

nevada state tournament

KIT WINS AGAIN IN VEGAS

Danilo Sahione grabs Super JP

Behind the “8-ball,” trailing 8-1 to Bob Glass, Kit Woolsey ran the table to win the 2005 Nevada State Tournament 17-8. Nevada Backgammon Association proprietor Howard Markowitz organized and directed the event held 27 April-1 May at the Las Vegas Riviera Hotel & Casino. Although attendance lagged compared to previous years, the experienced staff of 10 made sure that things ran smoothly.

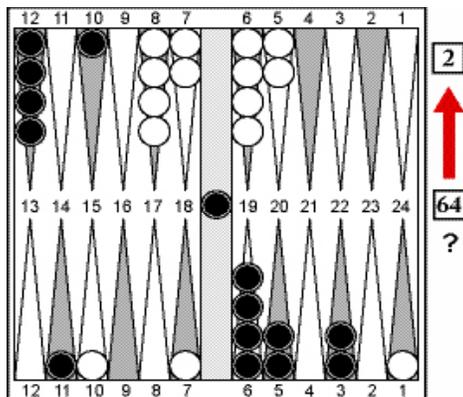


Kit Woolsey on a roll.

Chicago Point contributing editor Kit Woolsey was shooting for his second Nevada State title in three years (he won in 2003). After defeating Floridians Mike Corbett and Al Tesoro in the quarter- and semifinals, Woolsey faced fellow Californian Bob Glass in the 17-point Sunday finals. Even though Bob won eight of the first nine points, his glass was half empty.

Trailing 1-6 and trying to make something happen, Kit incorrectly doubled here:

Pos. 1. 17-point Nevada State finals. Kit Woolsey (Black) trails Bob Glass (White), 1-6. **SHOULD BLACK DOUBLE?**



[Continued on page 6]

ohio state championships

NICE MATCH CUBE GIVES GLAESER OHIO TITLE

By Neil Kazaross

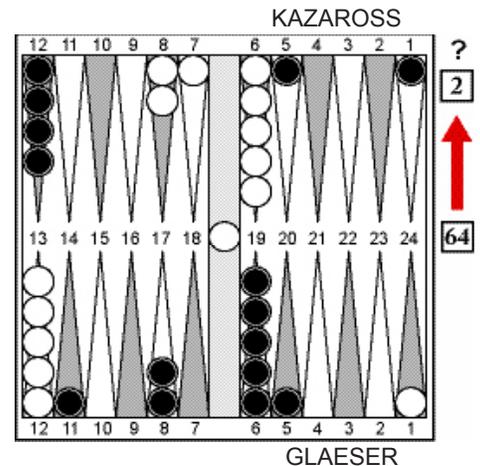
Following my back-to-back ABT victories in Pittsburgh and the Midwest, I was looking for the “hat trick” at the Ohio State Championships. The event was directed by Joe Miller at the Airport Marriott Hotel in Cleveland 8-10 April.

When Flint director Carol Joy Cole hammered me in the second round to stop my ABT winning streak at 13, things didn't look so good. Still, I managed to claw my way through the next six matches to reach the finals vs. Ray Glaeser of Cleveland.

In this double elimination format, I'd have to defeat my highly-skilled opponent twice to take the title. In the first match, things were looking up, but my quick dance with double 6s led Ray to toss over a

fine match score cube. Although the game is young, Black basically has no bad numbers and quite a few sequences leave White struggling from well behind.

13-point Ohio finals. Neil Kazaross (White) leads Ray Glaeser (Black) 11 to 7. Black on roll. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



[Continued on page 5]

2-6 FROM THE BAR?!



Here are Petko Kostadinov (L) and Ray Fogelund in Las Vegas immortalizing Ray's famous expression “2-6 from the bar?!” And this time, it really is from the bar: the Coyote Ugly bar at the New York, New York Hotel & Casino.

CHICAGO POINT

A Prime Source of Backgammon Information

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LETTERS

c/o CHICAGO POINT

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"BACKGAM" LICENSE PLATE SITING

Are you the gentleman that recently handed me the CHICAGO POINT newsletter as we were stopped in traffic on Devon Avenue? I presently play backgammon online and I have the Master Gammon program by Oasya which is a good practice tool. I work in Evanston and go by your Tuesday Club at Whistler's en route to work every day.—*David Laird, Chicago, Illinois*

Yes, we did give you the newsletter, David. Our license plate is "BAKGAM" and it was a real shocker to see your plate on the street and have no idea who you were. Hopefully, you'll try out our club very soon.

And according to the next letter, your first play will be FREE!—*Ed.*

PHIL & LUCKY OFFER NEWCOMERS FREE ENTRY AT BPC

Lucky Nelson and I are regulars at the Tuesday night Chicago Bar Point Club.

[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 14	Mother's Day Open, Sansone's West Oaks Bar, Houston, Texas	281/556-0428
May 15	New England Club Bonus, Holiday Inn, Somerville, Massachusetts	508/829-3283
May 19	Third Thursday Bonus (Wisconsin), Days Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
May 21	Atlanta Spring Doubles, Mazzy's Sports Bar, Roswell, Georgia	770/333-1876
May 21	Austin Club Saturday Bimonthly, JC's Steakhouse, Austin, Texas	512/261-8518
May 21	Northwest Indiana Club Monthly, VFW Hall, Porter, Indiana	219/785-2082
May 22*	Greater Columbus Club Monthly, Lucky's Grille, Hilliard, Ohio	614/784-8132
<u>May 27-30</u>	<u>26th Chicago Open, Oak Brook Hills Resort & Hotel, Oak Brook, Illinois</u>	<u>847/674-0120</u>
May 28*	Backgammon By the Bay, Britannia Arms, Cupertino, California	831/688-9722
Jun 2*	Pub Club Grand Re-Opening, Playoffs Sports Bar, Carol Stream, Illinois	630/606-2388
Jun 5	Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Champs Bar, Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois	773/583-6464
Jun 5	Ohio State Club Monthly, Tres Potrillos, Copley, Ohio	330/268-4610
Jun 6*	Kansas City Club Monthly, Harpo's, Kansas City, Missouri	816/561-4330
Jun 6*	Roy's Monthly Tournament, Restaurant Roy, Santa Barbara, California	805/966-5636
Jun 7	Arizona Club Monthly, Rosie McCaffrey's Irish Pub, Phoenix, Arizona	602/279-0215
Jun 11	Father's Day Open, Sansone's West Oaks Bar, Houston, Texas	281/556-0428
Jun 12*	Miami Valley Club Monthly, Gambits Bar, Marriott Hotel, Dayton, Ohio	937/864-1748
Jun 12	New England Club Monthly, Holiday Inn, Somerville, Massachusetts	508/829-3283
Jun 16*	Third Thursday Bonus (Georgia), Days Inn, Flint, Michigan	810/232-9731
<u>Jun 17-19</u>	<u>Los Angeles Open, Airtel Plaza Hotel, Van Nuys, California</u>	<u>818/901-0464</u>
Jun 25*	Atlanta Summer Chouette Tournament, Mazzy's Bar, Roswell, Georgia	770/333-1876
Jun 25*	Denver Summer Swiss Tournament, Cadillac Jack's, Denver, Colorado	303/519-5711
Jun 30*	Michigan Summer Warm-Up, Sheraton Novi Hotel, Novi, Michigan	810/232-9731
Jul 1-4	30th Michigan Summer Championships, Sheraton Novi, Novi, Michigan	810/232-9731
Jul 9*	Firecracker Classic, Sansone's West Oaks Bar, Houston, Texas	281/556-0428
Jul 10*	Miami Valley Club Monthly, Gambits Bar, Marriott Hotel, Dayton, Ohio	937/864-1748
Jul 10*	Ohio State Club Monthly, Tres Potrillos, Copley, Ohio	330/268-4610
Jul 11*	Kansas City Club Monthly, Harpo's, Kansas City, Missouri	816/561-4330
Jul 29-31	1000 Islands Tournament, Pine Tree Point, Alexandria Bay, New York	585/396-0969
Jul 29-31	Wisconsin State Championships, Radisson Hotel, Madison, Wisconsin	608/516-9109
Aug 7	Bar Point Sunday Tournament, Champs Bar, Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois	773/583-6464
Aug 18-21*	12th Georgia Championships, Atlanta, Georgia	770/333-1876
Sep 2-5	Indiana Open, Sheraton Suites Hotel, Indianapolis, Indiana	317/255-8902
Sep 16-18	Florida State Championship, Sheraton Suites, Fort Lauderdale, Florida	954/564-0340
Sep 23-25	2nd Pacific Northwest Championships, Holiday Inn, Seattle, Washington	253/856-7513
Oct 14-16	Illinois State Championships, Springfield Hilton, Springfield, Illinois	217/528-0117

