

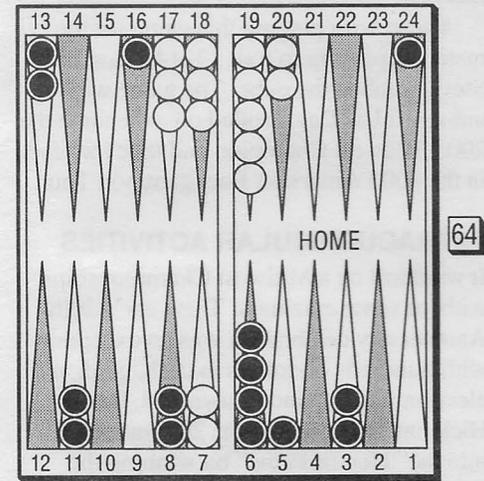


Your trophy for a perfect score.

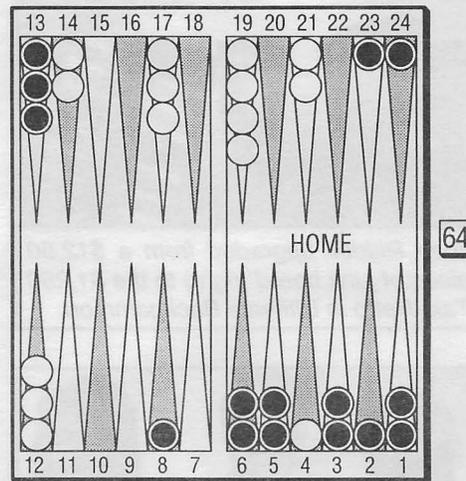
1. 13 point match. Black leads White, 5 to 1. **BLACK TO PLAY 5-3.**



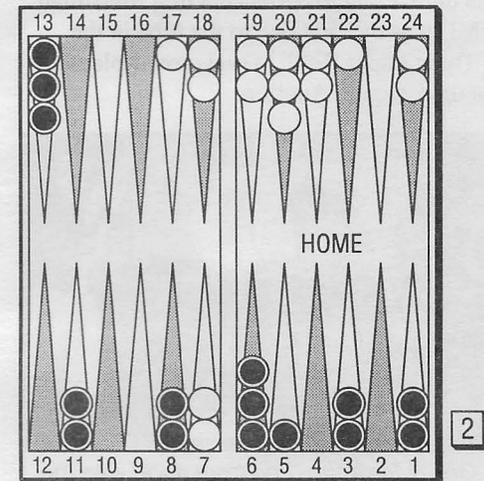
4. 13 point match. Black leads White, 9 to 5. **BLACK TO PLAY 5-4.**



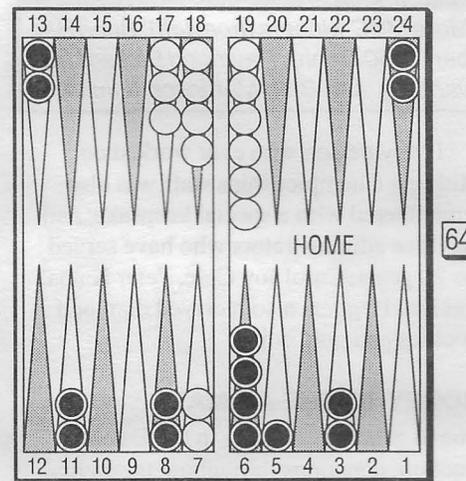
2. 13 point match. Black leads White, 7 to 5. **BLACK TO PLAY 5-1.**



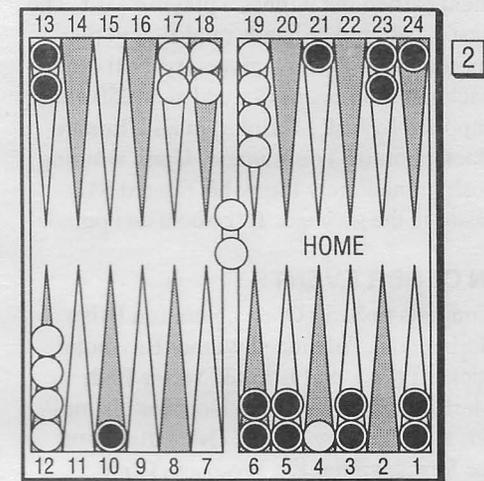
5. 13 point match. Black leads White, 9 to 5. **BLACK TO PLAY 4-3.**