OUTSIDE USA

May 12-15	1st Aix Les Bains Tournament, Casino Aix Les Bains, France	33142-618080
May 14-15*	Gammonitis Eynsham Cup Tournament Eynsham Hall, Witney, England	447900-983038
May 14-15	2nd High Q Royal Cup & High Q Consulting Cup, Copenhagen, Denmark	4525-652223
May 14-15	Mick Butterfield's 50th Birthday Bash, Oddfellows Inn, Huddersfield, UK	441484-603568
May 19-22	17th WBF European Championship, Velden Casino, Velden, Austria	39269-018168
May 21-22*	Kuopio Open, Keskustra Hotel, Kuopio, Finland	358407-550492
May 28-29	14th Città di Torino, Maison Musique, Rivoli, Italy	393489-001340
May 28-29	1st Australian Championships, Legends Hotel, Queensland, Australia	617-55887888
Jun 1-5	1st Deauville Backgammon Trophy, Casino Barrière, Normandy, France	33672-008957
Jun 2-5	1st Bregenz Open 2005, Casino Bregenz/Mercure Hotel, Bregenz, Austria	49171-5422222
Jun 4-5	Hilton Trophy, Hanover Hotel, Daventry, England	441522-888676
Jun 10-12	5th Austrian Masters Finale, Cafe Heine, Vienna, Austria	436642-404285
Jun 18-19	Liz Barker's 30th Birthday, Sundridge Park, Bromley, England	447900-983038
Jun 22-26*	1st Belgian Open, Grand Casino Oostende, Oostende, Belgium	491715-422222
Jul 2-3	Keren Di Bona, Hanover Hotel, Daventry, England	441522-888676
Jul 7-10	17th City of Venice International Tournament, Venice, Italy	3941-5211029
Jul 11-17	30th World Championship, Grand Hotel, Monte Carlo, Monaco	USA contact: 954/527-4033
Jul 15-17*	Festival of Games Czech Open, Duhova Arena, Pardubice, Czech Republic	420737-677242
Jul 16-17*	Gammonitis League Tournament, Sundridge Park, Bromley, England	447900-983038
Jul 20-24*	Riviera's Challenge 3/Nation's Challenge, Palm Beach, Cannes, France	336624-67001
Jul 23-24	10th Liverpool Open, Liverpool Bridge Club, Liverpool, England	441514-283082
Jul 28-31*	POSTPONED: 1st Czech Challenge, Casino Savarin, Czech Republic	491715-422222
Aug 6-7*	Studio Anne Carlton Trophy, Hanover Hotel, Hinckley, England	441522-888676
Aug 10-14*	1st Backgammon & Golf Fun, Bad Griesbach, Germany	491715-422222
Aug 18-21*	BG On the Beach/8th Friuli Championship, Grado Beach, Gorizia, Italy	392690-18168
Aug 18-21*	1st Sommer-Cup, Hotel Kaiserbrunnen, Brakel, Germany	49711-48190
Aug 20-21*	Gammonitis Live Challenge Finals, Sundridge Park, Bromley, England	447900-983038
Aug 20-29*	9th MindSports Olympiad BG, Netherhall College, Cambridge, England	441522-888676

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 2]

We have a plan to build attendance at our club's new location, Whistler's Restaurant, 3420 W. Devon Avenue in Lincolnwood. Here's what we'll be offering during the months of May, June, and July:

Anyone who has not previously played at the Chicago Bar Point Club (and lives within a 40 mile radius of Chicago) will receive a free \$10 Open tournament entry on us. In addition, new players unfamiliar with live tournament play will receive a free lesson on the basic rules and strategy.

To encourage younger players to try backgammon, newcomers between the

ages of 18 and 21 will also be treated to a free \$10 dinner on us!

At the February Pittsburgh ABT Awards Ceremony, Player of the Year Frank Talbot discussed the importance of recruiting new players into backgammon. Lucky and I want to do our part in promoting Frank's ideas.

We'll be advertising this program on chicagopoint.com and other websites (including Internet backgammon sites) over the next three months. Here's hoping that this idea spreads across the country.—Phil Simborg, Chicago, Illinois

WHAT YEAR WAS THE CRAWFORD RULE FIRST USED?

Many thousands of dollars are riding on

a question that I know you or one of your readers can answer. About what year did the Crawford Rule come into existence?—Jeff Durkes, Chicago, Illinois

We first saw mention of the rule on page 194 of *The Backgammon Book* by Oswald Jacoby and John Crawford (who created the rule). Although no year is referenced, it seems like the rule came into usage in the mid-1960s. Can any of our readers supply more information?—Ed.

BARBER TIME

I see where Neil said he wouldn't be getting a haircut until he lost an ABT event. After Ohio, tell him to shave his head!

Seriously, kudos to Neil on a terrific accomplishment: 13 ABT tourney match victories in a row!—Alex Caraplis, 1998 ABT Player of the Year, Polk City, Utah

POINT LIFETIME SUBSCRIPTION?

I'm interested in a lifetime subscription to CHICAGO POINT. Please advise if this is available and how much it would cost.—Vichai Kwatra, Nonthaburi, Thailand

We should ask, whose lifetime are we talking about, yours or ours?

When *Time* magazine first began publishing in 1923, the magazine sometimes tried to lure more subscribers with unique offers. One such promotion emerged in 1929, when they came up with the "Perpetual Subscription," which was offered at a set price and could be passed on to the subscribers' heirs forever. Guess how much they charged for such a "perpetual lifetime subscription" in 1929? A mere \$60!

[Continued on page 4]

ABT AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 2005		AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 2005						ABT AMERICAN BACKGAMMON TOUR ★ 2005	
Compiled through 30 April after 5 tournaments									
(Upcoming events: Chicago Open, Los Angeles Open)									
Neil Kazaross	52.78	Randy Armstrong	5.09	Ralph Byrns	2.94	Mark King	1.57		
Phil Simborg	40.24	Boris Dekhtyar	4.99	Steve Goldstein	2.90	Tony Garcia	1.56		
Ray Glaeser	18.39	Ed Zell	4.99	Doug Roberts	2.90	Joe Davidson	1.41		
Howard Shirey	16.71	Jeff Acierno	4.94	Connie Tipton	2.80	Carmen Webb	1.41		
J. A. Miller	12.64	Joe Freedman	4.67	Neil Garvie	2.58	Dick Nelson	1.28		
Larry Strommen	10.61	Jack Takala	4.49	Jonah Seewald	2.58	Shane Joos	1.28		
Carter Mattig	10.54	Don Sloan	4.49	Kathy Sorci	2.56	Suzu Jazwa	1.25		
Bob Hathaway	10.54	Carol Joy Cole	4.32	Les Moshinsky	2.53	Mark Hong	0.99		
Bill Minser	10.40	David Rogers	3.80	Jolie Rubin	2.50	Ray Reed	0.96		
Mark Rozans	8.64	Petko Kostadinov	3.80	Mike Cyrkiel	2.50	Greg Buonocore	0.96		
Vadim MUSAELYAN	7.60	Ed Johnson	3.68	Jeb Horton	2.35	Kim Owens	0.94		
Chuck Bower	6.40	Marc Gray	3.53	Rory Pascal	2.22	Frank Patrick	0.80		
Carlos Azcarate	6.40	Ben Elliott	3.38	Gregg Cattanach	2.22	Tim Johnson	0.67		
Malcolm Davis	5.80	Cookie Frazin	3.20	Stuart Thomson	1.90	Ryan Hast	0.63		
Herb Roman	5.80	Karen Chung	3.20	Ernie McCombs	1.64	Brenda Cohen	0.63		
Mary Ann Meese	5.27	Lynn Lusk	3.20	Cole Parker	1.60	Peggy Neubig	0.63		
Tom Green	5.27	Bruce Ballance	3.19	Murray Bryntesen	1.59	Richard Newfield	0.51		
Michael Plog	5.20								

CHICAGO BAR POINT CLUB		2005 PLAYER OF THE YEAR		COMPILED THRU 30 APRIL			
Tak Morioka	12.92	Larry Goldstein	3.88	Joe Auszmann	1.44	Ken Tibbs	0.72
Phyllis Smolinski	10.54	Jerry Brooks	3.24	Yamin Yamin	1.40	Greg Merriman	0.72
David Rockwell	9.20	Igor Kaplunovsky	2.80	Eric Johnson	1.36	Richard Stawowy	0.72
Lucky Nelson	8.36	Arline Levy	2.72	J. A. Miller	1.32	Michael Ginat	0.72
Herb Roman	7.76	Alice Kay	2.64	Joann Feinstein	1.32	Linda Rockwell	0.72
Carter Mattig	7.68	Wayne Wiest	2.40	Elaine Andrews	1.28	Randee Simborg	0.64
Phil Simborg	7.42	Oleg Raygorodsky	2.16	Val Zimnicki	1.28	Mark Murray	0.56
Bill Davis	6.72	Bob Steen	2.16	Boris Dekhtyar	1.24	Cookie Frazin	0.56
Gary Kay	6.40	Mike Wolock	2.08	Royal Robinson	1.20	Julia Ring	0.56
Bill Keefe	6.24	Georgina Flanagan	2.04	Randee Simborg	1.12	Don Marek	0.48
Albert Yakobashvili	5.40	Dave Cramer	2.04	Barbara Levinson	1.12	Roger Hickman	0.48
Paul Baraz	4.84	Bill Bartholomay	1.84	Kurt Thompson	0.96	Mark Phillips	0.48
Steve Klesker	4.60	Dan Weymouth	1.76	Kwong Chan	0.88	Bill Stegich	0.40
Howard Ring	4.56	Sargon Benjamin	1.52	Adrian Rios	0.84	Lisa Nelson	0.32
Norma Shyer	4.32	Paul Franks	1.44	David Marcus	0.80	Dave Settles	0.24
Tim Mabee	4.20						

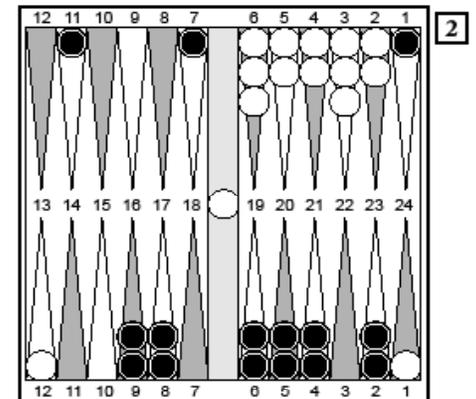
DAVID ROCKWELL reached the finals in three straight tournament en route to 3.68 points and April honors. Albert Yakobashvili (3.64) was second with Tak Morioka (2.72) finishing third.

your move

PROBLEM #309

to be analyzed by Mary Hickey

7-point match. Black and White are tied at 3-all. **BLACK TO PLAY 5-3.**



SHADES OF GRAY

A RULES AND RULINGS COLUMN

© 2005 by Danny Kleinman

WHICH DIE IS WHOSE?

Dear Danny: While directing a recent tournament, I was called to make a ruling about a disputed roll. Nick the Quick was playing against Clyde the Klutz. Each player was using one red die and one green die. When I arrived at the table, I saw a green 6 and a red 2 lying in the middle of the home boards where Nick had just rolled. Both Nick and Clyde agreed that it was Nick's roll.

However, as Clyde was lifting his dice from the previous roll, he accidentally dropped his red die, which bounced on the center divider and landed on Nick's side of the board. Clyde reached down with his left hand to retrieve it . . . just as Nick was rolling. Nick's red die hit Clyde's knuckle, dislodging the die that Clyde was retrieving from his grasp. Neither player could say with any confidence which of the two red dice, one a 5 and the other a 2, that then fell on the table was Nick's and which

was Clyde's. Nick wanted to play a 6-2 (a good number for him), but Clyde thought that Nick should have to play a 6-5 (a bad number for him).

How would you rule? And shouldn't there be a definitive rule to govern this situation? —Baffled Director

DEAR BAFFLED: Normally, physical interference voids a roll, but this rule applies only if the interference is timely, that is, before it can be seen how either die is landing. Else a player could interfere with the dice to void a roll after observing that one of the dice will land on a number favorable to his opponent.

Had Clyde deliberately interfered with Nick's dice as he saw them landing 6-2, you would have to rule in Nick's favor, but from your account it appears that the interference was inadvertent and prior to any outcome of the roll. In effect, Clyde's hand was no more than a piece of furniture, like a checker or the center divider. However, the roll is invalid for another reason: no one can determine which of the two red dice had been Nick's.