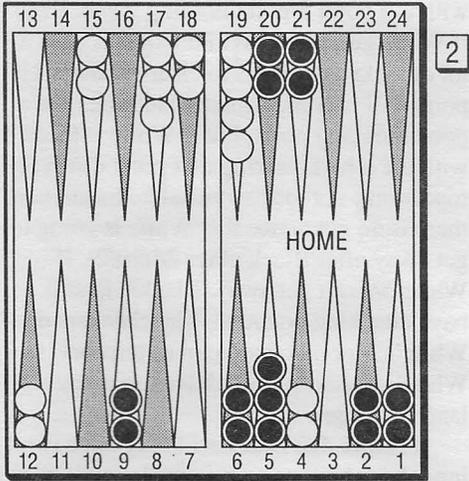
3. 13 point match. Black leads White, 9 to 5. **BLACK TO PLAY 6-2.**



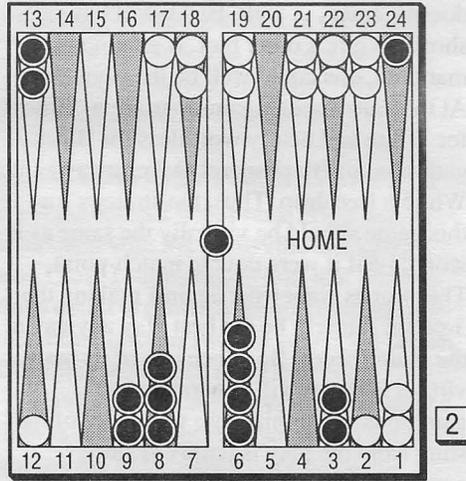
6. 13 point match. Black trails White, 7 to 9. **BLACK TO PLAY 5-3.**



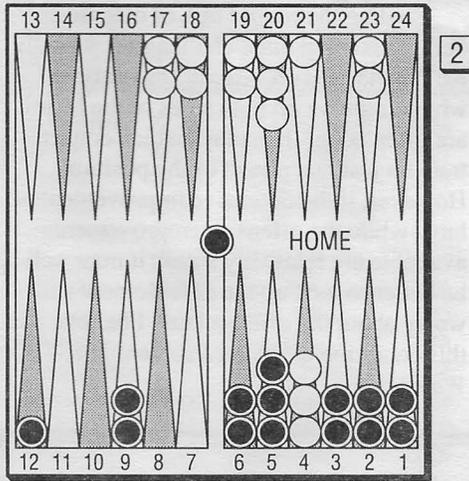
7. 13 point match. Black trails White, 7 to 9. **BLACK TO PLAY 5-4.**



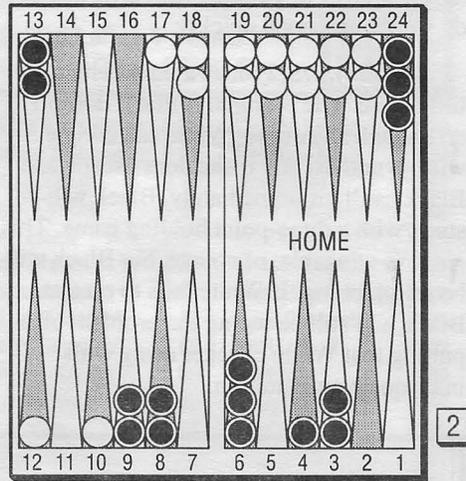
10. 13 point match. Black leads White, 11-10. **BLACK TO PLAY 4-1.**



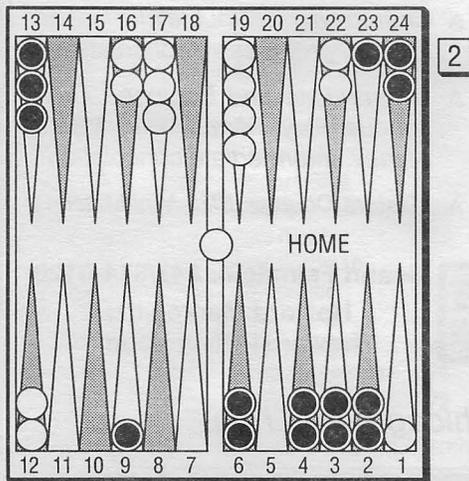
8. 13 point match. Black trails White, 7 to 9. **BLACK TO PLAY 3-2.**



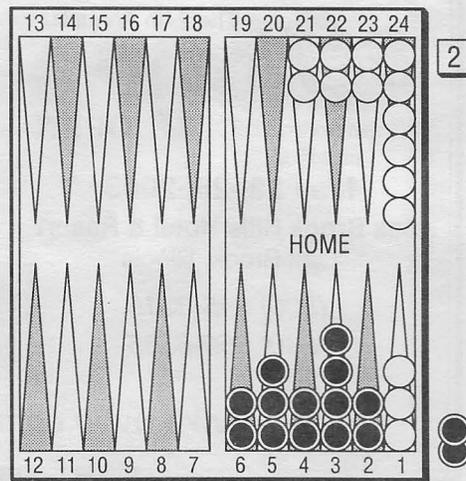
11. 13 point match. Black leads White, 11-10. **BLACK TO PLAY 5-3.**



9. 13 point match. Black trails White, 10 to 11. **BLACK TO PLAY 5-2.**



12. 13 point match. Black trails White, 10-11. **BLACK TO PLAY 1-1.**



AMALGAMATION

Houston Backgammon Club director **Tom Wright** is making good recovery progress following a heart attack last month and should be back to directorial duties in May... Florida to Las Vegas: Suncoast Club director **Drew Giovanis**. **Bob Carpenter** (5point@earthlink.net) is the new Suncoast contact. Chicago to Maryland: **Rory Pascar**. Los Angeles to Chicago: **Brian Barber**... Visiting the BPC in March: **Jake Jacobs** (AZ), **Nora Luna-Righter** (MA), **Paul & Mary Franks** (NV), **James Roston** (NY)... Peoria director **Ed Zell** reports that the Peoria Summer Sizzler will move from the Sly Fox in Lacon to the Pizza Works in Peoria. The picnic will remain at the Zell's house in Peoria the day prior to the tourney...

Diane Varner (NC) reports that last month, **Kit Woolsey** got a four point major in the Spartanburg, SC dog show. [Editor's note: *Kit Woolsey is the name of Diane's wirehaired dachshund.*]... Congrats to **Tom and Karen Meyer** on the birth of their daughter **Zayna Alexa Kimiko Meyer**. Check out her birth stats at <http://tpm.foxriver.com/zayna/>... **Paul Weaver** (AL) and **Nack Ballard** (CA) are writing a new book covering the first few rolls of the game. They have recently put out a call online at gammonvillage.com for rollout help. If you have Snowie 4 Pro™ and are willing to assist in some rollouts, you will get credit in their book and have a chance for a free copy. For details, contact Paul at walypeaver@aol.com... Starting up again is the Arizona Backgammon Club. Players meet every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at Rosie McCaffrey's Irish Pub, 906 E. Camelback, Phoenix. Call **Pete Campbell** for the details (602/279-0215)... **Amy Trudeau** worked tirelessly at the Midwest Championships (21-23 March), but still found the energy to go to a nearby Riverboat for some gambling after her Saturday night shift. It turned out to be a worthwhile trip as she hit a quarter poker machine for a very rare double royal flush and \$2000... Finally, here's a good quote from a nameless source: "One very important ingredient of success is a good, wide-awake, persistent, tireless enemy." Δ

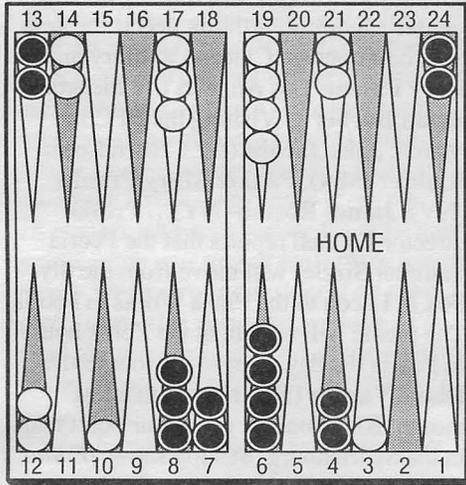
Backgammon Supplies?