Nick can choose either red die for his own, but whether he picks the 2 that was left on the table or the 5 that Clyde had placed in

his cup, Nick must reroll both his dice.

Should the rules cover this situation specifically?

I think not. No set of rules can be completely definitive in the sense of covering all possible eventualities. (A sparrow catches a die mid-flight in its beak, and drops it gently onto the playing area, where it lands flat. Does the roll count? What if the opponent's housecat does the same thing?)

Godel's Theorem established that no set of axioms for arithmetic can be both consistent and complete. I am opposed to rules that are overly detailed. Simplicity and brevity are virtues. The Laws of Contract Bridge have grown to the point where even experienced directors fumble through the rule books to find the relevant clauses.

The laws of our nation are even worse. James Madison and Thomas Jefferson had the right idea. The *Bill of Rights* is fine law; the *Federal Tax Code* is not. —Yours, Danny Δ

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 Avenue 504; Chicago, IL 60659-3155 or e-mail: bg@chicagopoint.com.

LETTERS...

[Continued from page 3]

144 perpetual subscribers are still taking advantage of the offer.

CHICAGO POINT does not offer a lifetime subscription fee, but additional years can be purchased as follows:

US & Canada: 1 year = \$30 with additional years @ \$20 each.

Overseas: 1 year = \$40 with additional years @ \$30 each.

Thanks for your continued support.—Ed.

MAKING BOARD DIAGRAMS

I have been asked by a local newspaper to prepare a regular column for their Sunday edition—no guarantees—so I need some software that will enable me to diagram positions the way I want and then to comment on them. I have some software that plays on my PC, but it will not allow me to save or e-mail the image.

I have tried purchasing software to no avail as to the features I require. I note in your newsletter that you have a number of basically identical diagrams that illustrate positions exactly as I need to. Is there any shareware available, or something I can purchase that will allow me to make board

diagrams?—Nick Begakis, Backgammon Association of South Australia

We use Adobe Illustrator for our board diagrams and save them as JPEG files for the web and EPS files for the newsletter. An easier way for you would be to go to www.chicagopoint.com, click on Mel Leifer's "Gammon Links," then click the "Publications" link and scroll down to "Backgammon Board'O'Matic." There you will find many good options for making board diagrams.—Ed.

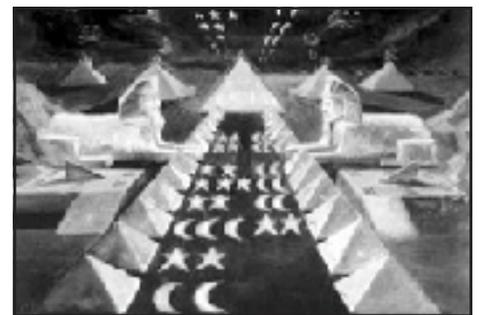
DEMIAN'S PAINTINGS ARE GONE

Regarding the two paintings of mine that you have been displaying at chicagopoint.com, I don't possess either of them any more. So please remove them from your website.—John Demian, Chicago, Illinois



We have removed them, John. And thanks for including that "Running Game" card with your subscription to CHICAGO POINT.

For our readers, here is one more look at John's two backgammon works.—Ed.



Egyptian Backgammon



Snake Canyon Backgammon

GOING BACK IN TIME

I am a former press secretary to several members of the US Congress in Washington, [Continued on page 7]



BG Peeves

By Larry Liebster



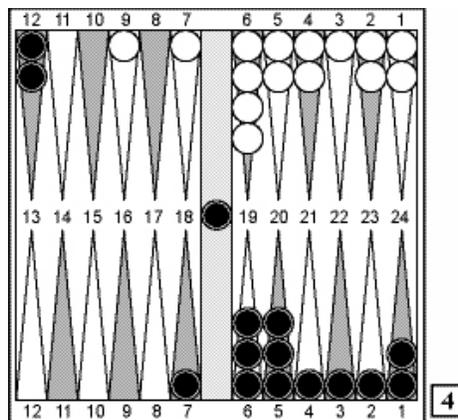
OPPONENT ENTERING MY CHECKER —THE COUNTERATTACK

Rodney Dangerfield is dead. He got no respect. I am alive. I demand respect.

In December, I discussed how irritated I get when I have a checker on the bar and roll a forced entry number that my opponent immediately slaps into play. Well, it seems I'm not the only one. I was speaking about this with Ray Fogerland and he said, "Oh, yeah—I hate that!"

Did you ever notice that your opponent only does this when it is bad for you and good for him? For example, can you ever imagine your opponent grabbing your man to enter it for you after you roll 3-3 in this position?

BLACK ROLLS 3-3! (White's hands remain at his side.)



You could wait 'til the cows came home and your opponent would never make a move towards your checker.

Ray went on to talk about the action he takes if the infraction occurs against him in a tournament. "If a player makes an illegal play and the dice are up, the move remains if the opponent takes no action. In the case of entering a checker in his home board there is first a gentle request that he not

touch my checkers. The second time it happens, the opponent is informed that I will be accepting his illegal action with my roll being played from that point. There will be objections and the director will likely be called over, but the ruling should be in your favor."

At my next tournament, I experience a similar situation. After being asked not to touch my checkers, my opponent enters my checker from the bar into his home board. The following dialogue takes place:

Larry: "I accept your illegal move and will play my roll from this position."

Opponent: "You've got to be kidding! I'm calling the director."

Larry to director: "We are playing a tournament. He made an illegal move and his dice are up. I am accepting it and want to play from here."

Director: "We are playing a friendly game here. I rule against you."

What do I do now, Ray?

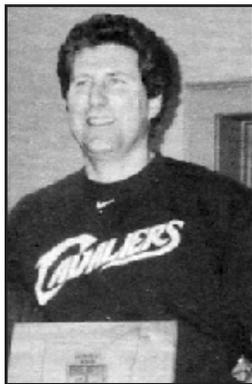
This brings us to the never-discussed role of the director. What's the director's purpose? To support the backgammon rules? To protect the players? To make an pleasing environment for all to play? Something else?

How about some input from others on this.—Larry Liebster Δ

OHIO...

[Continued from page 1]

I did some fast mental math to estimate my wins, gammons, and BG losses and determined that I had a bare take here, so



Open winner Ray Glaeser displays his first place plaque. [Photo by Carol Joy Cole.]

I confidently grabbed the cube. The game went on for some time and I almost turned it around a couple of times before losing two points reducing my lead to 11-9. Unfortunately for me, a GNU (checker play according to score) rollout has this as a 0.080 error to take, so as young as this game is,

I'd have been better off passing due to the match score. (720 3-ply precise Snowie rollouts show the take to be an error by

0.040.) Over the board, I somewhat underestimated how often I get gammoned here which is around 25% of the games.