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

PROBLEM #288 ANALYZED

by Kit Woolsey

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



So many good things to do. The animals will certainly march two by two, but which animals should be marching? The logical candidates appear to be:

- a) 24/20(2)
- b) 24/22(2), 13/11(2)
- c) 24/22(2), 7/5(2)
- d) 13/9(2)
- e) 7/3(2)*

A purist might think that 13/9(2), trying to build a prime, is the right idea. If White had two checkers on Black's 3-point this approach might have some merit, but with White having only one checker there, the priming approach is hopeless. It is always very difficult to prime a single checker—attacking it makes much more sense. In addition, and very important, the timing for a priming battle is not going to go Black's way. White has a ton of checkers in the outfield to play with, and Black has two men stuck back on White's ace point. White has plenty of good rolls available to make blocking points, and if she makes a blocking point or two, Black could form a full prime and it wouldn't do him any good. 13/9(2) is definitely out the window.

The next play that we can eliminate is 24/22(2), 13/11(2). Not that this play is bad as such—it is simply that 24/22(2), 7/5(2) has to be better. Black is much better off with his 5-point than his bar point, since he would like to be able to attack White's lone back checker. The midpoint is at least as good if not better than the 11-point; therefore 24/22(2), 13/11(2) can't be the best play.

7/3(2)* is a good attacking play. White is put on the bar, prevented from escaping, and robbed of half of her roll. If White doesn't enter . . . well, Black will have a shot at White's other blot. If gammons mattered, this could well be the right play. At the match score, gammons are worthless for White and nearly worthless for Black—gammon for Black merely takes away White's free drop. Thus, the strategy for this game should be virtually the same as it would be if it were double match-point. This argues somewhat against making the 3-point. It might be the best play anyway at the match score. But since one of its main virtues is that it will generate more gammons when things go well, a lot of the sting from the play is removed since gammons don't matter.

If White does enter and safeties her other blot, Black will be scrambling to put the position together. He won't have sufficient ammunition to carry out a full attack, and his back checkers will be in severe danger of getting stuck if he doesn't do something good quickly.

24/22(2), 7/5(2) does a little here, a little there. The problem is that it doesn't do enough anywhere. White can escape with 4s and 6s, and if she does escape and Black can't hit immediately, Black will be stuck with a three-point holding game. This game is winnable, of course, but Black will be an underdog. If White fails to escape, Black will still be facing the problem of putting that White checker away with inadequate ammunition.

24/20(2) is very solid. This play guarantees that nothing bad can happen, and that the worst Black is going to wind up with is a good 5-point holding game. Even if White gets away, White will still have a lot of awkward points to clear. White's 11-point will become a mixed blessing. It is a good blocking point, but if White is faced with the job of clearing that point down the road it may not look so valuable. In addition, there is no guarantee that White is going to get away after Black plays 24/20(2). If White doesn't get away, Black will still have attacking potential. The checkers on White's 5-point cover a lot of territory, so White's checkers don't have too many safe landing places.

It is true that Black will only have two inner board points so his attack won't be as strong as it would be with the other plays, but the long-term solidity of the enemy 5-point should more than compensate for that. It might not be the best play if gammons mattered, but at DMP I am fairly confident that 24/20(2) is the route to take.

Finding the proper mix of offense and defense is often quite challenging. Usually the emphasis is on offense, and plays which improve on both sides of the board are often better than plays which concentrate on just one aspect of the position. However, if the defensive improvement is huge while the offensive improvements available are relatively small, it may well be better to lock up the defense now and worry about the offense later. I believe that this condition exists for Problem 288.—Kit Woolsey Δ

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RESULTS...

[Continued from page 4]

DOUBLES (16 teams): 1-James Vogl (ENG) & David Wells (USA), 2-Morris Mosseri (USA) & Matvey "Falafel" Natanzon (ISR), 3/4-Enzo & Michel Sneoual (FRA) / Atanas Georgiev & Maria Krancheva (BUL). **GAMESGRID TEAM EVENT** (8 teams): 1-Pawel Bielewicz (SWE) & Jorgen Granstedt (SWE) & James Vogl (ENG).

•**Ohio State Monthly** (Canton, OH; 2 Mar.)... OPEN (13): 1-Pete Esposito, 2-Paul Berg (MI).

•**Ides of March Open** (Houston, TX; 8 Mar.)... OPEN (28): 1-Patrick Lee, 2-Sam Sansone; 1C-Gary Fomby, 2C-Alex King.

•**Slattery Scottish Open** (Bradford, England; 8-9 Mar.)... OPEN (41): 1-Peter Chan, 2-Rosemary Bensley, 3/4-Brian Lever / Leslie Singleton; 1C-John Slattery, 2C-Peter Bennett; 1LC-Uldis

Lapikens, 2LC-David Startin. **SUPERJACKPOT** (8): 1-John Slattery, 2-Grahame Powell. **FRIDAY KNOCKOUT** (24): 1-Michael Crane, 2-John Slattery. **HAGGIS** (37): 1-Al Hogg, 2-Simon K. Jones, 3/4-Vicky Chandler / Vincent Versteeg (NL). **DOUBLES** (8 teams): 1-Dice Maidens, 2-Bottom Burping is Fun.

•**South Florida Monthly** (Ft. Lauderdale, FL; 9 Mar.)... OPEN (7): 1-Al Tesoro, 2-Raymond Rickard. **INTERM.** (8): 1-George Kierspe, 2-Don Heinsler.

•**5th Abu Dhabi International** (Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates; 10-14 Mar.)... **CHAMPIONSHIP** (78): 1-Shahab Ghodsi (Iran/NOR), 2-Andreas Humke (GER), 3-Tobias Hellwag (GER), 4-Edmund Chaghoury (LEB).

•**20th Fleet Underwood Memorial & Benefit** (Flint, MI; 30 Mar.)... OPEN (32): 1-"Falafel" Matvey Natanzon (Israel/USA), 2-Jim Slomkoski (MI), 3/4-Emil Mortuk (MI) / Frank Talbot (MI), 5/6-Dean Adamian (MI) / Joe Miller (OH). **INTER-**

MEDIATE (32): 1-Gary Marchenia (MI), 2-Brad King (MI), 3-Walt Smith (MI), 4/6-Mark Swanson (IN) / Nancy Tuck (IN) / Lilly Undieme (MI). **NOVICE** (9): 1-Fran Miller (OH), 2-Michael Margosian (MI), 3-Nate Richardson (MI)... \$500 raised for the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan.

•**Opre Invitational XXI** (Downers Grove, IL; 5 Apr.)... OPEN (8): 1-Chris Stanford (TX), 2-Peter Kalba (IL). **DOUBLES** (4 teams): 1-Bill Davis & Joann Feinstein (IL), 2-Phil Martorelli & Chris Stanford... *Italian was the dinner theme for Jim and Carmel Opre's 21st backgammon bash. Martinis and cigars were prevalent.*

•**Bar Point Sunday** (Oakbrook Terrace, IL; 6 Apr.)... OPEN (24): 1-Richard Stawowy, 2-Carter Mattig, 3/4-Brian Barber / Roger Hickman; 1C-Lucky Nelson, 2C-Mark Murray. **INTERMEDIATE** (8): 1-Rodney Gonzalez, 2-Matt Beach, 3/4-Joe Szwedo / Kathy Sorci; 1C/2C-Elaine Kehm / Barbara Levinson. Δ

'THAI'NY QUIZ ANSWERS...

[From Quiz on pages 6 & 7]

The first four questions score 9 points each; the rest score 8 points apiece.

1. 8/3, 6/3. Clearing the 11-point is a distant second, and making the ace, as was done over the board, is a blunder.

2. 8/2. You'd like to remake the 8-point, when lo and behold the dice give you a 5. But making the deuce gives you a five-point board, so that's the point to make.