In the next game, Ray made another fine double in a relatively basic early structural situation. In this final game, I hit a fly shot, got hit back, and eventually lost a gammon and the match. It was a fine victory to wrap up the tournament for Ray Glaeser.—Neil Kazaross Δ

OHIO STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS—ABT

OPEN (28): 1-Ray Glaeser (OH), 2-Neil Kazaross (IL); 1C/2C-Don Sloan (OH) / Jack Takala (MI). ADVANCED (32): 1-J.A. Miller (IL), 2-Ed Johnson (NY); 1C-Marc Gray (NY), 2C-Murray Bryntesen (FL). NOVICE (10): 1-Suzy Jazwa (OH), 2-Peggy Neubig (NJ); 1C-Ryan Hast (PA). MASTERS JACKPOT (16): 1-Vadim MUSAELYAN (NC), 2-Don Sloan (OH). AMATEUR JACKPOT (22): 1-Marc Gray (NY), 2-Greg Shoults (OH). SUNDAY DOUBLES (12 teams): 1-Petko Kostadinov (SC) & Eden Windish (Canada), 2-Arlene Austin (PA) & Bud Bowers (PA). BLITZ (48): 1-Gregg Cattanach (GA), 2-Bruce Russell (WI). QUICKIES: Joan Hac (KY), Mary Hickey (OH), Karen Chung (MD). SIMBORGAMMON JPs: Petko Kostadinov (SC, Greg Merriman (MI), Phil Simborg (IL), Jon Stephens (OH). WARM-UP (7): 1-Eddie Ratajczyk (OH), 2-Peggy Neubig (NJ).



ILLINOIS ACTION



Bill Davis
773/583-6464

Peter Kalba
312/316-1432

Tuesday, 6-7 P.M. at Whistler's Restaurant, 3420 W. Devon, Lincolnwood. 847/673-9270.

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

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL BACKGAMMON CLUB: Tournaments Tuesday, 6:30 P.M. at Damon's Grill, 1701 Fort Jesse Road, Normal. Michael Flohr (309/662-7967).

SANGAMON VALLEY BACKGAMMON ASSOC.: Tournaments Wednesday, 6:15 P.M. at Damon's Grill, 3050 Lindbergh Blvd., Springfield. Randy Armstrong (217/528-0117).

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

PUB CLUB: Tournaments Thurs., 6:45 P.M. at Playoffs Bar, 720 E. North Ave., Carol Stream. Tim Mabee (630/606-2388).

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

NOTE: The Pub Club listing shown above is effective commencing with the June 2 Grand Re-opening.

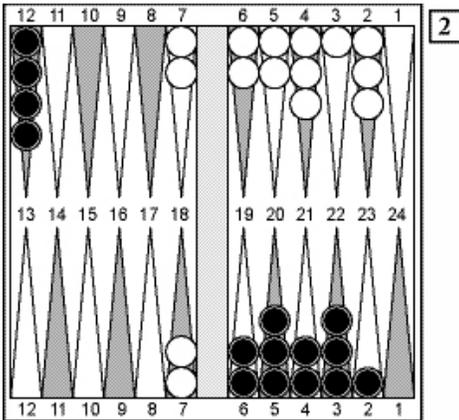
NEVADA STATE...

[Continued from page 1]

Kit hits with 30 numbers, but Bob's checkers are all very much in play and he can manage nearly 46% wins from here.

Later:

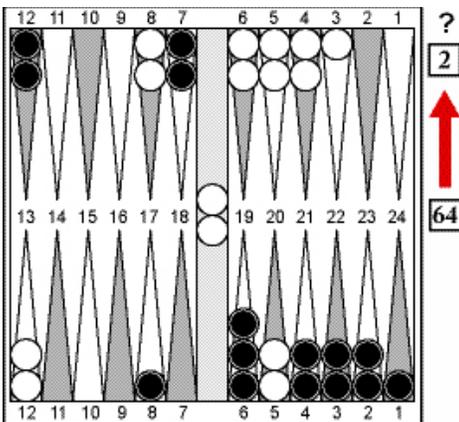
Pos. 2. 17-point Nevada State finals. Kit Woolsey (Black) trails Bob Glass (White), 1-6. **BLACK TO PLAY 5-1.**



Kit left a voluntary shot (13/8, 3/2) which Bob hit with 6-1. Following Kit's dance, Bob redoubled winning two points. A 720 3-ply precise Snowie rollout makes Kit's shot offering correct by 0.022 (ahead of 6/1, 3/2).

A key position in the match occurred in the 11th game:

Pos. 3. 17-point Nevada State finals. Kit Woolsey (Black) trails Bob Glass (White), 6-8. **CUBE ACTION(S)?**



Kit studied the setup for at least 30 seconds before doubling. Bob must have thought Kit was wondering if the position was good enough to double because he scooped up the cube. In fact, Kit was deciding whether or not the position was *too good!* 720 Snowie rollouts confirm the position is way too good. Kit's double here rolls out as a 0.134 blunder. But if Bob is taking, the cube is pure genius.



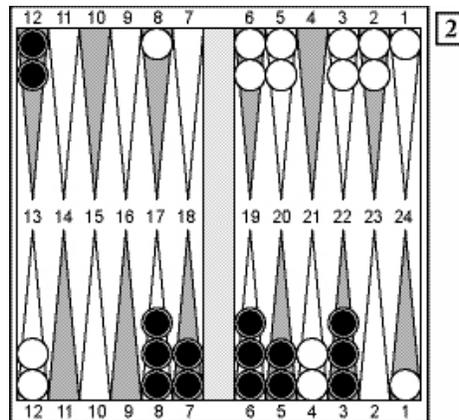
Kit Woolsey (L) and Bob Glass battle away in the Nevada State finals.

Bob's take was one of the worst errors of the weekend (0.807 super-blunder). Kit wins 76% of these games with 52% gammons. Following Kit's 1-1 roll (correctly played 8/7, 4/1), Bob failed to hit, eventually losing a gammon and the lead for good.

Trying to stop Woolsey's streak. Glass took a break, chomping down a Quizno's turkey sandwich. It didn't work.

Fast forward to Kit leading 14-8. Kit doubled Bob in a position that rolls out as a small pass. Seeking to make something happen, Bob accepted. Let's look at Pos. 4 with Kit trying to bring the game home. Once again, Woolsey is faced with deciding whether or not to leave a voluntary shot with 5-1:

Pos. 4. 17-point Nevada State finals. Kit Woolsey (Black) leads Bob Glass (White), 14-8. **BLACK TO PLAY 5-1.**



Kit eventually offered up a shot playing 13/7; but this time, the blotting play is wrong. Bob has a lot of awkward numbers next roll that force him to vacate a valuable point or break his board. 720 Snowie rollouts show that it's better for him to play 8/3, 6/5 by a substantial 0.137.

Glass failed to hit and lost the race. Kit closed the door by winning the next game to claim the title and over \$11,000 in prize money.

SUPER JACKPOT & OTHER RESULTS

Through multi-level qualifiers, the Super Jackpot event ended up with eight tough

entries at the \$4000 level. The eventual finalists were Danilo Sahione of Brazil and Nevadan Drew Giovanis. Both players had knocked off tough competition in their semifinal rounds (Stuart Hosen and Steve Sax). But the finals was all Danilo who bested Drew 17-6.