3. 11/5, 6/4. The trap is thinking that your game plan is to escape the prime he is threatening to make. Two points to consider: he hasn't made a prime yet; sometimes, the best way to escape is to trap him with a counter prime. Small numbers work well for him no matter what you play, but if he throws a large number he may have problems. Look at how a 6-3 plays for him if you run, and if you build instead. While minimizing shots with 11/5, 11/9 is reasonable, and seems to duplicate his building numbers, it is only second best. The fastest way to build your board is to slot the next point you want. Also, while a 2 is useful to him in building new points, a 4 combines with more numbers; only a 4-1 doesn't make an inner board point for him. Finally, except for double-4s, none of his hitting numbers are jokers. But if you leave the deuce shot, 2-5 and 2-6 are converted into reasonable casts instead of horror numbers.

4. 16/11, 6/2. Snowie hates building the acepoint. Why? Well perhaps it's because, since the opponent succeeded in extending his prime, the counterprime is more important than ever, so keeping your 5-point slotted, and *not* making the ace, is the way to go. And you are picking up a vulnerable blot, after all.

5. 8/5/8/4. You'll probably be clearing the 8-point next roll, so you might as well do it now,

while you can play it constructively.

6. 23/20, 13/8. It is hard to see much difference between this play and the actual play of 24/21, 13/8, but Snowie says the other play is not just wrong, but a blunder! I guess when there are four men behind a prime, making sure they escape is important. Snowie also likes 23/20, 21/16.

7. 21/16, 20/16. Remember what I said last problem about four men behind a prime? That advice still holds.

8. Bar/22, 12/10. Among the 12 problems this is one of the closer choices. The difference between the best play and bar/22, 3/1 is only 4%. That stepping up into a direct shot is correct emphasizes the power of keeping a five-point board.

9. 23/18, 13/11. Another close one, with 13/6 only 2.2% behind. Once you've brought down a builder for the bar- or 5-point, activating a back checker is a good idea.

10. Bar/20. Making a bid to escape, or at least advance the anchor.

11. 9/4, 8/5. If you hit and cover you will be trying to counterprime when you have three times as many men trapped, a much worse prime, and probably worse timing (instead of moving his prime forward he will be playing his numbers with that same checker every roll). You actually win fewer games if you hit, and you cost yourself many more gammons.

12. 6/5, 6/4, 3/2. Or play 6/4(2), it's almost a tossup between the two. Gerhard played 5/3, 3/2 (as I would have) and won a gammon for the match because of it. That play, however, not only wins fewer games, but fewer gammons as well. You don't lose many games either way, but when the opponent hits he saves more gammons. On the other hand, if the roll were 3-2, it is correct to play 5/off. The extra man off means you win almost as many games as the safer 6/3, 6/4 and also wins more gammons.

SCORING

81-100: You're good enough to play in Thailand. Heck, you're good enough to play in the World Cup!

61-80: You're also good enough to play in Thailand. Heck, you're good enough to play in the World Championships!

41-60: You too are good enough to play in Thailand. Heck, a two-time world champion missed some of these.

21-40: You too are good enough to play in Thailand. You think they test you at the border?

0-20: You're not good enough to play anywhere, but you may as well come to Thailand; we have an equal opportunity chouette!—*Jake Jacobs Δ*



ILLINOIS ACTION



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

Tuesday, 6:00 P.M. at Clarion Hotel, 5615 N. Cumberland Ave., Chicago; 773/693-5800.

Sunday Bimonthly, 12:00 NOON at Champs Sports Bar, 17 W. 517 Roosevelt Rd., Oakbrook Terrace; 630/691-1888.

PUB CLUB: Tournaments Monday, 7:00 P.M. at Danny's Grill and Bar, 345 W. North Ave., Villa Park. Tournaments Thursday, 7:00 P.M. at Main Street Billiards & Cafe; 113 S. Main Street; Algonquin. Joe Wollick (847/942-2068).

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL BACKGAMMON CLUB: Tournaments Monday, 6:30 P.M. at Caboose Smokehouse, 608 W. Seminary, Bloomington. Rob Farmer (309/821-9766).

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).