Rio de Janeiro's Danilo Sahione in the Super Jackpot finals.

Congratulations to Californian Ron Bruns on winning his second Nevada State Intermediate title (he last won in 1992). Also to Brazil's Luciana Abes who captured the 22-player Beginner division.

More winners include Mike Sharp in the Limited Jackpot, Cem Aslan & Gregg Cattanach in the 16-team Doubles, Nack Ballard in the \$500 Jackpot, Mike Corbett in the \$100 Jackpot, and George Photias in the Senior's event.



Nack Ballard won the \$500 Jackpot and finished second in the Doubles with his new bride Hsiao-Yee (pictured at right).

Director Howard Markowitz will be back in the fall with the Las Vegas Open and Pro-Am Doubles Invitational at the Riviera Hotel 12-20 November. Complete results on page 7. Δ

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21ST NEVADA STATE TOURNAMENT

CHAMPIONSHIP (54+10 rebuys): 1-Kit Woolsey (CA), 2-Bob Glass (CA), 3/4-Jeff Burdsall (NV) / Al Tesoro (FL); 1C-Malcolm Davis (TX), 2C-Danilo Sahione (Brazil), 3C/4C-Wayne Jeffcoat (CA) / Petko Kostadinov (SC); 1LC-Mike Corbett (FL), 2LC-Gregg Cattanach (GA). INTERMEDIATE (86): 1-Ron Bruns (CA), 2-Charles Toots (CA), 3-Paula Estacolchic (Argentina/CA) / George Photias (NV); 1C-Jonah Seewald (CO), 2C-Paul Mangone (CA), 3C/4C-Patrick Gibson (CA) / Ed Johnson (NY); 1LC-Cem Aslan (GA), 2LC-J.A. Miller (IL). BEGINNERS (22): 1-Luciana Abes (Brazil), 2-Jim Mason (CA), 3/4-Mike Alfano (CA) / Franz J. Splinter (The Netherlands); 1C-Mike Michaels (England), 2C-Mehran Shakory (TX); 1LC-Joy Zuke (WA), 2LC-Leon Eskinazi (CA). BLITZ EVENT (168): 1-Kit Woolsey (CA), 2-Gary Bauer (NJ). MINI-MATCH EVENT (128): 1-Lucky Nelson (IL), 2-Jona Alexander (CA). DOUBLES (16 teams): 1-Cem Aslan (GA) & Gregg Cattanach (GA), 2-Nack Ballard (CA) & Shiao-Yee (CA). SUPER JACKPOT (16): 1-Danilo Sahione (Brazil), 2-Drew Giovanis (NV), 3/4-Stu Hosen (TX) / Steve Sax (CA). LIMITED JACKPOT (16): 1-Mike Sharp (CA), 2-Petko Kostadinov (SC). SENIORS TOURNAMENT (64): 1-George Photias (NV), 2-Tom Duggan (England). SENIORS OVERFLOW TOURNAMENT (16): 1-Saad Henein (CA), 2-Ray Baker (CA). SATURDAY \$500 JACKPOT (16): 1-Nack Ballard (CA), 2-Bob Wachtel (CA). SATURDAY \$100 JACKPOT (32): 1-Mike Corbett (FL), 2-Herb Roman (IL). \$50 AFTER-TOURNAMENT TOURNAMENT (22): 1-Steve Sax (CA), 2-Rafael Lopez de Lara (Mexico). \$20 AFTER-TOURNAMENT TOURNAMENT (11): 1-Paula Estacolchic (Argentina/CA), 2-Georgina Flanagan (IL).



LETTERS...

[Continued from page 4]

DC, where a number of us frequently played casual games of backgammon over beer and cigarettes in a social setting.

That is what I am looking for, or to help establish. I recently visited your new Bar Point Club Whistler's venue and don't like it because it seems to be highly competitive in nature, a rather boring venue, and is smoker unfriendly. That last fact would, ipso facto, seem to antagonize at least 40% of the people who like this game, which is a wonderful and quite peculiar admixture of luck and skill.

Moreover, the \$10 tournament entry fee mitigates against a genuine revival of the game amongst people who like it, are proficient at it, but don't aspire to be world class champions.

Do you know of a casual venue for backgammon play? Would you be interested in helping to establish one?—*Tom Faber, Chicago, Illinois*

Whistler's offers a comfortable atmosphere where people can have a reasonable dinner in the company of friends. Additionally, the restaurant is open 24 hours, serves liquor, has plenty of parking, and the owners are backgammon-friendly. The \$10 entry fee (which has not been raised in 30 years) guarantees two matches. And although the tournament is "no smoking," Whistler's does have a smoking area to accommodate our smoking members.

Sorry this doesn't fill your backgammon needs.—Ed.

MIKE'S BACK

The Movie: "The Color of Money" with Paul Newman and Tom Cruise.

The Last Scene: Newman is playing Cruise for the money in the envelope and smashes open the rack of balls on the break.

Newman's comment was the same as mine after winning the Bar Point Club Sunday tourney on 3 April: "I'M BACK!" (After 20+ years away from the Chicago backgammon scene).—*"Easy Mike" Wolock, Chicago, Illinois*

"BACKPACKERS" LOOKING FOR PLAYERS

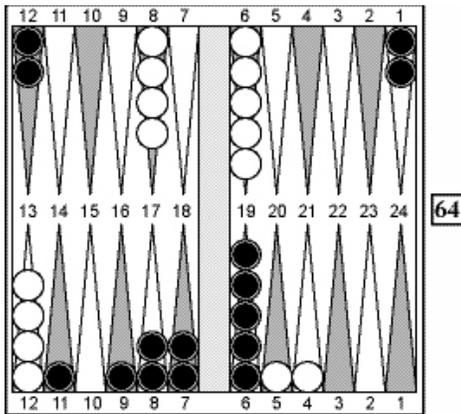
I have a internet backgammon league called "Backpackers" on Yahoo. We play all the time and are always looking for new players. All are welcome including beginners. My league site is www.myleague.com/bps/. Hope some of your POINT readers will try us out.—*Tom Thomson, via Internet A*