Accommodations

For reservations, contact directly the Velden Tourist Office and mention "Backgammon":

Veldner Tourismus GmbH

Villacher Strasse 19 – 9220 Velden

Telephone: ++43 4274 2103 or 448866

Fax: ++43 4274 210350

E-Mail: info@velden.at

www.velden.at • www.tiscover.com/velden

Entry Fees

Masters—500 Euro. Quarter-Entry—135 Euro

Champion—200 Euro. Quarter-Entry—60 Euro

Intermediate—50 Euro. Quarter-Entry—22.5 Euro

Registration Fees

Includes Friday Welcome Cocktail and Sunday Gala Dinner

2003 WBF Members—30 Euro

Open—40 Euro

Sponsors

Casino Velden, Casinos Austria, Dal Negro, and the Worldwide Backgammon Federation

Trophies & Awards

- Casino Velden offers a **FREE WEEKEND FOR TWO** to the Warm-Up winner.

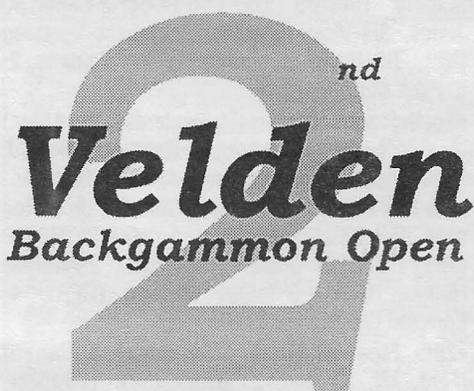
- Alfredo & Maria Sperti offer a special **PRESIDENT BACKGAMMON BOARD** to the Sperti Trophy winner.

- Various trophies are awarded by Casino Velden to Main Tournament and side event winners.

Tournament Committee

To be announced at the tournament by Alberto da Pra, President of the Worldwide Backgammon Federation

Worldwide Backgammon Federation
is proud to present the



April 24th–27th, 2003
Casino Velden – Casinos Austria
Velden, Austria

**MINIMUM GUARANTEED
Money Prize: 20.000 Euro**

MARCO FORNASIR, Director
Telephone: ++39 02 69018168
Fax: ++39 02 69018163
E-mail: fornasir@iol.it

Thursday, April 24

17:00 Registration at Casino Velden
18:00 Quarter entries. Jackpots, 1-Pt. Matches
20:00–22:30 Break for Dinner
22:45 Start of Warm-up. (Free to registered players.) Quarters, Jackpots, 1-Pt. Matches

Friday, April 25

17:30 Start of Sperti Trophy. (Free to WBF supporters only.) Warm-up, Quarters, Jackpots and 1-Point Matches
18:00–20:00 Registration at Casino Velden
20:00 Welcome cocktail in the Casino Lounge
22:00 Final Registration
23:00 Start of play: Main Tournament. Warm-up, Sperti, Quarters, Jackpots and 1-Pt.

Saturday, April 26

16:00 Main Tournament continues. Start of Progressive Consolation Tournament
17:00 Warm-up, Sperti Trophy, Quarters, Jackpots and 1-Point Matches continue
20:00–22:30 Break for Dinner
22:30 Velden Super-Jackpot. Play continues

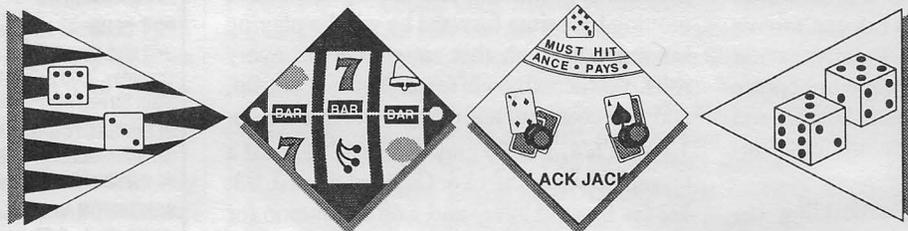
Sunday, April 27

14:30 Start of Last Chance Tournament
15:00 Start of Finals. Warm-up, Sperti Trophy, Quarters, Jackpots, 1-Pt. Matches continue
21:00 Casinos Austria Dinner Party and Awarding Ceremony at Casino Velden

HOWARD MARKOWITZ AND THE NEVADA BACKGAMMON ASSOCIATION PRESENTS THE

20th Annual Nevada State Backgammon Tournament \$10,000 Added

Preceded by World Series of Gin Rummy (April 27–30)



April 30–May 4, 2003

Riviera Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas

Howard Markowitz: (702) 893-6025 • howard1@lvcm.com • www.nvbg.com