AMALGAMATION

Belated congratulations to #1 Giant of Backgammon **Nack Ballard** (CA) and **Hsiao-Yee Yang** (Taiwan) who were married in a civil ceremony on 13 September. [See picture, page 6.]. Speaking of Nack, if you think he is good at backgammon, check out his scores in the Internet game "Color Lines" [<http://vsg.quasihome.com/jlines/>]. Nack has the five highest scores in the world . . . and **Kit Woolsey** (CA) has the sixth! . . . At the Chicago Bar Point Club last month, **Roger Hickman** broke the Whistler's all-time record by drinking four large malted milks in one evening. That's incredible! . . . Now appearing at **Tom Keith's** "Backgammon Galore" website: **Jack Kissane's** "Cluster Counting" article (that first appeared in the June 1989 POINT). Want to increase your pip-counting speed? This article is for you. Check it out at: www.bkgm.com/articles/McCool/cluster.html . . . **Yamin Yamin** has returned to become a regular at the Bar Point Club—at least until his wife and kids return from visiting relatives overseas . . . If you are in the Santa Barbara, California area, check out the backgammon action at Restaurant Roy. Tournaments are held first Monday monthly at 7:00 p.m. For more info, call **Roy Gandy** at 805/966-5636 . . . Two volumes of *Backgammon Praxis* by **Marty Storer** are now available. The books analyze three of **Malcolm Davis's** matches vs. **Ed O'Laughlin**, **Marty Storer**, and **Frank Talbot**. To order the books (\$40 each; both volumes for \$75), go to www.fortuitouspress.com, or call **Carol Joy Cole** at 810/232-9731 . . . Did you know that BPC player **Herb Roman** does 300 sit-ups per day? . . . Get well wishes to former World Amateur BG Champs director **Henry Wattson** who was hospitalized following play at the Nevada State Championships . . . Backgammon By the Bay director **Beth Skillman** (CA) tells us about a Sirius Radio ad that parodies coverage of the national backgammon playoffs. It ends, "For some real championship excitement, tune to Sirius Radio for the NBA playoffs." . . . Master craftsman **Tak Morioka** (IL) was approached to build a Taki-board for Cleveland Brown's **Jim Brown**. Tak has already built special sets for **Michael Jordan** and **Nicole Kidman** . . . **Art Benjamin** (CA) gets some positive ink in the May Reader's Digest. An article on "America's Best" includes Benjamin as the "Best Math Whiz." . . . Winnetka BG Club player **June Steinberg** was a lifeline on "Who Wants To Be A Millionaire." In order to reach \$16,000, her son-in-law called her with this question: A cayman is most closely related to which of the following: (A) Bird, (B) Turtle, (C) Alligator, (D) Fish. June got it right. The answer is (C) . . . Finally from TV mogul **Grant Tinker**: "First we will be best, and then we will be first." Δ

**PROBLEM #308
ANALYZED**

by Kit Woolsey

Money game. **BLACK TO PLAY 4-2.**

Black has several interesting possibilities. The 5-point is always the 5-point, so making it on White's head has to be considered. Making the 4-point is also possible—at least that unstacks the heavy 6-point. A third candidate is to try to prevent White from anchoring by double-hitting with 9/5*, 8/4*. There are also a couple of quieter moves. 13/11, 13/9 works on building a prime. 24/20, 11/9 also extends the blockade and splits the back checkers profitably. Those appear to be the logical candidates.

Between making the 5- and 4-points,

making the 5-point appears to win hands down. Not only is it the superior point, but making the 4-point gives White a ton of return shots including those all-important 6s and 4s—the numbers which White would have to use as the other half of her roll after entering. After making the 5-point, White doesn't have any direct 5s or 6s which hit, so his hitting numbers are cut down. These factors outweigh the gains from unstacking the 6-point and retaining the bar point instead of the 8-point.

Between 13/11, 13/9 and 24/20, 11/9, the nod goes to 13/11, 13/9. This not only makes the fifth part of the prime, but also puts additional pressure on White's blot on Black's 5-point. Black would like to be able to attack this blot next turn if he can. Also, if White does roll an ace to anchor, having the 11-point as a blocking point will be very valuable. Since White currently has no blockade and isn't threatening much on the other side of the board, splitting the back checkers is of low priority.

So now we are down to three candidates: The pointing play of 9/5*, 7/5; the priming play of 13/11, 13/9, and the attacking play of 9/5*, 8/4*.

The priming play may look pretty, but it doesn't have enough oomph. If White rolls an anchoring ace, Black suddenly has a bunch of dead checkers. If White rolls a 5 or 6, she can escape one of the back checkers, forcing Black to attack the remaining back checker and probably break the blockade anyway. Even if White rolls badly,

what will Black be doing next? Most likely he will be attacking, and that means breaking the blockade. Since Black isn't going to be holding the prime anyway, it doesn't make much sense to make it. Kicking White off the 5-point is too important.

Making the 5-point is solid. White is on the bar against a two-point board, and the return shots are limited. If White doesn't anchor or hit, Black will be in good position to continue with the attack or remake his bar point depending on what the dice dictate. If White does roll well from the bar, at least Black will have the 5-point nailed down.

The swashbuckling double-hit works well if White doesn't hit back. Black retains the structure of the bar- and 8-points, unstacks the heavy 6-point, and will be in good position to make a quick and effective prime. The problem is that White does hit back more often than not, and when that happens, Black loses the initiative. He won't have any trouble entering, but he will have to roll perfectly to cover the remaining inner board blot. Even if he does cover the blot, White will have a chance to anchor. In addition, if White hits back, she pulls ahead in the race. This could easily turn into a mutual holding game, so falling behind in the race can have serious consequences.

While the fancy double-hit is pure, the downsides appear to be greater than the upsides. It looks like simply making the 5-point is best. Once again, the 5-point is the 5-point.—*Kit Woolsey* Δ

**WINNER'S
CIRCLE**

APR.—MAY 2005

•**Springfield Series #6** (Bloomington, IL; 2 Apr.)... OPEN (23): 1-Randy Armstrong, 2-Josh Riddell (IN); Faddoul Khoury, 2C-Sean Garber (IN); 1LC-Terry Leahy.

•**British Open** (Hinckley, England; 2-3 Apr.) OPEN (73): 1-Rachel Rhodes, 2-Julian Minwalla, 3/4-Peter Christmas/Brian Lever; 1C-Nigel Merrigan, 2C-Tony Walters; 1LC-Adrian Jones, 2LC-Leslie Singleton. CASTAWAY (64): 1-Steve Hallett, 2-Kevin White. FRIDAY KO (24): 1-Marc LeClerc (US), 2-Jason Champion. HOLD'EM POKER (18): 1-John Gilbertson. £100 JACKPOT (4): 1-Lawrence Powell. £50 JACKPOT (8): 1-Steve Hallett.

•**Bar Point Sunday** (Oakbrook Terrace, IL; 3 Apr.)... OPEN (13): 1-Mike Wolock, 2-Carter Mattig, 3/4-Tak Morioka / David Rockwell; 1C-Barbara Levinson, 2C-Wayne Wiest. INTERMEDIATE (3): 1-David Settles.

•**Ohio State Monthly** (Copley, OH; 3 Apr.)... OPEN

(12): 1-Paul Berg (MI), 2-Bob Green.

•**Kansas City Club Monthly** (Kansas City, MO; 4 Apr.)... OPEN (14): 1-Eric Barr, 2/3-David Eaton / Al Morrone.

•**South Australia Monthly KO** (Adelaide, South Australia; 5 Apr.)... OPEN: 1-Chris Benham, 2-John O'Grady.

•**2nd Casino Salzburg Open** (Salzburg, Austria; 7-10 Apr.)... CHAMPIONSHIP: 1-Shinichiro Kaneko (JPN), 2-Heimo Krainer (AUT); 1C-Michael Brand (GER). INTERMEDIATE: 1-Kristoffer Hötzeneder (AUT), 2-Ayhan Serin (TUR). LADIES PRIZE: 1-Brigitte Dvorak (AUT). GAMESGRID WARM-UP: 1-Werner Schmuck (AUT). SUPER JACKPOT: 1-Heimo Krainer (AUT). 1-PT. PRES. TOURNEY: 1-Heimo Krainer (AUT). HOLD'EM POKER WINNERS: John Slattery (UK)—2, John Gilbertson (UK).

•**Tax Refund Classic** (Houston, TX; 9 Apr.)... OPEN (23): 1-Ana Mancino, 2-Gary Oleson; 1C-Scott Ward, 2C-Abe Magshoudi.

•**South Florida Monthly** (Ft. Lauderdale, FL; 10 Apr.)... OPEN (6): 1-Al Tesoro, 2-Perry Gartner (NJ). ADVANCED (7): 1/2-Steve Bromfield / Philippe Salnave.

•**Springfield Series Grand Finale** (Springfield, IL;

16 Apr.)... OPEN (16): 1-Jim Zimmerman, 2-Rob Farmer; 1C-Terry Leahy, 2C-Jenna Jennings; 1LC-Linda Rockwell. TAKI BOARD EVENT (21): 1-David Rockwell, 2-Randy Armstrong... *For the second year in a row, Jenna Jennings won the special drawing for an \$850 Taki Board.*

•**Neil Davidson's 50th Birthday** (Witney, England; 16-17 Apr.)... OPEN (35): 1-Chris Bray, 2-Walter Busato (GER), 3/4-Tom Duggan / John Slattery; 1C-Monica Beckerson, 2C-Julian Fetterlein; 1LC-Diane Iveson. £100 JACKPOT: 1/2-Barry McAdam / Chris Ternel. £50 JACKPOT (4): 1-Andreas Giannopoulos. HOLD'EM POKER (17): 1-Euan Davidson.

•**1st Halkidiki Tournament** (Halkidiki, Greece; 21-24 Apr.)... OPEN: 1-Nikos Dikaros.

•**Kansas City Club Monthly** (Kansas City, MO; 2 May)... OPEN: 1-Eric Barr, 2/3-Todd Flowerday / Brad Silver.

•**South Australia Monthly KO** (Adelaide, South Australia; 3 May)... OPEN (8): 1-Chris Benham, 2-John McLean.

•**Oui San "King of Backgammon" Tournament** (Tokyo, Japan; 3-5 May) OPEN (33): 1-Katagami, 2-Kodebu, 3/4-Cameron Nagai / Yazawa; 1C-Abe Akiko, 2C-Kenji Shimodaira... *Results provided by Jake Jacobs.* Δ



The Dog Gets A Bone

By Duane Jensen



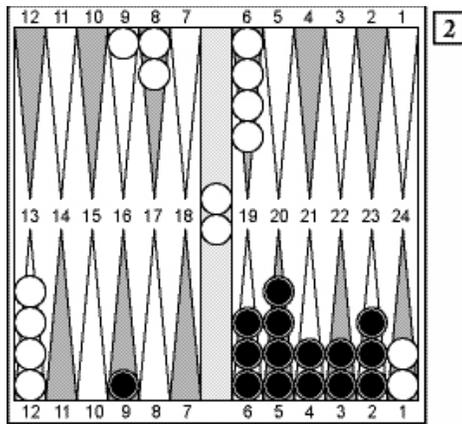
Our backgammon knowledge comes from many sources such as books, the Internet, backgammon software, tournament play, chouettes, etc. Sometimes little tips appear and you must be ready to file them away. Here are a few examples from 16 years past.

1. Frank Talbot paused before playing his roll of 3-2 and said, "In contact positions like this, it's best to begin clearing your higher points before bringing all your men into your home board."

Frank played 6/3, 5/3 leaving a checker on the 9-point. He wasn't trying to justify his play; he was giving me a tip. Frank was tossing a bone to the dog.

9 point match. Duane Jensen (White) leads Frank Talbot (Black), 7 to 6.

BLACK TO PLAY 3-2.



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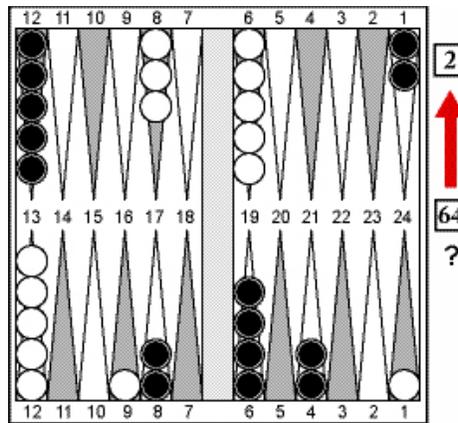
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Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois

Peter Kalba: 312/316-1432
Bill Davis: 773/583-6464

From the rollouts I've looked at, Frank's advice is correct. However, if moving men from the 5- and 6-points creates an inflexible bearoff position, you're better off just bringing checkers into your home board.

2. Ralph Stowell built his 4-point with his opening roll and on his next roll, doubled his opponent.

7 point match. Ralph Stowell (Black) is losing to White, 5 to 0. Black on roll. **SHOULD BLACK DOUBLE?**



After he lost the match, I asked Ralph if he doubled out of frustration because his opponent had turned around so many games in the match to build his 5-0 lead. Ralph lit up and said "Oh, no! Whenever your opponent is just 2-away, you must

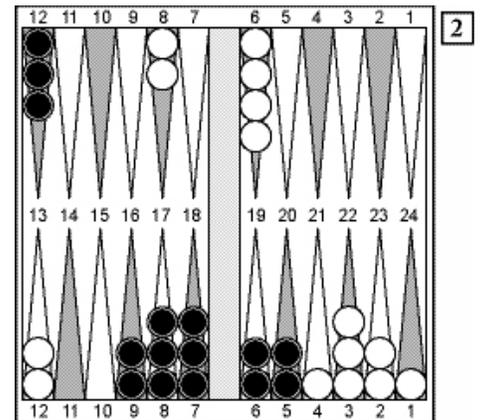
consider doubling early if you get a good opening roll."

Ralph had given me something to think about, something to chew on. Ralph had given me another bone.

3. Bob Holyon was in the box in our chouette when he made this entertaining play:

Money game. Bob Holyon (Black) is in the box against White and crew.

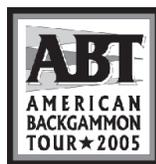
BLACK TO PLAY 6-1.



Bob played 13/7, 5/4* saying "This is the correct play. I've done this many times before. It's the best play because it messes up the timing for my opponents' backgame. But most important, it's fun to do!"

Bob was right. It is the correct play and it is fun to do. Thanks for the bone, Bob.

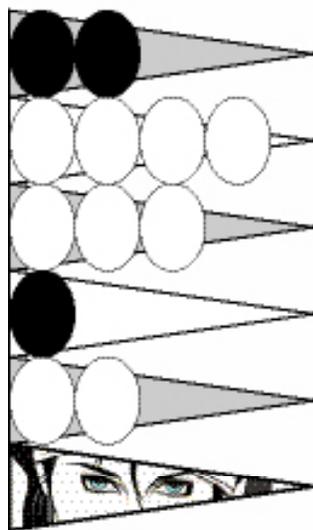
Woof, woof.—Duane Jensen Δ



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